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S.C.-Homes, Historic - York County



THE MANY AND UNUSUALLY shaped windows distinguish this old Bigger house in the Crowder's Creek community. (Herald Staff Photo).

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Biggers Built Three Of Finest Houses In County

By Elizabeth Reed

The Andrew Bigger house near Crowder's Creek is not quite up to the high construction standards of the James Bigger house used as last week's "old home" story.

They stand close together and are two of the large number of fine old two story houses built in the years before the War Between The States. They are still standing today.

This house was built in the 1850's and is distinguished and marked by the unusual triangle shaped windows at the front. Numerous triangle shaped panes of glass form panels for the sides and top of the front windows and for the fine old door. In fact almost the entire front of the house was made of glass, in a day when glass was not used to any considerable extent in home building.

Dr. D. A. Bigger, who has furnished most of the information for this story, says with a chuckle, "I guess glass must have gotten cheap about that time".

Members of the Bigger family have built three fine old houses in the community. Three are still standing and a fourth was built by James Bigger, II, and his wife, Edith Wilson Bigger of Lincoln County, N. C.

James Bigger II, died in 1800 having done his stint as a Revolutionary soldier. To show that he was interested in his old home he cited it in his will as "my residence as yet incomplete". Time and the elements have obliterated this old home.

The first Biggers came to this country by way of Philadelphia before 1750 from a village outside Belfast. They had lived in Ireland for about a century but were themselves of pure Scotch descent as were all the inhabitants of Counties Down and Antrim in Scotland.

About 1750 they migrated to what is now South Carolina and settled on the lower fork of Steele creek near Fort Mill. They then went to the north bank of Crowder's creek and remained there until the Revolution. Old James Bigger after the Revolution built his two story log house about 50 yards from the home now owned by Robert V. Allen.

"Long John"

Like many a sturdy old house in the community, the Andrew Bigger house was built by Long John Torrence. Andrew Bigger and his wife, Helen Campbell Bigger lived in the house until their deaths in 1906 and 1879 respectively.

At Andrew's death the house and land passed to his son William McKee Bigger. Other children of the couple were Mrs. Iva Bigger Harper, Isaac Alexander Bigger, father of Dr. D. A. Bigger, and Mildred Bigger Glenn.

William McKee Bigger and his wife, Susan Patrick Bigger, lived in the house until about 1925 when it was sold to the Duke Power Company.

Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Alexander live in the house now.

Dr. I. A. Bigger lived in the old house and practiced medicine there until he moved to Rock Hill in 1906. His children were Dr. David Bigger, Dr. Ike Bigger of Richmond, Va., and Mrs. Mary B. Tweed of Columbia. Mrs. Rosa B. Mills of Fort Mill and Miss Helen Bigger of Richmond, Va.

The House

The house is very similar to the James Bigger house except that it is not as well preserved nor is it of a fine construction. The general floor plan of the pre-War Between The States period is found in the central hall flanked by large square rooms with fireplaces at one end, by a stair ascending from the hall and by an ell.

Unusually wide moulding, carved by hand, graces the front rooms of the home. The original floors of wide pine boards, and the ceiling and wall panels of pine boards are similar to those in other houses of the community. Paneling beneath the front room windows lend distinction to the home. The molding used at the base of the

rooms extends in a graceful design around the doors and windows.

The Allison Creek and the Crowders Creek communities are rich in history. The houses mentioned in the Herald are only a few of the many old homes in the community. Some of them have been greatly changed by modernization. They include the ancestral homes of the Barrons, the Simrils, the Watsons and the old Lesslie Wright house.

A few miles away on Allison Creek stands what remains of Hill's Iron works where many of the cannon used in the Revolution were made. Little remains of the iron works except the marker.

(This is one of a series)