

Many Fine Features Found In Faris Home At Catawba

**Built 100 Years Ago,
House Remains In
Good Condition**

BY ELIZABETH REED

The date of the construction of the Faris house near Catawba is quite definite. Until a few years ago the date 1844 was written in a little box on the corner of the front porch. When repairs were made to the porch the date was not replaced. However, the date of the construction of the home has been generally established as 1844. The type of architecture and the home made brick chimneys support this date.

Not too much is known about the builder of the house and his family. However, he was a Mr. Dunlap, probably a branch of the well-known family by that name in Rock Hill. Inquiry among Dunlap families in Rock Hill have failed to furnish his given name.

The family must have been a progressive one for the day and age. They had a number of children and one of them was a young physician, who had his office in a building in the yard.

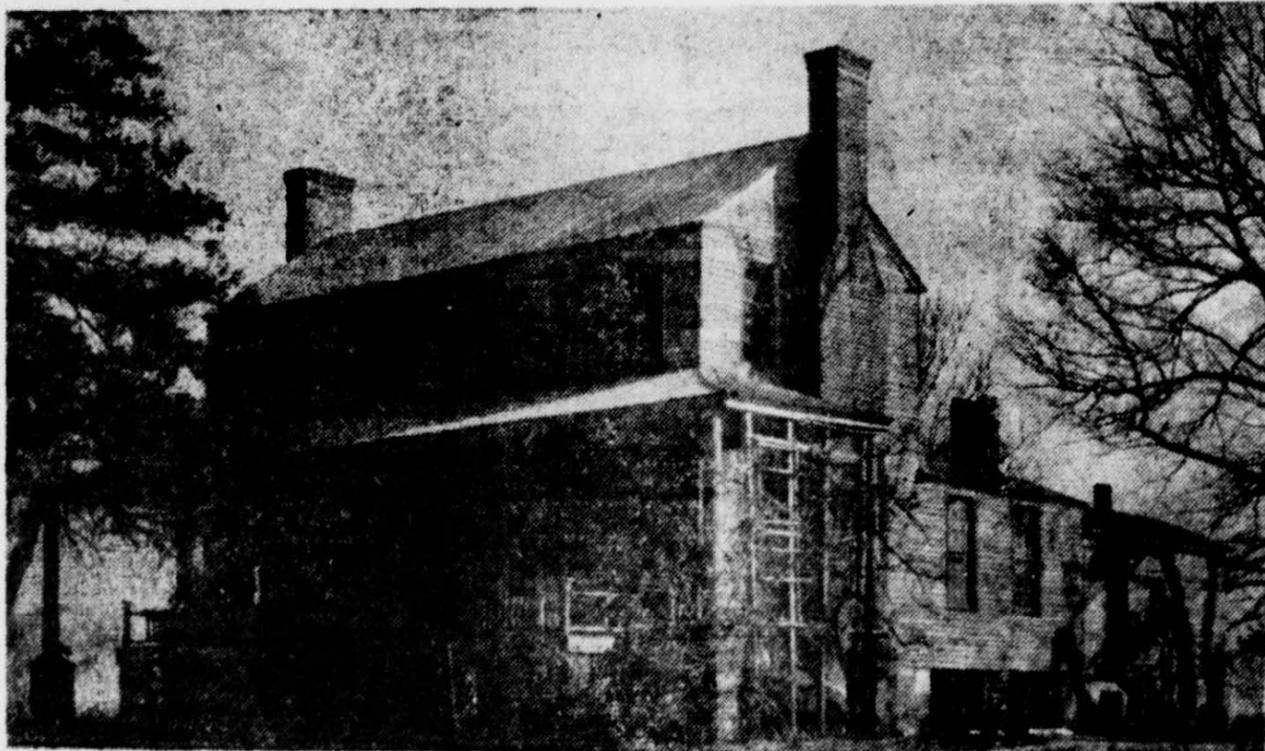
The young physician kept his gun in his office and one day happened to see a rabbit outside the window. He grabbed the gun and ran outside to shoot the rabbit, but in so doing he stumbled on something and the full load of the gun was discharged in his left thigh.

Unfortunately, there was no other physician nearer than Charlotte. A Negro was dispatched on a fast horse to bring a physician and the young doctor did what he could to tell his family how to staunch the blood and care for the injury. However, the hurt was too severe and before the Charlotte physician could reach Catawba the patient died. (It must have been the better part of a day at least before the Negro could reach Charlotte, find a doctor and bring him back to Catawba).

For many years the death of the young and promising physician was bemoaned in the neighborhood as he was the only doctor in the area.

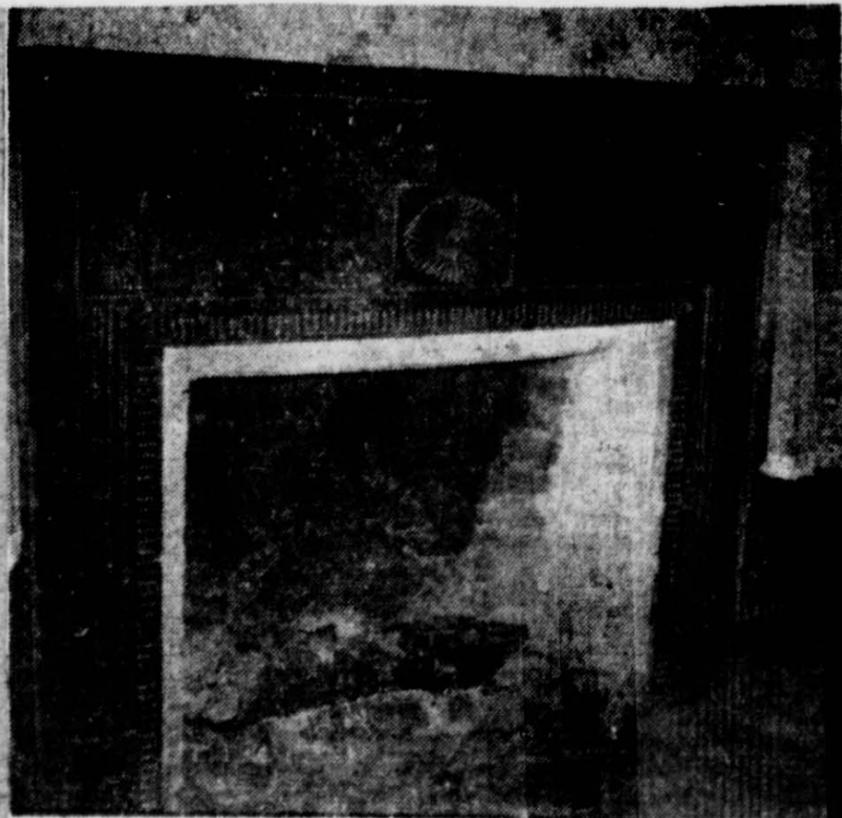
The tragedy that had come into the Dunlap home soon caused the sale of the property and they moved to another place. All trace of the family seems to have been lost as a number of members of the Dunlap family have been questioned and none remembers anything of this family.

Evening Herald -
The Faris Home At Catawba



Shown above is the spacious old Faris home at Catawba. The home was built in 1844 and has been changed very little through the years. (Herald Staff Photo.)

Fine Old Mantel



The fine hand carved mantel shown above is one of two handsome mantels in the Faris home. Detail work and medallions can be seen. The large fireplace seems to have remained in its original state through the many years of its history. (Herald Staff Photo.)

The next owner of the home seems to have been the father of the late Sep. Massey who owned the property until purchased by the late John A. Faris.

Still the tragic life of the young doctor threw its spell over the home and tales were told for many years a skeleton remained in the loft of the home. As a child Frank Faris, had only to be reminded of the grim skeleton in the attic in order to be made to mind his P's and Q's.

In 1874 the house and adjoining plantation were purchased by John A. Faris and his wife, Mrs. Harriet Carothers Faris. They had five children, William, John, James T., Tirzah and Dorcas.

During his ownership of the home additions were made to the house to take care of his rather large family.

Miss Tirzah Faris married S. A. Fewell and became the mother of Miss Margaret Fewell and of the late Mrs. Ray Fewell Livingston. Miss Dorcas Faris married Pierce Giles. James T. Faris married Miss Bessie Clinton, who lives today with their only son, Frank Faris and Mrs. Faris in the Mt. Holly community. William Faris married Miss Mary Glasscock and John Faris married Miss Rett Patton.

(This is one of a series of articles on old York county homes).

Mrs. Janie Faris Patton Boyd who furnished much of the information for this account of the Faris home, believes that at one time members of the Hicklin family owned the property. Mrs. Boyd is the daughter of the late William Faris and has lived in Manhattan Beach, Calif., for the past few years.

Other valuable help in writing the story of the home has been furnished by the present owner, Frank Faris and his mother, Mrs. J. T. Faris.

The House Today

The lovely old two story house is built in typical style of the time of the War Between the States and before. It has end chimneys of hand made bricks, a central hall with stairs leading to the second floor, rooms on either side of the hall and an ell that is used for the dining room and kitchen. The last named section is evidently of newer construction than the main part of the house.

An interesting feature of the exterior is the porch construction. The porch with its bannisters is supported by one set of columns and pillars and the porch roof is supported by another set of columns that rest on brick pillars. This overhang keeps the floor of the porch dry in rainy weather and gives an unusual appearance to the front of the home.

Missing from above the front door is a medallion similar to those on the two lovely front room mantels. These have evidently been removed within the past few years as the oval mark is plainly visible above the door.

Most unusual of the fine features of the home are the two lovely mantels. For more than 100 years their beauty has been preserved and today they stand fit pieces for a museum with graceful hand carving, medallions and fluting. In the two front rooms the wide paneling is also very fine.

The wide pine floor boards, the board ceilings and paneling is the same as when the house was built in 1844. Wall paper now covers the walls above the wainscoting.

Detail work on each window frame stamps the home as one of the fine dwellings of its day. The massive pillars of huge stones give the house a firm support. In the yard are huge cedars that must have stood in the yard since the building of the home or shortly thereafter.

The home has been in the Faris family since 1874 and today belongs to Mr. and Mrs. Frank Faris and his mother, Mrs. J. T. Faris. Although tenants have lived in the house for some years they have taken pride in the home and an interest in its upkeep. For the past eight years the family of Graymon and Willie Mae Bailey have lived in the home. Last week John and Rosa Crockett and their family moved into the home.