

The Hoke Home



Shown above is the neat and comfortably arranged Hoke home in the Riverbend section of the county in which three generations of the Hoke family have lived. (Herald Staff Photo.)

Hoke Family Has Occupied Old House For Generations

Built In 1868, House Is Landmark Of Riverbend Section

BY ELIZABETH REED

Successive generations of the Hoke family have occupied the Hoke home in the Riverbend section of the county since its construction in 1868.

Known as the John Calvin Hoke home, the pleasing one-and-one-half story house is situated about ten miles from Rock Hill to the east of Lesslie and near the W. C. Cornwell home.

John C. Hoke came to this section from Catawba County, N. C., before the War Between the States. He married Miss Mary Elizabeth Robertson of Great Falls and for a number of years lived across the river from Great Falls in Lancaster county with his bride and her brother, John Robertson.

Mrs. Hoke was the daughter of William Robertson whose lovely old Colonial home, said to be the finest home in Chester county, was burned by Sherman's Army.

In 1861 John Hoke and his brother-in-law bought 525 acres of land from D. R. Stevenson and James Beaty. He moved his family into a log house which is still standing and used as a barn. When the call came for troops in the War Between the States, Hoke answered the call to the colors, leaving his wife and three children. During the war Mrs. Hoke operated the farm with the assistance of loyal slaves.

When the war was over and Hoke returned he purchased the interest of his brother-in-law and built the home which stands today pretty much as when built. Mr. and Mrs. Hoke reared 11 children to maturity; they lost two while still young.

An interesting story is told of Hoke's return from the Army. One of his sons, James A. Hoke, was about five years old at the time the war was over. He had had instilled in him a fear of the coming of Yankee troops and so one day when he saw a man in uniform coming up the lane with a rifle on his shoulder he ran toward the spring to meet his mother crying, "There's a Yankee coming down the road." His mother's intuition told her that it was no Yankee but his own father and a happy family reunion took place.

The four children of Mr. and Mrs. John Calvin Hoke, who are living today are J. J. Hoke of Chester; Mrs. J. L. May of Eau Claire, Wis.; M. Hoke of Hendersonville, N. C.; and W. Hampton Hoke who now lives in the home and owns the property. He married the former Miss Marion Baker of Latta and the couple have five children.

They include Hampton Hoke, Jr., of the home; Miss Edith Hoke of Raleigh, N. C.; Mrs. Dwight Perry of Miami, Fla.; Mrs. Howard Long of Washington, Pa., and William Robertson Hoke of Rock Hill.

The Home Today

The eight room house is today as firm and sound as when built 80 years ago. However, all modern conveniences have been added, including an electric stove and electric hot water heater.

The frame of the house is mortised and pegged throughout. Six of the rooms have smooth plaster; the remaining two are ceiled with broad boards that have been planed by hand. The original floors are still in good condition. The 10 by 12 pine sills were made by hand from forest trees.

Strange as it may seem, the Hoke house was built with four or five closets—something not usually found in old houses. In the front room lovely old paneling is seen. An eight foot hall runs the width of the home and a stair case ascends to the upper floor where two bedrooms are located. The chimneys are of hand made bricks. The foundation is of handmade bricks and huge stones. A small basement is beneath the rear portion of the home.

The windows were hauled by wagon from Columbia and the smooth granite hearth stones from Great Falls. The heavy doors are of hand planed boards. The two-room ell that originally formed the kitchen has been removed.

The home stands on a pleasing knoll off the main road about half a mile and near the Catawba river. It is surrounded by tall oak trees that add to the attractive setting. For many years the grounds were planted to tremendous boxwoods. White paint and neatly kept grounds make the home a welcome place to visit.

When one visits the numerous and beautiful old home in York county one marvels that in spite of the perils of fire and storm, so many old landmarks are left—a tribute, no doubt, to the careful housekeeping of such people as Mrs. Hoke as well as to the sturdy builders of the past. Mrs. Hoke is a member of the faculty of the Lesslie school and a sister of Mrs. A. H. Kaylor on Saluda street.

(This is one of a series of articles on older homes in York county)