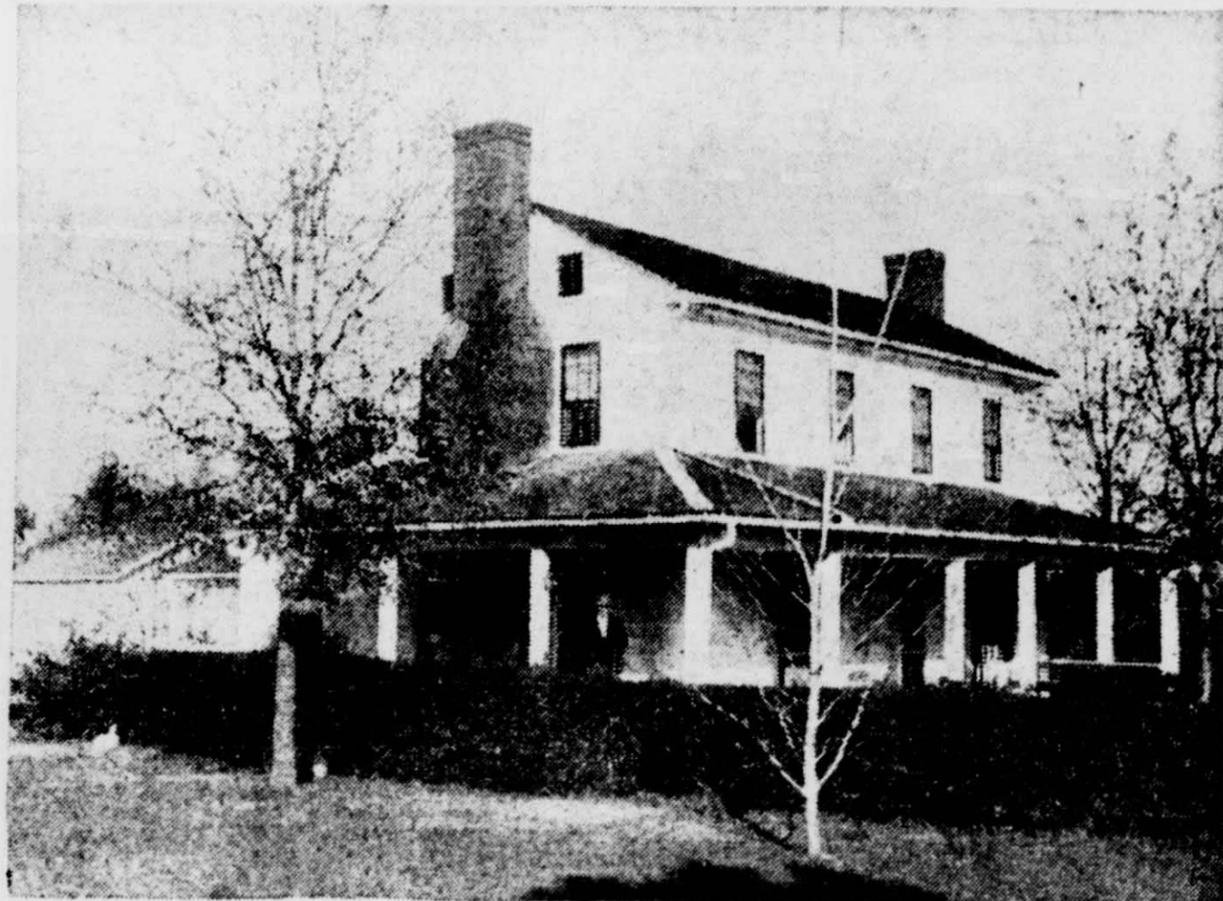


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SC - Homes, Historic - York County



To get that a farmer in desperate need for a fresh blade on his old plough would take two worn out plough points and make one usable one by welding them under heat furnished by charcoal. Resourceful, yes!

The old Bigger house is one of several in the Allison Creek and Crowders Creek sections that were built in the period before the War Between the States. One of these was built by ancestors of John G. Barron, another was the Watson home and another the Simril home built by ancestors of H. L. Simril.

This is one of a series.

THE WAR BETWEEN THE STATES HOME — J. Clyde Bigger, above, stands on the porch of the house in which he lives. It was built some time before the War Between the States. (Herald Staff Photo).

Evening Herald Dec - 8 - 1947

Bigger Family Has Owned Fine Old House Since 1892

By Elizabeth Reed

Evening Herald - Dec 3, 1947

The first known owner of the fine old Bigger home in the Allison Creek community was John Durham Currence. The house is believed to have been built about 1865. Some think the house was built by a Huffstetter, but Dr. D. A. Bigger, who was born and reared in the community, thinks that probably the house was built by Long John Torrence and may be even older than the date given by Clyde Bigger. Long John Torrence plied his construction trade in that section prior to the War Between The States and any thing that he built

James M. Bigger and his wife, Elizabeth Mason Bigger had 10 children, six of whom are living: Walter, who lives on a part of the farm; J. Clyde, who lives at the homestead; Mrs. Ferrie Bigger Jackson, who lives in the Beth-Shiloh section; J. Alex. Bigger, who lives on a part of the farm; Richard A. of Charlotte; and Mrs. Eunice Bigger Donahue who lives in Hollywood, Fla.

The House

The house is built according to the prevailing style of the period of the War Between The States with two stories in the main body of the house and sturdy chimneys at either end. A brick yard stands near the house with its old crumbled and malformed bricks where the bricks for the chimneys were molded and baked.

The house was built with only one closet—a small dark enclosure under the stair. What was the downstairs bedroom in the days when the Currence family owned the house has seven doors; the visitor wonders where the bed was placed. From a corner of this room the stair turns once in ascending to the second floor. The other front room is very much larger.

The fluted mantels were painted to resemble marble as was the wainscoting in the large front room. The windows have nine panes each in their two sections. The horizontal ceiling is of wide pine boards and the floors are the

original except in one of the rooms where they have been replaced. The lovely doors with cross design were hand planed.

was built for keeps. J. O. Allison, 80 year old York citizen, is inclined to agree with Dr. Bigger. He thinks the house may be older than the War Between The States. Mr. Allison was named for John Durham Currence, first known owner of the house. He remembers that Mr. Currence and his wife, Mrs. Lizzie Watson Currence, lived in the house when he himself was just a small boy and that the house was not new, even then.

At any rate records show that Currence deeded four acres of land to Allison Creek Presbyterian church 94 years ago.

In 1892 James M. Bigger bought the house and 315 acres of land. The place has been in the Bigger family since. Currence had no children and Bigger bought the property at a sale in York at his death.

The house and a part of the land now belongs to one of the sons, R. A. Bigger, president of the R. S. Dickson Company in Charlotte. But J. Clyde Bigger, who moved to the house when a small boy, lives in the house with his wife, Mrs. Mamie Jackson Bigger.

Although an old home, the Bigger household has today every modern convenience that heart could desire. The kitchen lighted by four large windows has been added and here Mrs. Bigger washes with an automatic washing machine. Mr. Bigger sells milk and butter and garden produce and on the back porch is a cream separator.

Family

The Bigger family came to the Allison Creek community from the Bethel section. Alex Bigger, grandfather of the present generation was killed in one of the battles of northern Virginia and his body never returned to the state. A monument to his memory has been erected at the Bethel Presbyterian church cemetery where members of the Bigger family are buried. George Washington Mason, maternal grandfather of the clan, fought at Charleston.

He was among the older men, who unable to do active fighting were sent to Charleston to build breast-works. He became ill and tried to get home but death overtook him in Columbia.

Mr. Bigger recalls the old two story brick cook house that stood near the main house. This was torn down by his father while J. Clyde was still a boy.

When a huge old tree in the yard was dug up by the roots a few years ago, J. Clyde Bigger found a most interesting "devil's pitchfork" imbedded in the tree roots. The rusty farm tool is a coarse pitchfork with two large tines, used perhaps for pitching brush into the fire when clearings were made in those long gone days.

Also preserved in the tool shed are a number of "half-soled" plough points. In the days during and after the War Between The States, new farm tools were so hard