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S.C. — Homes, Historic — York County



IN THE McCONNELLSVILLE SECTION This roomy house in the obvious style of the "Roaring Twenties" has as its nucleus a two room log house over a century old. (Herald photo.)

Aycock Home, Built In 1878, Is Center Of Big 2,100-Acre Cattle Ranch

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By Elizabeth Reed

The Samuel Victor Aycock home five miles west of McConnellsville was built in 1848. It was built by Jephtha Gwin and Elizabeth Littleton Gwin as a home for one of their 12 children.

From the years 1878 to 1891 it was occupied by James and Eliza Inman Ashe. In 1891 James Perry Aycock and his wife, Margaret McCollum Aycock, moved from Rock Hill to the large farm home with their six children, most of whom were already grown.

In 1897 Samuel Victor Aycock purchased the home and lived there until his death in 1941. The place was left to his sons, William Perry Aycock and John McElwaine Aycock.

C. H. Smith of Huntersville, N. C., bought the house in 1946 and sold it within a year to T. C. Homesley of Cherryville.

York County Ranch

Today the white painted house with its dormer windows is the center of the 2,100 acre "ranch."

The farm is run by Robert Emmett Brakefield for Homesley, who is an automobile dealer in Cherryville.

Mr. and Mrs. Brakefield and their family moved into the home in 1948 from the nearby Hafner house.

On the wide sloping hillsides for perhaps a mile in some directions, fine beef cattle are grazing on lush pasture grass. This extensive dairy and beef cattle farm is one of the few in the county operated on such an extensive scale.

More than 125 head of dairy and beef cattle feed on the tract that embraces not only the Aycock farm but the Hafner place and a number of surrounding farms bought within the past year or so by Mr. Homesley.

At the present time very little of the original log structure can be seen. The Aycock family improved the place and added to the house in the early 20's and today the house is a very large but comfortable farm home.

The principal reason for the Aycock family's leaving the place was because of the bad roads. For years that particular section of York county lying as it does near the Chester county line, has been hard to reach because of the condition of the roads.

A reminder of the age of the house can be seen in the log smokehouse still standing in the yard. At one time a log kitchen and other outbuildings of logs stood in the yard of the home. These have been torn away as the years have passed and as the old has given way to the new. It is likely that the up to date silos, the modern dairy equipment and even the house itself with its running water and modern conveniences, would make the builder's eyes open wide with wonder were he to return today.