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S.C. - Homes, Historic - York County



The old Hutchison house is of sturdy log construction underneath the weatherboarding. The ell to the left has been added in comparatively recent years. The story and half section has been standing well over a century. (Herald Staff Photo).

Herald, Aug. 23, 1949 *Herald - Aug. 25, 1949*
Old Hutchison House, Built Of Huge Squared Logs, Is Off The Beaten Path

Weathered Two-Story House Probably Was Built Before 1832

By ELIZABETH REED

Few of York county's old homes will be found on modern hard surfaced roads. The new roads were surveyed along straight lines to make the distance between two points as short as possible. To find York County's old homes the searcher turns off a side road and winds through a quiet countryside with little traffic, perhaps not even a rural free delivery, until in some quiet glade or on a knoll he finds what he is seeking.

The old Hutchison house, five miles from Rock Hill between the India Hook and the Ebenezer communities is such an old house in such a location. It is on a high knoll above the present road and in its early days must have been a lovely setting.

The old part of the house was built of immense squared logs and the original section consists of three rooms downstairs and one unfinished section upstairs. The main room has the huge fireplace which could easily swallow five foot logs until filled in for the sake of economy. The mantel was changed when an addition was built to the house and is not noteworthy. The house is ceiled with wide pine boards.

From the corner of the living or main room a winding stair leads aloft where the uncovered logs with mud daubing can be seen after a century of living.

Off the main room are two small rooms of equal size only a little larger than a bed.

In the years since the house was built the outside has been weatherboarded, the inside has been ceiled and an addition has been built at the back. The home was never pretentious even when new. The sturdy doors are of two immensely wide boards and a number of them still close with the original wrought iron door latches.

S. H. Hutchison of India Hook,

great grandson of Alfred Hutchison, builder of the house, believes that the log structure was erected prior to 1832. At any rate the house was an old one when S. H. was just a boy, and he is now 74.

Alfred Hutchison seems never to have lived in the house but to have built it for his son, Samuel Hutchison who moved into it when a young man with his pretty wife, Susan Adkins Hutchison.

One of the children of this couple was James Porter Hutchison who became the father of S. H. The house has remained in the Hutchison family since those early days and is now known as the Jasper Hutchison estate. Clyde Hutchison owns the house now, says S. H.

M. O. Beam, an employe of the Victoria Mill, has lived in the house for the past 11 years with his family.

Samuel H. Hutchison, who has furnished most of the information for this article, was born in the house in 1874. Of the five children born to James Porter and Precious Catherine Hill Hutchison, he is the only one who is now alive. His mother was a native of Lincoln County, N. C.

Hutchison, whose memory is still alert and his interest keen, remembers many happy days spent when a little boy at the old home. He recalls the loom his mother and sisters wove the cloth for the family's clothes. He recalls the exciting

times the day the house caught fire.

When faithful Negroes had assisted in putting out the fire with water from the well, one of the men remarked "Marse Hutchison may have had a hand in it, but God Almighty sure done put out dis fire."

Mr. Hutchison also remembers the stirring days following the War Between The States when the Ku Klux Klan was so active in this section.

Dr. Edward Avery was leader of the KKK in this section and James Porter Hutchison was one of the active members of the clan. He recalls that at one time the York jail was so filled with Klansmen that it overflowed.

Dr. Avery lived in the house where Misses Ruth and Frances Williams now live with their mother, Mrs. John F. Williams.

When James Porter Hutchison was accused of KKK activities and particularly of flogging two young Negroes on the adjoining farm, Aunt Clarinda Williams, cook at the Hutchison house went stoutly to bat for him. When he was arrested and placed in the York jail she went over and defiantly told the authorities "You got Marse Jim for a Ku Klux, Bless God he aint no Ku Klux. Marse Jim was right upstairs sleep when Billy and Lawrence was flogged."

Her attitude was typical of many of the Negroes in the days of the Ku Klux Klan period.

Hutchison also remembers the famous Red Shirt ride of the post-war days. He recalls that the Red Shirts gathered in the cemetery at Ebenezer early in the morning. Of the group which looked to Hutchison "like a regiment of soldiers" he and L. J. Lumpkin were the only boys allowed to join in the ride. Hutchison was then about seven years of age.

This is one of a series of articles on Old York County Homes. Next week's story will deal with another Hutchison home just a short distance from this one.