

Early Fort Mill

(Fort Mill Times, May 20, 1909)

First house built inside the incorporate limits in January 1851 by William E. White and occupied as place of business by Barnhardt, Coltharp & Co., now known as the White old store, and occupied by K. Shannon, merchant, Drs. Massey and Kirkpatrick as an office, the post office and printing office of J. S. Drakeford. The next house was built in 1852 by Owen Matthews as a residence, now owned by Mr Seth Hotchkiss. Next place of business was opened in '52 where P. K. Mull now is, and operated by John D. White, who moved to Texas and was murdered by highway men some time before the late war. Dr. B. M. Cobb next built a residence on the corner of Trade and Booth Strs. Known as the Young house. The next house was a store where Stewart and Co. are now operated by Morrow & Potts, afterwards Patterson, Morrow & Co. are now operated by Morrow & company. It was burned out in 1858. They built houses for themselves. About 1855 the storehouse on the west side of the railroad occupied now by W. R. Leonard was built by Hugh M. White. The first marriage in the place was Owen Matthews' daughter and a man by the name of Lewis Gordon, who was married in the Hotchkiss house before the floor was put in. They had a big wedding.

The first school house was built in 1854 near where B. D. Springs now lives. A Mr. Watts was the teacher and then the present brick academy was built in 1857 where J. A. Withers now resides and then the present brick academy was built in 1875 of which Prof. J. A. Boyd is principal.

The first Masonic Hall was built over the first Academy in 1858 (first meeting in November). The second hall was built over the brick academy in 1875. . . in 1888 the present one was built over L. J. Massey's store.

Fort Mill Times, Sept. Article by T. D. Faulkner with above and also stated that the 1850's population of Fort Mill was 15.

That the Owen Matthews house of the early 1850s was the first dwelling and was the E. W. Kimbrell Co. in 1915---the building first a boarding house then S. Hotchkiss operated it as a hotel.

That the first business building (by W. E. White) was first occupied by Bernhardt, Coltharp and Mauney. That Coltharp died in 1853 and his interest was taken by J. M. Powell, the railway agent. Then it was Mauney, Powell & Co. Later the old store was sold to J T. J. Harris and rebuilt as a dwelling. In 1915, J. F. Lytle occupies at Booth and Rocky Streets.

That the second store house was Morrow & Potts, lasted for 3 or 4 years, in 1915 the site is across street from R. F. Grier.

The third store house was built by Capt. J. D. White—two stories high. On the second floor the Sons of Temperance met. Later it was sold to R A. Young who moved it below McElhaney 's stable and used it as a tanyard house. Later sold to T. B. Withers who moved it to a lot on Confederate St. near the home (1915) of S. A. Epps and now owned by Alex Barber.

First residence: Dr. B. M. Cobb, second: B. J. Patterson; third: W. J. Culp on Booth St.

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Fort Mill Times, Sept 22, 1900:

Mr. W. T. Hoagland is building a fireproof livery stable on "Booth St. across the street from the brick storeroom of Mrs. Eliza Fulwood. The stable he is now using will be occupied by L. S. Nivens and W. F. Harris.

Wade Roddey;s papers, York County Library, says that Clark Ivy of Van Wyck, son of Rev. Adam Ivy, built the 1st. 2 story brick building in Fort Mill.

Fort Mill Times, October 24, 1915:

Fort Mill had a marbleyard in the late 1850s operated by a McCoy, son-in-law of Duke Russell. Quarried the sandstone from the woods where B. F. Patterson now lives.

Yorkville Enquirer, 1889, in York County Library's Nan Weller Carson Room, has a list of all of the buinesses and professions in Fort Mill in 1889 with sketches of the town's leaders.

Fort Mill Times, October 14, 1915. Reminiscences of T. D. Faulkner about some of the early business people and their practices. Also tells about a fiddling class in 1857 that used John D. White's old store building and the Unity Church.