

Landmarks of Northwest North Carolina

Morris Home Has Served Four Generations



This residence, built in 1855, was owned by the Morris family of Forsyth County until last year when it was purchased by E. R. Snyder, Winston-Salem businessman. The boxwood in the foreground dates back to the early history of the house. Last of the Morris family to own the home was Fred H. Morris, now with the army in New Caledonia.— (Staff Photo.)

By HARVEY DINKINS
(Staff Writer)

Back in 1855, the year the Atlantic Cable was started and the Crimean War ended, Dr. J. H. Morris and Isaac Morris, brothers, started a house a short distance south of Walkertown.

The house stood to serve four generations of the Morris family and did not pass out of the family until last year, when it was acquired by E. R. Snyder, who has gone into farming as an avocation.

Dr. J. H. Morris and Isaac Morris lived in their residence until the opening of the Civil War. In August, 1861, Reuben Morris, son of Isaac Morris, living at the time in Guilford County, was stricken with typhoid and Dr. Elias Korner, of Kernersville, advised the family to take the sick man to the home near Walkertown.

Dr. Korner was the typical rural practitioner. He not only prescribed for his patients; he got in there and "personally wrestled with the disease." For three straight days he battled this case of typhoid and on the third day he told the family the sick man had made a turn for the better. Although the change was not apparent to the family, the doctor could tell from his long experience.

"Take care of him now, and he'll recover," he told Mrs. Morris.

He recovered and lived until well into the twentieth century.

Dr. J. H. Morris and Isaac Morris, meanwhile, moved up near Walkertown while the Civil War was in progress and Reuben Morris and family made their home in the house from that time onward.

There were three children: Miss Paulina Morris, who never was married and died in 1927; Walter I. Morris, who died in 1940; and Frederick Hubbard Morris, known to his hundreds of friends in and out of the county as "Uncle Hub" Morris.

"Uncle Hub" Morris married Miss Alice Vance in May of 1883 and in June of the same year moved to a new home he had built on the Walkertown-Kernersville road. Mrs. Morris died June 2, 1936. "Uncle Hub," who will be 87 years old October 9, continues "hale and hearty," one of the best loved men in the county.

Meanwhile, "Uncle Hub" sold the old home place to his son, Attorney Fred H. Morris, at the close of World War One. He kept the place until last year when he sold out to E. R. Snyder, Winston-Salem businessman, who has made extensive improvements and plans more as soon as wartime restrictions are removed. However, he has left the splendid old eight-room house intact.

The house has the lines of many structures of its day. It was built of the best lumber available, most of which was hauled down from the Dennis community. Forest pine was one of the main timbers used. Pegs and mortise work figured prominently throughout the building.

Much sentiment attached to a log structure which stands nearby, reputed to be somewhere between 150 and 200 years old. It was moved and rebuilt one time in its history, because it was not convenient to a spring where adequate water of good quality was available.

It is related that one of the owners of this old log house was an outstandingly religious man named Archie Campbell. He believed implicitly that "the effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man" availed much.

One of the Morris boys went to the Campbell home early one Winter morning to borrow a froe. As he approached the house he heard Campbell sending up earnest supplications and paused reverently for the finish. But Campbell prayed on and on. It was a cold morning and the youngster who was waiting for the froe, which his father wanted immediately with which to start riving boards, got colder and colder, and grew more and more impatient. At length he could wait no longer and entered the house.

He interrupted the prayer and stated his business.

"Just you wait a little while, Jesse, and I'll get the froe for you," the community saint told him.

Forthwith he resumed his prayer and proceeded deliberately to the close.

"Now, son," he is quoted as saying. "Let's go and I'll get the froe for you."

And to this day, members of the Morris family, who have had the story handed down to them, freely admit that it was never related that the riving of the boards was seriously delayed by the old man's devotions.