



**JOSEPH WESLEY BONER RESIDENCE**—This ante bellum residence is one of the many well-known landmarks in Western Forsyth. It is well over a century old and is built of the best materials available in its day. Many of the inside doors

are made of two-plank widths of forest pine. The stairway is a curved structure, rising from the left of the front doorway, shown in the picture. The grove of birch trees obviously were set (or left to grow from native sprouts) by Joseph Wesley Boner.—(Staff Photo.)

By HARVEY DINKINS  
(Staff Writer)

A little more than a mile below the site of the so-called High Point Hydroelectric Power Plant Dam, on the Yadkin River, is one of the oldest residences in that part of county, the Joseph Wesley Boner house.

Here, Joseph Wesley Boner and Sarah Jane Lowder Boner, made their home from long before the Civil War until well after the turn of the century.

Few residences in this or any other county are built upon a more beautiful site. The land slopes away on all sides. To the west the Yadkin River is only a few rods away. Rippling streams run into the Yadkin River on the north and south sides. And around the house is a grove of birch trees, obviously nearly a century old, along with other evidence of domestic beauty which must have been highly pleasing when it was at its best a few decades ago.

The house is well over a century old, how much older is not quite clear. Anyway, the Boners reared their two children there. It was from there that John Wesley Boner went away to the Confederate Army, only to return after the surrender to discover that in the closing days of the war the invading Union Army had sent a forage detail to the home and taken all horses, grain and food-stuff. There was just one bright

spot: The "Yankees" had not harmed Mrs. Boner or either of the two children and had not burned any of the buildings on the place.

The two children were Mrs. William B. Miller, who still resides nearby, and H. T. Boner, whose widow, the former Miss Jennie Doty, also lives only a few hundred yards away.

H. T. Boner, coming of sturdy Moravian stock, did the conventional thing for boys of his day. He attended Salem Boys' School and prepared himself for constructive citizenship in his community. He died in 1937.

The grandchildren include Mrs. Miller's only child, Mrs. Nathan Ellis, of the home community; and Mrs. B. A. Hauser, Fayette Street, Winston-Salem; Mrs. B. C. Lowder, Lynwood Avenue, Winston-Salem; Mrs. Henry Goslen, Kernersville; and Mrs. D. C. Gordon, Clemmons. Mrs. T. W. Pegrain, Clemmons, Route 1, died in 1933.

The property is owned by W. B. Miller and is rented to the Boners. The Boners are all distant descendants of the late John Henry Boner, widely known as "Old Joe" Boner, who is buried in Moravian Graveyard here.

Both, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Wesley Boner, spent long lives in the old home. The husband died in his eighties in 1913. Mrs. Boner died in the early 1920's also at an advanced age.