

THE MCCORMICK HOUSE

From PRINCE WILLIAM, The Story of This Place and Its People, compiled in 1941 by workers of The Writers Program of the Work Projects Administration in the State of Virginia.

"The greatest calamity that befell Haymarket came on November 4-5, 1862, when Federal troops set fire to the town. This act of vandalism was undoubtedly perpetrated by General A. von Steinwehr's division of Sigel's corps, which had taken position at Carter's Switch, two miles west, on November 3; in Sigel's move to occupy this territory as a protection to McClellan, returning from Maryland."

"The tattered and gray MCCORMICK HOUSE (L), just off the highway, is the oldest building in Haymarket and one of the two survivors of the War between the States. Its two rear rooms and gabled attic are built of logs covered with paintless weather-boarding. A stone chimney, making the house look even smaller by its size, with a great fireplace facing the interior, supports the aged timbers. Plans for restoration are now in the making."

The present owner understands that this house, along with two other residences on the same side of Fayette Street and St. Paul's Episcopal Church, was spared because the burning was stopped before it reached this particular part of the village. The restoration referred to was undertaken by a very fine architect, Mr. Walter M. Macomber.

On the table in the dining room is a copy of the photograph filed with the Division of Prints and Photographs, Library of Congress, by Mr. Macomber when he purchased this property sometime in the late 1930's.

The original house consists of the living room, an upstairs bedroom, and the cellar; the dining room and porch (now flagstoned and screened) replace living spaces previously there, and a small, utility room, kitchen, bathroom, and downstairs bedroom have been added. Mr. Macomber, as resident architect of Mount Vernon, had access to shingles from its coach house (These were being replaced by fireproofed ones.) and used them in his restoration; however, because of necessary repairs, the owner has had to replace these in all roof areas except for the peak. Repairing, repainting, and repapering have been carried out by the owner since her purchase, always attempting to follow Mr. Macomber's original ideas and excellent taste.

FURNITURE AND ITEMS OF INTEREST: *

Dining room - Child's High Chair

Upstairs bedroom - Medicine Chest

Personal letter from General Lee to Dr. James Bolton

Downstairs bedroom - Small Table

Bureau

Cellar (used as cooking-dining room) - Notice original foundations (just beyond fuel oil tank)
Fireplace

Bark still on overhead beams

*All personal names on these are, I am sure, of interest to the owner alone; however, they have been used as aids in establishing dates.