



DIXIE

Dixie was purchased in 1959 by Mr. and Mrs. W. P. Spencer from Mr. Spencer's uncle, Mr. Samuel P. Spencer, Jr. It has been renovated and today is a stunning residence with a view of Spear's Mountain to the rear and a beautiful rolling green lawn to the front. During the restoration, dates were discovered which place the existence of the western section in 1741 and the eastern section in 1832. It is interesting to note that the site was in Henrico County when the first building was erected and in Buckingham County at the time of the construction of the second part. The two buildings are connected by what the Spencers call a "betweenry." Perhaps architects today would call it a "breeze-way." At any rate, it is an excellent way to connect two structures built at separate times and then used as one unit. It probably also was the origin of split level construction in designing. This unique construction gives the name "saddle back" or H-shaped to the structure.

The building is constructed of heart pine joined with wooden pegs and shop-made nails. The three large chimneys and the foundation were laid with mud and rock as was the custom of the time. In the restoration, Mr. Spencer reinforced the foundation and refurbished the chimneys with mortar. The original roof was shingle but today it is covered with slate. Inside the house the Bible and Cross doors, the wide wainscoting, and the carved mantels are of interest. Also we note here, as in nearly all old houses, the two staircases. Ofttimes in the south one stairway led from the parents' room to the girls' room above and another entirely separate stair led to the boys' apartments in another part of the building.

This house is over 200 years old. It has housed cows, served as a hay barn and probably served as a church. Thus she has seen hardship and success but today all this is forgotten because she is a "Queen" of country homes.

Taken from: "The Courthouse Burned..."

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