

HARDEN PLACE

BUCHANAN – PHILLIPS – HARDEN

The HARDEN PLACE is located on a country road branching off from the Newberry Highway and continuing in the direction of old Jackson Creek Church. It sits on a hill and is shaded by tall old trees. The site is in a rather out-of-the-way place. This unoccupied old stone building with shuttered and gaping open windows and decaying stoop and porches is somewhat of an eerie place. Ghosts and spirits of the past might well be hovering in and around the desolate old building.

In spite of neglect and disuse it is still sturdy in appearance and its thick stone walls stand square as though defying time and the elements. The building is covered with a hipped roof and on either end and built into the walls are giant chimneys.

This is one of the oldest and most historic old buildings in the community. It was erected about the same time or a little earlier than the Jackson Creek Church, the same stone cutter constructed both buildings. At the time of the Revolutionary War this place was the home of Captain John Buchanan, one of Fairfield's outstanding Revolutionary Heroes. He and his wife and other members of their families occupied the house until they moved into Winnsboro. At that time his friend, though a former Tory, John Phillips, moved in and lived here for a number of years.

Phillips was respected and esteemed by his neighbors in spite of their differences in political views. It must also be recalled that due to his and his brother's intercession with Lord Cornwallis on behalf of a number of captured Fairfield patriots that the lives of these prisoners were spared.

After the 1820's the Harden family occupied the house and it became known as the HARDEN PLACE. Since that time it has remained in the possession of that family.

Mr. Jeff Harden who once lived here came to an untimely and tragic death in 1894. He was tusselling in his buggy with a friend when he lost his balance and fell. In falling he became entangled in the reins and harness and was dragged to his death before the horse could be stopped.

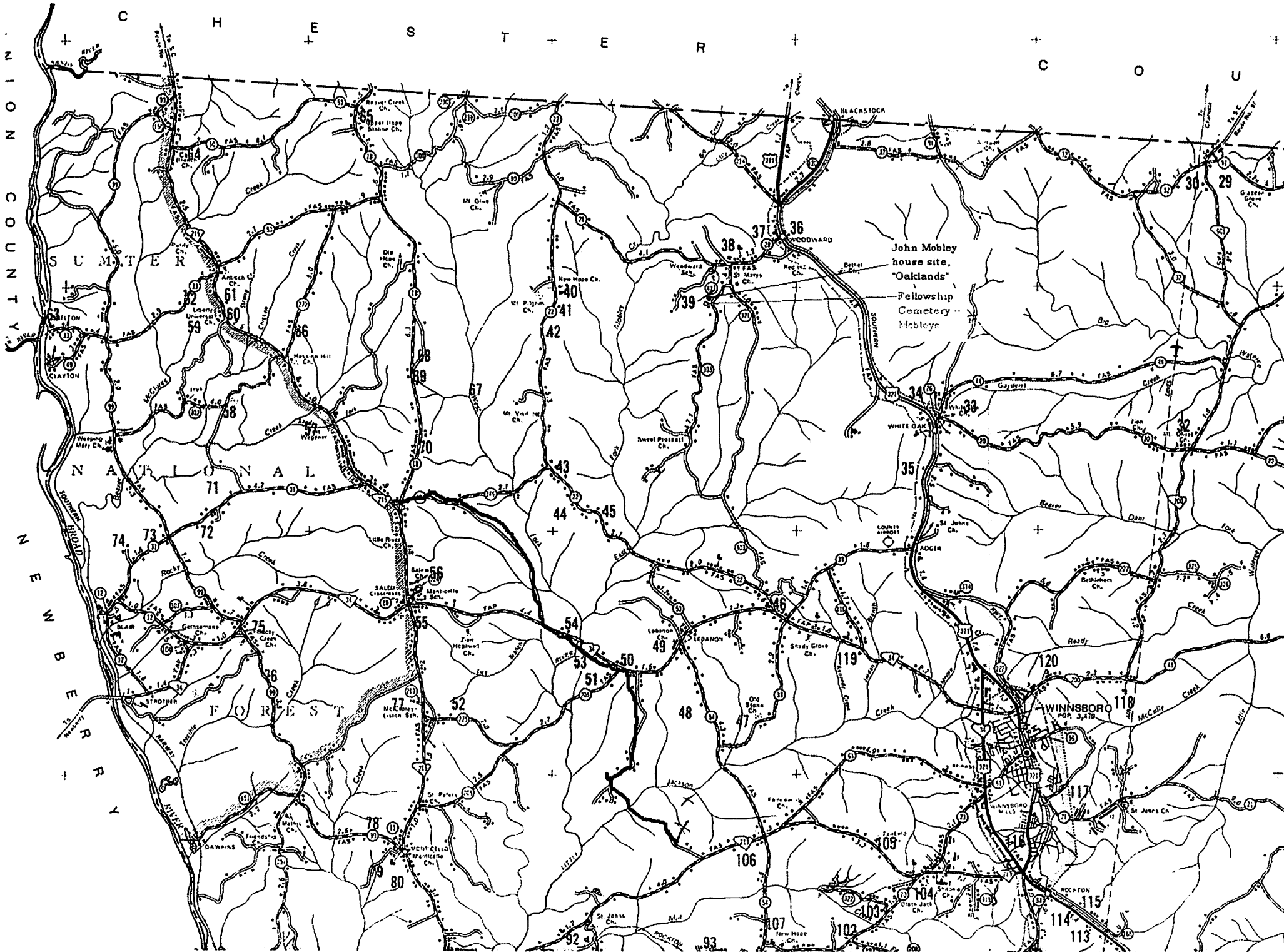
Another member of this family, Mrs. Alice (Gladney) Harden will long be remembered by the other residents of this section with affection. She was one of the few nurses in the community. Her kindnesses and gentle care of the sick will not be forgotten by those who knew her.

On the 1970 highway/historical site map, I have traced what I believe to be the former route of Harden Rd. from Hillcrest school over the creek to present Harden road. I think it may have picked up for a short distance on present day #34 going over Little River at Bell's Bridge, then followed the ridge north of #34 as Possum Branch Rd. As Possum Branch comes into Rd. #346 it crosses over Rd. 18 (Ashford Ferry Rd.) and that little connector over to #215 is still called Harden Rd. Then, I think the route followed the ridge of #31 westward down to Blair where the original crossing of the river used to be. The ferry photo shows the Blair Ferry which was apparently used to cross there until the early 20th C.

The route, as I trace it, would likely have been called the Winnsborough Rd. in old plats. I think the Harden family came a little later into the area after the Rev. War. There was still standing, when I was a teen, an 1830-1850 raised cottage on Harden Road that was the home place for the Hardens of the mid century. It was taken down sometime in the 1970s and Buddy Stevenson said that his father Ed used some of the wood in his house on the hill in the sharp curve of #34 just west of Lebanon church.

The site I mentioned for my recent discovery of Jonathan (and wife) Harrison's grave, 1755- 1851, is off Clark's Bridge Rd. after you cross Little River on the cut-over area you mentioned. See attached topo map...

I hope this inspires you to find some more archaeological points to help document our history. I would love to see where the mill you mentioned is located and any pictures of remnants, if there are any.



John Mobley
house site,
"Oaklands"
Fellowship
Cemetery
Mobleys

WINNSBORO
POP. 3,475

