

crept back through the window, wrapt himself in a blanket taken noiselessly from the empty bed, and fitfully tried to rest for several hours. When he thought that all was clear, he opened the door, hoping to slip downstairs and make his getaway. He was astonished when he saw the man who was posted on guard, nodding on the narrow stairway.

Retreating again to the room, he realized that his only escape would be through the window. Climbing cautiously back onto the roof, he leaped to the rain soaked ground without hurting himself and made a dash to the stable. Leading his horse some distance from the house before mounting, lest its hoofs plodding into the wet mud and striking against the bare rocks might be heard. Once astride the animal he raced madly through the woods and country roads and reached the jail in safety.

Upon his arrival at the jail he was treated as a guest by the sheriff and his family until his trial was arranged and he was cleared. A romance developed during this interlude which ended in his marriage to the sheriff's beautiful daughter.

HUNTER HOUSE

FERGUSON — HUNTER — RION

Well back from the Old Camden road, peeping over an old-fashioned stile, is one of the most attractive old homes in the Longtown section.

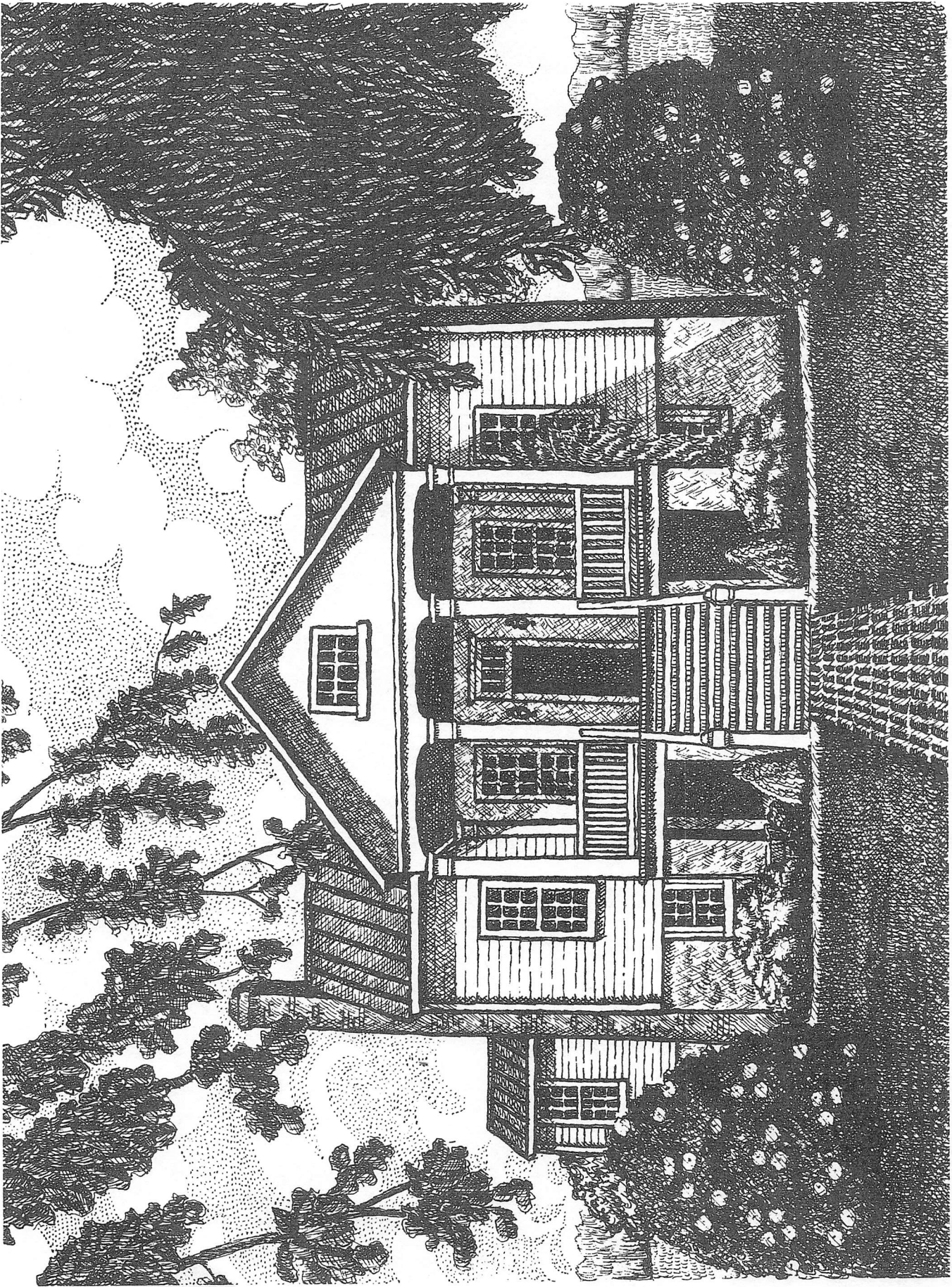
Its proportions are pleasing but deceiving, for the house is much more spacious than it appears to be at first glance. The first floor is on the ground level and is built of brick. The second or main floor is fronted with a portico, supported by slender columns and enclosed with plain picket bannisters. The interior walls are paneled with wide pine boards. All of the trim and decoration is simple, and some of the old English-made locks are still in use.

One of the most attractive features of the house is the back porch, which extends across the east side of the rear wing on two floors. The second-floor porch commands an excellent view of the countryside. It is enclosed with turned pickets, and a flight of steps leads down to the first floor, which is covered with brick tile.

The house was built before 1820, for it was in that year that the will of the builder, Abraham Ferguson, was probated. He left the property to his adopted daughter, who at that time was attending the Chesterfield Academy. She later married a Mr. Hunter, and this became known as the HUNTER PLACE.

The Hunter family lived here until after the War Between the States. When the North finally emerged as the victor after this hard-fought contest, Mr. Hunter, a staunch Confederate, made the statement that he would never live in a country ruled by the Yankees. He was a man of his word, who was also true to his strong convictions. As soon as he could, after the war ended, he got his affairs in order and with his family moved to British Honduras. His descendants still reside there. Mrs. Hunter and one child are buried at St. Stephen's in Ridgeway.

Since the Hunters left the house, it has had many tenants, and in spite of the absence of tenant-owners it has remained in a good state of preservation



HUNTER PLACE

due to the superior materials used in its construction by Abraham Ferguson.

Several years ago Mr. and Mrs. Wallace Rion purchased the property. They have completely restored the house in a most charming manner and use it as a country home. The Rions reside in Columbia but they spend part of each week at the quiet, secluded little house on the old Camden Road near Ridgeway.

VAUGHAN HOUSE

VAUGHAN

Many years ago Simpson's Turnout was one of Fairfield's busy rural communities. It is located on one of the main roads to Columbia, between Winnsboro and Ridgeway. One of the centers of activities in the ante-bellum days was a large old house that stood near the road. It was known as the STATION or STATION HOUSE.

On the old stage route from Columbia to Winnsboro this building was the first stop out of Winnsboro and the last out of Columbia. Horses for the "fast stage" were changed here, and sometimes, when the weather was severe, the passengers would spend the night in the rambling old house. Mail for the community was taken to and dispensed from this building.

Little more can be learned of the old landmark other than it was the scene of many gatherings, parties and entertainments. Judging from the construction of the building, it has been in existence for about a century and a half. For a great number of years it was owned and occupied by the Vaughan family.

TOCALAND

WOODWARD -- GADSEN -- BIGHAM -- JOHNSON

TOCALAND is just on the outskirts of Winnsboro, near the Rockton station. It is an interesting "Mosquito Cottage," a ground-level basement with a story and a half above. The basement walls are constructed of large granite blocks that were quarried on the property; their thickness makes these rooms delightfully cool in the summer. The pillars supporting the porch are tall granite slabs, quarried all in one piece. In the basement rooms most of the floors are tiled.

The second floor has a gabled porch across most of the front, supported with square wooden columns. A wide central hall bisects the second floor, with two rooms on either side and a quaint little stair against the left wall, leading up to the hall and two rooms on the third floor. There is also an inside stairway from the second-story hall down to the hall in the basement. The interior woodwork is refined but simple. Two massive inside chimneys afford fireplaces for each room. Originally there was a small wing on the right side of the house but in recent years it has been removed. This was used as a conservatory or greenhouse.

TOCALAND was built in 1854 by Major Woodward for his daughter, Regina, who married Christopher Gadsen of Charleston. Mr. Gadsen was