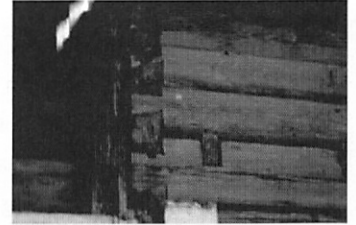




West end on left (Furman barracks). East end below shows clapboarding over log and deteriorated rear shed room and kitchen ell in far right.



Detail of log notching on front of Hawthorne house visible under collapsed front porch



Brick Furman teacherage nearby, now used as a home.

Additional Historical Facts of Importance to our Community and State

The Hawthorne structure continued to house several generations of family members from the eighteenth through nineteenth centuries. Reverend Eli Alston Wilkes, Jr., a Methodist minister, was raised in this house. The Alston Wilkes Society was founded in 1962 as a non-profit organization dedicated to providing rehabilitative services to adults released from correctional facilities and is the largest statewide agency of its kind providing direct services in the United States. In 1910 Eli Wilkes wrote an autobiography called Echos and Etchings. The first chapter in his book details his boyhood when General Sherman's Union Army marched through Fairfield County in February of 1865. His mother, Mrs. Elizabeth Hawthorne Wilkes, whose husband had died after Gettysburg in 1863, attempted to take her young son to a safer place with relatives in western Fairfield, but the king pin on the carriage broke when they tried to leave. They tried to hide the horse, but the "bummers" of Sherman's army soldiers confiscated it. Later, a soldier set a fire in the middle of the living room, but Mrs. Wilkes gave the Mason's sign of distress and an officer extinguished the fire.

In 1877, Robert Brown bought the property from the Hawthorne heirs and the present landowner, Bobby Brown is his descendant. He was raised by his widowed mother in the house until she moved out into a newer nearby structure a dozen years ago. The house has been vacant ever since and Mrs. Brown died last year.

In 1851 the State Convention of the Baptist Denomination sold to John R. Shurley of Fairfield District 317 acres of land on which the school building and cabins were located. Shurley had been operating another boarding school named Shurley Institute in the area and perhaps may have contemplated expanding with the acquisition of the Furman facility. However, more controversy erupted with the Fairfield Baptist congregation around arguments about some of the institute property. Rev. Jonathan Davis died in 1855 and the quarrels increased until his death until someone burned down the church, destroying all the church records. Members organized the First Baptist Church and moved to Winnsboro. Fairfield Church went virtually out of existence. It appears that the neighborhood had "gone to pot", all in the advancing wake of the difficult war years to come.

Brown-Hawthorne House Addition



Furman barracks addition to Hawthorne log house (in shade on the right).

The author of this paper writes that "people of the community bought up the cabins and some claim today that the sills of their present homes are laid on material taken from the cabins." Sometime after Furman Institute's departure in January, 1852, it is said that a descendant of Adam or James Hawthorne dismantled one or more of these dormitory barracks and attached a longitudinal addition to a log house that still stands less than $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile west of the Furman campus. The log cabin had been built on a 100-acre tract granted to James H. Adams in 1770 by South Carolina's Royal Governor Greville Montague.

The property was sold to James Hawthorne in 1771 and shortly afterwards, according to Hawthorne family tradition, a "bounty log house" was built in the typical frontier cabin configuration of two rooms and an above sleeping loft. The 18-foot by 25-foot building housed Hawthorne descendants until it was sold in 1877 to Robert Brown, the ancestor of the present owner. Sometime after Furman Institute abandoned the campus in 1852, the Furman barracks addition was attached to the west end of the Hawthorne house.

The above document quotes that the Furman wood frame dormitories or barracks on the campus measured 18 feet long, 16 feet wide with 9 ft. ceilings. The frame barracks addition to the Hawthorne log house measures 18 feet wide and 33 feet long and has two rooms and a sleeping loft or garret under the high pitch of its roof. This second floor room is accessed by a steep staircase and had its own fireplace for heating. The attic lofts of both sections of the house are accessible through a door connecting the two structural components. Each component has its own steep stairwell.



Stairwell in log section