

Historic Summerville

Baths, Heat, Lights Lacking Prior To 1925

By BETH McINTOSH

Another young Summerville wife had great qualms about buying an old house. Mrs. P. Frank Smith Sr. said that when her late husband suggested in 1925 that they buy "the old Carroll House," Richardson Avenue and Pine Streets, she had many doubts about the wisdom of the proposed purchase.

She said that the house was dark and painted dull brown with stained wood work. There were no bath rooms and no electricity.

"Old Mrs. Carroll slept upstairs in a great four poster bed and she used to climb the stairs every night carrying an oil lamp to light her way," Mrs. Smith commented. "I was very dubious about buying the house but my husband, and also my

sister, (Mrs. Mary McIntosh), both were all for it so I agreed," she continued.

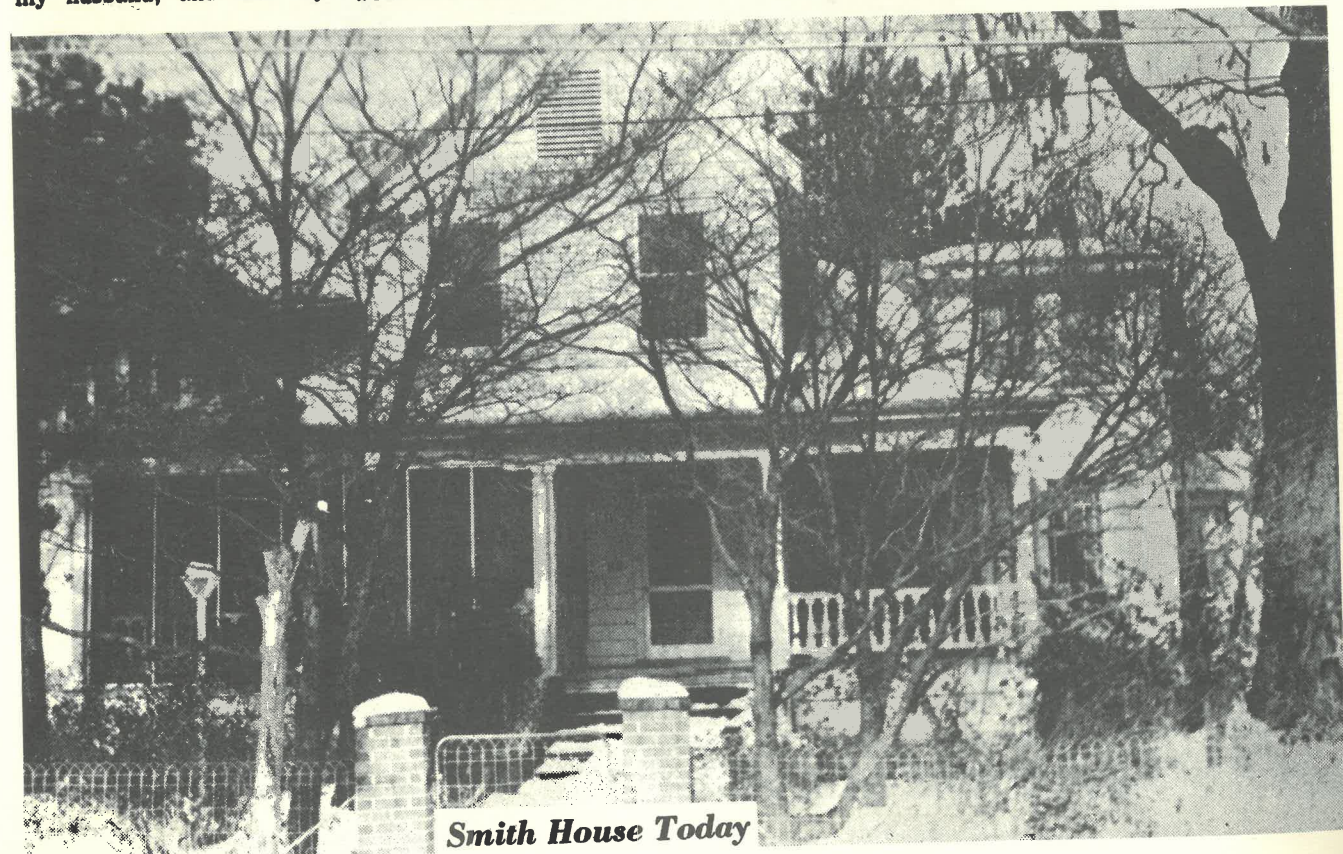
Mr. and Mrs. Smith made extensive renovations, putting in central heat, electricity, adding bathrooms, and adding an upstairs sleeping porch which made an excellent bedroom and place for her children. The 'before' and 'after' pictures they took in 1925, show the changes, not only to the house but in the yard. Mrs. Smith's yard now is full of lovely azaleas, camellias, and other flowering shrubs. She said there wasn't an azalea in the yard when they first moved.

The acre lot of Mrs. P. F. Smith's property changed hands three times, all for the same price, prior to 1871. Available records show it went from Philip Gadsden to



Before Remodeling

A. W. Taylor, for \$300.00, the property being listed as Book No. 14, p. 306, being "in the village of Summerville, St. James Parish, Charleston County Record, then in May 1862, A. W. Taylor to A. D. Estill, again for \$300.00, Book R 14, pg. 231, and in 1863, A. D. Estill to F. Peck, still for \$300.00, deed from "J. F. Peck of



Smith House Today

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Charleston-Mariner" - sold

premises to Mrs. Leonora A. Shepherd for \$850.00, and in 1872 Mrs. Leonora A. Shepherd, wife of William Shepherd, Merchant, of Charleston, sold "all that lot of land and buildings thereon" to Margaret P. Witsell for \$1,200.

On December 3, 1881, Jos. W. Barnwell, solicitor, wrote apropos a "Loan of Frances J. Carroll", the following: "I have examined title of Frances J. Carroll to the property in Summerville referred to in letter of Sec. Treas. of 9th- and find that she has a fee simple title thereto. Some of the deeds between 1833-1862 are not of record but I have a letter of Judge B. C. Pressley showing that they were in ex-

istence at one time."

In April 1925 E. M. and W. H. Carroll, executors, sold to P. Frank Smith. A coincidence found the late Mr. P. Frank Smith owning the house where his mother had stayed as a young girl.

The late Mrs. R. McBeth Smith, (Miss Eloise Thompson of Greenville), stayed in this house as a girl with her sister and step-mother, long years ago. They rented the house for awhile.

Mrs. Smith told how her mother - in - law used to say, "I would stand by the window of the front bedroom upstairs and I could see over the trees and to the yard of the house where Mr. (R. McBeth) Smith was then living. There were no buildings inbetween

then. I could see him working in the yard; that is before we started 'courting.'" (NOTE: The house which she could see so clearly was the one next door to the present Summerville Academy on Main Street.)

Little did young Miss Thompson realize that her children, and even great-great grandchildren, would sleep and play in the rooms where she lived when she first started courtship with their male ancestor.

The house has a wide, comfortable porch, high ceilings, old pine flooring, and paneled wainscoting in the first floor rooms. Stairs rise from the dining room to the second floor. All of the rooms are

spacious.

"Miss Susie", as her friends call her, is surrounded by ferns, flowers, treasured furniture and pictures and mementos of a large, close-knit, and loving family.

The old kitchen was made into a storage garage and the porch and breeze-way in the rear were enclosed to make the present kitchen.

Grounds, porches, and house, have echoed to the lives of a family connected by birth, marriage, and friendship, to those whose names are found on early land grants and deeds of the areas in and around Summerville since the first settlers came to this locale.

EDITOR'S NOTE: CMSgt. and Mrs. Walter E. Bouchard bought the Smith house in 1978 from Mary Esther Smith, who inherited it from her mother, "Miss Susie".

Front Door In Back Summerville Habit

By BETH McINTOSH

Another Summerville home has a front entrance where the back used to be.

301 South Magnolia Street, the home of Mr. and Mrs. John Murray Compton, and their family, is a well-built, handsome, two story home with traditional (in Summerville at least)-white clapboard siding, green shutters, high ceilings, and a wide columned porch.

The exact date of construction is hard to determine, but the house is probably a hundred or more years old. Mrs. E. L. Strobel of 400 South Magnolia, (whose husband operated a grocery store on the site of the Cedar Street laundromat next to the Coca-Cola plant); said that her grndfather, F. M. Sires, built the Compton's house for a Mr. Campbell. Mr. Sires' own home, she added, was the house on Second South Street, now owned by Mr. and Mrs. Philip G Dixon.

The Campbell for whom the house was built died sometime prior to 1893. His will left the property to his son, Crosskeys Campbell, and, after the son's death, to any children of Crosskeys, as was stated in a deed recorded in Dorcnester County, February 13, 1922, Book 38.

The children of Crosskeys Campbell were Gordon, Edward, Louis and Archibald, and they

sold the house to Nina G. Mallard in the deed mentioned above, boundaries given, 140 ft. on Magnolia Street, 102 ft. on Second South Street, and 140 ft on the East.

The property passed to several persons between 1922 and 1935; Saul Alexander, Charleston Heights Company, Alice and Lawrence Welch, then in 1935 to Naomi Voight. Mr and Mrs. John Voight lived at 301 for about 24 years and did quite a bit of re-modeling and modernizing of the premises. After Mr. Voight's death his wife sold the house in 1959, and it was purchased from B. L. Tucker in 1961 by the present owners.

The Comptons have changed several features of the house to fit the needs of a busy, growing family.

At one time Mr Crosskeys Campbell must have rented the house.

In the years before World War I, Mr. and Mrs. William Vincent rented the house and lived there for some time with their children, Edward, Willie, Mattie and Marie, (now Mrs. W. L. Jenkins).

Mrs. Jenkins said her father paid \$20 a month rent—which was considered to be an exorbitant price at the time.