



HISTORY OF TURNER FARM

Property

This historic farmhouse was built in 1885 and remained in the Turner Family until 1990. Up until that time, it was home to the two Turner sisters. The main house had two water spigots, one main power source and was heated by five fireplaces, with the sisters hauling in the wood. The cottage on the property was almost dilapidated. It has now been renovated and serves as an adorable guest cottage complete with tin roof, fireplace, back screened porch overlooking the woods, and a large herb garden. The front porch overlooks the barns and many flowering shrubs, trees and flower gardens. Many of the flowers and shrubs on the property are reminiscent of days gone by as the current owner is a Master Gardener and has spent much time bringing the grounds back to days of old.

Evan and Joyce Alexander Powell purchased the farm in 1990. This couple worked for almost six years renovating the property. The Powells researched and completed the renovation as true to the time period as possible. The current owner purchased the property in 1996.

The farm was one of the few cotton farms in the Upstate. At its peak, it contained more than 2,000 acres which stretched from the top of Paris Mountain to Jackson Grove Road, where the old cotton gin still stands. The present property consists of approximately 11.2 acres bounded on three sides by Turner Circle.

Outbuildings

On the property at Turner Farm is an 8-stall barn with stairs to a floored loft. There is a carriage shed, curing house and a lighthouse where carbide and water were once mixed to provide acetylene gas that was piped into the house for lighting. There is also a rare raised floor barn and outhouse, both in fair condition. There is also a tunnel in the woods that runs under the road, which once served as a cattle crossing.

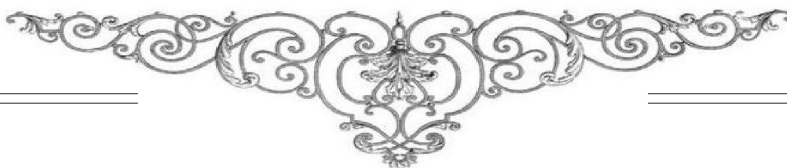
Main House

The main house construction was started around 1880 and completed around 1885 and has been restored as much as possible to the original condition. The house has heart of pine hardwood floors throughout. As you go from room to room, you will see some giving of the original boards as well as how the new floors blend with the old.

The front door is the original door. It appears to be of the Eastlake Era...this was most definitely a sign of a wealthy family and not that common in the South. During the renovation, it had to be stripped eleven times before the woodcarvings were visible.

On the left of the hall is the Keeping Room/Music Room. This room was used for the family to gather and discuss the activities of the day. To the right of the hall is a Parlor for guests, as well as the Dining Room where a telephone was first installed in the 1940s (note bottom of next page).

It is important to note that Mr. Turner was a farmer by trade, but a woodworker by hobby. It is said that he enjoyed making mantles each Christmas. The wooden mantles were all stripped many times to bring them back to the natural wood during the renovation.





You will also find throughout the house the hand-painted stenciling Mrs. Powell created, and especially note the detailed tassel design in the Parlor.

The small alcove area outside the dining room has original flooring and doors complete with hardware. The wooden doors throughout the house are very thin but made with very heavy oak and complete with original hardware.

Originally there were four bedrooms in the house. Each bedroom was named after a season. The Fall bedroom is now the downstairs master bath and dressing room. This room is complete with a reproduction claw foot tub and highboy oak toilet as well as a fireplace. This awesome bedroom and bath overlook one of the garden areas.

The country kitchen, complete with a replica wood burning stove, and the sunny Gazebo/Sunroom areas were renovated. The main wall along the back of the kitchen had to be replaced. During that time, the Powells added the laundry room with the new floors matching the old. The glass doors in the gazebo area are from a farmhouse from the 1890s. The ceiling fan is a reproduction of a Hunter fan made in the 1890s that was designed to run off water power.

The stairwell goes up from the back of the hall which is uncommon. As you go upstairs, you will notice the low ceiling; the people from that era were much shorter than the current generation. You will also find tongue and groove floor planks.

Upstairs the bedroom to the right of the stairs is the Spring bedroom. This room offers a great view of the gardens.

The landing area is complete with a wonderful view of the Cliffs of Glassy. It is said that Mrs. Turner, in her latter years, spent most of her day sitting at this window in her rocking chair.

The bedroom to the right is complete with a fireplace as well as tongue and groove walls. The new addition of the annex area and sitting room were created to blend with the rest of the structure. The sitting room is lighted by one of the original gas lamps out of the farmhouse.

Historical Tidbits

In the early part of the century, Turner Farm was noted for its gardens, and according to a 1930 *The Greenville News* article, people visited the garden spot often. Today, Turner Farm is still a wonderful place to visit with all its glorious history. Due to the loving care of the current owner, a tour of the grounds today, is still a delight.

In the 1940s, the phone system installed at Turner Farm was the 25,000th! *The Greenville News* quoted the telephone men as saying, "with the 25,000th telephone in the community we're now changing from a town to a metropolis." A duplicate phone is in the house today. The original is in the Southern Bell Pioneer's Museum in Columbia.

