

THE CONCORD HOUSE

T. VANCE LITTLE

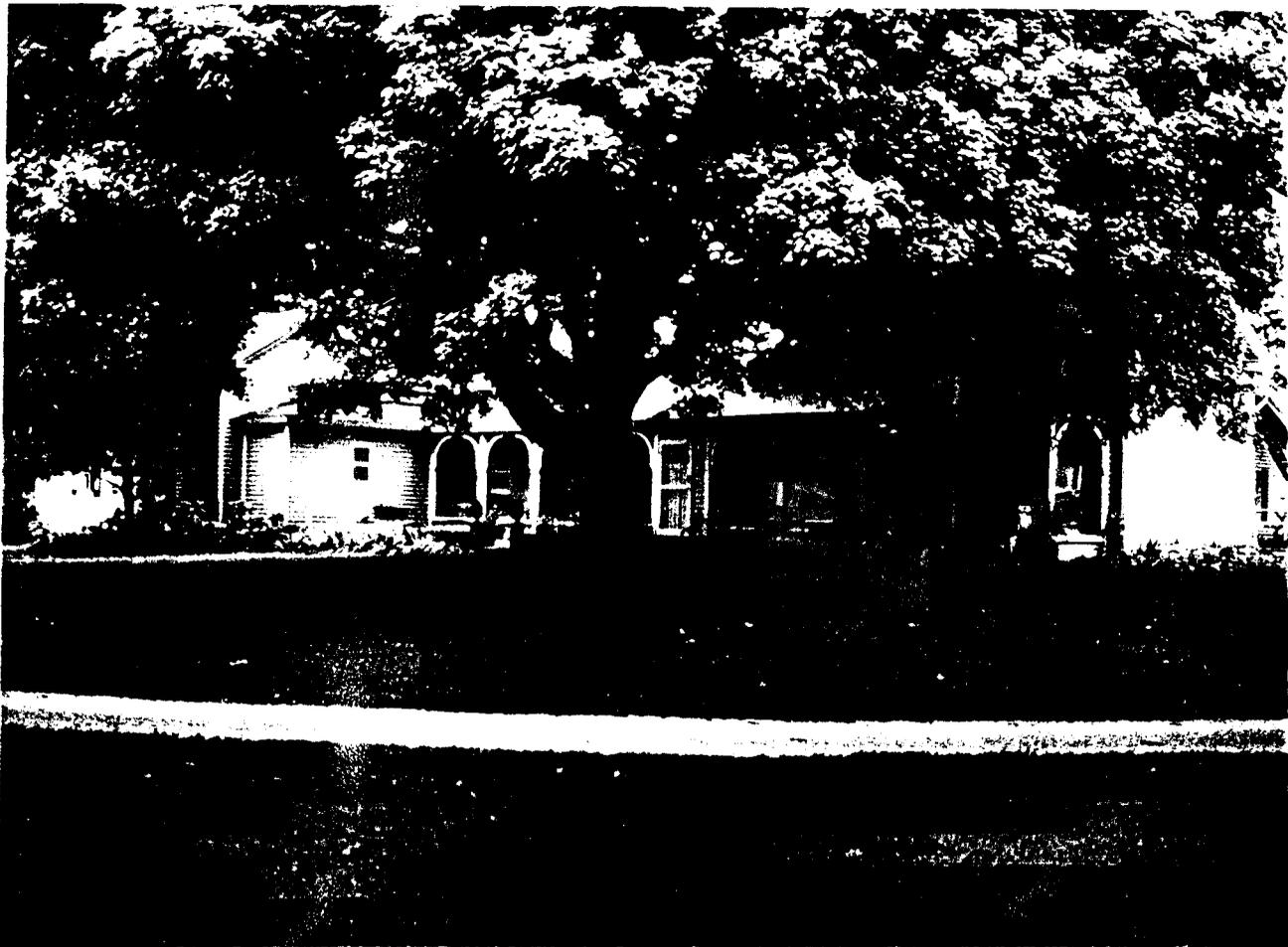
9580 CROCKETT ROAD
BRENTWOOD, TN 37027

(615) 776-2682

THE CONCORD HOUSE

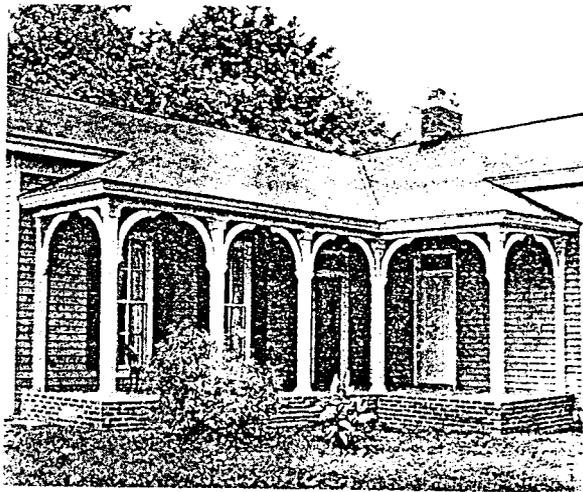
The Concord House was built in the 1860's just after the Civil War. It was built to replace an earlier structure. The outbuildings on the site date back to the early 1800's. The land on which the house is built originally belonged to John Winstead who deeded it to his daughter, Susannah Winstead Allen, in 1815. It remained in the hands of descendants of that family until the 1950's when bought by the Little family. The smoke house is one of the original structures on the site and dates back to the early 1800's. The house was restored to it's original condition by Vance Little in 1987.

Brentwood Brochure



The Concord House

a restoration



In 1822, John Winstead deeded this property to his daughter Susannah and her husband William Allen, who, according to the deed, were already living here. Since they married in 1816, the original house and outbuildings date to 1816 and later.

Of the original complex, the log smoke house and crib, along with the pantry assembled with cedar pegs, remain.

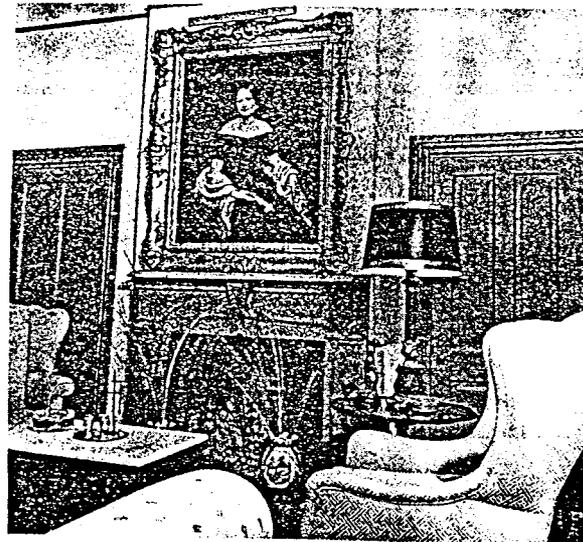
The original servants' quarters were where the chicken house now is. They burned during the 1920s and were rebuilt where the trailer is now. My mother moved them to behind the crib in 1960.

I tore down the unsightly old blacksmith shop with my own two hands in the late 1950s. My father's very words were: "That's a mighty historic building that you are tearing down."

The Dining Room appears as it did in the 1950s, when the paneling was added. The mahogany furniture was my mother's. She did the needlepoint for the 12 chairs. The floor is original poplar.

The lady's portrait is of my mother, painted from a photograph made when she was 18. The gentleman's portrait is of Confederate General Thomas Benton Smith, the South's youngest general. He was from Nolensville. My great grandmother and he were cousins.

Parlor



The Parlor is strictly 1880s. The heart-of-pine floor is the only one in the old part of the house that is not poplar.

The Empire period sofa dates from the early 1800s. It came from Savannah. The two walnut fiddle-back chairs date from the mid 1800s. My mother did the needlepoint. The 18th Century Pembroke table is mahogany. The organ dates from the 1880s. Note the five-year warranty.

The large portrait is of Sarah Whitfield, painted in 1856 by prominent Tennessee artist Washington Cooper. Sarah was a local girl, whose sister married a Winstead, into the same family that owned this

property.

The European painting over the library table is probably 18th Century.

Front Hall

The transom over the front door is Bohemian (red) glass. The front door is original and mercifully was never painted. The marbling and graining are still clearly visible.

Also note the front-hall floor is green heart-of-poplar. The other poplar floors are random and variously colored.

Bedroom

The hand-carved oak bed and dresser have been here many years. The cain rocker was my grandmother's. The clock was my grandfather's. My mother did the framed crochet piece. JoAnn Connor did the framed sampler. My cousin Barbara McCanless did the needlepoint Confederate soldier. The floor is original poplar. A corner of the mantle shows the original marbling.

Study

This was a bedroom and has original poplar floors. The wardrobe is original to the house. The sofa is mahogany, Empire period. The desk and file cabinet are, of course, contemporary.

The walls are adorned with history:

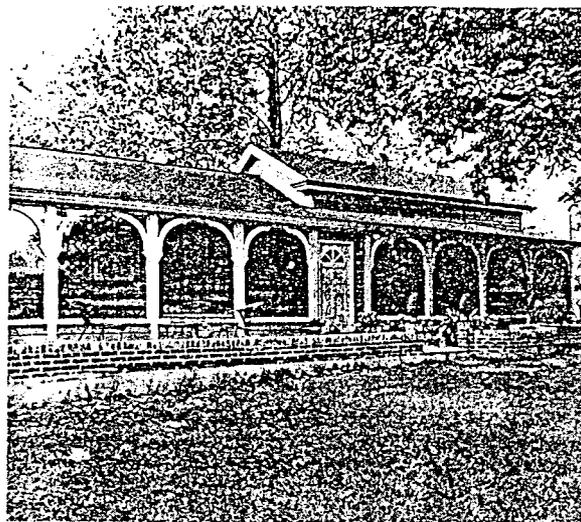
- The church in the watercolor is Liberty Methodist Church, in which I grew up. Founded in the late 1700s, it is one of the oldest Methodist churches in Middle Tennessee.
- The 1837 deed is to the existing church property.

- The key was to the church before a 1940s remodeling.
- The sandwich glass plate was Franklin Methodist Church's communion plate in the early 1800s.
- The framed deed is signed by my great-great-great grandfather, whose sister married John Sneed of Flvranna County, Va. Another sister married Jessie Benton and became the mother of the famous Sen. Thomas Hart Benton of Missouri.
- The ledger lists family slaves in the 1850s.
- The small framed card is a museum-quality ticket issued for President Andrew Johnson's impeachment trial.
- The broadside is a relative's reward notice for a lost horse: \$10 for the horse; \$25 for the thief.
- The 1897 Confederate Soldier Reunion badge is my grandfather's. The reunion was held in Nashville's Ryman Auditorium, where the Confederate Gallery was built to accommodate the veterans.
- The Ku Klux Klan emblem in the oval frame is from an 1870s uniform worn locally.

Gallery

The Gallery was the 1880s porch, onto which every room but the Parlor opened. The modern bath was an ell of the porch. The 1950s remodeling turned this area into a living room and sun porch that covered what is now the patio. I removed the rooms and glassed-in the porch.

The Civil War artifacts came from Yankee and Confederate camps on Beech Grove Farm, across the road. The lamp is a Tiffany. The large watercolor is of my other house, Beech Grove. The oak floor is part of the 1950s remodeling. The bar is made from an old oak mantle.



Library

The Library is where the 1880s Kitchen and Dining rooms were. It was a garage in the 1950s and is not quite in original position. The architecture is the same. The floor is oak and poplar. The rug is Persian.

The game table is mahogany and the chairs are cherry. The Plantation desk is walnut and very old.

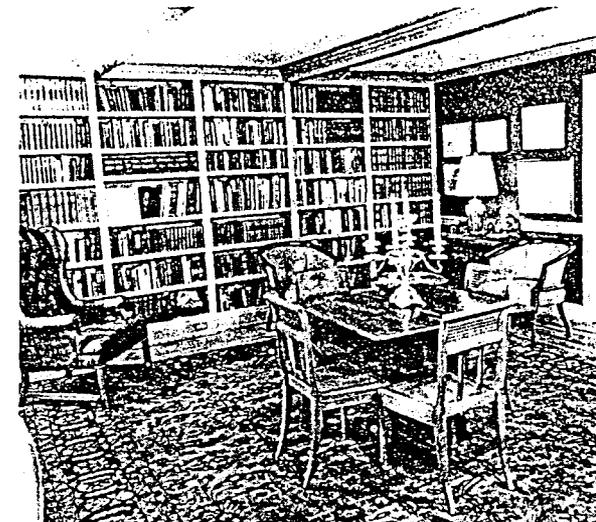
The fiddle on the bookcase belonged to my great-great-great grandfather, Richard Vernon, who settled Nolensville.

Rare books in the shelves include: "The Works of James I of Scotland," 1787; a set of "British Essayists," 1802; and the "Complete Works of Victor Hugo."

The old pictures include family members.

The documents on the wall include: a letter from Tennessee's first Governor John Sevier; a letter from Nashville's founder James Robertson; the ledger from Tennessee's first legislative session, 1797.

The large painting "The River Seine" is by Sara Webb, judged to be in the top 100 of 6,000 entries in a New York art competition.



Upstairs Bedroom

The Upstairs Bedroom was added by raising the garage roof. It is strictly 1987. The bed, dresser and side table, however, are all family pieces that I have had all my life. The sofa is walnut, late Victorian period.

THE CONCORD HOUSE

By T. Vance Little

In 1822 John Winstead deeded this property to his daughter Susannah and her husband William Allen, who, according to the deed, were already living here. Since they married in 1816, the original house and outbuildings date to that date and later. Of the original complex the log smoke house, the crib, and the pantry remain.

In the 1950's I tore down with my own hands the old blacksmith shop. My father's very words were, "That's a mighty historic building that you are tearing down."

The existing house appears to have been built in the 1860's, and is at least the second, maybe third, house on the site. All of the wood used in the construction, except the heart of pine parlor floor, is poplar and was cut on the place.

From Susannah Winstead and her husband William Allen the house went to her daughter Miriam, who married Joshua N. Fly. It stayed in the Fly family until the early 1950's when my father bought it.

The house originally faced Crockett Road, then called Carpenter Road. At the time it was built, Concord Road did not exist except for what is now the drive way. My father extensively remodeled and altered the house in the 1950's, adding brick to the exterior, picture windows, knotty pine paneling, and baths. He removed the old kitchen and dining room and replaced them with a large family room, a glassed in porch and a garage. In my restoration I un-did what he did in the 50's, leaving some of the 50's features. The restoration followed pictures of the original.

THE KITCHEN -- The Kitchen appears as it did after the 1950 remodeling. It, as well as the dining room, was originally a bed room. The old kitchen and dining room stood where the library now is. A pantry separated them from the main house.

The cherry "turning" table is a reproduction of one that belonged to my grandparents. The old ice box is original to the house. The oak desk came from the old Union Station. The pie safe is an original Tennessee piece from the Kirby family of Warren County. The safe is a Jackson Press, made only in Tennessee and Kentucky.

Most of the floor is poplar. The center part is pine and was added in 1950 to repair the original floor. It was all covered with tile, which I removed. The cabinets were added in the 50's.

THE DINING ROOM -- The Dining room appears as it did in the 1950's when the paneling was added. The furniture was my mother's. She did the needlepoint for the 12 chairs. The floor is original poplar. The lady's portrait is of my mother, painted from a photograph. The gentleman is Confederate General Thomas Benton Smith, the South's youngest general. He was from Nolensville, and my great grandmother and he were cousins.

✓ THE PARLOR -- The Parlor is strictly 1860's. The pine floor must have been imported from somewhere since it is not native to this area.

The Empire Sofa dates to the early 1800's and came from Savannah. The two walnut fiddle back chairs date from the mid 1800's. The 18th Century Pembroke table is mahogany. The organ dates from the 1880's. Note the 5 year warranty. The painting to the right of the windows is by Willie Betty Newman, a Tennessee artist.

The large portrait is of Sarah Whitfield, painted in 1856; supposedly by Tennessee artist Washington Cooper. She was a local girl, whose sister married a Winstead, of the family who originally owned this house.

✓ THE FRONT HALL -- The transom over the front door is Bohemian glass. The front door is original and has been moved to various places in the house over the years, but it fortunately has never been painted. Consequently the original graining and marbling can be clearly seen.

THE FRONT BEDROOM -- The hand carved oak bed and dresser have been in the house many years. The cain rocker was my grandmother's. The clock was my grandfather's. My mother did the framed crochet piece. ✓ Jo Ann Connor did the framed sampler. My Cousin Barbara McCanless did the needlepoint Confederate soldier. The floor is poplar. A corner of the mantle has been left unpainted so that the marbling can be seen.

THE STUDY -- The Study, which originally was a bedroom. The sofa is Empire mahogany. The desk, of course, is contemporary.

✓ There is a Methodist corner, where one can see a painting of the Liberty Methodist Church, founded in the late 1700's, the original deed to that church, as well as a key to the front door, the communion plate and the Sunday School bell. The framed plate was the communion plate from the Franklin Methodist Church.

On the mantle is a fiddle that belonged to my great-great-great grandfather on my mother's side. He was Captain Richard Vernon, a Revolutionary War veteran, who settled at Nolensville. On the opposite wall is a deed signed by my great-great-great grandfather David Rice Gooch on my father's side. His sister was the mother of Thomas Hart Benton, Senator from Missouri.

The ledger lists family slaves in the 1850's. The small framed card is a museum quality ticket issued for President Andrew Johnson's impeachment trial. The broadside is a relative's reward notice for a lost horse, saying 10 dollars for the horse and 25 dollars for the thief. The 1897 Confederate Reunion badge was my grandfather's. The reunion was held in Nashville's Ryman Auditorium, where the Confederate Gallery was built to accommodate the veterans. The Ku Klux Klan emblem in the oval frame is from an 1870's uniform worn locally.

✓ THE LIBRARY -- The Library is where the 1880's kitchen and dining rooms were. A garage was added in 1950 when the two older rooms were removed. The present room used the same foundation as the 50's garage. The floor is oak and poplar, and the rug is Persian.

The game table is mahogany. The plantation desk is walnut and very old. The old pictures include some family members. Documents on the wall include a letter from Tennessee's first Governor John Sevier, Nashville's founder, James Robertson, and the ledger from the first session of the Tennessee Legislature in 1797.

The large painting is "The River Seine" by Sarah Webb, judged to be in the top 100 of 6,000 entries in a New York art competition in 1986. THE UPSTAIRS BEDROOM -- The upstairs Bedroom is strictly 1987. The bed, dresser and side table, however, are all family pieces. I have slept in the bed most of my life. The sofa is walnut, later Victorian period.

THE O U T B U I L D I N G S

THE PANTRY: The Pantry was originally the Dairy House. It was used for straining the milk after it was brought from the barn. There is was separated and the butter was churned. Many older people remember that Mr. Bob Fly had a goat that was trained to operate the churn and make butter for the family. The building is believed to be one of the original on the site, dating back possibly the 1820's. It is put together with cedar pegs. It is likely that the beaded wall covering was added in the late 1800's. It is presently used as a pantry.

THE SMOKE HOUSE: The Smoke House is also one of the original buildings on the site. It was almost certainly built before 1820. It is made of poplar logs and is still functional, having been used continuously since it was built. It is presently being used to cure hams and will accommodate up to 250 hams. The original "salt trough" is still intact and is still being used. It is carved from a single poplar log. The overhanging roof is a bit unique for this area. The jutting logs were used to hold the pole on which hogs were slaughtered.

THE CRIB: The Crib too is original. The log part dates back to the early 1800's with the loft part dating to the late 1800's. Its construction is cantilever, a style found more commonly in East Tennessee. It was used for storing grain. The outer shed was used for milking cows before the Dairy Barn was built. In the renovation of the building a large plank was found, which judging from the many hack marks was used for dressing meat after hogs were killed. It is furnished mostly with oak pieces that came from the house.

THE DAIRY BARN: The Dairy Barn was built in 1941 by Mr. Les Fly to accommodate the dairy operation that he conducted there after he and his family moved in with Mr. Bob Fly. The milking parlor had 25 stantions, 12 on one side and 13 on the other. It was equipped with electric milking machines. In the renovation the old milk room was made into a kitchen and bath. The original tin ceiling was left intact. The old feed room was made into an office. The panelling is fir. The book cases came from the

house and were put in by my father in the 1950 remodeling of the house. They are made from cedar that was cut on Beech Grove Farm across the road. The milking parlor is a recreation room with a working fireplace. It has been completely finished inside, with plenty of insulation. The bar is made from cherry wood that came from Beech Grove.

THE TENANT HOUSE: The Tenant House was built probably in the 1920's. It was originally one room and was built after the original servants quarters burned. At that time it stood where the chicken house is. It was later moved to a location between the Smoke House and the Crib. I believe that my father did that and added a room at that time. My mother had it moved to its present location in the early 1960's. It was been completely renovated with all new wiring, plumbing, insulation, and wall, ceiling, and floor covering.

OTHER BUILDINGS: In the original complex there were at least three other buildings. One was the Blacksmith Shop which I tore down. The other was the Wood Shed, which was also used as a buggy house, and a chicken house, demolished in 1991. The old mule barn is across Crockett Road on the Hardison place. There is another grain house that went with this place on the Beeler's place to the west.