

negro servants, found in the possession of several of whom, including Mrs. L. B. M. Burdine and H. A new front porch wider than the old one, the chief change made in the house

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ment. trees still standing, and, this is one home, the floral beauty which it has retained, that could be said to be unchanged overnight. It has stood during and following the war without in the least diminishing in the succeeding years which have been experienced.

*The Lee Home* 5 MARCH 1933 P. 4

A Z-shaped dwelling in two sections, of different ages, wrapped around an Irish woman with a business tendency, and distinguished by the most beautiful circular stairway in Madison county—all of this comes to light in a review of the Col. H. H. Lee home, for the last 13 years the residence of Joseph B. Harris, situated near the Tennessee river four miles west of Whitesburg.

Tall cedars and two of the largest pecan trees in the South, which have borne for more than 60 years, shade the home, forming a gradual contour from the hundreds of fertile acres of river bottom land surrounding.

Two rooms of the mansion, both of brick and forming the lower part of the Z; were built soon after 1818, and were followed nearly 25 years later by the others, built of substantial frame material.

**Land Entered by Cooper**

The quarter section of land, on which this home was erected, was entered in 1818 by James Cooper. This was choice acreage, and included some of the best farming soil in the county, all in the center of what is now known as Pond Beat, a name gained from the number of tiny ponds formed by floods when the river is high. His neighbors were scarce, but he was not many minutes' ride from Ditto's landing, the import and export center for this section during the early years of the last century.

With bricks hauled from the landing, where they had been brought by boat from Chattanooga or some other point, Cooper erected a small two-story building, the beginning of the present mansion. This was to be his home and that of his bride, Charity Cooper, born in 1801, the daughter of William Allison; who had come over from Ireland several years after her birth.

This settler did well, hauling his cotton to Whitesburg for shipment, and occasionally coming to Huntsville to get supplies. He found that his land, untilled before his arrival, could not have been better suited for a young planter, and made the most of his opportunity.

**Bought More Land Later**

In 1830, his fortune increasing, he bought for \$800 three-quarters of an adjoining section from Rodah Horton, builder of the present McCracken home on Meridian pike. Four years later, through a deal with Charles G. Bowen, covered by