

Wood Place



Wood Place is located on the east side of Byrd Mill Road near the South Anna River and the waters of Cauthorns Run. The house stands on a portion of the vast land holdings of Christopher Wood, who married Sarah Michie, daughter of John Michie. Christopher and Sarah had no children and sold most of the land prior to their deaths. However, they kept the Wood Place property; and when Christopher died in 1790, it remained in his estate until it was acquired by William Wood in 1820.



Believed to be the son of William and Ursuly Wood of Fleshmans, William Wood apparently built Wood Place shortly after he obtained the property. William married Sarah Hall in 1784 and they resided at Wood Place for many years. When William died in 1845, his son, Drury Wood, received the home. In 1835 Drury had married Emily T. Gooch, daughter of Thompson Gooch, and they made their home at Wood Place. Drury evidently died in the 1860's, and the property became involved in a lawsuit and eventually was sold in 1879 to Miletus T, Stapleton D., and Garrett G. Gooch.

In 1883 Jarman J. Gooch and his wife Mollie A. Gooch, purchased Wood Place and lived there until 1901, when they sold the property to Charles L. and Priscilla E. Shumake. Since then the old house has seen numerous previous owners: Charles B. Wells, C.L. and Estelle Perkins, J.F. and H.M. Wade, Edgar A. and Florence Goodwin, William A. Cooke, H.L. Trotter, Bernard Eugene and Evelyn Eleanora Trotter, James C. Arnold Jr., L.J. and Edith Purcell, and Porter McDonald. The present owners have made many improvements to the home since they purchased it in 2004.

A large, two-story frame structure built over a raised brick basement, Wood Place has tall, freestanding, brick end chimneys, six-over-six windows, and two matched front doors. The smaller story-and-a-half wing, which partially encloses the chimney on the left end of the house, appears to be a later addition.

Bricks could easily be marked with the initials of the builder and the date of construction while soft. Once fired and hardened, they were often placed in a chimney or foundation, as this brick marked SW 1845 found in the foundation of an addition at Wood Place.



Sources:

Old Home Places of Louisa County Revisited

Revised and Expanded by the Louisa County Historical County