



Hickory Forest

Hickory Forest stands near Apple Grove on the west side of Cross County Road (Route 522) on land that belonged to the Jackson family as early as 1742. Maj. Charles Jackson, son of Thomas and Ann Mills Jackson of *Catalpa Hall*, made his home on land that he received from his father. Major Jackson was married twice, first to Jane Anderson and then to Milly Waddy Anderson, widow of Richard Anderson of *North Bend*. When he died in 1823, his daughter, Ann, who married John Christmas, received his home. Another daughter, Jane, and her husband, Joseph McConnell, received a portion of his estate. By 1825 they had moved to Kentucky, and in that year they sold Jane's portion to Abner Nelson Harris and William O. Harris, sons of Abner and Mary Pryor Harris of nearby *Buck Hill*. In 1828 William acquired his brother's share of the property and built *Hickory Forest* there.

Col. William Overton Harris was a soldier in the War of 1812, a county justice and a member of the General Assembly. In 1825 he married Mary A. Tyler, daughter of Capt. William Tyler. They resided at *Hickory Forest* where he died in 1861 and she in the 1890s. Their daughter, Adeline "Addie," who married

Marcellus David Cowherd of Orange, received *Hickory Forest*, and sold it in 1897 to Andrew M. Wash.

The son of Robert Duncan and Mary Agnes Walton Wash, Andrew Melville Wash married his first cousin, Nannie, daughter of William W. and Rebecca Wash Turner, and they lived at *Hickory Forest* for many years. In 1902 they conveyed the house to her brother, William W. Turner Jr., whose widow, Maggie Hogshead Turner, deeded it back to them in 1912. Five years later Andrew and Nannie deeded the home to their son, Robert William Wash, who married Sallie Lee Swift, daughter of William Henry and Elizabeth Meredith Swift. By 1973, the property was no longer owned by Swift family.

The oldest part of this large, L-shaped house is a story-and-a-half section with a raised brick basement, a gabled roof, dormer windows, and massive, brick end chimneys. Joined to the front of the original house is a taller, two-story section that has a sharply pitched roof, nine-over-nine windows, and a brick end chimney. Despite many changes over the years, *Hickory Forest* retains much of its original character and charm.