

**OLD MEADORS HOME**

**Confederate Veterans Found Haven at Union**

UNION, Sept. 3 (Special)—Many years ago, when Appomattox Court-house was a too-fresh memory in Southern breasts, discouraged Confederate Warriors wandering home on foot through South Carolina found near Union a haven.

This glad, good place was the Meador Home. The foot-weary men found it standing like a beacon on a hill in the midst of an oak Grove, about six and a half miles from Union on what is now the Old Neal Shoals Road.

To them it must have meant a dignity that, though subdued, could not die, with its fine old colonial classic design.

And when they approached the home, and knocked at the door to ask information to sleep in the barn, John Meador, first Meador to own the home, told them certainly they could not sleep in the barn. They certainly should not insult him with that question—they would sleep in his home, by the very Confederate spirit that still lived, and what's more, they could expect a fine breakfast and his own blessing at farewell the next morning.

Today the old home is undergoing a big change, but the change will only emphasize the spirit in which it was built, back in 1852.

In those days the two-story brick home with basement was built for Austin Wilson. Mr. Wilson sold it in 1856 to Dr. William P. Thompson, and in 1857 John Meador, grandfather of the present owner, A. D. Meador, Sr., came into its ownership.

A. D. Meador, Sr., acquired the home and 700 acres around it in 1929. And now "Meadors" is undergoing a complete restoration and renovation.

When completed about Christmas, the old home will have become a vertiable mansion, with two new one-story wings and a full basement. In the basement will be the boiler room, storage rooms, hobby room, laundry and garage.

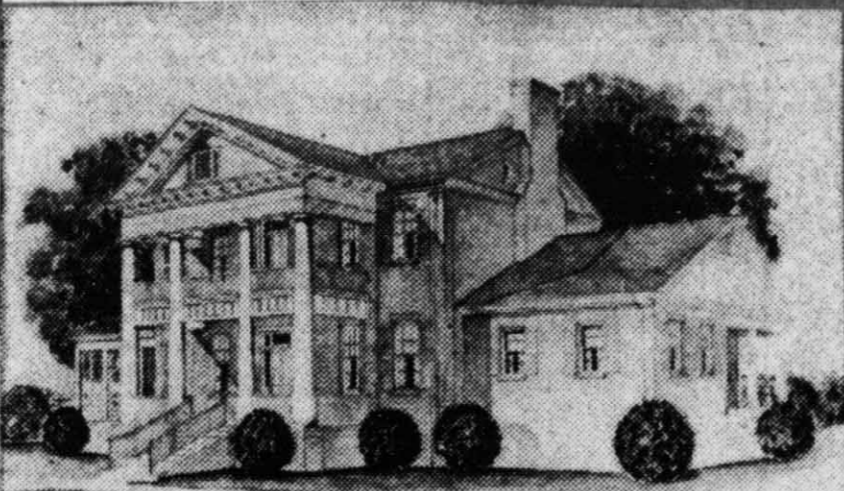
The four baths and kitchen will have tiled floors, and the bedrooms, halls, recreation room, den, and living rooms will have oak floors.

It will have a hot water heating system, a modern lighting system, and the modern conveniences.

But Architects James C. Hemphill and Lawrence W. Cobb of Greenwood, working with contractors W. E. Baker & Sons of Whitmire, are keeping a careful eye to the flavor of the period in which it was erected.

The new home, with its four columns reared from ground through balcony to the roof, will be an idealized version of the home which meant precious moments of comfort to the war-weary Confed-

erate veterans. Those men, if they could see it around Christmas, would smile with satisfaction.



**CONFEDERATE HAVEN RESTORED**

Meadors, a home which many Confederate War veterans remembered fondly, is currently being restored near Union in a way which will enhance its classic colonial design. The lower photo shows the old home before restoration began. The top photo is an architect's view of the home as it will appear about Christmas of this year. (Photos by Will Lake).

**SEPTEMBER 4, 1957 The State:**

**AT UNION**

**Old Confederate Age Home Restored**

By WILLIAM C. LAKE  
Special to The State

UNION — "Meadors", the 106 year old ancestral home of the Meador family, has been restored and modernized.

This two-story, brick mansion of old colonial classic design, sheltered for the night many foot-sore Confederate soldiers on their way home from the war.

Its doors will be thrown open to the public on July 30.

A year ago Mr. and Mrs. A. D. Meador Sr. of Union, owners and occupants of the house, began to restore the country seat of the Meadors since 1857.

The architects, builders and decorators and landscapers have made the homestead ideal for modern and gracious living.

In 1857, John Meador, grandfather of A. D. Meador Sr., bought the estate from Dr. William P. Thompson who acquired it from Austin Wilson in 1856, for whom it was built.

The original house consisted of a center hall, with living room on the left and two rooms on the right. Kitchen and service area were located in frame wing at rear which had later been rebuilt. On the second floor were two large bed rooms and hall. The basement had two large rooms and a storage room under the hall.

In the restoration and alterations the original plan was closely followed with exception of combining the two rooms on the right of the hall into one large dining room, reversing the ascent of the stairs from the rear to front and building bath rooms to both bed rooms upstairs.

Additions to house consisted of building a family room and piazza in wing on the left, a kitchen, service porch and basement stairs in a wing on the right of the house and two bedrooms, two baths, powder room, closets, sewing room and cross corridor in a wing at the rear of the mansion.

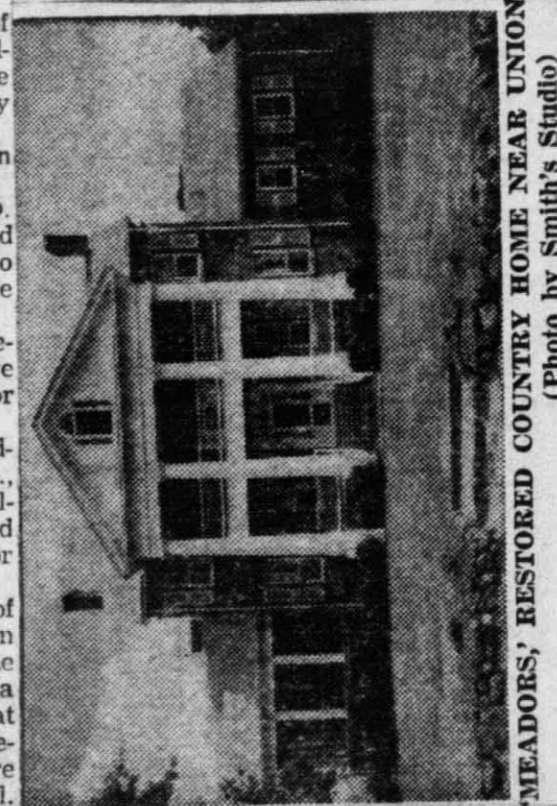
In the rear additions in the basement, a garage, recreation room, servants bath and laundry were built. Original basement was converted into a hobby room, boiler room, and storage room. The original handhewn floor joists

held by wooden pegs are still in view.

The furniture and house furnishings are of the periods of which the house has lived through. To use only one period would not completely represent its life history.

"Meadors" is located seven miles southeast of Union.

James C. Hemphill of Greenwood was the architect, Dora Gray of Columbia decorator, W. E. Baker and Son of Whitmire, builders, and landscaping by Taylor's Nursery of Greer.



**'MEADORS,' RESTORED COUNTRY HOME NEAR UNION** (Photo by Smith's Studio)

**JULY 31, 1958 The State:**

**Aged Spend Last Night In Old Home**

COLUMBIA, S. C.—(AP)—Twelve aging ladies packed their meager belongings Friday as officials prepared to close the big white house in Columbia known as the Confederate Home.

"They all hate to leave," Col. T. E. Cummings, superintendent of the 48-year-old institution, said. "But they knew it had to come."

The elderly women spent their last night at the home Friday. Nine others, infirmiry cases, were moved out earlier.

"All but three will remain together at the Forest Hills Nursing Home here," Cummings said. "They will be well taken care of there and will live as a group."

The 1957 General Assembly decided to shut down the home because of the expense involved in operating it for the relatively small number of residents. A \$30,000 appropriation was approved for their care elsewhere during the 1957-1958 fiscal year.

Arthur B. Rivers, director of the State Public Welfare Department, said these funds plus money several are eligible to receive in old age assistance, "will be sufficient to take care of their needs."

Cummings, in charge of the home for more than 31 years, will continue to live in his cottage on the home's grounds until the state decides what it is going to do with the property.

Officials have been considering it as the possible site for a home for cancer patients fatally afflicted with the disease.

One of the home's long-time residents, Miss Bettie Orander, has made arrangements to move to the Methodist Home in Orangeburg. Mrs. Ida Price, a native of Greenville, will transfer to a private nursing home there.

Mrs. A. B. Boykine, 83-year-old widow of a Confederate veteran, will return to her home near Camden. "My grandson will stay with me until school starts," she said.

Mrs. Sarah Jane Wooten, 90, who lived at the home 20 years, summed up the feeling of the entire group:

"I love the place. . . . But there are so few of us left that we can't expect them to keep the home open. It has served its day."

charlotte observer  
Sat., June 29, 1957

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