

Fort Hill, Famous Calhoun Mansion At Clemson, Being Restored To Former Beauty

U. D. C., Clemson Authorities And Greenvillians Assist In Work Of Restoring Beautiful Home Of Calhoun On The Clemson College Reservation

By A. B. BRYAN

Historic Calhoun mansion, for 25 years the home of South Carolina's great statesman, John C. Calhoun, and later the home of Calhoun's distinguished son-in-law, Thomas G. Clemson, is coming back to life. The work of renovation, carefully planned to secure the most authentic restoration of the premises, the house, and the furnishings, is being supervised by Clemson college through a special committee composed of J. C. Littlejohn, business manager of the college, Prof. A. G. Holmes, head of the History department, and Mrs. A. B. Bryan, former secretary to the president

of the college. Working with this committee is the John C. Calhoun chapter, Daughters of the Confederacy, which was invited by the college to cooperate in the interior restoration work.

A committee of the John C. Calhoun chapter, headed by Mrs. A. G. Holmes, has gone so whole-heartedly into the undertaking that in six months since its appointment surprising results have been secured. Much of the progress in interior renovation has been made possible through hearty cooperation of certain Greenville citizens and business firms, for which all concerned are most grateful.

THE MANSION'S HISTORY

Fort Hill, with its 1,100-acre estate, was the residence of John C. Calhoun from 1825 until his death in 1850. The residence was first called Clergy hall, the first few rooms of the structure having been erected about 1803 by Rev. James McElhenny, a Presbyterian minister, pastor of the Old Stone church nearby. A tradition goes that after it came into Calhoun's possession Mrs. Calhoun often added to the house in Mr. Calhoun's absence in Washington. Indeed one letter refers to this matter.

Upon the death of John C. Calhoun Fort Hill passed to Mrs. Calhoun. By Mrs. Calhoun's will, the greater part of the estate passed to Mrs. Thomas G. Clemson. Anna Calhoun Clemson willed it to her husband and by his will it passed at his death, in 1888, to the State of South Carolina. This was the wish of Mrs. Clemson.

WILLED AS A SHRINE

By Mr. Clemson's will, the property was bequeathed to the state for the establishment of an agricultural and mechanical school, and the Fort Hill residence was to be kept as a shrine. At least three rooms were to be kept open to the public without charge, and Calhoun and Clemson furniture was to be reserved at the sale for these three rooms.

The remainder of the furniture
(Continued On Page 2, Col. 2)