

Beloved Landmarks of Loudon County, Tennessee published by the Hiawassee



"AQUARELL"

LOCATION: In the Martel Community. Take Martel Road at Lenoir City and pass the golf course. Continue on this road until it ends at the Prater home.

This stately home was built by Benjamin Franklin Prater and his wife, Nancy L. Prater, sometime after 1797. It was in that year that Mr. Prater purchased a seven mile span of river land which was still a part of North Carolina. At the time of the purchase the river was known as the Holston, but it was later renamed the Tennessee; presently, it is called Fort Loudon Lake. All through the years the house has been a prominent landmark, noted for its beauty and its commanding location overlooking Prater's ferry, one of the early river crossings. Due to many divisions of the estate, only 160 acres surround the present house.

As with all these old homes, the bricks were made by slave labor. It is estimated to have taken 100 slaves two years to make bricks for the front part of the house alone. All walls throughout the house are solid brick, some eighteen inches thick (that is, three bricks deep. The ell was added by a son of

the owner and includes the dining room, kitchen and two garret bedrooms. It was Mr. John Kinser, Beloved Landmarks of Loudon County, Tennessee published by the Hiawa now deceased, who added the metal columns and the back porch while he owned the home.

There were four huge chimneys built into the walls, serving the dual purpose of making the walls stronger and providing heat. The doors are handmade and known as "Christian" doors - a cross at the top and open Bible at the bottom. The doors still have the original granite doorknobs. Pine boards $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches thick by about 7 inches wide provide the flooring. Each board has been cut to the exact length of the room. Nails used in joining them are oblong rather than round. Floor joists are 3" X 10" and put together with wooden pegs. During the Civil War the basement was used as a prison.

This lovely old home is now owned by Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Carr.