

Stone Fels, built 1836 by William and Mary Hurst

Resource History

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1804 – James Shirley purchased from Thomas Whiting of Ross Co. Ohio, “his part...of a tract of land lying near Smithfield...which his father died possessed of...” for \$100 (JC DB 2/305).

The tract adjoined William Hiatt, Roads (Rhodes) land, Fry (Fryer, Frier), Hoomes corner, Isaac Larews land, and “the Main road leading to Winchester.”

This may have been land owned by Beverly Whiting, although I could not find any patents to him in this area – he had one for over 900 acres called Swan Ponds which I assume is to the north.

1807 – James Larew “devisee of Isaac Larew,” sold what seems to be the same land to James Shirley for \$1,000 (JC DB 4/114).

This deed references previous sales from Isaac Larew to James Hunter, James Hunter to William Askew, and William Askew to Mathew Whiting. The tax record shows Mathew Whiting with 180 acres in 1802 through 1806.

Was this sale then simply James Larew selling his interest in the estate that was sold long before and ultimately by Thomas Whiting to James Shirley? A deed in 1821 seems to indicate that this is indeed the case, describing the 209 acres adjoining William Hiatt, Fryer, and a road (see below).

1820 – By this time James Shirley owned over 500 acres of land in various tracts including:

100 acres	“William Hyett”	W 9	-
209 ½ acres	“Moses Smith”	W 6½	-
158 acres	“Moses Smith”	W 6½	-
105 acres	“John Helm”	W 6½	\$1,000

Most of this acreage is east of Smithfield/Middleway (under James Shirley Hrs on the 1852 map) including what appears to be Shirley’s home farm, but the 100 acres adjoining William Hyett (W 9) appears to be the location of Stone Fels. In fact, a deed in 1821 and the 1822 tax record shows that the tract that was actually located at W 9 adjoining William Hyett (Hiatt) was the 209 ½-acre tract (see below).

1821 – James Shirley gave 209 acres adjoining William Hiatt, Fryer, and “a road,” to his daughter Mary Hurst (wife of William Hurst) (JC DB 11/416).

1828 – William and Mary Hurst added 29 ½ acres adjoining their now 201 acres (W 7), still with no building value.

1837 – The Hurst 201-acre tract had \$400 building value added to their assessment “for new Stone House.”

In 1838 they consolidated their two adjoining tracts into one of 230 ½ acres.

1840 – William and Mary Hurst sold their 230-acre farm with its new stone house to Richard Timberlake, of Berkeley County, for \$6,000 (JC DB 24/107).

1860 – Richard Timberlake, age 51, was a farmer living on the Stone Fels farm (next neighbor was Thomas Watson Jr. (see 1852 map). His real estate was valued at \$8,400 and his personal property at \$2,244. His wife Frances was 41 years old. Also living in the household were their six children: Mary C. (21), Margaret (19), Thomas (17), James (16), Benjamin (5), and Josephine just 1 month old. Virginia Timberlake, aged 36, perhaps a younger sister of Richard, was described as “Idiotic.”

The Stone Fels farm remained in the Timberlake family for nearly 100 years, passing to Margaret Timberlake and her (younger?) sister Frances T. Luke. The executor of Frances Luke’s estate (JC WB F/467) sold the farm in 1936 to Gilmore White (JC DB 142/464). White’s heirs sold it to Walter Engle in 1968 (JC DB 299/477).