

NATHANIEL WHITE HOMESTEAD



This red house on West Street may well be the oldest house in town. Until four years ago it had been lived in by descendents of Nathaniel White since its probable building date of 1725. Nathaniel White's grandson, Frederick White, fought in the Revolutionary War and is buried in Columbia's Old Yard Cemetery. Through marriages the last names of the families to live there were White, Bailey, Hall, Merrit, and Shaw.

Linda Shaw was the last descendent to live in the house. Her parents bought the house from relative John Hall. He had wanted to fix it up for one of his sons. However, the son who was living in Boston did not want to live in the country. Linda tells us that the house had been unoccupied for a time before her parents moved into it. This was in 1951 and at that time the house had no electricity, plumbing, or insulation. Her father, who was a carpenter, built bookcases and cabinets. Linda grew up in the house and had her wedding reception there. Her grandmother, Harriet Bailey was married in the house and it was also the site of her 50th wedding anniversary party.

The house is a saltbox with two floors. Originally it was part of a farm of over one hundred acres. The family donated land to the town for a school. Now the fireplaces from the two massive chimneys are not used. One houses a wood pellet stove. There are still some of the original floorboards. The current owner thinks it is interesting to consider that these may be crafted from trees that grew in the 1600's.