

The Pinehurst Outlook.

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BACK-WOODS ARCHITECTURE.

Primitive Dwellings of the Region About Pinehurst.

Log Cabins and Rough Board "Shacks" Popular With the Natives.

Beautiful Buildings of Our Village a Striking Contrast to Those of the Surrounding Country.

The architecture of a new place should be an index to the manners and customs of its inhabitants, for we well know that the architecture of all times has been a clear indication of the habits and needs, the mental, moral and physical condition of the people; and the history of past ages is most clearly and comprehensively studied through the architectural monuments and remains that have been permitted to withstand the ravages of time. With this fact in view, a little study of the native architecture of this region may not be amiss.

We must remember that this section of the country has been poor from the first settlement, when, in the last century, it was thinly peopled by sturdy emigrants from Scotland. They have continued here to this day, honest and industrious, intelligent, considering their opportunities, generous and hospitable, glad to welcome and entertain the Yankee from the North. The prefix "Mc" is almost universal; and they show clearly their origin. They speak of families within four or five miles as neighbors; so school houses are few and far apart. There have been no great plantations, no aristocracy and no large settlements.

The sandy soil was until recently covered with forests of long-leaf pine, which has been almost killed by boxing; then cut for the northern market. Now all these conditions necessitate a certain manner of life, and determine the social status of the people and consequently the architecture.

A northerner who is familiar with the magnificent colonial mansions of the F. V. S. in the James and Potomac valleys so short a distance to the north—"Brandon," "Tulip Hill," "Westover," etc., will look in vain for reminiscences of a similar golden age in North Carolina. He will find, it is true, some interesting early work in Fayetteville, which attained some importance one hundred ago as "Cross Creek," a frontier trading post with the Indians; and, by the way, those interested in such things will find a set of books of this store, a branch of the old house in Wilmington, in the Pinehurst Museum, a most beautiful example

of copper plate penmanship on Whatman's paper, well worth careful study. At Wilmington and Raleigh also there are examples of early work, but they do not approach the artistic perfection of the Maryland and Virginia mansions.

As we study the architecture of our early English ancestors, we trace the "mansion" back to a house of a single room, which in the half civilized condition of the people answered all purposes of life—kitchen, dining room, sitting room, and sleeping rooms, all combined. As the people became more fastidious, another room was added, then another, till in the 15th and 16th centuries they covered large areas, enclosing one or more large courts; as, for instance, Hadon Hall in Derbyshire. Now here, at the present time, we find scattered all over the country houses of one room

form, having a very interesting color effect, and very strong shadows under the porch and gable ends. They, in some cases, very much resemble some types of the little chalets I have sketched in Switzerland in form, color and simplicity, and in the fact that the construction furnishes the ornament. The foundation is usually a large block of wood at the corners and as required for support; the remaining space being open for free access of air. The logs are dovetailed at the corners, as usual. The heating and cooking is done in a huge fireplace, sometimes extending entirely across the house; with a huge beam, supporting its fellows, forming the end of the house. This fireplace is built of logs, and is shaped like a bay window on the end of the house. Above the beam it is drawn in by means of small logs and sticks laid

also very picturesque, with their color, strong texture, and tremendous overhangs. Everything seems so delightfully sincere, so unaffected and natural, perfectly adapted to the requirements; and all the simplest and most direct result of the various needs and materials.

Most of the old houses are of round logs, chinked with clay; but we find, now and then, a house of squared logs, in some cases a marvelous example of ax work. In one case, in a house built about a century ago, the logs were so smoothly and beautifully hewn that they look like siding, except for the very perfect dovetailing at the corners. The logs lay together so closely as to necessitate no pointing or chinking. In some of these houses no iron was used at all. When wood was to be put together it was done by means of strong hickory pins, the board doors swinging on wooden pivots and having wooden latches.

One other peculiar feature is that windows are almost unknown; the door or doors admit light by day, and the fat wood fire brilliantly illumines the interior by night. I once asked a woman why they had two doors. She said they needed two doors in summer to cool the house, and in winter so as to open the one opposite the wind.

Now, these thick, solid log walls, like the adobe of Mexico, are the most comfortable possible. They repel the heat of the sun's rays in summer, and the cold winds of winter, and retain the heat radiated from the fireplace. Sometimes the room has beams and a ceiling of wood, making a dark loft; but very generally the pole rafters and first layer of shingles are exposed. These very soon get coated a glistening black with smoke. Some of these houses have been made to appear modern by being covered with siding outside, and ceiled with boards inside, plaster and paper being seldom seen, the wood walls being white-washed instead. In some localities those understanding brick making and possessing a clay pit build for themselves a chimney of brick, but the stick and dirt chimney is most common.

After the advent of the lumberman and the saw mill, the method of building construction changed; and we find now many cottages looking somewhat, barring paint, like the farm houses of New England, with an enormous outside chimney or two and without paint, and what is typical of this later period, the "shack." Now, the shack has an interest as a type. It is built of rough pine boards throughout, even to the roof, doors and chimney; and it is quite often a very picturesque affair. There is an unconventionality, a certain disregard of all custom, and it has the chic of a crisp sketch.

The boards project above the ridge in irregular patches, and hang over the walls here and there, varying from two to six feet. The big chimney is very picturesque, and the entire structure is



ANCIENT STYLE DWELLING, NEAR PINEHURST.

satisfying all demands, as of old in England. But we find when the family requirements or refinements demand more room they usually add, not an extra room to the original, but another one room house, then another; so in course of time they have a little group of three or four that with the numerous out-buildings make a little settlement of ten or a dozen structures.

Now the reason for this growth is two fold: first, climatic; second, building materials. Further south, in the Southwest and through Mexico, where the climate and conditions are analogous, they grow as they did in England, by adding to the original house. But in each of these cases they use a different building material—in England stone, in Mexico adobe, both easily added to. Here the only building material was logs, and it was much easier to build a separate structure than fasten on to and extend the old one.

In many cases, these original log cottages are very picturesque in general

form, having a very interesting color effect, and very strong shadows under the porch and gable ends. They, in some cases, very much resemble some types of the little chalets I have sketched in Switzerland in form, color and simplicity, and in the fact that the construction furnishes the ornament. The foundation is usually a large block of wood at the corners and as required for support; the remaining space being open for free access of air. The logs are dovetailed at the corners, as usual. The heating and cooking is done in a huge fireplace, sometimes extending entirely across the house; with a huge beam, supporting its fellows, forming the end of the house. This fireplace is built of logs, and is shaped like a bay window on the end of the house. Above the beam it is drawn in by means of small logs and sticks laid

Some of the barns and out-houses are