



Speed-Spell House

This two-story log house was the home for the Speed and Spell families for most of the 1800's and in the early to middle 1900's, and saw the birth of most all the 22 Speed and Spell children. The house was built in the 1820's by W. W. Speed, Jr and a Mr. Thomas Ates, a nearby land-owner, in Covington County, Mississippi. It was well constructed from "heart" pine hewn logs and ceiled with hewn boards. William Wages Speed, Jr. and Keziah Duckworth Speed lived here on what was called the "Home Forty", rearing 10 of 11 children, one having been still-born.

Their daughter, Keziah Catherine "Kid" Speed married William Fredrick "Bill" Spell on January 4, 1866. One year later, on January 29, 1867, Kid's parents deeded to her and Bill Spell "their entire estate of a two-storied log house (as shown), farm buildings, and 455 acres of land for \$1 and to be cared for the remainder of their lives". A portion of this land had been acquired by W. W. Speed, Jr. as a "patent" from the United States in 1841. Here the Spells reared 10 children (11 were born but the 2nd lived only 4 days).

During those busy years the place grew to have the log-house, kitchen, dairy and dining room joined to "The Big House" with halls, porches and extra storage rooms. The upstairs bedroom was reached by a ladder on the wall in the "main room". A "Boy House" was also built across from the main house, and was later used by the boys to entertain their "guests". The farm buildings included a chicken house, smoke house, milk barn, mule barn, molasses mill house, sheep barn, a blacksmith shop and a brick kiln, with slave houses in the back and a slave cemetery across from the front. The old slave houses of logs

