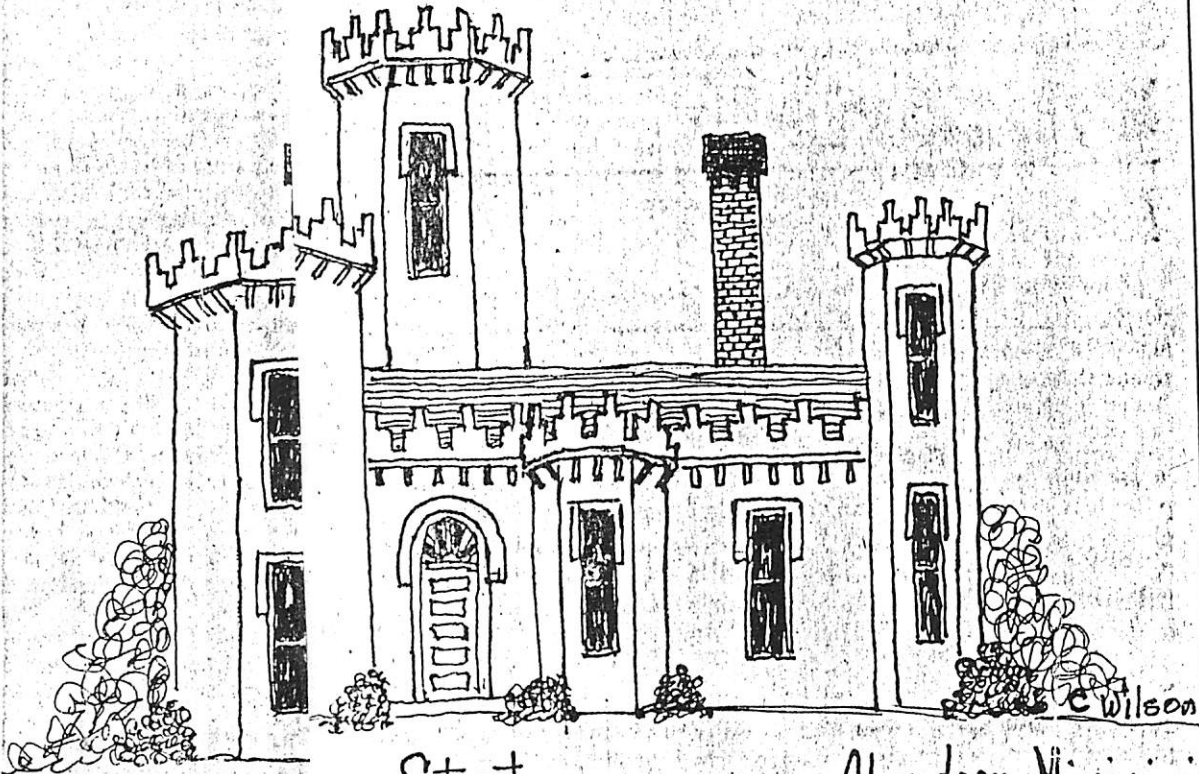
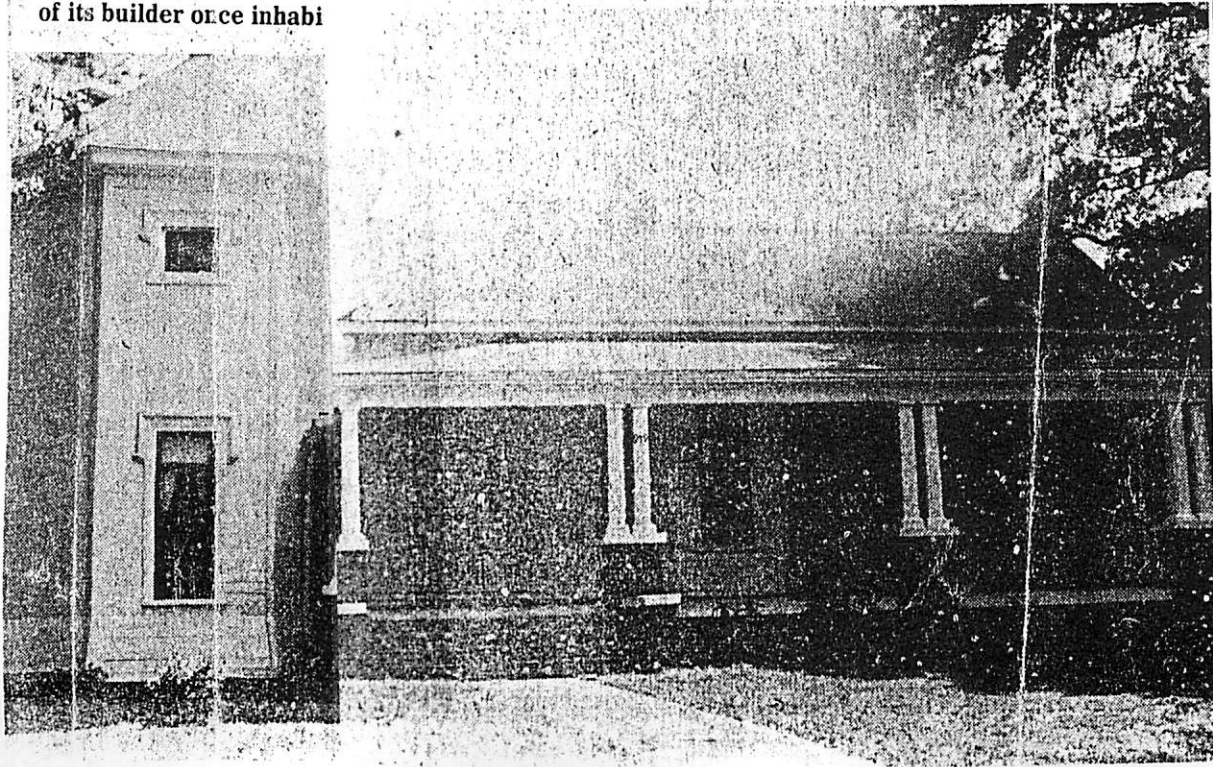


# Annihilation of Aberdeen's 'Castle'



The Castle of Commerce Street  
Aberdeen Mississippi

years The Castle of Commerce Street was a showplace of wonder in  
 THE CASTLE — For years of its armor and converted into just an ordinary house. Did the spirit  
 Aberdeen until it was stripped of the torn-away towers?  
 of its builder once inhabi



## THE CASTLE

Still standing in Aberdeen, Mississippi although it has been changed in many ways is a house that has been known all along as The Castle. It sits high on a hill on West Commerce Street at the point where Highway #45 and #8 enter the town from the west and north.

The house is in use as a private residence. It is of a peculiar type of architecture which is so striking in a town made up of many homes of colonial type, intermingled with the modern ones. It was a Frenchman by the name of B.W. De Courcey who built the house in 1884. Evidently homesick for the beauties of his old country he designed this utterly unique type home on the lines of a feudal domain. Though built of frame and painted a dull gray in color its tower like structure with much carving once attracted a great deal of attention.

In 1889 E.F. Thompson bought the home from the De Courceys and there he lived and reared his family until 1912. It has changed hands many times since then and the house itself barely resembles the original.

**There's always a reason...**

# Thoughts of ghosts leads to

## PAGES FROM THE PAST

By CLYDE HILL WILSON

The headline read: "Shrieking Spector Terrorizes Mansion." Hum, says I, that sounds interesting, so I read on. It seems that nine workmen who were restoring an old mansion had been frightened out of their wits by a shriveled, shrieking, screaming specter. Mind you this did not occur fifty years ago, it happened to occur in July of 1986.

The mayor of the town who had hired the workmen to restore the old mansion sneered, "These big, macho men dropped their tools and ran like scared little boys, all on account of a noisy spook." The fix-up crew had been on the job less than a day when an eerie apparition in a flowing white gown put their work on hold.

"It was close to dusk and I was at the bottom of a crumbling staircase taking some measurements when I looked toward the stairs and there she was," said bricklayer Sal Intin. "She was there, but she wasn't really there. You could see right through her. I called to my friend to come look and when I did she let out the most blood-curdling scream I have ever heard — and she kept screaming. All the other workmen rushed over; they just stood there with their mouths open. Suddenly one of the men swore and ran out and everyone threw down their tools and ran after him."

A former owner said that the men had just disturbed the ghost of an elderly English governess murdered there 100 years ago by her employer. I, without a doubt, know what upset the spooky, shriveled, shrieking, screaming specter and it wasn't the murder, she probably got over that 90 years ago, it was that she just did not want them messing with her house!

I don't understand why they became so upset, I have never heard tell of a ghost harming anyone. Most people will tell you that they don't believe in ghosts, but let them encounter one and they just throw it all down and run like crazy. Later they will revert to "not believing in ghosts" but for some reason that they can not explain, they have no desire to enter the house again.

Ghosts always have a reason for haunting a house and I sincerely believe that one of the reasons may be that they don't approve of their house being disturbed. Several years ago Helen and Elmo Wren Jr. bought a house on High Street and moved in and proceeded to restore it. Helen said that all sorts of wierd things began to hap-

they did a beautiful job on the house.

Several months ago Cousin Petty K informed me that Aberdeen's The Castle was haunted. She said that according to the report she had, at the stroke of midnight every door in the house would open. I decided to see if I could learn more about that and did but first let me tell you some background on The Castle.

A Mr. DeCoursey built The Castle around the year 1880. He had come to Aberdeen as a civil engineer with the railroad and when he retired he decided to build a house and remain in Aberdeen, not a grand house, mind you, but rather just a small, comfortable wood frame house of the type any retired couple could call home and enjoy in their "golden years."

DeCoursey, obviously, was a man of great imagination. He could have chosen a plan from a book, they did that then too, but instead he decided, being a retired engineer, that his house would copy the emblem of the United States Corps of Engineers, a turreted castle with battlements. The proposed house would not be a copy of the corps symbol, but instead, be a modern liveable house inspired by it.

One can easily imagine the consternation of his chosen builder when he described the type of house he had in mind; builders have a decided leaning toward the ordinary in house plans.

The discussion probably went something like this: I want my house to be insignificant but very significant. It will be built on this high hill and have no porches. No porches? (Houses of that day were absolutely surrounded by wide porches, everyone wanted the comfort of porches.) No porches, and it is to have three towers of varying heights which are to be topped by battlements. You want three towers and they are not to have conical roofs? (A corner tower on a house was beginning to come into favor but these were always large mansions and all towers were topped by conical roofs.) No, the towers must be topped with battlements like a castle and they are to be octagonal and I

coming nooks and crannies else I want the house and unusual.

It is easy to imagine a man must have considered an uncommitted but the battles over the cured between the house was not being only dreams and dreamly changed daily.

When all the battles fought and the house was a house like no other and proclaimed a grand house, painted in the were popular then, south of the hill (it had foundation) it had such subtle beauty of line that it could be as breathtaking.

One can imagine a man, "It is a strange all kind of problems houses that cost twice this one cost but I have better or more beautiful interesting house than I

The Castle of Con it came to be known and all for thirty or fell prey to modern stripped of its battlement towers were torn down a facade that could open foundation To pour salt on a wound was added and a corner on the one remaining deprived of everything it unique; a one-of-a-kind gem had been restored ordinary frame house ordinary and common

When I investigated K's Ghost of The resident told me that all of the doors in open and not only they could hear one said that it was real at first they thought was coming from the climbing into the at