

History of the Brick Cone Silo near the Old Railroad Bed in Roseboro

By: Houston Crumpler Jr.

The Brick Cone Silo, also known as the Brick Cone Burn Box, is probably the only thing that remains of the TROY ISAAC HERRING Lumber Company which was established before 1910. To my knowledge this was the first lumber operation in Sampson County and possibly other nearby counties to have a PLAINER MILL that shaved the splinters off of rough cut sawmill boards. As such this smooth finished lumber was in great demand all over the East Coast, and was shipped out of Roseboro by train. The Herring Lumber operation's 1910 era establishment precedes the founding of Turlington Lumber in Clinton that was established in 1917 by F.L. Turlington and Elizabethtown's Greene Brothers Lumber operation that was started in the late 1920 or early 30's.

I can remember climbing inside the brick structure as a pre-teen with Mr. Herring's grandchildren Troy Herring, III and Frank. There was at the time a large tin building beside brick structure that had housed old lumber equipment and had a concrete floor. We called it the "haunted mill."

The brick cone structure itself was used as a burn box for slab lumber that was too short or too thin for running through the plainer mill. The plainer mill needed modern electrical power to run it at a time when there was no power company in the county and thus it required a huge diesel generator to run it. Mr. Herring used the excess electricity generated to furnish power to his house and to the house of his banking partner, Dudley DuBose. Mr. Herring was the president of the Roseboro Bank and Mr. DuBose its Vice President and Cashier. It was one of only a half dozen banks east of Raleigh that survived the depression, and it later became a part of First Citizens Bank.

Mr. Herring built his three story home in 1912. I can recall Mr. Herring's son Geddie Herring saying that it was 1917 and that he built it for \$17,000.00 after making \$250,000.00 in the lumber business when there was no U.S. Government income tax and the going wage was 50 cents a day! Son Geddie, the WW II Medal of Honor Recipient, may have been mixed up with the date of the building of the same three story house floor plan in Clinton by his father's brother, Robert. That house is now called the SHIELD'S (Bed & Breakfast) House.