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'THE CASTLE'

BY C.W. LATTIN

Occasionally people will ask me about the history of the residence behind the stone fence on Route 98 just south of Childs.

This was built in the mid-1870s by John Dixon, a stevedore from New York City.

It seems he married Kitty Ann Knapp, a local girl from Fairhaven, now Childs. She was the daughter of Caleb and Ann Knapp and stepdaughter of John Sunderland.

By 1875, John Dixon had this magnificent mansion constructed for his bride.

Our photo, taken around 1902, shows the landmark stone fence and a huge two-story residence with a large cupola at the end of the driveway.

The house was built in the Italianate style with two matching barns and cupolas.

The other out buildings included a hen house, ice house and smoke house. A tenant house and cow barns were located on Ridge Road.

It's said the Dixons furnished their home with elegant furniture procured in New York. The interior was at one time decorated by Tiffany Studios, out of New York, with stenciling on its interior walls rather than wallpaper.

It was truly an elegant showplace and a beautiful gift for a young bride.

The Dixons had one daughter, Kitty Maude. They owned the home until 1902.

In the 1920s and 1930s, this residence became known as "The Castle," a sort of road house when operated by a man whose last name was Majewski.

Then sometime in the mid 1940s, Kirke and Marcia Hart purchased the property, cleaned it up and renovated the house into again a fine

residence.

Kirke died in 1953, and by 1957, Marcia had decided to sell it. However, just before it was to be sold, a fire of undetermined origin caused damage to the back wing in the upper story.

Ultimately, the house was purchased by Roy McMurray who totally removed the second story, making it the one-floor house we are currently familiar with.

Several people have owned the place since the McMurray's keeping the grounds in a stately fashion.