

nixdorf house

....located in
Miller County

In the rural community of Ulman sits an imposing eleven-room structure once known as the Ulman Hotel.

Built in 1871 by William Coburn, the building is now undergoing restoration by the Herbert Nixdorfs, the second generation of that family to own the property.

Herbert was raised in this house and after marrying lived there with his wife for eleven more years. In 1949, the couple moved to a nearby farmhouse, but in December of 1971, the family returned to the stately structure to begin the long process of restoration.

During its days as a hotel the Nixdorf House boasted of a livery stable close by. Although the barn burned several years ago, the hand-cut stone foundation still remains as evidence of the structure put together with wooden pegs and square nails.



Roger Dillon

According to the property's abstract, the land has had many owners through the years, including Joseph Ulman, for whom the town was named. As an 1843 government land grant, Ulman added the property to what was then known as Ulman's Ridge.

Another land grant recipient, John C. Casey, obtained parcels of the property in 1853 and again in 1856. Members of the Phillips and Bilyeu family are also listed on the abstract as one-time owners of the land. It was from the Phillips family that Coburn purchased the tract for his hotel.

In 1894, Coburn and his wife filed a record with the Miller County Court declaring their ownership of the property, and included plans for streets and lots to expand the little town of Ulman's Ridge.

Simon and Louise Bear bought much of the property in 1908, and when Simon died in 1918, the property was left to his heirs. George T. Bear, a nephew, was named executor of the estate. In his will, Bear left \$1,600 to build a Christian Church in Ulman, and \$600 for use as will by the Hickory Point Christian Church. A.P. Nixdorf purchased the property from heirs of the Bear family.

Much of the elder Nixdorfs' furniture remains in the house, including a player piano bought in 1925, and a 1901 fold-down bed contained in a cabinet. The Nixdorfs are now working not only to preserve the family's history, but to preserve the history of the Ulman community through its oldest landmark.

A.P. Nixdorf bought the house from D.C. Bear who purchased it from his brother's heirs.

