No one seems to know when this house was built; however, it is known to be the only home E. J. Hege lived in after his marriage. He could have built it, or he could have bought the house. After his father, John Hege, gave up the Hege home place to the daughter, Mrs. Hunerwadel, E. J. Hege built the small house next door for his parents, now owned by Robert R. Daniel. Mr. John Hege had a store in one room of the small house for many years.

The records show that the heirs of Mrs. E. J. Hege (Louise) sold the property in 1916 to the Northcuts, but Mr. E. J. Hege was holding possession in 1918. My father leased all three buildings from Mr. Hege at this time, including the Cockrill Cottage, and we lived there until September, 1925. We always lived in the house that no one wanted to rent.

Two families who rented the Middle Hege house for several summers were those of Mr. Charles Trabue and Mr. Will Trabue of Nashville. The Charles Trabue family liked Beersheba so well that they decided to build a home here. My father, Henry L. Brown, was given the contract to build Round Top for the Trabue family.

The Middle Hege house was sold to Edna Davenport for $2,250 at public auction on October 6, 1956, at settlement of the Fannie Moffitt estate. Edna Davenport sold the house to Richard and Grete D. Geldreich on October 2, 1956.

Beersheba Lane Inn, the Mayhew Cottage next door, and Nanhaven across the street were built of hand-hewn logs. These cottages all have the “Beersheba Doorway” – two narrow, solid doors in the central opening framed between narrow panels with windows at the sides. John Fassnacht, for many years our local history buff, identified these doorways as prefabricated kits from up North freighted in to Beersheba.

Margaret Coppinger told me that her research revealed that the Beersheba Lane Inn house had been occupied by the Sterling Cockrill family while their house (the house where Phil and Terry Mayhew now live) was being finished next door. After the Civil War, the house was owned by a series of local people. For years it was known as the “the Middle Hege cottage.”
E. J. Hege owned the tree cottages located at the rear of the Hotel. For some years while Hege visited his daughter in Idaho, he leased all three cottages to Henry Brown, father of Margaret Brown Coppinger. Brown rented out two of the cottages, and his family lived in whichever one was free. Eventually, Middle Hege was purchased by the Northcutt brothers, who continued to rent the houses to both local and summer people.

During the early 1960's, Richard and Grete Geldreich and I enjoyed many pleasant summer weekends at the Turner Cottage. When the Middle Hege house became available in the 1965, the Geldreich's purchased it as their vacation home. When they moved to Germany in 1971, they sold the house to me.

After retiring, I made plans to open a Bed and Breakfast. In the late 1990's, the cottage was completely renovated and the space necessary for a B&B was added. In 2005, a room was added to the rear of the house, to be used as the owner's bedroom. Lunch and dinner services have recently been added and the cottage is now truly an “Inn.”

Ralph Baugh