

SINCE THEN

A Short Illustrated History of
Pittsboro, North Carolina

by

John Haughton London

SINCE THEN

A Short Illustrated History of Pittsboro, North Carolina

incorporating

Bygones and Survivors

**Old Homes and Structures
in and around Pittsboro
1787-1900**

by

John Haughton London

Pittsboro, North Carolina
1986

SINCE THEN
A Clear Illustrated History of
Pittsboro, North Carolina

© 1986 by John H. London

History and Geography
of Pittsboro, North Carolina
1790-1986

Printed by
Jane Pyle
Pyb Printing
Pittsboro, North Carolina

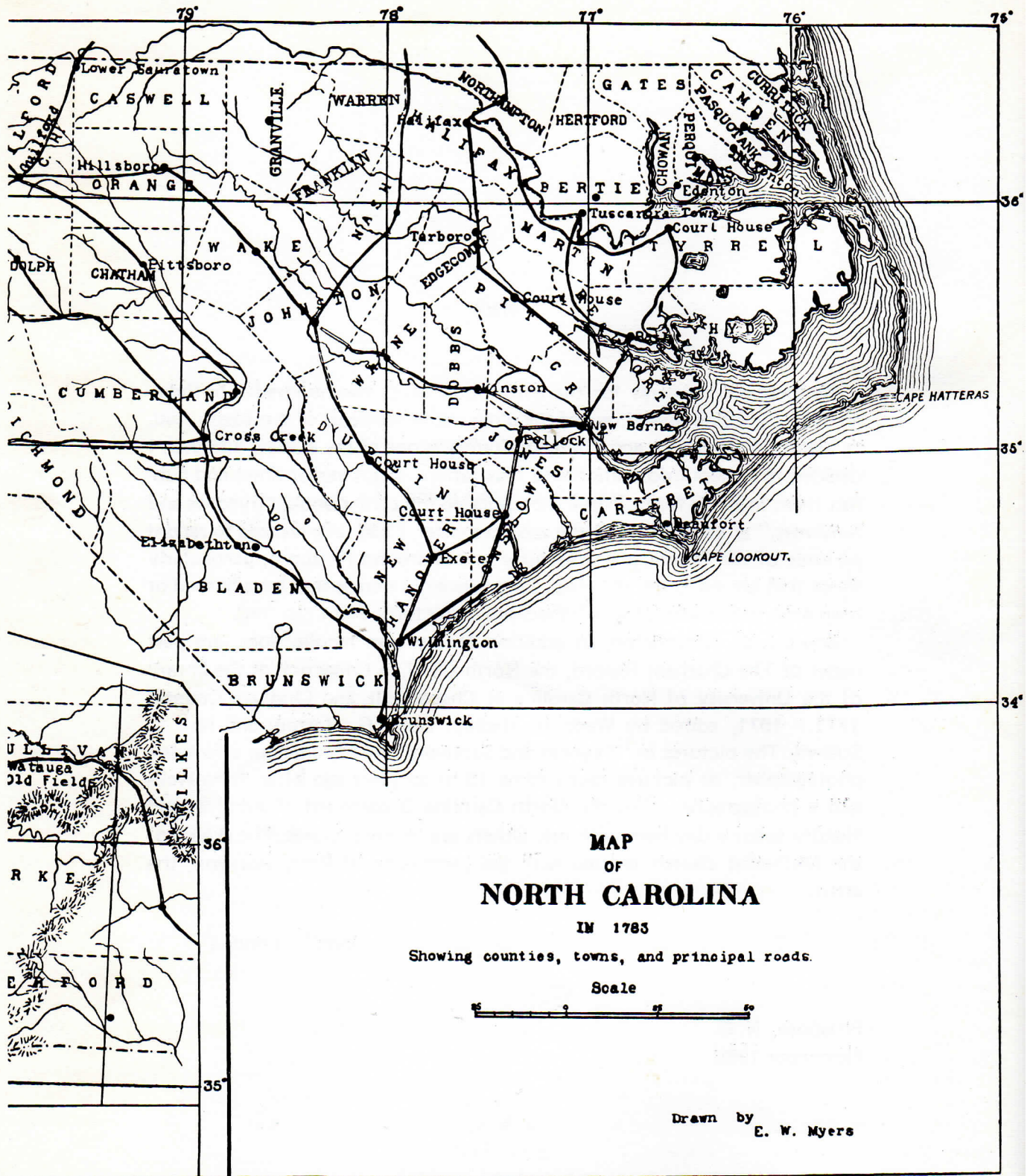
Preface

As Pittsboro prepares for the celebration of its two-hundredth birthday anniversary, I find myself one of the older native residents of our town. And, as history of Pittsboro and Chatham County is one of my abiding interests, I decided to collect information and illustrations about earlier times and publish them in book form. I have incorporated my earlier book, "Bygones and Survivors," as appropriate to the subject matter. I had long wanted to record pictures of old houses and structures in and around Pittsboro, particularly those that are no longer standing. There were old homes that have burned or have been torn down, of which there are no pictures that I can find.

Sources of information, in addition to my own recollections, are past issues of The Chatham Record, the North Carolina Collection of the library of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and **Chatham County, 1771 - 1971**, edited by Wade H. Hadley, Doris G. Horton, and Nell C. Strowd. The pictures in "Bygones and Survivors" are my amateur effort as a photographer, or pictures taken some 15 or so years ago when John Wells and a photographer from the North Carolina Department of Archives and History spent a day here with me. Others are family pictures. The sketch of the Methodist church is used with the permission of Perry Harrison, the artist.

John H. London

Pittsboro, N. C.
November 1986



Founding

When Chatham County was formed in 1771, a courthouse and jail were built on land of Mial Scurlock about one-fourth mile south of the present courthouse. As early as 1783, a map of North Carolina shows a town of Pittsboro. This was a proposed town to be laid out on the Mial Scurlock land. However, this did not come to pass, as Mial Scurlock died and a clear title to land could not be obtained.

In 1786 "an act for establishing a town on the lands of the late William Petty, adjoining Chatham Court-house as laid off by the Trustees named in the Act of the last General Assembly entitled, an act for establishing a town on the lands of Mial Scurlock, deceased, in Chatham County, for appointing Commissioners for the Regulation and repealing said act passed in 1785," was introduced. This bill read, "Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of N. C., and is hereby enacted by the authority of the same. That said lands be so laid off by the trustees agreeable to a plan thereof, be and is hereby established a town and town commons by the name of Pittsborough. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid that from after passing of this Act, George Lucas, Joseph Stewart, Roger Griffith, Matthew Jones, Zachariah Harmon, Patrick St. Lawrence, Nathan Stedman, James Massey and William Riddle be constituted and appointed Commissioners of the said town with full power and authority to act and keep the streets in good order, with the power to appoint an overseer with authority to summons the inhabitants of the town to work thereon; and in case of refusal or neglect to work on the streets shall forfeit and pay five shillings for each refusal or neglect. No inhabitant shall be compelled to work more than four days in any one year." This act was passed January 6, 1787.

At this time the town was laid out and the courthouse was bodily moved across Roberson Creek to the present site. The town was to be two blocks in each compass direction from the courthouse, and 125 lots of one-half acre each were laid out on these streets. The town was named for William Pitt the younger, the county having been named for his father William Pitt, the Earl of Chatham. About the time of the Civil War, most people shortened the spelling to Pittsboro.

In 1790 Patrick St. Lawrence built a house on lot 50, opposite the courthouse, where a sea-food restaurant now stands. It is said that the cost overrun on this house was so great that it bankrupted him. This is borne out, as a advertisement in a Fayetteville paper announced its sale in 1792. It was used for a long time as an inn.

A second courthouse was built in the 1840s, and the present courthouse in 1882, both at the present courthouse location.

In the first half of the 19th century, quite a few families moved here from the lower Cape Fear and other sections of east Carolina, probably influenced by the four Hill brothers, William, John, Thomas, and Nathaniel, who had summer homes here to get away from mosquitoes on their rice plantations on the lower Cape Fear River.

Other families coming here during that period were Waddell, Ihrie, Manning, Haughton, Moore, London, Jackson, Swann, Toomer, Taylor, and Jones. Several families came here as refugees after Wilmington fell to the Yankees during the War of Northern Aggression.

Government

The town of Pittsborough was governed by a commission. Unfortunately, the earliest records of meetings do not exist; however, a minute book beginning in 1826 and running to 1878 has turned up in recent years. The following paragraphs are drawn from this minute book.

In 1826 Charles Williams, W. H. Hardin, Green Womack, Spence McClenahan, and Joseph Small were elected to the town board. At that time, the board elected a chairman from its membership. At its first meeting, the board ordained that a tax of 15 cents was laid on every hundred dollars' worth of improved lots in town, ten cents on unimproved lots, and a 30-cent poll tax. The following rules were adopted:

1. There shall be a meeting of the board each month at the Court House on the first Monday of each month a 10 o'clock A.M.
2. There shall be appointed annually an Intendant of Police, a town clerk and treasurer and Constable.
3. That it shall be the duty of the Intendant of Police to try all such persons as shall be brought before him by the town constable.
4. Any Commissioner not attending the monthly meeting without a reasonable excuse shall be fined \$1.

It is interesting to note that in 1827 there was an advertisement in the Raleigh Star of sale of town lots for non-payment of taxes. Of the 125 lots in the town, 123 were advertised for sale.

In 1828 the treasurer was authorized to employ Isaac Cook of Guilford County to put a pump in the public well. At several later meetings there was mention of having the pump repaired. Evidently a pump in the well did not prove satisfactory. The well was still in existence until the late teens or early 20s of this century and I remember the use of a bucket to draw water from the well. This well

was located in the center of the intersection of Salisbury and Hillsboro Streets.

In a meeting in 1830 a resolution was passed that any dog at large not attended by its master was to be killed by either the constable or anyone over 21 years of age.

In 1843 an ordinance was passed that anyone shooting a gun or pistol within the town limits, except on parade days, would forfeit and pay a fine of \$1.50.

An 1845 ordinance provided that if any person should urinate in or against the courthouse or should indecently expose himself so as to become offensive to the citizens, he would be fined 25 cents for any such offense. Also in 1845, a fine of \$5.00 was to be levied on any person exhibiting any stallion, jackass or bull on the streets. Any person who allowed his or her hogs to run at large would have to pay a tax of 35 cents.

Three ordinances of 1845 were enacted evidently for fire protection. Every owner of a dwelling or store within the town was required to keep on the premises a ladder long enough to reach the top of the house or store, under a penalty of \$2.00. Every tenant of a house was required to burn or clean all chimneys every two months, with a penalty of \$2.00 for failure to do so. If a house was within 50 yards of another, the chimney was to be made only of brick or stone. The following year, all wood chimneys were to be replaced with brick or stone chimneys, and a fine was authorized for each day an owner was not in compliance.

At a meeting in 1848, Harmon Burke was taxed the sum of \$10 per year for the sale of liquor. Also during that year, the commissioners appointed four citizens each month to patrol the town for the ensuing month.

During the war years, 1861 - 1865, there seemed

to be little activity by the commissioners.

In the minutes of 1876, the commissioners ordered an election to be held for a mayor and five commissioners. This seems to be the first time there was an election of a mayor for the town. In this year, Henry Armand London was elected mayor.

Curious ordinances of 1876 provided that no person should cut or trim any shade trees without proper authority; that no person should sell or barter by weight any fodder, hogs, or oats in straw without the same being weighed on the town scales; that no person should ride a horse, mule, jackass, or ox, or run any wagon, cart or any other vehicle on the sidewalks, which had been improved; that a tax of \$25 should be levied and collected for every person retailing whisky or wine; and that no person should fail to remove his horse, hog, dog, cow or any other animal dying within the town limits, after being duly notified.

It is interesting to note that property tax valuation of real property and merchandise was the grand sum of \$34,475 and the tax levied on this property was \$140.41.

In 1876 the President of the U.S. proclaimed that each town was to celebrate the centennial of the Declaration of Independence on July 4th. In Pittsboro a committee was appointed to invite some suitable person to make the Fourth of July address. The mayor, H. A. London, was chosen, and it is said that this occasion drew the largest crowd ever gathered here. The ceremony was held in Kelvin grove, where picnic tables were set up to feed the crowd.

The first minute book surviving after 1879 is the book of 1915. The mayor at this time was Bennett Nooe. In that year ordinances were passed making it unlawful to drive an automobile on the streets of Pittsboro at a speed over ten miles an hour, subject to a fine of \$10; and unlawful to sell cold drinks on Sunday, subject to a fine of \$10.

In 1917 persons were prohibited from riding or driving any horse or mule at an unusual or dangerous speed, subject to a fine of \$10.

In 1919 the town authorized an issue of \$10,000 for street improvement. A financial statement in 1919 stated that the total indebtedness of the town was \$5,000 in bonds issued for sidewalks. Citizens of Pittsboro were to be called out for free labor on the streets for two days in September, and in December it was decided to buy a road scraper for street improvement.

The Chatham Telephone was granted the right to charge \$2.00 per month for service to residences and \$3.00 for businesses. At that time, the telephone exchange closed at 9:00 p.m.

In September 1920, streets became an issue again as the town was authorized to borrow \$1000 from the Bank of Pittsboro for improving Salisbury Street from the western city limits to the eastern city limits. Improving did not mean hard surfacing, only grading.

In October 1921 the Moncure Mfg. Co. offered to run an electric line to the town line and furnish electricity to the town, at a cost of \$300 per month. The result was that the town issued bonds to erect power lines and street lights and to furnish electricity to residents. A bond issue of \$15,000 was used for this purpose. In 1924 CP&L bought the generating plant and the existing transmission lines within the town.

In 1928 the board passed an ordinance authorizing the town to issue \$40,000 water bonds. In the same year it was noted that the \$15,000 electric light bonds were still outstanding, although CP&L had bought the system and the bonds should have been paid off at the time of the sale.

At the June meeting it was announced that Dowdy & Butler were low bidders on a 10" well at a cost of \$7.50 per foot for the first 300 feet and \$8.00 per foot to 400 feet. Also in 1928 the board ordered the attorney to contact the telephone company in regard to night service.

The 1933 town budget was \$5006.50.

In 1934, Clyde Bland, L.R. Chester, and G.C. Moore applied for beer licenses.



The Community House, half a block east of Hillsboro Street on Thompson Street, was built in 1936, funded by the W.P.A. as a make-work project during the Depression. It was renovated in 1985 to restore its original appearance.

In 1935 the mayor was authorized to file an application on behalf of the town to the U. S. government for a loan and grant to finance the construction of water works and a sewer system. A bond issue of \$33,000 was authorized for this project, with a bond rate of 4%. The project went forward with a grant of \$27,000 and the bonds. The water works were a spring and filter bed ahead of it on the old Mial Scurlock property. The contract for construction was let to William Murihead Co. of Durham for the whole package: water mains, hydrants and water plant for the sum of \$52,000. F. P. Nooe was made first superintendent of the water works.

In 1947 it was decided to extend the town limits, which had not been extended since 1889.

In 1948 an issue of bonds was made for the extension of water lines and increase of raw water.

In 1950 the state highway department contracted to widen Hwy. 64 from the western town limit to the railroad crossing. The highway was widened to 60 feet and construction included curb and gutter, storm sewer, and sidewalks on each side.

By 1951 increasing demands were being placed on the water supply and all citizens were asked to conserve water in every way possible.

In 1953 the Junior Chamber of Commerce erected street markers on all streets. Also in this year the town built a reservoir on what is known as the Tanyard place. As water was needed, a valve was opened and water released into Roberson Creek above the town lake.

In 1954 the town raised the dam at the town lake by 4 feet, at a cost of \$1800. The town budget for that year was \$27,000.

In 1955 the town commissioners gave Public Service of N.C. the gas line franchise.

In 1957 the board went on record opposing the construction of the New Hope Dam. Also in that year the town built a town hall and fire station on property where the parking lot for the courthouse annex is now located. Built by surplus town funds the buildings cost \$11,850. The first meeting in the new town hall took place on January 6, 1958. During that year the budget was \$36,000 and the total bond debt was \$80,000. The first zoning ordinance was passed in 1958.

In 1959 the budget was \$166,000 and an elevated water tank was built holding 200,000 gal. An issue of \$125,000 in bonds was approved for water line extensions and water storage.

In 1962 the board approved a bond issue of \$90,000 for building a new sewer plant.

In 1970 brick sidewalks were laid on the business block from the courthouse to Salisbury Street, under the supervision of Francis LeClair. Property owners were assessed for the cost of the walk in front of their property.

In 1971 an election was held to vote on the legal sale of beer and wine, and the opening of an ABC store in Pittsboro. The issue passed.

The budget for 1972 was \$86,000.

In 1973 it was decided to build a new filter plant north of town and pump water to it from the Haw River. This was financed with a bond issue of \$600,000 and a grant from FHA.

In 1979 the East Chatham Medical Center was built.

A budget resolution in 1980 projected anticipated revenues to be \$300,800. Also in that year 47 acres were annexed on the northwest of the town, and Mrs. Ruth Seldon-Sturgill made a historical survey of the town of Pittsboro.

In 1981 an ordinance was passed numbering all houses and buildings within the town. A good many years ago, one of the civic clubs had numbered all the houses but the numbering was inconsistent. A case in point is that on the original numbering, my house was given 304. Now it is 507, since it is in the fifth block west of the main street. Unfortunately 304 still appears in our telephone directory.

Also in 1981 a public hearing was held on the proposed sale of water to North Chatham. At this meeting only one citizen favored this action, plus a letter from another citizen who was sick. However, the board agreed to sell X number of gallons of water to the county and now they are using more water than the original agreement specified, so in the dry summer of 1986 we are back to the problem we have had all of these years and asked to reduce the use of water.

In 1982 the board agreed to sell to the county the land and town hall for the sum of \$75,000 and accepted a plan to incorporate the town hall into the planned courthouse annex. The town's share of the new complex was \$233,000.

In 1985 the town let a contract for the rebuilding of the Community House, which was built in the mid-1930s by W.P.A.

Mayors of Pittsboro

1876 - Henry Armand London	1933 - Frank Paschal
1915 - Bennett Nooe	1935 - W. L. London
1922 - D. L. Bell (pro-tem)	1947 - J. A. Farrell
1922 - A. C. Ray	1951 - F. C. Justice
1927 - Ernest Farrell	1957 - W. L. Powell

- | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------|
| 1959 - Harold Seagroves | 1973 - Carl Yates |
| 1962 - John H. London | 1977 - Norris Farrell |
| 1964 - Dr. K. M. Mathiesen | 1978 - Jack P. Justice |
| 1968 - Curtis Hamlet | 1986 - R. C. Warfford |
| 1971 - W. L. Powell | 1986 - Mary Goodman |

One could not complete an account of Pittsboro without something to say about two great organi-

zations that perform duties normally carried on by town governments: the Volunteer Fire Department and the East Chatham Rescue Squad. Both of these are groups you hope you will never need, but when they're needed you are grateful for their good work. The countless hours of unpaid training and service are done by dedicated people.

Business and Industry

The hill where the label mill is now located was always called Factory Hill, because in the early days it was the site of a buggy factory and a tobacco factory. These two were the earliest industries I have ever heard of being located in Pittsboro.

The headquarters of the Cape Fear and Deep River Navigation Company was located here. In the last quarter of the nineteenth century, Bennett Nooe came here to set up a shuttle-block plant to cut dogwood. Later he began a lumber business and built a great number of houses and commercial buildings.

Chatham Cotton Oil Company was chartered in 1906 for the manufacturing of cottonseed oil, cotton being the main cash crop in this area. An inter-

esting feature of this business was that fuel for firing its boiler was shavings hauled from Nooe's planing mill (only about 100 yards away) on a two-wheeled cart drawn by an ox. This plant was located where Pittsboro Ice and Fuel Co. is now located.

When I was a boy, there were three cotton gins in Pittsboro. The last gin that operated here was run by Lacy Beal and was situated behind the former hatchery between West Street and West Salisbury Street.

The Elizabeth hosiery mill operated for a good many years. Its location was where Carl Yates now lives on East Salisbury Street. In the mid-1920s a woven-label mill was built on Factory Hill. This

No. 144 of 4700 Shares.

Cape Fear and Deep River Navigation Company.

ORIGINAL CAPITAL, TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS.
SHARES, \$100 EACH.

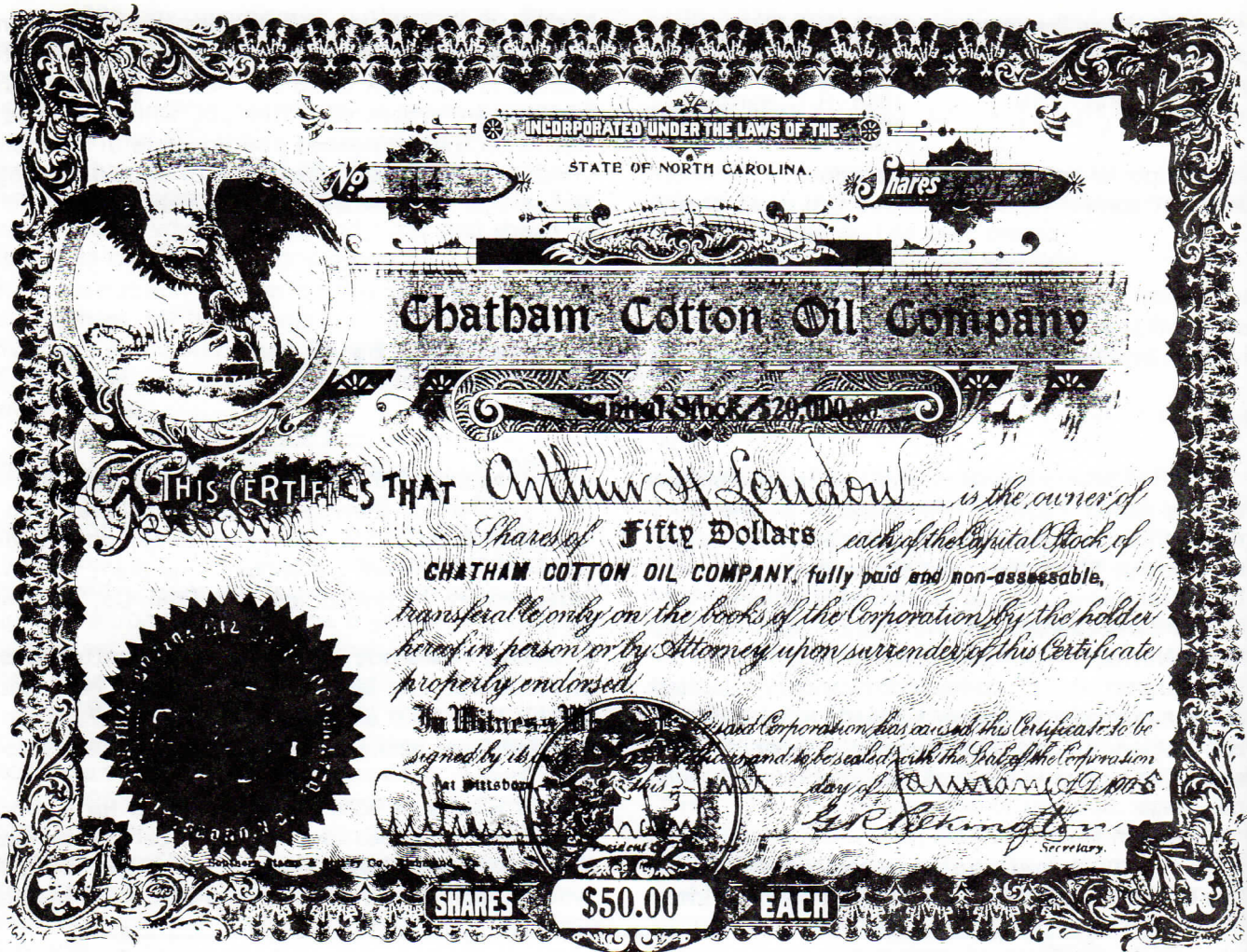
Pittsboro', N. C. *Feb. 14* 1854

John G. Evans is entitled to *Forty Seven* Shares
in the Original Capital of the Cape Fear and Deep River
Navigation Company, on each of which Shares, *One*
Hundred Dollars have been paid. The Shares
are transferable only on the Books of the Company.

Henry A. London Secretary.

Hubert President.

George F. Nesbitt & Co., Printers and Stationers, cor. Wall and Water Streets, New-York



plant was soon bought by Artistic Weaving Co. of Pompton Lakes, N.J. This has been a successful operation and has given gainful employment to a great number of people.

In 1947 the Chester H. Roth Co., manufacturer of hosiery, came here to open a plant, which operated for several years, then closed down. In the 1950s the Pittsboro Development Corporation was formed to finance the building of a plant to lease to the same company. This operation on Fayetteville Street gave employment to a great number of people. Later Roth sold out to Julius Kayser & Co., which continued operation until the early 1980s. Currently it is leased for a lamp-making business.

Webster Poultry Co., an operation of dressing chickens, has been a successful operation that has recently been sold to the Townsend Company, a multi-state operation. The plant is located just out of town on the Moncure road.

In the early days, one of the most important businesses in town was a blacksmith shop. Here horses and mules were shod, buggy and wagon wheels made, and iron tires put in place. To a child this was an interesting place to spend time, watching the smith at work. There were several general stores (1900 - 1925) on the one-block business street: Brooks & Eubanks, L.N. Womble, and W. L. London & Son. W. L. London & Son was as complete a department store as you could expect in a small town; it had a shoe department, millinery, men's clothing, dry goods, groceries, and hardware. It also sold buggies and wagons and had an extensive wholesale business to small neighborhood country stores. With the advent of good roads and people with cars, business fell off, as it became easier to go to Durham or Raleigh to shop. W. L. London & Son closed out in 1923.

The first drug store here was owned and operated by G. R. Pilkington, who came here from

England in the 1880s. Its first location was on the east side of Hillsboro Street in part of W. L. London & Son's store and it remained there until 1916 when Pilkington moved across the street in a building built for him by L. N. Womble. It continued there until Pilkington died in 1943. Prior to his opening a pharmacy, local doctors filled their own prescriptions.

Dr. Pilkington, as he was known to all, came with Thomas and William Calvert from England.

Thomas Calvert practiced law until he became a Superior Court Judge and he moved to Raleigh. He married Addie McClenahan. His brother, William, married Mattie Ihrie and he moved to Portsmouth, Virginia, where he became treasurer of Seaboard Air Line Railroad.

In 1917 the Blair Hotel was built on the location of the old Central Hotel. At this time it was considered very modern, as it had indoor plumbing and central heat.

Pittsboro about 1915

As I remember Pittsboro about 1915, standing in front of the courthouse looking north up the left side of Hillsborough Street, you would see:

- On Courthouse Square was the old Central Hotel. It burned about 1915 and the Blair Hotel was built on the same location in 1917.

- The Patrick St. Lawrence house faced the courthouse. It was moved twice and is now located at the end of South Street.

- Dr. H. T. Chapin's office

- Thomas Calvert's law office, later Sherman Alston's shoe shop

- The old courthouse

- Jack Launis's store

- A vacant store building

- G. R. Pilkington's drug store

- L. N. Womble's store

Across West Salisbury Street:

- Brooks and Eubanks store

- A building that one time was a cafe

- Two small one-room offices, one of which was the post office at one time

- Hanks-Horne house

Across Hanks Street:

- The Exline Hotel

All of the above-listed buildings were wooden structures. The third through the seventh burned in 1928.

At the intersection of Hillsborough Street and Salisbury Street, there was a well where merchants

up and down the street got their drinking water and where people watered their horses.

Looking north up Hillsborough Street on the right-hand side, you would see:

- A wooden building which was a saloon owned by A. P. Terry until 1907, when open bars were outlawed by the Volstead Act

- Small wooden post office

- Ramsey Hotel, which was moved to the rear of the lot in 1916 to make room for a new brick post office

- John Council's barber shop, where you could get a haircut for ten cents

- The Bank of Pittsboro, which was a brick building; the second floor was Attorney R. H. Hayes's law office

- A vacant lot

- W. L. London & Son store (brick)

Across East Salisbury Street:

- The old W. L. London & Son store

- Small office building used by Dr. Isaac Hall and later the office of John Manning, attorney, and last used as an office of J. M. Odell Manufacturing Co. after its office burned in 1924

- The Hall-London house

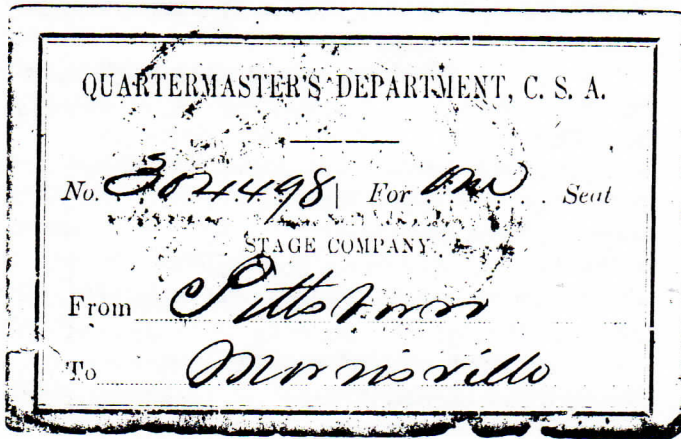
- Across Thompson Street stood the Thompson home. The W. Gordon Burns Exxon station is now located on this lot. The Thompson house was moved to the next lot and is now occupied by Edwards Antiques.

Transportation

One of the greatest problems in the early years of Pittsboro, as it was for all towns unless they were located on navigable rivers, was that all freight arriving by river boat from Wilmington had to be carted from Fayetteville. There were aborted efforts to make the Cape Fear navigable from Fayetteville to at least as far as Haywood, which is only about twelve miles from Pittsboro. Then in 1849 there was a major effort to make the river navigable by the formation of the Cape Fear and Deep River Navigation Company, which was to be funded by state appropriations and from the sale of stocks and bonds to the public. The headquarters were in Pittsboro and its first president was Pittsboro native Dr. Spence McClenahan. Other townspeople to serve included treasurers J. J. Jackson and Henry Adolphus London and attorney John H. Haughton. After spending a fortune building dams and locks and having them washed out by



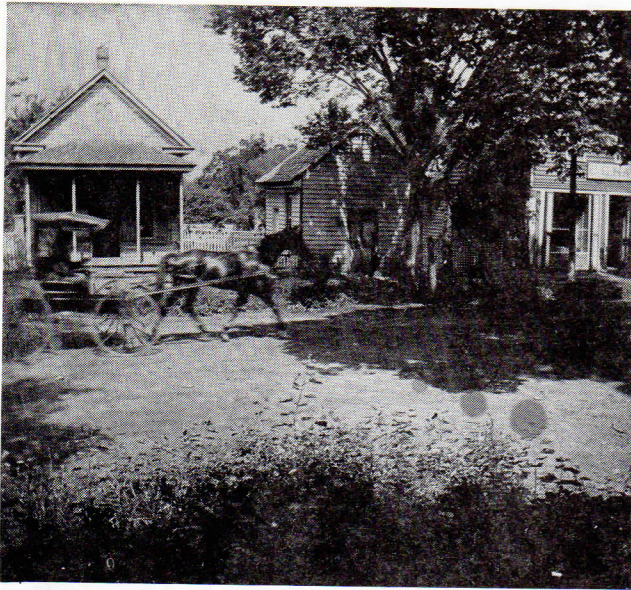
Site of railroad during construction, about 1888.



Stage Company ticket issued to recruit during the Civil War by Quartermaster's Department, C.S.A. from Pittsboro to Morrisville. Morrisville was on the main line of the North Carolina Railroad Co., which ran from Goldsboro to Charlotte.

high water, the project was given up about the time of the Civil War.

One of the important events in the life of Pittsboro was the formation of the Pittsboro Railroad Company to build a branch line into Pittsboro from the main line of the Raleigh and Augusta Railroad at Moncure. To raise money for the project, the town issued \$10,000 in bonds and \$5,000 bonds were sold to the public. This took place in 1886. Henry A. London was president of the railroad. The company contracted with the prison department in Raleigh to furnish labor for the project and the ten miles of railroad were completed in two years. When the first train came, there was one of the greatest celebrations ever held in the town.

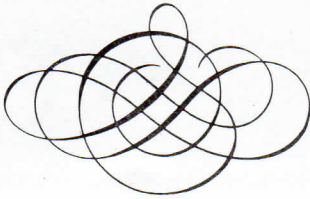


Mr. London in buggy passing Dr. Chapin's office, Mr. Calvert's office and C.C. Hutch's store, which had once been the courthouse.

State officials from Raleigh, three brass bands, and two military companies were on hand for the affair. A train of ten coaches came from Raleigh and a dance was held that night in the new depot. At that time all roads in and out of Pittsboro were impossible in bad weather. The train made two round trips a day; hence you could leave here in the morning, shop or transact business in Raleigh, and return on the afternoon train.

The railroad was a great boon to Pittsboro. Prior to its coming, merchants had to cart their merchandise from Egypt. The Western Railroad was chartered in 1853 and extended the railroad from Fayetteville to Egypt in order to reach the iron and coal mines. This railroad was completed by 1862, as the Confederacy badly needed the coal. This line was only about twelve miles from Pittsboro.

There was no improvement in the roads in this section until the "good road" program of 1921. The first paved road into Pittsboro was the road from Sanford, built in 1925. The road to Chapel Hill was completed in late 1927.



Erline Hotel, A First-Class, Well-Kept Hotel

Comfortable Rooms,
Good Old-Time Southern Cooking.

Rates Reasonable.

Prompt Attention from Polite Porters.

Mrs. L. R. Erline,
Proprietress.

Advertisements from a program of a bazaar held in 1905 by the Pittsboro Betterment Society, which was a forerunner of the Women's Club and P.T.A. (The advertisement for the Pittsboro Bank, p.17, is also from this program.)

The Burns Hotel

Located near the Court House
and
Convenient to Railroad Station.

First-Class Attention,
Good Board
and Comfortable Beds.

MEALS PREPARED BY EXPERIENCED COOKS.

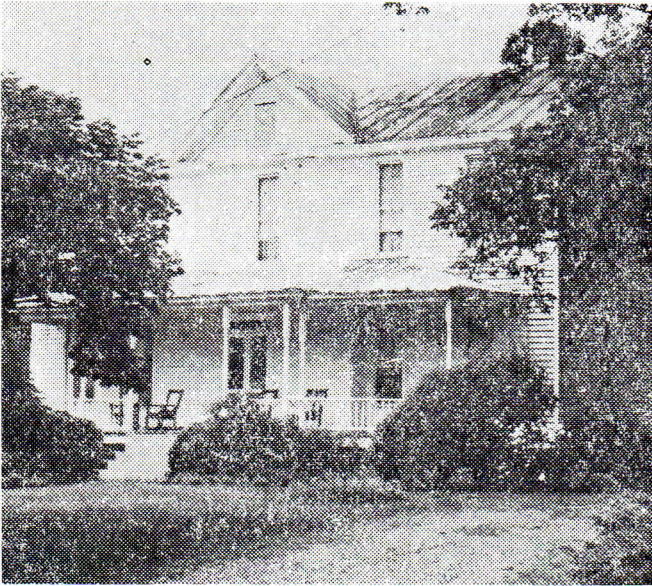
Hotel kept in a
first-class manner.

RATES REASONABLE.

MRS. R. M. BURNS,
PROPRIETRESS.

Schools

The first organized effort along educational lines in the early days of Pittsboro was the beginning of the Academy Era. Pittsboro Academy was established under the authority of an act of the General Assembly, ratified on January 6, 1787. In 1797 the Assembly came to the aid of the academy by an act authorizing the trustees to raise money by lottery. In 1800 the academy was in the charge of William Bingham. In 1801 he left, but returned in 1805. Mr. Bingham was a graduate of the Univer-



The Pittsboro Academy stood next to the home of J. J. Jackson on Fayetteville Street, half a block south of West Street. It was torn down in 1981 after an ancient oak tree fell through the roof and second story during a severe thunderstorm.

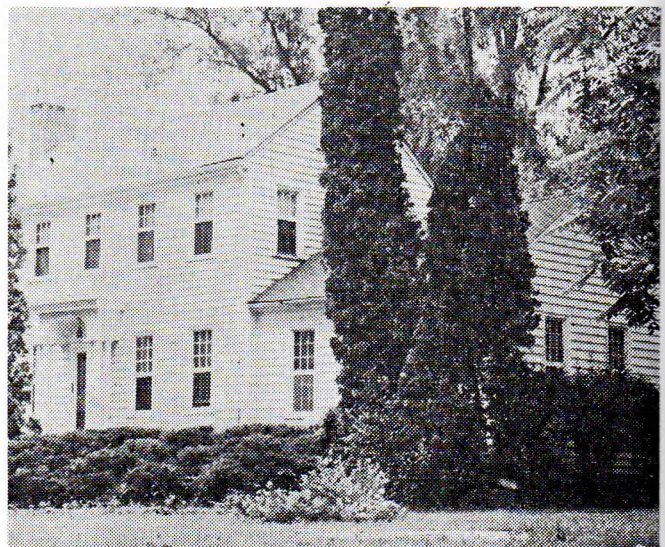
This is probably the same location where William Bingham had the first Pittsborough Academy in 1800. Two noteworthy schoolmasters there were Capt. C. B. Denson and A. H. Merritt.

sity of Glasgow, Scotland. Other well-known schoolmasters were David Caldwell, Jr., and C. B. Denson. This school was for day students as well as boarders. Governors John Owens and Charles Manley both received their early education here.

Two well-known girls' schools were the Kelvin School for Girls and the Locust Hill Seminary. Kelvin School was run by Mrs. Edward Jones, her daughter Charlotte, and W. H. Hardin. Locust Hill was presided over by the Rev. R. B. Sutton.

Mrs. Edward Jones operated a school for girls at their plantation at Rockrest, seven miles north of Pittsboro on the Haw River. When Mr. Jones died, she moved to Pittsboro and built a home and school in 1830. She operated the school with her daughter, who later married William Hardin. The daughters of many prominent North Carolinians came here to school.

Kelvin is located in the fifth block of West Salisbury, with the property extending south to West Street. The house faces east.



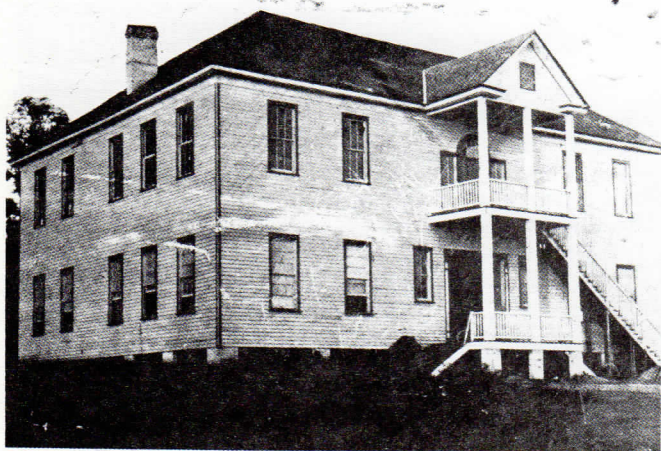
Some planters had private tutors for their boys. An example was Basil Manly, who hired John Chavis, a black Presbyterian minister, to prepare his sons to enter the university. One of his sons became governor of North Carolina, another president of the University of Alabama, and a third a N.C. Supreme Court justice.

In 1901 a two-story wooden structure was built to house grades one through eleven, although it was known as the Pittsboro High School. At that time it was an eight-months school and remained so all of its existence. The 1901 building was only a Pittsboro school, but a good many boys and girls came to school here from the surrounding county and boarded in town, as there were only grade schools in the country areas.

In 1923 a new brick school was built on West Street where the law enforcement complex is now. In the 1950s a new structure to serve only as a high school was built on the lot next door to the 1923 building.

The first busing began while the old 1901 school was in existence. By the time the 1923 building was built, the county grade schools were pretty well phased out.

The first school to serve black children was under the auspices of St. James Episcopal Church and stood on what is now part of the Methodist Church cemetery. In the early part of the century, the first black public school was built on the site of the present Horton Middle School. Part of the cost



There were eight classrooms in the old Pittsboro High School. The entire upper story was used as an auditorium. (Photo from Chatham County, 1771-1971, second edition, 1976)

of this building was funded by the Sears-Roebuck Foundation. In the 1920s a new brick school was built. This school continued to be an all-black school until integration came about after the Supreme Court ruling in 1954.

There are now two schools in Pittsboro: Pittsboro Primary and Horton Middle Schools. Northwood High School was built about three miles north of Pittsboro.

COMMENCEMENT
Public Schools of Pittsboro
 MAY 26TH AND 27TH, 1910
 THURSDAY, MAY 26TH, 8:15 P. M.

Piano Solo - Oberon	Weber-Leybach
	Emily Thompson.
Presentation of Picture of Robt E. Lee on behalf of Winnie Davis Chapter, U. D. C., Hon. H. A. London	
Piano Duet - Dixie Land	Grobe
	Martha Lineberry, Mary Noe.
Recitation - Death of Garfield	Will Bynum
(Extract from Jas. G. Blaine's Oration.)	
Mother Goose Play	Eleven Boys and Six Girls
Piano Solo - The Palms	Fantaisie - Leybach
	Evelyn Alston.
Recitation - A Tour of a Smile	Minerva Jenkins
Play - The Silent System	Isaac Fike, Nellie Pilkington
Recitation - The Boys' Complaints	Letson Noe
Piano Duet - Bicycle Waltz	Geibel
	Lucy Connell, Henrietta Morgan.
Recitation - The Angel's Promise	Nettie Johnson
Play - A Changed Housewife	Three Boys, Two Girls
Piano Solo - Concert Polonaise	Engelmann
	Myrtle Pilkington.
Recitation - That Brother of Mine	Curtis Griffin
The Competing Railroads	Four Boys
Recitation - The Watermillion	Wallace Farrell
Piano Duet - March Lyrique	Koelling
	Marguerite and Minerva Jenkins.
A Medley - Song	Nine Girls

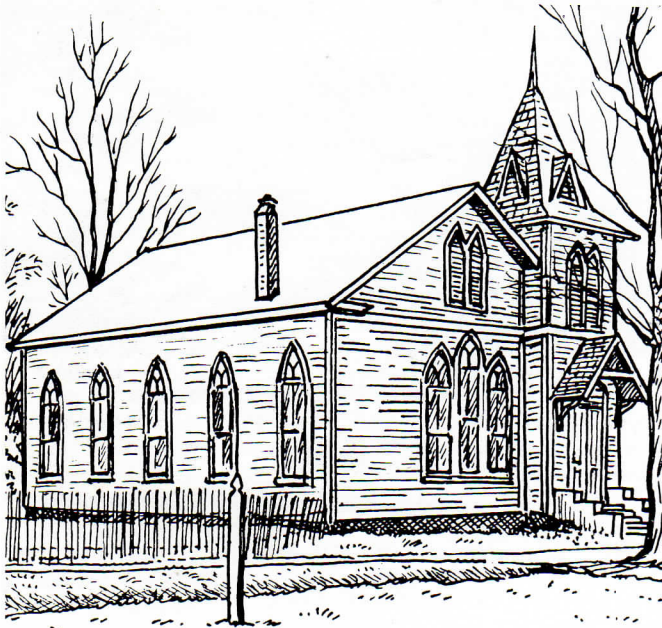
MARSHALS:

WADE BARBER.	TROY CLARK.
CLYDE BLAND.	ATLAS FARRELL.
ISAAC FIKE.	

Churches

The first church organization was the Methodist Church. Unfortunately, the church has no early records, but an 1815 deed indicates that a one-quarter-acre lot was purchased one-fourth mile from the town of Pittsboro, which would put it within the present town limits. Then a second lot, behind the present site, was bought, and a third lot was added in 1836 where the church is now located. Therefore, it is supposed that the present church was built soon after 1836.

St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church was completed in 1832. Its records are complete from its beginning and indicate that some services were held in the early 1820s in the "Methodist Meeting House."



St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church in 1889

The contract for building St. Bartholomew's Episcopal church was signed by Dr. N. M. Hill and his nephew, Dr. Frederick J. Hill, in October of 1831. The builders were Martin and Wesley Hanks. The Hanks brothers were builders of many houses and other structures in Pittsboro and the surrounding area.

Sketch of the Pittsboro Methodist church, built about 1836. (Used with permission of the artist, Perry Harrison.)

A Baptist church was built in 1847. This original structure was used for one hundred years, then torn down and replaced by the current brick structure.

The Presbyterian church was built in 1850. It was the first brick church to be built in Pittsboro and I suppose it was the second brick building built in town, the first being the second Chatham County courthouse, which was built in the 1840s.

St. James Episcopal Church, for blacks, was built in the late 1880s. No longer standing, it was on the lot that is now part of the Methodist Church property. Mt. Sinai AME Church, located at the south end of Masonic Street, was built in the 1880s. Stanton Chapel (MP) was built in the early part of this century.

The Seventh Day Adventist Church was organized soon after Dr. Mathiesen came here in 1936 to practice medicine. Their first church was a prefab building located on the southwest corner of Salisbury Street and Graham road; they later built a permanent structure on West Street.



Pictured is the first building of the Pittsboro Baptist church, built in 1847, probably by Martin Hanks. The church was torn down in the late 1940s and a larger brick building was raised on the same location, the southwest corner of Fayetteville and West Salisbury Streets.

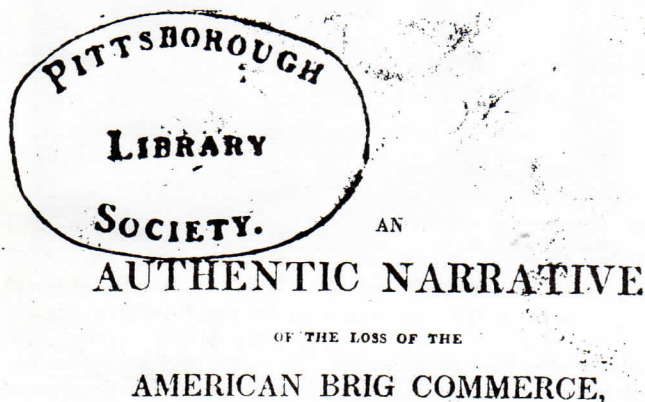


The Pittsboro Presbyterian church is a beautiful church, with its interior austere, as were all of the oldest Presbyterian churches. It is located in the first block of East Street, just west of the Masonic Lodge.

It is my understanding that it was determined that the church lot was not to be used as a cemetery; consequently, some of the earlier members are buried in the Methodist churchyard or the Episcopal churchyard. Later this prohibition was rescinded and they began burying their members there. Green Womack, who was instrumental in the organization of the church, is buried in the Methodist churchyard.

Library

The earliest library in Pittsboro was prior to the Civil War. There probably was no building, but members listed books and lent to each other. The evidence is copy below.



WRECKED ON THE WESTERN COAST OF AFRICA, IN THE MONTH OF AUGUST, 1815.

The book in which the above picture appeared was printed in 1817 and dated by its owner in 1822. In the early 1930s a branch of the state-supported library was started here and the first location was in the home of Miss Maggie Horne, which stood on Hillsborough Street where the Pantry is today. After her death, the library was moved to a small room in the Community House, where Mrs. W. T. Hurst and then Mrs. Myrtle Nooe were librarians. In 1957 it was moved to a room in the Agriculture Building, with Mrs. Nooe still in charge.

In 1969 Marvin Reeves died and item 2 of his will read, "I am very interested in seeing the facilities of Public Library services increased in the Pittsboro area; in my opinion this would mean so much to the educational and cultural development of our community. Therefore I give and bequeath to the Pittsboro Public Library the sum of

\$20,000.00. It is my sincere hope that this bequest will stimulate more interest with people of our community to the end that there may be built up and established an excellent public library service for the general area."

With this start the Reeves Foundation and individual members of his family gave additional funds to bring this sum up to better than \$80,000. Central Carolina Bank donated a lot on West Street and the citizens of this area began to raise additional funds by having an auction sale and contest. Memorial gifts from individuals and donations from businesses in the area added to the total. With these funds in hand, we let the contract for construction at a cost of around \$140,000. The building was finished and dedicated in 1974.



Building a great library is one of the most important events in the life of this area since the completion of the railroad just 100 years ago. With greatly increased circulation by 1986, we realized

that we needed more space. The Reeves family and Reeves Foundation, plus \$18,000 from the Pittsboro Development Corporation, came up with enough funds to finance a 2500-sq. ft. addition, which is being built at the time of this writing and will be completed in the summer of 1986. The contract for the 1974 building and the 1986 addition were let to the Triad Construction Company of Durham (the first under the supervision of Dave Roberts and the second by his brother, Bobby Roberts, Triad being their half-brother Jim

Haines).

Two major bequests to the library are one from Mrs. Carrie Alston Bane for \$150,000 and another from Mrs. Lucian Baldwin for \$10,000. Also, Allied Fibers of Moncure has given us \$1,000 each year for the last eleven years. The income from these invested funds, plus support from the Central North Carolina Regional Library System, make it possible for us to have many extras that we would not otherwise have. We think we have one of the best small town libraries in North Carolina.

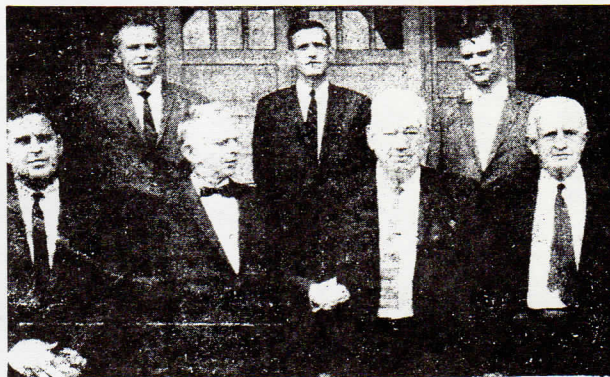
The Bar

One of the earliest attorneys in Pittsboro was John H. Haughton, who came here from Edenton in 1835. He was the attorney for the Cape Fear and Deep River Navigation Company. In the 1850s his cousin, John Manning, moved from Edenton to

join him in the practice of law. In 1880 Manning went to the University of North Carolina to teach law and later became Dean of the Law School. Another early lawyer was J. J. Jackson.

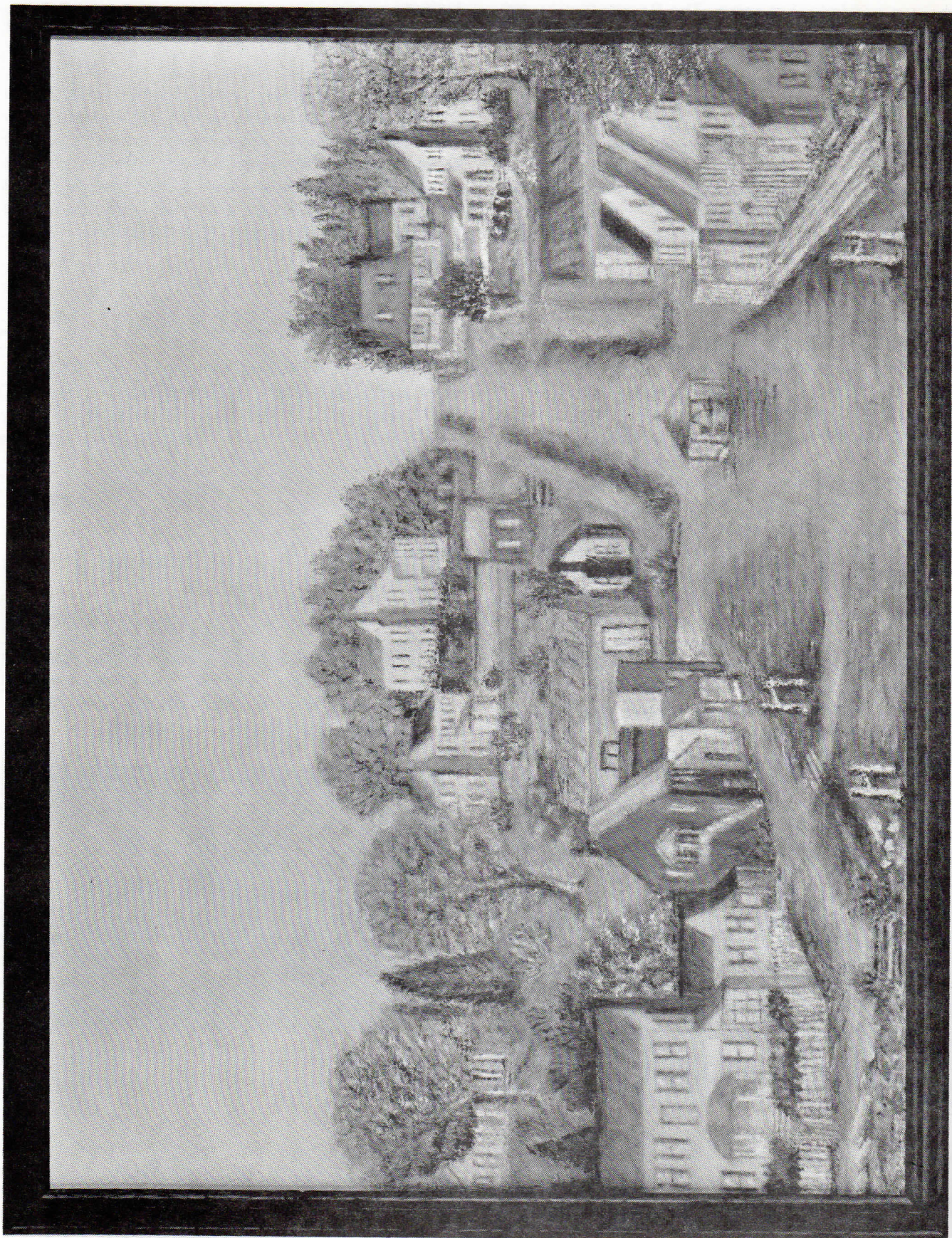


In 1906 the Pittsboro bar was comprised of: front row, Walter Siler, Fred W. Bynum, J. Elmer Long; back row, H. M. London, Mr. Reavis, H. A. London, and Roland H. Hayes.



In this picture are lawyers active in 1962: front row, Harry Horton, Wade Barber, Frank Upchurch, and D. L. Bell; back row, B. C. Smith, Ed Holmes, and Ed Hatch.

The present bar in Pittsboro is made up of Holmes & McLaurin, Gunn & Messick, Wade Barber, Jr., Tim Hubbard, and Lunday A. Riggsbee.



Opposite: When she was 92 years old, Mrs. Annie Lutterloh Bynum painted this picture of Pittsboro as she remembered it in the 1890s. Mrs. Bynum was the great-granddaughter of Gen. Washington Lutterloh, whose plantation was northwest of Pittsboro.

Banks

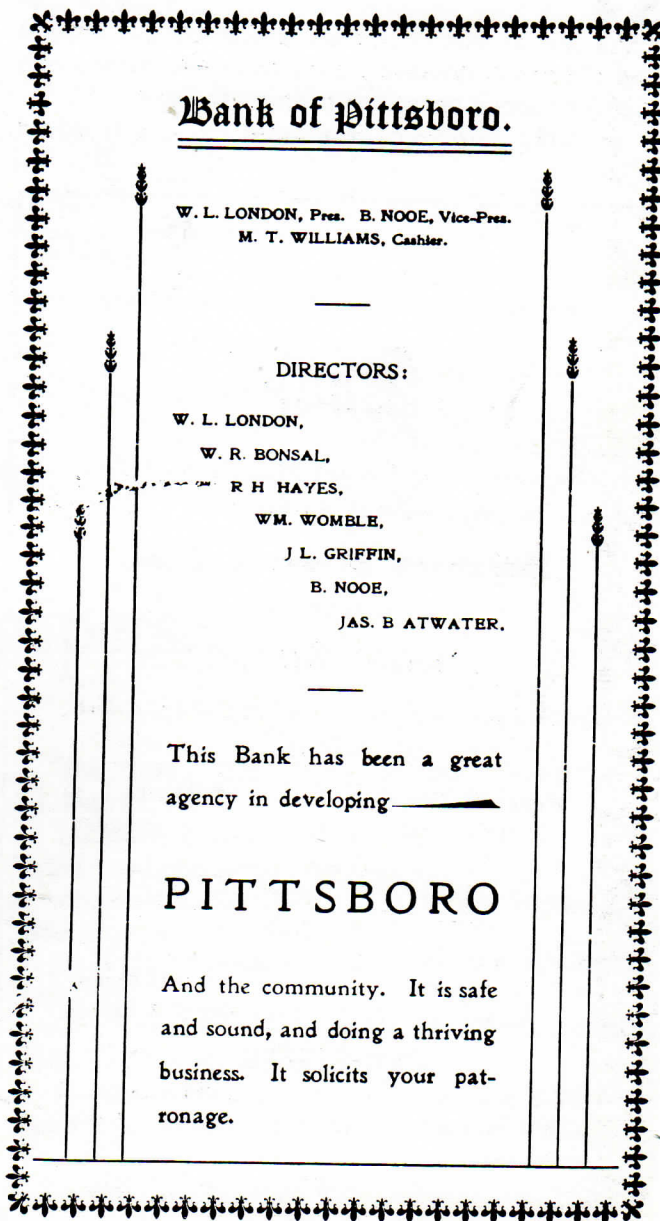
In 1854 a bill was enacted in the N.C. Assembly to establish the Bank of Pittsboro with capital stock not to exceed \$300,000 and books to be opened for subscription of stock under the supervision of H.A. London, John Womack, William J. Jolley, Dr. Spence McClenahan, Isaac Hall, and G. R. Griffith. Fortunately this bank was not established as, like all other banks in North Carolina, it would have gone under during the coming war.

The Bank of Pittsboro was founded in 1901 with a capital of only \$8,000. W. L. London was its first president, Bennett Nooe vice president, and M. T. Williams cashier. Its board of directors included London, Nooe, R. H. Hayes, J. B. Atwater, and W. J. Womble.

At the death of W. L. London in 1916, A. H. London succeeded his father. In 1965, J. H. London, grandson of W. L. London, succeeded A. H. London and served until 1970, when the bank merged with Central Carolina Bank & Trust Company. W. H. McAllister was first manager of the CCB office, serving from 1970 until he took early retirement. He was succeeded by W. L. Dean, the present manager.

The Farmers Bank was organized in the late teens of this century with a capital stock of \$10,000. The president was T. M. Bland and W. E. Alley was cashier. Among its directors were W. P. Horton, V. R. Johnson, and J. M. Gardner. This bank operated here for a few years, then moved to Moncure and operated there for several years before it failed.

First Citizens Bank & Trust Company placed a branch here in 1970. Its first location was on the courthouse square until they built its present structure, located at the corner of Hillsboro and Hanks



Bank of Pittsboro.

W. L. LONDON, Pres. B. NOOE, Vice-Pres.
M. T. WILLIAMS, Cashier.

DIRECTORS:

W. L. LONDON,
W. R. BONSAL,
R. H. HAYES,
WM. WOMBLE,
J. L. GRIFFIN,
B. NOOE,
JAS. B. ATWATER.

This Bank has been a great
agency in developing

PITTSBORO

And the community. It is safe
and sound, and doing a thriving
business. It solicits your pat-
ronage.

Street where the old Exline Hotel stood. Its manager since coming here has been Bill Warfford.

First Federal Savings & Loan, a branch of the main office in Sanford, came here in 1950 and was located on the corner of Hillsboro and East Salis-

bury Street, where the Chatham County Herald Tribune is now. After several years they built on the present location at the corner of Fayetteville and West Salisbury Streets. Watson Nordan has been local manager since the move here.

Social Life

Much of Pittsboro's social life centers around the churches; however, balls and celebrations also highlight social occasions through the years.

In 1937 Pittsboro celebrated its one hundred

fiftieth anniversary. There were a great number of former residents who came back for the occasion.

You are cordially invited to participate in a



Complimentary to MR. AND MRS. HENRY A. LONDON, JR., given under the auspices of the

Pittsboro Pleasure Club,

— AT THE —

"HALL HOUSE,"

on Friday Even'g. June 25th, 1875, at 8½ o'clock.

HENRY M. COWAN,
SECRETARY.

L. A. HANKS,
PRESIDENT

Honorary Managers:

CAPT. W. L. LONDON.
JOHN J. JACKSON, Esq
O. S. POE, Esq.

DR. R. R. IHRLE.
HON. JOHN MANNING.
CAPT. C. B. DENSON.

Committee:

WM. G. HAUGHTON.
JOHN M. MANNING.
PETER IHRLE.

PHILIP TAYLOR.
FRANK O. LONDON.

Sesqui - Centennial Celebration

Pittsboro, North Carolina

November 11th. 1937



William L. London, Mayor



Programme

- 10:30 A. M.—AT COURT HOUSE:
 Presiding Officer—Hon. Daniel L. Bell
 Song—Star Spangled Banner
 Invocation—Rev. J. D. Young
 Address of Welcome—Lieutenant Governor
 W. P. Horton
 Short Talks—Reminiscences:—
 Judge J. S. Manning
 Judge T. H. Calvert
 Hon. Henry M. London
 Song—America
 Presentation of Prize for Best Essay on
 Pittsboro
 Short Talks—Hon. Walter D. Siler
 Gen. Manus McCloskey
 Presentation of Crosses by United Daughters
 of the Confederacy
 Short Talks—Reminiscences:
 Hon. Fred W. Bynum
 Hon. Jesse F. Milliken
 Hon. Bennett Nooe
 Short Talk—Dr. Clarence Poe
 Song—Carolina
 Adjournment
 1:00 P. M.—Picnic Lunch at Community House
 2:00 P. M.—Parade and Athletic Contests
 9:00 P. M. to 1:00 A. M.—Dance at School Gymnasium
**ALL GUESTS ARE REQUESTED TO REGISTER
 AT COMMUNITY HOUSE**

In 1962 the town celebrated its one hundred seventy-fifth anniversary. At this time William B. Morgan, editor of the Chatham Record, published

a special edition, which was a monumental task of research. It is hoped that the Record will reproduce copies of this work for the bi-centennial.

1787 COMMEMORATING 175 PROUD EVENTIFUL YEARS 1962



THE TOWN OF PITTSBORO

ISSUES YOU A HEARTY WELCOME TO



ITS 175th BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION SEPT. 22

Pittsboro And Its Citizens Await You With A Welcoming Hand, And Extend To You A Hospitality, Which Began Here 175 Years Ago And Which Has Become Increasingly Popular Ever Since.

We Are Proud Of Our Heritage, Proud Of Our Native Sons And Daughters We Have Furnished As Leaders In Our State And Nation

We Are Proud, Too, Of The Great Progress Pittsboro Has Made, And We Hope That The Future Will Bring Our Citizens Continued Progress And Happiness.

WE WELCOME YOU TO PITTSBORO ON THIS GREAT OCCASION

JOHN H. LONDON, Mayor

FRED P. NOOE, JR., L. C. WILLIAMS, C. W. WALKER, CLIFF POOLE, R. E. ROBERSON

Members of The Board of Town Commissioners

DANIEL L. BELL, Town Attorney

T. J. MORGAN, Town Clerk

Newspapers

Several newspapers, most of short duration, have been published in Pittsboro. No figures on circulation are available.

Central Reflector, 1832-33, Henry Ward, publisher

The Communicator, 1846-1847, William Potter, Temperance advocate

Semi-Monthly Record of Pittsboro Scientific Academy, 1866-1867, C. B. Denson, publisher

School Girl, 1866-1867, Locust Hill Seminary

The Chatham Record, 1878 - present, Henry A. London, first editor and publisher

Chatham Argus, 1881-1884, J. W. and L. B. Chapin, editors

The Home, 1883-1889, Pittsboro Academy, A. H. Merritt, editor

Chatham Citizen, 1894-1899, R. B. Lineberry, editor and publisher

Chatham Index, 1890s into 1900s (teens), J. C. Staunton, black publisher

Chatham Observer, 1901-1904, A. M. Moore, publisher

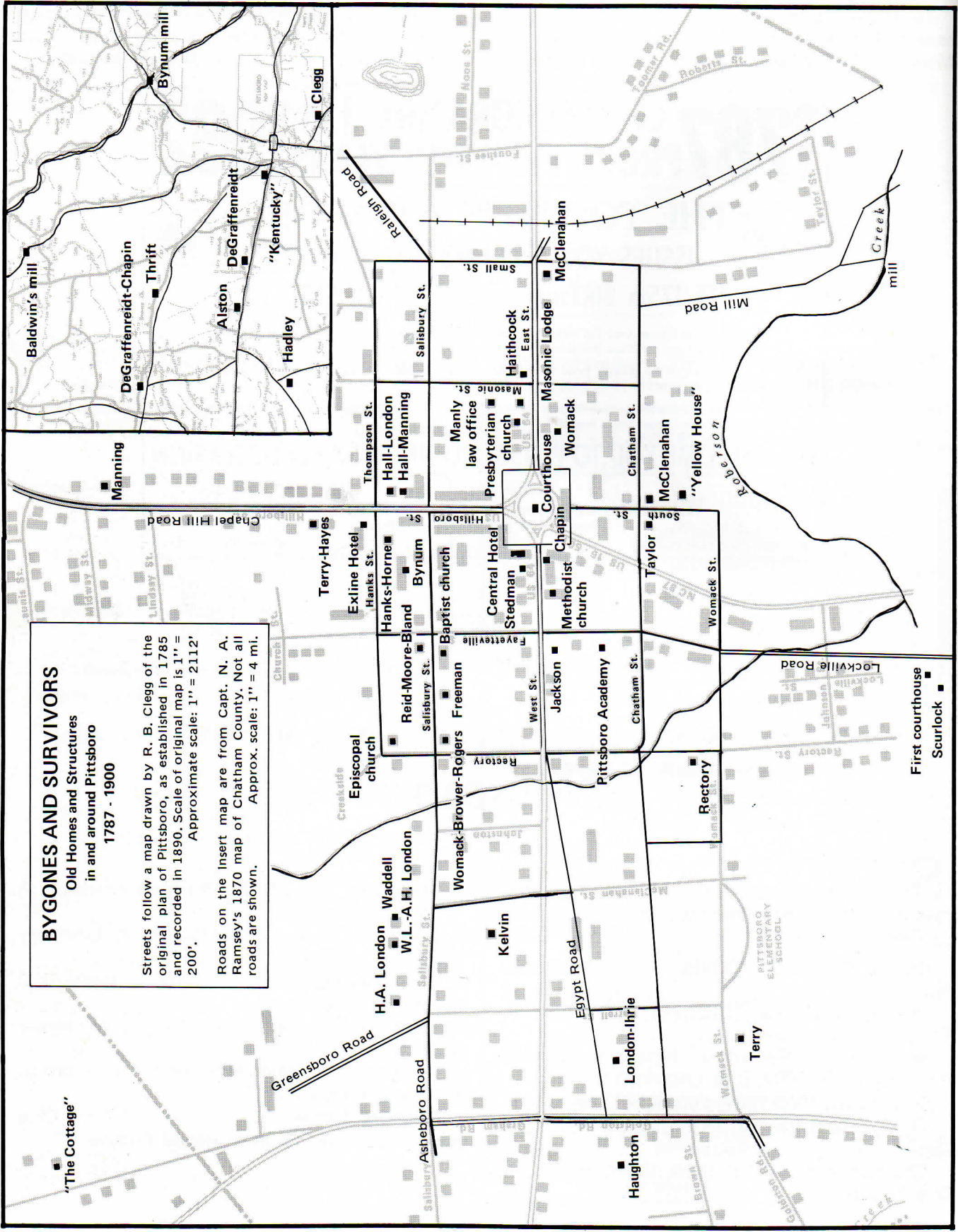
Chatham Life, 1956 (lasted only a few months), Rev. Ted Stone, editor

Pittsboro Herald, 1972, changed name to **Chatham Herald**, later **Chatham Herald Tribune**

BYGONES AND SURVIVORS
 Old Homes and Structures
 in and around Pittsboro
 1787 - 1900

Streets follow a map drawn by R. B. Clegg of the original plan of Pittsboro, as established in 1785 and recorded in 1890. Scale of original map is 1" = 200'. Approximate scale: 1" = 2112'

Roads on the insert map are from Capt. N. A. Ramsey's 1870 map of Chatham County. Not all roads are shown. Approx. scale: 1" = 4 mi.



First courthouse
 Scurlock

Bygones and Survivors

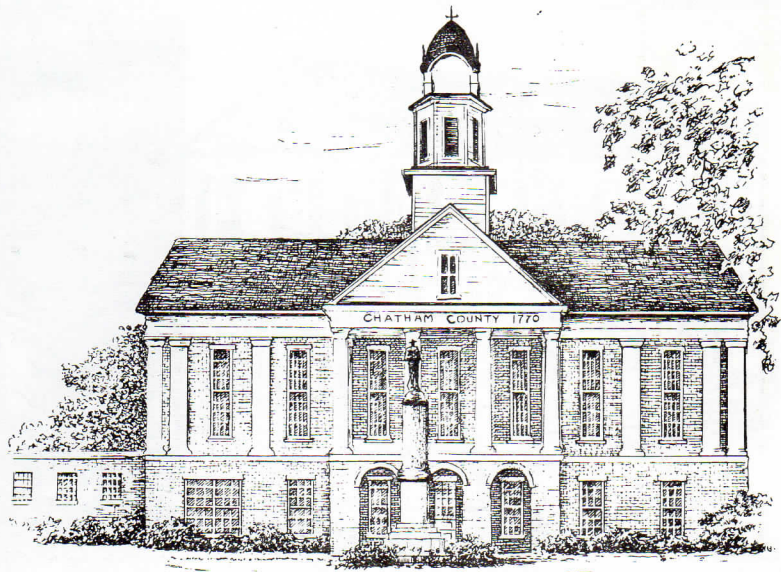
Old Homes and Structures in and around Pittsboro 1787-1900

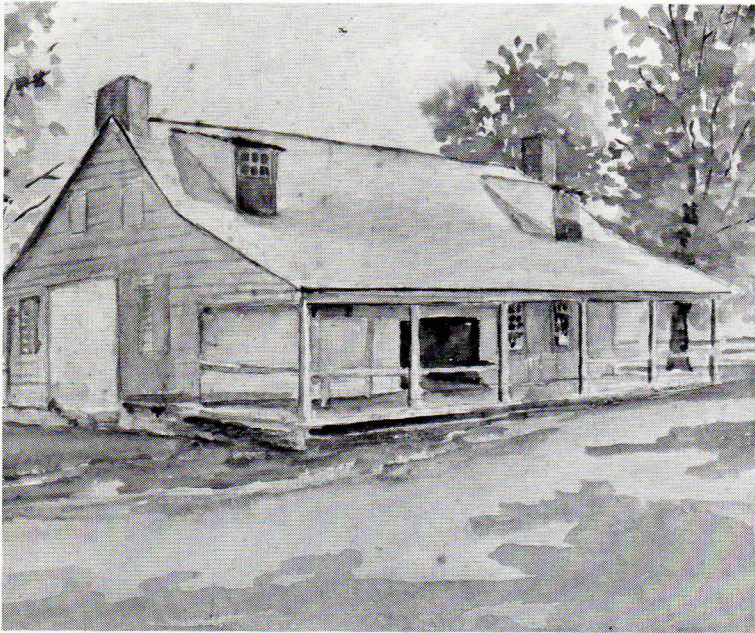
The first courthouse in Chatham County was built on Mial Scurlock's property across Roberson Creek about ½-mile south of the present location. When the town of Pittsboro was laid out in 1787, the building was moved to where the courthouse now stands.

In 1843 a new brick courthouse was built and the old structure was moved a half-block north on Hillsboro Street, where it stood and was used as a store and later as a repair garage. The structure burned in 1928.

The second courthouse, built in 1843, was of poor construction and was torn down in 1881, when the present courthouse was built. The county commissioners voted \$12,000 for its construction and no builder would undertake the job at this figure. (Thomas Womack, local citizen, was architect.) Alvis Bynum and W. L. London, seeing the necessity of a new building, took the contract at this price. They set up a brick plant on Roberson Creek, where they made all the brick. They finished the job with only a few hundred dollars loss each.

In the early sixties the building was renovated, sandblasting several coats of barn-red paint off the exterior. The cost of the job was \$150,000. Since the new annex has been built just south, there is another renovation program planned.





Mial Scurlock was living in this house at the time that the first Chatham County courthouse was built on his land. Scurlock moved away early in the 19th century and his plantation was bought by Dr. N. M. Hill of the lower Cape Fear, who used it for many years as his summer home.

When Lord Cornwallis left the battle of Guilford Court and was on his march to Wilmington, he spent the night at this house.

The house was located two or three hundred yards from Roberson Creek near what is now U.S. Highway 15-501 South. The house was torn down in the first quarter of the 20th century. It was probably built as early as 1750.

The picture is reproduced at half-size from a watercolor painting by Frank M. London, done in 1899.

The old Central Hotel stood where the Blair Hotel was later built, on the north-west corner of the courthouse square. The Central Hotel burned about 1914 or 1915.

The picture was taken around 1905 during Court Week, as evidenced by the horse trading, which was a feature of the quarterly sessions of court.



The Columbus Masonic Lodge was built in 1838. This chapter has been active for probably 175 years, except for a few years after the Civil War, after which it was reinstated, and is active today.

The lodge is located at the corner of Masonic and East Streets.



Henry Adolphus London built this house in 1836, soon after he came to Pittsboro to go into the mercantile business. London became secretary and treasurer of the Cape Fear Navigation Company early in its existence. This was an ill-fated enterprise and was given up at the beginning of the Civil War.

Dr. Ross R. Ihrle moved here from Chowan County and married the eldest daughter of John H. Haughton. Ihrle served in the Civil War. He bought the house from London and raised a large family.

The house was located ½-block south of Highway 64 on state road 902. The house burned early in the 20th century.

John Hooker Haughton moved here from Edenton about 1835. Soon thereafter he married Alice Hill, daughter of Thomas Hill, who had a summer home here known as Hailbron. His home was on the Cape Fear River, and the main crop was rice.

This house was located opposite the London house, above. It was torn down in the 1960s.



“Kentucky,” the summer home of Dr. Frederick J. Hill, is now torn down. Dr. Hill bought the property from his mother-in-law, Mary Watters, in 1825. I expect the house was built as early as 1810.

Although only a summer resident, Dr. Hill and his uncle, Dr. Nathaniel Hill, signed and guaranteed payment on the contract to build St. Bartholomew’s Episcopal church in October of 1831. Dr. Hill also owned Orton Plantation on the Cape Fear River below Wilmington.

For many years the house was owned by the Moore family. Mr. Moore was a presiding elder of the Methodist church.

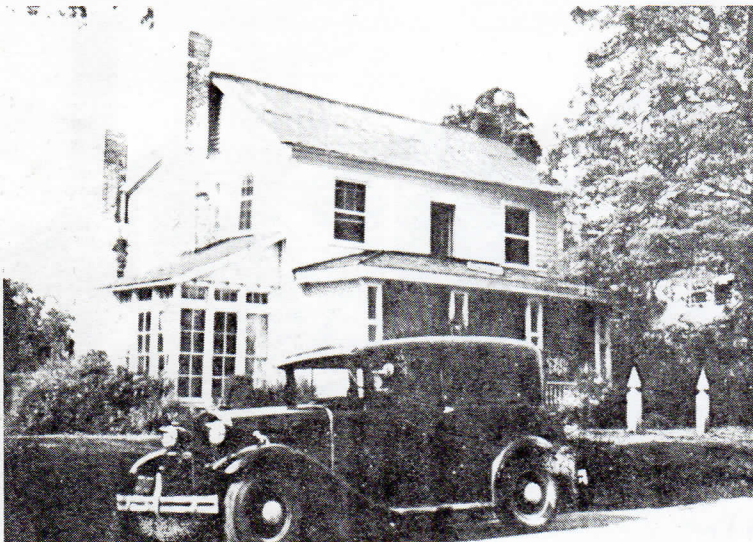




The "Yellow House" was built by Patrick St. Lawrence in 1787. It is probably the oldest house in Pittsboro. It originally stood facing the courthouse where a seafood restaurant now stands. It was advertised for sale in the Fayetteville Gazette in 1792 and was bought later and served as a tavern.

The house has been moved twice and now stands at the end of South Street. It is owned by Mr. and Mrs. C. R. Brower.

An unusual feature of the house is that a panel wall between the hall and parlor can be raised up and fastened on the ceiling to make a ballroom of the continued hall and parlor. It is said that the cost overrun on the house was so great that it broke its owner.



The Stedman family were prominent people in Pittsboro in the early days of the town.

The house was built early in the 19th century and was torn down in the 1970s. The holly tree, still standing on the Weiland Chevrolet-Oldsmobile sales lot where the house formerly stood, is said to be the largest holly tree in the southeast.

The Haithcock house stood on the opposite corner from the Masonic Lodge at East and Masonic Streets. The house was torn down in the early sixties.

An interesting feature of its construction was that bricks, without mortar, were laid between the weatherboarding and ceiling, evidently for insulation.





This is a beautiful cottage built in the first half of the 19th century. It is built on lot 5 of the original plat of Pittsboro, at the corner of Fayetteville and West Salisbury Streets.

The property has recently been bought by Mr. and Mrs. Charles Cameron and they are doing a good job of renovation, with the exterior now completed.

The original one-room structure that was the Lewis Freeman house is said to be one of the oldest houses in town. It has been much altered with additions and renovations; however, the original room retains many of its early features.

Freeman, a free black, had acquired between 1811 and the time of his death in 1843 sixteen town lots, as well as other property. In 1837 the 4-acre block on West Salisbury was described as "the Lot on which said Lewis Freeman now lives & embracing the whole square with the exception of the Tanyard Lot."

The house is located on West Salisbury, next to the Baptist church. It was bought from the Morgan estate and renovated by Mrs. Esther Lang and Ms. Jane Pyle.



The Hanks-Horne home was located on the corner of Hillsboro and Hanks Streets, where the Pantry now stands. It was built in the first half of the 19th century.

Martin Hanks and his brother Wesley built a number of houses and churches in Pittsboro, including St. Bartholomew's Episcopal church and most probably the Methodist church.



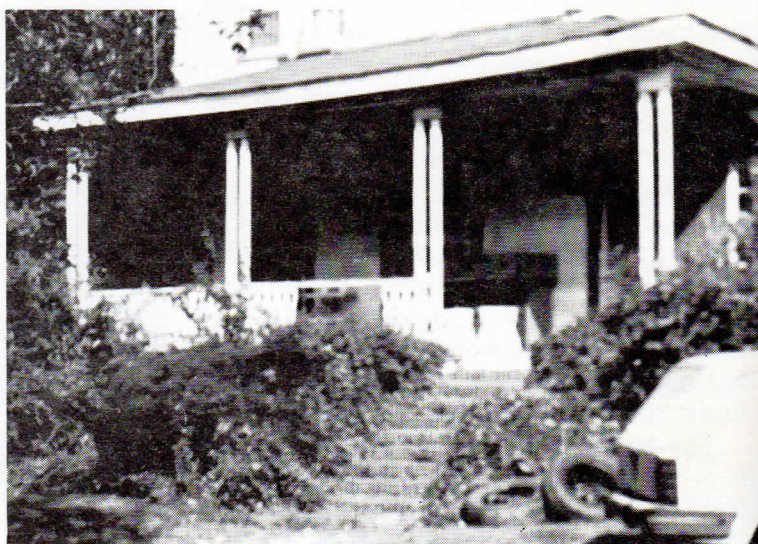
Dr. Hall came to Pittsboro from Scotland Neck to practice medicine. He married the daughter of Peter Evans, also of Scotland Neck, who was the owner of a large plantation in Chatham County at Egypt.

Henry Armand London bought the property in 1882. He was a prominent lawyer, member of the legislature, and founder and editor of the Chatham Record.

The property is in the second block north of the courthouse, on Hillsboro. It has recently been extensively renovated, restoring its former elegance, by Mr. Wade Barber Jr., whose law offices are located there, along with other professional offices.

John Manning moved here in the 1850s to practice law with his cousin, John H. Houghton. He married Louisa, daughter of Dr. Isaac Hall, whose home (Hall-London) is shown above. Manning served in the Civil War, was a member of Congress, and left Pittsboro to go to Chapel Hill to teach law.

The house is located at the top of the hill on Hillsboro Street and is at present owned and occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Robert Gunn.



Between the Hall-London house and the old W. L. London & Son store was Dr. Isaac Hall's office, which later became the law office of John Manning. At times it was used as a dwelling.

For a short time it was used for an office of the J. M. Odell Mfg. Co. after their office burned in 1924, until their new office was completed.

Joseph John Jackson was the grandson of Joseph John Alston. He married the daughter of Governor Jonathon Worth.

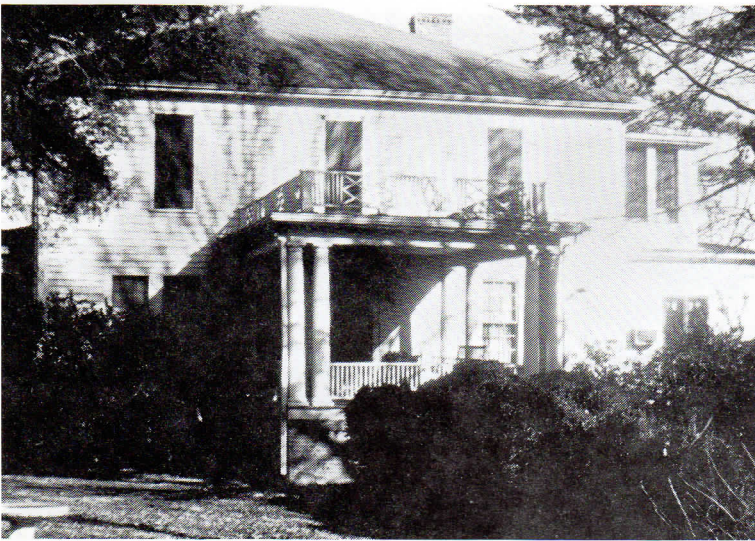
Jackson practiced law and his office was on the corner of his property. This house, now torn down, was on the southwest corner of Fayetteville and West Streets.



After Capt. W. L. London returned from the Civil War, he moved into the house on property that was bought in 1840 by his grandmother, who had moved here from Wilmington. Capt. London lived in this house with his family until 1873, when he moved out to completely rebuild the house and enlarge it.

He moved back into the new house in 1874 just before his son, A. H. London, was born. A.H. London died in 1969 at the age of 95 in the room he had been born in.

The house was located five blocks from Hillsboro Street, on the north side of West Salisbury Street. It was torn down in 1970.



The Governor Charles Manley law office dates from around 1840. It originally stood on lot 30 where the Central Carolina Bank is located. It has been moved twice and now is located facing Masonic Street behind the Masonic Lodge.





Green Womack was an early merchant in Pittsboro. It is said that the Presbyterian church had its beginning in his home.

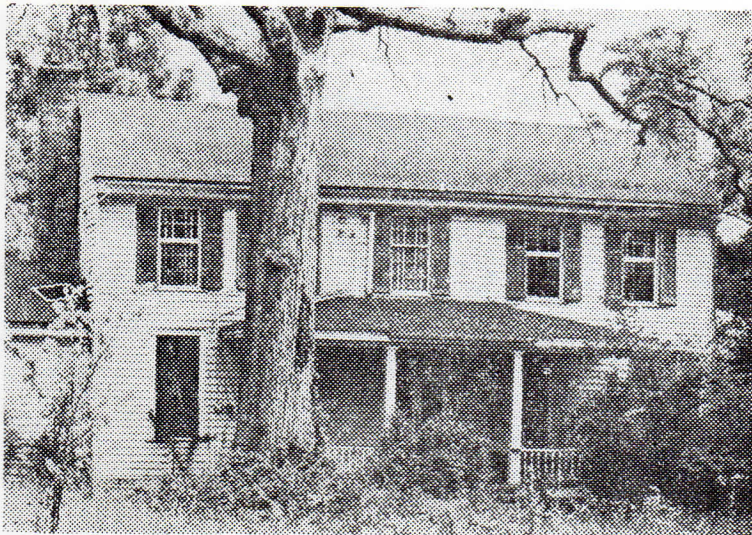
The house was built in the early 1800s and is probably the best example of colonial architecture in Pittsboro. The interior was much more elaborate than you would have expected, with beautiful mantels, cornices, and paneling.

The house was located on East Street, across from the Presbyterian church. The tall portion was originally a separate house joined onto the story-and-a-half part. Mrs. Elizabeth Burgess moved this part intact one block south, on Chatham Street, where it still stands. The original part was torn down.



This is an interesting story-and-a-half house, built probably in the first quarter of the 19th century. It is in reasonably good condition.

The house is located on South Street, is owned by Mrs. C. R. Brower, and is used as rental property.



Capt. James I. Waddell and later Mr. and Mrs. N. M. Hill lived in this home. Waddell was in charge of a Confederate raider during the Civil War. When the war ended in April 1865, he was in the Pacific raiding Yankee whaling ships and did not know that the war had ended until several months after the surrender. He sailed to England and surrendered his vessel there.

N. M. Hill's father lived at Chatham Hall, which was the former home of Mial Scurlock. His wife was the daughter of Dr. Ross R. Ihrle, whose wife was the daughter of John H. Haughton. Mrs. Hill was a much-beloved woman. She organized the Red Cross at the beginning of World War I and was its longtime president.

The McClenahan house formerly stood on the southwest corner of East and Small Streets. It was probably built in the first half of the 19th century and was torn down in the early 1920s.

This reproduction of an original oil painting by Mrs. Annie L. Bynum is about half the original size. She painted it in her 94th year.



The Harlow Taylor house is located on the corner of South and Chatham Streets, opposite the McClenahan house. It is said to have been a school at one time. It was probably built in the second half of the 19th century.

The house is now owned by Mr. and Mrs. Joe Trageser. Mrs. Trageser is a granddaughter of Harlow Taylor.

This house was built early in the 19th century and has been much renovated in recent years; however, the living room is largely unchanged and I think it one of the nicest rooms of any house in town. It is located on West Salisbury Street opposite the Episcopal church and is owned and occupied by Mrs. Clara Camp.





A. P. Terry was the last saloonkeeper when liquor was voted out in 1907. He was a trader and probably sold this house to Mr. Hayes soon after he built it. He then built the house below, which he sold after living there for 12 or 15 years. To my knowledge, he lived in six different houses in Pittsboro.

Terry was a very interesting character. He could not read or write but had lots of horse-trading sense. If someone offered him a profit on the house he lived in, he would sell it and buy another.

Terry was quite a weather prophet. If we wanted to take a trip by car, we would always consult Mr. Terry the night before. If he said it might rain, we would postpone the trip, as all roads were clay and it was almost impossible to make it in the mud.

All the time I knew him, Mr. Terry always wore a white shirt with a stiff collar, but no tie. He was known as "Crutch" Terry. I don't know the origin of the nickname, but it may well have been given him because the "likker" he sold was a crutch to area residents. Terry died in 1934 in the house next to mine on West Salisbury St.

These two houses are great examples of Victorian architecture. They were built about the turn of the century and both are in good shape. The Hayes house is on Hillsboro, third block, on the left. It is now owned by Mr. and Mrs. Steve Cockman. The house shown below is next to the primary school and is owned by Mr. and Mrs. Roscoe Farrell.



Built in the 1890s, the Dr. H. T. Chapin home stood on the south side of West Street where the Chevolet agency is now.





Alvis Bynum built this house around 1875. It was located where the Piggly Wiggly store now stands and was probably the most ornate home in the town. It is the only house ever built in Pittsboro with a mansard roof.

Mr. Bynum was in partnership with W. L. London in building the third courthouse.



This house was built in 1892 by Henry A. London, son of Capt. W. L. London. It is located on West Salisbury Street.

A good example of late Victorian architecture, it is in the process of being renovated by Mr. and Mrs. Duane Dreyer.



Henry Adolphus London built this house in 1860 after his first wife, Sally, had died and he married Kate Moore, granddaughter of Gen. James Moore of the American Revolution.

The house was always known as the Cottage. London died in 1882 and his widow lived here for a good many years after her husband's death.

The house is located just out of town on the old Graham road, adjoining the development of Pittsboro Village. It is owned by Mr. and Mrs. Earl Parker, Jr.



The old Exline Hotel stood on the north-west corner of Hillsboro and Hanks Streets, where First Citizens Bank is now.



This is an interesting old log house with a small detached kitchen just west of the house. The structures are located about seven or eight miles from Pittsboro on the Silk Hope road. The property is now owned by Mr. Roy Kidd of Gum Springs, who has done quite a bit of work on it. The structures are said to be 200 years old.



The Luther Clegg house is located about 2½ miles from Pittsboro on the Moncure road. It is occupied at present by a Clegg descendant, Mrs. Weaver.

An example of Greek Revival architecture, the house was built in the mid-19th century. An interesting feature of the house is a separate traveler's room.

An outbuilding adjacent to the Clegg house was probably used to house servants.



The first rectory of the Episcopal church was built in 1837 and was enlarged in the 1880s when William Walker was rector, as his brother-in-law joined him here to work with the Colored Mission. At that time the house was made big enough for two families.

The house was sold in 1920 when a new rectory was built. It is located across Little Creek at the corner of Womack and Rectory Streets. It is owned and occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Chester.





Both the Gideon Alston house and the DeGraffenreidt house date from the early 19th century. They were built by Joseph John Alston, better known as "Chatham Jack," as he owned a tremendous plantation between Pittsboro and what is now Siler City. He moved from Warren County to the lands in Chatham given to him by his father.

The house shown below was built for his daughter, who married a DeGraffenreidt.

The DeGraffenreidt house is about four miles west of Pittsboro on U.S. Highway 64. It is owned by Dr. Ken Lessler. The Alston house is one mile farther and is owned by Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Ellis.



Baldwin's Mill is probably the oldest mill in the area. The property was bought by the present owner's father, Grimsley T. Hobbs. Mr. Hobbs and his son, Grimsley, rebuilt the mill, installed a new overshot wheel, repaired the dam, and put the mill in running order. He occasionally grinds corn for himself and friends.

Baldwin's Mill is located on Terrell's Creek, about ten miles north of Pittsboro. It was originally built in 1790.



This house was built by a DeGraffenreidt, probably in the mid-19th century. The house is identical in architecture to the Hadley house on Hickory Mountain road. Both were built about the same time and, I expect, by the same builder.

This house is about 7 or 8 miles from Pittsboro, on the Silk Hope road. It was occupied by the first of three Chapins, who were doctors. It is now owned and occupied by Miss Margaret Elsee.



The Hadley house was built in the mid-19th century by the Hadley family, who were related to Wade H. Hadley, Jr., of Siler City, who is president of the Chatham County Historical Association.

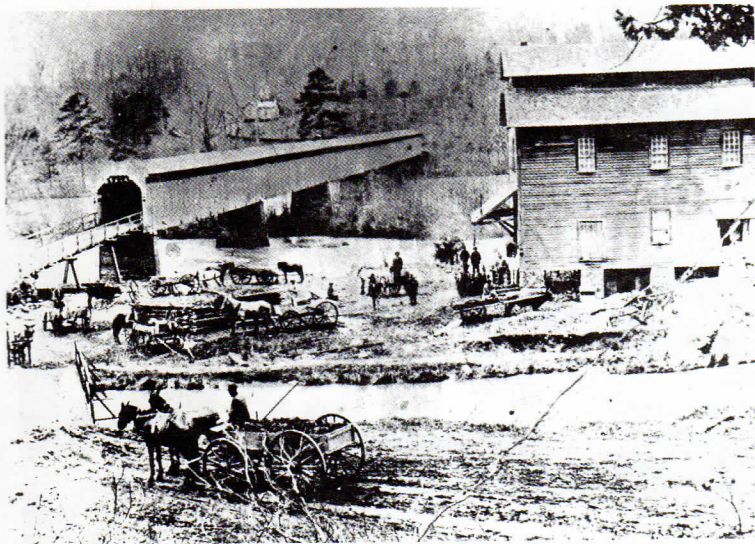
The property has changed hands several times. It was at one time owned by Brad Kellog, then sold to a Miss Ferguson, who started restoration and died before its completion. It was then bought by Mr. and Mrs. Larry Autry, who have done a great deal of work on it. It's now in mint condition.

Both house and mill are located on the Hickory Mountain Church road, about 11 miles west of Pittsboro.



The Bynum Manufacturing Company was organized in 1872. The main people involved in its operation were C. W. Bynum and his brother, Luther Bynum. The plant was bought in 1887 by the J. M. Odell Manufacturing Company. The plant was struck by lightning on July 4, 1916, and was totally destroyed. After the fire, a new brick plant was built, equipped, and started up again in just 15 months. The plant was sold to Tuscarora Yarns, Inc. and ceased operation in 1985.

The plant is located on the Haw River about five miles north of Pittsboro. It is probably the oldest manufacturing plant in Chatham County.
(Photograph from Chatham County, 1771-1971)



The roller mill, on the Haw River at the same location as the plant above, was operated by the Bynum brothers. This picture was probably taken in the early part of the 20th century and shows the farmers bringing wheat or corn to be ground.

The photograph also shows the old covered bridge over the Haw River.

(Photograph from Chatham County, 1771-1971)

In 1922 a concrete bridge was built across the Haw River, replacing the old covered bridge. The old bridge was a one-way bridge and the new bridge had two lanes, but cars were narrower in 1922 and today it is considered a one-way bridge.

The bridge still stands and is used locally, but U.S. Highway 15-501 has been relocated and a new, wider bridge built.

