

3.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Organized in 1875, just two years after the incorporation of Mooresville, the First Presbyterian Church was the first church organized in the newly incorporated town. Members of Prospect Presbyterian Church formed the core membership for the church as many of the early families of Mooresville were members of Prospect. The first home for the new church was located on the corner of McLelland Avenue and Church Street, the site of the First Baptist Church. In 1898 the church moved to the present site on the corner of McLelland Avenue and Academy Street. The first building built was the parlor and the first half of the sanctuary. In 1925 the church was expanded to its current size with the addition of the educational building and manse.



4.

TELEPHONE EXCHANGE SITE

In 1890 the first attempts at establishing a telephone company in the town were met with little success. In 1900 the first company was created and was housed upstairs in the Templeton building. The first operators were called the "Hello" girls for the way they answered the phone. In addition to being operators for the incoming calls they also served as the first "emergency" operators for fire and police as the "Hello" girls would call the police or firemen as needed in response to an incoming call. Currently a collection of antique shops occupy the building.



5.

TRAIN DEPOT

The depot has been the center of life and community for the town of Mooresville since the construction of the first depot, built in the 1850's by John F. Moore, for the Town. The depot stands at the exact center of Town within the original Town limits being a mile radius from the depot. Originally standing in the center that is now Broad Street, the first depot, seen in the picture, was torn down as a newer and larger one was constructed for reconnection of the railroad after the Civil War. The second depot stood until 1925 when an unattended stove sparked a fire causing the wooden building to burn. Shortly after the then Southern Railroad Company replaced the depot with the current brick building that was built to be fire proof. Today the depot is still the center of Town and home to the Artist Guild.



6.

D. E. TURNER

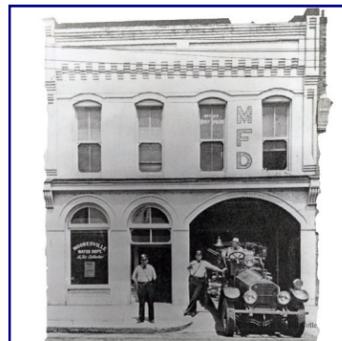
Buying out the Tomlinson Hardware in 1899, Mr. D. E. Turner and his father W. W. Turner, formed the new D. E. Turner Co. and began life in Mooresville at 170 North Main Street before moving to their current site in 1909. In addition to a hardware store one could also purchase buggies made at the store at a cost of \$23.75 to \$123.00 and other goods as well. With the advent of automobiles the store also became the first gas station in town selling gas from a tank located in front of the store. Turner's has continued to serve Mooresville for over 100 years and today is one of the oldest operating businesses in the Town.



2.

ORIGINAL TOWN HALL

Built in the early 1920's, the building that once stood here beside Miss Estelles and at the center of Town (the Depot marks the exact center) was built as the first Town Hall for the Town of Mooresville. In the early days, the Town Board met at various businesses around town until Town offices grew and a permanent home was needed. Built to house police, fire, water, and other departments as well as the library, the Town Hall served as the center for Town government until a newer and larger facility was opened in 1954 at the current site across from the flour mill.



7.

CHARLES MACK BUILDING

The building was originally built in the 1890s as the drying house for Barger Brothers Construction. The building had stoves in the upper floor for drying wood that was unloaded from the trucks by a large boom crane in the back of the building. In 1937 Charles Mack bought the building to move his wholesale business from Main Street into a larger building where it remained until the 1990s. The building was then purchased by John Mack son of Charles Mack. John Mack gave the building back to the Town in 2006 for the intent of it to be used as a museum. The Mooresville Museum currently occupies the building.



1.

WILLOW VALLEY CEMETERY

As first official cemetery for the Town of Mooresville, Willow Valley was created in 1885 when the Town purchased land from Mrs. Moore the widow of John Franklin Moore. The cemetery land was purchased in honor of Mr. Moore and as the first Town cemetery from land once owned by the Moore's. The Town chose Mr. Moore's land as the site of the new cemetery as Mr. Moore and his family had allowed a cemetery to be started at the back of their land for the residents of the area. Many of the graves of the earlier residents of the Town can still be seen today just across from Mr. Moore's grave. The land was also chosen for the new cemetery because it was on a hill overlooking the newly formed Town. Willow Valley is today one of three Town owned cemeteries.



JOHN MOORE'S GRAVE

Mr. Moore died four years after the Town was incorporated and was laid to rest at the back of his property that adjoined his son-in-law's C.P. McNeely in what is now Willow Valley Cemetery. The driveway to the left of Mr. Moore's grave was the original end of his land and the end of the cemetery. Many of the graves on the left of the drive way are people who were buried in the original Town cemetery and many of the graves date back to before Mooresville was a town.



8.

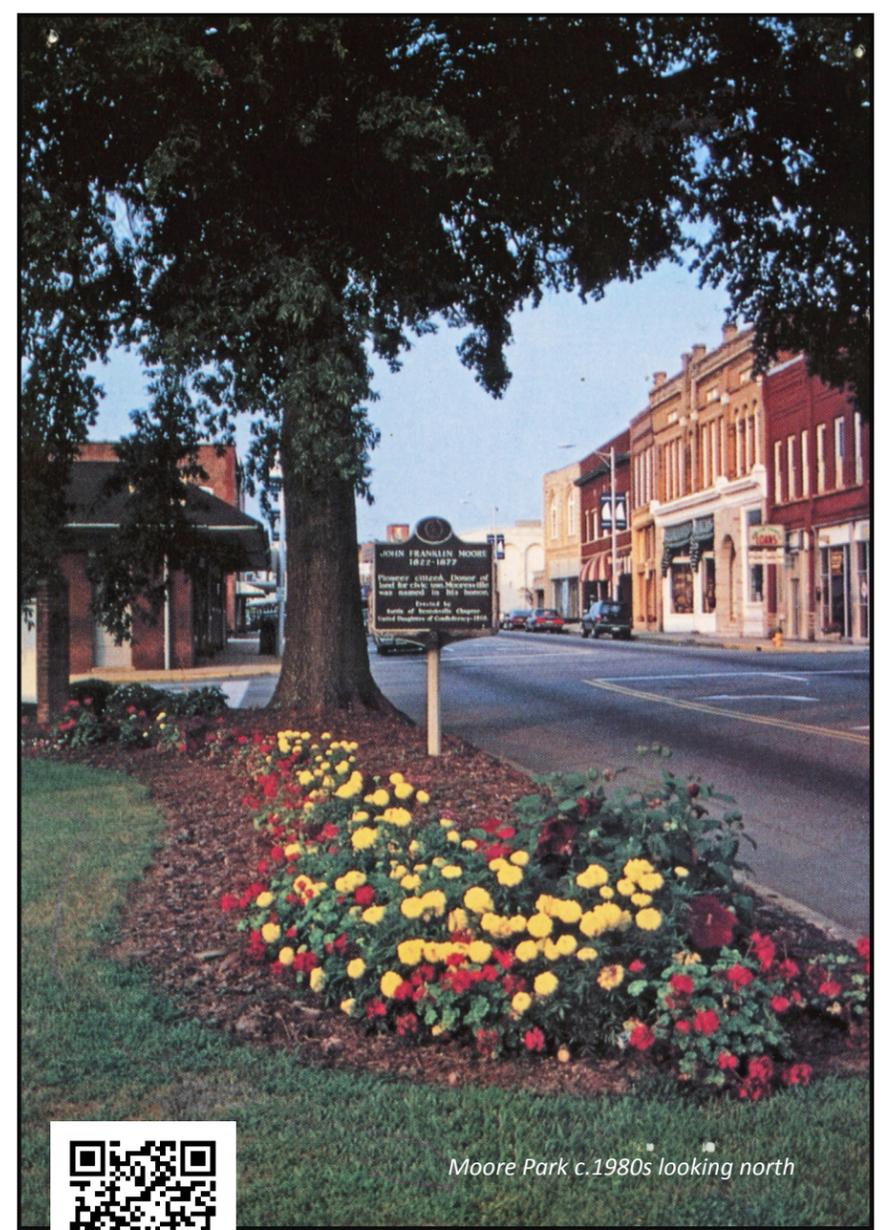
CENTRAL HOTEL

Starting in the late 1880s in the home of Mr. Cyrus Alexander Johnston the Central Hotel was Mooresville's finest hotel and gathering spot for many years. Mr. Johnston's house stood at 125-129 Main Street on the site where Pie in the Sky, the license plate office, and the cycle shop now stand. Because Mr. Johnston's house was right across from the Depot people would come to the house looking for a meal or a place to stay as they thought it was a bed and breakfast. Mr. Johnston decided not to turn away people so he started renting rooms and serving meals. By the turn of the century business had grown and Mr. Johnston added an eight room brick addition to his house and renamed it the Central Hotel. The Hotel operated until the late 1920's when it was torn down to make room for the buildings that now stand on the site. The Central Theater was named in honor of the old hotel.





MOORESVILLE HISTORIC WALKING TOUR



Moore Park c.1980s looking north



12. MOORESVILLE FLOUR MILL

Started in the late 1890s as a roller mill by the Melchor family the mill operated in a wooden frame building with a large oak tree in the front yard. The Melchor family say that the mill was located on the main stage road that ran through Mooresville - the road was originally an old Indian Trail—and was a stopping point for the stage coaches. The mill had a well and water tank that was powered by a windmill, of which Mr. Melchor used to pump water to the mill and to his house located directly across the street. In 1914 the mill was purchased a group of local businessmen who turned it into flour and feed mill. The building burned in 1924 and in 1926 the present brick building was constructed and still operates today.



13. SOUTH SCHOOL

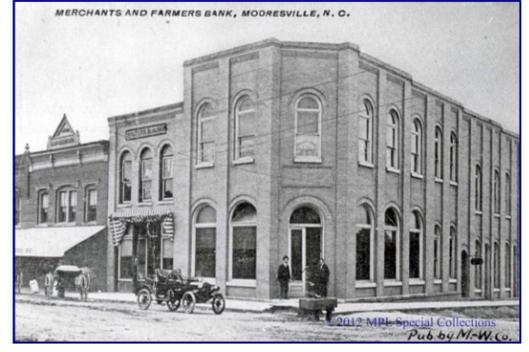
Built as the first elementary school for the Mooresville Graded School system, South School originally housed 1st through 4th grade. The original building was built in the 1920's and was shortly followed by Park View School as the need for more schools increased. The first school building, located beside the First Baptist Church, stood until the 1970s when the new building at the end of Magnolia Street was built. Today, all that remains of the original building is the Fellowship Building for the First Baptist Church of which is the original auditorium for the school.



Special thanks to Andy Poore, Curator, Special Collections, Mooresville Library. For more pictures, information, movies and letters go to Digital Mooresville on the internet at the following address: www.digitalmooreville.org

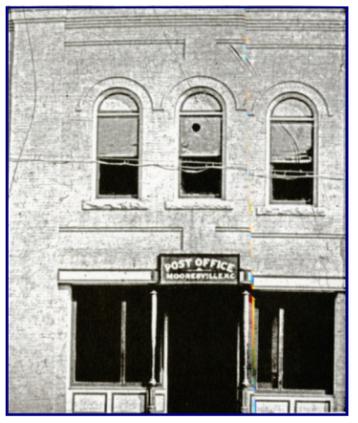
9. MERCHANTS AND FARMERS BANK

Built on the corner of Moore and Main Street the Merchants and Farmers Bank opened in December of 1907 as the newest bank in what was becoming a long line of financial institutions for the Town. The starting capital of \$20,000 was quickly increased to \$30,000 by 1910. In 1929 the bank suffered great losses with the stock market crash and by 1933 closed its doors for good. In 1946 the bank saw new life when Piedmont Bank and Trust opened in the old building. After Piedmont Bank moved out of the building went through several businesses and today is the Quilter's Loft newest home. The building is still one of the Town's most architecturally impressive buildings and its most interesting feature, the elaborate vault, can still be seen inside today.



10. FIRST POST OFFICE

On August 7, 1871 the first post office for Mooresville was established on what was known as Star Route #5213. In the yearly years the post office was run out of the postmaster's home or store if he had one. In the 1880s the post office moved to its first permanent home at 202 North Main Street at the corner of Moore Street and Main in the Gus Morris Kippka building (former People's Furniture Building and current site of the Charles Mack Citizen Center). In 1938 the Post office moved down the street to the corner of Iredell Avenue and Main Street and into a new building. The Post office stayed there until the 1960s when it moved into its final home on Institute Street.



11. JOHN FRANKLIN MOORE HOMESITE

The home of John F. Moore once stood on this site now occupied by the Cotton Exchange and other stores. Built in the bend of the old stage road Mr. Moore's home was in a prime location as he could see people as they came into or left town. After his death Mrs. Moore sold some of the land behind the house to Southern Railroad for a siding to allow train cars to be pulled off the main track to load or unload their cargo of cotton. Today the siding is used by the flour mill for the same reason. The house burned in the 1930s due to lightning striking the poplar tree in the front yard.

