

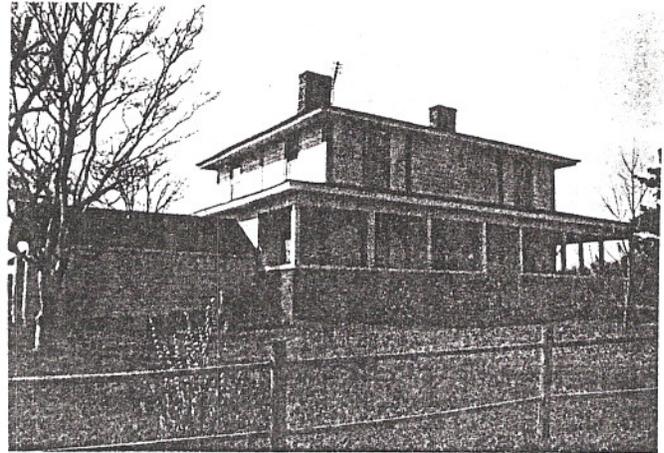
**Whitlock House**

1542 Airview Dr.

Toast vicinity

WCA 166  
N 264

The family of Charles Whitlock (1806-1885) was associated with the early years of this pre-Civil War house, which appears to date from the late 1840s or 1850s. In 1919 the property was purchased by Elder Jesse Dunbar, a Primitive Baptist preacher, and his wife, Josie. It remains in the ownership of their descendants. Although the house has been remodeled, Greek Revival-inspired characteristics remain. A large two-story dwelling, it is a rare example in Surry County of a double-pile plan — a center hall flanked by two rooms on each side. Its low hipped roof and interior chimneys are typical of the period. Although the house now has a one-story wraparound porch, it originally had only an entrance porch. Other Greek Revival features include the double-leaf entrance with sidelights and transom, two-panel interior doors with molded surrounds and corner blocks, simple yet bold post-and-lintel mantels, and the graceful stair with rounded newel-posts and ramped handrail. The stair is nearly identical to the one in the nearby Chang Bunker House (SR 458) of the same period, and the two may



have been built by the same craftsman. Local tradition relates that the Whitlock House served as a distribution point for food collected for needy families during the Civil War. Slave quarters remained in the yard until well into the twentieth century, but no longer stand. Members of the Whitlock, Franklin, and Roberts families are buried on the property. (SR 454)

**Keystone Bridge**

Hamburg St.

Mount Airy vicinity

One of the most unusual structures in Surry County is this segmental-arched granite bridge. Constructed with a central keystone and flanking voussoirs, it is held together by the positioning of the stones and uses no mortar. The bridge was built to cross the water race to the Brower Cotton Mill in the late nineteenth century. According to tradition, the bridge was built by a Scotsman associated with the newly opened granite quarry. It was later used as a farm bridge and is now owned by the Surry County Historical Society. (SR 424)



Photo by Robert Merritt

**Flat Rock Presbyterian Church**

NC Granite Quarry Rd.

Flat Rock vicinity

Located adjacent to the North Carolina Granite Quarry, the Flat Rock Presbyterian Church is appropriately constructed of granite. The land for the church was donated by "Miss Cora" Gilmer and materials were donated by the Quarry. Built in 1903 by voluntary labor, it is a small, handsome structure, three bays deep with a projecting vestibule and a two-stage belfry with steeple. Harmonious granite additions were built in 1951 and 1954. (SR 429)



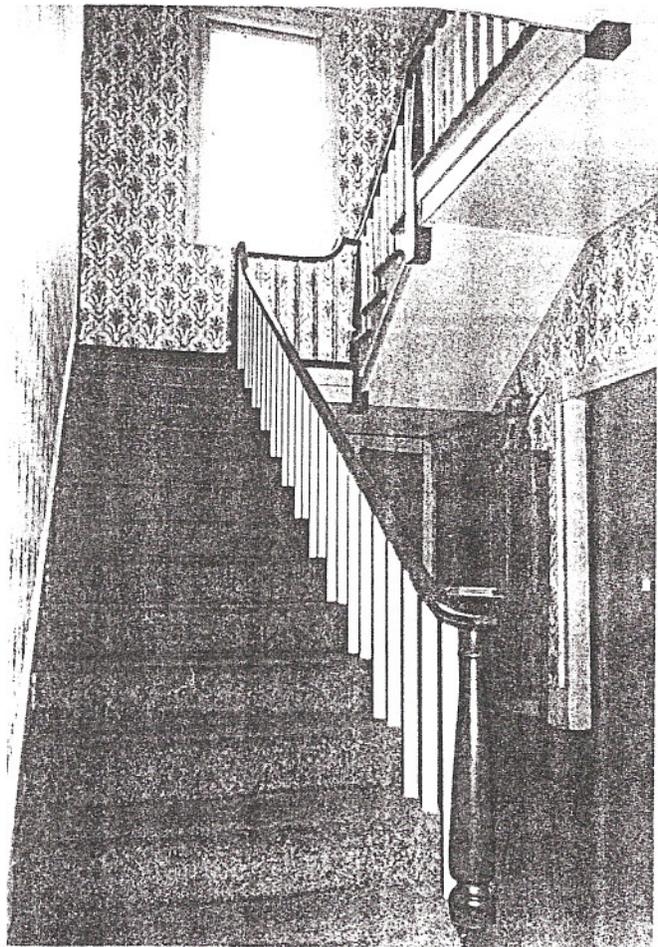
### Mid-Nineteenth-Century Traditional Architecture and the Influence of the Greek Revival

With conservatism typical of Surry County, the mid-nineteenth century brought little in the way of strongly stated stylistic influence. As with the architecture of the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, there remain in the county examples of buildings that clearly suggest, at least on the interior, stylistic tendencies popular during the period. More buildings, however, relate to the mid-nineteenth century in terms of form and proportion rather than in detail.

During the mid-nineteenth century, changes in patterns of building emerged in Surry County which help to differentiate buildings of that period from those erected during the late eighteenth- and early nineteenth-centuries. These changes included: (1) a more elongated house form, i.e. one that was more horizontal than vertical in proportion; (2) more symmetry of design, accompanied by (3) the emergence of the center hall plan, which rapidly began to replace the hall-and-parlor plan in popularity; (4) a lower-pitched roof with widely overhanging eaves rather than the tightly restricted eaves characteristic of the Georgian/Federal period; and (5) bolder, heavier details influenced by the Greek Revival, along with the hint of Victorian eclecticism.

No high style Greek Revival buildings remain in rural Surry County. Probably the most notable of non-surviving Greek Revival buildings was the courthouse in Dobson which served Surry County from 1853 to 1916. It was a two-story brick structure with a temple-like pedimented façade with two-story pilasters or columns. Prior to this courthouse, the one which was built in Rockford ca. 1830 was also strongly Greek Revival in character. It, too, was a two-story brick structure and boasted two-story masonry columns across the front.

The best examples in rural Surry County of houses showing definite, although limited, Greek Revival influence are the Whitlock House and the Chang Bunker House, both on Stewarts Creek southwest of Mount Airy. The Charles Whitlock House, probably built in the 1840s or 1850s, is a rare example in the county of a double-pile house — a house with two rooms on either side of a broad center hall. Although heavily remodeled, the house retains its graceful stairway with ramped hand-rail, post-and-lintel mantels, two-panel doors, and double-leaf front door with sidelights and transom — all typical elements of the Greek Revival style. (Post-and-lintel mantels and two-panel doors were popularly used throughout much of the remainder of the nineteenth century in Surry County.) The form of the Whitlock House, with its nearly square configuration and low hipped roof, is unusual in Surry County architecture, although relatively common elsewhere.



Charles Whitlock House - Stair

Prominently located on a hill overlooking broad farmlands, the Chang Bunker House, home of one of the famous "Siamese Twins," was likely built around the same time as the Whitlock House. Its exterior is rather traditional and not particularly expressive of the Greek Revival, although its five-bay-wide façade provides a larger than usual scale to the house. Inside, the details clearly suggest the stylistic influence



N.C. Collection, UNC Library - Chapel Hill

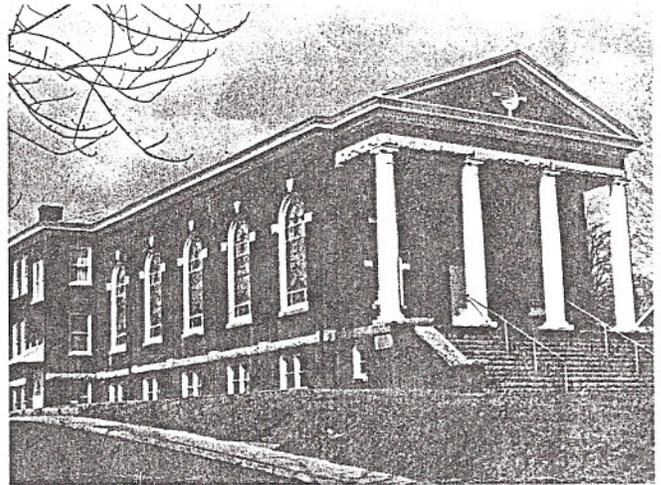
(Former) Surry County Courthouse - Rockford - Documentary

### Rockford Street Methodist Episcopal Church South

526 Rockford St.

Mount Airy

The cornerstone of the Rockford Street Methodist Episcopal Church South was laid in 1925, although the building was not dedicated until 1929. The sophisticated Classical church has a flight of granite steps leading to a pedimented portico where four Doric columns enframe the central entrance and flanking round-arched windows. The sides of the brick veneer building are ordered with a raised basement with granite water table, round-arched windows separated by plain brick pilasters, and a dentiled cornice. (SR 377)

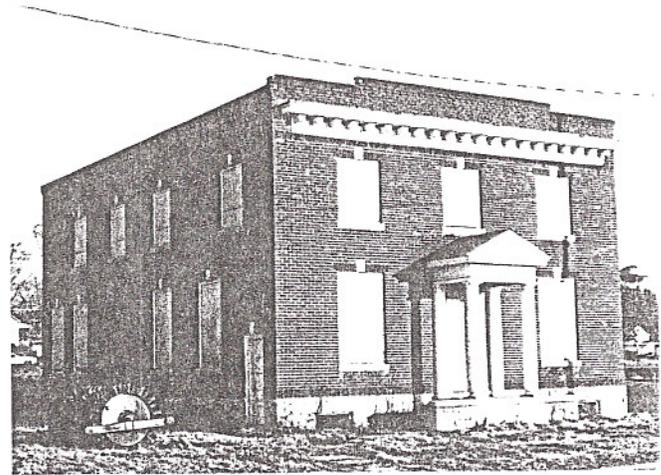


### National Furniture Company Office

W. side South St. between Granite St. and Roberts Rd.

Mount Airy

National Furniture Company, Mount Airy's second major manufacturer of furniture, was incorporated in 1901 by E. C. Foy, Charles Whitlock, and J. F. Prather. Around 1905 Alfred E. Smith and John Sobotta, superintendent of the plant, bought controlling interests and operated the firm until Smith's death in 1929. He was succeeded by his son, J. Raymond Smith, and the factory continued to function until recent years. The main factory building was a long two-story frame structure with a gable roof and rows of sash windows. The factory is no longer in operation and the only building that remains is the former office, a two-story brick veneer structure probably built ca. 1920. This simple Classical structure is enlivened by a pedimented Doric entrance porch and a heavy modillioned cornice across the façade. (SR 382)

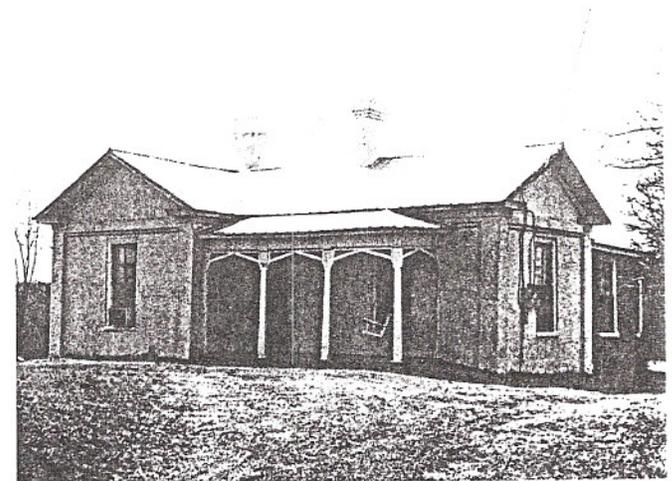


### House

1002 South St.

Mount Airy

This one-story T-shaped cottage was probably built around 1900. Its distinguishing feature is its brick construction, unusual for houses of this type and period in Surry County. Plain brick pilasters define each corner of the house as well as the three bays of the south side. Other refinements include the boxed cornice of the gable roof and the Gothic Revival-inspired front porch. (SR 380)



**Dr. R. W. Reece House**

707 N. Main St.  
Mount Airy

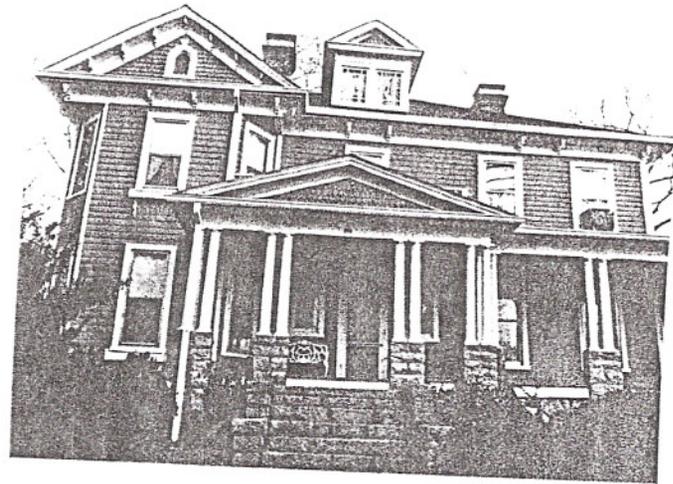
Mount Airy dentist Dr. Robert Wilson Reece built this early twentieth-century house. An excellent example of the Colonial Revival style, it is very similar to the nearby R. R. Galloway House (SR 288), although the Galloway House is weather-boarded rather than brick veneered. Typical Colonial Revival features include the steep hipped roof, the intersecting gables with *objets trouvés* facing, the combination of gabled and hipped dormers — the central one with a Palladian window — and the wraparound porch with Doric columns, turned balustrade, and pedimented entrance bay. Granite porch plinths and window and door trim are reminders of the Mount Airy location of the house. (SR 291)



**Jefferson Davis Smith House**

708 N. Main St.  
Mount Airy

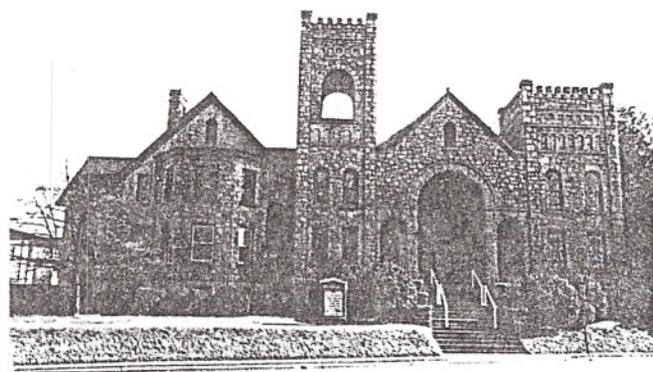
Shortly after the turn of the century, Jefferson Davis Smith built a late Victorian-Colonial Revival two-story frame house overlooking N. Main St. This stately house features projecting front and side bays, decorative gables intersecting a hipped roof, and a wraparound porch with a broad pedimented entrance bay and paired Doric columns set on granite plinths. Smith was a local merchant and landowner who operated a clothing store, a shoe store, a wholesale house, a fertilizer plant, and seven farms. Smith's daughter, Gertrude, who was an interior decorator, enlarged the house and filled it with antiques. Her will specified the establishment of a foundation to manage the house with its furnishings as a museum. (SR 293)



**First Baptist Church**

714 N. Main St.  
Mount Airy

The Mount Airy Baptist Church of Christ (original name of the First Baptist) was organized in 1879. In the same year, R. R. Galloway donated land on N. Main St.; Sam Greenwood donated timber for lumber; Galloway, James Greenwood, and Charles Whitlock donated labor and materials; and a frame church building was erected. As the Baptist congregation grew, however, so did the need for a larger building. Accordingly, between 1906 and 1912 a monumental Romanesque Revival style granite church was built for \$25,000 under the direction of contractor W. C. Stepp. One of the most impressive examples of Mount Airy's granite architecture, the Baptist church boasts a multitude of round-arched doors, windows and blind arcades and crenelated towers of unequal size. The original granite church included a large granite wing on the north side with a multi-gabled roof and projecting front



bay. In 1921 a Sunday School annex was added to the church, in 1952-1953 an educational building was erected, and in 1968 a modern sanctuary was built. Although these structures were erected over a sixty-year period, they are visually tied together by a common use of granite. (SR 292)