

They were landed in Charleston and hauled to Winnsboro in wagons. The works are of superior quality, for this clock has run continuously for more than one hundred years and proudly holds the record of having been in constant use longer than any other town clock in the United States.

The bell for the clock was also made in France, with silver in its composition. It was used until 1895 when during a fire it was rung so vigorously that it was cracked and had to be sent to Philadelphia for repairs. When it was finally returned, the tone was so changed that it is doubtful whether or not this is the original bell.

The Lord account of the Yankee occupation of Winnsboro tells that after the Union troops began to move out of the town, some of the native boys spotted several "bummers," with oil-soaked torches prepared, hiding in the "courthouse tower." Since the Courthouse has no tower, the narrator must have confused it with the Market Tower which is located diagonally in front of the Courthouse.

The boys reported their findings to Doctor Lord, the Episcopal minister and one of the few men left in the town during its occupation by the invaders. Doctor Lord immediately took the matter to a Federal officer who was making preparations to leave. The man explained that he was already late in taking his men out after trying to round up stragglers and that they were already in danger of being captured by the Confederates who were in the woods to the east of the village. If he returned for the bummers, his risk would be too great. Doctor Lord argued with him and promised him immunity from capture if he would do his duty and get these renegades before they brought more terror to the already prostrate town.

The officer finally heeded his pleas and took a detail of soldiers to dislodge the drunken buzzards from their roost. He was later stopped by a party of Confederates but when he showed them the rector's letter, they gave him, his men, and prisoners an escort to the Union lines.

The public market occupied the ground floor of the building except for two very small rooms that served as the "guard house" for drunks and petty criminals. The second floor served as a Town Hall.

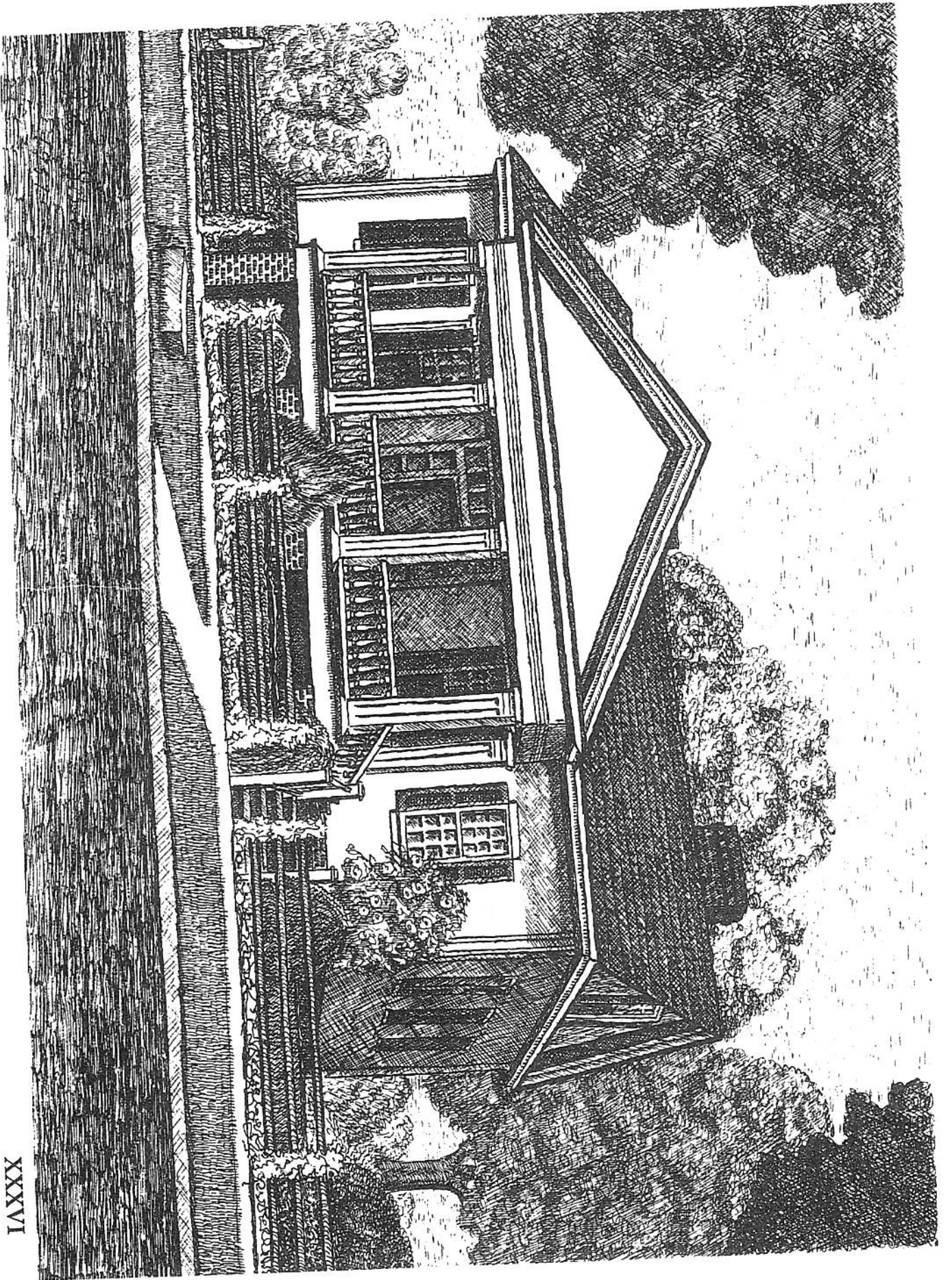
This grand old building is now the home of the Fairfield County Chamber of Commerce, and some of the other offices are used by various public agencies. It is still very much the heart of the community.

ELLIOTT HOUSE

CAMPBELL — ELLIOTT — SITGREAVES — ELLIOTT

Diagonally across Congress Street from Winnsboro's post office is one of the town's traditional landmarks, the old ELLIOTT HOUSE.

The building is another typical "mosquito cottage," a design that became popular in Fairfield County during the 1820's and was still used during the Confederate War era. The footings are massive granite blocks under the thick brick walls of the basement or first floor, which is below the ground level on the front but well above on the rear. Oversized chimneys afford fireplaces for all the rooms, from the first to the third floor.



ELLIOTT HOUSE

The interior is adorned with fine mantels and woodwork, adding much to the dignity of the high-ceilinged rooms and halls.

The front of the building is almost classic, with a gabled portico across the central portion, supported by stout, fluted, square columns. The gable of the portico is plain. It does not have the usual ornamental window or fan-light in the center. In the old days there was in front of this house a public well which supplied water for several of the buildings in the vicinity and was a popular watering place for horses and livestock.

In 1810 Reuben Harrison sold the lot on which this house now stands to William McCreight. At that time a house on the lot was referred to as "Lot No. 187 on east corner of Congress and College Streets where David Campbell formerly lived." The house referred to was later moved to the rear of the lot and enlarged. It is the house now owned and occupied by Mrs. Maymie W. Stevenson.

William McCreight sold the property to Cornelius Beard, "who was living there," in 1814. In 1824 Cornelius Beard transferred the same property to Robert Cathcart, and in December of the same year Robert Cathcart sold it to James Lemmon. This lot originally extended the whole way through the block, back to Vanderhorst Street, and included the property on which the GLADDEN and TIMMS HOUSES are located.

In 1833 James Lemmon sold the portion on which the ELLIOTT HOUSE now stands to John Campbell, who also "owned and occupied" the lot adjoining, which is now the location of the WILLIFORD HOUSE.

John or William Campbell built the ELLIOTT HOUSE some time after 1833, for in 1855 William sold the house and lot to James Elliott (the father) and James McKinney Elliott (son).

James Elliott was one of Winnsboro's pioneer citizens. He was a busy and active man in spite of being paralyzed from his waist down. He was a talented silversmith and for a period of eighteen years served as Clerk of Court for Fairfield County, from 1828 until 1846. Some of his silver work may still be found in Fairfield County and is treasured by those fortunate enough to possess it. Mrs. Carlisle McDonald Chappell has a spoon that was made by him, it was given to her as a wedding gift. James Elliott lived to be a very old man. He died in 1865 at the age of ninety-three.

James McKinney Elliott operated near his house a shop where cotton gins were built. Later this was converted into a coffin factory. His wife continued to operate the latter, after his death in 1896, until she died in 1907. After her passing, the house was sold to the Sitgreaves family, who lived there until the 1950's.

After the Sitgreaves moved, the house was renovated and divided into apartments. It now houses a suite of doctors' offices and an apartment.

Ever since its erection the old house has been well cared for. It is just as attractive today as when it was new, and it stands as one of the many witnesses to the good taste shown by the early builders of Winnsboro. The present owners are James M. Elliott of Virginia, and Joe B. Elliott of Villanova, Pennsylvania, grandsons of James McKinney Elliott.

WILLIFORD HOUSE

CAMPBELL — OBEAR — BACOT — ELLIOTT — LUMPKIN
WILLIFORD — McMASTER

The WILLIFORD HOUSE is one of the more familiar of Winnsboro's ante-bellum mansions. It is located on Congress Street, just one block removed from the business district, fronting on the main north-south highway. Its patrician appearance and character give the passing traveler a very good impression of the town.

The main body of the house is a large, three-story, rectangular building, covered with a gable roof containing three enormous dormer windows for the third-story rooms. The roof extends over a wide, two-story porch, supported by six colossal square columns which rise from the ground and extend upward to the eaves of the roof.

Large granite blocks are used in the construction of the walls of the first floor. The floor of the lower porch is laid with the same material. Wide clapboards are used on the second story as an outside cover while the gable and dormers of the third are covered with small, hand-hewn shingles. This contrast in the use of materials gives a pleasing effect.

The windows are large and well arranged, and wide entrances are encased in sidelights and transoms. On the first floor the porch is open, but on the second it is enclosed with heavy, beautifully turned bannisters.

A stone wall extends across the front of the lot.

When the house was originally built, there were two flights of outside steps leading up to a landing between the two center columns of the upstairs veranda. In recent times these have been moved, and the inside stair is now used exclusively.

The house was built by a Mr. and Mrs. Campbell. In 1856 it was purchased by the Reverend Josiah Obear. The Reverend Mr. Obear first came to Winnsboro in 1841 as rector of St. John's Episcopal Church. He was a native of Newberry, Vermont, and was of French descent. The name was originally spelled Aubert. He was a highly educated man and worked with several churches before coming to South Carolina for his health. He served at James Island and at Wilton before locating in Winnsboro. While he was here, the old church was built on the lot where the present Episcopal Cemetery is located.

He was married in old Saint Phillip's Church in Charleston. Soon after the completion of the church in Winnsboro, his health was much improved, and he and his family moved back to Vermont.

His old illness returned and he was advised to move south again. This time he came to Virginia for a short stay, then to Edenton, North Carolina, and finally back to Winnsboro where he and his talented wife planned to open a school.

He leased a house for three months from his old friend, Hugh McMaster, and later bought the Campbell property on Congress Street for the school. Before the building was ready for occupancy, the family resided with the DuBose family on their plantation, "Roseland," which was on the outskirts of the town.

The school proved quite successful and was filled with teen-age girls from out of town as boarding students and with girls and boys of Winnsboro as day students. Some of the Mount Zion students also took special courses such as music and French. Miss Susan Ann Finney, also from Vermont, was added to the faculty. She was a gentle woman and an excellent teacher. The reverend Mr. Obear's daughter Emily also assisted with the school.

During the first years of the Confederate War the institution continued to flourish but towards the end pupils, money, and educational interest began to wane. Miss Finney went to another school.

By this time Winnsboro was becoming a haven for war refugees. The family of W. Perroneau Finley came to Winnsboro from Aiken about the time that Miss Finney left. They numbered five in family and brought five servants with them — a driver, a butler, a cook, a maid, and a girl of twelve to help with the children.

Mr. Finley, a signer of the Ordinance of Secession, asked the Reverend Mr. Obear for lodging. His family was given Miss Finney's classroom, the family living room, kitchen privileges, accommodations in the third-floor dormitory, and servants' quarters.

Later, as Sherman's army drew nearer, the trains out of Columbia were loaded with refugees. On February 15th, 1865, Miss Hattie Gibbes, a daughter of the highly respected Dr. Robert Wilson Gibbes, arrived, having been loaded on the train by her father. She found refuge in Winnsboro with the Obears. (Dr. Gibbes was at that time Mayor of Columbia.)

The next day Chancellor Carroll, his wife, and three daughters arrived by carriage from the South Carolina capital en route to Abbeville but, on reaching Winnsboro, they learned that they had been cut off by the enemy. The Reverend Mr. Obear heard of their plight. By now everything in the little town was overflowing with refugees, and so the good rector made room for them. Chancellor Carroll was also a signer of the Ordinance of Secession from his section of the state.

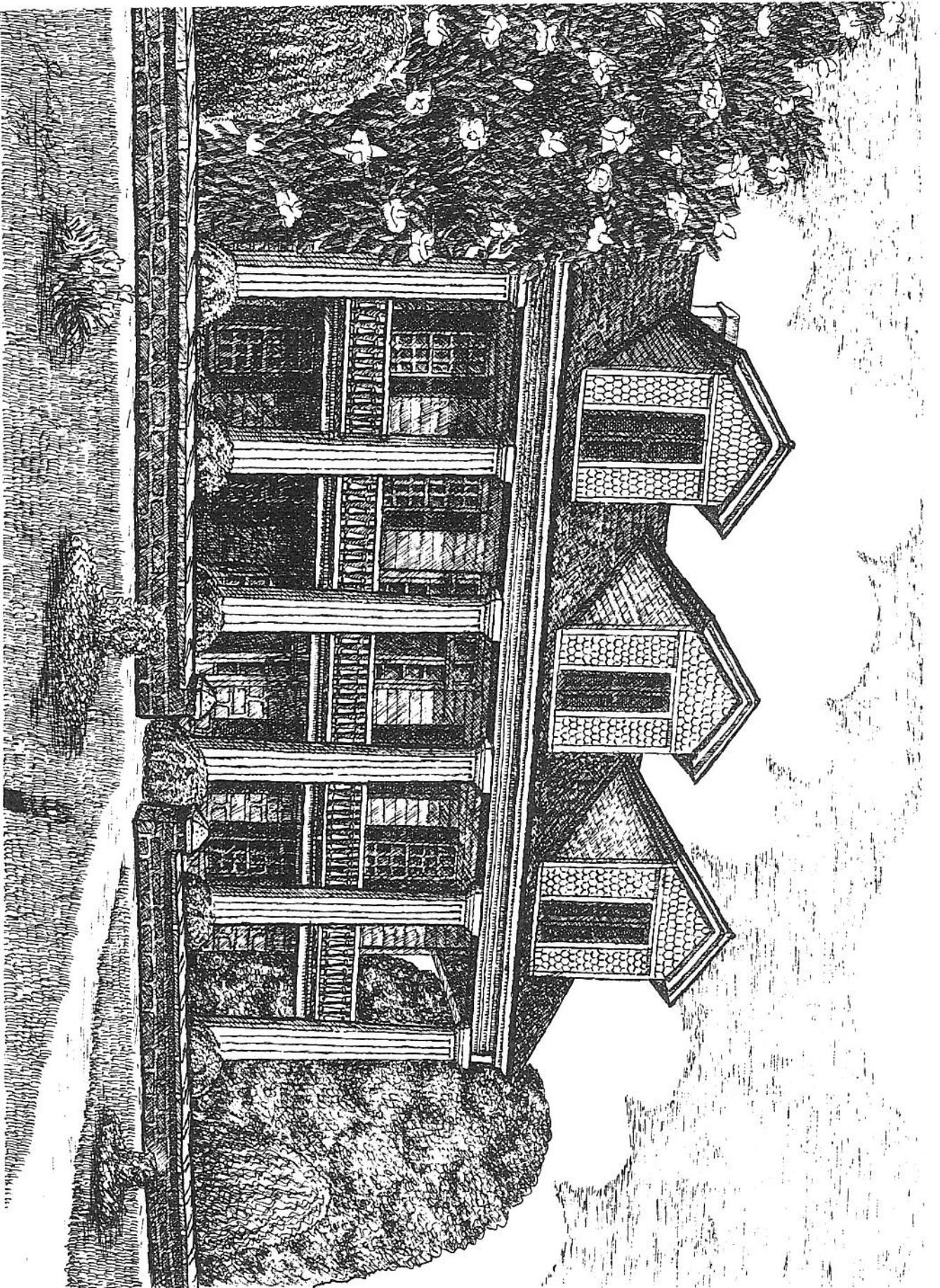
On the evening of February 17th some of the many occupants of the grand old mansion noticed a reflection in the sky. With saddened hearts and low spirits they realized that their beloved Columbia was burning.

On Sunday Wheeler's men entered the town and told the people that the dreaded enemy was close behind. Mr. Finley and Chancellor Carroll took to the woods for safety before the Yankees arrived. All the Sunday dinners in Winnsboro, including the Obears', were consumed by the troops, and the inhabitants of the town did without their food.

The fires started as Wheeler's men left. Woodward's Gin House, the freight depot, and all the cotton in town were burned.

Monday, when the Yankees came, the stores were looted and fired. When the Obear household saw nearby McMaster's store in flames, they bolted their doors and took refuge in Mrs. Finley's room (the former living room) where her son was ill. There was no doctor. The child was covered with a crimson rash; it was not known whether the malady was scarlet fever, smallpox, or the measles.

In due time the Yankees arrived and broke into the house. On reaching the sick room in which the women and children were barricaded, they swarmed in with shouts and threats but on seeing the sick boy, limp with fever and



WILLFORD HOUSE

covered with the scarlet rash, their leader halted them and ordered them out, shouting that the house was contaminated. This, perhaps, saved the grand old building from the torch, for a guard was posted around it to see that no one entered or left the place.

When things quieted down, the beautiful Lilla Carroll, dressed in her best, strolled out onto the piazza. She sang several popular Confederate songs but when she began singing OH, YES I AM A SOUTHERN GIRL, she was stoned by the Federal troops. Fortunately, she made a quick exit before any harm befell her. One rock was hurled so forcibly that it shattered a window and sent glass flying across the sick boy's bed and all through the room. Luckily, no one was hurt.

The household had no food that day. The Yankees took it all. Mrs. Finley was astonished almost to the point of fainting when she learned that her servants, including her treasured cook Rose, had left with the enemy. The next day the butler and the carriage driver returned of their own accord but the females had "jined up with the yankees."

In 1870 the Reverend Josiah Obear sold this house to Eunice A. Bacot, the wife of Pierre Bacot. She continued to own it until it was sold to Thomas K. Elliott at a Clerk's sale in 1887. The following year, 1888, Thomas K. Elliott conveyed it to Susannah A. Lumpkin.

Ten years later, in 1898, Mrs. Lumpkin sold the property to Quay D. Williford. Since that time the place has become known as the WILLIFORD HOUSE and has been retained by the Willifords and their descendants. The widow of Quay D. Williford (Mrs. Addie R.) lived here until her death.

The handsome old mansion is now owned by Mrs. Williford's grandson, Quay McMaster, but he does not occupy the place. It now houses suites of doctors' offices.

WOODLAND

JORDAN — TRAYLOR — CRAWFORD — LYLES

The WOODLAND house has not yet reached its century mark but that date is so near and WOODLAND is such a lovely home, so typical of those built during the ante-bellum period, that it is worthy of mention.

The house is beautifully located on a large, wooded lot and is shaded with spreading oaks and large, waxy magnolia trees that perfume the entire neighborhood when they are in bloom. It was built in 1870 by Samuel Johnson, an architect and builder, who designed and erected several outstanding homes in Winnsboro, for Captain W. G. Jordan.

Graceful, fluted columns support a classic portico on the front; this is the focal point of the building. The windows and doors are well proportioned and artistically spaced. A handsome, colonial-type stairway with delightfully carved bannisters dominates the interior.

In 1945 the property was acquired by Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Crawford from Miss Leila Traylor. They restored it in minute detail, retaining all its old-fashioned splendor. They lived here until after Mrs. Crawford's death. Several years ago it was purchased by J. M. Lyles, Jr., the present owner.

old house during his long pastorate, acquired the property from the church. Since that time it has become known as the JOHNSON HOUSE but still is referred to by old residents as the old A. R. P. MANSE. The original owner and builder of the house, Samuel Johnson, was no relation to the Oliver Johnson family.

The house is still one of Winnsboro's most beautiful old homes, and it is now occupied by the Oliver Johnson family, descendants of Doctor Johnson.

MOORE HOUSE

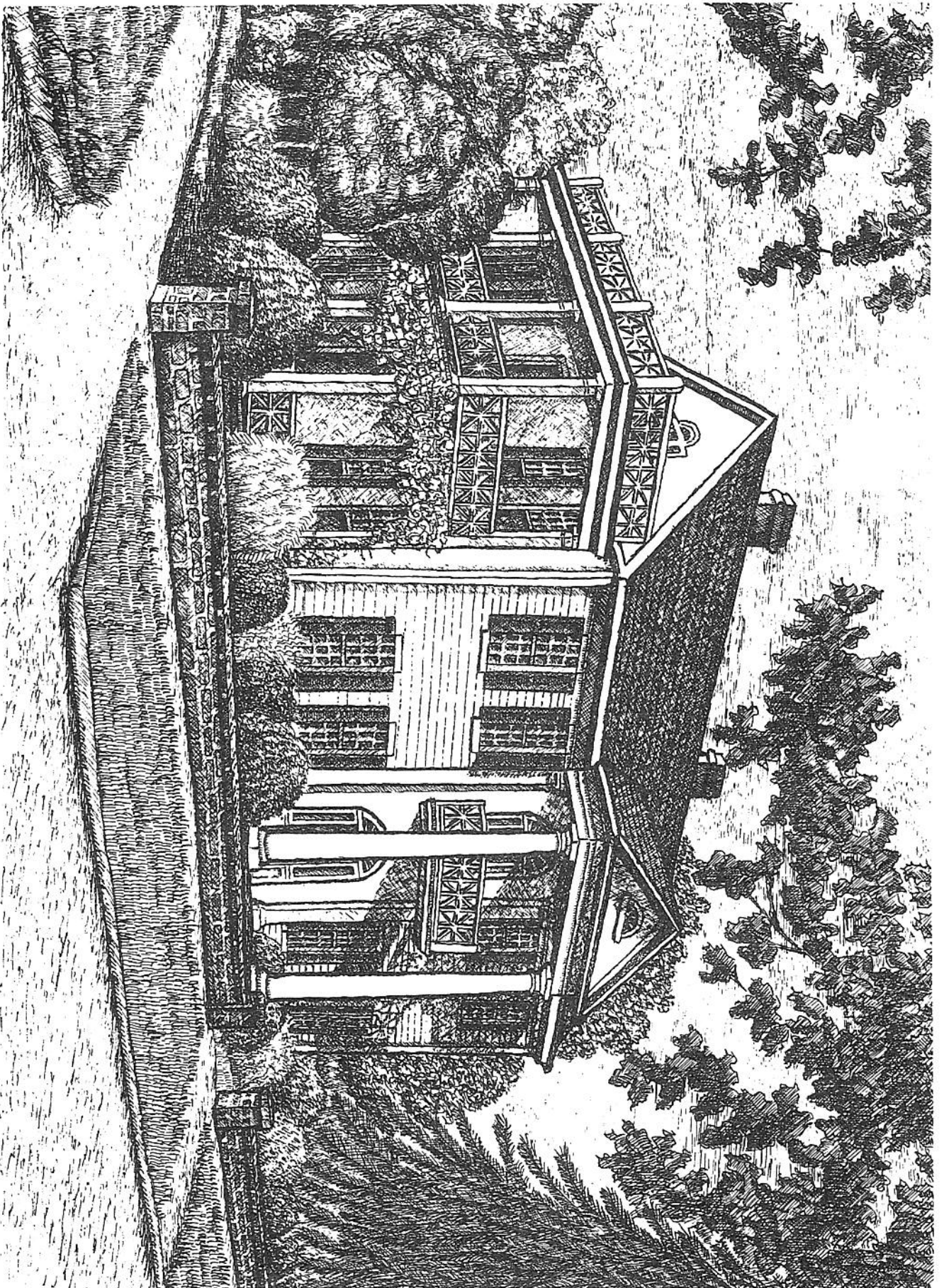
CAMPBELL — MURPHY — CAMPBELL — CRAWFORD — POTEAT
SMITH — McDOWELL — COPE — WINNSBORO BUILDING AND LOAN
TURNER — ELLIOTT — McCORLEY — MACKERELL — MOORE

This old house, once proud and fashionable, is suffering badly from neglect. It is located on the southern section of College Street and is not likely to be noticed by the casual visitor in seeking out the old homes of Winnsboro. Other smaller and inferior buildings have sprung up like mushrooms around it. In spite of this, once that it is discovered, a connoisseur will respect it and recognize the past dignity of the place.

Unlike most of the Winnsboro homes this house is built close to the ground level on the front. The main body is almost square, covered with a hipped roof, having outside chimneys on either end. The windows are large and well placed, with a large side-lighted doorway in the center of the building, opening upon the piazza and upstairs balcony. These porches are covered with a pleasing gable, supported by four round, solid wooden columns with hand-turned bannisters between them. Below it the roof of the piazza extends across the entire front of the house, the eaves out beyond the piazza floor. Originally six round columns on granite bases supported the roof but during some stage of remodeling the center columns were removed and the four remaining were cut off and rested upon square brick pillars.

The old house was built prior to 1843 when the first sale on record by Sheriff Richard Woodward for George Murphy was made to David Campbell. This place was probably owned and built by Campbell prior to this sale, for he owned most of the other property in the block surrounding it.

In 1856 Campbell sold the house and lot to Robert Crawford; in the next year Crawford passed title to Jacob Poteat, who remained in possession until 1870 when it was sold by Sheriff DuVall to R. B. Smith. In 1872 it passed from Smith to W. John McDowell. In 1874 the property changed hands again, Joel Copes being the purchaser. The Winnsboro Building and Loan Association took it over in 1878, then in 1879 disposed of it to Dr. W. K. Turner. At the same time, Dr. Turner bought an additional footage from Adeline Poteat. The Turners resided here for a number of years and then moved to Mrs. Turner's plantation in the Lebanon section. In 1886 Mrs. E. M. Turner sold the house to H. L. Elliott, who held it until 1901 when he sold to Mary A. McCarley. In 1904 it was sold again to Mary E. Mackerell. In 1912 Mary Jane Moore purchased the many-times-sold property and continued to own it for the remainder of her life. The house is now the property of Mrs. Bessie Moore McMaster (Mrs. Hugh B.), a niece of Miss Mary Jane Moore.



JOHNSON HOUSE

Gladden family lived here, and it became known as the GLADDEN HOUSE. Many residents of Winnsboro remember Mrs. Gladden, a loveable little lady, well advanced in years, who loved her garden and flowers and delighted in telling stories of the Revolutionary and Confederate Wars to the neighborhood children, who were always her eager and attentive listeners.

After Mrs. Gladden's death the Ernest Stevenson family occupied the house for many years, and it is still sometimes referred to as the STEVENSON HOUSE.

In recent years the place was purchased by John Douglass. He had the building moved back from the street and renovated it throughout. It is now an attractive, modern little house with a great deal of charm and appeal, painted Colonial yellow and trimmed with white.

STEVENSON HOUSE

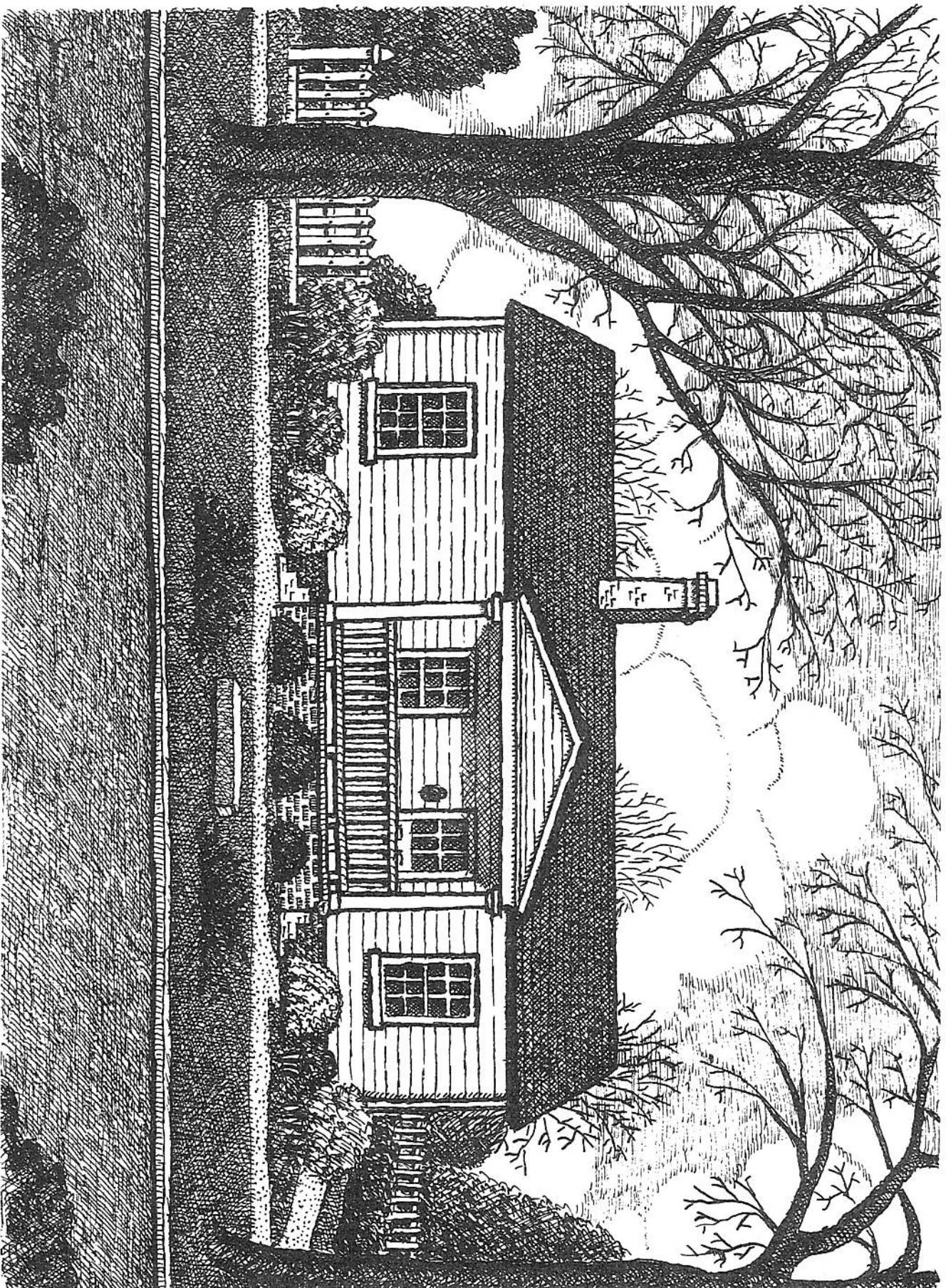
HARRISON — McCREIGHT — BEARD — LEMMON — CAMPBELL
ELLIOTT — LANDECKER — STEVENSON

The STEVENSON HOUSE on College Street is a quaint little cottage, built very close to the sidewalk. The lines of the building are completely plain and simple. The main body of the building is rectangular, covered with a gable roof, facing the street in a lengthwise position. One large inside chimney (far off-center) affords fireplaces for two of the rooms. A low, gabled portico with two supporting columns (also off-center), fronts the house. Steps enter it from either end, and the space between the columns is enclosed with plain picketed bannisters and a hand-turned rail. The doorway, too, is off-center, on the right of the portico. A kitchen wing and a porch extend to the rear.

This little house was originally located on the corner where the ELLIOTT or SITGREAVES HOUSE now stands. At the time that the house on the corner was built, this little building was rolled to the rear of the lot and faced on College Street. The first deed on record referring to this house was from Reuben Harrison to William McCreight in which it was mentioned as, "... where David Campbell formerly lived ..."

McCreight held the property until 1814 when he sold to Cornelius Beard. At the time of the sale Beard was living in the house. The next owner was Robert Cathcart, who held it from June until December 1824, at which time he conveyed title to James Lemmon. James Lemmon sold the place to John Campbell in 1833. It was during his ownership that the older house was moved back and faced on College Street, leaving the corner on Congress for the large, new house.

In 1855 William Campbell sold both places to James Elliott and James McKinney Elliott. James Elliott, the father of James McKinney Elliott, resided in the smaller house. In 1890 James McKinney Elliott cut off this house and portion of the lot and transferred it to Laura McCants, Sallie M. Douglass, and James G. McCants. One month later the above-mentioned parties deeded it back to his wife, Margaret Anne Elliott, who owned it until 1897 when she sold it to Mary E. Landecker. During this time the house was enlarged.



STEVENSON HOUSE

The Landeckers lived in the house until the early 1900's and were followed by the family of John B. Stevenson. Mrs. Alva Gladney Stevenson, the widow of John B., later bought the property and occupied it until her death in the 1930's. It was during this period that it became known as the STEVENSON HOUSE. After her passing it was purchased by Mrs. Maymie Wier Stevenson of the New Hope section, who was auditor of Fairfield County for many years, until her retirement. Mrs. Stevenson and her daughter now reside in the comfortable little house, surrounded by heirlooms brought with them from their country home.

McDONALD HOUSE

JORDAN – MATTHEWS – McMASTER – KENNERLY – McDONALD

This is one of the most attractive and best-preserved of the ante-bellum houses or cottages (as this type of architecture was called) that were so popular in Winnsboro and throughout the county for such a long time; some of these houses were built in the early 1800's, and they were still being constructed at the time of the War Between the States.

At first glance all these houses bear a striking similarity but each of them has an individual charm and differences reflecting the needs and tastes of the builder. The fluted columns of the portico and the triple windows in the two front rooms are unique to this particular building. On the interior a well-proportioned hall extends through the center of the house, with the stairway rising from the rear of the hall. Four spacious rooms are on the first floor in the main body of the house, with an additional room in the right wing on the rear, which also includes a porch. Upstairs are two most attractive rooms on either side of a small hallway. In these rooms inside chimneys pass through them in the center. Throughout the house the woodwork, trim, and mantels are typical of the era and are unusually well executed.

The lot on which this house is located was at one time a part of the Mount Zion College property. In 1850 Thomas Jordan purchased the three acres for \$1,300.00. During the same year he built the house on its northeast corner. On the Congress Street corner he had his shop and carriage factory.

In 1898 Mary E. Creight, W. Glover Jordan, Nannie J. Jordan, Belle Des-Portes, Frances E. Jordan widow of Thomas M. Jordan, sold this house to John P. Matthews. R. H. McMaster (Colonel) bought the place in 1900 for his mother, who lived here until her death. Her daughter, Rachel McMaster Kennerly, acquired the individual interests of her brothers and sisters in 1920. She lived here for a long period, and the place became known as the KENNERLY HOUSE. In 1940 it became the property of Mrs. Kennerly's daughter, Sarah Law Kennerly, who sold it in 1950 to Charles E. McDonald.

The McDonalds have restored and renovated the old house completely, making it a much more attractive place than it was even when it was new. The beautiful, time-mellowed old flooring has been refinished, as have the doors, accenting the lustre of the natural wood and giving it a beauty that can only be acquired with age. The fireplaces, which had been reduced to accommodate coal-burning grates, have been reopened to their original sizes and now show off the finely designed mantels to the best advantage.



Williford House

The mid-nineteenth century house, following renovation for adaptive use, is slated for use as the Winnsboro Town Hall.

The downtown house, built in the early 1800's, was donated to the town last year by brothers Quay, F.C. and S.R. McMaster. The property, consisting of a story and a half wood frame structure over a raised masonry basement with a detached one story frame kitchen building at the rear, was once the home of the McMasters' grandmother.

Federal funding is being sought for the renovation of the historical Winnsboro home.

Bids will be accepted until 3 p.m., May 24 at Council Chambers, Town Hall. At this time, all bids will be publicly opened and read aloud.

William O. Fulmer is the architect for the project.



Ivy Hall

Lovely Ivy Hall was built by Aromanus Lyles, first white child born in Fairfield County, before the Revolutionary War. It is now owned by members of the Blair family. (Photo by Faye Johnson)