9 Charles Mack Building

The Charles Mack Building was originally built in the 1890s as the drying house for Barger Brothers Construction. The building housed stoves in the upper floor for drying wood. In 1937, Charles Mack moved his wholesale business from Main Street into this building, where it remained until the 1990s. The building was purchased by John Mack, Charles Mack's son, who gave the building back to the Town in 2006. The Mooresville Museum currently occupies this site.

10 Central Hotel

Starting in the late 1880s in the home of Cyrus Alexander Johnston, the Central Hotel was a hotel and gathering spot for many years. Since Johnston's house was located right across from the depot, travelers would come to the house, for rented rooms and meals. By the turn of the century, Johnston added a brick, eight-room addition to his house and renamed it the Central Hotel. The hotel operated until the late 1920s when it was torn down.
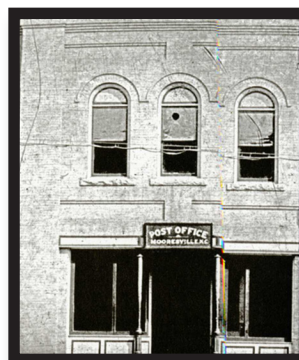
11 Merchants and Famers Bank

Built on the corner of Moore and Main, the Merchants and Farmers Bank opened in December 1907. By 1910, the starting capital of $20,000 quickly increased to $30,000. In 1929, the bank suffered great losses with the stock market crash and closed its doors for good by 1933. The Piedmont Bank and Trust opened in 1946, bringing the old bank building back to life. The building is still one of the Town's most architecturally impressive buildings and its most interesting feature, an elaborate vault, can still be seen inside.

12 First Post Office

In August 1871, the first Mooresville post office was established on what was known as Star Route #5213. In its early years, the post office was run out of the postmaster's home. In the 1880s, the post office moved to its first dedicated location at 202 N. Main Street, which is currently the site of the Charles Mack Citizen Center. In 1938, the Post Office moved to the corner of Iredell Avenue and Main Street, now home to the Mooresville Graded School District Central Offices. The Post Office stayed there until the 1960s, when it moved to Institute Avenue.

13 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, Moore's home was in a prime location where he could watch people as they traveled in and out of town. After his death, Moore's widow 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. The trains would load or unload their cotton cargo for the cotton warehouse, cotton gin and linseed gin. These buildings are still located on the corner of Broad Street and Iredell Avenue. Today, the siding is used by the flour mill to load and unload train cars. In the 1930s, the house burned after lightning struck the poplar tree in the front yard.

14 Mooresville Flour Mill

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

15 South School

Built as the first elementary school for the Mooresville Graded School District, South School originally housed first through fourth grades. The building was built in the 1920s and was shortly followed by the construction of Park View School as the need for schools increased. The first South School building, located beside the First Baptist Church, stood until the 1970s when the new building was built at the end of Magnolia Street.

MOORESVILLE HISTORIC WALKING TOUR

Explore Mooresville's History On This Self-Guided Tour

Come travel through Mooresville's history as you experience the birth and growth of our town. Featuring 15 stops, this self-guided walking tour highlights areas of downtown's development from its incorporation as a town to today. Walk into the past to discover the oldest cemetery in town and find where you could have purchased a buggy in the 1900s.

The tour begins and ends at the Mooresville Public Library and takes about an hour to complete. During your travels, you will find information from the early days of Mooresville to the importance of our railroads and cotton industry.

After the textile industry left just a generation ago, Mooresville faced desertion. Growing from a back country settlement around a deep well to a growing village on the eve of the Civil War, Mooresville has seen many faces and changed in many ways. Our town has housed the railroad industry, the State's largest textile company, racing companies, movie sets and is today a center of economic growth. Mooresville retained its rich past and has continued to grow and thrive.

Step into the past and learn the story of our town.

1 Mooresville Public Library

Circa 1890, a group of Mooresville citizens donated their own books to establish the Mooresville Lending Library, now named the Mooresville Public Library. In 1939, Lutell Sherrill Williams razed her family home, where the library now stands, and began construction on a new building where her home originally stood. In 1963, the library was expanded to add a children's section. The library broke ground for its second expansion in 2004 to add 30,000 square feet, incorporating the design of the original building. The new expanded library opened in May 2005.

2 Willow Valley Cemetery

As the first official cemetery for the Town of Mooresville, Willow Valley was created in 1885 when the Town purchased land from John Franklin Moore's widow. The back end of the land had been used by the Moores as a cemetery for residents of the area. The land was also chosen to establish the new cemetery because it was on a hill overlooking the newly formed Town. Today, Willow Valley is one of three Town-owned cemeteries.

3 John Franklin Moore's Grave

Four years after the Town was incorporated, Moore died and was laid to rest at the back of his property. The driveway to the left of his grave was the original end of the Moore's land. Many of the graves to the left of the driveway are those of people who were buried in the original Town cemetery, although many of the graves date back to before Mooresville was even a town.
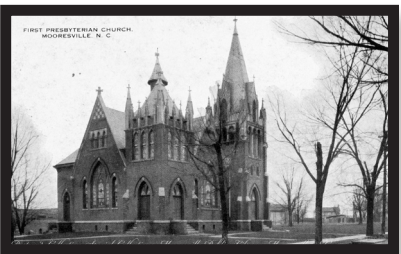
4 Original Town Hall

Built in the early 1900s, the building that once stood at the center of the town was originally Mooresville's first Town Hall. Built to house police, fire, water and other departments, the Town Hall served as the center for Town government until a newer and larger facility was opened in 1954 across from the flour mill, where Town Hall currently stands.

5 First Presbyterian Church

In 1875, this church was the first to be organized in the newly incorporated town. Originally located on the corner of McLelland Avenue and Church Street, the church was moved to the present site on the corner of McLelland Avenue and Academy Street in 1898. The building housed just a parlor and small sanctuary until the expansion to its current size in 1925, adding the educational building and manse.

6 Telephone Exchange

In 1900, the first telephone company was created and housed upstairs in the Templeton building. The first operators were known as the "Hello girls" for the way they answered the phone. In addition to managing incoming calls, they served as the first emergency operators for the fire and police departments. Today, a collection of antique shops occupies the building.

7 Train Depot

The depot has been the center of life and community for the Town of Mooresville since the construction of the first depot in the 1850s by John F. Moore. It stands at the exact center of the original Town limits. After the Civil War, the depot was torn down, making way for the construction of a larger depot for the reconnection of the railroad. The second depot stood until 1925 when an unattended stove sparked a fire causing the wooden building to burn. The Southern Railroad Company replaced the depot with the current brick building. Today, the depot is home to the Artist Guild.

8 D.E. Turner Hardware

After buying out Tomlinson Hardware in 1899, 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 hardware, one could purchase handmade buggies. With the advent of automobiles, the store became the first gas station in town. Turner's has continued to serve Mooresville for more than 100 years and is one of the oldest operating businesses in the town.

MOORESVILLE HISTORIC WALKING TOUR