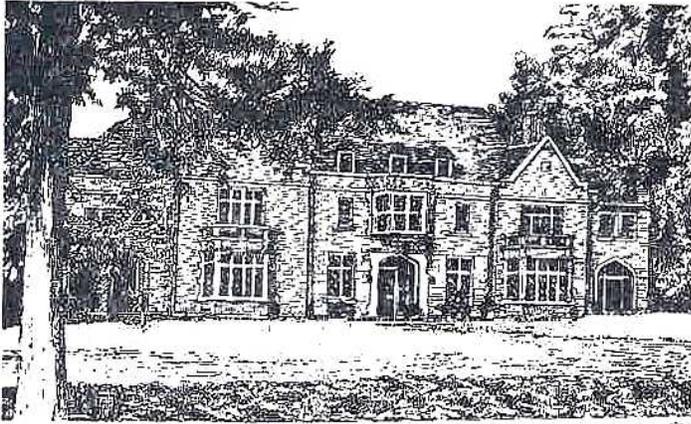


## Chapter 2: HISTORY



*E. T. Cannon House  
(First Presbyterian Church Fellowship Bldg.)  
58 Union Street, North*

Settlement of present day Cabarrus County began in the mid-eighteenth century. The area was populated primarily by Dutch, Scotch-Irish, Germans, and a small group of Welsh-English families, all of whose influences are apparent in the designs of many of the homes in the Districts.

In 1792, the North Carolina Legislature approved the formation of Cabarrus County from what was then part of Mecklenburg. Crucial support for a separate county came from Stephen Cabarrus of Edenton, the Speaker of the House of Commons, and the new

county was named in his honor.

For some time following its creation there was much discussion and disagreement as to the location of the new county seat and the courthouse for the new town. Finally, Stephen Cabarrus wrote a letter appealing to the citizens to bury their differences and have “concord.”

Accordingly, a site was selected, and it was agreed to name the town “Concord.” The principal street was named “Union” to mark the resolution of the dispute about the town’s location.

The town of Concord was established near the center of the County in February 1796, when Samuel Huie sold 26 acres of his land to the newly appointed town commissioners: John Means, James Scott, and Leonard Barberick. Union Street and Corban Avenue was the primary intersection for much of the daily activities.



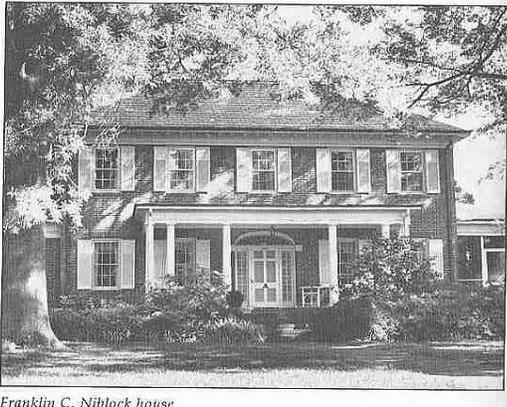
Odell-Locke Mill

In 1837, Concord was incorporated, and a city government was organized with a land area of one square mile.

In 1839-1840, the Concord Manufacturing Company built a textile mill on the highest point on the newly extended North Union Street, (The current Odell-Locke-Randolph Cotton Mill, 1 Buffalo Avenue NW).

This prevented Union Street from extending any further north, but insured that Concord would grow in that direction. Completion of the North Carolina Railroad on the western edge of town also spurred growth and opened an additional route of transportation, Depot Street, now known as Cabarrus Avenue.

In 1882, the North Union Street neighborhood began to take on the stately appearance it has today. In contrast, the southern and eastern sides of town remained sparsely inhabited.



Franklin C. Niblock house

By the turn of the century, the textile industry had transformed agrarian Concord into a leading industrial town. The more prosperous textile mill owners and professional citizens built residences along North Union Street. These homes were built on the remaining lots and in some instances, existing dwellings were moved to a side street location so that a more “modern” residence could be built. During this same period, South Union Street experienced more limited growth; however, gradual residential development emerged making the street a residential thoroughfare for the owners of small retail, service

enterprises and the employees of the downtown stores. Greater development occurred between Corban Avenue and Chestnut Street, but it was not until the late 1920’s, with the construction of the F.C. Niblock residence (449 South Union Street), that this area began to establish its present architectural and developmental patterns. By 1930, development around Concord had extended primarily to the north and south of the original city boundaries.



James Dayvault house

In the late 1970’s, Peter Kaplan was hired by the city and county governments to do an inventory of the historic properties of Cabarrus County. His work, [The Historic Architecture of Cabarrus County North Carolina](#), was published in 1981. This research generated public support for the establishment of the Historic Districts for Concord.

A variety of architectural styles are present in Concord’s Districts. The most prominent styles are Queen Anne, Colonial Revival, Bungalow, and Italianate. Less common styles include Gothic and Jacobethan Revival, and there are

several examples of “hybrids” which blend characteristics of more than one style.

One of the most prominent examples of Queen Anne architecture is the James Dayvault house at 216 Union Street, South. This home was constructed in the early 1900’s and features asymmetrical massing which is one of the style’s main features.



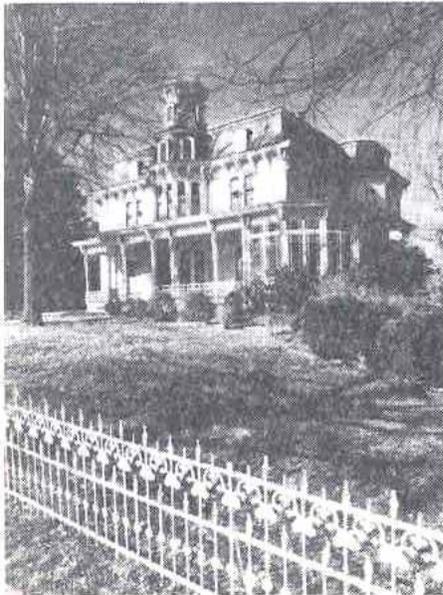
*Moses L. Brown house*

The Charles Wagoner house at 106 Cabarrus Avenue, West, is representative of the Colonial Revival style. The home was constructed in 1903 and has a symmetrical facade, and a portico, which are significant features of Colonial Revival architecture.

An example of Bungalow design is located at 156 Union Street, North. The Levi Sides house was constructed in the early 1920's and features the large square piers and overall design

simplicity associated with the architectural style.

The Moses L. Brown home at 168 Union Street, South, is one of the best examples of the Italianate style, with its molded cornices and sawn brackets. However, several elements of the Queen Anne style were added after the original construction of the home in the early 1800's.



A rare example of Gothic Revival architecture is the B. Franklin Rogers house at 40 Franklin Avenue, N.W. The prominent features of the style represented in this structure include pointed rooflines and sharply pitched dormers, with wavy bargeboard.

The E.T. Cannon house at 58 Union Street, North, is the only example of the Jacobethan Revival style in the entire county. This house was designed by Charlotte architect William H. Peeps, and features many of the characteristic features of the style. These features include tall corbeled chimneys, parapeted roof lines and brick construction with stone trim. This structure is currently used as the fellowship hall for the First Presbyterian Church.

*John Milton Odell House  
288 Union Street, North*



*James William Cannon House  
65 Union Street, North*

Two of the most visible and easily identifiable structures in the Districts employ combinations of more than one architectural style. The John Milton Odell house at 288 Union Street, North, combines elements of Italianate and Second Empire styles. Main features include the use of a projecting central bay with cast iron cresting. The James William Cannon house at 65 Union Street North, combines elements of Queen Anne and Colonial Revival styles. The home was constructed about 1900 and has a two story gable and domed turret which are elements of Queen Anne architecture and fluted

columns on the front porch which are elements of Colonial Revival. The structure is best known as the former site of Cabarrus Academy, now known as the Cannon School.