

SION PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

During the 1920's this old landmark of Winnsboro was razed. The new house of worship had been completed and was situated in another location. All that remains on the old site is the old-fashioned cemetery in which sleep many of Winnsboro's leading citizens of the past. This sketch of SION PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH was made from an old photograph which is now in the possession of a daughter of one of the former pastors.

The history of the church is quite complete. It was begun by a Revolutionary War soldier, Colonel William McCreight, who was one of the first elders and was clerk of the session for more than a half-century. His records are hand-written in beautiful script. They are concise and well expressed. In them he states that Sion was at first a preaching station or mission under the "First South Carolina Presbytery in 1799." The Reverend Robert McCollough was the first minister to serve the post regularly as a preacher.

In 1801 the Reverend John Foster came to Winnsboro to head Mount Zion College. He came from the Old Salem (Black River) Church, in Williamsburg County, which had its beginnings in the 1750's. He was a preacher of note, and as soon as he assumed his duties at the college, the congregation of Sion secured him as their regular supply. He was succeeded in both positions by the Reverend George Reid, who came to Winnsboro from York, South Carolina.

The Reverend Mr. Reid was installed as pastor in 1805, and it was during his pastorate that the congregation formally took the name of Sion. Up to and during this time all services were held in the courthouse.

In 1807 several of the members left the Presbyterian Church and organized a Methodist Church. Soon after, this group built their own brick house of worship, which was the town's first separate church building.

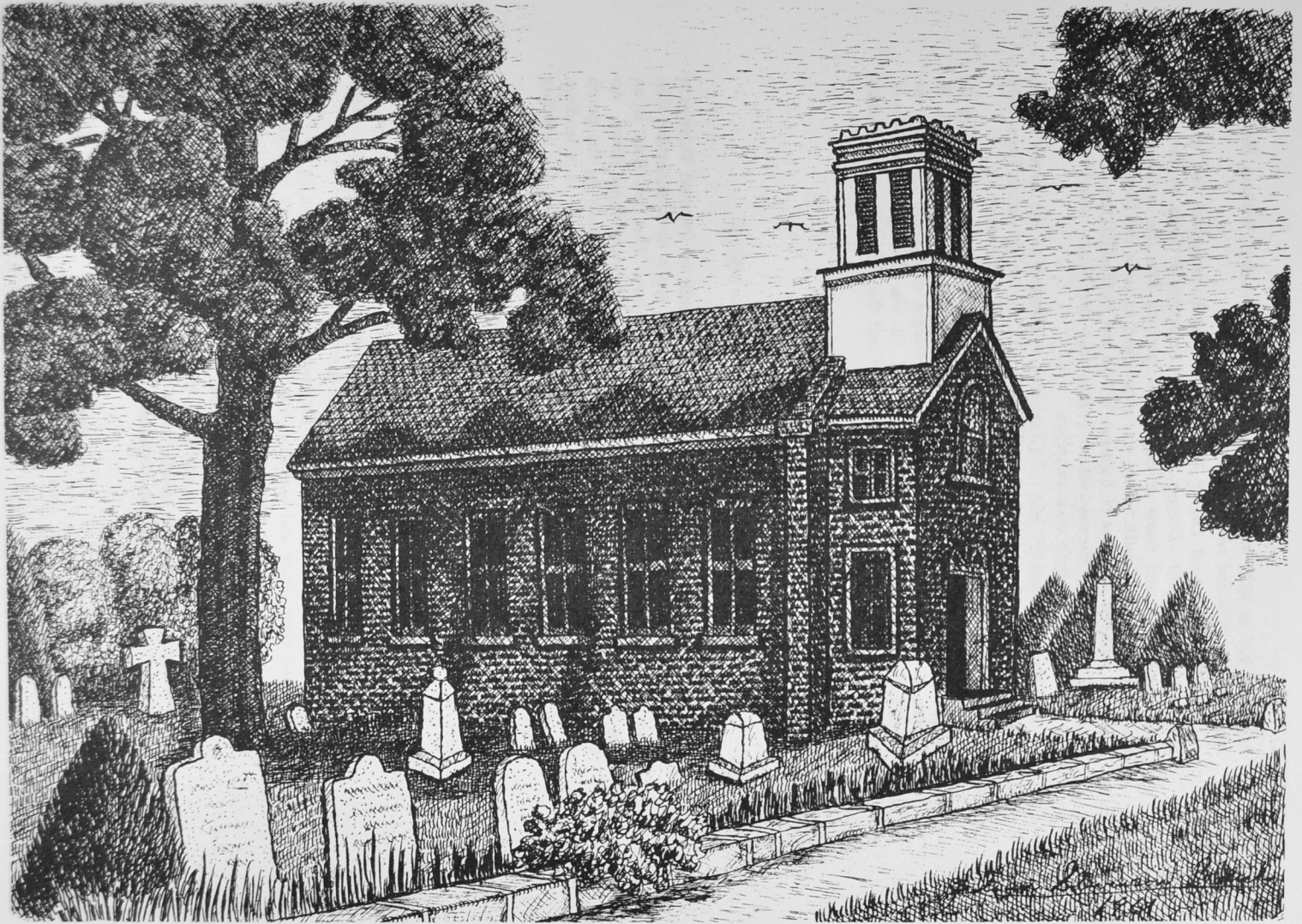
In 1809 the congregation of Sion numbered twenty-three. The three elders were William McCreight, James Beaty, and Thomas Russell. It was during this year that the little congregation began their church building, which was completed in 1811.

The original Presbyterian lot was located on a corner of the town square where the Bank of Fairfield now stands. This was not used; instead, the house of worship was erected on Garden Street on two lots that were deeded to the church by Major Thomas Means and his brother, Robert.

After the Reverend Mr. Reid severed his connections with the college, he continued as pastor of the church until 1810, at which time he removed to North Carolina.

This first building was a brick structure, fifty by thirty feet and twenty-one feet high on the interior, with galleries on three sides. In September 1811 the Reverend B. R. Montgomery held the first services in the new building. In later years the church was enlarged and the tower was added.

The Reverend Anthony Ross came to Sion in 1813. It was during his pastorate that the church divided again. This time the dissenting group organized the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church in Winnsboro. The Reverend



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Mr. Ross left in 1822 and was followed by the Reverend William Brearley, who came in 1825 and remained until 1841.

Under the Reverend Doctor Brearley the church prospered and grew in numbers and in spirit. During this period the spiritual needs of the slaves were emphasized, and many of them were received into the membership of the church. Too, a Sabbath School was established to serve the Negro children, who also received the rites of baptism. It was not until after the Confederate War and during the Reconstruction period that the Negro members pulled out and established their own churches.

The Reverend Samuel Hay of Charleston ministered to the needs of the church, following Doctor Brearley, and was with the congregation from 1844 through 1846 when he asked for a dismissal to return to Charleston.

Pastors following the Reverend Mr. Hay were the Reverends William E. Boggs, G. R. Brackett, E. M. Green, C. E. Chichester, H. B. Pratt, D. E. Jordan, Doctor S. C. Byrd (who was later president of Chicora College), the Reverends J. M. Holliday and G. G. Mayes. It was during Doctor Mayes' pastorate that the new building was completed and the old one was abandoned and finally razed.

MENG HOUSE

THOMPSON – QUATTLEBAUM – MENG

This attractive house on Washington Street was built by Osmond Thompson in the 1840's. It is one of the "mosquito cottage" types of architecture that was so popular in this section in the ante-bellum days. The first floor is on the ground level. The living quarters are on the second and third floors. An impressive gabled porch covers the front entrance. The columns on the porch are square and paneled. About halfway down, the steps divide at a landing. From the landing a flight of steps descends on either side, giving the building a very graceful front.

The ground floor is of brick and originally contained the kitchen and service rooms. On the second and third floors are halls and living quarters. A wing extends to the north on the rear of the house.

The stairway is one of the outstanding features of the building. It is beautifully paneled, and the newel post is quite handsome and in keeping with the formality of the main floor, which has exquisite woodwork, mantels, wainscotings, and trim. The high ceilings add not only to the beauty of these large rooms but also to their comfort during the summer months.

During the Confederate War the Thompson family was living in the house. They saved their silver and valuables from the looting soldiers by removing one side of the square columns and hanging the articles on nails that were driven on the inside carefully replacing the panels that had been removed.

The Quattlebaum family occupied the house for many years after the Thompsons. It is now the property of the B. B. Meng family. After the house was purchased by the Mengs, it was completely restored and remodeled, retaining all its old charm and elegance.