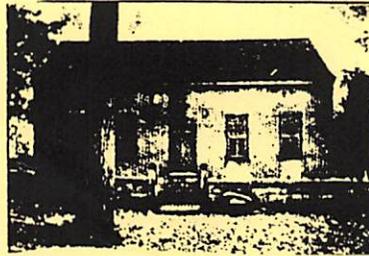


## EBENEZER ASSOCIATE REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

### "Old Brick Church"



The date for the organization of the Ebenezer Church is unknown. The origin, however, predates the American Revolution. Prior to the Revolution, there was a log church building approximately two miles west of the present site.

The present building was completed in 1788. The members of the congregation made the bricks themselves. According to a report recorded in the *Sesquicentennial History of the A.R.P. Church*, the people "would go to the brickyard and tramp the mud into mortar with their bare feet, put it into moulds with their hands, carry it out into the sun to dry." The kilns were kept burning twenty-four hours a day.

Ebenezer Church has played a significant role in the history of our denomination. In 1782, Associate and Reformed Presbyterians united in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. At that time the denomination consisted of three presbyteries. On May 9, 1803, the Synod of the Carolinas was organized at the "Old Brick Church" as one of four coordinate synods of the original Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church. In 1822, the Synod of the Carolinas became a separate denomination. From these origins our current General Synod of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church has developed.

The cemetery, of course, has grown since 1788 and contains what is, in effect, a history of the families of the church. From time to time, descendants of those families are still buried here. The exterior of the building has changed very little over the years. At one time, the pulpit was apparently placed against the long interior wall and there were balconies at either end of the sanctuary. Visitors can still see the apology written during the Civil War by a Union soldier when the flooring of the church was removed to build a bridge over Little River.

Although there is no longer an active congregation at Ebenezer, the church is maintained on the roll of Catawba Presbytery as an "historical site." Once every five years, a special historical service is held here. The next such service will be held in the fall of 2000.

The building and grounds are maintained by the Session of the Bethel A.R.P. Church.