

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 Vilanova, Pennsylvania, grandsons of James McKinney Elliott.