

# Post Office Was First Building in Roseboro

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A post office, now torn down, was the first building in the new town of Roseboro. It was built when the postal service was transferred from Owensville around 1892. Mr. Will Fisher was the first postmaster. The building stood on the site of the present Holland and Poole law office. It was an unpainted wooden building with bars at the windows. After a second post office was built, Mr. Noah Howard's father ran a shoe repair shop in the original building and also lived there.

An adjoining building of the same size and style was erected near the post office by Mrs. L. C. Fisher. Her son-in-law, Dr. Paul Crumpler, had his office there. In the rear of the small building Mr. D. Whitfield Tart opened a small drug store. Another physician at the time was Dr. Fleet Cooper, who had his office in his home, a few miles out of town on the Highsmith Farm. Later, he sold medicines in a store where Howard Tractor and Implement Company is now. After his death, Dr. Cooper's widow built a home in Roseboro, now an apartment house across from the Brewer-Starling Clinic building.

The small building referred to in the preceding paragraph is one that is left of Roseboro's original buildings. Sporting a new coat of paint, it was until recently the insurance office of Lenon H. Fisher, a grandson of the Mrs. Fisher who built it.

A good number of homes still stand that were built before or near the turn of the century. The original railroad station is likewise intact, but no longer in use. It has been listed for restoration in the near future. Plans for 50-50 matching grant will buy a 300 by 300 block of land the Seaboard Coastline Railroad now owns, and they in turn will donate the railroad station to the town. Plans are to set it inside the acreage which will become a town park. All sorts of opportunities are open for use of this facility after it is moved and gets a face-lifting.

The first church to be built in Roseboro belonged to the Baptists. It was a small, two-room structure of clap-boards that served the new community both as a church and a school. Mrs. B. L. Fisher, whose parents moved here in 1912, recalls that the present Baptist Church was in the process of being built, with the walls partly up. It went up, by degrees, as funds became available. As soon as the brick church was completed, the little wooden edifice was moved to become part of the town's first grade school.

The first church built by the Methodists was also a wooden structure, facing on West Street. The site was where the interdenominational Tabernacle recently stood. It was called New Bethel to distinguish it from Old Bethel, the mother church, out from Owensville. It has two doors and a small steeple. A pump in the yard supplied drinking water, Mrs. Mary Neal Cain commissioned a Greensboro artist to paint this church scene in oils, from a copy of a small newspaper picture, and has recently presented it to the Roseboro United Methodist Church in Roseboro. Appropriately framed, it now graces a wall in the assembly room, where it hangs above a glass case of historical church records and memorabilia. Mrs. Lutrelle Owen was the first person to join New Bethel.