

Baptist Corners



“Baptist Corners” received its name after a Calvinist Baptist Church was built here around 1807. The original wood church burned and was rebuilt in 1839. Financial difficulties and decreased attendance caused a merger with the Congregational Church in 1943. The church building remains, but is now a private residence.

The intersection of Spear Street and Hinesburgh Road was a major crossroads in Colonial times. As settlement grew, local businesses here included farms, butter creameries, a tannery, a shoe shop, all anchored by the long-standing corner store established in 1797. The white house on the southwest side of Baptist Corners once functioned as a tavern, one of many that once operated in the town of Charlotte.

Several community gathering places established themselves on Baptist Corners, which eventually also became known as the center of East Charlotte. Grange #398 was formed in 1897. It still functions as an informal rural cooperative providing vital community services. Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Church was built as a meeting house by Quakers in neighboring Starksboro in 1812. The church was moved here in the winter of 1858-59 serving 30 member families. Today, more than 300 families worship there.



In those days, the store also housed the post office, and for this reason, the designation of “East Charlotte” was added for accuracy in mail delivery. The store also delivered groceries - a task accomplished by horse and buggy.



Farmer Hauling Butter to Burlington
George Prindle, whose farm was at the corner of Prindle and Garen Road, just to the south of here, hauls butter to the Burlington Market. His team and the butter are protected against flies.



Lyceum Hall
Grange #398 purchased the former Lyceum Hall for its use. This 1900 photo shows that it also served as a one-room schoolhouse for East Charlotte families.



Grange Tractor Parade
Organized by local residents in 2001, the annual East Charlotte Tractor Parade occurs on the second Sunday in October.

Original photo (ca. 1910) by Eugene Shortstackes, courtesy of Charlotte Historical Society

Original photo provided by Elinor Prindle Benning, courtesy of Charlotte Historical Society

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