

## ARCHITECTURAL CONTEXT

The Franklin-Maple Street Neighborhood includes the following streets:

- Franklin
- Stetson
- School (between Federal and Stetson Streets)
- Jordan (from Federal to Stetson Streets)
- Market
- Maple

The houses that face Federal Street are not included in the boundaries of this neighborhood. The neighborhood is tucked between the grand houses along Federal Street to the west and the railroad to the east.

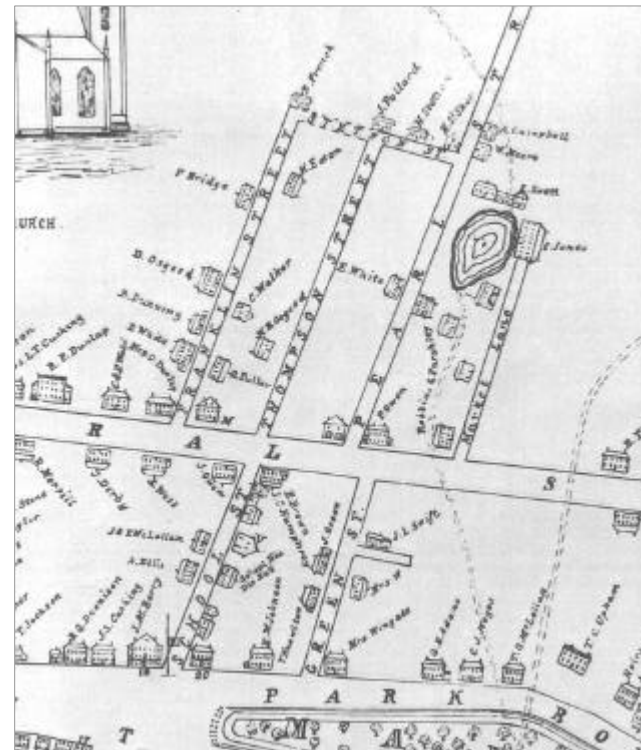
A walk through the Franklin-Maple Street Neighborhood reveals a great deal about how this area of Brunswick developed. By examining the relationship of buildings to the street and to each other, as well as the scale of the houses and their architectural detailing, one can gather valuable clues as to the neighborhood's history. Today, the area consists of predominantly residential buildings although historically a few commercial structures could be found in this area of town, such as a tannery at the end of Maple Street. The buildings are wood frame construction with the exception of two brick structures, one residential building on Jordan Avenue and the former Gas Company Building on Maple Street now known as the "Cookie Apartments."

The houses in the neighborhood are generally situated on long, narrow lots with the buildings sitting close to the street and side yards separating the houses and outbuildings. The separation between the public space (street/sidewalk) and private space (house) is informal with no curbing or formal sidewalks. Few street trees or elements (such as fences, retaining walls, etc.) define the public and private areas. This configuration differs noticeably from Federal Street, along the west side of the neighborhood, where houses are typically situated further back from the street with sidewalks as well as retaining walls, fences and porches defining the transition from the public street to the private house.

The informal relationship between the buildings and the street, and the houses' close proximity to each other contributes to the character of this neighborhood and reflects the early and ongoing development of this

residential area conveniently positioned between downtown and rural areas beyond the railroad.

A visual analysis of the scale and detailing of neighborhood buildings also contributes to the story about the area's development. The concentration of several small, one and one-and-a-half story Greek Revival capes along Franklin and Stetson Streets reflects the mid-nineteenth century development in the neighborhood. An 1846 map clearly indicates the existence of several capes, many of which may still survive, and illustrates how this area bridged the gap between downtown development and the farms beyond.



Above: This 1846 map of Brunswick clearly illustrates the types of houses in the neighborhood and shows where development was occurring. Map was surveyed and drawn by C.J. Noyes and published by J.B. Bufford & Co. of Boston.

The continued growth of Brunswick and the success of the mills in the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century is reflected in the built environment with the construction of larger, two-and-a-half story houses as well as double-houses, particularly on School, Jordan and Market Streets. During this same period, numerous connected houses and barns, or carriages houses, were constructed reflecting the adaptation of the common connected farmhouse to a town setting. An examination of the 1887 map shows the concentration of these connected houses along several streets, particularly Franklin and Thompson (now School) Streets. The existence of both large single-family houses and multi-family dwellings speaks to the convenience of the location for people from a wide range of economic and social levels.

Many of the buildings constructed in the neighborhood during the mid-to-late 19<sup>th</sup> century are simple building forms that incorporate Italianate stylistic details, such as brackets along the roof edge or a small, pediment over the main entry. Decorative window lintels, or hoods, and bay windows are also common Italianate features. The popularity of this particular style indicates how readily available these architectural elements were to a wide segment of Brunswick's residents.

While most of the neighborhood was developed by the late 1800s, there are several early 20<sup>th</sup> century houses in the area. These include cape forms designed to replicate early Colonial architecture, and others reflect the newer building forms, such as the four square. Most of the 20<sup>th</sup> century buildings exist along Jordan Avenue and to the south. The buildings of the Franklin-Maple Street Neighborhood reflect the consistent popularity of this small residential area beginning in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century and continuing through the 20<sup>th</sup> century.



Above: This 1887 map of Brunswick provides excellent views of buildings in the Franklin-Maple Street neighborhood towards the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.