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## South Lowell Academy III

# South Lowell Academy

by Jean B. Anderson, 2006



John Archibald McMannen House, in South Lowell community

of Durham. Image courtesy of Endangered Durham. [2]South Lowell Academy was the inspiration of John Archibald McMannen, a lay preacher of the <u>Methodist Church</u> [3], and his close friend, Claiborn Parrish. With a board of trustees made up of themselves and three local physicians, McMannen and Parrish established a classical academy at South Lowell in what is today <u>Durham County</u> [4] in 1849. Its first headmaster was the Reverend James A. Dean, a graduate of <u>Wesleyan College</u> [5] in Connecticut, who gave the school a luster it maintained even after his departure for larger arenas.

A brick dormitory for the students who flocked there from all parts of the state, as well as a hotel, were soon added to the school, mills, and general store that made up the community. A preparatory school for <u>Randolph-Macon College</u> [6], the academy became a cultural center with a library, lecture program, debating and temperance societies, and the electrifying preaching of McMannen, who could also play the fiddle. In 1856 Edward Scott added to the school's attraction with a medical school.

The general poverty caused by the <u>Civil War</u> [7] and its aftermath depleted South Lowell's pool of applicants, though the school continued at least until 1897, when it was still listed in the state business directory.

#### Reference:

Jean B. Anderson, *Durham County* (1990). [8]

### Image Credit:

John Archibald McMannen House, in South Lowell community of Durham. Image courtesy of Endangered Durham. Available from <u>http://endangereddurham.blogspot.com/2009\_03\_01\_archive.html</u> [2] (accessed November 5, 2012).

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