

### 1. Lucius Coleman Hall House

*N.C. 116 on Hamsfield Hall Road, before Rock Quarry Rd.*

The Hall House is where Webster begins. Believed to have been built in the 1850s, the house was the first such structure in the area and sits on the west bank of the Tuckasee River overlooking a grassy lawn and flat field. In the late 1800s a 2.5-story, one-room deep T-plan house was added to the structure. The T-plan set an example for other frame houses built in Webster but no other house has the grand staircase and entrance hall seen in the Hall house.

### 2. Webster Baptist Church

*West side of Tuckasee River N.C. 116 Bridge*

Webster Baptist sits atop a small hill facing the N.C. 116 bridge. Built in 1900, the original interior floor plan of the sanctuary remains unaltered. The main façade of the church is three-bay with tall-rounded windows flanking the bell tower and includes Queen Anne block glass. The church is noted for its furniture, which was designed, built and donated by local master cabinetmaker Joseph Warrenton Cowan and his son Lawrence Cowan.

### 3. Old Rock School

*North side of N.C. 116 next to the Methodist Church*

The old "Rock School" was completed in 1938 by the Works Progress Administration. River rock was a common building façade material used across Western North Carolina on many homes and institutional buildings such as schools. It served as Webster Elementary from 1936 to 1973 and Webster High School from 1936 to 1960. The building is used by the Southwestern Child Development Center. The gymnasium/auditorium is sometimes used for community events.



The historical walking tour was created as part of a year-long planning effort, beginning in 2014. Webster received grant funds through the Appalachian Regional Commission Toolbox Implementation Fund and hired Kostelec Planning, who created the tour. This brochure is funded in part through a grant made possible by the Jackson County Tourism Development Authority.

### 4. Webster Methodist Church

*North side of N.C. 116 next to Old School*

After the opening of lands to settlers in Western NC, church services were held in local homes and were led by preachers who rode hundreds of miles each month to serve congregations. Built in 1887, the church was the first for the Webster Methodist congregation. Its design is similar to other churches built in the county before the 1900s but the wealth of detail, both Gothic and classical, make it outstanding.

### 5. Walter E. Moore House

*East of Post Office along N.C. 116*

Famed NC lawyer and politician Walter E. Moore built the house in 1886. Moore served several years in the NC House of Representatives and was House Speaker in 1901. The Moore house set the style for several Webster-area buildings constructed after 1886.

### 6. Elisha Calor Hedden House

*East of N.C. 116 at Buchanan Loop Road*

Hedden House is a modest Queen Anne style two-story dwelling and the largest historic house remaining in Webster. Built around 1910, it is one of the County's best examples of a large frame, T-plan house. Hedden came to Western NC in the early 20th century to work for the budding lumber industry.

### 7. Webster Cemetery

*Buchanan Loop Road ½ mile north of N.C. 116*

Webster Cemetery was established in 1851 and many of Jackson County's founders and early prominent residents are buried there. The cemetery includes the graves of several Civil War veterans.

"The Webster Historical Society was founded by the Town of Webster in 1972, and one of its first projects was to get the historic sites in town on the National Register - a hard job to get approved by North Carolina and Washington. But all six of the Webster buildings were accepted. The society worked with an architect to study the importance of the buildings and their history. Of the 18 Jackson County properties six of them are in Webster."

- Webster Historical Society president Joe Rhinehart

# Webster, NC Historic Walking Tour



**Old Webster Courthouse  
Built 1888, Demolished 1935  
Town Of Webster - Established 1853  
Incorporated 1859  
Served As Jackson County Seat  
1853 – 1913**

"A community in which the daily walk down the street brings good mornings from housewives sweeping their porches, hellos from small children playing in their yards, hopeful greetings from tail wagging family dogs, brief chats with neighbors one meets on the road, and an exchange of friendly waves with those speeding to school or work."

- Louise Davis,  
Just Above the Tuckasee (1974)

[www.townofwebster.org/history](http://www.townofwebster.org/history)



# Webster, NC History Tour

Webster has 6 of the 20 properties in Jackson County that are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The original county seat, Webster has a rich history that we invite you to explore by car or by foot. The map below includes the Webster Cemetery as well as properties listed on the National Register. To learn more about Webster's history, visit [www.townofwebster.org/history](http://www.townofwebster.org/history)

Webster was originally an 18-acre tract purchased specifically to be the county seat. Within a few years after the courthouse was built, Webster was a thriving town.

The citizens wanted incorporation, and an act to incorporate the Town of Webster was adopted by the General Assembly on Feb. 16, 1859. The town government became inactive, and in 1881, the General Assembly adopted a second act to incorporate the town. This time, the corporate limits were one square mile. A mayor, three commissioners, and a marshal were elected annually.

The population had doubled from 107 in 1880 to 209 in 1890 and a new courthouse was constructed in 1887 at a cost of \$12,000. The county seat was moved from Webster to Sylva after the 1913 vote.

The main reason given by the politicians for the change was that Sylva had a railroad, booming economy, and Harris' tannery which he'd moved from Dillsboro to escape the frequent flooding of the Tuckaseegee River. A two-to-one margin (1,413 to 733) voted for the removal and construction of a new courthouse and jail overlooking downtown Sylva.

