

prospered, many southern towns were stagnating. However, gold mining in and around Charlotte; attracted foreign capital investments, encouraged development of banking institutions, led to establishment of a branch of the United States Mint, inspired organization of the Miner's and Farmers Journal, required the erection of many new buildings and created diversity of employment. Fortunately, the citizens of Charlotte realized the vital necessity of improved transportation to serve and sustain economic activity and began, during this period, the push for acquiring railroads.

From 1840 to 1861 the South experienced often sluggish economic progress. Charlotte, on the other hand, because of it's economic opportunities, sustained in significant measure by the production of gold, was able to attract two railroads, organize a bank, acquire gas lights, establish several woolen mills and an iron foundry, interest the well-educated and productive Wilkes family to move from New York to Charlotte, and to witness innovations in gold recovery technology.

Finally, during the years immediately following the Civil War, reopening of the gold mines placed money into circulation and helped speed economic recovery of Charlotte. The manufacturing of gold ore processing machinery became an important business and additional banks were established.

By the 1880's gold mining was a minor factor in the region's economy but the advantages it had given Charlotte in earlier years had created a momentum of growth that accelerated in ever increasing varieties of activities.

Figure 33. Ore Truck at the Judistill Mine, 1830's.
(photo courtesy Fred Challis, Chattanooga, TN)

Thus, it can be concluded that gold mining in the 1800's was a significant factor the citizens of Charlotte capitalized upon that led to the development of Charlotte as the financial, manufacturing, trade and transportation center that it is today.