



Figure 12. Taylor and Martineau's horizontal steam engine, 1826, may have been the type used at the St. Catherine Mill. Charles Singer, E. J. Holmyard, A. R. Hall, and T. I. Williams, A History of Technology (N.Y., N.Y.: Oxford University Press, 1958), vol. 5, 130.

were also foreigners; and the capital, also, was from abroad. The agents then often made prompt returns by remitting the bullion directly to Europe. This was the case with Chevalier Rivifinoli."¹⁰¹

So impressive was the production of gold from the Rudisill lode and other mines in North Carolina that in 1831 a Congressional committee visited various operations in the area. The report of this committee was perhaps a determining factor in the selection of Charlotte as the location for a branch of the United States Mint.

The actual building of the mint, however, was still several years away. Meanwhile, the flow of currency and Charlotte's economy were accelerating. Spin-off energy from gold mining was affecting all aspects of life during the early 1830's. In January of 1832 a meeting was held in Charlotte to discuss plans for securing a branch of the United States Bank since no progress was being made on the mint. In 1834 a branch of the North Carolina Bank was established in Charlotte.¹⁰² "So much commercial activity created a need for efficient transportation. The old stagecoaches were no longer adequate."¹⁰³ In realization of the vital necessity of improved transportation to serve and sustain the economy, a public meeting was held in 1833 to discuss the possibility of obtaining a railroad.¹⁰⁴

Businesses such as blacksmith shops and sawmills thrived on furnishing materials and services to the mines. On "March 28, 1834, John Harrison gave to J. B. S. Harris a receipt for \$188.12 'for' the building of a gold machine'."¹⁰⁵ Other businesses that served the general public also were profitable. "The newspapers in 1833 announced that balloon