Isaac Harrison McKaughan was born on August 26, 1837, the second child of Archibald and Mary McKaughan, who farmed in the Kernersville vicinity. Isaac began acquiring property in 1874 when he purchased a tract identified as being on S. Main Street. This tract, which stretched through to Salisbury Street, is probably the lot on which the house was constructed.

McKaughan continued to add to his land holdings, adding 69 acres in 1884, 274 acres in 1890, 132 acres in 1891, a lot containing 17,587 square feet in 1908, another lot on Salisbury Street in 1909, and a lot of less than one acre in 1915, bringing his holdings to at least 477 acres, which would have been considered a substantial farm of that day.

The Isaac Harrison McKaughan House was constructed during Kernersville’s boom period. McKaughan chose the then popular, brick Italianate T-plan for his house. His house certainly is the most intact of Kernersville’s Italianate residential structures. Specifically, the McKaughan House retains its Italianate exterior detailing, including decorative porch brackets and bracketed cornice. The house remains virtually unaltered with the exception of the conversion of the rear first floor room to a kitchen and a rear second floor room to a bath, and the enclosure of a rear/side porch. The house retains the original heart pine flooring, tongue-in-groove ceilings, and the standing seam tin roof on the main structure.

Following the McKaughan family’s ownership of the property, it passed through several owners. The current owners, have restored the property to its original condition.

Today the Isaac Harrison McKaughan House is privately occupied.