

*History Of The Lot And The Building  
Now Known As  
Masonic, Lafayette Lodge #23*

*The first church in Washington had stood on this lot. It was used by people of all faiths. The actual deed was dated December 19, 1819. A part of the lot was appropriated for the Parsonage and a part for the church (cost \$1,800.00). This church was a wood frame building With a porch extending across the front. It was built by a Baptist minister and a carpenter Named Wych Jackson and completed in 1823.*

*Soon thereafter, our first Presbyterian pastor was ordained in this church. His name Was Rev. Alexander Webster. His grave is in the vestibule of the present Presbyterian Church. During an annual conference in 1834, the first movement to build Emory College was Started here.*

*In 1881 this old wooden church was moved a short distance from this original site and became Hoyds Opera House.*

*This present building, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Methodist Church was built at the cost of \$5,300.00 and dedicated by the Bishop Pierce on April 9, 1882. The Methodist's occupied this building until 1910 when they built their 3<sup>rd</sup> and present church at 102 West Liberty Street.*

*The second church, now the Masonic Lodge was sold to Boyce Ficklin, Sr. and Boyce Ficklin, Jr. on May 26, 1909. They in turn, deeded it to Lafayette Lodge #23 On December 22, 1913 for the sum of \$3000.00.*

*There was no second story to this building, so the lodge was given a special dispensation to hold its meeting on the ground floor, the first time the permission had ever been granted.*

*The Masonic Blue Lodge-LaFayette Lodge #23 still owns this property. Regular monthly meeting is held by the LaFayette Lodge #23 F & AM. The Royal Arch Masons, Columbia Chapter #134 RAM.*

*The original structure of the building remains the same with minor changes in the interior and repairs as required. A platform was built around the sanctuary. Wall to wall carpet was also installed inside the lodge.*

*As results of a tornado in 1973 that blew the roof off, the roof and the interior was repaired and painted. The stairway leading to the balcony and the balcony itself were refinished showing the beautiful natural wood.*

*The balcony that was once used as a worship area has been turned into a modern kitchen-dining area, where the Masons enjoy many good meals and fellowship.*

*In 1976 beautiful new light fixtures were installed, replacing a solid brass light in the center of the sanctuary believed to be the original one installed when the church was built.*