

Mr. and Mrs Samuel Barnett



The museum's *History* began in 1835 when the house was built by Albert Gallatin Semmes on land owned by Revolutionary War hero Micajah Williamson. In 1857 the house and 100 acres were sold to Samuel Barnett, the first Georgia Railroad Commissioner.

Samuel enlarged the home by adding front rooms, hallways and the main staircase. Samuel's family continued to reside there until the death of his daughter, Mrs. Edward McKendree Bounds, in 1913.

In 1957 the house and grounds were acquired by the City of Washington and underwent a two year, \$31,000 restoration which included relandscaping the grounds in a style reminiscent of the antebellum gardens of the early 1800's.

The Washington Historical Museum opened to the public in 1960 and has continued to serve as an important example of antebellum architecture while providing an intimate glimpse into 200 years of history in Wilkes County and Washington, Georgia.



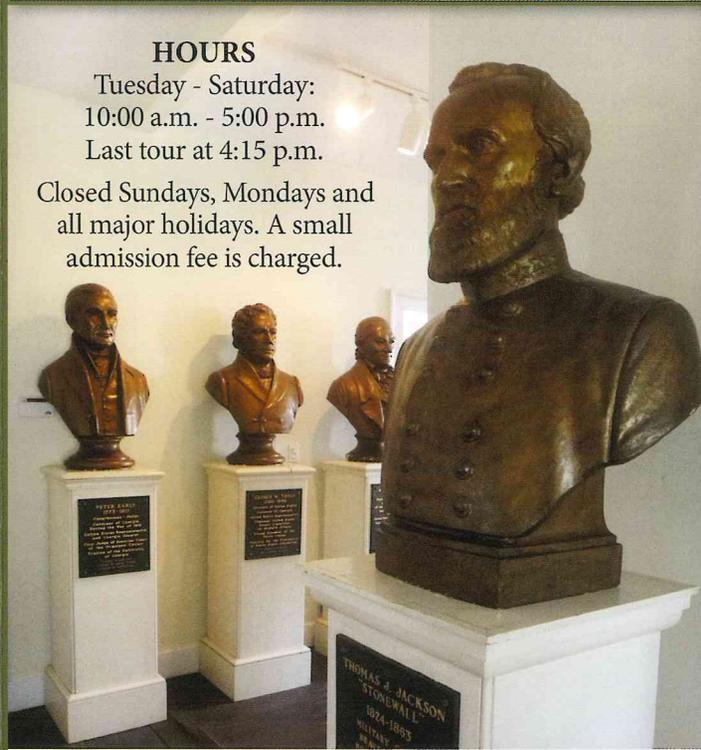
The museum today

The *Mission* of the Washington Historical Museum is to collect, preserve and interpret the history of Wilkes County and the piedmont region of Georgia, and to help people connect with the past so they have an understanding of the present and are better prepared for the future.

HOURS

Tuesday - Saturday:
10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Last tour at 4:15 p.m.

Closed Sundays, Mondays and all major holidays. A small admission fee is charged.



WASHINGTON HISTORICAL MUSEUM

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www.historyofwilkes.org

Property of the City of Washington, Georgia.

Washington HISTORICAL MUSEUM



HISTORIC WASHINGTON, GEORGIA



Washington's Oldest Museum

We can chart our future clearly and wisely only when we know the path which has led to the present. —ADLAI E. STEVENSON



Explore

Stroll through the house and grounds on your own or with a knowledgeable guide.

The gardens include a 100-year-old Sarah Frost Camelia tree, a heart shaped Victorian flower bed and charming gravel paths edged in English ivy.

On the side of the house you'll see the bell that once hung at the Wilkes County courthouse until a fire caused it to fall.



Relax awhile in our front porch rocking chairs and let your imagination transport you to another era.

A WORK IN PROGRESS: The museum's most recent addition is the office of Dr. Lewis Casteel, a country doctor who practiced medicine in Wilkes County during the first half of the 20th century. Relocated here from Metasville, the building contains his original equipment and inventory.

Learn

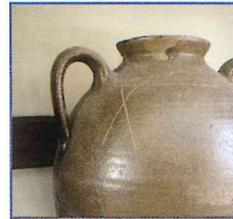


CONFEDERATE ROOM:

Includes Jefferson Davis' field chest, a chair owned by Robert Toombs and numerous military relics.

AFRICAN AMERICAN ROOM:

Includes pottery made by Dave the Slave, an Eli Whitney cotton gin and the fascinating story of Mammy Kate.



CHILDREN'S PLAYROOM:

Includes antique games, a doll house and information on the history of the Wilkes County School System.



NATIVE AMERICAN ROOM:

Includes information on Creek and Cherokee tribes, arrowheads and artifacts, and descriptions of the topography of Washington and Wilkes County.

Discover

Relics from the War Between the States • Revolutionary War Exhibit • Antique Furnishings • Permanent Pottery Exhibit • Antique China, Including George Washington's Gravy Boat • Original Photographs, Letters & Documents • Furnished Rooms, Including Parlors, Master Bedroom, Dining Room & Kitchen • Special Exhibits Native American Artifacts • Antique Loom, Textiles and Clothing • Biographies of Influential Local Citizens, Including Robert Toombs, Alexander Stephens, E.M. Bounds, Samuel Barnett and Many More.

