

# Brick by Brick, the Century Old Gerig Building Goes Down to Make Way for New Modern Stores on Winnsboro's Main Street



HISTORIC STRUCTURE AS IT HAS STOOD FOR OVER 100 YEARS

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For several weeks now workmen have been carefully tearing down, brick by brick, the ancient Gerig building that has graced Winnsboro's Congress St. for more than a century. Within the next fortnight, perhaps, the structure will have been completely razed to make way for a modern one-story building which is to house a Ben Franklin variety store, a branch of a large and nationally-known chain. More details of the business, its operation and personnel will be carried in later issues of The News and Herald.

The building, which is now owned by the sons and daughters of the late John H. and Marian M. McMaster, is one of considerable interest to residents of Fairfield. The records do not show precisely when it was erected but it antedates the Confederate War and is probably approximately 110 years old.

Documents in the Fairfield county courthouse, meticulously kept by Clerk of Court W. W. Lewis, indicate that on Jan. 22, 1834, Robert Cathcart conveyed to David McDowell six lots in the heart of Winnsboro for a consideration of \$3,050, on and adjacent to the spot where the Gerig building now stands. But the building was almost certainly not thereon at that time. The records show, too, that Sailing Wolfe, in 1851, owned a lot or lots adjacent to the building.

On Dec. 5, 1865, one George M. Leventritt of New York City deeded to Francis Gerig both lot and building on this site, for a consideration of "\$8,000 in lawful money of the United States of America." (The war had ended hardly seven months earlier and the canny Yankee was taking no chances on discredited Confederate currency).

On May 15, 1924, the lot and building was conveyed from the estate of J. L. Kirkpatrick to Mar-

## The Robinson Residence Where Cornwallis Stayed



Here you see a very early picture of the J. Roy Robinson residence on N. Zion Street, where, it is said, the British General, Lord Cornwallis, lived for a short time, when the Red Coats were in Winnsborough in 1780, encamped on the old Mount Zion campus.

Indications are the house was built about 1771 by Captain John Buchanan of Revolutionary War fame. In the intervening years, it has been remodeled a number of times. According to Julian S. Bolick's "A Fairfield Sketchbook," Captain Buchanan, who died in 1823, willed the property to his nephew, Gen. John Buchanan. Other owners included A. D. Hilliard, James R. Aiken, James B.

McCants, the Levi Bolick family and Elizabeth (Lizzie) Bolick Stevens. The latter sold it to J. Leonard Robinson.

J. Roy Robinson inherited the house from his father and he and Mrs. Robinson (former Lucy Atkinson) now live there. Mr. Bolick's "Sketchbook" in connection with the house says: "The historic and beautiful old house, a well-kept landmark, furnished with fine heirlooms, some perhaps as old as the building that houses them."

The picture above is another in a series of photographs of the house, loaned by Mrs. H. B. McMaster (the wife of the late J. B. McMaster) to Miss Bessie Moore.