

***Remembering the Past, Celebrating the Future***

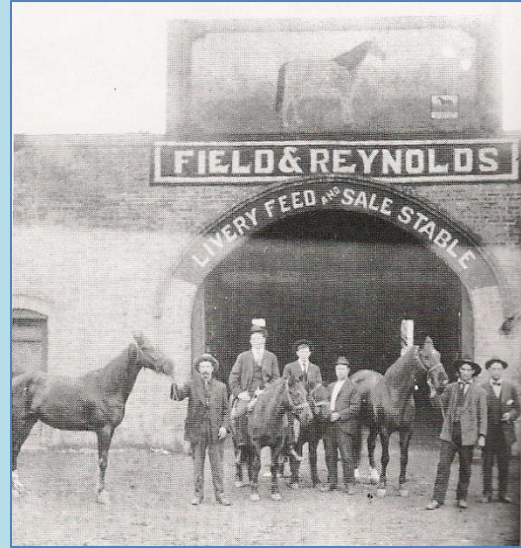
**A Brief History of the FUMC Church Parking Lot Site at 102 South Jackson Street**

Prepared by Dr. Kevin Cason, FUMC Tullahoma Church Historian

Each Sunday morning, members and visitors of First United Methodist Church of Tullahoma park in a parking lot space in between the church building and the Masonic Lodge building located at 102 South Jackson Street.

While the site serves as a parking lot for cars today, the site interestingly served as an important space for horses in Tullahoma's past. Prior to the invention of the automobile in the 1920s, people in America relied on horses as a major source of transportation.

Like many towns in America, Tullahoma had a livery stable where people could rent saddle horses or buggies by the hour, day, or week. During the 1800s, a livery stable called the "Field & Reynolds Livery Stable" was located on the property.



*A Historic Photograph of the Field & Reynolds Livery Stables in Tullahoma during the 1800s.*



*Tullahoma Historic Preservation Society Signs placed near the parking lot of FUMC. Photo by Kevin Cason*

The site also served as an important place during the Civil War. When Tullahoma was occupied by soldiers and under martial law in the 1860s, troops often gathered at this site for instructions and deployment information from their commanders.

Over the years, the site had different businesses. In 1993, First United Methodist Church acquired the property. During that year, the lot was paved and fenced with rod iron fencing.

Today, two historical trail markers by the Tullahoma Historic Preservation Society have been placed at the parking lot site to commemorate the significance of the site.