

## re...Buildings

In 1831 as a new location for Sinking Springs the structure was rectangular with six steps across the front with large white columns, topped with steeple roofs of the period because it was situated on a hillside at the back of the building. In 1837, the building was known as the "Ice House" who hosted performances and social events, "Ice House" The earliest theatrical event known to date was on January 14, 1876, the proceeds of which were for the benefit of Temperance transferred the building's title to all for the benefit of the citizenry. The town made modifications to the brick on the façade added to the building. It was used as a fire hall - hence the fire alarm on the roof or night. When the fire siren sounded during a fire, the audience would freeze their position on stage and to resume their performance remained on the building until 1994 when the building was converted to a communications center to alert fire fighters. Many of the features of the Empire Theatre. Robert Porterfield learned from the building in 1875, was slated for destruction. Porterfield purchased the building and its furnishings and equipment for use at Barter. He spent \$75,000 worth of properties, including seats, gold frames and red wall tapestries. The lighting fixtures were designed by Thomas Edison, was used at Barter Theatre Empire include: Dennis King in the Empire's *The Emperor Jones* and the large portrait of Katherine

Rose, the Barter Foundation Board of Trustees met in April 1995. Architects Harry McKinney and Robert Rose and addition. The project was awarded to the Barter Foundation Trustees Captain Cornell Angelman and Howard Zazel Youngs served on a Building Committee to oversee the renovation. Special features of the renovated building include the Empire Theatre on the right and left walls of the building from which the chandeliers hang.

The building was used as a Methodist church and later became a part of the Barter House for the school's literary societies. The building was not destroyed by fire in 1914; it was later used by the school as a gymnasium and a storage area. In 1961, the building was renovated, with major improvements made in 1973 and 1980 and the Jessie Belle DuPont Memorial Theatre

The architectural plans designed by Uwe Rothe of Cain Associates included new plush seating for 167 patrons and the building serves actors, patrons and community members. Most all of the furnishings and décor was either donated or purchased for Barter production. Historic pictures of the theatre

have been shed and refined look with the addition of sconces and lighting by actors and audiences for its intimate, thrust

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