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	Dr. J. C. Francis	Office Buil	ding		3	n Kit					
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	Site Structure	Private	In Proces		🔲 Unoccupied	X Restricted					
	Object	Both	📋 Being Co	nsidered	Z Preservation work		SU				
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	PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)										
	- ·] Park		Transportation	Comments					
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4.	OWNER OF PROPERTY										
	OWNER'S NAME:										
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7.	DESCRIPTION										
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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This one-story building, of the "American National" style of architecture, was built by Dr. J. C. Francis in the early 1850's. A frame structure of rectilinear outline, its central entrance is flanked by sidelights and topped by a semielliptical fanlight. Four pilasters segment the front facade of the building, and frame the two large frontal windows and entranceway. An unornamented pediment is supported by four fluted columns of the classical order and allows for a spacious portico underneath.

The porch floor of the structure has brick steps, and the bases of the columns are made of brick covered with stucco. The foundation wall is, in all probability, of hand made brick construction.

Originally, the building was divided into two equal parts: a front and rear room with a partition separating them near the center of the building. The front room served as a waiting room and drug dispensary and the rear room as the office.

A major part of the materials are original: ceilings, wall boards on the building interior, and exterior lap siding. The wood trim on the portico and at the front eaves, the pilasters and columns, and windows appear to be original also.



SI	GNIFICANCE			
1	PERIOD (Check One or More as A	ppropriate)		
	Pre-Columbian	16th Century	18th Century	20th Century
	15th Century	17th Century	8 19th Century	
Ē	SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable	and Known)	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Chec	k One or More as Appropri	ate)	
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	Prehistoric	Engineering	Religion/Phi-	Other (Specify)
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	Agriculture	Invention	🔺 Science	
	Architecture	Landscape	Sculpture	
	Art	Architecture	Social/Human-	
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	Communications	Military	Theater	
	Conservation	Music	Transportation	

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Doctor Francis' office is a typical general practitioner's office of the 1850's and the only surviving structure of this type in Northeast Alabama.

Dr. J. C. Francis was a prominent medical doctor with direct family and professional ties to more widely known men of medicine and science. His son-in-law and co-practitioner in this office, Dr. C. J. Clark, was widely known as a Confederate Army surgeon, as director of the Alabama Hospital in Richmond, Virginia, and later for his research on typhoid fever. John Miller Francis, his nephew, also briefly associated with this structure, served for many years as chief chemist of Parke, Davis and Company in Detroit, Michigan.

Dr. Francis was born in Ray County, Tennessee, on July 26, 1810. At the age of eighteen he moved with his parents to Knoxville, where he prepared himself for his profession, and afterwards attended Medical lectures at Lexington, Kentucky. In 1832 he interned with the Army Engineers. He practiced medicine in Tennessee, and moved to Jacksonville in 1837, less than a year after the Cherokee Indian lands were ceded to the United States. He opened a doctor's office in the early 1840's. In conjunction with his office and in the same building, he ran an apothecary. Dr. Francis practiced medicine for more than fifty years in Jacksonville.

The town of Jacksonville was quite small at this time, having less than 1000 people in 1870. It was the county seat of Calhoun County and the center of a rich farming area.

The Dr. Francis building was moved one block from its original location on the Court Square of Jacksonville, but the office now stands on the original Francis property near the site of the family home.

The Dr. Francis Office is being restored as an ante-bellum doctor's office, by the Alabama Historical Commission in cooperation with the General John H. Forney Historical Society, the Medical Association of the State of Alabama, and the City of Jacksonville.



SEE INSTRUCTION

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