

The first floor serves as a drugstore and retail sales. The original ornamental pressed metal ceiling was covered in the 1940s, and a modernization in the 1960s eliminated the soda fountain. Five doctors' offices were located on the second floor in the late 19th century, each containing a fireplace, bookshelves, and a lavatory. The business and bookkeeping offices of the business are now on the second floor, and storage on the third floor. The 2nd and 3rd floor interiors are basically intact with original doors and moldings in place. Although the first floor has been altered and the windows removed from the facade (although at least one original window is in storage in the building) the building displays the best extant example of a late 19th-century Victorian Neo-classical facade found in Anniston.

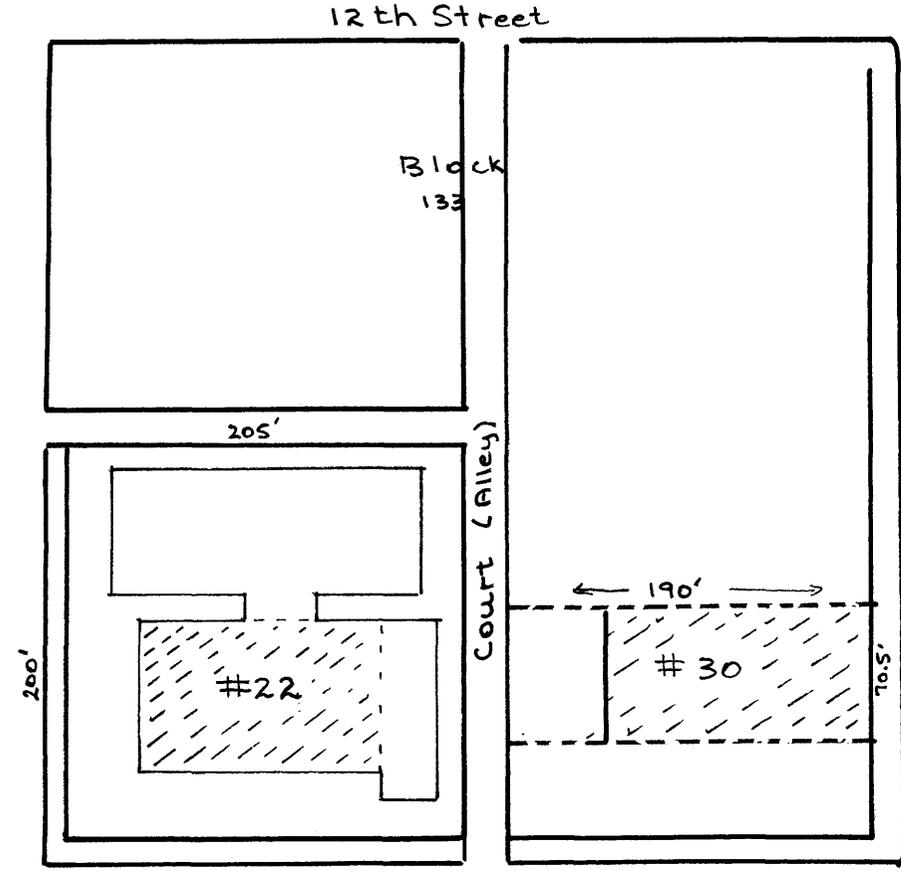
Historical Summary:

Dr. Jesse L. Wikle came to Anniston in 1880 to serve as the Woodstock Iron Company's druggist. After the company's commissary was dissolved, Wikle opened his own drugstore, first in a one-story building, then in the 3-story structure he built in 1883. He not only dispensed drugs but had the first soda fountain in town. The five upstairs office spaces housed the town's first resident surgeon, Dr. Richard P. Huger, and by the 1890s, other early physicians: Drs. J. F. Walker, J. A. Davis and J. B. Kelly.

Wikle also served as mayor three different times: 1909-1916, 1918-1920, and 1922-1924, longer than any other official, and as state senator for two terms. After he became a politician, he sold the drugstore in 1912 to Julius Fletcher Spearman who had worked for Wikle since 1889. Spearman's daughter, Mrs. Ruth Spearman Scruggs, continues to head the business.

Rough Sketch Map
Down Town Area,
Anniston, Alabama

- #4 Wikle Drug Store
- #11 Old Bank of Anniston
- #14 Nonnenmacher Bakery
- #15 Security Bank
- #21 Peerless Saloon
- #22 Calhoun County Court House
- #23 Cater-Rhodes Furniture
- #30 Kress Building



Noble Street

