AUG 23 1985 #4

feet on

#### MULTIPLE RESOURCES OF ANNISTON

CALHOUN COUNTY, ALABAMA

Historic name: Common name:	Wikle Drug Company Wikle Drug Company	Owner:	Spearman Scruggs, Inc. 1010 Noble Street
Address:	1010 Noble Street		Anniston, Alabama 36201
Acreage:	less than one acre	UTM:	16/6 <b>0</b> 8500/3724550
Verbal Boundary: Anniston City Land Company, Block 132, Lot 2, fronting 25 Noble Street and 120 feet to the alley.			
Architectural Design: Neo-Classical			

Date of Construction: 1883

Statement of Significance:

## Criterion A - Commerce:

The Wikle Drugstore building is significant for its association with the city of Anniston's first building boom (1883-1886), after the company town was opened to the public, and as the first drugstore building constructed in Anniston. The building was also the first brick commercial structure on Noble Street and is the only building in the downtown commercial area to still house the original business for which it was constructed.

#### Criterion C - Architecture:

The Wikle Drugstore building is significant architecturally as the city of Anniston's best extant example of a late 19th-century Victorian Neo-classical Commercial building. The facade displays a richly detailed cornice with egg-and-dart molding and denticulation; corner pilasters each with cartouche; scamotze capitals on center pilasters, scrolled keystones, bas-relief swags and fine relief work between the second and third tier of the upper windows.

## Description:

Located near the major intersection of Tenth and Noble Streets, Wikle Drugstore is a rectangular commercial brick building of Neo-classical style, 3 stories, with a 3-bay cast-iron, brick and marble facade. The first floor was originally articulated with a triple arched portico resting on cast-iron Ionic columns with the plate glass storefront recessed. The street level is now a modernized storefront. Square-head windows at the second level and arcuated windows with raised keystones on the third floor are interspersed with Ionic pilasters and flanked by rusticated piers at each end, carrying a breakfront entablature consisting of a molded architrave, a wide frieze embellished with garlands on either side of the central panel which has the word "Wikle" in raised lettering, a molded cornice complete with bold, heavy dentils and egg-and-dart molding, all topped with a breakfront parapet at the roof. The piers are embellished with large ornate cartouches and the design is repeated on a smaller scale on the panels between the second and third floor windows.

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.

