

AUG 23 1985

#12 *

MULTIPLE RESOURCES OF ANNISTON

CALHOUN COUNTY, ALABAMA

Historic name: Anniston Transfer Company Owner: Samuel Frank Jones
Common name: Anniston Galleries 901 Glenwood Terrace
Anniston, Alabama 36201
Address: 911 Wilmer Avenue
Acreage: less than one acre UTM: 16/608660/3724450
Verbal Boundary: Anniston City Land Company Map, Block 118, Lot 9, fronting 70 feet on the East side of Wilmer Avenue between Ninth and Tenth Streets and running back of even width 190 feet to an alley.

Architectural Design: Italianate Influences

Date of Construction: 1889

Statement of Significance:

Criterion C - Architecture:

The Anniston Transfer Company building is significant architecturally as a good local example of the style, rich detailing and craftsmanship that typified the commercial buildings constructed during the building boom of the late 1880s in Anniston. The building's rich detailing is displayed in the late Victorian Neoclassical metal cornice with modillions and paired brackets, lozenge pattern brickwork in the pilasters on the upper facade, the original sashing and the segmentally-arched lintels highlighted by ashlar keystones and voussoirs.

Description:

Located on the east side of Wilmer Avenue between Ninth and Tenth Streets in the business district, this commercial building is a two-story, three-bay building, of pressed brick, with storefronts in the north and central bays of the ground floor and a doorway in the southern bay. The building is distinguished by its use of brickwork to enrich the facade, including decorative insets on the pilasters articulating the bays and a series of blind arches springing from dripped corbels across the top of each bay. The pilasters support an elaborate entablature with a galvanized iron paneled frieze and cornice with paired consoles and intervening brackets.

Another distinguishing feature is the segmentally-arched hood molds at the second-floor windows; light colored stone used as the keystone alternates with bricks, creating a striped effect. The design is repeated over the first-floor door, which is of wood laid diagonally between the muntin and rail and is topped by a two-light transom. The windows have two-over-two sash and stone sills. The second-story windows in the six side bays are also segmentally arched, with the original window sash. Below, on the first floor are narrow openings, now bricked in that once served the horse stalls in the livery stable.

Along each side are parapets that step down from the street elevation, with two splayed chimneys rising above. The low-pitched hipped roof over the main part of the building behind the parapet breaks into a gable at each end. The building has been altered very little.

Historical Summary:

Luther Glenn Jones, who moved as a young man to Anniston and became a respected business leader for a half-century, acquired the building from John A. Barrett and opened the Anniston Transfer Company which was a combination funeral parlor and commercial stable. Barrett later opened a bag manufacturing plant and later a bill-posting business from the building. His outdoor advertising business operated over a wide territory in northeast Alabama and Georgia.

After Jones' death in 1935, his son Samuel Frank Jones, also a leader in both business and the arts in Anniston for a half-century, continued the advertising business which operated from the building. During the late 1930s Jones opened a dancing school on the second floor. Over the next decades he taught several generations of Annistonians how to dance until the school closed in the 1970s. The building has also housed a cab company, substation for a dry cleaners, flower shop, radio service shop, and home equipment shop. For the past thirty years Jones has operated an antique gallery in the building, and his wife Helen has had an interior design shop and later a knitting and needlepoint business.

Rough Sketch Map
#12 Anniston Transfer Co. and Kaplan Block (#24)
Anniston, Alabama

