

MULTIPLE RESOURCES OF ANNISTON

CALHOUN COUNTY, ALABAMA

AUG 23 1985

Historic name: Nonnenmacher Bakery Owner: People's Finance of Anniston, Inc.
Common name: People's Finance Thomas S. Downing, President
Address: 36 West 11th Street 36 West 11th Street
Anniston, Alabama 36201

Acreage: less than one acre UTM: 16/608380/3724640

Verbal Boundary: Lot number 19 in block 132, as shown on the map of Anniston City Land Company, situated on the southeast intersection of 11th Street and Gurnee Avenue in the city of Anniston, Alabama.

Architectural Design: Late Victorian Commercial with Italianate influences

Date of Construction: c. 1890

Statement of Significance:

Criterion A - Commerce:

The Nonnenmacher Bakery Building is significant for its association with the early commercial development of Anniston. The building was the first constructed in Anniston specifically for use as a bakery.

Criterion C - Architecture:

The Nonnenmacher Bakery Building is significant as a good example of a late Victorian commercial building in Anniston. The building, which displays a metal pseudo-Italianate cornice, is also significant as one of the least altered of the city's remaining 19th-century commercial buildings.

Description:

Located on the southeast corner of 11th Street and Gurnee Avenue, the rectangular two-story pressed-brick Victorian commercial structure measuring 30 x 60 feet has a narrow three-bay front articulated by cast-iron supports at the storefront level embellished in Eastlavian fashion, and pilasters on the upper floor, supporting a galvanized iron cornice with paired triangular consoles interspersed with a series of modillions. The upper windows are segmentally-arched with a raised, vermiculated keystone and impost blocks. On the side, the smaller windows on the first floor as well as the basement windows have been bricked up. The pilaster design continues on the second level with four bays consisting of paired segmentally-arched windows, with original sash beneath plastic blinds. At the rear of the building an original four-paneled door, with a segmentally-arched two-light transom separated with a bead-and-reel molding in the muntin bar, enters a stairway to the second floor.

Three rooms on the first level now house the finance company. The second floor is now unused; it once served as the Nonnenmacher family living quarters, with a long hall and four rooms, each with a coal-grate fireplace, and a kitchen still containing a covered, galvanized bathtub.

In the basement, now unoccupied, are the bakery's original ovens, extending under the sidewalk and street. The heat from the ovens would melt snow on the street above in the winter.

The original exterior stairway on Gurnee leading to the bakery below was covered in the 1960s when the windows were bricked. Otherwise, the building is remarkably unaltered.

Historical Summary:

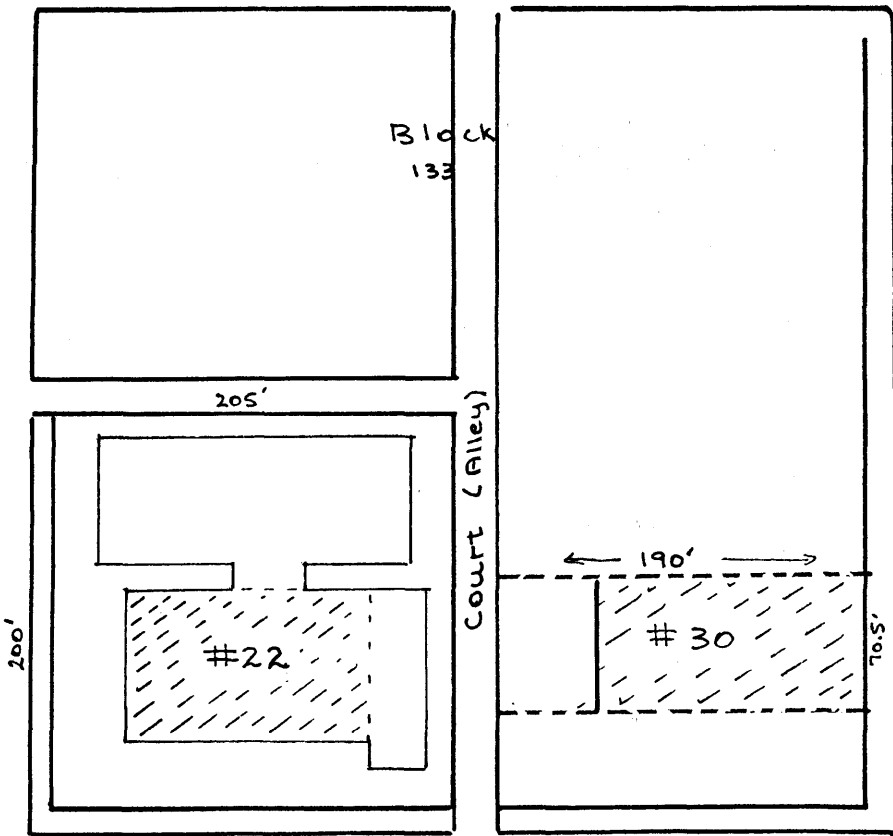
Charles Nonnenmacher was a German immigrant who came to Anniston in 1883 after the town opened to the public. He, and a partner, bought a lot on 11th and Gurnee from the Woodstock Iron Company in July 1883. He bought out his partner in 1885 and by 1890 had completed the brick building. He baked in the basement, had his retail bakery on the first floor and occupied the second floor as a residence until 1902. The bakery was a popular social spot in the bustling town of the late 1890s. During the early years the bakery was located across from the wagonyard on the southwest corner of Gurnee and 11th Streets. After 1900, the Calhoun County Courthouse was located directly across the street on the northeast corner of the intersection.

Nonnenmacher died in 1919 and the bakery ceased operation. The building was used in succeeding years as a grocery, offices, and finally as a finance company.

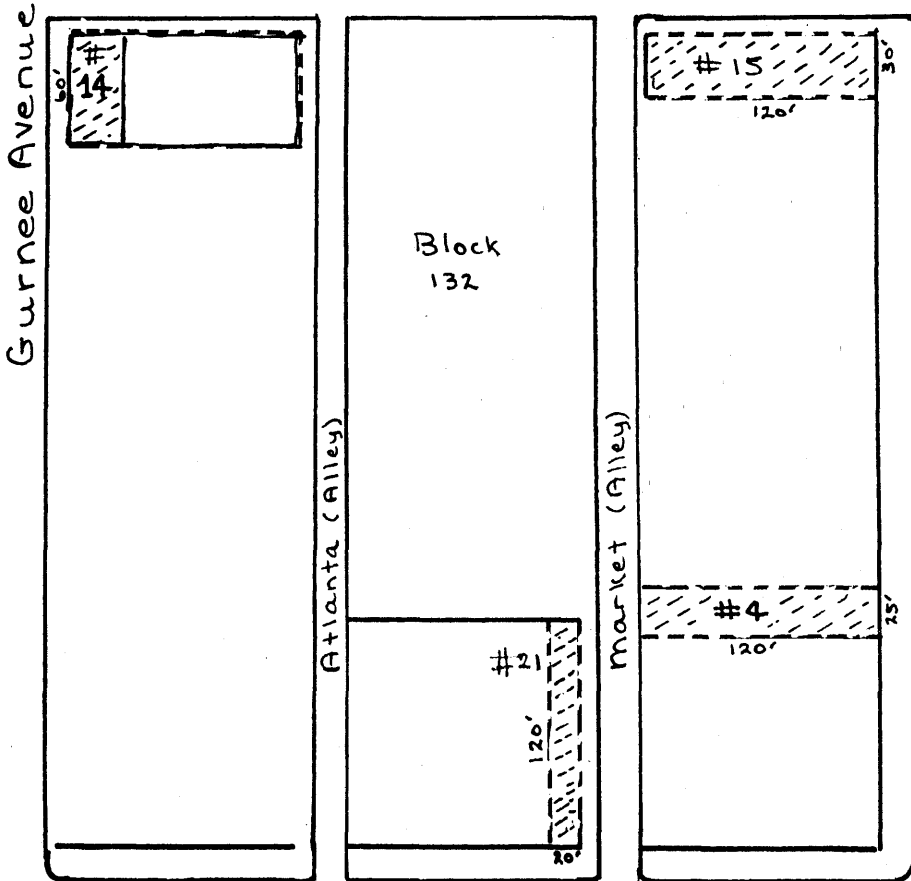
12th Street

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



11th Street



10th Street

Noble Street

