MULTIPLE RESOURCES OF ANNISTON CALHOUN COUNTY, ALABAMA

Historic name: Security Bank Building Owner: Don and Jane Hull

Common name: The Army Mule 1030 Noble Street

Anniston, Alabama 36201

Address: 1030 Noble Street

Acreage: less than one acre UTM: 16/608500/3724640

Verbal Boundary: Anniston City Land Company Map, Block 132, Lot 12, situated at the

southwest corner of the intersection of Noble and Eleventh Streets, fronting 30 feet on the west side of Noble Street and extending westward of even width along the south side of Eleventh Street 120

feet to an alley.

Architectural Design: Victorian Commercial

Date of Construction: 1890

Statement of Significance:

Criterion A - Commerce:

The Security Bank Building is significant for its association with the city of Anniston's major development boom of the late 1880s and early 1890s. The bank was one of the first financial institutions formed in the city and is also closely related to one of the major real estate development companies, the Southwestern Land Company, that contributed to the city's growth during the period.

Criterion C - Architecture:

The Security Bank Building is significant architecturally as a very good local example of a late 19th century Victorian Commercial building and displays highly ornamental details in one of the most elaborate decorative parapets from the period remaining in Anniston.

Description:

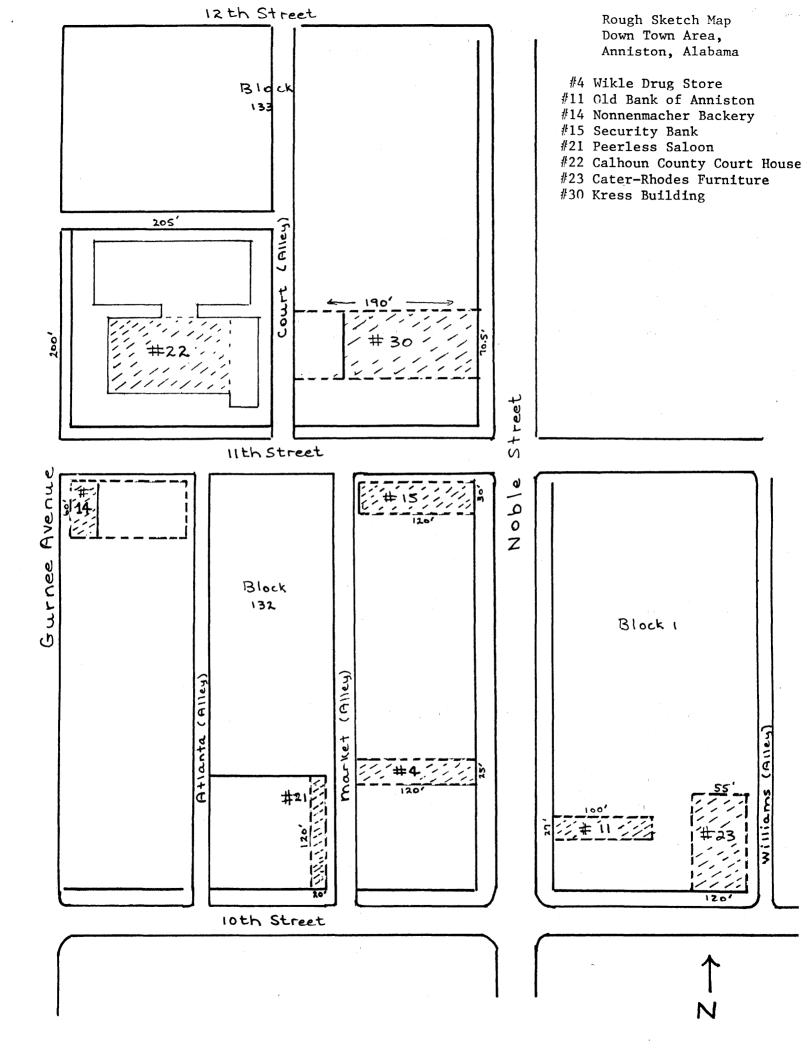
The three-story brick Victorian Commercial building on the southwest corner of Noble and Eleventh Streets has one of the most elaborate finishes in the town. The corner of the building is truncated, with a modernized storefront at the first level on Noble and a series of arches with stone trim, now plastered over, along Eleventh At the second and third levels, respectively, are square-headed windows and arched windows, both with decorative stone moldings. Both sets of windows have been altered, with replacement glass on the second floor and boarded openings at the third. The building facade is articulated by a series of rusticated brick pilasters interspersed with dripped corbeling and carrying a very elaborate galvanized iron cornice, consisting of paired consoles with a series of galvanized iron scroll brackets between. The cornice on both the east and north faces of the building is punctuated midway by a highly elaborated arched parapet with a raised keystone at the top and with two smaller arches with fan motif above the denticulated cornice, and flanked by a balustrade. The words "Security Bank" are in raised lettering beneath the arched parapet in a smaller arch with keystone and raised foliation in the spandrels. (See photograph.)

Despite some unfortunate modifications at the ground level, the building is still very intact, although paint obscures some of its details. The first floor is now used for retail sales, the second floor (now vacant) has six rooms, four with fireplaces, and the third floor five rooms including an assembly room (also vacant).

Historical Summary:

The group that organized the Security Bank in 1890 and constructed the building also formed the Southwestern Land Company. They were J. J. Willett, Craig Cofield and M. F. McCarty. They purchased the lot from H. E. Mann for \$9,000 in the boom period when costs were high, but soon the depression hit; the bank failed to flourish, and the building was quickly vacant.

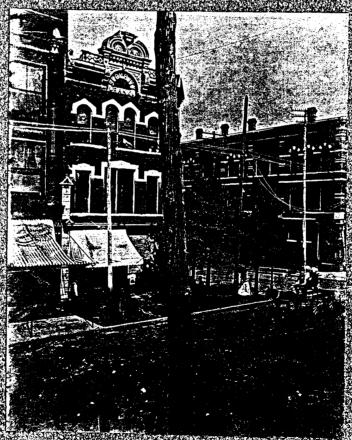
Lloyd's Drugstore opened on the first floor in 1896 and remained in operation until the 1940s. Since then a variety of businesses have come and gone. The present owners of "The Army Mule" sell sporting and military supplies. The second-floor office space was used by various professionals until 1979. J. J. Willett, one of the bank's founders, a prominent Anniston lawyer and judge, and well-known Democratic orator, had his law offices there from 1908 until his death in 1955 at the age of 93. Willett's safe is still in his office. The last occupant was attorney Charles Thomason. The third floor was used variously as a rooming house and meeting place.



Security National Bank Building about 1895

from the Nonnenmacher Scrapbook

Public Library of Anniston-Calhoun County



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