

DOWNTOWN OCALA HISTORIC WALKING TOUR

AGNEW-GARY BLOCK

10 S MAGNOLIA AVE, OCALA, FL 34471

Agnew-Gary Block was one of the first buildings constructed following the 1883 Thanksgiving Day fire. E.W. Agnew's father, one of the founding fathers of Ocala, owned the Palace Hotel, a Dry Goods Store, and a Boarding House along Magnolia Avenue. They were all burned to the ground in the 1883 fire.

E.W. Agnew took over his father's store in 1883 and took control of one of the largest mercantiles not only in Ocala, but in Florida at the time. After the fire, the building was rebuilt in 1884. It was enlarged in 1890. The store handed a variety of general merchandise including dry goods, millinery items, notions, clothing, hats, caps, boots, shoes, fancy groceries, carpeting, hardware, and home furnishings. The store also did limited banking business until Agnew established the First National Bank in 1886.

The first occupants of the first-floor storefronts were two large, dry goods stores and a funeral parlor. By 1891, M. Fishel's dry goods store and A.E. Delouest's general hardware store were located in the building, although the hardware store was relocated a few years later. In 1912, extensive exterior alterations occurred. A two-story masonry east room replaced the one-story frame room, and the former symmetric, three-bay façade was divided.

Currently in this building is Brick City Southern Kitchen and Whiskey Bar on the first floor, and Downtown Billiards on the second floor.



Agnew-Gary Block c.1925



Agnew-Gary Block c.1954 (Visible in Front Right)

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