
DOWNTOWN OCALA HISTORIC WALKING TOUR

BANNER BLOCK

56 SE 1ST AVE, OCALA, FL 34471

In 1886, construction on a two-story building at the northwest corner of Main and Ft King Street was completed. The rear (west) end of the building was completed as a free-standing structure that housed Ocala City Hall. By 1888, the larger east end of the current building was constructed. At the time, metal coping was extended to the older building to better integrate it.

Banner Block was built to house the Ocala Banner Job Office. Around 1891, the first floor served as city hall, and the second floor was used as physician offices. By 1920's, there was both a grocery store on the first floor of the building and Savage & Savage Realtors. In the 1930's, Cox Furniture occupied this space; and by 1940, Cox Furniture had taken over the entire building.

The building was later renovated into a retail store and is now the site of Soleil Bakery & Social House.



Banner Block (Left) c.1970



Banner Block renovated, 2022

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