
DOWNTOWN OCALA HISTORIC WALKING TOUR

LAFAYETTE BLOCK

53 S MAGNOLIA AVE, OCALA, FL 34471

Lafayette Block was originally constructed as two separate buildings: the west building in 1886, and the east building in 1888. The west building had two storefronts facing South Magnolia Avenue, and one storefront facing SW Ft. King Street. The east building was constructed to house four offices. Later renovations combined the two storefronts. Since 1930, the two easternmost offices have been removed, as well as historic porches from the consolidated building.

The building originally housed a harness shop and a cobbler, with a furniture and coffin maker housed next door. Mary Peacock, a dressmaker; L.F. Ballard, a painter and decorator; and N.F. Kearns, an upholsterer, had shops in Lafayette Block in the early 1900s. Stewart's Printer was an occupant in the 1930s. A tailor, restaurant, jeweler, and gift shop were in the building by 1935 and remained in place until 1940.

The building was recently renovated and is now occupied by Ivy House on the Square Restaurant. The business owners received a Florida Main Street Award in 2018 for this historical renovation project.



Lafayette Block (left) and the All American Radio Building (right) c. 1970



Lafayette Block, now home to Ivy on the Square

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