
DOWNTOWN OCALA HISTORIC WALKING TOUR

FIRST NATIONAL BANK

36 S MAGNOLIA AVE, OCALA, FL 34471

The dominant, three-story building, historically referred to as First National Bank, was constructed in 1886 by E.W. Agnew and Co. The adjacent, two-story building was constructed in 1912. The building was erected on the site of The Palace Hotel, owned by E.W. Agnew's father. It has been destroyed in the Great Fire of 1883. E.W. Agnew was also the contractor who graded the railroad bed and laid crossties and rails from Citra to Ocala in 1881, before he entered the private banking business.

First National Bank was established by E.W. Agnew in 1886 with authorized capital of \$150,000. At the time of its construction, the bank had the "largest and finest" depository safe in Florida. Between 1886 and 1895, the bank printed \$43,320 worth of \$5 notes. The notes featured the photo of President James Garfield, who was assassinated in 1881. The bank failed in 1899 and its president, E.W. Agnew, was sentenced to five years in prison for misuse of funds. Despite the failure of the First National Bank, in 1909, the Commercial Bank and Trust Company took over the space. Part of the upper floors were maintained as professional office space. Its occupants included an attorney, a dentist, and several physicians. A Christian Science Reading room was in the building in 1920. In 1930, the Mayor of Ocala maintained an office in the building. The bank remained in the building until the mid-1950s.

In its later years, the building was commonly known as Keystone Building due to its occupation by Keystone Jewelers. Office space was provided on the upper floors of the building for professional use.

The building is now The Lodge Brick City Craft Pub & Eatery.



First National Bank Soon After Construction was Complete c.1886



Looking South on Magnolia c.1900 (First National Bank Visible in the Rear Right)

A PROJECT BROUGHT TO YOU BY OCALA MAIN STREET AND SPONSORED IN PART BY THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, DIVISION OF HISTORICAL RESOURCES AND THE STATE OF FLORIDA



A BIG THANK YOU TO THE CITY OF OCALA FOR THEIR SUPPORT AND THE HISTORIC OCALA PRESERVATION SOCIETY FOR HELPING COLLECT ALL THE INFORMATION!