



Empire Drugstore – Richland County History Room photo.

Empire Drugstore Building – 101 West Court Street – circa 1890.



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THE EMPIRE DRUG STORE
Don't Forget the Concert Victrola Contest


Built circa 1890 for F.A. (Jerry) Smith, this two-story red brick commercial vernacular building is characterized mainly by the use of contrasting color bricks around the arched windows and on the corbeled brick cornice in a typical Victorian manner. The Smith building's architectural character has been altered by the removal of the second story windows and by the remodeling of the storefront. It was initially used as a dry goods store by John Bowen which sold dry goods and groceries along with Buster Brown shoes.

The Smith Building then housed the Burnham Empire Drug Store in 1914 after being remodeled by John Burnham. The building was rebuilt after the interior was gutted by a fire in 1919. The Burnham family sold the building in 1949.

Prior to 1900, many of the drugstores in Richland Center sold not only drugs and related items but also groceries and many other assorted items. Drugstores commonly sold not only prescribed and patented medicines but also oils, paints, perfumes, notions, jewelry, fruits and candy.

The Empire Drugstore sold additional products including Victrolas, radios, hair products and books. It also had a soda fountain.

Santa Claus Is Here



FROM "YE OLD GIFT SHOP"

Select List For Grown Up Folks

Kodak	Polychrome Sets	Electric Grills
Cigars	Book Ends	Manicure Sets
Desk Pads	Candle Sticks -	Jewel Cases
Fountain Pens	Box Candy	Shaving Sets
Diary	Perfume	Razors
Cigarettes	Atomizers	Collar Bags
Ash Trays	Ivory	Poker Chip Sets
Wahl Pencils	Clocks	Books
Bible	Electric Pads	Pocket books
Toilet Sets	Stationery	Fruit Trays
Memory Books	Electric Irons	Silaleur Sets
Toasters	Hot Plates	Lamps

Select List For The Children

Games	Brownie Kodaks	Skooters
Story Books	Game Boards	Mamma Dolls
Bibles	Steam Engines	Rubber Balls
Candy	Trains	Boats
Baby Sets	Automobiles	Sewing Sets
New Testament	Kiddie Cars	Rattles
Sewing Machines	Tinker Toys	


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Empire Drug Store



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Advertisements from The Richland Observer newspaper archive.



The Empire Drugstore is now the Empire Grill. Two local entrepreneurs have recreated a near period correct eating establishment with a restored lunch counter along with the original tin ceiling. It's a wonderful example of successful historic preservation. Visit them on Facebook for their menu and hours.

<https://www.facebook.com/Empire-Grill-229557173888079/?fref=ts>