

Historic Downtown Hartwell Ambassador



Current Business Name: Empire South
Current Business Owner: Derek Chitwood
Address: 358 E Howell Street
Parcel No.: 157D115

History-At-A-Glance

Architectural Style:

Elements of Queen Anne, ground floor entrance was updated in the mid-20th century to Mid-Century Modern with a Shake/Colonial awning.

Build Date:

1850

Renovated Date:

1960, 1972, 1985, 2015, 2019

Unusual features/uses:

General Store, Hardware Store

Quote from notable Hart Countian/Hartwellian about the building:

"The Bailes-Cobb building has been a center of activities in downtown Hartwell for well over 150 years. It's been a pleasure to serve the Northeast Georgia community. We are so proud to hand over the building to Derek and Kari Beth Chitwood." - Earl and Mary Lynn Johnson.



Archway Partnership
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

1901 -
1910

The downstairs was split into a hardware store and a general store. The upstairs were offices, accessed by an interior stairway in the center of the two stores, at the front of the building.

1917 -
1925

The downstairs was split into four sections. The two sections facing Howell Street were still a hardware store and a general store. Two large sections in the rear were both general stores. The upstairs were still offices. Night school classes were also taught upstairs to local residents wishing to sharpen their penmanship, arithmetic, and bookkeeping skills.

1940 -
1950

Dr. HB Stanford owned and operated a dentist office upstairs. He was notorious for being very rough with patients!

1940 -
2018

While Bailes-Cobb was established in the summer of 1929 by Hartwellian Joseph E. Cobb and G.H. Bailes of Anderson, the business was moved to this location in 1940. They were the destination for clothing, shoes, and household goods. Bailes-Cobb remained in the family for three generations (Louise Cobb Johnson and Henry Johnson followed by Earl and Mary Lynn Johnson). Bailes-Cobb grew and became the fashion shopping destination for Northeast Georgia and Lake Hartwell visitors.

2019

The building was sold to Derek and Kari Beth Chitwood and reopened as Empire South.