

The Belk-Gallant Building

The Belk-Gallant Building is one of the most historic buildings in downtown Toccoa. Located at the corner of Doyle and Sage Streets, the building that currently houses Whistle Stop Antique Market has long been an anchor of downtown. The building is an older two-story masonry structure with a third finished level in the basement. The total gross area is approximately 34,100 sq. ft. on three levels.

Before Belk came to downtown, the building housed the Mechanics and Farmers Bank and was originally constructed in 1910. Belk, interested in establishing its tenth store nationwide, leased the building from the late John Sosebee, Sam Rothell and Oscar Sosebee and moved into the building in 1937. Belk remained on their corner location in downtown until 1995 when the store moved to its current location on Big A Road.

After Belk moved out of downtown, they donated the building to the city, who retained ownership until 2004 and established a viable antique market and restaurant to help market the building for sale. The building sold to existing owner James VanderWoude has worked to restore the façade of the building to its former integrity and style. The renovation of the Belk-Gallant Building reestablished 36,000 square feet of viable business space along two downtown streets. The store features three floors of antiques,

furniture and collectibles. Due to its wide range of products, the readers of GMEC Magazine selected Whistle Stop as a top pick for antique shopping in 2009.



The Belk Building in 1940.



The Belk Building in 1910, adapted from the Toccoa Historic Preservation Committee.

SNAPSHOTS OF TOCCOA'S HISTORY

Main Street Toccoa

