

EXCELSIOR SPRINGS HISTORIC RESOURCES

1. Property name, present H-L Auto Services/Sales;
Buck's Body Shop

Property name, historic Albany Hotel

2. Address/location
410-412 South Street
Excelsior Springs, MO

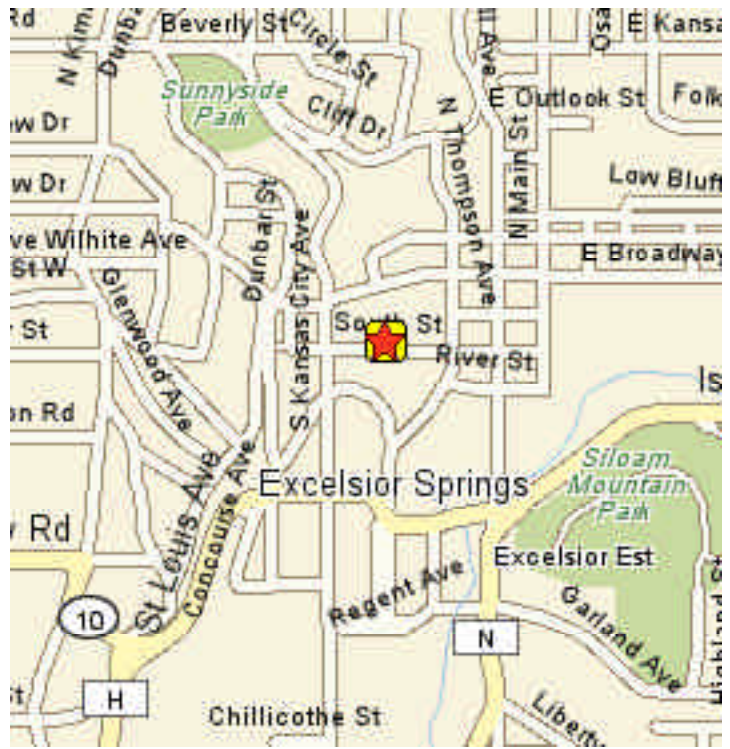
3. Owner's name and address
Earl & Donna Fowler
14319 St. Andrews Drive
Grandview, MO 64030

4. Building Structure
Site Object

5. Use, present Commercial

Use, original Commercial & hotel

6. Location Map



7. Date of construction (or estimate) ca. 1906

8. Changes
 Altered Addition Moved

9. Architect/engineer/designer

10. Contractor/builder/craftsman

11. Style: High Style Elements
 Vernacular

12. Plan Shape Rectangle

13. Number of stories 2

14. Roof type and material Flat

15. Type of construction Brick

16. Exterior material(s) Brick

17. Foundation material(s)

18. Porch(es) Not applicable

19. Additional physical description

This two-part commercial block structure is a vernacular example of the commercial style prevalent around the turn-of-the-century. The 1st story has been divided into two storefronts. The west bay has a panelled garage door with windows enframed by beaded board. The east bay had a slightly recessed entry centered within the bay, and a display window area on either side. Within each display window opening are two 1/1 windows with the muntins set at varying heights. The windows and entry door are wood. The transom area of the east bay has been covered with a large sign. A continuous steel lintel is above the shopfront area. The 2nd story windows are 1/1, double-hung with wood frames. The simple lugsills are of stone, and there are arched lintels with radiating voussoir of brick. On the west elevation 1st story, one small window remains, as does a door entry which has been enclosed to make a window. The windows and openings are the same as those on the front facade. The east elevation has wooden stairs which lead to a 2nd story entry door with transom light above. There are also 4

windows on the 2nd story, and another 1st story entry which has been closed down. On the front (south) elevation, a faint outline of "THE ALBANY" can still be seen in paint above the 2nd story windows. Above this lettering, decorative brick corbelling accents the cornice of the roof edge.

20. Description of environment and outbuildings.

Vacant lots are on both the west and east sides. Trees are to the rear (north) of the building, lining the Dry Fork of the East Fork of the Fishing River. Across South Street is an asphalt parking lot, still referred to today as the "Hitch Lot".

21. History and significance

This structure was constructed between 1905 and 1907, adjacent to the main frame building of the Albany Hotel at 408 South Street. The Albany was the only hotel for black people in Excelsior Springs. For the most part, the residents worked in the hotel and clinics, and were long-term renters. In 1908, the Albany was owned and operated by Mr. and Mrs. Stanford King. Mr. King constructed this building next door to his cleaning business, K.C. Steam Cleaning. While the 1st floor was available for commercial purposes, the upstairs was used as boarding rooms for the Albany. The two structures had 25 rooms, described in an early newspaper article as "neatly and comfortably furnished". There were electric lights and "ample provision for sunlight and ventilation". Guests were allowed the use of the parlor, piano, veranda and yard with its shade trees. By 1917, the owners of the Albany were Marie E. and H.B. White. H.B. White also operated a barber shop in the 1st floor of the brick structure. In 1922, the Albany Cafe was in one of the two businesses on the 1st floor of 410-412 South Street. Also in the building at one time was a grocery and a feed store. After the White's, the next owners of the Albany were Mr. and Mrs. Roy Monroe. Across the street was the city's hitch lot (the current parking lot is still referred to by that name). Behind the Albany was a settlement known as "the Bottoms", which was reached by a swinging bridge across the creek. After one flood, the foundation of the frame Albany was so badly damaged as to require its demolition.

The Albany has retained a fair degree of architectural integrity and is representative of a small hotel/boarding house which also housed commercial enterprises on the 1st floor. Although it was not considered the main structure of the Albany, it was owned and operated with that hotel and is the only extant structure. It was the only hotel which accommodated black people during the historic period of Excelsior Springs development. However, a black physician, Dr. D.A. Ellett, owned and operated the Star Bath House. In addition, W.A. Doxey and wife were "practical bathers" and masseurs, and had parlor across from the Sulpho Saline Pavilion. As a general rule though, the black business people involved with the mineral waters in Excelsior Springs provided services for white clientele. The Albany was the only "hotel" which was operated solely for black clients. As such, it is a significant structure for its association with not only the historic context of the city, but for its association with minority history as well. Further research may confirm its individual eligibility to the National Register. It would be a contributing element in a thematic nomination which described the "Hotels - 2nd class" property type. It is also an important local landmark, and is worthy of local designation.

22. Sources of information.

Sanborn maps. City Directories. Historic photographs, Excelsior Springs Historical Museum. Oral Interviews - George and Carrie Seay; Herbert Ellett.

23. Prepared by
Deon Wolfenbarger
Three Gables Preservation
9550 NE Cookingham Drive
Kansas City, MO 64157

24. Date of survey July, 1991

25. On National Register
Eligible for listing
Individual
 District
Local designation
 Eligible for local designation

23B. Prepared by
Excelsior Springs HPC
City of Excelsior Springs
201 East Broadway
Excelsior Springs, MO 64024

24B. Date of survey January, 2005

25B.

