HISTORIC JONES MERCANTILE

Est. 1879

City of Canton Renovations
2017-2019

A Brief History

Very few commercial buildings in Cherokee County can boast the age of the historic Jones Building in downtown Canton. The massive building that would stand as a city block in many communities anchors the eastern side of Cannon Park. The building has served as the focal point of the central business district since 1879, when it originally opened as the Jones Mercantile. Serving the residents of Cherokee County with everything from hardware to haberdasheries, food to furniture, and children's toys to caskets, the store was a one-stop shop and the original Cherokee County department retailer. The Jones Mercantile accepted mill currency and store credit, being on the cutting edge of retailing. It originally stood as only half the building mass that is currently visible until a two story addition was built adjacent to the first structure on the east side along Main Street. By 1921, the expansion had a third story added on that new space and the building's storefront along Main Street was seamlessly designed. The building would undergo a remodel in the 1950s. Finally, in 1973, as was the retail trend, an aluminum and stucco façade was installed covering up the facility.

Purchased by Cherokee County in the late 1980s for additional administrative office space, the building was subdivided from large open floor space to office suites for varied County operations. In January of 2017, the City of Canton took ownership of the facility from Cherokee County as part of an asset swap through the consolidation of fire services. City Council immediately hired Lord Aeck Sargent's (LAS) Atlanta Office and the duo of Jack Pyburn and Esther Davis to assist in putting together plans for the renovation of the exterior of the facility. Throughout early 2017, LAS had the building scanned, employed environmental engineers to scan and test building materials, examined contributing elements of the historic building (woodwork, windows, masonry, structure and mechanicals), all to create architectural designs for bidding for construction.

In May 2017, City leaders approved the use of a Construction Manager at Risk platform for the work at the facility. The CM at Risk will oversee the project, subcontracting labor to varying groups through an open book system while bidding out all work. This philosophy assists the City with establishing a not-to-exceed budget for the project. The project was two phased: a building envelope renovation and an operational renovation. The first phase includes replacement of the roof structure and renovation of the façade of the facility. This phase included repair and replacement of masonry, windows, and the addition of historically accurate commercial storefront designs. Additionally, during this first phase, the CM at Risk was responsible for the selective demolition of the interior non-attributing elements. During this process, interior walls were removed as well as some of the non-original floor systems used to subdivide the building.

In October 2017, Garbutt Construction was hired as the CM at Risk and selective interior demolition, the new roofing system and exterior renovation work began.

1914 from the Cherokee Advance showing the building under construction

Completed in 1914, Grand opening held with the 35th anniversary celebration on November 11

1920 before the 2nd story addition

1930s after 2nd story addition

1949 shows new expanded 2nd story on South side

1957 showing remodel

1970 redesign featuring stucco and steel paneling facade with canopies extending over entrances and windows

2008: Cherokee County used the building as administration offices

CITY OF CANTON RENOVATIONS

2017-2019

130
SMOKING PROHIBITED
WITHIN 25 FEET OF
BUILDING ENTRANCE

SPRINKLER ZONE SHUT OFF

EXIT

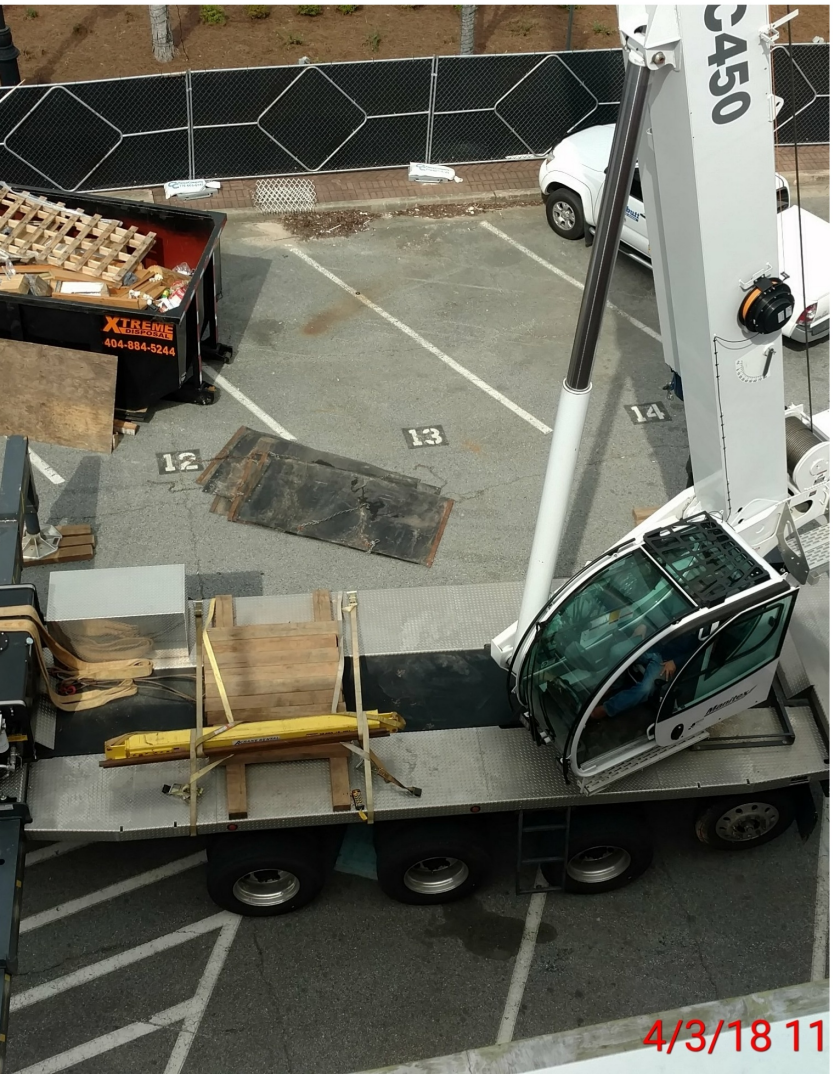
1/10/18 4

NO
PARKING
LOADING
ZONE
2/21/18 8:55:20 AM EST

2/9/18 9:08:04 AM EST

1/16/18 3

1/15/18 3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PERM-A-BARRIER
GRACE

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