



129 North 4th Street

Commercial Federal Style • circa. 1848 • Architect unknown
R. Brittingham building

The V. Ryon Brittingham building is a very important survivor of the first rebuilding of the square in the 1840s. The simple lines of the Federal Style are indicative of the age of the building.

Over the years this building was also home to Jackson Millinery, Samuels Millinery, Rehm Meat Market, United Service Co., Gem City Sign and now Bee Line Express.

The three-story building had upstairs apartments occupied originally by the Brittinghams. V. Ryon Brittingham was a merchant whose building was located on the west side of the square in 1848. The 1859 City Directory has Mrs. Hester Brittingham living at 35 4th, 2nd story along with Stephen A. and Wm. E. Brittingham. Both Stephen and William are listed as clerk of boards. The 1866 City Directory shows Mrs. Hester W. Brittingham, the widow of V. Ryon residing at 35 Fourth north of Maine. Also residing with her is Charles T. Brittingham, a student along with Valentine R. Brittingham, a printer at 38 Fourth; res. 35 Fourth north of Maine. It is believed that these were children of the Brittinghams.

The current owners recently had the building totally rehabbed after it had fallen into disrepair. The stained glass transoms were added in the late 1800s, they were covered for many years by a rustic wooden sign of a former business. Also saved in the restoration are the metal columns on the building's storefront.

They also had the upstairs apartment totally renovated and use it as their home. The removal of part of the third floor opened up this space for a spectacular view of Washington Park. The balcony around the great room is stunning! This building is now one of the gems surrounding the city's square!

*BEHIND CLOSED DOORS
OCTOBER 18 2008*