



Butler's Mini-Mall has housed numerous businesses over the past 55 years, including Butler's Furniture Store, a supermarket, a Wellworth Five and Ten Cent Store, Green's Department Store, and even a bowling alley.

## 21. **BUTLER MINI-MALL (1947)**

After the Burnside Hotel was destroyed by fire in 1904, the lot remained vacant for a number of years and was sometimes used as a cornfield. In 1947, Raleigh J. Butler erected the Butler Building on land fronting East Main Street that was once part of the old hotel and its outbuildings. The timbers used in the building were sawmilled and planed in Butler's sawmill.

R. J and his wife Berbie opened Butler's Furniture Company on the street level. Their son, Grady Butler, introduced Dahlonga's first chain store, the "Red Dot Super Market," in the left side of the Butler Building. He and his family lived upstairs.

At one time Parley Kanaday operated both a restaurant and a bowling alley in the building for the Butlers. When the furniture store moved across the street, R. J. opened a "Wellworth Five and Ten Cent Store" in the vacated space. The Butlers' daughter Roberta and son-in-law Sherman Green purchased the Wellworth business in 1956 and later opened Green's Department Store in the other side after Grady moved his grocery store to a larger building. The Greens added attractive wood siding to the building in the 1980s.

This building, like several of the older structures on the square, has its ghost, and a number of people have experienced paranormal activity there, including those who don't believe in "ghosts." Three people observed a heavy plate fly off a shelf in the Ivy Cottage, moving out enough to miss the microwave, and then drop unbroken on the floor. Teapots have also moved mysteriously from shelves to the floor without breaking. At night the locked door with a bell on it has been heard to open and close, followed by footsteps moving around when there was no one there. However, the ghost stories don't deter business and add a certain "mystique" to the building.

The upstairs of the Butler Mini-Mall is rented as apartments. The street level currently houses the following shops:

THE IVY COTTAGE serves lunch 10:30-4:00 Monday-Saturday and also caters special teas, bridal showers, and rehearsal dinners. Among the most popular items on the menu are quiches, chicken salad, and homemade desserts. The Ivy Cottage Gift Shop carries a variety of fine coffees and loose-leaf teas, china teapots and cups, as well as soaps, lotions, and other gift items. The owners are a mother and daughter team named Wilma Dorsey and Amy Ramey. Telephone 706-864-5978.

HABITUDE GIFT GALLERY features a whimsical and eclectic variety of merchandise, including nature/garden related products, items appealing to cat and dog lovers, unusual hummingbird feeders, wind chimes, regional food products such as jellies, jams, and sauces, and humorous greeting cards. Owner Barbara Powell also has a Habitude Gift Gallery in Gainesville. Open 10-5 Tuesday-Sunday. Telephone 706-867-6150.

CAROL'S COUNTRY COLLECTIONS offers country home decor and antiques. Kitchen items, old and new, including salt-and-pepper shakers, rolling pins, cups and saucers, etc., are among the shop's best sellers. It also carries local sourwood honey. Owned and operated by Carol Hesse. Closed Monday. Telephone 706-867-8259.