

Chicago Sales and Related Businesses and People
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Chicago Sales Company was established by V. J. Elmore on October 11, 1923 when he opened a new store in Clanton. It was next to **First National Bank** and in the “**Baker and Taylor old stand.**” T. M. “Tom” Taylor was the manager. Tom was formerly with the **Clanton Produce Company**.

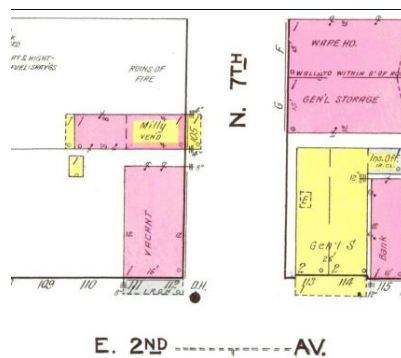


Leftmost is wooden Mullins building, then Peoples Savings Bank, then First National Bank then 1st Chicago Sales Store (old Baker and Taylor store) then part of the P. D. Wilson Building shown extreme right.

V. J. Elmore soon sold the business to Tom Taylor and his nephew Reddie Taylor. Advertisements in 1926 mention Reddie Taylor being at **Chicago Sales** and soon he became the manager. Business was good and in June 1929 they opened a new **Chicago Sales** in Jemison in the old **Union State Bank** building with W. A. Kemp in charge.

In addition to **Chicago Sales**, at this time Reddie Taylor was also proprietor of both **Callen’s** and the **Capitol Dry Goods Co.** in Clanton and a stockholder in **Peoples Savings Bank of Clanton** and **Peoples Bank of Jemison** and on the **Clanton Town Council**.

Some building history: In 1923 Mr. G. C. Walker had just built his new two-story brick Walker Building on the old **Muse Millinery** site. This location was just “behind” **Sartor’s** store on 7th Street (note in the 1917 Sanborn Fire maps **Sartor’s** store is vacant – this is just after the **Clanton Bank** failure so he must have been temporarily closed). The upper offices were used by Mr. Walker for his law business and **Powell Pressing** and **Parrish’s** store were in the lower floors. **Parrish’s** store was opened by Thomas M. “Tom” Parrish in spring 1923 and was a gentleman’s furnishings store.



Sartor’s on left corner, “Milly vend” is Muse Millinery store behind it on 7th St, site of Walker Building and Parrsh’s Store.

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On a similar time track, **Callen's** was established by Reedie Taylor and Frank J. Callen as a man's clothing specialty store in February 1928. It was located on 7th Street immediately behind **Upchurch's Drug Store**, in the same building as **Hill Grocery**.



Callen's was immediately behind **Upchurch's Drug Store**. Building later became the 7th St. facing part of **Elmore's 5 & 10**.

Changes again happened in spring of 1929 when **Parrish's** store and **Callen's** consolidated in April 1929. Tom Parrish then went to work for **Polk Brothers Motor Co.** (Chevrolet). Frank Callen also withdrew from the consolidated business, and the business was renamed **Capital Dry Goods Company**. They located it in the old **Parrish's** location in the Walker Building.

By November of 1930 Reedie Taylor made major business moves. He merged his **Capital Dry Goods Co.** into the **Chicago Sales Co.** The new consolidated store was located in the "former **A & P Building**." This building was across the alley from **Elmore's 5 & 10** on 2nd Avenue North. Prior to **A & P's** short occupation, this building housed **W. T. Baker Dry Goods Company**.



W. T. Baker Dry Goods building on 2nd Ave N, in 1930 became the second and final location of **Chicago Sales**

References

Union Banner, many small items in many issues. Too many to list.

Facebook groups "*U know u lived in CLANTON as a kid,*" "*WE GREW UP IN CLANTON, ALABAMA*" and others.

Thomas Blalock's tireless research in old newspapers and Internet archives.