412 5th St. ca. 1885

NPS, KNHP, Mason Collection, 5th St. ca. 1905

412 5th Street was built sometime between 1884 and 1888. In 1888, it housed a grocery store. In 1893, it was home to a tailor shop. By 1897, the main floor here had been divided into two separate commercial spaces. A small space in the northwest corner of the building was occupied by a barber shop at that time, and the rest of the main floor was home to a tobacco and cigar store. In 1898, a confectionery or candy store was located here. In 1900, a grocery store again occupied the entire main floor.

By 1907, a barber had returned to this space; at that time, William Kunnari, who resided at 335 8th Street. By 1916, Henry R. Elki's clothing store occupied the storefront here. He advertised suits made to order for $12.50 and up, as well as a full line of hats, caps, and gent's furnishings, or accessories. At that time, Elki boarded at 429 Pine Street. The Elki clothing store was still located here in 1930, when they advertised men's and boy's clothing, shoes and furnishings, and suits and overcoats made to measure.

Monette, Early RedJacket and Calumet in Pictures, v1, p33, IOOF Parade 5th Street, April 26, 1919

In 1913, 412 5th Street was occupied by Emil Erving's barbershop. Erving lived in the apartment above the shop. Money was tight during the strike, so according to descendants of another barber in town at the time, sometimes strikers would trade goods such as a chicken or a sack of potatoes in exchange for regular haircuts.