

Rowland Title Company

Founded: 1889

Location: North side of courthouse square, Anderson (1889–); 12½ East Eighth Street; 18 East Eighth Street (1900); 14–16 Robinson Building; 9 East Tenth Street; 25 West Tenth Street; 31 West Tenth Street (1925, 1951); 1010 Jackson Street (100 Anderson Loan Building); 928 Meridian Street (1970s–)

William Rowland was born in Terre Haute in 1869 and moved to a farm south of Anderson at the age of ten. After briefly teaching school and serving as Madison County's deputy clerk under J. J. Netterville, Rowland entered the real estate abstract business at the age of twenty. Rowland established a partnership with William Beachler, and they worked as abstractors and notaries public from an office at 12½ East Eighth Street. In 1900 Rowland was listed in the city directory on his own at 18 East Eighth Street. In June 1915 Rowland Title Company was incorporated. Rowland maintained a set of real estate records that covered all the land and lots in Madison County; he wrote abstracts of titles, deeds, and mortgages. Rowland was also involved in real estate and platted Rowland Gardens on the southwest edge of the city.

Rowland died at age fifty-six in July 1925. Bess Goodykoontz became president of Rowland Title Company and held the position through at least 1959. The company's office was at 31 West Tenth Street at the time of Rowland's death and remained there through the early 1950s. It was then located at 100 Anderson Loan Building (1010 Jackson Street). Joseph S. Waymire became secretary-treasurer of Rowland Title Company in 1939. Waymire, originally from Elwood, had worked in several businesses, including his father's canning business in Ohio, and had served as the sergeant at arms for the United States House of Representatives. Waymire became president of the title

company in the 1960s. Arthur A. Beckman, a prominent Anderson attorney, served as vice president under Goodykoontz and secretary under Waymire. In the 1970s the firm moved to 928 Meridian Street; James A. Freeman, Jr., was president in the 1990s.