

wood balcony with shuttered double doors. The ground floor has a central single entry and flanking windows. The visible sides are original cake-icing stucco over Clay City tile block and 2-over-2 sash windows. This is reportedly Fairhope's first hospital, operated by Dr. Floyd Moore; Dr. Moore subsequently built the Bayview Sanatorium at the corner of Bayview and Fels Avenue. The business of Stationery Studio currently occupies this property.

**350 Morphy Avenue, c. 1924, enlarged 1946** *Fairhope First Baptist Church/Theatre 98 Playhouse* – One will find a one story cross-gabled church building, styled like a substantial gabled bungalow. Built of smooth white cement block with a Dyson block foundation and quoins; primary windows with Queen Anne upper sash (border of stained glass with single clear central light) over single-light lower sash; gabled entry portico on Morphy side, square stuccoed piers with carved brackets and double paneled entry. There are brick sills and brick soldier floor course. The rear two story sections to the backstage have block that appears to be a less fine aggregate and has windows 6-over-6 and 3V-over-1 sash. The second building of the First Baptist Church was enlarged in 1946 with the addition of the educational building to the rear. The Church left this building in the early 1950s and in the early 1980s, the building was acquired by Theatre 98 Playhouse and renovated for their use. The property is owned by the City of Fairhope.

**357 Morphy Avenue, c. 1911** *Lee House /The Haven Re-Sale Shop* – The side-gabled stuccoed hall and parlor cottage has a symmetrical front with central entry flanked by single 6-over-6 wood sash windows and door now a paneled replacement. The roofbeam brick chimney and shed in rear were additions. In the Lee family since the early 1900s, and home of Mary Heath Lee, who was a well known librarian. It was rented for commercial use in 1966 and it has been in commercial use ever since.

**358 Morphy Avenue, c. 1920** *Burmeister House* – This structure is a front-gabled stuccoed bungalow with partial-façade projecting gabled porch on stucco piers with arched openings, now glassed. The windows are 3V-over-1 wood sash and the eaves have been altered. This was the home of the Burmeister family of Burmeister's Market on Section Street until around 1940. The building has served several commercial uses and currently is occupied by Dr. Nancy McLeod as a physician's office.

**359 Morphy Avenue, c. 1918** *Ingersoll-Starkey House* – The front-gabled, stuccoed bungalow, is dominated by its slightly offset and deep projecting gabled porch with arcaded front of three bays. The central entry with barrel awning and flanking arched openings is now glassed. There are wood sash windows with grills over them on sides, exposed rafter tails, standing seam metal roof and small gabled cockpit atop roof of the main part of the house. There is a recent garage on the east side. This was built by Fred Ingersoll and was the home of Herbert Starkey family from 1935-1970 and renovated in the 1980 as a veterinary clinic. Currently the Bay Animal Clinic.

**13 North Section Street, c. 1940** *Wilkin's Annex* – This building is has a two story section at the rear of The Cat's Meow and the second story building is available for commercial use. One bay on the ground level is occupied by a recessed metal stair with *loggia* office entry above. It is stuccoed with modern plate windows flanked by casement which are all metal framed. This rear section was added in 1940 to create more retail and storage space on the ground floor and rental space above that contains several office suites.

**15 North Section Street, c. 1946** *Ruffles & Sons Plumbing/Betty G. Haynie Antiques* – It is a one story building about 25' frontage stuccoed with storefront recessed about 5'; between the side piers and wood framed storefront with low paneled bulkheads and single entry doors at both ends. A front roof slope of slate has been added from the parapet, flaring slightly at the eave line. There is lintel and projecting eave supporting by square fluted wood posts on paneled bases. Originally built by Ruffles plumbing business as an expansion for appliance display and was in that use until the late 1970s. Briefly owned and occupied by Wilkin's Department Store for storage, it was purchased by Betty Haynie and now houses her antique shop since 1989.

**21-21 1/2 Section Street, c. 1955** *Ruffles a& Sons Plumbing/Master Joes* – This is a one story commercial building about 20' frontage and running back along alley about 100'. It is stuccoed and the storefront is set back between side piers and has aluminum and glass framing with shed canvas awning. There are high windows in side alley wall with wood-frame 4V pivots with brick sills. Master Joe's currently is located at this property.

**24 North Section Street, c. 1928** *Old City Hall/Fairhope Museum of History* – Built by Forester & Sons of stuccoed Clay City tile and rick as the City's first municipal building and City hall. The mayor's office moved out in 1972 at which time a modern metal and brick façade replaced the front. The building served as the Police Department and City Jail until 2002. The original appearance was reproduced with modern materials when the building was rehabilitated as the Fairhope Museum of History in 2007. It was listed on the Alabama Register of Landmarks and Heritage in 2009.

**12 South Section Street, c. 1928, altered** *Mason Building/Christmas "Round the Corner"* – One will find a one story commercial building now an ell space in the same store fronting on Fairhope Avenue. The textured brick veneer masonry frame with central pier clad in something like Masonite and ceramic tile bulkheads. There is flat parapet defined by shallow corbeling with concrete coping all painted white. There is a off centered recessed entry to south side of the pier with plate glass metal framed show windows. This was Dr. Mason's building until 1942 when a clothing store was located in it. In various uses over the years, it is now used by Christmas shop essentially for storage.

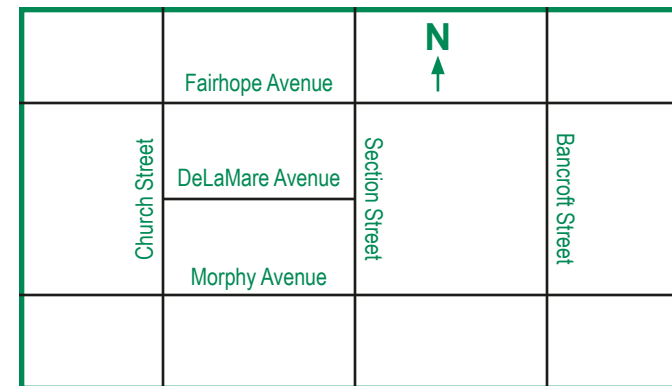
**24 South Section Street, c. 1928** *Greer's Market No. 26/Crown & Colony Antiques* – This is a one story commercial building about 50' frontage and running back about 100' along DeLaMare Avenue. It has plain parapet front and largely glass storefront, stuccoed, recessed central entry and bands of suspended flat canopy. You will find decorative iron oval vents in parapet face, flat parapet with terra cotta coping, decorative iron oval vents in parapet face and flat parapet with terra cotta coping. Greer's is Fairhope's oldest surviving grocery chain, founded in 1916 as Antry Greer & Sons of Mobile. Greer's left this location about 1950 to build a block down the street; this building then housed a Purina Feed store and from the late 1950s until the late 1970s, the Davis Fashion Corner. It has been remodeled several times but retains much of its fine historic exterior appearance. This was built by Oswalt Forster & Sons. Located at this location is the Crown & Colony Antiques.

**104 South Section Street, c. 1915** *Bishop House/Walcott House* – This building is a two story hip-roofed stuccoed house on a stuccoed foundation and is asymmetrical facade with partial façade projecting hipped porch with entry to inner side, now filled with jalousies. You will find windows 3V-over 1 wood sash, paired on sides but irregular fenestration on façade, trio an flaking singles on second story, with a single at interim level on north edge, probably lighting a stairwell and shutters added on the front. There are one and two story hipped projections to rear, a side entry with hipped stoop porch, exposed rafter tails and interior brick chimney. This building was restored in 2003 by Mac Walcott, architect and used as his place of business. Currently it is the business of Milam & Milam Attorneys at Law. Long-time owner Henry G. Bishop worked for the Bank of Fairhope and became its President and Chairman in 1953 after the death of Kirby Wharton, its former President.

## FAIRHOPE DOWNTOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT



The downtown of Fairhope was declared a Historic District by the Department of Interior in 2006. The commercial properties listed in this brochure are contributing properties that meet the criteria for historical value for the National Register of Historic Places. A bronze plaque was donated by the Historic Preservation Committee recognizing the property as a historic and significant property and are displayed on each property.



This brochure is prepared by the Historic Fairhope Preservation Committee, a city of Fairhope Committee. The Committee is dedicated to ensuring Fairhope's present and future by preserving the charm of Fairhope's historic neighborhoods and downtown.

Sponsored by the City of Fairhope and The Historic Fairhope Preservation Committee

**51 South Church Street, c. 1923** *Irwin-Sandoz-Jones House* – One-and-a-half story airplane bungalow, stuccoed; dominant side-gable roof with nearly full facade projecting open-gabled porch on brick piers and parapet wall, canvas awning across the front. It has wood casement windows and a side-gabled cockpit fronted by smaller casement, exposed rafter tails. You will find a high brick end and exposed chimney on the east side. A more recent double garage/utility building has been added to the rear facing DelaMare Avenue. Originally the home of J. S. Irwin, in the Sandoz family in the 1940s and 1950s; at one time also the home of Carl Bloxham and still is in his stepdaughter Becky Jones' family and operated by them as an inn – the Church Street Inn.

**100 South Church Street, c. 1925** *Fairhope School*– This is a one story school building in a typical form of central and end blocks with connecting hyphens. It is a hipped roof with entry in central block, recessed behind a round arched portal. There are capped and gabled parapets over central and end blocks. Bands of five inset sash windows, now with modern replacement sash in cut-down and filled frames. There is a long gym/auditorium addition to the rear on the east side; modern (early 1960s) extensions on the Bayside, on the former site of the Fairhope Christian Church. The building was built by Dyson and Lawrence as the City's first high school, replacing a 1909 building that housed all grades on the site of what is now the park across the street.

**302 DelaMare Avenue, c. early 1900s** *Brown House (now the Irvine-Wilson Building)* – This structure is a one-and-a-half story stuccoed side-gabled house projecting central gabled porch on plain 4 x 4 post supports. The façade windows are now plate and elsewhere there is 12-over-1 wood sash, two brick roof beam chimneys. The central bay contains wood and glass door flanked by wooden casement instead of sidelights. There is a wooden back porch across front with a wooden balustrade. This originally is home of one of the Brown family who was active in the early affairs of the Colony and founders of Clay City, a brickyard on the Fish River that furnished all the early hallmark red clay tiles that are the core of most of Fairhope's masonry buildings. The current business at this location is Mr. Gene's Beans.

**328 DelaMare Avenue, c. 1952** *Southern Bell Telephone Company* – You will find a one story building with yellow painted textured Roman brick façade, flat parapet and applied square wood columns at the corners. There is a three bay facade, an entry slightly recessed on the north end and others with plate glass window. Also, you will find an added section to the rear with screen panels. This structure was built by contractor, Joe Klein, for the owner to specifications of the Southern Bell Telephone Company, which had its Eastern Shore operations in the building from the time of construction through the 1970s. The phone company, which had to operate during emergencies, required the structure to be hurricane, fire and bomb proof and also required several sheds in the rear to house its trucks and

other vehicles. In the 1990s, the rear parking area where the sheds were, was built up as the French Quarter, now with building on two side: board- and- batten rows with gabled vent dormers, recessed front under eaves that are supported on metal poles; thermo pane windows; hexagonal roof structure at all corners with belvedere, all fake. In the Company of Angels is currently at this location with several businesses in the French Quarter.

**204 Fairhope Avenue, c. 1920** *the Titus-Walcott Cottage* – This is a stuccoed side-gabled cottage on a block pier foundation with a nearly full facade shed porch roof extension over the ground level porch on four turned posts. There is a French door entry with a flanking 9-over-9 wood sash, shouldered exterior brick chimney on the west side and a long extension to rear with replacement windows. In the 1920s, this was the home of J. H. Titus, who had a bakery next door. He was also the town marshal, known for carrying around his pet monkey on this shoulder. In 1936, Mr. Titus helped organize the Eastern Shore Fire Department.

**325 Fairhope Avenue, c. 1932** *United States Post Office/Fairhope Courier* – This property is a one story, generally Florentine Renaissance in style with arcades of multipane wood casement windows under semicircular over lights. You will find will smooth stucco on the front portion, scored on the façade to resemble stone block. There is somewhat rougher stucco and rectangular metal-frame window on a portion to the rear. Façade fronted by a *loggia* porch behind a stuccoed *in antis* arcade on three Tuscan columns. The central double-door pedimented entry is flanked by two arched windows, cornice and dentil frieze around the front portion – frieze band bears “United State Post Office” National Register 1988. The structure was designed and built by Dyson and Company and served as the Post Office; it then became the office of the *Fairhope Courier*, which had formerly been located in the Gaston Building.

**327 Fairhope Avenue, c. 1932** *Carl Bloxham Insurance Company/Eastern Shore Chamber of Commerce* – One will find a one story commercial office building built in two phases. There is smooth stucco over tile, flat parapet with terra cotta coping intact, Art Deco details such as a zigzag course at parapet, geometric floral or sunburst panel and stylized fluting. Asymmetrical front reflecting different building periods: two offices, the smaller on the east side (1946), both with wood and glass commercial doors separated by a paneled pier; the doors and shed metal awnings date from 1986. The face below the 1932 parapet is incised with the builder's name “Carl H. Bloxham”. This is the first example of an Art Deco style in Fairhope and was placed on the National Register in 1988.

**328 Fairhope Avenue, c. 1927** *Lowell's Bakery* – A one story commercial building with brick veneer over block with central crested parapet and decorative coursework with three blind panels on upper face and transom panels intact but now blocked. Now contains two businesses with altered storefronts,

metal framed plate glass windows with modern entries. Grover Lowell operated his bakery here in the 1920s until mid 1930s. It appears that some point the original building was expanded to the west and refaced and this masonry work is what we see today. The current business is Adrenaline Surf & Skate.

**335 Fairhope Avenue, c. 1936** *Fairhope Coal and Supply Company/Hardware Building* – One will find a one story commercial building, reportedly the second Art Deco building in Fairhope. There is smooth stucco façade over tile block, Art Deco decoration including a molding course of ricrac design, cast iron medallions with stylized floral designs, a central recessed entry with fluted pylon surround, piers with pleats – use of curvilinear as well as geometric design elements. The central entry bay has stepped up parapet and is articulated by Deco design elements including a scalloped flat marquee. There are paired single wood entry doors into two shops on either side of the recessed entry with a flat canopy across both storefronts. The Fairhope Coal and Supply Company was a consortium of builders including Marmduke Dyson, Robert E. Stapleton, Ed Sheldon, Gene Lawrence and Axil Johnson who contracted individually and together to pool their resources to stock their supply yard which was in the back of this building between it and the Dyson house on Magnolia Avenue. Dyson and Stapleton built this building in 1936; it eventually was operated as Fairhope Hardware which was moved in the late 1970s. This building has been altered unsympathetically but not to the degree that this historic appearance is completely spoiled. Currently occupied by Fantasy Island Toys and Cadeaux Cachés

**395 Fairhope Avenue, c. 1929, altered 1939** *J. I. Pitman & Company/Bedsole & Gwin/Wilkin's Department Store* – A one story commercial building with a 50' frontage and running back along North Section Street with smooth stucco with flat parapet and plain upper face, shallow projecting flat canopy covered with a scalloped canvas awning. There is a central canted-back double-door entry with show windows of clear plate in metal frames, dominating the façade so that it appears to be all windows separated by piers. There is a continuing tradition of locally owned mercantile establishment on this primary corner begun by the short lived Fairhope Mercantile Company later purchased by the Mershon brothers and then Henry Crawford all connected through family to the Gastons. The present building was constructed by J. I. Pitman in 1929; its original brick was stuccoed and the parapet removed in a 1939 modernization. The business became Bedsole's in 1952 and Wilkin's in the late 1980s. The Pitman interests still own the building at this time. The current business is the Cat's Meow.

**396 Fairhope Avenue, c. 1927** *Bank of Fairhope/Mobile Press-Register* – you will find a two story Neoclassical Revival institutional commercial building, originally built for the Bank of Fairhope and later occupied by the Mobile newspaper. Stucco over tile block, scored on the facade to resemble stone; deeply recessed front and tile floored *loggia* porch fronted by two Tuscan *distyle in antis* columns on parapet abutments; simple entablature

surmounted by a dentilled cornice. The symmetrical façade itself contains double paneled and glass entry doors flanked by plate show windows surmounted by wood frame transom window filled with Greek pattern screens. The entry bay is in a concrete surround with a central cartouche, above which is a round metal clock. Upper face windows are single-light wood casement with the vent panels at the bottom so that they are our from under the porch roof. The interior stamped tin ceiling on the first floor is intact. Built on the site of earlier frame Nelson Rockwell Ice Cream Parlor, this is one of a very few buildings in Fairhope designed by architect, Mobile's William March; it was built by Marmduke Dyson. Also, it is the only bank in Baldwin County to survive the Crash and the Depression and occupied this site until 1959 when it moved across the street to its new home, now the BB & T. The bank's loan office remained here until 1971 at which time the *Mobile Press-Register* opened its Eastern Shore office in the building. It has been a Christmas shop (Christmas Around the Corner) since the late 1990s but vestiges of the Bank's occupancy remain in the rear room. It was placed on the National Register in 1988.

**398 Fairhope Avenue, c. 1916** *Fairhope Pharmacy* – This structure is a two story commercial building about 40' frontage by 50' deep and is a combination of scored smooth stucco and concrete block all painted white. The distinctive curved parapet has been rebuilt the windows have been replaced with anodized aluminum reproductions of the earlier multi-pane sash and storefront window with overlights. The Section Street side-wall painting and town map have also been revealed and will be retained. The building is a fine example of early 20<sup>th</sup> century commercial architecture build by Marmduke Dyson. Other than the *Courier*, the Fairhope Pharmacy bears the oldest commercial name in Fairhope and it is one of the oldest continuously operating drug stores in Alabama. When this masonry building went up in 1916, it symbolized Fairhope's growing status as a successful enterprise. The business had been established by Dr. C. L. Mershon at the turn of the century and it was originally housed in a frame building near this corner – no longer existing. Although some changes to upstairs windows are non-historic, the restored to view masonry makes this building a historic contributing property.

**404 Fairhope Avenue, c. 1930** *Lewis Building* – This is a one story commercial building, about 25' frontage, stuccoed with flat parapet and terra cotta coping, plain upper face; central canted-back single door entry with modern commercial metal door; canted sides have narrow 1-over-1 wood sash windows and front windows plate in wood frames. At one time, it was the Lewis Yeager Tobacco Company. The business currently located there is LuLu & Me.

**412, 412-B Fairhope Avenue, c. 1900** *Fairhope's First Hospital* – This is two story house now serving a commercial use on the ground floor with upstairs residence; gable front, refaced on façade with novelty siding; deep front eaves barge brace, knee braces in the Craftsman residential style. There is a attached