



# Historic Fort Payne

1889—1989



A partial pictorial listing of historic homes  
A CENTENNIAL PUBLICATION BY  
LANDMARKS OF DEKALB COUNTY, INC.

Volume I



## **HISTORIC FORT PAYNE**

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by

LANDMARKS OF DEKALB COUNTY, INC.

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Artist rendition by Jackie Mattox.

Back cover: 100-year old fountain originally located at the DeKalb  
Hotel and now a part of the garden area of the Wolfes-Collins  
home.

*This Publication is  
Dedicated  
to the People Who Have Lived in  
and Preserved These Homes  
During the Past  
100 Years*

## **LANDMARKS**

### **HISTORIC FORT PAYNE COMMITTEE**

Louise Van Allen and James R. Kuykendall  
Cochairmen

Marguerite Green

Jo Nance

Paula Neyman

John Story





The Sawyer gate is more than 100 years old.

#### STAR INDICATIONS

##### Listings

★ Alabama Register of Landmarks and Heritage

★ ★ National Register of Historic Places

Historic District

## FOREWORD

Landmarks of DeKalb County, Inc. was organized for the purpose of preserving the heritage of Fort Payne and DeKalb County. The heritage is rich and diversified. The local historic preservation movement has generated interest in preserving those physical remains which best exemplify the town's heritage and traditions. In 1979 Landmarks of DeKalb County, Inc. began an inventory of homes in Fort Payne which were 50 years old or older. A grant was received from the Alabama Historical Commission for this task. The History Department of Middle Tennessee State University did additional surveys and so did staff members of the Alabama Historical Commission. A historic district in Fort Payne's residential section was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1988, and additional districts and individual homes should be named in the future. Included in this edition are several homes that were built fifty to over a hundred years ago. Others will be featured in future editions.

The Historic Preservation Program at Middle Tennessee State University has given invaluable service by surveying and identifying a historic district and making recommendations for historic zoning, tourism, and general historic preservation. It was also helpful in determining the probable eligibility of various buildings and districts for designation to the National Register of Historic Places. The National Register is a listing of significant buildings and sites in the United States which are deemed to be a valuable part of our heritage. Listing in the register not only is a source of pride to a community but also offers some protection from federal projects as well as certain tax advantages.

In addition to the National Register, Alabama has developed its own register. The following criteria were developed by the Alabama Historical Commission to guide groups and individuals in preparing nominations to the Alabama Register of Landmarks and Heritage. Landmarks from Alabama's history, architecture, archaeology, and culture are eligible and may be found in districts, sites, buildings, structures and objects. The landmarks should possess integrity of location and construction, convey a feeling for the time and place of construction, and include properties that:

A.) are associated with events of state or local historical significance; or

B.) are associated with the lives of persons of significance in the state or locality; or

C.) are representative of a type, style, or period of architecture; or

D.) are associated with Alabama's history or pre-history.



The committee from Middle Tennessee State University consisted of Lauren Bowlin, John McGlone (co-leaders), Amanda Gross, Mark Hay, Jerry Maxwell, Brenda Ott, and Becky Smith. Coordinators for the Alabama Historical Commission were Ellen Mertins and Stephen Kay.

The ultimate effects of the university survey and the projects of Landmarks of DeKalb County, Inc. should be a renewed emphasis on an enhanced quality of life and alternate strategies for economic development.



**LANDMARKS** *Historic Fort Payne Committee*

Seated: James R. Kuykendall and Louise Van Allen. Standing: Paula Neyman, Jo Nance, Marguerite Green, and John Story.

## HISTORY

Fort Payne is a pleasant, small town located in the mountainous section of northeast Alabama. A strong local historic preservation movement has generated interest in preserving those physical remains which best exemplify the town's heritage and traditions. Like many other small towns, some of that heritage has already been lost or altered in the name of progress, but, thanks to the local Landmarks of DeKalb County, Inc., that trend is being reversed. Individual National Register of Historic Places nominations have been prepared, historic facilities such as the opera house and railroad station have been preserved, and efforts are being made to nominate another historic district. Key leaders in the community seem to possess a sense of time, place, and belonging in regard to their knowledge. That heritage is rich, diversified, and includes such groups as native Americans, Southern Highlanders, and New England industrialists to name a few.

Fort Payne's history begins well before the arrival of the first settlers of European descent. Prehistoric native Americans of the woodlands culture from A. D. 300 to 800 once roamed the area, as did Mississippian mound builders of A. D. 800 to 1600. In more recent times the Cherokees were the dominant tribe, and their great leader Sequoyah is reported to have developed the Cherokee alphabet in nearby Wills Town. According to legends, explorers of Hernando DeSoto also visited this area. The Spainard's name is today memorialized by DeSoto State Park. During the American Revolution, British agents visited the Cherokee nation in this region to arouse them against the American colonists.

The first Euro-Americans were probably traders who bargained with the native Cherokees. They were soon followed by Christian missionaries. In the 1820's the American Board of Missions established a mission at Willstown to "educate and Christianize" the Cherokee. A short fifteen years later the Cherokees were rounded up, put in stockades, and then marched West to Oklahoma along what became known as the "Trail of Tears." The route followed by one of these bands is being considered for a modern parkway.

It is from this incident that the town received its name. Captain John C. Payne commanded the local garrison of soldiers, and it is for him that the stockade and then the town of Fort Payne were named. Indian removal was a part of national policy and should not be construed to reflect upon local inhabitants. Citizens of Fort Payne, particularly the missionaries, interceded on behalf of the Cherokee but to no avail.



After the Cherokee removal, Fort Payne grew as a small Southern highland town concerned with local politics and the business of everyday living. Small farms were typical of the region. A few large plantations existed, but the area was mainly one of small yeoman farms. Slave-owning in this area was not of the "Gone With the Wind" variety, but rather owner-operated farms with one or two slaves working beside their masters in the field. When the Civil War did come in 1861, the citizens of Fort Payne did their duty as loyal Alabamians. A monument in the city park today attests to that service.

The Civil War touched Fort Payne. Famous battles were fought at nearby Chattanooga and Chickamauga in Tennessee, and a Union general with the improbable name of Jefferson Davis once commanded troops in the area. Confederate soldiers who survived to return to Fort Payne in 1865 came back to a small-town county seat. New England industrialists, however, had a different vision of Fort Payne.

In the 1880's Fort Payne was still only a town of approximately 500 people, but this soon changed. A young attorney named Milford Howard during the 1880's had been advertising the advantages of Fort Payne as a manufacturing center. In this effort he wrote some newspaper articles for the *Fort Payne Journal* and circulated them among Northern investors to attract business and industry to Fort Payne. One of those attracted to Fort Payne was C. O. Godfrey from Massachusetts, who soon became interested in Howard's plan to develop Fort Payne as a manufacturing center. A Fort Payne Land and Improvement Company was organized for that purpose. In addition to plans for manufacturing, there was interest in local mineral exploration. Godfrey was soon joined by Frank Y. Anderson of the Alabama Land Company, and these two began soliciting large-scale investments from the North. In 1888 W. P. Rice, a New England capitalist, became interested in the project, and along with Godfrey and several others formed the Fort Payne Coal and Iron Company. Within five days this group had raised one million dollars from Northern investors. The Board of Directors consisted of mainly out-of-state capitalists. The Fort Payne Coal and Iron Company was soon purchasing land for future development. Thirty-two thousand eight hundred acres were purchased in and around Fort Payne at a price of \$75,000. Mining experts and investors believed this property contained a vast wealth of iron ore, coal, fire-clay, and limestone deposits. In 1890 the optimistic Godfrey persuaded a trainfull of investors to visit the area and to "see what wonderful things the Lord had done in fashioning the country around Fort Payne." Many Northerners began to invest

capital in the various companies located in the Fort Payne region. An advertising prospectus was sent all over the country, and soon investors were seeking their fortune in the "Little Chicago of the South." A grand city was planned. Fifteen industrial companies, four banks, and three investment companies were organized. Residential areas were laid out, churches erected, and electrical plants built. The DeKalb Hotel was built in 1889. This majestic building of 175 rooms occupied an entire city block near the opera house (on the site of the present-day uptown shopping center). Unfortunately, it was destroyed by fire in 1918. Meanwhile, surrounding development reflected the expected boom. Nearby Manitou Cave was developed as a dance hall, and a residential lake front development was planned at Crystal Lake. A new courthouse was dedicated in 1891.

All of this feverish economic development was based upon capital invested rather than any real boom. The development of the iron industry and the promotion of boom towns were occurring all over Alabama. Between 1885 and 1893, thirty-one new blast furnaces were erected in the state. Two of these were in Fort Payne. There was a close relationship between the construction of blast furnaces and the promotion of boom towns. The process of industrialization was dependent on the ready availability of iron. The production of iron attracted industry, which consumed this product, and their employees. Unfortunately, the coal veins were thin and of poor quality in the Fort Payne area. The developers promoted Fort Payne on the basis of an "inexhaustible" supply of coal and "bountiful" resources. Either ignorance or malaise had attracted large sums of capital, but there simply was no real mineral wealth to support it. It was not the panic of 1893 or the ensuing depression which caused the "boom" to turn to "bust" at Fort Payne. The economy began to go awry several years before that date.

Birmingham, with its combination of mineral deposits and rail facilities, was constantly held up as a model for Fort Payne investors, but the fact remained that Fort Payne simply did not have the subsurface wealth of other areas. The trappings of a grand hotel, blast furnaces, and suburbs may have convinced unwary Northern investors, but there was no real economic substance to the supposed "boom." As capital investment declined and competition arose in other areas, the fragile underpinnings of the boom became apparent. In January of 1890 number two foundry iron brought the high price of \$19.50 on the Chicago market. By 1893, it had declined to a low of only \$12.50, a price at which the marginal production at Fort Payne could not compete. Fort Payne was not alone. Dozens of small towns in North Alabama had been

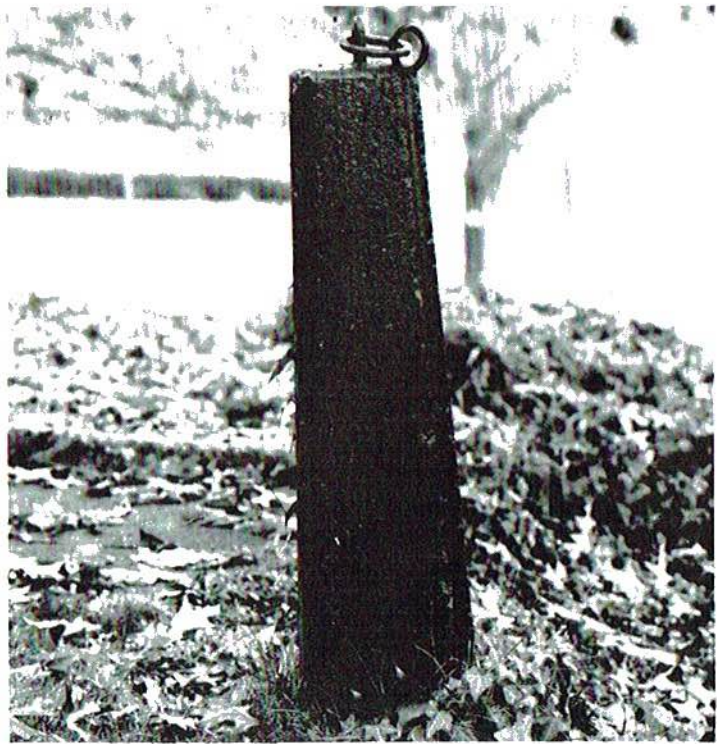


promoted as new Pittsburghs or Birmingham with inexhaustible mineral wealth. Often local boosters used the same fraudulent map, portraying Fort Payne (or Sheffield, or Decatur, or Piedmont, or Florence) as the veritable center of transportation, mineral wealth, and manufacturing of the "New South," to show prospective investors. Only the large red star identifying the town would be moved. The sad truth was that neither Fort Payne nor many of the other towns had the natural resources to justify any boom.

The legacy that remains today certainly deserves to be preserved. An opera house, a railway station, certain commercial buildings, and many fine residences are physical remains of an era when every cloud had a silver lining, every hill was a potential source of "inexhaustible" mineral wealth, and every small town in America was a "New Pittsburgh" waiting to happen.

A National Register historic district and a preservation plan will not only increase local pride and civic awareness but could stimulate business, increase tourism, bring tax benefits, and be generally beneficial to the entire program.

*This brief history was written by the students and staff of Middle Tennessee State University from books and information furnished by Landmarks and citizens of Fort Payne.*



The hitching post at the Judge Haralson home is more than 100 years old.

## *The Name of Our Valley*

The area in and around present day Fort Payne, known as Wills Town during the 1770s, was part of the Cherokee nation. Wills Town was named for its Indian chief, Will, a fierce half-breed whose real name was Will Webber, but who was usually known as Red Head Will.

Wills Valley and the stream, Wills Creek, here were named for him. Red Head Will is buried in the private Beeson Cemetery behind the Beeson-Crow home on North Godfrey Avenue.

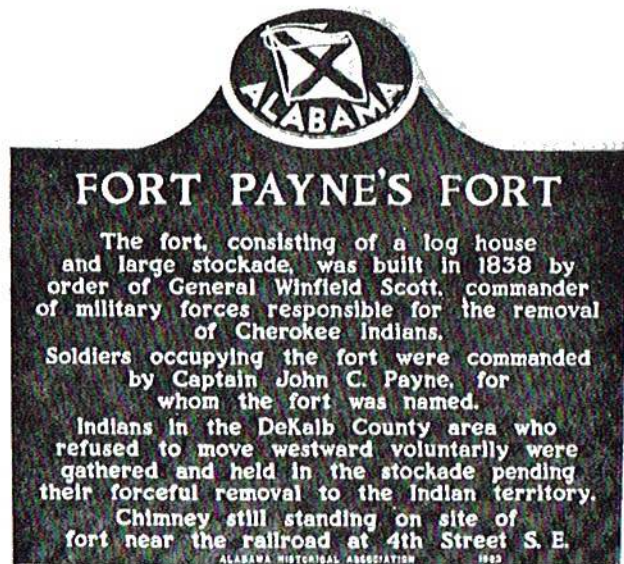


Burial grounds of Red Head Will.



## The Name of Fort Payne

The city received its name for Captain John Payne, who commanded the fort used in 1838 for the removal of the Indians.

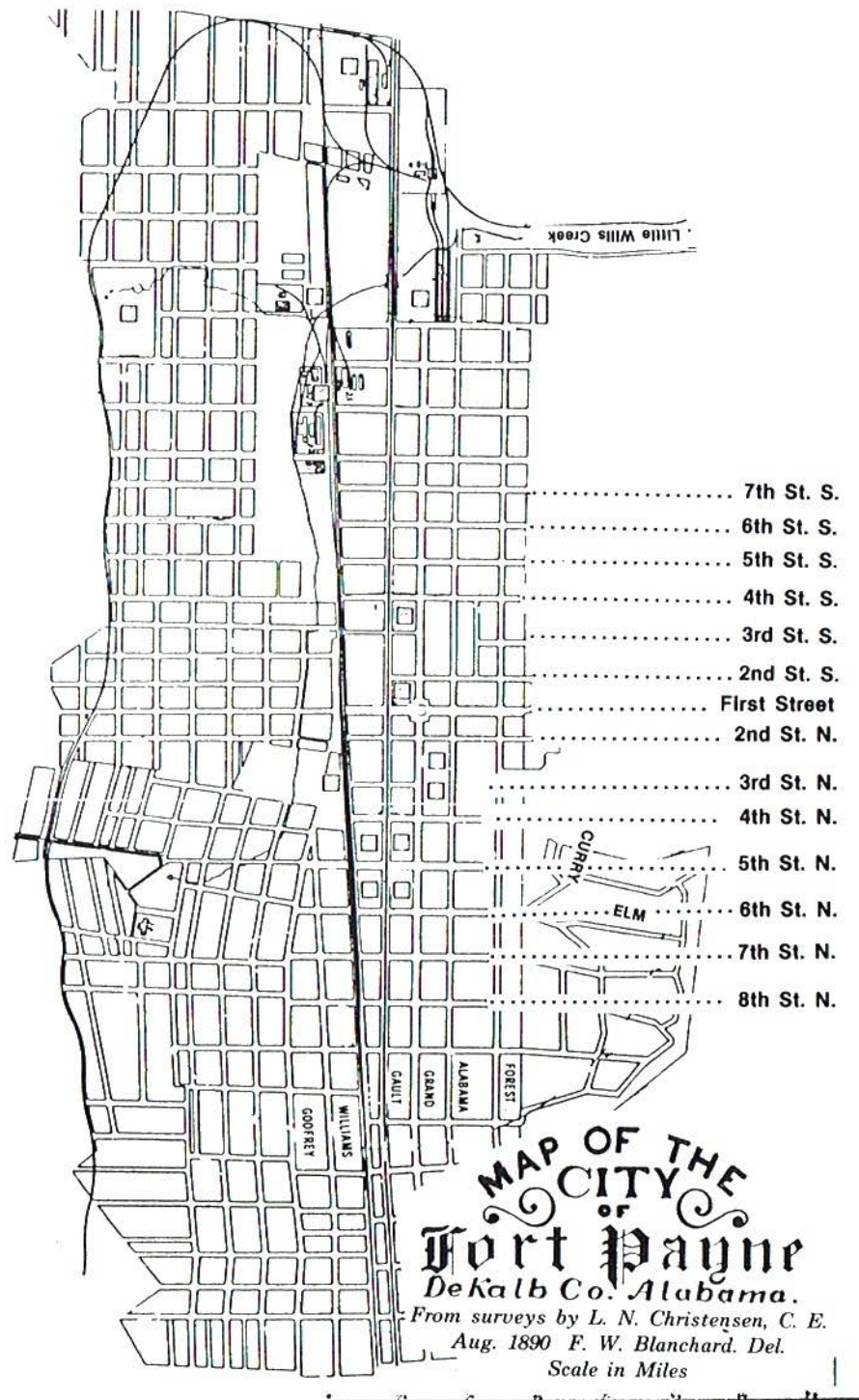


Historical marker erected Union Park in 1983.

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### MALONE-LEATH HOME ★

★★

The Malone-Leath house located at 200 Alabama Avenue South, was built in 1890 by the People's Building Loan and Saving Association, which was responsible for a number of buildings in Fort Payne during the boom era. There seems to have been some doubt as to the ownership until 1905 when it was through a court order, given from Joe Nix, Sally Howard, and E. A. Walton to John Dunn, Jr. It was bought in 1905 by Dr. Banning, a dentist. It was from him that George Lee Malone acquired the property in 1910 and it is still owned by a member of the Malone family. A daughter, Purl Malone Leath has owned it since 1939 and the historic residence continues to be her home.

Mrs. Leath's late husband, Fred W. Leath was an engineer who organized Singleton and Leath Construction Company and Fred Leath Associates, Inc. Her father, George Lee Malone, served as DeKalb County Probate Judge during the 1920s.





### THE COCHRAN-BROCK-WILSON-OWEN HOME ★

★★

An excerpt from the *Fort Payne Journal* in early 1890 reads: "L. L. Cochran has plans drawn for a \$5,000 mansion and the architect is A. H. Gould." The result was this Queen Anne house at 208 Alabama Avenue South.

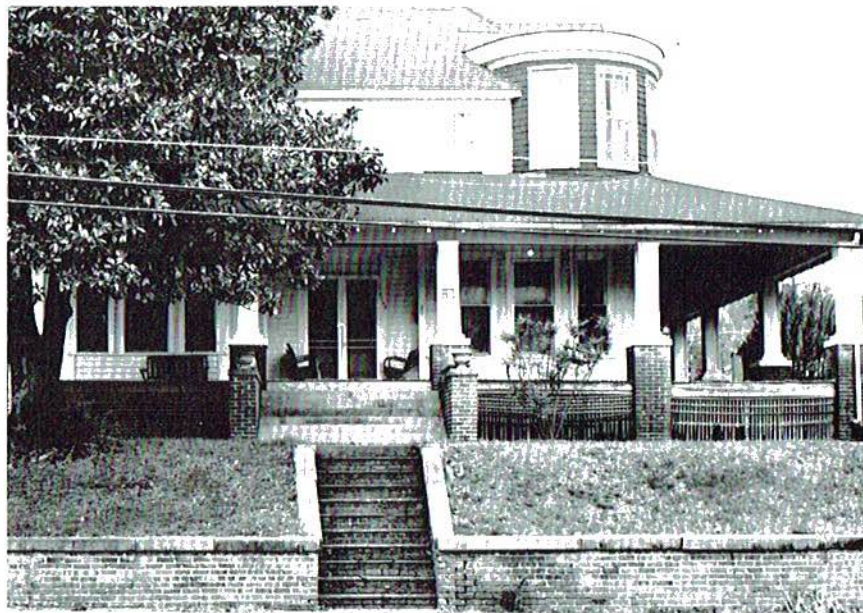
Lucien Livingston Cochran was born in Georgia in 1842. He was a volunteer in the Confederate Army and served in Company E, 10th Georgia, Longstreet Corps. He lost his right arm in Cedar Creek, Virginia and later lost his right eye. He was discharged in 1864 and taught school in Centre for a time. He was elected clerk of the Cherokee County Court and moved to DeKalb County at the end of his term. He was a farmer and merchant before being elected probate judge of DeKalb County in 1886. He later practiced law in Fort Payne and ran for congress from this district. He was a Democrat and belonged to the Methodist Church.

In 1897, the Cochrans sold the house to The Peoples Building Loan and Savings Association of Syracuse, New York. In 1909 M. M. Traphagen owned and lived in the house. He was a skilled carpenter and conjecture is that he assisted in the construction of the house.

Later in 1909 Traphagen's widow sold the house to Henry Blackwell Brock. He was a merchant, banker, automobile dealer, and cotton broker. He was an active member of the First Baptist Church of Fort Payne. The house remained in the Brock family until 1928 when Dr. D. W. Wilson acquired the house.

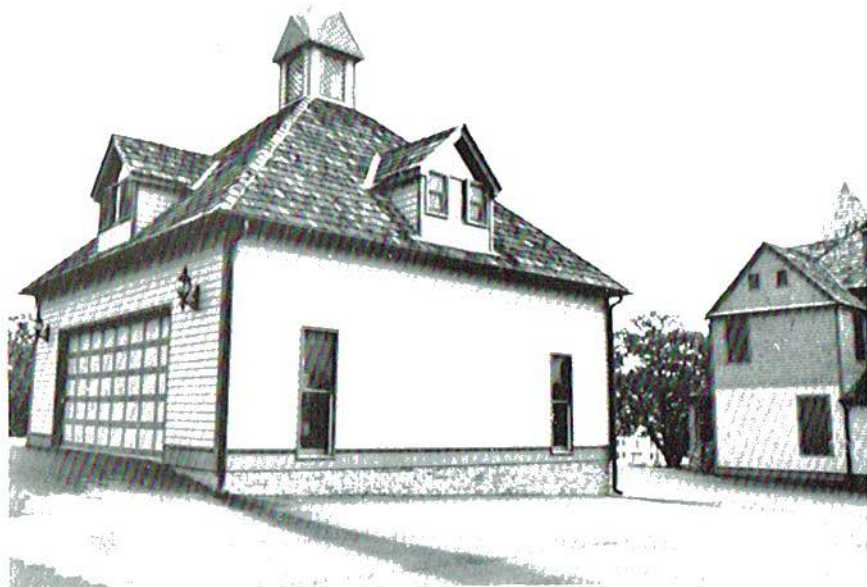
Dr. Wilson was born in 1872 at Grove Oak. He taught school at Pine Grove before entering medical school. After graduating from Grant Medical College in Chattanooga in 1900, he practiced medicine at Tenbroeck and Fort Payne for a total of more than 50 years. He was also engaged in a mercantile business with J. B. Rains at Tenbroeck for 10 years. He erected a modern two-story brick building which housed the Fort Payne Post Office for a time. He served on the county board of education for six years and worked for the improvement of schools and highways in DeKalb County. He became the first doctor in the county to have an automobile when he purchased one in 1912.

In 1985 Randy Owen purchased the house from the Wilson estate. Owen, a member of the group "Alabama," has made significant contributions to this area, including the restoration of this house to its original splendor. Over the years, changes had been made in the house affecting the outside appearance. The recent restoration, under the direction of Interior Designer Bill Borders, has restored it to its original state.



During the 1970s, the present Randy Owen house belonged to the estate of the late Dr. D. W. Wilson. The house had undergone many changes, including the removal of the turret and cone shaped roof on the third floor, since the original house was built. Mrs. Ruby Barkley operated a boarding house here for several years.





The barn and carriage house of the Cochran-Brock-Wilson-Owen home has been reconstructed for apartment and garage use today.



Carpenters posed for a Landmarks photograph during the restoration of the Randy Owen house in 1986. Front: Mickey Watts, David Mitchell, Back: Jimmy Hughes, foreman, Billy Sharp, Harold Hughes, and Terry Reynolds.



### THE J. B. GREEN HOME ★ ★

The bungalow style house at 304 Alabama Avenue South was built in 1937 for Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Green and has served as their residence since that time. He is a native of DeKalb County. He served as a superintendent at W. B. Davis and Son hosiery mill for twenty-six years beginning in 1927. In 1953 he left the mill and established another hosiery mill with a partner which was operated for two years. He was then appointed Register of Chancery Court for DeKalb County and remained in that position for sixteen years. Following that tenure, he served as office manager for the law firm of Traylor, Baker, and Cole for ten years. He is now retired. Mrs. Green taught at Forest Avenue School for forty years and is now retired. The Greens are active members of the First Presbyterian Church of Fort Payne.

Christopher of Gadsden served as architect for this house. The builder was Joe Browder. The exterior of the house is weatherboard painted white. The house consists of a living room, dining room, kitchen, breakfast room, three bedrooms, and bath. The interior walls are either papered or of wallboard. The roof line portends two gables on the north side, two on the south side, and one on the east side which concludes at the intersection of a front porch which extends across the east front of the house. There are four square columns supporting the porch with decorative trim near the top.





### KILLIAN-TUTOR-DELLINGER HOME

This one and one-half story house at 504 Alabama Avenue South was built by Sam F. Killian, a leading Fort Payne merchant, and his wife, Beulah Sloan Killian, in 1926 on property acquired from her family. Her father, James J. Slone, had owned much property in this area of Fort Payne and the lots now owned by the Dellinger family had remained in the Slone family until sold by a descendant, Ilse Brassit Tutor, and her husband, Guyton H. Tutor, to the Dellinger family in 1971. Robert L. Dellinger, Sr., who served in the United States Post Office in Fort Payne for thirty-eight years and served as an Adjutant of the local American Legion, is now deceased and Mrs. Dellinger lives in the house.

The house has a gabled roof and a porch across three-fourths of the front with a brick partial wall capped by concrete and four brick columns supporting the roof. The exterior walls are of painted wood weatherboard. An original outside stairway on the south side of the house has been removed. One stairway remains inside the house. The downstairs has a living room, dining room, breakfast room, kitchen, utility room, three bedrooms, den, and a bathroom. The upstairs has two bedrooms and a bathroom. A number of the walls are papered and others are wood paneled.

There is a well at the back of the house.



### RUSSELL-SLOAN-KAY HOME

This house located at 600 Alabama Avenue South has been owned by the Reverend and Mrs. Jimmy Kay since 1970. The house is two-story of vernacular design with a two-story-two brick columned porch across half of the front. The roof is gabled. Aluminum dropped siding was used to cover the exterior weatherboarding in 1980.

The rectangular house was built in 1893 at its present location. From 1893-96 it was owned by J. E. Russell. Sold in 1897, the house was owned until 1912 by W. W. Russell who sold the house to J. T. Sloan. In 1928 Wallace Sloan bought the house, and he and Daisy Sloan owned the house until 1947. From 1952 to 1970 the house was owned by Guyton Tutor who sold it to the Kays. Reverend Kay has pastored churches in the Fort Payne-DeKalb County area for a number of years.

W. W. Russell was a merchant in Fort Payne and served as mayor of the city in 1901-1903. He was an active member of the Fort Payne Presbyterian Church.

Wallace Sloan was active in politics and held several state and government positions. He was a writer and had many poems and stories published.

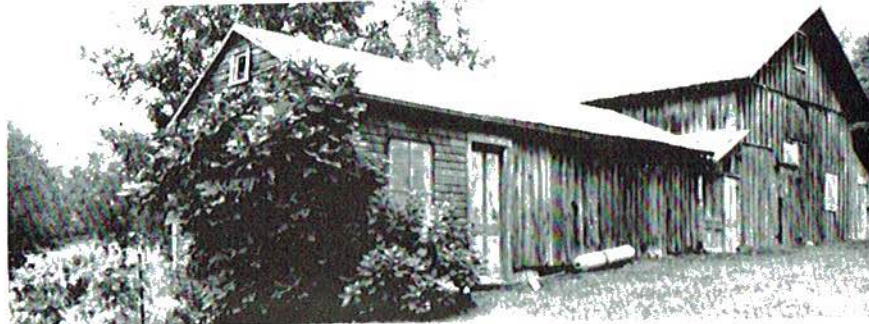




### THE MAJORS-LANDSTREET HOME ★

This house is now owned by Mrs. E. L. (Evelyn) Landstreet, widow of Early Lee Landstreet. The house was built by Charles Majors before the boom period, in the 1850s. It was purchased in 1896 by Charles Landstreet. Landstreet was the landscape architect hired by the Fort Payne Coal and Iron Company to landscape the city they were building. The house has remained in the Landstreet family since that time.

In good condition, the design of the house is Gothic Revival, one and one-half story, with five rooms downstairs and two rooms upstairs over the porch. It has a central entrance with a window each side of the front door and a porch across the front with four turned columns. Aluminum siding replaced weatherboarding in the spring of 1964 when the house was restored. New wiring, furnace and two baths were added at that time.



Original barn behind the Landstreet home.



### THE MAJORS-BENSON HOME ★★

This house, at 100 Alabama Avenue North is now owned by Mrs. Patricia Benson. Charles Majors and his wife, Ida Belle Jacoway Majors, lived in the house from 1919 until the 1970's. Mrs. Mary A. Perkins of Portland, Maine owned the house from 1883 to 1914. Other owners include Mr. and Mrs. R. B. Thomas, David L. Campbell, and Charles M. T. Sawyer.

Charles Majors, affectionately known as "Uncle Charley," worked in several grocery stores in Fort Payne throughout his lifetime. He and his wife were members of the First Methodist Church. She belonged to the local chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy and both she and her husband were vitally interested in the progress of Fort Payne.

This boom day two-story house has a porch across the front and south side. There are eight round columns on the porch with beautiful scroll work at the roof connections. The exterior of the house has metal siding covering the wooden weatherboarding. The interior has a living room, hall, dining room, and kitchen downstairs. The upstairs has two bedrooms and a hall, a section of which is used as a studio.





**THE CAMPBELL-LANKFORD HOME ★ ★**

David Lewis Campbell had this house built at 108 Alabama Avenue, North between 1919 and 1920 by his father-in-law, Jack Chitwood. Campbell and his wife, Purl, resided in this house alone until the mid 1930's when they decided to take in boarders. The Campbell's always maintained a waiting list of teachers and other professionals seeking a place to live.

The house is a two story bungalow with 12 rooms and three baths. The bathrooms have original stand lavatories and one bath has a tub with feet. A huge living room has four wooden beams in the ceiling. It also has a brick fireplace with bookcases built on each side. The master bedroom has a fireplace with brick shelf mantel and a short brass cover that has been painted white. The dining room has been converted into a den and has double French doors separating it from the living room.

David Lewis Campbell served as Deputy Circuit Clerk under his father, Major Campbell, from 1910 to 1916. He succeeded his father as Circuit Clerk in 1916 and served until 1923. Following his retirement, he engaged in the mercantile business in Fort Payne. He also served on the Draft Board and held clerical positions in the sheriff's office. Upon Campbells death, the property was passed to his niece, Mrs. Grace Lankford. After Grace Lankford's death, her sister-in-law, Margie Lankford Wildnauer, sold the property to the Fort Payne City Board of Education. The school system has used the house for classrooms since the 1985 purchase.



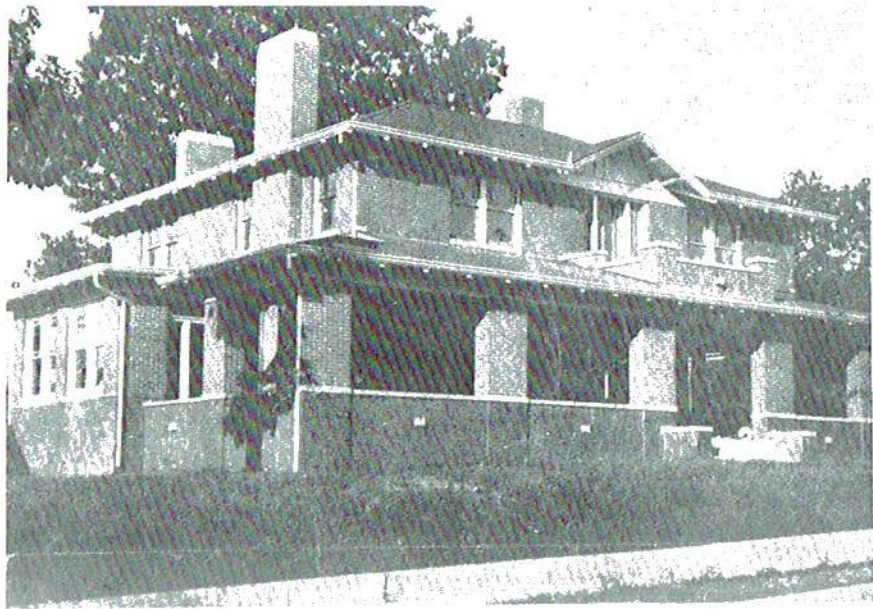
**THE MACFARLANE-BURT HOME ★ ★**

This two-story house at 200 Alabama Avenue North was built about 1881. It is typical of this boom day period. It is not known who built the house. Georgia Macfarlane's grandmother purchased the house in 1909 and her family resided here until another house was built in 1935. The house is currently owned by Angela and Joel Burt.

The house has a brick foundation. The roof is gabled. A porch spans a portion of the front and one side of the house and has three wood posts supporting the shed roof over it. The house has been remodeled since it was built. The downstairs ceiling was lowered. New plumbing, wiring, heating system, and a stained glass window were added during this process. One room has the original wood floor. New paneling and wallboard were used as wall treatment on the inside. Aluminum lap siding covers the outside walls.

There are two entrances off the front porch. Inside the main entrance, a stairway leads to the second floor where bedrooms are located. To the left of the entry is a parlor with a bay window facing the street. Back of the parlor is a sitting room and back of that is a dining room. To one side of the front porch is another entrance leading to a large room that at one time was a bedroom. This room leads to the kitchen at the back of the house. A back porch has been enclosed.





The *Birmingham News* stated in 1924 that the Isbell house cost \$30,000.

### THE ISBELL-BECK HOME ★

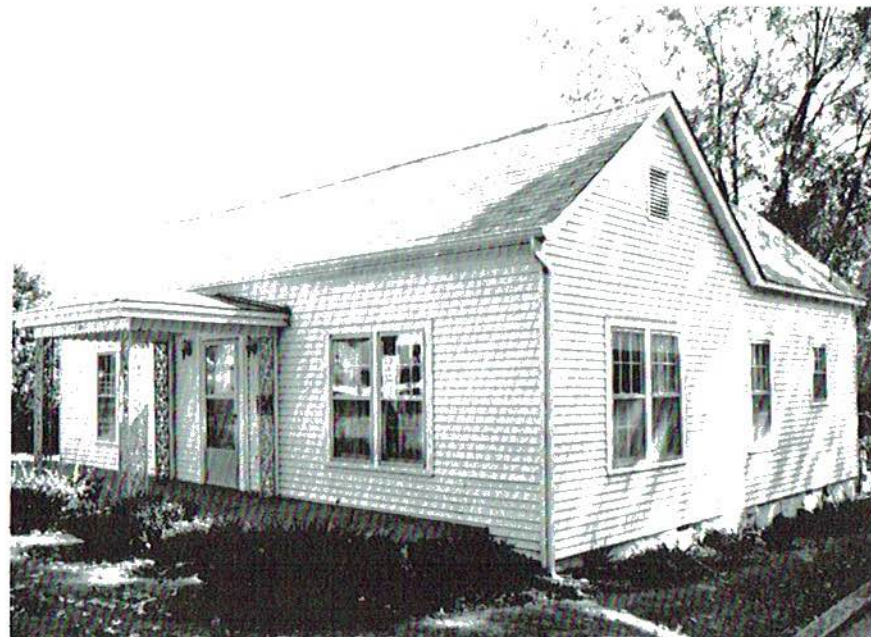
★★

This house was constructed at 206 Second Street N.W. for John B. Isbell by Jack Chitwood, a local Fort Payne contractor. Mrs. Isbell designed the house herself. Built in 1924, this house is a good example of the Prairie style made popular by Frank Lloyd Wright in the early decades of the 20th century. It is typical of the emphasis placed on the horizontal rectangular form with low hipped roof and projecting eaves.

The house is a two-story brown brick, with a porch extending across the front of the house. Six large square brick piers support the heavy plain architrave of the porch. A balcony located in the middle of the second floor is enclosed by wrought iron grill work, matching the handrail on the four steps to the front porch. French doors lead from the living room to the dining room and from the dining room to the library.

The house has been occupied in recent years by Judge W. M. and Mrs. Vera Beck, daughter of the original owner. Since Mrs. Beck's death in 1983, Judge Beck, an attorney since 1932, who was elected to the Alabama Legislature in 1939, has continued living in the house.

Mrs. Beck was very civic minded and active in State and local affairs. She was a past president of The Alabama Federation of Womens' Club. Mrs. Beck was a co-founder of Landmarks of DeKalb County, Inc. in 1969.

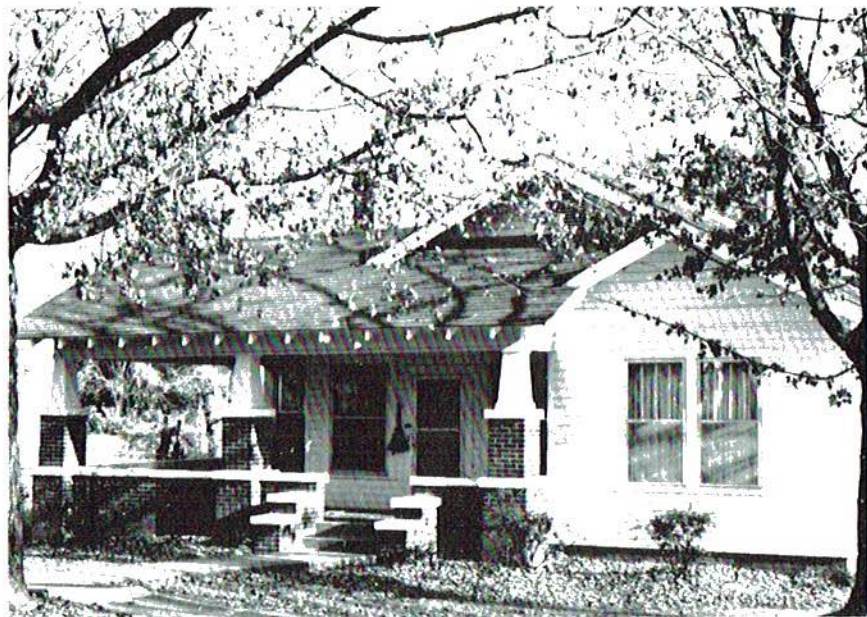


### THE DRISKILL HOME ★★

In 1883 L. N. Christiansen built a two-story house at 211 Alabama Avenue North. Christiansen, a civil engineer, laid out Fort Payne during his stay. Later H. B. Campbell bought the house and changed it to a one-story dwelling. When Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Driskill acquired the house in 1944 it was completely remodeled on the inside.

The late Bernard Driskill served a local bank for 43 years. When he began his career, the banking firm was known as First National; later changed to State National and is currently Central Bank of the South. He was an active member of the Fort Payne First Methodist Church for 68 years where he served as church secretary, treasurer, choir member, and trustee. His wife, Apharine, taught in the City School System for many years and continues to make her home at the residence. She too, was active in the First Methodist Church where she taught Sunday School for more than 30 years. The Apharine Driskill Sunday School Class was named in her honor.





### THE HAWKINS-MALONE HOME ★ ★

Judge Alfred E. Hawkins, Circuit Judge, built this typical bungalow house at 301 Alabama Avenue North in 1925 and lived there for several years. Marvin Edward Malone and his wife, Lillie, acquired the property in 1970 from the Hawkins estate. The house is now owned by his son, Charles Lovelace Malone, and his wife, Frances.

This one-story house is of wood lapped weatherboarding painted white. It has a two-gabled roof. The front porch, which replaced the original one, extends across a portion of the front and one side of the house. It has a brick partial wall around it with brick pillars capped with concrete which serve as bases for square columns supporting the roof. A single front entrance leads from the porch to the interior of the house.

M. E. Malone served as director and secretary-treasurer of W. B. Davis and Son Hosiery Mill for many years. He was author of a novel, *Substantially Honest*, which was published in 1968. He was an ordained ruling elder of the Presbyterian Church and taught Sunday school for a long time. Both of Malone's sons, Marvin Edward, Jr. and Charles Lovelace, have been associated with the hosiery industry of Fort Payne.



### THE WOLFES-COLLINS HOME ★ ★

This Georgian style house at 308 Alabama Avenue North was designed by Horace Weaver. It was contracted by The Weaver Company of Birmingham, Alabama. The house was started in 1922 and finished in 1923 by builder Claude Wood of Fort Payne for Charles Adolph "Colonel" Wolfes.

Colonel Wolfes, an honor graduate of Yale University Law School, practiced law in Fort Payne for 44 years. He was active in civic affairs, such as the Boy Scouts of America, a member of the City School Board, and taught Sunday School for 21 years.

Harriet Grace "Hattie" Sawyer Wolfes attended and majored in art at Brenau College, Gainesville, Georgia. The house and grounds reflect her artistic abilities.

The house is two-story, brick veneer with a concrete foundation. It has 42 windows. The focal point of the house is the fountain. Surrounded by flowers and trees on the grounds, the fountain is a historic one. It was one of two designed for the Fort Payne Coal and Iron Company, which built the DeKalb Hotel. They were made in France in 1899 and were placed on either side of the hotel. When the hotel burned in 1918, C. A. Wolfes purchased the lot. Hattie Wolfes gave one fountain to W. B. Davis for the mill clubhouse he had built. When the mill clubhouse burned in 1958, Davis gave the fountain back to Mrs. Wolfes.

The house now belongs to Sally Sawyer Collins, a niece of Hattie Wolfes.





**SAWYER HOME ★**

★★

This is a typical boom period design house. This house was built in 1878 by Capt. W. H. Minot. Originally from Wisconsin, Captain Minot was an officer in the Union Army during the Civil War. He lived in the house for ten years. In 1889, he was elected as one of Fort Payne's first aldermen.

The house was purchased by Charles M. T. Sawyer, who came to Fort Payne from Littleton, N. H. to organize the DeKalb Abstract Company. Active in civic and political affairs, he served as Mayor of Fort Payne for twenty six years. Although admitted to the Bar in 1896, he preferred working with his abstract or insurance business.

This two-story frame Victorian home is in excellent condition. It has a rock foundation. The exterior is of weatherboarding with wooden shingles in the front gable. It has one central chimney with four fireplaces that have plain wooden mantels. The front porch has 7 doric columnets supporting a hipped roof with central pediment. The roof of the house is hipped. The main entrance is a single door with glass top. In the front hallway is a straight stairway to the second floor. All flooring is of hardwood.

Mrs. Sarah Sawyer, daughter of Charles M. T. Sawyer, lived in this house until her death in 1985. She was a favorite source of historical information about Fort Payne's early days and active in numerous civic affairs. Her son and daughter-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Charles M. T. Sawyer, II, currently make their home at this residence.



**THE SLONE-BETHUNE-FORTSON HOME ★★**

This seven room vernacular house at 603 Alabama Avenue North, now owned by Gloria Fortson, was built in 1910. The first owners were Inez B. and S. G. Loring (Commonwealth of Massachusetts). The title then went to S. B. Slone on August 9, 1910; S. B. Slone to J. P. Bethune on August 1, 1934; J. P. and Halene Bethune to James C. and Opal Wilson on December 4, 1967; James C. and Opal Wilson to Gloria Fortson on February 7, 1969.

This house of white wood lapped siding has pyramidal roof with gables. The porch evolves into a portico on the west side that extends the length of the house. Tuscan columns support the porch and portico roof and roof of the rear porch.

Both the south and west sides are used as entrances. Doors at these entrances are single wooden doors with a glass pane inset in the upper half. There is decorative carving in the lower half with wooden dentil molding under the glass sections. The upper third of all windows facing south are gothic design, lead glass. On the west side, all windows are lead glass, gothic design for the upper half with a solid pane lower half. The gable windows are square with stained glass lights above and below. The gable ends are filled with wooden shingles of fish scale design and stagger butt patterns.

Gloria Fortson has served as Register in Chancery for DeKalb County since 1971.





**THE NOVELLE-COATS-SHIPPI HOME**

This house at 807 Alabama Avenue North was built in 1887 by a Mullins family during the boom days. Walter Novelle purchased it October 7, 1896 and sold it to G. E. Hill and son, Wilson, August 21, 1925. Other families owning this house were N. S. Davenport, Jr. and his wife, Ida Mae, and Leo Harwood and his wife, Pearl. Carter B. Shipp and his wife acquired the house in 1964.

Novelle was a successful businessman whose name is found often in probate records of estate transactions. His wife, Fanette, was an educator who often gave lectures to women's organizations. The Novelles had one daughter, Mary Novelle Coats. She was the mother of Fay and Rose Coats.

This house is of the vernacular design with some features of the Victorian style. It has a U-shaped porch across the front and two sides. The porch has plain wood bannisters and turned posts supporting the roof. The front wing of the house has three stories with the steep gabled roof sheltering the third story. The rear wing has two stories with a gabled roof and long windows opening onto the porch. The front entrance off the porch has a double leaf, wood and glass paneled door with four square transom lights. There are two brick chimneys with seven original fireplaces inside.

The two magnolia trees in the front yard were planted in 1890 when a local citizen, C. C. Landstreet, had a boxcar of shrubs and trees shipped to Fort Payne.

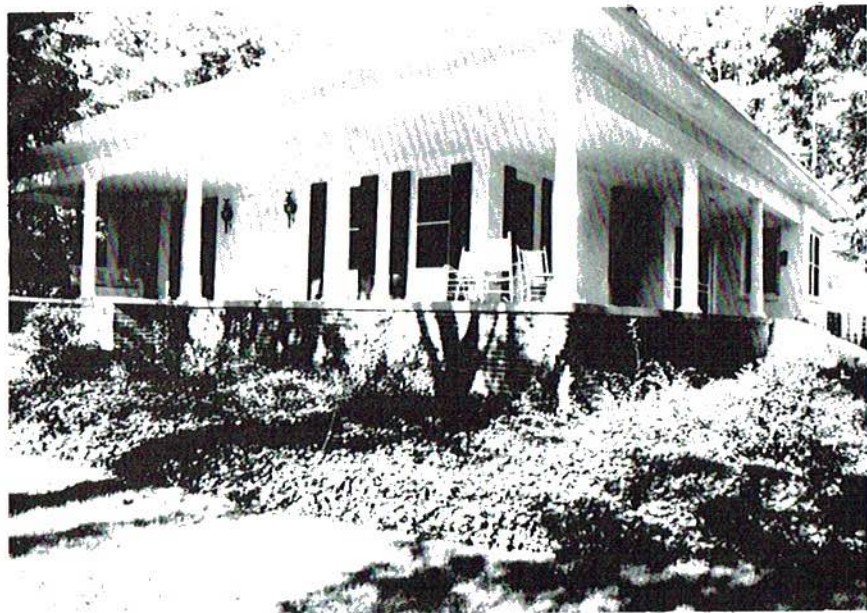


**MINOT-McBROOM-HILL-BLACK-ELLIOTT HOME**

Located at 808 Alabama Avenue North, this house was built in 1889 by Captain William H. H. Minot and his wife Elizabeth. They kept boarders for a number of years. In 1908 they sold the house to A. M. McBroom, an enterprising merchant. McBroom's widow sold it to G. E. Hill, a prominent citizen and active politician who served as the first chairman of the DeKalb County Board of Revenue. Joe J. Tolbert purchased the house in 1925 and served as tax assessor of DeKalb County. In 1951, the Tolbert family sold the house to the late I. E. Black and his late wife, Grace Baxter Black. The house was later purchased by Bill and Doris Elliott who still reside there. He is a home decorator and she teaches at Collinsville High School.

This two-story frame house is of vernacular design and has a porch across much of the front. The roof is gabled and the exterior has aluminum siding covering the original lap siding. The central front entrance leads into a large foyer opening to the hall and a staircase. A second set of stairs is off a back hall. The house has six rooms downstairs and six rooms upstairs. The upstairs rooms have been used as separate apartments in the past. The interior walls are of plaster and have been covered with paper, paneling, or wallboard. The house has three chimneys, two of which are original and one a replacement.





**THE WATSON HOME**

This house at 400 Forest Avenue South was built by Carl P. Killian in 1924. He and his family lived here until his death. Later Mrs. Killian sold the house to Mr. and Mrs. C. T. Skidmore. They sold to Mr. and Mrs. Watson in 1945. Carl Killian was a successful business man, dealing in cotton and was owner of a large warehouse. C. T. Skidmore was the Gulf Oil distributor for this area at one time. Herman Watson was principal of DeKalb County High School from 1930 until 1938. He was then a representative for Investors Syndicate and later representative for Franklin Life Insurance Company. In 1952 he founded Fort Payne Bank and became the first president and later served as president and as chairman of the board of directors and chief executive officer. He resigned in 1977 and became chairman emeritus of the board of directors. Mrs. Watson taught piano and voice in both DeKalb County High and Fort Payne City School for a number of years. She was choir director for First United Methodist Church for about 35 years.



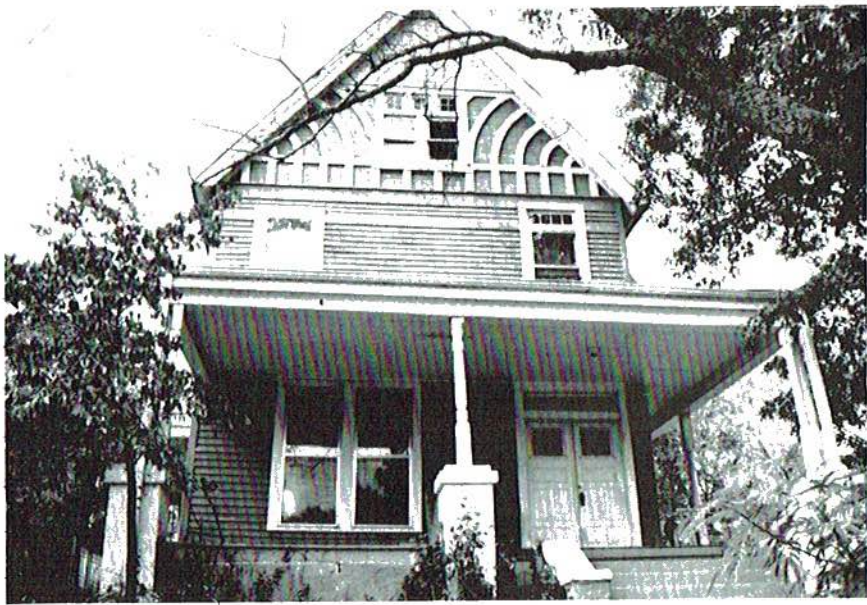
**THE APPLETON-COCHRAN HOME**

This two-story Southern bungalow style house at 500 Forest Avenue South was built in 1921. In 1923 C. P. Killian sold the house to Loraine Appleton, a native of Collinsville. She and her family moved to the house and lived there throughout their lives. Her father, John Ellis Appleton, was a retired farmer and school teacher at the time they moved to Fort Payne. She was a secretary to E. S. Killian, a merchant and cotton buyer, and later assisted in the A. G. S. freight depot for many years. She later sold insurance and maintained an office in the Killian Building.

The house was sold to E. Russell and Mildred Cochran in 1949. She still resides here. He was a distributor for Standard Oil Company for ten years. In 1959 he was elected president of the DeKalb County Commission and served one four year term. Later he was a representative of Reynolds Aluminum Company and sold aluminum siding for buildings in this area. He then sold insurance for Underwriters International Insurance Company.

The exterior walls of the house are of wood weatherboarding covered with aluminum siding. The roof slants upward to a gable peak, saltbox style. There are three dormer windows in the front. A large cement porch spans the front of the house and has four brick columns for support. Cement rails span the front and north side of the porch. There is one central chimney with two fireplaces.





### THE HARALSON-SUMNER-CORDELL HOME ★ ★

The first title found to this boom days house at 200 Forest Avenue North was from Fort Payne Coal and Iron Company to J. A. Wilder in 1889. After Wilder's death, his widow, Frances, deeded the property to First National Bank of Damariscotta, Maine.

It was later purchased by Dr. Jeff Bennett Haralson and his wife, O. A. Moody Haralson, who lived in the house from 1902 until his death in 1921. Haralson was born and reared in DeKalb County and received a degree in medicine from Mobile Medical School in 1888. He practiced medicine in Marshall and Jackson Counties for several years before returning to his native DeKalb County in 1902. He served as president of the DeKalb County Bank and was president of the First National Bank (now Central Bank) at the time of his death.

In 1979 the house was purchased by Walter and Harriet Sumner who completed a renovation and restoration in 1980. It is currently owned by Jim Cordell and is used as rental property.

The two-story house has the original wood lapped siding on the exterior walls. The 1980 restoration included the rebuilding of a side porch in the same style and design as the original with the decorative wood balustrade being replaced. The original round columns were used with the fan shaped decorative braces.



1914 family gathering at the Presley home.

### THE PRESLEY-SLONE HOME ★ ★

This New England style house at 202 Forest Avenue North was built about 1880 by C. O. Godfrey, one of Fort Payne's boom day advocates. In 1889 it was sold by the Fort Payne Coal and Iron Company to J. A. Wilder, a realtor and investor. Wilder's widow, Frances, of Walden, Massachusetts sold it to the First National Bank of Damariscotta, Maine. The bank sold it to I. M. Presley in 1905. The Presley family has owned it since that time.

Judge Presley came to Alabama in 1892 and served as principal of Midway School near Dawson for a number of years. Around 1898 he moved to Fort Payne and received his license to practice law on February 4, 1901. He served a number of terms as county solicitor and as assistant deputy solicitor, as city judge for many years, and was serving as DeKalb County Judge when he retired at the age of 83. He was the presiding judge for the first case tried in the present courthouse in 1952. In January of 1954, he received a plaque from the Fort Payne-DeKalb County Bar Association for having practiced law for more than 50 years in DeKalb County. He was active in the First Baptist Church of Fort Payne having served as deacon, Sunday school superintendent, and teacher of the Baracca Class. He was a member of the Odd Fellows Lodge.

One of the Presleys two daughters, Lola Presley Slone, still resides in the house.





**THE WEATHERLY-SHIREY HOME ★ ★**

The property at 206 Forest Avenue North was purchased by G. I. Weatherly, Sr. in 1920 from John A. Davis. The one and one-half story bungalow style house was built by the Weatherlys at this time. It is located between five boom day houses. Weatherly began serving as cashier of the First National Bank in 1919 and later became bank president. He served in this capacity until the bank became the State National Bank. He continued his affiliation as vice president and manager of the bank until his death. His wife, Mary C. Weatherly, established the Fort Payne Library in 1930. She was selected as Alabama Mother of the Year in 1961. In 1962 she became the only Alabama woman to receive the national honor when the American Mother of the Year title was bestowed on her in New York.

In 1979 the house was purchased by Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Shirey. They currently reside here.

With exterior walls of brick, this house has a gabled roof with a shed dormer on the front. A screened porch spans much of the front. The porch has brick supports on brick piers with concrete pier caps. A second porch opens from the second floor.



**THE HARALSON HOME ★**

★ ★

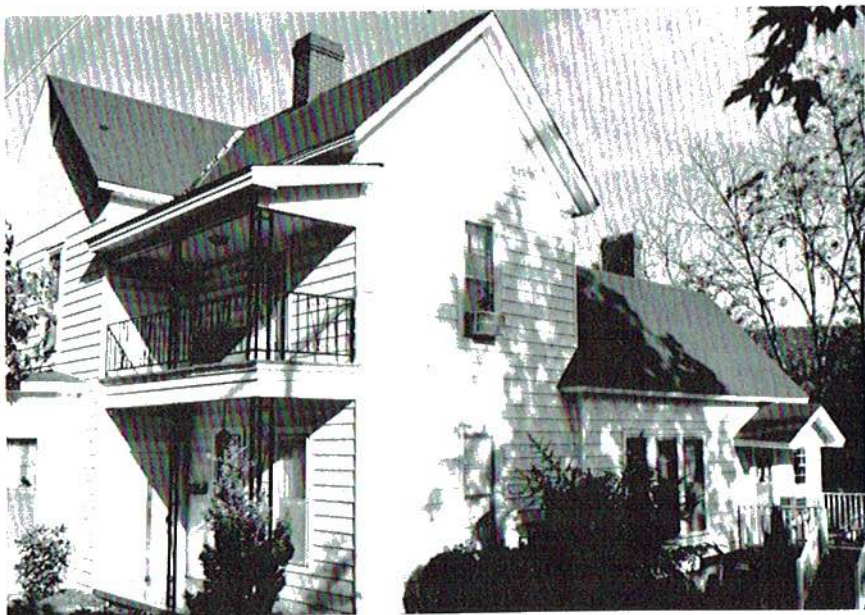
"The Oaks" at 250 Forest Avenue North was built by Judge William Jehu Haralson prior to the boom days and has been occupied by four generations of the Haralson family. In 1884 Judge Haralson purchased a block of land from Dr. A. B. Green in Fort Payne and built a small house there. When the land was purchased, it was heavily timbered by oaks, which were thinned somewhat when the house was built. Since that time, the trees have been allowed to grow and there are now 16 large oaks in the yard from which the name is derived.

When Judge Haralson died, the house passed to his son, Judge W. Wallace Haralson, who enlarged the house. He added the columns and rounded veranda in 1908. He and his family lived there until his death and that of his wife. At that time, the house passed to his two daughters, June Robertson and Mary Davenport, and his son, Judge W. J. (Jeff) Haralson, who lived there with his wife, Ledelle, until his death. Mrs. Haralson still resides there.

The interior of the house has two Italian marble mantels with beveled glass and a beautiful staircase. When the house was built, the street was level with the sidewalk and the original hitching post is still on the property.

This house has been featured on several Landmarks' Pilgrimages.





**THE ELROD-TATE HOME ★ ★**

Mr. and Mrs. Patrick H. Tate have been the owners of this boom day house at 255 Forest Avenue North since 1974. Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Blevins Green, Jr. were the first known occupants following their marriage in late 1898. Green was elected to the city council several times and served as mayor from 1895 to 1898. W. H. Elrod purchased the house in 1906, but sold it the following year to the T. J. Cook family. Porter Pendergrass purchased the house in 1910 and resold it to W. H. Elrod. This time the house remained in the same family for more than 60 years. In 1935 the title passed to Elrod's son, W. H. Elrod, Jr., a Methodist minister who served numerous churches in the county.

W. H. Elrod, Sr. represented DeKalb County in the state legislature during the administration of Governor B. B. Comer. He was a state senator during Governor Charles Henderson's administration.

Twin sons of Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Elrod, Jr. were reared in this house. Dr. Bruce Elrod is now a Chattanooga pathologist and his twin brother, Harvey, is currently a practicing attorney in Decatur. Harvey was a deputy attorney general of Alabama from 1962 to 1966. Many residents of this house have enjoyed an active political life. The present owner, Patrick Tate, is currently serving as county attorney and chairman of the Democratic Party in DeKalb County.



**THE MORGAN-TATE HOME ★ ★**

The New England type house at 257 Forest Avenue North is one of the original Fort Payne boom day houses built by Dr. A. B. Green about 1890 and has been known as the Jimmy Morgan Home. It was given to Dr. Green's son, A. Beuly Green, in 1900. It is now owned by Herbert and Sarah Grace Lankford Tate, and also by the Tate's daughter, Sarah Glenn and her husband John Haase. The Haase family includes a daughter, Sally. Herbert Tate is Executive Director of the Federal Housing Authority.

The exterior walls of the two-story house are covered with white siding. The windows have decorative shutters. The roof is a combination hipped and gabled. The first floor porch spans much of the front and a part of the side of the house and has tapered columns supporting the roof. A small second story front porch has turned posts supporting the roof and scalloped trim around the top. There is a single first floor entrance at the center of the house leading from the front porch. Three additional rooms were added during a complete renovation of the house in 1959.





**THE CROLEY HOME ★ ★**

The Judge James A. Croley house at 401 Forest Avenue North was built in late 1888 or early 1889 by Captain William H. H. Minot. The first title found to this property was from Fort Payne Coal and Iron Company to L. B. Jordan in 1890. Judge Croley bought it from Jordan in 1902. It has remained in the Croley family since that time and is now owned by Miss Sarah Croley, daughter of James A. and Lula Alice Hale Croley.

The house depicts an unusual style of architecture. The southeast corner tower is polygonal, with a tent roof which becomes a gable. The front porch supports have carved brackets and the porch balustrade is decorated with pierced and carved work. The underpinning is wooden lattice over stone and brick piers.

Judge Croley served as probate judge of DeKalb County for 18 years following his election in 1903. He was a deacon in the First Baptist Church of Fort Payne and taught a Sunday School class for many years. He was a member of Knights of Pythias and of the independent Order of Odd Fellows in Fort Payne and a Mason.

Lula Alice Hale Croley was a member of the First United Methodist Church of Fort Payne, the United Daughters of the Confederacy, and the Eastern Star. She did volunteer Red Cross work during both world wars and worked as a volunteer for the American Cancer Society.



**THE RICE-GODFREY-DAVIS-LEATH HOME ★ ★**

The Leath house at 406 Forest Avenue North is a two and one-half story frame structure with elaborate iron grille work trim on the porch and balcony. It was built in 1889 by W. P. Rice, one of the directors of the Fort Payne Coal and Iron Company, organized in November 1888. Rice was a New England speculator and former warden of the Vermont State Prison. He had made several successful financial ventures, especially in the field of banking, when he was sought out by the promoters of Fort Payne. This was done after the first efforts to promote the town were unsuccessful. Rice, who also built the Fort Payne Opera House, arranged excursions for literally trainloads of New Englanders to Fort Payne. When the hotel and boarding house facilities became full, barracks and tents were erected to take care of the overflow. These visitors were lavishly entertained while being duly informed about the value of local real estate and the vast deposits of minerals in the area.

In 1892 the Folsom Family owned the house, and in 1895 Major C. O. Godfrey, Fort Payne's first mayor, bought the house. It changed hands several more times and was owned by the W. B. Davis Hosiery Mill family for several years during the 1930s and 1940s. It again changed hands several times before Fred Leath, Jr. purchased the house in 1972 and restored it. A large ballroom was once constructed at the house but was later removed.





**THE BUELL-GREEN HOME ★**

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This house located at 501 Curry Drive Northwest was built in 1889 by Charles Buell who had come to Fort Payne during the boom day period. It was sold to Dr. A. B. Green in 1892 and has remained in the Green family for a period of 96 years.

The house is a two-story wood frame of the New England style. Its style is typical of the boom days architecture. The house features a concrete front porch which extends across the front and one side of the house and has a hipped roof with spindle trim around the top. The front entrance off the porch features double doors topped with a transom of red glass. The interior of the house features a stairway with a quarter turn and landing. The central chimney has four fireplaces on the first floor and two on the second floor. All fireplaces are faced with marble and all have the same type mantel. The exterior is white with green shutters.

This is the current home of Kathryn Green, a retired college English associate professor.

As the first doctor in DeKalb County, Dr. Green traveled about on horseback, ministering to people of all levels of society, often without pay. He became a prosperous landowner. He built the first courthouse and donated it to the county and later gave land for the first Negro church, land for the first Methodist church, and other donations to worthy causes.



**THE TAYLOR HOME ★**

★ ★

This New England style house located at 458 Elm Street Northwest was built in 1895 during the boom at its present location. Built by Captain Dunn of the U. S. Cavalry, the house was sold in 1898 to T. H. Taylor and has remained in the Taylor family since that time. Mrs. Whitten (Lela) Taylor currently makes her home at this residence.

The house is two-story with a basement and features a multiple gabled roofline with boxed cornice. The front entrance is off a U-shaped porch which extends to either side of the house. The porch features a shed roof supported by tapering columns with connecting bannisters. The front entrance features double doors in the center of the front with etched glass in the top half of the doors. A side entrance is through a projecting bay. A carport has been added to the side of the house. The interior of the house features a U-shaped staircase from the hall to the second floor.





**THE WILLIS HOME ★★**

This house located at 454 Elm Street Northwest, was built in 1895 and is currently owned by Bill Willis.

The two-story house has an irregular floor plan of basic rectangular rooms. There are many elements of Queen Anne design, such as the half-timbering with stucco in the front gable above a projecting bay window. The roof combination of hip and gable construction gives a high, irregular look. The roof line is culminated in a high central chimney. The east facade features a projecting one and one-half story square tower supported by wooden brackets and has a semi-circular opening to the north. The front porch is enclosed with a band of double-hung windows placed in the openings which are under a low gable at the front entrance to the house.

This house was pictured in the 1890 publication, *Fort Payne, Alabama Illustrated*.



**THE NICHOLS-CARDEN HOME**

This house located at 450 Elm Street Northwest was built in 1890 during the boom days and is currently owned by Mr. and Mrs. Charles Carden. The two and one-half story house has strong elements of Eastlake style and features an intersecting gabled roof with original design diamond shaped slate shingles. The exterior is of white wooden lapped siding with fish scale pattern wood shingles in the gable ends. The L-shaped porch extends from the front of the house to the east side. It features turned posts with pierced brackets and turned balusters. There is a segmented bay on the front.

The interior features a fireplace in the living room with a double wooden mantel and blue and white tile. It also has a brick with "Fort Payne" stamped on it. The light fixtures in the living room and parlor are original. The windows are long and thin with fluted trim and corner blocks. The staircase has turned wooden spindles and a post carved from a solid block of wood.

Charles Carden is a contractor and his wife, Marilyn, is a public school art teacher. The Carden home was featured for a Landmarks reception and trustee meeting in 1982.

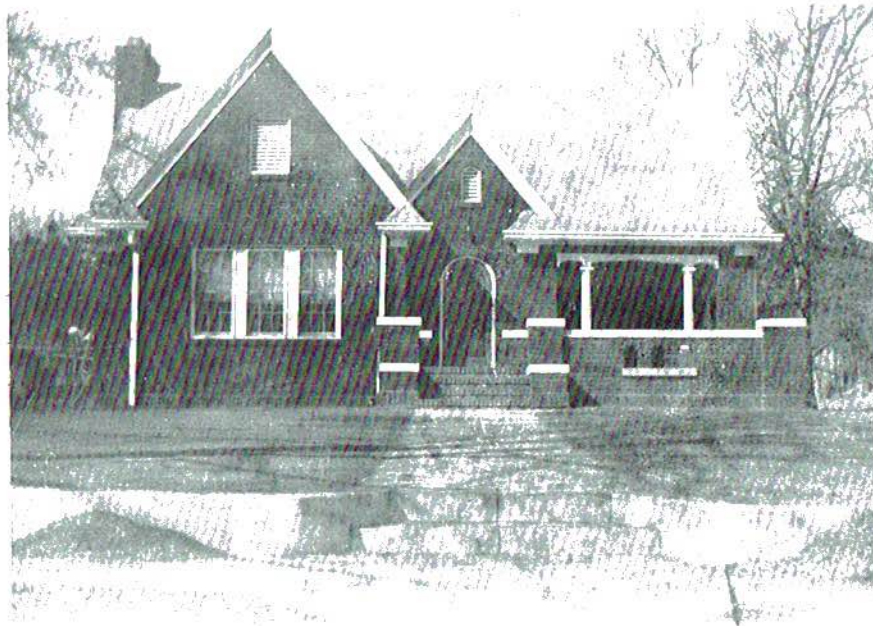




### THE HILL-KEAN-BOULDIN HOME ★ ★

Kimball W. Stetson built this house at 600 Forest Avenue North about 1890. He was active in the Fort Payne Coal and Iron Company. From Massachusetts, he was a capitalist and was instrumental in boom day development of Fort Payne. After he left Fort Payne, the house was occupied by Dr. M. T. Floyd, later by Dr. W. H. Head, and the G. E. Hill family before being bought by Howard Kean. Larry Bouldin now owns the house.

Of vernacular style with some Queen Anne elements, this two-story house has yellow poplar lapsiding that is covered with siding. An apartment was added to the north side of the house in 1952 which incorporated a part of the original front porch and moved the entrance door out, creating a small entry hall. The apartment has bay windows. The roof is gabled except the back is somewhat hipped with a point where the front section intersects. A front porch covers much of the front and accomodates the entrance door which is original and has hand carving around the edges with stained glass border around clear glass on the upper half of the door. The door also has a brass knocker with bell. There are two chimneys.



1934 photo when house was built.

### THE NANCE HOME ★ ★

Architects' from the Dallas, Texas firm of "Ye Plannery" Corporation, planned this English Cottage style house at 604 Forest Avenue North, built in 1934 for Floyd and Jessilee Nance. He owned and operated a gin and cotton warehouse in Fort Payne from 1933 to 1968. He discontinued the gin operation and purchased and operated the Fugazzi Fruit Farm from 1945 until he converted the farm to a cattle operation in 1952. She taught school for many years in DeKalb County.

This house has an arched front entrance with a solid door. Both the front terrace and covered porch have a tile floor. Four columns support the porch roof. The terrace is surrounded by stone coping with brick openings. The roof is of asphalt shingles, is gabled, with two gables on the front. There is a screen porch on the back.

The inside walls and nine foot ceilings are of plaster. The living room has an arched alcove at the front windows and a cut stone fireplace and mantel built by Lee Crowe. An arched entry leads from the living room to the dining room. The breakfast room and kitchen have built-in china cabinets with glass doors. There are three bedrooms with a "sleeping room" off the master bedroom. A hallway is lined with built-in storage cabinets. The bathroom has an arched alcove for the tub. Hardwood floors are throughout the house except the bath and kitchen.





Davenport home in 1970s.



Colvert home in 1980s.

### THE DAVENPORT-COLVERT HOME ★

★★

This house at 700 Forest Avenue North has been known locally as the Davenport House since 1945. It was owned by the E. T. Davenport family from 1945 until it was sold to a dentist, Dr. Staley Colvert, in 1986. It was built in 1890 by A. C. Spaulding, president of Fort Payne Coal and Iron Company.

Richard Clayton Hunt purchased this house in 1899 upon his moving to Fort Payne and lived here until his death in 1919. He served as Solicitor of the Ninth Judicial Circuit from 1899 to 1911. He practiced law in Fort Payne from 1911 to 1919. He served as vice president of the Alabama State Bar Association and as president of the DeKalb County Bar Association. Following his death, Judge Richard Hunt, his grandson, acquired the house. He and his mother, Frances Hunt Ward, lived there until selling the house to Mr. and Mrs. E. T. Davenport in 1945. Davenport established and operated the Fort Payne Laundry. His wife was the daughter of Judge W. W. Haralson.

The exterior walls of this three-story house are of weatherboard. A portion of the original porch which spanned the front and south sides of the house has been removed, leaving a porch on the south side. The main entrance features a single door topped with predimanted cornice.

The two downstairs fireplaces have hand carved mantels. Most of the rooms are of plaster and three have ceiling medallions. There are tiffany glass windows.

Dr. and Mrs. Staley Colvert have completely redecorated the house.



### THE HATCH-WARREN-LADD-USRY-GLOVER HOME ★

★★

"Magnolia Hall" at 702 Forest Avenue North was built in 1890 by Joseph and Edna Hatch from Boston, Massachusetts on land purchased from the Fort Payne Coal and Iron Company. He was treasurer of New York Syndicate Investments. It has been owned by Dr. William Warren, Mr. and Mrs. F. E. Ladd, Mr. and Mrs. Loui Usry. In 1972 it was purchased by the Reverend and Mrs. S. Graham Glover and is still owned and occupied by Mrs. Glover.

The house is representative of the boom day period in Fort Payne's history. It has two and one-half stories with a steep gabled roof and lapped wood siding. The front porch spans the entire front façade and has wood bannisters and turned posts supporting the shed roof. The main entrance from the porch has double sculptured doors. Another entrance has a wood door topped with Tiffany glass. The main entrance leads into an entry hall with a staircase having two half-turns with landings and large carved pine newel post with turned balusters. The first floor has seven rooms. One of the parlors and a dining room have wood mantels with turned spindles and small shelves down each side under the mantels. The upstairs has five rooms. Two rooms, one on each floor, were added about 1902 when the north wing was added. A large magnolia tree stands in front of the house. This house was featured in Alabama Historical Association Pilgrimage in 1976.





### THE KILLIAN-GUEST-ISBELL HOME

The two-story colonial residence at 606 Grand Avenue South was built about 1900 by Hugh H. Killian who lived there until it was purchased by Dr. and Mrs. R. J. Guest in 1948. At that time, it was completely remodeled and a new front added by Stanley Architects.

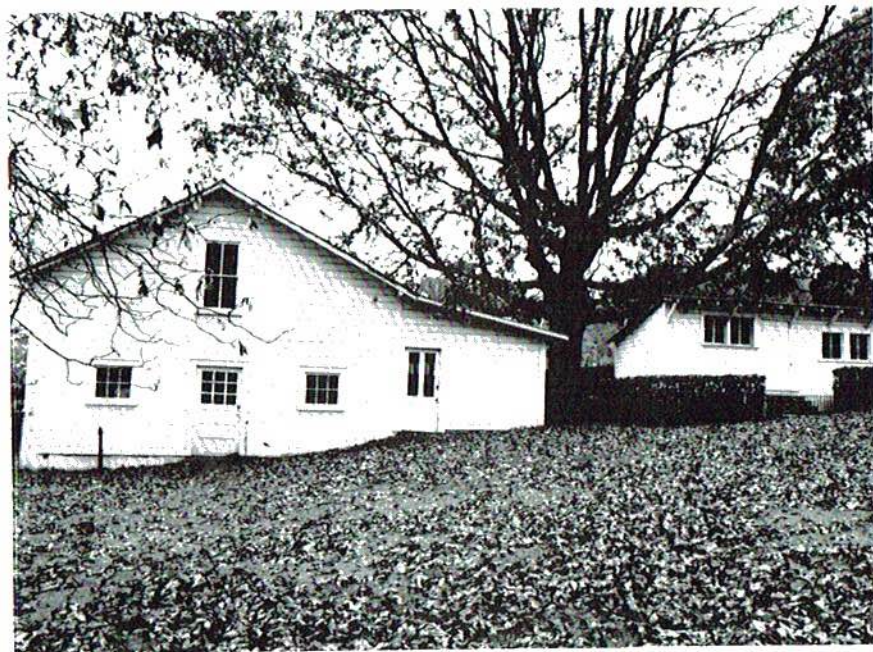
There is a two-room guest house with basement behind the main house that was originally a smoke house. There is a barn on the southwest side of the property. Following the death of Dr. Guest in 1979, Mrs. Guest continued to live there until 1987 when the house was bought by Dr. Steven A. Isbell. Dr. Isbell, a surgeon, and his wife, Sheree, have completely redecorated the eight-room house with two and one-half baths, laundry area, and screened porch.

Hugh H. Killian owned and operated a men and ladies clothing store in the 200 block of Gault Avenue North for a number of years. He sold Buster Brown Shoes for children and a brand of Red Goose Shoes among his large stock of merchandise. A representative of Buster Brown Shoes, who was a midget, came to Fort Payne to advertise the shoes. He was dressed in short blue trousers with a white midddy blouse and wore a hat. A dog named Tige was brought with him. The small gentleman greeted customers at the store and those who passed by out front. Also, a giant of a man, said to have been one of the tallest men in the world, came to the store to advertise the Red Goose Shoes. He wore a size 19 or 20 shoe.

Dr. R. J. Guest practiced medicine for almost half a century in Fort Payne. He served as DeKalb County Health Officer until going into private practice in 1934. In 1944 he opened the Guest Clinic, a 22 bed facility where many DeKalb Countians received medical care before the county hospital opened in Fort Payne in the 1950s. Dr. Guest was an active member of the First Baptist Church where he served as a deacon.

Dr. Guest was a counselor in the Alabama Medical Association and a member of the boards of the American Cancer Society, the Blue Cross-Blue Shield and the American Red Cross.

Several events associated with Landmarks have been hosted at the Guest-Isbell home. Mrs. Janie Guest opened her home for the Opera House season ticket sale reception and a business meeting of Landmarks trustees in 1983. Dr. and Mrs. Isbell hosted a Landmarks trustee meeting in their home in 1987, and Dr. Isbell gave a guided tour of the entire home to members of the Board of Advisors of the Alabama Historical Commission in the spring of 1988.



Original barn and chicken house continue to be preserved in the backyard of the Killian-Guest-Isbell home.

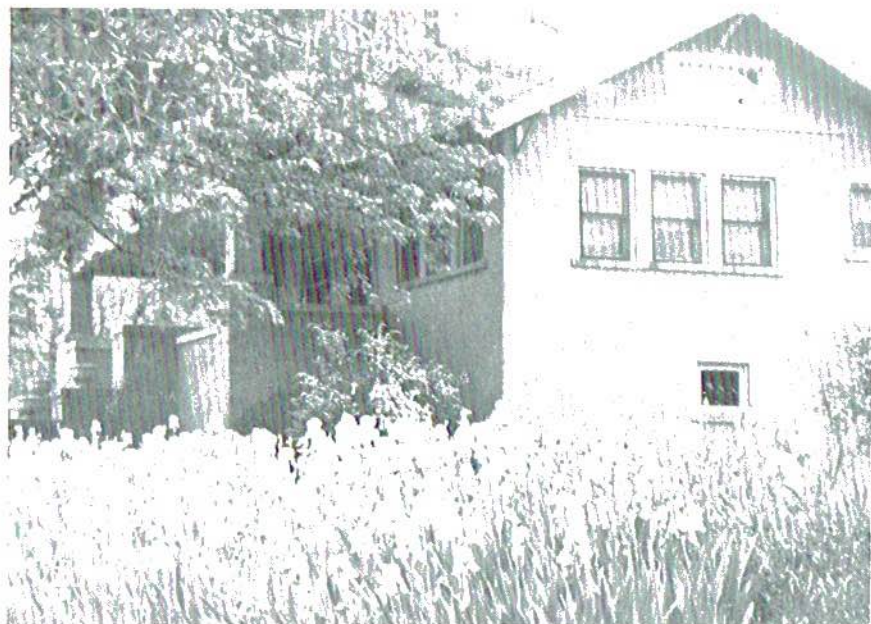




### THE STANLEY-McCURDY-STARLING HOME ★ ★

This vernacular style house at 314 Grand Avenue North was built about 1890 by J. P. Stanley, a boom day resident and businessman, for his own home but his wife preferred living on the other side of town. He built another house for them. (See Stanley-Vaughn home in this publication.) The property was sold to W. G. McCurdy in 1947 and sold to Robert J. and Jamie Starling in 1982. The Starlings have completely restored this house.

The house is built of shiplap siding with a brick foundation, and multiple gabled roof with fish scale pattern wooden shingles under the gables. The cornice is boxed with corner decorations. The house is square and has two stories with six rooms downstairs and four rooms upstairs. A two story central entrance is on the South side, with two large windows on each side of the door. There is an entrance door on the North side also. There is a circular porch around the front and North side of the house with ten plain, round columns to support the porch roof. The porch has beaded ceiling. The light fixtures on the porch are the original round white globes. There are four brick chimneys. Victorian windows are throughout the house. The two front windows on the South side of the central door have decorated transoms. The interior window frames have fluted trims with corner blocks. The floors are original pine. The interior doors are original wooden panel with fluted frames and corner block trim.



An abundance of blooming iris plants were photographed at the Richardson home during the 1930s.

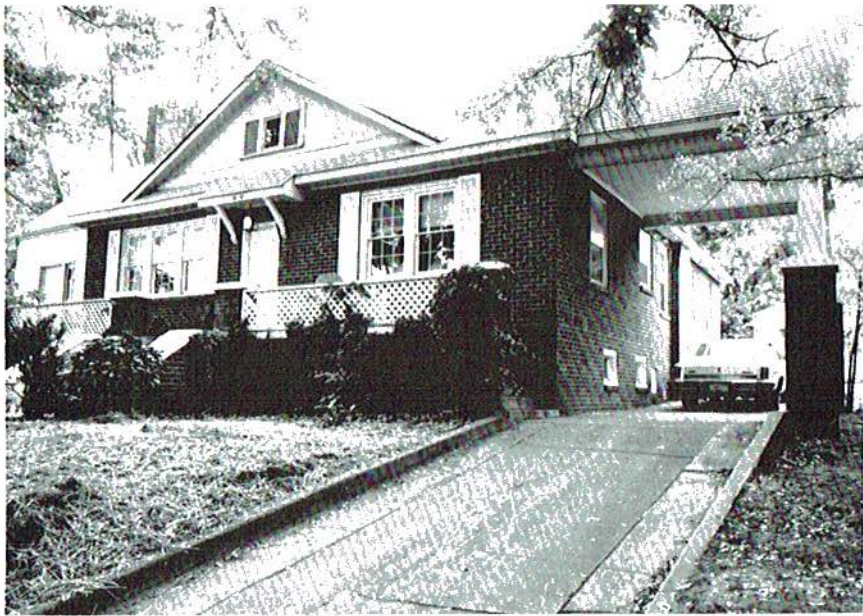
### THE RICHARDSON-HARRIS HOME ★ ★

This two owner house at 400 Grand Avenue North was built in 1923 by Green Richey for Dr. William Andrew Richardson and his wife Bessie Ann. Dr. Richardson practiced dentistry in Fort Payne from 1912 until his death in 1941. Two of the Richardson's four daughters were married in this house. Irby C. Harris is the current owner of the house.

The exterior of this rectangular house is buff color brick with a concrete foundation. A porch extends across much of the front of the house. A former sun porch was enclosed and converted into a den. The roof is gabled.

The interior walls are all plaster. The Richardson daughters had as a part of their annual spring cleaning chores the washing of these walls. The floors are of hardwood except the kitchen and two baths. The house has a living room, a dining room, a breakfast room, four bedrooms, and a kitchen with a pantry off it. One of the bedrooms was originally used as a music room, but when the fourth Richardson daughter was born, it was converted to a bedroom. The living room and front bedrooms each have a brick fireplace.





**THE HIGH-WILBORN HOME ★ ★**

This bungalow style house at 406 Grand Avenue North now belongs to Mrs. Betty O. Wilborn. It was built in 1927 by Francis V. High, a pharmacist, for his residence. He and his wife lived there until his death in 1943.

This style house consists of one-story, which was a popular form of architecture during that period. The exterior is red rust brick with a porch extending across the front. There were three bedrooms with one bath, a living room, dining room, kitchen, and breakfast room with a screened back porch. The garage was on the north side with one-half being used as living quarters for a caretaker. There have been recent redecorations with additional bath, one room and a porch across the back.

Mrs. Mary Mitchell High sold the house to Robert Stalvey, a local businessman, in 1944. Other owners included D. P. Galloway, Probate Judge Jim Johnson, and Irby C. Harris.

F. V. High came to Fort Payne in 1923 and established High's Drugstore at the corner of Third Street and Gault Avenue North. The progressive drug firm had a soda fountain with a staff who made their own ice cream on the premises. High was active in community and professional affairs. He was a member of the Presbyterian Church, a Mason and Knights Templar, a member of the Alabama State Board of Pharmacy, president of the Alabama Pharmaceutical Association, veteran of World War I, and a member of the Fort Payne Post of the American Legion.



**DRISKILL-PURDY-GILBREATH HOME ★ ★**

This house at 414 Grand Avenue North was built in 1928 by Mr. and Mrs. Bernard E. Driskill. (See Driskill home on page 25 in this publication). In 1944, Noah Griggs, a produce salesman for the A. J. Lindsey Company, bought the house and lived there with his family until 1945. In that year the house was sold to Mr. and Mrs. G. B. Purdy, Sr. Their son, Fred Purdy, later acquired the property and sold it to Creed and Virginia Gilbreath.

G. B. Purdy, Sr. was a businessman who established G. B. Purdy and Sons Furniture Store in the Opera block in 1935. He maintained his association with the store until his death in 1949.

Fred W. Purdy served as mayor of Fort Payne for twenty years. He also was associated with the furniture store and later in real estate.

This was one of the first stucco houses to be built in Fort Payne. The stucco was applied over interlocking tile. There is a Spanish element in the architecture of the house. It originally had two porches. Through the years, the side porch has been enclosed, leaving only the front entrance porch. There are wooden shingles in the gables which are painted a Georgian brick color. The eaves and framing are also this color. The stucco is now painted a bisque color.

There were three bedrooms, a living room, dining room, and bath in the original floor plan. The Gilbreath family divided a back room, making a utility room, a bedroom, and bathroom.





### THE WILLIAM V. JACOWAY HOME ★ ★

This house, located at 602 Grand Avenue North, was built in 1922 for W. V. Jacoway, Sr. by George Cox. Only the Jacoway family has lived in the house. Mrs. W. V. (Evelyn) Jacoway, Jr. currently lives in the house. Her late husband's photographic collection is being preserved by Landmarks.

The two-story house is rectangular with a small sun porch on the southwest side. It has a half basement. The front features a large concrete porch with four square columns that have brick piers with concrete caps. The exterior of the house features wide horizontal wooden boards painted white. The interior features five rooms upstairs and five downstairs. The roof is pyramidal with asphalt shingles.

W. V. Jacoway, Sr. was a successful businessman. He and his son-in-law, Dave Hamilton, operated Jacoway and Hamilton department store in Fort Payne for a number of years. He was Fort Payne Postmaster from 1914 to 1924 and was active in church and civic affairs during his lifetime. He wrote the first published history of DeKalb County in 1925.



### THE GARRISON-APPLETON HOME ★ ★

This house at 606 Grand Avenue North was built in 1928 for Hugh Dudley and Iris Garrison. He was the railroad ticket agent for many years and she taught in the Fort Payne Schools for over 30 years.

The house was built after the first house at this location burned. The foundation and rock work from the first house were used in rebuilding. In an effort to make this house as fireproof as possible, the walls are brick with tile over the brick and stucco over the tile. There is a screened porch on the back of the house.

The inside walls are of plaster and the floors are hardwood. The house has a small entry room, living room, dining room, kitchen, and two bedrooms. The living room has a decorative fireplace.

Mrs. Jess (Gladys) Appleton purchased the home in 1973. The house has been painted an attractive shade of pink for three or four decades.

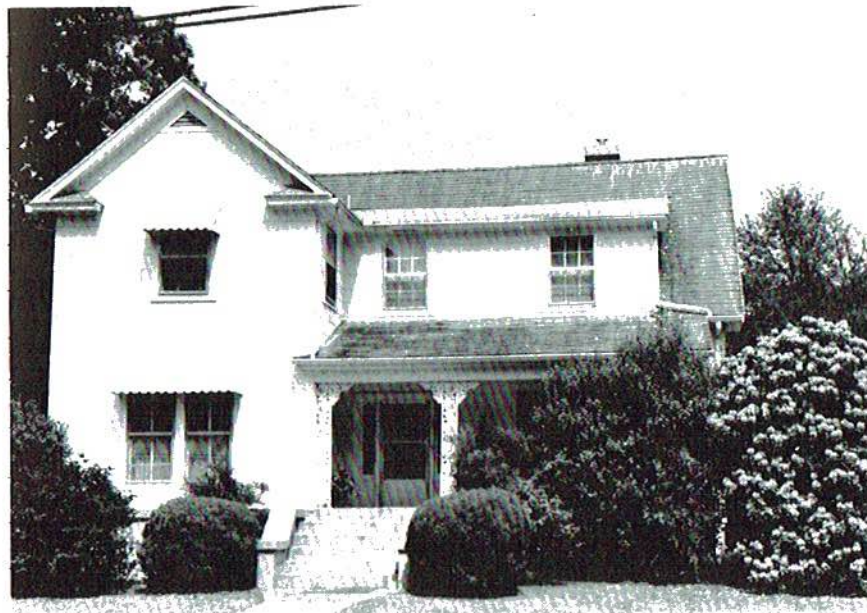




### THE SPEER HOUSE ★ ★

Mrs. Blake D. (Lula C. Appleton) Speer owns and lives in the residence at 610 Grand Avenue, North. It was built in 1917 by her father, Columbus Carter Appleton who was the District Attorney for Cherokee, DeKalb, Jackson, and Marshall Counties. Judge and Mrs. Appleton (Emma Dixon) were active in community and church affairs for many years. The contractor for the house was Horace Weaver who built Willow Springs (see Dr. Charles Isbell home in this publication.) at the same time. The Speer house was originally a typical bungalow, but later the porch was removed and a side porch and a carport were added.

Mrs. Speer taught English, directed plays and choral groups, and was a student adviser at the local high school. She was a long time Sunday School teacher at First Baptist Church. Mrs. Speer was among the early supporters of Landmarks and the project to restore the Fort Payne Opera House.



### THE T. B. JACOWAY HOME

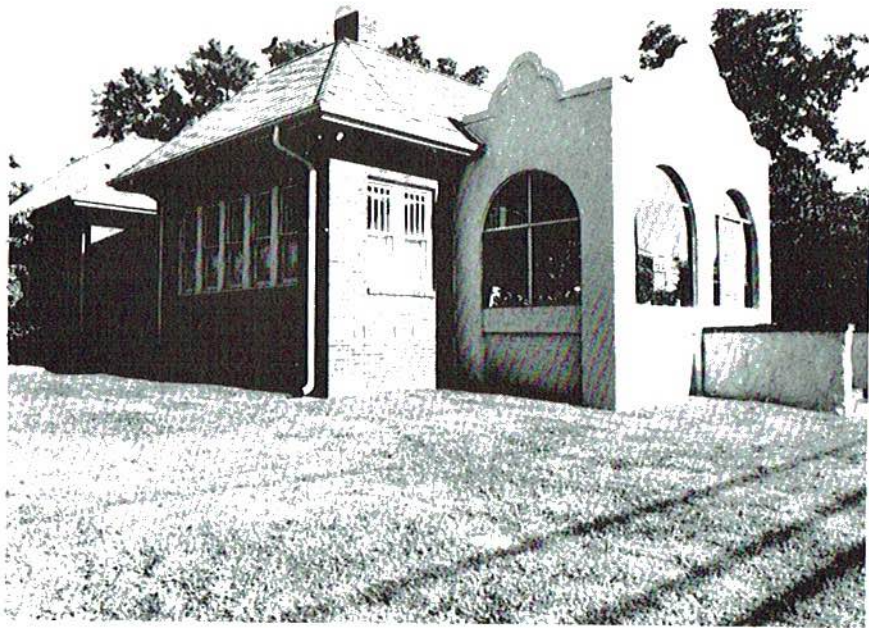
This house located at 704 Grand Avenue North has been owned by Mr. and Mrs. T. B. Jacoway since 1944. The house is a rectangular two-story, with a half basement. A den, laundry room, and carport have been added to the back. The top floor has been enlarged.

The house was built in 1914 by Civil War veteran James M. Lowry. Lowry farmed in the Sulphur Springs area until declining health led him to move to Fort Payne. Mrs. Lowry was a prolific flower grower, leading them to dig a pit in the back yard to keep the flowers during the winter months.

Following the death of James Lowry in 1919, the house was sold to Mrs. and Mrs. Byron Driskill. The Driskills lived in the house until 1937, when they moved to Tuscaloosa. Driskill served as a depot agent for the A. G. S. Railroad during their time in Fort Payne and Mrs. Driskill taught school in Fort Payne and Valley Head. Driskill continued to serve as a depot agent in Tuscaloosa while his wife later taught at the University of Alabama.

The house was bought in 1944 by Mr. and Mrs. T. B. Jacoway. The late T. B. Jacoway was a successful businessman. Mrs. Jacoway continued the flower growing that had been established by the builders of the house.





### THE KILLIAN HOME-MAUNEY OFFICE ★

This house of Spanish design at 408 Gault Avenue South was built in 1925 by Whittel of Birmingham for Dr. Claude Dallas Killian. Dr. Killian had just moved his medical practice from Loveless to Fort Payne, where he maintained his practice until 1967, a span of 54 years.

The house is a one-story brick and running bond with brick foundation. It is of wood frame and has a mansard roof with asphalt shingles and boxed cornices. The porch has stuccoed arches that have been glassed in. Inside walls are of plaster with the floors of hardwood. The living room has a fireplace with wooden mantel. A one-car garage is at the rear of the house.

Dr. and Mrs. Killian maintained this home as a private residence. After Dr. Killian's death in 1968, Mrs. Killian remained in the home. She was active in the community and church. Mrs. Killian was a long time member of the choir at First Baptist Church, Fort Payne Garden Club, and the Fort Payne Woman's Club. In recent years she has moved to Anniston. Since that time, Charles Mauney has purchased the property and converted the home for use as his law office. Following a restoration, Landmarks trustees met and conducted business in the conference room (formerly the Killian living room) of the house. Charles Mauney retained the original floor plan of the Killian house.



### THE STANLEY-BAXTER-VAUGHN HOME

This two-story Victorian style house at 609 Third Street North-east was built by J. P. Stanley about 1889 or 1890. It was willed to the Houston Baxter family. In 1969 the present owners, the William W. Vaughn family, purchased this house from the Baxter family.

The exterior of the house is the original painted lapsiding. The roof has a front gable and a square tower with a pyramidal roof built to the side of the gable. The wall under the front gable and tower are covered with wood shingles in fish scale design. There is no entrance to the tower. The L-shaped front porch has a shed roof and small entry gable with Victorian trim. It has geometric design bannisters and wood posts with Victorian trim supporting the roof. The roof is asphalt shingle over the original wood shingles.

The entrance is from the front porch. There are five rooms downstairs and four bedrooms and a bath upstairs. The floors are the original three inch pine boards. A central interior brick chimney has fireplaces for two bedrooms. The fireplaces have original marble mantels.





**THE RAYMOND JOHNSON HOME**

This house at 300 5th Street Northeast was built about 1890. The first assessment of the property found was in 1894 by S. S. Houghton, a boom day builder from Massachusetts. J. J. Hawkins and his wife, Louisa, owned the house for several years around the turn of the century. Hawkins owned much real estate around Hawkins' Spring and lived in a two-story house at the base of Lookout Mountain near the spring. Other owners include W. W. Russell, H. E. Wade, Mrs. L. F. Stanfield, and Mrs. Ruby Walker. It has been owned by Raymond Johnson since 1944.

This L-shaped, two-story house has two front entrances from the front porch. The roof is gabled with the porch roof slanting from the second floor level. There are four rooms downstairs with a hall dividing the two front from the two back rooms. A similar hall upstairs divides the two front rooms from a large room downstairs. There is one large chimney in the center of the house with fireplaces in two rooms upstairs and two downstairs.

Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Johnson currently make their home at this residence.



**BROCK-CALLAN-WHITTLE-DAVOLL HOME**

H. B. Brock built this Vernacular style house at 610 Fifth Street Northeast in 1900. The L-shaped house has five rooms downstairs and four rooms upstairs with wide entrance hall from central door. The stairs are straight with a quarter turn. There is a porch across the east side of the house and across the front to the indented front door and across the west L. There are four square columns on the east porch, four turned round columns across the front and three across the west L.

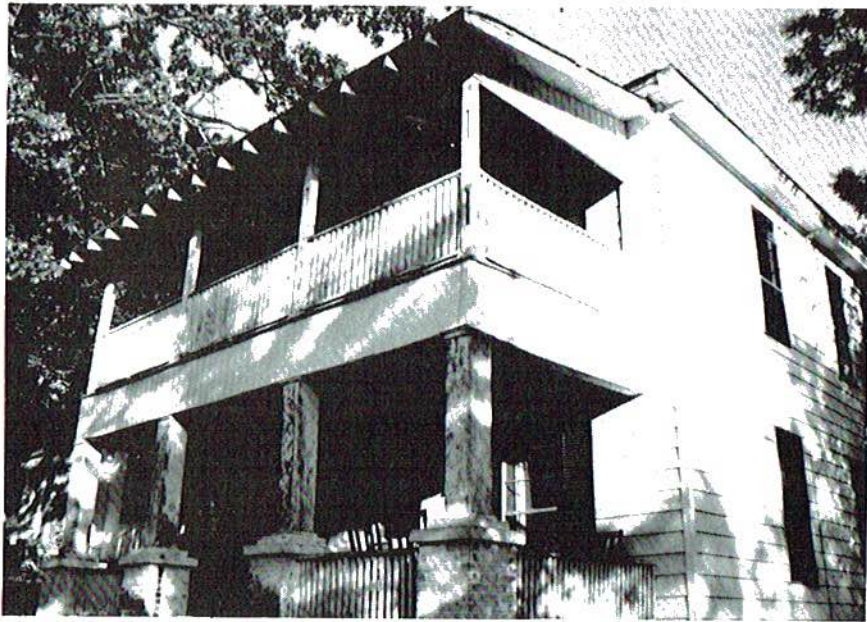
Henry Blackwell Brock, the builder, was a merchant, banker, automobile dealer and cotton broker. He was an active member and supported the First Baptist Church. He was mayor of Fort Payne from 1912 to 1914. He moved to Gadsden and died in 1937.

Professor Nathan Jerome Callan purchased the house in 1905 and owned it until 1932. He was a teacher and served as superintendent of education in DeKalb County from 1905 to 1908. From 1912-1922 he was principal of DeKalb County High School. For the next nine years he was principal of high schools in Cherokee and Etowah counties. In 1931, he moved to Florida. He served as an elder in the Presbyterian church for 60 years.

Phil Whittle purchased this house from N. J. Callan and lived there with his family until it was sold to Lewis Davoll. Whittle was a farmer and interested in agricultural projects.

Lewis Davoll is a retired industrialist and lives in the house at this time.



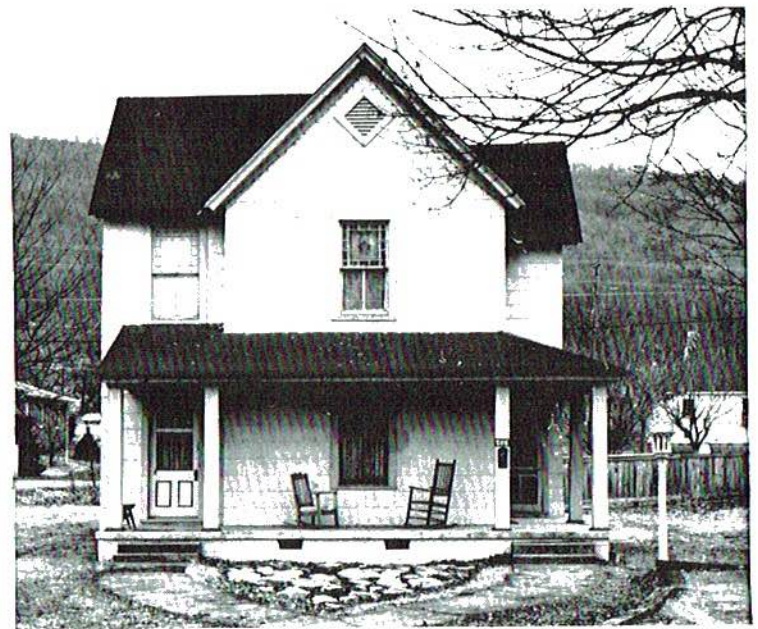


### THE BANNING-STEPHENS HOME

This square shaped, vernacular house was built in the 1890s at 601 Godfrey Avenue North with a two tier porch across the front. The first floor porch features four brick pillared columns supporting square wooden columns resting of them. The second floor porch has four decorative posts for columns. Both porches have bannisters around them. The roof is double pyramidal with boxed, plain cornice with decorative braces at intervals and on the corners. The exterior walls consist of wooden weatherboarding covered with vinyl.

The front has a central entrance. The main staircase has an ornate newel post and turned bannisters. It has a quarter turn with a landing. A second staircase leads from the kitchen to rooms on the second floor probably used originally for servants. The interior doors are original and are wood panel.

The house has been home to several families during its existence, including Dr. Herbert M. Banning, a practicing dentist in Fort Payne, C. I. Waller who was an engineer with W. B. Davis and Son, and John T. Vaughn who was the manager of the Clayton Clinic. It is currently owned by Mrs. Joe H. Stephens.



### THE JAMES NEWTON LOWERY HOME

The house at 705 Godfrey Avenue North has been known through the years as "The Uncle Newt Lowery Home." James Newton Lowery and Cornelia Jane Lowery purchased this house from R. H. and Mary Gertrude Johnson in 1910 and lived there for the remainder of their lives. They had three sons and four daughters. Two daughters, known as the "Lowery Girls" remained in the house with their parents throughout their lives. These daughters, Winnie and Flossie, grew beautiful flowers and gave them to friends and on occasion sold them.

Lowery, affectionately known as Uncle Newt was a rural mail carrier for the United States Postal Service for many years, using a horse and buggy to perform this service. Mrs. Lowery was known for the cleanliness of her house, which was said to have been kept "spotless."

The house is two-story with a circular front porch. The exterior is now covered with a grey siding with dark red trim. The downstairs consists of a living room, den, kitchen, dining room, and a bathroom that was converted from a back porch. The upstairs has two bedrooms and a bathroom.

The property passed from the Lowery family in 1977. Melvin Tribble purchased it from Winnie Lowery Hurley and later sold it to Virginia Smith. She sold it to Eddie Smith. It was then purchased by the present owners, Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Castello. It is maintained as a residence and is rented at this time.





### THE BEESON-CROW HOME

This two-story frame house at 2705 Godfrey Avenue North was built in the late 1830s by Jesse Gaston Beeson who came to this area in 1833 from Guilford County, North Carolina. He homesteaded acreage on which this house was built. Hand hewn timbers, door framing, rafters, and stones for the foundation came from the log house which he had originally built and in which he served as post master of Rawlingsville, the second post office in the area. There have been two remodelings of the exterior of the house. The double portico was removed in 1928 and a single story porch put in its place. The porch was again raised to the full height of the structure in a later remodeling. At that time the porch took the form of a Greek Revival portico with four Doric columns. A restoration of the interior was undertaken in 1979 and interior wall coverings were removed to reveal the hand hewn door facings, handmade brick, and tongue-and-groove wooden walls of two rooms. The house has three brick chimneys, one in the center of the main gable and two in the rear wing. Much of the interior hardware dates from the time of original construction.

Beeson obtained five additional Land Grants in DeKalb County. He was a charter member on the board of directors of Wills Valley Railroad in 1858. The Beesons had six daughters and two sons, five of whom, their parents, and other relatives, are buried in the family cemetery behind the house.

Ownership of the house remained in the Beeson family until 1928 when it was purchased by J. O. Crow, Sr. It has remained in the Crow family since that time. It is presently owned by Lt. Gen. and Mrs. Duward L. Crow.

J. O. Crow, Sr. was a leading merchant in Fort Payne. After 1908 he established a meat market in Fort Payne, and later a dry goods store. At that time he furnished share croppers and bought and sold cotton in the fall. For several years he managed the largest general store in Fort Payne, Crow, Cochran and Kershaw. Later he purchased farm land, but returned to the mercantile business because of the depression. He first operated his own store then formed a partnership with his friend, Sam Killian. Next, he established the J. O. Crow and Son Department Store, a Fort Payne landmark for many years. During World War II, he purchased three adjoining farms on Lookout Mountain, with acreage bordering Little River Canyon and Bear Creek. Crow was instrumental in having plans for Highway 11 changed to go through Wills Valley to serve more people than the original route straight up the valley from Fort Payne to Valley Head. He also led the movement for the park road around Little River Canyon, deeding land for the right-of-way, and urging others to do so. He was a member of the First Methodist Church of Fort Payne. He espoused the simple virtues of hard work, individual independence, frugality, and integrity. He enjoyed fox hunting and square dancing.



A portion of the original slave-made bricks have been exposed on the screened porch of the Beeson-Crow home.





**THE ALMA AND REBA MOORE HOME**

This house at 3403 Godfrey Avenue North was built by Colonel Milford W. Howard in 1910. It is a smaller house but of the same design as the one he had built at the site of the Willstown Mission. The property on which the house was built was part of the Howard farm. Howard and his wife, Sally A. Howard, sold this house and 93 acres of land to L. W. McElhaney in 1919. McElhaney and his family lived there until 1925. Earl Cochran owned the property from 1925 until 1927 when he sold it to John Seymore. The Seymore family lived there from 1927 until 1933 when it was sold to Alma and Reba Moore. They owned the property until their deaths at which time the property was sold to Mr. and Mrs. Irby Farmer.

This is a square, single pen frame house. There are two bedrooms, a living room, and kitchen downstairs with a small hall between the bedrooms and stairway leading to the one room upstairs. There is a porch across the front of the house with four columns of barked cedar natural posts on brick bases. Originally, there was a porch across the back of the house but it has been partially enclosed to make a new kitchen. The exterior walls are lapped weatherboarding. The entrance door is solid wood with five panels. The back entrance door is solid wood with five panels. The back entrance door is solid wood. The interior doors are wood with six panels and brass door knobs. The interior has ceilings and walls of one by three inch tongue-and-groove pine. The floors are one by four tongue-and-groove pine. An old smokehouse stands at the back of the house.



**HOWARD-SAMPLEY-HULGAN-JONES-WALTERS HOME**

This house at 3707 Godfrey Avenue North is at the site of the Willstown Mission. The mission was established by the American Board of Foreign Missions in 1824. The two-story log structure, along with the smokehouse and the springhouse, was built by the Indian missionaries and remained for many years.

The John McSpadden family homesteaded the property which included this site and lived in the house for many years. He was an early settler and farmer in the area. It was later purchased by Milford W. Howard. In 1905 the Howard family moved to the old two-story log house but eventually built a new house about seven feet to the west and a few feet south of the old building, partially tearing down the old log structure. The smokehouse was left as originally built and it still remains on the grounds. The Howards left DeKalb County after several years but in 1920 Mrs. Howard returned and sold 86 acres of their property, including the homeplace and old mission site, to J. J. Sampley who farmed the land.

Milford Howard served as the first solicitor of DeKalb County and was elected as a Populist congressman in 1894 and 1896. He was the author of six published books and in 1923 appeared in a silent movie made of one of these, *Bishop of the Ozarks*. He attempted to establish the Master School on Lookout Mountain for underprivileged children in 1923. He built Alpine Lodge in 1924 and Howard's Chapel in 1937. His ashes are interred in the huge rock at the chapel.



Curtis D. Sampley, a son of J. J. Sampley, acquired the property in 1953. He was a farmer, a minister, and a 38 year postal employee. He sold the house to Irby Keith in 1955. Keith sold it to T. J. Warren who sold it to Jack Hulgan in 1969.

Prior to the purchase by Hulgan, the only changes made to the house was the addition of a carport-patio in the back. Hulgan replaced the original front porch without changing the facade of the house except for the removal of two dormer windows. He also covered the original exterior wood weatherboard walls with buff colored brick. Following fire damage in 1976, the interior was redecorated and a few changes made in the floor plan.

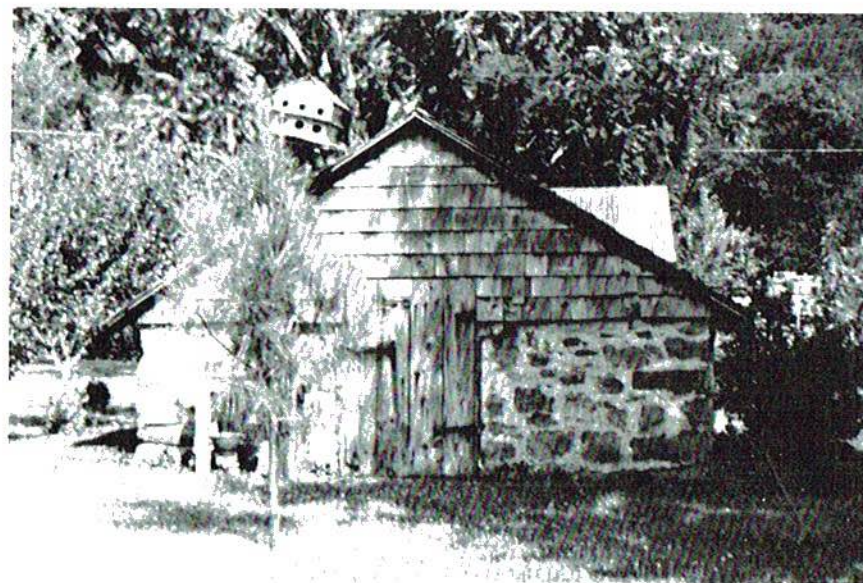
Jack Hulgan operated a restaurant for many years and established a catering service for the area. Other owners of this historic site were Boyd Southerland, J. T. Wilburn, and Randall Creel.

Agnes Jones Walters and her sister, Stella Jones, purchased the house in 1976 from Randall Creel and continue to make this their home.

Many of the descendants of the early settlers of DeKalb County remember the old Council Tree and its legend in relation to the Cherokee Indians. It grew for perhaps two centuries on the land which became the site of the Wills Town Mission and the present day Jones-Walters home. The exact site of the tree was marked by the Reverend Curtis D. Sampley in 1985. The old tree was struck by lightning in 1940 and later completely destroyed by a brush fire.

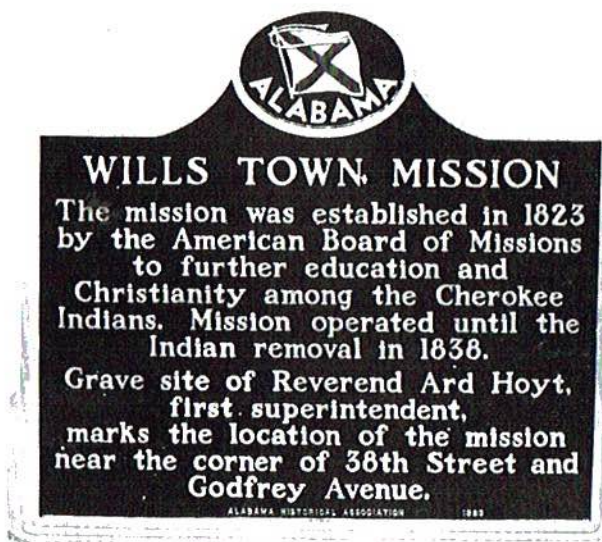


Landmarks members and guests observed the planting of a new tree in 1985 at the Old Council Tree site at the Jones-Walters home.



Original smokehouse at site of Wills Town Mission.

Stories have been handed down that the Indians held council meetings under this tree and that a treaty was signed under it at the time the Cherokees agreed to give up land East of the Mississippi River to the United States government. It is believed that there was a treaty here similar to the New Echota Treaty signed December 29, 1835 in Georgia under an old Council Tree.







### ROSS-KERSHAW-BREWER HOME ★



At the foot of Lookout Mountain, about four and one-half miles northeast of downtown Fort Payne, sits "Cherokee," said to be the oldest original house in Alabama. Its name is derived from its connection with the Cherokee Indians and their use of the old oak trees on its grounds for meetings.

According to legend the original house was a two-story log cabin built about 1790 by Daniel Ross. The architecture followed the pattern used by the Indians, who had already developed a relatively advanced civilization in this part of the country. The house consisted of two long rooms, one above the other. This original cabin is now the southeast portion of the house.

Daniel Ross was married to Mollie McDonald, daughter of John McDonald, a trader, and Anne Shorey, a half-breed descendant of prominent Cherokees. Nine children were born to Ross in this cabin. His third child, John Ross, became chief of the Cherokees although he was only one-eighth Indian. Daniel Ross founded what was probably the first school in the Cherokee nation at his home to educate his children. Sequoyah, the famous Indian scholar and teacher who originated the Cherokee alphabet, is said to have taught at Cherokee.

The Ross family occupied the two-story log cabin from around 1790 until the early 1830s when William W. Macfarlane bought the house and land. The Macfarlanes made the first additions to the cabin by enclosing it, adding three rooms, and improving the second floor of the original cabin.

The cabin passed from Macfarlane to his daughter, Cornelia Macfarlane Haralson, who sold it to Captain Joe J. Nix, a Federal Army officer, around 1885-90. Major C. O. Godfrey, who later became the first mayor of Fort Payne, bought the place and deeded it to his daughter-in-law, Mai, in 1895. She completed the present additions to the house, including the wing on the east side and the upstairs bedrooms. She also added the first indoor bathroom in DeKalb County to the house.

C. O. Godfrey was largely responsible for the real estate boom which started in the late 1880s. Reports indicate that he sold stock worth \$5,000,000 in one month to New Englanders. His son, H. R., promoted and constructed the telephone system in Fort Payne.

The house then passed through two more owners until it was purchased in 1914 by C. G. Kershaw and his wife for \$5,750. She gave the house and farm the name of Cherokee and also made some alterations to the house by adding the four colonial columns and porch to the front. Other major improvements were made in 1931 by the Kershaws. These were the most extensive made since the house was constructed and included the leveling of all floors, extra foundation supports, new windows including a bay window in the living room and dining room, French doors opening to the yard from the living room, more baths, new servants' quarters, and a garage.<sup>1</sup>

When C. G. Kershaw died in 1946, the house was sold and passed through five owners before Royce Kershaw, who had lived at Cherokee as a young man, purchased the home in the late 1960s. The present owners, Dr. Stephen Brewer, a local dentist, and his wife, Jo Ann, purchased the home in 1974.

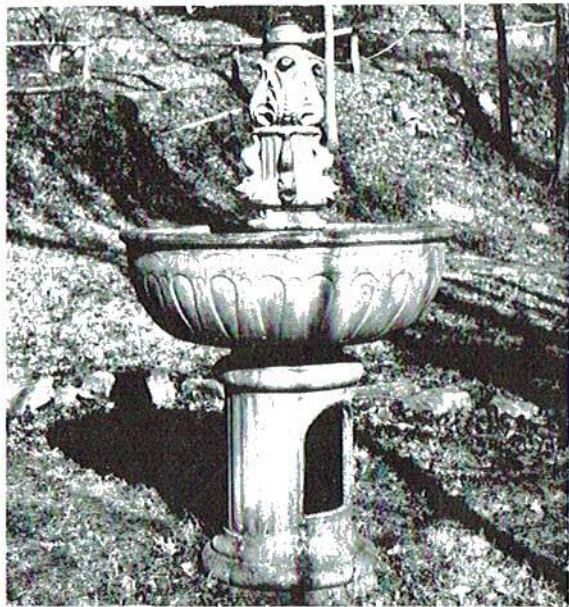
Mr. and Mrs. Kershaw completely refurnished the house in 1969 and opened their home for Landmarks' first pilgrimage that year. Following that event, the Kershaws entertained Landmarks trustees, the committee members, and their guests with an elaborate alfresco dinner. Three huge chandeliers were hung from the trees in the yard for this special occasion.

Dr. and Mrs. Brewer have also been gracious about hosting special events at Cherokee. Landmarks trustees met at the home when the announcement was made that the house had been placed in the National Register of Historic Places, the first home in Fort Payne to receive this honor. The home was the site for Landmarks 1975 annual meeting reception. In 1986 the DeKalb 150 celebration included an address by Dr. Leah Atkins of Auburn University to an overflow crowd in two large rooms of the house.





1969 photograph of dining room at Cherokee.



This ornate fountain was originally used at the courthouse circle at First Street to furnish water for horses. Dogs could also drink water from the lower place. The cast iron fountain is dated 1890, weighs four thousand pounds, and is now located in the back yard of the Stephen Brewer home.



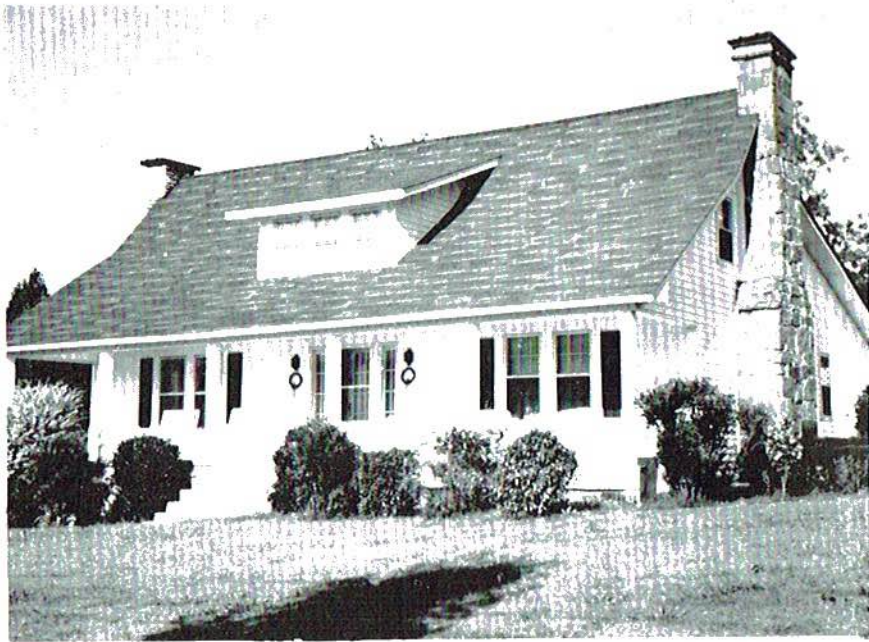
## THE FISCHER HOME

William F. Fischer designed and built this house on Old Valley Head Road in the late 1880's from virgin pine he cut from his father's land on Lookout Mountain using a band saw to cut the intricate wooden trim of the house. He was an accomplished craftsman and cobbler. His cobbler shop remains at the back of the house. Many of his lasts and tools have been preserved. The house has remained in the Fischer family and is currently owned by Mr. and Mrs. Clyde D. Fischer.

This two-story house is of vernacular style with East Lake and Queen Anne elements. It has a wooden porch across the entire front and one side of the house with intricate wooden bannisters and trim. The downstairs contains a living room, two bedrooms, and an entry hallway. The stairs are on the left of this hallway. One of the rooms has a bay window. The upstairs contains two bedrooms and a small room. Square nails were used in the construction of this house.

William F. Fischer, who married Adalade (Adelaide) J. Davenport, was the son of Gustavos Fischer, an early settler on Lookout Mountain, and Caroline Sutterlin Fischer.





**HOLLEMAN-KERSHAW-HAMMON HOME**

This house on Old Valley Head Road at Route Seven is currently the residence of Mr. and Mrs. John W. Hammon, having previously been owned by his parents, the late Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Hammon. It had been owned by Tommie Holleman and Inez and Roscoe Kershaw. W. W. Hammon purchased it from the Kershaw estate.

The original house at this site was a dogtrot log cabin which was built before the Civil War. The logs were covered with shiplap siding at one time and later with vinyl siding. The two chimneys of native stone are standing as originally constructed. There have been some repairs and replacement of mortar during the years. Legend has it that one wall of the house was papered with Confederate money after the war. Large hand hewn beams are underneath the house and support the structure.

There have been changes and redecorations of the interior through the years. The downstairs of the house now consist of a den, living room, kitchen with eating area, and a bedroom. There are two rooms and a bath upstairs. Each bedroom has a fireplace. One room has some of the old beams exposed. The original wooden porch floor across the entire front of the house has been replaced with concrete.



**THOMASON-SNODGRASS-ISBELL HOME**

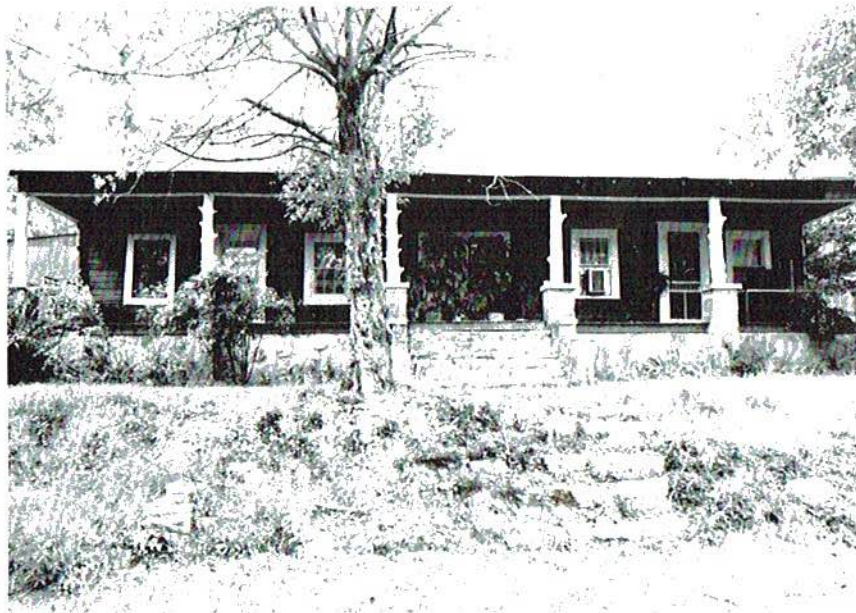
"Willow Springs Manor" is located on Highway 11 North across from Terrapin Hills Golf Estates. The house was built in 1916 by Mrs. Eliza Thomason Snodgrass and Mrs. Leona Thomason Davis as a memorial to their parents, John F. and Mary Elizabeth Thomason. The builder was a Mr. Weaver from Collinsville. Long-time natives of the area still refer to it as "the old Snodgrass place." Mrs. Maude Pendergrass, who lived in a modest home located directly in front of the big house, said they watched it "go up" and jokingly referred to it as "The Mansion."

The architectural style is Greek Revival with Ionic columns on the front. There are nine fireplaces inside. The house remains basically unchanged from its original construction.

Over one million gallons of water per day flow through the spring located down the hillside just north of the house. From this spring with a water temperature of 55° year round, the present owners, Dr. Charles A. and Barbara Hulkan Isbell, still derive their water supply. The Alabama Champion Willow tree is also beside the spring. One hundred years ago, John B. Isbell, Sr. was driving cattle on foot from Martling, Alabama to Chattanooga, Tennessee, and stopped overnight under an oak tree near this spring.

Previous owners of the house include Arthur Mitchell, Walter B. Davis, II, Daniel Byrd, Kenneth Brandon, and J. P. Bethune.

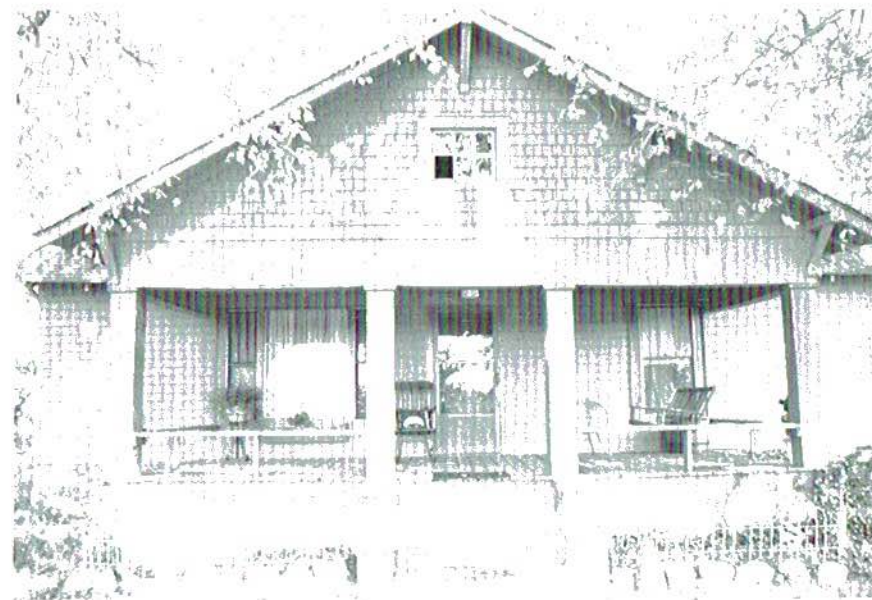




### THE JOHNSTON-GOGGANS HOME

The nucleus of this house at 1612 Fruit Farm Road was built by George Harvey Johnston on land he had homesteaded in the early 1830s. He was an early settler in the area and he and his wife reared nine children in the house. It is believed that the original structure was a one-room log cabin built in 1830. About 1840 a second one-room cabin was built near the original cabin to add needed space. At this time a new roof was installed to cover both cabins and the "dog trot" space between them. In 1936 two additional rooms were added to the rear of the house and the present roof changed to encompass these two rooms and a front porch. It remained in the Johnston family until it was sold to the Goggans family in 1965.

Ray and Rosie Goggans began restoring the old house in 1974. They have added siding to the house, leaving one-third of the logs exposed and have modernized the interior of the house.



### THE ST. JOHN HOME

This Lookout Mountain house at 922 Fruit Farm Road was built between 1907-1919. In 1920 I. V. and Lula Turner purchased the house and 80 acres of land. In 1948, they conveyed the property to their son, Ira, reserving one acre for the Stewart Cemetery. In 1951, Ira sold the property to Lloyd Nelson Plunkett who sold the property a few months later to Phil and Mae Bohanon. Phil, who worked for South Central Bell for many years, did a great deal of remodeling to the house. In 1968 the house was sold to Homer and Bea St. John. It remains in the St. John family.

The house has tongue-and-groove ceilings and walls. Most of this has been covered with wallboard. It has six rooms. It originally had a hall down the center but this space was taken into the rooms. The two original fireplaces have been removed but the original flue remains in the kitchen. All rooms have ten foot ceilings.

The house is rectangular and has weatherboarding on the exterior. A large front porch covers much of the front of the house and has a gabled roof with shingles in the gabled end. The front porch is supported by four square wooden columns. One of the two front rectangular windows has been replaced with a picture window.





### THE JORDAN-BORDERS HOME

This English cottage style structure located at 218 Scenic Road was built by L. C. Jordan in 1933. He was a successful businessman originally from Centre, Alabama. His business interests involved an automobile dealership, a private loan business, and service as a director of the First National Bank. A member of the Presbyterian Church, his will stipulated that the house remain for his wife during her lifetime and at her death be sold and the proceeds from it and other valuable personal items to go to the Presbyterian Orphanage in Talladega. However, Lucille T. Jordan deeded the house to the Presbyterian Home for Children, a corporation, in 1959. This entity sold to J. Fred Eberhart in 1962. Other owners of the house were Thomas B. Wilkes, Mr. and Mrs. Pete Noel, and Ida Goza who sold the house to Mr. and Mrs. William H. Borders in 1973. Borders is a CPA and has maintained accounting offices in Fort Payne since 1972.

Situated on the brow of Lookout Mountain overlooking Fort Payne, the house has solid walnut doors, brass threshold plates, and ten foot ceilings on both the main level and upstairs. It has a full basement. A marble patio spans the entire length of the front and cement walks are around the other sides of the house. Since the Borders' purchase, the house has had extensive repairs. The old radiator steam heat system has been replaced with a central system, extensive insulating has been accomplished, and the roof has been replaced. An outside deck, entrance, utility area, and garage have been added to the original structure. These additions have been in keeping with the original design of the structure.



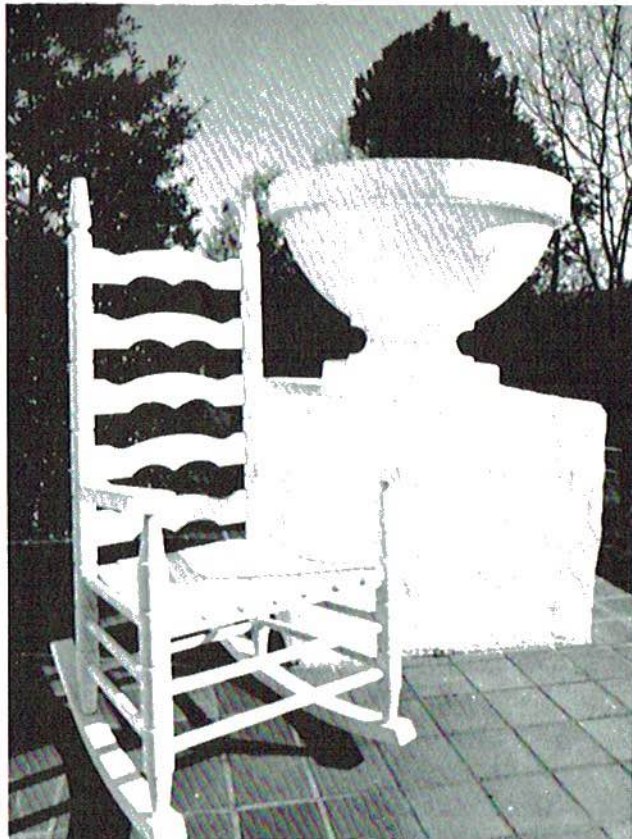
### THE KING HOME

This boom day house at 219 Peachtree Avenue was originally built on another site and moved to its present location on Lookout Mountain in 1889. The property was a part of what was known as the Mountain Park in 1892. Abstract records indicate several owners prior to 1942. In that year Reverend and Mrs. Claud King purchased it.

The house is a two-story wooden structure. Part of the exterior is painted weatherboard siding and part is shiplap siding. It is built of heart pine. It has a gabled roof with asphalt shingles. The cornice is boxed with ornamental trim on the west side. There is a single porch across the west and north side with eight square wooden columns supporting the roof. The entrance door has 15 glass panels. The interior walls are papered. Both the upstairs and downstairs have one fireplace each.

Many old trees are on the grounds surrounding the house. These are mostly elms and oaks.





Original urns adorn the veranda of the 1916 Thomason-Snodgrass-Isbell home.

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Original art glass in doors of Witten Taylor home.