

Willkommen in Monroeville! Bienvenue à Monroeville
 Välkommen till Monroeville Bienvenido a Monroeville!
 Velkommen til Monroeville!

Monroeville에 오신 것을 환영합니다

Welcome to Monroeville!

It is a simple message, yet it speaks volumes to those inside and outside of our community.

Whatever your orientation, the Monroeville/Monroe County Chamber of Commerce welcomes you! If there is a language barrier, the smiling faces and friendly demeanor of the Monroe County community should assure you that you are among friends.

Monroeville is a small town, renowned internationally as “The Literary Capital of Alabama.” We particularly enjoy the spring of the year when visitors flock to town to participate in the Alabama Writers Symposium and The Mockingbird Players production of “To Kill A Mockingbird.” This Walking Tour highlights Monroeville’s Courthouse Square, which is part of its National Register Historic District of over four hundred commercial and residential structures, recognized by the National Park Service in September, 2009. Monroeville has recently joined an elite group of Alabama Main Street communities, a program of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. This publication is designed to give you some sense of the history of this place as well as its present footprint.

The Board of Directors of the Monroeville/Monroe County Chamber of Commerce is a diverse group of business people, some of whom are native to the area, others who have moved from the far corners of the globe to call this place their home!

If you like what you see in Monroe County, we invite you to bring your business here and make it your home also! We have a saying that “everyone has a home in Monroe County”!

Please visit the Monroeville/Monroe County Chamber of Commerce office on the northeast corner of the downtown square! Please visit our shops, our library, tour the museum, enjoy dining in local restaurants, or picnicking at a historic site, purchase a unique item to take home with you – and remember this special place – a place which beckons you to come back soon! In the words of the late Truman Capote “I am always drawn back to places I have lived, the houses and their neighborhoods.”

Welcome!

Best regards,

Monroeville/Monroe County Board of Directors & Staff:	Rhonda Chandler, Director (Trustmark Bank)
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For Information on Monroeville events, please check our calendar at www.monroecountyal.com. For complete information on Monroeville contact www.discovermonroeville.com.



- ### Restaurants
- A.J.'s** Hwy. 21 South.....(251) 575-2276
 - Prop & Gavel** E. Claiborne St.....(251) 575-7767
 - Courthouse Cafe**
27 W Claiborne(251) 743-3663
 - David's Catfish House**
*(100 Places to Eat in Alabama Before You Die)
Catfish & cheese grits (closed Sunday and Monday)
Hwy. 84 East(251) 575-3460
 - Southern Smoque Grill**.....
3801 Bowden St., Frisco City.....(251) 267-2612
 - Mark's BBQ**
18 Main Street, Excel.....(251) 765-2046
 - Con Los Amigos**
4307 S. Alabama Avenue(251) 575-9164
 - Pizza Hut** Hwy. 21 South.....(251) 575-2088
 - Radley's Fountain Grill**
*(100 Places To Eat in Alabama Before You Die)
1559 South Alabama Avenue(251) 743-2345
 - Sweet Tooth Bakery, Deli & Catering**
105 West Claiborne St.....(251) 575-7040
 - Big D's Butts 'n Stuff**
Hwy. 21 South.....(251) 714-4227
 - Los Marinos Mexican Restaurant**
653 S. Alabama Avenue(251) 575-2888

- ### Fast Foods
- Cherry Street BBQ**
Open Holidays & Every Other Sat.
(pick-up only(251) 575-2668
 - Mel's Dairy Dream** (pick-up only)
263 South Alabama Avenue.(251) 575-2483
 - Pizza Express** (Pick-up only)
1912 Hwy. 21 Express(251) 575-3474
 - Burger King**
1410 South Alabama Avenue(251) 575-9340
 - Captain D's**
1591 South Alabama Ave.(251) 575-9965
 - Church's Fried Chicken**
2948 South Ala. Avenue.(251) 575-9695
 - Hardee's** 1608 South Alabama Ave.(251) 575-2691
 - Huddle House**
Hwy. 21 & 84(251) 743-4833
 - McDonald's**
Hwy. 21 South.....(251) 575-2929
 - Subway** 1844 Hwy. 21 ByPass.....(251) 575-3549
 - Sonic** Hwy. 21 South.....(251) 575-3770
 - Hibachi Grill**
3357 S. Alabama Avenue(251) 575-9887
 - Papa John's Pizza**
3357 S. Alabama Avenue(251) 743-3777

Please call our home-owned restaurants for days and hours of operation, as they vary widely.

- ### Hotels
- Best Western Inn**
4419 Alabama Avenue.....(251) 575-9999
 - Budget Inn**, 484 S. Alabama Ave.(251) 575-3101
 - Mockingbird Inn**
Hwy. 21/4389 S. Alabama Ave.(251) 743-3297
 - County Inn & Suites**
120 Hwy. 21 South.....(251) 743-3333
 - Monroeville Inn** 750 S. Alabama Avenue.....(251) 575-3312
 - Royal Inn** 3236 S. Alabama Avenue.....(251) 575-3177
 - Travel Inn** 497 Hwy. 136 W.....(251) 575-4802

- ### Bed & Breakfasts
- The Loft**....1594 Mexboro Rd.....(251) 575-3879
 - Stallworth Home**....Beatrice.....(251) 575-4021
 - Mountain Laurel Lodge**...Pine Apple.....(251)746-2696

- ### Campsites
- Isaac Creek Park*** (March-October)
50 improved campsites; 3 picnic shelters
 - Bell's Landing Park*** 3 primitive campsites
 - Haines Island Park*** 8 primitive campsites
 - *For more information on these sites,
call the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (251) 282-4254
 - Claude Kelley State Park**
Hwy 21.....(251) 862-2511



- Alabama River Museum**.....(251) 282-4206
Franklin Open by appt. only
- Bethany Baptist Church**
Burnt Corn..... Open by appt. only
- Faulk Property (Capote Marker)**.....Open Site
199 South Alabama Ave
- Old Courthouse Museum***(251) 575-7433
(Downtown Square-Main office)
Reg. Hours Tuesday-Friday 10-4; Saturday 10-2
- Rikard's Mill Historical Park**
Beatrice, AL.....(251) 789-2781
Mid-Apr-Nov, Fridays & Saturdays 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Visitor Center
 Monroeville/Monroe County Chamber of Commerce
 86 N. Alabama Avenue
 251-743-2879
 monroecountyal.com



29 *The Original Jail, Skinner Furniture, Stallworth Law Office, 53 North Mount Pleasant Avenue:* The two story brick building on the west side of the courthouse is the original county jail, built in 1854. It was replaced in 1859 with what is commonly known as “the old jail”. The original county jail is in the left, rear of the building which today houses the Stallworth Law Office. Both the 1852 courthouse and the old jails were constructed of brick made from local red-clay deposits and believed to have been formed by slave labor. The brick were irregular in size and relatively soft due to inferior locally built brick kilns. Both jails are still standing and are the only known antebellum structures in Monroeville.



Foreword

Walk Monroeville, Edition IV

About this walking tour: Special thanks to Monroeville business and homeowners who agreed to be interviewed for this piece. Particularly, the Monroeville/Monroe County Chamber of Commerce is indebted to Mr. George Thomas Jones for the thorough history of Monroeville’s Courthouse Square; to the late Permelia S. (Pat) Lazenby for her documented history of Monroeville’s First United Methodist Church, and to Miss Alice Lee for her 2011 edit of the originally published walking tour. The Chamber of Commerce thanks its partners AlaTom R, C & D, Alabama Black Belt Heritage Area, City of Monroeville and the Gulf Seafood and Promotional Fund for assistance in funding this publication.

Of special note: The historic homes and businesses featured in this publication are also part of an audio tour, narrated by 25 different Monroeville “voices”. In most cases, the “voice” belongs to the home or business owner. Audio tour signage, complete with QR codes, has been produced in partnership with the Alabama Black Belt Heritage Area, and placed in front of the corresponding venues; the audio was produced and edited with the assistance of Dustin Prine, University of West Alabama, in partnership with the Monroeville/Monroe County Chamber of Commerce.

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Design & Layout: Glenda Dailey Price, Bolton Newspapers

Hospitality Guide & Map, Design and Layout by Stephanie S. Rogers, Executive Director, Monroe County Heritage Museum

Historic Monroeville Walking Tour Map by Glenda C. Lee, Copyright Monroeville Area Chamber of Commerce, May 2003

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30 *The Piggly Wiggly/Frank R. Smith Timber Company, Inc., 63 North Mount Pleasant:* The original building on this site was the Monroeville Presbyterian Church. It was torn down, and several years later, it became the site of the Piggly Wiggly Grocery Store. It was opened by the Lathram brothers, Bud and Johnson, in 1949. Today it is the home of Frank R. Smith Timber Company, Inc. and Smith Realty. The building’s façade was redesigned in 2012 with the assistance of a City of Monroeville Façade Grant.



Walk Monroeville!
“Seeing Monroeville, Alabama’s Literary Capital”
Through An Insider’s Eyes

Monroeville is an iconic destination, evoking images of deep south, rural Alabama.

Monroeville is known for its connections with Pulitzer Prize winning author Nelle Harper Lee and her childhood companion, Truman Capote. Lee’s **“To Kill A Mockingbird”** has become the town’s anchor which draws upwards of 30,000 visitors annually—more than Monroe County’s population. Visitors liken **Monroeville** to Andy Griffith’s Mayberry, perhaps because the town and its residents are overwhelmingly friendly and welcoming to visitors.

Annually, in April and May, **The Mockingbird Players** stage a production of the Christopher Sergel play, “To Kill A Mockingbird.” This production has achieved worldwide acclaim. Its unique setting for Act I, in the O. L. Biggs Amphitheater on the west side of Monroeville’s 1903 courthouse, complete with antique car, a mad dog, a mule named Stormy and a shotgun wielding sheriff is noteworthy to both international and domestic tourists. Act II may be even better—taking place in the second floor setting of Monroeville’s 1903 courthouse courtroom where the trial scene of Atticus Finch, attorney, defending Tom Robinson, a black man wrongly accused of raping a white female, dramatically comes to life and where a jury of twelve white men (summoned from the audience) are selected to decide Tom’s fate. At the close of the 2-1/2 hour production there is a standing ovation and the audience clamors up to the cast to solicit personal autographs on play programs. This is the ultimate **Monroeville Experience**—but there is so much more!

This Walking Tour will have two major focuses: (1) What was Monroeville like in the 1930’s era of Harper Lee’s “To Kill A Mockingbird”? (2) What is here today, incorporating the history of some of the homes and structures around the courthouse square? Lee’s “To Kill A Mockingbird” is a work of fiction set in the town of Maycomb, Alabama in the 1930’s. How does it compare with Monroeville?

In this Walking Tour, we will explore a history of homes and commercial properties located in Monroeville’s Downtown Historic District (recognized by the National Park Service in September, 2009).

1 The Old Monroe County Courthouse, 31 North Alabama Avenue, Home of Monroe County Heritage Museum: The original Federal Land Grant of 80 acres, 3 of which were to be designated as a public square, was issued to Monroe County Probate Judge Henry Taylor on July 11, 1831. This was the original Monroeville, named for James Monroe, who served as Secretary of State from 1811-1817, and who was elected President in 1817, serving two consecutive terms. Monroeville’s population in 1903 was 450; in 1900 the official census counted 422. The towns of Burnt Corn on the Old Federal Road eastward and Claiborne, the Alabama River Port to the west were both still thriving and more heavily populated, by comparison. In 1832, the county citizens voted to move the county seat from Claiborne to Monroeville.

At least five different courthouses have been erected on the downtown square:

(1) A log structure combining the courthouse and county jail, built in 1832. It burned the following year, destroying most county records. Few county records exist from **1815** (when Monroe County was declared a part of the Mississippi Territory) until after the fire in **1833**. (2) a two-story frame building constructed by Wingate Rumbley and believed to have been erected on the southwest section circa **1840**. It burned in 1849 but this time the county records were saved. (3) The first brick courthouse was built in **1852**; it was used as a

27 Monroe County Bank Building, Corner N. Mt. Pleasant and W. Claiborne: The first bank in Monroe County was the Bank of Monroeville which became the Monroe County Bank, founded by J. B. Barnett who moved to the town in 1900 from Pike County. The bank’s original home was the ground floor of the vacated 1852 courthouse. The bank moved into its new two-story brick building on the southwest corner of the town square in 1909. Originally, the bank occupied only the building on the corner. It was later expanded to include the building next to it, which had been Hixon’s Store. To reach the second floor of the original corner building, there was a door on the southwest corner of the building which opened to a stairwell that went straight up to the large director’s room. The front area on the second floor was residential, being occupied by Dr. Ida A. Fraser, a chiropractor, who had both her residence and office there. A stair on the north side of the Hixon Building gave access to a lawyer’s office. Harper Lee’s father, A. C. Lee, had his law office in this building, (as did his daughter, Alice) first upstairs, then downstairs.



28 Old Jail, Monroe County Public Library, Sheriff’s Annex, RSVP: This building housed the 1859 jail (see description for original jail). It has also served as the location for Monroe County Public Library, and today houses the Retired Senior Citizens Volunteers, and serves as an annex to the Monroe County Sheriff’s Department.

built both daughters a house to keep them close by. The younger daughter, Susye, married Karl James Lazenby and they resided in the house between the Mims and Yarbrough homes.



26 Coxwell House, 110 South Mount Pleasant: The Coxwell home is situated on what was the stable lot of the old Beard's Tavern. The Coxwell house was built in 1910 by John Mitchell Coxwell. The contractor, Harmon, built several homes in Monroeville during this time. Many of the materials came from the Cedar Creek Mill Company in Brewton, known today as T. R. Miller Company.

John Mitchell Coxwell was married to Lillie Wiggins, whose family operated the Wiggins Hotel, an old Monroeville landmark. J. M. Coxwell was elected Circuit Court Clerk of Monroe County from 1904 to 1919. He was an early officer of Monroe County Bank. He died in 1919.

The exterior of this house has been restored to very near the original appearance, but with siding. The second floor has been opened with stairs. All old fireplaces/chimneys have been removed except one. The interior was restored and modernized in 1980. A bath has been added and the ceiling lowered from the original 14'6" height, except in the entrance hall. The original doors have been used as paneling in the entrance hall. The stained glass window is from the old L & N Depot in Beatrice. The bricks are from the old Repton Masonic Lodge.

This home has been continuously occupied by the Coxwell family since it was built. J. M. Coxwell's daughter, Jewell, lived in the house and today it is occupied by J. Milton Coxwell, Jr., the third generation of Coxwells' to live in the house.

public building until the completion of the 1903 courthouse. The 1852 building burned in 1928. The only remnants of this courthouse are two iron columns, mounted on the north wall of the museum's exhibit room, and a brick walkway at the home of Nicholas Stallworth Hare. (4) The Old Monroe County Courthouse, built in 1903, served as county seat for sixty years, and presently houses the Monroe County Heritage Museum. (5) The present courthouse was dedicated in 1963.



The Old Monroe County Courthouse was built in 1903 under the leadership of Monroe County Probate Judge Nicholas Stallworth. The architect was Andrew Bryan, a prominent Southern municipal architect. The contractor was M. T. Lewman from Louisville, Kentucky, who was contracted to build the courthouse for \$29,000. The actual building cost was considerably more, due to the fact that the cost of the foundation and the basement were not included in the original cost estimate. It is widely said that cost overruns on the old courthouse defeated Judge Stallworth in his subsequent run for re-election.

Many of the materials used in the construction of the courthouse were shipped in by rail, including manufactured heart pine flooring and rolled tin for the ceiling of the upstairs courtroom, which is stamped in a dogwood pattern. The courthouse dome is made of sheet metal, which has at various times been painted silver or white. The courthouse clock strikes on the hour, and is frequently mentioned in the earlier works of Truman Capote.



2 **“A Celebration of Reading” by Branko Medenica:** “A Celebration of Reading” is a bronze sculpture which was commissioned in 2010 by the Monroeville/Monroe County Chamber of Commerce, in partnership with the Alabama Tourism Department. Its purpose is to offer “some tangible evidence of Monroeville as Alabama’s Literary Capital” and to establish a permanent presence on Monroeville’s courthouse square. The project provides an opportunity to inspire those who experience it with a love of reading. It is a way for Monroeville to further the goal of raising awareness of the benefits of reading and the lingering life lessons of the message brought to a reader by a good book.

The Birmingham, Alabama sculptor, Branko Medenica, was selected to execute the commission. His sculpture depicts three children centered around a bench, reading a book. The piece is designed such that visitors may place themselves within the setting for photographs with the courthouse’s distinctive dome in the background.

As Branko sees this, “The challenge with this project has been to capture that special quality of timelessness that is so prevalent when studying certain literary works, which transcend language and cultural barriers. This sculpture could be anywhere, and it would speak to those who see it as a celebration of childhood innocence and a celebration of reading. The fact that it is in Monroeville, Alabama’s Literary Capital, should speak volumes.”

The sculpture was dedicated on April 17, 2014 in a ceremony held in the Otha Lee Biggs Amphitheater, followed by an official unveiling of the piece. Under terms of the contract with the artist, Branko Medenica, the Monroeville/Monroe County Chamber of Commerce holds the copyright for the piece.



24 **E. T. Millsap/Nicholas/Countryman House, 190 South Mount Pleasant:** This house was built by J. J. Kyser and occupied as his residence until sold. Mr. Kyser built several of Monroeville’s early homes.

This one story frame, former Victorian “L” shaped house is now irregularly-massed, having a five bay façade, including an added-on wing on the right side. The house was constructed between 1885 and 1915. It was at one time the home of E. T. (Short) Millsap, who served as Monroe County’s Probate Judge for several terms.



25 **Mims/Wohlers House:** The Mims/Wohlers home is on the site of the old Beard’s Tavern, one of the first structures in Monroeville, and which dates back to the Mississippi/Alabama Territory days.

According to local lore, around 1820 a crew of surveyors who were engaged to locate the geographical center of the county met at Beard’s Tavern and after a few rounds of drinks, decided to proclaim Monroeville the geographical center of the county, without having left the tavern. The present building may contain components from the original tavern building.

It is not known who built this house or when it was built. It was occupied by D.D. Mims, his wife and his two daughters. The older daughter, Inez, married George Yarbrough, a pharmacist. It was said that Mr. Mims



23 *The Chambers/Barnett/Lazenby/Jeffcoat House:* The Chambers house was the second* brick home built in Monroeville. The house was built in 1929 for Bert and Elizabeth Chambers by Henry Hayles, who also built the Maxwell/Sawyer/Barnett house. Bert Chambers, a traveling salesman, took Mr. Hayles on a sales call to another state (Florida or Mississippi) to show him a home that he wished to build. Mr. Hayles agreed to build a similar home and without any house plans, he began construction.

Hayles and Chambers were purported to have hand selected all the lumber for the home at the McCall Lumber Company. It was shipped to Monroeville on the railroad.

During World War II, Mr. Chambers would buy and sell automobiles and store them in his backyard. (Automobiles were rationed during the war due to the ration on steel and rubber). The original outhouse still stands in the backyard as well as the original porch swing. The garage was built as one story. In the late 1930's, when the Chambers welcomed a son, Bud, they added a second floor for his playroom. This was totally unfinished until 2002 when it was completely renovated by residents Bill and Leigh Lazenby. (Bill Lazenby's great grandfather's brother was Carl Lazenby, who was a business partner of Mr. Chamber's in the Chambers-Lazenby Ford business, located off Monroeville's downtown square.)

According to Bud Chambers, the driveway and the drive directly behind the house were originally planned as streets. (Oak Street and Lloyd Street dead end into these driveways.) The town's original layout for a new block and street never materialized.

Mrs. Elizabeth Chambers lived in the house for fifty-one years, until 1980. Since 1980, only six families have occupied the house, three of whom are related to the Chambers.

*The J. C. Hudson Home is the first brick home built in Monroeville.



3 Otha Lee Biggs Amphitheater, Setting for “To Kill A Mockingbird” Play: The year 2010 marked the fiftieth anniversary of the publication of the novel, “To Kill A Mockingbird”, and the twentieth anniversary of the Monroe County Heritage Museum’s production of the Christopher Sergel play, “To Kill A Mockingbird”. Adapted by Sergel from the novel by Monroeville native Nelle Harper Lee, the play in two acts centers around the trial of a black man, Tom Robinson, accused of raping a white woman, Mayella Violet Ewell. The setting is the fictional small town of Maycomb, Alabama in the 1930’s. The old Monroe County Courthouse and its upstairs courtroom served as the model for Harper Lee’s setting in her Pulitzer Prize winning novel, and also served as the model for the courtroom in the movie version, so it is only fitting that the old courthouse should host annually in April/May the ever popular play by the local volunteer cast, The Mockingbird Players.

The first local production took place in the fall of 1991 with only the second act of the play which is set in the upstairs courtroom. In 1995, Act I was added and sets were built on the courthouse lawn by a local volunteer, Wayne Bell. Outside seating in the form of plastic chairs, bleachers, and folding aluminum chairs was added, but the set had a primitive, unfinished look. In 2012, Georgia Pacific Corporation donated \$175,000 to the Monroe County Heritage Museum to re-landscape the west lawn of the courthouse and to renovate the sets that form the O. L. Biggs Amphitheater. This renovation has resulted in a new venue which lends itself to a wider variety of events for the city of Monroeville.

Facing the sets, the Boo Radley house is on the left, with the Atticus Finch house in the center; to the far right are the houses of local busybody Mrs. Stephanie, narrator Mrs. Maudie, and the morphine addicted Mrs. Dubose. The play is performed by an all volunteer cast, and includes a gospel choir known as “The Interdenominational Mass Choir”. The seating capacity for each play production is two hundred fifty. Tickets for the play generally sell out in March, for an average of sixteen performances. The production has traveled to Jerusalem in celebration of the Festival of King David, to Kingston-Upon-Hull, England; to the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D. C., to Mobile’s Saenger Theatre, to the Alabama Supreme Court Building, and most recently to Hong Kong.



4 Monument to Atticus Finch:

This bronze monument was erected by the Alabama Bar Association in 1997 in honor of the legendary lawyer, Atticus Finch. It is one of several “Legal Landmarks” recognized by the Alabama State Bar Association. Today it serves as a meeting place for tour groups and as a point of interest in the history of the courthouse square.



22 Maxwell/Sawyer/Barnett House, 411 South Mount Pleasant: Originally built circa 1908 for Dave Maxwell, Sr., this home is presently owned by John Bigham Barnett, III, and his wife, Becky. It is a one and a half story frame, cross gabled Victorian Vernacular style structure. It is believed the same builder constructed the Finklea/Tate house next door. It was his practice to build one house, then move on the the next lot to construct the next house. His signature style included round bays or turrets, which are found in several Monroeville homes of this era. Around 1922, this house caught fire when sparks from the fireplace ignited the cedar roof shingles. When the Barnetts began renovating the house in preparation for their move in 1990, they found charred cedar shingles in the attic. In the 1940’s, the upstairs of the house was converted to apartments and a stairway was added at the back of the house, where the present day laundry room and kitchen are. The home was purchased from the Maxwell’s by Luke Sawyer, when he was Sheriff of Monroe County. Eventually, the house was sold to Maggie Smith, Mrs. Luke Sawyer’s sister. She lived in the house with her son, Earl, and she died in the house in 1988. Becky and John Barnett bought the house in the late 1980’s from Earl, her only child, and remodeled and modernized the house, also adding vinyl siding.

John Barnett’s grandfather, Henry Hayles, built the Chambers house, the Monroeville Methodist Church, the Excel School, the Ostberg house on Leslie Street, the Lindblom house on York Street, and the Smith/Steiner/Hines house on North Mount Pleasant, originally built for Dr. Smith, Sr.



21 Finklea/Tate House, 296 South Mount Pleasant: The Finklea/Tate House was probably built in the early 1900's, between 1906 – 1908, by the same contractor who built the N. S. Hare home and the Hybart/Hendrix/Lewis/Brewton home. The home was first built for B. B. Finklea, the great uncle of Betty Hudson Tate. B. B. Finklea married Betty Tate's aunt, Annie Sellers. (She was his third wife.) The first wife died, the second was fatally burned in this house. The Victorian furniture original to this house was left to Mrs. Tate by her aunt. The Finklea's died childless, and the house was left to Mrs. Tate as well. No rooms have been added to the house. Aluminum siding has been added. The ceilings have been lowered in the back of the house from sixteen to twelve feet. Sheetrock has replaced the original plaster walls and closets have been added. The fireplace has been closed up but the Tate's still have the original mantles, which they hope to re-install at a future date.



5 The United States Post Office, 104 North Alabama Avenue: On this site was originally the Yarbrough House/Hotel, built in 1833. It was the oldest building of any kind on the square when it was demolished in 1937 to make way for the present post office. A Works Progress Administration (WPA) mural titled "Harvesting" occupies the south wall of the building. The subject is a farmer using a three-mule team to pull a threshing machine across a wheat field. This is a Midwestern, not a southern scene. The artist is Arthur L. Bairnsfather, and the painting is dated 1939. He was commissioned to paint the mural when he won an open competition conducted by the Treasury Section of Painting and Sculpture under contract to WPA, for which he was paid \$680. The "Harvesting" mural is one of the surviving works of President Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal Art Program. The mural was restored in 1985 by John Bertalan, a native of Birmingham, who specializes in art restoration.



6 Faulk Millinery/Morgan Furniture Building/North Alabama Avenue: The original building on this site was owned by V. H. and C. E. Faulk. It was a two story frame building. The first floor housed Jeff Smith's Barber Shop on its left corner, the Faulk Millinery Store in the center, and a dental office on the right corner. The second floor was residential. (Miss Jennie Faulk, the milliner, was Truman Capote's cousin and the business owner). Upon the deaths of the Faulk sisters, this building was demolished and the present brick building was erected by J. T. and Hammond Morgan. The building served as the offices and showroom for locally owned Morgan Furniture Company until the early 1990's, when Gladys Morgan sold the property to Monroe County Tax Collector Charlie Deer. The property today is in the ownership of Deer's family, and is available for rental.



20 The J. C. Hudson House, 324 South Mount Pleasant: Originally the house that occupied this lot was a white frame house similar in architecture to the house next door. The house was turned around and moved to the back of the lot and became a lovely home facing Johnson Avenue. The two story brick house was then built facing Mt. Pleasant Avenue, circa 1928. It was built by J. C. Hudson, Sr., a local business man and entrepreneur, who passed the house on to his son, J. C. Hudson, Jr. J. C. Hudson, Jr. and his wife, Mary, lived in the house and this is where they raised their four children. The house is a two story brick colonial revival house. It has been continuously occupied by the Hudson family since it was built. J. C. Hudson, Sr. was one of the first entrepreneurs in Monroeville. He installed the first electric lighting system in the county. He and his partner, D.D. Mims, owned thirteen cotton gins. He also owned the Pan American Oil Distributorship.

The architect for this house was a Mr. Marsh from Mobile. The original roof was altered from slate to asphalt due to weather damage. A bathroom was added. Both of the original chimneys are still standing. The south porch has been glassed in. The original double garage in back of the house was made into four apartments during World War II due to the housing shortage. Three of these apartments have been removed.

7 Barnett and Jackson Hardware/The Framery/The Art Room Gifts & Framery, 126 North Alabama Avenue: Barnett and Jackson built this two story brick building in 1909. The bricks came from Bear Creek Lumber Company at Manistee, and were moved by wagon to Monroeville by Gus Barnett. The building is owned by Norman Barnett, who formerly operated a hardware store. It has also housed The Framery, a frame shop, and most recently, (May, 2013) is home to The Art Room Gifts & Framery.





19 Monroeville Elementary School: There has been a school on this site since as early as 1871, according to George Thomas Jones, Monroeville historian. The first school was called the Monroe Male and Female Institute, and it was a private school. In October, 1895, students at the school moved into a new, larger building on this site. In January, 1903, the frame building was destroyed by fire. Following this, the city became involved in public education, and sold bonds to finance the first brick building on this site. The city operated the elementary school as a public school; at this point, the high school, which was private, shared space in the same building as the public elementary school.

This arrangement continued from 1905 until the opening of the school year in 1911. (In 1907, the Alabama Legislature passed an act that required every county to provide a public high school.) The public high school had to be on a five-acre plot, and a new building of at least \$5,000 in value was required. It took four years for Monroeville to meet these requirements. Bonds were sold to finance the new high school building, which was to be on 7-1/2 acres about fifty yards south of the combined elementary/high school. Classes were first held in the new high school building in 1912-13 school year. When the public high school opened, the private high school closed.

In 1936, a new high school was erected on York Street (the present Monroeville Middle School). The elementary school moved into parts of the old high school, which burned on November 11, 1946.

The present school was built on this site in 1947 according to records in the Monroe County Revenue Commission Office. Over the years several additions have been added to the footprint of the original building.



8 First National Bank/Monroe Chamber of Commerce Office and Welcome Center, 86 North Alabama Avenue: Built in 1925, this was the home of Monroeville's First National Bank, the second bank to have its offices in Monroeville. (The Bank of Monroeville, established in 1904, was the first bank; its name was later changed to Monroe County Bank). Monroe County Bank acquired First National Bank and the building served as a branch office for Monroe County Bank until it was sold to local attorney George Elbrecht in the early 1990's. Elbrecht renovated the building for his law office, using local contractor Hammer, Inc. In June, 2009, the City of Monroeville purchased the building from Elbrecht and offered it to the Monroeville/Monroe County Chamber of Commerce on a long term lease. The Monroeville/Monroe County Chamber of Commerce was founded in 1928, and has had offices in several locations in downtown Monroeville, including the old courthouse.

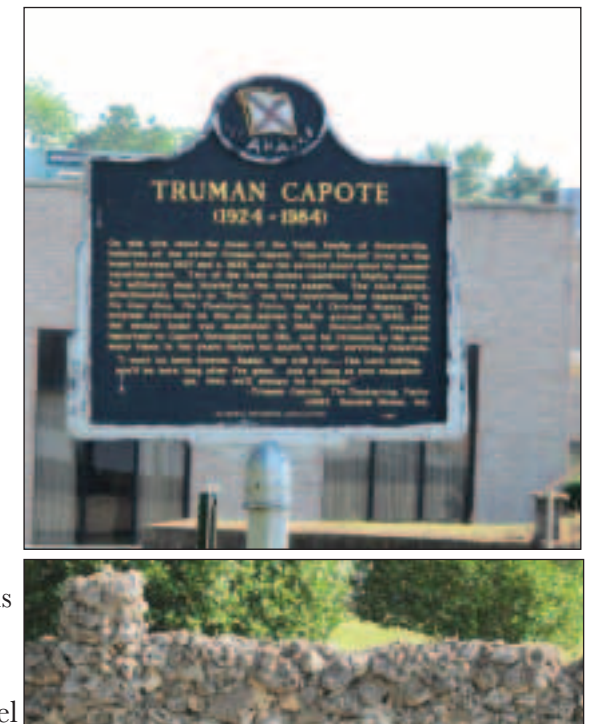


9 The La Salle Hotel/Monroe County Public Library, 121 Pineville Road: The Monroe County Public Library has been in the former La Salle Hotel Building since 1984. It is on the site of one of the oldest parcels that has been in continuous usage since it was part of a land grant (#8417) from the United States of America to Probate Judge Henry W. Taylor. There have been several different structures on this property, including a stable, homes, a Methodist parsonage and hotels, some with restaurants. One example, The Commercial Hotel, was owned and operated by Mrs. Charles Richard Crook until her death. Her daughter, Helen, and son in law, Harvel Deas, moved in and ran the hotel until it was purchased by Sarah Strong of Brewton. She continued operating in the same old frame building until 1939, when it was demolished, and a more modern, two story brick building was erected. In 1952, Mrs. Strong sold the hotel to Mr. and Mrs. Dave Katz, who named it “The La Salle Hotel”. During this period, many dignitaries visited the La Salle, including actor Gregory Peck, who visited to prepare for his role in the movie “To Kill A Mockingbird”. The La Salle was also a favorite stop for members of the big dance bands who came to Monroeville to play at the Monroeville Community House for the Monroeville Cotillion Club. The hotel later became a restaurant with the last owner being L. C. Gaston. In 1979 the building was purchased by Dwight Harrigan, who sold it to the Monroe County Public Library Board in 1981 for the appraised price of \$229,000. The Library raised \$125,000 and the remaining \$104,000 was donated by Mr. Harrigan in order for the library to have a new home. Today the library is shelved with fiction, non-fiction, biographies, large print books and books on tape on the first floor. In addition, the first floor houses public access computers, a children’s library, and a small meeting room. The second floor holds reference books, paperbacks, an Alabama Authors section, a genealogy room, a forestry collection, and the Anne Farish Memorial Reading Room, dedicated to the late four term mayor of Monroeville. The building’s claim to fame is its ties to Gregory Peck, who stayed in the building when it was known as the La Salle Hotel.



17 Lyle Salter Park: Named for long time City of Monroeville Public Works Director Lyle Salter, this park contains a historic marker detailing the history of Monroeville which was officially chartered in 1899. The historic marker is a gift of the Alabama Tourism Department and was dedicated in April 2010 “The Year of Small Towns and Downtowns”, coinciding with the 50th anniversary of the publication of the novel “To Kill A Mockingbird.” The background mural in the park displays a scene from “To Kill A Mockingbird”.

18 Truman Capote Historic Marker/Site of the Faulk House: On this site was the original Faulk house, owned by Truman Capote’s cousin, Miss Jennie Faulk. Miss Jennie Faulk owned a millinery shop in downtown Monroeville. She lived with her two sisters, Callie and Sook and her brother, Bud, in the house on this site. The original house burned to the ground in 1940. The second house on this site was demolished in 1988. The stone wall is original to the first home on this site, and there is an indentation to the rear of the property where a goldfish pond once existed. The site is virtually all that is left of Truman Capote’s Monroeville childhood. Many of Capote’s writings are considered as autobiographical based on his Monroeville childhood, such as “A Christmas Memory”, “The Thanksgiving Visitor”, “The Grass Harp”, etc. Truman, born Truman Streckfus Persons, was very close to his Monroeville relatives, particularly Sook. He visited frequently during his lifetime. According to Monroeville author Nelle Harper Lee, Truman served as the model for Dill in her novel, “To Kill A Mockingbird”. Capote and Lee were childhood neighbors and lifelong friends.



Rock wall original to the Faulk house, home of Truman Capote’s cousins.



15 Monroeville City Hall, 125 East Claiborne: Welcome to Monroeville City Hall! This building was dedicated in June, 2003, under the late four term Monroeville Mayor, Anne Hines Farish. It replaced the former city hall on South Mount Pleasant, which shared space with the Police Station. The former city hall building was demolished and replaced with the present day Monroeville Police Station. The architectural firm responsible for the 2003 City Hall is McKee & Associates. The Great Seal of Alabama featured in the lobby of the present day City Hall was executed by stained glass artist Sharon Dunham, a former resident of Monroeville who has relocated to Maine.

16 Lee Motor Company: Lee Motor Company has been in existence since 1925. Tommy Lee was the third generation of his family to manage this Monroeville business. The business sold in 2014 to a new owner outside the Lee family. At the time it was sold, it is believed that this was Alabama's oldest continuously owned and operated founding family dealership.

The business was founded by John T. Lee, Sr. The new owners have retained the Lee Motor Company name. The company has been at 31 South Alabama Avenue since March 4, 1940. It was built on the site of the First Methodist Church which burned in 1929, and was rebuilt in its present location on Pineville Road.



10 Hybart/Hendrix/Lewis/Brewton Home, 149 Pineville Road: This home was built between 1906 and 1920 in the Queen Anne Style, by a contractor from Brewton, Alabama. The home was originally built by local attorney Charlie Hybart for his wife, Lucy Burns Hybart, whose father was Mayor of Selma. The home was a wedding gift. The marriage ended in divorce. (Charlie Hybart subsequently married Marion McDuffie and they built what is today known as The Hybart House). The house was sold to Vernon and Dot Hendrix. Dot Hendrix was the first woman from Alabama to enlist in the Women's Army Corps (WAC) and was in Eisenhower's headquarters in North Africa during World War II. The next residents of the house were A. T Lewis, a surveyor, and his wife, who was a sister to Dot Hendrix. Today the house is owned by local entrepreneur Al Brewton. The second floor of the house was unfinished for many years, according to local resident Norman Barnett. The house was often renovated between 1957 and 1991.

11 Nicholas Stallworth/Hare Home, 177 Pineville Road: The Stallworth home on Pineville Road was built in 1903 by Probate Judge Nicholas James Stallworth (June 30, 1834 – June 10, 1911). It is said that the contractor who built the house was from Brewton, and that he built several homes in Monroeville between 1900 and 1920, most having the characteristic turret on the front. The home has been continuously occupied by Nicholas James Stallworth's descendents since his death in 1911. Shortly before he died Judge Stallworth conveyed the house and six acres to his daughter, Mary Ellen Stallworth Hare and her husband, Francis Williams Hare.

Nicholas James Stallworth was born in Evergreen. He moved to Pineville Road, Monroe County, in early childhood. He settled in Bell's Landing, then a thriving river port on the east bank of the Alabama River north of Claiborne. He was a Civil War veteran, a farmer and a merchant. In Bell's Landing he operated a store, grist mill and sawmill. He represented Monroe County in the Legislature from 1886 to 1900. He was elected Probate Judge of Monroe County in 1892, when he moved to Monroeville. His first home on this site burned. He was elected to six two year terms as Probate Judge, leaving office in 1904. He raised eleven children.



Francis Williams Hare was a prominent Monroeville attorney and a Spanish War veteran. He served a term in the State Legislature beginning in 1919. He also served as Circuit Judge of the 21st Judicial Circuit (then Monroe, Conecuh, Escambia and Baldwin) from 1928 until his death in 1952, dying in the house in his own bedroom. It is rumored that Judge Hare served as the role model for the judge in "To Kill A Mockingbird". His wife, Mary Ellen Hare, developed the formal Victorian gardens and the interesting goldfish pool and rock garden with fountain/waterfall on the west side of the house. Judge Hare was responsible for the four acre pecan grove and vegetable garden behind the house, and also grew dahlias, roses and camellias. The magnolia trees which border the sidewalk fronting the house were planted in the late 1920's by Mary Hare.

Over time, the large attic fan which cooled the house was replaced with central air conditioning, the original fireplaces were removed, and the kitchen and bedrooms were remodeled. Most recently, Nicholas Stallworth Hare, Sr., son of Judge and Mary Hare, resided in the house with his wife, Mary. He was a retired attorney, a former State Representative and a World War II veteran. He practiced law in Birmingham, Mobile, Montgomery and Monroeville and served as Chief Trial Attorney in the Attorney General's office and as in-house counsel for the Alabama State Docks. He was also a scientist and an inventor who held several patents.

Mr. Hare, Sr., passed away on January 6, 2014, in this home in which he was born. He was 103 at the time of his death. He was preceded in death by his wife, Mary, who died in June, 2013, at the age of 95. The ownership of the home currently resides with his son, Nicholas Stallworth Hare, Jr., a Monroeville attorney.

second Methodist Church built in Monroeville (1835 – 1916).

The Pineville Road Cemetery also includes Hillcrest Cemetery, which was established by John B. Barnett, Jr. in the 1950's. A third cemetery was developed by Farish Manning. The oldest of these cemeteries is actually the Methodist Cemetery, off West Claiborne Street, followed by the Baptist Cemetery, which was established with the church, in 1846.



14 **First United Methodist Church of Monroeville:**

From Permelia S. (Pat) Lazenby's "History" – The first Methodist Church in the vicinity of the present town of Monroeville was built in 1821. It was a primitive style log structure, one mile west of the present town square. At the time, Monroeville was known as Walker's Mill, named for a Mr. Walker who had built a store, grist mill and tavern. In 1832, the county seat, then at Claiborne, was moved to Walker's Mill, which for a short time

became known as Centerville. The town was officially named Monroeville later in 1832.

In Monroeville, now the county seat, a lot was reserved in the town's plan for a Methodist church and cemetery. In 1835 a bare-boned, frame structure was erected. Inside there was a center aisle and two tiers of seats. One tier was reserved for women, the other for men. This building served the congregation for 45 years. It was later enhanced with a steeple and bell, glass windows, and paint.

The church continued to grow and in 1916 a new location for the church was secured at the corner of Alabama Avenue and Claiborne Street, on the site of the present day Lee Motor Company. The Building Committee Chair was J. B. Barnett. According to Mrs. Pat Lazenby's history, "A handsome brick structure was erected with beautiful stained-glass windows as lovely memorials."

On January 2, 1929, the church was devastated by a fire that had originated in a neighboring building. "The only things saved from the consuming flames were the pews, the pulpit appointments, and the memorial windows."

The church secured a new location on Pineville Road, its present day site. The same building committee worked to erect a new church building. The congregation worshipped in the Old Courthouse Building on downtown square while the new building was being erected. On Sunday, August 2, 1931, the first service was conducted in the new building. The steeple was placed on the building in 1951, which is the same year that the church began construction of its parsonage. An educational building and chapel were added in 1963. Furnishings for the chapel were given by Nelle Lee in memory of her parents and brother. Wesley Hall, the church's newest wing, was dedicated in 1999.

was purchased from Germany and were made by the same process as the old glass.

Anna Lee Moore died in 1972. One of her younger sisters, Dot Moore Sowell, married Monroeville native, Marcus Sowell and moved to Monroeville. Marcus Sowell was a lawyer and they lived on West Claiborne Street. Her best friend was Mary Stallworth Hare, wife of Francis Williams Hare, a prominent Monroeville attorney and Spanish war veteran. In the house today there are two landscape paintings that originally were painted by Dot, when she was still living in Wetumpka.

In the late 1970's, Preston Barnett bought the house from Norman Barnett and turned it into two apartments. The house was damaged in Hurricane Ivan (2004), and a new roof was installed. In 2010, Preston hired Jimmy Hicks, a local contractor, and began the arduous process of a restoration, which lasted well into two and one half years. The goal was to preserve and reuse as much of the original floors and materials in the house as possible. A family room, laundry room, bathroom and modern closet were added. The main portion of the house was not altered. The kitchen was gutted and a modern kitchen added.

There have been seven children born in this house. Anna Lee and Gus had three children, Evlyn, William and Norman. Preston and his brother, Chester were both born in the house, and the bed where they were delivered by Dr. Rayford A. Smith, Sr., of Monroeville is still in the house. Preston's mother was in labor for forty hours in an upstairs bedroom of the house in August, when he was born. Preston's father relates that, Preston was not breathing when he was born, and Dr. Smith tried all the usual methods of getting the baby to breathe. When none of these worked, he placed a piece of gauze over the baby's mouth and breathed in several times, and the baby finally uttered his first cry. When asked why he had worked so hard, Dr. Smith stated that he could not give up on this baby—there were too many people praying in that room!

Louise Lee, the middle sister of Alice and Nelle, was also born in this house. The Lee's lived there for five years before building their own home on Alabama Avenue. Anne Barnett Zimmerman was also born in the house, and delivered by Dr. R. A. Smith, Sr. The history of this home is beautifully intertwined with a history of many of the families that established the town of Monroeville, and who worked to see it prosper.

Preston and his wife plan to spend several months a year enjoying this multi-generational family home. When they are not in Monroeville, they are living in Atlanta.



13 Pineville Road Cemetery: Pineville Road Cemetery is actually a combination of three cemeteries that have been developed over a period originating in 1846, according to George Thomas Jones, Monroeville historian.

The oldest of these cemeteries is the Baptist Cemetery. In 1846, the Baptists built a church on the site of the present day cemetery, and the cemetery backed up to the church. The Baptist Church was on this site until 1922, when it moved to a handsome brick building on the north side of the downtown square, demolished in 1970. In the 1970's, the Baptist's built the present day church across Pineville Road from the site of the original Baptist Church, Monroeville.

The Methodist Cemetery is actually on the west side of downtown square, at Sumter and West



12 Gus Baker/Norman/Preston Barnett House: This home was built in 1910 by Preston Barnett's grandfather, Gus Baker Barnett, for his grandmother, Anna Lee Moore Barnett. His grandmother was from Wetumpka, and the couple met when his granddaddy went to work for his cousin, Mike Jenkins, who later founded Jenkins Brick Company in Montgomery. Gus was hired to be an engineer on the L & N Railroad out of Birmingham.

The property was originally purchased from Judge Stallworth, father of Mrs. Mary S. Hare. Judge Stallworth and Gus Barnett agreed there would be a common driveway, which is still the case today.

The house has two bedrooms on the main floor and four bedrooms upstairs. Two of the upstairs bedrooms were converted to kitchen and sitting rooms. Several families leased the upstairs rooms at one time or another, such as Harper Lee's parents, and Mrs. O. B. Finklea, who came to the house with her son Charles and two daughters. She lived in Monroeville so her children could attend school, and the family arrived with their own milk cow.

Gus was a firm believer in building things to last. He oversaw the building of the house placing rocks in the ground before building the brick columns to support the house. As a result of this attention to detail, the house does not creak and groan and has not settled over the 100 years of its existence. This same attention to detail can be seen in his construction of the brick building on the square, which housed the Barnett & Jackson Hardware business. Gus also personally built five of the mantelpieces in the house, which are in the living room, dining room, master bedroom, and two of the upstairs bedrooms.

The center hall of the house is one third the width of the house both upstairs and downstairs. These wide halls provided ventilation, as did the twelve foot ceilings. In the big hall upstairs, brackets were installed so a curtain could be hung and part of the hall could be partitioned off as a guest room.

All of the windows in the house were rebuilt during the 2010 restoration, approximately half of the windows are original mouth blown glass, also known as "float glass". The remainder, which required replacement are mouth blown glass that was purchased from Germany and were made by the same process as the old glass.



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