NPS Form 10-900

# United States Department of the Interior National Park Service



# National Register of Historic Places Registration Formational Park Service

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form.* If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

		227				
1. Name of Property						
Historic Name:	American Legion P					
Other names/ site number:	Pine Needles, Mob	ile Business We	omen's	Club		
Name of related multiple property listing: N/A (Enter N/A if property is not part of a multiple property listing)						
					2. Location Street & number: 700 S	S. Mobile Street
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Signature of the Keeper

NPS Form 10-900 OMB No. 1024-0018 American Legion Post 199 Baldwin, AL Name of Property County and State 5. Classification / Ownership of Property: (check as many boxes as apply) Public-Local Public-State Public-Federal Category of Property: (check only one box) x Building(s) District Site Structure Object Number of Resources Within Property: (do not include previously listed resources in the count) Contributing Non-Contributing **Buildings** 1 3 Sites 3 Structures Objects 6 **TOTAL** Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0 6. Function or Use / Historic Functions: (enter categories from instructions) SOCIAL / clubhouse SOCIAL / meeting hall **Current Functions:** (enter categories from instructions) SOCIAL / meeting hall COMMERCE/TRADE/restaurant 7. Architectural Classification: (enter categories from instructions) OTHER / Early 20th Century Gulf Coast Vernacular **Materials:** (enter categories from instructions) Principal exterior materials of the property: WOOD, Weatherboard; WOOD, Windows; ASPHALT, Shingles

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## **Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with **a summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

#### **Summary Paragraph**

The American Legion Post 199, located in Fairhope, Alabama, on the banks of Mobile Bay, is an active American Legion meeting hall with a series of auxiliary buildings related to the public function of the facility. The only contributing structure is the primary meeting hall, constructed in 1913 and altered in 1963, which maintains internal and external historic integrity, representative of the period of construction and alteration. The wood clad three-story structure is indicative of the Gulf Coast vernacular of architecture that originally emphasized a sizeable gallery and tall French doors for maximum ventilation. The gallery was enclosed in 1963 when air conditioning was introduced, however the original gallery floors and interior openings have all been maintained. Non-contributing auxiliary buildings include two storage buildings, an outdoor BBQ shed kitchen, a stage and tiki bar on the beach, and a 400-ft. wharf with a shed roof. Members of the American Legion Post 199 frequently host events on site, which are open to the public, both within the building and on the grounds. Members also hold meetings inside the primary structure. The historic integrity of the primary structure, in terms of function, site, and architecture, remain intact and represent the two periods of construction of the meeting hall.

### **Narrative Description**

The meeting hall of the American Legion Post 199 has housed the meetings for the American Legion chapter since 1963. The three-story wooden structure with an asphalt shingle roof was originally constructed of heart-pine in 1913 on what was then called "Magnolia Beach." The attached black and white historic images show the original exterior layout of the building, which featured a gallery on three of the four elevations. The structure was originally the meeting and recreational facility for the Mobile Business Women's Club. The 1913 layout as minimal, with the gallery enclosing most of the exterior walls. The second floor of the gallery appears to have been screened, which was common for sleeping porches during the period. The structure featured a series of large dormers on the third floor with wooden casement windows, all of which remain unchanged from the original construction. Exterior doors on both the ground floor and second floor were French casement doors below transom windows. Historic Photograph 4 shows that the west elevation only included half of the gallery, with the remaining portion being enclosed by wood siding and wood casement windows. The east and north elevations featured the full-length gallery, while the south elevation did not and remains intact from the 1913 period of construction.

It is not known if the Mobile Business Women's Club constructed any auxiliary structures on site, however records indicate they did have a wharf leading into Mobile Bay. This wharf was destroyed and has been replaced, however it is unknown the length and detail of the original 1913 design.

The layout, materials, and design of the 1913 structure was representative of the Gulf Coast Vernacular of the period. Residential structures for leisure often featured a small interior footprint with large porches or galleries. These spaces were typically where most of the socializing and living took place to maximize the breeze from Mobile Bay and mitigate the heat. The lack of modern technology, in terms of climate control, impacted every feature, from the French casement doors, to the transom windows, to the gallery.

Just as important as the original design, the introduction of air-conditioning to the property in 1963 impacted the current layout and represents how the built environment adapted to meet new expectations for comfort and livability in the wake of new technology. When the American Legion Post 199 took over the building and grounds in 1963, the original exterior walls became interior walls as the gallery was enclosed with wood siding. Most of the original openings have been maintained and the original French doors have been stored on the third floor. The gallery floor has been preserved and the interior photographs show the two different yet equally important chapters of this structure. Many of the original doors and windows were removed when the gallery was enclosed, but have been repurposed as part of the new exterior walls.

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The interior of the meeting hall consists of three distinct floors, with floors two and three accessible via wooden stairs. The ground floor is the only floor that has been utilized by the American Legion since taking ownership of the property in 1963. This floor maintains an original double brick fireplace and the columns in the large open meeting room indicate the original exterior walls. The bar in the rear of the building is within a space that has not been altered since 1913 in terms of the original walls, doors, and windows. The floor also contains a commercial kitchen, small office room, and restrooms.

The second floor has not been utilized since the gallery was enclosed in 1963. The American Legion had probably planned to modernize and upgrade this floor once the gallery was enclosed, however this never took place. All the original exterior walls and original openings are present, along with the original gallery floor. The exterior wood siding and hardware have not been removed, even though these are now interior walls. Many of the windows and doors were repurposed in 1963 to serve as openings within the new wood siding enclosure. The remaining doors and windows have been stored on the second and third floors and are all in very good condition. The 1913 interior layout is still prevalent and includes a center hallway with flanking rooms. The room to the rear, which has always been enclosed without gallery access, has not been altered and features a large brick fireplace. A wooden staircase leads to the third floor.

The interior of the third floor has not been altered since it was completed in 1913. The floor maintains a large dormer with windows on every elevation and does not maintain a build-out of any sort within the interior. Wooden casement windows with true-divided lights remain within each dormer and date to 1913. A brick fireplace remains exposed, along with wood support beams and roof rafters. A boxing ring is in the middle of the room and has been used by the American Legion since opening in 1963. This boxing ring merely consists of movable wooden posts supporting rope in the shape of a square.

The American Legion meeting hall sits on a bluff between Mobile Street (Also known as Scenic Highway 98) and the banks of Mobile Bay. The structure has never been moved and the location was selected in 1913 for the view of Mobile Bay, access to the beach, and seclusion from downtown Fairhope, although Fairhope has now expanded incorporated the area. The bluff also allowed for a more comfortable living and socializing experience by offering breezes from Mobile Bay. Although the site currently maintains a series of non-contributing structures, they have a minimal impact on the overall context of the property and do not compromise the primary historic structure or the layout of the site.

Non-contributing structures include two storage buildings (one metal, one wood with garage doors), a wooden "BBQ Shed" outdoor kitchen, a stage and tiki bar on the beach, and a 400-ft. wharf with a shed roof. The wharf is not original to the site; however, a wharf of some capacity has been in this location since 1913. All the other non-contributing structures should be seen as removable and non-disruptive to the historic context and narrative of the site. Members of the American Legion Post 199 frequently host events on site, which are open to the public, both within the primary building and on the grounds. The "BBQ Shed," stage, wharf, and tiki bar are often utilized during these public events.

#### Archaeology

An archeological assessment of the study area was not completed as part of this project.

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8. Statement of Significance	
Applicable National Register Criteria: (Mark "x" in one or more	boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)
X A. Property is associated with events that have made a signifi	cant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant i	n our past.
	period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master and distinguishable entity whose components lack individua
D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information import	tant in prehistory or history.
Criteria Considerations: (mark "x" in all the boxes that apply)  A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purpos  B. Removed from its original location  C. A birthplace or grave  D. A cemetery  E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure  F. A commemorative property  G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the	
Areas of Significance: (enter categories from instructions) ARCHITECTURE ENTERTAINMENT / RECREATION	
Period of Significance: 1913-1963	
Significant Dates: 1913 1963	
Significant Person: (complete only if Criterion B is marked above)	
Cultural Affiliation:	

Architect / Builder: George B. Rogers

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**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph:** (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The American Legion Post 199 Building, formerly known as the meeting house for the Mobile Business Women's Club, was erected on a bluff overlooking Mobile Bay near Fairhope, Alabama, in 1913. The design has been credited to famed Mobile architect George B. Rogers. The three-story timber frame structure was altered to reflect the present condition in 1963 when the gallery was enclosed. The building should be considered locally important, both for the style and extant details of the architecture, and for the historical function of the property. Criterion A applies to the original function and use of the property from 1913 to 1963 onward. The fact that the structure was constructed for the purposes of female camaraderie and fellowship in the name economic self-sustainability is unique and rare for the period and location. The function changed in 1963 and became the meeting hall for a local American Legion post, which reflected the post-World War II spike in veteran's organizations across the country. Criterion C applies to the original architectural features of the grand timber structure, dating to 1913, and the period of alterations in the name of progress and a change in function in 1963. Both periods of architectural identity are important and contribute to a unique Gulf Coast Vernacular that incorporated a thoughtful timber design, careful to capture the importance of the geographic location and local climate.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least one paragraph for each area of significance.)

#### Criterion A: ENTERTAINMENT/ RECREATION

Criterion A applies to the original function and use of the property from 1913 to 1963 onward. The fact that the structure was constructed for the purposes of female camaraderie and fellowship in the name economic self-sustainability is unique and rare for the period and location. The function changed in 1963 and became the meeting hall for a local American Legion post, which reflected the post-World War II spike in veteran's organizations across the country. Both uses contribute to the greater history of the community and represent historically unique and notable uses for the structure, all of which impacted the social society of lower Alabama.

The Mobile Business Women's Club was formed in Mobile c. 1910, "organized by working women for working women," the organization was an "interesting instance of what may be accomplished by a group of energetic women in solving their recreational needs," according to the *Journal of Constructive Philanthropy* in 1914. This journal article is a balanced and educated explanation of the organization, especially for the time of publication. The article goes on to describe the members of the organization as being "truly self-reliant and independent, these women made no effort to get large gifts for the club, but determined to swing the project absolutely on their own resources." (1) The meetinghouse was also necessary, as a local Fairhope Guidebook points out, during the period of construction, "unchaperoned ladies could casually check into a hotel," and therefore needed a private option. (2)

While the records of the Mobile Business Women's Club have not been located, the construction of their meetinghouse, known as "Pine Needles," near Fairhope, AL, in 1913, was widely discussed in several publications and newspapers. The purpose of the structure was "to provide and maintain a place where the self-supporting women of and girls of Mobile can rest and recuperate during their summer vacations and when recovering from illnesses at a price within reach of their purses," but before this can happen, "the club must first of all have a home." The story of a how a stretch of three acres of land on the eastern shore of Mobile Bay, eighteen miles by water from Mobile, was acquired, and how a spacious clubhouse which accommodates 200 guests was built in about eighteen months' time, is a story of real business efficiency. (3)

Dues for using the house and grounds were intentionally modest and included "comforts of [a] country house...for \$4 a week." Club dues were \$6 per year, payable 50 cents per month. One of the missions of the organization was to "be able to provide rest and comfort to a number of self-supporting women who, because of limited earnings or heavy-responsibilities, cannot afford membership." The journal article concludes by listing the type of professional affiliations of the membership, "from professions, trades, and business— lawyers, physicians, saleswomen, stenographers, dressmakers, nurses, teachers, and bookkeepers." (4)

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The Mobile Press-Register examined the architecture and function of "Pine Needles" in 1922, noting that it was the "recreation home of the Mobile Business Women's Club at Magnolia Beach, Baldwin County, on a 50foot bluff overlooking the Mobile Bay and called one of the greatest recreation centers of the Eastern Shore or of any of the coast places hereabouts." The description of the recreation opportunities continues, "the tennis court has been in constant demand and though the club furnishes its own racquets the young people have been bringing their own. The bathing has been fine, the water green and salty." Women and girls from "all parts of the state and adjoining states" spent their recreation time at Pine Needles, having to "reluctantly return to their homes promising to return next summer and send other girls" once the season had concluded. Organized camps were common on site in the summer months, one of which occurred August 16 to August 31, 1922. This camp on the grounds of Pine Needles promised "two weeks of sleeping out of doors, regular hours of exercise and rest, wholesome food and wholesome fun at just the right time to render busy women fit for their work ahead." The founding "Camp Committee" included Miss Elizabeth Fonde, Miss nannie Gayle Owen, Miss Lenore Jones, Miss Harriet Gresham, Dr. Ellen B. Ligon, Mrs. J. P. Savage, Secretary, and Mr. J. B. Sharman supervisor of physical education and recreation. (5) On the heels of the organized camps on site, another journal described the Mobile Business Women's Club and their activities as a type of YWCA, although no religious affiliation has been found. (6) The recreation aspect of Pine Needles was clearly a primary function of the facility, as the "camps" were compared to "similar [camps] held in the mountains of North Carolina and other sections of the country." (7)

Meeting Minutes of the Wharf Company dated 7/29/1913 reporting bills paid for repairs to wharf hill. The Mobile Business Women's Club is mentioned referring to a discount on lumber and shingles for wharf. These records are on file at the Fairhope Single Tax Corporation office in Fairhope, AL, and indicate that a wharf was part of the recreational activities of the property from the beginning. (8) The current wharf arrangement and materials are not original to the property and date to within the last twenty years. The *Baldwin Times* reported in 1913 that "the erection of a pier at Magnolia Beach, just south of Fairhope" on the grounds of Pine Needles had been completed. (9) Hurricanes and Tropical Storms commonly destroy piers and wharfs on Mobile Bay with great regularity. The presence of a wharf on the site is important to the function of the property and activities of those present. This feature is still active today and serves a similar purpose.

The progress of the Mobile Business Women's Club and their ambition to raise funds and erect a meeting/recreation facility was closely followed in the local newspapers, namely the *Baldwin Times*, published in nearby Bay Minette, Alabama. The following account of said efforts were published in April 17, 1913:

"At a meeting of the Mobile Business Women's Club held Friday night at the Y. W. C. A., in that city, Miss Parker, the president of the organization, outlined the plans of the club, for the building of a summer vacation home on the eastern shore of Mobile Bay. The object is to provide a summer vacation home and week-end resort for working women at a nominal cost. The club is composed of working women of Mobile, having for its object self-help and the social welfare of its members and other women and girls similarly situated. It is non-sectarian and is incorporated. Out of the funds in its treasury raised by dues paid by the members, the club has purchased and paid for the tract of land at Magnolia Beach, below Fairhope, at a cost of \$1225. The home will be of commodious buildings, sufficient to house seventy-five girls and will have grounds for tennis court and other means of recreation. The property has been bonded for \$4,600 to pay for the buildings, which will be begun at once and the club expects to have the outing home ready for occupancy this summer." (10)

The same newspaper noted in July of 1913, that the "club house of the Mobile Business Women's Club is being rapidly constructed" and that "several members of the club spent the Fourth on the grounds." (11) The structure was reported to be completed in August and was "occupied by a party of about twenty-five club members for the week end" The same report reported the construction cost for the "commodious building" came to \$6,500. (12)

The facility and grounds were sold in 1963 to the American Legion Post 199, based in Fairhope, AL. This organization has been operating on the property since the sale and regularly holds meetings on site and opens the grounds for public use. The Legion hosts public barbeques on Memorial Day, Fourth of July, Labor Day and Veterans Day, where members and visitors alike can enjoy BBQ dinners. There are frequent summer concerts on the beachfront, with drinks available at the Tiki Bar. Monday Night Mess Hall dinners are held every Monday, where a home-cooked meal is available, prepared by the Legion Auxiliary. (13)

The founding of the American Legion in Baldwin County, Alabama occurred in on August 28, 1925, at which time a temporary charter was granted to the local organization. Martin S. Holmes was listed as the First Commander and Miles M. Morris was

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listed as the Adjutant. The organization had a total of 38 members. A permanent charter was issued for Post 99 on April 29, 1926 with Edward L. Murray as First Commander. The original meeting hall was in Foley, Alabama, at 209 W Laurel Ave. This site is currently operated as the Gift Horse Antique Store and Restaurant. (14)

All veterans in Baldwin County who were members of the American Legion were members of Baldwin County Post 99, as it was the only Post in the County at the time. By 1932, the membership was described as "substantial," and the travel distances for those in the southern and northern portions of the county to reach Foley was a hardship for many members. (15)

In 1937 Dr. Claude George Godard, the Post 99 Commander, from Fairhope purchased a two-story house in Fairhope and donated it to the Post. Meetings rotated between Fairhope and Foley under Post 99, a decision that alleviated some of the travel for members. Dr. Claude George Godard was a renowned physician in Fairhope and according to an article in the *Mobile Press-Register* in 1971, marking his 55<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a practicing physician, Godard "delivered half the population of Fairhope." (16) Godard served in the Army in WWI as a physician and passed away in 1977. According to his obituary from *Mobile Press-Register*, at the time of his retirement in 1976, Godard was the oldest practicing physician in Alabama. He died at the age of 85 and practiced medicine in Fairhope for 64 years. (17)

The American Legion Post 99 served the Foley and Baldwin County area as the local USO (United Service Organization) from 1941-1945. (18) American Legion Post 199 formed in 1962 because of breaking away from Post 99 in Foley. Members of Post 99 could transfer their membership if requested. (19) The newly established Post immediately boasted a membership of 365 charter members and 122 Auxiliary members. The Post reached a peak membership of over 900 members and 200 Auxiliary members in the early 1960's. (20)

The American Legion Post 199 officially moved into their new home in 1963, at which time the facility was modernized and upgraded to meet the needs of the veteran's community. The ground floor was altered to include a bar and the primary meeting hall was established by removing some of the original interior walls. The porch and second floor gallery were also enclosed at this time. The third floor has remained untouched since completed in 1913, evidenced by the exposed wood beams and brick fireplace. A nominal boxing ring was established on the third floor shortly after opening in 1963, and has not been removed. Marti Luke, a Post member and former club manager, noted in 2012 that the boxing ring is often the center of attention for guests. "The one thing, it's almost comical," Luke reported to the Mobile Press-Register, "everybody wants to see the boxing ring on the third floor. There is indeed a boxing ring up there. You know again it's almost comical because I can't get a straight answer whether they had some organized fights up there or, you know, whether people just drank at the bar and went up there and beat each other up." (21)

The entertainment and recreation aspects of Pine Needles and the American Legion Post 199 are clearly intertwined with the missions and purpose of both organizations. Each, in their own way, make use of the extensive grounds, meetinghouse, beach, and access to Mobile Bay. The property is unique to the location of, at the time, rural Baldwin County, and pioneered a movement of female independence and self-sustainability that was unmatched in south Alabama. The tradition of public access with private members operating the meetinghouse was continued in 1963 and remains a staple of the community. It is for these reasons that the property should qualify under Criterion A and be placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

#### **Criterion C: ARCHITECTURE**

The American Legion Post 199, formerly known as the meeting house for the Mobile Business Women's Club, was erected on a bluff overlooking Mobile Bay near Fairhope, Alabama, in 1913. The design has been credited to famed Mobile architect George B. Rogers.

George Bigelow Rogers (1870–1945) was an American architect, best known for the wide variety of buildings that he designed in Mobile, Alabama, including mansions in historic European styles and other private residences, churches and public buildings, and the first 11-story skyscraper in Mobile and the Southeast United States. Many of his structures have been listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

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Rogers was born in Illinois in 1870, where he attended school until moving abroad to France to study painting during his high school tenure. He apprenticed as an architect from 1894 to 1898 at a firm in Hartford, Connecticut, and first visited Mobile in 1901 on the way to vacation in Mexico. (22) Rogers is considered to have been trained in the Beaux-Arts tradition and had a reputation of being a highly eclectic architect capable of designing in several styles. (23)

Evidently Rogers was impressed with Mobile and decided to relocate in 1902, with his name first appearing in the *Mobile-Press Register* as an architect in 1903. (24) He would go on to be one of, if not the most, prolific architect in Mobile from the early 1900's to 1945. He was made a fellow of the American Institute of Architects in 1941, an honor bestowed on fewer than two percent of all registered architects in the United States. (25)

Rogers was prolific in commercial, religious, civic, and residential designs and altered the lasting architectural landscape of the greater Mobile for generations to come. Fairhope, Alabama, is located 20 miles from Mobile on the eastern shore of Mobile Bay. A sampling of his design achievements include the George Fearn House (1904), Van Antwerp Building (1907), Dave Patton House (1915), Scottish Rite Temple (1921), Murphy High School (1926), Bellingrath Gardens and Home (1927), and Mobile Public Library (1928). These projects are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. According to Architectural Historian Elizabeth Gould, Rogers was also responsible for the first brick veneer house in Mobile. The technique was implemented in 1908 for the Ralph Richards residence on Michigan Avenue. (26)

When comparing the original design and layout of the clubhouse for the Mobile Women's Business Club, many elements representative of Rogers are evident. Comparing the clubhouse to his residences in Mobile, issues of openness, cross ventilation, outdoor galleries, and series of casement openings are all prevalent and translated to his Gulf Coast Vernacular design in Fairhope. One difference is the use of wood siding as opposed to his grander designs in Mobile that often featured brick or stucco. The abrasive condition of being situated on the coast, combined with a more economical format for construction, surely led to this decision. Furthermore, wood siding is ubiquitous on the Eastern Shore of Mobile Bay when examining the coastal residences of the period, primarily in Battles Wharf, a nearby National Register Historic District.

The structure, when completed in 1913, was an exemplary example of an early 20<sup>th</sup> century Gulf Coast inspired residence/meeting house which has since been transitioned into an American Legion meeting hall. The architectural and timber building tradition of Gulf Coast residences is evidenced by the three significant periods of construction, ranging from 1913 to 1963. The interior arrangement allowed for a cross-breeze and the evidence of galleries on three elevations indicate a strong relationship between the functions of the built environment and realties of the comfort and climate before the installation of electricity, or more specifically, climate control. Exterior architectural detailing reflects a coastal combination of detailing influenced by Gulf Coast and localized vernacular arrangements, differentiating the structure from the Greek Revival, Classical Revival, and Italianate residences of the period. Having survived a century of hurricanes and the aggressive population expansion and commercial/residential development of Baldwin County in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, the structure stands as an icon representative of the architectural history of Fairhope and the Eastern Shore of Baldwin County during the period of significance.

Ventilation and air control was the primary driving force underneath the design in 1913. In addition to galleries on three elevations, the ceilings were all at a height to allow for greater ventilation and interior comfort. The structure featured a string of French doors, casement windows, and transom windows throughout. These features were common amongst residences on the Gulf Coast and Mobile during the period of construction, especially near the coast. (27) Along the same lines, the feel and tone of the structure has the feel of some of the "rural" country homes, constructed outside of Mobile during the early 1900's. Parallels include a hipped roof, broad porches and galleries, and interior central hallways that allow for access to every room and cross-ventilation. Furthermore, the lack of Greek-Revival elements reflects the rural character of the building. (28) In feeling, style, scale, and function, the residence more closely resembles the French plantation houses of the 19<sup>th</sup> century found on the Alabama, Mississippi Gulf Coast and Louisiana. Along the lines of a French plantation house, many similarities can be found between the structure and the Oakley Plantation, constructed near St. Francisville, LA, c. 1800. The inclusion of dormer windows on every elevation, a raised construction, and the symmetry of exterior porches and galleries all support to this comparison. (29)

When examining the architectural education of George B. Rogers, it should be no surprise that the original gallery included elements of the Craftsman Style of architecture. While classically trained in the Beaux-Arts tradition, Rogers' understanding of form, function, and location is evidenced by his residential designs in south Alabama. The gallery is decidedly Craftsman, both in terms of detailing and purpose. The emphasis was on humble materials, with proudly exposed construction joints,

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with a sense of a locally customized utilitarian product. (30) This style was typically reserved for simple bungalows and workman's cottages; however, the thrifty and self-sustainable ethos of the Mobile Business Women's Club is reflected in the detailing. The founding principles of the organization did not lend to frivolous adornments, but instead the design was intended to serve a purpose within a budget.

The ground floor porch and second floor gallery were enclosed using wood siding, to match the east elevation, in 1963. It was then that the American Legion Post 199 purchased the property and made alterations, reflective of a need for internal climate control. Many of the original doors and windows from 1913 were repurposed within openings on the new elevations. The remaining French Doors have been preserved in storage on the third floor. The original second floor gallery decking remains in place, and all the original second floor exterior walls have been preserved without alterations. These walls, now internal, retain the original wood siding, openings, corridors, and in some location even the metal hardware used to keep the French doors open. The original brick fireplaces and mantels on each floor have been preserved.

The enclosure of the porch and gallery in 1963 should not be considered a detrimental alteration that disqualifies this structure from being listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The alterations are just as important to the history and architecture of the structure as the original 1913 design. The decision to enclose the porch and gallery was carefully considered, reflected in the use of wood siding and the repurposing of many of the doors and windows. This alteration further reflects the technology of the period and how the built environment was being altered in the name of modern climate control and internal comfort. This was revolutionary for the period and signifies the next phase of life for the structure. Furthermore, the 1963 design is still reflective of the overall character and tone of the Gulf Coast vernacular, and does not destroy the original character and intent of the design, as intended by George B. Rogers.

The combination of localized coastal vernacular elements creates a distinctive Gulf Coast architectural style, exemplified by the Mobile Business Women's Club and later by the function of the American Legion. It is for these reasons, and the fact that the site has maintained historic integrity, that the period of architectural significance for the structure ranges from 1913 to 1963 under Criterion C.

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### 9. Major Bibliographic References

Bibliography (cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form)

- 1. Journal of Constructive Philanthropy, Volume 32, April 1914- September 1914, pg. 396.
- 2. Fairhope Guidebook, Rosanne Gulisano. Undated. Held at the Foley Public Library.
- 3. Journal of Constructive Philanthropy. Volume 32, April 1914- September 1914, pg. 396.
- 4. Journal of Constructive Philanthropy. Volume 32, April 1914- September 1914, pg. 396.
- 5. Mobile Press-Register, Mobile, Alabama, September 1, 1922.
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- 7. The Baldwin Times, Bay Minette, Alabama. June 1, 1922.
- 8. Fairhope Single Tax Corporation files, located in Fairhope, Alabama.
- 9. The Baldwin Times, Bay Minette, Alabama, August 28, 1913.
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- 11. The Baldwin Times, Bay Minette, Alabama, July 17, 1913.
- 12. The Baldwin Times, Bay Minette, Alabama, August 21, 1913
- 13. Fairhope Guidebook, Rosanne Gulisano. Undated. Held at the Foley Public Library.
- 14. American Legion Post 99 Files, located at Fairhope Public Library. Dated August 28, 1925.
- 15. American Legion Post 99 Files, located at Fairhope Public Library. Dated May 25, 1932.
- 16. Mobile Press-Register, Mobile, Alabama, 1971.
- 17. Mobile Press-Register, Mobile, Alabama, January 15, 1977
- 18. American Legion Post 199 and 99 Files, located at Fairhope Public Library. Dated February 14, 1944
- 19. Letter from the desk of Cecil G. Chason, dated February 9, 1963. Fairhope Public Library.
- 20. The website of American Legion Post 199, http://www.americanlegion199.com/about.html
- 21. Mobile Press-Register, Baldwin Edition, Mobile, Alabama, October 12, 2012
- 22. Welsh, Frank S. (2007). "Paint, Caen Stone, and Acoustical Plaster at the Public Library in Mobile, Alabama". <u>APT Bulletin</u>. pg. 38
- 23. Murphy High School, Mobile, Alabama, National Register of Historic Places Application. Approved by the Department of the Interior November 4, 1982.
- 24. Gould, E. B. (1997). From builders to architects: The Hobart-Hutchisson six. Montgomery, AL: Black Belt Press. pg. 107
- 25. AIA Fellows. Alabama Council of The American Institute of Architects (AIA).
- 26. Gould, Elizabeth Barrett. 1988. From fort to port: an architectural history of Mobile, Alabama, 1711-1918. Tuscaloosa: University of Alabama Press. pg. 228
- 27. Gould, Elizabeth Barrett. 1988. From fort to port: an architectural history of Mobile, Alabama, 1711-1918. Tuscaloosa: University of Alabama Press. pg. 151
- 28. Gould, Elizabeth Barrett. 1988. From fort to port: an architectural history of Mobile, Alabama, 1711-1918. Tuscaloosa: University of Alabama Press. pp. 118-120
- 29. Foster, Gerald L. 2004. *American houses: a field guide to the architecture of the home*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin. pp 168-185
- 30. Morgan, W., Kurzaj, R., Pratt, N., & Olsen, R. E. (2008). *The Abrams guide to American house styles*. New York: Abrams. pg. 258

Previous documentation of file (NPS):			
Г	preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested		
	previously listed in the National Register		
	previously determined eligible by the National Register		
	designated a National Historic Landmark		
	recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #		
	recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #		
Г	recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey #		

NPS Form 10-900 OMB No. 1024-0018 American Legion Post 199 Baldwin, AL Name of Property County and State Primary location of additional data: State Historic Preservation Office Other State agency Federal agency Local government University Other Name of repository: Fairhope Public Library Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): 10. Geographical Data Acreage of Property 3.11 Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates Latitude/Longitude Coordinates (decimal degrees) Datum if other than WGS84: Enter coordinates to 6 decimal places. 1. Latitude: 30.512665 Longitude: -87.918485 Longitude: 2. Latitude: 30.513381 -87.919773 30.513829 Longitude: 3. Latitude: -87.919220 4. Latitude: 30.513113 Longitude: -87.918244 OR **UTM References** Datum (indicated on USGS map): **NAD 1927 NAD 1983** 1. Zone: Northing: Easting: 2. Zone: Easting: Northing: 3. Zone: Easting: Northina: 4. Zone: Easting: Northing:

### **Verbal Boundary Description** (describe the boundaries of the property)

United States Department of the Interior

National Park Service / National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

The boundaries of the American Legion Post 199 are defined by standard elements, such as a road, shoreline, and lot lines. The eastern property boundary is demarcated by S. Mobile Street, also known as Scenic Highway 98. The western property boundary is demarcated by the shores of Mobile Bay. The northern and southern boundary lines are less obvious. The northern line is marked by the driveway, separating the property from the public park on the bluff, overlooking Mobile Bay. The southern boundary line is noted by a shell road leading to Mobile Bay from S. Mobile Street. This path is historically known as Denton Lane. The lot line is not the road, but instead is to the north of this road by approximately 20 feet.

#### Boundary Justification (explain why the boundaries were selected)

The boundaries were selected as they reflect the legal lot owned by the American Legion 199, which also reflects the historical size and function of the property. The water and road are obvious points where the property ends on the east and west points, with the north and south being less obvious, as they blend into green spaces.

American Legion Post 199	Baldwin, AL
Name of Property	County and State

OMB No. 1024-0018

11. Form prepared by:						
Name/Title:	Stephen McNair, Ph.D.					
Organization:	McNair Historic Preservation, Inc.					
Street & number:	2151 Government Street					
City/Town:	Mobile	State: AL	Zip Code:	36606		
Email: smcnair@	mcnairhp.com		Phone:	334.303.3029		
Date: October 1	4, 2017					

#### **Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- Maps: A USGS map or equivalent (7.5 or 15-minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- Additional items: Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.

American Legion Post 199

Name of Property

OMB No. 1024-0018

Baldwin, AL County and State

#### **Photographs**

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

#### **Photo Log**

Name or Property: Fairhope American Legion Post 199

City or Vicinity: Fairhope
County: Baldwin State: AL
Photographer: Stephen McNair
Date Photographed: October 1, 2017

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

Photo #1 (AL\_Baldwin\_County\_American\_Legion 1)

Exterior. Camera facing southeast.

Photo #2 (AL\_Baldwin\_County\_American\_Legion 2)

Exterior. Camera facing southwest.

Photo #3 (AL\_Baldwin\_County\_American\_Legion 3)

Exterior. Camera facing southwest.

Photo #4 (AL Baldwin County American Legion 4)

Exterior. Camera facing south.

Photo #5 (AL\_Baldwin\_County\_American\_Legion 5)

Exterior. Camera facing southwest.

Photo #6 (AL\_Baldwin\_County\_American\_Legion 6)

Exterior. Camera facing south.

Photo #7 (AL\_Baldwin\_County\_American\_Legion 7)

Exterior. Camera facing northwest.

Photo #8 (AL Baldwin County American Legion 8)

Exterior. Camera facing north.

Photo #9 (AL\_Baldwin\_County\_American\_Legion 9)

Exterior. Camera facing northwest.

Photo #10 (AL Baldwin County American Legion 10)

Exterior. Camera facing south.

Photo #11 (AL Baldwin County American Legion 11)

Exterior. Camera facing northwest.

Photo #12 (AL\_Baldwin\_County\_American\_Legion 12)

Exterior. Camera facing north.

Photo #13 (AL Baldwin County American Legion 13)

Exterior. Non-Contributing buildings. Camera facing southwest.

Photo #14 (AL Baldwin County American Legion 14)

Exterior. Camera facing northeast.

Photo #15 (AL\_Baldwin\_County\_American\_Legion 15)

### American Legion Post 199

Name of Property

Exterior. Camera facing southeast.

Photo #16 (AL\_Baldwin\_County\_American\_Legion 16) Exterior. Camera facing southeast.

Photo #17 (AL\_Baldwin\_County\_American\_Legion 17) Exterior. Non-Contributing buildings. Camera facing southwest.

Photo #18 (AL\_Baldwin\_County\_American\_Legion 18) Exterior. Camera facing east.

Photo #19 (AL\_Baldwin\_County\_American\_Legion 19) Exterior. Camera facing east.

Photo #20 (AL\_Baldwin\_County\_American\_Legion 20) Exterior. Camera facing northwest.

Photo #21 (AL\_Baldwin\_County\_American\_Legion 21) Exterior. Camera facing east.

Photo #22 (AL\_Baldwin\_County\_American\_Legion 22) Exterior. Camera facing northwest.

Photo #23 (AL\_Baldwin\_County\_American\_Legion 23) Exterior. Camera facing southeast.

Photo #24 (AL\_Baldwin\_County\_American\_Legion 24) Exterior. Camera facing south.

Photo #25 (AL\_Baldwin\_County\_American\_Legion 25) Exterior. Camera facing southwest.

Photo #26 (AL\_Baldwin\_County\_American\_Legion 26) Exterior. Camera facing north.

Photo #27 (AL\_Baldwin\_County\_American\_Legion 27) Exterior. Camera facing northeast.

Photo #28 (AL\_Baldwin\_County\_American\_Legion 28) Exterior. Camera facing northwest.

Photo #29 (AL\_Baldwin\_County\_American\_Legion 29) Exterior. Camera facing southeast.

Photo #30 (AL\_Baldwin\_County\_American\_Legion 30) Interior, ground floor. Camera facing northeast.

Photo #31 (AL\_Baldwin\_County\_American\_Legion 31) Interior, ground floor. Camera facing northwest.

Photo #32 (AL\_Baldwin\_County\_American\_Legion 32) Interior, ground floor. Camera facing southeast.

Photo #33 (AL\_Baldwin\_County\_American\_Legion 33) Interior, ground floor. Camera facing west.

Photo #34 (AL\_Baldwin\_County\_American\_Legion 34) Interior, ground floor. Camera facing west.

Photo #35 (AL\_Baldwin\_County\_American\_Legion 35) Interior, ground floor. Camera facing southeast.

OMB No. 1024-0018

Baldwin, AL County and State

### American Legion Post 199

Name of Property

Baldwin, AL County and State

OMB No. 1024-0018

Photo #36 (AL\_Baldwin\_County\_American\_Legion 36) Interior, ground floor. Camera facing west.

Photo #37 (AL\_Baldwin\_County\_American\_Legion 37) Interior, ground floor. Camera facing southeast.

Photo #38 (AL\_Baldwin\_County\_American\_Legion 38) Interior, ground floor. Stairwell. Camera facing southeast.

Photo #39 (AL\_Baldwin\_County\_American\_Legion 39) Interior, second floor. Camera facing northwest.

Photo #40 (AL\_Baldwin\_County\_American\_Legion 40) Interior, second floor. Camera facing north.

Photo #41 (AL\_Baldwin\_County\_American\_Legion 41) Interior, second floor. Camera facing southeast.

Photo #42 (AL\_Baldwin\_County\_American\_Legion 42) Interior, second floor. Camera facing southeast.

Photo #43 (AL\_Baldwin\_County\_American\_Legion 43) Interior, second floor. Camera facing east.

Photo #44 (AL\_Baldwin\_County\_American\_Legion 44) Interior, second floor. Camera facing east.

Photo #45(AL\_Baldwin\_County\_American\_Legion 45) Interior, second floor. Camera facing northwest.

Photo #46 (AL\_Baldwin\_County\_American\_Legion 46) Interior, second floor. Camera facing south.

Photo #47 (AL\_Baldwin\_County\_American\_Legion 47) Interior, second floor. Camera facing northeast.

Photo #48 (AL\_Baldwin\_County\_American\_Legion 48) Interior, second floor. Camera facing southwest.

Photo #49 (AL\_Baldwin\_County\_American\_Legion 49) Interior, second floor. Camera facing northwest.

Photo #50 (AL\_Baldwin\_County\_American\_Legion 50) Interior, second floor. Camera facing north.

Photo #51 (AL\_Baldwin\_County\_American\_Legion 51) Interior, second floor. Camera facing east.

Photo #52 (AL\_Baldwin\_County\_American\_Legion 52) Interior, second floor. Camera facing northeast.

Photo #53 (AL\_Baldwin\_County\_American\_Legion 53) Interior, second floor. Camera facing northwest.

Photo #54 (AL\_Baldwin\_County\_American\_Legion 54) Interior, second floor. Camera facing southwest.

Photo #55 (AL\_Baldwin\_County\_American\_Legion 55) Interior, second floor. Camera facing east.

American Legion Post 199

Name of Property

Photo #56 (AL\_Baldwin\_County\_American\_Legion 56) Interior, second floor. Camera facing south.

Photo #57 (AL\_Baldwin\_County\_American\_Legion 57) Interior, second floor. Camera facing southeast.

Photo #58 (AL\_Baldwin\_County\_American\_Legion 58) Interior, second floor. Staircase. Camera facing south.

Photo #59 (AL\_Baldwin\_County\_American\_Legion 59) Interior, second floor. Camera facing west.

Photo #60 (AL\_Baldwin\_County\_American\_Legion 60) Interior, second floor. Camera facing northwest.

Photo #61 (AL\_Baldwin\_County\_American\_Legion 61) Interior, third floor. Camera facing southeast.

Photo #62 (AL\_Baldwin\_County\_American\_Legion 62) Interior, third floor. Camera facing southeast.

Photo #63 (AL\_Baldwin\_County\_American\_Legion 63) Interior, third floor. Camera facing east.

Photo #64 (AL\_Baldwin\_County\_American\_Legion 64) Interior, third floor. Camera facing south.

Photo #65 (AL\_Baldwin\_County\_American\_Legion 65) Interior, third floor. Camera facing northeast.

Photo #66 (AL\_Baldwin\_County\_American\_Legion 66) Interior, third floor. Camera facing south.

Photo #67 (AL\_Baldwin\_County\_American\_Legion 67) Interior, third floor. Camera facing north.

Photo #68 (AL\_Baldwin\_County\_American\_Legion 68) Interior, third floor. Camera facing west.

Photo #69 (AL\_Baldwin\_County\_American\_Legion 69) Interior, third floor. Camera facing north.

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement**: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management. U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

OMB No. 1024-0018

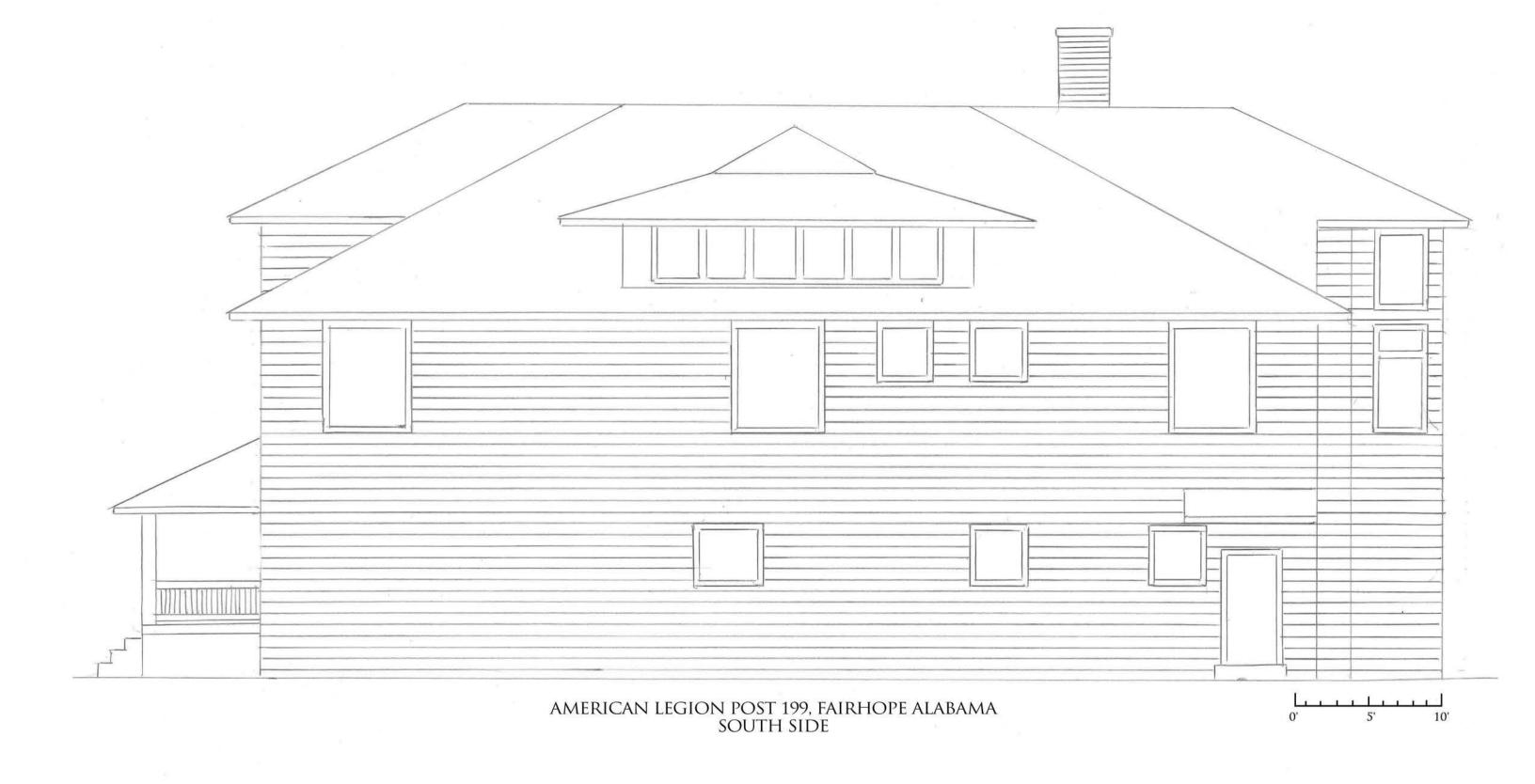
Baldwin, AL

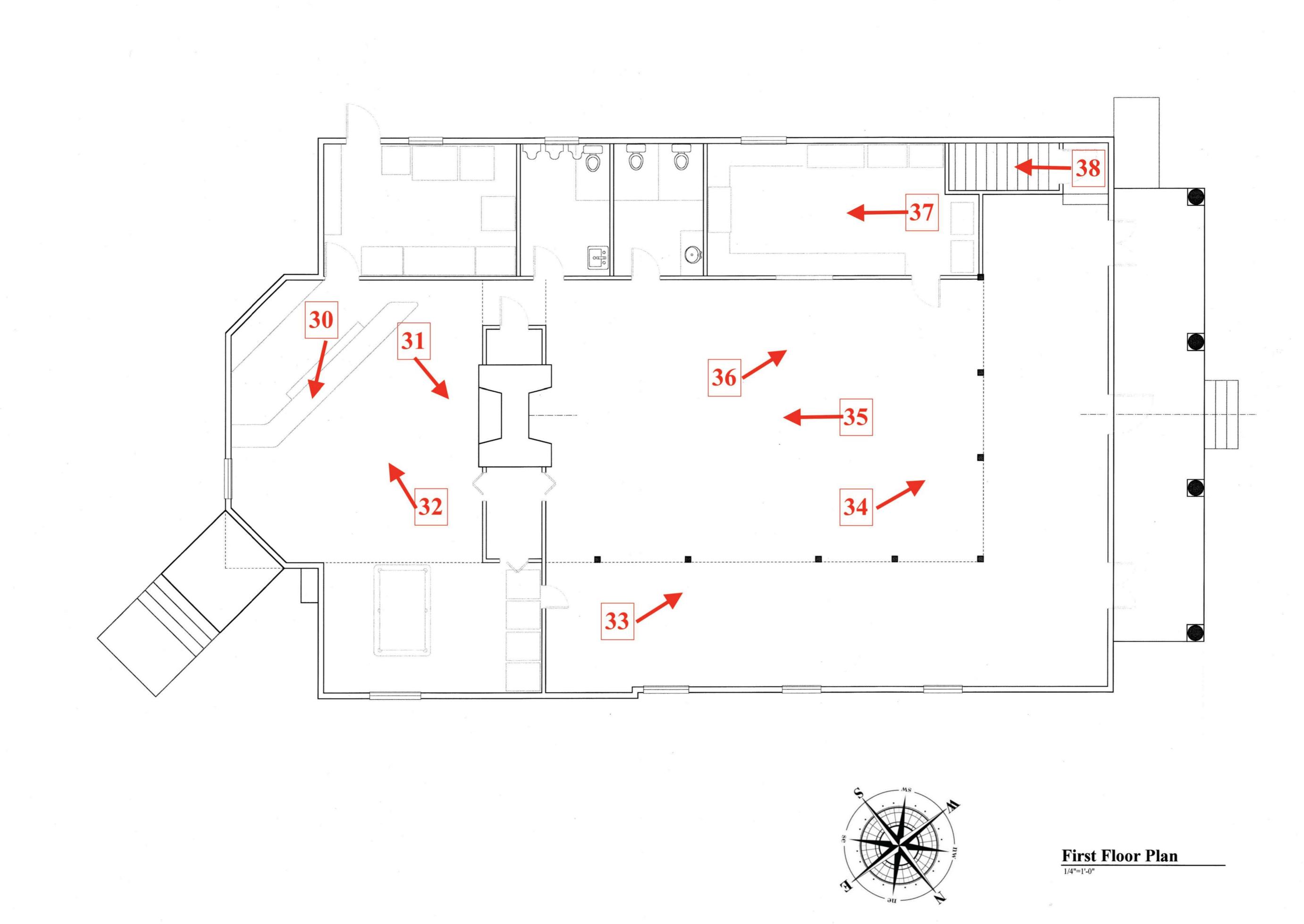
County and State











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ADAMS
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ARCHITECTS

39 N. SECTION STREET FAIRHOPE, AL. 36532 (251) 928-6041

novations & Additions to merican Legion

Date

Revised

Revised

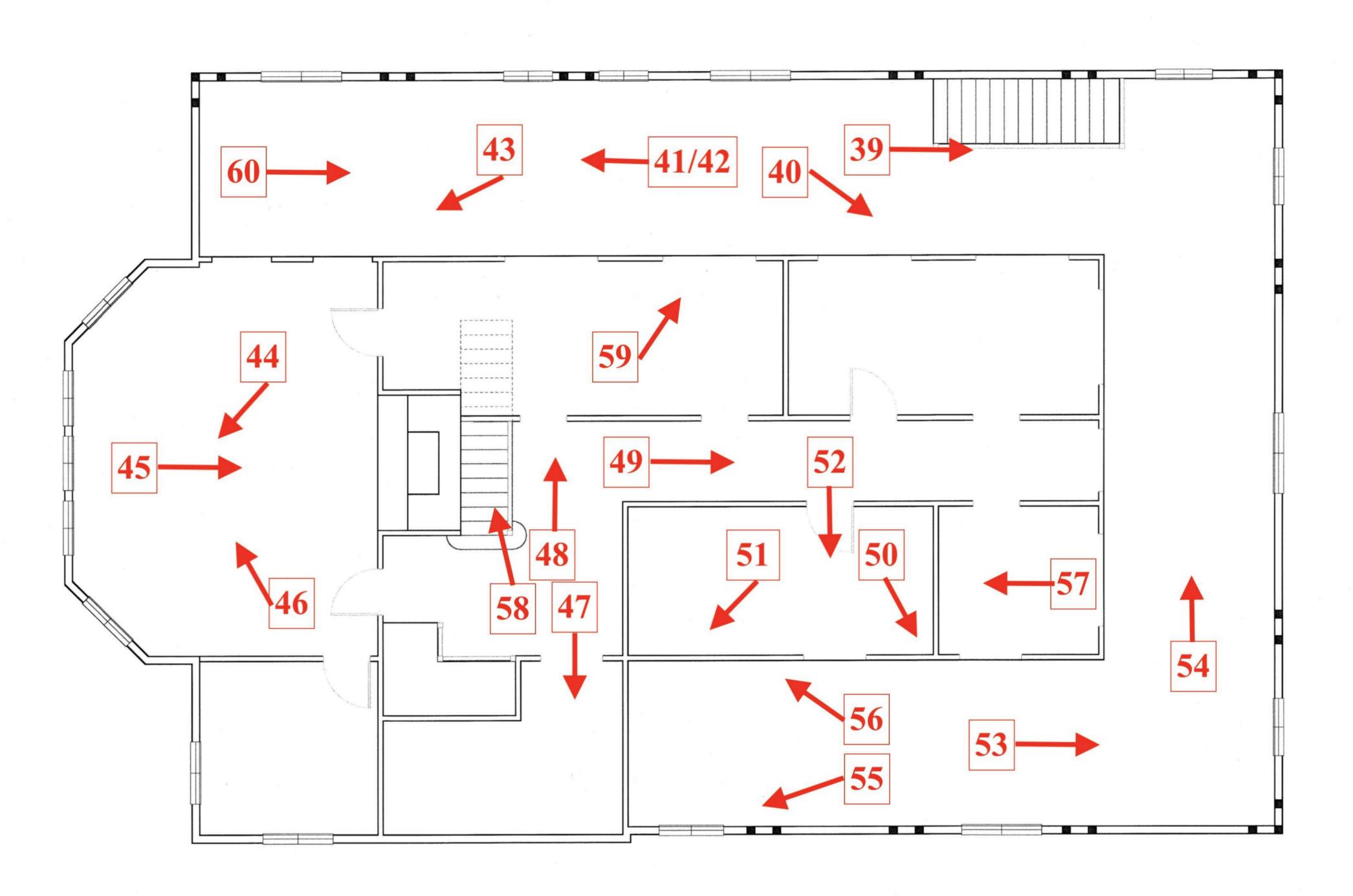
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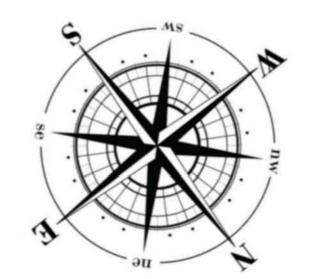
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1st Floor Plans







Second Floor Plan

1/4"=1'-0"

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nerican Legions to

Date

Revised

Revised

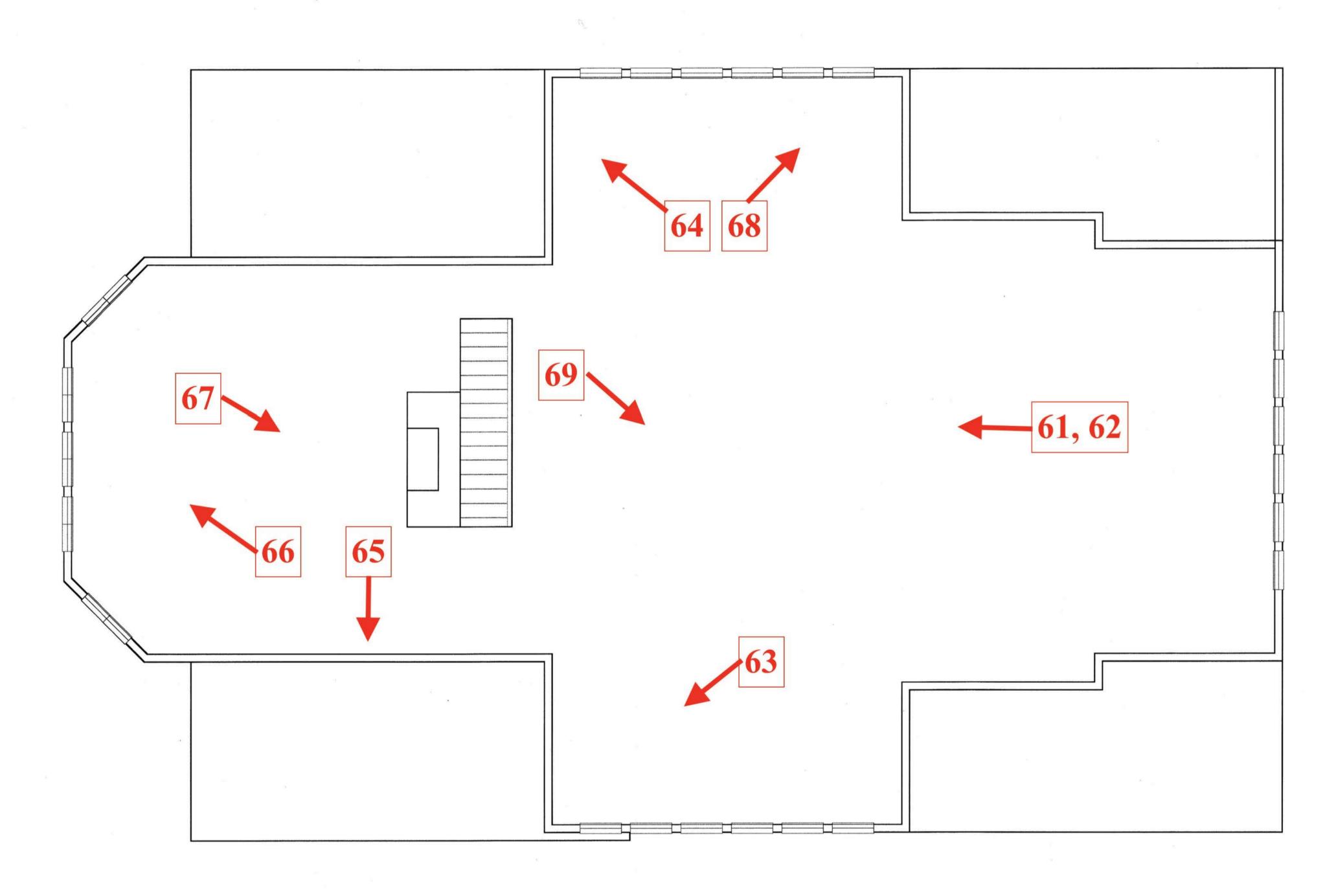
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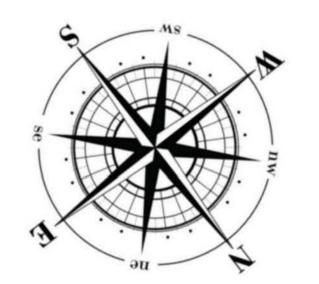
A1.2

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2nd Floor Plans







Third Floor Plan

1/4"=1'-0"

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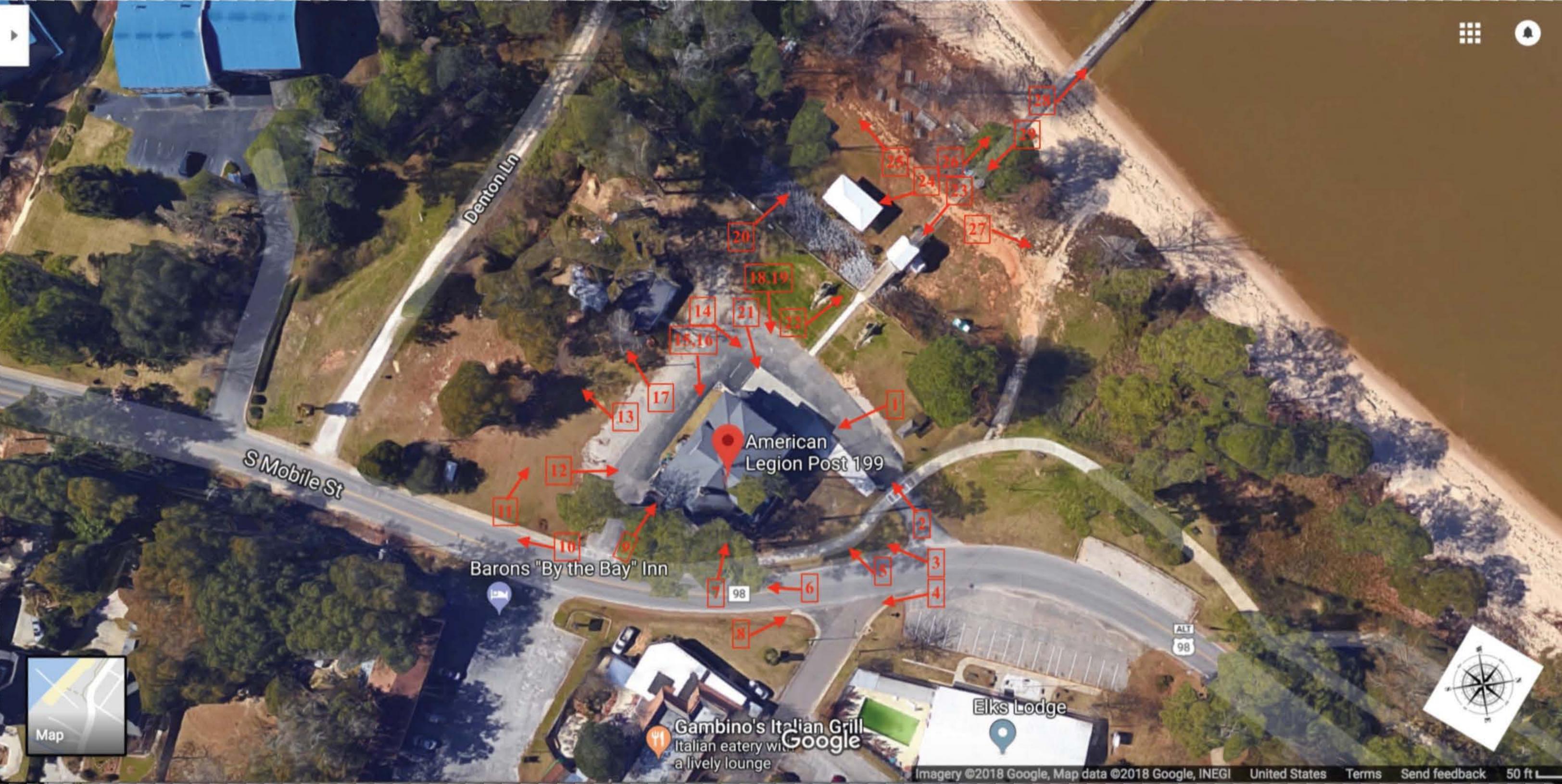
39 N. SECTION STREET FAIRHOPE, AL. 36532 (251) 928-6041

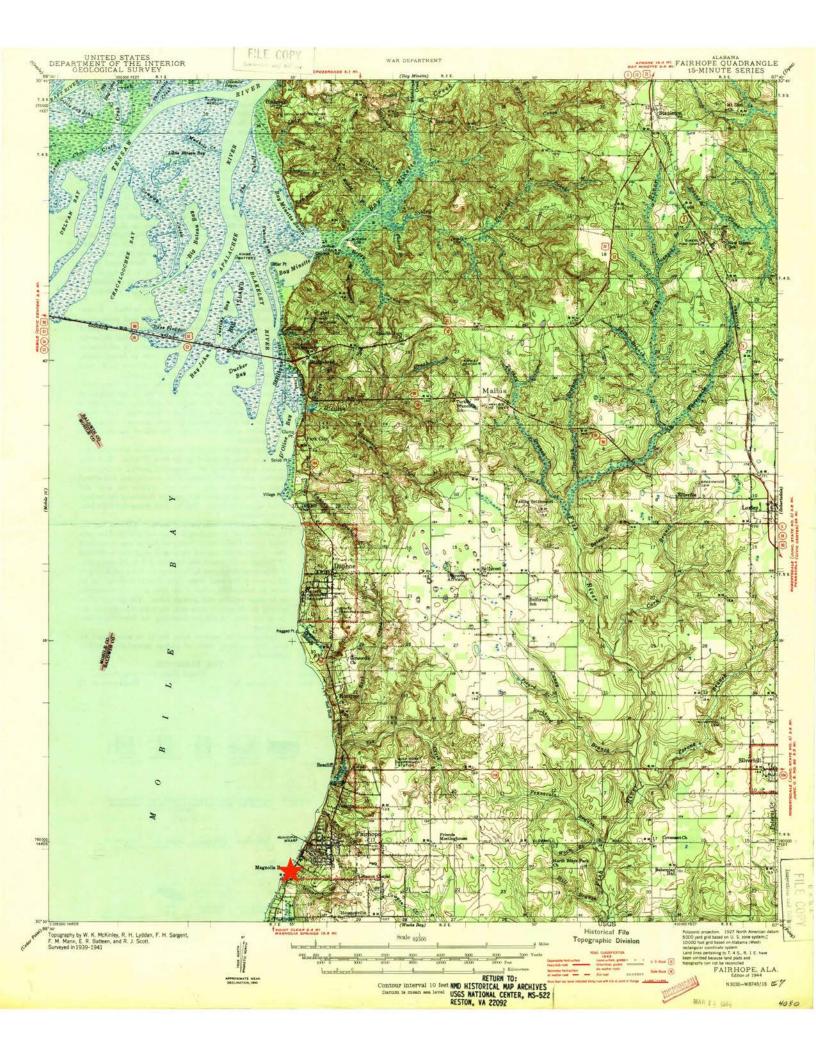
Renovations & Additions to American Legion

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3rd Floor Plans

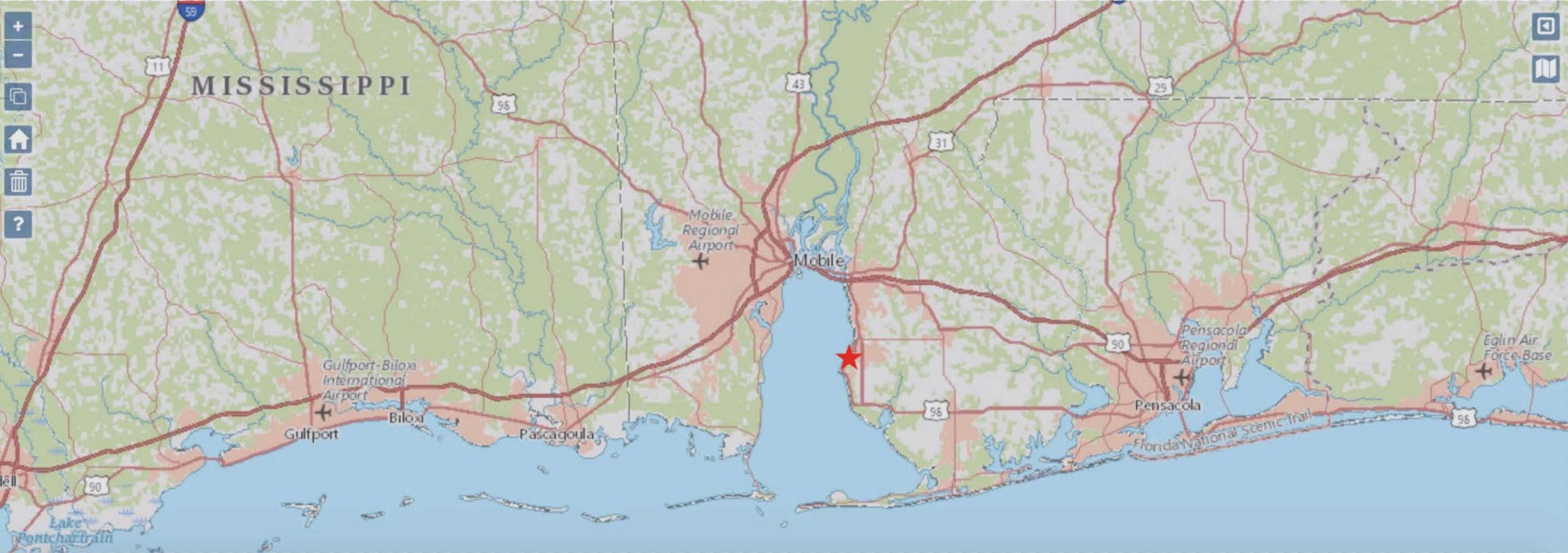


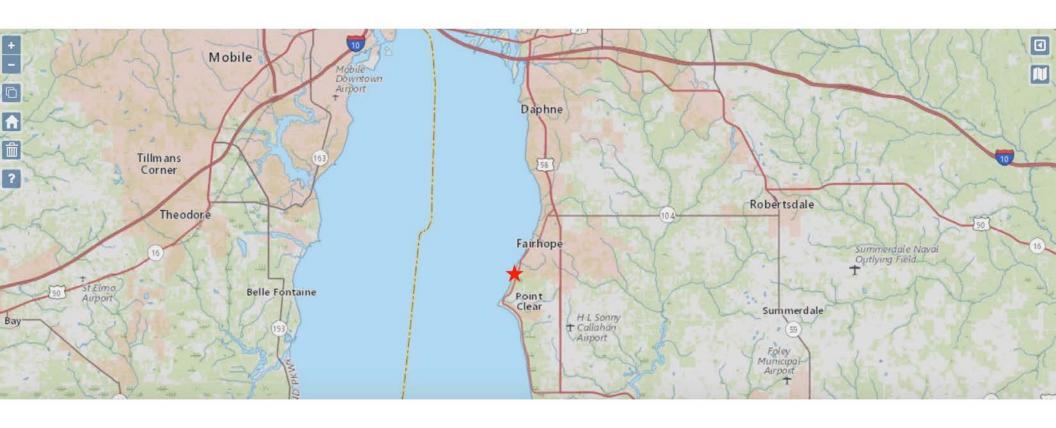


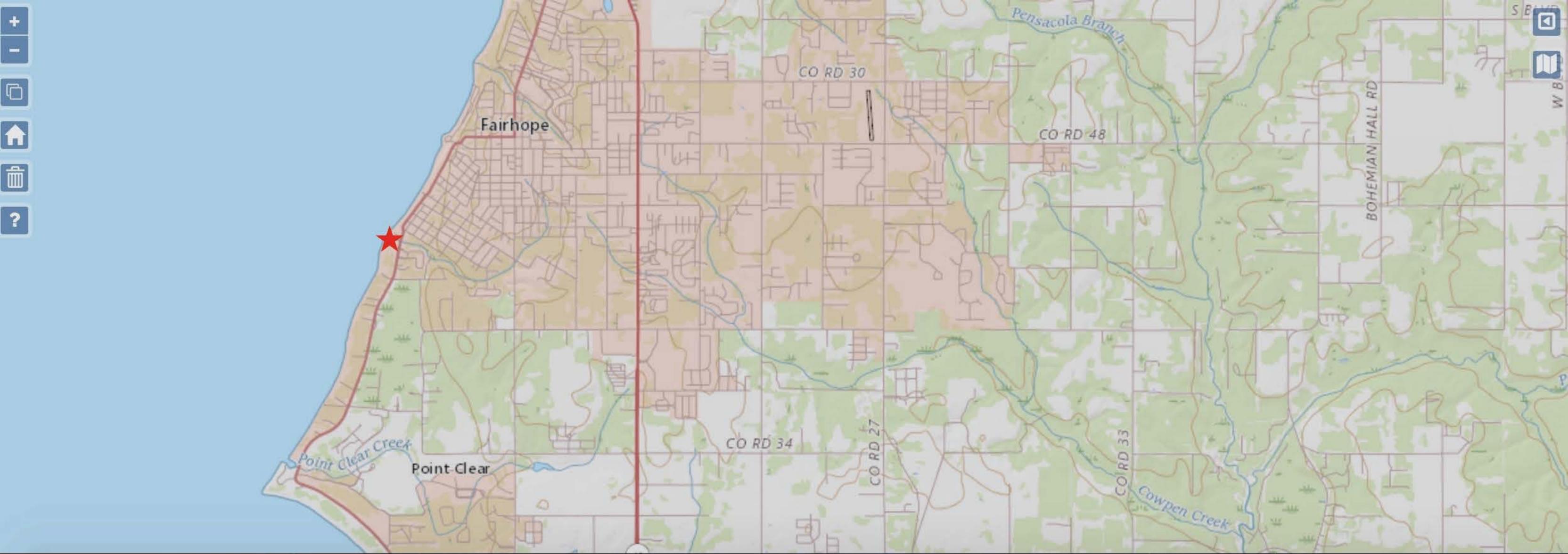


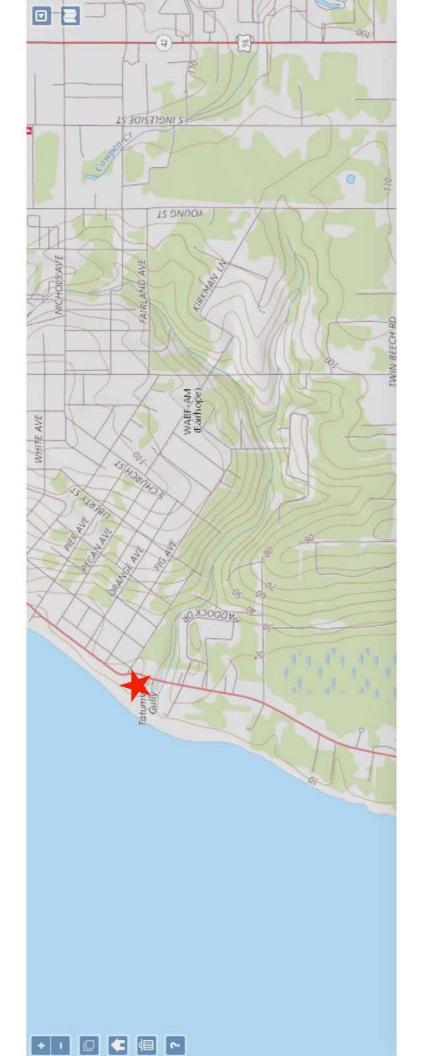






















































































































































## UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action:	Nomination	
Property Name:	American Legion Post 199	
Multiple Name:		
State & County:	ALABAMA, Baldwin	
Date Rece 7/25/201		/ List
Reference number:	: SG100002858	
Nominator:	State	
Reason For Review	v:	
X Accept  Abstract/Summary Comments:	ReturnReject9/6/2018 Date  AOS: Entertainment/Recreation, Architecture; POS: 1913-1963; LOS: local.	
Recommendation/ Criteria	NR Criteria A and C.	
Reviewer Lisa De	Deline Discipline Historian	-
Telephone (202)3	Date 9/6/18	_
DOCUMENTATION	N: see attached comments : No see attached SLR : No	_

National Park Service.



## ALABAMA HISTORICAL COMMISSION

468 South Perry Street P.O. Box 300900 Montgomery, Alabama 36130-0900 334-242-3184 / Fax: 334-240-3477 Lisa D. Jones Executive Director State Historic Preservation Officer

July 23, 2018

Ms. Joy Beasley Keeper of the National Register National Park Service 1849 C Street NW Room 3316 Washington, DC 20240



Dear Ms. Beasley:

Enclosed please find the nomination and supporting documentation to be considered for listing the following Alabama resource in the National Register of Historic Places:

American Legion Post 199
Fairhope, Baldwin County, Alabama

Your consideration of the enclosed National Register of Historic Places nomination is appreciated.

Sincerely,

Lee Anne Wofford

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

LAW/nw

**Enclosures**