

HISTORIC RESOURCES WITHIN MUNICIPAL LIMITS

OF FAIRHOPE, AL.  
(Multiple Resource)

Name: White Avenue Historic District

Street Addresses:

White Avenue: 9,11,17,51,53,55,57,61

Owners: See attachment

Acreage: Approximately 5

UTM: A-16/413/460/3376/470  
B-16/413/500/3376/440  
C-16/413/640/3376/550  
D-16/413/610/3376/600

Verbal boundary description: See black line on attached map.

Boundary Justification: The lines were drawn for the White Avenue District to include the greatest concentration of intact housing with the least amount of non-contributing intrusions.

Architectural/Builder: Unknown/Various

Statement of Significance

Period of Significance: 1915-1935

Criterion C-Architecture:

The White Avenue District is a significant collection of residential buildings which respond to Fairhope's egalitarian building tradition through the use of modest materials. Particularly notable are 55 White (1924) and 57 White (1924) with their second story sun rooms, 51 White (c. 1915) with its large square dormer over the attached porch and 61 White (1916) with its large, gabled dormer over a recessed porch. All eight houses in the district employ modest materials; drop siding, frame, stucco and shingles.

Criterion A-Community Planning:

The White Avenue Historic District is significant for its egalitarian layout, planned to give each resident a view of the bay. White Avenue widens toward the bay providing each lot with a view. In addition, water oaks and magnolias line the street, planted shortly after the lots were drawn off, and illustrate the Fairhoper's provision for an aesthetically pleasing townscape.

Criterion A-Economic/Philosophy:

The White Avenue Historic District is significant as part of the first and largest Single-Tax enclave in the United States. The White Avenue Historic District illustrates the Fairhoper's practical efforts at realizing a utopian society through an economic philosophy.

Criterion A-Entertainment/Recreation:

The White Avenue Historic District is significant as a vacation and resort for Mobilians and Northerners. Several of the houses were rented to tourists, as was common all over town.

Criterion A-Exploration/Settlement:

The White Avenue Historic District is significant as part of the geographical focus for a utopian experiment. The district was one of the earlier sections of town, the land being purchased in 1906.

Description:

The White Avenue Historic District consists of eight houses, all on the north side of the street. White Avenue runs west from Section Street until it intersects with Equity Street. It then runs northwest (parallel to Stack's Gully and Fels, Morphy and Cliff) to South Bayview Avenue. Here White jogs to the south before running northwest the last block to Mobile Street and bay frontage. The district begins with 9 White (one house east of the junction with Mobile Street), and includes 11,17,51,53,55,57 and 61 (on the corner of White and South Bayview). These historic houses date from the teens and twenties and are typical of Fairhope in their use of porches, dormers and modest construction materials such as frame and stucco. Particularly noteworthy are 55 and 57 White with their centered sunrooms as half stories and the shingled porch dormer at 51 White. Recognizable architectural styles include a shotgun (17 White) and a bungalow (11 White) while 61 White appears to be a large Workingman's Foursquare.

Buildings in the district fall into the following categories:

|                            |       |
|----------------------------|-------|
| Contributing Structures    | 8     |
| Noncontributing Structures | 0     |
|                            | <hr/> |
| Total Structures           | 8     |

Historical Summary:

The White Avenue Historic District lies entirely within the White Tract, purchased by the Single-Taxers in April of 1906. This tract, plotted in conformity with Morphy Avenue to the north, was one block wide and ran from Church Street to the bay. The highest concentration of pre-1938 structures lies in the block nearest the bay. Even so, development of the White Tract lagged behind that of Fels Avenue, Morphy Avenue and the area north of Stack's Gully. As late as 1911 this tract was the southernmost limit of Single-Tax holdings (it remains the southernmost Single-Tax land that is connected with the other holdings. A separate parcel to the south was purchased in 1927.). The blocks to the south of White-Pier, Pecan, Orange, Fig and Laurel - are all part of the Magnolia Beach Addition (1910), a non Single-Tax endeavor consisting of deeded property. The houses within the White Avenue Historic District primarily date from the 1920s, the earliest being 51 White (c. 1915) and 61 White (1916). The houses, though displaying some unique features, are fully in keeping with the modest architectural heritage of Fairhope.

Attachment  
Leasees White Avenue

- 9 Charles Lowery  
609 Sherwood Road  
Starkville, Mississippi 39759
- 11 Katherine Carr Estate  
Mrs. E. S. Hildreth  
11 White Avenue  
Fairhope, Alabama 36532
- 17 Steven Thames  
P. O. Box 202  
Pt. Clear, Alabama 36564
- 51 Martin Lanoux  
51 White Avenue  
Fairhope, Alabama 36532
- 53 John Bethea  
53 White Avenue P. O. Box 205  
Fairhope, Alabama 36532
- 55 Mary D. Kelley  
Rt. 3 Box 114  
Harrogate, Tennessee 37752
- 57 William Morgan  
57 White Avenue  
Fairhope, Alabama 36532
- 61 Edward Wall  
61 White Avenue  
Fairhope, Alabama 36532

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 1 #2 - White Avenue Historic DistrictArchitectural Descriptions: Contributing Structures (8)White Avenue

- 1.) 9 White Avenue, 1922 BA-108-25  
One story; drop siding; gable roof sides; recessed, screened porch wraps around two sides; gable peak over entrance with diamond louvered vent.
- 2.) 11 White Avenue, 1924 BA-108-26  
One story; three bay; drop siding; low hip roof; interior brick chimney; recessed front porch, screened, boxed columns and balusters; exposed rafters.
- 3.) 17 White Avenue, 1926 BA-108-27  
One story; stucco; three bay; gable roof front; knee braces; casement windows; gabled, attached porch west side facade, screened.
- 4.) 51 White Avenue, c. 1915 BA-108-28  
One and a half story; frame; gable sides; attached hip roof porch with square dormer, pyramidal roof and lower half shingled; attached second story porch west side, screened; exposed rafters.  
(Aluminum windows in dormer; porch supported on modern iron columns)
- 5.) 53 White Avenue, 1935 BA-108-29  
One story; stucco; gable roof sides; interior brick chimney; attached flat roof porch; craftsman windows.  
(Porch glassed in)
- 6.) 55 White Avenue, 1924 BA-108-30  
One and a half story; stucco under porch; vinyl siding elsewhere; square, four by three bay; low hip roof with low hip roof sun room above, centered, one by one bay; casement windows; exposed rafters; porch recessed south-west corner, other half filled; interior chimney.  
(Vinyl siding)
- 7.) 57 White Avenue, 1924 BA-108-31  
One and a half story; stucco; square, three by three bay; low hip roof with one bay, low hip roof sun room centered above (identical to 55 White); casement windows; recessed porch wraps around two sides, screened; exposed rafters; interior chimney.  
(Sun room has masonite siding)
- 8.) 61 White Avenue, 1916 BA-108-32  
One and a half story; stucco; high hip roof with large, gabled dormers facade and east and west sides; dormers have louvered vent and group three single pane windows; recessed porch covers full facade, supported on four, boxed, paneled columns; craftsman door and pair windows each side; free standing chimney east side; boxed cornice all around.

