

City Hall/Fairhope Museum 1928

The old City Hall, located at 24 N. Section St., was built in 1928 in the Mission Revival Style by O. Forster and Sons. The style was popular at the end of the 19th century and beginning of the 20th century. It is characterized by white stucco walls, clay tile roofs, use of archways, and deep-set doors and windows, Mission Revival architecture was commonly found in California, the southwest, and some parts of Florida. It was a less common architectural style elsewhere, making the old City Hall building a unique example.

The building's roof is flat with very few and shallow overhangs. In a wet climate, such as the heavy rains and hurricanes experienced in Fairhope, this style would seem problematic. Large amounts of rain can pool on the roof and are not directed away from the building's foundation. However, Fairhope's unusually high elevation above Mobile Bay allows an adequate amount of drainage to counteract these problems and has made it possible for the building to endure.

The City Hall originally housed the mayor's office, Council Chamber, jail, and "chemical and hose truck." Space was also provided for public gatherings. Over time, as the city grew, the building was converted into the Fairhope Police Station. In 2002, the police station moved out and the building was mostly unused.

In 2006, renovation and construction began on the Mission Revival building to prepare it for use as the new Fairhope Museum of History. The museum was officially opened April 5, 2008. Under the leadership of Fairhope native and Museum Director, Donnie Barrett, the museum has grown and matured, and is regarded as a treasure trove of the city's history.