

## The Godard Building 1918

Dr. Claude G. Godard (December 2, 1891 - January 14, 1977) served his country and his community for over 60 years.

Claude George Godard came to Fairhope in 1916. A Mobile Medical College graduate, Dr. Godard first practiced medicine with Dr. Clarence Mershon, a practicing physician and owner of Fairhope Pharmacy. Shortly after, Dr. Godard left to serve in World War I in the 52<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division.

Upon his return from service, around 1920, he opened his drugstore and medical practice in the building at 122 Fairhope Avenue. The building, constructed in 1918, is named after Dr. Godard, but he was not the first occupant. Ralph Keller, Fairhope's first rural route mail carrier, lived there before Dr. Godard started his medical practice. Dr. Godard practiced medicine from his office with patients entering the side door along Summit Street.

During his 60 years of medical practice in Fairhope, Dr. Godard delivered hundreds of babies and made thousands of house calls in his Model A Ford. He also founded the local American Legion Post 199 and helped found Thomas Hospital. Dr. Godard is buried in the Fairhope Colony Cemetery.

For several decades Moyers drugstore occupied this space. The building has been renovated/updated several times over the years into one large and two small areas. The larger area served as an antiques store, and an art gallery. The two smaller sections of the building are now used by a salon and a travel agency. Fairhope Film Festival made their headquarters in the smaller back room in 2014, but relocated to the largest area in 2017.