

## **Justice Lowell's Office 1917**

John P. Lowell, Justice of the Peace and owner of JPL Realty, built his office on 334 Fairhope Avenue in 1917. Newspaper coverage of the building's opening reported that Justice Lowell was "very comfortable in his little office". When the Lowell Office closed in 1920, the building at 334 Fairhope Avenue became the home of P. A. "Pink" Creamer's City Barber Shop for many years. From the 1970s to 2002 it housed the Fairhope Health Foods store and, more recently, the Fairhope Fudge Emporium, R. Bistro and Pastry, and The Pearl Seafood Restaurant.

John P. Lowell

John P. Lowell was a man of diverse business and community interests. He owned substantial land holdings in downtown Fairhope and was a close friend of E. B. Gaston, a Fairhope founder. In 1907, he built the first of several cottages on Fels Avenue.

Judge Lowell actively promoted Fairhope and in 1910 photographed the area in order to edit and issue two editions of a popular 30-plus-page souvenir booklet entitled "Fairhope, Alabama, The All-Year Resort of the South."

In addition to being a realtor, insurance agent, notary public and Justice of the Peace, he served as secretary/treasurer of Palmetto Chemical, the drug company that manufactured the popular "Palmetto Blood Remedy"; director and secretary of the Mobile and Baldwin County Rail Road Company; representative for the Baldwin County Alabama Oil Company; and business manager for the Mobile Medical and Surgical Journal. He was appointed to bring education issues to the attention of the Fairhope town council; and was a prominent member of

the Fairhope Yacht Club. In 1918 he became the President of the Local Council of National Defense.

Mr. and Mrs. Lowell, along with Dr. and Mrs. R. A. Quarles, established the St. James Episcopal Church in Fairhope. Meetings were held in the Lowell's home on Fels Avenue until the congregation could purchase and remodel an abandoned church in town.

In 1920, the highly esteemed Justice Lowell died suddenly of heart failure at the age of 63. Judge and Mrs. Lowell had two daughters.

### Structural Description

334 Fairhope Avenue, c. 1917. Small one-story commercial building, about 15' frontage, brick veneer facade, now painted; flat parapet with blind panel below, transom occluded by a metal panel above a modern deep suspended flat metal canopy. Two-bay storefront with a 15-lite door entry and wood-frame plate window.