

Bank of Fairhope 1927

The Bank of Fairhope, 396 Fairhope Avenue, is the building most identified with Fairhope and one of the first on the National Register of Historic Places. Built on the site of the earlier frame Nelson Rockwell Ice Cream Parlor, it is one of the very few buildings in Fairhope designed by an architect, Mobile's William March, and built by Marmaduke Dyson in 1927. It was built first for the Bank of Fairhope, and was the only bank in Baldwin County, AL to survive the Crash and Depression. It was later occupied by the Mobile Press-Register newspaper, and since the 1990's, has housed the Christmas Shop.

The Bank of Fairhope is a two-story Neoclassical Revival building with stucco over tile block, scored on the façade to resemble stone. It is deeply recessed in the front with a tiled-floored loggia porch fronted by two Tuscan columns. The symmetrical façade contains double paneled and glass entry doors flanked by plate show windows. The entry is in a concrete surround with a central cartouche, above which is a round metal clock. Interior stamped tile ceiling on the first floor is intact.