

Fairhope Coal and Supply Company 1936

Located at 335 Fairhope Avenue, The Fairhope Coal and Supply Company was built in 1936 by Marmaduke Dyson and Robert E. Stapleton. As part of a consortium of builders (Dyson, Stapleton, Sheldon, Lawrence, and Johnson), the men hoped to increase their stock of supplies and store them in the supply yard behind the building, which backed up to the Dyson house on Magnolia Avenue. Later and into the 1970's, it was operated as the Fairhope Hardware store. The word "Hardware" appears above the store today in the marquee of the building.

For over forty-five years, Fantasy Island Toys has served Fairhope in this building. It is family-owned and is hailed as "one of the South's favorite neighborhood toy stores" where every toy is selected "to provide the best quality of play."

The other half of the building is now occupied by Tiny Town, a children's clothing shop that has been in Fairhope since 2016.

Structural Description

The building has a smooth, stucco façade over Clay City tile block. It is the second Art Deco building in the city of Fairhope. The decoration on the building includes a ric rac design molding, cast iron medallions that have stylized floral designs, a central recessed entry with fluted pylon surround, and piers with pleats. Curvilinear and geometric design elements are featured. The central entry bay has a stepped-up parapet - a stair design at the top of the triangular gable at the end of the building. A scalloped flat marquee spans the two separate stores. Paired single wood entry doors lead into the shops on either side of the recessed entry.