

Fayette Court House Town/Fayetteville

Many people have been inquiring about the location of homes and businesses in "Old Town" located above 5-Points. When the courthouse burned in 1854 and 1866 all the original deeds and documents were destroyed. People in the county were asked to bring in deeds and official documents in order that records could be duplicated - few did. However, through deeds, wills, and estates probated since that time, some records are available.

The town was surveyed into plots in late 1839 or early 1840. Most of the plots were $\frac{3}{4}$ of an acre in size and each plot was divided into two, three, or four lots. The courthouse sat on a 1 acre lot and those lots located on the eastern boundary of the town were also 1 acre lots.

Many of the streets designated on the plat map are not discernible today. However, if one looks between the Episcopal Church and the church office, one can see the cedar trees which lined Western Alley leading to the original Methodist/Episcopal Church located in the cemetery.

The following are excerpts of an account of where buildings were located in Fayetteville as remembered by Mr. Leon Dodds and told to Mr. Fred McEacherin in 1949 and printed in *The History of Fayette County* compiled by Herbert and Jeanie Newell in 1960.

"I went to school up at Old Town at a place called The Academy which was just west of the Baptist Church next to the cemetery (map #s 33 & 35)." "When I was 18 years old I went to work for F. M. Robertson at Robertson's Store (#19) in Old Town for \$15.00 per month. That was in 1891 and the railroad had been coming to Depot town or Frog level for eight years then.

Bob Robertson, who came to the United States a few years after his brother John C. Robertson came from Scotland, had a harness and saddle shop on the lot where William Humber's home (gray house on the corner of 10th Street and 3rd Ave. N.W.) now stands (#22). Behind this was Tom Oliver's Saloon (#28) and on the east side of that street which led to the depot a mile away, was Naugher Brothers Saloon (#23). Blackburn and Coggins store was across the dirt road from the Humber residence of today (#26).

And across on the corner was the frame Phillips Hotel (#14). East of the hotel and next door to it was S. J. Cannon's Drug Store (#13) and next to that was Propst Brothers livery stables (#12). On the opposite side of the road was the U. S. Post Office operated by Miss Leona Moore (#24)."

"East of the post office was the two-story Jim [John] Moore Hotel (#25) and north of the Phillips Hotel was Dr. Agnew's Drug Store (#10) and next to him was Harkin's and Shelton's General Merchandise Store (9); then Dr. Henry Shelton's two-story home (#7).

The court house faced south and behind it was a two-story wooden jail. When I was a little boy my father was the jailer and I'll never forget the night that a gang of torch-bearing, gun-toting men from an adjoining county came to free one of their pals who was being held in jail. Those angry men had the biggest pistols I have ever seen, before or since.

Across from the court house and next door to the Humber's present-day residence was Harkins and Burris General Merchandise Store (#21) and next to that was F.M. Robertson's warehouse (#20) and his store was located where the Paul Nuckols house stands today (#19).

West of F.M. Robertson's Store was the J. B. Jones Store and upstairs was the newspaper office (#18). I don't recall the name of the paper but the editor was George Gullett, father of George Gullett, Jr. and Jimmy Gullett. Across the alley from this building was M. F. Cannon's store (#17) which later moved to Berry, Ala.

On the same side of the street as the courthouse was the two-story Tom Cannon Store (#15). Then there was a vacant lot and then J. B. Sanford's law office (#16). On the northwest corner opposite the two-story

brick courthouse was Collier and McGuire's law office, two of the prominent attorneys of the day. Mr. McGuire was the father of Mrs. W. B. Bankhead.

On the dirt road (Western Alley), which was either dusty or muddy, was the Methodist Church (#34) on the side of the cemetery. Of course, today's cemetery is where it was in those days, only it's larger. Upstairs over the church was the Odd Fellows meeting hall. The Baptist Church was on the other side of the cemetery (#33) near the school (#35) and the Masonic Order held their meetings upstairs [of the church]."

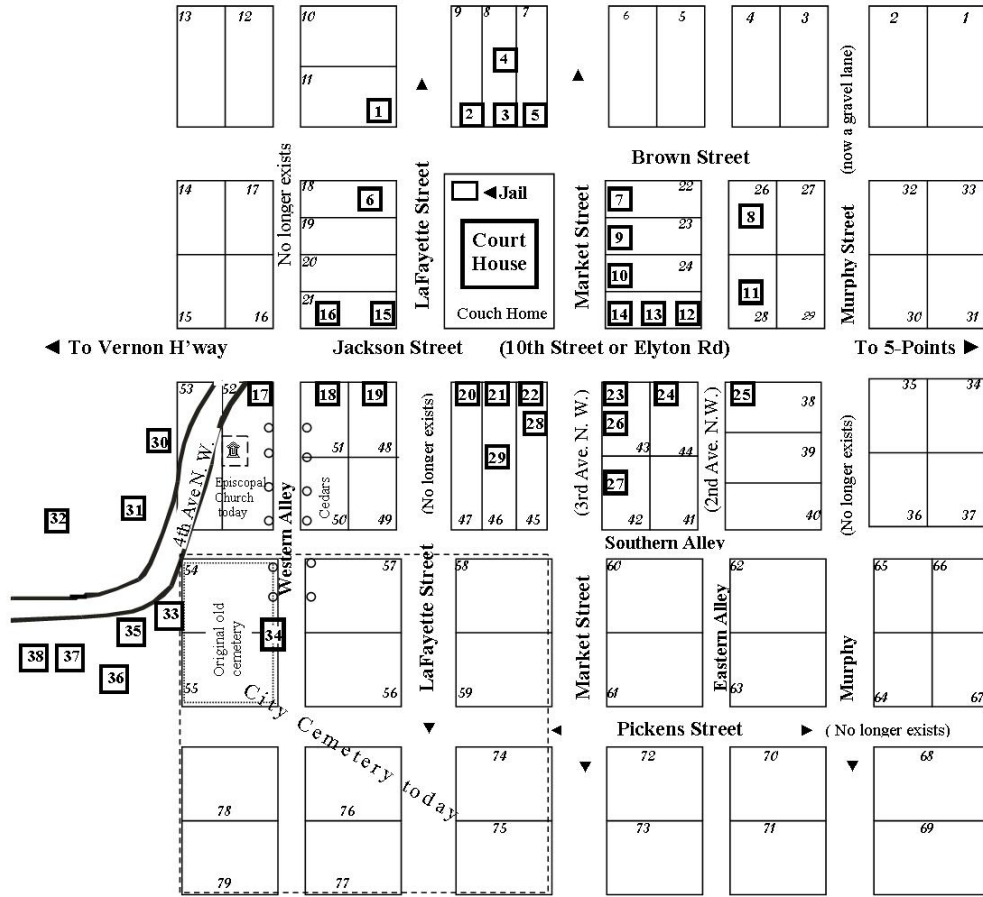
Mr. Bob Robertson's home was located on the site where Jimmy Branyon's home is today (#32) [the red brick home] and the John C. Robertson home was where it is now (#31). [This home no longer stands,.] That ought to give you a pretty good picture of what Old Town looked like before it moved to what is now Fayette."

Records show that land belonging to John C. Moore was sold in January of 1890, shortly after his death, by his wife Mary Ann when she decided to move to Texas to join a daughter living there. John Moore owned a great many of the lots compiling the eastern and southern part of the town.

This description of Fayette Court House Town/Fayetteville is as accurate as possible according to what records remain. If readers know of corrections or have other information to add, please notify some member of the Fayette County Historical Society so that amendments can be made.

North

Fayette Court House Town/Fayetteville



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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Law Office of Collier & McGuire 2. William W. Harkins & John H. Bankhead Offices 3. John Jones (Hotel upstairs) 4. Home of William Worth & Lula Burgess Harkins 5. James H. Hyde & Yerby Bros. Store 6. Home of Dr. William & Isabelle McKay & Jennie Harris 7. Home of Dr. Henry Shelton 8. Judge Holland Middleton Bell Home 9. Harkins & Shelton General Store 10. Dr. Agnew's Drug Store 11. Home of Joseph McGuire 12. Propst Brothers Livery Stable 13. Dr. Cannon's Drug Store 14. Phillip's Hotel 15. Tom Cannon's Store | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 16. John B. Sanford's Law Office 17. Melvin F. Cannon's Store 18. J. B. Jones Store with Fayette Sentinel Newspaper upstairs 19. John C. Robertson Store (later Felix M. Robertson's) 20. Robertson's Warehouse 21. Harkins & Burris Gen. Merchandise 22. Bob Robertson's Harness Shop 23. Naugher Brothers Saloon 24. U. S. Post Office Run by Ms. Leona Moore 25. John C. Moore's Hotel 26. John Blackburn & Geo. Coggins Store 27. John C. Moore's Office 28. Oliver's Saloon 29. Home of Rev. Vincent & Mary 30. Home of Felix & Lucy Belle Robertson | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 31. Home of John C. & Mary Robertson 32. Home of Bob Robertson 33. Baptist Church w/Masonic Lodge Upstairs 34. Methodist/Episcopal Church w Odd Fellows Lodge Upstairs 35. Male & Female Academy 36. Home of Elliott Priest Jones 37. Home of John H Bankhead, Sr. And wife & Tallulah J. Brockman 38. Home of Grandmother Bankhead 39. Lots 34, 35, 36, 37, 39, 40, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, & 67 Comprise the approx 4 acre home place of John C. Moore 40. Lots 68-72 tanning yards of John C. Moore 41. 41 Lots 56, 59, 76, 77, 74, & 75 also belonged to John C. Moore |
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Information for the article came from the writings of Herbert and Jeanie Newell and the deeds and official documents compiled by Judge David Enslin.