

Clanton Stores Over Time
By Derric Scott
2020

From newspaper research and information from the Facebook group "U know u lived in CLANTON as a kid," and other sources.

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Believe it or not, at the turn of the Twentieth Century the little town of Clanton was a very diverse place. Certainly “Jim Crow” was in full effect, sadly. But beyond the racial diversity, there was a good number of successful first-generation immigrants and participants of the Jewish faith. Interestingly, by the turn of the Twenty First Century the population seems much more homogenous with the defining difference only being race.

“Main Street” – 2nd Avenue North – is obviously the original focal point of commercial activity in the new town of Clanton. From the rail road up to across 7th Street (US 31) on to the courthouse block centralized most of the activity for the first half-century of the life of the town. Those two intersections are very busy spots in the life of Clanton.

R. Ehrman: merchant from Montevallo. He ran general merchandise business on site of Mullins and Moore currently (1928).

One of the early businesswomen of Clanton was Mrs. G. L. Phillips (grandmother of Helen Parrish). Mrs. Phillips ran a millinery business from before 1893 until 1904 on Main Street (2nd Ave N) fairly close to the courthouse. In about 1900 she built a new brick building on the corner, attached to her son-in-law J. E. Evans’ new store. Unfortunately, those new buildings and many others totally burned in a very large fire in town at 3:00 AM on Saturday February 16, 1901, all on the north side of 2nd Avenue North between the courthouse and the P. D. Wilson building. She then opened up on the south side of 2nd Avenue North beside Abe Kanter’s business. In October 1904 she sold her business to Miss Minnie Muse and assisted her for the next few years. The location was described as “the old barber shop, in front of P. D. Wilson’s.” In March of 1905 Minnie Muse moved her store to a new brick building built “in the rear of W. H. Sartor’s store” on 7th Street and she ran it for many years. Between 1917 and 1918 **Muse Millinery** went out of business and Miss Muse was working for the Clanton Mercantile Co. D. P. Garner opened up a **Jewelry Store** in the old Muse building. Next for the site, the new Walker building was built (2 story brick) and the (among others) was Parrish’s, then Capital Dry Goods Co (combination of Parrish’s and Callen’s).

19th Century:

Train Station: Original train station was built soon after the county was formed when the L & N railroad was completed in the early 1870s.

Courthouse: The original was a log structure built in 1870 in Grantsville, an area that is now Scottsdale subdivision. It burned a year later and a new, wood frame, one was built in 1871 in Clanton, in the center of the intersection of 2nd Avenue North and 6th Street. It was replaced in 1896 by a brick one built on the corner of the present courthouse block at the same intersection. The old wood frame building was moved and reused in town.

2nd Avenue North from railroad to courthouse:

Businesses:

1897: **Sartor & Kicker:** General Store, started in 1897, located in an older wooden building behind **W. L. Sampey’s** old store, (W. H Sartor and Newton “Newt” A. Kicker). I believe this is the SW corner of 2nd Ave N and 7th St.

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20th Century:

1900-1909:

Train Station: First station burned July 11, 1901 in a major fire that destroyed most of the city block. The second train station was built by L & N in 1907, which is the basis of the current building that is still standing in 2020.

Courthouse: The 1896 courthouse is still in use.

2nd Avenue North from railroad to courthouse:

The first building on the north side of 2nd Ave N nearest the railroad was **Bryan McKee's meat market** until about 1908-09. At the end of 1909 a new **Post Office** built and operational on that spot (leased for 10 years from Dec 1, 1909 from J. Q. Wade). Apparently Bryan McKee was somewhere else because a short-lived liquor dispensary was located in his "old" building in 1907 for less than a year. **W. D. Spigener has a new "cash store"** next door to the "new" Post Office building with Dry Goods, Notions, shoes, etc. at the end of 1909. In 1909, **William McDaniel moves his shoe shop** to behind the new Post Office.

1900 Jan - **E. M. Pinckard & Co.** bought out **W. Lee Sampey** and he moved to Birmingham. The building was the two story brick on the SW corner of 2nd Ave N and 7th St. that would later be **Farmer's Hardware Store** and then **Big Four Hardware**.

Nov 17, 1904: **P. D. Wilson** sold out to **W. Kantor & Bro.** His store was in the "Wilson building" and **W. Kantor & Bro.** moved in there.

Businesses:

1900 Jan – **Sartor & Kicker** moved into **W. H. Wright's** old store when Mr. Wright moved to Birmingham.

1900 Jan – **A. J. Wilson** bought out **W. T. Callen**.

1900 Jan – **H. Touro** moving into **Sartor & Kicker's** old store.

1900 Jan – currently **Abe Kanter** store's closed.

1900 May – **Collier & Mullins** dissolved partnership, Tipton Mullins continues in old office, Col. Collier moved over **Sartor & Kicker's** store.

1900 May – **Ehrman's** mill closed, property to be leased.

1900 May – **Dr. Wisheart**, dentist, over **Sartor & Kicker's** store.

1901 Jan 17: **Sartor & Kicker** dissolved partnership, Mr. Kicker retired. W. H. Sartor continues as **W. H. Sartor and Sons**, moved to the corner where "**The Fair**" stands (1930), the NW corner of 2nd Ave N and 7th St.. Later partnered with **V. J. Elmore** renamed the store **Elmore's**. About Feb 14, 1929 he bought out **Elmore's** interest in that store and renamed it "**The Fair**." Originally called the "**Sartor Building**."

1902 Mar 1902: Three new brick stores being built between the PO and **Lathan's Hotel** up the hill by **J. B. Downs, Elijah Rollins, and Tom Tyus**.

1902 Oct: **Lyon & Baxley** photographers, over PO.

1903 Feb: **J. W. Smith** store in with PO.

1910-1919:

2nd Avenue North from railroad to courthouse:

New **post office** is operational in the first spot by railroad on north side of Main Street.

1920 fire in the **Wade Ice Co** destroyed it and article mentions other stores threatened by name: **Tom Kemp's, McKee's Market, Western Union Telegraph Co., Ideal Theatre, Candy Store, The Boston Shoe Shop**, and the **planning mill of the Downs Lumber Co.** (this mill was on other side of 3rd Ave N.

1920-1929:

2nd Avenue North from railroad to courthouse:

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Old **Post Office** building by RR occupied 1923 by “**The Leader**” managed by M. Lande. Dry goods, etc. 1920, **PO** moved to **Hayes building** on NE corner of 1st Ave and 7th St. (old, two story brick, it burns in 1922 but **PO** is rebuilt, one story brick).

1922 Aug 17 – **Gilvey O McKee** moved his meat market into the **Woodyard Building**, next door to his present location of several years. **McKee’s** old building will be occupied by **Mat Ware’s Café**.

1925 Dec 17, 1930 Jul 31 – **Farmer’s Hardware Store** is in Clanton.

Businesses:

1930-1939:

1930, **PO** moved to south side of 2nd Ave N by railroad tracks into the “Chandler Building.”

1935, **PO** moved to new building on SW corner of 1st Ave and 6th St.

1935 Feb – **W. H. Sartor’s The Fair** bankrupt.

1935 Apr 4 – **A. E. Reagan**, Thorsby, (and manager of **Taylor Dry Goods** in Clanton) and **C. C. Conway** (Chilton County Board of Ed member and chair), Jemison, bought out **Farmer’s Hardware Store** from estate of **E. M. Jones** and changed the name to **Big Four Hardware Co.** and is located on SW corner of 2nd Ave N and 7th St.

1936: **Mazers Store** owned by Dave Mazer and managed by the **I. S. and Sol Levine**, open and renovated on 2nd Ave N, north side, halfway between 7th St. and 6th St., two story building (the old **P. D. Wilson building** and also the **W. Kanter and Bro building (Abe Kanter)**). Oct 22, 1936 the **Levines** leave **Mazers** and open their store beside **Big Four Hardware**.

1938 Apr 7: **Dave Cohen** buys **Mazer’s** and renames it **the Parisian Store** in the same location. Later the store is occupied by Mullins & Scott.

1940-1949:

1942 Jan 29: **Parisian’s Store** moves to “**new**” **Hayes building**, NW corner of 2nd Ave N and 7th St.

Mullins & Scott will move a dry goods business into the old **Parisian Store**, leaving their other site (later **Western Auto**) to concentrate on farming supplies.

1950-1959:

1950 Apr 6: **Parisian’s Store** goes out of business.

1950 May 18: **David Lee’s** opens in the old **Parisian** building, earlier the “**Sartor building**.”

1960-1969:

1963: **Big Four Hardware** still there.

1970-1979:

1980-1989:

1990-1999:

1946Oct03 – Clanton Jewelry – Hayes Building formerly Harmon Hughes, Reeves & Wade

1946Oct17 – Clanton Jewelry – John Wade/Tommy Reeves – opened in Exchange Hotel

1947 – Clanton Jewelry – located next to Dr. Hayes office (May)

1947 – Clanton Jewelry – John C. Wade, owner for several months – Harmon Hughes employed

1948 – Clanton Jewelry – beside Bell, formerly Dr. George Brown (May 20)

1948 – Clanton Jewelry – located next to Bell Hardware (7th St????) – Chick Wade

1952 – Clanton Jewelry – Chick Wade

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1960 – Clanton Jewelry – Chick Wade – 15 years

1962 – Clanton Jewelry – Chick Wade – 205 7th St Clanton

1962 – Clanton Jewelry – located next door to David Lee's 7th St