

**BALDWIN COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN
HISTORIC RESOURCES ELEMENT
DATA, INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS
SEPTEMBER, 2008**

County Resources:

Baldwin County has established three (3) Historic Resource Overlay districts, which are listed below. Property in these districts is subject to the requirements of the Architectural & Preservation District Review Board, which has jurisdiction over new construction, renovation, relocation and demolition activities (Article 10 and Appendix B of the Baldwin County Zoning Ordinance).

- Magnolia Springs District
- Montrose District
- Point Clear District

Several historic churches are listed on the Baldwin County website (www.co.baldwin.al.us):

- First Baptist Church of Bay Minette (1914)
- Latham Methodist Church (1906) in Latham
- Lebanon Chapel A.M.E. Church (1923) in Fairhope
- Montgomery Hill Baptist Church (1853) in Tensaw
- St. Mark's Lutheran Church of Elberts (1927)
- St. Paul's Episcopal Church (1901) in Magnolia Springs
- St. Raphael's Roman Catholic Church (1924) now the Loxley Public Library in Loxley
- Stockton Methodist Church (1929)
- Swift Presbyterian Church (1907) in Miflin
- Twin Beach A.M.E. Zion Church (1925) in Fairhope

State Resources:

The Alabama Department of Archives and History (ADAH, www.archives.state.al.us) has identified the following historic resources in Baldwin County:

- The Mound Line (Ellicott Line) Mile Mound #216: Surveyed in 1799 to mark the 31° North Latitude, this line charted the first southern boundary of the United States, separating the U.S. from Spanish Florida. The line was marked at one-mile intervals by earthen mounds approximately fifteen-foot square and three-foot high with a charred lighter-pine post at the center, hence the name Mound Line. Jointly surveyed by Major Andrew Ellicott, U.S. Commissioner, and Esteban Minor, Spanish Commissioner, to determine boundaries as agreed in the Treaty of San Lorenzo in 1795. The line began at the Mississippi River, ran east along 31° North Latitude to the Chattahoochie River, thence eventually to the Atlantic Ocean. Stockton was divided by this line, with some residents living in the United States and some in Spanish Florida. Although Stockton became a "border town," U.S. law generally prevailed in the area.
- Fort Bowyer (built during War of 1812): 1803 United States claimed Mobile and the bay as part of Louisiana Purchase. 1813 On order of President Madison, this point seized from

**BALDWIN COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN
HISTORIC RESOURCES ELEMENT
DATA, INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS
SEPTEMBER, 2008**

Spain by U.S. Regulars under Gen. James Wilkinson and militia under Col. John Bowyer. This act extended Mississippi Territory to Bay area. Fort Bowyer, a wooden fort, was built here. 1814 British with Indian allies attacked Fort by land and sea. After three days of fierce assault, the British ship Hermes was sunk; the enemy withdrew to friendly Spanish port of Pensacola. 1815 After Battle of New Orleans, British under Gen. Pakenham attacked here with 500 men from land and 38 war ships. Maj. Lawrence, U.S.A. surrendered with 360 men on the third day. Since peace treaty had already been signed, British retained Fort Bowyer only a few weeks. Americans again occupied the Fort. 1819 work begun on construction of brick fort. 1822 Fort greatly strengthened as urged by President James Monroe. Later renamed Fort Morgan.

- Fort Morgan (1833): This fort replaced Fort Bowyer. Built on the star-shaped design of Michelangelo, it is one of the finest examples of military architecture in the New World. 1861 Seized by Alabama troops on order of Governor Moore. 1861-1864 Strengthened and garrisoned by Confederates guarding the pass against Federal blockading fleet. Guns of fort protected blockade-runners in and out of Mobile Bay. 1864 Admiral Farragut, U.S.N., forcing passage into bay, landed 3000 men. After heavy bombardment by Federal fleet, the interior of Fort lay in smoldering ruins. The garrison surrendered next afternoon. 1865 General Canby U.S.A. landed nearby with 32,500 troops and supplies. He moved up east shore of bay to join 13,200 men from Pensacola and laid siege to defenses of Mobile. 1898 During War with Spain the Fort was strengthened and modernized. 1946 Congress deeded the Fort and 400 acres to Alabama for use as State Park.
- Fort Mims Massacre: Here in the Creek Indian War (1813-14) took place the most brutal massacre in American history. Indians took the fort with heavy losses, and then killed all but about 36 of some 550 in the fort. The Creeks had been armed by British at Pensacola in this phase of War of 1812. (located in northern Baldwin County)
- Kennedy Mill (circa 1811): Site of one of Alabama's first sawmills. In 1811, Joshua Kennedy engaged Jesse Ember to build two water-powered sawmills, convertible to grist mills, for a total of \$1400. The mills were operated by Kennedy through 1820; were burned twice, once by Indians. The mill dam and site were later used by the Bryne Brothers, and then by Hastic & Silver Co. until 1906, when they were abandoned.
- Point Clear Confederate Rest Cemetery: The Grand Hotel and the Gunnison House served as a hospital for wounded Confederate soldiers from the Battle of Vicksberg during the Civil War. The Confederate Rest Cemetery commemorates more than 300 Confederate soldiers who died while in the hospital. The original tract of seven acres included markers erected to the Unknown Confederate Dead. The records of the soldiers were kept in the hotel until a fire in 1869, when the identities of those buried in Confederate Rest were lost.

**BALDWIN COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN
HISTORIC RESOURCES ELEMENT
DATA, INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS
SEPTEMBER, 2008**

- School of Organic Education: On this site, a significant educational experiment was launched by Marietta Johnson, who founded the School of Organic Education in 1907. Believing that children should be motivated by natural free development rather than by competition, she did away with examinations and concentrated on the growth of the whole person. In 1909, the Single Tax Corporation provided this 10-acre plot. John Dewey, whose progressive education principles were shared by Johnson, visited the school in 1913. The school reached its zenith during the 1920's. The City of Fairhope acquired the campus in 1987 and leased it to Faulkner State Junior College. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1988.

National Resources:

The listings shown below are included in the National Register of Historic Places (www.nationalregisterofhistoricplaces.com). The National Register of Historic Places is the Nation's official list of cultural resources worthy of preservation. Authorized under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, the National Register is part of a national program to coordinate and support public and private efforts to identify, evaluate, and protect our historic and archeological resources. Properties listed in the Register include districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that are significant in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering, and culture:

- Allen House (aka Marshall House)
- Bank of Fairhope
- Battles Wharf Historic District
- Beckner House (aka Baker House)
- Blakely Site (aka Fort Blakely Site)
- Carl L. Bloxham Building (aka Eastern Shore Chamber of Commerce)
- Bottle Creek Indian Mounds (aka Mound Island)
- Brodbeck-Zundel Historic District
- Brunell House (aka Governor's Club)
- Cantonment Montpelier Site (aka McGillivray's Cow Pens Plantation, Tate's Cow Pens)
- George W. Cullum House (aka Jones House, Caffey House)
- Fairhope Bayfront District
- Fairhope Downtown Historic District
- First Baptist Church
- Foley Downtown Historic District
- Fort Mims
- Fort Morgan
- Gaston Building (aka Single-Tax Office)
- Golf, Gun & Country Club (aka Manning House)
- Hamner House (aka Roberts House)
- Axil Johnson House
- Killcreas House

**BALDWIN COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN
HISTORIC RESOURCES ELEMENT
DATA, INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS
SEPTEMBER, 2008**

- Latham United Methodist Church
- Lebanon Chapel AME Church
- McMillan House (aka Captain O’Neal House, Nordmann House)
- Methodist Episcopal Church (ala Old Daphne Methodist Church)
- Mobile Point Light Station Keeper’s Quarters Building
- Montgomery Hill Baptist Church
- Montrose Historic District
- Moore Store (aka Moore Brothers General Store)
- Nelson House (aka Reynolds House)
- Nicholson House (aka Nelson House)
- Orrell House (aka Burnette House)
- People’s Supply Company Building
- Point Clear Historic District
- Sand Island Light
- School of Organic Education
- St. Mark’s Lutheran Church
- St. Patrick’s Catholic Church (aka Loxley Public Library)
- St. Paul’s Episcopal Church
- Lewis Stark House (aka Shonts House, Delaney House)
- State Bank Silverhill
- Stockton Methodist Church
- Street House
- Captain Adams House (aka Stone House)
- Sunnyside Hotel (aka McLennan House)
- Svea Land Company Office Building (aka Oscar Johnson Memorial Library)
- Swift Presbyterian Church
- The Texas Building (aka Dryer House, Brunell House)
- White Avenue Historic District

The *Baldwin County Strategic Plan: 2006-2016* identifies the following needs related to this element:

Archives & History Department: (p. 35)

- Ensure all County historic documents are physically located in Archives Building, catalogued and accessible to the public by 2011
- Preserve all County historic documents subject to the statewide records retention schedule by 2009, and maintain on an annual basis
- Plan and implement a successful Bicentennial Celebration with a series of events and activities by 2009

**BALDWIN COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN
HISTORIC RESOURCES ELEMENT
DATA, INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS
SEPTEMBER, 2008**

- In conjunction with the County Administrator's Office, complete a historical documentary on the heritage of Baldwin County by 2009
- Complete a minimum of 200 interviews concerning all aspects of the history of Baldwin County in order to develop oral history video recordings by 2011

Public Input:

Citizens who attended the two Public Workshops (Sept. 25th and 26th, 2007) ranked their list of County issues and comments by order of importance at the end of the each evening. Below are the results for this element, listed in order of importance:

Historical Resources

1. Protect Fort Morgan
2. Enhance/ Protect County Museum
3. Protect Ferry System
4. Identify / Define Historic Districts and Sites
5. Preserve Historic Resources
6. Enhance Historic Areas and Cemeteries within GIS mapping