



THE NEIGHBORHOODS



The “**BOTTOM**”, located north of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Avenue and a half-mile from Downtown Mobile, is bound to the north and the west by Three Mile Creek. The neighborhood, its name derived from its proximity to the creek bottom, developed during the late-nineteenth century, when it constituted the second community established by and for African-Americans, developing soon after the nearby **CAMPGROUND** neighborhood.

The “Bottom” is primarily residential in character with the exception of “the Avenue.” This commercial corridor dates back to the City’s Spanish Colonial Period, when it was only a trail leading from the City to the northwest. The Avenue was known as Stone Street in the 1830’s after an early resident, Sardine G. Stone. On early maps, it shows up as St. Stephens Road, sometimes confused with the “other” St. Stephens Road. It was renamed Davis Avenue in 1861 and, in 1986, for Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The Bottom contains a number of historic homes in a variety of styles that date from the mid-19th to mid- 20th centuries. Throughout the neighborhoods, there are numerous historic churches with prominent towers and raised entrances. The True Vine Church, on the corner of Peach and Pecan, is distinguished by its sophisticated Ashlar-patterned limestone masonry walls.



Platted in the 1850s, the **TEXAS HILLS** community is a small inner city neighborhood on Mobile’s south side, perfectly located a stone’s throw from the historic homes of Oakleigh and walking distance from the Down-The-Bay area. Named, seemingly, for the lone star state and the street’s hilly terrain, Texas Hills has an abundance of historic shotgun structures dating back to the mid-nineteenth century and a smattering of neighborhood grocery stores, which were run by the Maisels and the Taylors. Once a bustling, diverse neighborhood with working class families who made their living at the Brookley Air Force Base, City of

Mobile and the Alabama State Docks. Only a few streets made up the neighborhood, Fry, Elmira and, of course, Texas. Texas Hills is a haven of opportunities, offering the historic beauty of Magnolia Cemetery to the honeysuckle that grows wildly in Crawford Park.

OAKDALE, settled on the site of former dairy and farmland in the late 19th and early 20th century, was a working and middle class neighborhood in close proximity to the Broad Street, Washington Avenue, Marine Street, and Ann Street trolley lines. Bound on the north by Virginia Street, the east by I-10, the south by Preston Avenue and the west by South Ann Street, the earliest maps of the area, including the 1904 Sanborn Map and Peavy's 1911 City Map, designate this area as Oakdale. Washington Avenue, Broad, Ann and Marine Streets were the earliest north-south streets in the district, and Baltimore and Tennessee Streets were the earliest east-west streets. These streets appear to be an early 19th century extension of Mobile's original grid plan running from the urban core to the rural countryside that was constructed in anticipation of southward expansion. Housing forms and styles throughout the district reflect the range of styles and forms popular from 1900 to 1960.



TRINITY GARDENS is a unique neighborhood, anchored on the north and east by the City of Prichard; to the north and west by Interstate 65 and on the west by the Beltline Highway. The community dates back to World War II as one of the initial African American neighborhoods annexed into Mobile that created economic opportunities for GIs during the war, without the threat of discrimination. The families of Trinity Gardens were hardworking and dedicated entrepreneurs, whose income was derived the neighboring lumber yards and the railroad. Their faith was deep entrenched in religion, allowing them to worship freely through a multitude of denominations. In close proximity to Wragg Swamp, Trinity Gardens is rich in natural resources.