

MONTEVALLO
Main Street
Memories

J.P. KELLY'S FAMILY HOME

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The house behind the new City Hall where Christopher Smitherman has his law practice was owned and occupied by the Kelly family in the 1940's, 1950's, and 1960's.

Mr. J. P. Kelly was the president of Merchants and Planters Bank, which was situated at that time in the building on Main Street where La Conchita Bakery and Pastry is today.

The location of the bank was an easy walk for Mr. and Mrs. Kelly (the bank cashier) from their house in order to get to work each day. The Kellys' two sons, Agee and Pat, who grew up in the house, succeeded their parents as president and vice-president, respectively, of Merchants and Planters and took the bold step in the 1960's of constructing a new building on the site of the old St. George Hotel a few blocks east on Main Street. That building is Trustmark Bank today.



Photograph Courtesy: Carey Heatherly, Carmichael Library

(Top right) The J.P. Kelly house (today the Christopher Smitherman law office) as it looked for many years. (Top center) An aerial photo from 1934 shows the Kelly house was already there when the highway 119 bridge was under construction. (Lower photo) The Kelly house following the elimination of the West Street connection to Main Street and the completion of the new city hall.



Montevallo
Historical Society

Opening the Portals of Our Heritage



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MONTEVALLO MAIN STREET MEMORIES is adapted from the series, THROWBACK THURSDAY, a **Montevallo Historical Society** and **Montevallo Main Street** partnership started in 2018. Each installment revisits commercial and residential life on Main Street and in the downtown area in the early to mid-twentieth century. The series remains available online and may be viewed at www.historicmontevallo.org under "Local History".