
540 Shelby Street
Montevallo, AL 35115



www.historicmontevallo.org

HOTEL OR HISTORY? WITH YOUR HELP BOTH MAY BE POSSIBLE

Born in 1832 Henry Clay Reynolds, a Civil War veteran moved to Montevallo just after the war. Establishing a mercantile company on the corner of Main and Shelby Streets he plied his trade, built a house on Main Street and sired 10 children.

In 1896 he became the first president of the Girls Industrial School, now the University of Montevallo, was on the city council and was voted the mayor in 1904. His imposing home on Main Street was long ago destroyed for the construction of Whaley Shopping Center. A civic, educational and business leader during his life, his legacy remains in downtown Montevallo in the structure that he built before the turn of the 20th century. Now shrouded behind a metal canopy and plate glass windows of car dealerships begun in the 1920s the main structure of Captain Reynold's business still remains. It's waiting, once again to become a vital part of downtown.

The building, purchased by the City of Montevallo in 2019 now faces the wrecking ball. Though sought after to be purchased by entrepreneurs with plans to restore the building, the city council is considering demolishing the structure and **giving** the property to Cobblestone, a hotel chain.

In addition to the dire consequences of losing an historic structure on Main Street, there is another reason, it is felt that this location is not suitable for a hotel. Because of the property's past use as a car dealership where oil changes and paint jobs took place there are EPA (environmental protection agency) requirements that will forever remain with the property, that no daycare or apartments can ever be constructed but it seems that it's suitable for a hotel where people would sleep overnight and possibly have extended stays?

While a hotel is something that could benefit Montevallo, there may be a better alternative for a hotel site than destroying the face of our historic downtown and would not forevermore change the face of our downtown National Register Historic District.

It is the hope of the Montevallo Historical Society that the city leaders and the Cobblestone franchise will not move forward with their plans to destroy the face of our historic downtown and instead be sensitive to our past. **We are asking that you contact your representative and the mayor's office to express your concern about the demolition of this historic structure.** Once it is gone, it is gone forever and historic fabric once destroyed is impossible to replace. **This is your opportunity to make a difference for our city's heritage.**

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