

FAIRHOPE SINGLE TAX CORPORATION ARCHIVES

The Fairhope Single Tax Corporation (originally known as the Fairhope Industrial Association) is the founding organization of Fairhope, Alabama (1894). The founders carefully kept Colony-related documents to record the development of the model single-tax community of Fairhope. Over the years this practice continued, resulting in a treasure-trove of historical materials about Fairhope's unique history and the single-tax movement.

In 2013, led by a fifth generation Fairhoper, the Fairhope Single Tax Corporation Archives Committee was formed with the mission to collect, preserve, and make accessible the historical documents of the FSTC. Work began in 2014 when early Fairhope records were returned from the University of Virginia in Charlottesville where they had been stored for a time. This large initial collection of over 85,000 pieces was organized, digitized, and cataloged, and in 2016 was made available online and free-of-charge through easy-to-use museum software. Over time, many more historical materials from the FSTC and Fairhope family collections have been added to the website. We continue to receive and process donations, including the large private collection of the late Paul M. Gaston given to the FSTC Archives by his children in 2021. In addition, FSTC Archives collaborates with our local partners to support the preservation of Fairhope history and complement the Archives; to this end, the FSTC has provided funding to digitize the historical collections of the Fairhope Public Library and the Marietta Johnson Museum.

The FSTC Archives collection continues to grow in size and in use by interested Fairhoppers and researchers as far away as Italy and the Netherlands. We thank the early Fairhoppers who saved their materials and those who took such care to preserve them over the years, so that these historically significant documents can be preserved and made available to the public.