

Early Malone Chronology

- 1855 Present day Banner Road (a mile north west) was the only commercial area in the immediate vicinity. Hardy Hart was the proprietor of a mercantile store and black smith shop. A tanner shop (perhaps owned by Dougald McMillan) was also open for business.
- 1875 Within 5 miles of Malone there were several small towns which no longer exist: Bolton, Mack, Ellis and Sills on the west and Dudley on the east. The post offices were transferred to other locations around the turn of the century.
- 1890 Malone was a logging camp.
- 1894 Mr. Hudson's Loggers Hotel Construction begin
- 1896 Mr. Hudson's Loggers Hotel opened (aka Mears)
- 1903 Lumber Mill----- Marbury & Wilson
- 1904 Turpentine Steel----- D.G. Willoughby
- 1910 Malone founded----- John Malone
- 1910 Streets were laid out
- 1910 Public Water----- Malone Water Works
- 1911 Guano Plant-----Gulf Chemical Company
- 1911 Guano Plant----- John Malone Fertilizer,
- 1911 Mercantile and Farming-----Malone/Fussell Co.
- 1911 Post Office-----U.S. Mail
- 1911 Telephone Exchange----- Local
- 1913 Bank of Malone-----John Malone President
- 1913 Peanut Mill-----Fla. Peanut Oil, W.W.Beall
- 1913 Drug Store----- J.C. Patterson
- 1913 Mercantile Store-----W.W. Beall

Centuries or perhaps Millenniums before the Hudson/Mears hotel was built in Malone, long leaf yellow pine timber could be found in great abundance. All the forest in the region was blessed. It is safe to assume the timber industry was solely responsible for a transformation from a logging camp into the town of Malone. Mr. Sid Wilson and E.L. Marbury from Alabama were among the earliest settlers. They came into this present day Malone area shortly before 1890 to construct a sawmill and created a lumber business. Due to the area being a wilderness it was also necessary for them to structure a logging camp to accommodate workers. During this era the nearest commercial community was Bolton, two miles west. Bolton was located in the area of Friendship Church, created about 1850 and survived until the early 20's. However there were no lodging accommodations in Bolton. After the Post Office was moved to Greenwood in 1909 the entire community begin fading away. Most built homes and relocated in the logging camp community before it became Malone. Documents indicate the saw mill owners were very generous with people desiring to new ground the home site, and build a home in their community. Most popular were the bartering of labor for building materials. On a dust covered note from yesteryear someone wrote, "The last one leaving Bolton please blow out the lamp". Perhaps that's where the phrase originated.

The Grand old two story Hudson Hotel was the first major structure to spring up in that logging camp. It was constructed by Jed Hudson who came with Wilson and Marbury as a saw filer. He opened it in 1896 to accommodate travelers and personnel working in the logging industry. Perhaps the hotel was on Mr. Hudson's agenda when he signed on with them. When the Town of Malone was laid out in 1910 the Hotel had already been a show place for several years. The unique w-shaped roof line, 16 foot ceilings and hand carved staircase balusters was not only unique but also most attractive for that era. Visitors would come to the sawmill community for the sole purpose of viewing the hotel.

After the logging industry ran its course, Mr. Hudson sold the hotel to Mr. Mears where it acquired the second name of "Mears Hotel". It was then used as a temporary Jail, Hunting lodge and also a residence in later years. The proud old structure was razed in 1982 to make way for a parking lot. Only photos remain to pass on to future generations.



Mr. Hudson's / Mears Hotel 1896 – 1982 (Top photo 1980)
H.K. Herring's Mercantile (Lower photo 1916)