

Carter Drug Store

A second fire struck downtown Conroe on early Sunday morning of December 24, 1911, just 10 months after the Great Fire of February 21, 1911 devastated 3 blocks of downtown Conroe along what was then Chambers Street (now North Main). The *Conroe Courier* article of December 29, 2011 is attached here. The fire destroyed the Mistrot Bros & Company store located at the northeast corner of Chambers and Davis. The building was a significant two-story brick building owned by Charles Parks of New York.

The building housed the Mistrot Bros & Co. mercantile store which was operated by Hart C. Addison at the time of the fire. Two years later the new brick two-story building was constructed and completed in March 1913, located on the same site by Hart Addison who operated his mercantile store directly across the street from the John Wahrenberger store, which was also reconstructed in 1913. The two stores were the most prosperous mercantile businesses in the County for a number of years. In 1919, a local pharmacist Robin Carter purchased the building and operated it as Carter Drug Store for over 40 years. Recently it has been purchased and remodeled by realtor and Conroe mayor, Jody Czajkoski into a satellite campus for St. Thomas University and other businesses.

Brothers Felix Emil Mistrot and Antione Mistrot grew their mercantile store chain into a very prosperous company. Mistrot & Bros Co. would be comparable to a Kohl's store today with stores in a variety of towns.

By 1902 Mistrot Bros & Co. limited itself to wholesale business, although the name still was recognized by many store operators in Houston, Brenham, Bryan, LaGrange, Conroe, and Montgomery. The largest Mistrot Store retail operation was in Galveston where the Mistrot brothers had moved from Louisiana in 1890, and prospered in towns throughout East Texas. The Galveston store operated at the original Blum & Co. business on Mercantile Street in Galveston. That building was purchased in 1908 and sold in 1917. Years later it was purchased by George and Cynthia Mitchell where the block-long building was remodeled into the fabulous Tremont Hotel.

For more information about H. C. Addison, Robin Carter and the Mistrot Bros & Co., see the following links.

[Carter Drug Store a centerpiece of Conroe history \(countygenweb.com\)](http://countygenweb.com)

[1902 All Over Ad Cover Mistrot Bros & Co Wholesalers / Cotton Galveston TX | eBay](http://eBay)

[TSHA | Leon and H. Blum \(tshaonline.org\)](http://tshaonline.org)

[Berlocher Row Historical Marker \(hmdb.org\)](http://hmdb.org)

[Galveston's historic 'Mistrot House' listed at \\$2.25 million \(chron.com\)](http://chron.com)

Larry L. Foerster, Chairman Montgomery County Historical Commission

