

CONCRETE: *The Smart Surface* For Parking Areas

After four years of heavy summer rains, freezing winter temperatures and the remnants of a hurricane or two, this choice of parking lot material has proven its merit.

Danny Clements, owner of Danny Clements Builders, Inc. in Montgomery, always uses concrete in the parking lots he designs and builds for his clients.

This commercial builder made that same decision when building the Woodmere Boulevard office (above) for John Stanley and Associates, Inc., a commercial real estate company.

Stanley, who happens to be Clements' brother-in-law, knew his builder would make the right choice when it came to quality construction. And he was right.

"It's turned out well," said Stanley of the lot that provides parking for his sales, investment and leasing company.

Concrete was the only logical choice for the project, according to Clements. He said the property happened to contain "the worst

soil in the city of Montgomery," and needed to be stabilized with both lime and a concrete surface.

In addition to the engineering concerns, concrete provided an economical alternative.

"We made the decision based on price and stability, along with availability. Concrete is not weather-sensitive," Clements said, referring to on-time pouring schedules. In small commercial work he is also able to pour the curb in one piece with the parking lot, saving time and money.

Clements began his 32-year building career in residential construction, where he "cut his teeth," he said. His work with concrete driveways and parking pads in residential building logically led him to using the material when he began custom commercial design and build projects 15 years ago.



Clements is such an avid user of concrete that he employs his own concrete crew, using a foreman and eight workers to do the site work from start to finish. The results, he says, speak for themselves.

“Concrete is much more trouble-free and more permanent. In all these years I’ve never had a call-back on a concrete parking lot.”

Clements lists other advantages to the product. He said being able to pour the surface in sections allows him to pour an entrance drive before the rest of the property. That type of flexibility is important to this contractor.

“If I have plumbers working on one part of the parking lot, we can be pouring the other half.”

After four years of service, the lot still works well. Clements can’t think of anything he would do differently if he were doing the project again.

“I did his parking lot just like I would have done mine,” said this veteran builder. And with that kind of testimonial, it’s likely that other concrete lots will be a part of Montgomery’s future building plans.