

2011 Walks Through History

What: Walks through History Tours

Where: Historic sites around Arkansas

When: Saturdays from 11:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.

Who: Free and open to the public



and timber products, and the railroad provided a reliable means of transportation to larger markets. In 1877 Prescott became the Nevada County seat, which contributed to the town's commercial importance. The district contains good examples of late nineteenth and early twentieth century commercial-style architecture. The tour group will meet at the Nevada County Depot & Museum at 403 W. First St. South. Co-sponsored by the Nevada County Depot & Museum.



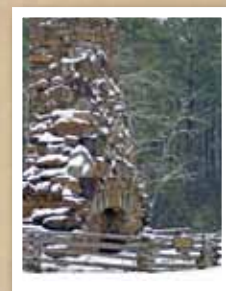
significant commercial growth beginning in 1857 when it became Chicot County's fourth seat of government. Like most towns in the Mississippi River Delta, Lake Village residents engaged in large-scale cotton farming and the harvesting of hardwood timber. The Lake Village economy also benefited from recreational opportunities on nearby Lake Chicot. Furthermore, the arrival of the Memphis, Helena & Louisiana Railroad in 1903 provided easier access to the town and aided commercial development. Lake Village remains a popular tourist destination in southeast Arkansas. The tour group will meet in front of the Chicot County Courthouse at 108 Main St. Co-sponsored by the Lake Village Chamber of Commerce.

March 12, 2011: Prescott Commercial Historic District. Prescott was platted in 1873, shortly after the St. Louis, Iron Mountain & Southern Railroad was completed through the area. The local economy was based on cotton



population dropped significantly. However, the town again began to prosper in 1893 when the Kansas City, Pittsburg & Gulf Railroad completed its line through Siloam Springs. In the early twentieth century Siloam Springs was a popular summer resort and had a successful fruit-growing industry. Most of the commercial buildings in the district reflect the town's prosperity between 1893 and 1940. The tour group will meet at the American Legion Community Hall at 110 N. Mt. Olive. Co-sponsored by Main Street Siloam Springs and the Siloam Springs Museum.

June 11, 2011: Russellville Downtown Historic District. Russellville began as a small village located along the east-west route across Arkansas to Indian Territory (later Oklahoma). Russellville, named after early resident Dr. Thomas Russell, developed slowly until the 1870s, when prominent merchant and landowner J. L. Shinn donated land for a railroad station and right-of-way through the town. In 1873 the Little Rock & Fort Smith Railroad was built, and Russellville became the largest town between the two sites. The arrival of the railroad ensured the town's future prominence, and in 1877 the Pope County seat was moved to Russellville. The district includes examples of the Italianate, Colonial Revival, Gothic Revival, and Art Deco styles. The tour group will meet at the Missouri-Pacific Depot at 320 W. "C" St. Co-sponsored by Main Street Russellville.



workers. From 1933 to 1938, the CCC built roads, trails, lodges, cabins, bridges, dams, pavilions, and other facilities at Petit Jean State Park. Many of these structures and buildings are still used by the park today and stand as a testament to the

May 14, 2011: Siloam Springs Downtown Historic District. Because of the natural springs in the area, Siloam Springs was originally platted in 1880 as a health resort. The town immediately experienced a population boom, but when the railroad bypassed Siloam Springs in the early 1880s, the



CCC's superior craftsmanship. The tour group will meet at the Visitor Information Center at 1285 Petit Jean Mountain Rd. Co-sponsored by Petit Jean State Park.



to construct a line through the eastern part of Lawrence County. Because of its location between Crowley's Ridge and the Ozark Mountains, the county produced a wide variety of crops as well as timber. Walnut Ridge became a regional shipping center for these agricultural and timber products. The town's population declined during the Great Depression, but Walnut Ridge experienced a second boom in the early 1940s after the U.S. Army built an air field nearby. The Walnut Ridge Army Air Field employed civilians in every job except military training until the end of World War II and serves as a municipal airport today. The tour group will meet at the Missouri-Pacific Depot at 109 SW Front St. Co-sponsored by Downtown Walnut Ridge.

September 17, 2011: West Memphis Commercial Historic District. West Memphis did not grow in earnest until the dawn of the automobile age in the early 1920s. The first automobile bridge across the Mississippi River at Memphis was completed in 1917 and transformed the town's main street, Broadway Avenue, into a U.S. highway. Increased automobile traffic and a high demand for industrial products continued to bolster the West Memphis economy throughout the 1930s and 1940s. The buildings in the district reflect the growth of West Memphis during the auto age and exhibit characteristics of the Art Deco style. The tour group will meet at the West Memphis Chamber of Commerce at 108 W. Broadway St. Co-sponsored by Main Street West Memphis.



October 15, 2011: Historic Arkansas City. Arkansas City became the Desha County seat in 1879 because it was an important transportation hub in southeast Arkansas. The town's natural steamboat landing on the Mississippi River brought a great deal of river traffic, and in 1878 the Little Rock, Mississippi River & Texas Railroad located its Mississippi

August 13, 2011: Walnut Ridge Commercial Historic District. Walnut Ridge developed in the early 1870s after the St. Louis, Iron Mountain & Southern Railroad announced its plans



River terminus in the city. Unprecedented growth ensued until the disastrous Mississippi River Flood of 1927, which rerouted the Mississippi River one mile east of the town's levee, effectively ending its importance as a commercial center. However, several buildings from the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries still stand in Arkansas City and serve as a reminder of the town's early prosperity. The tour group will meet in front of the Desha County Courthouse at 608 Robert S. Moore Ave. Co-sponsored by the Desha County Historical Society.

November 12, 2011: Couchwood Historic District. Located southeast of Hot Springs on Lake Catherine, Couchwood was established in 1927 to serve as Harvey Couch's country retreat. Couch, a multi-talented entrepreneur, was probably best known for his role as founder and president of Arkansas Light & Power Company (later Arkansas Power & Light). Among the historic resources at Couchwood are four Rustic-style cabins—The Big House, Calhoun, Little Pine Bluff, and Rammelwood. Couch entertained his friends, business associates, and political acquaintances at Couchwood. Some of his most notable guests were Herbert Hoover, Franklin D. Roosevelt, and Will Rogers. Over the years, Couchwood has been like a second home to generations of the Couch family, who still spend holidays and vacations there. Couchwood is located off Hwy. 270 at 601 Couchwood Rd. The tour group will meet in front of "The Big House." Co-sponsored by the Garland County Historical Society.



December 10, 2011: Van Buren Historic District. Van Buren initially developed as a steamboat landing on the Arkansas River, but the town experienced a second period of growth in the 1870s and early 1880s with the arrival of the Little Rock & Fort Smith Railroad followed by the St. Louis & San Francisco Railroad. Van Buren quickly became a regional center of commerce, serving as a distribution point for goods shipped to towns throughout northwest Arkansas. Van Buren has a very intact historic streetscape, including excellent examples of the Queen Anne, Romanesque Revival, and Italianate styles. The tour will also include Fairview Cemetery, Van Buren's oldest public cemetery, which is located about three blocks north of the district. The tour group will meet at the 1836 Drennen-Scott House on North 3rd Street. Co-sponsored by the Van Buren Advertising & Promotion Commission, the Van Buren Historic District Commission, and Fairview Cemetery.

2011 TOURS



Herbert Hoover (left) and Harvey Couch (center) on the porch at The Big House, Couchwood Historic District

Sandwiching in History Walks Through History



ARKANSAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM
An Agency of the Department of Arkansas Heritage

2011 Sandwiching in History

What: Sandwiching in History Tours

Where: Historic sites in central Arkansas

When: Fridays from noon until 1:00 p.m.

Who: Free and open to the public



January 7, 2011: Seed Warehouse No. 5 at the southwest corner of US 165 and AR 161 in Scott. Constructed in 1948 by prominent cotton farmer Robert L. Dortch, Seed Warehouse No.

5 was used to store and distribute cotton seeds. In the early twentieth century, the extraction of oil from excess cotton seed became a profitable industry. Cotton seed oil and other by-products were used in the large-scale commercial production of paint, fertilizer, mixed animal feeds, rayon, and nylon. Seed Warehouse No. 5 is an excellent example of mid-twentieth century agricultural architecture and technology. It was acquired by Arkansas State Parks in 1985 as part of the Plantation Agriculture Museum.

February 4, 2011:

Taborian Hall at 800 W. 9th St. in Little Rock. Taborian Hall was completed in 1918 to serve as the state headquarters for the Arkansas Chapter of the Knights and Daughters of Tabor, an African-American fraternal organization. By 1920 Taborian Hall also housed a variety of African-American-owned businesses and professional offices. The West Ninth Street business district became the destination for black nightlife, especially in the 1940s and 1950s, with Taborian Hall's Dreamland Ballroom playing host to musical greats like Louis Armstrong, Count Basie, Cab Calloway, Duke Ellington, and Earl Hines. Taborian Hall is the only remaining historic building on West Ninth Street and stands as a reminder of Little Rock's once-prosperous African-American business district.



March 4, 2011: Daisy Bates House at 1207 W. 28th St. in Little Rock. The Daisy Bates House is nationally significant for its role as the meeting place for the Little Rock Nine, their supporters, and reporters during the 1957 Little Rock Central High School desegregation crisis. The house is also important for its association with Daisy Lee Gatson Bates, equal rights activist and mentor to the Little Rock Nine. Daisy Bates was a driving force in the effort to integrate Central High School in 1957 and thus played an integral role in the first test of the U.S. Supreme Court's 1954 ruling in *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, KS*.



April 1, 2011: Ashley-Alexander House at 3514 Walkers Corner Rd. in Scott. Built about 1835 by early Little Rock resident Chester Ashley, the house is made of hand-hewn cypress logs covered in clapboard. Ashley,

a prominent lawyer, landowner, and Arkansas's third U.S. Senator, used this house as his "country home." The house was purchased in 1898 by Arthur Lee Alexander and his wife, Otelia, and remains in the Alexander family today.

May 6, 2011: Rogers House at 400 W. 18th St. in Little Rock. Designed by well-known Arkansas architect Charles L. Thompson in 1914, the Rogers House exhibits the Thompson firm's ability to flawlessly blend architectural styles. The house features elements of the Classical Revival style with its monumental entrance supported by fluted, Ionic columns as well as the Craftsman style with its widely overhanging eaves with exposed rafter tails. The imposing home is situated on a corner lot within view of the Arkansas Governor's Mansion.



June 3, 2011: Johnswood at 10314 Cantrell Rd. in Little Rock. Constructed in 1941 for famous Arkansas writers John Gould Fletcher and his wife, Charlie May Simon, Johnswood is a Minimal Traditional-style house designed by architect Maximilian E. Mayer. Fletcher, the son of wealthy Little

Rock resident Captain John G. Fletcher, was a leading poet of the early twentieth century Imagist movement. Fletcher received the Pulitzer Prize in 1939 for his *Selected Poems* and in 1946 was designated the first Poet Laureate of Arkansas. Simon, a native of Monticello, Arkansas, was also a successful writer, publishing twenty-nine works, including two autobiographical novels, an adult novel, eight biographies, and the many children's books for which she was best known.



July 8, 2011: Sylvan Hills Country Club Golf Course at 7400 Hwy. 107 in Sherwood. The Sylvan Hills Country Club property was initially developed in

1927 by Justin Matthews and included a fieldstone clubhouse, swimming pool, and an 18-hole golf course. Long before "golf communities" became popular in the 1970s, Matthews conceived the idea of using a golf course as a catalyst for residential development. Although the property's overall appearance has changed over the years, the golf course encompasses the same land area and has the same basic layout as it did in 1927. In an effort to save this important recreational facility, the City of Sherwood purchased the property and currently operates it as a municipal golf course.

August 5, 2011: Federal Reserve Bank Building at 123 W. 3rd St. in Little Rock. The Little Rock branch of the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis opened in 1919 in an office on the second floor of the Southern Trust Building. The branch quickly became so popular that it needed its own building. In 1924 Little Rock architects Charles L. Thompson and Thomas Harding, Jr., were hired to design the bank's Classical Revival-style building at the southeast corner of Third and Louisiana streets. The Federal Reserve Bank remained in this location until 1967, when it moved to a new facility at Capital and Spring streets. The 1924 bank building was purchased in 2008 by eStem Public Charter Schools, Inc., and currently serves as eStem High Public Charter School.



September 9, 2011: Winfield Methodist Church (Quapaw Quarter United Methodist Church) at 1601 S. Louisiana St. in Little Rock. The congregation of the Spring Street Methodist Church constructed its first building in 1871 at the corner of Twelfth and Spring streets. By 1889 a new building was completed at Fifteenth and Center streets, and the church's

name was changed to Winfield Memorial Methodist Church in honor of former pastor Dr. Augustus R. Winfield. In 1921 the church commissioned Charles L. Thompson and Thomas Harding, Jr., to design a new building at Sixteenth and Louisiana streets. The Gothic Revival-style church was completed in 1926. In 1988 a group of church members moved to a location in west Little Rock, taking the Winfield name with them. The other members remained downtown and became the Quapaw Quarter United Methodist Church.



October 7, 2011: St. Joseph's Home at 6800 Camp Robinson Rd. in North Little Rock. St. Joseph's Home was financed and built by the Catholic Diocese of Little Rock under the direction of Bishop John Baptist Morris. The 1910 building was designed by architect Charles L. Thompson and exhibits Classical detailing in its rounded arch pediment, cupola, and rusticated brick quoins. At Bishop Morris's request, the Order of Benedictine Sisters of St. Scholastica Monastery in Fort Smith operated the orphanage and school. The facility operated as an orphanage until 1978, when it became a daycare and kindergarten. In 1997 most of the Benedictine sisters returned to their monastery, but two sisters remained at St. Joseph's until December 2007. In 2010 the Catholic Diocese signed a 50-year lease with St. Joseph Center of Arkansas, Inc., a nonprofit organization dedicated to the preservation and adaptive reuse of the century-old landmark.

November 4, 2011: Edgar B. Moseley House at 415 Willow St. in North Little Rock. The Edgar B. Moseley House at 415 Willow Street is the most outstanding example of the Craftsman style in the Argenta Historic District. In addition to the home's exterior detailing, its original Craftsman-style interior remains intact with columns, built-in shelving, and a coffered ceiling. Moseley was a pharmacist at Hall Drug Store, which occupied the building at 324 Main St. in North Little Rock from 1903 to 1916, when Argenta Drug Store moved into the building. In 1917 Moseley constructed three similar Craftsman-style houses at the southwest corner of Fifth and Willow streets—415 Willow, 400 W. 5th, and 404 W. 5th. Moseley initially lived in the two-story house at 400 W. 5th St. His daughter, Vivian, and her husband, Dr. B. L. Church, lived in the house at 415 Willow.



December 2, 2011: Union Station at 1400 W. Markham St. in Little Rock. Little Rock's Union Station was constructed in 1921 to replace an earlier depot on the site that burned in 1920. The current structure was designed by architect E. M. Tucker of St. Louis and exhibits elements

of the Renaissance Revival style. A railroad station has been located on or near this site since the 1870s. The Missouri Pacific Railroad acquired the St. Louis, Iron Mountain & Southern Railroad in 1917 and continued passenger service out of this depot until 1970. Union Station was a bustling place in its heyday, serving as the point of departure for soldiers leaving Camp Robinson during World War II as well as a whistle stop during Harry S. Truman's presidential campaign. The building is currently used as office and event space as well as the local Amtrak station.