

Walks through History
Moose Addition Historic District
Begin at the Morrilton Depot Museum, 101 E. Railroad Ave.
June 14, 2014
By: Rachel Silva



Intro

Good morning, my name is Rachel Silva, and I work for the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program. Thank you for coming, and welcome to the “Walks through History” tour of the Moose Addition Historic District. I’d like to thank the Morrilton Historic District Commission for co-sponsoring the tour, and many thanks to Karen Hofford for bringing refreshments.

For any architects in the audience, this tour is worth 2 hours of HSW continuing education credits through the American Institute of Architects. See me after the tour if you’re interested.

There are currently 16 properties in Morrilton listed in the National Register of Historic Places, including the Moose Addition Historic District, which was listed in September 2013 and includes 31 buildings on S. Division and S. Moose streets between Valley Street on the north and Green Street on the south. And we’ll talk about some other important properties along the way.

If anyone has questions about the National Register or financial incentives available for the restoration/rehab of historic buildings, I’m happy to answer them as we walk or after the tour.

Brief History of Morrilton

Conway County was established in 1825 by Arkansas's Territorial Legislature from part of Pulaski County and was named for Henry Wharton Conway, a member of the Arkansas Territory's delegation to the U.S. Congress. The county originally included present-day Conway, Faulkner, Van Buren, White, Cleburne, and Perry counties, along with part of Yell County.

In 1825 the town of Cadron, which was then located in the center of Conway County, became the temporary seat of government. As additional counties were carved out of the original Conway County, Conway County's seat of government moved around to whatever location was central and prosperous at the time. The county seat moved to Harrisburg in 1829 but was moved in 1831 to Lewisburg on the Arkansas River after Dr. Nimrod Menifee donated land for a courthouse and jail. In 1850 the county seat moved to Springfield, where it remained until 1873, when it returned to Lewisburg.

Lewisburg was established as a trading post in 1825 by early settlers Major William Lewis and his son, Stephen D. Lewis, and was located on the Arkansas River about one mile southeast of present-day Morrilton. In 1844 Lewisburg incorporated as a town and had a population of about 2,000. The community thrived due to its location on the Arkansas River, which was the best transportation route for people and products at that time. In the 1850s, Lewisburg boasted over 80 businesses, including two sawmills, two gristmills, a flour mill, cotton gin, hotels, saloons, and numerous stores. However, the arrival of the railroad would change everything.

In the 1850s, the Little Rock and Fort Smith Railroad surveyed a route through land near Lewisburg, but construction was interrupted by the Civil War. When construction resumed after the war, the railroad company asked the residents of Lewisburg for a financial contribution to help defray costs. Lewisburg declined to provide the money for two reasons—residents were financially devastated after the Civil War, and they thought that the town's strategic position would

necessitate its inclusion along the route. Well, they were wrong, and the LR & Ft. Smith Railroad bypassed Lewisburg, building its tracks about one mile north of the river town through land donated by Edward Henry Morrill and James Miles Moose.

The railroad reached present-day Morrilton in 1871, and the first depot was a boxcar called “Lewisburg Station,” although it was located more than a mile from the town. The first bona fide railroad station was established in 1873 on land given by E. H. Morrill, and the first station agent, Captain J. W. Boot is credited with naming the town, choosing between Morrill and Moose by the flip of a coin. Morrilton was first spelled with two ls, like its namesake. The population slowly moved from Lewisburg to Morrilton, and the new town incorporated in 1880 with a population of about 800. In 1883 Morrilton became the Conway County seat and remains so today.

As white families left Lewisburg, black families moved into their old homes. Lewisburg still had about 1,000 residents in 1880 and several thriving businesses, but the community continued to decline as the railroad supplanted river transportation. By 1930 Lewisburg was a shadow of its former self. Today, all that remains of Lewisburg are old cisterns and two cemeteries.

When Morrilton was platted and developed in the 1880s, the dividing line between the Morrill and Moose farms was aptly named Division Street. The first street to the west of Division was called Morrill Street (because Morrill owned land on the west side), and the first street to the east of Division was called Moose Street (because Moose owned land on the east side).

Named after landowner and farmer James Miles Moose, the Moose Addition contained some of the oldest houses in Morrilton. Moose, himself, lived further to the southeast at 711 Green Street in a ca. 1866 Greek Revival-style home, which is still extant and listed on the National Register (10/22/1974). [After the Civil War, Mr. Moose moved the 1835 Markham Tavern building from Lewisburg to 711 Green Street and added to it to make his residence.] Although some of the

oldest homes have been demolished and replaced with newer houses, this was one of the first residential areas of the city. The oldest home in the district was built ca. 1881 (Cunningham House at 300 S. Moose), but most homes were built between 1920 and 1950.

Morrilton Railroad Depot—

(NR-listed 9/13/1977)

In 1887 the rail line became known as the Little Rock & Fort Smith branch of the St. Louis, Iron Mountain & Southern Railroad. In 1906 the LR & Ft. Smith name was dropped, and this was called the Iron Mountain line. In 1917 it became Missouri Pacific, which it remained for most of the 20th century. In 1982 it became Union Pacific.

A depot was built on this site in the 1870s and was replaced with the current depot building ca. 1915, probably when the Iron Mountain Railroad became a subsidiary of Missouri Pacific. The depot originally featured white (on east end) and black waiting rooms, separated by an office, along with an area for baggage and railway express on the other side of the breezeway (west end). Like many Missouri Pacific depots from this era, the Morrilton Depot was designed in the Mediterranean style with a tile roof, widely overhanging eaves with decorative brackets, and a red brick exterior with a cast-stone belt course.

The depot closed in 1954, and passenger service ended in 1960. The depot was later purchased by the Conway County Historical Preservation Association, Inc., and in 1980 became the Depot Museum.

South on S. Division Street

Photographs in the library indicate that the 100 block of S. Division Street has been separated by a median or boulevard section since at least the 1920s.

East side of 100 block, S. Division St.; just south of alley behind commercial buildings—site of old Presbyterian Church (built in 1885-86 and used by

Presbyterians until about 1912, when the Presbyterian Church and Cumberland Presbyterian churches united). The old church building was purchased in 1914 by the Pathfinder Club for use as a library. The Downtown Church of Christ later moved into the building. By 1926 the Church of Christ had erected a new building on the site, but it was gone by 1948.

The current Downtown Church of Christ building (west side of the block) was built in phases. The back portion was built in 1940 (see date on building), and the portion fronting on Church Street was built in 1957. And there is a modern addition to the west as well. The Church of Christ was affiliated with Arkansas Christian College, which was founded in Morrilton in 1919, and used their facilities as well. In 1924 Arkansas Christian College merged with Harper College of Harper, Kansas, to form Harding University. In 1934 Harding University moved to the old Galloway Female College campus in Searcy and still operates there today. [The old Arkansas Christian College Administration Building on Harding Street in Morrilton was built in 1920 and is National Register-listed (1/22/2014). It is now part of the Southern Christian Children's Home campus.]

109 S. Division—built ca. 1925. Craftsman style with decorative exposed beams in the gable ends and square, brick porch supports that extend below the porch floor. Tapered columns on top of the brick bases have been clad in vinyl siding. According to the 1940 Census, the home was occupied by Allen J. Meadors and his wife, Ruth, who both worked at a laundry.

111/113/115? S. Division—built ca. 1915 and had a one-story wrap-around porch originally. Has large concrete block addition to south and east (Plummer's Flowers). Probably Colonial Revival in style originally.

According to the 1930 Census, this was the home of John Herman Imboden and his wife, Melanie. Imboden established a lumber business in 1908 at Conway and sold it in 1916 to purchase a lumber business in Morrilton. He and his son, Clarence, operated the J. H. Imboden & Son Lumber Company at the northeast corner of Broadway & Morrill streets.

By 1940, this was a rental property with 4 units, two of which were occupied by people who would later own houses in the Moose Addition Historic District—Walter J. Vance (abstractor) and Jack Jumper (Jumper Shoe Store).

Church Street--You'll quickly understand why this is called Church Street—there are churches built along it for several blocks.

First Presbyterian Church—In 1880 a Cumberland Presbyterian Church building was moved from Lewisburg to Morrilton and placed on this site, which was donated by the Morrill family, as they were members of the church. This building was destroyed by fire in 1892, and a new structure was not completed until 1902. In 1912 the Cumberland Presbyterian congregation united with the Presbyterian congregation across the street, and they met in the building on this site. The 3-story, red brick annex was built about 1920 behind the 1902 church building. The current Colonial Revival-style sanctuary was built in 1949 (dedicated 1952) to replace the 1902 building (the ca. 1920 annex still remains).

Conway County Library—

(NR-listed 4/15/1978)

In 1897 the Pathfinder Club was formed in Morrilton. This ladies club had a primary goal of establishing a library for the community. In the early years, club members collected books and moved them from one member's house to another. Only club members could check out books. In 1914 local residents pledged to help fund and maintain a public library, and the club purchased the old Presbyterian Church in the 100 block of S. Division Street for this purpose. By 1915 the Pathfinder Club had acquired more books and a lot at the southwest corner of Division and Church streets, enabling them to secure a grant from the Andrew Carnegie Foundation in the amount of \$10,000 to construct a library building. Morrilton's Carnegie Library was designed in the Colonial Revival style by Little Rock architect Thomas Harding, Sr. and was completed in October 1916. When the library opened, Morrilton was the smallest town in the U.S. to have a Carnegie Library (had a population of about 3,000). Carnegie Libraries were also built in Little Rock (no longer extant), Fort Smith (KFSM-TV station), and Eureka Springs.

Today the Conway County Library is one of two public libraries in Arkansas still using its Carnegie building (other is Eureka Springs).

New addition with elevator and handicapped accessible restrooms completed in 2000.

Plaque recognizing Nathan Green Gordon, World War II hero, Congressional Medal of Honor Winner, and attorney. He served as lieutenant governor from 1947 to 1967, the longest tenure of one person in that office in Arkansas history.

Moose Addition HD starts

Individual properties

205 S. Division—built ca. 1948 (in the former backyard of a larger house that was on the corner of S. Division and Church Street & is now demolished). Minimal Traditional in style with a close eave and little decorative detail.

Joe and Maxine Welter lived in this house from the time of their marriage in 1948 until their deaths in 1985 and 1992, respectively. Joe Welter was a World War II veteran and later operated a Studebaker dealership with his brother and brother-in-law called Hart & Welter Motors. Maxine Welter was a long-time teacher at Morrilton High School. They were also Hardison Hall concessionaires at Petit Jean for a couple of summers. The couple had no children.

208 S. Division—built ca. 1928. Colonial Revival with large, pedimented portico; symmetrical façade; and multi-pane windows with shutters.

According to the 1940 Census, this was the home of Joe Dowdle and his wife, Mollie Parks Dowdle. Joe Dowdle was a landowner and farmer and the son of Colonel Robert Allan Dowdle and Rebecca Taylor Dowdle, prominent Morrilton residents who built a large, Queen Anne-style home at 410 S. Moose Street in 1882 (it was demolished about 1960 and another home constructed on the site). 208 S. Division was later occupied by the Stobaugh family.

209 S. Division—built ca. 1925. Craftsman. Notice old stone retaining wall (another home to the south was demolished).

1940—Carl Linebarger, assistant cashier at a bank, and his wife, Vivian.

Later occupied by Walter J. Vance, an abstractor, and his wife, Lula (remember they previously rented an apartment in the 100 block).

210 S. Division—Former site of the E. H. Morrill House (long gone). The current home was built ca. 1915. Nice Craftsman house with exposed rafter tails, stucco in the gable end (mixed materials), triangular knee braces, decorative fretwork in the porch gable, square brick porch supports, and Craftsman-style window pane arrangement.

1930—Oscar J. Olson and his wife, Essie. Mr. Olson was the mayor of Morrilton from 1928-34 and again from 1935-38.

1940—William Cleo (went by Cleo) Cheek and his wife, Bernice. Mr. Cheek rotated between the offices of Conway County clerk, circuit clerk, and treasurer from 1929 to 1946.

1950s & 60s—Gus Young family.

Currently occupied by grandchildren of Cleo and Bernice Cheek.

300 S. Division—built ca. 1935. English Revival-style with steeply pitched roof, large front-facing cross gable, turret with finial, front entrance set in an ogee arch with cast-stone surround, and cast-stone detailing above front window.

1940—Marvin Huie and his wife, Maye. He was a merchandise broker.

301 & 303 S. Division—built ca. 1955. Plain/Traditional or Ranch influence with horizontal orientation and roof with low pitch.

Built by Robert Franklin “Frank” Reid, who in 1929 opened the first funeral home in Morrilton, to serve as a duplex. By 1940, Reid’s Funeral Home was located in the large house at 118 S. Moose (currently Harris Funeral Home).

305 S. Division—built ca. 1950. Plain/Traditional with board-and-batten in the gable end.

Originally built for Emma Lee Eddy, daughter of physician John D. Eddy.

Later occupied by the Beaty family.

400 S. Division—built ca. 1952. Ranch-style home faced with Roman brick. Built for James “Jimmy” Mobley, grandson of Richard Mobley. Richard Mobley started Mobley Construction Company in 1910 as a contracting firm that built roads and bridges in Arkansas. Jimmy Mobley later headed the company. [The company now exists as Mobley Contractors, Inc., run by Ronald and Janice Mobley.]

401 S. Division—built ca. 1925. Craftsman-style home with modifications. 1940—Patrick Henry Hamilton and his wife, Gladys. Hamilton was a contractor.

403 S. Division—built ca. 1950. Plain/Traditional. This house replaced an earlier structure on the site. It was built about 1950 for Jack Jumper and his wife, Mary Louise. Mr. Jumper owned Jumper Shoe Store.

404 S. Division—built ca. 1935. English Revival with slightly flared eaves. 1940—Garner H. Smith and wife, Bernice. Mr. Smith was a building contractor and architect. Later occupied by the Harper family. Mr. Harper owned the local Esso distributorship.

405 S. Division—built ca. 1920. Craftsman. 1930—George M. Rapier and his wife, Lillian. Mr. Rapier was a telegraph operator. 1940—Clifton B. Linton and his wife, Mamie, who were both teachers. Later owned by Dr. Henry E. Mobley and used as a rental property. 1954-56—B. E. Burns family. Mr. Burns worked for Farmer’s Home Insurance Company.

406 & 408 S. Division—built ca. 1943. Craftsman duplex. Once owned by Julia and Mamie Morrill, who were sisters and descendants of the town’s namesake.

1930—

406-Julia and Mamie Morrill (rented for \$17/month). Mamie worked in a dry goods store.

408-Lowell Burgess and wife, Madge. Lowell was the manager of Rephan's Dry Goods, and Madge ran a beauty shop.

407 S. Division—built ca. 1920. Craftsman. Twin to the house at 405 S. Division.

1940—Kellie Jennings, owner of a beauty shop.

Later owned by Dr. H. E. Mobley and used as a rental property.

1950s—Chester and Tillie Castle. Mr. Castle was a photographer.

409 S. Division—built ca. 1920. Folk Victorian/English Revival combo with Folk Victorian plan and bay window but English Revival chimney and arched door openings.

1930—Thomas MacFarland and wife, Mabel. MacFarland was the district service manager for a public utility company. They rented the house for \$15/month.

1940—Sam R. McKinley and wife, Esther. They owned McKinley 5 & 10-cent store.

1950s—Clayton family. Mrs. Clayton was a teacher.

410 S. Division—built ca. 1925. Craftsman.

Rental House

1930—George A. Randolph and wife, Inez. Mr. Randolph was the manager of a public utilities company. They rented the home for \$30/month.

1940—Benjamin Franklin Scroggin, Sr., and wife, Margaret. Ben Scroggin was a cotton oil salesman at the Morrilton Cotton Oil Mill, a business that was started by his father, John Jonas Scroggin, and uncle, Orville Oliver Scroggin.

1940s—Sloan family (wife was a Scroggin sister).

Late 1940s to 1952-53—Phyllis Scroggin McKuin's family lived here.

1958-59—Jay and Gray Scroggin.

500 S. Division—built ca. 1930. Colonial Revival house with Doric columns at the entrance and eaves with return.

1930 & 1940—John P. Thines (“Tinas”) and wife, Clara. Along with his uncle, Henry Drilling, John P. Thines started the D and T stores in Morrilton (grocery stores). The main store was located at the corner of N. Division & Commerce, and they later expanded to have stores at Main & Division, as well as another on Main Street and one on Moose Street. After a 1941 fire destroyed the original D & T store, John Thines established the Central Distributing Company, a wholesale produce business. In 1948 John and his wife, Clara, became the first concessionaires at Hardison Hall on Petit Jean Mountain. John and Clara died in 1962 and 1968, respectively.

501 S. Division—built ca. 1950. Plain Traditional/Colonial Revival.

Once owned by Ray Williams, family physician.

Mid-to-late 1950s until 1990s—Home of Manuel "Bunk" Allison and Modene Floyd Allison. Bunk Allison went in with Charles Simmes in the Ford dealership, which then became Allison-Simmes Ford, and then Allison Ford. Allison Ford Lincoln Co. is currently located at 1207 E. Harding Street in Morrilton. The home is still occupied by the Allison family today.

502 S. Division—built ca. 1925. Colonial Revival with pedimented portico and eaves with return.

1930—William P. Strait and wife, Lillie. William Strait was an attorney in Morrilton and in 1901 was elected state representative. He was the mayor of Morrilton in 1903 and served two terms as prosecuting attorney for the Fifth Judicial District (beginning in 1908). In 1925 and 1927 he was again elected state representative. In 1919 his son, Audrey, joined him in his law practice. [Audrey Strait also served as mayor of Morrilton (1923 and 1927) and in 1940 became a circuit judge.]

1940—Charles Simmes and wife, Martha. Mr. Simmes owned and managed the Simmes Ford dealership, which later became Allison-Simmes, and then Allison Ford (which is still in business).

A descendant of the Thines family lives here today.

Point out water tower to southwest—built about 1915 and had a capacity of 80,000 gallons.

East on Green Street (used to be called Shady Lane)

Not in district boundary, but historic:

100 Green Street—built ca. 1925. Craftsman with clipped side gables.

1940—Victor Lee Boren and wife, Louise. Mr. Boren was the superintendent of School District No. 32 (Morrilton).

Ca. 1954-1990s—Rufus Morgan, Jr. and wife, Louise Ellis Morgan. Mr. Morgan was involved with the savings and loan crisis of the 1980s.

102 Green Street—newer home on site of ca. 1925 house. You can see the old concrete steps and concrete posts by driveway.

1940—John Patton and his wife, Vera Lee. John Patton came to Morrilton in 1889 and entered the hardware business with J. H. Jones. Patton served as alderman for 25 years and as mayor of Morrilton in 1900 and 1901. After World War I, his son, John, Jr., became his partner in the plumbing business (John Patton & Son Plumbing), and the company did the plumbing in several landmark buildings in town, including the Coca-Cola Building, Conway County Courthouse, First State Bank, and St. Anthony's Hospital.

1950s—Gregory family. Mr. Gregory was a farmer.

105 Green—built after 1948. Nice blend of English Revival and Ranch styles. Morrow, Willis & Collins families lived here at some point??

104 or 106 Green?—built after 1948. Ranch.

Talk about 410 S. Moose from Green Street. It is inside the district boundary.

410 S. Moose—built ca. 1960 on the site of the 1882 Queen Anne-style Robert Allan Dowdle House. You can still see parts of the old wrought-iron fence in the backyard of the current house.

In 1882 Colonel Robert Allan Dowdle and his wife, Rebecca Taylor Dowdle, moved from Little Rock to Morrilton and built a large, Queen Anne-style home on the

northwest corner of S. Moose & Green streets. Col. Dowdle owned a large farm and had a general store. The Dowdle House had 22 rooms, 16 fireplaces, and two carved stairways. The house had several outbuildings to the west. The Dowdle family was involved with the Methodist Church, and Col. Dowdle was a director of the Bank of Morrilton. Rebecca Dowdle died in 1906, followed by her husband in 1913. The house was also occupied by three other groups of Dowdle decendants—first Rea Dowdle Rainwater, whose family moved into the house after her mother’s death in 1906; then Taylor Dowdle, son of Col. & Mrs. Dowdle; and Joe Dowdle, youngest son of Col. & Mrs. Dowdle.

1930—Joe Dowdle and wife, Mollie Parks Dowdle. He was a farmer. They rented the house for \$40/month. Joe Dowdle lived at 208 S. Division by 1940, and 410 S. Moose was not listed in the 1940 Census.

Dr. Jack Mobley demolished the Dowdle House and built the current Ranch-style home about 1960. It is Ranch with Colonial Revival details.

Called the Mobley-Hill House for Dr. Jack Mobley, who built the house, and Fred Hill, who currently lives there.

Back outside of district...

South on S. Moose Street

500 S. Moose—built ca. 1950 to replace earlier home on the site. Colonial Revival. The previous house on this site was the home of Richard H. Dickenhorst and his wife, Bertie, in the 1930s and 40s. Dickenhorst was the vice president of First State Bank.

502 S. Moose—built ca. 1920. Craftsman.

1930 & 1940—Ned Bowers and wife, Nannie. He owned Bowers Shoe Repair Shop.

St. Anthony’s Hospital—

(NR-listed 3/28/1986)

The Benedictine Sisters at St. Scholastica Monastery established the 14-bed St. Anthony's Hospital in December 1925 in the old Burrows House, which was previously located on this site. The current hospital building was designed in 1935 in the Art Deco style by Little Rock architect Arthur Neal McAninch. When the building was constructed in 1937, after two years of funding difficulties, it was only 2 stories tall; however, McAninch included the plans for an optional third story if needed at a later date. When the hospital opened in the fall of 1937, it had 29 rooms, a laboratory, and two operating rooms. Due to the high volume of patients, a third story was added to the building in 1949, but it blends seamlessly. After the addition of a third story and a western annex, the hospital had 50 rooms, emergency room, fracture room, maternity suite, radiology room, a better dietary department, and more laboratory and surgical space.

In 1965 Conway County voters approved bonds to build a new hospital in Morrilton. Conway County Memorial Hospital, now St. Vincent Morrilton CHI, was dedicated on April 4, 1970, and the historic St. Anthony's Hospital was left vacant for more than 30 years. In 2004 the ARC Arkansas rehabilitated St. Anthony's Hospital to serve as housing for seniors using the federal historic rehab tax credit.

205 Green Street—built ca. 1920. Craftsman.

1930 & 1940—Audrey Strait and wife, Mary Fletcher Burrow Strait (she went by Fletcher). Audrey Strait, whose parents, William P. and Lillie Strait, lived on S. Division, was an attorney in Morrilton. Audrey served as a state representative from Conway County, he was city recorder, an alderman, and mayor of Morrilton in 1923 and 1927. In 1929 he was elected circuit judge of the Fifth Judicial District and served in that capacity until his retirement in 1962.

203 Green Street—built ca. 1915. Craftsman.

1930 & 1940—Thomas E. Massey, Sr. (first wife, Jenwyl Clark Massey, and second wife, Mary Johnson Massey??). Tom Massey started Massey Hardware Company in 1918 at 213 E. Broadway in Morrilton. He later opened stores in Conway, Russellville, and Clarksville. After Tom, Sr.'s death in 1959, his sons, Thomas and Edmund Massey ran the store. Thomas Massey later sold the store to Bill

Wofford, who changed the name to Morrilton Hardware and Electric. [No longer in business. Now the Rialto Gallery.]

Back in district boundary

North on S. Moose

404 S. Moose—built in 1940. English Revival with multiple front-facing cross gables, flared eaves, prominent chimney on front façade, and arched doorway. Built by Dr. Henry Ervin Mobley and his wife, Emma Louise. Dr. H. E. Mobley began practicing medicine in Morrilton in 1919 after returning from World War I. Dr. Mobley was instrumental in convincing the Benedictine Order to establish St. Anthony's Hospital in Morrilton (1925). Dr. Mobley also served on the school board; worked with his neighbor, Arthur V. Ormond, to develop the Arkansas River Navigation System (Lock & Dam No. 9 at Morrilton was named after Ormond); and served on the Arkansas State Highway Commission. He practiced medicine in Morrilton until his death in 1961 at the age of 70.

Henry and Emma Louise Mobley's son, Jack Mobley, also became a doctor. Dr. Jack Mobley later occupied his parents' home at 404 S. Moose. He built the house next door at 410 S. Moose ca. 1960.

403 S. Moose—built ca. 1925. Craftsman.

1940—Joe D. Jerry and wife, Elizabeth. He was a pharmacist.

House later purchased by Dr. H. E. Mobley for his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Edmund Howell Johnson.

402 S. Moose—built ca. 1925. Craftsman with unique second-story room.

1930—Herbert Roberts and wife, Miriam. Electrician.

1940—Arthur V. Ormond and wife, Lela Oates Ormond. Mr. Ormond owned and managed Ormond Insurance Agency, which he established in 1929. He was a founder of the Arkansas Basin Association and served as its president and treasurer. Because of his work with the Corps of Engineers during the Arkansas River Navigation Project in the 1960s, Lock and Dam No. 9 southwest of Morrilton was renamed Arthur V. Ormond Dam in 1986. He and his wife were heavily

involved in community and civic affairs. Their son, Charles L. Ormond, served as state representative in 1980-81. [Ormond-Stevens-Dell Insurance is still in Morrilton.]

401 S. Moose—built ca. 1925. Craftsman.

1940—Madison Hank Dean and wife, Mary Ellen. Mr. Dean was a merchant in Morrilton. May have owned a variety store?

315 S. Moose—built ca. 1938. Plain/Traditional with alterations.

1930s & 40s--Wiggs Flower Shop and owner's residence.

310 S. Moose—built ca. 1920. Craftsman with fieldstone porch and chimney and clipped gables.

1930—John A. Rauch and wife, Stella. He was a draftsman for an architecture firm. Rented for \$35/month.

1940—Ernest Rankin and wife, Lucille. Mr. Rankin operated a wholesale grocery company on N. Moose Street before becoming active in county politics. He served as deputy sheriff, county treasurer, and mayor of Morrilton (1934). After World War II, he opened an Oldsmobile dealership in Morrilton and later co-owned Foodland Grocery. Mr. Rankin also served as County Supervisor of Education.

309 S. Moose—built ca. 1949. Ranch.

One of the Dowdle descendants lived here. Which one?

308 S. Moose—built ca. 1950. Ranch.

The home was built for Catherine Black, daughter of a local dentist.

300 S. Moose—built ca. 1881. Queen Anne with steeply pitched roof, asymmetrical façade, and turret on the north elevation.

1930—Martha J. Cunningham, widow of G. L. Cunningham. She was then 76 years old.

Later in the 1930s, the home was divided into apartments. It is now a single-family residence.

207 S. Moose—built ca. 1940. Colonial Revival.

Built to serve as Dr. Henry E. Mobley's clinic and office. Dr. Mobley lived at 404 S. Moose.

By the 1950s, it was also Dr. Biggs' dental office. From the 1960s until the summer of 2013, it was the dental office of Dr. Hugh Wayne Biggs. Dr. H. W. Biggs died on June 6, 2014, at the age of 89.

206 S. Moose—built ca. 1920. Craftsman with exposed rafter tails, clipped gables, triangular knee braces, false half-timbering and stucco in the gable end, porte cochere, and fanlights above front windows.

1930—Robert A. Irving and wife, Clarkie. Robert Austin Irving was a Scottish immigrant and worked for the Little Rock & Ft. Smith Railroad, settling at Morrilton in 1873. In 1876 he opened Morrilton's first store. In 1882 his brother, William, joined him in the business, and their general store was called Irving Brothers. Irving Brothers carried dry goods, clothing, furnishings, hats, shoes, groceries, flour, feed, and other items.

1940—Ruth Irving, daughter of Robert A. Irving; her sister, Mabel Irving Stomes, who taught piano lessons; and her brother-in-law, Jim Stomes.

Out of district boundary...

200 Building—built ca. 1955 to house Dr. Jack Mobley's medical clinic. It was later Dr. Thomas Buchanan's clinic and a pharmacy run by Tommy O'Donnell and Clifford Evans. [The 200 Building was built on the site of the old 2-story Taylor A. Dowdle House (son of Col. Robert Dowdle).]

Looking east from corner of Moose & Church—

First Baptist Church—built 1950s?? Gothic Revival.

First United Methodist Church—built ca. 1959. Colonial Revival.

Harris Funeral Home (118 S. Moose)—The 2-story portion of this home was built in the late 19th century and functioned for many years as a single-family

residence. Who?? By 1930, it was rented by 3 families and 2 boarders for a total of \$30/month. By 1940, it was Reid Funeral Home, run by Robert Franklin “Frank” Reid and his wife, Elva Katherine Reid. The Reids also had a funeral and burial insurance program. They were the first funeral home in Morrilton (opened at another location in 1929), replacing the undertaking departments in hardware and furniture stores. In 1947 Robert Harris bought the funeral home from Mrs. Reid, and his son, Rob Harris, continues to operate Harris Funeral Home today.

Conway County Courthouse—

(NR-listed 11/13/1989)

The Neoclassical-style Conway County Courthouse was designed by Little Rock architect Frank Wooster Gibb and was constructed in 1929-30. A previous courthouse, built in 1883 on the same site, was destroyed by fire in 1927.

The Conway County Courthouse has benefitted numerous times from the AHPP’s County Courthouse Restoration Grant Program; in fact, they are just finishing up a grant project (\$160,000) to repair the parapet.

Thank you. Any questions?