

Walks through History
East Hamilton Avenue Historic District, Wynne
Begin at the NE corner of E. Hamilton & N. Falls Blvd. behind Regions Bank
September 15, 2012
By: Rachel Silva



813 E. Hamilton in the 1940s (left) and as it appears today (right)

Intro

Hi, my name is Rachel Silva, and I work for the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program. Welcome to the Walks through History tour of the East Hamilton Avenue Historic District! I'd like to thank the Cross County Historical Society for co-sponsoring the tour as well as a few people in particular for their help with the tour—

Bridget Hart, Joe Dooley, and Martha (Robertson) Carvill for their wealth of knowledge about Hamilton Avenue;

Richard Hartness, Michelle Slabaugh, Joy McMinn, and Florence Halstead at the museum for their help and willingness to loan materials;

Sandra Tucker for loaning me some old Wynne telephone directories;

Mayor Bob Stacy and Jerry Brewster with the City Streets Department for installing the wonderful historic district signage;

And last but definitely not least, Mark & Bundy Hickey, Bridget Hart, and Mike & Terry Twist for allowing us to use their homes as rest stops along the way.

The East Hamilton Avenue Historic District was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2011 for its wonderful collection of late 19th and early 20th century architecture, including examples of the Queen Anne, Craftsman, Colonial Revival, English Revival, and Spanish Revival styles. The district also contains some good examples of the Ranch style, which are representative of the neighborhood's growth to the east during the mid-twentieth century. The district contains 63 properties along East Hamilton Avenue between North Falls Boulevard and North Killough Road, as well as the residences along Eldridge Court. [48 properties (or 76.2%) contribute to the historic significance of the district, 14 (or 22.2%) are non-contributing, and one property is individually listed on the National Register (making up 1.6% of the total).]

Brief History of Wynne and Cross County

Cross County was one of two counties created by Arkansas's Confederate Legislature in November 1862 and was formed from parts of St. Francis, Poinsett, and Crittenden counties.¹ Cross County was named after prominent area resident Colonel David C. Cross, who led the Fifth Arkansas Infantry Regiment during the Civil War. He returned home from the war in 1862 to lobby for the creation of a new county. Cross and his allies slipped past enemy Union troops and went to Little Rock, where they persuaded the legislature to establish Cross County.² Cross County has had 5 county seats. Pineville was chosen as the first county seat. In the spring of 1865, county commissioners selected Cleburne as the next county seat. Cleburne was named after Col. Cross's fallen commander, General Patrick R. Cleburne of Helena.³

¹ Cross County was established on November 15, 1862, and Woodruff County was created on November 26, 1862. Woodruff County had to be reapproved in 1865 following the upheaval of the Civil War. Barnett, "Woodruff County," Encyclopedia of Arkansas History and Culture.

² Col. Cross would eventually own 85,000 acres of land, making him the most extensive landholder in the county. He relocated to Memphis and later died in August 1874 while visiting Cross County. He was buried in the family cemetery of fellow former Confederate William Percy Wilkins.

The Wynne Progress, Cross County Revisited, 3.

³ A courthouse was never constructed at Cleburne.

The county seat was moved again in 1868 to Wittsburg, a thriving town on the banks of the St. Francis River in eastern Cross County. However, when the north-south Helena (or Knobel) branch of the St. Louis, Iron Mountain & Southern Railroad was completed through the center of Cross County in 1882, Wittsburg declined as the railroad replaced the steamboat as the major form of transportation. Many people relocated to Vanndale, a community located on the railroad. Vanndale was named after a local merchant, John M. Vann. In 1884, the county seat was moved to Vanndale, and a courthouse was erected there in 1888. Meanwhile, it appeared as if the east-west Memphis branch of the St. Louis, Iron Mountain & Southern Railroad would come through Wittsburg, possibly providing another shot of life for the town; however, a natural gap in Crowley's Ridge to the north of Wittsburg proved the most economical route for the railroad. The Memphis (or Bald Knob) branch eventually made its way through the small community of Wynne in 1887. [The Bald Knob to Memphis branch was started at Bald Knob in Dec. 1886 and came through Wynne in September 1887. It was completed to Memphis in 1888.]⁴

Although people settled at present-day Wynne as early as 1828, the town of Wynne traces its history back to 1882 when the Helena branch of the railroad was completed. A train derailed almost due west of then-county seat Wittsburg, leaving behind a boxcar. The boxcar was turned upright, and the site was called "Wynne Station" in honor of Civil War veteran and prominent Forrest City banker Captain Jesse Watkins Wynne. However, the small community experienced rapid growth after 1887, when the Memphis branch of the Iron Mountain Railroad crossed the Helena branch at Wynne Station, which then became known as "Wynne Junction." Wynne was incorporated on May 28, 1888, and the county

The Wynne Progress, Cross County Revisited, 3; James, "Cross County History," unpublished document available at the Cross County Historical Society Museum; *The Goodspeed Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Eastern Arkansas*, 322-323.

⁴ *The Wynne Progress, Cross County Revisited*, 4; James, "Cross County History," unpublished document available at the Cross County Historical Society Museum.

seat was moved in 1903 about six miles south from Vanndale to Wynne, where it remains today.⁵

Wynne had a population of about 500 people when it was incorporated in 1888; and by 1890, the population had reached 1,000. *The Goodspeed Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Eastern Arkansas* ranked it “among the first of Eastern Arkansas towns” in “commercial importance” in 1890.⁶ After a September 1897 fire destroyed most of the early wood-frame commercial buildings along Front Street, brick buildings were constructed to replace them. By 1900 the population of Wynne was 1,631, and by 1904, it had doubled to 3,216. A courthouse was constructed in Wynne in 1906 (but was demolished in 1969 after the current courthouse was completed).⁷

Cross County (and the Arkansas Delta, for that matter) was once covered by vast forests of hardwood timber. Sawmills, stave mills, and associated timber industries operated near the junction of the rail lines at Wynne in order to easily ship their goods. However, “cut out and get out” practices quickly depleted the Delta forests, clearing much of the land for farming.⁸ In addition to timberlands, much of the county was situated on fertile soil ideal for growing a variety of crops. The lowlands were predominantly planted in cotton in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, and as many as three cotton gins were located in the city limits of Wynne from 1903 to 1908. Two gins continued to operate inside the city limits until at least 1951, and Wynne was also home to the Federal Cotton Compress and warehouse during those years.⁹ Several factors, including the overproduction of cotton, the MS River Flood of 1927, and the drought of 1930-

⁵ *The Wynne Progress, Cross County Revisited*, 4; James, “Cross County History,” unpublished document available at the Cross County Historical Society Museum.

⁶ *The Goodspeed Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Eastern Arkansas*, 326.

⁷ Sanborn Fire Insurance Company, “Wynne,” 1897 map; *The Goodspeed Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Eastern Arkansas*, 326.

⁸ Timber companies practiced the “cut out and get out” technique until at least the 1920s, quickly depleting much of the state’s hardwood forests. This technique involved purchasing a parcel of land, cutting the trees, processing them, shipping them, and then moving on to another parcel of land.

George W. Balogh, “Timber Industry,” *Encyclopedia of Arkansas History and Culture*; Internet, accessed 19 June 2009, available from <http://www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net/encyclopedia/entry-detail.aspx?search=1&entryID=2143>.

⁹ Sanborn Fire Insurance Company, “Wynne,” 1897, 1903, 1908, 1913, 1919, 1945 & 1951 maps.

31, contributed to a shift in farming rice and soybeans instead of cotton. The sandy soil on Crowley's Ridge, along with the ridge's slightly higher elevation, made it ideal for growing a variety of fruits, particularly peaches.¹⁰ Wynne became a major shipping hub for area fruit growers.

The development of commerce in Wynne was, and continues to be, a reflection of the area's agricultural economy. For instance, there were two lumber companies in Wynne in 1951, but the stave mills, hoop factories, and other timber-related industries were gone due to the depletion of the hardwood forests.¹¹ As stated previously, two cotton gins operated in Wynne as late as 1951, but they closed by the late 1950s due to a combination of factors resulting in the decline of cotton as a cash crop. Gibbs-Harris Rice Dryer, Inc., the first rice dryer in Wynne, was constructed in 1945, indicating a shift to rice farming.¹²

The Missouri Pacific Railroad stopped passenger service through Wynne in August 1965, signaling the end of the railroad era and the final push toward the automobile age. The 1910-11 Mediterranean-style Missouri Pacific Passenger Depot was demolished in 1993 (it was located just NE of the railroad track intersection downtown). Two major highways go through Wynne, U.S. Hwy. 64 and Arkansas Hwy. 1, enticing many business owners to relocate along the roadways.¹³

Early Residential Development and East Hamilton Avenue

During the early 20th century, new residential areas were platted throughout Wynne. Initially, residential development was located near the intersection of the railroad tracks just beyond the city's commercial area. Most of the area NW and SW of the track intersection was owned by Prussian immigrant and real estate mogul Morris Raphaelsky, while Joshua S. Brookfield, a native Arkansan with a

¹⁰ Peach trees flourish in light, sandy soil, and the higher elevation lessens the impact of frosts. Jackson, "Peach Industry," Encyclopedia of Arkansas History and Culture.

¹¹ Sanborn Fire Insurance Company, "Wynne," 1951 map.

¹² Sanborn Fire Insurance Company, "Wynne," 1945 & 1951 maps.

¹³ Seabaugh, "Wynne," Encyclopedia of Arkansas History and Culture.

variety of jobs, including land agent, surveyor, civil engineer, and lawyer, owned the area NE and SE of the intersection. Brookfield died in 1886, and his widow, Nancy “Nannie” Sanders Brookfield, later managed his landholdings. Their son, Benjamin Brookfield, surveyed and platted many of the early additions to Wynne.

Hamilton Avenue runs east-west one block north of the railroad tracks. The western end of Hamilton Avenue is very close to the downtown area, and thus developed earlier than the eastern end of the street, which did not appear on a Sanborn map until 1951. Around the turn of the 20th century, a few homes were constructed on the eastern end of Hamilton Avenue, but they would have been on the edge of town at that time.

Raphael Block, who came to the U.S. from France in 1871, operated general mercantile stores in Wittsburg and Vandale before moving to Wynne in 1908. Here he established the mercantile firm of R. Block & Sons and was one of the organizing directors, and later president of, the Cross County Bank. Block chose to construct his family home on the eastern end of Hamilton Avenue, slightly removed from the town’s commercial area. Built in the early twentieth century, the two-story, Classical Revival-style home featured a monumental entrance with a triangular pediment supported by four Ionic columns. It was located at 704 East Hamilton (near the site of Regions Bank at the northeast corner of E. Hamilton Avenue and N. Falls Boulevard). Raphael Block and his wife, Hester Hamilton Block, had four children: Herman, Felix, Nina, and Dave. After the deaths of Raphael and Hester Block, the house at 704 E. Hamilton was occupied by their son-in-law and daughter, James Holt Andrews and Nina Block Andrews. By 1947, J. H. Andrews had died, and the house was occupied by Nina Block Andrews, her son, Rafe Andrews; her nephew, David Block, Jr., and his wife, Joanna. By the late 1950s, Rafe Andrews lived there. Unfortunately, the home was demolished in 1971.

The Giboney-Robertson-Stewart House at 734 East Hamilton Avenue (NR-listed 6/5/1998) was built about 1895 and is the best example of a two-story Queen Anne-style house in Wynne. The home’s second owner, Edward Dale Robertson, owned a substantial amount of land around East Hamilton Avenue. He and Oliver

Newton Killough divided their landholdings and platted several additions around Hamilton Avenue in the early twentieth century. This house is still standing...more later.

Oliver Newton Killough, a prominent attorney in Wynne, and his wife, Blanche Malone Killough, built a large Classical Revival-style home in 1902 on a hill northeast of the intersection of East Hamilton Avenue and North Killough Road. They called their house "Killone," which was a combination of the Killough and Malone names. Killone burned on February 27, 1928. Grandson Jack Killough and his wife, Esther, built a house near the site and live there today. This house would have been just beyond the eastern boundary of the historic district on what is known as "Killough Hill." Killough Road is named for the family as well.

After dividing their landholdings, Edward Dale Robertson platted additions around his home on the western end of East Hamilton Avenue, and Oliver Newton Killough platted additions near his home on the eastern end of East Hamilton Avenue. By the 1930s, there were many homes built along East Hamilton Avenue, which was, and still is, considered to be one of the best neighborhoods in Wynne. Wallace Eldridge, Sr., was employed by Cross County Bank and platted the Eldridge Place Addition, which includes the twelve lots facing Eldridge Court. Eldridge Court is an oval-shaped street just to the north of East Hamilton Avenue. A large median with trees is located in the center of the oval. When the Eldridge Place Addition was platted, the City of Wynne did not maintain the neighborhood streets or the median area. Sometime between 1908 and 1912, Eldridge Court was paved by James and Arthur Robertson, who started a paving company in order to pay for their college tuition. In the late 1940s, local residents Jack Gardner and Jere Kernodle mowed the Eldridge Court median for 35 cents.¹⁴ Jere Kernodle remembered that there was a swing set on the Court before World War II, which was probably given to the war effort for scrap metal.

Detailed Property Descriptions—cross to south side of Hamilton

¹⁴ Bridget Hart and Joe Dooley, Interview by author, 25 January 2011, Wynne, Arkansas; Martha Robertson Carvill, Interview by author, 15 February 2011, Little Rock, Arkansas.

I already talked about the Block-Andrews Home at 704 E. Hamilton. The next lot to the east was always vacant. Then there was a ca. 1925 white, Colonial Revival-style house at 726 E. Hamilton built by Felix Block. By the mid-1940s, Roy Urfer and his wife, Forrest Rose Urfer, moved from Hickory Ridge into this house. Like his father, Fred, Roy Urfer was involved with the Arkansas Rice Growers Cooperative Association in Stuttgart (now Riceland Foods), serving as District Director of the Hickory Ridge District. The Urfer House burned in the late 1970s or early 80s (Roy Urfer died in 1977). At that time, it had been converted to commercial use.

734 East Hamilton Avenue (Map ID #1): The Giboney-Robertson-Stewart House was built about 1895 by W. A. and Ann Giboney on part of the original parcel of land deeded to the St. Louis, Iron Mountain & Southern Railroad Company for the construction of its Memphis branch through Wynne in 1887. About 1902 the house was purchased by Edward Dale Robertson and his wife, Ethel Beard Robertson. The Robertsons purchased this house because Humphrey Robertson, one of their eight children, died in 1900 as an infant, and Ethel Robertson could not bear to remain in the house where the child died. Edward Dale Robertson became the first chancery judge in what is now the Fifth Chancery District in Eastern Arkansas. His sons, James, Arthur, and Hugh, were World War I pilots. James Robertson later became a highly respected lawyer in Wynne. In 1917 the house was purchased by Dr. T. J. Stewart, a pioneering doctor in Wynne who helped establish the town as a center for medical services in the region. In the 1930s Dr. Stewart owned a drug store at the northeast corner of N. Front Street and Merriman Avenue in Wynne (the building was later home to Burnett Drugs). In the mid-to-late 1930s Dr. Stewart's health declined, and he was bed-ridden. He would talk to the neighborhood children through his window when they played nearby. The house was restored in the late 1990s by Mary June Burnett and listed on the National Register of Historic Places on June 5, 1998. The Giboney-Robertson-Stewart House is the best example of a two-story Queen Anne-style residence in Wynne.

804 East Hamilton Avenue (Map ID #2): The J. C. Hilliard House was built in 1929 and is an excellent example of the Craftsman style with its one-story, wrap-around porch with square, brick porch supports, porte cochere, and widely overhanging eaves. John C. Hilliard acquired the property in 1917 from D. L. Small. John C. and Evelyn Hilliard lived here until at least 1952. Mr. Hilliard owned The Hub Men's Wear and Bargain Basement stores at 107 E. Merriman Avenue in Wynne (this building was demolished in the late 1990s). Hilliard became a director of the Cross County Bank in 1941. The home was later purchased by Roland and Mary June Burnett. Roland Burnett operated Burnett Drugs at the northeast corner of N. Front Street and Merriman Avenue. Burnett Drugs closed in 1992.

814 East Hamilton Avenue (Map ID #3): The David Hamilton House was built about 1912. It was designed in the Colonial Revival style with a small front portico and a hipped roof with a low pitch. David Hamilton was a cashier at a local bank and cousin to Herman, Felix, Nina, and Dave Block (Hester Block was a Hamilton, so David must have been one of her brother's sons). By the early 1930s Leland and Camille Harris purchased the house. Leland worked at the Wynne Wholesale Grocer Company, and Camille was a talented pianist.

824 East Hamilton Avenue (Map ID #4): The Moore-Stacy House, built about 1905, is a good example of the Colonial Revival style with its triangular pediment supported by fluted, Doric columns, multi-pane windows with shutters, and paneled front door with four-pane transom window. The home was originally owned by Ossaine and Nellie Moore. Later, their daughter, Florence Moore Stacy and her husband, Mack Stacy, lived here. Mr. and Mrs. Stacy worked for the Cross County government. Mrs. Stacy was a beloved Sunday School teacher at the Wynne Presbyterian Church. The street to the east of this house was named in her honor. Originally named North Maple Street, in 1973 the street was named Florence Stacy Street. Ernest Dooley and his wife, Mary Daniel Dooley, purchased the house in 1973. A small addition was built to the east of the house, and a landscape architect was hired to design the rear patio and garden. The house

contains a stained glass window obtained from the Wynne Presbyterian Church after it burned in 1968.

First rest stop at 813 E. Hamilton—home of Mark & Bundy Hickey.

813 East Hamilton Avenue (Map ID #56): Built about 1912, the Herman and Clara Block House is the best example of an American Foursquare with Craftsman-style details in the district. The two-story, brick house has a pyramidal roof with a hipped-roof dormer on the east, north, and west sides. A full, one-story front porch is supported by massive, square columns. Exposed rafter tails and decorative, paired brackets are situated under the eaves. An original two-story carriage house is located southwest of the house and had living quarters upstairs for servants. Herman A. Block was the eldest child of Raphael and Hester Block. At one time, all four of the Block children lived in the East Hamilton Avenue neighborhood. Herman and Clara Block lived here, Dave and Mary Louise Block lived at 104 Eldridge Court, Felix (and Eva?) Block lived at 726 E. Hamilton (this home was later owned by Roy and Forrest Urfer and burned), and James and Nina Block Andrews lived at 717 E. Hamilton and 704 E. Hamilton (704 E. Hamilton was demolished in 1971). Herman Block was an accountant in the Block Mercantile Company. Herman and Clara Block had big dances in the front rooms of this house. In November 1943, Clara Myers Block sold the house to James and Bess Robertson for \$6,750. James Robertson and his wife, Bess Shackelford Robertson, had two children, Martha Robertson Carvill and Dr. Brown Robertson (both of whom are here today). James died in 1972, and Bess sold the house in 1988. It has had several owners since that time. Brown Robertson remembered that one of the family's maids, Mary Red, saw the ghost of Herman Block in the attic. As a child, Brown was afraid to go in the attic. 😊 Before the house at 813 E. Hamilton was constructed, the Edward Dale Robertson family who lived at 734 E. Hamilton planted a garden on this lot.

Cross over to Eldridge Court--Wallace Eldridge, Sr., platted the Eldridge Place Addition, which includes the twelve lots facing Eldridge Court.

103 Eldridge Court (Map ID #5): The Marvin Ogan House was built in 1923 and is an excellent example of the Craftsman style in the district. The two-story house features a one-story, wrap-around porch supported by massive, square porch supports, false half-timbering on the upper story façade, eight-over-one windows, a porte cochere, and widely overhanging eaves. Mr. Ogan was an insurance agent. In the early 1940s, the house was purchased by Fred Urfer and his wife, Elsa Lemke Urfer. Fred Urfer first married Elizabeth Miliman and the couple had two children who survived to adulthood—Georgia and Roy Urfer. Elizabeth Urfer died in 1912, and Fred was remarried on June 1, 1913, to Elsa Lemke. The couple had 3 more children, Alice, Freda, and Fred, Jr. or “Buddy.” Before moving into town, the Urfers lived in Hickory Ridge, where they farmed. Fred Urfer was one of the first men to grow rice in Cross County and was instrumental in the organization of the Arkansas Rice Growers Cooperative Association in Stuttgart. After Fred’s death in June 1946, Ms. Elsie Urfer remained in this house and rented out the upstairs rooms to local teachers. The Urfer’s grandson, Fred Gresham, lives here now.

105 Eldridge Court (Map ID #6): This Craftsman-style house was built in 1923 by Homer S. Crawford. The Crawford family lived here until at least 1972. Mrs. Kathleen Crawford was a seamstress. Homer Crawford grew up at 823 East Hamilton, and his parents were dry goods merchants in Wynne. After the Homer Crawford family moved out of this house, the home was purchased by Leon Wigginton, who used it as a rental property. The house features a prominent one-story porch with a front-gabled roof, triangular knee braces under the eaves, exposed rafter tails, and massive, square porch supports. In the 1980s and 1990s, Ray Shempert, head football coach at Wynne High School, and his wife, Brenda, lived here. Coach Shempert retired last year (2011).

107 Eldridge Court (Map ID #7): The English Revival-style house at 107 Eldridge Court was built about 1924 by Homer Crawford. The one-story brick house features a side-gabled roof with clipped gable ends and a prominent front-facing gable with a steep pitch. Notice the screened porch—the house at 115 Eldridge Court had a similar porch which was long ago filled in with glass block. In 1952,

Albert Horner and his wife lived here. Throughout the rest of the 1950s, only Mrs. Horner is listed (did Albert die?).

109 Eldridge Court (Map ID #8): The Will Hinton House was built in 1923 and is one of two identical Sears & Roebuck pre-fabricated houses in the district. The 1 ½-story, wood-frame house exhibits Dutch Colonial Revival characteristics like a side-gabled roof with a prominent shed dormer and a one-story front porch. Willie Hinton was a pharmacist and from the 1930s to the 1950s, he worked in the drug store built by his father, Cephus Fletcher Hinton, at 106 N. Front Street in Wynne. By 1952, Clyde Burke and his wife, Frances, lived here. Mr. Burke was employed by the Missouri-Pacific Railroad Company.

111-113 Eldridge Court (Map ID #9): The Isadore and Lena Lehman House, built about 1931, features Craftsman-style porticos over its two front entrances. The rounded arch porticos are each supported by two triangular knee braces. Isadore and Lena Lehman built this duplex as a rental property. Isadore was of Polish descent, and his wife, Lena, was Russian. They were part of a thriving Jewish community in Wynne. In the 1930s, Mr. Lehman owned a shoe store next to Standley's on Front Street where he sold Buster Brown Shoes. When a child got a pair of shoes there he/she received a metal hand toy that clicked like a cricket when squeezed. In 1947 Standley and Rose Greenfield lived at 111 (on the left)—possibly after selling their house next door at 115 (the Greenfields don't appear in any 1950s directories, so they must have moved out of town). There were several tenants in these duplexes throughout the 1950s, including David Drexler, Benton Burnett, Lucy Daniel, James A. Wright, John Tarbutton, C. E. Cook, and David & Bonnie Carwile.

115 Eldridge Court (Map ID #10): The Standley Greenfield House, constructed about 1930, is a good example of the English Revival style with its side-gabled roof, prominent front-facing gable, and brick chimney situated near the center of the front façade. However, a large opening on the front façade (likely an open or screened porch originally) has been filled in with glass block, making the house non-contributing. Mr. Greenfield owned and operated Standley's Ladies Wear, a

large dress shop at the southeast corner of N. Front Street and Merriman Avenue, from the 1930s to the 1970s (this commercial building burned in the late 1990s). Standley Greenfield was the son of Polish and Russian immigrants. His father, Joe Greenfield, was a dry goods merchant in Wynne. About 1950 the home was purchased by P. H. Curd, who owned Curd's Grocery & Market at 108 N. Front Street in Wynne. J. T. and Sandra Tucker lived here from 1984 to 1996.

117 Eldridge Court (Map ID #11): Built in 1940, the W. H. Heitt House features English Revival-style characteristics in its side-gabled roof with two front-facing cross gables and a small portico accessed by a rounded arch opening. From the early 1940s until at least 1975, Carl and Irene Lyles lived here. Mr. Lyles owned the Pontiac-Buick car dealership in Wynne and sold insurance. Mrs. Lyles was a teacher.

When Bridget Hart was a child, Mr. Bill Heitt, who built this house, came to her house each month to collect the Metropolitan Insurance premium from her parents, Jack and Fannie Pauline Herman. Mr. Heitt would often bring a booklet to Bridget and her brother, Jim, which featured pictures of families doing dangerous things, such as standing on a chair or plugging in a frayed electric cord. The children were to pick out as many dangerous actions as possible. To check their answers, they placed over the pictures a red cellophane sheet that came with the booklet. The see-through sheet emphasized each dangerous act. As a small child, Bridget always looked forward to his next visit.

110 Eldridge Court (Map ID #12): The Dr. Thomas A. Peterson House was built about 1935. This handsome brick home was designed in the English Revival style with a side-gabled roof and two front-facing cross gables. A prominent chimney is situated on the front façade. The house also features rounded arch openings over the front door, windows, and a side porch. In the early 1930s Dr. Peterson built the Peterson Clinic at 303 East Union Street in Wynne. Dr. Peterson's widow, Mayo Peterson Norman, lived here until her death in 1997.

108 Eldridge Court (Map ID #13): Built about 1935, the James L. and Mildred Gardner House features elements of the English Revival style with its two steeply pitched, front-facing cross gables. However, the application of synthetic siding and new windows has obscured important architectural details, making the house non-contributing to the historic significance of the district. Beginning in the late 1940s, J. L. Gardner owned the Wynne Lumber Company and was a director for Wynne Federal Savings and Loan, organized by George W. Eldridge. Mr. Gardner also served as president of the Wynne School Board for many years. There were three Gardner children—James L. “Jim” Gardner, Jr., Jack Reed Gardner, and Janet Gardner. Jim Gardner retired from the U.S. Air Force in 1983 as a Major General after 32.5 years of active duty. Jack, now deceased, was a doctor in Searcy (Jack went into the field of obstetrics and gynecology because his mother died in childbirth). In the late 1940s, Jack Gardner and nearby resident Jere Kernodle mowed the Eldridge Court median for 35 cents.

Some stories from Jim Gardner...

Jerry Proctor retaliated against me for shoving him into the Andrews fish pond when we lived across from them on Hamilton Avenue in about 1935 or early 1936. Jerry dipped a cat in an open can of white paint in our garage, rang the front door bell, and when Grandmother Gardner, who lived with us caring for my brother, Jack, and me following our mother's death, opened it only to have the screaming cat thrown into the living room where it promptly climbed the curtains and generally made a grand mess of the living room. We moved into our new home at 108 Eldridge Court in 1935 or '36. My Dad remarried a wonderful lady who had been teaching school in Mississippi and then in Wynne. Had it not been for her I have no doubt I would have lived a worthless life and likely died before my 21st birthday. She sold her car for money to buy the lot (for the house). After Jack and I had long been gone, Dad and Mom remained in the home until after she died in early 1984. In 1989, Dad moved into a Retirement Home in Little Rock to be near our sister, Janet Gardner Gattis. The house was modified with a screened porch on a newly poured concrete floor off the sun porch in the rear sometime in the 1950s. There are three sets of children's hand prints on the southwest corner of that concrete--Jack's, Janet's, and mine. They were still there when I left Wynne

for Charleston, S.C. in 1989. I remember playing ping-pong in the sun porch on Sunday, December 7, 1941, when the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor was announced over the radio. At one time, I made a rope ladder to slip away unannounced by going out a door off Jack's and my bedroom on the southwest side of the house. I only used it once, as it was too difficult to climb it safely as the rope "steps" were hard to slip your foot into going either up or down. It was a great place to grow up. For my money, it still is.

106 Eldridge Court (Map ID #14): The Herbert Everett Proctor House was built about 1935. The English Revival-style house was designed by architect Estes Mann from Marianna, Arkansas. It features a side-gabled roof with a large front-facing gable. The upper portion of the front-facing gable is decorated with false half-timbering. In 1930 Herbert Proctor was the Cross County Clerk. He later owned and operated a home furniture and gift shop in Wynne. The house was later purchased by Andy Clements, a lawyer in Wynne. The Clements family lived here until the late 1990s.

104 Eldridge Court (Map ID #15): The Dave and Mary Louise Block House, built in 1928, is a one-story house with a cross-gabled roof and a close eave. The house best reflects the Minimal Traditional style of architecture. Dave Block was a prominent banker and landowner in Wynne. He also served as chairman of the Arkansas State Highway Commission. Dave Block was the son of Raphael and Hester Block and brother to Herman, Felix, and Nina Block. His cousin was David Hamilton at 814 East Hamilton.

102 Eldridge Court (Map ID #16): The Dr. Thomas Wilson House was built in 1926. Dr. Wilson built the house for his first wife, but she died of cancer five years after the house was completed. Dr. Wilson's second wife, Elizabeth Watson Wilson, was from Memphis, Tennessee. Elizabeth Wilson worked for a group of lawyers in Memphis, and they encouraged her to take the bar exam. She passed it and became a lawyer, but she never practiced. Dr. Wilson was a much-loved country doctor in Wynne. He practiced at the Wilson Clinic, which was located at 518 E. Merriman Avenue. The Wilson Clinic served as the local hospital, with patients

treated for illnesses, babies delivered, surgeries performed, and emergencies handled. The clinic building was demolished about 1976. After the deaths of Dr. and Mrs. Wilson, the house was purchased in 1972 by Jim and Bridget Hart. The Hart family lived here for 25 years and sold the property to Lawrence Taylor. The Dr. Thomas Wilson House is non-contributing in the district because the two-story, stucco house originally had a Spanish Revival influence. The Mission-style parapets have been removed and the porte cochere rebuilt.

Cross back to south side of Hamilton and head east

924 East Hamilton (Map ID #17): The Carrie Robinson Miller House, built in 1940, is a good example of the Colonial Revival style in the district. It has a symmetrical façade with a central portico, six-over-six windows with shutters, and three gabled dormers. The house was built in 1940 by John Stephens, and Carrie Robinson Miller purchased it in 1942. She was secretary/treasurer for Wynne Savings and Loan and was the first woman to serve on the board of directors of the Arkansas State Savings and Loan League. Her siblings, Elmer Robinson and Leta Robinson Barwick, also lived on East Hamilton Avenue. Tragically, Mr. Miller died in 1936 after his vehicle slid off the St. Francis River Bridge, plunging him into the water below. Carrie Robinson Miller lived in this house until she was 94 years old. Then in March 2000, she went to be with her long-lost husband by deliberately driving her vehicle into the St. Francis River.

1004 East Hamilton Avenue (Map ID #18): The R. E. Kelley House was built about 1950. Before the house was constructed, this parcel of land was vacant. R. E. Kelley was a building contractor from Memphis, Tennessee, and built this house himself. The home was later purchased by Bill Rule, who opened a short-lived plywood factory in Wynne. Currently, the home is owned by James Westmoreland, Jr. Westmoreland's father, James Westmoreland, Sr., worked in Russell Clemons's Tin Shop in downtown Wynne. Russell Clemons came to Wynne in the early 1920s and started his tin shop in 1922. It was in a long, one-room brick building near the northwest corner of Canal and Wilson streets. The tin shop made custom tin or copper pieces used in building construction and repair work,

such as skylights, cornices, cresting, drain pipe, and guttering. The company also serviced heating and air conditioning units by the late 1930s. By 1939 the tin shop moved around the corner to the last brick building on S. Front St. before the creek bridge (this building is now gone). In the mid-1940s, Russell and his brother, Thurman, opened Clemons Brothers Sheet Metal Works in a building just to the southwest of the rice dryers. Then in the late 1940s, they built a new shop at the corner of Terry & Cogbill. The tin shop closed in the early 1950s, and Russell Clemons died in 1955. James Westmoreland, Jr., now owns Westmoreland Heating and Air, continuing the business started by Russell Clemons. The Ranch-style house is non-contributing in the district due to the enclosure of a carport on the west side and an addition on the east side of the house.

1010 East Hamilton Avenue (Map ID #19): The Clarence A. Forbes House, built about 1931, is a Minimal Traditional-style house with a cross-gabled roof and close eaves. The property was first owned by F. H. Jones. C. A. Forbes purchased it in 1941 and lived here until the 1990s. Mr. Forbes was a dispatcher for the Missouri-Pacific Railroad Company, and he served as president of Wynne Federal Savings and Loan from 1934 until about 1954. A railroad dispatcher controls movements of all trains in the area. These employees were so important that their names were always printed at the top of the trainman order sheets.

1012 East Hamilton Avenue (Map ID #20): The J. C. Patterson House was built about 1929 and is an interesting example of the Colonial Revival style in the district. It features a symmetrical façade with a slightly recessed central bay covered by a front porch supported by six square columns. By 1958, Mrs. Lucy Daniel lived here and remained until the 1980s. She worked for the Home Extension Service, providing education programs on agriculture, community development, home and garden, and youth services. Her husband, W. Corbin Daniel, Jr., founded the Wynne Implement Company in 1937. Wynne Implement Company sold John Deere farm implements and "Superfex" oil-burning refrigerators. The business was first located at 302-304 S. Front Street but later moved to 1705 N. Falls Boulevard. It is known today as Greenway Equipment Company.

1014 East Hamilton Avenue (Map ID #21): The H. D. and Patty Cleaver House was built about 1947 as a small, one-story, concrete block house situated near the back of the lot. H. D. Cleaver worked for the Missouri-Pacific Railroad. The house is non-contributing in the district due to a large 1 ½-story garage addition to the west side of the house. The entire residence has also been covered with synthetic siding, obscuring the original wall material.

1016 East Hamilton Avenue (Map ID #22): The Fred and Mary Ritchey House was built about 1935 and is a good example of the Colonial Revival style in the district. The house is symmetrical with six-over-six windows with shutters, a gabled portico, and two eyebrows on the side-gabled roof. Mr. and Mrs. Ritchey were part owners and managers of the Nehi-Royal Crown Bottling Plant at 208 S. Front Street in Wynne. They also owned and operated the Soda Grill Restaurant on North Wilson Street. Mary Ritchey's son, Elmer "Sody" Emerson McNeill, was married to Winifred McNeill Gammill. In later years, the house was occupied by Winifred Gammill, the daughter of D. M. Hamrick, co-owner of Hamrick Brothers Hardware at 206 E. Merriman Avenue.

1104 East Hamilton Avenue (Map ID #23): The Cecil and Veda Gibbs House was built in 1936 and designed by architect Estes Mann from Marianna, Arkansas. The buff brick, English Revival-style house features a side gabled roof with a front-facing gable at the entrance. The doorway is inside a rounded arch opening, and a prominent chimney is situated in the center of the front façade. The letter "G" is in-laid in brick on the chimney. Mr. Gibbs was one of the first large-scale rice farmers in Cross County and was part owner of Gibbs-Harris Rice Dryer, Inc., the first rice dryer in Wynne (built 1945). The company was later bought by Producers Rice Mill from Stuttgart, Arkansas. Mrs. Gibbs died in the last few years, and the home is still owned by the Gibbs family.

1108 East Hamilton Avenue (Map ID #24): The Rani Perry House was built about 1941 and is a good example of the Plain/Traditional style of architecture with its side-gabled roof, six-over-six windows with shutters, and close eaves. An addition

was built to the east side of the house, but it blends well with the historic character of the original structure.

1110 East Hamilton Avenue (Map ID #25): The Marvin Ellis House was built about 1952? (no listing for the house in the 1950s directories?). It is a good example of the Ranch style with its low-pitched, side-gabled roof and carport. Ellis was a cashier at First National Bank of Wynne and later ran a farm equipment company.

1112 East Hamilton Avenue (Map ID #26): The second Oscar and Blanche Murray House was built about 1935 in the English Revival style. Mr. and Mrs. Murray occupied the house at 1210 East Hamilton Avenue before moving to this home about 1945. The house features a side-gabled roof with two front-facing cross gables, close eaves, a rounded arch front entrance, and a prominent chimney on the front façade.

1210 East Hamilton Avenue (Map ID #27): The Oscar and Blanche Murray House was built about 1930 by Oscar Murray. The home features some English Revival-style characteristics like its asymmetrical façade, cross-gabled plan, and rounded arch front entrance. Oscar Murray was born in Wynne in 1901 to Ben and Lizzie Thompson Murray. Oscar's brother, Thompson "Tom" Murray, Sr., lived at 1017 East Hamilton Avenue. Oscar Murray served in World War I and later owned Murray Tire and Electric at 205 E. Merriman in Wynne. Oscar and Blanche Murray's only child, Nancy, was born in the front room of this house in 1931. When the Murray family moved next door to 1112 East Hamilton Avenue about 1945, they sold this house to Tom and Corinne Baker.

1212 East Hamilton Avenue (Map ID #28): The Arthur and Cecilia Weeden House was built and designed in 1962 by local builder Arthur Weeden. It is a good example of the Ranch style in the district with its low-pitched, hipped roof, carport, and large picture window. However, at the time of the district listing, the home's construction date precluded it from contributing to the historic significance of the district (less than 50 years old at that time). Mrs. Cecelia McElroy Weeden taught English at Wynne High School for many years.

Old pasture to the east of 1212 E. Hamilton—the remaining trees along Hamilton Avenue made up the fencerow for the pasture.

1310 East Hamilton Avenue (Map ID #29): Built about 1925, the Neil Killough House features some Craftsman-style characteristics in its asymmetrical façade, widely overhanging eaves, and paired six-over-six windows. This was the first house built by Neil Killough on East Hamilton Avenue. Neil's father, Oliver N. Killough, constructed a large home on "Killough Hill." Oliver Newton Killough and his wife, Blanche Malone Killough, had two sons, Walter Newton Killough and Oliver Neil Killough. Walter's only son, Newton, was killed during WWII during the invasion of Normandy in June 1944. Neil's son, John (or "Jack"), still practices law in Wynne. Wynne lawyers Oliver Killough and Edward Dale Robertson co-owned much of the land around East Hamilton Avenue. They divided their landholdings and each platted additions along the street. Killough Road, as well as Malone, Jack, and Newton streets, are named in honor of Killough family members. Walter Newton Killough's wife, Marion Cogbill Killough, also has a street named after her (called Marion). It runs parallel to East Hamilton Avenue one block to the north. After Neil Killough lived at 1310 East Hamilton, the house was purchased in the 1940s by Will Robinson and his wife, Ruth. In the 1950s Gene and Clarisse Cook owned the home. Mr. Cook served as the county clerk when he lived here. In later years, Bob Castor lived here. In January 2009 Marlin Call bought the house, and it was recently purchased by Karen Tacker Draper.

1314 East Hamilton Avenue (Map ID #30): Built in 1949, the Doyl Brown House is a good example of the Ranch style with its sprawling, cross-gabled plan. The house features a two-car garage on the west side and two large picture windows on the eastern end of the front façade. Doyl Brown was employed by First National Bank of Wynne, starting as a bookkeeper and rising to chairman.

1316 East Hamilton Avenue (Map ID #31): The A. E. Moultrie House was built in 1953 and is another good example of the Ranch style in the district. It has a low-pitched, side-gabled roof pierced by a wide chimney. A ribbon of three six-over-six

windows, as well as two pairs of six-over-six windows, fenestrate the front façade. The home has had several owners, including Fred Usery in 1954. Usery owned and operated Usery Furniture Co. at Union & Wilson streets in Wynne. The whole interior of the house burned about 10 years ago, and the home was recently restored by Rev. Ramsey. Present owner is Tyler Boeckmann, a farmer in west Cross County.

Cross Hamilton to get to second rest stop at 503 N. Killough—home of Bridget Hart. House built in 1956. Bridget has lived here since 1992.

Cross back to south side of Hamilton and head west

1325 East Hamilton Avenue (Map ID #32): The W. F. Gardner Building, built about 1924, is the only building inside the district boundary originally constructed as a commercial property. Early on, the building housed Gardner's Service Station. From the 1930s to the early 1950s, it was occupied by Dodd's Grocery and Tire Shop. Business owner Dow Dodd also built the home at 1321 East Hamilton Avenue. In 1956 it was Bouldin Tire Service, and then from at least 1957-59, it was Wynne Tire Service. The building is non-contributing in the district because its original garage bays have been enclosed, and there is an unsympathetic wood-frame addition on the southeast corner of the building.

1321 East Hamilton Avenue (Map ID #33): The Dow Dodd House was built about 1924. The one-story house has a front-facing gabled roof with a clipped gable on the front façade. A one-story front porch is offset on the northeast corner of the house. Dow Dodd, owner of Dodd's Grocery and Tire Shop at 1325 East Hamilton Avenue, built this house as a rental property.

1315 East Hamilton Avenue (Map ID #34): Built about 1945, the Homer L. Mitchell House is another good example of the Ranch style in the district. The house has an asymmetrical plan with a low-pitched, side-gabled roof. A wide, brick chimney punctuates the front façade and is connected to a small brick planter below the front picture window. Homer Mitchell served Cross County in

various roles, including deputy county clerk and deputy sheriff, but he was best known as county judge, serving ten consecutive terms from 1946 to 1966.

1303 East Hamilton Avenue (Map ID #35): The house at 1303 E. Hamilton was built in the 1940s by the Federal Cotton Compress Company of Memphis, TN, to provide housing for the superintendent (later called manager) of the Federal Compress Warehouse at Wynne. The house was initially covered in white asbestos siding. In the 1950s, warehouse superintendent Bernard Gunter and his family lived in the house, and superintendent J. J. Mockbee was the next occupant. The Federal Compress sold the house in the 1960s, and at that time, the eastern screened porch was enclosed and the current brick façade added to the house to give it a Colonial Revival-style appearance. Because the alterations are not yet fifty years old, it is non-contributing in the district. Many people remember this as the Glenn and Thelma Graddy House. Thelma Graddy's first husband, DeLoss McKnight, served as Cross County Sheriff from 1939 until his untimely death in October 1945. When he died in office, Thelma took his place as sheriff, becoming the only woman to ever hold the office of sheriff in Cross County (served for 14 months; possibly the first woman in AR to be a county sheriff). Glenn Graddy was a traveling salesman for the Esso fuel company and frequently made stops in Wynne. Hamilton Avenue resident Elmer Robinson (who owned the local Esso distributorship) introduced Glenn Graddy to Thelma, and the two later married. Real estate agent and present owner Brenda Slabaugh purchased the home from the Graddys about 1997.

1221 East Hamilton Avenue (Map ID #36): Built about 1950, this is the second home built by Walter Killough on Hamilton Avenue (he and his wife, Marion, lived at 1011 E. Hamilton prior to the construction of this house). The second Walter and Marion Killough House has a Ranch-style form with a low-pitched, side-gabled roof, but the home also features Colonial Revival-style elements like an accentuated front entrance, multi-pane windows with shutters, and a dentiled cornice. Walter Killough, son of Wynne lawyer and landowner Oliver Killough, was elected to the Arkansas State Senate, representing the Thirty-first District, which included Poinsett and Cross counties. Walter Killough was also a lawyer and

served as general counsel for Wynne Federal Savings and Loan and the Cross County Bank.

1215 East Hamilton Avenue (Map ID #37): Built about 1931, the L. W. Bloxon House (2) was the second home built on Hamilton Avenue by Mr. Bloxon. In the 1940s and 50s the home was occupied by John and Edna Cook. John Cook, brother to Hamilton Avenue resident Gene Cook, was in the insurance business. The house has Colonial Revival and Craftsman-style characteristics in its front-facing gabled porch supported by four Tuscan columns and its widely overhanging eaves with triangular knee braces.

1213 East Hamilton Avenue (Map ID #38): The L. W. Bloxon House, built in 1931, was the first house built on Hamilton Avenue by Mr. Bloxon. Because this Plain/Traditional-style house was extensively remodeled and bricked in the 1960s, it is non-contributing in the district. L. W. Bloxon worked for Rail Express in Wynne. He bought the lot from Neil Killough in 1929. W. B. and Louise Jones purchased the house in 1953. Louise Jones worked for Barwick Ford Company in Wynne, and she later kept books at the Hayes, Young & Jacobs Clinic.

1209 East Hamilton Avenue (Map ID #39): The Haven Hodges House was built about 1946 and features elements of the Craftsman style in its cross-gabled roof, side porch supported by massive, square columns (now enclosed), and three-over-one windows. A large brick chimney is centered on the front façade of the house, and a "B" is attached to the chimney. Haven Hodges owned a hardware and furniture store at 215 N. Wilson Street in Wynne. In 1961 Jimmy Britton purchased the house. A brick exterior was added to the house in the 1960s, making it non-contributing in the district.

1145 East Hamilton Avenue (Map ID #40): Built about 1936, the Elliott A. and Winnie Rolfe House was designed in the Colonial Revival style with a side-gabled roof, symmetrical façade, multi-pane windows with shutters, and a front porch supported by four round columns. In the late 1960s, an extensive remodeling project redesigned the front porch, making the house non-contributing in the

district. Elliott A. "Piggie" Rolfe owned an auto repair shop and filling station on the southwest corner of Wilson and Levesque streets in Wynne. The station offered Pierce Petroleum Products and had two gasoline pumps with glass holding tanks. By 1939 Mr. Rolfe operated the Rolfe Implement Company in the same location. The company sold the J. L. Case line of farm implements and also maintained a service department. This building was razed in the 1990s. Elliott Rolfe's wife, Winnie Davis Rolfe, was the daughter of Isaac Joshua Davis, founder of Davis Furniture Store at 215 N. Wilson Street in Wynne. Winnie was a sister to Louise Davis Shaver, wife of "Bex" Shaver, former Lt. Governor of Arkansas.

1143 East Hamilton Avenue (Map ID #41): The W. Sidney Newsom House, built about 1921, is an English Revival-style home with a side-gabled roof and two large, front-facing gables. The Newsom family was prominent in Wynne, and W. S. Newsom worked as a civil engineer and surveyor. By 1934 James and Bess Robertson rented the house and purchased it in 1937. Before the house at 1209 East Hamilton was constructed in 1946, the Robertson family used that lot for their garden and later a dirt tennis court. Mr. and Mrs. Robertson lived here until 1943, when they moved down the street to 813 East Hamilton Avenue.

1113 East Hamilton Avenue (Map ID #42): Built in 1927, the Wallace Eldridge House is the best example of the Spanish Revival style in the district. This home was built for Wallace Eldridge, Sr., by his father, George W. Eldridge. Wallace Eldridge, Sr., was employed by Cross County Bank and platted the Eldridge Place Addition, which includes the twelve lots facing Eldridge Court. He and his wife, Dorothy Block Eldridge, had one child, Wallace Eldridge, Jr. In more recent years, the house was occupied by Wallace Eldridge, Jr., and then by his daughter, Karen, until about 2006. The house is asymmetrical, features a Mission-style parapet above its eastern wing, has rounded arch window and door openings with decorative wrought iron grilles, and stucco walls.

1103 East Hamilton Avenue (Map ID #43): The George W. Eldridge House, built in 1925, was the first house built by George W. Eldridge on Hamilton Avenue. In 1927 he built the house next door at 1113 Hamilton for his son and daughter-in-

law, Wallace and Dorothy Eldridge. The home features Craftsman-style characteristics like massive square supports under the carport, ribbons of six-over-one windows with shutters, and a front-gabled portico over the front entrance with triangular knee braces. From the mid-1930s to at least the mid-1950s, the house was occupied by Neil Smith and his wife, Hazel McKnight Smith, and their daughter, Sharis. Rodney and Leigh Hayes McKnight enlarged the carport when they purchased the house several years ago. Leigh is the daughter of the late Dr. Robert Hayes and sister to Dr. Rob Hayes of Wynne. She teaches school in Wynne and Rodney is a building contractor.

Last rest stop at 1017 E. Hamilton—home of Mike & Terry Twist

1017 East Hamilton Avenue (Map ID #44): Built about 1938, the Thompson and Kathleen Murray House is the best example of the Colonial Revival style in the district. The two-story brick home features a symmetrical façade with three eight-over-eight windows with shutters evenly positioned across the upper story. The side-gabled roof is bounded by a chimney on each side. The central entrance is slightly recessed with sidelights and crowned by a decorative triangular pediment. A Palladian window is situated on either side of the front entrance on the lower story. A one-story wing on the east side of the house features a decorative balustrade. Thompson “Tom” Bernard Murray was a large landowner in Wynne and owned the Chevrolet-Oldsmobile Dealership. His wife, Kathleen Hays Murray, was injured in a car accident in 1956, leaving her a quadriplegic. For this reason, members of the Murray family were strong advocates for the spinal cord-injured and the Americans with Disabilities Act. Tom and Kathleen Murray had two children, Alva Jane and “Buddy” (T. B. Murray, Jr.). Jane Murray married Maurice Smith, who served as Arkansas Governor Bill Clinton’s chief of staff, director of the state highway department, and chief lobbyist for legislation for the disabled. Jane Murray Smith also helped to establish the Arkansas Spinal Cord Commission. Buddy Murray married Martha Williams, and they had two children, Martha Jane and the Reverend Thompson Williams Murray (currently pastor of Quapaw Quarter United Methodist Church in LR).

1013 East Hamilton Avenue (Map ID #45): Built about 1935, this is the second house built by Neil Killough on Hamilton Avenue (he built the house at 1310 E. Hamilton Ave. about 1925). Neil Killough's wife, Lucy Armstrong Killough, died in 1940, but Martha Robertson Carvill remembered Ms. Lucy living here and taking care of her fish pond in the side yard. Neil Killough was a well-respected circuit court judge in eastern Arkansas. Tragically, Neil Killough died of a heart attack during his service in World War II (died 1945). After his death, the house was occupied by his son, John "Jack" Killough. The house has Colonial Revival-style characteristics in its six-over-six windows with shutters and fanlight over the front door, but it also features some retrained English Revival-style elements like flared eaves and a rounded arch front door opening.

1011 East Hamilton Avenue (Map ID #46): The Walter and Marion Killough House was built about 1945 and represents a unique variation of the Colonial Revival style in the district. The home features traditional Colonial Revival-style characteristics in its multi-pane windows with shutters and a side-gabled roof with gabled dormers, but a steeply-pitched, front-facing cross gable on the west side of the front façade adds an English Revival influence. Walter and Marion Killough lived in this house before moving down the street to 1221 E. Hamilton. Elmer and Jewel Robinson purchased the house from the Killough family. Mr. Robinson owned the Esso distributorship, located southwest of the intersection of the Helena and Memphis branches of the Missouri-Pacific Railroad in Wynne.

1009 East Hamilton Avenue (Map ID #47): The J. W. and Sula Wallin House, built between 1922 and 1926, is the only example of an "Airplane" Bungalow in the district. The house features Craftsman characteristics in its widely overhanging eaves with decorative brackets, and an upper story room with a 360-degree view adds distinction to the home. J. W. and Sula Wallin purchased the lot in 1922, and Sula Wallin's father, John Greene Autry, built the house over the next four years. However, the house is non-contributing in the district because of a large garage addition to the east side of the residence, which detracts from the historic integrity of the home.

1001 East Hamilton Avenue (Map ID #48): Built about 1916 by local bank cashier A. S. Ammerman, this is one of two Sears and Roebuck prefabricated houses in the district (the houses are almost identical, and the other one is located at 109 Eldridge Court). In the 1930s and 1940s, Al E. Bassham and his wife, Mary Elizabeth Mitchell Bassham, lived here. Shortly after their marriage in the 1950s, Jim and Bonnie Shaver lived here. Ronald and Ruth Sallings later purchased the house.

925 East Hamilton Avenue (Map ID #49): The William Whitfield “Whit” Shaver House was built in 1924 and is a good example of the Colonial Revival style in the district. The house features a symmetrical façade fenestrated by four multi-pane windows with shutters and a single door with sidelights. The front entrance is accentuated by a portico with a front-facing gabled roof and decorative door surround. Prominent Wynne residents Whit and Martha Shaver lived here. Whit Shaver managed the Barwick Ford Dealership in Wynne as well as a real estate company. The Shavers were members of the Wynne Presbyterian Church, and their house contains a stained glass window salvaged from the church after it burned in 1968. Whit Shaver raised pigeons as a hobby and worked with the Boy Scouts of America.

923 East Hamilton Avenue (Map ID #50): James L. “Bex” Shaver and his wife, Louise Davis Shaver, built this house in 1924. The house is an American Foursquare with a compatible one-story addition to the west and a carport to the east. The home features a hipped-roof dormer, widely overhanging eaves with decorative brackets, and a roofline balustrade over the one-story western wing. The front entrance is offset to the east side of the house and is accessed by a small portico crowned by a triangular pediment and supported by two square columns. Bex Shaver was a prominent attorney in Wynne and served in the Arkansas State Legislature in both the House of Representatives and the Senate in the 1930s and the 1940s. He was lieutenant governor in the 1940s under Arkansas Governors Homer Adkins and Benjamin Travis Laney, Jr. The nickname “Bex” was given to him by his brother, Whit Shaver. Bex and Louise Shaver had

two children, Winnie Bob Shaver and James L. “Jim” Shaver, Jr. Jim Shaver also served in the Arkansas State Legislature for about twenty-five years.

919 East Hamilton Avenue (Map ID #51): The G. C. Hollan House was built about 1940 and features a Craftsman-style front porch with a low-pitched, front-facing gable roof supported by massive, square porch supports. A low, brick wall surrounds the porch. G. C. Hollan was manager and president of the Wynne Wholesale Grocer Company, started in 1913 by C. S. Lemons and G. L. Gholston. The five-sided commercial building is still standing to the southwest of the intersection of the Helena and Memphis branches of the Missouri-Pacific Railroad tracks in downtown Wynne. In the 1950s, the house was occupied by Robert R. Young.

915 East Hamilton Avenue (Map ID #52): Built in 1921, the H. K. Barwick House was designed in the Spanish Revival style with stucco and brick walls and a large, stationary, rounded arch window on the front façade. The front entrance is set in a rounded arch with brick trim and a parapet. H. K. Barwick and his wife, Leta Robinson Barwick, lived here. Two of Leta’s siblings, Elmer Robinson and Carrie Robinson Miller, also lived on East Hamilton Avenue. H. K. Barwick owned Barwick Ford at 444 E. Merriman in Wynne (the business operated in different locations before it was on Merriman, but Barwick built the Spanish Revival-style building on Merriman in 1930 and it closely resembled his house on Hamilton. It sold Esso gas and oil. Barwick Ford was demolished in the 1950s). The front display window at Barwick Ford contained a carnival of mouse-driven Ferris wheels and merry-go-rounds. Many local children stopped to watch them over the years. Mr. Barwick was also a director of the Cross County Bank and Wynne Savings and Loan. H. K. Barwick’s brother, Chip, owned a large Chevrolet dealership in Memphis, and the brothers enjoyed duck hunting. Local legend holds that the two men once turned ducks loose in the fountain at the Peabody Hotel in Memphis as a joke, which consequently started a tradition (they had been duck hunting, and at that time, it was legal to use live ducks as decoys—so that’s how they had ducks). It is said that the Barwicks were the source of the original Peabody Ducks (along with several other men).

909 East Hamilton Avenue (Map ID #53): The Clarence J. Coffin House, built in 1923, is an interesting example of the Craftsman style in the district. The house has brick walls fenestrated by ribbons of windows with Craftsman-style glazing patterns. The front entrance is oriented toward the northeast corner of the house, rather than the front. A recessed entry porch on that corner is supported by massive, square columns. Exposed rafter tails and decorative brackets further contribute to the Craftsman design. Although the house was built by Clarence J. Coffin, he did not live here. Born in 1888, Coffin was a bank cashier in Wynne and then served as postmaster. He later worked with the Works Progress Administration to install a mural in the Wynne Post Office. Most local residents remember this house as the home of David and Kris Drexler. Beginning in 1948, Mr. Drexler served as president of Wynne Insurance and Loan, and then in 1954, Drexler succeeded C. A. Forbes as president of Wynne Federal Savings and Loan. Mrs. Drexler was the aunt of country music star Charlie Rich (who was born at Colt, Arkansas).

903 East Hamilton Avenue (Map ID #54): The Roy Hartzel House was built in 1947 on what had previously been a vacant lot. Roy Hartzel was a dispatcher for the Missouri-Pacific Railroad. In later years, the house was occupied by Linda and Lawrence Taylor and afterwards by Donna Presley Early, a cousin of Elvis Presley. Her cat, Smokey, is buried in the back yard with a grave marker. The house features Colonial Revival-style massing and window and door arrangement, but its stucco walls and shaped parapet over the one-story garage wing give it a Spanish Revival influence as well.

823 East Hamilton Avenue (Map ID #55): The Mary Alice and Mildred Crawford House was built about 1956. Mary Alice and Mildred Crawford were sisters who never married. Their parents, Thomas and Bettie Crawford, built a 2-story, white, wood-frame house at 823 East Hamilton which stood for most of the early 20th century. This brick house was built to replace their family home, but Mary Alice and Mildred were the only family members to ever live here. Mildred Crawford taught fifth grade in Wynne for many years, and later worked as a bookkeeper at

Wynne Lumber Company. Mary Alice moved back to Wynne to retire and lived with her sister. Their brother, Homer Crawford, built the houses at 105 and 107 Eldridge Court. The Crawford sisters deeded the house at 823 E. Hamilton to the Wynne Baptist Church. It is a modest, Ranch-style house with a low-pitched, side-gabled roof and red brick walls. The front porch is partially enclosed with brick, and the entrance faces east.

803-805-807 East Hamilton Avenue (Map ID #57): The George Eldridge House was built about 1921 as a Folk Victorian-style cottage, but large additions were constructed on the south and east sides of the house. In addition, the application of synthetic siding over the original weatherboard obscures important architectural details, making the house non-contributing in the district. Mrs. George Eldridge lived here as a widow and converted the single-family home into three apartments. According to the Cross County Assessor's office, J. E. Smith owned this property in 1908 and built a residence/doctor's office on this site. However, the records also state that in 1923 the property was owned by George Eldridge, and the assessor lists the home's construction date as 1921. Most likely, George Eldridge demolished the 1908 structure to construct the current house. Furthermore, this house burned in the 1930s and was rebuilt (this is possibly when the house was converted to apartments). After the structure became apartments, residents included Wallace Eldridge, Jr., and his wife, Jennie; H. C. Carvill and his wife, Martha Robertson Carvill; and P. H. Curd.

731-733 East Hamilton Avenue (Map ID #58): The duplex at 731-733 East Hamilton Avenue was built about 1986 and is therefore non-contributing in the district. At one time, Hamilton Avenue residents Jerry and Mona Dallas owned the duplex.

729 East Hamilton Avenue (Map ID #59): The N. B. Martin House (2) was built about 1950 as a garage with an apartment upstairs. The 1951 Sanborn map indicates that the structure was built by the owner of 727 East Hamilton, N. B. Martin, and that it was already serving as a dwelling with a separate postal

address. In the 1950s Thomas Baker, Jr., and his wife, Jackie, rented the apartment.

727 East Hamilton Avenue (Map ID #60): The N. B. Martin House was built about 1927 by local farmer Norman B. Martin. Mr. Martin was also active in community affairs. During the 1950s, the home was occupied by D. M. Plyler. The one-story house has a cross-gabled roof and red brick walls with buff brick accents. The front door is set in a recessed segmental arch opening, and the twenty and ten-pane, metal-frame windows have casement sashes.

719 East Hamilton Avenue (Map ID #61): Built about 1950, the Varee Bogard House was designed in the Colonial Revival style with a side-gabled roof and three gabled dormers. The house has close eaves and multi-pane windows with shutters. According to the 1951 Sanborn map, the empty lot to the east of the house has been there since at least that time. Varee Brewer Bogard was married to A. R. "Butch" Bogard, and they lived in Parkin, Arkansas. After her husband's death, Varee built this house and moved to Wynne to be closer to her daughter, Ann Varee Bogard. Varee Bogard later remarried Menta G. Gardner. Ann Bogard married Erskine Boyce Falls, who operated Falls Equipment Company at 218 N. Terry Street in Wynne with his brother, Harold N. Falls. Harold Falls served as the mayor of Wynne for over twenty-five years. He was also the first president of the newly-organized Wynne Chamber of Commerce in 1947 (there was an earlier Chamber of Commerce in Wynne in the 1920s, but it disbanded during the Depression and reorganized in 1947). Because Harold Falls had red hair, his nickname was "Pinky." On September 11, 1973, Falls Boulevard was named in his honor. The major north-south street in Wynne was first called Seventh Street before becoming Arkansas Highway 1. By the mid-twentieth century, it was called State Street because it was a state highway. Today it is still known as Falls Boulevard and serves as the western boundary for the East Hamilton Avenue Historic District. The Varee Bogard House currently houses Marcum Real Estate, and the lot to the east of the house is used for parking.

717 East Hamilton Avenue (Map ID #62): The James and Nina Andrews House was built about 1932 in the English Revival style. The house has a side-gabled roof with a prominent front-facing gable with flared eaves. The front entrance is set inside a rounded arch opening, and a large chimney is centered on the front façade. James Holt Andrews was a school teacher and served as superintendent of Wynne schools. His wife, Nina Block Andrews, was the daughter of Raphael and Hester Block and sister to Herman, Felix, and Dave Block. Most local residents remember James and Nina Andrews living in a large Classical Revival-style house at 704 East Hamilton Avenue (northeast corner of E. Hamilton and N. Falls Boulevard). Most likely, the Classical Revival-style home was constructed around the turn of the twentieth century by Raphael and Hester Block. Their son-in-law and daughter, James and Nina Andrews, built this house across the street, and later moved into the big house to care for Mrs. Nina (and stayed after she died). Big house was demolished in 1971. Regions Bank now occupies the lot and is not included in the district boundary because it faces N. Falls Boulevard and is not keeping with the character of the residential district. The house at 717 E. Hamilton is currently in rental transition and is owned by Mary June Burnett.

703-705 East Hamilton Avenue (Map ID #63): Built in 1921, the James and Nellie McKie House is a good example of the Craftsman style in the district. It has a side-gabled roof with multiple front-facing cross gables. The house has stucco walls, exposed rafter tails, and a front porch with massive, rectangular supports. An addition was built to the east side of the house sometime after 1951, but it blends well with the architecture of the original structure. The house was built by James and Nellie McKie and was used as their residence along with three apartments. Mr. McKie worked for the Missouri-Pacific Railroad. Renters included James and Bess Robertson, who later lived at 1215 East Hamilton, 1143 East Hamilton, and 813 East Hamilton; and Fred and Mary Ritchey, who later built the house at 1016 East Hamilton. Mrs. McKie had an antique shop in the house during the late 1940s. The house at 703-705 E. Hamilton is owned by Mary June Burnett and is rented.

Conclusion

The East Hamilton Avenue neighborhood was home to some of Wynne's most respected and notable citizens, including attorneys, doctors, state legislators, a lieutenant governor, local and regional merchants, teachers, farmers, and landowners. Despite some commercial encroachment on the western end of East Hamilton Avenue near Falls Boulevard, the homes within the district boundary retain excellent integrity and reflect a broad spectrum of architectural styles. Because of its picturesque homes and tree-lined streetscapes, the East Hamilton Avenue Historic District remains one of the most popular neighborhoods in Wynne.