

Walks through History
Whittington Park Historic District
Begin at the Dryden Pottery Plant at 341 Whittington Ave., Hot Springs
September 14, 2013
By: Rachel Silva



750 Whittington



630 Whittington



435 Whittington, Quartz Crystal Cave

Intro

Hi, 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 Whittington Park Historic District. I’d like to thank the Whittington Valley Neighborhood Association and the Garland County Historical Society for co-sponsoring the tour, and I’d especially like to recognize a few individuals for their help—

Mark Toth, president of the Whittington Valley Neighborhood Association, and Liz Robbins, Donnie Kilgore, and Gail Ashbrook with the Garland County Historical Society.

This tour is worth 2 hours of AIA continuing education credit. See me after the tour if you’re interested.

The Whittington Park Historic District was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 2012 and consists of the 300 through 700 blocks of Whittington Avenue as well as a block and a half on Sabie Street.

Brief History of Whittington Park

Hot Springs Reservation

In an attempt to provide equal access to, and capitalize on, the medicinal hot spring waters, Arkansas's Territorial Legislature petitioned the U.S. Congress in 1820 to set aside a portion of the hot springs to be maintained by the territorial government. No action was taken, and in 1832, Arkansas approached the U.S. House of Representatives and requested an appropriation for the construction of a hospital at the springs. Instead, Congress passed an act to reserve the hot springs and the surrounding 2,500 acres, guaranteeing that "four sections of land including said [hot] springs, reserved for the future disposal of the United States, shall not be entered, located, or appropriated, for any other purpose whatsoever." On April 20, 1832, President Andrew Jackson signed the act, exempting the area from settlement. Because the area was reserved for federal use, it became known as the Hot Springs Reservation. However, the federal government didn't make any plans to administer its new reservation, and by the late 1870s, private land disputes caused problems. In order to settle the conflicting land claims, in 1877 Congress authorized a commission to establish new reservation boundaries, sell excess lots, tax the thermal water, and appoint a reservation superintendent. In 1878 a fire destroyed many of the crude, wood-frame buildings along Hot Springs Creek, and they were replaced by more elaborate bathhouses and hotels in the 1880s. The Department of the Interior initiated an extensive building and landscaping program in the 1890s, which included the purchase and design of Whittington Park.

[The National Park Service was created in 1916 and assumed management of the Hot Springs Reservation. The Hot Springs Reservation became Hot Springs National Park in 1921. Hot Springs National Park is arguably the oldest of the parks in the National Park Service system, predating Yellowstone National Park by forty years.]

Whittington Park (1896-1897)

The federal government purchased the Whittington Park acreage in 1896. The contract for the development of Whittington Lake Reserve Park, located in the valley between West Mountain and Sugarloaf Mountain, was approved on July 14, 1896, at a cost of \$20,000. Named after Hot Springs businessman, politician, and philanthropist Hiram Abiff Whittington, whose 1851 house was located on the site of the Majestic Hotel, Whittington Lake Reserve Park contained two shallow lakes with bridges, a bandstand, pavilions, tennis courts, carriage and walking paths, and a 5-room gardener's (or caretaker's) cottage. The park was surrounded by an iron fence and was accessed through an iron gate with cut-stone pillars.

[The Feds tried to hire well-known landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted to design an overall plan for the Hot Springs Reservation, but a disagreement between Olmsted and the Department of the Interior threw a wrench in the deal. U.S. Army Captain John R. Stevens was in charge of the building and landscaping plan.]

However, complications arose almost immediately as workers excavating for the two lakes hit bedrock at 5 feet, thus the lakes could not be as deep as originally planned. The natural curves of Whittington Creek, which runs through the middle of the park, were straightened to accommodate the overall design. A flood on March 17, 1897, caused all the newly excavated and packed earth back into the lakes. In order to prevent this from happening again, dams were constructed to limit the flow of the creek into the lakes. But the shallowness of the lakes, coupled with the seasonally low flow of Whittington Creek during the summer months, created stagnant, malodorous pools that made a perfect breeding ground for mosquitoes. Complaints from area residents and the threat of malaria prompted federal officials to drain and in-fill the lakes in 1905. The creek banks were stabilized with stone and concrete, and in 1910 the original wooden bridges were replaced with concrete bridges. Additional bridges were constructed during

the 1910s, and in 1920 a brick, Colonial Revival-style house was built to replace the original gardener's (caretaker's) house on the western end of the park.

The park bandstand was demolished in 1932, and in September 1944, the last pavilion was removed. Between 1939 and 1943, the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) worked to correct flooding problems along Whittington Creek by landscaping and "naturalizing" the creek bed through Whittington Park. Today the creek's stone retaining walls and culverts reflect the work of the CCC.

After the completion of Whittington Park in 1897, residential development occurred along North and South Whittington Avenue on lots facing the park. The earliest homes in the neighborhood were predominantly wood-frame houses designed in the Queen Anne style of architecture. A few of these homes are still extant. Between 1920 and 1940, several Craftsman-style homes were built in the district, reflecting a preference for more economical, functional design. The last major period of development, 1940 to 1960, represents a shift toward more modern, streamlined design evidenced by the construction of Minimal Traditional and Ranch-style homes. The Whittington Park neighborhood was predominantly working-class, with many residents employed by the bathhouses and hotels as managers, physicians, porters, cooks, waiters, and maids. During the early twentieth century, the neighborhood was ethnically diverse with white and black residents living side by side. There was also a substantial African-American presence on Whittington Avenue just east of the park, including the Haven Methodist Episcopal Church at 301 Whittington and Roanoke Baptist Church at 315 Whittington (black congregations) as well as several black-owned businesses in the 300 block of Whittington Avenue (in the 1930s).

In addition to residential development, an entertainment district formed west of Whittington Park, and various tourist attractions opened throughout the neighborhood in the early-to-mid-20th century. First of all, there were two Whittington Parks—one federally-owned and one city-owned. The city-owned Whittington Park was located further west and occupied the land behind the Weyerhaeuser facility (810 Whittington). The baseball field at Whittington Park

opened in 1894 and was located on the present-day Weyerhaeuser parking lot with home plate in the back corner. The Whittington Park baseball field and Fogel Field (1912) across the street to the south hosted Major League baseball teams for spring training until the mid-20th century.

Located to the west of the baseball field was the amusement park entrance. The amusement park had an open-air dance pavilion, 2-story theater/dance hall/pavilion (which became a skating rink in the 1940s or '50s), rides, concessions, game booths, a shooting gallery, etc. Across from the amusement park on the south side of Whittington Avenue was the "Leap the Dips" roller coaster in the 1920s.

An ostrich farm opened in 1900 across from the amusement park, followed by the nearby Alligator Farm in 1902. Other attractions like the Quartz Crystal Cave (1935), I. Q. Zoo (1955), Dryden Ouachita Mountain Pottery Plant (1956), and Tiny Town (1962) opened on Whittington Avenue facing the federal park and drew tourists to the area.

Around the turn of the 20th century, the electric streetcar line was extended to the west along South Whittington Avenue, and the Hot Springs Street Railway Company car barn was located just to the east of the old Whittington Park ball field (on the current site of Weyerhaeuser). The Whittington Avenue streetcar line provided easy access to the neighborhood and entertainment district. A 1901 advertisement in the *Sentinel-Record* stated, "Whittington Park, the grandest place for pleasure known in the state. One mile from heart of city, reached by electric cars running every three minutes." The streetcar operated until 1938.

Dryden Pottery Plant, 341 Whittington

The glazed brick portion of the building was constructed ca. 1930 and is a good example of early 20th century commercial-style architecture with a plate glass storefront and transom windows. The 1935 Hot Springs City Directory lists this as the Terry Dairy Company (retail location) and Terryland Ice Cream Company. [However, other information says that Terry Dairy was located in a previous

building on this site and moved to Central Avenue by 1926.??] By the 1940s, this building housed the Standard Ice Company.

In 1956 Dryden Pottery moved here from Kansas. After serving in the South Pacific during World War II, A. James Dryden returned to his hometown of Ellsworth, Kansas, and needed a job. While he had an aptitude for cartooning, he was looking for something else to support his family. After a chance encounter with noted ceramist Norman Plummer, Dryden took an interest in pottery and opened his own business in 1946. He did well in Kansas but wanted more traffic, so in 1956 he moved the business to Hot Springs because of the availability of raw materials and because of the high number of hotel rooms per capita. Dryden used local materials to make his pottery—clay from Malvern, talc from Bryant, and quartz from the Ouachita Mountains. He was a great salesman, using creative advertisements (often featuring cartoon characters), which encouraged people to visit the factory and watch as the pottery was made. Dryden often personalized pieces of pottery using a dental drill to inscribe family names and other designs. As the business grew, additions were constructed to provide more space. From the molded or poured clay work of the early years, Dryden evolved to producing mostly thrown pottery (wheel-made pottery) that is one-of-a-kind. Dryden's son, James Kimberly "Kimbo" Dryden, learned wheel-made pottery at an early age and took over the business after his father. Dryden Pottery is a three-generation family business, with Kimbo's sons now involved. Since 1990, Drydenware has been included in *Schroeder's Antique Guide*.

Could point out a few things to east on Whittington:

100 Whittington Ave—St. Mary's Catholic Church, organized at that location in 1869 on land donated by Hiram Whittington and current building constructed in 1923.

101-115 Whittington Ave.—St. Joseph's Infirmary, opened on that site in 1888 and current building dates from 1927. 1991 moved to current building on Werner Street (now Mercy Medical Center). Historic hospital buildings occupied by the Arkansas School for Mathematics, Sciences, and the Arts since 1993. They have just completed a new building behind the main hospital building and plan to demolish it.

213 Whittington Ave.—First Presbyterian Church, organized 1876; current site donated by Hiram Whittington. Church designed in 1907 by Charles L. Thompson.

230 Whittington Ave.—George G. Latta House, built ca. 1886, by prominent Hot Springs attorney.

301 Whittington Ave.—Haven Methodist Episcopal Church (African-American), built 1914. Sold in 2007 and is now an Art Studio.

Site of current Fairweather Center/Small Group Therapy at 310-318 Whittington Ave.—St. Mary's Academy & Convent of Mercy, located here from 1882 until 1921 when it merged with St. John's at the corner of Ouachita and West Grand Avenue. In the 1920s, the building housed the Royal Circle Hospital. From 1930 until 1942, it was Ella Moore's furnished rooms (colored). In the 1950s, it was Mt. View Nursing Home. 1960s—Mr. and Mrs. Charles Hughes had an antique car museum and the Enchantment of Yesteryears (or Yesterdays?) Museum there (which featured antique household items, natural history exhibits, and a midget city exhibit from the 1932 Chicago World's Fair). Historic wood-frame building has been demolished to make way for current building. The Fairweather Manor Building was constructed ca. 1960 and housed the Arkansas Rest Home.

315 Whittington Ave.—Roanoke Baptist Church, organized 1868 by former slaves. Gothic Revival church constructed here in 1915; burned December 22, 1963. Current church built in 1968.

North side of Whittington Ave., going east to west

374 Whittington—Tiny Town

Creator Frank Moshinskie opened Tiny Town in 1962 to showcase his miniature world, complete with model trains, animated figures, and running water.

Moshinskie started building the town in the 1930s when he was just 13 years old. It started out as a town to go with his toy train, which he set up around the family Christmas tree every year. But after the age of 13, he never put the train away. Everything is made out of recycled household items like tin cans, thread spools, matches, and paperclips. Moshinskie's tiny town became a neighborhood

attraction in his hometown of Baton Rouge, LA. In 1962 a tornado damaged the building that housed his collection, and he decided to move to Hot Springs. Tiny Town is now owned by Frank and Louise Moshinskie's sons, Charles Moshinskie and his wife, Barbara, of Hot Springs and Dr. Jim Moshinskie of Waco, Texas.

****Notice the pyramid roof above the concrete block façade—they enlarged a small, ca. 1915 cottage.**

Site of 376 Whittington—Arkansas House of Crystals

Beginning in the mid-1970s, the Arkansas House of Crystals gift shop was operated by Billy and Patricia Heibner. After the I. Q. Zoo closed, they operated Santa's Workshop at 380 Whittington and had one of the last hand-blown glass shops in Hot Springs. Billy is now deceased, and Patricia closed the shop in 2010. The buildings at 376-380 Whittington were recently demolished. She now lives at 417 Whittington Avenue (former location of Animal World; built by Marvin Boatman—had an amphitheater in the back yard for shows).

380 Whittington—Site of the I. Q. Zoo

The I. Q. Zoo opened in 1955 and showcased animals performing tricks learned through the psychological concept of operant conditioning. Founders Keller and Marian Breland met in 1938 at the University of Minnesota and worked under renowned behavioral psychologist B. F. Skinner. During World War II, the Brelands and Skinner worked on a project that used positive reinforcement to teach pigeons to guide missiles for the U.S. Navy (this system worked but was never used). Against the advice of Skinner and their peers, the Brelands left the university before obtaining their doctoral degrees and moved to a small farm in Mound, Minnesota, where they started the first commercial application of operant conditioning, Animal Behavior Enterprises. They were successful training animals for General Mills to use in farm feed promotions, and soon looked for a larger facility. Keller, who was from Mississippi, hated cold weather and preferred a location in the South. About 1950 the Brelands moved to a large farm in Lonsdale, just outside of Hot Springs. In 1955 they opened the I. Q. Zoo on Whittington Avenue. The show featured wild and domestic animals doing tricks; for example, chickens walked a tightrope, danced to music, and played baseball

(Casey the chicken); rabbits kissed their “girlfriends” (plastic dolls), rode fire trucks, and spun fortune wheels; ducks played drums and pianos; raccoons played basketball; and reindeer operated a printing press. In the mid-1950s, the Brelands produced the first operant-trained marine mammal (dolphin and whale) and bird shows for Marineland of the Pacific, Marine Studios, and Parrot Jungle. Their animals appeared on national television programs like the *Ed Sullivan Show* and the *Tonight Show with Johnny Carson*. Today the animal training programs at most major theme parks like Sea World and Busch Gardens can be traced back to Keller and Marian Breland.

Keller Breland died of a heart attack in 1965 in Hot Springs, and Marian became the president of the company. She married Bob Bailey, who had been a director of marine mammal training for the Navy, in 1976. Marian Breland’s work extended far beyond Arkansas—the company managed the U.S. Navy Marine Mammal Facility in Key West from 1967 to ’69, training dolphins to assist deep sea divers. In 1978 she obtained her doctorate in psychology from the University of Arkansas. The I. Q. Zoo stayed open until 1990. Marian Breland Bailey died in 2001, and her ashes were scattered at Bush Key, 70 miles west of Key West, Florida, where she often worked with dolphins.

Rock curbs

New sidewalk sections paid for by a CDBG (Community Development Block Grant).

416 Whittington—post-1950 transitional Ranch-style house. Horizontal layout and minimal detail. This was the home of well-known Hot Springs jazz musician Reggie Cravens and his family.

422 Whittington—1940s Minimal Traditional with picture window and Craftsman-style stoops.

436, 438, 440, 442 Whittington—ca. 1930 Craftsman-style homes with front-facing gabled roofs, exposed rafter tails, and front porches with tapered columns on square bases.

504 Whittington—ca. 1897 Carpenter Gothic-style house with a steeply-pitched, central gable decorated with spindlework and a finial. The roofline is crowned by a decorative balustrade, and the front porch features turned columns with spindlework. The Carpenter Gothic style was popular during the Victorian era at the same time as the Queen Anne style. Carpenter Gothic is Gothic Revival design executed in wood rather than stone. In 1935 this was the home of Donald G. Houston, a grocer. By the mid-1940s, it was the home of Raymond C. McDonald, a carpenter. It has been divided into apartments since the 1950s, beginning with the Lillian Gray Apartments, Henderson Apartments, Whittington Apartments, and Gary's Apartments.

510 Whittington—ca. 1952 stone house; Ranch style with horizontal layout and carport.

512 Whittington—ca. 1915 Colonial Revival-style house with full-width front porch, a dentiled cornice, and a hipped-roof dormer. The house is constructed with ornamental concrete block in "rock face."

524/526 Whittington—ca. 1900 Folk Victorian with a projecting front bay with a return eave and decorative spindlework at the gable end. Notice the historic diamond-shaped shingles and tile ridge cap as well as the historic windows and screens.

530 Whittington—appears to be about the same age as 524/526 (look at foundation wall and window), but it has been significantly altered.

536 Whittington—ca. 1915 cottage with a side addition and asbestos shingles. Was historically used as apartments; in the mid-20th century, it was the Lowry Apartments.

602 Whittington—ca. 1897 Queen Anne with a projecting, bracketed, cut-away bay with horseshoe-shaped spindlework in the gable end. The original front porch has been removed and replaced with a stoop.

See backyard of house at 205 Sabie Street—there was obviously another house located here that faced Whittington—see concrete steps, light posts, etc. The house on Sabie Street was built ca. 1960 and is octagonal. In 1967 it was owned by Walter B. Wright. [Walter G. Wright was a Garland County judge. Is this him, or is it a different person?]

614 Whittington—new construction

622 Whittington—ca. 1925; interesting example of the Craftsman style with scalloped trim on the front-facing gable end, exposed rafter tails, and a hipped-roof porch supported by tapered columns on square bases.

624, 626 Whittington—built ca. 1945; modest, Ranch-style homes. 624—multi-pane picture window, horizontal focus, carport. 626—picture window, horizontal, carport, shutters with three-dimensional square decoration.

628 Whittington—ca. 1945 stone house. Minimal Traditional.

630 Whittington—ca. 1950 Ranch with combination of stone and horizontal siding veneer and a large, external chimney on the west end. Carport.

638 Whittington—ca. 1945 Minimal Traditional.

640 Whittington—ca. 1955 Minimal Traditional.

642 Whittington—ca. 1935 Craftsman with new stucco veneer.

710 Whittington—Hot Springs Showmen’s Association, built 1954. Union/social club for carnival/circus performers during the off-season (November to March). Features Roman brick on the front façade.

734, 736, 742, 746 Whittington—ca. 1940 Minimal Traditional

Point out area at the western end of the park loop—site of the gardener’s/caretaker’s cottage. Demolished in the late 1970s?

750 Whittington—ca. 1897 Queen Anne with asymmetrical plan, wrap-around porch with conical roof at the corner, and decorative, scalloped shingles in the gable ends. Occupied by Charles Prager in the early years. In 1905-06, Mr. Prager was the manager of the Southern Club at 252 Central Avenue.

800 Whittington—Mid-Century Modern office building up the hill to the right. Built ca. 1950. Offices of Irvin Granger McDaniel, Jr., architect. In 1941 when he was a senior in high school, McDaniel dropped out and joined the Canadian Royal Air Force. During a mission to France, his plane was attacked and brought down by the Germans, crashing in the North Sea. He and two of his crew floated in a dingy for four days and nights before being rescued by a Danish fisherman, who took them to Denmark, where they were promptly turned over to the Germans. McDaniel was a German Prisoner of War for the next two and a half years (Sagan prison camp about 85 miles southeast of Berlin). He was part of the Great Escape from Stalag III. While he was in the prison camp, he received training in architecture and engineering (his father, McDaniel, Sr., was an architect who lived at 704 Whittington—no longer extant). Some of his fellow prisoners were university professors and professionals in the field, and the men studied from 8 to 14 hours daily because they had nothing else to do. When McDaniel returned from the war, he opened an architectural firm in Hot Springs. He specialized in Modern design and made an effort to design homes according to the unique needs of each family. McDaniel died in 1978.

810 Whittington—In 1956 McDaniel and his father collaborated to design a new regional headquarters building for Dierks Forests, Inc. (now Weyerhaeuser). Dierks Lumber and Coal Co. (renamed Dierks Forests, Inc., in 1954) was founded in the 1880s in Walnut, Iowa, by German immigrant Hans Dierks and his brothers. The company expanded into Nebraska and North Dakota, and in 1897 Dierks moved its headquarters to Kansas City, Missouri. In 1900 the Dierks company purchased land and a lumber mill at DeQueen, Arkansas, and in 1922 the first timberlands in Garland County were purchased. A large lumber mill at Mountain Pine opened in 1928 (and operated until 2006). In 1956 the company headquarters at Kansas City moved to Hot Springs and occupied this building. In 1969 Dierks Forests was purchased by the international forest products company, Weyerhaeuser Corporation. A local Weyerhaeuser office, nursery, and research center remain at this location.

Historically, the People's Ice Manufacturing Co. was located on this site, and the Hot Springs Street Railway car barn was located just to the west of that, between the ice company and the ballpark.

847 Whittington—Arkansas Alligator Farm

In 1902 H. L. Campbell opened the Alligator Farm and Museum at the southwest corner of Whittington and Woodfin across from the Whittington Amusement Park. The original 50 alligators were imported from the Florida Everglades. Additional alligators were obtained from southwest Arkansas in an area known as Grassy Lake between Hope and Texarkana. Visitors enjoyed watching the alligators at feeding time and bought baby alligators as souvenirs. When Mr. and Mrs. Jack Bridges, Sr., purchased the alligator farm in 1945, a gift shop and petting zoo were added to the operation. Current owner Jack Bridges, Jr., started working with the alligators in 1947 when he was in college. In 1965 he and his wife, Norma Sue, purchased the alligator farm from his mother. They brought in more animals for the petting zoo. The Alligator Farm is still open today and can proudly boast that it is the oldest tourist attraction in Hot Springs. The farm currently houses about 150 alligators, and feedings are a big attraction—Thursday, Saturday, and Sunday at noon during the summer months (May to October).

On March 17, 1918, during spring training, Babe Ruth hit a 573-foot home run at Whittington Park that landed on the fly at the alligator farm. The baseball was never recovered—likely swallowed by an alligator.

Weyerhaeuser parking lot—site of Whittington Park ball field

Opened in 1894, and many Major League baseball teams used the park for spring training each year. They enjoyed the mild Arkansas climate, hot spring waters, hiking trails, racetrack, and casinos. More baseball was played at Whittington Park than anywhere else in Hot Springs. In the 1930s, Whittington Park was renamed Ban Johnson Field after the Major League Baseball Commissioner who recuperated at Hot Springs in the late 1920s. The field was also used for high school football games, bicycle races, softball games, and other events. It remained open until 1942. There is actually a home plate out in the parking lot to show visitors where it was located, and if you look closely, you can still see some remains of the grandstand along the hillside.

Past the parking lot to the west—site of Whittington Amusement Park, late 1890s through the 1950s. In the 1940s and '50s, the main theater building housed a skating rink.

To west of the church on the south side of Whittington—Ostrich Farm

In 1900 Thomas A. Cockburn opened the Ostrich Farm on 27 acres across from the amusement park (this was just west of the Leap the Dips roller coaster). Three hundred imported ostriches were trained to pull carts, carry jockeys on their backs, and race on a quarter-mile track at the farm. Standing at 9 feet tall and weighing in at 350-375 pounds, Black Diamond, was always the odds-on favorite to win a race. The ostrich farm also sold ostrich feathers for hats and other accessories. The last of the ostriches were sold in 1933, but the Ostrich Farm remained open as a small zoo until 1953, when it closed.

Leap the Dips (or Loop the Dip) Roller Coaster—1920s; went up the hillside on West Mountain.

Church building—built in 1953 by Semour and Bettye Hoffman to house the Star Light skating rink (served as skating rink until 1959). Later housed the Fine Arts Center (beginning in early 1960s), and now a church. In the early 20th century, when Samuel W. Fordyce owned this property, there was a small lake here. It was called several names--Swan Lake/Horseshoe Lake/Fordyce Lake. When the Arlington Hotel burned in 1923, the lake was infilled with debris from the hotel building.

Fogel Field—located to south of parking lot by alligator farm
Fogel Field, also known as Fordyce Field, was constructed in 1912 by the Hot Springs Park Company to meet the demand for major leaguers training in Hot Springs. Philadelphia Phillies’ owner Horace Fogel leased the field for his team. The field was later used by the Pittsburg Pirates. The field still exists today but does not have any structures on it.

South side of Whittington Ave., going west to east

719 Whittington, Parkside Cycle—built ca. 1935 and housed Stan’s Grocery. In the 1960s and ‘70s, this was the Sarah Rebekah Lodge, No. 11 (IOOF).

Two buildings behind this to the south housed Downen’s Mattress Manufacturing Company (mattress factory).

701 Whittington—Folk Victorian/Colonial Revival porch with Ionic columns, dates to ca. 1900. In the early 20th century, it was home to Samuel A. and Laura Kiersey.

635, 633 Whittington—ca. 1960 Ranch

631 Whittington, National Park Service Maintenance Facility—
Built in 1935 by laborers from the local Re-employment Office and the Federal Emergency Relief Administration in the Rustic style. The building was strategically placed at this location to conceal “unsightly scars” on the bluff behind the structure, which had been used as a borrow pit for construction projects throughout the National Park.

Cold water spring—Gum Spring? Rare cold water spring in town. Water filling station.

443, 441, 439, 437 Whittington—nicely detailed and maintained row of Craftsman-style houses, dating to the mid-1920s.

435 Whittington—Quartz Crystal Cave, 1935

Built in 1935 by Jacob A. Bauer, who owned an 80-acre farm in the mountains that had lots of quartz crystal. He and his son built a cement “cave” with crystals embedded in the concrete walls. Visitors entered the cave-like structure to see the crystals, which reflected dazzling rainbow colors. Note: the sign says “est. 1920”—he may have sold crystals beginning in 1920, but he built this structure in 1935.

433 Whittington—new construction

417 Whittington—board-and-batten house. Was built ca. 1940 and housed a dog kennel, gallery, antique shop, and for one year, Animal World, which was run by Marvin Boatman (1960s?). Boatman sold the show to Six Flags, St. Louis, for \$60,000 and then ran the show for them for \$40,000 a year. Had an amphitheater out back for shows.

413, 411, 409, 407, 405, 403, Whittington—nice Craftsmans

365 Whittington—2-story, Folk Victorian house with alterations and enclosed porch. Built ca. 1900. Sarah Henderson’s boarding house, then Will Page (colored) boarding house. By the early 1950s, it was the Waecker Apartments, run by William Waecker.

343 Whittington—built ca. 1956? by A. James Dryden and still owned by the Dryden family.

Questions?