

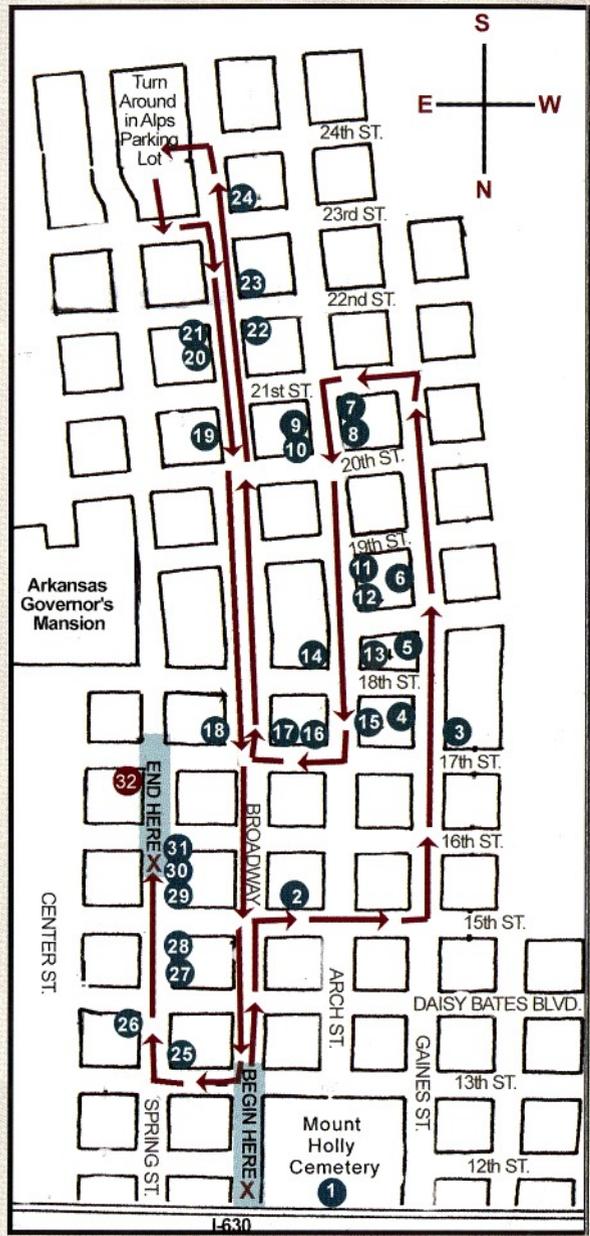
*Quapaw Quarter*  
**Historic Homes**  
*Driving Tour II*



## Simplicity and Sophistication Became the Order of the Day and a New Architectural Era Began

By the early 1920s the neighborhood surrounding what is now the Governor's Mansion, was so completely built up there was no room left for development. New architectural styles built at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century plus numerous "updates" left a lasting imprint on the neighborhood. Early among the cleaner, more sophisticated styles was Colonial Revival. Aspects of the style are seen incorporated into front porches and rooflines giving earlier houses what was considered an "update." Craftsman, American Foursquare, Mission, Frank Lloyd Wright's famous Prairie style, English Revival- all replaced the intricate ornamentation of the previous century. Soaring, steepled roofs and turrets were replaced by simpler hipped roofs and gabled roofs; broad veranda porches blurred the lines between indoor and outdoor.

*Trinity Episcopal Cathedral*  
 c. 1884-92  
 310 W. Seventeenth Street



- 1 Bell House, Mount Holly Cemetery, Broadway at Twelfth Street
- 2 Dickenson House/Rosemont, 515 W. 15th Street
- 3 Redding House, 1716 Gaines Street
- 4 Prather House, 1721 Gaines Street
- 5 Powell-Clements House, 1821 Gaines Street
- 6 Babcock House, 1855 Gaines Street
- 7 Boyle House, 2020 Arch Street
- 8 Frauenthal House, 2008 Arch Street
- 9 Marshall House, 2009 Arch Street
- 10 Fulk-Davis House, 2001 Arch Street
- 11 Frank Gibb House, 1858 Arch Street
- 12 Kavanaugh House, 1854 Arch Street
- 13 Cornish House, 1800 Arch Street
- 14 Gibb-Alzheimer House, 1801 Arch Street
- 15 Hemingway House, 1720 Arch Street
- 16 Neel-Deane House, 1701 Arch Street
- 17 French-England House, 1700 Broadway
- 18 Kahn-Vestal House, 1701 Broadway
- 19 Thompson House, 2015 Broadway
- 20 Fordyce House, 2115 Broadway
- 21 Vinson House, 2123 Broadway
- 22 Foster-Robinson House, 2122 Broadway
- 23 Keith House, 2200 Broadway
- 24 Hardy House/Manor House, 2400 Broadway
- 25 Second Sarlo Cottage, 1314 Spring Street
- 26 Almand House, 324 W. Daisy Bates Drive
- 27 Dibrell House, 1400 Spring Street
- 28 Dunklin House, 1422 Spring Street
- 29 Kirkwood Cottage, 1500 Spring Street
- 30 Strasser Cottage, 1504 Spring Street
- 31 Allison-Crawford House, 1510 Spring Street

When the Right Rev. Henry Niles Pierce came to Little Rock as Bishop he immediately saw the need for a cathedral to serve as the center of the Diocese. Over the next several years, he single-handedly raised the money needed. Designed by Bishop Pierce's son, Rev. A. W. Pierce, Trinity Episcopal Cathedral is a charming example of Gothic Revival architecture patterned after rural English churches. When construction began it was rural, with a few frame cottages nearby but no surrounding streets. The cathedral proper has changed little since the late 19<sup>th</sup> century but several buildings have been added, creating a complex that now occupies a vast area.

## Post-Civil War Building Boom Expanded the City's Historical Neighborhoods

In 1860 Little Rock had a population of 4,000. The post-war boom swelled the city to 40,000. Steamboat service up the Arkansas River to the city's port, located where the River Market flourishes today, had become more reliable. Numerous railroad routes had been added bringing abundant, affordable building materials and "civilization" items to what had been considered a "frontier" town. Little Rock was no longer an outpost but a thriving city.

Prosperity produced a new, more affluent middle class intent on having houses that reflected their success and provided comfort and luxury. Far too many of those fine old houses have gone the way of the wrecking ball, but a sufficient number were saved and rescued making this tour possible. Some houses on this tour were on the outskirts of town when they were built. However, this was an attraction to homeowners at the time, offering spacious plats, wide avenues and lushly planted boulevards for carriages and soon, the newfangled trolley service. Now, ease back in your seat, turn off the radio and take a trip back in time ...

*Welcome to Historic Little Rock.*

1

### *Bell House*

Mount Holly Cemetery

c. 1843

Broadway at Twelfth Street

**On the Cover:** Mount Holly is a park-like oasis in the center of the City. Flowering plants, cascading rose

climbers over a decades old iron fence, and shade trees give it a pleasant, restful atmosphere enhanced by a Bell House built around the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The four square block area became the primary city cemetery in 1843 and is the final "residence" for so many notable Arkansans that it is nicknamed "The Westminster Abbey of Arkansas." Inside the grounds there are sixteen lanes running from the Broadway entrance to the Gaines Street fence and intersecting at right angles. You may drive your car inside Mount Holly ... the residents enjoy company.

Now known as "Rosemont," the house built for George Dickinson is one of the neighborhood's oldest homes and a charming example of a surviving 1880s farm house.



### *The Dickinson House*

c. 1880

Rosemont Bed & Breakfast  
515 W. 15th Street

Italianate styling is evidenced in the hooded window treatment on the three-sided bay window and the original stamped tin roof. The separate kitchen and servants quarters still remain having been attached to the house over the years. The Colonial Revival front porch was an early turn of the century update by the original owners. Restored in 1999-2000, the house is one of Little Rock's Historic Inns. In its earlier years as a boarding house, Herbert Hoover lived in an upstairs bedroom while surveying portions of Little Rock. In 1992, it was the site of President-elect Clinton's "morning after" celebration and a photo of that celebration on the Inn's front porch is in Clinton's book, *My Life*. For information, call (501) 374-7456.

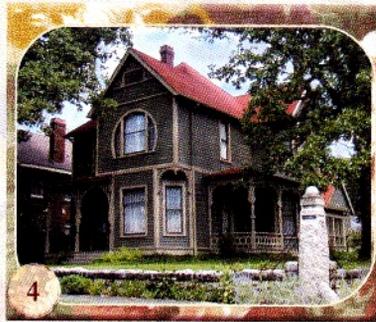


Built in the Colonial Revival style with a Boston roof covered in wood shingles, this grand architectural example was home to Sidney Redding and two Mrs. Reddings. A successful life insurance salesman, Redding was on the frontier of questionable

social change ... he divorced his first wife, Emily, and in 1918 married Miss Daisy Rosenbaum. Both women presided over the household, in their day. Daisy Redding was a prominent civic and social leader, active until her death at ninety-six. In 1910 the house was still on the property of the E. G. Thompson House, which is the adjacent corner lot of the house now known as the Gaines House, where there were four structures, and a carriage house, private bowling alley and a garage with servants' quarter. After Daisy Redding relocated to another area of the city, it went through a series of renters and owners, one of which was the Dean of Trinity Cathedral who lived in the house between 1922 and 1926. Later it became a notorious "social" house before it was purchased for rehabilitation and "redemption."



*Redding House*  
c. 1903  
1716 Gaines Street



*Prather House*  
c. 1890  
1721 Gaines Street

Built around 1890, the Prather House is a middle-class example of the Queen Anne style. Popular in the 1880s and '90s, this style is characterized by decorative exterior millwork, the cut-away bay to the south of the

front porch, and the home's asymmetrical floor plan. Well-known architect Frank

Gibb, who lived nearby on Arch Street, designed the house for John and Grace Prather, a traveling salesman for a wholesale dry goods company. The Prathers lived here until their deaths, both of which occurred in 1915. The house then became rental property, but was returned to single-family use in 1947. The current owners purchased the house in 1983 and began its extensive rehabilitation.



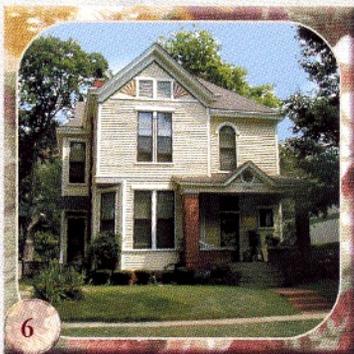
*Powell-Clements House*  
c. 1903  
1821 Gaines Street

This beautiful Colonial Revival house was built by Samuel Powell, state manager for Metropolitan Life. The home served as the Governor's Mansion in 1921 when then-

Gov. Thomas C. McRae rented the house during his first year in office. In 1922, George Clements, manager

of a local sporting goods company, purchased the house and remained here until 1942. Arched Palladian windows and classical Ionic columns are decorative elements common to the Colonial Revival style. The house's asymmetrical massing and variety of roof forms are other definitive cottage features of this style. Decorative millwork, carved in a garland style, is a prominent exterior decoration. The current owner purchased the house in 1998 and began its extensive rehabilitation.

*A nationwide financial panic in 1893 caused growth and residential construction to slow and ushered in the close of the flamboyant architectural period typified by the Queen Anne style. Restraint became the new hallmark.*



*Babcock House*  
c. 1890  
1855 Gaines Street

This Queen Anne style home was built by William and Julia Burnelle (Bernie) Babcock. William was an agent with the Pacific Express Company. He died after a sudden illness in 1897. A widow with five small children to support, Bernie Babcock then began her long career as a writer – at her kitchen table, each night after the children were asleep. She went on to become a prolific American writer, authoring over 40 works, including perhaps her best known work, *The Soul of Ann Rutledge*, the story of a young Abe Lincoln and his boyhood sweetheart. She was the first Arkansas woman to be included in *Who's Who in America*. She later went on to found the Arkansas Museum of Science and Antiquities, today known as the Museum of Discovery (located in the River Market District). While Babcock sold the house in 1910, it remains today as a tribute to this fascinating American woman.

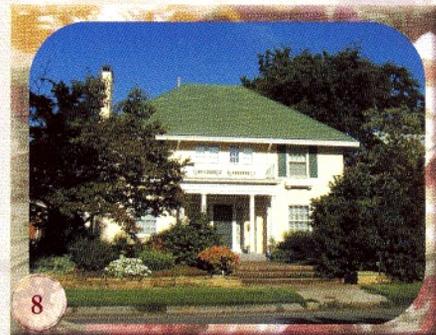
Late in 1921, Sterling Scott engaged an architect and contractor to begin work on this residence; however, before it was finished Scott sold it to John and Snow Boyle. An interesting note ... the new Mrs. Boyle was the widow of C.R. Ledbetter and moved from the Turner-Ledbetter House at 1700 Louisiana in 1920 when she married Boyle. Their new residence combined elements of several early 20<sup>th</sup> century styles: the exposed rafter ends and tile roof is Craftsman, while the half-timbered gables are reminiscent



*Boyle House*  
c. 1921-1922  
2020 Arch Street

of English Revival and the unusual stone entry porch seems inspired by the Beaux Arts style. After John Boyle's death in 1938, his widow occupied the house until she died in 1949. The house was then sold, and although it remained a single-family residence, the house suffered considerable deterioration by the time it was purchased for rehabilitation in 1988.

A highly successful partner in Frauenthal & Schwartz Mercantile, Charles Frauenthal and his wife, Cora, retained Charles Thompson's firm to design a house that remains a rare example in Little Rock of the Italian Renaissance style. The style is characterized by the low pitched hipped roof covered with tile, the symmetrical façade, the entryway's small classical columns and the stuccoed walls. Exactly how the Frauenthals came to choose this style is unknown, but there are few other houses like it in Little Rock. Following her husband's death, Cora occupied the house until about 1960. As an interesting sidenote, Charles Frauenthal was one of the earliest commuters. His 1929 obituary noted that he "motored" about 30 miles daily to Conway to tend his Mercantile business. Quite a drive in those days!



*Frauenthal House*  
c. 1919  
2008 Arch Street

Unless otherwise noted, all structures shown are privately-owned residences or businesses and are not open to the public.

*Electric lights debuted  
in 1879 as a circus attraction  
but were not widely installed  
in homes until the turn  
of the century.*

Built for Josephus C. Marshall, a lawyer and successful businessman, the original plans and 28-pages of construction specifications are still in existence. Among other interesting tidbits, the specs show the house was wired for electric lights and plumbed for gas lights – a common practice during the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century because electricity wasn't always reliable. With its imposing classical portico, the house is predominantly Colonial Revival, however, behind the portico is a hipped-roofed American Foursquare with exposed rafter ends that are characteristic of the Craftsman style. This well maintained, single-family residence has required little rehabilitation over the years.



9

*Marshall House*  
c. 1908  
2009 Arch Street



10

*Fulk-Davis House*  
c. 1905  
2001 Arch Street

This one-story cottage was designed by Charles Thompson in 1905 for Guy Fulk and his family. Fulk was a 29-year-old attorney when the house was built; by 1915 he had become a Circuit Court Judge. He and his family remained at this house until 1926 when they moved to a larger house

at 1910 S. Arch. It passed through a series of owners until 1937, when John Davis, president of Dixie Culvert Manufacturing Company, bought the house. By that time, it had been vacant for three years and was in a serious state of neglect. The Davises remodeled the house from its original Queen Anne-Classical Revival style to the Queen Anne-Colonial Revival appearance seen today.



11

*Frank Gibb House*  
c. 1890  
1858 Arch Street

This exceptional Queen Anne style house was Architect Frank W. Gibb's first home, built on one of the many pieces of property his father owned in the neighborhood. Gibb designed numerous prominent homes and buildings in Little Rock, including First Methodist Church and what is now

Eastside Lofts. Gibb and his family remained in this house until about 1906 when they moved to 1801 Arch Street. The Frank Gibb House has recently been repainted in Gibb's original paint scheme. Victorian colors like these were vibrant yet inspired by nature to be in harmony with their surroundings. A descendent recalls that Gibb was always interested in nature and would go on "forays into the woods" on Sundays with his children in tow.

*Central heating was  
introduced to  
Little Rock in 1872  
and had been sufficiently  
perfected by 1883 to  
attract the attention of  
wealthy homeowners.*

This is an excellent transitional house, combining an asymmetrical Queen Anne floor plan with decorative details in the Colonial Revival style. In April of 1899, a local newspaper announced that the “William Marmaduke

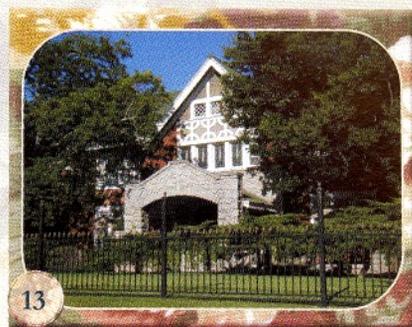
Kavanaugh residence, costing \$5,000... is ready for occupancy.” At the time, Kavanaugh was sheriff and collector of Pulaski County, but in 1900 he became Pulaski County Judge. Over the years, Judge Kavanaugh played an important role in the development of Pulaski Heights and was recognized by the Little Rock City Council in the mid-1930s by the naming of Kavanaugh Boulevard in his honor. Because the house was occupied by members of the Kavanaugh family until 1975, it survived the years very much intact, though somewhat worse for the wear. The house has been extensively rehabilitated and continues to serve as a single-family residence.



*Kavanaugh House*  
c. 1898-99  
1854 Arch Street

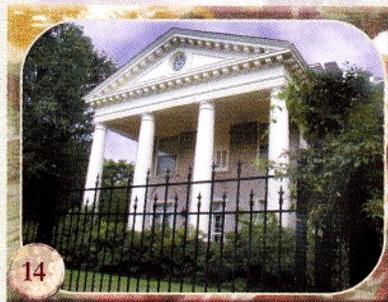
Banker Edward Cornish and his wife, Hilda, commissioned esteemed architect Frank Gibb to design a home for the couple and their six children. Primarily Craftsman

in style, the house shows traces of English Revival, mostly in the half-timbered gables. Craftsman influence is evident in the variety of textures in the exterior materials and by the porches and terraces designed to create outdoor living spaces. After suffering financial reverses, sadly Cornish committed suicide leaving Hilda to remain in the house until 1934 when it was reportedly sold for only \$10,000. By the 1940s the house had become a nursing home and remained so until 1973. It stood vacant for five years, suffering badly at the hands of vandals. It was purchased for rehabilitation in 1978.



*Cornish House*  
c. 1916  
1800 Arch Street

*Little Rock's 1887 telephone directory consisted of four pages, mostly businesses. Although at \$48 annually, a residential connection was less, even in those days, than the cost to business customers.*



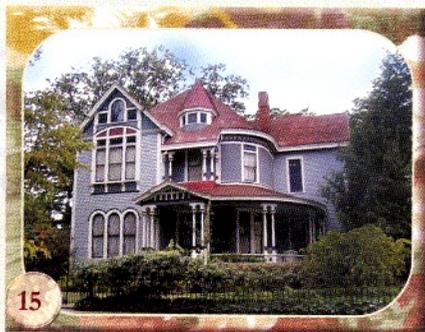
*Gibb-Alzheimer House*  
c. 1906  
1801 Arch Street

Frank W. Gibb, trained as an engineer, began designing houses in the late 1880s and by the time he designed his large classically inspired residence, he had hit his stride. The imposing portico

facing Arch Street gives the house a true Greek temple appearance reminiscent of antebellum plantation

houses. The house's main entry, however, is on 18<sup>th</sup> Street – reportedly so located as to avoid the traffic of Arch Street, once a busy thoroughfare. Another interesting design “trick” is the shuttered window on the second floor. It is a false window, existing merely for sake of symmetry. By 1915, Maurice Alzheimer, owner of a dry goods company and one-time president of Twin City Bank, had purchased the house.

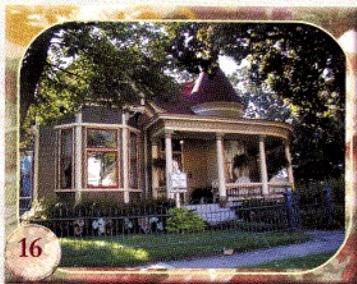
Having just resigned as Associate Justice of the Arkansas Supreme Court, Wilson E. Hemingway, hired a 23-year-old architect, Charles Thompson, to design his new residence as he began a private law practice with U.M. and George Rose. The resulting house is one of Little Rock's most notable examples of Queen Anne style and one of the oldest surviving examples of Charles Thompson's work. After being sold by the Hemingway family in the late 1920s, the house served as boarding house during the Depression-World War II period and eventually suffered extensive deterioration. Rescued from its decline in 1982, it has been restored to a single-family residence.



*Hemingway House*  
c. 1893  
1720 Arch Street

*Between 1877 and 1888  
the City of Little Rock  
put into operation water and  
sewer systems, telephone  
service and electric plants.*

Built for Ralph Neel, bookkeeper for a grocery, the house is a charming representative of the period from about 1895 to 1905 when many Little Rock residents could not decide whether they preferred the Queen Anne or Colonial Revival styles. Unlike most Little Rock "transitional" houses, the design incorporates mostly Queen Anne characteristics, such



*Neel-Deane House*  
c. 1901  
1701 Arch Street

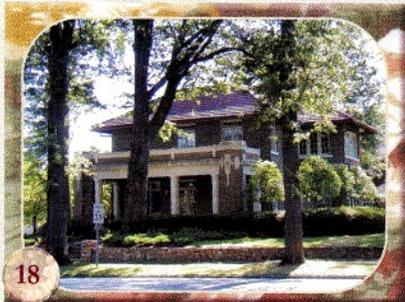
as the asymmetrical floor plan, shingled turret, cutaway bay and multi-gabled roofline. Between 1891 and 1946, only two owners – Colonel G.A.A. Deane, a railroad commissioner from Massachusetts, and Thomas W. Freeman, a successful automobile dealer – occupied the house. For several years it served as a rooming house and was then returned to single-family residence in the early 1970s. The turret, clearly visible in early photographs but later removed due to deterioration, was rebuilt in 2003, returning the house to its original appearance.

Designed by Charles Thompson for Dr. Frank L. French, the house falls into the American Foursquare category but is a large and very well detailed version. It also boasts many Colonial Revival features such as the porch roof balustrade and classical columns. In 1914, Thompson designed the two-story sunroom addition for French. In 1918, J. E. England, president of the England National Bank, bought the house from Dr. French and occupied it until 1925, when it became the home of Gus Bertner, a successful insurance agent, and his wife, Anna. The house remained in the Bertner family until 1968. Over the years, the house suffered many changes; however, in 1978 it was rescued and rehabilitated as a single-family home.



*French-England House*  
c. 1905  
1700 Broadway

*By the late 1870s, a street  
railway system (trolleys) began  
operation and emphasis was placed  
on paving streets  
and sidewalks.*



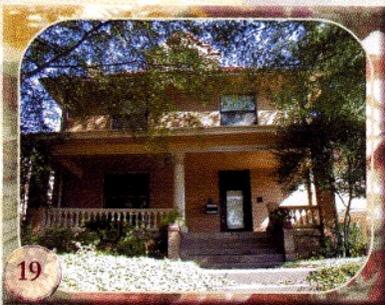
*Kahn-Vestal House*  
c. 1915-16  
1701 Broadway

Little Rock. In 1917, Mr. & Mrs. Herman Kahn gave the house to their son, Alfred, who lived here with his wife, Bess, until 1922. After passing through two more owners, in the late 1930s the house became the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Howell Vestal, of Joseph W. Vestal & Son, a large floral company. Sold by the Vestal family in the late 1950s, it was converted to commercial use.

Although the house is an American Foursquare, it has one of the most distinctive porches to be found among the City's historic houses. Its decorative terra cotta trim, based on the type of ornamentation used by Frank Lloyd Wright in his Prairie-style houses, is highly unusual for

houses, is highly unusual for

*By 1900, Little Rock's 12 churches blossomed to over 50 and included the city's first synagogue. Church architecture became more and more grand with steeples reaching unprecedented heights.*



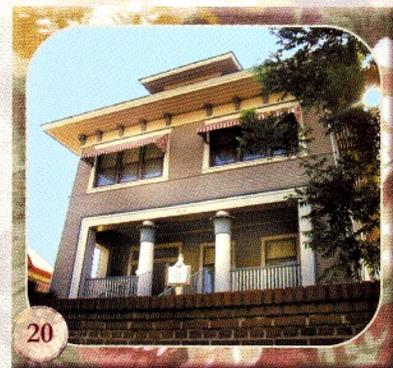
*Thompson House*  
c. 1906  
2015 Broadway

Architect Charles L. Thompson designed for himself a conservative American Foursquare and lived in the house until his death in 1959 at the age of 91. He added interesting Mission-style details not often seen in Little Rock. Most out of the ordinary is the shaped

dormer, patterned after the roof parapets of Spanish Colonial mission buildings. Also in keeping with the Mission style is the red tile roof. After Thompson's death, the house remained a residence until the 1970s when it became the *Institute of Psychic Science*. Later converted to a boarding house, it was rescued in 1985 and rehabilitated as offices. Today it is once again a single-family residence.

Built for Mr. and Mrs. John R. Fordyce, the house is designed in the Egyptian Revival style, exceedingly rare, probably numbering no more than a dozen houses total in the U.S. Usually dating from the mid-to late-19<sup>th</sup> century, the Fordyce House is an

early 20<sup>th</sup>-century example, making it even more unusual. Major characteristics are the Egyptian style porch columns resembling bundles of stalks tied together and flared at the top, and the "battered" walls that slant inward as they rise – reminiscent of the pyramids. The wall slant is echoed by the wooden trim around the windows and door in the main façade. Fordyce lived in the house until 1920 when he sold it to James Shipton who maintained the house as his residence until 1950. It has always been single-family residence.



*Fordyce House*  
c. 1904  
2115 Broadway

*In the early 1880s, everything south of what is now D-630 was considered the "outskirts" of Little Rock; beyond Seventeenth Street was "in the country."*

*Between 1865 and 1900  
Little Rock's population grew  
from 4,000 to 40,000 causing a  
residential building boom.*



*Vinson House*  
c. 1905  
2123 Broadway

A wraparound porch with classical Ionic columns. Designed by Charles Thompson for attorney Baldy Vinson and his wife, Mary, the house was occupied by Mary until her death in 1961. During her widowhood, the house was divided into two units with the larger north side of the house rented. It was purchased for rehabilitation in 1972 and returned to a single-family residence.

Often said to be Little Rock's best example of what is known locally as a Colonial Revival cottage, the house is really too large to be called a cottage. However, in the typical

Colonial Revival cottage style, the Vinson House has a steeply-pitched hipped roof with cross gables and a

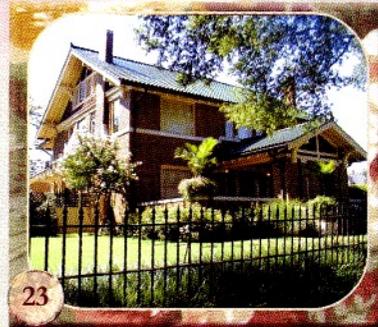


*Foster-Robinson House*  
c. 1905  
Hope Lodge  
2122 Broadway

in the house until her death in 1929, at which time it was sold to U.S. Senator

Architecturally distinctive, the Foster-Robinson House is an early example of English Revival or Tudor style. The house was built about 1905 by Harry Foster, a lumberman from Wisconsin. Foster's widow remained in

Joseph T. Robinson. A year earlier, in 1928, Robinson and Alfred E. Smith headed the Democratic Presidential ticket, losing to Herbert Hoover. The house witnessed one of Little Rock's most momentous social events when the Robinsons hosted a dinner party for President and Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt. The President spoke to the public from the front porch of the house. President Truman later visited Mrs. Robinson after her husband's death. The house remained in the Robinson family until 1971, and then in 1984, the 18-room residence became Hope Lodge, converted to its present use as a "home away from home" for adult cancer patients being treated in the City.



*Keith House*  
c. 1912  
2200 Broadway

A low-pitched gabled roof with exposed rafter ends, decorative braces under the eaves, and the broad porch roof supported by square columns are all Craftsman characteristics. Prairie styling is evidenced in the geometric window pane design and the flattened pedestal flower urns. Owned by the Keith family until 1990, it remains a single-family residence.

This predominantly Craftsman style house is notable for its architecture but also for having survived almost a century virtually unaltered. Designed by Charles Thompson for real estate businessman, A.M. Keith, it is one of the city's best Craftsman examples, with hints of the Prairie style thrown in for good measure.

*Dedicated to the  
education of African-American  
students, Philander Smith was  
established during the 19th century and  
remains a thriving urban college.*

Built in 1922, this house is stylistically an English Manor House. Its design was part of a national trend of English Revival designs inspired by “doughboys” remembrances of England when they returned home following World War I.

Designed by Thomas Harding, who was a partner with Charles Thompson, the house was built for Corine and Mosley Hardy, owner of an insurance business. The Hardy family lived in the house until Mrs. Hardy’s death in 1976. The current owners purchased and restored the house in 1989. It is still a private home but is also available for weddings and events of all types allowing others to enjoy the unique style and beauty of this fine house. For information, call (501) 375-4249.



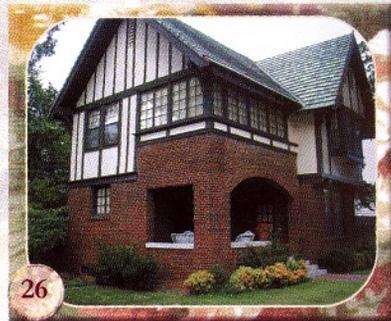
24

*Hardy House*

c. 1922  
The Manor House  
2400 Broadway

Designed by architect John Parks Almand as his own residence, the house is one of the “newer” historic homes in the District. Although Almand is known to have designed houses in popular early 20<sup>th</sup> century styles, for his own he chose the English Revival style, evoking medieval

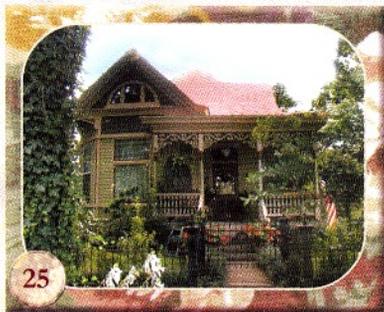
English architecture with features such as the second-story overhang and “half-timbering.” The house is an attractive example of this style, which flourished in Little Rock during the 1920s. Almand was educated at the Columbia University School of Architecture and moved to Little Rock to work with Charles Thompson. Eventually, he established a successful practice that endured until his death in 1969. His best known work is Little Rock Central High School, site of the landmark civil rights’ event during the Eisenhower administration. The Almands left the house in the mid-1930s but it has always been a single-family home.



26

*Almand House*

c. 1922  
324 W. Daisy Bates Drive



25

*Second Sarlo Cottage*

c. 1895  
1314 Spring Street

Saloonkeeper Joseph Sarlo built this house in 1895, as well as the houses on either side, as rental property. The house is a Queen Anne cottage with a Colonial Revival porch, which is not believed to be original to the house since the foundation footprint indicates an earlier wraparound porch to the

north. Since the house was built as a rental cottage, it probably did not originally have the ornate gingerbread trim and other decorative details, which were recreated from a piece of trim discovered when the porch was restored. The house had a major update in the mid-1920s when the present kitchen was added to the rear of the house. Interestingly, the house has survived three fires over the years, which may also account for the kitchen and porch changes.

This exceptional Queen Anne was built speculatively by a real estate agent, H.A. Bowman, and sold to Dr. and Mrs. James A. Dibrell, Jr. Because the house was not complete, the Dibrells added some of their own touches such as

parquet floors and walnut woodwork. The house made an elegant home for the Dibrell family. By the 1960s the house had been divided into apartments and had undergone major structural changes. Since then, the house has enjoyed restoration of a quality rarely seen outside of museums. Besides reconstructing the roof turret, exterior restoration included returning seven porches to their original appearances. Interior restoration was equally challenging and grand.



27

*Dibrell House*

c. 1892  
1400 Spring Street

*Between 1880 and 1900, commercial brick buildings were rapidly appearing in downtown Little Rock. Numerous were multi-story buildings boasting a new device called an elevator.*



28

*Dunklin House*  
c. 1896  
1422 Spring Street

Built for William J. Dunklin, a railroad conductor, the house was designed using an interesting mixture of Queen Anne and Colonial Revival features. Except for the corner turret and

bay window, the house is rectangular, with Palladian windows, a classical porch, and numerous other

Colonial Revival details. The turret and bay window are prominent Queen Anne features. In 1912, the house was sold to Mr. & Mrs. Sidney Florsheim, who managed Stiff Jewelry Company. From the Depression era, when the Florsheims had to give up the house, the house had a sad career until it was purchased in 1977 for rehabilitation. It has been restored to its former glory.

### *Spring Street Cottages*

According to 1880 Pulaski County Real Estate Assessment records, Francis Johnson, an attorney, owned the entire 1500 block of Spring Street, purchased for a mere \$1500. It isn't known whether he built any or all of the houses or merely owned the lots, but by 1884 Johnson had sold all of the lots. It is safe to say that whoever built these cottages built them with working class people in mind. They were smaller and

less grand and two of them (1504 and 1512) were owned and occupied by black families making Spring Street one of the earlier integrated neighborhoods.

Built in the traditional Queen Anne style charmingly embellished with decorative millwork, the Kirkwood cottage dates to the earliest development of the Governor's Mansion Historic District. It was originally owned by Naomi and John Kirkwood who was a clerk at Niemeyer & Darragh, a wholesale building materials company. After the Kirkwoods sold the house in about 1894, it went through a series of short-term owners until John W. Thompson purchased it in 1920. Mr. and Mrs. Thompson remained until their respective deaths in 1933 and 1948. The

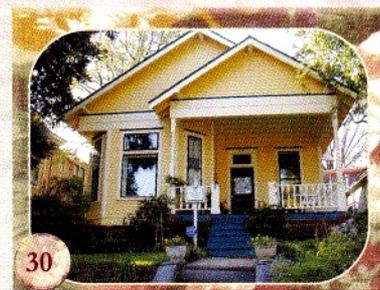
property then passed to a daughter, Alice, who remained in the cottage until 1967. After remaining vacant for sometime, it was purchased in 1983 for rehabilitation and was returned to a single-family residence.

Strasser Cottage, a comfortable Queen Anne frame residence, was also built around 1882. The earliest recorded owner of the house was the Ladies Building Association. Little is known about this group but the name is intriguing for the times. John C. Strasser, a saloonkeeper, owned and occupied the cottage until 1883 then sold to William Reed, proprietor of a Little Rock barber shop. In 1895, Massimo J. Arata, another saloonkeeper, purchased the house. It remained Arata's property until 1922. The house was purchased for rehabilitation and is maintained as a private residence.



29

*Kirkwood Cottage*  
c. 1882  
1500 Spring Street

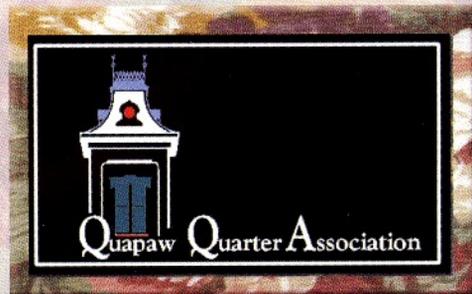


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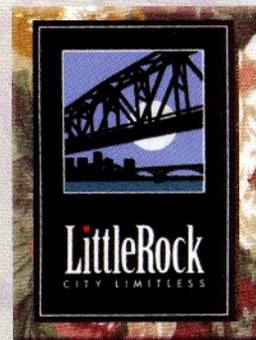
*Strasser Cottage*  
c. 1882  
1504 Spring Street

# Acknowledgements

The 2004 Driving Tour of Historic Little Rock Homes in the Quapaw Quarter was made possible by a joint effort of the Quapaw Quarter Association and the Little Rock Convention and Visitors Bureau. Our special appreciation goes to the caretakers of these fine historic homes for allowing us to share them with visitors to Little Rock.

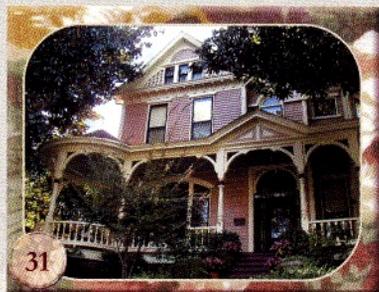


The Quapaw Quarter Association (QQA) was founded in 1968 for the purpose of helping preserve the historic heritage of Little Rock as represented by landmark structures and the neighborhoods they comprise. Through its efforts, many public buildings and private homes have been saved, preserved and rehabilitated. For more information, please call 501-371-0075 or visit us on the web at [www.quapaw.com](http://www.quapaw.com).



The Little Rock Convention and Visitors Bureau recognizes the importance of Historic Little Rock and the city feels proud and fortunate that the Quapaw Quarter is an area rich in history, unique older homes and structures, and people as diverse and exciting as America itself.

*Little Rock's first  
Governor's Mansion was built in  
1950. For that reason, many prominent  
Quapaw Quarter houses are known to  
be temporary "First Mansions" as the  
personal residences of the State  
Governors served in  
that capacity.*



*Allison-Crawford House*  
c. 1890  
1510 Spring Street

In the mid-1890s, Patrick Crawford purchased a house at this location which had been built by William Allison, a saloonkeeper, in the 1880s. Crawford was a major in the Confederate Army, who became a successful insurance executive after the war. Records are unclear as to whether Crawford

greatly remodeled an existing house on the property or demolished the original structure replacing it with the Queen Anne style house that remains today. Regardless, the Allison-Crawford House is a beautifully designed and restored cottage that stands in amiable contrast to some of its grander neighbors.

## TOUR #3

Driving Tour III begins  
at the corner of Spring  
and 17th Street.