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Quapaw Quarter Historic Homes

The Magnolia Tour

Featuring the
MacArthur Park Historic District

Historic Little Rock
Arkansas

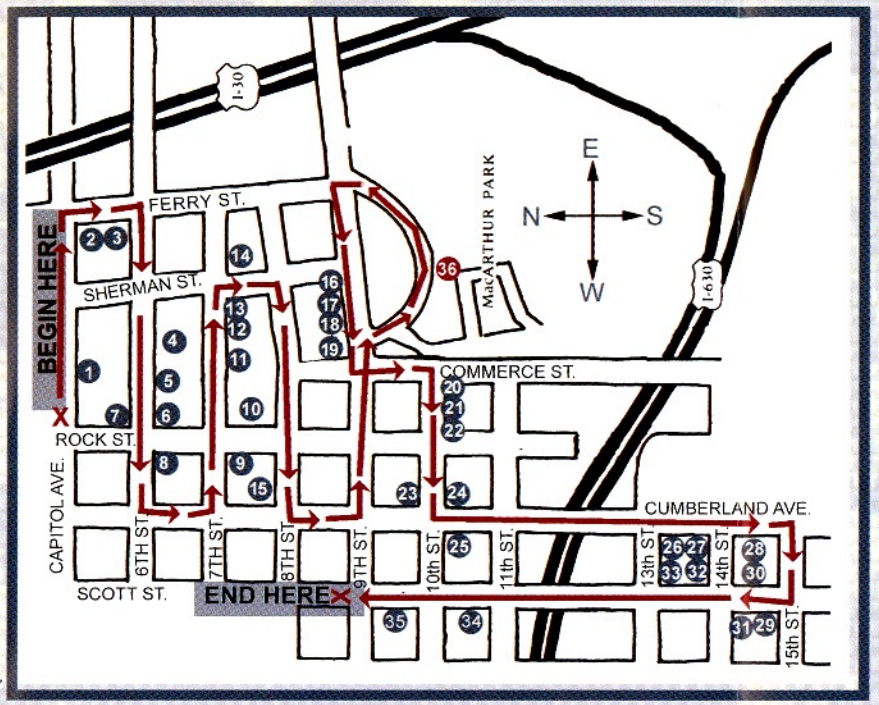
LittleRock.com

Route Map

MacArthur Park Historic District

Little Rock's Oldest Surviving Neighborhood Stretching from Curran Hall to the Governor's Mansion

Now known as the MacArthur Park Historic District, this area encompasses the oldest surviving neighborhood in Little Rock. It grew up around the 36-acre property originally occupied by the U.S. Arsenal now MacArthur Park. Many homes pre-date the Civil War but the area really flourished with upscale development in the 1870s and 1880s. Over forty structures of the era are highlighted in this brochure, but you will encounter countless more as you begin your journey through Historic Little Rock.



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36 U.S. Arsenal Building
c. 1840-42
MacArthur Museum of Arkansas Military History • MacArthur Park

In response to residents' request for protection from "savage invasions," in 1836 Congress authorized construction of an arsenal in Little Rock. It served the Confederacy for 2˝ years during the Civil War, until the City was occupied by Federal troops in 1863. Post war, the arsenal building was converted for use as housing for officers. General Douglas MacArthur was born in this building in 1880, while his father was temporarily stationed in Little Rock. The building returned to peace-time use until it was deactivated in 1890. In 1942, the one surviving building became the Museum of Natural History and Antiquities. Today it houses the MacArthur Museum of Arkansas Military History.

Historical Beauty Blended with Commerce and Technology to Create Historic Little Rock

Established in 1961 for the purpose of preserving and restoring hundreds of historic structures, the Quapaw Quarter is roughly the original "footprint" of Little Rock as it was in 1821. Today the Quapaw Quarter is one of the largest and most important historic districts in the country, rich in its vast geographic size and the number and diversity of its structures. This series of brochures showcases over 100 historic residences. But that is only the beginning. By modest count, there are at least 15 historic churches, three schools, a military arsenal, several hotels, a Masonic Temple and countless buildings of commerce, ranging from small storefronts to the sprawling warehouses of the River Market District. Turn off your cell phones, ignore your digital watches and meander down Memory Lane … .

Welcome to Historic Little Rock.

1

Trapnall Hall
c. 1843
423 E. Capitol Avenue

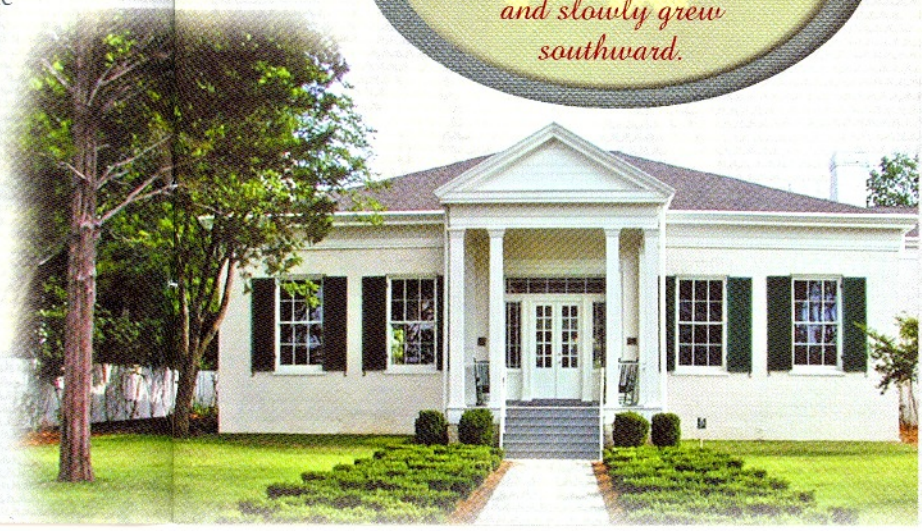
Built by Frederic Trapnall, an attorney and early political figure in Little Rock, Trapnall Hall's antebellum design combines characteristics of two neoclassical architectural styles: Greek Revival and Roman Classicism. The symmetry of the design, originally comprised of two large rooms on either side of a central hall, is a typical Greek Revival feature. The Jeffersonian portico columns are Roman as is the semicircular opening in the pediment of the portico. Tragically, within 20 years of the house's completion, all members of the Trapnall family were dead. The house then went through a series of owners and by the 1920s it was a boarding house. In 1929 it was acquired and restored by the Junior League, which retained ownership until 1976 when it was deeded to the State of Arkansas.

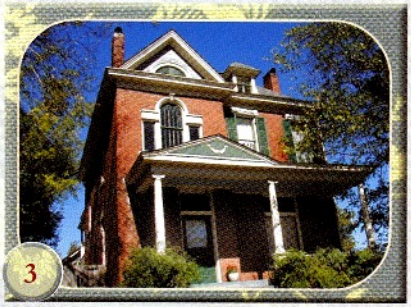
Walters-Curran-Bell House
c. 1842-43
Curran Hall Visitors Center
615 E. Capitol Avenue

2

On the Cover: An exceptional antebellum house built in the Greek Revival style, the property originally comprised two square blocks, extending from Fifth to Sixth Street with the house in the middle section of the block bounded by Sherman and Ferry. A wedding gift from Colonel Ebenezer Walters to his young bride, the house was nearing completion when Mrs. Walters died. Grief-stricken, Walters sold the house to David Baldwin, who occupied it for only six years, selling in 1849 to James Curran. Curran died in 1854 leaving his wife with two young children and a third on the way. Curran Hall, as the house is often called, remained the property of Alice, their third child, until purchased in 1884 by Mary Woodruff Bell, daughter of the *Arkansas Gazette* newspaper founder. The house and grounds were rehabilitated and reopened as the Little Rock Visitors Center in 2002.

The early 1820s city was established on the banks of the Arkansas River, depending on river transport, and slowly grew southward.





Bracy-Manning House
c. 1898
620 E. Sixth Street

Lewis W. Cherry built this house, and the house next door at 610 East Sixth, at approximately the same time. By the late 1890s architectural tastes were evolving from the Queen Anne style to Colonial Revival. Both houses reflect this transition with prominent elements of each – Queen Anne styling with Colonial Revival porches. Samuel Bracy, a partner in Snodgrass & Bracy Drug Store on Main Street, considered by many to be Little Rock's finest pharmacy, purchased the house in 1906. It remained in the family, passing to his daughter and son-in-law, Mary and Van Manning. The Mannings were in residence until the 1970s.

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

Fowler House
c. 1840
503 E. Sixth Street

In 1840, this antebellum structure stood alone on a block and a half of land. The fan-shaped transoms over the doorways are a Federal style characteristic; the Ionic columns supporting the portico are Greek Revival. After several colorful owners, the Catholic Diocese of Arkansas bought the house in 1923 to use as a neighborhood school. Then, it was rehabilitated in the 1970s as Fowler Square Apartments when the surrounding buildings were added. The simple two-story building west of the house was probably the original kitchen and servants' quarters and is the only original freestanding one still in existence.

Nash Rental Houses
c. 1907
409 E. Sixth Street
• 601 Rock Street

Built as rental property after the decline of the Old Arsenal neighborhood, Charles Thompson's prominence as an architect made these highly desirable properties. Although the Rock Street house is the more elaborate, both are attractive Colonial Revival examples typified in the porch design supported by classical columns and the distinctive window features. Note the semicircular window in the front-facing gable on the Rock Street House and roof dormer patterned after a Palladian window on the Sixth Street house.

Many earlier Little Rock residences, through the late 19th Century, were largely self-sufficient, surrounded by flower and vegetable gardens, orchards, poultry and livestock with firewood used for heating and an on-premise water supply.

Kempner House
c. 1867
521 Rock Street

The Kempner House was a product of the building boom spawned by post Civil War growth. Although more than 400 houses were built here during 1867 alone, this is one of a few that survived. Built by Abraham Kempner, a retail merchant, the house is well-built but not stylish, as was the case with most houses from the period. In the typical pre-war Greek Revival style, it has a symmetrical plan, and its windows have old-fashioned multi-paned sashes. The builder obviously was acquainted with the Italianate style because the influence is reflected in the arched windows and doorway and in the brackets beneath the eaves. By the 1970s the house was so deteriorated it was condemned by the city but was rescued in 1980 for use as offices.

Gas lighting was introduced into Little Rock homes on July 31, 1860.

Riegler House
c. 1902
610 Rock Street

John Reigler, a German baker and confectioner, built this house for his family at the turn of the century. After 1910, the house had a series of owners and was used as a multi-family dwelling. Stanley Gray, who was interested in historic and architectural preservation, purchased the house in 1964 and restored the exterior. Special millwork was required to replace badly deteriorated windows, doors, and siding.

Lincoln House
c. 1877-78
301 E. Seventh Street

With its iron roof cresting, arched windows and bracketed eaves, and a full range of Italianate characteristics, the Lincoln house usually is considered the best existing High Victorian Italianate house in Little Rock. The remarkable preservation of such original features as the cistern adds to the house's significance. The house was built by Charles Lincoln, owner of a successful wholesale drug business. Mrs. Lincoln played an active role in designing the house and its décor. The Lincolns were prominent community members, and their home frequently was the scene of lavish social events, including the debut of their daughter Miss Georgie Lincoln. Following the deaths of the elder Lincolns, the house became the residence of their son and daughter-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Knox Lincoln. The younger Mrs. Lincoln occupied the house until her death in 1978, which helps to account for the home's remarkable state of preservation.

Although early "central heating" systems did a fairly good job of warming the first floor, heat didn't reach upper levels which is why houses dating to the 1880s and earlier had fireplaces in the second floor rooms.

Welch-Cherry House
c. 1884
700 Rock Street

This rather conservative example of the Italianate style was built for the Rev. Thomas R. Welch. The tall, narrow proportions, front porch and window details are all Italianate in design. Examples of some of the more restrained architectural elements are the unbracketed eaves and the plain ornamentation. Purchased in 1892 by the newly married Lewis Cherry, it was occupied by Mr. Cherry until his death in 1922 and by Mrs. Cherry until 1959. The house was then used as apartments until its 1984 rehabilitation as offices.

Greek Revival was popular from 1820 until the Civil War, peaking in the 1830s and 1840s, and is most popularly known as the Southern plantation style.

A magnificent example of the pre-Civil War "Old South," the house was built for Albert Pike in the Greek Revival style. The impressive portico appears, from evidence found during later rehabilitation, to have been added to replace a smaller, original porch. After Pike left Little Rock in 1868, the house became the Arkansas Female College until Colonel and Mrs. John G. Fletcher purchased it in 1889. Updated in the Colonial Revival style early in the 20th century, it remained in the Fletcher family, passing to a daughter and son-in-law, Mr. & Mrs. David Terry. After Mrs. Terry's death in 1976, the Pike-Fletcher-Terry House was deeded to the City of Little Rock. Today the house is open to the public as a community art gallery operated by the Arkansas Arts Center.

Pike-Fletcher-Terry House
c. 1840
411 E. Seventh Street

Turner-Karcher House
c. 1881
503 E. Seventh Street

Judge Blakely Turner built this elegant Italianate frame house for $4,000 in 1881. Occupied by Judge & Mrs. Turner and three of their grown children until his death in 1887, the house then changed hands twice before it was bought by Andrew & Minnie Karcher in 1912. Because Karcher was President of the Karcher Candy Company, the house became a social gathering place and remained in the family until Mrs. Karcher's death in 1943. Ravaged by years of neglect, the house was on the verge of being demolished in 1974 when it was purchased and rehabilitated as apartments.

Quapaw Quarter is named for the Quapaw Indian Nation, which had Little Rock as one of its territorial boundaries as defined by the treaty of 1818.

Hot and cold running water and "water closets" were being installed in Little Rock's most elaborate homes by the late 1860s.

Johnson House
c. 1877
507 E. Seventh Street

This Italianate-style house, built in 1877 for Robert W. Johnson, was only occupied for two years by Mr. Johnson. Johnson served as U.S. Repre-sentative and Senator before Arkansas seceded from the Union during the Civil War. After his death, the house remained in the Johnson family until the 1920s. Between that time and the 1960s, the house fell into serious disrepair, as did much of the neighborhood. Architect Edwin Cromwell, an early preservation advocate, purchased the property and rehabilitated it to apartments.

Kramer School
c. 1895
715 Sherman Street

Built to replace an 1870s frame school, the original portion of Kramer School cost 1895 taxpayers about $11,000. It is the oldest public school building still standing in Little Rock. The impres-sive building combines characteristics of the Queen Anne and Romanesque Revival styles and originally included an entry tower that soared some six stories above the surrounding neighborhood. Kramer School served Little Rock as an elementary school until the mid-1970s. During its last few years of use, it was the "Center for Early Development and Education" an innovative experiment in early childhood education that attracted national acclaim. The Little Rock School District sold Kramer School in 1983, and it went through an involved process that included the threat of imminent destruction before it was ultimately saved and rehabilitated. Today its residential lofts provide living and creative work space to an artists' cooperative. It is once again an important historic property saved by the wisdom and commitment of preservationists.

Charter House
c. 1875
308 E. Eighth Street

An attractive example of the Italianate style, built about 1875 for grocer William Charter, the Charter House's boxy shape and low hipped roof are common features nationwide, but very unusual for Little Rock. The house has undergone very little architectural change over the years, making it an important example of preservation. Surviving as a boarding house in the 1940s and 1950s, it was almost destroyed for a parking lot in 1974. Rescued by a group of young investors, it was soon purchased by the Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation for use as its headquarters. With the exception of the remodeling of its porch, the Charter House had undergone relatively few exterior changes from the time of its construction until it was rehabilitated a century later. With the porch restored, the house became a shining example for preservation efforts in the MacArthur Park neighborhood.

The Italianate style is based on the picturesque structures of Italy, originally inspired by the farmhouse architecture of the Italian countryside.

The Holtzman Houses

Five houses along the 500 block of Ninth Street, four of which survive today, were all built by the Holtzman family. W. D. Holtzman, the significant builder and owner, has the distinction of having lived in all five at some time during his life, and actually never lived any place but on Ninth Street.

W. D.'s parents, William F. and Jeanette Holtzman built this house around 1850. The pre-Civil War frame house is presumed to be W. D.'s boyhood home, and his mother continued to live here after her husband's death.

William F. Holtzman House
c. 1850
516 E. Ninth Street

W.D. Holtzman House
c. 1903
514 E. Ninth Street

W.D. Holtzman built his first home, an Italianate style house appropriate to the times, on this lot in the early 1870s. He lived in the house until 1890 when he began renting it out to tenants, and subsequently built and occupied the house at 512 E. Ninth (#18). The original 1870 house was torn down in 1903 to build the present house. Holtzman moved into this two-story house (now apartments) in 1905 when he sold his fourth house (#19) to Dr. Vinsohaler. He had a young daughter who died in 1903, and he presumably decided to move to escape the memories. Holtzman lived in this his fifth house until his death.

Holtzman-Vinsonhaler-Vogler House
c. 1890
512 E. Ninth Street

Holtzman built his charming one-story Queen Anne a few years earlier than the much larger house two doors to the left (#19). The two houses share many common, obvious features except the larger has a second floor. Holtzman sold the house to Dr. & Mrs. Vinsonhaler, who moved in as newlyweds in 1898 and remained in the house until 1905. From then until 1961, the house passed through many owners and was purchased by John and Zoe Ellen Vogler and their 12 children as their residence. Note the unique and spectacular stained glass windows.

The most significant aspects of American architecture have been its inventiveness and endless variety often defying stylistic labels.

Holtzman-Vinsonhaler House
c. 1898
500 E. Ninth Street

This was by far the grandest of Holtzman's houses. He chose the Queen Anne-style even though it was already waning in popularity. With its two turrets – one round and one square – a sweeping wraparound porch, and a varied roofline, it is an excellent Queen Anne example. Dr. and Mrs. Frank Vinsonhaler bought this house in 1905 and did the Colonial Revival remodeling that created the classic entry porch, not original to the house.

Little Rock was captured and occupied by Federal troops on September 10, 1863.

Kadel Cottages
c. 1852
407 E. Tenth Street
• c. 1860
417 E. Tenth Street

Despite its modest size and simple design, the second Kadel Cottage (417 E. Tenth) is one of Little Rock's most important antebellum houses because it is the sort of home – the residence of a butcher rather than of a person of wealth or prominence – that does not often survive. The decorative brackets under the cottage's eaves add a stylish flourish unusual for pre-Civil War Little Rock. Just east of the Second Kadel Cottage is an even simpler frame residence (407 E. Tenth) that is thought to have been George Kadel's first home. The second cottage underwent rehabilitation in the early 1970s; the first cottage was rehabilitated in 1986.

Ellerman-Ferling House
c. 1890
401 E. Tenth Street

The original house at this location is thought to have been built in the 1870s when it was purchased by August Ellerman, a grocer, who enlarged it in 1883. Following Ellerman's death, his widow, Eliza, married Herman Ferling, a saloon owner, in 1889. A year or two later, the Ferlings again remodeled and enlarged the house, creating the present Queen Anne style residence. As is typical of Little Rock's Queen Anne frame houses, it is decorated with fanciful gingerbread millwork, and portions of its walls are shingled to provide textural variety. The house remained in the Ferling family until the 1950s.

Scott House
c. 1896
923 Cumberland Street

As was common from about 1895 to 1905 in Little Rock, the design of the Scott House combines elements of both the Queen Anne and Colonial Revival styles. At the turn of the century, the Queen Anne style was waning while the Colonial Revival was becoming increasingly popular. The house's asymmetrical floor plan and multi-gabled roofline are Queen Anne but many of the decorative features, such as the porch columns and balustrades and the windows in the west and south gables, are in the Classical or Colonial Revival tradition. The house was occupied by members of the Scott family until the early 1950s when it became rental property.

MacArthur Park District was originally the Arsenal Neighborhood, named for the 1840s frontier outpost still standing in MacArthur Park.

By the 1850s, Little Rock's gardens were lovely and numerous, attracting the attention of surprised travelers expecting less cultivated beauty in this frontier city.

Altenberg House
c. 1889
1001 Cumberland Street

Like its across-the-street neighbor, the Scott House, the Altenberg House combines characteristics of the Queen Anne and Colonial Revival styles. In keeping with Queen Anne design, it has an irregular, asymmetrical floor plan. It also has some decorative features such as the round window in the north façade that are in the Revival vein. Particularly notable are the porch with its classical columns and balustrade, the Palladian window in the west façade, and the roof balustrade. The Altenberg House was rehabilitated in 1986-87 as a home and office.

Caroline Row
c. 1890
217-220 E. Tenth Street

The two brick duplexes were built as rental property for Richard Bragg, a wheelwright and carriage-maker whose home was six blocks away. Now know as "Caroline Row," after the original name for Tenth Street, the duplexes are rare surviving examples of 19th century multi-family dwellings. The design is more urban in character than is typical for the city. With their flat roofs and long, narrow floor plans, they look much like big city row houses. The corbelled brick cornices and arched window openings are nice details on structures that otherwise are quite plain.

Bein House
c. 1889
1302 Cumberland Street

This is one of two Little Rock houses known to have been designed by architects Max Orlopp and Casper Kusener, who practiced in the area for less than a decade in the late 1880s and early 1890s. The house was built for Mrs. Lizzie G. Bein, a widow who had originally moved from New Orleans to Little Rock in the 1870s with her husband, Major H. H. Bein, who died unexpectedly in 1884. This is actually the second Bein residence at this location. The first house, built around 1879, burned in 1887 or 1888. Mrs. Bein owned the house for only a few years, then sold it as rental property. The house was eventually divided into five apartments, and suffered many years of neglect until it was rehabilitated in 1982 and made into offices.

Through the 1880s, many of the larger houses had a "kitchen garden" which was planted near the kitchen and sufficiently protected to last through the summer, providing the year's supply of vegetables.

Chism House
c. 1894-95
1320 Cumberland Street

Oscar Chism, a representative for a Kentucky hardware firm, built this house for his wife, which remained in their family for 45 years. It was converted into apartments during WWII, but its exterior was not greatly altered. Such notable features as the square corner turret and the front porch with its intricate millwork are intact. An American Queen Anne with traces of the Shingle style, it boasts such prominent features as widely varied textural usage and an irregular shape. It was renovated and returned to a single-family residence in the 1970s. In the late 1990s the house was heavily damaged by fire and is now being rehabilitated once again.

Arkansas achieved Territorial status in 1819 and became a state in 1836.

Wierman-Gemmill Double House
c. 1884
1415-1417 Cumberland Street

Comprised of two mirror-image houses sharing a common wall, this is the only such 19th century residence known to exist in Little Rock. Each "house" originally was owned separately. Isaac and Margaret Wierman owned and occupied the north house; Mr. and Mrs. James Gemmill the south. Wierman was a cigar manufacturer and Gemmill had a variety of diverse occupations. Possibly, the reason for the double design was to cut costs. The Italianate influence can be seen in the tall, narrow windows and doors, the porch columns, the three-sided bay windows and the clipped gables.

An 1865 photo shows one of twenty-six lampposts, the first installed in Little Rock, all requiring the services of a lamplighter and his trusty ladder.

Terry-Jung House
c. 1881
1422 Scott Street

Reportedly built for $4,250 by Colonel William Leake Terry, this was his home until his death in 1917. The house was then purchased by bakery owner Joseph Jung. Although Jung never lived in the house, it was occupied by several family members and remained in his family until 1972. The Italianate-style house has one Stick-style feature – the decorative truss supporting a small roof over a pair of second-story windows. The Stick style is rarely seen in Little Rock.

Little Rock High School
c. 1905
East Side Lofts
1401 Scott Street

Designed by noted Architect Frank Gibb in 1905, this building served as Little Rock's premier high school until a newer high school was built in the 1920s (what is today Central High). The building then served as East Side Junior High School until the late 1950s. After sitting abandoned for nearly 20 years, it was rescued and converted into loft style apartments in 2002. An excellent example of the historic preservation technique called "adaptive reuse," the apartments still retain their classroom flavor, incorporating the original supply cabinets and even chalkboards into the modern lofts' décor.

Garland-Mitchell House
c. 1873-74
1404 Scott Street

Augustus Hill Garland built what is now one of Little Rock's most historic residences. It housed two Governors, is the birth place to a Pulitzer Prize winning poet, and was home to a prominent newspaper publisher. In 1883, then U.S. Senator Garland, gave up the house to remain in Washington. Eventually, he deeded it to his sons. Circuitously, it became the property of Frances & William Mitchell, publisher of the *Arkansas Democrat*, and remained in their family into the 1980s. The house is an outstanding example of the Italianate style with that peculiarly Southern feature, the two-story gallery designed to provide shade and catch a breeze.

The approaching conflict of the Civil War helped spur progress in Little Rock, causing town leaders to support the development of manufacturing and production to reduce our dependency on the North.

Villa Marre
c. 1873-74
1404 Scott Street

Built by Angelo Marre, a successful saloon-keeper, the house was the first post-Civil War residence to be rehabilitated in Little Rock. In 1964, preservationist James Strawn purchased and restored the house and later donated it to the Quapaw Quarter Association. It remained a social rental and tour house until it was sold as a private residence in 2002. Except for its mansard roof, a feature associated with the Second Empire style, the Villa Marre is predominately Italianate. Its imposing three-story tower and original slate roof are features that make the house architecturally significant. The Villa Marre became a popular icon as the Sugarbaker House on *Designing Women* and its distinctive architecture made it a trademark for the successful TV show.

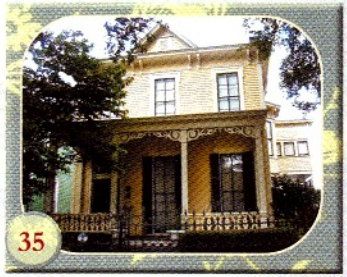
Rozelle-Murphy House
c. 1887
1301 Scott Street

This American Queen Anne with Colonial Revival and Craftsman style additions was built by George Rozelle who owned a successful brokerage company. It was later sold to attorney George Murphy in 1900. Murphy was Attorney General of Arkansas from 1901-05 and lived in the house until 1920. Originally the house was 1½ stories with a frame front veranda. Murphy added the wing to the northeast corner in 1911 and perhaps is responsible for the Craftsman style porch. Under different ownership, the house has been used as offices since 1953.

"Blissville" was the name given to an enclave of cabins built by freedmen who poured into Little Rock after the Civil War fashioning homes for themselves in an area near the State House and close to the river.

Hanger House
c. 1889
1010 Scott Street

In 1889, Frederick and Frances Hanger remodeled an existing house to create what is one of Little Rock's best-known and most authentically restored Queen Anne style houses. Mrs. Hanger played an active role in researching and directing the design of the house. Frederick Hanger died tragically in an industrial accident in 1900 but Mrs. Hanger lived on in the house until her death in 1945 and reigned as one of Little Rock's most gracious hostesses. The house was occupied by members of the Hanger family until 1967. It was then purchased in 1971 and returned to its original appearance and exterior color scheme by a local restoration architect and his artist wife.



Pollock House
c. 1870
914 Scott Street

The owner of a cigar and tobacco shop on Main Street, H. E. Mandelbaum built three houses on Scott Street in the 1870s for himself (920) and his three daughters (914 and 908). Mr. Meyer Pollock, who was in the men's clothing business, and his wife occupied the 914 Scott Street house. The Pollock House has remained in the family, undergoing numerous "updates" over the years, many needing to be reversed. A family member acquired the house in the early 1990s and restored the exterior to its original beauty and architectural style. Interior rehabilitation was equally profound, making this house an important historic residence.

TOUR #2

From the Pollock House, go to the corner of Scott & Ninth Street, turn left onto Ninth. Proceed on Ninth to Broadway, turn left onto Broadway. Go three blocks, cross over I-630 to MOUNT HOLLY CEMETERY, starting point for Tour #2.

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 owners and caretakers of these fine historic homes for allowing us to share them with visitors to Little Rock.

Quapaw Quarter Association

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.

LittleRock
CITY LIMITLESS

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.