



**ARKANSAS HISTORIC  
PRESERVATION PROGRAM**

# History and Architectural Heritage of White County, Arkansas

By Steve Mitchell, Jill Bayles & Ken Story

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Wilburn House  
Searcy  
White County, Arkansas

Cover illustration by Cynthia Haas

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## HISTORY AND ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE OF WHITE COUNTY

### 1. The Settlement Era in White County: 1700s - 1835

While wandering through Arkansas during the late 1830s, German writer Frederick Gerstacker recorded this lyrical, yet apt description of the region now known as White County:

"As beautiful a panorama as I had ever beheld lay spread out before me. A sea of forest as far as the eye could reach, in every shade of color, from the darkest green to light blue. . . the Little Red River winding through the midst of it, while a light downy mist hung about the tips of the trees on its banks. To the west and southwest, the distant mountains cut sharply in a mass of blue against the lighter morning sky. Hills overgrown with pines rode above the darker extent of the oak, like islands floating in a deep green sea, as the sun's rays were reflected from the dewy leaves. Light vapor rising here and there from the valleys, curling over the forest, and vanishing into air, revealed the site of human habitations hidden in the woods. I sat long, lost in contemplation of the lovely scene."<sup>i</sup>

Located in the northeast part of central Arkansas, White County is bounded on the east by the White River and divided into northeastern and southwestern sections by the Little Red River. The eastern section is generally level with the White River flood plain, while the western half, typified by undulating valleys and rolling ridges, is more rugged. The hardwood forests that Gerstacker noted, together with a moderate climate and an abundance of natural springs, made this area particularly enticing to early settlers.

Hunters and trappers were the first European immigrants into the White County region, pausing every now and then at Arkansas Post, a loosely organized trading center located to the southeast on the Arkansas River. Established in 1686, the Post was the first European settlement in America west of the Mississippi River and was ruled by both French and Spanish governments during its long though tenuous existence. Although both governments intended to "civilize" the Post with permanent settlers, the majority of its population throughout the 1700s consisted of Quapaw Indians and French-Canadian hunters and traders, who relished the daily struggle for survival in an untamed world.

The French, who regularly sent commandants, a small number of soldiers, and Jesuit priests to the region had a more lasting influence than did the Spanish, even after the Post was sold to the United States in 1803 along with the rest of the Louisiana territory. In The Emigrant's Guide, published in 1818, W. Darby noted that the Post ". . . has remained poor and inconsiderable, like all other places where the inhabitants depend upon hunting and trade with savages for their subsistence and commerce. The inhabitants are mostly French, many of them mixed blood."<sup>iii</sup> The French residents also left a legacy of place names as they roamed throughout the area. In the southeast section of the county alone one can find Bayou Des Arc, Glaise Creek, De Partee Creek, and Cypress Bayou. Another legacy was the French Colonial architecture. These one-story buildings were characterized by high foundations and extensive porches that were supported by slender wooden posts under the main roof line, which was steeply pitched and hipped. Traveler Thomas Nuttall described these after visiting the area in 1819:

"The houses, commonly surrounded with open galleries, destitute of glass windows and perforated with numerous doors, are well enough suited for a summer shelter, but totally destitute of comfort in the winter."<sup>iiii</sup>

Although records can be found of French settlers in the county as early as 1745, the oldest

community - Georgetown - was established in 1789 by Francois Francure, who received a Spanish Land Grant for his claim. This settlement, which is the oldest continuously occupied town in the state, was known in the late nineteenth century as Negro Hill because it consisted of a large number of blacks who, according to various reports, were either owned by Francure, had escaped from Louisiana plantations, or were freedmen.<sup>iv</sup>

Yet for many years, homesteads in the county were few and far between. As one observer noted in 1786, even though the soil along the rivers was "suitable for the cultivation of wheat, flax, hemp, and tobacco. . . the greatest industry of the inhabitants at present is hunting."<sup>v</sup> Joining the hunter as a temporary inhabitant was the herdsman, who raised small truck gardens and patches of corn only for subsistence. In his journey through the Arkansas territory in 1806, Major Stephen Long described the herdsman's lifestyle:

"When the canes are fed down and destroyed and the acorns become scarce, the small cornfield and the rude cabin are abandoned, and the squatter goes in search of a place where all the original wealth of the forest is yet undiminished. Here he again builds his hut, removes the trees from a few acres of land which supplies its minimal crop of corn, while the neighboring woods, for an extent of several miles, are used both as pasture and hunting grounds."<sup>vi</sup>

The shelters built by these early settlers were simple and often crudely constructed. Rock overhangs or crude lean-tos served as the first dwelling places, while more elaborate lean-tos, constructed of poles faced with shakes cut or riven from logs, housed families for weeks. These structures were then retained as kitchens when - or if - more substantial dwellings were built, usually single room log cabins. With the rapid "Americanization" of Arkansas that began around 1815, agriculturalists from the eastern United States continued log construction based firmly upon the architectural traditions of the northeastern part of the country.

The American immigrants were also more agriculturally and community oriented than their French predecessors, and they gradually sought ownership of the public domain rather than just a free use of a part of it. While the hunter or herdsman often became a landowner later on, the agricultural immigrants were motivated by land grants and family associations to own land from the beginning.<sup>vii</sup> They often settled in groups of families or in previously established communities, such as Center Hill, Royal Colony, and Georgetown, rather than individually or in single families. For example, John Standlee explored central Arkansas from 1778-80, then returned to his home in Kentucky. In 1811, his sons and son-in-law traveled to the area Standlee had described and settled on the Little Red River below the mouth of Devil's Fork. They cleared thirty acres, built three cabins, then returned for their wives and children. Finally, in 1814, Standlee joined his family in the territory he had visited 34 years earlier.<sup>viii</sup>

Like Standlee, most of these early immigrants came to White County from Tennessee, Kentucky, and other southeastern states and, according to pioneer settler A. C. Jeffery, consisted of some "good citizens, some outlaws and some refugees from justice."<sup>ix</sup> In addition, merchants, blacksmiths, doctors, and other "urban settlers" followed on the heels of the agricultural immigrant, adding significantly to the development of the region's small communities.

In order to lure a continuous stream of these rural and urban settlers into the area, the survey and registration of lands was necessary. In the beginning, land grants were little more than permits to locate in an ill-prescribed area, intended to entice loyal immigrants, reward military service, encourage industries, and generally attain the "affection of the inhabitants."<sup>x</sup> Spain conferred two of these grants in the White County area; the first was Francure's 1789 settlement, and the second was to John Fayac, who received 638 acres on a fork of the White River in 1801.<sup>xi</sup> Both of these claims were later acknowledged by the United States when it took possession of the territory.

But the U.S. government ran into land policy problems at first with its military grants and its delays

in completing public surveys. The military grants were issued - usually in remote areas - to compensate veterans of the War of 1812 and to encourage enlistments, and Arkansas was selected as one of these areas. But problems mounted when few veterans actually settled on their grants, instead choosing to sell out to land-hungry speculators or enterprising lawyers.<sup>xiii</sup>

Delays in completing public surveys also hampered the government's orderly apportionment of land. In the White County area, a guide meridian and standard lines (the first steps in applying an imaginary order to the wilderness) weren't surveyed until 1818 and 1819, in conjunction with Arkansas becoming its own territory (it had previously been part of the Missouri Territory). Although a completed public survey was necessary before legal title could be granted, many pioneers claimed or resided on the land anyway, and Congress was forced to recognize these "squatters" through the enactment of various pre-emption laws. These laws granted the squatter the first bid on land when it was auctioned following the survey, which allowed him to retain his improvements and gain clear title to that on which he had lived on for years.<sup>xiii</sup>

Rivers and waterways, such as the White and Little Red Rivers and the Cypress Bayou, continued to provide the earliest access into the county, as well as the most desirable areas for settlement. German families, including those of Lewis Vongrolman and Philip Hilger, established homesteads at Big Creek and the Little Red River, with Hilger operating a ferry across the river. Bull Creek and Stephens Creek were some of the other sites chosen by the first immigrants.<sup>xiv</sup>

But because White County was removed from the common departure points of the Mississippi River, most settlers selected and settled lands before reaching this area; therefore, development was slow. In addition, numerous obstructions and rafts on the White River made transportation difficult.

In 1831, and again in 1835 the territorial assembly petitioned Congress to remove "the snags and lodgments of timber" in the White River, saying that "a large and respectable portion of the citizens of the Territory are entirely dependent on this River as the only Channel through which their produce can reach the Mississippi River."<sup>xv</sup> Because of these impediments, the Little Red River became the most important river highway, with major steamboat landings located at Searcy and West Point.

With river locations so vital to settlement, road development into and within the White County region was slow. One of only two major roads was the famous Southwest Trail (later improved, extended, and renamed the Military Road), which crossed the White River at Batesville. In 1834 or 1835, the English traveler George Featherstonhaugh described the Arkansas section of this road:

" . . . the trees had been razed close to the ground and . . . the road was distinguished by blazes cut into some of the trees standing on the roadside, so that it could not be mistaken; a great comfort to travelers in such a wilderness."

He also wrote that "one or more settlers here, having quarreled about the direction of the Military Road, have taken the liberty to cut roads resembling it, and blazed the trees, to their own cabins."<sup>xvi</sup> But by the 1840s the main county road had become the stagecoach route, which was established between Little Rock and Batesville. This road took the traveler from Batesville to Step Rock to Providence, across the Little Red River at Beeler's Ferry and on into Searcy.

Settling this region now known as White County was definitely slow and sporadic. The earliest county residents -- French and Spanish hunters and trappers -- were independent pioneers more interested in profit than in settlement, and their architecture reflected their European influence as well as their lack of permanence. The farmers from the northeastern part of the United States who arrived later were more community-oriented, but they were still settling into virtual frontier areas with few established settlements and very slim populations (this was true not only of this area, but of the entire state as well; Little Rock was the only civic and cultural center at this time). These later residents' vernacular farmsteads, constructed primarily of logs, were scattered throughout the region, usually with family associations dictating their locations. Finally, some of the major hindrances to settlement stemmed, ironically, from attempts to clear

roads and waterways and establish land policies, each of which was marked with disagreement and confusion.

## 2. The Development Era in White County: 1835 - 1870

Once access into the area began to improve, its population gradually increased; on October 23, 1835, one year before Arkansas became a state, White County was officially organized. It was created from sections of Independence, Jackson, and Pulaski counties and got its name either from the river or from Sen. Hugh White of Tennessee, who was the Whig presidential candidate that year. Yet the establishment of the county did not necessarily guarantee the establishment of the county seat. While commissioners dawdled, a post office was built in Frankfort and the postmaster, Ephraim Guthrie, began lobbying, perhaps a bit too vigorously, to locate the county seat there. According to an observer, "a struggle ensued involving six of the outstanding citizens of the county . . . resulting in indictments of trespass, assault and battery being lodged against them."<sup>xvii</sup> Frankfort actually was selected as the site in 1838, but, following numerous delays, 65 county citizens petitioned for its relocation to Searcy, which was near White Sulphur Springs and in the geographical center of the county. When their request was finally granted in 1840, the town fathers immediately built a log cabin to serve as the courthouse, which was replaced by a two-story frame structure about ten years later.<sup>xviii</sup>

The establishment of a county served as some inducement to settlement and commerce; however, like the rest of the state, the area remained a wilderness frontier for many years. There were fewer than 950 residents in the entire county when Gerstacker visited in the late 1830s; approximately 840 of these were whites and 90 were slaves.<sup>xix</sup>

Gerstacker wrote several descriptions of farmsteads as he traveled throughout central Arkansas in the late 1830s. These simple log structures serving as house, smokehouse, corn crib and lean-to shed, belonged to Mr. Turoski, a former Polish army officer who resided in White County:

"The Pole's dwelling was nothing but a simple rough log-house, without any window, and all the chinks between the logs were left open, probably to admit fresh air. . . . A smaller building near the house contained the store of meat for the winter. There was a field of four or five acres close to the house, and another about a quarter of a mile off on the river. He had some good horses, a great many pigs, quantities of fowls, and several milk cows . . . . The Indian corn of last harvest was in a small building in a field by the river . . . . There was a kind of shed attached to the house, in which leaves of Indian corn, plucked green and then dried, were kept as fodder, and here the hens came to lay their eggs."

This dogtrot log structure, belonging to a man named Saint living near the Batesville road, was typical of many pioneer settlements in central Arkansas:

"The house was built of logs, roughly cut. It consisted of two ordinary houses, under one roof, with a passage between them open to the north and south, a nice cool place to eat or sleep during the summer. Like all blockhouses of this sort, it was roofed with rough four-foot planks; there were no windows, but in each house a good fireplace of clay."<sup>xx</sup>

The majority of architecture for both rural and urban settlements was vernacular and of either log or (if a sawmill was nearby) frame construction. What little High Style architecture existed was restricted



mainly to the larger communities and to the more substantial plantations and farmsteads. The settler chose a variety of vernacular floor plans: a single pen, or room; a dogtrot (two pens separated by an open breezeway); an enclosed dogtrot, or central hall; and a saddlebag style (two pens with one fireplace in the center serving each room). Most likely, the settler's house would be a single-pen log structure with a gable roof, a native-stone fireplace, and either half-dovetail or square-corner notching. If a kitchen was built, it was usually a detached building in an attempt to keep its intense heat from reaching the rest of the house. Pier foundations and the open dogtrot were other construction methods used by settlers to combat the region's hot and humid summers. As quoted by Gerstacker earlier, the typical farmstead included a smokehouse for meat storage, a corn crib, a lean-to shed for other storage and, in later years, a barn. One of the most important features of the homestead was the fence, constructed "so that the cows might come to be milked." Gerstacker described the fences as "formed of split logs of black or red oak or hickory, ten or eleven feet long, and four or five inches thick. . . laid zigzag, and carried to a height that no horse, much less a cow, can jump over."<sup>xxi</sup>

Gerstacker spent some time in the wilderness and participated in the construction of a house similar to those in White County:

"In the backwoods, building is a very simple art. In the first place, small trees of oak, or some other good wood, are felled and cut to the requisite length. Next comes the foundation: two of the largest trunks are laid parallel to each other on the ground at the proper distance, two others are laid across their ends to form the square, and fitted into each other with notches, which makes the building all the firmer, and closes the crevices. In this way the walls are run up, but without any entrance. (The windows, doors and chimney opening are cut) with the axe after the walls are up. The roof is then laid, and, Swiss fashion, has to be secured with weights, to prevent its being blown away; but wood being more plentiful here than stone, heavy poles, called weight poles, or young trees are used instead. . . Dabbling with moist clay being dirty and disagreeable work, the chimney is generally left until it is too cold to do without it."

Clearing and cultivating the wilderness involved immeasurable labor, but Gerstacker found that the Arkansas pioneers had adapted to the task:

"The western settlers, and particularly those in the southwestern states, are not very fond of hard work; in those wild regions they prefer rearing cattle and shooting to agriculture, and are loth [sic] to undertake the hard work of felling trees and clearing land. To make the labors as light as possible, yet still to increase their fields, they generally clear a small space every autumn, and ploughing it very slightly, sow it with turnips, which answer best for new ground. Next year it is fenced in and added to the field.

"When about to make a clearing, the American looks out for the largest and straightest oaks, which he fells, and splits into poles, from ten to twelve feet long, for fencing. When he thinks he has enough for this purpose, the rest is cut up and piled; next, the trees which have a diameter of eighteen inches and under are felled, at about half yard from the ground, and cut into lengths, while the larger trees are girdled all round with the axe, and very soon die. The shrubs and bushes are then rooted up with a heavy hoe, and, with the

help of the neighbors who are invited for the purpose, the whole, except the poles for the fence, is rolled into a heap and set on fire.

"As soon as the land is cleared of all that can be easily removed, it is fenced in and ploughed. This last work is very severe, and gives the ploughman and cattle many a rough shake, as the ploughshare, catching in the roots, has constantly to be lifted out of the ground, or to be moved out of the way of the standing stumps. These stumps give the fields a very extraordinary appearance; it takes from six to ten years before they rot away entirely. It sometimes happens that the trees killed by girdling are blown down amongst the growing crops, and the settler has a great deal of trouble in removing them."<sup>xxii</sup>

As settlement continued throughout the 1840s and 1850s, new land policies were instigated in an attempt to correct past abuses. In 1841, a major pre-emption law was enacted that allowed single men, heads of families, and widows to pre-empt a 160-acre tract of public land and make improvements on it for one year before payment was required. In 1850, the federal government applied a Swamp Land Act to several states, including Arkansas. Lands classified as unsold "swamp and overflowed lands, made unfit thereby for cultivation" were granted to each state, with the requirement that proceeds from the sales of these lands go "to the purpose of reclaiming said lands by means of . . . levees and drains . . ." White County was designated with 80,340 acres of swamp land, which originally sold for \$1.25 per acre.<sup>xxiii</sup>

The population of the county increased more than 280 percent between 1840 and 1850, and more than 300 percent by 1860. The second post office was established in 1849 at Stony Point, located on the Batesville - Little Rock Road.<sup>xxiv</sup> However, Searcy was by far the largest community. With its three types of mineral springs, it developed not only as the county seat, but as a resort area as well. Numerous hotels were built in the vicinity of the springs, the first of which was a double-pen log house operated by a Mrs. Howerton, whose husband led a wagon train into the county in 1836. William Anderson Yarnell, an early educator who came to Searcy in 1858, described one of these hotels in his diary:

"At Searcy I put up at Bond's Hotel and was never better treated or more agreeably appointed in my life. People may say what they please about Arkansas, but whoever goes to Bond's will get the worth of his money. I find the people of Arkansas good looking, intelligent, civil, agreeable, and accommodating."<sup>xxv</sup>

Searcy's commercial district also included several drugstores, including Robertson's Drugstore (now Quattlebaum's Music Center), located on the southeast corner of the courthouse square. This two-story structure was built around 1860 by Stephen Brundidge, who came to Searcy from Alabama and built many of the town's brick buildings. Brundidge had his own portable brick-making machine and oven, which he carried to each site.

Although the majority of Searcy's homes and buildings were vernacular, examples of Greek Revival, Federal, and Italianate architectural styles did exist; however, most builders preferred instead to use the details from these styles to elaborate what was basically a variety of vernacular forms.

The other communities in the county, including Center Hill, Opal, Pleasant Grove, El Paso and Royal Colony were separated by an average of eight or ten miles, which led to their emergence as self-sufficient towns that usually featured a post office, blacksmith shop, and one or more mercantile stores, dry good stores, or grocers. The second most important community in the county, after Searcy, was West Point, located at the highest year-round navigation point on the Little Red River. It served as a major distribution

center, was home to 350 residents, and could boast of three general stores, a drug store, a grist mill, a cotton gin, a blacksmith, a wood shop, a church, and a school by the outbreak of the Civil War.<sup>xxvi</sup>

Every community had a church, usually Methodist or Presbyterian; Searcy served as a "mission point" for these two denominations. The first meeting house was usually log, later replaced by the congregation with a more substantial, traditional frame building. A small, frame Methodist church located near Center Hill is typical of the church architecture in these communities. Known as the Smyrna Church, this structure was built in 1854 and is one of the oldest extant churches in the county. It has a metal gable roof, a front foyer with double wooden doors, a brick interior central chimney, and imbricated shingles on the gable end. In most towns, the church also served as the school, which was usually formed by subscription.

One of the first schools, established in 1849, was the Polytechnic Institute, Incorporated, of Searcy. Its curriculum included "civil engineering, analytical and agricultural chemistry and their kindred branches, and a liberal study of the classics" and it had the distinction of being the first school west of the Mississippi to use the word "polytechnic" in its title. In 1851, the Searcy Male Academy was formed with an initial enrollment of 25 students.<sup>xxvii</sup>

Agriculture dominated the county's industry in the years prior to the Civil War, with farmsteads, cotton gins, and grist mills the most prevalent enterprises. One local industry that may have supplemented the incomes of quite a few farmers was liquor distillation. In his tour of the area, Gerstacker encountered a distiller named Magness who "extracted such a superior spirit . . . that he declared he would not sell a drop of it, but keep it all for his own drinking."<sup>xxviii</sup>

Wells with salt water discovered east of Bald Knob led to a small but thriving salt-mining industry in the county. The timber industry also began to develop in the southern sections, where hickory, oak, gum, and other hardwood forests were abundant. Sawmills, like the steam-driven one erected by George Harder, were located near the rivers so that orders could be floated downstream to the lumber mills, which relied on either roadways or waterways to transport the finished product on to Little Rock, the nearest major market.

The institution of slavery contributed to the county's antebellum economy, although not as predominantly as in other southern areas. This West Point residence, built for Judge P.A. McDaniel in 1852 and no longer extant, was one of the few plantation homes:

". . . it was, in those days, considered a residence of the better class. The lumber used for the house was made from native trees, mostly cypress, and sawed with jigsaws by McDaniel's slaves. There are six large rooms, each 20 feet long, 18 feet wide, with ceilings 14 feet high. Each room has a large fireplace with hand-carved wood paneling. The doors, window frames and columns of the porches are also hand-carved. Wide pine lumber was used for the floors. Through the center of the house a wide hall was built and to the rear were the servants' quarters, where the meals were prepared and then carried to the house to be served."<sup>xxix</sup>

Another plantation, whose structures are still standing, belonged to James Walker and was located on the Old Southwest Trail. The original single-pen log house, built soon after Walker came to White County in 1850, was later expanded into a dogtrot; his family added a frame I-house, numerous tenant houses, a commissary, a cotton gin and several barns to the property about 1900.

The survey and registration of land, the establishment of new communities and the continued clearing of transportation routes all led to the gradual organization of the county into a more permanent settlement though the architecture and construction methods of the buildings did not always reflect permanence in the usual sense. The style was consistently vernacular, the materials either log or sawn lumber, and the focus was on function rather than aesthetic design. White County was still a frontier

wilderness, and would remain so in attitude as well as in appearance for many years.

### 3. The Railroad's Effect on Industry and Architecture in White County: 1870 - 1914

Railroad fever was not overly contagious among frontier Arkansans during the 1840s and 1850s, despite the fact that Congress granted the state 500,000 acres of public lands and required that the revenues from their sale be applied to the construction of roadways, bridges, canals, and railways. Although the first track - for the Memphis and Little Rock Railway - was laid in 1854, it still remained incomplete by the start of the Civil War.<sup>xxx</sup> The delays in laying the track for the state's second proposed railroad, the Cairo and Fulton, which planned connections with the St. Louis and Iron Mountain in Missouri and the Galveston and Red River in Texas, caused Governor Henry M. Rector to complain in his 1860 inaugural address that ". . . The grant made by Congress has, so far, proved rather a curse than a blessing. For seven years past, nearly one-half of our territory has, on that account, been reserved from the sale and settlement--the consequence is no roads, less revenue, and a smaller population than we should have had."<sup>xxxi</sup> Fortunately for the state, the grant, which was originally scheduled to expire in 1863, was extended and increased following the Civil War, and by 1874, the Arkansas and Missouri lines finally merged to become the St. Louis, Iron Mountain and Southern Railway (now Missouri-Pacific Railway). This line enters White County about five miles west of its northeast corner and runs the length of the county in a southwesterly direction.

Once railroad construction was underway, the citizens of White County realized that the economic and political survival of each town depended upon its proximity to the line. But because the county was still largely undeveloped, the population, influence, and financial ability of these towns was too slight to offset any added costs of detour construction. Yet this did not deter Searcy's town council, which was able to successfully organize the Searcy Branch Railroad, connecting their town with the main line. Taking advantage of the area's abundant forests, the line used wooden rails "stripped with oak 1 1/2 by 3 inches . . ." (the same type of track used in England as early as the eighteenth century), and cars were drawn over the rails by mules.<sup>xxxii</sup>

Other communities bypassed by the railroad either quickly relocated, like the Stony Point residents who moved to Beebe, or slowly disappeared altogether. Citizens of West Point, the once-prosperous Little Red River port, saw their town decline not only because of its location, but also because of its dependence on steamboat traffic, which suffered as the railroad gradually took over. In 1883, ethnologist Edward Palmer visited the remains of the town and noted: "West Point was once a famous river center but now nearly deserted. R. Roads the cause." By 1887 only one steamboat docked regularly at the port, and a Memphis newspaper reporter morosely observed the rows of abandoned stores and houses which "only [spoke] of better days and [showed] what time and Jay Gould have done to the place."<sup>xxxiii</sup>

Yet any negative results from the railroad were far outweighed by its effect on increasing the population and settling the county. Section camps and depots along the tracks turned into new settlements, then quickly grew into small towns. Bradford, Russell, Garner, McRae, and Kensett were shipping stations that sprang up along the Cairo and Fulton line and flourished along with the railroad. In 1860, the county's population was 8,316; by 1870 it had reached 10,347; and in 1880 it was 17,794.<sup>xxxiv</sup>

Perhaps the greatest benefits provided by the expansion of the railroad were economic. As the railroad industry thrived during the turn of the century, so did the county's lumber and agricultural industries. Residents in southern White County took advantage of the large number of oak, gum, and hickory forests in the area, which could only be transported via railroad. By 1909, with over two billion board feet of lumber cut, Arkansas ranked fifth among the states in lumber production. Lumber mill owners and local entrepreneurs also established a network of tram or "dummy" lines across the county, connecting logging camps and settlements with their mills.<sup>xxxv</sup> One of these, the Doniphan, Kensett and Searcy Railroad, was built from the Doniphan Lumber Mill to the Iron Mountain tracks in Kensett, and later extended into Searcy. The Doniphan Mill, the only surviving industrial site in the county, was originally owned by the C. J. Carter

Lumber Company of Kansas City, and included workers' houses and a commissary within its complex.<sup>xxxvi</sup> The Doniphan Mill also helped bring about the town of Letona, which housed several sawmills and a hotel to handle the growing number of lumber agents who traveled to the area.

Yet even though this new industry gave an economic boost to White County in the years prior to 1929, cotton production still reigned supreme. Cotton fields dotted the countryside, even in the midst of tree stumps around which the ever-efficient farmer plowed. Geographically separate towns such as Floyd, located in the western part of the county, and Sunnydale, in the north, were sites of large cotton gin complexes. Ginned cotton was then shipped throughout the country via the county's major railroads. By 1929, White County ranked fourth in the state's cotton production.

The county's strawberry industry was also greatly influenced by the use of the railroad. Co-operatives, like the Strawberry Growers Association, were established to allow cheaper shipments of the berries to worldwide markets. Judsonia, Bald Knob, Searcy, and Beebe were the leading strawberry-producing communities in the county, with nearly 1,000 carloads of the berries shipped by 1920.<sup>xxxvii</sup>

Changes in industry and the growth of the railroad led to changes in the county's rural and small town architecture during this period. The increases in the strawberry industry and in farm tenancy (which had risen from 35 percent in 1900 to 43 percent in 1935) caused the addition of picking sheds and tenant houses to existing farmsteads.<sup>xxxviii</sup> While farmers were busily adding these new structures, they -- along with builders in the new railroad towns -- were relying on several additional choices of vernacular styles whose floor plans included double pen (including a new double-pen I-house version), L-shaped, and T-shaped. Vernacular architecture predominated because the goal was to establish fairly expedient and inexpensive residential and commercial areas in these rapidly developing communities.

Larger communities like Searcy and Beebe were affected because more and more people were able to come into town for shopping and entertainment. Turn-of-the-century Searcy, with a population of about 2,000, had ". . . a bank, two steam grist mills, a cotton gin, a planing mill, a fruit and vegetable canning factory, three newspapers, a telegraph and express office and daily mail deliveries."<sup>xxxix</sup> Its post office, built in 1914, was surely a source of pride to residents, as these were rarely constructed in towns with less than 3,000 people. Smaller towns became more and more self-sufficient and began offering banking and shopping services to surrounding rural areas.

The county's major religious denominations saw their congregations increase significantly enough during this era to warrant construction of large, high-style churches. The Cumberland Presbyterians, who first began sending preachers into the area in 1824, built a Classical Revival church on the northeast corner of Race and Spring streets in Searcy in 1903. A Gothic Revival church on Searcy's Main Street was erected by the Methodists in 1873, almost thirty years after the town first became a stop on their circuit rider's route.

Although there were Episcopalians living in Searcy before the Civil War, they did not organize a church until 1890. Their first building was destroyed by fire in 1902, but was quickly replaced with the Gothic Revival structure that still stands.

On April 18, 1889, more than 2,000 people met to make arrangements for founding a college in Searcy that would be "dedicated to the development of Christian womanhood in Arkansas." Only four years later, Galloway College enrolled 276 women and was a great source of pride in the community.<sup>xl</sup>

As commercial, religious, and institutional structures expanded within the county, so followed the residential areas. Searcy experienced a major housing boom that began in the 1880s. Several Italianate, Queen Anne, Eastlake, and Colonial Revival structures were built in the vicinity of Race, Oak, Arch, and Center Streets in the years prior to World War I. Theo and Gene Henderson, a father-and-son team, were responsible for building many of Searcy's homes during this period, as well as several hundred more in White County.

Great strides were made in the county's industrial, agricultural, educational, and social development during the years between the Civil War and World War I. However, much of this development, and the subsequent economic stability of the county, was dependent upon the railroad. What was once difficult for

residents to accept had now become the lifeblood of almost every community in the county.

#### 4. Boom and Bust: The War and Depression Years in White County 1914 - 1939

Aided by the thriving railroad industry, White County experienced an economic surge during the war years, as did other counties throughout the state. Residential architecture was greatly affected after the war by the many soldiers returning from overseas. Their need and desire for new homes was coupled with an awakened interest in European designs, leading to the construction of several Revival styles (particularly English) in larger towns like Searcy and Beebe. Other architectural designs unique to this post-war, pre-Depression era included the Craftsman style, which was inspired by the designs of two California architects and brothers, Charles Sumner and Henry Mather Greene, and featured an emphasis on the building's relationship to its environment. The Sears home was another building type unique to the period. These mail-order houses mirrored current architectural styles, were constructed of quality materials and were affordably priced, all of which accounted for their enormous popularity during the 1920s.

The 1920s and 1930s saw additional changes in housing and farmsteads in rural White County. No longer merely a form of subsistence, the family farm became an entrepreneurial operation. This new venture is best represented in the county by the Wright farmstead, located near Bald Knob, which began in 1890 as a one-room log house with loft and cellar. As the family grew, this house was expanded to include a rear room and shed addition. By 1924, the family was able to afford a new farmhouse -- one of the finest in the area -- which borrowed architectural details from the Craftsman style and cost a total of \$2,589.44. No longer dependent upon construction materials coming directly from the farm, the family was in a position to take advantage of the wide range of materials available from local merchants including lime, brick, dimensional lumber, shingles and paint, and a carpenter was now hired to do most of the work.

Additional structures built on the farmstead included salt or smoke houses for preserving meat; a chicken house; at least one tenant or "camp" house; and the most important farm structure, the barn. Most county barns were post-and-beam constructed transverse-crib styles that provided storage for hay, cotton seed, corn, tools, and machinery, as well as stalls for livestock.

The small, two-room tenant houses usually held two families and were built with either frame or, more likely, box construction. Box houses were built with vertical boards nailed to a sill and top plate without the use of wall studs in the framing. Window and door openings were cut out after the "boxing" was completed. This technique was once thought to be restricted only to tenant houses, but can be found in approximately 40 percent of the county's historic farm houses including the majority of documented vernacular styles.<sup>xli</sup>

A new structure uncommon to the family farm enterprise at this time was the Delco House. Reflecting the technological advances of the period, it was built to house Delco batteries that supplied 12 volt D.C. current that could be used for electric light bulbs in the house and barn or to other equipment such as water pumps. This new technology, a major investment, replaced the coal oil lamps used by most farm families until 1937, when Rural Electrification Administration programs made their way into rural Arkansas. By the 1940s, most farm families had also added a "car house" (as Wright referred to it in his ledgers) for their automobile.

Although cotton and strawberries were the main cash crops in a family farm enterprise, other crops were planted for market as well, including Irish and sweet potatoes, sorghum, peas, corn, and watermelons. Additional income was made from the sale of cattle, sheep, hogs, and poultry, with livestock feed grown on the farm. The Wrights also produced and sold butter for 40 cents a pound; occasionally shipped cream by railroad to a Safeway Grocery Store supplier in Muskogee, Oklahoma; built a dipping vat and charged local farmers one dollar a head to treat their cattle for ticks; and even bred their prized bull for a fee.

This diversification saw the Wrights and other farm families through the winter and spring of 1926-27, when extremely cold temperatures were followed by the worst spring flooding on record. After several

years of prosperity in the early 1920s, Arkansas found itself 46th in the nation in per capita income and first in highest debt by 1929, even before the stock market crashed. However, the final blow to many farmers was the drought of 1930, which resulted in crop failures and bank closings, forcing many families to leave their farms.

"We had a big war, big prosperity and now a big depression. Now, it is up to us to turn to the little things that each one of us can do, and by cooperation build our own neighborhood. The return of prosperity is a one-man job and each man is the ONE MAN to do it. Let us beware that we do not let our morals slip. Trouble should make us bigger and stronger men."<sup>xlii</sup>

When Hicks Deener wrote this for the White County Citizen in 1933, a record 4,627 men were unemployed in the county. The People's Bank of Searcy and the Union Bank and Trust Company had both closed their doors, as had the White County Bank in Beebe and the Citizen's Bank in Bradford. Cotton was a "ragged king" at five cents a pound, and farmers were battling the boll weevil as well as the effects of a major drought that had occurred three years before. Thousands of farms were being sold at auction for taxes; farm tenancy increased; and the county Red Cross was gratefully accepting donations of food and other articles from neighboring states.<sup>xliii</sup>

While the Searcy City Council voted to reduce auto and occupational taxes and city merchants posted National Recovery Administration Blue Eagles in their windows, federal government agencies swarmed into communities with building projects that ensured continued development.

Three of these agencies, the Works Projects Administration (WPA), the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), and the National Youth Administration (NYA), designed to put the unemployed back to work and teach them a trade, left a notable mark upon the county's architecture and landscape during the 1930s. The WPA was responsible for constructing several schools, gymnasiums, and community buildings. In one eighteen-month period alone, there were eight WPA projects completed involving schools and two involving public buildings, and even when the agency didn't provide the manpower for a project, they provided the necessary funding. The CCC employees, of which there were 75,000 statewide, planted numerous trees in an effort to control the ravages of erosion and undertook major construction projects including the building of dams, bridges, and recreation areas.<sup>xliv</sup>

Skills learned while working for both the WPA and CCC were not forgotten once the men returned to their homes. Many smaller buildings throughout the county reflect the influence from these larger projects, as this excerpt from a 1934 article in the Arkansas Democrat illustrates:

"Take a boy from an Arkansas farm who has been used to living in a one-room cabin, and was fairly contented with it, just as his father and his grand-father before him. He attends a CCC camp and learns stone masonry, and some of the rudiments of architecture. He sees how a beautiful structure can be built in the forest from the materials right at hand. When he goes back to his home, he will have the realization that by merely getting to work with simple tools, he can make his family environment infinitely better."<sup>xlv</sup>

White County citizens did not stand idly by while the federal government undertook its projects, but formed their own measures in an attempt to keep their communities alive. One of these was the White County Canning Kitchen, a project of county women. With donations from businessmen, the women moved into the abandoned White County Baking Company building on West Race Street in Searcy and began "putting up" meats, fruits and vegetables for needy families. The program was such a success that a new kitchen was built in 1934. White County merchants also decided to contribute 1 percent of all the money

they received from government programs into a fund that would provide aid to those older citizens not helped by other federal programs.<sup>xlvi</sup>

The strawberry business actually survived during the Depression years. In 1935 alone, five million to six million plants were shipped out along with 1,500 carloads of berries, and more than 100 field and shipping workers brought approximately \$1,600,000 into the county. Unfortunately, the industry also attracted thousands of migrant pickers who created a labor surplus and drove down the pickers' price per quart. After granting them a grace period, county officials finally loaded the workers onto a freight train, ordering them to "move on."<sup>xlvii</sup>

A stone quarry located at Bee Rock employed a large number of farmers who made extra cash loading the stone into truck beds and transporting it to waiting railroad cars. Other employment came from J. A. Thompson's cotton gins, located in West Point, Albion, Pangburn, and Searcy. In addition, two temporary, government-funded "Depression factories" opened in Searcy, along with a Chevrolet dealership, a Western Auto store, and several department stores.

The Yarnell Ice Cream Company, Searcy's oldest and one of the state's most lucrative industries, got its somewhat shaky start during the throes of the Depression. In 1933, Ray A. Yarnell bought the original Grisham Ice Cream Company by scraping together all of the cash he had and even borrowing on his life insurance policy. Almost immediately, the bank holiday was declared and his capital was frozen. He managed to keep the business alive by borrowing more money and drawing no salary for more than a year.<sup>xlviii</sup>

One victim of the Depression that proved most distressing to Searcy citizens was Galloway College, which was forced to close its doors in the summer of 1933. The buildings were sold at public auction the following year. Luckily, rescue came in the form of Harding College, previously located in Morrilton, when its administrators decided to move into Galloway's empty facilities. The entire county welcomed the school, with one newspaper editor referring to its appearance as "nothing short of a Godsend."<sup>xlix</sup>

With impetus from government projects, the building industry managed to survive during this period, particularly in the county's small towns. The First Christian Church of Searcy, which had organized in 1906, constructed a Classical Revival church on Main Street in the 1920s, where the Church of Christ now meets. Catholics in Bald Knob were able to build a cut-stone church in 1939, which was a unique material for church construction in the county. For residential architecture, the Bungalow became a popular design among the urban middle class, because its smaller size made it affordable and easy to maintain. This style is by far the most numerous in the residential areas of White County's communities.

After the relatively prosperous railroad and war years, county citizens had to struggle to keep their communities alive during the Depression. Yet a significant number of the area's houses, schools, and churches date from this period of slow economic growth, thanks to assistance from the government and the fierce determination of White County residents.

## 5. Methodology

The multiple-property listing of historic and architectural resources of White County is based on a comprehensive survey of historic structures in the county conducted between January 1986 and January 1989 by the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program.

The survey identified 2,319 properties and groups of properties. Every passable road, public and private, was traversed during the survey and every structure marked on United States Geological Survey maps for White County were viewed. Properties from the vernacular to high styles were recorded if they were more than 50 percent intact. Those not recorded were passed over because of alterations that substantially damaged their integrity. For each record property, locations were noted on USGS topographical maps; photographs, both black-and-white prints and color slides, were taken of several elevations; computerized inventory forms, complete with plan view drawings, were completed; and research was



conducted, including perusals of courthouse records, Sanborn Fire Insurance maps, other primary and secondary resources, and oral histories.

The properties were grouped under four historic themes that conform with the four major periods that best define White County and its properties: Settlement Era and its Vernacular Traditions (1700s-1835); Development Era (1835-1870); Railroad Era (1870-1914); and Boom and Bust: The War and Depression Years (1914-1939).

The survey identified a wide range of resources in the county spanning the years from the 1840s to the onset of World War II. Integrity requirements were based on a knowledge of existing properties. The architectural and physical features of the county's surviving properties, derived from the survey, were considered in developing the outlines of potential registration requirements.

Nearly 200 properties were nominated to the National Register of Historic Places, joining 11 properties previously listed. For more information, write the AHPP at 1500 Tower Building, 323 Center Street, Little Rock, AR 72201 or call (501) 324-9880.

## White County Properties Nominated to the National Register of Historic Places

### BALD KNOB

**Missouri-Pacific Railroad Depot**, Market and Ramey Sts., 1915 Colonial Revival depot.

**Moody House**, 104 Market St., ca. 1914 gable-entry structure.

**Campbell-Chrisp House**, 102 Elm, ca. 1899 mixture of Romanesque Revival and Colonial Revival styles.

**Jameson Gas Station**, Hwy. 367 and Vine St., ca. 1931 vernacular English Revival structure.

**Jameson-Richards Cafe**, Hwy. 367, ca. 1931 vernacular English Revival design.

**Luke Bone Grocery-Boarding House**, Main and Market Sts., ca. 1915 vernacular commercial structure.

**Methodist Episcopal Church, South**, Main and Center Sts., 1927 mixture of English Revival, Gothic Revival styles.

**Fox Motel House**, Hwy. 367, ca. 1925 Craftsman structure.

**Elm Street House**, Elm St., ca. 1925 Craftsman house.

**Brown House**, Elm St., ca. 1925 Craftsman house.

**St. Richard's Catholic Church**, Hickory and Cleveland Sts., 1939 Rustic-style church.

**Sam Cooley Barn**, County Rd. 96, ca. 1920 barn with gable-roof vents.

**Milt Gooden House**, County Rd. 83, ca. 1921 double-pen vernacular house.

**Jim Wright Farmstead Historic District**, State Hwy. 258, eight structures and site features dating from 1890-1939.

### BEEBE

**Missouri-Pacific Depot**, Center St., 1910 railroad structure.

**S.A. Kimbrough House**, 302 E. Illinois, ca. 1870 vernacular frame house.

**Staggs-Huffaker Building**, N. Main and W. Illinois, ca. 1880 brick commercial building.

**Powell Clothing Building**, 201 N. Main, ca. 1885 vernacular commercial design.

**Stipe Cotton Gin**, Florida and Cypress Sts., ca. 1930 cotton gin.

**William Thomas Abington House**, Center St., 1880 central-hall plan home of doctor.

**Laws-Jarvis House**, 409 N. Main, ca. 1880 vernacular Greek Revival design.

**Colonel Ralph Andrews House**, 517 W. Center, 1885 vernacular frame house.

**Pemberton House**, 601 N. Cypress, ca. 1890 vernacular frame house.

**Lemay House**, 305 S. Cypress St., ca. 1890 vernacular frame house.

**Cross House**, 410 S. Main, ca. 1900 vernacular frame house.

**Lizzie Garrard House**, Beebe, ca. 1906 Folk Victorian house.

**Doss House**, 408 N. Main, ca. 1910 Folk Victorian/Colonial Revival house.

**Beebe Jail**, Beebe, 1935 WPA-built jail.

**Beebe Theater**, Center St., ca. 1930 vernacular brick structure.

**Lipsy Westbrooke House**, 809 W. Center, 1928 Colonial Revival/English Revival house.

**Sellers House**, 702 W. Center, ca. 1925 Craftsman house.

**Hill Farm**, Beebe vic., 1928 Craftsman house.

**Berry House**, 208 Hickory, ca. 1930 Craftsman house.

**Shue House**, 108 Holly, 1935 Craftsman house.

**Smith-Moore House**, 901 N. Main, ca. 1880 vernacular frame house.

**Plummer House**, 314 Alabama St., ca. 1915 vernacular frame house.

## **BRADFORD**

**Morris House**, Rt. 1, 1860 vernacular house with Greek Revival elements.

**Jim Little House**, Walnut St., ca. 1895 vernacular frame structure.

**Dr. Lovell House**, Walnut St., ca. 1900 double-pen I-house.

**Cremane House**, County Rd. 95, ca. 1910 two-story, double-pile residence.

**U.L. Hickmon Hardware Store**, Main and Second, 1925 stucco-covered commercial structure.

**Dr. Frizell House**, Hwy. 67 and Elm St., 1929 Craftsman house.

**Ward-Stout House**, Front and Walnut Sts., 1932 Craftsman house.

**Marshall Hickmon Homestead**, Hwy. 87, 1933 Craftsman house.

**Mason House**, W. Main, 1935 Craftsman house.

**Arthur Williams Homestead Feed Storage Shed**, Falwell Rd., ca. 1915 box and wood-frame structure.

## **CENTER HILL**

**Smyrna Methodist Church**, Center Hill, ca. 1854 vernacular Greek Revival church.

**Colonel John Critz Farm Springhouse**, County Rd. 818, 1858 stone springhouse.

## **CLAY**

**Sam Ray House**, State Rd. 305, ca. 1915 house with Creole floor plan.

**William Howell House-Storm Cellar**, County Rd. 47, ca. 1930 stone storm cellar.

## **CROSBY**

**Gray House**, County Rds. 758 and 46, ca. 1875 frame dog-trot house.

**Gray-Kincaid House**, County Rds. 46 and 759, ca. 1910 central-hall residence.

**Morris Institute Dairy Barn**, County Rd. 41, ca. 1930 two-story dairy barn.

## **DENMARK**

**William Henry Watson Homestead**, County Rd. 68, ca. 1890 dog-trot residence.

**Brady Hays Homestead**, Hwy. 167, ca. 1885 double-pen farmhouse with barn.

## **DONIPHAN**

**Doniphan Lumber Mill Historic District**, Hwy. 167, ca. 1905 lumber mill complex.

## **EL PASO**

**David Doyle House**, County Rd. 953 and State Rd. 5, ca. 1904 vernacular frame house.

**El Paso Bank**, County Rd. 3, 1912 vernacular commercial structure.

## **FLOYD**

**Ackins House**, State Rds. 31 and 305, ca. 1880 vernacular frame structure.

**L.D. Hutchinson House**, State Rd. 31, 1914 vernacular home of prominent citizen.

**Floyd Cotton Gin**, Hwys. 31 and 305, ca. 1930 gin from heyday of cotton farming.

## **FOURMILE HILL**

**Thomas House**, County Rd. 751, ca. 1905 vernacular frame house.

## **GARNER**

**Walker Homestead Historic District**, County Rd. 56, six historic structures from 1850-1930.

## **GRAVEL HILL**

**Gravel Hill Baptist Church**, Gravel Hill Rd., 1935 Rustic-style structure.

## **GRIFFITHVILLE**

**A.J. Smith House**, State Rd. 385, ca. 1887 vernacular frame house.

**Griffithville School**, Hwy. 11, 1939 WPA Craftsman design.

**J.A. Neville House**, Griffithville, 1917 Craftsman house.

## **HOLLY SPRINGS**

**Joe Emmer House**, County Rd. 47, ca. 1890 single-pen log house.

## **HOPEWELL**

**Hopewell District #45 School**, Hopewell, ca. 1939 WPA structure.

## **JUDSONIA**

**Alfred W. Henson House**, 111 Main St., 1884 Neoclassical structure.

**Jack Wood House**, Judson Ave., one-and-one-half story box construction residence built in 1890.

**Judsonia Bridge**, County Rd. 66 over Little Red River, 1924 cantilevered swing bridge.

**James W. Edie House**, Jackson and Washington Sts., ca. 1883 frame vernacular house.

**Hoag House**, State Rds. 157 and 367, ca. 1900 box house with Folk Victorian details.

**Captain Larned House**, Hwy. 157, ca. 1905 Folk Victorian design.

**Judsonia High School Gym**, Judsonia, 1937 WPA-built frame gym.

**Judsonia Community Building Historic District**, Judson and 6th, 1939 WPA-built community center.

**C.D. Kelly House**, Main and Adams, ca. 1925 Craftsman house.

**R.L. Van Meter House**, Wade and 14th, ca. 1915 American Foursquare house.

## **KENSETT**

**Robertson House**, 2nd and Dandridge, ca. 1910 vernacular frame house.

**Fred Hall House**, 2nd and W. Searcy, ca. 1930 Craftsman house.

**Mills House**, 200 W. Searcy, 1921 Craftsman house.

## **LETONA**

**Letona Hotel**, Letona, ca. 1910 vernacular frame structure.

**Wesley Marsh House**, State Rds. 16 and 305, ca. 1900 vernacular residence.

**Martindale Corn Crib**, State Hwy. 310, 1924 wood-frame storage building.

## **LITTLE RED**

**Joe Brown House**, County Rd. 529, ca. 1890 frame, double-pen house.

**Leggett House**, State Rd. 124, ca. 1870 house with ca. 1905 additions.

## **LONE STAR**

**Lone Star School**, Lone Star, ca. 1920 frame school building.

## **McRAE**

**Roper House**, Hill St., ca. 1910 double-pen box house.

**Booth-Weir House**, W. 1st St., 1911 home of businessman, doctor.

**Caldwell House**, E. 2nd and Smith Sts., ca. 1925 Craftsman bungalow.

**McRae Jail**, McRae, 1934 WPA jail.

**Herring Building**, E. 1st and Smith Sts., 1912 Renaissance Revival structure.

**Childers Farmstead**, McRae vic., ca. 1925 Greek Revival farmhouse with outbuildings.

**Emmett McDonald House**, County Rd. 443, ca. 1935 gable-entry house.

## **MIDWAY**

**John Thrasher Farmstead**, Midway, ca. 1885 double-pen, saddlebag design.

**Blunt House - Livestock Barn**, County Rd. 357, ca. 1920 gambrel-roof barn.

**Edwin Ransom Farmstead Livestock and Equipment Barn**, County Rd. 359, ca. 1915 frame barn with unusual log cribs.

## **MOUNTAIN HOME**

**Albert Whisnant House**, State Rd. 16, ca. 1920 vernacular frame house.

## **NEW MT. PISGAH**

**New Mt. Pisgah School**, New Mt. Pisgah, 1938 fieldstone school.

## **NIMMO**

**Nimmo Clubhouse**, County Rd. 65, ca. 1930 box construction structure.

## **PANGBURN**

**Austin Pangburn House**, Main and Austin, ca. 1908 vernacular Colonial Revival house.

**John Shutter House**, Austin and Main, 1908 frame double-pile house.

**James William Boggs House**, Austin St., 1908 vernacular frame house.

**Dr. McAdams House**, Main and Searcy, ca. 1910 vernacular frame house.

**Avanell Wright House**, Main and Pine, ca. 1910 vernacular Colonial Revival design.

**Cary House**, Searcy and Short, ca. 1910 vernacular frame house.

**Rufus Gray House**, Austin and South, 1912 vernacular frame house.

**Churchill-Hilger House**, Main and Searcy, 1914 Craftsman home of prominent early Pangburn resident.

**Patman House**, Mountain and Jackson, ca. 1920 vernacular double-pen house.

**McAdams House**, Maple and South, ca. 1915 vernacular frame house.

**Walter Marsh House**, Maple and Torrence, ca. 1920 vernacular double-pile house.

**Glenn Homestead Livestock and Equipment Barn**, State Hwy. 124, ca. 1939 round-roofed barn.

## **PLAINVIEW**

**Emmett Miller House**, Plainview vic., 1938 Craftsman house.

**Thomas Hunt House**, State Rd. 157, ca. 1885 frame, double-pen house.

**Louis Gray Homestead Barn**, State Hwy. 127, ca. 1932 frame, gambrel-roof barn.

**Rock Building**, County Rd. 370, ca. 1915 vernacular fieldstone structure.

## **PROVIDENCE**

**Tobe Hoofman Farmstead**, County Rd. 67, four ca. 1910 buildings on subsistence farm.

**Big Four School Building**, County Rd. 383, 1930s WPA redesign of 1915 school.

**Louis N. Hilger Homestead Livestock/Equipment Barn**, County Rd. 374, ca. 1939 braced-frame barn.

**J.C. Rhew Co. Packing Shed**, County Rd. 376, ca. 1940 strawberry crating shed and picker residence.

**Stanley Simpson Farmstead Picking Sled**, County Rd. 390, ca. 1930 mobile wood strawberry storage structure.

## **ROMANCE**

**Scott-Davis House**, County Rd. 15, ca. 1905 central-hall adaptation of ca. 1869 log dog-trot.

**Roy Harper House**, County Rd. 16, ca. 1912 box-construction house.

**Pence-Carmichael Farm Barn and Root Cellar**, Romance vic., 1910 barn with unusual floor plan and 1935 stone root cellar.

## **ROSEBUD**

**E.D. Maddox Farm Chicken House**, County Rd. 36, 1938 structure with open, diagonal framing.

## **RUSSELL**

**Russell Jail**, Russell, ca. 1935 WPA-built jail.

**Henry W. Klotz Service Station**, W. 1st St., 1938 fieldstone commercial structure.

**Harvey Lea House**, County Rd. 70, 1925 Craftsman house.

**Weber House**, Elm St., 1933 Craftsman house.

**Howard O'Neal Barn**, County Rd. 73, ca. 1938 transverse-crib barn.

**Henry Klotz Sr. House**, 1st St., 1921 house ordered from Sears Roebuck catalogue.

## **SEARCY**

**Benjamin Clayton Black House**, 300 E. Race St., 1874 Italianate residence.

**Deener House**, 310 E. Center Ave., ca. 1912 Charles L. Thompson Craftsman design.

**Hicks-Dugan-Deener House**, 306 E. Center, ca. 1855 Greek Revival house.

**Lightle House**, 605 E. Race, 1923 Thompson Colonial Revival design.

**White County Courthouse**, Court Square, Classical 1870 courthouse with 1912 additions.

**Burnett House**, County Rd. 766, ca. 1870 vernacular frame house.

**Bob Rogers House**, S. Spring and W. Woodruff, ca. 1870 Greek Revival I-house.

**Searcy Post Office**, Gum and Arch, 1914 Italian Renaissance design.

**Pattie Cobb Hall**, Harding University, 900 E. Center, 1919 Colonial Revival structure.

**Jesse N. Cypert Law Office**, 104 E. Race, ca. 1880 vernacular brick commercial structure.

**Dr. James House**, W. Center and S. Gum Sts., ca. 1880 vernacular brick house.

**Paschall House**, N. Oak and E. Center, ca. 1890 brick I-house.

**Hassell House**, S. Elm and W. Woodruff, ca. 1910 vernacular brick house.

**Williams House**, County Rd. 54 and State Rd. 267, ca. 1910 vernacular frame house.

**Wilburn House**, 707 E. Race, ca. 1875 Greek Revival design.

**William H. Lightle House**, 601 E. Race, 1881 house with Italianate details.

**The First United Methodist Church**, Main St., 1877 English Gothic Revival design.

**Trinity Episcopal Church**, N. Elm St., ca. 1902 English parish church design.

**Cumberland Presbyterian Church**, E. Race St., 1903 Romanesque Revival/Classical Revival structure.

**Lattimer House**, Oak and Market, ca. 1895 Queen Anne Revival house.

**Dr. Emmett Snipes House**, S. Market and N. Locust, ca. 1900 Folk Victorian house with Colonial Revival elements.

**American Legion Hall**, Race St., 1939 fieldstone structure.

**Searcy City Hall**, Gum and Race, 1939 WPA project.

**National Guard Armory Building**, Race St., 1930 Art Deco design.

**Mayfair Hotel**, Spring and Center Sts., 1924 Spanish Revival design.

**Rialto Theater**, Race and Spring, 1940 Art Deco design.

**Lightle House**, 107 N. Elm, 1918 Colonial Revival design with Craftsman elements.

**Watkins House**, 1208 E. Race, 1919-20 Colonial Revival design with Craftsman elements.

**First Christian Church**, N. Main and E. Market, 1925 Classical Revival design.

**Moore House**, 405 Center, ca. 1925 Folk Victorian/Craftsman house.

**Joiner House**, 708 E. Market, 1928 English Revival house.

**Mark P. Jones House**, Center and Fir, ca. 1928 English Revival design.

**Dalton Woodson House**, 1007 W. Arch Ave., 1929 English Revival design.

**Arthur W. Hoofman House**, E. Race and N. Cross, ca. 1931 English Revival design.

**First Wood Freeman House**, 702 Arch, ca. 1934 English Revival design.

**Brooks House**, 704 E. Market, ca. 1935 English Revival design.

**Second Wood Freeman House**, 703 W. Race, ca. 1935 English Revival house.

**Hunt House**, 707 W. Center St., ca. 1935 English Revival design.

**Ida Hicks House**, 410 W. Arch, 1913 Craftsman house.

**Tom Watkins House**, Oak and Race, ca. 1920 Charles L. Thompson Craftsman design.

**Arthur W. Woodson House**, 1005 W. Arch, 1923 Craftsman bungalow.

**Bell House**, 302 W. Woodruff, 1925 Craftsman house.

**Honey Hill Christian Union Church**, County Rd. 54, 1925 Craftsman church.

**Greene Booth House**, S. Pecan and W. Center, ca. 1925 Craftsman house.

**Titus House**, 406 E. Center, ca. 1925 Craftsman house.

**Bloom House**, N. Maple and Academy, ca. 1930 Craftsman house.

**Robertson Drugstore**, Spring and Arch Sts., ca. 1860 commercial building.

**Baldock House**, S. Elm and Woodruff, 1910 vernacular brick house.

**Bank of Searcy**, 301 N. Spruce, ca. 1905 Classical Revival structure.

**Rascoe House**, 702 Main St., ca. 1915 vernacular residence.

**Lightle House**, County Rd. 76, ca. 1920 vernacular saddlebag structure.

**Smith House**, 607 W. Arch, ca. 1920 Sears-Roebuck House Model #264P202.

**Ben Lightle House**, N. Locust and E. Market, 1898 Folk Victorian house.

**Porter Rogers, Sr. House**, N. Oak and E. Race, ca. 1925 Colonial Revival house.

**Dr. L.C. Sears House**, 805 E. Center, 1935 English Revival house with Rustic details.

**Arnold Farmstead**, Searcy vic., six 1925 structures from suburban farmstead.

**Hoofman Farmstead Barn**, Searcy vicinity, ca. 1920 stone outbuilding.

**Coward House**, 1105 N. Maple, ca. 1915 vernacular brick house.

**Mary Alice Hammond House**, County Rd. 839, ca. 1870 vernacular wood-frame house.

**STEP ROCK**

**Morris Hartsell Farmstead**, Step Rock, ca. 1880 farmstead with double-pen, log-and-frame house, outbuildings.

**STEVENS CREEK**

**Chandler House**, County Rds. 327 and 379, ca. 1885 vernacular frame house.

**Thompson House**, Holly Grove Cemetery and County Rd. 328, ca. 1890 vernacular frame residence.

**Holly Grove School**, County Rd. 379, 1939 National Youth Administration design.

**TWENTYTHREE**

**Leonard Gordon Homestead Hexagonal Grain Crib**, County Rd. 69, ca. 1920 hexagonal structure.

**VELVET RIDGE**

**Prince House**, County Rd. 68, ca. 1920 double-pen box house.

**VINITY CORNER**

**Thomas Jefferson Hale General Merchandise Store**, County Rds. 62 and 433, 1925 sheet-metal sided commercial structure.

**WEST POINT**

**Otha Walker Homestead**, State Rd. 36, ca. 1915 central-hall house.

**ADDRESS RESTRICTED**

**Darden-Gifford House**, 1887 vernacular Queen Anne residence.



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**ARKANSAS HISTORIC  
PRESERVATION PROGRAM**

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By Steve Mitchell, Jill Bayles & Ken Story

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