Walks through History
Batesville Commercial Historic District
Begin at the Landers Theater, 332 E. Main, Batesville
November 14, 2015
By Rachel Silva

Intro

Good morning, my name is Rachel Silva, and I work for the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program. Welcome to the "Walks through History" tour of downtown Batesville. I'd like to thank Joel Williams, director of Main Street Batesville, and my friend and Batesville native, Mona Marshell Hughes, for their help with the tour.

For any architects in the audience, this tour is worth two HSW continuing education credits through the American Institute of Architects. Please see me after the tour if you're interested.

Batesville has a total of 25 National Register-listed properties, three of which are historic districts containing multiple buildings. The Batesville Commercial Historic District—which encompasses 52 buildings, mostly on Main Street between 4th and State—was first listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1982. The district boundary was expanded in 1990 to include additional buildings, and it was resurveyed in 2004 in order to update the contributing/non-contributing resource count. In addition to the commercial district, we will also see five individually listed properties on our walking tour—Confederate Monument (1907), Central

Avenue Bridge (1930), Dowdy Building (ca. 1918), Garrott House (1842), and St. Paul's Episcopal Church (1916).

Brief History of Batesville

Independence County was created by Arkansas's Territorial Legislature on October 20, 1820, from part of Lawrence County. Throughout the 19th century, all or parts of 15 other counties were carved out of the original Independence County. The earliest white settlers in the area near present-day Batesville were French hunters and trappers who left behind the name of the stream that flows north and west of downtown Batesville—Poke Bayou. Permanent white settlement may be traced back to the early 19th century, as trading posts were established where Poke Bayou emptied into the White River. The town that first grew up around these trading posts was called Poke Bayou, and a post office was established there on November 7, 1820.

Robert Bean, who had settled at Poke Bayou about 1818, gradually acquired a sizeable amount of land between Poke Bayou and the White River. After Independence County was formed in 1820, county commissioners purchased this land from Bean and designated Poke Bayou as the county seat. Shortly thereafter, Thomas Curran, Joseph Hardin, Charles Kelly, and Richard Searcy bought the land from the county for $1,000 and in 1821 platted the first 14 blocks of the town, beginning on the far western end of Main Street. After claiming their own lots, the proprietors offered lots for sale—this privatized method of development was chosen to prevent the new county from going into debt. By 1821, most residents referred to the county seat as Batesville, named in honor of Judge James Woodson Bates, Arkansas's first territorial delegate to the U.S. Congress. The name of the post office was officially changed in 1824.

Batesville quickly became a regional trading and shipping center. Beginning in the early 1830s, steamboats docked at Batesville, opening up larger trade routes to St. Louis and New Orleans. The St. Louis, Iron Mountain & Southern Railroad (later became Missouri Pacific) arrived at Batesville in 1883 and eventually surpassed

river transportation. Batesville experienced significant population growth between 1880 and 1900. Wood-frame commercial buildings were replaced by more substantial structures built with locally-quarried sandstone and limestone. In the early part of the 20th century, Batesville's commercial district expanded to the east along Main Street, eventually growing to meet the historic residential neighborhood.

Batesville remains a regional commercial center and is the largest city in Independence County with a population of about 10,250. Batesville is also home to two colleges—Lyon College, founded by the Presbyterian Church in 1872 as Arkansas College, and the University of Arkansas Community College at Batesville, founded in 1975 as the Gateway Vocational-Technical School.

Individual Resources

Landers Theater, 332 E. Main—
The Landers Theater was built in 1906 and originally operated as the Gem Opera House, which hosted vaudeville shows and traveling acts. In the early 1920s, the Gem Theater showed silent movies. In 1929 the theater was purchased by William Landers, who changed the theater's name and remodeled the front façade to its current Spanish Revival-style appearance. Batesville's first "talkies" (or movies with sound) were shown in April 1931 at the Landers Theater. The neon sign and marquee were added to the building in 1947. The Landers had beautiful Art Deco-style light fixtures on the interior.
By the 1970s, both the Landers and Melba theaters had "owl shows" at 10:30 on Saturday night. When National Lampoon's Animal House came out in the late 1970s, it was shown as an owl show at the Landers. These adult-oriented shows caused some controversy.
Historically, the Landers Theater had small commercial storefronts on either side of the theater's front door. The space on the west side (right) was a barber shop. In more recent memory, the barber was Doyle Johnston.
The Landers operated as a movie theater until the early-to-mid-1990s. It was later used as a music venue until the roof collapsed in the late 1990s. The Landers

continued to deteriorate for about a decade. The building was purchased in 2008 by Fellowship Bible Church and rehabilitation began with the help of two grants from the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program. Fellowship Bible Church held its first service at the Landers Theater in June 2010. Additional funds were raised in the community through the "Light the Landers" campaign in order to restore the marquee and sign.

Walk east on Main; stay on south side of street.

Old Post Office & Federal Building, 368 E. Main—
This Renaissance Revival-style building was constructed in 1904 to house the post office and the Batesville division of federal court for the Eastern District of Arkansas. The post office was located on the first floor, and the courtroom and federal offices were upstairs. This building served its original purpose until 1974, when a new post office and federal courts building was completed at the southeast corner of 4th and College. In 1975 Independence County purchased the 1904 federal building and converted it into the Independence County Regional Library and county offices.

Fieldstone buildings on S. 4th—
Built ca. 1940 and housed a dry cleaning & steam laundry business. In more recent memory, this was Nu-way Cleaners.

T-Shirt Express, 410 E. Main—
A 1920s-era filling station was previously located on this corner. The current building was constructed in the 1980s?

Anglican Hall (St. Paul's Episcopal), 418-424 E. Main—
During the early 20th century, this site was occupied by a two-story residence, which was later converted into a boarding house. The current building was built sometime after 1947, maybe ca. 1955. In more recent memory, this may have been an insurance office and later, a drapery shop.

St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 482 E. Main (NR-listed 12/22/1982)—
St. Paul's Episcopal Church was organized at Batesville in 1866. The first Episcopal sanctuary was built in 1873 under the leadership of Rev. C. Bruce and was located on the site of the present church at the southwest corner of Main and 5th. The current Gothic Revival-style sanctuary was designed in 1916 by Little Rock architect Charles L. Thompson. It was constructed with rough-cut blocks of native limestone and features a steeply pitched roof, square bell tower, and pointed arch stained-glass windows.

Story about the tree in the church yard—according to local lore, during the Civil War, a Union soldier said farewell to his sweetheart at this site. Before he left, he stuck his riding crop, which was a green stick, into the ground. It grew into this tree. I don't know if this is true. I do know that there were a couple small commercial buildings on this site in the early 20th century that housed a grocery and meat market. Also, Kate Hooper's Dress Shop occupied a small building under the tulip tree from about 1897 until the 1920s. It later became the Churchmen's Club.

[Red doors on an Episcopal church symbolize a place of refuge and safety.]

The English Revival-style house at 106 S. 5th was built ca. 1930 to serve as the rectory.

Batesville Municipal Building, 500 E. Main—
By the early 1920s, an auto garage with a 20-car capacity was located on the current municipal building parking lot. The dealership expanded during the mid-to-late-1920s, and by 1930 it offered car sales, repair, and a filling station. At that time, the building could hold 50 cars. By the mid-20th century, this was Bailey Ford.

The current municipal building was purchased by the city of Batesville in 1990. It was originally constructed to house Batesville Federal Savings & Loan.

First Baptist Church, 610 E. Main—
The congregation of First Baptist Church was organized in 1847, and early services were held in homes and schools until 1851, when a wood-frame building was constructed at 9th & Oak. The first building was sold in 1861, and the congregation

met in various places until a stone sanctuary was completed in 1881 at the present church site (southeast corner Main & 6th). It was used until 1924, when the cornerstone for the current building was laid. Many materials from the 1881 church were salvaged for use in the 1924 building. The 1920s church features English Revival-style characteristics like a steeply pitched roof, flared eaves at the gable ends, and false half-timbering on a portion of the 6th Street elevation.

North side of Main

First United Methodist Church, 615 E. Main—
The first session of the Arkansas Annual Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church met in November 1836 at Batesville in the upper floor of a wood-frame building at the northwest corner of Main and Broad streets. Although Methodist circuit riders visited Batesville earlier in the 19th century, the congregation of the First Methodist Episcopal Church was organized in 1836. In 1844 the Methodist Episcopal Church divided over the issue of slavery, with most congregations in the slaveholding states of the South breaking off to form the Methodist Episcopal Church, South. First Church at Batesville then became aligned with the ME Church, South. 1939-uniting conference to become the Methodist Church. 1968-merged with Evangelical United Brethren to become United Methodist Church. First building? The second sanctuary was built in 1883 at the southwest corner of 3rd & College, facing east on 3rd. It was used until 1914, when the current sanctuary was completed. The Neoclassical-style sanctuary was originally topped by a cupola with a dome. The entrance is crowned by a triangular pediment supported by four Ionic columns made from limestone quarried at Pfeiffer, which is about four miles northeast of Batesville.

Continue west on Main; north side of street

Garrott House, 561 E. Main (NR-listed 6/24/1971)—
The Garrott House was the first Batesville property listed in the National Register. It was built in 1842 by George Case for his wife's sister and her husband, Eliza Ridgway Williams and Robert Williams. After the death of her husband, Eliza

Williams moved to California in 1853. Case acquired the house and later gave it to his daughter and son-in-law, Mary Catherine Case Maxfield and William Maxfield. Mrs. Maxfield owned the house until her death in 1940. It was then occupied by the Maxfields' daughter and son-in-law, Eula Maxfield Garrott and E. P. J. Garrott. Mr. Garrott was a Baptist minister. They lived in the house until the mid-1960s. The house was later used as an antique shop and in the 1990s was restored by its current owners, Terrell and Diane Tebbetts.

Merchants & Planters Bank—
The Merchants & Planters Bank building was constructed in 1998. The upstairs portion was not finished out until late 2014.

Dr. Gray's Hospital, northwest corner of 4th & Main—
Dr. F. A. Gray bought this property from the Thomas B. Padgett family in 1937 and demolished the old two-story home on the site. Dr. Gray's Hospital was built in 1938. He had previously operated a hospital in the old Presbyterian Church building on the northeast corner of 4th & Main, as well as the old Cooper Boarding House, which was just west of his new hospital. The 1938 hospital, later directed by F. A. Gray's son, Dr. Paul Gray, ceased operation in the 1980s when it was bought by White River Medical Center. In 2001 it housed the Independence County Sheriff's Office. The building is currently owned by Health Resources of Arkansas, which specializes in behavioral health services.
The hospital was originally 3 ½-stories tall and had a side-gabled roof with dormers. It sat back from Main Street. A full fourth floor was added to the original building. The one-story addition on the front was also done later, and the cast-concrete panel reading "Dr. Gray's Hospital, 1938" was moved to the new front entrance.

Embroidery & Beyond, 417 E. Main—
Built ca. 1940. May have been a location of Western Auto?

Next two-story building, 409 E. Main—
Built ca. 1925.

Roberson Building, 1959 (now Olde Town Mall; 407 E. Main)—
This is the site of the 1849 Presbyterian Church. The Presbyterians met in the red brick church at this location until 1911, when a new sanctuary was completed at the northwest corner of 7th and College (stayed there until 1968). The 1849 church building was then used as the Batesville Business College and an early home of Dr. Gray's Infirmary.
About 1920, a large, 2-story building was constructed on the site of the old church (it was designed in 1919 by Charles Thompson & Thomas Harding, Jr., for A. L. Crouch). The Crouch Building housed a furniture store for many years. The Crouch Building was damaged by fire in 1957 and shortened to one story, likely by Mr. Roberson, who installed a panel with his name and 1959 on the façade above the awning. In more recent memory, this was Roberson's Hardware.

Earth Station Nursery, northwest corner Main & 4th—
This filling station was built ca. 1925 and was operated by Simon Ball. By the 1940s, it was the C. B. Prichard & Son Service Station.

Barnett Bros. Building, 1939, 369-377 E. Main—
Barnett Bros. ("Barn-it")—
In 1885 brothers Ira Nelson, Jim, and Charles Barnett moved from Evening Shade to Batesville to work for their uncle, Richard D. Williams, in a general merchandise store and bought him out in 1890. In 1895 they established Barnett Bros., Inc. The main Barnett Bros. store (267-297 E. Main) was built in 1903 and remained an anchor store in downtown Batesville for 85 years. The brothers also operated the Bargain Annex, wholesale grocery and dry goods businesses, a feed and seed store, an insurance and abstract company, and were among the founders of the original Citizens Bank. They also bought and sold land in Independence County. I. N. Barnett, Sr., had three sons—I. N., Jr., Jim, and Charles. I. N., Jr. also had three sons and named them Jim, Nelson, and Charles. They were all involved in aspects of the family business until 1988.
This building was constructed in 1939 by Barnett Bros. and features restrained Art Moderne elements like pilasters with cast-concrete and black glass capitals and rectangular panels of glass block. Barnett Bros. commissioned the Little Rock

architectural firm of Wittenberg, Delony & Davidson to design the building, which was originally designed to support a second floor for a hotel that apparently never materialized. I'm not sure which part of their business was here, perhaps the insurance & abstract office?

Barnett Bros. Building, 1959, 359-363 E. Main—
Built in 1959 by Barnett Bros. Not sure what was here. By the mid-1970s, photographer Bill Estes had a studio somewhere in the middle of this block. He took all of the Senior pictures.

Barnett Bros. Building, 1940, 345-347 E. Main—
Designed in 1940 by the Little Rock architectural firm of Wittenberg, Delony & Davidson for Barnett Brothers. By 1947, there was a printing business in the eastern storefront (right). Wann Office Supply has been here since at least the 1960s. Was Sherrill Printing here at some point?

325-327 E. Main—
Built ca. 1920. By 1930, this building and the building just to the west (now the pocket park) housed the Arkansas Dry Goods Company, wholesale dry goods. This building may have later housed Barnett Bros. Furniture (or Barnett & Shelton Furniture Store?).

Pocket Park—
Site of ca. 1901 commercial building that housed a variety of businesses, including a general store, bakery, and agricultural implement dealership. By 1930, it was part of the Arkansas Dry Goods Company. It was later home to Western Auto. The building burned in the 1980s and was converted into a pocket park by Main Street Batesville.

301-309 E. Main—
This building was constructed ca. 1900 to replace the two-story, wood-frame Hinkle & Co. General Merchandise building that was destroyed by fire in 1897. A new brick and glass block façade was added to the building sometime in the mid-

20th century. Historically, this building housed Parks Hardware Store. It was later divided into two storefronts. From at least the 1960s to the 1990s, the Platter Inn (record store, sheet music, instruments) was in the eastern storefront (right). The western storefront (left) was Citizens Bank—notice the old drive-up "Auto Bank" window on the building's 3rd Street elevation (drive-up window dates to early 1950s).

The Barnett Bros. Supply Store (farm supplies and implements) was located behind 301-309 E. Main (now Third Street Farm Supply).

Back to south side of 300 block, west of Landers Theater

Schwegman's Office Machines/Office Furniture, 320 E. Main—
Built ca. 1900 and housed Parsons & Hail Grocery (east; left) and Burhop Butcher Shop (west; right). The eastern storefront (left) was later occupied by the Batesville Baking Company, owned by Mac Albright. By the 1940s, the whole building was a furniture store. Western Auto later moved from its location across the street into this building. The red brick façade was added ca. 1955.

Schwegman's Office Products, 308 E. Main—
Built in 1887 to house the Richard D. Williams General Merchandise Store, which was later acquired by the Barnett brothers, who were nephews of Mr. Williams. This building housed Barnett's Bargain Annex, a cash-and-carry companion to the Barnett Bros. Department Store, located caddy-corner from here. It later housed the Barnett Supermarket until 1975, when Schwegman's Office City, owned by Terry and Robin King, moved into the building. The building suffered fire damage in 1983 but was repaired and reopened.
There is an old hitching ring in a window sill on this building's 3rd Street elevation.

Point south down Third Street

Dowdy Building, 154 S. 3rd (NR-listed 12/22/1982)—

Designed ca. 1918 by Little Rock architect Theo Sanders, the Dowdy Building was constructed using a combination of rough-cut, native sandstone and dark red brick. This building was commissioned by R. A. Dowdy, state legislator from Batesville, to house the telephone exchange.

Pioneer Cemetery—we will come back to this at the end if we have time.

Continue west on Main; 200 block

Barnett Bros. Mercantile Company Department Store, 267-297 E. Main—
Built in 1903-1904 to serve as the Barnett Bros. Mercantile Company Department Store, this building features Renaissance Revival-style characteristics like stone quoins, windows set in segmental arches, and a projecting metal cornice. Barnett Bros. Department Store remained in the building until the late 1980s, when it became Sheid ("Shed") Furniture. In 2001 it became the main office of Pro-Dentec (dental equipment and supplies). Main Street Batesville now occupies part of the building. Throughout the years, a few professional offices were located upstairs in this building. In the mid-20th century, Dr. Norman Grammar's dental office was located upstairs (accessed by the side staircase on 3rd Street).

Skinner's Jewelry, 296 E. Main—
If the bones of the original commercial building exist behind this more modern façade (ca. 1957), the building dates to about 1895 and originally housed the J. W. Evans General Store. It was later Citizens Bank, followed by First National Bank. By the 1980s, it was Skinner's Jewelry.

286 E. Main—
Built ca. 1895 and housed the J. W. Fletcher Drug Store. It was a drug store for most of its lifetime, later housing the Batesville Drug Company and City Drug Store (Rexall). This is an excellent example of late 19th century commercial-style architecture with rough-cut stone details and brick corbelling at the cornice.

Fellowship Bible Church offices, 276 E. Main—

Built ca. 1895 and housed the John Morrow Confectionery, followed by general stores and clothing stores. In 1908 this was the printing office for *The Observer* newspaper. This was an early location of Ben Franklin 5 & 10, followed by Cato's Dress Shop. A white metal slipcover was removed from this building about 2006 and exposed the original façade. The successful removal of this slipcover served as the inspiration for Main Street Arkansas's Slipcover Removal Grant Program.

Allure Salon, 266 E. Main—
Built ca. 1895 and housed the Charles Mosby Jewelry Store. In more recent memory, this was Monday's Shoe Store.

Babbs Upholstery, 250 E. Main (orange slipcover)—
This was originally two separate buildings—the building on the east (left) was built ca. 1900 and housed a boots and shoes store. The building on the west (right) was built ca. 1920 and was a bakery. In more recent memory, the two buildings were joined to become Harris's Dress Shop and later, Charlie's Menswear.

Thompson's Jewelry, 255 E. Main—
Built ca. 1895 and housed the post office, followed by a bank. The building's façade probably dates to the 1920s. Thompson's Jewelry was established in 1924 and is a third-generation family-owned business.

Gallery 246, 243 E. Main—
Built ca. 1910 by a Mr. S. Parsons, who operated Parsons Grocery in this building. In the late 19th and early years of the 20th century, Parson's Hotel was on this site before the current commercial building was constructed. In more recent memory, this building was Paul Wright's Men's Store.

Hail Building, 1925, 231 E. Main—
S. A. Hail built the first two stories of this building about 1890 to house his dry goods business, which sold books, stationery, Queensware (fine china), toys, and notions. About 1925 the third story was added, along with the current red brick

façade. Hail Dry Goods operated here until 1979. The building was later home to hardware stores and restaurants and is now Elizabeth's Restaurant.

Batesville Title Services, 248 E. Main—
Built ca. 1895 and served as a meat market and later, a dry goods store. Brick façade probably dates to 1920s. [Cavenar's Dime Store was somewhere in this block in the mid-20th century. Where?]

Virtue Boutique/Batesville Area Arts Council, 226-246 E. Main—
Built ca. 1900 as a dry goods store and was soon divided into two storefronts. You can see the original stone details on the building's side walls—the metal slipcovers appear to be historic (at least 50 years old)—is there any of the brick building left behind them?
In recent memory, these storefronts housed Heuer's Shoe Store and The Shoe Box (bargain side; the stores were connected by an interior door).

Frozen Yogurt, 220 E. Main—
Built ca. 1903 and housed a tailor (this space was never an alley). In more recent memory, it was Coats Jewelry and later, Merle Norman.

North Arkansas Dance Theater, 206 E. Main—
Constructed in 1927 after a fire damaged all but the exterior walls of the previous building on this site, which dated from at least the 1880s. This was Fitzhugh's Department Store, which operated from 1884 until the 1970s. Notice the "Ladieswear" and "Clothiers" signs on the storefront. There used to be a small display area between the two columns under the recessed part of the storefront. You could walk all the way around it—no longer there. The upper floor windows on the building's western elevation indicate professional offices that were upstairs, including the county Farm Bureau office, Golden Insurance, Golden-Lindsey Insurance, and Thompson & Arnold Attorneys-at-law.

Maxfield Building, 217 E. Main (Back in Time Antiques)—

This building dates from at least the 1880s, and the façade originally featured rough-cut sandstone and arched second-story windows. In the mid-20th century, it was stuccoed and the windows covered. This building and the corner building at 201 E. Main housed the Theodore Maxfield Company, which sold hardware & groceries (eastern side of this building), furniture (western side of this building), and dry goods & notions (corner building at 201 E. Main). The Maxfield Store was one of the earliest and largest general stores in Batesville.

The Maxfields built another building at the northwest corner of Main & Broad streets about 1900 (more on that in a minute). This space (217 E. Main) was later Maxfield Furniture and later, Skinner's Furniture.

Simply Southern, 201 E. Main (part of old Maxfield Store)—
Dates from the 1880s but has been rebricked. This was the dry goods portion of the Maxfield Store. It was a bank from at least 1914 to 1923. This was later a Piggly Wiggly Grocery Store, followed by Crosby Drug Store. Crosby Drug had a large soda fountain and a lunch counter with booths. They were proud vendors of Yarnell's ice cream.

100 block E. Main

Independence County Courthouse, 1940, 192 E. Main—
The first Independence County Courthouse was built in 1826 on lower Main Street near the present Independence County Jail (no photo exists). The second courthouse, a two-story, brick building with central bell tower, was built in 1859 on the site of the present courthouse. The third courthouse, Romanesque Revival in style, was completed in 1893. It was demolished in 1939 to make way for the current courthouse, built in 1940 with help from the Works Projects Administration (WPA; the Works Progress Administration was renamed in 1939). The 1940 courthouse was designed in the Art Deco style by the Little Rock architectural firm of Wittenberg & Delony and features a smooth, limestone façade, fluted pilasters, and floral and geometric designs.

Notice the bell from the 1859 courthouse (second courthouse; first on this site) and the cornerstone from the 1892-93 courthouse (third courthouse; second on this site).

Batesville Confederate Monument (NR-listed 5/3/1996)—
The Batesville Confederate Monument was erected in 1907 by the Sidney Johnston Camp No. 135 of the United Daughters of the Confederacy and the Sidney Johnston Camp No. 863 of the United Confederate Veterans in order to honor Confederate veterans from Independence County, as well as their mothers, wives, sisters, and daughters, who remained steadfast to the cause. The monument was designed by Otto Pfeiffer of Pfeiffer, Arkansas.

Furniture for Less, 187 E. Main (Maxfield Store; Sterling 5 & 10)—
Built ca. 1900 to house the Maxfield General Store and originally had a much more elaborate brick façade with a stepped parapet and two-over-two second story windows with transoms and hood molding. You can still see the original windows on the building's eastern elevation (they were recently uncovered). By the 1930s, this was the Sterling Store 5 & 10. The Sterling building was remodeled with the current buff brick façade in the 1940s. Sterling's later expanded into the one-story buildings to the west. The toy store was in the storefront just west of the main Sterling building. The longtime manager at Sterling's was Adrian Fike. The Sterling Building and the one-story building to the west recently benefited from one of Main Street Arkansas's slipcover removal grants.

189 E. Main (1-story west of Sterling's)—
Built ca. 1890 with newer brick façade. This building originally had three storefronts and housed a variety of businesses. By the 1930s, it was (east to west) Western Auto, Arkansas Power & Light, and Weaver's Café. Crawford's Café was later in the western storefront and was known for its chili.

157 E. Main (Main Street Gym)—

Built ca. 1905 and originally had six arched windows on the second story. The building was drastically altered with a new buff brick façade at some point in the mid-20th century. This was the Ben Franklin 5 & 10.

Wade Building, 1926, 158 E. Main—
The courthouse mural on this building was painted in 2008 by local artists Karan Skinner and Michelle Bankston.
The Wade Building was constructed by Victor Wade in 1926 and housed the print shop for the *Batesville Record* and later, the *Batesville Daily Guard*. In the 1940s, this became Sears, followed by Cato's and Mode-o-day.

Guenzel Building, 1929, 148 E. Main (Small & Hip Children's Boutique)—
Constructed in 1929 by Otto Guenzel "Gin-zel" to house the dry cleaning business started by his father. This unique building features basket-bond brick work and a green tile parapet.
German immigrant H. A. Guenzel arrived at Batesville in 1890. He was trained as a tailor and partnered with Dauer in the tailoring business of Guenzel & Dauer. He sent back to Germany for his sweetheart in 1892, and they were married in the Episcopal Church at Batesville. They lived above the tailor shop, which was located just east of the Arlington Hotel in the 100 block of W. Main. Guenzel later brought the first dry cleaning equipment to Batesville, and his two sons, Otto and Hans, worked with him in the cleaning business.

Etta's Attic, 143 E. Main—
Built ca. 1925. In more recent memory, this was Oklahoma Tire & Supply Company (OTASCO). It was also Anthony's Clothing/Department Store in the mid-20th century.

Autry's White River Furniture, 129 E. Main—
Built ca. 1950 on the site of an old 2-story building that housed the Sam Allen Drug Store and later, the Kennerly and Dorr Sanitarium, followed by Shook Music Store. The original building on this site had a full, two-story front porch with

plenty of benches and chairs, which made it a popular gathering place for local men. The current structure was Van Atkins Department Store.

Randy's Music, 146 E. Main, Batesville Gun & Pawn/Bakery/The Styling Room, 130-134 E. Main—
All built after 1947. This row of buidings housed Bill's Café, Earnheart's Café, and Earnheart's Pool Hall.

120 E. Main—
Built ca. 1925 and housed a drug store. It adjoined the two-story I. N. Reed General Merchandise Store, which dated from about 1880. The old Reed Building was later the Cozy Theater.
The vacant lot/new construction at the corner used to be the ca. 1904 Earnheart Hotel, which was later called the American Hotel and the Farmers Hotel. In more recent memory, the old hotel building was occupied by Sims Furniture Company and Ray's Sandwich Shop (right at the corner of Main & Central). Because men gathered to sit on the curb by Ray's, it was called Ray's Spit Corner (they would talk and spit).

Hidden Treasures Boutique, 109-115 E. Main—
The Case Building was constructed ca. 1880. Goodwin Drug Store occupied the eastern (right) side of the building for many years. The western side had a variety of occupants, including the McLendon Co. Economy Store and Heasley's appliance and electronics. A beauty shop was upstairs in the 1940s.

Case Building, 101 E. Main (W. B. Menard Building)—
Built ca. 1877 and retains its Italianate-style hood molding above the second story windows. This building housed Boggs Grocery and later, Menard Grocery, owned by W. B. "Chubby" Menard. It was later Clark's Army-Navy Surplus and is now Big's Restaurant. Notice the old Coca-Cola ghost sign on the western elevation.

Point out the Central Avenue Bridge (NR-listed 1/21/2010), a 1930 open-spandrel, concrete arch bridge built by the Luten Bridge Company.

100 block W. Main

Law Office, 103 W. Main—
The Batesville Bank Building, designed by the Little Rock architectural firm of Rickon & Thompson, was built in 1890 at the northwest corner of Main and Central. It was the first three-story building constructed in Batesville. The first floor of the building was home to the Bank of Batesville, while the second floor housed the law offices of the Hon. Samuel M. Casey and the Odd Fellows lodge. The third floor was used by the Masons. In 1912 the First National Bank of Batesville, formerly the People's Savings Bank, merged with the Bank of Batesville and moved into the 3-story bank building.
Sadly, the bank building was demolished in 1974 and replaced the following year with the current structure, which housed Batesville Insurance & Abstract Company.
The threshold from the old bank building was salvaged and reused at 141 W. Main.

Melba Theater, 115 W. Main—
Built ca. 1920 and housed Frank Brewer's General Merchandise Store. In 1939 the building was purchased by Commonwealth Theaters, who remodeled it in 1940 to serve as a movie theater. So the Melba Theater's Art Deco façade dates from 1940. There was originally a barber shop on the eastern (right) side of the lobby, and a separate colored entrance on the west (left) portion of the façade. The Melba stopped showing movies in the fall of 2014, but it had fallen into disrepair. The Melba Theater is currently being restored by Joe and Jenelle Shell and Adam and Mandy Curtwright to again serve as a theater.

Wheeler's Shoe Repair, 133 W. Main—
Built ca. 1935 and housed Brewer's Store. I'm not sure what type of store it was.

141 W. Main—
Built ca. 1900 but has a 1920s or '30s brick façade. This was G. A. Baker's Tin Shop and later, the *Batesville News-Review*.

Adler Building, 151 W. Main—
Built in 1880 by early Jewish businessman Simon Adler, the Adler Building housed
Adler's general store on the first floor, and the second floor housed his offices and
a large auditorium known as Adler's Opera Hall. Performances, dances, and
banquets were held upstairs in this building until the 1940s. The keystone above
the central second story window is marked with an "A" for Adler. The Adler
Building later housed the Yeatman-Gray ("Yateman") Wholesale Grocery
Company (by 1930) and the Arkansas Dry Goods Company (by 1947). This was
later McSpadden Furniture and Marshall Dry Goods.
Has cast-iron storefront components manufactured by J. Christopher & Company,
St. Louis.

155 W. Main—
Built ca. 1905. Garbarz Cobbler Shop.

Chi Alpha Campus Ministries, 161 W. Main—
Built in 1891 by Simon Adler to house the People's Savings Bank, which in 1905
became the First National Bank of Batesville and later moved to the Batesville
Bank Building at the corner. This building is missing its original pressed metal
cornice but retains its stone arches and terra cotta panels.

Vacant lot—site of the Arlington Hotel, later called the Marvin Hotel, which
burned in the 1980s.
Arlington Hotel/Martin Hotel—
3-story Arlington Hotel was built ca. 1879 by T. R. Taylor. The hotel was damaged
by fire in 1903 and rebuilt in 1904 as a 2-story building. In 1904 the property
passed to James A. Luster, who operated the 2-story Arlington Hotel (under the
management of Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Hardy). In 1927 Mrs. Winnie Atchinson,
daughter of Mr. Luster, leased the hotel to Marvin R. Bailey, brother of future
governor Carl Bailey. This proprietor changed the hotel's name to the Marvin
Hotel. Bailey operated the hotel until 1934, when Mr. and Mrs. John L. Polk of
Imboden took over. They sold to Mr. and Mrs. Wade Clark in 1966. Hotel was
destroyed by fire in the 1980s.

Ultimate Scrubs, 148 W. Main—
Built ca. 1907. Canaan's Building.

Paper Chase Book Store, 136 W. Main—
West portion (right)—built in 1886 by H. L. Miniken as an extension of his brother, George Miniken's, general store next door to the east. This building also housed the Batesville and Oil Trough Telephone Company. It was later the city's first Coca-Cola bottling plant. During the Great Depression, it was occupied by a restaurant called "The Big 20," where all meals were 20 cents. In the 1940s and '50s, it was Vest Grocery. In the 1980s, it was the Feedbag Restaurant. Clinton and Mayfan Thomas bought the building in 1998 and opened Paper Chase Book Store. East portion (left)—built ca. 1879 as George Miniken's General Store.

Rutherford Hall, 108 W. Main—
Built ca. 1890 to house City Hall and later became a furniture store, saloon, E. H. Glenn & Co. Lumber, a Ford dealership with a dance hall on the second floor, a warehouse for the Dorr-Conine Wholesale Grocer Company, and another furniture store.

Vacant lot—Roberts Batesville Furniture Company

Pioneer Cemetery—
The earliest known burial place at Batesville was called Red Bluff, which was on the White River at the lower end of Main Street. This plot was abandoned because of frequent flooding. Another early burial site was at the Methodist Churchyard, when the Methodist Church was located at the southwest corner of 3rd & College (current site of Citizen's Bank).
See Pioneer Cemetery historical marker for info on donation of land to city for cemetery.
Sometime before the Civil War, a tall wooden fence was built around the Methodist Churchyard with access through a stile. The church yard was very crowded by this time. In 1871 Oaklawn Cemetery was surveyed and opened.

There is no record of burials at the Methodist Churchyard after 1872, although an old newspaper account claims that a child was buried there a year later. When College Street was laid out, about 70 bodies and markers were moved from the old Methodist Churchyard to Oaklawn. Children were let out of school to watch the reinternments. By that time, the cemetery extended to the south into the next block.

Methodist Churchyard became known as Memorial Gardens and then went through a period of neglect and decline. In the 1980s, the Batesville Preservation Association cleaned up the cemetery and renamed it Pioneer Cemetery. The gazebo was dedicated in 1986. The earliest existing marker in the Pioneer Cemetery belongs to Richard Searcy, who died in 1832. He came to AR in 1817 and served as clerk of courts in Lawrence and Independence counties, as a territorial legislator, and as a judge. He was wealthy and died young, leaving his property to a brother, James, who is buried beside him. Two other early markers belong to Richard Henry Pelham (d. 1834) and George Harrison Pelham (d. 1835), brother and son of C. H. Pelham. C. H. Pelham served as deputy U.S. Surveyor and later as clerk of courts and state legislator. There are now about 60 grave markers visible in the cemetery.