

Walks through History
Calico Rock Historic District
Begin at Calico Rock Museum & Visitor Center at 104 Main Street
June 9, 2012
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Intro

Hi, my name is Rachel Silva, and I work for the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, which is one of seven agencies in the Department of Arkansas Heritage. The AHPP works to document and preserve the state's historic and cultural resources. Welcome to the Walks through History tour of Calico Rock! I'd like to thank the Calico Rock Museum for co-sponsoring the tour, and in particular, I'd like to recognize Gloria Gushue for her help. If you're interested, the Museum/Visitor Center/Artisan Cooperative is hosting additional events today—from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., Harvey Bufford will do pottery demonstrations, and from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., the Calico Bluff chapter of Questers International will display a "Fashion Time Line" of clothing and accessories from the 1860s to the 1980s in the coal house behind the visitor center.

Today we'll discuss the history and architecture of buildings in the Calico Rock Historic District as well as the historic buildings east of Calico Creek.

Brief History of Calico Rock

Izard County was created in 1825 from part of Independence County and was named in honor of George Izard, who served as Arkansas's second territorial governor from March 4, 1825, until his death on November 22, 1828. From the 1830s to the 1870s, parts of Izard County were taken to form seven other counties—Van Buren, Carroll, Johnson, Marion, Fulton, Baxter, and Stone counties. Izard County's first permanent county seat was located in the Jacob Wolf House, a two-story log building built in 1829 at the juncture of the White and North Fork rivers in present-day Norfork (Baxter County). The county seat was later moved to Athens, Mount Olive, and finally to Melbourne, where it has been since 1875.

Named after the calico-colored bluffs on the north side of the White River, Calico Rock initially developed in the early 1830s as a popular steamboat landing. Keelboats traveled up the White River as early as 1820, but in 1831 the first steamboat docked at Calico Landing. It was called "The Victoria." By the early 1850s, Calico Landing was the most popular docking site on the White River north of Batesville. Steamboats delivered finished goods like clothing, shoes, and furniture, and transported cotton and timber from the surrounding area to larger markets. A commercial area developed along the river and consisted of wood-frame buildings. But it was the arrival of the railroad that transformed Calico Rock into a major commercial center. The St. Louis, Iron Mountain & Southern Railroad was built through Calico Rock in 1902, which required the railroad company to blast the bluffs on the north side of the White River to make room for the tracks. Railroad workers took up residence in Calico Rock until construction was completed. The first train arrived in Calico Rock on August 24, 1903. Railroads brought an end to the steamboat era, and in 1902 "The Ozark Queen" became the last boat to dock at Calico Rock.

In 1905 the town was incorporated. The local economy consisted of small cotton and livestock farms and timber-related industries, including a planing mill and later, a flooring factory. About 1900, a steam-powered cotton gin opened east of

Calico Creek, and it was not unusual for cotton wagons to fill the streets during harvest time each fall.

An interesting aspect of Calico Rock's history involves the pearling and button industry along the White River. In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, residents discovered freshwater mollusks capable of producing pearls in the White and Black rivers. This started a "pearl rush" because the rare pearls could be extremely valuable. Men used long pearl rakes to drag the river bottoms or put a heavy rock in the bib of their overalls to sink to the bottom. At first, pearls were the prize, but it was soon discovered that the mollusk's mother of pearl shell could be used to make buttons. Small family operations as well as large button factories sprang up throughout northeast Arkansas.

Before the Highway 5 Bridge was constructed over the White River in 1965, a ferry transported people and vehicles across the river. In 1896 the first official ferry license was awarded to Frank Aiken. After the new bridge was dedicated in 1966, the ferry owners intentionally sank the ferry on the Stone County side of the river following its last trip.

In 1897 a major fire destroyed the town's wood-frame commercial buildings, which were replaced with some of the rough-cut stone and brick structures you see today (oldest buildings on west side of street). On April 7, 1923, burning cinders from a passing steam engine landed on the roof of the Garner Warehouse on the east side of Main Street, igniting a blaze that destroyed 28 buildings and caused \$125,000 in damages. The entire eastern side of Main Street was destroyed, and a portion of the west side was damaged as well. So the buildings on the east side of the street date from the 1920s and 30s after the fire.

Historically, Main Street was divided into two separate levels with the upper west side supported by a stone retaining wall, thus it was referred to as "Wall Street." About 1945 the wall was removed and the street leveled out, but the western or "high" side of the street is still accessed by a series of rock and concrete steps.

In 1941 the State Highway Department built the 2-lane Highway 56 Bridge across Calico Creek, providing motorists with a more convenient and substantial bridge over the creek. Prior to this event, the only way for local traffic to cross Calico Creek was by the Walnut Street Bridge. Construction of the Hwy. 56 Bridge over Calico Creek, combined with significant outmigration during the Great Depression and World War II years, contributed to the decline of the town and especially East Calico. Due to the depletion of yellow pine forests in the mid-20th century, the lumber mill closed in the 1960s. Today Calico Rock is predominantly a destination for tourists and retirees with its close proximity to the White River, Norfork Lake, Blanchard Springs Caverns, and the Buffalo National River.

Go to the foot of Main Street at the railroad tracks on the west side.

Site of Iron Mountain (later Missouri Pacific) Railroad Depot—in between railroad tracks and Railroad Street on the west side of Main. Soon after the St. Louis, Iron Mountain, and Southern Railroad was completed through Calico Rock in 1903, the railroad constructed a passenger and freight depot on this site (ca. 1905). The depot also housed the railway express office, and a long wooden platform extended to the west along the tracks for loading and unloading goods. In 1917 the Iron Mountain line became Missouri Pacific, which is now Union Pacific. Passenger train service stopped in the early 1960s, and the depot was demolished in the late 60s or early 1970s. The main line railroad bridge crossed the mouth of Calico Creek as it emptied into the White River, while a railroad spur track split off and crossed Calico Creek a little bit further north to access the cotton gin and planing mill in East Calico.

NW along Railroad St. to point out River View Hotel and coal house behind Bank of Calico Rock

The Calico Rock Historic District was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1985 for its association with the commercial development of the town, and for its good collection of early 20th century commercial-style architecture. The HD consists of one block of buildings on both sides of Main Street between

Railroad and Walnut as well as the coal house and River View Hotel. All 17 buildings are contributing to the historic significance of the district.

River View Hotel (added to HD in 1988 amendment)—By 1913, a two-story annex for the Shaver Hotel was located on this site (Shaver Hotel was one block to the north). However, both buildings were likely wood-frame and were destroyed by the fire of 1923. About 1925 the concrete block River View Hotel was constructed to replace the previous building.

Ornamental concrete block--cement pressed brick was a very popular building material around the turn of the 20th century. This ornamental concrete block could be substituted for any use of brick or stone. It was advertised as low cost, insulating, and maintenance free. Blocks could be purchased commercially or made on-site from a special mold. Molds for home use could be ordered from catalogs like Sears & Roebuck and Montgomery Ward. These models made one block at a time, and you could change the side panels to create different block designs or make corner blocks. The most popular style was “rock face”, which resembled stone, and second most popular was “panel face”, which was flat with beveled edges. Here you see an example of rock face concrete block.

The hotel originally featured two completely covered 2-story porches, one overlooking downtown and the other facing south toward the White River. The porches were altered in the 1940s. The hotel currently serves as a bed & breakfast.

Coal storage building—built ca. 1903 as a coal storage building for the Bank of Calico Rock, which was located at 104 Main (immediately in front of the storage building). Was rehabbed in 1985 and housed the waterworks department workshop but is now part of the museum/visitor center/artist co-op.

Back to Main Street. Discuss buildings on west side, going south to north.

100 Main—built ca. 1903 by Walter Rodman to house Rodman Hardware Store. It later housed Wayland’s Hardware, run by Robert H. Wayland, and from 1939 until 1964, this was the location of Perryman Hardware, run by Reed Mack Perryman. In 1964 Perryman Hardware moved across the street to the Calico Rock Hardware Company building and remained there until 1987. 100 Main is now the Calico Rock Museum and artist co-op. The rough-cut stone building features a recessed central entry, multi-pane transom windows, and some corbelling at the cornice.

104 Main—built in 1903 and was the first masonry building constructed in town after the devastating fire of 1897. The building first housed the Bank of Calico Rock, which went bankrupt in 1909 and was succeeded by the Bluff City Bank. In 1914 a merger between Bluff City Bank and the People’s Bank of Calico Rock (chartered 1912) resulted in the creation of the State Bank of Calico Rock, which occupied the building until 1924. This was the post office from 1924 to 1964 and later served as City Hall. It is now part of the visitor center/museum/artist co-op. The building features two cast-iron storefront columns manufactured by Mesker Bros. Front Builders of St. Louis. It originally had two more cast-iron columns in place of the current brick columns by the door as well as a pressed metal cornice. Prefabricated cast-iron and metal building components were popular around the turn of the 20th century, especially for commercial buildings in small towns, where it might be difficult to find an architect. The pieces could be ordered from a catalog and shipped via steamboat or railroad.

106 Main (has incorrect number on building—says 104)—built ca. 1913 or earlier (appears on 1913 Sanborn map as drug store). May have originally been built by E. N. “Nick” Rand to house part of his wholesale grocery business, which was also located next door to the north. In 1918 the building was purchased by pharmacists Leonard and Levi Evans, who ran the Evans Bros. Drug Store here until 1940, when the business was purchased by Richard Armstrong (hired Otis Forrest as pharmacist). In 1951 Reed Mack Perryman bought the business and called it City Drug Store. At some point, the name was changed to Perryman Drug, and the business remained here until about 1969, when it moved to a location on Park Street. Today it operates as Mitchell’s Park Street Pharmacy. When the drug

store moved out of 106 Main, Jim Clinkingbeard moved into the building and still runs his old-fashioned soda fountain here.

114 & 120 Main—built in 1906 by Nick Rand to house the Calico Rock Grocery Company. The 2-story building at 114 Main was the grocery/general store, while the 1-story building at 120 Main was the grocery company office. Laurence and Adean Hall later operated Hall Funeral Home in the 2-story building and used the 1-story building as storage for the funeral home (Halls acquired the funeral home business from Roller Funeral Home?). The two-story building was later the Wiseman Hotel, run by Tip and Mattie Wiseman (was the hotel on both floors or just the upper floor?). Then became Family Shoe Store & Dry Goods, run by the Clinkingbeards (Jim & Billie). 114 Main features a raised parapet and segmental arch windows on the second floor.

After serving as funeral parlor storage, 120 Main was the office for the *Calico Rock Progress*?? Or other way around? It features large arched openings for the recessed central door and storefront windows. Although the upper sashes of the 2-over-2 storefront windows are now boarded, you can see the fanlight transoms. The storefront also retains its original wood bulkheads.

Two-story brick People's Bank of Calico Rock Building—Built in 1912 for the People's Bank of Calico Rock, this was the only brick building in the 100 block on the west side of Main Street (and still is). The front portion of the first floor housed the bank (and you can still see the original bank teller's cage and furniture inside), while the rear portion of the first floor was a printing office until at least 1930 (maybe for the newspaper?). The bank remained in this location until 1970, when it moved to a new building west of Main Street up on the hill. In 1992 the bank moved to a location on Hwy. 56 and is now known as First National Bank of IZARD County. The first floor was later home to Perry Matthews Real Estate (and in the 1980s, Sharp Realty; recent memory, chamber of commerce).

The second floor, which was accessed by the door to the left of the storefront, housed a variety of professional offices, including physicians Dr. Harlin Smith and Dr. Noel "Buck" Copp, dentists Dr. Douglas Matthews and Dr. Milburn, Willie Hill Matthews Abstract Co., both Matthews and Hudson Insurance companies, Sybil

McGinness's art studio, and the first Hospital Auxiliary shop. The building features arched window openings on its second floor, recessed rectangular panels, and corbelled brick at the cornice. The interior retains its original pressed tin ceilings.

142 Main—small mixed masonry building with grapevine mortar and pairs of 3-over-1 windows on the side elevations. Probably built in the 1930s or 1940s (nothing on block north of People's Bank on 1930 Sanborn map). Was built to house a dry cleaning business. May have later housed the *Calico Rock Progress* newspaper office??

202 Main—New building or historic building covered with siding? Sits very close to another small mixed masonry building with half-timbering in the side gable ends. Not sure about historic occupants.

I believe the open spaces in between these buildings has been open for a long time. Although wood-frame buildings were located in this area on the 1913 Sanborn, they are all gone by 1930 (probably destroyed by 1923 fire and never rebuilt).

East side of Main Street going north to south

Buildings north of Walnut (outside district boundary)

Jerald's Station—also a stone building with grapevine mortar, but it has been painted. This was historically a service station, probably built in 1930s or 1940s.

Knowles Hardware & Appliance—brick portion was built in the 1950s and housed the Southern Café. The metal portion of the store is a later addition. Historically, a movie theater called the Calico Theater was on this site (built sometime after 1930).

Cross Walnut—recall that these buildings were constructed in the 1920s and 30s after the 1923 fire

115-123 Main—Built in 1925. Has brick façade with rough-cut stone side and rear walls (may have brick party wall in between storefronts). The street-level portion of the building is one-story, but the rear is 2-story as it goes down the hill to the east. Northern storefront (left) was known as the Creswell Office Building. It briefly served as the post office in the early 1930s (why did it temporarily move from museum building? Maybe Flood of 1927?). W. M. Jones later had a real estate office here, and it was the original location of the Western Auto Store, run by Melzie Knowles.

Southern storefront (right) was Garner General Store, run by Joseph T. Garner. It was later Harris Grocery, run by Austin D. Harris, who was one of the first butchers in Calico Rock. A. D. and Myrtle Harris retired in the early 1970s. May have housed Lola's Café later? Building exhibits typical early 20th century commercial-style detailing with recessed panels and transoms above the storefronts (northern storefront has 8-pane transoms).

Knowles Furniture & Bedding Gallery—Built ca. 1925 and was originally 3 storefronts. Northernmost one housed the City Barber Shop, first run by Hubert Garner, and later by Hale Garner. You could pay to take a shower there. It was later Lorene Miller's Beauty Shop. Middle storefront was the Past Time Pool Hall, which served beer and was operated by Guy Jenkins and later, Lum Lester. Southern storefront was the Green Tavern Café (also known as the Green Fly), which later became the Hillbilly Café, run by Mattie and Tip Wiseman (who had the hotel across the street).

Lower buff brick building with red corbelling at cornice—Built ca. 1924. Northern storefront housed the Dalrymple Store and later became the Home Variety Store, operated by Lota and Esta Perryman. Then it became Erma's. Southern storefront was Estes Brothers Grocery and later became Smith Grocery, operated by Everett and Ada Smith. Then became part of Erma's.

Higher buff brick building with red corbelling at cornice—Built ca. 1924 by Robert Hayden to house his grocery store (Hayden's Store). In 1933 Hayden's Store

began operating as Cheney's Department Store, which remained in the building until 1983. Wingard Photo Studio was located in the back portion of Cheney's from about 1930 to 1950.

Red brick building with tall recessed panels (now Keepin' it Simple Restaurant). This building and Calico Rock Hardware are even taller in the back—have 2 ½ to 3 stories in the rear—Built in 1924. Housed Floyd's Grocery, operated by Marshall and Ethel Floyd from 1930 to 1960. It was later Webb Grocery, then Western Auto, and finally, Don Quixote's.

J. T. Garner & Brother Mercantile (Calico Rock Hardware)—Built in 1923, it was the first building rebuilt after the fire. The building housed Joseph T. Garner's mercantile and later, a series of hardware stores. Ferrill/Forsyth Hardware later became Calico Rock Hardware Company, run by Charles and Euna Woods Ferrill. In 1964 the Ferrills sold their business to the competition across the street, Perryman Hardware. So from 1964 until 1987, Perryman Hardware was located here (moved across the street from the museum building). In 1987 Christian and Carolyn Eck purchased the hardware business and building and reused the Calico Rock Hardware Company name. Now an antique store—when did last hardware store go out?

Head east on Railroad Street to walk down Pepper Sauce Alley & toward East Calico.

Pepper Sauce Alley—In the late 19th century, shanty taverns lined the banks of Calico Creek near the steamboat landing. The proprietors sold “pepper sauce” or moonshine, so the area became known as Pepper Sauce Alley. Civilized folks did not go to Pepper Sauce Alley—it was frequented by thieves and other criminals, and violence was a common occurrence.

East Calico (or the “ghost town”) was primarily an industrial area with access to the steamboat landing at the mouth of Calico Creek, and later, the railroad. By 1913 a cotton gin, gristmill, planing mill, wholesale grocery, and feed and seed

store were located in East Calico, but most of the buildings we'll see today date from the 1920s and 30s (Calico Rock's second period of growth; after the 1923 fire).

Walnut Street Bridge—An early wagon bridge was replaced in 1948 with the old Hwy. 56 Bridge over Piney Creek, and in 1998 was declared unsafe by the Arkansas Highway and Transportation Department. The City of Calico Rock purchased an old railroad flatcar in 2000 and used it to form the roadbed of the bridge so that it was once again suitable for traffic. But, like I told you earlier, the Walnut Street Bridge was the only way for wagons/people/vehicles to access East Calico until the Hwy. 56 Bridge over Calico Creek was constructed in 1941.

Point out railroad spur trestle to the south as we cross Calico Creek.

City Jail—built in the 1920s to hold people accused of public drunkenness or disturbing the peace, usually for fighting. In the 1930s, the WPA added the front section to the jail. Prior to that time, prisoners could look out through the bars and yell at passersby.

Greasy Slim—William Luther Harris was a hobo riding the rails during the Great Depression, and in 1940, he decided to make Calico Rock his home. The tall, soft-spoken man worked wherever he could and was always ready to help, with or without payment. Because he was tall and slender and usually covered with grease from blacksmithing, he was known as "Greasy Slim." He slept on the floor of the jail or on a cot at the gristmill. He avoided bathing or washing his clothes, and one time each year, he bought a new shirt and pair of overalls. He died in 1957 and is buried in Calico Rock's Roselawn Cemetery.

Killian Feed Store—Built in 1948 by Frank and Arthur Killian. They sold animal feed, veterinary supplies, fertilizer, cottonseed, and other farm items. After 1970, the store was operated by Frank Killian's sons, Garland and Bill. The feed store was a popular place for locals to hang out and talk politics or catch up on the gossip. It closed in 1992.

Bulk fertilizer sheds/site of cotton gin—In the 1880s, Calico Rock had a water-powered cotton gin, and about 1900, Andy and George Killian built a steam-powered gin. The gin stood over where the open sheds are now. In the 1930s a diesel engine was added to the gin. It went through a series of owners, including Hammett & McClellan in 1930, and in 1956 it was closed by Frank and Arthur Killian.

Blacksmith Shop/White River Distributors—In 1928 Roland Jennings opened a gristmill in a tin building near the railroad tracks. That building is no longer extant (demolished about 1944), but the white building here was Mr. Jennings's blacksmith shop. Horses and mules waited in the side yard to be shod. Before Izard County went "dry" in 1943, Revel and Gene Smith ran a tavern in this building. In the 1950s and 60s, this was the location of White River Distributors, run by Bill Clark and George Hicks. White River Distributors delivered gasoline to area service stations and sold butane, propane, kerosene, motor oil, and tires.

North side of the street—foundation next to ruin—In the 1920s, Ed Perryman opened an auto garage and filling station on this corner. The filling station was right on the corner, and a two-story concrete block building sat just to the east of the filling station. Because Perryman did not have a hydraulic lift, vehicles were driven or pushed up a large wooden ramp behind the building onto the second floor. Mechanics worked on the cars from the first floor through a hole in the ceiling. After a fire damaged the buildings in the late 1930s or early 40s, Perryman moved down to the corner of Walnut & Caldwell. In the 1940s, Lola Johnson opened Lola's Café here.

2-story stone ruin—built about 1910. The western half of the building housed Bud & Mary Lock's Grocery on the first floor and the Calico Rock Commercial College held classes upstairs. Then in the 1920s, Cumi Sanders's husband was killed while working for the railroad. She used her settlement to buy this property, and she moved in upstairs. During a flood in 1944, she refused to leave, forcing rescuers to row a boat to her second story window. In the 1930s, Ms. Sanders rented the first floor to Hazel McVey and Chlois Webb, who bought eggs and cream from local

farmers and shipped it out by train. In the 1930s and 40s, Sugar Creek Creamery was located here.

The eastern half of the building was constructed later, probably in the 1920s. Henry Gifford's Place, a pool hall and beer joint, was located downstairs. Even after Izard County went dry in 1943, Gifford supposedly sold pepper sauce out of the back room. In 1948 Euen and Ollie Boatman bought the building and ran a grocery and feed store in the front and lived in the rear portion of the building. In 1978 their granddaughter, Ollie Jared, bought the building and converted it into apartments, but a flood in 1982 along with a fire in 1987 forced her to close.

302 Walnut--?

Martin Barber Shop—built in 1924 by Ezra Martin to house his barber shop. He and fellow barber Ralph Barm offered haircuts, shaves, and good conversation. Ezra's wife, Eleanor, and their daughter, Johnye, later went to beauty school, and a beauty shop was added to the business, complete with a permanent wave machine. Ezra died in 1967 and Paul Holden continued the business for a few years.

Foundation of Ozark Theater—Harold Wood opened the Ozark Theater here in the early 1930s. At the time it opened, admission was 10 cents and popcorn was 5 cents. New movies showed each week. In 1954 the theater building was destroyed by fire.

Foundation at NW corner of Walnut & Caldwell—former site of a large 2-story building dating from about 1915. In the 1910s, Jobe and Fannie Southard ran a general store here. The building was organized so that a grocery portion was in the front and a hardware portion was in the back. The grocery had a series of owners, including Steve Taylor (1930s), Harley Harris, Alec Moser (late 30s to mid-40s), Dallas Estes, and Milsie Knowles (1950s). In the 1930s, J. E. Perryman's Hardware opened in the back of the building, and in 1945, his brother, Ray Perryman, and Owen "Hacksaw" Sanders opened the Ray Perryman Implement Company here, which sold appliances and farm implements.

Batesville Wholesale Grocery Co.—at SW corner of Walnut & Caldwell. A Mr. Reed and a Mr. Harlin started the wholesale grocery business but later sold it to a Batesville firm. The Batesville Wholesale Grocery Co. consisted of two large buildings on this site. To the west of the current building, there was a large wood-frame feed warehouse. The current building with the stone foundation was the grocery warehouse with the office in the front corner room. The wholesale grocery received bulk goods by train and delivered groceries to area retailers. It still operated in the 1950s.

Planing Mill & Flooring Factory—The planing mill represented one of the town's most profitable industries. From 1903 until its closure in the 1960s, this was Thomas & Maddox Planing Mill, H. E. Dalrymple Lumber Co., ARKMO Lumber, Millman Lumber, and beginning in the 1950s, Hayes Brothers Flooring.

Old house at NW corner of Walnut & Rowden—the office for the Magnolia Petroleum Co. In the 1920s Roy Perryman started the company with his nephew, Ray, as an agent. A. B. Whitfield bought the business in the late 30s. Gasoline and diesel fuel were pumped out of railroad tanker cars through a pipeline that went under Walnut Street and into large holding tanks on concrete pillars in the field just west of the house. Then the fuel would be put into 50-gallon barrels and delivered to local service stations. Whitfield moved his business to Mountain Home after 1960.

Back to Caldwell—

NE corner of Walnut & Caldwell—In 1945 Ed Perryman moved his Chevrolet dealership here (from down the street). The garage is still standing, but the showroom is no longer extant. Perryman sold new and used cars and Goodrich tires. In the 1950s, the business was passed to Ed's son-in-law, Earl King, who ran it into the 1960s.

Hall Funeral Home (Concrete block)—This building housed a funeral parlor beginning in the 1920s. It was later McGuire Funeral Home, and in the 1950s, Roman and Wilma Howard lived here and operated the funeral home for owner Lawrence Hall (Hall Funeral Home). For a period in the 1930s, this building was the office for the Calico Rock Electric Power & Ice Company next door. From the 1960s to the 80s, this was the office for Hayes Brothers Flooring (old planing mill).

Calico Rock Electric Power & Ice Company Foundation—In 1931 Herbert Wright built the Calico Rock Electric Power & Ice Company here. It was powered by a Fairbanks-Morse diesel generator (2 more generators were later added), and you could hear the thumping of the generator all the time throughout town. During the spring and summer months, the company produced 25 to 30 tons of ice each day. Water was pumped from a well into 144 cans, each of which held a 300-pound block of ice. Compressed liquid ammonia flowed through pipes around the cans, lowering the temperature to 5 degrees F, and then the cans were dunked in warm water and the ice slid right out into the icehouse. Blocks of ice were shipped to surrounding towns, and the ice man delivered 25 to 100-pound blocks of ice to local residents. The city used electricity to power the streetlights and the water pumping station. In 1948 Arkansas Power & Light bought out Wright and stopped distribution.

Site of telephone exchange across street from ice plant—Bill Harned started the Calico Rock Telephone Company in the 1930s, and the switchboard was operated out of various people's homes. In 1949 the company built a house for their new switchboard operator, Gussie Marchant, and her three young children. She operated the switchboard 24/7, and unless she had someone else lined up to watch it, she could not leave the property. A loud buzzer alerted her if someone called while she was asleep or outside in the yard. She was also responsible for alerting the fire chief and setting off the fire siren on top of her house when someone reported a fire.

Meat locker plant site by telephone exchange—Charlie Estes and Donald Wilson opened the Meat Locker Plant in the 1940s. Local folks paid to store their frozen

meat and had round-the-clock access to their storage units. You could bring in a cow or hog to be butchered, packaged, and stored. Sometimes people paid for services by giving Estes and Wilson a portion of their meat, which was then sold at the locker plant.

Extras:

101 W. 1st Street--Calico Rock Methodist Episcopal Church (now the Calico Rock Music Hall) is a Craftsman-style building completed in 1924. NR-listed in 2007. Live music there every weekend.