

**Walks through History**  
**Cherry Street Historic District, Helena-West Helena**  
**Begin at the Cherry Street Pavilion (corner of Cherry & Missouri)**  
**April 13, 2013**  
**By: Rachel Silva**



### **Intro**

Hi, my name is Rachel Silva, and I work for the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, which is an agency of the Department of Arkansas Heritage (like DCC). Thank you for coming and welcome to the “Walks through History” tour of the Cherry Street Historic District. I’d like to thank the Delta Cultural Center for co-sponsoring today’s tour, and many thanks to Helena residents Paula Oliver and Sam Elardo for their help compiling the history of Cherry Street.

Are any of you from Helena?

The Cherry Street Historic District was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1987 for its association with the commercial and architectural development of Helena (originally included the 300, 400, and 500 blocks of Cherry). The district boundary was expanded in 2010 to include the 100, 200, and 600 blocks of Cherry Street, as well as some buildings on Missouri Street where it meets Cherry.

## Brief History of Helena

In 1820 the Arkansas Territorial Legislature created Phillips County from part of Arkansas County. The new county was named after Sylvanus Phillips, who settled near the mouth of the St. Francis River in 1797 and in 1815 moved to present-day Helena. Phillips made a living as a cattleman, trader, and land speculator. In 1820 Sylvanus Phillips, William Russell, and Nicholas Rightor laid out a town in lots and blocks. Helena was named in honor of Helena Phillips, daughter of Sylvanus Phillips (Helena Phillips died in 1831 at the age of 15; not sure about cause of death). People settled at Helena because of its proximity to the Mississippi River, high ground (Crowley's Ridge), drinking water (numerous springs along the eastern base of Crowley's Ridge), fertile land for agriculture, and canebrakes for cattle (cattle and horses were often turned out in a canebrake to graze; a canebrake is a dense growth of sugarcane or river cane, native bamboo).

Helena became the Phillips County seat in 1830 and was incorporated as a town in 1833. Helena was an important stop for steamboats traveling on the Mississippi River between Memphis and Vicksburg. Captains docked their boats at the Helena landing to purchase supplies and fuel (wood) for the boiler, and while they were here, the steamboats were loaded with cotton and timber from the surrounding area, and finished goods (like shoes, clothing & furniture) were unloaded and sold in local stores.

The river allowed Helena to thrive as a steamboat port, but it also caused hardship. Entire townships in Phillips County flooded annually due to overflow from the Mississippi and St. Francis rivers. In 1850 the leading causes of death in Phillips County were cholera and scarlet fever, usually brought on by ingesting contaminated well water or drinking water directly from one of the nearby rivers. The summer months brought an exodus of those with the means to do so to "the ridge," where they could escape high water, hot temperatures, and disease. Like many river towns, Helena was described as being "wild and wooly," with plenty of gambling, prostitution, violence, and other crime. And the nearby bayous, canebrakes, and swamps provided excellent hideouts for criminals and fugitives

of all sorts. By 1860 Helena was the largest Arkansas town on the Mississippi River.

*The Battle of Helena*—In July 1862 Union troops under the command of Major General Samuel R. Curtis took control of Helena. Because of Helena's strategic location on the MS River, Union troops were able to use it as a supply depot in their siege of Vicksburg. On July 4, 1863, Confederate troops attempted to recapture Helena and suffered a devastating loss. The replica of Union Fort Curtis at the southwest corner of York and Columbia streets (takes up one block bounded by Columbia, York, Beech, and Elm) was dedicated in a public ceremony on May 11, 2012.

In the early years, when Helena thrived as a river port, commercial buildings were concentrated along Water Street, which is no longer extant, and Ohio Street, which is a block to the east of Cherry Street. Flooding in 1867 washed away many of the original buildings close to the river, and the riverbank gradually eroded until Water Street was no longer there. It fell into the MS River piece by piece. And as you can see, Ohio Street does not run all the way down to Missouri because of the levee (current levee position dates to the 1930s after the 1927 Flood). By 1880 most businesses were locating along Cherry Street, which then became Helena's commercial corridor.

An 1888 Helena City Directory was quite optimistic about the future of the city, saying,

“It is an old saying and one that has been repeated so often that people have almost begun to believe in it, that affairs in the South are not as prosperous as they were ‘befo’ the wah.’ To use a somewhat vulgar but forcible expression, this is unmitigated rot. Not only are things as prosperous, but they are a great deal more so than they were before let the unpleasantness, and nowhere is this made more self evident than in towns that formerly were comparatively unheard of...Helena..., above all others, is

destined not only to be the leading town in the state, but one of the leading, if not in time the leading, town on the lower Mississippi River.”

Railroads came to Helena in the early 1870s and eventually surpassed steamboats as the major mode of transportation. The Iron Mountain & Helena (later the St. Louis, Iron Mountain & Southern, which in 1917 became the Missouri Pacific) was the first railroad in Helena. It was followed closely by the Arkansas Central Railroad, which in 1872 completed a line from Helena to Brinkley to Clarendon. Five years later the Arkansas Central was purchased by Helena resident Sidney Hornor, who operated it as the Arkansas Midland Railway. The AR Midland ran a “doodlebug” passenger train from Helena to Brinkley to Clarendon and back each day until 1952.

The Louisiana, New Orleans & Texas Railroad came to Helena at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. It later became the Yazoo & Mississippi Valley, and in 1946 it became the Illinois Central Railroad. Before a railroad bridge was constructed over the Mississippi River at Helena, transfer boats were used to carry railcars across the MS River. Probably the most well-known of these boats was the *Pelican*, a transfer boat for the Yazoo & Mississippi Valley Railroad. The *Pelican* operated in Helena from 1930 to 1971 and had two rows of rails so it could carry 15 to 20 railcars at a time.

And the Missouri & North Arkansas RR came to Helena in 1906 (in 1946 it became the Helena & Northwestern).

In the 1940s, Missouri Pacific ran 5 passenger trains in and out of Helena each day, and they also ran a “doodlebug” from Helena to Memphis every day. By 1973 only one railroad operated in Helena—the Missouri Pacific.

*King Biscuit Time*—In 1941 radio station KFFA 1360 AM first aired “King Biscuit Time.” The program has become the longest-running daily blues radio show in the United States. It is named after King Biscuit Flour, which was distributed throughout the Delta by the Interstate Grocery Company. The company agreed to

sponsor a radio show for Sonny Boy Williamson and his band in exchange for commercials for King Biscuit Flour. Legendary blues musicians Sonny Boy Williamson, Robert Jr. Lockwood, Pinetop Perkins, and James Peck Curtis performed on the show and laid the foundation for rock and roll, pop, blues, and hip-hop music we hear today. “Sunshine” Sonny Payne began hosting the show in 1951 and continues to broadcast King Biscuit Time every weekday at noon from his studio in the Delta Cultural Center.

*West Helena*—By the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, Edward C. Hornor, his cousin, John S. Hornor, and their friend, James R. Bush, looked to the west side of Crowley’s Ridge for the growth of Helena. In 1907 Bush purchased the 2,358-acre Hoggatt Clopton Plantation, and in 1908 sold it to E. C. Hornor. In 1910 Edward Hornor had the land platted for development, with special 10-acre industrial sites along the Missouri & North Arkansas Railroad. E. C. Hornor then conveyed most of the land to the West Helena Company, which consisted of himself, John S. Hornor, and James Tappan Hornor. The West Helena Company bought the Helena Street & Interurban Railroad Co. in October 1909, cut a track through the ridge, and built a streetcar line to connect Helena and West Helena (incorporated in 1917). [The new town was called West Helena in order to receive the same favorable shipping rates from the railroads??] The streetcar ran down Cherry Street until 1933 (and you can still see some of the track around Cherry & Porter). In 2006 the cities of Helena and West Helena consolidated.

### **Helena Depot/Missouri Pacific Railroad Depot (NR-listed 11/5/87)**

Built about 1915 (1913 Sanborn shows depot and says “from plans”) to serve as the regional headquarters for the St. Louis, Iron Mountain & Southern Railroad (which became MoPac in 1917). It was designed in the Mediterranean style of architecture like many depots from the early 20<sup>th</sup> century and features a red tile roof, widely overhanging eaves with triangular knee braces (or brackets), and some Classical detailing in its arched windows with keystones. Now part of DCC.

## **Missouri Street Buildings**

101 Missouri—Garofas Building (Rio Lindo). Built 1932. Features a shaped parapet and a name plate reading “1932 Garofas.” Housed a variety of restaurants over the years, including the Bell Café, Nick’s Café, and Casqui’s Café.

Mabie Furniture Co. Building—Non-contributing. Built on the site of a filling station.

113-117 Missouri—1-story commercial building with 4 storefronts. Built 1928. Non-contributing. Housed a variety of restaurants and retail businesses.

119-121 Missouri—2-story. Built ca. 1900. See cast-iron storefront components and transom windows. Housed restaurant, liquor store, and a saloon in the early years. Later home to Brocato’s Store and the Brocato Busline, which ran from Helena to Clarendon.

2-story red brick on next corner—not in district boundary, but built about 1915 to house a grocery store.

## **CHERRY STREET**

### **100 block, west side**

103-105 Cherry (historically 101-109 Cherry)—Built ca. 1913. Beginning in the early 1920s, the corner storefront was occupied by the Busy Bee Café (had great hamburgers), followed by the Garofas Café, and later Sally’s Café (by 1968).

The next portion (where it says Antiques) was divided into two storefronts and in the early 1920s housed the South End Barber Shop, run by A. G. Martin, and Danziger & Mayer Dry Goods. C. E. Mayer & Sons Dry Goods later occupied this whole portion and the part to the north. The Mayer Department Store closed in the 1980s.

Before it was part of the Mayer Department Store, the northernmost portion was also divided into two storefronts and in the early 1920s housed the Mississippi Café and the Richard Waddell eating house.

111-113 Cherry—Built 1909. Originally had 2 storefronts and housed four businesses--in the early 1920s it was occupied by Frank Jannusa's Shoe Repair, Shadd & Bowman Barber shop, Barry Watch & Jewelry Co., and I. S. Rogers soft drinks. Later converted to one large commercial space and was home to the Parker Hardware Company.

115-117 Cherry (now a vacant lot; buildings burned 2012)—Built about 1913. In the 1920s, the building was occupied by the Great Eastern Sales Co. The space was later split into two storefronts. 115 housed the People's Grill, which was run by a Greek family and stayed open all night long. By the late 1960s, it was Mallards Shoe Shop.

Four Vacant Lots—four historic commercial buildings that housed numerous businesses.

**Delta Cultural Center Visitor's Center**—southernmost building was constructed about 1995 or 1996 to replace a historic commercial building on that site. It was deemed too deteriorated to be saved. In the 1940s, that building housed the New York Bargain Store and McCarty Furniture.

The middle building is historic (built ca. 1905) and in the 1920s housed the Justrite Drug Store (left) and the Dixie Furniture Company (right). By the 1940s, it was J. L. Altman's Clothing in the southern storefront and McEntire's Furniture & Electric Co., which sold hardware, furniture, and appliances, in the northern storefront.

The northernmost portion of DCC was built about 1905 on the former site of the streetcar barn. In the 1920s it housed H. C. Porter's Grocery Store. The brick façade was later altered with lacquered panels. The Red Ball Dry Goods Store operated from 1930 until 1970.

### **100 block, east side**

The area across from DCC—The 1907 and 1913 Sanborn maps show 4 beer depots on the lot where the Cherry Street Pavilion (stage) is now located. In 1907 they were labeled Pabst Beer Depot, Chattanooga Brewing Co. Depot, Cooks Beer Depot, and Schlitz Beer Depot. They were gone by about 1915.

Sometime in the 1930s or '40s, there was a Pure Oil service station constructed on the site of the old drive-thru bank (branch of Helena National Bank).

### **200 block, west side**

**The KIPP School on the west side of Cherry Street was built about 2003. But it was constructed to fit in with the historic character of the street.**

223 Cherry—Built ca. 1905. Housed a restaurant and grocery for many years. In the early 1920s this was the office of Fredrick William Haury, jeweler and optometrist. By the 1950s, this became Bert's Appliance and TV Sales and Service. The upstairs portion also functioned as a small boarding house/hotel. The building is currently owned by DCC, and the upstairs is a loft apartment.

227-229 Cherry—Built ca. 1905. Notice the rough-cut stone columns on the storefront, as well as the cast-iron columns and transom windows. In the early 20s, the southern storefront (left) was Smith Furniture Company, and the northern storefront (right) was Abraham Goldsmith Dry Goods. The upstairs housed offices for the American National Insurance Co., Metropolitan Life Insurance Co., Planters Cotton Co., and Walton & Co. (loans). 227 Cherry continued to house a furniture and farm implement business until at least the 1950s. By the late 1960s, it was the Goodwill store. From the 1930s until the 1970s, 229 Cherry was the Boston Store (chain dry goods/department store), run by C. L. Harris.

233 Cherry—Built ca. 1900 as a 2-story building with two (and by the 1920s, three) storefronts. From its construction until the early 1920s, the left portion was



a grocery store. Then it housed the office of A. V. McCarty (loans/installments) and the Queen Candy Kitchen. The corner portion of the building (on right) has been a drug store for most of its existence. In the 1920s it was Miles Pharmacy, and by the 1950s, it was Henri's Drug Store (which had a lunch counter). There was also a Henri's Liquor Store in the building. The building was damaged by fire in the 1950s and was shortened to 1-story (and the front was rebricked).

Could point down to white building at corner of Elm & Walnut—Ragsdale's City Service Station.

### **200 block, east side**

#### **Yazoo & Mississippi Valley Railroad Freight Depot**

By 1900 the Yazoo & MS Valley RR had built a combination passenger and freight depot on the SE corner of Cherry & Elm (parking lot now). But about 1915, the railroad built two new depots on this block. The freight depot & railway express office is still here (now part of KIPP school), but the 2-story passenger depot sat at the corner of Cherry & Elm and was demolished in the 1960s. [In 1946 it became the Illinois Central RR. The railroad offices were upstairs, and the lobby was downstairs.]

**Heading north on Cherry Street, cross Elm (stay on east sidewalk).**

### **300 block, west side**

303-305 Cherry St.—there were originally two 2-story buildings on this corner, but they were destroyed by fire in 1935 and rebuilt/repared as one-story buildings. The former 2-story building at 303 Cherry housed the Wooten-Epes (Epps) Co. before it burned in 1935, and the company reopened next door at 305 Cherry, so 305 was Epes Hardware, Feed & Seed store from ca. 1935 until the 1960s. Epes later moved two storefronts to the north (and 305 became Elliott's Jewelry). After Epes moved to 305, 303 Cherry was J.C. Penney from the 1940s to the late 1980s. See J. C. Penney in the tile.

307 Cherry St.—Built late 1890s. In the 20s, it was Bell-McGuffey Drug Company, and F. L. Williams had a dentist office upstairs. Has been Gist Music since the 1940s. Mr. Gist still runs the business, and he is in his 80s. This was a popular place for area blues musicians to shop and hang out.

309 Cherry—Built late 1890s. In the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, this was Upshaw Hardware Company, which sold everything from hardware to wallpaper, books, stationery, and Queensware (expensive china). By the 1960s, the Wooten-Epes Co. was here at 309. Notice the staircase providing access to the second floor, which would have housed professional offices (likely doctors, dentists, lawyers, etc.).

Notice that these buildings have rounded arch window openings on the second story, which represents a vernacular, or local, interpretation of the Romanesque style of architecture. And they feature brick corbelling at the cornice. Also notice cast-iron storefront components—Mesker and others.

315 Cherry (Myrna's)—From the 1910s until the early 1930s, this was C. L. Moore & Bros. wholesale and retail grocery. Then it housed a variety of businesses, including Scott's 5 & 10, T, G & Y (5 & 10), Barnett's, Harry McCarty's Furniture Store, and Myrna's.

Next building to north w/ plywood on lower façade—in 1910s this was the Graham-White Dry Goods store. By the early 20s, it was The Famous Dry Goods Store.

Vacant lot—was a 3-story building here that dated to at least 1900. It housed the Truemper Furniture Store. You can still see the kick plate. It was demolished about 2000. Notice the ghost sign painted on the side wall of the next building.

323 Cherry—in the 1920s, this was D. A. Halpern's Dry Goods with Dr. S. H. Hargroves (physician) and Dr. C. W. Preston (dentist) as well as the National Life Insurance Co. upstairs. From the early 1950s to the 1970s, Michael Lazar's Men's

and Ladieswear was here, and the Shriners met upstairs. Note the brick hood molding over the upper story windows—vernacular Italianate.

325 Cherry—Built ca. 1900, but had different façade. In the early 20s, this was the Wooten-Epes cotton warehouse with G. H. McFadden & Brothers and the Newburger-Rankin Co. (cotton factors) upstairs.

In the late 1920s or early 30s, the building was remodeled to serve as the Montgomery Ward Department Store. The building features a Spanish Revival design with Mission-style parapets with finials and in-laid tile/terra cotta. Namely, it features Montgomery Ward's corporate symbol, the Goddess of Liberty. The York Street entrance was for the lawn and garden department. I only know of one other Montgomery Ward building like this in Arkansas—it's in Harrison (there was one in Fayetteville, but it has been demolished). Montgomery Ward occupied the building until at least 1970.

329 Cherry—McRee's Model Pharmacy from the 1920s until at least the late 60s. Later J. Beilenson's Jewelry & Fine China. Had a cast-iron pocket watch out front for years.

### **Cross York, going north**

#### **400 block, west side**

401-403-405 Cherry—built ca. 1890. The whole building has a pressed metal upper façade. It has been painted with some sort of plaster/stucco material. Notice storefront columns with Corinthian capitals. Housed dry goods and grocery stores by 1900. 401 Cherry was Altman Bros. Dry Goods in the 1920s and 30s, and since the 1940s, it has been Hart Shoe Store. 403 Cherry was Hickey Hardware in the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century. 405 Cherry housed Barnett's Ladies Store, run by Fred Miller and his sister, Bea. There was a fire in the building, and they moved the business one storefront to the north (407 Cherry). A variety of offices have been located upstairs in the building, including attorneys' offices, real estate offices, and dentists' offices.

407 Cherry—built ca. 1895. Was a wholesale liquor store by 1900 and later served as a saloon. By 1918 it was a dry goods store and haberdashery (sold small articles for sewing, like buttons, thread, zippers, needles, ribbon, etc.). Then Barnett's Ladies Store. Later it was a barber shop, record store (Bowie Records "Bowie"), and Parell & Lowenstein Jewelry through the mid-1980s.

409-411 Cherry—built ca. 1915 to replace an earlier building on this site that burned ca. 1910. Classical Revival influence in the pilasters with cast-stone capitals and projecting metal cornice with dentils. Why called dentils? Looks like teeth. This was built to house the S. H. Kress & Co. Variety Store.

413 Cherry—built ca. 1895. Housed dry goods store. By 1918 this was Woolworth's 10-cent store. Later it was the Crescent Store, which sold jewelry as well as wedding gifts and fine china. Dr. Marvin Meyers, optometrist, also had an office here for many years (20s through 60s).

Vacant lot (pocket park)—previous building housed Tappan Hardware and was later the first location of Sterling's (before it expanded).

417 (pocket park)-419-421 Cherry—from the 1950s through the 70s, the Sterling Store occupied the first floors of these three buildings.

421 Cherry (pink w/ arched parapet)—built ca. 1905. Arched parapet and oval-shaped decorative vents on upper façade. Before this was Sterling's, it was Ms. Holloway's Ladies Store with Dr. Isadore Fink's office upstairs.

423 Cherry (plywood; partial façade demolished within last year)—this was King's Sundries & Gifts, which grew out of the King & Thompson Drug Store after the owners went their separate ways. In the 1960s, this was Smith Shoe Store. In the 1970s it was a hot dog stand and sold Ms. King's chili.

425 Cherry—Hendrix Shoes, known for their Buster Brown shoes. See the old neon sign—featuring Buster Brown and his dog, Tige.

427 Cherry—built ca. 1900. Notice decorative cast-iron column to right side of storefront. This is David Solomon's law office; he is a well-known attorney in Helena (95 years old and still practices). Before it was his office, the building housed the Solomon Shoe Store (his grandfather's?), Mode-o-day (ladies wear), and Geidle & Rothchild's (Geedle & Rochild's) The Leader Store, which sold boy scout uniforms.

429 Cherry—built ca. 1900 and housed the Interstate National Bank of Helena. Later home to Ceiner's (Seener's) Men's Store. This is where Sam Elardo worked sweeping floors when he was just 10 years old. There are now 5 loft apartments upstairs.

### **Cross Rightor, heading north**

**500 block, west side—500 block was the first whole brick block in Helena. Construction gradually worked its way south along Cherry Street.**

Vacant lot at NW corner of Cherry & Rightor—was a 2-story building that housed the Piggly Wiggly store and later the Goodyear Tire Store. About 1957 it blew up due to a gas leak.

507 Cherry—Paramount Theater built ca. 1920 (started off as the Jewell Theatre, run by the Saenger Amusement Company). Colonial Revival façade with cartouche above the middle second story window and decorative tile-capped parapet. The theater is missing its marquee. This was one of several downtown movie theaters in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. We'll get to the others in a few minutes.

509 Cherry—built ca. 1880. Wonderful example of Italianate detailing on commercial buildings with projecting cornice with paired brackets and arched window openings with hood molding. In the early years, this was A. Cotten's Gift

& Stationery store (sold Queen's Ware, which is cream-colored, glazed earthenware or tableware—first created in 18th century England by Wedgwood—they're still in business and have beautiful china). By 1907 it was the Bank of Helena. Then it housed a dry goods store, and from the 1940s to the 60s, it was Rice Hardware. From 1980 until 1998 it was S. Elardo Men's Store.

511 Cherry—The Brunswick Billiards and then Johnston Paint Co. (was there from 1960s to mid-1980s).

513 Cherry—large pink building—originally had 2 storefronts instead of one. The south (left) storefront was Oklahoma Tire and Supply Co. (OTASCO) run by Wally Cox, and the north (right) storefront was Clancy King's Men's Store, and later Osborne-Asborne.

517 Cherry (maroon w/ green trim)—built ca. 1880. Housed Habib's Restaurant, Bakery & Confectioners, which opened here in 1888. It was a Lebanese restaurant and sold fruitcakes around the world. Supposedly, at one time, Habib's was the largest manufacturer of fruitcakes in the world.

Vacant lots—ca. 1900 buildings demolished/one to north burned ca. 1980. Housed a variety of things over the years, including Cunningham's Saloon, Helena Billiards, a barber shop, book store, Allenburg Cleaners, and Mike's Pool Hall.

525 or 529 Cherry? (Messina Wine & Spirits/Real Estate)—ca. 1890 building. Was originally 3 stories tall and designed in the Queen Anne style. In 1900 it housed a drug store on the first floor and the New Southern Hotel on the upper floors. By 1907 the hotel name had changed to the Hotel Cherry. Then it was a rooming house on the upper floors until at least 1926. The Palace Drug Store was on the first floor for many years. Perhaps in the 1930s or 40s, doctor's offices were located in the upper floors. The top floor was removed before 1950, and at a later date, the building was remodeled with stucco and half-timbering.

**Cross Porter, going north—cross Cherry St. to stand in park**

## **600 block, west side**

Court square park—back side of park at NE corner of Porter & Walnut—site of the Grand Opera House from the late 19<sup>th</sup> century until it burned about 1929. NW corner of Porter & Cherry—late 19<sup>th</sup> century and very early 20<sup>th</sup> century—the west side of the 600 block was known as the “Pillow Block” because J. H. Pillow’s Livery and Mule Stables were located here. He also had an upstairs portion where people could rent a room for the night. What was a livery? Horse/wagon stable. About 1915 a brick auto garage building was constructed on this corner and a livery building was situated to its north side. The garage was West-Hornor Motor Co., which was a Chevy dealership, from at least the 1920s until the 1960s. Then West-Hornor built a new building on Perry Street, where they are now located. Arkansas Power & Light occupied a building on this corner after that time??

Round space in middle of park—used to be a fountain there.

NW corner Perry & Cherry—Gulf service station (now a drug store there)

SW corner Perry & Cherry—early on, there were a couple Chinese laundries in this area of the 600 block. By 1926 Jack Porter’s Esso Service Station was here.

## **Spirit of the American Doughboy Monument (NR-listed 5/23/97)**

The monument was erected in 1927 to honor the men and women of Phillips County who served in World War I and was the culmination of nine years of work by the Phillips County Memorial Association, aided by the Seven Generals Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy. It was financed through donations from Phillips County residents, and after almost a decade of effort, on July 10, 1927, the "Spirit of the American Doughboy" monument was dedicated before a crowd of 2,500. The program began with the Marianna military band marching down Cherry Street, and the featured speaker was Sen. Joe T. Robinson. In more

recent memory, “the doughboy” was a popular turn-around spot for teenagers driving “the drag” down Cherry Street.

NE corner of Perry & Cherry—municipal building constructed in 1967.

### **600 block, east side**

#### **Phillips County Courthouse (NR-listed 7/15/77)**

The previous Phillips County Courthouse was located at the NW corner of Franklin & Market streets and was razed when the current courthouse was completed. Those lots became a public playground, known as Solomon Park (the park lot is elevated and accessed by the old courthouse steps). Architect Frank Wooster Gibb of Little Rock designed the current Phillips County Courthouse and Jail. Construction began in the fall of 1913, and the building was completed in the summer of 1915. It was designed in the Classical Revival style with rusticated brick on the basement level, a symmetrical façade, fluted columns with Corinthian capitals, and a projecting metal cornice with dentils.

NE corner Porter & Cherry (now DGB Services)—about 1889 (or maybe 1893?) a 2 ½-story post office and federal building was built on this corner. When the new post office and federal building opened in 1961 (point to it at Walnut & Perry), the old one was soon demolished. The current building was constructed in the mid-1960s and housed the revenue office.

### **Cross Porter, heading south**

#### **500 block, east side**

530 Cherry—Cleburne Hotel was built in 1905. Colonial Revival style with its one-story central entrance portico and detailing above the windows. Named for Confederate General Patrick R. Cleburne, whose adopted home was Helena (he was born in Ireland). Cleburne died in 1864 while leading a charge against the



Union Army at Franklin, TN. In addition to hotel rooms on the upper two floors, the Cleburne had shops on its first level, including a barber shop, tailor, gentlemen's furnishings, and book store.

Bank drive-thru—there were historic buildings in this space. To the north side (left) was the P.O. Café, which was a New Orleans-style restaurant run by a Greek family (George Andrews). They were famous for their cake donuts and remained open until the 1970s. To the south side (right) was the Pastime Theater, which was known for showing sleazy movies and for the rats that ate food thrown on the floor by patrons.

502 Cherry (Southern Bancorp)—ca. 1945 Art Deco-style building with remodeled smooth stone façade. Housed the First National Bank of Helena and now home to Southern Bancorp.

### **Cross Rightor, going south**

**Briefly look east down Rightor**—SW corner of Ohio & Rightor—3-story building was built ca. 1920 and housed the Lewis-Brown Co. Heavy Hardware, which later became Lewis Supply Co. Heavy Hardware (may have also been Southern Hardware?). The next buildings to the south facing Ohio were built ca. 1915 and housed McRae Bros. Wholesale Hardware Co. The railroad tracks used to run along the east side of Ohio Street just across from those buildings and then get back up on the levee heading north.

### **400 block, east side**

430-428-426 Cherry (buff brick)—built ca. 1940 to replace earlier buildings. 430 (corner) was Joe's Super Market, which was operated by a Lebanese man and was well-known for its meats. It closed in the late 1960s and was later Western Auto and a paint store. 428 (Grannydee's) was the first location of S. Elardo Men's Store and other businesses over time. 426 was Hudson's Insurance and later a children's store called Miss Pauline's.

424 Cherry—Malco Theater was built in 1944 and retains its original marquee. It is a good example of Art Deco design with minimal detail on the upper façade, a flat roof with coping, and vertical detail on the marquee. The Malco was put in by the Morris A. Lipman Co. of Memphis. Is used today by the KIPP students!!

420 Cherry—In 1920s and 30s, this was Valorie Weiner's delicatessen and fresh foods. In 1950s, it was an upscale ladies shoe store called Vanette's. Currently being rehabbed as loft apartments.

416 Cherry—From the 1910s through the early 1940s, this was Ware & Solomon's Department Store. Then Graeber's bought it and continued to run it until the 1970s.

414 Cherry—From the 1940s to the 70s, this was a ladies dress shop called Hyman's. They sold furs.

412 Cherry—built ca. 1900. Housed Nickel's Printing Co., which was a print shop and sold stationery and pens.

410 Cherry—built ca. 1900. McCarty's Jewelry Store from the 1940s through 60s.

408 Cherry—built ca. 1900. Was a bank for many years in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Which one? Later West Bros. Department Store and Gibson's Discount Center (which evolved out of West Bros.).

### **Cross York, going south**

**Briefly look east down York**—Helena Wholesale Grocer Co., built about 1910.

### **300 block, east side**

Southeast corner Cherry & York—Before the Nicholas Hotel was constructed, there was a two-story hotel on this corner. In 1900 it was called the Koelen Hotel, and by 1907 it was the Silver Moon Hotel. But by 1913, the 3-story Nicholas Hotel was built on this site (probably constructed ca. 1910). It housed hotel rooms on the upper floors and shops on the first floor. A variety of things were downstairs, including a bank, grocery, drug store, jeweler, restaurants, beauty shops, etc. The building is currently owned by Main Street Helena.

318 Cherry—built ca. 1900. Housed Hargraves General Store in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century and in recent memory, it was Fred's Discount Store (along with the storefront to the south at 314 Cherry).

314 Cherry—built ca. 1920. Tile-capped parapet and decorative vents. Before this was part of Fred's, it was Sears & Roebuck (everyone ordered Christmas toys from Sears catalog).

312 Cherry—built ca. 1900. Since the 1920s or 30s, it was Hargraves Insurance Company with offices upstairs for bookkeepers, accountants, and cotton factors.

310-308 Cherry—built ca. 1905. Features nice stone detailing and raised parapet. 310 Cherry was historically a grocery and then a dry goods & clothing store for many years. In more recent memory, Clancy King started his men's wear store here and later moved down the street to another location. Then it was Ada's Ladies Wear. 308 Cherry was a dry goods store and then a Greek restaurant. Later housed the Green Banana, which was an early gift store that did not sell jewelry (like most of the rest of them). By 1950 this storefront (308) became part of the next building to the south at 306 Cherry (by opening a walkway in the interior wall). So at that time, it was part of Bradfield Printing Co., which later sold to Levine's.

306 Cherry—built ca. 1890. Very unique building on the street because of its glazed green brick façade, bay windows, cast-iron storefront columns, exposed transom windows, and projecting metal cornice with paired brackets. From the

1890s until the 1920s, this was the Black Diamond Drug Store. Later Bradfield Printing Co., which became Levine's. By 1950 it had joined with storefront to north at 308 Cherry.

302 Cherry—Helena National Bank. Was historically known as the Solomon Building and was built in 1909 to replace an earlier structure on this site that burned. The three successful Solomon brothers decided to construct this “skyscraper” in downtown Helena. The building housed offices for doctors, lawyers, and other professionals upstairs and had retail space available on the first floor for beauty shops, drug stores (Thompson Drug), a bank, telegraph office, and the board of trade (forerunner to chamber of commerce). Nice Classical detailing with rusticated quoins, cast-stone lintels and sills, keystones, and a projecting cornice with paired brackets and dentils.