

Walks through History
Hardy Downtown Historic District
Begin in front of the Olde Stonehouse Bed & Breakfast, 108 W. Main, Hardy
June 11, 2016
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 the Hardy Downtown Historic District! I’d like to thank the Sharp County Historical Society for co-sponsoring today’s tour. And I’d like to recognize a few people for their help with the tour—Eva Royal, Louise Wadley, B. J. Martin, Etta Lee DuMond, Freda Gamblin, Elaine Brink, Glenn Mosenthin, Vickie Rice, Bill Russell, and Darrel Taylor.

This tour is worth two hours of HSW continuing education credit through the American Institute of Architects. Please see me after the tour if you’re interested.

The Hardy Downtown Historic District was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1995 because it is the best example of an intact historic commercial district in Sharp County. The district is comprised mostly of historic commercial buildings on Main Street. The boundaries are roughly Front Street, Kelly Avenue, Second Street, and Church Street.

Brief History of Hardy

Sharp County was created by the Arkansas Legislature on June 18, 1868, from part of Lawrence County. The new county was named for its sponsor, Evening Shade legislator Ephraim Sharp. The county seat was established at Evening Shade. In the early 1890s, Hardy was designated as the county seat for the northern judicial district. In the 1960s, the seats of government were consolidated, and the county seat was established at Ash Flat. More on that later.

Hardy grew along the banks of the Spring River after the arrival of the Kansas City, Fort Scott, and Memphis Railroad in 1883. Land for the new town site was provided by early settler Walker Clayton. Interestingly, the town was named Hardy after 25-year-old railroad contractor James A. Hardy, Jr., of Batesville, who had apparently saved his supervisor's life during a fight with a rowdy bunch of railroad workers. The town incorporated in 1894 and grew slowly; most business resulted from its position along the railroad line and its designation as county seat for the northern judicial district.

Beginning in the early 20th century, wealthy Memphians and residents of the Mississippi River Delta vacationed at Hardy. The beautiful landscape coupled with cool breezes from the 58-degree water of the Spring River seemed like a paradise during the hot summer months. [Mammoth Spring, which feeds the Spring River, is the largest natural spring in Arkansas and one of the largest springs in the world. Mammoth Spring produces an average of 9.78 million gallons of water per hour at a constant temperature of 58 degrees Fahrenheit.]

Resorts like the Wahpeton Inn and Cottages and later, Rio Vista, attracted many people to Hardy, swelling the town's population during the summer. To illustrate the town's popularity as a tourist destination, I wanted to read a paragraph that appeared in the *Commercial Appeal* (Memphis) on June 4, 1939. It read:

“Hardy, Playground of the MidSouth: Nestled in the valley between two of the Ozark's most beautiful mountains, with the cool rippling water of the Spring River winding its way over jagged rocks forming snow white falls among its path,

is the ideal vacation spot of the MidSouth—Hardy. High up on the hills, where the hot sun bears down in the day and the cool, gentle winds blow at night, are camps and recreation places where visitors may lounge and forget the troubles of the world. If you like riding, there is a stable where you may rent gentle but spirited horses. If you like tennis, there are four smooth tennis courts where you may get a good coat of tan; bowling? There are two alleys where the ten-pins fall easily; hiking? Beautiful winding trails that climb high into the mountain with scenic views in every direction. And, above all, if you enjoy swimming, there is cool, clear Spring River running in its endless path. High up on the mountain overlooking the river is Wahpeton Inn where there is dancing and merriment at night. A half-mile up the river is Rio Vista, another of Hardy’s most celebrated spots.”

In the early 1950s, year-round retirement communities emerged in the Hardy area, starting in 1953 with Cherokee Village. Ozark Acres, Hidden Valley, and Woodland Hills followed later. To this day, the largest and most important industry in Sharp County is tourism.

Individual Resources:

North side of Main Street, going east from 108 W. Main.

Metcalf House, 108 W. Main (Olde Stonehouse Bed & Breakfast)—

Built in 1928-1929, the Metcalf House exhibits elements of the Craftsman style of architecture with multiple porches, large porch supports, native stone construction, exposed rafter tails (now boxed-in or obscured by guttering), and 3-over-1 windows. The segmental arch openings on the front porch are very similar to those used on the 1936-1937 Esther Locke House at the southeast corner of Spring and Third streets, leading me to believe that the Metcalf House may have been constructed by the same builder, J. W. Boak.

Arthur Metcalf worked as a teacher, service station operator, and cashier at the Hardy Bank. He and his first wife, Cora, had four children. After Cora’s death, he married Lydia Arnold, and they had a son, Richard “Dick” Metcalf. Dick Metcalf was an Arkansas State Representative and later occupied his parents’ home. His

mother, Lydia, ran the bus station, which was located next door at 106 W. Main (The Corner Booth Restaurant). The Metcalf House first opened as a bed and breakfast in 1992 by owners David and Peggy Johnson. In 2001 the property was acquired by Greg and JaNoel Bess, who continued to operate it as a B & B. Current owner Vickie Rice has had the house for four years.

The Corner Booth Restaurant, 106 W. Main—

According to Sanborn Fire Insurance maps, a one-story filling station with large front canopy occupied this site by 1926. Historic photos show the station with mixed masonry walls (stone and brick) and a tile roof. It operated as a Gulf station and also housed the bus station. By the early 1980s, it was Whitey's Gulf & Bus Station. Sometime between 1982 and 1992, the building's roof was replaced with asphalt shingles, the canopy was enclosed, and the original exterior walls were clad with siding.

Woodrow "Woody" Wilson's Mobil Service Station, 100 W. Main (The Native Way)—

Built on the site of the old Hardy Hotel/Hastings Hotel/Commercial Hotel, which was demolished in the late 1940s. The service station was built in 1951 by Leonard Holden to serve as the Woodrow "Woody" Wilson Service Station. It was a Mobil station. It was later Troy Traw's service station. The concrete block building on the west side is a later addition.

Cross Spring Street—point out the Old Hardy Pump/Town Pump, restored in 2005 by the Hardy Water Department and Hardy Garden Club. This pump predates the municipal water system, which was installed in 1934. In the early 20th century, a handful of wells provided water for downtown merchants and their patrons. This particular spot was a favorite for entertainers, preachers, and politicians hoping to attract an audience.

[Need to cross to south side of street to get a better view of buildings on north side.]

Biggers Mercantile Building—

According to *The Hardy History* (p. 38) as well as Sanborn Fire Insurance maps, the present Biggers Building was constructed in the 1920s, not 1908. Robert S. “Bob” Biggers established the Biggers Mercantile Store in a wood-frame building on this site in 1908. He built the present structure in the 1920s to replace his wood-frame building. The present Biggers Building was constructed with ornamental concrete block, a popular building material during the early 20th century because it was durable and fireproof. After her father’s death in the early 1950s, Dolly Biggers operated the store, which was then called The R. S. Biggers Company. The Biggers Store sold groceries, dry goods, and shoes. Locals remember the big stove in the back corner of the building, where the women of Hardy gathered on Saturdays. Notice the Biggers name in the front tile by door and pressed tin ceilings.

Shackelford Tax Service/Ozark Originals Hardy Quilting Co., 110 E. Main—
The west side of the first floor of this building dates to ca. 1895 and was constructed using rough-cut stone (you can see a difference from the rest of material). The original structure was constructed to house the Hardy Bank. The remainder of the building, including the eastern storefront and second story, was added ca. 1914 and was constructed using ornamental concrete block. The building appears on the 1914 Sanborn map as a bank (west) and grocery (east). The Hardy Bank opened in 1895 with Walker Clayton as president. It was succeeded by the Farmers Bank of Hardy, which failed during the Great Depression. A limited service cooperative bank operated by Tom Walker was located here from the early 1930s until 1960, when it merged with the First National Bank of Batesville, Hardy Branch. Walker and his wife, Berta, lived in the 1925 stone house at 201 Spring Street (NR-listed 1/20/05; *Words & Afterwords*). The west storefront of this building still has a vault inside from its days as a bank. The east storefront housed the Gilliam & Ritchie Grocery Store, followed by the post office.

Cochran Building (1913), 112-114 E. Main (Ozark Rustic Charm/The Needlework Shop/Treasure Chest Woodshop)—

Built in 1913 by Alice Cochran (notice the cast-stone nameplate in the upper façade). Historically, the west side (112) of the building housed restaurants,

including the Gem Café, Goff Café, Bonnie's Café, and Millie's Café. It was later home to Sullivan TV Repair, Jesus is Lord Ministry Thrift Shop, Dub Garner's Shoe Shop, and Kid's Casuals.

The east side (114) has been Dot's Gift Shop, Dolph Street's Grocery, Chatham's Drug, a pool hall and beer joint, Garner's Antiques, a photo shop, Army Surplus store, Harrell's Fashions, and Ed Williams's Air Conditioning Service.

Cochran Building (ca. 1915), 116 E. Main (Ozark Classic Crafts Mall)—

This building was also constructed by the Cochran family. It housed the Ozark Theater. Although the interior has been significantly altered, the stage from the movie theater is still visible. The Hardy School System had beauty contests and shows in the theater. Admission was 15 cents and later went up to 35 cents.

Biggers and Johnston Building (1920), 118 E. Main (Memory Lane Antique Mall)—

The Biggers and Johnston Building was constructed in 1920 (see nameplate) by R. S. Biggers and W. J. "Doc" Johnston to house their Ford dealership. The showroom was on the first floor, and a ramp from First Street provided access to the second story, where the cars were stored. After the car dealership, the building housed a lumber and hardware store (run by the Johnsons?). In 1942 the building was purchased by W. E. "Bud" Horrell, who operated Horrell's Grocery here until the mid-1970s. Jack Horrell then had a furniture store here until 1990, when he sold to Ronald Martin.

Abee Building (1936), 120-122 E. Main (Bruno's Antiques/Barber Shop)—

Walter Abee barbered in an earlier building on this site beginning in 1926. He demolished the wood-frame building and constructed the present stone structure in 1936. Walter barbered on the east side of the building (122), and his wife, Helen, had a beauty shop on the west side (120). This was later Dink Booth's Barber Shop. The current barbers, Bill Russell and Darrel Taylor, have been working here since 1961 and 1970, respectively.

Sam Young Building (1928-1929), 124 E. Main (Cruiser's)—

Built in 1928-1929 by Sam and Betty Young to house the Sam Young Grocery Store. It was later the Eph Rogers Grocery, Dark Liquor Store, The Green Rabbit Tavern (pre-1944), Roy Orr Realty, and several shops and discount stores. More recently, it has been a series of restaurants. The bar from the Rogers Drug Store soda fountain is in Cruiser's (Rogers Drug was across the street at 119 E. Main, now Flat Creek Dulcimer Shop).

126 E. Main (vacant), stone with painted stucco upper façade—
Built ca. 1930?

Sam Young Building (1929), 128 E. Main (Silver Dragon)—
Built in 1929 by Sam Young. Over the years, it has housed the Sam Young Grocery Store, Brad's Café, Joan's Café, a laundromat, the Hardy Auction House, Dub's Wholesale, and Grandma Hardy's Craft Mall.

Snow Building (1924), 130 E. Main (Cluttered Cupboard)—
This building was constructed in 1924 by William Snow to house Snow's Drug Store. It was later occupied by the Hoop-er-Doo Café, Higginbotham Funeral Home, J. W. Best Funeral Home, Uncle Dudley's General Store, and several antique stores. Building has interesting zipper brick at the entrance.

Memories on Main (1953), 132 E. Main—
Before this building was constructed in 1953, this vacant lot at the corner of Main and Johnston streets was used as a place for patrons of downtown businesses to tie their horses. The first business in this building was Hoyt's Restaurant. A boarding house was operated out of the second floor.

Cross Johnston Street

Johnston Drug Store Building (1897), 200-202 E. Main (Hardy Pottery/Horton's Music)—
A one-story, rough-cut stone building was constructed here in 1897 and housed Schenck Drug Store. William J. "Doc" Johnston soon acquired the building for his

drug store and medical practice. According to local history, Johnston added the second story in 1922; however, Sanborn maps from 1926 show the building as one-story in height. Regardless, a second story was added by Johnston, probably in the late 1920s or early 1930s. The building later housed the *Sharp County Independent* newspaper, published by Ben Daulton beginning in 1935. Daulton was known for his good editorials. He also served as Hardy's mayor and literally swept the streets of downtown Hardy every day. The *Independent* was published regularly until 1966. Daulton's wife, Helen, taught English and "culture" at Hardy. In May 1980 Dale and Liane Maddox purchased the building and opened Hardy Pottery.

The eastern storefront (202; Horton's Music) was originally a general store and by 1926, a bakery. Historic photos show the name "A. F. Thompson" on the window of this storefront. Possibly Thompson's bakery? In more recent memory, this was Viner's Dime Store (or variety store).

Notice the building's cast-iron storefront columns, manufactured by the Chickasaw Iron Works in Memphis.

Old Hardy Hotel/DeWitt Hotel and Rooming House, 204 E. Main—

Built in 1927 by Riley DeWitt using salvaged materials from the old Billingsley Hotel, which was located on the south side of Main between Spring and Johnston streets and burned earlier that decade. This building served as a hotel and rooming house until the 1960s. Since then, it has been a beauty and dress shop, refrigerator repair shop, the Blue Goose Café, Horrell's Grocery, Groves Drapery Shop, an ice cream parlor, AAA Farm Agency Office, and antique stores. A few years ago, the building's owners reported hearing footsteps upstairs and lights being turned on and off inexplicably. They called paranormal investigators to check it out. The paranormal team detected four or five spirits in the building, none of which were threatening. The ghost story goes like this: a soldier stopped in Hardy in the early 1940s and visited a bar in the vicinity. He got into a fight with some men over a card game, and they followed him back to his hotel room and beat him to death. According to my sources, this is not true. However, there was a fight in the street in front of the hotel, and a man's thumb was bitten off.

Notice the haunted sign in the hotel window.

DeWitt Building, 206 E. Main (Moss Main Street Flea Market)—

Built in 1930 by Riley DeWitt as two small buildings using materials salvaged from the old Billingsley Hotel. These buildings have housed Groves Barber Shop, Higginbotham's Café, Kelly's Law Office, Simpson Jewelry, Parker's Shoe Shop, and served as apartments. The buildings were combined into one structure in 1989, and it has since been The Frosted Mug, Mom's Frosted Mug, the Derby Pie Shop, Ozark Mountain Creations, Cactus Corner, and Kozey Kandles.

Red Hog T-shirt Shop, 208 E. Main—

Constructed about 1970. A residence occupied this site prior to the construction of this building.

Expressions Tattoo/Hardy Boys Thrift Store, 210-212 E. Main—

Built in the 1950s by Leonard Holden to serve as a lumber company and building supply business (Holden Supply). It was later Sparrows Book Shop, owned by Louie Cybert. By the 1960s, it was a used appliance and furniture store.

Leaves & Beans, 214 E. Main—

Built in the late 1960s or early 1970s to house Touch of Country Collectibles, owned by the Ratliff family.

Old First Baptist Church/Garner Chapel Church of God, 216 E. Main (Charlie's Lost & Found)—

What is now the basement level of the building was constructed in 1940 to house Hardy's First Baptist Church. The sanctuary (upper level) was built in 1953. This building served the Baptist congregation until 1977, when the Baptist Church moved to a new building at 411 Church Street in Hardy. The Baptist congregation operated a thrift store in this building for a few years to raise money for furnishings in its new location. It was later sold to the Garner Chapel Church of God, which held services here for several years.

Cross Kelly Avenue

Spring River Art Gallery, 300 E. Main—

This building is actually two historic homes, one in front of the other, that have been connected. The rear structure was built about 1915 and served as a single-family residence until 1938, when it was used as a duplex. It is known as the Musetta Pressley Duplex. Robert and Marilyn Oldfield lived in one part of the building and opened Oldfield's Gifts and Variety in the other part (what year?). The house closest to Main Street was built in the late 1920s and in 1929 became the home of Ciddie Phillips. This is called a "central hallway" house because it has two rooms with a central hall and one front door. It was a common vernacular house type during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. According to local history, Ciddie Phillips was disabled and used crutches to walk. She was also a very small person. In October 1942 she was killed by a driver on Main Street who did not see her and backed an automobile over her. She is buried in the Hardy Cemetery. The house was then purchased by Ernest Raymond Daugherty, who rented the property to the W. E. Horrell family (owners of Horrell's Grocery). In the 1940s, the Woodrow Wilson family lived in a house next door to the Horrells. The Wilson House burned in the 1940s. According to Jack Horrell, the Wilson family had just bought a new car at the time of the fire, and it was parked near the house. The keys to the car were inside the burning structure, so the men who came to fight the fire picked up the car and carried it to safety. In the 1950s, the Ciddie Phillips House was occupied by Horace and Lela Phelps, and by the 1970s, it was the home of the Mullins family.

Art Moderne service station, 302? E. Main—

Correct me if I'm wrong, but it is my understanding that Woodrow Wilson had a house and service station here until the house (and possibly the station) burned in the 1940s. Wilson then relocated to the service station at the northwest corner of Main and Spring (Native Way), which was built for him in 1951, and also built a new home west of the Metcalf House (Olde Stonehouse B & B).

The present Art Moderne-style service station was constructed in 1949. The Art Moderne style became popular in the 1930s and imitated the design of modern machines, emphasizing the importance of new technology. Buildings in the style

usually featured rounded corners, flat roofs, and horizontal grooves or lines in the walls.

This was Ralph Hall's Service Station, followed by Carpenter's, Lute's, and Josh Oiler's stations, and Wilson's Texaco. It was then owned by Mary Jo Higginbotham and used as storage for Higginbotham Funeral Home next door. The station was restored in 2013.

Higginbotham Funeral Service (1960), E. Main—

This buff brick building was constructed in 1960 to house Higginbotham Funeral Service. It is a Mid-Century Modern house with a flat roof with metal coping, unornamented wall surfaces, and a screen block wall on the eastern elevation (carport).

Weaver House, 304 E. Main (NR-listed 12/17/1998)—

Mrs. Elzie Weaver built this house between 1924 and 1926 for her daughters, Orthany and Addie (Mrs. Weaver operated the Weaver Hotel on the south side of Main Street near the present site of Capone's Auto Repair). It was later occupied by Ulman G. U. Nicks and his wife, Molly Carpenter Nicks. It is an excellent example of a raised bungalow designed in the Craftsman style with a large front porch, exposed rafter tails, native stone construction, and triangular knee braces in the dormer gable end.

South side of Main, going west

Hardy Cemetery Historic Section (NR-listed 3/2/2006)—

The Hardy Cemetery contains the remains of town founders and early residents and merchants. The earliest marked grave dates to 1888 and belongs to William C. Adams. The cemetery contains several Woodmen of the World markers. Woodmen of the World was a fraternal benefit society founded in 1890 at Omaha, Nebraska, by Joseph C. Root, who was inspired by a sermon he heard in which the preacher talked about "pioneer woodsmen clearing away the forest to provide for their families." Root wanted to clear away financial problems for the society's members and provide them with life and burial insurance. Woodmen of

the World provided grave markers to its members. The earlier markers are shaped like tree stumps. There are also children's markers in the cemetery topped by a lamb (innocence; Jesus as the Lamb of God) and a dove (Holy Spirit).

Stone filling station (painted green)—

Built in 1940 and housed a Mobil service station, Garner's Service Station, and Phelps Café and 66 Service Station. It later housed restaurants, a flower shop, and car and RV dealers. At one time, government commodities were distributed from the basement of this building.

Cross Kelly Ave.

Hardy Auction/The Cozy Nook, 221-223 E. Main—

Built to be Jackson Lumber Company (late 1950s or early '60s).

Bear Bluff Craft Mall (stone building with painted façade)—

Built ca. 1920 to house the Jim Burrows Grocery Store.

Old Sharp County Courthouse, Northern District (1894), 213 E. Main (Whimsical Dreams & Designs in Glass/Historic Courthouse Calaboose Trading/Picker Sisters)—

After Sharp County's creation in 1868, the county seat was established at Evening Shade. However, residents in the northern part of the county complained about the long and difficult journey to Evening Shade to conduct county business, so in the early 1890s, the state legislature divided the county into two judicial districts. In 1893 Sharp County designated \$10,000 to build two new courthouses—one at Evening Shade (southern district) and one at Hardy (northern district).

Construction on the Sharp County Courthouse at Hardy began in early 1894, and the building was completed by October 1894. The contract was awarded to Cypert, Bush, and Huckins. The building was 2 ½ stories tall and had a mansard roof with four dormers on the east and west sides of the roof. The bottom two floors were constructed with limestone quarried at Ravenden and brought here on the train. The lumber for the top ½ story came from Melbourne by ox cart. The

courtroom was located on the second floor, and the local Masonic lodge met in the top ½ story in the early 20th century. In addition to its county government functions, the building was an important community gathering place.

Sometime between 1914 and 1926, a small jail was constructed at the southeast corner of the courthouse. The old steel cell came out of the jail at Evening Shade and is still inside the building today.

At some point, the roofline of the courthouse was altered. The dormers were removed, and a gabled roof was placed on top of the original mansard roof, giving the building a gambrel-shaped roof.

Sharp County had two county seats until the late 1960s, when the seats of government were consolidated and relocated to Ash Flat. The courthouse at Ash Flat was built in 1967. The Hardy Courthouse was then sold to Mary Causbie, who remodeled the building to house a ready-to-wear store and beauty shop. On the evening of February 10, 1974, the courthouse was significantly damaged by fire. Ms. Causbie remodeled what was left of the old courthouse and converted it into a series of shops. The two wings were built at that time.

Old Time Candy Shoppe—

Built ca. 1930 as a two-story, stone, L-shaped building (the green building wasn't there—it was built much later inside the L). By 1939, this was the Cochran Service Station, which sold ESSO products.

Present site of N-sta Smile and The Potato Garden—

Earlier buildings on this site were destroyed by fire in the early 1980s. One woman was killed in the blaze.

Chapman Building (1938), southeast corner of Main & Johnston—

Built in 1938 to house T. H. Chapman's General Store. It was later Jackson Hardware. By 1953, it was the Spring River Bakery. An auto garage was located in the basement level of the building. In the mid-to-late 1950s, this building housed the first antique store in Hardy, Hardy House Antiques. In more recent memory, it was an arcade called Ozark Starcade.

Cross Johnston St.

Dr. Thompson Park, southwest corner of Main & Johnston—

This corner is the site of the ca. 1905 brick Walker Clayton General Store. Clayton was a prominent landowner and merchant in Hardy and donated land for the original town of Hardy as well as the Hardy Cemetery. His name is the first one listed on the town's incorporation papers from 1894. After Clayton's death in 1918, the building on this site was occupied by H. C. Daugherty & Company, general merchandise. The building was gone by 1977 and it has been a vacant lot ever since. The park was dedicated in 1999 to honor Audrey Thompson, Ph.D., Hardy historian and lifelong resident.

Flat Creek Dulcimer Shop, 119 E. Main—

Built ca. 1920 to serve as Tompkins Motor Company (see ghost sign on front façade). It later served as the Hays Theater, but it is best remembered as Rogers Drug Store and Soda Fountain (the bar from the soda fountain is now in Cruiser's). Jeff Kamps opened the dulcimer shop here in 1988.

Hattie's Ice Cream Parlor—

This was a vacant lot in 1970.

113-115 E. Main (vacant & Video Real Estate)—

Built ca. 1930, this native stone building has a stucco and brick façade. In the 1950s, the storefront on the left (115) housed the offices of the Ark-Mo Power Company and later, the *Spring River Times*, followed by a leather shop. The storefront on the right (113) was another home of Hubert Daugherty's Mercantile.

Sullivan Building (ca. 1926), 111 E. Main (Jade's)—

Built ca. 1924 by Arthur Sullivan—the building doesn't show up on the 1926 Sanborn map, and Arthur Sullivan died in 1926. I think it was built after 1926, perhaps by his son, Carmack Sullivan.

This was Arthur Snow's Drug Store. In more recent memory, it was a Christian Science Reading Room.

Sullivan Building (1923), 107-109 E. Main—

Built in 1923, this building housed the law offices of Hardy attorney Arthur Sullivan and later, his son, Carmack Sullivan, who followed in his father's footsteps. Carmack Sullivan's law office was upstairs. He was elected mayor of Hardy in 1931 and received national recognition as the youngest mayor in the country. By the late 1930s, the post office occupied the west side of the first floor in this building. The first floor was later home to Harold Hirsch's Feed Store.

Pig 'n Whistle, 107 E. Main—

The west side of what is now the Pig 'n Whistle was Tennie Meeker's Café. Tennie Meeker was one of Hardy's interesting characters. She cooked enough food for the entire week on Mondays and served the leftovers until they ran out. Locals knew that her food was best on Mondays, but tourists often fell victim to her trick. The building later housed Virgil's Fish (1970s-1990s) and then, Donahoe's Beans & Cornbread. In 2011 Philip and Rebecca Ashcroft bought the old café and remodeled it to serve as a British-themed restaurant (Philip was born in Liverpool and Rebecca's family is from Hardy; they met while working for Disney Cruise Line).

Hardy History Fence—

This was the site of the wood-frame R. M. Jackson Mercantile Company, built ca. 1890 (Robert M. Jackson acquired the business in 1897). Jackson later built the brick building at the southeast corner of Main & Spring for his business. This has been a vacant lot for a long time.

Jackson Building (ca. 1920), 101-103 E. Main (Miller's Leather Shop)—

Robert Mann "Bob" Jackson constructed this brick building to house the R. M. Jackson Mercantile Company, which had previously occupied a wood-frame building just to the east of here.

Beginning in the mid-1940s, the eastern (left) storefront housed Robert Clay's first Piggly Wiggly grocery store. After being discharged from the Navy, Clay returned to Hardy to visit his sister. They decided to make some lemonade, so they walked a quarter-mile to the nearest grocery store and asked for lemons. They were told that the lemons would have to be ordered. Disappointed about the lack of available fresh produce, Clay decided to get in the grocery business. He bought C. R. Horrell's Piggly Wiggly Grocery Store and never looked back. Robert Clay and his wife, Kathleen, eventually owned 22 Price Chopper and Town & Country grocery stores throughout Arkansas. Their daughter, Renee Clay-Circle, announced last month that she would sell the Hardy Price Chopper to Bill Orr, who would open a Cash Saver grocery in the same building on the west end of Main.

The west storefront (right) was home to Western Auto.

Ernie Patton painted the mural on the west side of the building.

Businesses were also located in the basement level of this building, including The Underground Tavern (pre-1944) and a hamburger joint owned by Mrs. Leonard.

Point down Spring Street—the Frisco Railroad Depot was located near the southeast corner of Spring Street and the railroad tracks. It was demolished in 1980, and the site is now occupied by BNSF Railroad equipment.

Old First National Bank of Batesville/Iberia Bank, southwest corner of Spring & Main—

This corner was occupied by an early 20th century commercial building that last housed Conway Horn's Dry Goods Store before it was demolished in the early 1970s to make way for the present structure. This building was constructed to house the First National Bank of Batesville, Hardy Branch. In more recent memory, it was an Iberia Bank. Although most of you probably don't think it's a pretty building, it is an excellent example of Brutalist architecture. Brutalism was popular from the 1950s to the 1970s and represented a rebellion against the sleek, smooth appearance of early modern architecture. Brutalist buildings often appear very fortress-like and employ exposed concrete construction, giving the building a rough, or more tactile, exterior.

A dairy bar and post office were located just west of the old Conway Horn Dry Goods Store.

Capone's Auto Repair—

Before the service station was constructed, this was the site of the Weaver Hotel, built near the turn of the 20th century by Mary Irene "Mollie" Biggers and operated by Mrs. Elzie Weaver and later, Bertha Groves, until the hotel burned in the mid-1940s.

I think this was built as an ESSO station. It had the unique flare roof design until recently (the roofline was not altered until after 2001). And it still retains some of its baked enamel panels. In the 1970s, this was Bill Shaver's Exxon Station.

110 W. Main (Woodrow Wilson House)—

Second home of Woodrow Wilson. His father-in-law, Charlie Hall, was a blacksmith and made custom iron gates. Notice the gate here has a "W" on it.

105 W. Main—

Probably built in the 1960s, this building has a unique pavilion roof, better known as a "Pizza Hut roof." It was Bill Higginbottom's real estate office.

FNBC (First National Banking Co.)—

This was the site of an earlier Piggly Wiggly Supermarket. In the 1960s, teenagers hung out in the Piggly Wiggly parking lot and called it "the pig lot." The store was destroyed by the Spring River flood of 1982. Owner Robert Clay rebuilt the store across Main Street out of the flood plain (the present Price Chopper/Cash Saver building). FNBC was built sometime between the December 1982 Flood and 1985.

Price Chopper/Cash Saver—

The old Hardy High School, built in 1914, was located on the site of Price Chopper/Cash Saver and faced Main Street. In 1964 the Hardy and Ash Flat school districts were consolidated to form the Highland School District. The old Hardy High School building was demolished in the mid-1970s.

300 W. Main (in grocery store parking lot)—
The ca. 1970 Ark-Mo Power Company building.

Church Street

Hardy Fire & Rescue—

Hardy Smith-Hughes Building (Agriculture Building), erected in 1939 by the National Youth Administration in cooperation with the Hardy School District. The Smith-Hughes Act of 1917 provided federal funds for vocational education. The NYA was a New Deal agency that employed youth. High school boys were paid \$6/month to work on this building and were supervised by an adult foreman. It served as the high school agri building until the district was consolidated with Ash Flat in 1964. It was later given to the City of Hardy for use as a city hall and fire department.

Sharp County Library, 201 Church—

The building presently housing the Sharp County Library was constructed in 1940 by the National Youth Administration to serve as the Hardy High School Home Economics Building. The school cafeteria was located in the basement of this building. A new addition on the south side of the building was completed in 2011. Originally called the Hardy Public Library, the library opened on December 3, 1934, in the basement of the Old Hardy Gymnasium. It remained in that location until 1968, when it moved into the old Home Ec Building.

Teacherage, 101 Church—

Built in 1941 to serve as the teacherage, which was a residence for the school superintendent.

Old Hardy Gymnasium, 203 School—

The Old Hardy Gymnasium was constructed from 1934 to 1936 by the Works Progress Administration (WPA). It served as the high school gym until 1964 and was later given to the City of Hardy. The building is now used for craft shows and gun and knife shows.