

**Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
Walks Through History
Tour of Hope Historic Commercial District
May 13, 2017
By: Revis Edmonds**



Good morning, my name is Revis Edmonds, and I work for the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, an agency of the Department of Arkansas Heritage. Welcome to our third “Walks through History” tour of 2017 of the Hope Historic Commercial District. I’d like to thank the Hope-Hempstead County Chamber of Commerce for co-sponsoring the tour, and I especially want to recognize Taylor Massey of the Chamber for her help. I want to also give a big shout-out to Mark Keith of KXAR Radio for all his effort to promote this tour. I also want to recognize our new statewide co-sponsor, the Arkansas Humanities Council, for their assistance in helping us promote this series.

For any architects in the audience, this tour is worth 2 hours of HSW continuing education credit through the American Institute of Architects. See me after the tour if you're interested.

About Hope and Hempstead County

Most of us have lived through a time when Hope reigned as truly the most famous small town on earth. But there is indeed so much more.

Hempstead County was in fact organized in 1818 before Congress established the Arkansas Territory. The Missouri territorial legislature had created three counties from Arkansas County—Hempstead, Clark, and Pulaski. The county was named for Edward Hempstead, the first delegate to Congress from the Missouri Territory.

Archaeologists have found evidence of Indian villages and mounds of the Caddo tribe, who were known to hunt along the Red River on the county's western boundary. They and other tribes signed treaties giving up their Arkansas lands before it became a state in 1836. ¹

Settlers came up the Red River on keel or flatboats, as well as overland, down the Southwest Trail by 1819. Mound Prairie, their first settlement, was not far from the Red River on rich black land. They grew wealthy from their cotton production, but no town developed. Nearby Columbus, on present-day State Highway 73, became the trading center.² Three days after the county was organized, commissioners

¹ Mary Nell Turner, "Hempstead County." *The Encyclopedia of Arkansas History and Culture*
<http://www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net/encyclopedia/entry-detail.aspx?entryID=773>

² Ibid.

reviewed, marked, and laid out a road from the crossing of the Southwest Trail at the Little Missouri River past John English's house by way of Mound Prairie to Fowler's salt works by the Saline River.

Washington was established as the first county seat in 1824. It was located on the Southwest Trail and, because of its proximity to the border, was a stopover for those traveling west, among them being Sam Houston and Davy Crockett. The village was on the Trail of Tears for Indian Removal from 1832 to 1838. It was the rendezvous point in 1846 for volunteers to be mustered in to fight in the Mexican War.³

Before statehood, wealthy Virginians with plantations on the Red River were building their homes in nearby Spring Hill for educational and social advantages. They established the Spring Hill Female Academy in 1837 and later added a male academy, but competition from the Washington, Falcon, and Lewisville academies caused the Spring Hill Academy's closure. Also, families with few slaves came from Alabama, Mississippi, Georgia, and the Carolinas. Some rented small farms until they could purchase their own, and they started small neighborhood schools and churches.

Following Arkansas's secession from the Union, Hempstead County provided its share of troops for the Confederacy, and Washington became a refugee center. The closest battle was at Prairie D'Ane, eight miles to the east of Washington, and the wounded were cared for in Washington. Washington also served as the state

³ Bryan McDade, "Old Washington State Park." *The Encyclopedia of Arkansas History and Culture*
<http://www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net/encyclopedia/entry-detail.aspx?entryID=1169>

capital from 1863 to 1865 after Little Rock fell to the Union forces. Governor Harris Flanagin ordered the government evacuated to the southwest, and the 1836 county courthouse was used for the legislative session.

At the close of the Civil War, the Twelfth Michigan Infantry spent three months in Washington ensuring peace in the county. “The Union soldiers were received by our people in the right spirit...and were extended the usual hospitalities they have been accustomed to show,” wrote John R. Eakin, editor of the *Washington Telegraph*.⁴ Rumors of Ku Klux Klan–related events are probably true, but the county had no reported race riots or violent events during the Reconstruction years.

The official population increased in these years as the former slaves were listed in the census for the first time as citizens. The 1880 census reported the county’s population as 19,015. It is possible that the non-violent atmosphere in the county attracted other former slaves. Also, veterans and others whose lands had been devastated during the Civil War came west looking for a new life. However, tenant farming left both blacks and whites tied to their crops and not much better off.

In 1873, only a railroad station occupied a site filled with trees where workers from the Cairo & Fulton Railroad were busy laying track some twelve miles south of the Hempstead County seat and former Confederate state Capital of Washington. That August 20, the first trains came into the station, and just a little under a year later, the town of Hope was born. Named after Hope Longborough,

⁴ McDade, “Old Washington State Park.”

the daughter of the attorney and land commissioner for the Cairo & Fulton, James Longborough, the town existed as a tent city for a time after it received its charter on April 4, 1874.⁵

Harry W. Shiver, in *A Commemorative History of Hope, Arkansas*, discussed the ways that Hope's early promoters touted the advantages of the new city on the railroad. The group that the new town was the Hope Immigration Association, which published a 32-page report in 1883 on the "Resources and Advantages of Hope" with a "description of soil, climate, timber, health, etc., of Hempstead County, Arkansas." The report was distributed as a pamphlet "for the information of those seeking homes in the Southwest." The 1936 Arkansas Centennial edition of the Hope Star described these beginnings thusly: Being located as on a grand trunk line, (The Cairo & Fulton, which is now the Union Pacific) the eastern connections of which are stopped only by the Atlantic waves, and the western connections of which penetrate into the semi-civilized Mexican territory, until the very halls of the Montezumas have been reached: and, being located in the middle of a country upon which nature has bestowed her gifts very freely, and a country too, possessed of a population than which there are none more energetic: these and many other things seemed to point to a time in the near future when the town thus located was to be a place of no mean proportions. And so it has proven. The rush of energetic citizens to Hope then begun, has never stopped: and there are good reasons for believing that its era of prosperity has

⁵ Harry W. Shiver, ed. *A Commemorative History of Hope, Arkansas, 1875-1975* (Hope: Etter Printing Company, 1975), 8.

but begun.” This was written in a time when this city’s population exceeded 6,000 residents.⁶

With the development of the automobile, good roads were in demand. In 1922, the road from Emmet to Fulton was improved as part of the Bankhead Highway, which is the first southern transcontinental highway, and what we now know as Avenue A. It ran on the north side of the Missouri-Pacific Railroad. In 1934, the first cars drove on the south side of the tracks on paved Highway 67. Interstate 30 was completed in 1972.

As the railroads developed, Hope became the center of the county and replaced Washington as the county seat in 1939. Fulton’s role as a river town had ceased with the coming of the railroad in 1872, though its ferry across the Red River was in operation until the Highway 67 bridge was completed in 1930. The opening of the bridge caused the decline in use of Dooley’s Ferry, which had been established in 1836 a few miles downriver, south of Fulton.

With the development of a road system, the need for trading areas declined. Some of the older communities include Ozan, Bingen, McCaskill, Saratoga, Guernsey, and Clow. Both Shover Springs and Lithia Springs, near Spring Hill, had a recreation area and healing springs. Patmos was located on the Louisiana and Arkansas Railroad and used as a shipping site. Blevins, which was established later, has one of the county’s three school districts.

⁶ Shiver, ed. *A Commemorative History of Hope, Arkansas*, 7.

The biggest change in Hempstead County came in 1941 when the federal government constructed the Southwestern Proving Grounds on more than 50,000 acres of farmland in the center of the county. Ammunition was tested under the supervision of the Army Ordnance Department, using civilians for most of the work.⁷ At the time of its construction, the airport at the Proving Grounds held claim of having the third longest runway in the United States. From 1942 to 1945 the airport and surrounding 50,078-acre Proving Ground were used by the U.S. Army to test small arms ammunition, 20 to 155 mm projectiles, mortars, rockets, grenades, and up to 500-pound bombs. The plant closed in 1946, but some who moved to the area to work never left. The City of Hope received the airport facility in 1947, and some of the land was repurchased by original owners, and other land was set aside for industrial development.⁸

Army Major Paul W. Klipsch was in the ballistics department at the proving ground from 1942 to 1946. He stayed in Hope and eventually began the manufacture of audio speakers from an abandoned laundry shed on the Proving Grounds, near what we know today as the town of Oakhaven. He became known and respected internationally for his products, and today, Klipsch Audio Technologies continues to make some of the world's finest concert-quality loudspeakers, speaker systems, and electronic audio products.⁹

⁸ Turner, "Hempstead County."

⁹ Shiver, ed. *A Commemorative History of Hope, Arkansas*, 69.

From the beginning, the county's virgin timber was a source of income. Captain Judson T. West, who retired to Hope from steamboating in 1876, organized the Hope Lumber Company in 1890. It was one of the largest in the area, shipping finished lumber throughout the northern states.¹⁰ There were other companies, including the Bruner-Ivory Handle Company, incorporated in 1901, which used hickory timber. Small sawmills dotted the county. Today, most of the hardwoods are gone, and pine is being grown for harvesting.

The University of Arkansas Southwest Branch Experiment Station was founded in 1929 as a fruit and truck station near Hope. In the 1950s, work changed to beef cattle, forestry, and crops other than vegetables, reflecting the needs of the farmers.

Poultry has taken first place in farming in Hempstead County with the arrival of Corn Belt Hatcheries in 1951.¹¹ The county rates in the top ten of broiler growers in the state, and the Tyson poultry processing plant employs more than 700 people. The county is also in the top sixteen of Arkansas counties in cattle raising. Many farmers raise poultry and cattle and grow timber part time.

Recreation is also provided by the Lester Sitzes III Bois d'Arc Wildlife Management Area south of Spring Hill. The Grassy Lake and Yellow Creek clubs near Saratoga are privately owned and are known for their virgin cypress trees and as habitat for alligators. The Millwood Dam and Lake is on the northwest

¹⁰ Shiver, ed. A Commemorative History of Hope, Arkansas, 50.

¹¹ Ibid, 48.

edge of the county and in Little River County. It is popular for fishing and camping. Mike and Janet Huckabee Lake was built in cooperation with the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, and is divided into two sections in Fair Park. The main part is 10.2 acres and the smaller section is a 1 acre derby pond that can be cut off from the main lake for fishing derbies.¹²

Hope is also known for growing watermelons and continues to produce records for the largest specimens in the world. The last record was set by Lloyd Bright in 2005 with a 268.8 pound watermelon. The Watermelon Festival is celebrated annually from Thursday-Saturday during the second week of August. The watermelon is used in the municipal logo and the Hope slogan: “A Slice of the Good Life.”

Hope was the birthplace of President William Jefferson Clinton, and his restored home is open to visitors. It was originally maintained by the Clinton Birthplace Board but is now part of the National Parks System. The Hope Depot, which was given to the city in 1999, serves as the Hope Visitors Center Depot and Museum.

Other well-known residents from Hope include political figures such as Governor Mike Huckabee, U.S. Senator Lloyd Spencer, Secretary of State Kelly Bryant, Congressman Mike Ross, former White House Chief of Staff Mack McLarty, and U.S. District Judge Harry J. Lemley. Other notable people from Hope are Paul Klipsch, inventor of the Klipschorn speaker and founder of Klipsch Audio Technologies, PGA golfer Ken Duke, actress/vocalist Ketty Lester, actress

¹² Turner, “Hempstead County.”

Melinda Dillon, Country Music Hall of Fame singer Patsy Montana, and General Herbert Jack Lloyd, a multi-decorated decorated officer who served from Korea to Afghanistan and was inducted into the Arkansas Military Veterans Hall of Fame and the OCS Hall of Fame. Governor Huckabee, in his book, *From Hope to Higher Ground*, recalled Hope in the 1960s as "a wonderful community. A child could leave his house in the morning on a bicycle and not return until after dark, and it caused no one alarm. It was the kind of place where I could misbehave eight blocks from home, but by the time I pedaled back to 309 East Second Street, six people would have called my parents to report my behavior. I am not sure that it took a village to raise a child, but I am quite sure that an entire village did its part to help raise me!"¹³

There are ten contributing structures within the Hope Commercial Historic District, which was added to the National Register on July 28, 1995. During our walking tour, we will talk about all of these as well as St. Mark's Episcopal Church (NR-listed), the Brundidge Building (NR-listed) and City Hall (non-NR listed).

1. Hope City Hall- 206 West Avenue A

City Hall was built in 1926, largely with funds from the profits of the Hope Water and Light Plant established by Captain Judson West in 1910.¹⁴ The building was designed in the classical revival style with Italianate and Italian Renaissance influences. There are two classical columns built in

¹³ Turner, Hempstead County."

¹⁴ Shiver, ed. A Commemorative History of Hope, Arkansas, 48.

along the entrances and five lining the second floor along the cornices on the north and south fascia. The transoms above the entrance doors contain ribbons (three or more contiguous windows, in his case, four). The structure has a low-pitched hipped roof similar to the Italianate style with rounded red concrete tiles.

The seat of Hope city government, it housed the offices of the Mayor and City Council from 1926 until Hope changed its form of government in 1957 to the City Manager form of government, and the City Manager supplanted the elected Mayor. From 1966 to 1993, City Hall also housed the Hope City Police Department. The building also houses an auditorium that long was the hub of public activities in Hope and seated 400 on the lower level and up to 200 more in the third level balcony. The auditorium hosted performances by Elvis Presley, Mother Maybelle and the Carter Sisters, and Jimmie Rodgers Snow. ¹⁵George Frazier, who ran KXAR Radio at the time and would long be known as “Mr. Hope,” exceeded Elvis’s show and pronounced himself unimpressed, an opinion which he expressed the error of later.¹⁶ The auditorium also hosted numerous community performances including the long-popular Kiwanis Variety Show. After extensive renovations in 1995 along with City Hall at large, the auditorium was renamed the Paul W. Klipsch Memorial Auditorium in honor of the

¹⁵ Peter Guralnick and Ernest Jorgensen, “Elvis Day by Day.”
<http://www.randomhouse.com/rhpg/promos/elvisdaybyday/1955.html>

¹⁶ Richard Haycox, ed. *Reflections: A Pictorial History of Hope and Hempstead County* (Marceline, Missouri: D-Books Publishing, 1998), 80.

internationally renowned loudspeaker inventor who held twenty-three patents during his lifetime.¹⁷

2. Missouri-Pacific Railroad Depot- East Division and Main

The station is located on Amtrak's Texas Eagle line. Trains run daily between Chicago, Illinois, and San Antonio, Texas, and continue to Los Angeles, California, 2,728 miles total, three days a week. The red brick Hope depot was built in 1912 by the St. Louis, Iron Mountain & Southern Railroad, a subsidiary of Missouri Pacific Railway, more commonly known as the "MoPac." The building exhibits the MoPac's signature Mediterranean Revival style architecture, especially in the gabled red tile roof.¹⁸ A combination depot, the building originally housed passenger and express services under one roof.

The depot remained in active passenger use until November 1968, and then fell into disrepair for many years. However, the station was listed on the National Register of Historic Places on June 11, 1992. To celebrate the election of Hope native Bill Clinton to the U.S. presidency in 1992, a group of citizens advocated for the conversion of the depot into a museum focused on Clinton's life. With the museum concept in place, the Missouri Pacific Railroad Company, by then part of Union Pacific Railroad, donated

¹⁷ City of Hope, Arkansas: "Klipsch Auditorium."

<http://www.hopearkansas.net/pview.aspx?id=6507&catid=0>

¹⁸ National Register of Historic Places nomination, "Missouri-Pacific Railroad Depot."

<http://www.arkansaspreservation.com/National-Register-Listings/PDF/HE0398.nr.pdf>

the depot to the city in 1994. Renovations were finished the next year, and the facility opened to the public. The building also houses a visitor and information center, as well as the McLarty Conference Room, named in honor of Hope native Thomas F. “Mack” McLarty, a prominent Arkansas businessman, former state legislator, and President Clinton’s Chief of Staff.¹⁹

The tourism possibilities created by Clinton’s presidency prompted civic leaders to approach Amtrak in 1993 about making Hope a regularly scheduled stop for the Texas Eagle. During the depot renovation, part of the building was set aside with the idea that it could one day serve as a passenger waiting room. The persistence and hard work of city officials paid off in October 2010 when Amtrak President and CEO Joseph Boardman traveled to Hope to announce that the stop had been approved by Amtrak and the Union Pacific.²⁰ Exhibiting pride of place, each section of the concrete platform is stamped with “Hope, a Slice of the Good Life”—the city’s logo and a reference to its famous watermelons. Amtrak service began on April 4, 2013, and the first train was greeted by fireworks in the early morning hours.²¹ The sidewalks leading to the depot from South Elm were taken from other sidewalks that were renovated, and replaced along West Division, and contained turn of the century advertisements for

¹⁹ Site visit, April 5, 2017.

²⁰ “Hope, Ar.” *The Great American Stations* <http://www.greatamericanstations.com/stations/hope-ar-hop/>

²¹ Ibid.

popular products and businesses such as Hope Hardware Company and John S. Gibson Drugs.²²

The depot was added to the National Register on June 11, 1992.

3. Capital Hotel- 100-106 South Main

The Capital Hotel was constructed in 1902 by James Pilkington of Washington, President of the Bank of Hope and the father of James H. Pilkington, well-known Hope Attorney, Judge, and Democratic nominee for Lt. Governor in 1966. The building was constructed in the Commercial, or Chicago style, with a flat roof with modest cornice, and large band windows in the storefront style. The building is also distinguished by a raised parapet that projects slightly higher than the rest of the buildings on the block. Once one of the premier lodging destinations for travelers coming through Hope by either the railroad or by car, the hotel boasted a popular restaurant and for a half century, Jack's News Stand, which in the years after passenger railroad service ended, became a popular teenage hangout sporting a large number of amusement machines and housing the taxi company in the last years of its existence. Abandoned since the 1990s, the building was purchased in 2010 by John and Sharon Caldwell and Bobby and Melinda Brinkmeyer.²³

²² Site Survey, February 16, 2017.

²³ Jathan Fink, "Tailgater's Burger Company – A Dazzling Beacon in Downtown Hope, Arkansas." July 5, 2012.
<http://kkyr.com/tailgaters/?trackback=tsmclip>

At that point, the structure had deteriorated so much that the architecture was crumbling, the floors were chipped and scarred, and the windows and walls had been plastered over numerous times.

But while many people may have seen a ruin that needed to be torn down, the partners had a dream. “I remember coming to this part of town as a kid,” John Caldwell said. “But a lot of businesses left this area and many of the buildings were let go. I wanted to build something that would bring business back to the area.”

The partners all put in a year of intense labor as they restored the building to its former glory. They stripped away the old plaster and uncovered beautiful original windows that now let tons of light into the building. They built an archway out front and covered it with thinly cut pieces of brick so that both sides of the façade matched. Solid wood doors were brought downstairs from the old hotel rooms and were refinished and installed. “Pretty much everything in here is fully restored, except for the bathrooms which we had to build from scratch,” John said. They also built all the tables and finished them in a high gloss varnish.²⁴

4. National Building (First National Bank)- 220 South Main

The building was constructed in 1916 and designed by the Texarkana architectural firm of Witt, Seibert & Co. It is a particularly good example of the Classical Revival style adapted to a four-story office building (possibly the tallest example of a commercial building in this style in the state). The heavy *in antis* columns placed to either side of the arched entrance on the

²⁴ Fink, “Tailgater’s Burger Company – A Dazzling Beacon in Downtown Hope.”

western (or front) elevation, the light terra cotta first floor surmounted by the dark red brick three stories above, which are in turn capped by a projecting terra cotta cornice, and the tall, two-story entrance arch at the eastern end of the southern elevation combine to make the National Building an exceptional example of this style applied to a commercial structure. The bank was founded as the Bank of Hope by Captain Judson T. West in 1893. At the building's completion, Chairman James Pilkington gradually yielded control to future U.S. Senator Lloyd Spencer, who changed the bank's name to First National Bank of Hope in 1924. FNB vacated the National Building in 1959 to a new banking center at 2nd and Walnut Streets and the National Building was vacant by the mid-1960s. The building was renovated in the late 1980s and at that time recovered some of its tenant base.

5. Old Hope Post Office- 117 East Second

Constructed in 1911, this structure was built in the Renaissance Revival style, which was popular for federal post office construction during the first two decades of the twentieth century, and several examples still survive around the state. The Hope Post Office (which has been owned by the Hope School District since 1965 as its central office), was designed by Treasury Department architect James Knox Taylor and dedicated in 1912²⁵ and survives in remarkably good condition. Not only are all the major architectural features of the exterior intact, but virtually all the historic

²⁵ Haycox, ed. *Reflections: A Pictorial History of Hope and Hempstead County*, 12.

windows, doors and transoms also remain. The brick pilasters that extend between the raised basement and the projecting roof cornice define this building and lend it its classical balance and rhythm. The decorative stone lintels, the pilasters' stone capitals and bases, and the stepped parapet above the cornice elevate this design to one of the best surviving examples of this era of post office construction in the state.²⁶

6. 101 West Second Street (Hempstead County Bank)

This non-contributing structure has still long been an active part of Hope's business and retail structure. Currently occupying the Hope-Hempstead County Chamber of Commerce, this is a two-story building that was constructed in 1891 and whose current façade is topped by a small turret on the northeast corner. Originally constructed in the Romanesque Revival style, it was the home of the Hempstead County Bank until 1917. In succeeding years, a mix of professional, retail, and dining establishments occupied the space, most notably Herbert Burns' Men's Store, with the last being a Cato women's clothing store, which closed in 1974. Jerry and Twyla Pruden purchased the building in 1997 and renovated it to its current appearance.²⁷ The space behind the Chamber offices as well as the upper floor is the current home of KTSS-TV, which was founded in 1994 by Kevin McKinnon and operated in recent years by Greg Bobo and his wife, Robin, who was the host of the popular local show, "KTSS Talks."²⁸

²⁶ National Register of Historic Places nomination: "Hope Commercial Historic District."
<http://www.arkansaspreservation.com/National-Register-Listings/PDF/HE0791.nr.pdf>

²⁷ Historic marker on building.

²⁸ Site Survey, February 16, 2017.

7. Brundidge Building (Scott's Department Store)- 105 West Second

The Brundidge Building is a two-and-a-half story, structural brick, party wall commercial storefront building with a brick parapet front. It is designed in the Romanesque Revival style and displays an abundance of Romanesque detail. According to the National Register nomination, the names of the architect, craftsman, or builder who were involved in the construction of the Brundidge Building have not survived. Nevertheless, the application and handling of the Romanesque Revival elements on the main facade indicate a familiarity with design if not formal training. The grouped blind arches which articulate the upper walls combined with the square-headed vertical windows reveal a familiarity with the work of H.H. Richardson (who along with Louis Sullivan and Frank Lloyd Wright, was one of "the recognized trinity of American architecture" in his day) and his imitators. By the 1890's, his imitators around the country began subtracting from this style the three-dimensionality of both composition and detail which had given such weight and presence to such designs as for the Marshal Field Wholesale Store in Chicago in 1885-87. This trend is clearly reflected in the handling of the forms and details in the Brundidge Building facade. The bay which projects to the east barely protrudes at all from the wall behind and is framed by two rather delicate and vertical turrets which retain an elegance and style of their own but which are rather different than Romanesque designs which were popular just ten years before.

It is located in the heart of Hope's commercial district. Constructed in 1893 by J.P. Brundidge, brother of then-Congressman Stephen Brundidge of Searcy, and partially owned (according to tax records) by his father in law, Dr. K.G. McRae, its plan is basically rectangular and the exterior finishes of the first floor storefront were covered in the 1950s with decorative ceramic tile that, if you'll notice, was emblazoned with the "Scotts" name. It is covered with a built-up tar roof and supported upon a continuous brick foundation. The northern or front facade is divided into four principal bays. The bay to the east and the second bay in from the east are very similar and relatively unadorned. Each is lighted on the second floor with a group of three vertical, double hung wood sash windows set into a wood frame with small, framed windows at the top. Various retail concerns occupied the building in its history, but it was Scotts Store that is best remembered in Hope from 1930 to 1970, when the company was purchased by the TG&Y chain, and relocated to Hervey Square in 1972. The building has largely been vacant ever since.²⁹

8. Atchley Building- 213 South Main

This contributing building, constructed about 1910, retains both its original elaborate metal cornice and metal vent covers set into the recessed brick panels below. These attributes give the building a neoclassical influence.³⁰

It has been home to a number of retail concerns over the years, such as

²⁹ Author's recollection.

³⁰ Site Survey, February 16, 2017.

Ralph Montgomery's Grocery and Meat Market, and now houses Southern Printing Company. ³¹

9. Lois' Beauty Salon- 214 South Main

This non-contributing structure was constructed about 1899 in the neoclassical style and has housed a variety of professional and retail businesses. Most notably, Hope's Sears, Roebuck and Company store occupied this building for at least twenty years until relocating to the Hope Village Shopping Center in 1966. That year, Lois Shirley, wife of prominent businessman and farmer Hobart Shirley and the mother-in-law of Rufus Herndon III, moved her business, Lois' Beauty Salon, into the space, and operated her shop there until her retirement in 1993. It now houses expanded space for Four States Furniture Company. ³²

10. Hope Furniture Company- 218 South Main

Founded as Hope Furniture and Undertaking Company by the father of Judge Ed McFadden, this contributing structure was constructed about 1899 in the neoclassical style with metal vent covers set into the recessed brick panels. The business was purchased in 1916 by Rufus V. Herndon, Sr. and W.M. Cornelius. In 1927, Terrell S. Cornelius and Rufus V. Herndon Jr. joined the organization under the partnership and purchased the B.P. Haynes property two blocks south at 403 South Main and operated

³¹ Site Survey, February 16, 2017.

³² Author's family recollections.

Herndon-Cornelius Funeral Home from there.³³ The two-story structure also displays an art deco influence in its diamond and zig zag motifs on the East and South facades. The business remained in the Herndon family until 1977 until it was sold to Mel Kusun of Texarkana.

11. St. Mark's Episcopal Church- 301 South Elm

On May 10, 1904, the cornerstone of St. Mark's Episcopal Church was laid. The building was completed in the spring of 1905 at a cost of \$3,500. On May 6, 1878, Bishop Henry Niles Pierce, Diocesan of the Episcopal Church in Arkansas entered in his diary, "The little handful of churchmen here have secured a lot and have several hundred dollars raised towards building a church. Work is to begin forthwith." In 1877 the Bishop had appointed a committee "to secure subscriptions for a Church." Two years later on April 20, 1879, Bishop Pierce held the first service of St. Mark's Church in Hope.³⁴ It was not until September 7, 1880, that the congregation was organized as a parish and a vestry elected. The Church survived a difficult beginning, including the destruction of its original building in 1882 by a storm. In 1887 St. Mark's was officially added to the list of Episcopal parishes and missions in Arkansas.

Following the official acceptance of the Church in 1887 came a period of rapid growth. By 1893 the Church had a membership of 78 persons and owned the building used for its services. The same year, the Church of St. Mark the Evangelist was consecrated by Bishop Pierce.

³³ Haycox, ed. *Reflections: A Pictorial History of Hope and Hempstead County*, 55.

³⁴ "Our Church." St. Mark's Episcopal Church <http://stmarkshope.org/our-church/>

Records indicate that in 1933 the property occupied by St. Mark's on East Third Street had been sold to Bishop Fitzgerald, Roman Catholic Bishop of Little Rock, for \$1,000.³⁵

This transaction took place on July 7, 1902. The present St. Mark's Church building was started in the summer of 1903, On May 10, 1904, the cornerstone was laid, and the building was completed in the spring of 1905. During this time the Reverend John W. Sykes was parish priest. It was not until March 28, 1909, that the Church was consecrated by Bishop William Montgomery Brown.

According to the National Register nomination, St. Mark's Church is a modified T-shaped structure with a gabled vestibule on the north side of the facade. The exterior is covered in hardboard siding having a plain frieze. The structure rests on a brick foundation. The roof has approximately a sixteen-twelve pitch and is covered with wood shingles. A large Gothic window marks the facade of the Church. This window features four narrow, tall panes of stained glass, each having its own Gothic-arch top, below a variety of stained glass panels in diamond, triangular and hexagonal shapes. All of the stained glass windows in the Church are said to have been designed by Tiffany.

The only alteration which has been made to St. Mark's Church is the removal of a rose window, which was on the facade above the large stained glass window. The rose window was destroyed by a storm a few years ago and was not replaced. The original clapboard exterior has recently been

³⁵ "Our Church."

covered with hardboard siding. Otherwise the Church remains in its original condition.³⁶

The history of the Church is enmeshed within the history of Hope, for the development of the Church and the city run parallel to each other. St. Mark's Episcopal Church has long been one of the most important religious institutions in Hope.

Again, on behalf of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, I want to thank you for joining us this beautiful Saturday in Southwest Arkansas. If you are able, please join us for our next "Walks Through History" tour of 2017 at Russellville, as we explore the amazing architecture and history of Arkansas Tech University. We begin at 11 AM on Saturday, June 10.

And just a reminder, if you are dining out after the tour, be sure to patronize your locally owned establishments. You'll love the taste, and you're building a better Hope!

³⁶ National Register of Historic Places Nomination, "St. Mark's Episcopal Church."
<http://www.arkansaspreservation.com/National-Register-Listings/PDF/HE0400.nr.pdf>