

**Walks through History**  
**Marianna Commercial Historic District**  
**Begin at the First Baptist Church Family Life Center,**  
**Southwest corner of Main & Church streets**  
**June 13, 2015**  
**By Rachel Silva**



## **Intro**

Good morning, my name is Rachel Silva, and I work for the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program. Welcome to the “Walks through History” tour of the Marianna Commercial Historic District. I’d like to thank the Marianna/Lee County Chamber of Commerce and The Gladlands for co-sponsoring the tour. And I’d especially like to recognize Pat Audirsch and Nancy Apple for their help!

This tour is worth 2 hours of HSW continuing education credit through the American Institute of Architects. Please see me after the tour if you’re interested.

The Marianna Commercial Historic District was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 2001 for its association with the commercial development of Marianna and its collection of late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century architectural styles. Marianna has a total of 10 National Register-listed properties. During our walk through the commercial historic district, we will also see four properties which are individually listed in the National Register.

## Brief History of Marianna

In 1848 Walnut Ridge was founded along the L'Anguille River by Col. Walter Otey. In 1852 the town was renamed Marianna in honor of Mary Ann Harland, who sold the land for the original town site. In 1857 Marianna was moved three miles south to its present location, where the L'Anguille River was navigable year-round and the elevation for the town site was higher. [In 1857 the federal government cleared the St. Francis and L'Anguille rivers of drifts and debris up to the point where Miller Park is located today, prompting the settlement's move south.] Marianna, then located in Phillips County, was incorporated as a town in 1870 (and incorporated as a city in 1878).

The Arkansas Legislature created Lee County in 1873 from parts of Crittenden, Monroe, Phillips, and St. Francis counties. Interestingly, an African-American state representative from Phillips County sponsored the legislation which created Lee County. His name was William Furbush, and he was elected as a Republican during the period of Reconstruction after the Civil War. Furbush most likely selected "Lee," honoring Confederate General Robert E. Lee, to show his allegiance to Democrats around Marianna.

Marianna became the county seat of Lee County, and a wood-frame building at the corner of Poplar and Mississippi streets housed the courthouse. A brick courthouse was built about 1890 on Chestnut Street, overlooking what is now the Court Square Park. More on the courthouse later...

Marianna was strategically located at the northernmost navigable point of the L'Anguille River, which enabled it to become a regional shipping hub. The river, named by French trappers who traversed its waters during the 18<sup>th</sup> century, snakes back and forth from its beginning near Harrisburg (Poinsett County) until it empties into the St. Francis River southeast of Marianna, thus it was called "L'Anguille," French for "the eel." The L'Anguille River is a tributary of the Mississippi River. The L'Anguille flows into the St. Francis, which then flows into the Mississippi. Waterways like the L'Anguille opened the Arkansas Delta to larger

markets at Memphis, St. Louis, New Orleans, and beyond. Steamboats carried people, cotton, and other goods between Memphis and Marianna. A steamboat landing was located at the end of East Main Street about five blocks from the square. The arrival of the railroad soon supplemented, and later surpassed, steamboat transportation. By 1900 most major steamboat lines stopped their regular trips to Marianna.

In 1879 the narrow-gauge Iron Mountain & Helena Railroad reached Marianna, connecting it to Helena. This line was later converted to standard rail size and extended to Forrest City. By the 1890s, it was incorporated into the Helena Branch of the larger St. Louis, Iron Mountain & Southern Railroad, which later became Missouri Pacific. In the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, a branch line veered off from the main line of the Iron Mountain/Missouri Pacific Railroad near the intersection of Chestnut and Alabama streets and headed toward Memphis. This was called the “Marianna Cut-off” and “The Mud Line” and inspired a song in 1930 by the Memphis Jug Band called “Mary Anna Cutoff.”

During the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, Marianna was home to thriving cotton and timber industries. Because of its rich soil, Lee County’s economy has always been dominated by agriculture, and historically, cotton was king. Marianna’s cotton was well-known, and the town became one of the leading cotton markets west of the Mississippi River. Marianna was home to a cotton gin, cotton warehouses, cotton oil mill, and a cotton compress. In 1920 the Marianna Cotton Compress Company was one of the largest in eastern Arkansas and was capable of compressing 900 bales of cotton every 10 hours. In 1926 the Agricultural Extension Service established a Cotton Branch Experiment Station at Marianna to study and improve cotton yields. Corn, wheat, and rice were also major crops.

Like much of east Arkansas, Lee County and Marianna historically contained vast old-growth forests. Lumber companies harvested the old-growth trees and processed them at Marianna. Three large sawmills operated on the bank of the L’Anguille River in downtown Marianna. The L’Anguille Lumber Company was

located at the foot of Main Street and was succeeded in 1909 by the Miller Lumber Company. And the Indiana-Arkansas Lumber and Manufacturing Company was located on the river northeast of the courthouse. This, too, was acquired in 1917 by Miller Lumber Company (becoming yard no. 2). Even after steamboat traffic ceased, these lumber companies used the river to transport logs. However, the county's forests were largely cut over by the late 1930s, causing the industry to decline.

### **Individual Properties:**

#### **West on Main**

Elks Club/Community House (NR-listed 7/27/1979)—

Before the Elks Club was built, this was the site of a one-room, frame building constructed in 1885 for the First Baptist Church. The church remained here until 1910, when the building and lot were sold to pay for the present lot at the southeast corner of Main and Church streets. More on this in a minute...

The Elks Club was built in 1911 for the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks Lodge No. 1178. In order to save money on the building's construction, the Elks used surplus paver bricks from the City of Marianna, which were left over from paving the city streets with brick in 1908. The Colonial Revival-style building features a decorative, shaped parapet with a clock face reading 11 o'clock. For the Elks, 11:00 p.m. is the "hour of recollection," when members pause to remember deceased and absent lodge members. If they were having a meeting, a bell or chimes would ring 11 times and the exalted ruler would give a toast in remembrance of those not present.

The Elks Lodge couldn't afford to pay the mortgage on the clubhouse during the Great Depression and lost the building in 1934. At that time, the property was purchased by Dr. O. L. Williamson, who donated it to the City of Marianna for use as a community center. The Lee County Library was located in the Community House from the 1930s until 1990, when it moved next door. By 1941, a swimming pool and bath house were located in the back yard. Social events, dances, civic club meetings, political speeches, church suppers, and more have been held in

the Community House over the years. The building currently houses the Chamber of Commerce and Lee County Museum. It was restored with the help of grants from the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program.

#### Library—

The Lee County Library has been located in this building since 1990. Before that, this was the medical office of Dr. Elizabeth C. Fields.

#### W. S. McClintock House (NR-listed 12/28/1977)—

The Neoclassical-style W. S. McClintock House was designed in 1912 by Little Rock architect Charles L. Thompson. It features a symmetrical façade and a monumental entrance portico supported by Ionic columns. This was the first Lee County property to be listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The house was built for William Samuel McClintock and his wife, Eliza Laura Maclin McClintock. The couple had five children. W. S. McClintock was president of W. S. McClintock & Sons Company, which sold Oliver-Case implements, groceries, general merchandise, household appliances, and farm equipment. After his death in 1934, the business was run by his son, Robert S. McClintock, and later, by other family members until 1982, when it was completely dissolved. In 1950 the McClintock House was purchased by Raymond and Eva West, grandparents of the current owner, Steve Higginbotham.

#### **Walk back to east on Main Street**

#### Marianna Post Office (contributing building in the CHD)—

Built in 1924, the post office was designed in the Colonial Revival style by James A. Wetmore, supervising architect of the U.S. Treasury Department. The post office was constructed at a cost of \$43,000. The O. C. Sutton & Company Brick Plant of Marianna supplied the brick for the post office. [O. C. Sutton & Co. was located northeast of the courthouse. The company ceased operations in 1925.] An addition was built to the west of the original structure sometime after 1941. The post office moved to its current location at Mississippi and Poplar streets about 2000.

## **South side of W. Main from Church to Poplar**

### **First Baptist Church—**

As I told you earlier, Marianna's First Baptist Church met in a wood-frame building on the site of the Elks Club/Community House from 1885 until 1910, when the current lot at the southeast corner of Main and Church streets was purchased. At that time (1910), a Neoclassical-style church with triangular pediments and a dome—very similar in appearance to the current Methodist Church—was constructed. The 1910 church was destroyed by fire on November 9, 1941. The current church was built to replace it and opened in 1942. It was also designed in the Neoclassical style but does not feature the high-style decorative elements of the 1910 building. An education building was constructed to the south of the church in 1958, and the family life center was dedicated in 2003.

### **Farmers & Merchants Bank—**

The building which now houses Farmers & Merchants Bank was built in 1970 for First National Bank. First National Bank opened in 1934 in the building at the northwest corner of Main and Poplar and succeeded the Lee County National Bank. In 1968 First National Bank acquired land on W. Main to construct a new building. This site was formerly occupied by the Marianna Laundry and Triplett's Feed & Seed Store, which were demolished to make way for the current building, completed in 1970. It has been Farmers & Merchants Bank for about five years.

### **17-21 W. Main (Markley Buildings)—**

These buildings were constructed by jeweler H. H. Markley in 1897 (17; left side) and 1898 (21; right side), respectively.

17 W. Main (left)—Dixon & Barnes farm implements was the first business to occupy this building, followed by a grocery store with a printing business upstairs. In the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century, this was Paul Benham's insurance office.

21 W. Main (right)—This building was first occupied by an undertaker.

Another 2-story building was constructed to the west of #21 but is no longer standing. Just beyond that to the west was the location of Mr. Markley's jewelry store.

13-15 W. Main (Cohn & Apple)—

Constructed in 1897 by Irving H. Turpin and initially housed a grocery (right side) and barber (left). By 1941, the right side was a cotton office and the left side was a wallpaper store. Cohn & Apple were cotton buyers. As I told you earlier, the cotton industry was huge in Marianna. Prospective cotton buyers from Memphis often came to Marianna to learn the trade. This was Marshall Apple's cotton office (Nancy Apple's father).

**When we get to the corner of Main & Poplar, point at the Rotary Park, which is on the former site of the first brick building constructed in Marianna.** It was built in 1873 by John R. Jarratt and housed a general mercantile. This building and others next to it were razed in the 1990s due to their deteriorated condition, spurring a historic preservation movement in Marianna. The Marianna Historic Trust, a 501(c)3 non-profit, was organized in 2000 with the goal of preserving Marianna's historic buildings and revitalizing the downtown area. The Trust currently owns seven downtown properties and has helped to stabilize others. The efforts of this organization are made possible by generous donations from Catherine West.

And notice the historical markers on most of the buildings in the historic district—these were installed by property owners after the district was listed in the National Register in 2001.

### **West side of S. Poplar from Main to Mississippi**

8-10 S. Poplar—

Two separate buildings with a uniform façade, which was installed in 1926.

8 S. Poplar (north; right)—A late 19<sup>th</sup> century building on this site housed G. F. Gambrell & Company Dry Goods, Ready-to-wear, and Shoes. The current structure was totally rebuilt in 1926 by the McClintock family and then housed the P. R. Turner Drug Company. Turner Drug remained open in this location until the early 2000s.

10 S. Poplar (south; left)—Parts of this building date to 1884, when it was originally constructed. The front façade was remodeled in 1926 to match the building next door. Chisum-Badly Grocer Company occupied the building in the early years. From the 1920s to 1980, this was Daggett Drug, started by Max Daggett. Daggett's had a popular soda fountain, which served ice cream, sodas, and food. The Daggett Law Firm was located on the second floor of this building until 1974, when it moved next door.

12 S. Poplar (Hayes-Drake Building)—

Constructed in 1884, this Italianate-style commercial building is the oldest remaining structure in downtown Marianna. It was originally home to Hayes-Drake & Company General Merchandise. A large meeting hall was located on the second floor, which became known as the opera house because it hosted traveling shows and musical performances. In 1889 attorney and U.S. Representative P. D. McCullough (served in the House from 1893-1903) bought the building. The building was later inherited by P. D. McCullough's granddaughter, Louise "Tucker" McCullough Daggett, and remains in the Daggett family today. Daggett Law Firm has been around for generations (since the 1870s) and has been located in this building since 1974.

Vacant lots/parking—

Three historic buildings on this site were destroyed by fire in 1984. They housed a liquor store, Dooley's Department Store (formerly the location of West Brothers Department Store), and the Sterling 5 & 10.

**A fire on August 13, 1918**, destroyed most of the buildings on both sides of S. Poplar Street. The fire started in the Griffis-Newbern Company's department store, then-located at the northwest corner of Poplar and Tennessee streets, quickly spreading to the north and across the street. Buildings were destroyed on the west side of Poplar Street from Tennessee Street to about half-way through the vacant lot, and on the east side of Poplar Street from just north of the Methodist Church to the Lovelace Building at 21 S. Poplar.



28-34 S. Poplar (McClintock Buildings)—

Constructed in 1926 by the McClintock family, these buildings feature a decorative stepped parapet with terra cotta details.

34 S. Poplar (far southern end)—this storefront housed Pyron's Barber Shop (W. A. and Tommy Pyron, barbers) and Evan's Beauty Shop and was later occupied by Bond's Jewelry Store. Mr. Bond repaired jewelry and sold Senior rings.

38 S. Poplar (Owl Lunch Room)—

This English Revival-style building was designed in 1926 by Memphis architect and Marianna native Estes Mann. It housed a restaurant called the Owl Lunch Room. The building was remodeled after a kitchen fire in the 1950s. It later became Dutch's Barber Shop (1960s-80s).

40 S. Poplar (Williamson Building)—

Built by Marianna physician and booster Dr. Octavius Lamar (O. L.) Williamson in 1929, this building housed one of the first Scott's 5 & 10 stores in the national chain. The building features interesting Art Deco-inspired details on its façade and retains its original pressed tin ceiling.

48 S. Poplar (First National Bank of Eastern Arkansas, Marianna Branch)—

The ca. 1910 three-story Bank of Marianna Building occupied this site and was demolished to make way for the current structure, which was built in 1969. The Bank of Marianna occupied the first floor of the 1910 building, and the upper two floors housed the telephone exchange, Marianna Loan & Abstract Company, and other offices. In 1942 the newly chartered Farmers & Merchants Bank of Marianna moved into the building. In 1969 the old building was replaced with the current structure, designed by the Memphis architectural firm of Mahan & Shappley (George Mahan, Jr., and Arnold Shappley, Jr.). Farmers & Merchants Bank moved to its current location on Main Street about 5 years ago.

Vacant lots—

Historic buildings once occupied this entire block. To the south of the bank, there was the St. Francis Motor Company, which sold Fords, and a movie theater, which

I believe was the Regent Theatre and later, the Imperial Theater (by the 1940s). The foundation at the corner of Poplar and Mississippi is the site of the Hotel Marianna, built in 1912. The grand hotel was demolished in the 1980s.

Southeast corner of Poplar & Mississippi—

Site of the original Lee County Courthouse until 1890, when a new structure was built on Chestnut Street overlooking what is now the Court Square Park. The current building at the southeast corner of Poplar and Mississippi was the home of Dr. O. L. Williamson.

### **East side of S. Poplar, going north from Mississippi**

First United Methodist Church—

The congregation of the Marianna Methodist Episcopal Church, South, constructed a wood-frame building in 1872 on this site. That building was enlarged in 1881 and again in 1900. A new brick church was completed in April 1912 but was partially destroyed by fire just two weeks later. It was rebuilt the same year. The church interior was remodeled in 1949 by Memphis architect and Marianna native Estes Mann. The education building/fellowship hall was added in 1959. The church was designed in the Neoclassical style and features two entrances crowned by triangular pediments supported by Ionic columns. The church also has a copper dome.

The Methodist parsonage, located directly behind the church, is an American Foursquare built in 1912.

55 S. Poplar—

Built ca. 1925 to house an auto garage and car dealership. According to the 1930 Sanborn map, the garage had a 25-car capacity. This was Chisum Motor Company (Chevrolet) and later, White-Garner Chevrolet.

53 S. Poplar—

This is the Kinard Building, constructed in 1940. It housed the offices of the Arkansas-Louisiana “ArkLa” Gas Company.

Marianna City Hall/Police Department/Jail—

Designed in 2010 by Little Rock architect Dan F. Stowers, Jr. Before the current structure was built, this area was occupied by a filling station and Johnson's Grocery.

25-31 S. Poplar (now the *Courier-Index*)—

These three storefronts were built ca. 1925 to replace buildings destroyed by the fire of 1918.

31 S. Poplar—In more recent memory, radio station KZOT was located here, followed by the *Courier-Index* office.

Pocket park—A bakery was located here in 1930.

25 S. Poplar—R. M. Boone Farm Supply. A hay and feed warehouse was located in the rear portion of the building, and a livery stable was behind this building.

23 S. Poplar (Frazier Building)—

Built in 1919 by Brian Frazier as a men's store. Notice the "F" for "Frazier" on the front façade. This building later housed Strausberg's Ladies' Wear (1950s-60s).

21 S. Poplar (Lovelace Building)—

Built in 1911 to replace a previous building on the site destroyed by fire that same year. Notice the "L" for the builder's last name "Lovelace" on the façade. This building housed the Potts-McCullough Hardware Store, followed by Kroger and later, Hughes Fabric Store.

19 S. Poplar (Harrington Building)—

Built in 1911 to replace a previous building on the site destroyed by fire that same year. From 1920 to 1990, Harrington Drug was located in this building, and professional offices were upstairs. Prior to 1920, Harrington Drug was located across the street south of Daggett Law Firm.

Harrington Brothers Drug Company was founded in 1913 by brothers Vince and Jim Harrington. Over the years, many Harrington family members and others joined the company as pharmacists. The drug store had a poplar soda fountain, and it was well known in the 1950s because the Harrington family had five

registered graduate pharmacists working in the same store. Harrington Drug's motto was "It pleases us to please you." In the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century, Drs. F. S. Dozier, Fred Rutledge, and Walter Ward had their medical offices upstairs in this building. In the late 1960s, R. D. Smith had his law office upstairs.

Rotary Park, 2006—

Site of two 2-story buildings destroyed in the 1990s. Most people will remember these as the Leon Lewis Department Store and Panich's ("Panic's") Department Store.

### **East on Main**

Court Square Park—

The Court Square Park started off as a lot where farmers would tie up their horses and mules and park wagons. A well and water tank were located in the center of the lot. The water tank stood 70 feet off the ground and had a 20,000-gallon capacity. In 1909 the Civic Improvement League, an organization of local women, set out to beautify the old hitching area and wagon lot. Although many local men wanted to construct buildings on the site, the women's group insisted upon turning the area into a park. This group leveled the land, installed walkways, and planted trees and flowers. A bandstand was erected on the north end of the 2-acre park, and the Marianna Band played free concerts there every Thursday night during the summer months. The current gazebo was constructed in the late 1980s.

General Robert E. Lee Monument (NR-listed 5/10/1996)—

The General Robert E. Lee Monument was unveiled on December 8, 1910, in front of a large crowd. The monument, made by the McNeel Marble Company of Marietta, Georgia, was financed by the D. C. Govan Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy to commemorate Confederate veterans and their cause. It is topped by a life-size statue of Robert E. Lee. The base of the statue was originally a fountain; water flowed from the cannons on either side into the pool below.

### Brick streets—

The streets in downtown Marianna were paved with brick in 1908. Most of them were covered with asphalt in the 1970s, but the south and east sides of the square still retain their brick paving. Remember that the Elks Club/Community House was built in 1911 with leftover paver bricks.

### High Street—

The south side of Main Street between Poplar and Liberty is known as “High Street” because of its elevated sidewalks. In the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, the City graded the street down to a lower level while installing a sewer system, leaving the commercial lots south of the square higher than the street.

### 26 E. Main (Blue Haven Theater)—

This building was constructed in 1898 by S. D. Johnston to house his wholesale grocery business. Johnston had a steamboat called the *Nettie Johnson* that brought supplies from Memphis up the L’Anguille River to the foot of Main Street. By 1919 M. E. “Jinks” Newbern had acquired 51 percent of the company stock, and the business became known as Newbern Wholesale Grocery Company. Newbern Grocery was located here until at least 1930. At some point during the ‘30s, the building was remodeled with an Art Deco-inspired stucco façade and became the Blue Haven Theater, a movie theater for blacks until the 1960s.

### 27 E. Main—

Built ca. 1905 and housed part of Johnston’s and later, Newbern’s, wholesale grocery. By the early 1940s, this was a farm implement business. It was later Isom’s Barber Shop.

## North on Court Street

### 12-14 Court—

This building was constructed in 1908 to house Mixon & McClintock, which in 1923 became W. S. McClintock & Sons Plantation Supplies/Farm Implements. *The Opinion Enterprise*, a weekly newspaper founded in 1907 by black community

leader Moses A. Clark, was located upstairs. Mr. Clark served as editor of the paper and was also State Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Free & Accepted Masons, Colored, for 24 years. His newspaper became the official paper of the Colored Masonic Lodge in Arkansas. Clark's newspaper, originally called the *The Enterprise*, merged with the *Marianna Christian Opinion* in 1908 to become *The Opinion Enterprise*.

14 Court—Mixon Brothers, which sold John Deere farm implements, was located at 14 Court in the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century. At that time, the building was painted John Deere green and yellow.

City of Marianna Building—

Built ca. 1910 as two separate buildings. The stucco shaped parapet across both was added later. Historically, the storefront on the right (south) housed an undertaker, and the one on the left (north) was a grocery, followed by a dealer in furs and hides. In more recent memory, the Marianna City Hall/Fire Department/Police Department was here (until the new building was constructed in 2010 on S. Poplar).

16-18-20 Court (Old Marianna City Hall/Fire Department/Jail)—

This 2-story, brick building was constructed in 1909 at a cost of \$5,795 to house the Marianna City Hall, fire department, and jail. Stucco was later added to the façade. This was part of the City Hall/Fire/Police complex, along with the building to the south, until new buildings were constructed for that purpose in 2006 and 2010. Although a new fire station was built in 2006, the upper floor of the old building still provides quarters for firemen. A siren is on top of the building.

Fire Station, 2006—

The Marianna Fire Department built this facility in 2006. Two historic buildings were demolished to make way for the new fire station. Historically, both buildings were occupied by The Karicofe Company, automobiles, trucks, hardware, garage, machine & blacksmith shop, run by C. L. Karicofe. By 1941, the building on the south (right) was McClintock Hardware, and the building on the north (left) was

Karicofe Hardware & Garage. These buildings were later occupied by Tainter Garage and Oursler Auto Parts.

28 Court—

Built ca. 1935 to provide additional space and a filling station for Karicofe's Hardware and Garage. The building was later purchased by the Boone family, who opened a Texaco Service Station here. The Texaco Station also had a wrecker service. Note the cast-iron column.

### **Chestnut Street**

Lee County Courthouse (NR-listed 9/7/1995)—

After Marianna became the Lee County seat in 1873, a wood-frame building at the corner of Poplar and Mississippi streets housed the courthouse. In 1890 a 2-story, red brick courthouse was constructed on Chestnut Street, facing south toward the present-day Court Square Park. The 1890 building featured a central tower and an elaborate central bay on the front façade with arched window and door openings. In 1936 a new courthouse was constructed in front of, and attached to, the 1890 building. The 1936 façade was only one bay deep and featured yellow brick, limestone, and concrete. It was designed in the Classical Revival style by Memphis architects George Mahan, Jr., and Everett Woods. Classical Revival details included the building's arcaded entrance with Ionic columns above and pilasters on the upper floor. Because it was built during the Great Depression, the 1936 courthouse received funds from the Federal Emergency Administration of Public Works but was not constructed by any of the well-known public works labor agencies like the WPA or CCC. New wings were added to the rear of the courthouse in 1965, and the 1890 courthouse building was completely demolished at that time.

Northeast corner of Chestnut & Cedar (no longer extant)—

Site of the Griffis-Newbern Garage, which by 1928 became Zeiger's No. 2 Auto Repair & Garage, run by Ted Zeiger. [Zeiger's No. 1 Service Station was at the southeast corner of Alabama & Chestnut and sold Chrysler cars.]

## **N. Poplar from Chestnut to Main**

### **Lewis Hotel/Willey Building—**

Built in 1907 by W. H. Lewis and housed the Lewis Hotel. The hotel had 28 guest rooms with a bath on each floor. A café was located in the southern side (left) of the first floor, and the hotel lobby was in the northern side (right). A balcony ran across the front façade, and the central window upstairs was originally a door to the balcony. Between 1930 and 1941, the hotel's name changed to the Traveler Hotel. The building was purchased in 1953 by J. K. Willey, a cotton buyer from Memphis. At that time, the building's front façade was remodeled with stucco and Carrera glass. It then became known as the Willey Building. A new roof and structural repairs for this building were provided in part by grants from the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program.

### **27-29 N. Poplar—**

Built ca. 1908 and housed a variety of businesses, including a saloon, confectionery, and grocery. The south building (left) housed the *Courier* office in the 1950s and '60s.

### **25 N. Poplar (Lowenthal Building)—**

The Lowenthal Building was constructed ca. 1912 and housed a dry goods store. By 1920 this was Nathan Furniture Company.

### **23 N. Poplar (Masonic Building)—**

The Masonic Building was constructed in 1905 and is the tallest building in downtown Marianna. The building features decorative brick corbelling and an elaborate metal cornice. The Marianna Lodge No. 171 Free & Accepted Masons used the third floor as their lodge hall. The second floor was occupied by doctor's offices, and the first floor housed various retail establishments. In the 1950s-60s, Owens & Stockley Furniture was located in the first floor. The Masons met here until the 1960s.



### 17 N. Poplar—

Built ca. 1905 and housed a bakery and confectionery from at least 1908 until 1919. It may have been Trouhy's Bakery. This building features decorative brick corbelling at the cornice and second story windows set in segmental arches.

### 15 N. Poplar—

Built ca. 1903 and housed a clothing and dry goods store, followed by a jeweler. I'm not sure what happened with the bricked up openings—possibly a modern alteration. This building was always drawn as one-story on Sanborn maps.

### 11-13 N. Poplar (Lesser Building)—

Built ca. 1903 by local businessman Julius Lesser. Lesser was president of the Lee County Bank and a very successful cotton broker. Lesser later moved to St. Louis and was part owner of the Lesser-Goldman Cotton Company. He constructed multiple commercial buildings in downtown Marianna, including these two. These were originally separate buildings. The north side (right) was a drug store, and the south side (left) was a dry goods store. In the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century, both buildings were combined to house Hunter Hardware. They again house separate businesses.

### 9 N. Poplar (Lesser Building)—

Built ca. 1887 by Julius Lesser and housed a grocery store for many years, followed by a dry goods store. From the 1950s to the mid-1990s, this was Tyson Jewelry.

### 3 N. Poplar (Lee County Bank)—

The Lee County Bank Building was constructed in 1907 by Julius Lesser, bank president and local cotton buyer. The red brick building features a decorative metal cornice and cast-stone lintels and sills. The Lee County Bank occupied the first floor, professional offices were located on the second floor, and apartments for gentlemen were on the third floor. By 1920, Lee County Bank became the Lee County National Bank. The Lee County National Bank closed in 1933 and was succeeded in 1934 by First National Bank. First National Bank remained here until

its new building was completed in 1970 on W. Main (current location of Farmers & Merchants Bank).

## **West on Main**

### **North side of W. Main from Poplar to Church**

16 W. Main—

Built by Julius Lesser in 1905 and housed a drug store for many years. This was later Panich's ("Panic's") Specialty Shop, a ladies' dress shop until the 1970s.

18 W. Main—

Built ca. 1905 and housed the post office, which had previously been located in two different buildings on S. Poplar Street. The post office remained here until 1924, when a new post office was built at the northwest corner of Main and Church streets. This building later housed Western Auto (1950s-80s).

20-22, 24, 26, 28 W. Main (McCullough Buildings)—

These four buildings were constructed between 1907 and 1910 by U.S.

Representative P. D. McCullough of Marianna and housed various businesses, including a barber shop, dry goods stores, grocery stores, a meat market, and cotton offices. The buildings are identical in design and feature brick corbelling at the cornice, recessed brick panels, decorative vents, transom windows (most now covered), and cast-iron storefront components (most now covered, but you can see some of the cast-iron bands above the storefronts and cast-iron drain covers below the kick-plate reading, "Chickasaw Iron Works, Memphis, Tenn.")

24 W. Main (now Peter's Rock Church Ministries) was a later location of Owens & Stockley Furniture (there until 1970s).

30-34 W. Main (Delta Buildings)—

Built in 1910 by U.S. Congressman P. D. McCullough of Marianna and initially housed a furniture store (east; right) and meat market/restaurant (west; left). By 1919, the east side (right) was a movie theater. Professional offices were located

upstairs. By the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century, 30 W. Main (right) was Clay's Menswear and later, Billy Shepherd's men's store called "Shep's." And 34 W. Main (left) was McKutchen Hardware.

38 W. Main (Ford Building)—

Built in 1917 as a grocery store and was later Marshall Ford's Farm Store. Has a buff brick façade with basket bond brickwork.

40-44 W. Main (Shorten Buildings)—

Built in 1919 by W. J. Shorten, these buildings feature recessed brick panels and cast-concrete details on the upper façade. The building at 40 W. Main has a ghost sign reading, "Hampton's Hardware-Appliance Co." By the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century, 40 W. Main was Vogue Ladies' Apparel Shop; 42 was a jewelry store; and 44 was a grocery store.

48 W. Main (Smith Insurance)—

The 2-story Marianna Motor Company was located on this site and burned in 1921. It was replaced by the 455 Service Station, the largest in eastern Arkansas. It was later a Gulf Service Station. The building was remodeled in 1959 to house the Mitchener-Moore Insurance Agency, a predecessor of Smith Insurance Company. Charlotte Smith Real Estate has been located here since 1977.

### **North on Church to First Presbyterian Church**

First Presbyterian Church—

The First Presbyterian Church was constructed in 1900 to replace an earlier wood-frame church near the current site. The brick church cost a little more than \$5,000, and the furnishings cost \$2,000. The Sunday School building was added later. The church is an excellent example of the Gothic Revival style with a steeply pitched roof, parapet walls, bell tower, and pointed arch (lancet) window and door openings.