

**Walks through History**  
**Nashville First Presbyterian Church and Downtown**  
**Commercial Historic District**  
By Shelle Stormoe,  
Arkansas Historic Preservation Program



## **Introduction**

My name is Shelle Stormoe, and I am the Education Outreach Coordinator for the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program which is one of 8 agencies in the Department of Arkansas Heritage. Our agency works to document and preserve the state's historic and cultural resources, and we oversee the National Register for Historic Place for Arkansas. I'd like to welcome to the Walks through History Tour of Nashville's First Presbyterian Church and the Downtown Commercial Historic District. I'd like to thank Freddie Horne, and the members of the Howard County Historical Society for all their help putting this tour together. This tour is worth 2 hours of HSW (Health, Safety, and Welfare) continuing education credit through the American Institute of Architects. If you are interested in getting this credit, please see me after the tour and I will take care of it for you.

Just a little preview of the tour here. I will discuss the history of Howard County, Nashville, and the First Presbyterian Church here inside the church. After that, we will have a short ceremony to welcome the family of E.A. Williams and dedicate the church to his memory. Then the tour will proceed down the west side of Main Street to the Courthouse, where it will cross the street and proceed up the East side of Main Street. We'll stop at the Post Office, cover the buildings on that side of Main Street, and finish the tour back here at the church.

### **Howard County History**

The earliest settler in Howard County was John Tollett, a minister from Tennessee, who settled in what became Howard County in 1819 with a group of families. In 1825, John Johnson was the first person to build a sawmill in the area, on Mine Creek. One of the major topographical features that these early settlers had to deal with was the great raft on the Red River. A jumble of vines, tree trunks, and other debris clogged the river for nearly 130 miles, particularly near the Great Bend of the Red River. This made transportation difficult. The great raft was finally dislodged around 1838, making travel to the area that became Howard County much easier and the shipping of goods more efficient. <sup>1</sup>

During the Civil War, most of the men from Howard County who joined the Confederate cause fought with the Nineteenth Arkansas Infantry Regiment. Only one military action occurred here during the war. In January 1864, a scouting group from the Second and Sixth Kansas Cavalry came through the area. They surprised a group of Confederate guerrillas at Baker Creek. Six guerrillas were killed, two wounded, and more than 25 taken prisoner. This became known as the skirmish at Baker Creek. <sup>2</sup>

In 1868, three years after the end of the Civil War, the area that became Howard County along with several other counties were put under martial law by Governor Powell Clayton. Clayton sent a militia to keep the peace, but it encountered resistance once it got to this part of the state. This resistance became known as the "Battle of Center Point," during which three people were killed and twelve wounded. <sup>3</sup>

Howard County was organized on April 17, 1873. Originally, it was mostly part of Hempstead and Sevier Counties. Smaller portions came from Polk and Pike Counties. The county was named for James H. Howard, a senator from the 17<sup>th</sup> district. James Howard moved from his home in Tennessee to Center Point around 1853. The county is about 630 square miles in size; the first county seat was the town of Center Point, about 10 miles northwest of Nashville. <sup>4 5 6</sup>

Ten years after the county was formed, the Howard County Race Riot erupted. The dispute was over a land survey in Mine Creek Township near the Howard/Hempstead County lines, and the subsequent actions of a man named Thomas Wyatt, who became violent with members of the Marshall family. Wyatt was shot and wounded, but later found dead just over the Howard County line.<sup>7</sup> A posse of white men gathered together to hunt down those who shot Wyatt killed three men in their pursuit: Eli Gamble, Alonzo Flower, and Abraham Booker. <sup>8</sup> Forty-three African-Americans were charged with murder over the event. <sup>9</sup>

In the 1880s, Howard County saw the rise of several important industries fueled partly by the arrival of the railroad. Antimony mining, on the Howard/Sevier County line, was an important industry until the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Peach growing also became a major industry in the area, which has lasted until the current day although in a greatly diminished capacity (more about that later). The poultry industry has taken the place of some of the peach growing that used to be so prevalent here.

## **Nashville History**

The first settler in Nashville was the Reverend Isaac Cooper Perkins, who was born in North Carolina, and lived in Georgia and Alabama before his move to Arkansas. He built a Baptist church at the present location of Nashville Cemetery, and the first house in Nashville just a bit behind the church on the banks of Mine Creek. <sup>10</sup> Rev. Perkins was thought to have been in the area around 1820, but his first official land grant was not established until 1836. The first name of the settlement that began developing here was Mine Creek. This was the name given to the place when the first post office opened in 1848.<sup>11</sup> The name changed to Hell's Valley at some point.

The name was changed to Nashville at the request of the first post master, Amasil Lewis. No one knows exactly why Nashville was chosen, other than speculation that many of the townsfolk had come from Tennessee. The first Nashville settler, Rev. Isaac Cooper Perkins, died in 1852.<sup>12</sup> By that point, there were more than a dozen houses within the city limits of Nashville.<sup>13</sup>

By 1860, the number of houses in the town had increased, and a school had been established. The school was called the Mine Creek Male and Female Academy. There was still only one church in Nashville by 1860, the Mine Creek Baptist Church built by Rev. Perkins. Other denominations used the church grounds for services. The second church in town did not organize until 1877, when the First Christian Church was formed.

<sup>14</sup>

Howard County formed in 1873, but Nashville was not incorporated until 1883, one year before the railroad arrived in town. There was quite a growth spurt during this time period because of the ease of transportation brought with the railroad.

This time period was difficult for many merchants and home owners in Nashville because of a series of fires that completely transformed the setup of the town. The early commercial part of Nashville was called "Old Town," and was situated east of where Main Street is now. The "main street" of this section of town was North Washington Street, near the Nashville Cemetery. When the first railroad depot was built in Nashville, it was situated in what the residents began to call "New Town," west of "Old Town." The location of the depot inspired many businesses to move closer, including the first hotel in Nashville built in 1885, which was located where the Latimer Funeral Home is located now.<sup>15</sup> The depot location and a series of fires began to transform the setup of Nashville before the fires in the 1880s-through the early 20<sup>th</sup> century cemented the move.

In 1884, fire destroyed the building of the Nashville News.<sup>16</sup> In 1886, a fire brigade was first established in Nashville, when the city purchased a fire engine and equipment for \$1050.00.<sup>17</sup> In 1887, fire burned down most of the west side of what was then Main Street. In June 1889, another fire destroyed a block in New Town, when 15 businesses

were burned down. Six months later another fire destroyed another 15 buildings in “Old Town.” None of the structures built to replace the lost buildings were built in “Old Town.” In 1898, Nashville passed a city ordinance that required all commercial buildings to be built out of brick. Any new construction would have to be of brick, and the rest of the businesses were given 15 years to comply with building new brick structures. Another fire in 1900 worked to further transform downtown Nashville into what it is today. <sup>18</sup>

At the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, new businesses were about to develop in the area around Nashville. In 1894, the Nashville Drug Store opened in its present location, 100 North Main Street. That makes it the oldest business in its original location in Nashville. In 1896, the third oldest industry in Nashville began with the opening of the Nashville Bottling Company. In 1911, the company contracted with Coca-Cola and continues to bottle today. <sup>19</sup>In 1903, Bert Johnson planted 100 acres in peach trees near Highland. With the success of this first attempt at peach growing, Johnson organized the Arkansas Orchard Planting Company increased his acreage to 3,500. By the middle of the 1930s, there were 13,000 acres planted in peaches in Howard County. <sup>20</sup>

In 1905, citizens chose to move the county seat from Center Point to Nashville, partly because Nashville was on the rail line. Electrical service began in Nashville in 1911, operating from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. every night. In 1929, natural gas lines came to town. In 1938, at the height of the Great Depression, William T. Dillard started a store in Nashville that later became the Dillard Corporation. <sup>21</sup> William Dillard was a Howard County son, having been born in 1914 in Mineral Springs. <sup>22</sup> In 1983, the Nashville Sauropod Trackway, the largest dinosaur trackway in the world, was discovered on land belonging to Weyerhaeuser. The tracks are considered around 100 million years old. <sup>23</sup>

### **First Presbyterian Church History**

The First Presbyterian Church in Nashville was organized November 15, 1891 with seven members. The organizing minister was the Rev. R.B. Morrow, who reported to the Presbytery in Hope that the first elders were Tom H. Martindale and A.H. Hale. <sup>24</sup> It

took the church ten years before it got a permanent pastor. The lack of a pastor caused the church to dwindle in number. In 1901, five women organized the Presbyterian Aid Society, which became fundamental in the survival of the congregation. By 1902, the church was revitalized and the congregation began to think about building its own church. The church finally attracted its own minister, W.I. Sechrest, and the Presbyterian Aid Society began to raise money for the new church. In 1909, two lots were purchased from D.W. Gallaway. The church changed ministers about this time, and was now and under the direction of Rev. Michael Medsker Lawson. In 1909, Rev. Lawson oversaw the start of building.<sup>25</sup> It was finished in 1912.

Apparently Rev. Lawson had some strong diplomatic skills, because the congregation disagreed about the architecture of the church. Specifically, the congregation was not keen on including the use of beams and brackets on the interior ceiling. They were concerned about the extra expense this required. Rev. Lawson clearly won this argument, testified by the beams and brackets present in the church.<sup>26</sup>

Rev. Lawson was born in Highland Ohio in 1844, and spent most of his life living in Ohio and Indiana.<sup>27</sup> He appears to have lived with his parents through at least 1870, when he was listed as a “student” in the 1870 census. Presumably, he was attending seminary at Wabash College. The *Nashville News* tells us that at Wabash College, Rev. Lawson was classmates with Vice President Thomas R. Marshall, who served under Woodrow Wilson.<sup>28</sup> By 1880, Rev. Lawson had moved to St. Mary’s, Ohio and married woman named Catherine Darrah.<sup>29</sup> His occupation is listed in the 1880 census as minister. Between 1880 and 1899, Rev. Lawson and Catherine had four children. In 1900, he was living in Center Township in Marion County, Indiana in the vicinity of Indianapolis.<sup>30</sup> Rev. Lawson is first mentioned in the *Nashville News* in 1907, when he is listed as pastor of the church.<sup>31</sup> The church offered services twice a month and Sunday school every week.<sup>32</sup>

By 1914, Rev. Lawson was a busy member of the community, assisting with the schools and other organizations in his spare time.<sup>33</sup> He was a chaplain for the Masonic lodge, worked with the Red Cross during World War I, and built floats for local parades. Rev. Lawson died in 1924, while living in Dallas County.<sup>34</sup>

The church was built by Elijah Alexander Williams, a contractor and carpenter born in North Carolina in 1872. He was not highly educated, having only completed through the third grade. However, he clearly developed strong carpentry skills as a young man.<sup>35</sup> E.A. Williams married a woman named Hester around 1892. The first of five children was born the next year. Sometime between 1897 and 1900, the family moved to Nashville. In the 1900 Census, he is listed as a salesman rather than a contractor.<sup>36</sup> However, by 1920 he is listed as a carpenter, the profession he pursues for the next twenty years.<sup>37</sup> By 1940, E.A. Williams was retired and living with Hester on South Souththinton Avenue. He died January 17, 1942 at Nashville and is buried in the Nashville Cemetery.<sup>38</sup>

The Women's group at First Presbyterian helped pay for the church's construction with a variety of fundraising projects, including concerts, teas, bazaars, and tamale selling.<sup>39</sup> By the 1950s, the church was again struggling. They had trouble finding a permanent pastor and attracting a larger congregation. Rev. Lawson's son-in-law, W.O. Davis worked to keep the church going through the 1960s. By the 1970s, the Presbytery had dissolved the church, and the building was put up for sale. The Howard County Heritage Club purchased the building, and converted it to a museum. The building was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1975.<sup>40</sup> The Heritage Club became the Howard County Historical Society, which continued to fundraise for several years. In 2015, the Howard County Historical Society began a two year restoration project to restore the church. We are here today to celebrate the completion of much of the restoration work, funded in part by grants from the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program.

What makes this building special for architectural historians is its style. The National Register nomination for the building calls it the only "structure in southwest Arkansas that combines Victorian Gothic and Stick Style architecture."<sup>41</sup> By 1912, this style was uncommon, because it had reached its height of popularity between 1860 and 1890. Its Victorian Gothic features include "the high, gable porch roof" that "features both exposed rafters and solid, heavy, woodwork, masking the gable-end" as well as "the castellated roof-line, the machicolation located beneath a decorative cornice, and the

pointed-arch windows which form a band around the upper sections of the tower.” The trefoil designs above the window transoms are also typical of this style. <sup>42</sup> The stick style of the building shows up in these lovely heavy carved brackets on the interior of the church, the porch at the base of the tower. <sup>43</sup>

It was the distinctive bell tower that needed the most work when restoration began on this building. One section of the bell tower was “rotted through even to the studs and main supports.”<sup>44</sup> One wall was removed, timber and studs replaced, and a moisture barrier installed before residing and painting. The classroom on the east side of the building had extensive moisture damage, and much of the original plaster walls had melted away. <sup>45</sup> Floorboards were replaced with wood from a local house that was torn down, and similar wainscoting was found to replace part of the wall coverings.

In its new life, the church will serve as a museum and event venue.

## Ceremony

The Howard County Historical Society would like to take a few minutes to acknowledge the family of Elijah Alexander Williams and dedicate the building in his honor. Mr. Horne?

## Commercial District <sup>46</sup>

Okay, if you will follow me outside, we will continue the tour into the Nashville Commercial Historic District. When the tour returns to the church, please feel free to take some time to look around.



**114 W. Hempstead**

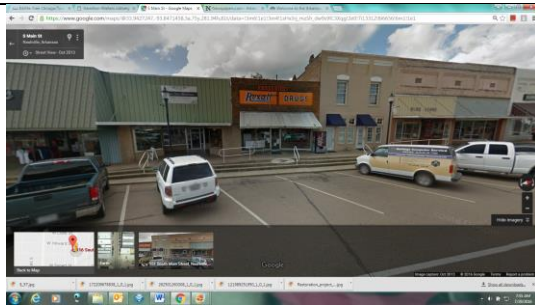
This building is a contributing element in the historic district. Built between 1919 and 1930, it appears have originally been an auto sales office and service station which we know was still its use by 1945. It is of the kind of plain commercial architecture often used in this part of the country during the 20<sup>th</sup> century.





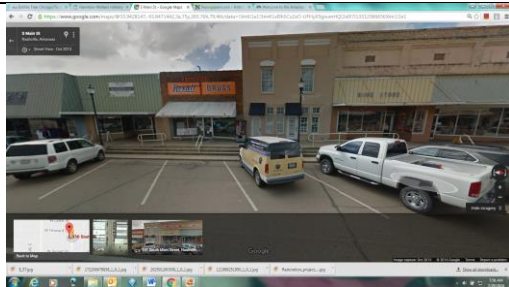
120-118 S. Main

These two buildings are historic, but they are contributing to the district because of the 1970s era slipcovers over the original historic storefronts. However, in 1909 this corner boasted a livery stable, next to an empty lot. By 1908, the building at this site was marked “private” on the Sanborn maps. In 1914, this corner is completely empty lots. By the 1919 map, there is still nothing on these two lots. Therefore, this building seems to have been built sometime between 1919 and 1930, when the Sanborn maps show a building here that is simply marked “store.” The building next door does not show up on the Sanborn maps until 1945. So it was built sometime between 1930-1945.



116 S. Main (Drug store)

This building was constructed around 1940. It is a one story building with variegated textured brick. It has been a drug store since at least 1940, as it is listed on the 1945 Sanborn map as a drug store. The shopfront on this building is original. Prior to the construction of this building this site was a print shop from 1900-1908, a restaurant from at least 1914-1930. In 1930, this site was a store.



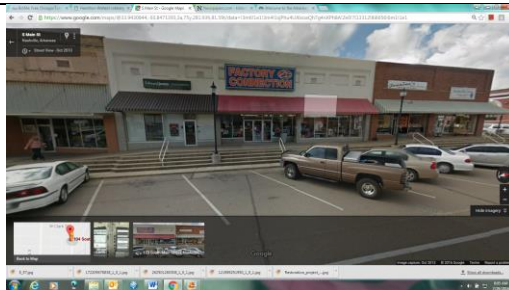
114 S. Main (offices, next door to drug store)

This building was constructed around 1910. It appears for the first time on the 1914 Sanborn map where it is labeled “offices.” It has superimposed brick denticular cornices at the top of the façade. The multi-pane shop front windows are not historic, nor are the two over nine windows on the second story.



110-112 S. Main

This building was constructed around 1915. Notice its decorative brick panels on the upper façade. The 1919 Sanborn maps don't say what these buildings were used for originally, but the 1930s Sanborn marks it as a store. The shopfronts on this building were constructed around the 1950s.



104-106 S. Main

In 1900, there were two warehouses here. In 1908, there was a boarding house and a hay & feed store on this lot. These buildings were built around 1914, and were originally listed as a hardware and implements store, which appears to have still been here in 1919. In 1930, this building is simply listed on the Sanborns as "store." The building was remodeled sometime around 1945, the façade was stuccoed and a new storefront was constructed. The original brick panel design is still visible in the upper façade.



100 S. Main

This is the oldest building in the commercial district, dating to around 1894, when Nashville Drug first opened. It is the second oldest business in Nashville (the Nashville News is older), but it is the oldest business in its original location. Unfortunately, the building is non-contributing in the district because of modern changes made to the façade of the structure (2003). It does, however, retain its original decorative tilework at the entrance that says "Drugs."

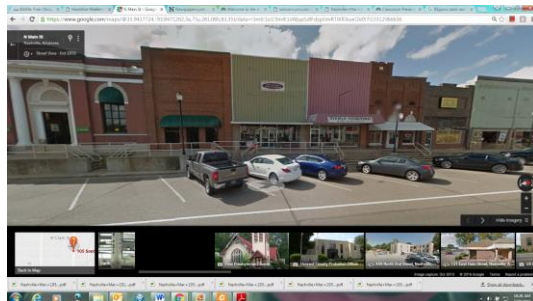
This bank building was constructed in 1923. It is a lovely neo-classical structure. The parapeted entrance bay has large round Tuscan columns, which gives the building a Beaux-Arts feel. Round arch windows are on



103 N. Main (Regions Bank) <sup>47</sup>

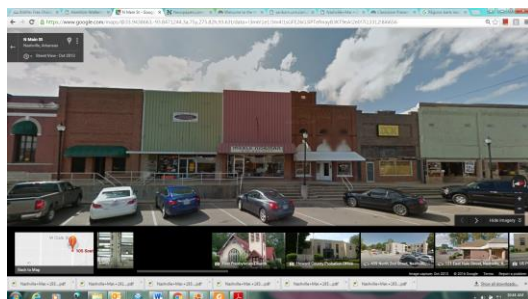
the façade and the side of the building.

In 1900, there was another building here that housed a hardware store. By 1914, the hardware store building had been demolished and this was an empty lot. In 1919, this spot is listed as the “air dome cinema.” The Air Dome opened at the end of May, 1918. It was described in the *Nashville News* as featuring “a new [projector], a fine gold screen curtain, and it will have a slanting floor.” The article also declared that it would be the “best show house the city ever had.” In 1930, the Sanborn maps show that this building was a bank, but at the rear portion of the building was a movie theater.



105 N. Main

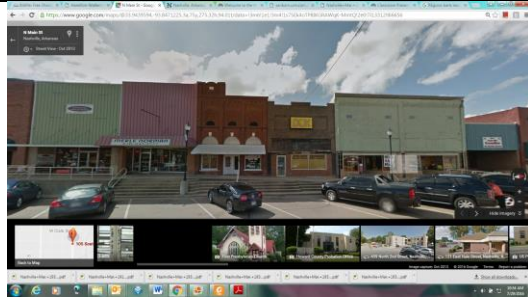
This building is contributing to the historic district because its new façade dates to about 2000. In 1900, there was another hardware store on this site. By 1914, it is listed as a variety store. It is simply listed as a “store” in 1930, and in 1945.



107-109 N. Main

These buildings are non-contributing to the district because of the 1970s ear slipcovers put over the façade of the buildings. Between 1900-1908, there were two stores on this site. In 1914, both sites were vacant. By 1919, there was a store and restaurant on this site. By 1930, these buildings are again listed as stores.

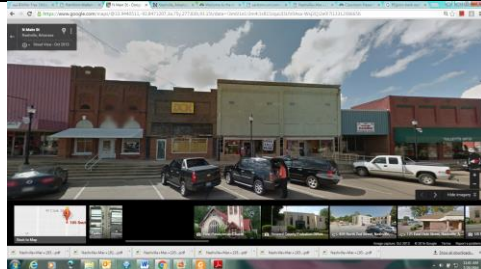




Howard County Bank, 111 N. Main

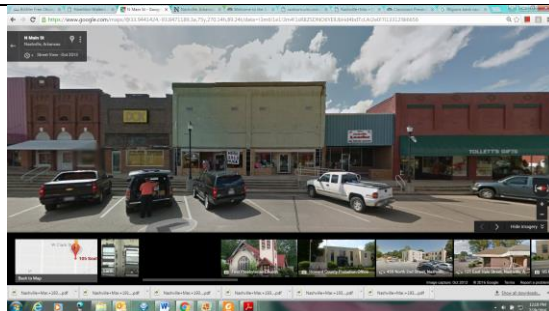
This building was originally the Howard County Bank, built in 1899. It is a one-story brick building with some of the best brick work in the commercial historic district. It had an original three-by store front with three rounded arches (which are filled with metal). Ornamental ventilator grills are set in decorative brick panels with arched tops. Above is a brick cornice. The left side of the building includes a parapet, which rises above the roofline.

By 1919, this building was no longer a bank and is listed in the Sanborn maps as split into two retail spaces. On the right was a jewelry store and on the left were offices.



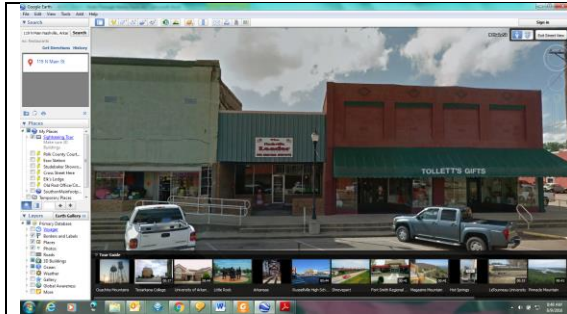
113 N. Main

There is a building here in the 1900 Sanborn, but the upper portion of the building, where transom windows have been boarded up and the parapet above, date to around 1920 or so. In 1900, this site is listed as a general store. By 1908 it was being used as a grocery, which it remained until sometime after 1919. The 1930 Sanborns simply list it as a store.



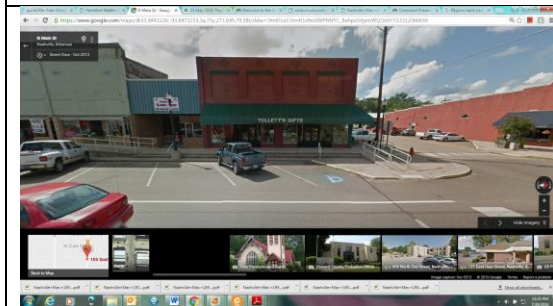
117 N. Main

This building is non-contributing, but behind it is a two-story warehouse built in 1895. In 1900, this building was split into two storefronts, a dry good store and a shoe store. By 1908 it is listed as a general store and clothing store. In 1914, a furniture and dry goods store, and by 1919 both were clothing stores.



119 N. Main

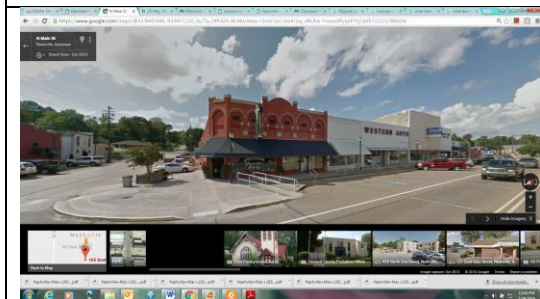
This building was built in 1970. In 1900, it was a general store but had shifted to clothing only by 1908. In 1914 it was a furniture store and a clothing store by 1919.



Tolletts

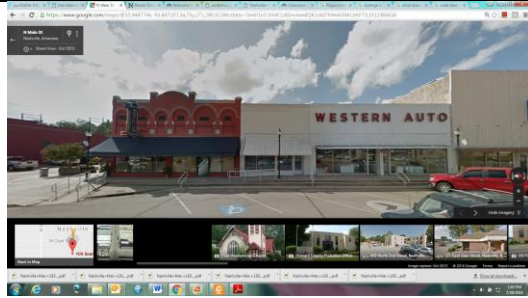
121 N. Main

This building was constructed around 1895. It is a one-story commercial building with interesting decorative brickwork. Notice the lozenges along the roofline. The building appears to have been used as dry goods, grocery, and general merchandise storefronts through its early history.



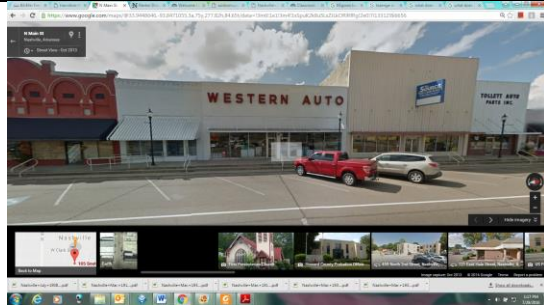
203 N. Main

This building is historically known as the Rector Drug Store, a business that was advertising in the Nashville News since at least 1898. It appears to have remained the Rector Drug Store until at least 1945, because it shows up listed as a drug store on the Sanborn map from that year. The building itself is one of the most interesting architecturally in the district because of some unusual features. It was built around 1895. The façade is painted brick and the side of the building is stuccoed. The repeating round arches on the façade suggest a Romanesque Revival style because they originate from buttress-like elements. There is also a band of bricks laid with corners pointing out, and a parapet with a large rounded shape in the middle of the façade.



205 N. Main

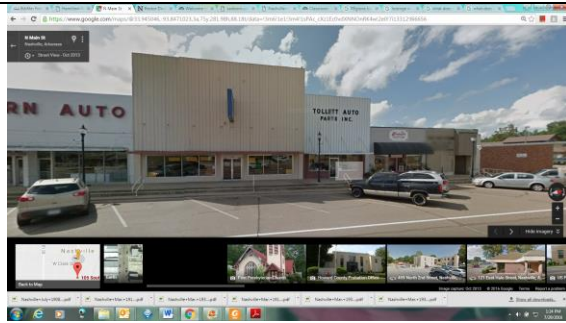
In 1900, there was a smaller building on this spot that was used as stationery store. In 1908 the building was empty. By 1914, it was used as a grocery, and in 1919 the smaller building appears to have been replaced with this building. It is a plain except for the corbelled brick cornice. There are transom windows that survive under the awning.



Western Auto

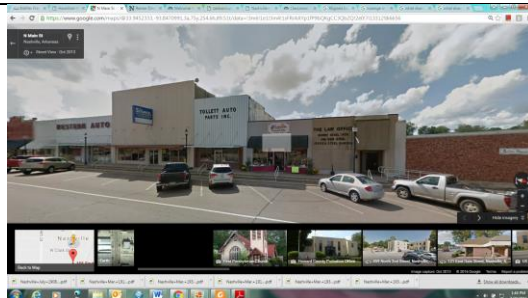
207-209 N. Main

This building was constructed around 1915, but the stucco was done around 1940. The shopfront and awning on the building are newer than 1940. In 1900, there was a blacksmith shop on this site, but by 1908 it had been torn down and this site were two empty lots, which remained until 1914. This building was in place by 1919, and listed as a general store.



213-215 N. Main

These two buildings first appear on the Sanborn maps by 1908; the left side was a furniture store and the right side was a grocery/hay & feed store. Next door, to the right, was a wagon yard with a dwelling in the northeast corner. This configuration remained through 1919. By 1930, the wagon lot and house next door had been replaced with a filling station and auto repair business. These buildings are non-contributing to the historic district because of the 1970s era slipcovers on the building facades.



Nashville flowers and gifts (left)

Law office (right)

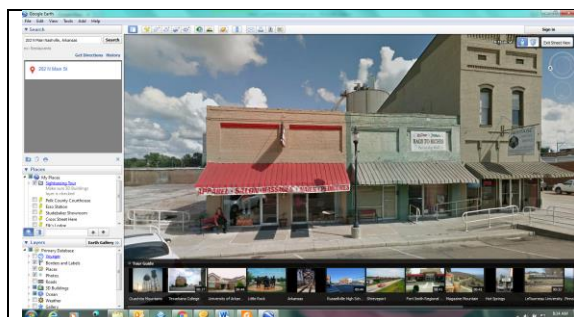
217- N. Main

This building was constructed around 1955. It is contributing to the district, but it is built in a very plain "no style" fashion, with a stucco façade. 219 main, next door to the right, is non-contributing to the district because of the brutalist-style stucco façade put on the building the 1980s.

<b>Head to courthouse</b>	Okay, we're going to on down to the courthouse right now.
<b>Courthouse</b>	<p>The first courthouse built here when the county seat was relocated from Center Point was a white brick construction with a prominent bell tower at the front of the building. It became too small by the 1930s, and so it was replaced.</p> <p>The current Howard County Courthouse was built in 1939, partially with the help of Public Works Administration funds. Like the Works Progress Administration, the PWA assisted with public building projects during the Great Depression. It was designed by architectural firm Erhart &amp; Eichenbaum of Little Rock, and built by E.V. Bird of Fayetteville. The building is of the Art Moderne flavor of Art Deco style, and the exterior is very similar to other Art Deco courthouses in Arkansas built around the same time.</p> <p>It is distinctive, however, because of the green and black marble that surrounds the entrances and separates the second story windows from the first story windows. Marble was a very expensive material to use during the Great Depression, so the people of Howard County (who had to pay half the cost of the building), must have been hoping to show some pride in their new public building. Other expensive material choices include the interior tile which covers the floor and much of the walls on the first floor. It was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1990.<sup>48</sup></p>
<b>Post Office</b>	We're going to pick the tour back up at the Post Office, so cross the street and follow me.
<b>Post Office</b>	The Nashville Post office was built as part of a 1936 federal emergency construction program. The J.R. Hill lots were purchased as the site at a cost of \$10,000. The building was constructed by the Algernon Blair construction company of Montgomery, Alabama, who won the job with a bid of \$40,793.00. Construction began in August 1937, and was finished by

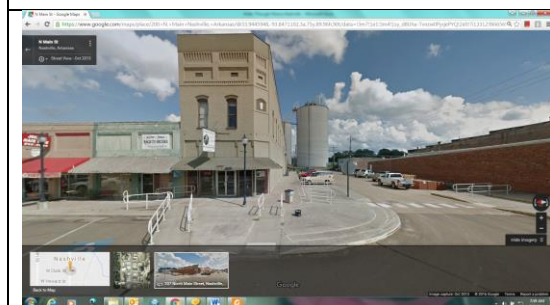
	<p>mid-January 1938. A report on the project in the Nashville News said that the building would be constructed with “all local labor . . . as far as possible . . . and materials will be bought locally.”</p> <p>The Post Office opened on January 11, 1938. The original specifications for the building included \$660.00 for a mural. In August of 1938, the U.S. Treasury department chose John Tazewell Robertson of Millinton, New Jersey to create the mural. His original plan was to depict the Arkansas Traveler, but when he sent this suggestion to the local postmaster, he had another idea. Instead of the Arkansas Traveler, Robertson chose the peach industry. The postmaster also suggested that the mural include a depiction of Bert Johnson, the man who is considered the father of the peach industry in Howard County. The mural was installed in late July 1939. The Nashville News called it “most appropriate and fitting by the artist that a portrait of the late Bert Johnson was incorporated into the design as a memorial to the man who was instrumental in the development of this section as a peach country. The kneeling figure planting the peach stock is a portrait of Mr. Johnson developed from a photograph take the day of Mr. Johnson’s death” from a car accident.</p> <p>The building itself is a single-story brick structure. It has a square plan and flat roof, and is designed in a version of the Art Deco style. This is particular clear in the stepped recessed fenestrations on the façade. <sup>49</sup></p>
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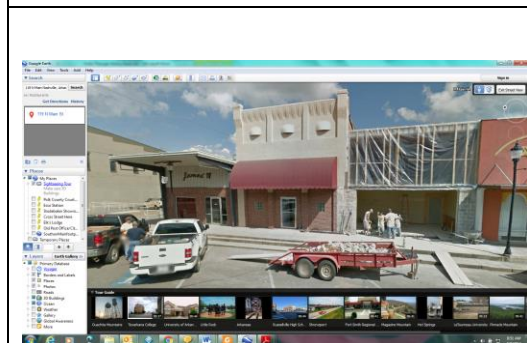
**202-204 N. Main**

This is one building built around 1910. It is a one-story plain commercial building. The shopfront appears to be historic, but the metal awning is not. In 1900, there were different buildings on this block. At the end of the block was a grocery and lunch at the end of the block. At this spot was a photo studio and general store. By 1908, the buildings in this spot housed a grocery, a meat market, and a lunch counter. By 1909 this spot housed a Photo studio, a variety store and a confectionary store. By 1930, when these buildings were standing, there was a photo studio here, a stone cutting business, and two store fronts. <sup>50</sup>



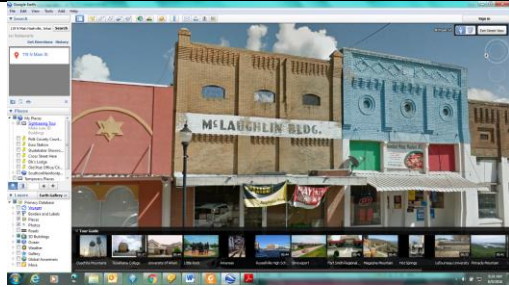
**200 North Main, Masonic Lodge**

This building is non-contributing to the historic district because of alternations, but I wanted to point it out because it is an unusual building. This was the Masonic Hall, built in 1903. It has an Italianate type style. At one time it had a cast-iron cornice that has been lost. The features that remain include cast-iron columns near the shopfront, segmental head windows, and a complicated brickwork pattern above the windows. The rear addition of the building does not show up on the Sanborn maps until 1930. Modern windows have been installed. It is the roof that makes it non-contributing, because it used to be stair-stepped, and now it is flat. The first floor of this building was the post office in Nashville for many years. Starting with the 1909 Sanborn maps, this building shows a post office on the first floor. This does not show up on the 1930 Sanborn. <sup>51</sup>



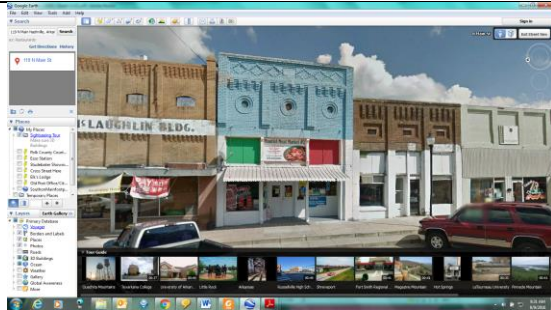
**114-122 N. Main**

These buildings are non-contributing to the district because they have been altered so much. This also includes the church next door. In 1900, there was a general store at the end of the block here, next door to a boots & shoes store, a grocery, a meat market, a barber shop and a fruit stand. By 1908, there were two general stores and a drug store here. In 1919, the general store and drug store was still here, but the third building was a movie theater.



**112 N. Main, McLaughlin Building.**

This building is also non-contributing to the historic district because of alternations to the original structure. For example, the original flat roof is gone and it has been replaced with a much lower modern flat roof. Also, the shop front is not historic. However, this building was constructed around 1910, and it is a one-story brick commercial building with interesting brickwork. At the end of the building the pilasters protrude above the parapet, ending with a pyramid shaped brick cap. The top of the parapet has corbelled brick brackets, which also appear on the lower façade. In 1900, there was another drug store at this site. By 1908, there was a bank located here. In 1919, it was still a bank. By 1930, the bank was gone and replaced by a store.



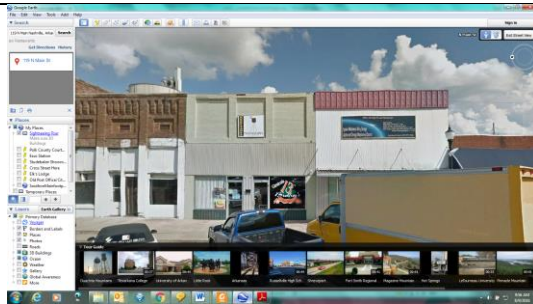
**Blue Building, 110 N. Main**

This building is a contributing element to the historic district. It was built around 1905, and it is a one-story brick commercial building with some of the most elaborate brickwork in the district. It features corbelled brackets, diamond patterns, pilaster strips with corbelled bottoms, and roundels with ventilators at the center. The shopfront still has its original cast-iron columns.



Brown building, 108 N. Main

This building is a contributing element to the historic district. It was constructed around 1910, and features three bays separated by thin brick piers that extend to the top of the building. Between each pier at the top of the building are a series of corbelled elements. Below these are decorative inset panels. In 1900, there was an office building here that has “damaged” listed on the Sanborn map. In 1908, after this building was constructed, there was an office here with a barber and tailor in one side of the building. By 1919, there was a furniture store here.

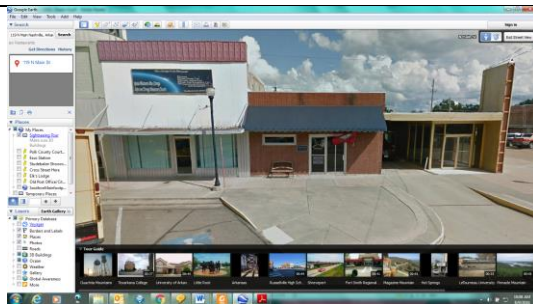


Gray/Green Building  
106 N. Main

This building is a contributing element to the historic district. It was built around 1910. This building has three large brick panels on its upper façade; each has layers of brick at the top. The shop front is not historic. In 1900, there was a general store in this location. By 1908, there was a second hand furs and hides store here. In 1919, there was an office and barber store here. In 1930, there was a dry cleaning store and pressing service here.

104 N. Main

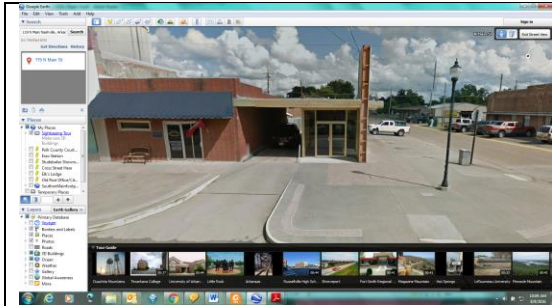
This building was constructed in the 1970s.



102 N. Main

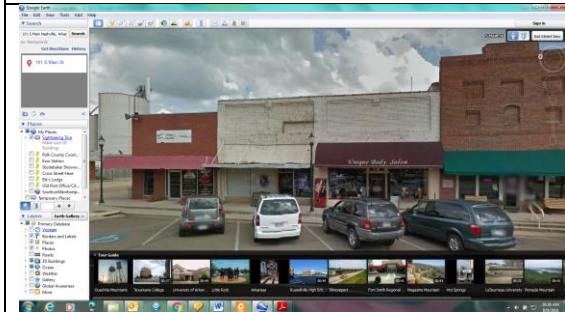
This building is a contributing element to the historic district. It was built around 1940, and is one-story commercial building.





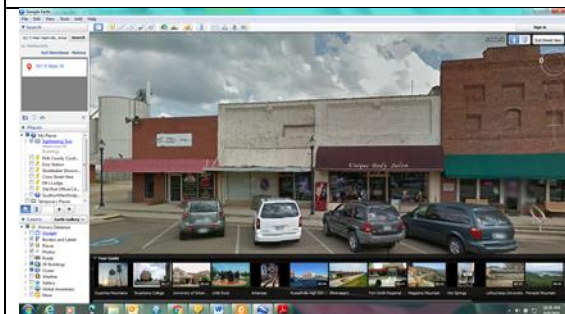
100 N. Main

This building is a contributing element to the historic district. It is the First National Motor Bank, built around 1955. It is a mid-century modern motor-bank built with orange brick and gold ribbed metal. The building is capped by a roof that extends about 18 inches from the wall. The building is defined by at the corner by a spire that is clad in gold metal and extends three feet above the roofline. The front of the building is covered in large glass sheets held in place by glazing bars. The only alteration to the building is the loss of gold metal on the front of the spire. In 1900, there was a grocery at this site. In 1908, there was a bakery here. In 1919, the building that held the grocery and the bakery appears to be gone and replaced with a very small lunch counter. By 1930, there was a filling station at this site, set catty corner to the street.



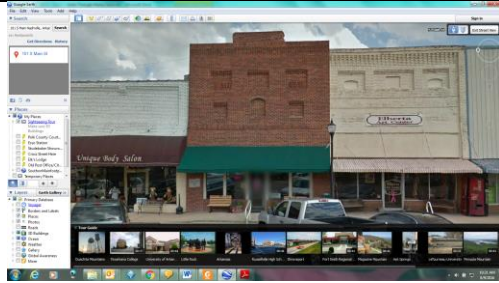
101 S. Main red brick on the corner & white building next door.

Built around 1950, this is a one story plain commercial building. It is contributing to the historic district. In 1900, there was a general store where the left side of the building and the right side was an empty lot. By 1908, there was a barber and shoe store here. By 1919, there was an auto sales office and a feed store here. The 1930 Sanborn maps just list these sites as "stores."



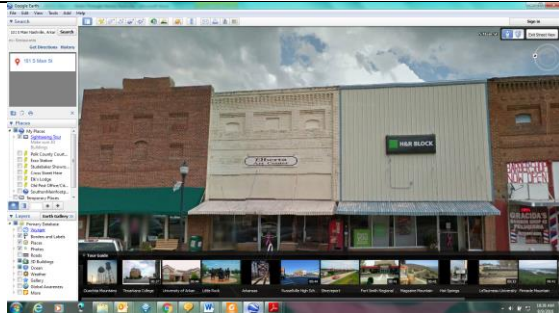
White Brick next door.  
103 S. Main

This building is also a contributing element to the historic district. It was built around 1905, and it is a wide one-story commercial building. The façade includes two matching units of layered brickwork at the cornice and corbelled brick at the center. The shop fronts appear to be non-historic, although they are similar to historic shop fronts. In 1900, there was a general store and restaurant here. By 1908, there was a grocery here. In 1919, there was a feed store and grocery store here.



107 S. Main

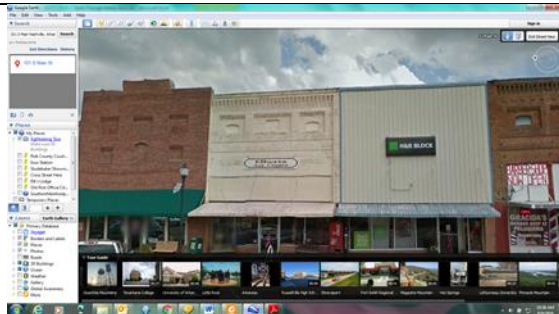
Non-contributing building, built around 2000.



Elberta Art Center

109 S. Main

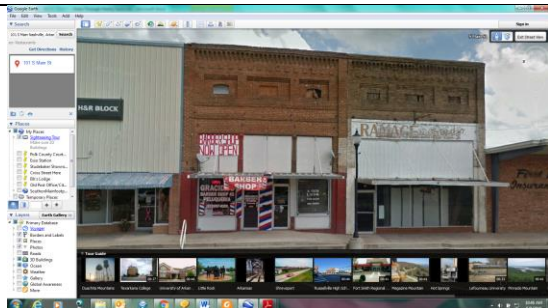
This building is a contributing element in the historic district. It was built around 1905, and it is a one-story commercial building. The upper façade has three decorative brick panels and it is topped by a corbelled cornice. The shop front is not original but is older than 50 years old. In 1900, this was an empty lot. In 1908, this building had been constructed and housed a hardware and furniture store. In 1919, there was a barber and restaurant in this space.



H & R Block

111 S. Main

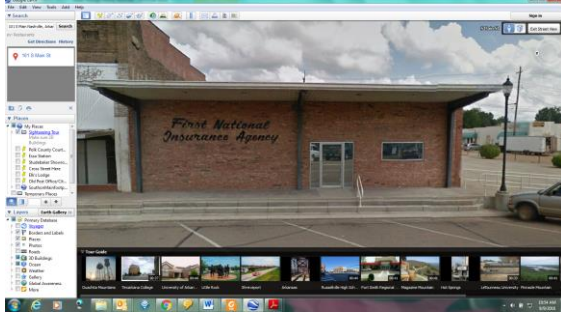
This building is contributing to the district. Although the building itself is historic, the slipcover on the outside of the building was installed circa 1970. In 1900, there was a post office located here. By 1908, this building appears to have been constructed and there was a drug store here. In 1919, the drug store remained as it did in 1930.



Barber Shop

113-115 S. Main

This building is a contributing element in the historic district. This building was constructed around 1905, and it is a brick one-story commercial building. The shop front retains its original cast-iron columns. The upper façade has three decorative brick panels, with a ventilator in each. It has a corbelled cornice. The shopfront is not original, but is similar to historic shopfronts. It is identical to the building next door, which was built at the same time. In 1900, there was a small office building and a grocery at this location. In 1908, after the buildings were constructed, there was a

	<p>furniture and hardware store on the left and a general store on the right. In 1919, the hardware and furniture store were still there. On the right was the Dilday and Johnson Wholesale Groceries.</p>
 <p>117 S. Main, Insurance Office</p>	<p>This building is does not contribute to the historic district. It is a pre-engineered steel brick-façade building constructed in the mid-1970s.</p>
<p>Return to Church</p>	<p>Okay, if you will all follow me we are going to head back to the church where the tour will end.</p>



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<sup>1</sup> White, Lauren. "Howard County." Encyclopedia of Arkansas. July 20, 2016. Accessed July 25, 2016.  
<http://www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net/encyclopedia/entry-detail.aspx?entryID=775#>.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid

<sup>3</sup> The History of Howard County, Arkansas. Nashville, AR: Nashville News, 1973.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid



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- <sup>5</sup> White, Lauren. "Howard County." Encyclopedia of Arkansas. July 20, 2016. Accessed July 25, 2016. <http://www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net/encyclopedia/entry-detail.aspx?entryID=775#>.
- <sup>6</sup> Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Southern Arkansas: Comprising a Condensed History of the State, a Number of Biographies of Its Distinguished Citizens, a Brief Descriptive History of Each of the Counties Mentioned, and Numerous Biographical Sketches of the Citizens of Such County. Easley, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1978.
- <sup>7</sup> Lloyd, Peggy S. "The Howard County Race Riot of 1883." The Arkansas Historical Quarterly 59, no. 4 (2000): 353-87. doi:10.2307/40023190.
- <sup>8</sup> Lloyd, Peggy S. "Howard County Race Riot of 1883." Encyclopedia of Arkansas. June 24, 2016. Accessed July 27, 2016. <http://www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net/encyclopedia/entry-detail.aspx?entryID=3663>.
- <sup>9</sup> Ibid
- <sup>10</sup> Thompson, Margaret Ponder. A Peach of a Place: An Oral History of Nashville, Arkansas. Little Rock, AR: Target Printing & Office Centre, 2012.
- <sup>11</sup> The History of Howard County, Arkansas. Nashville, AR: Nashville News, 1973.
- <sup>12</sup> U.S., Find A Grave Index, 1700s-Current. Ancestry.com. Ancestry Operations, Inc. Provo, UT. 2012.
- <sup>13</sup> The History of Howard County, Arkansas. Nashville, AR: Nashville News, 1973.
- <sup>14</sup> Ibid
- <sup>15</sup> Ibid
- <sup>16</sup> Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Southern Arkansas: Comprising a Condensed History of the State, a Number of Biographies of Its Distinguished Citizens, a Brief Descriptive History of Each of the Counties Mentioned, and Numerous Biographical Sketches of the Citizens of Such County. Easley, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1978.
- <sup>17</sup> Howard County Heritage. Arkansas: Howard County Heritage Club, 1988.
- <sup>18</sup> Ibid
- <sup>19</sup> The History of Howard County, Arkansas. Nashville, AR: Nashville News, 1973.
- <sup>20</sup> Thompson, Margaret Ponder. A Peach of a Place: An Oral History of Nashville, Arkansas. Little Rock, AR: Target Printing & Office Centre, 2012.
- <sup>21</sup> White, Lauren. "Howard County." Encyclopedia of Arkansas. July 20, 2016. Accessed July 25, 2016. <http://www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net/encyclopedia/entry-detail.aspx?entryID=775#>.
- <sup>22</sup> Bull, Julie J. "William T. Dillard (1914–2002)." Encyclopedia of Arkansas. November 18, 2013. Accessed July 28, 2016. <http://www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net/encyclopedia/entry-detail.aspx?entryID=4529>.
- <sup>23</sup> Teske, Anastasia. "Nashville Sauropod Trackway." Encyclopedia of Arkansas. October 5, 2011. Accessed July 28, 2016. <http://www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net/encyclopedia/entry-detail.aspx?entryID=3815>.
- <sup>24</sup> Howard County Heritage. Arkansas: Howard County Heritage Club, 1988.
- <sup>25</sup> Ibid
- <sup>26</sup> United States. National Park Service. Department of the Interior. National Register of Historic Places Inventory Nomination Form. By Mike Shinn. Little Rock, AR: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, 1975.
- <sup>27</sup> United States Census. Year: 1850; Census Place: Marshall, Highland, Ohio; Roll: M432\_694; Page: 340; Image: 594.
- <sup>28</sup> "Nashville Pastor Was Schoolmate with Vice President Marshall." Nashville News (Nashville, Arkansas), July 7, 1915.
- <sup>29</sup> United States Census. Year: 1880; Census Place: Saint Marys, Auglaize, Ohio; Roll: T9\_994; Family History Film: 1254994; Page: 533.3000; Enumeration District: 13; Image: 0107.
- <sup>30</sup> United States Census. Year: 1900; Census Place: Center, Marion, Indiana; Roll: T623\_389; Page: 8B; Enumeration District: 124.
- <sup>31</sup> United States Census. Year: 1910; Census Place: Nashville, Howard, Arkansas; Roll: T624\_52; Page: 17B; Enumeration District: 29; Image: 978.
- <sup>32</sup> "Lodges and Churches." Nashville News (Nashville, Arkansas), November 9, 1907.
- <sup>33</sup> "Old Negro Woman Entertained Children of Nashville Schools With Spinning Wheel." Nashville News (Nashville, Arkansas), November 11, 1914.
- <sup>34</sup> Ancestry.com. Arkansas Death Index, 1914-1950 [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2005.

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- <sup>35</sup> United States Census. Year: 1940; Census Place: Nashville, Howard, Arkansas; Roll: T627\_142; Page: 24B; Enumeration District: 31-24
- <sup>36</sup> United States Census. Year: 1900; Census Place: Nashville, Howard, Arkansas; Roll: 61; Page: 23A; Enumeration District: 0070; FHL microfilm: 1240061
- <sup>37</sup> United States Census. Year: 1930; Census Place: Nashville, Howard, Arkansas; Roll: 75; Page: 12A; Enumeration District: 0024; Image: 1043.0; FHL microfilm: 2339810
- <sup>38</sup> Ancestry.com. U.S., Find A Grave Index, 1600s-Current [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2012.
- <sup>39</sup> Howard County Heritage. Arkansas: Howard County Heritage Club, 1988.
- <sup>40</sup> United States. National Park Service. Department of the Interior. National Register of Historic Places Inventory Nomination Form. By Mike Shinn. Little Rock, AR: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, 1975.
- <sup>41</sup> Ibid
- <sup>42</sup> Ibid
- <sup>43</sup> Ibid
- <sup>44</sup> Brand, Aaron. "Better Days Ahead for Historic Church." Texarkanagazette.com. July 23, 2016. Accessed July 28, 2016. <http://www.texarkanagazette.com/news/features/story/2016/jul/23/better-days-ahead-historic-church/632896/>.
- <sup>45</sup> Freddie Horne, personal interview. July 2016.
- <sup>46</sup> "Nashville Commercial Historic District." United States. National Park Service. Department of the Interior. National Register of Historic Places Inventory Nomination Form. By Donna and Johnathan Fricker. Little Rock, AR: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, 2010.
- <sup>47</sup> "Air Dome Will Be Opened On Next Saturday Night." Nashville News (Nashville, Arkansas), May 25, 1919.
- <sup>48</sup> "Howard County Courthouse." United States. National Park Service. Department of the Interior. National Register of Historic Places Inventory Nomination Form. By Kenneth Story. Little Rock, AR: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, 1990.
- <sup>49</sup> "Nashville Post Office." United States. National Park Service. Department of the Interior. National Register of Historic Places Inventory Nomination Form. By Mark Christ. Little Rock, AR: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, 1998.
- <sup>50</sup> "Nashville Commercial Historic District." United States. National Park Service. Department of the Interior. National Register of Historic Places Inventory Nomination Form. By Donna and Johnathan Fricker. Little Rock, AR: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, 2010.
- <sup>51</sup> Ibid