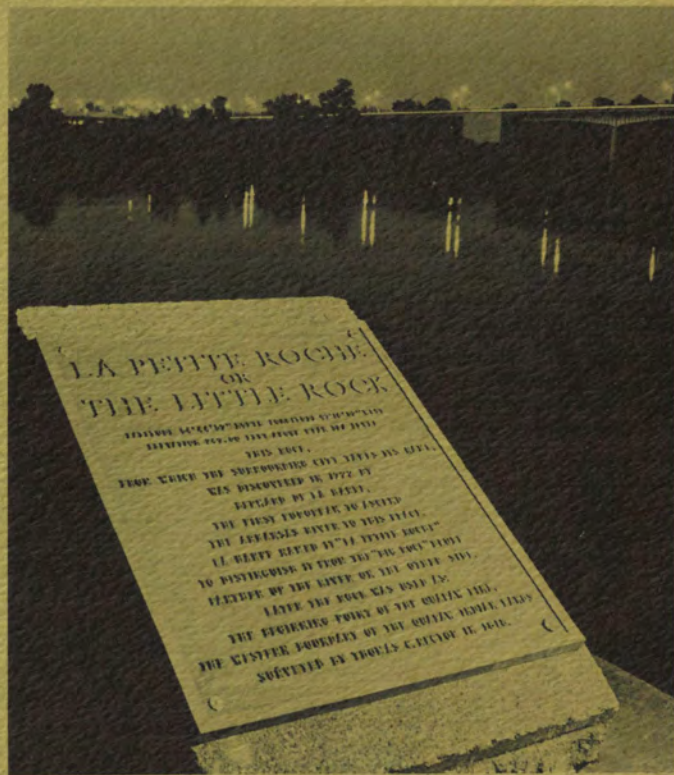


QUAPAW QUARTER

LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS



LA PETITE ROCHE
OR
THE LITTLE ROCK

LESSEUR DE LA PETITE ROCHE EN 1700
LE 15 JUILLET 1700

EN 1700.

LE 15 JUILLET 1700 LE SEIGNEUR DE LA PETITE ROCHE
EN 1700.

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The "little rock" from which the surrounding City takes its name, was discovered in 1722 by Benard de la Harpe, the first European to ascend the Arkansas River to this place. Its name distinguished it from the "big rock" bluff further up the River. Nearly a century later, the rock was used as the beginning point of the Quapaw Line—the western boundary of the Quapaw Indian Lands surveyed in 1818. It thereby became the point of reference in laying out the Original City which was to become the capitol city of Arkansas.

The birth of Little Rock marked the beginning of a colorful history representing a significant characterization of Southern heritage. To insure the preservation of this past era, citizens of the community established, through the Little Rock Housing Authority, a comprehensive program to select structures deemed worthy of preservation or restoration. A technical advisory group, known as the Quapaw Quarter Committee, was organized to implement this program as an integral part of the Central Little Rock Urban Renewal Project. Urban renewal thereby has become the tool for rebuilding a dynamic central city and has helped to maintain examples of the heritage which provided the economic, social and cultural foundations of this modern metropolis.

Because the Quapaw Line bisects the general area of the Original City of Little Rock, the name Quapaw Quarter has been selected to designate this group of historically and architecturally significant structures.

Arkansas Territorial Restoration. This half-block of original Territorial Period structures contains: A two-story log house, built in 1820, that served as the meeting place for the last session of the Territorial Legislature in 1835 . . . the home and law office of C. F. M. Noland, who was delegated to take our constitution to Washington for ratification when Arkansas became a state in 1836 . . . the home and print shop of William E. Woodruff, founder of the *Arkansas Gazette*, oldest newspaper west of the Mississippi and the home of Governor Elias N. Conway, auditor of Arkansas Territory and fifth governor of the State. In the Noland courtyard is a historic, old-fashioned garden which contains English boxwood from the original, 200-year old plants at Mt. Vernon and ten rose bushes that are 130 years old. Mrs. J. Fairfax Loughborough, founder of the Restoration, was for thirty years a vice-regent of the Mt. Vernon Ladies Association, and was a charter member of The National Trust for Historic Preservation.

Third at Cumberland



Old Arsenal, built by the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers for use as a military post and storage place for arms and ammunition, was completed in 1840. Colonel Sandy Faulkner, the famous author of the "Arkansas Traveler", was store's keeper of the post. General Douglas MacArthur was born here in 1880 when his father, General Arthur MacArthur, was the Post Commander. In 1893 it became the property of the City of Little Rock. The Old Arsenal now houses the Museum of Natural History and Antiquities, which features a display of Early American glass, the Audubon Room, the Hall of Firearms and an extensive collection of Indian artifacts. The Quapaw line runs along the western boundary of MacArthur Park where the building is located.

Ninth at Commerce



Curran Hall. Colonel Ebenezer Walters built this house in 1836 for his bride, Mary Starbuck, who died prior to its completion. The house was named "Curran Hall" in 1849, when it was purchased by a young lawyer, James Moore Curran, for his wife, Sophie Fulton, daughter of William Savin Fulton, Arkansas's last Territorial Governor and first United States Senator. Curran died at the age of thirty-two and a few years later his widow married his former law partner, George Claibourne Watkins, who later was Chief Justice of the Arkansas Supreme Court. The property, which originally comprised two square blocks, was sold to Jacob Frolich, Secretary of State during Reconstruction days. In 1884, the land was sold to Mary Woodruff Bell, daughter of William E. Woodruff, whose descendants, the Fred L. Tate family, now own and occupy it.

615 East Capitol



After



Before

Trapnall Hall. Frederick Trapnall of Kentucky began construction of this house in 1843. The Quapaw Line runs through the western part of the property. The house is patterned after a design by Gideon Shryock, architect of the Old State House. The red bricks are said to have been made in Kentucky and shipped by river barge to Little Rock. However, it was painted white sometime early in its history. When the roof burned about 1916, it was painted a dark red and remained that color until the recent restoration which returned it to white. Trapnall built it with the idea of entertaining large groups of people and many notable figures in Arkansas history gathered here. The house passed through several ownerships before being purchased in 1929 by Mrs. Charles Minor Taylor who gave it to the Junior League of Little Rock as a memorial to her husband. In 1963, the Junior League completed an extensive restoration of Trapnall Hall and was presented with the first plaque designating it as a Quapaw Quarter Historic Structure.

423 East Capitol



The Absalom Fowler House. Absalom Fowler, a brilliant lawyer and successful land speculator, built this brick residence according to his own design in 1840. The house has many unusual features: a wide hall, which runs across the front of the house instead of down the middle, and an attached west wing which housed the kitchen and the slaves quarters, instead of the traditional separate outbuildings. Situated in the middle of two blocks of ground, with the Quapaw line forming the west boundary, this imposing structure was a noted show place of the town and well adapted to entertainment on a grand scale. However, Fowler and his wife never entertained and had few friends. Subsequent owners however, took advantage of its spacious elegance and there are accounts of lavish parties given in the house. When Major and Mrs. John D. Adams lived there, Samuel Clemens (Mark Twain) was their guest. Major Adams, owner of two steamboat lines, built the "Kate Adams", which was named for his wife, and was said to have been "the most beautiful packet ever to ply the Mississippi". The last private owner was Mr. John M. Gracie, owner of a large cotton plantation, who used it as a town house. The house is now the property of the Catholic diocese of Little Rock and is used as a nursery school.

503 East Sixth

The Albert Pike House. Albert Pike built this lovely "Greek Revival" style house in 1840, which stands on a beautifully landscaped block with magnolia trees, gingho trees, rose gardens and a very rare jubjub tree. Albert Pike was one of the most colorful figures ever to stride through Arkansas history. He lived in the romantic tradition; he fought a duel, went off to war at the head of his troops, wrote poetry, became a prominent lawyer, a sought-after orator, and a leader of Freemasonry. After Mrs. Pike's death the house was sold and the fashionable Arkansas Female College was established there. The house was purchased in 1889 by Captain John G. Fletcher, president of the German National Bank; his son, John Gould Fletcher, Arkansas' famed poet, spent his boyhood here. It is now the property of Captain Fletcher's daughter, Mrs. David D. Terry, and is occupied by her and her family. 411 East Seventh



Augustus Garland House. This house is important, not only for its "Steamboat Gothic" architecture, but also as the residence of two governors and as the birthplace of Arkansas's famed Pulitzer Prize-winning poet, John Gould Fletcher. Augustus Hill Garland built the house in 1873, providing a large room on the second floor for his extensive library. In 1874 he was elected governor and in 1877, the year of Mrs. Garland's death, he was elected to the United States Senate. His mother continued to live in the house and care for his three children while he was in Washington. Garland also served as Attorney General of the United States. The house again served as a Governor's Mansion when it was rented by Governor Charles Hillman Brough from 1917 to 1922. Governor Brough also had a large library and was pleased with this feature of the house. Mrs. Logan H. Roots purchased the house in 1896 and it is presently owned by her grandson, Mr. William Starr Mitchell.

Fourteenth at Scott



The Lincoln House. Dr. Charles James Lincoln built this handsome house in 1872. It is an authentic example of Victorian architecture. Mrs. Lincoln took an active interest in the interior design of the house. The graceful scroll of plaster ornamentation in the archway of the entrance hall, the unusual frieze in a musical motif on the ceiling of the library, and the crystal chandeliers were all designed by Mrs. Lincoln. Because so much of the ornamentation was hand-fashioned, the house took six years to complete and the Lincoln family moved in before it was finished. In 1878, the first of many gala social functions was given on Thanksgiving Day for the workmen who built it; Mrs. Lincoln had promised them a lavish Thanksgiving dinner if they would finish their work by that time. It is now owned and occupied by Mrs. Charles Knox Lincoln, daughter-in-law of Dr. Lincoln. Seventh at Cumberland





The Arthur Jones Home. This house, dating from a period just before the Civil War, was originally built by Peter Hanger and faced Main Street. It was moved half a block to its present location around 1865. The two original rooms, measured 16 feet square with 14 foot ceilings. Heating was provided by a fireplace in each room, served by a central chimney. This original structure, along with a lattice front porch, has undergone very little change. The floors and the handmade panelled ceiling are original. The house was given to the present owner's grandparents as a wedding gift. Several additions have been made to the rear of the house and the front porch cornice has been rebuilt, but otherwise the house appears the same as when built over one-hundred years ago. Mrs. Arthur Jones comments that the lattice front porch is especially practical from a privacy standpoint since the house now stands in the downtown business area.

814 Scott



The Capital Hotel. In 1872 W. J. Denkla, an official with the Little Rock-Fort Smith Railroad, went to New York to float a bond issue for the railroad. During his visit he heard of an iron front for a three-story building which had been ordered from Europe and which the promoters were unable to pay for. Mr. Denkla bought it, shipped it to Little Rock, and erected the Capital Hotel which was opened in 1877. The original three-story structure was intended for stores and office space; the fourth floor was added later when it became a hotel. On a visit to Little Rock in 1880, President Ulysses S. Grant stayed at the Capital Hotel. The city's most important dances and social functions were given here until after the turn of the century. The "Classic Revival" style of the building is very handsome and could become a Little Rock show-place when the new Convention Center, (One of the major proposals of the Central Little Rock Urban Renewal Project.), is built across the street.

Markham at Louisiana

The Old State House, center of almost a century of Arkansas history, is one of the finest examples of Greek revival architecture in the South. Designed by Gideon Shryock of Kentucky, its architecture is famous for the vanishing arches and twin spiral stairways with the stair wells in reverse of the usual construction. The original woodwork and rails have been carefully restored. The Great Seal of the State of Arkansas mounted on the portico and the three-tiered fountain were part of the Philadelphia Exposition of 1879. The House of Representatives contains original furniture, while the Legislative Halls, the Secretary of State's Office and the Governor's Suite have been furnished with authentic furniture of the period. On permanent display is a collection of inaugural gowns worn by Arkansas First Ladies. The Flag Gallery displays the captured or surrendered battle flags of the War between the States, the U. S. Spanish War, and the Mexican War flags used by Arkansas soldiers. Displayed in the Secretary of State's office are plaques from the Battleship Arkansas, and the great ship's bell is mounted on a native wooden frame in the dog-trot of the East Wing.

Markham at Center





**We owe it to
future generations
to leave something more
of our heritage than mere words
printed on the page of
a history book.**