



# ARKANSAS PRESERVATION AWARDS 2014

January 9, 2015

*Annunciation Cultural Center*

*Little Rock, Arkansas*

**HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
ALLIANCE OF ARKANSAS**



# PROGRAM

## RECEPTION

## WELCOME

*Dr. Jamie C. Brandon*

*President, Historic Preservation Alliance of Arkansas*

## DINNER

## REMARKS

*Courtney C. Crouch, III*

*2014 President, Historic Preservation Alliance of Arkansas*

## AWARDS PROGRAM

*Matt DeCample, Master of Ceremonies*

*Awards presented by Courtney C. Crouch, III, 2014 President  
and Dr. Jamie C. Brandon, 2015 President*

## CLOSING REMARKS

*Vanessa McKuin*

*Executive Director, Historic Preservation Alliance of Arkansas*

## ABOUT THE HISTORIC PRESERVATION ALLIANCE OF ARKANSAS

The Historic Preservation Alliance of Arkansas works to build stronger communities by reconnecting Arkansans to our heritage and empowering Arkansans to save and rehabilitate historic places.

As Arkansas's only statewide nonprofit organization focused on preserving Arkansas's architectural and cultural resources, the Alliance has been educating, advocating and assisting preservation efforts across Arkansas since 1981. From educating lawmakers to connecting individual property owners with tools and resources, the Alliance is committed to protecting the many valuable heritage assets that make our state unique. The Alliance's numerous educational programs include the Dollars and Sense of Historic Rehabilitation, electronic updates about preservation issues and historic places, and tours of historic sites. The Alliance has effectively advocated for public sources of preservation funding and incentives, such as the Real Estate Transfer Tax and the Arkansas Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit. The Alliance assists historic downtown communities through participation in the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program's Main Street Arkansas program—a program which promotes historic preservation and heritage tourism as economic development tools. The Alliance also works to increase awareness and appreciation of historic places through the annual Arkansas Preservation Awards and frequent Preservation Libations. We hope that you will support the Alliance in these efforts by becoming a member and staying informed of our many programs and events which enrich the sustainability and quality of life in Arkansas.

### CONNECT WITH US! IN PERSON

201 W Fourth Street  
North Little Rock, AR  
72114

BY MAIL  
PO Box 305  
Little Rock, AR  
72203

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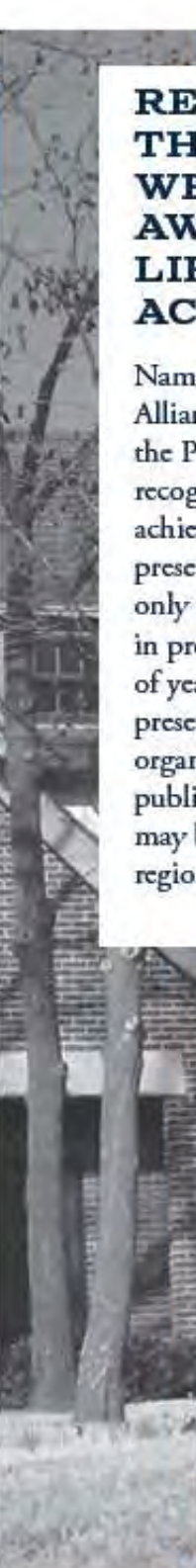
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## SPECIAL THANKS TO

Jodi Barnes, Jamie Brandon, Jen Hughes,  
Paula Miles, Caroline Millar, Hannah Vogler,  
David Ware, Amara Yancey





## **RECIPIENTS OF THE PARKER WESTBROOK AWARD FOR LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT**

Named in honor of the Alliance's Founding President, the Parker Westbrook Award recognizes significant individual achievement in historic preservation. It is the Alliance's only award for achievement in preservation over a period of years. The award may be presented to an individual, organization, business, or public agency whose activity may be of local, statewide, or regional importance.

- 1981 Susie Pryor, Camden†
- 1982 Edwin Cromwell, Little Rock†
- 1983 Dr. F. Hampton Roy, Little Rock
- 1985 Carl Miller, Jr., Little Rock
- 1986 Richard Mason, El Dorado
- 1987 Pauline Hoeltzel, Little Rock†
- 1988 Cyrus Sutherland, Fayetteville†
- 1989 Judge James H. Pilkinton, Sr., Hope†
- 1990 Marjorie Crabaugh, Russellville†
- 1991 Richard Dixon, Little Rock†
- 1992 Laura Findley and the Ouachita County  
Historical Society, Camden†
- 1993 Peg Newton Smith, Little Rock†
- 1994 Margaret Woolfolk, Marion†
- 1995 Lois Bailey Moore, Rison†
- 1996 David Pryor, Little Rock
- 1997 Sam Dickinson, Prescott†
- 1998 Jane Ross, Arkadelphia†
- 1999 Sandra Taylor Smith, North Little Rock
- 2000 Wayne Bledsoe, Fort Smith
- 2001 Dorothy Moore†  
Robert S. Moore, Jr., Arkansas City
- 2004 Becky Witsell, Little Rock
- 2005 Charles Witsell, Little Rock
- 2006 Courtney C. Crouch, Jr., Hot Springs
- 2007 Mark Stodola, Little Rock
- 2008 Bobbie Heffington, Mayflower
- 2009 Marty† and Elise Roenigk, Eureka Springs
- 2010 Theodosia Murphy Nolan, El Dorado†
- 2011 Bobby Roberts, PhD, Little Rock
- 2012 William B. Worthen, Little Rock
- 2013 Frances "Missy" McSwain, Lonoke
- 2014 Ruth Hawkins, PhD, Jonesboro

† Deceased

# **2014 ARKANSAS PRESERVATION AWARDS**

## **PARKER WESTBROOK AWARD FOR LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT**

**Award – Ruth Hawkins, PhD, Jonesboro**

## **EXCELLENCE IN PRESERVATION THROUGH REHABILITATION**

**Private Sector Award – Dempsey Bakery, Little Rock**

*Owner: Paula Dempsey*

*Architect: Herron Horton Architects*

**Public Sector Award – William F. Laman Public Library, North Little Rock**

*Owner: William F. Laman Public Library System*

*Architect: Allison Architects*

*Contractor: CBM Construction Co., Inc.*

**Honorable Mention – CareLink Community  
Kitchen and Adult Respite Center, North Little Rock**

*Owner: CareLink*

*Architect: Polk Stanley Wilcox Architects*

*Contractor: East Harding Construction*

## **EXCELLENCE IN PRESERVATION THROUGH RESTORATION**

**Award – Beth El Heritage Hall, Helena**

*Owner: Delta Cultural Center*

*Architect: JAMESON Architects*

**Honorable Mention – Arkansas State Capitol Dome, Little Rock**

*Owner: State of Arkansas*

*Architect: Hight-Jackson Associates, PA*

*Contractor: Baldwin-Shell Construction Company*



**Honorable Mention – Rohwer Relocation Camp Cemetery, Desha County**

*Principal:* UALR

*Architect:* WER Architects/Planners

*Contractor:* Kinco Constructors

**NED SHANK AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING PRESERVATION  
PUBLICATION**

*Award – Architects of Little Rock: 1833-1950*

*Co-Authors:* Gordon Wittenberg and Charles Witsell

*Publisher:* University of Arkansas Press

**OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT IN PRESERVATION ADVOCACY**

*Award – Scott Darwin*

*For the V.C. Kays House, Jonesboro*

**OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT IN PRESERVATION EDUCATION**

*Award – Hot Springs Historic Baseball Trail*

*Publisher:* City of Hot Springs Advertising and Promotion Commission

**OUTSTANDING SERVICE IN NEIGHBORHOOD PRESERVATION**

*Award – Jennifer Carman and Donna Thomas*

*For multiple rehabilitation and restoration projects in the Central  
High School Neighborhood Historic District, Little Rock*

**OUTSTANDING WORK BY A CRAFTSPERSON**

*Award – Clancy McMahon*

*For the A. R. Carroll Drugstore, Canehill*

*Award – Keith Newton*

*For the Frank Gibb House, Little Rock*

**OUTSTANDING PRESERVATION REPORTING IN THE MEDIA**

*Award – Rex Nelson*

*For articles in the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette and posts on the  
Southern Fried Blog about Hot Springs*



# AWARDS SELECTION COMMITTEE MEMBERS



## DR. JAMIE C. BRANDON

Dr. Jamie C. Brandon is the Arkansas Archeological Survey's Research Station Archeologist for Northwest Arkansas and an Associate Professor of Anthropology at the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville. In this dual position, Dr. Brandon works with graduate students and teaches anthropology courses for University of Arkansas. Additionally, he is responsible for public outreach and research using the archeological resources in his station territory—12 counties in Northwest Arkansas and the Arkansas Ozarks.

Dr. Brandon has been doing archeology in Arkansas since the 1990s and, in recent years, has concentrated on excavating sites that shed light on life in the nineteenth-century South. In that spirit, he has conducted extensive excavations at Historic Washington State Park in southwest Arkansas and Van Winkle's Mill at Hobbs State Park in the Arkansas Ozarks.

Dr. Brandon is the incoming President of the Historic Preservation Alliance of Arkansas. He also serves as the Vice-Chairman of the Arkansas Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission, on the Arkansas State Review Board for Historic Preservation, and on the board of the Arkansas Humanities Council.

## KARA MILLS OOSTERHOUS

Kara Mills Oosterhous has over 15 years of experience in the fields of historic preservation and cultural resource management. She graduated with an M.A. in Cultural Resource Management from Middle Tennessee State University (1999) and has worked with cultural resources in Arkansas, Wyoming, Montana and California. She served as the National Register Coordinator for the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program from 1999-2001. She continued work in the field of historic preservation while living in California from 2001-2003, working for Dill Design Group. Upon returning to Arkansas in 2003, she has continued working part-time in the field of historic preservation, writing numerous National Register Nominations. Kara is married to Tim Oosterhous, District Ranger of the Mena-Oden District of the Ouachita National Forest; they live in Glenwood, Arkansas, where they raise their three boys.





## COURTNEY C. CROUCH, JR.



Courtney C. Crouch, Jr., is a resident of Hot Springs, Arkansas, and a graduate of the University of Arkansas. He serves as President of Selected Funeral and Life Insurance Company in Hot Springs, Arkansas. In 1990, Selected purchased and restored the old United States Post Office (circa 1900) in Hot Springs as its corporate offices. The building is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and has received the Arkansas Excellence in Preservation Award through Restoration in 1991. Crouch received the Parker Westbrook Award in 2006.

Crouch is past president of the Hot Springs National Park Rotary Club and Hot Springs Fifty for the Future. He served as a member of the Board of Directors of Arkansas Bank and Trust Company and Advisory Board Member of Regions Bank. He is also Past Chairman of the Hot Springs Civil Service Commission and served as member of the Board of Directors of the Historic Alliance of Arkansas.

## BOB KEMPKE

Bob Kempkes is a founding partner of Taylor/Kempkes Architects in Hot Springs. Bob's been involved in numerous preservation projects in his firm's 28 year history. He's served as a past board member with the Historic Preservation Alliance of Arkansas and is currently a member of the Arkansas State Review Board for Historic Preservation. Bob is also one of the owners of Quapaw Baths and Spa in the landmark Quapaw Bathhouse on Bathhouse Row in Hot Springs National Park.



## MASON TOMS



Mason Toms currently serves as the Main Street Arkansas Exterior Design Consultant and Preservation Specialist. As such, he works with building owners in historic downtowns to preserve their facades and storefronts, while still making them visually appealing to a younger generation of consumers. Mr. Toms also works closely with the National Register Department to research and survey Mid-Century Modern architecture around the state. Through these surveys, as well as social media efforts and tours created with the Quapaw Quarter Association, Mr. Toms hopes to raise awareness of the unique and innovative Mid-Century architecture that Arkansas possesses. Mason is a graduate of the Fay Jones School of Architecture at the University of Arkansas

with a Bachelor of Science in Architectural Studies, a minor in history, and concentration in architectural history. While at U of A, he studied preservation and architectural history under Dr. Ethel Goodstein-Murphree. During this time he also worked on the Getty Foundation Preservation Master Plan project.





## PARKER WESTBROOK AWARD FOR LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT

### DR. RUTH A. HAWKINS

*The Parker Westbrook Award recognizes significant individual achievement in historic preservation. It is the Alliance's only award for achievement in preservation over a period of years. The award may be presented to an individual, organization, business or public agency whose activity may be of local, statewide or regional importance.*

For Dr. Ruth A. Hawkins, historic sites are the key to the future of the Arkansas Delta. The

list of historic landmarks and preservation projects in which Ruth has played a significant role in the Arkansas Delta is unparalleled.

Ruth knows that distinctive history draws people and dollars. Years ago she began working to protect and preserve the natural beauty of the east Arkansas landscape through the National Scenic Byways program. Under the federal Byways designation received in 1998, Crowley's Ridge Parkway became eligible for interpretive markers and other improvements. A segment of the Great River Road in Arkansas was also designated a National Scenic Byway in 2002 through Ruth's efforts.

ASU's Arkansas Heritage Sites program was developed beginning in 1999. Under Ruth's leadership, the program has grown to encompass seven historic sites that illustrate many facets of Arkansas's rich history and culture, including the Hemingway-Pfeiffer House in Piggott, the Southern Tenant Farmers Museum in Tyronza, the Arkansas State University Museum and the Historic V.C. Kays House, both in Jonesboro, Lakeport Plantation in Lake Village, the Rohwer Japanese-American



Relocation Center near McGehee, and the Historic Dyess Colony and Boyhood Home of Johnny Cash in Dyess. Ruth also serves as the Executive Director for Arkansas Delta Byways, the regional tourism promotion association for the 15-county Delta region. Dr. Hawkins and the Arkansas Heritage Sites Program gained national recognition in 2008 with an Honor Award from the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

Ruth helped facilitate the Sam Epstein Angel family's gift of the 1859 Lakeport Plantation to Arkansas State University in 2001. It took over nine million dollars and five years to restore Arkansas's only remaining antebellum plantation home on the Mississippi River and one of Arkansas's premier historic landmarks. In 2007, the home opened as a museum focusing on the land's transition from slavery to tenant farming.

Everyone thought that the Lakeport project would be Ruth's crowning achievement, but it's the Johnny Cash Boyhood Home and the Dyess Colony that now takes the cake. The Cash Home and the Dyess Colony Administration Building opened to the public in August of 2014. Dyess City Hall is now in the Administration Building, the center of a redevelopment plan for the town of Dyess.





Ruth sees preservation as not just a tool through which to teach history, but as an economic development catalyst as well. Since 1999, the Hemingway-Pfeiffer House in Piggott has served not just as a museum, but as a draw to the community. Piggott has seen nearly a 75% increase in state tax revenues from travel and tourism expenditures. Similar growth is projected for Dyess with the newest Heritage Site. The Cash boyhood home is forecasted to bring 50,000 visitors annually that spend about \$10 million in the region and create more than 100 tourism-related jobs.



Ruth is responsible for gaining support of some big names to highlight historic places in Arkansas—she was instrumental in helping to bring George Takei to record the audio tours for Rohwer. Mr. Takei was interned there as a child and has recalled vivid images that are now recorded. Ruth also works with the concert producer to bring in top name acts to the annual Johnny Cash Music Festival. The likes of Willie Nelson, Reba McEntire, George Jones, Kris Kristofferson, Loretta Lynn, and Rosanne Cash have performed at the annual concert to raise money for restoration of Johnny Cash's Boyhood Home.

In addition to her preservation and tourism work and advocacy, Ruth serves on the faculty for ASU's Heritage Studies PhD program, where she teaches courses like "Preservation Issues for Heritage Sites" and "Cultural Heritage Tourism." Ruth is also a well-known and respected author and Hemingway scholar. Her recent book, *Unbelievable Happiness and Final Sorrow: The Hemingway Pfeiffer Marriage* focuses on the Pfeiffers of Piggott and Pauline Pfeiffer, Ernest's second wife and perhaps finest editor.

Ruth serves as an advisor to the National Trust for Historic Preservation, a member of the Arkansas History Commission, an ex-officio board member of the Historic Preservation Alliance of Arkansas, and in 2011 Ruth was inducted into the Arkansas Tourism Hall of Fame.

Because of Dr. Ruth Hawkins' work in preservation, in tourism, in education, and in development, the Arkansas Delta has sustained many important landmarks. She teaches and lives preservation, and she knows how to throw a good party. Her work has helped to reinforce the value of Arkansas's historic sites and the value of preservation as a tool for economic development that is crucial to our state's vitality. For her many contributions, Dr. Ruth A. Hawkins is recognized with the 2014 Parker Westbrook Award for Lifetime Achievement.





**“RUTH SEES  
PRESERVATION AS  
NOT JUST A TOOL  
THROUGH WHICH TO  
TEACH HISTORY, BUT  
AS AN ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT  
CATALYST AS WELL.”**



# EXCELLENCE IN PRESERVATION THROUGH REHABILITATION

*The Excellence in Preservation through Rehabilitation Award recognizes projects that retain significant historic fabric but do not attempt to restore a structure to an earlier appearance. Special consideration is given to how new materials and design were integrated with historic fabric to make the project successful.*



## PUBLIC SECTOR AWARD

**William F. Laman Public  
Library Argenta Branch,  
North Little Rock**

*Owner:* William F. Laman  
Public Library System

*Architect:* Allison Architects

*Contractor:* CBM  
Construction Co., Inc.

Having outgrown the branch library in the historic firehouse, the William F. Laman Public Library made a bold move and acquired the vacant Main Street Post Office building in North Little Rock's Argenta District after the Post Office closed in June of 2012. A 1931 Georgian Revival design by noted architect Charles Thompson, the Post Office is a two-story red brick building with a dominant semi-circular portico. Stylized in detail and a simplified version of classical design, it was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1982.



Working with CBM Construction Co, Inc., Allison Architects developed a set of goals and proposed designed solutions that would address the challenge of preserving the historical integrity of the much-loved building while incorporating significant space for programs and meeting applicable building codes to create a functional, state-of-the-art modern library. The plans for the new library were aided by original blueprints found in a cabinet in the building after the library took ownership.



A key goal during rehabilitation was to honor the historic fabric of the original building by maintaining a clear distinction between old and new. White was selected for remodeled spaces to contrast with original finishes of terrazzo, marble, granite, and stained oak. At the south end of the entry hall, an all-glass entrance to a new gallery allows uninterrupted views of the historically significant space. Two new floor plates, flanking the central open space, were added to the existing second floor to accommodate the children's department as well as the computer lab. Flush glass railings allow for a visual connection between the colorful children's area and the first floor. The basement was repurposed to accommodate a 140-seat auditorium, the library's Arkansas History and Genealogy Room, and the library's railroad history collection.

After abatement and removal of extraneous elements added during previous renovations, including lowered ceilings that partially cover the large windows, the central space became the main reading room. While most of the transformation took place on the interior of the building, the project team took care to refresh the classical exterior of the building as well. A new roof was added and the surface of the exterior was cleaned and windows were repaired and painted.



The new expanded space for the Argenta Branch of the William F. Laman Public Library represents a successful partnership between the library commission and city government and demonstrates a commitment to maintaining a vibrant community in the Argenta Historic District, the heart of North Little Rock.



## PRIVATE SECTOR AWARD

### Dempsey Bakery

*Owner:* Paula Dempsey

*Architect:* Herron Horton Architects



Originally built in 1948 for an auto sales and service company, the building that houses the current Dempsey Bakery expresses elements typical of Mid-Century auto sales showrooms. The bold geometry of the tall, angled glass windows and the original neon “clouds” of light at the ceiling are the foremost of these elements.

In the 1960s, the interior space was altered to provide enclosed office spaces and to convert the showroom to a printing shop, housing a huge venting system, for the Graham Blueprint Company. The original ceiling height was dropped with the installation of a suspended grid system with acoustical tiles and recessed fluorescent light fixtures.

It wasn't until Paula Dempsey had the determination to help her family members with food allergies that she considered one of the buildings she owned, the former Graham Blueprint Company, as a possible site for Dempsey Bakery. Paula contacted Herron Horton Architects to walk through the abandoned space to determine whether or not the space could function as a bakery. Dodging rat feces and batt insulation, both Jennifer Herron and Jeff Horton removed the suspended acoustical tile ceilings to reveal original features emblematic of a Mid-Century building. They discovered the original plaster ceiling, plaster suspended “clouds” containing original neon light fixtures, original circular mechanical diffusers, windows that extended further in height, and existing glazed block walls.

All these features were in good condition; however, the original neon lights were not operable. The architects found an alternative lighting solution that was affordable and energy-efficient LED lighting which was used in the same locations as the original neon light fixtures. The existing black vinyl compositional tile flooring and grey carpet had been applied over the original linoleum flooring, which could not be saved. The former service space in the back portion of the building was



transformed into a 1,550 square foot gluten-free kitchen. The non-original gypsum board walls were removed to return to the open showcase layout and accentuate the long rectangular space and angled windows. To showcase products from the bakery, the designers crafted open display cubbies inspired by an original photograph dating back to the early 1950s. The new elements like the red and white tile flooring, the red countertop for the checkout register, and the black and white portrait photographs by Nancy Nolan Photography further enhance the feel of the Mid-Century era.

The Dempsey Bakery serves up a much different product than its predecessors in this building, but the historic character has been preserved and enhanced. We are pleased to recognize this project for retaining, enhancing and celebrating the late 1940s Americana Mid-Century fabric.



## HONORABLE MENTION

### CareLink Community Kitchen and Adult Respite Center, North Little Rock

*Owner:* CareLink

*Architect:* Polk Stanley Wilcox Architects

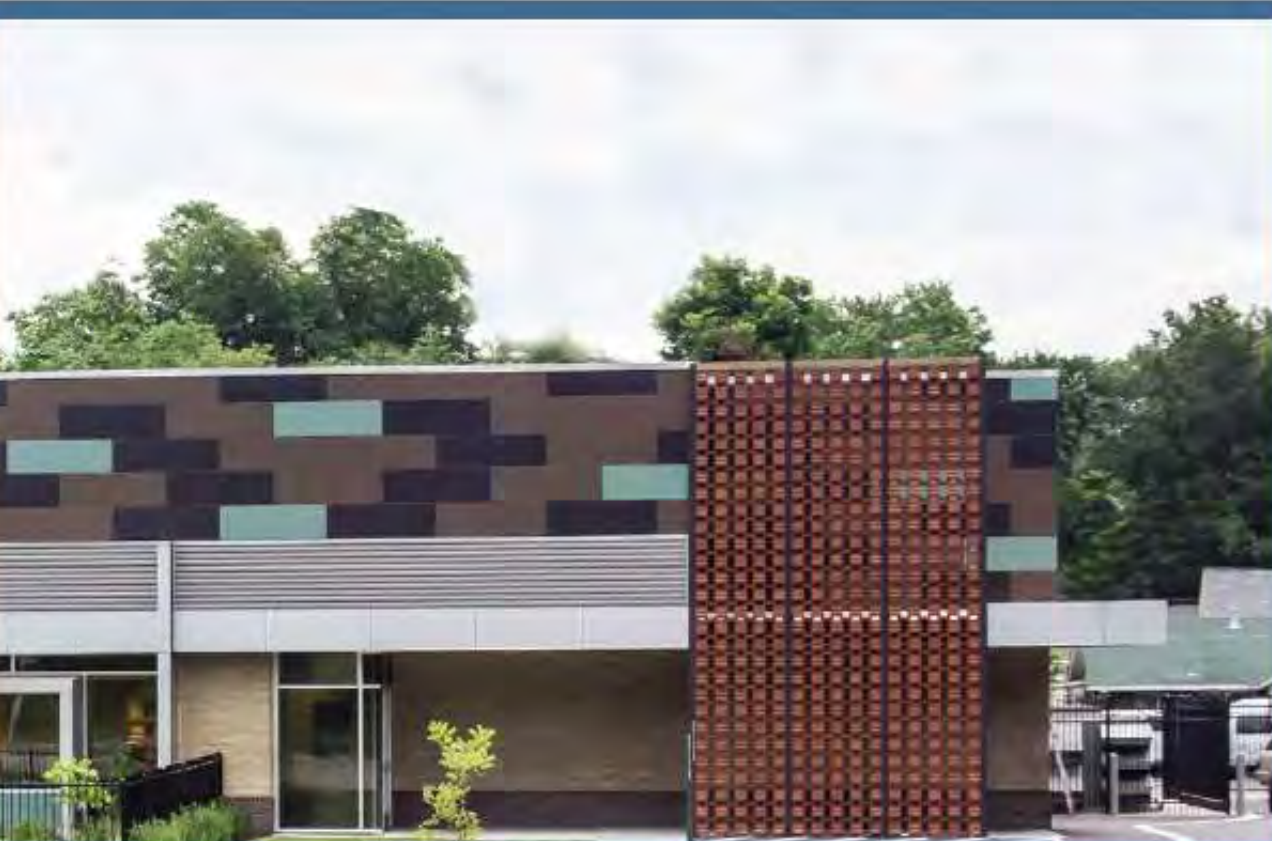
*Contractor:* East Harding Construction



The CareLink Building was once one of the many dilapidated and abandoned buildings along Pike Avenue in North Little Rock. It stood as a sad reminder of the economic boom and development that the Baring Cross area saw in the 1950s and 1960s. However, many years had passed since its heyday as a Safeway Store. After many years of neglect by various owners, the building had sat vacant for more than eight years before the CareLink organization purchased it in 2008. They were in need of a larger facility to expand their operation and mission of serving people in Central Arkansas. With the help of Polk Stanley Wilcox Architects, CareLink was able to take what was once an eyesore in the community and turn it into a symbol of hope and revitalization for the area.

Prior to the completion of the CareLink Building rehabilitation, the CareLink organization was only able to prepare 1,200 meals a day for their Meal-On-Wheels program and could only handle 30 people a day in their respite center. With seniors in Arkansas having the third highest risk for food insecurity in the nation, and the need of respite clients to have a safe, comfortable space, a new facility was greatly needed. Their new center is able to handle more than double the amount of meal preparation and their new respite center can accommodate up to 90 clients, more than triple their former capacity. CareLink is now able to reach more





central Arkansas residents in need thanks to the new facility.

There are very few precedents for the rehabilitation and reuse of “big box” style commercial buildings, but Polk Stanley Wilcox Architects and CareLink managed to create a design that not only preserved the historic Mid-Century Modern form of the building, but also created an icon for the organization and the community. The renovated building’s exterior color pattern panels creates an instantly recognizable image similar to the original metal skin, while reflecting a tapestry of different colors that are unified as a whole. In this way the panels represent many different individuals that CareLink serves and treats as equals. In addition to preserving the exterior legacy of the building, CareLink personnel salvaged and restored old advertisements that were once hung in the store and reinstalled them on the interior to bring the history of the building indoors.

CareLink and Polk Stanley Wilcox Architects are commended for their dedication to the community and creative design solutions in the realm of historic rehabilitation. Their efforts gave Central Arkansas not only a new home for a much-needed organization, but it also gave the Baring Cross area a landmark and shiny example of the power of preservation and revitalization.



# EXCELLENCE IN PRESERVATION THROUGH RESTORATION

*The Excellence in Preservation through Restoration Award recognizes projects in which a primary goal was returning a structure to a documented earlier appearance. The jury considers efforts to retain the integrity of the structure and the process involved in achieving the result, including research and solutions chosen to problems presented by modern mechanical intrusion, meeting code requirements, etc.*



## AWARD BETH EL HERITAGE HALL, HELENA

*Owner:* Delta Cultural Center

*Architect:* JAMESON  
Architects, PA

Arkansas has a rich, often unsung, Jewish heritage, and Helena's Temple Beth El is a great physical reminder of that history. Constructed in 1915, Temple Beth El is a Neo-Classical building with an intricate stained glass dome designed by Mann & Stern—the same architectural partnership that designed the Arkansas State Capitol, Little Rock Central High, the Arlington Hotel, the Fordyce Bath House and many other Arkansas buildings on the National Register of Historic Places. This building was the second





temple erected by the Jewish community in Helena, and it was maintained by an active congregation throughout its lifetime. Its history reflects the struggles a small town Jewish community experienced in maintaining their Jewish identity in the South as well as the cooperation and acceptance of their non-Jewish neighbors. However, in 2005, the then-dwindling congregation deconsecrated the temple and donated it to the Delta Cultural Center for public use.

Upon acquiring Beth El, the Delta Cultural Center, along with JAMESON Architects, PA, undertook the restoration of the space, preserving its historic qualities while serving the needs of its new use—a multi-purpose auditorium for lectures and conferences as well as musical performances.

Between 2008 and 2014, a phased approach to the restoration of Beth El Heritage Hall was carried out and, over an eight-year period, the building's mechanical, electrical, plumbing, and HVAC systems were upgraded, deferred maintenance addressed, and safety improvements made. Funding was provided by the Arkansas Natural and Cultural Resources Council; therefore all work had to meet the requirements of the Department of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation. Special attention was given to researching and recreating paint and decorative finishes. Sixty paint samples were taken and subjected to microscopic paint analysis to determine the original color scheme from 1915. The new paint colors and wood varnishes were carefully matched to those historic finishes. Original light fixtures and the curved stained glass panels were also removed, cleaned and repaired before reinstallation. Historic wood windows were repaired and storm windows installed for protection. The project team readied the auditorium for the future by installing specialized audio/video system and theatrical lighting, including a robust control system and a custom podium.

The project team is commended for this multi-phase restoration of the Beth El Heritage Hall that transformed a landmark temple into a cultural and community center for all of Helena.



## HONORABLE MENTION

**Arkansas State Capitol Dome, Little Rock**

*Owner:* State of Arkansas

*Architect:* Hight-Jackson Associates, PA

*Contractor:* Baldwin-Shell Construction Company



You can't get much more iconic than the Arkansas State Capitol dome. Begun by St. Louis architect George R. Mann and finished by Cass Gilbert, construction of Arkansas's second capitol building took 16 years to complete (1899-1915). Like many other state houses, its neo-classical revival design is surmounted by a prominent dome; 213 feet separate ground level from the top of the gilded lantern cupola. It is a symbol not just of government but also of the state and its people, making this historic restoration of the Arkansas State Capitol Dome of utmost importance.

The historic restoration of the Arkansas State Capitol Dome began with research and paint analysis to determine the original color scheme created by noted interior designer and artist Paul Heerwagen. It is known that the dome was painted





a solid off-white color in 1949, but the paint analysis revealed that there was a dark, less elaborate color scheme that was installed between the original Heerwagen scheme and the 1949 scheme. The dome was repainted in 1989 with a color scheme believed to be close to the original, but it has been proven to be the second generation scheme. This repainting is the fourth painting of the Rotunda.

Following years of leakage, the limestone and concrete dome was repaired in about 2008. However, the interior water damage from the leaking dome remained visible. The scope of this project repaired the damaged plaster work and re-created the original color scheme of the rotunda. The scope also included the replacement of the original winch and its platform that raises and lowers the large ornamental chandelier, as well as performing routine maintenance to the dome, its lighting, and windows to protect the interior surfaces for years to come.

The restoration team, led by Hight-Jackson Associates, PA, was made up of highly qualified members who excel in their area of expertise, working together not only in the reproduction of the 14 original colors and 89 placement details, but also the restoration of the original faux marble panels at the upper level walkway and replication of decorative painting on the elaborate detailing. This process was funded by an Arkansas Natural and Cultural Resources Council grant.

This project represents an ongoing commitment by the Secretary of State's office to ensure that our historic Capitol building reflects the state's rich history and its hope for the future and that the Capitol remains a great source of pride for the citizens of Arkansas. The project team is commended for restoring the stately dome to its former glory.





## HONORABLE MENTION

Rohwer Relocation Camp  
Cemetery, Desha County

*Principal:* UALR

*Architect:* WER Architects/Planners

*Contractor:* Kinco Constructors

The Rohwer cemetery is a rare resource associated with the history of the Japanese-American confinement in the US during World War II. The restoration of the Rohwer Relocation Camp Cemetery has ensured that this important piece of the nation's historic fabric is preserved for future generations of Americans.

The Rohwer Relocation Camp Cemetery, located in Desha County, Arkansas was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1992 for its direct association with the Federal Government's Japanese-American relocation policies, the distinctive design elements of the funerary monuments in the cemetery, and their exclusive relationship to the Rohwer Japanese-American Relocation Camp. The cemetery markers and monuments were constructed by the Japanese-Americans imprisoned at Rohwer, and the cemetery is the only physical remnant of the relocation camp.

Prior to this project, the cemetery was in extremely poor condition due to deterioration caused by weathering, neglect, and vandalism. The historic monuments, the cemetery's most prominent features, were structurally unstable and covered in biological growths that significantly altered



their appearance. Vandalism had taken its toll on the cemetery's structures, most notably on the monument to the Rohwer Dead, which over the years had lost the majority of its decorative elements that are integral to its appearance.

Phase 1 involved the restoration of the Monument to the Rohwer Dead (the obelisk monument) and the Monument to the 100th Battallion (the tank monument). The restoration efforts focused on cleaning, removal of trees and landscape material growing within and around the monuments, as well as stabilization and repair of the iconic monuments.

This project was funded in part by the National Park Service US Department of the Interior Japanese-American Confinement Sites Grant Program, the Department of Arkansas Heritage, the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, and private foundations. As funding allows, preservation of additional site features will be undertaken.

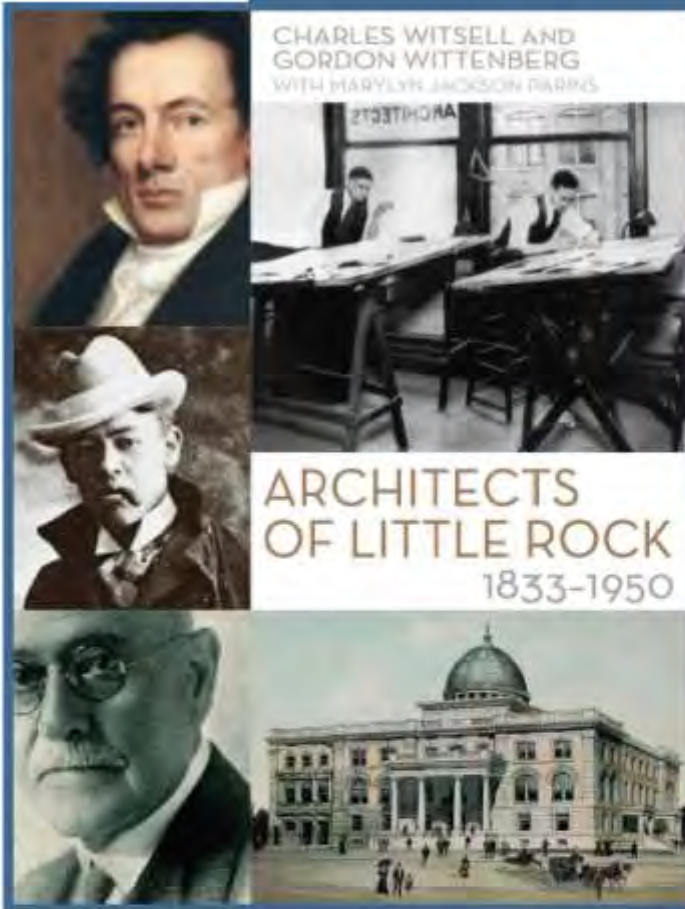
We are pleased to recognize the restoration of the two most iconic monuments of the Rohwer Cemetery and the work of the project team to honor the memory of those who were interred at Rohwer and to teach Arkansans about this difficult, but important, part of our nation's history.



Photo Courtesy of the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, Center for History and Culture.



## NED SHANK AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING PRESERVATION PUBLICATION



*The Ned Shank Award for Outstanding Preservation Publication combines excellence in writing with preservation achievement. It recognizes authors, editors, and publishers who write or create books or significant journal articles about preservation in Arkansas. Publications may document a particular preservation project, profile a person or group active in preservation, or discuss general preservation themes and issues.*

### **ARCHITECTS OF LITTLE ROCK: 1833-1950**

*Co-Authors:* Charles Witsell and  
Gordon Wittenberg

*Publisher:* University of Arkansas Press

In their illustrated book, *Architects of Little Rock: 1833-1950*, Little Rock architects Charles Witsell and Gordon Wittenberg write, "Little Rock as a city of today is also the city of a hundred years and more ago. Nowhere is this more obvious than in its architecture." Published by University of Arkansas Press in 2014, *Architects of Little Rock* provides biographical and historical sketches of the architects at work in Little Rock from 1833 to 1950. It is the story of the people behind the city's most important buildings. Thirty-five architects are profiled, including George R. Mann, Thomas Harding, Charles L. Thompson, Max F. Mayer, Edwin B. Cromwell, George H. Wittenberg, Lawson L. Delony, and others. Readers learn who these influential professionals were and not only what their buildings have contributed to the city of Little Rock, but also where they came from, where they were

educated, how they lived, what their families were like, and how they participated in the life of the city. Famous buildings, including the Historic Arkansas Museum, the Old State House, the Arkansas State Capitol, St. Andrews Cathedral, Little Rock City Hall, the Pulaski County Court House, Little Rock Central High School, and Robinson Auditorium are showcased, bringing attention to and encouraging appreciation of the city's historic buildings.



Charles Witsell and Gordon Wittenberg are both Fellows of the American Institute of Architects and retired principals of the Little Rock architecture firms WER Architects/Planners and WD&D Architects, respectively. As Dr. Ethel Goodstein-Murphree, architectural historian and professor of architecture at the University of Arkansas writes, Witsell and Wittenberg “explore the always-complex relationship between buildings and the visionary thinkers-sometimes ordinary craftsman-who produced them. In so doing, they not only have uncovered the design rationales and circumstances of production that influenced a wide spectrum of Little Rock architecture but moreover have written a significant work of architectural scholarship that addresses the history of the architect’s profession.”

We are honored to present the Ned Shank Award for Outstanding Preservation Publication to Charles Witsell, Gordon Wittenberg, and the University of Arkansas Press. They have made significant contributions to architecture throughout our state and now with the release of *Architects of Little Rock* the legacy of the city’s historic buildings and the architects behind will not be forgotten.



## OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT IN PRESERVATION ADVOCACY



*The award for Outstanding Achievement in Preservation Advocacy recognizes individuals, publications, organizations, etc. that have made a strong impact on preservation through advocacy efforts and have made a notable contribution to championing the cause of preservation.*

### **DARWIN SCOTT**

**The V. C. Kays House, Jonesboro**

The Victor C. Kays House, built and inhabited by Arkansas State University's founding father and arguably one of ASU's most influential presidents, faced demolition in 2012. But the home's pending death sentence was lifted, thanks in large part to Emeritus Professor Scott Darwin, whose initial "Save the Kays House" campaign generated vocal support from the ASU community and much attention from the media.

Kays had the Tudor-style home built in 1936 for him and his wife on "Aggie" Road, across from Arkansas State College's campus. It was designed by architect A.N. McAninch, who had designed three other buildings on the Jonesboro campus. Among the top reasons Darwin gave to save the home was the long-term impact V.C. Kays had on the development of Arkansas State University. The Great Depression, two World Wars, and a major fire on campus in 1931 did not stop this visionary from growing the institution into the reputable school it is today. Under his 33-year leadership, the university grew from a two-year farm school into a four-year academic program (1930), and achieved legislative recognition as Arkansas State College in 1933. Kays was also responsible for acquiring



the funds to build several buildings that helped sustain Arkansas State College's progress during the trying years during the Great Depression. After his presidency ended in 1943, he continued working as the school's business manager.

Upon hearing the University's plans to raze the home in 2012, Darwin leapt into action, contacting members of ASU leadership and supporters, including Dr. Clyde Milner, who shared Darwin's passion for preserving the Kays House. With the demolition deadline looming, the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program determined the Kays House to be eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places, a status that could potentially open up funding sources if the building were to be preserved and rehabilitated for reuse.

Things started looking up in April, when new Chancellor Tim Hudson gave preservation proponents one year to raise funds to preserve and maintain the Kays House. After the home was included on the May 2012 Most Endangered Places List, Dr. Clyde Milner hosted supporters for a fundraiser kickoff, at which Chancellor Hudson was the first person to write a check.

Since then local advocates have been working to raise money and continue to build support for the rehabilitation of the house among its new neighbors on Sorority Row. Rehabilitation is now under way.

In September 2014, Governor Mike Beebe announced he would donate his gubernatorial papers to the University. The main living area of the Kays house will be recreated to look like the Governor's office at the Capitol and will include his office furnishings and memorabilia. Additional rooms will be used for exhibits focusing on V. C. Kays, U.S. Senator Hattie Caraway, and the saving of Arkansas State College in the 1930s. The building also will house additional university departments including Arkansas Heritage Sites, the Heritage Studies PhD Program, as well as public spaces for presentations, meetings and social events.

Like most preservation stories with happy endings, the Kays House required many people working together to achieve a common goal. However, had it not been for Scott Darwin's initial campaign, the home of this key figure in the University's history would not be standing today.





# OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT IN PRESERVATION EDUCATION

*The Outstanding Achievement in Preservation Education Award recognizes significant contributions to the cause of historic preservation in Arkansas through education.*

## HOT SPRINGS BASEBALL TRAIL

Historic Preservation is not just about saving old buildings; it's also about the special places in our communities that link important people and events. Such is the case with the Hot Springs Baseball Trail, a web of 28 interpretive markers around town that highlight some fascinating early baseball history during the sport's "golden age" in the Spa City.

The historic trail began in 2011 when a small group of baseball historians discovered that Hot Springs was a major destination during the 20th century for baseball players needing to "boil out in the springs" and train. The city's healing baths drew some of the country's most talented teams and players, who needed a place that could be both therapeutic and ideal for rigorous training. The historic markers highlight the places where teams played, like the Majestic Field, built in 1909 as the training center for the Boston Red Sox; and Sam Guinn Field, the site of some of the greatest Negro League teams, including the Pittsburgh Crawfords, Homestead Grays, Memphis Red Sox, and Kansas City Monarchs. Other markers tell about the many places where the players recuperated, trained and entertained, like Happy Hollow, where they hiked up steep mountain trails; bathhouse row, where they soaked; and the Arlington and Majestic Hotels, where they were entertained. Several stops along the trail highlight famous baseball players like Babe Ruth, Jackie Robinson, Sam "Wahoo" Crawford, and Buck Ewing.





The Hot Springs Baseball Trail is accessible in a handful of different ways using the latest technology available: there's an app, a QR code scan, a phone tour, and a comprehensive web site, [hotspringsbaseballtrail.com](http://hotspringsbaseballtrail.com), which is complete with photographs, back stories, and more. The City of Hot Springs Advertising and Promotion Commission provided the financial backing to produce the plaques and technology needed to create the trail. Research for the trail was provided at no cost by five baseball

historians: Bill Jenkinson of Pennsylvania, Mike Dugan of Hot Springs, Tim Reid of Florida, Don Duren of Texas and Mark Blaeuer of Hot Springs. The Garland County Historical Society provided their full support to the project.

We are pleased to recognize Visit Hot Springs and the Hot Springs Baseball Trail program for its creative and engaging of telling the story of a lesser-known element of Hot Springs and Arkansas heritage and the valuable places that serve as the tangible links to that history.







## OUTSTANDING SERVICE IN NEIGHBORHOOD PRESERVATION

*The Outstanding Service in  
Neighborhood Preservation Award  
recognizes an activity or project that  
has made a significant contribution  
to an historic area in Arkansas.*



Photo Courtesy of the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*.

**JENNIFER CARMAN AND DONNA THOMAS**  
for projects in the Central High  
School Neighborhood Historic District, Little Rock

Since buying and restoring a long-vacant 1912 American Foursquare house on Little Rock's South Summit Street in 2004, Jennifer Carman has been working to revitalize the Central High School Neighborhood Historic District and preserve its historic buildings. Jennifer enlisted the help of Donna Thomas to save the rest of the 2300 block of South Summit Street, the only block in Little Rock—and perhaps the state—that is comprised exclusively of American Foursquares—the house style defined by its boxy shape and layout of four rooms on each of the two stories. Jennifer successfully nominated the block to the Historic Preservation Alliance of Arkansas's 2010 Most Endangered Places List, and with the help of this listing, she convinced the Little Rock City Board to halt the planned demolition of one of the houses on a prominent corner lot. She subsequently found a buyer for that house as well as two others and worked with Donna Thomas to rehabilitate seven total properties on the block using State and Federal Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credits.





Since 2010, Donna and Jennifer have completed over 10 rehabilitation projects in the Quapaw Quarter and have helped to encourage work by others. The spirit of rehabilitation has spread throughout the neighborhood as evidenced by building permits for the area.

**“...PRESERVATION ISN'T REALLY ABOUT IMPROVING BUILDINGS. IT'S ABOUT IMPROVING LIVES AND NURTURING COMMUNITIES.”**

In addition to their preservation work, Jennifer and Donna are advocates for Little Rock's historic neighborhoods, particularly the Central High School Neighborhood Historic District. They worked with the Quapaw Quarter Association on their Preservation Conversations educational series, and the QQA presented Jennifer an Award of Merit in 2010 for her work on South Summit Street. In 2013, Jennifer founded the “Stop the Demolitions, Little Rock” Facebook page that seeks to explore constructive and viable alternatives to the destruction of neglected and abandoned structures. Donna and Jennifer's work has also been recognized by the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the *Arkansas Times*, the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*, and the *I Love Little Rock AR* blog.

The aim of Jennifer and Donna's work is perhaps summed up by Jennifer: “If you had asked me 10 years ago why I thought these sorts of preservation projects were important, I might have waxed poetic about architectural styles and beautification and cultural heritage. Today, however, I will tell you that my dedication stems from seeing firsthand the positive changes that rehabilitation can spark within a city or a neighborhood, or even a single residential block. Ultimately, I've learned that preservation isn't really about improving buildings. It's about improving lives and nurturing communities.”

Jennifer Carman and Donna Thomas are commended for their vision and their exemplary work to revitalize the Central High School Neighborhood Historic District.



A photograph of a man with a beard, wearing a light blue short-sleeved button-down shirt and khaki pants, working on a large, multi-story stone wall. He is using a tool to work on the mortar or stone of the wall. The wall is made of large, irregular, light-colored stones with dark mortar. The sky is blue with some white clouds. The photo is taken from a low angle, looking up at the wall and the man.

## OUTSTANDING WORK BY A CRAFTSPERSON

*The Outstanding Work by a Craftsperson Award recognizes high-quality work that demonstrates an understanding of the principles and practice of preservation techniques on a specific project.*

**AWARD**  
**CLANCY MCMAHON**  
for the A. R. Carroll  
Drugstore, Canehill

Canehill is best known as the site of the earliest European settlement in Washington County and as the location of the first co-educational college in Arkansas. At the center of the once commercial and vibrant Main Street, the National Register-listed A. R. Carroll Drugstore has served as a drugstore, a post office, a Masonic Lodge, and a restaurant since it was built in 1900.

In 2013 Historic Cane Hill, a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving the historic buildings in Canehill, purchased the A.R. Carroll Drugstore. The two story rock structure is a Victorian commercial style building and





is the last remaining example of three similar stone buildings that are now gone or extremely altered. The A. R. Carroll Drugstore itself was in serious disrepair and had been altered to include a façade addition and non-historic aluminum windows.

Restoration work included removal of the barn wood façade, new historically accurate wood windows, tin ceiling, wood floors, and repointing of the mortar joints. Clancy McMahon of Custom Masonry was able to recreate the composition and form of historic

soft mortar on the A. R. Carroll Drugstore. Clancy carefully researched historic soft mortars. He was patient in analyzing existing samples and matching test samples for accuracy. He was extremely conscientious of the historical nature of the project and showed great enthusiasm for getting it right. Clancy certainly demonstrated an understanding of the principles and practice of preservation techniques. He was thorough in mixing of lime putty that he slacked on site and preparing locally dug sands to match existing mortar. Clancy sifted and decanted local sands multiple times to achieve the right texture. Clancy was able to match exquisitely the pointing and convex squeeze joint that are characteristic of many rock buildings and walls in the region. The process was time consuming and labor intensive, but the results are fantastic. While many other examples are being

lost to deterioration and improper repointing with Portland cement, the A.R. Carroll Drugstore is a solid example of best practices. The newly restored A. R. Carroll Drugstore will serve as the community center for Canehill while restoration work proceeds on the nearby Cane Hill College building.

Clancy McMahon is commended for going the extra mile to sensitively restore the mortar on this building, a key component in preserving the significant historic structure.





HONORABLE MENTION  
Keith Newton  
for the Frank Gibb House, Little Rock



Porches are very significant features of historic Little Rock homes. They are not only a reflection of the style of the period in which the house was built, but help to connect the house to the street and connect residents to the community.

The home of the notable architect Frank Gibb was built in the 1890s, but by 1978, the Quapaw Quarter Survey listed the house as “condemned”. The house was saved by the owners of the adjacent Kavanagh House. Their plans included recreation of the original porch which had been replaced in the early 1900s with a colonial revival porch. The footprint of the porch was found in the Sanborn Fire Insurance maps. On-site investigation confirmed the footprint of the original footing. Based on conversations and sketches from a relative or previous owners and his knowledge of historic architecture, Architect Charles Witsell recreated a sketch of the porch.

Several years later, in 2013, the unfortunate demolition of a similar Queen Anne style house at 1327 La Harpe in Little Rock presented an opportunity to salvage historic elements which the owners noticed bore a striking resemblance to Witsell’s sketches. With spandrels, brackets, and balusters from the demolished Woolford house in hand, Ed and Laura Sergeant contacted Keith Newton about recreating the Gibb House’s historic porch.

Throughout the construction, Keith was responsible for all phases of crafting and construction. Starting with the original footprint and Witsell’s sketches, he determined appropriate sizes, profiles, and proportions. He adjusted salvaged pieces to fit the Gibb House, fabricated new additional matching pieces where needed, and led the process to determine what suited the Gibb House based on its own design and on methods found on similar houses in the area. It was a high priority to reuse the existing materials, stabilizing and repairing where necessary.

Thanks to his level of skill, Keith’s craftsmanship allowed pieces of one historic place to continue life on another historic Little Rock home. Authenticity is important to Gibb House owners Ed and Laura. In 2005, they repainted the Gibb House with its “first decoration”—or original paint color scheme—and now, more than 110 years from the time the original porch was removed, the front of the Gibb House has been returned to its original Queen Anne design. Keith Newton is recognized for his creativity and craftsmanship on the faithful restoration of the Gibb House.





"They nailed plywood over the windows of the old Majestic Hotel in Hot Springs this week," wrote columnist and blogger Rex Nelson on February 21, 2014. The article, titled "The Shame of Hot Springs," began as a way to bring attention to the plight of Central Avenue's vacant buildings and became foreshadowing of the tragic fire that destroyed the oldest part of the Majestic complex a week later. Rex reported that within one week, over 6,000 people viewed the post, making it the most-read post in the five-year history of Rex Nelson's *Southern Fried Blog*. By the time news broke of the Majestic fire, attention from around the state was fully focused on Hot Springs.

## OUTSTANDING PRESERVATION REPORTING IN THE MEDIA

*Outstanding Preservation Reporting in the Media is intended for professional television, radio, and newspaper reporters who present an accurate, complete, and balanced account of a preservation project, problem, or issue.*

### REX NELSON

for articles in the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette* and posts on the *Southern Fried Blog* about Hot Springs

Over the next several months, Rex's periodic blog posts and columns in the *Democrat-Gazette* cranked up the pressure to make preservation of downtown Hot Springs a priority. He underscored Central Avenue's importance to Arkansas by comparing them with the significance of Beale Street to Tennessee, Bourbon Street and St. Charles Avenue to Louisiana, and the San Antonio River Walk to Texas. He also challenged property owners and leaders, not just from the city, but from around the state to think big about downtown Hot Springs. He said, "The success of downtown Hot Springs is so important to the state as a whole that this must be treated as a statewide

issue, not just a Garland County issue. My wish is to have Gov. Mike Beebe appoint a task force to coordinate the efforts to revitalize that northern stretch of Central Avenue." So far, that statewide task force has not been instituted, but Hot Springs established a Downtown Game Plan Task Force to hear from stakeholders and experts and to make recommendations on how to proceed.

Mr. Nelson's pieces on Hot Springs are a mix of history and arousing call to action. He provides context to help readers understand the condition of downtown and examples of preservation efforts from other towns. Rex wrote thousands of words about Central Avenue since the winter fire that destroyed the oldest portion of the Majestic. His pieces chronicle the optimism, the momentum building, and the positive developments of the few short months since "The Shame of Hot Springs." "Yet out of the ashes of the Majestic," he writes, "a better downtown Hot Springs can rise."

Rex Nelson is commended for his diligent wordsmithery and commitment to bringing attention to Hot Springs. He made historic preservation as important as barbecue in 2014, and because of his efforts "there seems to be new life in the ol' gal that is Hot Springs."

# Rex Nelson's SOUTHERN FRIED



Ruminations on barbecue, politicking, football, frog gigging, trotlining, blues playing, horse racing, boxing, bird hunting, movie watching, crappie eating and other major issues of the day.