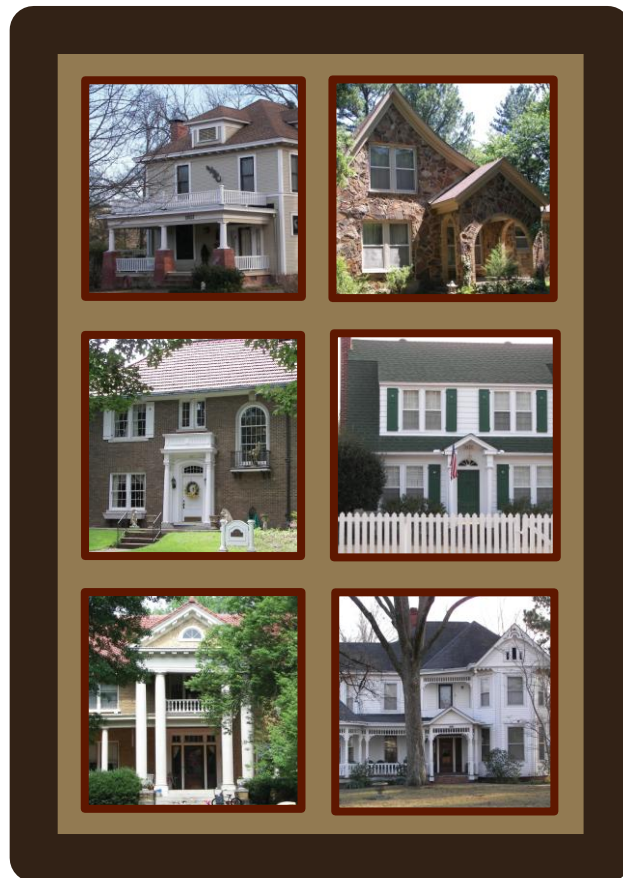


## Art in Architecture



# Historic Homes of Conway

A self-guided tour



Sponsored by the Old Conway Preservation Society and the Faulkner County  
Historical Society

This program is made possible in part by a grant from the Department of Arkansas Heritage, funded by your 1/8 cent  
conservation tax, Amendment 75.

Dear Reader,

Thank you for taking an interest in learning about Conway's historic homes. The idea for this guide book was conceptualized some years ago, and because of a Department of Arkansas Heritage grant program, it has become a reality.

Every year the Department of Arkansas Heritage hosts grant competitions to promote an awareness of the state's natural, cultural and historic resources. The 2006 Arkansas Heritage Month theme was *Arkansas Arts: Discover Our Treasures*. As a lover of art and history, I immediately saw the potential of creating a project that would become an educational instrument promoting the awareness and appreciation of the cultural heritage of Conway through the aesthetics of the architecture of our historic homes as part of Arkansas's heritage. Developing a plan to create a successful Arkansas Heritage Month program centered in the artistic expression of our community's children and culminating in the development of this tour guide, I contacted Vivian Hogue, a noted Conway historian, newspaper columnist, and high school art educator who has written numerous articles on historic homes throughout the city. After learning the goals of the proposed project, she contacted the Old Conway Preservation society and the Faulkner County Historical Society who agreed to serve as non-profit sponsors.

In Phase I, using our theme "*Art in Architecture: Historic Homes of Conway*", a city-wide juried art competition for students in Kindergarten through 12th grade resulted in a successful exhibit of student artwork held at the Baum Gallery of Fine Arts on the campus of the University of Central Arkansas. Barbara Satterfield, Baum Gallery curator, was an invaluable mentor as the three of us worked out the details of the project. Phase II involved the research, compilation, and designing of this informational booklet which serves to educate the public on various architectural styles found within the city.



*Art in Architecture Exhibit, Baum Gallery, May 7, 2006*

As a retired educator and former member of the Conway Historic District Commission, it is my desire that after you have visited the sites included in this booklet you will agree that Conway has a heritage in our historic homes worth preserving.

Nancy Breeden Mitchell Grant Coordinator

## Historical Influences on Architecture

Since the beginning of the settling of the Arkansas Territory, a wide variety of architectural styles have been incorporated into the state's landscape. From the simple log cabins of the early pioneers to the extravagant features found in the Victorian homes of the late 1800s and the early 1900s, the styles used in Arkansas by builders are a reflection of the trends found throughout the rest of the country. Architectural styles tell the story of what was happening historically and reflect the mood of the nation during specific time periods. Oftentimes, the progress of a community may be traced by the number or size of the homes built. Conway's more imposing examples are a result of the influx of wealthy citizens settling from the east and southeast, while numerous modest specimens of a particular style are indicators of surges in growth.

Immigrant families often brought with them their large numbers of children necessitating the simple two-story frame homes that dotted the rural landscape. After World War I, some of the returning soldiers wanted homes designed after those they had seen in Europe. The Tudor or English Revival resulted. Post-Depression era homes and those built immediately after World War II were smaller, providing basic economic shelter and ushering in the more modern styles. Conway is blessed with an abundance of homes reflecting the various architectural styles that were popular throughout the years since the city's founding in the early 1870's.

## The Founding of Conway

The City of Conway has its foundations in the person of Asa Peter Robinson, born in Hartford County, Connecticut in 1822. A graduate of Yale University with a degree in civil engineering, he arrived in Little Rock from New York in 1869 to build the first 20 miles of the St. Louis, Iron Mountain, and Southern Railroad. Robinson became the chief engineer of the Little Rock and Fort Smith Railroad and was awarded 640 acres in appreciation for his hard work. He chose the area 30 miles north of Little Rock where, in 1871, he built Conway Station. Conway would become an important shipping center, the railroad being instrumental to its growth.



Railroad Depot, c. 1905

The southern 320 acres he reserved for his own private hunting grounds and built his plantation, Prairie Vue. His private residence was in an area

bounded by the railroad and what became College Avenue. It has been said that it faced the railroad so he could greet the train engineers as they passed. (The Faulkner County Historical Society erected a marker that identifies the location of the Prairie Vue property. It does not identify where Robinson's home stood.) In 1871, he platted the northern half of the town with the help of his brother, Sanford Robinson, saving a block for the site of the county courthouse. Together they drew the town's street plans, saving a block for the site of the county courthouse. When the courthouse property was given to the county, the warranty deed stated that "no trees or shrubbery on said land or surrounding streets shall be cut, maimed or destroyed except for the purpose of embellishment or for opening roads or paths to said buildings or views to the same, unless such trees may be decayed or dangerous." Many home site buyers signed the same agreement.

The post office at that time was at Cadron Gap, the oldest settlement in the area. When Faulkner County was created by the legislature in 1873, Robinson used his influence to make Conway Station the county seat. A year earlier, in 1872, Robinson successfully lobbied to have the post office changed to Conway Station to avoid the long trip to get his mail. In 1875, to accommodate a growing population and flourishing business scene, a group of 30 citizens successfully petitioned to incorporate the city. Conway Station became "Conway" on October 9, 1875. In 1875, the *Arkansas Traveler* became Conway's first newspaper and four years later Conway was ready for a public school.

Through the years, Robinson served the city as mayor, city councilman, and member of the school board. He died at Prairie Vue on May 18, 1898 and was buried in Oak Grove Cemetery. Asa P. Robinson is considered the "Father of Conway."

## The Asa P. Robinson Historic District

The Asa P. Robinson Historic District was formed out of concern for the preservation of Conway's older residential neighborhoods. With the passage of time, many of the older homes that had been built in the city were being razed for the purpose of putting in smaller homes or rental structures.

The Old Conway Preservation Society was founded on June 18, 1986 and it was the dedicated efforts of this organization that was instrumental in the establishment of the Asa P. Robinson Historic District in 2001 and the

formation of the Conway Historic District Commission in April 2003 for the purpose of preserving and protecting Conway's historic properties and neighborhoods. The Asa P. Robinson Historic District is an area of land bounded by Cross, Prince, Faulkner and Watkins Streets and Robinson Avenue. It is characterized by a mix of both estate-sized homes and bungalows which are surrounded by oversized lawns with large oak trees. The district's period of significance is from 1890 to 1950. It was

placed on the National Register of Historic Places in January 2001. The National Register is the nation's official list of properties and cultural resources deemed worthy of preservation. It is part of a national program authorized under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 to coordinate and support public and private efforts to identify, evaluate, and protect historic and archeological resources. The National Register is administered by the National Parks Service under the Secretary of Interior.



Faulkner County Courthouse c. 1915

## ■ The Hendrix Addition ■

The Hendrix Addition is an area of Old Conway located north of Hendrix College. It has been photographed and surveyed for designation as a historic district on the National Register. Tentatively, the boundaries are Winfield, Washington, Fleming and Harkrider. The significance of the neighborhood lies in its connection with Hendrix College and the contributions made by some of its residents.

## Architectural Styles Found in Conway

### ■ Log Construction ■

Pre-railroad homes were usually constructed using log timbers. Log homes were built in Arkansas normally between 1820 and 1920. The characteristics of this style include log construction and were usually one or one-and-a-half stories tall with a sleeping loft. Each room or unit was called a "pen." The homes were usually expanded with frame additions as economic conditions became favorable and when milled lumber became available. Types of log homes include: single pen (one room), dogtrot (two rooms separated by an open breezeway) and double pen (two rooms with no breezeway).



## Log Home Faulkner Street

The log-constructed cabin on the grounds of the Faulkner County Museum is of the dogtrot style. It is believed to have been built sometime between 1825 and 1830. Its builder is unknown. It was originally located halfway between Conway and



Faulkner County Museum Log Home

Faulkner Street Vilonia on Highway 64 on the northwest corner of a four way intersection across from what is referred to as the Eight-Mile Store. Alton Bryant operated the store from 1939 to 1966. In 1940, he bought the home and he and his wife donated it to the Faulkner County Historical Society in 1966. The home was reassembled on the courthouse grounds facing Faulkner Street. It was originally constructed of 18-foot long, hand-hewn cypress logs that grew in the Palarm Creek area. The roof was originally of hand-riven cypress shingles. The house has two main rooms that each measure 18 ft. X 18 ft. with 8-foot-high ceilings. A stairway in the hall leads to the loft which was used for sleeping quarters. It was known as an inn and stagecoach stop and served travelers for more than a century. According to records, as many as fifty families may have lived in the residence over the years.

## ■ Gothic Revival ■

Gothic Revival style homes were usually built between 1840 and 1880. They are characterized by steeply pitched roofs with finials at the gable peaks. At the roof edges are decorative trim which was usually used in the peak of the gable where the roof projects beyond the wall. The window may have pointed arched tops and extend into the gable peaks. One story porches are common along the entire front or at the door.



## Prince House 1712 Prince Street

Prince Home, 1712 Prince Street on April 4, 1871. The creation of Faulkner County was two years away. Conway's incorporation would be four years hence. The owner of the property was John W. Reeder and his wife, Martha. The house was built sometime between 1879 and 1881 by P. H. Prince, an attorney and judge. It is the only example of Gothic Revival architecture in Conway.

The man for whom Prince Street was named stated that upon his arrival in Conway in 1873, there were two dry goods stores, two saloons, and one painted residence. According to a published history of Faulkner County, Prince was born in 1846 in Mississippi. He served in the Confederate Army, was captured about two months after volunteering, and was sent to a prisoner of war camp. He was released in June of 1865 and spent several years in the field of education. He studied law at the University of Kentucky in 1872. He died in 1932 at the age of 85.

## 🚩 Queen Anne 🚩

These homes were typically built between 1880 and 1910. The homes are irregular in shape and asymmetrical. The walls may include bay windows, balconies, towers, and turrets. The home may be covered with many types of decorative trim such as patterned shingles and brackets. Normally a one-story porch will extend across the front of the house and also along one or two side walls, thus the term wrap-around porch.



### Halter Home 1355 College Avenue

This home was built in 1903 in the classic Queen Anne style. When Mr. Halter built this 2812 sq. ft. home, he copied many exterior features of a home once owned by Arkansas Governor and prominent citizen George Washington Donaghey.

The house incorporated classic Queen Anne features such as the use of spindle work friezes, turrets, gables with fish-scale shingles, a wrap-around porch, turned porch supports and bay wall projections with windows. The home had a music room, parlor, living, room, dining room, and kitchen downstairs, and three bedrooms and a nursery upstairs. When first built it had electricity and a well for water.

Frank Urban Halter was born on September 22, 1871 and came to Conway with his parents, Ferdinand and Susan Waggoner Halter in 1878. The family was one of many Catholic families that moved to Conway when the Little Rock and Fort Smith Railroad made property grants to St. Joseph's Catholic Church. F.U. and wife, Anna Lachowsky, were the parents of seven children: Augusta, Florence, Lucy, Carolyn, Ida Rose, Ernest, and Victor. F.U. and his brothers, Lawrence and Amos Halter, founded Halter Brothers Construction Company of Conway, a lumber mill and general contracting business. The business had a reputation for building

substantial structures, including the most familiar to Conway, the Halter Building (1917) which occupies the southeast corner of Oak and Front streets. Anna died in 1930. F. U. remarried twice before his death in 1943.

## Brown Home 1604 Caldwell Street

This 3,500 sq. ft. home was built in 1904 by Charles L. Thompson for the family of Dr. George S. and Lula Harrell Brown. The home incorporates a mixture of the Queen Anne and the Colonial Revival styles.



Brown Home, 1604 Caldwell Street

Note the wrap-around porch, the fish-scale shingles, asymmetrical façade, and irregular roof lines which are characteristic of Queen Anne and the Ionic columns on the front porch which characterize the Colonial Revival style. It is considered a transitional style home because it features a mixing of architectural styles blending features that were still popular at the time with another style that was becoming more favored by builders and homeowners. The house has oak floors downstairs and pine upstairs. Transoms are above all doors in the home and there are two sets of 10 foot high pocket doors. The sunroom in the master bedroom was added by the Browns for an invalid daughter. Maple trees in the yard were seedlings that sprouted from a gift of four trees that were given to Dr. Brown from George Washington Donaghey before he became governor of Arkansas.

Dr. Brown was an 1872 graduate of Dartmouth College and a local surgeon. He served as a trustee of the Arkansas Tuberculosis Sanitarium in Booneville and was a member of the state of medical examiners. Dr. Brown and his wife Lula had three children. She died in 1942, outliving her husband and children. The house was willed to a nephew, Wallace Harrell Gist. The Gist family lived in the home until the early 1990's.

## Harton Home 1821 Robinson Avenue

This home was built in 1890 with timber cut from trees that grew on Arkansas River bottom land owned by Daniel Osborn Harton and his wife Flora Elizabeth Moore Harton. The Hartons moved to Conway with their 11 children.



Harton Home, 1821 Robinson Avenue



Mr. Harton grew cotton, and a bumper crop often afforded changes or additions to the home. The porch is in the Craftsman style and was probably added in the 1920s. Mr. Harton also owned a general mercantile and farm furnishing business. As his businesses succeeded, his land holdings grew. Mr. Harton was active in the community. He served on the Methodist Church Board, and the Conway Public School Board, and was involved in the affairs with the Bank of Conway and the Faulkner County Bank. Nine of the Harton children attended Hendrix College. On the block of the Harton land are the sites of homes belonging to five of their sons. There were paths between the houses which are still in existence, although difficult to find.

## ■ Colonial Revival ■

Popular between 1880 and 1955, this architectural style is characterized by facade that are normally symmetrical with a central front door, although the door could be off-centered. The cornices (horizontal molded projections) are heavy and supported by dentils (ornaments resembling teeth). The doors are often flanked by sidelights and an overhead fanlight. The front doors are accented with a decorative pediment (the triangular area under the roof line at the ends of the building which can also be found on the gable of the main building or over a porch). Supported by pilasters (square columns or pillars generally attached to a wall and projecting from it) or with a small entrance porch supported by columns. Windows are often in adjacent pairs.

### Robins Home 567 Locust Avenue

Built in 1922 with two-and-a-half stories, this brick home of 4000 sq. ft. was once the home of Frank Edward and Lyde Allinder Robins, Jr., owner and publisher of the *Log Cabin Democrat*, quite possibly the oldest business in Faulkner County and Conway's local newspaper.

In the early years of Conway, there were two newspapers, the *Log Cabin* founded in 1879 by A.F. Livingston and the *Conway Democrat* founded in 1880. A.F. Livingston sold his newspaper to his brothers-in-law Zol and T.M. Woods. The paper was sold again to J.W. Underhill who, one day in 1893, traded the newspaper for a sawmill belonging to J.W. Robins. J.W. Robins' son, Frank, was just 13 years old at the time and immediately went to work at the newspaper. The newspaper was operated by Frank Robinson, Frank Robins Jr. and Frank Robins III before being sold in the mid 1990's to Stauffer Corporation and then Morris Communications.



Robinson Home, 567 Locust Avenue

## ■ ■ ■ Dutch Colonial Revival ■ ■ ■

The Dutch Colonial Revival style is a subtype of the Colonial Revival style, marked by a gambrel roof. Generally faced in wood clapboard or shingles, it is derived from early Dutch houses built in the northeastern United States in the 18th century.

Dutch Colonial Revival houses were built over a long period, as were other Colonial Revival homes - from the 1880s through the 1950s. Most have a symmetrical front facade and a classical entry portico. Those with the gambrel facing the street tend to be earlier, dating from the late 19th and early 20th centuries, while those with side-facing gambrels and a broad front dormer were very popular during the 1920s.

### Silaz Home 1817 Bruce Street

This home exhibits some of the common characteristics found in Dutch Colonial Revival architecture with its steep, side-gabled, gambreled roof, and continuous shed dormer in front. The John Silaz home is a landmark on Bruce Street. John and Virginia Mae Silaz and their children, Mary Virginia and John, moved into it in the 1940s. The home was built around 1935.



Silaz Home, 1817 Bruce Street

Mr. Silaz built the first full-service gas station in the county in about 1938. "It had bays for washing, lubrication and repair, as well as a restaurant, the American Grill. He operated this and several other smaller stations and a distributorship. He built a 'super-station' which he operated for 10 years," according to a story in the *Log Cabin Democrat* as told by his son, John. Mrs. Silaz was active in community affairs.

## ■ ■ ■ Georgian ■ ■ ■

The exterior on a Georgian home is absolutely symmetrical and the entrance is usually in the center of the façade. The front paneled doors are usually capped by an elaborate decorative crown supported by decorative pilasters (flattened columns). Windows are aligned horizontally and vertically in symmetrical rows, usually five-ranked.

The roofs are typically hipped, side-gabled, or gambrel. Within the door or in the transom just above, usually there is a row of small rectangular panes of glass beneath the crown. There are oftentimes cornices emphasized by decorative moldings, such as tooth-like dentils.

## Clayton Home 1811 Caldwell Street

A Mr. Scarborough built this home for the Claytons between 1938 and 1940 on land that James inherited from his father, W.B. Clayton, who owned a wholesale grocery store on Front Street.

The elder Clayton's home was a large house that occupied the corner of Caldwell and Davis. The Caldwell and Davis. The old home and a screen house were demolished when the three houses that now stand on the property were built. Inside the house are doors from the W. B. Clayton house, a stair rail post from the Earnest Spessard house across the street, and a built-in telephone nook. The wood floors in the house are original to the home and have a very unusual "random plank" placement, that is, alternating wide and narrow planks. A patio in the backyard was constructed of slabs of slate from old sidewalks that once graced the streets of Conway.



Clayton Home, 1811 Caldwell Street

James Clayton was instrumental in the formation of Conway's first radio broadcasting station, KCON, which began operations in 1950. Clayton, a Hendrix College graduate, was first involved in his father's grocery business. He later taught radio courses to soldiers trained at Hendrix College during WW II and subsequently worked for KARK, a Little Rock radio station. His wife, Madge, earned an undergraduate degree from Ouachita Baptist College (now Ouachita Baptist University) and an M.A. from Columbia University in New York. She taught Latin at Conway High School from 1945 to 1970.

## Adam

The Adam style was popular from the late 1800s through the 1950s. A house built with this style is usually a simple box with symmetrical windows and doors. It is similar to the Georgian style but often with a semi-circular or oval fanlight over the front door. There may or may not be sidelights. Other features are a small entry porch, a cornice with dentils, and double-hung windows that are aligned in symmetrical rows, usually five-ranked on the front. The most common roof form is the side-gabled roof.



Gordy Home, 1724 Robinson Avenue

## Gordy Home 1724 Robinson Avenue

This home was designed by the renowned architect, George Whittenberg. While some have classified it as the Georgian style, it is probably closer to the very similar Adam style. Built in 1923, the home's original owners at 1724 Robinson were Mr. and

Mrs. Fred Gordy Sr. They had three children, Eula (Dunaway), Molly (Riffel), and Fred Jr. Fred and Annie were natives of Georgia. Fred managed several wholesale groceries including Plunkett and Jarrell on Front Street in Conway. After serving a year as mayor, he became the manager of Conway Corporation, a position he held until his death in 1955. Mrs. Gordy occupied the home until her death in 1971.

At the time it was built, the Gordys kept two mares behind the house, which they would ride to the S.G. Smith home. The sisters rode English saddles, while Fred Jr. rode western-style. Fred also raised pigeons and sold squabs (newly hatched pigeons) to the Bachelor Hotel dining room. On the lawn were a tennis court and a large play house with two rooms and a porch. All this was in addition to a brick constructed two-car garage that was reached by traveling a driveway consisting of two wheel paths, each two feet wide. Mrs. Gordy's outside handiwork included a lily pond.

Fred Gordy Jr. became a physician who had a medical practice in the Halter Building. He served as president of the Faulkner County Medical Society. He was a founding member of the Conway Country Club and helped build the first golf course for the club where he served as president. The Dr. Fred Gordy Jr. Memorial Golf Classic, held yearly at the CCC, is named in his honor. Proceeds from the tournament benefit the Dr. Fred Gordy Jr. Endowed Golf Scholarship at the University of Central Arkansas.

## ■ ■ ■ Neoclassical ■ ■ ■

The Neoclassical period was from 1895 to 1950 and includes Classical and Greek Revival styles. Homes in this style tend to be massive in scale with meticulous detailing. The symmetrical facades have symmetrical window placements and a central door. There are classical elements such as keystones, cornices with dentils, and full height columned porches. These homes were usually built for educated wealthy families.



## Frauenthal Home

613 Western Avenue

This Neoclassical home has strong Craftsman features. It was built in 1913 for Jo and Ida Baridon Frauenthal. The original estate consisted of 40 acres. The 5,000 square foot home had 22 rooms and was considered the finest residence in Conway at that time.



Frauenthal Home, 613 Western Avenue

The Frauenthal home is situated on the former site of a three-story house that was the residence of George Washington and Louvenia Wallace Donaghey. The Donagheys were living in the home when he was elected twenty-third governor of Arkansas. After the Donaghey home burned, the Frauenthal estate was erected. It became the site of many social events including garden and bridge parties, receptions, and dances for various groups hosted by Mrs. Frauenthal.

Jo Frauenthal was a prominent businessman and leading citizen who came to Conway in 1875 from Louisville, Kentucky to assist his cousin, Max Frauenthal, in the operations of a general merchandise store located on Front Street in the first brick business building in Conway. Max Frauenthal sold the store in 1890 to Jo and a cousin, Leo Schwarz, who came from Germany to assist in the store's early operations. Frauenthal and Schwarz became the largest retail store in Conway and operated for over 80 years from 1872 to 1954.

Ida Frauenthal was born in New York and was the daughter of Rev. and Mrs. Louis Baridon, immigrants from Switzerland. Mrs. Frauenthal came to Conway to visit her uncle, Asa P. Robinson, the founder of Conway. She met Mr. Frauenthal during that visit. Baridon Hall on the campus of the University of Central Arkansas is a residence hall named in her honor in recognition of her work for women. Baridon Street was also named in her honor.

Mr. Frauenthal was very involved in various leadership roles in the city. He was a member of the city council, president of the school board and the Conway Chamber of Commerce, appointed to the city's planning commission, and was trustee of the Arkansas State Normal School (now the University of Central Arkansas). He was involved in the planning and

building of many of the churches, schools and colleges in Conway. Mrs. Frauenthal occupied the residence after her husband's death and remained there until her death in 1947.

## Little Home 427 Western Avenue

This two-story Neoclassical style brick structure was built around 1919. The home is said to have the first walk-in shower in Conway. Four of the home's five bedrooms have their own bathrooms. The home boasts the first raised hearth, a central heating system using hot water heat, and two glassed in sleeping porches. Prominent exterior features include four large columns across the front of the home, a large expansive porch, and a balcony.



Little Home, 427 Western Avenue

John Elisha Little came to Arkansas from Mississippi in 1885. He purchased 3,200 acres of land making him a substantial land owner in Faulkner County during the early 20th century. He used the land to farm cotton. Dozens of families worked the land either as laborers or sharecroppers. Mr. Little also operated a plantation store.

The Lollie Plantation, named in honor of Lollie Trundle whom he married shortly after settling in the area, was located on the Arkansas River west of Mayflower. According to the National Register nomination, "The Little House in Conway best reflects the prominent economic and social status achieved by important local planter J.E. Little and reflects the common pattern of substantial in-town homes built by wealthy Arkansas agriculturists." A philanthropist, he donated land to Hendrix College and the Faulkner County Hospital (later Conway Memorial Hospital and now Conway Regional Medical Center).

## Ward Home 1912 Caldwell Street

The original home built on this site was a frame house that was destroyed by fire. The Ward family used the same foundation to build the present home in 1951. It has been the site of many community events and social parties.



Ward Home, 1912 Caldwell Street

Dave Ward was born in Wolfe City, Texas on September 1, 1904. He was the son of a blacksmith. His family moved to the Vilonia area in 1917 and relocated to Conway several years later. In 1926, Ward went west and worked in the oil fields as a welder. He returned in 1928, married Bertha Cazort and eventually set up his own blacksmith and welding shop. In the summer of 1933, Carl Brady, owner of Brady Truck Line in Conway approached Mr. Ward about raising the roof of a bus. In October of the same year, Brady commissioned the building of a bus from Ward. As a result, Ward Body Works was founded. In 1939, Mr. Ward had a rock building erected on Harkrider Street to house his business. Due to the company's growth, in 1953 he relocated to Highway 65B South where the International Corporation is today.

Dave Ward was very active in community affairs. He served for 15 years on the Conway Public School Board of Education, 40 years on the Conway Memorial Hospital Board of Directors, and was chairman of the Arkansas Waterways Commission. He was president of the Faulkner County Civic League in 1948 and was cited by the Conway Chamber of Commerce as the city's first industrialist on September 27, 1963. A recipient of the Conway Chamber of Commerce Distinguished Service Award, he was named the Conway Chamber of Commerce Man of the Year in 1970.

## ▀▀▀ Prairie/American Foursquare ▀▀▀

The Prairie style dates between 1900 and 1920. This style was a reaction against the very ornate Victorian style and is considered one of the more unique architectural styles developed by Americans. The American Foursquares have a simple box shape and generally have four rooms per floor. The facades are usually constructed of brick, rough-sawed wood, or stucco. The homes emphasize the horizontal nature of the architecture by their low hipped roof, extremely wide eaves, and wide projecting porches. This style also often has bands of casement windows.

### Moore Harton Home 1807 Robinson Avenue

Daniel Osborn Harton built this home in 1915 for his son, Moore. Moore and his wife, Mildred Johnson Harton, raised four children here: Danny, Florrie, Terry, and Mildred. The house cost \$2,000 to build and the indoor plumbing was said to have cost an additional \$150.



Moore Harton Home, 1807 Robinson Avenue



This is one of several homes that were built by the Harton family on what was once farm land. The block has often been referred to as the Harton Subdivision. The home remained in the Harton family for seventy-five years. The home features a low-pitched roof line, a square plan, and a wide projecting porch.



Dunaway Home, 920 Center Street

## Dunaway Home

920 Center Street

Oscar Lee Dunaway and his wife, Blanch, originally owned this home. The lot was purchased in 1922 for \$1250 and the house was built in 1923. O.L. was born in the nearby Beryl Community in 1872, grandson of John D. Dunaway, Sr. The latter was a member of the Arkansas Constitutional Convention of 1874, and served as a state senator from 1886

to 1890. O. L. received two degrees from Hendrix College, a bachelor of philosophy in 1897, and later a bachelor of arts. He received a master's degree from George Peabody College for Teachers in 1919. He served as a founder and superintendent of the Arkansas Christadelphian Bible School, the first of its kind in the world. His marriage to Blanch produced six children: Edwin, William, Margaret, Oscar Lee Jr., Arthur, and James.

## Craftsman

Built from 1905 through 1930, these homes give an impression of craftsmanship. The Bungalows are the most popular forms of the Craftsman style. These homes have full or partial-wide porches that are supported by square columns. Decorative false beams or braces are sometimes present under the eaves of these homes.

## Greeson-Cone Home

928 Center Street

Dr. W. R. Greeson and his family was once the owner of this Craftsman style home. It was also the home of Sallie Fisher Hildreth Cone.

In 1908, Dr W.R. Greeson purchased a drug store which was established by Dr. J.F. Kincheloe in 1890.



Greeson-Cone Home, 928 Center Street



Greeson's Drug Store, often referred to as Greeson's Corner, would become the oldest drug store in Conway and the first drug store to have air conditioning. The store was located on the corner of Oak and Front Street in the bottom floor of the Halter Building. Its soda fountain made it a popular "hang out" for teenagers in the 1930s, 40s and 50s. The store had several owners over the years before it closed in the late 1960s due to competition brought about by the building of newer stores. It was sold at auction in January 1967.

Sallie Fisher Hildreth Cone was born in Elaine, Arkansas. Her father was killed when she was seven years old, and her mother was convinced by friends that life was too dangerous on the Mississippi River. Sallie's mother relocated to Conway with her two daughters and taught at Central College. While in Conway, Sallie earned an A. B. degree from Central College. She later attended Arkansas State Normal School (now the University of Central Arkansas) where she obtained an L.I. (Licensed Instructor) degree. She taught first in Helena and then in Montrose where she met and married Jesse G. Cone. After moving back to Conway to be close to her sister, Mary Beth Hildreth Crafton, Sallie was hired by the Conway School District to teach. She later went on to earn a BSE from Arkansas State Teacher's College (now UCA) and an MSE from the University of Arkansas. Ms. Cone taught for 40 years. In 1956, a Conway school was named in her honor for her love of children.

## Blackburn Home

1025 Mitchell Street

Viewing this house from any angle gives an almost "textbook" example of the Airplane Bungalow style, a subtype of the Craftsman style. Low porch supports or piers, lines of three or more windows, an Oriental peaked or flared roof line, multiple roof planes and a single room perched on top is typical of this relatively uncommon style. There are reportedly only three examples in Conway.



Blackburn Home, 1025 Mitchell Street

Built in the early 1920s, the original property consisted of five lots that were purchased from G. A. and Georgia Hulen for a thousand dollars by W. A. Blackburn in March of 1920. Blackburn was a builder by trade. To build his Airplane Bungalow house, he used a plan drawn in 1916 by *Ye Planry* of Dallas, Texas. The Blackburn's daughter, Lucille Blackburn Davis, was an English teacher at Conway Junior High School after attending Columbia University in New York. Upon her parents' deaths, Ms. Davis inherited the home. She moved back into the home and resided there until her death.

## Spanish/Mediterranean Revival

This architectural style was popular from 1900 through 1940. These homes have roofs which are typically clad with red ceramic tile. The first floor windows and doors are typically arched and the upper story windows are less elaborate. This style reached its height in popularity in the 1920s when World War I soldiers wanted to pattern their own homes after the European buildings they had seen overseas.



Robins Home, 508 Locust Street

### Robins Home 508 Locust Street

Reuben William "Reubie" Robins studied law under attorney Samuel Frauenthal who later became his law partner. He was also associated with attorney George W. Clark. His illustrious career included serving as an associate justice of the Arkansas Supreme Court, where he was later admitted for practice. He was a delegate to the Democratic National Convention that nominated

F. D. Roosevelt for president. Reubie and Frank Robins Jr. were responsible for the formation of Conway Corp. in 1929. He later carried out the duties of city attorney and was president of First National Bank.



Smith Home, 1837 Caldwell Street

### Smith Home 1837 Caldwell Street

This home represents a mixture of Mediterranean and Colonial Revival styles. The Mediterranean influence can be seen in the wrought iron balcony, the tile roof, the arched windows and the tufted columns beside the front door. The front door itself shows Colonial Revival influence. The home was designed by noted Arkansas

architect Charles L. Thomas and built for Samuel Gallatin Smith and his wife, Ellen Grisard Smith, in 1924. The home has undergone several additions and renovations over the years.

S. G. Smith founded one of Conway's oldest automobile dealerships, Smith Ford, in 1916. He was also a cotton merchant and owner of S.G. Smith, The Busy Store. In 1922, Mr. Smith purchased valuable business property on Van Ronkle and Chestnut Street to join lots already occupied by his general store. Mr. Smith erected a large brick building on north Front Street in 1923 to house his Ford automobile dealership, and the business remained there until 1974 when it moved to its present location on East Oak Street. In 1923, Mr. Smith commissioned architects Sanders and Ginnochio of Little Rock in the designing of a theatre building which was at one time located on north Front and Spencer Street. S.G. Smith was one of the founders of the Faulkner County Bank and sat on the Board of Directors at Farmers State Bank.

Mrs. Smith was a teacher. Ellen Smith Elementary School was named in her honor. She sat on the Board of Trustees for the Faulkner County Hospital and was active in other community civic and church affairs.

## ■ Tudor Revival ■

Built between 1890 and 1940, these homes have front facades with one or more steeply pitched cross gables. Front porch entries and doorways are usually arched. The roofs have a steep pitch and side gables. Decorative half-timbering is sometimes present. The windows on these homes are usually tall, narrow, and found in groups. The chimneys are often massive and sometimes topped with decorative chimney pots.

### Clark Home 624 Donaghey Avenue

Built in 1936 by contractor Henry Firestone, this house displays some Tudor characteristics, primarily the steep gables, multiple gables, side porch extension with arched openings, and a curved slanted roof on the back elevation. It is stone edged with buff brick. Benjamin and Birdie Taylor owned all except the northern edge of the block on which the house stands. In 1936, the Taylors gave a quarter of the property to



Clark Home, 624 Donaghey Avenue

their daughter, Louise, and her husband, James F. Clark. Mr. Clark was a graduate of Hendrix College. Mrs. Clark was a graduate of Central College for Women. She also had a BA from Arkansas State Teachers College (now UCA) and a master's degree from the University of Arkansas. The Clarks had two sons, James Taylor and Robert Louis.

In an article that appeared in the *Log Cabin Democrat*, James Taylor is quoted as saying, "My dad was a dairy farmer until the early 1940s when he began losing his sight and hearing. We had a hay barn and a milking barn at the back of the house. One side of the garage was concrete, and that is where he sterilized and processed the milk for sale. I delivered milk in a cart that had bicycle wheels." In an interview, Mr. Clark said, "When I was born we lived in Bigelow, Arkansas, which at that time boasted 10,000 people. It was a wealthy lumber community with several mansions. Unfortunately, the lumber companies cut down all the trees without replacing them and the town's economy changed. My father bought one of the mansions." They soon moved back to Conway, but not without bringing the house with them in pieces. "The house was torn down and the door frames, windows, and screens are in the Donaghey Avenue house. The staircase was also brought back. It is unique in that it was constructed with wooden pegs rather than nails.



Hiegel Home, 504 Second Street

## Hiegel Home 504 Second Street

The Hiegel home was built around 1912. Michael Maurice Hiegel designed the house in a mixture of Tudor Revival and Craftsman styles. Much of the timber came from the Hiegel Lumber Company which was started in 1910 by Michael Hiegel's brother Jake. Joseph Albert Hiegel, another brother, supervised its construction. The structure is noteworthy because of its architecture which features mixed gable ends and arched porches, which are features of Tudor Revival, and places them in a structure whose overall massing is more Craftsman in style.

The Hiegels were among French immigrant families who arrived in New York City in 1872 and made their way to Zanesville, Ohio. At Zanesville, Catholic priests encouraged their parishioners to settle in a new parish that was being located in Arkansas. The news appealed to Jacques Hiegel who was anxious to start a farm in the community. Accompanying other Catholic families, they arrived by flatboat in 1878 at the old Butterfield Stage, landing on the Arkansas River near what is now the Toad Suck Ferry Bridge. Mr. Hiegel purchased 40 acres of land and built a log cabin and barn about three miles east of Conway. Jacques and his first wife, Sophia Roesch, had five children. She died shortly after giving birth to their fifth child.



With his second wife, Angelique de Chastonay, seven more were born. Michael Maurice, Jacques' seventh child, worked with his father on the family farm as a young boy. Later, he worked for the Caspar Dum Bakery and Grocery Company where he learned the business and went on to establish his own grocery store. His brother-in-law, Ted Thessing, joined him as a business partner. Hiegel-Thessing Grocery was located on Oak Street. When the partnership dissolved, Michael Hiegel moved his store to Court Street where it operated under the name Hiegel Grocery.

## Modern

These homes date from 1935 to the present time. Types of homes that fall into this category include the Ranch, Contemporary, Minimal Traditional, Split-Level, and Shed. The Ranch and Split-Level have been the most popular house types following World War II. They are loosely based on the Tudor and Colonial styles and have some traditional detailing. Some are efforts at energy conservation and advancements in materials and technology.



Jumper Home, 1019 Mitchell Street

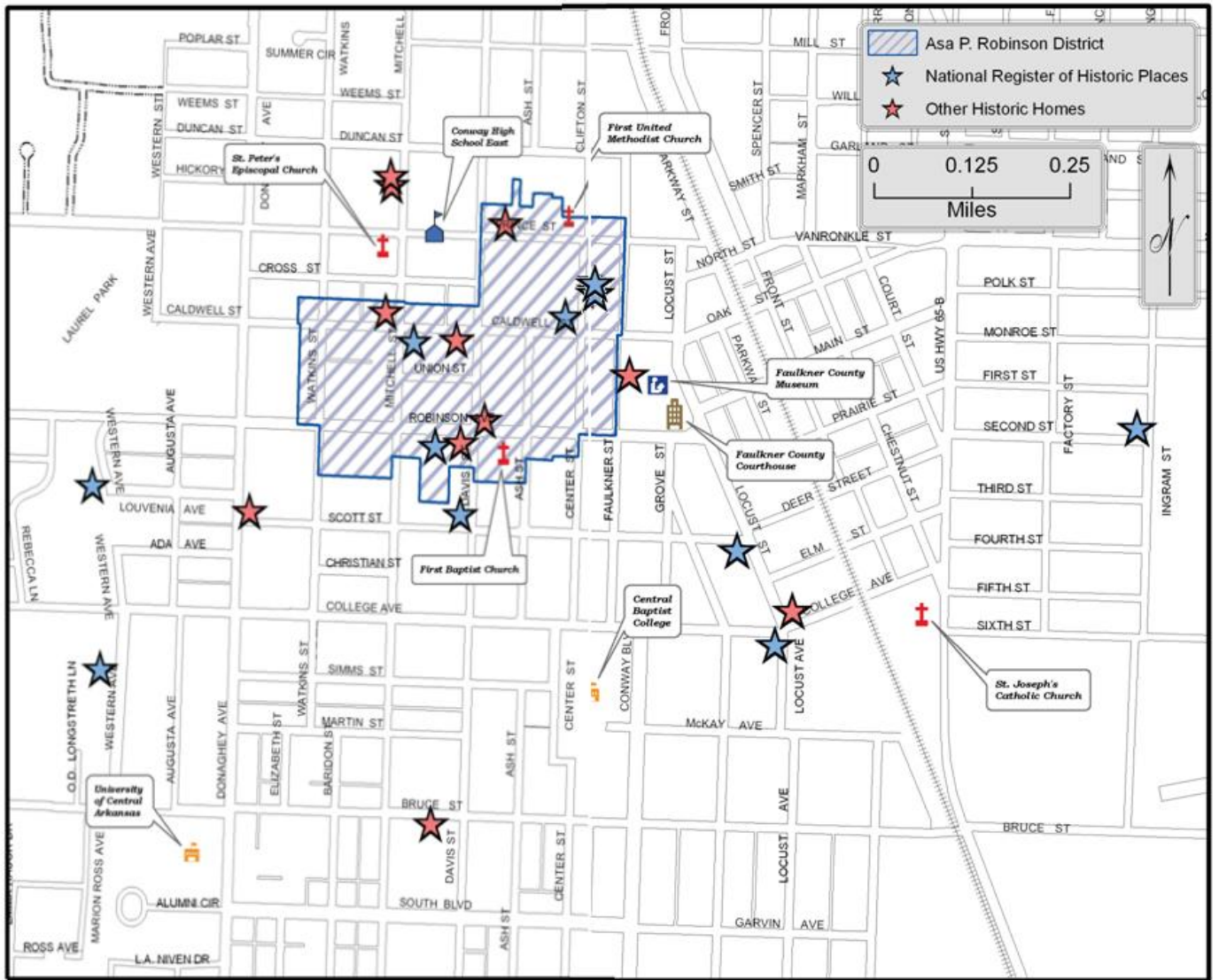
### Jumper Home 1019 Mitchell Street

This Early Ranch home has exterior features that include a low-sloped hipped roof with a wide overhang, decorative wrought iron around the front patio-style porch, and casement windows with ceramic tile window sills. It was originally

built for Mr. W.E. Jumper, the owner of the Conway Shoe Store which was located on Front Street. He was one of the first stockholders in the First State Bank of Conway and a three-time member of the city council in the 1950s. Mrs. Jumper was a housewife and Garden Club member.

Mr. and Mrs. Jumper enjoyed vacationing in Florida. It was there that he was inspired to build this "Florida House" in Conway, next door to his previous two-story brick home. This tropically inspired home was built in 1949 by builder T. A. Graham, the plans having been drawn up by a company in St. Petersburg, Florida.

The house has elements of the modern movement of the 1930s and '40s, the emerging Ranch style of the 1950s and '60s, and a strong influence from architecture of South Florida. It has a masonry exterior covered with stucco, while the interior walls are of plaster over wood lath.






A sample of drawings from the Art in Architecture: Historic Homes of Conway juried competition.



## National Register of Historic Places

Dr. George S. Brown, 1604 Caldwell Street Oscar  
Lee Dunaway, 920 Center Street  
Jo Frauenthal, 613 Western Avenue  
Greeson-Cone, 928 Center Street  
Francis Urban Halter 1355 College Avenue  
D. O. Harton, 607 Davis Street  
Daniel Osborn Harton, 1821 Robinson Avenue  
Michael Maurice Hiegel, 504 Second Street  
Frank Edward Robins, 567 Locust Street  
Samuel Gallatin Smith, 1837 Caldwell Street  
John Elisha Little, 427 Western Avenue



The Old Conway Preservation Society and the Faulkner County Historical Society would like to acknowledge Vivian Lawson Hogue and Nancy Breeden Mitchell for the generous sacrifice of their time and effort in pulling together the information and writing this guide for the citizens of Conway and the visitors to our city. We would also like to thank the City of Conway Planning Department who helped with the map design and the UCA Archives for providing photographs of the train depot and the courthouse.