

About the Quapaw Quarter Association

The Quapaw Quarter Association's (QQA) mission is to promote the preservation of Little Rock's architectural heritage through advocacy, marketing and education. Incorporated in 1968, the QQA grew out of an effort to identify and protect significant historic structures in Little Rock during the urban renewal projects of the early 1960s. Throughout its existence, the QQA has been a driving force behind historic preservation in greater Little Rock.

Some of these homes were featured in the 2012 Spring Tour of Homes, one of the QQA's largest programs. Since 1963, the tour has been staged for the purpose of fostering appreciation of historic buildings and neighborhoods and the need for their preservation. It has become one of the QQA's most effective methods of changing negative perceptions about the Quapaw Quarter and Little Rock's historic neighborhoods and for recruiting new residents to the area.

What is the Quapaw Quarter?

Much of Little Rock's history - from frontier days to the early years of the 20th century - is encompassed by the Quapaw Quarter, a nine-square mile area which includes Little Rock's central business district and adjacent residential neighborhoods. *Quapaw Quarter* is a special name that since 1961 has been used to identify this oldest portion of Little Rock. The word *Quapaw* was borrowed from the Quapaw Indians, who lived in central Arkansas before the arrival of white settlers in the early 19th century.

Although the Quapaw Quarter Association created the name Quapaw Quarter, and does the majority of its work in the area, the QQA also promotes historic preservation of other historic neighborhoods and buildings in the Greater Little Rock area.

Find out more and become a member at www.quapaw.com

QQA
Preservation
We live for it.

LOCAL PARTNER
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HISTORIC PRESERVATION®

Dreams and Determination: Arkansans at Work in the Governor's Mansion Historic District

An introduction to the Governor's Mansion Historic District to celebrate Arkansas Heritage Month 2012. This is dedicated to Arkansas's workers and work ethic, in praise of working men and women who have toiled and innovated and persevered through the decades.

QQA
QUAPAW
QUARTER
ASSOCIATION

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The Governor's Mansion Historic District, part of the Quapaw Quarter in Little Rock, was developed in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries and includes an outstanding collection of Queen Anne, Colonial Revival and Craftsman style architecture. This area is home to work by some of the most talented and significant architects, builders and craftsmen in Arkansas's history. Their legacies can be seen in the working class houses and grand mansions of the area.

Some of the state's most influential businesspeople, politicians, entrepreneurs and pioneers lived and built homes here, also leaving their mark. An examination of even this small group of homes within the Governor's Mansion Historic District illustrates how the hard work of Arkansans built and shaped one of the best known neighborhoods in the state, and how, in doing so, they had an impact on the development of other neighborhoods in Little Rock and around Arkansas.

Little Rock's historic neighborhoods like this one are rich in history and variety. Their continued preservation encourages smart growth throughout the city, encourages local pride and allows us to learn from the exciting history of Little Rock.

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Primary Sources

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- Original Historical Survey of the Governor's Mansion Historical District, copy kept by the Quapaw Quarter Association.
- Sanborn Maps of Little Rock, Publicly available through the Butler Center, Little Rock, AR.
- Wanda's Letters, reproductions of original letters found at 2114 Arch Street.

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1801 Gaines Street: P. Allen Smith's City Garden Home

P. Allen Smith has created a garden oasis at his home on Gaines Street in the Quapaw Quarter. The site has become the setting for many of Mr. Smith's television shows, online media and print publications. Mr. Smith has used his gardens to highlight the twelve principles of design he first featured in his book, P. Allen Smith's Garden Home. Each garden is presented as an outdoor room, including the Fountain Garden, Rondel, Kitchen Garden and the Shade Path.

According to Mr. Smith, the original design of the gardens was inspired by the 1905 colonial cottage now on the site. He based his design on Edwardian English gardens from the turn of the 20th century, including the use of a vast variety of plants and garden rooms. Interestingly, Smith had moved the cottage, which had originally built on the lot at 1016 Commerce Street, in 1989 with the approval of the historic district commission. Although the colonial cottage, with its characteristic colonnaded porch, was not originally built on this site; Mr. Smith has certainly created a unique and inviting city garden.

1721 Gaines Street: Prather House c. 1890

Built around 1890, the Prather House is a middle-class example of the Queen Anne style. Popular in the 1880s and '90s, this style is characterized by decorative exterior millwork, the cut-away bay to the south of the front porch, and the home's asymmetrical floor plan. Well-known architect Frank Gibb, who lived nearby on Arch Street, designed the house for John and Grace Prather, a traveling salesman for a wholesale dry goods company. The Prathers lived here until their deaths, both of which occurred in 1915. The house then became rental property, but was returned to single-family use in 1947.

1719 Arch Street: Plunkett House, c. 1899

This structure was built in 1899 for W.B. and Lila Plunkett. Although it is thought to have been designed by Charles L. Thompson, no original drawings have been found. W. B. Plunkett was president of the Plunkett-Jarrell Grocery Company, a whole-sale grocery firm with which he was associated until his death in the late 1940s. Within a few years of W. B. Plunkett's death, the house was divided into seven apartments. During this process, several major structural alterations were made, including the removal of the lower three-quarters of the main staircase; one of the house's most important interior features.

The Plunkett House is an elaborate version of the traditional American Foursquare house type with ornamentation in the Colonial Revival style. The house was sublet until the 1970s, when new owners began a rehabilitation project to return the house to its original single-family status.

Arkansas Governor's Mansion, completed in 1950



1800 Arch Street: Cornish House, c. 1916
Individually Listed in the National Register of Historic Places
12/22/1982

The Cornish House was designed by Theodore M Sanders for Edward and Hilda Cornish and their six children in 1916. Reportedly, it was built for over 60,000 dollars; today that would be over 1.2 million dollars. Upon its completion, the Cornish House was one of the largest and most elaborate homes in the old Blind School neighborhood.

The Cornish House is predominantly craftsman in its aesthetic use of natural materials and the porches designed as outdoor living spaces. However, the exterior also exhibits characteristics of the English Revival style, with its half timbered gables.

During the 1940s, the home was transformed into a nursing home. It served this use until the 1970s, when the home was abandoned. The Cornish House suffered greatly from neglect during the late 20th century, but was recently rehabilitated. It is now a spectacular gem within the Governor's Mansion Historical District.

A Popular Culture Note: The famous Duggar family of Northwest Arkansas leased this property in 2010 to serve as their Little Rock home while the youngest member of the family was admitted to the Children's Hospital. Josie Brookly Duggar, the youngest of 19 children, and several members of the family were filmed staying in the Cornish House for several episodes of their popular reality show through TLC.

Cornish House Historic Marker Text:

*"Cornish House
Ed and Hilda Cornish built this Tudor revival style house in 1919. Theo Sanders was the architect. Ed Cornish (1871 - 1928), a prominent banker, was president of the German Trust Company, and later president of the American Bank of Commerce and Trust Company. Hilda Cornish (1878-1965) was prominent in social and political issues of the day. She was a leader in advocating birth control even though she had six children. The house was well-known during this period because of a wide range of individuals who attended social functions in the luxurious third floor ballroom. It served a wide variety of purposes including a nursing home until 1978 when it was acquired by Nancy and Hampton Roy. Outside architectural features include a granite foundation, flemish-style brickwork and a tile roof. Inside architectural features include a large pier mirror in the entry hall, wide mahogany ceiling beams, craftsman-style fireplaces and a marble entry."*

1821 Gaines Street: Powell-Clements House c. 1903

The Powell-Clements House was originally built for the Samuel Powell family in 1903. Designed, at least in part, by renowned local architect Charles Thompson, the house's exterior features an asymmetrical design dominated by a porch with a tall entablature supported by Ionic columns and topped by a tall dormer window. The porch originally wrapped around the right side of the house, but was enclosed to form a sun-porch at an unknown date. The Colonial Revival style was vastly popular throughout the United States during the first quarter of the 20th century, due in main part to a revived interest in cataloging and publishing the original Georgian and Adams homes along the eastern seaboard. Although similar in many respects to the roughly contemporary Queen Anne Style, the Colonial Revival homes are most often recognized by their use of robust classical elements such as columns and cornices.

Samuel M. Powell, the original owner of this house, had risen to prominence in Little Rock through his position as the state manager and President of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company in Arkansas. The Powell family lived in the house until the 1920s. In 1921, the house became the official residence of then Governor of Arkansas, Thomas C. McRae. McRae had rented the house from a family member until 1922. This meant that the Powell-Clements House became the Arkansas Governor's Mansion for a short time.

In 1922, George W. Clements, a manger of a local sporting goods store, purchased the property. He and his family lived in the house until 1944, when the property was purchased by William Sharp. After the Sharp family moved away out of the community in 1973, the home became one of many projects to revitalize the Quapaw Quarter through the dedicated work of various owners and restorers.



Powell-Clements House, built c. 1903

1901 Gaines Street: Croxson House 1908-1909

Individually listed in the National Register of Historic Places 12/22/1982

The Croxson House was designed by renowned local architect Charles Thompson for the Forrest N. Croxson family during the first decade of the 20th century. Mr. Croxson was originally born in Indiana, but had moved to Little Rock at a young age, accompanying his family. He became a well known agent for the Equitable Life Insurance Company and was even awarded the medal of the “Circle of Jubilee Hustlers” by the company for his ability to sell 20 or more paid insurance policies in a single month. Mr. Croxson was certainly a prodigious salesman, as he was able to build his family’s home within the first few years of starting to sell insurance. Although the house was intended for the Croxson family, we must not forget that this often included the men and women who waited on the family or helped around the house. The upstairs included a small unheated room that was mostly likely intended for the maid. Also, the master bedroom included a hole under the night stand to allow the Croxsons to signal for the help.

The Croxson House is a well preserved example of the immense stylistic variety in domestic architecture during the early 20th century. Charles Thompson’s design combines the steep gambrel roof of the Dutch Colonial Revival style, with a Tuscan colonnaded porch topped by outsized Craftsman brackets. The front façade is symmetrical, but hardly static. The composition is topped with two pairs of windows surrounded by an elongated, continuous dormer.

1855 Gaines: Babcock House c. 1890

This Queen Anne style home was built by William and Julia Burnelle (Bernie) Babcock. William was an agent with the Pacific Express Company. He died after a sudden illness in 1897. A widow with five small children to support, Bernie Babcock then began her long career as a writer—at her kitchen table, each night after the children were asleep. She went on to become a prolific American writer, authoring over 40 works, including perhaps her best known work, *The Soul of Ann Rutledge*, the story of a young Abe Lincoln and his boyhood sweetheart. She was the first Arkansas woman to be included in *Who’s Who in America*. She later went on to found the Arkansas Museum of Science and Antiquities, today known as the Museum of Discovery (located in the River Market District). While Babcock sold the house in 1910, it remains today a tribute to this fascinating American woman.

1801 Arch Street: Gibb-Alzheimer House, c. 1906

This house was built by Architect Frank Gibb when Arch Street was the main thoroughfare south from Little Rock. The front portico, although grand, does not serve as the main entrance. The main public entrance actually fronts 18th Street, reportedly to avoid traffic on Arch Street; then a major southern thoroughfare from Little Rock. The house, however, served as an advertisement for Gibbs mastery of the classical style, echoing the Greek temple facades of the popular antebellum plantation homes throughout the South. Gibbs also designed several other houses within the Governor’s Mansion Historic District. By 1915, Maurice L Alzheimer, President of the Twin City Bank in Little Rock, owned the property, and continued to live in the home with his family until purchase by Dr. Guy Smith during the 1940s.

This was the second home that Gibb built for himself in this area – the first being at 1858 Arch Street, built during the 1890s. This area had been part of a large section of land that Gibb’s father had helped to promote as an active real-estate developer during the late 19th century.

1854 Arch Street: Kavanaugh House, c. 1898-1900

This home was built for William M. Kavanaugh at the turn of the 20th century. Mr. Kavanaugh had come to Little Rock by 1887 and lived on Main Street. He initially worked as a reporter for the Arkansas Gazette in Little Rock. In 1889, he rented Judge Mill’s house, on East Sixth Street, where he lived for ten years. In 1899, Mr. Kavanaugh was elected Sheriff and Collector of Pulaski County. In 1900 he succeeded Mills as County and Probate Judge of Pulaski County. This house remained in the Kavanaugh family until 1975.

The Kavanaugh House was built with a typical, non-symmetrical Queen Anne style floor plan. The façade maintains the Queen Anne asymmetrical massing, with the introduction of classical details, including ionic porch columns, arched windows and classical revival railings. This house stands as an important transitional style house within the Governor’s Mansion Historic District.

2008 Arch Street: Frauenthal House, c. 1919
Individually Listed in the National Register of Historic Places
12/22/1982

This unusual Mediterranean and Colonial Revival home was designed by Charles L Thompson and Thomas Harding, Jr. for Charles and Cora Frauenthal in 1919. Charles Frauenthal was a partner in the General Merchandise store of Frauenthal & Schwarz, located in Conway, AR. After the passing of Mr. Frauenthal, his widow occupied the house until the 1960s. Amazingly, this large house has continued to serve as a single-family home throughout its history. The Italian Renaissance Revival style of the central entryway, slender porch columns, low pitched tile roof and stuccoed exterior is unusual and rare for the area. Due to this fact, the Frauenthal House serves as an interesting example of the variations within the architectural trade during the early 20th century.

2009 Arch Street: Marshal House, c. 1908
Individually Listed in the National Register of Historic Places
12/22/1982

This Greek Revival structure was designed by Charles L. Thompson for the Honorable Josephus C. Marshall. It was later owned by E. Clarke, William Moore Clark, and Mr. and Mrs. A. Hall Allen, successively. Although the home has changed hands multiple times, it remains one of the best documented houses within the Governor's Mansion Historic District due to the existence of a nearly complete set of original plans and construction specifications.

The house was originally wired for electricity and also plumbed for gas fittings. This was a common practice during the early days of electricity adoption throughout the United States. This was due in large part to the unreliability of early electric service.

The house is fronted by a large, prominent portico topped by a classical Greek entablature and a deeply recessed pediment. Under the portico, the symmetrical façade interestingly includes a pair of arched elements, one of which is used as the main entry door. The interior, however, is based on the traditional American Foursquare home with early craftsman style details, including exposed rafter ends.

2114 Arch Street: Rogoski House c. 1896

This structure started its long life as a Queen Anne style cottage, as evidenced by its asymmetrical front façade and interesting assemblage of gables and roof. The deep porch, which dominates the front of the house, is also a major characteristic of the Queen Anne style of architecture, which was a dominant housing style from 1880 to 1900 through its popularization in easily accessible architectural pattern books. Be sure to note the various types of materials used in just the façade of this house; while the front gable is highlighted with wooden shingles, the rest of the façade is clad in vertical and horizontal wood siding. The square porch posts, which are most likely the result of a later update to the house, are clad in stucco. Although there is no evidence to date, it can be assumed that the porch once sported the spindle ornamentation and detailed woodwork associated with the Queen Anne style, which can still be seen on some houses in the Quapaw Quarter.

After the house was completed around 1896, the house apparently served as a rental property. In the city directories from 1906 to 1910, a series of businessmen (and possibly their families) including a binder for the Arkansas Democrat, a manager for South West Telephone and Telegraph Company and a businessman who held at least three different positions in three years. In 1912, Mr. Alex V Rogoski, a Little Rock plumber, moved into 2114 Arch Street. This house became his family's home for the next thirty three years. After Mr. Rogoski's death in the late thirties, his widow, Minnie Rogoski continued to live at in the house until her death in the 1940s.

Soon after moving into this house, Mr. Rogoski partnered with another Little Rock businessman to form the Rogoski-Davenport Company, specializing in plumbing installation and repair work. During these years of business expansion, Mr. Rogoski also updated his own residence. Sometime between 1910 and 1925, just as Mr. Rogoski was settling in with his family, this structure was updated with Craftsman style detailing. The large square front porch columns and simple tapering details under the porch eaves are purely Craftsman in style. The Craftsman style was at its height of popularity during the 1920s due mainly to the publication of the style in popular magazines such as House Beautiful, Good Housekeeping and Ladies' Home Journal. The Craftsman details of the front porch may have lead to the erroneous 1920 dating of the house in the official property records of the county.

2020 Arch Street: The Boyle House 1921-1922

The Boyle House is a truly eclectic structure, exhibiting elements from various styles including Beaux Arts, English Revival and Craftsman. Now known as the Boyle House, the structure was originally commissioned in 1921 by Sterling P. Scott who was the secretary/treasurer of a local wholesale grocery company. Before finishing construction of the house, Scott sold the land and unfinished structure to John F. Boyle in 1922. This house was designed by noted Arkansas architect Charles Thompson and his junior partner Thomas Harding Jr. and constructed by the contractor William Peterson. Thompson and Harding Jr. were well known in Little Rock, and built practices that continue to thrive. In fact, Charles Thompson's practice is a direct ancestor of the current Cromwell firm in Little Rock.

John Boyle finished the house with only a few modifications to the original plan, including the addition of a family room above the porte-cochere. Mr. Boyle, who was a very well respected business man, insurance agent, cotton trader and real estate investor, lived in the house with his family until his death in 1938. His widow, Mrs. Snow Boyle continued to live in the house until her death in 1949.

The house today looks much like it did when it was completed. As designed, the house is an eclectic combination of various popular housing styles. The classically influenced entry owes much to the Beaux-Arts style, and is very fitting for a grand entry. The porte-cochere and large, deep porch, however, exhibits the exposed rafters and large square supports of the Craftsman style. The exposed timbers of the front gable are characteristic of several English revival styles, while the red tile roofing is a signature of the mission or Spanish style. All in all, this house is a great cross section of popular domestic styles of the early 20th century.

Although the house's history has been dominated by the Boyle family, it is also important to note the people who worked in the Boyle house, and helped to create and maintain the domestic space for the Boyle family. The most striking example is the electric buzzer that was installed under the dining room table to allow the family to call for food or service from the kitchen.

2017 Arch Street: Ault House, 1918

The Ault House was constructed in 1918 by prominent Little Rock contractor William F. Ault. Mr. Ault was known to have been involved in the construction of several important Arkansas hotels, including the Arlington Hotel in Hot Springs and the Albert Pike Hotel in Little Rock. The land for the house was purchased by Mr. Ault from a Ms. Emily Williamson who was residing in Liverpool, England in 1917. Mr. Ault started construction on his family home the next year. The Aults continued to live in the home until 1936, when the property was purchased by Mr. and Mrs. Holmes for the sum of \$25.00 and "other good and valuable consideration paid" but not recorded in the public record.

The Ault House is predominantly a Craftsman style structure, with a mixture of English Revival details. The prominent low-pitched entry porch is supported by tapered, square columns, all characteristics of the Craftsman style. The Craftsman style exposed rafters of the entry porch and the roof overhangs is countered by the steep roofs and exposed timbering and stucco in the front gables. The bark-face brick is also unusual, as it appears that each brick is completely unique.

The interior of the house is mostly Colonial Revival in style with the characteristic emphasis on elaborate doorways and window casements. Two original chandeliers and decorative plaster crown molding are still proudly displayed within the house.



Ault House,
built in 1918

