



# Historic Preservation Alliance of Arkansas

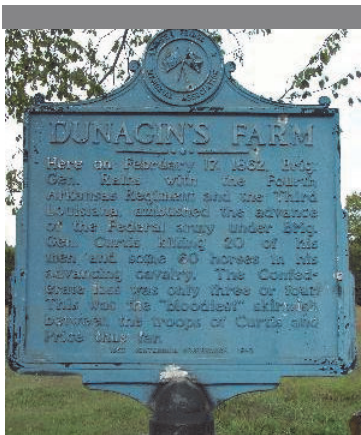
*announces the 2011 list of*

*Seven to Save:*

*Arkansas's Endangered Historic Places*



*PreserveArkansas.org*



The Historic Preservation Alliance of Arkansas began Arkansas's Most Endangered Places program in 1999 to raise awareness of the importance of Arkansas's historic properties and the dangers they face through neglect, encroaching development, and loss of integrity. The list is updated each year and serves to generate discussion and support for saving the state's endangered historic places. Previous places listed include the Bluff Shelter Archaeological Sites in Northwest Arkansas, the Goddard Hotel in Hot Springs, the Johnny Cash Boyhood Home in Dyess, Centennial Baptist Church in Helena, the Stephen H. Chism House in Booneville, the twentieth century African-American Rosenwald Schools throughout the state, the Mountaineer Apartments in Hot Springs, Forest Fire Lookouts statewide, the Historic Dunbar Neighborhood in Little Rock, Carleson Terrace in Fayetteville, the Berger-Graham House in Jonesboro.

Properties are nominated by individuals, communities, and organizations interested in preserving these places for future Arkansans. Criteria for inclusion in the list includes a property's listing or eligibility for listing in the Arkansas or National Register of Historic Places; the degree of a property's local, state or national significance; and the imminence and degree of the threat to the property.

The Historic Preservation Alliance of Arkansas was founded in 1981 and is the only statewide nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving Arkansas's architectural and cultural heritage. The mission of the Alliance is to educate, advocate, and assist historic preservation in Arkansas.

---

Historic Preservation Alliance of Arkansas  
P.O. Box 305  
Little Rock, AR 72203-0305  
501.372.4757  
[PreserveArkansas.org](http://PreserveArkansas.org)

**Seven to Save**  
**2011 Most Endangered Places List**

**Dunagin's Farm Battlefield**  
*Benton County*

—

**Hester-Lenz House**  
*Benton*

—

**Knox House**  
*Pine Bluff*

—

**McDonald-Wait-Newton House**  
**(Packet House)**  
*Little Rock*

—

**Plummer Cemetery**  
*Plumerville*

—

**St. Elizabeth's Catholic Church**  
*DeValls Bluff*

—

**White-Baucum House**  
*Little Rock*



# Dunagin's Farm Battlefield

## Benton County



The Pea Ridge campaign was arguably the most significant campaign of the Civil War in the Trans-Mississippi region. The Union Army of the Southwest under Brigadier General Samuel Ryan Curtis defeated the Confederate Army of the West led by Major General Earl Van Dorn in the Battle of Pea Ridge (Benton County) on March 7–8, 1862, and played a pivotal role in claiming Missouri for the Union and opening Arkansas to Union occupation.

As Confederate Missouri State Guard troops were being run out of Missouri by Union Troops, this was where the Confederate troops in Arkansas took up the rear and defended the Missouri State Guard so that they would not be destroyed. They had been on the run for 3 days in horrible Ozark winter weather with little or not food or shelter. Curtis's Army of the Southwest rolled forward with little opposition until encountering the Confederate line located just south of Little Sugar Creek along the southern edge of a large field belonging to a farmer named James Dunagin.

This was the precursor to the battle of Pea Ridge which

may not have even happened if the Missouri State Guard had not been protected from Union troops by the Confederate Army of Arkansas, Louisiana and Texas. This battle happened on February 17th, 1862 and is also called the Battle of Little Sugar Creek. The fighting lasted an hour and resulted in about 40 casualties.

**Dates to:** 1862

**Significance:** Site of the first important Civil War battle fought on Arkansas soil and part of the Pea Ridge campaign

**Threat:** Lack of protection from development and removal of artifacts related to the Civil War battle

### *Threat*

The site is privately owned and is currently for sale. The property is not protected from the removal of artifacts or development from nearby Fayetteville and Rogers areas. The National Park Service has studied adding Dunagin's Farm to the Pea Ridge Military Park, but has been unable to negotiate the

purchase of the property. Christine Ashlock, an advocate for the preservation of Dunagin's Farm, speaks to groups about the importance of the site and maintains a Facebook page "[Save Dunagin's Farm Civil War Battlefield](#)" to increase visibility. Advocates continue to enlist support from related organizations, including the Civil War Preservation Trust the Arkansas Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission, the Benton County Historical Preservation Commission.

Sources: Christ, Mark K. "Action at Bentonville." The Encyclopedia of Arkansas History & Culture. <http://www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net/encyclopedia/entry-detail.aspx?search=1&entryID=510>.

Beckenbaugh, Terry. "Pea Ridge Campaign." The Encyclopedia of Arkansas History & Culture. <http://www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net/encyclopedia/entry-detail.aspx?entryID=507>

Ashlock, Christene. "The First Battle of Invasion on Arkansas Soil."

# Hester-Lenz House

905 AR Highway 5 North | Benton, Saline County



The Hester-Lenz House is located on Highway 5 in Benton, Arkansas, on what was the Southwest Trail or Military Road in Saline County. According to an abstract of the property, it was purchased from the U.S. Government on June 30, 1836, by James Hester, and it is believed that he constructed the two-story, dog-trot style log home currently standing on the property soon after. Based on local tradition, the home was constructed utilizing slave labor and virgin pine cut from the site. It is also believed that the bricks used in the construction were also made utilizing the abundant deposits of red clay in the area. The log construction utilized by Hester is interesting in that the logs interlock without protruding past the ends of adjacent logs, allowing siding to be directly attached over the logs. It is believed, based on the lack of wear on the logs, that the structure was faced with siding very early on. The home may be the oldest on its original site still standing in Saline County, and, based on local tradition, may have been the site of a meeting to determine if Saline County would vote in favor of statehood.

In 1850, the property was acquired by John Nelson, who lived on the property from July 2, 1850 until his death in 1873. A cemetery associated with the home, which lies nearby, contains descendents of the Nelson family, and slaves are believed to be buried close by. Jabez Smith, a former colonel of the 11th Arkansas Infantry, C.S.A., and a former Saline County circuit judge, acquired the property from the Nelson Estate in 1873. In 1922, German immigrants named Alwana and Wilhelm Lenz inherited the

property from Awana's parents Joseph and Salome Lenggenhager. The property was inhabited by the Lenz's son, Oscar F. Lenz, from 1922 until his death in 1992. The Lenggenhager and Lenz families substantially modified the original structure, and together created the home so many

people in this area are familiar with today. Many of the details of the additions and alterations to the home by the Lenggenhagers and Lenzes are very unique in that they exhibit strong German influence, and are also a testament to the family's long association with the property since 1891. The home is a notable example of a two-story dog-trot log cabin, and is an interesting example of

German-influenced vernacular construction applied over the existing log home.

## Threat

Oscar Lenz's advancing age led to the decline of the property later in his lifetime, and the property has significantly deteriorated since his death. The roof over the bathroom addition is almost gone, and the kitchen roof leaks badly. There is significant termite damage to the floor plates, and the roof over the front porch is being held up with props. Even so, the property remains in the Lenz family, having been acquired in October, 2000 by William G. Lenz, great-great grandson of Joseph and Salome Lenggenhager. Although the property has deteriorated in recent years, William G. Lenz, the current owner is dedicated to the preservation of his family's home. However, restoration of the house is no small undertaking and preservation will require significant resources.

**Dates to:** 1836

**Significance:** notable example of a two-story dog-trot log cabin, and an interesting example of German-influenced vernacular

**Threat:** Severely deteriorated condition and lack of resources for rehabilitation



# R. M. Knox House

1504 West 6th Street | Pine Bluff | Jefferson County



Cpl. R. M. Knox stands outside his home, exactly as he had it built in 1885 at Sixth Avenue and Plum Street. Note the "captain's walk," also called the "widow's watch." The front of the house was given a new look in 1910, a larger porch, without gingerbread, squared round pillars. The upper floor was converted into an apartment to help provide housing for Pine Bluff Arsenal personnel in the late '20s and was reclaimed several years later by the Knox family. The house, which is on the National Register to Historic Places, continues to be restored by its present occupants, the family of Richard Knox, the colonel's grandson.

R. M. Knox, a Confederate Colonel and Pine Bluff businessman moved to Pine Bluff from Memphis, Tennessee in 1871 to open his own store. Pine Bluff experienced its golden era of growth from 1880 to the turn of the century when the railroad brought increased progress and prosperity to the town. Pine Bluff became a city of the first class in 1885 by attaining a population of 5,000. By 1890, Pine Bluff was the state's third largest city. By that time, the city possessed electric lights, a water and sewer system, and two franchised telephone companies.

Knox built the house in 1885 during this boom in what was then the suburbs of an expanding city. The city of Pine Bluff grew to encompass this house which now sits on the corner of West 6th Avenue and Plum Street. Knox operated his successful dry goods business for 34 years, becoming one of Pine Bluff's wealthy businessmen. He was also one of the founders of the Citizen's Bank of Pine Bluff where he served as the first Vice President and a director at the time of his death in 1915.

Around 1890 the exterior of the house appears to have been altered with the addition of more classical columns on the two-story porch. However, the house has since been restored to its original appearance. Today, the Knox House is largely intact and is one of the best surviving examples of Eastlake Victorian architecture in

Arkansas. When it was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1975, the R.M. Knox House retained many original architectural and decorative elements including shingles, carved woodwork, ornate brackets, decorative iron work, fire place mantles, the central hall balustrade and etched glass containing the initials R.M.K.

**Dates to:** 1885

**Significance:** Excellent example of Eastlake Victorian Style and association with early development of Pine Bluff

**Threat:** Lack of resources for rehabilitation, neighborhood decline

## Threat

The house was owned by the Knox Family until the 1990s and today is vacant. Once Arkansas's third largest city, Pine Bluff's population has declined significantly in recent decades and many of the city's historic homes have given way to deteriorating neighborhoods. The house's plight is typical and illustrative

of many of the once fine houses in Pine Bluff in that it is threatened by neighborhood neglect and declining property values, which make preservation of places like the R.M. Knox House a challenge. The current owner of the house hopes to restore the home to its former state, but lack of resources presents a challenge to those plans. Because it is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the R.M. Knox is eligible for State Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credits if restored as an owner-occupied house or for Federal Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credits if redeveloped as an income-producing property, tools that can hopefully be employed for the restoration of this significant property.

# McDonald-Wait-Newton House (Packet House)

1406 Cantrell Road | Little Rock | Pulaski County



This historic and architectural landmark in Little Rock was constructed in 1869 and is the last remaining of the large houses that were built on the north side of Cantrell Road, which was then named Lincoln Avenue. The area was called “Carpetbagger’s Row” or “Robber’s Row” during Reconstruction because the large houses were built by men who were associated with the north during the Civil War. Architecturally, the Packet House is significant as a fine example of Second Empire Style.

The Packet House was built in 1869 by Alexander McDonald. McDonald was living in Kansas at the start of the Civil War. He took a leading role in the raising of troops for the Union Army, and for a time supported three regiments at this own expense. McDonald first came to Little Rock as a Union Soldier during the War and later returned to make it his home. McDonald served as member of the State Constitutional Convention of 1868 and a United States Senator from Arkansas from 1868-1871. McDonald was actively engaged in banking and business dealings and was considered to be the richest man in the state of Arkansas. McDonald worked actively to rebuild the industry and economy of Little Rock and of the state of Arkansas after the Civil War. He owned a established and was president of a bank in Fort Smith and he was president of the Merchants National Bank in Little Rock, which later became First National Bank of Little Rock and is now Regions Bank. In addition to his banking efforts, he was also vice president of the Little Rock and Fort Smith Railroad and president of the Arkansas Bridge Company, Senator McDonald was defeated in his bid for re-election in 1871, sold his home and left the state.

The house was subsequently owned by William B. Wait, also a president of the Merchants National Bank and Mrs. Ann McHenry Reider, who moved with her two daughters and their husbands, two brothers named Tom and Robert Newton. The house was home to the Newton Families for several generations.

**Dates to:** 1869

**Significance:** *Excellent example of Second Empire architectural style and historic importance association with Reconstruction and prominent families in Little Rock.*

**Threat:** *Vacancy*

The owners in the mid 1940s named the house the Packet House because it overlooked the river once travelled by packet boats carrying government papers and mail. The house was converted into apartments under these owners. In 1977 the house was purchased and listed on the National Register of Historic

Places. The house was rehabilitated in the late 1970s and has served a number of functions since, including offices and a restaurant.

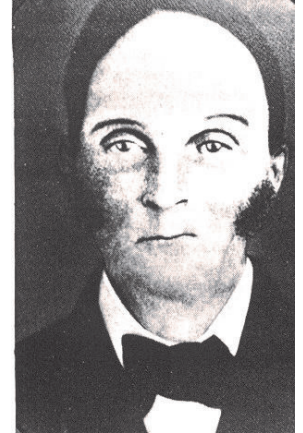
## Threat

The house, which is zoned for commercial use, has been vacant and for sale for several years. Recently, a prospective developer seeking to purchase the house applied for a permit to use the Packet House as a restaurant. This is a positive turn for the Packet House, however, years of vacancy have taken their toll on the house and the future of the building remains uncertain. Still, the Packet house is eligible for State and Federal Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credits, tools which could be of significant help in redevelopment of this architectural and historic treasure. Local support from the Quapaw Quarter Association and advocates for preservation is strong. Hopefully this property will be rehabilitated and placed back into use.



# Plummer Cemetery

## Plumerville, Conway County



In 1833 Samuel Plummer (occasionally spelled Plumer and Plumber) purchased the first piece of land and settled into the area which would later become known as Plumerville. He purchased the land to start a saddlery business and to establish a stage coach stop with the Fort Smith to Little Rock Stagecoach. A cabin on Samuel's property became a regular stop on the stagecoach route. As additions were made to the cabin the site became known as Plummer's

Station. Since the stage was the fastest means of travel in those days, many people rode it. The stage stop was a contributing factor in the early growth of the town.

Plumerville became the leading town and trading center between Little Rock and Fort Smith. Plummer's Station stands to this day and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. After the Civil War ended, Samuel became interested in having a railroad line come through the area surrounding Plummer's Station.

He eventually wooed the Little Rock and Fort Smith Railroad (LR & FS RR) to lay track by giving the railroad right-of-way through his own property. Consequently, the LR & FS RR later decided to name its station after Mr. Plummer and helped plat the town that now bears his name. The town of Plumerville was incorporated on October 4, 1880 – about three & half years after Samuel's death

Plummer Cemetery is the final resting place for Samuel Plummer. Plummer Cemetery also contains the remains of Samuel's wife Henrietta, five or six of their ten children and likely one grandchild. This founder's cemetery is in Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) right-of-way and within 50 feet of the railroad tracks.

Downtown Plumerville suffered a horrendous fire around

1985 in which the historic downtown buildings were destroyed. Only the old Plumerville Methodist Church some distance away remained, but it is now gone as well. Besides Plummers Station (a National Register property) on the other side of Gap Creek, it is possible this cemetery is one of the few remaining historic properties in Plumerville

### *Threat*

Samuel Plummer made provisions in his will to pay for a wall and "appropriate handsome headstones of marble".

However, no deeds researched to date indicate arrangements for perpetual access to

and care for the little family cemetery. Written permission must be obtained from UPRR each time before entering their right-of-way where the Plummer Cemetery is located. Access is only allowed from street-side per UPRR. As there is no municipal entry point to this cemetery, access is gained through private property no longer owned by the Plummer family.

UPRR has agreed to allow annual or semi-annual access solely for the sake of maintenance.

Sometime between the mid-1990's and April 2008, the site fell into disrepair. Plummer Cemetery is in dire need of cleanup and preservation efforts. It is quite likely this property, a piece of Arkansas's state history, will be forgotten and disappear forever if something is not done to preserve and restore the site. There is only one Plummer still living in Plumerville – William "Bill" Plummer. Bill Plummer has been overseer of the Plumerville Cemetery for 30 plus years. At about 80 years of age, Bill has arthritis and is no longer able to physically care for the Plumerville Cemetery or the more inaccessible Plummer Cemetery on his own.

*Dates to: 1870*

*Significance: burial place and family cemetery of Samuel Plummer, founder of the town of Plumerville in Conway County*

*Threat: deterioration and inaccessibility of the cemetery*



# St. Elizabeth's Catholic Church

## *Sycamore and Mason Streets DeValls Bluff, Prairie County*



Between 1900 and 1910, large German and Eastern European communities grew up in the areas around DeValls Bluff and Stuttgart. With the immigrants came their culture and religion. In their new rural farm communities immigrants sought the same cultural norms that they had in their European homeland and in their older American communities. Religion, often Catholic, was central to daily life in many of the farming communities of German or Austrian immigrants. As a Spanish and French territory Arkansas had long been exposed to Catholicism.

***Dates to:*** 1912

***Style:*** Plain Traditional/  
Carpenter Gothic

***Significance:*** relation to the  
history of immigration in Arkansas's  
Grand Prairie and architectural  
style

***Threat:*** lack of resources and  
knowledge of its significance

Catholic priests began serving the assemblage near DeValls Bluff in the 1870s. The parish of St. Elizabeth's was established in 1904 and the extant building, built in 1912, was the second church building for this congregation. The 1912 St. Elizabeth's Church was built in the Plain-Traditional or Carpenter Gothic style structure a simple frame structure not unlike the many Catholic churches across the Grand Prairie and Mississippi River Delta of Arkansas.

St. Elizabeth's architecture reflected the theological beliefs of the body in DeValls Bluff. It also reflected cultural norms as a material expression of ecclesiastical belief. The small Catholic communities had little funds to construct elaborate buildings. These frame buildings with simplified Gothic architectural elements reflected ecclesiastical architectural forms found in many of these

immigrants' homelands. Constructed by local carpenters and church members they typified a form that spoke of reverence and reflected theological belief.

Once a common form for Catholic churches across the Grand Prairie and the Mississippi River Delta, similar structures were built at Brinkley (St. John the Baptist Church), Forrest City (St. Francis of Assisi), and Carlisle (St. Rose of Lima). Each of these were essentially plain traditional, gable-front structures, rectangular in form, with symmetrical facades. St. Elizabeth's is one of very few remaining early

twentieth century Catholic churches. Following the death of the last remaining parishioner, St. Elizabeth's Catholic Church was abandoned by the Church in 1986 and was unused by the community. In 1992, Mary Sharp purchased the structure and has actively sought to preserve it as an important piece of DeValls Bluff history.

### ***Threat***

The building is in need of structural work and maintenance and is in danger due to lack of funds and lack of knowledge of its existence by many. In addition, St. Elizabeth's Church sustained wind and water damage during the storms that swept across the South in late April 2011.

# White-Baucum House

201 South Izard Street | Little Rock, Pulaski County



The White-Baucum House was built in 1869-1870 by Robert J.T. White, Arkansas Secretary of State at the time. It is one of the earliest and best examples of Italianate architecture in the state. In 1876, the house was sold to George F. Baucum, who entered business in Little Rock after distinguished service in the Civil War. Baucum operated a wholesale grocery business, was a cotton broker, a president of the Bank of Little Rock and one of the founders of the Board of Trade of the city. The Baucum family lived in the home until the mid-1920s. Lora B. Busick occupied the place from 1935 to 1957. After being left vacant for four years, the house was adapted to new uses. It served as the home of two restaurants, an interior design studio, a nightclub and an advertising agency and office space. Most recently, the house housed an engineering firm. It has been vacant and for several years and is now bank-owned and for sale, listed by McKimmey Realty.

In December of 1975, the White-Baucum House was awarded a Quapaw Quarter Historic Structure plaque number 23 from the Quapaw Quarter Association. This is a selective plaque program intended to recognize only the most significant historic structures and rehabilitations in Little Rock. The house was individually listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1975.

## *Threat*

This house, like many others in Little Rock, is falling victim to “demolition by neglect”. It has been negatively associated with the city’s homeless population recently. In early summer 2010, Little Rock police escorted several squatters out of the house, and code enforcement officers cleaned the site and boarded up windows. Some fear that this house will be demolished to alleviate future issues with squatters, or that the property will remain vacant and continue to deteriorate until preservation is more difficult. It was a positive step for the City to evict squatters in 2010, and the building received brief local attention.

**Dates to:** 1869

**Style:** Italianate

**Significance:** One of the best examples of Italianate style architecture in Arkansas

**Threat:** Vacancy and vandalism; currently for sale

The White-Baucum House is surrounded by several new and rehabilitated structures that are primarily used as office space. Ideally, this house will be rehabilitated for office space or mixed use development. It is in a once-fashionable residential area that has been rezoned commercial and has not been a single family residence since the 1950s. It is in a prime location in the commercial district near the Arkansas State Capitol that could support office or restaurant use. The Quapaw Quarter Association is supportive of the building’s preservation and the listing agent seems to recognize the unique value of the landmark. Because it is listed on the National Register, the White-Baucum House is eligible for state and federal historic rehabilitation tax credits.

Sources: “White-Baucum House” National Register of Historic Places Nomination, 1980.

Quapaw Quarter Association records.



# Organization Contacts

Historic Preservation Alliance of Arkansas  
Contact: Vanessa McKuin, Executive Director  
P.O. Box 305  
Little Rock, AR 72203-0305  
501-372-4757  
thealliance@preservearkansas.org

Little Rock Properties:  
Quapaw Quarter Association  
Contact: Rhea Roberts, Executive Director  
P.O. Box 165023  
Little Rock, AR 72216  
501-371-0075 ext. 3  
FAX 501-374-8142  
E-mail: rroberts@quapaw.com

## Notes