

**SEVEN TO SAVE:**

The 2020 List of Arkansas's  
Most Endangered Places



**PRESERVE  
ARKANSAS**

*restore, redevelop, revitalize*



## **SPECIAL THANKS**

Special thanks to 2020 Most Endangered Places Selection Committee Members: Chair Mike Kinkade, Dr. Jodi Barnes, Glenn Mosenthin, Holly Hope, and Kwendeche, FAIA.

## **ABOUT PRESERVE ARKANSAS**

Founded in 1981, Preserve Arkansas is the only statewide nonprofit advocate for the preservation of Arkansas's historic places. Our organization works to build stronger communities by reconnecting Arkansans to our heritage and empowering people to save and rehabilitate historic places. Support our work year-round by becoming a member at [PreserveArkansas.org/get-involved/membership](https://www.PreserveArkansas.org/get-involved/membership).

## **ABOUT THE MOST ENDANGERED PLACES PROGRAM**

Preserve Arkansas began a Most Endangered Places program in 1999 to highlight Arkansas's significant historic and cultural sites that were at risk of being damaged or lost. Arkansas's Most Endangered Program is modeled after the America's 11 Most Endangered Places List announced annually by the National Trust for Historic Preservation since 1987. Arkansas's list is updated annually to raise awareness of endangered properties and to generate discussions and form strategies to save these places. Previous listings include the Johnny Cash Boyhood Home, Dyess; Rohwer Japanese-American Relocation Center, Desha County; Hantz and Durst Houses, Fayetteville; Downtown Hot Springs; William Woodruff House, Little Rock, and many others.

Properties are nominated by individuals, communities, and organizations interested in preserving these places for future Arkansans. Criteria for inclusion in the list include a property's level of local, state, or national significance and the imminence and degree of the threat to the property. Once selected for the list, these properties become a priority for Preserve Arkansas's advocacy efforts.



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## **Preserve Arkansas Announces 2020 List of Arkansas's Most Endangered Places**

LITTLE ROCK—Preserve Arkansas's 2020 Most Endangered Places list includes a nationally significant military hospital, a Trail of Tears witness structure, the Grapette Company headquarters, a Charles Thompson-designed bank, a historic mercantile, Lafayette County's first jail, and a New Deal-era high school building. Preserve Arkansas is also featuring Little Rock's oldest municipal golf course as "One to Watch."

The Most Endangered Places Program began in 1999 to raise awareness of historically and architecturally significant properties that are facing threats such as deterioration, neglect, insufficient resources, and insensitive development. Preserve Arkansas solicited nominations from individuals and organizations throughout the state. The list is updated each year to generate discussion and support for saving the places that matter to Arkansans.

Properties named to the 2020 list are as follows:

Army & Navy General Hospital Historic District, Hot Springs (Garland County), a nationally significant military hospital known for treatment of arthritis and polio that will soon revert back to the Department of Defense with no plan for its future use;

Bank of Carthage, Carthage (Dallas County), a small town bank designed in 1907 by well-known Arkansas architect Charles L. Thompson that is now in an advanced state of deterioration;

Grapette Building, Camden (Ouachita County), the headquarters and bottling plant of the Grapette Company, makers of one of America's bestselling soft drinks, that now has structural

safety issues;

Henry Brothers Store, Jacksonville (Pulaski County), a 1925 mercantile and the oldest building in the National Register-listed Jacksonville Commercial Historic District in desperate need of roof repair;

Old Jail Log Cabin, Lewisville (Lafayette County), a ca. 1830 log cabin built to serve as the county's first jail that is now in need of emergency repairs to secure its future;

Old Pocahontas High School/Old Rock Building, Pocahontas (Randolph County), a 1939 building constructed by the NYA and WPA that for many years housed the school auditorium, is now in danger of being demolished to make way for a new school complex;

Plummer's Station, Plumerville (Conway County), the ca. 1830 home of Samuel Plummer, namesake of Plumerville, and a witness structure to the Trail of Tears and stop along the Butterfield Overland Mail Route that is now in extremely poor condition.

One to Watch: War Memorial Golf Course, Little Rock (Pulaski County), the oldest municipal golf course in the capital city that operated until July 2019.

Photos and additional information about 2020's Most Endangered Places are available at [www.PreserveArkansas.org](http://www.PreserveArkansas.org).

Preserve Arkansas is the statewide nonprofit organization dedicated to building stronger communities by reconnecting Arkansans to our heritage and empowering people to save and rehabilitate historic places. For more information about Preserve Arkansas, please contact Rachel Patton at 501-372-4757, [rpatton@preservearkansas.org](mailto:rpatton@preservearkansas.org), or visit [www.PreserveArkansas.org](http://www.PreserveArkansas.org).

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Army & Navy General Hospital Historic District  
105 Reserve Street  
Hot Springs, Garland County

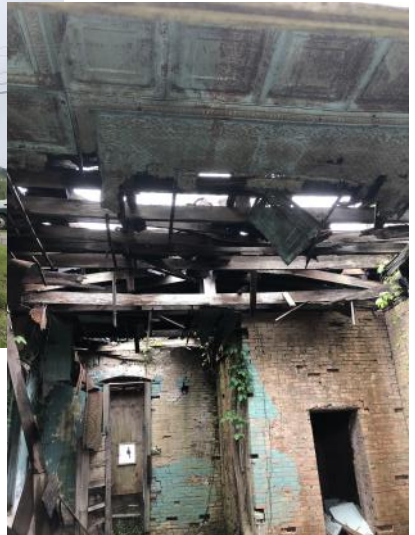


Located on Hot Springs Mountain overlooking downtown Hot Springs, the nationally significant Army and Navy General Hospital Historic District contains about 30 buildings dating from 1908 to the mid-1970s. This complex began its existence in 1887 as the nation's first combined general hospital for both U.S. Army and Navy patients. The Army and Navy Hospital was also the first such facility established during peacetime and the only military hospital situated solely because of its proximity to hot springs. The facility was well-known for its work treating arthritis and polio through hydrotherapy. The present Spanish Revival-style General Hospital Building was completed in 1933 to replace the 1880s hospital and accommodated 500 patient beds in its 210,000 square feet. The Army and Navy Hospital provided vital medical care to soldiers returning from World War II, admitting nearly 15,000 patients from 1941 to 1945, many of whom suffered from rheumatic diseases.

In 1952, the military announced its plan to close the Army and Navy Hospital. On April 1, 1960, the Secretary of the Army gifted the hospital complex to the State of Arkansas for use as the Hot Springs Rehabilitation Center, a residential rehabilitation facility for people with disabilities. The State of Arkansas announced plans in May 2019 to close the rehabilitation facility, then called the Arkansas Career Training Institute. The complex housed patients until September 2019. Federal law stipulates that the former Army and Navy Hospital campus must revert back to the federal government if it is not used by the State of Arkansas for rehabilitation, health, or educational purposes. For nearly a year, a committee of the Greater Hot Springs Chamber of Commerce has been working to help generate ideas for the buildings' reuse, but the State of Arkansas intends to deed the property back to the Department of Defense on July 1, 2020. The major masonry buildings remain in good condition, but abandonment will allow them to deteriorate and become subject to vandalism and vagrant occupancy. A successful "save" might be a public/private partnership, an expanded version of the successful historic leasing program used in the National Park along Bathhouse Row.



**Bank of Carthage**  
**Southwest corner of Main Street & Kelly Avenue**  
*Carthage, Dallas County*





Located in northeastern Dallas County, the small town of Carthage traces its origin to an African American community called Lea Ridge, established nearby during the Reconstruction Era. When the railroad came through Dallas County in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, Lea Ridge residents moved several miles west to live near the rail line. The new community was named Carthage after the ancient city in North Africa. The timber industry has historically sustained the town, and the Idaho Timber sawmill continues to operate there today.

The Bank of Carthage Building was designed in 1907 by noted Arkansas architect Charles L. Thompson. The one-story, brick commercial building features restrained Classical detailing and serves as a reminder of the town's importance as a railroad and timber hub. In fact, it is the only remaining historic commercial structure in this small town. Although the Bank of Carthage is listed in the National Register of Historic Places, it is now in an advanced state of deterioration with a large hole in the roof, missing windows, and dense vegetation growth. The building is privately owned and currently for sale. Depending on its future ownership and use, it could qualify for preservation incentives like historic tax credits or grants for rehabilitation. Urgent action is needed to rescue this significant building.

**Grapette Building**  
**157 Grinstead Street**  
*Camden, Ouachita County*

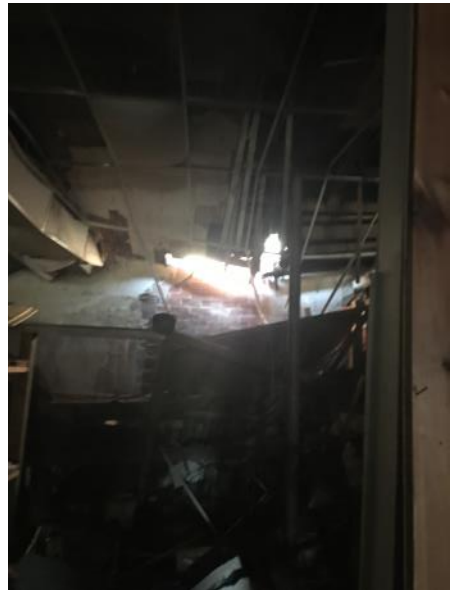


The large building at 157 Grinstead Street in Camden was home to the headquarters and bottling plant of the Grapette Company, founded at Camden in 1939 by Benjamin Tyndle Fooks. Grapette soda was one of the bestselling soft drinks in the United States during the middle part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. In 1945, Fooks purchased the industrial facility on Grinstead Street from the Rockwell Manufacturing Company, which made windows and doors, and moved his bottling plant from Washington Street to this site. Fooks added a second story to the front office section of the building and later built an addition on its west side.

Fooks was a charismatic businessman who transformed a small bottling company into an international business. He developed his own syrups, with a particular emphasis on fruity flavors like Grapette, Lemonette, and Orangette. By 1950, Grapette was bottled in 300 such facilities across the United States. The growth of the company was phenomenal and eventually resulted in the division of the company into Grapette and Grapette International. After Fooks retired and sold the domestic Grapette Company, the brand declined and was later shelved. Through the recent efforts of Grapette International and Walmart, the beloved soda is available again, sold exclusively at Walmart stores.

The Grapette Building is now owned by the Ouachita Enrichment Center, which recently vacated the facility after structural problems were discovered. The sheer size of the one-story factory portion of the building will make it expensive to stabilize; however, the two-story office portion is in relatively good condition. The owners and local residents support saving the building--if not all of it, at least the office section. It has accessible parking and would make an excellent museum space dedicated to telling the Grapette story. The property owner would like to sell the facility to someone with the vision and funding to rehabilitate it.

**Henry Brothers Store**  
**120 N. First Street**  
*Jacksonville, Pulaski County*



The Henry Brothers Store was built in 1925 and faced the railroad tracks in downtown Jacksonville. The building was designed in the early 20th century commercial style with a raised central parapet and a name plate reading "Henry Bros. 1925." It is the oldest building in the National Register-listed Jacksonville Commercial Historic District, which includes the most intact portion of the city's historic commercial core. The Henry Bros. Store was constructed and operated by M. J. Henry and his sons, Alonzo, M. L., and E. A. Henry. The building later housed Garvin's General Store, Pace's Department Store, and Carlisle Department Store.

In the early 20th century, Jacksonville was a rural farming community with very few modern conveniences. The city experienced significant growth in the 1940s after the Arkansas Ordnance Plant was established there to make fuses and detonators during World War II. In the mid-1950s, Little Rock Air Force Base opened at Jacksonville, providing a long-term boost to the local economy. What remains of Jacksonville's historic downtown area is now divided by a modern Main Street overpass. At present, the Henry Bros. Store Building is not in use, and the roof is failing. The building is now owned by the City, and there is community support to rehabilitate it as part of a larger effort to revitalize downtown Jacksonville.

**Old Jail Log Cabin**  
**1 Agri-plex Drive, Highway 82 East**  
*Lewisville, Lafayette County*

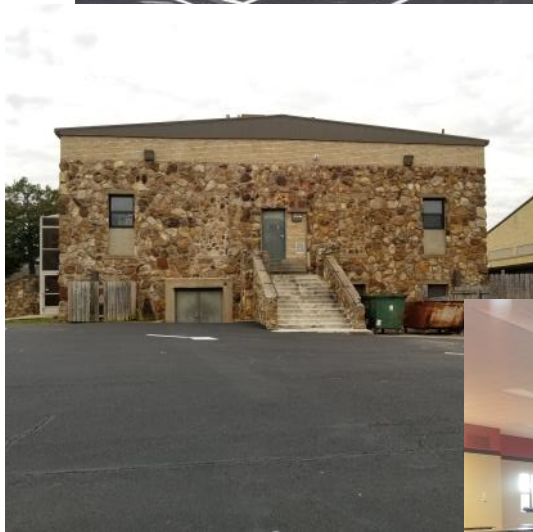


Built ca. 1830 to serve as a jail, the Old Jail Log Cabin was a part of Lafayette County's first county seat, a 43-acre site at Chickaninny Prairie, ten miles southwest of present-day Lewisville on the Red River. The county's second courthouse was built in 1841 at Lewisville, moving away from the river. In the late 19th century when a railroad line was built south of Lewisville, the town grew in that direction to be near the railroad, prompting the construction of yet another courthouse. Today's 1940s-era Art Deco courthouse is the fourth at the Lewisville site.

In 1968, the Old Jail Log Cabin was relocated to the grounds of the Lafayette County Courthouse, where the Lafayette County Historical Society did some restoration work on the building. The single-pen log building was moved in 2009 to its present site at the Lafayette County Conservation District office on Highway 82. In August 2018, a log cabin expert was brought in to survey the deteriorated cabin and determine what work needed to be done to restore it. He documented an original square-head nail, mud chinking, and hand-hewn oak timbers. The failing roof is now covered by a tarp, and a large opening where the chimney was located has been secured. Local community support is growing to restore the Old Jail Log Cabin and make it accessible to visitors who wish to learn more about Lafayette County's pioneer past.



**Old Pocahontas High School/Old Rock Building**  
**2312 Stadium Drive**  
*Pocahontas, Randolph County*



The Old Pocahontas High School/Old Rock Building was constructed in 1939 by the National Youth Administration and the Works Progress Administration, two New Deal programs designed to put people to work and benefit communities during the Great Depression. When initially constructed, the building was known as the “Pocahontas Community House” and served as a community center. In 1941, Southern Baptist College, now Williams Baptist University, opened at Pocahontas and met in the Community House. The college moved to Walnut Ridge after World War II and occupied the decommissioned Walnut Ridge Army Flying School.

Shortly thereafter, the Old Rock Building was taken over by the Pocahontas School System and is still in use by the school. Until about 1980, the lower level held classrooms and the lunch room, while the upper level housed the auditorium, which hosted many memorable school plays and community functions. The upper level later became the cafeteria and is used for that purpose today. The building remains in use and is in good condition. The roofline was modified in the 1960s, and the windows have been replaced, but otherwise, the building retains much of its original character.

The school district recently announced plans to demolish the Old Rock Building and others to make way for a new school within five years. There is significant community support to save the Old Rock Building, and locals hope to persuade the district to use it as part of the new school complex.

**Plummer's Station**  
**301 S. Van Buren Street**  
*Plumerville, Conway County*



Originally constructed ca. 1830, Plummer's Station is significant for its association with the namesake of Plumerville, as a witness structure to the Trail of Tears, and a stagecoach stop on the Butterfield Overland Mail Route. In the 1830s, Samuel Plummer purchased 160 acres of high ground north of the Arkansas River at present-day Plumerville. The land included a 14' x 14' log cabin that was later enlarged to accommodate Plummer's leather workshop and a tavern and inn on the route from Little Rock to Fort Smith. About 1900, wood siding was added to the home's exterior, and the interior walls were covered with plank boards, preserving the original logs within the frame walls.

Samuel Plummer sold corn and fodder to the federal government in the 1830s as it removed Native American tribes to Indian Territory. Plummer's home was visited by John Bell and Edward Deas during the removal of the Cherokee in December 1838, making it one of three remaining structures in Arkansas to bear witness to the Trail of Tears. Because of its position near the Military Road from Little Rock to Fort Smith, Plummer's house also became a stop along the Butterfield Overland Mail Route. When the Little Rock and Fort Smith Railroad was constructed through the area in the 1870s, Plummer granted right-of-way through his property for the new line, leading to the establishment of a railroad stop called Plummer's Station, now Plumerville.

Plummer's Station was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1975 but is now unoccupied and in very poor condition. Arkansas historians and local residents recognize the home for its unique historical significance and wish to find a use for it before this incredible piece of early Arkansas history is lost forever.



**One to Watch:**  
**War Memorial Golf Course**  
**5511 W. Markham Street**  
*Little Rock, Pulaski County*



The historic Fair Park Golf Course, now known as War Memorial Golf Course, is significant as the oldest municipal golf course in Little Rock and for its association with the development of public recreation in the capital city. In the mid-1920s, the City of Little Rock purchased land for a park at what was then its western edge and called it Fair Park, as the site had hosted the state fair in 1922. The original master plan for Fair Park included a golf course, zoo, midway, swimming pool, and baseball stadium, among other amenities. In 1929, the City's first Golf Course Commission chose Herman Heckbarth, the longtime golf pro and greenskeeper at the Country Club of Little Rock, to design the municipal course at Fair Park. The footprint of that design, which aligned with the existing topography of the land, underwent only a few alterations from the course's opening in the 1930s until its closure in 2019.

During the Great Depression, the Works Progress Administration (WPA) constructed a native stone clubhouse, gazebo, and stone pillars at the Fair Park Golf Course. The park was renamed War Memorial Park in 1948 after the completion of War Memorial Stadium. War Memorial Golf Course continued to serve as a municipal course until July 2019, when it was closed by the City for budgetary reasons. The golf course, along with its WPA-built structures and site features, has since been determined eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. Although no formal redevelopment plan for the park has been adopted at this point, Preserve Arkansas is listing the War Memorial Golf Course as "One to Watch," with the hope that the golf course will be maintained as open, public space for the residents of central Arkansas.



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**ABOUT US**

Preserve Arkansas works to build stronger communities by reconnecting Arkansans to our heritage and empowering people to save and rehabilitate historic places.

**CONNECT WITH US!**

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