

2001 Most Endangered Historic Places

King-Whatley Building – Still In Danger

The King-Whatley Building was designed to be primarily used as a bank, and when it was opened, was the only bank in the county seat. The First National Bank of Lewisville, chartered by the U.S. Department of Treasury, became the owners and occupants in 1909. The building was sold only once more. In 1919, David Lattimore King first paid taxes as owner, and maintained his law offices there until his death in 1929. Then his son-in-law and partner, George T. Whatley, retained his offices there, and the abstract company they had formed together until about 1960. For at least 3 decades, a shoe repair shop was located in the far end. In the 30's, S.K. Henderson ran a small rental library in one office, and a third office housed a beauty shop. The building was fully occupied until the 50's.

The original terrazzo floor, wooden wainscoting, plastered walls, and embossed metal ceiling are all still intact. Style and size reflect the optimism and prosperity (although short-lived) that cotton-growing and the railroad brought to this Southwest Arkansas region.

Nutt -Trussell Building-Saved

The second story of this building has a separate history all its own. On December 18, 1885, E.M. Lodge No.363 officially occupied their new hall on the second floor of the Nutt Building. Lodge No.363 met here almost continually until the organization built a new building in 1960. The meeting hall still has many of its original furnishings, such as the platforms located around the room, the stage, remnants of the checkerboard floor, and a few remaining panes of the snowflake glass windows. In 1916, the building was bought by L.L. Trussell to house his new business, "The People's Store". This was a simple business that catered to its customers with a line of general merchandise of good quality and affordable prices. The store routinely operated long hours each day with the exception of Sunday. During the cold winter days, Mr. Trussell was known to open his store as early as 5am selling gloves, boots, and hats to accommodate the early shift workers en route to the Fordyce Lumber Company. The People's Store was an important fixture in the Fordyce economy for many years until it closed in the sixties.

The Nutt-Trussell Building was the first two story brick building in Fordyce and was constructed to house Nutt & Barnes Company General Merchandise. This was the first important building in Fordyce and signaled the prosperity brought about by the arrival of the railroads that played an influential role in the growth and development of Fordyce and of Dallas County.

Cook Building – Saved

Built in 1897, the Cook Building's second floor was used as a meeting hall for organizations such as the Fraternal Order of the Eagles, the American Organization of United Workmen, the Elks Club, and the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

The Cook Building is two stories, with late nineteenth-century Italianate characteristics. Cast iron columns are visible on the first floor storefronts, and a decorative metal cornice spans the building on the north and east elevations.

A. C. Wells Building – Lost

The building was built in 1889 by A.C. Wells. It was one of the earliest commercial buildings in Morrilton. When it was constructed, it was the Wells' Brothers General Merchandise Store, then later became Warren's Cafe, then finally, Eleanor's Shop.

Near collapsing, it was demolished in 2008.

Helena High School – Saved

Helena High School was built in 1912 at 313 S. Briscoe Street, the site of the old General Hindman home. The first class graduated in 1913. Vacated in 1972 and now in poor condition, the building is owned by the Helena/West Helena School District, the building was used for storage for several years. Proponents of historic preservation envision the building being put into service as condominiums, apartments, or a community resource center.

The old school building is one of the most monumental and lavishly detailed early neo-Classicism buildings in Helena. The facade of its simple rectangular structure is enlivened with patterns of tan and red bricks and terra cotta cartouches containing round windows at both corners of the top story. The simple, rather recessed entry is outlined with egg and dart terra cotta molding.

Dr. E. A. and Hattie Turner Dennard House – Lost

The Turner-Dennard house is said to be Fort Smith's most significant African American landmark. It became the home of the Fort Smith Chapter of the NAACP in 1923, which was founded by the Turner-Dennards as well as James and Minnie Cox. The chapter meetings were held in the home's living room where plans for the Elm Grove housing project and the African American Twin City Hospital were conceived.

City Water and Light Building – Lost

The building was built in 1900, and from 1927 until the 1940's, housed all of the CWL operations, and thereafter until the late 1970's, housed generating equipment. Until its demolition, it served as a maintenance facility.

Toltec Mounds National Historic Landmark Viewshed – Saved

The Toltec Mounds are one of the largest and most impressive archeological sites in the Mississippi River Valley. With 18 mounds on 100 acres, the site is large in area and in the number of mounds.

People started living at this place well before 700 A.D. Distinctive aspects of the culture of the people who lived here are the arrangement and construction of the mounds, the style and decoration of the pottery, and kinds of stone tools. The distinctive culture at Toltec Mounds is given the name Plum Bayou, which is the name of a local stream. We know that some of the mounds were arranged to line up with each other and the positions of the sun on the horizons on the solstices and equinoxes. The position of the sun on the horizons mark seasons and signal activities such as planting crops and holding ceremonies.