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Take a step back in time as you walk through downtown Fayetteville and discover the town's historic past. This fascinating one-mile walk through downtown takes only about 90 minutes and includes more than two dozen points of interest.

E Also in front of the courthouse you'll see a plaque honoring **Archibald Yell**, one of the best known men of this area. Yell came to Fayetteville in 1833 after being appointed to a judgeship by President Andrew Jackson. Yell was the first congressman from the state of Arkansas and the second governor of the state. In February 1847 he was killed while leading a charge at Buena Vista during the war with Mexico.

F South of the courthouse on College Avenue is the old **Washington County Jail**. Completed in 1897, this building, with its three-foot-thick cut-stone walls, boasts the semicircular arched openings and crenelated corner towers of the Romanesque architectural style. The steel jail cells, surrounded by concrete floors and walls, were located on the building's second floor and in the basement. The sheriff's family lived in quarters on the main floor. Today the building is used as commercial office space.

G Just north of the old courthouse is the building erected in 1906 by the Knights of Pythias and known as the Ozark Opera House. Strategically located between larger cities, it served as a stopover destination for the best musical revues, plays and orchestras. It was **Ozark (movie) Theater** from the 1920s through the 1960s. It has been restored to its original exterior and is now used as a commercial office building.

H Continue north on College Avenue until you come to First Christian Church. Built in 1913, this church occupies the original site of **Arkansas College**, which was chartered in December 1852 and awarded the first collegiate degrees in the state. The college was burned to the ground during the Civil War.

I In front of the new county courthouse, at the southeast corner of College and Dickson, is a historical marker designating the scene of the **Battle of Fayetteville**, a major conflict between Confederate and Federal forces in April 1863. Each spring, the Washington County Historical Society commemorates this historical Civil War battle at the Headquarters House.

J North of the courthouse across Dickson sits a black slate building. Directly behind it is one of the most famous homes in Arkansas, **Headquarters House**. Built in 1853 by Jonas Tebbets, it served as headquarters for both the Confederate and Federal armies during the Civil War. It now houses a museum and is the headquarters for the Washington County Historical Society. In the movie *The Blue and the Gray*, the parlor at Headquarters House was used to represent the White House room where President Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation. Headquarters House is also the starting point for the Washington-Willow Historic District walking tour (brochures are available inside the home).

K Also on the **Headquarters House grounds** is the original law office used by Archibald Yell at his estate, Waxhaws, in the southwest part of the city. The building was moved to its present site for restoration and safekeeping.

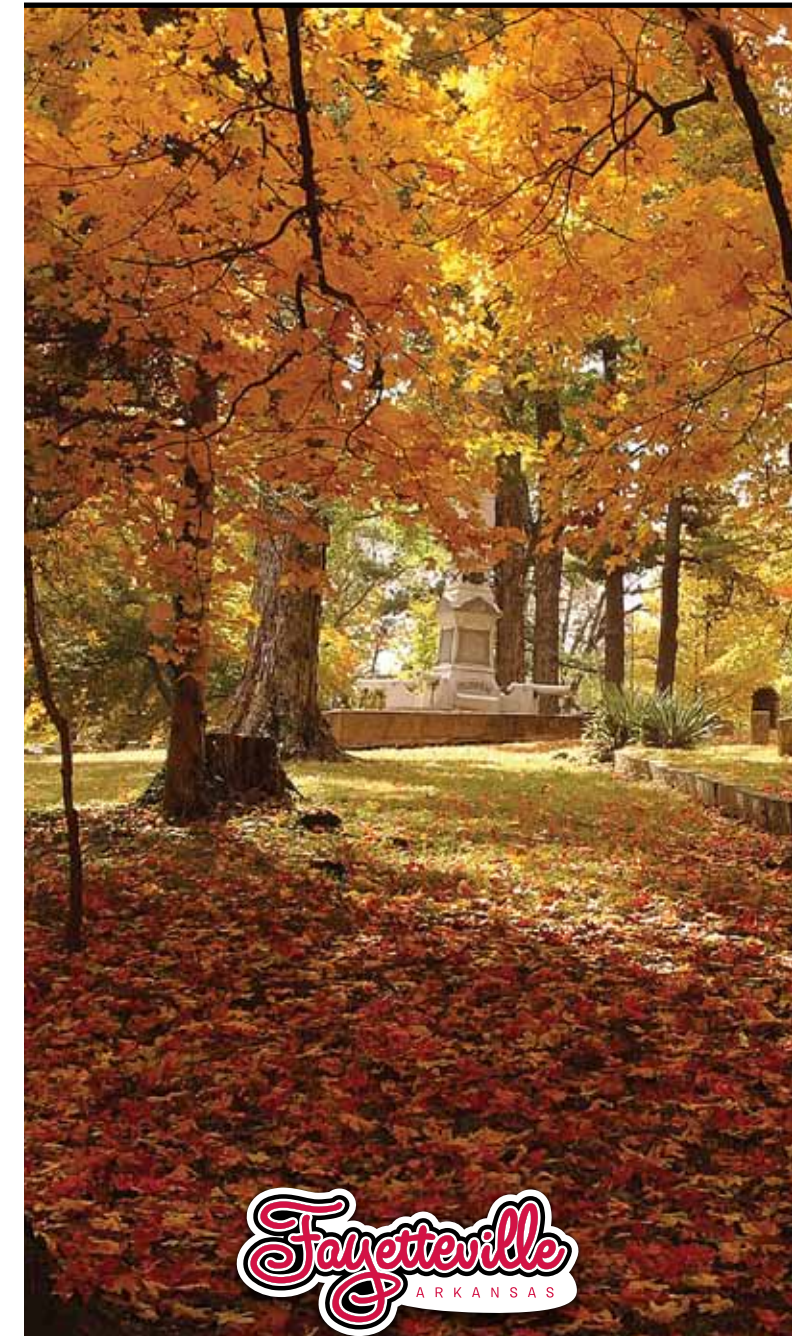
L From Headquarters House, stroll west along one of the busiest and most popular thoroughfares in Fayetteville, **Dickson Street**. You'll find unique boutiques, dining spots and clubs, as well as the Walton Arts Center, the finest cultural center of its kind in the region. Dickson Street ultimately leads to the heart of the University of Arkansas campus.

M From Dickson Street, turn south on East Avenue (toward the square). This charming street is lined with numerous restored period homes and buildings now used as commercial offices. Also on East Avenue is **St. Paul's Episcopal Church**. Begun in 1872 and completed in 1884, this handsome church was built by W.Z. "Zede" Mayes, who also built Old Main on the University of Arkansas campus. The bell in the bell tower was "borrowed" in the mid-1800s from a monastery in Mexico during the Mexican War.

N Continue south on East Avenue until you reach Center Street on the square. On the northwest corner of East and Center is **Arvest Square**. Arvest Bank was previously known as Mclroy Bank, the oldest bank in Arkansas. Since it was established in 1871, its offices have always been located on the north side of the square.

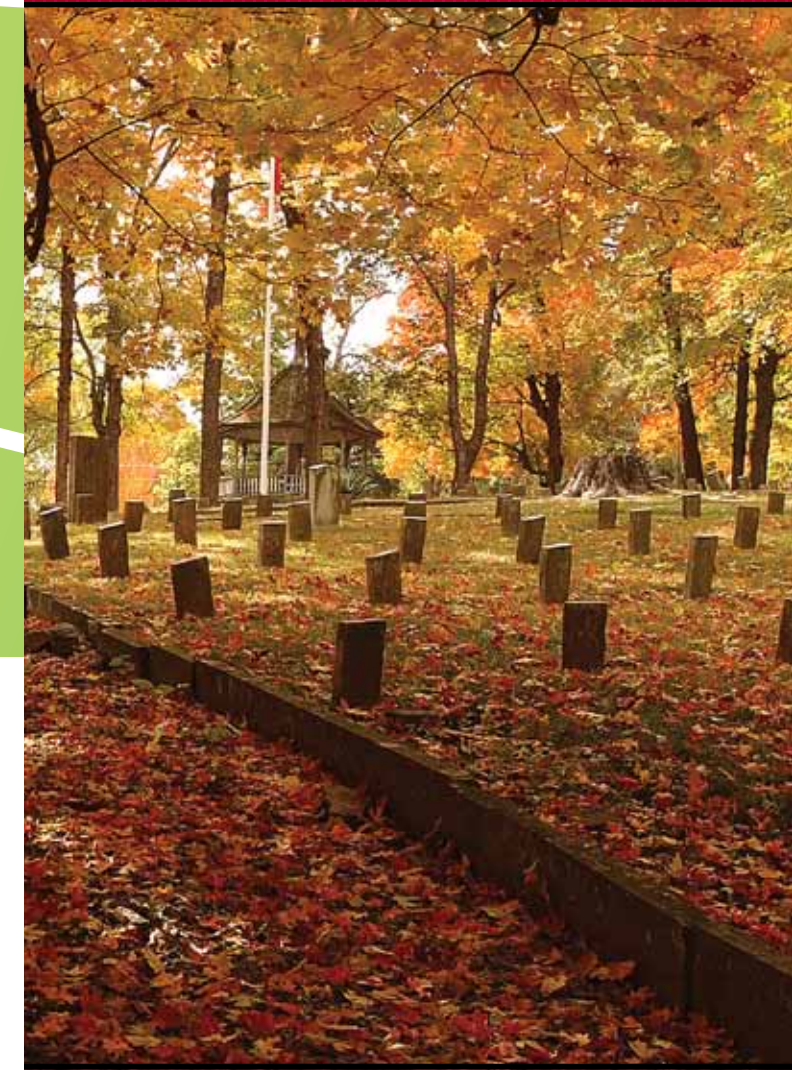
O Walk another block south to the corner of East and Mountain. Here, on the southeast corner, is **Guisinger's Music House**. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, this building was erected in 1886 and is one of the oldest on the square. It originally housed Crenshaw & Putnam's hardware store on the main floor and a tin shop on the third floor. In 1925 Ivan Guisinger opened a music store in the building and that business continued in operation until 1981. Now home to the law firm of Odom & Elliott, the building has been carefully restored by its current owners.

Tour continued on other side.





HISTORIC WALKING TOUR



ONE-MILE STROLL OF THE CITY'S PAST

P Now walk west to the **southwest corner of Mountain and Block**, for more than 100 years the site of many of Fayetteville's most elegant hotels. The first, the City Hotel, was built just after the Civil War. The last, the Washington Hotel, was built in 1905. During its heyday, the Washington was an elegant place to stay and eat, its ballroom used for high school, university and city events. The hotel was torn down in the 1950s to make way for a new Woolworth five and dime store. The recently renovated building is now used as commercial office space.

Q Traveling farther west on Mountain will take you past the **Fayetteville City Hall** and **Chamber of Commerce** offices.

R Cross Church Avenue and continue west to Locust. In this block, one of Fayetteville's most famous early schools, the **Fayetteville Female Seminary**, once stood. Founded by Miss Sophia Sawyer, a missionary to the Cherokees, the school was established in 1839 with 14 Cherokee girls as students.

S Just beyond the corner of Locust, on the south side of Mountain, you will see a tall corrugated metal building. This distinctive structure is the private home and studio of nationally renowned artist **Donald Roller Wilson**, whose works are prized by collectors of contemporary American art. The house was designed by and for the artist.

T Turn north (right) on Locust and return to Center. If you stand in front of the fire station doors, just west of the corner, and look northwest, you will get an excellent view of the twin towers of **Old Main**. The most well-known and beloved building in Arkansas higher education, Old Main was completed in 1875, four years after the University of Arkansas was founded. It is the oldest building on campus.

U Just east of Locust, on the south side of Center Street, is the **Walker-Stone House**. This structure was built in the late 1840s by Judge David Walker, and 10 years later it was sold to Stephen K. Stone, a leading Fayetteville merchant. It is a well-preserved example of the Georgian and Federal style of brick houses, often found in the eastern United States, but rare in Northwest Arkansas. During Confederate General Fagan's attack on Fayetteville in October 1864, the west side of the house was damaged by cannon fire.

V Directly across the street is **Ridge House**, Fayetteville's oldest standing home. The original dogtrot log house was built by H.M. Clark in 1836. Later it was purchased by Sarah Ridge and used as a place of refuge following the murder of her husband, John Ridge, a Cherokee Indian leader. Although the house has been modified over the years, the old log home at its center is still intact and visible. Step into the foyer to view displays depicting the building's history and artifacts collected during several archaeological excavations at the site.

W East of Ridge House on Center is **Rieff House** (now Moore's Funeral Home). Built in 1857 by Henry Rieff, the original two-story section of the house is very similar in design to the Walker-Stone House. It was an unwritten custom during the Civil War to place lighted candles in windows of homes occupied by women and children so the home would be spared destruction. In their haste to escape shots and shells, the Rieff family forgot the task. A neighbor took time to light a few candles for the family and thus saved the home.



X Continue east on Center Street until you reach the southwest corner of Block and Center, where the **Bank of Fayetteville** is located. Originally built as a hardware store, this building, with its attractive tower, has become a popular landmark.

Y Possibly the oldest building on the Square, the facade of the **"Mrs. Young 1887"** building is typical of the late Victorian era and has undergone little alteration. Mrs. Sarah Jesie Young was a photographer and Mr. Young was a dentist on the square and they both wanted the ground floor. She said that she would take the top floor if he would name the building after her. The Bank of Fayetteville remodeled the building in 1999 and restored the decorative "stamped tin" ceiling of the building to its original white color.

Block Street photo (above) courtesy of Bob's Studio of Photography

Bank of Fayetteville photo (above right) courtesy of Washington County Historical Society.