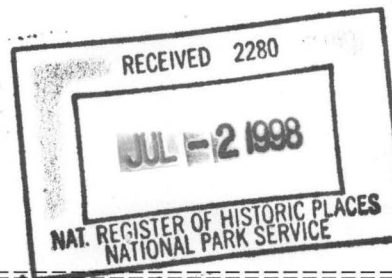


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM



911

=====

**1. Name of Property**

=====

Historic Name: Clifton and Greening Streets Historic District

Other Name/Site Number: N/A

=====

**2. Location**

=====

Street & Number: Roughly bounded by Clifton, Greening Streets and Dallas and Cleveland Avenues

Not for Publication: N/A

Vicinity: N/A

City/Town: Camden

State: AR County: Ouachita Code: AR103 Zip Code: 71701

=====

**3. Classification**

=====

Ownership of Property: Private

Category of Property: District

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>27</u>	<u>12</u> buildings
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> objects
<u>28</u>	<u>12</u> Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: N/A

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

=====

Clifton and Greening Streets Historic District  
Name of Property

Ouachita County, AR  
County and State

=====  
**4. State/Federal Agency Certification**  
=====

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination \_\_\_\_\_ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets \_\_\_\_\_ does not meet the National Register Criteria. \_\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

Cathryn A. Slatu  
Signature of certifying official

6-23-98  
Date

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property \_\_\_\_\_ meets \_\_\_\_\_ does not meet the National Register criteria. \_\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

=====  
**5. National Park Service Certification**  
=====

I, hereby certify that this property is:

- ☒ entered in the National Register  
\_\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.  
\_\_\_\_\_ determined eligible for the  
National Register  
\_\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.  
\_\_\_\_\_ determined not eligible for the  
National Register  
\_\_\_\_\_ removed from the National Register  
\_\_\_\_\_ other (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

[Signature]  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Keeper

8/14/98  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Action



=====  
**6. Function or Use**  
=====

Historic:	<u>DOMESTIC</u>	Sub:	<u>single dwelling</u>
	<u>EDUCATION</u>		<u>school</u>
Current:	<u>DOMESTIC</u>	Sub:	<u>single dwelling</u>
	<u>DOMESTIC</u>		<u>multiple dwelling</u>
	<u>SOCIAL</u>		<u>meeting hall</u>

=====  
**7. Description**  
=====

Architectural Classification:

Queen Anne

LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS

Bungalow/Craftsman

Materials: foundation BRICK roof ASPHALT  
walls WOOD: weatherboard  
other WOOD

Describe present and historic physical appearance:

**Summary**

The Greening and Clifton Streets Historic District area has served as a vibrant residential community in Camden since the 1890s, and for more than sixty years the neighborhood was a choice area for home building. The area encompasses several residential blocks on the northwest flank of Camden's economic and commercial center. The district can be generally described as a quadrilateral bounded on four sides by Greening and Clifton Streets and Dallas and Cleveland Avenues with short extensions along the southern, western and eastern borders. Of the thirty-nine buildings within the proposed district, twenty-eight of them are contributing, and only eleven are non-contributing. A natural landmark that is strongly associated with this district is the "Old Ravine." Located on the eastern edge of the district, the "Old Ravine" and the fresh water spring found within it played a significant role in the early history of Camden (Ecore Fabre) and of this neighborhood. Thus, the "Old Ravine" is considered as a contributing site to this district. This brings the number of properties up to forty.

The district presents a visual display of several sequential phases of the town's residential history through its significant clusters of Queen Anne, Colonial Revival, and Craftsman houses mixed with occasional examples of Classical Revival, Plain Traditional, and Tudor Revival styles. The houses illustrate architectural styles prominent in Camden from the "turn-of-the-century" era through the World War II building boom. As for scale and cost, these homes reflect the economic diversity of its residents and

owners. This, along with the mix of some thematic architectural clusters with occasional examples of other styles, suggests the spontaneity and diversity of the community's residential development.

### **Elaboration**

The Clifton and Greening Streets Historic District contains an array of historic residential structures that reflect residential and commercial architecture in Camden from the 1890s to the 1940s.

The historic styles in the district are especially illustrative of prominent trends in two major waves of building. The first building wave consisted of several Queen Anne-styled houses. The end of this building boom was denoted by examples of Colonial Revival and Classical Revival. The second wave of building came with the oil boom expansion of the 1920s and lasted until the 1930s. During this phase, the large lots surrounding the older homes were divided into smaller sections and sold for profit, or their owners built lots small rental houses beside their property to keep up with Camden's demand for housing. Most of these structures were Craftsman-styled Bungalows with a few Tudor Revival and a Minimal Traditional house built in the early 1930s. Later, in the denouement of the neighborhood's growth a few additional structures were built. While these buildings are still few years short of their fiftieth year, they are valuable as reminders of the post-World War II building boom.

### **Queen Anne**

Several of the district's earliest structures reflect the Queen Anne style of architecture. One significant example of this style is the Greening House, the area's oldest surviving residence. This house is the namesake for Greening Street (OU0113), and served as a Methodist Church parsonage. Located in the northeast portion of Greening Street, the house rests on a brick pier foundation infilled with matching brick. Built in 1890, the two-story wood frame house is typical of the Queen Anne style in its use of an asymmetrical plan, patterned shingles, and wraparound porch. The hip roof is intersected by a cross gable on the front, or southern, elevation and a gable-on-hip roof on the eastern elevation. The eastern elevation contains a bay projection. Changes in wall texture help to define the massing of the building. These decorative elements are belt courses that gird the exterior wall between the first and second stories, vertical beaded board that surround the attic windows, and fishscale shingles that adorn the apex of the front gable. Gingerbread details and turned porch supports once garnished the wraparound porch of the Greening House. However, in the 1950s these features were removed and replaced with cast metal supports and decorative metal brackets.

Built c. 1907, the Hobson-Parker House (OU0123) also makes use of the Queen Anne idiom. This house features spindlework and jigsawn trim details in porch supports along with an ornamental balustrade. Like the Greening House, the hipped roof is intersected by gables, the porch wraps around to the side elevation and the gable end is decorated by patterned shingles.

However, this one-story cottage distinguishes itself by its elaborate front facing dormer that features a Palladian window surrounded by gingerbread and shingles. Other examples of the Queen Anne style of architecture include the Legg Benson House (OU0130), Phillips-Peters House (OU0134), and the Newton House (OU0107). Besides the elaborate gable ornamentation, the Newton House (located at 424 Greening Street) features a Craftsman-styled porch with battered columns on piers. Rather than simply detracting from the house's architectural integrity, this augmentation illustrates the 1920s trend of the "updating" of one's house.

### **Transitional**

Several homes dating from first fifteen years of the twentieth century reflect the transition from the Queen Anne-style to the Colonial Revival style. These houses are a distinctive element in the district's composition. Located at 314 Cleveland Avenue, the Atchison House (OU0124) is a prominent example of this transition. The Atchison House features a wraparound porch, and a hipped roof with intersecting gables similar to the Queen Anne-styled Hobson-Parker House. However, despite the small amount of gingerbread detail in the gable end, the house is devoid of decorative shingle work and features Tuscan columns on its porch in a more Colonial Revival touch. Another house that is more exemplary of the Colonial Revival-style is the McDaniel House (OU0114). Located at 513 Greening Street, the house features Tuscan porch supports and cornice returns. Also included within this architectural category are the Boddie House (OU0120) and the Saxon-Moore House (OU0110). Both houses historically lost their ornamental Queen Anne features, and feature Tuscan Columns and hipped roofs with intersecting gables.

### **Classical Revival**

The most impressive and representative of the Classical Revival style is the Ramsey-McClellan House (OU0121). Sited on a terraced hill on the southwestern corner of the district, the house dominates Cleveland Avenue and provides an imposing architectural anchor for the neighborhood. The prominent Arkansas architect Charles Thompson designed the residence in 1904. Indicative of the style are the colossal pairs of fluted Ionic columns. Both the first and second stories have porches that extend around the front half of the house. In an unusual interpretation of the style, the architect chose to play with the apparent symmetry of the flanking porches. For example the southern porches extend to the front facade in a sweeping arch, but the northern porches extend to the front in a series of straight lines. Also, both the front entrance and upstairs balcony door are positioned to the south--not centered in between the monumental columns as expected. Other exterior decorative elements are a pair of dormers on the front facade that draw attention to the "widow's walk" on the apex of the roof. Inside the Ramsey-McClellan House among the vast amounts of woodwork, transomed windows and high ceilings are two intricately carved mantelpieces that boast French tile.

Although not contributing to the district, because of artificial siding and window replacements, another striking example of the Classical Revival style is the Ritchie-Crawford House (OU0019) located at 430 Clifton Street. Although first owned by a businessman, the house is best known as the Maude Crawford House, after the famous "missing person" Maude Crawford. Crawford was an attorney in Camden who mysteriously disappeared from this house at 430 Clifton Street on March 2, 1957, and was never found. The house features four monumental columns capped with composite Ionic capitals which support the pediment of a two-story portico. The classical pediment is punctuated with an in-filled bull's-eye window. In an early effort of insulation, the walls of the house were constructed with three layers of hardwood, with the outer two layers carrying protective paper to keep out moisture. The house has been listed on the Arkansas Register of Historic Places for its architectural significance despite the sheath of artificial siding and modern replacement windows.

### **Craftsman**

The major component of the neighborhood's construction and numerically the largest category of architecture found in the area is Craftsman/Bungalow style. They reflect such Craftsman features as overhanging eaves, asymmetrical elevation, exposed rafters, and ample porches. Although the Craftsman mode varies widely in construction media, most houses of this genre built in this area are either of brick or weatherboard. All but two are one-story structures.

Several of the Craftsman structures transcend the simpler bungalow in scale and style. A good example of this is the one-and-one-half story Morgan-Aleshire House (OU0137) built in 1918. Located at 408 Clifton, this house features a full length porch supported by large square columns.

The Lisle House (OU0117) is a two-story brick residence built in the early 1920s. It exhibits Craftsman inspired features including: a side gabled roof, a wide eave overhang, and exposed rafter ends. The rounded entry porch supported by triangular brackets is more typical of a Tudor Revival-styled house. However, beneath this covering is a multi-light panel door that epitomizes the Craftsman style. To the east of this main entrance is a distinctive porch and porte cochere which extends three-quarters across the front of the house and features Tuscan columns on piers.

Smaller Craftsman houses and Bungalows are more numerous in the district. They include the early 1920's O'Conner and Jackson House that are both one-story, cross-gabled brick residences. The wood frame cross-gabled Dunn Houses (OU0131 and OU0132); the wood frame front-gabled Stinnett-Ghormley House (OU0112) and Martin-Van Winkle House (OU0108) are other examples of this style.



### **Miscellaneous Styles and Traditional Buildings**

The Henry Berg House (OU0139), at the corner of Dallas and Clifton reflects a popular renovation trend in Camden during the 1930s. This c. 1910, traditional two-story frame house received a stucco covering from local stucco artists. In remodeling some time after 1930, the southern leg of a wraparound porch was converted into a sun room.

Several other contributing buildings reflect other styles, or are hard to categorize as clearly identifiable types. The Mullins House (OU0122), a 1930s duplex, contributes a Tudor Revival touch to the proposed district and both the Redding House (OU0136) and Bell House (OU0135) reflect the simpler Minimal Traditional architecture of the 1930s.

### **Institutional Buildings**

The vast majority of buildings in the Clifton and Greening Streets Historic District are residential. However, there are three institutional buildings within the boundaries. Of these, one is contributing and two are non-contributing. Built in 1939, Garrison Auditorium (OU0125) is all that remains of the Cleveland Avenue School. Still used as a community auditorium, this building exhibits typical Art Deco zigzags and sunrise patterns along its cornice, which help to enhance its smooth wall surface. Connected to the auditorium by a covered passageway is the Camden and Fairview Public Schools Administration Building (OU0143). The administration was built in the 1960s, and as modern construction it does not contribute to the district.

The only other example of a commercial building within the district is the Corner Grocery (OU0127); located at the southeast corner of Clifton Street and Cleveland Avenue. When this traditional-styled store was built in the 1920s it was a one-story frame structure with weatherboard siding. However, it is currently encased in synthetic siding. The building now contains the offices of H and R Block.

### **Non-Contributing Buildings**

The buildings that are considered non-contributing to the Clifton and Greening Streets District fall into two categories: those that are non-contributing because of alterations, and those that are non-contributing, because they do not fall into the fifty-year guideline. The Saxon House (OU0141), Benson-Armstrong House (OU0138), Martin-Wells House (OU0108), Walker-Holleman House (OU0142), Martin Rental House #2 (OU0106), Corner Grocery (OU0127) and Ritchie-Crawford House (OU0019) are all non-contributing to the district, because of non-historic siding changes or additions. The buildings that are less than fifty years old are the Fenner House (OU0115), Johnson House (OU0116), Garner House (OU0128), Fairview Public Schools Administration Building, and Berg Apartments #1 and #2 (OU0111 and OU0140). Of these, the Berg Apartments and the Johnson House will be eligible for contributing status within the next five years.

**Natural Landmark**

Along the eastern edge of the district is a deep ravine cut by a stream known as Melvina Creek. According to local historian Ed Parham, the source of the stream is the only spring within the city-limits of turn-of-the-century Camden. The "Old Ravine" or "Deep Gulch" and its stream were frequent places of retreat for locals. For a time the spring was adapted to create a "natatorium," an above ground swimming pool, that has been a conversation piece among "old timers" ever since. On the western rim of the ravine once stood the antebellum Female Academy. The Female Academy, taught by Ms. Maria Fellows was one of Camden's earliest school for women. Because of its proximity to the origin of the spring, the Academy drew its water directly from the spring rather than digging a well. The building that housed the Female Academy no longer exists, and the c. 1905 Newton House (OU0107) stands in its place. Subsequently, Mr. Eustace Newton utilized the ravine in his own way, by cultivating a terraced vineyard along the its western slope. Today the ravine is largely unused except for the explorations of the young and adventurous and the illegal dumping of garbage. However, there is renewed interest in cleaning up the ravine and restoring it as a community park.

=====  
**8. Statement of Significance**  
=====

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: LOCAL.

Applicable National Register Criteria: C

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): N/A

Areas of Significance: ARCHITECTURE  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Period(s) of Significance: 1890-1948

Significant Dates: N/A

Significant Person(s): N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: Thompson, Charles  
Unknown  
\_\_\_\_\_

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above:

### **Summary**

From the 1890s Queen Anne-styled Greening House (OU0113), to the 1939 Art Deco-styled Garrison Auditorium (OU0125), the district encompasses a wide variety of architectural styles. Included within the district are such high-styled houses as the Ramsey-McClellan House (OU0121) and the Ritchie-Crawford House (OU0019), as well as simpler rental properties such as the Martin Rental House #1 (OU0106) and the Dunn Rental House (OU0131). Architectural styles included within the district are Queen Anne, Classical Revival, Colonial Revival, Craftsman, Plain Traditional, Tudor Revival, and Art Deco. The Clifton and Greening Streets Historic District is being nominated to the National Register under Criterion C as an excellent example of a neighborhood that exhibits the growth patterns and the variety of popular architectural styles in Camden from the 1890s to the 1940s. Of the thirty-nine buildings, 56% are contributing and 44% are non-contributing. Add to this the "Old Ravine" and that brings the total of contributing properties up to twenty-eight, or just more than 57%.

### **Elaboration**

Camden originated as a trading center near some strategic bends and bluffs on the Ouachita River and was first known as Ecore Fabre (Fabre's Bluff) after the Frenchman who was involved in the early trading at this site. Subsequent growth was tied to the town's role as a transportation center at the head of the navigable section of the Ouachita River. This role was reinforced by the construction of several railroads in post-Civil War days. Later, Camden experienced an even larger population explosion in the "oil boom" days of the early 1920s.

Most of Camden's nineteenth century residential development took place in the area adjoining the river and the commercial district. In the decade before the turn of the century, the area encompassing the Clifton and Greening Streets Historic District was primarily an undeveloped area at the northwest rim of the city center (save for an occasional structure built at the settlement's edge, none of which remain). However, in the decade and a half following 1890, the unpaved streets began to be punctuated with new houses of ample size and distinctive architecture. The majority of those extant reflect several turn-of-the-century styles. This includes several Queen Anne structures--such as the 1890 Greening House (OU0113), and c. 1905 Newton and Phillips Houses (OU0107 and OU0134). It also includes Colonial Revival structures, such as the turn of the century Saxon-Moore House (OU0110) to be followed shortly by the McDaniel House (OU0114), Atchison (OU0124) and Boddie Houses (OU0120). These were impressively augmented by two majestic Classical Revival structures, the 1904 Ramsey-McClellan House (OU0121) and the 1909 Ritchie-Crawford House (OU0019). By 1910, Clifton Street was lined with houses as was the upper portion of Greening. (Westward, Greening Street was largely undeveloped except for the Greening House).



The location of the primary grammar school on Cleveland Avenue quickened the tempo of settlement in the area after 1910. From 1910 until the 1960s, Camden's largest grammar school, Cleveland Avenue School, was located on the western edge of the street that bears its name. Neighborhood life was enriched for years by the daily convergence of most of the town's school children; by several boarding houses catering especially to single school teachers; and the Corner Grocery (OU0127), a classic neighborhood grocery store (now housing the H. and R. Block office). Although the main building of the 1909 Cleveland Avenue School was razed in the 1960s, the 1939 Garrison Auditorium (OU0125) remains. The Art Deco-styled Garrison Auditorium is the only old Camden School District building remaining in public use that predates 1940.

A second wave of building in the neighborhood came in response to the South Arkansas oil boom in the early 1920s. A substantial number of new houses were built, virtually doubling the number of structures in the area. The pattern involved the filling in of vacant areas, and in a number of cases of large lots being divided and sold to new homebuilders. Much of the oil boom construction was in the Craftsman Bungalow style. Another response to the prosperous boom days was the remodeling and expansion of earlier homes--attics were made into upstairs living areas, porches were enclosed or their appearance was updated, and sunrooms and sleeping rooms were added. In most cases, the additions do not detract from the historical character of the architecture, but rather testifies to a phase of residential history.

A third era of building filled in the vacant spaces remaining came in the World War II and post World War II boom days. During this time, Camden hosted substantial defense industry activity in both the World War and the Korean War. Construction during this era was often for rental use, involving duplex structures and some 1950s apartments. Although most of these most recent structures are not quite fifty years old, they illustrate another era of building and residential life and they enhance rather than detract from the neighborhood's character as a sequential catalog of late nineteenth and early twentieth century American architectural history.

### **Historical and Architectural Significance**

The Clifton and Greening Streets District in Camden represents a neighborhood that has undergone three specific periods of growth. This district covers a very wide range of building patterns: from the initial building of houses at the turn of the century, to the oil boom days of the 1920s and finally to the post World War II defense industry boom. These periods of growth are exhibited by the styles of houses, which range from Queen Anne, Colonial Revival and Classical Revival to Craftsman, Tudor Revival and Plain Traditional. For these reasons the Clifton and Greening Street Historic District is being nominated under Criterion C for its representation of Camden's building patterns and architectural styles.

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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Information supplied by John Wheeler.

Information supplied by Bruce and Jodie Eppinette.

Information supplied by Vera Alice Holleman.

Parham, Edward. "Search for the Spring." *Ouachita County Historical Quarterly*.

Local Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps: 1907, 1912, 1917, 1924, 1930 and 1953.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- \_ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- \_ previously listed in the National Register
- \_ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- \_ designated a National Historic Landmark
- \_ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- \_ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Location of Additional Data:

- ☒ State historic preservation office
- \_ Other state agency
- \_ Federal agency
- \_ Local government
- \_ University
- \_ Other -- Specify Repository: \_\_\_\_\_

=====

## 10. Geographical Data

=====

Acreage of Property: Approximately

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing      Zone Easting Northing

A	<u>15</u>	<u>514910</u>	<u>3716300</u>	B	<u>15</u>	<u>515490</u>	<u>3716300</u>
C	<u>15</u>	<u>515490</u>	<u>3716030</u>	D	<u>15</u>	<u>514910</u>	<u>3716030</u>

## Verbal Boundary Description:

Beginning at the Northwest corner of the Atchison House property, 314 Cleveland Avenue, the boundary extends east along said property line, thence continuing in a straight line across Cleveland Avenue to a point at the Northwest corner of the Parker-Chadwell House, 526 Cleveland, property line; thence East along said property line and that of the Legg-Benson House property, 516 Clifton, to a point at the Northeast corner of said property, thence North along the west property line shared by the Dunn House and Dunn Rental House, 506 and 506 1/2 Clifton Street; thence to a point at the northwest corner of said properties, thence East along the rear property lines of 448 Clifton, 440 Clifton, 430 Clifton, an empty lot, and 408 Clifton, to a point at the Northeast corner of said property, thence South along Dallas Avenue to the Southeast of said property to a point formed by the Northwest corner of the intersection of Clifton Street and Dallas Avenue, thence in a diagonal line across the Ravine to point formed by the Northeast corner of the Walker Holleman House property, 304 Greening Street, thence South along said property line to a point formed by the northeast corner of the intersection of Spring and Greening Streets; thence West along said line to a point formed by an imaginary extension of the eastern property line of the Martin Rental House #1, 421 Greening; thence South along said line crossing Greening Street to a point formed by the Northeast corner of the Martin Rental House property, 421 Greening, thence along said property line to a point formed by the Southeast corner of said property line; thence across the rear (South) property lines of 421 Greening, 427 Greening, 431 Greening, 439 Greening, an empty lot, 513 Greening, and 525 Greening to a point formed by the southwest corner of the latter property; thence South along the rear property lines of 143 Cleveland, and 135 Cleveland to a point formed by the Southeast corner of the 135 Cleveland property; thence West along the southern property line of said property to a point formed by the intersection of said property line and Cleveland Avenue; thence North to a point formed by imaginary extension of the Ramsey McClellan House's southern property line (210 Cleveland), thence West following said line across Cleveland Avenue and to the Southwest corner of said property; thence North to a point formed by the intersection of this property line with the property line of the Fairview Public Schools Administration Building and Garrison Auditorium, 625 Clifton Street, thence West along the latter's southern property line to a point formed by the Southwest corner of said property, thence North along the rear (western) property line of said property to a point formed by the Northwest corner of the said property line and Clifton Street; thence East along Clifton Street to a point formed by the imaginary extension of the western property line of the Bivens House, 618 Clifton; thence north along said line to the point of beginning.

## Boundary Justification:

This boundary contains all remaining historically significant buildings associated with this district.

Clifton and Greening Streets Historic District  
Name of Property

Ouachita County, AR  
County and State

=====  
**11. Form Prepared By**  
=====

Name/Title: Amy Bennett, Survey Historian

Organization: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program Date: 1/15/98

Street & Number: 1500 Tower Bldg., 323 Center St. Telephone: (501) 324-9880

City or Town: Little Rock State: AR ZIP: 72201

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 98000911

Date Listed: 8/14/98

Clifton & Greening Street

Historic District

Property Name

Ouachita

County

AR

State

N/A

Multiple Name

-----  
This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.



Signature of the Keeper

8/14/98

Date of Action

=====

Amended Items in Nomination:

Acreage:

The correct acreage is: *approximately 25 acres.*

Description:

This information clarifies several discrepancies in the narrative text and map.

The Martin-Wells House (#108) is incorrectly marked as contributing on the district map. [The text refers to it as an altered, noncontributing building.]

The Martin Rental #2 is incorrectly listed as #0106 in the text, but the map correctly refers to it as #0109. The text is revised to read (#OU0109).

The Berg House (#0139) is incorrectly marked as noncontributing on the district map. [The text refers to it as a contributing building.]

This information was confirmed with Amy Bennett of the AR SHPO.

DISTRIBUTION:

National Register property file

Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Clifton and Greening Streets Historic District

MULTIPLE  
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: ARKANSAS, Ouachita

DATE RECEIVED: 7/02/98 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 7/14/98  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 7/30/98 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 8/16/98  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 98000911

NOMINATOR: STATE

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N  
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N  
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: Y NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

\_\_\_ACCEPT \_\_\_RETURN \_\_\_REJECT \_\_\_\_\_DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

**The Clifton & Greening Street Historic District is significant under National Register Criterion C in the area of Architecture. The district represents a cohesive residential neighborhood containing fine local examples of architectural design from the early 1890s up to the World War II-era.**

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept Criterion C

REVIEWER Paul Lusignan DISCIPLINE Historical

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE 8/14/98

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Clifton and Greening Streets Historic District  
NAME:

MULTIPLE  
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: ARKANSAS, Ouachita

DATE RECEIVED: 7/02/98 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 7/14/98  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 7/30/98 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 8/16/98  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 98000911

NOMINATOR: STATE

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N  
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N  
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: Y NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

\_\_\_ACCEPT \_\_\_RETURN \_\_\_REJECT \_\_\_\_\_DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

**The Clifton & Greening Street Historic District is significant under National Register Criterion C in the area of Architecture. The district represents a cohesive residential neighborhood containing fine local examples of architectural design from the early 1890s up to the World War II-era.**

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept Criterion C

REVIEWER Paul Lusignan DISCIPLINE Historian

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE 8/14/98

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR (Y)/N



Data Collector Recommendation: ☒ SLR ☐ ? Clarification/Return

Lower Action: ☐ SLR Final ☐ Return  
☐ None

DOCUMENTATION ISSUES--DISCUSSION SHEET

State Name AR County Name Ozarkite Resource Name Chapman + Greening Sts HD  
Reference No. 98-911 Multiple Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Listed Date \_\_\_\_\_

Section of Nomination:

<input type="checkbox"/> Classification	<input type="checkbox"/> Description	<input type="checkbox"/> Geographical Data
<input type="checkbox"/> State/Agency Certification	<input type="checkbox"/> Significance	<input type="checkbox"/> Accompanying Documentation
<input type="checkbox"/> Function	<input type="checkbox"/> Bibliographical References	<input type="checkbox"/> Other

See Page \_\_\_\_\_ Paragraph \_\_\_\_\_

Solution:

Interpret provided by GPO

NR Staff:

P. L. Casanova

Date:

8/14/98

Data Collector's Explanation of Problem:

① Nomination did not indicate number of acres of the district. Info not available is summary paragraph coded. P. indef. O.K.

② Nomination mentioned the Ritchie-Crawford House as an example of the classical revival style of architecture.

Data Collector:

Abernathy

Date:

7/15/98

Resolution in Data Base:

Coded 25A per SLR

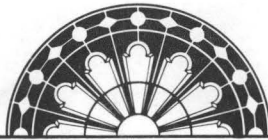
D.B. Corrected:

G. Beall

Date:

8/24/98

For the district. However nomination also says it  
is non-contributing because of replacement siding and  
window replacement.



ARKANSAS  
HISTORIC  
PRESERVATION  
PROGRAM

June 22, 1998

Carol D. Shull  
Chief of Registration  
United State Department of the Interior  
National Register of Historic Places  
National Park Service  
800 North Capitol Street, Suite 250  
Washington, D.C. 20002

RE: Clifton and Greening Streets Historic District--Camden, Ouachita Co.

Dear Carol:

We are enclosing for your review the nominations of the above referenced property. The Arkansas Historic Preservation Program has complied with all applicable nominating procedures and notification requirements in the nomination process.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Cathy Buford Slater  
State Historic Preservation Officer

CBS:br

Enclosures



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 98000911

Date Listed: 8/14/98

Clifton and Greening Streets

Historic District

Property Name

Ouachita

County

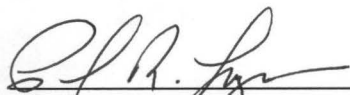
AR

State

N/A

Multiple Name

-----  
This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.



Signature of the Keeper

7/27/99

Date of Action

=====

Amended Items in Nomination:

Resource Count

The resource count is revised to read: *28 contributing buildings, 1 contributing site, and 11 noncontributing buildings.* [This reflects the change of Ritchie-Crawford House (OU0019) from noncontributing to contributing status.]

This information was confirmed with the R. Jeffery of the AR SHPO.

DISTRIBUTION:

National Register property file

Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

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Clifton and Greening Streets Historic District

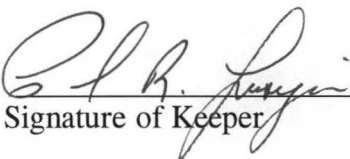
98000911

=====

4. National Park Service Certification

=====

Additional Documentation Approved

  
Signature of Keeper

7/27/99  
Date of Action



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION

PROPERTY NAME: Clifton and Greening Streets Historic District

MULTIPLE  
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: ARKANSAS, Ouachita

DATE RECEIVED: 6/22/99 DATE OF PENDING LIST:  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: DATE OF 45TH DAY: 8/06/99  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 98000911

NOMINATOR: STATE

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N  
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N  
REQUEST: Y SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

\_\_\_ ACCEPT \_\_\_ RETURN \_\_\_ REJECT \_\_\_ DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

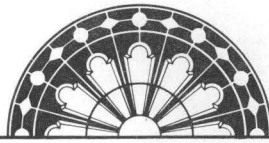
The SHPO has presented sufficient documentation to amend the registration status of the Richie-Crawford House (OU0019--430 Clifton Street) from noncontributing to a contributing resource within the Clifton and Greening Streets Historic District. The 1909 residence is an imposing local example of Classical Revival style domestic architecture. The two-and-one-half-story house, while sided in non-historic materials, retains sufficient character-defining elements to convey its architectural significance as a good example of early twentieth century residential design in Camden. The building retains integrity of location, setting, scale, design, workmanship, feeling, and association sufficient to contribute to the significance of the historic district--a cohesive residential neighborhood containing fine local examples of architectural design from the early 1890s up to the World War II era.

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept Additional Documentation

REVIEWER Paul Lusignan DISCIPLINE HISTORIAN

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE 7/27/99

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y N see attached SLR Y N



ARKANSAS  
HISTORIC  
PRESERVATION  
PROGRAM

June 10, 1999

Carol D. Shull  
Chief of Registration  
United States Department of the Interior  
National Register of Historic Places  
National Park Service  
800 North Capitol Street, Suite 250  
Washington, D. C. 20002



RE: Proposal to change the listing status of The Richie-Crawford-Eppinette House from non-contributing to contributing in the Clifton and Greening Streets Historic District, Ouachita County, Camden, AR

Dear Carol:

We are enclosing for your review the information on the above referenced property. The Arkansas Historic Preservation Program has been asked by the property owner and the director of the Greening and Clifton Streets Historical Preservation Society to submit the enclosed information to you for your determination. We are forwarding this information without comment.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Cathy Slater  
State Historic Preservation Officer

Enclosures





**Henry Alan Pryor  
222 Dallas Ave.  
Camden, AR 71701**

March 28, 1999

Mr. Randy Jeffery  
Arkansas Historic Preservation Program  
1500 Tower Building  
323 Center St.  
Little Rock, AR 72201

Re: Ritchie-Crawford House – 430 Clifton St., Camden, Arkansas

Dear Randy,

I am writing this letter to ask the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program (AHPP) to reconsider listing the Ritchie-Crawford House as a contributing structure to the Clifton-Greening Historic District.

I recognize your organization, through conscious thought, decided not to include the structure as contributing entity as a portion of its façade has been altered. I understand and support this argument. However, I would like to discuss a couple of areas, which I believe make it worthy of re-consideration.

First, although a portion of the façade has been altered, the most notable aspects of the house remain intact. These include the following:

- 1) The full frontal porch supported by fluted columns topped with Ionic Capitals of the Scamozzi Order;
- 2) The cantilevered balcony enclosed with intricate hand crafted balusters;
- 3) The frontal pediment ornamented with an in-filled ox eye window.

For the most part, these features represent an architectural signature, which is not found in today's structures

Second, from a non-architectural perspective, the house is a national landmark in its own right, being the residence and last known whereabouts of Maud Crawford, one of Arkansas first female attorneys. Her sudden disappearance brought national attention to Camden in the late fifties. Still today, the unsolved mystery prompts many curious visitors into the Clifton-Greening Historic District, which would not otherwise come.

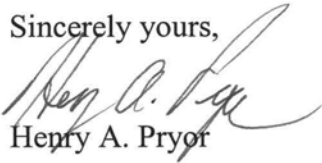
Although the house is not a contributing structure, most visitors believe it to be one of the cornerstones of the district. Without this house, our historic district would lack a

Mr. Randy Jeffery  
March 28, 1999  
Page 2

significant portion of its drive-by appeal. I ask that you and the AHPP give the house the recognition it deserves and recommend that it be placed on the National Register of Historic Places as a contributing structure to the Clifton Greening Historic District.

I will appreciate your consideration.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Henry A. Pryor", written in dark ink.

Henry A. Pryor



Greening and Clifton Streets Historical Preservation Society

30 March 1999

John M. Wheeler  
Box 3591  
San Angelo, Texas 76902

Mr. Paul Lusignan  
National Register Program  
National Park Service  
Washington, D.C.



Dear Mr. Lusignan:

I am very appreciative of your kindness in listening--informally--to the concerns of my personal quest to petition the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program to consider an adjustment—from “non-contributing” to “contributing”--for one of the most historically provocative structures in our recently designated *Clifton and Greening Streets Historic District* in Camden, Arkansas. This is the 430 Clifton St. home of Bruce and Jodi Eppinette—known historically as the “Ritchie-Crawford house.” Its 1909 Classical Revival facade—along with “the story that goes with it”-- makes it one of the most sought-after locations in our town to visitors in the area. Indeed it has become *legendary* as the locus of one of the most talked about mysteries in mid-twentieth century Arkansas-- “the strange case of Maud Crawford.” The episode involves the March 1957 mysterious disappearance of a prominent female lawyer in circumstances that have evoked intrigue—and provoked repeated newspaper and television features--for more than forty years. And the interest continues.

The house ---at the final completion of the district nomination---was entered as “non-contributing” because of artificial siding added by an interim owner in the 1970’s. Our task force working on the project were fully aware that such an alteration would inhibit an *individual* National Register listing—but we expected (and were informally so instructed by several visiting staff members of the Arkansas Preservation Office during several years of preparation) that the house—as a unit in a district—would be considered “contributing.” We were aware that this procedure was followed in some other states; and the interpretation appeared seemly because the Ritchie-Crawford home is considered one of the most historically-interesting structures in southern Arkansas and one continually featured historic tour brochures and local civic festivities.

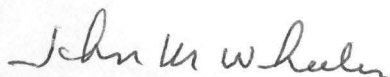
But on the eve of our nomination the Arkansas office ruled the house to be “non-contributing.” Although I personally respect the reasoning involved, the sudden crash of expectations brought painful disappointment to the owners of the house who have been my colleagues for years in an effort to “save the neighborhood.” They had greatly anticipated the opportunity to display the National Register plaque—a privilege now enjoyed by a score of far less dramatic properties which surround them. Realizing that denial of contributing status (for district purposes) to an artificially sided house with strong historical attributes is *not* a “hard and fast rule” imposed by your office—and that in some other places it is done differently, I am—with the (private) encouragement of some staff members of the Arkansas office requesting reconsideration through the mechanism of an amendment.

I have prepared an argument along the lines that 1) the house has overriding historical associations that exceed most other homes in our town 2) that despite the artificial siding, the structure is nonetheless instructive as to the contours of Classical Revival architecture; 3) that such structures in other states are often designated as “contributing” within a district; and 4) that should we reach the “benefit of the doubt” zone, the unfortunate misunderstanding in the long period of our apprenticeship might, hopefully, win an empathetic nod.

It has been suggested to me that the proposed amendment “might” be approved in Little Rock—and that even if it is not, the proposal will eventually come to your office for the final ruling—which conceivably could result in a favorable tilt for us. I thus wanted you to know my story—and how much it would mean to me personally for this adjustment to be made.

Whatever the result, I am most grateful for your counsel to me—and I can assure you that you are accorded great respect by staff members every state preservation office with whom I have talked.

Sincerely yours,



John M. Wheeler  
Professor of History  
Angelo State (Texas) University  
915-942-2112

Arkansas address: summers and holidays  
513 Greening St.  
Camden, Arkansas 71701  
(870) 836-2083



Greening and Clifton Streets Historical Preservation Society

John McDaniel Wheeler  
Department of History  
Angelo State University  
2601 West Avenue N  
San Angelo, Texas 76902

Mr. Randy Jeffery  
National Register Historian  
Arkansas Historic Preservation Program  
1500 Tower Building  
323 Center  
Little Rock, Arkansas

Dear Randy:

I would like to respectfully petition the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program to adjust the designation of one of the most prominent structures within our Clifton and Greening Streets National Register Historic District—and one which within our community is most widely recognized as provoking historic interest. Specifically, we request your generous consideration for designating the Ritchie-Crawford house (in recent years restored by Bruce and Jodi Eppinette) as “*contributing*” rather than “*non-contributing*” to the district. We are referring only to its designation within the district—and not to its eligibility for an individual listing.

We are aware that the reasoning for the “non-contributing” designation was the addition of synthetic exterior siding by an interim owner in the 1970’s; and we are appreciative of the standards which your program maintains. However we feel that this structure possesses overriding historical attributes which cause it — in the fullest literal sense —to *contribute* to our district and to historical consciousness in our town in a way few other structures do. We would like for that reality to be recognized officially. I would like to add my strong personal wish that that the owners of the property—who rescued the house from jeopardy, transformed it into a showplace, and played a central role in the neighborhood revival project--might enjoy ( as contributory within a group) the same connection to the National Register as that given to many far less historically provocative structures which surround them.

Our reasoning includes the following:

1. *The Ritchie-Crawford house is sufficiently laden with historical associations--apart from any matter of architectural purity—to make it one of the most solicited locations in town on the part of visitors to our region.* The home has been the residence, successively, of two of the community's well known early twentieth century families. It was built in 1909 for Walter P. Ritchie, scion of one of South Arkansas' prominent business families and the son of an Arkansas State Land Commissioner. Subsequently it was the home of Clyde Crawford and Maud Crawford--the latter being notable as one of Arkansas' pioneer female lawyers and a member of the law firm that included Senator John L. McClellan (Gaughan, McClellan, and Gaughan).

But the event making the home *legendary* was **the mysterious disappearance of Mrs. Crawford**—on a rainy March night in 1957—an episode which became—and has remained—one of the most talked about “unsolved mysteries” in mid-twentieth century Arkansas. The story received widespread and sustained publicity at the time. And it has remained sufficiently captivating since to provoke repeated media coverage and enduring fascination for more than forty years.

Especially notable among the “revisitations” was a widely read 1986 serial feature in the *Arkansas Gazette*—which circulated statewide in the same season as another series by a *Camden News* reporter circulated in Camden. The two series—in tandem—generated a major conversational phenomenon that immortalized the mystery in South Arkansas folklore. Since then, the topic has intermittently (and especially on anniversary occasions) received more newspaper and magazine attention—and has been the subject of television features viewed statewide.

Currently, the Ritchie-Crawford house is a focal point in the Camden Chamber of Commerce historical driving tour—and is one of the few locations chosen for color photography on the tour brochure. It frequently appears in other tour itineraries. Camden's annual Daffodil festival (held March 12-14 of this year) featured it also—it was a favorite stopping point for tour buses. The *Ouachita Historical Quarterly's* feature on the recent Walks through History tour described it as “perhaps the most famous house in the district.”

“Take me by the Crawford house” remains a frequent refrain of visitors in town. I have personally hosted many such tours—and have responded to requests as varied as mailing the latest “anniversary” clippings to elderly relatives in retirement homes afar—and entertaining my friends' children—upon request—by “telling them about Maud!”

Indeed, the Ritchie-Crawford house—lovely, stately, and haunting—provides the physical focus what is probably Camden's most often-told story. *We feel that the*

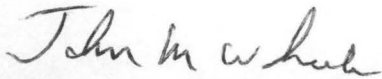
*house meets two of the four qualifications for National Register listing—"association with historic events or activities" and "association with famous persons."*—and that it makes a central contribution to our historical neighborhood. (See supporting documents).

2. *We also feel that the Ritchie-Crawford house—notwithstanding the addition of artificial siding by a previous owner--makes a decided architectural contribution to our district-- inasmuch as its general contour illustrates key features of Classical Revival architecture.* The dramatic facade, the imposing columns with Ionian capitals supporting a full height porch, the pedimented gable with an in-filled ox-eye window are all architecturally illustrative. The artificial siding—especially as seen from some distance—does not obscure these general characteristics; and because Classical Revival structures of this scale are numerically limited in our area, we think the structure's architectural contribution is significant. The frequent inclusion of the structure in local home tours confirms its illustrative value—and it joins the Ramsey-McClellan house in our District in exemplifying Classical Revival themes. (See supporting documents).
3. I would also like to point out in supplementary perspective that National Register qualifying requirements as administered by the National Park Service do not prevent a structure with artificial siding from being listed as contributing within a district provided it has other historical significance. That this more generous interpretation has been followed for districts in some other states has been confirmed to me through inquiries to the National Park Service, to state preservation agencies in other states, and in observations made in travel. (See Mississippi example in supporting documents)
4. On a personal note—but one I hope would be understood--I would like to explain that during the several years of preparation on our district application, our group was informally advised several times (over a period of years) during visits by representatives of the Arkansas Preservation staff that an artificially sided structure with other significant historical attributes—would likely be considered "contributing" to a district. This conclusion was never officially rendered or authoritatively promised—but it was repeated sufficiently that it became our expectation. The reversal of this on the eve of the district nomination resulted in a sharp and intense disappointment. It would make me personally very happy—and deeply appreciative—if the reasoning offered above and in the supporting documents should be deemed sufficiently worthy that a generous "benefit of the doubt" could be extended to our request regarding this memorable house.



I am most appreciative of all that you have done to teach us how to appreciate the heritage we have around us—and for making me feel welcome to approach you on this topic.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "John McDaniel Wheeler". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

John McDaniel Wheeler

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION

PROPERTY NAME: Clifton and Greening Streets Historic District

MULTIPLE  
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: ARKANSAS, Ouachita

DATE RECEIVED: 12/16/11 DATE OF PENDING LIST:  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: DATE OF 45TH DAY: 1/31/12  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 98000911

NOMINATOR: STATE

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N  
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N  
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

\_\_\_ACCEPT \_\_\_RETURN \_\_\_REJECT \_\_\_\_\_DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

**Additional Documentation Approved**

RECOM./CRITERIA

REVIEWER

DISCIPLINE

TELEPHONE

DATE

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



The Department of  
**Arkansas  
Heritage**

Mike Beebe  
Governor

Cathie Matthews  
Director

Arkansas Arts Council

\*

Arkansas Natural Heritage  
Commission

\*

Delta Cultural Center

\*

Historic Arkansas Museum

\*

Mosaic Templars  
Cultural Center

\*

Old State House Museum



Arkansas Historic  
Preservation Program

1500 Tower Building  
323 Center Street  
Little Rock, AR 72201  
(501) 324-9880  
fax: (501) 324-9184  
tdd: (501) 324-9811

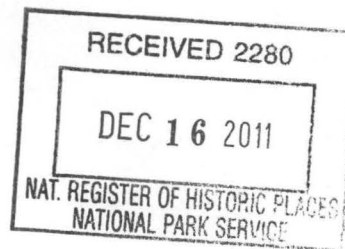
e-mail:

[info@arkansaspreservation.org](mailto:info@arkansaspreservation.org)

website:

[www.arkansaspreservation.com](http://www.arkansaspreservation.com)

An Equal Opportunity Employer



December 7, 2011

Ms. Carol Shull  
Chief of Registration  
United States Department of the Interior  
National Register of Historic Places  
National Park Service  
8th Floor  
1201 Eye Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20005

RE: Clifton and Greening Streets Historic District – Additional  
Documentation – Camden, Ouachita County, Arkansas

Dear Carol:

We are enclosing for your review the above-referenced nomination. The Arkansas Historic Preservation Program has complied with all applicable nominating procedures and notification requirements in the nomination process.

If you need further information, please call Ralph S. Wilcox of my staff at (501) 324-9787. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,

Cathie Matthews  
State Historic Preservation Officer

CM:rsw

Enclosure

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 5 Page         

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The revised resource count for the Clifton and Greening Streets Historic District, including the boundary increases, is:

	Contributing	Non-contributing
Buildings	33	12
Sites		
Structures		
Objects		
Totals	33	12

**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park Service

## **National Register of Historic Places**

### **Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page       

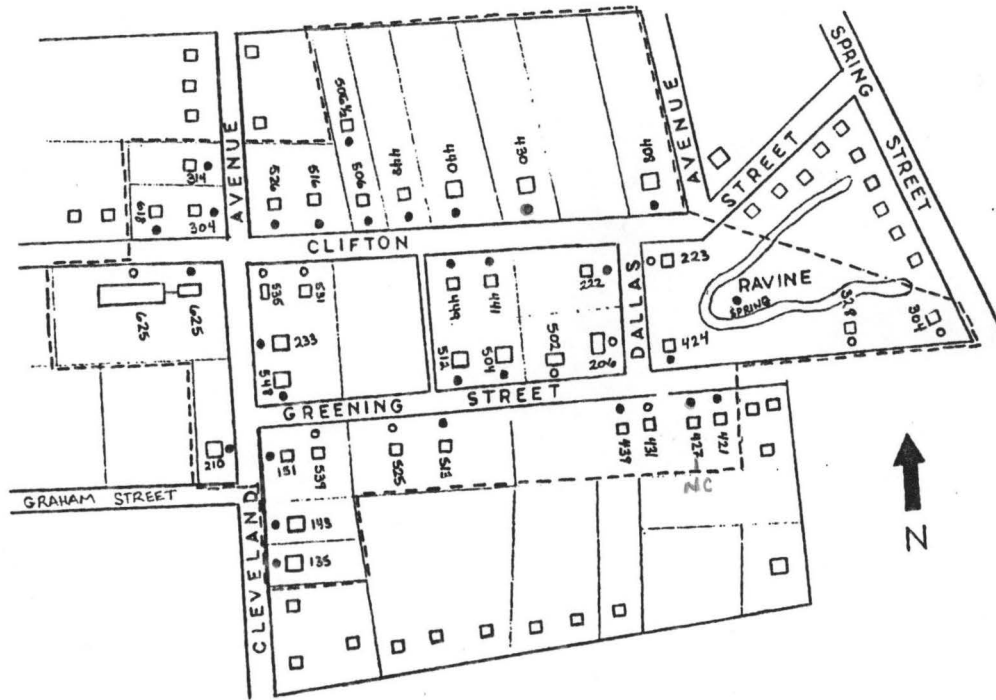
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When the original district was listed in 1998, the property at 328 Greening Street was mistakenly coded as non-contributing – it should be considered contributing. In addition, the total resource count for the district is erroneous. The district, including the boundary increases, has a total of 45 resources, comprised of 12 non-contributing resources and 33 contributing resources, including the property at 328 Greening Street.



# CLIFTON AND GREENING STREETS HISTORIC DISTRICT

Camden, Ouachita County, Arkansas



Key	
● Contributing property	-- District Boundary
○ Non-contributing property	~ Ravine
□ Building	

Scale: 1 inch = 500 ft.

#	Property Name	Address	Res. #	#	Property Name	Address	Res. #
1.	Martin Rental House#1	421 Greening	OU0106	21.	Bivens House	618 Clifton	OU0126
2.	Newton House	424 Greening	OU0107	22.	Corner Grocery	535 Clifton	OU0127
3.	Martin-Wells House	427 Greening	OU0108	23.	Garner House	531 Clifton	OU0128
4.	Martin Rental House #2	431 Greening	OU0109	24.	Hobson-Parker House	526 Clifton	OU0129
5.	Saxon-Moore House	439 Greening	OU0110	25.	Legg-Benson	516 Clifton	OU0130
6.	Berg Apartment #1	502 Greening	OU0111	26.	Dunn House	506 Clifton	OU0131
7.	Stinnett-Ghurmley House	504 Greening	OU0112	27.	Dunn Rental House	506 1/2 Clifton	OU0132
8.	Greening House	512 Greening	OU0113	28.	Hendricks-Smead House	449 Clifton	OU0133
9.	McDaniel House	513 Greening	OU0114	29.	Phillips House	448 Clifton	OU0134
10.	Fenner House	525 Greening	OU0115	30.	Bell House	441 Clifton	OU0135
11.	Johnson House	539 Greening	OU0116	31.	Redding House	440 Clifton	OU0136
12.	Lisle House	548 Greening	OU0117	32.	Ritchie-Crawford House	430 Clifton	OU0019
13.	Jackson House	135 Cleveland	OU0118	33.	Morgan-Aleshire House	408 Clifton	OU0137
14.	O'Conner House	143 Cleveland	OU0119	34.	Benson-Armstrong House	223 Dallas	OU0138
15.	Boddie House	151 Cleveland	OU0120	35.	Berg House	222 Dallas	OU0139
16.	Ramsey-McClellan House	210 Cleveland	OU0121	36.	Berg Apartment #2	206 Dallas	OU0140
17.	Mullins House	233 Cleveland	OU0122	37.	Saxon House	328 Greening	OU0141
18.	Parker House	304 Cleveland	OU0123	38.	Walker-Holleman House	304 Greening	OU0142
19.	Atchison House	314 Cleveland	OU0124	39.	Fairview Schools Bldg.	625 Clifton	OU0143
20.	Garrison Auditorium	625 Clifton	OU0125	40.	Ravine		OU0144



Newton House, Clifton and Greening Streets Historic District

Quachita, Arkansas

Bruce Eppinette

June, 1997 *elle*

Negative on file at AHPP

West facade elevation looking east

#2





Martin Rental House, <sup>#</sup>2 Clifton and Greening Streets Historic Dist

Ouachita County, Arkansas

Bruce Eppinette

June, 1997

Negative on file at AHPP

North facade and west elevation. looking southeast

# 4





Streetscape, Clifton and Greening Streets Historic District

Ouachita Co, Arkansas

Amy Bennett

August, 1997

Negative on file at AHPP

Dallas Street looking south

#4 center of photo, #34 far left,

#35 far right





Streetscape, Clifton and Greening Streets Historic District

Ouachita Co., Arkansas

Amy Bennett

August, 1997

Negative on file at AHPP

Greening Street looking east

# 6, # 36







Lisle House, Clifton and Greening Streets Historic District  
Ouachita County, Arkansas  
Bruce Eppinette

June, 1997

Negative on file at AHPP

West facade elevation showing carriage house. looking east

#12



Streetscape. Clifton and Greening Streets Historic District

Quachita, Arkansas

Amy Bennett

August, 1997

Negative on file at AHPP

corner of Cleveland and Greening Streets looking east.

#12





Jackson House, Clifton and Greening Streets Historic District

Ouachita County, Arkansas

Bruce Eppinette

June, 1998

Negative on file at AHPP

West facade and south elevation looking northeast.

# 13





Ramsey-McClellan House, Clifton and Greening Streets Historic District

Ouachita County, Arkansas

Bruce Eppinette

June, 1997

Negative on file at AHPP

East facade, looking west

#16





Streetscape, Clifton and Greening Streets Historic District

Ouachita Co., Arkansas

Amy Bennett

August, 1997

Negative on file at AHPP

Cleveland Avenue looking southeast

#17 foreground





John Hobson-Parker House, Clifton and Greening Streets Historic District

Ouachita County, Arkansas

Bruce Eppinette

June, 1997

Negative on file at AHPP

South facade, looking northwest

#18





Atchison House, Clifton and Greening Streets Historic District

Ouachita, Arkansas

Bruce Eppinette

June, 1997

Negative on file at AHPP

East facade elevation looking west

# 19





Garrison Auditorium, Clifton and Greening Streets Historic District

Quachita, Arkansas

Bruce Eppinette

June, 1997

Negative on file at AHPP

East facade and north side elevation, looking southwest

#20





Ritchie-Crawford House, Clifton and Greening Streets Historic District

Quachita, Arkansas

Bruce Eppinette

June, 1997

Negative on file at AHPP

South facade elevation looking North

# 32





Streetscape, Clifton and Greening Streets Historic District

Ouachita Co., Arkansas

Amy Bennett

August, 1997

Negative on file at AHPP

Clifton street, looking west

# 32 to far right of photo





Clifton and Greening Streets Historic District  
Ouachita Co., Arkansas

Amy Bennett

August, 1997

Negative on file at AHPP

Ravine looking northwest

#40





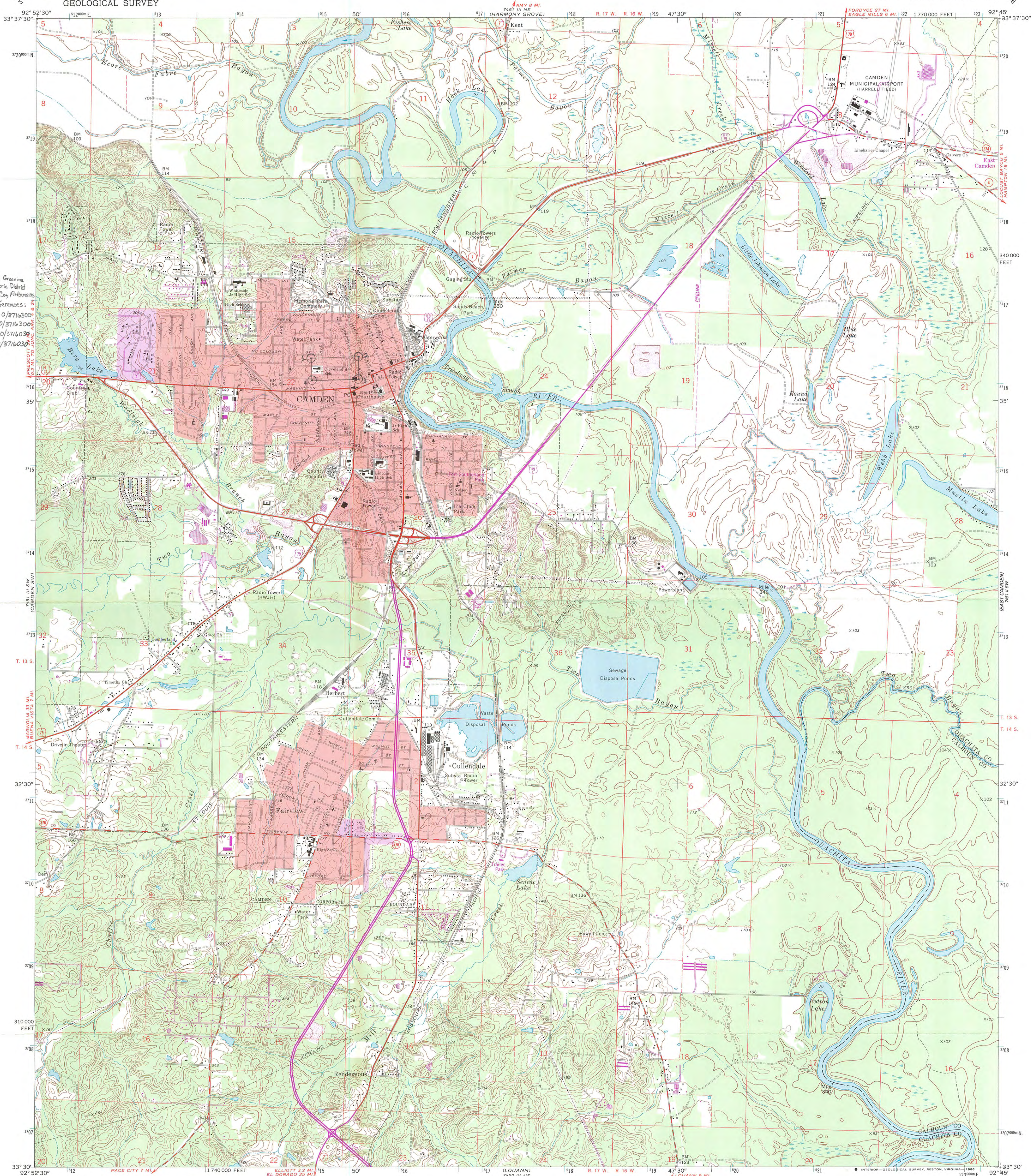
Greening House, Clifton and Greening Streets Historic District  
Ouachita County, Arkansas  
Bruce Eppinette

June, 1997

Negative on file at AHPP

South facade, looking north



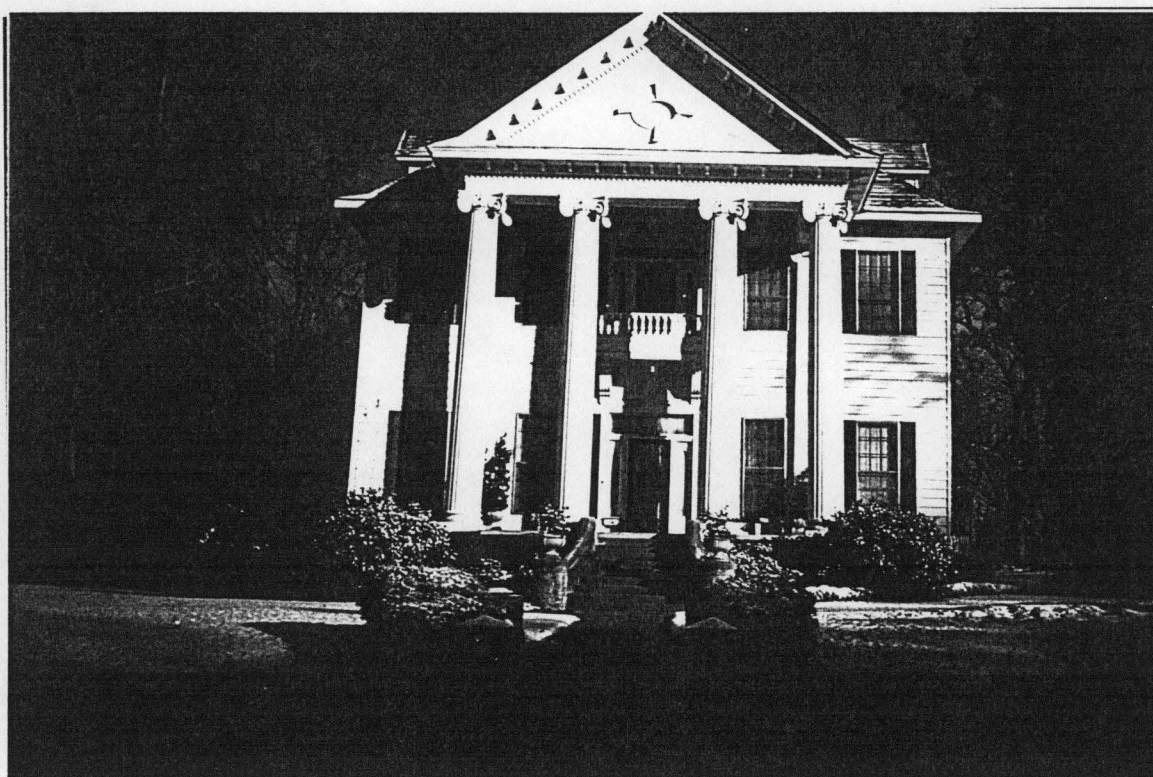




*Enclosed is a scattering of pages submitted with our proposal—sometimes only headlines or front pages of longer articles—contending that the Ritchie-Crawford house does indeed “contribute”—that it has historical associations and interest appeal transcending a judgment based on architectural purity alone. The attachments include the current Chamber of Commerce Historic Driving Tour; the current Historic District brochure; and a local historical quarterly feature describing the house as “perhaps the most famous house in the district.” Also there are sample pages and headlines from various articles suggesting the longevity and durability of the fascination with the mystery with which the house is associated.*

*The Ritchie-Crawford House (1909)*

*Camden*



# Ritchie-Crawford-Eppinette Home

430 Clifton  
(Current Resident--Bruce and Jodi Eppinette)  
Built in 1909

According to the abstract for the property, the land was purchased by Meyer (also spelled Myer) Berg in 1862. The Berg family was a very influential Jewish family in the early years of Camden's history and remain prominent in Camden today. At the time of his death in 1881 this property was referred to as his residence. We, therefore, assume that there was a house at this address at that time. The children of Meyer Berg sold the property to Corrie Ritchie (Mrs. Walter Powell Ritchie) in 1909.

In *Patterns--A Social History of Camden* it is stated that the house was built in 1909 by W.P. Ritchie and Bill Bryant, a contractor from El Dorado. On the other hand, in the *Arkansas Democrat, Sunday Magazine* September 22, 1957, Clyde Crawford who owned the home with his wife Maude at that time gave the following information about the house.

It is at least 100 years old. The father of the late Henry Berg, who was born in the room where Maude Crawford was last known to be, probably built the house. It had 10 rooms and one bath; the Crawfords added two rooms and three baths. The remodeling that Mrs. Crawford had done just before her disappearance included enlarging her bedroom and converting adjacent space into a bathroom with a built-in dressing table, furnished in pink, and a walk-in closet.

The changes made in the house during the Crawfords ownership were done to enable them to operate a boarding house for single working girls at the residence. The girls were primarily employed by the local telephone company.

On June 12, 1992, Mrs. Corrie Saxon (now deceased), granddaughter of W.P. and Corrie Ritchie, stated that the original building was removed down to the foundation and the existing house now stands on the original timbers of the Berg home. We have been unable to further document the extent of the renovation done in 1909. We have, also, been unable to locate a photograph of the original Berg home which might provide useful information.

Mr. Ritchie was a prominent businessman in early Camden. The "Sesquicentennial Scrapbook" issue of the *Ouachita County Historical Quarterly* which was published in September of 1986, provides information from a "photo postal" which included the "business directory of Camden, Ark." It was dated 1893. In it W.P. Ritchie had a wholesale ad which featured grain and hay. This publication also states that in 1940 Walter P. Ritchie, Jr., Mr. W.P. Ritchie's only son was the Municipal Judge. According to Mrs. Saxon, her grandfather owned the Rice Belt Telephone Co-op and several gravel wagons.

Mrs. Frances Ritchie Truesdale, daughter of W. P. and Corrie Ritchie provided the following information about the construction of the house in *Patterns--A Social History of Camden*.



The house itself is very well built. The house walls have three layers that are made up of various hardwoods. The two outer walls have a protective paper between them to keep out the moisture that prevails in the Arkansas climate.

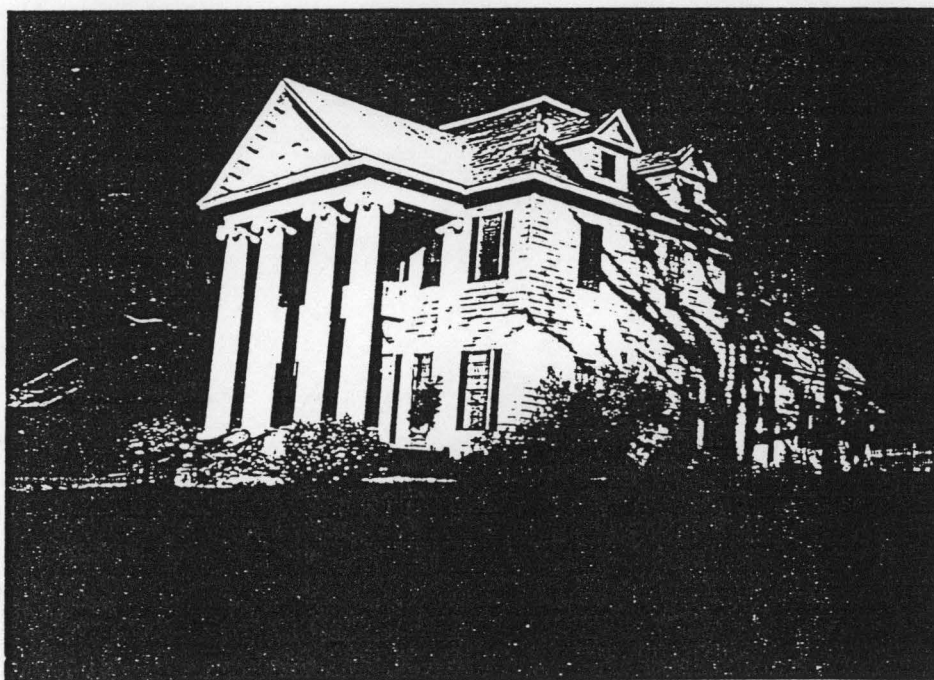
This house is reported by many older citizens of Camden to be the first in Camden where an attempt was made to insulate the structure.

Following Mr. Ritchie's death the family was devastated by the depression. According to the abstract, Mrs. Ritchie mortgaged the house several times to fund stock purchases between 1928 and 1933. In 1934 the Peoples Building and Loan Association of Little Rock foreclosed on the loans with an indebtedness of \$4,626.28.

In 1936 Clyde and Maude Crawford purchased the home from the Peoples Building and Loan Association. They obtained a remodeling loan for the home in 1956. Mrs. Crawford remains one of Camden's most legendary citizens. She was Arkansas' first female attorney, and was well known for her abstract and title work. Mrs. Crawford is, however, most commonly remembered as "a missing person". On the evening of March 2, 1957, she disappeared from the house at 430 Clifton Street. Mrs. Maude Crawford has never been found. Two photocopies of articles from *The Arkansas Democrat* that discuss her disappearance are enclosed.

Twelve years later, after Clyde Crawford's death in 1969, Maude Crawford was "adjudged to be dead since her disappearance". The Crawford's had no children, therefore, James Crawford, nephew of Clyde was appointed executor. He sold the home to Mr. and Mrs. Harold Vinchattle in 1972. During their ownership of the home, aluminum siding and storm windows were added to the house in an attempt to simplify maintenance.

We purchased the residence from Mr. and Mrs. Vinchattle in 1991. Since that time, we have worked to renovate the house. These renovations include central heat and air and extensive roofing work, as well as much cosmetic improvement.



## Current Chamber of Commerce Historic Tour Brochures

### Driving Tour Of Camden

*See Civil War sites and lovely Old South architecture  
on this engaging tour of Camden's  
most historic homes, buildings and landmarks.*

1. The Bragg Home, 2370 Hwy. 4, was built in 1850 for timber tycoon Peter Bragg. During the Civil War, a skirmish here left minie balls buried in the walls.\*
2. The Elliot-Meek Home, 761 Washington St., was built in 1857 for Judge James Thomas Elliott. See this excellent example of Greek Revival architecture.\*
3. The Graham-Gaughan-Betts Home, 710 Washington St., was built for Maj. Joseph M. Graham in 1856. During Union occupation, Gen. Frederic Steele was a "guest" resident. Open for tours by appointment.\*
4. The McCollum-Chidester Home, 926 Washington St., was built for Peter McCollum in 1847. During the Civil War, the home was first occupied by Confederate Gen. Sterling Price, then Union Gen. Frederick Steele. Some of the original furnishings are still in this home which is open for tours. While here, see the Leake-Ingram building, circa 1850.\*
5. Oakland Farm, 902 Tate St., circa 1868. Rosewood furniture, brought up the Ouachita River by the original owner, still graces this lovely home. Tate's Barn and a Commemorative Indian Monument are also on site.\*
6. The Benjamin T. Powell-May Home, 305 California St., circa 1859. Features include the circular stairway, working shutters and original plaster work. Union Gen. Rice headquartered here during the Civil War.\*
7. The Richmond-Tufts Home, built in 1853, was moved to its present location on Hwy. 24 West from its original Washington Street location next to the Elliott-Meek Home.\*
8. The Roland B. Smith Home, 234 Agee St., was built in 1796. It was enlarged in 1845 and recently restored to the home's period style.\*
9. The Umsted House, 404 Washington St., was built in 1923 for oil magnate Sidney Umsted. The elegant Mediterranean style home is now a bed and breakfast and also available for tours and parties.\*
10. The Martin-Carnes-Milner Home, 132 California St., circa 1924. This graciously restored home was Camden's first bed and breakfast. It's also open for tours and parties.
11. The Old Post Office, 133 Washington St., opened in 1895, housing a U.S. Post Office and Federal Land Office.\*
12. & 13. Fort Southerland (eastern Camden) and Fort Lookout (north Camden) are earthen cannon enclosures built by the Confederates to defend against Union attack.\*\*\*
14. Oakland Cemetery, Maul Road and Adams Street, holds Confederate and Union dead, as well as some of Camden's early citizens.\*\*\*
15. The Richie-Crawford-Eppinette Home, 430 Clifton St., circa 1909. The disappearance of Maude Crawford, a local attorney, from this home in 1957 remains an unsolved mystery.\*\*
16. Treadway's Slough, east end of Washington Street at the Ouachita River. The river that "was almost stolen."

\* Listed on the National Register of Historic Places in America.

\*\* Listed on the Arkansas Registry of Historic Places.

\*\*\* National Historic Landmark.

#### SPONSORS

Ms. Loyd Lindsey, Berg Enterprises, Mr. Richard Milner, Judge Bill Massengale, Mr. Mike Hesterly,  
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# CLIFTON AND GREENING STREETS HISTORIC DISTRICT

## Camden, Ouachita County

### National Register of Historic Places

The Clifton and Greening Streets Historic District area has served as a vibrant residential community in Camden since the 1890's and for some sixty years was a choice area for homebuilding. The area encompasses several residential blocks on the northwest flank of Camden's commercial downtown and can be generally described as a quadrilateral bounded on four sides by Greening, Clifton, and Dallas Streets and Cleveland Avenue – with extensions at several corners.

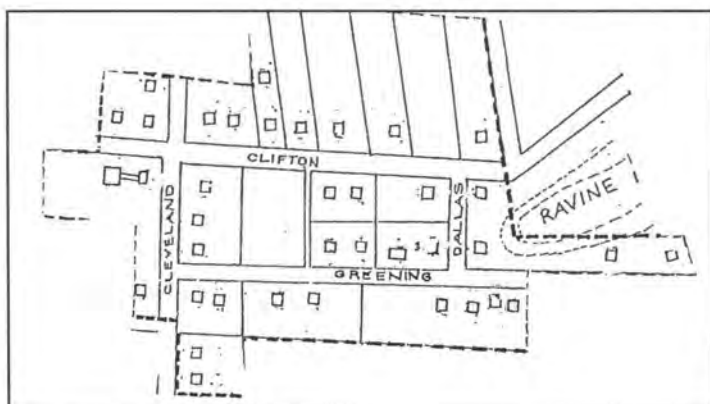
Historically, the area reflects three specific eras of Camden residential development. First came the "turn of the century" expansion to the historic city center which was followed by the building wave accompanying the oil boom. Afterward came the construction brought by the post-World War II defense industry boom.

Architecturally, the District is distinctive in presenting a substantial number of homes which have architectural significance and which have not been substantially altered-- while offering a visual display of several sequential phases of residential building preference. Significant clusters of Queen Anne, Colonial Revival, and Craftsman houses are mixed with occasional examples of Classical Revival, Tudor Revival, and Minimal Traditional styles. In terms of scale and cost, these homes reflect the economic diversity of their residents and owners and this, along with the plurality of styles, demonstrates the spontaneity and diversity of the community's residential development.

Recognition of the Clifton Greening area as a National Register Historic District is a culmination of a neighborhood revival movement energized entirely by a residents and homeowners within the area-- who collectively worked to reverse serious deterioration accompanying the economic doldrums affecting the whole community in the early 1990's. Residents, homeowners, and patrons of the Clifton and Greening Streets Historical Preservation Association hope that an appreciation of our architectural and residential heritage will be extended within the community.



*The Ramsey House (1902) when the neighborhood was new.*





## Architectural Notes

Historic styles in the neighborhood are illustrative of two prominent building waves. The first consisted of several Queen Anne structures — with several Colonial Revival and Classical Revival homes denoting the end of this phase. The second wave came with the oil boom expansion of the 1920's and lasted into the 1930's. Most of the latter structures were Craftsman-styled bungalows with a small number of Tudor Revival and Minimal Traditional houses built later. A few additional structures provide reminders of the post-World War II building boom.

Although homes frequently reflected more than one building style, examples of some types are illustrated below. [Descriptions are informed by Virginia and Lee McAllester, *A Field Guide to American Homes* (Alfred A. Knopf, 1984) and publications of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program].

### Queen Anne

Although variations are many, Queen Anne examples often reflect steeply pitched roofs of irregular shape, asymmetrical facades with a partial or full width porch extending along one or both side walls, ornamental porch supports with frequent use of turned spindles, the use of bay windows, and other distinctive patterns of decorative detailing.

#### The John Hobson Parker House

The **Parker House** (C. 1907) reflects Queen Anne features in rooflines, bay projection and gable and porch ornamentation. (Initial recovery was nurtured by Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Garner and recent improvements are by the owner and resident Jon Chadwell.)



#### The Greening House

The namesake house for Greening Street and the oldest surviving house in the neighborhood, the **Greening house** (512 Greening) was completed in 1890 for Eldridge Greening, a turn of the century cotton buyer. From 1919 until the 1950's it served as the Parsonage for the First Methodist Church. The house reflects an austere version of Queen Anne style, featuring a hipped roof with intersecting gables, belt courses girding the exterior wall, fishscale shingles in the apex of the front gable, and a bay projection on the west side. Restoration of the wood ornament porch supports, removed in the 1950's, is under consideration. (Restoration and presentation is the work of current residents, John and Karen Coons.)



#### The Phillips-Peters House

Built early in the century (at some time before 1907), the **Phillips-Peters home** (448 Clifton), despite the removal of original wood ornament porch detail, reflects Queen Anne trend and features brackets on the front gable. Note the detail (added later) in the stairway at the sidewalk and one of the few old hitching posts remaining in town — most of them in this neighborhood. (Boyhood home of prominent New Orleans businessman, Mr. John Phillips, the home in recent decades has been owned and occupied by the Lloyd Phillips family.)



## Colonial Revival

A revival of colonial styles prevalent in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries is reflected in varying expressions. Those in this area are most easily recognized by classical columns as porch supports (usually Tuscan style), transoms and sidelights as door surrounds, windows with double hung sashes (often with multipane glazing), and cornice returns in gable ends.

#### The Atchison house

The **Atchison house**, of early twentieth century origin, is a well kept example of Colonial Revival genre, illustrating Tuscan columns with transoms and sidelights as door surrounds. (It is owned and occupied by longtime residents, Mr. and Mrs. Carroll Atchison).



#### The Saxon-Moore house

One of the oldest homes in the neighborhood retaining much of its original exterior, the **Saxon-Moore home** (439 Greening), dating from the very edge of the century, illustrates Tuscan columns, colonial style door surrounds, and cornice returns in gable ends. (For nearly a century in one-family ownership of the Saxon and Moore family, the house is now presented by Ellen Tutt).

## Classical Revival

Although subtypes vary, Classical Revival style (also known as Neoclassical) typically features a full height porch supported by Classical columns — typically Ionic or Corinthian.

#### The Ramsey-McClellan house

Demonstrating Neoclassical motif, eclectically combined with Queen Anne elements, the **Ramsey--McClellan house** (210 Cleveland Ave.) was built in 1902 for prominent businessman and banker W.K. Ramsey--and was subsequently occupied by the family of John L. McClellan at the time Mr. McClellan was first elected to the United States Senate. Designed by Arkansas' premier turn of the century architect, Charles Thompson of Little Rock, the house exhibits full height fluted columns capped with composite Ionic capitals. Both the first and second stories have curved porches that extend in a semicircular sweep around the front of the house; and a roof balustrade encloses a "widow's walk." (The house is currently in restoration by the owners, Angela and Henry Pryor).



#### The Ritchie-Crawford house

In striking display of Neoclassical style is the **Ritchie-Crawford house** (430 Clifton), which features full height fluted columns capped with Ionic capitals which support the roof of a two-story porch. Above the porch is a classical pediment punctuated with an in-filled ox-eye window. Completed in 1909 for the family of businessman Walter Ritchie, the home in subsequent decades was owned by Clyde and Maud Crawford. It was from this home that Mrs. Crawford, an attorney, mysteriously disappeared on March 2, 1957 in one of Arkansas' most talked about unsolved mysteries. (Restoration is the work of the current owners and residents, Bruce and Jodi Eppinette.)

## Craftsman

A modern expression in American architecture, emanating from the Arts and Crafts moment and especially popular in 1905-1930 era, Craftsman style shunned historical precedents featuring elaborate design to favor styling that was comfortable, practical, and affordable. Structures in this mode typically display overhanging eaves, asymmetrical massing, exposed rafters, beams or braces under gables, and ample porches often supported by square columns. The coincidence of Craftsman trend with Camden's oil boom days produced numerous structures of this genre — and the style represents a major component of the District's composition and numerically the largest single category. Most Craftsman houses in the district are in simple bungalow style but a few transcend that in style and scale.

#### The Dunn house

Such Craftsman features as wide eave overhang, exposed rafters, and square columns as porch supports are seen in the **Dunn house** (506 Clifton), built between 1922 and 1924 in the oil boom days for Mrs. J. Dunn on the site where a previous house had burned. The observer should recognize similarities to many other structures in town dating from that time.



#### The Morgan-Aleshire house

Built for well known businessman, Mr. A.L. Morgan in 1918, the **Morgan home** (408 Clifton) represents one of the earlier and more expansive of the Craftsman structures in town. Note the ample porch with square brick column supports — and also the detail in the stairway to the street. (Much restoration has been done by the current owners and residents, George and Sandra Aleshire.)

#### The Lisle house

Also one of the more expansive oil boom Craftsman houses (it cost \$10,000 at the time), the **Lisle home** was built in the early 1920's for Mr. J.S. Lisle, whose timber business merged with oil interests. Such Craftsman marks as wide eaves and exposed rafters are blended here with a Colonial Revival touch in porch supports. (Current residents are Pam and Dean Johnston.)





## Tudor and Minimal Traditional

The plurality of styles in the District – and in older Camden generally – is seen the occasional incidence of other styles such as Tudor Revival (with steeply pitched roofs, facades dominated by prominent and steeply pitched cross gables, and frequent use of decorative half-timbering). Minimal Traditional style, which became popular in the 1930's depression years, was expressed as a simplified mode abandoning most of the traditional detailing of earlier styles.



### *The Mullins house and the Redding house*

The **Mullins house** (left and at 233 N. Cleveland) is a 1930's duplex in Tudor style; and the **Redding house** (below and at 440 Clifton), built in the 1930's for Sam Redding (now owned by Wanda and Tony Silen), illustrates Minimal Traditional motif.

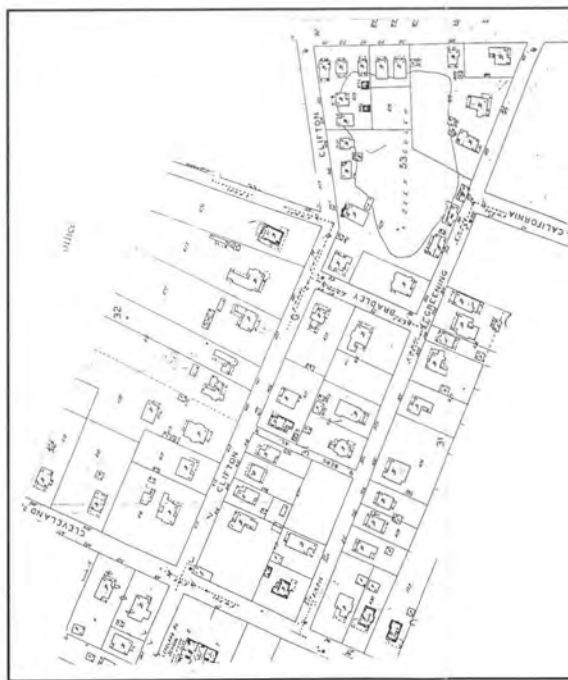


## Post-World War II Building



### *Berg Apartments*

One of the more substantial illustrations of the last major phase of neighborhood building (filling in the spaces with rental properties in the 1940's-1950's era), the **Berg Apartments** were built by Mrs. Henry Berg in the early 1950's and became a choice location for apartment living. (The apartments are now owned by neighborhood residents Jodi and Bruce Eppinette and John Wheeler and are reserved for persons over 62.)



**OTHER HISTORICAL LOCATIONS**, previously noted, are the onetime **home of Senator John L. McClellan** (210 Cleveland Ave.); the location of the mysterious **disappearance of Maud Crawford** (430 Clifton); the **Old Methodist Parsonage** (512 Greening); the **old Corner Grocery** (now the office of H and R Block, at 535 Cleveland Ave.)

*The Clifton-Greening Neighborhood in 1930 (Sanborn Fire Insurance Map)*

## Historical Notes

In addition to being home to a number of prominent Camden citizens through the years, the Clifton and Greening Historical District includes several sites of historical interest.

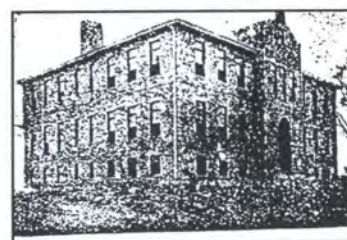
The eastern edge of the District merges into **THE OLD RAVINE**, one of old Camden's most distinctive geographical features – an identifiable depression running for perhaps a mile across the northern stretch of early Camden, carrying a stream once known as Melvina Creek. The most pronounced portion comprises a “deep gulch” (as the old maps say) sinking below an arc formed by Greening, Dallas (old Bradley), and Clifton Streets. From the “gulch” flows a spring, which – according to the classic 1891 map of J. Victor Pedron (as interpreted by Edward Parham) – was the only spring within the limits of the old town.



*Mr. Newton's Vineyard  
(photograph of painting courtesy of Edward Parham)*



*Cleveland Avenue School, 1939*



*Original School 1909-10*

The environs of the spring have an interesting history. Old timers reminisced about gathering water there and walking in the shade among ferns. An antebellum **Female Academy** (taught by Miss Maria Fellows) perched above on the ravine's southwest rim, from whence schoolchildren reportedly were dispatched to fetch water. A map of 1912 vintage locates a “chemical laboratory” (involving work with lignite) on the Greening St. edge. In subsequent years – but within living memory of “old timers” today – the ravine hosted a “natatorium” – an above ground swimming pool drawn from spring water. Still later, in pre-World War II years, Mr. Newton, whose home (now owned by Sandy and Wayne Baker) stands at the corner of Greening and Dallas, terraced the hillside into a vineyard – with walkways winding downward from street to spring level. (Some information about the ravine – and the accompanying picture – is courtesy of Edward Parham. See his article “Search for the Spring” in the *Ouachita Historical Quarterly*, Spring 1991.)

At the District's western end is the site of the old **CLEVELAND AVENUE SCHOOL**, which served for years as Camden's, largest elementary institution and is remembered by many Camden residents approaching age fifty or more. The original building built in 1909-10 was razed in the early 1960's but an annex built in 1939 is one of the few older Camden school buildings still standing and now serves as Garrison Auditorium



*Garrison Auditorium*



Ritchie Crawford house perceived as *contributing to the district and to historical consciousness in Camden*

The fall 1998 issue of the *Ouachita Historical Quarterly* describes the house as “*perhaps the most famous house in the district.*”

*See page 5 of the article—and page 3 of this attachment*



# THE QUARTERLY

OUACHITA  
COUNTY  
HISTORICAL

\$4<sup>00</sup>

FALL 1998

## FORT LOOKOUT

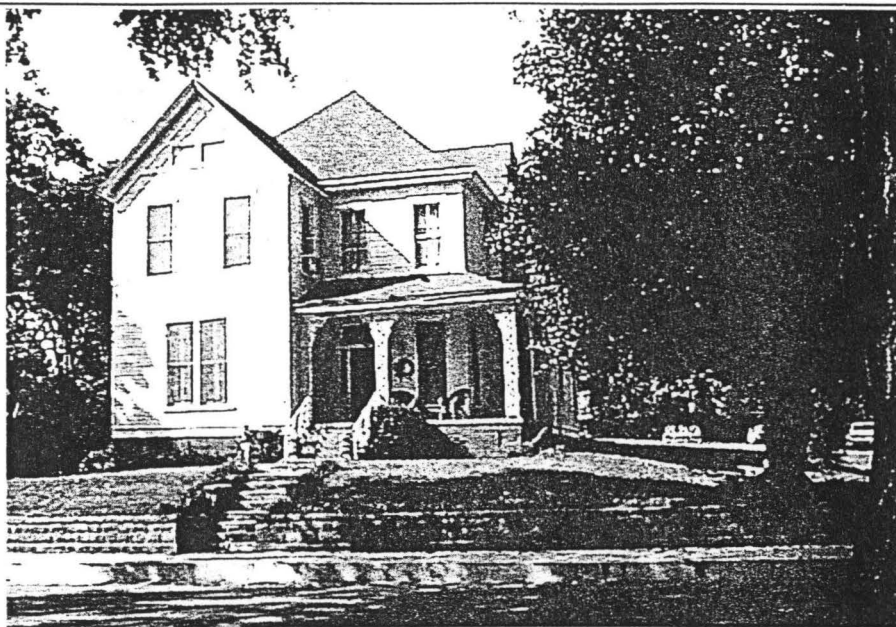
Alexander Hawthorn

*Builder of Camden's  
Civil War fortifications*

## CURRENT NEWS

# National Register presence grows

*Church, house, district make historical list*



**GREENING HOUSE:** The former Methodist parsonage on Greening Street, a two-story Queen Anne structure built in 1890 by Eldridge Greening, is the oldest home in the new Clifton-Greening Historic District.

Three more Ouachita County entries were added this Summer to the National Register of Historic Places. They include the Burkett House in Frenchport, Two Bayou Methodist Church and cemetery off U.S. Highway 278 near Greening's Pond and the Clifton and Greening Streets Historic District, an old Camden neighborhood.

It's the National Register's largest influx of Ouachita County sites since five homes were added in 1974, the year Camden celebrated its Sesquicentennial.

The newest additions raises to 22 the number of National Register entries in Ouachita County. Seventeen are located in Camden.

### Burkett House

Steamboat captain John T. Burkett erected his Folk Victorian house sometime around the turn of the century on a rural road (now

Ouachita 65) at Frenchport. Secluded on a hillside by large shade trees and surrounded by a wrought-iron fence, the structure is remarkable for its simple L-shape floor plan and applied gingerbread details in its second-story porch.

Of more significance is its builder. Captain Burkett is recalled as a planter, lumberman, district penal supervisor and revenue agent.

"The ornate concrete piers, concrete columns and filigree metal balustrades on the wraparound porch attest to a change of decorative taste in the history of this house, but are themselves historic," the state Historic Preservation Program noted when it nominated the Burkett House for the National Register.

Peripheral features of the house include an old well house, garage and barn. A hitching post complements the well-worn iron fence. Nearby is the ruin of a concrete

dipping pit once used to treat cattle for parasites.

### Two Bayou Methodist

Located on Ouachita 125, Two Bayou Methodist Church and its cemetery date back to before 1850. "The earliest known worshippers at the site held services under brush arbors," noted the AHPP.

Before the War Between the States, "a more permanent log building was constructed but destroyed during the Civil War and replaced by another log building. Around 1875, this log building was replaced by the current Two Bayou Methodist Church" added to the National Register.

T.J. Mendenhall built the one-story, wood-frame church in a simple interpretation of Greek-Revival style. The AHPP concluded it was significant "as a pristine example of a rural, one-room





*The isolated, well-shaded circa 1899 Folk Victorian home of Captain John T. Burkett sits behind an iron fence on a rural road near Frenchport.*

vernacular church built in the late 19th Century.

"The church is in near-original condition and retains almost all of its original features."

The cemetery adjoining the church contains about 120 graves dating from 1850 to 1948.

#### **Clifton-Greening Historic District**

A collection of 39 buildings constructed between 1890 and 1948, the new Clifton and Greening Streets Historic District is mostly contained

in a rectangular area with Clifton and Greening streets and Cleveland and Dallas avenues serving as boundaries.

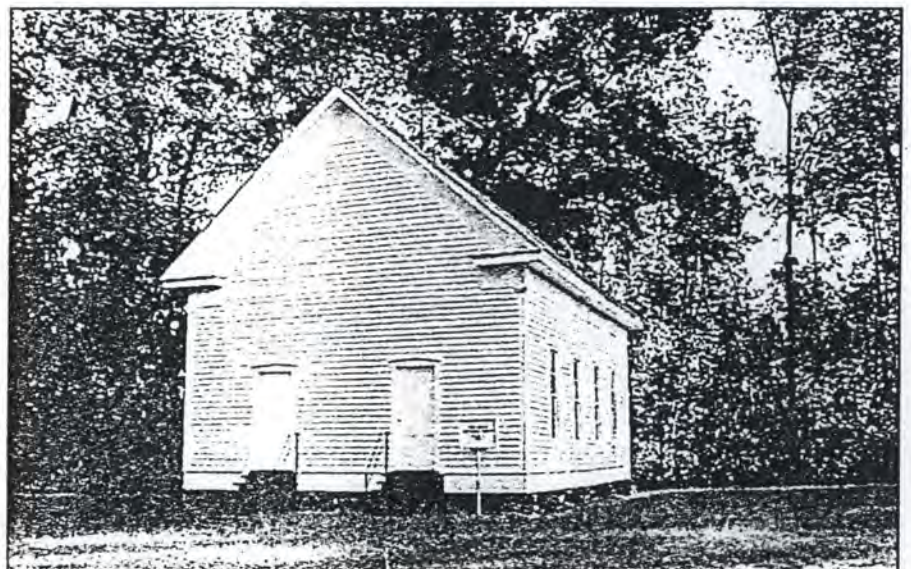
According to the AHPP: "The district presents a visual display of several sequential phases of the town's residential history through its significant clusters of Queen Anne, Colonial Revival and Craftsman houses, mixed with occasional examples of the Classical Revival, Plain Traditional and Tudor Revival styles."

The district "represents a neighborhood that has undergone three specific periods of growth" covering "a very wide range of building patterns." These range from "the initial building of houses at the turn of the century, to the oil boom days of the 1920s and, finally, to the post-World War II defense industry boom."

Some of the homes in the district include:

- the two-story Greening House on Greening Street is the district's

*Built about 1875  
in Greek Revival style,  
Two Bayou Methodist Church  
near Greening's Pond  
replaced a log house of worship.  
The original church building  
was destroyed  
during the Civil War*





oldest home, built about 1890 by Eldridge Greening. For many years, this Queen Anne structure served as the Methodist parsonage.

➤ dominating the view at the West end of Greening Street, the Ramsey-McClellan-Pryor House was designed in Classical Revival style by noted architect Charles Thompson and built in 1904. Fronted by monumental columns and with a roof balustrade enclosing a Widow's Walk, the house is best known to generations of Camdenites as the former home of the late U.S. Senator John L. McClellan. It is currently undergoing extensive preservation by new owners Henry and Angela Pryor, who hope to finish their project in time to observe the structure's centennial year in 2004..

➤ perhaps the most famous home in the district is the Ritchie-Crawford-Eppinette House on Clifton Street. Wholesale grocer Walter Ritchie reportedly parted with the El Dorado telephone exchange in order to purchase the land, and in 1906 built (in Classical Revival style) what was said to be Camden's largest private residence. South Arkansas' first female attorney, Maud Crawford, disappeared here one rainy night in March of 1957 — for many years the state's most infamous missing-persons mystery. The house is listed on the Arkansas Register of Historic Places.

➤ Garrison Auditorium at the corner of Cleveland and Clifton is all that remains of old Cleveland Avenue School, an early educational institution. Built in 1939, the auditorium (which is still used for Camden Fairview School Board sessions and community meetings)

## *The* National Register of Historic Places *for* Ouachita County

	Year Listed
Poison Springs State Park (1864) rural .....	1969
McCollum-Chidester House (1847) Camden .....	1971
Tate's Barn ( <i>circa</i> 1880) Camden .....	1972
Powell-Goodwin-May House (1856) Camden .....	1974
Smith-White House (1856) Camden .....	1974
Elliott-Meek-Nunnally House (1857) Camden .....	1974
Graham-Gaughan-Betts House (1858) Camden .....	1974
Bragg House (1847) rural .....	1974
Leake-Ingham Library (1850) Camden .....	1975
Old Camden Post Office (1896) Camden .....	1977
Richmond-Tufts-Pryor House (1853) rural .....	1977
Tate House ( <i>circa</i> 1880) Camden .....	1978
Holt-Poindexter Store (1904) Ogemaw .....	1986
Ouachita County Courthouse (1933) Camden .....	1989
Mt. Prospect Methodist Church (1886) Stephens .....	1990
Old Missouri-Pacific Train Depot (1913) Camden .....	1992
Umsted House (1924) Camden .....	1995
Confederate Women's Monument (1914) Camden .....	1996
Oakland Cemetery - Confederate Section (1864) Camden .....	1997
Two Bayou Methodist Church and Cemetery (1875) Camden ..	1998
John Burkett House (1899) Camden .....	1998
Clifton-Greening Historic District (1890) Camden .....	1998

"exhibits typical Art Deco zigzags and other geometric designs."

Dr. John Wheeler, who teaches history at Angelo State University in Texas and summers at home on Greening Street, was possessed of such vision for preserving the neighborhood that by 1991 he had made a quiet hobby of acquiring its houses and lots. In 1993, he was instrumental in getting up a neighborhood watch program, which not only had the effect of keeping criminal mischief in check in the somewhat run-down Clifton-Greening block, but of banding

homeowners together in an organized unit. That was a big step forward for what the history professor called a "coterie of residents" interested in salvaging the area.

Just last year, Dr. Wheeler and his some of his neighbors successfully petitioned the AHPP to be officially recognized as the Clifton and Greening Streets Historic District.

In November, the Historic District was showcased by the AHPP as part of its Walks Through History series of tours in historic districts around the state.



# ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT

LITTLE ROCK, SEPTEMBER 15, 1957

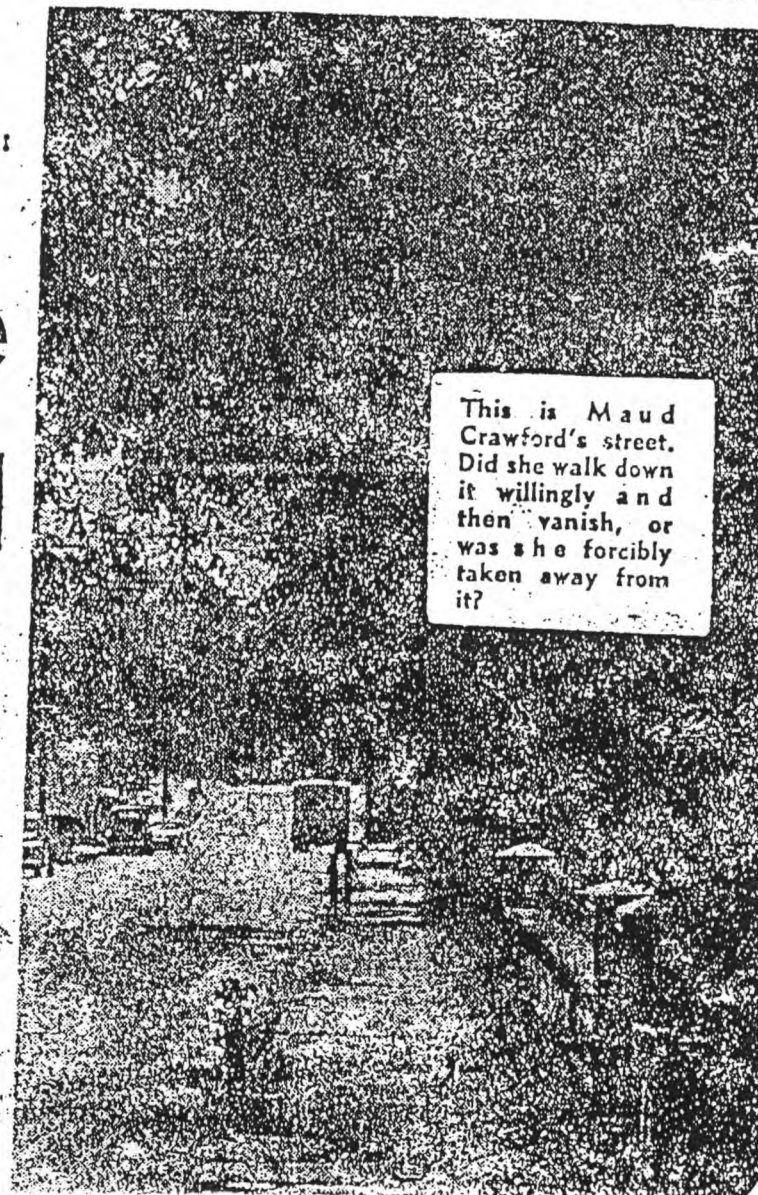
*Sunday*  
**MAGAZINE**

The First of Two Articles:

## The Strange Case Of Maud Crawford

Is she missing or murdered? Today,  
more than six months after she disappeared into the night,  
that question still haunts the citizens of Camden.

Copyright 1957 by the Arkansas Democrat



This is Maud  
Crawford's street.  
Did she walk down  
it willingly and  
then vanish, or  
was she forcibly  
taken away from  
it?

SOON AFTER IT Happened  
1957.

034M

# \$1,000.00 Reward



MRS. CLYDE (MAUD) CRAWFORD

A reward will be paid to the person or persons furnishing information as follows:

1. If Alive—\$1,000.00 for information establishing the present whereabouts of Mrs. Clyde (Maud) Crawford, or
2. If Dead—\$1,000.00 for information leading to discovery of her body and the arrest and conviction of the person or persons responsible for her death, or \$500.00 for information leading to the discovery of her body, or \$500.00 for the arrest and conviction of the person or persons responsible for her death.

## G. B. COLE

CHIEF OF POLICE  
CAMDEN, ARKANSAS  
TRUSTEE, REWARD FUND

Disappeared from her home in Camden, Arkansas, the night of March 2, 1957, unheard of since.

### DESCRIPTION:

Height: 5 feet, 5 inches  
Age: 60 years  
Weight: Approximately 165  
Hair: Grey (reddish hue)  
Skin: Very fair—freckled.  
Eyes: Blue.

By ROBERT MARTIN

AT 5 P. M. ON FRIDAY, MARCH 1, MAUD Crawford stuffed her briefcase full of legal papers and stopped at the desk of Pauline Ables. Mrs. Ables was her co-worker and close friend. "If you wake up tomorrow," she told Mrs. Ables, teasingly, referring to the fact that the office was closed on Saturdays, "come on to the house. They're bringing me some curtain samples to look at."

Then, with her usual week-end goodbyes to the other persons in the office, she walked out of the door of the Camden law firm at 118 Jefferson Street where she had worked for 41 years and drove home in the dark blue Mercury sedan she used.

Saturday she buried herself about her home, supervised the curtain measurements, shopped for groceries and sat down after supper to watch television. She spread her work on a table and began to snap a bowl of green beans.

The telephone rang about 8:30 p. m., and Maud Crawford, alone in the house, answered it. She spoke into it briefly to a cousin, and put the receiver down.

That moment marks the beginning of the strange case of the disappearance of Maud Crawford. No one saw her or spoke to her after the time of that phone call; at least no one has said that they did. She vanished from her home sometime in the space of the next two and a half hours, without leaving a trace of the time, manner or reason for her departure.

THE NIGHT OF MARCH 2 WAS COLD, AND A drizzling rain was falling. Camden, which has a population of 17,628, was for the most part a city contained indoors that night. There was little foot traffic. The moving traffic, however, included its taxicabs, which went all over town and back. The drivers saw nothing out of the ordinary.

At about 11 p. m. Clyde Crawford, Maud's husband, came home after watching television at a liquor store. He told the police later that he had overstayed his usual nightly visit at the store. He

said the lights in his home and the television were on, his wife's purse with \$137 in cash in checks in it was there, a dog that was protective to her showed no sign of excitement, legal papers were still spread on the table, beans were half finished. "But Maud was

And in the six months that have passed that night, she has not been found.

Is Maud Crawford still alive? Most people who knew her best do not think so. They felt she was dead from the first moment they learned she was gone. Others have come to the conclusion as the months passed without word of what might have happened to her. A few do not know what to think.

On the eve of the six-month anniversary of her disappearance, the people most closely associated with her through kinship, friendship and the men who have searched for her fruitlessly since that night were asked what they thought happened. Their conclusions can be summed up simply: They still have precisely the same sense of amazement and complete bafflement that they had on Sunday, March 3, when Maud Crawford's disappearance became known.

They have not discovered a single new clue of any kind has been found; no mark or lead has been uncovered. Nothing has changed since Sunday could as easily be that Sunday in far as the case is concerned. Nothing that would indicate that day has been proved false; nothing has been added to the knowledge that day brought

NEARLY EVERYONE IN TOWN knows Maud Crawford "Miss Maud." She was 60 years old with reddish-gray hair, blue eyes, very fair skin, freckles on her hands and arms. She wore round glasses with gold and silver trim on a large wedding band set with five good-sized diamonds and false teeth. She was five feet five inches tall and weighed about 160 pounds, and

(Continued on Page 7.)



# ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT

LITTLE ROCK, SEPTEMBER 22, 1957

Sunday  
MAGAZINE

LS 31

The Strange Case of Maud Crawford: Part II

## The Man Who Waits

Although his wife disappeared six months ago, Clyde Crawford believes she will come back.

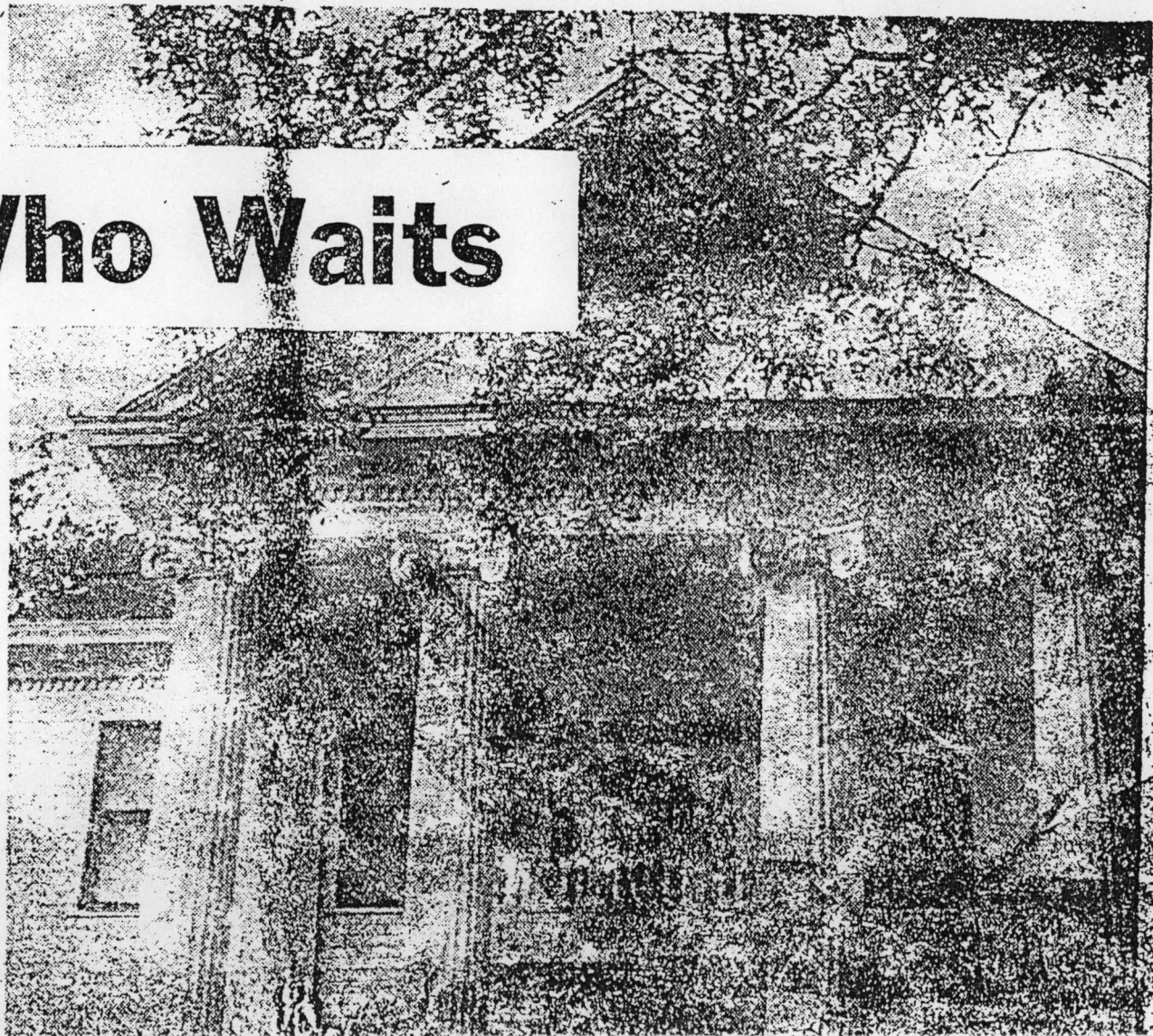
Copyright 1957 by the Arkansas Democrat

By ROBERTA MARTIN

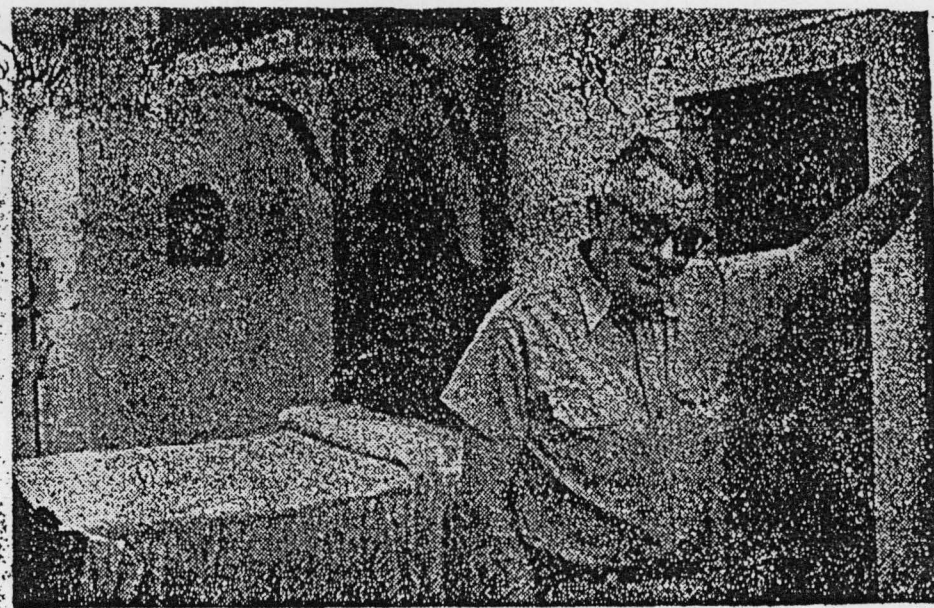
NO ONE KNEW BETTER THAN CLYDE Crawford, when he reported his wife had vanished during the night of March 2, that he would be the first person suspected.

He knew it when he walked into the Camden police station at 2:25 a. m., March 3, and he knew, before he'd said a word, how embarrassed his wife would be if his alarm proved false. He was sorely tempted to postpone, or not make, that visit. But he had spent hours searching for her, and he also knew that if something serious had occurred and he didn't report it, it would be even worse for him. Besides, they might have some information that would explain her absence.

So, parking his truck in the dark empty street and sidestepping cold rain and dark that had







Four roomers in the Crawford house in March — Miss Joan McLendon, Miss Gay Avant and Miss Doris Jinks (above) and Miss Ida Lou Dunn, now in Albuquerque—avoided the dog; Miss Avant said she was bitten by him once.

Mrs. Crawford slept in a canopied, antique bed that Mr. Crawford, a furniture expert, refinished for her. Part of the house, including her bedroom and bath, had just been remodeled. Pink was the predominant color she chose.

freely and easily, without sign of strain. He has a good sense of humor: "When we had 22 girls rooming here during the war, someone might have tried to look in a window, but they don't bother me. They're afraid of this old house, now."

He knows that many people have suspected him of causing his wife's disappearance, but he shows no resentment. "I don't know when this will be over but I'll come out on top. It's a long road that has no turning."

He's a man of neat appearance, sun-tanned and seemingly physically fit. He wears green-tinted glasses and khaki clothes of good quality that fit him well. He is 63 years old.

The dog, called Dal because he is a white Dalmatian with black spots, was first Mr. Crawford's dog. The men he associated with at the stores he frequents gave him Dal as a present when Mr. Crawford was depressed over the death of another dog. His owner said he could sell Dal for \$100 but he'd rather Clyde have him. "He was my dog, but then he took to Maud. I couldn't put his collar on or get close to him for weeks after she'd gone." But now

Dal seems to know Mr. Crawford has to take care of him.

Dal has lost weight in recent months. Mr. Crawford thinks he may be grieving. He has begun to howl, too, when he's let out in the mornings. Every afternoon, Mr. Crawford takes him for a walk, as a substitute for the one Mrs. Crawford took him for every day at 5 p. m. "I couldn't hold him on that grass rope she used; I got a chain."

**MR. CRAWFORD'S DAILY WALK WITH THE**  
dog is almost his only outing now. Formerly a regu-

### On the Cover

The lonely figure on the cover of today's Magazine is Clyde Crawford. Except for him and the dog, this big house that towers behind him is empty now. That photograph and the ones on this page were taken by Will Counts, a staff photographer of the Sunday Magazine. He and Mrs. Marlin, the associate editor of the Sunday Magazine, visited Camden and other cities in south Arkansas to gather first-hand material for these two articles, the first of which appeared last Sunday. The photographs of Mrs. Crawford and her sitting room were taken by Ben Bracken, a Camden photographer.

lar moviegoer, he said he never goes to one any more. He stays at home when he isn't at work, "waiting for Maud." He isn't sure he can resist the lure of the football season, however. "For 30 years we bought two tickets for the season and had a box on the 50-yard line; just last week I bought one ticket."

He hoped the memory of old times might hasten his wife's return, but her birthday passed on June 22 without incident. When there was a death in her family, "I told Al Rhodes (Camden newspaperman) to put it all over the paper so maybe she'd see it and come back, but she didn't." The Crawfords' 32nd wedding anniversary will be on December 6.

Glyde Crawford asked this reporter: "When is your story going to come out? I'll cut it out and save it for Maud to read—when she's ready to."

"When she comes back, I'll not ask her any questions; she'll tell me about it when she wants."



1986 - MULTI-PART series  
STATENews

as local in teller 5,000 help the song-that their to 5" last fed-their who rears, go to r de-t of busi- prece- st the aim a court a na-ys, in es in assets y the Lau- ed at rs in to de-clud- s and t sci- lion. B C 2A B 5B

...tive waste compact.

Dole, who earlier had indicated campaign financing reforms would be delayed until September, said that with the additions of some amendments, the Senate might act on the legislation before the end of the day.

Similar legislation was introduced in the House Monday and

(See PACS on Page 13A.)

...plans Tuesday to expand federal payments to farmers for storing surplus grains.

In a major speech on farm policy at the Illinois State Fair, Mr. Reagan said the move would cover an expected bumper crop of wheat, corn and other grains this year that could not be stored in scarce silos and grain elevators, a requirement for federal price-support loans.

...grandstand crowd.

"Farmers need these harvest loans, and we intend to see that they get them, regardless of problems with storage that are beyond their control."

#### Plan's cost put at \$200 million

Administration officials said the move would cost at least \$200 million, adding to federal farm programs that, by some estimates,

aid to the "contras" in Nicaragua and to stop the bombing in El Salvador.

But inside, where the jubilant Reagan supporters waved signs saying "Repeal the 22d Amendment," which limits presidents to two terms, the crowd jumped to its feet and started cheering the minute they saw Mr. Reagan's motor-

(See REAGAN on Page 13A.)

crats, while 10 to kill the aid.

Arkansas Sen. and Dale Bumcrats, voted for ment to stop the

The Senate th to kill an amen Edward M. Ken to virtually b

(See SENATE on Page 13A.)

## Mystery at Camden — VIII

CALIFORNIA AUG 13 - 1986  
MULTI-PART series - 1986 - IN  
STATENews press

# Few hold theory that Crawford dropped out of sight voluntarily

By Beth Brickell  
SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

When time passed following Maud Crawford's mysterious disappearance March 2, 1957, and the theories of amnesia, suicide and kidnaping for ransom were ruled out, one of the remaining three theories given serious consideration was that she had left Camden voluntarily.

"My first instinct was that Maud left the money in her purse as a decoy, and that she left Clyde [her husband] and Camden," Sarah (Mrs. F. W.) Yawn recently recalled. Yawn was a seventh-grade English teacher at the time and an acquaintance of Maud Crawford.

#### Recalls conversation

She spoke of a conversation she had with Crawford Thursday afternoon before Crawford disappeared Saturday night.

"She was walking the dog and I stood on the other side of the street and talked to her for a few minutes. I was scared of the dog so I didn't cross to the other side,"



Brickell

Beth Brickell is a Los Angeles filmmaker and a former newspaper reporter. She was a student at the University of Arkansas when Maud Crawford disappeared in 1957. Brickell recently returned to her hometown of Camden and conducted an eight-month investigation of the Maud Crawford case, interviewing scores of people and searching through files and documents. She is reporting her findings in a series written exclusively for the Gazette.

Yawn said. "She seemed real discouraged. I always felt she was disappointed with Martha [Maud Crawford's cousin]. She told me, 'No one appreciates what you do.' I said to her, 'You've done so much for so many.' She said, 'I don't think anybody cares.'"

#### Called by cousin

There has been much debate over the years about a brief telephone conversation Maud Crawford had with her cousin, Martha Robins (Mrs. Howard) Carver, at 8:30 p.m. the night she disappeared. Carver, now of Naples, Tex., was the last known person to have talked to Crawford.

Crawford helped rear Carver

and was her legal guardian.

Carver, her husband, Howard, and their son drove from De Queen to Camden that evening and were expected by Crawford. Instead, Carver stopped at the home of a friend and telephoned Crawford to say she wouldn't be seeing her until the next morning.

Carver recently spoke of her last conversation with Crawford. "She was expecting us that evening. I told her that we were already over there [at the home of a friend, Edna Hardin] and we were going to spend the night and come on over to her house the next morning. She sounded kind of funny to me, and I

(See THEORY on Page 8A.)



Martha Robins Carver, 1951; call may have 'I





Crawford's home (left), where the porch light and house lights were left burning; in her living room (right), photographed the day after she disappeared.

## Records

Continued from Page 1A.

only of observations of the local investigation and second-hand information. The information was conveyed from FBI agent Ralph D.

tially reports "no additional developments" weekly, then monthly, then every few years until 1976.

### State Police file incomplete

Although the State Police was involved in the investigation, its file is small and incomplete.

Odis Henley, of El Dorado, was

leads involving Henry Myar (Mike) Berg. At the time, Berg was one of seven Arkansas State Police commissioners. It has recently been revealed that Berg, a Camden multimillionaire who is now deceased, was engaged in a bitter controversy with Maud Crawford involving a \$20 million estate before her dis-

McKay said that although he was assisted in an all-day search by someone who knew the record system he was only able to find a three-by-five card with Maud Crawford's name on it.

The director of the Arkansas State Police at that time was Ralph D. Scott, who was the original FBI

her husband.

She was snapping strips watching television and on two abstracts she had home from the office.

A cousin called at 8:30 say she couldn't spend time with the Crawfords as but would be there for five



# Maud Crawford contributed to Camden's heyday in '50s

Beth Brickell  
SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

"What type of person is Miss Maud?" the *Arkansas Gazette* asked March 10, 1967, eight days after Maud Crawford disappeared from her Camden home. "The fact that hundreds of Camden residents have turned out to help search for her and have kept the office and the newspapers deluged with telephone calls seeking information about her disappearance is a partial answer."

A more complete answer lies in an examination of the community in which she lived, because Maud Crawford exemplified a spirit that made Camden great in the 1950s.

In a five-year period, from 1950 to 1955, 5,250 people moved to Camden to swell its population to 6,222, the largest number of people in the history of the city. Forty thousand people lived within a four-mile radius.

By contrast, the 1980 United States Census population figure is 15,356.

Camden was in its heyday in the 1950s and didn't know it.

It thought big. Located on the

Ouachita River, it took seriously its slogan, "Camden on the Ouachita, best town in Arkansas." In fact, citing national data, it reasoned that Camden was "the center of a magic circle within a magic circle" that made it "the ideal industrial city of the South," according to an article in the *Camden News*.

A 1953 New York survey of buying power produced data indicating Camden was "the trading hub for a wide surrounding area standing out as a rich market with families earning more and spending more than those in most cities in the United States."

## Civic pride

Camden was proud.

In the 1920s, Ouachita County had moved from a cotton culture to an oil and timber economy with the discovery of oil at Stephens in 1922, and the construction of International Paper Company at Camden in 1927.

In addition to its large paper mill, Camden reached a national market with Camark Pottery,

(See CRAWFORD on Page 10A.)



Maud Crawford pouring at Girls' State reception at Governor's Mansion in June 1956.

**For home delivery of the Gazette call 371-3800**

...fever for progress, and Benjamin F. Williams established the city's fourth funeral home in an outstanding example of entrepreneurship.

Camden's Municipal Auditorium is the center of community social life. The city was on a classical concert circuit out of New York. Locally, a constant calendar of events filled "Muny Hall" — community plays, an annual Cotton

that Rose Berg's guardianship would pay a sizable fee and that the money should stay in Ouachita County.

Camden could take care of its own.

## Wide-spread reputation

Maud Crawford, another lawyer in the Gaughan law firm, was respected throughout Arkansas and in surrounding states for abstract

Linnie Betts, vice president of the Merchants and Planters Bank, recalled, "She cut her hair all the same length, just under her ears, and she combed it back. If it was windy, her hair was all over everywhere."

Judge Henry S. Yocum Jr. of El Dorado talked about the first time he met her. "The first time I saw Maud Crawford, I felt they had her hid in the back office. She was

Betty (Mrs. Carter) M. Drickman went to Birmingham, Ala., and became a National Trainer of Girl Scouts, then traveled throughout Arkansas training Girl Scout leaders. Matthew H. Rothert petitioned the secretary of the Treasury to include on all United States paper currency the motto already on coins, "In God we trust." Senator John L. McClellan, who had lived at Camden four years before being

that was in the open in the 1940s and went underground in the 1950s. It was an undercurrent of lawlessness and flagrant violation of personal rights by some that threatened to undermine that which was being built by others.

James Hugh Hogg, an accountant for Mike Berg, said, "Camden had just two classes of people: those who worked and those who



Tuesday

CAMDEN, ARKANSAS - JULY 15, 1986

# Thirty years later, Maud Crawford case still baffling

Editor's note: On March 2, 1957, Maud Crawford disappeared, sparking one of the most intriguing mysteries in Camden history. This is an introduction to a three-part series which concludes a seven-year investigation by Staff Writer Edward Parham. The series deals with evidence and leads which were never followed by authorities.

By EDWARD PARHAM  
Staff Writer

Nearly 30 years have elapsed since Maud Crawford vanished

without a trace one dark and wintry night from her stately residence at 430 Clifton Street, leaving behind a shocked and bewildered community that still wonders at her disappearance.

The Maud Crawford case remains the most baffling in the police annals of Arkansas. Rumored leads abounded in the wake of the 1957 disappearance, but authorities admitted to a curious public they could not find one clue to the whereabouts of the missing attorney - Camden's foremost woman civic leader of her day.

## What happened to Maud Crawford?

### Introduction

Beginning Tuesday, *The Camden News* will begin a three-day series of articles examining the events surrounding Maud Crawford's disappearance, and related developments that have since occurred. The articles deal with much material that was never released, and still more that apparently was un-

known even to officials investigating the case.

Maud Crawford disappeared during her involvement in a dispute over the Rose Berg estate - said to be worth \$7 million. Despite reports she claimed to have found large thefts from the estate shortly before she vanished, investigative files show lawmen never suspected Maud Crawford might have fallen victim to foul play because of her allegations in the estate dispute.

The articles also cover the

by former city and detective Andy McKay, made an abrupt disclosure in state TV news he had witness to Maud Crawford's burial and hoped to solve the case. However, under circumstances as puzzling as the disappearance itself, said nothing further about efforts to investigate the mysterious burial.

Seven years of research interviews uncovered the "midnight burial" information linking the

Midnight burial mystery first brought to light by Andy McKay. See CRAWFORD on page 1.

## CRAWFORD

Continued from

story to the estate dispute. According to the sources, Maud Crawford's secret grave lies in west Camden, marked by the curb of an abandoned wall. What did happen to Maud Crawford? For a woman that has waited almost 30 years for an answer, the days may offer the yet to be revealed. What did happen to Maud Crawford?



Mr. George Branch, superintendent of the Fairview School District, has moved into his new offices--in what was formerly the administrative headquarters of the old Camden School District.

The school district's administrative offices have all been combined and located in the building at 625 Clifton Street, behind Vernon Garrison Auditorium, site of the old Cleveland Avenue Elementary School.

For Mr. Branch, the move means a goodbye to his old quarters--the office suite located first door on the right inside the Fairview High School building, where he kept numerous trophies, plaques and mementoes collected during his long career as school administrator, teacher and coach, and from where he enjoyed a view overlooking busy Fairview Road.

Mr. Branch spent 19 years in that Fairview Road office, since succeeding Mr. R.H. Shaddock as Fairview superintendent in 1973.

Today Mr. Branch heads a single, city-wide school district with 3,988 students enrolled for the new fall semester, which is about the same number of students enrolled at this same time last year □

# INSIDE

*Fairview's Cardinals  
versus  
El Dorado's Wildcats*

*What happened  
to county judge  
Bill Braswell?*

VOLUME 1, NUMBER 2

Mrs. Clayborn takes a seat at her desk by the classroom door, and begins making the lunch-money sheet, calling students up to her one-by-one to collect.

During this interlude, the room becomes more familiar. Everything jumps out from the walls with bright, primary colors: charts, posters, bulletin boards, signs. Everything is neat and tidy, perfectly arranged. Mrs. Clayborn has already done a lot of work here.

The eye rests first on the alphabet chart, the 26 big letters, the 26 little letters, promenading over the chalkboard. Some things never change. But, it should be noted, this alphabet is updated: for instance, hopping over Ff is a happy cartoon frog, over Ee is a happy elephant, over Mm, a happy mouse.

Spread across the top of the bulletin board on the adjoining wall behind Mrs. Clayborn's desk is a numbers chart, 1 through 20.

Above and around these are other eye-catching charts, charts for short vowels, long vowels, consonants, shapes and colors.

On the bulletin board directly behind Mrs. Clayborn's desk, a boy bear and a

wooden basket on Mrs. Clayborn's desk is fashioned to look like a little red schoolhouse.

Red apples are a secondary motif. A pencil-holder on teacher's desk is a miniature chalkboard with a little red apple in the corner. Mrs. Clayborn is wearing a lapel red apple with her name on it. And there are more apples to come, a little later in the morning.

"I am seeing some wonderful coloring," Mrs. Clayborn announces as she walks around the room, examining the work of her little charges. Finished collecting the lunch money, she dispatches the lunch-money pouch to the principal's office, appointing William and Tony as couriers. "Y'all come right back," she reminds them as she sees them out the door.

To the rest of the class she declares this is the best she has ever seen children color while taking up lunch money on the first day of school.

A late arrival appears at the door, which means for Mrs. Clayborn some more administrative duties, checking the child against her register, discussing with the little girl's mother which

and wave like sunflower stalks. June. Red, answers one. Green, says another. Yellow, and another, repeating a previous answer, green.

That's right, Mrs. Clayborn says. She directs her students to take their color sheets, on which is outlined a large colorless apple man, with disconnected hands, leaf and stem. Color the apple, she says, and, for greater degree of difficulty than the morning's first color sheet, take scissors and cut out the apple man and hands and leaf and stem, and glue them all together.

"Just one little drip" of glue, she admonishes everybody. "We're not going to waste all our glue this first day."

This exercise will buy Mrs. Clayborn enough time to inventory supplies the youngsters have been ordered to bring with them to school. She walks from table to table, student to student, checking off paper, pencils, eraser, crayons, scissors, glue, notebook, folders, supply box, paper towels, tissues.

All the while, children are busy coloring, then snipping out their apples, gluing on the little hands.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

## Maud Crawford just won't go away

Thirty-five long years after her mysterious disappearance, interest in what ever happened to Maud Crawford continues unabated.

People just can't stop, won't stop wondering about her fate.

Locally, such interest seeps like water through limestone, puddling up in odd conversations. That's expected,

since the topic of Maud Crawford has long been required discussion whenever scary stories and bizarre gossip are told--around campfires, during bunking parties, over office typewriters.

But curiosity in the strange disappearance sometimes arrives unexpectedly from elsewhere. Since the first of the year, the Camden News has received

three out-of-town inquiries concerning the Crawford case.

One was of the sort newspapers regularly receive, from people suddenly reminded of some long-ago occurrence in which they were involved, seeking an update. But the other two were some-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



1995

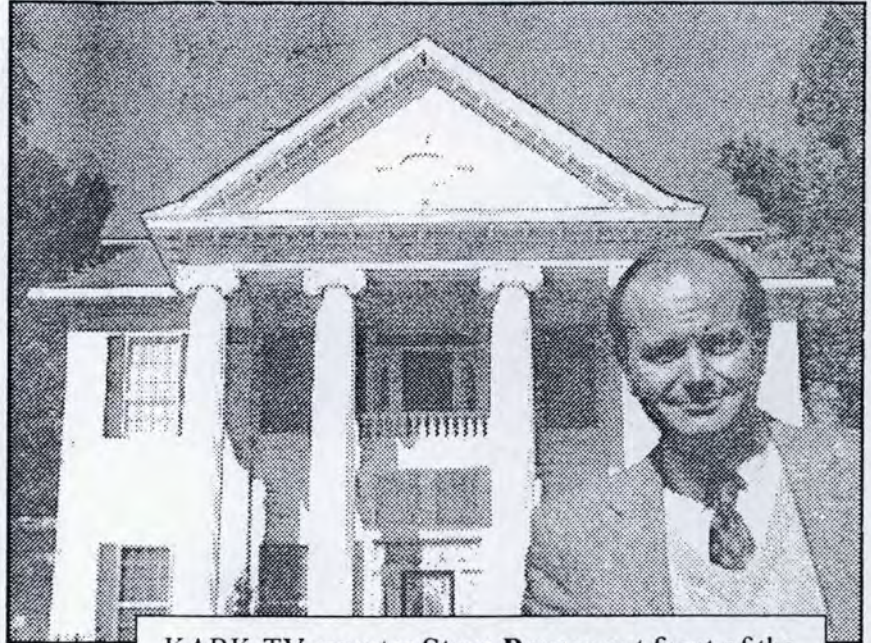
CARDS AND HORNETS: PLAYOFF RESULTS

50¢

# The Parham Report

## More Miss Maud

*A TV update  
on Camden's prime mystery*



KARK-TV reporter **Steve Barnes** out front of the former Maud Crawford home on Clifton Street.

To prove that It Never Ends, longtime TV journalist Steve Barnes called the *Parham Report* this week from Little Rock and said he wanted to come down to Camden for a day to do a short feature on Maud Crawford for KARK (Channel 4).

Sure, said the *Report's* lone reporter, a leading expert on what is Arkansas' most baffling mystery.

Wednesday was the day.

Said reporter meets Mr. Barnes and cameraman John Murphy on a bright and beautiful Fall morning inside the Waff-L-Inn on Bradley Ferry Road. Both are drinking coffee, Mr. Barnes also enjoying a smoke.

"How long have you been working on this story?" asks Mr. Barnes, going quickly to work after the obligatory round of introductions.

The reporter says: since he was a kid, listening to kids' tales. Everyone knows the story about the old Safeway parking lot, the snap beans on the table, etc.

But really, 1979. Just before the reporter left for Fayetteville on his way to becoming a law school dropout. He was two-three weeks away from departing the *Camden News*, decided to make a last fling at the Biggest Story of Them All. One story before he hit the road for the Ozarks — a silly one about a silly letter investigators in the Crawford case received from a silly lawman out in Texas who theorized Maud Crawford had run away and joined a Lonely Hearts Club somewhere. Mr. Kenneth Poindexter wasn't amused. After reading the silly story, he insisted said reporter go see a certain

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

SUNDAY  
NOVEMBER 12, 1995

VOL. 4 — NO. 12

INSIDE

NW Kibitzer strikes again

R.P. Burnham recalls  
WWII hero John Basilone







# Crawford case still unsolved

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

his tether in front of her, she looked like a water-skier.

The Garners waited until their delivery boy, Jeff Porchia, came back to the store from his rounds — which he did at about six o'clock. They sent him up to Maud's — the magnificent Greek Revival home which dominated Clifton Street just up and across the way — with the case of soft drinks, the roast, Maud's all-important snap beans. Closed up shop. Got in the car and drove to Conway to see family.

That was 40 years ago. Life on Clifton Street — well, life in all of Camden, for that matter — has not been the same since.

The 1957 disappearance of Maud Crawford — the foremost woman civic figure of her day, Camden's first and only female alderman, reknown in South Arkansas as an expert in title and abstract work — proved to be much more than a run-of-the-mill missing-person case. What happened to Maud Crawford? became the question of the era. While up in the Capitol City, Little Rock wrestled with the Central High Crisis, here in Camden a previously close-knit and prosperous community tried unsuccessfully to fathom how and why Maud — blustery, fiery, smart-as-a-whip and scrappy old Maud — had vanished without a trace. Leaving behind not one — not *one* — clue.

Whether or not the town wanted to admit it, Camden was held in the grip of the disappearance many years afterward. Not long after Maud disappeared, Shumaker Depot closed and the area went through an unprecedented economic decline which seemed to run parallel to the sinking of spirits in the undertow of the Crawford conundrum. Hers was considered the top disappearance case in Arkansas for fully two decades, until young Bobo Shinn went missing in Magnolia, dislodging public interest in the Camden mystery which had long before turned into just so much stale newsprint.

But back in the days and weeks and months following Maud's disappearance, the case inexplicably captured the fancy of newspaper readers across the country. Police here were beset with mail and telephone calls from people claiming to have seen the miss-

ing attorney at bus stops, train depots, race tracks in distant states. Even Maud's husband, Clyde Crawford, was deluged with correspondence and calls. "Clyde got letters from all over," said Mattie. "I remember the clairvoyants. People would write claiming they could 'see' where she was buried, if he would just send them one of her shoes or a scarf or something. He never did answer them. He kept all those letters in a box. I wish I'd kept that box."

The Garners had no idea anything was amiss until after they drove home the next day — Sunday — from Conway. "When we got back to town and drove down the street to get home, we passed Maud's house and — that yard was *full* of people. You couldn't imagine all the people out front, just standing out front and looking up at that house."

It bothered Mattie that police failed to rope off the house. She noticed dozens of people going inside. "If there was any evidence to be found, I don't see how they could after that crowd of people went through the place," she said.

Police had gotten ahold of their delivery boy and interrogated him about what had happened the night before. As he made his delivery from the Garner grocery to her door, Jeff Porchia was apparently the last known person to see Maud. And it turned out that his father had earlier in the week tilled Maud's garden behind the house. Police went out back and used tomato stakes to probe the broken dirt for her body.

They searched other parts of the neighborhood as well. The Garners remember how the police came to their grocery and opened up a storage box tacked onto the side of the building, only to find it full of empty soft-drink bottles.

Neighbors didn't know what to think. Everybody up and down the street was stricken with fear, each believing he or she might be the next. But it was worst in the huge Crawford house, where several young women boarded in upstairs rooms. "You wouldn't believe how scared those girls were," said Mattie, who recalled she went to the house as soon as she could after the hubbub had somewhat subsided. "Maud's maid dropped a bundle of dirty clothes down the stairwell, and when it hit the floor, everybody *jumped*."

Maud's husband was a natural suspect, but authorities did not hold him very long. They couldn't convince themselves Clyde had harmed his wife, nor could they come up with any evidence implicating him. That didn't save him from public distrust, as he found nobody wanted to hire him afterward.

Clyde was no match for his intelligent, energetic wife. He was a floor-finisher by trade, refinished furniture on the side. Kept a shop behind the house. Where Maud attended civic-club functions with zeal and labored alongside the best legal minds in the region, Clyde was an easy-going, beer-drinking man who worked with his hands and liked to go Downtown to the movies for a good time. Employers might walk onto a job site and catch him immersed in a detective novel, for which he had a weakness. But, never mind, he was the best at what he did.

"When Maud disappeared," said Mattie, "that all changed. Nobody would hire him. They didn't want him in their homes." As time went by, it became apparent just how dependent Clyde was on his wife. "He'd get hungry, and say to us that we'd have to come to his shop and pick out a piece of furniture he'd refinished, so that he'd have something to eat," said Herbert.

"He got lonesome," said Mattie. "Didn't know how to cook. Got to where he hung out at the store because he didn't have anywhere to go or anything to do. He'd get weiners and beans — either that or he'd just not have anything to eat. He was just really pitiful."

Every day, Clyde would come to the store and buy a bottle of orange juice. Might follow that with a Coke. Herbert pulled out a wooden stool to show a visitor. "This is the stool he'd always sit on," said Herbert. "We call it Clyde's Stool."

As Maud's mail continued to arrive at the Clifton Street address, Clyde took each piece and dropped it — unopened — on a hall table. "He wouldn't touch anything of hers," said Mattie. "He'd sell all his stuff out in the shop, but he wouldn't touch any of her furniture in the house. Her clothes, her hair comb, her brush — he didn't touch any of it. Left it all just like she left it."

"He kept looking for her. Always said: 'I believe she'll come back.' But, of course, she never did."

**Next:** that March 2 night.



*The Ritchie-Crawford House (1909)*

*Camden*



## Historical Summary of the Ritchie-Crawford home

*The attached edition reflects the research of the current owners—Bruce and Jodi Eppinette—and is written by them.*



# Ritchie-Crawford-Eppinette Home

430 Clifton  
(Current Residents--Bruce and Jodi Eppinette)  
Built in 1909

According to the abstract for the property, the land was purchased by Meyer (also spelled Myer) Berg in 1862. The Berg family was a very influential Jewish family in the early years of Camden's history and remain prominent in Camden today. At the time of his death in 1881 this property was referred to as his residence. We, therefore, assume that there was a house at this address at that time. The children of Meyer Berg sold the property to Corrie Ritchie (Mrs. Walter Powell Ritchie) in 1909.

In *Patterns--A Social History of Camden* it is stated that the house was built in 1909 by W.P. Ritchie and Bill Bryant, a contractor from El Dorado. On the other hand, in the *Arkansas Democrat, Sunday Magazine* September 22, 1957, Clyde Crawford who owned the home with his wife Maude at that time gave the following information about the house.

It is at least 100 years old. The father of the late Henry Berg, who was born in the room where Maude Crawford was last known to be, probably built the house. It had 10 rooms and one bath; the Crawfords added two rooms and three baths. The remodeling that Mrs. Crawford had done just before her disappearance included enlarging her bedroom and converting adjacent space into a bathroom with a built-in dressing table, furnished in pink, and a walk-in closet.

The changes made in the house during the Crawfords ownership were done to enable them to operate a boarding house for single working girls at the residence. The girls were primarily employed by the local telephone company.

On June 12, 1992, Mrs. Corrie Saxon (now deceased), granddaughter of W.P. and Corrie Ritchie, stated that the original building was removed down to the foundation and the existing house now stands on the original timbers of the Berg home. We have been unable to further document the extent of the renovation done in 1909. We have, also, been unable to locate a photograph of the original Berg home which might provide useful information.

Mr. Ritchie was a prominent businessman in early Camden. The "Sesquicentennial Scrapbook" issue of the *Ouachita County Historical Quarterly* which was published in September of 1986, provides information from a "photo postal" which included the "business directory of Camden, Ark." It was dated 1893. In it W.P. Ritchie had a wholesale ad which featured grain and hay. This publication also states that in 1940 Walter P. Ritchie, Jr., Mr. W.P. Ritchie's only son was the Municipal Judge. According to Mrs. Saxon, her grandfather owned the Rice Belt Telephone Co-op and several gravel wagons.

Mrs. Frances Ritchie Truesdale, daughter of W. P. and Corrie Ritchie provided the following information about the construction of the house in *Patterns--A Social History of Camden*.

The house itself is very well built. The house walls have three layers that are made up of various hardwoods. The two outer walls have a protective paper between them to keep out the moisture that prevails in the Arkansas climate.

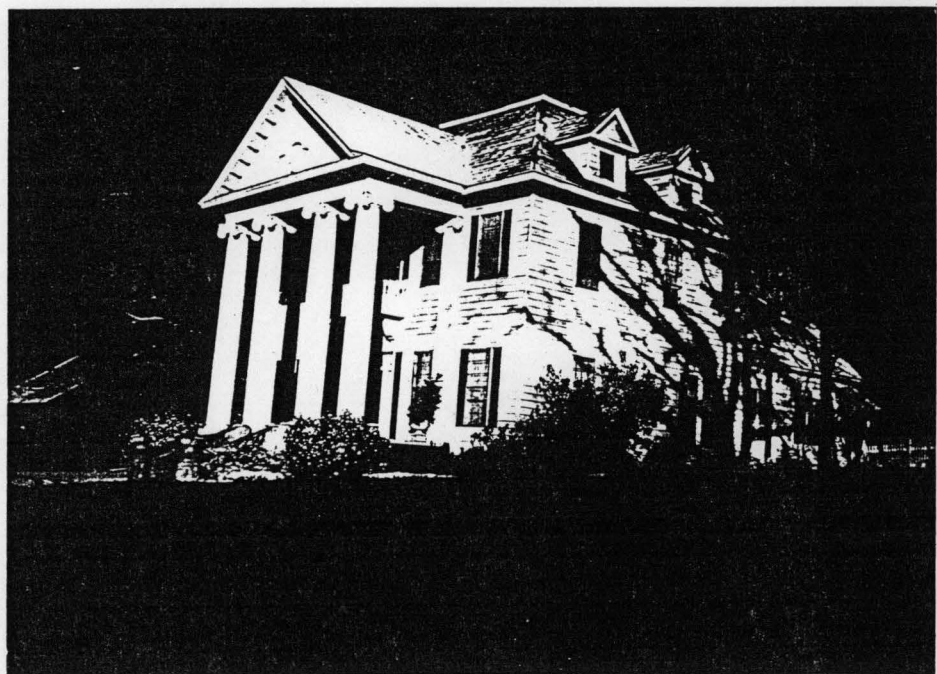
This house is reported by many older citizens of Camden to be the first in Camden where an attempt was made to insulate the structure.

Following Mr. Ritchie's death the family was devastated by the depression. According to the abstract, Mrs. Ritchie mortgaged the house several times to fund stock purchases between 1928 and 1933. In 1934 the Peoples Building and Loan Association of Little Rock foreclosed on the loans with an indebtedness of \$4,626.28.

In 1936 Clyde and Maude Crawford purchased the home from the Peoples Building and Loan Association. They obtained a remodeling loan for the home in 1956. Mrs. Crawford remains one of Camden's most legendary citizens. She was Arkansas' first female attorney, and was well known for her abstract and title work. Mrs. Crawford is, however, most commonly remembered as "a missing person". On the evening of March 2, 1957, she disappeared from the house at 430 Clifton Street. Mrs. Maude Crawford has never been found. Two photocopies of articles from *The Arkansas Democrat* that discuss her disappearance are enclosed.

Twelve years later, after Clyde Crawford's death in 1969, Maude Crawford was "adjudged to be dead since her disappearance". The Crawford's had no children, therefore, James Crawford, nephew of Clyde was appointed executor. He sold the home to Mr. and Mrs. Harold Vinchattle in 1972. During their ownership of the home, aluminum siding and storm windows were added to the house in an attempt to simplify maintenance.

We purchased the residence from Mr. and Mrs. Vinchattle in 1991. Since that time, we have worked to renovate the house. These renovations include central heat and air and extensive roofing work, as well as much cosmetic improvement.





## Historical notes on the original owner of the Ritchie-Crawford house—*Mr. Walter P. Ritchie*

*Mr. Ritchie was a prominent South Arkansas businessman with "extensive interests"—including ownership of one of Arkansas' early telephone exchanges. He was the son of Frank J. Ritchie, a onetime Arkansas State Land Comissioner*

*Biographical sketch from Thomas, Arkansas and Its People*



Alice (Zacharias) Bair, of Maryland, now deceased. After spending a year at York Collegiate Institute, York, Pennsylvania, and taking special courses in mathematics and science at Johns Hopkins University, he matriculated at Cornell University, taking the course in civil engineering. After leaving school he spent ten years with the Ohio State Board of Health, the last five years of which was as principal engineer. During this period he gave lectures on sanitary engineering to the students at the Ohio State University, College of Civil Engineering. During the World War Mr. Bair enlisted in the Engineers' Corps and held the rank of captain prior to his discharge from the army. In 1919, Mr. Bair came to Little Rock, as chief sanitary engineer for the Arkansas Board of Health, and this position he is still filling with efficiency and success. From 1923 to 1927, in addition to his regular duties, he was associate professor of Hygiene and Sanitation at the University of Arkansas Medical School. Mr. Bair is an active member of the Little Rock Engineers' Club, and of the Arkansas Engineers' Club, and in 1925 was president of the Arkansas Chapter of the American Association of Engineers. He is at present secretary-treasurer of the Arkansas State Board of Registration for Professional Engineers. Mr. Bair is a member of the Free and Accepted Masons, affiliating with Hanover Lodge, No. 248. His college fraternity was Theta Xi. Mr. Bair is a member of the Second Presbyterian Church of Little Rock.

Maurice Zacharias Bair was married, on July 23, 1923, to Elizabeth Cantrell Gause, of Tennessee, and they are the parents of one child: W. G., born in October, 1924.

**WALTER POWELL RITCHIE**—One of the outstanding business men and industrialists of the State of Arkansas, Walter Powell Ritchie held a place of importance and esteem in the life of his community, that which centered in and near Camden, where he had extensive interests, and, having been born there, was fully equipped for a life of the greatest possible usefulness to his fellow-men. He knew all the phases of Camden life, as he also knew the traits and qualities of his host of friends and acquaintances, many of whom were materially aided by the work that he had done. Strictest integrity, a spirit of helpfulness in his dealings with his fellow-men, and a marked public spirit—these were the characteristics which, thoroughly a part of him, endeared him readily to the minds and hearts of all who knew him.

Mr. Ritchie was born in Camden, Arkansas, October 9, 1863, a son of Captain Frank J. Ritchie. His father, a highly esteemed citizen in his day, served as State land commissioner for many years in Arkansas. Walter P. Ritchie received his education in the grammar and high schools of his native community, and also attended a private school and studied under Professor Jordon, at Pine Bluff, Arkansas. Upon completing his course of schooling, he became engaged in the transfer business in Pine Bluff, where he remained for several years, until, in 1892, he returned to his former home at Camden and entered the real estate business. Here he bought, sold and rented property that he owned, while he also came to own and operate the Rice Belt Telephone Company, at Stuttgart, Arkansas.

He was actively engaged in this business at the time of his death in 1924, and was widely known for the part that he took in it. Since his death, Mrs. Ritchie has sold the telephone company, but she continues active in the business life of this region of the State, renting her property, numbering about forty private homes, and she is the type of woman who takes a most active part in public affairs, not only being fond of her home and her State, but always looking for an opportunity to do charitable work for her neighbors and those in need. She is a member of the United Daughters of the Confederacy; and, although she was formerly a leader in club work, she has in the last few years turned over her responsibilities in this connection to the younger members. Mr. Ritchie was, in addition to his many other activities, prominent in social and fraternal work, having been a member of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. In all of their extra business endeavors, both Mr. and Mrs. Ritchie were helpful to the people with whom they were associated, and in the affairs of Camden they took an extensive part.

Walter P. Ritchie married, in Camden, Arkansas, December 20, 1890, Carrie Rucks, daughter of Edwin and Albova Rucks, the former of whom was engaged in a general mercantile business in Camden for many years. He served as a private in the Civil War, in which he fought with the army of the South. Walter P. and Carrie (Rucks) Ritchie were the parents of the following children: 1. Ella, born August 29, 1896, was educated in grammar and high schools; she became the wife of S. B. Gardenhire, and they are the parents of one daughter, Carrie. 2. Francis, born December 22, 1900, who studied in the grammar and high schools and then became a student in the University of Arkansas. 3. Walter P., born December 1, 1904, also completed grammar and high school, and then enrolled at the Western Military Academy; he is a graduate in law from Washington and Lee University.

The death of Walter Powell Ritchie, which occurred November 14, 1924, was a cause of widespread and sincere sorrow and regret among his many friends and acquaintances. So useful a man and so valuable a figure had he been in civic and business life, and so close a friend to so many of the citizens of Camden and its environs, that he was known everywhere as a kindly man, one who was liberal in his charities and generous in his opinions of his fellow-men. An indulgent father and a true friend, he was widely and favorably known also in the business circles in which he moved: in the financial life of this State, in real estate quarters, and in the timber land district, where he owned several thousand acres of property. And the people in these different branches of industrial life knew him, not only as a citizen of intense public spirit and a business man of acumen, but as an individual of high qualities of character, and one whose memory will long live in the minds and hearts of his fellow-men.

**JAMES MADISON HAMILTON**—Actively engaged in the realty business in Fayetteville, Arkansas, throughout the later years of his life, James Madison Hamilton held a position of importance in the affairs of his community and State.





W. P. Ritchie.

*Mr. Ritchie as a young man*

Photograph of subsequent owner Maud Crawford—  
prominent Camden attorney whose disappearance  
(discussed in other sections) became Camden's most  
talked about mystery

*Clipping is the beginning of an article in  
in the 1986 "revisitation" series displayed  
subsequently. It is entered here to show  
Mrs. Crawford's prominence*



# Maud Crawford contributed to Camden's heyday in '50s

Beth Brickell  
SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

What type of person is Miss Maud Crawford?," the *Arkansas Gazette* asked March 10, 1957, eight days after Maud Crawford disappeared from her Camden home. "The fact that hundreds of Camden residents have turned out to help search for her and have kept the police and the newspapers deluged with telephone calls seeking information about her disappearance is a partial answer."

A more complete answer lies in an examination of the community in which she lived, because Maud Crawford exemplified a spirit that made Camden great in the 1950s.

In a five-year period, from 1950 to 1955, 5,250 people moved to Camden to swell its population to 6,222, the largest number of people in the history of the city. Forty thousand people lived within a four-mile radius.

By contrast, the 1980 United States Census population figure is 15,356.

Camden was in its heyday in the 1950s and didn't know it.

It thought big. Located on the

Ouachita River, it took seriously its slogan, "Camden on the Ouachita, best town in Arkansas." In fact, citing national data, it reasoned that Camden was "the center of a magic circle within a magic circle" that made it "the ideal industrial city of the South," according to an article in the *Camden News*.

A 1953 New York survey of buying power produced data indicating Camden was "the trading hub for a wide surrounding area standing out as a rich market with families earning more and spending more than those in most cities in the United States."

## Civic pride

Camden was proud.

In the 1920s, Ouachita County had moved from a cotton culture to an oil and timber economy with the discovery of oil at Stephens in 1922, and the construction of International Paper Company at Camden in 1927.

In addition to its large paper mill, Camden reached a national market with Camark Pottery,

(See CRAWFORD on Page 10A.)



Maud Crawford pouring at Girls' State reception at Governor's Mansion in June 1956.

**For home delivery of the Gazette call 371-3800**

...fever for progress, and Benjamin F. Williams established the city's fourth funeral home in an outstanding example of entrepreneurship.

Camden's Municipal Auditorium is the center of community social life. The city was on a classical concert circuit out of New York. Locally, a community calendar of events filled "City Hall" — community plans, an annual Cotton

that Rose Berg's guardianship would pay a sizable fee and that the money should stay in Ouachita County.

Camden could take care of its own.

## Wide-spread reputation

Maud Crawford, another lawyer in the Gaughan law firm, was respected throughout Arkansas and in surrounding states for abstract

Linnie Betts, vice president of the Merchants and Planters Bank, recalled, "She cut her hair all the same length, just under her ears, and she combed it back. If it was windy, her hair was all over everywhere."

Judge Henry S. Yocum Jr. of El Dorado talked about the first time he met her. "The first time I saw Maud Crawford, I felt they had her hid in the back office. She was

Bettye (Mrs. Carter) J. Bracken went to Birmingham, Ala., and became a National Trainer of Girl Scouts, then traveled throughout Arkansas training Girl Scout leaders. Matthew H. Rothert petitioned the secretary of the Treasury to include on all United States paper currency the motto already on coins, "In God we trust." Senator John L. McClellan, who had lived at Camden four years before being

that was in the open in the 1940s and went underground in the 1950s. It was an undercurrent of lawlessness and flagrant violation of personal rights by some threatened to undermine the which was being built by others.

James Hugh Hogg, an accountant for Mike Berg, said, "Camden had just two classes of people: those who worked and those who

Ritchie Crawford house perceived as *contributing to the district and to historical consciousness in Camden*

The fall 1998 issue of the *Ouachita Historical Quarterly* describes the house as “*perhaps the most famous house in the district.*”

*See page 5 of the article—and page 3 of this attachment*



# THE QUARTERLY

OUACHITA  
COUNTY  
HISTORICAL

\$4<sup>00</sup>

FALL 1998

## FORT LOOKOUT

Alexander Hawthorn

*Builder of Camden's  
Civil War fortifications*

## CURRENT NEWS

# National Register presence grows

*Church, house, district make historical list*



**GREENING HOUSE:** The former Methodist parsonage on Greening Street, a two-story Queen Anne structure built in 1890 by Eldridge Greening, is the oldest home in the new Clifton-Greening Historic District.

Three more Ouachita County entries were added this Summer to the National Register of Historic Places. They include the Burkett House in Frenchport, Two Bayou Methodist Church and cemetery off U.S. Highway 278 near Greening's Pond and the Clifton and Greening Streets Historic District, an old Camden neighborhood.

It's the National Register's largest influx of Ouachita County sites since five homes were added in 1974, the year Camden celebrated its Sesquicentennial.

The newest additions raises to 22 the number of National Register entries in Ouachita County. Seventeen are located in Camden.

## Burkett House

Steamboat captain John T. Burkett erected his Folk Victorian house sometime around the turn of the century on a rural road (now

Ouachita 65) at Frenchport. Secluded on a hillside by large shade trees and surrounded by a wrought-iron fence, the structure is remarkable for its simple L-shape floor plan and applied gingerbread details in its second-story porch.

Of more significance is its builder. Captain Burkett is recalled as a planter, lumberman, district penal supervisor and revenue agent.

"The ornate concrete piers, concrete columns and filigree metal balustrades on the wraparound porch attest to a change of decorative taste in the history of this house, but are themselves historic," the state Historic Preservation Program noted when it nominated the Burkett House for the National Register.

Peripheral features of the house include an old well house, garage and barn. A hitching post complements the well-worn iron fence. Nearby is the ruin of a concrete

dipping pit once used to treat cattle for parasites.

## Two Bayou Methodist

Located on Ouachita 125, Two Bayou Methodist Church and its cemetery date back to before 1850. "The earliest known worshippers at the site held services under brush arbors," noted the AHPP.

Before the War Between the States, "a more permanent log building was constructed but destroyed during the Civil War and replaced by another log building. Around 1875, this log building was replaced by the current Two Bayou Methodist Church" added to the National Register.

T.J. Mendenhall built the one-story, wood-frame church in a simple interpretation of Greek-Revival style. The AHPP concluded it was significant "as a pristine example of a rural, one-room





*The isolated, well-shaded circa 1899 Folk Victorian home of Captain John T. Burkett sits behind an iron fence on a rural road near Frenchport.*

vernacular church built in the late 19th Century.

“The church is in near-original condition and retains almost all of its original features.”

The cemetery adjoining the church contains about 120 graves dating from 1850 to 1948.

#### **Clifton-Greening Historic District**

A collection of 39 buildings constructed between 1890 and 1948, the new Clifton and Greening Streets Historic District is mostly contained

in a rectangular area with Clifton and Greening streets and Cleveland and Dallas avenues serving as boundaries.

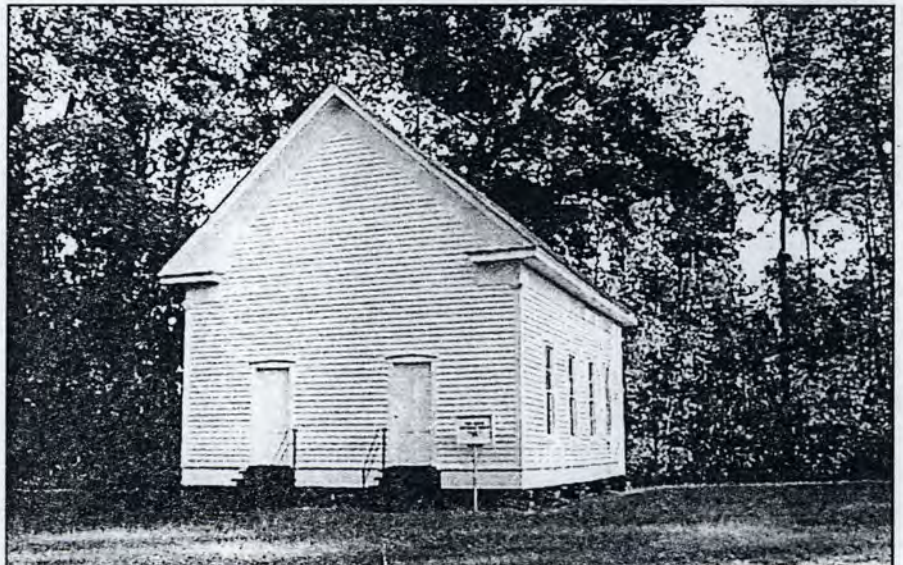
According to the AHPP: “The district presents a visual display of several sequential phases of the town’s residential history through its significant clusters of Queen Anne, Colonial Revival and Craftsman houses, mixed with occasional examples of the Classical Revival, Plain Traditional and Tudor Revival styles.”

The district “represents a neighborhood that has undergone three specific periods of growth” covering “a very wide range of building patterns.” These range from “the initial building of houses at the turn of the century, to the oil boom days of the 1920s and, finally, to the post-World War II defense industry boom.”

Some of the homes in the district include:

➤ the two-story Greening House on Greening Street is the district’s

*Built about 1875  
in Greek Revival style,  
**Two Bayou Methodist Church**  
near Greening’s Pond  
replaced a log house of worship.  
The original church building  
was destroyed  
during the Civil War*





oldest home, built about 1890 by Eldridge Greening. For many years, this Queen Anne structure served as the Methodist parsonage.

➤ dominating the view at the West end of Greening Street, the Ramsey-McClellan-Pryor House was designed in Classical Revival style by noted architect Charles Thompson and built in 1904. Fronted by monumental columns and with a roof balustrade enclosing a Widow's Walk, the house is best known to generations of Camdenites as the former home of the late U.S. Senator John L. McClellan. It is currently undergoing extensive preservation by new owners Henry and Angela Pryor, who hope to finish their project in time to observe the structure's centennial year in 2004..

➤ perhaps the most famous home in the district is the Ritchie-Crawford-Eppinette House on Clifton Street. Wholesale grocer Walter Ritchie reportedly parted with the El Dorado telephone exchange in order to purchase the land, and in 1906 built (in Classical Revival style) what was said to be Camden's largest private residence. South Arkansas' first female attorney, Maud Crawford, disappeared here one rainy night in March of 1957 — for many years the state's most infamous missing-persons mystery. The house is listed on the Arkansas Register of Historic Places.

➤ Garrison Auditorium at the corner of Cleveland and Clifton is all that remains of old Cleveland Avenue School, an early educational institution. Built in 1939, the auditorium (which is still used for Camden Fairview School Board sessions and community meetings)

“exhibits typical Art Deco zigzags and other geometric designs.”

Dr. John Wheeler, who teaches history at Angelo State University in Texas and summers at home on Greening Street, was possessed of such vision for preserving the neighborhood that by 1991 he had made a quiet hobby of acquiring its houses and lots. In 1993, he was instrumental in getting up a neighborhood watch program, which not only had the effect of keeping criminal mischief in check in the somewhat run-down Clifton-Greening block, but of banding

homeowners together in an organized unit. That was a big step forward for what the history professor called a “coterie of residents” interested in salvaging the area.

Just last year, Dr. Wheeler and his some of his neighbors successfully petitioned the AHPP to be officially recognized as the Clifton and Greening Streets Historic District.

In November, the Historic District was showcased by the AHPP as part of its Walks Through History series of tours in historic districts around the state.

## The National Register of Historic Places for Ouachita County

	Year Listed
Poison Springs State Park (1864) rural .....	1969
McCollum-Chidester House (1847) Camden .....	1971
Tate's Barn (circa 1880) Camden .....	1972
Powell-Goodwin-May House (1856) Camden .....	1974
Smith-White House (1856) Camden .....	1974
Elliott-Meek-Nunnally House (1857) Camden .....	1974
Graham-Gaughan-Betts House (1858) Camden .....	1974
Bragg House (1847) rural .....	1974
Leake-Ingham Library (1850) Camden .....	1975
Old Camden Post Office (1896) Camden .....	1977
Richmond-Tufts-Pryor House (1853) rural .....	1977
Tate House (circa 1880) Camden .....	1978
Holt-Poindexter Store (1904) Ogemaw .....	1986
Ouachita County Courthouse (1933) Camden .....	1989
Mt. Prospect Methodist Church (1886) Stephens .....	1990
Old Missouri-Pacific Train Depot (1913) Camden .....	1992
Umsted House (1924) Camden .....	1995
Confederate Women's Monument (1914) Camden .....	1996
Oakland Cemetery - Confederate Section (1864) Camden .....	1997
Two Bayou Methodist Church and Cemetery (1875) Camden ..	1998
John Burkett House (1899) Camden .....	1998
Clifton-Greening Historic District (1890) Camden .....	1998



The Ritchie-Crawford house perceived as *contributing*  
*historically and architecturally*

*Current Chamber of Commerce Historic Driving Tour—  
selecting the Ritchie-Crawford house for one of six feature photographs*

Ritchie-Crawford house as *contributing to the district historically and architecturally*

*District brochure prepared first for the "Walks Through History Tour"—used also in the Camden Daffodil Festival to be used for various other purposes*

*Note use of Ritchie Crawford house as an example of Classical Revival style*



*Brochure*

The Ritchie-Crawford house perceived as *contributing  
historically and architecturally*

*Historic Driving Tour orchestrated in conjunction with the  
1998 Tate Barn Sale—an annual autumn festival in Camden*



# CLIFTON AND GREENING STREETS HISTORIC DISTRICT

## Camden, Ouachita County

### National Register of Historic Places

The Clifton and Greening Streets Historic District area has served as a vibrant residential community in Camden since the 1890's and for some sixty years was a choice area for homebuilding. The area encompasses several residential blocks on the northwest flank of Camden's commercial downtown and can be generally described as a quadrilateral bounded on four sides by Greening, Clifton, and Dallas Streets and Cleveland Avenue – with extensions at several corners.

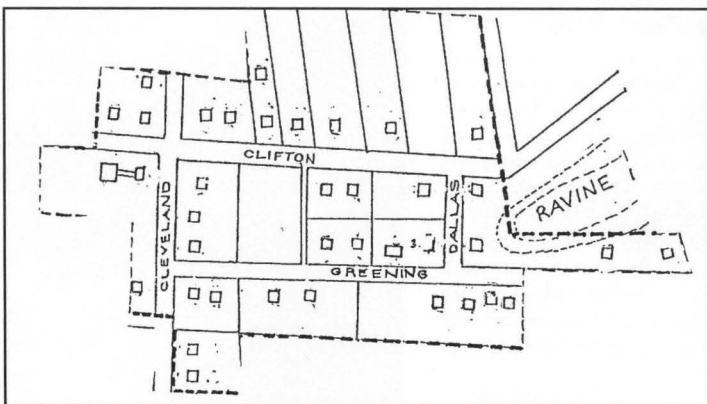
Historically, the area reflects three specific eras of Camden residential development. First came the "turn of the century" expansion to the historic city center which was followed by the building wave accompanying the oil boom. Afterward came the construction brought by the post-World War II defense industry boom.

Architecturally, the District is distinctive in presenting a substantial number of homes which have architectural significance and which have not been substantially altered-- while offering a visual display of several sequential phases of residential building preference. Significant clusters of Queen Anne, Colonial Revival, and Craftsman houses are mixed with occasional examples of Classical Revival, Tudor Revival, and Minimal Traditional styles. In terms of scale and cost, these homes reflect the economic diversity of their residents and owners and this, along with the plurality of styles, demonstrates the spontaneity and diversity of the community's residential development.

Recognition of the Clifton Greening area as a National Register Historic District is a culmination of a neighborhood revival movement energized entirely by a residents and homeowners within the area-- who collectively worked to reverse serious deterioration accompanying the economic doldrums affecting the whole community in the early 1990's. Residents, homeowners, and patrons of the Clifton and Greening Streets Historical Preservation Association hope that an appreciation of our architectural and residential heritage will be extended within the community.



*The Ramsey House (1902) when the neighborhood was new.*





## Architectural Notes

Historic styles in the neighborhood are illustrative of two prominent building waves. The first consisted of several Queen Anne structures — with several Colonial Revival and Classical Revival homes denoting the end of this phase. The second wave came with the oil boom expansion of the 1920's and lasted into the 1930's. Most of the latter structures were Craftsman-styled bungalows with a small number of Tudor Revival and Minimal Traditional houses built later. A few additional structures provide reminders of the post-World War II building boom.

Although homes frequently reflected more than one building style, examples of some types are illustrated below. [Descriptions are informed by Virginia and Lee McAllester, *A Field Guide to American Homes* (Alfred A. Knopf, 1984) and publications of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program].

### Queen Anne

Although variations are many, Queen Anne examples often reflect steeply pitched roofs of irregular shape, asymmetrical facades with a partial or full width porch extending along one or both side walls, ornamental porch supports with frequent use of turned spindles, the use of bay windows, and other distinctive patterns of decorative detailing.

#### *The John Hobson Parker House*

The **Parker House** (C. 1907) reflects Queen Anne features in rooflines, bay projection and gable and porch ornamentation. (Initial recovery was nurtured by Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Garner and recent improvements are by the owner and resident Jon Chadwell.)



#### *The Greening House*

The namesake house for Greening Street and the oldest surviving house in the neighborhood, the **Greening house** (512 Greening) was completed in 1890 for Eldridge Greening, a turn of the century cotton buyer. From 1919 until the 1950's it served as the Parsonage for the First Methodist Church. The house reflects an austere version of Queen Anne style, featuring a hipped roof with intersecting gables, belt courses girding the exterior wall, fishscale shingles in the apex of the front gable, and a bay projection on the west side. Restoration of the wood ornament porch supports, removed in the 1950's, is under consideration. (Restoration and presentation is the work of current residents, John and Karen Coons.)



#### *The Phillips-Peters House*

Built early in the century (at some time before 1907), the **Phillips-Peters home** (448 Clifton), despite the removal of original wood ornament porch detail, reflects Queen Anne trend and features brackets on the front gable. Note the detail (added later) in the stairway at the sidewalk and one of the few old hitching posts remaining in town — most of them in this neighborhood. (Boyhood home of prominent New Orleans businessman, Mr. John Phillips, the home in recent decades has been owned and occupied by the Lloyd Phillips family.)



## Colonial Revival

A revival of colonial styles prevalent in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries is reflected in varying expressions. Those in this area are most easily recognized by classical columns as porch supports (usually Tuscan style), transoms and sidelights as door surrounds, windows with double hung sashes (often with multipane glazing), and cornice returns in gable ends.

#### *The Atchison house*

The **Atchison house**, of early twentieth century origin, is a well kept example of Colonial Revival genre, illustrating Tuscan columns with transoms and sidelights as door surrounds. (It is owned and occupied by longtime residents, Mr. and Mrs. Carroll Atchison).



#### *The Saxon-Moore house*

One of the oldest homes in the neighborhood retaining much of its original exterior, the **Saxon-Moore home** (439 Greening), dating from the very edge of the century, illustrates Tuscan columns, colonial style door surrounds, and cornice returns in gable ends. (For nearly a century in one-family ownership of the Saxon and Moore family, the house is now presented by Ellen Tutt).

## Classical Revival

Although subtypes vary, Classical Revival style (also known as Neoclassical) typically features a full height porch supported by Classical columns — typically Ionic or Corinthian.

#### *The Ramsey-McClellan house*

Demonstrating Neoclassical motif, eclectically combined with Queen Anne elements, the **Ramsey--McClellan house** (210 Cleveland Ave.) was built in 1902 for prominent businessman and banker W.K. Ramsey--and was subsequently occupied by the family of John L. McClellan at the time Mr. McClellan was first elected to the United States Senate. Designed by Arkansas' premier turn of the century architect, Charles Thompson of Little Rock, the house exhibits full height fluted columns capped with composite Ionic capitals. Both the first and second stories have curved porches that extend in a semicircular sweep around the front of the house; and a roof balustrade encloses a "widow's walk." (The house is currently in restoration by the owners, Angela and Henry Pryor).



#### *The Ritchie-Crawford house*

In striking display of Neoclassical style is the **Ritchie-Crawford house** (430 Clifton), which features full height fluted columns capped with Ionic capitals which support the roof of a two-story porch. Above the porch is a classical pediment punctuated with an in-filled ox-eye window. Completed in 1909 for the family of businessman Walter Ritchie, the home in subsequent decades was owned by Clyde and Maud Crawford. It was from this home that Mrs. Crawford, an attorney, mysteriously disappeared on March 2, 1957 in one of Arkansas' most talked about unsolved mysteries. (Restoration is the work of the current owners and residents, Bruce and Jodi Eppinette.)

## Craftsman

A modern expression in American architecture, emanating from the Arts and Crafts moment and especially popular in 1905-1930 era, Craftsman style shunned historical precedents featuring elaborate design to favor styling that was comfortable, practical, and affordable. Structures in this mode typically display overhanging eaves, asymmetrical massing, exposed rafters, beams or braces under gables, and ample porches often supported by square columns. The coincidence of Craftsman trend with Camden's oil boom days produced numerous structures of this genre — and the style represents a major component of the District's composition and numerically the largest single category. Most Craftsman houses in the district are in simple bungalow style but a few transcend that in style and scale.

#### *The Dunn house*

Such Craftsman features as wide eave overhang, exposed rafters, and square columns as porch supports are seen in the **Dunn house** (506 Clifton), built between 1922 and 1924 in the oil boom days for Mrs. J. Dunn on the site where a previous house had burned. The observer should recognize similarities to many other structures in town dating from that time.



#### *The Morgan-Aleshire house*

Built for well known businessman, Mr. A.L. Morgan in 1918, the **Morgan home** (408 Clifton) represents one of the earlier and more expansive of the Craftsman structures in town. Note the ample porch with square brick column supports — and also the detail in the stairway to the street. (Much restoration has been done by the current owners and residents, George and Sandra Aleshire.)

#### *The Lisle house*

Also one of the more expansive oil boom Craftsman houses (it cost \$10,000 at the time), the **Lisle home** was built in the early 1920's for Mr. J.S. Lisle, whose timber business merged with oil interests. Such Craftsman marks as wide eaves and exposed rafters are blended here with a Colonial Revival touch in porch supports. (Current residents are Pam and Dean Johnston.)





## Tudor and Minimal Traditional

The plurality of styles in the District – and in older Camden generally – is seen the occasional incidence of other styles such as Tudor Revival (with steeply pitched roofs, facades dominated by prominent and steeply pitched cross gables, and frequent use of decorative half-timbering). Minimal Traditional style, which became popular in the 1930's depression years, was expressed as a simplified mode abandoning most of the traditional detailing of earlier styles.



### *The Mullins house and the Redding house*

The **Mullins house** (left and at 233 N. Cleveland) is a 1930's duplex in Tudor style; and the **Redding house** (below and at 440 Clifton), built in the 1930's for Sam Redding (now owned by Wanda and Tony Silen), illustrates Minimal Traditional motif.

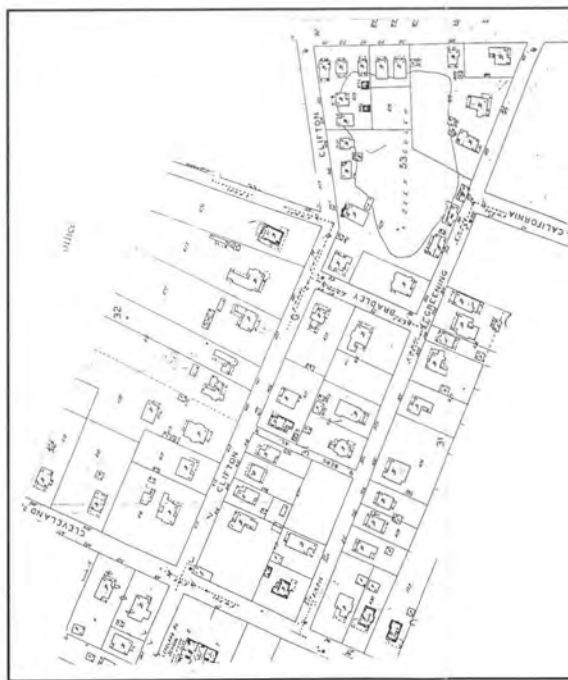


## Post-World War II Building



### *Berg Apartments*

One of the more substantial illustrations of the last major phase of neighborhood building (filling in the spaces with rental properties in the 1940's-1950's era), the **Berg Apartments** were built by Mrs. Henry Berg in the early 1950's and became a choice location for apartment living. (The apartments are now owned by neighborhood residents Jodi and Bruce Eppinette and John Wheeler and are reserved for persons over 62.)



**OTHER HISTORICAL LOCATIONS**, previously noted, are the onetime **home of Senator John L. McClellan** (210 Cleveland Ave.); the location of the mysterious **disappearance of Maud Crawford** (430 Clifton); the **Old Methodist Parsonage** (512 Greening); the **old Corner Grocery** (now the office of H and R Block, at 535 Cleveland Ave.)

*The Clifton-Greening Neighborhood in 1930 (Sanborn Fire Insurance Map)*

## Historical Notes

In addition to being home to a number of prominent Camden citizens through the years, the Clifton and Greening Historical District includes several sites of historical interest.

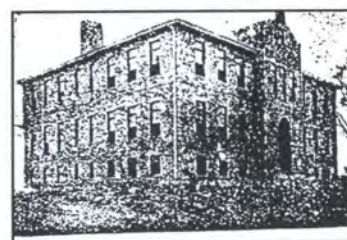
The eastern edge of the District merges into **THE OLD RAVINE**, one of old Camden's most distinctive geographical features – an identifiable depression running for perhaps a mile across the northern stretch of early Camden, carrying a stream once known as Melvina Creek. The most pronounced portion comprises a “deep gulch” (as the old maps say) sinking below an arc formed by Greening, Dallas (old Bradley), and Clifton Streets. From the “gulch” flows a spring, which – according to the classic 1891 map of J. Victor Pedron (as interpreted by Edward Parham) – was the only spring within the limits of the old town.



*Mr. Newton's Vineyard  
(photograph of painting courtesy of Edward Parham)*



*Cleveland Avenue School, 1939*



*Original School 1909-10*

The environs of the spring have an interesting history. Old timers reminisced about gathering water there and walking in the shade among ferns. An antebellum **Female Academy** (taught by Miss Maria Fellows) perched above on the ravine's southwest rim, from whence schoolchildren reportedly were dispatched to fetch water. A map of 1912 vintage locates a “chemical laboratory” (involving work with lignite) on the Greening St. edge. In subsequent years – but within living memory of “old timers” today – the ravine hosted a “natatorium” – an above ground swimming pool drawn from spring water. Still later, in pre-World War II years, Mr. Newton, whose home (now owned by Sandy and Wayne Baker) stands at the corner of Greening and Dallas, terraced the hillside into a vineyard – with walkways winding downward from street to spring level. (Some information about the ravine – and the accompanying picture – is courtesy of Edward Parham. See his article “Search for the Spring” in the *Ouachita Historical Quarterly*, Spring 1991.)

At the District's western end is the site of the old **CLEVELAND AVENUE SCHOOL**, which served for years as Camden's, largest elementary institution and is remembered by many Camden residents approaching age fifty or more. The original building built in 1909-10 was razed in the early 1960's but an annex built in 1939 is one of the few older Camden school buildings still standing and now serves as Garrison Auditorium



*Garrison Auditorium*



# Driving Tour Of Camden

*See Civil War sites and lovely Old South architecture on this engaging tour of Camden's most historic homes, buildings and landmarks.*



1. The Bragg Home, 2370 Hwy 4, was built in 1850 for timber tycoon Peter Bragg. During the Civil War, a skirmish here left mini balls buried in the walls.\*
2. The Elliott-Meek Home, 761 Washington St., was built in 1857 for Judge James Thomas Elliott. See this excellent example of Greek Revival architecture.\*
3. The Graham-Gaughan-Betts Home, 710 Washington St., was built for Maj. Joseph M. Graham in 1856. During Union occupation, Gen. Frederick Steele was a "guest" resident. Open for tours by appointment.\*
4. The McCollum-Chidester Home, 926 Washington St., was built for Peter McCollum in 1847. During the Civil War, the home was first occupied by Confederate Gen. Sterling Price, then Union Gen. Frederick Steele. Some of the original furnishings are still in this home which is open for tours. While here, see the Leake-Ingam building, circa 1850.\*
5. Oakland Farm, 902 Tate St., circa 1868. Rosewood furniture, brought up the Ouachita river by the original owner, still graces this lovely home. Tate's Barn and a Commemorative Indian Monument are also on site.\*
6. The Benjamin T. Powell-May Home, 305 California St., circa 1859. Features include the circular stairway, working shutters and original plaster work. Union Gen. Rice headquartered here during the Civil War.\*
7. The Richmond-Tuffs Home, built in 1853, was moved to its present location on Hwy. 24 West from its original Washington Street location next to the Elliott-Meek Home.\*
8. The Roland B. Smith Home, 234 Agee St., was built in 1796. It was enlarged in 1845 and recently restored to the home's period style.\*
9. The Umsted House, 404 Washington St., was built in 1923 for oil magnate Sidney Umsted. The elegant Mediterranean style home is now a bed and breakfast and also available for tours and parties.\*
10. The Martin-Carnes-Milner Home, 132 California St., circa 1924. This graciously restored home was Camden's first bed and breakfast. It's also open for tours and parties.
11. The Old Post Office, 133 Washington St., opened in 1895, housing the U.S. Post Office and Federal Land Office.\*
12. & 13. Fort Southerland (eastern Camden) and Fort Lookout (north Camden) are earthen cannon enclosures built by the Confederates to defend against Union attack.\*\*\*
14. Oakland Cemetery, Maul Road and Adams Street, hold Confederate and Union dead, as well as some of Camden's early citizens.\*\*\*
15. The Richie-Crawford-Eppinette Home, 430 Clifton St., circa 1909. The disappearance of Maude Crawford, a local attorney, from this home in 1957 remains an unsolved mystery.\*\*
16. Treadway's Slough, east end of Washington Street at the Ouachita River. The river that "was almost stolen."
17. The Ramsey-McClellan-Pryor House, 210 Cleveland Ave., was built for W.K. Ramsey in 1902. Designed by Charles Thompson, it exemplifies neo-classical style and features full height porch columns with ionic capitals that are eclectically combined with Queen Anne elements.\*\*\*\*
18. The Greening House, 512 Greening, was built in 1890 for Eldridge S. Greening, a prominent cotton merchant at the turn of the century. It reflects Queen Anne architectural style, and it is the oldest surviving structure in the immediate





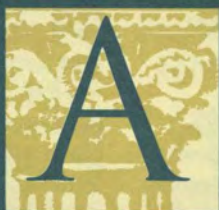
neighborhood.\*\*\*\*

- \* Listed on the National Register of Historic Places in America.
- \*\* Listed on the Arkansas Registry of Historic Places.
- \*\*\* National Historic Landmark.
- \*\*\*\* The Clifton and Green Streets Historic District

# Memorial of Events

<p>446 Galt P.O. B. Garden, Ark. E. (1900)</p>	<p>100% off 100% off 100% off</p>	<p>Records Records Records</p>
<p>355 1 and 2nd Canaan, Arkansas ST. LOUIS, MO.</p>	<p>100% off 100% off 100% off</p>	<p>Records Records Records</p>
<p>1st / 2nd / 3rd Lunch Buffet \$5 Burger \$5</p>	<p>100% off 100% off 100% off</p>	<p>Records Records Records</p>
<p>CHINESE RESTAURANT CHINESE RESTAURANT</p>	<p>100% off 100% off 100% off</p>	<p>Records Records Records</p>

# ABERDEEN



## SEARCH FOR THE GOLD

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AN  
ARCHITECTURAL  
DRIVING TOUR



# ABERDEEN

## *Before You Begin Your Search...*

Aberdeen is famous for her variety of architectural styles, stained and leaded glass windows, towers, bays, and brackets. Today you will search for these treasures. The curb in the front of each house is marked with a gold coin in whose center is a number which corresponds to the number in this brochure.

*Begin your tour at The Magnolias. View #1, #2, and #3 from the sidewalk on Commerce Street. Viewing from the street in your car is dangerous due to heavy traffic on Commerce Street.*



## A BRIEF HISTORY OF ABERDEEN

Aberdeen has had a strong impact on the social, political, and economic development of northeast Mississippi since her beginning in 1837. Robert Gordon, Aberdeen's founder, acquired the land from the Chickasaw Indians. He laid out the town, began selling lots, and named the city for his native Aberdeen, Scotland.

In 1848, Aberdeen became the county seat of Monroe County, the largest, and for a while the only county north of Jackson. Aberdeen has been the seat of Federal District Court serving the Northern District since 1882.



Socially speaking, many wealthy planters, lawyers, and shop-keepers lived and entertained in Aberdeen. The city remained a seat of culture and



gracious Southern hospitality due to her opera house, theater, schools, college, academies, and wonderful stores.

Politically, Aberdeen has been "where the action is" since 1848. Court was held here. Judges, lawyers, and clients flocked to Aberdeen.

Anyone running for public office made it his business to court Aberdonians.

During her entire history, Aberdeen has remained prosperous even when the nation has not. Consequently, Aberdeen boasts outstanding examples of almost every period and style of Southern architecture. Antebellum cottages and mansions; ornate Victorians with gingerbread, stained and leaded glass, towers, brackets, and bays; turn-of-the-century neoclassical homes; and 1920-1930 substantial bungalows all vie for your attention. Aberdeen's variety of architectural styles is truly her treasure.

*Enjoy your tour and visit to Aberdeen. Inquire about other tours, attractions, and brochures. We hope you will return often to "Search for the Gold."*



historic  
**ABERDEEN**  
mississippi  
Historically significant.  
Architecturally magnificent.



## PERIODS

**ANTEBELLUM** Approximately 1835-1865

**VICTORIAN** Approximately 1860-1895

**TURN OF THE CENTURY** 1895-1920

## House styles of each period

(Periods overlap as styles evolve slowly with changing tastes).

### ANTEBELLUM STYLES

**GREEK REVIVAL** - Classical in the style of a Greek temple.

**"I" HOUSE** - Refers to room arrangement, two rooms wide with a hall between, one room deep.

### ANTEBELLUM AND VICTORIAN STYLES

**ITALIANATE** - Usually two or three-story asymmetrical with a tower, tall arched windows, low pitched roof.

**GOthic** - Steeply pitched roof, usually with cross gables and decorative trim patterned after gothic churches.

### VICTORIAN STYLES

**SHINGLE STYLE** - Usually of wood shingles with steep roof line and wide porches.

**SECOND EMPIRE** - Usually has a mansard roof and dormers.

**EASTLAKE** - Folk style with spindles and cutout trim.

### VICTORIAN AND TURN OF THE CENTURY

**QUEEN ANNE** - Usually asymmetrical with one-story porch.

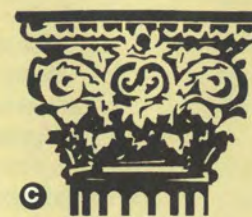
**ECLECTIC** - Of mixed stylistic elements...showing more than one style.

### TURN OF THE CENTURY STYLES

**COLONIAL REVIVAL** - Similar to houses built during the pre-Revolutionary War period.

**PRAIRIE** - Four Square Style - Large substantial looking, usually with piers and square pillars.

**TUDOR REVIVAL** - Dark exposed timbers with stucco, usually of brick.



**NEOCLASSICAL** - Using elements from classical Greek architecture such as columns and pediments.

**CRAFTSMAN** - A more severe style, square with plain features, characteristic of the Arts and Crafts Era.

**AIRPLANE BUNGALOW** - A house laid out in the shape of an airplane, body flanked by wings.

## ROOF LINE DESCRIPTIONS

**HIPPED** - Roof with four sloping sides.

**MANSARD** - Hipped roof with steep slope at the bottom.

**GABLED** - Pointed roof, triangular ends.

**GAMBREL** - Roof slopes steeply at bottom, less steeply at top.

**DORMERS** - Small roofed units interrupting the roof line usually with windows.

**TURRETS, TOWERS** - Tall structures with separate roof can be square, round or multi-sided.

**CUPOLA** - Structure that looks like part of a tower set on the roof.

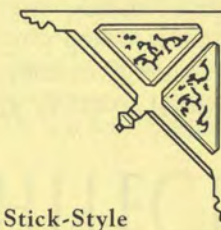
**PEDIMENT** - Area over columns or a bow window or door, often triangular.



Vergeboard with crossbracing, post



Vergeboard with no crossbracing, post



Stick-Style Bracket

## COLUMN TYPES AND PARTS

**CAPITALS** - Tops of Columns

**TUSCAN** - Plainest, most common type of column.

**A DORIC** - Square, round or fluted column, plain capital.\*\*\*

**B IONIC** - Column with curved design on capitals.\*\*\*

**C CORINTHIAN** - Usually fluted with most elaborate capitals.\*\*\*

**CHAMFERED POSTS** - Corners are shaved off square posts.

\*\*\* See drawings at the top of the page.

## CONSTRUCTION DETAILS

**FREE CLASSIC** - When used with Queen Anne refers to porch treatment...columns are used instead of turned posts.

**BOARD AND BATTEN** - Vertical siding features wide and narrow boards.

**JIB WINDOWS** - Area below windows opens when window is raised to act as a door.

**SPANDRELS** - Decorative pieces between columns or posts.

**BARGE BOARD** - Verge Board - Shaped or decorated boards directly below roof, usually in gable ends of buildings. \*See drawing below.

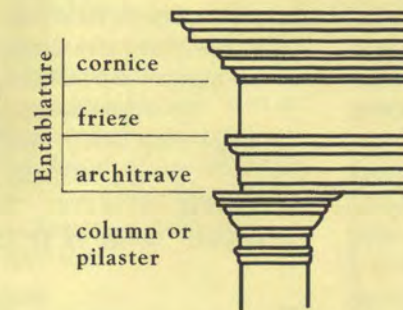
**TRANSOM** - Window above door.

**ENTABLATURE** - Area between roof line and columns\*\*.

**CORNICE** - Top section of entablature area immediately below roof\*\*.

**FRIEZE** - Area of an entablature below the cornice\*\*.

\*\* See Drawing below.



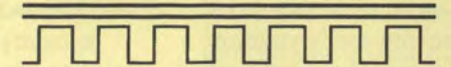
**BALUSTRADE** - Porch railing.

**PORTE-COCHERE** - Covered area attached to house to drive under in a carriage or vehicle.

**IMBRICATED** - Shaped, as in shingles.

## DESIGN TERMS

**DENTICULATED** - Decorated with small squares that look like teeth.



**TREFOIL PENDANT**



**GREEK KEY PATTERN**



## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

A list maintained by the U. S. Department of the Interior of places of historical significance. Being placed on this list protects the property from encroachment or damage by federally funded projects.





# BERDEEN - AN ARCHITECTURAL DRIVING TOUR

**1. THE MAGNOLIAS** - 732 WEST COMMERCE - ANTEBELLUM  
Greek Revival mansion completed in 1850. Outbuildings of antebellum date, detached kitchen and well house.  
*The next house may be viewed across the street to the southwest.*

**2. SUNSET HILL / GENERAL REUBEN DAVIS HOME** - 803 WEST COMMERCE - ANTEBELLUM  
Greek Revival mansion, built in 1847. Front has eight massive fluted Doric columns supporting a heavy entablature across the front and halfway around the sides, front double doors surrounded with sidelights and a Greek key pattern.  
*The next house may be seen to the east of the Magnolias on the same side of the street.*

**3. PREWETT PLACE** - 730 WEST COMMERCE - ANTEBELLUM  
Greek Revival with neoclassical renovations, built in 1840. Two-story frame with front one-story verandah, central pediment is two-story supported by paired square columns.  
*Return to your car, turn left out of The Magnolias driveway, drive two blocks. Note the parkway of magnolias at the beginning of the second block. At the end of the second block on the left is the next home. Turn right onto Franklin Street before viewing #4.*

**4. WATKINS / JACKSON HOME** - 600 WEST COMMERCE - TURN OF THE CENTURY  
Queen Anne with Colonial Revival overtones. Built in 1905. Leaded and stained glass should be noted.

Franklin Street was known as "Silk Stocking Avenue" because so many fine homes were built here in the late Victorian era. In the interest of space not all are listed.  
*The next home is on the right on Franklin Street.*

**5. WATKINS HILL** - 205 S. FRANKLIN ST. - TURN OF THE CENTURY  
The original portion of the house was built in 1897 in the Queen Anne Style, renovated in 1924 in the Prairie Style.  
*The next house is across the street on the left.*

**6. SCRIVENER HOUSE** - 206 S. FRANKLIN ST. - VICTORIAN  
Colonial Revival, circa 1900. Wraparound porch with Tuscan columns and a balustrade.  
*The next house is on the right.*

**7. VICTORIA** - 209 S. FRANKLIN - VICTORIAN  
Eclectic with Eastlake verandah, Italianate bay, brackets, board and batten. Built in 1870. Etched ruby glass in the double front doors, Italianate arches with slender colonnettes.  
*The next house is on the right in the next block*

**8. SHADOWLAWN / JUDGE EUGENE OCTAVE SYKES HOME** - 303 S. FRANKLIN ST. - ANTEBELLUM - VICTORIAN  
Italianate, a portion of this home built in 1863, additions in 1874. Brick kitchen portion is probably earlier; double doors in recessed front entry; originally had a three-story tower over the entry which was destroyed by fire.  
*The next house is on the left.*

**9. TRANQUILITY** - 304 S. FRANKLIN - TURN OF THE CENTURY  
Colonial Revival, free classic Queen Anne overtones, wraparound porch with Tuscan columns.  
*The next house is on the right.*

**10. MAXCY HOUSE** - 305 S. FRANKLIN - TURN OF THE CENTURY  
Spanish Eclectic Style, remodeling of a Victorian house during the 1920's to emulate the hacienda style house popular in Florida during that period.  
*The next house is on the left.*

**11. BUENA VISTA** - 308 S. FRANKLIN - TURN OF THE CENTURY  
Colonial Revival, built in 1897. Hipped roof, second story gallery, wraparound first story porch, applied Colonial Revival ornament, swags, bows and wreaths.  
*The next house is on the left.*

**12. STEAMBOAT** - 312 S. FRANKLIN - TURN OF THE CENTURY  
Free Classic Queen Anne, built in 1899. Rounded one story porch with columns.  
*The next house is on the left.*

**13. VICTORIAN JEWEL** - 404 S. FRANKLIN - VICTORIAN  
Queen Anne cottage with shingle style, built in 1885. Tower, leaded stained glass panel, beaded board, sunburst carving, rounded corners, sidewall shingles, patterned upper sash window.  
*The next house is on the right.*

**14. SILK STOCKING ROW** - 413 S. FRANKLIN - VICTORIAN  
Second empire, built in 1895. Mansard roof with original slate, cast iron "wedding ring" surrounding the tower.  
*The next house is diagonally across the street on the corner facing Monroe Street. Do not turn.*

**15. PARSON GUNN** - 519 MONROE ST. - ANTEBELLUM  
Greek Revival cottage, built in 1848. Double doors with elaborate sidelights.  
*The next house is on the right.*

**16. LEFTWICH HOUSE** - 503 S. FRANKLIN - VICTORIAN  
Second Empire, built in 1883. Multi-level mansard roof with the original slate covering, three-story tower, many arched windows, cast iron balcony, see through chimney opening, engraved red bohemian glass.  
*The next house is on the left.*

**17. NEVILLE / THOMPSON** - 510 S. FRANKLIN - TURN OF THE CENTURY  
Free Classic Queen Anne, built in 1905. Metal roof shingles, wraparound front porch with Ionic columns, hipped roof with dormers.  
*The next house is on the right.*

**18. MECKFORD** - 511 S. FRANKLIN - VICTORIAN  
Victorian stick style, built in 1884. Pierced corner brackets, bay, decorative sawn frieze, interesting window surrounds.  
*Turn left on High Street the next house is on the right after you turn the corner.*

**19. ADELIA'S DREAM HOME / PHILLIPS** - 511 HIGH ST. - TURN OF THE CENTURY  
Colonial Revival style, built about 1907. Large gabled dormer, metal shingled roof, curved portico with Ionic columns, door with oval beveled glass window.  
*The next house is on the right.*

**20. ALLMOND HOME** - 509 HIGH - TURN OF THE CENTURY  
Swiss chalet style bungalow, built about 1920. Accents of imbricated shingles and exposed struts.  
*The next house is on the left.*

**21. MCKNIGHT** - 506 HIGH ST. - VICTORIAN - TURN OF THE CENTURY  
Queen Anne built in 1895. Asymmetrical house, front porch features a spindled frieze, corner pavilion, gables have pierced bargeboards.  
*The next house is on the right.*

**22. GABLES** - 503 HIGH ST. - VICTORIAN - TURN OF THE CENTURY  
Queen Anne influence, built in 1898. Twin steeply pitched gables with circular windows and intricate decorative bargeboards in the points of the gables.  
*The next house is on the left. Do not turn on Long Street.*

**23. WISTERIA** - 519 SOUTH LONG ST. - VICTORIAN - TURN OF THE CENTURY  
Queen Anne, built in 1896.  
*The next house is on the right.*

**24. WATLINGTON / DUGAN** - 407 HIGH ST. - TURN OF THE CENTURY  
The central two-story section dates from the late 19th century period. Note the fine entrance way. Additions changing the style date from the 1920's and are eclectic craftsmanship with a bungalow influence.  
*The next house is on the right in the next block.*

**25. DUNLEE** - 301 HIGH ST. - ANTEBELLUM  
Greek Revival cottage, built in 1853. Front portico with box columns supporting a pedimented gable roof, double doors with clear sidelights. Two of the original outbuildings which remain are the narrow smokehouse and small brick detached kitchen.  
*The next house is on the left.*

**26. JOHNSON / BUTLER** - 210 HIGH ST. - TURN OF THE CENTURY  
Built in 1921. This house has significance as an example of an airplane bungalow with Japanese design elements.  
*The next house is on the right*

**27. MAGNOLIA HILL** - 205 HIGH ST. - ANTEBELLUM  
Greek revival, built in 1848. Pedimented porch supported by paired columns, double doors with transom and sidelights.  
*Turn right on Hickory Street, then left at the end of the block on Burnett, then left again on Meridian Street, and on your left is the next house.*

**28. HOLLIDAY HAVEN** - 609 S. MERIDIAN - ANTEBELLUM  
Greek Revival mansion built in 1850. Note the paired fluted Doric columns, Greek key motif in the frontispiece, jib windows on the first floor, sheaf of wheat railing on the second story balcony.  
*The next house is on the left.*

**29. C. C. DAY** - 517 S. MERIDIAN ST. - TURN OF THE CENTURY  
Tudor Revival, built in 1926. This house is one of the most academically correct expressions of Tudor Revival style in Mississippi.  
*The next house is on the left.*

**30. CARRINGTON** - 501 S. MERIDIAN ST. - ANTEBELLUM  
Greek Revival raised cottage, built in the 1850's. Note the portico with box columns.  
*The next house is on the right.*

**31. GREGG-HAMILTON** - 410 S. MERIDIAN ST. - ANTEBELLUM - VICTORIAN  
Italianate/Gothic Revival influence, built in 1850. Planter's cottage, Italianate style double doors and sidelights, lozenge shaped windows in front facade frieze, oval windows in side gables, scrolls above windows.  
*The next house is on the left.*

**32. OLD HALE HOUSE** - 407 S. MERIDIAN ST. - TURN OF THE CENTURY  
Neo-classical, built in 1907. Wraparound front porch, rusticated block foundation pedestals supporting fluted Ionic columns, imbricated shingles in the porch roof gable.  
*Turn left on Madison Street. The next house is on the left.*

**33. SHOWBOAT** - 109 MADISON ST. - ANTEBELLUM - VICTORIAN  
Built in 1856. Italianate with chamfered posts, brackets, two-story central portion, pierced spandrels, dentillated frieze.  
*Turn right on South Hickory. Note the large number of spacious bungalow style homes dating from the first quarter of the 20th century. The next house is on the left at the corner.*

**34. HUDSON / PICKLE** - 303. HICKORY ST. - VICTORIAN - TURN OF THE CENTURY  
Queen Anne, built in 1895. Unique bowed front windows with fixed leaded glass transoms, side gables accented by spindled scrollwork and horizontal beaded board.  
*The next house is on the right in the next block.*

**35. LENOIR COTTAGE** - 206 S. HICKORY ST. - VICTORIAN  
Folk Victorian, built in 1890.  
*Turn left on Washington Street. The next house is on the left.*

**36. GREENLEAVES / G.H. WATKINS** - 209 W. WASHINGTON ST. - VICTORIAN  
Italianate influence, built in 1883. Wraparound front gallery with chamfered posts with simple capitals, scrollwork corner brackets, balustrade accents on second story of the gallery, porte-cochere. Playhouse is similar in design to the main house.  
*The next house is on the left.*

**37. BERGMAN / TACKETT** - 309 W. WASHINGTON ST. - TURN OF THE CENTURY  
Dutch Colonial Revival, built about 1915. An example of an architectural style not often seen in this part of the county; rusticated block, semi-circular portico, gambrel roof.  
*Turn left on Long Street (note the Gothic style barn at the intersection). The next house is on the right (northwest corner of Long and Jefferson Streets).*

**38. THE OLD SCHOOL HOUSE** - 500 W. JEFFERSON ST. - ANTEBELLUM  
Antebellum cottage, built in 1847, with craftsman style additions about 1920.  
*The next house is on the left across the intersection (southeast corner).*

**39. OLD PRESBYTERIAN MANSE** - 300 S. LONG - VICTORIAN  
Built in 1883. Italianate with chamfered posts with capitals, scroll work corner brackets, bay, trefoil pendants and a frieze accented by paired scroll work brackets.  
*The next house is on the right. (southwest corner)*

**40. EVERGREEN** - 303 S. LONG ST. - ANTEBELLUM  
Greek Revival, built in 1848. Later changes are of eclectic craftsman style with bungalow influence. (House has been raised up and down several times and even truncated. Last major renovations were 1910.)  
*The next house is on the right.*

**41. WHITE / FITTS** - 403 S. LONG ST. - ANTEBELLUM  
Antebellum cottage with Italianate additions. The original portion (two rooms separated by a large hallway and a detached kitchen) was built in 1845. Note the paired columns across the porch and stained glass over the door.  
*The next house is on the right across the intersection (southwest corner of Long and Monroe Streets). Stop at the intersection to view, then turn left on Monroe.*

**42. CRESTWOOD** - 501 MONROE ST. - VICTORIAN - TURN OF THE CENTURY  
Free classic Queen Anne, built in 1894. Note the gabled dormers, wraparound one-story porch with paired columns, leaded stained glass.  
*After turning left on Monroe Street the next house is on the right at the corner of Monroe and Columbus Streets.*

**43. LASKY / SANDERS** - 500 S. COLUMBUS ST. - TURN OF THE CENTURY  
Colonial Revival, built about 1910. Hipped roof with dormers, half round gable windows, leaded glass, rusticated block foundation, wraparound front porch with balustrade, Ionic columns and corner pavilion.  
*The next house is on the right.*

**44. WOFFORD / HILL** - 301 W. MONROE ST. - VICTORIAN - TURN OF THE CENTURY  
Free Classic Queen Anne built about 1895. Polygonal tower, leaded and stained glass flanks the front door, leaded glass transom over curved window, porch roof is pierced by a small gable displaying a sunburst motif.  
*The next house is on the right after crossing Meridian Street.*

**45. CAP'N LANN** - 105 E. MONROE ST. - ANTEBELLUM  
The original eastern section of the house dates from antebellum times. The western portion was added in 1874. Italianate style. House once sported a tower above the front entrance where there is now a gable.  
*Continue straight one block, turn left on Locust Street. The next house is on your left at the end of the second block (corner of Jefferson and Locust Streets).*

**46. LAWRENCE SMITH / J. DUDLEY WILLIAMS LAW OFFICE** - 301 S. LOCUST ST. - ANTEBELLUM  
Greek Revival Cottage, about 1845. Pedimented gable supported by box columns.  
*Turn left on Jefferson Street. The next house is on the right at the corner.*

**47. O. M. WEST** - 210 S MAPLE ST. - VICTORIAN - TURN OF THE CENTURY  
Queen Anne, about 1890. Complex gable roof, wraparound porch with two sets of stairs with balustrades and newel posts, corner brackets and spindled frieze.  
*The next house is on the left across the intersection.*

**48. GRIFFIN HOUSE** - 107 E. JEFFERSON ST. - ANTEBELLUM  
Greek Revival, 1854. Aberdeen's only example of an "I" House. The full width porch and central balcony were turn of the century additions.  
*Stop at the next corner. The next house is on the far left corner of the intersection (southwest corner of Meridian and Jefferson Streets). View it before turning right on Meridian Street.*

**49. SCUPPERNONG** - 301 S. MERIDIAN ST. - ANTEBELLUM - VICTORIAN  
Gothic Revival, 1842. The house was remodeled in the 1870's. Note the delicate pierced bargeboard on the gables, octagonal columns with bases and fluted molded caps, pierced spandrels, paneled Italianate style door with transom and sidelight of etched bohemian glass, side bays.  
*Turn right on Meridian Street as previously instructed. Continue north through the two traffic lights, turn left on College Place. The next house is on your right in second block.*

**50. SANDERS / GILLEYLEN** - 204 COLLEGE PLACE - VICTORIAN - TURN OF THE CENTURY  
Free Classic Queen Anne, 1898. Tin patterned roof, stained and leaded glass, wraparound porch with Tuscan columns and denticulated frieze, three-story polygonal turret with tent roof.  
*The next house is on your right in the next block.*

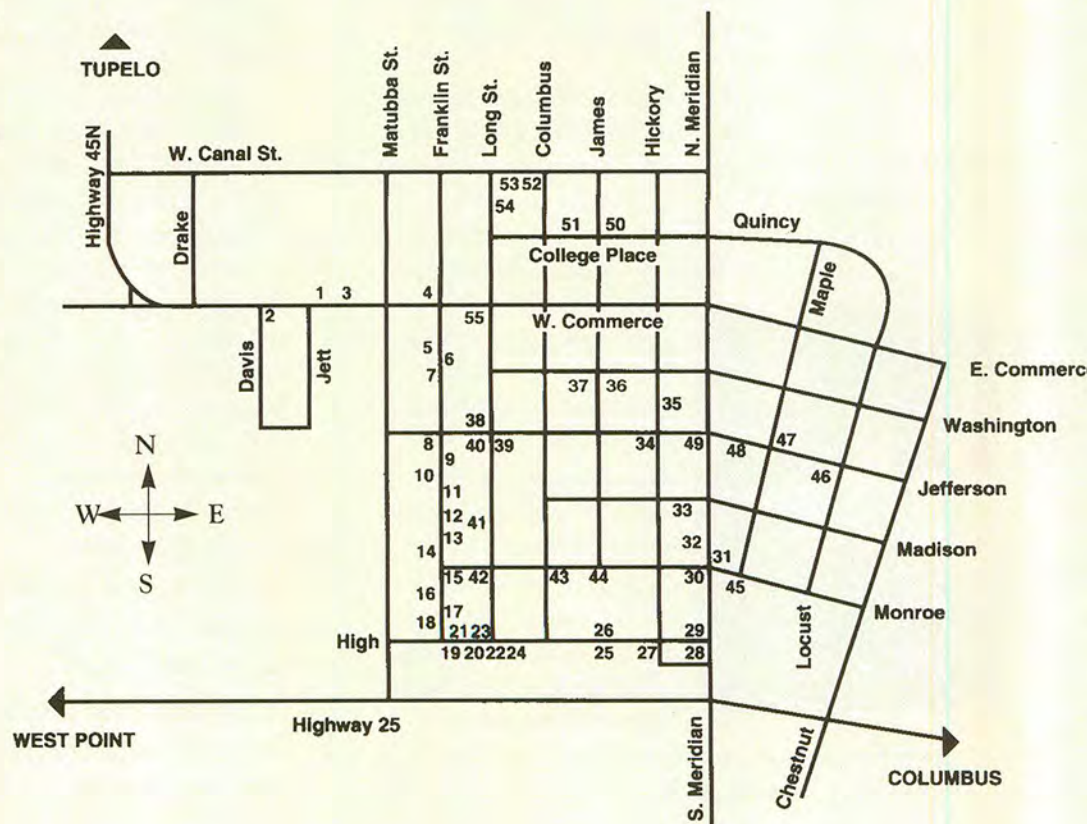
**51. ORLEANA** - 306 COLLEGE PLACE - ANTEBELLUM - VICTORIAN  
Greek Revival, 1865, with Queen Anne, 1890 addition. A wraparound front porch with attenuated Tuscan columns.  
*Turn right on North Columbus Street continue one block and turn left on Canal Street. The next house is on the left corner.*

**52. FURR HOUSE** - 401 CANAL ST. - VICTORIAN  
Eclectic featuring Italianate and gothic motifs and a bay. Built in 1884.  
*The next house is on the left.*

**53. ECKFORD / PIERCE** - 405 CANAL ST. - ANTEBELLUM  
Greek Revival with Italianate influence, 1855. Full width front porch supported by paired chamfered posts with heavily molded capitals and small corner brackets, paneled frieze with pendants below, fluted pilasters, double doors with transom lights and side light.  
*Turn left on Long Street. The next house is on the left on the corner of Long and Canal Streets.*

**54. QUINCY OLIVER ECKFORD / JOHN FERRIS PLANT** - 118 NORTH LONG ST. - VICTORIAN  
Italianate/Eastlake Style, 1882. Note the straight-sided mansard roofed tower on the front facade, original slate roof decorated with hearts, diamonds and fleur-de-lis; cistern built on the roof to collect rainwater to pipe into the house; tower and bays, brackets and original gingerbread trim. Three original out buildings are the 1885 gazebo, smoke house and servants' cottage.  
*Stop at the stop sign. The next house is on the far right, on the southwest corner of Commerce Street and Long.*

**55. THE OLD HOMESTEAD** - 503 W. COMMERCE - ANTEBELLUM  
Greek Revival with Gothic porticoes and Italianate elements, built in 1852. Matching entrances on the north and east sides, two-story porticoes supported by large paneled boxed columns connected by scallops of delicate tracery. At the rear of the house is a Gothic revival barn of antebellum date.  
*Commerce Street to the right will take you back to the Chamber of Commerce at The Magnolias. A turn to the left will take you downtown.*



Thank you for taking time to Search for Gold. There are many treasures to be found here in Aberdeen. We hope you will enjoy your visit.



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Department of Economic and Community Development

**MISSISSIPPI**

This project is partially funded by the Mississippi  
 Department of Economic and Community Development.



The Ritchie-Crawford house perceived as *contributing historically*

*William Chidress, feature writer for the St. Louis Post-Dispatch chose the house for the feature picture in a 1995 travel article written while touring*

see illustration folded to back →

8T

ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

WILLIAM CHIDRESS

## Mansions, Sheltering Pines In Camden

**‘W**E'RE PRETTY PROUD of our little town.”

Terry Rankin, 33, is a photographer for The Camden News in this southern Arkansas town of around 12,000.

“We’ve got one of the oldest paper mills in the South, started in 1928, and Grapette — you look old enough to remember that — was started here, too. Johnny Cash was born about 40 miles from here.”

Located roughly 100 miles south of Hot Springs, on Scenic Arkansas 7, Camden sprawls among pines and hardwoods and enjoys moderate temperatures with mild winters. It is a very pretty place.

The town even has its own unsolved mystery. Foul play is suspected in the disappearance of eccentric Maude Crawford, who was 48 when she disappeared from her mansion in 1957. They found her Dalmatian still in the mansion, which stood empty for years but is now being restored.

“The dog was very protective,” Rankin says. “So it had to be someone she knew — or else she simply left on her own.”

Not far from the town, near the Ouachita River, a pungent smell fills the air — perfume from the huge International Paper Mill that has employed much of Camden since 1928. The plant, now modernized, covers blocks, and group tours are allowed with

advance notice. (Camden has a number of lovely old mansions, some of which also allow tours.) Near here, lost, I ask a woman for directions — and get a tour instead, parking my car and taking hers.

Karen Whitley has taught math in Camden for 22 years and knows the city well.



“There’s the old Chidester house,” she says. “It was built about 1840. We also have a college here — Southern Arkansas University — and one of the few U.S. robotics training centers is here.”

July and September are local festival months, Whitley says, with the Ouachita River Festival in the summer and hundreds of booths in the fall for the Tate Barn Sale, now in its 25th year.

One of Camden’s more colorful characters is Bobby Hildebrand. Short, stubby and loquacious, Hildebrand is liked and respected and above all, political. In fact the sign above his ordinary country store, Harvey’s Grocery, proclaims **POLITICS SPOKEN HERE**.

“Bobby is one of the few people in the

nation that can call Bill Clinton and get him on the line,” a customer says admiringly. In a glass case are the proud trophies of Hildebrand’s hard work on the Clinton campaign — including a presidential cap and several Clinton letters.

The store doesn’t have a free lunch, but it does have an honor lunch. You make sandwiches of the barbecue, cheeses, pickles and other stuff, pop a soda, and chow down as long as you want. Then you tell Hildebrand what you think you ought to pay. You’ll get great sandwiches and energetic conversations in Harvey’s Grocery.

**The Ouachita County Courthouse** is Camden’s oldest standing edifice, dating to 1842. The old post office, from the 1870s, is now offices. The town has B&Bs, one made entirely of porcelain bricks, whiter than marble. Even if porcelain bricks were available today, it would cost millions to build the Martin Carnes Milner B&B.

Whitley and I parted after lunch at the store, and I hooked up later that day with Rankin, who wanted me to see The White House, a bar and grill popular with locals and built in a wedge-shaped building much like my own digs in Anderson, Mo.

The White House was cramped, but it had character, and judging from the crowd, locals loved it. Quick food items were available, and the beer was cold, but perhaps you have to

SUNDAY, JUNE 25, 1995



William Childress

**The mansion in Camden, Ark., from which Maude Crawford disappeared.**

live in Camden to cherish the place.

I stayed at the Days Inn in Camden, and it's a very good place, clean and with very reasonable rates. Next day I took the road out of town, through avenues of huge trees that

joined green limbs above the two-lane asphalt highway.

*For more information, contact the Camden Chamber of Commerce, (501) 836-6426.*



*Richie Crawford house as contributing to the district  
historically*

*The house features one of the four old time "hitching posts"  
left in Camden (most others are within this district)*

*Feature article in Camden News*

# A few symbols of the past

## City still has four original hitching posts

There are not too many memories of yesteryear remaining in Camden. The paddle-wheel steamboat no longer plies the Ouachita, the coal-burning locomotive no longer runs the rails and the horse and buggy no longer serves as the main mode of transportation.

The downtown business sector has seen many changes in the past century. Street travel patterns have changed. No longer do main highways come right through downtown Camden. Residential neighborhoods have drastically changed. Gone is the neighborhood grocery store. Schools are fewer but larger, and buses crisscross the city hauling students who 50-plus years ago mainly would walk. Electricity has replaced the oil burning lamp in our homes, and few washtubs can be found anywhere.

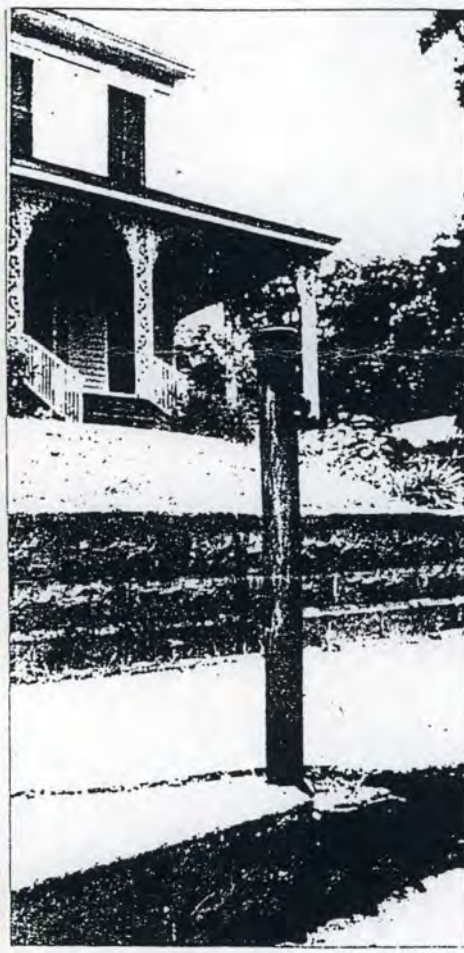
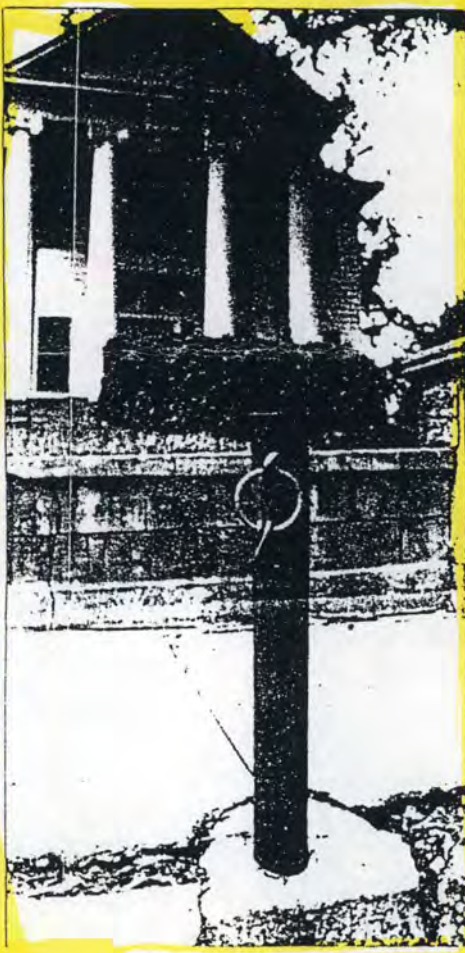
But though there are only a few, one item from the past still exists in Camden — the hitching post.

The hitching post, used to tie the reins of horses, was about as much of a necessity as a sidewalk, a house or business (address) number, and was years before the advent of a driveway.

Even as late as the 1930s it was still common sight, especially on Saturday, to see large numbers of horse-drawn wagons and buggies downtown with the owners buying supplies for another week or two. One of the last major business houses in this era was the Gordon Merchantile and Supply Co., located on East Washington Street just below the railroad crossing. This firm was destroyed by fire some 40 years ago.

For many years a livery stable was located on the present Merchants & Planters Bank parking lot. Patrons could leave their horses (and or wagons) there for feed and water while they shopped nearby merchants. Later (seems ironic), a large Greyhound bus station was built on this location.

For many, a Saturday shopping at the county seat was an experience from early morning to late night. Roads were dirt or gravel. Many farmers would shop merchantile stores in Clidester, Stephens, Bearden, Eagle Mills, Amy, etc., to save distance. But they often had to



Photos by Scott Benson

Two of the city's last hitching posts are on Clifton Street, left, and Greening Street.

come to Camden to assess or pay taxes, or buy items not available at the smaller stores.

I can recall my father (J.C. Bechtelheimer, a barber at the old DeLuxe Barber Shop) telling me that about 1925 the Ouachita River froze over in late January and horses, buggies and wagons could cross the river without breaking the ice. This common crossing then was about 200 yards below the present (U.S. 79B) river bridge, long before the highway (dumpp) was built for motorized traffic.

The two roads (highways) divided with one (now Arkansas 7) going to Kent, Onalaska, Eagle Mills, Holly Springs and Bearden. The other went to the right around by Little Johnson and Woodward lakes to now Arkansas 4) Locust Bayou and Hampton.

One of the last business opera-

tions downtown that we could associate with the horse and buggy days was owned by Orlan Reeves. His store was behind M.P. Watts & Sons store, behind the Crowder & Bennett Drug Store (Jefferson Street) facing what is now called an alley.

At the time of its closing, high-top button shoes and shirts with separate collars were still being purchased as collector's items and nostalgic souvenirs.

Reeves was a common sight coming to work and going home in his horse-drawn black buggy with canopy cover until the early 1940s. He was 81 when he died in 1948.

Needless to say, hitching posts were quite common in front of downtown businesses. In fact, they were a necessity. Several remained until the early 1950s when a newer type hitching post — the parking meter — was in-

stalled in great numbers downtown.

As stated earlier, the hitching post is about all that remains from that era. There are still four originals on Clifton Street, one on Greening Street and one on Maple Street. There are several others that have been moved from their original street-side locations, painted and made into a yard decoration.

These hitching posts probably have very little actual monetary value, but, in historic value, they are priceless.

In just a few years, today's generation will have to view the hitching post in old movies or great-grand-mother's picture album. I'm pleased that I can remember them in my lifetime.

(James Bechtelheimer, longtime Camden News sports editor, writes a regular column for the Sports page and contributes other items.)



The Ritchie-Crawford house as *contributing historically*—  
the enduring fascination of “the Maud Crawford mystery”

Illustrations of enduring interest---recent years

*The continuing interest in the legendary mystery is illustrated in a 1992 Camden News article and by the attached 1995 and 1997 articles in Camden's weekly Parham Report. The 1995 article reports the home as the locus for a television feature.*



Mr. George Branch, superintendent of the Fairview School District, has moved into his new offices--in what was formerly the administrative headquarters of the old Camden School District.

The school district's administrative offices have all been combined and located in the building at 625 Clifton Street, behind Vernon Garrison Auditorium, site of the old Cleveland Avenue Elementary School.

For Mr. Branch, the move means a goodbye to his old quarters--the office suite located first door on the right inside the Fairview High School building, where he kept numerous trophies, plaques and mementoes collected during his long career as school administrator, teacher and coach, and from where he enjoyed a view overlooking busy Fairview Road.

Mr. Branch spent 19 years in that Fairview Road office, since succeeding Mr. R.H. Shaddock as Fairview superintendent in 1973.

Today Mr. Branch heads a single, city-wide school district with 3,988 students enrolled for the new fall semester, which is about the same number of students enrolled at this same time last year □

## INSIDE

*Fairview's Cardinals  
versus  
El Dorado's Wildcats*

*What happened  
to county judge  
Bill Braswell?*

VOLUME 1, NUMBER 2

Mrs. Clayborn takes a seat at her desk by the classroom door, and begins marking the lunch-money sheet, calling students up to her one-by-one to collect.

During this interlude, the room becomes more familiar. Everything jumps out from the walls with bright, primary colors: charts, posters, bulletin boards, signs. Everything is neat and tidy, perfectly arranged. Mrs. Clayborn has already done a lot of work here.

The eye rests first on the alphabet chart, the 26 big letters, the 26 little letters, promenading over the chalkboard. Some things never change. But, it should be noted, this alphabet is updated: for instance, hopping over Ff is a happy cartoon frog, over Ee is a happy elephant, over Mm, a happy mouse.

Spread across the top of the bulletin board on the adjoining wall behind Mrs. Clayborn's desk is a numbers chart, 1 through 20.

Above and around these are other eye-catching charts, charts for short vowels, long vowels, consonants, shapes and colors.

On the bulletin board directly behind Mrs. Clayborn's desk, a boy bear and a

wooden basket on Mrs. Clayborn's desk is fashioned to look like a little red schoolhouse.

Red apples are a secondary motif. A pencil-holder on teacher's desk is a miniature chalkboard with a little red apple in the corner. Mrs. Clayborn is wearing a lapel red apple with her name on it. And there are more apples to come, a little later in the morning.

"I am seeing some wonderful coloring," Mrs. Clayborn announces as she walks around the room, examining the work of her little charges. Finished collecting the lunch money, she dispatches the lunch-money pouch to the principal's office, appointing William and Tony as couriers. "Y'all come right back," she reminds them as she sees them out the door.

To the rest of the class she declares this is the best she has ever seen children color while taking up lunch money on the first day of school.

A late arrival appears at the door, which means for Mrs. Clayborn some more administrative duties, checking the child against her register, discussing with the little girl's mother which

and wave like sunflower stalks in June. Red, answers one. Green, says another. Yellow, and another, repeating a previous answer, green.

That's right, Mrs. Clayborn says. She directs her students to take their color sheets, on which is outlined a large colorless apple man, with disconnected hands, leaf and stem. Color the apple, she says, and, for greater degree of difficulty than the morning's first color sheet, take scissors and cut out the apple man and hands and leaf and stem, and glue them all together.

"Just one little drip" of glue, she admonishes everybody. "We're not going to waste all our glue this first day."

This exercise will buy Mrs. Clayborn enough time to inventory supplies the youngsters have been ordered to bring with them to school. She walks from table to table, student to student, checking off paper, pencils, eraser, crayons, scissors, glue, notebook, folders, supply box, paper towels, tissues.

All the while, children are busy coloring, then snipping out their apples, gluing on the little hands.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

## Maud Crawford just won't go away

Thirty-five long years after her mysterious disappearance, interest in what ever happened to Maud Crawford continues unabated.

People just can't stop, won't stop wondering about her fate.

Locally, such interest seeps like water through limestone, puddling up in odd conversations. That's expected,

since the topic of Maud Crawford has long been required discussion whenever scary stories and bizarre gossip are told--around campfires, during bunking parties, over office typewriters.

But curiosity in the strange disappearance sometimes arrives unexpectedly from elsewhere. Since the first of the year, the *Camden News* has received

three out-of-town inquiries concerning the Crawford case.

One was of the sort newspapers regularly receive, from people suddenly reminded of some long-ago occurrence in which they were involved, seeking an update. But the other two were some-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



# The Parham Report

PUBLISHED BY  
CAMDEN AND CLAY COUNTY  
120 N. 3RD ST. N. J.

## Forty years:

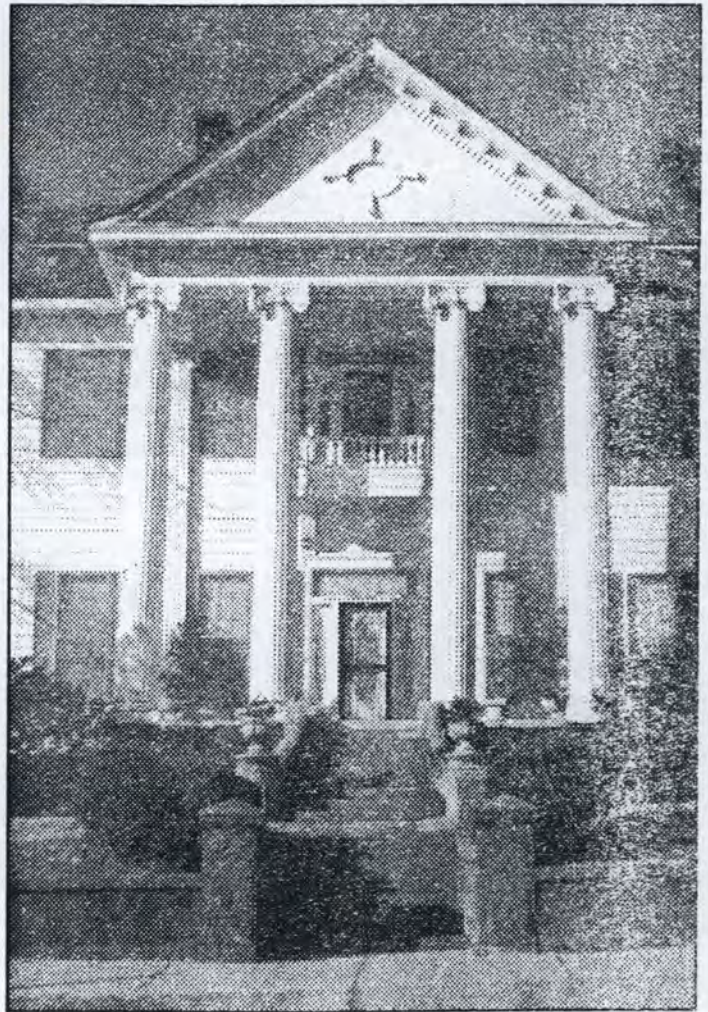
### *1957 disappearance of Maud Crawford remains a mystery*

March 2, 1957. A chilly, rainy Saturday. Herbert and Mattie Garner remember it well. Very, very well. They recall that red-haired, red-tempered Maud Crawford came down to their little neighborhood grocery store at the corner of Clifton Street and Cleveland Avenue. How she laughed when her mean dalmatian scared little Annie Mae Arnold so frightfully that the girl scrambled atop the ice-cream box-freezer in terror.

"Maud would get absolutely tickled if her dog scared somebody," said Mattie Garner.

Camden's first woman attorney had just gotten off work from her downtown office at the Gaughan, McClellan and Laney law firm. Since it was Saturday, she had appeared at the grocery earlier than usual. "She came by nearly every day," said Herbert Garner. This particular day, she spied snap beans in the store's fresh-produce bin, and straightaway claimed them. "She always took all the snap beans we had," said Herbert. "She loved snap beans."

Snap beans. A roast. And a case of bottled Seven-Up. Mattie will never forget the order. Then Maud was back out the door, letting Dal pull her back up the Clifton Street sidewalk toward home. A long grass rope served as the dog's leash, which Maud attached to the middle of a wooden stick. A passer-by would later remark that the way she held that stick with both hands, Dal straining at the end of



*Camden attorney walked down these steps  
into Arkansas lore on a dark and rainy night.  
No one has seen her since.*

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

**SUNDAY**  
FEBRUARY 23, 1997

VOL. 5 — NO. 27

INSIDE

**Daffodil Festival schedule**

**Car-wash owner's D-Day  
comes and goes**



# Crawford case still unsolved

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

his tether in front of her, she looked like a water-skier.

The Garners waited until their delivery boy, Jeff Porchia, came back to the store from his rounds — which he did at about six o'clock. They sent him up to Maud's — the magnificent Greek Revival home which dominated Clifton Street just up and across the way — with the case of soft drinks, the roast, Maud's all-important snap beans. Closed up shop. Got in the car and drove to Conway to see family.

That was 40 years ago. Life on Clifton Street — well, life in all of Camden, for that matter — has not been the same since.

The 1957 disappearance of Maud Crawford — the foremost woman civic figure of her day, Camden's first and only female alderman, reknown in South Arkansas as an expert in title and abstract work — proved to be much more than a run-of-the-mill missing-person case. What happened to Maud Crawford? became the question of the era. While up in the Capitol City, Little Rock wrestled with the Central High Crisis, here in Camden a previously close-knit and prosperous community tried unsuccessfully to fathom how and why Maud — blustery, fiery, smart-as-a-whip and scrappy old Maud — had vanished without a trace. Leaving behind not one — not *one* — clue.

Whether or not the town wanted to admit it, Camden was held in the grip of the disappearance many years afterward. Not long after Maud disappeared, Shumaker Depot closed and the area went through an unprecedented economic decline which seemed to run parallel to the sinking of spirits in the undertow of the Crawford conundrum. Hers was considered the top disappearance case in Arkansas for fully two decades, until young Bobo Shinn went missing in Magnolia, dislodging public interest in the Camden mystery which had long before turned into just so much stale newsprint.

But back in the days and weeks and months following Maud's disappearance, the case inexplicably captured the fancy of newspaper readers across the country. Police here were beset with mail and telephone calls from people claiming to have seen the miss-

ing attorney at bus stops, train depots, race tracks in distant states. Even Maud's husband, Clyde Crawford, was deluged with correspondence and calls. "Clyde got letters from all over," said Mattie. "I remember the clairvoyants. People would write claiming they could 'see' where she was buried, if he would just send them one of her shoes or a scarf or something. He never did answer them. He kept all those letters in a box. I wish I'd kept that box."

The Garners had no idea anything was amiss until after they drove home the next day — Sunday — from Conway. "When we got back to town and drove down the street to get home, we passed Maud's house and — that yard was *full* of people. You couldn't imagine all the people out front, just standing out front and looking up at that house."

It bothered Mattie that police failed to rope off the house. She noticed dozens of people going inside. "If there was any evidence to be found, I don't see how they could after that crowd of people went through the place," she said.

Police had gotten ahold of their delivery boy and interrogated him about what had happened the night before. As he made his delivery from the Garner grocery to her door, Jeff Porchia was apparently the last known person to see Maud. And it turned out that his father had earlier in the week tilled Maud's garden behind the house. Police went out back and used tomato stakes to probe the broken dirt for her body.

They searched other parts of the neighborhood as well. The Garners remember how the police came to their grocery and opened up a storage box tacked onto the side of the building, only to find it full of empty soft-drink bottles.

Neighbors didn't know what to think. Everybody up and down the street was stricken with fear, each believing he or she might be the next. But it was worst in the huge Crawford house, where several young women boarded in upstairs rooms. "You wouldn't believe how scared those girls were," said Mattie, who recalled she went to the house as soon as she could after the hubbub had somewhat subsided. "Maud's maid dropped a bundle of dirty clothes down the stairwell, and when it hit the floor, everybody jumped."

Maud's husband was a natural suspect, but authorities did not hold him very long. They couldn't convince themselves Clyde had harmed his wife, nor could they come up with any evidence implicating him. That didn't save him from public distrust, as he found nobody wanted to hire him afterward.

Clyde was no match for his intelligent, energetic wife. He was a floor-finisher by trade, refinished furniture on the side. Kept a shop behind the house. Where Maud attended civic-club functions with zeal and labored alongside the best legal minds in the region, Clyde was an easy-going, beer-drinking man who worked with his hands and liked to go Downtown to the movies for a good time. Employers might walk onto a job site and catch him immersed in a detective novel, for which he had a weakness. But, never mind, he was the best at what he did.

"When Maud disappeared," said Mattie, "that all changed. Nobody would hire him. They didn't want him in their homes." As time went by, it became apparent just how dependent Clyde was on his wife. "He'd get hungry, and say to us that we'd have to come to his shop and pick out a piece of furniture he'd refinished, so that he'd have something to eat," said Herbert.

"He got lonesome," said Mattie. "Didn't know how to cook. Got to where he hung out at the store because he didn't have anywhere to go or anything to do. He'd get weiners and beans — either that or he'd just not have anything to eat. He was just really pitiful."

Every day, Clyde would come to the store and buy a bottle of orange juice. Might follow that with a Coke. Herbert pulled out a wooden stool to show a visitor. "This is the stool he'd always sit on," said Herbert. "We call it Clyde's Stool."

As Maud's mail continued to arrive at the Clifton Street address, Clyde took each piece and dropped it — unopened — on a hall table. "He wouldn't touch anything of hers," said Mattie. "He'd sell all his stuff out in the shop, but he wouldn't touch any of her furniture in the house. Her clothes, her hair comb, her brush — he didn't touch any of it. Left it all just like she left it."

"He kept looking for her. Always said: 'I believe she'll come back.' But, of course, she never did."

*Next: that March 2 night.*



# The Parham Report



Maud Crawford doesn't lie here

There is probably nobody still alive who knows where Maud Crawford got off to when she vanished 40 years ago this weekend. Whether she walked out the front door of her house on Clifton Street and made a meticulously planned getaway, or was lured outside and forcibly taken away, there's no way to know if she wound up in South America or at the bottom of the Ouachita River.

But we know where she's *not*. Out in old Greenwood Cemetery on Maul Road, in the Crawford family plot, her husband Clyde lies alone — just as solitary as he was in the last 12 years of his life after she disappeared back in 1957.

A simple stone marks his grave. Clyde Falwell Crawford, is all it says. That and the dates which parametered his life: February 5, 1894 to June 18, 1969. It was said that he bled to death following surgery for stomach cancer.

To the left of Clyde Crawford's final resting place lie the graves of his parents, W.G. and Mattie Crawford, and two brothers, Bill and Albert. The father's date of death is August 2, 1936 — the day he

burned rescuing Clyde's mother from a house fire on California Street. "Rest Is Thine," says the inscription on the parents' marker, "Sweet Remembrance Ours."

And to the right of Clyde Crawford's grave are those of two other family members, Martha Crawford, who was born during the Civil War and died in 1931, and Susan Crawford (1839-1916).

Between them, at the right hand of the eternally sleeping Clyde Crawford, there is an empty space, where Maud Crawford is due to lie, if ever she can be found.

Though it isn't known for sure how or when Maud departed this life, we do know she entered back on June 22, 1898 — nearly 99 years ago. The best estimate is that she died on March 2, 1957 when she was 60 years old. Those are the two dates that would likely appear on her gravestone.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

SUNDAY  
MARCH 2, 1997

VOL. 5 — NO. 28

INSIDE

Who's renting what on Truman Street?

A chicken-and-cow allegory  
to help explain computer mess

# Clyde Crawford lies alone

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

March 2 back in '57 was on a Saturday. Maud spent the morning at work in the Downtown law offices of Gaughan, McClellan and Laney, went home that afternoon to prepare for guests. That night she had the huge old house to herself, what with the four out-of-town girls who boarded upstairs having gone to their respective homes for the weekend (as many as 22 had roomed in the house at the close of World War II, when jobs were plentiful at the Shumaker Naval Depot out across the Ouachita River) and because of Maud's and Clyde's unique living arrangements. Asleep, the Crawfords occupied separate beds in separate rooms. Awake, they went quite separate ways, Maud being a civic leader and active professional — said to be the best in South Arkansas at title and abstract work — and Clyde being a blue-collar floor-finisher who preferred to spend his free time reading.

He liked the movies, too. "Every time they switched shows at the Downtown theaters" the Malco and the Rialto, "he'd go," recalls Mr. J.T. Vaughan, a retired law enforcement officer who was a city policeman working the night shift back in '57. "I used to see him Downtown on the street every night before that" — *that* being the disappearance — "happened," said Mr. Vaughan. "I'd see him coming out of the show, or he'd be hanging around Pennington's News Stand. He liked Pennington's," a late-night hangout in the spot on Washington Street where the Book and Frame Shop is now located.

Clyde went — where else? — to the movies that night. Maud settled in at home, not wanting to venture out on such a chilly, rainy evening. At 6 p.m., she accepted a delivery from the Garner corner grocery just down the street — a roast, a case of 7-Up soft drinks and some snap beans she'd bought that afternoon. She turned on the television set in the front room, spread some legal papers she'd brought from work on the table in the dining room. Put the snap beans in a pan and started snapping them.

Maud was expecting her young cousin, Martha Carver, Martha's husband and their two-year-old son, John Robert, for Sunday dinner the next day. The Carvers were already in Camden from DeQueen, where they lived, and were spending the night at

Mrs. Edna Hardin's house. At 8:30 p.m., Martha telephoned "Cousin Maud" to let her know they had made it to Camden, and where they were spending the night. It was a short conversation, after which — this was later the subject of some debate — Martha may or may not have said "Cousin Maud is peeved at me." There was a theory that Maud was so put out by Martha's spending the night elsewhere, that she left the house on Clifton Street in a huff, to serve everybody right. Regardless, that brief talk over the phone was Maud's last known contact with the world.

Sometime in the next two hours, Maud was devoured whole by mysterious circumstances. Clyde exited the theater Downtown, made his customary post-show stop at the news stand and dropped by a liquor store that kept a TV set on. Watched the 10 o'clock news and got interested in a program which followed. At 10:45 he looked at his watch and exclaimed he had better get home or the dog would bite him.

"The dog" was Dal, a dalmatian which doted on Maud and was extremely — *extremely* — protective of her. With Dal in the vicinity, Clyde knew better than to get anywhere near his wife at risk of arousing her pet. "If Maud asked Clyde to get her sewing thread, he'd pitch it to her, because if he tried to hand it to her, the dog would bite," said Mattie Garner, a neighbor.

When Clyde got home at about 11 p.m., he found Dal lying peacefully on a rug just inside the front door. As if Maud had gone out the door, and the dog was waiting for her to come back. "Every light in the house was on." The TV was playing to no one in the front room, where Maud's purse lay undisturbed on a chair. Inside the purse was \$137 in cash and \$200 in checks.

In the middle of the legal paperwork arranged on the dining room table, was a pan half-filled with snap beans.

Clyde did not suspect anything was amiss. He figured Maud had either gone across the street to check on the aged Mrs. Rose Berg (Maud was her personal guardian) or had gone out for a late-night snack with one of the upstairs boarders. Taking a six-pack of beer and a crime magazine to bed with him, he settled down for the night.

Or so he thought. Concerned when Maud did not come back in, he went back out to look for her. Shortly before midnight, he

drove onto the Duck-Inn Restaurant parking lot and stopped his pickup truck next to a police car.

"I'll never forget that night," says J.T. Vaughan, 40 years after. "There was a fine, misty rain. Fog. Paul Parrish was riding with me. The Duck-Inn stayed open late on Saturdays, and we always made our rounds over there.

"We were just sitting there in the parking lot when Clyde pulled up to us in his pickup truck and asked if we'd seen Maud anywhere. We said we hadn't, and he said, 'Maud hasn't come in, and I'm kind of worried about her.' We talked about 15 minutes, not very long. I asked him if he wanted me to call Chief (G.B.) Cole out, but Clyde said no. That she'd probably turn up somewhere. Said she might have gone over to someone's house, and she be upset with him if he got police looking for her.

"So I went on home and didn't think no more about it."

At 2:25 a.m., by then Sunday, March 3, Clyde went to the Police Station at the back of City Hall and walked in to find the night chief, John Tate. He inquired if there had been any accidents. If anyone had suddenly taken ill, so much so that Maud felt obliged to assist and stay up late, or even overnight. No, said the night chief, to which Clyde responded: "Maud's gone."

Chief Cole got mad at J.T. Vaughan for not alerting him the night before. Called Sunday and told Sergeant Vaughan to get his men back up and on patrol to help in the massive search for the missing lawyer. "We spent all Sunday opening manholes and walking up the railroad tracks North of town," recalls Mr. Vaughan. "Worked the heck out of us that day, after we'd been up all night. Just so happened Sunday night was my night off. I went home and stayed in bed until up in the day Monday.

"When I went back to work Monday night, it was kind of quiet. Chief Cole and Sheriff (Grover) Linebarrier had Clyde and they were busy talking to him. We had turned every leaf there was to turn, that Sunday."

Their chance meeting the night Maud disappeared was the last time Mr. Vaughan ever saw Clyde out and about. "I never had another talk with him. Never saw him out at night Downtown again."

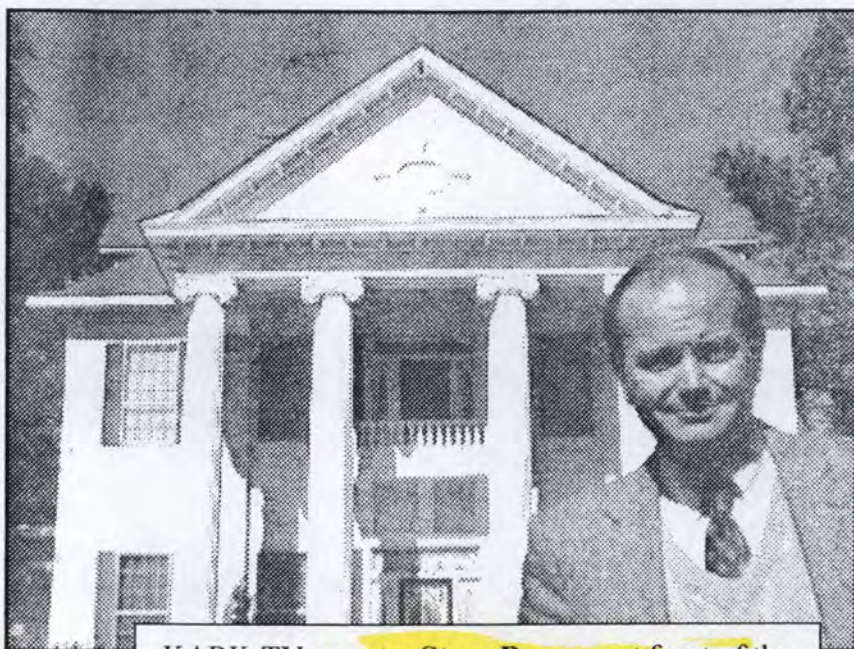
Neither did he ever see Maud Crawford.



# The Parham Report

## More Miss Maud

*A TV update  
on Camden's prime mystery*



KARK-TV reporter Steve Barnes out front of the former Maud Crawford home on Clifton Street.

To prove that It Never Ends, longtime TV journalist Steve Barnes called the *Parham Report* this week from Little Rock and said he wanted to come down to Camden for a day to do a short feature on Maud Crawford for KARK (Channel 4).

Sure, said the *Report's* lone reporter, a leading expert on what is Arkansas' most baffling mystery.

Wednesday was the day.

Said reporter meets Mr. Barnes and cameraman John Murphy on a bright and beautiful Fall morning inside the Waff-L-Inn on Bradley Ferry Road. Both are drinking coffee, Mr. Barnes also enjoying a smoke.

"How long have you been working on this story?" asks Mr. Barnes, going quickly to work after the obligatory round of introductions.

The reporter says: since he was a kid, listening to kids' tales. Everyone knows the story about the old Safeway parking lot, the snap beans on the table, etc.

But really, 1979. Just before the reporter left for Fayetteville on his way to becoming a law school dropout. He was two-three weeks away from departing the *Camden News*, decided to make a last fling at the Biggest Story of Them All. One story before he hit the road for the Ozarks — a silly one about a silly letter investigators in the Crawford case received from a silly lawman out in Texas who theorized Maud Crawford had run away and joined a Lonely Hearts Club somewhere. Mr. Kenneth Poindexter wasn't amused. After reading the silly story, he insisted said reporter go see a certain

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

SUNDAY  
NOVEMBER 12, 1995

VOL. 4 — NO. 12

INSIDE

NW Kibitzer strikes again

R.P. Burnham recalls  
WWII hero John Basilone



# Weather cuts Crawford case short

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

businessman in a walkup office in an old building Downtown. Certain businessman laid out a patchwork of facts, figures and conjectures having to do with an estate dispute in which Maud Crawford — a rare woman attorney — was involved.

Said reporter has been checking all this out ever since, accumulating a file-cabinet drawer of files containing photocopies of letters, newspaper articles, old deeds, probate records, state police reports, FBI documents, so on and so forth.

Mr. Barnes wants to take a look at it. Takes a last sip of coffee. Pays at the register and walks out the door to a vehicle with a large "4" on either side.

Back at his office, said reporter apologizes for the considerable mess and leads the Little Rock TV crew to his kitchen table where Mr. Barnes spends the next couple of hours perusing the FBI and state police files. Mr. Murphy unlimbers his camera and tripods and lights — soon has a field studio set up. Mr. Barnes points at Herbert Hoover's signature down at the bottom of a page, and Mr. Murphy trains his lens on the name of the former FBI director. The same for the late U.S. Senator John L. McClellan. Long-ago news articles in the old *Arkansas Democrat* and the *Gazette*.

Said reporter discusses various aspects of the case — babbles interminably, actually. Mr. Barnes nods and occasionally fires a question to send said reporter scurrying off down another seldom-thought-about trace.

He hasn't worked with a lot of this material in nearly 10 years, protests said reporter. It was 1986 when he authored a series for the *Camden News* and the *Democrat*, which at long last exposed much of the mystery about the disappearance case.

Mr. Murphy rigs said reporter with a clip-on microphone, points his camera and starts it as Mr. Barnes gets serious. Lights. Camera. Action. Said reporter is interviewed sitting right in front of his refrigerator, wondering if the camera can see the little bear-thermometer magnet on the refrigerator door, the loaf of bread and bunch of bananas sitting out on the cabinet over his shoulder (hoping those dirty dishes by the sink are out of the field of focus!).

"That's it," smiles Mr. Barnes as he concludes his interrogation, indicating to his cameraman that he's heard enough. To said reporter, he murmurs, repeating "'an end of innocence.' Good line."

A few minutes later, the trio is over at the old Maud Crawford on Clifton Street. Handsomely restored by owners Bruce and Jodi Eppinette, it gleams brilliantly in the November sunshine. Cameraman Murphy "shoots it" from different angles, then directs Mr. Barnes and said reporter to walk down the newly rebuilt sidewalk in front. Said reporter points out an old hitching post by the street.

Then on to the historic homes on Washington Street, so that Mr. Murphy can get background material for the piece. The houses shine against a backdrop of Fall colors.

"I got a sweet shot of the cannon" in front of the Elliott-Meek-Nunnally house, says Mr. Murphy to Mr. Barnes. "Make sure you use it."

They wrap it up Downtown on Washington Street in front of the Book and Frame Shop. In March of 1957, this was the site of Pennington's News Stand. Clyde Crawford left a moviehouse and made one last stop at Pennington's before he went home to an empty house that fateful night.

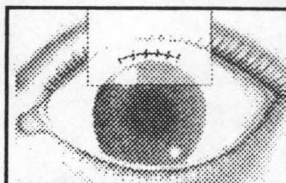
The rest, as we say, was history.

Steve Barnes' piece on the famous Camden mystery airs three nights later on Channel 4. On Friday night's 10 p.m. report. Maybe half of it, anyway. Said reporter is shown rambling about a decades-old estate dispute when anchorman Doug Krile breaks into the piece and explains Channel 4 is cutting it short to spend more time talking about bad weather overspreeding the state.

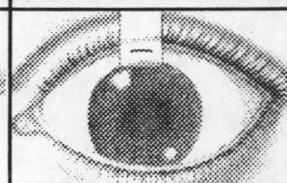
He asks Mr. Barnes, sitting to one side of the anchor desk, to quickly sum up this old Crawford case.

"It will probably never be solved," replies Mr. Barnes. ■

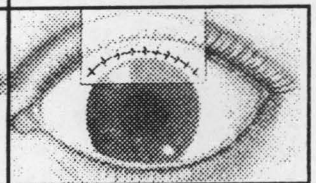
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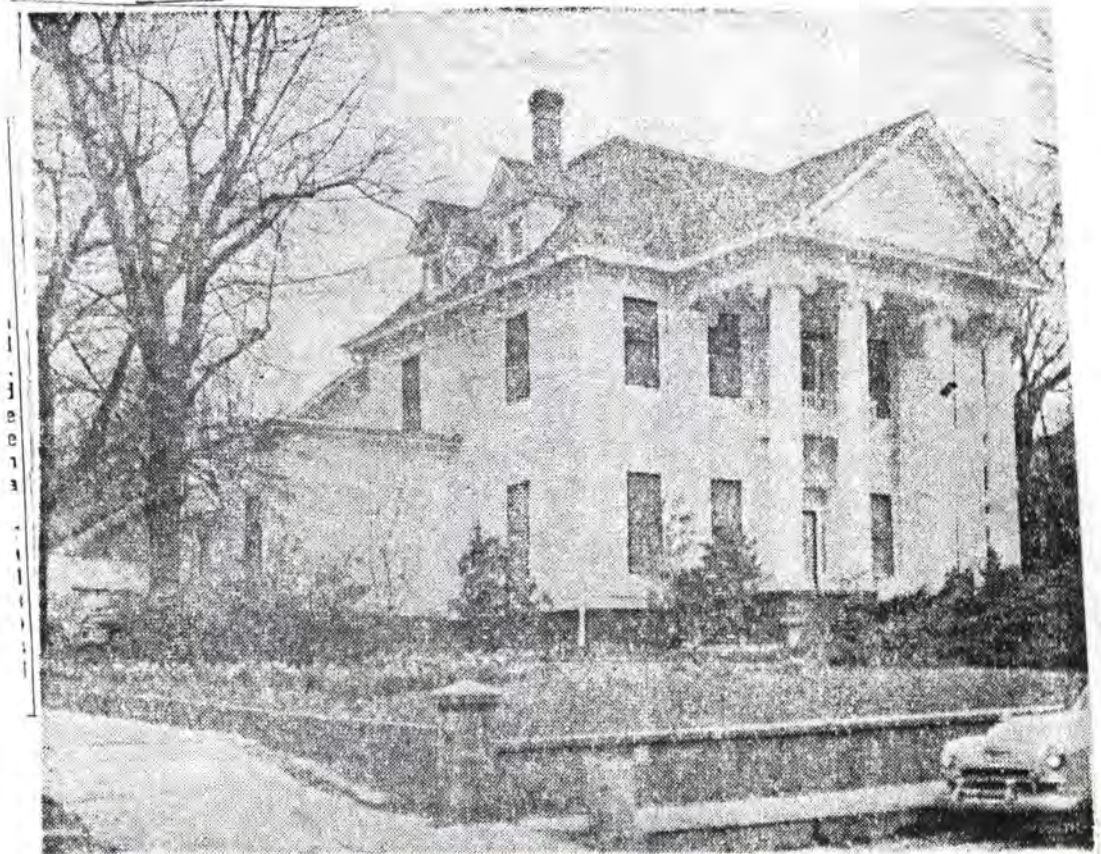
## “The Maud Crawford mystery” (continuing)

Near the beginning

*Attachments are from the Arkansas Democrat feature section—soon after Mrs. Crawford’s disappearance. They demonstrate the level of interest the story commanded and a statewide audience.*

## Ritchie-Crawford home in 1957—a week after “Maud’s disappearance”

*Note that the general appearance of the home from the street—and the aura it imparts--has not been substantially altered.*



—Photo by Ben Bracken

**CRAWFORD HOME**—From this imposing Colonial home on Clifton Street in the heart of Camden, Mrs. Maude Robinson Crawford disappeared a week ago. Her car was parked at the rear of the house, which had recently been remodeled. A light high above the front porch and lights in the house were on, as was the television set.



# ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT

LITTLE ROCK, SEPTEMBER 22, 1957

## Sunday MAGAZINE

The Strange Case of Maud Crawford: Part II

# The Man Who Waits

Although his wife disappeared six months ago, Clyde Crawford believes she will come back.

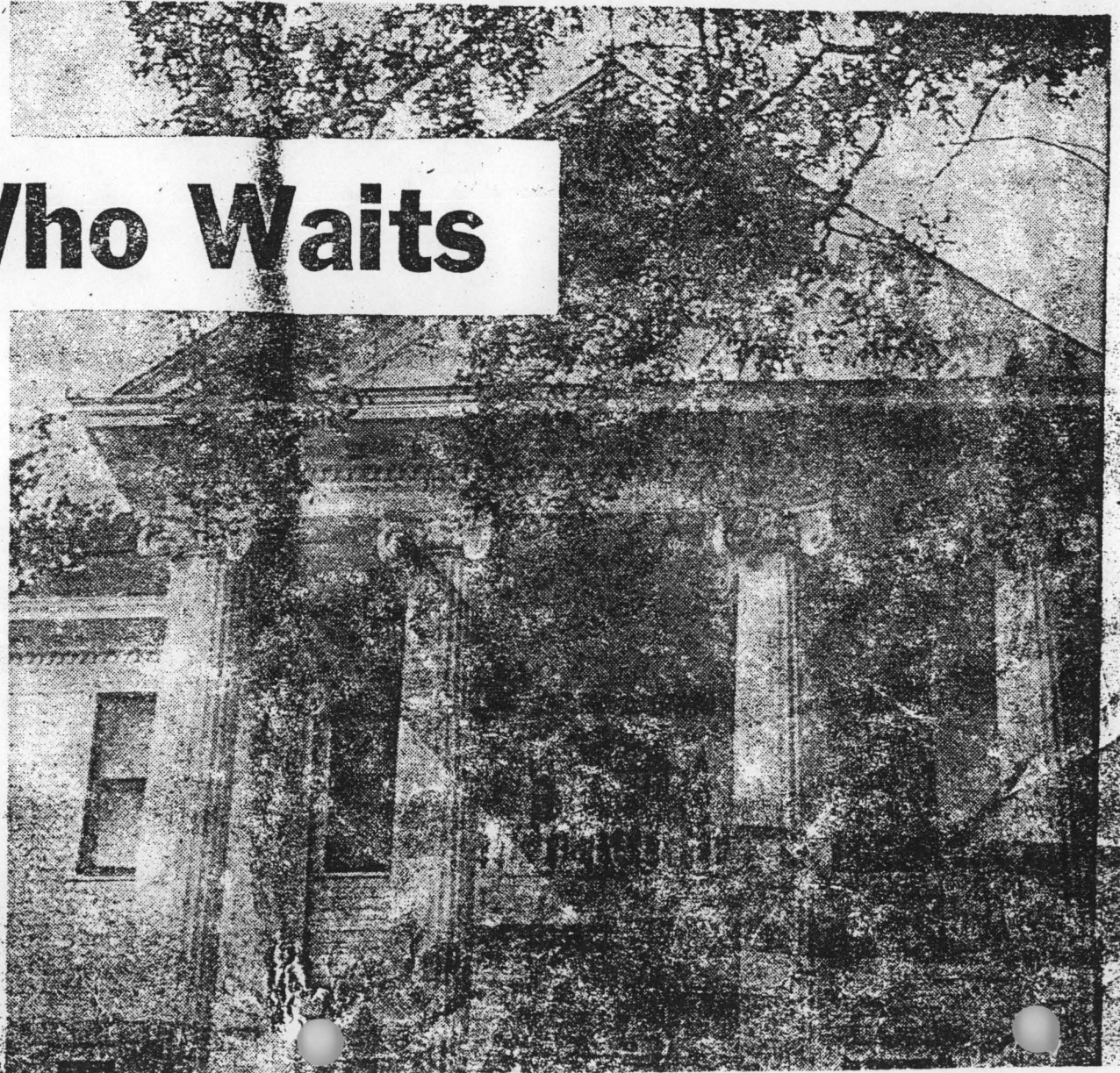
Copyright 1957 by the Arkansas Democrat

By ROBERTA MARTIN

NO ONE KNEW BETTER THAN CLYDE Crawford, when he reported his wife had vanished during the night of March 2, that he would be the first person suspected.

He knew it when he walked into the Camden police station at 2:25 a. m., March 3, and he knew, before he'd said a word, how embarrassed his wife would be if his alarm proved false. He was sorely tempted to postpone, or not make, that visit. But he had spent hours searching for her, and he also knew that if something serious had occurred and he didn't report it, it would be even worse for him. Besides, they might have some information that would explain her absence.

So, parking his truck in the dark empty street and sidestepping cold rain puddles that had collected, he walked through the back door of the station. When he reached the side door of the chief's office, Night Chief John ... was standing there and a





didn't report it. It would be even worse for him. Besides, they might have some information that would explain her absence.

So parking his truck in the dark empty street and sidestepping cold rain puddles that had collected, he walked through the back door of the station. When he reached the side door of the chief's office, Night Chief John Tate was standing there and a prisoner was being brought in. Mr. Crawford waited quietly. He was in no hurry. He was still wondering if he was doing the right thing.

Then Mr. Tate turned to him. Mr. Crawford asked if there had been any accidents or if anyone had become suddenly ill who might have called for his wife. The answer was negative. It was then that he said, "Maud's gone."

That, to him, was the beginning of the strange case of the disappearance of Maud Crawford—a disappearance that has baffled townsfolk and authorities alike for the last six months.

The officer told him that it was not unusual for someone to get out of touch with their family for a little while and if he'd wait a little longer, she'd probably show up. But if he wanted them to, the Camden police would start searching for his wife. He decided to wait.

**HE WENT HOME THEN, BUT HE DIDN'T** go to bed. He sat up all night and sweated it out. More than once he wanted to reach for a cigarette, but he remembered how pleased Maud had been a short time before when she'd told the folks at her office, "Clyde's quit smoking." She believed he could do anything he wanted to—that he could quit, even though he was a two-carton-a-week, chain smoker. He wouldn't let her down that night. He still hasn't, six months later.

He had time for thinking. Why was he alarmed? It was not unusual for Maud to be away from home; they were known as a couple who had separate interests. She had her clubs and her friends; he had outdoor interests and his friends. He liked to visit at a newsstand, for instance, and to watch television at a liquor store every night; he liked to have a bottle of beer before he went to sleep. But he behaved himself. He didn't embarrass Maud; he was careful about that.

He thought back over earlier events of the night. He always came home after the 10 p. m. newscast was over—people commented on his regular schedule—but this had been Saturday and his favorite announcer, Bob Hess, wasn't on. He had watched a movie on the El Dorado station until about 10:45.



Photograph by Will Counts

hen he had looked at the clock and exclaimed, "Gosh, I'd better get home or the dog will bite me!"

When he walked into the house, he called, "Maud," as he always did, and when she didn't answer, he asked the dog, "Hey, where's Maud?" The dog walked to the front door, so he looked for her on the front porch, but she wasn't there. The television set was on, and he turned it to the program he'd been watching but it was just going off; he knew it was 11 p. m. (Legal papers she had brought home to work on were spread out on a table, there was a bowl of half-snapped green beans nearby and her purse was there, with \$137 in cash and \$200 in checks. Her car was parked behind the house: the

keys were in it.)

What else had he done? He'd looked around a little, but the four girls who roomed in the house were gone; he had thought that maybe she and the girls had gone to the midnight show. Maud was like a mother to those girls—if they wanted to go anywhere, she took them.

He had undressed and read a bit. He liked crime stories—the real ones, not fiction; so did Maud. They often bought detective magazines and swapped them.

About 1:30, he became worried and looked for

(Turn Page, Please.)



his wife again. He even looked under her bed—but he didn't know why he had done that. If she'd been in the house, the dog would have been right beside her.

He put his khakis on over his pajamas, finally, and went out to look for her. He drove all over town, checking places where she and the girls might have stopped for a sandwich. His last stop was at the police station. He can't explain why he didn't just go to sleep as he'd done many other times when she was out, except to say that he had a feeling something was different.

**THE NEXT MORNING, CLYDE CRAWFORD** started out again, early. He phoned or visited all the persons Mrs. Crawford worked with and all her friends. No one had seen her. Then, he said, a lot of people came to the house to find out what had happened, and the police came. They started to search the house about 3 p. m. Sunday, and they continued to search it intermittently until the end of the following week. They found nothing.

The questioning started that Sunday, too. He was questioned by city, county and state officers. A group of six officers questioned him once; the first officer asked questions alone and then stayed in the room to check what he'd said against what he told the second officer, and so on until all had checked and rechecked his statements. Police Chief G. B. Cole said: "Clyde co-operated 100 per cent; he did everything we asked him to do," and Mr. Tate said: "The story he told us and all who questioned him in the beginning never varied in the slightest way."

But the questioning went on. Mr. Crawford thought one of his questioners had a red beard, but he wasn't sure. "By that time I had answered so many questions, my eyes were red and bleary; everything looked red to me."

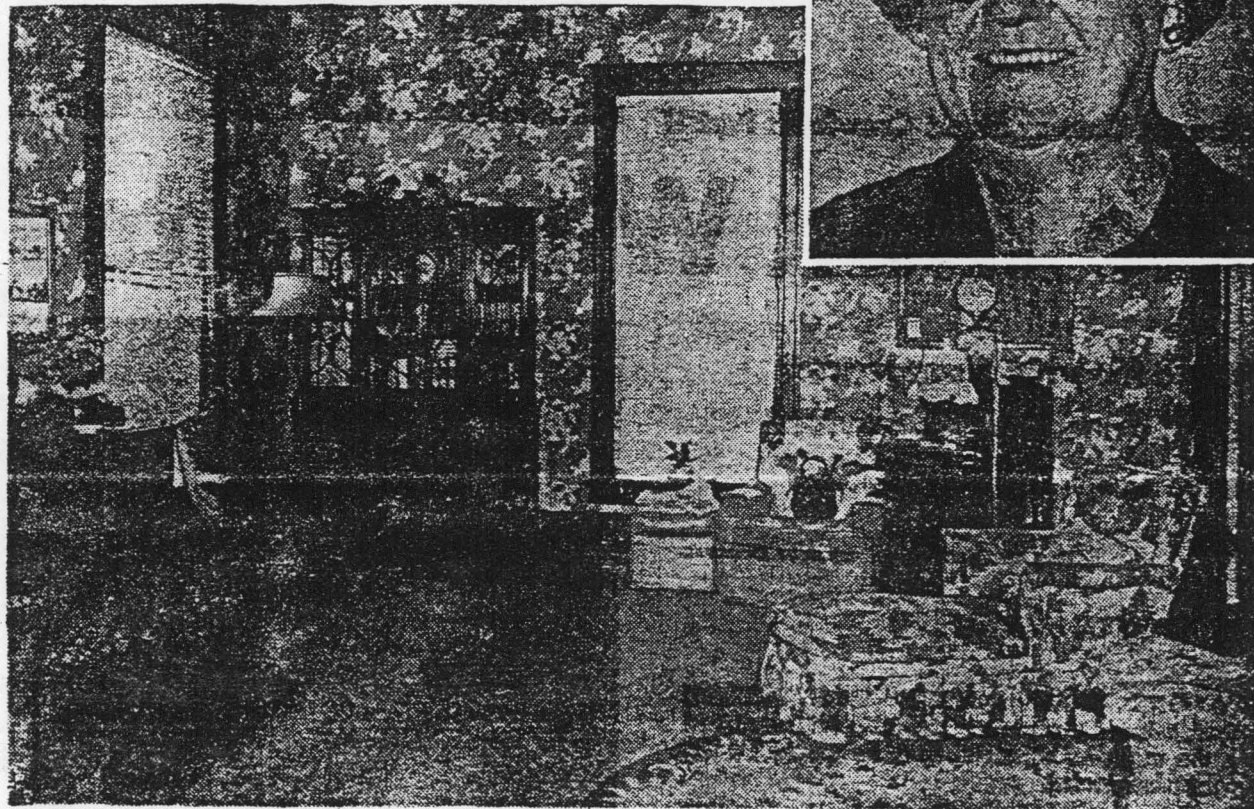
One asked him how he was going to feel when his friends asked him why he destroyed his wife. "I said it wouldn't make a damn to me because I've got nothing to hide. I asked, why would I kill Maud? I had everything I wanted; I was free as an old bachelor, but we got along good. When she was a girl, Maud sort of had the spirit to go with her red hair, but she held it down since we've been married."

"And how could I kill her? I'm not a big man, and she's a large woman. How could I hurt her?"

**CLYDE CRAWFORD INSISTED THAT FIRST** day and still insists that Maud Crawford isn't dead. He says that she is alive, that she went away for reasons of her own and that she will return when she is ready.

He feels that she was tired from overwork.

Mrs. Crawford (right) liked to relax on the chaise longue (below) to watch television. This room is believed to be the place from which she disappeared. Mrs. Crawford, a lawyer, was employed as a title expert by the firm of Gaughan, McClellan and Laney; she had worked there for 41 years.



If I needed something, she gave it to me, and I'd give it to her."

The Crawfords owned a boat; he said they used it a lot together, but he hasn't had it out on the river since her disappearance. He thinks she really wanted to buy a new car, but when he talked about a boat he couldn't afford, she bought it and gave it to him as a present. She paid for the boat, a twin-powered, 18-foot aluminum outboard, and for one of its motors. "I'm still making payments on the other motor."

**THE CRAWFORD HOUSE IS A TWO-STORY,** colonial type with tall columns at the front. It is white frame with a green roof. Mr. Crawford thinks it is at least 100 years old and that the father of the

last time he saw his wife, he said, she was wearing green leather shoes with square heels. He said she had three wardrobes, because she was always losing weight or gaining some more and wore whatever fit. He thinks an old cowhide shoulder purse is gone, but he isn't sure but what she gave it away. It was a good bag and large enough that "she could have put a nightgown and some stuff in it if she wanted to." He isn't familiar enough with her clothes to know if other things are gone.

According to the missing bulletin distributed by the police, she was probably wearing a dark tan gabardine dress buttoned down the front, no collar, with embroidery crest on the left po

**FROM THE BEGINNING, HE KNEW THAT**



I had everything I wanted. I was free as an eagle, but we got along good. When she was a girl, she sort of had the right to go with her red hair, but she held all her power since we're married. I don't know if I'll kill her? I'm not a big man, but I can kill her. Now I can't hurt her."

**CLYDE CRAWFORD INSISTED THAT FIRST day and still insists that Maud Crawford isn't dead.** He says that she is alive, that she went away for reasons of her own and that she will return when she is ready.

He feels that she was tired from overwork, more so than he knew at the time. He said she wouldn't ever complain to him, and he didn't to her. He could break his arm and he wouldn't tell her it hurt because it would worry her, and she was the same way about him.

He thinks she had too much to do. "Somebody was always getting her to do something; if anybody got sick, they called her in the middle of the night and she sat up with them; she was going to have a tea; and she was in all the clubs and had that Girls' State work."

He thinks she was disappointed because her cousin, Mrs. Howard Carver, DeQueen, and little John Robert Carver, two and one-half, weren't coming to see her until Sunday although they came to Camden to visit friends on Saturday.

And he thinks being overweight, as Mrs. Crawford was said to have been last March, affected her mood on the night of March 2. After she was gone he found that she had been taking reducing pills—"those Hollywood sort of things"—and he never in his life "saw her reduce that she didn't get in trouble." He thinks "she had a burn and said to herself, 'I'll just get out and let them see how they like getting along without Maud for a few days.'"

He is convinced that she didn't go far and never meant to. According to his theory, she could still be in Ouachita county, living with any one of at least 25 widows whom she befriended and who live in big houses by themselves.

**SHE LEFT THE MONEY IN THE PURSE, He** said, so that he could pay any little bills that came up. He said she wouldn't leave him without money, and neither of them knew anything about the other's money, except in a general way. He recalled an incident when they started out one night to a boat club dinner they attended regularly. His business—he is a floor finishing contractor—had been bad, and as they left the house, she put a \$5 bill in his hand and said, "This one's on me." When he protested, she made him take it. "That's the way it was with us.

it a lot together, but he hasn't had it out on the river since her disappearance. He thinks she really wanted to buy a new car, but when he talked about a boat he couldn't afford, she bought it and gave it to him as a present. She paid for the boat, a twin-powered, 16-foot aluminum outboard, and for one of its motors. "I'm still making payments on the other motor."

**THE CRAWFORD HOUSE IS A TWO-STORY,** colonial type with tall columns at the front. It is white frame with a green roof. Mr. Crawford thinks it is at least 100 years old and that the father of the late Henry Berg, who was born in the room where Maud Crawford was last known to be, probably built the house. It had 10 rooms and one bath; the Crawfords added two rooms and three baths.

A large garage is in the rear of the house. His new boat, which he has not used since his wife's disappearance, sits inside it, and Mrs. Crawford's old sedan and Mr. Crawford's pick-up truck are parked on a paved area near the garage. The truck was repainted last year, after someone threw acid on it and also slashed the tires—an act blamed on juvenile vandalism.

The remodeling that Mrs. Crawford had done just before her disappearance included enlarging her bedroom and converting adjacent space into a bathroom with a built-in dressing table, furnished in pink, and a walk-in closet.

The rooms and the closet still contain her belongings. "Everything will be waiting for her, just like she left it," he said. He has made only two changes in the house: He moved some of his suits to her closet because of its roominess, and he had a long cord put on the telephone and takes it to his bedroom at the rear of the house at night.

Mr. Crawford isn't sure what clothes are missing from the big closet. A stand on the floor holds a double row of shoes, which have turned gray-green with mold since they were last worn. The

weight or gaining some more and wore whatever fit. He thinks an old cowhide shoulder purse is gone, but he isn't sure but what she gave it away. It was a good bag and large enough that "she could have put a nightgown and some stuff in it if she wanted to." He isn't familiar enough with her clothes to know if other things are gone.

According to the missing bulletin distributed by the police, she was probably wearing a dark tan gabardine dress buttoned down the front, no collar, with embroidery crest on the left pocket.

**FROM THE BEGINNING, HE KNEW THAT** her eyeglasses and lower dental plate were not still in the house. "She liked to take the plate out when she was sitting around the house; it looks like she put it in to go out."

Even now, six months later, he searches her rooms and closets trying to find some clue from what's there and what isn't, and only recently, his attention was caught by a little box of bobby pins on her dressing table. "Suddenly I thought, 'Hair pins—where are her comb and brush?' There were so many people in the house someone could have taken them, but it doesn't look like anyone would want those things." At any rate, they are gone.

In Mrs. Crawford's rooms and throughout the house are many evidences of Mr. Crawford's wood-working skill. The antique poster bed and bureau she used were refinished by him, and he built several ornamental cabinets. One is a lacquered, notched pine one that fits a corner, and another is gilded with a mirror back. Mrs. Crawford had a collection of china objects, including some Dresden pieces and a tea set that had been a friend's wedding gift. A bureau with a brown marble top—"probably Italian"—is old but not as old as it might appear, he said. Bigger dovetails, done by hand, are found on older pieces.

**CLYDE CRAWFORD, DESPITE THE EVENTS** of the past months, is friendly to visitors. He talks

## Vanishing Americans

IT HAS BEEN ESTIMATED that more than 50,000 persons are reported as missing every year in this country. As many as 10,000, for example, turn up missing in New York City every year.

Most are eventually found; hos-

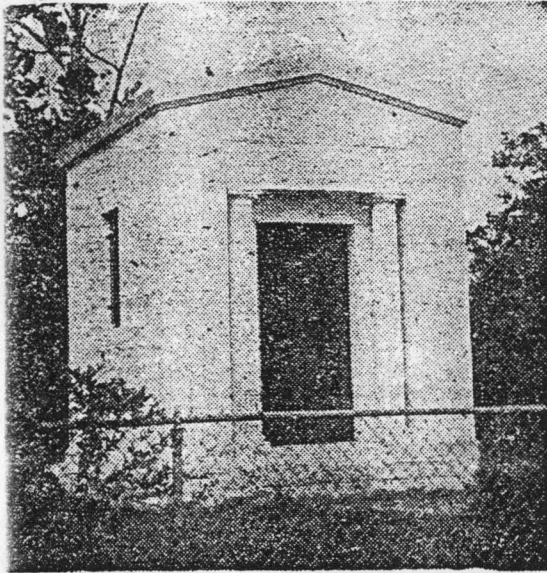
pitals, mental institutions and death by accident account for nearly one-half of the disappearances in New York. But true amnesia, according to Capt. John Cronin, head of the New York Police Department Missing Persons

Bureau, "is almost as rare as leprosy."

Men disappear more often than women; the National Travelers Aid Association says that 61.4 per cent of all missing persons are male.

—J. M.

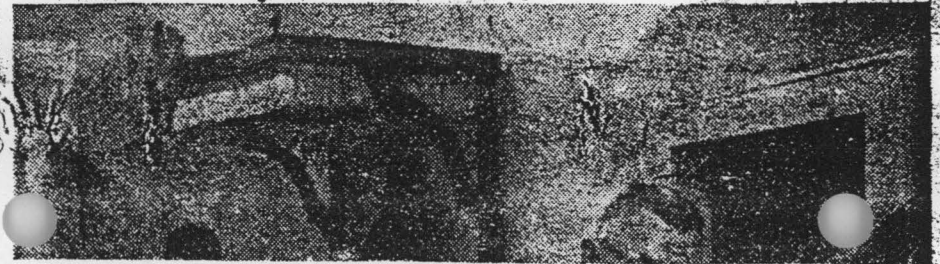
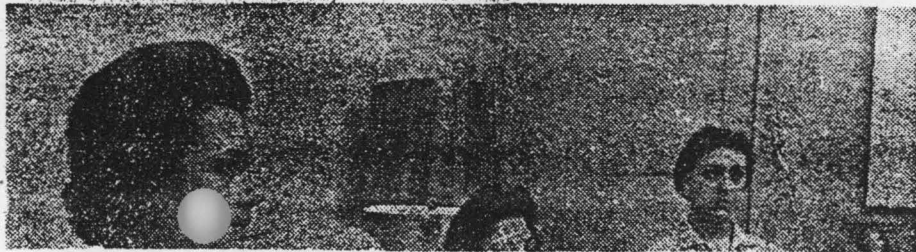
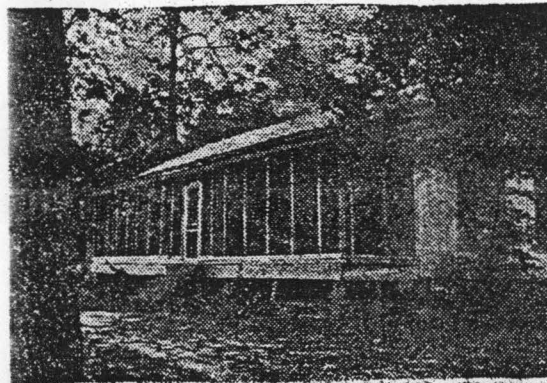




The Berg mausoleum was unlocked and checked during the intensive search that was made when it was learned that Mrs. Crawford was missing. Mrs. Crawford was appointed in July, 1955, to act as personal guardian for Mrs. Henry Berg, Camden widow, who is ill.



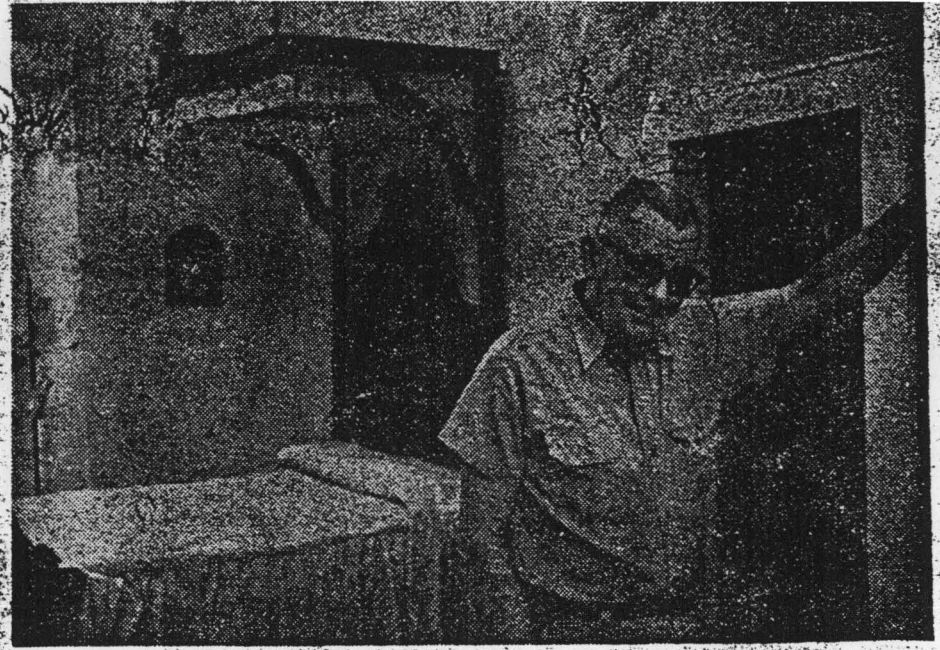
Above—Mr. Crawford walks the dog, Dal, every day now, just as Mrs. Crawford formerly did. Left—The Crawfords' cabin at Mustin Lake, seven miles from Camden, was searched the morning after Mrs. Crawford's disappearance. It is one of several dozen at the private lake. A caretaker and his family live just inside the locked gate to the grounds. There was no sign anyone visited the cabin the night of March 2.







Four roomers in the Crawford house in March — Miss Joan McLendon, Miss Gay Avant and Miss Doris Jinks (above) and Miss Ida Lou Dunn, now in Albuquerque—avoided the dog; Miss Avant said she was bitten by him once.



Mrs. Crawford slept in a canopied, antique bed that Mr. Crawford, a furniture expert, refinished for her. Part of the house, including her bedroom and bath, had just been remodeled. Pink was the predominant color she chose.

freely and easily, without sign of strain. He has a good sense of humor: "When we had 22 girls rooming here during the war, someone might have tried to look in a window, but they don't bother me. They're afraid of this old house, now."

He knows that many people have suspected him of causing his wife's disappearance, but he shows no resentment. "I don't know when this will be over but I'll come out on top. It's a long road that has no turning."

He's a man of neat appearance, sun-tanned and seemingly physically fit. He wears green-tinted glasses and khaki clothes of good quality that fit him well. He is 63 years old.

The dog, called Dal because he is a white Dalmatian with black spots, was first Mr. Crawford's dog. The men he associated with at the stores he frequents gave him Dal as a present when Mr. Crawford was depressed over the death of another dog. His owner said he could sell Dal for \$100 but he'd rather Clyde have him. "He was my dog, but then he took to Maud. I couldn't put his collar on or get close to him for weeks after she'd gone." But now

Dal seems to know Mr. Crawford has to take care of him.

Dal has lost weight in recent months. Mr. Crawford thinks he may be grieving. He has begun to howl, too, when he's let out in the mornings. Every afternoon, Mr. Crawford takes him for a walk, as a substitute for the one Mrs. Crawford took him for every day at 5 p. m. "I couldn't hold him on that grass rope she used; I got a chain."

**MR. CRAWFORD'S DAILY WALK WITH THE**  
dog is almost his only outing now. Formerly a regu-

### On the Cover.

The lonely figure on the cover of today's Magazine is Clyde Crawford. Except for him and the dog, this big house that towers behind him is empty now. That photograph and the ones on this page were taken by Will Counts, a staff photographer of the Sunday Magazine. He and Mrs. Martin, the associate editor of the Sunday Magazine, visited Camden and other cities in south Arkansas to gather first-hand material for these two articles, the first of which appeared last Sunday. The photographs of Mrs. Crawford and her sitting room were taken by Ben Bracken, a Camden photographer.

lar moviegoer, he said he never goes to one any more. He stays at home when he isn't at work, "waiting for Maud." He isn't sure he can resist the lure of the football season; however. "For 30 years we bought two tickets for the season and had a box on the 50-yard line; just last week I bought one ticket."

He hoped the memory of old times might hasten his wife's return, but her birthday passed on June 22 without incident. When there was a death in her family, "I told Al Rhodes (Camden newspaperman) to put it all over the paper so maybe she'd see it and come back, but she didn't." The Crawfords' 32nd wedding anniversary will be on December 6.

Clyde Crawford asked this reporter: "When is your story going to come out? I'll cut it out and save it for Maud to read—when she's ready to.

"When she comes back, I'll not ask her any questions; she'll tell me about it when she wants."



# ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT

LITTLE ROCK, SEPTEMBER 15, 1937

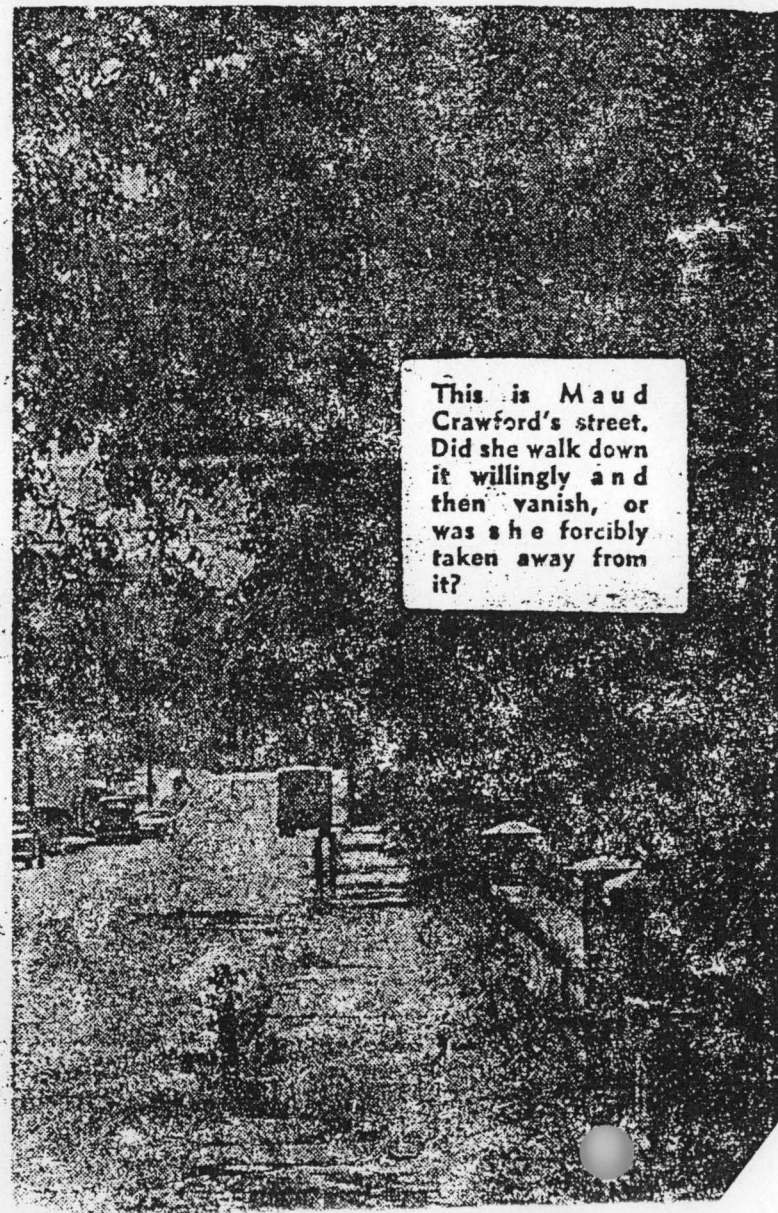
*Sunday*  
**MAGAZINE**

The First of Two Articles:

## The Strange Case Of Maud Crawford

Is she missing or murdered? Today,  
more than six months after she disappeared into the night,  
that question still haunts the citizens of Camden.

Copyright 1937 by the Arkansas Democrat



This is Maud  
Crawford's street.  
Did she walk down  
it willingly and  
then vanish, or  
was she forcibly  
taken away from  
it?

*934211*

\$1,000.00 Demand

# \$1,000.00 Reward



MRS. CLYDE (MAUD) CRAWFORD

A reward will be paid to the person or persons furnishing information as follows:

1. If Alive—\$1,000.00 for information establishing the present whereabouts of Mrs. Clyde (Maud) Crawford, or
2. If Dead—\$1,000.00 for information leading to discovery of her body and the arrest and conviction of the person or persons responsible for her death, or \$500.00 for information leading to the discovery of her body, or \$500.00 for the arrest and conviction of the person or persons responsible for her death.

## G. B. COLE

CHIEF OF POLICE  
CAMDEN, ARKANSAS  
TRUSTEE, REWARD FUND

Disappeared from her home in Camden, Arkansas, the night of March 2, 1957, unheard of since.

### DESCRIPTION:

Height: 5 feet, 5 inches  
Age: 60 years  
Weight: Approximately 165  
Hair: Grey (reddish hue)  
Skin: Very fair—freckled.  
Eyes: Blue.

By ROBERTA MARTIN

AT 5 P. M. ON FRIDAY, MARCH 2, MAUD Crawford stuffed her briefcase full of legal papers and stopped at the desk of Pauline Ables. Mrs. Ables was her co-worker and close friend. "If you wake up tomorrow," she told Mrs. Ables teasingly, referring to the fact that the office was closed on Saturdays, "come on to the house. They're bringing me some curtain samples to look at."

Then, with her usual week-end goodbyes to the other persons in the office, she walked out of the door of the Camden law firm at 118 Jefferson Street where she had worked for 41 years and drove home in the dark blue Mercury sedan she used.

Saturday she busied herself about her home, supervised the curtain measurements, shopped for groceries and sat down after supper to watch television. She spread her work on a table and began to snap a bowl of green beans.

The telephone rang about 8:30 p. m., and Maud Crawford, alone in the house, answered it. She spoke into it briefly to a cousin, and put the receiver down.

That moment marks the beginning of the strange case of the disappearance of Maud Crawford. No one saw her or spoke to her after the time of that phone call; at least no one has said that they did. She vanished from her home sometime in the space of the next two and a half hours, without leaving a trace of the time, manner or reason for her departure.

THE NIGHT OF MARCH 2 WAS COLD, AND A drizzling rain was falling. Camden, which has a population of 17,628, was for the most part a city contained indoors that night. There was little foot traffic. The moving traffic, however, included its taxicabs, which went all over town and back. The drivers saw nothing out of the ordinary.

At about 11 p. m. Clyde Crawford, Maud's husband, came home after watching television at a liquor store. He told the police later that he had overstayed his usual nightly visit at the store. He

said the lights in his home and the television set were on, his wife's purse with \$137 in cash and \$200 in checks in it was there, a dog that was viciously protective to her showed no sign of excitement, her legal papers were still spread on the table and the beans were half finished. "But Maud was gone."

And in the six months that have passed since that night, she has not been found.

Is Maud Crawford still alive? Most of the people who knew her best do not think so. Some of them felt she was dead from the first moment they learned she was gone. Others have come to that conclusion as the months passed without any word of what might have happened to her. A few simply do not know what to think.

On the eve of the six-month anniversary, on Sept. 2, of her disappearance, the people who were associated closest with her through kinship, business and friendship and the men who have searched for her fruitlessly since that night were asked what they think happened. Their conclusions can be summed up simply: They still have precisely the same feeling of amazement and complete bafflement that struck Camden on Sunday, March 3, when Maud Crawford's disappearance became known.

They have not discovered a single new fact; no clue of any kind has been found; no mark of violence has been uncovered. Nothing has changed. This Sunday could as easily be that Sunday in March as far as the case is concerned. Nothing that was learned that day has been proved false; nothing has been added to the knowledge that day brought out.

NEARLY EVERYONE IN TOWN CALLED Mrs. Crawford "Miss Maud." She was 60 years old with reddish-gray hair, blue eyes, very fair skin and freckles on her hands and arms. She wore tortoiseshell glasses with gold and silver trim on them, a large wedding band set with five good-sized diamonds and false teeth. She was five feet five-inches tall and weighed about 160 pounds, and she had

(Continued on Page 7.)



(Continued from Page 1.)

arthritis in the second joints of her fingers, especially on her left hand.

She attended the 1st Methodist Church. She went to meetings of the Pilot Club and the Business and Professional Women's Club, and she managed the Camden Girls' State activities and went to Little Rock for its yearly encampments. She was a friend to shut-ins and a benefactor of many working girls.

Before her marriage, she was Maud Robinson, the daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Robinson, Pine Bluff. After her mother's death, she was reared by her grandmother, Mrs. Thomas J. Ritchey, in Warren. She went to the University of Arkansas for one year and then she took a job in the Camden law offices of Gaughan and Sifford. Her first employers, both judges, are dead. The firm is now composed of J. E. Gaughan and Thomas Gaughan, sons of Judge Gaughan, and Walter Laney, former mayor of Camden. U. S. Sen. John L. McClellan was in the firm for a time; he is now an inactive member. Maud Crawford liked law; she passed her state bar examination in 1925, after teaching herself all the law she could learn, and became Camden's first woman attorney.

The same year she married Clyde Crawford, who was born in Camden. His father, W. G. Crawford, was a well-known blacksmith who died in a fire attempting to save his wife. She was rescued by other persons and lived with her son and Maud Crawford until her death several years ago.

Maud and Clyde Crawford had no children.

Mr. Crawford worked at the Camden Furniture Co. for many years. "I helped set up the equipment there and made the first piece of furniture that came out of the factory," he remembers. In the early 1930s, he had a mental breakdown. After he recovered, he became a floor finishing contractor and cabinet maker, with a shop at the rear of their home. He is known as an expert antique refinisher.

**MOST PEOPLE THOUGHT OF MAUD CRAWFORD** as a well-to-do, if not wealthy, woman. Her income from the law firm was from \$6,000 to \$8,000 a year. She liked to draw only a small monthly salary and get the rest at the end of the year, figured on a percentage of the firm's business.

Her work was mostly concerned with land titles; she was recognized as an expert. She was more than accurate; her employers said she just didn't make mistakes. And she liked her work. J. E. Gaughan said: "The more she had to do, the more she liked it. Sometimes we'd talk about turning down some work because she had so much to do, but she'd say, 'Don't turn it down—I can do it.' And she'd take some and stay up half the night."

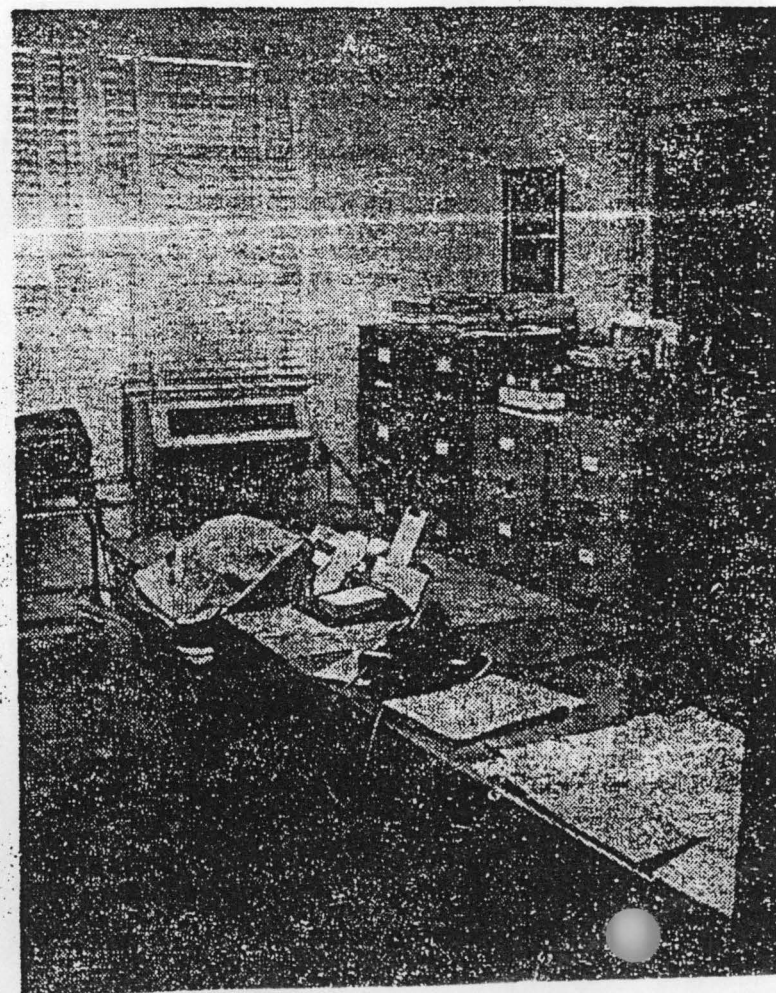
Photographs by WILL COUNTS

# The Strange Case of Maud Crawford

Few of her friends ever expect to see her again. They remember her as an outspoken woman lawyer with a good income.



Right—Mrs. Crawford's desk (in foreground) now stands in the law firm. Above—Mr. Laney (top) and J. E. Gaughan (bottom).





didn't make mistakes. And she liked her work. J. E. Gaughan said: "The more she had to do, the more she liked it. Sometimes we'd talk about turning down some work because she had so much to do, but she'd say, 'No, don't turn it down—I can do it.' And she'd take it home and stay up half the night."

In July, 1955, Mrs. Crawford got another job. She was appointed by court order as personal guardian of Mrs. Henry Berg, an invalid widow whose estate is reported to be valued at about \$17 million. Ed Pace, Camden, serves as Mrs. Berg's legal guardian. Mrs. Crawford was paid \$4,500 a year for her services and had an account of \$1,000 a month to pay for medical care and household expenses for Mrs. Berg. The Berg house is at the corner of Dallas and Clifton streets, only the street's width from the Crawford house at 430 Clifton St.; she visited it every day but had not gone there on March 2.

She was also collector for a street improvement fund, which, a businessman said, was no different from all the others in Camden. They are all paid out, or nearly so; there haven't been any collections on them for a long time. There are several thousand dollars on deposit in the bank for the one she handled.

Her life was insured for about \$15,000, with her husband as beneficiary. She had recently mortgaged her home and spent about \$5,000 remodeling it; last year she bought a twin-motored boat as a present



The Berg house is at the corner of Dallas and Clifton streets, facing Dallas. The back of it is across the street from the Crawford house on Clifton Street.

Sunday, September 15, 1957

Right—Mrs. Crawford's desk (in foreground) now stands idle. Above—Mr. Laney (top) and J. E. Gaughan are members of the law firm where Mrs. Crawford had worked since 1916.

for her husband and paid for all of it except one motor.

Mr. Crawford has been appointed trustee for the estate under a law regarding missing persons. If she is dead and her body is not found, seven years must pass before she can be declared so.

ON JULY 16, THE CITY THAT HAD BEEN through months of incredulous dismay and uneasy speculation sought to hasten the end of the long waiting for Maud Crawford. A reward of \$1,000 was offered for information establishing her present whereabouts or leading to discovery of her body and the arrest and conviction of the person or persons responsible for her death. It went to all the police departments in the United States, and it was tacked up as a grim reminder, if anyone needed one, in Camden.

Mr. Laney, who obtained subscribers to the reward fund, explained that offering a reward had been suggested earlier but police authorities advised its postponement. He said more money could have been raised and more persons could have been added to the subscription list, but it was felt \$1,000 would serve the purpose as well as a larger sum. His firm pledged half the amount; other subscribers include a Camden bank and half a dozen individual businessmen.

"We hope it will do some good," he said, "but we wanted to offer it anyhow, to show that folks in Camden are concerned enough to do it."

The reward poster has not brought a solution to the Maud Crawford case. It has brought to Police Chief G. B. Cole, whose name appears on it, a number of letters advancing theories that are more hopeful than helpful. They have come from a dozen Arkansas cities and cities in Louisiana, Missouri, Oklahoma, Kansas, Tennessee, Mississippi and California.

Some of the writers said they had seen Mrs. Crawford after her disappearance on television shows, in public places like post offices and hospitals

and, one said, in a cafe in south Arkansas drinking a can of beer.

Others said her body could be found beneath the Crawford house in an old cistern, in concrete, between the walls, in a false trap door under the carpet, secreted in someone else's grave or weighted down at the bottom of the Ouachita river.

The Camden police have not taken any chances. Every suggestion, even the ones they thought impossible; have been checked. Every new grave in Camden's three cemeteries was inspected; none showed signs of disturbance since the rain of March 2 fell on them.

As for a cistern or old well: "One of the first places I went was under the Crawford house," J. I. Burnette, assistant police chief, said. "There may have been a cistern there once, but that house is only so high off the ground; I didn't miss any of it."

AT FIRST, WHEREVER MORE THAN ONE person could be found in Camden, there could also be found some discussion under way about what may have happened to Maud Crawford. Now, there's less talk but when there is any, it's the same sort of theorizing: (1) She went away alive on her own accord or (2) she was carried away and killed, probably in that order because the dog wouldn't let anyone get near her.

After that general division of theories, they branch out in all directions: She assumed a disguise—cut and dyed her hair—and is walking around somewhere in men's clothes; it was amnesia; it was suicide; it was a teen-age gang killing. Someone took her from the back entrance, possibly by phoning and saying her husband had been in a wreck; someone she had confidence in asked her to meet them at the back because of the dog. She was kidnapped by mistake for Mrs. Berg; there's even a mysterious little black box in the case—that, one rumor said, once held a lot of money. And there are other theories,

(Turn Page, Please.)



# The Strange Case of Maud Crawford

(Continued from Page 7.)

including some ugly ones of the variety that come up in connection with practically every event that is greatly publicized and whets the public's appetite for mystery.

All these theories have their advocates, and all have their debunkers. A man in her office said, "She couldn't pass for a man." Her physician, Dr. R. B. Robins, said he first thought of amnesia but doesn't hold to it now, and he can't believe that she could have committed suicide. He went through her purse looking for a note. "She was a very stable woman; there were no signs of a breakdown. I knew her to be in good health; she was a little heavy, so I gave her a diet list and prescribed some pills to cut her appetite down."

He added: "It was not a one-person deal; no one person could have handled her."

No ransom note was found; no attempt at such contact was made. And everyone agrees anyone who knew Mrs. Berg's habits wouldn't have expected to find her going in and out of the house as Mrs. Crawford did.

Mr. Pace said: "I don't think there was any money in that box. I've been dealing with Mrs. Crawford a long time and I think she was completely honest." He said Mrs. Crawford found the box in Mrs. Berg's bedroom, in September 1955, and told him she was going to take it to her house and have a key made. About two weeks later, she phoned him that there was nothing in it but "just a bunch of nothing." He said she opened it in the presence of the man who made the key and that a list of its contents has been filed in court. Some of the things it held were Mrs. Berg's marriage certificate and gold wedding band, some old receipts and a warranty on the organ in the Jewish synagogue.

"I can't tell you what happened to Mrs. Crawford," Mr. Pace said, "but it was not dishonesty that caused it—I'll say that on my dying bed. The money she spent for Mrs. Berg checks to the penny."

There was a check for \$1,000 in the house the night she disappeared. Mr. Pace had mailed it to her on March 1, and the police returned it to him later.

Mr. Pace said he was asked to have her accounts audited, including the street improvement district fund she handled, and he found no shortage anywhere.

**IF MAUD CRAWFORD HAD ANY ENEMIES,** no one knows who they were. Mr. Laney said: "It's beyond imagination that she could have run into

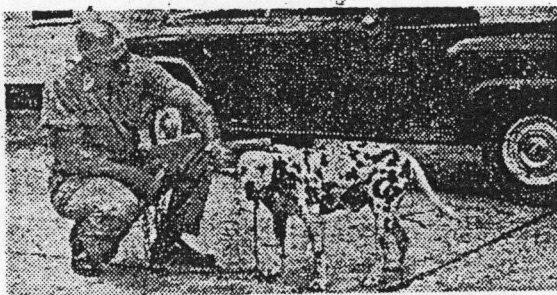
the way she told you. She invariably chewed me out about the parking meters, but she'd bawl you out and go on about her business. I can't see why anyone would want to harm Miss Maud. She was a smart woman and well respected."

The possibility of a family quarrel has been thoroughly debated. The phone call that Maud Crawford received at 8:30 p. m. on March 2 was from her cousin, Mrs. Howard Carver, who was visiting in Camden from De Queen. Mrs. Carver is the former Miss Martha Robins, foster daughter of Dr. Robins, and the mother of a son, John Robert, 2½, whom Mrs. Crawford regarded as a favorite young relative.

Could she have been so disappointed at having the Carvers stay at a friend's house instead of with her that she ran away in pique?

"I would have known if Cousin Maud was mad," Mrs. Carver said. "She doesn't beat around the bush. But she hadn't planned on us being there until the next day; she was fixing those beans for our Sunday

## Next Week:



Clyde Crawford says Maud is alive.

dinner with her. I just phoned to let her know we were in town, at Edna's. It was a short conversation—I may have said later she was peeved, I don't remember. But I didn't feel I had hurt her feelings. I don't guess she's ever really been mad at me that I can remember."

Mrs. Crawford helped Mrs. Carver's father, who was her uncle, take care of 10 children when their mother died. "I don't guess I could have done without her all these years," Mrs. Carver said. "She was so good to me and my band, and she was always coming to see the baby and buying him clothes."

wasn't alarmed because he wasn't; he didn't seem upset." At 12 noon, Sergeant Martin drove by the house and saw a crowd there. He stopped and went in. Shortly afterwards, he called J. I. Burnette, the assistant police chief, because Chief Cole was out of town.

Mr. Burnette said he arrived at the Crawford house about 2 p. m. and found the sheriff and his men and the state police investigator there and "the place covered with people—friends and neighbors."

Mr. Burnette and Sergeant Martin started a check of the neighborhood and questioned the neighbors. One neighbor told of having heard a car come into the Crawford driveway the night before, but, the officer said, he couldn't remember exactly what time it had been and the time he thought it was, was only a matter of minutes different from the time of Mr. Crawford's homecoming.

Mr. Burnette said: "I think the general feeling at first was she had just gone off with someone else. When she didn't show up later and her friends were contacted and knew nothing about her, then we knew she was really missing."

Chief Cole came back Monday. By then, he said, the investigation was on. "There was nothing in that house out of order—no blood, no disturbed furniture, no broken dishes. There were absolutely no grounds to suspect any foul play."

**BUT THE POSSIBILITY OF FOUL PLAY WAS** not overlooked. "We had a Negro who's been with the city 30 years and knows every manhole in town check every sewer trap and walk all the sewer lines out to the river."

Chief Cole said he remembered that Camden has had two suicides in the river in recent years, one that of an elderly lady who left her purse and a note in a car after attending Sunday morning church services and the other, an elderly man in bad health. Both bodies were found floating in the river, the woman's on the same day and man's three months later. "Last March the river was flooded and the current swift, but we've got a lot of fishermen with boats and hooks. They were out with boats all day Sunday and a long time afterwards."

And so on that March Sunday, alarm grew into grim certainty. A crowd of hundreds of persons gathered and began to search the neighborhood; the search finally covered an area of about five miles around the house. Vacant houses, ravines and wooded areas were checked. The Circle T Riding Club sent horsemen to help; the Camden Boating Club members examined the banks of the river; the Boy Scouts and National Guardmen took part. The Borg



Mr. Pace said he was asked to have her accounts audited, including the street improvement district fund she handled, and he found no shortage anywhere.

**IF MAUD CRAWFORD HAD ANY ENEMIES,** no one knows who they were. Mr. Laney said: "It's beyond my imagination that she could have run into anything in her work to excite a passion like murder. It was all based on what was already on record."

Maud Crawford was known as a frank-spoken person but one who did a lot of good work, particularly with older people. She baked cakes and cookies for them, especially at Christmas; she spent many nights picking out pecans for this cooking, while she watched television. The week before she disappeared she had been planning a tea so some older women could just get together and talk. There were already more than 30 names on the list she was making for widows and elderly persons who were alone. Mrs. J. A. (Pauline) Ables said: "First she said she'd make it for women 65 years old, but then she laughed and said, 'They won't admit to being 65; we'll just say middle-aged'."

Her employers agreed that "she blew off steam and that was all." She didn't hold grudges. Some one might have walked into the office and thought she was raking the others over—any of them—"but that was just her way;" it was all over in a few minutes and no one paid any attention to it.

Chief Cole said she was his boss when she was alderman for two four-year terms about eight years ago. "She would tell you quick what she thought; you might get mad but you couldn't help respecting

## About This Series

It has been a long time since anything has captured the interest of newspapers readers as completely as the disappearance of Maud Crawford. That was one reason why the Sunday Magazine decided to prepare this series. Another reason was that in presenting this story in a publication of such wide distribution, someone, somewhere, might come upon the story who had knowledge of what had happened to this woman. Mrs. Martin, the associate editor of the Magazine, and Will Counts, a Magazine photographer, made two trips to Camden and other cities in south Arkansas where she interviewed 42 persons. The picture of Mrs. Crawford with Mrs. Kate Garner on this page was taken by Ben Bracken, a Camden photographer. All of the other pictures were taken by Mr. Counts. The second installment of "The Strange Case of Maud Crawford" will appear in the Magazine next week.

All of the information contained in today's installment and the one that follows next Sunday was based on interviews, research and observations as of September 2—the six-month anniversary of Maud Crawford's disappearance.

I don't guess she's ever really been mad at me that I can remember."

Mrs. Crawford helped Mrs. Carver's father, who was her uncle, take care of 10 children when their mother died. "I don't guess I could have done without her all these years," Mrs. Carver said. "She was so good to me and my husband, and she was always coming to see the baby and buying him clothes."

Mrs. Alvin (Edna) Hardin, with whom the Carvers spent the night of March 2 and from whose home the call was made, said that "this incident has been overemphasized, unfairly so to Martha. I think she was misquoted; I don't remember her saying exactly, 'Cousin Maud is peeved.' She may have said Maud acted kind of funny because she wasn't coming over that night, but the plan all along was for Martha to stay here. We didn't think Maud had been upset by that phone call. Maud often got impatient with all of us; she'd be short to me as quick as to Martha. It was just her way. We never thought it meant anything."

Mrs. Carver added: "I just couldn't believe the next day that Cousin Maud was gone. I just knew every minute she'd walk in."

**THAT FEELING WAS RATHER GENERAL IN** Camden during the first hours that Maud Crawford was gone. It seemed impossible for anyone to think that anything had occurred except, perhaps, that an errand her husband didn't know about had taken her away for a little while.

John Tate, night police chief, was on duty at the police station when the first official report of the disappearance was received. Mr. Crawford came in through the back door about 2:25 a. m. and waited in the side door to the office while a prisoner was brought in. Then he asked Mr. Tate if he'd heard of any accidents that night or knew of anyone who had gotten sick and might have called for his wife. When Mr. Tate said no, Mr. Crawford said, "Maud is gone." Mr. Tate asked if he had checked with her friends, and he replied that he didn't want to create a disturbance, that he knew how Mrs. Crawford was, liable to get up any time of night if friends were sick. Mr. Tate told him: "Let us know if you want us to do anything," but he said he heard nothing more about it and went off duty at 6 a. m.

The next word came about 8:30, when Sgt. Robert Martin started out to get in his patrol car and met Mr. Crawford coming in. Mr. Crawford asked: "Have you heard anything from Maud yet?" Sergeant Martin said: "I didn't know what he was talking about, so he told me. I said if he didn't hear something pretty soon to let us know and we'd come out there. I

And so on that March Sunday, alarm grew into grim certainty. A crowd of hundreds of persons gathered and began to search the neighborhood; the search finally covered an area of about five miles around the house. Vacant houses, ravines and wooded areas were checked. The Circle T Riding Club sent horsemen to help; the Camden Boating Club members examined the banks of the river; the Boy Scouts and National Guardsmen took part. The Berg mausoleum was unlocked and searched, and the Berg house was looked through "at least 25 times," Mr. Pace said, "to be sure she wasn't somewhere over there. Those beans she was fixing were for Mrs. Berg."

All the transportation facilities available in Camden, including taxicab services, were questioned; hospitals and sanitariums were asked to check on any unidentified patients.

Mrs. Carver and her husband drove out to Mustin Lake, about seven miles from Camden, and went through a summer cabin the Crawfords had there. Mrs. Carver said her cousin had not used it much in recent years, but when Mrs. Carver was in high school and the Crawfords had a large number of girls rooming at their house, the cabin was used often.

"I had it announced in Sunday School class," said Mrs. Ida Sullenberger, a Camden property owner who said she had been close friends with Mrs. Crawford since the death of Mr. Sullenberger in 1948. "Clyde came over here about 7:30 or 8 Sunday morning and asked if I'd seen her."

Grover Linebarrier, Ouachita county sheriff, said his wife called him at his office in the courthouse after hearing the Sunday School announcement. Shortly afterwards, he accompanied Sgt. Otis Henley, special investigator for the Arkansas State Police, to the Crawford house.

**ON MONDAY, MARCH 4, THE FOUR YOUNG** working girls who were then rooming with the Crawfords and who had all been gone for the week end, returned to Camden, but they could add nothing to help clear up the mystery. The night of March 2 was the first time, so far as anyone can recall, that Maud Crawford had been completely alone in her home at night.

The last time of any length that the girls spent with her was on the previous Thursday night when they watched television with her. "She was all right then," said Miss Gay Avant, a stenographer from Hampton.

Miss Joan McLendon, a registered nurse from Locust Bayou, said: "I saw her Saturday afternoon



# vford

m about 1:30 or 1:45 when I was leaving; I told her when I'd be back."

ne Miss Doris Jinks, a bookkeeper from Waterloo, said she didn't see her Saturday at all. "I got home at 6, picked up my suitcase and left. I didn't notice anything wrong."

nt The fourth girl, Miss Ida Lou Dunn, a clerk-typist, is now living in Albuquerque, N. M. All of them moved out of the Crawford house a week after the disappearance.

he The girls agreed that Mrs. Crawford was "a friend to us, not just a landlady; we really liked her."

s," **ON THAT MONDAY, CAMDEN GOT ITS FIRST** taste of the publicity that has carried its name from coast to coast. The story of her disappearance was carried in practically every newspaper in the United States before the first frenzy of excitement died down; the reward poster and her picture have been on national television and on national radio. Reporters came to Camden from Chicago, St. Louis, New York, Dallas and Tulsa, and the story was carried by The Associated Press, United Press and International News Service. "But I still couldn't believe it," said Al Rhodes, the editor of the Camden News. "I could still see her, as I'd seen her so many times, walking that dog every day at 5 o'clock. She had about a 20 or 30-foot grass rope and that dog would pull her along and run into every tree."

AS Other persons found it hard to believe, too, in spite of the mounting evidence that Maud Crawford was really gone.

th "My idea was that she was one person who could take care of herself pretty well," said Mrs. Mildred Goodwin, owner of the Rialto Beauty Shop where Mrs. Crawford went to have her hair fixed. "She never seemed depressed or anything like that. She was always rushed, but it didn't seem to bother her."

as The beauty shop had ordered her a \$15 chignon, dyed to match her hair, because she planned to let her hair grow out and wanted it to cover the loose ends. So she thought she could pin it on, too, they said, when she didn't have time to get her hair fixed. Sometimes she didn't go to the shop for two or three weeks at a time. The chignon came in after she disappeared and was finally returned to the supply house.

he But Mrs. Sullenberger said, "To me, Maud's just gone. I never felt that she'd be back. I think she walked out of the door willingly but when she got to the car that was the last she ever knew. Somebody knowing her husband wasn't there, could have



Mrs. Crawford (left) and her friend, Mrs. Kate Garner, posed for this photograph used in a Camden newspaper during Nat'l Business Women's Week a year ago.



Dr. Robins: "It's a complete mystery. I felt it was serious that Sunday."



Sheriff Linebarrier: "Everyone connected with it checked out all right."



Chief Cole: "Where, in our three miles of river, would divers start?"



Mrs. Carver: "It was you don't expect to your family." Her so





house.

But Mrs. Sullenberger said, "To me, Maud's just gone. I never felt that she'd be back. I think she walked out of the door willingly but when she got to the car, that was the last she ever knew. Somebody, knowing her husband wasn't there, could have tricked her out of the house."

She said Mrs. Crawford wasn't the type of person who was afraid of anything; she took everything as it came, and Mrs. Sullenberger declared that she can't believe she wanted to get even with anybody or would want to worry anybody. "Maud always worried about getting home. She'd say, 'I'm afraid Clyde will be worried about me.'"

Sheriff Linebarier said, "I've known Maud since 1917. I knew her and Clyde before they started dating; I used to go on picnics and swimming parties with both of them before any of us were married. I couldn't feature anything happening to her."

She wasn't the type to walk off, according to Mrs. Ables. "She wasn't unhappy. She loved her work and loved her home."

**AND ON THAT GRIM MONDAY, THE LAW** office opened for business—but not for business "as usual." Maud Crawford's desk remained empty, her typewriter covered. According to her employers, there are not half a dozen persons in Arkansas who could replace her in the kind of work she did. It is only now that its continuance is being undertaken, by the three members of the firm when they find the time and the somewhat reluctant willingness to do it. Her desk is still unused; her personal belongings are still in its drawers.

J. E. Gauhan said it left the other persons in the office with a peculiar feeling, "to have a person leave you on Friday under normal circumstances and then just vanish."

He added: "I've dreamed about her many times, always the same dream. We're working in the office and then I remember about her. I look up and say, 'Miss Maud, when did you get back, and where have you been?' Then I always wake up, right there; she never answers."

Thomas Gaughan said that, even after six months, the whole thing is nightmarish to him. He remembered that Mrs. Crawford wrote him a letter when he was in the hospital about two weeks before her disappearance. She told him: "Clyde just told me the legislature has taxed our pants off and then outlawed the only nudist colony in the state."

Mr. Laney said he could not say that he ever



Mrs. Ables: "The last time I saw her, on Friday, she was not depressed."



Mrs. Sullenberger: "She didn't disappear; something happened to her."



Mrs. Goodwin: "She used little make-up, paid little attention to appearance."



Mrs. Hardin: "We all over Maud's house at Mrs. Berg's house."

expected to see Mrs. Crawford again but that if she came back, she still had a job; his partners agreed.

Mr. Pace said: "I wish she would come back—she was a big help to me. But I can't say whether she would have the Berg guardianship again. It would be up to the court to decide if a woman who went away like this could continue as a guardian for someone else."

Mr. Burnette says he still has hopes that, somewhere, someone who knows Mrs. Crawford will recognize her. Sheriff Linebarier thinks: "We'll get a break one of these days." And Mrs. Carver says: "I think every day a different thing must have happened to Cousin Maud—I don't know what to believe. It looks like something has got to come up. I don't know how it's gone on this long."

Joseph J. Casper, special agent in charge of the Federal Bureau of Investigation office in Little Rock, said that the FBI did not make an official investigation of the Maud Crawford case. However, her name was placed and is still carried in the FBI's missing persons circular. Mr. Casper said he was not in a position to comment in regard to a rumor that Senator McClellan had asked the FBI to look into the case.

Sergeant Henley, who was called in from El Dorado to work on the case, said: "The case is not closed. Until it is, I have nothing to say."

**MEANWHILE, THE SEARCH FOR MAUD** Crawford has never stopped.

Chief Cole said he got a report on March 10 of a car having been seen late in the evening near a gravel pit and lake near Camden. He took Mr. Crawford and they went out there. There was a big pile of sand near the pit, with weeds growing on it. As they got near, a buzzard came flopping off of it about 20 or 25 feet high. "Clyde broke into a run, with an expectant look on his face like he thought 'My God, here's Maud,' and started looking in the weeds." They looked for 30 to 40 minutes; there was nothing there.

On August 15, Sheriff Linebarier received a call from the Mississippi Highway Patrol at New Albany. "They thought they had her, and I did too." They took a woman, a mental case, off of a bus whose description fitted perfectly. They asked questions, and everything checked with what they knew about Maud Crawford. But while they were talking to the sheriff, someone found a card in her billfold identifying her as a woman from California. They told him they would check it out, and he did not hear from them again.

Sheriff Linebarier said: "Clyde hasn't let up one minute. He's still looking around at home trying to find something that will prove something. Somebody said the other day she had bought a new corset at one of the stores, and he looked for that. He couldn't find it."

Mr. Crawford visits the police station and the sheriff's office four or five times a week. They say he walks in and asks: "Have you heard from Maud yet?"



## “The Maud Crawford mystery” (continuing)

### Revisitations

*The most intensive “revisitation” came in 1986 in a multipart series (with at eighteen installments) in the Arkansas Gazette and another multipart series in the Camden News. This sustained attention did much to ensure the story a place in South Arkansas folklore.*

*Copies of articles and clippings which follow are from Arkansas Gazette and Camden News features in 1986. These represent only a partial selection and only portions of the articles are included (usually the front page) as a means of confirming the extensive coverage.*

ment warning sits there.

Alexander of m Republican the National ion, present- a report from the National hington that s more con- d local issues politics and ould go home s of the year 1 with issues

and his wife, Beverly Hills, Los Angeles g sales of eir chain of otal prosecu- largest crimi- case in Cali-

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"I'm afraid it's going to get worse if this heat doesn't move out," Sloan said. The temperature at Fort Smith Tuesday reached 108 degrees, tying the record for the

when it reached 106 degrees, and continued to rise to 108 degrees at 3 p.m. The previous record for the

(See HEAT on Page 7A.)

eral spending. Instead, the White House said Mr. Reagan plans to speak out

(See DRUGS on Back Page.)

suffering from smoke inhalation — were airlifted to Miami hospitals and another five were taken to the Princess Margaret Hospital at Nassau, Bahamas. (Article on Page 16A.)

that the nominee r est rating. Witnesses testif Rehnquist, 61, the (See REHNQUIST

## Mystery at Camden — III

# Many police records from case have disappeared; bits remain

By Beth Brickell  
SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

CAMDEN — This city of 17,000 in South Arkansas is perhaps best known as the home of United States Senator David Pryor, of Matthew Rothert, the man responsible for "In God We Trust" appearing on American currency, and for the disappearance of Maud Crawford.

Crawford, 63, was a prominent civic leader and lawyer who worked for 41 years in a prestigious law firm in which United States Senator John L. McClellan was an inactive partner. She vanished from her Camden home March 2, 1957. No trace was found and no motive ever established.

### Reported widely

The account of her disappearance appeared in many newspapers around the country and even received wide coverage in the foreign press.

Twenty-nine years later, those press clippings are the best record available of the mystery.

Ironically, the police records



Brickell

Beth Brickell is a Los Angeles filmmaker and a former newspaper reporter. She was a student at the University of Arkansas when Maud Crawford disappeared in 1957. Brickell recently returned to her hometown of Camden and conducted an eight-month investigation of the Maud Crawford case, interviewing scores of people and searching through files and documents. She will reveal her findings in a series written exclusively for the Gazette.

have largely disappeared in much the same fashion as Crawford.

There is no record whatsoever in the Camden Police Department or in the Ouachita County sheriff's office.

### Burned, 'thrown out'

Chief G. B. Cole, police chief in Camden from 1945 to 1971, who headed the initial investigation, said recently that the files burned in a City Hall fire in 1963.

Grover Linebarier, sheriff of Ouachita County from January 1957, two months before Crawford's disappearance, to 1970, said his extensive files on the case were "thrown out" by the sheriff who succeeded him, Jerry McMahan, now deceased.

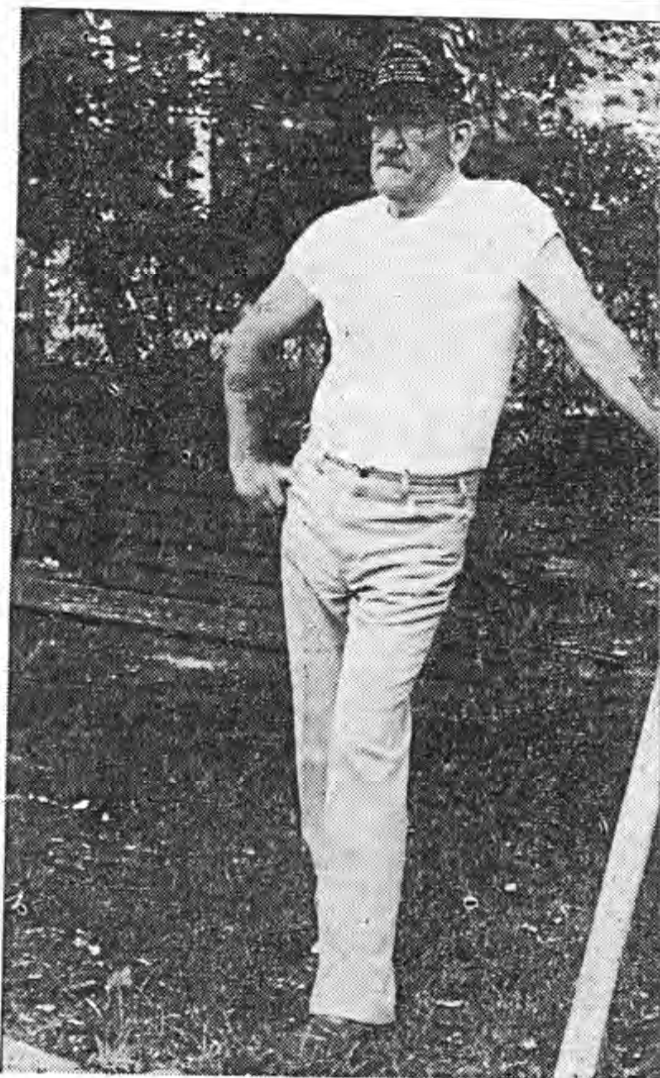
In 1970, new developments caused a brief reopening of the case, when Andy McKay, an investigator who worked for both the Camden police and the county sheriff's office, accumulated a new Crawford file. McKay said recently that all of his records "disappeared" after he left the job as investigator in 1977.

Although no local records exist, there are Maud Crawford files with both the FBI and the State Police.

### FBI only observes

However, the FBI never conducted an active investigation of the case and its reports consist

(See RECORDS on Page 12A.)



RECORDS MISSING: Odis Henley, the original State Police investi said some of his information disappeared as fast as he sent it to headqua



problem by drafting authorizations seeming to approve the destruction of the missing documents only after they could not be found.

"It is our opinion that the information was generally of the type that, if compromised, could cause damage to the national security," Martin M. Ferber, the GAO's associate director for national security, told the subcommittee.

Lawrence O. Kitchen, the Lockheed chairman, acknowledged slipshod security practices on secret "black" programs at the na-

the focus of Thursday's hearing was a single secret Lockheed program, both Committee members and witnesses declined to identify it as the F-19 Stealth fighter program. Military and congressional officials, however, have acknowledged the radar-evading fighter program is the topic of the subcommittee's investigation. The fighter uses several refined technologies to render it nearly invisible to enemy radars, these officials said.

GAO investigators said a recent

(See SECRETS on Page 16A.)



**CONVICTED:** Retired Navy radioman Jerry Whitworth was convicted Thursday by a federal court jury at San Francisco of seven counts of espionage for supplying communications secrets to convicted spy John A. Walker Jr., who later sold them to the Soviet Union. The secrets given to the Soviets by the Walker spy ring severely damaged the Navy's internal communications network and will take years and millions of dollars to repair, government officials have said. (Article on Page 3A.)

—UPI Telephoto

ation to reductions of 8.3 per cent in 1985 and 5.5 per cent in 1984. Most of the cuts have been and will continue to be made through attrition, Sells said.

### Part of company goal

John Hayes, Southwestern Bell executive vice president, said Wednesday that 1,700 jobs would be cut in Southwestern Bell's five-state region as part of a company goal to reduce employment by 3,300 this year. He said the cuts were the result of "new technology, new organizational structures and, yes, the effects of the economy." Southwestern Bell's territory of Arkansas, Missouri, Kan-

Southwestern Bell currently employs about 65,000 people in five states, including 3,700 in Kansas.

### 'Technological innovation

Sells said the reductions would occur in both management and nonmanagement areas, and would not be limited to "one or two three specific areas." He said the company was "constantly developing new technological innovations that allow us to reduce employee strength." The innovations include new computerized switching systems and automation in such areas as direct operator services. That, also

(See SW BELL on Page 15A.)

## Mystery at Camden-I

# Estate surfaces as issue in Crawford case

By Beth Brickell  
SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

**CAMDEN** — The most widely publicized unsolved mystery in Arkansas is the disappearance of Maud Crawford from her Camden home Saturday night, March 2, 1957.

Crawford, 63, was a civic leader and highly respected lawyer for 41 years in a prominent Ouachita County law firm in which United States Senator John L. McClellan was an inactive partner.

She was a stable, responsible person and there seemed to be no reason for her to vanish of her own volition. She was well liked in the community, having been the only woman ever elected to the Camden

Beth Brickell is a Los Angeles filmmaker and a former newspaper reporter. She was a student at the University of Arkansas when Maud Crawford disappeared in 1957. Brickell recently returned to her hometown of Camden and conducted an eight-month investigation of the Crawford case, interviewing scores of people and searching through files and documents. She will reveal her findings in a series written exclusively for the Gazette.



Brickell

City Council. There appeared to be no motive for foul play.

Now, 29 years later, it has been discovered that a multimillion-dollar estate was a hotly contested issue in Crawford's professional and private affairs before she disappeared.

Numerous interviews and re-

cords in the Ouachita County Courthouse reveal that Crawford was involved in a complex and bitter controversy with Henry Myar (Mike) Berg, now deceased, a member of the Arkansas State Police commission at the time. He was appointed in 1955 by then-Governor Orval E. Faubus and remained a

commissioner until shortly before his death in 1975.

### Worth \$20 million

The dispute arose from an estate that belonged to his aunt, Rose Berg. The estate, consisting of vast land holdings, oil and timber, was worth an estimated \$20 million.

Sources who were close to the situation at the time say Berg believed he was entitled to the fortune because his father and uncle were partners in a joint venture, called Berg Brothers. Crawford was Rose Berg's legal adviser, close friend and across-the-street neighbor.

Rose Berg and her husband, Henry Lyon Berg, had no children. When Henry Berg died in 1950, he



MAUD CRAWFORD

owned thousands of acres of land, city property, millions of dollars worth of blue chip stocks and

(See CRAWFORD on Page 16A.)

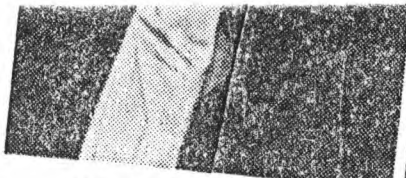
Draft

80

WIKI Oswald

This time, Little Rock Traffic Judge Bill Watt, who held Glascock in contempt of court for failure to attend the class, gave him a

(See ATTEND on Page 9A.)



DARRELL GLASCOCK — Staff Photo

provide medical care to about 4,500 inmates of the state Correction Department.

The State Police investigation, which began in March, involved a variety of allegations of wrongdoing in the prison system. The allegations, most of which were

(See REPORTS on Page 4A.)

### 'Very emotional' reunion

Father Jenco met early with about 100 relatives at a restaurant in nearby Shorewood for a "very emotional" reunion, according to Joliet police Lt. Arthur Shultz, who said he and Jenco were altar boys together 40 years ago.

Father Jenco, 51, arrived at Chicago's Midway Airport from

after his release by Moslem extremists. Yellow "welcome home" posters covered store windows and building walls.

The last time Father Jenco visited his hometown, about 40 miles south of Chicago, was in August 1984, when he celebrated his 20th anniversary as a priest.

Soon after, he left the Unit

(See JENCO on Page 10A.)

## Mystery at Camden — V

# Questions raised in FBI decision not to investigate disappearance

By Beth Brickell  
SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

The FBI conducted no active investigation of the Maud Crawford disappearance of March 2, 1957, despite numerous requests for involvement from relatives of the victim and from local Camden law enforcement authorities.

The FBI's Washington file of the Crawford case, obtained through the Freedom of Information Act, raises questions about the FBI decision not to enter the case.

Crawford, a lawyer, had worked 2 years for one of South Arkansas's most prestigious law firms, Gaughan, McClellan and Laney. After Laney was a former mayor of Camden. J. E. (Emmet) Gaughan and Thomas Gaughan, half-brothers, were members of a prominent Arkansas family. Senator John L. McClellan, an inactive partner, had been a member of the firm for 17 years before his election to the United States Senate in 1942.

At the time of Crawford's disappearance



Brickell

Beth Brickell is a Los Angeles filmmaker and a former newspaper reporter. She was a student at the University of Arkansas when Maud Crawford disappeared in 1957. Brickell recently returned to her hometown of Camden and conducted an eight-month investigation of the Maud Crawford case, interviewing scores of people and searching through files and documents. She is reporting her findings in a series written exclusively for the Gazette.

McClellan's activities as chairman of the Senate Labor Rackets Committee, probing allegations of racketeering influences in labor and industry, were being reported daily on front pages of newspapers throughout the world. An early theory in the Crawford case was that the disappearance of a member of McClellan's former law firm might be linked to mobsters he was investigating.

It was expected the FBI would become involved in the Crawford case because of the McClellan connection — if for no other reason. All reports regarding the case were received by FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover. Immediately after

the disappearance, the Little Rock FBI regional office sent two additional agents to Camden to join resident FBI agent Ralph D. Scott in anticipation of participation.

However, March 5, three days after the disappearance, an FBI report indicates Hoover issued instructions for the Little Rock office "to conduct no active investigation," but only "to maintain close liaison to ascertain developments." The reason given was "no evidence of any abduction or foul play."

Although no evidence of forcible abduction was found, evidence did

(See SEARCH on Page 6A.)



McClellan (left) with chief counsel Robert F. Kennedy. —UPI Telephoto/1957



neeling on the floor at each side of the trunk of Appleyard's body. One of those attendants held Appleyard's right shoulder to the floor with one arm and his left wrist with the other arm. The other attendant held down Appleyard's left shoulder and right wrist.

In a telephone interview, a representative of the FBI said:

(See SPITZ on Page 7A.)

Agency concluded.

#### War plan documents

Army officials' failure to perform proper background checks on civilian guards also may have left vulnerable secret war plan documents and a satellite communications site that sends space and military data to the White House, the report says.

The Army has "employed secu-

ers were not aware of questionable backgrounds because security checks had not been conducted, the audit, which was made available to United Press International, said.

The audit of 11 installations, which did not examine whether weapons thefts occurred, reported hiring abuses by Army officials at

(See AUDIT on Page 3A.)

has out of the country, but his New Delhi office issued a statement late Sunday in which the Indian leader said he was "shocked" at the "heinous crime."

Vaidya "was a gallant and distinguished soldier who served India with devotion," Gandhi said.

President Zail Singh condemned Vaidya's slaying, saying he had "many occasions to know him inti-

(See VAIDYA on Page 7A.)

They said Mashalani's fighters captured the sprawling Ashrafieh residential district and other smaller areas, and seized the two main Christian radio stations and the Lebanese Forces television station at Jounieh, 12 miles north of the capital.

The rebels also attacked the seaside headquarters of Lebanese

(See LEBANON on Page 7A.)

GAZETTE - AUG 11, 1986

## Mystery at Camden — VII

# Early theories of suicide, abduction, amnesia rejected in Crawford case

By Beth Brickell  
SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

Because no clues were found when Maud Crawford disappeared from her stately colonial home on a rainy Saturday night in 1957, law enforcement officers and Camden townspeople were forced to turn to logic in an attempt to deduce what might have happened to her. Sherlock Holmes never faced a greater challenge.

The *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* used, "How could a middle-aged, respected and respectable woman, who had worked for years in a town where virtually everyone knew her and where she was universally liked and admired, suddenly vanish as though she had never existed?"

The *Camden News* reported, "It is the most baffling case in Camden history. If there was foul play, some evidence must be found. It had been abduction, then some letter or telephone call or message would have come by now, officers said. If it is an amnesia case, then it may be days or even weeks be-



Brickell

Beth Brickell is a Los Angeles filmmaker and a former newspaper reporter. She was a student at the University of Arkansas when Maud Crawford disappeared in 1957. Brickell recently returned to her hometown of Camden and conducted an eight-month investigation of the Maud Crawford case, interviewing scores of people and searching through files and documents. She is reporting her findings in a series written exclusively for the Gazette.

fore any word may be heard, they contended."

Based on the intriguing circumstances of Crawford's disappearance and her last known actions, six main theories were put forth: Amnesia, suicide, abduction, she walked away voluntarily, she "knew too much" about somebody's business and they got rid of her, or her husband killed her.

The first three theories were early considerations.

#### Amnesia

A State Police report of March 29, three weeks after Crawford's disappearance, stated that Walter Laney, a partner in the Gaughan, McClellan and Laney law firm where Crawford was an associate,

was "unable to give any logical reason for Mrs. Crawford's disappearance unless she was in a confused state of mind. He also stated that this was extremely possible due to the fact that Mrs. Crawford had always been considered a brilliant woman, and that this type of illness does take place in a person with a mind of this type."

"Laney really thought she had amnesia," his widow, Marjorie Laney, said recently. "For a long time he wouldn't give up that they would find her. He spent a lot of time and effort and calls for years trying to get some kind of a lead."

Wide publicity was given to the case and Maud Crawford's picture

(See CRAWFORD on Page 3A.)



Crawford receives donations as 1956 Cancer Drive leader.



...creating a low-level radioactive waste compact.

Dole, who earlier had indicated campaign financing reforms would be delayed until September, said that with the additions of some amendments, the Senate might act on the legislation before the end of the day.

Similar legislation was introduced in the House Monday and

(See PACS on Page 13A.)

publican candidates, announced plans Tuesday to expand federal payments to farmers for storing surplus grains.

In a major speech on farm policy at the Illinois State Fair, Mr. Reagan said the move would cover an expected bumper crop of wheat, corn and other grains this year that could not be stored in scarce silos and grain elevators, a requirement for federal price-support loans.

gan, who spoke to a cheering grandstand crowd.

"Farmers need these harvest loans, and we intend to see that they get them, regardless of problems with storage that are beyond their control."

#### Plan's cost put at \$200 million

Administration officials said the move would cost at least \$200 million, adding to federal farm programs that, by some estimates,

urging the United States to end aid to the "contras" in Nicaragua and to stop the bombing in El Salvador.

But inside, where the jubilant Reagan supporters waved signs saying "Repeal the 22d Amendment," which limits presidents to two terms, the crowd jumped to its feet and started cheering the minute they saw Mr. Reagan's motor-

(See REAGAN on Page 13A.)

crats, while 10 Republicans voted to kill the aid.

Arkansas Senators David Pryor and Dale Bumpers, both Democrats, voted for the Sasser amendment to stop the contra aid.

The Senate then voted, 60-38, to kill an amendment by Edward M. Kennedy (Dent.) to virtually bar United

(See SENATE on Page 13A.)

## Mystery at Camden — VIII

# Few hold theory that Crawford dropped out of sight voluntarily

By Beth Brickell  
SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

When time passed following Maud Crawford's mysterious disappearance March 2, 1957, and the theories of amnesia, suicide and kidnapping for ransom were ruled out, one of the remaining three theories given serious consideration was that she had left Camden voluntarily.

"My first instinct was that Maud left the money in her purse as a decoy, and that she left Clyde [her husband] and Camden," Sarah (Mrs. F. W.) Yawn recently recalled. Yawn was a seventh-grade English teacher at the time and an acquaintance of Maud Crawford.

#### Recalls conversation

She spoke of a conversation she had with Crawford Thursday afternoon before Crawford disappeared Saturday night.

"She was walking the dog and I stood on the other side of the street and talked to her for a few minutes. I was scared of the dog so I didn't cross to the other side,"



Brickell

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Yawn said. "She seemed real discouraged. I always felt she was disappointed with Martha [Maud Crawford's cousin]. She told me, 'No one appreciates what you do.' I said to her, 'You've done so much for so many.' She said, 'I don't think anybody cares.'"

#### Called by cousin

There has been much debate over the years about a brief telephone conversation Maud Crawford had with her cousin, Martha Robins (Mrs. Howard) Carver, at 8:30 p.m. the night she disappeared. Carver, now of Naples, Tex., was the last known person to have talked to Crawford.

Crawford helped rear Carver

and was her legal guardian.

Carver, her husband, Howard, and their son drove from De Queen to Camden that evening and were expected by Crawford. Instead, Carver stopped at the home of a friend and telephoned Crawford to say she wouldn't be seeing her until the next morning.

Carver recently spoke of her last conversation with Crawford. "She was expecting us that evening. I told her that we were already over there [at the home of a friend, Edna Hardin] and we were going to spend the night and come on over to her house the next morning. She sounded kind of funny to me, and I

(See THEORY on Page 8A.)

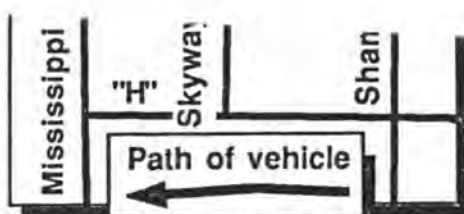
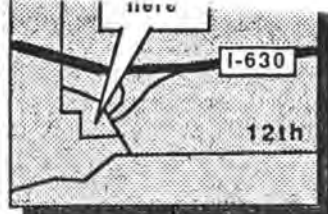


Martha Robins Carver, 1951; call may have 'provoked'



runs north on H Street just  
t of Mississippi Street. The  
key residence is at the top of  
circle at the end of the cul-de-  
s, and the rear of the property  
its the parking lot behind Trin-  
United Methodist Church,  
ich faces Evergreen at Missis-

(See SHOOTING on Page 6A.)



—Staff Map by Patt. Clark

an estimated 80 who fled the  
shooting stayed away. The Ed-  
mond Postoffice opened for busi-  
ness at 8 a.m., and delivery service  
resumed, though a few hours late,  
United States Postal Service  
spokesman Barbara Haisley said.

Outside the one-story brick

Had reprimanded Sherrin

building, there were dozens of  
flower arrangements and plants  
sent by residents of the town of  
34,000 about 15 miles northwest

(See MAILMAN on Page 6A.)

## Mystery at Camden — IX

CA2712 AUG 22, 1986

# Many saw husband as 'logical suspect'

By Beth Brickell  
SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

"There's no doubt in my mind  
that there was foul play," G. B.  
Cole, former Camden police chief,  
said recently about the Maud  
Crawford case.

There were two "foul play" the-  
ories when the Ouachita County  
lawyer disappeared from her  
home March 2, 1957 — either her  
husband killed her or "she knew  
too much" about somebody's busi-  
ness and they got rid of her.

An FBI report of March 6 stated  
that Cole considered Clyde Craw-  
ford, the husband, "the most logi-  
cal suspect."

Many people at Camden agreed.

Crawford, 62, a quiet, easy-  
going man, was suspected of kill-  
ing his wife because he had the op-  
portunity and he was "peculiar."

State Police investigator Buck  
Halsell of Dumas said in a report  
March 13 that the "missing link in  
the case" might be the fact that  
there was "a period between 11  
p.m. and 2 a.m. that we only have  
Clyde Crawford's word as to  
where he was."

Ralph D. Scott, of Conway, was  
an FBI resident agent at Camden at  
the time. He did not investigate the  
disappearance because the FBI did  
not enter the case, a decision that  
Scott maintains was "proper" as  
there was "no legal justification  
for entry." However, he was kept  
informed of developments.

Scott recently speculated about  
the opportunity Crawford had to  
kill his wife.

"That night was about as sorry a  
night as you can visualize — win-

(See HUSBAND on Page 6A.)

Dear Maud:  
Please Come  
home, we love you  
and miss you so  
much.  
Every day someone  
wants to know if  
I have heard from  
you. Every one wants  
you to come home.  
I have walked  
Dal every day as  
you always did up  
to about two weeks  
ago it has been  
so hot he couldn't  
take it, he has  
begun to show  
his age

I drive your car  
every Sunday morning  
to keep the battery up  
the car sure drives  
good runs so little  
good.  
Sam Redding  
in Grand Pa now  
Sarah has a little  
girl, Kathy a little  
boy.  
The floor business  
has not been too good  
Maud we are all  
looking forward to the  
day you come home  
please make it soon  
Love  
Clyde

Clyde Crawford's letter written to his wife five months after her disappearance.

...dian Guru Bhagwan  
sh, who was expelled  
ntry on immigration  
rges, and said they  
a child-care facility  
ly next year.

**Spock**, the famed  
nd former Arkansas  
e "Baby and Child  
book has sold at  
copies, said in an  
U.S. News and  
that quality day  
tute pretty well"  
re, but a lack of  
in the United  
ldren emotionally  
y.

lan, the former  
ation aide, would  
apply for re-  
attorneys' fees he  
special prosecu-  
n of allegations  
caine at a New  
under a bill  
gton by the Sen-  
e House.

he former presi-  
nterview at At-  
gan administra-  
a wonderful  
negotiate an  
ith the Soviets  
mit by clinging  
ense Initiative  
sider a halt to

itorials C  
rum 3C  
arkets 9-12D  
ciety E  
orts F  
veler 1B  
ather 2A  
ddings 5-8E  
rds 8C

...then candidate is  
to receive the contribution. She  
said the contributors usually name  
the candidate in a letter that ac-  
companies the check or write the  
candidate's name on the check.

When told that all 10 of the per-  
sons reached by the *Gazette* Friday  
didn't know who Hutchinson was,  
Duffy said she found that "ex-  
tremely difficult to believe."

#### Contributors notified

Duffy said the Committee has  
documentation to show each con-  
tributor specified his or her con-  
tribution was for Hutchinson. She

added the Committee's accounting  
department sends a statement to  
the contributors verifying their  
contributions went to the candi-  
date they specified and the Com-  
mittee and the candidates each  
send "thank you" letters to the  
contributors.

"These people do know where  
their contributions went," she in-  
sisted.

But only one of the 10 persons  
interviewed Friday — Claude Mul-  
holland of Zumbro Falls, Minn. —  
said "perhaps I did" specify that  
his contribution to the Committee  
be sent to Hutchinson.

All 10 had similar responses:  
They said they had made contribu-  
tions to the Committee but  
couldn't recall that they specified  
their contributions go to a specific  
campaign — Hutchinson's or any-  
one else's.

Under federal law the conduit  
contributions must be made by in-  
dividuals. There is no limit on the  
amount of conduit contributions a  
national organization can pass  
along to a senatorial race in a  
state.

In the campaign finance report  
(See CAMPAIGN on Page 5A.)

...other way."

#### Dole: Congress 'productive'

Earlier Saturday, Dole said, "Pro-  
ductive. One word" when asked to  
sum up the work of Congress.

"This Congress, in all probabil-  
ity, will be remembered for tax re-  
form, balancing our defense needs  
against the demands for fiscal re-  
straint, and for its inability to find  
a successful formula to solve the  
continuing problem of our national  
deficit," Senate Minority Leader  
Robert C. Byrd of West Virginia  
said.

"Time and effort and some frus-  
tration" have produced "several  
(See CONGRESS on Page 8A.)

...Arkai

pressed re  
project.

#### Lawma

Both side  
have strong  
congression  
the most pa  
steering clea  
has Govern  
Representati  
(Dem., Ark.)  
opposition —  
of project sup  
only a few  
(See RIV)

## Mystery at Camden — XI

# Cadillac owned by Berg bodyguard suspected in Crawford abduction

Employe privately considered prime suspect by investigators

By Beth Brickell  
SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE



Brickell

*Beth Brickell is a Los Angeles filmmaker and a former newspaper reporter. She was a student at the University of Arkansas when Maud Crawford disappeared in 1957. Brickell recently returned to her hometown of Camden and conducted an eight-month investigation of the Maud Crawford case, interviewing scores of people and searching through files and documents. She is reporting her findings in a series written exclusively for the Gazette.*

On a cold, rainy, foggy Saturday night, March 2, 1957, Camden lawyer Maud Crawford was home alone with her dalmation guard dog watching television, snapping string beans in preparation for a Sunday noon dinner planned for relatives and examining two abstracts she had brought home from the office.

Crawford's quiet neighborhood was off the beaten track, and only an occasional car made its way past her two-story Colonial-style home at 430 Clifton Street.

Across the street, Eva Carter McMillan was a nurse on duty with Rose Berg, a wealthy, elderly widow. Her husband, Earl McMil-

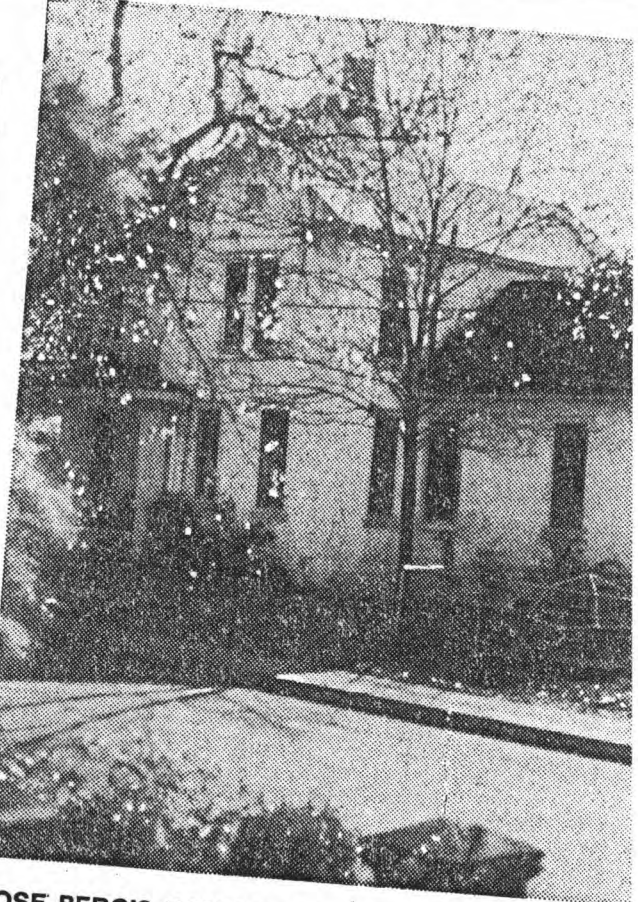
lan, worked during the week at the Ben Pearson Archery Company at Pine Bluff and returned to Camden on weekends. This Saturday evening he came to Rose Berg's house and watched television with his wife and Mrs. Berg until "The Lawrence Welk Show" went off at 9 p.m., then he went home.

Also watching television that night was Sam Redding, who lived next door to the Crawfords. His

wife, Hazel, had been at Little Rock shopping, had returned late, and was tired. So when "Gun-smoke" was over at 9:30 p.m., the Reddings began getting ready for bed.

As they did so, Sam Redding heard a vehicle drive up the Crawford driveway that separated their two houses. "Clyde's coming in

(See CRAWFORD on Page 11A.)



**ROSE BERG'S HOME:** Rose Berg's front sidewalk. Mrs. Berg's bedroom was on e today as seen from and floor between the por-



# Maud Crawford contributed to Camden's heyday in '50s

Beth Brickell  
SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

"What type of person is Miss Maud?" the *Arkansas Gazette* asked March 10, 1957, eight days after Maud Crawford disappeared from her Camden home. "The fact that hundreds of Camden residents have turned out to help search for her and have kept the police and the newspapers deluged with telephone calls seeking information about her disappearance is a partial answer."

A more complete answer lies in an examination of the community in which she lived, because Maud Crawford exemplified a spirit that made Camden great in the 1950s.

In a five-year period, from 1950 to 1955, 5,250 people moved to Camden to swell its population to 6,222, the largest number of people in the history of the city. Forty thousand people lived within a four-mile radius.

By contrast, the 1980 United States Census population figure is 15,356.

Camden was in its heyday in the 1950s and didn't know it.

It thought big. Located on the

Ouachita River, it took seriously its slogan, "Camden on the Ouachita, best town in Arkansas." In fact, citing national data, it reasoned that Camden was "the center of a magic circle within a magic circle" that made it "the ideal industrial city of the South," according to an article in the *Camden News*.

A 1953 New York survey of buying power produced data indicating Camden was "the trading hub for a wide surrounding area standing out as a rich market with families earning more and spending more than those in most cities in the United States."

## Civic pride

Camden was proud.

In the 1920s, Ouachita County had moved from a cotton culture to an oil and timber economy with the discovery of oil at Stephens in 1922, and the construction of International Paper Company at Camden in 1927.

In addition to its large paper mill, Camden reached a national market with Camark Pottery,

(See CRAWFORD on Page 10A.)



Maud Crawford pouring at Girls' State reception at Governor's Mansion in June 1956.

**For home delivery of the Gazette call 371-3800**

...a fever for progress, and Benjamin F. Williams established the city's fourth funeral home in an outstanding example of entrepreneurship.

Camden's Municipal Auditorium was the center of community social life. The city was on a classical concert circuit out of New York. Locally, a constant calendar of events filled "Municipal Hall" — community plays, an annual Cotton

that Rose Berg's guardianship would pay a sizable fee and that the money should stay in Ouachita County.

Camden could take care of its own.

## Wide-spread reputation

Maud Crawford, another lawyer in the Gaughan law firm, was respected throughout Arkansas and in surrounding states for abstract examinations and title opinions. In

Linnie Betts, vice president of the Merchants and Planters Bank, recalled, "She cut her hair all the same length, just under her ears, and she combed it back. If it was windy, her hair was all over everywhere."

Judge Henry S. Yocum Jr. of El Dorado talked about the first time he met her. "The first time I saw Maud Crawford, it felt like they had her hid in the back office. She was very unkempt. She could read an

Bettye (Mrs. Carter) R. Drickman went to Birmingham, Ala., and became a National Trainer of Girl Scouts, then traveled throughout Arkansas training Girl Scout leaders. Matthew H. Rotherbert petitioned the secretary of the Treasury to include on all United States paper currency the motto already on coins, "In God we trust." Senator John L. McClellan, who had lived at Camden four years before being elected to the United States Sen-

that was in the open in the 1940s, and went underground in the 1950s. It was an undercurrent of lawlessness and flagrant violation of personal rights by some that threatened to undermine that which was being built by others.

James Hugh Hogg, an accountant for Mike Berg, said, "Camden had just two classes of people, those who worked and those who were trying to get what the others

s for  
ele-  
unity.





Crawford's home (left), where the porch light and house lights were left burning; in her living room (right), photographed the day after she disappeared.

## Records

Continued from Page 1A.

only of observations of the local investigation and second-hand information. The information was conveyed from FBI agent Ralph D. Scott at Camden to Little Rock, then to FBI headquarters at Washington.

tially reports "no additional developments" weekly, then monthly, then every few years until 1976.

### State Police file incomplete

Although the State Police was involved in the investigation, its file is small and incomplete.

Odis Henley, of El Dorado, was the lead criminal investigator for the State Police and is now a deputy sheriff in Union County. Hen-

leads involving Henry Myar (Mike) Berg. At the time, Berg was one of seven Arkansas State Police commissioners. It has recently been revealed that Berg, a Camden multimillionaire who is now deceased, was engaged in a bitter controversy with Maud Crawford involving a \$20 million estate before her disappearance.

Tom Smalley, former State Police criminal investigator, said

McKay said that although he was assisted in an all-day search by someone who knew the record system he was only able to find a three-by-five card with Maud Crawford's name on it.

The director of the Arkansas State Police at that time was Ralph D. Scott, who was the original FBI resident agent at Camden when Crawford disappeared. Scott was director from 1968 to 1971.

her husband.

She was snapping stringt watching television and was on two abstracts she had brought home from the office.

A cousin called at 8:30 p.m. say she couldn't spend the night with the Crawfords as planned but would be there for Sunday morning the next day.

A woman who had worked



# Tuesday

CAMDEN, ARKANSAS - JULY 15, 1986

## Thirty years later, Maud Crawford case still baffling

**Editor's note:** On March 2, 1957, Maud Crawford disappeared, sparking one of the most intriguing mysteries in Camden history. This is an introduction to a three-part series which concludes a seven-year investigation by Staff Writer Edward Parham. The series deals with evidence and leads which were never followed by authorities.

By EDWARD PARHAM  
Staff Writer

Nearly 30 years have elapsed since Maud Crawford vanished

without a trace one dark and wintry night from her stately residence at 430 Clifton Street, leaving behind a shocked and bewildered community that still wonders at her disappearance.

The Maud Crawford case remains the most baffling in the police annals of Arkansas. Rumored leads abounded in the wake of the 1957 disappearance, but authorities admitted to a curious public they could not find one clue to the whereabouts of the missing attorney - Camden's foremost woman civic leader of her day.

### What happened to Maud Crawford?

#### Introduction

Beginning Tuesday, *The Camden News* will begin a three-day series of articles examining the events surrounding Maud Crawford's disappearance, and related developments that have since occurred. The articles deal with much material that was never released, and still more that apparently was un-

known even to officials investigating the case.

Maud Crawford disappeared during her involvement in a dispute over the Rose Berg estate - said to be worth \$7 million. Despite reports she claimed to have found large thefts from the estate shortly before she vanished, investigative files show lawmen never suspected Maud Crawford might have fallen victim to foul play because of her allegations in the estate dispute.

The articles also cover the

by former city and county detective Andy McKay. McKay made an abrupt disclosure on state TV news he had found witness to Maud Crawford's burial and hoped to soon solve the case. However, under circumstances as puzzling as the disappearance itself, McKay said nothing further about his efforts to investigate the mysterious burial.

Seven years of research and interviews uncovered the story of the "midnight burial" information linking the burial

## CRAWFORD

Continued from Page 1

story to the estate dispute. According to the sources, Maud Crawford's secret grave lies in west Camden, marked by the curb of an abandoned well. What did happen to Maud

Crawford? For a community that has waited almost 30 years for an answer, the next days may offer the best yet.



ry Caspar W. Weinberger is ordering an expedited investigation of allegations that top Pentagon officials have used "emergency and extraordinary" budget accounts for improper entertainment.

The General Accounting Office, which made the allegations Thursday in an 11-page audit, said the violations ranged from a \$33 bill incurred by Army Secretary John O. Marsh for a bathrobe to pay off a football bet, to a \$2,400 bill rung up by then-Chief of Naval Operations Adm. James D. Watkins for a hospitality tent at the Army-Navy football game.

The GAO said those payments early violated Defense Department regulations.

GAO, the investigative arm of Congress, said it had uncovered other examples of entertainment spending that were not barred by regulation, but did not appear to fit category of "emergency and extraordinary" needs.

In view of the allegations raised in the report, Secretary Weinberger directed the department's comptroller to conduct an expedited review of the report's findings," Pentagon spokesman Jim Turner said Thursday. (AP)

## on Homme Richard possibly found

CARBOROUGH, England — A group of young seafarers today said they have calculated where the wreck of 18th century American naval hero John Paul Jones' ship, the

where one in three students

See STUDENTS on Page 2

San Diego.

# Berg family agrees to search of well for body of Crawford

## Family may also agree to interviews

By EDWARD PARHAM  
Staff Writer

An attorney for the family of Henry M. "Mike" Berg said Friday the family would agree to a search of a well in west Camden where it has been alleged Maud Crawford was buried 30 years ago.

Attorney George Pike of the Little Rock law firm of Friday, Eldredge and Clark said the Berg family might also agree to interviews with the media "to tell their side of the story." Family members have information and documents they want to make public following recent allegations Mike Berg was involved in the Crawford disappearance, Pike said.

The *Camden News* last week published "What Happened to Maud Crawford," a series of articles on the disappearance of the local attorney and civic leader. Pike called the stories "one-sided" and "baseless." They caused the Berg family "distress and consternation," he said.

The series contained several allegations Maud Crawford was buried by an associate of Mike Berg in a well on property owned by Berg Enterprises at the intersection of Washington Street and Palisade Drive. Pike said Mickey Berg, Mike Berg's son, called 13th Prosecuting Attorney William "Bill" McLean Thursday and

offered to let authorities search the well.

McLean could not be reached for comment.

Pike said the family indicated to him they were willing to talk to *Arkansas Democrat* reporters about the disappearance and wanted to avoid any possible litigation. The Bergs, he said, are "not vindictive."

Pike said he was an old friend of the family and had represented them in legal matters for many years.

Mickey Berg declined Friday to comment on Pike's statements pending, he said, advice from the attorney.

The *Arkansas Gazette* on Friday started its own series on the Crawford case. The *Gazette* said the series was written by movie producer and Camden native Beth Brickell, who has been researching the disappearance for the past eight months.

State coverage of the recent developments in the case began late Wednesday with an Associated Press report of the planned subpoenas by McLean of several possible witnesses and suspects in the Crawford case.

Thursday, McLean reiterated for a Little Rock television reporter his misgivings about the new turn of events.

I have no illusions that the disappearance of Maud Crawford is on the verge of being solved," McLean said. "I'm not very optimistic about it."

## Workers, indicted for

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Nineteen defense industry workers and a company were indicted in kickback and bribery schemes that a prosecutor called "a cancer on the defense industry," and more indictments are expected.

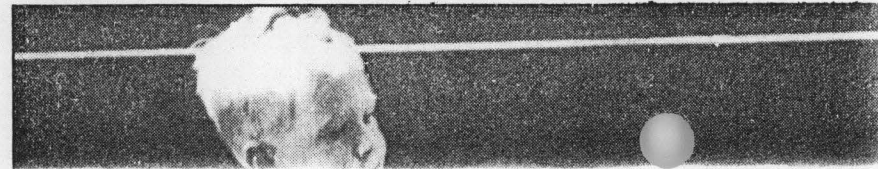
Allegedly involved were employees of more than 20 defense contractors and subcontractors, including Hughes Aircraft Co., Rockwell International Corp., Lockheed Corp., Hughes Helicopter Inc., Garrett Aircsearch Manufacturing Co. and Magnavox Advanced Products and Systems Co.

Among those indicted Thursday were Tury Precision Machining of Rosemead, and its owner, former Rosemead Mayor Louis Tury Jr., said U.S. Attorney Robert Bonner.

Some defendants were also indicted on charges of tax evasion and mail fraud.

The charges were the latest in a 22-month Justice Department crackdown on defense industry fraud. Eighteen other people have been convicted on kickback and related charges. More indictments are expected, said

## No cyanide found in milk, tests reveal







# The Camden NEWS

Wednesday

CAMDEN, ARKANSAS - JULY 23, 1986

## Weather

Tonight: Partly cloudy and mild with a low in the lower 70s. Southeast wind about 5 mph. Thursday: A 20 percent chance of thundershowers and hot.

Vol. 67  
No. 136  
16 Pages

25¢

## Subpoenas planned in Crawford case

By EDWARD PARHAM  
Staff Writer

Several possible witnesses and suspects in the Maud Crawford disappearance case will be subpoenaed for closed-door interviews under oath, 13th District Prosecuting Attorney William "Bill" McLean said Tuesday.

Though McLean said he would not disclose the names of the people he intends to question, it was learned they will include many of the same subjects of a seven-year investigation by *The Camden News*.

McLean made the decision to issue the subpoenas following a review of last week's *Camden News* series, "What Happened to Maud Crawford," on the Crawford disappearance. The prosecutor was first apprised of the investigation last July, and has since conducted his own inquiry.

"I have previously looked into this matter and I am continuing to look at it in light of recent investigations by journalists," McLean said. "I feel I have an obligation to do so in spite of the age of the case."

Because it's been nearly 30 years since the Camden attorney and civic leader disappeared, McLean said he was "not optimistic my efforts will be fruitful."

In past meetings with a reporter on the investigation, McLean has repeatedly expressed his doubts about recently developed information and has appeared reluctant to pursue the case.

While conducting the interviews, McLean said he would also make use of information gathered by movie producer Beth Brickell, a Camden native. Brickell, who last year released the film "Summer's End," has since been researching the Crawford case and said she is at work writing a screenplay on the disappearance.

No law enforcement agency will be asked to further investigate the case, McLean said. Except for some minor shortcomings, he said, last week's series was a better prepared report on the case than he could expect from law officers.

McLean did not say when the interviews would take place, and said he would not divulge the results.

*The Camden News* learned two of the people to be subpoenaed will be Mrs. Patsy Jackson of Mt. Hope and Mrs. Louise Jenkins of Elliott. Both allegedly said they believed they witnessed Maud Crawford's burial in a well on a farm at what is now the intersection of Washington Street and Palisade Drive. Mrs. Jackson allegedly made statements that led to the reopening of the Crawford case in 1970.

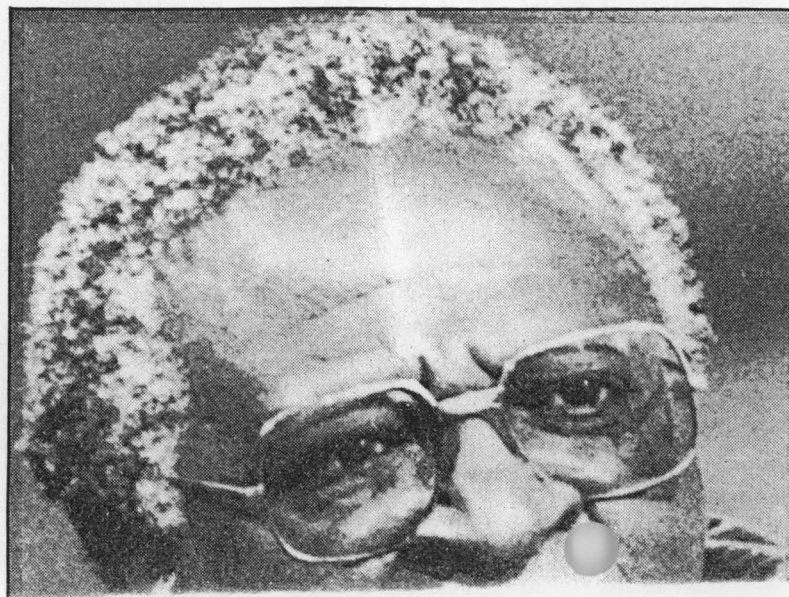
See CRAWFORD on Page 2

## Royal wedding takes place without hitch

Associated Press

LONDON - Prince Andrew married red-haired English commoner Sarah Ferguson today at Westminster Abbey to bugle fanfares, pealing bells and a nation's cheers in a spectacle that mustered the pomp and glory of Britain's 920-year-old monarchy.

To Britons, it was an invitation to put aside their troubles for a day and celebrate the sturdier values of their heritage, which is anchored by Eu-



## Refusal of sanctions aggravate Republicans

Associated Press

WASHINGTON - President Reagan's refusal to seek sanctions against the white-ruled South African government is being sharply criticized in Congress, with even Republicans saying legislation to cut most American economic ties with that country is now likely to pass.

Republicans and Democrats attacked Reagan's speech Tuesday in which he said sanc-

warfare in South Africa within the next "two or three months" unless Pretoria takes major steps toward ending apartheid, the system of legal segregation by which 5 million whites control the nation's 24 million blacks.

Lugar said he supports a limited package of sanctions. Those include refusing landing rights in the United States for South African commercial planes, freezing bank accounts of whites who try to move

Some notes on the current owners and restorers and a contact with the family of the original owner.

*The following attachments are included for interest—  
with the realization they do not bear on the matter of our  
petition.*



JULY 17, 1997

## Employee news

# Employee renovates home with a history



▲ Camden employee Bruce Eppinette is renovating a house known in town as "Maud's house."

Some 40 years after the fact, the Maud Crawford house in Camden is still wrapped in an aura of mystery. Crawford, one of the first women attorneys in Arkansas, disappeared from the house on a dark night in March 1957. Though there are numerous

theories and much speculation as to what happened, the Maud Crawford case remains unsolved today.

Bruce Eppinette, internal communications coordinator at Vought Systems' Camden Operations, and his wife bought the massive Crawford house in 1991 and are in the process of remodeling and renovating it.

"We wanted an older house to redo, and this house was available," Eppinette said. "The history just came along with it."

The 5,000 square-foot house has six bedrooms. The downstairs has 13-foot ceilings, and the upstairs has 10-foot ceilings. Completing most of the work themselves, the Eppinettes have reworked plumbing, hung Sheetrock, installed new cabinets and painted.

The most challenging job was rebuilding the eaves. Eppinette spent six months on scaffolding 30 feet tall. "I got over my fear of

heights on that part of the job," he said.

The renovation work is nearing an end, with only the kitchen and one bedroom left to complete. Eppinette can take pride in his efforts, but to most residents of Camden this will always be Maud's house.



▲ One of Eppinette's final jobs is to renovate the kitchen.

## Vought Systems employees receive NOVA award

Norway program.

**An Afternoon with Corrie Saxon  
In the Ritchie Home**

*June 12, 1992*



*We've lived in our house almost a year now and have spent much of that time repairing, cleaning, painting, and admiring every detail of the structure both inside and out. Because of Mrs. Saxon we've come to know our home and it's history on a more personal level. We would like to thank her for sharing with us her childhood memories.*

## **An Afternoon with Corrie Saxon**

### **In the Ritchie Home**

Mrs. Corrie Saxon is the granddaughter of Walter Powell Ritchie and Corrie Ritchie of Camden Arkansas. The Ritchies had three children, Ella (Mrs. Saxon's Mother), Frances, and Walter Powell Jr.

With the intent of preserving historical data regarding the W. P. Ritchie home at four-thirty Clifton Street, Camden, the following is a documentation based on comments by Mrs. Saxon on June 12, 1992, concerning her childhood memories of the home of her grandparents where she lived with her mother, father, aunt, uncle, and grandparents until she was sixteen.

Built by Walter Powell Ritchie for his wife Corrie in 1909, the house stands on the site of the home of Myer Berg, the grandfather of the late Mike Berg. According to Mrs. Saxon, the original building was demolished down to the foundation and the existing house now stands on the original timbers of the Berg home, believed to have been built only forty years earlier in 1869.<sup>2</sup>

Upon entering the front door of the home, immediately to your left was the library. *"It only had one small bookcase with a couple of shelves but this was still called the library."* Mrs. Saxon remembers a brass chandelier hanging from the ceiling. Most of the lights were simply light bulbs hanging from cords. This room also served as Mr. Ritchie's bedroom in later years.

The room directly behind the library housed Mr. Ritchie's office. Mr. Ritchie was a prominent business man in Camden who, according to Mrs. Saxon, *"...had many irons in the fire."* This included the Rice Belt Telephone Co-op. He also owned several gravel wagons. As a child Mrs. Saxon enjoyed watching the men bring the wagons up the driveway to unhitch the mules at the end of the day.

On the right side of the house opposite the library was the delicately furnished parlor. Mrs. Saxon recalls an oriental rug that always slipped under her feet as she walked. This is where community dances were held every Friday night. *"This was supposed to be a one-time thing, but everyone just kept coming back."*

In addition to dances and parties the parlor was the site of the first marriage of Frances Ritchie. This event was one which young Corrie was not allowed to attend. *"So I just sat up there on the stairs and watched the whole thing."*

The parlor opens into the dinning area by way of two large pocket doors. Both of these rooms featured a parquet floor designed to resemble a rug. The only time the pocket doors were closed was when the dinning room was being decorated for birthday parties. Mrs. Saxon remembers a large ornately carved hutch with a very dark finish that sat across one corner of the dinning room. The table was equipped with a bell underneath that rang into the kitchen when the Ritchies were ready to be served. *"Oh, why didn't we appreciate those things when we had them."*



Through a swinging door was a hall with a butler's pantry on the left. The hall leading to the kitchen from the dinning room was later converted to a breakfast area by Mrs. Ritchie. Another alteration by Mrs. Ritchie was the addition of a pantry off the back of the kitchen.

Mrs. Saxon remembers her grandmother serving food to hoboes and derelicts at the side door of the kitchen. *"She never let them in the house, but she always saw that they got something to eat out on the porch."*

The house is divided down the center by a hallway featuring an unusual arched partition adorned with columns and ornately carved trim. Behind the archway is the staircase containing a bench with a built-in quilt chest. Mrs. Saxon's Saturday chores included cleaning the staircase. *"I just hated Saturdays."* Beneath the stairs is a small storage closet where Mrs. Ritchie fermented her wine until it was ready to be moved to the back porch for storage. *"Gran (Mrs. Ritchie) was a teetotaler and never touched the stuff."*

Above what was originally the back door is a decorative finial descending from the staircase. This is where Papa, as Mr. Ritchie was called, liked to hang large bunches of bananas purchased from the river boats that docked at the local port. Bananas were simply plucked from the bunch on the way out the back door.

The Ritchie's telephone was mounted at the first landing of the staircase. *"I remember our number was 23."*

On the third landing of the staircase was an exterior door that opened onto a staircase that descended to the first floor back porch. Mrs. Saxon often played at the bottom of these stairs. *"I was the only child in a house full of adults. This whole place was my playhouse."*

Ascending the stairs Mrs. Saxon remembers peering over the top railing on many Christmas Eves to watch the family bring her gifts in from the barn.

The second floor is divided by a hallway which served as a sitting area. A large console type radio sat against the right wall as you look toward the front of the house. *"Gran would sit up at night listening to the radio and watching to see who was coming home too late."*

Through the first door to the left was the only bathroom for the family of seven. This was also the location of Mrs. Saxon's most memorable spanking by her father. *"I sassed my father and watched as he got up from the table and walked all the way around to where I was seated. He took me by the arm and led me up stairs to the bathroom where he locked the door behind us... When we came out everyone in the family was lined up on the stairs listening."*

A seat was placed across the large claw-foot bathtub for Mr. Ritchie. *"Papa was a big man. If he ever got down in there I really don't think we could have gotten him out."*

The next room adjoining the bath was her uncle Walter's bedroom. Mrs. Saxon always envied him this room because it had a door that opened right into the bathroom.

Mrs. Ritchie's bedroom was next on the left at the front of the house. Mrs. Saxon's memories of this room included her Grandmother pinning her broach each night to the wallpaper inside the closet only to re-attach it to the same robe each morning.

A more startling memory was that of her and her mother being alone in that room one evening while the family was gone to the circus. Upon hearing footsteps on the stairs they locked the doors to all the rooms on that side of the hall (All the rooms were connected by doors at that time). They heard someone turn the knob to one of the rooms and her mother called out to ask who was there. There was no response and when the knob to their room was turned, Mrs. Saxon's mother informed the intruder that she had a gun and would not hesitate to use it. ***"Mother had a pair of scissors. Can you believe that?"*** Mrs. Saxon remembers leaning out the window calling for her uncle who lived next door. When her uncle and cousins arrived the intruder was running out the back, not to be heard from again.

Across the hall, the large room with the fireplace was the bedroom of Mrs. Saxon's parents.

The small room next to the stairwell is where Mrs. Saxon was born. She remembers a large window that came down to the top of the baseboard opening out onto the upstairs porch, also a lavatory in the bedroom where her grandmother once washed her mouth out with soap. ***"...and she washed it out thoroughly!"***

As a child Mrs. Saxon played with her paper dolls on the small balcony of the second floor. ***"My family loved me dearly, but I'll never understand why they let me play out on that balcony."***

Concerning the exterior of the house, Mrs. Saxon recalls the men (usually five or six) sitting on the front porch in rocking chairs reared back with their feet on the large columns. Groups would come around to serenade in the evenings. ***"We always had to give them some money."***

An old well site from the Myer Berg home was located behind Mr. Ritchie's office beneath what was once the back porch. In the rear of the house was mentioned a smoke house just off the kitchen, a barn, a stable with servants quarters, and chicken pens. ***"I loved that old barn."***

Following the death of Mr. Ritchie the family was hit hard by the depression. Mrs. Saxon remembers times when they missed meals. Eventually losing their home the Ritchies moved to a more modest dwelling at the opposite end of the block. ***"We all just picked up our stuff and went down the street."***

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# Huckleberry Inn

**For a relaxing change of pace, come visit  
us at the Huckleberry Inn!**

Huckleberry Inn was built in 1908 by Dr. Joseph W. Eckford and his bride of 30 years, Gertrude Bumpus Eckford. It is listed on the National Historic Register and is located in a quiet residential area in the heart of the Historic District, making most of the National Register buildings within walking distance. With an acre of informal gardens, Huckleberry Inn is a short three blocks from downtown Aberdeen, and approximately two miles to the river. The Inn is unusually decorated with a mural in the dining room of a nearby cypress swamp, and other hand painted decorative techniques.

So come, relax under the magnolia in the courtyard, or take an evening stroll, or just sit and relax on the spacious front porch or upstairs balcony. We'll look forward to your company.



All rooms have private baths. Smoking is allowed on the porches or in the gardens.

Rates start at \$55.

One night fee required at reservation.

Visa or MasterCard accepted.

Corporate rates and senior citizen discounts available.

Write or call for more information that may also include weekend packages, honeymoon packages, special evening meals, small parties or rehearsal dinners, etc.

**Call: (601) 369-7294**

**Write: Huckleberry Inn**

**500 South Hickory St.**

**Aberdeen, MS 39730**

Transportation is available from the  
Tombigbee Waterway or  
Aberdeen Marina.



Artificially sided houses considered *contributing to districts*—Mississippi example

*The Eckford house—now operated as Huckleberry Inn Bed and Breakfast in historic Aberdeen, Mississippi has artificial siding but is on the National Register. The policy of considering artificially sided houses which have historic significance “contributing” is current and has been confirmed by inquiry to the Mississippi Historic Preservation Office.*



*Photographs from summer 1998 visit*

