

**Sandwiching in History**  
**Stone's Throw Brewing**  
**402 E. 9<sup>th</sup> Street, Little Rock**  
**February 7, 2014**  
**By: Rachel Silva**



## **Intro**

Good afternoon, my name is Rachel Silva, and I work for the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program. Thank you for coming, and welcome to the “Sandwiching in History” tour of Stone’s Throw Brewing! I’d like to thank Ian Beard for allowing us to tour the brewery (and for opening early—they’re usually open from 4 to 9 p.m. on Fridays). By the way, the tap room is open, and the Waffle Wagon food truck will be parked outside until 2 p.m., so please feel free to purchase some tasty beverages and chicken & waffles for lunch.

For any architects out there, this tour is worth one hour of AIA continuing education credit. See me or Patricia Blick for more information.

Stone’s Throw Brewing is located in the MacArthur Park Historic District, which encompasses the oldest surviving neighborhood in Little Rock and in 1977 became the city’s first National Register-listed historic district (followed closely by the Governor’s Mansion HD in 1978).

[The MacPark HD is bounded by Capitol, Scott, 15th, and Interstate 30.]

## MacArthur Park HD

This neighborhood derives its name from MacArthur Park, which is the oldest municipal park in LR...but it wasn't always a park. Beginning in 1836, the U.S. government constructed an arsenal at 9th & Commerce at what was then the southern edge of LR. The complex eventually included more than 30 buildings. In early 1861, amid rumors of Arkansas's secession from the Union, Captain James Totten surrendered the arsenal to the state of AR, and Federal troops left the city. When Union troops captured LR in 1863, they occupied the arsenal buildings and stayed there for the duration of the war. After the Civil War, the arsenal provided housing for soldiers and their families. Douglas MacArthur was born at the arsenal in 1880. MacArthur grew up to serve as supreme allied commander of the Southwest Pacific Theater during World War II, achieving the rank of five-star General in the U.S. Army.

In 1890 the U.S. Department of War decided to close hundreds of military bases across the country and instead establish a dozen large bases near reliable transportation (i.e. railroads). The U.S. Arsenal at 9th & Commerce was slated to close, so a land swap was arranged in which the arsenal grounds were deeded to the City of Little Rock for use as a public park in exchange for about 1,000 acres on Big Rock Mountain for the construction of one of the Army's coveted new posts, which became Fort Logan H. Roots (now the NLR VA Hospital; has been a VA Hospital since 1921).

The old arsenal grounds were known as City Park until 1942, when the park was renamed MacArthur Park in honor of Gen. Douglas MacArthur. The Tower Building, constructed in 1840, is the only building remaining from the old U.S. Arsenal. It currently houses the MacArthur Museum of Arkansas Military History.

In the late 1830s and early 1840s, some of Little Rock's most prominent residents built homes in the neighborhood just north of the arsenal. After the Civil War, Little Rock experienced rapid population growth, and a building boom ensued.

The MacArthur Park neighborhood was extremely popular during the 1870s and 1880s, when many of the homes standing today were built.

Meanwhile, German immigrants came to Arkansas in large numbers after the Civil War, and many of them built homes in the neighborhood. Two neighborhood churches—First Lutheran and St. Edward’s Catholic Church—were founded in the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century by German families.

[In the 1870s, Germans were actively recruited by the Arkansas state government as well as railroad companies in order to replenish the number of able-bodied white men in the state who either lost their lives or moved away during the Civil War. Given grants of government land, the railroads moved west, financing construction by selling land to immigrants. Both the Lutheran and the Catholic churches, the two denominations most closely associated with the German community, cooperated with the railroads in developing German immigrant communities in Arkansas. The Catholic Church was involved in direct recruitment, acting as an agent for the railroad, while the Lutheran Church concentrated on supporting immigrants after they arrived.]

By the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, prosperous Little Rock residents chose to build their homes in newer neighborhoods to the south and west of the original city plat. At that time, new construction in the MacArthur Park neighborhood transitioned to houses built for rental. By the 1910s, apartment buildings were the area’s most common type of new construction.

By the 1960s, deterioration in the neighborhood led to its designation as an urban renewal project (urban renewal sought to eliminate “blighted areas,” which often translated to downtown residential and commercial areas that had declined in value due to suburban sprawl). Fortunately, the LR Housing Authority recognized that the neighborhood contained some historically and architecturally significant buildings and appointed a committee to identify the most important resources. This committee evolved into the Quapaw Quarter Association, which

incorporated in 1968, and continues to serve as the city's historic preservation advocacy group.

[So named because the Quapaw Line ran along present-day Commerce Street. The Quapaw Line was a boundary determined in an 1818 treaty between the U.S. government and the tribe and was, for a time, the eastern boundary of the city of Little Rock.]

## **Streetcars**

In 1891 Little Rock got its first electrified street railway system (prior to that time, the city's few streetcars were mule-drawn). From the earliest days, both East 9<sup>th</sup> and Rock streets figured prominently in the streetcar system. The Chester Street Line started at 15<sup>th</sup> & Chester (which was the early location of car barns before they were moved to North Street between Chester & Ringo; near our CMF), headed north on Chester to 5<sup>th</sup> (before it was Capitol), east on 5<sup>th</sup> to Louisiana, north on Louisiana to 3<sup>rd</sup>, east on 3<sup>rd</sup> to Rock, south on Rock to 9<sup>th</sup>, east on 9<sup>th</sup> to Rector (where there was a turntable; now near I-30), back on E. 9<sup>th</sup> to Rock, south on Rock to 15<sup>th</sup> (where there was another turntable), back up Rock to 3<sup>rd</sup>, and traced its earlier route back to the beginning at 15<sup>th</sup> & Chester.

By 1913 the Little Rock Railway & Electric Company operated the East 9<sup>th</sup> Street Line on 9<sup>th</sup> Street from Main to the St. Louis, Iron Mountain & Southern Railroad tracks. By the late 1920s, that line extended past the railroad tracks, following the current path of E. 9<sup>th</sup> Street as it zig-zags its way up to 6<sup>th</sup> and continued east to a turnaround at Townsend Street (near the East Little Rock Community Center today).

Beginning in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, commercial buildings were constructed along the streetcar line to provide for the basic needs of neighborhood residents. For instance, as early as 1893, a commercial building with three storefronts was located across the street at 401-403-405 E. 9<sup>th</sup> and housed the Hoffman Grocery Store (later became Kroger), the Wallace Auto Company (later became part of the Kroger store), and the Kindervater Butcher Shop (later became restaurant space,

including the Browne Sandwich Shop and the Porch Grill). This building is no longer extant (demolished about 1965). But in 1921 the current Kindervater & Sons Butcher Shop Building was constructed at 407 E. 9<sup>th</sup> with a residence upstairs (the building still contains the original hook & rail system to the walk-in cooler, vintage equipment, and the Kindervater name in tile along the back wall).

And there were similar clusters of commercial buildings every so often as you traveled east along 9<sup>th</sup> Street (several of these were at 9<sup>th</sup> & Rector, which were likely demolished to make way for I-30).

### **Stone's Throw**

By 1871 John M. Geyer, also known as Papa Geyer, operated a bakery just north of here at 811 Rock Street. Interestingly, Geyer, who was born about 1811 in Bohemia, also operated a "beer hall" (better known as Geyer Hall), beer garden, and saloon at the northwest corner of 10<sup>th</sup> & Rock from 1870 until about 1890.

A building was constructed here at the northeast corner of 9<sup>th</sup> and Rock about 1894 and was occupied by Jacob Hemmelrath, who used the front portion of the building, which faced west on Rock, for his confectionery and lived in the rear portion. By 1897 Max Weiler had his bakery in the front portion of the building and used the back as his residence.

About 1906 a French gentleman named Jean-Pierre Fougousse acquired the property and opened the Fougousse Steam Bakery at 823 Rock (remember that the building was oriented toward the west on Rock historically). [Fougousse previously operated a bakery at 421 Newton Ave. in Argenta.] In 1908 the business was listed as the Little Rock Bakery. About 1910 Mr. Fougousse constructed the current building. He managed the bakery, and his children worked for him. His son, Joseph, was a deliveryman, and his daughter, Mary, was a clerk. The oven was located in the area now occupied by the tap room (404 E. 9<sup>th</sup>). Jean-Pierre (listed as John P.) Fougousse died on January 17, 1914, at the age of 45, and his widow, Rosa M. Fougousse, took over the bakery business,

changing the name to the Rosa Fougerousse Bakery. The bakery remained here until at least 1917.

By 1920, Carl E. Such operated an auto garage in the building, and John K. Such had a shoemaking business here as well. About 1922 F. L. Pittman opened a drug store in the building, and it was purchased by druggist Thomas J. Parman about 1926. Thomas Parman died in August 1930, and his drug store was acquired by Roy J. Baker, who kept the Parman Drug Store name for at least 10 years.

In the late 1930s and throughout the 1940s, an existing portion of the building was opened as a separate storefront at 821 Rock and housed John B. Schaffner's shoe repair shop.

About 1940, a brick wall was constructed to close off the oven room from the rest of the building and made that space a separate storefront facing 9<sup>th</sup> Street (404 E. 9<sup>th</sup>). And I think the small storefront at 406 E. 9<sup>th</sup> (now E. 9<sup>th</sup> Vintage) was also added at that time. Keep in mind that 404-406 E. 9th was originally one-story.

In 1942, this building housed the following businesses:

821 Rock—Schaffner Shoe Repair

823 Rock—Parman Drug Store (owned by Roy Baker)

404 E. 9<sup>th</sup>—Roy J. Baker Liquor Store

406 E. 9<sup>th</sup>—East Ninth Barber Shop

By 1950 the building had been enlarged on the north side. Roy Baker sold his drug store, which he had renamed Baker Drug in the mid-1940s, to Pete Peters, who operated the MacArthur Park Pharmacy at 823 Rock from 1950 until the early 1960s.

About 1955 the second story apartment above 404-406 E. 9<sup>th</sup> was added.

Probably at the same time (mid-1950s), the wall was reopened between 402 & 404 E. 9<sup>th</sup> to make a larger space for Baker's Liquor. Baker's Liquor then occupied both storefronts (now the seating area and tap room).

The 406 storefront (vintage store now) was a barber shop for many years (Raymond McDonald Barber Shop, Eddie's Barber Shop, Fifer's Barber Shop, and Perry's Barber Shop, etc.).

Mr. Baker removed a large portion of the original building in the early 1960s (could've been as early as the mid-50s, but I think it was in the 60s) to create a drive-thru for his liquor store, which moved into the triangle-shaped storefront at the corner.

Baker's Liquor operated here until the mid-to-late 1990s.

[In 1993 two teenage boys attempted to rob Baker's Liquor and were shot and later died.]

The building was renovated to become Stone's Throw Brewing in 2013. Ian, would you like to tell everyone a little bit about Stone's Throw?

## **Details**

Pressed tin ceiling above the drop-ceiling in the seating area

Pressed metal cornice on the 402 E. 9<sup>th</sup> storefront and the starburst vents indicate that the oldest part of this building dates between 1905 and 1915 or so.

Next tour is March 7 at Christ Episcopal Church, 509 Scott Street, Little Rock.