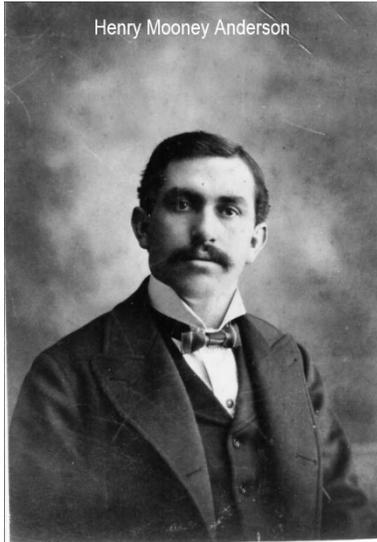


Sandwiching in History
Henry M. Anderson House
7 February 2020
By Callie Williams



Left: Photograph courtesy of Rick Montoya, Great-Great Grandson of H. M. Anderson
Right: 2020 photograph by staff of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

Introduction:

Hello, my name is Callie Williams and I am the Education and Outreach Coordinator for the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program. Welcome to the Sandwiching in History tour of the Henry M. Anderson House, now the home of the Little Rock Friends Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends, also known as the Quakers. I want to thank the Little Rock Friends Meeting and especially Mr. David Schoen.

This tour is worth one hour of continuing education credit through the American Institute of Architects, if you would like to receive this credit, please see me or one of my colleagues after the tour to complete a short survey.

The Henry M. Anderson House

Henry Mooney Anderson moved to Little Rock with his mother and older in the late 1880s. Henry's father was Capt. James Monroe Anderson, who usually went by his middle name, was a well-known figure in Marianna, Arkansas. James Anderson was born in Tennessee and after serving in the Confederacy during the Civil War, he moved to Marianna, Arkansas, where he opened a law practice in 1868. He married Mary Jane Mooney of Helena, Arkansas, in 1866. The Mooney family were well known as early settlers of the area around Helena, Arkansas.

They crossed the Mississippi River into the area that would become known as Arkansas Territory in ca. 1800. By 1874, James Monroe Anderson was Mayor of Marianna and was selected as an Arkansas constitutional delegate for Lee County.

James Monroe Anderson and his wife Mary *Mooney* Anderson would eventually have at least three children; son Paul, daughter Lee, and son Henry Mooney. Capt. James Monroe Anderson died in 1882. After the death of his father, Henry Mooney Anderson moved with his mother to Little Rock where she started searching for work. By the early 1890s, Mary Anderson had become a local entrepreneur, with businesses focused on the importation of books and then various types of general merchandise and equipment. She was mentioned in the local newspaper as “An Enterprising Lady ... engaged in disposing of copies of an historical work ... for the purpose of keeping her young son in school.”¹ She also became a well-known and trusted member of the state legislature support staff, serving as the engrossing clerk and Postmistress of the State Senate for several years. Unfortunately, the family soon experienced more tragedy when Henry’s brother, Paul Anderson, died at the age of 25 in 1895.

At the 1900 United State Census, Mary and Henry Anderson are living in a home owned by Mrs. Anderson at 210 South Cross Street. Henry is noted as being a lawyer, but this was likely an indication that at age 25, he may have been studying law part time as he is noted the year before in the local newspaper as working suffering a serious illness, possibly malaria, as a brakeman for the Iron Mountain Railroad while in St. Louis. Anderson would continue to work for various railroads for the rest of his career, first as a brakeman and eventually working his way up to the position of conductor for the St. Louis and Iron Mountain Railroad and then with the Missouri Pacific Railroad.

In 1907, Henry Anderson married Elizabeth “Bessie” Cooper at his mother’s home on Cross Street. In May of the following year, the couple’s first child, son Monroe, was born. In 1913, Henry Anderson purchased the two lots along Markham Street, previously known as 201 Valmar Street. This property contained a small house that he moved into with his growing family, now including his wife and three children, Henry Jr, Monroe, and Mary.

Sadly in 1914, Bessie Anderson passed away, followed in the next year by Henry Jr.. Mary Anderson soon moved in with her widowed son at 201 Valmar Street. In July of 1916, Henry Anderson remarried to Burton Knight Burroughs of Little Rock who was also a widow with a young son. The couple and their children moved into her property at 1100 Park Avenue. Henry retained ownership of the property at 201 Valmar Street and rented out the small house on the lot for the next seven years to various tenants. After his marriage, his mother returned to her home on Cross Street. In ca. 1924, construction on the house we see here today was started. The property was completed by 1926 with the new address of 3415 West Markham Street.

This new house represented a major investment in the growing Stiff’s Station neighborhood, named for local business and civic leader Charles Stiff who helped this area to develop. This neighborhood was a growing middle-class residential area with easy access to downtown due to the local streetcar lines. This house also features a porte-cochere, an early iteration of the carport

¹ “An Enterprising Lady.” *Daily Arkansas Gazette*. Little Rock, Arkansas. 14 February 1885. P1.

as well as a single-car garage along the rear property line (now gone). This meant that the Anderson's were well-to-do enough to afford an early automobile.

This house is an excellent example of the Craftsman Style of architecture, popular during the early 20th century through the 1930s. This style became popular across the United States through the proliferation of magazines such as Gustav Stickley's *Craftsman Magazine* from 1900 to 1916. The bungalow, often a simple structure when compared to the earlier ornate Victorian houses that predated them, and the craftsman style are prevalent in this area of Little Rock due to the booming building industry during the 1920s, the heyday of this style.

The exterior of the Anderson House is unusual in that it features two very different styles of rockwork cladding; including the laid granite along the front façade and on the large porch supporting columns and the more random fieldstone work along the side facades. The front porch is dominated by the large granite columns and the stonework is interspersed with grout that has been decorated with raised grapevine mortar, a skilled application. The two side facades are clad with a rougher more random cladding of fieldstones. Also of note are the windows in the original second story sleeping porch (now part of the upstairs apartment). These windows, a few of which remain, are known as railroad windows that are pulled up with a leather strap. These may be salvaged from Mr. Anderson's workplace with the local railroad. Another interesting feature of the house are the large beams that support the front porch roof and an additional square beam under the front rooms of the house that is visible in the basement. This front beam is a foot in diameter.

A stone and cast-iron fence surrounds the side lot where there was probably a large garden, as both Mr. and Mrs. Anderson were fond of gardening and members of the local garden clubs. This picturesque garden space is surrounded by a remarkable fence, composed of probably salvaged Victorian fence sections and rubble fieldstone pieces. The garden pedestrian entrance off of Valmar Street is highlighted by the including of a millstone in one pier and a whetstone in the other pier. A second large whetstone is also set in the fence facing Markham Street. One other unique feature of the house is the terra-cotta chimney pots, which are not usually associated with the Craftsman Style, but rather the Tudor-Revival Style and then only on largescale or very high style examples.

The interior was designed to be open and inviting to the exterior, with two large entry doorways into the original living room/parlor and library space. These doors also echo the interior French doors with integral glass panes. The interior has seen little change, except for updated kitchen appliances and cabinets and the enclosing of a rear porch for a utility room. You can also still see the original rock clad fireplace surrounds in the two front rooms and a small telephone nook in the original parlor space.

The Anderson family would continue to live in this home until the 1950s. Henry Anderson passed away in his home in 1950, followed by his second wife Burton Anderson in 1958. The house then went through a succession of owners until the 1970s, when Dr. John Sorenson and his wife Colleen Gavahan purchased the home, where they lived until 1995 when it was purchased by the local meeting of the Religious Society of Friends.

The Religious Society of Friends in Arkansas:

The Religious Society of Friends, often known commonly as Quakers, began in England during the 17th century under the ministry of George Fox, Margaret Fell, and others. One of their main tenants is their belief that all people can develop a personal relationship with God without the intervention of traditional priests or rituals. They developed their own cultural traditions of peace, simplicity, equality, and integrity. Local congregations are known as Monthly Meetings and may affiliate with a larger Quarterly or Yearly Meeting based on geographical region and/or doctrinal relationships. The popular nickname for the Religious Society of Friends, Quakers, was originally a term used to ridicule the new religious group in the 17th century in England. Eventually, the term was so well known, members began to use it informally to differentiate themselves from other religious groups. Formally, they are known as the Religious Society of Friends, and sometimes just “Friends” although the term “Quaker” is often used interchangeably. The Quaker community had a large impact on the early history of the United States as the colony of Pennsylvania was founded by William Penn to be a Quaker colony and its early governance was based on Quaker principles including religious liberty and peaceful interaction with local Native Americans.

In Arkansas, the first evidence of Quakers comes from locally famous African American schoolteacher Charlotte Stephens, who noted early memories of attending a Quaker run school during the Civil War in Little Rock. Her father, William Wallace Andrews, originally opened this school after being gifted land for a church and school from his previous owner Chester Ashley. Eventually this early African American school was purchased by the Little Rock public school system after the war. Shortly after the Civil War, the Freedmen’s Committee of the Indiana Yearly Meeting sent Calvin and Alida Clark to Helena, Arkansas, to start an orphanage and school for the newly freed population. This soon grew into Southland College, which also included a teacher training program. By 1873, a newly formed monthly meeting in Arkansas, known as the Southland Friends, was officially recognized by the Indiana Yearly Meeting and this meeting eventually grew to include over 200 individuals both black and white from the surrounding area. At the retirement of the Clarks in the late 1880s, the college campus included 5 permanent buildings and taught nearly 300 students. After several years of decline and difficulties, including a large fire that burned several buildings on campus, the school was “laid down” in 1925 as other public education institutions became available and the last recorded local meeting was held in Phillips County in 1922.

In the 1930s, a monthly meeting was organized in DeWitt, Arkansas, by local Frank Fox, who discovered the Religious Society of Friends teachings while exploring various Christian denominations to join. While the DeWitt meeting is now disbanded, other groups of Quakers continue to meet in Fayetteville and Texarkana. In 1953, a Quaker worship group began informally in Little Rock, meeting in various member houses throughout the city. Throughout the 1950s and 1960s, local Quakers and others brought into town by larger Quaker groups organized and led discussions on race relations and community unity. They also promoted activities and projects that brought together black and white students to promote dialogue and a shared sense of community. Also, during the Central High crisis, local Quaker Robert Wixom tutored Little Rock Nine member Ernest Green in physics. The Little Rock Friends meeting became an official monthly meeting in 1981. The local Friends group continues to meet in Little

Rock at weekly meetings that are often dominated by silent worship with interspersed moments of prayer or speaking when a member of the meeting feels led to communicate a message to the group. They have no formal paid staff or worship leader by choice, focusing rather on the group as a community of equals and volunteer-based service. Currently, the local meeting is led on an administrative level by the volunteer Clerk who is responsible for various administrative tasks such as keeping records and sending and receiving correspondence on behalf of the meeting. In 1995, the Little Rock meeting purchased its current meetinghouse located on two lots at 3415 West Markham Street, known previously as the Anderson House. They have continued to take very seriously their commitment to the neighborhood, part of their agreement with the city when they purchased the house, to maintain a residential unit upstairs and to make sure that their activities or any group that uses the property do not negatively impact the surrounding neighborhood or its residents.

The house continues to be used as the center of worship and gathering for the local meeting of the Religious Society of Friends through the week. The interior is now set up to function for their meetings and includes an entry space, meeting room, library space, and children's spaces. To tour the interior today, please enter the home from the front porch, the interior is basically a series of rooms around a central hallway. Then please exit the building through the kitchen and out to the rear porch and ramp. The second-floor space are not open as they are currently rented out to a residential tenant.

Again, I'd like to thank you all for coming and thanks again to the Friends for allowing us to tour this property today.

Our next Sandwiching in History tour will be at The Baker House in Argenta, at 501 Main Street in North Little Rock on Friday, March 6th, at Noon. We also have brochures for all of this year's Sandwiching and Walks Tours, please be sure to grab one and join us throughout 2020 as we explore more interesting historic sites throughout central Arkansas.

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