A part of the Old River road in the northwest has been re-established as a public highway as a link in the parkway system being constructed around Little Rock, county and federal officials announced yesterday.

The beautiful drive begins just west of the city limits at the end of Kavanaugh boulevard. It runs northward through a wooded section to a point on a ridge overlooking the Arkansas river, then north by east through a winding road along the rim of a canyon to connect with the Old River road, which it follows to the intersection of Cantrell road.

Establishing Recreational Area At Lackland Springs Susquehanna Gazette

Fayetteville, Oct. 12—Under auspices of the town association and committee, more than 100 residents of Benton county attended an outdoor meeting at Lackland Springs last night for a barbecue and recreation meeting in order to establish the development of a recreation center and game reserve at that place.

Thomas J. Commissioner of Fayetteville, who presided, said the Lackland Springs are beautiful, the water is excellent and the hunting is wonderful. The town association and the recreation committee are working hard to improve the area and make it a wonderful place for recreation.

A few years ago the river encroached upon the road, washing it out and a few miles northwest of Little Rock. Since then it was practically abandoned until the WPA included it in a scenic drive project.

Scenery along the ridge toward Pinacle and Black Rock mountain, with rocky slopes running hundreds of feet on both sides of the river, with gneiss and hills and running water, holds a note of grandeur.

The entire project is a part of the Susquehanna county plan drawn for Little Rock 20 years ago.

The WPA received cooperation of the county and county administration.
ARKANSAS’S LAST TERRITORIAL CAPITOL
COMMITTEE LOOKS TO EARLY REALIZATION OF HISTORICAL PLAN

Gazette Photo

A project to restore Arkansas’s last territorial capitol and other historically important buildings between Second and Third streets on the west side of Cumberland street will be started in about a week, Mrs. C. F. N. Rollins, chairman of the Restoration Committee, said yesterday.

The complete job of restoration will require about 10 years. The work will be financed with combined state and federal funds. A $30,000 appropriation by the 1936 legislature will be supplemented by a $10,000 Works Progress Administration appropriation for labor.

This year, the project will embrace the entire half block between Second and Third streets on Cumberland. The Restoration Committee has an option on all property in the half block which it will exercise immediately.

With the site now cleared by Mrs. Rollins and the magnificent new capitol at the head of Capitol avenue, the territorial capitol will make Little Rock a “town of three capitals,” giving this city and Arkansas a unique attraction for tourists.

Buildings Affected Of Great Historical Interest

Buildings in the half block proposed to be restored are:

- The two-story frame structure on the northwest corner of Third and Cumberland streets, to which Arkansas territorial congress met and in which the territorial capitol was located.
- A small brick building at the northeast corner of Second and Cumberland streets, which was the house of C. F. N. Rollins, who took the seat in Congress in Washington for acceptance.
- A small brick house was a part of a larger building at Second and Cumberland streets. This smaller house was built in 1825 and was the home and office of William E. Woodruff, founder of the Arkansas Gazette. In this house, one of the earliest buildings constructed in Little Rock, Washington Irving, Audubon, Sam Houston, David Crockett and other distinguished visitors were entertained.
- A printing shop at the rear of the Woodruff house in which was printed the Arkansas Gazette, the first newspaper to be published west of the Mississippi river.
- The Baldwin house on East Second street, in which Gov. Elias Conway was believed to have resided. This structure is thought to have been moved to its present location from its original site in the same block.
- Several minor structures, including a kitchen, office building, MUSIC ROOM, washhouse, stable and privy, house.

All buildings in the half block of historical interest will be restored. These will be made into two large brick additions to the Woodruff house.

Practicing architect Mr. Rollins said that the building committee has examined the buildings and described them as all of the finest houses of the Cumberland period, and that their present condition is good considering the many years older.

In selecting the historical park, an effort was made to have the area an entire effect of serenity. A grove of trees will be planted around the entire half block. A low brick wall topped by a white picket fence will surround the park being bordered by Cumberland Street.

Authentic Furniture, Fixtures To Be Used

Authentic furniture and fixtures will be used throughout. Mrs. Rollins said that the committee has been fortunate in locating four or five pieces of the original furniture and one of the original doors. Other original pieces will come in later. Where original furniture is not available, accurate reproductions will be made.

The small brick office structure at East Third street will be utilized as an administration building. Visitors will enter the park area at the same time on East Third street where original settlers of Little Rock were used to come up from the boat landing on the Arkansas river at the foot of Cumberland street. The visitors will no doubt walk through the original flower gardens through the various buildings.

A small admission charge will be made to make the project self-supporting.

Committee Spent Much Time in Research Work

Selection of the historical park represents more than a year of research and preliminary planning on the part of Mrs. Rollins and other members of the Restoration Committee—Fred W. Allsopp, Mr. Boardman Wright, Gordon W. Campbell, Mrs. Malcolm D. Capen, James H. Perkins and Max Meyer, architects.

To obtain authentic information, members of the committee interviewed descendants of original settlers and read all available writings relating to the period. Experts in Washington who examined plans for the territorial capitol restoration praised them as among the best they had seen.

“With great enthusiasm, opportunities to get authentic information in the restoration work,” Mrs. Rollins said.

She said it was hoped that the committee had been impressed by the style, furniture and building brought here by the original settlers.
Historic Capitol Is Built Again

By Richard and Louise McCue

Disfigured by beer and soft-drink signs, the old building at the right, the historic meeting-place of the last territorial legislature, gives little hint of its significance to the state. This picture was made before restoration work began. The monument in the foreground was placed by the D. A. R.

Razing and salvaging of buildings was at its height when the picture at the right was taken. The piles of bricks have been salvaged by workmen to be used again in the restored buildings. The old Henderliter house is in the background. When the work has been finished, these grounds will be landscaped in the period of the buildings.

sections to poke around the old houses. Out of towners drove by Third and Cumberland to see for themselves this beautifying of old Arkansas.

Yet always there came the same inevitable reaction: It's a great idea. But how can anyone possibly turn these old hills into beautiful something new?

The actual physical process of restoring an old house calls for judicious observation and deduction. As much as half the original structure of a discarded, historic building still stands, reconstruction is comparatively sim-

pe. Some restorations, however, are forced to start from scratch. Almost the entire town of Williamsburg, Va., was rebuilt from architectural descriptions contained in dusty old record books, virtually all remnants of the original structures having disappeared.

So when a few far-sighted men and women began some 12 or 14 years ago to dream of creating a beautiful historic park for Arkansas, they knew that the task, though presenting numerous difficulties, was not impossible.

Despite flagrant desecration, the old houses still retained many more of their original foundation logs, floor timbers and masonry walls than an average structure considered for restoration.

The original one-storied, medium-sized brick building of the Arkansas Gazette, had been overshadowed by the two-story head house of the paper. A brick addition at the left when work of restoration began. In the background is a corner of the early Gazette office.

This well-preserved Georgian house adjoining the territorial capitol once was occupied by C. F. M. Noland, who delivered Arkansas's newly-drafted state constitution to Congress in 1836.

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As interested persons learned of the proximity of three other buildings prominent in the early life of Arkansas to the Henderliter house, they began to visualize the restoration of not one, but several corners, an arc on the block near and a half block off. At the junction of the Henderliter house, the old house on Cumberland street stands a little brick house formerly occupied by Charles Perton Mer-

Henderliter. That the Henderliter place, now generally referred to as the last territorial capitol, was selected for restoration was recognized by the citizens of Arkansas.

A national committee fostering the preservation of historical sites, drew attention to the appropriateness of such a project in its first study. The group of local persons who were renovating the War Memorial building, Arkansas's first state building, had not desired to line up available space for the construction of the library that was to be built. The new building was needed in the Congression-

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al Library in Washington.
The house above, believed to have been the home of Gov. Elias Conway, is being moved on rollers across the restoration grounds from Cumberland Street to Second Street. In the lower picture workers are digging a trench for the concrete foundation that they will have to be laid under the old. After the house—the last territorial capitol. Similar foundations have been laid under other buildings in the area.

One building presented unique problems and a fresh challenge. More original material had been preserved in some than in others; some had suffered heavy mutilations at the hands of tenants; others had undergone so many indiscriminate additions that they no longer retained the trim gracefulness of their youth. Many conclusions were reached by studying the buildings even before additions were torn away, but much that was undecipherable at first came to light as raising progressed. Thus, in accordance with each day’s discoveries, restoration plans were constantly being shaped and reshaped.

Jarring as it may be to one’s romantic ideas about old houses, the first thing workers had to do was to remove the wood. Only was to open every corner of the grimy houses to sun, wind, and rain, and let Mother Nature fumigate the stuff. Much refuse and junk had to be carted away before a minute examination of the buildings was practicable.

Of the six original mantelpieces in the Henderlite house, all but one is being refurbished and used again. Even the color of their first coat of paint is still determinable. The one mantel which must be withdrawn from service has been casually painted, for it was discovered during the summer months. All cankered pieces have been replaced with similar timber chosen from the original wood. Original sideboards, removed to facilitate reinforcing the building’s frame, have been carefully salvaged and will be used. Many of the acreage, floor boards are still unimpaired and will be cleaned and put back into service.

The only instances of serious interference with the original lines of the Henderlite house were additional window


The custodians of a prosperity in every room in Southern homes did not fail to add the Gazette’s quota for an open fire would have been hazardous wherever lower papers accumula-


tion in a new paper office. A costly, discordant flower opening suggested the presence of an old brick store; so included in plans for refurbishing the two rooms is installation of an old Franklin stove, recently used in America a decade ago. An iron section of the original printing equipment used by the newspaper which so valiantly published its first edition for journalism in the rough-and-tumble of the West, also will be displayed in the restored office.

A neat brick wall, connecting Mr. Woodruff’s house with his office, has been covered with dusted grass and debris and will be part of a system of walls leading about the grounds.

The Noland house, situated under the territorial capitol and the Woodruff, is a curious, old-fashioned brick structure of two rooms, said to have been planned by Gideon Shryock, famous Southern architect who is known in Arkansas as designer of the state’s first capitol. When investigations were made to dump the door, examine the floor, and sound out the framework of the Noland residence, they discovered that the foundations badly in need of repair and chimneys near dilapidation. Like the Woodruff house, this building had been grotesquely embowered by the addition of extra rooms. Also revealed as unauthorized were four window additions, all casually cut into the wall during the past few years. These were removed and the apertures bricked up.

A floor illustration of the incredible care that goes into this restoration task is presented by the Noland family. Ten bricks over the front entrance had to be removed so that the doorway could be strengthened. As the price of a brick received a number. When the bricks were reset, their numbers were scrupu-

ous to make certain that each one went back into its original position.

After an addition of four rooms at the rear of the Noland house had been razed, it was evident that a porch once extended along the wall. Researchers discovered that the existing front porch was not in its original location; so they reasoned that perhaps a porch from the rear was the back porch, probably having been dragged out of position when the rear was torn down. A comparison of front porch dimensions with faded outlines and markings still visible on the bark wall confirmed this surmise. So now the little porch has been moved again, this time back to the location from which it stood originally. Since for one incapacitated column, it can be used intact. Even if there had been no porch on the rear, it is possible that the front one would have come down anyway because the Govern-


 hourglass, of which was assiduously followed in the Noland house, favors small front entrance.

The Noland, with almost hidden beamed ceilings, on the ground floor beamed ceilings, is being cleaned and re-walled, and the brick building, fashioned after one, will take up more of the position since the available house by the Noland house. Mr. Noland’s office will occupy a corresponding position at the corner. During the building process, together with the house proper, form a pleasant court that will greatly enhance the appeal of this simple Georgian house.

The fourth of the quarter of nolans’ buildings to be restored on the hill is a small house thought to have been the home of Gov. Elias Con-


The foundation work was started last week, and the remodeling of the Noland house still in progress. The old porch, the site of which was cleared for a new one, is being moved back to its original position. The former was too small, and the latter is intended to be more commodious. The old porch, which had been in use for many years, will be replaced by a new one, which will be more suitable for the needs of the present day. The new porch will be constructed of brick, and will be wider and more spacious than the old one. The windows and doors will be of a more modern design, and will be more suitable for the climate of the area. The roof will be of slate, and will be more durable than the old one. The old porch, which was made of wood, will be replaced by a new one, which will be more resistant to moisture and weather. The old porch, which had been in use for many years, will be replaced by a new one, which will be more suitable for the needs of the present day. The new porch will be constructed of brick, and will be wider and more spacious than the old one. The windows and doors will be of a more modern design, and will be more suitable for the climate of the area. The roof will be of slate, and will be more durable than the old one.
represent pioneer attempts at glass-blowing. Apparently a demand for glass forced early settlers to resort to their own ingenuity. That they were amateurs is obvious, but perhaps their funny little products brought much pleasure to pioneer housewives for whom almost any kind of ornament spelled sheer luxury.

Other excavated curios were tarnished coins ground deeply into the earth. A tiny half-dime, dated 1837, is the oldest coin recovered. Literally pounds of hand-wrought, square-headed nails have been removed from the ground or extracted from old lumber. They will be used again in the restored buildings.

One day the men unearthed an antique hand-carved, wooden washboard, over which some family’s wash must have received many a soapy rubbing.

Parts of antiquated bridges and harness riggs turn up rather frequently. A battered wedding ring and a few pieces of jewelry of no great value except as souvenirs of a past age have been resuvedted. Among interesting discoveries were several men’s knives, one with a deer-horn handle, and a carving knife with its steel blade still unmarred.

Workmen now have been at their task six months. As results of their labor have become increasing evident, the public’s incredulity gradually has given way to untinted enthusiasm and approbation. Six months more should see the job completed, and then the buildings will stand once again dismasted in their original beauty, harmonious in spirit with the period in which they lived and as authentic in detail as it is humanly possible to make them.

At the upper left is shown the Woodruff home on the corner of Second and Cumberland streets after it had been stripped of recent additions and restored to its original size and framework. A picture of this building with recent additions was published in the February 25 issue. At the lower left is a corner of the old Henderlifer house supported by heavy beams while a new concrete foundation is being laid. Above is the first step in restoration of a huge, half-fallen chimney which was discovered almost hidden by an unauthentic addition on the west end of the old capitol. This picture shows the gaping hole to be filled by the chimney and the enormous hand-hewn wall timbers which were exposed during the process of razing and reconstruction.

Final steps in restoration of the large chimney on the west end of the old capitol are shown above. At the left bricklayers have begun building the chimney and the original beams have been boarded up. At the right the finished chimney and the rear wall covered with building paper are seen.

The upper picture shows another step in placing concrete foundations beneath the Henderlifer house and the lower picture shows how it was boarded in preliminary to applying the original exterior cypress.