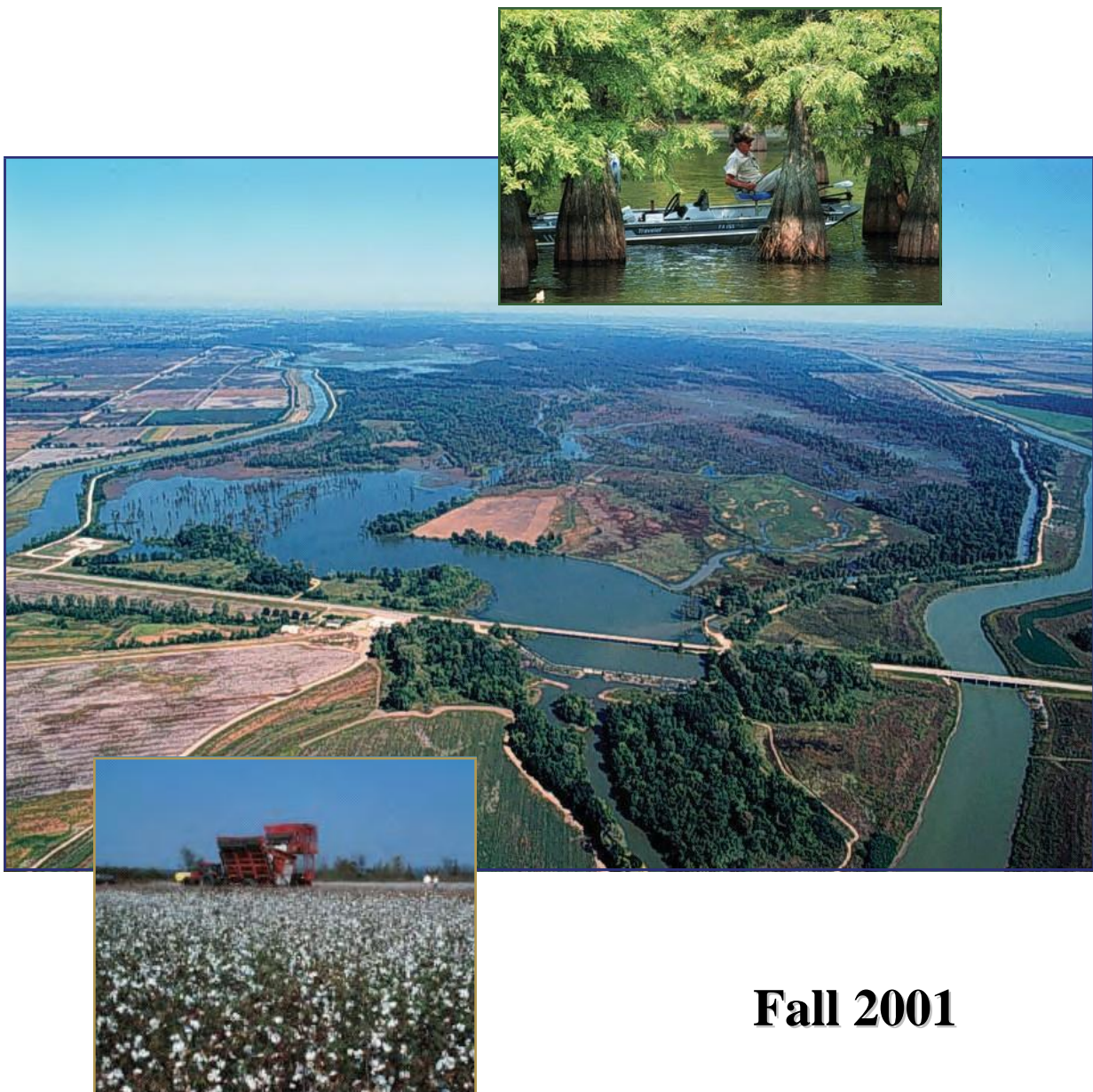




# **The Great River Road-Arkansas Corridor Management Plan**

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**Fall 2001**

2	Route Maps	
3	Route Assessments	
4	Loop Assessments	
5	City Assessments	
6	Intrinsic Qualities	
7	Management Plan	
8	Development Plan	
9	Scenic Conservation Plan	
10	Interpretive Plan	
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# Introduction

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The Great River Road-Arkansas is part of a 10-state route that stretches nearly 3,000 miles, from Canada to the Gulf of Mexico, and runs along both sides of the Mississippi River. This route was established in 1938, when an Act of Congress led to the creation of a Mississippi River Parkway Commission to develop plans for a route that travelers could follow to enjoy the scenery, history and culture along the river. This Commission has actively promoted the route since that time, and most of the states have now designated their segments of the route as official state scenic byways. In 2000, the routes in the four northernmost states--Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois and Iowa--were recognized as National Scenic Byways through the Federal Highway Administration, Department of Transportation.

The Great River Road-Arkansas segment extends through 10 counties in Eastern Arkansas--Arkansas, Chicot, Crittenden, Desha, Drew, Lee, Mississippi, Monroe, Phillips and St. Francis. Each of these counties has a commissioner, appointed by the Governor, to make up the Mississippi River Parkway Commission of Arkansas. This commission has made great strides in developing and promoting Arkansas' route over the years, including achieving legislative scenic highway status in 1975, even though a few gaps existed along the route. Efforts moved to a new level in 1999, when commissioners began efforts to close gaps in the route, as well as to seek full State and National Scenic Byway recognition.

State Scenic Byway status in Arkansas is a two-step process that involves first being designated as a scenic "highway" by the Arkansas legislature, then being designated as a scenic "byway" by the Arkansas Highway Commission. The 1975 legislation was amended in the 1999 legislative session to close gaps in the route, and the Arkansas Highway Commission approved the entire route as a State Scenic Byway on Feb. 21, 2001.

Through the public input process, a decision was made to amend the route to include a loop to the historically significant former river port town of Arkansas City, a critical component of the Great River Road story. This amendment was adopted during the 2001 legislative session and approved by the Arkansas Highway Commission on Aug. 22, 2001. Counties and cities along The Great River Road-Arkansas also have adopted resolutions supporting designation as a National Scenic Byway.

Throughout this state-level process, a comprehensive grassroots effort also has been in place to develop a Corridor Management Plan for the Great River Road-Arkansas. This process began in August 1999 with the establishment of the Mississippi River Parkway Commission of Arkansas as the Steering Committee. An Advocates Group was established that included, in addition to MRPC commissioners, the legislators, county judges, mayors and chamber of commerce executives along the route, as well as the

board of Arkansas Delta Byways, the tourism promotion association serving the region. Representatives also were added from institutions of higher education along the route.

A major presentation was given in January 2000 for Advocates Group members, followed by public presentations in each of the 10 counties. In addition to letters to leadership in each county, all meetings were well publicized through the news media. During each of these 10 meetings, led by Advocates Group members from the respective counties, volunteers were solicited to assist with "Town Task Forces" and "Route Segment Task Forces." A total of 182 volunteers signed up at these meetings to assist, and many solicited additional volunteers to assist with their work throughout the year.

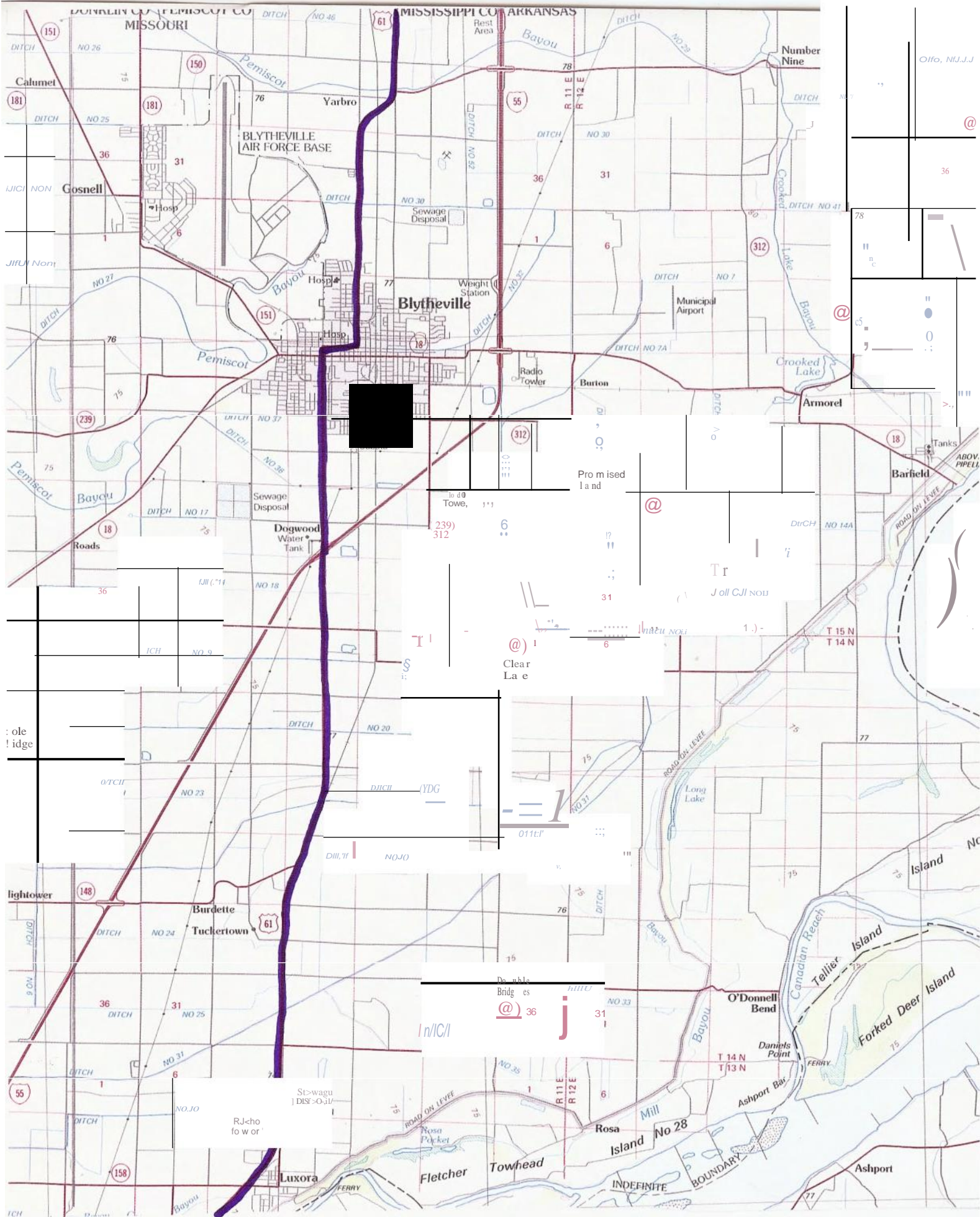
These volunteers conducted a detailed analysis of their assigned segment of the route during the period from June 2000 to July 2001. A full year was provided in order to view the route during different seasons. Throughout this time, power point presentations also were given for civic clubs and county and municipal government groups as requested, and information and comments gathered at these events also were utilized in developing the Corridor Management Plan. Materials developed by each county were then compiled by the Mississippi River Parkway Commission. A list of the Corridor Management Plan participants is included in the Appendix, along with materials provided at the county meetings.

More than anything else, the process of analyzing this route to complete the Corridor Management Plan has served to develop renewed pride in the region, as well as a spirit of cooperation. These strengths will be extremely vital as we attempt to enhance, preserve and protect the resources identified through this Corridor Management Plan process. Designation as a National Scenic Byway will assist in stimulating public awareness of the significance of these resources along the route.

The Great River Road extends through 10 of the 15 counties that make up the Arkansas Delta Byways tourism promotion association. Another National Scenic Byway, Crowley's Ridge Parkway, extends through eight of these counties (three counties have overlapping segments). There are no other National Scenic Byways in Arkansas. It is the goal of the Arkansas Delta Byways group, working in concert with the Mississippi River Parkway Commission, to promote these two byways to serve as an economic catalyst for heritage tourism in the region, as well as to serve as educational laboratories for students in K-12 and at the college level. Arkansas State University, home office for Arkansas Delta Byways, has recently established a Ph.D. degree in Heritage Studies and will use many of the attractions along The Great River Road as sites for research, internships, field experiences and independent study.

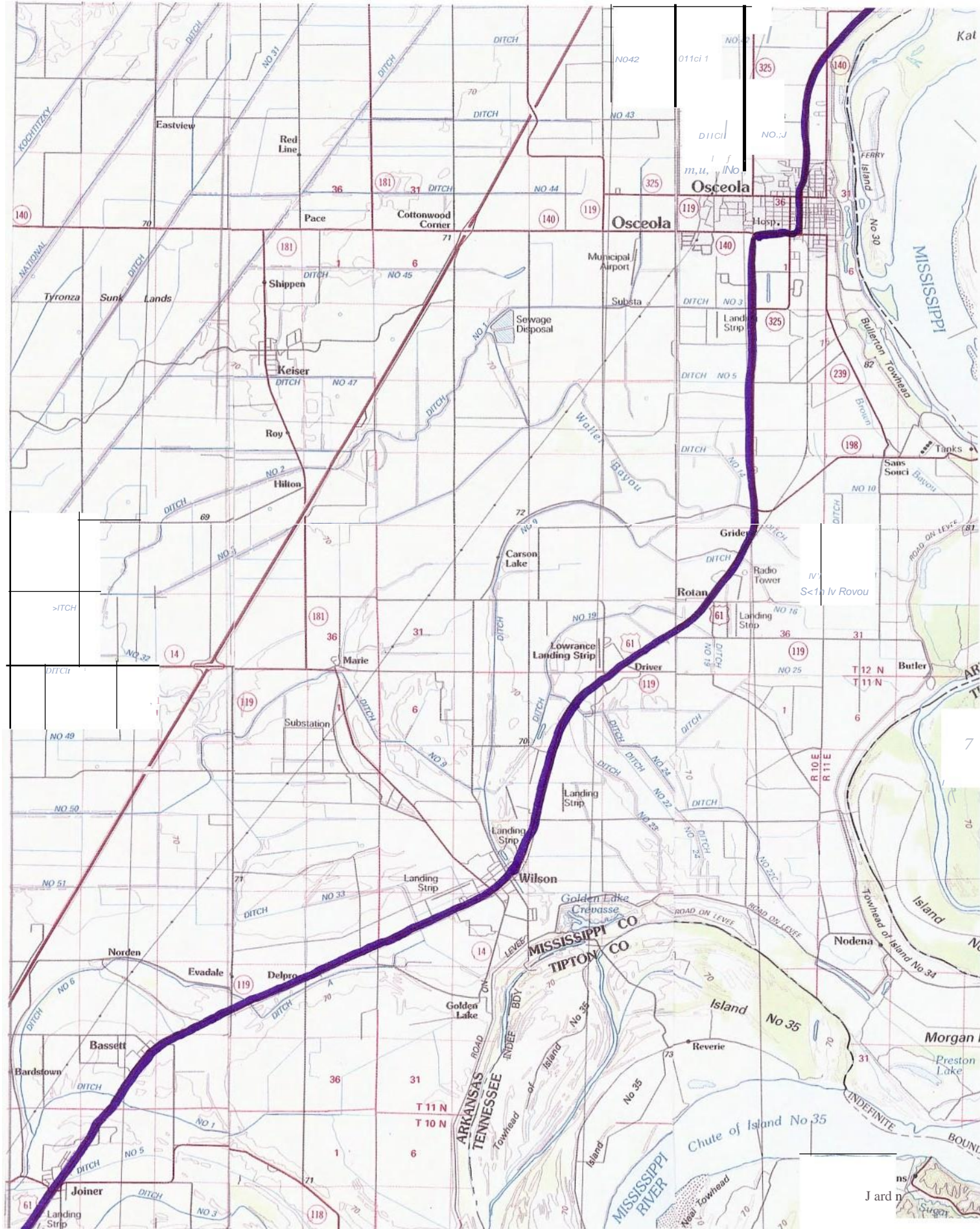
National designation of The Great River Road-Arkansas will strengthen numerous partnerships involved in promotion of the region as one unique entity. Equally important, it will further the National MRPC goal of securing National Scenic Byway status for the entire Great River Road, thus enabling us to market the entire 10-state route as a National Scenic Byway.





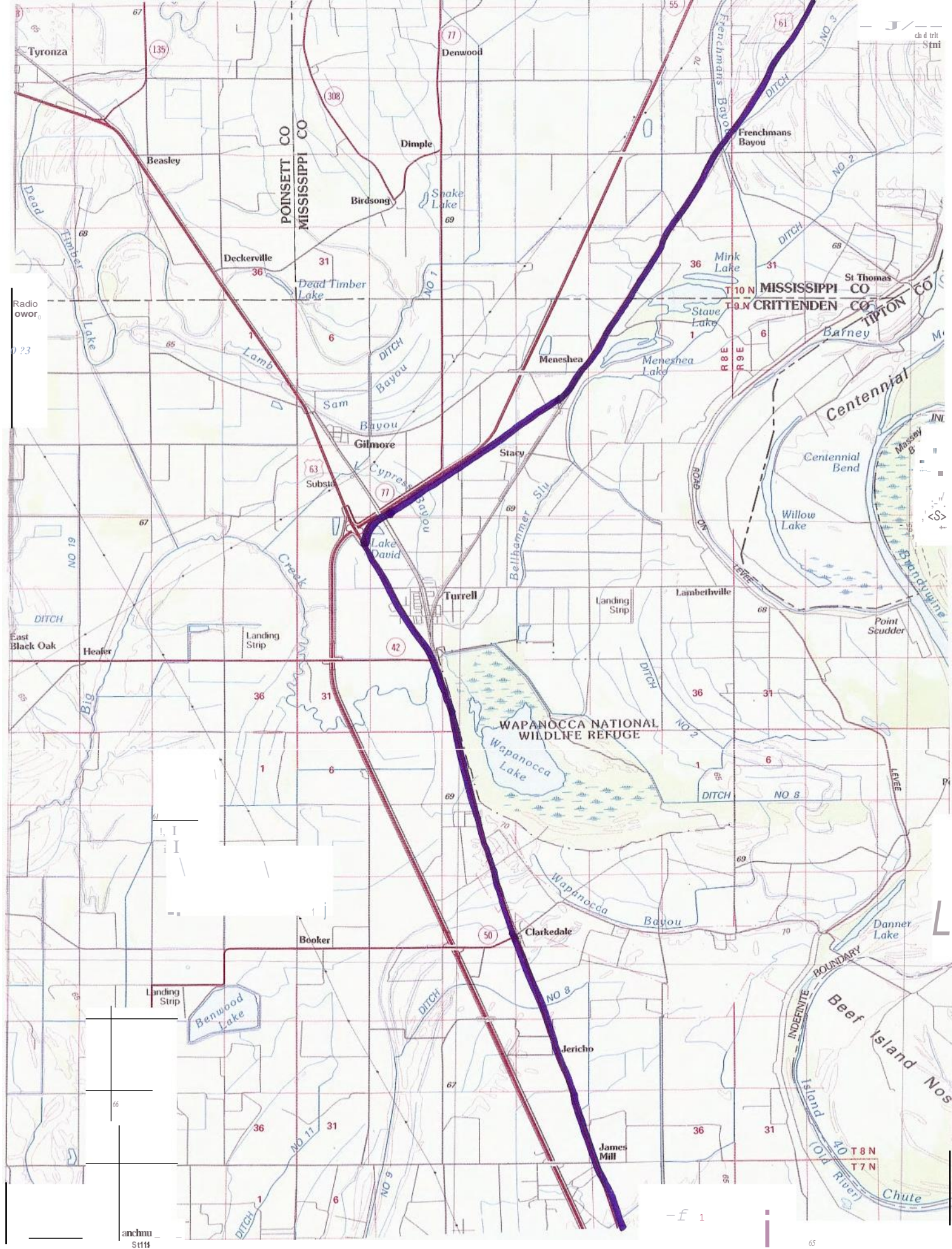
Missouri Line-Luxora





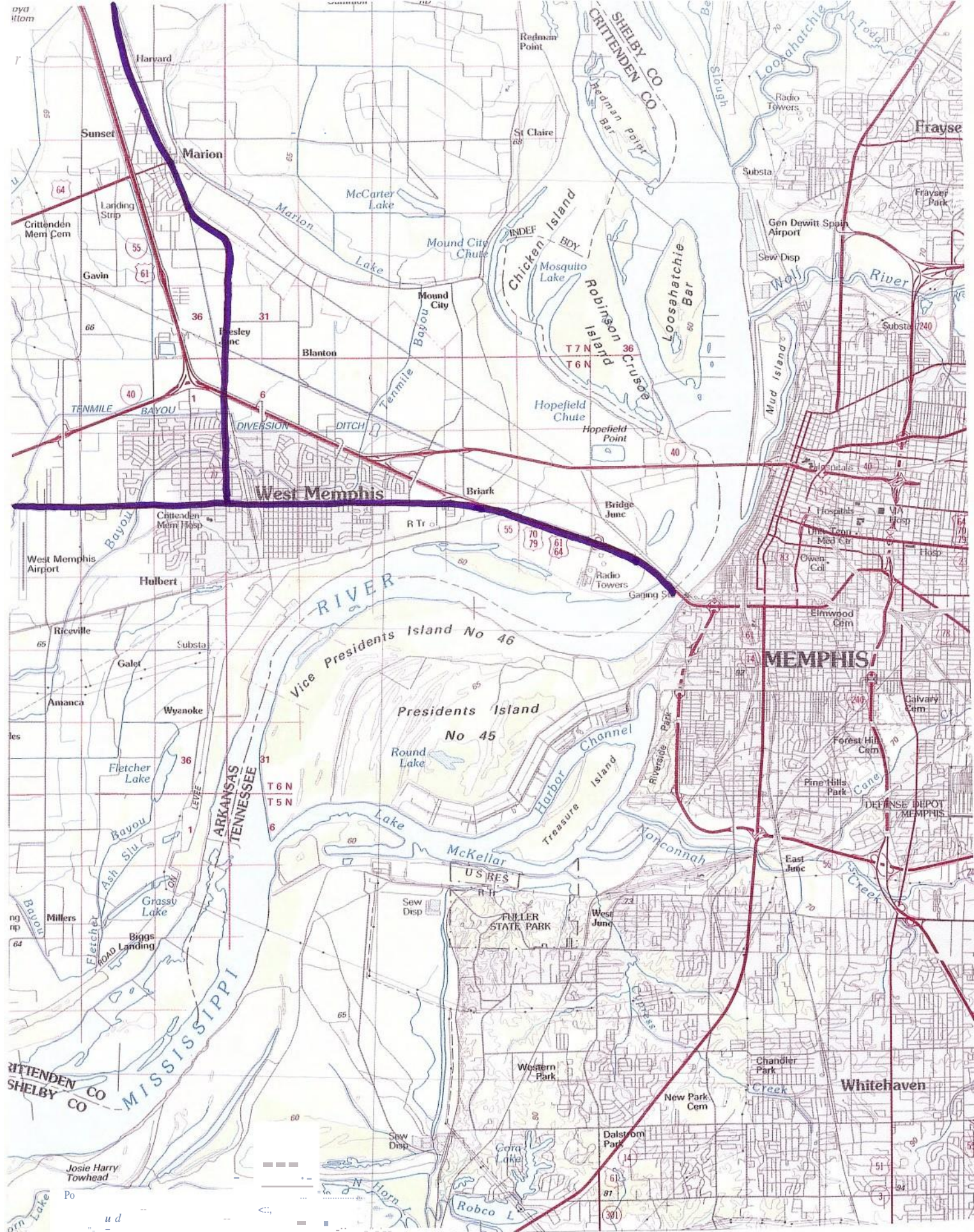
## Osceola-Joiner



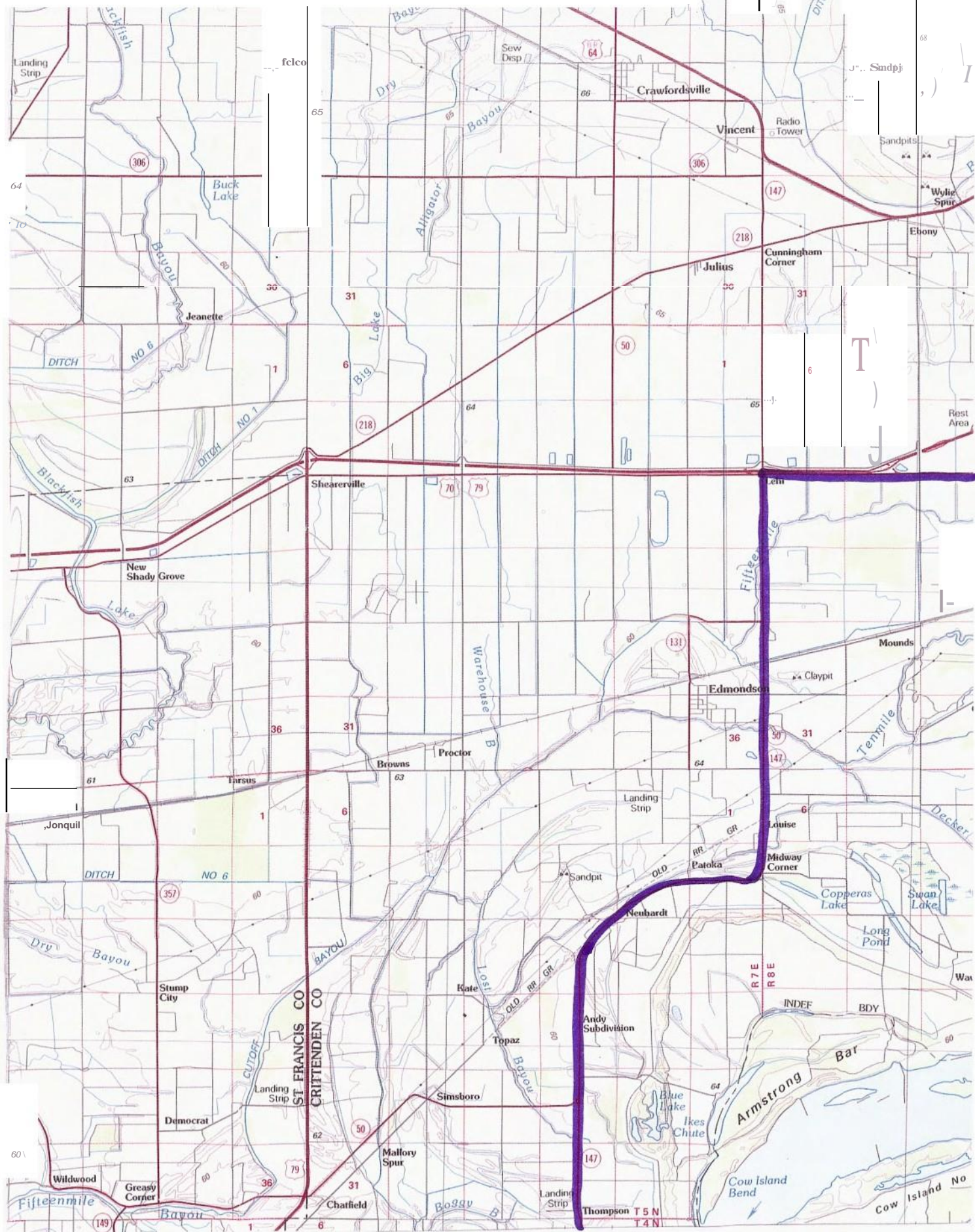


# Frenchman's Bayou-Jones Mill



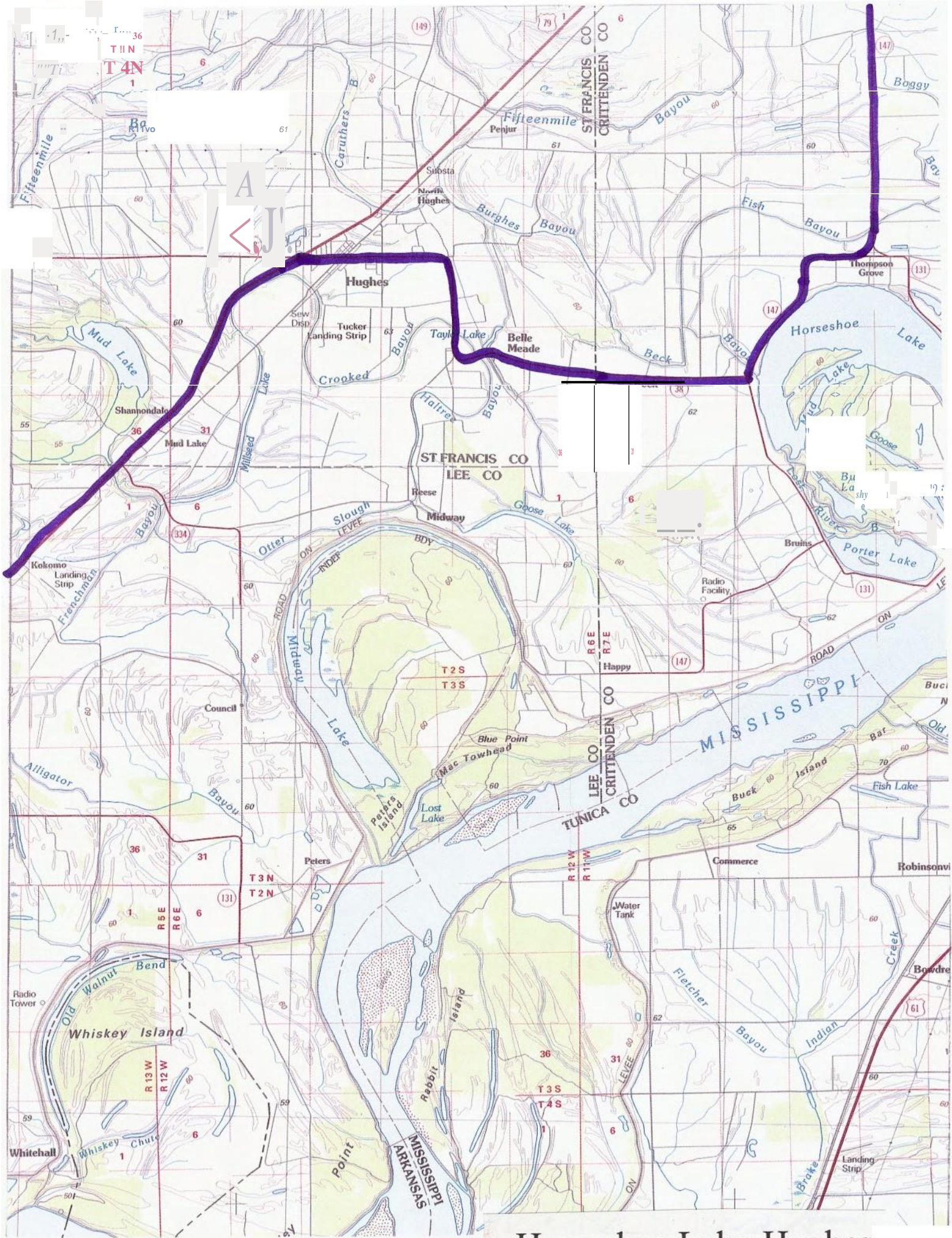






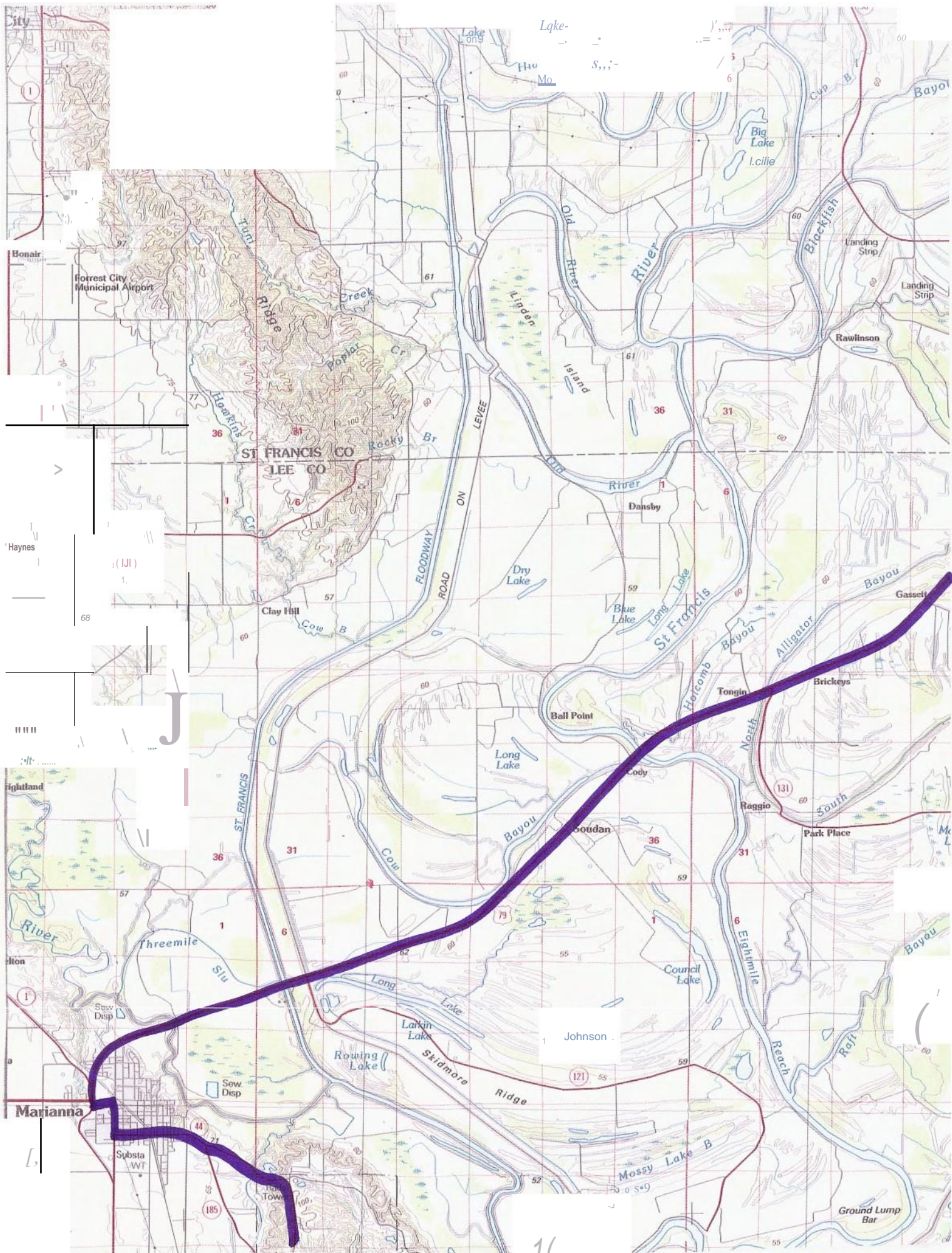
# Lehi-Boggy Bayou





Horseshoe Lake-Hughes





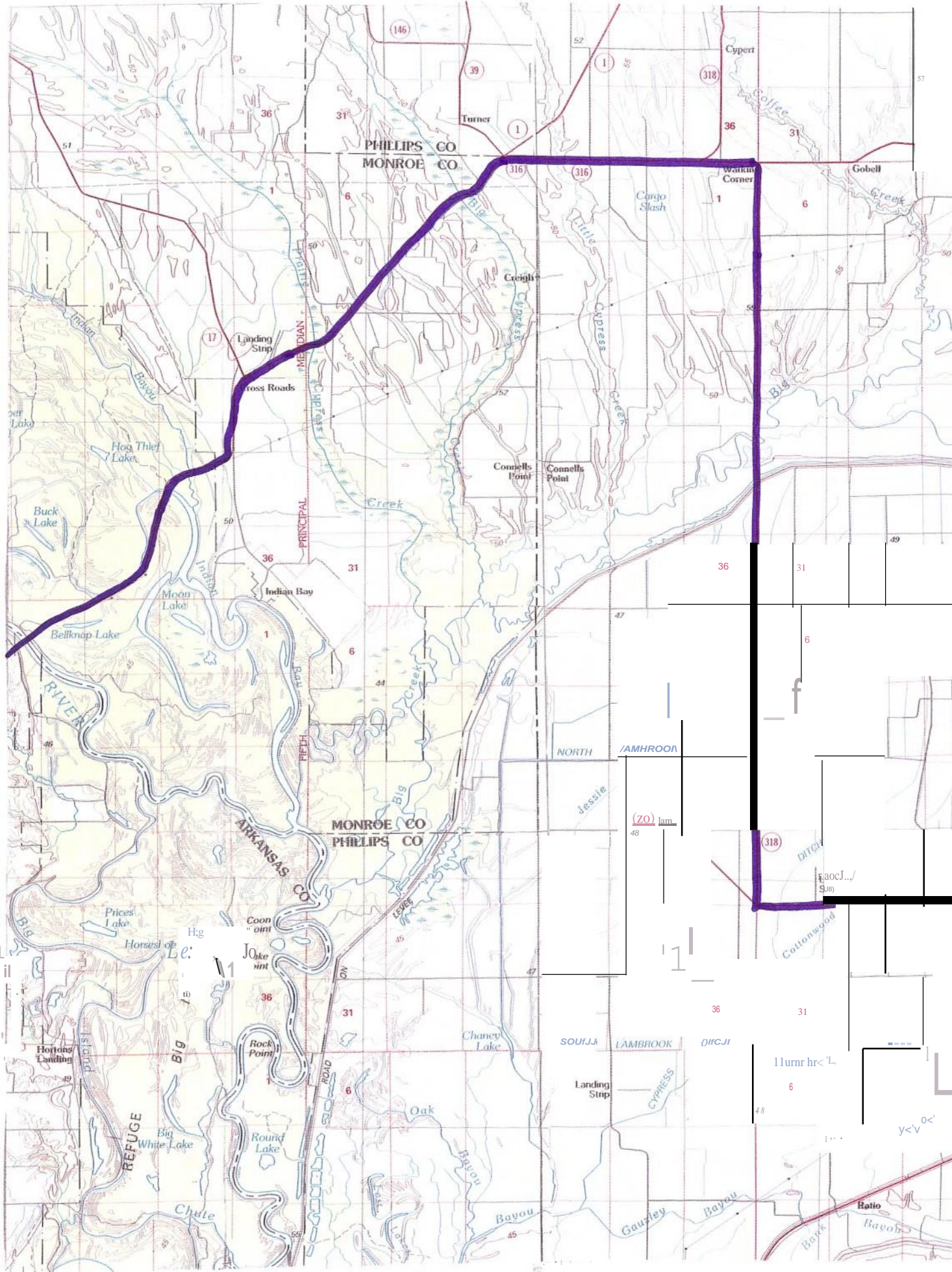




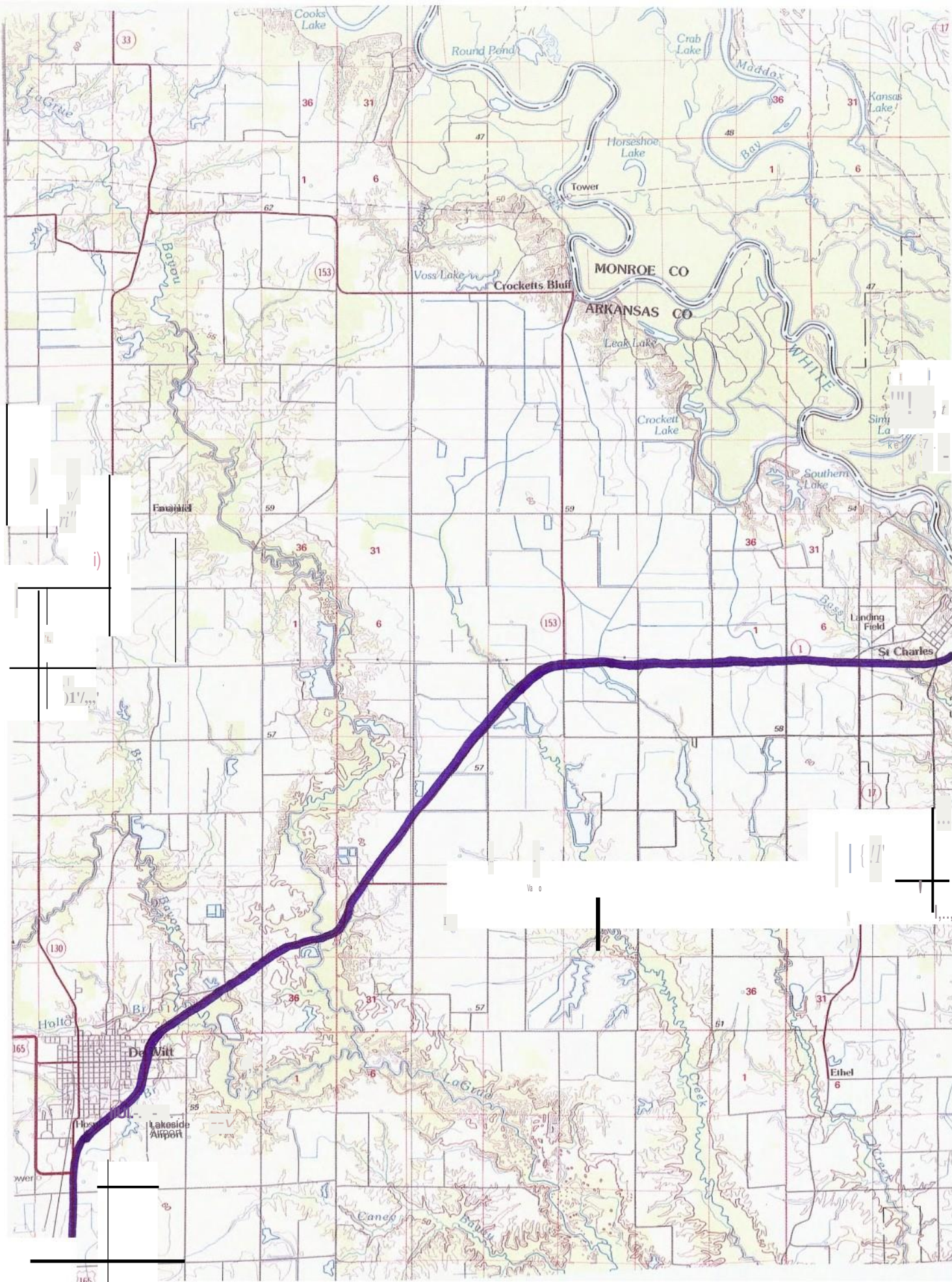




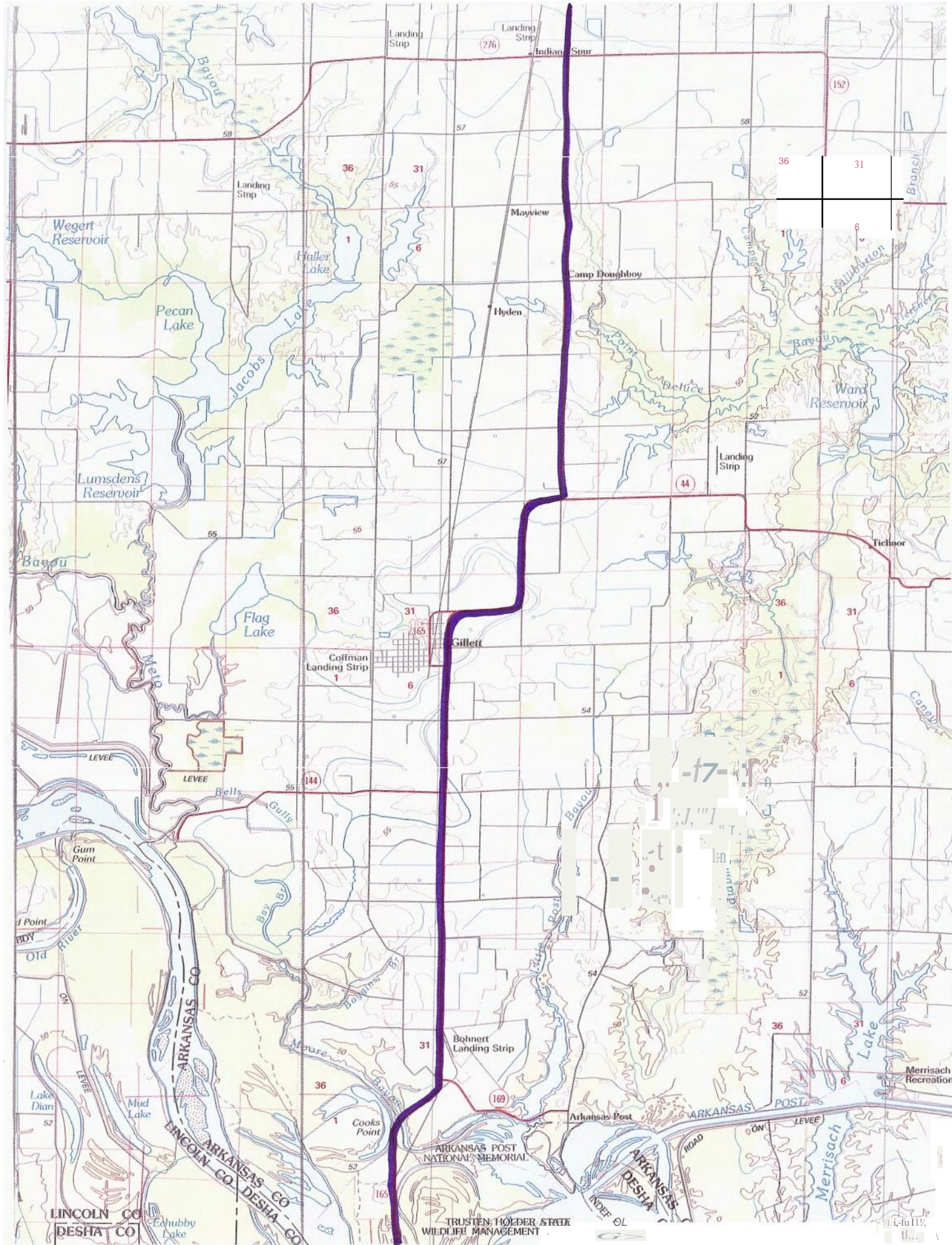








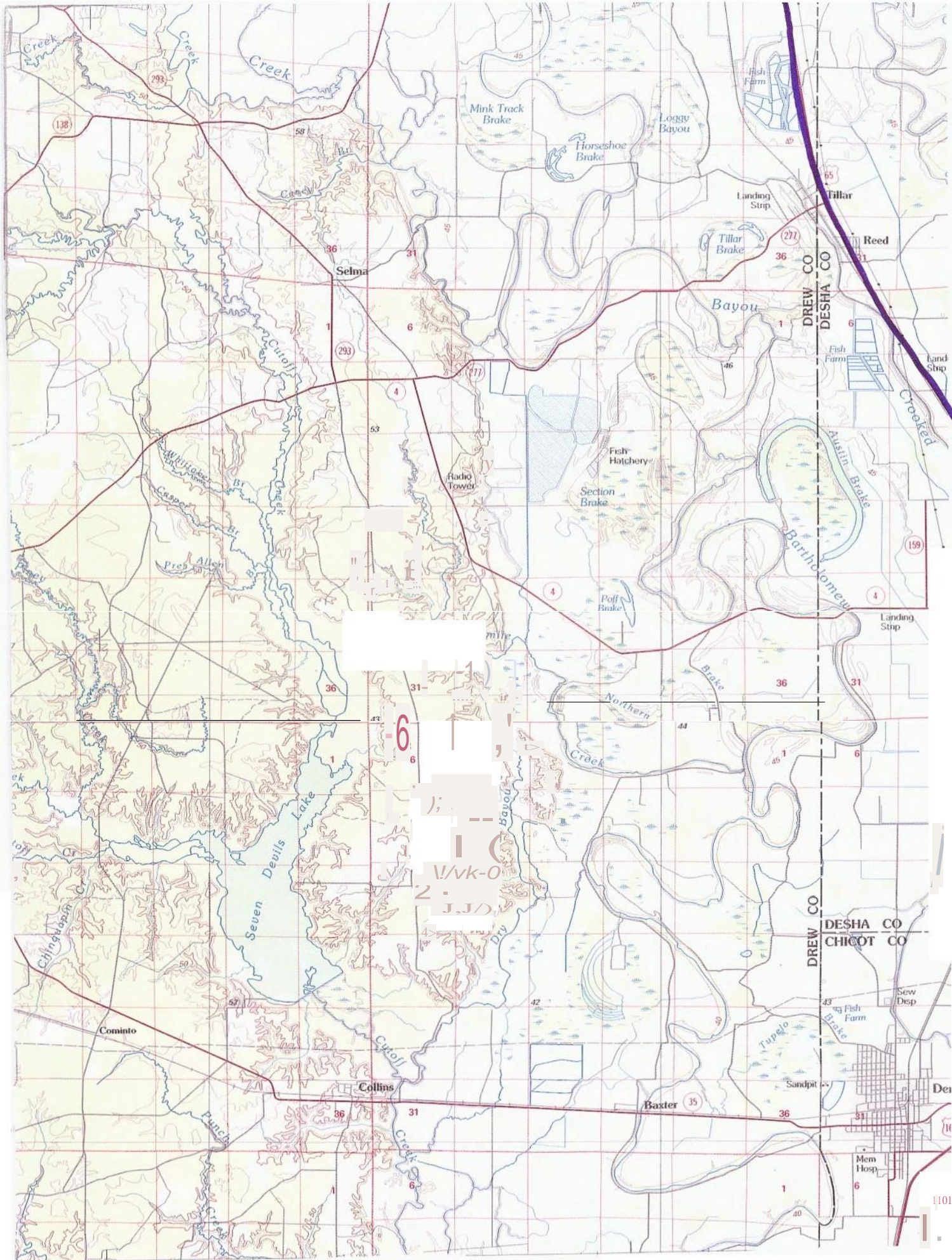




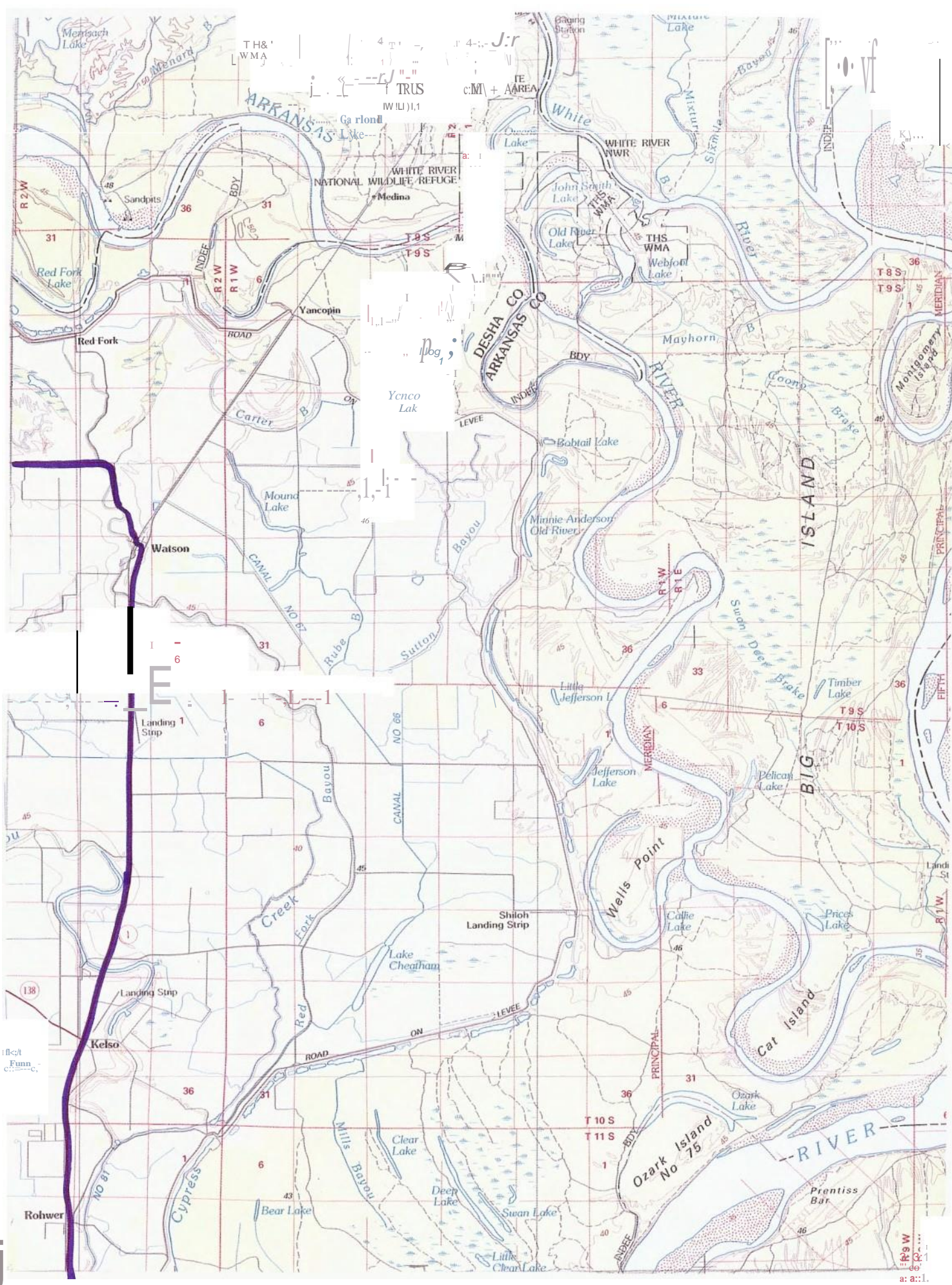




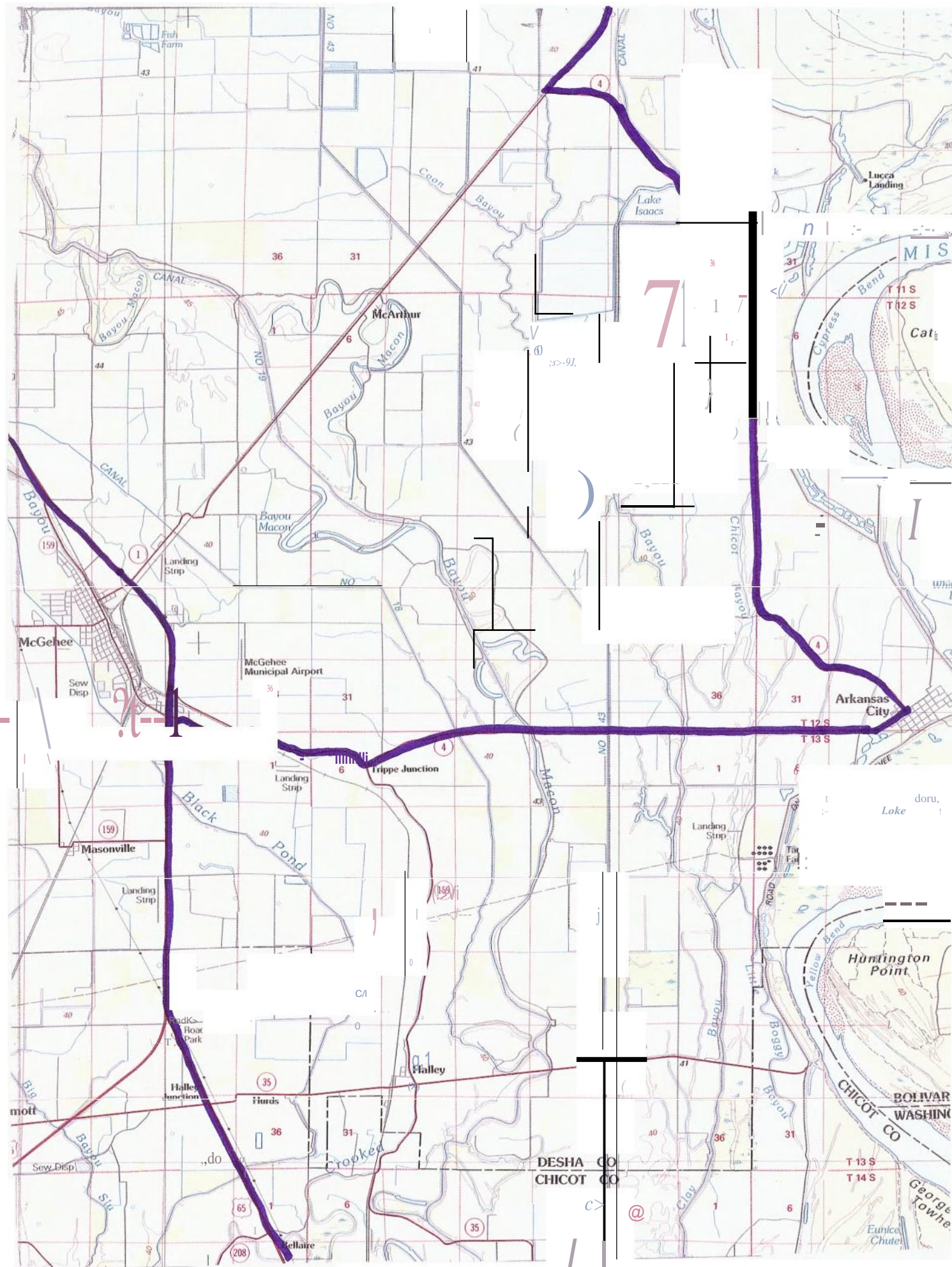




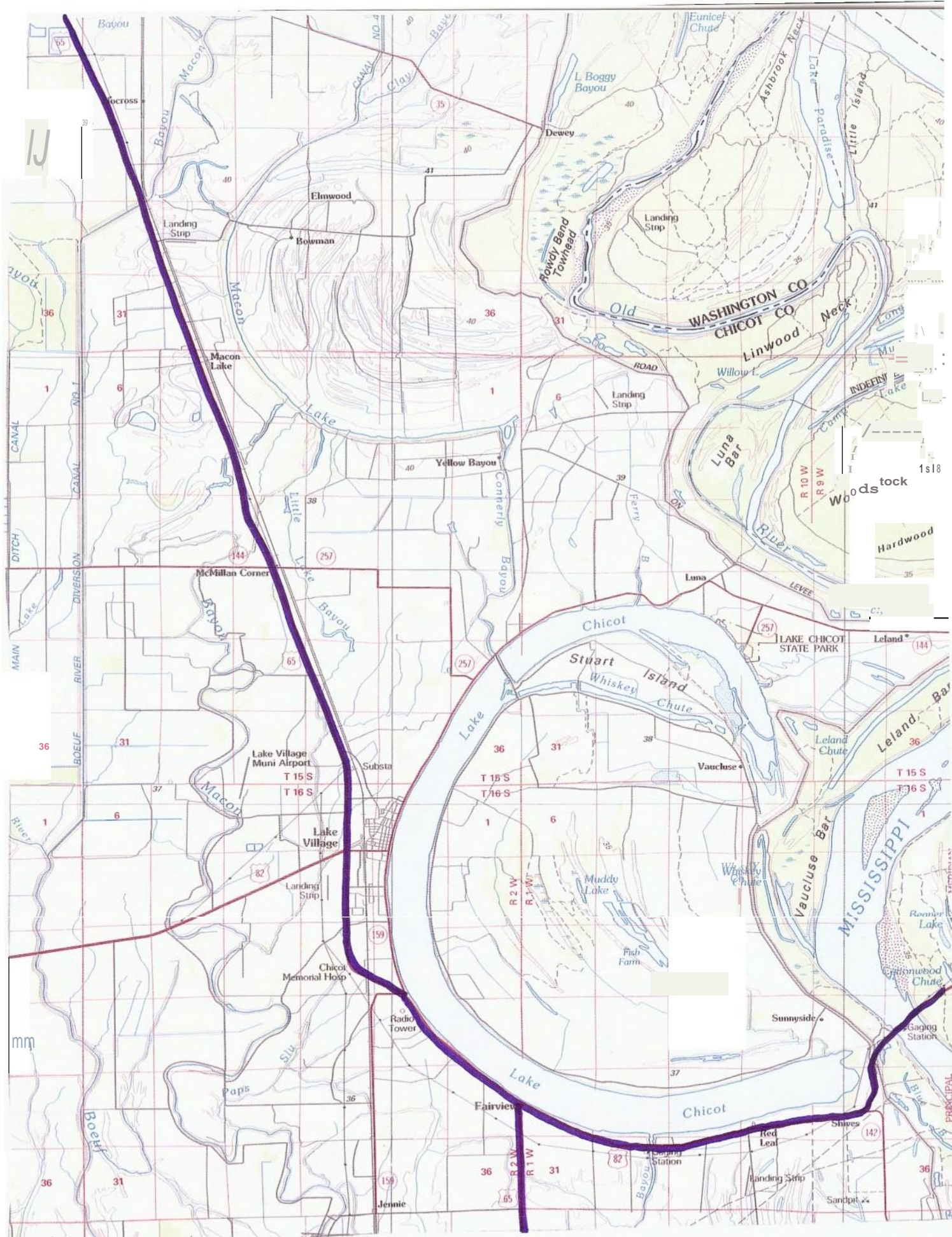






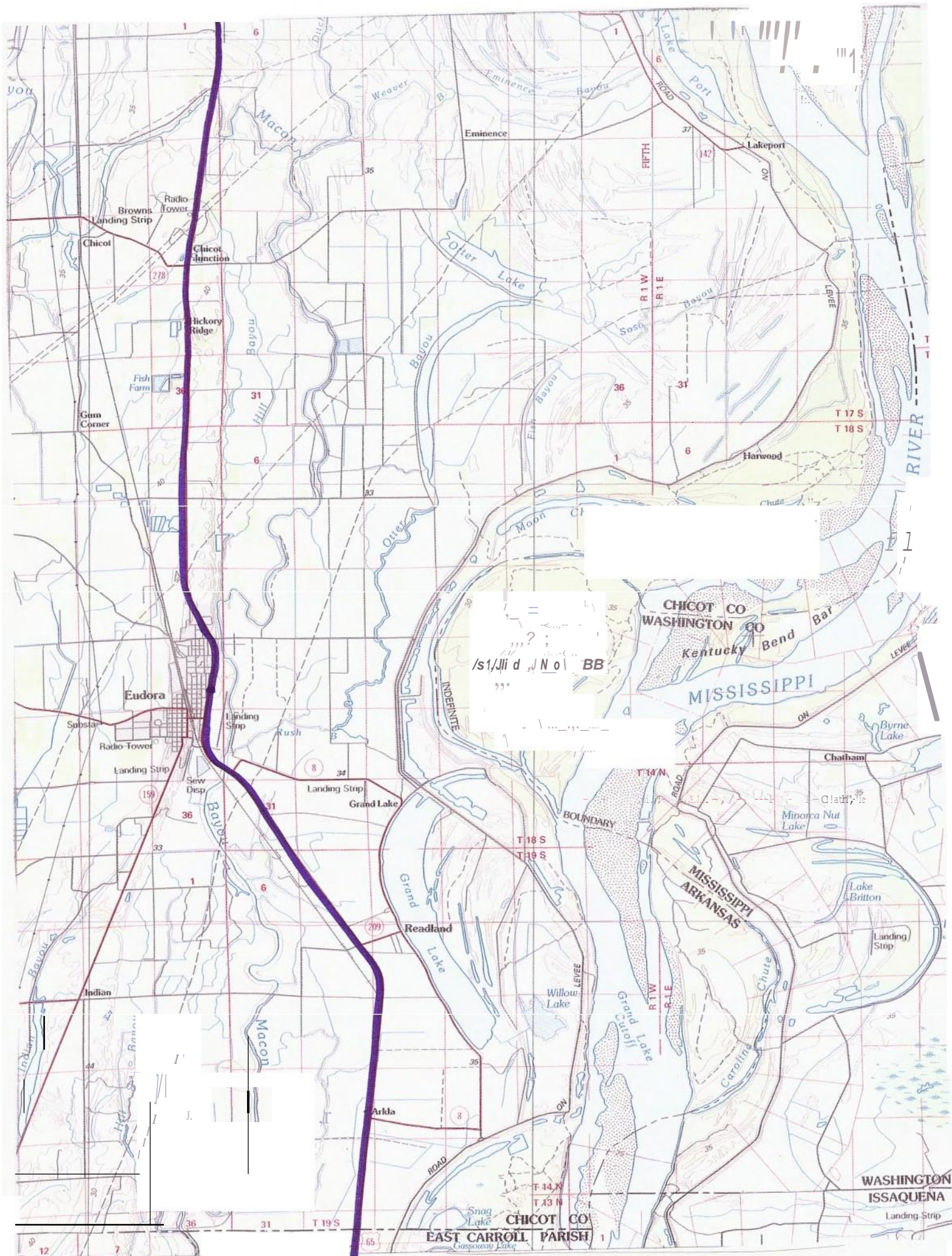






## Bayou Macon-Lake Village





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**Chicot Junction-  
Eudora**





# Route Assessment: Mississippi County

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MSS 0	Arkansas-Missouri State Line Archway, U. S. 61  Built in 1924 to commemorate completion of the first paved highway in the county. Recently placed on National Historic Register. This first/last impression of Arkansas could be improved. Possibly landscaping around the arch or some screening/fencing.
MSS 0-3.5	Cotton fields with farm residences interspersed
MSS 0.3	Two vacant billboards
MSS 0.6	Beautiful agricultural landscape along this segment. Concrete shoulders are in place and could provide a location for an informational kiosk about local agriculture.
MSS 0.9	Residence is a perfect example of a southern plantation-style home.
MSS 1-1.3	New subdivision, Plantation View, is being developed. Should consist of neatly landscaped homes
MSS 1.5	Railroad overpass provides attractive view of town of Yarbrough and surrounding fields. Low-maintenance flowering trees or shrubs could be placed on this overpass to make it more attractive to visitors. Historic marker also exists on the bridge. This would be a good location for an agricultural scenic overlook.
MSS 1.9	Vacant billboard
MSS 2.2	Great River Road sign has seen better days and should be replaced.
MSS 2.3	Businesses and farm shops begin to line the road. These should be asked to remove piles of wood, metal or rubble from view of the roadway.



Lighted signs should be removed. All signs should be exchanged for standardized historic signage.

Metal buildings should be painted and repaired so that they are not falling down and rust patches are not visible from the roadway.

Trailer parks should be hidden from view of roadway with fencing or natural screening.

MSS 2.9                      Several unpublicized historic sites in the Wheeler Road area. These could be developed as tourist sites.

MSS 3.7                      Blytheville Country Club on right

Nice residential areas on right and left

MSS 4.4-5.2                Mixed residential yielding to commercial strip

*MSS 5.2-8.6                City of Blytheville (See City Assessments)*

MSS 6                        U. S. Highway 61 Junction with Highway 18

Big Lake Spur: Contains Mallard Lake where the state-record largemouth bass was caught. This refuge basin is thought to have formed from the New Madrid earthquake of 1811-12 and is fed by the Little River. The refuge is an important area for migrating/wintering waterfowl and neotropical birds in the Lower Mississippi River Ecosystem.

*Buffalo Island Loop (See Loop Assessments)*

MSS 6-8.6                Some areas need a solid fence or green space or decorative garden spaces. All entrances to the city need to be improved by a nice welcome sign, neat manicured green space and additional lighting.

There are several buildings that need cleanup: a closed, boarded up service station is beginning to look very ragged; a partially burned out building should be removed; carwash needs peeling, chipped paint removed and repainted and all trash removed; others need screening and/or general cleanup.

MSS 7.7                      Mississippi County Community College on right at extreme southern end of City of Blytheville



MSS 8.6	I-55 Junction (Blytheville City Limits)
MSS 7.0-20.5	Route between Blytheville and Osceola is primarily cotton fields and other agricultural use
MSS 10.6	Ugly trailer park on right
MSS 12	Cemetery on right
MSS 12.2-18.2	Burlington Northern Railroad tracks run parallel on the left side of the route to Osceola
MSS 13.2	<p>Burdette: Established in 1908, this town was organized from a section of the town of Fletcher.</p> <p>Burdette School Complex: Listed on the National Historic Register in October 2001. Includes a 1922 Prairie-style building, 1939 WPA building, c. 1930 cafeteria, c. 1930 agriculture building and c. 1948 gym.</p> <p>Three States Lumber Co. Powerhouse: Constructed in 1909, building was the only structure that was not disassembled and moved upon completion of the company's logging operations in Mississippi County in 1922. Building is also the only remaining evidence of the lumber boom that cleared Mississippi County's forests and opened land for agricultural development. Listed October 2001.</p> <p>Tompkins House: Listed on the National Historic Register October 2001.</p>
MSS 14.1-14.8	Junky area
MSS 15.8	<p>Hwy 120 Junction</p> <p><i>Alternate access for Buffalo Island Loop (See Loop Assessments)</i></p>
MSS 16.9	<p>Luxora</p> <p>In the years before the Civil War Dempsey Thomas Waller established a mercantile business just north of the town's present site. Aided by the Mississippi River, the mercantile business grew rapidly and families settled near it. Waller named the growing town Luxora, after his four-year old</p>



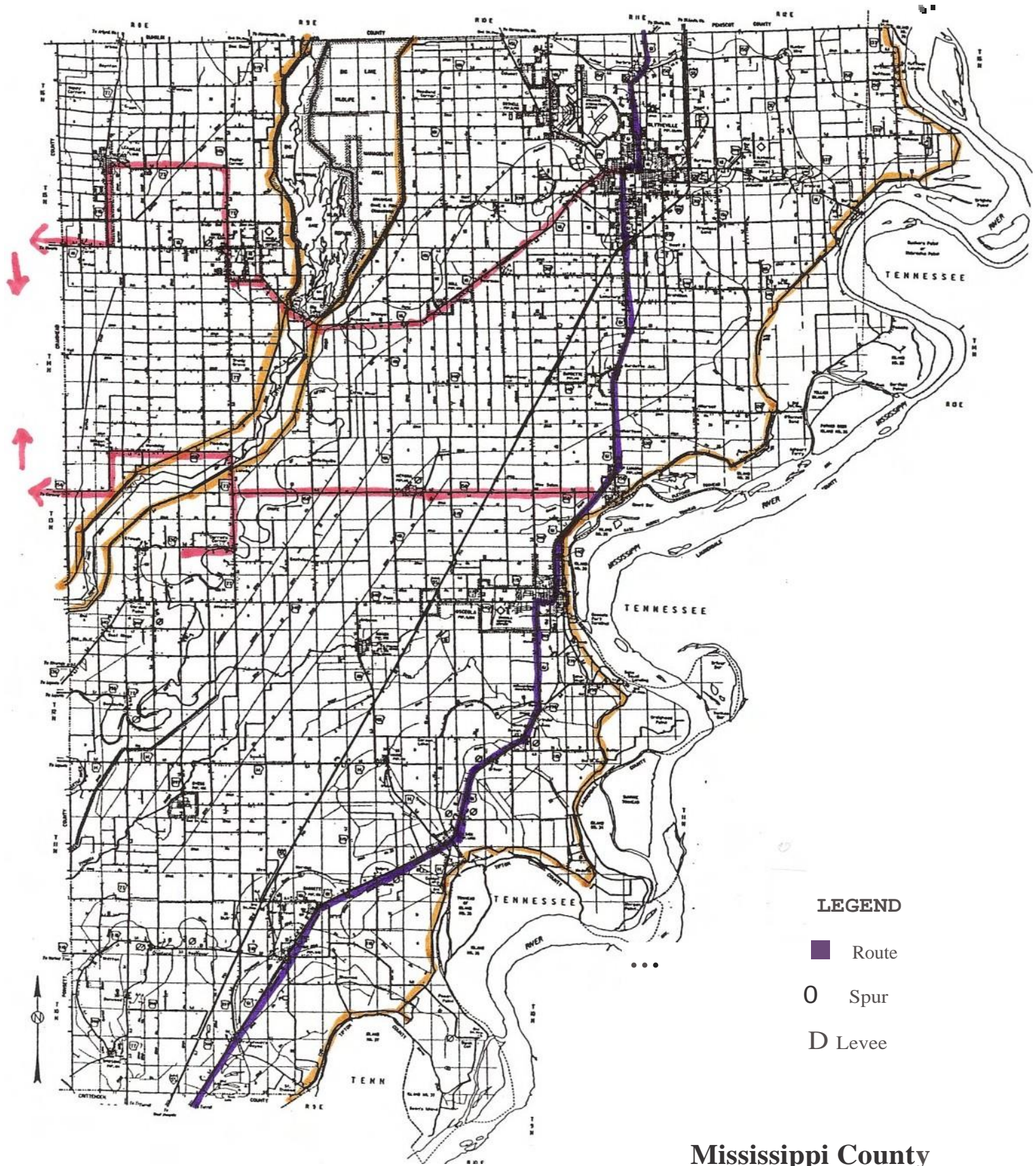
	daughter. After Luxora became incorporated in 1890, Waller became the town's first postmaster.
MSS 18.2	Good views of the levee
<i>MSS 21.5</i>	<i>City of Osceola (See City Assessments)</i>
MSS 22.7	Highway 61 turns West departing Osceola, then South
MSS 25.5	Turn-Off to Sans Souci Landing (S. H. 198)
	Boat launching ramps for the Mississippi also offer a grand view of the river
MSS 26.2	Keiser Spur (8 miles): location of 1929 Collegiate Gothic-style Keiser School. Listed on the National Historic Register Oct. 8, 1992.
MSS 26.2-31.9	Route to Wilson via U. S 61 is marked by cotton fields, occasional pecan groves, and railroad tracks on the left
MSS 31.9	Hampson Museum State Park
	Exhibits a remarkable collection of artifacts from the Nodena site, a Late Mississippi Period culture. Picnic sites and a playground are adjacent to the museum
MSS 31-32	Wilson
	Robert E. Lee Wilson established a sawmill in 1880, and later named the growing settlement after himself in 1899. Wilson became one of the wealthiest planters and businessmen in the region. The town is characterized by English Tudor style architecture.
MSS 32-33	U.S. 61 departing Wilson has a lovely tree canopy over the highway
	Dyess Colony Center: 1934 administrative center of planned agricultural community. Listed on the National Historic Register Jan. 1, 1976.
MSS 33-45	Route from Wilson to county line is marked by cotton and soybean fields, pecan groves, farm headquarters, and agricultural buildings and facilities. Railroad tracks follow left side of highway



Numerous historic family cemeteries along this route, some pre-Civil War. Many need preservation and upkeep.

MSS 34.6	Producers Rice Mill
MSS 37	Bassett
MSS 39	Joiner (Named for Dr. D.C. Joyner)
MSS 42.7	Frenchman's Bayou
MSS 43.7	Decrepit buildings on left, junkyards on right
MSS 45	Mississippi-Crittenden County Line





Mississippi County





# Route Assessment: Crittenden County

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CRT 0	Crittenden-Jackson County Line (Hwy. 61 parallel to I-55)
CRT 1	Old Red barn on Left
CRT 1-4	Agricultural Sites: milo, corn, winter wheat, cotton, soybeans, rice, crop duster planes, silos, irrigation systems.
CRT 4.1	Turrell  Originally an Indian village, this town was named for Fletcher E. Turrell, who was an early settler, owner of a local lumber firm, and the town's first postmaster. After the town was laid out and established in the late 1880s Turrell became an important center for lumber operations. It was the junction of Frisco's St. Louis and Kansas City lines and was incorporated September 6, 1926.
CRT 5.5	Junction of Hwy 77  <i>Sunken Lands Loop (See Loop Assessment)</i>
CRT 6	Unkempt flea market area
CRT 7	Wapanocca Wildlife Refuge  600-acre lake with good hunting as well as fishing for panfish and bass. The huge wetland area includes forested portions and some farmland. There is a driving trail that provides a glimpse of what the Arkansas Delta was like in the late 19th century. Railroad tracks on left Field on right hosts geese in winter
CRTS	Delta Branch Station on right  Wildflowers growing along roadside



CRT 11.2

Clarkedale

The site for this town was established and laid out in 1883 by the railroad company. On January 18, 1884 Cleveland B. Clarke became postmaster, and the town was named Clarketon, in his honor. In 1910 the name of the town was changed to Clarkedale.

Old river town of Greenock, named in 1825 as the first Crittenden County seat, is located in this vicinity, just east of Clarkedale. Town was abandoned and is marked today only by a cemetery.

CRT12

Mount Zion Baptist Church and Cemetery established 1884

CRT12.7

Jericho

The site of this town was settled in the 1840s by two brothers: Stephen and John C. James. Originally from Georgia, the two brothers were in the lumbering and farming business. Both very religious, and since they had lived near towns named Jericho in Pennsylvania and South Carolina, they decided to name their new home Jericho. Jericho was incorporated on June 10, 1886.

CRT 14.7

James Mill Road. A right turn across the interstate takes travelers to Crittenden Cotton Gin.

CRT16

Daily's Boat Dock (Public Facility). Take a left turn onto John Gammon Road, go four miles, take another left and cross over the levee to Island 40 Chute. Home on the grounds has vegetable and flower gardens and many birdhouses. Noted for hummingbirds

CRT17

Harvard Intermodal Yard on left:

CRT17.5

Sunset

Sunset is located less than half a mile north of Marion and grew as a residential area primarily because of the location of Negro school facilities when the Marion School district operated a segregated school district. Since its establishment, Sunset has been dependent on Marion for public services. Sunset was incorporated on January 26, 1970.



Phelix School (African-American) on right: The old gym at the school was recently purchased by San Francisco 49ers lineman and former Marion High football star Ray Brown, who intends to use the building as a club for youth in Sunset.

CRT 17.9

*City of Marion (See City Assessments)*

CRT 17.9

Crittenden County Courthouse on left

CRT 18.3

Sultana Disaster Marker: Monument in front of Marion City Hall commemorates the 1865 disaster on the Mississippi River near Marion where the Sultana steamship exploded, killing 1,700 Union soldiers en route home after the Civil War. It is considered the worst U.S. maritime disaster. The steamship, with a legal capacity of 376, was carrying 2,300 people

CRT 18.3

Blue Star Memorial: A tribute to the armed forces that have defended United States of America

CRT 18.3

Gift Shop with mural painted on side

CRT 18.3

Intersection of Hwy. 77 and Old Military Road: Old Military Road stretched from Memphis to Little Rock. It was the main artery of transportation, being the first road built in Arkansas. For many years, it remained the only road through the Mississippi Bottoms known as the Great Swamp. Route was also the old Trail of Tears, which relocated Cherokee Indians from the Eastern United States to Oklahoma, and the Esperanza Trail used by armies of the Mexican and Civil wars to transport troops and supplies.

CRT 18.3

Earle Spur (19 miles west of Great River Road)

Takes travelers to Crittenden County Museum, housed in the renovated 1922 Missouri Pacific Railroad Depot listed on the National Historic Register in 1986. Collections include an exhibit on rural physicians, railroad memorabilia, regional artifacts, paintings, sculpture, woodcarvings, pottery, and tributes to Earle's native son, nationally renowned 20th Century artist Carroll Cloar. Cloar's paintings capture the Arkansas Delta in a manner that is both regional and universal.

The George Berry Washington Memorial, also in Earle, is a c. 1928 sculpted funerary memorial atop 1928 grave of prominent African-American landowner and preacher. Listed on the National Historic Register Aug. 11, 1994.



CRT 18.3	<p>Parkin Archeological State Park Spur (seven miles beyond Earle):</p> <p>The Parkin Indian Mound Site, which covers 17 acres, was the largest fortified ceremonial mound and population center in the St. Francis River Basin during the Late Mississippian and early protohistoric period (1350-1650). Based upon reconstructions of the Hernando DeSoto expedition route and the finding of historic 16th century Spanish artifacts in the area, it is believed to be the Province of Casqui visited by the expedition in the spring of 1541. A National Historic Landmark, the site today is a state park with a major visitor center. It also is home to the Parkin Archeological Research Station.</p>
CRT 18.3	<p>Former Fort Esperanza/Hopefield to the East: In 1797, Spaniards built Fort Esperanza (means field of hope) on existing mounds left by the Indians. Spanish military commander Benjamin Fooy changed the name to Hope Encampment. In 1859 it was incorporated as Crittenden County's first settlement (Arkansas' second settlement) and renamed Hopefield. Hopefield was the eastern terminus for the first railroad in Arkansas. The town was washed away by the 1912 flooding of the Mississippi.</p>
CRT 19.2-21.8	<p>Residential subdivisions mingled with farmland from Marion to West Memphis</p>
CRT 22.7-27.0	<p><i>City of West Memphis (See City Assessments)</i></p>
CRT 22.7-24.2	<p>Along Missouri Street in West Memphis: fast food restaurants, churches, Worthington Park, Ten Mile Bayou, gift shops, antique shops</p>
CRT 24.2	<p>Junction with Hwy 70 (Broadway Street): Broadway holds the distinction of being the longest main street in the United States.</p>
CRT 26.2	<p>Meadowbrook Country Club and Golf Course on left</p>
CRT 26.5	<p>Mid-South Community College on both sides.</p>
CRT 27	<p>Airport Road junction: one mile to Tilden Rodgers Park, featuring a fishing lake with piers, playground equipment, tennis courts and picnic pavilion.</p>



	West Memphis Municipal Airport on left
CRT 30.3	Fish Farm on left and farm crops...Parallel I-40 on right
CRT32	Lehi: Four-way stop with Farmers Market, gas stations and liquor store. Turn left here on Hwy 147. Needs Great River Road signs both ways
CRT33	Unsightly dump on left
CRT34	Arkalite Plant on left. Makes lightweight pea gravel and lightweight concrete blocks used for construction out of the gumbo soil. The aggregate blocks were used in building the Mall of America in Minneapolis and the Pyramid in Memphis.
CRT35	Paradise Gardens Cemetery on right: burial place of famous blues singer Albert King
CRT35.2	Edmondson
CRT36	Proctor
	Side trip to the right approximately three miles is the antebellum home, Revilo, on the left. The name is "Oliver" spelled backward, the name of the family that established the plantation and remains there today.
CRT37	Garrott Gin House: Old cotton gin operated from 1954 to 1979. It was a Continental Gin System and "state of the art." It has now become a house. Owner <b>has</b> beautifully landscaped yard with several water, herb and vegetable gardens. Three-story home includes a museum and <b>has</b> been host to group tours and receptions and was on the 2000 Crittenden County Holiday Home Tour
CRT39	View of levee on left
	Agricultural sites including milo, cotton, soybeans, wheat, and irrigation systems
CRT42	Anthonyville Subdivision. Black neighborhood established by Salon Anthony family. Daughter is Sandra Anthony Bray, notable blues and jazz singer



CRT43	<p>Junction for Blue Lake excursion. Drive two to three miles to the levee. Blue Lake offers swimming on a sand beach lake, fishing and picnic areas.</p> <p>Junction of Hwy 147 and Hwy 50 (Needs a Great River Road sign)</p>
CRT48.5	<p>Junction of Hwy 147 and Hwy 131 (Needs a Great River road sign)</p>
CRT51	<p>Junction of Hwy 38 (Great River Road)</p> <p>Pass Horseshoe Lake to left: second largest natural lake in Arkansas. Good fishing for bass and catfish, complete with lots of cypress trees</p> <p>After passing lakefront homes, skyline of high-rise hotels and casinos across the river in Mississippi can be spotted in the distance off to the left</p> <p>Rural houses and large old barn on the right</p>
CRT56	<p>Crittenden -St. Francis County Line</p>



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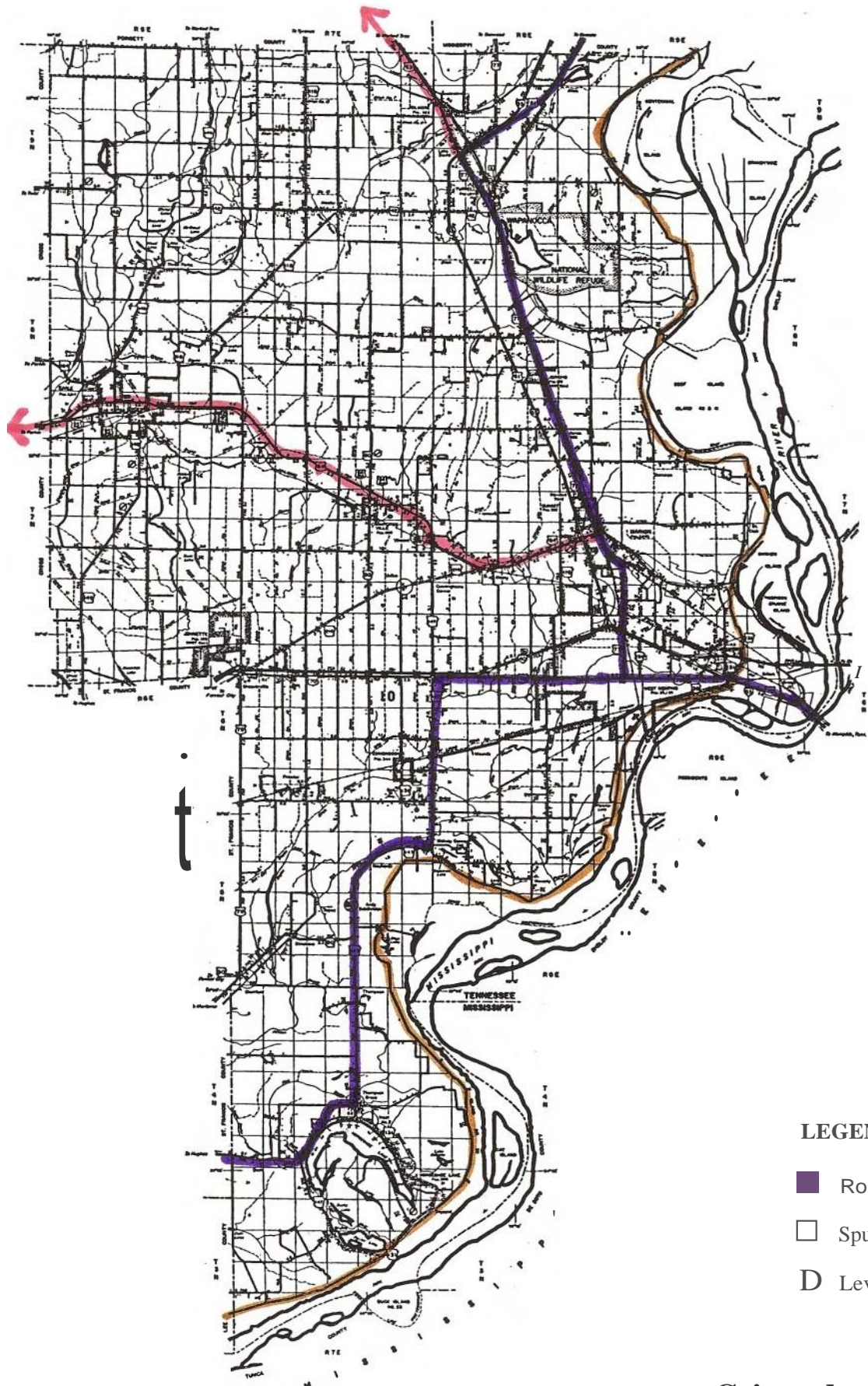
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CRT 18.3	<p>Former Fort Esperanza/Hopefield to the East: In 1797, Spaniards built Fort Esperanza (means field of hope) on existing mounds left by the Indians. Spanish military commander Benjamin Fooy changed the name to Hope Encampment. In 1859 it was incorporated as Crittenden County's first settlement (Arkansas' second settlement) and renamed Hopefield. Hopefield was the eastern terminus for the first railroad in Arkansas. The town was washed away by the 1912 flooding of the Mississippi.</p>
CRT 19.2-21.8	<p>Residential subdivisions mingled with farmland from Marion to West Memphis</p>
CRT 22.7-27.0	<p><i>City of West Memphis (See City Assessments)</i></p>
CRT 22.7-24.2	<p>Along Missouri Street in West Memphis: fast food restaurants, churches, Worthington Park, Ten Mile Bayou, gift shops, antique shops</p>
CRT24.2	<p>Junction with Hwy 70 (Broadway Street): Broadway holds the distinction of being the longest main street in the United States.</p>
CRT26.2	<p>Meadowbrook Country Club and Golf Course on left</p>
CRT26.5	<p>Mid-South Community College on both sides.</p>
CRT27	<p>Airport Road junction: one mile to Tilden Rodgers Park, featuring a fishing lake with piers, playground equipment, tennis courts and picnic pavilion.</p>



	West Memphis Municipal Airport on left
CRT 30.3	FishFarm on left and farm crops...Parallel I-40 on right
CRT32	Lehi: Four-way stop with Farmers Market, gas stations and liquor store. Turn left here on Hwy 147. Needs Great River Road signs both ways
CRT33	Unsightly dump on left
CRT34	Arkalite Plant on left. Makes lightweight pea gravel and lightweight concrete blocks used for construction out of the gumbo soil. The aggregate blocks were used in building the Mall of America in Minneapolis and the Pyramid in Memphis.
CRT35	Paradise Gardens Cemetery on right: burial place of famous blues singer Albert King
CRT 35.2	Edmondson
CRT36	Proctor
	Side trip to the right approximately three miles is the antebellum home, Revile, on the left. The name is "Oliver" spelled backward, the name of the family that established the plantation and remains theretoday.
CRT37	Garrott Gin House: Old cotton gin operated from 1954 to 1979. It was a Continental Gin System and "state of the art." It has now become a house. Owner has beautifully landscaped yard with several water, herb and vegetable gardens. Three-story home includes a museum and has been host to group tours and receptions and was on the 2000 Crittenden County Holiday Home Tour
CRT39	View of levee on left
	Agricultural sites including milo, cotton, soybeans, wheat, and irrigation systems
CRT42	Anthonyville Subdivision. Black neighborhood established by Salon Anthony family. Daughter is Sandra Anthony Bray, notable blues and jazz singer

CRT43	Junction for Blue Lake excursion. Drive two to three miles to the levee. Blue Lake offers swimming on a sand beach lake, fishing and picnic areas.
	Junction of Hwy 147 and Hwy 50 (Needs a Great River Road sign)
CRT 48.5	Junction of Hwy 147 and Hwy 131 (Needs a Great River road sign)
CRT 51	<p data-bbox="597 538 1390 574">Junction of Hwy 38 (Great River Road)</p> <p data-bbox="597 617 1390 734">Pass Horseshoe Lake to left: second largest natural lake in Arkansas. Good fishing for bass and catfish, complete with lots of cypress trees</p> <p data-bbox="597 766 1390 883">After passing lakefront homes, skyline of high-rise hotels and casinos across the river in Mississippi can be spotted in the distance off to the left</p> <p data-bbox="597 915 1390 953">Rural houses and large old barn on the right</p>
CRT56	Crittenden -St. Francis County Line





**LEGEND**

- Route
- Spur
- Levee



## Route Assessment: St. Francis County

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STF 0 St. Francis-Crittenden County Line (S. H. 38)

STF 1.5 Belle Meade

STF 1.6 Taylor Lake

STF 2.1 Crooked Bayou

STF 4.2 Hughes

This town was named for Robert Hughes, who donated part of his land to the Missouri Pacific Railroad company in 1910. After the town was established Mr. Hughes sold lots from time to time to businesses and families who moved to the town.

STF 5.6 Intersection with U. S 79

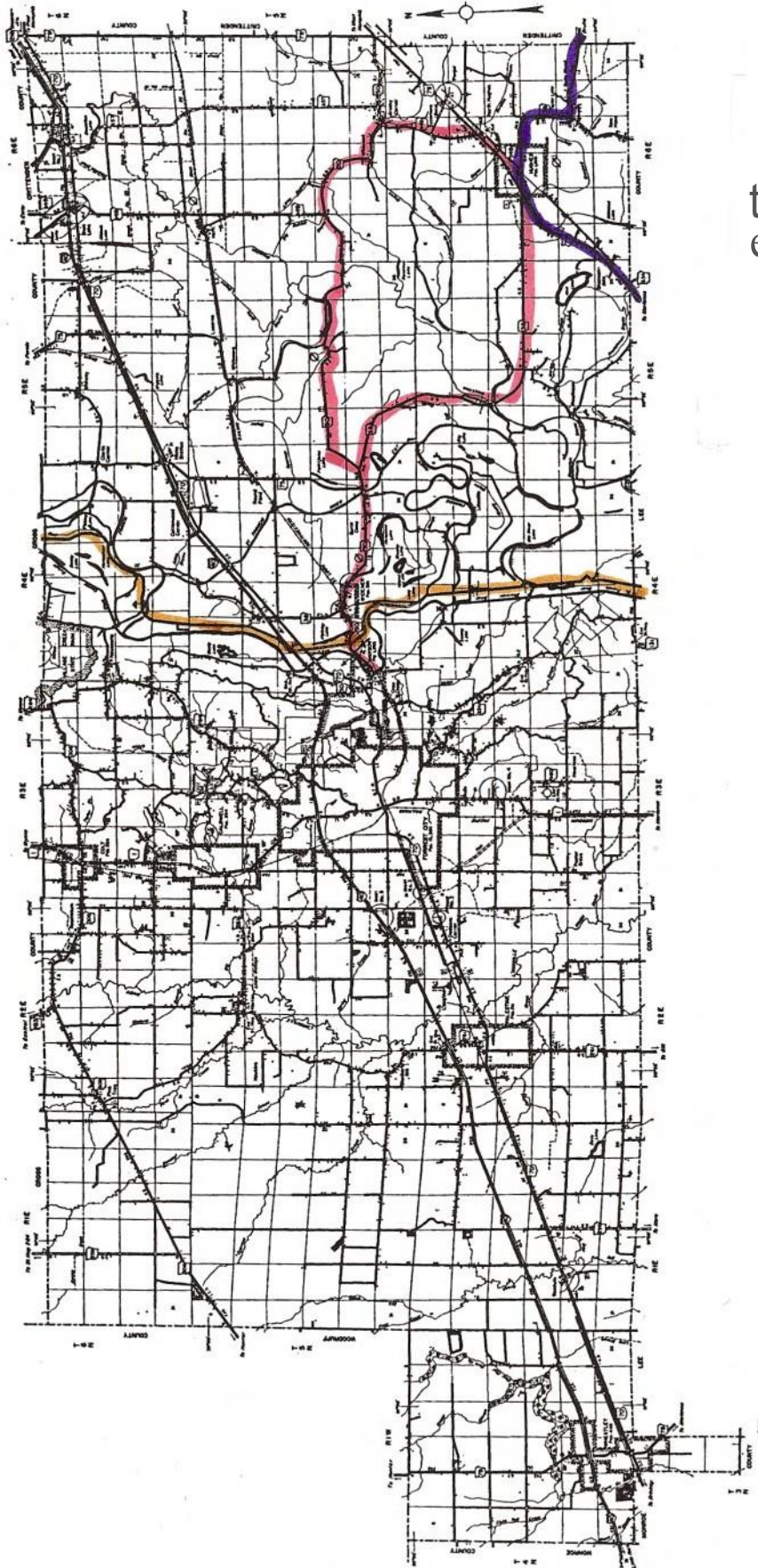
*St. Francis County Loop (See Loop Assessments)*

STF 5.9-9.6 Agricultural fields on left and right, including cotton, wheat and rice.

STF 8.2 Shannondale (Shannondale Farms)

STF 9.6 St. Francis-Lee County Line





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## Route Assessment: Lee County

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LEE 0	Lee-St. Francis County Line
LEE 0-17	<p>From the county line to Marianna is primarily farmland. There are beautiful views of fields and crops along this stretch. Highway is raised through Lee County, due to numerous swamps and bayous and other waterways. The elevation gives an especially scenic quality to the fields that fall away from the highway.</p> <p>Two devastating floods caused considerable damage to this entire region. In 1927 and again in 1937, the Mississippi River overflowed its banks and succeeded in demolishing several small communities formerly along this route, including Kokomo, Gassett, Raggio and Cody. Farmers could ride in boats from Hughes to Marianna and see very little land. Large farming operations remain in some of these areas today.</p>
LEE 0-2.0	Frenchman's Bayou: Known for its bridge that has been rebuilt several times. Each time it sinks a few feet, causing a noticeable dip in the bridge. Natives blame this on a base of quicksand.
LEE 3.6	Cypress Creek Swamp. The subject of paintings by several native artists. Near the creek is Mt. Bethlehem M. E. Church, one of the earlier black churches.
LEE 4.4	Burned out house and junky store on left
LEE 4.7	Old abandoned farm headquarters
LEE 4.9	<p>Brickeys</p> <p>Brickeys was the only town left along this route after the 1937 flood. From the 1920s through the 1940s, it was a thriving farm town with a cotton gin, train depot, school, businesses, icehouse and dance pavilion. Two fires, one in 1925 and another in 1945, destroyed most of the buildings. Today it has a post office and approximately 100 residents.</p>



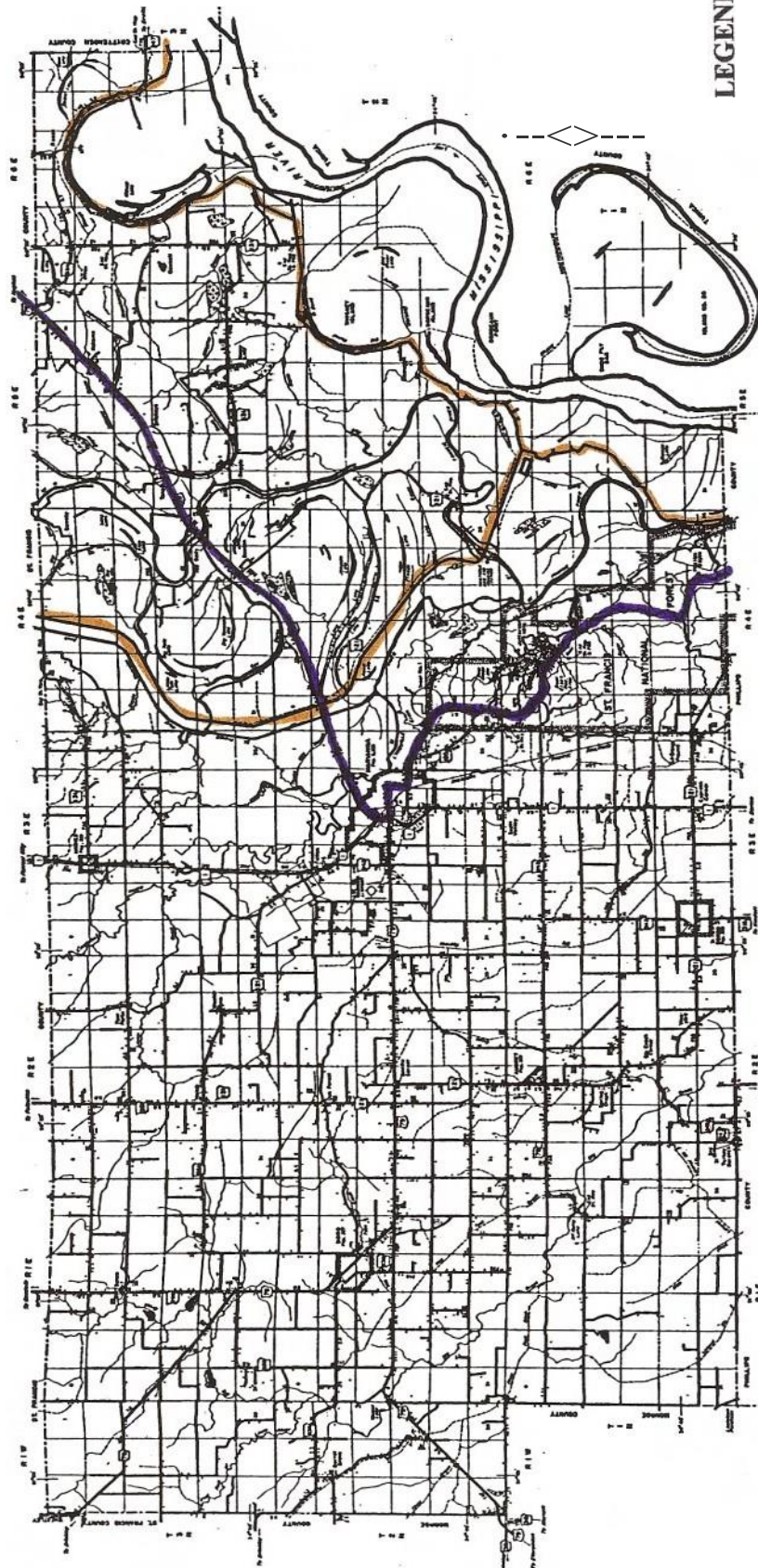
Until the late 1940s, the Missouri-Pacific Railroad sent freight trains and two passenger trains through this area. The "Doodlebug" passenger train stopped at all local stations, while the "Delta Eagle" stopped only at Brickeys depot until it reached Hughes on its journey to Memphis.

- LEE 5.0 Alligator Bayou: Named, by legend, for having been populated much earlier by alligators
- LEE 5.3 Junk area on right
- LEE 5.7 Arkansas Department of Corrections: Minimum Prison facility housing some 1500 prisoners.
- LEE 7.7 St. Francis River: Along the river are fishing camps, including the Harris Fishing Camp. Prior to the 1960s, it was spanned by two suspension bridges, one for the Missouri-Pacific Railroad and the other for local traffic. The bridges were raised to allow barges and other river traffic to reach the Mississippi traveling south.
- LEE 9.2 Soudan: Includes an old company store and some tenant houses. Large farm still in operation. Town was the site of an ancient Indian Village where numerous artifacts were discovered.
- LEE 13.6 St. Francis Levee crosses highway.
- W. G. Huxtable Pumping Plant (S.H. 121): The U. S. Corps of Engineers completed this plant in 1977. It is considered the largest pumping plant of its kind in the world. It is named for W. G. "Mr. Billy" Huxtable, chief engineer for the St. Francis Levee District from 1935 to 1938. The plant prevents floodwater from the Mississippi River from moving into the St. Francis River Basin and removes impounded water held back by the levee system. The watershed served by this plant equals the size of the State of Delaware. Tours are conducted by request.
- LEE 15.6 L'Anguille River: Served as a major waterway for many years
- LEE 16.2-19 *City of Marianna (See City Assessments)*
- LEE 17 Junction with U. S. Hwy 1
- LEE 17.5-18 Chestnut Street: Historic route into town

LEE 18-18.5	Historic Downtown Square: Includes Lee County Courthouse anchoring the north end and a park area in the center with a gazebo and the General Robert E. Lee Monument.
LEE 18.5	Junction of S. H. 44. Next 1.5 miles primarily pasture and crop lands with scattered residences
LEE 19.5	Patterson Branch Historical Marker (Side of road just north of bridge): Site where first child of Anglo-Saxon parents was born west of the Mississippi in 1790. Died in 1886. Marker includes the epitaph, "I was born in a kingdom-Spain, reared in an empire-France, attained manhood in a territory, am now a citizen of a state and have never been 100 miles from where I was born."
LEE 19.5-20	County Farm Hill
LEE 20	St. Francis National Forest (North Entrance): Smallest national forest in the country (less than 22,000 acres) features Bear Creek and Storm Creek Lake Recreation Areas and forest and national scenic byway routes. Maps and information are available at the Ranger Station. Also can park at the Ranger Station and walk to Ranger Pond for fishing. This three-acre pond is stocked by the Arkansas Game & Fish Commission and hosts an annual Fishing Derby for area school children.
LEE 20-26	Paved route segment through forest
LEE 20-21.5	Mosaic of pasture and hardwood forest, with scattered pines.
LEE 21.5-23	Pastures give way to mostly forest, with some scattered residences along the highway on small parcels of private land.
LEE 23-24	Within the next mile or two, begin to catch glimpses of Bear Creek Lake through the trees to the east.



LEE 24	<p>Bear Creek Lake Recreation Area: Three camp grounds (two individual, one group), two picnic areas, one nature trail with interpretive signs (8/10th of a mile), swimming area, boat ramp, 600-acre lake. Abundant bream and bass fishing. Bear Creek Nature Trail provides a one-mile loop winding through groves of large specimens of native trees.</p>
LEE 25.5	<p>Bear Creek Lake Dam</p> <p>Offers scenic views of the lake shoreline, including Beech Point. Just across the dam is the access lane to the boat ramp. Boating on Bear Creek Lake if for the fisherman and leisure boater</p>
LEE 26-32.5	<p>Segment of route is gravel road. General condition is good under normal conditions.</p>
LEE 26.5	<p>Intersection of High Road and Low Road</p> <p>High Road is official route and follows crest of the ridge. Low Road follows along the toe of Crowley's Ridge and the floodplain of the St. Francis and Mississippi Rivers. Route is occasionally impassable and must be abandoned. Low Road area was the home to Woodland Indians, early Mississippians, and later Quapaws. These Native Americans built their villages just beyond the reach of the river, yet close enough when the water receded to retrieve those fertile lands for crops of squash, beans, and maize.</p> <p>A prominent character in this area was the notorious highwayman John Murrell. Legend has it that Murrell's Outlaw Gang buried its plunder at sites marked by planting pine trees not native to the region.</p>
LEE 32.5	<p>Lee-Phillips County Line</p>



LEGEND

- Spur
- Levee

Lee County





## Route Assessment: Phillips County

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PHL 0	Phillips-Lee County Line
	Divides the route through the St. Francis National Forest, with approximately one-half in Lee County, and one-half in Phillips County.
PHL 4.5	Storm Creek Lake Access (CR 217) to the west: Excellent fishing for bass, crappie and bream
PHL 4.6	Horners Neck (East of Intersection of CR 215)
PHL 5.5	Paved route resumes
PHL 6.4	St. Francis National Forest (South Access)
ALTERNATE	<p>Travelers who choose not to travel the gravel route through the forest may take S. H. 1 from Marianna to its intersection with U. S. 49 into West Helena and Helena. This route takes you by Lexa, where there are several historic sites:</p> <p>Richardson-Turner House: 1894 Queen Anne-style farm house. Listed on the National Historic Register May 29, 1998.</p> <p>Saxon Cemetery: Cemetery may have been associated with one of the two large plantations, owned by Judge John T. Jones and Charles Coolidge, that once existed in Lexa. Contains 14 individuals and 18 monuments, with burials from four African-American families: Hicks, Sutton, Jackson and Robertson. Earliest legible date is 1802, latest is 1900. Thus, probably one of the oldest in Phillips County</p> <p>Springlake Memorial Cemetery: The Springlake Memorial Church and Cemetery were founded in 1872 by the Rev. Henry Pruitt. The church originally stood at the north end of the cemetery, and a brick-lined cistern still marks its place. The church subsequently moved, but the cemetery continued to serve the African-American community.</p> <p><i>West Helena Spur: See City Assessments</i></p>

Marvell Spur: Farming community just west of West Helena on U. S. 49 has several historic sites:

First Baptist Church of Marvell: 1925 Collegiate Gothic church. Listed on the National Historic Register May 13, 1991.

Mayo House: 1917-1919 Colonial Revival-style house. Listed on the National Historic Register Dec. 19, 1997.

PHL 7.5                      Helena Improvement Levee (Begins North of Helena off CR 239): The entire east boundary of Phillips County along the Mississippi River is completely accessible by car, though a bit rough in spots.

PHL 8.0                      Confederate Cemetery (CR 239--Holly)

The Phillips County Memorial Association created the Helena Confederate Cemetery in 1869. About 73 named and 29 unnamed gravestones lay within its grounds. More than half of the bodies there are casualties of the July 4, 1863 Battle of Helena who were originally buried in other local graves. They were reinterred when the new cemetery opened. Many veterans who survived the war also chose to be buried there. Only Confederate veterans are found in the cemetery. In 1867, 2,500 to 3,000 Union bodies were moved to the National Cemeteries in Memphis and Louisville.

PHL 8-12                      *City of Helena (See City Assessments)*

Helena Reach Park

PHL 8.5                      First Presbyterian Church (Corner of Columbia and Porter). Across from the Richard Allin house at 515 Columbia. Built c. 1858 and occupied after Civil War by an official of the Reconstruction era. Family home of Richard Allin (writer) and John Maury Allin, National Bishop of the Episcopal Church.

PHL 8.8                      Centennial Baptist Church, Columbia and York Streets. Built in 1905. Only black church built by black architect, Henry James Price.

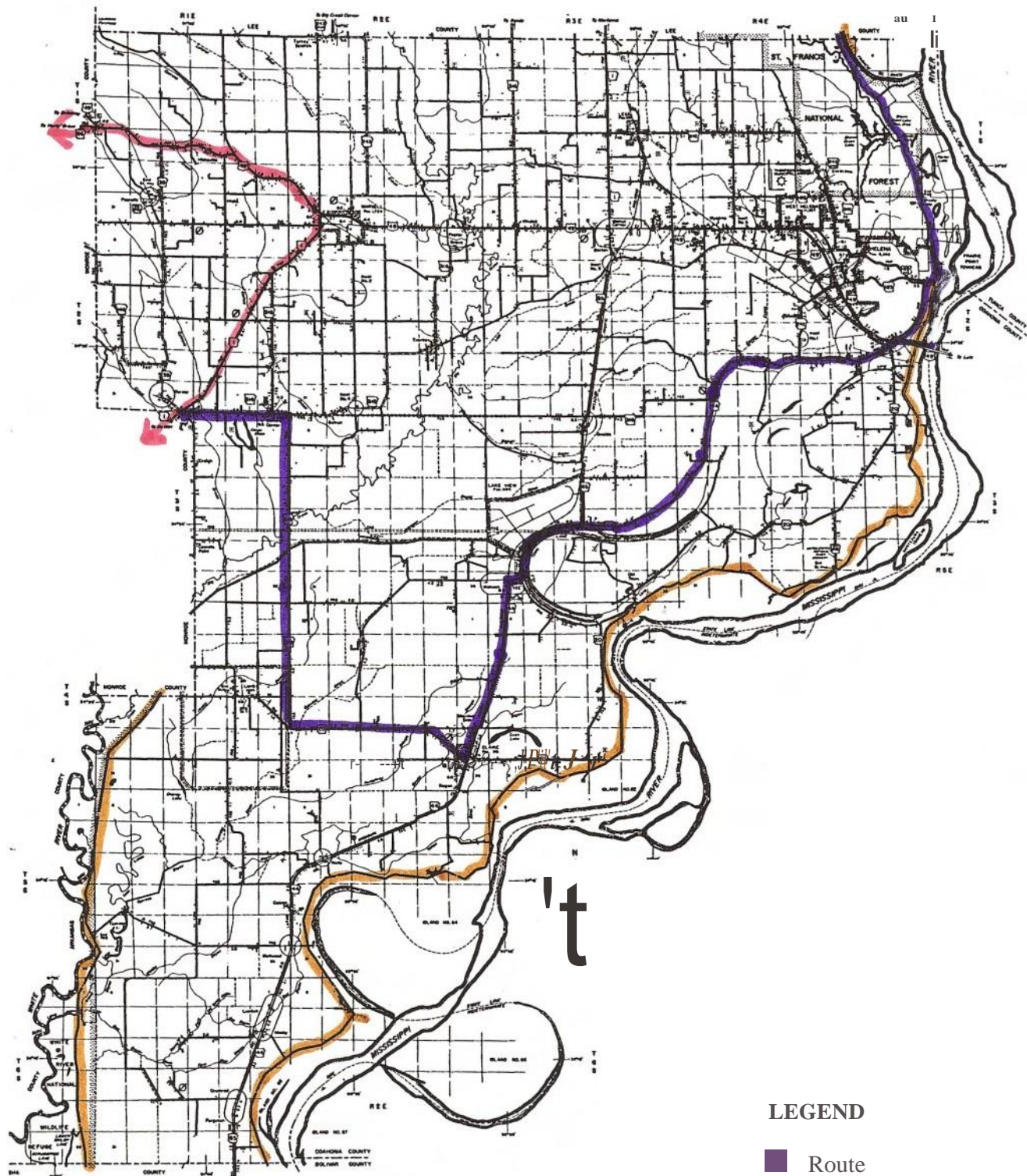
PHL 9.3                      The Edwardian Inn Bed and Breakfast, the Bunge Corp. and Estevan Hall located along this stretch of 49B (Biscoe Street)



PHL 9.5	Commercial area.
PHL 10	Junction of 49 and 49B-Helena Bridge to Mississippi
PHL 10.3	Harbor and Industrial Park Phillips County Port Authority  Gene Bearden Stadium  MazzioGrocery
PHL 10.9	Intersection of 20/44
PHL 11-17	Unsightly junk heap, government housing. Cotton fields on right. View of 49 bridge and Helena harbor plant
PHL 17	Cotton gin-Nuway Warehouse
PHL 18.8	Beautiful house at intersection with C. R. 315
PHL 20	Cotton fields
PHL 22-29	Old Town Lake to the left. Fishing trailers on edge of lake. Old Town Lake is a 1200-acre Mississippi River oxbow now separated from the river by a levee. Large crappies and bluegills abound. Concrete ramp, bait shop, boat rental and camping are available just east of the Hwy. 44/85 junction, close to Lakeview.
PHL 25.1-27.6	Lake View  Located on the banks of Old Town Lake, this town served as a port for steamboats bringing supplies to surrounding plantations during the 19th century. Originally named Old Town, the name of the city was changed in 1937, after an experimental agricultural cooperative bought 5,600 acres to be used partly as a private and collective enterprise. Lake View may have been the winter headquarters of Hernando De Soto.
PHL 27	Old Town Lake access on left (Game and Fish Commission). Needs shoreline cleanup, one pier is closed, one picnic table and one grill broken. One good picnic table and grill.
PHL 28	Wabash. Farmland on right, Old Town Lake on left. One-stop grocery

PHL 29	Cotton gin (no longer in operation). Rice field on left. Area needs major litter pickup.
PHL 32.7	Morning Star
PHL 33.5	Elaine  Named for Elaine Kelly, the daughter of a real estate agent. Along the route: old cotton gin, MFA oil store, Helena Chemical, Producers Tractor Company, 1942 bank, grocery store, Delta Diner, fire department, church, war monument. Includes O. Demoret and Son General Mercantile Store and Museum (Antiques, collectibles, decorative accessories, year-round Christmas room). Great River Road departs Elaine via S. H. 20. Continuing south on S. H. 44 for 10 miles, however, leads to Mellwood Old River, an oxbow lake still connected to the Mississippi River. The Griffin Gin at Lundell also is nearby.
PHL 34	S. H. 20 Junction: Farmland
PHL 39.8	S. H. 318 Junction near Lambrook: Farmland on right. Slough with trees on left. Nearby is Warrens Bridge, a 1930 timber trestle bridge, listed on the National Historic Register May 18, 1995. (C. R. 141 over Lambrook Levee Ditch)
PHL 45.8	Phillips County 607/470 levee. White River National Wildlife Refuge Upper levee access
PHL 47	Farmland
PHL 48.5	Plantation Pine Forest (trees have been planted) and winter wheat
PHL 49.8	Watkins Corner (S. H. 316 Junction)-cotton fields and equipment  <i>Monroe County Loop (See Loop Assessments)</i>
PHL 52.9	Phillips-Monroe County Line





# LEGEND

- Route
- Spur
- Levee

Phillips County

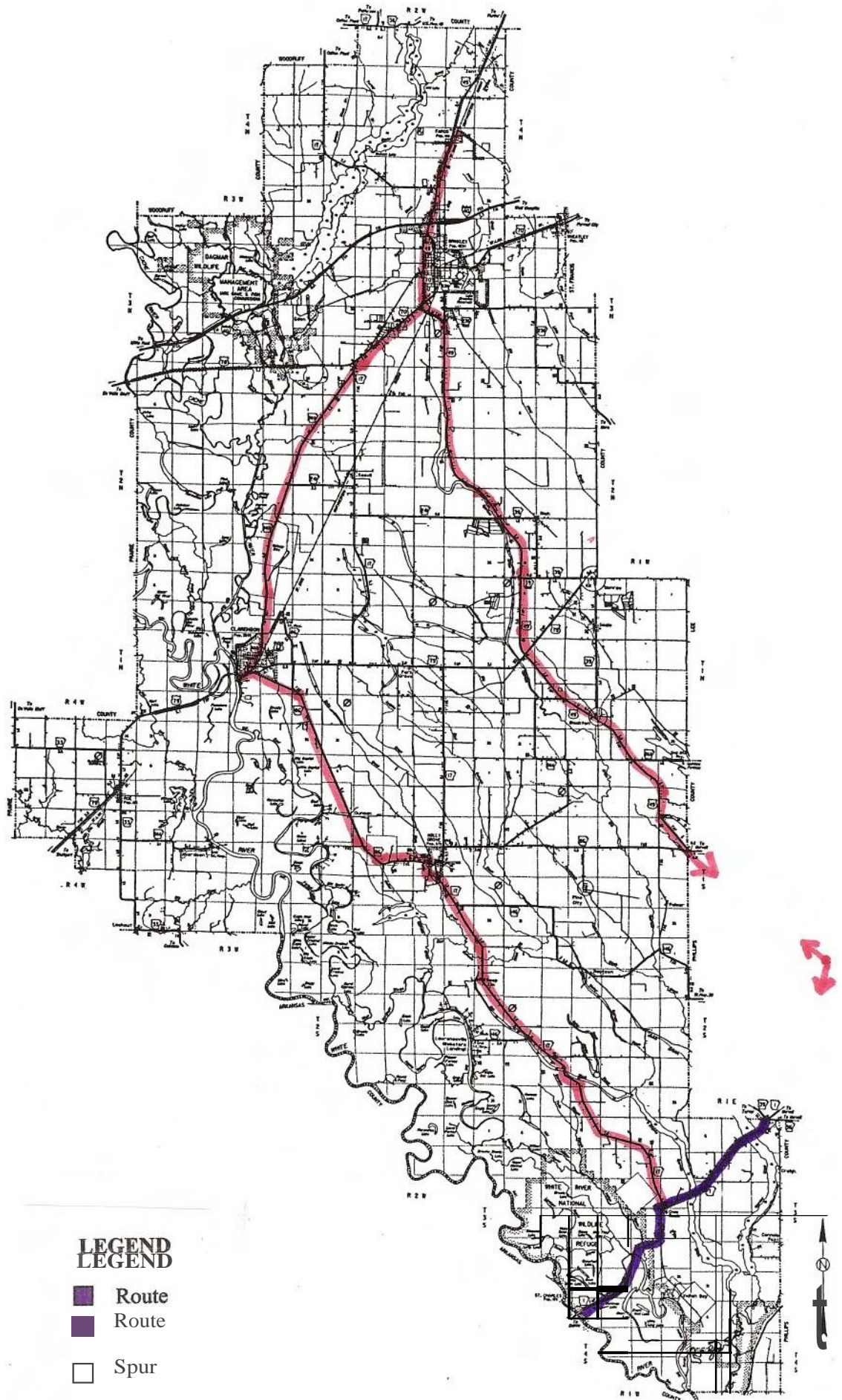


## Route Assessment: Monroe County

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MNR 0	Monroe-Phillips County Line (S. H. 316)
MNR 0.2	S.H. 1 Junction (Great River Road to the South)  Turner Cemetery and church
MNR 0.2	<i>Monroe County Loop (See Loop Assessments) S. H. 39 North to intersection with U. S. 49 North</i>
MNR 1	Cypress Creek
MNR 5	Cross Roads (Junction with S. H. 17 to Holly Grove. Alternate exit for Monroe County Loop). Farmland on both sides. Gin no longer in production.
MNR 6.1	White River National Wildlife Refuge  Largest remaining tract of bottomland hardwoods (160,000 acres) in the state. Hugely popular with deer hunters and fishermen. Includes 350 lakes teeming with bass and panfish.
MNR 6.1	Indian Bay Access
MNR 9.2	Moon Lake Access (largest oxbow lake within the White River National Wildlife Refuge)
MNR 10.4	Monroe-Arkansas County Line (White River). White River bridge built with Great River Road funding.





☐ Levee

## Monroe County

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## Route Assessment: Arkansas County

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ARK 0	Arkansas-Monroe County Line (White River)
ARK 1	<i>St. Charles (See City Assessments)</i>
ARK 1-15	Pilot wheel logo is properly placed along the route and makes it easy to follow. S. H. 1 through Arkansas County between St. Charles and DeWitt is good asphalt highway with safe wide shoulders. Highway right of way is regularly maintained and does not obscure the scenic farm and timber view. The utility services are on poles along the highway right of way.
ARK 1.2	New White River National Wildlife Refuge visitor center scheduled for completion in 2002 on left side of Hwy. 1
ARK 1.5	Combination service station and grocery store located on right. RV hookups available
ARK 1.5-15	Timber, farm crop land, farm machinery buildings and residences, farm reservoirs
ARK 5	<i>Stuttgart Loop (See Loop Assessments)</i>
ARK 11	Small sawmill on the north side of the highway is unsightly, including some logging equipment and junk trailers.
ARK 11.5	Reasonably maintained country cemetery
ARK 14	North side of approach to DeWitt city limits includes a billboard and an ugly junkyard filled with old farm equipment, trucks, etc.
ARK 15-17.1	<i>DeWitt (See City Assessments)</i>
ARK 16	DeWitt City Park: Thirty-five acre park on left offers attractive rest stop for travelers. Park offers free fishing, a mile-long paved walking path, and a playground.  <i>Stuttgart Loop (See Loop Assessments)</i>

ARK 15-17	Grocery stores, convenience stores, service stations, auto repair, shops, doctor's clinic, drug stores, hospital, and home style and fast food establishments located along this route.
ARK 18-28	Grain storage facilities, crops, farm residence, farm storage buildings, timber to Gillett. Good scenic views. Asphalt paved highway is in good condition, with adequate shoulders and appropriately maintained right of way.
ARK 19	Producers, a farmer-owned cooperative grain storage facility, is to the right
ARK 21	Unsightly farm homestead
ARK 22.4	American Legion Post "Camp Doughboy" on left. (Complex not open to public). On right side is attractive man-made lake and country residence. Good view from river road.
ARK 25.3	Turn-Off to Norrell Lock and Dam  This 18-mile spur East on S. H. 44 is a must for those interested in a close-up view of lock and dam operations for barge traffic on the Arkansas River before it joins the Mighty Mississippi. In sight of the lock and dam is the beautiful lake and recreational area at Merrisach State Park. Five miles west is the Wilbur Mills Dam and State Park on the Arkansas River.
ARK 28.1	Gillett  Named after an early pioneer, Gillett is located at the terminus of the St. Louis Southwestern Railroad in eastern Arkansas. Early in the 18th century Gillett was the first permanent European settlement in the lower Mississippi valley. The town was incorporated at the beginning of the 19th century. The Gillett Cemetery, located adjacent to the Great River Road, has grave sites dating to the 1800s.
ARK 28.2	Service station, restaurant and motel along the Great River Road
ARK 29-34	South of Gillett is farmland with exceptional views. Well-maintained highway and right of way
ARK 34	Arkansas Post National Memorial



Approximately two miles off U. S. 165 on S. H. 169. This is where Arkansas history literally began. On a bluff near the Arkansas River, the birthplace of Arkansas and first permanent European settlement in the lower Mississippi River Valley is marked with 20-foot crosses similar to those planted by French explorers in 1686. It was at this spot that Henri de Tonti and his party built a small settlement and claimed the land for God and king. The French were traders with the local Quapaws (Arkansas to the French) and named their encampment Pose de Arkanssea--Arkansas Post. Site today includes a visitors center, museum, marked driving route and picnic facilities. Also contains the Jan. 11, 1863 battlefield where Union troops defeated Confederate defenders at Fort Hindman on the Arkansas River. Remnants of the Confederate trenches can still be seen. The battle is interpreted at the park museum. Arkansas Post also is the site of Arkansas' only skirmish of the American Revolution, which actually happened several months after the war ended. A small raiding force of Native American, African-American and British loyalists was chased away on April 17, 1783.

ARK 34.5

Arkansas Post State Park Museum

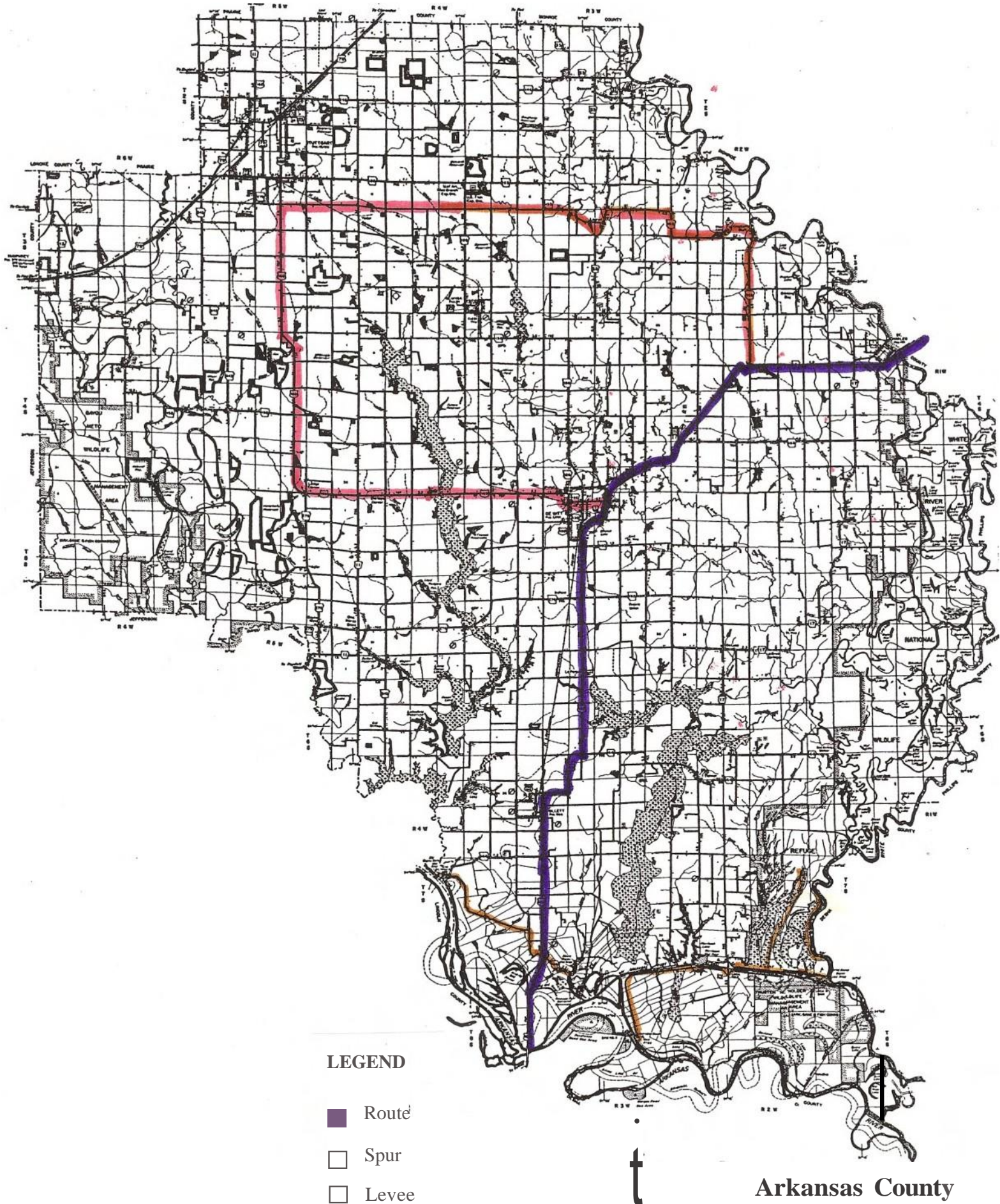
Five buildings have lifestyle exhibits from Colonial to modern times. Includes dog-trot log cabin, 1930s furnished playhouse, Quapaw pottery, covered wagon, and agricultural equipment.

.ARK 35-39

Well-maintained highway with viewshed of river bottom timber.

ARK 39

Arkansas-Desha County Line (White River)







# Route Assessment: Desha-Drew Counties

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## Desha County

- DSH 0 Desha-Arkansas County Line (Arkansas River)
- Arkansas River is an eye-catcher. Could use a nice restaurant with good river view. This riverfront area has a lot of potential for development. Area under the Pendleton Bridge should be mowed more frequently and area around the marina could use some cleanup. Good camping at Pendleton Park and Wilbur Mills Park on the river.
- DSH .5 Leaving Pendleton Bridge, there is a small settlement along the levee, and on the right of Highway 165 is the Pendleton Inn Motel, frequented by sportsmen. One of the top bass fishing pools in the nation is the Arkansas River and its “borrow” pits in the area.
- DSH .5 Trusten Holder Wildlife Management Area (Access also from South of Tichnor in Arkansas County)
- Area is a typical overflow bottomland hardwood area. LaGrues Lake, an old oxbow, provides excellent wetlands habitat for the area's native wildlife and migrating waterfowl. In winter, Bald and Golden eagles can be observed along the Arkansas White ship canal. There are modern camping facilities at Merrisach Park, Pendleton Park, and Wilbur D. Mills Park on the Desha County side.
- DSH .5 To the left just across the Pendleton Bridge is Highway 212, which leads to Dam 2 on the Arkansas River and the new \$192-million hydro-power plant completed by Arkansas Electric Cooperatives Corporation in 1999. A camping park adjoins the power plant site. Below Dam 2 is a prime site for fishing for river catfish.
- DSH 1 At the top of the levee is the graveled levee road which leads to Morgan Bendway Lake, some five miles hence.

- DSH 1-10 Continuation of the agricultural scene- but with a different elevation than Arkansas County. While Arkansas County is a part of the grand prairie, Desha County is flatter and more like the alluvial Mississippi River Delta. Crops, including cotton, rice and soybeans, are irrigated with state-of-the art pivot systems. Travelers frequently see farm machinery on this highway, particularly in spring and fall.
- Grass along highway should be mowed more often. There are residences, house trailers, farm headquarters, small businesses, and abandoned sites that should be cleaned up and/or torn down.
- DSH 2.7 Montgomery motel, eight units, used mostly by sportsmen. Montgomery Grocery has fishing and hunting supplies and licenses.
- DSH 4.2 Junction U.S. 165 and U. S. 1 (Back Gate). Great River road splits into a South and East Corridor at this point.

#### **Dumas-McGehee South Corridor (U.S. 165 and U.S. 65)**

- DSH 8.5S Hopmann's Candle Factory on the left. Their candles utilize area scents, such as muscadine, and their pottery containers are made by Miller's Mud Mill in Dumas. (Area to back and side should be cleaned up)
- DSH 10-12.8S *City of Dumas (See City Assessments)*
- DSH 10S Desha County Museum, founded in 1979 to preserve the area heritage. An authentic log farmstead, dating to the 1850's, is located there and includes the two-story Terry log house, with outdoor kitchen, blacksmith shop, potato shed and log dog house. The museum includes a brick building housing houses artifacts from the area. Bus parking and visitor information available.
- DSH 10-12.8S Route through Dumas includes three motels, a bed and breakfast (Miss Em's), fast food, and one restaurant (Butch's)
- DSH 11 Hiking on the Bob Hoagland Walking Track provides an opportunity for travelers to stop in a safe area for recreation. Handy parking.



DSH 12.8-15S	Easy driving area from Dumas going south. Four-lane being completed.
DSH 14.1S	Wells Bayou and Walnut Lake, both off Farm Road 231, are scenic spots featuring beautiful cypress trees. Walnut Lake is a great fishing location (Caution: Turn-off from Hwy 65 to these sites is dangerous. Location is remote and is a working plantation)
DSH 15.7S	Amos Bayou
<b>Drew County</b>	
DRW 18.7S	Desha-Drew County Line: Great River Road (U.S. 65) briefly cuts through the northeast corner of Drew County at this point before crossing back into Desha County (Mileage listed as continuation of Desha County)
DRW 19S	Winchester  Winchester was settled in the late 1850s. Although it is not known for certain, the town was probably named after Winchester, Kentucky, the hometown of Dr. John Taylor, one of the area's first settlers. Winchester experienced a boom in the decade of the 1870s as a result of the arrival of the St. Louis & Iron Mountain Railroad. It was incorporated in 1912. Today it includes a tiny post office, old store fronts, Murphy's cash store, the Taylor Log House and Site, and the Winchester Cotton Gin, one of the most modern in the region.  <i>Monticello Loop (See Loop Assessments)</i>
DRW19-23.3S	Drew County segment is almost exclusively agricultural crops. Crops are typically cotton, soybeans, rice, winter wheat, and milo. Smaller crops can sometimes be seen, including sunflowers and corn. Wildflowers are not abundant but can be spotted during the spring and summer along this route. Litter is minimal.
DRW 21S	Catfish farm on left: a growing business in this area
DRW 22S	Landfill is located just off the route, but only the entrance sign and some metal buildings are visible. Snowy white egrets are often seen there feeding on the fish.

DRW 23.3S                      Tillar: This town was named after J.T.W. Tillar, who built a train depot, and is an old farming community and railroad town. There is a small rest area at the S.H. 277 junction, featuring picnic tables and trash cans. Rest stop has been landscaped, including Rose of Sharon, Crepe Myrtle, Wisteria and Cannas. Area also includes hickory, elm and oak trees.

Tillar includes the Frank Tillar Memorial Methodist Episcopal Church, a 1913 Classical Revival-style structure listed on the National Historic Register June 4, 1997. Other historic structures include the Tillar Mercantile Building, which straddles Desha-Drew County Line, the old Tillar Bank, and an old gas station. Nancy's Corner Café and Precious Memories Antiques also are in Tillar.

*Monticello Loop (See Loop Assessments)*

DRW 23.3S                      Desha-Drew County Line: Great River Road rejoins Desha County

## **Desha County**

DSH 24S                      Reed

*DSH 27.8-32S                      City of McGehee (See City Assessments)*

DSH 27.8                      Wiley McGehee Park Pond and Bridge: Well-maintained park is beautiful year-round and includes cypress trees, magnolias and more. Picnic facilities available. During Christmas holidays, thousands of lights are strung on metal "trees" standing in the pond

DSH 30.1S                      Junction with S. H. 4 (East Corridor of Great River Road rejoins at this point)

DSH 33.2S                      Desha-Chicot County Line

## **Watson-Arkansas City East Corridor (U.S. 1 and S. H.4)**

DSH 3.3E                      Pea Ridge

DSH 7.2E                      Watson: Intersects with Delta Heritage Trail State Park, an abandoned railroad bed from Lexa to McGehee that is being developed by the Arkansas Parks and Tourism Department to include hiking and biking trails and other amenities.



DSH 14E	Kelso:Includes U. S. Fish Farming Experimental Station. Kemp Mercantile Building features old painted sign on side of brick building
DSH 16.5E	Rohwer  Includes Rohwer Historic Monument, marking site of Japanese internment camp during World War II. Markers honor former Rohwer internees who served in the U. S. armed forces in Europe, as well as the 442nd Japanese-American Unit of the 100th Battalion which distinguished itself in World War II combat. Listed on the National Historic Register July 30, 1974. Site became a National Historic Landmark on July 6, 1992.Camp site is on the National Historic Register
DSH 18.7E	S. H. 4 Junction
DSH 23E	Potlatch Paperboard Mill: Southeast Arkansas' single largest industry. This offers the visitor the opportunity to observe the process of wood to paper and the ancillary matters related to this important industry.
DSH 25-31E	The last six miles to Arkansas City take travelers along a route that parallels the Mississippi River levee, offering an alternate route that provides grand views of the river and undisturbed woodlands. Either remaining on S.H. 4 or take the levee for a tranquil drive through some of the finest farm land in eastern Arkansas. Because Arkansas City is a "destination" town, the traffic is always light and makes traveling these roads a relaxing and enjoyable experience.
<i>DSH 31E</i>	<i>Arkansas City (See City Assessments)</i>
DSH 32E	Lake Kate Adams: Arkansas Game and Fish Commission's access to one southeast Arkansas' finest fishing lakes, located just outside the river levee. It is named after the steamboat that frequented the river docks (small portion of which remain) when the lake was part of the main channel of the Mississippi River. The oxbow lake serves as a popular site for fisherman, bird watchers, duck hunters, and those wanting a pristine view of Delta sunsets.
DSH 34E	Wallace Trust, a 2000-acre wildlife farm recognized on the cover of the Delta Farm Press as "Arkansas' wildlife showplace". This property, commencing in 1996, became the

first farm entered into the federal government's Wetlands Reserve Program. Since that time trustees have worked diligently to return this land to hardwoods and reservoirs that will serve not only as an attraction to ducks and other game indigenous to the area, but also as a spectacular view to those driving this stretch of highway

DSH 32-38E

Along this six-mile "section line" two-lane road, travelers have a view of farmlands and grand homes with landscaped lawns. The traveler will see two of the primary natural bayous that drain the fertile Delta lands during spring rains: Boggy Bayou and Bayou Macon.

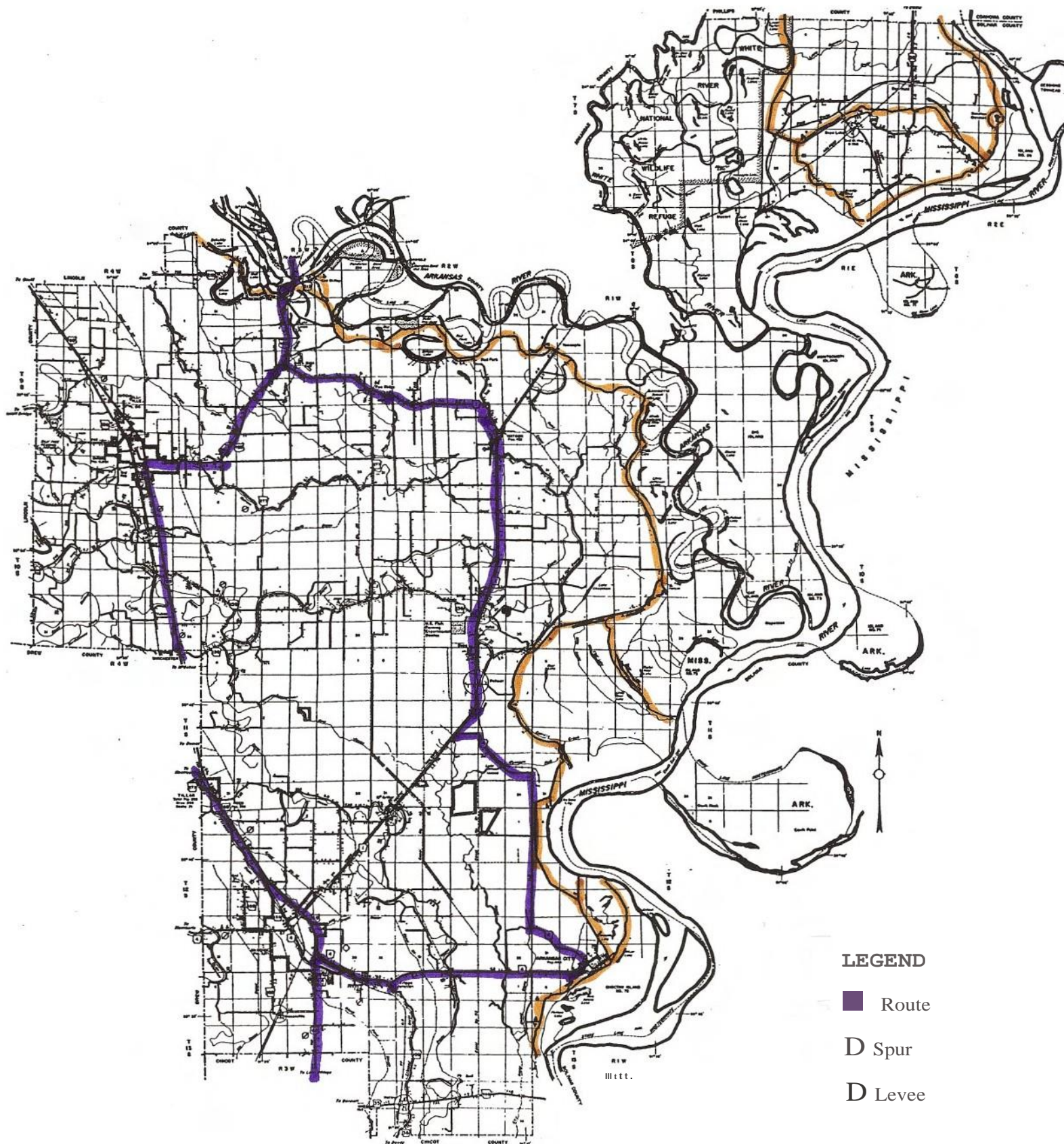
DSH 38E

Trippe Junction

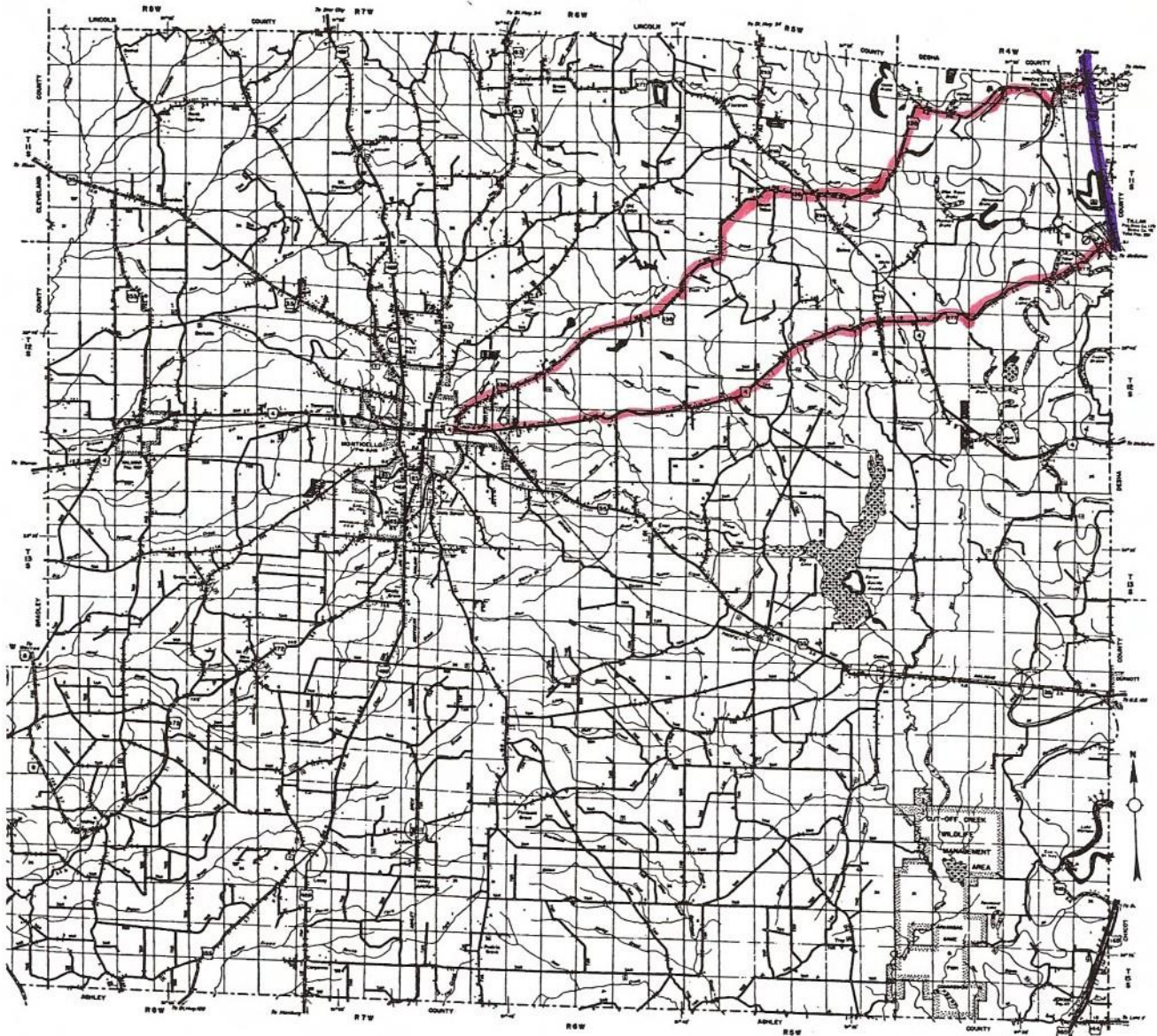
DSH 41E

U.S. 65 Junction (Rejoins South Corridor at this point)









**LEGEND**

■ Route

○ Spur

D Levee

**Drew County**





## Route Assessment: Chicot County

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- CCT 0 Chicot-Desha County Line at U. S. Highway 65
- CCT 1 Radio Station KVSA: The Voice of Southeast Arkansas
- Adobe style building is home to one of the oldest radio stations in Arkansas. Station went on the air in 1953 and continues its 1950s format. It is said that Elvis Presley appeared at the station for a live interview. Station has an extensive record collection. Building could use some renovation.
- Economy Inn Motel on right, farmland on left.
- Big Ben Truck Stop on right, located in area more commonly known as Twin Cities. At this point U. S. 165 branches off in southerly direction toward towns of Dermott, Montrose, Portland, Parkdale and Wilmot, commonly know as the "Mainline"
- Vacant factory on right, once the Wells-Lamont plant
- CCT 2 Unsightly junkyard, full of broken down used farm equipment
- On right is well-maintained Visitor Rest Area
- On left is typical flat Delta farmland
- CCT 3.2 U.S. 65 junction with S.H. 35 west to Dermott or east to Halley
- Dermott Spur (See City Assessments)*
- CCT 3.4 U.S. 65 becomes four-lane at this point. It is well maintained with wide shoulders. Extends for the next 15 miles to Lake Village. As you travel this highway, you see crops typical of the Delta region, including rice, soybeans, wheat, cotton, milo, corn, and catfish farms

CCT 5.5	Bellaire. Includes Bellaire Baptist Church, well-maintained and surrounded by a few homes on both sides of highway
CCT 6.7	Catfish Farms on both sides of highway. Farmlands and ponds continue for a couple of miles
CCT 9.3	Small patches of wooded and pastureland
CCT 9.6	Wetland Area on right. Visitors can occasionally observe cranes and egrets roosting
CCT 14.4	McMillan Corner. Nightclub and a few houses
	Hwy 257 Turn-Off to Lake Chicot State Park:
	Fishing, birding and water sports on Arkansas' largest natural lake. Cabins, visitors center and other facilities. This 20-mile long oxbow lake is a peaceful setting for fishing for crappie, bass, bream, and catfish; and boating. The park offers 127 campsites (Premium with sewer, preferred, Class A and Class B), 14 cabins with kitchens (many with fireplace, lake view patio and fishing dock), a pool (summer), picnicking, standard pavilions (screened), laundry and playground. Bicycles are available for rent and food and gifts can be bought at the store/marina, plus boats, motors, personal watercraft, fuel, bait, and a launch. (Lake Chicot State Park also is accessible from the South at Lake Village)
CCT 14.5-17.7	Fish ponds, farms, wooded area and pastureland lead to city limits of Lake Village
CCT 17.7	Four-lane ends, entering City of Lake Village. Welcome sign should be repaired or replaced
CCT 18.2	U.S. 65 is also U.S. 82 at this point. Route lined on both sides with businesses, including some that are vacant
CCT 18.8	Ramada Inn includes excellent community meeting room.
CCT 19.4	Guachoya Arts Center
	Center takes its name from the Native American name given to the area during time of de Soto's 1539 visit. Gallery features regularly changing exhibits and artwork from around the Delta region



CCT 19.6	Nonie's Antiques and Warfield's Antiques
CCT 19.8	Curve in road, with abundant farmland on right. Chicot Memorial Hospital on left (nice facility with well-maintained surroundings)
CCT 20.1	Historic African American Cemetery. Usually well-maintained
CCT 20.6	<p>Visitor has first view of beautiful Lake Chicot on left. Arkansas' largest natural lake, once a part of the Mississippi River, was cut off from the main channel. Fishing is excellent for largemouth bass, crappie, bluegill, catfish, hybrid stripers, and panfish.</p> <p>Tourist Information Center is located on the bank, with exquisite views overlooking the lake from the deck.</p> <p>Directly across the highway from the tourist center are the Woodson Temple Missionary Baptist Church (African-American congregation) and the Paul Michael Company Warehouse Outlet, a popular stopping place for bargain hunters</p> <p>North of the Tourist Information Center is the entrance to Lake Shore Drive, a scenic drive with historic homes along the banks of Lake Chicot. It extends for several miles through the entire length of the town</p>
<i>CCT ?</i>	<i>City of Lake Village (See City Assessments)</i>
CCT 21.1	<p>View of lake on left for next several miles.</p> <p>On right is Pecan Grove RV Park, a popular camping area. The park is close to full capacity almost any time during the year. Directly across from the RV park is a public fishing pier and boat ramp</p>
CCT 21.4	Farm equipment shed on right side needs to be cleaned up. Well-maintained homes on both sides of road
CCT 22.4	Nice view of lake, but bank is not well maintained. Grass should be mowed more often

CCT 23                      Another great view of lake. At this point U.S. 65 turns South toward Eudora (South Corridor of Great River Road) and U.S. 82 continues east toward Mississippi River (East Corridor of Great River Road)

### **Great River Road South Corridor**

CCT 23-29.1S              Drive south is a well-maintained two-lane highway, with miles and miles of typical flat Delta farmland

CCT 28.2S                  Chicot Junction

CCT 29.1S                  South Delta Farmers Association, a farming cooperative, on the left.

CCT 30.2S                  Hickory Ridge: small country store and a church

*CCT 33.5-35.4S              City of Eudora (See City Assessments)*

CCT 33.5S                  Eudora Livestock Auction on right, motel on left

CCT 35.3S                  Eudora City Park on left: new well-maintained area including a jogging track, fish pond and pier, and playground

CCT 36.3S                  Springwater Farms Catfish Processing Plant, one of the two catfish processing plants in Chicot County and one of Eudora's biggest employers.

CCT 37.3-43.7S            Flat Delta farmland, grain elevator and other farming sights. Levee visible in the distance.

CCT 38.6S                  Grand Lake  
  
Wooded lake is excellent for catches of bass, catfish and panfish. The Grand Lake area also is the location of the A. Landi General Merchandise Building, a c. 1920 commercial building originally owned by Italian immigrants. Listed on the National Historic Register Oct. 8, 1992.

CCT 41.1S                  S.H. 8 Junction

CCT 43.7S                  Arkansas-Louisiana State Line

## Great River Road East Corridor

CCT .5E	Saunders-Pettit-Chapman-Cook Plantation Home: Used as a hospital during the Civil War to treat wounded Union and Confederate soldiers after the Battle of Ditch Bayou in 1864. Building was recently restored and is well maintained
CCT 1.3E	Farmland on right. Lakeshore Motel on left has been renovated and is a popular place for weekend fishermen
CCT 1.9E	<p>Ditch Bayou and Civil War Battle Markers</p> <p>Scenic view of lake on left and bayou on right as one crosses the bridge. Markers provide information on Battle of Ditch Bayou, which occurred in 1864, and was last significant Civil War Battle on Arkansas soil. It is part of a driving tour of several Civil War sites along Lake Chicot</p>
CCT 2.1E	Tracker Boats dealership
CCT 2.1-5E	Delta farmland on right and houses with large well-maintained yards on left. Highway continues as two-lane with wide shoulders
CCT 3.9 E	Old church, African-American congregation, somewhat dilapidated, but typical of the many small churches that dot the Delta landscape.
CCT 5E	<p>Lakeport Plantation Turn-Off (S. H. 142): Dilapidated flea market building. Needs to be cleaned up.</p> <p>Lakeport Plantation: Two miles down S. H. 142. Built around 1858-59, Lakeport is the only antebellum home remaining on the Mississippi River in Arkansas that has not been remodeled, redecorated or otherwise altered. Site is representative of the westernmost expansion of the cotton plantation economy. It was recently gifted to Arkansas State University and will be restored as an educational center, museum, and Visitor Center to serve as the southern anchor for the Arkansas segment of the Great River Road. Listed on the National Historic Register Nov. 20, 1974.</p>
CCT 5.4E	Two facilities here are real eyesores: a dilapidated fireworks stand and an abandoned Texaco gas station. Both should be removed since they are the first view travelers have when entering Arkansas from Mississippi



- CCT 5.6                      On right is an old flea market.
- CCT 5.7                      Mississippi River Bridge: Old two-lane bridge provides an excellent view of the river. Construction on a new four-lane bridge was completed in 2010.

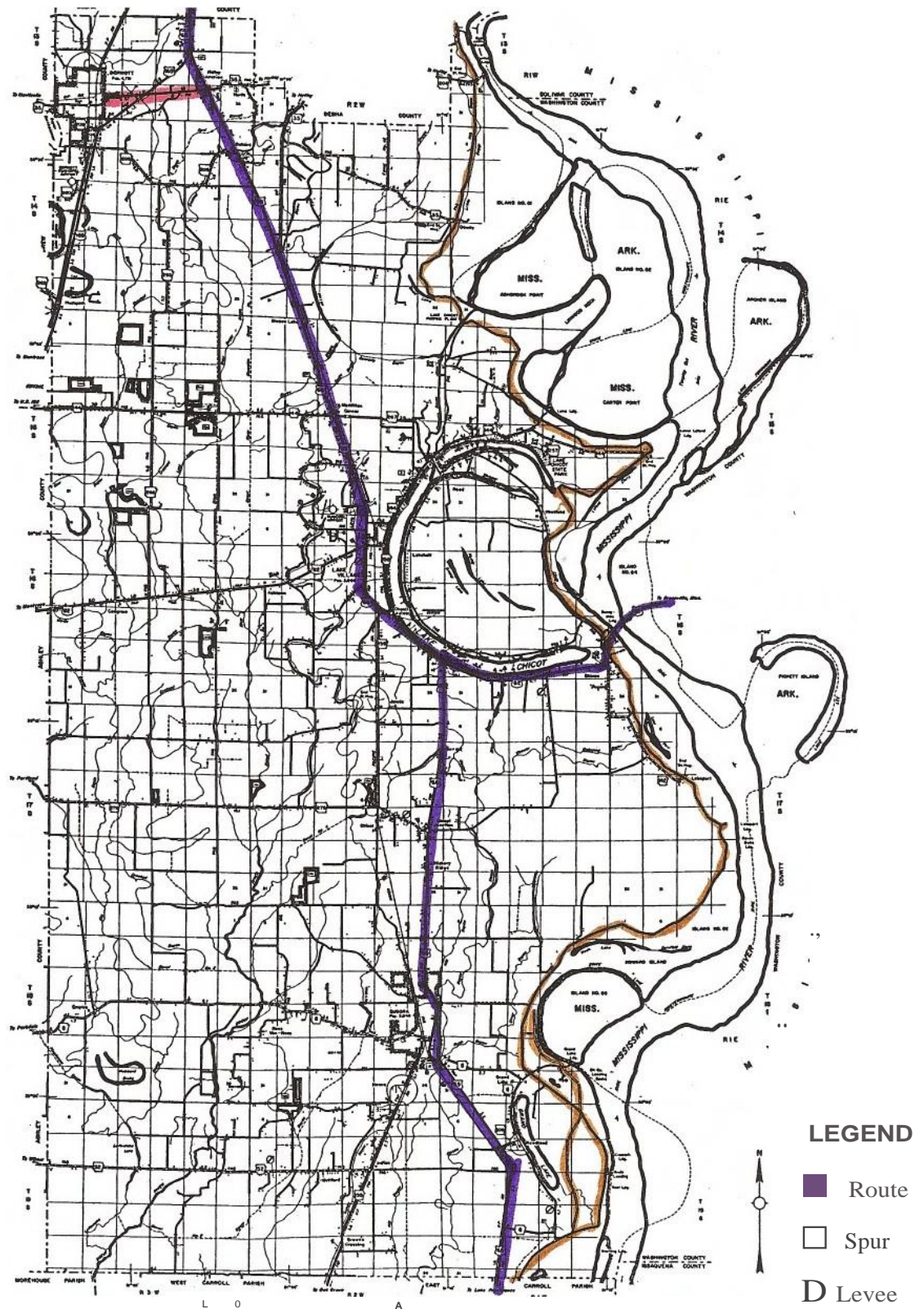
### **Minimizing Anomalous Intrusions**

For Arkansas's section of the Great River Road, many of the efforts to minimize intrusions on the visitor experience and enhance that experience are closely aligned with other points in this corridor management plan (route assessments, loop assessments and city assessments, all found on pages 21-144). Ongoing efforts include the following and are covered in more detail in other sections of the document:

- \*Creating awareness of the unique intrinsic resources that Arkansas Great River Road travelers experience and encourage respect for those resources.

- \* Sustaining awareness among the wide array of Arkansas's Great River Road stakeholders including public resource managers; state and local political leaders; the hospitality service industry; major industries along the route; affiliated nonprofit organizations and special interest groups; and property owners.

- \*Sharing the successful strategies and techniques for intrinsic resource protection, project formation, communicating with travelers, and byway services among the stakeholders in the Arkansas Great River Road that can be learned from other nationally-and-All-American Road-designated byways. This is a key function of the Arkansas Tourism. Arkansas Department of Transportation will continue moving forward with improved signage and providing detailed mapping via visitor centers and the Internet are highly effective means of enhancing visitor experience.





## Buffalo Island Loop

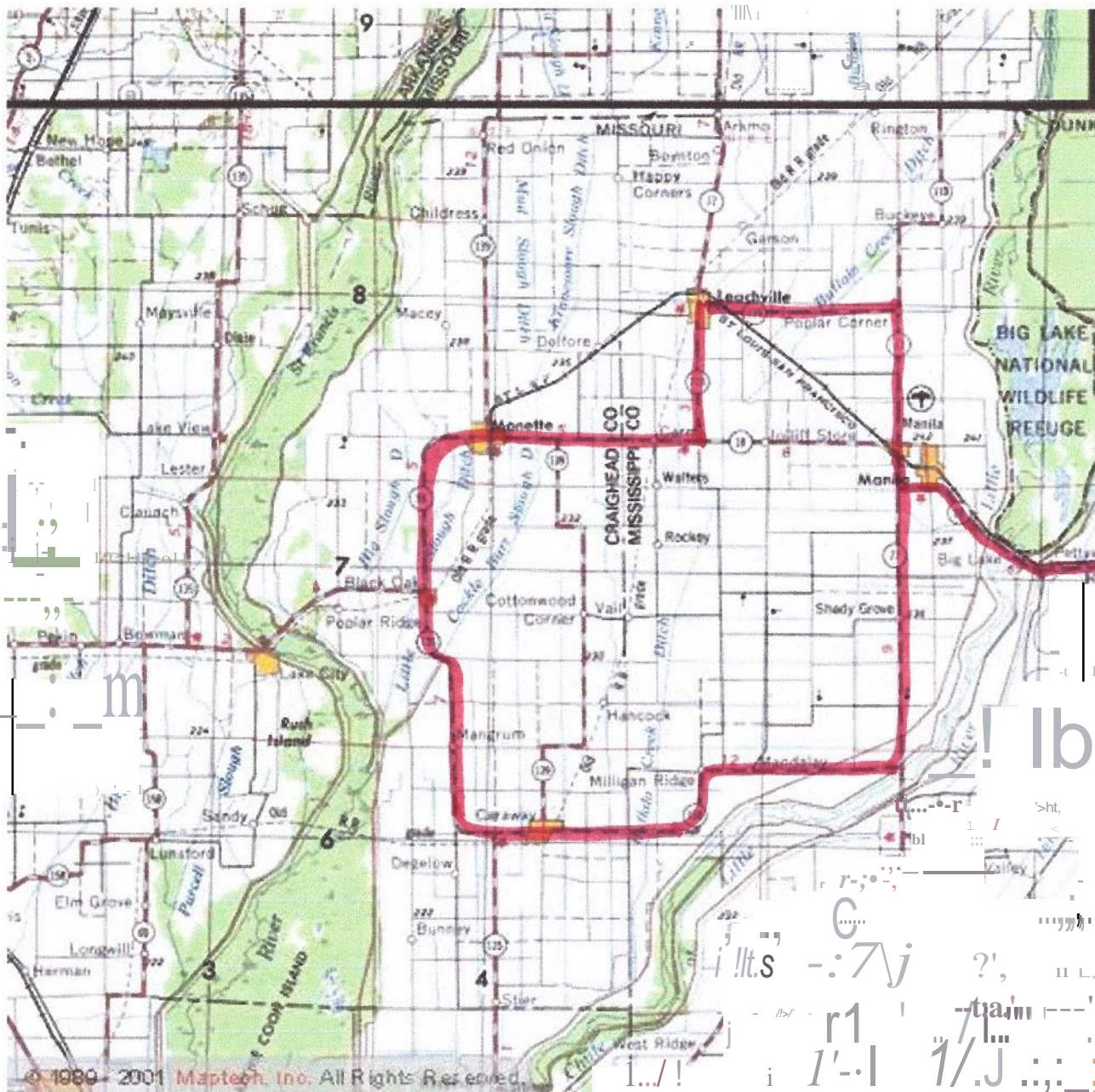
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Includes the towns of Manila, Leachville, Monette, Caraway and Black Oak (birthplace of John Grisham and locale for *A Painted House*). Legend has it that floodwaters of the St. Francis, Little River and Big Lake once stranded a herd of buffalo on an island now occupied by these communities. Remains have been found that bear out this legend.

- BIL 0                      Depart U. S. 61 at Blytheville via S. H. 18 West
- BIL 11                     Big Lake National Wildlife Refuge (See Big Lake Spur on Route Assessment)
- BIL 16                     Manila: Founded in 1852 by Ed Smith and named Big Lake Island. In 1901 the name was changed to Manila, in honor of the U.S. naval victory at Manila Bay in the Philippines during the Spanish-American War. Downtown streets are named for battleships that participated in the Battle of Manila.
- Herman Davis Memorial State Park: c. 1920 park and monument honoring state's most decorated World War I hero. Listed on the National Historic Register April 7, 1995.
- Jonesboro, Lake City & Eastern Railroad Depot: 1910 wood-frame railroad depot. Listed on the National Historic Register Feb. 8, 1997.
- BIL 18                     North via S. H. 77 for three miles, then West on S. H. 77
- BIL 26                     Leachville: In the 1890s Joshua Gilbert Leach acquired some land in Mississippi County. A town sprung up after this purchase and the settlers decided to name it Leachville in honor of the former landowner.
- Blytheville, Leachville and Arkansas Southern Railroad Depot: c. 1910 Plain Traditional-style building. Listed on the National Historic Register June 11, 1992.
- Mississippi County Community College-Leachville Branch
- Adams Gin Company: Believed to be the world's largest
- BIL 26                     Depart Leachville via S. H. 119



- BIL 29 Intersect with S. H. 18 and turn West
- BIL 33 Monette: Just across the Mississippi County line in Craighead County Monette is believed to have been named for an early pioneer woman. A small community was already in place by the time the railroad arrived in 1898-99; but the town experienced a boom at that time and was incorporated in 1910.
- Buffalo Island Museum
- BIL 38 Black Oak: Also in Craighead County, Black Oak was established in 1898 by the Jonesboro, Lake City & Eastern Railway. Originally named Dwight after the first postmaster, the name was changed due to its location on the Black Oak Ridge. It is the home of the 1970s music group Black Oak Boys and birthplace of novelist John Grisham whose book, *A Painted House*, is set in Black Oak.
- BIL 38 Depart Black Oak via S. H. 135 South (Note: This seven-mile segment overlaps with Sunken Lands Loop described next)
- BIL 45 Turn East on S. H. 158
- BIL 46 Caraway: Also in Craighead County, the town is named after U. S. Senator Thaddeus Horatius Caraway of Jonesboro in Craighead County. Caraway's wife, Hattie, succeeded him in the Senate after his death and was successfully elected during the next term as the first female to be elected to the U. S. Senate.
- BIL 46 Proceed East on S. H. 158
- BIL 56 At the Junction of S. H. 77, travelers have a choice. Go North via S. H. 77 to reach S. H. 18 and return East to Blytheville. Or rejoin The Great River Road south of Blytheville at Luxora by continuing on S. H. 158. This route takes you through the beautiful town of Victoria, named for one of R. E. L. Wilson's daughters (founding family of Wilson). Also, a six-mile detour south off this route at S. H. 136 takes you to Wildwood Antiques at Etowah, one of the state's finest and most unusual antique shops. Plan to spend the day.



## Buffalo Island Loop



## Sunken Lands Loop

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Includes towns around the perimeter of the St. Francis Sunken Lands, an area created from the New Madrid Earthquakes of 1811-12: Tyronza, Marked Tree, Trumann, Lake City and Lepanto. (All are in Poinsett County, except Lake City in Craighead County.) This area, strung out over 30 miles along the St. Francis River Floodway, became nationally famous as a hunting and fishing area about 100 years ago.

SLL 0                      Depart The Great River Road via U. S. 63 North at Turrell

SLL 8                      Tyronza: Named for an Indian chief, Tyronza was originally established before the Civil War. It did not experience a boom until 1880, when the St. Louis and San Francisco Railroad began operating in the city.

Southern Tenant Farmers Museum: This museum is currently being developed by Arkansas State University in the historic Mitchell-East Building, where H. L. Mitchell operated a dry cleaners and Clay East operated a service station. The Tyronza area was the location for the founding of the Southern Tenant Farmers Union in the 1930s, considered one of the country's first civil rights and labor movements, and the two were among its co-founders. Their offices served as its unofficial headquarters.

SLL 13                    Marked Tree: Located at the junction of the Saint Francis and Little Rivers, Marked Tree was named for a blazed oak that marked a port on the Saint Francis River. It is said that the Murrell gang of outlaws, who terrorized parts of Arkansas and Tennessee during the first half of the 19th century, burned the tree to mark a good crossing point on the river.

Marked Tree Siphons: Listed on the National Register, these huge metal tubes draw water of the St. Francis River over its levee to continue downstream.

Marked Tree Delta Area Museum: Delta history and culture, with special focus on early medical clinics in the region.

SLL 14                    Siphons Access to St. Francis Sunken Lands: Interior roads are closed to vehicular traffic, except for designated ATC trails for handicapped users. Internal access by boat from launch ramp.



SLL 18	Take S. H. 463 North exit at Payneway
SLL 24	Oak Donnick Access to St. Francis Sunken Lands Wildlife Management Area: Interior roads are closed to vehicular traffic, except for designated ATC trails for handicapped users. Internal access by boat from launch ramp.
SLL 28	Trumann: Town was established by the railroad in 1896 and named Mosher. The name was changed to Weona in 1902, but it caused confusion for the mail and rail service. As a result, the name was permanently changed to Trumann in 1904 in honor of a St. Louis and San Francisco Railroad executive. It was incorporated in 1920. Attractions include Trumann Museum and Old Community House. The community house, a 1927 Craftsman-style building, was built by the Singer Company for its employees. A mural inside depicts Poinsett County History. (Listed on the National Historic Register Oct. 9, 1986)
SLL 28	Depart Trumann via 69 North
SLL 31	Stephens Landing Access to St. Francis Sunken Lands Wildlife Management Area: Interior roads are closed to vehicular traffic, except for designated ATC trails for handicapped users. Internal access by boat from launch ramp.
SLL 35	Take 158 North
SLL 40	Intersect with S. H. 18 East
SLL 43	Lake City: Originally known as Old Town, it grew from a small settlement in 1848 to a developing steamboat and trading post community in the following years. In 1878 a post office was established and called Sunk Lands, since another Old Town existed. Residents continued to use both names for the city and post office until the 1880s, when both names were changed to Lake City for a lake located nearby. The city was incorporated in 1889.
SLL 47	Turn South on S. H. 135 at Black Oak (See Buffalo Island Loop)
SLL 57	St. Francis Sunken Lands Wildlife Management Area Access west via county road
SLL 60	Rivervale Inverted Siphons: 1926 structure built to drain St. Francis and Little River basins. Listed on National Historic Register March 22, 1991

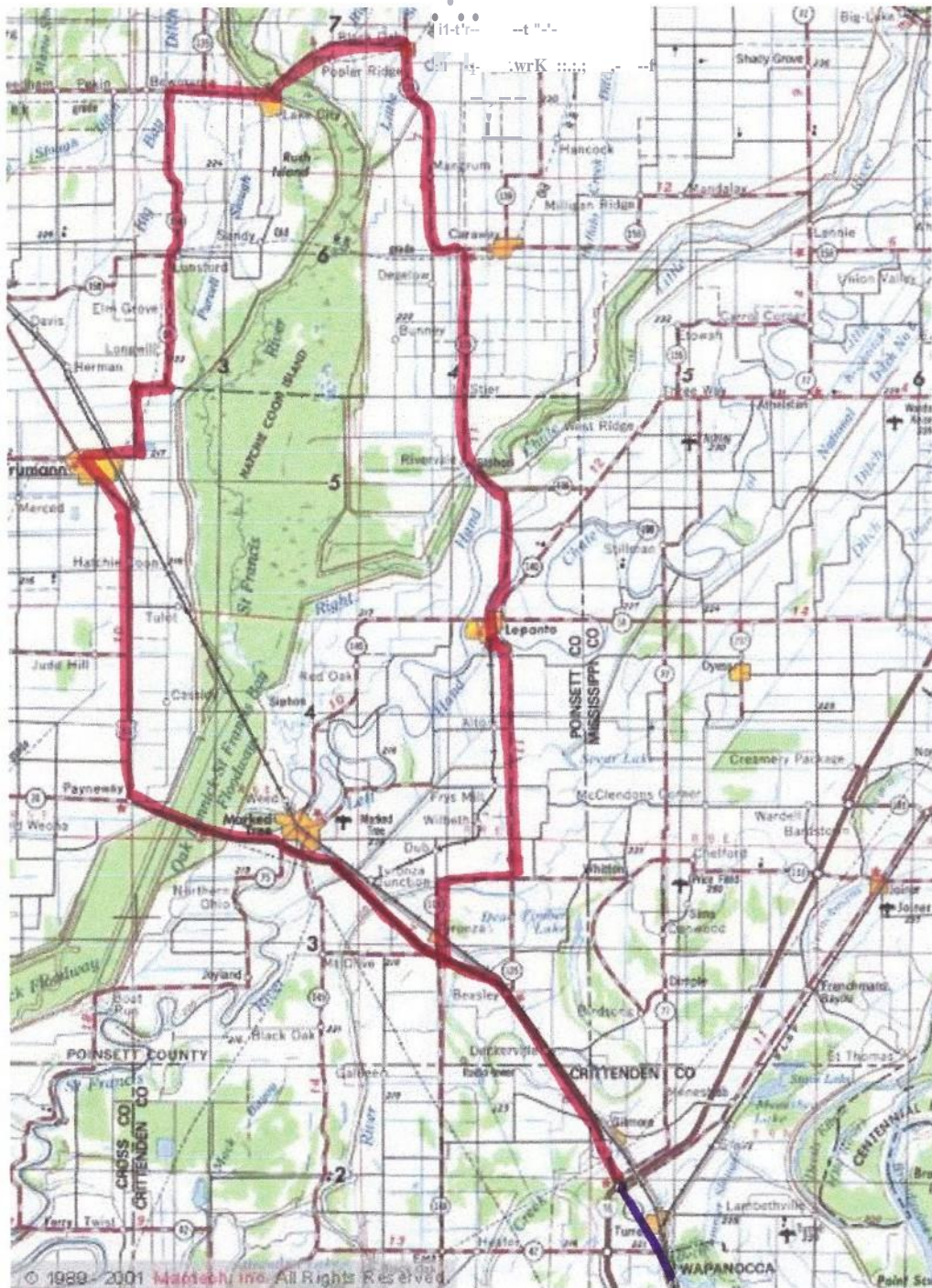
SLL 65

Lepanto: Originally settled in 1894, the town was laid out by C.B. Greenwood in 1901, and incorporated in 1909. Lepanto was named in honor of the Battle of Lepanto in 1571, in which Christians ended Turkish control of the Mediterranean Sea. During the early 20th century neighboring communities referred to Lepanto as "Lamp City," due to the eccentric habits of the first electric generator operator, who turned the electricity in the city on and off at will.

Museum Lepanto USA: Quaint displays of Delta history in replicas of old-time stores at the only town named Lepanto in the U.S.

SLL 76

Rejoin U. S. 63 and go South six miles to rejoin The Great River Road.



## Sunken Lands Loop





## St. Francis County Loop

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A side trip through St. Francis County to the towns of Madison and Forrest City is well worth the time. Madison, once a thriving river town, was the county seat for years until it was moved to Forrest City in 1874. Madison was the home of Scott Bond, the first African-American millionaire in Arkansas. Bond had numerous agricultural and business enterprises, including several farms, a general store, several gins, and a laboratory that made his patented embalming fluid. Additionally, the St. Francis County Museum in Forrest City presents the county's rich history.

SFCL 0                      At junction of S. H. 38 and U. S. 79, continue West on S. H. 38

SFCL 11                    S. H. 38 joins S. H. 50 West

Route features soybeans, rice and cotton crops, along with catfish farms, cypress sloughs, and bayous. There are several plantation homes, along with abandoned sharecropper homes from bygone days.

SFCL 15                    Widener: Widener was established in the late 19th century, and was named after a conductor on the Memphis-Little Rock Railroad who lived in the community. Widener was incorporated in 1909.

SFCL 18                    Madison: Originally established in the early 19th century, Madison served as county seat from 1841-1855, and from 1857-1874. Incorporated in 1914, Madison is believed to be named for President James Madison, who played an instrumental role in settling and removing the Cherokee Nation to the Arkansas River Valley.

Scott Bond Cemetery: Only racially mixed cemetery in the county.

St. Francis River Bridge: Constructed by the Wisconsin Bridge and Iron Company, the bridge was part of a 1930s highway and development project and one of three swinging road bridges in Arkansas. Listed on the National Historic Register April 9, 1990.

Depart Madison via U. S. 70 West

SFCL 22                    *Forrest City (See City Assessments)*

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Depart Forrest City via U. S. 70 East and S. H. 50, returning through Widener

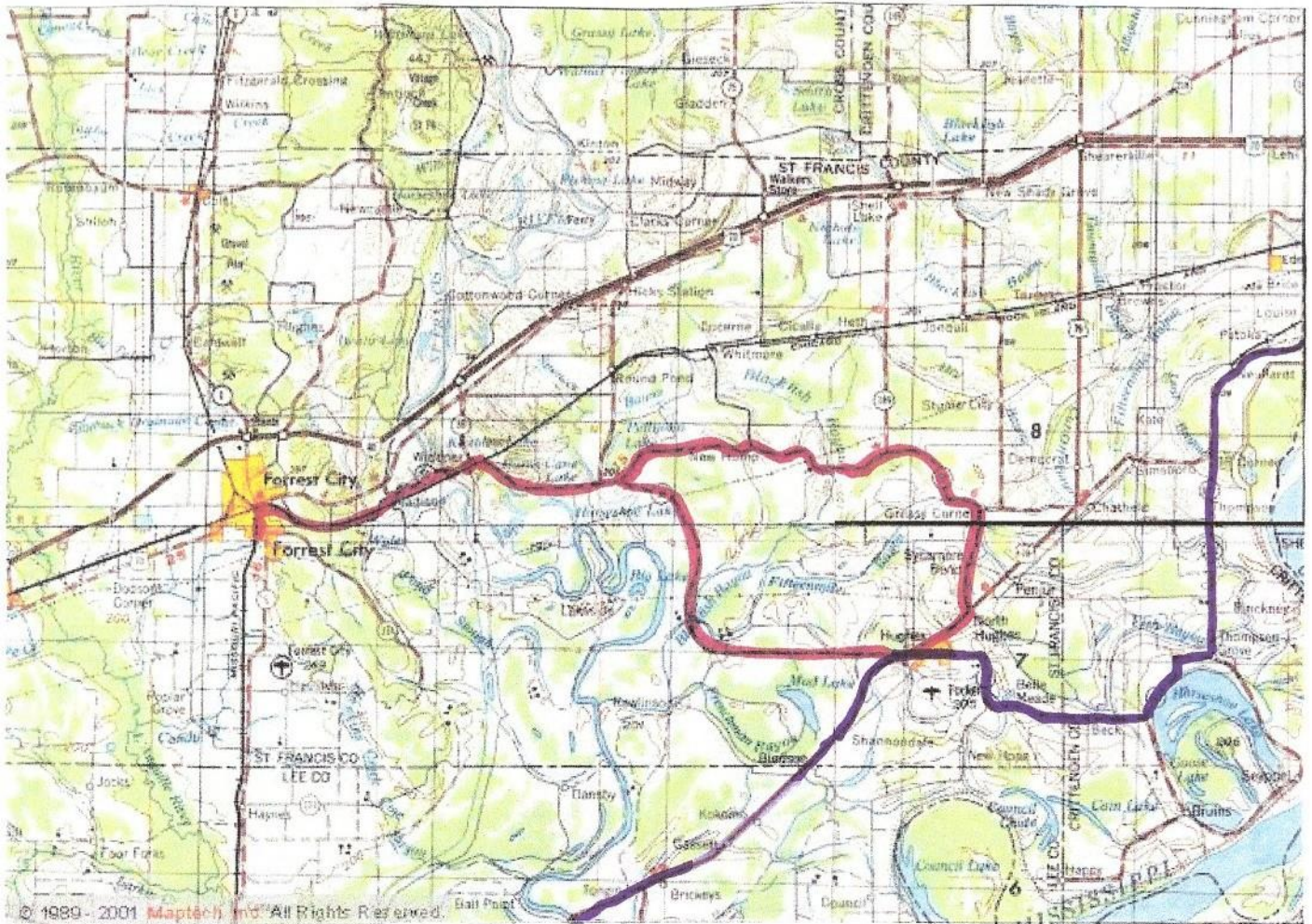
Kudzu-covered "ghost-like" trees along the route.

SFCL 33

At Widener, continue on S. H. 50 East

SFCL 45

Greasy Corner. Take S. H. 149 South three miles to rejoin The Great River Road.



## St. Francis County Loop





## Monroe County Loop

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A loop through Monroe County takes visitors on an historic journey that includes the Louisiana Purchase State Park Monument, marking the site of the starting point for the survey of all lands acquired through the Louisiana Purchase, and historic railroad towns and river towns, which clearly mark the change in cultures as transportation switched from river to rail. Also along this route is The Fargo Agricultural School, established in 1919 to educate African Americans.

- MRL 0                      At junction of S. H. 316, S. H. 1, and S. H. 39, take S. H. 39 North
- MRL 7                      Postelle: Site of Little Cypress Creek Bridge, a 1940 aluminum multi-beam bridge. Listed on the National Historic Register May 18, 1995.
- MRL 9                      Travel west at intersection with U. S. 49
- MRL 11                     Access to Pine City Natural Area (via S. H 86)
- This 160-acre area represents an opportunity to preserve habitat for an isolated population of the endangered red-cockaded woodpecker. Southern Monroe County's red-cockaded woodpeckers are the only known representatives of the species in Arkansas' Mississippi Alluvial Plain.
- MRL 14                    Palmer House: 1873 Italianate brick home of prominent lawyer. Once known as "Palmer's Folly" for the lavish gardens around the home. Listed on the National Historic Register May 4, 1976.
- MRL 15                    Louisiana Purchase State Park Monument access via S. H. 362 (Two miles): A boardwalk with exhibits leads to a monument that spots the Louisiana Purchase State Park is built around a stone historical marker commemorating the 1815 starting point for the original survey of lands in the 1803 Louisiana Purchase. A boardwalk with interpretive signage leads to the marker within a 36-acre swamp. Listed Feb. 23, 1972. Listed as National Historic Landmark April 19, 1993.
- MRL 20                    Access with U. S. 79
- MRL 34                    *City of Brinkley (See City Assessments)*

MRL 39

Fargo

Fargo is the site of the Fargo Agricultural School, established by Floyd Brown, who was educated at Tuskegee Institute and had a dream of educating young rural African-Americans who had been excluded from learning by segregation and poverty. Between 1919 and 1949, the school educated hundreds of students from Fargo and the surrounding Delta area. Today the site is an African-American heritage museum

Return to Brinkley

MRL 44

Take U. S. West

MRL 48

S. H. 302 South

MRL 59

*City of Clarendon (See City Assessments)*

Depart Clarendon via S. H. 86 South

MRL 69

Holly Grove: Holly Grove was established in an area of holly thickets along the tracks of the Arkansas Central Railway in the early 1870s. It was incorporated in 1876 and was an important depot between Clarendon and Helena.

Abramson House: 1921-22 Craftsman design by architect Estes Mann. Listed on the National Historic Register Sept. 7, 1995.

Holly Grove Historic District: 1890-1920s cluster of historic commercial buildings. Listed on the National Historic Register Feb. 2, 1979.

Holly Grove Presbyterian Church: 1881 building, weather boarded in 1900, blends Greek and Gothic Revival styles. Listed on the National Historic Register May 12, 1991.

Lair House: 1905 Queen Anne Revival-style residence. Listed on the National Historic Register April 23, 1998.

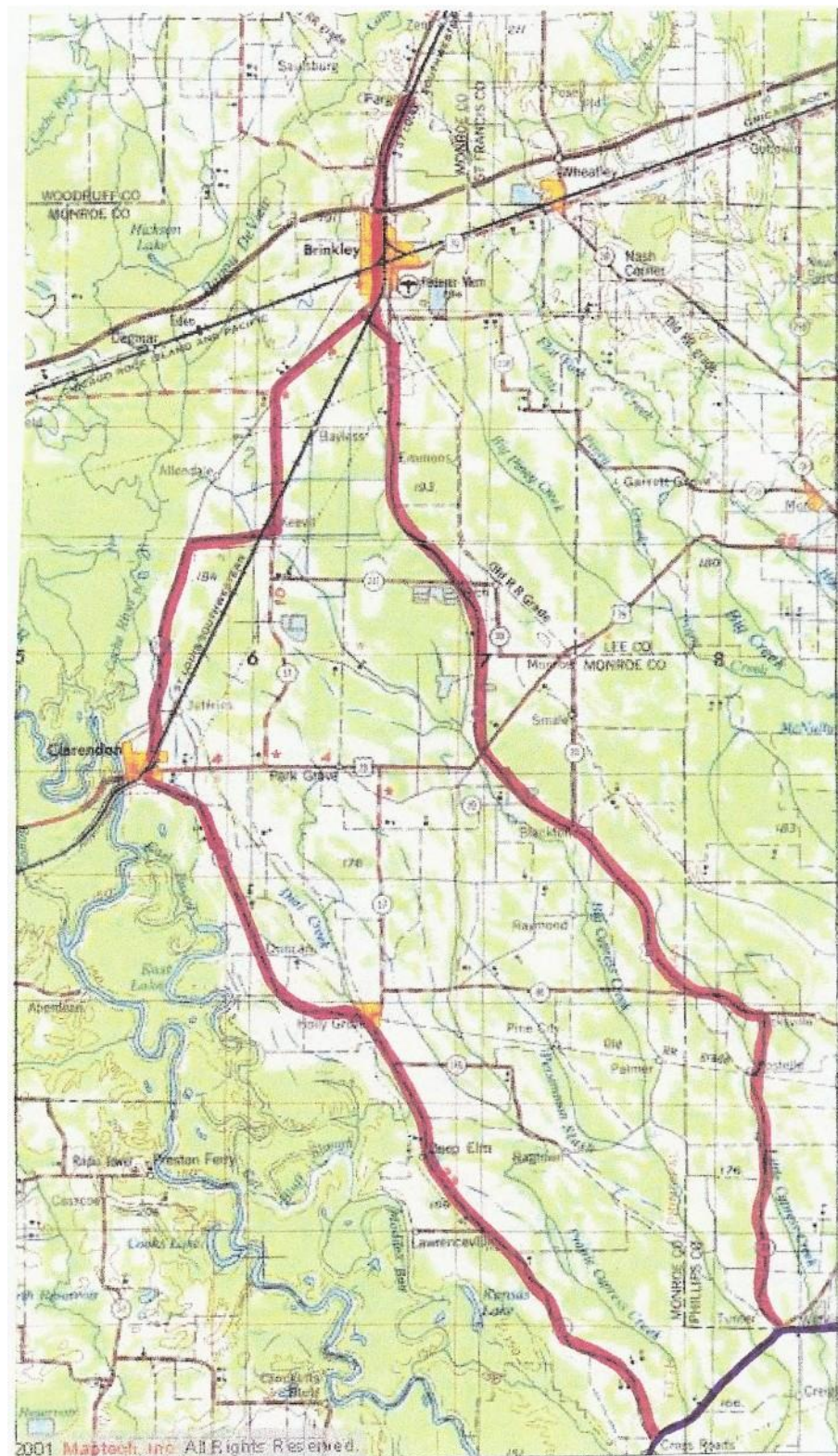
Macedonia Cemetery

Walls House, James A.: 1903 residence with Queen Anne and Colonial Revival-style influences. Listed on the National Historic Register June 9, 1980.

Depart Holly Grove via S.H. 17.

- MRL 74                      Lawrenceville: Two miles off the main route, town includes the Capps House, a c. 1875 brick I-house listed on the National Historic Register June 21, 1990.
- MRL 85                      Rejoin The Great River Road





## Monroe County Loop



# Stuttgart Loop

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**R**ecreational activities such as duck hunting and fishing are abundant in Arkansas County. Many farmers leave their rice fields flooded for the wintering ducks. Timberland is flooded for duck hunting by private landowners, the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, and the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Hunting and trapping provided a way of life for the first French settlers in 1682. Wave of prairie grasses were a good indicator of the rich abundant soil beneath, and a strong agricultural economy developed. That same rich land today has led to Arkansas County's reputation as the Rice and Duck-Hunting Capital of the World.

**SL 0**                      **Depart Route 1 via S. H. 153 North at St. Charles**

**SL 5**                      **Crockett's Bluff**

Small community village located on the banks of the White River. It was named for Capt. Robert Crockett, grandson of Davy Crockett. It was a river port in the second half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Crockett Rifle Company, 1<sup>st</sup> Arkansas Infantry, was the first confederate company raised in Arkansas County and one of the first in the state. The men in the rifle company were recruited in this vicinity by Capt. Robert Crockett in 1861.

**SL 5**                      Historical Marker: A new era began in 1906 when Henry Prange successfully cultivated a small plot of rice in his front yard at Crockett's Bluff. A marker commemorates the significant event.

**SL 6**                      Shiloh Church and Cemetery: Graves dating to mid-1800s.

**SL 12**                    Turn South off S. H. 153 to S. H. 33. Travel approximately one-half mile, then turn back West on S. H. 153

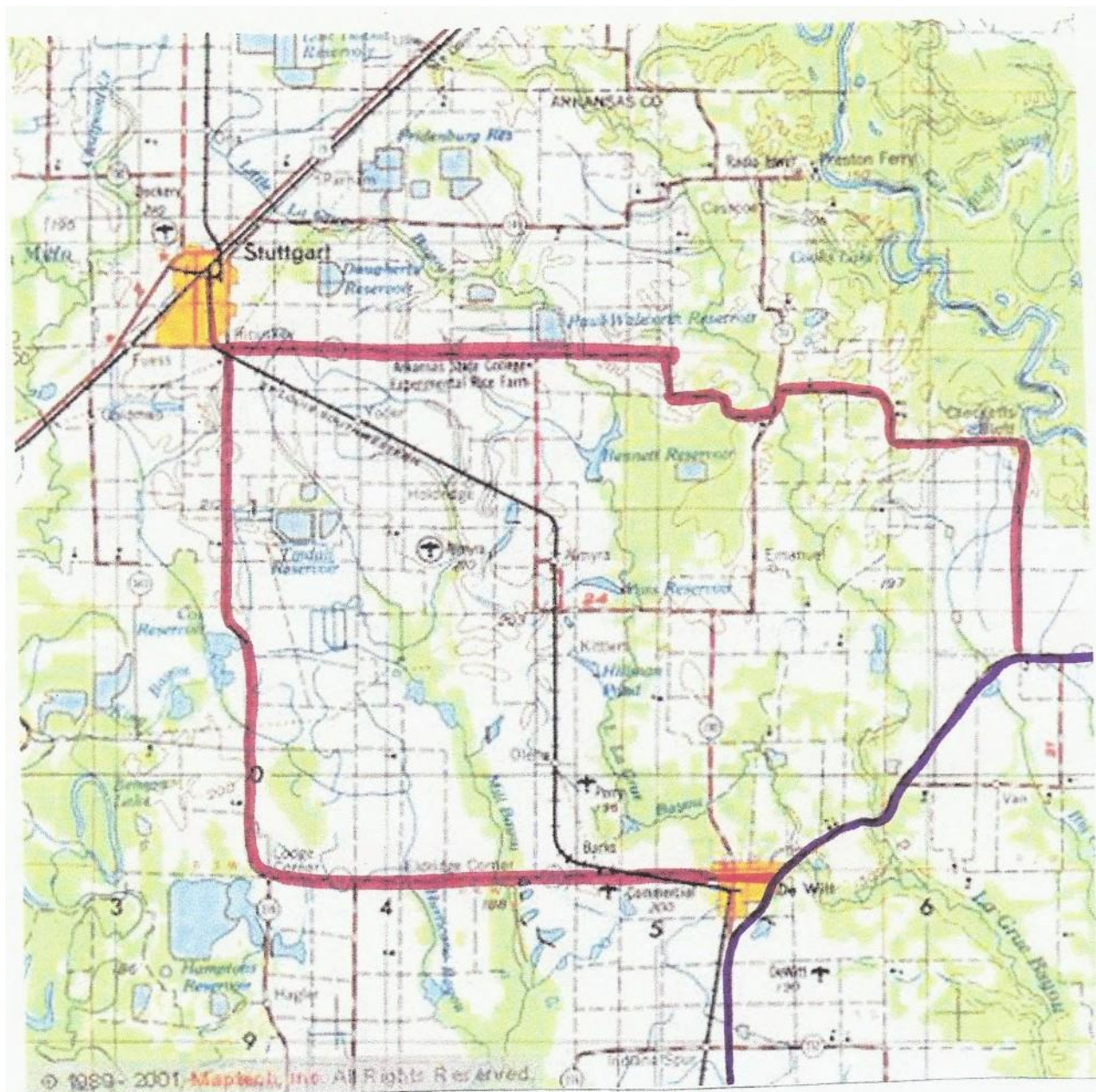
**SL 15**                    Experiment Corner (Junction with S. H. 130): USDA National Aquaculture Research Center, USDA National Rice Research Center, and the University of Arkansas Rice Research and Extension Center

**SL 22**                    *City of Stuttgart (See City Assessments)*

**SL 26**                    **Junction of Highway 165**

- SL 36                      West to Bayou Meto Wildlife Management Area via S. H. 152.  
Also the Arkansas Waterfowl Research Center.
- Bayou Meto Wildlife Management Area is one of the largest state-owned wildlife management areas in the nation. It encompasses 33,700 acres and includes eight permanent streams (Five Forks, Wabbaseka Bayou, Government Cypress Slough, Bear Bayou, Dry Bayou, West Bayou, Cross Bayou, Little Bayou Meto, and Big Bayou Meto), 12 intermediate streams and six lakes. Green-timber duck hunting is some of the best in the state and constitutes heaviest recreational use on the area. Other hunting and fishing also are good. There are 52 primitive campsites scattered over the area. Other special facilities include an archery range, concrete boat ramps, and an observation tower for viewing waterfowl and shorebirds.
- SL 39                      Lodge Corner
- SL 50                      Junction with DeWitt





Stuttgart Loop



## Drew County Loop

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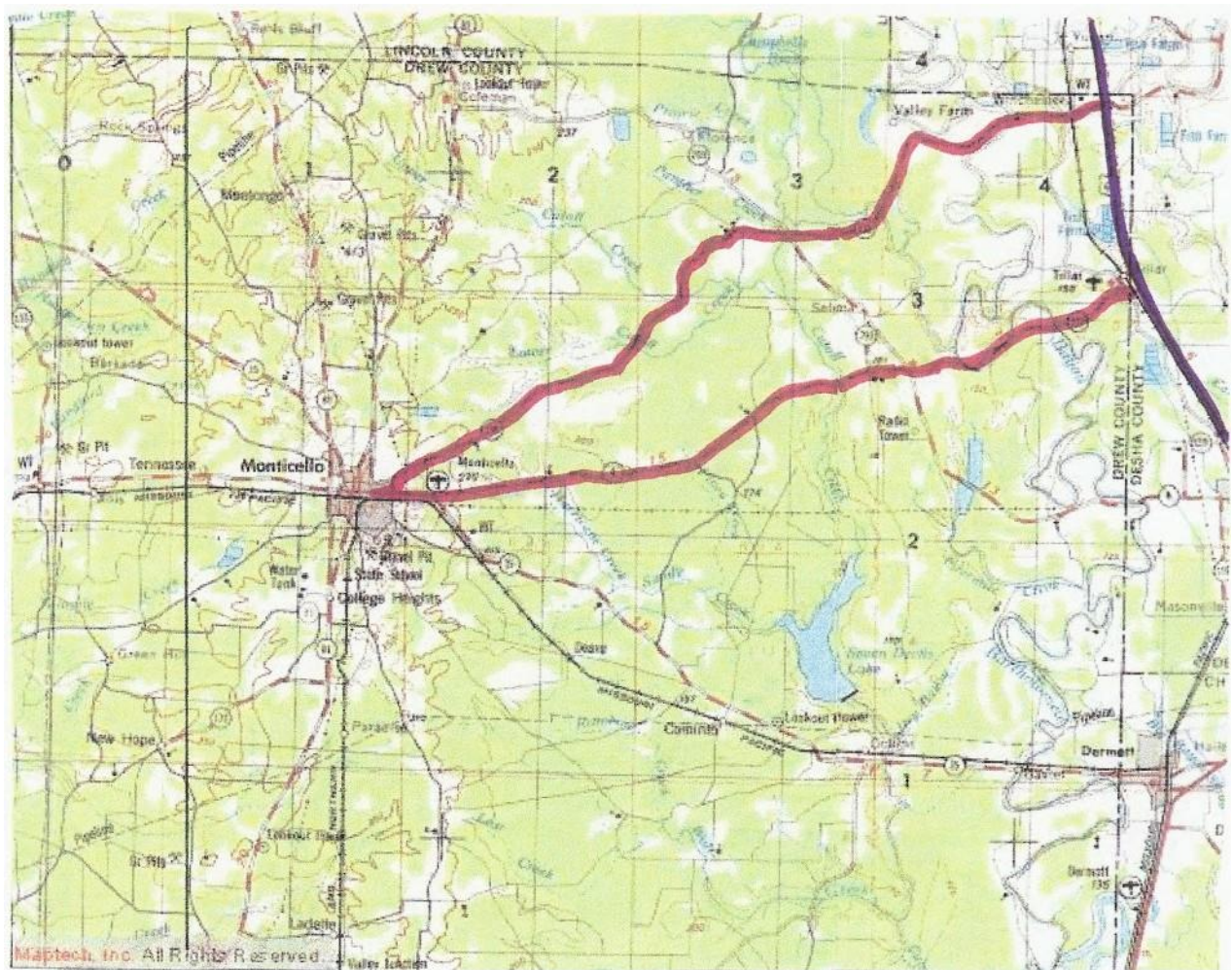
The drive west through Drew County to Monticello, the county seat, gives travelers a clear picture of the transition from Delta lowlands to the upland timber country and Coastal Plains topography. This transition area is rich in swamps, bayous, cypress brakes, plains and forests, all reminiscent of the special natural beauty that once existed throughout the entire Delta region.

- DCL 0 Depart The Great River Road via S. H. 138 at Winchester.
- Route passes over numerous creeks and low areas and continuously has wildflowers in bloom along the road. Depending on time of year, golden rod, marsh lilies, wild sunflowers and honeysuckle can be seen in the ditches and along the fencerows.
- DCL .8 Bayou Bartholomew: This is the longest continuous bayou in the country, and possibly the world. Starting near Pine Bluff, Arkansas, and ending in central Louisiana, the bayou covers more than 300 miles and is home to numerous plants, bird, and animal species. Wild vegetation in the area includes trumpet vine, Queen Anne's lace, and wild blackberry vine.
- DCL 3.7 Road sign, "Plantation Lane," signals turn-off to the Taylor Log House and Site, an old family homestead belonging to the Taylor family. Listed on the National Historic Register Oct. 16, 1995, features a c. 1846 cypress-log dog-trot house, historic cemetery, and plantation farmstead. The Taylor family has long since departed the area, but the farm continues to operate, and the old house can still be seen from the main road or from Plantation Lane for a closer inspection. Also known as the Hollywood Plantation.
- DCL 10.3 Mt. Tabor Methodist Church and Cemetery: Church was established in early 1900s. Cemetery has some interesting markers dating back earlier.
- DCL 13.4 Cut-Off Creek, filled with fish and abundant wildlife.
- DCL 18.6-19.7 Kiffin Prairie: Naturally occurring flat plain surrounded by small rolling hills is home to some of the most productive farmland in the world.
- DCL 21.3 Local family farm raising Arabian horses.

DCL 21.8	Pine plantation
DCL 25	West on U. S. 278
DCL 24	<i>City of Monticello (See City Assessments)</i>  Depart Monticello via U. S. 278 East
DCL 24.7	Jordan Park, location of a WWII prisoner of war camp.
DCL 24.8	Young's BBQ and Country Cooking, a favorite eatery
DCL 26.1	Monticello Municipal Airport
DCL 27.1	End of residential areas, farmlands begin to open up.
DCL 28.3	Unattractive clear-cut area, possibly being prepared for farmland or pine plantation.
DCL 29.3	Sharp curve, known as Dead Man's Curve. Old African-American church located in the curve.
DCL 29.5-31	Kiffin Prairie: Again visible. Crops can always been seen.
DCL 38	Re-cross Cut-Off Creek, which flows south to Seven Devils Swamp  Seven Devils Swamp Wildlife Management Area: Area is a true wetland ecosystem, composed almost totally of cypress, tupelo, buttonbush, locust and willow. One main stream, Cut-Off Creek, flows through the center. The swamp has a breeding population of anghinias, great blue herons, little green herons and American herons. There are occasional sightings of eagles in fall and winter, and alligators are present as well. There is one campsite in the area. Beware! There are numerous tales of the swamp, including legends of strangers who wandered in and never returned!
DCL 38.7	Country Store Restaurant: Unique eating spot features the look of an old store building, complete with benches across the front porch. Interior features wooden floors and tin ceilings, along with antique signs, old bottles, and tins. Interesting stop for catfish.



- DCL 38.7      Selma Turnoff (One mile): Old Selma Methodist Church, flanked by huge oak trees, is a c. 1874 vernacular Gothic Revival church. Listed on the National Historic Register Sept. 22, 1972.
- DCL 40      Take S. H. 277 East
- Route includes fields of cotton, rice, soybeans, and milo.
- DCL 40.5      Old collapsing barn and cleared and unattractive lot
- DCL 42.8      Oxbow cypress brake on north side of road. Limited litter on this route. Edge of cypress brake hosts lush vegetation and a few persimmon trees. A clear view across miles of farmland typically offers panoramic views of beautiful sunsets.
- DCL 44.4      Cross Bayou Bartholomew again.
- DCL 45      Unidentified cemetery on banks of Bayou Bartholomew, featuring some interesting homemade head stones.
- DCL 45.2      Tillar Cemetery on south side. Historic well-maintained cemetery established in 1910. It is bordered on the east by a huge row of oak trees, with a row of crepe myrtles down the center. Ornamental pear and apple trees also abound. A gazebo in the center features a brick pump with the date inscribed in the floor and an old water pump.
- DCL 46.4      Cypress Brake: In the fall this brake has a beautiful carpet of algae that turns red, giving it the appearance of a ruby carpet. Along this brake, the route also features a variety of wildflowers, including passion flower, goatweed, and marsh mallow. In the late summer and fall, bright red poisonous sumac can be seen along the route.
- DCL 47      Rejoin The Great River Road at Tillar



## Drew County Loop



# Blytheville, Mississippi County

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**B**lytheville was incorporated in 1891 as a lumber town and eventually grew into a cotton production and trading center. It was named for Henry T. Blythe, a Virginia-born Methodist minister. Blythe founded a community in 1853 called Blythe Chapel, which served as the base for his circuit camp meetings.

U. S. Highway 61 goes directly through Blytheville and is known by three names within the city limits. As you come into town from the north, you travel south on North Sixth, west onto Chickasawba, and south onto South Division.

Blytheville is a Main Street Arkansas community and has done extensive work to restore the downtown area. The city government is progressive in adopting ordinances for city beautification, zoning, overlay districts, and other programs to encourage and enhance preservation efforts. Blytheville is concentrating on cleaning up the main highways in and out of town through such improvements as installing fencing, establishing green space or decorative gardens, encouraging businesses to fix and clean up, adding street lights, adding historical markers, and constructing attractive welcome signs at the main entrances.

## Blytheville Attractions:

### **Arkansas Archeological Survey Research Station-Blytheville**

Located at the former Eaker Air Force Base site. Area is rich in Native American sites, and the city is working with the National Park Service to develop a National Heritage Center.

### **Blytheville Greyhound Bus Station**

Art Moderne station built c. 1937 is the only one of its kind left in existence. Listed on the National Historic Register Aug. 17, 1987

### **Blytheville Heritage Museum**

Located in the 1938 Art Deco Kress Building, listed on the National Historic Register June 13, 1997. Museum emphasis on cotton and regional Native American culture

### **Mississippi County Community College**

### **Mississippi County Courthouse, Chickasawba District**

1919-21 Colonial Revival courthouse. Listed on the National Historic Register Dec. 6, 1996.

### **Old Bell Telephone Building**

1911 building. Listed on the National Historic Register Aug. 6, 1987.



**Ritz Civic Center**

Local and touring stage productions are showcased in this renovated former movie palace

**That Bookstore in Blytheville**

Frequent book signings; a favorite haunt of novelist John Grisham

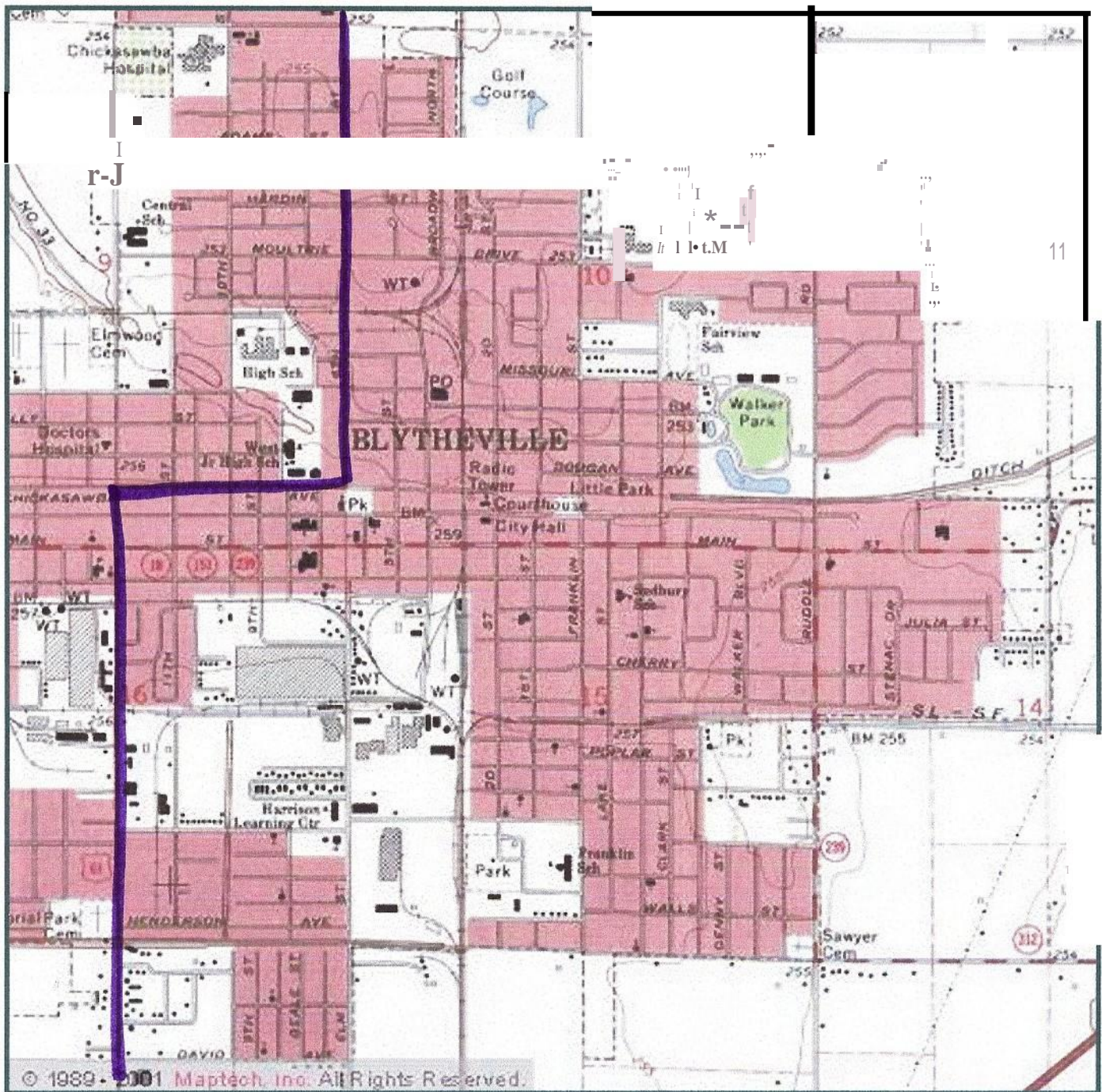
**The Cupboard Fine Gifts**

Accent furniture and accessories; Arkansas souvenirs

**The New York Store**

A tradition in women's fashion since 1902

**Birthplace:** Blytheville was the home of television western actress Dale Evans (wife of Roy Rogers) and Kemmons Wilson (founder of Holiday Inn)



Blytheville



## Osceola, Mississippi County

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The city of Osceola is said to be named for a Seminole Indian chief who led his tribe in the Second Seminole War in Florida. In 1839 William Edrington bartered for the site with the original occupants, an Indian tribe, and renamed it Plum Point. In 1838 the town was incorporated and renamed Osceola. The Great River Road goes through the historic downtown area. Osceola is a Main Street Arkansas community and has done extensive work in the downtown area around its courthouse square.

### Osceola Attractions:

#### **Bank of Osceola**

1909 commercial building. Listed on the National Historic Register Aug. 6, 1987.

#### **First Baptist Church of Osceola**

1915 Classical Revival-style. Listed on the National Historic Register Sept. 7, 1995.

#### **Florida Brothers Building**

1926 Art Deco-influenced structure. Currently used as a law office. Listed on the National Historic Register Aug. 6, 1987.

#### **Hale Avenue Historic District**

1902-17 ensemble of historic commercial buildings. Listed on the National Historic Register Aug. 6, 1987.

#### **Mississippi County Community College-Osceola Branch**

#### **Mississippi County Courthouse, Osceola**

1912 Neo-Classical structure. Listed on the National Historic Register Dec. 13, 1978.

#### **Mississippi County Jail**

1926 vernacular public building. Listed on the National Historic Register Aug. 6, 1987.

#### **Osceola City Hall**

1926 Works Progress Administration-built municipal structure. Listed on the National Historic Register Aug. 6, 1987.

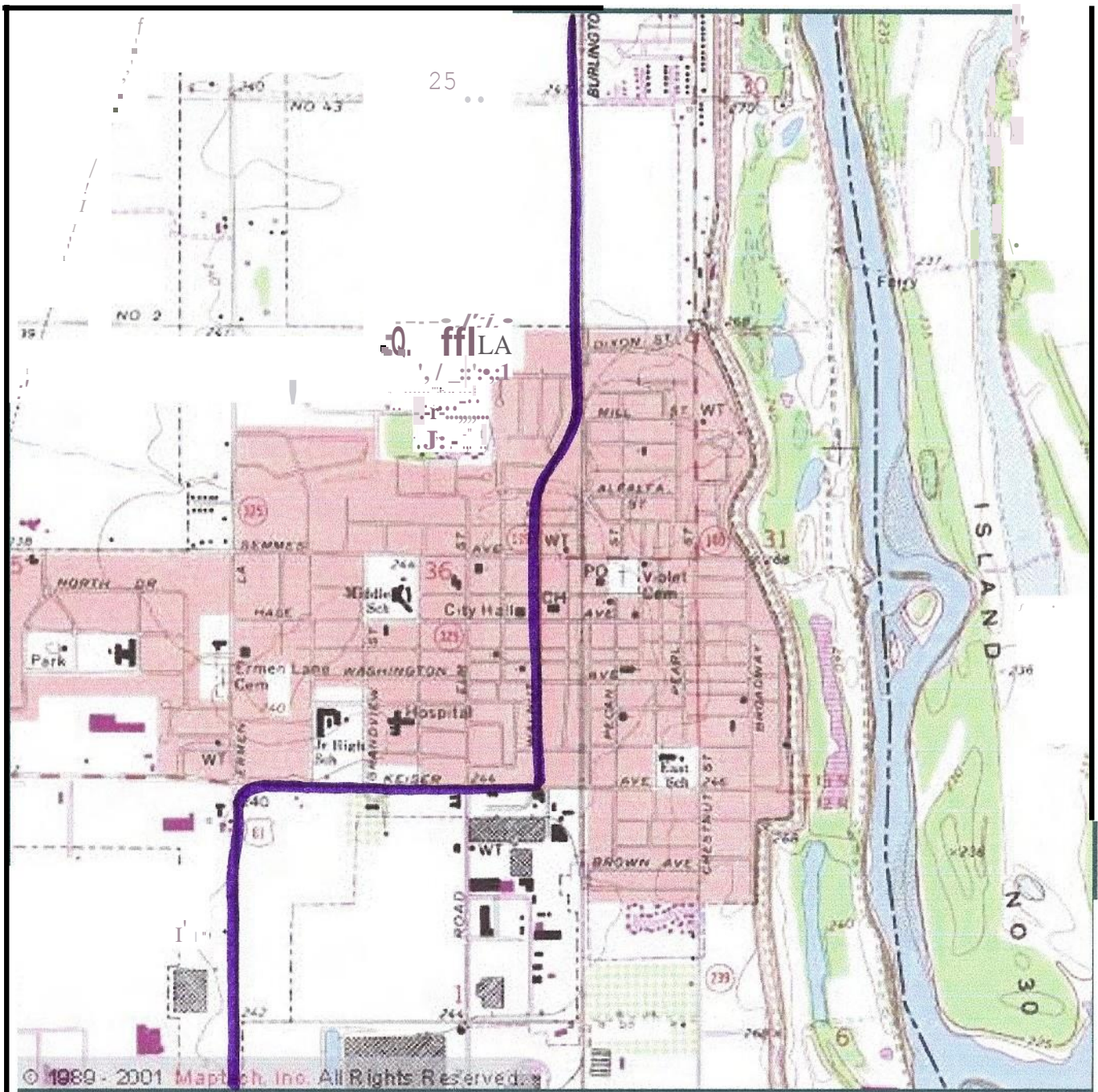
#### **Osceola Times Building**

1901 early twentieth century newspaper office. Listed on the National Historic Register Aug. 6, 1987.

#### **Planters Bank Building**

c. 1920 Neoclassical design by architect Uzell Branson. Listed on the National Historic Register Aug. 6, 1987.





Osceola



# Marion, Crittenden County

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In 1803 a Spanish Sergeant named Augustine Grande settled on Alligator Lake near present day Marion. Steamboats came up the lake, known today as Marion Lake, when the water was high. The settlement was known as Grande until 1836, the year in which Matthew Talbot donated 95 lots as a site for a county seat. It is said that Marion was one of Talbot's names. The town was laid out in 1836 and incorporated April 18, 1851. A group of citizens is working on efforts to restore the former lake and wetlands areas, as well as to restore many of the sites in the town and to commemorate historic events that have occurred in the area.

Marion Attractions:

## **Crittenden County Bank and Trust Company**

1919 Neoclassical building. Listed on the National Historic Register April 19, 1984.

## **Crittenden County Courthouse**

Marion has had five courthouse buildings and six jails. The present Classical Revival courthouse was completed in 1911. Listed on National Historic Register Aug. 3, 1977.

## **Downtown Walking Tour**

Tour brochure with information on historic sites and suggested walking route.

## **Marion Mural**

Painted on gift shop at intersection of S. H. 77 and U. S. 64, it depicts river heritage.

## **Sultana Disaster Marker**

This monument at the intersection of S. H. 77 and U. S. 64 (in front of the Marion City Hall) commemorates what is considered to be the nation's worst maritime disaster. In 1865, the Sultana steamship exploded near Marion on the Mississippi River, killing 1,800 passengers, primarily Union soldiers released from Confederate prisons and en route home after the Civil War. The steamship, with a legal capacity of 376, was carrying 2300 people.

## **Trail of Tears**

This route along U. S. 64 once served as the major artery of transportation between Memphis and Little Rock, being the first road built in Arkansas. For many years, it remained the only road through the Mississippi Bottoms, known as the Great Swamp. Prior to becoming a paved route, various historic trails followed roughly similar routes in the region: the old trail serving Spanish Fort Esperanza east of present-day Marion, the Military Road providing a supply and troop movement route for armies of the Mexican and Civil Wars, and the Trail of Tears route which relocated Cherokee Indians from the Eastern United States to Oklahoma.





## Marion





## West Memphis, Crittenden County

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**Z**ack Bragg of Mississippi established a logging camp, referred to as Bragg's Spur or Bragg, near the Mississippi River across from Memphis shortly before War World I. In 1927, after the city was incorporated, the name was changed to West Memphis to attract foreign investors who paid premium prices for lumber in the Memphis market.

Today, West Memphis is the largest city along The Great River Road-Arkansas, with a population of 27,666, and is a Main Street Arkansas community. The Great River Road runs directly along the main street in West Memphis, known as Broadway (U. S. 70). Broadway holds the distinction of being the longest main street in the United States.

West Memphis Attractions:

### **Dabbs Store**

1912 commercial structure. Listed on the National Historic Register May 20, 1982.

### **Hamilton Apartments**

1936 structure with Craftsman and English Revival details. Listed on the National Historic Register June 3, 1998.

### **Lawrie House**

1939 Colonial Revival residence. Listed on National Historic Register March 28, 1996.

### **Mid-South Community College**

### **Riverside Speedway Stock Car Racing**

### **Southland Greyhound Park**

Largest greyhound facility in the country features year-round racing. The park recently opened a children's entertainment facility. "The Dog Pound," away from betting facilities, features video games, an air hockey table, and picnic tables outside the arcade

### **Ten-Mile Bayou**

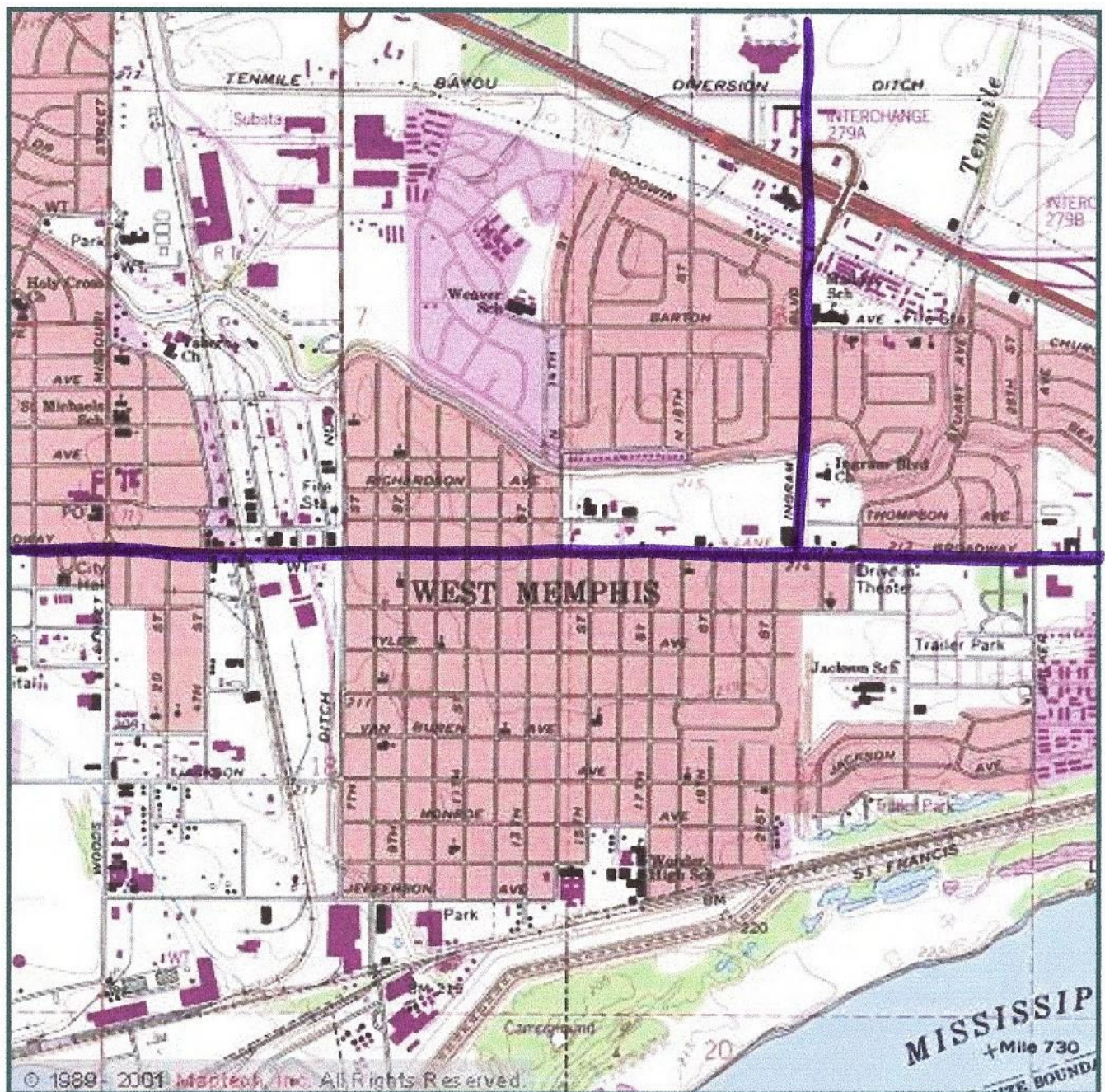
### **The Hog Pen**

18-hole miniature golf, driving range, video arcade, batting cages and go-kart track

### **Tilden Rodgers Park**

Features fishing lake with piers, playground equipment, tennis courts, picnic pavilion.

### **Worthington Park**



## West Memphis





## Forrest City, St. Francis County

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**T**own began in 1867 as Forrest's Camp, named for Confederate General Nathan Bedford Forrest who headquartered there while serving as contractor for completion of the railroad through the area. The town, laid out in 1869 and incorporated in 1871, became the county seat in 1874. Forrest City is located on the Crowley's Ridge Parkway at the junction with Interstate 40, providing convenient direct access from Memphis, as well as from points along The Great River Road or the Crowley's Ridge Parkway.

Forrest City Attractions:

### **East Arkansas Community College**

#### **First United Methodist Church of Forrest City**

The First United Methodist Church, built in 1917, was designed by John Gaisford, an English immigrant. It was added to the National Register on May 19, 1994.

#### **Forrest City Convention/Special Events Center**

Newly renovated facility offers two clubrooms, a conference room and large ballroom.

#### **Forrest City Downtown Mural**

Shows Native Americans viewing the coming of the railroad.

#### **Forrest City High School**

Built in 1915, it replaced the brick masonry public school constructed in 1892. Listed on the National Historic Register Oct. 8, 1992.

#### **Forrest City Sports Complex**

Eight fields for baseball, softball and soccer

#### **Mann House**

The Mann House was designed by Charles L. Thompson in 1913. Listed on the National Historic Register Dec. 31, 1984.

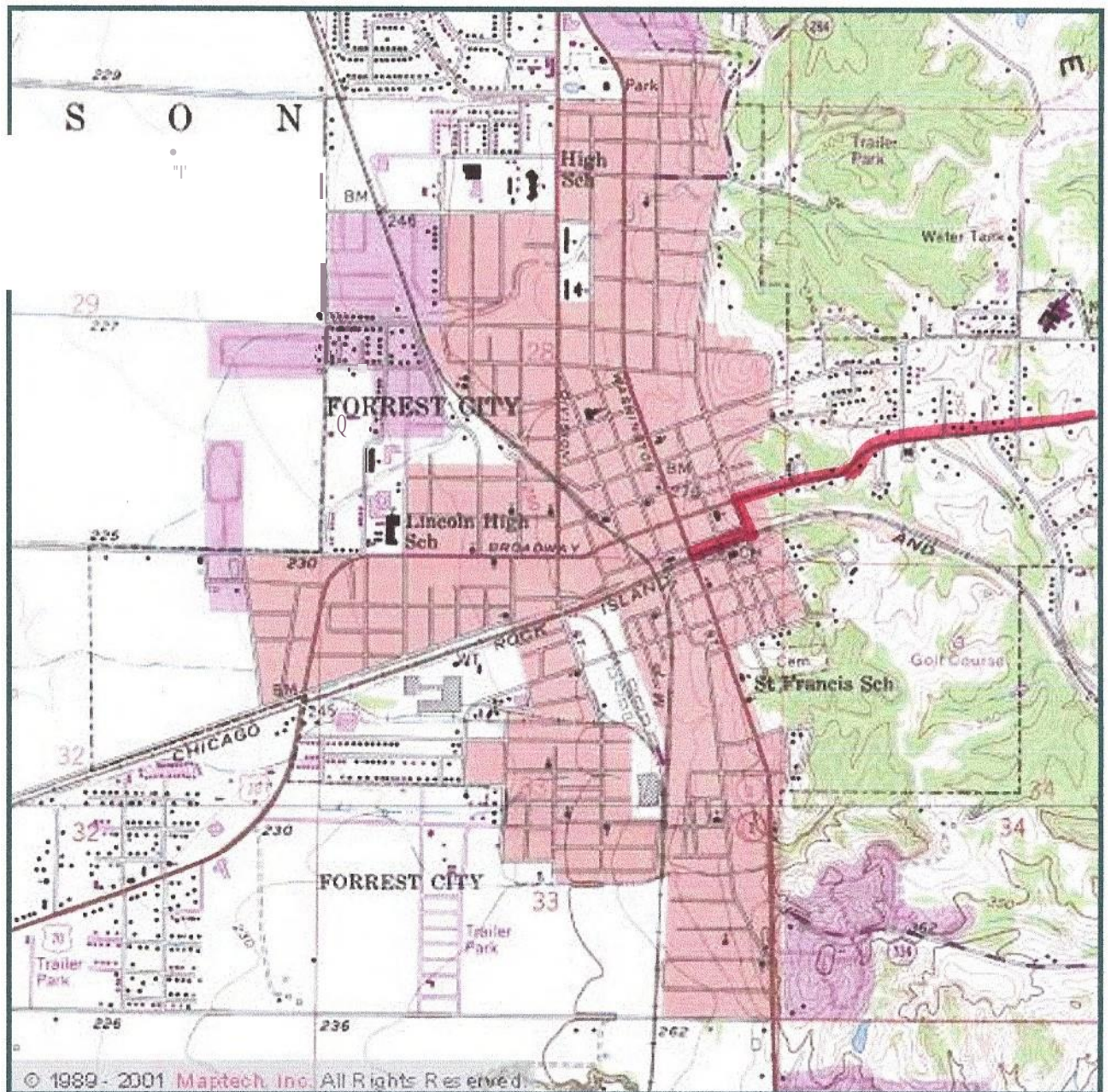
#### **Mount Vernon Cemetery**

Oldest active cemetery in the county.

#### **St. Francis County Museum**

Includes geologic, Native American, African-American and county historic exhibits. Also exhibits on famous county residents, including singer Charlie Rich and boxer Sonny Liston. Located in the 1905 Rush-Gates home once used as a family residence and physician's office





Forrest City



## Marianna, Lee County

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**M**arianna, one of the oldest towns in the Arkansas Delta, was founded in 1820 by settlers from Alabama and named for Mary Ann Harland, who donated the property for the town. It was incorporated in 1870 and became the county seat when Lee County was formed in 1873. In 2001, the downtown area was designated as an historic commercial district on the National Historic Register. Both the Crowley's Ridge Parkway and The Great River Road run directly through its downtown area.

Marianna is a typical county seat with the downtown business district built around a court square. As this section is located close to the L'Anguille River, the residential area is almost entirely to the south, southeast, north, northeast and west. Crepe myrtle and flowering crab apple trees, given in memory or in honor of individuals, line Chestnut, Main, Poplar and Martin Luther King Drive. Other memorial trees added in the last few years are Okame cherry, Shumard oaks and Pistacio. Approximately 30 street planters are placed around the downtown area. Various civic groups, businesses or individuals maintain the planters with seasonal flowers.

U.S. Flags have been purchased in memory or in honor of individual Veterans. There are approximately 200 flags put up and taken down by volunteers every Veterans Day, Memorial Day, Flag Day and the 4<sup>th</sup> of July.

Marianna Attractions:

### **Elks Club**

Constructed in 1911 by the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, Lodge 1178. In 1934, the Elks were forced to place the property on the market because of financial difficulties, and the building was acquired by the city as a community center. The Marianna Lions Club, whose charter dates back to 1949, has held all its meetings in the building. The Marianna Rotary Club, established in 1929, also has held all meetings at the Community House. The Mediterranean Revival-style building houses the Lee County Museum and the Marianna-Lee County Chamber of Commerce. Listed on the National Historic Register July 27, 1979.

### **General Robert E. Lee Monument**

The General Robert E. Lee Monument, erected by the D. G. Govan Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy in honor of Lee County's Confederate soldiers, was unveiled on Dec. 8, 1910. Listed on the National Historic Register May 10, 1996.

### **Lee County Courthouse**

By the mid-1930s Lee County decided to add onto the red brick courthouse it had built in 1890. Unlike several other Depression-era courthouse expansions in Arkansas, the

1936 addition was not a smaller extension attached to the back or side of the existing building, but a new building attached to the front of the existing structure. Visually different in both style and materials from the previous structure, the new courthouse updated the public image of the county's government. Architects George Mahan and Everett Woods used the Classical Revival style, which was considered more fashionable and representative of the county's ambitions. Listed on the National Historic Register Sept. 7, 1995.

### **Lee County Library**

Genealogy room and Arkansas history collection

### **Marianna Commercial District**

Located in portions of Chestnut, Liberty, E. Columbia, Mississippi, Poplar, Main, Court and Church Streets. Contains 1884-1950 buildings displaying Gothic Revival, Italianate, Neoclassical, Art Deco, and commercial architectural styles. Listed on the National Historic Register Jan. 4, 2001.

### **Marianna Downtown Walking Tour**

Walking tour of historic homes, churches and other buildings.

### **Marianna Missouri-Pacific Depot**

The Missouri-Pacific Depot in Marianna was constructed c. 1915 as part of the Missouri-Pacific Railroad's campaign to expand its network of rail lines throughout the country and to establish the railroad's corporate identity through the use of the Italianate/Mediterranean style for its passenger and freight depots. The construction of the Marianna depot coincided with the purchase of the St. Louis, Iron Mountain and Southern Railroad by the Missouri-Pacific Railroad and the construction campaign of new Missouri-Pacific depots along its expanding network throughout Arkansas. Listed on the National Historic Register Aug. 5, 1994.

### **Marianna/Lee County Museum**

Exhibits include a general store, parlor and kitchen, cotton farming, Civil War, World War II, agricultural and domestic displays. Housed in circa 1910 Elks Club building listed on the National Historic Register

### **McClendon-Mann-Felton Cotton Gin**

This state of the art cotton gin has a peak capacity of 50 bales per hour and an annual volume of approximately 45,000 to 50,000 bales. Lon Mann, one of the owners, was named 2000 National Ginner of the Year. Tours by appointment.

### **McClintock House, J. M.**

The J.M. McClintock house was designed by Charles L. Thompson c. 1912. It differs from the ordinary builder-designed bungalow in its sensitive scale, proportions, and attention to detail. Located on a main thoroughfare in the city, the house is an important component of its 1920s residential neighborhood. Listed on the National Historic Register Dec. 22, 1982.



**McClintock House, W. S.**

The McClintock House, a Neo-Classic Revival structure, was designed by Charles L. Thompson and built by J.A. Keedy in 1912. Thompson was the most prominent architect in Arkansas at the turn of the 20th century and was responsible for designing many of the state's finer structures. McClintock settled in Marianna in 1886 and worked in the logging business. He began a mercantile business later, and soon had a machinery franchise that furnished farmers in the surrounding area with equipment. House owned today by the C R. West family. Listed on the National Historic Register Dec. 28, 1977.

**Mixon-Evans Barn**

The Mixon-Evans Barn was built in 1923 on the property of Robert Lee Mixon, a Prominent Marianna businessman first president of the Bank of Marianna, and a state legislator. Mixon's barn was purchased by Elmer H. Evans in 1947. Evans' son, Ellis, built a shed roof extension on the south side of the barn, measuring 30 feet by 56 feet. The entire roof of the barn was covered with corrugated metal, and the exterior walls were painted white. Evans also built a timber frame, corrugated metal sheathed warehouse on the eastern elevation of the barn. Though there has been some deterioration to the addition, and some of its windows have been lost, the Mixon-Evans Barn stands as the finest extant example of a central drive gambrel-roofed barn in Marianna. Listed on the National Historic Register Nov. 18, 1999.

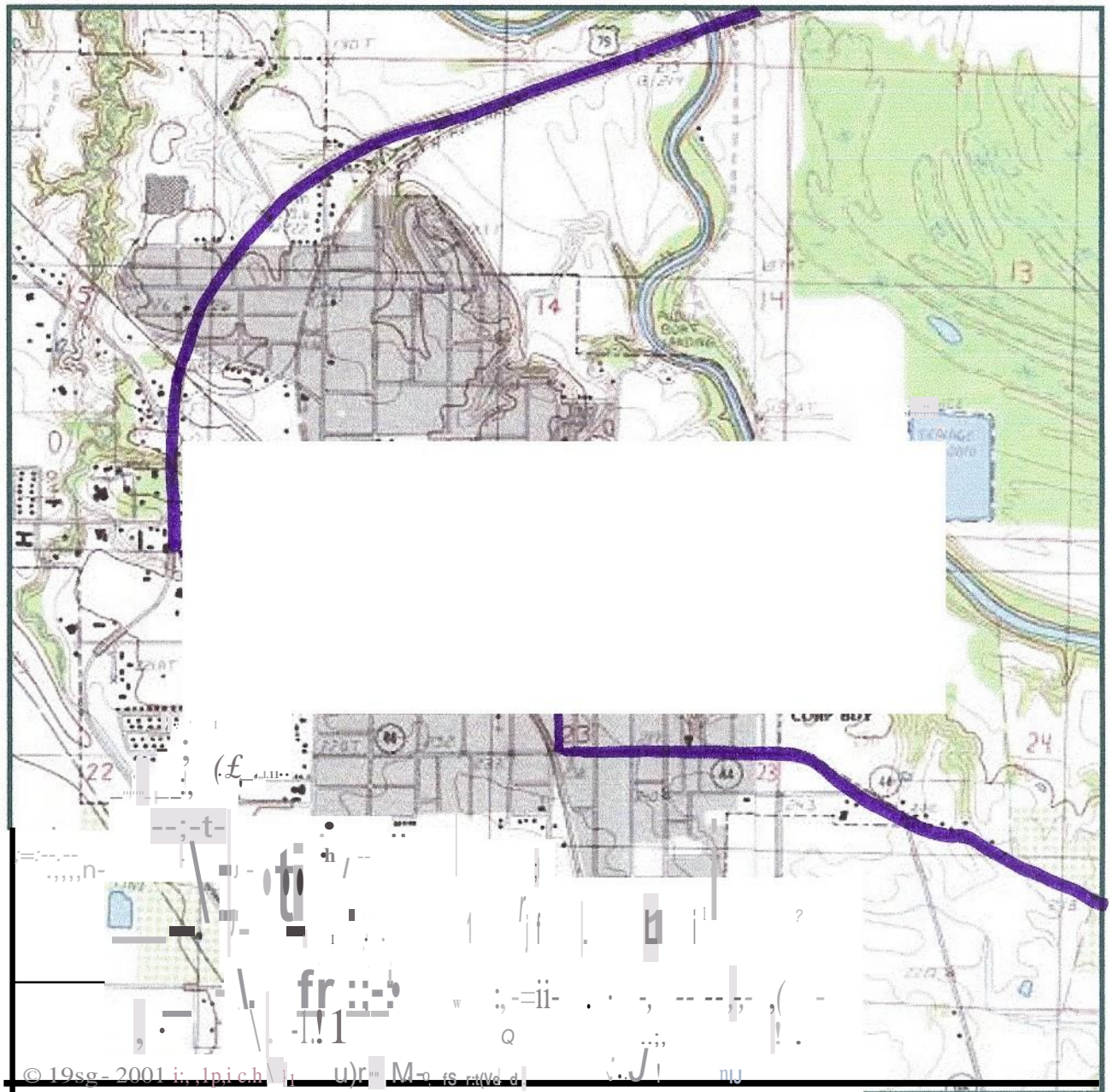
**Plummer House, John A.**

John A. Plummer, a native of Tennessee, moved to Marianna in 1897. By the early 1900s, Plummer had acquired enough wealth to build a substantial residence for his family, which included six sons. The house is an example of a transition between the Queen Anne and Colonial Revival styles. Listed on the National Historic Register June 16, 1998.

**University of Arkansas Cotton Branch Experiment Station**

Established in 1925, the Cotton Branch Station is known for developing improved cotton cultivars with genetic traits for faster fruiting and earlier maturity. An average of more than 30 research projects are conducted each year by university scientists. In addition to providing valuable information for Arkansas farmers, the field experiments provide training for young agricultural scientists and graduate students. Tours by appointment

**Birthplace:** Marianna is the birthplace of Rodney Slater, Federal Highway Administrator and later Secretary of Transportation during the administration of President Bill Clinton (1992-2000). It is also home to Anna P. Strong (nationally known educator), and Carroll Hewitt Hutchinson (Miss America 1929).



**Marianna**



# Helena, Phillips County

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Settlers began arriving in this area after being displaced by the 1812 New Madrid Earthquake and the War of 1812. Helena was named for the daughter of Sylvannus Phillips, a land speculator who laid out the town site in 1820. It became the county seat in 1830 and was incorporated in 1833, making it the second oldest incorporated city in Arkansas. (Little Rock was incorporated in 1831.) Helena is a Main Street community, and its citizens are working actively to restore buildings in the downtown area. The city also serves as the southern anchor for the Crowley's Ridge Parkway.

## Helena Attractions:

### **Allin Home**

The Allin Home is a two-story brick five-bay c. 1850s structure with a rear ell having a two-story front porch. It is an unusual transitional design having a classical, almost Antebellum plan with Victorian trim and detailing, particularly across the front two-story porch. The Allin Home is architecturally significant not only because of its transitional design, but also because of its relatively small size in relation to its imposing appearance. Henderson B. Robinson, the African-American reconstructionist assessor and sheriff of Phillips County, purchased the house in 1874. He died in 1881 and his widow sold the property to Simon Seelig in 1889. Seelig sold the property to Richard Allin in 1907, and it has remained in the Allin family since that time. Listed on the National Register June 4, 1973.

### **Almer Store**

In the early 1870s, the Ulrich Almers, a young couple from Iowa, built a flatboat and floated down the Mississippi River to Helena. The Almers, both Swiss immigrants who had come to the U. S. as children, dismantled the flatboat in Helena and used the wood to build their home, now known as the Almer Store. Though not officially used as a store by Almer, he used the little building to market milk products and to make cheese. In later years, other owners used the building as a neighborhood grocery. It was restored and reopened as an arts and crafts shop in the early 1970s. Listed on the National Historic Register Oct. 18, 1974.

### **Altman House**

A blend of Classical Revival and Arts and Crafts movement, the Altman House was constructed in Helena in 1914 for Gustave Altman. Altman was a prominent member of what was then a large Jewish community in the city. Reportedly the unique design of the house can be attributed to Altman's wife, Estelle, who served as her own "architect." No other residence in the city exhibits the unique combination of styles found in the Altman House. Listed on the National Historic Register Jan. 21, 1988.



**Battery A Site, Battle of Helena**

The Battle of Helena, on July 4, 1863, was an unsuccessful Confederate assault on the well-fortified Union garrison at Helena. The Union victory reaffirmed its control of eastern and northeastern Arkansas and made the capture of Little Rock possible later in the year. Union troops occupied the city in July 1862 and established a major supply depot for General Grant's siege of Vicksburg further downriver. Union forces in Helena, under the command of General Benjamin Prentiss, had developed a ring of defenses around the city to the west; four batteries on a series of hills and elevations guarding the northern, western, and southern approaches to the city. Battery A, the northernmost outpost, sat atop Rightor Hill overlooking Sterling Road and the Old St. Francis Road. It was listed on the National Historic Register Aug. 18, 1992.

**Battery B Site, Battle of Helena**

Remains of Union hilltop fortifications from the Battle of Helena, July 4, 1863. Listed on the National Historic Register Aug. 18, 1982.

**Battery C Site, Battle of Helena**

Battery C has been reduced in size, but remains an open hillside with trees and shrubbery. A portion of the Eastern slope was removed to help build the Mississippi River levee in the 1930s. It was the only Union battery to be captured during the Confederate assault in July 1863, but both the battery and battle were lost before additional artillery could be brought via the obstructed roads. Listed on the National Historic Register Dec. 1, 1978.

**Battery D Site, Battle of Helena**

Union Battery D covers about one acre of the hillside on Hindman Hill and has remained basically unaltered since the Civil War, when Confederates tried unsuccessfully to retake Helena. Listed on the National Historic Register on Sept. 17, 1974.

**Beech Street Historic District**

Many of the original houses in the northern section of the Beech Street Historic District were built by Union officers who remained in Helena after the Civil War. The 800 block of McDonough Street was known as Reconstruction Row, but none of these homes remain, and those extant date generally from the early 1900s. Many involved in the lumber industry also made their homes in the Beech Street area. In addition to the many historic structures, the district also contains a number of foot bridges and two full-lot gardens. The historic houses date from 1858 to 1935 and include examples of virtually all of the popular American architectural styles of the period. Listed on the National Historic Register Jan. 30, 1987.

**Centennial Baptist Church**

Dr. Elias Camp Morris, an African-American cleric who was instrumental in the solidification of Negro Baptists as a separate entity, became pastor Centennial Baptist Church in Helena in 1879, three years after the church was founded by members who had left Helena's original black congregation. Morris also held major state, national and international leadership positions. While traveling, he saw a church building that

impressed him and described it to one of his congregation, Henry James Price. Price had studied architecture at Howard University in Washington, D.C. and graduated summa cum laude. Price designed the building for Centennial Baptist Church. It is the only known example of an African-American church designed by an African American architect in Arkansas. The Gothic Revival structure was completed in 1905. Listed on the National Historic Register March 26, 1987.

### **Cherry Street Historic District**

As the regional hub of both Mississippi River and railroad traffic, and the seat of local government and industry, Helena prospered throughout the late 19th and early 20th centuries. All of the properties within the Cherry Street Historic District date from this period of prosperity, which ran from 1879-1935. Forty-four of the district's 55 buildings contribute to its architectural and historical significance. The oldest extant structure in the district, the Bank of Helena Building, was built in 1879 and retains its second floor fenestration with arched brick lintels and decorative muntins. Also in the district is the earliest extant theater, the Paramount, constructed c. 1930 with Spanish Colonial Revival detailing. Listed on the National Historic Register Aug. 17, 1987.

### **Coolidge House**

1880 Queen Anne cottage. Listed on the National Historic Register Sept. 8, 1983.

### **Delta Cultural Center**

A program of the Department of Arkansas Heritage, the center provides detailed looks at Delta heritage and culture. Housed in a 1912 Craftsman depot with Classical Revival influences. Listed on the National Historic Register Nov. 5, 1987.

### **Dixon Cemetery**

Focal point of the cemetery is a large, imposing obelisk-type monument marking the grave of the Rev. Elijah Camp Morris, D.D. Morris was the second pastor of Centennial Baptist Church in Helena, founder of Arkansas Baptist College, founders and publisher of the "Baptist Vanguard," and president of the National Baptist convention for 28 years. Members of his family, as well as other African-American Families, are buried here. Among these are Adams, Anderson, Clark, Cooper, and Drew families.

### **Estevan Hall**

Also known as the Hanks Homestead, Estevan Hall is probably the oldest structure in Phillips County. Since its construction in the 1820s, Estevan Hall has continually been owned and occupied by a member of the Hanks family. Three Hanks brothers, Fleetwood, James, and Millinder, were among the early settlers of Helena. In 1827, Fleetwood and Millinder bought a 10-acre tract on which Estevan Hall now stands. Though the exterior has been greatly altered, lines have retained their present appearance during most of the last century. In addition to hosting Hanks family weddings, Estevan Hall was the site of the marriage of Helen Keller's grandparents, Charles W. Adams and Lucy Helen Everett, on Sept. 29, 1845. The 1870s alterations of Estevan Hall seem to have been strongly influenced by the New Orleans French style prevalent further south of the river. Listed on the National Historic Register Oct. 22, 1974.

**Helena Confederate Cemetery**

The Helena Confederate Cemetery was created by the Phillips County Memorial Association in 1869. About 73 named and 29 unnamed gravestones are within its grounds. More than half of the bodies are casualties of the July 4, 1863 Battle of Helena, originally buried in other local graves and reinterred when the new cemetery opened. Many veterans who survived the war also chose to be buried there. It includes the burial site for Confederate General Patrick R. Cleburne. Listed on the National Register May 3, 1996.

**Helena Library & Museum**

Built in 1891, the Helena Library and Museum, also known as the Phillips County Library and Museum, is the oldest public building in Helena. As Helena's civic center at the turn of the century, the library was used for dances, receptions, and women's meetings. Religious services and school classes also were held there occasionally. It was not until 1914 that the main room of the building was used exclusively for library purposes. The museum wing was added in 1929 and displays Indian artifacts, personal effects of several individuals prominent in Helena's history, Civil War relics, and early documents related to Phillips County's history. The Helena Library and Museum is unusual in Eastern Arkansas because of its French mansard roof. Listed on the National Historic Register Dec. 6, 1975.

**Helena Reach River Park and Levee Walk**

Elevated boardwalk provides a great view of the Mississippi River

**Horner House, Sydney H.**

The Horner House was built c. 1880 by Michael Brennan, Helena's leading contractor. Brennan constructed the house for his family, but sold it to Sydney Horner in June 1882 before it was completed and after the birth of the Horners' first child. A larger house was needed as more children were born, and in 1895 a two-story wing was added to the east elevation. Originally the solid brick house had a rectilinear floor plan running north to south, but the addition gave it a "T" shape. Listed on the National Historic Register Dec.4, 1975.

**Keesee House**

The Keesee House in Helena provides an example of the transitional period in architecture at the turn of the century and reflects elements of both Queen Anne and Classical Revival styles. The house was built in 1901 for Thomas Woodfin Keesee, a prosperous farmer in Phillips County. The neighborhood was considered the showplace of the riverport community. Keesee was engaged in farming and cotton buying, both major businesses in Eastern Arkansas. Listed on the National Historic Register Sept. 8, 1983.

**Magnolia Cemetery**

African-American cemetery dating to 1850. Burials include one of first black legislators in Arkansas.



### **Maple Hill Cemetery**

Maple Hill Cemetery, once known as Evergreen, has stately magnolias, a river overlook, iron gates added in the 1920s, and an assortment of grave markers and unique cemetery design. The Evergreen Cemetery Company was incorporated in 1870 and divided roughly in half by a fence, with the western side for African-Americans, and the eastern side for whites. In 1898, the portion lying east of the fence was sold to the Maple Hill Cemetery Company, and in 1899 the portion lying west of the fence was sold to the Magnolia Cemetery. Maple Hill was listed on the National Register on April 6, 2000.

### **Moore-Hornor House**

The Moore-Hornor House is an early asymmetrical Greek Revival style. Built in 1858-59, it was a style-setter in Helena patterned after the newer Victorian style on the East Coast. It is one of the earliest examples of this type of architecture in Arkansas. In addition to its architectural significance, the main fighting during the Battle of Helena took place directly behind the Moore-Hornor House. It is amazing that the house escaped destruction because it was in the direct line of fire from Fort Curtis and Battery D. Listed on the National Historic Register June 4, 1973.

### **New Light Missionary Baptist Church**

The New Light Missionary Baptist Church in Helena was organized in 1894 on Natchez Street in an old saloon. The congregation consisted of 18 members and six Deacons. The congregation worshiped in three other structures before constructing the present building in 1917. Though the architect and/or builder remain unknown, the design could well have been inspired by the recently completed Centennial Baptist Church, which was designed by the noted African-American architect Henry James Price. Both reflect the influence of the Gothic Revival, though the interior of the New Light Missionary Baptist Church is less elaborate. Architecturally significant in its own right, it is a representative example of the minimalist interpretations of national architectural styles that were common to African American congregations in the Delta during this time period. Listed on the National Register on December 7, 1995.

### **Perry Street Historic District**

The importance of the Perry Street Historic District lies in the variety of the structures that make up the district. The Methodist Congregation and St. John's Episcopal Church are both designed in the Gothic style. The Classical Revival style Presbyterian Church served as a house of worship for the first Jewish settlers in Helena until they built a synagogue in 1913. The eleven residential structures comprise a chronology of residential architecture in Helena from 1900 to 1925. Most of the houses within the district, with the exception of the Queen Anne style houses, are small, modest residences. The Helena Library and Museum, built in 1891, also is located in district. Listed on the National Historic Register Jan. 26, 1986.

### **Phillips Community College, University of Arkansas**

Oldest community college in Arkansas. Home of the Warfield Concert Series and productions of the Helena Little Theatre

### **Phillips County Courthouse**

Phillips County's first courthouse was a two-story log structure that housed a courtroom on its second floor and a jail on the first floor. A two-story frame courthouse, completed in 1847, burned in 1861. No attempt was made to build another courthouse until after the Civil War. While a new courthouse was being constructed from 1868 to 1870, a privately owned building was rented for court purposes and county offices. The new two-story brick courthouse was completed in 1869. This building was razed when the current courthouse was completed in 1915. This rectangular-shaped two-story courthouse features a flat roof with a pent roof running around the structure detailed as classical cornices. The most distinctive features of the building are the recessed sections of cast-stone blocks with engaged fluted Corinthian columns set into the north, south, and west elevations. The Phillips County Courthouse was entered on the National Register on July 5, 1977.

### **Phillips County Museum**

Historical items include Civil War memorabilia

### **Pillow-Thompson House**

Built in 1896 by Jerome Bonaparte Pillow, the house is one of Arkansas' most outstanding examples of the Queen Anne Victorian architectural style. It has an ornate style executed completely in wood, with the exception of a brick foundation and chimneys. Basically unaltered and in an excellent state of preservation, the Pillow-Thompson House embodies practically all Victorian period vernacular in terms of very irregular shape, multiple bays, towers, turrets and dormers and the whole accomplished in the ultimate eclectic manner of the late 19th century style in the United States. The Pillow-Thompson House was listed on the National Register on May 7, 1973. It is owned and operated by Phillips Community College of the University of Arkansas and is open for tours.

### **Ready House, E.S.**

The E.S. Ready House is the only Helena residence known to have been designed by architect Charles L. Thompson of Little Rock. As one of the state's leading architects in the early 20th century, Thompson designed many buildings for both public and private use. Though on a smaller scale than most residential structures designed by Thompson, the E.S. Ready House displays other characteristics of his work. The two-and-one-half story brick structure was constructed in 1910 for Mr. and Mrs. E. S. Ready, prominent Helena residents. Listed on National Historic Register Jan. 1, 1976.

### **Richard L. Kitchens Post No. 41**

The Richard L. Kitchens Post No. 41, known locally as the Helena Legion Hut, is named for a Helena doughboy who was a private in the 312th Field Signal Battalion of the 87th Division in World War I. A temporary charter for the post was issued August 11, 1919, with the permanent charter issued a year later. Constructed in 1922, the Helena Legion Hut was designed in a rustic style by Helena Legionnaire H. W. Walters. Another Legionnaire, E. T. Walker, supervised the construction of the building. The cypress logs used in the walls were cut from the farm of a third Legion member, Robert Gordon. Listed on the National Historic Register Sept. 30, 1976.

### **Sea Wall Mural**

Depicts blues history and early scenes of the city

### **Short House, William A.**

Built in 1904, the William A. Short House is an example of the Colonial Revival architectural style. Short and his wife, Sallie Baker Short, came to Helena from Mobile, Ala. in 1885. Short had been hired by the Howell Cotton Company of Little Rock to supervise their Helena branch. He started his own cotton business, W.A. Short and Company three years later. In 1895, Short and Y.F. Harrington established a partnership and formed a cotton company that did more than \$5 million worth of business in 1902. The business was so prosperous that Short opened branch offices in Marianna, Pine Bluff, Brinkley, Newport, Cotton Plant, Clarendon, Forrest City, Marvell, Holly Grove, Osceola, and Memphis. Due to later financial losses, Short was forced to sell the house in 1917. In the mid-1980s, the house was renovated for use as a bed and breakfast. Listed on the National Historic Register April 18, 1985.

### **Short-Diesch House**

The Short-Diesch is one of the few Georgian Revival houses in Eastern Arkansas, and probably the best example in Helena. It was built in 1901 by Dr. Frank E. Short, a physician who had given up his practice to enter the more profitable cotton business. Dr. Short moved to Helena from Mobile, Ala., in 1885 with his father, Captain Edwin W. Short, and his brother, William A. Short. Dr. Short's first home at the site, along with his father's house next door, burned around 1900. The present Short house was built to replace the earlier home. Two other Short houses still stand on the same block. Captain Short's house is next door, and the William Short House can be found on the other corner of the block. Listed on the National Historic Register Oct. 18, 1974.

### **Sonny Boy Blues Hall**

### **Spirit of the American Doughboy Monument**

The Spirit of the American Doughboy Monument, commemorating the casualties of World War I, was the culmination of nine years of work by the Phillips County Memorial Association, with help from the Seven General Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy. The monument was completed and dedicated in 1927. Helena's Doughboy monument is not unique; it is part of a nationwide series of Doughboy sculptures designed by artist E. M. Viquesney. Although the exact total is uncertain, 136 Viquesney Doughboys have been identified so far in 35 states. Listed on the National Historic Register on May 23, 1997.

### **Straub House, William Nichols**

The William Nicholas Straub House was built by Straub himself in 1900 and combines a mix of features borrowed from the Shingle and Colonial Revival styles. William Nicholas Straub was very involved in the Helena community in 1900, including serving on the city's Board of Public Affairs and serving as treasurer of the Helena Chamber of Commerce. Listed on the National Historic Register April 18, 1985.



**Tappan House, James C.**

The James C. Tappan House is a two-story frame residence with three bays across the facade. It is basically Greek Revival in style and also has an original bracketed cornice that is normally considered Victorian. Tappan, who came to Helena from Tennessee as a young man, bought the partially completed house in 1858. Tappan served in the Arkansas General Assembly before and after the Civil War, including terms as Speaker of the House and acting Governor. He was a Confederate general in the Civil War and made a narrow escape from the home, which was occupied from time to time by Union officers. Listed on the National Historic Register June 4, 1973.

**Tappan House, Maj. James Alexander**

The Major James Alexander Tappan House, a typical Queen Anne style, was built c. 1892 to house one of Helena's most prominent families. Tappan, a native of Tennessee, joined the Confederate army at the age of 16. He was promoted to major within two years and earned the Bronze Cross of Honor. After the Civil War, he became a civil engineer and his work for a railroad brought him to Helena to survey the Arkansas Central Railway running from Helena to Clarendon. After completing his work with the railroad, he remained in Helena, successfully undertaking numerous business ventures and serving briefly as mayor. Listed on the National Historic Register Sept. 9, 1974.

**The Blues Corner****This Little Pig Antiques and Gifts**

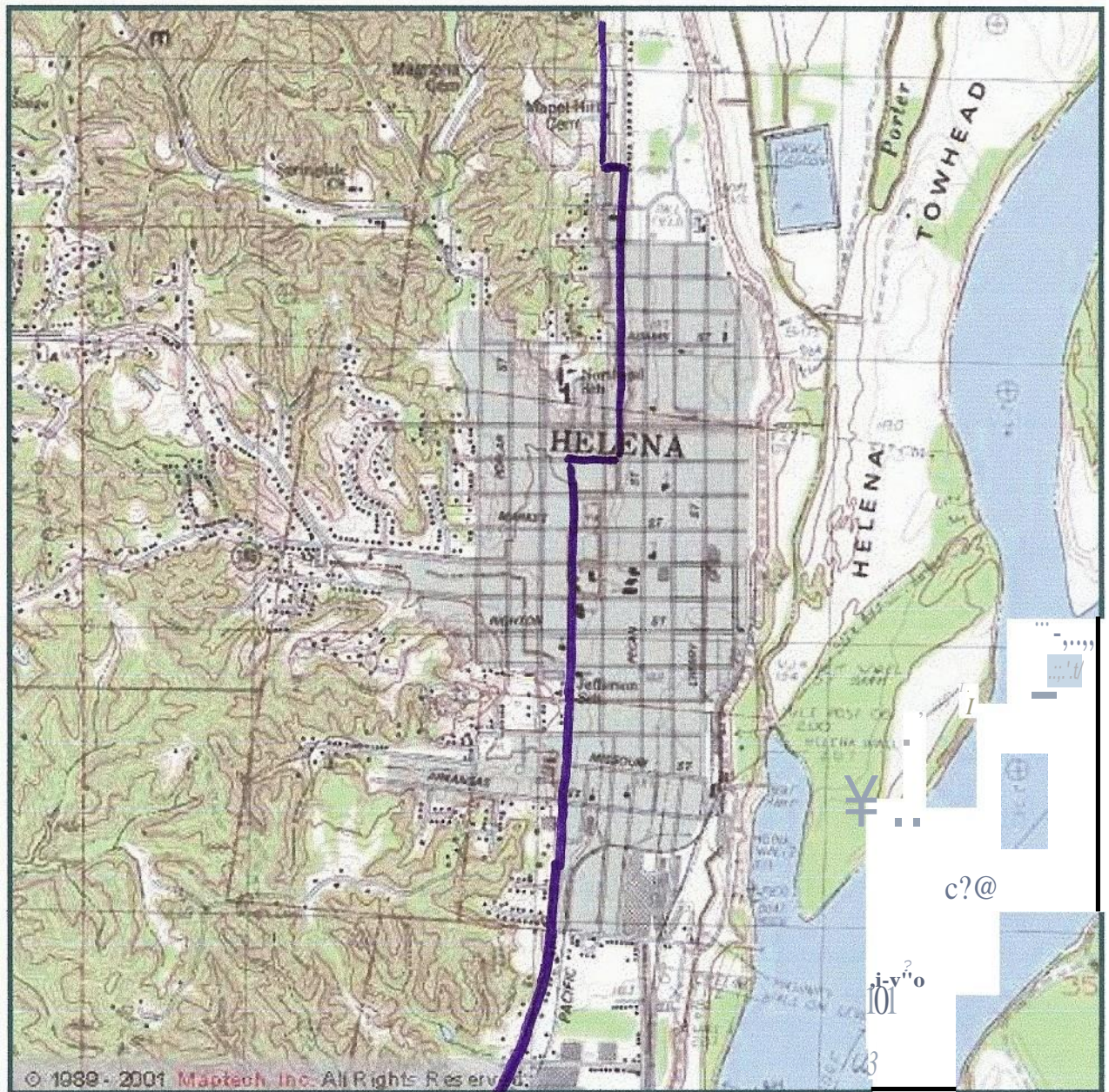
Known for hard-to-find blues, LPs, CDs, cassettes, books, videos, posters, photos, Apparel

**West House**

Constructed in 1900, the West House in Helena is an example of the Colonial Revival style. Some Queen Anne decorative detailing ties the house to others on the block which precede it by a few years. The house was built for Mercer Elmer West, a prominent banker and businessman, who hand-picked all the white oak used throughout the house. The house sits high on a terrace of Crowley's Ridge and commands a magnificent view of Helena and the Mississippi River. It was built by the Clem Brothers of St. Louis who came to the city to build several other homes in Helena. One of these, the Short-Bieri House, is a mirror image of the West House. Listed on the National Historic Register Sept. 8, 1983.

**White House**

The White House was designed by Charles L. Thompson c. 1910. It is an example of the transition from Victorian styling to Colonial Revival. Thompson usually designed transitional residences of wood, but the White House is of brick construction. Although Thompson designed several buildings in Helena, the two-story White House is the only one standing. Listed on the National Historic Register Dec. 22, 1982.



Helena



## West Helena, Phillips County

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**W**est Helena evolved as an industrial extension of the City of Helena, located five miles east. Founded in 1909, the city was built around factories and mills that Helena had no room for. West Helena was incorporated in 1920.

West Helena Attractions:

### **Chicago Mill Company Office Building**

The Chicago Mill Company Office Building is a single-story, wood-frame c. 1920 structure designed in a restrained version of the Craftsman style. The Chicago Mill Company was one of the largest wood processing industries to install a facility in West Helena during its boom years. It was one of the few to survive the Great Depression in the 1930s. Listed on the National Historic Register Oct. 31, 1996.

### **Denison House**

The Denison House is a one-and-one half story, brick masonry residence designed in a simplified version of the Colonial Revival style and considered to be the best example of the Colonial Revival style in West Helena. It was constructed by local builder J. W. Denison just north of Plaza Avenue in one of the first developed residential areas of the city. Denison also was first mayor of West Helena. Listed on the National Historic Register Oct. 31, 1996.

### **Faust House**

The Faust House, built in 1924, is a single-story, wood frame and brick masonry Spanish Revival style residence. Listed on the National Historic Register Oct. 31, 1996.

### **Gemmill-Faust House**

The Gemmill-Faust House, c. 1920, is a two-and-one-half story, wood frame and brick masonry Prairie style house. Listed on the National Historic Register Oct. 31, 1996.

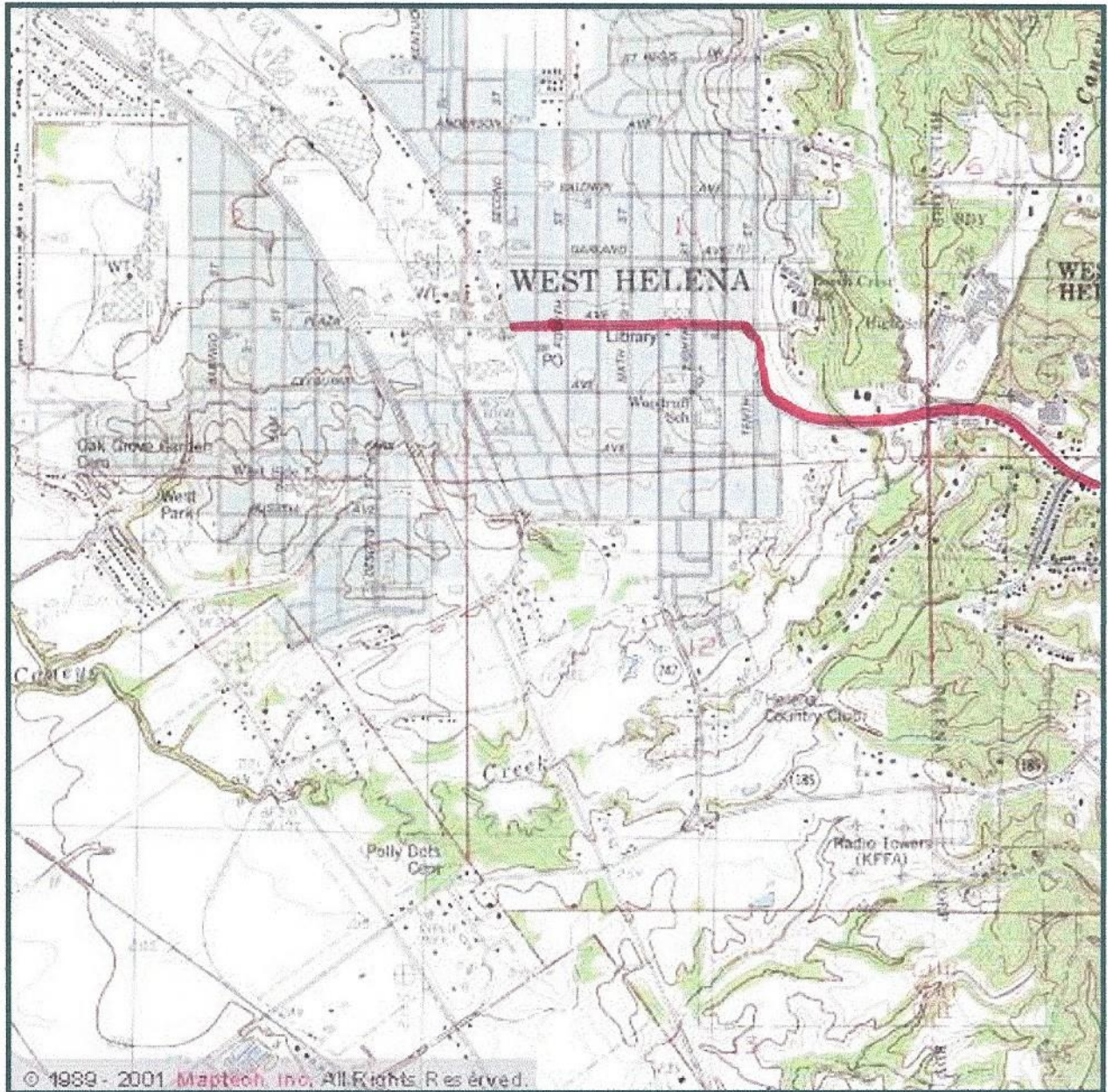
### **Myers House**

The 1920s Myers House is the best example of a combination of the Craftsman and Prairie styles in West Helena. It is a two-and-one-half story, wood frame and brick masonry residence. Listed on the National Historic Register Oct. 31, 1996.

### **Nelson House**

The Nelson House, a two-and-one-half story, wood frame and brick masonry residence, is the best example of an American foursquare-type house in West Helena. The Nelson House was listed on the National Register on Oct. 31, 1996.





## West Helena



## Brinkley, Monroe County

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In 1862, construction of the Little Rock and Memphis Railroad was begun at this site, using mostly Irish immigrants. The workers originally called the town Lick Skillet, because when the day's work was completed, the railroad crew cooked their supper over an open fire and didn't return home until the last skillet was licked! It was incorporated as a town in 1872. The city is currently working on a number of historic preservation projects, including restoration of the 1912 Rock Island Depot.

Brinkley Attractions:

**Black Family House, Major William**

1895 Queen Anne-style residence. Listed on the National Historic Register Dec. 12, 1976

**Brinkley Convention Center and Sports Complex**

New 12,000 square foot facility features regulation softball fields and a pavilion with grills

**East Lake Unlimited II**

Antiques, collectibles, glass, pottery

**Gazzola and Vaccaro Building**

1916 Charles L. Thompson Prairie style design. Listed on the National Historic Register Dec. 22, 1982

**Grizzle Warehouse**

Flea market with more than 50 booths in old Rock Island Freight House. Antiques, collectibles, glassware, primitives, good furniture

**Lick Skillet Railroad Work Station Historic District**

Includes the 1912 Rock Island Depot, the Rusher Hotel, concrete concourse and small park space. Listed on the National Historic Register June 1, 1992

**Lo Beele House**

1910 Charles L. Thompson Colonial Revival style design. Listed on the National Historic Register Dec. 22, 1982

**Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church**

1909 Gothic-detailed church serving Brinkley's African-American community. Listed on the National Historic Register Nov. 4, 1986

**Rusher Hotel**

1915 railroad hotel. Now the home of Low's Bridal and Formal Shoppe, which

attracts prospective brides from all over the state and nation. Listed on the National Historic Register July 18, 1986.

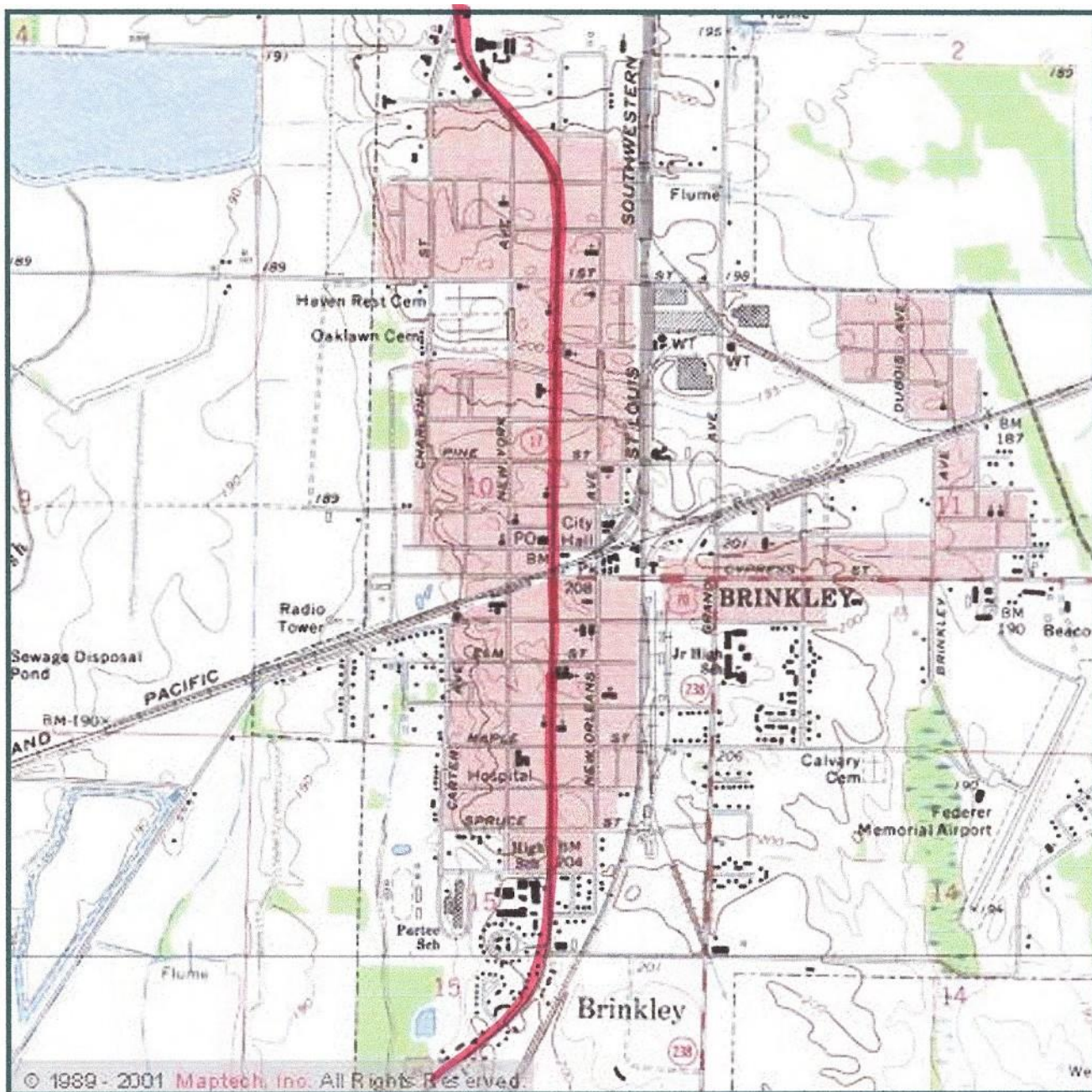
**St. John the Baptist Catholic Church**

1875 wood-frame church changed to brick-veneer Neoclassical appearance around 1928. Listed on the National Historic Register Oct. 2, 1992.

**Timeless Treasures**

Antiques, gifts and accessories





## Brinkley



## Clarendon, Monroe County

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First a prehistoric Indian site, this land was sold as a Spanish land grant in 1803. Around 1827, it was purchased by land speculator Sylvannus Phillips for use as a ferry crossing on the White River for the Memphis-Little Rock Military Road. Its post office, Mouth-of-the-Cache, was renamed Clarendon in 1837, possibly for the Earl of Clarendon. It became the county seat in 1857 and was incorporated in 1859. Although virtually destroyed during the Civil War in retaliation for sinking the Federal ironclad, Queen City, it was reincorporated in 1898.

The City of Clarendon has numerous structures on the National Historic Register. For the past two years, the community has been working with the Arkansas Nature Conservancy on a development project, Visions for Clarendon, which is developing the city's natural, cultural and economic assets, with a special emphasis on ecotourism.

### Clarendon Attractions:

#### **Anderson Boarding House**

1921 Craftsman-influenced boarding house. Listed on the National Historic Register Nov. 1, 1984.

#### **Bank of Clarendon**

1924 Classical Revival design. Listed on the National Historic Register Nov. 1, 1984.

#### **Bateman-Griffith House**

1930 English Revival design by Memphis architect Estes Mann. Listed on the National Historic Register Nov. 1, 1984.

#### **Bondi Brothers Store**

1904 Italianate-influenced structure. Listed on the National Historic Register Nov. 1, 1984.

#### **Bounds Building**

1917 largely unaltered structure. Listed on the National Historic Register Nov. 1, 1984.

#### **Clarendon Civil War Marker**

Commemorates skirmish at Clarendon in which Confederate troops captured and sank the Union gunboat, Queen City, on June 24, 1864. After skirmishes with three additional Union gun-boats, Confederates withdrew to camp south of town and Union troops burned all private and public buildings in Clarendon not protected by Confederate sharpshooters.

**Clarendon Methodist-Episcopal Church, South**

1912 Classical Revival design by Memphis architect John Gaisford. Listed on the National Historic Register Nov. 1, 1984.

**Cumberland Presbyterian Church**

1869-70 wood-frame church has served numerous civic groups over the years. Listed on the National Historic Register July 30, 1976.

**Ellas-McKay House**

1908 structure features Queen Anne and Eastlake-style details. Listed on the National Historic Register Dec. 8, 1978.

**Ewan Building**

c. 1902 structure features pressed-metal façade. Listed on the National Historic Register Nov. 1, 1984.

**Galloway House, Orth C.**

1920 Colonial and Classical Revival-style house by Knoxville architect George Franklin Barber. Listed on the National Historic Register May 23, 1980.

**Goldman and Son Store**

1893 oldest commercial building in town. Listed on the National Historic Register Nov. 1, 1984.

**Highway 79 Bridge**

1930-31 double-span, Warren-truss steel bridge. Listed on the National Historic Register Nov. 1, 1984.

**Jefferies Building**

c. 1904 commercial building with pressed-metal façade. Listed on the National Historic Register Nov. 1, 1984.

**Jefferies-Crabtree House**

1923 Colonial Revival design by Memphis architect Estes Mann. Listed on the National Historic Register Nov. 1, 1984.

**Manning, Lee, and Moore Law Office**

1895 Queen Anne-style building has served as law office for generations. Listed on the National Historic Register Nov. 1, 1984.

**Marston House**

1870 Greek Revival-style residence. Listed on the National Historic Register Nov. 1, 1984.

**Merchants and Planters Bank**

1921 Charles L. Thompson Classical Revival style design. Listed on the National Historic Register Dec. 22, 1982.



**Midland Depot**

c. 1910 Arkansas Midland Railroad Depot. Listed on the National Historic Register Nov. 1, 1984.

**Monroe County Courthouse**

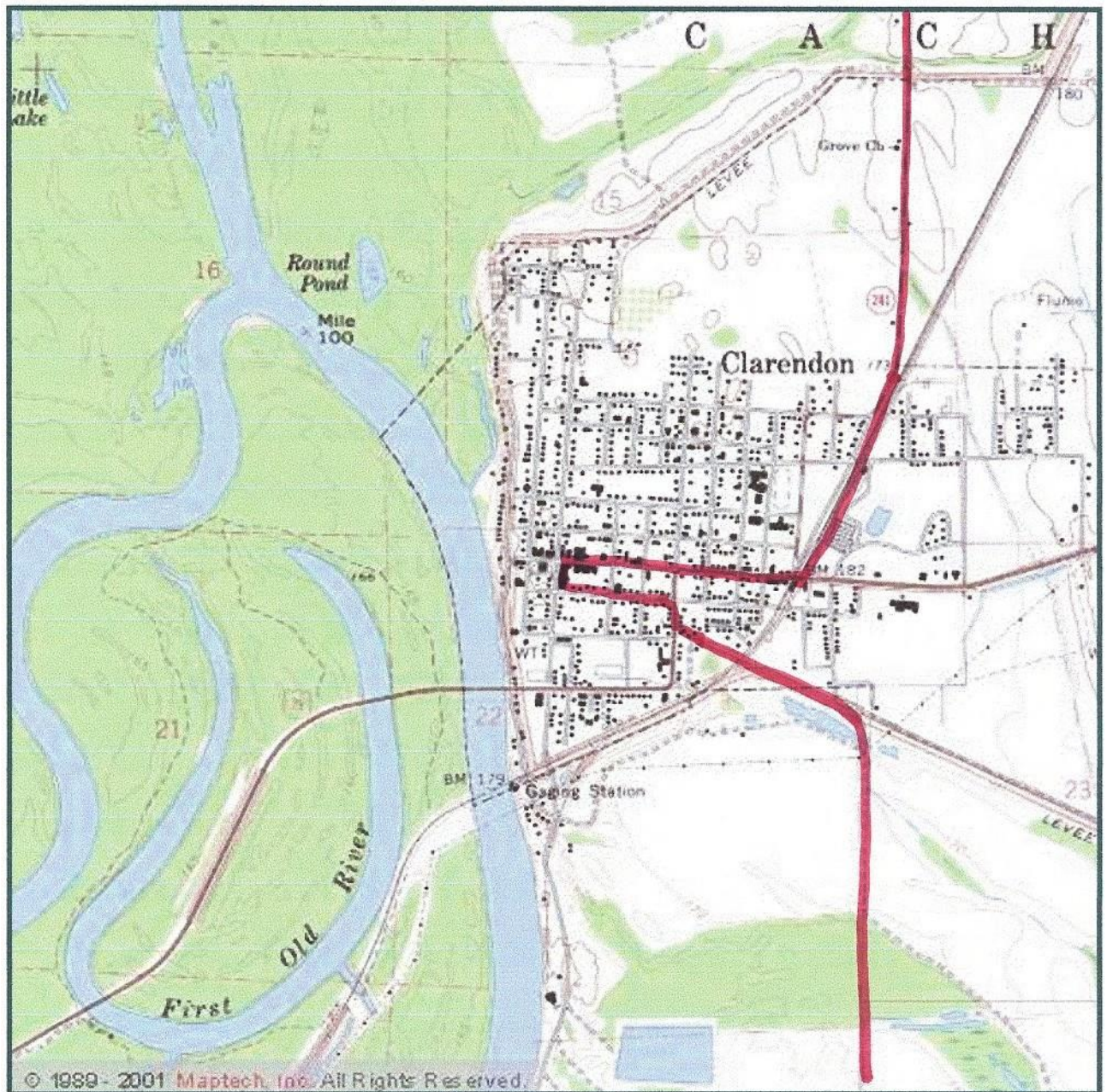
1911 Classically influenced design by Charles L. Thompson. Listed on the National Historic Register Oct. 14, 1976.

**Moore-Jacobs House**

c. 1870 Greek Revival structure. Listed on the National Historic Register Sept. 29, 1983.

**New South Inn**

c. 1902 historic hotel. Listed on the National Historic Register Nov. 1, 1984.



## Clarendon



## St. Charles, Arkansas County

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**S**t. Charles was originally settled by Colonel Charles Belknap, who bought a land grant in 1839 and named the settlement Belknap Bluff. It is said that Hernando de Soto crossed the White River at this point in 1541. In 1851 the name of the town was changed by Colonel Belknap in honor of King Charles of Spain who reigned during the time of De Soto. St. Charles was incorporated in 1880. Many duck hunters come to St. Charles and stay in one of the numerous duck hunting lodges. Some of the lodges are beginning to open during months after duck hunting season to accommodate bird watchers.

St. Charles Attractions:

### **Naomi's Gifts & Creations**

#### **St. Charles Battle Monument**

Battle monument commemorates fallen soldiers of both Confederate and Union forces in "Battle of St. Charles" where the single most deadly shot of the Civil War was fired into the boiler of a Union gunboat, the Mound City, killing or injuring most of the crew. Listed on the National Historic Register May 3, 1996.

#### **St. Charles Battle Site**

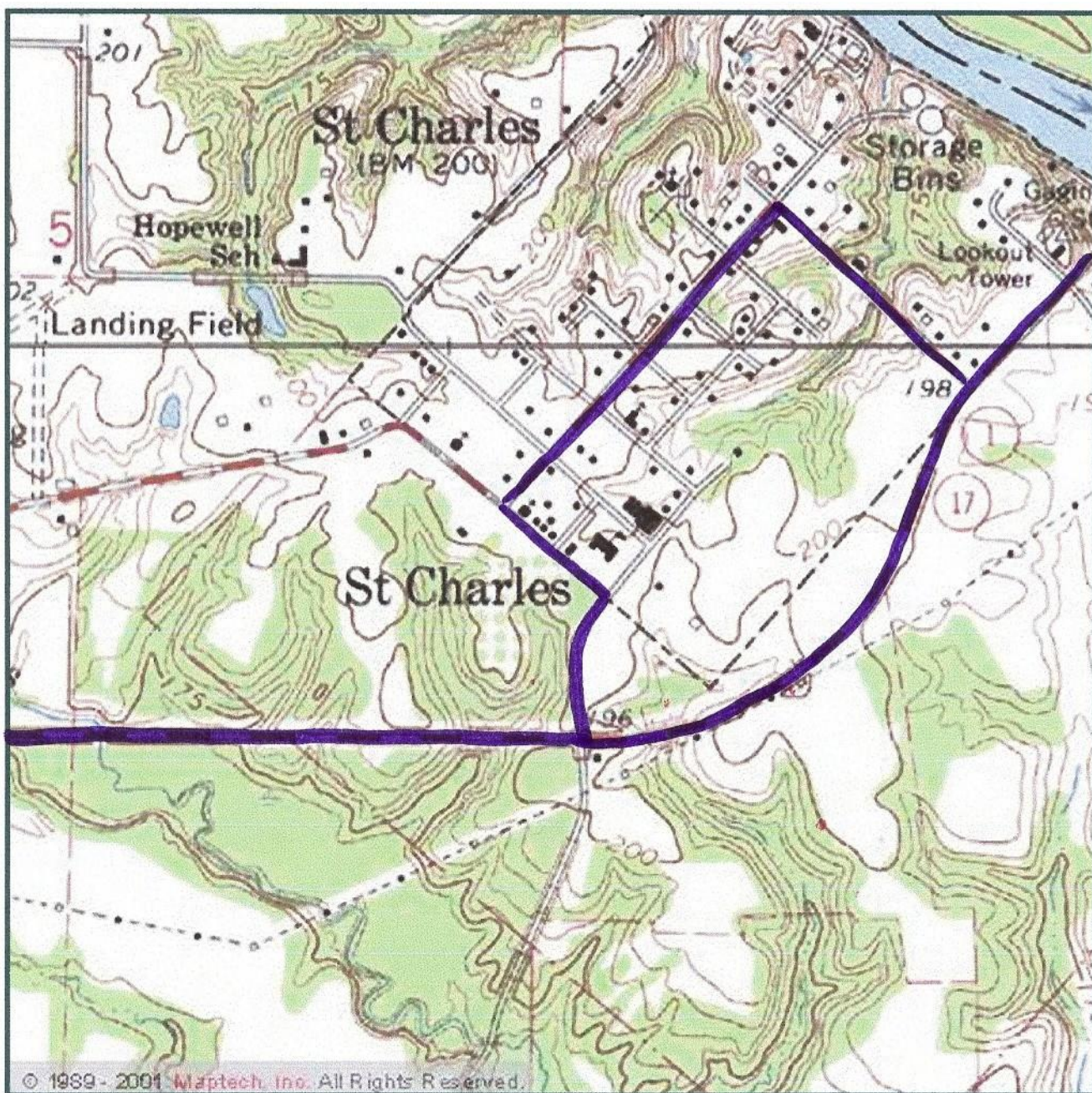
Site of naval and land battle on June 17, 1862. Listed on the National Historic Register Dec. 2, 1974.

#### **St. Charles Community Store**

#### **St. Charles Museum**

Museum of regional history.





**St. Charles**



## Stuttgart, Arkansas County

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**S**tuttgart, a rural agricultural town, was settled by German Lutheran immigrants from Stuttgart in 1878. The city was laid out in 1882, two years after the arrival of the Texas and St. Louis Railroad. It has developed into the rice and duck capitol of the world. Visitors come from all corners of the earth to view the abundant grain fields and historic late 19<sup>th</sup> century homes.

Stuttgart Attractions:

### **Antiques on Park Avenue**

#### **Arkansas County Courthouse-Northern District**

1928 Classical Revival-style structure. Listed on the National Historic Register Nov. 20, 1992

#### **Arts Center of the Grand Prairie**

Local and regional works, plus music and theater. Ongoing exhibits and once-a-year art festival

#### **Chick Major Duck Call Collection**

Famous duck call collection of the late Chick Major, maker of Dixie Mallard Duck Calls

#### **Heart of Arkansas Farm Tours**

Visits to rice and soybean operations, prairie lands and the Stuttgart Agricultural Museum

#### **Mack's Sports Shop**

Everything for the hunter

#### **Pintail Peninsula, Inc.**

World-class facilities next to some of the best duck hunting in the world

#### **Riceland Foods**

World's largest miller and marketer of rice. Has barge loading facilities on the Mississippi and Arkansas Rivers.

#### **Riceland Hotel**

1923 hotel designed by Mann & Stern architectural firm. Listed on the National Historic Register May 21, 1986.

#### **Standard Ice Company Building**

1926 building designed in Spanish Colonial Revival style. Listed on the National Historic Register July 2, 1979.

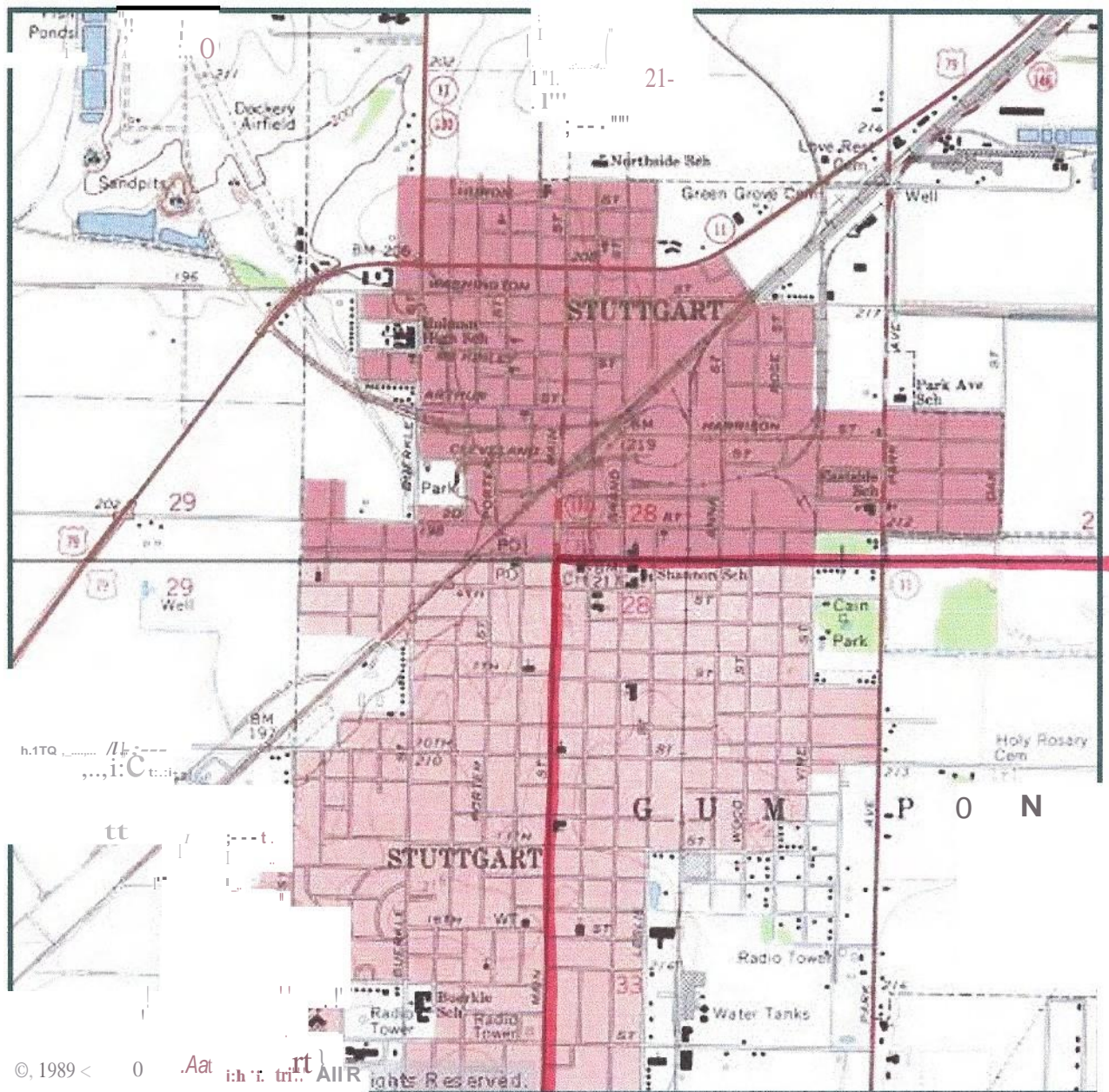
**Stuttgart Agricultural Museum**

Main museum in a 20,000 square foot facility documents the beginning of agriculture on the prairie and clearly displays the way people lived, played, worked and worshipped. Simulated early morning duck hunt, early tools, machinery, household goods, toys, musical instruments and clothing. On the outside grounds, an early settlers prairie home, a beautiful church, and an original turn of the century school, a firehouse and print shops. All furnished in original trappings of the late 1800s and early 1900s.

**Stuttgart City Park**

Adjacent to the museum





Stuttgart



## DeWitt, Arkansas County

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**D**eWitt, an Indian village until 1816, was selected as the county seat in 1852 and platted as a townsite in 1854. Slips of paper were drawn to determine who would get to pick the name. Surveyer Adam McCool won the right and chose to honor DeWitt Clinton, a New York politician and sponsor of the Erie Canal.

DeWitt Attractions:

**Adams Industrial Iron Works**

Contact Chamber of Commerce for tours

**Arkansas County Courthouse- Southern District**

1931 Art-deco style. Listed on the National Historic Register Nov. 20, 1992

**Cormier Rice Milling Company**

Contact Chamber of Commerce for tours

**DeWitt Branch/Phillips Community College**

**DeWitt City Park**

Thirty-five acre park, free fishing, mile-long paved walking path, and playground.

**DeWitt Post Office**

1939 Depression-era mural. Listed on the National Historic Register Aug. 14, 1998

**Farely Lake/Rollison Seed Company**

**First United Methodist Church of DeWitt**

Building was reconstructed in 1923 after fire damage. It is an excellent example of Charles Thompson architecture. Listed on the National Historic Register Sept. 4, 1992. Plans underway to restore and use as museum featuring private Bible collection.

**Halliburton House,**

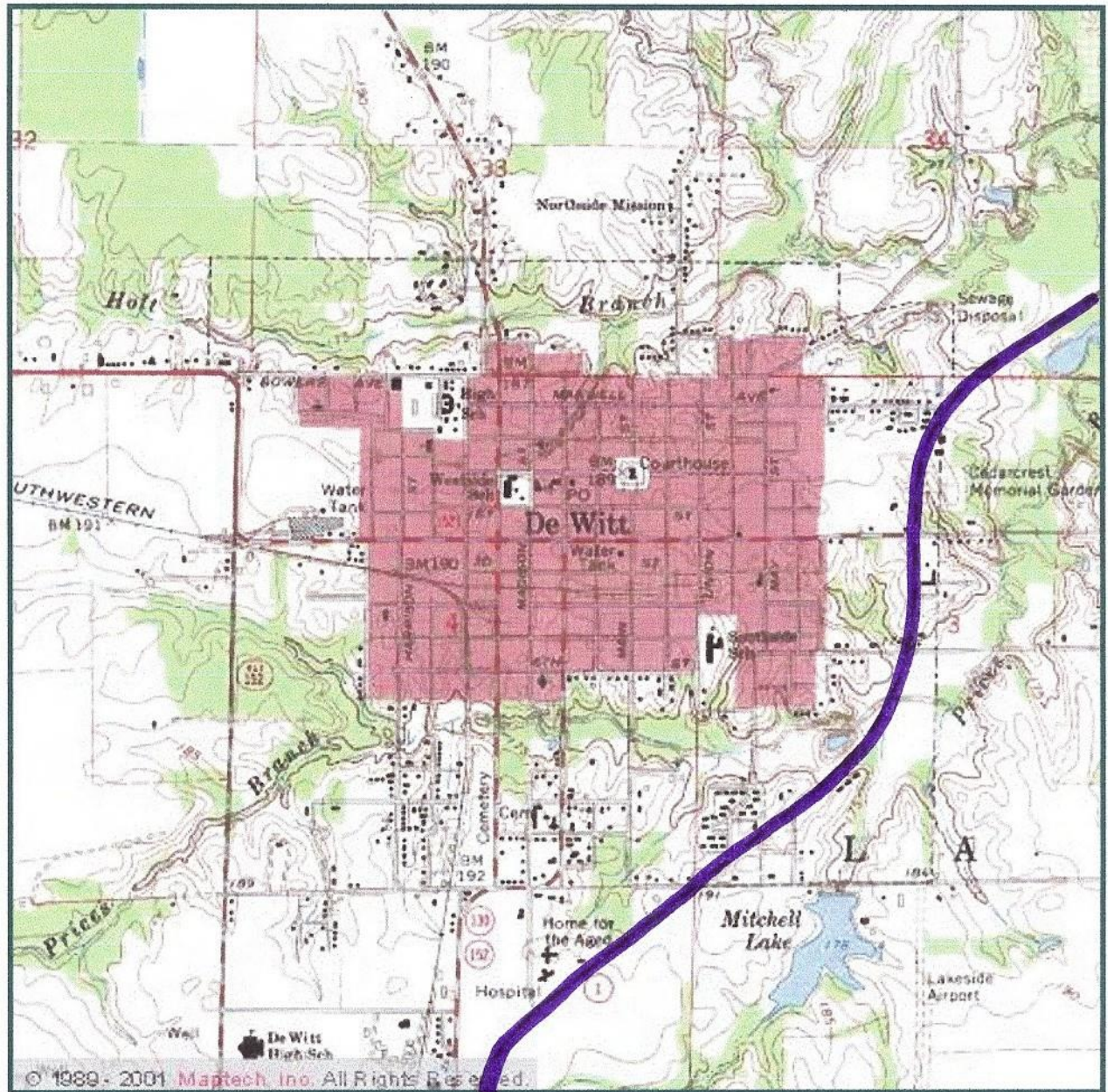
Circa 1850 home of prominent local politician. Listed on the National Historic Register Nov. 5, 1974.

**Local Farm Tours**

**Shopping**

Deans Pharmacy & Gifts, Economy Drug/Simple Pleasures, Gallery G Antiques and Gifts, Lady Bug, Sisters' Treasures





## De Witt





## Dumas, Desha County

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**D**umas is a community of rich agricultural resources, light industry, and abundant outdoor recreation. The town was named for W. B. Dumas who purchased the land in 1851 for \$1.25 per acre. Although he built a general store and a cotton gin in the area, the site was not incorporated until 1904.

The city has a new community center and a major municipal complex. The downtown area is part of the Main Street Arkansas program and is undergoing revitalization. Main Street Dumas has received funding through the federal Transportation Enhancements fund in the amount of \$380,000 to improve the streetscape, which includes the sidewalks, landscaping, vintage lighting, bench seating and trash receptacles. The streetscape project will begin by August 2001. The town also received a \$95,800 grant from the Rural Development Administration to purchase and renovate the Adams Building.

Dumas Attractions:

### **Billy Free Memorial Park**

#### **Bob Hoagland Walking Trail**

Hiking on the Bob Hoagland Walking Track provides an opportunity for travelers to stop in a safe area for recreation. Handy parking.

#### **Desha County Museum**

Five restored buildings recreate pioneer life in the area

#### **Dollar General Building**

First Dollar General store was in Dumas. Property on Main Street was recently given to city for development.

#### **Dumas Community Center**

#### **McKennon Gin**

Recently given to city for use as a park, cultural center and nature gardens, including an outdoor pavilion

#### **McKennon-Shea House**

c. 1910 home of early Dumas entrepreneur, cotton planter and landowner. Now the home of Ken and Debbie Shea. Listed on the National Historic Register June 8, 1993.

#### **Meador's Pharmacy**

Tuna sandwich is a favorite at the old-fashioned 1940s soda fountain

**Merchants & Farmers Bank**

1912 Classical Revival design by Charles L. Thompson. Now used as the Dumas Chamber of Commerce. Listed on the National Historic Register Dec. 22, 1982.

**Miller's Mud Mill**

Crafts Shop

**Tanenbaum Theatre**

Community theatre productions. Currently being restored, including preservation of historic mural on north side

**Watts House, Dr. J. D.**

c. 1909 structure with Queen Anne and Colonial Revival elements. Listed on the National Historic Register Dec. 4, 1994.

**Wolff Brothers Department Store**

Established in 1925



## Dumas





## McGehee, Desha County

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**F**ounded in 1905, this town was named for Abner McGehee, a successful, local farmer. The town was not firmly populated until the Memphis, Helena & St. Louis Railway completed its line in 1906, the year the town was incorporated. It is said that De Soto may have passed through this area, and one account states that he may have died nearby.

McGehee Attractions:

**IBM, Inc. (I Believe in McGehee)**

Landmark Malco Theater Building is the setting for concerts, entertainment and special attractions; equipment for movies and a full stage for live events

**Kelley's Drug Store**

Old-fashioned soda fountain. Gifts including crystal, silver, paintings, prints, Aromatique products

**Missouri-Pacific Depot**

c. 1910 Mediterranean/Craftsman-style structure. Listed on the National Historic Register June 11, 1992.

**Parnell-Sharpe House**

1936 French Eclectic-style house. Listed on the National Historic Register Sept. 28, 1989.

**Periwinkle Place**

Quaint gift shop with gift items, home accessories and toys

**Senior Citizens Park**

**Temple Meier Chayim**

Ethnic & Racial Minority Settlement MPS. 1947 synagogue with Romanesque/Mission-style design. Listed on the National Historic Register April 22, 1999.

**Trippe-Holly Grove Cemetery**

Trippe Junction cemetery with burials dating to 1859. Listed on the National Historic Register June 25, 1999.

**Wiley McGehee Park**

Well-maintained park is beautiful year-round and includes cypress trees, magnolias and more. Picnic facilities available. During Christmas holidays, thousands of lights are strung on metal "trees" standing in the pond.



McGeehee



## Monticello, Drew County

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**F**ounded in 1849, Monticello is presumably named for the Virginia home of President Thomas Jefferson. Many early settlers in Drew County were families originally from Virginia. The town was incorporated in 1852, and is the home of the University of Arkansas at Monticello.

A local businessman, Richard Akin, has recently completed work on one side of the old-fashioned downtown square. His efforts have enhanced the beauty and appeal of the downtown area, and other similar projects are underway.

Monticello Attractions:

**Arkansas Archeological Survey Research Station-Monticello**

Located on the campus of the University of Arkansas at Monticello

**Ashley, Drew and Northern Railroad Depot**

**Cavaness House, Garvin**

1906 Classical Revival residence. Listed on the National Historic Register May 23, 1980.

**Drew County Courthouse**

1932 Classical Moderne-style. Listed on the National Historic Register Oct. 17, 1997.

**Drew County Historical Museum**

Grandiose old home now houses a museum with antique furniture, printing press, clothing, military items, toys, Native American artifacts and other memorabilia.

**Farmers' Market**

Every Tuesday and Thursday morning in the summer and fall on downtown square.

**Hardy, Robert Lee, House**

1908-09 Colonial Revival home. Listed on the National Historic Register April 26, 1982.

**Hollywood Cinema**

State-of-the-art six-screen movie theatre with surround sound and rocking seats.

**Hotchkiss House**

c. 1895 house designed by architect S. C. Hotchkiss to reflect a variety of styles. Listed on the National Historic Register Dec. 12, 1976.

**Lake Monticello**

New 1,500-acre lake was built for use as potential backup water supply. It is now used for recreational purposes and boasts some of the biggest large mouth bass in the state.



**Lambert House**

1905 Colonial Revival structure. Listed on the National Historic Register Dec. 22, 1983.

**Monticello Confederate Monument**

1915 commemorative marker. Listed on the National Historic Register April 26, 1996.

**Monticello Post Office**

Depression-era sculpture at post office. Listed on National Historic Register Aug. 14, 1998.

**North Main Street Historic District**

Beautiful old homes, churches and oak trees grace this area. Includes 20 structures dating 1845-1925 and reflecting several styles. It features homes built by Trotter and McCloy families, early Monticello residents, and is also home to the Wood Avenue Presbyterian Church built in 1907. Listed on the National Historic Register Feb. 2, 1979.

**Rough and Ready Cemetery**

Graves from the first settlement in Drew County include some of Confederate soldiers. Listed on the National Historic Register Nov. 22, 1999.

**Southeast Arkansas Concert of Arts**

Brings plays, music and drama to the area, with four or five events per year.

**Southeast Arkansas Concert of Arts****St. Mary's Episcopal Church**

1906 Gothic Revival-style church building. Listed on the National Historic Register  
Listed on the National Historic Register April 4, 1996.

**Trotter House Bed and Breakfast**

Renovated 1896 home in the heart of the Historic District.

**Turner Neal Museum**

Fascinating exhibits emphasize the rural history of Arkansas

**University of Arkansas at Monticello**

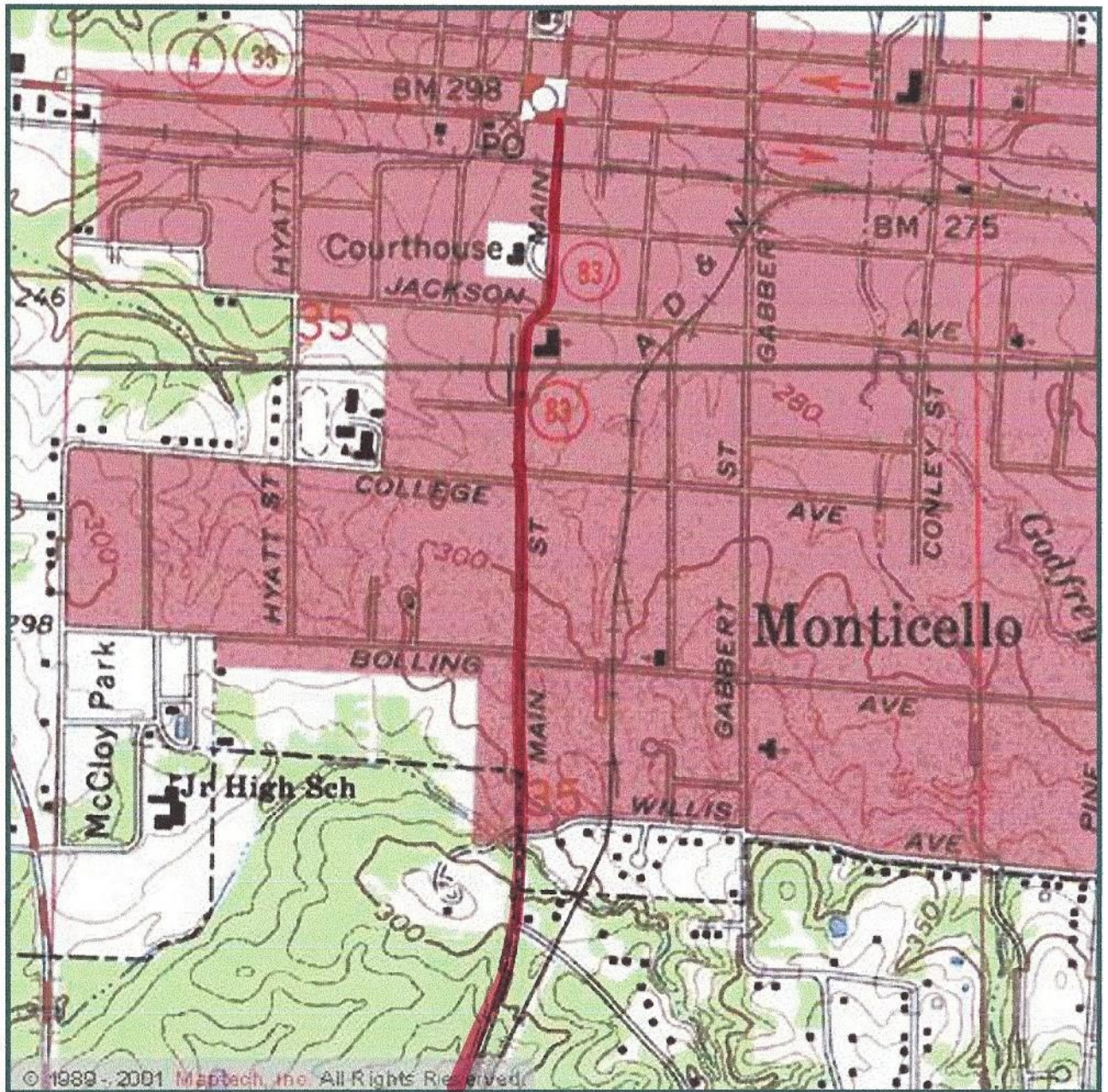
Known for its excellent School of Forestry and its Fine Arts Center

**Veasey-DeArmond House**

c. 1850 vernacular Greek Revival farmhouse. Listed on the National Historic Register  
Sept. 14, 1989. 15 miles south of Monticello on U. S. 81.

**Walls of Sacrifice Memorial Monument**

Honors hometown residents lost to war.



## Monticello



# Arkansas City, Desha County

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**A**rkansas City was incorporated in 1873 and became the county seat in 1881. It was settled by refugees from nearby Napoleon after that city was devastated by two major floods and completely washed away by the river in 1874. Between 1873 and 1927 Arkansas City was one of the most important ports on the Mississippi River, with a population at one time of 15,000 people.

The Flood of 1927 was the greatest disaster ever suffered by the county. Breaks in the Arkansas and Mississippi River levees within the county covered the land with water from four to 30 feet deep in April. The flood swept away the lumber mills and resulted in the river channel, once just a stone's throw from "Front Street," being relocated a mile to the west. A drought and the Depression of 1930s followed the flood. Years were required for the county to recover, but enough of the town's history remains to make it a great tourist attraction. Visitors clearly have the feeling of stepping back in time in the tranquil setting of this town nestled in the bend of the Mississippi River Levee.

With the help of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program over the past five years, four structures in imminent danger of being lost have been restored and all are now listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The city now boasts seven buildings on the Register, with another seven deemed eligible.

## Arkansas City Attractions:

### **Arkansas City Cemetery**

Application pending for inclusion on National Historic Register. Cemetery is 150 years old. Some of the gravesites are atop an Indian burial mound.

### **Arkansas City Commercial Historic District**

1900-1910 commercial buildings. Listed on the National Historic Register Feb. 18, 1999.

### **Arkansas City High School**

1910 Renaissance Revival School. Currently serves as annex to the county courthouse. Listed on the National Historic Register Oct. 4, 1984.

### **Arkansas City Walking Tour**

New sidewalks recently completed to allow visitors to conveniently tour the historic downtown area.

### **Cotham Drug Store**

Garhole Recording Studio currently occupies the lower floor in the building. Upper level, along with upper level of Red Star Grocery, will be a bed and breakfast.



**Desha County Courthouse**

Widely recognized as one of the most architecturally significant structures in southeast Arkansas. 1900 Romanesque Revival structure. Listed on the National Historic Register Oct. 4, 1984.

**Episcopal Church of Arkansas City**

Church is 120 years old and has original furnishings intact.

**John Johnson Home**

Birthplace of the founder and publisher of *Ebony* magazine. House is being restored by the University of Arkansas-Pine Bluff to serve as an African-American Cultural and Entrepreneurial Center.

**Methodist Church of Arkansas City**

Built in 1873. Original furnishings remain in place.

**Old Opera House**

Used at the turn of the century as an entertainment facility catering to riverboat travelers. Musical events, theatrical performances and boxing matches were all a part of the history of this structure. Jack Dempsey was one of the contestants who fought there. Today the building is used by a local lodge, but plans are underway to have it listed on the National Register and eventually return to private ownership for development.

**Pindall, Xenophon Overton Law Office**

1882 Italianate-style law office of Governor X. O. Pindall in the early 1900s. Plans are to convert the building into a two-room suite to be known as the Governor's Guest House, available for visitors to the city. Listed on the National Historic Register May 10, 1999.

**Ramus Brothers Market**

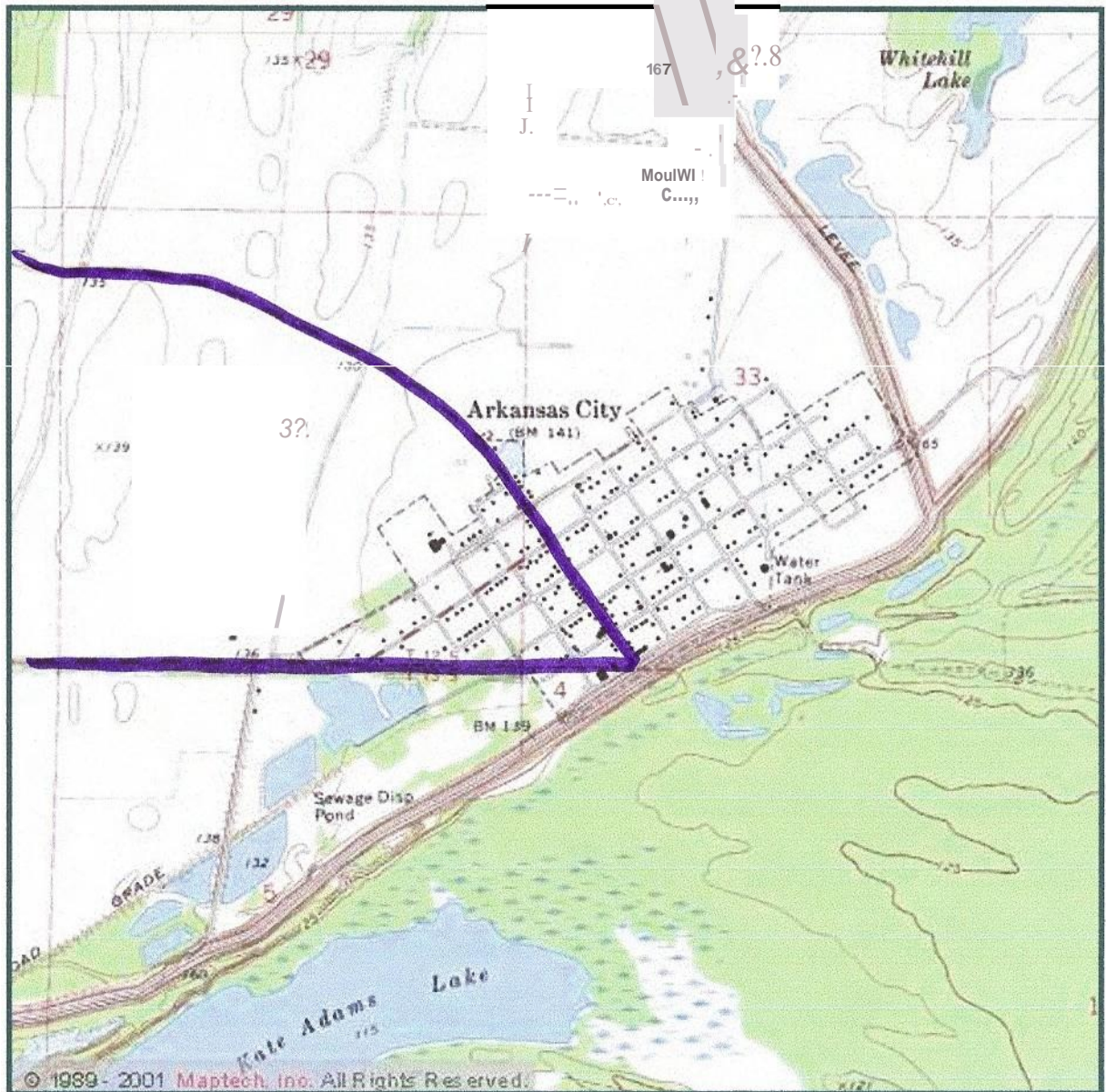
Soon to be home to the Curiosity Shop. Part of the Arkansas City Commercial Historic District.

**Red Star Grocery**

Plans call for a four-star restaurant and bar in the space occupied by the Red Star Grocery, with a bed and breakfast on the upper level. Part of the Arkansas City Commercial Historic District.

**Thane House**

Architect Charles Thompson. 1919 Craftsman design. Listed on the National Historic Register Dec. 22, 1982.



## Arkansas City



## Dermott, Chicot County

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**D**ermott was settled in 1826 by Dr. Charles McDermott, for whom the town is named. McDermott was a man of many talents. He practiced medicine, invented a cotton picker and a flying machine, and owned a large tract of land with a huge family home where he reared orphans and his own large family.

After its incorporation in 1890, Dermott found itself growing rapidly in population and industry. Progress slowed, however, after the Flood of 1927 destroyed many downtown buildings and homes. People moved to higher ground causing a drop in population. Years later, when Highway 65 bypassed Dermott, the economy suffered even more.

In recent years, Dermott has developed new industries and has made plans to preserve its heritage of historical buildings and landmarks. Dermott today is a quiet peaceful town with pretty homes and neatly mowed yards. Its beautiful churches are scattered throughout the town and the community. A new public school provides the children in the area with a quality education. Many of the local businesses are family owned, and although established years ago, they have grown with the community and have served it well.

Dermott Attractions:

### **Delta Grain & Gin Co.**

#### **Dermott Bank & Trust Company**

1910 Classical Revival structure. Listed on the National Historic Register May 19, 1994.

### **Lake Wallace**

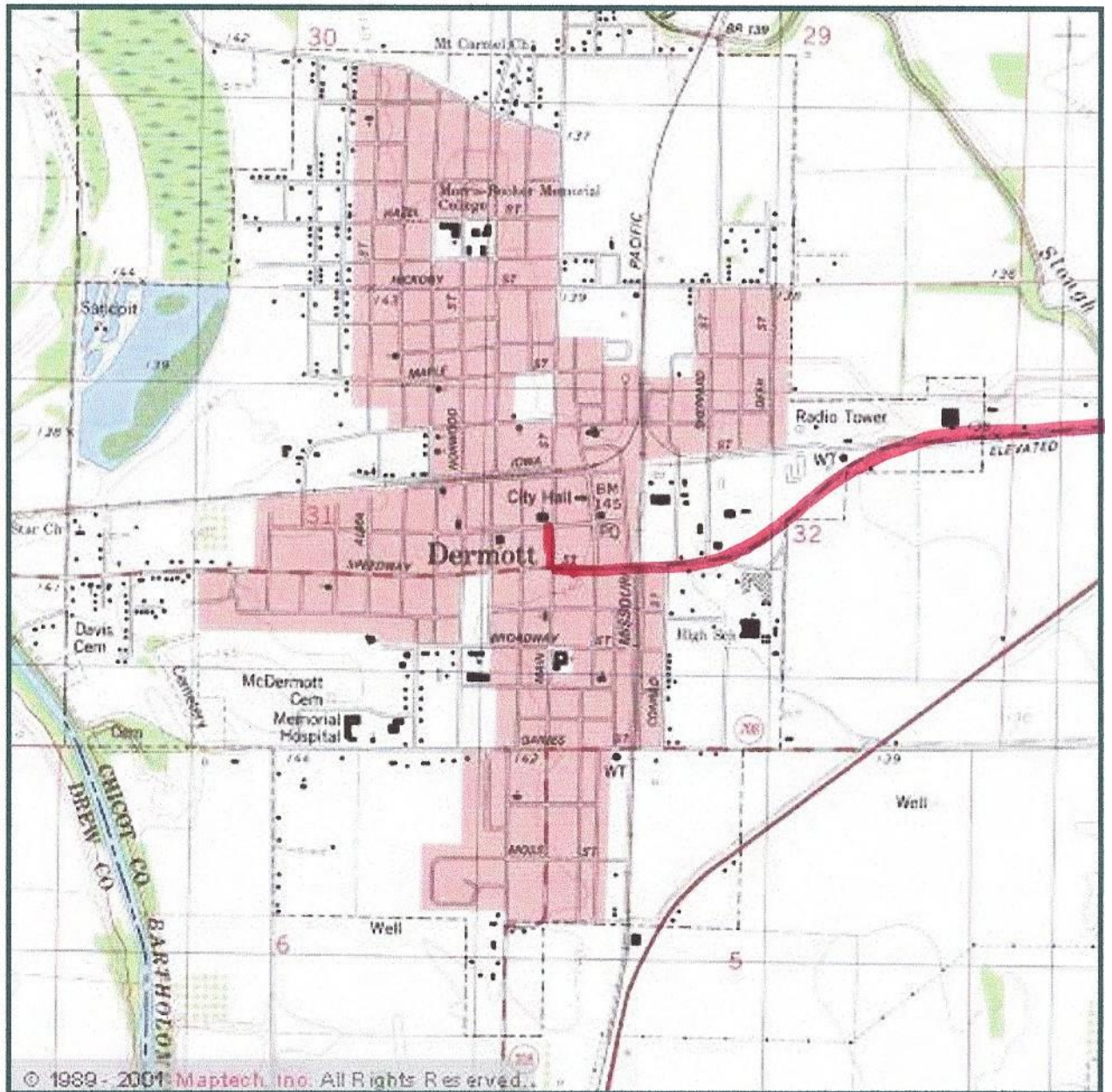
#### **Leonard Evans Memorial Library**

Genealogy collection

### **Walker House**

1918 Charles L. Thompson Craftsman design. Listed on the National Historic Register Dec. 22, 1982.





## Dermott



# Lake Village, Chicot County

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The townsite for Lake Village, nestled along the west side of Lake Chicot, was laid out in 1856. It became the fourth county seat of Chicot County in 1857. The first two, Villemont and Columbia, were washed away by the shifting course of the Mississippi River. The third, Masona, was too far from the river for business activity.

The town and surrounding area are rich in history as well as scenic beauty. In 1895 approximately 100 Italian families immigrated to a large cotton plantation known as Sunnyside, which was adjacent to Lake Village on the banks of Lake Chicot. Descendents of many of these immigrants still farm this land today

Lake Chicot provides its citizens with everything from recreation to livelihoods. The town has more than 20 active civic clubs whose members participate in many activities that add to the atmosphere of the small town life style. The deeply held religious beliefs so typical in many small southern communities is evident in the number and variety of churches situated along Lakeshore Drive and throughout the community.

Most of the time, Lake Village lies sleepily by the lake, but on the weekends, the quiet serenity of the town gives way to constant hum of motors and voices echoing across the water. The lake literally dances with boats of all sizes and shapes, and even an occasional sailboat glides along the glistening water. Visitors camp at the State Park on the north end of the lake, or at the County Park at the south end. Visitor can also hook up their RV's at one of the many RV parks in the area.

## Lake Village Attractions:

### **Carlton House**

C. 1906 vernacular Colonial Revival house. Listed on the National Historic Register June 5, 1991.

### **Chicot County Levee Tour**

Developed by Lake Chicot State Park, this driving tour along the much of the length of Chicot County's levee system offers a close-up look at the fauna and flora of the region.

### **Connerly Bayou**

One of the best spots in the state to fish for crappie

### **Ditch Bayou Battle Site**

Located two miles east of the U. S. 65 and U. S. 82 junction, this was the last significant Civil War Battle on Arkansas soil. Historical markers interpret the site. It is part of a driving tour of several Civil War sites along Lake Chicot.

**Epstein House, Sam**

c. 1910 home of prominent Jewish citizen. Listed on the National Historic Register Sept. 21, 1992.

**Guachoya Cultural Art Center**

Center takes its name from the Native American name given to the area during the time of de Soto's 1541 visit. Gallery features regularly changing exhibits.

**Jack R. Rhodes Lake Front Park**

A favorite for swimming in the roped off area, playing volleyball, or picnicking under one of the individual pavilions. Fishermen and boaters may use the park's ramp as an entrance into Lake Chicot. Beautiful amphitheater for public use.

**John Tushek Building**

1906 vernacular Beaux Arts-style commercial building. Listed on the National Historic Register Aug. 5, 1993.

**Lake Village Confederate Monument**

Civil War Commemorative Sculpture, MPS, 1910. Listed on the National Historic Register May 3, 1996.

**Lake Village Post Office**

1938 structure featuring Depression-era mural on interior. Listed on the National Historic Register Aug. 14, 1998. Listed on the National Historic Register

**Lindbergh Marker**

Spot where "Lucky Lindy," Col. Charles A. Lindbergh, made his first night flight over Lake Chicot in 1923.

**Museum of Chicot County**

Located in a turn-of-the-century infirmary, the museum houses medical artifacts, a patient room, nursery, dentist and optometrist offices. The museum also showcases memorabilia from the Civil War, World War I and World War II, and commemorates Charles A. Lindbergh, the Italian immigrants of Sunnyside Plantation, and Lakeside High School. 1843 log cabin is being restored.

**New Hope Baptist Church Cemetery (Historic Section)**

Oldest African-American cemetery in region.

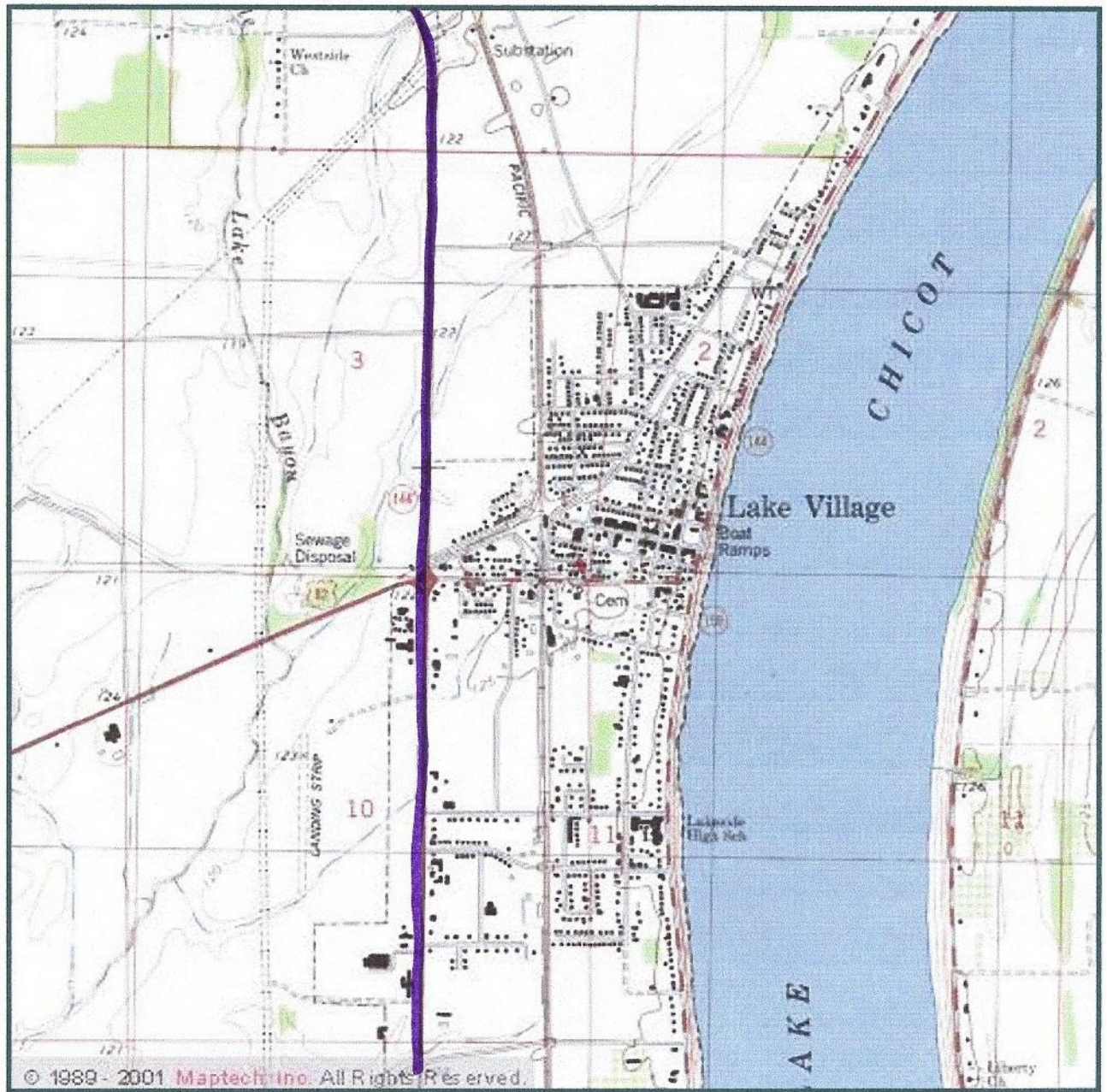
**Saunders-Pettit-Chapman-Cook Plantation House**

Used as a hospital during the Civil War to treat wounded Union and Confederate soldiers after the Battle of Ditch Bayou in 1864. Building was recently restored and is well maintained.

**Shopping**

Paul Michael Co. (Offers decorative household accessories. A favorite haunt for interior designers and bargain hunters), Nonie's Antiques, Warfield's Antiques





Lake Village



## Eudora, Chicot County

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**E**udora is named for Francis Eudora James, daughter of E.C. James, a wealthy plantation owner. When she died in 1851, her father named his plantation for her. In 1905, the township that developed on the land took the same name.

The town is in the process of preserving its history and its historical sites. Because of Eudora's elevation, damage from the Flood of 1927 was not as destructive as it was to other towns in the county. Many of its older homes were not damaged and are in good condition today. Many civic organizations in the community are working on different projects to preserve and promote the town's heritage and to improve the community. A successful project has been the Garden Club Center, used by the public for meetings, presentation of plays, programs and banquets.

Eudora Attractions:

### **American Legion Post-No. 127**

1934 Rustic-style structure built by Works Progress Administration. Listed on the National Historic Register Oct. 8, 1992.

### **Anderson House, Dr. A. G.**

Restored 1901 home of a local physician. Considered the oldest home in Eudora. Now the Eudora Chamber of Commerce and Visitor Center. Listed on the National Historic Register July 24, 1992.

### **Eudora City Park**

A new well-maintained area including a jogging track, fish pond and pier, and Playground.

### **First Baptist Church of Eudora**

1900 church of black congregation, rebuilt after 1946 storm damage. Listed on the National Historic Register June 3, 1998.

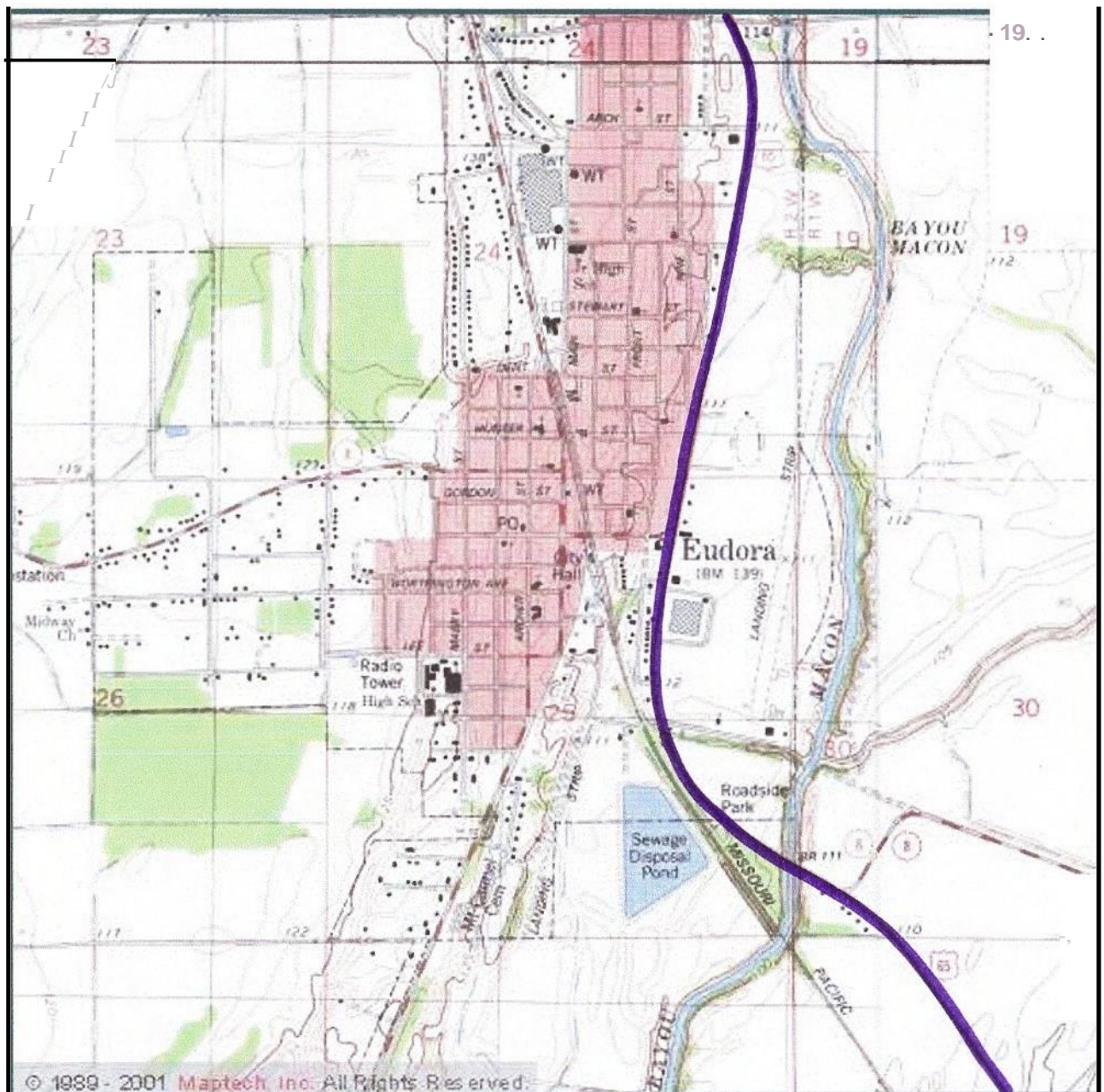
### **Liberto, P. and J.-Rosa Portera Building**

1921 building linked to Italian community. Listed on the National Historic Register Oct. 8, 1992.

### **Ruby and Henry Connerly Museum**

Interesting artifacts of the area fill a room in an historic old grocery store





## Eudora





## Cultural Qualities

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Travelers along the Arkansas segment of The Great River Road are immediately immersed in an agricultural experience that has its own special feel. This is due largely to the manner in which diverse inhabitants over time have interacted with the land and with the natural and historic events that have shaped the region and created its unique culture.

This region includes some of the most fertile land in the world, due to the rich soil that has been washed down over centuries by the Mississippi River, creating the alluvial flood plain commonly known as the Delta. From mound-building Indian cultures, to French and Spanish dominion, to Arkansas statehood, the people of this region have been dependent on the bounty of the land and the rivers.

While much of the history of this region precedes that of its neighbors in Mississippi and Louisiana, its agricultural economy did not begin to develop until shortly before the Civil War. Prior to that time, much of Eastern Arkansas was little more than dense woodlands and forbidding swamps. Thus, it was some of the last land in the Delta to be converted to agricultural use. To do so required inhabitants that were a far more rugged, hardscrabble lot than their more genteel southern neighbors.

### **Taming the River**

Harnessing the river and harvesting its gifts required cutting the bottomland timber, draining the swamps, and developing floodways and massive drainage systems. Areas such as Mississippi County and Crittenden County have massive gridworks of drainage ditches, built to take advantage of the rich soil that otherwise would be under water much of the time. Almost every square mile is bounded by a drainage ditch. To keep the river from reclaiming the land, complex levee systems--the tallest in the world--have been built, hiding the river from view. Most of these levee segments are visible from the route; others are an integral part of the route. While some have paved roads along their crown, most are topped with gravel roads. These are generally drivable as an alternate trip along The Great River Road, provided one does not mind sharing with the cattle that are apt to be grazing on either side. In addition to the levees, major state-of-the-art pumping stations exist along the route to control water entering and leaving the lands protected by the levees. These include the W.G. Huxtable Pumping Plant at Marianna, reputedly the largest of its kind in the world. Tours are available by appointment.

### **Modern Agricultural Practices**

From rugged frontier and plantation agriculture to sharecropping and agricultural mechanization, this region has truly become the breadbasket in the heart of the nation and

one of the most productive regions in the world. Along the route today, modern agricultural practices exist in a landscape indelibly imprinted by echoes of the past. Cotton fields, the "white gold" that has been the mainstay of the Delta, dot the entire 362-mile route. From spring through fall and winter, the fields are a changing canvas. Repeat visitors can follow this change from planting through the distinct stages of the production cycle to the large, white modules that remain in the fields after harvest, awaiting their trip to the gin.

Along with cotton, crops including soybeans, wheat and rice occupy center stage. Arkansas leads the nation in rice production, and most of it is grown right along The Great River Road. While soybeans were first introduced as an alternative crop to rebuild the soil, today it is the primary crop in the region, surpassing even "King Cotton." Travelers also will find milo and corn, along with pecan orchards, fruit crops and catfish farms on their journey.

Modern methods used to obtain maximum crop yields are an equal source of fascination for visitors. Among these are precision land levelers utilizing laser technology, pivot irrigation systems that snake their way across the fields, helicopters and small planes that provide "crop dusting" services, and large module builders that have made cotton trailers almost a relic of the past. While travelers along the road today may still find themselves behind a cotton trailer, they are perhaps more likely to share the road with 18-wheelers hauling grain directly to the river for processing and loading on barges.

Large agricultural headquarters, sophisticated on-farm and commercial storage and drying facilities, state-of-the-art cotton gins, and full-service grain elevators are interspersed with abandoned small-farm headquarters, old barns, and deserted gins that once characterized nearly every town. One of these gins along the route has been converted into a private home with a museum annex for visitors who want to know more about earlier cotton practices. For visitors who want to know more about agricultural production today, several locations schedule farm tours by appointment, including Heart of Arkansas Farm Tours in Stuttgart.

### **Small Town Lifestyles**

Modern farm practices have led to major changes in towns along the route. Gone is the day when the farmer took his crops to town, and the family made a day of it-- utilizing crop proceeds for shopping and socializing. Often these small towns were filled on weekends with families taking a break from a hard week of labor in the fields. Today many of these same towns are little more than ghost towns, if they remain at all.

Vestiges of this way of life remain, however, and visitors still can stop in some of these small towns and find an old-fashioned soda fountain or a hardware store with a place for congregating around a pot-bellied stove. It is still possible to visit with some of the elders of the towns on their "whittling" benches in the town square or in front of the local bank or barber shop. And in the right seasons, travelers still encounter hunters and fishermen at the community stores or bait and tackle shops, stocking up on supplies,

renewing hunting and fishing licenses, or swapping tall tales with others who have returned from the deer woods or the many rivers, lakes and swamps.

Generally the center of social activity was the county seat. Its importance was reflected in the magnificent courthouses built in these towns, often the most ornate structures for miles around. For hard-working farmers and settlers, these courthouses represented their strength and determination, as well as their aspirations for a prosperous future.

Many of these towns have local or county museums that focus on interpreting life in an earlier era. And even if there is no museum, chances are there is a mural or collage painted on the side of one of the buildings or floodwalls in town to celebrate the town's heritage. Festivals and special events remain a major aspect of many of these towns today and are reminiscent of the various cultures that have inhabited the region, from African-Americans to the various European ethnic groups. Names of some of these festivals provide clear insight into the agricultural character of the region: Cotton Pickin' Contest, Arkansas Rice Festival, Community Catfish Fry, Wild Duck Festival, Rough and Ready Days, Crawfish Festival, Annual Ding Dong Daddy Days, Delta Arts and Crafts Fair, Ghosts of the Past, King Biscuit Blues Festival, Rollin-on-the-River Festival, Harvest Fest, and World's Championship Duck-Calling Contest and Wings Over the Prairie Festival. Even West Memphis, the largest city along the route, celebrates its agricultural origins with a "Livin' on the Levee" rodeo.

### **Musical Heritage**

The culture along The Great River Road-Arkansas is most extensively celebrated through the special music that has emanated from the Delta. From folk and rockabilly to the blues and jazz, the Delta has contributed to and developed these musical traditions. Country and western musicians from the Arkansas Delta, such as Johnny Cash, Conway Twitty and Charlie Rich, often described the lives of Arkansas laborers and small farmers through the lyrics of their music. Similarly, the blues tradition, which came directly from the cotton fields, was a powerful form of expression for rural blacks in Arkansas, producing such legendary figures such as Robert Johnson, Sonny Boy Williamson, Louis Jordan, Albert King, Howlin' Wolf, and scores of others. Today the blues and other music of the Delta attract diverse audiences. Helena is host to the well-known International King Biscuit Blues Festival, while other music festivals take place throughout the region.

### **Changes in Transportation**

The rise and fall of many of the towns in the Delta region of Arkansas has been solely dependent on modes of transportation. At one time, the Mississippi River was the only artery that connected the region with the rest of the world, and the flooded backwaters and bottomlands along the region's lesser rivers prevented any major development. By 1836, however, when steamboats began navigating these rivers, many of the river towns were bustling. The river eventually swallowed many of these towns, while others were totally abandoned when the railroads came through, shifting development away from the



river. In the late 1800s, sawmills sprang up everywhere, accompanied by miles of railroad tracks laid throughout the region to haul the lucrative and plentiful hardwood timber to mills and factories in the north. Towns for the timber workers and railroad men grew up beside the tracks and replaced the river towns as the centers of commerce. Today, most of the hardwood forests are long gone from the region, and passenger service along the busy railroads ceased to exist long ago, meaning many of the railroad towns have gone the way of the river towns. The extensive road-building programs that began throughout the region in the 1920s and 1930s shifted activities to new beneficiaries along these paved highways. Travelers to the region today will find some abandoned buildings, or perhaps a cemetery or church, that mark some of these ghost towns, while other towns have vanished without a trace. Driving past some of the waving fields of grain or marshy swamps, it is hard to imagine that some of these areas once were bustling towns with banks, saloons, opera houses and hundreds of residents.

### **Impacts of Agricultural Mechanization**

Perhaps the greatest changes in the culture of this region have come about as a result of changes in agricultural production, which over the years has been dependent on two commodities: land and labor. The land was available in abundance and slaves provided much of the labor prior to the Civil War. After that time, labor was sought from various sources, including the largely unsuccessful Italian experiment at Sunnyside in Chicot County. The prevailing system, however, was tenant farming or sharecropping, in which landowners made 40- and 80-acre farms and a place to live available to former slaves and landless whites in return for a share of the crops. Reminders of this system exist today, primarily in the form of the shotgun houses and one-room sharecropper shacks that dot the Arkansas Delta landscape. The mechanization of agriculture throughout the Delta after World War II marked the end of this system, but also resulted in the exodus of thousands of blacks and others whose labor was no longer needed, an event that has been referred to as the greatest peacetime mass migration in the history of the world. For others who remained, as well as for many small Arkansas Delta towns, it has meant a continuous struggle to survive. Yet a special indomitable spirit prevails among the many diverse cultures that share the Delta, and this spirit is evident to visitors. The trip is not so much one specific attraction, as it is the Delta "state of mind" that permeates the route.

# Cultural Inventory

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## **County: Arkansas**

DeWitt	DeWitt Branch/Phillips Community College
Gillett	Arkansas Post Museum State Park
St. Charles	St. Charles Museum
Stuttgart	Arts Center of the Grand Prairie
Stuttgart	Chick Major Duck Call Collection
Stuttgart	Heart of Arkansas Farm Tours
Stuttgart	Stuttgart Agricultural Museum
Stuttgart	Stuttgart Library

## **County: Chicot**

Dermott	Delta Grain & Gin Co.
Dermott	Leonard Evans Memorial Library
Eudora	Ruby and Henry Connerly Museum
Lake Village	Chicot County Levee Tour
Lake Village	Guachoya Cultural Art Center
Lake Village	Museum of Chicot County

## **County: Craighead**

Monette	Buffalo Island Museum
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## **County: Crittenden**

Arkalite Plant
Crittenden Cotton Gin
Garrott Gin House

Sunset	Phelix School
Earle	Crittenden County Museum
Marion	Marion Mural
West Memphis	Mid-South Community College
<b>County: Desha</b>	
	U. S. Fish Farming Experimental Station
Dumas	Desha County Museum
Dumas	McKennon Gin
Dumas	Tanenbaum Theatre
McGehee	IBM, Inc. (I Believe in McGehee)
<b>County: Drew</b>	
Monticello	Drew County Historical Museum
Monticello	Southeast Arkansas Concert of Arts
Monticello	Turner Neal Museum
Monticello	University of Arkansas at Monticello
Winchester	Winchester Cotton Gin
<b>County: Lee</b>	
Marianna	Lee County Library
Marianna	Marianna/Lee County Museum
Marianna	McClendon-Mann-Felton Cotton Gin
Marianna	Mixon-Evans Barn
Marianna	University of Arkansas Cotton Branch Experiment Station
Marianna	W. G. Huxtable Pumping Plant
<b>County: Mississippi</b>	
Blytheville	Blytheville Heritage Museum
Blytheville	Mississippi County Community College



Blytheville	Ritz Civic Center
Leachville	Mississippi County Community College-Leachville Branch
Osceola	Mississippi County Community College-Osceola Branch
Wilson	Hampson Museum State Park
<b>County: Monroe</b>	
Brinkley	Brinkley Convention Center and Sports Complex
<b>County: Poinsett</b>	
Lepanto	Museum Lepanto USA
Marked Tree	Marked Tree Delta Area Museum
<b>County: Phillips</b>	
Helena	Cotton Belt Levee District
Helena	Delta Cultural Center
Helena	Helena Library & Museum
Helena	Phillips Community College, University of Arkansas
Helena	Phillips County Museum
Helena	Pillow-Thompson House
Helena	Sea Wall Mural
Helena	Sonny Boy Blues Hall
<b>County: St. Francis</b>	
Colt	Stone House, William
Forrest City	Crowley's Ridge Technical Institute
Forrest City	East Arkansas Community College
Forrest City	Forrest City Downtown Mural
Forrest City	St. Francis County Museum

# Festivals/Events

County	City	Name	Month	Date(s)
Arkansas	Arkansas Post	Children's Fishing Derby	June	First Weekend
	Arkansas Post	Ghosts of the Past	October	Last Weekend
	Crockett's Bluff	Independence Day Celebration	July	Independence Day
	DeWitt	Christmas on the Square	December	First Weekend
	Gillett	Annual Coon Supper	January	First Friday
	St. Charles	Christmas in the Park	November	First Weekend after Thanksgiving
	Stuttgart	Grand Prairie Festival of Arts	September	Last Weekend
	Stuttgart	Wings Over the Prairie Festival	November	Thanksgiving Weekend
	Stuttgart	World's Championship Duck Calling Contest	November	Thanksgiving Weekend
Chicot	Dermott	Crawfish Festival	May	Third Weekend
	Dermott	Tree of Love Celebration	December	
	Eudora	A Hometown Christmas	December	First Weekend
	Lake Village	Harvest Fest	October	Early
Crittenden	Marion	Christmas on the Square	December	First Thursday
	Marion	Esperanza Bonanza	May	First Weekend
	Marion	History on the Square	May	Second Saturday
	West Memphis	Arts Fest...A Family Day in the Park	June	Early
	West Memphis	Blues on Broadway	May	First Thursday
	West Memphis	Dickens of a Christmas	December	Early
	West Memphis	Freedom Fest	July	Independence Day
	West Memphis	Livin' on the Levee Rodeo	August	Third weekend
	West Memphis	Main Street Fall Festival	October	First Saturday
	West Memphis	Miss Arkansas USA Pageant	October	First Weekend
	West Memphis	Southland 5K Run	October	First Sunday
Desha	Arkansas City	Levee Fest	September	Early
	Dumas	Delta Arts and Crafts Fair	November	Second Weekend
	Dumas	Ding Dong Daddy Days	July	Last Weekend

# Festivals/Events

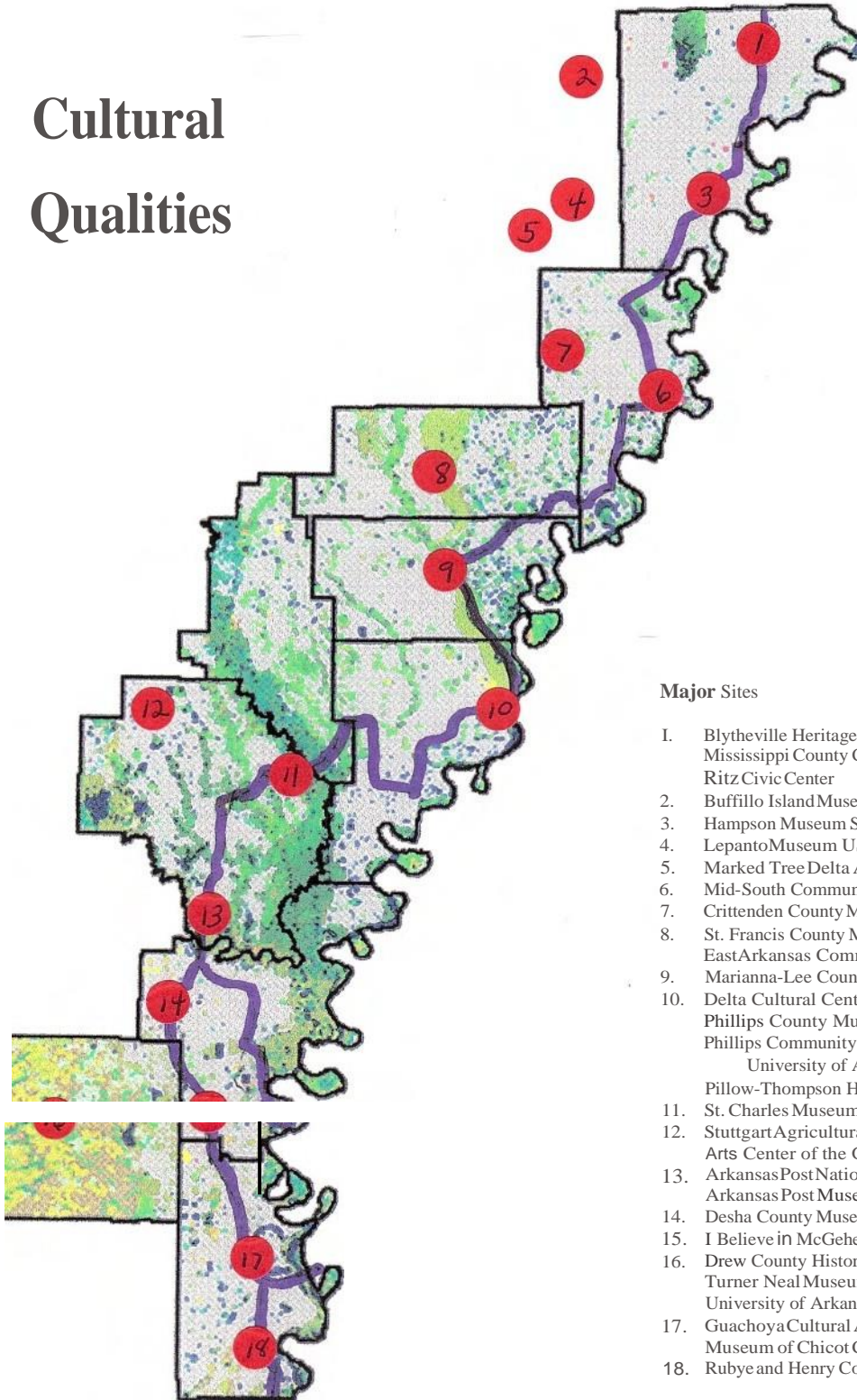
County	City	Name	Month	Date(s)
Desha	Dumas	Dumas Merchants Fair	March	
	McGehee	Christmas Lights in Wiley McGehee Park	November	Thanksgiving through New Year's
	McGehee	McGehee Industrial Foundation Barbecue & Auction	June	
Drew	Monticello	Christmas Parade	November	Late
	Monticello	Drew County Fair	September	Third Week
	Monticello	Rough and Ready Days	May	Second Weekend
Lee	Marianna	Arts in the Park	May	Three Sundays during the month
	Marianna	Autumn on the Square	October	Second Saturday
	Marianna	Marianna Fall Festival	October	Second Saturday
	Marianna	Victorian Village Christmas Lights	November	Thanksgiving through New Year's Day
	Moro	Moro Homecoming	October	First Saturday
	Moro	Moro Homecoming	October	First Saturday
Mississippi	Blytheville	Annual Cotton Classic Car Show	April	
	Blytheville	BBQ Cookoff	April	Last Saturday
	Blytheville	Blytheville Air Show	August	
	Blytheville	Christmas Parade	December	Second Thursday
	Blytheville	Indian Summer Fall Festival and Chili Cook-Off	October	First Saturday
	Blytheville	Lights of the Delta Celebration	November	Thanksgiving through New Year's Day
	Blytheville	Mississippi County Fair	August	Last Weekend
	Blytheville	Springtime on the Mall Festival	March	Last Saturday
	Gosnell	Cotton Pickin' Contest	September	Last weekend in September
	Leachville	Adams Estate Garden Tour	May	Memorial Day Weekend
	Manila	Chili Cook-Off	September	Third Saturday
	Manila	Major Air Show	September	Saturday before Labor Day



# Festivals/Events

County	City	Name	Month	Date(s)
Mississippi	Osceola	Winter Festival and Parade	November	Thursday after Thanksgiving
Monroe	Brinkley	Experience the Lights of Brinkley	November	Thanksgiving through New Year's Day
	Brinkley	Fall Roundup	September	Last Saturday
	Clarendon	Rollin'-on-the-River Festival	October	First Weekend
Phillips	Helena	King Biscuit Blues Festival	October	Columbus Day Weekend
	Helena	Warfield Music Festival	April-May	Late April, Early May
	Helena	Wild HOG Music Festival & Motorcycle Rally	April	Last Weekend
	Marvell	Tri-County Fair	September	Labor Day Weekend
St. Francis	Colt	Christmas/William Stone House	December	First Weekend
	Colt	Pioneer Days	September	Second Weekend
	Forrest City	Harvest Festival	October	Second Weekend
	Forrest City	Mighty Mite Triathlon	July	Third Weekend
	Forrest City	St. Francis County Fair	September	Labor Day Week

# Cultural Qualities



## Major Sites

1. Blytheville Heritage Museum  
Mississippi County Community College  
Ritz Civic Center
2. Buffillo Island Museum
3. Hampson Museum State Parle
4. Lepanto Museum USA
5. Marked Tree Delta Area Museum
6. Mid-South Community College
7. Crittenden County Museum
8. St. Francis County Museum  
East Arkansas Community College
9. Marianna-Lee County Museum
10. Delta Cultural Center  
Phillips County Museum  
Phillips Community College,  
University of Arkansas  
Pillow-Thompson House
11. St. Charles Museum
12. Stuttgart Agricultural Museum  
Arts Center of the Grand Prairie
13. Arkansas Post National Memorial  
Arkansas Post Museum State Park
14. Desha County Museum
15. I Believe in McGehee, Inc.
16. Drew County Historical Museum  
Turner Neal Museum  
University of Arkansas-Monticello
17. Guachoya Cultural Art Center  
Museum of Chicot County
18. Rubye and Henry Connerly Museum



## Natural Qualities

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While the Arkansas Delta landscape has undergone tremendous change, visitors along The Great River Road route have numerous opportunities to experience the Delta as it existed prior to human habitation. This is a region that was shaped over millions of years by action of the Mississippi, Ohio and Arkansas rivers. As the rivers scoured out and flattened the landscape, they left rich deposits of alluvial soil, in some places hundreds of feet thick. As part of the Mississippi Alluvial Flood Plain, the region was little more than forbidding swamps, along with dense bottomland timber forests.

Meandering rivers were constantly altering their courses through the region, creating oxbow lakes, bayous and wetlands. The largest natural lake in Arkansas, and the largest oxbow lake in the United States, is Lake Chicot, located at the southern end of Arkansas' Great River Road. This lake was created when the Mississippi River cut a new path and shortened its journey to the Gulf. Today there are more natural lakes in this Great River Road region than elsewhere in Arkansas. Bayous provide ribbons through the landscape, including portions of the 300-mile Bayou Bartholomew, the longest in Arkansas.

Cypress, tupelo and willow, all hardwoods that can flourish in standing or seasonal water, occupy the wettest of the lowlands. Some of the largest cypress trees date back 600 to 800 years. Many of these cypress swamps present dramatic scenic vistas for visitors. Other areas not submerged for great lengths of time have extensive oak and hickory stands.

While most people perceive of the Delta as entirely flat, the route along the Great River Road-Arkansas actually takes visitors through five distinct geographic regions: Crowley's Ridge, the Grand Prairie, and three lowland regions created by the St. Francis, the White and the Arkansas Rivers, which each flow into the Mississippi.

The St. Francis Basin, from Blytheville to Helena, is totally flat, with its only notable features being below normal ground level, rather than above. These features include the St. Francis Sunken Lands, Big Lake and the Wapanocca Swamp.

Part of the route, from Marianna to Helena, includes the southern end of Crowley's Ridge, a natural anomaly that rises as much as 150 feet in stark contrast to the otherwise flat region. This ridge is the only portion of the original highlands that was left undisturbed by the ancient forces of rivers that scoured out the remainder of the landscape. This portion of Crowley's Ridge is part of the St. Francis National Forest and provides the only upland hardwood forests along the route, along with diverse plant communities.



The White River Lowlands is considered the "wildest" along the route. Lying between Crowley's Ridge and the Grand Prairie, the region is extremely flood prone. This is partially because of the numerous other rivers of the region that flow into the White. Additionally, the White is a lower river than the Mississippi, meaning it is often subject to Mississippi backwater flooding for up to 40 miles.

The White River National Wildlife Refuge, the largest remaining tract of bottomland hardwoods (160,000 acres) in the state, is part of this region. Situated just a few miles above the confluence with the Mississippi River, the refuge is from three to 10 miles wide and extends along the White River for 90 river miles. Areas within the refuge have been designated "Wetlands of International Importance," and include 350 lakes, the largest concentration of wintering mallard ducks in the Mississippi Flyway; large concentrations of snow and Canada geese; numerous species of wading birds, shore birds and raptors; four active bald eagle nests, and a healthy population of native black bears.

The Grand Prairie, between the White and Arkansas River lowlands, is a high, flat terrace, as much as 50 feet higher on the eastern side than the adjoining White River bottoms. As the river has cut into the terrace, it has created bluffs at such places as St. Charles and Crockett's Bluff. The natural grasses that thrived on this totally flat terrace for centuries led farmers to recognize its value for rice production, and today the region is considered the "rice capital of the world."

The Arkansas River Lowlands stretch from below the Arkansas River to Louisiana. A long river, the Arkansas carries an extensive amount of sand, meaning the surrounding lowlands also are quite sandy. The Arkansas is a much calmer river than the White, and it is reflected in the terrain.

The entire Great River Road region is home to an abundance of wildlife. The swamps provide habitat for beaver, muskrats, raccoon, mink, duck and geese, as well as alligators. The bottomland forests provide the most productive wildlife habitat in the state, with an abundance of deer, bear, squirrel and turkey.

The Great River Road route is located along the Mississippi Flyway, the largest flyway in the country, making it a paradise for birdwatchers. The Big Lake National Wildlife Refuge in Mississippi County and the Wapanocca National Wildlife Refuge in Crittenden County are both important areas for migrating/winter waterfowl and neotropical birds. Along the deep backwaters and the river sandbars of the Mississippi and Arkansas Rivers, visitors may even spot pelicans, Great White Egrets, and the endangered Interior Least Tern nesting in the scenic wilds. The canebrakes still existing along the Mississippi and White Rivers provide habitat for the elusive Swainson's Warbler.

In addition to natural locations along the route, there are numerous state-managed natural areas within easy access from the main route. These include the Bayou Meto Wildlife Management Area, one of the largest state-owned wildlife management areas in the nation, along with Big Creek, Trusten Holder, and Seven Devils Swamp Wildlife Management Areas

# Natural Inventory

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**County: Arkansas**

St. Charles	White River National Wildlife Refuge
Tichnor	Merrisach Lake
Tichnor	Trusten Holder Wildlife Management Area
	Bayou Meto Wildlife Management Area
	White River

**County: Chicot**

Dermott	Lake Wallace
Lake Village	Connerly Bayou
Lake Village	Lake Chicot
	Grand Lake

**County: Crittenden**

Marion	Wapanocca National Wildlife Refuge
West Memphis	Ten-Mile Bayou
	Horseshoe Lake

**County: Desha**

Arkansas City	Bayou Macon
Arkansas City	Boggy Bayou
Arkansas City	Wallace Trust
	Amos Bayou
	Arkansas River
	Morgan Bendway Lake
	Walnut Lake and Wells Bayou

**County: Drew**

Near Monticello	Seven Devils Swamp Wildlife Management Area
	Lake Monticello

**County: Lee**

Alligator Bayou  
Cypress Creek Swamp  
L'Anguille River  
St. Francis Wildlife Management Area  
St. Francis National Forest  
St. Francis River

**County: Mississippi**

Barfield	Barfield Landing
Blytheville	Mallard Lake
Near Manila	Big Lake National Wildlife Refuge
Osceola	Sans Souci Landing

**County: Monroe**

Brinkley	Lake Greenlee
	Cypress Creek
	Moon Lake
	Pine City Natural Area

**County: Phillips**

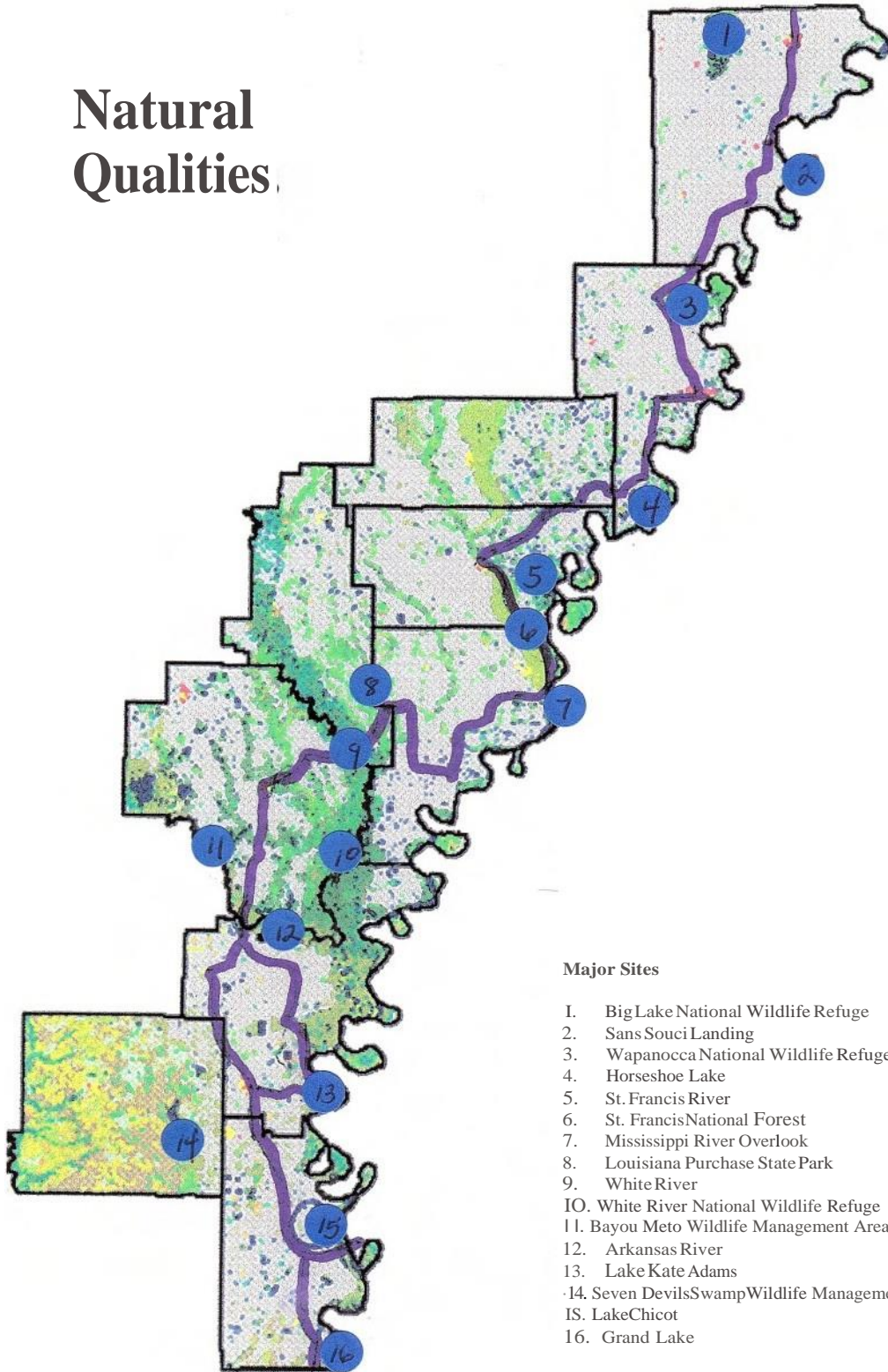
Helena	Helena Reach River Park
Lakeview	Old Town Lake

**County: St. Francis**

	Crooked Bayou
Forrest City	Stuart Springs



# Natural Qualities



## Major Sites

1. Big Lake National Wildlife Refuge
2. Sans Souci Landing
3. Wapanocca National Wildlife Refuge
4. Horseshoe Lake
5. St. Francis River
6. St. Francis National Forest
7. Mississippi River Overlook
8. Louisiana Purchase State Park
9. White River
10. White River National Wildlife Refuge
11. Bayou Meto Wildlife Management Area
12. Arkansas River
13. Lake Kate Adams
14. Seven Devils Swamp Wildlife Management Area
15. Lake Chicot
16. Grand Lake



## Archeological Qualities

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Evidence of human habitation in the area traversed by Arkansas' Great River Road is documented to 12,000 years ago. The entire area is rich in archeological sites, beginning with Paleo-Indian hunters, fishers and wild plant gatherers and evolving through the Archaic, Woodland, and Mississippian periods. These mound-building cultures developed complex societies that utilized gifts from the lands and the waters, including creating towns and social life; developing hunting, fishing and agricultural patterns; and establishing complex trade networks.

When the De Soto expedition arrived in this region in 1541, they found the most sophisticated villages, fortifications, and people yet encountered along their journey. Unfortunately, European contact was the beginning of the end for many of these civilizations, since there was little resistance to immunity to diseases brought from outside.

Evidence of many of these civilizations has been destroyed by rivers, by agricultural practices, and by other forces of man and nature, but there are numerous other sites that have been preserved. One of these sites open to the public is the Parkin Archeological State Park, located on a spur off The Great River Road. Parkin is the "type-site" for the Parkin phase of the Mississippian nucleation (A.D. 1350-1650), composed of several sites near the St. Francis and Tyronza rivers. This site was a rectangular planned village with a plaza and surrounding mounds. It had a wide moat on the northern, eastern and southern perimeters, with the St. Francis River as its western border. There is evidence of a large population, and upward of 400 houses could have existed. The park features a museum, visitor interpretation center, walking tour and research station archeologist.

The Hampson Museum State Park at Wilson includes numerous artifacts from the Nodena Phase, a late Mississippian culture. Other sites especially rich in archeological evidence are in and around the former Eaker Air Force Base in the Blytheville area. Research indicates continued occupation of this region over the past 2,500 years, with major prehistoric components dating from the late Woodlands and Early and Late Mississippian periods. Blytheville residents are working with the National Park Service to designate this area as the Mississippi Valley Heritage Center.

# Archeological Inventory

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**County: Arkansas**

Gillett	Arkansas Post National Memorial
Restricted	Menard-Hodges Mound
Restricted	Roland Mound

**County: Crittenden**

Marion	Trail of Tears
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**County: Cross**

Parkin	Parkin Archeological State Park
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**County: Drew**

Monticello	Arkansas Archeological Survey Research Station-Monticello
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**County: Mississippi**

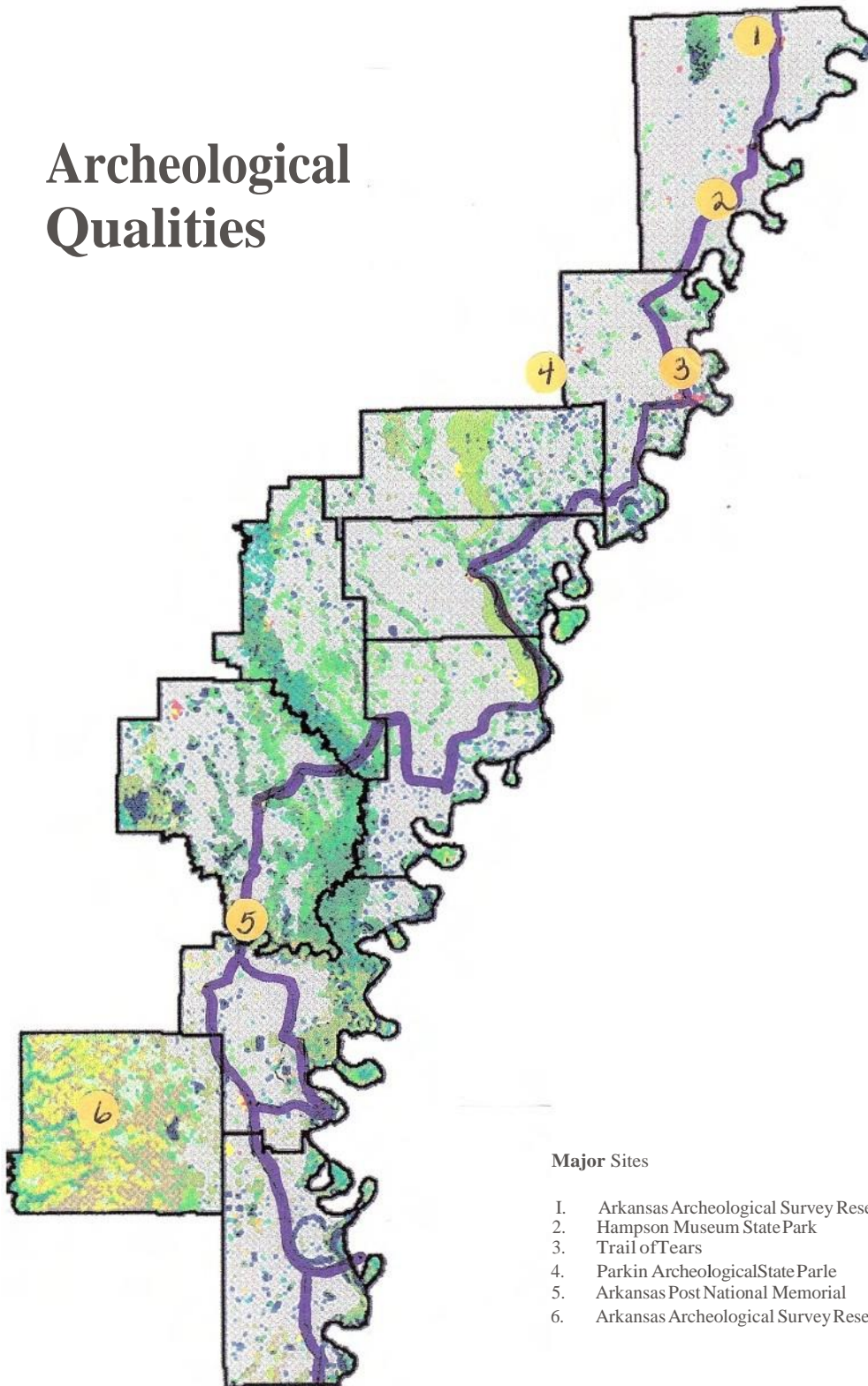
Blytheville	Arkansas Archeological Survey Research Station-Blytheville
Restricted	Chickasawba Mound
Restricted	Eaker Site
Restricted	Nodena Site
Restricted	Zebree Homesteads
Wilson	Hampson Museum State Park

**County: Monroe**

Restricted	Baytown Site
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# Archeological Qualities



## Major Sites

1. Arkansas Archeological Survey Research Station-Blytheville
2. Hampson Museum State Park
3. Trail of Tears
4. Parkin Archeological State Park
5. Arkansas Post National Memorial
6. Arkansas Archeological Survey Research Station-Monticello



## Historical Qualities

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Numerous natural and cultural events throughout history have shaped the Arkansas Delta as we know it today. Among these, some of the most significant include:

### **De Soto Expedition, 1541-42**

The Great River Road travels through some of the same region as the Spanish explorer Hernando de Soto, who crossed into what is now Arkansas on June 18, 1541, probably at Sunflower Landing near Helena. The expedition headed north, and accounts describe spending several days in the province of Casqui. This is believed to be the present-day Parkin site, which is rich in evidence from the Mississippian period. Several Spanish artifacts have been recovered at Parkin, and an outstanding exhibit describing De Soto's expedition is available at the site. De Soto died the following year during his travels, and legend has it that he was buried in Lake Chicot at the south end of Arkansas' Great River Road.

### **Establishment of Arkansas Post**

The Great River Road route takes visitors to Arkansas Post, the birthplace of Arkansas and the first permanent European settlement in the lower Mississippi River Valley. It was here that French explorer Henri de Tonti and his party built a small settlement and claimed the land for God and king in 1686. The French were traders with the local Quapaws (Arkansas to the French) and named their encampment Pose de Arkansaw--Arkansas Post. The site today is a national memorial and includes a visitors center, museum, marked driving route and picnic facilities. .

### **New Madrid Earthquakes of 1811-12**

These natural disasters events changed the region significantly, contributing to the creation of what is known today as the Big Lake National Wildlife Refuge and the Sunken Lands in Northeast Arkansas. Both of these areas are viewable from a loop off The Great River Road. Interestingly enough, the earthquakes, along with the War of 1812, actually paved the way for large-scale migration to the area. Soldiers returning from the war, along with victims of the earthquakes, were given land government grants that could be used in Louisiana Purchase lands not already claimed by Spanish land grants or Indian treaties. This necessitated a survey of the entire Louisiana Purchase Territory. Starting point for this 1815 survey was deep in the Arkansas swamps, now marked by a monument. This Louisiana Purchase Monument State Park site is located on a loop off the main Great River Road route, with a boardwalk leading into the swamps.

## Civil War

Arkansas' location on the Mississippi River made it a strategic location in the battle for control of the transportation routes during the Civil War. Numerous Civil War sites exist throughout the region along The Great River Road. These include The Battle of Helena, which took place July 4, 1863, one of the darkest days of the war for the Confederacy. On this day, General Robert E. Lee began his retreat from Gettysburg; the strategic Mississippi River town of Vicksburg fell to Major General Ulysses S. Grant; and the rebel assault on the well-fortified Union garrison at Helena was unsuccessful. The Union victory at Helena reaffirmed its control of eastern and northeastern Arkansas and made the capture of Little Rock later in the year possible. In addition to the Union batteries, there is a Confederate Cemetery at Helena.

There are Civil War monuments and markers throughout the region, including a marker at St. Charles commemorating both Union and Confederate soldiers who lost their lives when the single most deadly shot of the Civil War was fired into the boiler of a Union gunboat, the Mound City.

The Battle of Ditch Bayou in Chicot County was the last significant battle on Arkansas soil and is interpreted with markers at the site.

Remnants of the old East-West Military Road are evident at Marion in Crittenden County, along with a marker commemorating the loss of life on the *Sultana*, the worst marine tragedy in American history and one of the worst in world history. This loss actually occurred after the war had officially ended. The steamboat *Sultana* was headed north from Vicksburg, loaded with war-weary Union soldiers returning home after release from Confederate prisons. The boat, designed with a capacity of 376, was carrying 2,300 passengers. Undue stress on the engines and boilers caused it to explode near Marion. While the loss of some 1,800 lives was greater even than that of the *Titanic* (1,522 lives lost), the event received little mention in history due to other almost simultaneous events: the end of the Civil War and the Lincoln Assassination.

## Flood of 1927

The 1927 flood is remembered as the event that visited the greatest economic disaster on the region, caused the demise of many remaining river towns, and resulted in abandonment of the federal government's "levees only" policy for flood control. Massive efforts began at this time to build a system of drainage ditches, floodways, and other flood control systems that crisscross the land today.

This flood is representative of numerous major floods that have occurred in the region throughout history, wiping out entire towns in one day. The largest town to go was Napoleon, once the county seat of Desha County, which disappeared entirely in the Flood of 1874. When Mark Twain revisited the region in 1882, he could not locate the once-prosperous town. His captain in *Life on the Mississippi* declared, "There isn't any Napoleon any more. Hasn't been for years and years. The Arkansas River burst through



it, tore it all to rags and emptied it into the Mississippi ... Everything. Just a fifteen minute job, or such a matter."

The beneficiary of Napoleon's demise was Arkansas City, which remains the county seat today. Its days as a thriving river port, however, are long gone, partially due to a shift in the river away from the town, and partly due to the change in the dependence on river travel. A trip to Arkansas City today gives visitors a glimpse into what it must have been like in the glory days of the steamboat era, when the town had an opera house and 13 saloons and showboats and steamers brought the sounds of whistles, vendors, and roustabouts

# National Historic Register Inventory

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## **Arkansas County:**

DeWitt	Arkansas County Courthouse- Southern District
DeWitt	DeWitt Post Office
DeWitt	First United Methodist Church of DeWitt
DeWitt	Halliburton House
Gillett	Arkansas Post National Memorial
Restricted	Menard-Hodges Mound
Restricted	Roland Mound
St. Charles	St. Charles Battle Monument
St. Charles	St. Charles Battle Site
Stuttgart	Arkansas County Courthouse-Northern District
Stuttgart	Riceland Hotel
Stuttgart	Standard Ice Company Building

## **Chicot County:**

Dermott	Dermott Bank & Trust Company
Dermott	Walker House
Eudora	American Legion Post-No. 127
Eudora	Anderson House, Dr. A. G.
Eudora	First Baptist Church of Eudora
Eudora	Liberto,P. and J.-Rosa Portera Building
Grand Lake	Landi, A. General Merchandise Building
Lake Village	Carlton House
Lake Village	Epstein House, Sam
Lake Village	John Tushek Building
Lake Village	Lake Village Confederate Monument

Lake Village	Lake Village Post Office
Lake Village	Lakeport Plantation
Lake Village	New Hope Baptist Church Cemetery (Historic Section)

**Crittenden County:**

Earle	Missouri-Pacific Depot
Earle	Washington Memorial, George Berry
Marion	Crittenden County Bank and Trust Company
Marion	Crittenden County Courthouse
Sunset	Marion Colored High School
West Memphis	Dabbs Store
West Memphis	Hamilton Apartments
West Memphis	Lawrie House
West Memphis	Memphis and Arkansas Bridge

**Desha County:**

Arkansas City	Arkansas City Commercial Historic District
Arkansas City	Arkansas City High School
Arkansas City	Desha County Courthouse
Arkansas City	Pindall, Xenophon Overton Law Office
Arkansas City	Ramus Brothers Market
Arkansas City	Red Star Grocery
Arkansas City	Thane House
Dumas	McKennon-Shea House
Dumas	Merchants & Farmers Bank
Dumas	Watts House, Dr. J. D.
McGehee	Missouri-Pacific Depot



McGehee	Parnell-Sharpe House
McGehee	Temple Meier Chayim
McGehee	Trippe-Holly Grove Cemetery
Rohwer	Rohwer Relocational Center Site

**Drew County:**

Lacey	Veasey-DeArmond House
Monticello	Cavaness House, Garvin
Monticello	Drew County Courthouse
Monticello	Hardy, Robert Lee, House
Monticello	Hotchkiss House
Monticello	Lambert House
Monticello	Monticello Confederate Monument
Monticello	Monticello Post Office
Monticello	North Main Street Historic District
Monticello	Rough and Ready Cemetery
Monticello	St. Mary's Episcopal Church
New Hope	Grubbs House, Champ
Selma	Selma Methodist Church
Tillar	Tillar, Frank Memorial Methodist Episcopal Church, South
Winchester	Taylor Log House and Site

**Lee County:**

Marianna	Elks Club
Marianna	General Robert E. Lee Monument
Marianna	Lee County Courthouse
Marianna	Marianna Commercial District

Marianna	Marianna Missouri-Pacific Depot
Marianna	McClintock House, J. M.
Marianna	McClintock House, W. S.
Marianna	Mixon-Evans Barn
Marianna	Plummer House, John A.

**Mississippi County:**

Blytheville	Blytheville Greyhound Bus Station
Blytheville	Highway 61 Arch
Blytheville	Kress Building
Blytheville	Mississippi County Courthouse, Chickasawba District
Blytheville	Old Bell Telephone Building
Burdette	Burdette School Complex
Burdette	Three States Lumber Co. Powerhouse
Burdette	Tompkins House
Dyess	Dyess Colony Center
Keiser	Keiser School
Leachville	Blytheville, Leachville and Arkansas Southern Railroad Depot
Manila	Davis Memorial, Herman
Manila	Jonesboro, Lake City & Eastern Railroad Depot
Osceola	Bank of Osceola
Osceola	First Baptist Church of Osceola
Osceola	Florida Brothers Building
Osceola	Hale Avenue Historic District
Osceola	Mississippi County Courthouse, Osceola
Osceola	Mississippi County Jail
Osceola	Osceola City Hall
Osceola	Osceola Times Building

Osceola	Planters Bank Building
Restricted	Chickasawba Mound
Restricted	Eaker Site
Restricted	Nodena Site
Restricted	Zebree Homesteads

**Monroe County:**

Blackton	Louisiana Purchase State Park
Blackton	Palmer House
Brinkley	Black Family House, Major William
Brinkley	Gazzola and Vaccaro Building
Brinkley	Lick Skillet Railroad Work Station Historic District
Brinkley	Lo Beele House
Brinkley	Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church
Brinkley	Rusher Hotel
Brinkley	St. John the Baptist Catholic Church
Clarendon	Anderson Boarding House
Clarendon	Bank of Clarendon
Clarendon	Bateman-Griffith House
Clarendon	Bondi Brothers Store
Clarendon	Bounds Building
Clarendon	Clarendon Methodist-Episcopal Church, South
Clarendon	Cumberland Presbyterian Church
Clarendon	Ellas-McKay House
Clarendon	Ewan Building
Clarendon	Galloway House, Orth C.
Clarendon	Goldman and Son Store
Clarendon	Highway 79 Bridge



Clarendon	Jefferies Building
Clarendon	Jefferies-Crabtree House
Clarendon	Manning, Lee, and Moore Law Office
Clarendon	Marston House
Clarendon	Merchants and Planters Bank
Clarendon	Midland Depot
Clarendon	Monroe County Courthouse
Clarendon	Moore-Jacobs House
Clarendon	New South Inn
Holly Grove	Abramson House
Holly Grove	Holly Grove Historic District
Holly Grove	Holly Grove Presbyterian Church
Holly Grove	Lair House
Holly Grove	Walls House, James A.
Lawrenceville	Capps House
Restricted	Baytown Site

**Phillips County:**

Helena	Allin Home
Helena	Almer Store
Helena	Altman House
Helena	Battery A Site, Battle of Helen
Helena	Battery B Site, Battle of Helena
Helena	Battery C Site, Battle of Helena
Helena	Battery D Site, Battle of Helena
Helena	Beech Street Historic District
Helena	Centennial Baptist Church
Helena	Cherry Street Historic District

Helena	Coolidge House
Helena	Estevan Hall
Helena	Helena Confederate Cemetery
Helena	Helena Depot
Helena	Helena Library & Museum
Helena	Horner House, Sydney H.
Helena	Keesee House
Helena	Moore-Hornor House
Helena	Perry Street Historic District
Helena	Ready House, E.S.
Helena	Richard L. Kitchens Post No. 41
Helena	Short House, William A.
Helena	Short-Diesch House
Helena	Spirit of the American Doughboy Monument
Helena	Straub House, William Nichols
Helena	Tappan House, James C.
Helena	Tappan House, Maj. James Alexander
Helena	West House
Helena	White House
Lambrook	Warrens Bridge
Lexa	Richardson-Turner House
Marvell	First Baptist Church of Marvell
Marvell	Mayo House
Postelle	Little Cypress Creek Bridge
West Helena	Chicago Mill Company Office Building
West Helena	Denison House
West Helena	Faust House
West Helena	Gemmill-Faust House

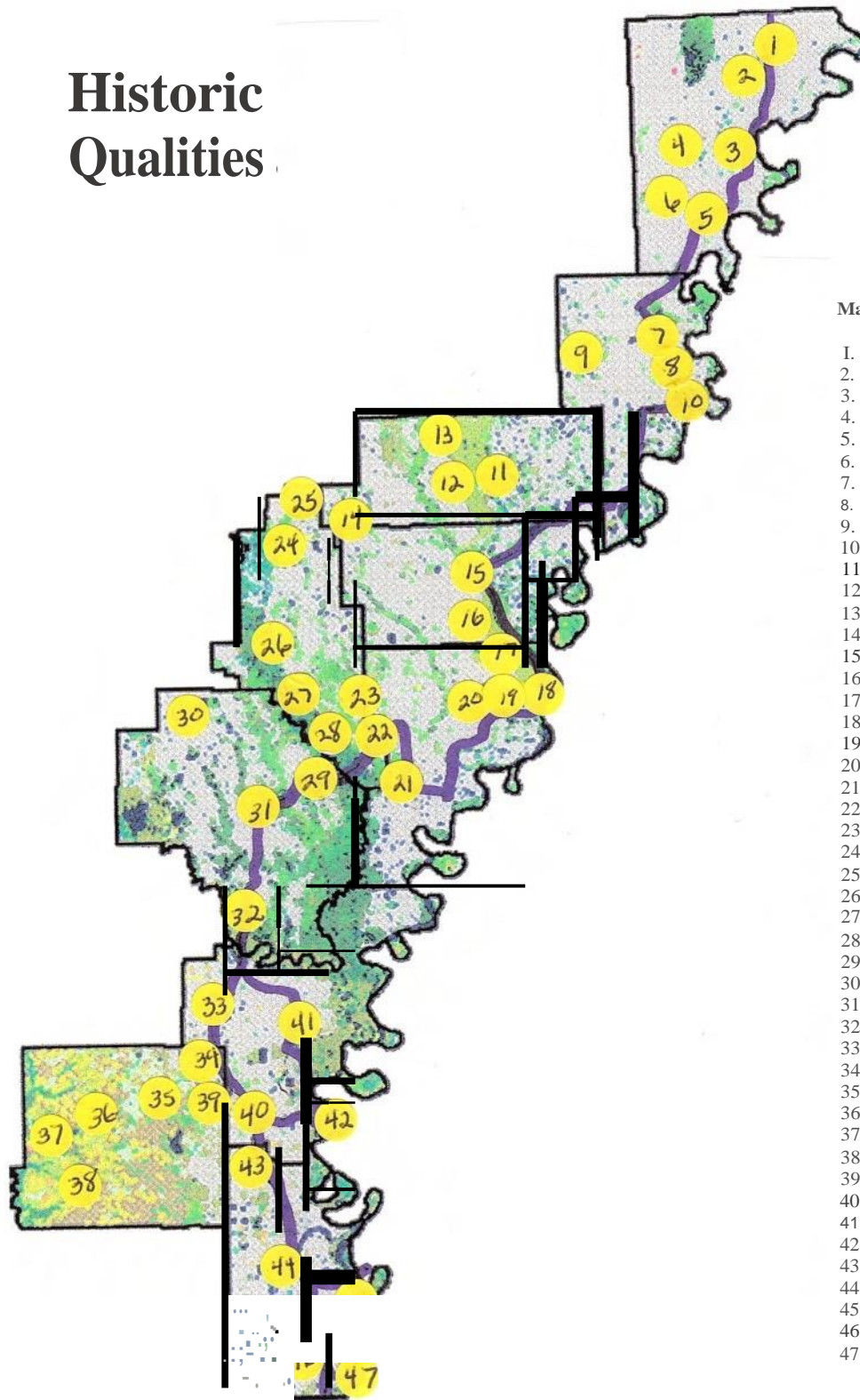
West Helena	Myers House
West Helena	Nelson House

**St. Francis County:**

Colt	Stone House, William
Forrest City	First United Methodist Church
Forrest City	Forrest City High School
Forrest City	Mann House
Forrest City	Stuart Springs
Madison	St. Francis River Bridge
Wheatley	Smith House



# Historic Qualities



## Major Sites

1. Blytheville
2. Burdette
3. Osceola
4. Keiser
5. Wilson
6. Dyess
7. Sunset
8. Marion
9. Earle
10. West Memphis
11. Madison
12. Forrest City
13. Colt
14. Wheatley
15. Marianna
16. LaGrange
17. Lexa
18. Helena
19. West Helena
20. Marvell
21. Lambrook
22. Postelle
23. Blackton
24. Brinkley
25. Fargo
26. Clarendon
27. Holly Grove
28. Lawrenceville
29. St. Charles
30. Stuttgart
31. DeWitt
32. Gillett
33. Dumas
34. Winchester
35. Selma
36. Monticello
37. New Hope
38. Lacey
39. Tillar
40. McGehee
41. Rohwer
42. Arkansas City
43. Dermott
44. Lake Village
45. Shives
46. Eudora
47. Grand Lake



## Recreational Qualities

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Recreational qualities in the region are primarily associated with hunting and fishing, along with the recreational opportunities presented by the many lakes and streams. The 350 lakes in the White River National Wildlife Refuge are teeming with bass and panfish, while Lake Chicot, Arkansas' largest natural lake, is loaded with bass, crappie and other gamefish. Other popular fishing spots along the route are Wapanocca Lake, Horseshoe Lake, Bear Creek and Storm Creek Lakes in the St. Francis National Forest, Old Town Lake at Lakeview, the White River within the wildlife refuge, the Arkansas River in the Dumas area, Connerly Bayou at Lake Chicot, and Grand Lake. Favorite spots close to the main Great River Road route include Mallard Lake in the Big Lake National Wildlife Refuge, Bayou Meto Wildlife Management Area, and Lake Monticello.

Duck hunters won't find a happier hunting ground than the Arkansas Great River Road region. The Mississippi Flyway brings more than a million mallards to Delta rice fields and flooded timber each year, as well as plenty of other waterfowl species. Favorite waterfowl hunting spots include Big Lake Wildlife Management Area, St. Francis Sunken Lands, Bayou Meto Wildlife Management Area, White River National Wildlife Refuge, and the Cut-Off Creek Wildlife Management Area.

The St. Francis National Forest and Lake Chicot State Park both offer excellent opportunities for camping, picnicking, hiking, swimming, boating, and wildlife viewing. Additionally, this segment of The Great River Road includes 73.73 miles that are designated as part of the Mississippi River Trail for bicyclists. This area is primarily from West Memphis to Marianna.

# Recreation Inventory

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## **Recreational: Biking**

Lake Chicot State Park

Levee Systems

Mississippi River Trail

## **Recreational: Birding**

Arkansas Post National Memorial

Big Creek Wildlife Management Area

Big Lake Wildlife Management Area

Lake Chicot State Park

Pine Tree Cooperative Wildlife Management Area

Seven Devils Swamp Wildlife Management Area

St. Francis Wildlife Management Area

Trusten Holder Wildlife Management Area

Wallace Trust

## **Recreational: Boating**

Daily's Boat Dock

Lake Chicot State Park

Lake Kate Adams

Old Town Lake

## **Recreational: Camping**

Bayou Meto Wildlife Management Area

Cut-Off Creek Wildlife Management Area

Lake Chicot State Park

Merrisach Lake



Old Town Lake

Pendleton Park

St. Francis Wildlife Management Area

Trusten Holder Wildlife Management Area

White River National Wildlife Refuge

**Recreational: Fishing**

Arkansas River

Bayou Meto Wildlife Management Area

Bear Creek Lake Recreation Area

Big Creek Wildlife Management Area

Big Lake National Wildlife Refuge

Blue Lake

Burnt Cane Creek

Connerly Bayou

Dagmar Wildlife Management Area

Daily's Boat Dock

DeWitt City Park

Grand Lake

Horseshoe Lake

Lake Chicot

Lake Chicot State Park

Lake Greenlee

Lake Kate Adams

Lake Monticello

Mallard Lake

Merrisach Lake

Old Town Lake  
Pendleton Park  
Pine Tree Cooperative Wildlife Management Area  
Seven Devils Swamp Wildlife Management Area  
St. Francis River-Cross County  
St. Francis River-Lee County  
St. Francis Wildlife Management Area  
Storm Creek Lake  
Tilden Rodgers Park  
Trusten Holder Wildlife Management Area  
Wapanocca National Wildlife Refuge  
White River  
White River National Wildlife Refuge

**Recreational: Gaming**

Southland Greyhound Park

**Recreational: Hiking**

Arkansas City Walking Tour  
Delta Heritage Trail State Park  
Lake Chicot State Park  
St. Francis Wildlife Management Area

**Recreational: Hunting**

Bayou Meto Wildlife Management Area  
Beaver Lake Lodges  
Big Lake Wildlife Management Area  
Butler Hunting Lodge  
Cut-Off Creek Ravines Natural Area

Cut-Off Creek Wildlife Management Area

Daniel Boone Duck Club

Drake's Landing

Duck Guides, Inc.

Ducks Plus Hunting Lodge

Farely Lake/Rollison Seed Company

Fowl Play Hunting Lodge

Pine Tree Cooperative Wildlife Management Area

Pintail Peninsula, Inc.

Seven Devils Swamp Wildlife Management Area

St. Francis Wildlife Management Area

Trusten Holder Wildlife Management Area

White River National Wildlife Refuge

**Recreational: Spectator Sports**

Brinkley Convention Center and Sports Complex

Forrest City Sports Complex

Gene Bearden Stadium

Riverside Speedway Stock Car Racing

**Recreational: Swimming**

Bear Creek Lake Recreation Area

Blue Lake

Bob Hoagland Walking Trail

Lake Chicot State Park

St. Francis Wildlife Management Area

Storm Creek Lake



**Recreational: Other**

Billy Free Memorial Park

DeWitt City Park

Dumas Community Center

Eudora City Park

Forrest City Convention/Special Events Center

Jesswin Park

McKennon Gin

Senior Citizens Park

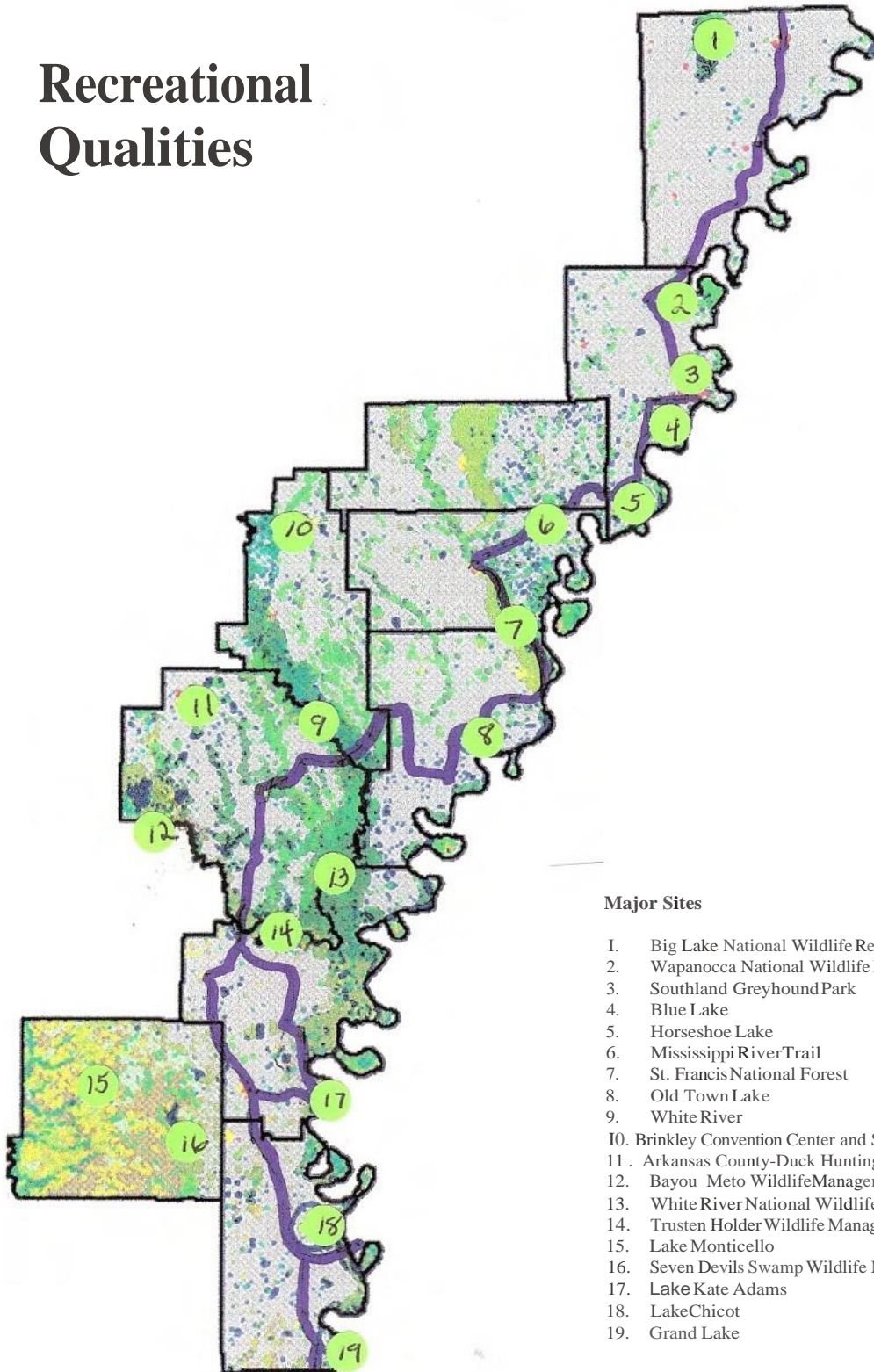
The Hog Pen

Tilden Rodgers Park

Wiley McGehee Park

Worthington Park

# Recreational Qualities



## Major Sites

1. Big Lake National Wildlife Refuge
2. Wapanocca National Wildlife Refuge
3. Southland Greyhound Park
4. Blue Lake
5. Horseshoe Lake
6. Mississippi River Trail
7. St. Francis National Forest
8. Old Town Lake
9. White River
10. Brinkley Convention Center and Sports Complex
11. Arkansas County-Duck Hunting Capital
12. Bayou Meto Wildlife Management Area
13. White River National Wildlife Refuge
14. Trusten Holder Wildlife Management Area
15. Lake Monticello
16. Seven Devils Swamp Wildlife Management Area
17. Lake Kate Adams
18. Lake Chicot
19. Grand Lake



## Scenic Qualities

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The transition from dense, wet woodlands to a modern agricultural area has given the corridor along Arkansas' Great River Road a special beauty all its own. You can see it in the quiet, cypress studded lakes or in the swamps and bayous, with wildflowers adding a burst of color. There is beauty in fields white with cotton or golden with the glow of rice and wheat. Even the flatness of the Delta has its own beauty, providing views that go on forever, and vistas that seem to be nothing but sky. Travelers pass numerous pastoral scenes, with such sights as grazing cattle or harvesters in the fields at sunset. Because so much of the Delta's beauty is related to the various stages of agricultural production, there is one thing that is certain: the scenery is constantly changing.

# Scenic Inventory

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## **Arkansas County:**

White River

Arkansas Post National Memorial

White River National Wildlife Refuge

Merrisach Lake

## **Chicot County:**

Grand Lake

Lake Wallace

Chicot County Levee Tour

Connerly Bayou

Ditch Bayou Battle Site

Lake Chicot

Lake Chicot State Park

## **Crittenden County:**

Blue Lake

Horseshoe Lake



Wapanocca National Wildlife Refuge

Ten-Mile Bayou

Worthington Park

**Desha County:**

Amos Bayou

Arkansas River

Morgan Bendway Lake

Walnut Lake

Wells Bayou

Bayou Macon

Boggy Bayou

Lake Kate Adams

Wallace Trust

Billy Free Memorial Park

Wiley McGehee Park

Bayou Meto Wildlife Management Area

Trusten Holder Wildlife Management Area

Delta Heritage Trail State Park

**Drew County:**

Lake Monticello

Seven Devils Swamp Wildlife Management Area

**Lee County:**

Alligator Bayou

Cypress Creek Swamp

L'Anguille River

St. Francis Wildlife Management Area

Bear Creek Lake Recreation Area

St. Francis National Forest

St. Francis River

**Mississippi County:**

Barfield Landing

Mallard Lake

Big Lake National Wildlife Refuge

Big Lake Wildlife Management Area

Sans Souci Landing

**Monroe County:**

Cypress Creek

Moon Lake

Pine City Natural Area

Louisiana Purchase State Park

Lake Greenlee

Dagmar Wildlife Management Area

**Phillips County:**

Storm Creek Lake

Helena Confederate Cemetery

Helena Levee Walk and River Reach Park

Magnolia Cemetery

Maple Hill Cemetery

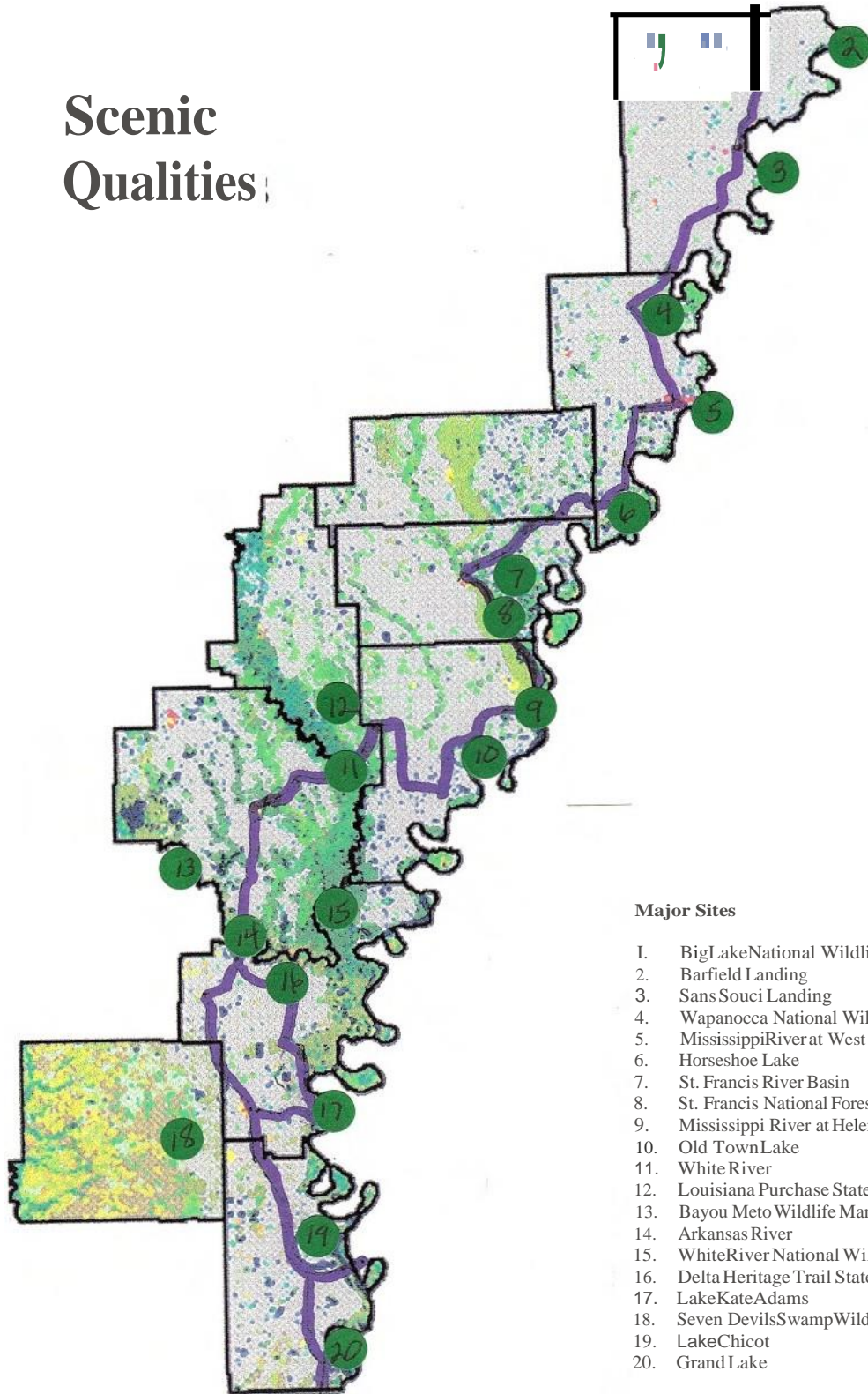
Old Town Lake

**St. Francis County:**

Crooked Bayou

Taylor Lake

# Scenic Qualities



## Major Sites

1. BigLakeNational WildlifeRefuge
2. Barfield Landing
3. Sans Souci Landing
4. Wapanocca National WildlifeRefuge
5. MississippiRiver at West Memphis
6. Horseshoe Lake
7. St. Francis River Basin
8. St. Francis National Forest
9. Mississippi River at Helena
10. Old TownLake
11. White River
12. Louisiana Purchase State Park
13. Bayou Meto Wildlife Management Area
14. Arkansas River
15. WhiteRiver National Wildlife Refuge
16. Delta Heritage Trail State Park
17. LakeKateAdams
18. Seven DevilsSwampWildlife Management Area
19. LakeChicot
20. Grand Lake



# Great River Road-Arkansas: Restaurants

County	City	Name	Street Address
Arkansas	DeWitt	Burger Master	600 S. Whitehead Dr.
	DeWitt	CJ's Bar & Grill	1020 E. 2nd Ext St.
	DeWitt	Don's Catfish Kitchen	316 Hwy. 1
	DeWitt	Fairwinds Restaurant	122 S. Main
	DeWitt	L & M Bar - B - Q	119 S Jefferson St.
	DeWitt	Piccolo's Pizza	910 E. 2nd St.
	DeWitt	Sahara Family Restaurant	312 S. Whitehead
	DeWitt	Sonic Drive-In	
	DeWitt	Troy's Drive-In	1024 S. Jefferson
	DeWitt	Vera's Café	513 E. 9th
	DeWitt	Willows	1306 S. Whitehead Dr.
	Gillett	Brewsky's	4 W. Main
	Gillett	Gillett Bar & Grill	1 E. Main
	Gillett	Rice Paddy Motel	Hwy. 165
	St. Charles	St. Charles Community Store	Highway 1
	Stuttgart	Andy's Restaurant	203 W. 22nd
	Stuttgart	Big Banjo of Stuttgart	704 E. 22nd St.
	Stuttgart	Cajun Hida-Way	946 W. Washington Ext.
	Stuttgart	Chicken Country No 5	900 S. Main
	Stuttgart	China Garden Chinese Restaurant	204 E. 22nd St.
	Stuttgart	Coach's Fish and Chicken	405 N. Main St
	Stuttgart	Country Gossip	100 S. Main
	Stuttgart	Dole's Fish Market	616 N. Main
	Stuttgart	El Canaveral Mexican	2110 C. Buerkle St. # D
	Stuttgart	Kentucky Fried Chicken	107 E. 22nd
	Stuttgart	KFC	107 E. 22nd St.
	Stuttgart	Kibb's Bar-B-Q	436 W. 2nd

# Great River Road-Arkansas: Restaurants

County	City	Name	Street Address
Arkansas	Stuttgart	La Petite Cajun Bistro Inc.	1919 S. Main
	Stuttgart	Ladel's Restaurant	1008 E. 1st St.
	Stuttgart	Lil' Wiley's Fish Market	1103 E. 2nd
	Stuttgart	Little Chef	Hwy. 79 & Park Ave. 1103
	Stuttgart	Lotus Blossom Restaurant	1623 S. Main
	Stuttgart	Mallard Restaurant	703 W. Michigan
	Stuttgart	McDonald's	202 E. 22nd
	Stuttgart	Mr. B's Restaurant	202 E. Michigan St.
	Stuttgart	Our Place	1509 S. Main St.
	Stuttgart	Pintail Peninsula, Inc.	
	Stuttgart	Pizza For Less	2103 S. Main
	Stuttgart	Pizza Hut	2108 S. Main
	Stuttgart	Sonic Drive-In	1121 S. Main
	Stuttgart	Sportsman Drive-In	805 N. Porter
	Stuttgart	Subway Sandwiches & Salads	301 W. 22nd
	Stuttgart	Sunrise Café	1007 N. Buerkle St.
	Stuttgart	Western Sizzlin Steak House	706 W. Michigan
	Stuttgart	Wofford Bro. Restaurant	225 N. Main
Chicot	Dermott	Big Ben Restaurant	3397 Hwy. 65 N
	Dermott	Cowboy's Restaurant	Hwy. 65 & I-65
	Dermott	Dermott Barbecue & Sandwich	105 E. Iowa St
	Dermott	Roe's Place	104 W. Iowa St.
	Dermott	Willy's Old Fashioned Hamburgers	300 E. Speedway
	Eudora	Eudora Dairy Bar	707 N. Hwy. 65
	Eudora	Holly Ridge	1328 S. Hwy. 65
	Lake Village	Al's All In One	1526 Hwy. 65 & 82 S.
	Lake Village	Cowpen	5198 E. Hwy 82

# Great River Road-Arkansas: Restaurants

County	City	Name	Street Address
Chicot	Lake Village	Delta Café	1013 Gillison Dr.
	Lake Village	Kowloon Restaurant	1331 S. Hwy. 65
	Lake Village	Krystal	315 S. Hwy 65 & 82
	Lake Village	Park Place	3738 Hwy. 65 & 82
	Lake Village	Pizza Hut	1927 Hwy. 65 & 82
	Lake Village	Pizza Inn	736 Hwy. 65 & 82 S.
	Lake Village	Pizza Pro of Lake Village	1216 Hwy. 65-82 S
	Lake Village	Rhonda's Famous Hot Tamales	714 St. Marys St.
	Lake Village	Sonic Drive-In	Hwy. 65 & Hwy. 82
	Lake Village	Taco Bell	1927 Hwy. 65-82 S
Crittenden	Marion	Hardee's	3320 I-55
	Marion	KFC	3050 I-55
	Marion	McDonald's	3440 I-55
	Marion	Ole Feed House	2632 I-55
	Marion	Pizza Pro	2921 State Hwy. 77 S. # 1
	Marion	Sonic Drive-In	139 Block St.
	Marion	Taco Bell	3050 I-55
	Marion	Veanos Restaurant	2921 State Hwy. 77 S
	Marion	Wayne's Marion Diner	3006 I-55
	West Memphis	Anner's Soul Food	1016E. Broadway
	West Memphis	Backyard Burgers	1113 Missouri
	West Memphis	Baskin-Robbins	600 W. Broadway
	West Memphis	Blimpie's	Flash Market 1903 S. Service
	West Memphis	Blimpie's	Flash Market 700 W. Service
	West Memphis	Bonanza Steak House	105 Shoppingway
	West Memphis	Burger King	216 I-40 Service Rd.
	West Memphis	Burger King	433 W. Broadway

# Great River Road-Arkansas: Restaurants

County	City	Name	Street Address
Crittenden	West Memphis	Captain D's	265 W. Broadway
	West Memphis	Catfish Island	I-40 & I-55 at 7th St.
	West Memphis	Central Park	107 W. Broadway
	West Memphis	Church's Fried Chicken	1503 E. Broadway
	West Memphis	Covered Wagon	Ambest I-40 & 7th St.
	West Memphis	Cracker Barrel	7th St. & E. Service Rd.
	West Memphis	Dairy Queen	Pilot Oil Company 800
	West Memphis	Domino's Pizza	1405 Missouri
	West Memphis	Dragon China	500 W. Broadway #12
	West Memphis	Famiy Affair	123 8th St.
	West Memphis	Flying J	3400 Service Loop Rd.
	West Memphis	Fu Gai Chinese	526 E. Broadway
	West Memphis	Granny's Front Porch	109 S. Worthington
	West Memphis	Great Steak & Potato Company	1806 Missouri
	West Memphis	Hoagie House	111 Dover Rd.
	West Memphis	Holleman's Pit BBQ	510 N. Missouri
	West Memphis	Howard's Donuts	1711 N. Missouri
	West Memphis	Iron Skillet	3900 Martin Luther King Dr.
	West Memphis	Kennel Club	1550 N. Ingram Blvd.
	West Memphis	Kentucky Fried Chicken	400 N. Missouri
	West Memphis	Kentucky Fried Chicken	900 Martin Luther King Dr.
	West Memphis	Kreme Kup	2105 E. Broadway
	West Memphis	Krystal	1804 N. Missouri
	West Memphis	Little Caesar's Pizza	105 Dover Rd.
	West Memphis	Masher Café	1613 E. Broadway St.
	West Memphis	McDonald's	1800 N. Missouri
	West Memphis	McDonald's	3901 Martin Luther King Dr.



# Great River Road-Arkansas: Restaurants

County	City	Name	Street Address
Crittenden	West Memphis	McDonald's	Wal-Mart Superstore I-40 at
	West Memphis	Memphis Gateway Travel Ctr.	1333 N. 7th St.
	West Memphis	Mrs. Winner's	1551 Missouri
	West Memphis	Munchy's	108 E. Broadway
	West Memphis	Paddock Club	1550 N. Ingram Blvd.
	West Memphis	Pancho's Mexican Restaurant	Broadway & Martin Luther
	West Memphis	Perkins	1100 Martin Luther King Dr.
	West Memphis	Pizza Hut	1105 Missouri
	West Memphis	Pizza Inn	190 Shppingway
	West Memphis	Popeye's Chicken & Biscuit	1344 N.Missouri
	West Memphis	Ray's BBQ	1214 Missouri
	West Memphis	Shoney's	222 I-40
	West Memphis	Sicily's	108 Glen Bailey Drive
	West Memphis	Smith's Café	129 S. 11th St.
	West Memphis	Sonic Drive-In	120 W. Broadway
	West Memphis	Subway Sandwich Shop	1717 N. Missouri
	West Memphis	Subway Sandwich Shop	Pilot Oil Company 800
	West Memphis	Taco Bell	1209 N. Missouri
	West Memphis	Taco Bell	Ambest I-40 & 7th St.
	West Memphis	TCBY	107 Dover Rd.
	West Memphis	The Cookery	3000 Service Loop
	West Memphis	Waffle House	2309 E. Service Rd.
	West Memphis	Wendy's	1223 N. Missouri
	West Memphis	Willie Mae's Rib Haus	321 W. Broadway
	West Memphis	Yesterday's Family Bar & Grill	Holiday Inn I-40 & I-55 at
Desha	Arkansas City	Lunch Box	Robert Moore Ave.
	Dumas	Burger Bar	

# Great River Road-Arkansas: Restaurants

County	City	Name	Street Address
Desha	Dumas	Butch's Steak & Seafood	Hwy. 65
	Dumas	Cajun Connection	Hwy. 65 S
	Dumas	Catfish Kitchen	217 N. Hwy. 65
	Dumas	Diner	724 Hwy. 65 S.
	Dumas	Donnie's Culinary Legacy	507 W. Waterman
	Dumas	El Caporal Mexican Rest.	489 Hwy. 65N
	Dumas	Ethel's Kitchen	602 W. Jones
	Dumas	Hall's BBQ	152 N. Main
	Dumas	Hardee's	707 Hwy. 65 S
	Dumas	House of Lee Restaurant	125 Hwy. 65 N
	Dumas	McDonald's	10180 Hwy. 65 S
	Dumas	Meador Pharmacy	101 W. Waterman
	Dumas	Michelle's Place	526 W. Choctaw
	Dumas	Pic-Nic-Ker Drive Inn	646 W. Waterman
	Dumas	Pizza Hut	Hwy. 65 S
	Dumas	Sonic Drive-In	Hwy. 65 S
	Dumas	Subway	310 Hwy. 65 N.
	Dumas	The Diner	724 Hwy. 65 S
	Dumas	The Place	526 W. Choctaw
	Dumas	Total Taco Express	Hwy. 65 & Hwy. 54-E
	McGehee	Catfish Kitchen	Hwy. 65 S
	McGehee	Kelly's Drug Store	Holly Street
	McGehee	Kentucky Fried Chicken	Hwy. 65 & 4
	McGehee	Lawson's Restaurant	Ash Street
	McGehee	Pizza Inn	Hwy. 65 North
	McGehee	Pizza Pro	2008 Hwy. 65 N
	McGehee	Roe's Place	104 W. Iowa

# Great River Road-Arkansas: Restaurants

County	City	Name	Street Address
Desha	McGehee	Sirmon's Kitchen	303 S. First
	McGehee	Sonic Drive-In	Hwy. 65 North
	McGehee	Subway Sandwiches & Salads	2008 Hwy. 65 N
	McGehee	Willie Mae's Kitchen	405 South First
Drew	Blytheville	Burger Ranch	140 Columbia
	Monticello	Beijing House	639 W. Gaines St.
	Monticello	Betty's For Lunch	420 W. Gaines St.
	Monticello	Breaker Drive In	
	Monticello	Burger King	
	Monticello	Captain's Table	
	Monticello	City Health Mart	
	Monticello	Cypress Creek Crawfish and Seafood	
	Monticello	Domino's Pizza	
	Monticello	Family Seafood	
	Monticello	Fish Hook Restaurant	
	Monticello	Fortune Cookie	
	Monticello	Hardee's	
	Monticello	Hardee's	344 Hwy. 425 N.
	Monticello	KFC	
	Monticello	KFC	719 Hwy. 278 W
	Monticello	La Dolce Vita	
	Monticello	Madison Restaurant	
	Monticello	Madison Restaurant	791 Hwy. 278 W
	Monticello	Mazzio's Pizza	
	Monticello	Mazzio's Pizza	509 Hwy. 425 N
	Monticello	McDonald's	
	Monticello	McDonald's	Hwy. 425 S

# Great River Road-Arkansas: Restaurants

County	City	Name	Street Address
Drew	Monticello	Melodies & Meals	354 S Main St
	Monticello	Parker's Dairyyette	
	Monticello	Piggy Sue's	521 Hwy 425 S
	Monticello	Pizza Hut	
	Monticello	Pizza Perfect	
	Monticello	Popeye's Chicken and Biscuit	431 Hwy 425 S
	Monticello	Ray's	718 Hwy 425 S
	Monticello	Subway	157 N Park Dr.
	Monticello	Taco Bell	177 Hwy 425 S
	Monticello	The Hub	306 Hwy 425 n
	Monticello	Waff-L-Inn	109 Carla Ln
	Monticello	Western Sizzlin	436 Hwy 425 N
	Monticello	Young's Bar-B-Q	818 E McCloy
	Tillar	Nancy's Corner Café	4456 Hwy. 277 E
Lee	Marianna	Ashley's Place	86 S. Florida
	Marianna	Cleo's Restaurant	381 W. Chestnut
	Marianna	Fish Dish	198 Poplar
	Marianna	Jones Barbecue Diner	219 W. Louisiana
	Marianna	Kentucky Fried Chicken	Hwy. 79 W
	Marianna	Old Fashion Café	24 W. Main
	Marianna	Robert's Diner	24 W. Main
	Marianna	Sonic Drive-In	311 W. Chestnut
	Marianna	Sunshine's Cajun Café	10771 Hwy. 79 W
Mississippi	Marianna	Tri-County Goodyear Deli	357 Hwy. 1 Bypass
	Blytheville	Armstrong's Pit Barbeque	303 Valley Dr
	Blytheville	Benny Bob's BBQ	841 E. Main
	Blytheville	Big Daddy's Bar & Grill	E. Hwy. 18 at Holiday Inn



# Great River Road-Arkansas: Restaurants

County	City	Name	Street Address
Mississippi	Blytheville	Blimpie Sub & Salad	Hwy. 18 & 55
	Blytheville	Blytheville Truck Plaza	S Hwy. 61 & I55
	Blytheville	Bon Appetit	414 Chickasawba
	Blytheville	Bonanza Steak House	1019 E. Main
	Blytheville	Burger King	3800 E. State Hwy. 18
	Blytheville	Carol's Drive Thru Bar-B-Q	2301 W. Main
	Blytheville	China King	623 E. Main
	Blytheville	Dixie Pig	701 N. 6
	Blytheville	Domino's Pizza	400 N. 6th
	Blytheville	Ed's Country Catfish House	Hwy. 61 S
	Blytheville	El Acapulco Mexican Restaurant	1520 E. Main
	Blytheville	Gangplank	200 S. 1
	Blytheville	Great Wall	301 Access Rd.
	Blytheville	Grecian Steak House	1600 E. Main
	Blytheville	Hardee's	1000 E. Hollywood
	Blytheville	Harry's	100 S. Service Rd.
	Blytheville	Holderby Max	215 W. Walnut
	Blytheville	Hoops Drive-In Restaurant	508 W. Main
	Blytheville	Iris's Café	309 S. Airbase Hwy.
	Blytheville	Kentucky Fried Chicken	1034 E. Main
	Blytheville	Kowloon Restaurant	357 S. Division
	Blytheville	Kream Castle	112 N. Division
	Blytheville	Lake Street Carry-Out	819 S. Lake
	Blytheville	Mae's Grill	1101 S. Elm
	Blytheville	Mazzio's Pizza	1021 E. Main
	Blytheville	McDonald's	1031 E. Main
	Blytheville	Olympia Steak and Seafood	1700 E. Main

# Great River Road-Arkansas: Restaurants

County	City	Name	Street Address
Mississippi	Blytheville	Perkins Family Restaurant &	E Hwy. 18 & I-55
	Blytheville	Pizza Hut	111 N. Division
	Blytheville	Pizza Inn	1035 E. Main
	Blytheville	Poor Boy's Café	405 N. Franklin
	Blytheville	Popeye's Chicken	3600 S. Division
	Blytheville	Ribs Chicken & More	801 W. McHaney
	Blytheville	River City Spice Co	125 E. Ash
	Blytheville	Sharecroppers	211 W. Ash
	Blytheville	Shoney's Restaurants	1901 E. Main
	Blytheville	Sonic Drive In #2	1010 E. Main
	Blytheville	Sonic Drive-In	711 N. 6
	Blytheville	Subway	Hwy.18 E. at I-55
	Blytheville	Subway	S Hwy. 61 & I-55
	Blytheville	Taco Bell	125 S. Service Rd
	Blytheville	Teadon Chinese Restaurant	569 Oakland Ave.
	Blytheville	Tony's Bar-B-Q	1537 N. 6
	Blytheville	Wayne's Restaurant	408 W. Ash
	Blytheville	Wendy's Old Fashioned	1010 Hollywood
	Blytheville	Westside Café	1916 W. Rose
	Etowah	Sheffield's Country Kitchen Café	4677 Hwy. 136
	Gosnell	Main Gate Café	597 S. Airbase
	Gosnell	Sonic Drive In	Air Base Highway
	Gosnell	Subway	409 S. Airbase Hwy.
	Keiser	Keiser Café	202 W. Main
	Keiser	Mel's Place	110 W. Main
	Leachville	Frontier Drive Inn	
	Leachville	Judy's Bar B Q	104 Rodman

# Great River Road-Arkansas: Restaurants

County	City	Name	Street Address
Mississippi	Leachville	Leachville Pizza & Café	202 S. Main
	Leachville	Malt Shop	S Main
	Manila	Brandon's Log Cabin Restaurant	813 Hwy. 18 By-Pass
	Manila	Smokestack BBQ	403 W. Olympia
	Manila	Subway	302 Hwy. 18 By-Pass
	Osceola	Bowle's Bar B Q	512 W. Keiser
	Osceola	Cotton Inn Restaurant	I-55 & Hwy. 140
	Osceola	Dawson's Bar-B-Que	Hwy. 140 W
	Osceola	Faye's Fine Foods	398 W. Keiser
	Osceola	Friendly Diner	115 E. Hale
	Osceola	Hardee's	915 W. Keiser
	Osceola	Jose'	Village Mall Shopping Center
	Osceola	King Wok Restaurant	221 W. Hale
	Osceola	Mazzio's Pizza	1260 W. Keiser
	Osceola	McDonald's	801 W. Keiser
	Osceola	Patsy's Place	223 W. Hale
	Osceola	Pizza Hut	1275 W. Keiser
	Osceola	Sonic Drive-In	600 W. Keiser
	Osceola	Subway	1301 W. Keiser
	Osceola	Sulcer's Lounge	411 S. Walnut
	Osceola	Taystee Grill	105 S. Walnut
	Osceola	Texaco Truck Stop	4710 W. Keiser
	Wilson	Wilson Café	2 N. Jefferson
Monroe	Brinkley	Best Western Brinkley Restaurant	1306 N. Hwy. 17
	Brinkley	Brinkley Café	41 E. Cypress
	Brinkley	Freight House Café	101 S. New York
	Brinkley	Gene's Pit BBQ	Hwy. 49 South

# Great River Road-Arkansas: Restaurants

County	City	Name	Street Address
Monroe	Brinkley	Ja-J's Vienna	819 N. Main
	Brinkley	Kentucky Fried Chicken	Jct I-40 & Hwy. 49
	Brinkley	Laura's Diner	1005 N. Main
	Brinkley	McDonald's	1500 Hwy. 49
	Brinkley	Ole South Pancake House	N. Hwy. 49
	Brinkley	Pizza Hut	161 S. Hwy. 49 N
	Brinkley	Pizza Ranch	1008 North Main
	Brinkley	Sonic Drive-In	907 N. Main
	Brinkley	Subway	1305 N. Main
	Brinkley	Taco Bell	1402 North Main
	Brinkley	The Notch	105 W. Cypress St.
	Brinkley	Waffle House	1407 North Main
	Brinkley	Western Sizzlin Steak House	I-40 & Hwy. 49 North
	Clarendon	Lions Den Drive In	212 5th St.
	Clarendon	White River Café	716 Madison St.
	Holly Grove	Dee's Hide A Way	Hwy. 17 N.
	Holly Grove	J & J's Diner	29 N. Hwy. 79
	Roe	Red Shed	Trotter Rd.
Phillips	Elaine	Delta Diner	219 Main St.
	Elaine	Mora's Diner	219 Main St.
	Elaine	Vic's Eats	105 MainSt.
	Helena	McDonald's	580 Oakland Dr.
	Helena	Oliver's	
	Helena	Pasquale's	211 Missouri
	Marvell	Marie's Family Restaurant	307 Highway One
	Marvell	Powell's Mary Café	919 Main
	Marvell	Ray's Kool Freeze	P.O.Box 1173



# Great River Road-Arkansas: Restaurants

County	City	Name	Street Address
Phillips	Marvell	The Carousel	Hwy. 49
	Poplar Grove	PG Bar-B-Q	
	W. Helena	Dee's Bar-B-Que	23 Phillips 230
	W. Helena	El Canaveral Mexican Restaurant	1038 Hwy. 49
	W. Helena	Janet's Restaurant	1509 Hwy. 49
	W. Helena	Jay's Drive In	502 N. Sebastian
	W. Helena	Kelly's	297 Richmond Hill Dr.
	W. Helena	KFC	Hwy. 49 B
	W. Helena	Neighbors Restaurant and Catering	1937 Hwy. 242 S
	W. Helena	Patrick's Dairy Maid	5322 Hwy. 49
	W. Helena	Rib Shack	5494 Hwy. 242
	W. Helena	Ryan's Family Steakhouse	648 N. Sebastian
	W. Helena	Sonic Drive In	798 N. Sebastian
	W. Helena	South China	849 N. Sebastian
	W. Helena	Subway	698 N. Sebastian
St. Francis	Colt	Mike's Family Foods	Highway 1 North
	Forrest City	Billy's Place	106 N. Grant
	Forrest City	Blimpie's/Flash Market	205 Deadrick Road
	Forrest City	Blue Flame Café	208 N. Grant
	Forrest City	Bonanza Family Restaurant	2250 N. Washington
	Forrest City	Burger Barn	1331 S. Washington
	Forrest City	Catfish Island	Hwy. 1 Caldwell
	Forrest City	D J's Country Bar-B-Que	1320 N. Division
	Forrest City	Denny's Restaurant	Highway 1 North and I-40
	Forrest City	Hickory House Bar-B-Q	918 N. Washington
	Forrest City	Ho Ho Chinese Restaurant	110 Barrow Hill Rd.
	Forrest City	Kentucky Fried Chicken	2007 N. Washington

# Great River Road-Arkansas: Restaurants

County	City	Name	Street Address
St. Francis	Forrest City	Krystal Restaurant	100 Holiday Dr.
	Forrest City	McDonald's	2301 N. Washington
	Forrest City	Mom's Kitchen	158 Lamar
	Forrest City	Mrs. Winners Chicken & Bisquits	2306 N. Washington
	Forrest City	Mu'Dea's	1225 W. Broadway
	Forrest City	O'Carroll's Restaurant & Pub	737 N. Washington
	Forrest City	Old Southern BBQ	2015 W. Broadway
	Forrest City	Ole Sawmill Café	2299 N. Washington
	Forrest City	Ole South Pancake House	Hwy. 1 & I-40
	Forrest City	Oscars	520 Broadway
	Forrest City	Phillips Fish Market	122 Turner
	Forrest City	Pizza Hut	2023 N. Washington
	Forrest City	Pizza Inn	901 N. Washington
	Forrest City	Pop & Grandy's Store and	8029 Hwy. 70 W
	Forrest City	Sonic Drive-In	930 N. Washington
	Forrest City	Southside Fish Market	1334 S. Washington
	Forrest City	Subway Sandwiches & Salads	2334 N. Washington
	Forrest City	Taco Bell	2055 N. Washington
	Forrest City	Waffle House	2340 N. Washington
	Forrest City	Wendy's Old Fashioned	3302 N. Washington
	Forrest City	Wilburn's & Jordan Bar-B-Q	509 W. Franklin
	Forrest City	Williams Restaurant	211 N. Rosser

# Great River Road-Arkansas: Lodging

County	City	Name	Street Address
Arkansas	DeWitt	Sahara Motel	312 Whitehead Dr.
	Stuttgart	Best Western Duck Inn	704 W. Michigan St.
	Stuttgart	Economy Inn Express	200 Michigan St.
	Stuttgart	Holiday Inn Express	708 W. Michigan St.
	Stuttgart	Pintail Peninsula, Inc.	262 JR Johnson Rd.
	Stuttgart	Super 8 Motel	701 Michigan St.
	Stuttgart	Walker Motor Inn	405 E. Michigan St.
Chicot	Dermott	Economy Inn	Highway 65 N
	Eudora	Pines Motel	2401 Hwy. 65 N
	Lake Village	Al's Motel	Hwys. 65 & 82
	Lake Village	Budget Inn	Hwy. 65 & 82 S
	Lake Village	La Villa Motel	1311 Hwy. 65 & 82 South
	Lake Village	Lake Chicot State Park	2542 Hwy. 257
	Lake Village	Lakeshore Motel	4403 Hwy. 82 E
Crittenden	Lake Village	Ramada Limited of Lake Village	912 Hwy. 65-82 S
	Marion	Best Western Regency Motor Inn	I-55 & Hwy 64
	Marion	hallmarc Inn	2980 Hwy I-55
	Marion	Journey Inn	3733 Hwy I-55
	West Memphis	Best Western/West Memphis Inn	3401 Service Loop
	West Memphis	Comfort Inn	1300 Ingram Blvd.
	West Memphis	Days Inn West Pyramid	I-55 & Ingram Blvd.
	West Memphis	Deluxe Inn	3710 Service Loop
	West Memphis	Econo Lodge	2315 E. I-55
	West Memphis	Express Inn	3700 Service Loop
	West Memphis	Hampton Inn	I-40 & I-55 at Ingram Blvd.
	West Memphis	Holiday Inn	I-40 & I-55 at Ingram Blvd.
	West Memphis	Howard Johnson	2411 E. Service Rd.
	West Memphis	Motel 6	2501 S. Service Rd.
	West Memphis	New Hampshire Inn	898 Ingram Blvd.
	West Memphis	Quality Inn	1009 E. Service Rd.
	West Memphis	Ramada Limited	210 S. Service Rd.
	West Memphis	Red Roof Inn	1401 Ingram Blvd.

# Great River Road-Arkansas: Lodging

County	City	Name	Street Address
Crittenden	West Memphis	Relax Inn	2407 E. Service Rd.
	West Memphis	Super 8 Motel	901 Martin Luther King Dr.
	West Memphis	Tom Sawyer's RV Park	
Desha	Dumas	Days Inn	501 Hwy. 65 S
	Dumas	Delta Lodge Motel	Hwy. 65 S
	Dumas	Executive Inn	310 Hwy. 65 S
	Dumas	Miss Em's Bed and Breakfast	140 East Waterman
	Dumas	Pendleton Inn	167 Pendleton Ln.
	Dumas	Regency Inn	Hwy 65 S
	McGehee	Best Western	1202 Hwy. 65 N
	McGehee	Briarwood Inn	1202 Hwy. 65 N
	McGehee	Evans House	Wolfe Drive
	McGehee	Magnolia House	310 North Third
	McGehee	Senator Motel	Hwy. 65
Drew	Monticello	Best Western	306 Hwy. 425 N
	Monticello	Country Manor	2221 Hwy. 35 W
	Monticello	Days Inn	317 Hwy. 425 N
	Monticello	Hiway Host Inn	West Gains Street
	Monticello	Holiday Inn Express	460 Dearman Drive
	Monticello	J and S RV Park	204 Harris Rd.
	Monticello	The Trotter House	404 North Main Street
Lee	Marianna	Sands Motel	294 Hwy. 49
	Marianna	St. Francis National Forest	2675 Hwy. 44
Mississippi	Blytheville	B Q Studios	418 W. Ash
	Blytheville	Best Budget Inn	357 S. Division
	Blytheville	Best Western Inn	I-55 & Hwy. 61
	Blytheville	Comfort Inn	1520 E. Main
	Blytheville	Days Inn	E.Hwy. 18 at I-55
	Blytheville	Delta K Motel	S. Hwy. 61
	Blytheville	Drury Inn	Hwy I-55 & Hwy. 18
	Blytheville	Economy Inn	1003 S. Division
	Blytheville	Hampton Inn	301 Access Rd. I-55

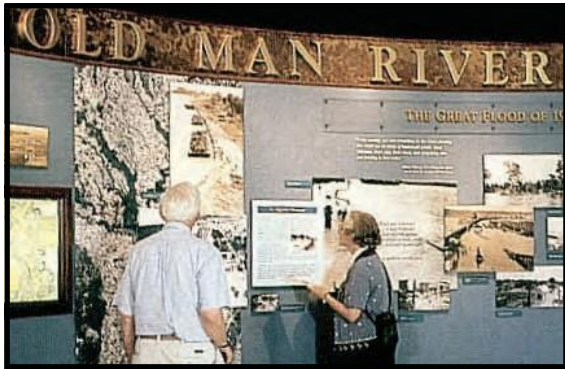


# Great River Road-Arkansas: Lodging

County	City	Name	Street Address
Mississippi	Blytheville	Holiday Inn	E. Hwy. 18
	Blytheville	Hudgings Motel	610 Airbase
	Blytheville	Royal Inn	1214 S. Division
	Osceola	Best Western Inn	I-55 & Hwy. 140
	Osceola	Holiday Inn Express	4491 W. Keiser
	Osceola	The Judge Motel	319 W. Hale
Monroe	Brinkley	Best Western	1306 N. Hwy. 17
	Brinkley	Brinkley Inn	1124 S. Main
	Brinkley	Days Inn	Hwy. I-40
	Brinkley	Econo Lodge	I-40 & Hwy. 49 North Exit
	Brinkley	Harvest House	904 S. Main
	Brinkley	Heritage Inn	I-40 & US 49 (Exit 216)
	Brinkley	Super 8 Motel	Hwy I-40 & 49 North
	Clarendon	J & M Motel	321 S. 5th St.
Phillips	Helena	Downtown Inn	416 Walnut
	Helena	Edwardian Inn	317 Biscoe
	Helena	Foxglove	229 Beech
	Helena	Helena's Riverbluff Hotel	Hwy 49 & Bridge Rd.
	Helena	Lady Luck Riverbluff Hotel	1007 Martin Luther King Jr.
	Helena	Magnolia Hill	608 Perry St.
	Helena	Stone Ridge Inn	1202 Perry St.
	West Helena	Best Western Inn	1053 W. Hwy 49
	West Helena	Delta Inn	1207 Hwy 49 N.
	West Helena	Harbor Inn Motel	Hwy 49 B
St. Francis	West Helena	Holiday Star Motel	302 N. Sebastian
	West Helena	Sands Motel	1086 W. Hwy 49
	Forrest City	Arden-Ann Motor Lodge	2502 E. Broadway
	Forrest City	Best Western/Colony Inn	I-40 & Hwy. 1 North
	Forrest City	Comfort Inn	115 Barrow Hill Rd.
	Forrest City	Days Inn Suites	350 Barrow Hill Rd.
	Forrest City	Econo Lodge	204 Holiday Dr.
	Forrest City	Hampton Inn	300 Holiday Dr.

# Great River Road-Arkansas: Lodging

County	City	Name	Street Address
St. Francis	Forrest City	Holiday Inn	Hwy. 1 N. & I-40
	Forrest City	Luxury Inn	315 Barrow Hill Rd.
	Forrest City	Regency Inn	907 E. Broadway
	Forrest City	Save Inn	105 N. West
	Forrest City	Super 8 Motel	215 Barrow Hill Rd.
	Forrest City	Texas Motel	2021 E. Broadway
	Wheatley	Ramada Inn Limited	139 Lawson Rd. (Exit 221)



**Cultural Qualities: Delta Cultural Center at Helena**



**Natural Qualities: Cypress Brake along Drew County Spur**



**Archeological Qualities: Parkin Archeological State Park**



**Historic Qualities: Cross marking establishment of Arkansas Post**



**Recreational Qualities: Sunset Fishing at Lake Chicot State Park**



**Scenic Qualities: Big Lake National Wildlife Refuge**



# Management Plan

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Ten commissioners appointed by the Governor manage the Great River Road-Arkansas. In addition to establishing policy along The Great River Road-Arkansas, these commissioners are members of the National Mississippi River Parkway Commission, which develops overall policies and promotional activities for the entire 10-state Great River Road region from Canada to the Gulf. The Mississippi River Parkway Commission of Arkansas meets quarterly, while the national commission meets twice a year at various locations throughout the 10-state region.

To carry out the work of the Mississippi River Parkway Commission of Arkansas, the State of Arkansas funds one administrative and one support position for the commission. This staff is located within the Arkansas Department of Parks and Tourism and shares other tourism responsibilities. Arkansas Tourism also works closely with Arkansas Department of Transportation's Scenic Byways Coordinator, who attends all Arkansas MRPC meetings.

Legislation in Arkansas divides the state into 12 tourism regions, with each region having one official non-profit tourism promotion association recognized by the Arkansas Department of Parks and Tourism. Each of these regions receives 2:1 promotion matching funds from the department, up to a cap of \$120,000.

The Great River Road-Arkansas is located within the 15-county Eastern Arkansas tourism region known as Arkansas Delta Byways. This region also includes the Crowley's Ridge Parkway, currently the state's only National Scenic Byway. Thus, Arkansas Delta Byways works closely with the Arkansas Department of Parks and Tourism in promoting the entire region by promoting attractions accessible along its two major scenic byways. The 10 Mississippi River Parkway Commissioners of Arkansas also are active members of Arkansas Delta Byways.

Arkansas Delta Byways administrative offices are located on the campus of Arkansas State University. Thus, Arkansas Delta Byways, The Great River Road-Arkansas, and the Mississippi River Parkway Commissioners of Arkansas also have access to resources on the ASU campus.

In addition to these ongoing partnerships, Arkansas Delta Byways actively seeks individual and organizational memberships from constituents along The Great River Road-Arkansas. Volunteers who assisted with the development of the Corridor Management Plan are a vital resource and will be kept informed and involved via a newsletter and a section of the website for volunteers and Arkansas Delta Byways members. The responsibilities are reviewed yearly when possible.





# Development Plan

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The Development Plan for The Great River Road-Arkansas includes a number of strategies designed to improve the overall visitor experience. Many of these strategies can be accomplished with minimal funds and efforts, while others are more costly and long-term. These strategies include:

## **1. General Cleanup**

The entire route is marked by areas that need general improvement, such as junkyards that should be removed or screened, abandoned buildings, litter along the roadside, debris thrown in streams, unkempt farm headquarters, unsightly commercial establishments, etc. Often these eyesores are invisible to those who see them every day, and they only become apparent when looking at the route through a visitor's eyes. Thus, it is anticipated that many of these problems can be handled by contacting owners for voluntary cleanup. In some cases, it may be a matter of ensuring that existing ordinances are enforced. Help will be enlisted from such groups as Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts in cleaning up public property.

## **2. Landscaping and Beautification**

It is evident that many of the attractions along the route would benefit from attention to planned landscaping and beautification efforts. For example, the concrete arch spanning U. S. 61 at the entrance The Great River Road-Arkansas is quite historic, but would benefit from landscaping around it. Other monuments and markers would benefit from similar attention. In some cases, there is adequate landscaping, but the placement of the marker or the attraction itself could be improved. For example, the Sultana Marker at Marion is placed at such an angle that it is difficult to photograph the front of the marker and still get the attractive landscaping in the photograph. Instead, the background is a parking lot.

## **3. Downtown Improvement**

Nearly all the towns along the route would benefit greatly from efforts to improve their downtown streetscapes, particularly in terms of appropriate lighting, green space and other elements. Towns also should be encouraged to focus on using plants native to their areas to add color and interest to their downtown areas, as well as provide a return to some of the historic natural beauty of region.

#### **4. Historic Preservation**

There are numerous structures and sites along The Great River Road-Arkansas route that are listed on the National Historic Register, but a large number of them are empty and/or have fallen into disrepair. Some have reached the point where they may have deteriorated beyond rescue. In addition to these sites, there are numerous others in the region that are probably eligible for listing on the National Historic Register. Along the route also are numerous cultural icons such as barns, gins, and grain storage facilities.

It is essential that these remaining historic structures be preserved and restored. In some cases, the only remaining remnant of a once-thriving town is a building or two. In others, the businesses have typically moved out to the highway, leaving historic structures abandoned in the historic districts. It will be important to educate these communities on the economic impact of restoring and utilizing historic buildings, to work with them on finding adaptive reuses for buildings, and to find ways to assist and encourage these communities that are actively pursuing restoration activities and seeking necessary resources.

Restoration and preservation of historic cemeteries along the route will be an important aspect of this effort. In many situations, there is absolutely nothing left of historic towns but the cemetery. It is vital that these connections not be lost.

#### **5. Model Ordinances**

Several of the cities along the route have adopted model ordinances related to beautification and/or preservation and enhancement of scenic and historic resources. Other cities should be made aware of such ordinances as possible tools for use in improving their communities and ensuring orderly growth and development.

#### **6. Restaurants and Lodging**

While there appears to be adequate general lodging along the route, including motels and camping facilities, additional options should be developed, particularly for bed and breakfasts. Only a few towns along the route have bed and breakfasts, yet there are numerous historic structures along the route that could be developed, thus providing new business opportunities as well as preserving important structures. The same is true for restaurants. Most towns have at least one restaurant that provides a touch of the local flavor, along with a number of franchise establishments. However, there appears to be an opportunity to utilize some of the vacant historic structures for additional cafés and interesting places to stop for coffee, refreshments, or a quick sandwich along the way--perhaps even tying in these spots with exhibits on local history.

## **7. Road Improvements**

The Arkansas Highway and Transportation Department has several road improvement projects set to begin along various segments of the byway route. These include:

- Road reconstruction on S. H. 147 from Louise to Thompson Grove Road
- reconstruction on S. H. 38 between S. H. 147 and Hughes
- Passing lane on S. H. 1 from Cypress Corner to Marianna
- Road reconstruction on S. H. 20 between Elaine and Lambrook
- Four-lane from Dumas to McGehee
- Completion of four-lane from McGehee to Lake Village
- Four-lane from U.S. 82 at Lake Village to the Mississippi River Bridge
- Construction of new Mississippi River bridge

It will be important for the Mississippi River Parkway Commission to follow the progress on these construction projects, including keeping travelers informed regarding construction locations and ensuring preservation of intrinsic qualities along these routes.

## **8. Safety Issues**

Along with keeping travelers informed of highway construction along this route, it will be important to educate both travelers and local users of the route regarding safety issues during harvest season. During this time of the year, there is much heavy agricultural equipment on the road, along with cotton trailers, trucks and other farm vehicles that often have blind spots or can present other hazards to motorists. Information on using extra caution during harvest season should be contained in brochures related to travel in agricultural areas. Additionally, local users should continue to be involved in byway planning and be aware of the increased usage of the route.

## **9. Hiking-Biking Trail**

The Mississippi River Trail, a biking route through several states bordering the Mississippi River, currently extends from West Memphis to Helena. The Mississippi River Parkway Commission will work with the Mississippi River Trail to extend this route along other segments of the byway. The Big River Crossing and Delta Heritage Trail also offer hiking and biking opportunities.

## **10. Visitor Centers**

It will be important to establish and/or enhance visitor centers at each of the gateways to The Great River Road-Arkansas. The proposed Native American Heritage Center at Blytheville will be the logical visitor center to anchor the northern end of the route for visitors coming from Missouri, while the Lakeport Plantation between Lake Village and Eudora has been renovated to serve as the anchor for the southern end of the route for

visitors coming from Louisiana and Mississippi. This center will focus primarily on the changing agricultural experience from early frontier days to the present, with particular emphasis on the African American experience. The Delta Cultural Center will serve as the visitor center for Mississippi visitors crossing the bridge at Helena, and the Sultana Disaster Museum in Marion was recently named one of the newest GRR Interpretive Center and will serve visitors from Tennessee and Missouri since it's located directly off Interstate 55.





# Scenic Conservation Plan

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Crowley's Ridge Parkway, the companion scenic byway to The Great River Road-Arkansas, recently served as a national field site for the development of a Scenic Conservation model that can be utilized by scenic byways. As a follow-up to this test project, the Crowley's Ridge Parkway is currently working on a comprehensive Scenic Conservation Plan.

In light of the fact that a portion of the Crowley's Ridge Parkway overlaps with The Great River Road-Arkansas route, this planning process will be expanded beyond Crowley's Ridge to include the entire Great River Road-Arkansas route.

Major scenic conservation issues that have been identified through the route assessment include:

- Disappearance of wetlands
- Disappearance of hardwood forests
- Abandoned buildings
- Historic preservation needs
- Threats to farmland (development)
- Junkyards and unsightly areas

These issues will be addressed through tools including:

- Developing awareness
- Educational activities
- Incentive plans and projects
- Sharing models for community ordinances

The general process for developing plans to address these issues and develop a full Scenic Conservation Plan will include:

1. Conduct meetings in each of the 10 counties to identify additional threats to the natural and cultural environment of the region.
2. Develop a master landscape plan for the route, using a "visioning" process for full participation in each of the cities and counties.
3. Develop plans for education and public awareness, as well as addressing issues of cleanup in the viewshed through strategies for volunteer compliance and, as necessary, development and/or enforcement of zoning ordinances and other regulatory methods.

4. Develop specific action plans, goals and objectives for each county.
5. Compile all goals, objectives and strategies developed into Scenic Conservation Plan.
6. Disseminate Scenic Conservation Plan.
7. Identify most pressing issues and establish model projects
8. Evaluate and periodically revise plan.

These issues have also been recognized and addressed within the route assessment (pages 21-66).



# Interpretive Plan

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The Interpretive Plan for The Great River Road-Arkansas is a two-pronged approach that involves (1) working with the National Mississippi River Parkway Commission to interpret the stories that the states have in common along the river, and (2) developing interpretive activities that tell the unique stories along The Great River Road-Arkansas. It is important in both of these areas to ensure that as visitors travel from state to state, they experience a sense of continuity.

## National

At present, primary interpretation at the national level includes the consistent green Pilot's Wheel markers throughout each state. These are placed at all major intersections along the route and are easy to follow, with the exception of several places noted in the route assessment. The Arkansas Highway and Transportation Department will correct signage in these noted areas.

The second major interpretive initiative at the national level is a series of official interpretation centers located along the route throughout the 10-state region. These currently designated centers in Arkansas are the Delta Cultural Center in Helena and Lake Chicot State Park in Lake Village. The National MRPC is working on a plan to ensure greater consistency and continuity in the interpretation provided for travelers at these centers. Consideration also is being given to adding more centers, recognizable signage for designated interpretive centers, and consistency in interpretive materials available at all centers.

The Great River Road-Arkansas expects to work aggressively as a partner in efforts at the national level to interpret the overall route.

## Arkansas

Interpretation for The Great River Road-Arkansas is currently through an Arkansas Delta Byways brochure, which promotes the entire 15-county Arkansas Delta Byways region and includes a separate segment and map with notations for attractions along the 10-county Great River Road. The route also is marked on the official Arkansas Highway and Transportation Department map.

Interpretation of many of the sites along The Great River Road-Arkansas is included in various statewide materials produced by state agencies. For example, the Department of Arkansas Heritage has produced excellent books, brochures and other materials on historic courthouses in the state, sites on the National Register of Historic Places, natural areas, Civil War sites, etc. The Arkansas Game and Fish commission has material on the

wildlife management areas, while the Arkansas Department of Parks and Tourism does a good job in promoting state parks, as well as special tourism interests, such as hunting and fishing or African-American heritage. In all of these publications, the attractions along The Great River Road-Arkansas route are well represented. It is clear from the route assessment, however, that The Great River Road-Arkansas needs its own interpretive brochure for visitors to follow as they drive the route, as well as other materials to tell the stories along the route. Among these are the following:

### Modern Agriculture

In light of the fact that most of what is visible to travelers along the route is agricultural crops, farming practices and agricultural facilities, a separate agricultural brochure is needed to give background on the various crops, explain production cycles and provide illustrations of the different crop stages so that they are easily recognizable for visitors. A crops production class at Arkansas State University is working with Arkansas Delta Byways and the Mississippi River Parkway Commission of Arkansas to develop the materials necessary for such an interpretive brochure.

There is some concern that there are long stretches along the route where the crops are the same and the scene appears repetitious. Additionally, in most cases, roadside signage is not appropriate because the agricultural scene is constantly changing. Thus, to make this a more interesting drive for travelers, the Mississippi River Parkway Commission plans to develop a series of interactive Compact Discs that will include oral history interviews with people associated with the route. Thus, as travelers drive specific segments, they can listen to the CD for that segment and hear the farmer who owns the land talking about his farming operation, or hear stories from former residents of towns that used to exist along the route, or understand from diverse groups what the region was like in bygone days. Utilizing these interactive CDs, travelers will have a rich, multi-layered experience as they drive the route.

Presently, there is only one tour company officially booking farm tours, although many places in the region are happy to arrange visits for special groups. The Mississippi River Parkway Commission will work with landowners, agri-business leaders and others involved in the agricultural industry to encourage the development and promotion of farm tours throughout the region, using the highly successful farm tours in England as a model.

### Harnessing the River

Several counties currently have driving tours along the levee, and a continuous levee tour throughout the entire region is being considered. While most segments of the levees throughout the 10-county area are drivable, few have developed any means of interpreting them for visitors. Such tours also would tie in the major pumping plants and other flood control devices.

The complex system of drainage ditches and floodways may be more difficult to interpret, due to the fact that it is impossible to recognize or understand their impact just



by driving over them. One almost has to see them from the air to appreciate their precision and complexity. It may be possible, however, to locate a visitor center in conjunction with one of the pumping plants, levee tours, or floodway areas that could tell this story with aerial photographs.

Additionally, the Archives Department at Arkansas State University has been collecting records of the drainage districts in the region, as well as all the papers of the St. Francis Levee District. It will be important for graduate students to begin researching this material to assist in accurately developing the interpretive stories to be told at such a center.

### Rise and Fall of Small Towns

The primary visitor center for interpreting the rural culture of the entire region is the Delta Cultural Center at Helena, a program of the Department of Arkansas Heritage. This center, which reopened with redesigned exhibits in May 1999, includes interpretation on the river, the 1927 flood, small towns, blues music, Civil War, influences of diverse cultures, etc. This center is strategically located mid-way along the route in Arkansas and will continue to serve as a premiere center. It will be essential to continue to develop this resource, as well as other related tourism attractions in Helena. Helena not only has more remaining historic structures than any of the other Delta towns, but it is one of the gateways to The Great River Road-Arkansas, with access from Mississippi.

As an additional focus on small town life, the Arkansas State University Museum has a major "Old Town" exhibit which focuses on the history of many of the small towns in the Delta. The museum will continue to expand these collections in the future, including sharing these exhibits with towns along the route.

### Music of the Delta

This story also is beautifully told at the Delta Cultural Center in Helena, along with an annual International King Biscuit Blues Festival in Helena. Efforts should be made to expand this out into The Great River Road-Arkansas region, with information for visitors at other sites, and events that focus on the Delta musical traditions. It is important in the music area, in particular, that interpretation not be limited by state lines, since so much of Arkansas' blues heritage is tied directly to the blues heritage of Mississippi and Tennessee across the river.

### Changes in Transportation

The development of the area can be tied directly to the prevailing mode of transportation, and this will be a unifying theme in tying together many of the properties on the National Historic Register. This interpretation must include: (a) the impact of the river on the culture of the region, (b) the impact of the railroad industry on the transformation from a

natural area to an agricultural area, (c) the importance of overland trails and routes and modern highways.

The first of these stories will include the Native Americans who settled along the rivers, the arrival of the first Europeans at Arkansas Post, the establishment of diverse river towns over the years, and the river towns of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and their counterparts that have since fallen into the river. The coming of the railroad would deal not only with the towns that grew up along the tracks, but the role of the railroad in the massive removal of timber in the region, ultimately leading to converting the land to agricultural production. Overland roads and trails would include the DeSoto route, the Trail of Tears, the Esperanza Trail, and the Old Military Trail.

### Impacts of Agricultural Mechanization

The Lakeport Plantation in Chicot County will be developed as a visitor center to anchor the southern end of the route and to serve as a representative site for the changing agricultural experience in the Delta, particularly with regard to the African-American agricultural experience in the Delta. This plantation essentially was established in 1830 by slaves who cleared the timber to open the land to cotton production. These slaves and their descendants worked the plantation during the antebellum period; then toiled as sharecroppers and tenant farmers after the Civil War. The mechanization of agriculture in the 1940s led to a mass exodus from the Delta for many, and poverty for others, and the Lakeport workers were no exception. This evolution is well documented at Lakeport, including oral histories from descendants remaining in the region or who have returned from the north in their retirement years, and will be a key interpretive aspect of The Great River Road-Arkansas.

### Archeology

In partnership with the National Park Service, a key interpretive center is expected to be developed in the Blytheville Area. This Native American Heritage Center also will serve as a visitor center anchoring the northern end of The Great River Road-Arkansas. Efforts will be made throughout the region to support the development of this center as a major focal point for the archeological heritage of the Delta region.

### Historic Events

As research is completed, brochures and materials will be developed that focus on significant historic events and their impact throughout the region. These include the De Soto Expedition Route, the Trail of Tears route, the Civil War, the Louisiana Purchase, the impact of the Earthquakes of 1811-12, the Flood of 1927, the Sultana disaster, and the plight of ghost towns. In many of these areas, students and history buffs can be involved in the interpretation through living histories and reenactments. While many Civil War reenactments currently take place at various locations throughout the region, these are not well-coordinated at present.

## Natural Assets

Specific focus will be placed on development of tours and materials for ecotourists, including a birding trail that takes advantage of the region's prime location on the Mississippi Flyway and a program for watchable wildlife. Additional emphasis will be placed on interpretation at the primary natural sites along the route. These include the state parks, the St. Francis National Forest, and the three national wildlife refuges. While all have visitor centers, the White River National Wildlife Refuge has recently broken ground for a new educational and interpretive center, located directly on the scenic byway route in the St. Charles area. This center, along with the community museum in St. Charles, will provide visitors with major opportunities to experience both the natural and cultural heritage of special places in the Delta.



# Marketing Plan

Arkansas Tourism has consistently marketed the state's portion of the Great River Road National Scenic Byway through the website, brochures and social media. Arkansas Delta Byways, the official tourist association of the region, also markets the byway through a yearly brochure and social media outlets. Both organizations also use consumer travel shows as outreach opportunities to familiarize people with Arkansas's Great River Road.

The two organizations have worked together since the Great River Road received National Scenic Byway status nearly 20 years ago and will continue to work closely.

When Arkansas's section of the Great River Road National Scenic Byway receives All-American Road status, both organizations will take the opportunity, marketwise, to "reintroduce" the 10-county byway to the public through media releases and a strong social media push. This will enable both Arkansas Tourism and Arkansas Delta Byways the opportunity to explain and interpret the significance and importance of Arkansas's Great River Road and the culture and heritage of the Arkansas Delta itself.

Arkansas Tourism maintains an international representative in the United Kingdom. Through partnerships with organizations such as Travel South USA and Brand USA, Arkansas Tourism also markets to international markets. With the partnership with Mississippi River Country, we market the Great River Road to Japan. Since the state has entered the international market, Arkansas Tourism has worked getting brochures and literature translated into Chinese, Spanish and Japanese.

The Mississippi River Parkway Commission of Arkansas, Arkansas's Great River Road director and Arkansas Tourism will continue to work closely with attractions and hospitality industry partners to keep them advised of on-going and increased marketing of Arkansas's Great River Road, especially if the byway receives an All-American Road designation.

In 2018, Arkansas welcomed nearly 33 million visitors to the state. The Arkansas Delta Byways region (which encompasses all 10 counties of Arkansas's Great River Road) is made up of 15 counties along the state's eastern border and is already considered a tourist destination within itself, bringing in over \$790 million in travel expenditures from visitors in 2018. Growth is expected with the Great River Road earning designation as an All-American Road, and all hope that our tourism partners along the byway will feel the need to expand their restaurants and lodging facilities, or communities will see the need to build additional restaurants or hotels. Yet at this present time, we feel that all communities along Arkansas's Great River Road have more than adequate facilities to accommodate an immediate increase in tourism.

(minor update to numbers/plan, April 2020)





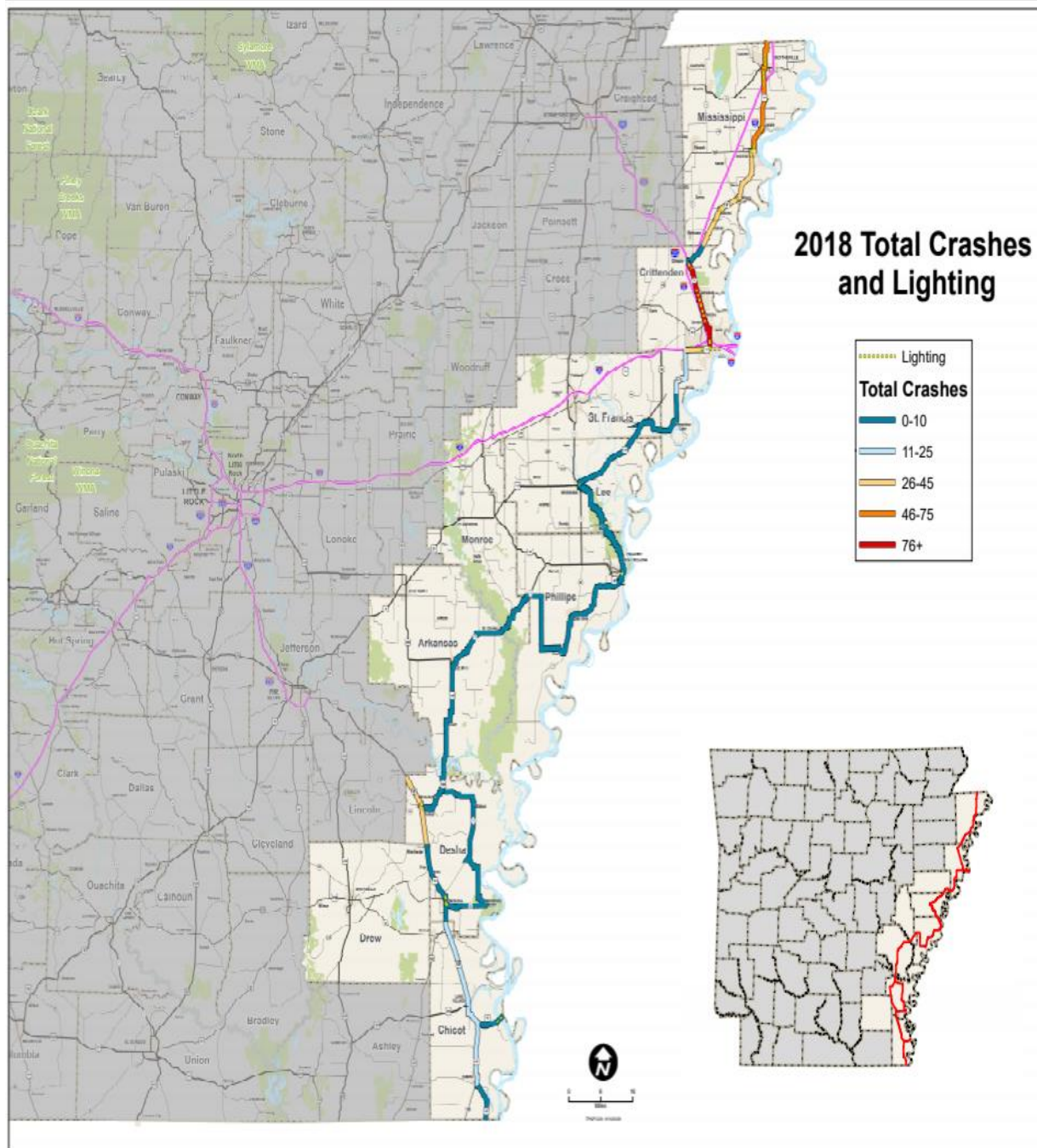
## Corridor Management Plan

The Great River Road-Arkansas Corridor Management Plan is considered a “living” document. Small changes or updates have been made over the years since its inception, but these were minor changes and did not in any way alter the integrity the plan.

We continue to believe that the CMP is the guideline for which a successful National Scenic Byway thrives. The Mississippi River Parkway Commission of Arkansas, Arkansas Tourism, Arkansas Department of Transportation and Arkansas Delta Byways continue to work together to make sure that enforcement mechanisms are met and/or implemented outlined in the CMP. Each of the organizations realizes that continued public input and participation are key.

The public is encouraged to attend each of the organizations’ board/commission meetings, which are publicized and open to everyone. Public input is encouraged at each of these meetings.

The communities along the 10 counties that comprise Arkansas’s Great River Road are an important part of the historic byway’s success.









Overall, the Great River Road has a good safety record with no significant safety hazards identified. Based on the latest available crash data, the highest recorded crash rate is the segment from Turrell through West Memphis, with an annual total over 76. U.S. Highway 61, starting at the Missouri state line and continuing through the town of Osceola, has the second highest record of crashes, with an annual total between 26-45. These segments are straight, level and easily navigable by traffic. However, they do include the central business districts of West Memphis, Marion, Osceola and Blytheville. The increased traffic volume probably contributes to low speed turning and rear end crashes and explains the increased numbers in these areas.

For the segments outside of these urban areas, the crash totals fall to 11-25 annually, or even less at 0-10 annually. There is a slight increase in the town of Dumas, but this data is also from an urban area and includes some mileage for U.S. Highway 65 that is not a portion of the Great River Road. Overall, the route has a low annual crash total and no particularly hazardous intersections were identified.

Most of the route was regulated for outdoor advertising based on the Federal Highway Beautification Act of 1965. When first designated as a State Scenic Byway, the Arkansas Department of Transportation stopped issuing billboard permits along the route. All legally permitted signs are now nonconforming, and their replacement is not allowed. This enforcement has continued to the present date. The Department has used litigation when necessary, to enforce the billboard prohibition.

(updated April 2020)