

### 9. Ryan's Department Store and the Arcade Hotel

At 202 E. Emma Avenue you will see the building that was formerly occupied by Ryan's Department Store and also the site where the Arcade Hotel once stood. The Arcade was one of the most prestigious hotels in Springdale during its time. It was demolished in 1944 and construction began on the current building which eventually became Ryan's, owned by **Troy and Marie Ryan, and later their son Max. Ryan's built a solid reputation for offering quality goods like clothing and shoes for reasonable prices, until the business closed in 2013.**

### 10. Springdale Bakery

The building at 101 E. Emma was once home to the Springdale Bakery. The owner, Rufus M. Baker, was a very interesting man. He was not only a baker, but also a justice of the peace. **While some couples would request his services while he was at the police station or the city clerk's office, he would also marry others in the bakery or the living room of his own home.** Sometimes couples would show up with no warning, wanting to be married, and he would have to explain to them that they needed to get a marriage license first.

### 11. Joyce's Drug Store

Joyce's Drug Store, owned by J.R. Joyce, opened in 1916 and was located at 126 W. Emma. Their slogan was "Been Here Always." Like many other drugstores of its time, Joyce's was a center of social activity in downtown Springdale. A soda fountain made this location a popular hangout for kids. **Drugstores of this era also had "mourner benches" inside the door where people could sit and gossip.**

### 12. Springdale Chamber of Commerce

The building at 202 W. Emma, the present-day Springdale Chamber of Commerce, was originally the Springdale post office. Construction began in June 1936 and the post office opened for business in May 1937. This building was replaced in 1964 by a new post office on Holcomb Street. Inside this building was a 1939 mural by artist Natalie Henry, which features a panoramic landscape showing the transition of the area's industry from poultry to fruit. The mural is now housed at the Shiloh Museum of Ozark History.

### 13. Apollo Theater

The Apollo Theater, built in 1949, was one of the grandest theaters in the area and many people have fond memories of this Springdale landmark. Decorations at the Apollo included an 800-pound statue of the Greek god Apollo, which the theater was named after. One of the popular snacks offered at the theater was pickle juice over ice. **The Apollo included "crying rooms" where movie goers could watch movies with their children without disturbing others.** The theater closed its doors in the 1970s but today it is being restored.

Visit the Digital Storymap with Videos @



[www.tysonmseast.com/historicSpringdale](http://www.tysonmseast.com/historicSpringdale)

## A Short History of Downtown Springdale

According to archeologists, people have been living in the Northwest Arkansas area for thousands of years. In the 1840s, a small settlement was established called Shiloh in what we now know as downtown Springdale. The settlement was based around the Shiloh Regular Baptist Church. Although the settlement was known to many **as Shiloh, in Civil War records it is referred to as Holcomb's Spring,** after the pioneering Holcomb family.

By 1872 Shiloh was big enough to need a post office. However, there was already a town in Arkansas called Shiloh, so Shiloh changed its name to Springdale and was incorporated as a town in 1878.

Springdale became a hub for produce to be sold, canned, and shipped all over the country, due largely to the arrival of the railroad in 1881. From 1900 to 1950, many businesses began and, by the end of World War II, **poultry was the city's most successful industry. Many people were attracted to the area because of the growing number of jobs.**

Even now, people come from all over the world to work in Northwest Arkansas. Today Springdale houses the largest population of Marshallese people outside of the Marshall Islands, and one-third of the population is Latino.

Springdale remains the heart of Northwest Arkansas and, as time marches on, it is important for our community to preserve our past as we look forward to the future.

Emma Avenue



1910

1930

1958

Tour Completed by Partnership Between



[www.shilohmuseum.org](http://www.shilohmuseum.org)



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



[www.eastinitiative.org](http://www.eastinitiative.org)

Funding for This Project Provided By:

EAST Initiative and Arkansas Department of Education

# Springdale, Arkansas Historic Walking Tour

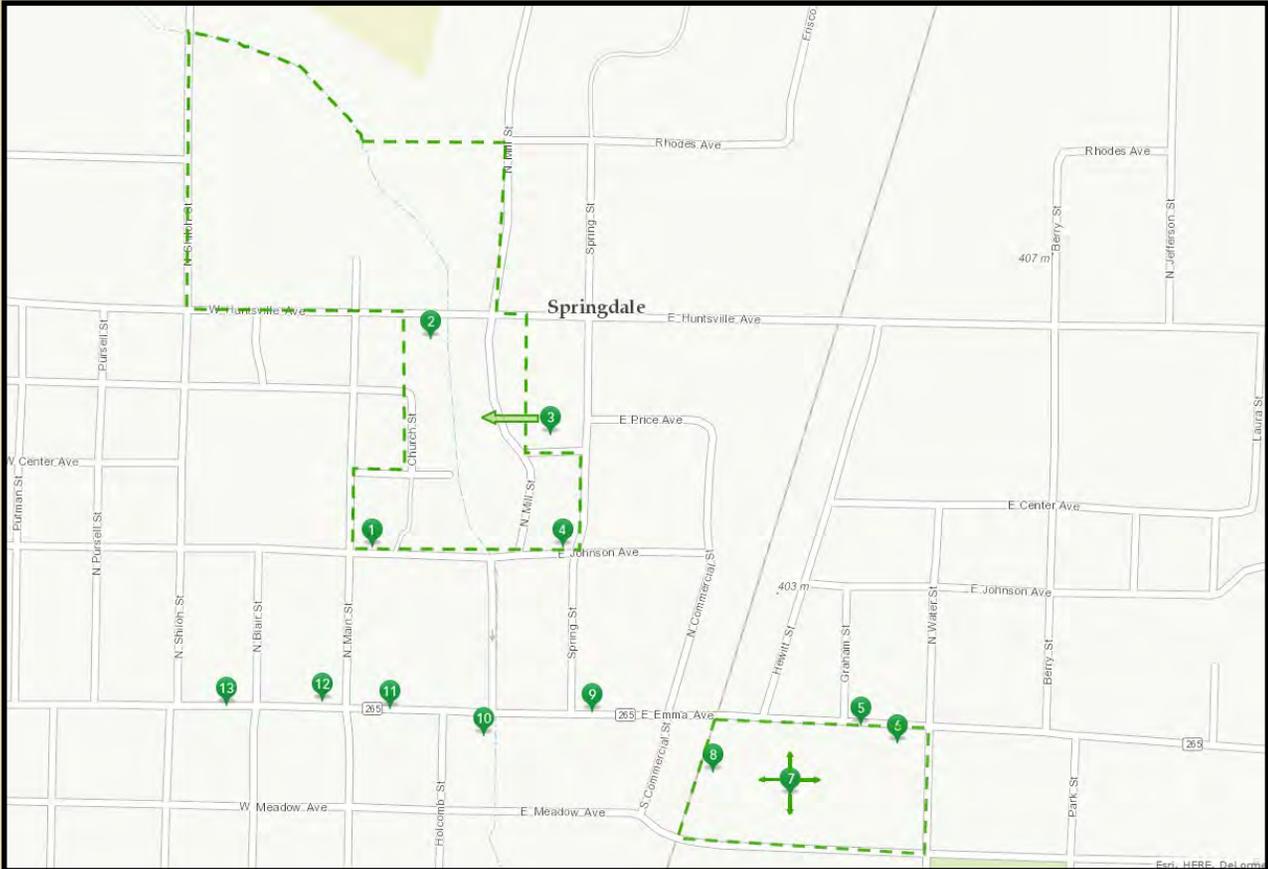


*Preserving the Past  
Looking Forward to the Future*

Interactive Walking Tour of

13 Historic Sites in

Downtown Springdale



## Follow the Map to Visit 13 of Springdale's Historic Sites

### 1. Shiloh Museum of Ozark History

The Shiloh Museum of Ozark History is located at 118 W. Johnson Avenue. The museum opened in 1968 and today encompasses nearly three acres of land, seven historic buildings, and a modern museum building. Its permanent exhibits take you on a journey through the past, its photo collection includes over half-a-million images, and it preserves nearly 100,000 artifacts.

### 2. Shiloh Church (Shiloh Meeting Hall)

Built in 1871 and added to the National Register in 1975, the Shiloh Church (now called the Shiloh Meeting Hall), is the only structure surviving from the community's early years. The first Shiloh Church, constructed in 1840, was burned during the Civil War. This third church was built on land that belonged to John Holcomb, a

prominent pioneer settler and one of the church's first pastors. The church, two other churches, and the local Masonic lodge which occupied the upper floor, were housed at this location through 1915. Except for an occasional meeting, the building was practically abandoned by the late 1920s. In 1935 a local chapter of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, a fraternal organization, took possession of the building. The structure was deeded by the Odd Fellows to the City of Springdale in 2005. It is now cared for and being restored by the Shiloh Museum of Ozark History.

### 3. Shiloh Historic District

The Shiloh Historic District is made up of eighteen structures and twelve historic sites dating from about 1830 though the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, as well as traces of several historic roads and a section of Spring Creek. The historic district is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and it includes the "town square" of the original settlement of Shiloh.

### 4. Beely-Johnson American Legion Post

Located at 200 N. Spring Street, and listed on the National Register of Historic Places, is the Beely-Johnson American Legion Post 139. It was built in 1934 and was one of Springdale's most memorable projects during the Depression. This rustic-style building was constructed using stones that were brought from the city's East Mountain. The post was dedicated in 1934 in honor of Springdale's first World War I victim, Clarence Edwin Beely. The Legion's charter was changed in 1962 to read Beely-Johnson, honoring Elmer Johnson, a local World War II veteran.

### 5. Clarkson's Mercantile

The 402 E. Emma address was once the home of Clarkson's Mercantile. The store flourished for many years beginning in the mid-1950s by providing customers with basic supplies and goods. Clarkson offered consumers inexpensive items that met the needs of many shoppers who visited downtown Springdale. It was a family-owned business and Morris Clarkson was the last to own it, retiring in 1984.

### 6. Price Produce and Filling Station

The former Price Produce and Filling Station is located at 413 to 417 E. Emma Avenue, and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. While in operation (1910-1965), the Price Produce and Filling Station was a multipurpose business providing customers with poultry, produce, gasoline, and more. The structures were built in 1934 by Veaze Price and represent a great regional interpretation of Art Deco architecture through the use of smooth-finished concrete walls, geometric designs, and vertical features that project above the roofline.

### 7. Springdale Poultry Industry Historic District

The Springdale Poultry Industry Historic District was home to some of the early economic development of Springdale and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. This is where John Tyson, founder of Tyson Foods, began his business in the mid-1930s. This is also where Jeff Brown, first president of the Arkansas Poultry Improvement Association, began using kerosene-heated incubators to hatch the chickens he sold to local farmers, starting in the 1921. It was here, at 317 E. Emma, where Brown experimented to develop faster-growing and more desirable chickens. Brown's company was at this location until it was dissolved in 1969.

### 8. Arkansas & Missouri Railroad Depot

At 306 E. Emma Avenue you will see the Arkansas & Missouri Railroad Depot. The Frisco Railway, the original railroad to operate the line, began in 1881. The railroad was at the center of the most important industry in our community at that time, fruit. Little is known about the original depot which was replaced in 1901 by a second depot on the north side of Emma. In 1922, the depot was rebuilt a third time. By 1982, the third depot was demolished and a new depot was built on the south side of Emma by the new railroad owner, the Burlington Northern. Then, in 1986, the railroad changed ownership once more and became the Arkansas & Missouri Railroad.

