

Little Rock Visitor Information Center at Historic *Curran Hall*



Historic Walters-Curran-Bell House, better known as Curran Hall, was built in 1842, making it one of the oldest homes in Little Rock. Curran Hall was a private residence until the early 1900s. The city of Little Rock and the Little Rock Advertising and Promotion Commission acquired the house in 1996, saving it from demolition.

After a six-year, \$1.4 million renovation, Curran Hall now serves as the city's first official visitor information and welcome center with information on Little Rock hotels, restaurants and attractions, as well as additional Arkansas attractions. Curran Hall also serves as the official reception hall for the mayor of Little Rock.

~Hours~

Monday-Friday: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Sunday: 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Closed New Years Day, Thanksgiving & Christmas

Rental available for special events

~Location~

615 East Capitol Avenue

One block from Interstate 30.

Easy access from I-30,
exit 140 at Sixth Street and Ninth Street

501-371-0076

Operated by the Quapaw Quarter Association

Historic Curran Hall, was built in 1842 by Colonel Ebenezer Walters as a wedding gift for his bride, Mary Eliza Starbuck. The property was later owned by James Moore Curran and his wife, Sophie



Fulton, daughter of William Savin Fulton, Arkansas's last territorial governor and first U.S. Senator. Other owners include Mary Eliza Woodruff Bell, daughter of William E. Woodruff, founder of the Arkansas Gazette. Averell Reynolds Tate, Bell's granddaughter, was the last resident of the house and lived in Curran Hall until the early 1990s.

Curran Hall was constructed in the Greek Revival style adapted to a Southern frontier setting. The symmetrical, one-story house has a central hall with large rooms on either side. Walls are three bricks thick. The original narrow front porch has been fully restored. The hip roof, covered with wood shakes, included cypress box gutters. Four square columns supported an entablature with bold dentil trim. Few houses of this era remain with so few interior alterations. It is listed in the National Register of Historic Places.



A children's playhouse was also constructed in 1848. About 1960, the current playhouse was reconstructed using materials from various historic Little Rock houses.

As early as 1849, visitors to Curran Hall gardens commented on the roses, native flowers, exotic shrubbery, and arbors with vines, fruits, and berries. Original landscaping included a wide variety of hardy Southern trees, shrubs, and bulbs. Fruit trees and berries were also mentioned in period articles.

Today's Curran Hall features a garden landscape designated as the Marjem Ward Jackson Historic Garden. In developing a landscape plan to fit both the antebellum house and its 21st century adaptive use, the designer included styles and plant stock that were appropriate to Little Rock in the 1840s, but are also hardy and easy to maintain in a public setting.

In full bloom, the garden is breath-taking and is lovingly maintained by the Pulaski County Master Gardeners. The gardens at Curran Hall attracts tour groups and visitors from all over the world.

