



Sanborn map of downtown Arkadelphia, 1896

Arkadelphia Street Names

Many Clark Countians may not realize that Arkadelphia’s “numbered” streets were once named for some of the town’s founders and pioneers. Most were changed in the early 1900s. Many of the oldest east-west streets still bear their original names, including Barkman Street, named for pioneer Jacob Barkman, who has also been called the “Father of Clark County.”

First Street was originally called Blakely, for Adam Blakely, a blacksmith who may have arrived as early as 1810 and was among the first men to permanently settle in the area. In fact, Arkadelphia was called Blakelytown until the name was changed to Arkadelphia about 1840.

Albert G. Johnston and Samuel Moore, young surveyors from Tennessee, arrived about 1838 and became owners of much of the land that now makes up downtown Arkadelphia. Third Street was called Moore for many years, and Main Street was called Johnston.

Fourth Street was named Trigg, in honor of another early family. In fact, James Trigg is credited by many with coming up with the name “Arkadelphia,” when the name was changed from Blakelytown.

Fifth Street was called Callaway. John S.T. Callaway arrived in the area with his large family before 1820. Many members of the Callaway family have served the county in various official capacities including county judge, coroner, and surveyor.

Benjamin Maddox came to the town in the late 1830s and purchased many acres west of Tenth Street and established what was called the Maddox Addition to Arkadelphia. Until the time of the Civil War, his home stood at the site of Rose Hill Cemetery, and Sixth Street was named Maddox in his honor.

Seventh Street was called Hardy, for H.K. Hardy, area attorney and land speculator. Tenth was Cass, so named for the national political figure Lewis Cass, who helped in achieving statehood for Arkansas and his own Michigan in 1836.