

# Arkadelphia Street Names

Arkadelphia's "numbered" streets were once named for some of the town's founders and pioneers. Most were changed in the early 1900s, years before the memory of anyone living today.

Most of the oldest east-west streets still bear their original names, including Barkman Street, named for pioneer Jacob Barkman. Caddo Street has traditionally been among the town's longest streets, running west from the Ouachita River all the way to its intersection with Pine Street. It was named for the Caddo Indians who once inhabited the area. City fathers also utilized the names of trees for Arkadelphia streets, among them being Hickory, Pecan, Cherry, Walnut, and Pine.

First Street was originally called Blakely, for Adam Blakely, a blacksmith who may have arrived as early as 1810 and was among the first 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.

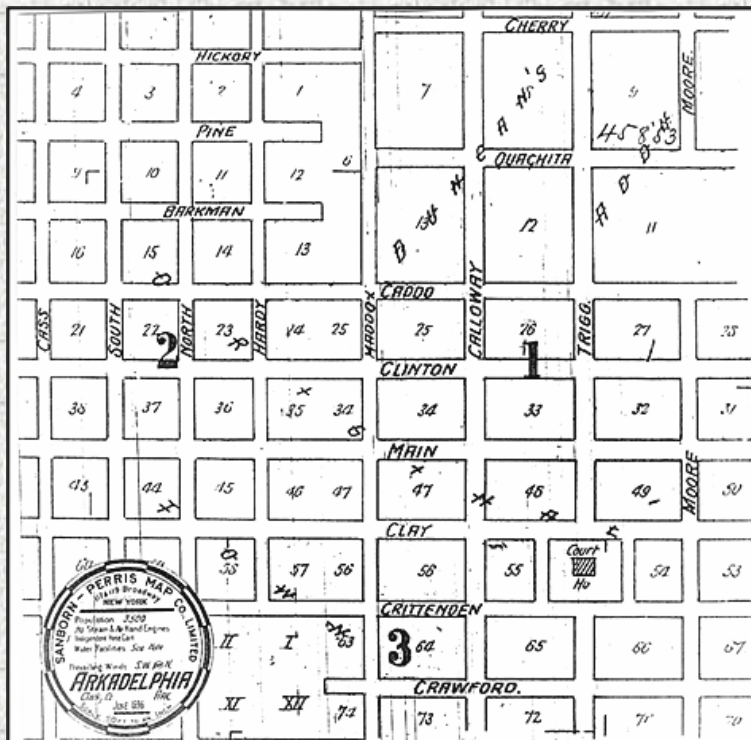
Fourth Street was named Trigg, in honor of another early family. In fact, James Trigg is credited by many with coming up with the name "Arkadelphia," when the name was changed from Blakelytown.

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.

With streets being marked with various types of signage throughout the years, fewer than ten mid-twentieth century street signs remain standing in the city of Arkadelphia. The obelisks often go unnoticed by locals. Several of the signs in the downtown area were repainted and re-lettered several years ago.



1896

Downtown  
Arkadelphia