

SNAP! History of El Dorado Post Office

February 10, 2014



The "White House"

The William Allen White boyhood home once stood where the current day El Dorado Post Office is located.

The El Dorado Post Office is currently located at 131 East Central Ave. It was constructed in 1921 and designed by architect James A. Wetmore with a cost of \$95,000.

The El Dorado Post Office has occupied several locations since the 1860's. In 1862, Henry Martin operated the mail service from his residence. In the early 1870's, postmaster N.F. Frazier Sr. handled the mail from an office in the Betts and Frazier grocery store located on North Main and once Alvah Sheldon became postmaster in 1879, he moved the post office to a building located on the south side of the 100 block of west Central where it remained until the current building was constructed in 1921.

Prior to this building being constructed, [Dr. Allen White](#) and his wife [Mary Ann \(Hatten\) White](#) owned two houses on this site with their young child [William Allen White](#) who later became a Pulitzer Prize Winner and famed newspaper editor and owner of the *Emporia Gazette*. The first house owned by the Whites was known as "the foundry" and was constructed in 1869. In 1878, Dr. White tore down the foundry and built a new house that at the time was the largest house in El Dorado with eleven rooms and a large porch. This house was operated as a hotel called the "White House". Dr. Allen White passed away in 1882 and William Allen continued to live in this home until he left in 1891 to work for the *Journal* in Kansas City. Mary Ann left this house in 1892 to move in with her son in Topeka.

On February 10, 1968, on the one hundredth birthday anniversary of William White, the Butler County Historical Society erected a stone memorial on this site dedicated to his memory. This memorial is located on the northeast corner of the current post office property. R.A. Clymer, long time editor of the El Dorado Times, unveiled the monument.

To see more photos of the El Dorado Post Office and the 100 block of East Central, [visit the photo album](#) on the History of El Dorado Facebook page.

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