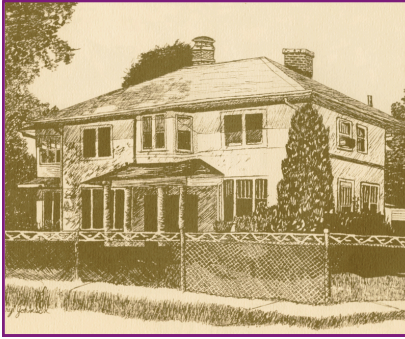


Hemphill-Carter House, 1917 - 511 College Ave.



This stucco home was built in 1917 by J.A. Hemphill and his wife Elizabeth (Bess) Heath Russell Hemphill. Mr. Hemphill hand picked the oak and cypress wood for the house and had his best sawyer cut it. Much of the interior boasts dark quarter-sawn oak beams. The house may have the only elevator in a private building in Kennett, added in the 1950s. The home remains in the family.

When Mr. Hemphill acquired the Lasswell Lumber Company in 1915 he planned to manage it from St. Louis, but in early 1916 decided he would move to Kennett where he and his wife remained the rest of their lives.

- In 1925 Hemphill Lumber Co. was Kennett's largest industry with an annual payroll of \$250,000 and 200 employees.
- When timber was no longer available, he started many other businesses including extensive farming operations, an auto dealership, cotton gin, dairy, farm equipment and more.
- He served on the Missouri Constitutional Convention 1943-1944 which rewrote the state's constitution.
- Mrs. Hemphill was the first woman to run for office in Kennett and was elected to the school board in 1927 only 7 years after women gained the right to vote.
- Spearheaded organizing Kennett's first Girl Scouts.troop.

Both were extremely active in community organizations. They contributed generously to the building fund of the First Baptist Church and provided the lumber through the Hemphill mill.



Left photo is from 1917; the interior room is circa 1930s.



Joseph Arthur Hemphill
b. 1881 - d. 1952



Elizabeth Heath Russell Hemphill
b. 1881 - d. 1959

Sources: *History of Southeast Missouri*, Robert Sidney Douglass, 1912; *History of Dunklin County, Mo.*, Mary Smythe-Davis, 1895; *Dunklin County Historical Society*; *Dunklin Daily Democrat*, *Twice-A-Week Democrat*. Sketches by KHS Art Club, 1982. Scan the QR code for more information on Kennett's history.

