The Fourth Street Rowhouses were built between 1912-1915 for prominent real estate investor Frank Miller and his son, A. Clinton Miller. Clint Miller was a philanthropist who helped establish Miller Airport (Smith-Reynolds Airport), donated land for Miller Park in Ardmore, and for whom Miller Street is named.

In 1915, 848 W. Fourth Street was occupied by McArthur’s Drugstore, but the accompanying flats were still vacant. From the 1920s to the 1970s, the row remained primarily, but not exclusively, residential.

The Fourth Street Rowhouses contributed to the development of the West End, an intact example of a turn-of-the-20th-century streetcar suburb. The rowhouses are significant as an intact example of a building form unusual to North Carolina’s piedmont and western regions.

The overall building features a string of identical rowhouses, and the rhythm of the row is one of its most striking features. The rowhouses are a row of handsome 2½-story brick structures of Colonial Revival design with steep, slate-shingled gable roofs with molded cornices and cornice returns, interior chimneys, gabled dormers (two per unit), and twelve-over-one sash windows with granite sills and lintels. Each unit has a hip-roofed entrance porch with a full Classical entablature, clustered Tuscan columns on granite plinths, and a heavy turned balustrade. Attached to the western section of the row (along Burke Street), is a commercial structure which was part of the original construction.

Today the Fourth Street Rowhouses are utilized for office and commercial purposes.

Want to know more?
West End Historic District National Register Nomination

This information is also available at the Forsyth County Historic Resources Commission’s web site:
http://www.ForsythCountyHRC.org