

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NR
11-16-09

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Joers, Peter Dierks, House

other names/site number Site # GA0743

2. Location

street & number 2111 Park Avenue

not for publication

city or town Hot Springs

vicinity

state Arkansas code AR county Garland code 051 zip code 71901

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☒ nomination ☐
request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic
Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set for in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐
does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant:
☐ nationally ☒ statewide ☐ locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. (☐ See Continuation sheet for additional
comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:
entered in the National Register.

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

☐ See continuation sheet

☐ determined eligible for the
National Register.

☐ See continuation sheet

☐ determined not eligible for the
National Register.

☐ removed from the National
Register.

☐ other, (explain.)

Joers, Peter Dierks, House

Name of Property

Garland County, Arkansas

County and State

5. Classification**Ownership of Property**

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- ☒ private
☐ public-local
☐ public-State
☐ public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- ☒ building(s)
☐ district
☐ site
☐ structure
☐ object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		Buildings
		Sites
1	1	Structures
2		Objects
4	1	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

7. Description**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

MODERN MOVEMENT/Ranch

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE

walls STONE/Limestone

WOOD/Weatherboard

roof ASPHALT

other

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- ☐ A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- ☐ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ B removed from its original location.
- ☐ C birthplace or grave of a historical figure of outstanding importance.
- ☐ D a cemetery.
- ☐ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ F a commemorative property.
- ☐ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Levels of Significance (local, state, national)

LOCAL

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

INDUSTRY

Period of Significance

1955

Significant Dates

1955

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation (Complete if Criterion D is marked)

N/A

Architect/Builder

Architect: Sibley, E. A.

Builder: Anderson, Hal

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References**Bibliography**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ Previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- ☒ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State Agency
- ☐ Federal Agency
- ☐ Local Government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Name of repository: (if you checked "OTHER" above.)

Joers, Peter Dierks, House

Name of Property

Garland County, Arkansas

County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 6 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 15 497654 3822431
Zone Easting Northing
2 _____

3 _____
Zone Easting Northing
4 _____
☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Len Pitcock, Edited by Van Zbinden, National Register Historian

organization Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

date 27 October 2009

street & number 323 Center Street, 1500 Tower Building

telephone _____

city or town Little Rock

state AR

zip code 72201

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location

A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Kathleen and Len Pitcock

street & number 2111 Park Avenue

telephone _____

city or town Hot Springs

state AR

zip code 71901

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listing. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*)

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P. O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20303.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

SUMMARY

The Peter Dierks Joers House is located approximately three miles north of downtown Hot Springs, Arkansas, facing State Highway 7/5 (Park Avenue). The home is a single story stone and wood structure featuring spacious rooms and meticulous detail complimented by native Arkansas woods. It exhibits many traits of the Modern movement of American architecture including five bedrooms, a large living room, library, dining room, breakfast room, large kitchen featuring an indoor grill, and native-Arkansas stone patio surrounding the kidney-shaped swimming pool. The home has been diligently maintained with great attention to preserving its original design and plan. No major renovations have occurred to the primary structure since it was built.

The home's original owners were Mr. Peter Dierks Joers and family. Joers was an heir to the Dierks Lumber Company family and oversaw the business until its sale to the Weyehauser Company in 1969. Joers oversaw the planning and building of the home and lived there until his death in 2006.

ELABORATION

The Peter Dierks Joers House faces east toward Park Avenue in Hot Springs, Arkansas. Constructed in 1955, the house serves as one of the most pristine examples of "Mid-Century Modern" or Ranch architecture in the area. The five bedroom home is approximately 6,000 square feet. The Ranch has become one of America's most widely spread and adopted architectural forms. A form that is both vernacular and formal, it appears across the United States in sizes both small and large.

We know little about Dallas architect E. A. Sibley, but it is reasonable to assume that he was familiar with the works of fellow Texans, and well respected Ranch architects O'Neil Ford and David Williams, and that he was familiar with the works of Ed Stone. His 1954 design for the Joers house is the epitome of the modern Ranch. The structure sits in the middle of six acres and is bordered by Hot Springs National Park to the rear, Highway 7/5 (Park Avenue) in the front and private residences on either side. The topography of the lot keeps the low form of the home from being seen until almost completely up the drive. The shape of the home, a lazy V or U, provides additional privacy by turning the bedroom wing away from the drive.

The home is designed with what are essentially three wings: the bedroom wing, where the home's five bedrooms and four baths are located; the living wing, and the service wing, where the maid's room, the laundry, and kitchen are located. While Sibley was not able to remove the space wasting hall that Edward Durell Stone was so consumed to remove, the only long hall is in the bedroom wing; the short hall in the living wing of the home blends so well into the living room and exterior that it seems not to be a hall. The public spaces in the living wing of the home organically flow one to the next.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

Built in 1955 by the firm of Hal Anderson and Associates, the home features the use of natural materials inside and out. The exterior is clad in Texas Limestone and the interior features Ash, Cherry, Red Oak, Cypress, Walnut, and Pine all cut locally.

Interior rooms, both public and in the living wing, feature large, full-height windows and spacious sliding glass doors to connect the interior spaces with the back terrace, pool, and forest beyond; focusing the house toward the rear. The free-form pool was designed and constructed by the Dallas firm, Cardinal Pools.

The property is accessed off what was once known as Fox Pass Cutoff Road. In 1996, the City of Hot Springs re-routed the intersection of Fox Pass Cutoff and Park Avenue approximately 100 yards to the north and east of the driveway entrance. As a result, the vacated portion of Fox Pass Cutoff was deeded to the property owner and currently serves as the driveway. For many years the address was 117 Fox Pass Cutoff although the property is fronted by Park Avenue. In August 2009 the city of Hot Springs National Park changed the address to 2111 Park Avenue.

Entering the property off of Park Avenue, the stone fence opens on the left hand side to begin an ascent up the asphalt driveway of almost 100 yards before the home becomes completely visible. The circular driveway loops in front of the house before exiting via the same route. The lot is heavily wooded. Joers, a lumberman, had over 100 dogwood trees planted on the property in 1960 along with a number of pine trees, adding to the rural feel of the location.

Front/East-Southeast Façade

While the home faces the southeast, it is almost impossible to see the entire frontispiece at eye-level due to its U-shaped design and length. The front of the home presents itself to the top of the drive toward the southeast. The frontispiece of the living wing faces southeast as well (since it almost faces south and to provide some clarity we will refer to it as the south facing façade) and the service area and apartment face east.

The southeast façade is clad in ashlar Texas Limestone and set in irregular course. The main entry of the home is accessed to the south side of this southeast bay. A fieldstone walk leads to a porch under an expansive hipped-roof. The porch roof is supported by iron columns with square detail. That detail is reflected in the sidelights to each side of the large front door. The door itself is decorated with a circular medallion, raised details, and center mounted hardware.

To the left, or south, of the front door is a short southeast-facing section connecting this living wing with the bedroom wing of the home. This short section is anchored by the ashlar limestone foundation and a limestone planter. Above the limestone is vertically set weatherboard with very little relief, giving an almost smooth appearance. This section is fenestrated with two, double-hung, one-over-one windows.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 3

To the right of the entry is a bay set back from the main entrance and the adjacent southeast facing bay. This bay is marked by a wall of windows. Twelve casement windows fenestrate the limestone façade of this bay providing morning light for the hall and living room just behind.

To the north of this window bay is a second projecting, southeast facing bay. This bay is fenestrated with nine casement windows providing ample light to the dining room. The bay is anchored by an ashlar limestone planter and the limestone wall continues to the deeply overhanging closed eave. Toward the north, or right, of this projecting bay is a short wall with no fenestrations. Behind this wall begin the service areas of the home. On the exterior the wall is stacked limestone half way up the wall and vertically oriented weatherboard on the upper portion.

To the north of this plain wall is an east facing front façade. This east facing façade, turned slightly from the drive, is fenestrated by three double-hung, one-over-one windows. The southernmost set are paired and provide light for the kitchen. The northern window provides light for a laundry room. A short, four-foot-wide breezeway separates the home from what was originally the carport. Though not connected they share the same roof. The carport was converted to an apartment. A low limestone wall was built to match that on the house, however this is set in regular course, and the carport was enclosed and clad in weatherboard. This east facing elevation of the apartment is fenestrated with seven awning type, casement windows. Six of these windows are set in a unit to provide an expansive window for early morning light for the apartment.

At the south end of the home the southeast facing façade turns slightly south. This living wing of the home is turned away from the drive way to provide privacy and, when the home was new, to provide ample views of the large yard to the south. This bay begins just to the left, or south, of the southeast facing frontispiece and front door. The southern façade of the bedroom wing is comprised mainly of two bays. Both bays sit on a concrete foundation and are clad in ashlar irregular course limestone rising to the overhanging enclosed eaves.

The eastern bay of this façade projects from the western bay and the adjacent southeastern façade. Reflecting the interior design, each corner of this bay is fenestrated with six awning casement windows. Four of the windows at each corner face toward the south and two face toward east and two face toward the west. On the west side of this projecting bay the exterior wall retreats. Clad in limestone, the bay is anchored by a three-foot high planter. The wall is fenestrated by one double-hung, one-over-one window and a tri-part casement window.

Side/Southwest Elevation

The southwestern elevation of the house largely reveals the portion that contains two guest bedrooms. The solid limestone wall across this side portion is fenestrated by a tri-part casement window—each of the three windows are 20" x 30"—on the northwest and a pair of 20" x 20" casement windows on the southeast.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 4

At the southeast corner of the elevation both the limestone planter wall and the limestone wall of the house extend past the house toward the southwest.

Rear/West-Northwest Elevation

Like the front of the home, the rear of the home has three wings two of them facing toward the northwest and one facing west. This turning in of the home focuses the attention of the home on the rear pool and patio. As with the front, to help clarify the description, we will refer to the bedroom wing as the north facing elevation. This north facing rear elevation is the bedroom wing of the home and unlike on front where there is horizontal relief, the rear is one bay. The bay extends from the southwest corner of the house and is clad in irregular course limestone. The bay is fenestrated by two full-height sliding glass doors, each of the sliding glass doors have single-pane picture windows to the left and right. The size of these windows and sliding doors—almost complete walls—open the interior of the home to the exterior and extend the living area into the backyard. The bay is also fenestrated by one double-hung, one-over-one window and two doors with louvered windows. To the northeast of each of those louvered doors is a three-foot tall limestone planter in a gently curving form.

To the northeast of this bay is the rear elevation of the public wing of the home. This bay turns more directly toward the northwest and directly faces the pool. Like its adjacent bay, this too is clad in limestone. Both the living room and library have sliding glass doors and single pane sidelights, again opening interior living space to exterior space.

The northernmost bay of the elevation is clad in limestone and fenestrated by one sliding glass door at the breakfast room. Even the semi-private breakfast room is open, by the sliding glass door, toward the patio and pool. The bay is also fenestrated by two casement—awning—windows at the northwest corner of the home to provide light into what was designed as the maid's room.

Again, the home is separated from the apartment by a breezeway. This northwest elevation of the apartment is clad in weatherboard and is fenestrated by two stationary single-pane windows.

Side/North

The elevation view from the north (or right portion) of the house is generally comprised of the rear view of the new garage and patio area. From the north, little of the house itself can be seen. Two casement windows in the northwest corner of the home can be seen in the limestone and weatherboard north wall. The north elevation of the apartment is anchored by an original four-foot limestone wall and topped with horizontal wood weatherboard. A vented door provides access to the pump room while two 18" x 24" windows are found on each side of the apartment.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 5

Interior

The interior of the home retains many of its original features in excellent condition. Exquisite attention was paid to craftsmanship, detail, and premium materials and supplies. Arkansas native woods, supplied by Dierks Lumber Company and its affiliates—red oak, curly pine (rarely milled), ash, walnut, cherry and cypress—were used throughout the home's construction. Though the carpentry of the interior woodwork is meticulous the ornamentation of the rooms comes largely from the wood grain itself rather than elaborate works of carving or carpentry.

Ashlar cut Texas limestone, mined by Texas Quarries Incorporated of Austin, was used not only on the structure's exterior walls, but also on interiors walls. In fact, one of the home's more unique pieces is the dining room table. Dunbar Furniture Company of Berne, Indiana, built the table with matching chairs and sideboard. The two limestone supports for the table run through the floor of the home to foundation. Fossilized limestone was used in the construction of the "built-ins" of the library walls and fireplace. Custom copper work adorns the kitchen and craftsman-quality cornice work is found in almost every room. Period tile work in its original color and condition is also found throughout the house.

The limestone indoor grill and kitchen island were accented by custom copper work provided by Scandinavian Art Metal of Pasadena, California.

Pool and Patio

The free-form, kidney-shaped swimming pool is thirty feet in length and ranges in depth from 2 to 9 feet. It was built by Cardinal Pools of Dallas, Texas, for \$10,522 dollars. Though simple by comparison to what may be found at modern homes, the pool is the centerpiece of the outdoor living area. It can be seen from all the northwest facing rooms on the home.

The patio itself is constructed of local stone and with its curving forms and retaining walls, it feels like a very natural space. A triangular-shaped limestone planter approximately three feet high provides vertical interruption of the large open space to the south of the swimming pool.

An eighteen inch tall limestone wall separates the patio from the yard and contains three points of access to various parts of the lawn. The retaining wall's height and materials blend it well into the yard and it in no way seems to separate the patio area from the backyard and the woods beyond.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 6

Garage

In 1975, when the carport was converted to an apartment Joers had a new three car garage built to the north of the home. This non-contributing ancillary structure is of frame construction with a hipped roof. Both the carport conversion and the construction of the garage were done by Gilford Harrison for \$41,687 dollars.

The garage sits on a continuous concrete foundation and is clad in weatherboard. A three car garage, it is fenestrated on the south by one solid door at the southwest and three solid garage doors. There are no fenestrations on either the east or west elevations. The north elevation is fenestrated by three awning type, casement windows.

Rock Wall

At the east end of the property a stone wall fronts the driveway that was formerly Fox Pass Cutoff Road. This field stone wall is set in irregular course and was constructed as part of the overall landscaping of the property in 1955.

Well House and Well

The well house and well were both constructed in 1959 according to records in the homeowner's files. The well house is a simple frame structure with no fenestrations save a pair of doors in the southeast elevation. The exterior is clad in weatherboard and topped by a gable roof.

Integrity

Peter Dierks Joers lived in this home from its construction to his death in 2006. He and his family retained the original furniture and original fixtures of the home. When the estate was sold in 2007 it was sold intact. The home is an excellent example of mid-century family life with original furniture, fixtures, and finishes.

The most significant change to the home was the 1975 conversion of the carport into a two-bedroom apartment. The construction of a three car garage at the same time; however, speaks to the changing needs of the American family in the twenty years since the home's construction.

When built the Joers house sat on ten acres of land in a relatively quiet and isolated valley to the northeast of Hot Springs (Joers built a home for his mother next door in 1972 on 3.7 acres). The home stands out in a city full of Queen Anne, Craftsman, and vernacular residential forms. Large eaves and walls of glass reflect a maturing architectural tradition seen in the low roof and overhanging eaves of E. B. Rust's California bungalows. This California style grew into low profile homes, typically one level, with free movement of interior and exterior spaces.

United States Department of the Interior

National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 7

As with the rest of the United States, by the 1960s in Arkansas the Ranch home became the most common vernacular form. It was a mass produced architectural style popular with builders across the state. Many of these homes that were built in the late 1950s and 1960s reflected Post War-Traditional forms: shallow eaves, low hipped roofs, brick veneer, and single-car carports attached. The difference largely lay in the organization of the Ranch form into linear, rectangular forms oriented across lots away from the public streets.

The Arkansas Historic Preservation Program has not undertaken any comprehensive study of the Ranch form in the state. The 445 that we have surveyed is a small fraction of the thousands of examples across the state. However, it should be noted that architect designed Ranch homes tend to be of larger size than tract homes in the Ranch style. They also use higher quality materials and the philosophy of material and form is more complete in architect designed homes in Arkansas. It seems from our initial survey that regional architectural influences define Ranch forms across the state. Southern Arkansas typically has Ranch homes that feature more outdoor living opportunities, a stronger predilection toward outdoor spaces, and fewer Colonial Revival or Tudor influences in favor of Southwestern or Western influences. Indeed in addition to Sibley's Joers House, there are several fine examples of California style and Frank Lloyd Wright influenced homes, particularly the designs of Edward Durrell Stone: Jay Lewis Residence (NR 1/20/2005), Willis Noll House (NR 1/20/2005), and Felix Smart House.

Built in 1955, this home has been maintained in near pristine condition to the original design of the builder and owner. With its original doors, interior millwork, roofline and floor plan intact, the building is an ideal example of Ranch architecture of the Mid-Century era of the United States. While minor renovation and additions were done in the mid-70s, the work stayed true to the original intent of the structure.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 1

SUMMARY

The Peter Dierks Joers House is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places with **Statewide significance** under **Criterion C** as an outstanding example of a Ranch designed in the Moderne style of architecture. The 1955 Peter Dierks Joers House has maintained a great deal of architectural integrity over its history and still conveys the form and function for which it was designed. The building's affiliation with one of Hot Springs most influential citizens makes it a significant landmark for the city to recall its recent history.

ELABORATION

The Peter Dierks Joers House was built in 1955 by an heir to the Dierks Lumber Company family. Joers and his wife, Elizabeth Howe Joers, were living near Oaklawn Park in the early 1950s when they purchased ten acres from Hot Springs resident Mose Klyman for \$10,000 to build the home for their growing family.

Peter Dierks Joers was the grandson of Peter Dierks, one of four brothers who founded the Dierks Coal and Lumber Company in Lincoln, Nebraska, in 1895. Peter joined brothers Hans, Henry, and Herman in the lumberyard and heating fuel business. The four brothers were sons of Peter Henry Dierks a German immigrant who became a successful banker and farmer in Iowa. In 1897, the family moved its headquarters to Kansas City, Missouri, quickly becoming the center of America's lumber industry, to better capitalize on trade in yellow pine. By 1900, the family owned twenty-four lumberyards, primarily in Nebraska.

In 1897, the brothers decided to take an ambitious jump into the manufacture of lumber. They purchased a small mill at Petros, Oklahoma, for \$15,000. This venture turned out to be a failure; it was too far from timber reserves to be profitable and closed after only three years of ownership. Nevertheless this began the Dierks Lumber and Coal Company's long presence in the timber industry. Soon after purchasing the planing mill at Petros they purchased the Williamson Brothers Company mill at DeQueen, Arkansas. Herman moved to DeQueen to manage the company's new operations.

From the experience at Petros the brothers learned the value of owning timberlands to supply the mills. Herman quickly began purchasing timberlands in Arkansas. His first major purchase was a vast timber reserve in northern Howard County. With complete ownership of the production network from forest to consumer, the Dierks Lumber and Coal Company was immensely successful and grew rapidly through the early twentieth century.

Herman, Hans, and Peter's sons all joined the company and helped to manage its lumberyards in the Midwest, the wholesale lumber sales in Kansas City, and mill operations in Arkansas and Oklahoma. By the 1910s the company operated—as the Choctaw Lumber Company—large mills at Wright City and Broken Bow, Oklahoma. The mill in DeQueen was replaced by a more modern mill in a complete new town at Dierks, Arkansas—the DeQueen mill burned in 1909.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 2

The company built and operated extensive railroads in Arkansas and Oklahoma to bring timber to their mills. The DeQueen & Eastern and the Texas, Oklahoma & Eastern were both owned and operated by the Dierks Company.

In October of 1925, the Dierks company made one of the largest land purchases ever made in the Ouachita Mountains by buying the holdings of the Yell Lumber Company. The new holdings included 88,000 acres of timberland and stretched for over fifty miles. This purchase, along with numerous others, would help to supply the new mill at Mountain Pine, Arkansas, after it opened in 1928.

Throughout the twentieth century the Dierks Lumber and Coal Company continued to have a significant impact on Arkansas's business and natural environment. Their purchase of timber lands and smaller company holdings, their construction of mills and railroads, and their sale of cut over lands created land use patterns that remain to this day. Small Arkansas towns like Mountain Pine and Dierks owe their existence to the operations of the company. At one point in time, the company was considered one of the largest landowners in the country, holding 1.8 million acres in timberland.

In 1954, Dierks Lumber and Coal Company changed its name to Dierks Forests, Inc., in recognition of their primary operations. The company, always family owned, had undertaken a number of innovative projects to capitalize their investments and maintain profits including the construction of box factories, facilities for the production of pressure treated wood products, facilities to make fiberboard, and a small paper mill. By the late 1960s these operations were still managed by the grandsons and one great-grandson—Peter Dierks Joers. The family stockholders, now numbering in the hundreds, had diverse interests and small share holdings. When approached by Weyerhaeuser, the offer of \$317 million in cash and preferred stock was too much to pass up. In September 1969, Dierks Forest, Inc.'s 1.8 million acres of land—at that time the largest single family ownership in the U.S.—three saw mills, paper mill, treating plant, wood fiber plant, gypsum wallboard plant, two railroads, and smaller facilities were sold to Weyerhaeuser.

Peter Dierks Joers, was born Febuary 19, 1919, in Kansas City, Missouri. After graduating from the United States Naval Academy and serving in the United States Navy, Joers went to work for Dierks Lumber and Coal Company in 1946. Joers served as vice president for the company. In 1965, Joers was named Chairman of the Board of the company.

Over the course of his professional career Joers was considered one of the state's most prominent business men. In addition to holding a number of high level positions in family-owned businesses, Joers also served on a various state boards and commissions including: the Arkansas Forestry Commission, State Chamber of Commerce, Arkansas Wood Products Association, Arkansas Blue Cross Blue Shield Board of Directors, and the Keep Arkansas Green Association. He was twice elected president of the Associated Industries of Arkansas. Joers served on the United States Chamber of Commerce's natural resources council. In 1970,

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 3

Joers was appointed by President Richard Nixon to the United States Government Procurement Commission.

Locally Joers consistently worked to improve the local community, attempting at one point in the 1970s to attract a branch of the Smithsonian Institution to Hot Springs. Joers offered to donate 100 acres for the construction of a \$100 million dollar museum. Joers death occurred on March 23rd, 2006, in Hot Springs, Arkansas, where he is buried. The home remained vacant (yet cared for by full-time staff) until it was purchased by Kathleen and Len Pitcock in June 2007.

Town and County History

Hot Springs, Arkansas, takes its name from the world-famous thermal waters that flow into the historic downtown district of the city. About a million gallons of the 143°F water issue forth daily from 47 hot springs. The City of Hot Springs is the only American city located within a national park. Hot Springs National Park was established in 1921. It was first set aside as the nation's first National Reservation in 1832, due to the need for federal protection of the hot springs.

In 1673, Father Jacques Marquette and Louis Joliet explored the area and discovered the springs before claiming the area for France. After the French and Indian War ended in 1763, the area came under Spanish rule. In 1800, control of the land returned to Napoleon's French Empire before President Thomas Jefferson bought the land in the Louisiana Purchase of 1803, doubling the size of the United States. In 1818, Quapaw Indians ceded the land to the United States during a treaty signing in St. Louis, Missouri.

As early as 1820, Joseph Mellard operated a hostel at the Hot Springs. In 1828, Ludovicious Belding opened the second of the city's hotels. Particularly at this early period there was little permanent settlement in the town. The census of 1830 lists only 84 people in the entire Township. It was not until 1851 that the town of Hot Springs was incorporated. By this time the population had risen to 3,669 residents.

Hot Springs was relatively isolated throughout the Civil War. The Confederate retreat following the battle of Pea Ridge in March 1862, left Little Rock without defense. Afraid of losing the state government to Federal control and afraid of being captured, Governor Henry Rector fled to Hot Springs in May 1862. This hasty retreat from Little Rock was soundly criticized and though Rector returned to Little Rock in July his actions ultimately caused him to loose the election in the fall. Some of the state's official papers remained in Hot Springs until the fall of 1863, when they were removed to Washington. From 1863 to 1865, there was little war related activity in Hot Springs though bands of guerilla and bushwhackers regularly caused havoc upon the residential population.

After the Civil War ended, the city underwent a construction boom of bathhouses and hotels. The population quickly increased to 1,200 by 1870. By 1873, six bathhuses and twenty-four hotels were built. In 1874, a multi-millionaire from Chicago, Illinois, built a railroad that ran from Hot Springs to Malvern, Arkansas. This railroad attracted many people to Hot Springs. In 1875, an entrepreneur from Ohio named Samuel Fordyce built the Arlington Hotel, the first luxury hotel in Hot Springs.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 4

In 1913, a fire broke out on Church Street that raced toward the business section of the city, destroying the Ozark Sanitarium. It also destroyed the utilities plant and the resulting water supply for the firefighters. A strong wind brought the fire to Ouachita Avenue, leveling the Garland County Courthouse. Firefighters were able to save Central Avenue, including the bathhouse and many hotels, through the desperate use of dynamite. Firefighters from Little Rock and other Arkansas towns arrived to find that the fire had destroyed 60 blocks of Hot Springs, with estimated damages of \$10 million.

In World War II, an Army-Navy hospital was built in 1942, where the thermal baths of Hot Springs were used to rejuvenate the soldiers waiting to return to duty. This building now operates as the Arkansas Rehabilitation Center, a downtown landmark.

The City of Hot Springs has had many notable residents throughout the city's interesting history, the most famous of which is former President Bill Clinton, who spent his boyhood here and attended Hot Springs High School.

History of the Property

Peter Dierks Joers purchased the ten acres used to build his home from Hot Springs resident Mose Klyman in 1954 at a cost of \$10,000. Prior to the purchase, not much is known about the property other than its proximity to the "Big Chaleybeate Springhouse" nearby. An abandoned cemetery currently on National Park Service land is also within a short walk of the property's rear border. Markers date back to the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

Bids for work at the house date back to late 1954 through the middle part of 1955. Local plumbers, mills, craftsmen and electricians were all involved in the work as Dallas, Texas, builder Hal Anderson oversaw the \$138,000 dollar project. Cardinal Pools, also of Dallas, was selected to build the swimming at a cost of \$10,522.

Meticulous detail was paid to the interior work of the home as records indicate premium grade wood, supplied by Dierks Lumber Company and its affiliates, were chosen. Hand-selected cuts of curly-pine, red oak, ash, cherry and walnut were used in different rooms of the house often with ornate and detailed trim and cornice work.

In addition to the local materials, Texas limestone brought in by Texas Quarries Incorporated of Austin, Texas, was used not only in the home's exterior walls, but also internally. The limestone indoor grill and kitchen island were accented by custom copper work provided by Scandinavian Art Metal of Pasadena, California. The Dunbar Furniture Company of Berne, Indiana was also retained to provide the "built-in" dining room table (and chairs) along with its matching sideboard.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 5

The Mid-Century Modern style of architecture found in the house is a design form that generally describes mid-20th century developments in modern design, architecture, and urban development from roughly 1933 to 1965. The term was coined in 1983 by Cara Greenberg for the title of her ground-breaking book, "Mid-Century Modern: Furniture of the 1950s" celebrating the style which is now recognized by scholars and museums worldwide as a significant design movement. Mid-century architecture was a further development of Frank Lloyd Wright's principles of organic architecture combined with many elements reflected in the International and Bauhaus movements. Mid-century modernism, however, was much more organic in form and less formal than the International Style.

Scandinavian designers and architects were very influential at this time, with a style characterized by simplicity, democratic design and natural shapes. Like many of Wright's designs, Mid-Century architecture was frequently employed in residential structures with the goal of bringing modernism into America's post-war suburbs. This style emphasized creating structures with ample windows and open floor-plans with the intention of opening up interior spaces and bringing the outdoors in. Many Mid-century homes utilized then groundbreaking post and beam architectural design that eliminated bulky support walls in favor of walls seemingly made of glass. Function was as important as form in Mid-Century designs with an emphasis placed specifically on targeting the needs of the average American family. Examples of residential Mid-Century modern architecture are frequently referred to as the California Modern style.

In 1952, Joseph B. Mason said of the homes presented in *82 Distinctive Houses from Architectural Record* that over the previous decade it is apparent that "a significant change has occurred" in American home design. "These houses show...a greater appreciation by architects of the hospitality of the out-of-doors." The architects "seem to place the family in much more direct everyday contact with nature, its trees, sunshine, and changing seasons." The homes are "more direct, simple, natural" and "there is much use of local wood and masonry with little ornamentation." Though this collection of eighty-two houses built in the early 1950s are heavily influenced by the International Style there are several distinctive, formal Ranch homes. Regardless of the design what one sees in the collection is what is alluded to by Mason that in the middle 1950s American residential architecture changed in reflection of a new way in which Americans were choosing to live.

As one historian of the Ranch home, Allan Hess, notes in his book *Ranch*, "[the Ranch] emerged as an amalgam of mid-century trends: governmental housing policy encouraging home ownership, Hollywood Westerns spreading the magnetic myth and images of rugged individualism, new technologies...reshaping the American house, and increasingly casual lifestyles creating a need for informal house plans." Examples of the form appear in California as early as the late 1920s and a decade later California architects were well acquainted with the form.

In California, as elsewhere, the form was based heavily on regional vernacular architecture. There was an increased use of natural and local materials, a reduction in ornamentation, and a focus on bringing the outdoors in and the indoors out.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 6

This "hospitable Modernism," as Hess calls it fashioned a house for the moderate man. Designed with an asymmetry for practical living, the use of humble materials, low profiles, homes set back on spacious lots with wide eaves and unpainted brick; the understated entries and simple formal spaces suggested a modesty of form not seen in preceding architectural styles.

As an immensely popular architectural style the Ranch, often thought of as boring cookie-cutter homes, was remarkably variable. "In Arizona, Ranch houses were concrete block, while in Michigan, they were Colonial or Modern, in New England they were Cape Cod," notes Hess. Even within Arkansas the form varies from the mass produced versions in the post-War suburbs of Little Rock to the architect designed homes of higher style. Arkansas's unique location brings architectural influences from the Midwest, the East, and the Southwest. The 1951 Collison House (NR 5/29/2008) in Bald Knob is a linear Ranch with Colonial Revival influences, reflecting its owner's and architect's Eastern influences. The Willis Noll House (NR 1/20/2005), designed in 1950 by Edward Durrell Stone, reflects the asymmetry and use of natural materials in a California influenced design. Not surprisingly, the Joers House reflects a Southwest vernacular. Texas architects like O'Neil Ford and David Richard Williams took the vernacular forms of Texas and combined them with the Ranch style homes of California to create long, low, hipped-roof forms that seemed indigenous to the climate and soil of Southwest.

SIGNIFICANCE

The 1955 Peter Dierks Joers House has maintained a great deal of architectural integrity over its history and still conveys the form and function for which it was designed. The current owners are the second to own the home and have retained all original furniture and fixtures. This home is one of the most intact homes of this style in the state and one of only a few architect designed Ranch homes known in the state. Therefore, the Peter Dierks Joers House is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places with **Statewide significance** under **Criterion C** as an outstanding example of a Ranch designed in the Moderne style of architecture.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 1

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Brown, Dee. *The American Spa, Hot Springs, Arkansas*. Little Rock, AR: Rose Publishing Company, 1982.

Who's Who in Arkansas., Vol. 2 Little Rock, AR: Allard House Publishers, 1969.

Hess, Alan. *The Ranch House*. New York: Harry N. Abrams, Inc., 2004.

Mason, Joseph B., Ed. *82 Distinctive Homes from Architectural Record*. New York: F. W. Dodge Corporation, 1952.

Mosley, Sharon. "Mid-Century Magic." *At Home In Arkansas*, (May 2008): 42-45.

Smith, Kenneth L. *Sawmill: The Story of the Last Great Virgin Forest East of the Rockies*. Fayetteville: University of Arkansas Press, 1986.

United States Naval Academy. *The Lucky Bag 1942*. Buffalo, New York: Baker, Jones, Hauser, Inc., 1942.

Manuscripts

"Specifications for a Residence for Mr. and Mrs. Peter Joers - Hot Springs, Arkansas." 1954. From the Office of Hal Anderson and Associates, 5335 Meaders Lane Dallas Texas.

"Cost of PDJ Residence" date unknown. From the files of the Peter D. Joers Estate.

"Blueprints - 117 Fox Pass Cutoff" 11 Nov 1954. Job 3154. Office of Hal Anderson - Contractor. "Sib" Sibley - Designer.

Personal Correspondence. Miss Kathleen DeLong, Scandinavian Art Metal, Pasadena, California. 4 April 1955 to Mr. Peter D. Joers, Dierks Lumber and Coal Company, Mountain Pine, Arkansas

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 2

Internet Resources

"Choctaw Lumber Company" Internet. Available from
<http://digital.library.okstate.edu/encyclopedia/entries/C/CH050.html>. Accessed 24 May 2009.

"Mid-Century modern" Internet. Accessed 10 May 2009. Available from http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mid-Century_modern

"History of Hot Springs, Arkansas" Internet. Accessed 06 April 2009. Available from <http://www.ci.hot-springs.ar.us/about-hs-history.html>

Newspapers

(Fayetteville) *Northwest Arkansas Times*

Joers, Peter Dierks, House
Name of Property

Garland County, Arkansas
County and State

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 1

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

A part of the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ and a part of the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 22 Township 2 South, Range 19 West, Garland County Arkansas being more particularly described as follows: Commence at the Northeast corner of said NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$; Then S $89^{\circ}57'02''$ W 165' to found axle on the Westerly right of way line of Highway 7 North; then along said right of way S $41^{\circ}44'16''$ W 705.85' to a set $\frac{1}{2}''$ rebar with cap and the Point Beginning; Then continue along said right of way S $41^{\circ}44'16''$ W 202.52' to a set spindle; Then leaving said right of way N $67^{\circ}34'30''$ W 407.04' to a found $\frac{1}{2}''$ pipe; Then S $43^{\circ}07'48''$ W 143.88' to a found $\frac{5}{8}''$ rebar; Then N $43^{\circ}45'35''$ E 595.29' to a found $\frac{1}{2}''$ pipe; Then S $41^{\circ}14'43''$ E 680' to the Point of Beginning.

VERBAL BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The above verbal boundary description includes all land historically associated with the Peter Dierks Joers House: Hot Springs, Garland County, Arkansas.

Hot Springs
National Park



