

Jefferson Co.
White Hall
Bellingrath House

NR LISTED 12/01/94
OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property

historic name: Bellingrath House

other name/site number: N/A

2. Location

street & number: 7520 Dollarway Road

not for publication: N/A

city/town: White Hall

vicinity: N/A

state: AR county: Jefferson code: AR 069 zip code: 71602

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: Private

Category of Property: Building

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing Noncontributing

<u>5</u>	<u> </u>	buildings
<u>1</u>	<u> </u>	sites
<u>1</u>	<u> </u>	structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	objects
<u>7</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: N/A

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

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4. State/Federal Agency Certification

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As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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 forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets _____ does not meet the National Register Criteria. _____ See continuation sheet

Cathryn A. Slater
Signature of certifying official

10-24-94
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.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

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5. National Park Service Certification

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I, hereby certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register _____

_____ 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): _____

Signature of Keeper

Date
of Action

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6. Function or Use

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Historic: DOMESTIC

Sub: Single dwelling

Current: DOMESTIC

Sub: Single dwelling

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7. Description

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Architectural Classification:

English Revival

Other Description: N/A

Materials:	foundation	<u>Concrete/Brick/Stone</u>	roof <u>Asphalt</u>
	walls	<u>Brick/Stone</u>	other <u>Brick and</u>
			<u>s t o n e</u>
			<u>chimneys</u>

Describe present and historic physical appearance. X See continuation sheet.

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8. Statement of Significance

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Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: Locally.

Applicable National Register Criteria: C

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): N/A

Areas of Significance: ARCHITECTURE

Period(s) of Significance: 1932-35

Significant Dates: 1932-35

Significant Person(s): N/A

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: Seligman, Mitchell

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.
X See continuation sheet.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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X See continuation sheet

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:

- X State historic preservation office
- Other state agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other -- Specify Repository: _____

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10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of Property: 15.4

UTM References:	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
A	<u>15</u>	<u>584070</u>	<u>3791890</u>	B	<u>15</u>	<u>584200</u>
C	<u>15</u>	<u>583940</u>	<u>3791560</u>	D	<u>15</u>	<u>583860</u>

____ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description: ____ See continuation sheet.

Part of the Southeast Quarter of the Northeast Quarter, Section 21, Township 05 South, Range 10 West, Containing 14 Acres more or less, and also part of the Southwest Quarter of the Northwest Quarter of Section 22, Township 05 South, Range 10 West, Containing 1.4 Acres more or less; more particularly described as follows: Commencing at the Northeast corner of said SE 1/4, NE 1/4, Section 21; thence S. 0 degrees 28 minutes 31 seconds West 461.68 feet to a point on the West right of way line of Highway No. 365; thence along the said right of way the following calls: S. 30 degrees 21 minutes 40 seconds E. 62.54 feet; thence S. 59 degrees 38 minutes 20 seconds W. 10 feet; thence S. 31 degrees 45 minutes 46 seconds E. 211.87 feet; thence N. 58 degrees 22 minutes E. 10 feet; thence S. 36 degrees 27 minutes E. 90.54 feet; thence S. 33 degrees 24 minutes E. 61.04 feet; thence leaving said right of way S. 49 degrees 52 feet W. 307.4 feet to the West line of said SW 1/4 NW 1/4 22-5-10; thence S. 49 degrees, 52 minutes W. 110 feet; thence S. 55 degrees 13 minutes W. 194.3 feet; thence S. 70 degrees 12 minutes W. 157.4 feet; thence N. 60 degrees 10 minutes W. 202.5 feet; thence N. 40 degrees 16 minutes W. 135.3 feet; thence N. 14 degrees 33 minutes W. 232.5 feet: thence N. 07 degrees 53 minutes W. 446.48 feet; thence N. 76 degrees 16 minutes 30 seconds E. 463.79 feet along the South line of Van's Addition; thence N. 79 degrees 33 minutes E. 196.45 feet along the South line of Van's Addition to the West right of way of said Highway No. 365; thence along said right of way the following

Name/Title: Kenneth Story, Architectural Historian

Organization: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program Date: 10/17/94

Street & Number: 323 Center Street, Suite 1500 Telephone: (501) 324-9880

City or Town: Little Rock State: AR Zip: 72201

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Summary

Located on the historic Dollarway Road just south of the center of the community of White Hall, the Bellingrath House is a two-and-one-half storey, reinforced concrete/brick and stone veneer residence designed in the English Revival style. Noteworthy features include the irregular stone veneer applied around the base on the eastern or front elevation, the picturesque roofline that reflects the rambling overall plan, the employment of various exterior finishes (brick, stone, stucco and half-timbering, wood trim), and the intersecting gables throughout. Also included in the nomination are a total of four outbuildings, an original tennis court, and an assortment of original landscape features, including a brick driveway and patio, various brick walkways, and a man-made pond.

Elaboration

The Bellingrath House is a two-and-one-half storey, reinforced concrete/brick and stone veneer residence designed in the English Revival style. The irregular plan is composed of several intersecting gable roof components of various sizes and heights. A total of four chimneys vent the interior fireplaces: an exterior end brick chimney against the northern, gable end wall, another brick chimney placed internally just to the south, a third rubble fieldstone chimney placed against the southern gable end wall, and the fourth brick chimney placed against the western wall of the main gable roof section, next to its intersection with the original shed roof sleeping porch. The asphalt shingle roof, and brick and rubble fieldstone walls rest upon a continuous concrete foundation, covered with a brick and stone veneer.

The eastern or front elevation is composed of three principal elements: the side wall of the single-storey, gable roof room to the south; the combination projecting gables in the center; the side wall of the main two-storey gable section to the north; and the single-storey, castellated porch that completes the northern end of the elevation. The single-storey room to the south is fenestrated with three symmetrically-placed, rectangular multi-pane windows, and the basement wall below is sheathed with rubble stone set in an irregular pattern against the red brick wall. Three smaller rectangular basement window openings are placed directly below the larger windows above. The combination gable roof section in the center is composed of a two-storey gabled section from which a smaller, single-storey gabled section projects toward its northern edge. The two storey section features a louvered attic grate set into the center of the stuccoed and half-timbered pediment and a pair of symmetrically-placed casement windows with transoms in the second storey below. The first storey is fenestrated with a single casement window

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opening to the south of the entrance gable, and the entrance gable is punctuated with an arched entrance opening with a small arched window opening placed to the north. Another casement window lights the second storey just to the north of the single-storey gable. The two-storey side wall to the north is symmetrically-fenestrated with two casement windows with transoms on each storey, one above the other. The single-storey porch at the northern end features two tall arched openings that are now screened.

The northern elevation is composed of the projecting single-storey, crenellated porch to the east, the end wall of the main, two-storey gabled section, and the side wall of the projecting rear section to the west. The porch is punctuated with a single-leaf central entrance and two flanking screened openings, all of which are arched. The crenellated parapet above features metal railings between the crenellations, and stone springers accent the red brick. The two-storey wall behind is fenestrated with a single louvered vent in the gable peak, below which is a single casement window, and all of which is surrounded by the stucco and half-timbering that fills the pediment. The exterior end chimney, placed to the east of the gable peak, features a pair of stone offsets on its eastern shoulder that lead down to the pair of french doors and transom that provide access from the interior onto the flat porch roof. A single casement window is placed just to the west of the chimney on the second storey, and the gable end is completed by two pair of casement windows with transoms on each storey. The side wall of the rear section is fenestrated with two pair of casement windows with transoms on the first storey and the second storey is screened. It is capped with a shed roof.

The western elevation is composed of the two-storey sleeping porch and dining room section that projects from the center of the two-story gable roof main section, and the single-storey gabled wing that extends to the south. The sleeping porch/dining room section is fenestrated with two pair of casement windows with transoms in the northern window bays and a larger opening at the southern end that has been filled with a smaller modern replacement window (which probably fills what was originally a larger entrance into an unenclosed porch at the southern end). The entire second storey of this section consists of a screened sleeping porch. The wall of the main gabled section to the north features a single window opening, filled with a pair of casement windows and a transom. The wall to the south of the projection is fenestrated with two identical windows, one above the other, and the gabled wing extending to the south contains three symmetrically-placed multi-pane windows in the upper section (identical to those in its eastern wall) and a garage below, consisting of three large automobile bays set into the rubble stone basement.

The southern elevation is composed of the side of the rear projection to the west, the end gable

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of the main section, and the end gable of the single-storey wing. The side of the rear section contains the sleeping porch on the second storey and a pair of windows next to a single-leaf entrance on the first storey. The main gable end is irregularly-fenestrated. The louvered vent and central window below are identical in configuration and placement to those seen on the northern elevation; yet below the second storey is fenestrated with two large window openings and one smaller, all placed toward the intersecting gable roof of the single-storey section, and the larger windows containing a pair of casement windows and a transom while the smaller window contains but a single casement window. The wall below is punctuated with one large opening to the west -- filled with a pair of casements -- and two separate smaller windows placed at different heights next to the single-storey gable, each of which features a single casement window. The basement wall below also contains two separate window openings, each filled with a pair of casements. The gable end of the single-storey section is divided by the central rubble stone chimney and is fenestrated with a single multi-pane window to either side of that chimney. A single-leaf entrance provides access into a small basement room to the west of the chimney.

The interior is largely intact. Features of note include several Colonial Revival style mantelpieces; a number of large arched openings between rooms and hallways, most of which retain their original arched pair doors; green and pink tile bathrooms with several original bathroom fixtures intact; and wall paintings in the attic depicting the exterior equipment of an ocean liner, executed as decoration for a children's play area. Probably of greatest interest, however, is the den in the southern section. It is finished in plaster with pecky cypress half-timbering, features a wooden truss ceiling, and is dominated by a massive rubble stone fireplace at the southern end.

Alterations to the building have been minimal and the current owners are finishing a restoration of the building that has been on-going for about a year. It is in very good condition.

Also included in the nomination are a total of four original outbuildings: a small, gable roofed hydrant shelter, a gable roof, single-storey caretaker's cottage, a single-storey, gable roof workshop, and a single-storey, gable combination cookout shelter/recreation room that adjoins the tennis courts. A man-made pond is also included. They are all in good condition.

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southern Arkansas.

On November 12, 1925, Ferd married Catherine Annetta Oudin, the eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. E. M. Oudin, at the First Baptist Church in Pine Bluff. They had two sons in the following years, Ferdinand McMillan, Jr. and Leonard Ferdinand II. Following the death of his mother in 1933 and the death of his father later that same year, Ferd took control of the bottling business for good.

It was in the following year that Ferd and Catherine built their new house on the Dollarway Road in White Hall. Located in a pleasant, wooded area to the west of the main highway, the Bellingrath House was designed in a typically American interpretation of the English Revival. Such elements as the stucco and half-timbering, the irregular application of the rubble stone finish around the basement, and the employment of mixed media overall are typical of the textbook English Revival; however, the frequent use of arched wall openings and the rather timid front gable ensemble are reflective of the American tendency to blend popular styles and to borrow attractive elements from various popular styles to create something unique.

Ferd Bellingrath ran his bottling company profitably over the course of the next several years. He also became an active and influential community leader, devoting time and money to a number of community causes that concerned him. He suffered an untimely death early in the morning of December 24, 1941 when he was shot by a police officer during a domestic dispute involving his family, who were staying at a neighbor's house. However his wife continued to run the bottling business after his death and well into the 1940s.

The design for the Bellingrath House in White Hall is significant by virtue of its status as an aesthetically successful synthesis of medieval and classical influences in the creation of this unique English Revival-inspired design. For this reason it is considered eligible under Criterion C with local significance.

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Summary

Criterion C, local significance

Designed in 1932 and completed by 1935, the Bellingrath House is locally significant under Criterion C by virtue of its status as the best and most elaborate example of an English Revival-style residence in the community of White Hall. Such features as the asymmetrical composition, the rambling floor plan, and the mixed media applied throughout are all signature elements of a national architectural style that became popular after World War I and remained so throughout the United States until World War II.

Elaboration

Located in the community of White Hall (this name is of disputed origin, though one account attributes it to a nearby wood frame church building, painted white, that was also used for various community meetings and social functions), the Bellingrath House was designed by the Pine Bluff architect Mitchell Seligman in 1932, with construction commencing in 1934, upon the execution of a construction contract with the Pine Bluff contractor Earl C. Royse, Jr. The house and outbuildings were completed in 1935.

The house is named for Ferdinand M. and Catherine Oudin Bellingrath, the young couple who commissioned this design. Ferdinand McMillan Bellingrath was born April 18, 1906, the youngest son of Leonard Ferdinand Bellingrath and Mary Jane Castleberry Bellingrath. The Bellingrath family first came to Arkansas from their ancestral home in Georgia around 1910, when two of Leonard's brothers acquired a Coca-Cola bottling plant in Little Rock. The following year the Bellingrath Brothers opened a branch plant in Pine Bluff, located at 306 West Barraque Street. Leonard Bellingrath came to Pine Bluff in 1916 to run the plant for his brothers and bought out their interest that same year, incorporating it as the Coca-Cola Bottling Business Company of Pine Bluff. In 1921 Leonard Bellingrath bought an existing building at 203-225 Second Avenue and put in a concrete floor, installed a new roof and strengthened the load-bearing structure within. The resulting facility measured eighty feet by one-hundred and fifty-four feet. He then installed bottling equipment and began a vastly expanded production schedule: combined with that of the family's nearby plants in McGehee and Camden, he produced almost 100,000 bottles of Coca-Cola per day.

Ferdinand -- better known as "Ferd" -- was a bright young student and took an early interest in his father's business. Under his father's guidance young Ferd matured into a capable business man in his own right: together they expanded their bottling distribution throughout most of

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Interview with Ferdinand M. Bellingrath, Jr., April 6, 1994.

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UTM GRID AND 1984 MAGNETIC NORTH
DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET

































