

63-170-5175-61

Dec 11, 1980

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*

Type all entries—complete applicable sections

For HCRS use only

received

date entered

NR
LISTED:
12/11/80

1. Name

historic

Ferguson-Calderara House

and/or common

Calderara House

2. Location

street & number

214 N. 14th St.

not for publication

city, town

Fort Smith

vicinity of

congressional district

Third

state

Arkansas

code

05

county

Sebastian

code

131

3. Classification

Category

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

Ownership

- ☐ public
☒ private
☐ both

Public Acquisition

- ☐ in process
☐ being considered

Status

- ☒ occupied
☐ unoccupied
☐ work in progress
Accessible
☒ yes: restricted
☐ yes: unrestricted
☐ no

Present Use

- ☐ agriculture
☐ commercial
☐ educational
☐ entertainment
☐ government
☐ industrial
☐ military
☐ museum
☐ park
☒ private residence
☐ religious
☐ scientific
☐ transportation
☐ other:

4. Owner of Property

name

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Calderara

street & number

214 North Fourteenth Street

city, town

Fort Smith

vicinity of

state Arkansas 72901

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc.

Sebastian County Courthouse

street & number

Rogers Avenue and Sixth Street

city, town

Fort Smith

state Arkansas 72901

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title

has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☐ no

date

☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records

city, t

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Ferguson-Calderara House is an irregularly massed structure that is two-and-one-half stories in height. The massing and detailing of the house are asymmetrical. The roof is a combination of gables and hips. Gable ends are located on the east, south, and north elevations. Two tall chimneys rise above the roof and each chimney is reinforced by an elaborate wrought-iron brace. A full basement is located beneath the house. Three porches are attached to the structure. A one-story porch spans all of the east (front) elevation and half of the south elevation. Columns, linked by a balustrade, support the porch. An enclosed sleeping porch is situated on the southern half of the second story on the building's east elevation. A one-story porch enclosed with lattice-work is found on the west or rear elevation of the house.

Wood and stone were the primary materials used in the construction of the Ferguson-Calderara House. Weatherboard sheaths the exterior. The edges of the exterior walls are defined by corner boards. The gable ends are shingled. A rusticated stone foundation supports the house.

A variety of window types are incorporated into the design of the house. Most windows are rectangular one-over-one double-hung. These windows vary in size and are asymmetrically arranged. Other window types include a Palladian window on the gable end of the east elevation of the structure and an oculus on the first story of the south elevation. The most elaborate windows are those of the second story sleeping porch. The four windows of the sleeping porch form an arcade. Each window is a five-centered elliptical arch. A keystone punctuates each arch.

The entrance to the Ferguson-Calderara House is relatively simple. It is a single door embellished with an oval glazed-panel. The door is flanked by sidelights and is surmounted by a transom. The architrave is trabeated.

Most detailing utilized in the design of the house is classical. The one-story front porch possesses a full entablature sustained by unfluted columns with Ionic capitals. Ionic pilasters separate the windows of the second story sleeping porch. The house features a box cornice that is dentile. Carved garlands fill the extrados above the arches on the sleeping porch.

The balustrade of the one-story front porch features a distinctive handrail. The porch columns divide the balustrade into seven sections. The handrail in each section of the balustrade curves in a U-shape.

The interior of the house contains eleven rooms, five on the first floor and six on the second. The interior is elaborately detailed. Two rooms, the foyer and the front parlor, are located on the first floor. The foyer is dominated by a large brick fireplace. The fireplace features a corbelled breast and ornated mantel. The mantel line is articulated with curvilinear terra cotta relief work. The foyer walls are covered with linen that has been hand stenciled with flowers. The main staircase is located in the foyer. The staircase follows a dog-leg plan. The turned balusters and

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

CONTINUATION SHEET

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carved newel post are distinctive components of the staircase. A stained glass window overlooks the landing.

The walls are the outstanding element of the front parlor. They are divided into panels by bamboo-shaped strips. The wall covering is linen canvas that has been handpainted with oils. The design is a composition portraying books and roses.

Crossed oak beams are a part of the first floor ceilings. The beams possess a beaded trim. The original wood work found in architraves, baseboards, and other trimwork survives throughout the house.

The exterior of the Ferguson-Caldwell house retains its total integrity of appearance. The only significant alterations to the interior are those that accommodate modern plumbing, electrical and kitchen conveniences.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1904

Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Ferguson-Calderara House is significant both architecturally and historically. Classical detailing, irregular proportions and a wide variety of construction materials combine to make the structure an excellent example of Neo-Colonial Revival architecture. Both the exterior and interior of the house are little altered and are well-preserved. The historical significance of the home rests largely in the buildings' association with Pine Bluff's commercial history. The lumber industry and the closely related furniture industry have long been two bulwarks of the Pine Bluff economy. A. L. Ferguson, for whom the house was built, was a pioneer and central figure in the Fort Smith lumber industry. Ferguson owned and operated the Ferguson Lumber Company, one of the largest lumber companies in the city.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Calderara, Thomas. Interview, April 1978

Yadon, Julia. Reflections of Fort Smith. Fort Smith, Arkansas: Fort Smith Historical Press, 1976

Zanders, Betty. Southwest Times Record, July 23, 1972.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property Less than one acre.

Quadrangle name Ft. Smith, Ark./Okla.

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A

1	5
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3	7	1	3	2	0
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3	9	1	6	3	0	0
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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Lots 11 and 12, block 16, Fitzgerald Addition.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Mike Shinn, Historian. Historical Research: Julia Yadon and Bernice Cole

organization Arkansas Historic Preservation Program date June 11, 1979

street & number Suite 500, Continental Building telephone (501) 371-2763

city or town Little Rock state Arkansas 72201

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date June 11, 1979

For HCRS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

