

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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 National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any 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.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Deepwood House

Other names/site number: Fowler, Herb and Marie (Judy), House: Site #WA1636

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

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

2. Location

Street & number: 4697 West Finger Road

City or town: Fayetteville State: Arkansas County: Washington

Not For Publication: Vicinity:

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

___ national ___ statewide X local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

X A ___ B X C ___ D

<hr/>	
Signature of certifying official/Title:	Date
<u>Arkansas Historic Preservation Program</u>	
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	

<p>In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.</p> <hr/>	
Signature of commenting official:	Date
<hr/>	
Title :	State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

Deepwood House
Name of Property

Washington County, AR
County and State

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

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

Deepwood House
Name of Property

Washington County, AR
County and State

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

OTHER:Organic

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: STONE, GLASS, ASPHALT

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

Deepwood House is the property that architect Herb Fowler designed as his own personal residence on top of Kessler Mountain west of Fayetteville. The property, which is set on over 30 acres, includes the main house (Deepwood House), guest house (Woodwind), barn, pump house, and art studio, all designed by Fowler. The buildings were all built between c.1960 and 1965, and employ principles of organic architecture, including utilizing natural materials, such as wood and stone, and being designed to fit into the landscape. The buildings rest on stone or concrete-block foundations with wood or stone walls and gable, shed, or hipped roofs covered in asphalt shingles, asphalt roll roofing, or metal roofing. The property that surrounds the buildings is mainly wooded with some open space in the vicinity of the art studio.

Narrative Description

Located at 4697 West Finger Road, Deepwood House is the property that architect Herb Fowler designed as his own personal residence. The Deepwood House property is located on top of Kessler Mountain west of Fayetteville, and is set on over 30 acres. The property includes the main house (Deepwood House), guest house (Woodwind), barn, pump house, and art studio, all designed by Fowler. The property that surrounds the buildings is mainly wooded with some open space in the vicinity of the art studio. The buildings were all built between c.1960 and 1965, and employ principles of organic architecture, including the utilization of natural materials, such as wood and fieldstone, and being designed to fit into the landscape.

Deepwood House
Name of Property

Washington County, AR
County and State

The buildings on the property are organized in two groups. The first group, which includes Deepwood House and Woodwind, is located on top of the mountain, while the other group includes the barn, art studio, and pump house and is located below Deepwood House. Deepwood House and Woodwind both rest on fieldstone foundations and have board and batten wood siding. In addition, much of the walls of Deepwood House are comprised of glass that provides views of the surroundings. Deepwood House is topped by a gable-on-hip roof covered with asphalt roll roofing and battens, while the gable-on-hip roof on Woodwind is covered in asphalt shingles. Both roofs have unusually wide eaves that shade the buildings' walls.

The pump house, barn, and art studio, which are in the second group of buildings, are more eclectic in their design and use of materials. The pump house rests on a stone foundation with stone walls and a shed roof, while the barn has a wood post and concrete-block foundation, vertical board walls, and a metal-covered gable roof. The art studio also has a stone foundation, vertical board walls, and a metal-covered gable roof.

Deepwood House – Contributing
Front/South Façade

The south façade of Deepwood House consists of the fieldstone foundation and lower wall that are in an earthen berm. The main body of the south façade is comprised of windows. Beginning at the east end of the house, there are thirteen wood-frame, single-pane windows, and every other window is an operable casement window. To the west of the windows, a sunken fieldstone terrace is accessed by a central set of French doors flanked on either side by two plate-glass windows. To the west of the plate-glass windows is a recessed entrance with a decorative screen door and a single-pane sidelight on the west side of it. Continuing west of the recessed entrance is a short section of board-and-batten siding followed by six, single-pane windows. As with the other windows on the eastern part of the façade, every other window is an operable casement window.

Side/East Façade

The east façade of Deepwood House is centered around a central recessed entrance to the house with a wood door and decorative screen door. The door leads to a flagstone terrace between the main house and the workshop connected to Woodwind. To the south of the entrance is a short section of board-and-batten siding followed by three, stationary single-pane windows. The southernmost window is frameless and abuts the window on the south façade. To the north of the central entrance the façade is devoid of fenestration.

In the end of the gable peak is a triangular louvered attic vent.

Rear/North Façade

The north façade of Deepwood House consists of the fieldstone foundation and lower wall and a flagstone terrace. The main body of the north façade, like the south façade, is comprised of windows. Beginning at the east end of the house, there are ten wood-frame, single-pane windows, and every other window is an operable casement window. To the west of the windows is a section of wood board-and-batten siding. To the west, the fieldstone terrace is accessed by a

Deepwood House

Name of Property

Washington County, AR

County and State

central set of French doors flanked on either side by two plate-glass windows. To the west of the plate-glass is a section of board-and-batten siding followed by five, single-pane windows. As with the other windows on the eastern part of the façade, every other window is an operable casement window.

Side/West Façade

The west façade of Deepwood House is devoid of fenestration and is covered in wood board-and-batten siding. In the end of the gable peak is a triangular louvered attic vent.

Interior

The interior layout of Deepwood House consists of a central living room and dining room area with flagstone floor, board-and-batten paneled walls, and sheetrock ceilings divided into sections by wood molding. The living room has a raised stone hearth and fireplace at the west end and there are various pieces of built-in furniture and shelving around the room. (As in Woodwind, the ceilings in Deepwood House are vaulted in the gable-roofed center of the building, and are covered in sheetrock divided into panels by wood molding. The ceilings under the hipped-roof portions of the building, are flat with recessed lights.) The kitchen, which is open to the dining room, a utility room, and a bathroom, are located immediately to the east of the living room and dining room. The rest of the eastern end of the house consists of two bedrooms on the north side of the house and an office area on the south side of the house. As with the rest of the house, there are flagstone floors, board-and-batten paneled walls, and sheetrock ceilings divided into sections by wood molding. The bedrooms also have built-in desks and dressers.

The west end of the house contains the master bedroom and bathroom. The master bedroom is separated from the living room by a set of small folding screens only. The west wall of the bedroom is made up of built-in closets. Built-in cabinets are also present below the windows on the north and south sides of the room. As with the rest of the house, the room has a flagstone floor, board-and-batten paneled walls, and sheetrock ceilings divided into sections by wood molding.

Guest House ("Woodwind") and Workshop – Contributing

Front/North Façade

The center part of the façade is sided in wood board-and-batten siding that covers four doors for exterior storage areas. At the east end of the façade is a single, stationary, single-pane window, while the west end of the façade has the building's entrance.

A flat roof extends from the north façade creating a two-car carport and it also connects Woodwind to the workshop to the north of the building. The workshop building is rectangular in plan and is sided in wood board-and-batten siding. A set of double doors accesses the space on the south and a single door on the west also accesses the space. The only fenestration is in a projecting bay on the east that is fenestrated by two, stationary, single-pane windows on the east of the bay, and a frameless stationary window that wraps around the southeast corner of the bay. Open shed spaces are located on the west side of the workshop.

Deepwood House

Name of Property

Washington County, AR
County and State

Side/East Façade

Beginning at the south end of the east façade, Woodwind is fenestrated by a stationary, frameless, single-pane window that connects to the one of the south façade. Immediately to the north of it is a stationary, single-pane window, followed by a single wooden door with a single-pane window followed by another stationary, single-pane window. After a short section of wood board-and-batten siding, the north half of the east façade is fenestrated by a single wooden door with a single-pane window flanked on each side by a stationary, single-pane window. The north end of the façade, which is slightly recessed, is covered with wood board-and-batten siding.

Rear/South Façade

The south façade of Woodwind has a pair of board-and-batten doors at the west end of the façade that access a storage area. In the center of the façade is a narrow, floor-to-ceiling jalousie window, and the east corner of the façade is fenestrated by a stationary, frameless, single-pane window.

Side/West Façade

The west façade of the building is fenestrated by two pairs of windows evenly spaced along the façade. Each pair of windows includes one single-pane stationary window and one jalousie window.

Interior

The interior of Woodwind is divided into four spaces – kitchen, bathroom, living room, and bedroom. The building has flagstone floors, and the central stone chimney with fireplace divides the bedroom and bathroom area from the kitchen and living room area. A wood knee wall with wood screen divides the entry from the kitchen. Walls on the interior are a mixture of sheetrock, fieldstone, or built-in cabinets, especially in the kitchen area. The ceilings, which are vaulted in the gable-roofed center of the building, are sheetrock divided into panels by wood molding. The ceilings under the hipped-roof portions of the building, are flat with recessed lights.

Barn – Contributing

The barn is a large wood structure with a gable roof located a short distance to the northeast of the pump house and approximately 300 feet northwest of Deepwood House. A wood post and concrete-block foundation supports the structure. The south façade of the barn has a recessed entry with a large pair of vertical-board doors. The east façade has two small, single-pane windows in the center of the façade while the west façade has a single window opening in the center of the façade that is currently boarded up. In the center of the south façade, a recessed area has two single-pane windows flanking a boarded-up entrance. The roof of the barn is covered in corrugated metal and has a large shed-roofed cupola in the middle with a south-facing louvered vent. The interior of the barn consists of an open space on the main floor with lofts above.

Deepwood House

Name of Property

Washington County, AR
County and State

Pump House – Contributing

The pump house on the Deepwood House property is a small one-story fieldstone structure with a south-facing shed roof. The only opening is an arched doorway on the north side of the building with a wood vertical-board door. Underneath the eaves of the building is a cornice with triangular dentils.

Art Studio – Contributing

The art studio is located approximately 350 feet northwest of the barn, and is a small square structure that is one room. The foundation of the studio is constructed of fieldstone with vertical-board walls and a gable roof covered in standing-seam metal. The interior framing is timber frame connected with pegs. The north façade of the art studio has three stationary triangular windows that surround what appears to be a door opening in the center of the façade. A rectangular window that is oriented horizontally is located below the door opening. The west façade is devoid of fenestration while the east façade has a large pair of vertical-board doors that are the building's only entrance. The south façade has two triangular windows in the gable peak that surround the fieldstone chimney. The interior is comprised of an open space with a fieldstone fireplace in the center of the south wall.

Integrity

Deepwood House and its associated outbuildings have excellent integrity from the time of their construction during the 1960s. With respect to Deepwood House, the interior plan has apparently been altered from the time of its construction. In the east wing of the house, the location of the office area was labeled as a play area in a plan published in the *Home and Garden* section of a 1967 newspaper. The HABS drawings for the complex done in 2015-2016 by students at the University of Arkansas also indicate that Woodwind had a roof covered in asphalt roll roofing and wood battens like what is currently located on Deepwood House. The biggest change to the buildings at the complex involves the art studio, which was redone by an unknown craftsman, it is believed in the early to mid-1990s. However, with the exception of the apparent change in roof materials on Woodwind, the changes were done while the Fowlers owned the property, since they sold it to the current owners in early 1995. Overall, the design of Deepwood House and its associated outbuildings reflects the design of Herb Fowler and his design philosophy. The setting around the property also reflects the setting of the property historically under the Fowlers' ownership.

Deepwood House
Name of Property

Washington County, AR
County and State

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.)

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B. Removed from its original location
- C. A birthplace or grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

Deepwood House
Name of Property

Washington County, AR
County and State

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions.)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance
1960-c.1965

Significant Dates
1960

Significant Person
(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder
Herbert K. Fowler, Architect
Clifford & Charles Clevenger, Builders

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

Deepwood House, located at 4697 West Finger Road in Fayetteville, Washington County, Arkansas, is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under **Criterion C** with **local significance** for its importance as a good residential example of organic architecture by noted Arkansas architect Herb Fowler. Built c.1960, and designed by the architect Herb Fowler,

Deepwood House

Washington County, AR
County and State

Name of Property

Deepwood House illustrates many characteristics of the organic style of architecture. Some of the characteristics of organic architecture that Deepwood House exhibits include a design that seems "to grow easily from its site and be shaped to harmonize with its surroundings," and a design that "bring[s] out the nature of the materials [and] let[s] their nature intimately" into the design.

Deepwood House's location on the edge of a bluff on Kessler Mountain allows it to nestle into the side of the mountain and not dominate its site. In addition, the numerous windows on most sides of the house allow it to almost become invisible in its surroundings. Furthermore, Fowler used natural materials such as fieldstone and wood, often in a rough and unfinished nature, so that the nature of the materials could easily be seen in the design for the property.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

HISTORY OF THE PROPERTY

The establishment of Washington County and Arkansas's western border began in 1820 with the creation of Crawford County by the Arkansas territorial legislature. Four years later, Congress passed a bill that moved the western boundary of the Arkansas territory 40 miles to the west, although white settlers were not allowed to establish residence in the new area due to an 1817 treaty. In 1827 the Secretary of War lifted the ban on white settlement in the Cherokee country, and on October 13, 1827, Lovely County was created by the Arkansas territorial legislature. The following year, a treaty moved the territorial boundary 40 miles to the east, to its present location, and on October 17, 1828, the territorial legislature created Washington County out of Lovely County, which ceased to exist.¹

Although settlement began in Washington County and the Fayetteville area in the early 1800s, it was not until the arrival of the railroad that the region really began to develop. Leaders in the area had the construction of a railroad in the area as a goal prior to the Civil War. However, it took many years before it was finally accomplished. In 1868, the Arkansas legislature granted aid of \$15,000 per mile to the Northwestern Railroad Border Company for the completion of a railroad from Missouri to Van Buren through Fayetteville and Bentonville. However, they were not able to accomplish it.²

The completion of a railroad line through Washington County would not happen until the Frisco decided to undertake construction in the late 1870s. The Frisco surveyed two lines through Washington County, one through Prairie Grove Valley and one through Fayetteville. Businessmen in the Fayetteville area influenced the Frisco's decision by purchasing right-of-way for the line from Missouri to Fayetteville for \$8,000 and also contributing \$2,500 for a depot in Fayetteville.³

¹ *History of Washington County, Arkansas*. Springdale, AR: Shiloh Museum, 1989, pp. 85-86.

² *Ibid*, p. 236.

³ *Ibid*, p. 237.

Deepwood House
Name of Property

Washington County, AR
County and State

When the first train arrived in Fayetteville on June 8, 1881, it was a great occasion. Approximately 10,000 people greeted it, and J. R. Pettigrew, who was the publisher of the *Arkansas Sentinel*, commented, "Fayetteville, and Northwest Arkansas, are exuberant with joy. We are entering a new era; the humdrum of the stage coach days is past, we are out of the old grooves; the steam is up, the bell is ringing and we plunge into the stirring active scenes of the new life."⁴

Throughout the twentieth century, as Fayetteville's population grew, the city expanded as well. Development in Fayetteville, at least to the west, centered around the University of Arkansas campus, especially in University Heights and Haskell Heights where new homes were built on lots surrounding the area's original farmhouses, and along U.S. 62 in between Fayetteville and Farmington, which continues to develop today. During the mid-twentieth century, several people built homes on Kessler Mountain, including University of Arkansas architecture professor and architect Herb Fowler.

Herbert Keatinge Fowler was born in 1921 in Lewiston, Idaho, to Herbert Eugene Fowler and Mary Keatinge Fowler. At the age of two, Fowler's family moved to Bellingham, Washington, and in 1934 the family moved east to New Britain, Connecticut. In 1939, Fowler began studying at Yale University, but World War II interrupted his studies. Fowler entered the Army and after training he went to Hawaii, Guadalcanal, and the Philippines, but once the war ended, Fowler returned to Yale where he finished his studies and earned a degree in architecture.⁵

After working for a time in Connecticut and New York, Fowler married Judy (Marie) Ellen Booth in 1952. Later in the same year, the Fowlers moved to Fayetteville, Arkansas, where Fowler had been hired to design the new Animal Sciences Building at the University of Arkansas. The Fowlers enjoyed the people at the University so much that they stayed in Fayetteville, and Fowler became a founding faculty member of the University's Architecture Department, which was formed by John Williams. As Williams writes in *The Curious and the Beautiful: A Memoir History of the Architecture Program at the University of Arkansas*, "Herb Fowler finished the programming and schematic design phase of the animal sciences building during the spring of 1952 and joined the faculty in the fall of 1952." In 1953, the Fowlers moved to Oslo, Norway, for a year on a Fulbright Scholarship.⁶

As Fowler's obituary notes: "Upon their return to Fayetteville, Herb designed their residence, located on the edge of a bluff outside of town. The 'Deepwood' house, with its sweeping view of surrounding mountains and forested valley below, was to be their home for 35 years." Fowler continued to work for the University until he officially retired in 1989 and became Professor Emeritus, but he soon returned to the University at the encouragement of students to teach his class "Design Determinants."

⁴ *Ibid*, p. 235.

⁵ Obituary for Herbert Keatinge Fowler. *Hartford Courant*, 16 April 2008.

⁶ Obituary for Herbert Keatinge Fowler. *Hartford Courant*, 16 April 2008, and Williams, John G. *The Curious and the Beautiful*. Fayetteville, AR: University of Arkansas Press, 1984, pp. 28 and 30.

Deepwood House

Name of Property

Washington County, AR

County and State

Fowler's involvement with the University's school of architecture was extensive and went far beyond teaching classes. For example, in 1966, Fowler served on a committee that discussed the "problems of space, enrollment, and curriculum and our desire to become a school of architecture," and that was ultimately successful in having the school of architecture established. Fowler also served on the dean's search committee in 1976 and was instrumental in planning the school of architecture's first commencement.⁷ As Williams notes in *The Curious and the Beautiful*,

Herbert Fowler chaired the commencement committee for the first graduation ceremony of the school of architecture. The ceremony was held in Vol Walker Hall and was followed by a luncheon for graduates and faculty members and their families. The committee hoped to establish traditions that would be repeated at every subsequent commencement ceremony and took great care to make both the ceremony and the luncheon special. This tradition has been repeated each year.⁸

In 1995, the Fowlers left Deepwood House and moved to Butterfield Trail Village in Fayetteville. Judy died in March 2005 and in 2007 the Herbert K. Fowler Award was established at the University's School of Architecture to honor a student with exceptional drawing ability. Fowler continued to express his creativity and his love of drawing until his death on April 10, 2008.⁹

Mount Kessler, located to the west of Fayetteville, attracted people to live there due to its higher location that provided views of the surrounding areas and the serenity that it provided from the hustle and bustle of Fayetteville below. Although it has never developed to the extent of Mount Sequoyah on the east side of Fayetteville, likely due to earlier logging operations, several houses were built on its slopes during the twentieth century. Interestingly, in addition to Herb Fowler, James Alvin Vizzier, architect and consulting planner for the University of Arkansas and the cities of Springdale and Fayetteville and who also developed master street plans for both cities, also built his house on the mountain. Vizzier's house, which was a striking Mid-Century Modern home, was not the only distinctive modern house on Mount Kessler – a house at 2315 Smoke House Trail, which has distinctive angles and large windows to take advantage of its bluff-side site, was also built during the same period.

When Fowler designed Deepwood House, it was very apparent that the principles of Organic Architecture guided the design. Frank Lloyd Wright was the greatest proponent of Organic Architecture, and although he never used any kind of systematic definition for the term, he did put together his most simplified list of principles in a 1908 article in *Architectural Record*. Among the principles that he listed were:

⁷ Williams, John G. *The Curious and the Beautiful*. Fayetteville, AR: University of Arkansas Press, 1984, pp. 41 and 56.

⁸ Williams, John G. *The Curious and the Beautiful*. Fayetteville, AR: University of Arkansas Press, 1984, p. 59.

⁹ Obituary for Herbert Keatinge Fowler. *Hartford Courant*, 16 April 2008.

Deepwood House
Name of Property

Washington County, AR
County and State

- III. "A building should appear to grow easily from its site and be shaped to harmonize with its surroundings if Nature is manifest there and if not try to make it as quiet, substantial and organic as She would have been were the opportunity Hers."
- IV. "Colors require the same conventionalized process to make them fit to live with that natural forms do; so go to the woods and fields for color schemes."
- V. "Bring out the nature of the materials; let their nature intimately into your scheme."¹⁰

Although Wright was laying out principles of Organic Architecture in the first part of the twentieth century, he continued to write about it later in life as well. For example, the concept of integrating a building into its site was something that Wright discussed in his book, *The Natural House*. He wrote:

Now there can be no organic architecture where the nature of synthetic materials or the nature of nature [*sic.*] materials either is ignored or misunderstood. How can there be? Perfect correlation, integration, is life. It is the first principle of any growth that the thing grown be no mere aggregation. Integration as entity is first essential. And integration means that no part of anything is of any great value in itself except as it be [an] integrate part of the harmonious whole. ...¹¹

With respect to Deepwood House specifically, the concept of the house blending into the environment and becoming almost invisible was also noted in a 1967 newspaper article on the house. The article said:

Outside of Fayetteville on the crest of one of many wooded hills, there is a house that seems to float in an anchorage of trees. Aptly called "Deepwood" by its owners, Mr. and Mrs. Herbert K. Fowler, it is based on stone and capped by a striking roof, which, from the ridge line takes a steep pitch, then flattens abruptly midway down into a wide flare fore and aft. Between the foundation and the roof, ranks of glass prevail for a pavilion-like, see-through effect.¹²

Deepwood House was designed in 1960 and represented one of Fowler's earliest completed residential designs. The design of the house was inspired by local materials and the house's use

¹⁰ Wright, Frank Lloyd. "In the Cause of Architecture." *The Architectural Record*. March 1908, pp. 156-157. Quoted in: Williams, Callie Leonora. "Euine Fay Jones: 'architecture is invention, is innovation, but it is also remembering.'" Department of Architectural History, University of Virginia. MA Thesis 2010, pp. 19-20.

¹¹ Wright, Frank Lloyd. *The Natural House*. New York: Mentor Books, 1963, p. 22.

¹² Aldridge, Harriett. "'See Through' House Is All of a Piece." Home and Garden Section of an Unknown Newspaper. 17 December 1967, p. 15D. (In the files of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program.)

Deepwood House

Name of Property

Washington County, AR

County and State

of wood, stone, and glass construction was done in an “expressive manner, and [the house] is important as an example of post-World War II modern residential design interpreted in a regionalist manner.”¹³ The HABS documentation for the property further states:

The continuity of materials deployed in the house, especially native field stone and cedar siding, begins before entry to the house, continues on the interior, and spills out onto the terrace spaces in a nearly seamless procession. Terrace doors and operable windows along the north and south façades allowed positive airflow and enhanced passive cooling. Few interior doors and the use of low partitions asserted an unusual degree of spatial openness throughout the house. Cabinetry built from locally harvested black walnut was featured throughout the house. A large native-stone hearth served to anchor the central gathering and symbolic center of the house. Butt glazing at the corners of the house added to the de-materialization of the structure and enhanced the feeling of lightness throughout.¹⁴

The design of the house, in certain respects, was meant to echo the dogtrot architecture that was found in the Ozarks region of the state. A 1967 newspaper article said of the house that:

A long, open “dog trot” layout compatible with the Ozark setting was another knotty requirement Mr. Fowler, who is a professor in the School of Architecture at the University of Arkansas, grappled successfully. The solution was the unusual roof, which is based on scissor trussing, with an irregular ceiling following the lower line of the trusswork. The ceiling course can be traced, almost in its entirety, from one end to the other, a criss-crossing of cedar battens over white, with a luminous center strip derived from semi-opaque white plastic panes set between closer spaced battens.¹⁵

The dogtrot layout is further enhanced inside with the central living space with French doors to the terraces separating the more private bedrooms at either end of the house.

The same characteristics that Fowler used in the design of Deepwood House were used again when he designed a guest house, “Woodwind,” for the property in 1964. Although Woodwind had a much simpler interior than Deepwood House, the guest house did include butt glazing at

¹³ Umierski, Stephan, Chelsea Garrison, Isaac Thompson, Wendy Cargile, and Jacob Boatman. Historic American Buildings Survey Documentation, Deepwood House, Fayetteville, Washington County, Arkansas. 2015-2016. In the files of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program.

¹⁴ Umierski, Stephan, Chelsea Garrison, Isaac Thompson, Wendy Cargile, and Jacob Boatman. Historic American Buildings Survey Documentation, Deepwood House, Fayetteville, Washington County, Arkansas. 2015-2016. In the files of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program.

¹⁵ Aldridge, Harriett. “‘See Through’ House Is All of a Piece.” Home and Garden Section of an Unknown Newspaper. 17 December 1967, p. 15D. (In the files of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program.)

Deepwood House

Name of Property

Washington County, AR

County and State

the corners and jalousie windows like the main house, all of which helped the natural ventilation of the building. Also, a native-stone hearth and wall divided the main spaces of Woodwind, just like the hearth separated the main living space from the master bedroom in Deepwood House.¹⁶

The Fowlers lived in the house until the 1990s, but even when Fowler designed the house in the 1960s, he designed it for potential changes as the family grew and their interests changed. For example, with respect to the wing with the children's bedrooms, it was noted in 1967 that, "For the present a free standing 'stage,' with a floor raised over low storage bins, closed sides, its own roof, and a matchstick roll shade backdrop, serves to set apart Ian and Alison's rooms from the playroom. (More private division is being considered now that the children are older.)" Although this change was ultimately carried out, creating the desk space adjacent to the kitchen and the bedrooms, not all of the changes were done. The same article notes that "Eventually the master bedroom at the opposite end of the house will serve as a studio – with space for a loom, since hand weaving ranks high among Mrs. Fowler's many interests. A new bedroom will be extended beyond the present bank of closets..."¹⁷

After the Fowlers left Deepwood House in the 1990s, it was sold to Tom Butt, who also had experience with the architecture program at the University of Arkansas, and worked for a period of time for Edward Durrell Stone. Although Butt lives in California, the family rents out the house as overnight accommodations. The fact that the house has only had two owners, the original architect and one who appreciates the design of the property, has allowed it to maintain its integrity and remain an architectural landmark on Mount Kessler.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE PROPERTY

The design of Deepwood House is an excellent representation of some of the shifts in residential design that were occurring across the country after World War II. The decorative pre-war revival styles, which were all the rage, were being pushed to the side by more functional and livable residential designs. Although some people after World War II still believed "that only shrunken colonial, Cape Cod ranches, or Cinderella homes properly represent the American way of life...a trend [had] now begun working the other way. ...[It was] slowly becoming apparent to people that architects working with builders can give them better, more thoughtful design for their money."¹⁸

This post-World-War-II architecture moved away from an "over-decorative eclecticism to a less self-conscious expression." Expression, rather, was manifest through window placement and design, placement of the home in the landscape, and also through interior space arrangement. Also, the many mid-century styles, including buildings that employed the tenets of Organic Architecture, greatly espoused the relationship between the indoors and the outdoors (which was partly expressed through the window placement and design).

¹⁶ Umierski, Stephan, Chelsea Garrison, Isaac Thompson, Wendy Cargile, and Jacob Boatman. Historic American Buildings Survey Documentation, Deepwood House, Fayetteville, Washington County, Arkansas. 2015-2016. In the files of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program.

¹⁷ Aldridge, Harriett. "'See Through' House Is All of a Piece." Home and Garden Section of an Unknown Newspaper. 17 December 1967, p. 15D. (In the files of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program.)

¹⁸ Von Eckardt, Wolf. *Mid-Century Architecture in America*. Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins Press, 1961, p. 21.

Deepwood House
Name of Property

Washington County, AR
County and State

Deepwood House clearly reflects the Organic Architecture design trends that were impacting residential architecture in the mid-century period after World War II. The house lacks the applied ornamentation that was so often used prior to World War II, and uses window placement and a variety of materials to give visual interest and ornamentation, and also to reflect its natural surroundings. As McAlester and McAlester point out with respect to some mid-century styles, Deepwood House has “no decorative detailing.” Furthermore, it “lack[s] the stark white stucco wall surfaces, which are usually replaced by various combinations of wood, brick, or stone.”¹⁹ Fowler used natural materials such as fieldstone and wood, often in a rough and unfinished nature, so that the nature of the materials could easily be seen in the design for the property.

The design of Deepwood House also reflects the increased relationship between the indoors and outdoors and the ideas of integrating a building into its surroundings, which were key components of Organic design. The design of Deepwood House, with its multitude of windows that span the façades encouraged residents and visitors to interact with the house’s surroundings. The windows, along with the stone foundation walls, also allow the house to disappear and blend in with the surroundings. The placement of the house on the edge of the bluff, nestled into the side of the hill, also emphasized privacy for the house’s occupants from the driveway.

Since Deepwood House is an excellent example of the mid-century Organic Architecture designed by the Arkansas architect Herb Fowler, it is being nominated to the National Register with **local significance** under **Criterion C**.

¹⁹ McAlester, Virginia & Lee. *A Field Guide to American Houses*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, Inc., 1984, p. 482.

Deepwood House
Name of Property

Washington County, AR
County and State

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Aldridge, Harriett. "See Through' House Is All of a Piece." Home and Garden Section of an Unknown Newspaper. 17 December 1967, p. 15D. (In the files of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program.)

History of Washington County, Arkansas. Springdale, AR: Shiloh Museum, 1989.

McAlester, Virginia & Lee. *A Field Guide to American Houses*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, Inc., 1984.

Obituary for Herbert Keatinge Fowler. *Hartford Courant*, 16 April 2008.

Umierski, Stephan, Chelsea Garrison, Isaac Thompson, Wendy Cargile, and Jacob Boatman. Historic American Buildings Survey Documentation, Deepwood House, Fayetteville, Washington County, Arkansas. 2015-2016. In the files of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program.

Von Eckardt, Wolf. *Mid-Century Architecture in America*. Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins Press, 1961.

Williams, Callie Leonora. "Euine Fay Jones: 'architecture is invention, is innovation, but it is also remembering.'" Department of Architectural History, University of Virginia. MA Thesis 2010.

Williams, John G. *The Curious and the Beautiful*. Fayetteville, AR: University of Arkansas Press, 1984.

Wright, Frank Lloyd. *The Natural House*. New York: Mentor Books, 1963.

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 # AR-56
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Deepwood House
Name of Property

Washington County, AR
County and State

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
 - Other State agency
 - Federal agency
 - Local government
 - University
 - Other
- Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): WA1636

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property Approximately 40 acres.

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- | | |
|--------------|------------|
| 1. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 2. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 3. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 4. Latitude: | Longitude: |

Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or NAD 1983

- | | | |
|-------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1. Zone: 15 | Easting: 390524 | Northing: 3988923 |
| 2. Zone: 15 | Easting: 390642 | Northing: 3988911 |

Deepwood House

Washington County, AR
County and State

Name of Property

3. Zone: 15	Easting: 391037	Northing: 3988894
4. Zone: 15	Easting: 391023	Northing: 3988490
5. Zone: 15	Easting: 390623	Northing: 3988498
6. Zone: 15	Easting: 390599	Northing: 3988505
7. Zone: 15	Easting: 390519	Northing: 3988684

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The boundary for the property is Parcel #001-11287-000 and Parcel #001-12112-000.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary contains all of the land historically associated with Deepwood House.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Ralph S. Wilcox, National Register & Survey Coordinator
organization: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
street & number: 1100 North Street
city or town: Little Rock state: AR zip code: 72201
e-mail: ralph.wilcox@arkansas.gov
telephone: (501) 324-9787
date: November 2, 2017

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A USGS map or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.

Deepwood House
Name of Property

Washington County, AR
County and State

- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Deepwood House

City or Vicinity: Fayetteville vic.

County: Washington County State: Arkansas

Photographer: Travis Ratermann and Callie Williams

Date Photographed: September 12, 2017

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

- 1 of 29 . East façade of Deepwood House, looking west.
- 2 of 29 . South façade of Deepwood House, looking northwest.
- 3 of 29 . West façade of Deepwood House, looking northeast.
- 4 of 29 . Light fixture detail in the foyer of Deepwood House, looking southwest.
- 5 of 29 . Living Room of Deepwood House, looking west.
- 6 of 29 . Living Room of Deepwood House, looking east.
- 7 of 29 . Kitchen of Deepwood House, looking east.
- 8 of 29 . Built-in furniture in the Children's Bedroom of Deepwood House, looking northeast.
- 9 of 29 . Master Bedroom of Deepwood House, looking northeast.

Deepwood House
Name of Property

Washington County, AR
County and State

- 10 of 29 . Master Bedroom closets of Deepwood House, looking northwest.
- 11 of 29 . South and west façades of Woodwind, looking northeast.
- 12 of 29 . South and west façades of the Workshop, looking northeast.
- 13 of 29 . South façade of Woodwind, looking north.
- 14 of 29 . East façade of Woodwind, looking west.
- 15 of 29 . South and east façades of the Workshop, looking northwest.
- 16 of 29 . Detail of the south and east façades of the Workshop, looking northwest.
- 17 of 29 . North and east façades of the Workshop, looking southwest.
- 18 of 29 . Fireplace in the Living Room of Woodwind, looking southwest.
- 19 of 29 . Living Room, Foyer, and Kitchen of Woodwind, looking west.
- 20 of 29 . South and west façades of the Pump House, looking northeast.
- 21 of 29 . South façade of the Barn, looking north.
- 22 of 29 . East façade of the Barn, looking northwest.
- 23 of 29 . West façade of the Barn, looking northeast.
- 24 of 29 . South façade of the Barn, looking north.
- 25 of 29 . North façade of the Art Studio, looking south
- 26 of 29 . West façade of the Art Studio, looking southeast.
- 27 of 29 . South façade of the Art Studio, looking northeast.
- 28 of 29 . East façade of the Art Studio, looking southwest.
- 29 of 29 . Interior of the Art Studio, looking southwest.

Deepwood House
Name of Property

Washington County, AR
County and State

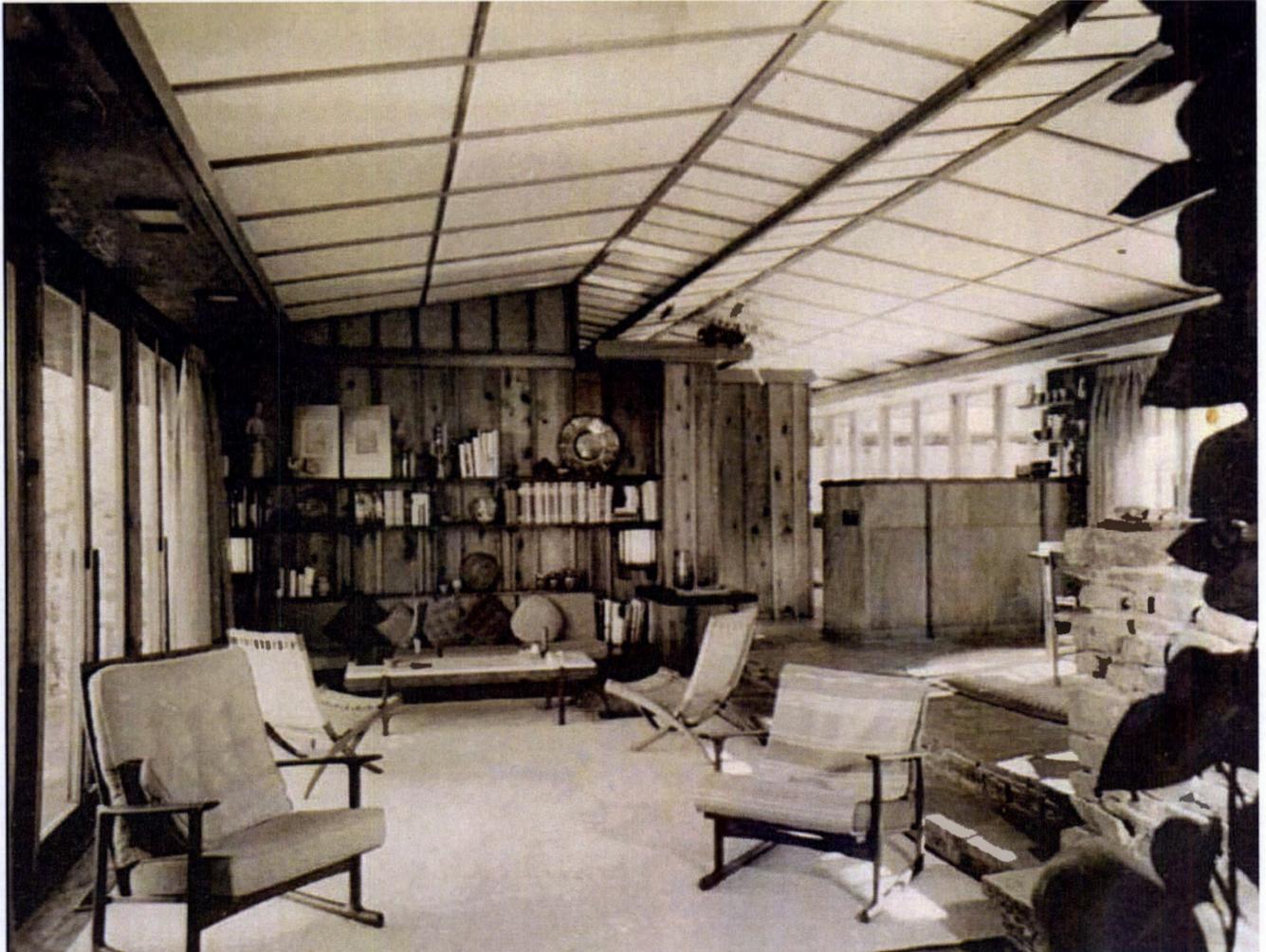
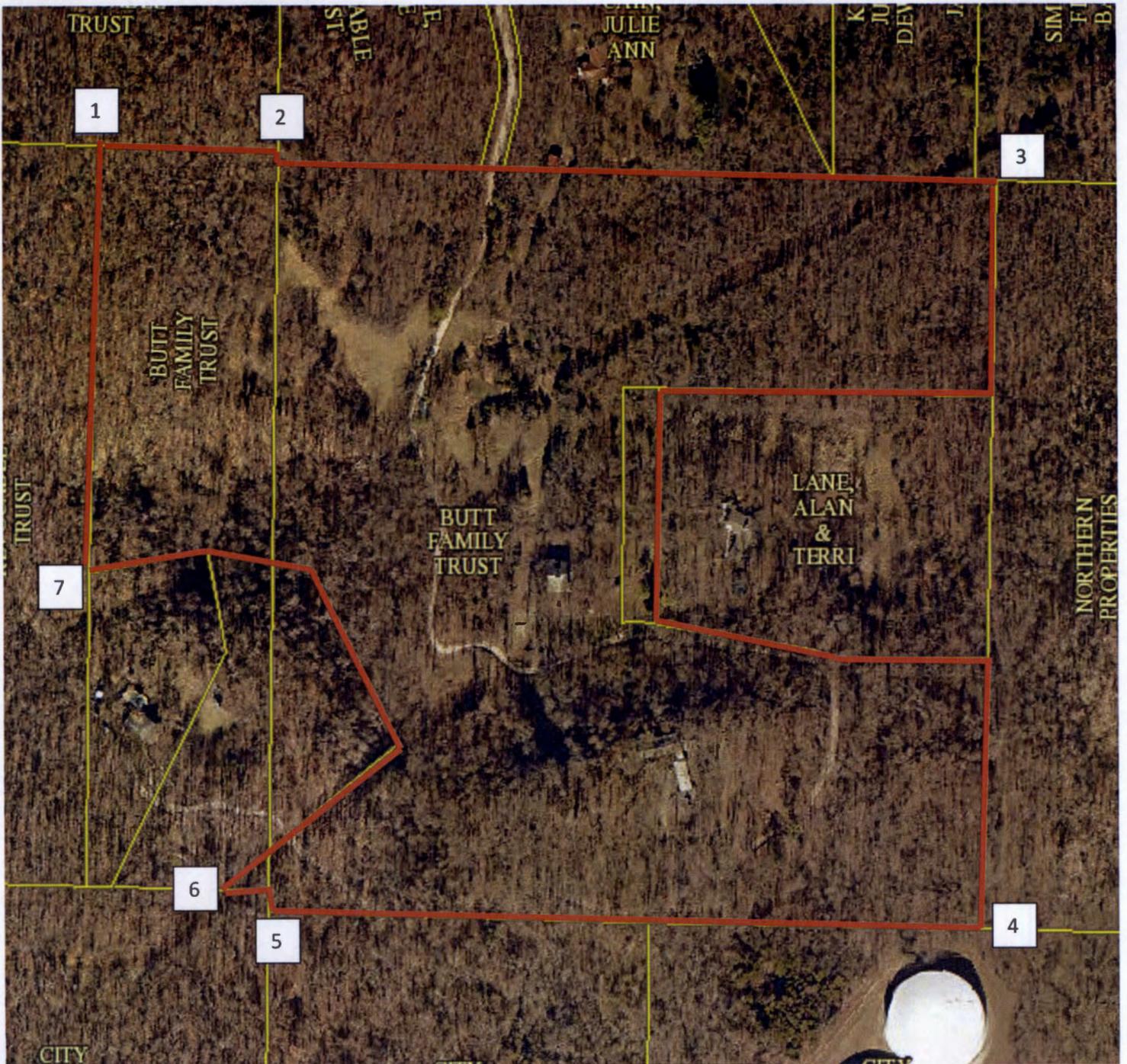


Figure 1: Deepwood House Interior, c.1965.

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 listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.



Deepwood House, Fayetteville, Washington County, Arkansas



North

1 inch = 308 feet

 = Property Boundary

UTMs:

1. Zone: 15	Easting: 390524	Northing: 3988923
2. Zone: 15	Easting: 390642	Northing: 3988911
3. Zone: 15	Easting: 391037	Northing: 3988894
4. Zone: 15	Easting: 391023	Northing: 3988490
5. Zone: 15	Easting: 390623	Northing: 3988498
6. Zone: 15	Easting: 390599	Northing: 3988505
7. Zone: 15	Easting: 390519	Northing: 3988684



7/27/03





