

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: Altwood House

Other names/site number: Site # DA0296

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: 1901 W. 4th St.

City or town: Fordyce State: AR County: Dallas

Not For Publication: Vicinity: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 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 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 local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

A B C D

	<u>4-6-23</u>
Signature of certifying official/Title:	Date
<u>Arkansas Historic Preservation Program</u>	
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	

In my opinion, the property <input type="checkbox"/> meets <input type="checkbox"/> does not meet the National Register criteria.	
Signature of commenting official:	Date
Title :	State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

1. 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

05/18/2023

Date of Action

2. 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

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(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>3</u>	buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	sites
<u>1</u>	<u>3</u>	structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	objects
<u>2</u>	<u>6</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

3. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

DOMESTIC/secondary structure

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

DOMESTIC/secondary structure

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4. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

OTHER/Styled Ranch – Colonial Revival

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: Brick, Wood (weatherboard), Concrete, Asphalt (shingles)

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

Located at 1901 W. 4th St., Fordyce, the Attwood House is a one story, ranch style home with clear Colonial Revival influence. The house has a brick exterior in a running bond and features the original six-over-six windows, which were commonly associated with the Colonial Revival style. The front entry of the house has sidelights and a stained-glass door panel. Ionic columns support the full front porch, distinguishing the house from its less detailed midcentury modern neighbors. Like homes in the true Colonial Revival and preceding styles, the front façade is very symmetrical.

Colonial Revival style ranch houses can be distinguished by several character-defining features, including a symmetrical main house block, side-gabled roofs, the predominance of one siding material (in this case, brick), and symmetrical wings that may or may not be clad in the same siding as the main house. The presence of Ionic columns on the entry porch, the wide shutters on the front façade's windows, and the cupola atop the detached carport are indicative Colonial

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Revival details that set the Styled Ranch apart from a plain ranch house.¹ Aside from these Colonial Revival elements, the home is a traditional ranch form, which can be identified by its one-story profile with a low-pitched roof and the carport that is attached to the main façade (via a covered walkway in this example). The main house features a side gable roof with boxed eaves close to the home. The main house has two symmetrical one-bay wings to the left and right. An open concrete porch runs the full length of the main block. Connected to the house by a covered walkway to the west, the three-car detached carport is original to the house and further serves to highlight the wealth of the Attwood family.

The property has three outbuildings and two structures associated with it. The rectangular swimming pool directly to the rear of the main house was installed by the Attwoods prior to 1983, but the pool house adjacent to it and the enclosing iron fence were built by the current owners in the 2000s. The tractor shed (ca. 2015), the carriage house (ca. 2010), and semi-enclosed patio (ca. 2010) were all constructed by the current owners. The roof on the main house and carport was damaged by hail and replaced in 2010. The Ionic columns on the full porch, colonial shutters, and large detached carport serve to set the Attwood House apart from its more traditional ranch style neighbors and is one of the earliest and best-preserved examples of a Styled Ranch in Fordyce.

Narrative Description

Located at 1901 W. 4th Street in Fordyce, Dallas County, Arkansas, the Attwood House was built in 1961 as a ranch-style home, though it displays clear Colonial Revival influences with its full porch, Ionic columns, and symmetrical façade. The house is set in a neighborhood characterized by midcentury modern homes and wide-open yards with a scattering of trees. The Attwood House sits on three acres of land with a tract of trees to its west and two neighboring properties to the east and south. It is set back from the main road to the north by a long driveway that leads to the detached carport and carriage house.

The main house has a five-bay main block with two, one bay wings on either side. The main block and wings are clad in a traditional red brick set in a running bond. The wings are lower in height than the main block, creating a stepped effect in the roofline. The main block has a side gable roof and a full recessed porch held up by Ionic columns with a white weatherboard cornice. The front door is centered on the main bay and is flanked on either side by two arched nine-over-six windows with arched colonial shutters. An interior chimney protrudes from the roof on the right-hand side of the main block. The decorative sidelights, classical Ionic columns, and symmetrical façade are characteristic elements of a Colonial Revival and serve to distinguish the house from other ranches built in Fordyce in the 1960s and 70s. Connected to the house by a covered walkway to the west, the three-car detached carport is original to the house and further serves to highlight the wealth of the Attwood family.

¹ Virginia Savage McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses* (New York: Alfred A Knopf, 2013), pp. 696.

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The property has three outbuildings and three structures associated with it. The rectangular swimming pool directly to the rear of the main house was installed by the Attwoods prior to 1983, but the pool house adjacent to it and the enclosing iron fence were built by the current owners in the 2000s. The tractor shed (ca. 2015), the carriage house (ca. 2010), and semi-enclosed patio (ca. 2010) were all constructed by the current owners. The original red tile roof on the main house and carport was damaged by hail and replaced in 2010 with red asphalt shingles.

While the property has a number of modern structures built onto and adjacent to the house, the main house continues to exhibit the characteristic features of a ranch house along with decorative flourishes inspired by Colonial Revival architecture. The interior of the house, despite an extended kitchen addition added in the 2010s, retains its brick floors, crown moldings, fireplace inset, and floorplan original to the 1961 layout.

MAIN HOUSE – contributing (building)

North Façade (Front)

The main block has a full recessed porch held up by Ionic columns with a white weatherboard cornice. It is clad in traditional red brick set in a running bond and the entire structure rests on a concrete slab foundation. A front door with two sidelights, the glass set in a diamond pattern, is centered on the main block. The front door has a stained-glass panel with starburst designs in the corners. The door and the sidelights are original. Next to the door on either side are two equally spaced, nine-over-six arched windows with arched colonial shutters. A row of rowlock header bricks forms a sill below each window.

The left and right wings mirror each other. They are set with a centrally located six-over-six half window with a wood panel below, simulating the size of the full windows in the main block. They also have rectangular colonial shutters instead of the arched ones on the main block.

The covered walkway to the right of the main house has an enclosed entryway that connects to the right wing. It has an arched half window with glass panes in a diamond pattern. In front of the covered walkway, a brick fence that is flush with the right wing forms a courtyard. The brick fence has a centered opening with an iron gate, rowlock header bricks forming the top border, and two open cross designs on either side. The fence is not original to the main house.

East Façade (Side)

The east façade has a single, six-over-six window centered on the façade with colonial shutters and a brick sill. The gable is clad in horizontal weatherboard with a few slats at the apex acting as a vent for the attic. The cross gable's east façade is blank.

South Façade (Rear)

The left wing has a concrete slab covered by a shed roof that forms an open porch. The roof is held up by equally spaced wooden posts. The frieze beam above is plain but with a slight arch between each post. The façade has a single door to the right and three equally spaced six-over-six windows, though the far-left window is a half window. The right wing has three equally spaced six-over-six, half windows to the left and a pair of six-over-six windows on the right. Both wings are clad in brick in a running bond.

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The cross gable, which is the kitchen addition added to the house in the 2010s, extends out from the center of the façade and has a centered, fifteen-pane French double door that opens out to the pool area. Two pairs of identical French door-style fixed windows flank the double door to create a façade that is dominated by glass. The gable is clad in white weatherboard siding with a rectangular stained-glass window centered in the gable.

West Façade (Side)

The main block has a blank brick façade on the west. Above the cornice, the gable is clad in horizontal weatherboard siding with a few slats at the apex acting as a vent for the attic.

The right wing's west façade features a six-over-six window to the left. The lower portion of the wing is clad in brick. The gable is clad in horizontal weatherboard siding with a few slats at the apex acting as a vent for the attic.

The covered walkway has a small entryway that is enclosed and leads into the main house. Its west façade has a single storm door.

The cross gable in the back of the house has a pair of six-over-six windows on its west façade.

Interior

Many of the main features have been retained inside the house. The Attwood House has three bedrooms and three full bathrooms (Fig. 2). The bedrooms on the east end are separated from the living and public spaces by the main hallway, which divides the house and extends from the main entrance. The dining room, living room, and open space where the old kitchen was are on the west end of the house. The floor plan was modified slightly with the addition of the back kitchen, which extends from the back of the house (south), but the bedrooms, bathrooms, and dining room have seen no major changes to their configuration. The dining room still has its crown molding and corner blocks, and the majority of the house has kept its original brick floors. The fireplace has the 1960s original insert and oak mantle. Parts of the former exterior brick wall were left exposed when the kitchen addition was added.

DETACHED CARPORT – contributing (structure)

The carport was constructed concurrently with the house and is attached to the west of the main house by a covered walkway which is also original. It can accommodate three cars and is unusually large for a ranch home of this age. Open on three sides, the carport has an enclosed storage room to the south that is clad in brick. The hipped roof is supported by wooden posts, and the frieze beam that runs between each post is slightly arched at the ends. There is an octagonal cupola, one of the character-defining features of a Colonial Revival, centered in the middle of the roofline and topped by a weathervane detailed with a rooster.

POOL – non-contributing (structure)

The rectangular swimming pool with a diving board is directly behind the house to the south. An iron fence with fleur-de-lis finials encloses the pool on three sides with the pool house acting as the eastern boundary. The fence was added around the same time as the pool house in the 2000s.

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The pool has a concrete pad surrounding it which is then bordered by brick pavers that terminate at the fence line. The pool was built after the initial construction of the house, and, while the exact date is unknown, historic aerial images show that it was in-place by 1983.²

POOL HOUSE – non-contributing (building)

The pool house's construction dates from 2002-2006. It is a single-story, wood-sided structure on the pool's eastern side. It has a saltbox roof with the same asphalt shingle as the main house. The west façade (front) has a large opening in the center and is flanked by two single doors. The south end of the pool house juts out slightly from the façade and has a brick exterior chimney in running bond. The pool house sits on a concrete slab while the chimney has a brick foundation.

CARRIAGE HOUSE– non-contributing (building)

The carriage house sits at the end of the driveway next to a semi-enclosed patio area. It is a side gabled, single-story building with an asphalt shingle roof. The entire structure is clad in white weatherboard. The north (front) façade is dominated by a garage door which is flanked on either side by a six-over-six window. A sign above the garage door declares the structure the "carriage house." The east and west facades have a single vent in the gable but no fenestration. The south façade is blank. The carriage house was built by the current owners in the early 2010s.

SEMI-ENCLOSED PATIO – non-contributing (structure)

To the east of the carriage house and kitty-corner with the carport, there is a semi-enclosed patio area. It has a gable roof of sheet metal supported by four metal posts on a concrete slab. The north facade of the structure has sheet metal covering it to provide privacy from the driveway while the other facades are open to the outside. To the south of the patio, there is a circular fieldstone water feature which was built at an unknown date by the Attwood family prior to 1983. The semi-enclosed patio was built by the current owners in the early 2010s.

TRACTOR SHED – non-contributing (building)

The tractor shed is a large, two-story structure set behind the house on the south-eastern side of the property. The shed is constructed out of sheet metal which is used as both siding and roofing. The shed features a front gable roof with three metal doors on the north (front) façade that can be slid on a track to create a large opening for tractors and farm equipment to access the interior. A single-pane window is centered under the gable on the second floor. The south and west facades have no fenestration. The east façade has a single door to the right and a single-pane, square window on the second story which is off-center to the right. The shed was constructed by the current owners between 2013 to 2015.

WOOD SHED – non-contributing (structure)

The wood shed has a corrugated metal roof and sits to the south of the carriage house and semi-enclosed patio. It has four wood posts that support the roof and three sides are covered with lattice-patterned wood screens. It is currently used as outdoor storage.

² *Netronline*, "Historic Aerials," <https://www.historicaerials.com/viewer>, accessed 13 Dec. 2022.

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Setting

The Attwood House is located on 1901 W. 4th Street, Fordyce. The house itself is set back towards the center of the land associated with the property. The Attwoods originally owned twenty-five acres around the house, but that acreage was reduced to the current three acres by the 1990s. The land around the house is open with a few mature trees between the house and West 4th Street. The house is easily and prominently visible from 4th Street. Behind the house to the southwest is a dense tract of woods that separates the Attwood House from its neighbors on N. Brewster Street. There are two nearby neighbors to the northeast and south of the house. The house to the south is a massive Millennial Mansion with its own private lake. The house to the northeast is a plain Ranch house with a few modern outbuildings.

The Attwood House is situated in Fordyce along West 4th Street, which is the main thoroughfare through the town. The house is located in the western portion of Fordyce away from the commercial center. The neighborhood around the house is predominantly residential, with Contemporary and Ranch houses, along with a few two-story Plain Traditional houses.

Integrity

The Attwood House, despite several alterations and non-contributing outbuildings, has kept its Colonial Revival architectural detailing and original layout as a one-story ranch. The interior layout is little changed besides the kitchen addition to the rear of the house. The dining room still has its crown molding and corner blocks, and the fireplace has retained its inset and oak mantle. The brick floors are also original and are present throughout much of the house. The doors, windows, and outside shutters are likewise original and have not been altered. The detached carport and covered walkway, built in 1961 along with the main house, have not been altered in a significant way since their construction.

The major additions and alterations to the house have, for the most part, occurred at the rear of the property and do not detract from the view as seen from the street. The kitchen addition and tractor shed (ca. 2010s), the pool house (ca. 2000s), and the pool (ca. 1983) are not visible from the street. The carriage house and semi-enclosed patio (ca. 2010s) are adjacent to the house and carport, though the carriage house's design is sympathetic to the main house.

Despite increased settlement and building projects in Fordyce since the 1960s, the setting around the property has retained its small-town feel. The Attwood House continues to convey its legacy as a detailed example of a Colonial Revival Styled Ranch from the postwar period.

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5. 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

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Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1961

Significant Dates

1961 – Construction completed

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Unknown

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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.)

The Attwood House being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under **Criterion C: Architecture with local significance** as an excellent example of an early Colonial Revival Styled Ranch in Fordyce, Arkansas. The period of significance is when the house was constructed in 1961. The Attwood House combines two major architectural styles, that of the Ranch house popular from the 1930s to the early 1970s, and the Colonial Revival, which has been popular as both a main style and a supporting decorative style since the 1900s. The Attwood House embodies the character-defining features of the Ranch style with its one-story floorplan with side wings, the integration of the detached carport with the house by a covered walkway, and with the interior's separation of public and private spaces. The house further utilizes Colonial Revival details such as the Ionic columns, wide shutters, and symmetry to convey a more traditional feeling to an otherwise modern house.

Frank "Bo" Attwood, a World War II veteran and car dealership owner, commissioned the construction of the Attwood House in 1961. The post-war housing market was characterized by a dearth in available units and low rates of homeownership. The federal government implemented several programs designed to make buying a house more accessible to a wider slice of the American public.³ Ranches, popular in the 1950s to 1970s, offered homeowners an opportunity to invest their savings in a home that had all the modern amenities and living space families increasingly demanded. Rising land prices in the 1980s made the sprawling one-story ranch a less desirable style, and builders returned to constructing primarily two-story homes.

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

HISTORY OF THE PROPERTY

European settlement in what would become Dallas County was sparse before the 1840s, mainly confined to the occasional farmer or fur trapper. More settlers began to arrive with the creation of the Chidester Stage route between Ouachita County and Little Rock. Farming and timber were the major industries in Dallas County, and the majority of the population were farmers and enslaved persons working the fields.⁴ Besides agriculture, pottery production played an important role in Dallas County's early history. Joseph and Nathaniel Bird established a pottery workshop in 1843, though production was eventually moved to Saline County.

³ Matthew Chambers, Carlos Garriga, and Don E. Schlagenhauf, "The New Deal, the GI Bill, and the Post-War Housing," 14 Feb. 2012, available at: https://economicdynamics.org/meetpapers/2012/paper_1050.pdf, accessed 14 Dec. 2022, pp. 8, 22.

⁴ Michael Hodge, "Dallas County," *Encyclopedia of Arkansas*, last updated 01 Nov. 2022, available at: <https://encyclopediaofarkansas.net/entries/dallas-county-764/>, accessed 14 Dec. 2022.

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Dallas County was formed on January 1, 1845, and named after George Mifflin Dallas, the eleventh vice president. Princeton was chosen as the county seat and incorporated in 1855.⁵ The population number declined during the Civil War, as almost a third of the county left for Texas and Louisiana to avoid the fighting.⁶ People began to return to the county after the war, encouraged by the construction of four new railroads starting in 1881. In order to service the rail lines, new towns were constructed along their routes, and the county's population grew to 11,518 people by 1900.⁷

The town of Fordyce can trace its lineage to this period and can attribute both its name and success to the St. Louis, Arkansas and Texas Railway. James W. Paramore chartered a railway in 1881 to bring cotton from Texas to Missouri, and Paramore hired Colonel Samuel Fordyce to survey and plot the path of the new railway.⁸ After surveying and selecting the area around what would become the town of Fordyce, the colonel acquired the land from Dr. A. S. Holderness for \$118 in 1882, and workers soon began laying track for the railroad.⁹ The Southwestern Improvement Association bought the excess land to the north of the railroad for the construction of a town later that year and named it after Col. Fordyce. The town was officially incorporated in 1884.¹⁰

Over the next six years, the town grew exponentially fast, becoming the most populous town in all of Dallas County by 1890.¹¹ Railroad connections to most of south-central Arkansas went through Fordyce, drawing trade and bestowing the town with some political importance. Due to Fordyce's growing industry, population, and access to the railroad, the county relocated its county seat to Fordyce from Princeton in 1908.¹² The railroad continued to be the lifeblood of the town, along with a heavy focus on agriculture and timber. By 1932, the timber industry employed almost a quarter of Fordyce, though agriculture remained the leading income-producing industry.¹³

Farming originally drew the Attwood family to Cleveland and Dallas Counties. Evan Marks Attwood was employed as a farm worker and married Allie Hargus in 1920.¹⁴ Frank "Bo" Attwood was born to the couple on August 14, 1922, in New Edinburgh, Cleveland County.¹⁵

⁵ *Ibid.*

⁶ *Ibid.*

⁷ *Ibid.*

⁸ *Ibid.*

⁹ Rev. Silas Emmett Lucas, *Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Southern Arkansas* (Chicago, IL: Goodspeed Publishing Co., 1890), pp. 705.

¹⁰ *Ibid.*

¹¹ Michael Hodge, "Dallas County," *Encyclopedia of Arkansas*, last updated 01 Nov. 2022, available at: <https://encyclopediaofarkansas.net/entries/dallas-county-764/>, accessed 14 Dec. 2022.

¹² Paula Reve and Melrose Bagwell, "Fordyce (Dallas County)," *Encyclopedia of Arkansas*, last updated 28 Nov. 2022, available at: <https://encyclopediaofarkansas.net/entries/fordyce-874/>, accessed 14 Dec. 2022.

¹³ Michael Hodge, "Dallas County," *Encyclopedia of Arkansas*, last updated 01 Nov. 2022, available at: <https://encyclopediaofarkansas.net/entries/dallas-county-764/>, accessed 14 Dec. 2022.

¹⁴ *Ancestry.com*, "Evan Marks Attwood," available at: <https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/49951983/person/20269575740/facts>, accessed 16 Dec. 2022.

¹⁵ *The West Carroll Gazette*, "Frank E. Attwood," 07 April 1994, available at: <https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/605328462:61843>, accessed 14 Dec. 2022.

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The family moved to Fordyce, Dallas County, in 1935, and Attwood completed his high school education at Fordyce High School.¹⁶ Enrolling in the University of Arkansas in 1940, Attwood majored in engineering and participated in a wide variety of activities, including the Junior Cadet Corps, Kappa Sigma, and the Pershing Rifles.¹⁷

America's entrance into World War II disrupted the academic studies of many students at the University of Arkansas, including Attwood. He enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Corps on October 26, 1942, and was entered into active service on March 25, 1943.¹⁸ Due to his high score on the ASB, the entrance exam the military utilized to match enlisted personnel and their skills with appropriate jobs, Attwood was sent to Chanute, Illinois, to attend a ten-week training program in order to become a weather observer.¹⁹ The course included classes in synoptic map reading, forecasting, climatology, and meteorology, along with laboratory exercises, and, in the officers' cases, flight training.²⁰ When Attwood graduated, he was assigned to the 10th Weather Squadron stationed in Delhi, India. The squadron collected weather information for pilots flying "the Hump", the supply route over the Himalayas from India to China which was notorious for its dangerous storms.²¹ Attwood was stationed in India for almost a year, returning to the United States in October 1945. He was given an honorable discharge in January 1946 after achieving the rank of sergeant.²²

Attwood returned to his studies following his service in WWII, graduating from the University of Arkansas in 1948 with a degree in business administration.²³ Taking a job with Lion Oil Company, he moved to El Dorado, Union County, and he worked in the treasurer's department for six years.²⁴ Attwood met his wife, Valerie Huckaby, an anesthesiologist, in El Dorado and the two married in 1953. They had three children, Emilie, Warren, and Juliana, over the course of their marriage.²⁵

The couple decided to move away from El Dorado in 1954, returning to Attwood's childhood home of Fordyce. Putting his business degree to good use, Attwood opened a Chevrolet dealership later that year with nine employees. His business grew to include an oldsmobile

¹⁶ *Ibid.*

¹⁷ University of Arkansas, "Razorback Yearbook 1942," available at:

<https://digitalcollections.uark.edu/digital/collection/Razorbacks/id/33/rec/1> accessed 13 Dec. 2022.

¹⁸ National Personnel Records Center, "NA Form 13038 Certification of Military Service: Attwood, Frank Edwards," in the possession of the National Personnel Records Center, Washington D.C.

¹⁹ *Ibid.*

²⁰ Raymond Walters, "Weather Training in the AAF, 1937-1945," *U.S. Air Force Historical Division*, 1942, <http://www.ibiblio.org/hyperwar/AAF/AAFHS/AAFHS-56.pdf>, accessed 19 Dec. 2022.

²¹ *Ibid.*

²² National Personnel Records Center, "NA Form 13038 Certification of Military Service: Attwood, Frank Edwards," in the possession of the National Personnel Records Center, Washington D.C.

²³ University of Arkansas, "Razorback Yearbook 1948," available at:

<https://digitalcollections.uark.edu/digital/collection/Razorbacks/id/54/rec/1> accessed 13 Dec. 2022.

²⁴ *The West Carroll Gazette*, "Frank E. Attwood," 07 April 1994, available at:

<https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/605328462:61843>, accessed 14 Dec. 2022.

²⁵ *Ibid.*

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dealership, a body shop, and a storage facility by 1964.²⁶ With the success of his car dealership, the family could afford to buy a large plot of land in Fordyce. Attwood contracted a builder to construct a house on the land, and the stately ranch home was finished in 1961. The family moved in the late 1970s to Vivian, Louisiana, where Attwood continued to sell Buicks and other cars from 1978 to 1982. Attwood retired and made a final move to Delhi, Louisiana, where he died on April 3, 1994, following a long fight with leukemia.²⁷ The Attwoods retained possession of the home until 1994, when it was sold to the Roarks, the present owners.²⁸

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

When the Attwoods decided to build their ranch-style house, they were entering into a housing market that had irrevocably shifted from its pre-war character. Housing had been in short supply since the Great Depression, and experts estimated that the nation had a shortage of almost five million homes in 1945.²⁹ Returning veterans and demobilization compounded the problem, necessitating the federal government to step in to help solve high rents and housing issues. The Federal Housing Administration (FHA), Veterans' Administration, and the Federal Reserve implemented a broad range of new policies to help citizens buy their own homes, including standardizing the fixed mortgage, lowering interest rates, and providing aid to veterans through the 1944 GI Bill.³⁰ By the 1960s, more than 6 out of 10 households owned their own home.³¹

In addition to the various federal programs, the average household income increased in the post-WWII period.³² Home construction became an investment opportunity for thousands of people who had large amounts of savings stemming from World War II fiscal policies and the lack of available consumer goods for purchase.³³ As new homeowners went to purchase or build their new properties, the FHA continued to have an impact on the types of homes eligible for loans. In the 1930s and 40s, homes tended to be on the smaller side, and by 1950 the average square footage of a new house was only 983.³⁴ The FHA began to relax their financing restrictions post-WWII, allowing builders and homeowners to afford bigger homes. As a result, architectural styles changed with the new demands of homeowners, and the ranch-style homes introduced in the 1930s exploded in popularity from the 1950s to 1970s.³⁵

²⁶ *Camden News*, "Car Firm Founded in 1954," 28 June 1973, available at: <https://access-newspaperarchive-com.ezproxy.library.arkansas.gov/us/arkansas/camden/camden-news/1973/06-28/page-94/>, accessed 17 Dec. 2022.

²⁷ *The West Carroll Gazette*, "Frank E. Attwood," 07 April 1994, available at: <https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/605328462:61843>, accessed 14 Dec. 2022.

²⁸ Conversation with owner Benny Roark, August 23, 2022.

²⁹ Becky Nicolaidis and Andrew Wiese, "Suburbanization in the United States after 1945," *Oxford Research Encyclopedias*, last updated 26 April 2017, available at: <https://doi.org/10.1093/acrefore/9780199329175.013.64>, accessed 19 Dec. 2022.

³⁰ *Ibid.*

³¹ Matthew Chambers, Carlos Garriga, and Don E. Schlagenhauf, "The New Deal, the GI Bill, and the Post-War Housing," 14 Feb. 2012, available at: https://economicdynamics.org/meetpapers/2012/paper_1050.pdf, accessed 14 Dec. 2022, pp. 8, 22.

³² *Ibid.*, pp. 10.

³³ *Ibid.*

³⁴ Becky Nicolaidis and Andrew Wiese, "Suburbanization in the United States after 1945," *Oxford Research Encyclopedias*, last updated 26 April 2017, available at: <https://doi.org/10.1093/acrefore/9780199329175.013.64>, accessed 19 Dec. 2022.

³⁵ Virginia Savage McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses* (New York: Alfred A Knopf, 2013), pp. 602-603.

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The ranch style had its origins in California, where architect Cliff May designed some of the first ranches based on his observations of Spanish Colonial houses. In 1946, May wrote a highly influential article in *Sunset* magazine entitled *Western Ranch Houses*, which included many sample house plans.³⁶ A second version was published in 1958 and picked up by other news outlets such as *Better Homes and Gardens*.³⁷ Proponents of the ranch claimed that the layout promoted a more family-oriented lifestyle, had more modern amenities, and were modern in design while retaining a traditional feel on the exterior. By the 1970s, nearly three-quarters of newly built homes were either ranch houses or split levels.³⁸ The ranch's popularity declined sharply in the 1980s as rising land prices and consumers' demand for more square footage shifted tastes back to two-story houses.³⁹

When May and other architects envisioned a Ranch house, they were espousing not only a set of design ideals, but, in their minds, a better way of living. Especially in May's early designs, the focus of the house was on its integration with the surrounding environment and the easy movement between indoor and outdoor living spaces.⁴⁰ By having low-pitched roofs, earthy color schemes, and unadorned facades, the house was intended to blend into the surrounding environment. The outdoors became an extension of the house's square footage, and most Ranches incorporated expansive glass windows, courtyards, and patios.⁴¹ The interior mirrored the desire for an easy flow of people between spaces, and often Ranches had open floorplans with the dining room, kitchen, and living room as one, interconnected space. The more private areas of the house, such as the bedrooms, were separated from the main house, though many were still linked via the open courtyards and outdoor patios.⁴²

In order to have indoor/outdoor living and open public areas while retaining private bedrooms, all on a one-story floorplan, the Ranch required a significant amount of land. Designers and architects described the Ranch as "rambling" across the landscape, an appellation that quickly became a hallmark of Ranch style houses and even one of the substyles, the California Rambler, used the term. The Ranch had a few other, character-defining features. Almost all Ranches were built long-wise across the lot, emphasizing the house's horizontality, especially when combined with the gable or hip roofs common on Ranch houses.⁴³ The Ranch also began to embrace the automobile's essentiality to American life. Rather than hiding the garage around the back or

³⁶ *Ibid.*

³⁷ *Ibid.*

³⁸ Witold Rybczynski, "The Ranch House Anomaly: How America fell in and out of love with them," *Slate*, last updated 17 Apr. 2007, available at: <https://slate.com/culture/2007/04/how-america-fell-in-and-out-of-love-with-the-ranch-house.html>, accessed 19 Dec. 2022.

³⁹ *Ibid.*

⁴⁰ David Gregory, Joe Fletcher, and Joel Silver, "California Living," in *Cliff May and the Modern Ranch House* (New York, NY: Rizzoli, 2008), pp. 22.

⁴¹ *Ibid.*

⁴² *Ibid.*

⁴³ Richard Cloues, "The Ordinary Iconic Ranch House: Mid-20th Century Ranch Houses in Georgia," [PowerPoint] Georgia Historic Preservation Division, <https://gadnr.org/sites/default/files/hpd/pdf/The%20Ordinary%20Iconic%20Ranch%20House%20Part%20I.pdf>, accessed 16 May 2023.

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further away on the property, Ranches had their garages attached to the main house on the front or side of the house. In some of the earlier Ranches, space for the car was detached from the house but connected to the main living areas by a covered walkway. The garage itself “should be as formally inviting as a reception room of a great old mansion.”⁴⁴

The editors of *Sunset* magazine, a highly influential publication that printed many Ranch plans over the years, said that “Most of us describe any one-story house with a low, close-to-the-ground silhouette as a ranch house. When a long, wide porch is added to the form, almost everyone accepts the name. And when wings are added and the house seems to ramble all over the site, the name is established beyond dispute.”⁴⁵ The Attwood House, by this definition, is a Ranch house beyond dispute. It has two side wings, a low-to-the-ground silhouette, and a wide front porch that covers the main block. The interior likewise encapsulates the separation of private and public spaces, and the integration of outdoor spaces with the back porch and side patio between the house and the carport. The prominence of the carport is also a hallmark of a Ranch house, and the Attwood House follows earlier plans that had a covered walkway rather than an attached garage.⁴⁶

The Ranch stressed three main elements: livability, flexibility, and unpretentious character.⁴⁷ The flexibility in design allowed the Ranch form to incorporate elements from a wide variety of other architectural styles, including Spanish, Neoclassical, Colonial Revival, French, and Tudor (Fig. 6), though it wasn’t common until the late 1970s and 1980s.⁴⁸ Called a Styled Ranch, the subtype retains the one-story floorplan of the more traditional Ranch, though the interior room divisions can be much more closed off than the open floorplans espoused by May and other architects. The roofline was another feature that could be changed to suit another architectural style. French Styled Ranches are particularly notable for their high-pitched roofs and Neoclassical Styled Ranches often had one-story porches supported by classical columns.⁴⁹

In the case of Colonial Revival Styled Ranches, the idea was to “combine the graciousness and dignity of early Colonial architecture with the rambling spaciousness which is...associated with the modern.”⁵⁰ Colonial Revival architecture had been immensely popular in the first half of the 20th century and continued to be even after World War II, though the style became less elaborate in the 1950s and 60s.⁵¹ Due to the longevity of the style, there are many variations and subtypes of Colonial Revivals, however, several features were more common than others. Many Colonial

⁴⁴ David Weingarten and Lucia Howard, *Ranch Houses: Living the California Dream* (New York, NY: Rizzoli, 2009), pp. 59.

⁴⁵ Editors of *Sunset* magazine, quoted in David Gregory, Joe Fletcher, and Joel Silver, “California Living,” in *Cliff May and the Modern Ranch House* (New York, NY: Rizzoli, 2008), pp. 22.

⁴⁶ David Weingarten and Lucia Howard, *Ranch Houses: Living the California Dream* (New York, NY: Rizzoli, 2009), pp. 14.

⁴⁷ David Bricker, “Ranch Houses Are Not All the Same,” *Preserving the Recent Past*, eds. Deborah Slaton and William G. Foulks (Washington, D.C.: Historic Preservation Education Foundation, 2000).

⁴⁸ Virginia Savage McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses* (New York: Alfred A Knopf, 2013), pp. 696.

⁴⁹ *Ibid.*

⁵⁰ David Weingarten and Lucia Howard, *Ranch Houses: Living the California Dream* (New York, NY: Rizzoli, 2009), pp. 17.

⁵¹ Virginia Savage McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses* (New York: Alfred A Knopf, 2013), pp. 414.

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Revivals featured an accentuated front door, either with sidelights, pediments, or an entry porch, on a symmetrical façade. Other character-defining features include double-hung, single windows, wide shutters, and a side-gabled roof. A smaller number of Colonial Revivals had a full-width porch or a built-in garage.⁵²

The Attwood House was constructed early in the Ranch-style's popularity and incorporated many Colonial Revival details that characterize the house as a Colonial Revival Styled Ranch. The side-gabled roof is common to both the Colonial Revival or Ranch styles, but the Ionic columns and wide plantation shutters on each window are more indicative of a Colonial Revival. The symmetry of the façade and the cupola atop the carport are also hallmarks of Colonial Revivals. Finally, the Attwood House has a prominent central door that is flanked by sidelights as well as a transom, features which were common in the more simplified Colonial Revivals that became popular after World War II. The Attwood House thus exemplifies both the Colonial Revival and the Ranch styles, making it an excellent example of a Styled Ranch.

The Styled Ranch was not a common house form in Fordyce, in contrast with the preponderance of plain Ranches in the eastern section of the town. A reconnaissance survey done by vehicle in 2022 with a supporting Google Earth survey identified only three other examples of a Styled Ranch in the town. The house at 422 Flowers Street was constructed between 1965 and 1983 according to aerial photographs and is a Neoclassical Styled Ranch (Fig. 3). The one-story, rounded entry porch is a distinctive characteristic of Neoclassical design, as are the symmetrical wings on either side of the main house block. The house has an attached garage to the rear and is much smaller than the Attwood House. The other two Styled Ranches are situated directly across from each other at 200 and 201 Pine Forest Lane (Fig. 4 and 5). Both were constructed with Colonial Revival details like the Attwood House, but both were built much later, in 1974 and between 1965-1983, respectively.⁵³ Both have recessed front porches with Doric columns that cover the main block, wide shutters, and attached carports. The house at 201 Pine Forest, however, does not have side wings that abut the main block. When compared to the Attwood House, the properties on Pine Forest Lane are much simpler in their architectural detailing, lacking the more elaborate Ionic columns or detached carport with cupola. The Attwood House is the oldest of the three Styled Ranches identified by survey in Fordyce. With the property's character-defining Colonial Revival and ranch details, the Attwood House is a stand-out example of a Styled Ranch with Colonial Revival details in Fordyce.

The Attwood House combines two major architectural styles, that of the Ranch house popular from the 1930s to the early 1970s, and the Colonial Revival, which has been popular as both a main style and a supporting decorative style since the 1900s. It embodies the character-defining features of the Ranch style with its one-story floorplan with side wings, the integration of the detached carport to the house by a covered walkway, and the interior's separation of public and

⁵² *Ibid*, pp. 432.

⁵³ Netonline, "Historic Aerials," <https://www.historicaerials.com/viewer>, accessed 13 Dec. 2022; ARCountyData.com, 422 FLOWERS ST FORDYCE, AR 71742: Residential Improvements," *Dallas County Assessor's Office*, "https://www.arcountydata.com/parcel_sponsor.asp?item=4F9F1F&Page=1&countycode=DALTAX". Accessed 15 May 2023.

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private spaces. The house further utilizes Colonial Revival details such as the Ionic columns, wide shutters, and symmetry to convey a more traditional feeling to an otherwise modern house. The Attwood House is an excellent example of a Colonial Revival Styled Ranch, and as such, the Attwood House is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under **Criterion C: Architecture with local significance.**

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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 # _____
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): DA0296

7. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 3 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:

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- | | |
|--------------|------------|
| 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 S | Easting: 552151 | Northing: 3741442 |
| 2. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 3. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 4. Zone: | Easting : | Northing: |

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

The property comprises Parcel #970-04036-000 in Fordyce, Dallas County. It is bounded to the north by W. 4th St.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary encompasses all the land historically associated with the Attwood House.

8. Form Prepared By

name/title: Megan Willmes, National Register Program Manager

Attwood House
Name of Property

Dallas County, AR
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organization: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
street & number: 1100 North St.
city or town: Little Rock state: AR zip code: 72201
e-mail megan.willmes@arkansas.gov
telephone: (501) 324-9192
date: 12/19/2022

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

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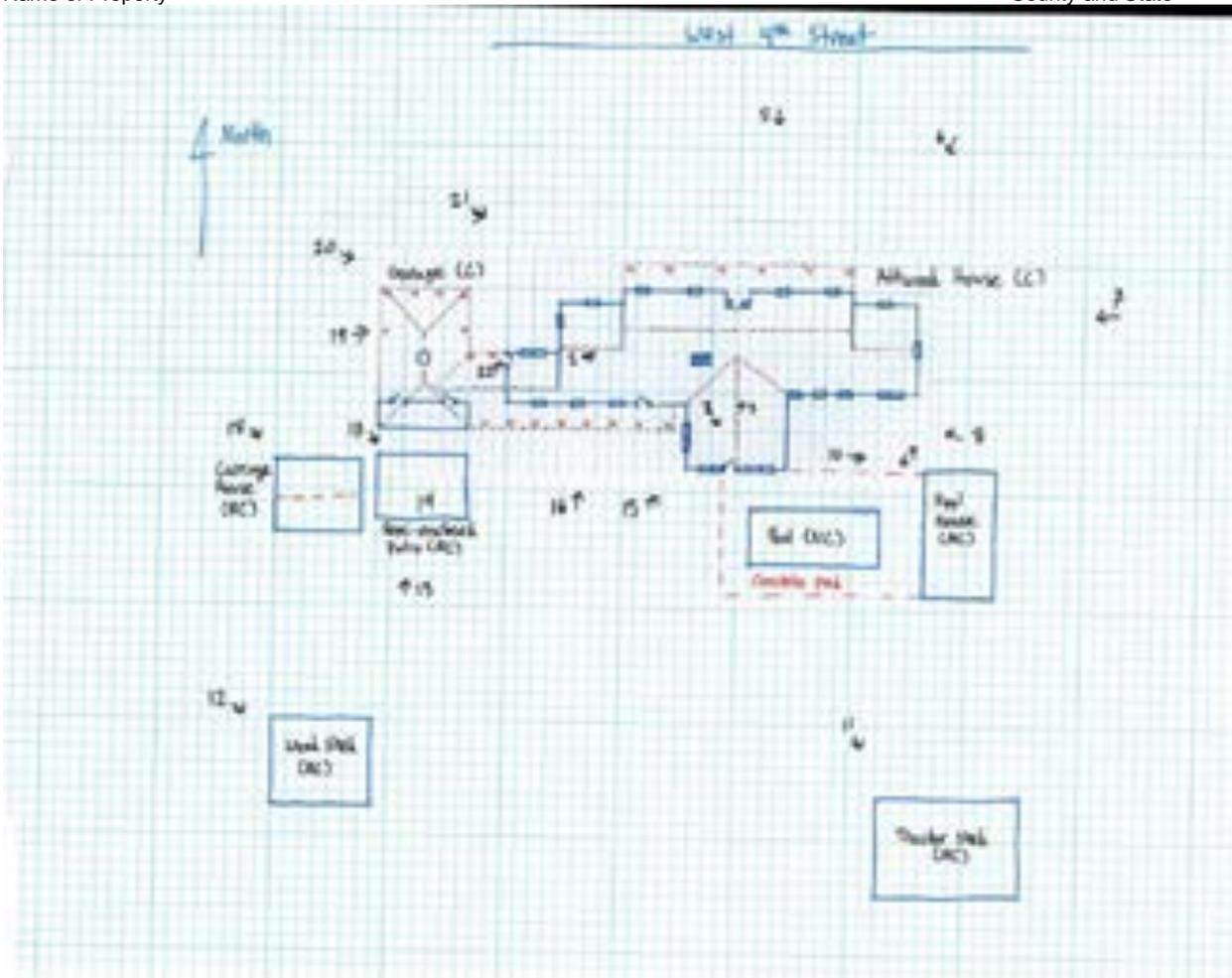


Figure 1: Photo location map of Attwood House, Fordyce. Not to scale (in the files of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program).

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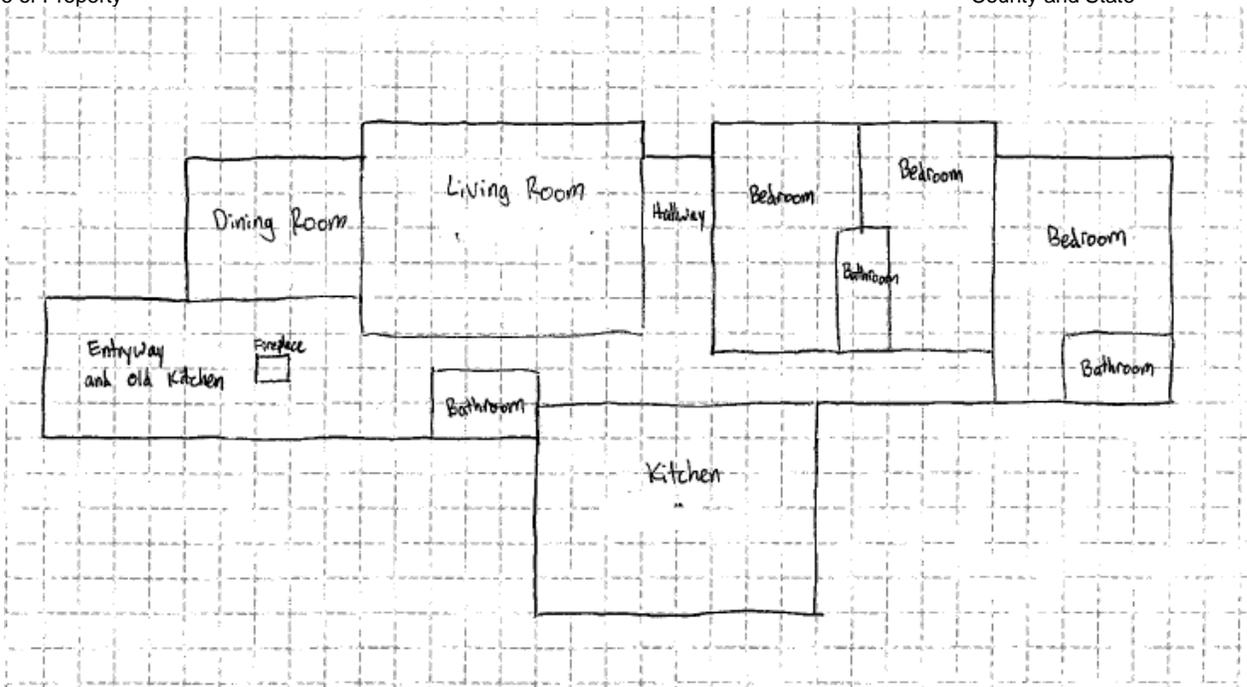


Figure 2: Floorplan of the main house, not to scale (in the files of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program).



Figure 3: 422 Flowers Street, Fordyce, AR, built between 1965-1983. Note the rounded, one-bay entry porch and the broken pedimented windows on either side of the porch (image from Google Earth taken in 2013; reconnaissance survey by Arkansas Historic Preservation staff in 2022 confirmed the picture is accurate).

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Figure 4: 200 Pine Forest Lane, constructed in 1974. While the plan and style are similar to the Attwood House, the columns are less detailed and the main block is asymmetrical (*image from Google Earth taken in 2013; reconnaissance survey by Arkansas Historic Preservation staff in 2022 confirmed the picture is accurate*).



Figure 5: 2001 Pine Forest Lane, constructed between 1965-1983. The house has the same porch detailings as its across-the-street neighbor (*image from Google Earth taken in 2013; reconnaissance survey by Arkansas Historic Preservation staff in 2022 confirmed the picture is accurate*).

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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: Attwood House

City or Vicinity: Fordyce

County: Dallas

State: Arkansas

Photographer: Ralph Wilcox

Date Photographed: August 23, 2022

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

- 1 of 22. View of the living room interior, including fireplace, looking south.
- 2 of 22. View of the kitchen addition and cross gable interior, looking southeast.
- 3 of 22. View of the original exterior wall, now interior wall, and front door, looking north.
- 4 of 22. Detail of flooring in the bedroom.
- 5 of 22. North façade of the building, looking south.
- 6 of 22. North façade of the building, looking southwest.
- 7 of 22. East façade of the building, looking southwest.
- 8 of 22. South façade of the building and east façade of the cross gable, looking northwest.
- 9 of 22. View of the pool, looking southwest.
- 10 of 22. East façade of the pool house, looking southeast.
- 11 of 22. North and west facades of the tractor shed, looking southeast.

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12 of 22. View of an ancillary tractor lean-to, looking southeast.

13 of 22. South façade of the semi-enclosed patio, looking north.

14 of 22. Detail of the water feature, looking south.

15 of 22. South façade of the cross gable and the main building, and west façade of the cross gable, looking northeast.

16 of 22. South façade of the building, looking northwest.

17 of 22. North and east facades of the semi-enclosed patio and carriage house, looking southwest.

18 of 22. North and west façade of the carriage house, looking southeast.

19 of 22. West façade of the detached carport, looking east.

20 of 22. North façade of the detached carport, looking southeast.

21 of 22. West and north facades of the building and covered walkway, looking southeast.

22 of 22. View of the brick fence and west façade of the building, looking northeast.

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.





BEAUTIFUL



































EDGEMONT HOUSE









UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action:

Property Name:

Multiple Name:

State & County:

Date Received: 4/6/2023 Date of Pending List: 4/18/2023 Date of 16th Day: 5/3/2023 Date of 45th Day: 5/22/2023 Date of Weekly List:

Reference number:

Nominator:

Reason For Review:

Accept Return Reject 5/18/2023 Date

Abstract/Summary Comments:

Recommendation/ Criteria

Reviewer Michelle Diedriech Discipline NR Historian

Telephone _____ Date _____

DOCUMENTATION: see attached comments : No see attached SLR : No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.



Sarah Huckabee Sanders
Governor
Mike Mills
Secretary

April 6, 2023

Joy Beasley, Keeper and Chief
National Register and National Historic Landmark Programs
National Register of Historic Places
1849 C Street, NW
Mail Stop 7228
Washington D.C. 20240

RE: Attwood House – Fordyce, Dallas County, Arkansas

Dear Ms. Beasley:

We are enclosing for your review the above-referenced nomination. The enclosed document contains the true and correct copy of the nomination for the Attwood House to the National Register of Historic Places. The Arkansas Historic Preservation Program has complied with all applicable nominating procedures and notification requirements in the nomination process.

If you need further information, please call Ralph S. Wilcox of my staff at (501) 324-9787. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Scott Kaufman', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Scott Kaufman
State Historic Preservation Officer

Enclosure