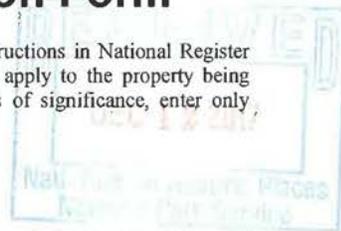


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

SG-2007

# 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: Wanslow, Robert, House

Other names/site number: Site #SB1441

Name of related multiple property listing: \_\_\_\_\_

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

### 2. Location

Street & number: 2815 South Q Street

City or town: Fort Smith State: Arkansas County: Sebastian

Not For Publication:  Vicinity: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

	10-25-17
Signature of certifying official/Title:	Date
<u>Arkansas Historic Preservation Program</u>	
<b>State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</b>	

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

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**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

1-26-2018  
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



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## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

MODERN MOVEMENT/Mid-Century Modern

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**Materials:** (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: GLASS, STEEL, CEMENT ASBESTOS BOARD

### 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.)

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### Summary Paragraph

The Robert Wanslow House is located at 2815 South Q Street in Fort Smith. The house is located in an area of suburban development to the southeast of the center of Fort Smith. The house is built on a continuous cast-concrete foundation and is sided with Cement Asbestos Board panels. The house is topped by a flat roof and it is surrounded by a wraparound porch with steel frame. Fenestration in the house is a mixture of stationary windows, jalousie windows, and sliding-glass doors. The house's site has a steep slope from the west to the east, and it is terraced with herringbone pattern concrete-block retaining walls that are original to the property. The property also has a carport that has been substantially altered from the time of its construction.

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### Narrative Description

Located in an area of suburban development to the southeast of Downtown Fort Smith, the Robert Wanslow House is located at 2815 South Q Street. The neighborhood around the Wanslow House is primarily comprised of small minimal Ranch houses, meaning that the Wanslow House is an unusual design for the neighborhood and unlike the other houses in its area.

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The square-planned Wanslow House is built on a continuous cast-concrete foundation and is sided with Cement Asbestos Board panels in between wood dividers. The wall system gives the house eight panels on each façade per floor. The house is topped by a flat roof and it is surrounded by a two-story wraparound porch with steel frame that is integrated under the roof of the house. Fenestration in the house is a mixture of stationary windows of various sizes, jalousie windows, and sliding-glass doors. The Wanslow House is located on a steeply-sloped site that has an east-west slope. As a result, the site has been terraced with herringbone pattern concrete-block retaining walls that are original to the property. In addition to the house and the retaining walls, both of which are contributing, the property also has a carport that has been substantially altered from the time of its construction, making it non-contributing.

### ***Front/South Façade***

The first floor of the front façade is divided into eight panels with the westernmost panel having a single-pane plate glass window on the right side of the panel. The eastern four panels have rectangular single-pane windows in the top part of the panels. The other three panels are devoid of fenestration. Steel rod diagonal cross braces connect the two eastern steel I-beams on the first floor. The façade has four steel I-beams, one at the western edge of the porch, one between panels three and four from the west, one between panels five and six from the west, and one at the eastern end of the porch.

On the second floor of the façade, the eastern three panels and western three panels are devoid of fenestration. The middle two panels have single-pane stationary windows in the top half of each panel. The second floor porch has a single steel bar railing that spans the entire porch.

### ***Side/East Façade***

On the first floor of the east façade, the first and fourth panels from the south side have rectangular single-pane windows in the top part of the panels. Panels two and three have a sliding glass door with single-pane windows in the top part of the panels above the door. The northern four panels are devoid of fenestration. As on the south façade, steel rod diagonal cross braces connect the two eastern steel I-beams on the first floor. The façade has four steel I-beams, one at the southern edge of the porch, one between panels three and four from the south, one between panels five and six from the south, and one at the northern end of the porch.

The second floor of the façade has narrow single-pane transom windows in the top of panels one through three. Panels two and three also have a sliding glass door. Panels four and five from the south end of the house have windows in the top half of the panels. Panel four has a thirteen-pane jalousie window on the left side and a single-pane window on the right side. The window in panel five is a single-pane window. The northern three panels are devoid of fenestration. The second floor porch has a single steel bar railing that spans the entire porch.

### ***Rear/North Façade***

The easternmost panel on the first floor of the north façade is a large plate-glass window that is followed in the next two panels by a sliding-glass door. The fourth panel from the east edge of the house has a single-pane window in the right side of the top half of the panel. The rest of the panels on the first floor have single-pane windows in the top half of each panel. The façade has

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four steel I-beams, one at the eastern edge of the porch, one between panels three and four from the east, one between panels five and six from the east, and one at the western end of the porch.

Beginning at the eastern end of the second floor of the façade, the top half of the first panel has a thirteen-pane jalousie window on the right and a single-pane window on the left. The second, fourth, and eighth panels have a single-pane window on the top half. The third panel has a thirteen-pane jalousie window on the right of the top half of the panel. The top half of the fifth panel has a thirteen-pane jalousie window on the left and a single-pane window on the right while the sixth panel is devoid of fenestration. The seventh panel has a thirteen-pane jalousie window on the right side. The second floor porch has a single steel bar railing that spans the entire porch.

### ***Side/West Façade***

The first floor of the west façade, beginning at the south end of the house, has three panels with narrow single-pane transom windows in the top of the panels. The fourth panel has a recessed main entrance for the house, which has a door with a wavy plate-glass window in it. The fifth panel from the end has a solid door with a transom panel above it that accesses a utility space. The sixth panel has another entrance door with a wavy plate-glass window that accesses the kitchen. The seventh panel is devoid of fenestration while the northernmost panel has a double-hung, one-over-one window on the right and a single-pane window on the left. The façade has four steel I-beams, one at the southern edge of the porch, one between panels three and four from the south, one between panels five and six from the south, and one at the northern end of the porch.

On the second floor of the west façade, all eight panels have narrow single-pane transom windows in the top of the panels. All of the panels, except the fourth panel from the south, have single windows in them. The fourth panel has two windows.

### ***Interior***

The interior of the Wanslow House has the main rooms on the first floor and the bedrooms on the second floor. The first floor houses the kitchen, laundry room, dining room, library, and a sunken living room. The sunken living room is connected to the main first-floor level by a steel-framed spiral staircase, which also provides access to the second floor. Steel columns are located throughout the first floor in line with the steel columns on the exterior of the house. Furthermore, the steel beams are also visible throughout the house on both floors. The main level of the first floor has tile floors while carpet is located in the sunken living room and on the stair treads.

The second floor of the house contains four bedrooms and two bathrooms, one tiled in blue tile and the other tiled in yellow tile with matching sinks. The bathrooms have built-in cabinets. The bedrooms are carpeted and have closets, also with built-in cabinets.

### ***Carport***

The carport is located adjacent to the house to the west. It is an open structure supported on the west and east sides by three steel I-beams. The carport has a shed roof that slopes to the west

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with corrugated metal covering. A concrete-block storage space with two sets of doors on the south side is located at the west end of the carport. Although the concrete-block storage space appears to be original, the steel superstructure appears to be new, accommodating larger vehicles.

***Retaining Walls***

The yard around the Wanslow House contains four sections of concrete-block retaining wall that have the blocks laid in a herringbone pattern. One section of the wall is on the west edge of the carport at the west edge of the property, and acts as a retaining wall for the slope to the west. A second section of wall is located at the north side of the main entrance and extends from the house to the carport. The third section of wall extends east from the house midway down the east façade. The last section of wall forms a sunken courtyard to the south and east of the house.

***Integrity***

The Robert Wanslow House has excellent integrity from the time of its construction in 1962. The largest change to the property is the alteration to the carport, which made the structure larger than the original carport. On the interior, some of the interior finishes have been updated, but other original finishes and features remain, and the plan of the property is still intact. The neighborhood around the Wanslow House also still reflects its 1950s and 1960s residential character with small minimal Ranch houses present along South Q Street and the surrounding streets.

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**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

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

ARCHITECTURE  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

1962

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

1962

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**

Robert Wanslow, Architect

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**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 Robert Wanslow House, located at 2815 South Q Street, in Fort Smith, Sebastian 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 the Mid-Century Modern style of architecture. Built in 1962, and designed by the architect Robert Wanslow as his own residence, the Robert Wanslow House represented a departure from the other homes in its neighborhood, which, for the most part, represent typical minimal Ranch designs of the 1950s, 1960s, and 1970s. Referred to as the Contemporary style in McAlester's *A Field Guide to American Houses* the Robert Wanslow House exhibits many of the characteristics of the style, including wide overhangs, contrasting wall materials and textures, and unusual window shapes and placements.

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

**HISTORY OF THE PROPERTY**

The first recorded white settlement in Sebastian County occurred with the establishment of the Fort Smith military post in 1817. Captain John Rogers is the first white settler recorded on the site of Fort Smith, having arrived shortly after the end of the War of 1812.<sup>1</sup> Although settlement in the Fort Smith area occurred in the early nineteenth century, settlement in other parts of the county did not occur until later in the 1800s. The creation of Sebastian County was approved by the General Assembly on January 10, 1851, and when the County Commissioners met at Jenny Lind in May 1851, they decided to locate the county seat on forty acres of land donated by Rueben Coker. They also decided to name the new seat of justice Greenwood.<sup>2</sup>

Though Sebastian County had been created by an act of the Arkansas General Assembly and signed by Governor John Seldon Roane on January 10, 1851, the permanent site of the county seat remained in contention both before and after the Civil War. The first courthouse, located near the geographical center of the county at Greenwood, was constructed in 1856-57 and was a two-story wood frame structure (prior to this, court was held in private residences). The county seat was moved to Fort Smith the following year, and returned to Greenwood two years later by majority vote of the county residents. In 1861, a compromise was reached by which the county would be divided into two judicial districts, with dual county seats located at both Greenwood and Fort Smith. This situation was reversed again in 1864, with Fort Smith again serving as the sole county seat, and restored again one year later. This exact sequence of events occurred again in 1868 and 1871, respectively, and was finally put to rest by the Constitutional Convention of 1874 which inserted into the new constitution a provision stipulating the division of the county into two judicial districts, with separate county courts, separate revenue, and separate fiscal responsibility for the operation and maintenance of the individual courts within each district.<sup>3</sup>

The origins of Fort Smith date back to the 1810s when Major William C. Bradford, Major Stephen H. Long and 82 riflemen set out from St. Louis to set up the fort. Although Bradford was taken ill at Arkansas Post, Long sailed up the Arkansas River and established the fort just before Christmas in 1817. Most of the garrison was moved west to Fort Gibson in 1824, but in the meantime, a few families settled in the vicinity of the fort. By 1829, a post office was established and John Rogers was the first postmaster.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> *History of Benton, Washington, Carroll, Madison, Crawford, Franklin, and Sebastian Counties, Arkansas*, pp. 688-689.

<sup>2</sup> *History of Benton, Washington, Carroll, Madison, Crawford, Franklin, and Sebastian Counties, Arkansas*, pp. 696-698.

<sup>3</sup> Story, Kenneth. "Sebastian County Courthouse/Ft. Smith City Hall, Fort Smith, Sebastian County, Arkansas." National Register of Historic Places Registration Form. From the files of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, 1993.

<sup>4</sup> West, Elliott. *The WPA Guide to 1930s Arkansas*. Lawrence, KS: University Press of Kansas, 1987 reprint of 1941 publication, p. 144.

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By 1842, when Fort Smith was incorporated by the State general assembly, the settlement had a population of almost 500 people. Throughout the nineteenth century, Fort Smith continued to grow, reaching a population of 964 in 1850. During the 1850s, the general assembly rechartered the community and a push was made to construct the Little Rock-Fort Smith highway. Transportation improved in Fort Smith in the late 1800s when the Little Rock and Fort Smith Railroad reached Fort Smith in 1879. In the early 1880s the St. Louis, Arkansas & Texas Railroad also reached Fort Smith, and the increased railroad transportation helped to spur on coal mining in the area. Factory development in Fort Smith increased in the first years of the twentieth century after several natural gas wells were drilled just south of the city in 1901.<sup>5</sup>

By the 1930s, Fort Smith continued to be an important city in the region. It was reported that:

Although Fort Smith is the trading center of a large agricultural area, its principal income is from factories that normally employ about 5,000 workers and manufacture furniture, glass products, overalls, tents, scissors, brick, bedsprings, and other articles. Two smelters out Midland Boulevard refine zinc mined in southwest Missouri. Nearer downtown on the same thoroughfare are two glass factories, one producing flat glass and the other specializing in lamp chimneys, bottles, and similar small blown articles. Seven furniture factories, the largest group in Arkansas, line Factory Drive, reached from downtown by turning west on North I Street from North Second Street. Here workmen turn out furniture for every room in the average house.<sup>6</sup>

Throughout the twentieth century, Fort Smith continued to expand to the south and east and several neighborhoods were platted throughout the century. The Pelley Addition No. 1 was one of the many subdivisions added to the city, and it was platted to the east of Greenwood Avenue.<sup>7</sup> According to the plat for the Pelley Addition No. 1, the addition consisted of four blocks bounded by Greenwood Avenue on the west, Elizabeth ("Q") Avenue on the south, what is now 29<sup>th</sup> Street on the east and Pelley ("O") Avenue on the north. The two western blocks, Blocks 1 and 2, were divided into twelve lots oriented east west with an alley bisecting the blocks. The northeastern block, Block 4, had six lots in the western half that were oriented east-west that were separated by an alley from two lots, also separated by an alley, in the eastern half of the block. The southeastern block, Block 3, of the addition also had six lots in the western half that were oriented east-west that were separated by an alley from a single lot – Lot #7 – that occupied the eastern half of the block. Although the plat for the Addition was filed by C. M. Cook, Engineer, on November 10, 1905, it appears that little development occurred in the neighborhood

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<sup>5</sup> West, Elliott. *The WPA Guide to 1930s Arkansas*. Lawrence, KS: University Press of Kansas, 1987 reprint of 1941 publication, pp. 145-147.

<sup>6</sup> West, Elliott. *The WPA Guide to 1930s Arkansas*. Lawrence, KS: University Press of Kansas, 1987 reprint of 1941 publication, pp. 147-148.

<sup>7</sup> Although current Sebastian County property records spell the name of the Addition "Pelly," the original spelling of the name on the plat is "Pelley."

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early on.<sup>8</sup> By the 1950s, however, the majority of the development began and Robert Wanslow acquired the south half of Lot 7 in Block 3 of the subdivision for the construction of his new house.

Robert Wanslow was born on October 21, 1929, in Melrose, Massachusetts, a northern suburb of Boston. In 1954, Wanslow graduated with his Bachelor of Architecture degree from the University of Arkansas. After graduating from the University of Arkansas Wanslow held jobs as Job Captain with the firm of Hibbs & Pettit and Mott, Mobley & Horstman before becoming an architect with Harold Adams.<sup>9</sup>

During the 1960s, Wanslow organized the firm Adams-Wanslow-Drimmel in 1961 and he stayed with the firm until 1963. In 1964, Wanslow organized and became a principal in the firm of Saxton-Wanslow-Smith, Associates. The following year he earned his Master's of Architectural Design degree from the University of Illinois. In addition to his house at 2815 South Q Street in Fort Smith, some of Wanslow's other works include the Fort Smith Junior High School (1964); Western Arkansas Telephone Company in Alma, Arkansas (1965); Second Baptist Church in Russellville, Arkansas (1967); Woodruff County Library in Augusta, Arkansas (1968); and Community Center in Russellville, Arkansas (1968). In addition, he was the author of the *Kitchen Planning Guide* (1965), a contributor to the *Kitchen Planning Standards* (1965), author of *Maintaining the Home* (1969) and co-author of *Business Dealings With the Architect and the Contractor* (1969).<sup>10</sup>

While Wanslow was working for Adams-Wanslow-Drimmel, he designed the house for himself at 2815 South Q Street. The plans for the house were dated May 31, 1962. The Wanslow House was quite an unusual design for Fort Smith when it was built – the use of a steel frame and the use of the large panels for the walls was unlike anything else in the neighborhood. The exact inspiration for the house is unknown, but it is possible that at least some of the inspiration for the Wanslow House was derived from some of the houses built for the Case Study House Program. The Case Study House Program, which was begun in 1945 by John Entenza, editor of *Arts & Architecture* magazine, encouraged experimentation and contemporary design in architecture following World War II. The program had several specific objectives, which were “experimentation with new materials, whether newly available or not typically used in residential construction; application of mass-production techniques to the process of home-building; creation or a unique design with prefabricated standardized, and off-the-shelf parts; and promotion of the ideals of Modernism, including simplicity of form, integration of indoor and outdoor living spaces, and the avoidance of reference to historical styles.”<sup>11</sup> As Esther McCoy wrote in *Case Study Houses 1945-1962, Second Edition*:

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<sup>8</sup> Plats for the Mill Creek, Pelley Addition No.1, and Maidlow Addition. In the files of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program.

<sup>9</sup> Koyle, George S. ed. *American Architects Directory*. New York: R. R. Bowker Company, 1962, p. 737.

<sup>10</sup> Gane, John F. ed. *American Architects Directory*. New York: R. R. Bowker Company, 1970, p.962.

<sup>11</sup> Historic Resources Group. National Historic Landmark Nomination for the Eames House, Pacific Palisades, Los Angeles County, California. 2006, p. 12.

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...[At the end of World War II,] the average potential client, however, still thought in terms of a contractor-designed house. Architecture was a big word to the family who needed a house in a hurry; architecture has always been a big word in America.

...Entenza saw the possibility that architecture would regress when building was resumed at the end of the war.

Unless there were clients who could wait patiently until an architect had succeeded in getting plans through a building department without compromising his design, and unless there were loan agencies who would finance experimental work, many of the creative ideas on the drawing boards and in the minds of architects would be lost.

In 1945, Entenza abandoned the passive role as editor to play a dynamic one in postwar architecture. He announced that the magazine itself had become a client. Eight offices were commissioned to design eight houses.<sup>12</sup>

A house that Ralph Rapson designed for the program in 1945 (not built) was designed for a wood or steel frame with “standardized panels” and the Eames House (1949, National Historic Landmark designated September 20, 2006.) both employed a system of plaster panels and a steel frame.<sup>13</sup>

In fact, during the period 1950-1960, which is when the Wanslow House was built, the Case Study House program focused on houses that employed a steel frame. As Esther McCoy writes in her book, *Case Study House 1945-1962*, “...There was a concentrated effort during the decade to bring architecture into closer relationship with the machine. ... The emphasis for the period was on developing houses which might serve as prototypes for industrialized building, as opposed to ones which stood as single performances.”<sup>14</sup> Due to the fact that steel was emphasized in the Case Study program, which was a widely publicized program, meant that Wanslow would have been familiar with the program.

The use of the Mid-Century Modern style for the Wanslow House was not an unusual choice, since it was a style that was gaining popularity for modern buildings after World War II. The AIA reported in the early 1960s that a shift was occurring where people were starting to embrace modern architecture, especially for business buildings, but still even to a certain degree for homes. The book *Mid-Century Architecture in America* states:

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<sup>12</sup> McCoy, Esther. *Case Study Houses 1945-1962, Second Edition*. Los Angeles: Hennessey & Ingalls, Inc., 1977, p. 9.

<sup>13</sup> McCoy, Esther. *Case Study Houses 1945-1962, Second Edition*. Los Angeles: Hennessey & Ingalls, Inc., 1977, pp. 23-25 and 54-61.

<sup>14</sup> McCoy, Esther. *Case Study Houses 1945-1962, Second Edition*. Los Angeles: Hennessey & Ingalls, Inc., 1977, p. 69.

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No sooner has America embraced the new architecture than it has blossomed out into richness and inventiveness that must, in retrospect, astound even its most daring prophets. Its stark, bare, and square austerity, largely a gesture of protest against over-decorative eclecticism, has given way to a less self-conscious expression.

Taking up the fundamental tenets of the earlier “modern,” a new modified modern with three basic characteristics has developed. These characteristics are:

First, a totally new emphasis on the interior spaces of a building in terms of their usefulness, comfort, and beauty and their inter-relationship. In the past, rooms within a building were rigid compartments. Interior spaces are more flexible and sometimes can be divided at will. They open and flow into one another in a dynamic rather than static relationship.

Second, there is a new indoor-outdoor relationship. The use (some complain the overuse) of glass has made it possible to bring nature’s plants and greenery into the building, and extend the building out into nature. Planted plazas, interior courts, and terraces have brought nature even into our urban working environment.

Third, our buildings appear lighter, often buoyant. Skyscrapers soar effortlessly into the air. Other buildings rest lightly on the ground as though to disturb it as little as possible. Even where they hug the earth and adapt to its contours, they avoid being massive and ponderous.<sup>15</sup>

The Wanslow House reflects these characteristics of the style, especially the usefulness and inter-relationship of the interior spaces and the indoor-outdoor relationship, which is best manifested in the large sliding glass doors that are on the north and east sides of the house, allowing easy access to the terrace and courtyard. Furthermore, *Mid-Century Architecture in America* states that all of the AIA award-winning houses “...share an emphatic withdrawal from the bustle of the street and from ostentation as well.” “If one word were to summarize the aspiration of American architecture at mid-century, that word would be ‘liveability.’”<sup>16</sup>

The Wanslow House also perfectly illustrates the description of the style in McAlester and McAlester’s *A Field Guide to American Houses*, which they call “contemporary.” They describe the style by saying:

This style was the favorite for architect-designed houses built during the period from about 1950 to 1970. It occurs in two

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<sup>15</sup> Von Eckardt, Wolf. *Mid-Century Architecture in America*. Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins Press, 1961, pp. 21-22.

<sup>16</sup> Von Eckardt, Wolf. *Mid-Century Architecture in America*. Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins Press, 1961, p. 22.

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distinctive subtypes based on roof shapes: flat or gabled. The flat-roofed subtype is a derivation of the earlier International Style and houses of this subtype are sometimes referred to as American International. They resemble the International in having flat roofs and no decorative detailing, but lack the stark white stucco wall surfaces, which are usually replaced by various combinations of wood, brick, or stone. Landscaping and integration into the landscape are also stressed, unlike the pristine white International house that was meant to be set upon the landscape as a piece of sculpture.<sup>17</sup>

Although the wall material is unusual when compared to the description in McAlester, and the Wanslow House also appears to be more like sculpture on the landscape, the house does fit many of the other characteristics described in McAlester.

The Wanslow House really represents an outstanding of the Mid-Century Modern style of architecture in Fort Smith. The interrelation between indoors and outdoors, the lack of ornamentation, and the use of windows to allow privacy were hallmarks of the style. The house that Wanslow designed for himself really exhibits the characteristics of the style, and is an excellent example of the style.

### **SIGNIFICANCE OF THE PROPERTY**

The design of the Robert Wanslow House is an excellent representation of the shift in residential design that was 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.”<sup>18</sup>

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 Mid-Century Modern style greatly espoused the relationship between the indoors and the outdoors (which was partly expressed through the window placement and design).

The style and its design also put more emphasis on privacy. Privacy played a role in the design, both on the exterior – large amounts of glass more often appeared on the rear of the property, making it private from the street – as well as on the interior. “The interior, too, emphasizes privacy for the members of the family from each other. The children’s right to their noisy

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<sup>17</sup> McAlester, Virginia & Lee. *A Field Guide to American Houses*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, Inc, 1984, p. 482.

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

Wanslow, Robert, House  
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pursuits is recognized along with that of the parents *not* to hear Huckleberry Hound's televised antics."<sup>19</sup>

The Robert Wanslow House clearly reflects the design trends that were impacting residential architecture in the Mid-Century Modern style after World War II. The house lacks the applied ornamentation that was so often used prior to World War II, and uses window placement to give visual interest and ornamentation. As McAlester and McAlester point out with respect to the style, the Robert Wanslow 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."<sup>20</sup>

The design of the Robert Wanslow House also reflects the increased relationship between the indoors and outdoors, as well as the issue of privacy in house design. The design of the Wanslow House, with its sliding-glass doors on the east and north sides encouraged residents and visitors to interact with the house's surroundings. The placement of the large windows away from the street also emphasized privacy for the house's occupants from the street. The issue of privacy is also illustrated by the fact that the main entrance does not face the street and is also recessed from the main plane of the façade.

Since the Robert Wanslow House is an excellent example of the Mid-Century Modern style designed by the Arkansas architect Robert Wanslow, it is being nominated to the National Register with **local significance** under **Criterion C**.

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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

Gane, John F. ed. *American Architects Directory*. New York: R. R. Bowker Company, 1970.

Historic Resources Group. National Historic Landmark Nomination for the Eames House, Pacific Palisades, Los Angeles County, California. 2006.

*History of Benton, Washington, Carroll, Madison, Crawford, Franklin, and Sebastian Counties, Arkansas*. Chicago: The Goodspeed Publishing Co., 1889.

Koyl, George S. ed. *American Architects Directory*. New York: R. R. Bowker Company, 1962.

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

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<sup>19</sup> Von Eckardt, Wolf. *Mid-Century Architecture in America*. Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins Press, 1961, p. 22.

<sup>20</sup> McAlester, Virginia & Lee. *A Field Guide to American Houses*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, Inc, 1984, p. 482.

Wanslow, Robert, House  
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McCoy, Esther. *Case Study Houses 1945-1962, Second Edition*. Los Angeles: Hennessey & Ingalls, Inc., 1977.

Plats for the Mill Creek, Pelley Addition No.1, and Maidlow Addition. In the files of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps for Fort Smith, Arkansas: 1950.

Sebastian County, Arkansas, property records found at: [www.arcountydata.com](http://www.arcountydata.com).

Story, Kenneth. "Sebastian County Courthouse/Ft. Smith City Hall, Fort Smith, Sebastian County, Arkansas." National Register of Historic Places Registration Form. From the files of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, 1993.

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

West, Elliott. *The WPA Guide to 1930s Arkansas*. Lawrence, KS: University Press of Kansas, 1987 reprint of 1941 publication.

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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: \_\_\_\_\_

**Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):** SB1441

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## 10. Geographical Data

**Acreeage of Property** Less than one acre.

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: 372648 | Northing: 3914553 |
| 2. Zone:    | Easting:        | Northing:         |
| 3. Zone:    | Easting:        | Northing:         |
| 4. Zone:    | Easting :       | Northing:         |

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

S/2 Lot 7, Block 3 of the Pelly Subdivision of the City of Fort Smith. Parcel #15973-0007-00003-01.

### Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

This boundary contains all of the land historically associated with the property.

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---

### 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: raslph.wilcox@arkansas.gov  
telephone: (501)324-9787  
date: June 16, 2017

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### 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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### **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: Robert Wanslow House

City or Vicinity: Fort Smith

County: Sebastian

State: Arkansas

Photographer: Mason Toms & Ralph S. Wilcox

Date Photographed: March 22, 2017, and June 15, 2017

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

- 1 of 17. South façade of the house, looking north.
- 2 of 17. East façade of the house, looking southwest.
- 3 of 17. North and east façades of the house, looking southwest.
- 4 of 17. North façade of the house, looking south.
- 5 of 17. South and west façades and carport, looking northeast.
- 6 of 17. Retaining wall west of the carport, looking northwest.
- 7 of 17. West façade of the house, looking northeast.
- 8 of 17. Main entrance of the house, looking east.
- 9 of 17. Living Room and Library on the first floor, looking west.
- 10 of 17. Dining Room and Living Room on the first floor, looking south.
- 11 of 17. Living Room on the first floor, looking east from the Library.

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12 of 17. Staircase of the house, looking southeast.

13 of 17. Master Bedroom on the second floor, looking east.

14 of 17. Master Bathroom on the second floor, looking northwest.

15 of 17. Master Bathroom on the second floor, looking north.

16 of 17. Second Bedroom on the second floor, looking east.

17 of 17. Original built-in unit in the Second Bedroom on the second floor, looking northeast.

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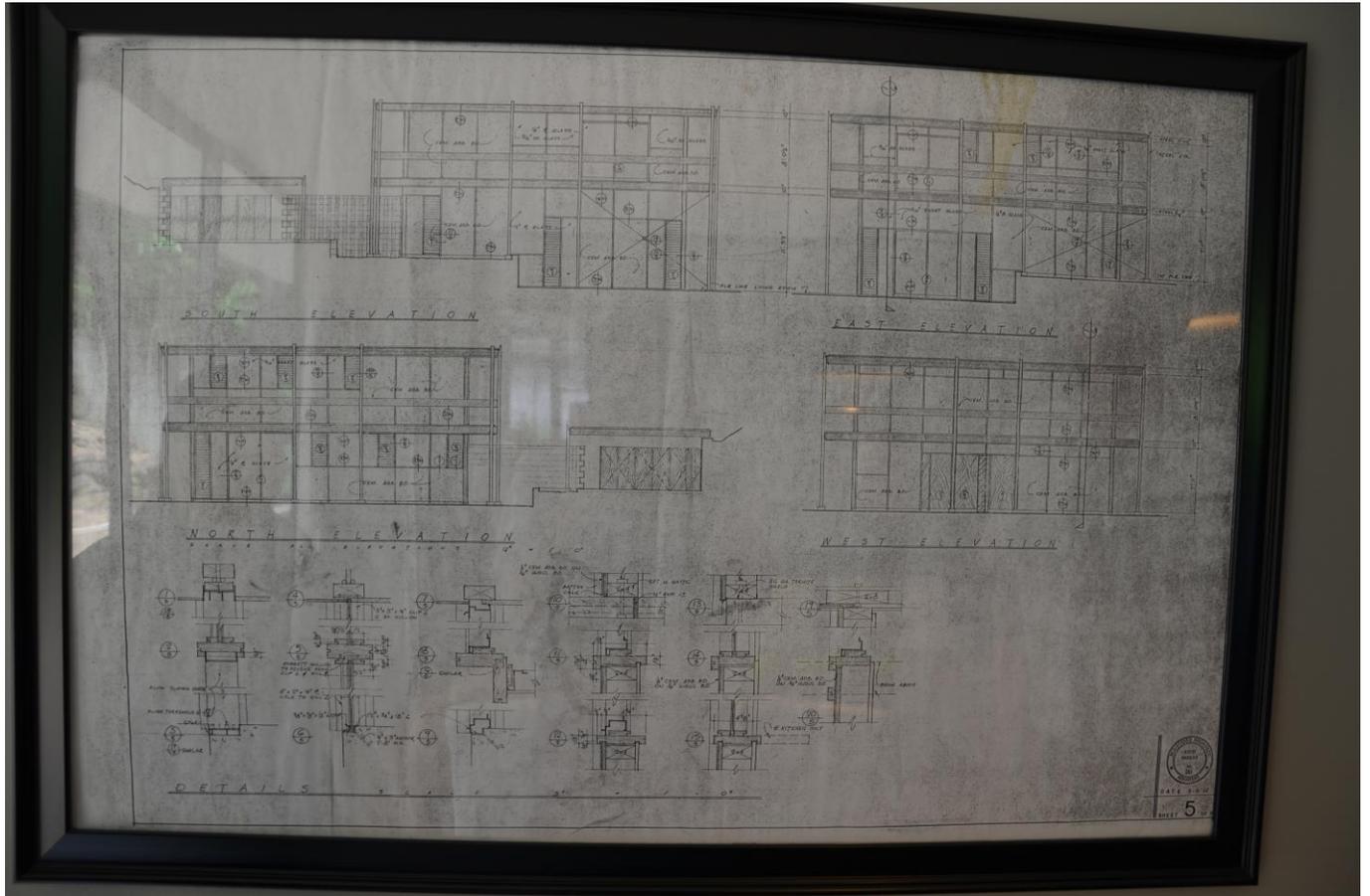


Figure 1: Elevation Drawings of the Wanslow House.

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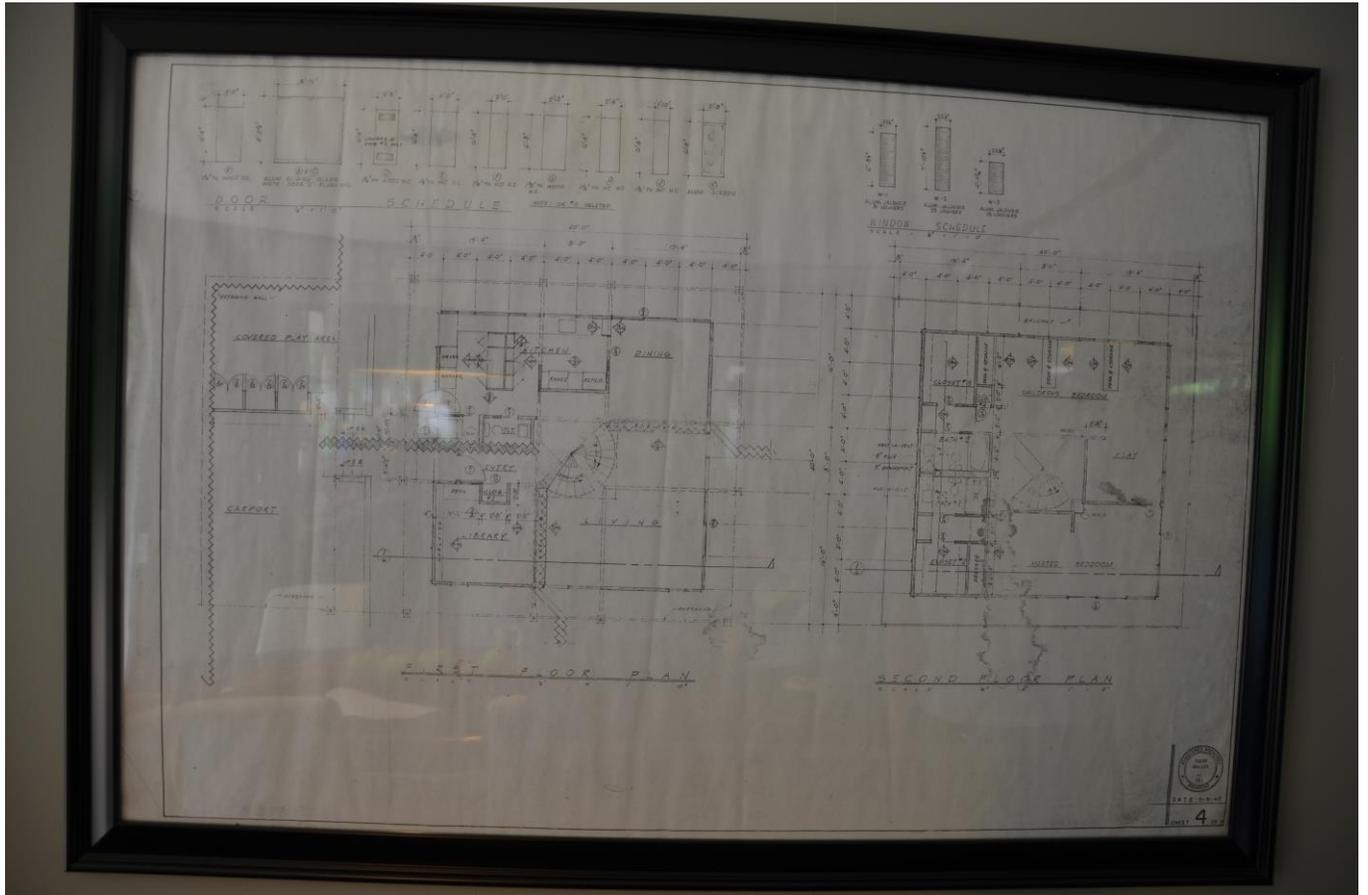


Figure 2: Floor Plans of the Wanslow House.

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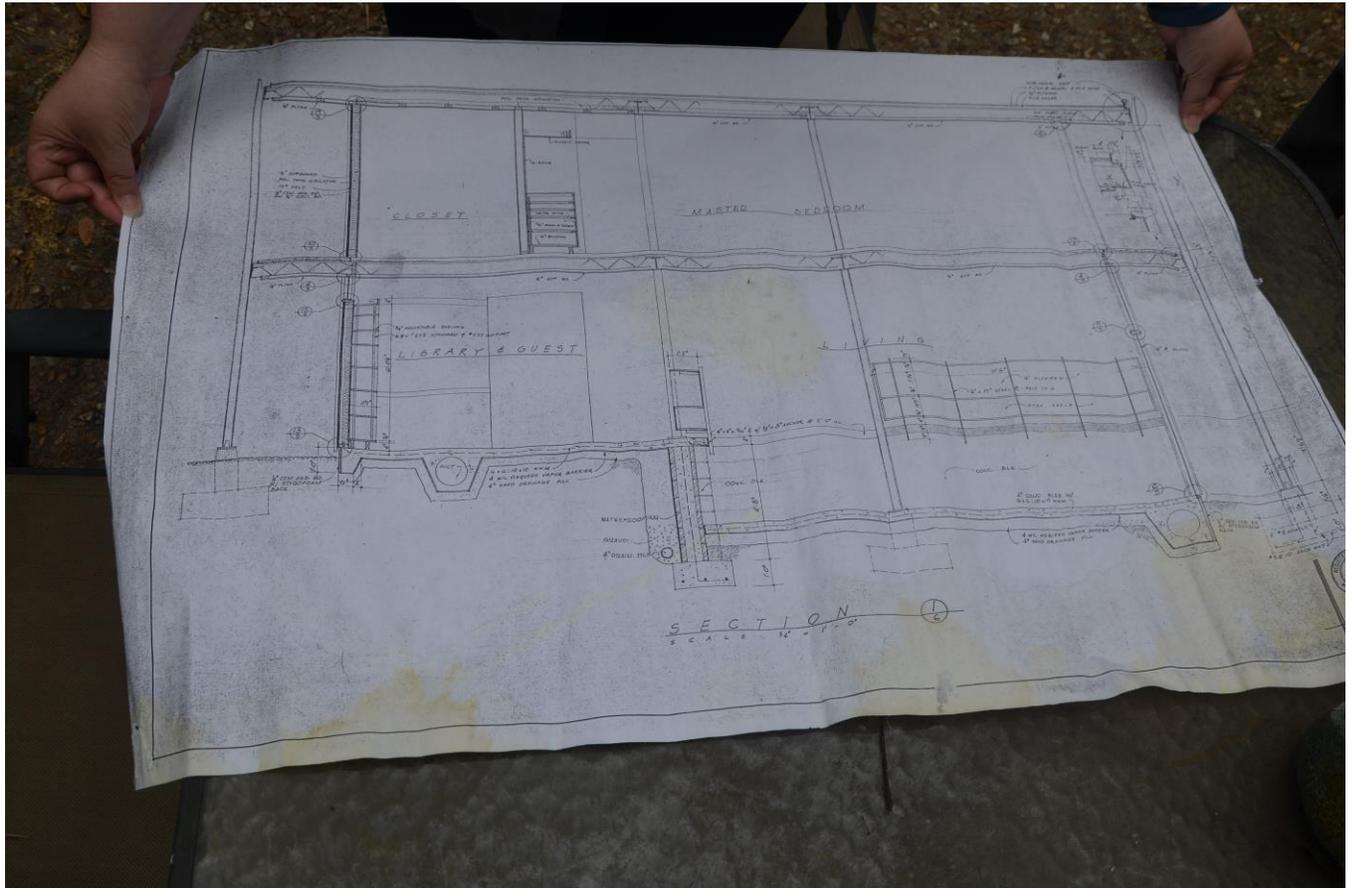


Figure 3: Section Drawing of the Wanslow House.

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County and State

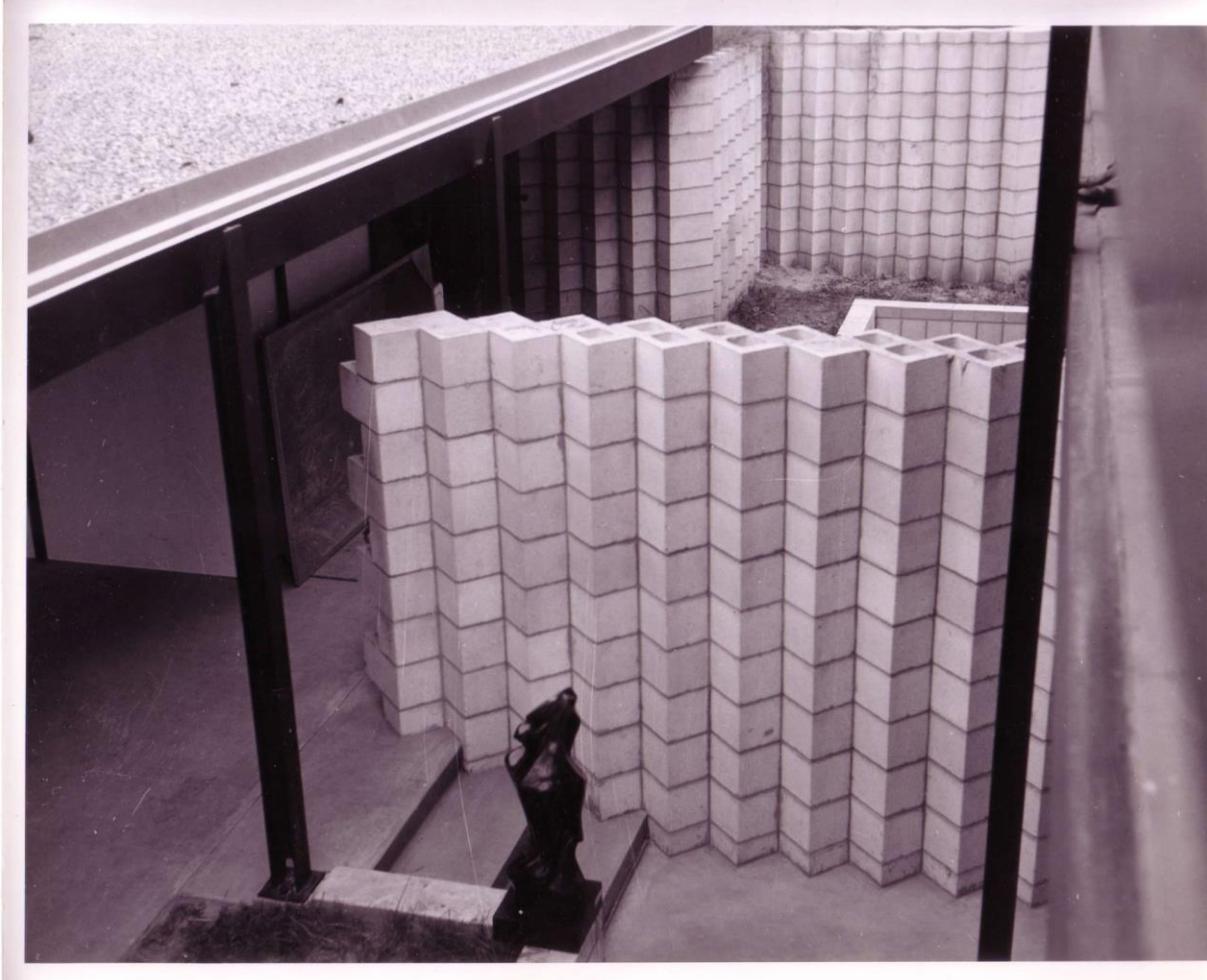


Figure 4: Historic photo of the carport and retaining wall at the entrance of the Wanslow House, looking north, c.1962.

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Figure 5: Historic photo of south façade of the Wanslow House, c.1962.

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Figure 6: Historic photo of the of the Wanslow House, looking south, c.1962.

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Figure 7: Historic photo of the staircase of the Wanslow House, looking southwest, c.1962.

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Name of Property

Sebastian County, Arkansas  
County and State

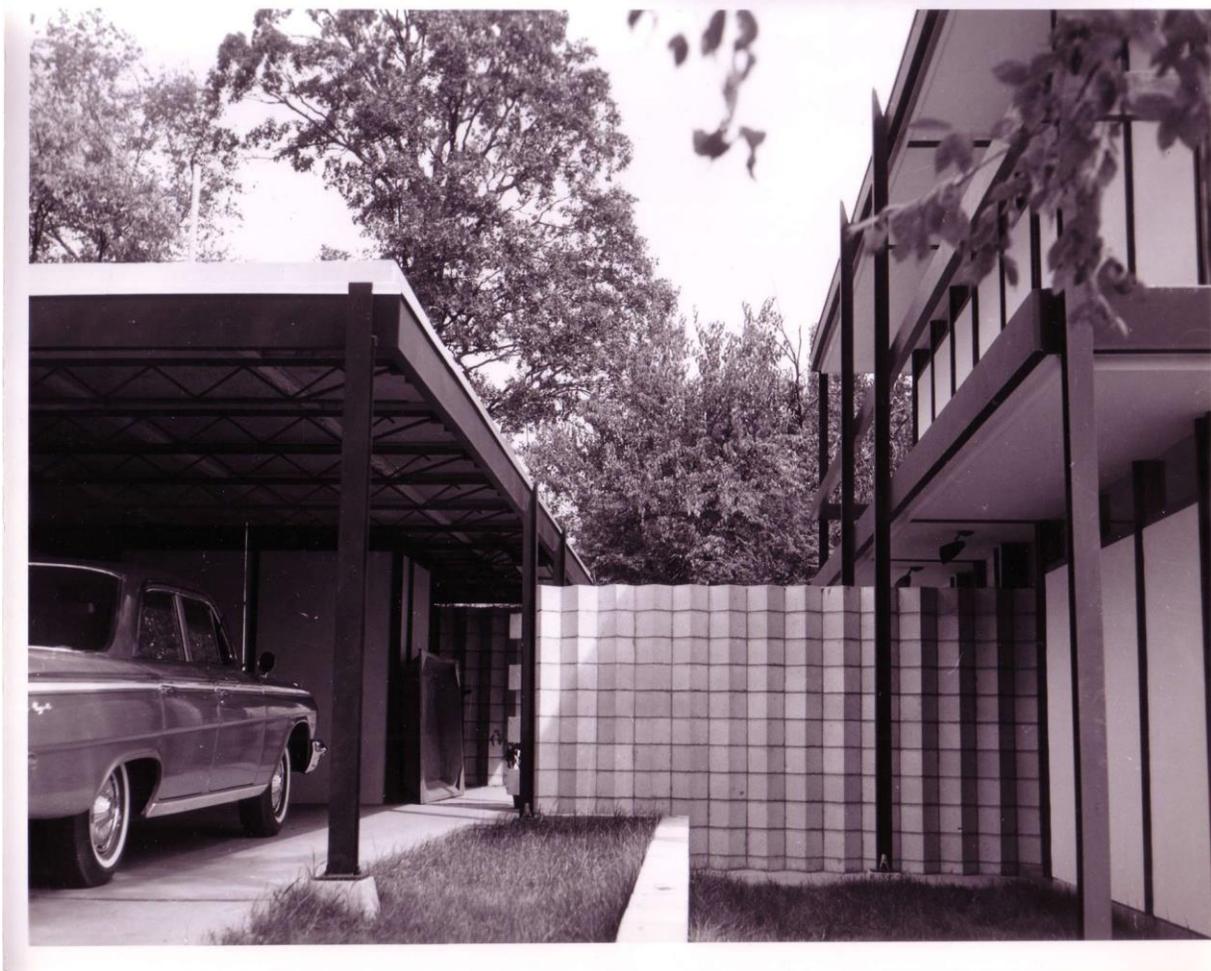


Figure 8: Historic photo of the carport and retaining wall at the entrance of the Wanslow House, looking north, c.1962.

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Figure 9: Historic photo of the master bedroom of the Wanslow House, c.1962.

**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.



|-----158 feet-----|

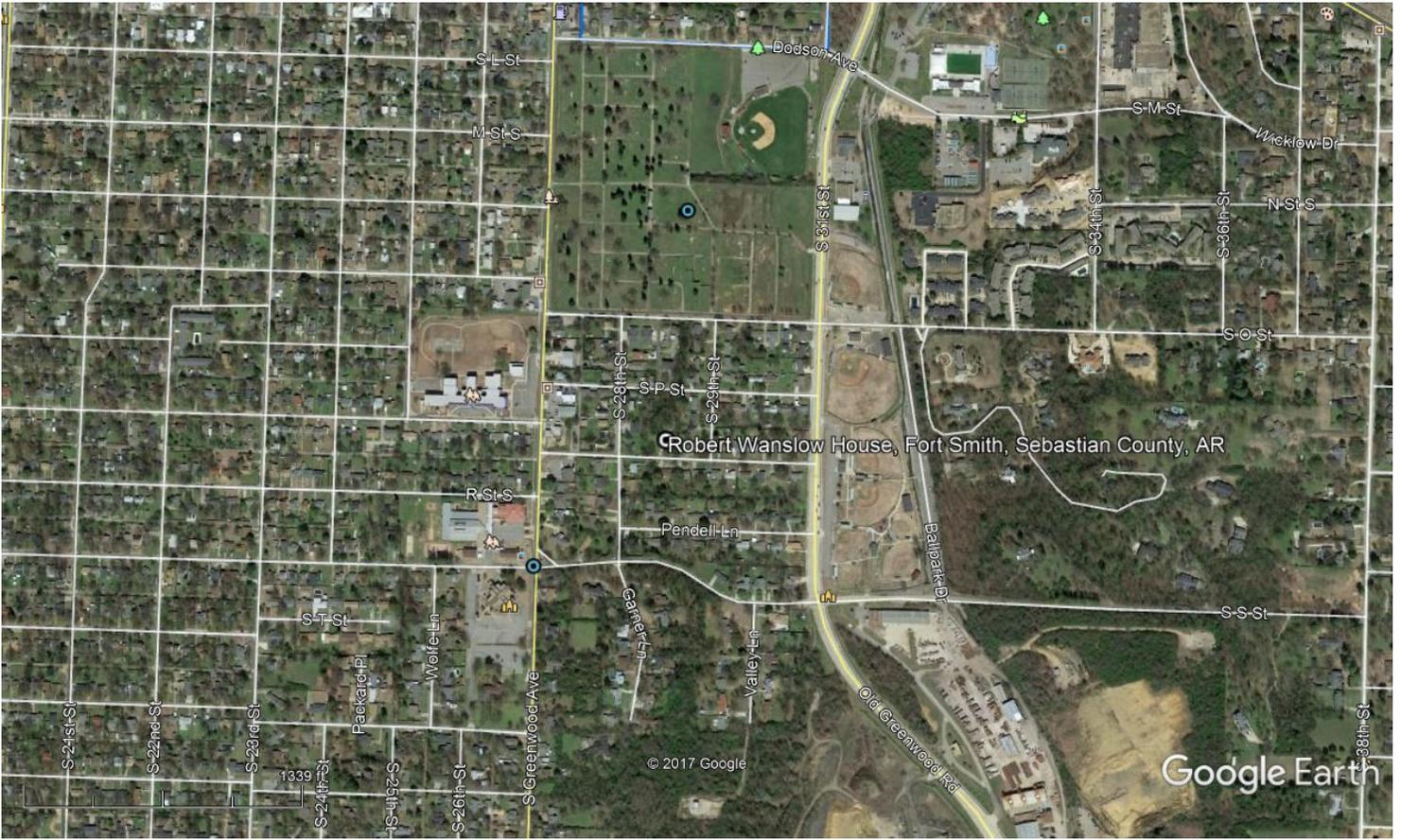
Robert Wanslow House

Fort Smith, Sebastian County, Arkansas

UTM 15 372648E 3914553N



North



|-----1339 feet-----|

Robert Wanslow House

Fort Smith, Sebastian County, Arkansas

UTM 15 372648E 3914553N



North

















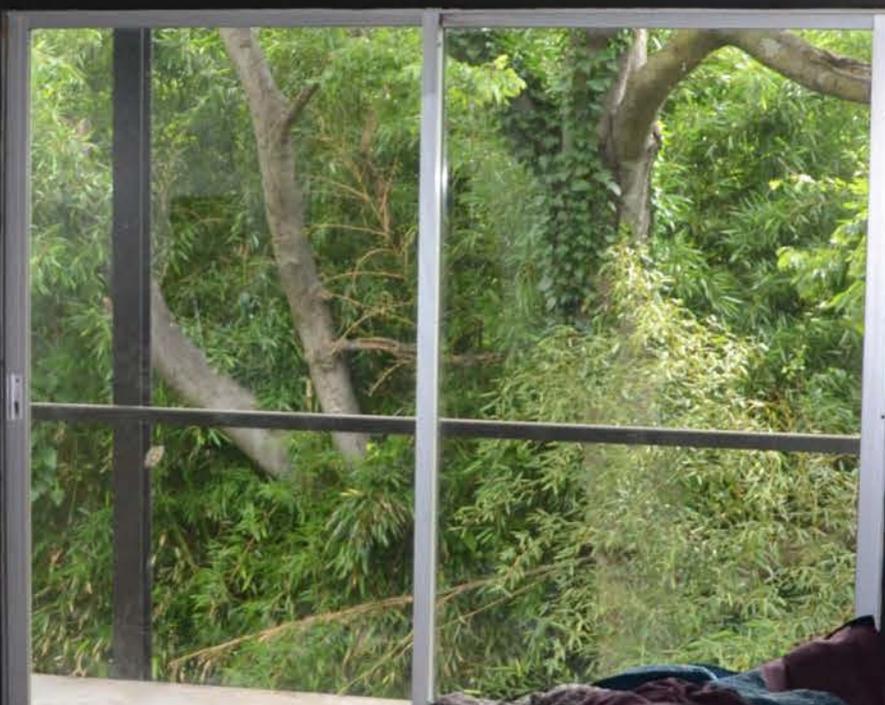








ALL IN  
PASSIONATE  
D FEARLESS  
**LOVE.**  
LISTEN TO YOUR HEART.  
BE THOUGHTFUL AND GENEROUS.  
BELIEVE IN LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT.  
HOLD HANDS. LAUGH NERVOUSLY.  
WRITE LOVE LETTERS AND MAKE HANDMADE GIFTS.  
GET DRESSED UP FOR A DATE.  
FEEL BUTTERFLIES IN YOUR STOMACH.  
RUN AWAY TOGETHER.  
STAY IN BED ALL DAY.  
CREATE MEMORIES YOU WILL TELL YOUR  
GRANDCHILDREN ABOUT. CUDDLE.  
LEARN FROM EACH OTHER.  
BE PATIENT AND KIND WITH YOUR WORDS.  
GROW OLD TOGETHER.  
BE SPONTANEOUS AND IMPULSIVE.  
KISS EACH OTHER GOODNIGHT.  
REMEMBER WHY YOU FELL IN LOVE.  
THIS IS YOUR HAPPILY  
EVER AFTER





TODAY IS A  
*good day*







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: 12/12/2017      Date of Pending List:      Date of 16th Day:      Date of 45th Day: 1/26/2018      Date of Weekly List:

Reference number:

Nominator:

Reason For Review:

Accept       Return       Reject      1/26/2018 Date

Abstract/Summary Comments:

Recommendation/ Criteria:

Reviewer Jim Gabbert      Discipline Historian

Telephone (202)354-2275      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.



THE DEPARTMENT OF ARKANSAS  
**HERITAGE**

Asa Hutchinson  
Governor

Stacy Hurst  
Director

September 29, 2017

Ms. Maggie Rice, Sr. Planner  
City of Fort Smith  
623 Garrison Avenue  
Stephens Bldg., Rm. 331  
Ft. Smith, AR 72901

Re: Robert Wanslow House – Fort Smith, Sebastian County

Dear Ms. Rice:

We are pleased to inform you that the above referenced property will be considered by the State Review Board of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, an agency of the Department of Arkansas Heritage, for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. The National Register of Historic Places is the federal government's official list of historic properties worthy of the preservation. Listing in the National Register of Historic Places provides recognition and assists in preserving our nation's heritage.

Listing of this property provides recognition of the community's historic importance and assures protective review of the federal projects that might adversely affect the character of the historic property.

Listing in the National Register does not mean that limitations will be placed on the property by the federal government. Public visitation rights are not required of property owners. The federal government will not attach covenants to the property or seek to acquire it.

We have enclosed a copy of the National Register nomination for your review. If you have any comments on the proposed nomination, please submit a letter with your comments, concerns, or concurrence to the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program at least 24 hours prior to the date of the State Review Board meeting.

You are invited to attend the State Review Board meeting at which the nomination will be considered. The board will begin meeting at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at the Department of Arkansas Heritage headquarters at 1100 North Street in Little Rock.

If you have any questions regarding the State Review Board meeting feel free to call Ralph Wilcox, Callie Williams or Travis Ratermann at (501) 324-9880.

Sincerely,

Scott Kaufman  
Director

Arkansas Arts Council

Arkansas Natural  
Heritage Commission

Arkansas State Archives

Delta Cultural Center

Historic Arkansas Museum

Mosaic Templars  
Cultural Center

Old State House Museum



ARKANSAS HISTORIC  
PRESERVATION PROGRAM



1100 North Street  
Little Rock, AR 72201

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tdd: 711

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Mosaic Templars  
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Old State House Museum

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[www.arkansaspreservation.com](http://www.arkansaspreservation.com)

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December 6, 2017



J. Paul Loether, Deputy 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: Robert Wanslow House – Fort Smith, Sebastian County,  
Arkansas

Dear Mr. Loether:

We are enclosing for your review the above-referenced nomination. The enclosed disk contains the true and correct copy of the nomination for the Robert Wanslow 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,

Stacy Hurst  
State Historic Preservation Officer

SH:rsw

Enclosure