

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

SG-1015

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: Fitzhugh, Vernon, House

Other names/site number: Site #WA1300

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: 1551 East Hope Street

City or town: Fayetteville State: AR County: Washington

Not For Publication: Vicinity:

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

 national statewide X local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

 A B X C D

	<u>3-29-17</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 <u> </u> meets <u> </u> does not meet the National Register criteria.	
Signature of commenting official:	Date
Title :	
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	

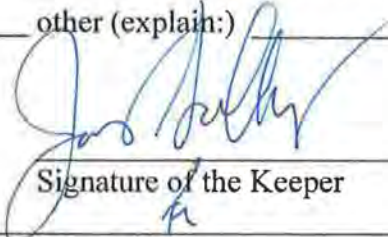
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4. National Park Service Certification

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

6-5-2017
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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Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

MODERN MOVEMENT/Mid-Century Modern

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: Brick, Wood, Glass, Asphalt

Narrative Description

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

Summary Paragraph

Located at 1551 East Hope Street in a suburban development northeast of downtown Fayetteville, Washington County, Arkansas, the Fitzhugh House was built in 1962 and designed by noted Fayetteville architect Warren Segraves. The house is located on a sloping site elevated above Hope Street and appears to be a two-story house from the front and a one-story house from the back. The house employs extensive glass and French doors on the front and sides that take advantage of the house's patios and balconies and its elevated site. The house is built on a concrete foundation and has dark-brown brick walls. The house's hipped roof is covered in asphalt shingles.

Narrative Description

Located at 1551 East Hope Street in a suburban development northeast of downtown Fayetteville, Washington County, Arkansas, the Vernon Fitzhugh House was built in 1962 and designed by noted Fayetteville architect Warren Segraves. The Fitzhugh House is located on a sloping site elevated above the south side of Hope Street and, as a result, appears to be a two-story house from the front and a one-story house from the back.

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The house employs extensive glass and French doors on the front and sides that take advantage of the house's patios and balconies and its elevated site. The Fitzhugh House is built on a concrete foundation and has dark-brown brick walls. The house's hipped roof is covered in asphalt shingles. The house's windows are mainly single-pane windows of various sizes, with the largest windows in the public areas of the house and the smaller windows in the house's private areas.

Overall, the house has a T-shaped plan, with the top of the "T" encompassing the living space of the house. The bottom part of the "T" encompasses the carport and storage at the northeast end of the "T." The carport is approached by a steep concrete driveway and a large concrete parking area is in front of the carport.

MAIN HOUSE – Contributing Front/Northwest Façade

The lower level of the northwest façade, which is the house's recreation room (as labeled on the original plans), has a central set of wood French doors with plate-glass windows in them. The French doors open onto a concrete patio around the lower level on the northwest and southwest sides. The set of French doors is flanked on each side by a large plate-glass window. The rest of the northwest façade on the lower level is comprised of brown brick. The lower level façade is separated from the upper level by a wraparound balcony, which is supported on the northwest side of the house by two metal columns.

Like the lower level, the upper level of the residential part of the house, which is the house's family room (as labeled on the original plans), has a central set of wood French doors with plate-glass windows in them. The French doors open onto the balcony around the upper level on the northeast, northwest, and southwest sides. The set of French doors is flanked on each side by a large plate-glass window. The rest of the northwest façade on the upper level is comprised of brown brick. The upper level balcony is sheltered by the house's large eaves.

Towards the rear of the house is a wood-sided addition that is an extension of the master suite. The northwest façade of the extension is fenestrated by a square single-pane window.

At the main entrance to the house, which is off of the carport, there is a small projection, and it is fenestrated on the northwest side by three single-pane windows. The grouping of windows is composed of a large window in the middle flanked on each side by a narrow window.

The rest of the house's upper level is comprised of the carport, which is to the northeast of the rest of the house. Like the rest of the house, the carport is sheltered by extremely wide eaves. Access to the carport is controlled by a decorative metal gate. To the northeast of the carport's parking area is a small enclosed storage area, which has no fenestration on the northwest side.

Side/Northeast Façade

Unlike the northwest façade of the Fitzhugh House, which reads as a two-story building, the northeast façade mainly reads as a one-story building due to the site's slope. The lower level of the northeast façade in front of the carport is fenestrated by a central pair of single-pane

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windows. The windows, which are set high in the wall, are barely visible since they are tucked under the projecting balcony. The rest of the lower level is covered in dark-brown brick.

The upper level of the northeast façade in front of the carport is fenestrated by a pair of one-over-one windows. The lower window in each pair is a horizontally-oriented rectangle while the upper window is a vertically-oriented rectangle. The rest of this part of the façade is covered in dark-brown brick.

Directly in front of the carport, the northeast façade of the small projection is fenestrated by a single-pane rectangular window. The main entrance of the house is located on the northeast façade in the carport, and it consists of a rectangular door with a plate-glass window that is flanked on the right by a rectangular plate-glass window. Both the door and the window have rectangular transom windows above. Also in the carport, to the left of the entrance, is a small single-pane square window located high in the wall that provides light into the bathroom. The rest of the façade in the carport is covered in dark-brown brick.

The northeast façade of the carport's storage area is devoid of fenestration.

The northeast façade to the rear of the carport, which is recessed from the rest of the façade, is divided into two bays. The bay closest to the carport, which is covered in dark-brown brick, has an entrance with a door with a plate-glass window. The second bay, which is covered in vertical-board wood siding, has a rectangular window set high in the wall. The window provides light into the expanded master bathroom. This part of the house that is covered in vertical-board wood siding is an addition to the house that was constructed to accommodate an expanded master suite.

Rear/Southeast Façade

The southeast façade of the residential part of the house is the rear façade of the master bedroom, which has been expanded to the southeast. The current wall, which is covered in vertical-board wood siding, is fenestrated by four single-pane rectangular windows. The center two windows are grouped in a pair while the outer two windows are stand-alone windows. The original façade in this area, according to the original plans, was covered in wood paneling with a vertical-board pattern, and it had a row of windows, some of which were frosted glass and some of which were jalousie windows. The southeast façade of the original part of the wall that is exposed is covered in wood paneling with a vertical-board pattern, and it has a single-pane rectangular window set high in the façade.

The southeast side of the carport is open, except for the storage area at the northeast end, which is devoid of fenestration on its southeast side.

Side/Southwest Façade

Unlike the northwest façade of the Fitzhugh House, which reads as a two-story building, the southwest façade mainly reads as a one-story building due to the site's slope. At the northwest corner of the façade, it projects slightly showing the location of the chimney. The lower level of the southwest façade, approximately halfway back, has a set of wood French doors with plate

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glass windows in them, which access the recreation room. The French doors open onto a concrete patio around the lower level on the northwest and southwest sides. The set of French doors is flanked on each side by a large plate-glass window. Further to the south along the façade are two two-pane windows. The windows, which are set high in the wall, are barely visible since they are tucked under the projecting balcony. The rest of the lower level is covered in dark-brown brick, except under the windows, which is exposed cast concrete. The lower level façade is separated from the upper level by a wraparound balcony, which is supported by four wood beams.

Like the lower level, the upper level of the residential part of the house, which is the house's family room (as labeled on the original plans), has a set of wood French doors with plate-glass windows in them. The French doors open onto the balcony around the upper level on the northeast, northwest, and southwest sides. The set of French doors is flanked on each side by a large plate-glass window. To the right of the French doors, further south along the façade, are two more sets of windows. The first set is comprised of a single-pane rectangular window and the second set is comprised of a pair of single-pane windows. The rest of the northwest façade on the upper level is comprised of brown brick, except under the windows which is covered in vertical board wood siding. The upper level balcony is sheltered by the house's large eaves.

The rear portion of the southwest façade is comprised of the addition to the master suite. The addition is covered in vertical-board wood siding. The addition is fenestrated at its north end by three large single-pane windows. The rest of the addition is devoid of fenestration.

The southwest façade of the carport's storage area is covered in vertical-board wood siding. The storage area also has two sets of double wood doors that provide access to the storage area.

Interior

Due to the slope of the Fitzhugh House's site, the public spaces of the house are on both floors towards the front of the house. The lower floor has the recreation room in the front and bedrooms, a bathroom, and mechanical spaces in the rear. The upper floor of the house has the family room and kitchen in the front and the bathrooms and master bedroom in the rear. Notable interior features in the house include the two fireplaces, one in the family room and one in the recreation room, and the vaulted ceiling in the family room upstairs. Although some of the interior finishes have been updated, the layout of the house still reflects the original plans drawn by Segraves in 1962.

PLAYHOUSE – Non-Contributing

The playhouse is in the backyard and was likely put in within the last ten years. Built on stilts, the playhouse is covered with vertical-board siding and has a shed roof. There are a set of double doors on the front and a front porch with a railing. An extension to the side incorporates a swing set.

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Integrity

The Vernon Fitzhugh House has good integrity from the time of its construction. The largest changes to the house include the expansion of the master bedroom towards the rear and side of the house, but the size of the addition is small in scale compared to the rest of the house. It is also possible that the roofline of the house was changed at some point, since the roofline on the plans does not match how the roof is today. However, it is unknown if this was a later modification or a modification during the original construction of the house in 1962. The interior of the house has had some cosmetic modifications, but the floor plan of the house is intact and reflects Segraves' original design.

The neighborhood around the Fitzhugh House reflects the original setting of the house from the 1960s. The neighborhood features curvilinear streets with houses set on relatively generous lots. The neighborhood is hilly and many of the houses take advantage of the topography in their placement on the lots. The Fitzhugh House also takes advantage of this in being set up from the street and having the wraparound patio and balcony to take advantage of the views. Overall, the Fitzhugh House has good integrity from the time of its construction and still easily reflects the design of Warren Segraves.

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.

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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

Period of Significance

1962

Significant Dates

1962

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

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Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Warren Segraves, 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 Vernon Fitzhugh House, located at 1551 East Hope Street, in Fayetteville, Washington County, Arkansas, is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under **Criterion C** with **local significance** for its importance as a good residential example of the Mid-Century Modern style of architecture by noted Arkansas architect Warren Segraves. Built in 1962, and designed by the architect Warren Segraves, the Vernon Fitzhugh House illustrates many characteristics of the Mid-Century-Modern style. Referred to as the Contemporary style in McAlester's *A Field Guide to American Houses* the Warren Segraves House exhibits many of the characteristics of the style, including wide overhangs, contrasting wall materials and textures, and unusual window shapes and placements.

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

HISTORY OF THE PROPERTY

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

Although settlement began in Washington County and the Fayetteville area in the early 1800s, it was not until the arrival of the railroad that the region really began to develop. Leaders in the area had the construction of a railroad in the area as a goal prior to the Civil War. However, it

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

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took many years before it was finally accomplished. In 1868, the Arkansas legislature granted aid of \$15,000 per mile to the Northwestern Railroad Border Company for the completion of a railroad from Missouri to Van Buren through Fayetteville and Bentonville. However, they were not able to accomplish it.²

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

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

Throughout the twentieth century, as Fayetteville's population grew, the city expanded as well. By 1948, the date of the last Sanborn map completed for Fayetteville, the city limits on the north side of Fayetteville stopped just north of Shrewsbury (now Rockwood Trail) and just to the east of Mission Avenue (AR 45).⁵ However, throughout the 1950s up to the present day, Fayetteville has continued to expand to the north and east, which has necessitated the platting of several other additions to the north of the city. The Jackson's First Addition to the City of Fayetteville was apparently platted sometime during the early 1950s. Although a few houses began to be constructed in the neighborhood during the late 1950s, the majority of the properties were built during the 1960s and 1970s.⁶ Such was the case for the Vernon Fitzhugh House, which was designed and built in 1962.

Vernon Bassie Fitzhugh was born on September 23, 1917, in Malvern, Arkansas, to Joe Bayse and Effie Harriot Paul Fitzhugh. On November 3, 1940, Fitzhugh married Clara Mae (Caulder), and the Fitzhughs would eventually have two sons, Gene and Mike. During World War II, Fitzhugh served in the U.S. Navy, serving on the *U.S.S. Roosevelt*. After World War II, Fitzhugh went to work for Southwestern Bell Telephone Company, and in 1957, Fitzhugh became a MUZAK franchisee and founded Fitzhugh Communications.⁷

² *Ibid*, p. 236.

³ *Ibid*, p. 237.

⁴ *Ibid*, p. 235.

⁵ Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps for Fayetteville, Arkansas. 1948.

⁶ Information on the Jackson's First Addition to the City of Fayetteville in the files of the Washington County Assessor's Office. Accessed through www.actdatascout.com.

⁷ Obituary for Vernon B. Fitzhugh. *Arkansas Gazette*. 25 January 2007.

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As Fitzhugh Communications grew, Fitzhugh eventually left Southwestern Bell and devoted his efforts to the growth of the company. Fitzhugh Communications expanded to offer “business music and related pro audio/video communications services throughout Arkansas, Oklahoma, and Missouri.” The company eventually grew to add Fitzhugh Point-of-Sale Solutions, Inc., which specialized in “programming, design, installation and service of point-of-sale systems, digital signage/digital menu boards, integrated video security and drive-thru systems.” The company remains in business today, and still remains in the Fitzhugh family.⁸

In addition to his business activities, Fitzhugh also served on the board of the Washington Regional Medical Center and was an active member of the Chamber of Commerce. Fitzhugh was also a member of the Rotary Club and Central United Methodist Church. Fitzhugh died on January 23, 2007, at the age of 89.⁹

As Vernon became more successful in business, the Fitzhughs hired Warren Segraves to design their house in the growing area north of central Fayetteville. Segraves was born on November 7, 1925, in Oskaloosa Kansas, but at a young age his family moved to Fayetteville, Arkansas. In Fayetteville, Segraves attended the Methodist church and went to school at Fayetteville High School, where he met his future wife, Rhea Ash, who was three years younger than he was.¹⁰

Shortly after he started his freshman year of college, Segraves enlisted in the U.S. Air Corps where he was trained as a bombardier. In 1943, Segraves left for Europe where he became a B-24 bomber pilot. After Japan surrendered in August 1945, Segraves returned to Arkansas and he married Rhea Ash in 1946.¹¹

Although the architecture program at the University of Arkansas was established in 1946, and Segraves wanted to become an architect, he did not want to become a full-time student so soon after returning from the war. As a result, he worked at his father-in-law’s trucking company and took civil engineering classes on the side until 1948 when he returned to college as a full-time student in the architecture program.¹²

As a third-year architecture student, Segraves designed a project house titled “A House for Mr. and Mrs. Warren D. Segraves.” The house was very different than the house that he ultimately built for his family on Oklahoma Way, but the design illustrated Segraves’ understanding of structural systems. His education in civil engineering allowed him to gain a basic understanding of structural steel and the limitations and possibilities that it presented in design. Structural steel would become a character-defining feature in many of his designs.¹³

⁸ Information on Fitzhugh Communications found at: <http://www.fitzpro.com/company/about-us>.

⁹ Obituary for Vernon B. Fitzhugh. *Arkansas Gazette*. 25 January 2007.

¹⁰ Jones, Sara Evans. Historic American Buildings Survey Written Historical and Descriptive Data, Warren Segraves Residence, Fayetteville, Washington County, Arkansas. 2011. Found at: <http://cdn.loc.gov/master/pnp/habshaer/ar/ar1100/ar1147/data/ar1147data.pdf>, p. 4.

¹¹ *Ibid.*

¹² *Ibid.*

¹³ *Ibid.*

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After Segraves graduated from the University of Arkansas in 1953, he and his family moved to Little Rock where he took a job with the firm of Swaim and Allan. After a couple of years with Swaim and Allen, Segraves moved to Madisonville, Kentucky, for a year to help with the designing of a local hospital, and then he came back to Arkansas to work with a firm in Fort Smith. In 1958, however, Segraves moved his family back to Fayetteville so that he could open his own firm.¹⁴

The completion of his own house on Oklahoma Way, along with the small commissions that he had completed during his first year of practice cemented his reputation and he soon began receiving larger commissions. In addition to designing houses for other residents of Fayetteville (and at least one house in Central Arkansas in North Little Rock), Segraves also designed several public buildings including the Roberta Fulbright/Fayetteville Public Library, University of Arkansas Wesley Chapel (demolished), Southwestern Electric Power Company, and the Fayetteville Police Department (demolished).¹⁵

Characteristics that were found in Segraves' designs included the exploration of modern construction methods and materials, especially prominently featuring exposed steel and glass. Structural steel is little used for the design of the Fitzhugh House – wood beams are much more prominent - but glass is prominently featured on the front and side façades, which allowed for good views of the site and neighborhood.¹⁶

The use of structural steel and large expanses of glass showed the fact that Segraves was influenced, at least to a certain extent, by the Case Study Houses along with the work of Mies van der Rohe. It also illustrates some influences of the "Sarasota School" of architecture in Florida, including the work of Paul Rudolph. Even though Segraves' designs show influences of the International Style, he gave his designs a local twist by employing wood, something that appealed to local tastes. Wood also features prominently in the design of the Fitzhugh House, especially in the use of wood for some of the beams and some of the exterior siding.¹⁷

Just as Segraves was reaching the height of his career, he died suddenly in 1978. Even though his career was cut short, his buildings are landmarks on the landscape in the Fayetteville area. Segraves worked in Fayetteville as the area was starting to grow rapidly and his use of structural steel on many of his buildings made them easy to spot in the area.¹⁸

The use of the Mid-Century Modern style for the Fitzhugh 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:

¹⁴ *Ibid*, p. 5.

¹⁵ *Ibid*.

¹⁶ *Ibid*.

¹⁷ *Ibid*, p. 6.

¹⁸ *Ibid*.

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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. It's 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.¹⁹

The Fitzhugh 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 windows and French doors on the upper and lower levels that allow access to the patio and balcony from the recreation room and family room. 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.'"²⁰ Although the Fitzhugh House does withdraw from the ostentation, it is unusual in that it really doesn't withdraw from the street. The house's public spaces, patio, and balcony, all face the street, mainly to take advantage from the view. The only way that it really withdraws from the street is in the fact that it sits much higher than the street.

¹⁹ Von Eckardt, Wolf. *Mid-Century Architecture in America*. Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins Press, 1961. pp. 21-22.

²⁰ Von Eckardt, Wolf. *Mid-Century Architecture in America*. Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins Press, 1961. p. 22.

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The Fitzhugh 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 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.

The gabled subtype is more strongly influenced by the earlier modernism of the Craftsman and Prairie styles. It features overhanging eaves, frequently with exposed roof beams. Heavy piers may support gables. As in the flat-roofed subtypes, various combinations of wood, brick, and stone wall cladding are used and traditional detailing is absent. Both subtypes are most commonly one-story forms although two-story versions are not infrequent.²¹

Although only houses with gable and flat roofs are addressed, the gable-roof comments also apply to the Fitzhugh House, even though it has a hipped roof.

It is not known how long the Fitzhughs lived in the house. However, by 1985 the house was owned by Hallie and Dollie Miller. After passing through a series of owners, the Fitzhugh House was purchased in August 2014 by Michael and Allyson Malone, the current owners.²²

The Fitzhugh House represents an outstanding example of the Mid-Century Modern style of architecture in Fayetteville and an excellent example of Segraves' philosophy. 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 Warren Segraves designed really exhibits the characteristics of the style, and is an excellent example of the style.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE PROPERTY

The design of the Vernon Fitzhugh 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

²¹ McAlester, Virginia & Lee. *A Field Guide to American Houses*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, Inc, 1984, p. 482.

²² Information on the Vernon Fitzhugh House in the files of the Washington County Assessor's Office. Accessed through www.actdatascout.com.

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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.”²³

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 pursuits is recognized along with that of the parents *not* to hear Huckleberry Hound’s televised antics.”²⁴

The Vernon Fitzhugh 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 and a variety of materials to give visual interest and ornamentation. As McAlester and McAlester point out with respect to the style, the Vernon Fitzhugh 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.”²⁵

The design of the Vernon Fitzhugh 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 Fitzhugh House, with its large windows and several sets of French doors 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.

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

²³ Von Eckardt, Wolf. *Mid-Century Architecture in America*. Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins Press, 1961, p. 21.

²⁴ Von Eckardt, Wolf. *Mid-Century Architecture in America*. Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins Press, 1961, p. 22.

²⁵ McAlester, Virginia & Lee. *A Field Guide to American Houses*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, Inc, 1984, p. 482.

Fitzhugh, Vernon, House
Name of Property

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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

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

Information on Fitzhugh Communications found at: <http://www.fitzpro.com/company/about-us>.

Information on the Jackson's First Addition to the City of Fayetteville in the files of the Washington County Assessor's Office. Accessed through www.actdatascout.com.

Information on the Vernon Fitzhugh House in the files of the Washington County Assessor's Office. Accessed through www.actdatascout.com.

Jones, Sara Evans. Historic American Buildings Survey Written Historical and Descriptive Data, Warren Segraves Residence, Fayetteville, Washington County, Arkansas. 2011. Found at: <http://cdn.loc.gov/master/pnp/habshaer/ar/ar1100/ar1147/data/ar1147data.pdf>.

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

Obituary for Vernon B. Fitzhugh. *Arkansas Gazette*. 25 January 2007.

Plans for the Vernon Fitzhugh House, Fayetteville, Washington County, Arkansas. 1962. In the University of Arkansas Special Collections.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps for Fayetteville, Arkansas. 1948.

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

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:

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

Name of repository: University of Arkansas, Special Collections

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): WA1300

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property Approximately 1 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: 397510 | Northing: 3993237 |
| 2. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |

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3. Zone: Easting: Northing:

4. Zone: Easting : Northing:

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

Lot 23 of Block 7 of Jackson's First Addition to the City of Fayetteville.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary encompasses all of the land historically associated with the property.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Ralph S. Wilcox, National Register & Survey Coordinator
organization: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
street & number: 1100 North Street
city or town: Little Rock state: AR zip code: 72201
e-mail: ralph.wilcox@arkansas.gov
telephone: (501) 324-9787
date: November 14, 2016

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: Vernon Fitzhugh House

City or Vicinity: Fayetteville

County: Washington County

State: Arkansas

Photographer: Mason Toms

Date Photographed: September 2, 2016

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

1 of 17. View of the northwest and southwest façades, looking southeast.

2 of 17. View of the northwest façade, looking southeast.

3 of 17. View of the northwest and northeast façades, looking southwest.

4 of 17. View of the carport, looking southwest.

5 of 17. View of the northeast façade, looking southwest.

6 of 17. View of the northeast and southeast façades, looking west.

7 of 17. View of the southeast and southwest façades, looking northeast.

8 of 17. View of the addition on the southwest façade, looking east.

9 of 17. View of the southwest façade, looking east.

10 of 17. View of the entryway, looking northwest.

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- 11 of 17. View of the recreation room, looking northwest.
- 12 of 17. View of the recreation room fireplace, looking northwest.
- 13 of 17. View of the family room, looking northeast.
- 14 of 17. View of the family room, looking northwest.
- 15 of 17. View of the kitchen, looking southwest.
- 16 of 17. View of the ceiling in the master bathroom addition, showing an original exterior beam, looking southeast.
- 17 of 17. View of the playhouse, looking east.

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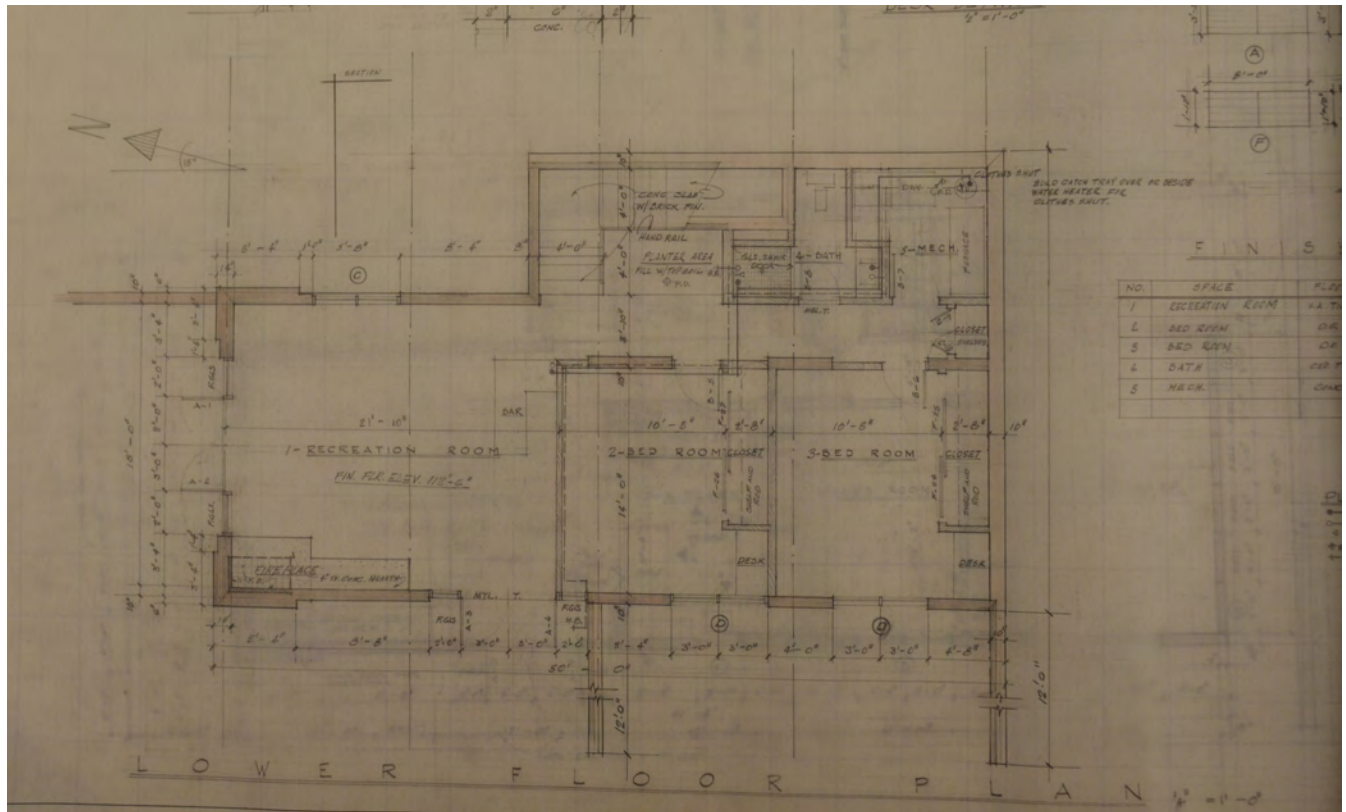


Figure 1: Lower Level Plan of the Vernon Fitzhugh House, Fayetteville, Washington County, Arkansas (From University of Arkansas Special Collections.)

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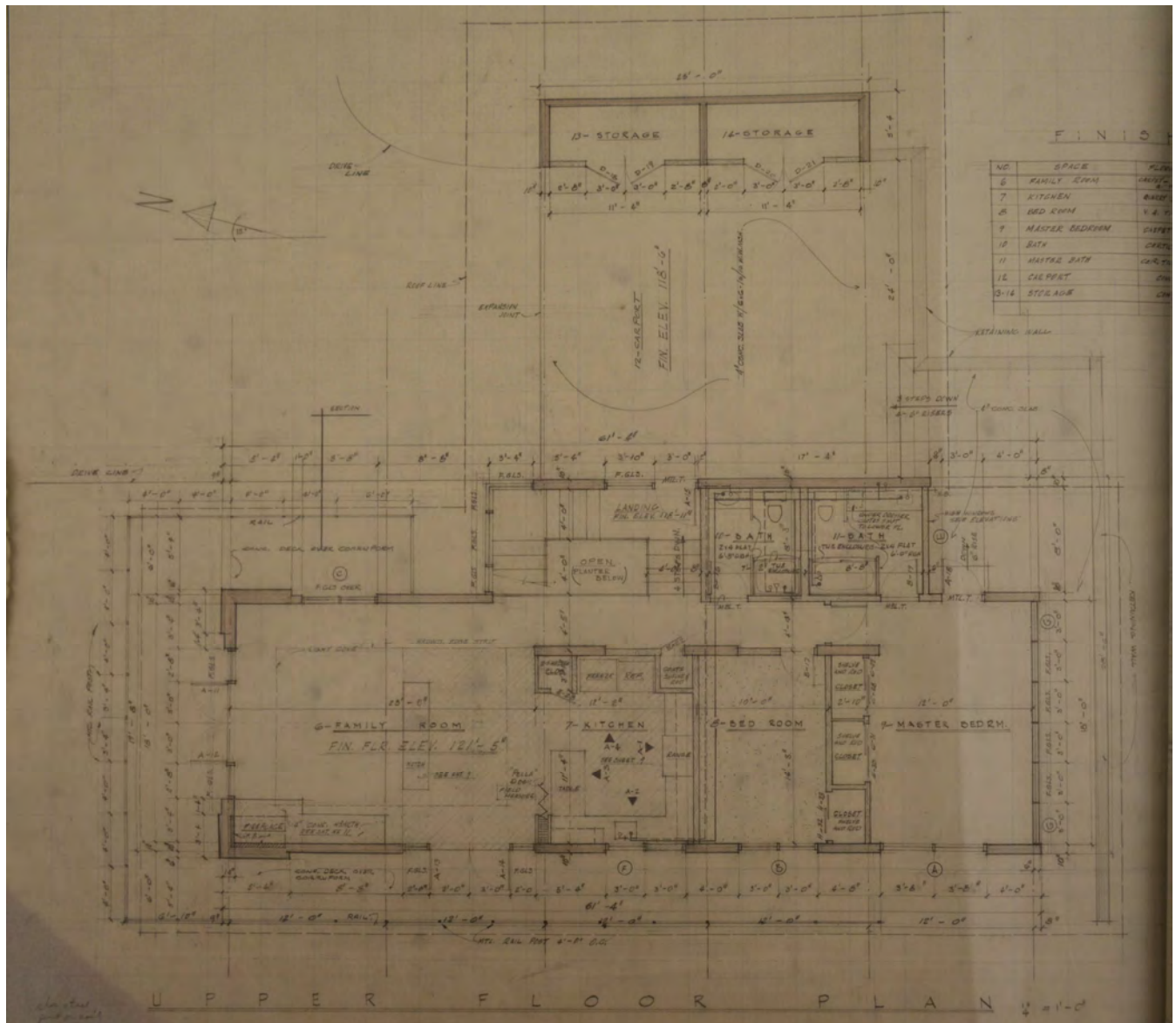


Figure 2: Upper Level Plan of the Vernon Fitzhugh House, Fayetteville, Washington County, Arkansas (From University of Arkansas Special Collections.)

Fitzhugh, Vernon, House
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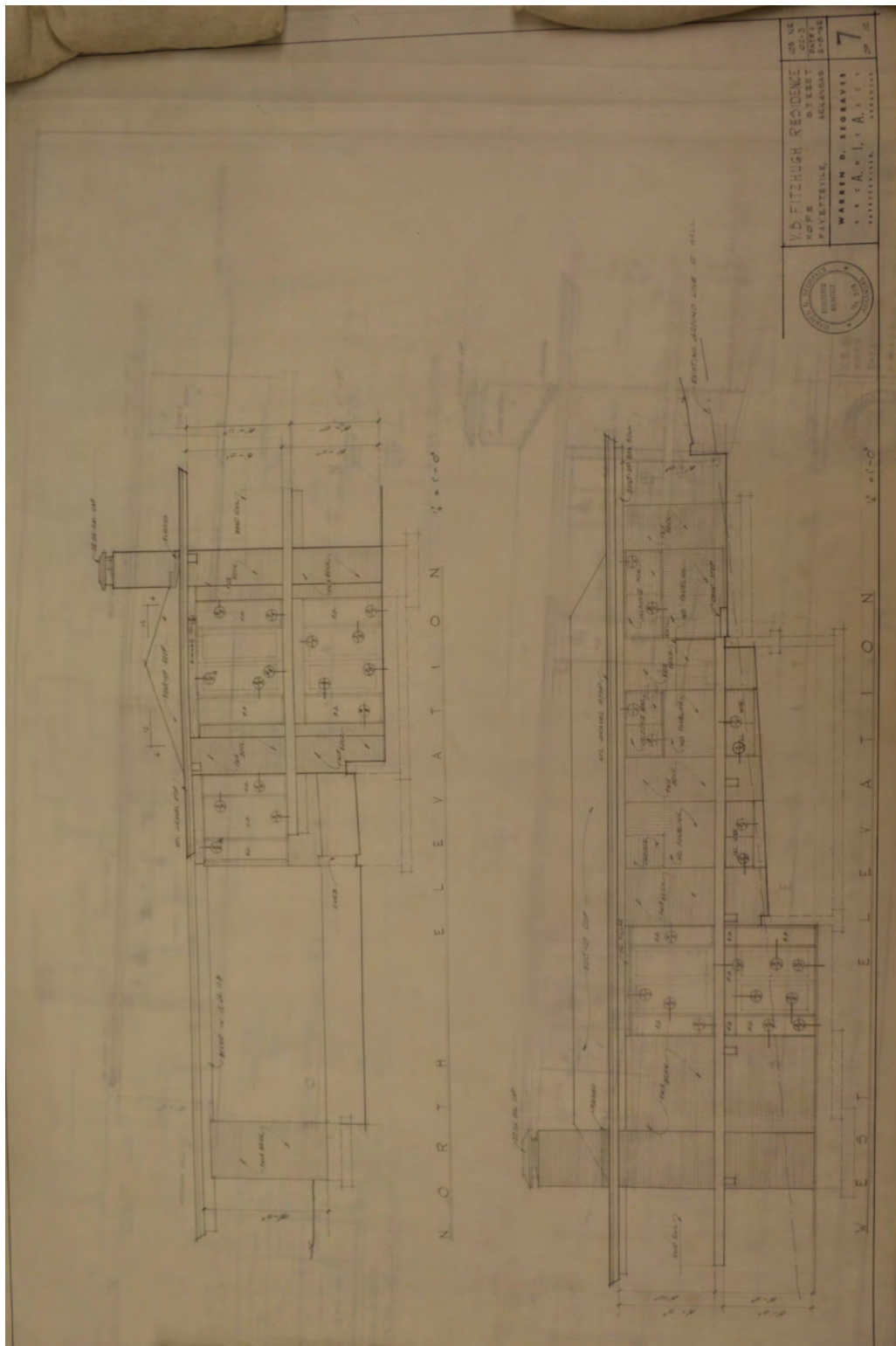


Figure 3: North and West Elevations of the Vernon Fitzhugh House, Fayetteville, Washington County, Arkansas (From University of Arkansas Special Collections.)

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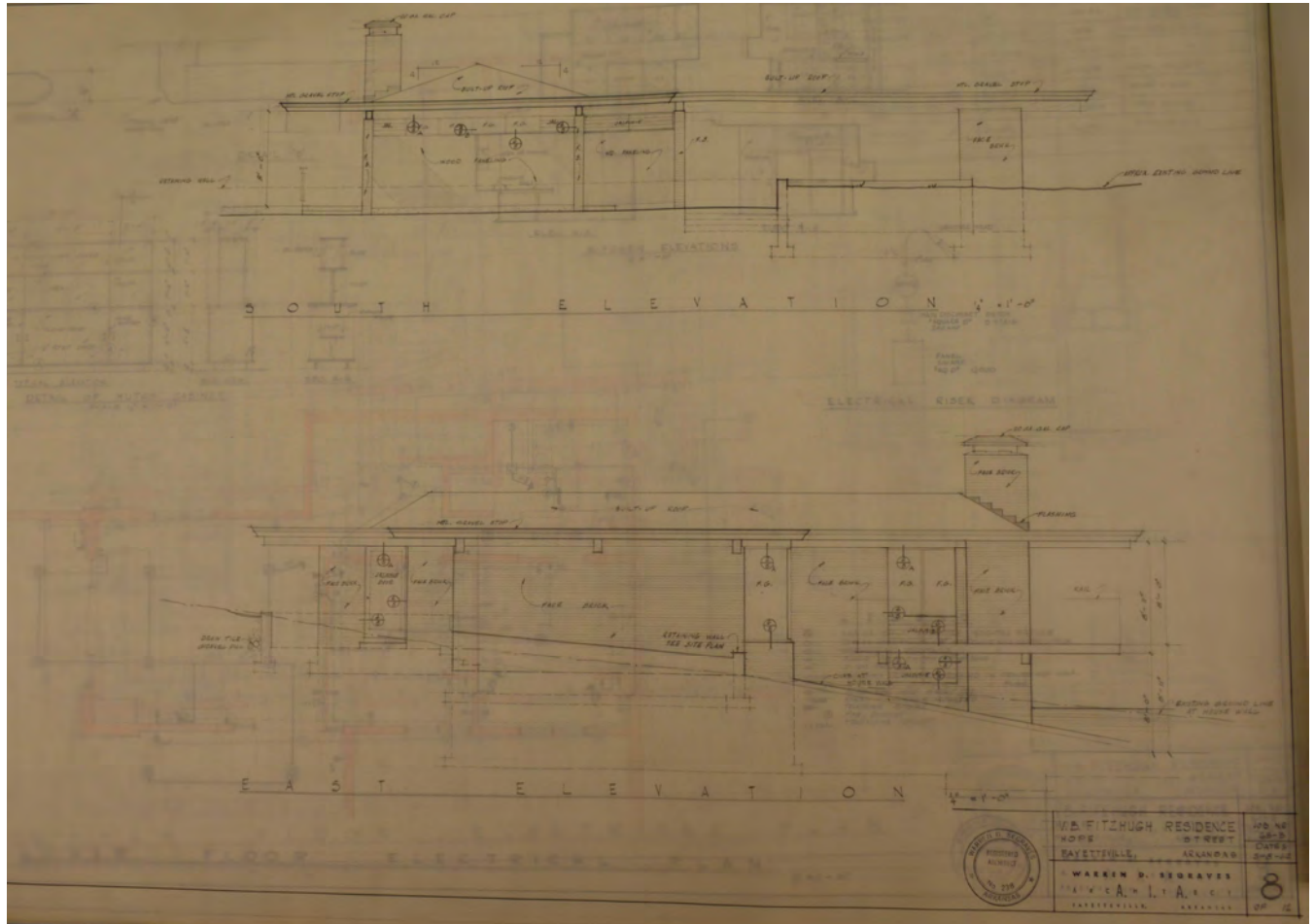


Figure 4: South and East Elevations of the Vernon Fitzhugh House, Fayetteville, Washington County, Arkansas (From University of Arkansas Special Collections.)

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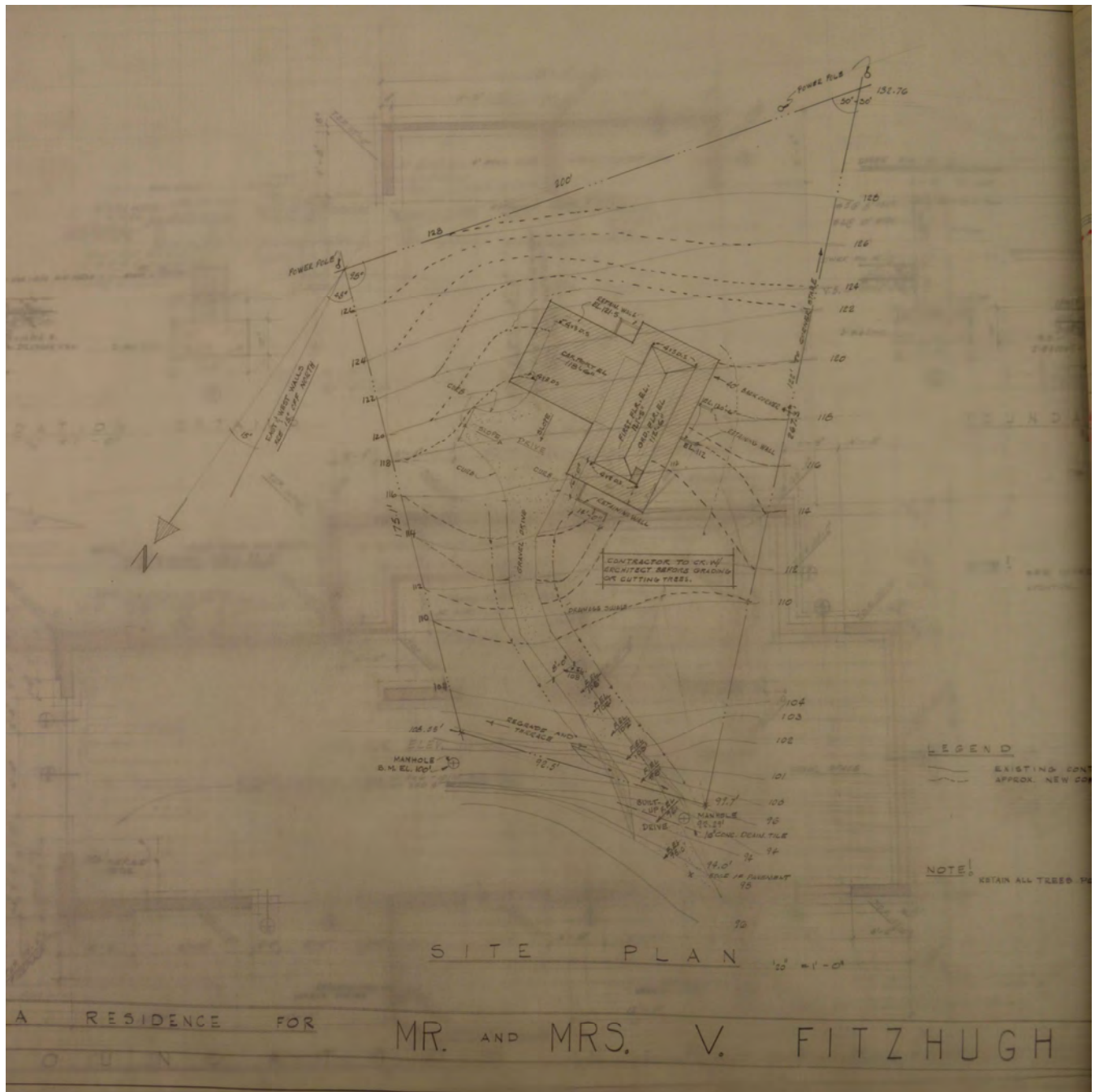


Figure 5: Site Plan of the Vernon Fitzhugh House, Fayetteville, Washington County, Arkansas (From University of Arkansas Special Collections.)

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

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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.



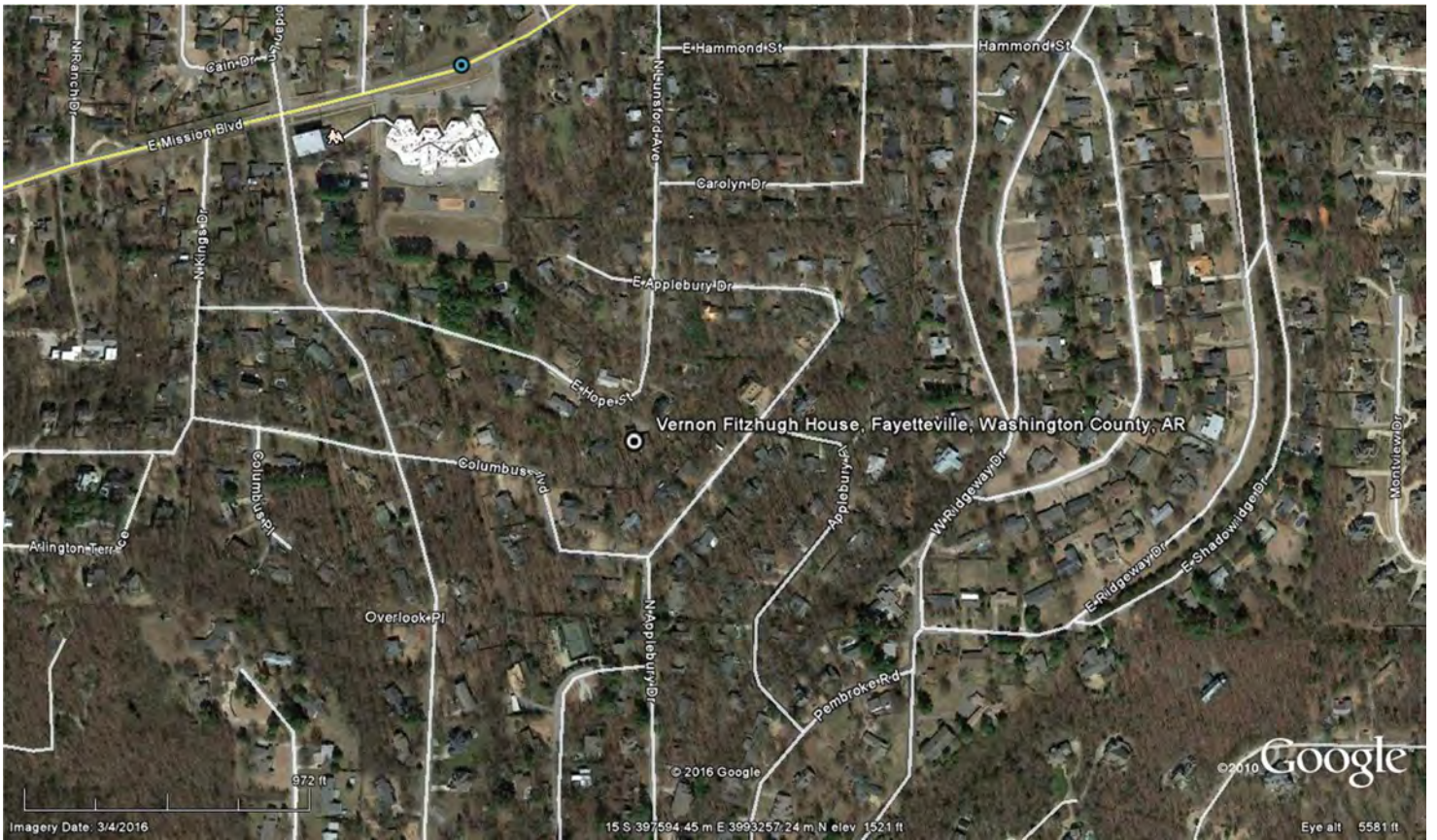
|-----226 feet-----|

Vernon Fitzhugh House
Fayetteville, Washington County, Arkansas

15 397510E 3993237N



North



|-----972 feet-----|

Vernon Fitzhugh House
Fayetteville, Washington County, Arkansas

15 397510E 3993237N



North





















UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action: Nomination

Property Name: Fitzhugh, Vernon, House

Multiple Name:

State & County: ARKANSAS, Washington

Date Received: 4/21/2017 Date of Pending List: Date of 16th Day: Date of 45th Day: 6/5/2017 Date of Weekly List:

Reference number: SG100001015

Nominator: State

Reason For Review:

Accept Return Reject 6/5/2017 Date

Abstract/Summary Very nice example of modernist house design utilizing site features and organic materials
Comments:

Recommendation/ Accept / C
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.



February 13, 2017

Ms. Frances McSwain
323 Center Street, Suite 1500
Little Rock, AR 72201

Re: Fitzhugh House nomination – Fayetteville, Washington County

Dear Ms. McSwain,

The City of Fayetteville, with consideration for the historical significance of the Fitzhugh House in Fayetteville, Washington County, wishes to express their enthusiastic and complete support for its nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.

As you no doubt know, the Fitzhugh House represents an architecturally and historically significant structure in Fayetteville, and its listing on the National Historic Registry will help serve to preserve the structure for future generations. Both the architect who conceived of the design and the family for which the house was built are prominent individuals in the community, and placement on the National Historic Registry will support local efforts to preserve the area's history.

Thank you for taking time to contact the City of Fayetteville, and please let me know if there is anything that the City of Fayetteville's Planning staff can do to assist this process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andrew Garner".

Andrew Garner
Planning Director
Historic District Commission Staff Member
agarner@fayetteville-ar.gov
479.575.8262



THE DEPARTMENT OF ARKANSAS
HERITAGE

Asa Hutchinson
Governor

Stacy Hurst
Director

Arkansas Arts Council

Arkansas Natural
Heritage Commission

Arkansas State Archives

Delta Cultural Center

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website:
www.arkansaspreservation.com

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April 5, 2017



J. Paul Loether, Deputy Keeper and Chief
National Register and National Historic Landmark Programs
National Register of Historic Places
1201 Eye St. NW, 8th Fl.
Washington D.C. 20005


RE: Vernon Fitzhugh House – Fayetteville, Washington 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 Vernon Fitzhugh 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