

HISTORIC RESOURCES OF DALLAS COUNTY
DALLAS COUNTY, ARKANSAS

ARKANSAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM

Survey Number DA-9

Owner Hubert and Ruby Barker

Property Name Fielder House

Address RFD 2

US 79B
Location Fordyce

Fordyce, AR

Significant Date/s c. 1875 and c. 1910

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

The Fielder House faces north on Highway 79B just inside the Fordyce city limits. The plan of this gable-roofed structure is that of a central hall house with a rear shed addition to the west and a gable roofed ell to the east. The front facade contains a central door flanked by two six-over-six double hung windows on each side. Shading this facade is a shed roofed porch supported by six square posts. This structure is the result, however, of three separate additions and transformations to an original 1875 log house set on wooden blocks. This log structure now comprises the west pen of the central hall section, the gable end of which contains the original brick chimney. In the 1880's a frame pen was added to the east, creating a dog-trot. A shed addition was built on the rear of the west pen and the dog-trot enclosed in the following decade. In about 1910 the rear ell was added, an attic room built and this entire structure covered with horizontal weatherboard creating the house seen today.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Fielder House, located in Fordyce, is the only dwelling remaining from the pre-railroad period or from before the founding of Fordyce, the current county seat. The house is also associated with early 20th century American literature. The house was built by the Fielder family in about 1875. It is the only documented structure in the county to be built in the decade of 1870. Reflecting traditional evolutionary patterns in Arkansas, the house, initially constructed as a long one-pen structure, later became a dog-trot. The Pollard family converted the structure into today's central hall house in about 1910. After this date, the house became associated with the successful early 20th century popular novelist, Harold Bell Wright. In the winter of 1915-1916, Wright visited his father who was then living in the house with his father's sister, Mrs. Pollard. Local interviews revealed that Wright wrote all or part of his widely acclaimed novel, Trail of the Lonesome Pine during this stay. This novel, later adapted for the screen, became the first outdoor technicolor feature film.

Acreage: less than 1

Quadrangle Name: Fordyce

Quadrangle Scale: 1:24000

UTM Reference: 15 552770/3741320

Verbal Boundary Description:

The nominated property, located within the W $\frac{1}{2}$ of the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of section 33, T10S R13W, is bounded on the north by Highway 79B and on the south, east and west by lines running parallel to and 100' from the south, east and west facades of the house.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received

9/14/83

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

Page 1 of 3

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

dnr-11

Name Dallas County Multiple Resource Area
State Arkansas

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

1. Amis House

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Melvin Byers 10/28/83

Attest

2. Atchley, Henry, House

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Melvin Byers 10/28/83

Attest

3. Brazeale Homestead

Substantive Review

Keeper

Boh Grosvenor 10/28/83

Attest

4. Brewster House

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Melvin Byers 10/28/83

Attest

5. Butler-Matthews Homestead

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Melvin Byers 10/28/83

Attest

6. Dallas County Courthouse

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Melvin Byers 3/27/84

Attest

7. Elliott House

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Melvin Byers 3/27/84

Attest

8. Fielder House

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Melvin Byers 10/28/83

Attest

9. First Presbyterian Church

Substantive Review

Keeper

Boh Grosvenor 10/28/83

Attest

10. First United Methodist Church

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Melvin Byers 10/28/83

Attest

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Fielder House (Dallas County MRA)
Dallas County
ARKANSAS

SEP 14 1983

Working No. _____

Fed. Reg. Date: 2-5-85

Date Due: 10/13/83 - 10/29/83

Action: ☒ ACCEPT 10/28/83

☐ RETURN

☐ REJECT

Federal Agency: _____

- ☐ resubmission
☐ nomination by person or local government
☐ owner objection
☐ appeal

Entered in the
National Register

Substantive Review: ☐ sample ☐ request ☐ appeal ☐ NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom./Criteria _____

Reviewer _____

Discipline _____

Date _____

_____ see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: _____ technical corrections cited below
_____ substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
	Public Acquisition	Accessible	

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☐ no

7. Description

Condition

- ☐ excellent
☐ good
☐ fair

- ☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

- ☐ unaltered
☐ altered

Check one

- ☐ original site
☐ moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- ☐ summary paragraph
☐ completeness
☐ clarity
☐ alterations/integrity
☐ dates
☐ boundary selection

8. Significance

Period Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (*in one paragraph*)

- ☐ summary paragraph
- ☐ completeness
- ☐ clarity
- ☐ applicable criteria
- ☐ justification of areas checked
- ☐ relating significance to the resource
- ☐ context
- ☐ relationship of integrity to significance
- ☐ justification of exception
- ☐ other

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

UTM References _____

Verbal boundary description and justification _____

11. Form Prepared By

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

_____ national _____ state _____ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title

date

13. Other

- ☐ Maps
- ☐ Photographs
- ☐ Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: _____



DA-9
Fielder House
Don Brown, photographer
June 14, 1982
Negative on file at the AHPP
View from the Northwest

Please refer to the map in the
Multiple Property Cover Sheet
for this property

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000025