

23-29-C260-61

United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*

Type all entries—complete applicable sections

For HCRS use only  
received  
date entered

H.U. HALTER  
HOUSE-  
LISTED:  
8/29/80

1. Name

historic Frank U. Halter

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 1355 College Avenue not for publication

city, town Conway vicinity of congressional district

state Arkansas code 05 county Faulkner code 045

3. Classification

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Joe & Florence Thessing

street & number 135 College Avenue

city, town Conway vicinity of state Arkansas

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Faulkner County Courthouse

street & number Locust St.

city, town Conway state Arkansas

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records

city, town state

## 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

Situated on a generous corner site composed of three lots (covering approximately 30,000 square feet) just south of the city's downtown, the F. U. house stands as one of the most outstanding early-twentieth-century residences in Conway. The two-and-one-half story woodframe house capped with a hip roof with cross hip and cross gables was built in 1905 by its original owner Frank U. Halter, a prominent Arkansas contractor. The building is faced with horizontal weatherboard painted white and raised slightly above grade on a brick foundation wall. The Halter House presents an example of Halter's adept interpretation of a transitional style of architecture, incorporating aspects of both the Queen Anne phase and the Colonial Revival, that emerged around the turn-of-the-century.

The principal (north) elevation of the Halter House is characterized by the visual rapport and rhythm established in the relationship between the stately massing of the house and its very decorative, sweeping porch. Though asymmetrical in plan, the principal elevation is quite formal with a prominent half-hexagon bay projecting from its northwest corner and a centrally situated entrance which is articulated with a one-story portico and second story balcony. Capped by one of the house's cross gables, the northwest bay is finely delineated with corner boards articulating the angles of the half-hexagon, cornice moulding, and Classically-derived surrounds framing the double-hung rectangular windows that appear in each side of the bay. The gable roof cantilevers over the corners of the bay and is enriched with decorative scrolls that fall below the gable edge, pendants, box cornice, cornice moulding, and a bargeboard composed of curvilinear elements. An attic window composed of a tall center pane flanked by a smaller pane at each side penetrates the gable end. The components of the window are framed with pilasters and are united by a prominent cornice-like hood mould. (This feature appears to be a rectilinear, somewhat stylized, version of the Palladian windows that often appear in Georgian Revival architecture.) Together with the steep hip roof which is quite evident from the principal elevation, the gable design contributes greatly to the Colonial Revival qualities of the building.

Offset to the east side of the principal facade, the Halter House's one-story front porch offers a harmonious balance to the otherwise vertically oriented elevation. The hip-roofed porch wraps around the front elevation to the east side of the building with two distinctive interruptions -- the gable-roofed portico that projects to articulate the principal entrance to the house and the circular gazebo-like pavilion that sweeps around the northeast corner of the house. The finely crafted woodwork that embellishes the porch captures the decorative spirit of the Queen Anne style as exhibited in its bracketed columns, turned spindles and box cornice, the turned balusters that form the porch railing, and the dentils that enrich the cornice of the cupola-like roof of the pavilion. In contrast, the pediment of the entry of the portico is unembellished and the hip-roofed second floor balcony is virtually devoid of decoration with plain frieze and simple columns.

The meticulous workmanship of the porch is reflected in the articulation of the principal entrance to the Halter House. Fitted with transom and sidelights, the doorway is framed

FHR-8-300A  
(11/78)

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HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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by fluted pilasters with smaller pilasters of the same design separating the front door from the sidelights. A band of egg-and-dart moulding appears over the paneled wood front door which has one rectangular light.

The side (east and west) elevations of the building relate closely to the esthetic established on the principal facade in both form and detail. Half-hexagon bays project from both the northeast and southwest corners of the building under cantilevering attics with cross gable roofs, echoing the design of the principal facade's chamfered bay. On the east elevation, the lines of the porch vary to reflect the profile of the projecting bay; there is no porch on the west side of the house. Detailing of the side elevations is identical to that of the principal elevation as reflected in the articulation of the gable ends with their tripartite windows, bargeboards, box cornices and pendants, the cornerboards, the cornice moulding, and the window disposition and delineation. A one-story kitchen wing which extends from the rear is visible from both sides of the house. Although it is unobtrusive behind the east elevation's porch, the west side of the kitchen porch has been enclosed and a gable-roofed dormer penetrates the side of the kitchen's hip roof.

The kitchen dominates the rear (south) facade. It is enclosed by a hip roof with a cumbersome cross gable. Though it is the least distinguished of the building's elevations, the back of the house is enriched by the continuation of the porch which wraps around from the east. Again, the porch's finely crafted bracketed columns, spindled frieze and turned balustrade serve to relieve the otherwise austere rear facade. The porch also offers access to a back door with transom. There is an attic window in the cross gable.

The fine millwork that distinguishes the exterior of the Halter House is reflected in the rich woodwork of the interior. Rounded pilasters articulate door surrounds and Classically-detailed hood moulds surmount their transoms. The central staircase features paneling, turned balusters, and columnar newel posts. Base mouldings are articulated. In plan, the original space allocation of the house with dwelling rooms surrounding a central stair hall has been retained.

## 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1905

Builder/Architect Frank U. Halter, Builder

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

As one of the principals of Halter Brothers, a Conway based construction and lumber company, Frank U. Halter emerges in the history of central Arkansas as one of the many local builders who were responsible for establishing the character of much of the state's built environment in the late-nineteenth century and early-twentieth century. Halter's contribution to Arkansas architectural history, as both designer and technician, is of transcendent importance by virtue of the diversity of types of projects the firm constructed, and the variety of styles and materials they worked in, and the high caliber of architects they collaborated with. During Halter Brothers' thirty years of construction practice (from 1905 until 1935) they were responsible for the construction of such major projects as the Classically-derived Logan County Courthouse at Paris, Arkansas (1908; listed on National Register: 1976); the Colonial Revival-inspired First Baptist Church at Conway, Arkansas (1910) with prominent Arkansas architect Charles Thompson; the Halter Commercial Building at Conway, Arkansas (1917), the Chicago-style structure made of reinforced concrete; and the first two buildings of the University of Central Arkansas at Conway, the Old Science Building (1907-08) and Doyne Hall (1910). The house Halter designed and built in 1905 for his family offers evidence of his expertise. One Conway's most outstanding early twentieth-century residences, this sensitively proportioned and finely detailed house reflects Halter's understanding of the transitional style of architecture that developed around the turn-of-the-century and his expertise as a craftsman of intricately designed woodwork. Its Colonial Revival character, as reflected in its hip roof, formal massing and front portico, is complemented by the delicate Queen Anne esthetic of the porch decoration, exhibited in the turned bracketed columns and spindled frieze. Still figuring prominently in Conway's residential streetscape, the Halter House is occupied by descendants of the Halter family.

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Interview with Mrs. Florence Thessing, April 15, 1980  
Interview with Mr. Victor Halter, April 18, 1980  
Robbin, Gail. "A History of the First Baptist Church", unpublished paper,  
March 29, 1962. The First Baptist Church, Conway, Arkansas



## 9. Major Bibliographical References

"Death Takes Conway Business Leader", Arkansas Gazette (Little Rock) March 7, 1943,  
Sec. 1, p.8 c.4.

"How College Came to Conway and Prospered", Arkansas Gazette (Little Rock) May 3, 1962,  
Sec. B. p.10.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle name Conway

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A 

Zone	Easting			Northing					

B 

Zone	Easting			Northing					

C 

Zone	Easting			Northing					

D 

Zone	Easting			Northing					

E 

Zone	Easting			Northing					

F 

Zone	Easting			Northing					

G 

Zone	Easting			Northing					

H 

Zone	Easting			Northing					

Verbal boundary description and justification

Block 5, Lot 12, 13, 14 Daviess and Garvin's Annex

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code

state	code	county	code

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Ethel Goodstein, Architectural Historian/Donald R. Brown, Historian

organization Arkansas Historic Preservation Program date June 10, 1980

street & number Suite 500, Continental Building telephone (501) 371-2763

city or town Little Rock state Arkansas

## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature \_\_\_\_\_

title \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

For HCERS use only  
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date \_\_\_\_\_

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

Chief of Registration





