

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

### 1. Name of Property

Historic name: Crow, Dr. Neil, Sr., House

Other names/site number: Site #SB1703

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: 19 Berry Hill Road

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Not For Publication:  Vicinity: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:

\_\_\_ A \_\_\_ B X C \_\_\_ D

	<u>7-13-18</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 ___ 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:) \_\_\_\_\_

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Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

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**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>	_____	buildings
_____	_____	sites
_____	_____	structures
_____	_____	objects
<u>1</u>	_____	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register \_\_\_\_\_

**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.)

OTHER:Mid-Century Modern

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

Principal exterior materials of the property: BRICK, 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.)

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#### Summary Paragraph

Located at 19 Berry Hill Road in the Berry Hill Subdivision of Fort Smith, the Dr. Neil Crow, Sr., House is a large one-story house designed in the Mid-Century Modern style by noted Arkansas architect John Williams. The house has a plan that is roughly cruciform, and encompasses just under 4,000 square feet. The house is located on a lot that is approximately 2.5 acres in size in a neighborhood of large homes on generous lots. The house rests on a continuous cast-concrete foundation and has brick walls, with vertical board siding in some of the gable ends. The house's large gable and gable-on-hip roof, with wide overhangs, is covered in asphalt shingles. The house's wood-frame windows are a mixture of stationary, casement, and slider windows.

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#### Narrative Description

Located at 19 Berry Hill Road in the Berry Hill Subdivision of Fort Smith, the Dr. Neil Crow, Sr., House is a large one-story house designed in the Mid-Century Modern style by noted Arkansas architect John Williams. The one-story house is roughly cruciform in plan, and encompasses just under 4,000 square feet of floor space. The house is located on a lot that is approximately 2.5 acres in size in a neighborhood of large homes on generous lots. The house rests on a continuous cast-concrete foundation and has brick walls, with vertical board siding in



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some of the gable ends. The house's large gable and gable-on-hip roof, with wide overhangs, is covered in asphalt shingles. The house's wood-frame windows are a mixture of stationary, casement, and slider windows.

The house has one floor of living space, although a basement that houses mechanical equipment is located under a part of the house. The plan of the house centers around the living room with its large fireplace that is located in the southeast arm of the cross. The northeast arm of the cross has the library with bathroom and master bedroom suite, while the northwest arm of the cross has the two secondary bedrooms and two bathrooms. The southwest arm of the cross, which is the largest, houses the kitchen, dining room, breakfast room, recreation room, and the carport.

### ***Front/Northwest Façade***

The south end of the front façade is dominated by the house's carport and storage room. The northwest façade of the storage room is devoid of fenestration. The carport (and recessed entry walk to its north) have seven rectangular brick columns that support the house's wide eaves. The carport has spaces for three cars. The floor of the carport is aggregate-heavy concrete, which matches the driveway, with brick inserts along each section of the carport.

To the north of the carport, the façade is fenestrated by two evenly-spaced pairs of sliding windows. One pair of windows provides light into a storage area off of the recreation room and the other provides light into the kitchen. The rest of that part of the façade is devoid of fenestration.

The northwest façade of the bedroom wing is divided into two sections. The northwest façade of the bedroom #2 is fenestrated by three stationary, plate-glass windows in the wall's gable end. The northwest façade of bedroom #1, which is recessed is devoid of fenestration.

The northernmost section of the northwest façade comprises the northwest façade of the master bedroom wing. In the center of the section, the façade is fenestrated by a row of four rectangular single-pane windows. The middle two windows are operable casement windows, while the outer two windows are stationary.

### ***Side/Northeast Façade***

The northeast façade of the recreation room wing of the house has an outdoor barbecue and fireplace while the northeast façade of the living room wing has tall narrow stationary single-pane windows near the east end of the façade.

The northeast end of the façade of the master bedroom is devoid of fenestration while the projecting master bathroom is also devoid of fenestration on its northeast side. The master bedroom closet area, on the other hand, which is recessed from the plane of the master bathroom, has a square single-pane casement window up against the master bathroom's northwest wall.

Beginning at the east end of the bedroom wing, there is a pair of stationary plate-glass windows that provide light into the foyer followed by a section of blank wall before a row of four rectangular single-pane windows. The middle two windows are operable casement windows,

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while the outer two windows are stationary. The row of windows provides light into bedroom #1. Proceeding further west along the façade, the façade recesses to form the northeast wall of bedroom #2. Bedroom #2 is fenestrated on the northeast façade by two sets of windows, a pair of single-pane rectangular windows at the east end and a single single-pane window at the west end.

### ***Rear/Southeast Façade***

The rear façade of the carport's storage area is devoid of fenestration and the rear of the carport is open with the exception of a pair of brick support columns. Proceeding north along the façade, the façade projects out for the recreation room wing. The southeast façade of the recreation room wing is fenestrated by three sets of windows. The middle set consists of a large plate-glass window in the center of the wall with a pentagonal transom above in the gable peak. Flanking the center set of windows on each side is a pair of rectangular casement windows with a plate-glass transom above that follows the gabled roofline. The large eaves of the recreation room are supported by four tapered beams, two on each roof slope.

To the north of the recreation room, the façade is recessed and is fenestrated by floor-to-ceiling windows or doors. Beginning at the south end of this part of the façade, it is fenestrated by a single plate-glass window, followed by a glass entrance door, which is followed by three stationary plate-glass windows. The three plate-glass windows are followed by a set of sliding-glass doors and then a single plate-glass window.

Continuing north along the façade, it projects out again for the living room, which projects further than the recreation room. The southeast façade of the living room is dominated by glass. Like the recreation room, the southeast façade of the living room wing is fenestrated by three sets of windows. The middle set consists of a large plate-glass window in the center of the wall with a pentagonal transom above in the gable peak. Flanking the center set of windows on each side is a pair of rectangular casement windows with a plate-glass transom above that follows the gabled roofline. The large operable casement windows in the living room also have a Wright-inspired window screen. The large eaves of the living room are supported by four tapered beams, two on each roof slope.

The northernmost part of the façade encompasses the master bedroom wing and is recessed significantly from the plane of the living room. At the south end of this part of the façade is a row of four single-pane windows that provide into the library. The middle two windows are operable casement windows while the outer two windows are stationary windows. To the right of the windows is a short section of wall and then an entrance into the master bedroom. To the right of the master bedroom's entrance is a row of five windows that provide light to the master bedroom. The center window is a large square plate-glass window flanked on each side by an operable rectangular single-pane casement window and a single-pane stationary window.

To the north of the master bedroom the façade recesses again for the master bathroom. At the south end of the master bathroom is a wood panel followed by a square single-pane casement window. The rest of the master bathroom façade is devoid of fenestration.

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### ***Side/Southwest Façade***

The southwest façade of the carport wing of the house has a blank wall without fenestration at the south end of the carport's storage area. To the left of the wall is the southwest side of the southernmost freestanding column.

Beginning at the east end of the southwest façade of the bedroom wing is the main entrance into the house. The entrance has a solid wood door to the left of a tall and narrow louvered shutter. Proceeding west along the façade is a row of four square single-pane windows that provide light into the two bathrooms in that part of the house. The two outer windows in the row are operable casement windows while the two middle windows are stationary windows. At the west end of the bedroom wing is a row of five rectangular single-pane windows. The five windows provide light to the westernmost bedroom. The two outer windows and the middle window are stationary while the other two are operable casement windows.

At the rear of the house, the southwest side of the recreation room wing is devoid of fenestration, although an entrance exists off of the carport near the west end of the façade. The southwest façade of the living room wing has a tall narrow stationary single-pane window near the east end of the façade. Slightly to its left is a pair of wood French doors with a single pane of glass followed immediately by another single-pane window.

### ***Interior***

The interior of the Dr. Neil Crow, Sr., House is designed for entertaining as well as privacy for family members. The large recreation room, kitchen, dining room, and living room are all in a row in one section of the house. The master bedroom is at the north end of the house and is separated from the public areas of the house by the library. The other bedrooms are located in a separate wing of the house to the west.

Most interior spaces of the house have original details and features from the time of the house's construction in the late 1960s. The living room and recreation room, for example, have the original vaulted ceilings with the beams visible. The recreation room also features the original indoor grille and fireplace. The living room also features the original brick flooring and fireplace, and the skylight, which is also in the foyer, is visible on the inside of the house. Original light fixtures are also found in parts of the house, including the breakfast room, living room, and recreation room, and they have designs inspired by Frank Lloyd Wright.

The interior of the house also features its original built-ins, which are found throughout the house. The breakfast room features an original built-in desk and the bedrooms also feature original built-in closets. The library also contains original built-in cabinets and an accordion screen that can be opened in order to connect the library to the living room.

### ***Integrity***

The Dr. Neil Crow, Sr., House has excellent integrity from the time that it was built in the late 1960s. Changes to the property, even on the interior, have been minimal – mainly cosmetic in nature – so that the property very highly reflects its original design. The largest changes to the property have been the installation of an asphalt shingle roof – the original plans indicate that it

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was cedar shingles – and the roofing over of the skylight in the foyer and living due to leakage. Even so, both skylights are visible on the interior of the house. The houses in the Berry Hill Subdivision all appear to date from roughly the same period as the Crow House. As a result, the setting around the Crow House still reflects a suburban residential setting, which was the original intent of the developers.

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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



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**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

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

**Period of Significance**

1967-1968  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

1967-1968  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

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

**Cultural Affiliation**

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

**Architect/Builder**

John Williams, Architect  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Dr. Neil Crow, Sr., House, located at 19 Berry Hill Road, 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. Designed and built in 1967-1968, and designed by the architect John Williams, who was the founding faculty member of the school of architecture at the University of Arkansas, the Dr. Neil Crow, Sr., House represented a departure from some of the other homes in its neighborhood. Referred to as the Contemporary style in McAlester's *A Field Guide to American Houses* the Dr. Neil Crow, Sr., 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 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

<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.



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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>

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>

<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.

<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.

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Throughout the twentieth century, Fort Smith continued to expand to the south and east and several neighborhoods were platted throughout the century. The Berry Hill Subdivision was one of the many subdivisions added to the city, and it was platted in June 1955 on land owned by A. Y. Berry, Jr., and his wife, Frances. The subdivision originally consisted of 36 lots, with 20 larger lots along Berry Hill Road and the remaining 16 lots, which were smaller in size, located to the east along Valley Road.<sup>7</sup>

By the early 1960s, Lot 19 in the Berry Hill Subdivision on the southeast side of Fort Smith was acquired by Dr. Neil and Mary Katherine Crow, and they set out to build their new home on the site.

Dr. Neil Edward Crow, Sr., was born on July 12, 1926, in Belton Texas, to Floyd Charlie Crow and Mary Virginia Martin. Crow's birth certificate indicates that his father was a chiropractor originally from Valley Springs, Arkansas, and that his mother was a housewife originally from Lufkin, Texas.<sup>8</sup>

Crow began his studies at Texas Christian University as part of the V-12 Navy College Training Program. The V-12 program was meant to supplement the number of commissioned officers in the Navy. Crow ultimately graduated with a degree from the University of Texas at Austin, completing his college studies in only three years.<sup>9</sup>

By the time that he was a senior at the University of Texas at Austin, Crow had moved to Hope, Arkansas, as it was listed as where he was from in his senior-year yearbook. Crow's father, F. C. Crow, by that time had become a lawyer in Hope, and would also serve as a State Senator from 1947-1954. At the University of Texas, Crow majored in Chemistry, was a member of Alpha Epsilon Delta, the honorary pre-medical fraternity, and participated in intramurals. Crow was also involved in NROTC and was a member of the Fourth Company, First Platoon.<sup>10</sup>

Once Crow finished medical school at the University of Arkansas, he went into general practice in Hope. He eventually returned to UAMS and completed a residency in radiology. After serving active duty stints in the Air Force in San Francisco, California, and San Antonio, Texas, Crow moved to Fort Smith in 1959 and began his private practice there.<sup>11</sup> A few years later, the Crows purchased Lot 19 of the Berry Hill Addition to the City of Fort Smith from David M. DeWitt and his wife.

When the Crows looked to build their new home at 19 Berry Hill Road, they hired architect John G. Williams to complete the task. Williams was born on April 30, 1915, in Van Buren, Crawford County, Arkansas, to Charles Bunyan Williams and Vera Jane Wallace Williams.

<sup>7</sup> Plat for the Berry Hill Subdivision. In the files of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program. 1955.

<sup>8</sup> Information on Dr. Neil Crow, Sr., from [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com).

<sup>9</sup> Crow, Dr. Neil, Jr. Telephone conversation with the author. 11 January 2018.

<sup>10</sup> Information on Dr. Neil Crow, Sr., from [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com), and Crow, Neil, Jr. Telephone conversation with the author. 11 January 2018.

<sup>11</sup> Information on Dr. Neil Crow, Sr., from [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com), Crow, Neil, Jr. Telephone conversation with the author. 11 January 2018, and Crow, Neil, Jr. E-mail to the author. 20 January 2018.



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Initially, Williams studied engineering at Arkansas Polytechnic College, which is now Arkansas Tech University, before studying for his bachelor's in architecture from Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical College (now Oklahoma State University). After getting his degree in 1940, he taught drawing and math at Arkansas Polytechnic College, and while there he met Faye Millard of Gravelly, whom he married on September 6, 1941.<sup>12</sup>

Williams left Russellville in 1942 to begin teaching at Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical College, but he left there to begin his long career at the University of Arkansas in 1946. At the University of Arkansas, Williams began to develop what would become the Department of Architecture. Interestingly, the program was established after the curriculum for the program was accidentally included in the University's 1946-1947 academic catalog. Williams would remain chair of the department for twenty years, and remained a part of the faculty until his retirement in 1985.<sup>13</sup>

Williams' influence on the department was immense. Throughout the 1950s and 1960s, Williams was able to help bring several notable architects and designers to the University of Arkansas campus, including Eero Saarinen, Charles Eames, and Frank Lloyd Wright. In addition, Williams' relationship with Arkansas native Edward Durell Stone, and Stone's role in designing buildings on the University campus at the time, allowed Stone to participate in student critiques, both formally and informally. Williams was also instrumental in the efforts to have the Department of Architecture to earn its full accreditation in 1960, and the development of the School of Architecture was the subject of Williams' book, *The Curious and the Beautiful*, which was published in 1984.<sup>14</sup>

Outside of his work at the University, Williams also maintained a private architecture practice. Williams designed several residences, including the Durst House (NR-listed May 28, 2015) and the Clack House (NR-listed March 2, 2006) both in Fayetteville. Also among his residential works was the Dr. Neil Crow House in Fort Smith.<sup>15</sup>

Design of the Crow House was underway by December 1967, and continued throughout most of 1968, according to the plans for the house. Construction of the house also occurred during 1968. Interestingly, many of the features that appear in the design of the Crow House would also appear in the design of Williams' own house, which was built at 140 North Sang in Fayetteville shortly after the completion of the Crow House. The shape of the house, the fact that the house was nestled into a hillside, the use of a central chimney with skylights, and the projecting living room with floor-to-ceiling windows, are all features that later appeared in the design for

<sup>12</sup> Wallack, Catherine. "John Gilbert Williams." *The Encyclopedia of Arkansas History and Culture*. Found at: <http://www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net/encyclopedia/entry-detail.aspx?entryID=7598>.

<sup>13</sup> Wallack, Catherine. "John Gilbert Williams." *The Encyclopedia of Arkansas History and Culture*. Found at: <http://www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net/encyclopedia/entry-detail.aspx?entryID=7598>.

<sup>14</sup> Wallack, Catherine. "John Gilbert Williams." *The Encyclopedia of Arkansas History and Culture*. Found at: <http://www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net/encyclopedia/entry-detail.aspx?entryID=7598>.

<sup>15</sup> Wallack, Catherine. "John Gilbert Williams." *The Encyclopedia of Arkansas History and Culture*. Found at: <http://www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net/encyclopedia/entry-detail.aspx?entryID=7598>.

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Williams' house. As a result, it must have been a design that Williams was fond of, or a way to work out some of the design ideas for his own house before he fully committed to the design.

Dr. Neil Crow, Sr., retired from the medical practice in the early 1990s, and he and Mary continued to live in the house until their deaths on June 8, 1995, and November 11, 1996, respectively. The house remained in the Crow family until it was purchased by the current owner on April 20, 1998. Today, the Dr. Neil Crow, Sr., House remains an excellent residential design of the significant Arkansas architect John Williams, and one of the most notable of his designs outside of northwest Arkansas.

### SIGNIFICANCE OF THE PROPERTY

The design of the Dr. Neil Crow, Sr., 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>16</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 pursuits is recognized along with that of the parents *not* to hear Huckleberry Hound's televised antics."<sup>17</sup>

The Dr. Neil Crow, Sr., 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 Dr. Neil Crow, Sr., 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>18</sup>

<sup>16</sup> Von Eckardt, Wolf. *Mid-Century Architecture in America*. Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins Press, 1961, p. 21.

<sup>17</sup> Von Eckardt, Wolf. *Mid-Century Architecture in America*. Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins Press, 1961, p. 22.

<sup>18</sup> McAlester, Virginia & Lee. *A Field Guide to American Houses*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, Inc., 1984, p. 482.



Crow, Dr. Neil, Sr., House

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The design of the Dr. Neil Crow, Sr., 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 Crow House, with its large windows along the rear façade, 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 Dr. Neil Crow, Sr., House is an excellent example of the Mid-Century Modern style designed by the Arkansas architect John Williams, 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.)

Crow, Neil, Jr. E-mail to the author. 20 January 2018

Crow, Dr. Neil, Jr. Telephone conversation with the author. 11 January 2018.

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

Information on Dr. Neil Crow, Sr., from [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com).

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

Plat for the Berry Hill Subdivision. In the files of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program. 1955.

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.

Wallack, Catherine. "John Gilbert Williams." *The Encyclopedia of Arkansas History and Culture.* Found at: <http://www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net/encyclopedia/entry-detail.aspx?entryID=7598>.

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

Williams, John. *The Curious and the Beautiful.* Fayetteville: University of Arkansas Press, 1984.

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Williams, John. Plans for the Dr. Neil Crow Residence. 1967-1968. In the possession of Dr. Gwen Ray, current owner of the property.

**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):** SB1703

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**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** Approximately 2.5 acres.

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

**Latitude/Longitude Coordinates**

Datum if other than WGS84: \_\_\_\_\_

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- |              |            |
|--------------|------------|
| 1. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 2. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 3. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 4. Latitude: | Longitude: |

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**Or**  
**UTM References**

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or  NAD 1983

- |             |                 |                   |
|-------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1. Zone: 15 | Easting: 374226 | Northing: 3913614 |
| 2. Zone:    | Easting:        | Northing:         |
| 3. Zone:    | Easting:        | Northing:         |
| 4. Zone:    | Easting :       | Northing:         |

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

Lot 19 of the Berry Hill Subdivision of the City of Fort Smith – Parcel #10503-0019-00000-00.

**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: ralph.wilcox@arkansas.gov  
telephone: (501) 324-9787  
date: January 22, 2018

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**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:



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- **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.)

### 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: Dr. Neil Crow, Sr., House

City or Vicinity: Fort Smith

County: Sebastian County

State: Arkansas

Photographer: Mason Toms

Date Photographed: November 17, 2017

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

1 of 26 . View of the northwest and southwest façades, looking northeast.

2 of 26 . View of the southwest façade, looking northeast.

3 of 26 . View of the southwest façade and carport, looking north.

4 of 26 . View of the southeast façade, looking northwest.

5 of 26 . View of the southeast façade, looking west.

6 of 26 . View of the southeast façade, looking southwest.

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- 7 of 26 . View of the northeast façade, looking southwest.
- 8 of 26 . View of the northeast and northwest façades, looking south.
- 9 of 26 . View of the northeast and northwest façades, looking southeast.
- 10 of 26 . View of the northeast and northwest façades, looking southeast.
- 11 of 26 . View of the southwest façade, looking northeast.
- 12 of 26 . View of the northwest and southwest façades, looking northeast.
- 13 of 26 . Main entrance of the house from the entry, looking southwest.
- 14 of 26 . View of the entry from the main entrance, looking northeast. The covered over skylight is visible at the top of the photograph.
- 15 of 26 . Detail view of the back of the fireplace and the skylight in the entry, looking east.
- 16 of 26 . View of the fireplace in the living room, looking northwest. The covered over skylight is visible at the top of the photograph.
- 17 of 26 . View of the living room, looking east.
- 18 of 26 . View of the recreation room, looking northwest.
- 19 of 26 . View of the recreation room, looking east.
- 20 of 26 . View of the fireplace and indoor grille in the recreation room, looking northeast.
- 21 of 26 . View of the kitchen, looking southwest.
- 22 of 26 . View of the built-in desk in the breakfast room, looking south.
- 23 of 26 . View of the breakfast room light fixture, looking south.
- 24 of 26 . View of the folding accordion screen between the library and living room, looking south from the library into the living room.
- 25 of 26 . View of the master bedroom, looking northeast.
- 26 of 26 . View of the built-in closets, looking north from the master bedroom to the master bathroom.

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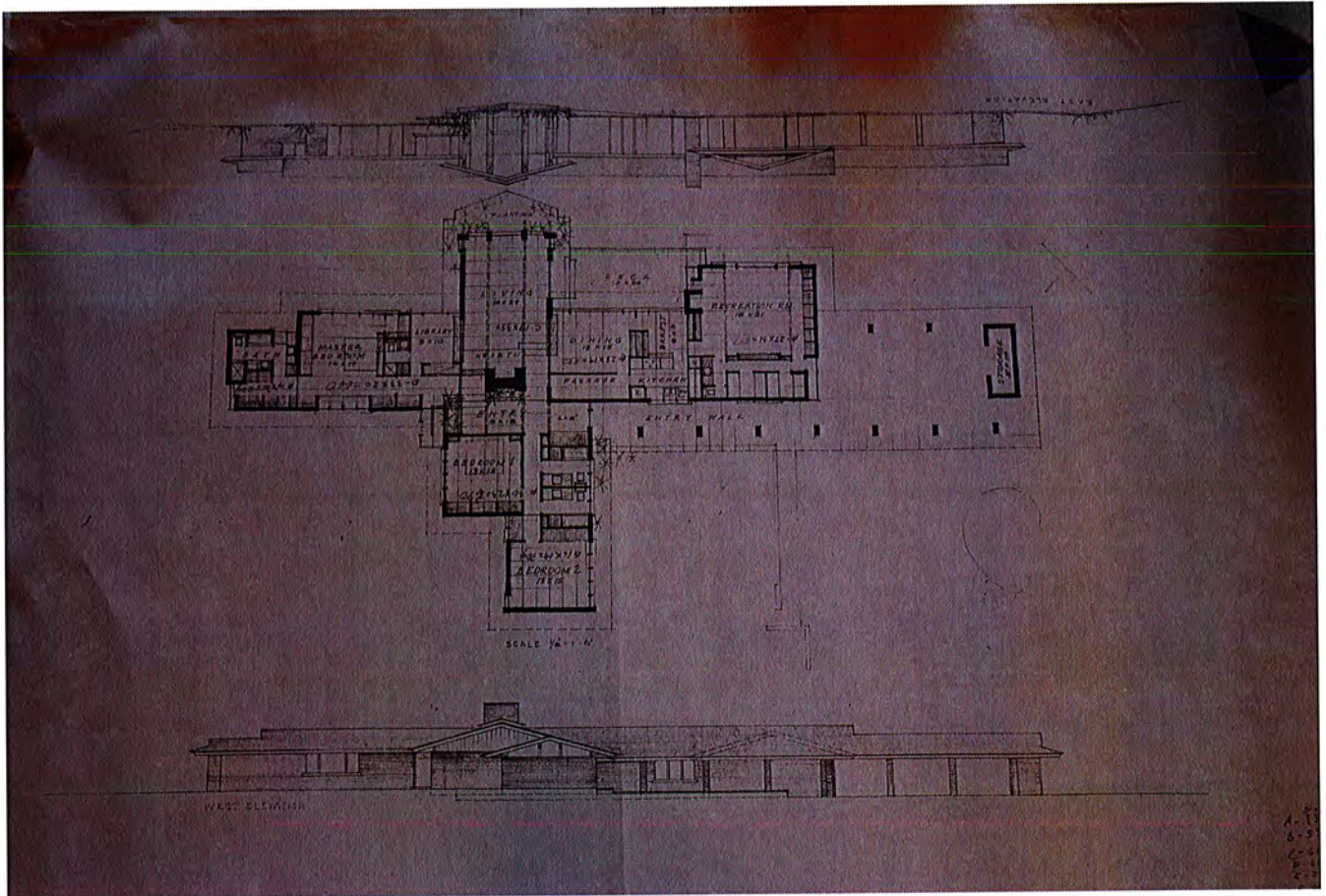


Figure 1: Floor plan and front and rear elevations of the Dr. Neil Crow, Sr., House. In the possession of the current owner.



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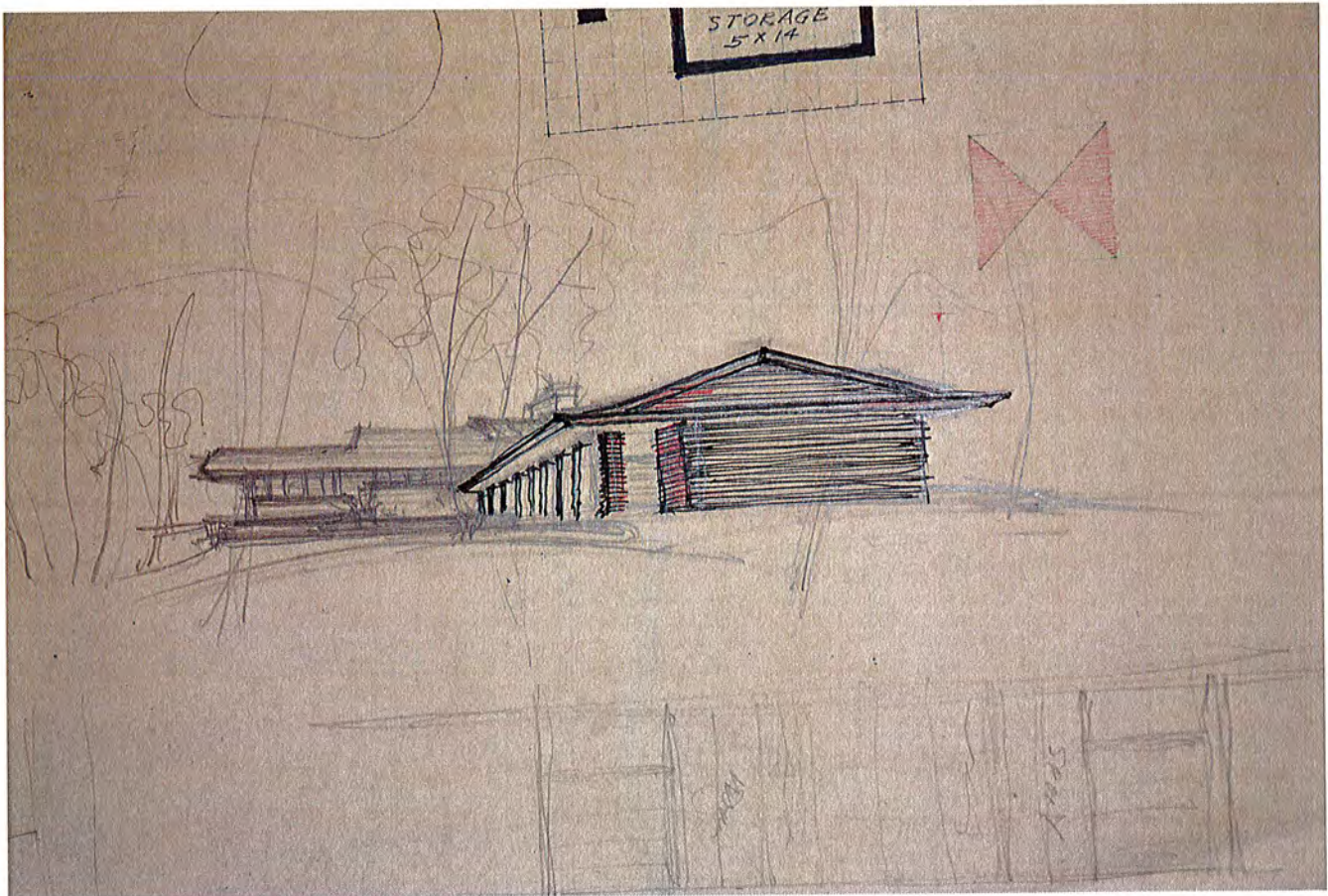


Figure 2: Draft perspective sketch of the Dr. Neil Crow, Sr., House, showing the house from the southwest. In the possession of the current owner.



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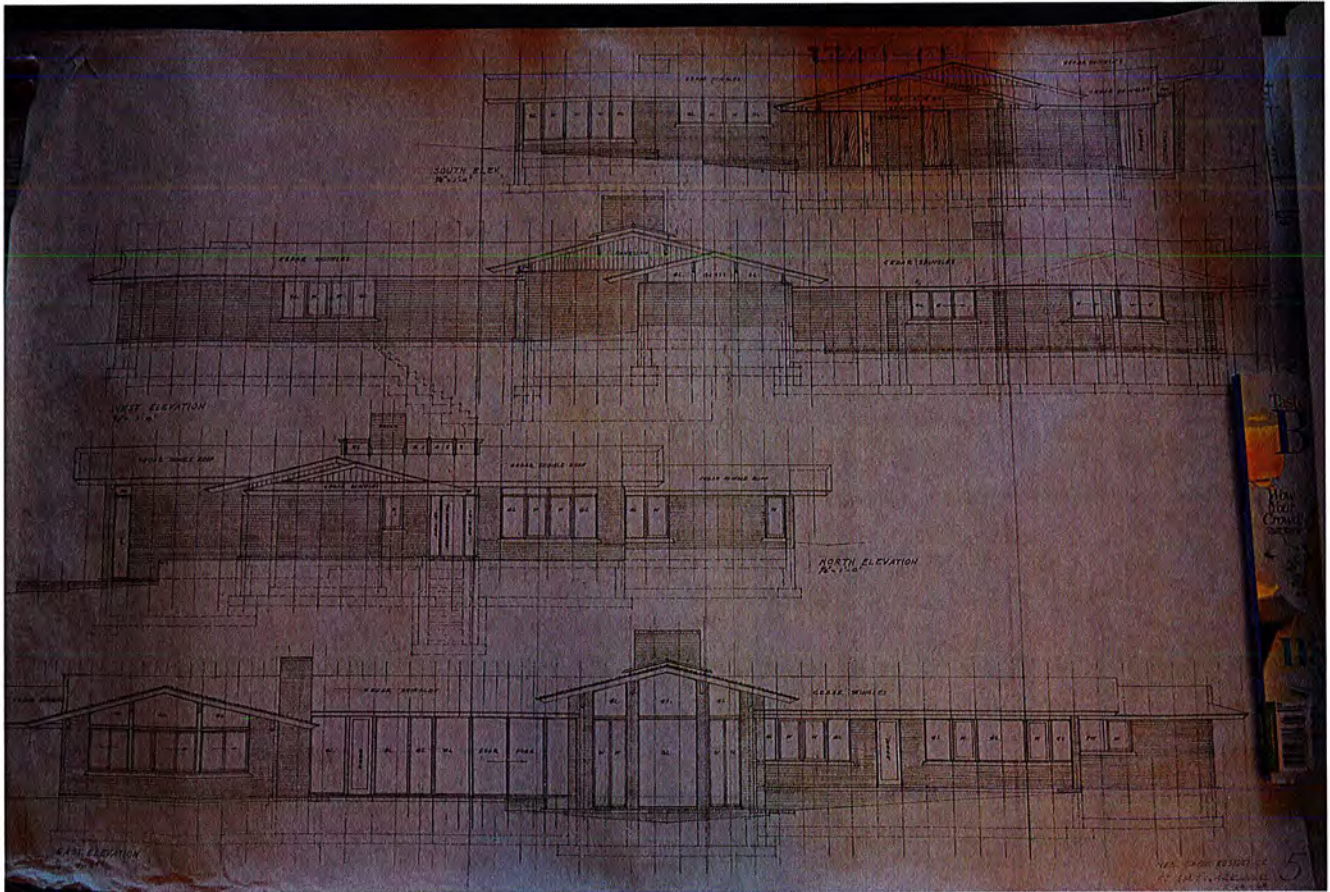


Figure 3: Elevation drawings of the Dr. Neil Crow, Sr., House. In the possession of the current owner.

**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.





|-----202 feet-----|

Dr. Neil Crow, Sr., House  
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15 374226E 3913614N



North





|-----694 feet-----|

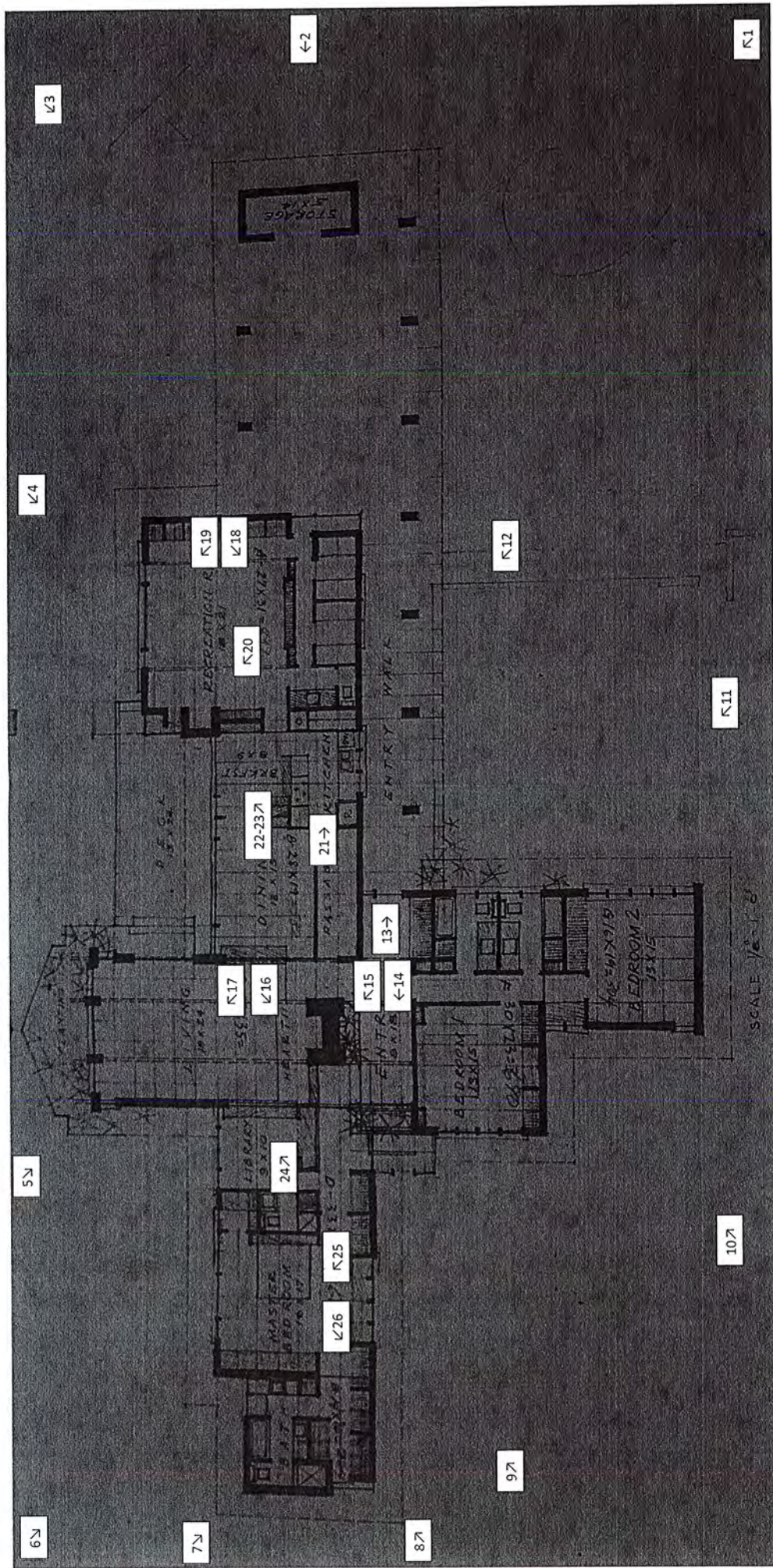
Dr. Neil Crow, Sr., House  
Fort Smith, Sebastian County, Arkansas

15 374226E 3913614N



North





Dr. Neil Crow House – Photo Location Map  
 Fort Smith, Sebastian County, Arkansas  
 1↑ = Photo Number and Direction



























































