

9-1-83

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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

received

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Henry Crawford McKinney House

and or common McKinney House

2. Location

street & number 510 East Faulkner N/A not for publication

city, town El Dorado N/A vicinity of CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT Third

state Arkansas code 05 county Union code 139

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<u>N/A</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Mr. and Mrs. J. A. O'Conner Jr.

street & number 510 East Faulkner

city, town El Dorado N/A vicinity of state Arkansas

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Union County Courthouse

street & number Union Square

city, town El Dorado state Arkansas

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title N/A has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no N/A

date  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records

city, town state

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved    date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

### SUMMARY

The Henry Crawford McKinney House, built in 1925, is an elegant residence situated among formal gardens in El Dorado. Located on Faulkner Street near the city's downtown, this structure's design eloquently displays the talents of its architect, Charles L. Thompson and its decorator, Paul M. Heerwagen. Reflecting the wealth of the El Dorado community following the oil boom of 1921, the McKinney House is beautifully detailed and furnished:

### ELABORATION

Built in 1925, the McKinney House was erected on the site of the family's previous residence, which had been moved across the street. A fish pond, tennis courts, swimming pool and drive were completed prior to construction of the house, following the comprehensive property plan designed by the Chicago Landscape Company. The landscape plan included a curved front drive, the arch of which was planted with crepe myrtles, hollies and hedges. Constructed of red brick and stucco with stone detailing, the two-and-a-half story McKinney House has a rectangular plan, an English basement, and overlapping tile-covered gable roofs. The design of the house demonstrates several stylistic influences in its eclectic combination of features. Dominating the front facade is a Classical pedimented portico equaling the height of the building's first two stories. Supported by four stone columns with modified Corinthian capitals, the portico has a plain entablature and dentilled cornices that join the cornice of the house. A round window divided horizontally and vertically by four mullions is the only detailing of the tympanum. Two stone pilasters correspond with the two end columns. The entrance to the house has three stone steps, flanked by curved iron railings. Stone mouldings, a pair of slender columns and a console-supported cornice surround the doorway. The placement of double-hung and casement windows found on the front facade is irregular. Particularly striking is the large arched window with iron railing to the left of the entrance that lights the interior stair. Also of interest is the first floor arcaded loggia at the west corner. On either side of the portico is a gable-roofed dormer with an arched double-hung window. Unlike the front and rear facades, both end elevations are symmetrical. The east elevation has a brick first floor, with stucco above. Stairs lead up to a centered entrance of double doors with an arched surround of decorative brickwork. On either side of the entrance are two basement windows, above which are two double-hung windows resting on wood panels beneath which are stone sills. The second floor has three pairs of multi-paned casement windows with transoms. A small arched window penetrates the gable. Because a two-and-a-half story cross gable projection extends from the rear at the west corner, the west elevation is longer than the east. The west elevation consists of a symmetrical arrangement of four pair of casement windows, an arched loggia doorway, four double-hung windows, a small arched attic window two stone panels with garland swags in relief and two recessed patterned brick arches. The rear elevation is a complicated arrangement of various window types and configurations, two chimnies, two cross gable projections of differing lengths of extension joined by a two story flat-roofed projection to which is attached a one story solarium.

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Continuation sheet

Item number 7

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The interior of the house is an outstanding example of the collaboration of Thompson and Heerwagen. Beautifully detailed throughout, the rooms were decorated with furniture and rugs from Marshall Fields in Chicago, much of which still graces the McKinney residence. Located inside the front entrance is a small foyer with a cloak room and marble stairs leading to the basement. A crystal light fixture, highlighted by the gilded plaster medallion designed by Heerwagen from which it hangs, is original, as are most of the light fixtures throughout the house. The foyer leads to a central hall that contains a curving staircase with iron balusters and a walnut railing. French doors lead from the hall to the living room, music room and library. The hall is illuminated by a crystal chandelier and a pair of matching wall sconces. To the west of the hall is the library, Heerwagen's most problematic room. Returning from Fayetteville with a landscape painting he had completed of the view from Mount Sequoia, he found the walnut book cases had been built higher than planned. This miscalculation caused him to have to trim several inches from his work. This painting still circles all four walls of the room. Access to the large formal dining room is gained from the library. Original tapestries and Heerwagen-designed turquoise plaster ceilings with gilded floral patterns embellish both the dining room and the adjoining breakfast room. The dining room has an elaborate crystal prism chandelier and four matching sconces. A fireplace with a walnut mantel is located on the north wall of the breakfast room and is flanked by sconces with porcelain flowers that match a hanging fixture consisting of a bristol vase filled with flowers of chain. A large butlers pantry and a kitchen with floor to ceiling cabinets, a pantry and silver room are at the rear of the house. A music room with fabric covered walls, decorative plaster ceilings and patterned hardwood floors is located off the hall at the front of the house. Arched windows are dressed with draperies patterned upon Heerwagen's specifications. A large living room running the entire depth of the house flanks the hall on the east. It also has a plaster ceiling, this time in a geometrical pattern. The largest chandelier in the house hangs in this room. A fireplace on the east wall, with French doors on either side leading to the solarium, is topped by a walnut mantel. The upstairs hall is highlighted by columns supporting rounded arches. In the ceiling of this hall is an open space covered by an ornate grate that was originally intended to accommodate a pipe organ. There are five bedrooms and four bathrooms. All bedrooms feature distinctive decorative plaster mouldings. A sitting room with floral plaster detailing is located off the hall. The basement floor is divided into a sitting room, ballroom, courting room, work room, laundry room, boiler room and two large storage areas.

The gardens on the west elevation were designed as a southern garden, while the gardens on the east elevation were designed after an English pattern and feature an arbor of wisteria and fish pond. At the rear of the house is the swimming pool, tennis court, carriage house with quarters and a small English garden. Stone was brought from Batesville for the driveway, walk and some of the lawn benches and tables.

# 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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics-government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1925 Builder/Architect Charles L. Thompson

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

The Henry Crawford McKinney, Sr., home is a prime example of the outstanding design work executed by Charles L. Thompson, a noted Arkansas architect. Thompson designed many of the most recognized buildings in the state, including a wide variety of outstanding residences for noted Arkansans. He was the founder of an architectural firm which is still operating today. His collaboration with Paul M. Heerwagen of Fayetteville, a decorating contractor of regional importance, produced in the McKinney House an extraordinary record of the lifestyle and tastes of a prominent Arkansas family in the 1920's. Heerwagen's work included some of the state's most highly visible public building (hotels as well as the Arkansas State Capitol) as well as private residences. Also included in this collaboration was the Chicago Landscape Company which designed a landscape plan which features formal English gardens. The design includes a fish pond, swimming pool and tennis court. The stone used in the walks, driveway, and some lawn benches and tables was brought from Batesville in the northern part of the state. The house was built for Henry Crawford McKinney, Sr., in 1925, following the oil boom of 1921. El Dorado grew tremendously during this period and many of its homes reflect the large amounts of money which were to be made by investing in oil or its related land transactions. McKinney, who was born in 1872 in Lapile, Arkansas, was a prominent landowner, farmer and merchant. He was associated with J. F. Sample Company, a mercantile establishment which is operated today as M. M. Cohn, a specialty store. McKinney was also a banker, serving as president of the Greater First National Bank which was formed in 1921, following the merger of the First National Bank and Citizens National Bank. It was H. C. McKinney, Sr., along with the other directors of the bank who led it through the Great Depression without closing. McKinney was also active in the land business having formed the McKinney Land Corporation and McKinney Plantation. This imposing house represents not only the achievements of its builder, Henry Crawford McKinney, Sr., but the outstanding design talents of Charles L. Thompson and Paul M. Heerwagen.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Personal recollections of Mrs. Jack O'Conner.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property app. 3.5

Quadrangle name El Dorado West, Ark.

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UTM References

A 

1	5	5	3	1	0	8	0	3	6	7	5	8	8	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

B 

1	5	5	3	1	8	9	0	3	6	7	5	0	0	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

C 

1	5	5	3	1	8	9	0	3	6	7	4	9	3	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

D 

1	5	5	3	1	7	2	0	3	6	7	4	9	3	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

E 

1	5	5	3	1	7	2	0	3	6	7	5	0	0	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

F 

Zone	Easting				Northing									

G 

Zone	Easting				Northing									

H 

Zone	Easting				Northing									

### Verbal boundary description and justification

Lot #1 of Colonial Court subdivision of the city of El Dorado, Union County.

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

state N/A code county code

state code county code

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Mrs. J. A. O'Conner and William L. Cook II, Edited by staff of AHPP

organization South Arkansas Historical Foundation date July 29, 1983

street & number 303 First National Plaza telephone 863-7047

city or town El Dorado 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 National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

*William Stiles*

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date 7-29-83

For NPS 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



(EL DORADO EAST)  
7450 II NE  
T 18 S

HILLSBORO 8 MI.  
CROSSETT 39 MI.

OLD UNION 51 MI.  
WARREN 45 MI.

18 S

17 S

1230

3674

15

















