

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 *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an 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. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Blankinship Motor Company Building

other names/site number BR0030

2. Location

street & number 120 East Cypress Street

☐ not for publication

city or town Warren

☐ vicinity

state Arkansas code AR county Bradley code 011 zip code 71671

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☒ 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 for in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐
does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant

☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See Continuation sheet for additional
comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

☒ entered in the National Register.

☐ See continuation sheet

☐ determined eligible for the
National Register.

☐ See continuation sheet

☐ determined not eligible for the
National Register.

☐ removed from the National
Register.

☐ other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Entered in the
National Register

11.2.01

Blankinship Motor Company Building

Name of Property

Bradley County, AR

County and State

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

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in count.)

Contributing

Noncontributing

1

0

buildings

sites

structures

objects

1

0

Total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Arkansas Highway and Transportation Era Architecture, 1910-1965

**Number of Contributing resources previously listed
in the National Register**

N/A

6. Function or Use**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE/TRADE: specialty store

TRANSPORTATION: road related

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE/TRADE: specialty store

TRANSPORTATION: road related

7. Description**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

MODERN MOVEMENT: Moderne

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE

walls BRICK

roof METAL

other CONCRETE

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

Summary

Located at 120 East Cypress Street in Warren on the corner of the Bradley County Courthouse Square, the Blankinship Motor Company Building was constructed in 1940 with a later rear side addition. Designed by Little Rock architect H. Ray Burks, in a simplified Art Moderne-style, the brick commercial building is relatively small compared to many of Burks other commissions. The building rests on a continuous concrete foundation, and a flat and barrel vaulted roof system behind parapets protects it from the elements. Ford and Mercury automobiles were sold from 1940 until 1965 when the sales section closed. Auto parts and engine servicing were available until 1982. The Blankinship Motor Company Building is in good condition.

Elaboration

Sited on the southwest corner of Cypress and Myrtle Streets within sight of the Bradley County Courthouse, the Blankinship Motor Company Building is representative of multi-use automobile sales and service buildings in the 1940s. The large set back of the building once allowed for gasoline pumps facing Cypress Street. These pumps were removed circa 1970. A "modernistic" two-story buff brick showroom contains the majority of the decorative elements. Located to the south of the showroom is a more austere auto repair shop. Constructed of red brick and reinforced by brick pilasters, this section is topped by a barrel vaulted roof. In the 1960s, a flat roof extension was added to the west elevation of the auto repair shop.

North Elevation--Showroom

The north facing two-story showroom is topped by a concrete coping and has a rectangular floor plan. The storefront is punctured by a double-leaf entry flanked by a series of nearly symmetrical full-length single-paned stationary windows and single leaf doors. The second story contains symmetrically placed groups of four-beside-four metal casement windows, sandwiched between horizontal bands of concrete. Between the storefront and the second story, the building's horizontal appearance is further enhanced by a full-length cantilevered canopy. The canopy is paneled by squares of pressed-tin and illuminated by recessed electrical lights underneath. While in use as an auto sale building from 1940 until 1965, a large neon sign announced "Ford Motor Co." on the facade. The interior of what was once the showroom has been broken up into two separate stores. The northwest corner of the showroom is currently used for storage and the northeast corner has functioned as a pawnshop since 1990. The storage area in the upper story was converted into an apartment, but is currently vacant and used for storage.

East Elevation—Repair shop

The east elevation of the auto repair shop is divided into five bays denoted by reinforcing brick pilasters with brick caps. A single leaf wood door is located nearest the two story showroom section. The remainder of the elevation is fenestrated by three large multi-pane metal windows with crank out centers, and two large garage doors. The original west elevation of the repair shop is encapsulated by the 1960s addition.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

South Elevation—Repair Shop

The south or rear elevation of the repair shop features both the stepped parapet barrel vault section of the 1940 repair shop and the flat roofed 1960s expansion. The original repair shop has a large centrally located drive flanked by multi-pane metal windows with crank out centers. Metal door panels can be slid together to cover the drive. Centered above the drive is a metal lamp and a pair of six-beside-six metal casement windows. The 1960s addition features similar elements, however a wood paneled drive is asymmetrically placed between three multi-pane metal windows.

West Elevation--Addition

The light blonde brick of the west elevation is distinctly different from the other three types of brick that clad other portions of the exterior. The elevation fronts a narrow alley and is fenestrated by a series of ten evenly spaced multi-pane metal windows. The windows are intact except for a small number of broken panes covered by plywood.

North Elevation--Addition

The north elevation of the addition is completely hidden from view by an adjacent commercial building. The wall contains metal windows that match the pane arrangements of the other windows of the 1960s expansion.

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.)

Property is:

- ☐ **A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ **B** removed from its original location.
- ☐ **C** moved from its original location.
- ☐ **D** a cemetery.
- ☐ **E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ **F** a commemorative property
- ☐ **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Levels of Significance (local, state, national)

local

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

TRANSPORTATION

Period of Significance

1940-1951

Significant Dates

1940

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation (Complete if Criterion D is marked)

N/A

Architect/Builder

Burks, H. Ray

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References**Bibliography**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Abstract of Title for 120 East Cypress Street.

Eagle Democrat. 26 September 1940.

Interview with Paul Brays (current owner) 13 June 2001.

Liebs, Chester H. *Main Street to Miracle Mile: American Roadside Architecture*. Boston: Little Brown and Company (Inc.), 1985.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 1

Summary

Blankinship Motor Company Building celebrated the grand opening of its new location at the corner of Cypress and Myrtle Streets on Friday, 27 September 1940. Its association with transportation culture in Warren makes this simplified Art Moderne-styled brick building eligible for listing in the National Register under Criterion A with local significance. Blankinship Motor Company Building is being submitted to the National Register of Historic Places under the multiple property listing "Arkansas Highway and Transportation Era Architecture, 1910-1965" in conjunction with the historic context "Arkansas Highway History and architecture, 1910-1965."

Elaboration

Born in 1889, H. Ray Burks designed a large number of buildings in the south and southeastern parts of Arkansas. His early work in mid 1920 is mostly residential and reflects the popularity of the Craftsman and English Revival styles. Later with larger commissions, he adopted the Art Deco and Art Moderne idioms coupled with Classical elements befitting the municipal use of the buildings. Designs of note are the Drew County Courthouse, Lonoke County Courthouse and War Memorial Stadium. Although strictly symmetrical like his other works in the modern idiom, his design for the Blankinship Motor Company Building is much less elaborate and lacks all classical elements.

In a newspaper article entitled "New Home of Blankinship Motor Co. Carries City's Progress Forward," DuVal L. Purkins invited everyone to the grand opening on Friday evening 27 September 1940. "G. R. Blankinship, well known citizen and local dealer for Ford motors, plans a jolly party for lots of people. For a dance floor, there is available 10,400 square feet of smooth concrete in the new building." The article continues by describing the progress made in the community, including "modern store buildings, better homes and improved streets." Part of this era of "progress" was the Blankinship Motor Company Building, which replaced what Mr. DuVal called a "Horse Barn" that once stood on the site.

Significance

The building was in use as an auto dealership for Ford, Mercury and Lincoln from 1940 until 1965. Although the gas pumps were removed in the early 1960s, it remained as an auto parts and repair station until 1979. In the late 1980s, David Wallace rented the building from Curtis Blankinship Jr. He utilized the building for the Wallace Tire Company. In addition, during the 1980s a pool hall was situated in the showroom space. The current owner Paul Bray bought the property in 1990 after a couple years of vacancy. From 1990 until 2000, Paul Bray lived upstairs in what had once been offices and storage space. Also during the 1990s, the showroom-turned-pool hall was again reused, this time as a pawnshop and a large storage room.

Blankinship Motor Company Building is strongly associated with transportation culture in Warren as a multi-use auto dealership/service station and later as an auto repair shop with a pawnshop in the showroom space. Although this simplified Art Moderne-styled brick building is eligible for listing in the National Register under Criterion A with local significance, the large rear addition precludes it from being listed under Criterion C. Nevertheless, Blankinship Motor Company Building has sufficient architectural integrity to be submitted to the National Register of Historic Places under the multiple property listing "Arkansas Highway and Transportation Era Architecture, 1910-1965" in conjunction with the historic context "Arkansas Highway History and Architecture, 1910-1965."

Blankinship Motor Company Building

Name of Property

Bradley County, AR

County and State

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 # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- ☒ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State Agency
- ☐ Federal Agency
- ☐ Local Government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Name of repository: _____

10. Geographical DataAcreage of Property Less than one.**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

| | | | |
|---|-----------|---------------|----------------|
| 1 | <u>15</u> | <u>586801</u> | <u>3719561</u> |
| | Zone | Easting | Northing |
| 2 | _____ | _____ | _____ |

| | | | |
|---|-------|---------|----------|
| 3 | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| | Zone | Easting | Northing |
| 4 | _____ | _____ | _____ |

☐ See continuation sheet**Verbal Boundary Description**

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Lot Fourteen (14), Block Fifty-five (55), City of Warren; Beginning at a point 206 feet East and 48 ½ feet South of the point where Southern Boundary Line of Cypress Street intersects with Eastern Boundary Line of Vine Street, and running East 34 feet, thence South 101 ½ feet, thence West 34 feet, thence North 101 ½ feet to the beginning point in the City of Warren Bradley County, Arkansas.

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

This boundary contains all of the property historically associated with the Blankinship Motors Building that contains its historic integrity.

11. Form Prepared Byname/title Amy Bennettorganization Arkansas Historic Preservation Programdate August 17, 2001street & number 323 Center Street 1500 Tower Buildingtelephone (501) 324-9880city or town Little Rockstate ARzip code 72201

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Blankinship Motor Company Building
NAME:

MULTIPLE Arkansas Highway History and Architecture MPS
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: ARKANSAS, Bradley

DATE RECEIVED: 9/18/01 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 10/25/01
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 11/09/01 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 11/03/01
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 01001190

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

| | | | | | | | |
|----------|---|---------------|---|------------|---|---------------------|---|
| APPEAL: | N | DATA PROBLEM: | N | LANDSCAPE: | N | LESS THAN 50 YEARS: | N |
| OTHER: | N | PDIL: | N | PERIOD: | N | PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: | N |
| REQUEST: | N | SAMPLE: | N | SLR DRAFT: | N | NATIONAL: | N |

COMMENT WAIVER: N

___ACCEPT ___RETURN ___REJECT _____DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM./CRITERIA_____

REVIEWER_____DISCIPLINE_____

TELEPHONE_____DATE_____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N



Blankinship Motor Company Building
Bradley Co, AR
Amy Bennett
June 2001
AHPP
View of North showroom facade, looking
South



Blankinship Motor Co Building
Bradley Co., AR
Amy Bennett
June 2001
AHPP

View of North and East elevations of
Showroom, looking South West.



Blankinship Motor Company Building

Bradley Co, AR

Amy Bennett

June 2001

AHPP

Detail of East Elevation Showroom and
repair shop (Note Courthouse in extreme
right) looking Northwest,



Blankinship Motor Company Building

Bradley Co., AR

Amy Bennett

June 2001

AHPP

View of East and South elevations, looking

North west.



Blankinship Motor Co. Building
Warren, Bradley Co., AR
Amy Bennett

June, 2001

AHPP

View of Addition South elevation, looking
north



Blankinship Motor Company Building

Bradley Co., AR

Amy Bennett

June 2001

AHPP

View of 1960's addition down an alley
looking north. West elevation.



Blankinship Motor Co. Building

Warren, Bradley Co, AR

Amy Bennett

June 2001

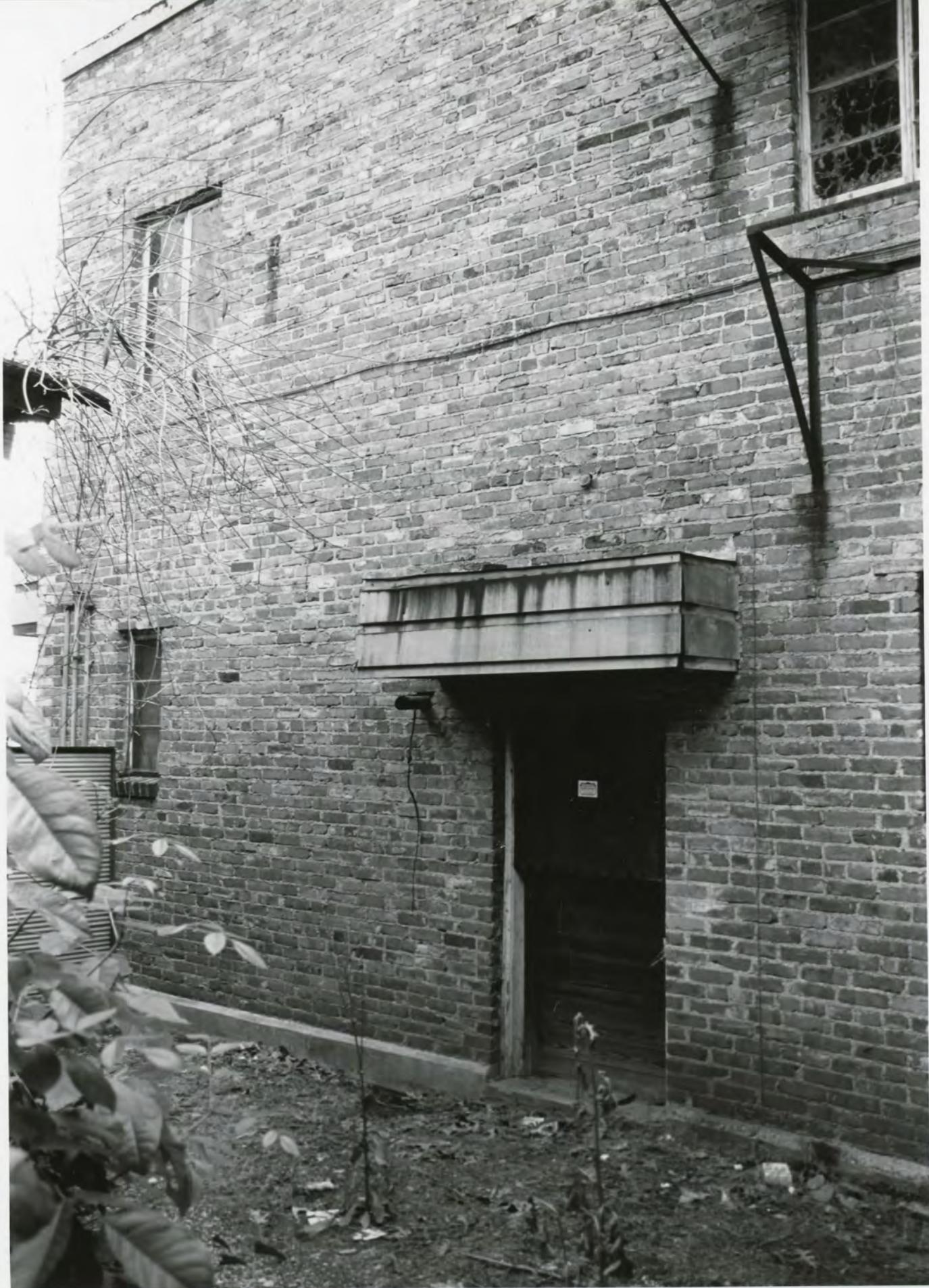
AHPP

(center)

(right)

View of west elevation of showroom and 1960s addition)

(note building on left is not part of nomination)



Blankinship Motor Company Building
Bradley Co., AR
Amy Bennett
June 2001
AHPP



Blankinship Motor Company Building

Bradley Co, AR

Amy Bennett

June 2001

AHPP

Detail of light and pressed tin
under awning.



Blankinship Motor Company Building

Bradley Co., AR

Amy Bennett

June 2001

AHPP

View of interior pawn shop (showroom)
looking Southeast.



Blankinship Motor Company Building
Bradley Co., AR
Amy Bennett

June 2001

AHPP

View of interior of repair shop looking
east from addition into original
portion showing roof trusses.



1973
PHOTOREVISED 1985
DMA 7551 II SE-SERIES V884



The Department of Arkansas Heritage

Mike Huckabee, Governor
Cathie Matthews, Director

Arkansas Arts Council

Arkansas Natural Heritage
Commission

Historic Arkansas Museum

Delta Cultural Center

Old State House Museum



Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

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September 6, 2001

Carol D. Shull
Chief of Registration
United State Department of the Interior
National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service
800 North Capitol Street, Suite 250
Washington, D.C. 20002

RE: Blankinship Motor Company Building, Warren—Bradley County

Dear Carol:

We are enclosing for your review the nomination of the above-referenced property. The Arkansas Historic Preservation Program has complied with all applicable nominating procedures and notification requirements in the nomination process.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Cathie Matthews
State Historic Preservation Officer

CM:ab

Enclosures

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