

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. Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).

1. Name of Property

historic name West Church Street Historic District

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number Roughly bounded by the west side of S. Morrill St, the north side of Valley St., the east side of S. Cherokee St., and West Church St.

<input type="checkbox"/>	not for publication
<input type="checkbox"/>	

city or town Morrilton vicinity _____

state Arkansas code AR county Conway code 029 zip code 72110

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

Scott Hunt 3-19-15
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
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

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:) _____
Scott Hunt 5-26-2015
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

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5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply.)

Category of Property
(Check only one box.)

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

- private
- public - Local
- public - State
- public - Federal

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
15	8	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
15	8	Total

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

NA

1

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling, multiple dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)

MID and LATE 19th and EARLY 20th CENTURY

REVIVALS: Gothic Revival, Colonial Revival,

English Revival, Spanish Revival

Late 19th and Early 20th Century American

Movements: Craftsman

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: BRICK, STONE

walls: SYNTHETICS: Vinyl

WOOD: weatherboard, BRICK, STUCCO

TERRA COTTA, METAL: aluminum,

roof: ASPHALT SHINGLE

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other: _____

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

Summary Paragraph

The proposed West Church Street Historic District's western boundary abuts the Moose Addition Neighborhood Historic District and is located near the historic commercial center of the city of Morrilton. The West Church Street Historic District has historically provided upscale homes within walking distance to those working downtown. Although both historic neighborhoods utilized downtown services, overall the homes are grander in scale and style in this district than the homes in the neighboring Moose Addition Historic District. Church Street was originally named South Street and was part of the wagon trail that ran from Oklahoma into the town of Morrilton. The street was used as passage in the Trail of Tears and still acts as an arterial passage from the eastern section of Morrilton into downtown. The district has a variety of architectural styles ranging from a grand antebellum manse to more modest Craftsman style homes. The town of Morrilton is the county seat of Conway County and located in the heart of the Arkansas River Valley, off Interstate 40, just fifty-four miles northwest of Little Rock. The neighborhood's boundaries hold 23 structures and 24 ancillary buildings. Contributing buildings in the area range from c. 1878-1942 and retain many of their original features. The historic integrity of this community is 65.2% intact and contributing to its status as a historic district. The identity of this area is defined through its remaining historic structures, its variety of upscale architectural styles, and its location near the downtown commercial district.

Overview

The West Church Street Historic District historically included the grandest homes in the town of Morrilton and its residents included some of its most prominent citizens. The district is still currently active and pedestrian friendly. Its proximity to the historic commercial center, neighborhood churches, library, and courthouse has helped it retain its walkability and popularity throughout the decades and presents it as a sharp contrast to other areas of town built with commuters in mind. The district displays examples of buildings constructed from c. 1878 through 1997. However, the district mainly represents the growth of the area from 1926-1942. Maps from as far back as 1889, during the original development of Morrilton, show that the area was once considered outside the boundaries of the city but still held some impressive homes.

Only one example of a home from the town's earliest existence remains in the district. The Morlock-Bradley-Newkirk-Jones House (CN0167) (c. 1878) is one of the first homes in the area and is reflective of the community's early growth. It was built by William F. Morlock, a house builder and the owner of a brick manufactory in Morrilton. The home was built in the Gothic Revival Style with bricks from his factory. The home's architectural style was indicative of other building's built in the region at this time period. The characteristics of the Gothic Revival Style are evident in the home's rectangular shape, high pitched roof, and ornamental details. The structure's smokehouse, barn, well house, and maid's quarters, still survive although some of these structures have been added to and redesigned to become neighboring residences.

Six homes remain that were built from 1899-1909, during the era of Morrilton's cotton and timber success. These homes are the Elmo Aycock House (CN0015), McClerkin House (CN0418), the Robert Earl Sr. House (CN0433), the Billy Earl House (CN0428), and 404 W. Church St. (CN0430). These homes represent some of the most ornate houses in the district. The Elmo Aycock House is the most decorative as it was built in the Queen Anne style with Colonial Revival details. Its decorative eaves, onion dome turret, and balustered porches help to characterize it as one of the most architecturally notable homes in the area. The McClerkin house, built in the Colonial Revival style, has some Craftsman detailing in the front porch gable and the unusual detail of Italianate brackets around its eaves.

There were 17 buildings built between 1926 and 1942, which represent the largest growth period in the district (48%). Most of them were built in the Craftsman style, however there are a few representations of revival styles. Craftsman style homes were some of the most popular homes between 1910 and 1930 in the US. They were designed to be in-sync with nature, using natural elements and colors in their construction and interiors. The Crawford House (CN0420) (d. 1938) is

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an excellent example of a Craftsman style home with exposed brackets and rafters. It has exceptional detailing, the front porch gable includes lattice wood ornamentation and the porch columns and foundation are built from decorative concrete block.

Period Revival style houses were very popular in the United States during the 1920s and 1930s. These houses have characteristic roof lines and window and door trim that emulate their European namesakes. However, the interior plans were all nearly the same. Some of the most notable homes built in period revival styles, during this era include the Preston Hall Home (CN0423) (c. 1928). The house was built in red brick, as a Colonial Revival home with Classical Revival influences. It has Neoclassical ornament on the front portico including columns and wood ornament with dentil molding and the dormer windows are also Neoclassical in style. Another notable period revival home is the Scroggin House (CN0432) (c. 1933). It is built in the Spanish Revival style of yellow brick. The home has arched windows and a terra cotta tile roof.

Unlike other buildings in the district, one home was built in the late twentieth century. The Harris House (CN0425) was built in 1997, therefore its construction date renders it non-contributing to the character of the historic district but its construction and the recent home rehabilitations in the area prove the district is still a sought-after area of town and viable residential area.

The West Church Street Historic District is cohesive in terms of massing, setback, and building materials. The scale of homes in the neighborhood offer some diversity, but all are appropriate sizes for the area and lot size. Homes were predominantly built of brick or wood. Most of the homes are one or two stories.

Inventory

- CN0416 Warren House, 201 W. Church St. (d. 1938) Non-contributing Member. Although this home now faces S. Morrill St. Its address is W. Church St. That is because this brick and wood sided Ranch and Craftsman house was originally a wood sided Craftsman home which faced W. Church St. When the home was remodeled c. 1955 modern Ranch Style elements were added to update the home's appearance. Although it still retains some Craftsman windows and one Craftsman porch, the other porch is Mid-Century Modern in style and has a large rectangular brick wall protruding through the roof and emphasizing the front door.
- CN0417 204 W. Church St. (d. 1930) Contributing Member. This stucco Craftsman-style home retains its exposed rafters and brackets although the windows have been replaced. It also displays a clipped gable roof over a half-timbered gable. The sides of the roof have a band of windows in a dormer.
- CN0418 McClerkin House, 207 W. Church St. (d. 1899) Contributing Member. This wood-sided house is Colonial Revival in its rectangular form. It has ornate Italianate brackets and a Craftsman-style gable over the front entry. The siding and most of the windows are original. McClerkin owned the local Chevrolet dealership.
- CN0419 208 W. Church St. (d. 1943) Non-contributing Member. Craftsman-style home with exposed brackets and rafters. The wood siding has been covered in aluminum and the windows on the west side have been replaced with smaller windows.
- CN0420 Crawford House, 210 W. Church St. (d. 1938) Contributing Member. Excellent example of a Craftsman-style home with exposed rafters and brackets. It has exceptional detailing, the front gable has a lattice wood ornamentation and the porch columns and foundation are built from decorative concrete block.
- CN0421 211 West Church St. (d. 1928) Contributing Member. Craftsman-style home with exposed brackets under the eaves. The home has Eastlake columns and ornament on the front porch and a bay window built in Victorian-era style.
- CN0422 Imboden House, 300 W. Church St. (d. 1942) Contributing Member. Red brick English Revival-style home with cast-concrete columns and keystone arch on the front porch. The screen porch has been enclosed making a sunroom. The Imboden's owned a corner drugstore on Broadway St. in Morrilton.
- CN0423 Preston Hall House, 301 W. Church St. (c. 1928) Contributing Member. Red brick Colonial Revival home with Classical Revival influences. There is Neoclassical ornament on the front portico including columns

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and wood ornament with dentil molding. The dormer windows are also Neoclassical in style. The homeowner has the original landscape drawings from Lambert Landscaping Company in Shreveport, Louisiana. Many aspects of the original stone hard-scaping still remain. This home was built for the Imboden's who owned a lumber company. They never lived in the home and lost it during the Depression. The Preston Hall family moved into the home when they opened a Coca-Cola distributorship in Morrilton. Hall married a Bellingrath, who was the daughter to the Coca-Cola empire. The Harris family (of Harris Funeral Home) purchased the home from the Hall's and the third generation of the Harris family currently resides in the residence.

- CN0424 J.M. Matthews House, 304 W. Church St. (d. 1928) Non-contributing Member. Wood clapboard Craftsman-style home with Victorian era detailing. The front bay window is designed in the Victorian-era style and the gables have wood fish scale shingles. The front porch is ornamented with 1950s-era wrought-iron columns. There are some replacement windows and the structure currently has a seamed metal roof.
- CN0425 Harris House, 306 W. Church St. (d. 1997) Non-contributing Member. Brick Minimal Traditional-style home with a full porch across the front elevation. The porch is wrapped in vinyl siding. This home was built by Robert Harris Jr., who owns Harris Funeral Home, after the original house on this lot burned.
- CN0167 Morlock-Bradley-Newkirk-Jones House (c. 1878) Contributing Member. This red brick Gothic Revival home is the oldest building in the West Church Street Neighborhood historic district. Doric columns and dentil molding ornament a small entry porch. The porch has recessed arches flanking double doors with an etched glass transom overhead. The home's windows have hooded ornamentation over the middle front and side windows and quoins at the corners of the building. The interior originally had five coal-burning fireplaces. The property still retains the smokehouse which was added on to and is now 312 W. Valley St. The servant's quarters were added on to and are now 306 W. Valley St. Mr. Morlock owned a brick company which produced the bricks used to construct the home. The Morlock family owned the home from c. 1878-1906 when the Bradley's purchased it. Bradley was a Morrilton doctor. The Bradley's owned the home from c. 1906-1935. Then the Newkirk's bought the house in the mid-1930s when Church Street was still the old wagon trail. Pearl Newkirk Jones, the owner's daughter, inherited the home c. 1980 and presently lives there.
- CN0426 Walters House, 310 W. Church St. (d. 1938) Non-contributing Member. Craftsman-style home. The exterior is covered in vinyl siding concealing all the rafters, eaves, and any detailing.
- CN0427 Johnson House, 400 W. Church St. (d. 1933) Non-contributing Member. Queen Anne/ Eastlake-style home with ornamental brackets on the porch and side bay. The wood siding is covered with vinyl and some ill-fitting replacement windows have been installed. All the windows have been replaced. The home originally had a turret over the west side but the owners removed it because it leaked.
- CN0428 Billy Earl House, 401 W. Church St. (d. 1908) Non-contributing Member. This Colonial Revival-style home was originally wood sided. One porch still has remnants of the original Doric columns. The columns on the front and side porch have been replaced with 1950s-era wrought-iron columns. The wood siding is covered with aluminum siding. Earl was a salesman.
- CN0429 Irving House, 403 W. Church St. (d. 1926) Contributing Member. Two-story red brick Colonial Revival-style home. All architectural detailing has been removed on the front porch. It has recently been renovated with new walkways, retaining walls, and new fence and garage in the back.
- CN0430 404 W. Church St. (d. 1909) Contributing Member. One and a half-story wood sided Craftsman-style home with a full front porch including battered columns over a brick base. The home still retains exposed rafters under the eaves and a band of windows in the dormer.
- CN0431 Coleman House, 408 W. Church St. (d. 1933) Contributing Member. Wood sided Craftsman-style home with exposed brackets and rafters and original windows and front door. The brick front porch has decorative coursing.

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- CN0015 Elmo Aycock House, 410 W. Church St. (d. 1904) Listed May 13, 1976. Wood-sided Queen Anne home with Colonial Revival influences such as the dentil molding around the eaves. Queen Anne characteristics include exposed decorative brackets, an onion dome turret, stained glass windows, ornamental brick panels in the chimneys, and round porches. At one time, the porches had balusters.
- CN0432 Scroggin House, 500 W. Church St. (c. 1933) Contributing Member. Spanish/ Mission Revival-style home with some Craftsman detailing. Originally the house was wood sided but was remodeled and bricked in the Spanish/ Mission Revival-style by the Scroggins. The Scroggin family was associated with the First National Bank of Morrilton.
- CN0433 Robert Earl Sr. House, 503 W. Church St., (d. 1906) Non-Contributing Member. Craftsman-style two-story brick house with a large EIFS back addition. All windows and doors have been replaced. The front porch floor has been rebuilt using decking material.
- CN0434 LeHosky House, 504 W. Church St., (d. 1933) Contributing Member. Wood sided Craftsman home with exposed gable brackets. Three-quarter front porch with triple, square-sectioned wood columns on brick piers on the front porch. LeHosky had a machine shop on Broadway St. which repaired machines and guns.
- CN0435 Robert Earl Jr. House, 505 W. Church St. (d. 1938) Contributing Member. Brick Craftsman-style home with Colonial Revival and Plain/ Traditional Style detailing. The home has a vaulted Colonial Revival-style portico at its entrance with original wood columns and brackets. Some windows and the front door and sidelights have been replaced. A brick two-story addition has been added to the back of the home.
- CN0436 Cunningham House, 507 W. Church St. (d. 1928) Contributing Member. Craftsman-style stucco home with exposed brackets around the gables. Tapered front porch columns on brick piers. Classical columns have been added. Most of the windows have been replaced. Mrs. Cunningham was the local librarian.

Break down by period:

In most cases structures were dated using Sanborn fire insurance maps. A detailed building inventory is in Part 8.

Breakdown by period:

1878-1909	3 buildings	13%
1926-1942	11 buildings	48%
Non contributing	8 buildings	35%
Listed	1 building	4 %

Non-contributing Buildings:

The district has 8 non-contributing buildings, totaling 35 % of the architectural fabric of the neighborhood. One of the buildings, The Harris House (CN0425) was built in 1997, after the fifty year cut off, so it does not qualify as a structure which contributes to the character of the historic neighborhood.

Seven homes have a non-contributing status because they have been altered in such a way as to lose their historic architectural character. The Warren House (CN0416) at 201 W. Church St. has been modified from its original form so drastically that the architectural style of the home has changed from Craftsman to Mid-Century Modern. The owners of 208 W. Church Street (CN0419) have removed the original windows and substituted them with inappropriately sized replacement windows. The owners of the J.M. Matthews House (CN0424) at 306 W. Church St. have installed inappropriate replacement windows and replaced the original shingle roof with a metal roof, which would never historically have been used on a house of this style or era. The Walters House (CN0426) at 310 W. Church St. is considered non-contributing because of the installation of vinyl siding, resulting in its architectural details being covering up. The Johnson House (CN0427) at 400 W. Church St. is covered in vinyl siding, has ill-fitting replacement windows, and has had the turret removed from the home. The changes have resulted in a remarkable alteration of the appearance of the home from the time it was built. The Billy Earl House (CN0428) at 401 W. Church St. has had most of the original wooden Doric porch columns removed and replaced with wrought iron columns and the wood siding has been covered in aluminum, resulting in the loss of architectural detail. The Robert Earl Sr. House (CN0433) at 503 W. Church St. is considered non-contributing because of the

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overwhelming addition built on the home and because of the loss of its original wood windows and installation of vinyl replacement windows. Also, decking material was used to floor the front porch.

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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.)

Property is:

- 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.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1878-1942

Significant Dates

NA

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

NA

Cultural Affiliation

NA

Architect/Builder

Varies/ Unknown

Period of Significance (justification)

1878-1942

The West Church Street Historic District is significant in that some of the most stately and architecturally ornamented homes in Morrilton were built in the district from 1878 to 1942. Although only one house remains from the earliest architectural stylistic period of Gothic Revival, the Morlock-Bradley-Newkirk-Jones home (c. 1878), the changing character of the district reflects the continued popularity and desirability of the community. The neighborhood has included and still

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includes the owners of local businesses and town leaders, and several homes have housed multiple generations of the same family.ⁱ Residents of the Preston Hall home include the Halls who opened the Morrilton Coca-Cola distributorship. The home was then sold to the Harrises who ran Harris Funeral Home on East Church Street, and today the third generation of that family still live in the home. The second generation of the Newkirks, the Joneses now live in the Morlock-Bradley-Newkirk-Jones home.ⁱⁱ Traditionally, South Street (now Church Street) was the arterial road leading travelers by wagon and car from Oklahoma into downtown Morrilton.ⁱⁱⁱ The road also lead residents from the west side of town into downtown and other Morrilton amenities such as area churches, the library, small businesses, the railroad depot, and the courthouse; all within walking distance of their homes. The neighborhood's location near the city's historic center makes it more unique than current automotive influenced residential developments. It has characteristic elements such as buildings primarily constructed from the late nineteenth century through the 1940s and is a pedestrian oriented community with residential zoning. Overall, the district has few severely unsympathetic alterations and only one new structures built within the last four decades. The district still retains the overall feel of a historic residential community which serves and patronizes the downtown commercial center.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria.)

The West Church Street Historic District is locally significant under Criterion C as embodying the distinct characteristics of several architectural styles popular from 1878 until 1942. The evolution of the community's development is reflected within the construction dates of the buildings within it, from the first boom of construction in the late nineteenth century until the 1940s when the last lot in the district was developed.^{iv} The district contains a good and representative collection of architectural styles that were popular in residential design during the neighborhood's development from 1878 to 1942 including Gothic Revival, Colonial Revival, English Revival, Spanish Revival, and Craftsman style homes.

ⁱ Pearl Newkirk- Jones, conversation with author, 2014.

ⁱⁱ *Ibid.*

ⁱⁱⁱ *Ibid.*

^{iv} Sanborn, 1886, 1889, 1896, 1901, 1908, 1913, 1919, 1926, 1926-1948.

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Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

Developmental history/additional historic context information (if appropriate)

Historical Background:

Morrilton was developed from farmland into a small railroad town. The community grew outward from its train depot which was built as a railroad stop when the Cairo & Fulton Railroad company received a charter for the Little Rock & Fort Smith Branch.^v Edward Morrill and James Moose, farmers who owned wooded property in the area, donated land for the railroad for tracks to be run through the land around their farms, insuring a depot would be built near their properties and that the value of their land would substantially increase.^{vi}

Morrill and Moose's donations to the Little Rock and Fort Smith Railroad allowed the track to reach its present site in 1871. In 1873, a boxcar was set up as the first train depot using the name "Lewisburg Station", although it was about two miles outside of the nearby town of Lewisburg. After a few short moves, in 1875, the station was permanently located at its present site. A community quickly grew up around it, taking on the name of Morrilton; originally spelled Morrillton, in honor of Edward Morrill. Its first station agent, Captain J.W. Boot, is credited with naming the town, deciding whether Morrill or Moose would be its namesake, by the flip of a coin.^{vii}

Thanks to the availability of the train and hope for employment, new residents moved to Morrilton from abroad, as well as neighboring communities. Beginning in the 1870s the U.S. government and railroad companies encouraged German immigrants to move into the Arkansas River Valley with the promise of jobs in railroad construction. These mostly Roman Catholic and Lutheran families settled in railroad towns in Arkansas, including Morrilton.^{viii} The town grew quickly and by 1889 it boasted of seventeen brick commercial structures. An 1890s publication explained the adjoining residential area of Morrilton in these terms:

The citizens were taking equal pride (with the business district) in adorning it with beautiful and handsome houses; indeed, it might with truth be called a city of beautiful homes, for every street is adorned with a class of residences which would be a credit to a city of ten times its population. These homes, surrounded with

^v Conway County Historical Society, *Conway County-Our Land, Our Home, Our People*, (Historical Publication of Arkansas, Little Rock: 1992), 26.

^{vi} *Ibid*, 389.

^{vii} *Ibid*, 26. Conway County Genealogical Society, *Conway County Heritage- Then and Now*, (Turner Publishing Company, Nashville: 2006), 162-163. *Historical Reminiscences and Biographical Memoirs of Conway County, Arkansas* (The Press-Argus, Van Buren, AR: 1890), 31.

^{viii} *Historical Reminiscences*, 33.

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neatly kept yards, further beautified with shrubbery and flowers, must impress all visitors with their elegance and beauty.^{ix}

By the 1890s South Street (now Church St.) in the West Church Street Historic District, had been developed as far as S. West Street. The block from S. Morrill St. to S. West St. mainly displayed large homes, with the exception of two small cottages on the northwest corner.^x By 1913 those modest homes had been removed and substantial homes built in their place. The city expanded as farmland close to the budding city core was developed into residential lots and enveloped into Morrilton's boundaries.^{xi}

One such farm belonged to Stephen J. Griffin. Griffin was born in North Carolina in 1839 to a farming family. Stephen received his early education in Murry County, Georgia, and served in the army under General Longstreet of the 11th Georgia Regulars. He married Rachel C. Hilton and in 1872 they moved to Conway County, Arkansas. The couple arrived with little money but due to their diligence and perseverance, Stephen developed a good upland farm of eighty acres and cultivated forty of them.^{xii} By 1910, the city of Morrilton was growing so aggressively that Griffin's farmland was sold and developed in order to expand the residential community. Morrilton's city boundaries expanded to include Griffin's land and this area became known as the Griffin Addition, which is now part of the West Church Street Historic District.^{xiii}

Similarly, Todd's Addition, adjacent to the Griffin Addition, was originally a homestead and farmland owned by John W. Todd. Todd began his career as a farmer, then after two years, opened a store in the under-developed community of Cottage Grove, Tennessee. He then left in 1860, going to Memphis where he worked as a grocer. In 1871 he immigrated to Desha County, Arkansas, where he lived for five years until moving to Conway County. He farmed land in Nichols Township, where the area was so rural that he would have been considered a pioneer. After living on his farm for four years, he moved to Morrilton, purchasing more farmland just outside the city limits. In 1881 he was elected county judge and served from 1882-1884.^{xiv} Shortly prior to the expiration of his term as judge, he created a partnership with J.T. Hanniford, opening a store in a rural area, which later became known as the town of Cleveland, Arkansas. Cleveland was located near the northern county line in Griffin Township and had been slow in its development due to its distance from amenities and market facilities. But after it secured a post office and its first store built by Todd and Hanniford, other businesses quickly followed and the town flourished. It was incorporated by the County Court in 1890 and included an area of one square mile. The new community elected Judge Todd as its mayor.^{xv} Todd kept his homestead in Morrilton for a few more years but by 1913, this land had been incorporated into the city of Morrilton as Todd's Addition and included six substantially sized homes.^{xvi}

By 1926 every lot in the district had been developed and the area included the stateliest and ornamental homes in Morrilton.^{xvii} Some of the most influential business leaders lived here including the Halls who opened and operated the Morrilton Coca-Cola distributorship (Ms. Hall's maiden name was Bellingrath, she was the daughter of the Coca-Cola baron), The Harris' who owned and operated Harris Funeral Home, the Scroggins who were affiliated with First National Bank of Morrilton, and the Newkirks whose patron managed Morrilton's first JC Penneys.^{xviii}

The Todd and Griffin Additions comprise the majority of the West Church Street Historic District. The nearby Moose Addition Historic District has similar style homes and connects to the West Church Street Historic District through Church Street. However, on average, the West Church Street District's homes are larger in scale and more ornamental. Historically, it appears that the district has maintained its status as a desirable area to live. Most of the homes are owner occupied and well cared for. The area reflects national trends in historic building styles and possesses a good collection of architectural styles representing the early part of the twentieth century.

The earliest existing home in the neighborhood is the Morlock-Bradley-Newkirk-Jones house (1878) built in the Gothic Revival style. Homes built in this style were generally constructed between 1840 and 1870, and homes built in the later

^{ix} *Historical Reminiscences*, 33.

^x Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, Morrilton, AR, 1889, 1901.

^{xi} Sanborn, 1913.

^{xii} Conway County Genealogical Society, 82. *Historical Reminiscences*, 70.

^{xiii} Sanborn, 1910.

^{xiv} *Historical Reminiscences*, 119-120.,

^{xv} Conway County Genealogical Society, 43-44.

^{xvi} Sanborn, 1913.

^{xvii} *Ibid*, 1926.

^{xviii} Jones.

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date are less frequent. The Gothic Revival was one of the first high residential building styles in the United States and was popularized by pattern and architectural plan books promoted throughout the nation.^{xix}

There is one contributing home built in the extremely ornate Queen Anne style, popular in the cotton-rich states of the New South. The Elmo Auycock House (1904) was in Queen Anne form but with Colonial Revival detailing. The Queen Anne was the most popular residential building style in the nation from about 1880 around until 1900.^{xx}

Other building styles from this time period include the Colonial Revival style and the Craftsman style. Homes built in the Colonial Revival style include the McClerkin House (1899) and the Billy Earl House (1908). Colonial Revival was the dominant style of domestic building throughout the United States during the first half of the twentieth century.^{xxi}

Early Craftsman homes of this era include the Robert Earl Sr. House (1906) and 404 W. Church St. (1909).

The Craftsman was the dominant building style for smaller homes constructed throughout the nation from around 1905 until the early 1920s and was the primary building style in the West Church Street Historic District from 1926-1942. The style became popular through its promotion in pattern books and style magazines circulated throughout America.^{xxii}

Period Revival homes were also popular during the later construction phase of this district. These homes were extremely popular in the United States during the 1920s and 1930s. They were comprised of a variety of architectural forms. It was not uncommon to see a combination of English, French, Spanish, or Dutch forms and motifs on the exterior of traditionally built American homes. As all historically based eclectic styles, this genre was formed from a library of architectural themes borrowed from past movements. Houses could be Colonial, Norman, French Renaissance, Tudor half-timbered, Gothic, Spanish Mission or most popularly, a combination of multiple styles. The overall effect was a free-for-all combination of the past with the only stipulation being that originality in motif was forbidden. Imitation of past architectural themes was instrumental to the movement.^{xxiii} The Preston Hall home (c. 1928) was built as a Colonial Revival home with Classical Revival influences while the Scroggin House (c. 1933) was built in the Spanish Revival style.

One home was built in the late twentieth century, the Harris House was constructed in 1997, after a fire destroyed the prior home on this land. It is built in a typical twentieth-century Plain/Traditional style and its construction proves the district is still a sought-after area of town and viable residential area.

Developmental history/additional historic context information (if appropriate)

The following is a timeline of what the district looked like, based on Sanborn maps.

1896: At this time, West Church Street was named South Street. Its name changed to Church Street where it intersects Moose Street. The Morlock-Bradley-Newkirk-Jones House had been built but was considered outside the city limits, Morrilton's western boundary ended at S. West Street. South Street was one block south of the commercial town center and included several stately homes, only one of which is still in existence and in the district.

1908: By this time, the western city boundary had expanded to include the east side of S. Griffin Street and four new homes had been built. Two on the south side and two on the north side of Church Street. The name Church Street was being used to refer to the original Church Street (now East Church Street) as well as what had been known as South Street (now W. Church St).

1913: The neighborhood was still expanding at this time and the western boundary now included the east side of Ola Street. The southern blocks of West Church Street from S. West Street to Cherokee Street became additions to the city. The southern blocks of Church Street were known as the Griffin Addition and the northern blocks of Church Street became known as Todd's Addition.

^{xix} Virginia and Lee McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses*, (Alfred A. Knopf: New York, 2002), 200.

^{xx} *Ibid*, 268.

^{xxi} *Ibid*, 324.

^{xxii} *Ibid*, 454.

^{xxiii} John Pile, *A History of Interior Design*, (London: Lawrence King Publishing, Ltd., 2000), 247.

West Church Street Historic District
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1926: The neighborhood had a few more homes built along Church Street on the western end. Some of the smaller scale homes have been removed and larger, more stately homes have been built in their place.

1946: The neighborhood retains a few structures built in its earliest era but mostly is comprised of homes built in the early 1900s and 1920s.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Conway County Genealogical Association, *Conway County Heritage- Then and Now, Conway County Arkansas*, (Turner Publishing Company: Nashville), 2006.

Conway County Historical Society, *Conway County- Our Land, Our Home, Our People*, (Historical Publication of Arkansas: Little Rock), 1992.

Historical Reminiscences and Biographical Memoirs of Conway County, Arkansas, (The Press-Argus: Van Buren, AR), 1890, reprinted 1967.

Madden, Mary and Swanda, Michael. *Arkansas Historic Preservation Program's Survey Manual*. Architectural Style Descriptions. Appendix F, April 2001.

McAlester, Virginia and Lee. *A Field Guide to American Houses*, (Alfred A. Knopf: New York), 2002.

Newkirk-Jones, Pearl, conversation with author, 2014.

Pile, John. *A History of Interior Design*, (London : Lawrence King Publishing, Ltd.), 2000.

Rogers, Aaron. "Morrilton (Conway County)", *Encyclopedia of Arkansas History and Culture*, last modified 1 May 2012, accessed at www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net.

Sanborn Maps, Morrilton, Arkansas, 1886, 1889, 1896, 1901, 1908, 1913, 1919, 1926, 1926-1948.

West Church Street Historic District
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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 # _____
 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):

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Approx. 18 acres
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>15S</u> Zone	<u>522644E</u> Easting	<u>3889933N</u> Northing	3	<u>15S</u> Zone	<u>523063E</u> Easting	<u>3889778N</u> Northing
2	<u>15S</u> Zone	<u>523068E</u> Easting	<u>3889893N</u> Northing	4	<u>15S</u> Zone	<u>522511E</u> Easting	<u>3889835N</u> Northing
5	<u>15S</u>	<u>522510E</u>	<u>3889903N</u>				

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

The boundaries of the West Church Street Historic District include the north side of West Church Street beginning at the northwest corner of lot 2, block 2 then travel east to South Morrill Street and turns south at the northeast of block 5, lot 10. It continues south to the southeast corner of lot 7, block 14 then turns west to the southwest corner of lot 1, block 3 at S. Cherokee St. The boundary then goes directly north to the northwest corner of lot 1, block 3 and turns east along W. Church St. It then travels north at the southwest corner of lot 2, block 2 to the beginning.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundaries were chosen because the area displays the central point of the most intact and contributing grouping of residential building styles ranging from 1878 through 1942 and lie outside the Moose Addition Historic District. These boundaries embody a variety of building styles prominent during the historic growth of Morrilton, representing the townspeople's mode of living dating from the community's inception to the National Register's fifty year cut-off date. They include the historic center of the most prominent and historically ornamental homes in the community.

The northern boundary of the district is determined by the end of residential structures and the beginning of the commercial district. The western boundary is drawn because the large number of vacant lots, housing of a later era, and

West Church Street Historic District
Name of Property

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setbacks and spacing between houses visually exclude the streets from the historic district boundaries. Beyond the southern boundary, about 3 blocks, the area also has similar building stock although many of these home owners have added unsympathetic additions and materials. Beyond these streets, the contributing homes are more sporadic and alternate with vacant lots and mobile homes, and then ranch style houses become more prominent. The eastern boundary abuts the Moose Addition Historic District.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Antoinette Johnson of Johnson Consulting; edited by Ralph S. Wilcox, National Register and Survey Coordinator

organization Arkansas Historic Preservation Program date December 2014

street & number 323 Center St., Suite 1500 telephone 501-324-9880

city or town Little Rock state AR zip code 72201

e-mail ralph@arkansasheritage.org

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Name of Property: West Church Street Historic District

City or Vicinity: Morrilton

County: Conway State: AR

Photographer: Antoinette Johnson

Date Photographed: March 2014

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

Photo #1
Building numbers CN0432, CN0434, CN0015, camera facing northeast

West Church Street Historic District
Name of Property

Conway County, AR
County and State

Photo #2
Building numbers CN0427, CN0430, CN0431, camera facing northwest

Photo #3
Building numbers CN0417, CN0419, CN0420, camera facing northwest

Photo #4
Building numbers CN0422, CN0420, CN0419, camera facing northeast

Photo #5
Building numbers CN0423, CN0421, CN0418, camera facing southeast

Photo #6
Building numbers CN0167, CN0428, CN0429, CN0433, camera facing southwest

Photo #7
Building numbers CN0416, CN0418, CN0419, camera facing west

Photo #8
Building numbers CN0432, CN0015, CN0433, CN0435, camera facing east

Property Owner:

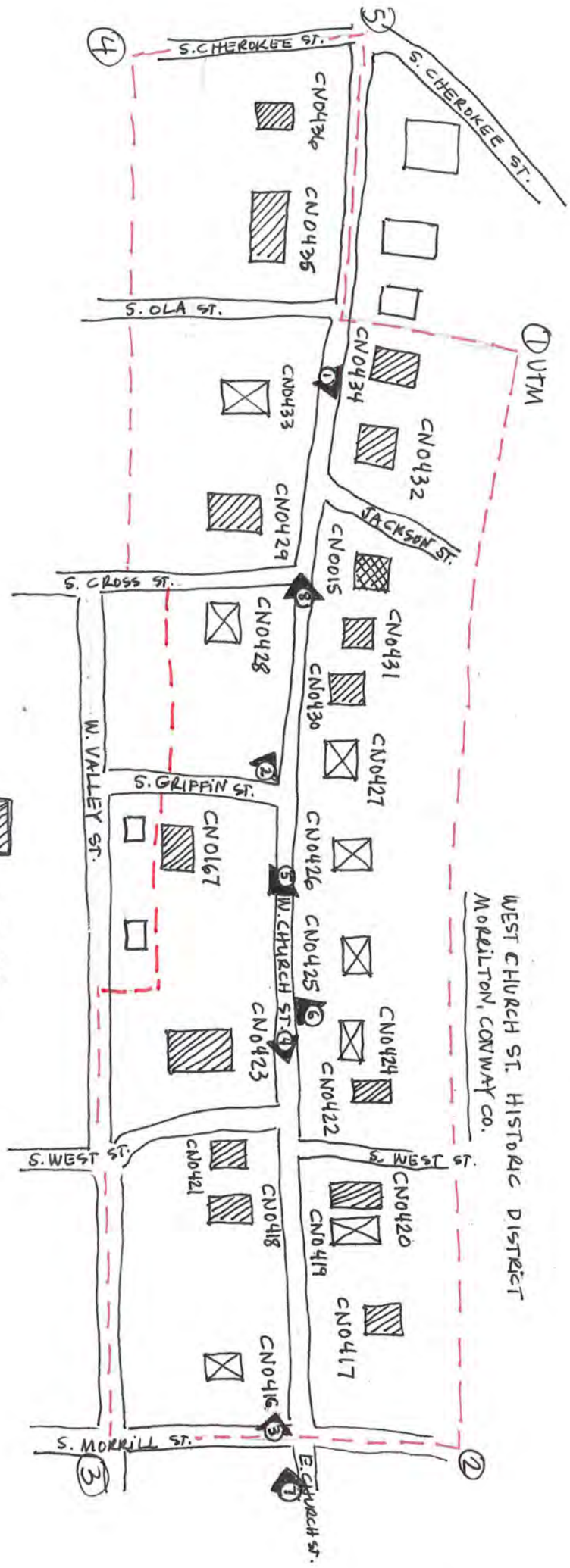
(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)




name _____
street & number _____ telephone _____
city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

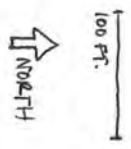
Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain 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 18 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.

WEST CHURCH ST. HISTORIC DISTRICT
 MORELTON, CONWAY CO.



-  CONTRIBUTING
-  NON-CONTRIBUTING
-  PART. REGISTERED LISTED









HISTORIC DISTRICT
Barnesfield Trail

30











UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: West Church Street Historic District

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: ARKANSAS, Conway

DATE RECEIVED: 4/10/15 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 5/06/15
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 5/21/15 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 5/26/15
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 15000259

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: Y SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 5-26-2015 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept C

REVIEWER J. Gindler DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

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

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



THE DEPARTMENT OF ARKANSAS
HERITAGE

Asa Hutchinson
Governor

Stacy Hurst
Director

Arkansas Arts Council

Arkansas Natural Heritage
Commission

Delta Cultural Center

Historic Arkansas Museum

Mosaic Templars
Cultural Center

Old State House Museum



**Arkansas Historic
Preservation Program**



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An Equal Opportunity Employer

January 29, 2015

Karen Hofford, Director
Morrilton Historic District Commission
210 North Moose Street
Morrilton, AR 72110

Re: West Church Street Historic District – Morrilton, Conway County

Dear Ms. Hofford:

We are pleased to inform you that the above referenced property will be considered by the State Review Board of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, an agency of the Department of Arkansas Heritage, for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. The National Register of Historic Places is the federal government's official list of historic properties worthy of the preservation. Listing in the National Register of Historic Places provides recognition and assists in preserving our nation's heritage.

Listing of this property provides recognition of the community's historic importance and assures protective review of the federal projects that might adversely affect the character of the historic property.

Listing in the National Register does not mean that limitations will be placed on the property by the federal government. Public visitation rights are not required of property owners. The federal government will not attach covenants to the property or seek to acquire it.

We have enclosed a copy of the National Register nomination for your review. If you have any comments on the proposed nomination, please submit a letter with your comments, concerns, or concurrence to the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program at least 24 hours prior to the date of the State Review Board meeting.

You are invited to attend the State Review Board meeting at which the nomination will be considered. The board will begin meeting at 10:00 a.m. on April 1, 2015 in Room 170 of the Tower Building at 323 Center Street in Little Rock.

If you have any questions regarding the State Review Board meeting feel free to call Ralph Wilcox, Callie Williams or Travis Ratermann at (501) 324-9880.

Sincerely,

Frances McSwain
Director



THE DEPARTMENT OF ARKANSAS
HERITAGE

April 1, 2015



Asa Hutchinson
Governor

Stacy Hurst
Director

J. Paul Loether, Deputy Keeper and Chief
National Register and National Historic Landmark Programs
National Register of Historic Places
1201 Eye St. NW, 8th Fl.
Washington D.C. 20005

RE: West Church Street Historic District – Morrilton, Conway
County, Arkansas

Dear Mr. Loether:

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

If you need further information, please call Ralph S. Wilcox of my staff at (501) 324-9787. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,

Stacy Hurst
State Historic Preservation Officer

SH:rsw

Enclosure

-
- Arkansas Arts Council
 - *
 - Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission
 - *
 - Delta Cultural Center
 - *
 - Historic Arkansas Museum
 - *
 - Mosaic Templars Cultural Center
 - *
 - Old State House Museum
-



Arkansas Historic
Preservation Program



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