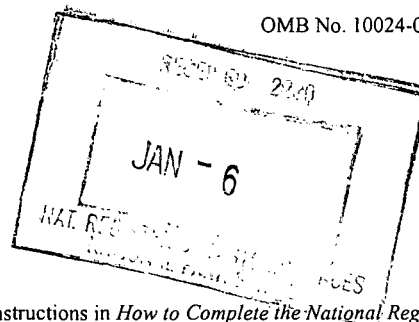


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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 Merritt, S. D., House

other names/site number Site #FA1259

2. Location

street & number 45 Highway 25 North

☐ not for publication

city or town Greenbrier

☒ vicinity

state Arkansas code AR county Faulkner code 045 zip code 72058

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.)

Cedric Matthews
Signature of certifying official/Title

10/26/04
Date

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

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:)

Edson H. Beall
Signature of the Keeper

2/15/05
Date of Action

Merritt, S. D., House
Name of Property

Faulkner County, Arkansas
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

buildings

sites

structures

objects

1

Total

Name of related multiple property listing

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

A Storm Couldn't Tear Them Down: The Mixed Masonry
Buildings of Silas Owens, Sr., 1938-1955

**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

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

MODERN MOVEMENT/Minimal Traditional

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE

walls STONE

BRICK

roof ASPHALT

other

Narrative Description

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

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

SUMMARY

The S. D. Merritt House is located in the Greenbrier vicinity of rural Faulkner County, Arkansas. The one-story house, which was built c.1950 in the Minimal Traditional style, was designed by Silas Owens, Sr., and built by Silas Owens, Sr., and Silas Owens, Jr. The house exhibits the distinctive characteristics of the work of Silas Owens, Sr., notably the cut stone laid in a rough herringbone pattern and the cream-brick trim around the doors, windows, and porch openings.

ELABORATION

The S. D. Merritt House is located in the Greenbrier vicinity of northwestern Faulkner County, approximately forty miles northwest of Little Rock. The one-story house, designed in the Minimal Traditional style, was built c.1950 by Silas Owens, Sr., and Silas Owens, Jr. The walls of the house feature the distinctive characteristics of Silas Owens, Sr., most notably the cut stone laid in a rough herringbone pattern and the cream-brick trim around the doors, windows, and porch openings, along with cream-brick quoins at the building's corners.

The Merritt House features a stone foundation, and wood-frame, double-hung windows throughout. The roof of the house, which is a combination of a side gable and front gable, is covered in gray asphalt shingles.

Front/South Façade

The front façade of the house telescopes closer to the road as one proceeds from west to east. The western portion of the front façade is comprised of an open carport supported by three decorative wrought-iron posts on the west side. The next portion of the façade is fenestrated by a small pair of wood-frame, double-hung, six-over-six windows. As with all window openings in the house, it is surrounded by the distinctive Silas Owens cream-brick border.

The next portion of the front façade projects closer to Highway 25 North, and is fenestrated by a large single wood-frame, double-hung, eight-over-eight window in the center of that portion of the façade. This is the only portion of the house with a front facing gable roof, as opposed to a side gable roof. The easternmost portion of the façade projects even closer to the highway. The west half of this portion of the façade is dominated by a recessed front porch with a segmental arch opening framed in cream brick. The entrance to the house is located on the porch and contains a wood door with horizontal panels in the bottom half and glass panes in the top half. The floor of the porch is concrete and three concrete steps with stone and brick on the ends lead up to the porch level.

The right half of the easternmost portion of the façade is fenestrated by a large single wood-frame, double-hung, eight-over-eight window. In addition, a small attic vent, now enclosed with vertical wood boards and also surrounded by the distinctive cream brick border, is located in the gable peak.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

Side/East Façade

The east façade of the Merritt House is fenestrated by several windows. The southernmost window is a large single wood-frame, double-hung, six-over-six window. The center window is a small single wood-frame, double-hung, six-over-six window. To the right of the window a round white pipe provides drainage into the ground. The northernmost windows are a pair of wood-frame, double-hung, six-over-six windows.

Rear/North Façade

The rear façade of the house is divided in half with the east half having a gable front roof and the west half having a side gable roof. The east half of the façade is fenestrated by two pairs of large wood-frame, double-hung, six-over-six windows. As on the front façade, a small attic vent, now enclosed with vertical wood boards and also surrounded by the distinctive cream brick border, is located in the gable peak.

The side gable portion of the façade, which compromises the western half, is fenestrated by two pairs of small wood-frame, double-hung, six-over-six windows. The far west portion of the façade is the rear of the open carport.

Side/West Façade

The west façade of the house is dominated by the open carport. The gable end of the carport is covered in white synthetic siding, and an opening, now covered with vertical wood boards, is located in the gable peak. The west façade of the house, underneath the carport has a central doorway with a metal screen door. The door is flanked on each side by a small wood-frame, double-hung, six-over-six window.

The west side of the front façade's first projection is fenestrated by a single large wood-frame, double-hung, six-over-six window and the west façade of the front porch has segmental arch opening framed in cream brick.

INTEGRITY

Overall, the Merritt House retains excellent integrity. It retains its original windows, and is still located in a rural area of Faulkner County. Although the attic vents in the gable peaks have been enclosed and the carport may have been added later, they do not detract from the distinctive characteristics of the Silas Owen, Sr., masonry. The house still exhibits the distinctive cut stone laid in a rough herringbone pattern and the cream brick trim around the doors, windows, and porch openings, and it represents a good example of his work.

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 birthplace or grave of a historical figure of outstanding importance.
- ☐ 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)

Architecture

Period of Significance

c.1950

Significant Dates

c.1950

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked)

Cultural Affiliation (Complete if Criterion D is marked)

Architect/Builder

Silas Owens, Sr., and Silas Owens, Jr., Builders

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.)

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: _____

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 1

SUMMARY

The S. D. Merritt House is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under **Criterion C** with **local significance** as the best example of a Minimal Traditional home built by African-American stonemason Silas Owens, Sr., in the Greenbrier vicinity. The Merritt House, which was built c.1950, exhibits the distinctive characteristics of the work of Silas Owens, Sr., notably the cut stone of the exterior walls laid in a rough herringbone pattern and the cream-brick trim around the doors, windows, and porch openings, and the cream-brick quoins at the building's corners. The S. D. Merritt House, is being submitted to the National Register of Historic Places under the multiple property listing "A Storm Couldn't Tear Them Down: The Mixed Masonry Buildings of Silas Owens, Sr., 1938-1955."

ELABORATION

Faulkner County was created by an act of the State legislature on April 12, 1873, by taking some land from Conway and Pulaski counties. The new county was named after Sandy Faulkner, who was the original "Arkansaw Traveler."¹ At the time that the *Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Pulaski, Jefferson, Lonoke, Faulkner, Grant, Saline, Perry, Garland, and Hot Spring Counties, Arkansas* was published in 1889, Faulkner County was mainly an agricultural county, much as it is today.

Many of the communities that have developed in Faulkner County developed to serve the rural residents of the county. Although it is unknown when Greenbrier was founded, its post office was established in 1857.² By the late 1880s, the town had developed into a thriving little community. The *Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Pulaski, Jefferson, Lonoke, Faulkner, Grant, Saline, Perry, Garland, and Hot Spring Counties, Arkansas* described Greenbrier as "a village and settlement twelve miles north bearing a little east of Conway, [that boasted] of eight general stores, three grist-mills, four cotton-gins, a steam saw and shingle mill, three churches, a school-house, and a population of about 350."³

By the twentieth century the Merritt Family had settled in the Greenbrier vicinity. John Merritt was the first member of the family to have Silas Owens, Sr., build a house. His house, which was located near the Highway 25 and U.S. 65 intersection, has been demolished and replaced by a convenience store. John's brother, Seth, liked the design of his house, and also hired Owens to build his house.⁴

¹ *Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Pulaski, Jefferson, Lonoke, Faulkner, Grant, Saline, Perry, Garland, and Hot Spring Counties, Arkansas*. Chicago: The Goodspeed Publishing Co., 1889, p. 703.

² Russell Pierce Baker. *From Memdag to Norsk: A Historical Directory of Arkansas Post Offices, 1832-1971*. Hot Springs, AR: Arkansas Genealogical Society, 1988, p. 95.

³ *Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Pulaski, Jefferson, Lonoke, Faulkner, Grant, Saline, Perry, Garland, and Hot Spring Counties, Arkansas*, p. 712.

⁴ Merritt, Seth, Jr. Telephone conversation with Holly Hope, Special Projects Historian at the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program. 23 August 2004.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 2

The house that S. D. Merritt had built c.1950 was designed in the Minimal Traditional style that was popular just after World War II. Houses built in the Minimal Traditional style used a minimal amount of detailing similar to that found on colonial homes. The form of the Merritt House also begins to show characteristics of the ranch house that would become popular in the 1950s. Silas Owens, Sr., and Silas Owens, Jr., used their trademark masonry design for the house, which included the cut stone of the exterior walls laid in a rough herringbone pattern and cream-brick trim around the doors, windows, and porch openings, and the cream-brick quoins at the building's corners.

Today, the S. D. Merritt House is owned by his son, Seth, Jr., and still very much reflects the time of its construction c.1950. As the best example of a Minimal Traditional House constructed by Owens in the Greenbrier vicinity, the S. D. Merritt House remains as a lasting tribute to the creativity of African-American stonemason Silas Owens, Sr.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The S. D. Merritt House is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under **Criterion C** with **local significance** as the best example of a Minimal Traditional home built by African-American stonemason Silas Owens, Sr., in the Greenbrier vicinity. The Merritt House, which was built c.1950, exhibits the distinctive characteristics of the work of Silas Owens, Sr., notably the cut stone of the exterior walls laid in a rough herringbone pattern and the cream-brick trim around the doors, windows, and porch openings, and the cream-brick quoins at the building's corners. The S. D. Merritt House, is being submitted to the National Register of Historic Places under the multiple property listing "A Storm Couldn't Tear Them Down: The Mixed Masonry Buildings of Silas Owens, Sr., 1938-1955."

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 1

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Baker, Russell Pierce. *From Memdag to Norsk: A Historical Directory of Arkansas Post Offices, 1832-1971*. Hot Springs, AR: Arkansas Genealogical Society, 1988.

Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Pulaski, Jefferson, Lonoke, Faulkner, Grant, Saline, Perry, Garland, and Hot Spring Counties, Arkansas. Chicago: The Goodspeed Publishing Co., 1889.

Merritt, Seth, Jr. Telephone conversation with Holly Hope, Special Projects Historian at the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program. 23 August 2004.

Merritt, S. D., House
Name of Property

Faulkner County, Arkansas
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one.

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 15 556103 3903325
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.)

Boundary Justification

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

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Ralph S. Wilcox, National Register & Survey Coordinator
organization Arkansas Historic Preservation Program date August 25, 2004
street & number 1500 Tower Building, 323 Center Street telephone (501) 324-9787
city or town Little Rock state AR zip code 72201

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

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.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Property Owner

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

name Seth Merritt
street & number 15 Merritt Drive telephone _____
city or town Greenbrier state AR zip code 72058

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 listing. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*)

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 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 Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P. O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20303.

Merritt, S. D., House
Name of Property

Faulkner County, Arkansas
County and State

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 1

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

From the southwest corner of the Short Cut Road and Highway 25 North intersection, proceed southwest 145 feet along the west side of Highway 25 North to the point of beginning. From the point of beginning, proceed 165 feet southwesterly along the west side of Highway 25 North, thence proceed northwesterly 185 feet, thence proceed northeasterly 165 feet, thence proceed 185 feet southeasterly to the point of beginning.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary contains the land that is historically associated with the S. D. Merritt House.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Merritt, S.D., House
NAME:

MULTIPLE Mixed Masonry Buildings of Silas Owens, Sr. MPS
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: ARKANSAS, Faulkner

DATE RECEIVED: 1/06/05 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 1/31/05
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 2/15/05 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 2/19/05
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 05000038

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 2/15/05 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in the
National Register

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ 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.



MERRITT, S.D., HOUSE
FAULKNER COUNTY, AR

HOLLY HOPE
MAY 2002

ARKANSAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM, LITTLE ROCK, AR
EAST FACADE, LOOKING WEST



MERRITT, S.D., HOUSE
FAULKNER COUNTY, AR
HOLLY HOPE

MAY 2002

ARKANSAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM, LITTLE ROCK, AR
SOUTH FACADE, LOOKING NORTH



MERRITT, S. D., HOUSE
FAULKNER COUNTY, AR
HOLLY HOPE

MAY 2002

ARKANSAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM, LITTLE ROCK, AR
WEST FACADE, LOOKING EAST



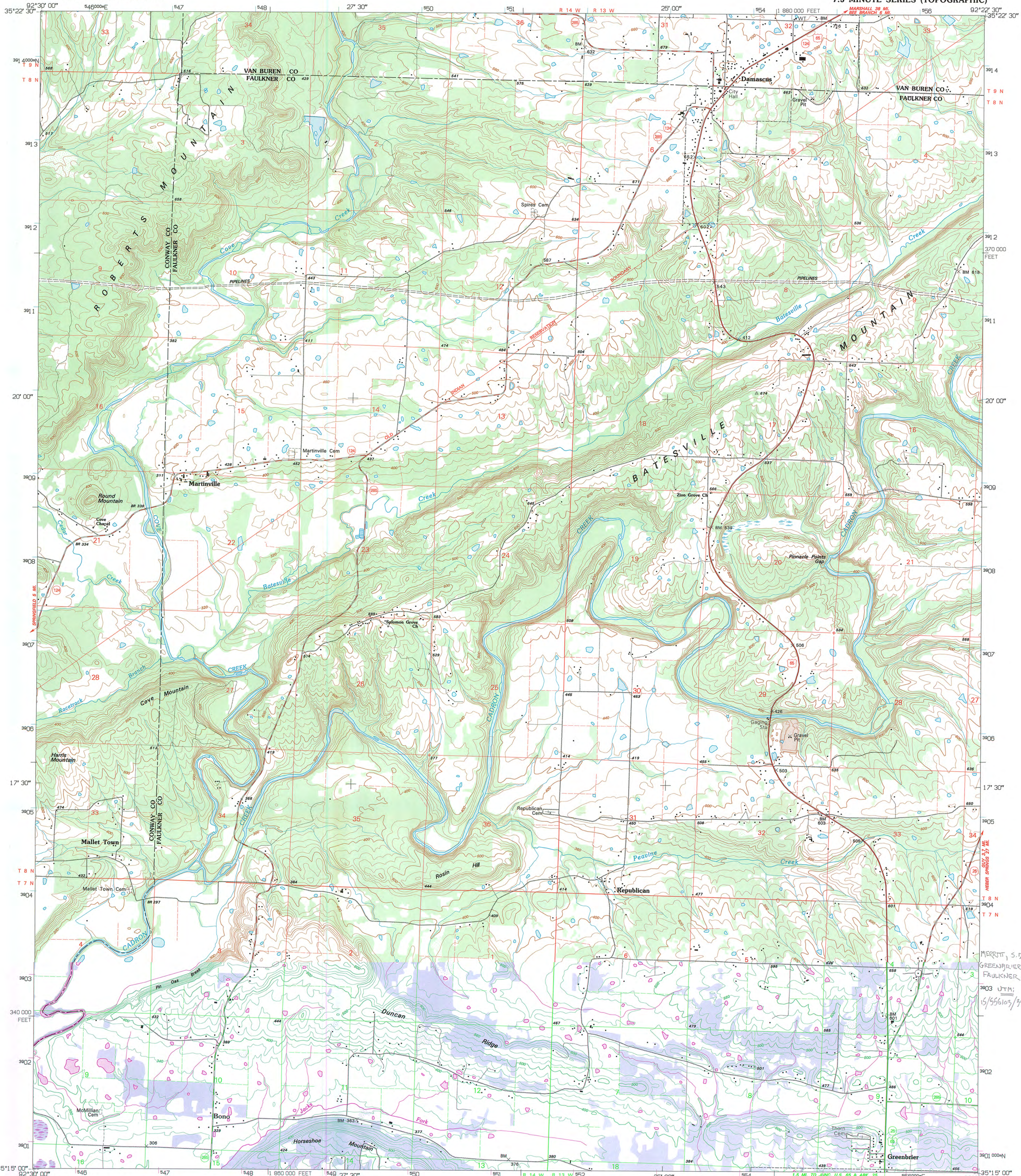
MERRITT, S.D., HOUSE

FAULKNER COUNTY, AR

HOLLY HOPE

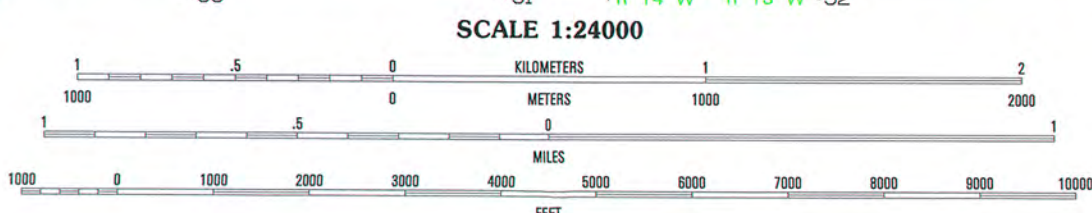
MAY 2002

ARKANSAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM, LITTLE ROCK, AR
NORTH AND EAST FACADES, LOOKING SOUTHWEST



Produced by the United States Geological Survey
Control by USGS and NOS/NOAA
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs
taken 1958. Field checked 1961. Revised from aerial photographs
taken 1989-90. Field checked 1993. Map edited 1994
Universal Transverse Mercator projection
10,000-foot grid ticks: Arkansas coordinate system, north zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 15, shown in blue
1927 North American Datum (NAD 27)
North American Datum of 1983 (NAD 83) is shown by dashed corner ticks
The values of the shift between NAD 27 and NAD 83 for 7.5-minute
intersections are given in USGS Bulletin 1875
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where
generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked

UTM GRID AND 1994 MAGNETIC NORTH
DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET



ADJOINING 7.5' QUADRANGLE NAMES			
1	2	3	1 Formosa
			2 Bee Branch
			3 Morganton
4		5	4 Springfield
			5 Guy
			6 Menifee
6	7	8	7 Greenbrier
			8 Holland

ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Primary highway
hard surface
Secondary highway
hard surface
Light-duty road, hard or
improved surface
Unimproved road
Interstate Route
U.S. Route
State Route

DAMASCUS, ARK.
35092-C4-TF-024

1994

DMA 7554 IV SW-SERIES V884

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
AND ARKANSAS GEOLOGICAL COMMISSION, LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS 72204
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



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

1500 Tower Building

323 Center Street

Little Rock, AR 72201

(501)324-9880

fax: (501)324-9184

tdd: (501)324-9811

e-mail:

info@arkansaspreservation.org

website:

www.arkansaspreservation.org

December 1, 2004

Carol D. Shull
Chief of Registration
United States Department of the Interior
National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service
8th Floor
1201 Eye Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005

RE: S. D. Merritt House – Greenbrier vic., Faulkner County,
Arkansas

Dear Carol:

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,

Cathie Matthews
State Historic Preservation Officer

CM:rsw

Enclosure

