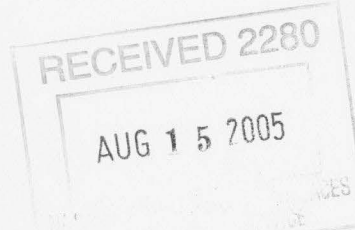


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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 House

other names/site number FA1317

2. Location

street & number 139 North Broadview (U.S. Highway 65 South)

☐ not for publication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.)

Catherine Maclean
Signature of certifying official/Title

7/28/05
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

9.28.05
Date of Action

Merritt 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	1	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	1	Total

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

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)
Late 19th & Early 20th Century American Movements:
Craftsman

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE

walls STONE: Sandstone

roof ASPHALT
other BRICK

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 circa 1948 Merritt House in Greenbrier is an example of rock veneer applied by local Faulkner County mason Silas Owens, Sr. The one-story residence exhibits Craftsman style details and is a representative illustration of Mixed Masonry veneer applied to frame structures.

ELABORATION

The Merritt House is located at 139 North Broadview/ US Highway 65 South in Greenbrier. The house has an irregular plan on a cast concrete foundation and is an example of mixed masonry veneer applied over an existing wood frame structure. The house features a gable and gable on hip roof covered with composition shingles. An attached garage is original to the house, but a secondary free-standing two-story garage was constructed circa 1990 by Silas Owens, Sr.'s son, Silas Owens, Jr., to the southwest of the house. The original fenestration has been replaced with vinyl windows, but the size and massing remain as they were initially.

The front, eastern façade features a dominant front gabled porch with a wide arched entrance, demonstrative of the Craftsman influence. The poured concrete porch floor leads to a single-leaf front door flanked by full-length sidelights. The paneled door includes two lights in the upper panels. Immediately to the north of the entry is the house's chimney, rising through the gabled porch roof and accented with cream brick at the corners. From the porch, the front façade steps back to a second gable face containing a bay window with three six-over-six, double-hung windows. Rectangular louvers surrounded by Owens' signature three-three brick pattern are located in each gable eave.

The northern elevation of the Merritt House includes from east to west a pair of double-hung six-over-six pane windows, a smaller single six-over-six window, and two more pairs of double-hung, six-over-six configuration windows. A northern-facing cross-gable intersects the main gable above the eastern-most pair of windows.

The rear, western elevation is dominated by a shed roof extension of the house's gabled roof covering a cast concrete patio. From north to south, the fenestration consists of a single double-hung six-over-six window adjacent to the covered patio. Under the shed roof, a smaller, single six-over-six and a pair of double-hung twelve pane windows are sheltered from the elements. Two more individual double-hung six-over-six windows line the rear elevation to the south of the patio in the attached garage. It is on this portion of the rear elevation that Owens' signature herringbone pattern is most visible in the coursing of the rocks. The roofline of the garage is a wide gable running east to west with square, cream brick surrounded louvers just below the apex of each gable.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

The focus of the southern elevation is the protruding one-car attached garage, original to the Merritt House, which contains two double-hung, six-over-six windows. The southern elevation continues east recessing to the exterior wall of the house. A flat roof covers the walkway from the driveway to a secondary entrance and rests on a single metal post. Under the flat roof is a small six-over-six window on the southern wall. This wall also features a pair of double-hung twelve pane windows directly under the cross-gable and rectangular louver. At the eastern end of the southern elevation, the gabled front porch is open.

The southern end of the front, eastern façade features an attached garage recessed substantially from the front porch and the main entrance to the house. The garage has one bay with a synthetic solid garage door and a double-hung six-over-six window directly to the north of the bay. The flat roof supported by a single metal post is also visible on the front façade, as is an original cream brick trimmed arch leading to a secondary entrance. The doorway is recessed behind the arch, providing a covered entry.

Integrity

The Merritt House is a fine example of Silas Owens, Sr.'s, craftsmanship and detailing as one of Faulkner County's most identifiable masons. The arched entries, cream colored brick trim around windows and doors, and the herringbone pattern in the stone veneer are prominent features of the house and characteristic of Owens' work. The Merritt House retains integrity because of its unaltered architectural style and retention of the original fenestration size and massing.

Merritt House
Name of Property

Faulkner County, Arkansas
County and State

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. 1948

Significant Dates

c. 1948

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked)

Cultural Affiliation (Complete if Criterion D is marked)

Architect/Builder

Silas Owens, Sr., mason

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

Criterion C: Architecture, Local Significance

SUMMARY

Constructed in 1948, the Merritt House in Greenbrier is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C with local significance as a good example of a Minimal Traditional style Mixed Masonry residence featuring Craftsman-influenced details. The house was veneered in cut sandstone by Faulkner County mason Silas Owens, Sr., and includes the herringbone pattern of laid stone and cream brick door and window surrounds that are distinctive of Owens' work. The nomination is being submitted under the multiple property context statement, "A Storm Couldn't Tear Them Down: The Mixed Masonry Buildings of Silas Owens, Sr., 1938-1955."

ELABORATION

Billy Merritt commissioned Silas Owens, Sr., to build a Mixed Masonry residence for his family on US Highway 65 South in Greenbrier. Mr. Merritt was the second generation Merritt to hire Owens – both his father and his uncle were proud owners of Mixed Masonry houses rocked by the master craftsman from Faulkner County. In fact, many of the cut stones used in Billy Merritt's house were pulled from his father's house up the road when it was demolished in the mid-1940s. The remaining rocks were quarried at Batesville Mountain, according to Mr. Merritt's son, Larry Merritt, who is the present owner of the family home. Mr. Merritt also hauled stone from various other locations in the vicinity of Greenbrier.

The younger Merritt remembers the day Silas Owens, Sr., arrived with a crew of four men to cover the wood frame structure with cut stone veneer. The veneer was added over the clapboard exterior to provide stability and less maintenance. Larry Merritt, who was nine years old at the time, remembers Owens as the first black man he had seen.

Both Billy Merritt and his son Larry worked for Arkansas Power and Light. The elder was a lineman in Faulkner County soon after electricity was made available to the rural parts of the county. Unlike many Mixed Masonry homeowners in Central Arkansas, this branch of the Merritt family did not depend on farming for their livelihood. Billy Merritt traveled around the county and region in his position with AP&L.

Currently, the Merritt House is used as a rental property. Larry Merritt retains ownership of the property, although he and his wife reside in Conway. An addition was made to the property circa 1990 in the form of a two-story, gambrel roof garage and apartment. Fittingly, the masonry exterior was laid by Silas Owens, Jr., son of the original mason, in a similar pattern and configuration as that done by his father. The garage building is a non-contributing structure on the Merritt property.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 2

Statement of Significance

The Merritt House, located in Greenbrier, is a fine example of the Mixed Masonry craftsmanship of Silas Owens, Sr., in Faulkner County. Owens also constructed several other Mixed Masonries for the Merritt family in the vicinity. The structure is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under **Criterion C** with **local significance** because of its characteristic Owens' construction. Cream brick window and door surrounds, wide arched porches, and the distinct herringbone pattern found in the stone coursing signify the Merritt House as the work of Silas Owens, Sr. The fact that the stone on the Merritt House was taken in part from another earlier residence built by Owens strengthens its significance. The Merritt House is being submitted under the multiple property context "A Storm Couldn't Tear Them Down: The Mixed Masonry Buildings of Silas Owens, Sr., 1938-1955."

Merritt 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 9 Page 1

Bibliography

Merritt, Larry and Shirley. Conway, Arkansas. Son and daughter-in-law of Billy Merritt. Telephone interview with author, 19 May 2005.

Merritt 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 555705 3901194
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 Beth Wiedower
organization Arkansas Historic Preservation Program date May 19, 2005
street & number 1500 Tower Building, 323 Center Street telephone 501/324-9880
city or town Little Rock state Arkansas 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 Larry and Shirley Merritt
street & number 650 Milam Drive telephone 501/327-0932
city or town Conway state Arkansas zip code 72032

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 Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20303.

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 northwest corner of the intersection of U.S. Highway 65 South and Oak Hill Road, proceed north approximately 701 feet to the point of beginning. From the point of beginning, continue 124 feet north, then 165 feet westerly. From the northwest corner of the property, advance south 124 feet, then 165 feet easterly back to the point of beginning.

Verbal Boundary Justification

The nominated property includes the entire parcel historically associated with the Merritt House.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Merritt House
NAME:

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

STATE & COUNTY: ARKANSAS, Faulkner

DATE RECEIVED: 8/15/05 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 9/13/05
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 9/28/05 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 9/28/05
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 05001071

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 9/28/05 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 HOUSE

FAULKNER COUNTY, AR

HOLLY HOPE

APRIL 2003

ARKANSAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM, LITTLE ROCK, AR

NORTH AND EAST FACADES, LOOKING SOUTHWEST



MERRITT HOUSE

FAULKNER COUNTY, AR

HOLLY HOPE

APRIL 2003

ARKANSAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM, LITTLE ROCK, AR

SOUTH FACADE, LOOKING NORTH



MERRITT HOUSE

FAULKNER COUNTY, AR

HOLLY HOPE

APRIL 2003

ARKANSAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM, LITTLE ROCK, AR

WEST FACADE, LOOKING NORTHEAST



MERRITT HOUSE
FAULKNER COUNTY, AR
HOLLY HOPE
APRIL 2003
ARKANSAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM, LITTLE ROCK, AR
GARAGE'S EAST FACADE, LOOKING NORTHWEST



MERRITT HOUSE
FAULKNER COUNTY, AR
HOLLY HOPE

APRIL 2003

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



MERRITT HOUSE

FAULKNER COUNTY, AR

HOLLY HOPE

APRIL 2003

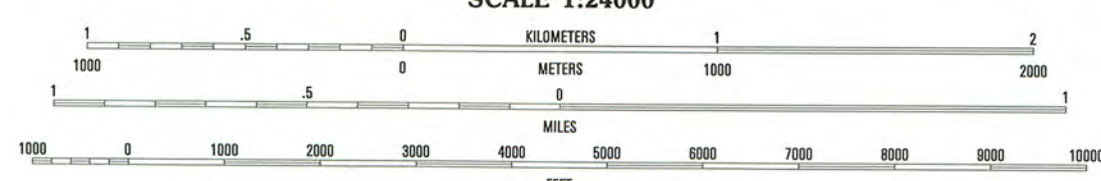
ARKANSAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM, LITTLE ROCK, AR

EAST AND SOUTH FACADES, LOOKING NORTHWEST



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



CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 FEET
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929



QUADRANGLE LOCATION

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

1	2	3
4	5	6
7	8	9

1 Formosa
2 Bee Branch
3 Morantown
4 Springfield
5 Guy
6 Menifee
7 Greenbrier
8 Holland

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

DAMASCUS, ARK.
35092-C4-TF-024

1994

DMA 7554 IV SW-SERIES V884



The Department of
**Arkansas
Heritage**

Mike Huckabee, Governor
Cathie Matthews, 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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323 Center Street

Little Rock, AR 72201
(501) 324-9880

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tdd: (501) 324-9811

e-mail:

info@arkansaspreservation.org

website:

www.arkansaspreservation.org

August 3, 2005

Dr. Janet Matthews
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: Merritt House – Greenbrier, Faulkner County, Arkansas

Dear Dr. Matthews:

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

