

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 Silas Owens, Sr. House

other names/site number FA1258

2. Location

street & number 157 Solomon Grove Road

☐ not for publication

city or town Twin Groves

☐ vicinity

state AR

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.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

☒ entered in the National Register.

☐ See continuation sheet

☐ determined eligible for the  
National Register.

☐ See continuation sheet

☐ determined not eligible for the  
National Register.

☐ removed from the National  
Register.

☐ other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Edson H. Brall

2/15/05

Silas Owens, Sr., House  
Name of Property

Faulkner County, AR  
County and State

## 5. Classification

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

- ☒ private  
☐ public-local  
☐ public-State  
☐ public-Federal

**Category of Property**  
(Check only one box)

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

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

Contributing

Noncontributing

1

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)

OTHER./vernacular

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete

walls Cut Stone

roof Composition

other

**Narrative Description**

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

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National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

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### SUMMARY

The Silas Owens, Sr., House, located at 157 Solomon Grove Road in Twin Groves was constructed in the Mixed Masonry style circa 1948. The building served as the primary residence of the well-known Faulkner County rock mason, Silas Owens, Sr., and his family. Owens' home is influenced by Craftsman massing with open rafter tails, now obscured by a fascia board, and paired windows. A Mediterranean influence can be seen in a full, arcaded front porch. Cream brick trim is used sparingly on this building; however the artistic use of stone coursing is typical of the fine masonry executed by Silas Owens, Sr.

### ELABORATION

The Silas Owens, Sr., House is a rectangular plan on a concrete foundation with a gabled and clipped gable roof. The sloping lot provides space for a partial basement at the rear of the building. The home was altered with the replacement of original wood windows with two-over-two aluminum sashes in the early 1990s; however, with the application of one-over-one storm windows this modern alteration is less evident and presents a more appropriate appearance. The original window openings are also the same dimension. The home was constructed with a tin roof, which was replaced at the same time as the windows with composition shingle. Neither of these modifications detracts from the original form or the creative rockwork, which is the hallmark of a Silas Owens, Sr., Mixed Masonry.

### South Elevation

The northern, front elevation of the Silas Owens, Sr., House presents a full, arcaded porch. The three baskethandle arches of the porch are outlined to the area of the spring with cream bricks. A small one-over-one window at the apex of the gabled porch roof is outlined in a header and stretcher pattern of

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National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

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cream bricks. This elevation is fenestrated on the west and east corners with a pair of two-over-two, double-hung aluminum windows flanking a single-leaf front door. The typical Silas Owens, Sr., use of header and stretcher patterns in brick around the windows is absent on this house and is replaced with a wide concrete lintel and concrete sill.

### East Elevation

A single, narrow baskethandle arch trimmed with cream brick is located at the northeast end of the porch. The eastern elevation is fenestrated north to south with a pair of windows, a single opening and two more pairs of windows. A single-light stationary basement window topped with a concrete lintel is situated beneath the paired windows at the southeast corner.

### South Elevation

The rear, southern elevation contains a pair of short double-hung windows at the southeast corner. The roof on this elevation features a jerkinhead gable on hip and a narrow shed roof supported by two square posts extends over the pair of windows to the southeast. A small arcaded porch with rock half-wall capped with concrete and two baskethandle arches extends a few feet south from the back wall. The porch is reached by a short flight of concrete steps. Two adjacent single-leaf doors open onto the back porch.

### West Elevation

The southwest corner of the back porch features a single arch. A gabled bay extends approximately two feet west from the main wall flanking the back porch. A single double-hung window is centered in the bay. Two jagged shards of broken mirror glass are placed within the mortar joints above the window.

Silas Owens, Sr., House  
Name of Property

Faulkner County, AR  
County and State

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The main wall is fenestrated south to north with two pairs of windows and the northwest corner of the porch is marked by a single arch.



**8. Statement of Significance****Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- ☐ **A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ **B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ **C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ **D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations**

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

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

**Levels of Significance** (local, state, national)

Local

**Areas of Significance** (Enter categories from instructions)

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.

**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

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### SUMMARY

The Silas Owens, Sr., House in Twin Groves, Arkansas, constructed circa 1948 is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places with local significance under Criterion C as a good example of a Craftsman and Mediterranean influenced Mixed Masonry residence. The Faulkner County home was constructed and veneered by master craftsman Silas Owens, Sr., and features the creative stone coursing emblematic of Owens work. The nomination 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."

### ELABORATION

The Silas Owens, Sr., House was built circa 1948 by Silas Owens, Sr., to serve as the principal residence for his wife, Georgia and their six children. The main vocation of most of the African American families in Twin Groves atop Batesville Mountain in Faulkner County was farming and Silas, Sr.'s, family as a whole participated in raising foodstuffs grown on their property. Owens' true love though was masonry and he trained his children – boys and girls – in laying bricks and stone. After Silas Owens, Sr.'s, death in 1960 the home remained in the family and his daughter Pauline Morris continues to reside there with her son Jeffery Morris.

The town of Twin Groves was not incorporated until 1991 but the area retains the feel of a rural, farming community. The Silas Owens, Sr., House retains its commanding view of the wooded fields and valleys

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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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stretching to the north and south and is thus evocative of mid-twentieth century rural life in Faulkner County and Twin Groves.

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Silas Owens, Sr., House in Twin Groves, Faulkner County, Arkansas is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places with local significance under Criterion C as an excellent example of a Craftsman and Mediterranean influenced Mixed Masonry residence featuring the superior craftsmanship of Silas Owens, Sr. The nomination 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."



Silas Owens, Sr., House  
Name of Property

Faulkner County, AR  
County and State

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places

## Continuation Sheet

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### 9. Major Bibliographical References

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#### Bibliography

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

Morris, Pauline. Daughter of Silas Owens, Sr., Twin Groves, Arkansas. Telephone interview with author,  
07 September 2004.

Morris, Jeffery. Grandson of Silas Owens, Sr., Twin Groves, Arkansas. Telephone interview with author, 27  
September 2004.

Owens, Silas, Jr. Son of Silas Owens, Sr. Twin Groves, Arkansas. Personal interview with author, 22 March 2002.

Silas Owens, Sr., House  
Name of Property

Faulkner Co., AR  
County and State

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property \_\_\_\_\_

### UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1    15    551419    3908598  
     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    Holly Hope  
organization    Arkansas Historic Preservation Program    date    12/13/04  
street & number    1500 Tower Building, 323 Center Street    telephone    501 324-9880  
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    Pauline Morris  
street & number    157 Solomon Grove Road    telephone    501 335-7346  
city or town    Twin Groves    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.

Silas Owens, Sr., House  
Name of Property

Faulkner County, AR  
County and State

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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### 10. Geographical Data

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Acres of Property Less than one acre.

#### UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 15 551419 3908598  
Zone Easting Northing

2 \_\_\_\_\_

3 \_\_\_\_\_  
Zone Easting Northing

4 \_\_\_\_\_

☐ See continuation sheet

#### Verbal Boundary Description

Beginning at a point on the south side of Solomon Grove Road proceed south approximately 100 feet toward the rear property line of 157 Solomon Grove Road. Then proceed east approximately 30 feet turning north toward Solomon Grove Road, approximately 100 feet then approximately 30 feet west to point of origin.

#### Boundary Justification

The boundaries include all land currently associated with the Silas Owens, Sr., House.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Owens, Silas, Sr., 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: 05000045

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.







Silas Owens, SR, House

Faulkner Co, AR

Holly Hope

03/22/2002

AHPP, Little Rock, AR

Detail of N. Bay

1 of 5



Silas Owens, SR House

Faulkner Co, AR

Holly Hope

03/22/2002

AHPP, Little Rock, AR

View from West

2 of 5





Silas Owens, SR, House  
Faulkner Co AR

Holly Hope

03/23/2002

ATIPP, Little Rock, AR

View from South

3 of 5





Silas Owens, SR, House  
Faulkner Co, AR

Holly Hope

ATIPP, Little Rock, AR

View from east

4 of 5





Silas OWENS, SR. House

Faulkner Co, AR

Holly Hope

03/22/2002

AHPP, Little Rock, AR

View from NORTH

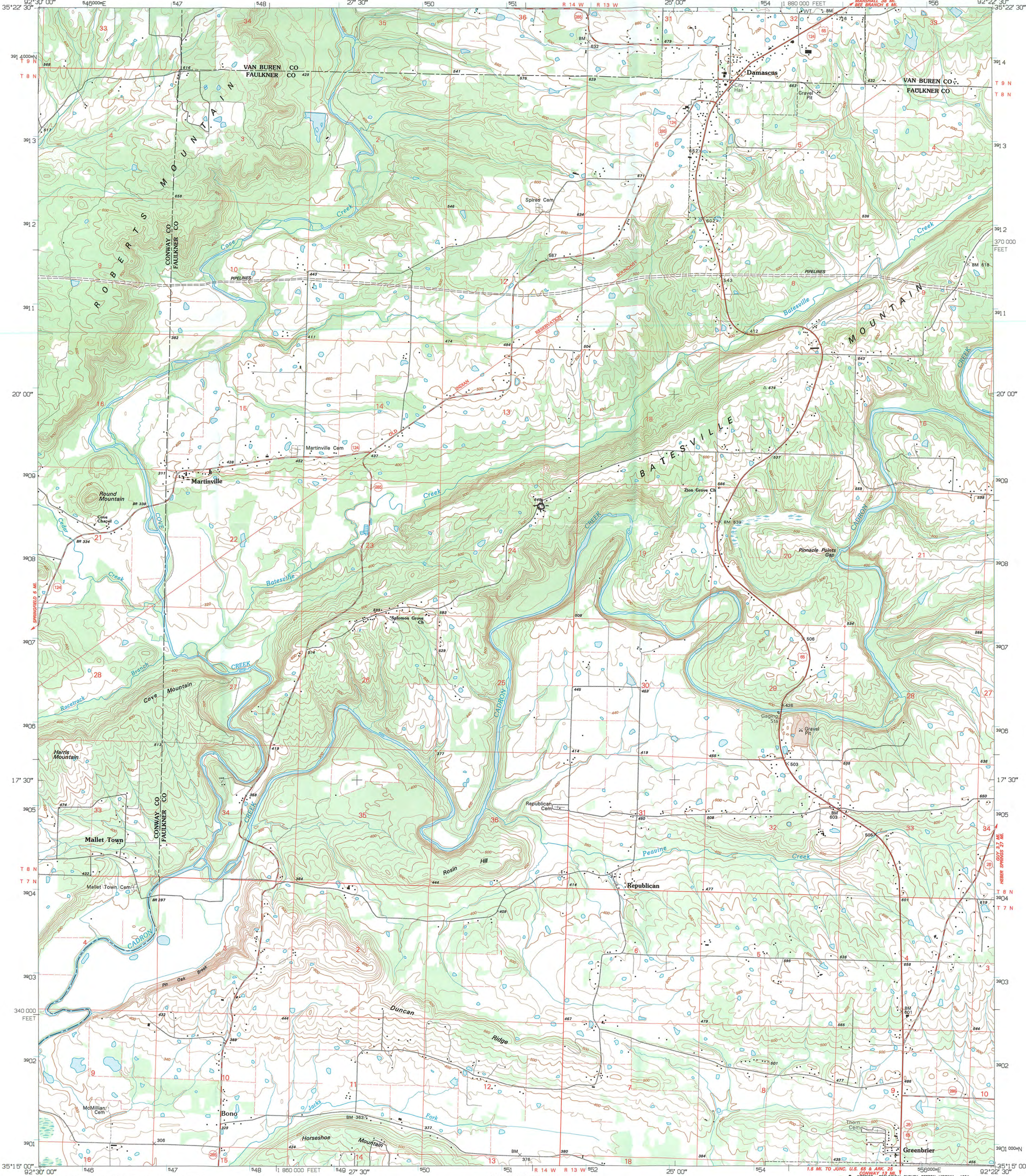
5 of 5



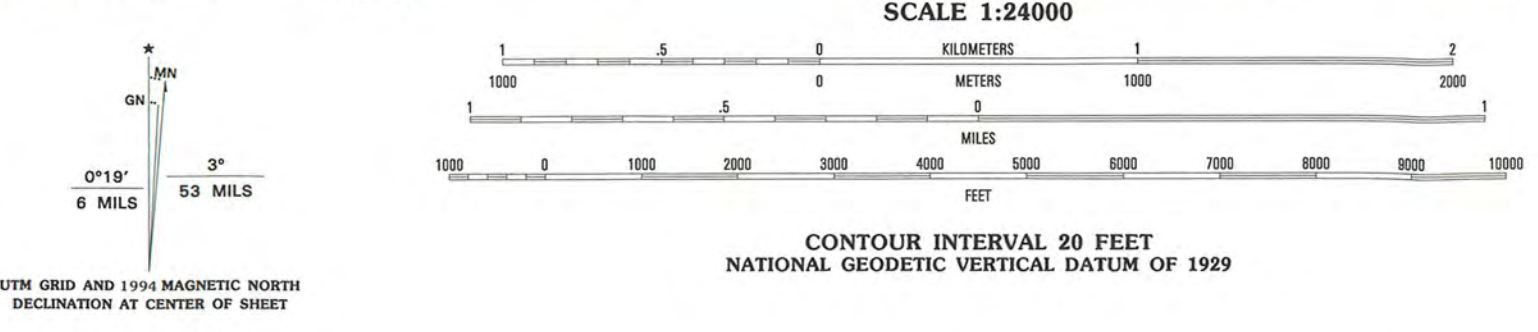
Silas Owens, SR, House  
Twin Groves  
Faulkner Co, AR  
15/551419/3908598

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

DAMASCUS QUADRANGLE  
ARKANSAS  
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)



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



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

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

Historic Arkansas Museum

Delta Cultural Center

Old State House Museum

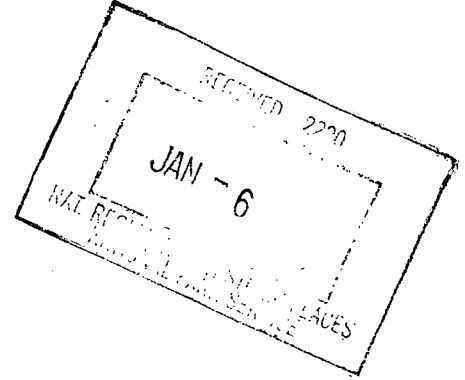


## Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

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 13, 2004

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

RE: Silas Owens, Sr., House, Twin Groves, Faulkner, Mack Morton  
Barn, Appleby, Washington

Dear Carol:

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

If you need further information, please call Holly Hope of my staff at (501) 324-9148. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,

Cathie Matthews  
State Historic Preservation Officer

CM:hh

Enclosure

An Equal Opportunity Employer

