

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 91001108

Date Listed: 9/5/91

Brannon, Luther, House
Property Name

Anderson
County

TENNESSEE
State

Oak Ridge MPS
Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

Carol D. Skell
Signature of the Keeper

9-5-91
Date of Action

=====

Amended Items in Nomination:

Section No. 7

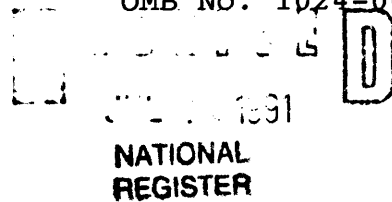
This nomination was amended to show the foundation material as stone.

The amendment was confirmed by phone with the Tennessee SHPO (8/15/91).

DISTRIBUTION:

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property

historic name: Hackworth, Owen, House

other name/site number: Brannon, Luther, House (Preferred)

2. Location

street & number: 151 Oak Ridge Turnpike

not for publication: N/A

city/town: Oak Ridge

vicinity: N/A

state: TN county: Anderson

code: 001

zip code: 37830

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: Private

Category of Property: Building

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	_____	buildings
_____	_____	sites
_____	_____	structures
_____	_____	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: N/A

Name of related multiple property listing: Historical and Architectural Resources of Oak Ridge

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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.

 See continuation sheet.

Herbert L. Hays
Signature of certifying official

7/18/91
Date

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, Tennessee Historical Commission

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this 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):

9-5-91 Carol Shull

Signature of Keeper

Date
of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic: DOMESTIC
DEFENSE

Sub: single dwelling
military facility

Current : DOMESTIC

Sub: single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

Bungalow/Craftsman

Other Description: N/A

Materials: foundation Concrete roof Composition
walls Stone other Aluminum

Describe present and historic physical appearance. X See continuation sheet.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: National.

Applicable National Register Criteria: A,B

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) : G

Areas of Significance: MILITARY HISTORY
SOCIAL HISTORY

Period(s) of Significance: 1942 1946-1956

Significant Dates : 1942 1956

Significant Person(s): Groves, General Leslie R.

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: Hackworth, Owen

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above. X See continuation sheet.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet.

Previous documentation on file (NPS): N/A

- 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 -- Specify Repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: .7 acres

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

A	<u>16</u>	<u>751400</u>	<u>3992290</u>	B	___	_____	_____
C	___	_____	_____	D	___	_____	_____

___ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description: See continuation sheet.

Boundary Justification: See continuation sheet.

11. Form Prepared By

Name/Title: Kimberley A. Murphy

Organization: Thomason and Associates Date: 4/5/91

Street & Number: P.O. Box 121225 Telephone: 615-383-0227

City or Town: Nashville State: TN ZIP: 37212

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 7

Luther Brannon House Page #1

The Brannon House is a one story, four bay stone bungalow constructed in 1941 by Owen Hackworth, only months before it was condemned and purchased by the federal government. The house is located on the far eastern end of the Oak Ridge Turnpike and faces northwest. It is the only house on the south side of the Turnpike and is located in a district zoned for business.

The house was constructed in a rectangular plan with a stone foundation and a side gable roof of composition shingles. The house rests on a raised basement and has horizontal casement windows venting the basement. On the main (northwest) facade is a small entry porch of stone with a gable roof. This porch has solid stone walls, a round arched opening, and a concrete floor and steps. The main entrance has a round arched paneled wood door with a single round glass light. There is what appears to be an original wood frame and screen door with a semi-circular transom. The windows on the front and side facades are not original and are two-over-two aluminum sash with horizontal lights. These windows have been set within the original wood frames.

There is an original single-bay porch on the northeast facade that appears to have been enclosed ca. 1956. Aluminum siding and an aluminum sash window with three horizontal lights have been added between the original stone porch columns and rail. Stone and concrete steps lead to an aluminum frame door in the side of the enclosed porch. Aluminum siding has been applied to the gabled ends of the house. There is an original paired six-over-six wood sash window on the rear (southeast) facade of the house.

There are no significant outbuildings or structures adjacent to the house. There is only a carport of temporary metal and fiberglass construction southwest of the house. A concrete block barbecue with a concrete patio has been constructed in the back yard. There is also a small gable roof playhouse in the back yard of plywood construction. These structures are of temporary or semi-permanent construction and are too small to be considered contributing or non-contributing.

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Section number 8

Luther Brannon House Page #1

The Brannon House was constructed in 1941 by Owen Hackworth, a longtime resident of the Clinch River Valley, only months before the Army acquired his property for the Manhattan Project in 1942. The house is significant under criterion A for its association with the early development of Oak Ridge. The house was the first house in Oak Ridge to be privately owned. The house is also significant under criterion B for its association with General Leslie R. Groves, the commander of the Manhattan Project. The house is eligible under criteria consideration G because its significance has been achieved within the last fifty years. The house is the only pre-war house that remains standing in the city proper and is the only confirmed residence of any of the key personalities associated with the project.

Like all properties lying within the proposed boundaries of the militarily restricted Clinton Engineer Works (CEW), as the reservation was originally codenamed, the Brannon House and property were appraised, condemned, and purchased by the Army. The house was used very early in the project as the residence and headquarters for General Leslie R. Groves, the dynamic commander of the Manhattan Project. In the early months of the CEW, Groves lived in the bungalow constructed by Owen Hackworth and established project headquarters in the house until the administration buildings, the first structures on the site, were completed. The house served as project headquarters throughout the winter of 1942. Groves was a career soldier who graduated fourth in his class at West Point in 1918. He was a strong, pragmatic, and dynamic person with few weaknesses. At the time of his appointment to the Manhattan Project, Groves was a colonel in the Army Corps of Engineers and had directed the recent construction of the Pentagon. He was promoted to Brigadier General in preparation for his command of the Project.

Groves was named commander of the Manhattan project on September 17, 1942, and has been recognized by those who worked under him as the most effective person for that position. Groves had supreme authority over all aspects of the project and testimony to his effectiveness is noted in City Behind A Fence: "The project did go forward on time and virtually every aspect of it, from the site location in Tennessee to the final details of the bombing run at Hiroshima, bore the general's personal imprint." As commander of the entire project, Groves was responsible for all aspects of its operation. One of his first official acts as commander was to acquire 59,000 acres of land in Tennessee for the Oak Ridge site, known as Site X.

It is not known how the house was used between 1942 and 1946, although it may have continued to serve as office or residential space for project officials. The house is known as the Brannon house, after Luther Brannon, whose family has lived in the house since 1946. Brannon came to Oak Ridge in September of 1943 to manage the Chevrolet dealership on the townsite. He worked for Chevrolet until 1950, when he went into business for himself. Brannon was one of the private concessionaires who came to Oak Ridge a part of the Army's plan to provide a semblance of normalcy to townsite residents under extraordinary conditions that existed until the city was incorporated in

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Luther Brannon House Page #1

1959. The government's control over Oak Ridge extended to the townsite's commercial development both during and after World War II. Through the privately-operated management company of Roane-Anderson, the government established the types of business that operated in Oak Ridge as well as the rents that were charged.

The house is important in the context of post-war history because it represents an important step in the city's move towards independence from government control. In preparation for incorporation of the townsite, all houses in Oak Ridge were released for sale to the public in 1956. Brannon's house was slated for demolition because of its location in a designated commercial area. Mrs. Brannon wrote to War Department officials in Washington, D.C., for permission to remain in her house. The Brannons were granted special permission to purchase the house and were the very first homeowners in Oak Ridge.

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Brannon, Bob. Interview by Kimberley A. Murphy, 4 January 1991.

Jackson, Charles O. and Charles W. Johnson. City Behind A Fence. Knoxville:
The University of Tennessee Press, 1981.

Rhodes, Richard. The Making of the Atomic Bomb. New York: Simon and
Schuster Inc., 1986.

Robinson, George O., Jr. The Oak Ridge Story. Kingsport, Tennessee:
Southern Publishers, Incorporated, 1950.

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Section number 10

Luther Brannon House Page # 1

Verbal Boundary Description: The nominated property occupies city lot 1, block SD, plan 17CM and is .7 acre in size.

Verbal Boundary Justification: The boundary includes the city lot that has been historically associated with the property since the commencement of the Manhattan Project.

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Section number Photographs

Luther Brannon House Page # 1

Brannon, Luther, House
151 Oak Ridge Turnpike
Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37830

Photographed by Kimberley A. Murphy
25 February 1991

Negatives located at Tennessee Historical Commission
701 Broadway
Nashville, Tennessee 37203

Photo #1 of 2: East view of main facade.

Photo #2 of 2: West view of rear facade.

