

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

For NCAS use only

received APR 22 1982

date entered

June 2, 1982

**1. Name** Evening Shade Multiple Resource Area

historic Historic Resources of Evening Shade

and/or common

**2. Location**

street & number The incorporation limits of Evening Shade N/A not for publication

city, town Evening Shade N/A vicinity of congressional district 1st

state Arkansas code 05 county Sharp code 135

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>N/A</u> <b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Multiple Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name Multiple Ownership

street & number See continuation sheet

city, town N/A vicinity of state

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Sharp County Courthouse

street & number Highway 167 North

city, town Ash Flat state Arkansas

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title See continuation sheet has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☒ no

date ☐ federal ☒ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

city, town Little Rock state Arkansas

## 7. Description

### Condition

☐ excellent  
☒ good  
☒ fair

☐ deteriorated  
☐ ruins  
☐ unexposed

### Check one

☐ unaltered  
☒ altered

### Check one

☒ original site  
☐ moved date \_\_\_\_\_

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

### SURVEY METHODOLOGY

Evening Shade was first surveyed in 1976 by the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program's staff. All historic structures within the incorporate limits were identified and photographed. As a result of this survey the Herrn House was listed in the National Register.

A follow-up survey was conducted by Sarah Brown and Jaci Carfagno of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program in April of 1981. At this time the historic data of Evening Shade was gathered from state and local depositories, interviews of local historians and home owners were conducted, and every structure was located on a city map. Onsite evaluations were made. Structures meeting the minimum National Register eligibility requirements of architectural and/or historic significance were identified, mapped, described, photographed and given a survey number. The Arkansas Archeological Survey was consulted concerning the possible existence of prehistoric and historic archeological sites. All structures and sites determined eligible for listing in the National Register have been included in the multiple resource nomination for Evening Shade.

### DESCRIPTION

Evening Shade, population 404, is a small rural town located in Sharp County. Situated in northcentral Arkansas at the edge of the Ozark Mountains. Sharp County has traditionally contained little population and evidenced little economic development. Other towns within the county are small and rural in character with farm land and buildings within their incorporate limits. Evening Shade typifies their environmental, architectural, and historical quality. Most structures are one and two-story wood frame or native stone buildings with few high style influences. Few modern utilities have been provided. The largest communities in Sharp County are located along Highway 167, a major artery running north-south through the county. While all other towns on Highway 167 are platted north-south to compliment the highway, Evening Shade, the county's oldest community, is platted east-west.

Evening Shade was incorporated and made the Sharp County Seat <sup>at 8 ways 1868</sup> in 1870; it was the most prosperous town in the county. By 1875 it boasted: four general stores, four drug and grocery stores, one hotel, seven blacksmith shops, a tobacco factory, a saddle and harness shop, a tanyard, four physicians, three lawyers, one weekly newspaper, a watch maker, one saloon, two mills, a cotton gin, a sawmill, a shingle mill, a woolen factory, a Masonic Lodge, three churches, and a college. The Cogger House (ES-4) and the John W. Shaver House (ES-6) already stood opposite each other on Main Street and the Charles W. Shaver House (ES-8) appeared as it does today, on Court Street. The Sharp Mill (ES-1) was a major manufacturer. Other structures in 1875 Evening Shade included wood frame and log buildings. These log buildings were constructed during the early settlement period (1840-1865) and most of them disappeared by 1880.

From 1870 to 1895 Evening Shade prospered. Many one and two-story wood frame residences (ES-2, 3, 7 & 10) and commercial structures (ES-4) were built using lumber and shingles from the local mills. By 1888, the railroad had entered the area. Batesville, 25 miles

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For HCRS use only  
received  
date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 4

Page 1

<u>Property Name</u>	<u>Owner</u>
Mill Site	Mrs. T. J. Clark 1312 Graceland Drive Newport, AR 72112
Metcalfe House	Robert L. Knies Nice Realty Company Highway 167 N Batesville, AR 72501
Stokes House	Mrs. Gertie Kissinger Cammack Street Evening Shade, AR 72532
Cochran Store	Kate Herrn Estate c/o Bess Northcutt Salem, AR 72576
Plum Spring Site	Town of Evening Shade City Hall Evening Shade, AR 72532
John W. Shaver House	Mr. Dewey N. Sims Main Street Evening Shade, AR 72532
Sam Davidson House	Mrs. Emma Vance 4015 Lucost Street Fairfax, VA 22030
Charles W. Shaver House	Caruth S. Moore Court Street Evening Shade, AR 72532
Coger House	Mr. C. A. Thomas Main Street Evening Shade, AR 72532
W. A. Edwards House	Vernon Houty Main Street Evening Shade, AR 72532
McCaleb House	Mrs. Clara Carpenter Main Street Evening Shade, AR 72532
Wilkerson House	Archie Foree Sidney Road Evening Shade, AR 72532

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For HCRS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

6

Page 1

Evening Shade Historic District Survey; September, 1976; Arkansas Historic Preservation Program; Little Rock, Arkansas.

Evening Shade Multiple Resource Survey (continuation of previous district survey); May, 1981; Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, Little Rock, Arkansas

Herrn House; September 9, 1976; National Register of Historic Places; Washington, D.C.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

to the south, and Hardy, 20 miles to the north, became railroad stops while Evening Shade was bypassed and soon began to decline. Hardy challenged Evening Shade for the County seat. Although Evening Shade retained the county seat, the county court divided in 1896 placing courthouses in both Hardy and Evening Shade. In spite of Evening Shade's continuing decline, a few residences including the Herrn House (ES-11) were constructed after 1900.

Evening Shade has retained its historic rural character. A late 19th century land map shows that Evening Shade's streets and lots are today much as they were before the turn of this century. The town's fifteen streets wind irregularly along the soft rolling Ozark hills as does a creek south of Main Street called Town Branch. Five of these streets, Main, South Cammack, West Court, Highway 11, and Highway 167, are paved with asphalt. All other streets are covered with chat, a white lime gravel. Curbs and sidewalks exist only in the main commercial block. There are no water hydrants or stop lights and only a few stop signs along these streets.

The town's principal residential area occupies the north, west, and south parts of town. With few modern intrusions this area retains much of its late 19th century character. Much open space exists between these structures but their density increases to four or five on a block, in the immediate vicinity of the commercial area to the east. All houses face the town's streets and are shaded by many trees and shrubs. This residential area is comprised of 107 houses, including 93 wood frame, four stone, three stucco, and one concrete block structures of one, 1½, and two-story construction. All but one of Evening Shade's two-story structures are wood frame houses. Most of Evening Shade's historic houses were designed with traditional floor plans, such as the Central hall house (one-story) or the I-House (two-story) with ells and additions.

The styles interpreted in Evening Shade's residences are Greek Revival (ES-2, 8, & 13) Queen Anne (ES-7, 10 & 12). The impact of Greek Revival, popular during the town's formative years is evidenced throughout the town's building stock. The two Shaver Houses (ES-6 & 8) and the Metcalfe House (ES-2) are Greek Revival influenced. The Wilkerson House (ES-13) built circa 1900 is also Greek Revival. Its construction, however, took place after the popularity of the style had waned in Arkansas. All of Evening Shade's houses built before 1920 have returns in the gable ends. The more eclectic and decidedly Victorian McCaleb House (ES-12) and the Herrn House (ES-11) are unusual in this environment of central hall floor plans and Greek Revival influence.

Evening Shade's commercial area, or "downtown", is located on Main Street beginning at Cammack Street and extending east to Highway 167. It is comprised of 35 commercial buildings including ten stone, eight wood frame, eight sheet metal, five brick and four concrete block structures. All but one of the commercial structures are one-story and all are vernacular with few high style influences. The first commercial block

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 3

contains a high density of stone structures. The building becomes less dense on the eastern extremes of the commercial district. Along Highway 167 are gas stations and a Purina Feed Mill, a major employer. A 1940 fire destroyed all but one (ES-4) of the pre 20th century wood frame commercial structures.

Four church buildings contribute to Evening Shade's architectural character, including a wood frame Methodist church with some Gothic influence, two brick churches, and one concrete block structure. Three of these churches are located east of the main commercial block; the other is sited on West Main. Only one public school with grades one through twelve serves Evening Shade. This school is a complex of five vernacular buildings: two brick, two stone and one wood frame structure.

The thirteen eligible properties included in this multiple resource nomination are: an historic site, an archeological and historic site, a commercial building, and ten houses. These resources are representative of the rural character of the town of Evening Shade. To insure the protection of this environment, entire house lots are included within the boundaries of each individual property.

ARCHEOLOGY

This small rural town is a potentially valuable archeological survey area. Each house plot is a potential site. A record of main structure, outbuildings and numerous artifacts may be recovered which will aid in the interpretation of the 19th century rural town in Arkansas. The Mill Site is also a potentially valuable archeological resource (see ES-1). A survey for the identification of prehistoric sites has not yet been conducted.

## 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates** 1817–1904 **Builder/Architect** See individual survey forms

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

#### SUMMARY

Evening Shade is the oldest settlement in the area that is now known as Sharp County. As a result of its early settlement, Evening Shade was platted east-west in response to its geographical and topographical features while other established towns in Sharp County, located on Highway 167, were platted north-south to complement the highway. The early development of Evening Shade centered on a mill and a spring. The mill, founded in 1817, was one of the first industries established in northeast Arkansas. This mill, in turn, stimulated the establishment of a general store on Plum Spring one mile to the north. As these two enterprises attracted settlers and other businesses, Evening Shade began to prosper. In 1868, Evening Shade was designated the county seat of Sharp County and its new political prominence brought additional impetus to the town's prosperity. From 1875 until 1895 Evening Shade's citizens, whose ranks included many professionals and merchants, continued to build new residences and commercial structures. However, the introduction of the railroad in the 1880's drastically impacted the development of Evening Shade. The town was bypassed by the railroads and its merchants began to abandon the town seeking greater opportunities in the larger railroad stops, Batesville to the south and Hardy to the north. Predictably a decline in Evening Shade's population followed. Since the turn-of-the-century Evening Shade has retained many of its historic resources and much of its rural character. Evening Shade's historic resources truly reflect the appearance of the town before it fell victim to the railroad and are significant to the history of its commerce (ES-2, 3, 4, 5, & 6), its industry (ES-1 & 2) and its settlement (ES-1, 5, 6, 9, 8). All included properties contribute greatly to the built environment of Evening Shade and all represent the rural characteristics of this Arkansas town.

#### ELABORATION

In 1817 Captain William Thompson of Tennessee brought his milling equipment and other belongings by flatboat up the White River to the area of northeast what is now Batesville. He then travelled northward for 25 miles where, on Mill Creek, he erected a cabin, a sawmill, and a grist mill (ES-1). At this time there were few mills in northeast Arkansas and settlers from miles around came to Thompson's mill to grind corn. Among his customers were Cherokees from the Indian Territory on the southern side of the White River.

By 1847 Thompson had a thriving enterprise. Prior to this date the mail, which came from Batesville, was delivered every two or three months, so Thompson petitioned for the establishment of a local post office. According to legend this event prompted the naming of the settlement. While filling out the petition, Thompson saw the shade cast upon his mill by tall pines and named the post office Evening Shade. The

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

PEACE FOR THE  
UTM NOT VERIFIED

See continuation sheet.

## 10. Geographical Data

See individual survey forms

Acres of nominated property 411

Quadrangle name Evening Shade and Sidney, Arkansas

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A 15 624980 3993135  
Zone Easting Northing

B 15 625175 3992370  
Zone Easting Northing

C 15 625160 3992010

D 15 623380 3992040

E 15 623380 3993160

F                        

G                        

H                        

Verbal boundary description and justification

See individual survey forms

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county code

state code county code

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Sarah Brown, Historian

organization Arkansas Historic Preservation Program date May 10, 1981

street & number Suite 500, Continental Building telephone (501) 371-2763

city or town Little Rock state Arkansas 72201

## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

   national    state X local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

*William L. Hales*

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date 3/31/82

For HCRS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration



**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For HCRS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 2

petition was granted by President James K. Polk, Thompson's second cousin, and Thompson became the first post master.

In April of 1849 a merchant named Samuel Cammack arrived at Batesville. A Batesville merchant suggested that Cammack seek Thompson's assistance in ascertaining an appropriate location for a general store. Thompson suggested a site at Plum Spring one mile north of the mill. Cammack cleared a road to the site and began operating a general store out of a tent. Today, this site is marked by the Plum Spring Springhouse (ES-5).

In 1851 John Wesley Shaver, who settled in the area in 1844, acquired the Cammack enterprise. By this time, Cammack's tent had been replaced by a wood frame building. Shaver also succeeded Thompson as postmaster and relocated the post office to his place of business. The Plum Spring settlement was known thereafter as Evening Shade. In 1854 Shaver built a brick house near his store. The John W. Shaver House (ES-6), still extant, is the oldest and most historic structure in Evening Shade.

By 1868 settlers came and the area began to prosper; Sharp County was formed. The county was named for Ephraim Sharp, a resident of Evening Shade, who represented the area in the state legislature. Two years later Evening Shade was incorporated and became the county seat.

As Evening Shade prospered so did the mill thrive. The mill changed hands several times in succession beginning with the entrepreneurship of J. H. Beveridge, who improved the saw and grist operations, and followed a short time thereafter by Isaac Sharp, Ephraim Sharp's nephew. In 1876, after Isaac Sharp's death, John S. Medley took over the operation of the water-powered mill. Medley also built a steam powered-sawmill three miles west of the Sharp Mill.

The Medley mill began producing high quality lumber and shingles in great quantities. This lumber was used in the construction of Evening Shade's houses and commercial buildings between 1875 and 1900, the town's peak period of prosperity. Among these structures are: the Metcalfe House (ES-2); the Stokes House (ES-3); the Cochran Store (ES-4); the Sam Davidson House (ES-7); the W.A. Edwards Blance (ES-10); the McCaleb House (ES-12); and the Wilkerson House (ES-13).

By 1888 the railroad had entered the area bypassing Evening Shade. Hardy, the only railroad stop in Sharp County, soon challenged Evening Shade for the county seat. Although Evening Shade retained the county seat, the county court divided in 1896 placing courthouses in both Hardy and Evening Shade. The combined impact of the railroad and the division of the county court resulted in the decline of Evening Shade's prosperous economy.

Better transportation systems after 1900 made the commercial enterprises of Batesville, a larger town and railroad stop to the south, more accessible to the residents of Evening Shade. This increased competition caused some merchants to leave Evening Shade. A decline in population followed.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

8

PAGE

3

Evening Shade has retained many of its resources and much of its rural character since its turn of the century decline. The town, which has within the last ten years experienced a population growth of 33%, is deeply interested in protecting its resources.

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For HCERS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 9

Page 1

Heritage. Evening Shade: 1975.

Moore, Caruth Shaver. Early History of Sharp County.

Evening Shade: June, 1979

Evening Shade's Old Mill Recalls History of A Frontier Arkansas Town.

Evening Shade: 1975.

"Historic Homes of Evening Shade." Batesville, Arkansas: Independence County Chronicle, July, 1963.

Powell, Wilson. "Evening Shade." Little Rock: The Arkansas Gazette, August 14, 1966.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only  
received  
date entered 6/2/82

Continuation sheet

Item number

Page

Multiple Resource Area  
Thematic Group

dnr-11

Name Evening Shade Multiple Resource Area  
State Arkansas

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

1. Cochran Store

Entered in the  
National Register

Keeper

Delores Byers 6/2/82

Attest

2. Shaver, Charles W., House

Substantive Review

Keeper

Donna Ann Brugel 9/20/82

Attest

accept - Patrick Andrews 9/22/82

3. Plum Spring Springhouse and Site

Substantive Review

Keeper

Deget 6/2

Attest

\* 4. Wilkerson House

Keeper

Delores Byers 6/2/82

Attest

5. Sharp Mill and Thompson  
Mill Site

Substantive Review

Keeper

6/2/82

Attest

6. McCaleb, John, House

Entered in the  
National Register

Keeper

Delores Byers 6/2/82

Attest

7. Stokes House

Entered in the  
National Register

Keeper

Delores Byers 6/2/82

Attest

8. Cogger House

Substantive Review

Keeper

accept - Beth Grosvenor 6/2/82

Attest

9. Metcalfe House

Entered in the  
National Register

Keeper

Delores Byers 6/2/82

Attest

10. Davidson, Sam, House

Entered in the  
National Register

Keeper

Delores Byers 6/2/82

Attest

\* Removed from National Register 5/82  
Resubmitted as DSE/owner objection

EXP. 12/31/84

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form



Continuation sheet

Item number

Page

Multiple Resource Area  
Thematic Group

Name Evening Shade Multiple Resource Area  
State Arkansas

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

11. Shaver, John W., House

*Substantive Review*

Keeper accept - Beth Grosvenor *6/6/82*

Attest

12. Edwards, W. A., House

*Entered in the  
National Register*

Keeper Delores Byers *6/2/82*

Attest

13.

Keeper

Attest

14.

Keeper

Attest

\* 15. Wilkerson House

*determined by*

Keeper Beth Grosvenor *8/17/82*

**DOE/OWNER OBJECTION**

Attest Patrick Andrews *8/17/82*

16.

Keeper

Attest

17.

Keeper

Attest

18.

Keeper

Attest

19.

Keeper

Attest

20.

Keeper

Attest