

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 Spears House

other names/site number FA1253

2. Location

street & number 1235 Highway 65 N

☐ not for publication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.)

Catharine Thatchers
Signature of certifying official/Title

12/3/04
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

Spears 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)

LATE 19th AND EARLY 20th CENTURY AMERICAN
MOVEMENTS/Craftsman

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete

walls Stone

Brick

roof Shingle

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

To the west of and facing Highway 65 North in the Greenbrier vicinity, the Spears House is a one story mixed masonry home constructed circa 1946. It is predominantly Craftsman in style with its low pitched, front gabled roof, and overall appearance, but borrows details from other styles such as its wide boxed eave overhang, multi-level eave overhang, arched porch entrances, and quoins.

Silas Owens, an African American mason whose work was most popular from the 1930s through the 1950s, put his own distinct signature on this house seen in the herringbone pattern of the rock, and the two-in, two-out design of the cream colored brick found around three sides of the windows, doors, and louvers, and making up the quoins. His meticulous work ethic allowed no break in the rock pattern and no concrete to harden on the surface of the rocks.

ELABORATION

The rectangular framed Spears House still stands as it did in its early years, with few alterations, none of which jeopardize the overall artistic design of the house. The front and side doors have been replaced, as well as the windows. All, however, remain in the original openings, except for one, in which a smaller window has been installed, surrounded with wood slats to fit into the original opening. The two-in, two-out design of the bricks around the windows, doors and louvers remains intact even where remodeling took place. Quoins are found at every corner, and the meticulous herringbone pattern of the cut stone carries throughout the exterior of the Craftsman style mixed masonry home.

East Elevation – Porch

The front, or eastern, elevation of the house features a one-half, front gabled porch, with the northern half of the eave at a lower level than that of the remainder of the home. The porch features three cream brick framed, arched porch entrances, one to the front, and one to each side. The base of the porch is rock in herringbone pattern, and the floor is concrete. To the east, or front, of the porch, two concrete steps lead up to the floor level. Centered above the east entrance to the porch is a square louver surrounded by cream brick in the two-in, two-out pattern. Quoins are at each corner of the porch.

East Elevation – Main Living Quarters

The front of the Spears House has two sets of double hung windows. One set is under the porch, to the south of the door, while the other set is outside of the porch, to the north of the door. A louver is also centered under the gable of the roof of the main structure.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

North Elevation

The north side of the house contains four window openings. The first is a set of double hung, four over four windows, while the remaining three are single hung, one with twelve panes, and two with six over six. Between the third and fourth window opening in the westward direction is a door, and the beginning of a modern wooden deck which wraps around the corner of the house. The roof is extended over the north side of the deck. The deck does not take up a substantial amount of space, and therefore does not take away from the integrity of the house.

West Elevation

The remainder of the deck lies to the west side, or back of, the house. It attaches to a few feet of the house, ending just prior to one of two windows on the back of the house. If the deck were not attached, the back of the house would appear symmetrical. Centered on each half of the west elevation, is a six over six window. Centered just below the roof is a louver which is not bordered by the two-in, two-out brick design.

South Elevation

The south side of the house includes three window openings. The western most window (closest to the back of the house) has six panes over six. The middle window has been replaced with a smaller window, and wooden slats were used to fill in the remaining space. The last window opening contains a set of double hung, four over four windows. The south elevation shares a portion of the roof with the front porch, and the arched entrance to the porch is seen on this side.

INTEGRITY

The Spears House, built circa 1946, retains all seven elements of integrity. The house remains in its original location, which is still a residential neighborhood. The design of the house is intact, with no changes affecting the style of the builders. The one addition, the small deck on the corner of the house, does not detract from the house's appeal. The Spears House is still an excellent example of Silas Owens's work, just as it was in 1946.

Spears 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** 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. 1946

Significant Dates

c. 1946

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked)

Cultural Affiliation (Complete if Criterion D is marked)

Architect/Builder

Silas Owens, builder

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

Due to the excellence of the Spears House as an example of a Mixed Masonry Craftsman style home in the Greenbrier vicinity, it is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under **Criterion C** for its architecture with **local significance**. Mixed masonry was at the height of its popularity for the growing middle class, and Silas Owens was at the height of his career as a masonry artist when the Spears requested his services to help build their new home. Owens featured his signature design characteristics of the herringbone pattern in the rock, cream brick quoins at the corners, and cream brick around the windows, doors, and louver, in a two-in, two-out pattern, on the Spears' home. The Spears house is being submitted under the multiple property listing, **"A Storm Couldn't Tear Them Down: The Mixed Masonry Building of Silas Owens, Sr., 1938-1955."**

Elaboration

Thoughts of a new home began for W.S. and Tressie Spears after the birth of their first child. Thoughts, however, were all they were, as W.S. was called to serve in World War II just ten days after their first son was born, leaving Tressie to care for him alone, saving money all the while, waiting for W.S.'s return.

When W.S. did return, he and his uncle, Frank Battles, began construction on the home adjacent to Highway 65 in Greenbrier. When the time came for the outer walls of the house, W.S. and Battles began digging rock from the hillside across the highway from the house, and solicited the help of mason Silas Owens of Twin Groves. Owens, by then, had helped build many houses, churches, and businesses in Faulkner County, and was well known for his talent.

The Spears lived in the home from 1946 until 1978, while W.S. owned and operated an upholstery shop on the property. They raised three children in the home before moving to Greers Ferry where W.S. pastored a church. Upon retirement, the Spears returned to Greenbrier, but do not live in the same residence.

Spears 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 8 Page 2

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

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Spears 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

Oral History as told by *Silas Owens, Jr.*, now deceased son of Silas Owens, Sr. Personal interviews by Special Projects Historian Holly Hope from January 2002, through January 2004.

Oral History as told by *Tessie Spears*, first owner of the home. Interview by Register Historian Benita Duvall on August 9, 2004.

Spears House
Name of Property

Faulkner County, Arkansas
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 15 555259 3904783
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 Benita K. Duvall, National Register Historian
organization Arkansas Historic Preservation Program date 08-06-04
street & number 1500 Tower Building, 323 Center Street telephone 501-324-9789
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 Amber Zimmerebner
street & number 1235 Highway 65 North telephone N/A
city or town Greenbrier state Arkansas 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.

Spears 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 Republican Road West and US 65 North intersection, proceed southeasterly 1280 feet along the southwest side of US 65 North to the point of beginning. From the point of beginning, proceed southeasterly 165 feet, thence proceed southwesterly 185 feet, thence proceed northwesterly 165 feet, thence proceed northeasterly 185 feet to the point of beginning.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary includes all land currently associated with the Spears House

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Spears 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: 05000043

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.



Spears House
Faulkner Co, AR
Holly Hope

8-24-02
AHPP, Little Rock, AR
Front

#1074



Spears House

Faulkner Co, AR

Holly Hope

8-24-2

AHPP, Little Rock, AR

South side

#2074



Spears House
Faulkner Co., AR

Holly Hope

8-24-2

AHPP, Little Rock, AR
back

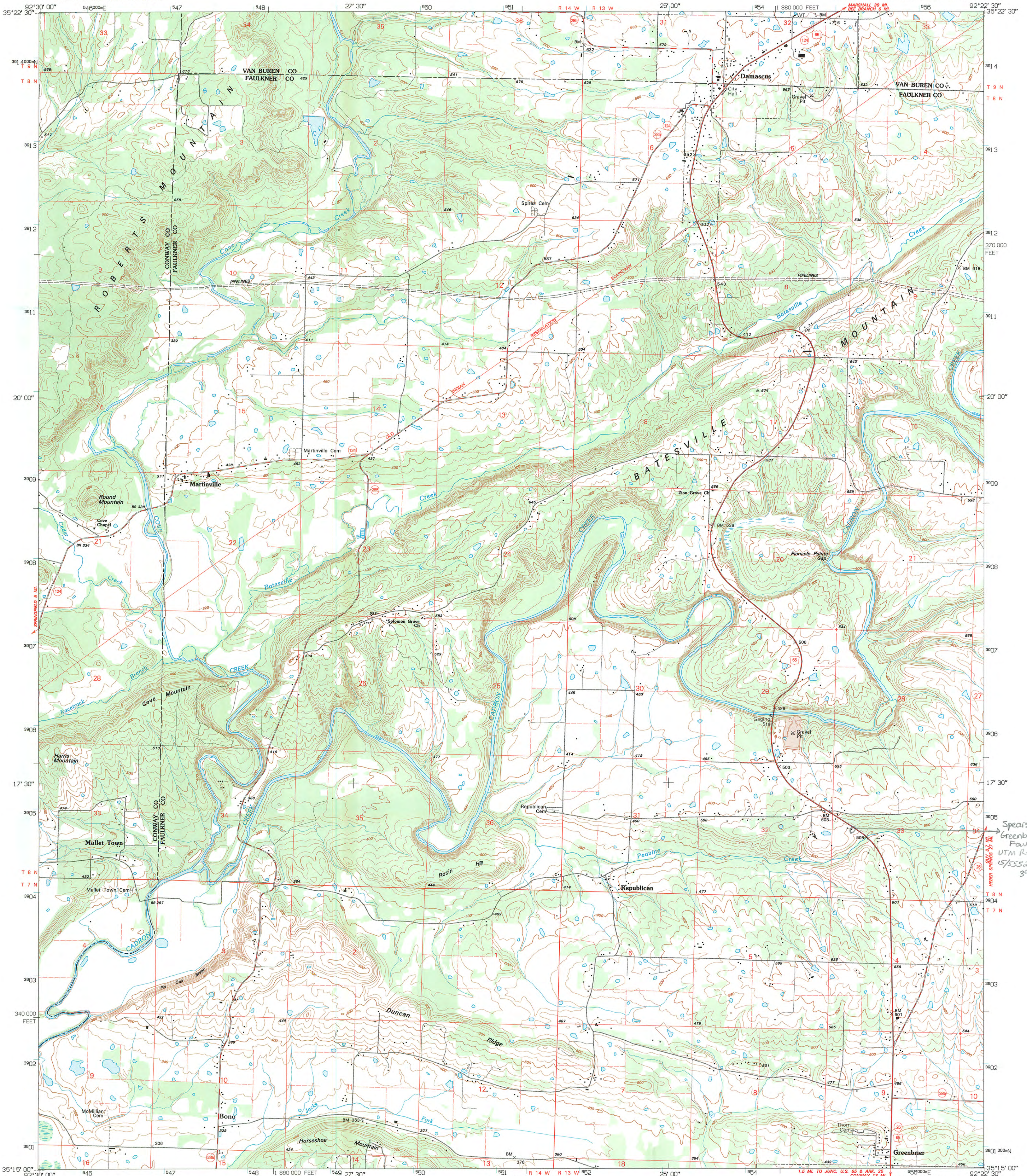
#3074



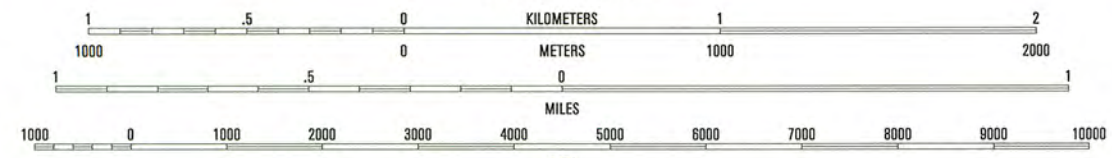
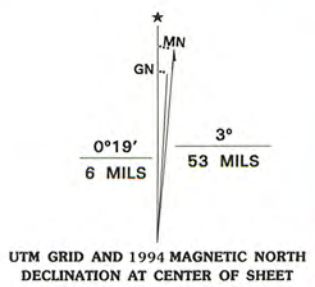
Spears House
Faulkner Co, AR
Holly Hope
8-24-02
AHPP Little Rock, AR
Northside
#424

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	Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
Secondary highway hard 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 Mospart
- 4 Springfield
- 5 Guy
- 6 Menifee
- 7 Greenbrier
- 8 Holland

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

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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, D.C. 20005

RE: Spears House – Conway, Faulkner County

Dear Ms. Shull:

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:bd

Enclosure

An Equal Opportunity Employer



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SOY INK