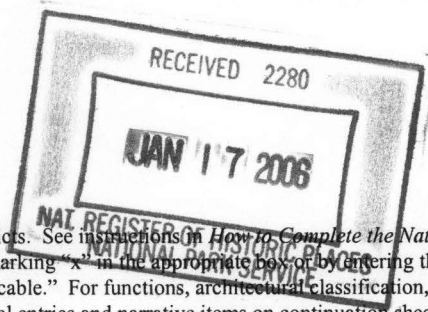


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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 Earl and Oza Crownover-Brown House

other names/site number FA1257

2. Location

street & number 133 S. Broadway

☐ not for publication

city or town Damascus

☐ vicinity

state AR code AR county Faulkner code 045 zip code 72039

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.)

Debbie Matthews  
Signature of certifying official/Title

12/12/05  
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:) \_\_\_\_\_

Edson H. Beall  
Signature of the Keeper

3/2/06  
Date of Action

Earl and Oza Brown 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/ Mixed Masonry

LATE 19<sup>TH</sup> AND 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY REVIVAL/ English  
Revival

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete

walls Cut sandstone

roof Asphalt

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

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### SUMMARY

The Earl and Oza Crownover-Brown House at 133 S. Broadway in Damascus was veneered by rockmason Silas Owens, Sr., in the English Revival style. The one-story, multi-gabled house features the cut sandstone and cream brick trim of the Mixed Masonry, a specialty of Owens.

### ELABORATION

The Earl and Oza Crownover-Brown House rests on a continuous concrete foundation and features a partial basement, which is unusual in this rocky region of Arkansas. The home retains 99% of its original double-hung windows. The attic of the house has been finished for living space and is lit by original double-hung windows. A rear porch was enclosed by the Browns and sided with vertical plywood paneling but this enclosure does not compromise the architectural integrity of the building. A non-contributing garage is situated to the southeast of the house.

### West Elevation

The front, western elevation is fenestrated at the northwest corner with a six-over-six, double-hung window. A large, external chimney with rounded shoulders and throat topped with terra cotta chimney pots is adjacent to an extended, gabled vestibule. The arched, single-leaf front door features three staggered rectangular lights. A starburst pattern in cream brick is centered in the apex of the vestibule's gable. The southwest corner of the house is fenestrated by a pair of six-over-six, double-hung windows. A concrete patio extends across the front of the house from the northwest window to the vestibule. Four stone and brick piers capped with concrete border the patio, which is accessed at the southwest by two concrete steps.

A single window is centered in the attic level of the gable at the southwest corner.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

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### South Elevation

The southern elevation is fenestrated west to east by two pairs of double-hung windows, a single-leaf paneled door sheltered by a barrel-roofed stoop supported by two brackets and a third pair of windows at the southeast corner of the original house. The rear addition at the eastern corner of this elevation is lit by a short pair of four-light awning windows and accessed by a single-leaf door at the southeast corner. The door and windows are sheltered by a small screened-in porch with shed roof that extends south.

### East Elevation

The rear, eastern porch enclosure is sheathed in plywood T1-11 siding and rests atop a cinderblock foundation. Two pairs of double-hung windows light the addition.

### North Elevation

The northern elevation is fenestrated at the northwest corner by a pair of windows centered in an extended gable. East of the gable is a single window that has been in-filled with a multi-paned opening of glass blocks. Two pairs of windows complete the fenestration on this side. An interior brick chimney rises from the roof on this elevation.

A single window is centered in the attic level of the northwest gable.

Two awning windows are located in the basement level of the foundation.

### Non-contributing Building and Structure

A gable-roofed garage is situated to the southeast of the house. The southern elevation is accessed by a pair of large vertical board doors. The wall on this elevation is sheathed in wavy-butt, striated asbestos shingles.



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 3

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A well, original to the home but now capped and surrounded with a cinderblock wall, is located to the rear of the house.

The eastern elevation is sided in plywood. The rear, northern elevation is sided in weatherboard with asbestos shingles in the gable. The western wall is covered in weatherboard.

## 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.

### 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

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

Local

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

ARCHITECTURE

### Period of Significance

c. 1943

### Significant Dates

c. 1943

### Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked)

### Cultural Affiliation (Complete if Criterion D is marked)

### Architect/Builder

Silas Owens, Sr., Mason

### 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 1943 Earl and Oza Crownover-Brown House in Damascus is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places with local significance under Criterion C as a good example of an English Revival Mixed Masonry. The Faulkner County home was veneered by Silas Owens, Sr., and is among the best and most picturesque of his stone buildings. 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

Earl and Oza Crownover-Brown hired Silas Owens, Sr., to build their 1943 Mixed Masonry in Damascus because they, like many others in the county, knew of Owens' expertise in stone construction. Earl was considered a "jack of all trades" who could do a little bit of everything according to his daughter, Mary Nixon of North Little Rock, and he provided the carpentry for his home; however, he was primarily an educator.

Earl Brown was born in Damascus and his wife, the former Oza Luella Crownover, was from Greasy Valley in Van Buren County, but she spent her formative years in Damascus. Earl attended Teachers College in Conway (Now University of Central Arkansas) in 1924 and the couple lived in a rooming house there while maintaining a home in Damascus. In 1925 Earl and Oza moved to Altus, Oklahoma, where Earl taught school. The next year they moved to Elliot, Texas, and remained there until 1934. In that year the couple moved back to Arkansas and Earl became superintendent of the school at Ridgeway, a position he held until 1941. Earl went back into teaching as an agricultural instructor at schools in Lead Hill, Southside and Concord through the 1940s. Oza was also an educator and taught at Concord.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 2

The couple had seen a Mixed Masonry home in Conway – not veneered by Silas Owens, Sr., – and used it as a template for their own house in Damascus. Silas Owens, Sr., was in charge of laying up the stone on Earl and Oza's new house but Earl chose the rock himself from Batesville Mountain Quarry, which was owned by his neighbor Charlie Hall (Charlie Hall House NR 06/01/05). Earl hooked a trailer to his car and hauled the stone back to the site where Brown, Owens and a crew from Solomon Grove worked on erecting the new house in increments. Brown did not want to go into debt so construction was completed in stages. Earl, Oza and their daughter Betty lived at Damascus CCC Camp No. 3781 (NR 12/31/02) while the home was under construction. As soon as two rooms were completed the family moved in. Betty lived at the house for eleven years until her marriage in 1955 but she continued to come home on weekends. The Brown's second daughter, Mary had gotten married in 1941 to John Nixon who was a serviceman, so she never resided in the home.

Central Arkansas is prone to tornado activity so many homes in the area have storm shelters, as did the Crownover-Brown House. Even though Earl had constructed a full basement on his home he still felt that there was the possibility the house could fall on the family, so he began construction of a tunnel from the basement to the now-destroyed storm shelter south of the house. Before he could complete the tunnel Earl began to suffer from health problems so it was never completed and the opening in the basement was boarded over.

Earl died in 1970 but Oza continued to live in the house until 1982 when she moved to Willow House in North Little Rock. She passed away in 2001 but she had deeded the house and land to her daughters. The house remained vacant until 1991 when it was sold out of the family. Pete and Nancy Harris moved into the Brown House in 1993. Pete, a self-employed salesman, was from Batesville and Nancy, who worked in insurance, was from Sherwood. Nancy's family had property in Bee Branch, north of Damascus and she had noticed the Brown House and others built in the Mixed Masonry style along US Highway 65 on



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 3

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weekend trips. Nancy stated that the architecture of these structures had intrigued her and influenced her to purchase her own Mixed Masonry. The only changes the Harris family made to the Brown House were the removal of metal awnings from windows and the front door and the installation of glass blocks in one window on the north elevation. The home has been encroached upon by the widening of US 65 to four lanes within the last ten years, but it retains a wooded environment and a sizeable front lawn, which would be similar to its 1943 rural appearance.

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Earl and Oza Crownover-Brown House in Damascus, Faulkner County, Arkansas is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places with local significance under Criterion C as an excellent example of English Revival 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."

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 1

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### BIBLIOGRAPHY

Dipert, Dan. Damascus, AR. Telephone interview with author, 10 October, 2005.

Harris Nancy. Damascus, AR. Telephone interview with author, 06 October, 2005.

Martin, Betty Lou. Concord, AR. Daughter of Earl and Oza Brown. Telephone interview with author, 11 October, 2005.

Nixon, Mary. North Little Rock, AR. Daughter of Earl and Oza Brown. Telephone interview with author, 11 October, 2005.

Earl and Oza Crownover-Brown House

Name of Property

Faulkner County, AR

County and State

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of Property 1.49

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	15	553309	3912580
	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.)

See enclosed survey.

**Boundary Justification**

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

This boundary includes all of the property historically associated with this resource that retains its integrity.

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title	Holly Hope/ Special Projects Historian
organization	Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
date	12/08/05
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	Pete and Nancy Harris
street & number	PO Box 440
telephone	501 335-7221
city or town	Damascus
state	AR
zip code	72039

**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  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Crownover--Brown, Earl and Oza, House  
NAME:

MULTIPLE  
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: ARKANSAS, Faulkner

DATE RECEIVED: 1/17/06 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 2/03/06  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 2/18/06 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 3/02/06  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 06000088

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 3/2/06 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

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.





Earl and Oza Crownover - Brown House

Faulkner Co, AR

Holly Hope

08/05/02

ON file at AHPP

View from west





Earl and Oza Crownover - Brown House

Faulkner Co, AR

Holly Hope

08/05/02

ON file at AHPP

View from South





Earl and Oza Crownover - Brown House

Faulkner Co, AR

Holly Hope

08/05/02

ON file at AHPP

view from east





Earl and Oza Crownover - Brown House

Faulkner Co, AR

Holly Hope

08/05/02

ON file at AHPP

View of NC garage from South





Earl + Oza Brownover - Brown House

Faulkner Co, AR

Holly Hope

08/05/02

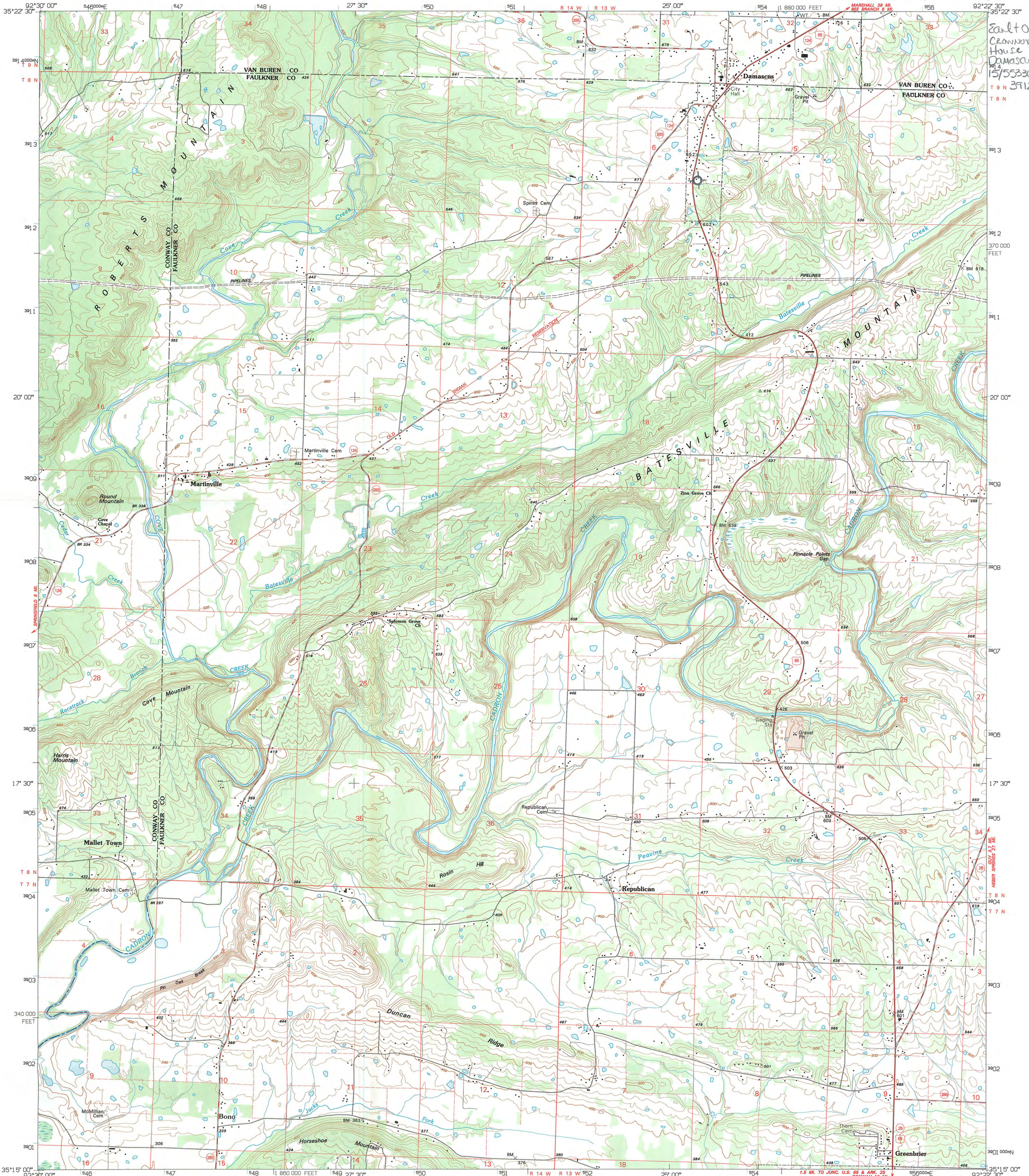
Filed at AHPP

View from North

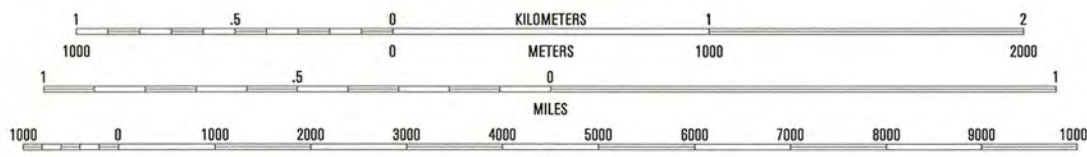
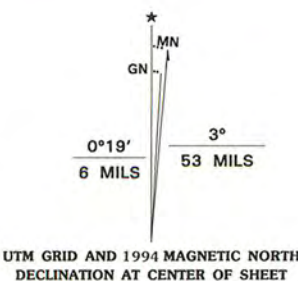


UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

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 .....  
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

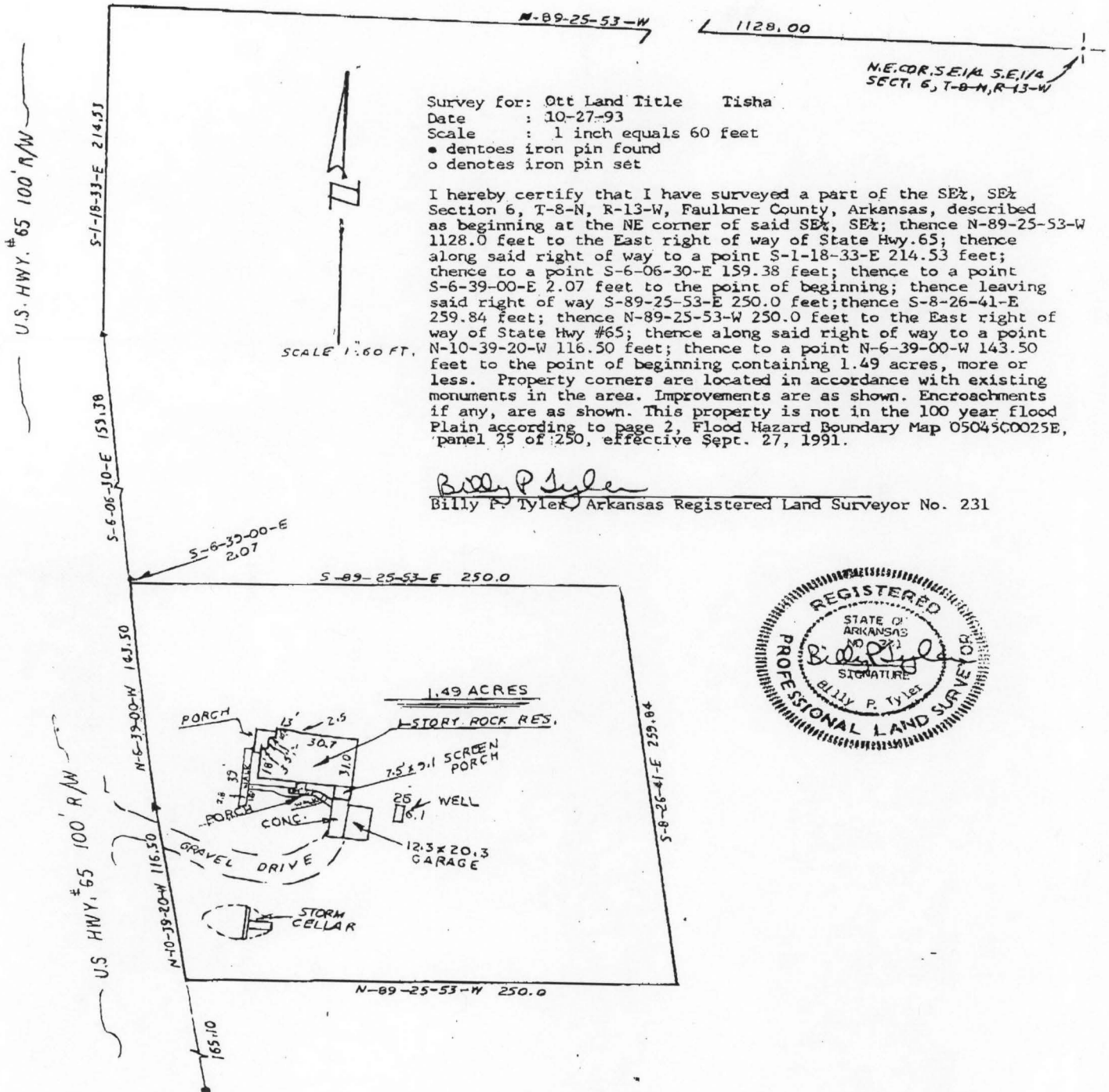
- 1 Formosa
- 2 Bee Branch
- 3 Mangrove
- 4 Springfield
- 5 Guy
- 6 Menifee
- 7 Greenbrier
- 8 Holland

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



Billy P. Tyler, Arkansas Registered Land Surveyor No. 231  
 230 Cedar Street, Greenbrier, Arkansas 72058  
 Phone 679-2300 Fax 679-2200



11-4-93

We hereby acknowledge receipt of a copy of this survey and am aware of all right of ways or easements of record.

Pete Harris  
 Pete Harris

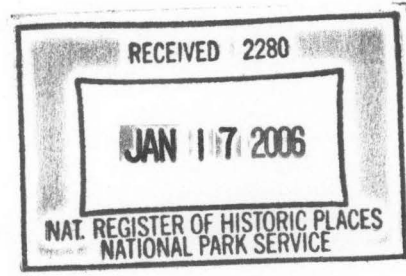
Nancy L. Harris  
 Nancy L. Harris



## The Department of Arkansas Heritage

Mike Huckabee, Governor  
Cathie Matthews, Director

January 11, 2006



Arkansas Arts Council  
▪  
Arkansas Natural Heritage  
Commission  
▪  
Delta Cultural Center  
▪  
Historic Arkansas Museum  
▪  
Mosaic Templars  
Cultural Center  
▪  
Old State House Museum

Dr. Janet Matthews  
Chief of Registration  
United State Department of the Interior  
National Register of Historic Places  
National Park Service  
8<sup>th</sup> Floor  
1201 Eye Street, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20005

RE: Earl and Oza Crownover-Brown House: Damascus, Faulkner County.

Dear Dr. Matthews:

We are enclosing for your review the nomination of the above referenced property. 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 Holly Hope of my staff at (501) 324-9134. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Cathie Matthews  
State Historic Preservation Officer

CM:sj

Enclosures



### Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

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Little Rock, AR 72201  
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