

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 Sellers House

other names/site number FA1304

### 2. Location

street & number 89 Acklin Gap Road

☐ not for publication

city or town Conway

☒ vicinity

state Arkansas

code AR

county Faulkner

code 045

zip code 72032

### 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.)

Cashie Matthews  
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:) \_\_\_\_\_

for  
Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

2/15/05

Sellers 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., 1938-55

**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 19<sup>TH</sup> AND EARLY 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY

AMERICAN MOVEMENTS/Bungalow/Craftsman

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete

walls Stone

Brick

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

---

### SUMMARY

To the north of, and facing Acklin Gap Road in the Conway vicinity of Faulkner County, the Sellers House is a one-story mixed masonry home constructed circa 1940. It is predominantly Craftsman in design, with its front-gabled, low-pitched roof, partial porch, exposed rafters and wide eave overhang. However, some features, such as the multi-level eaves, arched porch entrances and quoins, are borrowed from other architectural styles, giving it a diverse artistic character of its own.

Silas Owens, an African American mason whose work was most popular from the 1930s through the 1950s, put his own distinct signature on this home seen in the herringbone pattern of the rock, and the three-in, three-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 frame Sellers House still stands as it did in its early years, with few significant recognizable differences on the exterior. The front and back doors have been replaced with doors that fit into the existing spaces and two sets of windows, one on the east side and one on the north side, have been rocked in to match the rest of the house. The three-in, three-out design of the bricks and herringbone pattern of the cut stone carries throughout the exterior of the Craftsman style mixed-masonry home, as well as the low pitch composition shingle roofs, wide eave overhang and exposed rafters, all characteristic of the Craftsman style. Quoins are found at all corners except for the porch.

### South Elevation-Porch

The front, or southern, elevation of the house features a one-half, front-gabled porch, with the eastern half of the eave at a lower level than that of the remainder of the home. The porch features four cream-brick-framed, arched openings, two facing south, one facing west, and one facing east. The foundation of the porch is rock, in herringbone pattern, as is the rest of the house. The floor of the porch is concrete, with three concrete steps leading up to the floor level. Centered above the two south-facing arches is a louver surrounded by brick in the three-in, three-out pattern indicative of Owens work.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

---

### South Elevation-Main Living Quarters

The front of the home has three windows, one louver, one door, and two floor vents. All except the floor vents are framed with the three-in, three-out cream brick pattern. Centered at the highest level of the front wall, above the roof of the porch, is the louver. Under the porch, directly facing the western most, southward facing porch entrance is a near floor-to-ceiling window. Directly facing the remaining southward facing porch opening and porch steps is a door. To the east of the porch, on the south side of the house, is a set of double-hung windows, with the three-in, three-out pattern surrounding the pair. The two floor vents are located beneath the two adjoining windows, level with the foundation of the porch.

### East Elevation

The east side of the home, from front to back, has two pair of double-hung windows. All windows are surrounded by Owens's three-in, three-out brick pattern. A smaller window to the north of the two pair replaces where a pair once was. It is surrounded by the three-in, three-out pattern while the pattern around where the original windows were still remains.

### North Elevation

The back of the house, facing north, has one door, just east of center, and a pair of double-hung windows to the west of center. East of the door is the three-in, three-out pattern that once surrounded another pair of double-hung windows.

### West Elevation

The west side of the house, from back to front, has a single window and two pair of double-hung windows, all surrounded by the three-in, three-out pattern.

### INTEGRITY

The Sellers House, built in the early 1940s, retains all seven elements of integrity. The house remains in its original location, which is still a rural environment. The design of the house is intact, and all changes made match the design of the original artist. There are no additions or significant outbuildings on the property to detract from the house's appeal. The Sellers House is still the perfect example of Silas Owens work that it was the day after construction was complete.



Sellers 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. 1940

### Significant Dates

c. 1940

### 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 Sellers House as an example of a mixed masonry Craftsman style home in the Conway vicinity, it is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under **Criterion C** for its architecture with **local significance**. The Sellers House is being submitted under the multiple property listing, “**A Storm Couldn’t Tear Them Down: The Mixed-Masonry Buildings of Silas Owens, Sr., 1938-1955.**”

## Elaboration

Faulkner County was established April 12, 1873, with Conway as its county seat. While businesses developed in and around Conway, agriculture was still the predominant source of revenue for the county, with the river banks and bottoms filled with rich soil ideal for cotton, soy beans, and rice.

The Flood of 1927 overcame the county, wiping out all of the early crops and washing out much of the soil in the bottoms needed for the upcoming crops. Not only did it affect the rural land, but the cities as well, flooding the streets and businesses. Faulkner County rebuilt, and replanted, with many having to start over from scratch, having lost their homes and most of their belongings. Just when the county had recovered, and was prospering once again, the Great Depression began its decade of devastation.

By the time the Sellers House was built in the early 1940s, the country was recovering, and the middle class was thriving. The trend toward smaller families allowed for smaller houses, such as the Sellers House. The middle class wanted a new look, which these rock houses provided, and they could be easily built since the stone could be found in abundance in the area’s hillsides and creek beds.

Silas Owens started his career as a mason in Faulkner County in the 1930s. By the 1940s, when the Sellers House was built, there were houses and churches dotting the county, showcasing his work. They chose Owens for his talents and abilities as a mason, and the house still today reflects his workmanship as it did when the Sellers occupied the house.

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Due to the excellence of the Sellers House as an example of a mixed masonry Craftsman style home in the Conway vicinity, it is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under **Criterion C** for its architecture with **local significance**. The Sellers House is being submitted under the multiple property listing, “**A Storm Couldn’t Tear Them Down: The Mixed-Masonry Buildings of Silas Owens, Sr., 1938-1955.**”

Sellers 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.

Sellers 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	<u>15</u> Zone	<u>555593</u> Easting	<u>3887958</u> Northing	3	<u>          </u> Zone	<u>          </u> Easting	<u>          </u> Northing
2	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	4	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>

☐ 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 Ralph S. Wilcox, National Register and Survey Coordinator  
organization Arkansas Historic Preservation Program date 07-29-04  
street & number 1500 Tower Building, 323 Center Street telephone 501-324-9787  
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 Joe Southerland  
street & number 89 Acklin Gap Road telephone             
city or town Conway state Arkansas zip code 72032

**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.



Sellers 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 northeast corner of the Woodruff Lane and Acklin Gap Road intersection, proceed easterly 1,815 feet along the north side of Acklin Gap Road to the point of beginning. From the point of beginning, proceed easterly 185 feet, thence proceed northerly 165 feet, thence proceed westerly 185 feet, thence proceed southerly 165 feet to the point of beginning.

### BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary includes all land historically associated with the Sellers House.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Sellers 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: 05000042

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.





Sellers House  
Faulkner Co, AR  
Holly Hope

4-29-3

AHPP Little Rock, AR  
front  
#157 4





Sellers House  
Faulkner Co, AR  
Holly Hope

4-20-3

AHP, Little Rock, AR  
East Side  
#2074





Sellers House  
Faulkner Co., AR  
Holly Hope

4-20-3

AHPP, Little Rock, AR  
back  
#3574





Sellers House

Faulkner Co, AR

Holly Hope

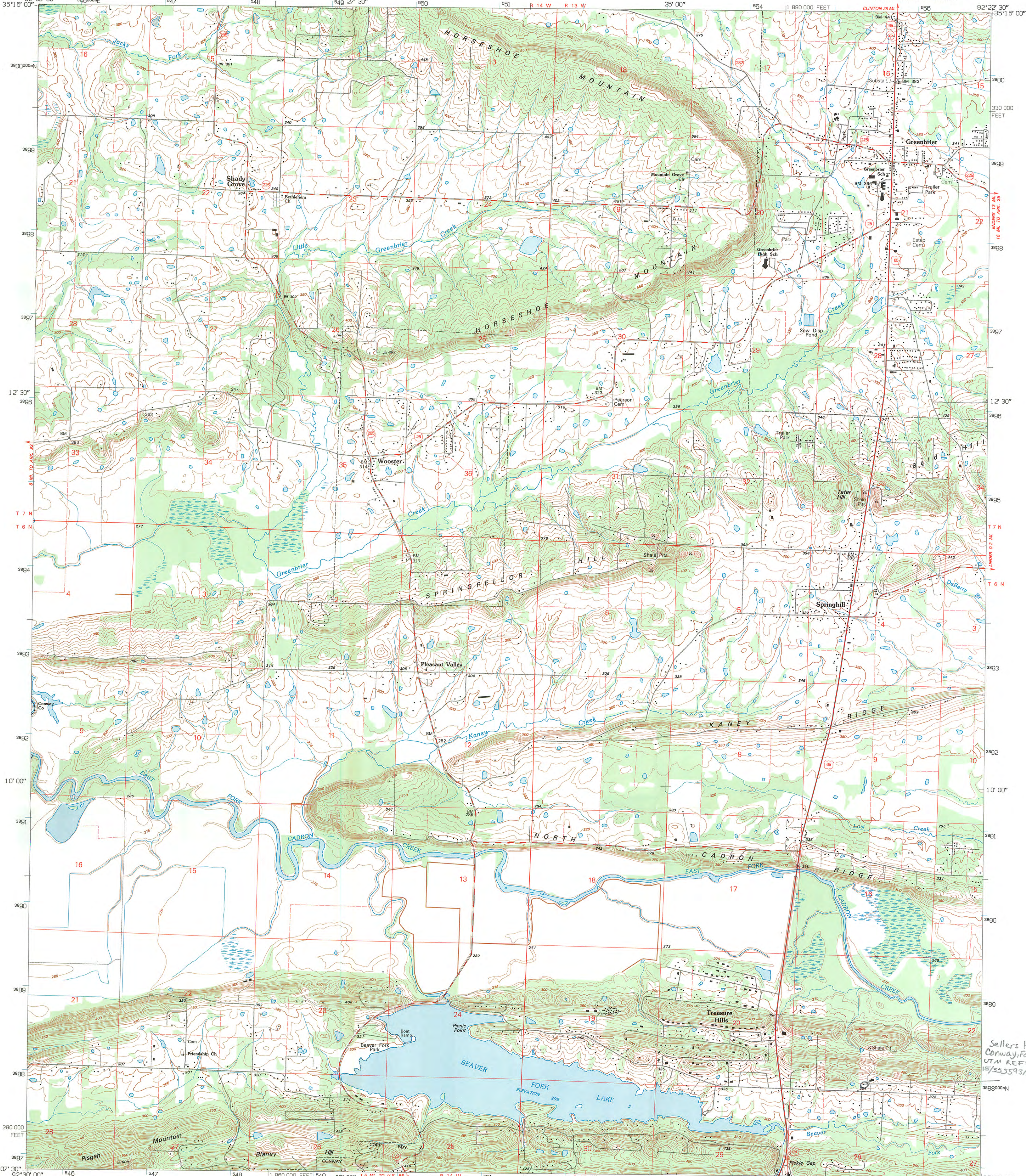
4-20-3

AHPP, Little Rock, AR

West side

#984









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 1, 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, D.C. 20005

RE: Sellers 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

