

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street & number 1235 Highway 65 N  not for publication  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.)

Casimir Thatchus 12/3/04  
Signature of certifying official/Title 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:) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Signature of the Keeper 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 19<sup>th</sup> AND EARLY 20<sup>th</sup> 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.)

**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:

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.

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National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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### 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.

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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### 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.

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## 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.

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

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.**"



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

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### 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

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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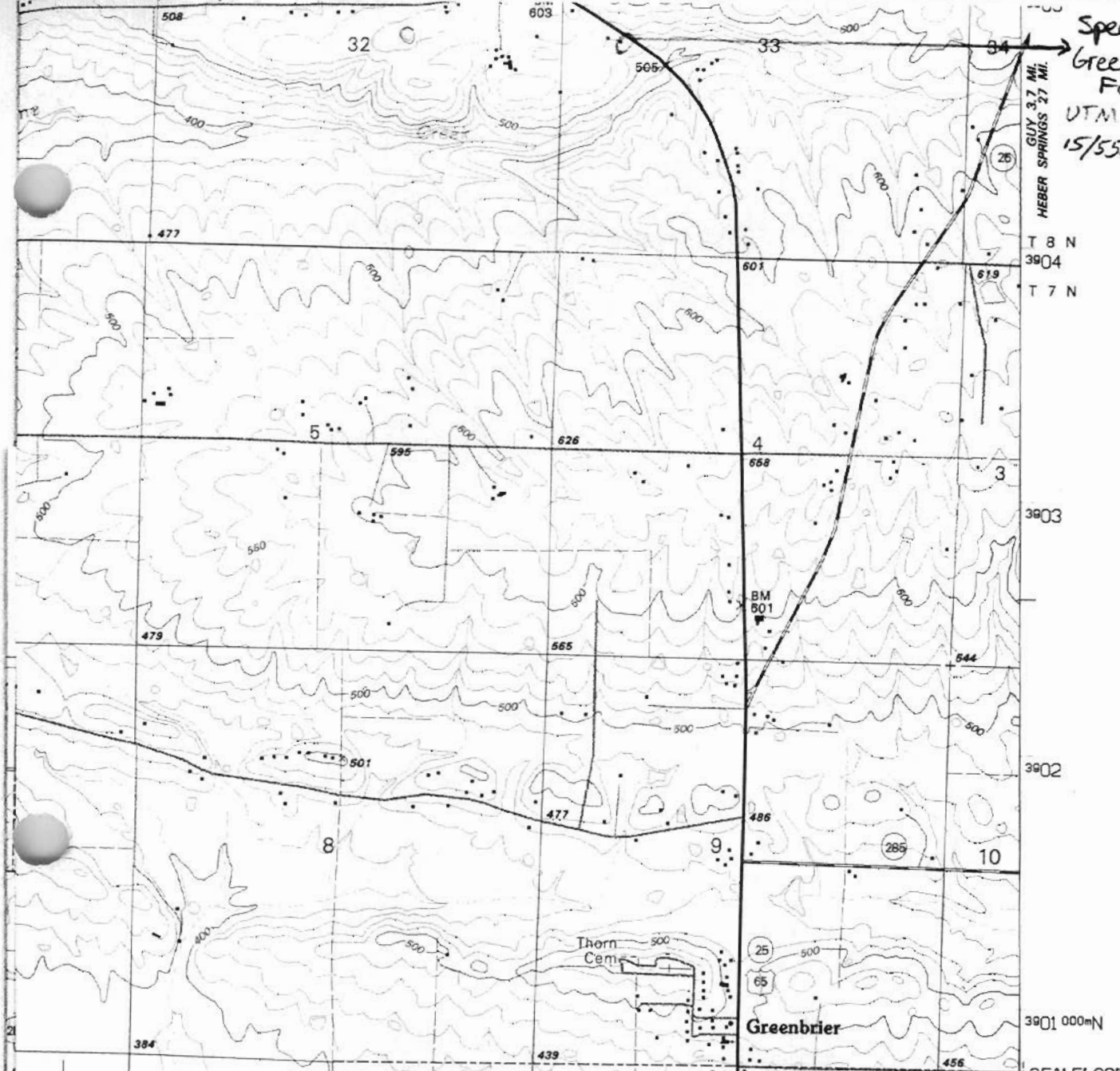
### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

Spears House  
 Greenbrier,  
 Faulkner Co.  
 UTM REF:  
 15/555259/  
 3907783



T 8 N  
 3904  
 T 7 N

3903

3902

3901 000mN

25' 00"      554      1.5 MI. TO JUNC. U.S. 65 & ARK. 25      556000E      92°22' 30"

CONWAY 13 MI.  
 INTERIOR - GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA - 1994

**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



QUADRANGLE LOCATION

1	2	3
4		5
6	7	8

ADJOINING 7.5' QUADRANGLE NAMES

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

**DAMASCUS, ARK.**  
 35092-C4-TF-024  
 1994

DMA 7554 IV SW-SERIES V884