

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not for publication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

12/12/05

Signature of certifying official/Title

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): _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Earl and Oza Brown House
Name of Property

Faulkner County, AR
County and State

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 19TH AND 20TH 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.)

Earl and Oza Crowover-Brown House
Name of Property

Faulkner County, AR
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. 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

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

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State Agency
- Federal Agency
- Local Government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Earl and Oza Crownover-Brown House
Name of Property

Faulkner County, AR
County and State

2. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1.49

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 15 553309 3912580
Zone Easting Northing

5 _____
Zone Easting Northing

2 _____

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.

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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.

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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-but, striated asbestos shingles.

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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.

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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.

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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

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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."

Earl and Oza Brown House

Name of Property

Faulkner County, AR

County and State

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BIBLIOGRAPHY

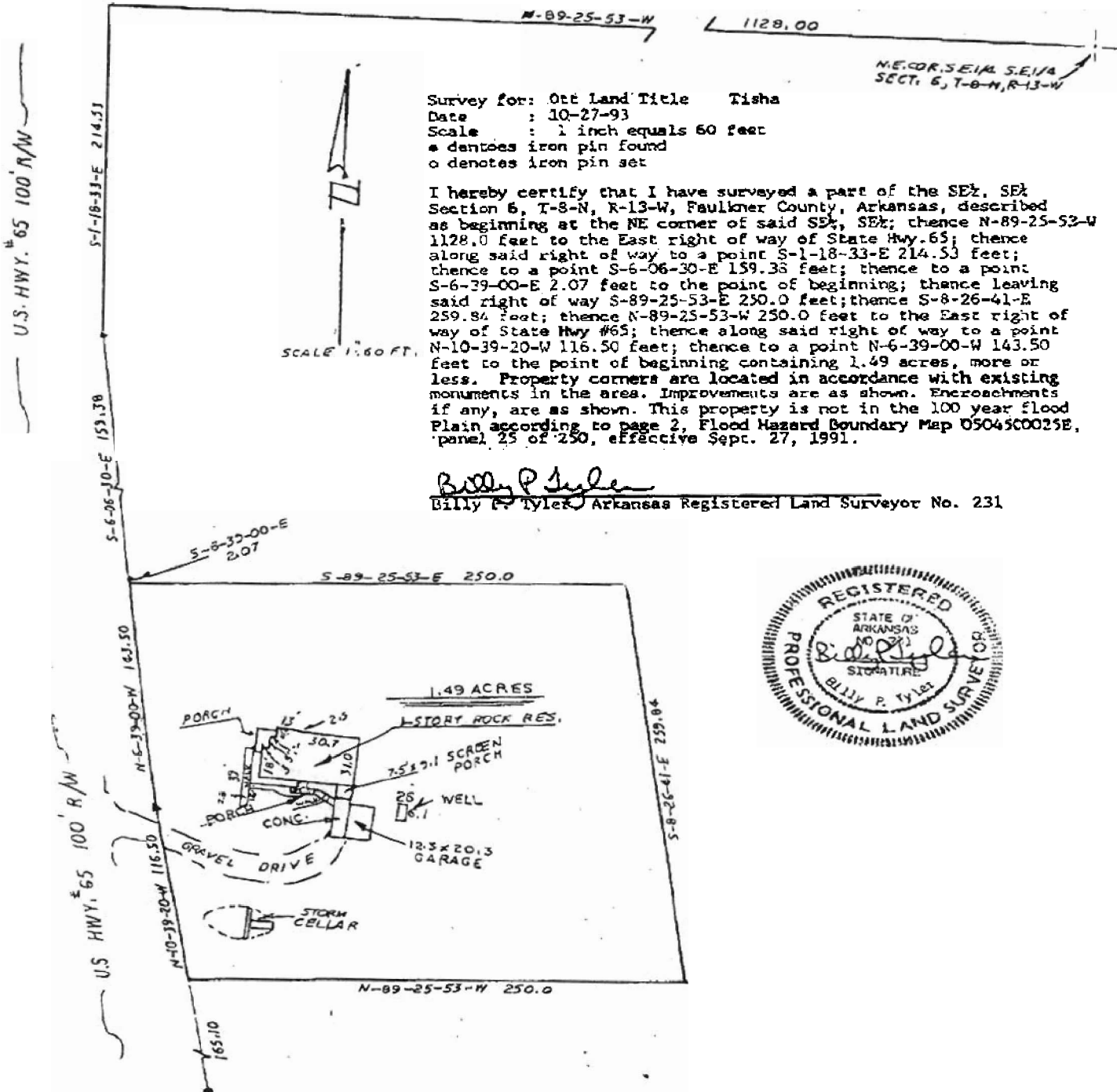
Dipert, Dan. Damascus, AR. Telephone interview with author, 10 October, 2005.

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.

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



Survey for: Ott Land Title Tisha
 Date : 10-27-93
 Scale : 1 inch equals 60 feet
 * denotes iron pin found
 o denotes iron pin set

I hereby certify that I have surveyed a part of the SE $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ Section 6, T-8-N, R-13-W, Faulkner County, Arkansas, described as beginning at the NE corner of said SE $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$; thence N-89-25-53-W 1128.0 feet to the East right of way of State Hwy. 65; thence along said right of way to a point S-1-18-33-E 214.53 feet; thence to a point S-6-06-30-E 159.38 feet; thence to a point S-6-39-00-E 2.07 feet to the point of beginning; thence leaving said right of way S-89-25-53-E 250.0 feet; thence S-8-26-41-E 259.84 feet; thence N-89-25-53-W 250.0 feet to the East right of way of State Hwy #65; thence along said right of way to a point N-10-39-20-W 116.50 feet; thence to a point N-6-39-00-W 143.50 feet to the point of beginning containing 1.49 acres, more or less. Property corners are located in accordance with existing monuments in the area. Improvements are as shown. Encroachments if any, are as shown. This property is not in the 100 year flood plain according to page 2, Flood Hazard Boundary Map OS045C0025E, panel 25 of 250, effective Sept. 27, 1991.

Billy P. Tyler
 Billy P. Tyler, Arkansas Registered Land Surveyor No. 231



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

