

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received JUL 5 1985

date entered AUG 5 1985

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

Silas L. Brown Home

historic

and/or common

2. Location

107 South Seminole

street & number

N/A not for publication

Wewoka

city, town

N/A vicinity of

Oklahoma

40

Seminole

133

state

code

county

code

3. Classification

| Category  | Ownership                                   | Status  | Present Use   |
|---|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> district               | <input type="checkbox"/> public             | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied          | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture                  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private | <input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied                   | <input type="checkbox"/> commercial                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> structure              | <input type="checkbox"/> both               | <input type="checkbox"/> work in progress             | <input type="checkbox"/> educational                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> site                   | <b>Public Acquisition</b>                   | <b>Accessible</b>                                     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence |
| <input type="checkbox"/> object                 | N/A in process                              | <input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted              | <input type="checkbox"/> religious                    |
|   | N/A being considered                        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted | <input type="checkbox"/> scientific                   |
|   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> no                           | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation               |
|   |   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> other:                       |

4. Owner of Property

name Augusta Crawford

street & number 415 South Hitchite

city, town Wewoka N/A vicinity of

state Oklahoma 74884

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Office of County Clerk

street & number Seminole County Courthouse

city, town Wewoka state Oklahoma 74884

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Oklahoma Landmarks Inventory

has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1984

date  federal  state  county  local

State Historic Preservation Office

depository for survey records

city, town Oklahoma City state Oklahoma 73105

city, town state

# 7. Description

|   |                                       |   |   |
|---|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| <b>Condition</b>                              |                                       | <b>Check one</b>                            | <b>Check one</b>                                  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated | <input type="checkbox"/> unaltered          | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site |
| <input type="checkbox"/> good                 | <input type="checkbox"/> ruins        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered | <input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> fair                 | <input type="checkbox"/> unexposed    |   |   |

**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

The Silas L. Brown Home is a two-story, detached dwelling with rectangular-shaped floor plan of approximately 25' x 60'. The wood-frame residence is covered with clapboard which is painted white. The hipped roof with deck and offset gable is covered with multi-colored composition shingles. There is a one-story open porch in the northern one-half of the facade and a one-story wing on the south side.

The facade, or east side, has paired 1/1 double-hung sash windows in main wall plane of first story and a single fixed pane window in the open porch. Also within the open porch is wood paneled entry door with single light. A fixed pane window is located in gable end of facade's second story. The porch is supported by two wood columns - one square and one round. A wooden lattice covers north side of porch. All window and door openings have plain wood surrounds.

The south side has a three-sided bay on the first floor. It has paired 1/1 double-hung sash windows in outer side and 1/1 fixed pane windows in two inner bays. The bay has a hipped roof and rests on two brick piers. To the west of the bay is a one-story wing with shed-type roof. The wing has two 1/1 double-hung sash windows framed with wood.

The north wall contains three 1/1 double-hung sash windows with plain wood surrounds.

The rear, or west side, has one 1/1 double-hung sash window framed in wood.

A 4' x 5' unpainted wood shed lies approximately 6' from southwest corner of the nominated property.

Alterations are minimal. Other than replacement of one porch column and a new roof, both added during the last ten years, the Silas L. Brown Home has retained its architectural integrity for more than 70 years.

## 8. Significance

| Period                                    | Areas of Significance—Check and justify below   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric      | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> community planning     | <input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> religion                               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499        | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic    | <input type="checkbox"/> conservation           | <input type="checkbox"/> law                    | <input type="checkbox"/> science                                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599        | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture            | <input type="checkbox"/> economics              | <input type="checkbox"/> literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> sculpture                              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699        | <input type="checkbox"/> architecture           | <input type="checkbox"/> education              | <input type="checkbox"/> military               | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799        | <input type="checkbox"/> art                    | <input type="checkbox"/> engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> music                  | humanitarian  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899        | <input type="checkbox"/> commerce               | <input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement | <input type="checkbox"/> philosophy             | <input type="checkbox"/> theater                                |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900- | <input type="checkbox"/> communications         | <input type="checkbox"/> industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> politics/government    | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation                         |
|   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> invention              |   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify<br>(Ethnic)) |

**Specific dates** ca. 1910-ca. 1930      **Builder/Architect** Silas Brown - Builder

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Silas L. Brown Home is historically significant because: (1) its historic association with Silas L. Brown, the first black dentist to serve Wewoka, Oklahoma and (2) it is one of the oldest and best preserved dwellings located within the black residential community of Wewoka.

Wewoka was founded in 1867 when it became the capital of the Seminole Nation. The Seminoles like other Indian groups in the Five Civilized Tribes brought black slaves with them when they migrated from the southeastern United States during the 1840s and 1850s. As a result of the Emancipation Proclamation in 1863, the black slaves of the Seminoles were freed and allotted land of between 40 and 160 acres in the Seminole Nation. A majority of these freedmen remained in the area settling either in the town of Wewoka or farming the land allotted to them. As a result, a sizeable black community (estimated 800-1,000 population) emerged in Wewoka prior to the turn of the century. To serve the black residents of Wewoka and the surrounding area, several professionals established practices at this time.

Silas L. Brown, who received his dental training in Texas, moved to Wewoka in ca. 1907 and became the first black dentist in the town. His office was located in the downtown area of Wewoka at Cedar and Wewoka Streets. During the era of segregation, Dr. Brown provided a valuable service to the black residents of the region who were denied dental care by white professionals.

Shortly after establishing his practice in Wewoka, Dr. Brown built a home at 107 South Seminole in the black residential area of Wewoka. He not only supervised construction of the home, but also did much of the carpentry himself. Dr. Brown, his wife, and daughter lived in the nominated property from ca. 1910 to ca. 1930 when Dr. Brown died. His wife continued to live in the home until the mid-1940s when she retired as a public school teacher in the Wewoka School District. At that time she sold the property to Augusta Crawford and moved to Detroit to live her remaining years with her daughter.

Dr. Silas L. Brown's most productive years (ca. 1910-ca. 1930) as a dentist in Wewoka were spent in this home located in the black residential district of Wewoka. No other extant properties associated with Dr. Brown remain.

Constructed in ca. 1910, the Silas L. Brown Home is one of the oldest dwellings built and owned by a black in Wewoka. Although several other dwellings owned by blacks still exist in Wewoka such as the Jackson Brown Home and the J. Coody Johnson Home, all are either badly deteriorated or were constructed at a later date.

The Silas L. Brown Home has retained its architectural integrity for almost 75 years.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Personal Interview: Sammy and Minnie Myers, July, 1984.  
Franklin, Jimmie Lewis, Blacks in Oklahoma. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1980.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Wewoka East, OK

Quadrangle scale \_\_\_\_\_

UTM References

1:24,000

A 

|      |         |          |
|------|---------|----------|
| 14   | 728940  | 3893270  |
| Zone | Easting | Northing |

B 

|      |         |          |
|------|---------|----------|
|      |         |          |
| Zone | Easting | Northing |

C 

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D 

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Lots 3-4, Block 26, Original Townsite of Wewoka, Oklahoma

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county code

state code county code

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Bryan Brown Supervised by Dr. George O. Carney

organization Department of Geography date January, 1985

street & number Oklahoma State University telephone 405-624-6250

city or town Stillwater state Oklahoma 74078

## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature C. E. Metcalfe date 6/21/85

title \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

William B. Bushong date 8/5/85  
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

Chief of Registration

date \_\_\_\_\_