

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

For NPS use only

received SEP 6 1984  
date entered OCT 4 1984

# National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

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

## 1. Name

historic Alfrey-Brown House

and/or common Lawson House

## 2. Location

street & number 1001 South Washington St. N/A not for publication

city, town Siloam Springs N/A vicinity of

state Arkansas code 05 county Benton code 007

## 3. Classification

|   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|
| <b>Category</b>                                 | <b>Ownership</b>                            | <b>Status</b>                                       | <b>Present Use</b>                                    |
| <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 type="checkbox"/> entertainment                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> object                 | <input type="checkbox"/> in process         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted | <input type="checkbox"/> government                   |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> being considered   | <input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted          | <input type="checkbox"/> industrial                   |
|   | <u>N/A</u>                                  | <input type="checkbox"/> no                         | <input type="checkbox"/> military                     |
|   |   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> museum                       |
|   |   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> park                         |
|   |   |   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence |
|   |   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> religious                    |
|   |   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> scientific                   |
|   |   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation               |
|   |   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> other:                       |

## 4. Owner of Property

name Charles R. and Ruby F. Lawson

street & number Route 3 Box 240

city, town Siloam Springs N/A vicinity of state Arkansas

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Circuit Clerk's Office, Book 577, Page 637

street & number Benton County Courthouse, Court Square

city, town Bentonville state Arkansas

## 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title N/A has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☐ no N/A

date ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

## 7. Description

### Condition

☐ excellent

☒ good

☐ fair

☐ deteriorated

☐ ruins

☐ unexposed

### Check one

☒ unaltered

☐ altered

### Check one

☒ original site

☐ moved

date \_\_\_\_\_

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

### SUMMARY

The Alfrey-Brown house stands two-and-one-half stories high on a large corner lot surrounded by large maple and oak trees, commanding as much attention today as it did at the time of its construction in Siloam Springs in 1905. This novelty-sided frame structure represents the transition of architectural tastes at the turn-of-the-century. Features of the Classical Colonial Revival style are combined with late nineteenth century Queen Anne elements. The steep hip roof is intersected by shingled cross gables. A wrap-around hip-roofed veranda is supported on three elevations by nine Doric columns.

### ELABORATION

The Alfrey-Brown house is an imposing frame structure, the exterior of which has many characteristic features of the Colonial Revival, while the interior reflects the continued appeal of Queen Anne detailing.

An interesting roofline is created by a principle steeply-pitched hip roof intersected by cross gables on each elevation. A single chimney pierces the hip roof. The house has a continuous rusticated stone foundation with rope mortar joints. Horizontal novelty siding, recently painted a cream color, covers the structure. Typical of the Colonial Revival, windows are large one-over-one double-hung. A simple cornice is found on each elevation.

The front facade of the house is dominated by an imposing two-and-one-half story gabled projection. The attic story has three louvered vents and gable returns, beneath which a narrow shingled band projects above the continuous cornice. A single window is located on the second floor, with an off-center entrance on the first floor. The single-doored entrance has a glass paneled door with single light transom above. On either side of this center projection, the second floor has a single double-hung window, with large fixed windows below on the first floor. A wrap-around one story hip-roofed porch, which extends beyond the left corner of the house, has a pediment at its center. Nine simple doric columns support this porch, which rests on piers. There is continuous wood lattice between the porch and ground.

The north side elevation has an over-sized gabled dormer. Steps lead to the wrap-around porch. Located in the side of the front projection is a twenty foot by twenty foot diamond-shaped stained glass window. To the left of the center portion of the structure is the side of the rear kitchen projection.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 7

Page 1

The south side elevation is similar to the north elevation. The front porch does not extend beyond the side of the center front facade projection. A three-sided one-story Bay projection denotes the location of the dining room. A shed-roofed addition extends from the side of the kitchen. A narrow kitchen projection extends from the rear, with a shed-roofed addition to the left. The projection has a fixed square window on each floor and a door with transom and bracket-supported canopy.

The interior of the house has an irregular plan with spacious rooms. A focal point of the foyer is a beautiful wood stair with paneled newel posts with egg and dart detailing and spindled railing. The diamond-shaped window of the north elevation illuminates the stair landing.

DECORATIVE

Window and door surrounds and cornice moulding, are found downstairs, whereas the second floor is more plainly detailed. Flooring is pine, throughout with the exception of oak flooring found in the foyer, sitting room and dining room. Double doors lead from the foyer to the sitting room. Pocket doors separate the sitting room and parlor. Reflecting the taste of the late nineteenth century, Ball and Dowel fretwork span the six feet wide opening between sitting room and dining room. From the dining room, a hall leads to the back stairway and maid room and another door leads to the kitchen. On the second floor, four bedrooms and a bathroom are located off of the five foot wide hallway. The attic is unfinished.

A one-story hip-roofed frame stable sits at the southeast corner of the site. Other outbuildings include a one-story well house and a one-story detached garage.

## 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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education   | <input type="checkbox"/> military               | <input type="checkbox"/> social/             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799        | <input type="checkbox"/> art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> music                  | <input type="checkbox"/> 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 type="checkbox"/> other (specify)     |

Specific dates 1905

Builder/Architect R. J. Alfrey - Builder

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

#### SUMMARY

Constructed on farm land which originally belonged to John V. Hargrove, the founder of Siloam Springs, the Alfrey-Brown House served as the home of John E. Brown for a number of years. Brown was a Methodist evangelist who came to the northwest Arkansas area and established Southwestern Collegiate Institute which today bears his name. The house was constructed in 1905 by Thomas Alfrey, who was a prominent builder in the Siloam Springs area. Three original ancillary structures, a one story garage, a well house, and a small barn, remain on the site.

#### ELABORATION

Siloam Springs developed at the turn-of-the-century as a site where people could come and partake of the healing powers of the many springs located there. The Kansas City Southern Railroad brought an added boom to the community. Sensing that the town could support an institute of higher learning, John E. Brown, who was president of a Methodist Junior College (Scarritt Collegiate Institute) in Nesho, Missouri, came to Siloam Springs and founded what is today known as John Brown University. The school is still affiliated with the Methodist Church. Brown purchased the home from Alfrey shortly after its construction. The large expanse of land upon which the house was sited provided the bucolic setting which allowed Brown the pleasure of tending pet deer and peacocks. It also provided a means by which to secure funding for establishing the university. The house and property served as collateral for these loans. Brown's contribution to the development of higher education in northwest Arkansas is one which is considered by most to have been invaluable.

The home was acquired by the Frederick Lynd family in 1946. They owned the home until 1976.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Interview for Herald-Democrat, Siloam Springs, September 2, 1982 (Vandalism to house)

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property approximately one

Quadrangle name Siloam Springs, Ark.-Okla.

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A 1 5 3 6 1 8 2 0 4 0 4 1 1 0  
Zone Easting Northing

B                              
Zone Easting Northing

C                            

D                            

E                            

F                            

G                            

H                            

**Verbal boundary description and justification** Lot 1 of Winder's Subdivision of that part of the NE $\frac{1}{4}$  of the NE $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 7, Township 17, North, Range 33 West of the Kansas City Southern Railroad, and containing 6.45 acres, more or less, according to the survey of record. Beginning at the NE corner of Lot 1 thence South 150.0 feet; see continuation sheet.

**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 Charles R. and Ruby F. Lawson, edited by AHPP staff

organization Property Owners

date August 30, 1984

street & number Route 1 Box 240

telephone (501) 524-8854

city or town Siloam Springs

state Arkansas

## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

  national   state X 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

*William Stiles*

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date

8-31-84

For NPS use only

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

Entered in the  
National Register

date

10-4-84

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 10

Page 1

thence West 250.0 feet; thence North 150.0 feet; thence East 250.0 feet to  
place of beginning.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Alfrey-Brown House  
Benton County  
ARKANSAS

SEP 6 1984

Working No. \_\_\_\_\_

Fed. Reg. Date: 2.4.86

Date Due: 10/4/84 - 10/21/84

Action: ☒ ACCEPT 10-4-84

Entered in the \_\_\_\_\_ RETURN

National Register \_\_\_\_\_ REJECT

Federal Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ resubmission  
☐ nomination by person or local government  
☐ owner objection  
☐ appeal

Substantive Review: ☐ sample ☐ request ☐ appeal ☐ NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom./Criteria \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewer \_\_\_\_\_

Discipline \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: \_\_\_\_\_ technical corrections cited below  
\_\_\_\_\_ substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

| Category | Ownership          | Status     | Present Use |
|----------|--------------------|------------|-------------|
|          | Public Acquisition | Accessible |             |

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☐ no

7. Description

Condition

- |                                    |                                       |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated |
| <input type="checkbox"/> good      | <input type="checkbox"/> ruins        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> fair      | <input type="checkbox"/> unexposed    |

Check one

- ☐ unaltered  
☐ altered

Check one

- ☐ original site  
☐ moved date \_\_\_\_\_

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- ☐ summary paragraph  
☐ completeness  
☐ clarity  
☐ alterations/integrity  
☐ dates  
☐ boundary selection

## 8. Significance

Period      Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (*in one paragraph*)

- ☐ summary paragraph
- ☐ completeness
- ☐ clarity
- ☐ applicable criteria
- ☐ justification of areas checked
- ☐ relating significance to the resource
- ☐ context
- ☐ relationship of integrity to significance
- ☐ justification of exception
- ☐ other

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

### 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_

UTM References \_\_\_\_\_

Verbal boundary description and justification \_\_\_\_\_

## 11. Form Prepared By

### 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

\_\_\_\_ national      \_\_\_\_ state      \_\_\_\_ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title

date

### 13. Other

- ☐ Maps
- ☐ Photographs
- ☐ Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_



Alfrey House  
Siloam Springs, Benton County, AR  
Photographed by Julie Vosmik  
February, 1984  
Negatives on file at AHPP  
Viewed from West



South



Alfrey House  
Siloam Springs, Benton County, AR  
Photographed by Julie Vosmik  
February, 1984  
Negatives on file at AHPP  
Viewed from East



Alfrey House  
Siloam Springs, Benton County, AR  
Photographed by Julie Vosmik  
February, 1984  
Negatives on file at AHPP  
Viewed from North



Alfrey House  
Siloam Springs, Benton County, AR  
Photographed by Julie Vosmik  
February, 1984  
Negatives on file at AHPP  
Interior (Stairway)



Alfrey House

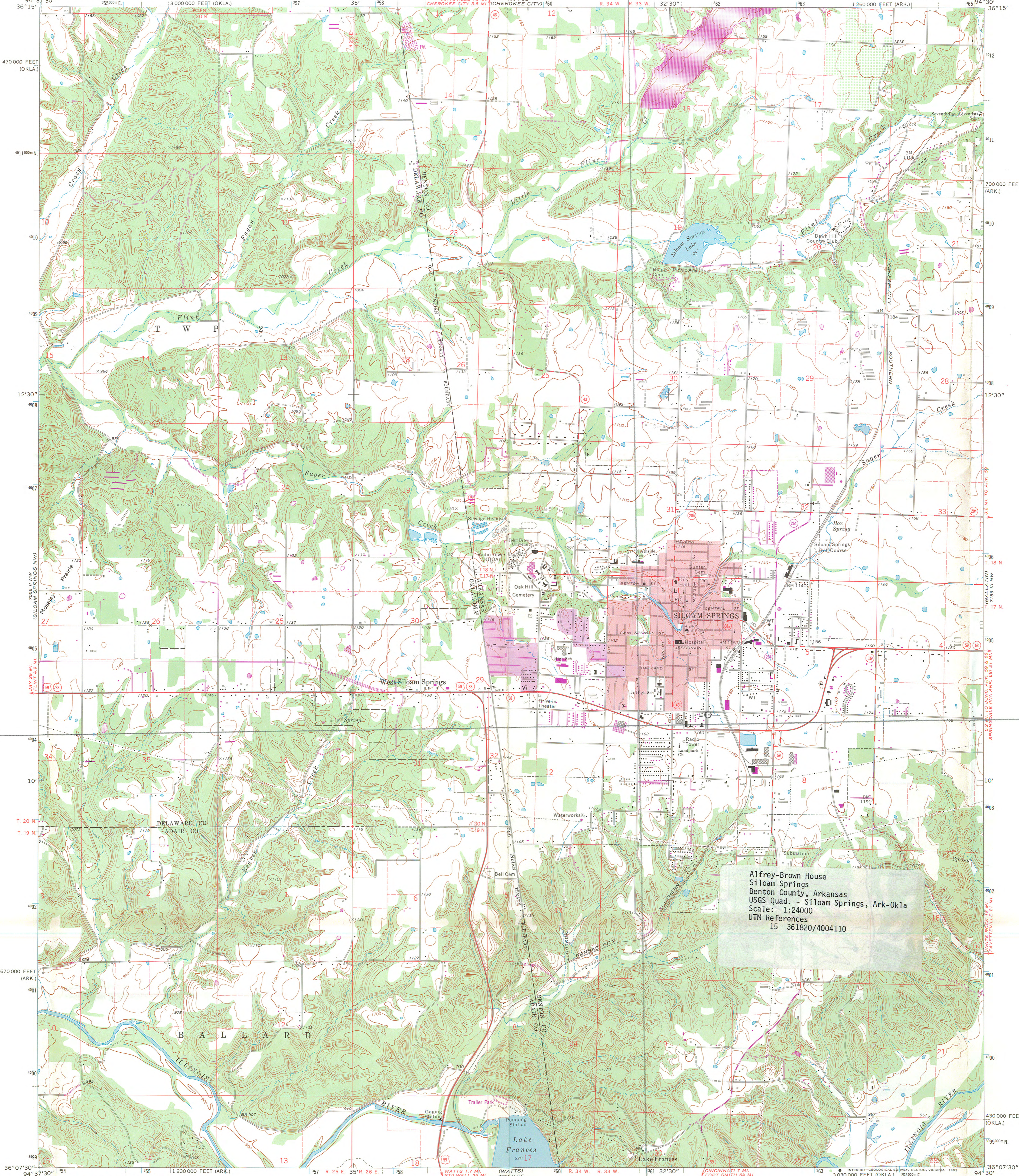
Siloam Springs, Benton County, AR

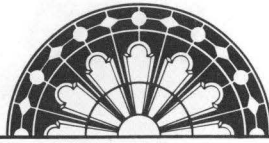
Photographed by Julie Vosmik

February, 1984

Negatives on file at AHPP

Viewed from Southeast





ARKANSAS  
HISTORIC  
PRESERVATION  
PROGRAM

August 31, 1984

Carol D. Shull  
Chief of Registration  
United States Department of the Interior  
National Register of Historic Places  
National Park Service  
1100 "L" Street, N. W.  
Washington, D. C. 20240

Re: Alfrey-Brown House  
Siloam Springs, AR  
Benton County

Dear Carol:

We are enclosing for your review the nomination for the Alfrey-Brown House. The Arkansas Historic Preservation Program has complied with all applicable nominating procedures and notification requirements in the nomination process.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Wilson Stiles  
State Historic Preservation Officer

WS/AJ/ss

Enclosure/s

