

Listed in the N.R.  
10-04-84

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

received  
date entered

Book R. Lopez

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

BE 2800

1. Name

historic Alfrey-Brown House

and/or common Lawson House

2. Location

street & number 1001 South Washington

N/A not for publication

city, town Siloam Springs

N/A vicinity of

state Arkansas

code 05

county Benton

code 007

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 type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<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.

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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	As 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 

Zone				Easting				Northing					

D 

Zone				Easting				Northing					

E 

Zone				Easting				Northing					

F 

Zone				Easting				Northing					

G 

Zone				Easting				Northing					

H 

Zone				Easting				Northing					

**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  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

*Wilson 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

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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National Park Service**

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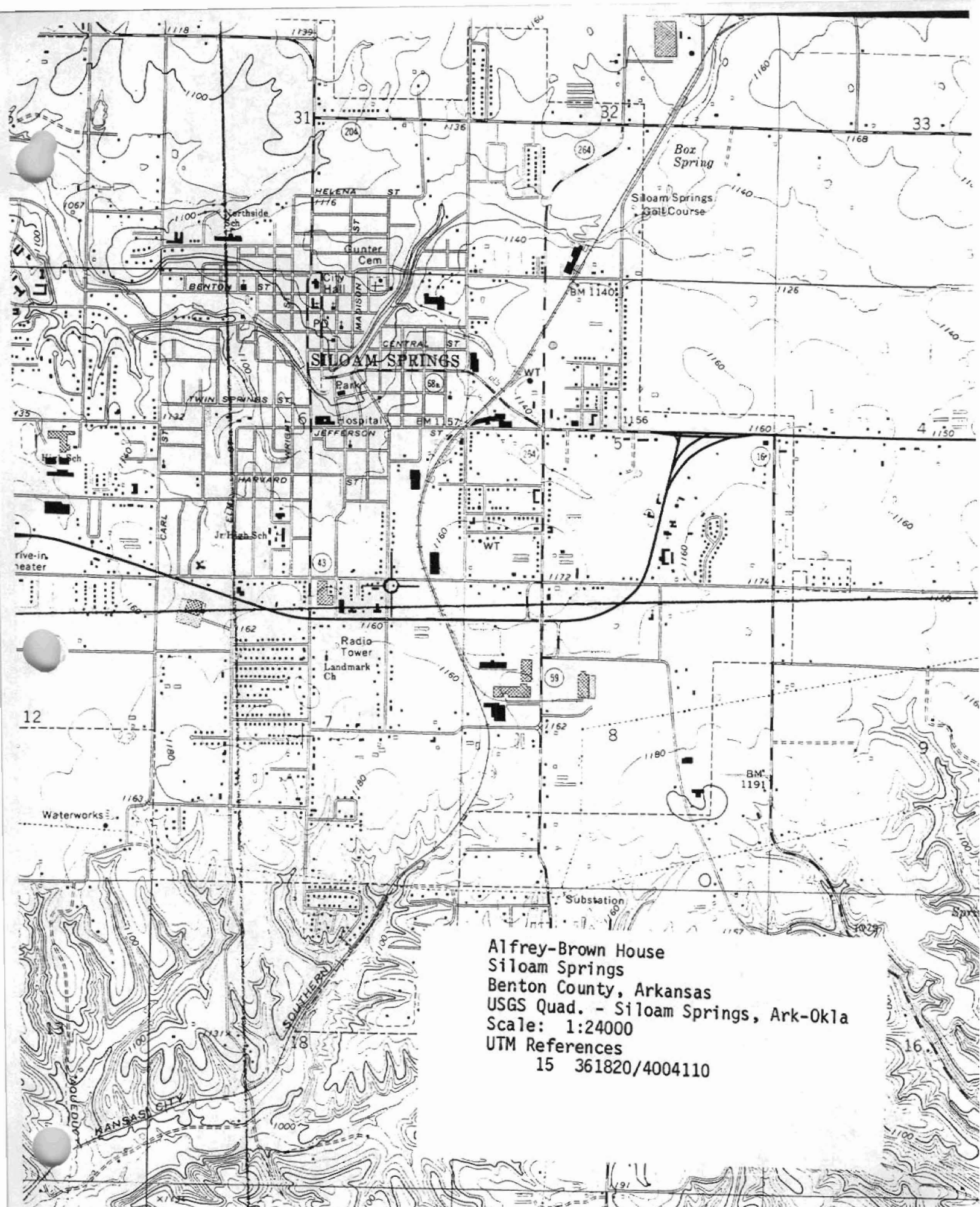
date entered

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



Alfrey-Brown House  
Siloam Springs  
Benton County, Arkansas  
USGS Quad. - Siloam Springs, Ark-Okla  
Scale: 1:24000  
UTM References  
15 361820/4004110





