

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
 NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
 17-64-1005-61  
**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES**  
**INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
 TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Bob Burns House

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

821 Jefferson

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Van Buren

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Third

STATE

Arkansas

VICINITY OF

CODE

05

COUNTY

Crawford

CODE

033

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

**CATEGORY**

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

**OWNERSHIP**

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

**STATUS**

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

**PRESENT USE**

- AGRICULTURE
- MUSEUM
- COMMERCIAL
- PARK
- EDUCATIONAL
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- ENTERTAINMENT
- RELIGIOUS
- GOVERNMENT
- SCIENTIFIC
- INDUSTRIAL
- TRANSPORTATION
- MILITARY
- OTHER: history

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Crawford County Historical Society

society  
office

STREET & NUMBER

P.O. Box 486

CITY, TOWN

Van Buren

STATE

Arkansas

VICINITY OF

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
 REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Clerk's Office

STREET & NUMBER

Crawford County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Van Buren

STATE

Arkansas

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
 SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

# DESCRIPTION

| CONDITION                                |                                       | CHECK ONE                                   | CHECK ONE   |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| <input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR | <input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED    |   |   |

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The original house was built in 1885 by Alex Lacy, a Van Buren merchant. It was a white frame two-story Victorian style home.

The original floor plan had three rooms downstairs and three rooms upstairs separated by hallway. There was a front and back porch downstairs.

Sometime in 1890's, probably about 1893, when running water came to the city, a bathroom was built upstairs. The footed-tub and ceramic lavatory are still in the bathroom. The commode has been replaced by a more modern type.

Probably in early part of the 20th century, the backporch was boxed in and a kitchen in L-shape was built with a new backporch on north side. Sometime later, part of the boxed in porch room was made into another bathroom.

Mrs. Lacy had a small millinery shop in a building on part of the property in the 1880's.

The W.R. Burn's family moved to the house in 1896 when Bob Burns (stage name) was six and his brother, Farrar was eight. The boys lived here until manhood.

Mr. Burn did not purchase the house until 1901.

# SIGNIFICANCE

## PERIOD

## AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

|   |   |   |   |  |
|---|---|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> HISTORIC             | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING     | <input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 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 type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799            | <input type="checkbox"/> ART                    | <input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MUSIC       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> THEATER  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE               | <input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY             | <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1900-                | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS         | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY               | <input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT    | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)     |
|   |   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INVENTION   |   |  |

## SPECIFIC DATES

## BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The W.R. Burn family came to Crawford County in 1880 or 1881. Mr. Burn was a surveyor for the Frisco railroad when it was being built through Crawford County.

Robert (Bob) and Farrar were very talented musicians, getting their start, playing with small bands in Van Buren. They and some of their friends invented the "bazooka" which was to become world famous as a musical instrument and trademark for Bob Burns and Van Buren. The original bazooka, consisting of an iron pipe with another metal pipe over it and a whiskey funnel attached at the end with a piece of wire that moves top pipe back and forth has been given to the Historical Society.

This will go into a Burn family museum room along with other mementos and this room will be open to the public.

Bob Burns got his start to stardom playing with famous bands; then a radio show sponsored by Kraft. He also made several motion pictures. Bob Burns entertained the soldiers during World War I and II. One of the Army's guns is named the "bazooka" after the famous instrument.

For several years while Bob Burns' was famous as a radio comedian and movie star, his step-mother, Mrs. Kate Smeltzer Burn, had a gift shop in the home and it was open to the public.

The family name is "Burn" but they added an "s" to "Burn" for Bob Burns' stage name.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Clara B. Eno's History of Crawford County  
 The Press Argus, Bob Burns Edition, July 31, 1936  
 The Courier Newspaper, Monday, April 7, 1975

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than 1 acre

UTM REFERENCES

A | 1 | 5 |    | 3 | 7 | 7 | 9 | 2 | 0 |    | 3 | 9 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 3 | 0 |  
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |  
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |  
 D |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |  
 VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

| STATE | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |
|-------|------|--------|------|
| STATE | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Robert M. Garner, President

ORGANIZATION

Crawford County Historical Society

DATE

8-14-1975

STREET & NUMBER

P.O. Box 486

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Van Buren

STATE

Arkansas

## 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

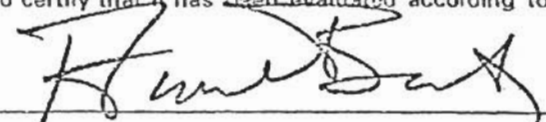
NATIONAL

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 Anne Bartley



TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

12-9-1975

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED CW 0138  
DATE ENTERED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

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HISTORIC

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LOCATION

CITY, TOWN

Van Buren

VICINITY OF

COUNTY

Crawford

STATE

Arkansas



PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT

Dianna Kirk

DATE OF PHOTO

1975

NEGATIVE FILED AT Arkansas Historic Preservation Program



IDENTIFICATION

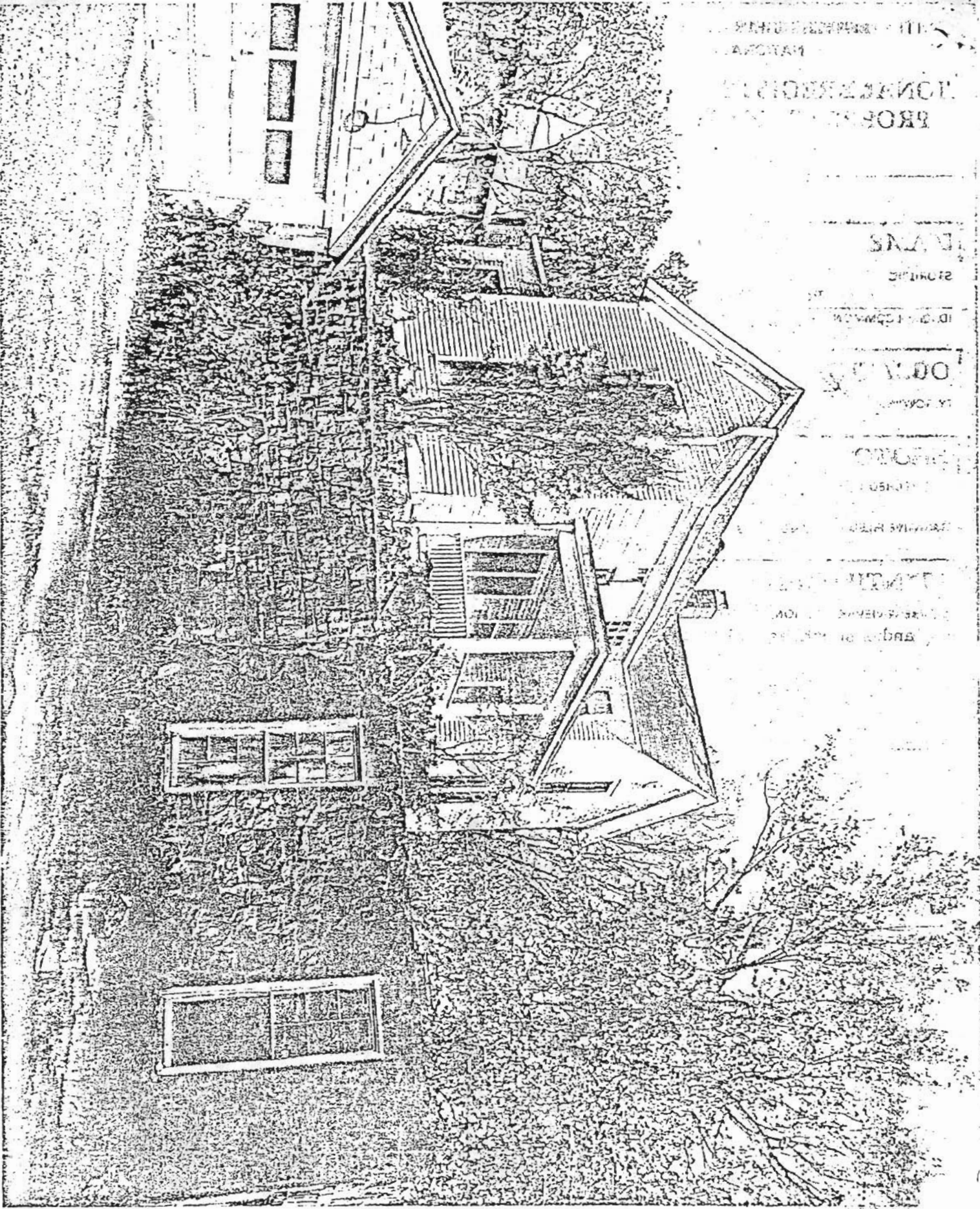
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

Southwest elevation and southeast facade, viewed from the south

PHOTO NO.

1





THE ARCHITECTURE  
OF  
THE HOUSE  
OF  
THE  
LORDS

PLANS

SECTION

DETAILS

GROUND

SECTION

SECTION

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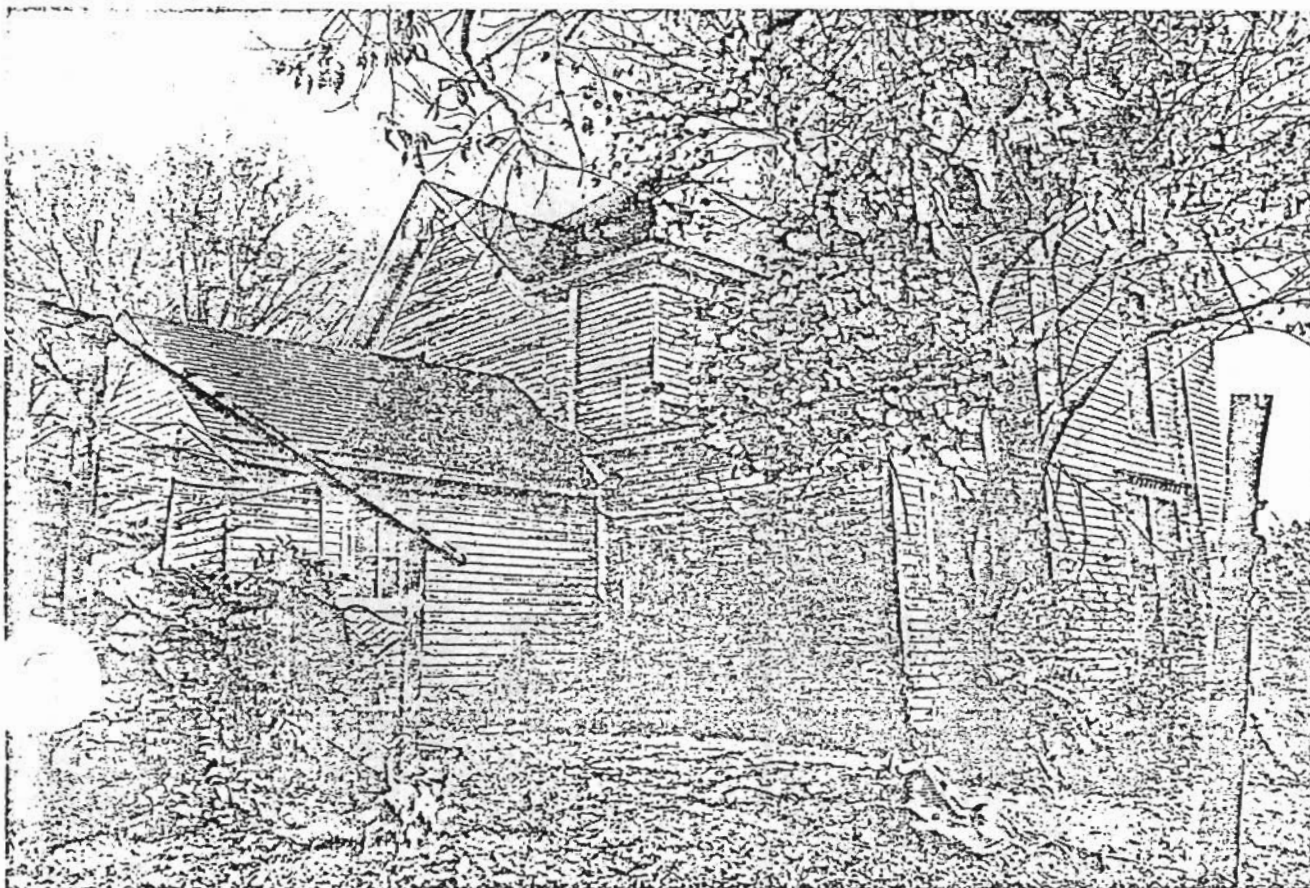
**4 IDENTIFICATION**

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME &amp; STREET

Rear and southwest elevations, viewed from the west

PHOTO NO.

3







Bob Burns House  
Van Buren, Arkansas

UTM Reference  
15 / 377 220 / 3922 030

3974

3923

2266  
7154 (V NW)  
(FORT SMITH)

FORT SMITH 39 MI.

3970

25

9 N.