

NR 10-16-86

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

received  
date entered

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

1. Name

historic W. C. Brown House

and/or common Brown Mansion

2. Location

street & number 2330 Central Avenue X not for publication

city, town Hot Springs N/A vicinity of

state Arkansas code 71901 county Garland code 051

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> in process | <input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted     | <input type="checkbox"/> government                   |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> being considered      | <input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted   | <input type="checkbox"/> industrial                   |
|   |  | <input checked="" 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 Mr. and Mrs. W.C. Brown

street & number 2330 Central Avenue

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

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Garland County Courthouse

street & number Ouachita Avenue

city, town Hot Springs state Arkansas

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

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

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

Originally built in the Queen Anne style and remodeled in 1919 by the prominent architectural firm of Witt, Siebert, and Halsey of Texarkana, the W.C. Brown House is a grand example of the Neoclassic style. Located on Hot Spring's busiest thoroughfare, this twenty-one room, two-story frame residence features a two-story full-height entry portico which is incorporated with a full one-story porch. Separated from Central Avenue by a low stone wall, the impressive structure is located on a four-and-a-half acre lot and is surrounded by tiered gardens, a lily pond, and a garage with servants quarters and a greenhouse.

### ELABORATION

The Brown House is situated on a wooded lot and is separated from Central Avenue by a low, regular ashlar wall and a tall chain-link fence that completes the perimeter. The exterior of the two-story structure is rich in detail and is dominated by the powerful portico, which is richly detailed with fluted Ionic columns with exaggerated entasis and an elaborate cornice. The low-hipped clay tile roof extends over the balustraded full-height entry portico. Consisting primarily of a square plan with minor corner projections, the house has one-story additions extending from the north and south side elevations that date from the 1919 remodeling. The facade is symmetrical except for a second floor side projection and a porte cochere supported by columns on the north side elevation.

The sloped two-story north projection and the southwestern and northwestern roof slopes of the main mass and the ridge of the southwestern projection are pierced with chimneys. The exterior of the entire structure is clad with narrow lap siding. The front portico and porch are supported at the corners by a trio of fluted Ionic columns with obvious entasis. The bottom of the cornice is highlighted with egg and dart moulding, dentils and leaf and tongue detailing, while the first floor cornice is more simply embellished. A simple wood railing consisting of square rails and intermediate pedestles surrounds the top of the porch and continues around the top of the end wings. Pilasters flank the windows located in the wing additions.

The first-story porch is accessible by six tiled steps, the width of which graduates with their ascension. The perimeter of the porch is surrounded with the same simple railings as the second story. Paired one-story Ionic columns are placed in front of the railing and triple columns embellish the corners, complimenting the full-height triple columns.

The single-pane entrance door is surrounded by a transom, and sidelights, and larger single panes at the top. Four sets of double paired casement windows with transoms are evenly placed on either side of the entryway and echo the detailing of the door. The second floor doorway is the same as the first story, but the surrounding four windows are regularly-spaced, double-hung one-over-one. The remaining first-floor windows are one-over-one panes and the second-floor windows are eight-over-eight panes with an eight-pane transom crowning the top. A double-hung dormer window penetrates the center back roof.

**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 2

The interior of the house unfolds from a spacious central hall. The door opposite the entryway leads directly to back service stairs at the left and to the kitchen area, which includes a large walk-in pantry, to the right. The one-story screened-in porch is situated between these two wings, except for a one-story projection on the west side of the kitchen.

A doorway adjacent to the staircase opens to the living room, which runs the depth of the structure. The ceiling is emphasized with crossing oak beams and heavy cornice molding; the walls are finished in stained oak raised-panel walls. The southern wing ends in a glass-enclosed, one-story sun parlor.

The north wing begins with two evenly-placed doorways in the central hall. The front door leads to a small music room and the second opens to a sumptuous dining room. French block print wallpaper adorning the walls, combined with heavy cornice moldings and dentils, give the room great impact. The mantle is detailed with pilasters at the corners topped with circular fluted radiating lines. An oval design echoing the pilaster detailing is centered in the entablature. The north wing ends in an enclosed sun porch and the porte cochere.

The second story also has a large central hallway and is flanked by bedrooms on both sides. All doorways are classical in nature with a prominent entablature, square pediments, and square fluted casing. Although the house was originally in the Queen Anne style, both the exterior and interior were substantially remodeled in 1919 in the Neoclassical style and only a few traces of the Queen Anne style remain.

A curved drive leads from Central Avenue to the north side of the house, through the porte cochere and, straight to a four-car garage which is topped with servant's quarters. This structure is clad in narrow lap siding and has three one-over-one double-hung windows evenly spaced on the front. The roof is covered in tile and has side-gable construction. North of the garage is a gently sloping garden that culminates in a rock-lined oval lily pond and fountain. A stone walkway, lined with terraced flower beds, winds from the garage area to the pond. A gazebo stands away from the southwest corner of the house, and what was originally a stable but which now serves as a tool shed lies at a distance directly behind the garage. The shed is a front-facing gable T-shaped plan with a greenhouse composing the south wing. Its second story is covered in narrow lap siding and the first story is brick construction. A small six-paned window is centered in each gable, triple- and double-hung six-over-six windows are set into the brick on the first-floor walls. A small garage for yard machinery is nestled into the northeast corner of the building. A wooden picket fence separates the rectangular rose garden, which lies at the end of the greenhouse, from the rest of the grounds.

## 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 checked="" 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                  | <input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899        | <input checked="" 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 c.1890, 1919

Builder/Architect Original-unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Remodeling- Witt, Siebert & Halsey

### SUMMARY

Remodeled by the successful Arkansas architectural firm of Witt, Siebert and Halsey of Texarkana, the W.C. Brown House is an outstanding example of Neoclassical residence. Transformed through a substantial remodeling from a typical Queen Anne structure, the house features elaborate detailing and is surrounded by sumptuous gardens and a variety of outbuildings. This impressive structure has been the home of two generations of the Brown family, who through a variety of Philanthropic Activities, have contributed to the growth and development of their community and state.

### ELABORATION

The W.C. Brown House, originally a fine example of a Nineteenth Century Queen Anne residence, was remodeled in 1900 to its present Neoclassical appearance. The firm of Witt, Siebert, and Halsey remodeled the Brown residence to elegantly display the features of this popular style. The low-hipped roof covered in clay tile and the elaborate Ionic columns are exemplary early Neoclassical features.

The house is one of distinction due to the efforts of the architects. Mrs. William E. Bann, daughter of Mr. Siebert, once said "the firm's one desire was to give charm and individuality to each home that was built." To give the Brown house individuality, the firm incorporated two very rare features into the design of the front porch. Three columns support each of its corners, and the very size of the porch itself--two story, full-width--is a powerful addition to a previously typical Queen Anne residence. An elaborate cornice, including egg-and-dart, dentils, and leaf-and-tongue, are additions that further embellish the facade.

The remodeling from Queen Anne to Neoclassical style was completed in 1919 and W.C. Brown, Sr. moved his family to Hot Springs from Stamps, Arkansas, where he was vice-president of Bodcaw Lumber Company. Frequent outbreaks of malaria in the Stamps community had necessitated the move. Mr. Brown had remained in Stamps to work but made frequent trips to Hot Springs to check on his family, which included his wife Mary, their four children (Josephine Emily, Jean, Allan, and William, Jr.), and two aunts. Mr. Brown, along with William Buchanan of Stamps, had founded Bodcaw Lumber Company at Stamps, and it provided the basis of the family fortune. Today there are only 320 shareholders in the company, but it was reported in July of 1979 in the New York Times that International Paper and Weyerhaeuser, along with Mobil, were making bids up into the six-hundred millions for preferred stock in Bodcaw. Shrewd investments coupled with Bodcaw made Mr. Brown quite wealthy.

Mr. Brown and his wife raised their children as Presbyterians and they remained devoutly so all their lives. Their wealth, combined with great kindness, made them all initiators of community projects and active philanthropists. Josephine and Jean were very interested in the Y.W.C.A. and Mr. Brown, Jr. was involved with the Y.M.C.A and helped to found the first Boy Scout troop in Arkansas.

**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 8

Page 2

It was certainly true that helping children and providing an education to those who could not afford one were first on the list of the Brown's priorities. They contributed substantial amounts to Arkansas Children's Hospital, Elizabeth Mitchell Children's Center, St. Joseph Hospital in Memphis, the Boys Club, and made several donations to colleges, including a request by Jean to Arkansas College, a small private Presbyterian school, for 14.3 million dollars. It was noted in the Arkansas Democrat after the death of Jean Brown in 1982 that she had given nearly one-hundred million dollars in her lifetime.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property 4.51

Quadrangle name Hot Springs

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A 

|      |   |   |         |   |   |   |   |          |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|------|---|---|---------|---|---|---|---|----------|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1    | 5 | 4 | 9       | 4 | 5 | 7 | 0 | 3        | 8 | 1 | 6 | 2 | 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

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 Jimmie Lou Simpson, Accountant / Edited by AHPP Staff

organization Meyers, Shelton & Harvey, P.A.

date September 27, 1985

street & number 534 Ouachita - Suite 4

telephone (501) 623-3121

city or town Hot 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

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date 9-12-85

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

**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 9

Page 2

1. "Hot Springs Arkansas and Hot Springs National Park"  
by Dr. Francis J. Scully - Pioneer Press, L.R., AR.
2. Arkansas Democrat, Sunday, October 17, 1982.
3. Mr. Bob Reinheimer, Texarkana, AR - 05-15-85.
4. Mrs. Fred Halseley, Texarkana, AR - 05-15-85.
5. Mrs. William E. Bann, Texarkana, AR - 05-15-85.
6. Mrs. Inex Cline, Hot Springs, AR - 05-16-85.
7. Mrs. Carl Manier, Hot Springs, Ar - 05-16-85.
8. Mr. William C. Brown, Jr. - 05-16-85 - 09-26-85.
9. Mrs. William C. Brown, Jr. - 05-16-85 - 09-26-85.
10. The 21st Edition of the Record, 1980, Garland Co.  
Historical Society - Vol. XXI
11. LA Forestry Asst., Ms. Melanie Blanchard - 09-30-85.

**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

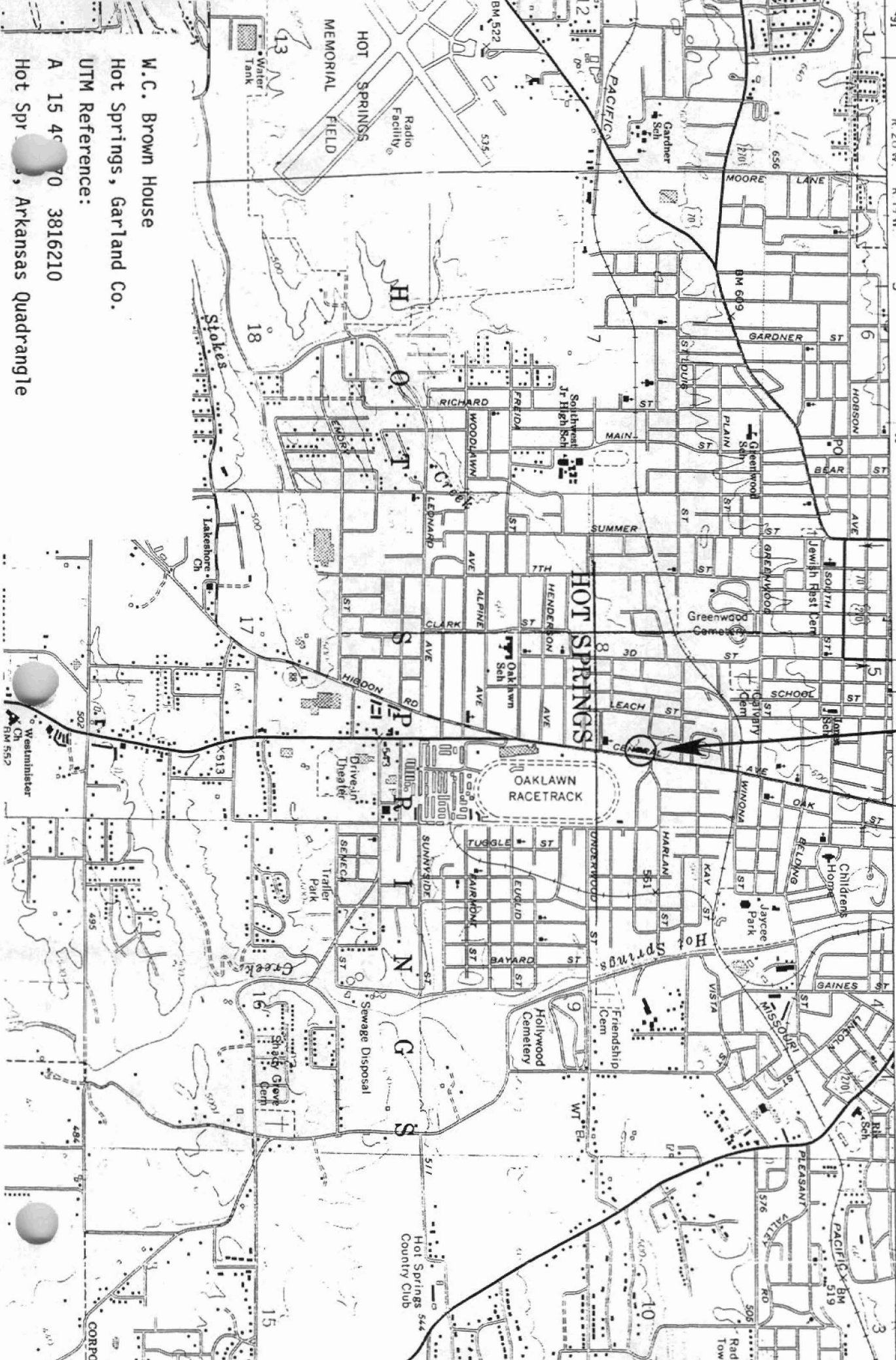
Page 2

Beginning at the Northwest corner of Lot 6, Block 3, COOK'S ADDITION to the City of Hot Springs, Arkansas; thence South 82 degrees 32' 16" East a distance of 346.42 feet; thence North 06 degrees 16' 13" East a distance of 38.0 feet; thence South 81 degrees 00' 24" East a distance of 290.0 feet to a point located 40 feet from the centerline of Central Avenue; thence South 08 degrees 30' 37" West along the West right-of-way line of Central Avenue a distance of 289.47 feet; thence North 88 degrees 32' 37" West a distance of 282.73 feet; thence South 89 degrees 16' 36" West a distance of 348.30 feet to the East right-of-way line of Leach Street; thence North 06 degrees 44' 04" East a distance of 338.38 feet to the point of beginning, containing 4.51 acres, more or less.



# W. C. Brown House

491 R 20 W R 19 W 5' 493  
 LITTLE ROCK (VA U. S. 70) 5.3 MI. 1 MI. TO JUNG. U. S. 70 & 270 7383 # SE  
 (HOT SPRINGS NORTH) 8 MI. TO ARK. 5 (HOT SPRINGS (CH.) 0.4 MI. 496 2'30" 497  
 1 690 1



W. C. Brown House  
 Hot Springs, Garland Co.

UTM Reference:  
 A 15 49 70 3816210  
 Hot Spr, Arkansas Quadrangle

