

**Walks through History  
Siloam Springs Downtown Historic District  
May 14, 2011  
By: Rachel Silva**



**\*\*A series of historic photographs is included at the end of this script. They are arranged in order as you would see them on the tour. The script prompts you to see these photos at certain points. All historic photos are courtesy of the Siloam Springs Museum.**

### **Intro**

Hi, my name is Rachel Silva, and I work for the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program in Little Rock. We are one of 7 agencies in the Dept. of AR Heritage that work to document and preserve the state's historic and cultural resources. Welcome to the Walks through History tour of the Siloam Springs Downtown Historic District! I want to introduce and thank some very important people this morning for their help with the tour—Don Warden, the director of the Siloam Springs Museum and Meredith Bergstrom, the director of Main Street Siloam Springs.

The Siloam Springs Downtown Historic District was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1995 for its association with the commercial development of Siloam Springs and for its collection of late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century commercial-style architecture. The district basically consists of buildings along University, the 100 block of Wright, and along Broadway.

Explain NR and how to get a district listed...at least 51% of the properties must contribute to the historic significance of the district...explain C & NC. This district

has a total of 65 properties, with 36 C (55%), 22 NC (34%), and 7 IL (11%). Including the downtown district, there are 24 NR-listed properties in Siloam Springs.

### **Brief History of Siloam Springs**

Benton County was established in 1836 from part of Washington County. The county was named in honor of Thomas Hart Benton, a U.S. Senator from Missouri, who played a key role in Arkansas's admission into the Union. Bentonville, the county seat, is also named after Senator Benton. Most early residents engaged in subsistence agriculture, growing tobacco and fruits like apples, peaches, and strawberries.

By late 1839, German immigrant Simon Sager and his family were living in what is now Siloam Springs, making them the first white settlers in the area. Sager's second cabin, which he built in 1844-45, still stands on the campus of John Brown University.

The first town in this area was established in the 1840s by Caldeen and Nancy Ward Gunter and called "Hico," a Cherokee word meaning "sparkling water," referring to the abundance of natural springs. The Hico post office was established in 1855.

In 1880 Hico merchant John Valentine Hargrove platted the town of Siloam Springs on land that he owned around Sager Creek. Hargrove intended for the town to become a summer health resort because 8 of the 28 springs flowing into this part of Sager Creek were considered medicinal. Therefore, the town's name, "Siloam," refers to the healing waters of the Pool of Siloam in the New Testament (John 9:6). Siloam Springs was incorporated in 1881, and a post office was established in 1882. The town experienced rapid population growth, with over 2,200 people by December 1881. However, when there was still no railroad in Siloam Springs by the mid-1880s, many of the first residents left the area. You see, in 1881 the St. Louis & San Francisco (Frisco) RR was completed through eastern Benton County, and the folks in the western part of the county assumed that they would soon have a railroad as well. So by 1890, the population of Siloam Springs was only 821.

Then on Friday, May 13, 1892 (almost 119 years ago to the day), the city's first major flood occurred along Sager Creek, causing \$20,000 in property damage and 3 deaths. [The downtown area is prone to flooding because of its location in a

valley next to Sager Creek. The last major flood occurred in 1974, but no one was injured.]

But in 1893 the Kansas City, Pittsburg & Gulf Railroad (reorganized as the Kansas City Southern in 1900) came through Siloam Springs, bringing new life to the town. By 1900 Siloam Springs was a health resort with city-owned water and electric light service and a telephone company. In 1908 the Arkansas, Oklahoma & Western RR was completed from Rogers to Siloam Springs, providing residents with access to the Frisco RR as well. In 1904 Siloam Springs annexed the town of Hico (was NE of Siloam).

In 1919 John Elward Brown, Sr., established the Southwestern Collegiate Institute, now John Brown University, as a nondenominational Christian institution.

Most of the buildings in the historic district boundary reflect the town's prosperity between 1893 and 1940.

[Today, major employers in Siloam Springs include Allen Canning Company, Simmons Foods, and the Siloam Springs Memorial Hospital.]

### **American Legion Community Hall—C**

Built in 1934 by the Works Progress Administration (WPA) [WPA renamed Work Projects Administration in 1939] and financed by the local American Legion to serve as a community building and meeting hall. Used the typical WPA rustic style of architecture with cut stone and cast-concrete walls. The building was restored to its original appearance in the early 1990s and continues to serve as a community building. It is used about 2 or 3 nights out of every week, so it gets a lot of use.

### **SW corner of Mt. Olive & University (now parking lot)**

There was a 2-story building on this site before it became the community building parking lot. The building was constructed about 1900 and housed Chandler's Drug Store on the first floor and the Guynes Opera House on the second floor. See photo of building.

### **Siloam Springs City Park—IL on NR 1/28/88**

Siloam Springs City Park runs several hundred feet along Sager Creek just south of University Street, which was formerly called St. John Street. When the town was

platted, this area was set aside as a public park around THE Siloam Spring. The Siloam Spring was named in 1879, making it the first named spring in town. The springs in town were used for drinking, not for bathing. They were described as pure water that would flush disease-causing impurities from a person's body. At both the Twin and Siloam springs, there was a \$5 fine for washing in the springs. However, rock basins were constructed around both of these springs to keep the creek out of the spring, not to create a pool for bathing.

The Queen Anne-style gazebo was built ca. 1895 and was restored to its original appearance in 1989.

A lower limestone dam was constructed shortly after the park was established to create a shallow "lake." Sanborn maps from 1897 to 1914 reference a Siloam Lake in Spring Creek (called it Spring Creek until the 1922 Sanborn map, when it became Sager Creek). See photo of women on dam.

The concrete footbridge and street bridge, which may date to 1911, provided access to the Siloam Spring. **Cross the footbridge.** A concrete and rock wall and gate was built at some point to control access to a foot path that was known as Lover's Lane. The path went up the hill and came out behind some of the houses in the Carl's Addition Historic District. See photo of Lover's Lane. A concrete staircase with steel pipe handrail was built in 1911, according to the plaque.

A much more elaborate rock wall with recessed arches was built at the Siloam Spring in 1882 and remained until about 1892. See photo. It was probably damaged or destroyed by the flood of 1892, and the current wall was built in 1897 to replace it. The plaque on the wall is very weathered, but you can see it a little better in the photo in your packet. It says "Siloam Springs 1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary June 24, 1880, 1897." The plaque dates to 1897 and commemorates the first celebration of the City of Siloam Springs on June 24, 1880. To explain this a little more, the town was platted in March 1880, but the Masonic Order (Masonic Lodge) celebrates June 24 as St. John's Day, so this annual Masonic holiday became a city-wide celebration and has since been held as the town's birthday. This is where the St. John Street name comes from as well (now University).

**Walk over traffic bridge or footbridge to 201 W. University.**

**Ewing House Annex—NC**

John M. Ewing built the Ewing House Hotel before 1897—this building is no longer extant. It stood just to the NE of the Annex building (in the parking lot N of this fenced area) and faced E toward Wright. Mr. Ewing built the Ewing House Annex about 1900 as an overflow building to hold extra hotel rooms. It was later known as the Park Hotel for about 50 years. [According to Sanborn maps, there was another 1-1/2 story building on the site of the Ewing Annex by 1897, but the current building footprint does not appear until the 1904 map.] It is NC because the original wall material is covered with synthetic siding. See photo of Ewing House Annex.

**Go up first block of N. Wright (N. Wright was originally called N. Main St.; the street names all changed to the current names after WWII. The current street names are noted on the 1948 Sanborn map.) See photo labeled Main St.**

Wright Street was named after Isom Wright (1826-1901), a well-respected local furniture maker and farmer. A chair that he made is on display at the Siloam Springs Museum. The family story is that Isom was held in such high esteem that the road was named for him. One of his sons lived for a time on this street as well. Some of Isom Wright's children and their spouses were early settlers on Norwood Prairie (east of town) where some of the buildings they built are still standing.

### **E side of Wright**

#### **Lakeside Hotel—IL on NR 11/15/79**

The Lakeside Hotel (now the Crown Hotel) was built in 1881 and is the oldest building in downtown Siloam Springs. Constructed just one year after the town was established as a health resort, the hotel features decorative recessed brickwork at the cornice in a diamond pattern. It was named the Lakeside because of its close proximity to the "Siloam Lake."

#### **28-29 N. Wright—counted as part of the Lakeside Hotel in the nomination**

Built ca. 1920 as an addition to the Lakeside Hotel. Later served as a public laundry. Note original limestone curbing by this building.

#### **207-209 N. Wright (30-31)—NC**

Built ca. 1900. Can see it in photo of Main Street. It was a seed store for several years before becoming an upholstering shop.



**211 N. Wright (32)—C**

Built ca. 1935 and served as a restaurant.

**213-221 N. Wright—C**

Built before 1897. Had five separate storefronts with residences above. In 1908, this housed 2 groceries, a dry goods store, an undertaker, and a racket store. By 1948, the last 2 storefronts were used as a hatchery. It has been converted into townhouses and the storefronts were altered significantly, but you can still see some of the original cast iron columns near the front doors.

**223 N. Wright—NC at time of survey; should probably be C now**

Built before 1897. In 1897, it was a dry goods store, and in 1908 it housed a tailor. The building has a ghost sign on the N side wall reading "A. B. C. Produce Co." This company was owned by Mr. A. B. Currant, thus the A. B. C. He advertised all over town.

**W side of Wright, going back to University (not in district boundary)**

**Siloam Springs Laundry—has sign painted on front façade, but it's covered by vines.** Built ca. 1935 and housed a produce store in 1948.

**Farmer's Insurance—**Historic building with new façade. Was a feed store in 1948.

**One-story gable roof building—**Built ca. 1940. Housed a general repair shop. It is labeled as concrete block construction on the Sanborn map. Ornamental concrete block is visible on the south elevation.

**University, going east****111 W. University—C**

Built ca. 1930. This was the last building constructed on this block facing University. Nice brick corbelling at the cornice. At one time, this housed Henry Hardware, and this building and the one just to the east housed Crossroads Hardware as well.

### **109 W. University (Main Street Studios)—C**

Built ca. 1914 and housed a grocery and meat market. Has a nice, intact storefront with a recessed entrance, transom windows, wooden bulkheads, and cast iron columns. This building was restored with federal rehabilitation tax credits.

### **101-107 W. University (Zimmerman Block)—C**

The next three buildings make up the old Zimmerman Block. See photo. The eastern building (red one) is the oldest of the three. It appears on the 1897 Sanborn map and the earliest known business in it was Gilbreath's, which was a dry goods store. You also have an interior photo of Gilbreath's that was sent to Don by a museum in British Columbia, Canada. Gilbreath's went bankrupt, and Charles Gamble bought the building and contents and opened The Gamble Store on December 1, 1900. He was so successful in this venture that he added on to the building twice in 1901.

In the historic photo, you can see that all three buildings originally had the pressed metal cornice and a taller parapet reading "Zimmerman Block 1901" was centered above the easternmost buildings. The photo was taken during the last day of a sale in 1904, and it was during this sale that the record of over a thousand dollars a day cash sales were made.

Only the westernmost building at 107 W. University retains its original pressed metal façade, and it is IL on the NR (7/15/94). But the other two buildings still have some original elements like cast iron columns on the storefronts. They were made by Riverside Iron Works Co. from Kansas City, MO, which makes perfect sense because they could easily be shipped on the Kansas City Southern RR to Siloam Springs. Popularity of manufactured buildings components in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century—easy & cheaper way to make your building look fancy. Order cast iron or pressed metal decoration and install it yourself, rather than hiring a professional.

### **Cross Mt. Olive**

#### **100 E. University (Emelia's)—C**

This building was constructed in 1935 for the Crain Motor Company, which was a Ford dealership. See photo. It was designed in the Art Moderne style, with smooth brick and tile wall surfaces, glass block windows, and a rounded corner, giving the

building an overall horizontal emphasis. The exterior materials have recently been altered. Before this building was constructed, this corner was occupied by the Benton County Hardware Company, which was in a late 19<sup>th</sup> century building. See photo. Connelly Harrington was a major investor in the hardware company, which also had stores in Rogers and Bentonville. This will be important in a few minutes...

**Arvest Parking Lot**—site of large 2-story building, constructed prior to 1897. May have been the tallest 2-story building, according to Ripley's Believe it or Not. The Davidson Store sold dry goods, clothes, and shoes. The upstairs of the building served as a lodge hall in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century (Knights of Pythias appears on the Sanborn). By 1948 the second story was used as a bowling alley.

**Arvest Community Room (107 E. University)—NC**

Built ca. 1900 and served as the post office until the 1937 post office on Broadway was completed. Still has original cast iron columns made by the Neosho Foundry in Neosho, MO.

**108 E. University (Chamber of Commerce)—NC**

Built ca. 1900 as part of the Morris Hotel Building. Was a boots & shoes store in the early days. In recent memory, this was AR Western Gas. No original wall material is visible, so it is NC.

**110-114 E. University (yellow siding)—part of the Morris/Youree Hotels facing Broadway...**

**Farmer's Bank Building—IL on NR 1/28/88**

Built ca. 1900 and has always housed a bank. This is the best example of the Romanesque style of architecture in Siloam Springs with the rounded arch window and door openings and the use of rusticated stone. Notice the word "Bank" on the eastern corner, and notice the logo on the upper façade—it is the Benton County Hardware Co. logo. Remember I told you that Connelly Harrington was a big investor in the hardware company across the street. Well, Harrington was a banker and had offices upstairs in this building at one time, thus the logo.

As you will see in the historic photo (1903), this building is missing a pyramidal turret on the SE corner of the roof. The building was historically divided into two



storefronts—the eastern storefront was a bank, and the western storefront was a drug store. By 1922, the whole building was a bank. There were a variety of professional offices upstairs, and there was even a hospital up there at one time. The first bank here was Farmer's Bank, then First National, Bratt-Wasson after the Great Depression, First National again, and now Arvest.

### **Connelly Harrington House—IL on NR 1/28/88**

Built about 1920 as a single-family residence for local businessman and banker Connelly Harrington. The house reflects elements of the Prairie and Craftsman styles with its symmetrical façade, widely overhanging eaves, and front porch with massive, square porch supports. In the 1930s and 40s, it was the John Brown University Hospital, and later it became the Ozark Hotel. Then it was divided into apartments and offices. Main Street Siloam Springs currently has an office inside this house.

### **Bratt-Smiley House—IL on NR 1/28/88**

Built ca. 1900, the house reflects elements of the Queen Anne and Colonial Revival styles of architecture with its asymmetrical layout and wrap-around porch with Tuscan columns. This was the home of J. E. Bratt, an Englishman who owned a produce company and was a banker (Bratt-Wasson Bank). A later occupant was Dr. Smiley.

**Go down Broadway—Broadway was originally named St. Nicholas Avenue. Like the other streets in Siloam Springs, the name changed after WWII, probably about 1947 or 48. Went from very unique names to common names. See photo of Broadway looking south from University.**

**East side of Broadway from N to S—See 1947 photo of Broadway**

### **123-125 N. Broadway (Fenno Building)—C**

Panel in upper façade says "Fenno, 1941." Built in 1941 by local realtor Buck Fenno. In 1947 Trowbridge Realty Co. had an office in the small corner building (Buck Fenno named his real estate company after his wife's maiden name), the middle storefront was occupied by Rose Beauty Shop, and the southern storefront was The Andrews Shop, which had "the smartest in ladies wearing apparel." The upstairs portion of the building was home to Dr. R. D. Fuson, Chiropractor.

**121 N. Broadway (Books on Broadway)—C**

Built about 1920 and served as the Harold & Democrat newspaper office for many years.

**115-117 N. Broadway—NC**

2 buildings with a new unified brick façade and mansard awning. If you look at the October 1947 photo of this part of Broadway, you can see that the building at 117 (north side) was Oklahoma Tire & Supply Co. (or Otasco), and the building at 115 (south side) was the Siloam Beauty Shop.

**113 N. Broadway (Stockton Building)—IL on NR 1/28/88**

Built in 1894. See parapet date. Very nice late 19<sup>th</sup> century commercial building with rusticated stone and decorative pressed metal cornice. It originally housed a trunk, saddle, and harness shop as well as a print shop in the back. By 1914 it was a pool room, and the 1947 photo shows it as Clark and Eoff Furniture and Appliance Store. John Stockton later opened a dentist office in this building.

**111 N. Broadway—NC**

Built ca. 1900 as an office, and was then a music store. From about 1916 until the 1960s, it was Roy V. Flickinger's Cleaners. NC because of metal covering on façade.

**109 N. Broadway—C**

Built ca. 1905 as a harness and saddlery shop. Served as Kinneman Studio in the 1960s.

**103 N. Broadway—NC**

This was the Rosemont Café for many years. NC because of new stucco façade.

**101 N. Broadway—NC**

Built ca. 1920 as an auto garage with a capacity of 25 cars. Then it was the Grand Theater beginning in the 1940s—one of 3 movie theaters in downtown Siloam

Springs at that time (others were Rialto Theater and Spot Theater). By the 1970s it was a bowling alley. NC because of large mansard awning.

### **Central is the dividing line between N. Broadway and S. Broadway**

#### **101 S. Broadway (Old Post Office)—C**

The U.S. Post Office was built in 1937 and designed in the Colonial Revival/Plain-Traditional style of architecture with a symmetrical façade, multi-pane windows and yet, little ornamentation. The post office still has its original Section Art mural inside. It is a generic Arkansas-themed mural with images of the timber industry (logging), a hay truck, etc. It was painted by artist Bertrand R. Adams. The U.S. Treasury Department's Section on Fine Arts put Depression-era artists to work on projects throughout the U.S., and there are many Section Art murals in post offices around the state of Arkansas. The addition was built in 1964. This is the future home of the Siloam Springs Museum (moving from location on Maxwell St.).

#### **117-119 S. Broadway—C**

Built about 1924 as Jones Supply Company Garage, a combination automobile showroom and service station. It had gas pumps out in front. See photo. It was later Carl Chevrolet and then Feemster's Chevrolet. The building has an unusually long front façade. In the 1950s, the Beauty Nook beauty shop was in the southern storefront of this building.

#### **123 S. Broadway—C**

Built in 1916. Beginning in the 1920s, it was Rice's Domino Parlor (pool hall), and most local ladies did not frequent this establishment.

#### **201-203 S. Broadway—C**

Built ca. 1900 and stucco applied in the 1930s. There was a telephone exchange upstairs in this building at one time. It was also C. R. Jones Supply Company from 1930 to 1950, and then it was Smith Carpet after 1950. Narrow space to south of 2-story building was enclosed between 1936 and 1948 to make a very small building.

#### **205 S. Broadway—C**

Built ca. 1910 as a bakery. Later it was Blake Bakery, then Gardner's Bakery, and then the offices for the *News Leader* newspaper. Has nice brick corbelling at the cornice.

### **207 S. Broadway—NC**

Constructed about 1910 as an office. It was originally a brick building with corbelling at the cornice, similar to the building next door at 205 S. Broadway. This one has been stuccoed, but you can see a portion of the corbelling at the cornice now. In the mid-1950s, this was Frazier's Cleaners. Then it was the law office of Powell Woods for more than 30 years.

### **209 S. Broadway—C**

Built about 1905 by E. K. Harkness as a jewelry store. It was later the Bank of Commerce, and the 10,000 Club, a forerunner of the Chamber of Commerce, met upstairs. The building was also used by John E. Brown's publishing company and was later Curley's Café. In recent years, it has housed various professional offices. Notice the clipped corner entrance supported by the cast iron column.

### **Twin Springs Park—C**

This park was originally called "Isle of Patmos." Sometime between 1914 and 1922, the name was changed to Twin Springs Park. The rockwork at the twin springs themselves probably dates to the 1880s, when the medicinal springs were improved as part of the promotion of the area as a health resort. In 1908 there was an Airdome Summer Theatre in the park—like a drive-in movie theater, but you walked in. The current fountain was recently rebuilt based on the 1936 fountain done by the National Youth Administration (NYA). See photo of frozen fountain—shows bird that was on top of the 1936 fountain. As you can see from a panel near the fountain, there was another fountain here before the 1936 version—this early fountain looked like a beehive and might have been installed about 1913 when the original garden landscaping was done. The current landscaping was done in 2003 to mimic the original layout.

### **Cross footbridge & look at springs—see photo of Twin Springs.**

The gazebo on the south side of Sager Creek is visible in a 1936 photo, so it dates to at least the mid-1930s. There is a Grand Army of the Republic monument in the park as well. It was NR-listed on 5/3/96. It is granite on a concrete base and was

erected in 1928 by the Samuel R. Curtis Post No. 9 of the GAR (pro-Union). The Curtis post was named after the Union commander at the Battle of Pea Ridge in 1862. This monument is unique because it is the only one known in AR to bear the emblem of the Women's Relief Corps, which was the GAR ladies' auxiliary, and 1928 was a late date for the GAR to erect monuments. Most of these monuments were done around 1910.

### **Methodist Episcopal Church, South—C**

Built in 1920 as the Methodist Episcopal Church, South. Became the FUMC church in 1938 (after the uniting conference in 1938 ended the division between ME, South, and ME, North). Now home to the Sager Creek Arts Center.

### **Cross vehicular bridge on Main Street (built in 1926) to see Spot Theater**

#### **Spot Theater (304 Main St.)—C**

Built by Mr. and Mrs. Van Eagan in 1943 as the Spot Theater. Has its original tile façade.

#### **300 Main St. (just to W of Spot Theater; small building with matching façade)—C**

Built about 1920. Mrs. Van Eagan's brother, Delbert Allen, owned the buildings on either side of the Spot Theater. This one had operated as a grocery. When the Eagans built the Spot, Delbert Allen also put the same tile façade on his buildings so they would look modern and match the theater (1943).

### **West side of Broadway going North**

#### **212 S. Broadway (Hoffman Chiropractic)—NC**

This building was originally constructed in the late 19th century, but it was damaged in the 1974 flood and has an entirely new exterior. [May also have been damaged by a fire and rebuilt again in 1989??]

Historically, there were several buildings located to the south of this building going towards the creek. I'm guessing that the 1974 flood finally discouraged people from building in that area.



### **204 S. Broadway—NC**

This parking area was originally full of buildings. The building at 204 S. Broadway was originally 2 stories tall—see where it was cut off just above the 2<sup>nd</sup> story window sills. A 1-story brick building stood just to the south of 204 S. Broadway. You can see these in the color photo looking N on Broadway. But look at the 1915 photo of the same block...you can see that 204 S. Broadway was originally much more decorative and looked similar to the other 2-story building. In 1915 it was the Midway Theater, the first movie theater in Siloam Springs. Then it was the Rialto Theater, which burned on March 3, 1948. The building later housed Reason's Cut Rate Drugs. You can still see some elements of the old theater building inside the current 1-story building like the sloped floor and a portion of the back wall.

### **200-202 S. Broadway—C**

Built ca. 1910 as McCulloch's Grocery. Still see ghost signs on the buildings north elevation reading, "McCulloch's Grocery, Good Values" and "Aristos Flour." It was also an IGA Grocery for awhile. It was later the Hodges McKinney Company, which sold appliances and household goods. It then became the Original Smith furniture store, sat vacant a few years, and became Original Smith furniture once again.

**E. Alpine was originally St. Luke Street.**

### **120-122 S. Broadway—C**

Built about 1909 as the State Bank. This building features brick corbelling at the cornice, a chamfered corner entrance with two granite columns topped by decorative capitals, and rusticated cast-concrete pilasters. The columns are very similar in appearance to those used on the Benton County Bank Building in Bentonville, designed in 1906 by local architect A. O. Clarke. This may have also been designed by Clarke. In addition to the bank, there were other offices in this building, including Perry Realty. The storefront at 122 (to the north of building) was Tommye's Fashion Shop from 1965-1995. In early years (1914) it was a grocery store.

### **118 S. Broadway (Fratelli's Pizza)—NC**

Built ca. 1910 as a clothing store. It originally had a brick façade with a decorative pressed metal cornice. See photo of Yankee Robinson Show (circus). The building

housed Henry Harrison's Jewelry store from about 1940 to 1985. The façade has been extensively altered with a pebble and cement storefront and metal upper façade, making it NC.

**112 S. Broadway (Penney Pyeatte Building)—NC at time of survey, but could go C now**

Built ca. 1905 as the Rank Building (local merchants). Early occupants included a millinery shop, a photography studio, the Daily Republican newspaper office, and Crow Insurance. The building's three storefronts were combined into the J. C. Penney store and Pyeatte's clothing about 1945 and the tile and metal façade was added at that time. See how it originally looked in the photo of the Yankee Robinson show. Originally had very elaborate pressed metal upper façade with inset columns by the second story windows.

**114 S. Broadway—C**

Built ca. 1910 as a drug store. It was once the Anthony Pharmacy, and a tile design at the front door still reads "Dr. Anthony." It was later Brown Drug.

**106 S. Broadway—NC**

Built ca. 1910 as a stationary store. This building's facade was entirely rebricked in 1985, making it NC.

**104 S. Broadway (Edward Jones)—NC**

Built ca. 1910 and served as a telegraph and express office and later a printing shop. NC because of metal slipcover at time of survey. Now has stucco veneer. Don't know if the stucco is historic.

**102 S. Broadway—C**

Built before 1897 and housed a variety of businesses, including a millinery and furniture store and a boots and shoes store. Has intact upper façade with decorative corbelling and a pointed parapet.

**100 S. Broadway—NC**

**Built in 1894.** See historic photo of building before the wood façade was added in 1965. This had an elaborate pressed metal upper façade with dentils and columns. The first floor was occupied by the Good Luck Grocery and Cravens Drugs, while the Masonic and Odd Fellows lodges met upstairs. The building housed Robinson's Ben Franklin Store from the 1940s to 1994. Several ghost signs remain on the building's north elevation.

#### **100 N. Broadway—C**

Built in 1905 by J. M. Webster (see panel on parapet; difficult to read). Also see historic photo of these blocks. Mr. Webster operated Central Drug Store here, and it was later Sisco Drug Store. The second floor housed doctor's and dentist's offices.

#### **102 N. Broadway—NC**

Built ca. 1920 and housed Felt's Family Shoe Store beginning in 1934. The façade has recently been rebricked with historic brick, making it NC.

#### **108 N. Broadway—C**

Built ca. 1910 as the Rapp Brothers Barber Shop. The brothers worked in this building for fifty years. As was typical of the period, the barber shop once literally had a "bathroom" where patrons could bathe in the back of the shop.

#### **110 N. Broadway—C**

Built in 1917 (see date on parapet). This was the first location of J. C. Penney in Siloam Springs (before it moved down Broadway to the tile building in the 1940s). In the 1930s, the southern storefront (left portion) was the Dixie News newspaper, and Penney's was on the right. Later the building housed Dodson's 5 & 10-cent store. Sam Walton tried to buy this building as a location for his first store, but Mr. Dodson refused to sell it, so Walton went to Bentonville instead.

#### **116 N. Broadway—C**

Built about 1910. The 1914 Sanborn map indicates that the building housed clothing, boots, and shoes on the first floor and a skating rink in the basement. The enclosed exterior stairway was not built until the early 1940s, but it leads down to

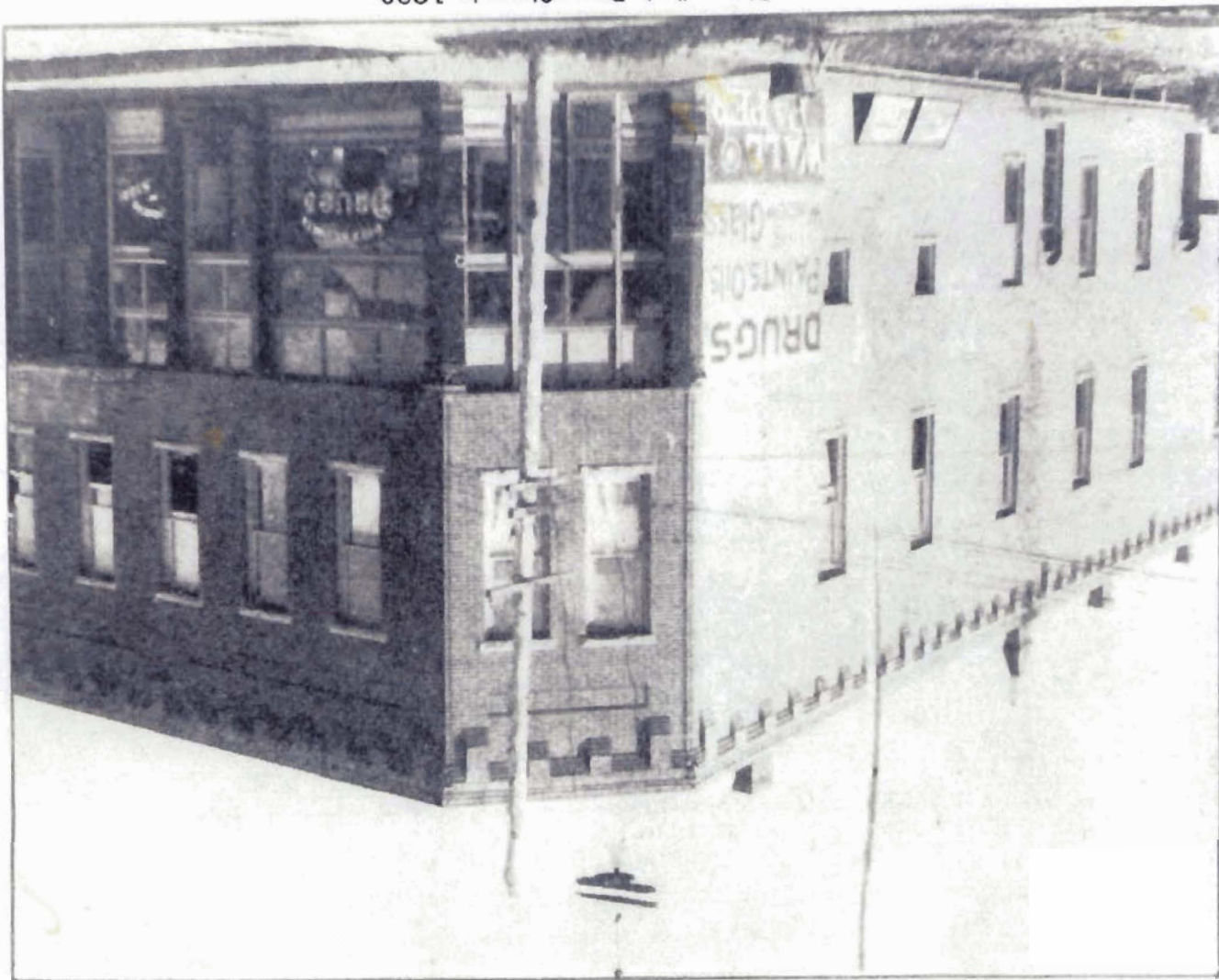
the basement level. The building also housed Millsap Grocery and later a Western Auto store. The building has intact pressed tin ceilings.

**110-114 E. University (old hotel on SW corner of Broadway & University)—  
NC**

Built ca. 1905 as the Morris Hotel. It was a 3-story building originally with various businesses on the first floor (like a bakery, barber, bank, and restaurant) and hotel rooms on the second and third floors. By 1922 it was the Youree Hotel. A fire in 1970 heavily damaged the building, and the third floor was removed at that time. The corner portion of the building at Broadway and University was also rebuilt (see difference in brick).

Thank you! Questions?

Chandler's Drug Store in 1903.  
Stood at University & Mount Olive (now Community Bldg parking lot)







Howes This look good to you - If it does come  
 and see me - your old pal Alice





Dam and Lover's Lane,  
Siloam Springs, Ark.

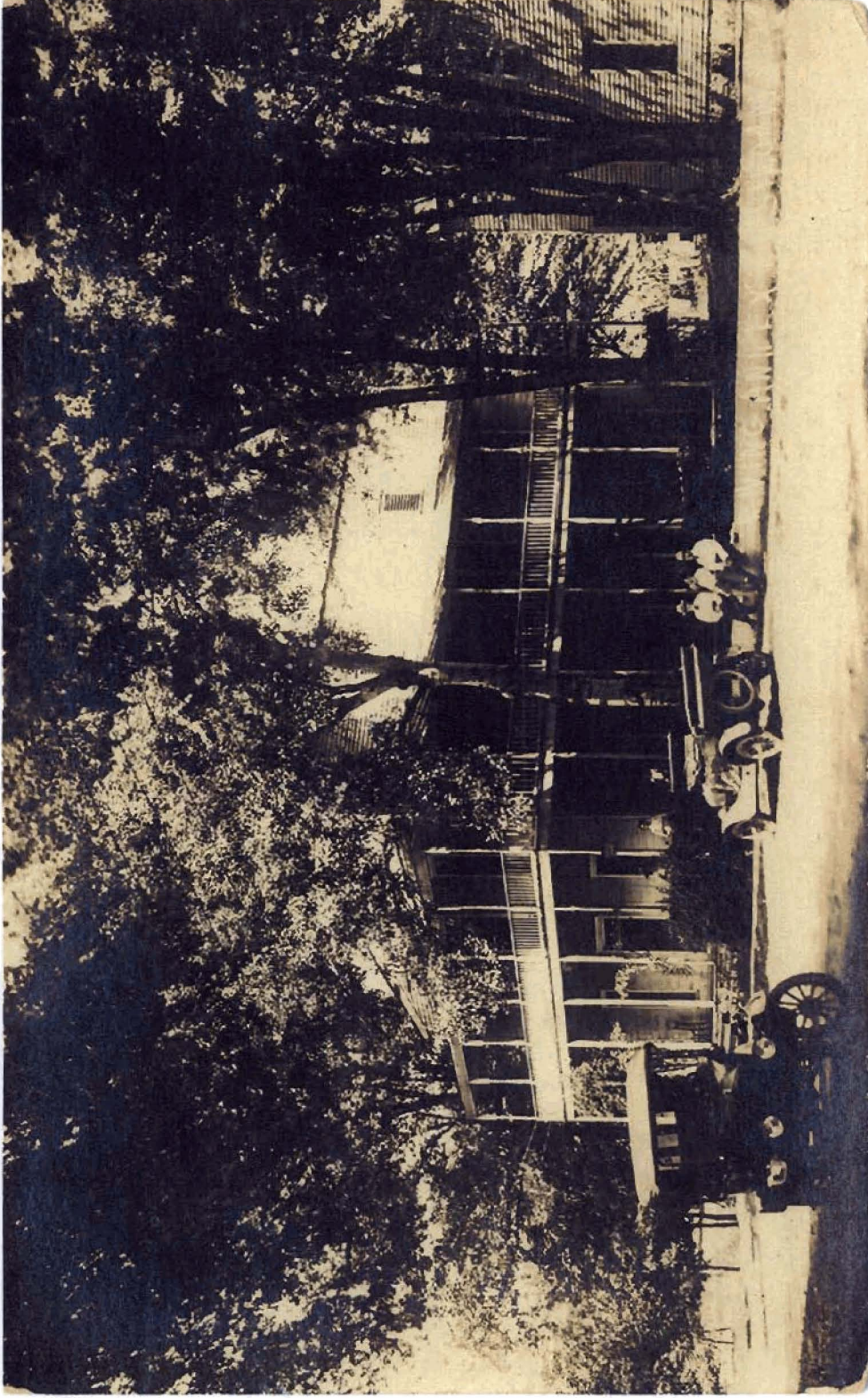




This group is drinking water at the Siloam Springs in what today is City Park. The plaque in this wall is now highly weathered, but shows clearly in this photo. The plaque is dated 1897 and commemorates the first celebration of the City of Siloam Springs on June 24, 1880.

This photo also shows a good flow of water along the trough that is still there.





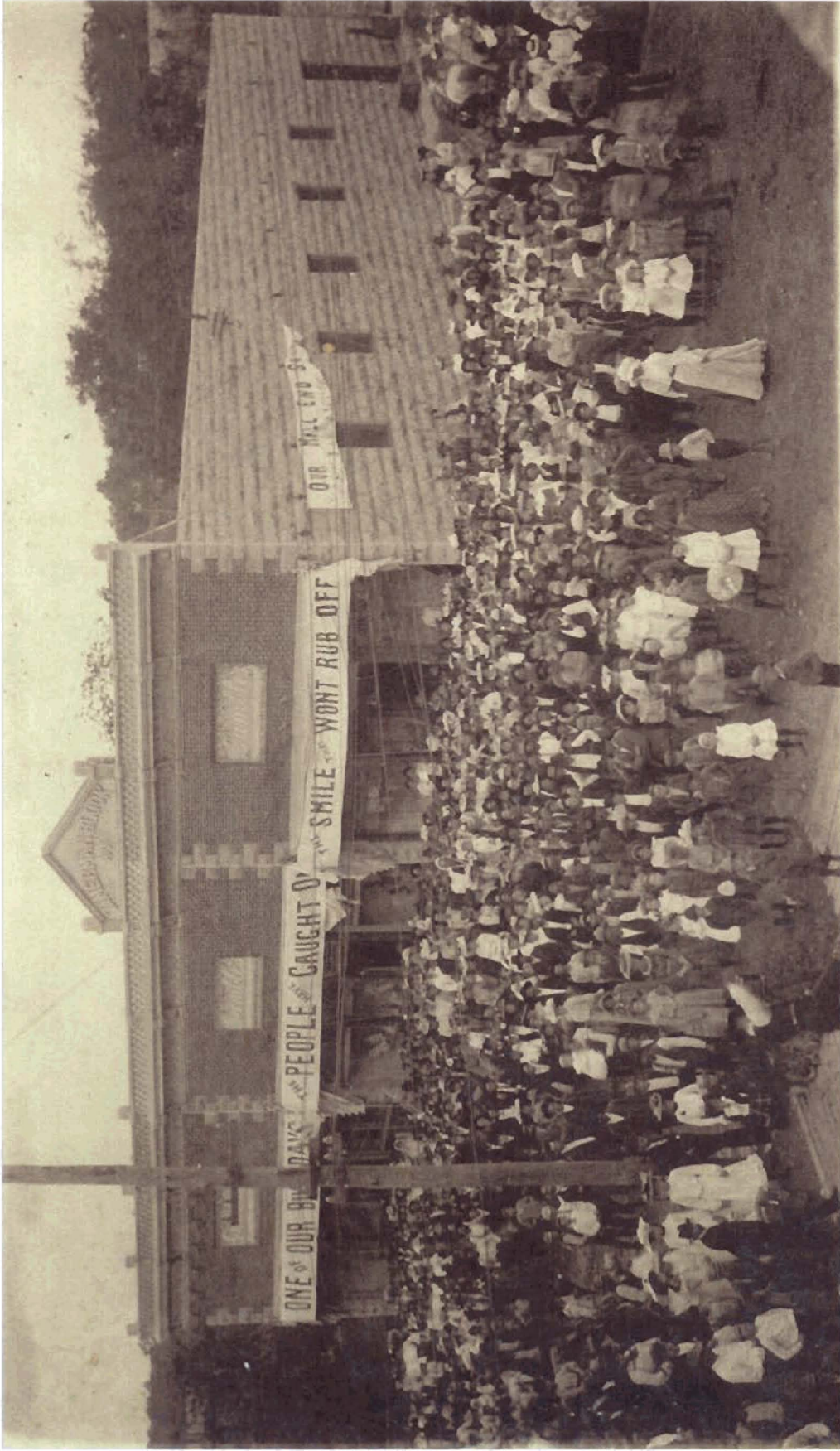
Ewing House Annex, 1920s



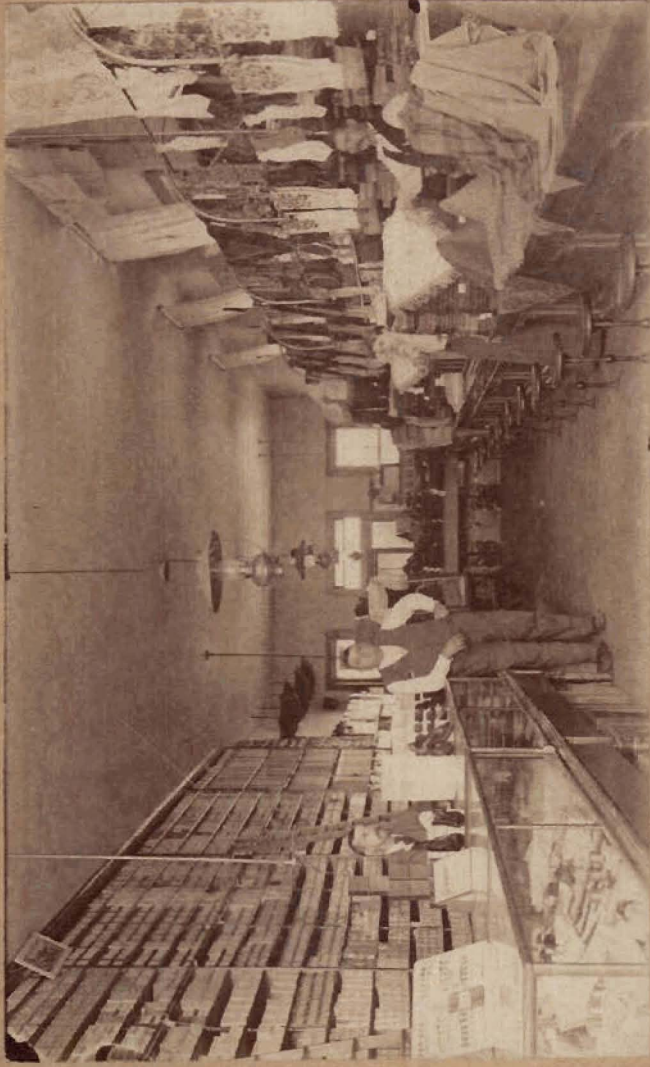


North Wright about 1900. Crown Hotel (on right) was built about 1881 as the Lakeside Hotel and is the oldest building downtown.





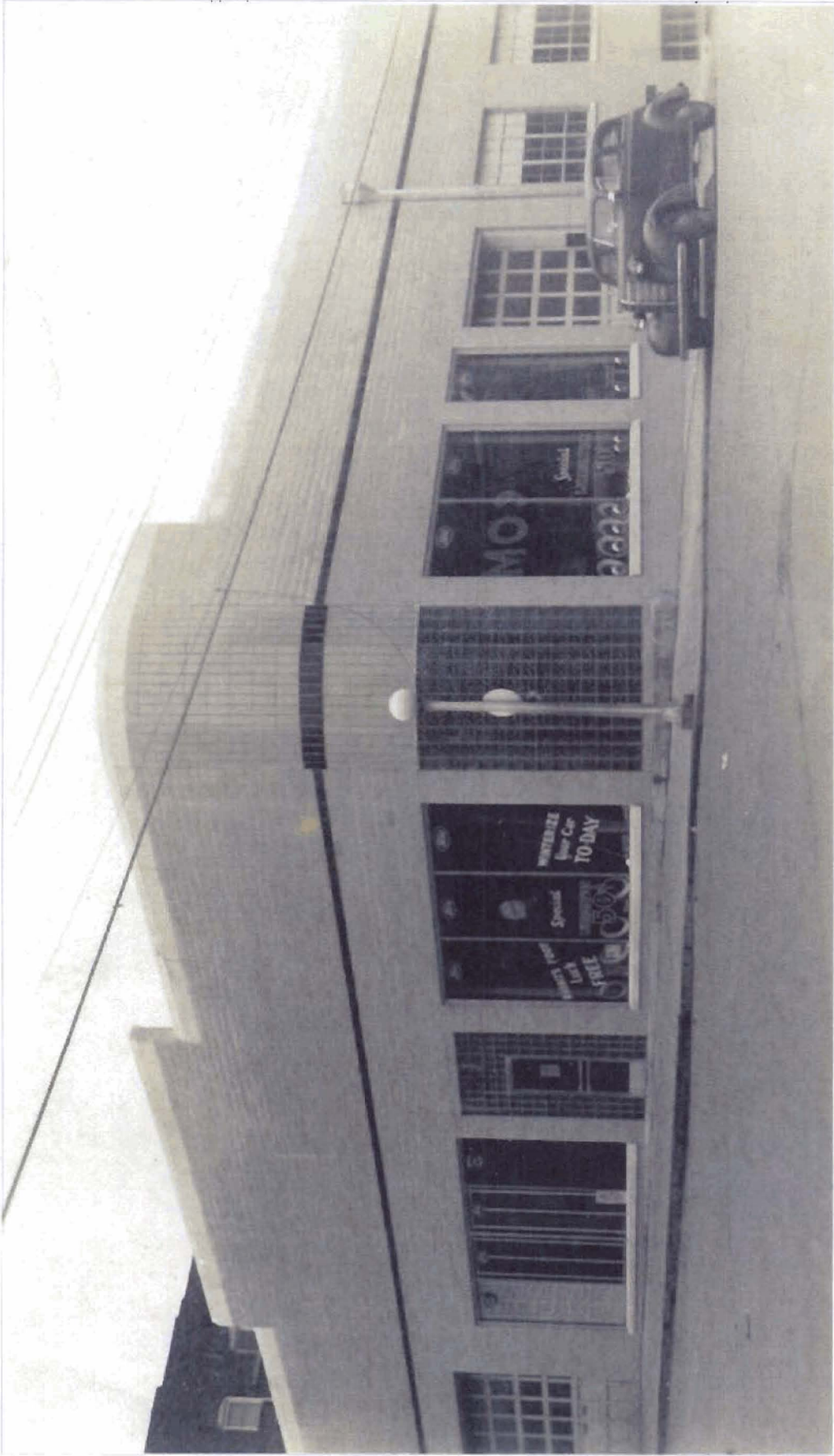
The Gamble Store, which was completed as the Zimmerman Block in 1901.  
Photo taken on Saturday afternoon, the last day of the sale in the spring of 1904.  
This dry goods store stood on the northwest corner of University and Mt Olive



*Gilbreath's*

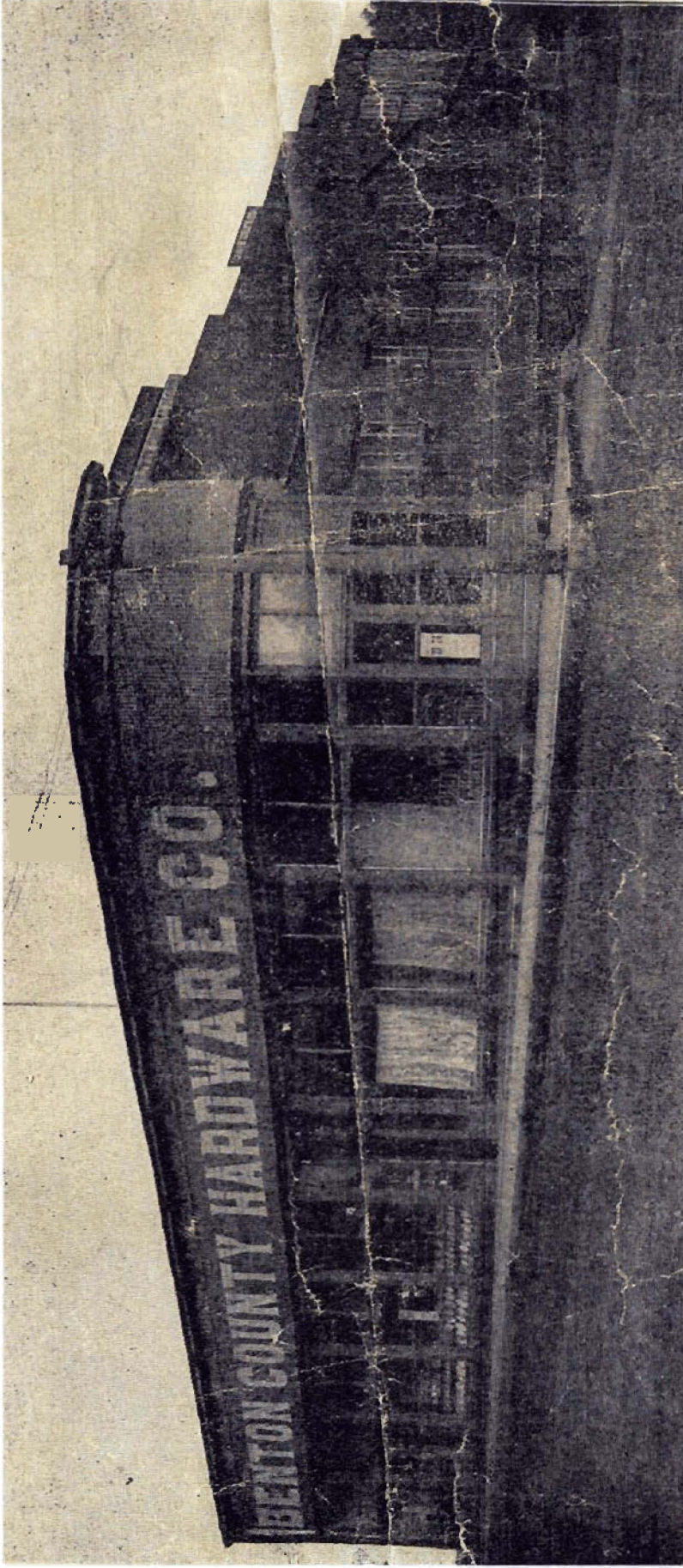
THE LEADING STORE OF SILOAM SPRINGS.





Crain Motor Company, ca. 1940





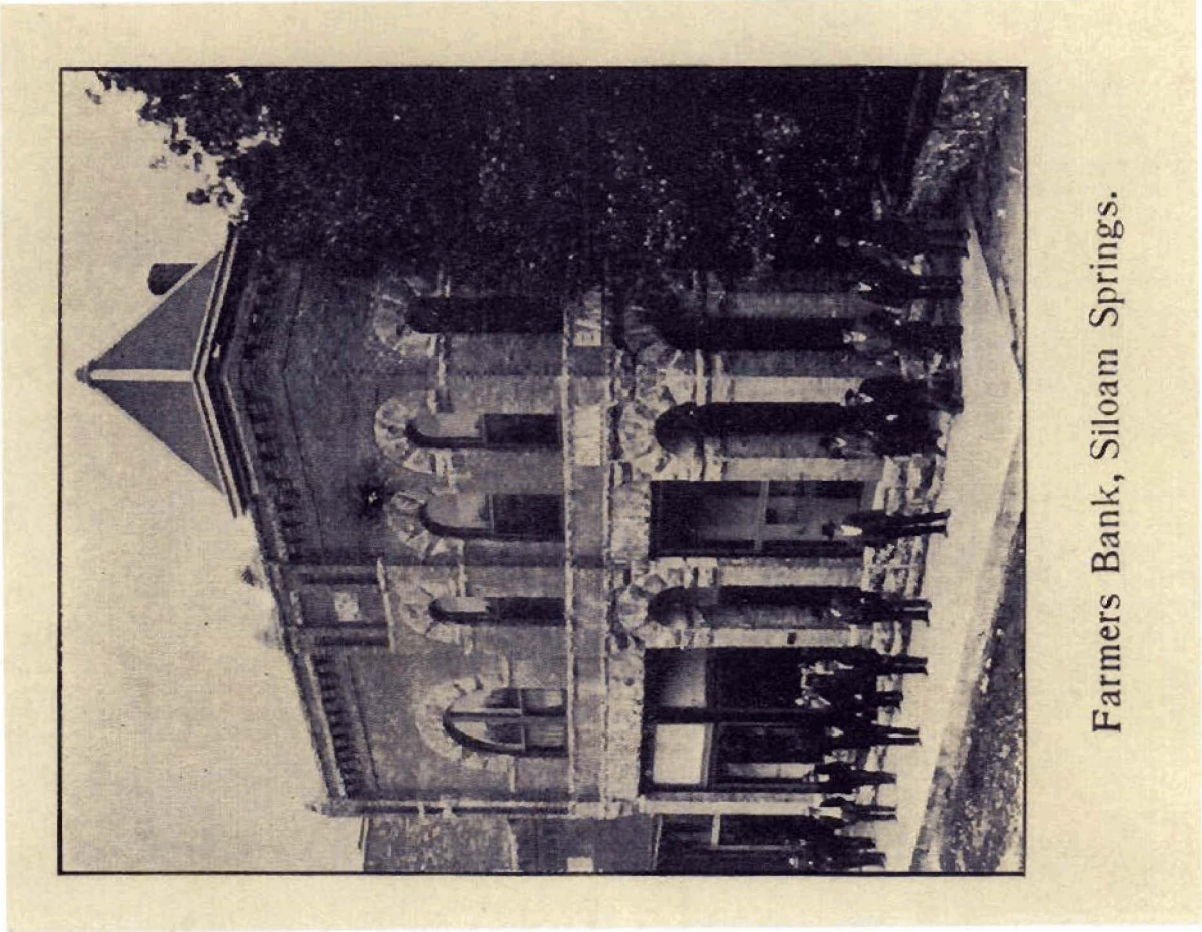
The Benton County Hardware Company building in Siloam Springs in 1905.

It was on the southeast corner of Mount Olive & University.

"BCHC" is still visible on the front of Arvest Bank downtown, which was built about 1900 by Connelly Harrington as Farmers Bank. Harrington was heavily invested in the

Benton County Hardware Company, which also had stores in Rogers and Bentonville, and owned a controlling interest in a dozen other hardware stores in Arkansas, Oklahoma & Missouri.





Farmers Bank, Siloam Springs.





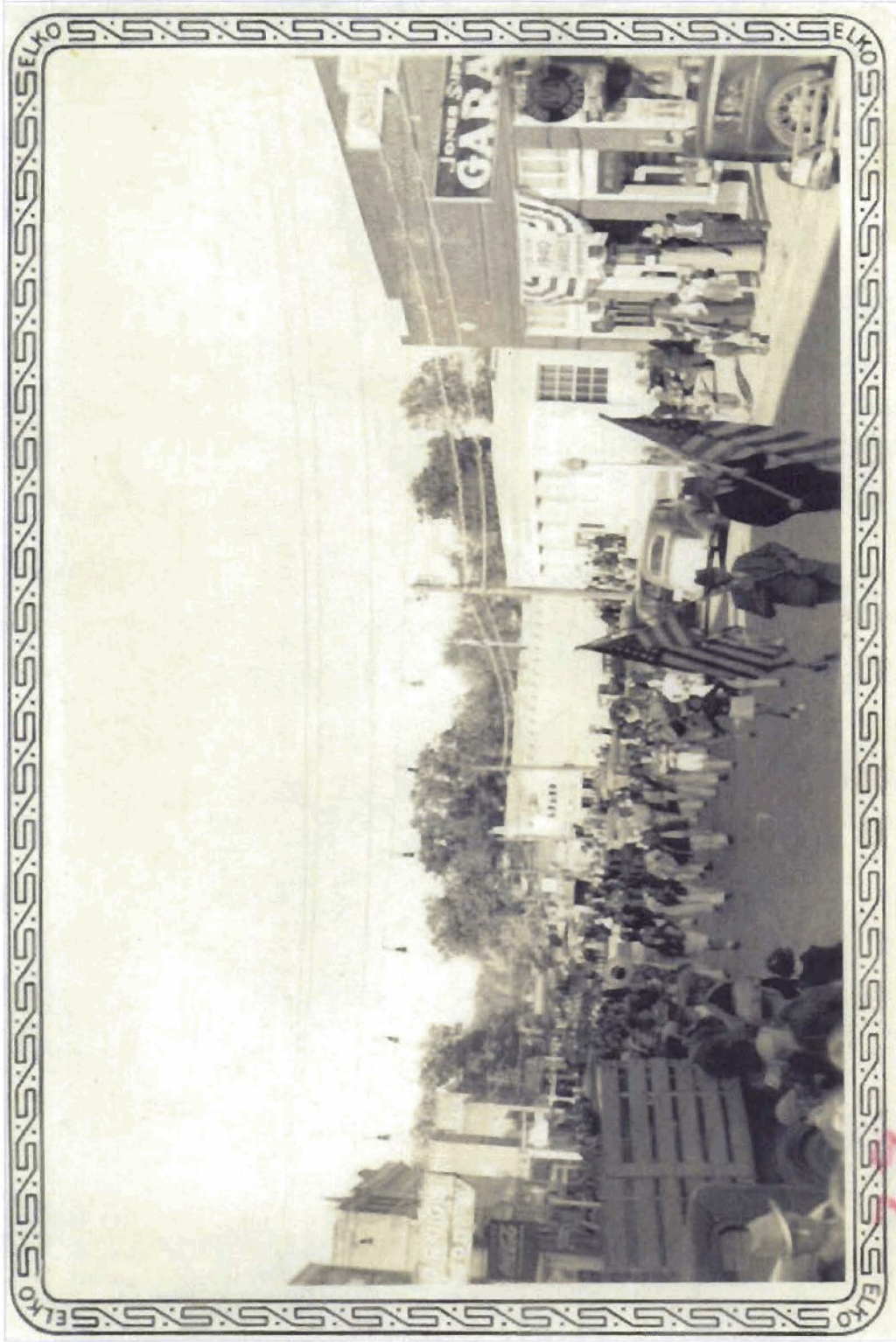
Broadway looking south from University, late 1940s



October 1947

Broadway looking northeast





A parade moves south on Broadway past a banner announcing the new 1940 Chevrolets available at the Jones Supply Company Garage. Later this was Carl Chevrolet and later Feemster's Chevrolet. Notice the gas pumps in front of this building.

It is now Dave's Appliance.



Ice on 1936 NYA fountain in Twin Springs Park



The Twin Springs, probably in the early 1880s. A hand painted sign threatens a \$5 fine for washing face & hands at this spring. Health seekers came to this spring to drink the water, and cups are visible in the hands of some people in this group. Notice also the City Marshal and three friends standing on a rock.







Broadway looking north, 1950s

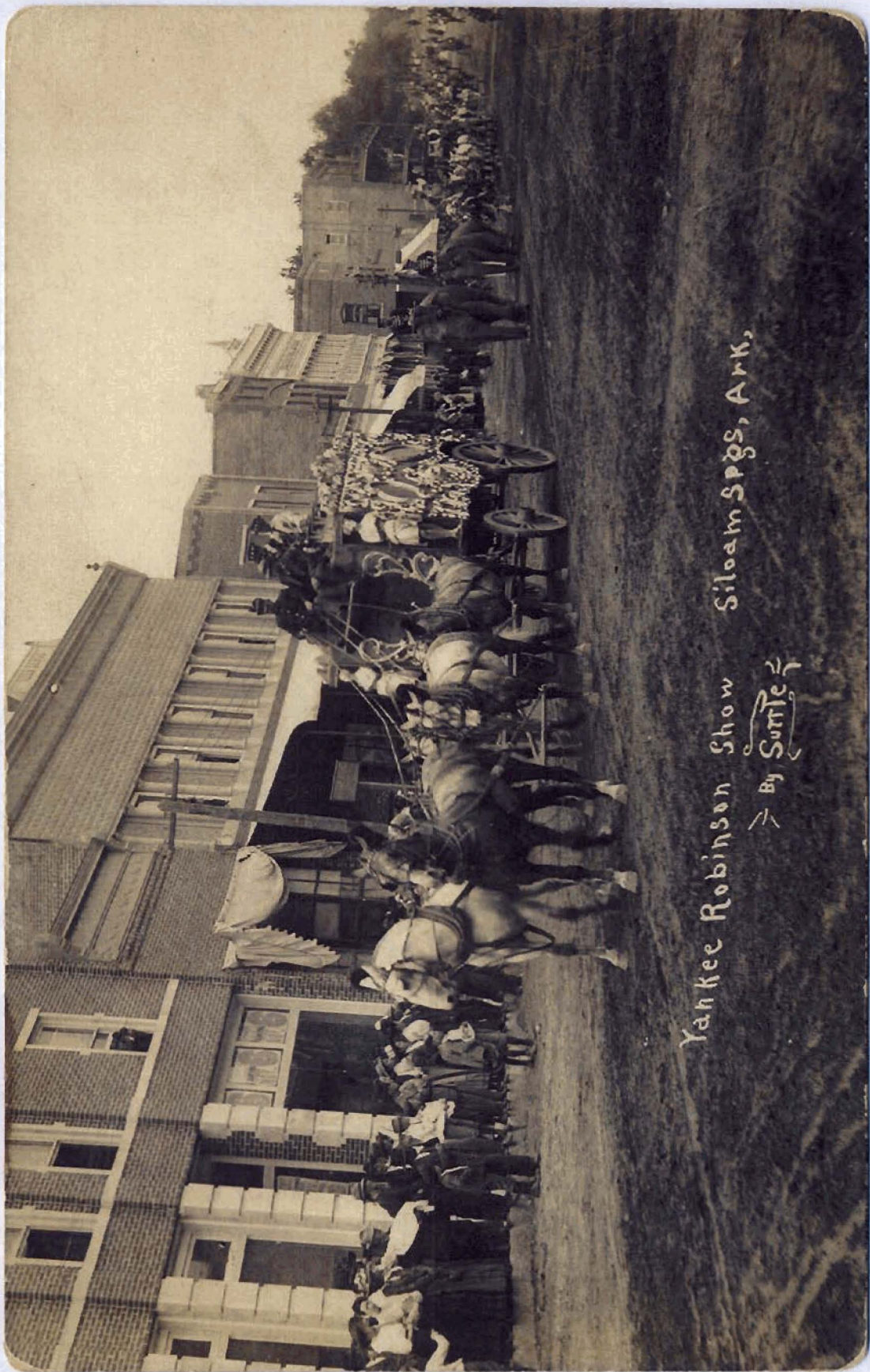




St. Nicholas Street, Siloam Springs, Ark.

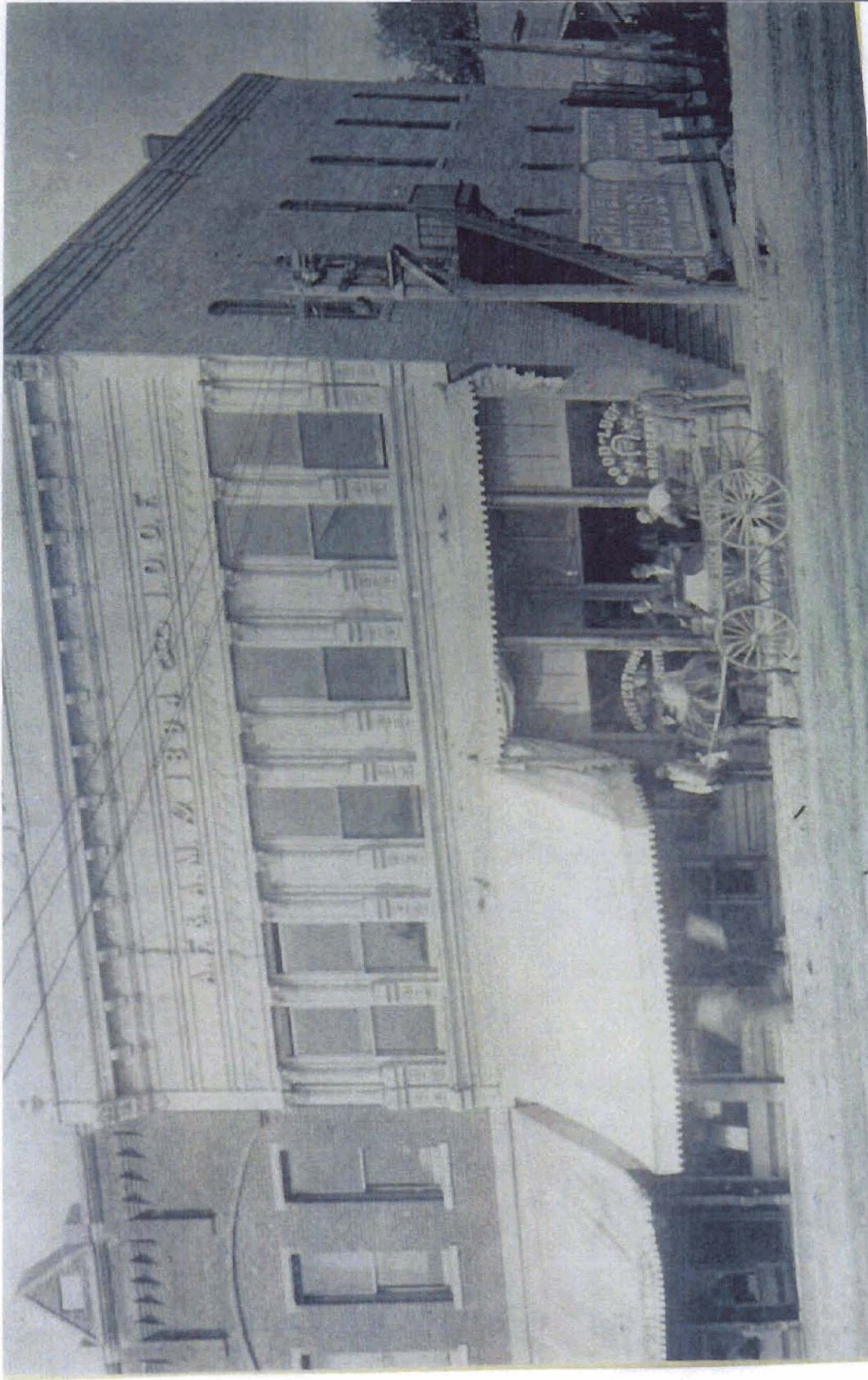
The south end of Broadway (then St. Nicholas) in about 1915. Notice the telephone/electric poles in the middle of this dirt street. In the left foreground is the Midway, which was our first movie theater. It was later the Riatta, which burned on March 3, 1948. The next building north is McCulloch Grocery, and a sign for this business is still visible on the north wall, along Alpine. Next north is the State Bank built about 1910.





Yankee Robinson Show Siloam Spgs, Ark,  
By Sumter





Southwest corner of Broadway & Central, built in 1894  
Masons and Odd Fellows met on the top floor. Good Luck Grocery (note also buggy apparently used for deliveries) on ground floor with  
Cravens Drugs (note sign on north wall, elements of which are still there)



1938 or 1939 on St. Nicholas Avenue (now Broadway)