

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JUN 24 1977

DATE ENTERED

AUG 31 1978

**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

\*\*\*

Shiloh Historic District

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

(See Verbal Boundary Description)

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Springdale

VICINITY OF

Third

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Arkansas

05

Washington

143

**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  
☐ COMMERCIAL  
☒ EDUCATIONAL  
☐ ENTERTAINMENT  
☐ GOVERNMENT  
☐ INDUSTRIAL  
☒ MILITARY  
☒ MUSEUM  
☒ PARK  
☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE  
☐ RELIGIOUS  
☐ SCIENTIFIC  
☐ TRANSPORTATION  
☐ OTHER

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Multiple ownership-see attached

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

VICINITY OF

STATE

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Clerk's Office

STREET & NUMBER

Washington County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Fayetteville

Arkansas

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

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SHILOH HISTORIC DISTRICT PROPERTY OWNERS:

Josephine, Josef, and Mary W. Braun - 500 N. Mill St., Springdale, AR 72764 (Map #1-6)  
Elmer Long - 120 West Huntsville Street, Springdale, AR 72764 (Map #7) ✓  
Mrs. Gus Eidson - Lowell, AR 72745 (Map #9) ✓  
Dr. Ted Wiggins - 116 West Center Street, Springdale, AR 72764 (Map #13) ✓  
Mrs. Loyd Martin - 307 N. Main Street, Springdale (Map #11) ✓  
Mrs. Irma Giffels - 305 N. Main Street, Springdale, AR (Map #12) ✓  
Winter Address: 401 Lake Shore Drive, Apt. 305, Lake Park, FL 33403  
Mr. Roy Bowman - 116 West Johnson St., Springdale, AR 72764 (Map #16) ✓  
Mrs. Annabel Searcy - 110 West Johnson Street, Springdale, AR (Map #17) ✓  
City of Springdale, City Administration Building, Spring Street, Springdale, AR (Map #18)  
Oddfellows Lodge - c/o Skip Sebastian, 1401 Cheyenne Trail, Springdale, AR (Map #8) ✓  
Shiloh Memorial Park - City of Springdale, City Hall, Springdale, AR 72764, ✓  
(Map #15, Park)  
Shiloh Museum - City of Springdale, City Hall, Springdale, AR 72764 ✓  
Hospital Auxiliary Building - 203 N. Main Street, Springdale, AR (Map #14) ✓

## 7 DESCRIPTION

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

---

### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Shiloh Historic District comprises eighteen structures, of which eight have historic or architectural significance, twelve sites important in the commercial and industrial development of Springdale, and traces of several historic roads which once passed through the area. Dating from about 1830 through the early 20th century, these sites and structures reflect the development of Shiloh-Springdale during the community's first century. The primarily residential neighborhood has retained its rural character due to the continued presence of parks, gardens, and pasture land.

The irregularly shaped district forms a roughly rectangular pattern running northwest-southeast along both sides of Spring Creek. (Though the channel has been deepened and widened for flood control, the course of the stream remains the same). **The northern boundary is marked by Spring Creek, with the southern boundary at Johnson Street (Old Wire Road).**

Located in the center of the district is the most significant structure, Shiloh Church (1). Constructed in 1871, this two-storey frame building is simply styled. A boxed cornice with returns complements the wide undecorated entablature while pilasters at each corner accent the simplicity of the church.

Located northwest of Shiloh Church is the Berry-Braun House (2), a modified Queen Anne style structure built in 1885. **Though altered by a partial brick facade added in 1967,** the one-and-one-half storey frame structure retains a number of outstanding features, including a highly decorated bay on the south, a two-storey pyramid roofed tower and imbrication in the numerous gable ends.

About two blocks due south of Shiloh Church is the Smith-Searcy House (3), which was originally constructed about 1871 with three rooms in a T-shape floor plan. **Though additions to the north have doubled the size of the house,** the materials and style are in harmony with the original portion. Styled in a highly simplified colloquial adaptation of classic forms, the original house is a good example of self-designed and-constructed homes in the late 19th century.

Steele Store (#4) was moved from its original site on Johnson Street to 203 North Main, about two blocks southwest of Shiloh Church. Built on a rectangular floor plan, the frame building has a gable roof and boxed cornice with returns. The one-storey structure is still used commercially.

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Stylistically, the most unusual building in the district is the Springdale Library-Shiloh Museum (#5), also located southwest of the Shiloh Church. Resting on the site of the original town square, the one storey structure reflects the Mission Style in vogue when the library was built (1927). Stucco walls are divided into bays by pilasters which rise just above the flat roof, giving it a parapet effect.

Other notable structures in the Shiloh Historic District include: the Berry-Braun Cottage (6), a one-story frame residence constructed circa 1920 with windows and a gable roof with exposed rafters; the Bookout House (7), a circa 1870 two-storey frame house with a steep cross-gable roof; and the American Legion Hut (8), constructed in the early 1930's of a brown stone found locally.

Structures in the district are scattered over a relatively wide area, leaving a great deal of open space. The Braun property at the north-west end of the district is mostly gardens and open pasture, while the southeast corner contains the Shiloh Park, occupied only by the Legion Hut and historic markers. Traces of the old roads which once ran through the park area are still visible.

Lying along the banks of Spring Creek are a number of sites which once held several of the community's early industries. The many sites which tanneries and mills once occupied now stand vacant, adding to the open spaces in the district.

The topography of the Shiloh Historic District is relatively flat with Spring Creek bisecting the district. Open spaces and simple structures typify Springdale's first neighborhood.

# 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 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 type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Shiloh Historic District encompasses the sites and some of the structures from which the city of Springdale, originally named Shiloh, began. As the city's most historic neighborhood, the Shiloh District contains the traces of several early roads, a number of sites where late nineteenth century industries and businesses originated and several important structures. The area retains its rural-like atmosphere through open spaces, parks and pastures.

Linking the separate sites and structures is Spring Creek which runs through the district and forms part of its northwest boundary. According to local tradition it was the many springs feeding into this creek which attracted the area's first settler, John Fitzgerald, about 1825. Another early resident, W. D. Quinton, is believed to have lived on the banks of Spring Creek just northeast of the present Berry-Braun House.

Shiloh grew slowly, but by 1840 enough settlers were in the area to establish the "Regular Baptist Church at Shiloh." This log structure, located southeast of the Huntsville-Main Street intersection, became the first center of community life. By 1845, the church had 71 members.

With a number of well-traveled roads passing through or near the community, Shiloh was greatly affected by the Civil War. Both Union and Confederate forces passed through the village; the log church and several homes were burned.

Yet, Shiloh recovered rather quickly. By 1868 a new church was built, and the original town plat for "Shiloh" was filed. Four years later, when a new post office was established in the community, the name was changed to Springdale.

In 1871, the church sold its building to the newly formed school district, and Shiloh's first public school was established. A community effort involving three church congregations and the local Masonic lodge resulted in the 1871 construction of Shiloh Church. This third building was located east of the site of the first two churches, but continued to serve as the focal point of community life.

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The earliest businesses were located around the original town square, located northeast of the Johnson Street-Main Street intersection; however, the coming of the railroad in 1881 changed the commercial growth pattern of the community. From the area now encompassed by the Shiloh Historic District, businesses moved a few blocks southeast for easier access to the railroad. Since the business community moved south in the 1880's, the original neighborhood has changed very little. New structures have been added, and many older structures removed; yet the changes have been compatible with the quiet rural-like atmosphere of the 19th century neighborhood. Through the Shiloh Historic District once ran several important roads, converging at one point or another along the banks of Spring Creek. These include the Old Missouri Road (circa 1830), the Government Post Route (1836), the Military Road (1861-1864), and the Wire (Telegraph) Road (1860). The first three generally followed the present Mill Street, while the latter turned west at Johnson Street. The infamous "Trail of Tears," the forced march of the Cherokees from Georgia to Indian Territory, passed through the then sparsely settled area on March 20, 1839.

The site where these roads crossed Spring Creek is now a part of the Shiloh Memorial Park, a joint project of the Springdale Bicentennial Committee and the City of Springdale. Located along both sides of Spring Creek from Huntsville to Johnson Streets, the park is being developed through a community wide effort. Located within this historic neighborhood, and concentrated in the Shiloh Memorial Park area, are a number of sites once occupied by early industries. The park area once contained the first hospital (1865), the Haxton Woolen Mill (1878), the Chautauqua Auditorium (1898), the first city water works (1904), the city's first cooperage (1908) the first light company (1908) and portions of the first city park (1921).

Two earlier industrial sites lie north of the park boundary. Located west of Spring Creek in 1875 was a tannery owned by Joseph Holcomb and T. E. Flynn. South of the tannery site and across Spring Creek was the Petros Flour Mill, established in 1881. Most of the structures in the Shiloh Historic District are simply styled of one-or two-story construction. Stone, brick and stucco are used in a few of the buildings, but wood is the predominant building material. Of the eighteen structures in the district, eight are significant; the size, simplicity of style and fabric of the other ten structures are compatible with the overall atmosphere of the neighborhood.

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Five of the historic structures are especially important to the Shiloh Historic District. These are discussed below:

1. Shiloh Church - Added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1975, the Shiloh Church is the focal structure of the district. This two-story frame structure, built in 1871, was the third church constructed by the congregation of the Regular Baptist Church of Shiloh. **The building remains** in excellent condition and is still in use. (For additional information, see National Register nomination form.)
2. Berry-Braun House - The Berry-Braun House, located at the north end of Main Street, was constructed in 1885 by Millard Fillmore Berry (1856-1945). Though modified following a fire in 1967, the two-story frame structure retains many of its original Queen Anne style features. The house is now owned and occupied by Judge Berry's daughter, Mrs. Josephine Berry Braun.

The setting of the Berry-Braun House, with informal gardens to the south and open pasture to the north, has changed little in this century. Though originally constructed on a busy north/south thoroughfare, traffic patterns changed as new roads were cut, and by about 1900 the Berry-Braun House saw very little traffic.

Judge M. F. Berry was Springdale's most outstanding citizen in the late 19th century. In 1883 Berry, his family and his parents moved to Arkansas from Davis County, Indiana. In 1887 Berry opened an abstract office in Springdale, and later in Fayetteville. He promoted the first canning industry in the area which in 1888 built a two-story brick building (still standing in 1977). From Berry's 1890 acoustic telephone, which connected his home to his abstract offices, evolved the Northwest Telephone Company. In 1915 Bell Telephone purchased the company's capital stock for \$25,000.00.

Besides these and other business ventures, Berry was active in local politics. From 1887 to 1890 he served as Mayor of Springdale. During his 1900-1904 tenure as county judge, Berry supported construction of and selected the site for the new Washington County Courthouse (added to the National Register in 1972). Judge Berry's many contributions to the economic and political development of Washington County made him one of Springdale's most important citizens.

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3. Smith-Searcy House - One of Springdale's oldest residences is the Smith-Searcy House at the northwest corner of Johnson Street and Spring Creek. In 1870, Reverend Archibald G. Smith, an associate pastor of Shiloh Church, purchased two lots from Reverend John Holcombe. Records indicate that Smith constructed a home on the site about 1871.

Originally the Smith-Searcy House was a three-room T-shape structure. Though enlarged and altered over the years the house retains many original features, including a three-in-one fireplace with the hearth in each original room using the same central chimney (see attached sketch).

In 1884 Wesley H. Searcy purchased the Smith House, and it has since remained in the Searcy family. Wesley Searcy and his brother owned and operated a local grocery store, and were active in the Springdale business community. Searcy's eldest son, Lockwood, later established the city's first wholesale grocery company. Its association with an early minister and businessman, along with some interesting architectural features, make the Smith-Searcy House an important part of the Shiloh Historic District.

4. Steele Store - The Hospital Auxillary Shop, located just west of the Shiloh Museum on Main Street, is probably the oldest commercial structure still standing in Springdale. Originally located south of Johnson Street between Main and Mill Streets, the structure was built to house a grocery and dry goods store operated by John B. Steele. The small frame building later served as a post office. In recent years the old store building was moved about one block northwest to its present location at 203 North Main, where it is still used commercially.
5. Springdale Library-Shiloh Museum - In 1878 James B. Baggett operated a blacksmith shop on the site of the former town square. In 1927 when the city built its first library, this former town square-blacksmith shop site was selected. Now occupying this one-story Spanish style building is the Shiloh Museum housing numerous documents and memorabilia concerning Springdale's history.

Three other structures are of some significance to the historic district. The Bookout House at 518 North Mill Street is believed to have been constructed during the 1870's. The Berry-Braun Cottage, located just east of the Berry-Braun House, was constructed about 1920. A third structure of some significance is the American Legion Hunt, located on city property at the northwest corner of Johnson and Spring Streets. This simply styled, one-story building was constructed of native stone in the early 1930's.



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The Shiloh Historic District represents the origins of the City of Springdale. The relatively simple structures and open spaces depict the nature of the settlement known as Shiloh. Containing numerous sites, structures and roads important to the development of the present city, the Shiloh Historic District is a continuing remnant of Springdale's past.

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Deanes, K. "Sidelights on Early Springdale. WCHS Flashback, Autumn, 1951.

Lynch, Bobbie Byars. Research material on file with Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, Little Rock, Arkansas.

Springdale News, Golden Anniversary Edition, 1937.

Washington County Deed Record Books. Washington County Courthouse, Fayetteville, Arkansas.

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 32

UTM REFERENCES

A <sup>460</sup>  
1 5 3 9 8 7 6 0 4 0 0 5 5 0 0  
ZONE EASTING NORTHING  
C 1 5 3 9 8 0 6 1 0 4 0 8 2 0 2 0

B <sup>440</sup>  
1 5 3 9 8 4 9 0 4 0 0 5 0 0 0  
ZONE EASTING NORTHING  
D 1 5 3 9 8 0 7 0 4 0 0 5 2 0

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

See attached

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

Mrs. Bobbie Byars Lynch, Washington County Historical Society

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Dianna Kirk, Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

3-8-77

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

Suite 500, Continental Building

501-371-2763

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Little Rock,

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 3-8-77

IFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DATE

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District boundaries are as follows:

The point where Shiloh Street crosses Spring Creek forms the northwest corner of the district; following Spring Creek southeast to a point west of Rhodes Street, then east to the intersection of Rhodes and Mill Street, then one block south on Mill Street to Huntsville Street, then  $\frac{1}{4}$  block east on Huntsville to a midpoint between Shiloh Park Drive and Spring Street, then south along this alley-way to an east-west alley connecting Shiloh Park Drive to Spring Street, then east to Spring Street, then one block south to Johnson Street, then west on Johnson to Main Street, then north on Main to Center Street, then west on Center to Church Street, then north on Church Street and along a line north to Huntsville Street, then west on Huntsville to Shiloh Street, then north on Shiloh to the point where it crosses Spring Creek.