

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PH0683965

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED SEP 8 1978
DATE ENTERED NOV 22 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 Brown (John and Amelia) Farmhouse

AND/OR COMMON "Atavista Farm"

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER SE of Brownsville on 96228
Route 1, Box 128

CITY, TOWN Brownsville VICINITY OF 4th
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE Oregon CODE 41 COUNTY Linn CODE 043

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input checked="" 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	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<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
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Nelson L. Jones and Jack H. Swearingen

STREET & NUMBER Route 1, Box 128

CITY, TOWN Brownsville VICINITY OF STATE Oregon 97327

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Linn County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER CITY, TOWN Albany STATE Oregon 97321

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Statewide Inventory of Historic Properties

DATE 1975 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS State Historic Preservation Office

CITY, TOWN Salem STATE Oregon 97310

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

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The two-story farmhouse of John and Amelia Brown, named "Atavista Farm" in 1958, is believed to have been erected about 1876. Located a half mile east of Brownsville on the south side of Highway 228, the structure is a good example of Italian Villa architecture in a rural setting. Some of the general characteristics of this style are an asymmetrical composition of forms, often with a vertical element such as a belvedere, combined with the use of verandas and projecting window bays. Fenestration may suggest arcading. Cornices are usually bracketed, and decorative woodwork--not infrequently mass produced--is an important feature. The extent of exterior decoration was held to be a clue to the means of the owner.

The main block of the house has a modified cruciform plan with a single-story ell at the southwest corner. The roof is typically hipped. The principal facade is oriented to the north. It has an asymmetrical organization, with a two-story projecting bay offset to the east side. The bay is marked at the first and second stories by a paneled frieze under a bracketed cornice. The lower cornice is embellished with dentils and small brackets; the upper cornice--a continuation of that which extends the circumference of the house--consists of frieze panels decorated with scroll-saw work and console brackets with incised motifs. The corners of the house are accentuated by pilasters with scalloped cut-out motifs in a mirror-image effect which is similar to detail on the John M. Moyer House in Brownsville. Construction of the corner pilasters was as follows: four 1 x 4" fir boards and four 1/2 x 4" fir boards were used. An identical pattern was sawn into each of the 1/2 x 4" boards. These were nailed up in mirror-image fashion and framed by the 1 x 4" boards cut out to reveal the scalloped pattern.

The westerly side of the principal facade contains the main entrance and a veranda. The porch columns have decorative moldings, and, with brackets at the imposts, carry an entablature with a dentil course at the frieze. The railing of the porch deck was removed in later years. The front door originally had panels of plate glass which have been replaced by a single pane.

The east face of the house has a single-story polygonal bay, the detailing of which is similar to that of the front bay. Above the bay is a pair of double-hung windows contained in a single framement with hooded and pedimented architrave. Fenestration is typically trabeated, and framements have elaborate moldings and scroll-sawn acroteria used as central finials atop hooded lintels. The west face of the house is similarly organized. A photograph believed to date from 1908 shows that the single-story bays on either side of the house originally had elaborate wooden cresting, no longer extant. In 1970 the west face was altered by the addition of a small porch which was patterned after details of the front veranda. Its purpose is to shelter a new outside entrance to the dining room created in place of a pair of windows. The new entrance is a double-leaf door with transom.

(continued)

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Brown (John and Amelia) Farmhouse, Brownsville, Linn County, Oregon

CONTINUATION SHEET

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Detailing of the side portico was completed in 1970 using the north portico as the model for construction.

The south wing of the house was altered in the 1970's to incorporate the original woodshed and east porch into the living area of the house. It was constructed as a single unit in the same style as the north wing. The original recessed porch once served as an approach to the kitchen. This porch has since been enclosed, the enclosing wall a load-bearing one. The fruit room, originally insulated with sawdust was converted into a combination bath and laundry room. The east wall of the kitchen was removed in this renovation and the existing window was moved to the west side of the original woodshed location. Four large double-glazed windows were installed in the south wall of the study and sitting area. These were chosen for the view they allowed and for their thermal qualities. They were positioned in a way proportionate to the exterior details of the facade. The two double hung windows removed from the dining room when the porch was built, are now located in the east wall of the study and sitting area. They replace the small rectangular opening once used for throwing in firewood. The present stained glass window located in the bath and laundry room replaced a badly deteriorated double hung window. This new window was executed by the Elysian Stained Glass Window Company of Ashland, Oregon in 1969.

Sometime between 1911 and 1958 many of the cornice brackets of the south wing were removed. They were identical to the large ones under the cornice of the main wing. During the renovation of the 1970's it was decided to change all of the brackets on the south wing to a style as similar as possible to those of the main house since there were not enough remaining to complete the job. This decision resulted in the unity of the one storey south wing rather than a partially finished structure. The brackets were made by Mr. Ben Fisher of Brownsville, Oregon. Their form was derived from the brackets on the projecting bay.

The roof of the south wing is a single hip running north-south. The roofing material is also wood shingles.

The house stands on a foundation of sawn rectangular slabs of limestone that were quarried south of Brownsville. A 10" baseboard is finished at the bottom with a drip moulding and above with a bullnose moulding. This continuous horizontal unit marks the bottom of the lapped tongue-in-groove siding known locally as "v-rustic" siding. The construction of the house is standard wood frame utilizing 2x6 stud walls. The house has a truncated hip roof. The roofing material as of 1908 was wood shingles. There is no evidence of a tower or other vertical element. There is an exposed beam attic that can be reached from a crawl space in the north east bedroom upstairs. The crawl space was once in the southeast bedroom but changed for easier access.

The house was painted completely white in 1959 for reasons of maintenance. From 1911 until 1958 no maintenance was done to the house and most of the earlier paint weathered away. Residual paint on the north facade indicates that it was once painted gray with a dark green and black trim.

INTERIOR

The interior of the house is based on a central hall plan with four main rooms. The fireplace room is the best preserved in terms of original detailing with wainscoting, original fir panelling and solid fir doors treated to resemble oak. The fireplace was originally designed for coal, but the iron frame front grating had burned out away from the bricks. This ironwork was replaced by blue ceramic tiles. The fir bookcase with glass doors located to the west of the fireplace and the small cupboard to the east of the fireplace are original. The fireplace in this room is the only one in the original.

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construction. The house was equipped with two other flues; these were removed in 1970 remodelling for purposes of fire safety, convenience, and space. There were wood stoves in the kitchen and living area.

South of the fireplace room is a library/study that was originally a bedroom used by Mrs. Amelia Brown, who was an invalid. The two rooms are separated by a pair of original sliding double doors with combed wood grain detailing.

The living and dining areas are on the west side of the central hall; access is gained by original sliding doors with transom windows above. In 1970 a ten-foot wide archway was cut between these two rooms to increase a previously made opening done in 1930 to increase the feeling of spaciousness. Before 1930, there was no opening between the two rooms. There is an original hinged window seat in the living room. Despite the small scale of the house, only about 30'x35' in plan, the spatial character is open and airy. This is emphasized by the 10'6" ceilings, large door and window openings, and the open two storey central hallway.

The second floor of the main house originally consisted of four bedrooms of almost equal size with 10' ceilings. In 1930 the south west bedroom was converted to a bathroom; in 1970 it was remodelled.

The staircase of the central hallway is a single run configuration of eighteen risers. The curved bottom of the staircase ends with five winders and a curved handrail ending at a newel post. The railing of the staircase is similar to that of the Moyer house. The balusters are lathe-turned in a "candlestick" type configuration.

The interior finishing of the house of 1"x6" horizontal flush boards nailed to the studs and covered with canvas and wallpaper. All of the rooms had a 1/2"x6" baseboard. The remodelling of the 1970's resulted in the discovery of what was probably the original wallcovering.

The walls and ceilings not preserved were covered with sheetrock and wallpapered at the time of the remodelling. Original metal and procelain hardware still exists on the doors and windows. The original floors were strip-fir tongue-and-groove flooring. Oak floors were overlaid onto the fir floors in the living room and fireplace room in about 1920-30. All of the rooms besides the two bathrooms and kitchen have since been overlaid with underlay and wall-to-wall carpeting.

The single storey south wing is connected to the central hall of the main house by a wood frame sliding glass door, installed in 1970. A wooden swinging door with transom above connects the kitchen with the dining room. This door was originally the wooden sliding door off the central hallway. The kitchen has been outfitted with all modern conveniences. The original fir floor was unsalvagable, so it was replaced by oak parquet flooring. The bath and laundry room floor was also changed, the fir covered by vinyl tile.

A garage was built in 1960 southeast of the house. It is constructed in a style compatible with the rest of the house and painted white. There is a wooden gazebo situated outside of the dining room. It was not part of the original Brown house but was part of the portico of the H. D. Young house in Albany, Oregon. The Young house was demolished but the portico was salvaged and reconstructively altered to form a gazebo.

From 1911 to 1958 the house was used for family living but was unmaintained and left to deteriorate. In this instance it was a lucky occurrence for it meant that the original character of the house remained intact. The remodelling of the house from 1958 through the 1970's was concerned with preserving the original intent of the structure. A minimum of visible changes was made to create a comfortable contemporary dwelling. Central heating (forced air) wiring, new plumbing, insulation, storm windows and functioning gutters were installed or repaired as part of the practical changes made to ensure the survival of the house.

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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES ca. 1876

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The house of John and Amelia (Spaulding) Brown, descendants of the pioneer settlers of Brownsville, was built in the Italian Villa Style in 1876 (or possibly a bit later). The date of construction has been assigned on the basis of information in the property title abstract and wills of estate. The house was the result of financial success of John Brown, son of Hugh Leper Brown for whom Brownsville was named. It serves as an indication of the greater wealth the second generation acquired through farming and commerce. Similarities in carpentry of the Brown House and the John M. Moyer House (1881) in Brownsville suggest a common carpenter-builder or source of mill work. The Moyer House is entered in the National Register.

The typical qualities of the Italian Villa Style, of which the Brown House is a well-preserved example, reveal an interest on the part of frontier settlers to follow the current fashion. More importantly, the Brown House is the only house remaining which is associated with the founding family of the community. The south part of present-day Brownsville was platted in 1853 by James Blakely, nephew of Hugh L. Brown, for whom the plat was named. John Brown's wife, Amelia, was the daughter of the Reverend Henry Harmor Spaulding, the American Board for Foreign Missions missionary who, following the Whitman Massacre at Walla Walla in 1847, left the mission he founded at Lapwai in the Clearwater country of the Nez Perce in 1836 and settled at Brownsville, taking up a claim adjoining Hugh Brown's. The house which is the subject of this nomination occupies its original site on the H. L. Brown donation land claim east of present-day Brownsville, and it overlooks the Spaulding claim and the site of the school which Spaulding maintained. One of the three townsites which eventually were amalgamated as Brownsville was named for Spaulding's daughter. It bore her given name: Amelia.

After the present owners of the property acquired the house in 1958, some exterior refurbishing was done with respect for the fabric and spirit of the design. Interior modifications were made to accommodate contemporary living.

The farm property has enjoyed continuity of use. The ledges, or higher slopes of the Willamette Valley were settled first because the bottom land along the river was subject to flooding. The land east of Brownsville was well-drained, lying above the south bank of the Calapooia River, a tributary of the Willamette. The Hugh L. Brown donation land claim of 640 acres has since been subdivided, but the parcel accompanying the house embraces 65 acres. The farm passed from the Browns to a native of Illinois named Samuelson, whose family operated it from 1911 to 1958. The present owners make use of the 65 acres for the historic purpose. The acquisition of access to irrigation water from the Calapooia in the early 1960s resulted in the cultivation of pole beans. Hay, cattle, and a conifer nursery have followed as regular output of the farm.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Abstract of Title 1850-1911.

"History of Linn County," Federal Writers Program, Works Projects Administration, 1940.

Section on Brownsville and references to Hugh L. Brown.

Drury, C. L., Henry Harmon Spaulding (Caldwell, Idaho: Caxton Printers, Ltd., 1936).

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1.45 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A

1	0
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5	0	2	8	1	0
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4	9	1	4	1	2	0
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ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B

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ZONE EASTING NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning South 83° East 1.88 chains, South 70° East 15.33 chains and South 21.692 chains from a point on the East line of and South 18.36 chains from the NE corner of the James Blakely DLC #51 in T.13S., R.2W., W.M. and DLC #59 in T.14S., R.2W., W.M., said beginning point being on the center line of the Secondary Highway; thence approximately 310' South, ca. 195' East, ca. 285' North, and ca. 210' West along the Highway to a set rod at the NW corner of the Jones-Swearingen property, the whole containing approximately 63,370 sq. ft

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Nelson L. Jones

ORGANIZATION

Co-owner

DATE

1975, August 1978

STREET & NUMBER

Route 1, Box 128

TELEPHONE

(503) 466-5566

CITY OR TOWN

Brownsville

STATE

Oregon 97327

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

David G. Street

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE August 23, 1978

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Charles A. Brown
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE *11-22-78*
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST: *W. Ray Price*
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE *11-21-78*