

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED APR 8 1975

DATE ENTERED MAY 6 1975

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORMSEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Brunk (Harrison) House

AND/OR COMMON

SAME

**LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Brunk Corner and State Highway 22

\_\_NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Salem

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Oregon

 VICINITY OF

CODE 41

COUNTY

Polk 97338

CODE

053

**CLASSIFICATION**

## CATEGORY

 DISTRICT BUILDING(S) STRUCTURE SITE OBJECT

## OWNERSHIP

 PUBLIC PRIVATE BOTH

## PUBLIC ACQUISITION

 IN PROCESS BEING CONSIDERED

## STATUS

 OCCUPIED UNOCCUPIED WORK IN PROGRESS

## ACCESSIBLE

 YES: RESTRICTED YES: UNRESTRICTED NO

## PRESENT USE

 AGRICULTURE MUSEUM COMMERCIAL PARK EDUCATIONAL PRIVATE RESIDENCE ENTERTAINMENT RELIGIOUS GOVERNMENT SCIENTIFIC INDUSTRIAL TRANSPORTATION MILITARY OTHER:**OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Polk County Historical Society

STREET &amp; NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Dallas

VICINITY OF

STATE

Oregon 97338

**LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Polk County Courthouse

STREET &amp; NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Dallas

STATE

Oregon 97338

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Statewide Inventory of Historic Sites and Buildings

DATE

1970

 FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

State Parks and Recreation Branch

CITY, TOWN

Salem

STATE

Oregon 97310

# 7 DESCRIPTION

## CONDITION

EXCELLENT       DETERIORATED  
 GOOD             RUINS  
 FAIR              UNEXPOSED

## CHECK ONE

UNALTERED  
 ALTERED

## CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE  
 MOVED      DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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

Harrison Brunk constructed his house in 1860-61; it has remained in the family until 1974. The house was built for Brunk by Thomas Pearce, a local carpenter, for \$844. It is a wood frame, clapboard, two story house, and the style is a local adaptation of pre-classical revival.

Detail throughout the house is very simple. The main feature of the house is the central hallway, with a simple stairway and tapered bannister. Many of the windows have been replaced, but two of the upstairs windows maintain the original 6 over 6 lights.

The foundation is nine brick piers, held together with mud mortar. The piers and the original three brick fireplaces used an unusually large amount of brickwork for this area. Evidence suggests that the bricks were either made on the site or nearby.

The frame is of simple 4 x 4 studs with 2 x 12 planks on the interior walls and 1 x 4 clapboards on the exterior walls. The doors throughout appear to be original.

Originally, the front porch was open with six detailed supporting beams. There was a second floor porch with an ornate bannister. More recently, the porch has been enclosed and made into a sun porch. The original deck of the porch remains, and a restoration of the porch to original condition is planned.

Over the years there have been several changes made to the house, but enough of the original remains to make the house restorable. The Polk County Historical Society intends to restore the house to as near its original condition as possible.

The acreage includes several early out-buildings. A fruit-house 18 x 24 - ca. 1900, a granary 20 x 30 probably 1860s, a privy - ca. 1900, a greenhouse 1948, a garage date unknown, and a pumphouse are all retained on the site.

# 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 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

1860-61

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Thomas Pearce

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Harrison Brunk House is significant as one of the oldest two-story farmhouses in Polk County. It is significant also as the residence of one of the earliest settlers in the area, Harrison Brunk. He and his son Thomas were important figures both as a farmer and politicians. The Brunk House and Brunk's Corner are important landmarks in Polk County.

Harrison Brunk came to Polk County, Oregon, in 1849. He purchased the present farm property in 1858, and built the house two years later. Brunk was an important and well known farmer and stockman in the county, but his son Thomas gave the Brunk name importance in Polk County. Thomas Brunk raised large-type Poland China hogs and Cotswold sheep. His animals won numerous ribbons at local and state fairs (he supposedly had a quilt made of blue ribbons), and his work with 4-H Clubs and the teaching of livestock judging were among his proudest achievements. In 1915, Thomas served as a livestock judge at the Panama-Pacific Exposition in San Francisco. He served in the Oregon State Legislature as a representative in 1913, and for many years was a judge for Polk County.

The Brunk House itself is the oldest known two-story farmhouse in Polk County, Oregon. The house and its occupants have played a prominent role in the cultural, economic, and political development of the county. Outbuildings that remain on the site add to the significance of the house and lend many possibilities to future use of historic interpretation when the house is restored by the Polk County Historical Society. Restoration of the house will once again make it a landmark for the traveller.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Scrapbook kept by Earl Brunk  
 Polk County Pioneer Sketches Vol II p. 30-31  
 Salem, Capital Journal November 10, 1938  
 Portland, Oregon Journal June 4, 1926

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1.12 acres

*UTM OK  
 (1)*

UTM REFERENCES

A 1,0 | 4,8,8 | 4,3,0 | 4,9,7,5 | 36,0  
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B [ ] | [ ] | [ ] | [ ] | [ ] | [ ] | [ ] | [ ]  
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Mr. Robert Marsh

ORGANIZATION

Polk County Historical Society

DATE

March 21, 1975

STREET & NUMBER

P.O. Box 200

TELEPHONE

503-623-2600

CITY OR TOWN

Dallas

STATE

Oregon 97338

# 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.

SIGNATURE

*Robert G. Talbot*

TITLE State Historic Preservation Office

DATE 3.28.75

**FOR NPS USE ONLY**

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

*Robert G. Talbot*  
 DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
 DATE 5/6/75

ATTEST: *Charles H. ...*  
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER  
 DATE 5.1.75