

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**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, (Henry), House

and/or common

**2. Location**

W of Elkton off OR 38

street & number Route 1, Box 335  not for publication

city, town Elkton  vicinity of congressional district 4th

state Oregon code 41 county Douglas code 019

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: storage

**4. Owner of Property**

name Donald Agee

street & number Route 1, Box 335

city, town Elkton  vicinity of state Oregon 97436

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Douglas County Courthouse

street & number

city, town Roseburg state Oregon 97470

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Statewide Inventory of Historic Properties has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1976  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records State Historic Preservation Office, 525 Trade Street SE

city, town Salem state Oregon 97310

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" 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 Henry Brown House, completed possibly as late as 1883, is a choice, if late example of the Classical Revival Style in domestic architecture in Oregon. Its floor plan is that of a New England farmhouse, undoubtedly based upon models in the builder's native New Hampshire. The house is presently unoccupied, but is used for storage purposes. Its general condition is sound, although the exterior has not been painted for some years. The current owner is planning to paint the exterior and repair the roof.

The Henry Brown House is located in Sec. 21, T.22S., R.8W., of the Willamette Meridian, in Douglas County, Oregon. The house is oriented to the south on a natural terrace below a ridge, and it overlooks the Umpqua River. The narrow valley setting is rural, characterized by grazing fields and scattered stands of timber.

The T-shaped building features a gable-roofed main block of 2-1/2 stories approximately 20 feet across the facade and 27 feet in depth. This section contains the front stairhall, parlor and bedrooms. The kitchen and keeping room section of the house is contained in a 20-foot-long, gable-roofed single story ell at the west side of the main block. This west wing is approximately 18 feet in depth.

A foundation of locally quarried sandstone, laid without mortar, supports the sills a foot and a half above grade. The structure is of rough-sawn wood produced locally. The exterior walls are covered with 6" horizontal weather boards. The roof is presently covered with composition shingles.

Eave returns are made up of a series of moldings which, with the cut-out basket arches decorating the entablatures of the south porches, enrich the simply-finished and restrained exterior. The south-facing porches of main block and ell and the general bulk of the facade are thought to recall New England building traditions. The main entrance, offset to one side of the main block facade, has sidelights and transom. Linteled window openings are fitted with six over six sash. The original louvered shutters are in storage. The house initially had two brick chimneys constructed of locally manufactured brick. The chimney in the main block was removed sometime between 1905 and 1940. There have been no major additions to the house other than a small utility room and bathroom in a lean-to off the rear of the kitchen ell. The latter addition is unseen from the front of the house. In 1940 a wood shed and carriage house which extended from the west end of the single story ell were removed.

Internally, the house has been little altered since the date of its construction. The single story ell containing the kitchen and keeping room is served by a brick fireplace with mantelpiece which acts as a backing for a cookstove. In this section plywood paneling has been applied to the walls, and acoustical tile now covers the ceiling. Above these rooms is an attic space accessible from the second floor of the main block. The 2-1/2-story section of the house contains on the first floor the parlor, entry stairhall, and two bedrooms. The first floor ceiling heights vary. The parlor and bedroom ceilings are 11 feet, whereas the kitchen and keeping room ceilings of the ell are 10 feet in height. The parlor fireplace is of sandstone cut in large blocks. Its wood mantelpiece is finely proportioned but simply detailed in the tradition of the Classical Revival.

(continued)

FHR-8-300A  
(11/78)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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DATE ENTERED	

Brown (Henry) House, Elkton vicinity, Douglas County, Oregon

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The second floor of the main block contains four bedrooms having ceiling heights of about 9 feet. These bedrooms are arranged around the stairway. A large unfinished attic story is reached by an enclosed stair.

Interior walls throughout the house are rough-sawn horizontal boards covered with cheesecloth and wallpaper. Several rooms have only one layer of wallpaper, some of which appears to be roughly contemporary with the date of construction. Ceilings are finished with 5" boards, smoothly planed and painted white. The turned newell posts of the staircase have richly built up profiles. The railing of the straight stair is made up of turned balusters, and the banister of the second floor is formed of square balusters.

# 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

**Specific dates** ca. 1876-1883

**Builder/Architect**

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

The home built for Henry Brown on the north bank of the Umpqua River four miles west of the farming and lumber-milling community of Elkton between 1876 and 1883 is significant to Douglas County as an exceptionally well-preserved demonstration of the longevity of the Classical Revival building tradition in rural western Oregon. In a state where translations of building ideas from the Mid-Atlantic or Southern states are typical, the survival of a nearly pure New England type is noteworthy. (New England types once were more plentiful in the Umpqua Valley.) The quality of craftsmanship in the house is also significant. Henry Brown was important in local history as a prosperous livestock rancher and an influential Republican who was elected to the Oregon State Legislature in 1882.

Henry Brown came to Oregon from New Hampshire in 1852 to engage in the operation of pack trains between Scottsburg (head of navigation on the Umpqua) and the gold fields of southern Oregon. In 1856 he married Priscilla Stearns, the sister of his business partner. In the same year he bought the Henderer Donation Land Claim of 640 acres, and through a series of land sales he enlarged his holdings to 1,300 acres, which he used primarily for the raising of cattle. Brown was active in the Republican party and, in 1882, was elected to the State House of Representatives.

Built as a utilitarian farmhouse for a large family, Brown's residence had become too large for his descendents by the 1940s. However, the main block continued to be occupied until as recently as 1975. The house is used for storage of personal belongings of the owners, who are directly descended from Henry Brown. In recent years the owners built a new home 60 feet or more to the east of the historic farmhouse.

It is not known precisely when the Henry Brown House was built. The best documentary clue comes from a reference in A. G. Walling's local history brought out in 1884. The attributed date of 1883 is remarkably late in view of the style and certain construction features of the house and in view of Brown's acquisition of the farm property as early as the 1850s. Further, there was a sawmill operating in Elkton by the 1870s. The local Plaindealer reported in 1876 that Brown entertained 15 couples in his house at Christmastime.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Walling, A. G., History of Jackson, Josephine, Douglas, Curry and Coos Counties (Portland: A. G. Walling, 1884), 525.  
 Hodgkin, Frank, and J.J. Galvin, Picture of Representative Men of Oregon (Portland, 1882).  
 Mss collection, Douglas County Museum, Roseburg. Corresp. from Edith Brown, descendent of Henry Brown, to Museum Curator George Abdill, undated.

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property ca. 1.39 acres

Quadrangle name Elkton, Oregon

Quadrangle scale 1:62500

UMT References

UTM NOT VERIFIED

A 

1	0	4	4	7	6	5	0	4	8	3	2	7	0	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	code	county	code

state	code	county	code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Len Sobocinski

Architecture student

organization University of Oregon School of Architecture date June 7, 1978

street & number 1599 Moss Street telephone 503/344-4844

city or town Eugene, state Oregon 97403

# 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature David H. Talbot

title State Historic Preservation Officer date August 27, 1979

For HCRS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	
<u>Carol Shul</u>	date <u>10-30-79</u>
Keeper of the National Register	
Attest: <u>Kristin O'Connell</u>	date <u>10/30/79</u>
Chief of Registration	

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Commencing at a point at the intersection of the centerline of the Umpqua Highway and the westerly margin of the Agee property access road extended, thence in a northerly direction along the westerly margin of said access road approximately 250', thence in a northeasterly direction in a line parallel with the Umpqua Highway approximately 125', thence in a southerly direction in a line parallel with the access road approximately 250' to the centerline of the Umpqua Highway, thence in a south-westerly direction along the centerline of the Umpqua Highway approximately 125' to the point of beginning; to include the Henry Brown House exclusively among major improvements (a non-historic shed falls within the nominated area), and containing in all 1.39 acres, more or less.