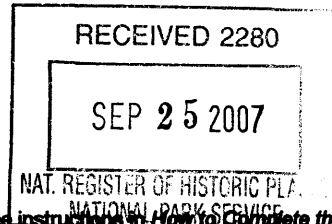


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



1167

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Brown, A.R., House

other names/site number NA

2. Location

street & number 241 South Main Avenue

NA not for publication

city or town Erwin

NA vicinity

state Tennessee

code TN

county Unicoi

code 171

zip code 37650

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set for in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

E. Patrick McSherry, Jr.
Signature of certifying official/Title

September 21, 2007
Date

State Historic Preservation Officer, Tennessee Historical Commission
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See Continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet

determined eligible for the National Register.
 See continuation sheet

determined not eligible for the National Register

removed from the National Register

other, (explain): _____

for
Signature of the Keeper

Edson H. Beall

Date of Action

11-8-07

Brown, A.R., House
Name of Property

Unicoi County, Tennessee
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in count)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Contributing

Noncontributing

Contributing	Noncontributing	
3		buildings
1		sites
		structures
4	1	objects
		Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

DOMESTIC/ Secondary structure

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

DOMESTIC/ Secondary structure

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

OTHER: Folk Victorian

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick

walls Weatherboard

roof Asphalt

other Brick

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "X" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations N/A

(Mark "X" in all boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Commerce
 Architecture

Period of Significance

1894-1937

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person

(complete if Criterion B is marked)

Brown, Albert Rosecrans (A.R.)

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS): N/A

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- Previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State Agency
- Federal Agency
- Local Government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Brown, A.R., House
Name of Property

Unicoi County, Tennessee
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property .5 acres Erwin 199 NW

UTM References

(place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 17 372395 4000658
Zone Easting Northing
2 _____

3 _____
Zone Easting Northing
4 _____

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Donna Baldwin/Intem
organization Tennessee Historical Commission date July 12, 2007
street & number 2941 Lebanon Road telephone 615/532-1550
city or town Nashville state TN zip code 37204

Additional Documentation

submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 Or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location

A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO) or FPO for any additional items

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Martha B. Stromberg, Alexandra R. Brown, Suzanne B. Sumrall (c/o Martha B. Stromberg)
street & number 430 Ash Street telephone 423-743-5795
city or town Erwin state TN zip code 37650

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listing. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.)

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P. O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20303.

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National Park Service

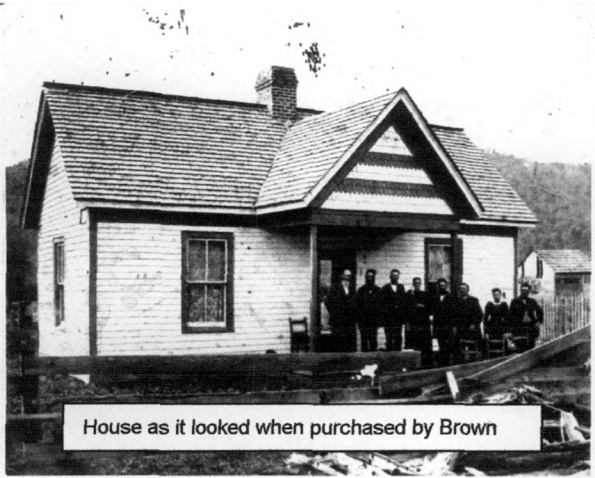
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Brown, A.R., House
Unicoi County, Tennessee

Description

The A.R. Brown House is a two-story, wood frame house with Victorian era details. It has a brick foundation, horizontal wood siding, a side gable roof with asphalt shingles and covered front porch. The original house, circa 1894, was one-story with a T-shaped floor plan. A second story was added in two stages, first around 1900, with the back two rooms being added by 1916. Two rooms were added to the first floor and the original side porch was closed in to make a bathroom by 1910. A greenhouse was added to the property circa 1916 and the shed, possibly pre-1900, was converted to a garage in the 1940s or 1950s. Located on a small urban lot, just outside the commercial area of Erwin (pop. 5,546), the house retains its architectural integrity, including original doors, windows, and interior woodwork.



Post 1900
house ⇒



House after 1910 when
side porch enclosed ⇒



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Brown, A.R., House
Unicoi County, Tennessee

The southeast façade has two sections, one original and one an addition. The main section to the south is two stories high and has three regularly spaced bays. The southern and eastern bays each contain two-over-two double-hung windows on both the first and second floors. The center bay has a paneled, wood entry door on the first floor leading to the front porch. The trim around the door is plain, with a screened transom. A screen door on the outside appears not to be original. The original wood floor of the porch was replaced with bricks around 1960. The front porch spans the length of the main section, and has an asphalt-shingled roof supported by turned wood columns. A decorative turned wood valance is below the porch roof. The second story center bay contains a door leading to the second story front porch, added in 1900, when the first section of the second story was constructed. The second story one bay porch has a front gable roof with asphalt shingles, an arch with modified flower motifs on either side, and a turned wood balustrade, with ornamental wood shingles on either side of the balustrade. A low, brick chimney is visible in the ridge of the main roof. Historic photographs indicate that this chimney was originally taller, with an ornamental cap. The secondary section of the southeast façade, added on the eastern end circa 1910, is one story high and has one, two-over-two, double-hung window in the center of the southeast wall.

The southwest elevation has a single bay on the main section of the house with a two-over-two, double-hung window on both first and second stories. The rear section of this elevation of the house is two stories in height with one, two-over-two double-hung window on the first floor between the front section and the porch, and two separate, two-over-two double-hung windows on the second floor. The first story has a wood porch with an asphalt-shingled roof supported by turned wood columns, with a solid wood balustrade. The porch has three steps leading up to the entryway, which is centered on the porch. A paneled, wood entry door leads from the porch into the house. A wood screen door on the outside opens to the right. A second brick chimney projects up from the center of the gabled roof on this rear section.

The northwest, or rear, elevation of the back section is two stories high with a single two-over-two double-hung window on each of the first and second floors. To the west of the back section is the screened in porch. To the north of the back section is the one-story storage room ("junk room") added about 1899. This has a single two-over-two double-hung window on its northwest elevation. Also visible is the northwest elevation of the south end of the front section of the house, which has one, two-over-two, double-hung window on the first floor and a six-light window on the second floor. The northwest elevation of the east end of the front section is also visible, which has one two-over-two double-hung window on the second floor.

The northeast elevation has a single, two-over-two double-hung window on the one story secondary section, which is located on the easternmost end of the elevation, and a single, two-over-two double-hung window on the second floor of the front section of the house. A small brick

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Continuation Sheet

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Brown, A.R., House
Unicoi County, Tennessee

chimney protrudes from the northwestern edge of the secondary section. In the center of the first floor of this elevation, where the original side porch was located, is a doublewide screen door. The eastern side of the screen is slightly wider than the other side. Hinges between the two sections allow the narrower side to be opened outward and used as a regular, single door. Another set of hinges on the eastern edge of the screen allows the entire doublewide door to be opened outward. Behind the screen are two doors that open to the inside, of the same proportions as the outer screens. The doors are paneled wood on the bottom with a four-light opening above. A six-light transom is above the doors. The northern end of the original side porch, where the bathroom is located, has a small, two-pane window. There is a single, two-over-two, double-hung window on the one-story section located on the northernmost end of the elevation (part of the storage room), as well as a two-over-two, double-hung window on the second floor of the back section of the house.

The interior of the house retains all the original wood flooring, built-in cabinets and shelving, and railings, as well as most of the original electrical, heating and plumbing elements. Original tube and knob wiring is visible on the walls and ceilings throughout the first floor. The only extensive redecorating was done in 1934, when felt and wallpaper were applied to many of the interior walls and ceilings, covering the original bead board.

The house is entered through the door in the southeast façade, which leads into the living room. A picture rail runs the length of each wall in the living room. A set of five built-in shelves with a cabinet below is located between the fireplace and the stairs on the southwestern wall. The fireplace has been sealed but still retains the original decorative wood mantel. The mantel is painted white and has a simple design, with pilasters, a plain mantelshelf and frieze, and dentils over the opening. There is a single, two-over-two, double-hung window on the southeast wall of the living room.

A large entryway in the northeast wall leads into the sitting room. This room was originally a bedroom added about 1910, but was later opened up to create an extension of the living room about 1934. There is a single, two-over-two double-hung window on each of the northeast and southeast walls of the sitting room. A closet on the northwest wall hides a chimney, possibly from an old heating stove, as there is no evidence of a fireplace ever being present in this room. The floors in the living room and sitting room are stained oak, applied over the original pine floors, circa 1934. The original bead board walls in these rooms, covered with felt and wallpaper in 1934, were recovered with a thin wood paneling and wallpaper in 1998.

A doorway on the southwestern wall of the living room leads into the first floor master (mother's on plan) bedroom. There is a single, two-over-two double-hung window on each of the southeastern and southwestern walls of the bedroom. There is a small door on the northeast wall leading into a storage closet under the stairway that leads from the living room to the second story. There is

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Brown, A.R., House
Unicoi County, Tennessee

also a door to a large, walk-in closet on the northwest side of the room. The closet has a single, two-over-two, double-hung window on the northwest wall. The frame of the door to this closet has no ornamentation. The ceiling is covered in painted wood bead board running northeast to southwest. The bead board walls in this room were covered in felt and wall paper in 1934. A fireplace is located on the northeast wall of the bedroom, directly behind the living room fireplace. The opening has been closed off with plaster and covered in wallpaper, but the original mantel still exists. It is painted white and is more decorative than the living room mantel. It has a narrow shelf and molded casing surrounding the opening, with bull's-eyes at the corners. The paneled wood doors in the bedroom and living room have similar casings. The bedroom has painted, pine flooring.

There are two doorways on the northwestern wall of the living room. The eastern door leads into the enclosed side porch (original outside porch on plan), while the southern door leads into the dining room. The floors in the dining room are stained oak and the ceiling is painted wood bead board. The previously papered walls here have also been recovered with paneling and papered (1998). The dining room has a single, two-over-two double-hung window on the southwest wall and a fireplace with plain, white painted, wood mantel on the northwest wall. This fireplace is the only one in the house remaining in working order. A door to the north of the fireplace leads into the kitchen. Between the fireplace and door, sitting at a 45-degree angle, is a built-in, corner cabinet. The door on the top half of the cabinet has a window that reveals the four shelves inside, while the door to the bottom half of the cabinet is solid wood, covering four interior shelves.

The walls of the kitchen are covered in horizontal wood bead board that has been painted. The original floor has been covered with several layers of linoleum and vinyl flooring. The southeast wall of the kitchen has a replica pot-bellied stove, placed in the same location as the original wood burning cook-stove. The brick chimney wall is exposed behind the wood stove, and the stovepipe connects into it about six feet above the floor. A large porcelain sink with attached backsplash sitting on top of a painted wood cabinet is also on the southeast wall. The kitchen cabinets are white painted wood, but are not original to the house. Wall-units hang on each of the four walls, with two counter-topped floor units on the northwestern wall. The southwest wall has a door leading to the "back" porch on the southwest elevation. There is a single, two-over-two double-hung window on the northwest wall, and a door on the northeast wall leads into the junk room, added to the original house around 1899. The junk room has a single, two-over-two double-hung window on both the northwest and northeast walls. There is open shelving on the southwest wall. The walls and ceiling are covered in painted horizontal wood bead board.

To the southeast of the junk room and northeast of the dining room is the closed-in side porch. This room is connected by doorways to the living room, dining room and junk room. The walls are of horizontal wood bead board and the ceiling is also of bead board, running southeast to northwest. A full bathroom is located in the northern corner of the porch. The walls and ceiling

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Brown, A.R., House
Unicoi County, Tennessee

are painted wood bead board, and a single, two-pane window is located on the northeast wall. This was the first indoor bathroom in Erwin, built around 1909, and contains an original claw-foot tub and wall mounted porcelain sink. The original, slanted cellar door, which covers the only entrance to the basement, is on the southeast side of the porch. Two stairs beside the cellar door lead down to an entryway with a large double door to the outside.

The stairs leading up to the second floor, located off southwest wall of the living room, have stained wood treads leading up to a landing. The stairs turn to the southeast at the landing. The floor of the landing and the treads of the remaining stairs are painted pine. All of the risers are painted. A carpet runner covers the stairs, as well as the painted wood floor in the upstairs hallway. Vertical, painted wood boards cover one wall of the stairwell, while the other wall is horizontal, painted bead board. At the top of the stairs to the southwest is an original, painted wood railing, with turned wood balusters. The walls and ceilings on the second floor are all horizontal bead board covered with felt and wallpaper, and the floors are all painted pine.

On the second floor, a single-light, paneled door on the southeast wall of the landing exits onto the front balcony overlooking South Main Avenue. The floor of the porch is painted wood and slopes slightly away from the house.

A door to the southwest at the top of the stairs leads into the "Preacher's Bedroom". The original wood floors have been covered with wall-to-wall carpet. This room has a single, two-over-two double-hung window on both the southeast and southwest walls. A painted wood mantelshelf is located on the northeast wall of the bedroom, but appears to have been for decoration only. A door on the northwest side leads into a full bathroom, built into a closet circa 1948. The ceiling slants down towards the northwest wall, to a height of about five feet. There is a single, six-pane window on the northwest wall.

A door to the northeast of the staircase leads into the main bedroom. The front bedroom has single, two-over-two double-hung windows on each of the northwest, northeast, and southeast walls. A decorative, painted, wood mantelshelf is located below a closed stovepipe opening on the southwest wall. To the west of the mantel is a door leading into a large closet with storage shelves. The door to the hallway is located on the southwest wall of the bedroom. The portion of the southwest wall between the bedroom door and the southeast side of the house is slanted at a 30 degree angle to allow the porch door to be in the middle of the upstairs porch.

A hallway leading to the rear of the house is located to the southwest of the staircase. On the northeast side of the hallway and over the lower stair landing is a large storage closet. There is an offset in the hallway just beyond this closet, indicating that the back part was probably added after the front section of the upstairs was built. One door off the northeast side of the hallway leads into an additional, small bedroom. This bedroom (Jodie's Bedroom on plan) has a window

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Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 6Brown, A.R., House
Unicoi County, Tennessee

on the northeast wall and a small closet on the northwest wall. An additional room at the end of the hallway, called the "think room," located on the back of the house, has a single, two-over-two double-hung window on each of the southwest and northwest walls, with the door to the hallway in the southeast wall.

A wood, white picket fence runs along the southeast property line in front of the house, as well as partially along the northeast property line. A brick wall forms the remainder of the northeastern fence line. A chain link fence along the northwestern and southwestern property lines completes the enclosure of the property. There is a regular-width sidewalk leading from the front gate up to the front porch. Half-width sidewalks lead around the south corner of the house and continue northwest to the rear property line and gate, with southwest extensions leading to the greenhouse and southwest gate, garage, and former barn. A small fishpond installed in the 1920s is still in use near the northeast property line. The sidewalks, picket fence and fishpond are all features of the contributing site.



Northwest elevation of Greenhouse circa 1920

Southwest of the house, towards the rear, is the garage. This structure was originally a shed, possibly built pre-1900. It is a small, wood building with board and batten siding, a front gable, tin roof, and dirt floor. The overhead garage door facing southwest was added to the original structure in the 1940s or 1950s in order to convert the shed for use as a garage. The southwest façade also contains a small, diamond shaped opening just beneath the gable. A single, wood plank door on the northeast elevation opens towards the house. The changes to the garage do not detract from its overall integrity. The garage is a contributing building.

A circa 1916 greenhouse with connected workroom is located on the southern corner of the property. The floor in the greenhouse remains dirt, while the floor in the workroom is concrete. The workroom is located on the northwest end of the structure. It has a front gable roof with asphalt shingles. The lower half of the structure is brick. The top half of the workroom is faced with horizontal wood siding, while the top of the greenhouse, originally wood and glass, was replaced with new glass and aluminum in the 1970s. The front door is on the northwest facade, where the workroom is located. The wood paneled door has a six-light opening and there is a three-over-one double-hung window on either side of the door. A vent is located above the door beneath the gable. The southwest elevation of the building has a chimney protruding from the shingled roof of the workroom just before the wall leading to the greenhouse on the southeast side of the room. The greenhouse can only be entered through the workroom. The southeast elevations consists of a brick base with glass and aluminum front gable. The northeast elevation is glass above the brick foundation with wood paneling and shingled roof of the workroom on the

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Brown, A.R., House
Unicoi County, Tennessee

northwest end. There is a small metal sundial just to the northeast of the greenhouse. The circa 1916 sundial sits on a pedestal with a cement base, stone pillar and cement top. An inscription of the sundial read "Time takes all but memories." A matching pedestal on the opposite (east) side of the front yard presumably held a birdbath, now missing. The greenhouse is a contributing building and the sundial is a contributing object.



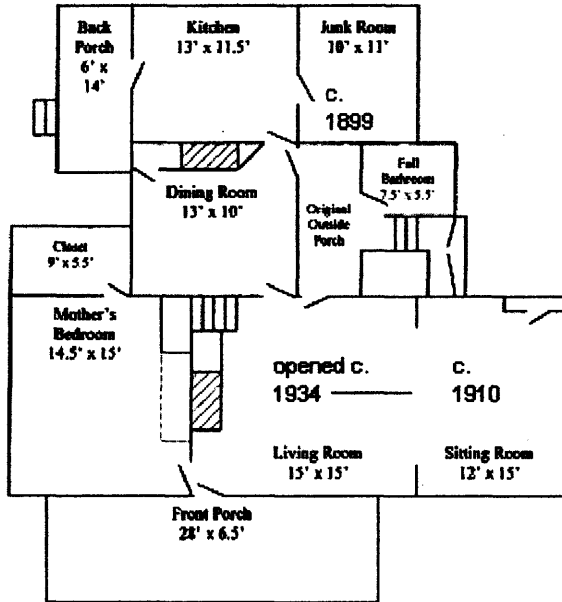
House from the east, circa 1916

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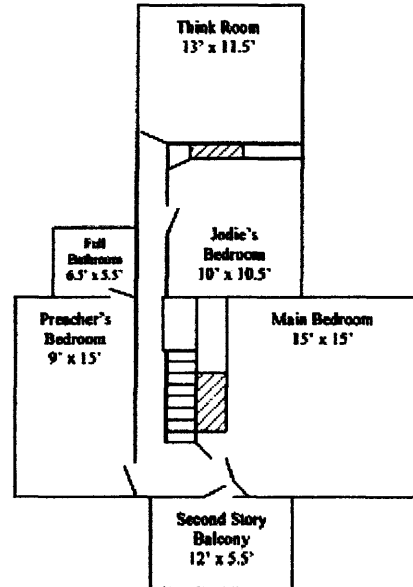
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Brown, A.R., House
Unicoi County, Tennessee



GROUND FLOOR



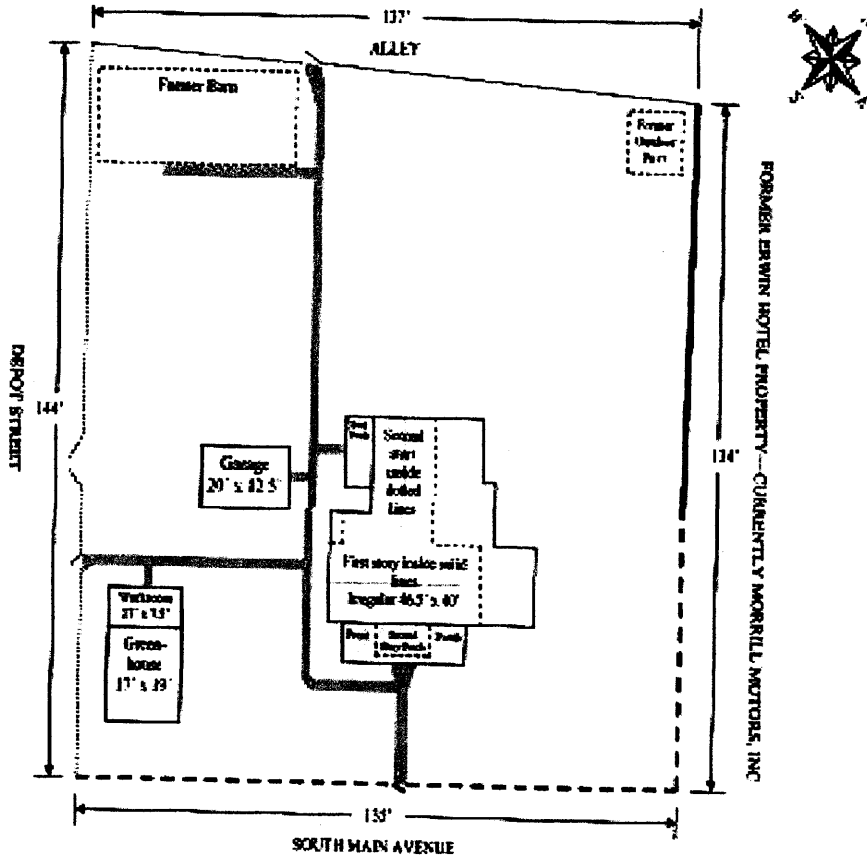
SECOND FLOOR

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Brown, A.R., House
Unicoi County, Tennessee



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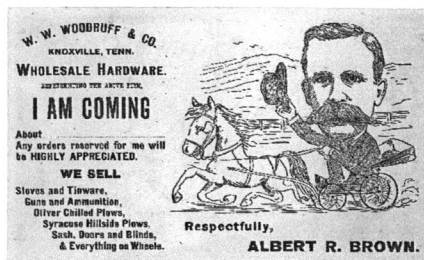
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Continuation Sheet**

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Brown, A.R., House
Unicoi County, Tennessee

Statement of Significance

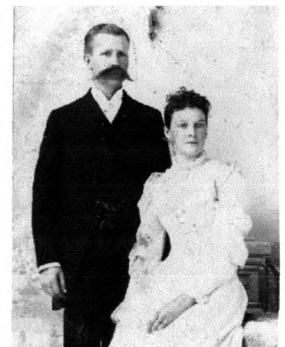
The A.R. Brown house is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under criteria B and C for its local significance in commerce and architecture. Under criterion B the house is significant for its association with Albert Rosecrans (A.R.) Brown who was one of the driving forces in the development of Erwin. He was highly involved in the economic, political, social and religious life in Erwin. Under criterion C the house is significant as a fine representation of a Folk Victorian house in Erwin. The original four-room house was constructed around 1894 by the family of Mrs. Nancy Love, who sold it to Brown in 1894. Brown added to the house between 1899 and 1916. The house remains very much unchanged since Mr. Brown's first renovations at the turn of the century. It represents a mix of Victorian era and Craftsman influences, predating the larger and more elaborate homes built in Erwin in the 1920s and 1930s. The plumbing, electrical system, heat system, and interior detail remain largely unchanged since their original installation. The home contains the first indoor bathroom in Erwin, with original fixtures. Including the outbuildings and setting, the property retains a high degree of integrity.



A.R. Brown (1863-1937) was born in Knoxville, TN in 1863. Because their mother, Nancy Colvin Brown was unable to support her children after her husband's death in the Civil War, Albert and his siblings were taken to the Soldiers and Sailors Childrens' Home in Washington, DC, where he remained until he was at least 10 years old. After returning to Knoxville, Albert began working at a drugstore at age 12 and started working for Woodruff Hardware when he was 15 years old. Brown continued with the company as

a traveling salesman until he moved to Erwin in 1894.

In 1893, Brown married Miss Tuppy Burleson in Plumtree, Avery County, North Carolina. They traveled together on his sales route for six months and finally moved into the new four-room house on Main Street in Erwin in January 1894. The Browns had six children, expanding their home in Erwin as needed until it became the size it is today.



Wedding portrait

When Brown first settled in Erwin, he became railroad agent for the Clinchfield railroad which ran near his home in this growing town. He also used his knowledge of the hardware business to start a mercantile business with a partner. Within a few years he bought out his partner, named the business A.R. Brown & Company, and moved it to Main Street. The ever-increasing population of Erwin allowed his business to prosper, and after a few years the store was moved to its permanent location in a large building



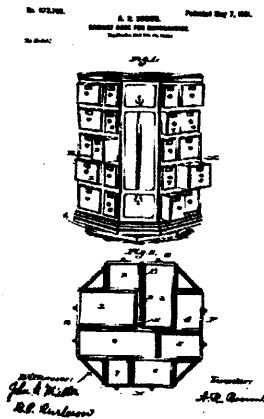
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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Brown, A.R., House
Unicoi County, Tennessee

he built in the center of the business district. By 1923 the store was doing an annual business of near \$200,000. He expanded the store in 1932, becoming one of the largest department/general merchandise stores in East Tennessee. A.R. Brown & Company existed as a general merchandise store until the 1970s. It then became a full service hardware store, which continued business under family ownership, until 1985.



1901 cabinet patent

Mr. Brown also built a water-powered manufacturing plant on the banks of North Indian Creek in Erwin in 1901. In addition to furniture, the plant produced Brown's Perfection Bolt and Screw Cases, invented by Brown and patented in 1901. The unique case consisted of a four-sided, wood tower set on a rotating base. Each side of the case contained numerous small drawers for storing various sizes of bolts and screws. Based on his years of experience in the hardware business, Brown created the case as a way for hardware stores to keep their stock organized and easy to locate. The cases were sold to hardware stores throughout the nation, as well as internationally, until the 1940s.

Mr. Brown was instrumental in the introduction of public works to Erwin. In 1909, Mr. Brown started the Erwin Water Works, which provided Erwin's first water line. He personally oversaw the laying of the first water lines and placed a public water fountain in the yard of the County Courthouse from which water flowed continuously. Because of his leadership in this enterprise, his home was the location of Erwin's first indoor bathroom. Prior to this time, water was hand carried to his house from a nearby spring. He personally headed the water company until his death, and the family continued to be major stockholders and operators until it was sold to the city in 1946. Mr. Brown was also an organizer and vice-president of the Unicoi Telephone Company.

Brown was president of First National Bank, later State Bank. Later, he established the Unicoi Banking & Trust Company, and was its first president. He was also a large stockholder in the Southern Pottery Company, a major employer in Erwin during the early part of the twentieth century. The company produced the now collectable "Blue Ridge Pottery." With the success of the Southern Pottery Company, Erwin grew rapidly in the 1910s and 1920s. In response to this growth, Mr. Brown organized the Erwin Development Company, which laid out a portion of the town streets and provided home sites for the town's growing population.

Mr. Brown was also a civic leader in his community. He served two terms as alderman, one as mayor, and terms in the Tennessee State Legislature in the late twenties. He is believed to be the first mayor of Erwin in 1907, although records are missing. According to *Tennessee: The Volunteer State*, "...he gave to the city a businesslike and progressive administration, inaugurating and bringing to completion many movements for the benefit of the community at large" (page 907).

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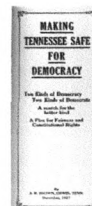
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Brown, A.R., House
Unicoi County, Tennessee



Brown around 1934

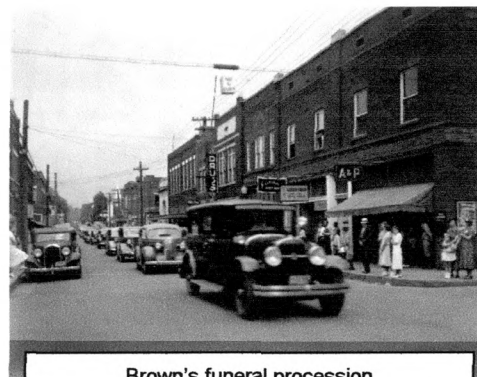
While in the legislature, in 1929 he served on the first Free Textbook Commission, arguing the case for free books for Tennessee's public school children. He was also a founding member of the local YMCA and Masonic Lodge, as well as a member of the board of directors for the area Kiwanis Club. In addition to his other public services, he left a bequest of \$5,000 to be used in support of the poor in the community. A lifelong Republican, Brown authored a pamphlet *Making Tennessee Safe for Democracy: Two Kinds of Democracy, Two Kinds of Democrats* in 1927. In it he discusses the apportionment of the legislature. In 1928 he attended the Republican



National Convention where he was to place the name of John Q. Tilson, another Unicoi County native, into nomination as the running mate for Herbert Hoover. At the last minute, another candidate was selected and Mr. Brown's speech was cancelled.

Mr. Brown was a life-long supporter of education. He was a founder and president of the Unaka Academy, which provided education for boarding and day students until the establishment of Erwin's public schools. The Academy building became the high school for the city in 1916 and served until a new high school was built in 1929. The Academy's dormitory later became the home of Erwin's hospital. Because of his love for his church, Mr. Brown donated the land he owned across South Main Avenue from his home for the new brick building for the First Baptist Church in 1915. He also served as a deacon for more than thirty years. His interest in education and religion merged in his service as a Trustee of Carson Newman College, where he later sent all five of his surviving children for their college training.

Brown died in a car accident in June 1937. In his will he established a scholarship fund for Carson-Newman, as well as an endowment fund for the construction of a new building on campus. Brown left other bequests to his church and to aid the poor of Unicoi County. The local paper, *The Erwin Observer*, headlined a page on June 10, 1937 with "Thousands Mourn Passing of Town's Leading Citizen" and above a photo of him quoted "A Prince Has Fallen in Israel---". The page was filled with tributes and resolutions for Brown. *The Erwin Record* had a similar tribute to him.



Brown's funeral procession

Tuppy Brown lived in the house until her death in 1959. Daughter, Jodie Helen Brown, lived in the house until her death in 2006. Family members still own the house.

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Brown, A.R., House
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Architecturally, the house is a fine example of Folk Victorian design. *A Field Guide to American Houses* defines the style as being characterized by sawn woodwork, a symmetrical façade, and façade porches. Embellishments generally occur on porches or under eaves and are of Queen Anne or Italianate detailing. The Brown house has these characteristics. The only non-characteristic feature is the Craftsman detailing on the second story façade porch. The house has not been altered and retains its historic and architectural integrity. Only three other properties in Unicoi County are listed in the National Register and only one of these (Tilson Farm, NR 6/17/94) has a residential component.



1943 with Tuppy Brown in yard

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Brown, A.R., House
Unicoi County, Tennessee

Bibliography

Binnicker, Margaret Duncan. "Erwin, Tennessee: Transformation of Work and Place in an Appalachian Community, 1900-1960." Dissertation for Doctor of Arts degree in History: Middle Tennessee State University, 1999.

"Death Takes A.R. Brown," *Erwin Record*, June 10, 1937.

Helton, William W. *Around Home in Unicoi County*. The Overmountain Press: Johnson City, Tennessee, 1986. (reprint 1994)

Tennessee: The Volunteer State, 1769-1923. vol.III. The S.J. Clarke Publishing Company: Nashville, 1923.

"Will of A.R. Brown Provides Sums to Aid Poor of County Church and Carson-Newman," *Erwin Observer*, June 10, 1937

Note: Much of the information in the nomination comes from family correspondence 1893-1937 and taped interviews with Jodie Brown by Martha Stromberg between 2002-2006.

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Brown, A.R., House
Unicoi County, Tennessee

Verbal Boundary Description and Justification

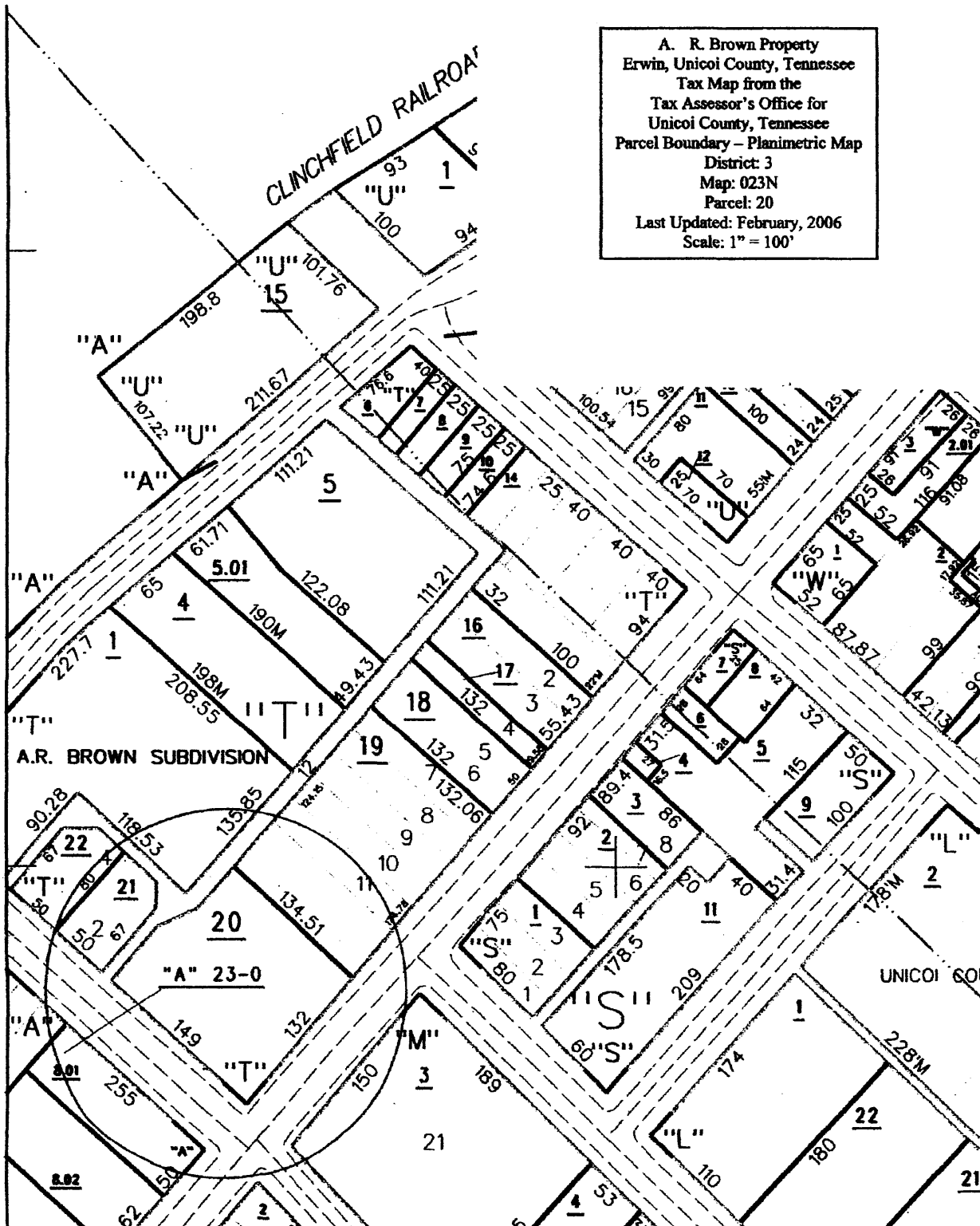
The nominated property is on Tax Assessor's Map 023NA, Group A, Parcels 02000 and 02100. This includes all of the historic property associated with the A.R. Brown House.

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Brown, A.R., House
Unicoi County, Tennessee



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Brown, A.R., House
Unicoi County, Tennessee

Photograph No.	Description of view indicating direction of the camera	Location of original negative	Date of photograph	Name of the photographer
TN_UnicoiCounty - ARBrown001.tif	Front (SE side) of house facing NW	Digital	01/29/07	Martha B. Stromberg
TN_UnicoiCounty - ARBrown002.tif	Front (SE side) of house facing NW	Digital	08/19/07	Martha B. Stromberg
TN_UnicoiCounty - ARBrown003.tif	Front (SE side) of house facing W	Digital	01/29/07	Martha B. Stromberg
TN_UnicoiCounty - ARBrown004.tif	Front (SE side) of house facing NW	Digital	08/16/07	Martha B. Stromberg
TN_UnicoiCounty - ARBrown005.tif	Front (SE side) of house facing W	Digital	08/16/07	Martha B. Stromberg
TN_UnicoiCounty - ARBrown006.tif	NE side of house facing S	Digital	01/29/07	Martha B. Stromberg
TN_UnicoiCounty - ARBrown007.tif	NE side of house facing W	Digital	08/12/07	Martha B. Stromberg
TN_UnicoiCounty - ARBrown008.tif	E corner of house facing W	Digital	08/12/07	Martha B. Stromberg
TN_UnicoiCounty - ARBrown009.tif	NW side of house facing E	Digital	08/16/07	Martha B. Stromberg
TN_UnicoiCounty - ARBrown010.tif	SW side of house facing E	Digital	08/16/07	Martha B. Stromberg
TN_UnicoiCounty - ARBrown011.tif	SW side of house facing N	Digital	08/16/07	Martha B. Stromberg
TN_UnicoiCounty - ARBrown012.tif	NE side of greenhouse with sundial facing SW	Digital	08/12/07	Martha B. Stromberg
TN_UnicoiCounty - ARBrown013.tif	SE side of greenhouse facing W	Digital	08/16/07	Martha B. Stromberg
TN_UnicoiCounty - ARBrown014.tif	SW side of greenhouse facing N	Digital	08/16/07	Martha B. Stromberg

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Brown, A.R., House
Unicoi County, Tennessee

TN_UnicoiCounty - ARBrown015.tif	NW side of greenhouse with door facing SE	Digital	08/17/07	Martha B. Stromberg
TN_UnicoiCounty - ARBrown016.tif	Inside greenhouse door facing SE	Digital	08/16/07	Martha B. Stromberg
TN_UnicoiCounty - ARBrown017.tif	Sundial facing W	Digital	06/26/07	Martha B. Stromberg
TN_UnicoiCounty - ARBrown018.tif	Garage/shed and greenhouse from upstairs window facing S	Digital	01/29/07	Martha B. Stromberg
TN_UnicoiCounty - ARBrown19.tif	W comer of garage/shed facing E	Digital	08/12/07	Martha B. Stromberg
TN_UnicoiCounty - ARBrown020.tif	Path between house and garage/shed facing SE	Digital	08/15/07	Martha B. Stromberg
TN_UnicoiCounty - ARBrown021.tif	NW side of garage/shed with SW side of house facing E	Digital	08/16/07	Martha B. Stromberg
TN_UnicoiCounty - ARBrown022.tif	SW side of garage/shed with garage door facing NE	Digital	08/16/07	Martha B. Stromberg
TN_UnicoiCounty - ARBrown023.tif	SE side of garage/shed with SW side of house facing N	Digital	01/29/07	Martha B. Stromberg
TN_UnicoiCounty - ARBrown024.tif	Sidewalk in backyard facing NW	Digital	01/29/07	Martha B. Stromberg
TN_UnicoiCounty - ARBrown25.tif	Sidewalk between greenhouse and garage/shed facing NE	Digital	08/16/07	Martha B. Stromberg
TN_UnicoiCounty - ARBrown026.tif	Sidewalk between greenhouse and garage/shed with SW side of house facing NE	Digital	08/12/07	Martha B. Stromberg
TN_UnicoiCounty - ARBrown027.tif	Living room with stairs facing SW	Digital	01/29/07	Martha B. Stromberg
TN_UnicoiCounty - ARBrown028.tif	NW Living room and sitting room wall facing NE	Digital	01/29/07	Martha B. Stromberg
TN_UnicoiCounty - ARBrown029.tif	SE Living room and sitting room wall facing NE	Digital	01/29/07	Martha B. Stromberg
TN_UnicoiCounty - ARBrown030.tif	Detail of living room door frame facing NW	Digital	01/29/07	Martha B. Stromberg

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Brown, A.R., House
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TN_UnicoiCounty - ARBrown031.tif	SW living room wall with sealed fireplace, bookcase and stairs facing W	Digital	08/15/07	Martha B. Stromberg
TN_UnicoiCounty - ARBrown032.tif	SW living room wall with bookcase and cupboard in wall of stairs facing S	Digital	08/15/07	Martha B. Stromberg
TN_UnicoiCounty - ARBrown033.tif	W corner of master bedroom facing W	Digital	01/29/07	Martha B. Stromberg
TN_UnicoiCounty - ARBrown034.tif	E corner of master bedroom with door to living room facing E	Digital	01/29/07	Martha B. Stromberg
TN_UnicoiCounty - ARBrown035.tif	NE wall of master bedroom with sealed fireplace facing N	Digital	06/26/07	Martha B. Stromberg
TN_UnicoiCounty - ARBrown036.tif	W corner of dining room with fireplace facing W	Digital	01/29/07	Martha B. Stromberg
TN_UnicoiCounty - ARBrown037.tif	S corner of dining room facing S	Digital	01/29/07	Martha B. Stromberg
TN_UnicoiCounty - ARBrown038.tif	E corner of dining room with door to living room facing E	Digital	01/29/07	Martha B. Stromberg
TN_UnicoiCounty - ARBrown039.tif	NW wall of dining room with corner cabinet facing W	Digital	08/12/07	Martha B. Stromberg
TN_UnicoiCounty - ARBrown040.tif	NE wall of dining room with doors to kitchen, closed porch and living room facing E	Digital	08/12/07	Martha B. Stromberg
TN_UnicoiCounty - ARBrown041.tif	Detail of wiring in dining room facing N	Digital	08/15/07	Martha B. Stromberg
TN_UnicoiCounty - ARBrown042.tif	Fireplace on NW wall of dining room facing NW	Digital	06/26/07	Martha B. Stromberg
TN_UnicoiCounty - ARBrown043.tif	S corner of kitchen with woodstove, sink and cabinets facing S	Digital	08/15/07	Martha B. Stromberg
TN_UnicoiCounty - ARBrown044.tif	SW wall in kitchen with door to outside porch facing SW	Digital	08/15/07	Martha B. Stromberg
TN_UnicoiCounty - ARBrown045.tif	N corner of junk room facing N	Digital	01/29/07	Martha B. Stromberg

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Brown, A.R., House
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TN_UnicoiCounty - ARBrown046.tif	N corner of kitchen facing N	Digital	01/29/07	Martha B. Stromberg
TN_UnicoiCounty - ARBrown047.tif	W corner of kitchen with door to outside porch facing W	Digital	01/29/07	Martha B. Stromberg
TN_UnicoiCounty - ARBrown048.tif	NE wall of kitchen with doors to junk room and dining room facing NE	Digital	01/29/07	Martha B. Stromberg
TN_UnicoiCounty - ARBrown049.tif	E corner of closed porch with cellar door and double outside doors facing E	Digital	01/29/07	Martha B. Stromberg
TN_UnicoiCounty - ARBrown050.tif	Looking into first floor bathroom facing N	Digital	01/29/07	Martha B. Stromberg
TN_UnicoiCounty - ARBrown051.tif	Sink in first floor bathroom facing E	Digital	08/15/07	Martha B. Stromberg
TN_UnicoiCounty - ARBrown052.tif	NW wall of closed porch toward junk room with door to dining room on the left facing NW	Digital	01/29/07	Martha B. Stromberg
TN_UnicoiCounty - ARBrown053.tif	Stairs to second floor facing SE	Digital	01/29/07	Martha B. Stromberg
TN_UnicoiCounty - ARBrown054.tif	E corner of upstairs hallway with door to front bedroom and balcony facing E	Digital	01/29/07	Martha B. Stromberg
TN_UnicoiCounty - ARBrown055.tif	Upstairs hallway facing NW	Digital	08/15/07	Martha B. Stromberg
TN_UnicoiCounty - ARBrown056.tif	NE wall of upstairs hallway with light switch in think room and built-in closet in hallway facing E	Digital	08/15/07	Martha B. Stromberg
TN_UnicoiCounty - ARBrown057.tif	View from front balcony facing SE	Digital	01/29/07	Martha B. Stromberg
TN_UnicoiCounty - ARBrown058.tif	View from front balcony facing SE	Digital	08/15/07	Martha B. Stromberg
TN_UnicoiCounty - ARBrown059.tif	N corner of front bedroom facing N	Digital	01/29/07	Martha B. Stromberg
TN_UnicoiCounty - ARBrown060.tif	W corner of front bedroom with closet door facing W	Digital	08/12/07	Martha B. Stromberg
TN_UnicoiCounty - ARBrown061.tif	SW wall of front bedroom with mantel and stovepipe outlet facing W	Digital	06/26/07	Martha B. Stromberg

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TN_UnicoiCounty - ARBrown062.tif	NE wall of preacher's bedroom with mantel detail facing NE	Digital	06/26/07	Martha B. Stromberg
TN_UnicoiCounty - ARBrown063.tif	W corner of preacher's bedroom with bathroom door facing W	Digital	01/29/07	Martha B. Stromberg
TN_UnicoiCounty - ARBrown064.tif	S corner of preacher's bedroom facing S	Digital	01/29/07	Martha B. Stromberg
TN_UnicoiCounty - ARBrown065.tif	Bathroom off preacher's bedroom facing W	Digital	01/29/07	Martha B. Stromberg
TN_UnicoiCounty - ARBrown066.tif	N corner of Jodie's bedroom with closet door facing N	Digital	08/15/07	Martha B. Stromberg
TN_UnicoiCounty - ARBrown067.tif	S corner of Jodie's bedroom facing S	Digital	08/12/07	Martha B. Stromberg
TN_UnicoiCounty - ARBrown068.tif	Think room interior window detail facing N	Digital	06/26/07	Martha B. Stromberg
TN_UnicoiCounty - ARBrown069.tif	Upstairs hallway with closet door over stairs looking SE	Digital	01/29/07	Martha B. Stromberg
TN_UnicoiCounty - ARBrown070.tif	W corner of think room facing W	Digital	08/19/07	Martha B. Stromberg
TN_UnicoiCounty - ARBrown071.tif	NW wall of think room facing N	Digital	08/19/07	Martha B. Stromberg
TN_UnicoiCounty - ARBrown072.tif	Back door and screen facing NE	Digital	06/26/07	Martha B. Stromberg
TN_UnicoiCounty - ARBrown073.tif	Door sill at back door facing NE	Digital	06/26/07	Martha B. Stromberg
TN_UnicoiCounty - ARBrown074.tif	Front door and screen with transom facing NW	Digital	06/26/07	Martha B. Stromberg
TN_UnicoiCounty - ARBrown075.tif	Front exterior window view facing W	Digital	06/26/07	Martha B. Stromberg
TN_UnicoiCounty - ARBrown076.tif	Fish pond and bench facing NE	Digital	08/12/07	Martha B. Stromberg

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Brown, A.R., House
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TN_UnicoiCounty _ARBrown077.tif	Original house purchased from N. Love in 1894 facing N	Unknown	1894	Unknown
TN_UnicoiCounty _ARBrown078.tif	SE elevation with added second story and junk room facing W	Unknown	c. 1900	Unknown
TN_UnicoiCounty _ARBrown079.tif	SE elevation with first floor addition on E end facing NW	Martha B. Stromberg	c. 1910	Unknown
TN_UnicoiCounty _ARBrown080.tif	S. Main Ave. with First Christian Church and S corner of Brown property facing NW	Unknown	c. 1910	Unknown
TN_UnicoiCounty _ARBrown081.tif	Facing N from Academy Hill S of Erwin with Brown property E of First Christian Church	Unknown	c. 1912	Unknown
TN_UnicoiCounty _ARBrown082.tif	Facing N from Academy Hill S of Erwin with Brown property W of First Baptist Church in the center	Martha B. Stromberg	c. 1915	Unknown
TN_UnicoiCounty _ARBrown083.tif	SE elevation and Mrs. A. R. Brown facing NW	Unknown	1943	Jodie Brown
TN_UnicoiCounty _ARBrown084.tif	SE elevation with Nancy Colvin Brown, d. 1913, on porch facing NW	Martha B. Stromberg	c. 1910	Unknown