

**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 Starr and Blakely Drug Store

and/or common Brownsville General Store

2. Location

street & number 421 North Main Street N/A not for publication

city, town Brownsville N/A vicinity of congressional district Fourth

state Oregon code 41 county Linn code 043

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>N/A</u> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<u>N/A</u> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Anthony and Dorinda Nelson

street & number PO Box 83

city, town Brownsville N/A vicinity of state Oregon 97327

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Linn County Courthouse

street & number PO Box 100

city, town Albany state Oregon 97321

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Statewide Inventory of
Historic Properties

has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1982 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 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 <u>N/A</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Starr and Blakely Drug Store is a single-story wooden false front Italianate commercial building with gable roof. Its ground plan measures approximately 20 x 50 feet, and its longitudinal axis is oriented east to west. The available data indicates it was built in 1874. Its architect or builder are unknown. The building has been rehabilitated since it was purchased by the present owners in 1975. It is now operated as the Brownsville General Store, outlet for health foods, clothing, housewares, and giftwares and stationery items.

Setting:

The building is located at 421 North Main Street, near the northwest corner of the intersection of North Main Street and Stanard Avenue, in the old platted area of North Brownsville.

The building faces east, fronting on Main Street. The four-block area in which the building is situated is presently designated "Old Town Commercial" on the City's official Zoning Map (1980). Other buildings in this area underwent varying degrees of renovation, remodeling, and restoration in the 1960s. All buildings in this area have "zero set-back" from the sidewalks, and there is no street furniture. A 30 x 25 foot lot adjacent to the Drug Store on the north is held by the City and is presently undeveloped.

Basic Structural Details:

The building was originally supported by large boulders (3 by 3 by 4 feet, typically). These were replaced by concrete block and reinforced cement piers by the present owners in 1975. The side and rear walls consist of one-by-twelve-inch full dimensional rough sawn boards. These boards are spiked with 16d square nails in two overlapping vertical layers to eight-by-eight-inch full dimensional rough sawn sill beams. The side and rear walls are faced on the inside with 1 x 6¼ inch tongue and groove smooth planed flushboards. These boards are also used for floor and ceiling. The roof is constructed of 2 x 4-inch full dimensional rough sawn rafters on two foot centers, with 1 x 4-inch full dimensional rough sawn "nailers" nailed across the rafters with about one inch spacing between boards. Shingles were originally nailed to the nailers. The present roof is 4V galvanized sheets and was put on by the present owners in 1975.

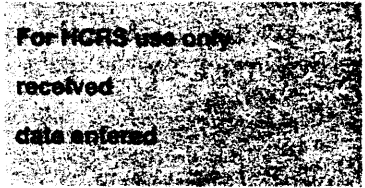
Outstanding Features of Exterior:

The rectangular facade which makes up the false front facing east on Main Street is constructed from 2 x 4-inch full dimensional rough sawn vertical studs on two foot centers, sided with 1 x 6-inch shiplap, with the top three and a half feet sided with the same tongue and groove flushboards that were used for interior walls, ceiling and flooring. Two window bays flank a central recessed entrance with double-leaf door and top light. Wooden bulkheads beneath the windows have inset panels typical of 19th Century store fronts.

Only the upper false front is original. The windows and doors were "modernized" sometime between 1915 and 1939, and were reconstructed to the original design from old

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet

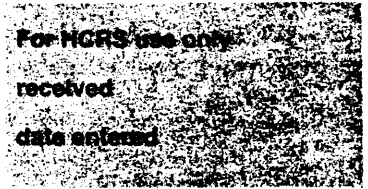
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Page 1

Alec Nelson
PO Box 733
Cave Junction, OR 97523

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet

Item number 7

Page 1

photographs by the present owners in 1975. Originally, a wooden cornice about two feet wide topped the facade. The cornice was supported by three pairs of elaborately formed wooden corbels, or brackets identical to those which were used on the neighboring buildings to the north and south and elsewhere on Main Street. There was a wooden awning just above the windows, supported by worked iron brackets. The present owners are in the process of reconstructing the cornice, corbels, and wooden awning.

It appears that exterior walls of either side of the building were unclad originally. In the 1940s, following removal of the neighboring building to the north, the newly-exposed north wall was fully clad with shingles.

Subsequent Construction on Tax Lot 2600:

A separate, two-story storage building was built behind the store in 1981. It replaced a shed which was originally attached to the main building. The new storage building is not visible from Main Street, nor is it included in the nominated area. Immediately to the northwest, adjacent to the Drug Store, is a one-story, rectangular shingled building with gable roof and false-front facade which dates from 1945. It is set back from Main Street 30 feet, and while it is located on the same Tax Lot as the Drug Store, it too is excluded from the nominated area. Construction of the later false front building followed removal of the old I.O.O.F. Building/City Hall from the lot adjoining the Drug Store on the north in the early 1940s.

Original Internal Spatial Organization:

The main architectural feature of the interior store space is the 14-foot ceiling. The original flushboard painted walls are intact. Paint "shadows" on these walls were used by the present owners in reconstructing store shelves along the south wall.

It appears from paint shadows on the ceiling that there was a partial second story, or loft in the rear twelve feet of the room. Two window openings high in the rear wall and the fact that it was listed as a two-story building on the 1884 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map seem to verify this.

The rear wall of the building was in such poor condition in 1975 that it had to be replaced with a frame wall.

Original Interior Finish:

The original painted walls and ceiling were at some time covered with muslin tacked to the boards, sized, and then wallpaper applied on top of the muslin. This was in turn covered at some later date by fibreboard panels. The fibreboard panels and old wallpaper were removed by the present owners in 1975 to reveal the original wall and ceiling treatment.

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 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 checked="" 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 1874 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The single-story Starr and Blakely Drug Store on North Main Street in Brownsville, Oregon was erected about 1874. Once typical of one and two-story buildings which lined Main Street by 1890, it is, today, the last historic wood frame, false-fronted building remaining in the downtown. Most of Brownsville's wooden commercial buildings were destroyed by fires in 1919 and 1934. In its earliest period, the store was flanked by two story false-fronted buildings of frame construction on the south and north, respectively: the Opera House and Oddfellows Hall. These three closely-spaced buildings and most others on Main Street had high, shiplap-clad facades with boldly projecting cornices supported by elaborate, paired scroll-sawn corbels, or brackets which furnished the street continuity and were a distinctive characteristic of the Italianate Style. The Drug Store was typical also in its wooden canopy sheltering the board sidewalk and in its traditional central, recessed entrance and display windows atop wooden bulkheads with inset panels. Brownsville, an early settlement in the upper Willamette Valley, was platted in 1853 by Hugh Brown and his nephew, James Blakely. The community prospered upon the development of woolen manufacturing on the Calapooya River, tributary to the Willamette, beginning in 1863. O. P. Coshow, partner in the woolen mill at Brownsville, is credited with having constructed the Drug Store sometime between 1867 and 1874. At the outset, the property was operated as a drug store, but it was not until 1879 that the business was acquired by Dr. Isaac W. Starr and maintained in partnership with James Blakely's son, Thomas. Starr and Blakely ceased their operation with the sale of the property in 1903. Among subsequent occupants was E. D. Starr, a son of Dr. Isaac Starr, who opened a confectionery in the building in the 1920s. The store was acquired by the present owners in 1975 and rehabilitated as a general store. Among improvements undertaken at that time were replacement of the boulder pier foundation by concrete piers and block, protection of the largely unseen gable roof structure with galvanized sheet metal, reversal of shop front alterations of the 1920s and 1930s by the restoration of the shop front to its original configuration. Reconstruction of the long-missing corbelled cornice is the next step planned in the rehabilitation process. The Starr and Blakely Drug Store possesses integrity of location. Its facade possesses its essential architectural character and feeling and most of its original materials and workmanship. The building is significant as the unique representative of an historic type in the downtown and also for its association with O. P. Coshow, Dr. Isaac W. Starr and Thomas Blakely, noteworthy figures in Brownsville in the 19th century.

The Brownsville area was settled as early as 1846, and the town was platted in 1853 by James Blakely and Hugh Brown. The block of commercial buildings at the SW corner of Main and Stanard, of which the store was originally a part, was erected sometime between 1867 and 1874 by a group of men who were partners in the Brownsville Woolen Mill, the town's major employer and the industry to which the early growth of North Brownsville (as it was then known) was closely tied.

O. P. Coshow, a pioneer of 1851 and community leader, was a partner in the woolen mill and, in 1867, owned the lots on Main Street on which the Drug Store, the I.O.O.F. Hall,

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one

Quadrangle name Brownsville, Oregon

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A 1 0 5 0 1 3 0 0 4 9 1 5 4 7 5
Zone Easting Northing

B
Zone Easting Northing

C

D

E

F

G

H

Verbal boundary description and justification

See continuation sheet.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county N/A code

state N/A code county N/A code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Joni Nelson

organization Brownsville Historic Review Board date May, 1982

street & number PO Box 118, 730 Main Street telephone (503) 466-3084

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

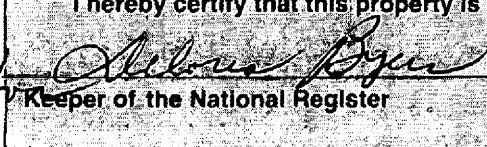
As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature 

title Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer date September 28, 1982

For HCRS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

 **Keeper of the National Register**

Entered in the National Register date 10/29/82

Attest: _____ date _____

Chief of Registration

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NCRS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 1

and the Opera House were built. He is traditionally given credit for building these buildings. Dr. Isaac W. Starr is another locally prominent figure associated with the building.

After completing his education in the public schools, Isaac W. Starr entered Philomath College, where he remained for two years. In 1874 he entered the medical department of Willamette University, graduating therefrom in the month of June, 1877. After a short practice in Monroe, Oregon, he located in Halsey in 1879, and the same fall came to Brownsville, taking up the practice of Dr. S.C. Stone. For twenty five years he was part owner of the Starr and Blakely Drug Store in Brownsville, disposing of the same to Osborne and Hume in 1903.

Thus, it appears that the original use of the nominated building was a drug store operated by Dr. S. C. Stone and C. T. Williams. In 1878, William T. Cochran bought out Williams' share. In 1879, Dr. Isaac W. Starr bought Dr. Stone's house and practice and became a partner with James Blakely's son, Thomas, in the drug store. It was not until 1890 that Starr bought the building in which the drug store was located.

During the 1920s, E. D. Starr (a son of Dr. Isaac Starr) ran an ice cream and confectioner's store in the building. It was then sold and subsequently housed the Horseshoe Tavern (1933), Henderson's Confectionery (1938). The present owners purchased the building in 1975, and began rehabilitation. It is now a general store which stocks natural and health foods, clothing, household wares, gift wares and stationery items.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NCRS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 2

CHRONOLOGICAL DATA RELATING TO THE STARR & BLAKELY DRUG STORE

Numbers following each entry correspond to bibliographic references.

June 3, 1865. The mill was being rebuilt. "The town as a whole likewise responded under the stimulation of this construction to the extent of planning several new buildings." #1, page 188.

1867. O. P. Coshow sells his block of lots on Main Street to Charles Williams, later a partner in the first drug store, for \$350. #2 (Deed G-533).

February 22, 1869. The sale at auction for debts of the woolen mills..."left the town without its most important industrial activity and resulted in many construction projects being abandoned or left uncompleted." #1, page 192.

1873. "It was said of Coshow 'he was one of the nine men who shared equally in buying the woolen mills (reactivating the business after the failure and sale at auction cited above) and whose ability and enterprise tended very materially to bring that branch of the industry into favorable notice and place it beyond the age of experiment.'" #1, page 197.

1874. "...the upper story of a certain frame or wooden building which now stands and shall remain forever upon the following described tract of land to wit--beginning at the NE corner of Lot No. 2 in Block No. 5..." (excerpt from the deed of purchase by the I.O.O.F. of the top floor of the building immediately north of Starr & Blakely Drug Store.) #2 (Deed N-454).

1874. City was asked to build a sidewalk along the north half of Lot 2, Block 5, across Pine (now Standard) from A.K. Thompson's store. #3 (November 9, 1874).

January 8, 1878. "Ordinance No. 27 (of the City of Brownsville) granting Stone and Williams exclusive rights to sell Spirituous or Malt Liquors for Medical, Mechanical, and Sacramental purposes was presented, read, and adopted." #3 (January 8, 1878),

February 14, 1878. "W. T. Cochran has bought out C. T. Williams in the Drug Store." (Old glass bottles found under the Starr & Blakely Drug Store have the inscription "W. T. Cochran... Druggist... Brownsville, Ogn"). #4.

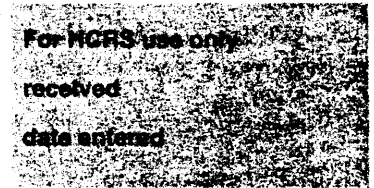
February 28, 1878. Advertisement: "Stone and Williams, Drugs." #4.

March 28, 1878. Advertisement: "Stone and Cochran, Druggists and Apothecaries, North Brownsville." #4.

1878. I.O.O.F. Building is shown at NE corner of Lot 2, Block 5 in map of Brownsville." #4.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 3

1879. Dr. Isaac W. Starr and Thomas Blakely become co-owners of the drug store operation. (Old glass bottles found under the Starr & Blakely Drug Store have the inscription: "Starr and Blakely, Druggists, Brownsville, Ogn") #13.

1881. "The drug store of Starr & Blakely reminds a person of the same class of stores in cities, in the taste displayed in the furniture, etc." #6.

1884. Sanborn Fire Insurance Map shows a two story building with store rooms behind, between the I.O.O.F. Hall and the Opera House. It is labeled "Drugs." The loft in the rear of the store probably accounts for the two story designation. #7.

1885. Physicians: J. [sic] W. Starr. Brownsville. #8.

1888. Sanborn Map shows "Drugs and Jewelry" in a one story building (loft removed or not being used?). #7.

1891-92. Starr, Isaac W., druggist. Starr and Reese, Physicians and Surgeons. #9.

1892. Sanborn Map shows "Drugs and Notions" on lot. "Out House" in rear. #7.

1898. Sanborn Map shows "Drugs and Stationery" on lot. #7.

1903. Starr and Blakely sell drug store to Osborne and Hume. #13.

1909. "The City Drugstore" is listed in local directories at this address. #10.

1910. Dr. Starr's office was on Stanard Avenue, behind the former I.O.O.F. Building which subsequently became City Hall, according to testimony of Mattie Eggleston, 1980.

1912. Sanborn Map shows "Drugs" on lot. #7.

1922. Building is occupied by Ed Starr Confectionery (E. D. Starr was the son of Dr. Isaac W. Starr). Starr stocks ice cream and soda pop. #11.

1931. Starr Confectionery is operated by brothers Ed and Delbert Starr. #12.

1933. Building occupied by Horseshoe Tavern. #11.

1938. Building occupied by Henderson Confectionery, according to a telephone bill found inside a wall of the old walk-in refrigerator.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NCRS use only
received
date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

9

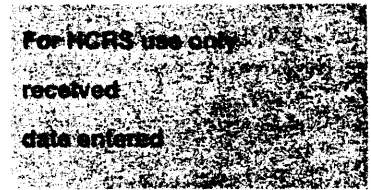
Page

1

1. Lomax, Alfred L., Pioneer Woolen Mills in Oregon, Portland, Metropolitan Press, 1941.
2. Deeds recorded at Linn County Courthouse, Albany, Oregon. (Deed Nos. used in research: G-533, H-31, Q-661, 38-416, 39-105, 114-355, 116-305, 151-254, 159-341, 162-477, 199-847, 219-748, 276-318, 291-204, MF112-359.)
3. Proceedings of Brownsville City Council.
4. Brownsville Advertizer, 1878 (University of Oregon Library, Eugene).
5. Williams, Edgar, Comp. Historical Atlas Map of Marion and Linn Counties, Oregon, San Francisco: Edgar Williams and Co., 1878 .
6. Oregon State Gazeteer and Business Directory, 1881 (Linn County Museum).
7. Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps (Oregon State University Library, Corvallis).
8. C. W. Watts, Annual for 1885 (Linn County Museum, Brownsville).
9. Polk's Oregon and Washington State Gazeteer and Business Directory, 1891-1892 (Linn County Museum).
10. Ladies Almanac and Hosletter's Illustrated Almanac (Linn County Museum).
11. Vivian Meacham, Past Times, October 1976 (collected in History Room, Brownsville Public Library).
12. Telephone Directory. Albany, Linn, Benton and Lincoln Counties, November 1931 (Linn County Museum).
13. Portrait and Biographical Record of the Willamette Valley, Oregon, New York, Chapman Publishing Company, 1903 (Brownsville Public Library). Note on Dr. Isaac W. Starr.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet

Item number 10

Page 1

The Starr and Blakely Drug Store is located in Sec. 4, T. 13S., R. 2W., W. M. It occupies the easternmost extension of Tax Lot 2600 in the plat of North Brownsville, Linn County, Oregon. The nominated area, measuring approximately 20 x 50 feet, is more particularly described as follows. Beginning on the East boundary of Block 5, of the Town of North Brownsville, in Linn County, Oregon, as the same appears on the recorded plat thereof, at a point 25 feet South of the Northeast corner of said Block, and running thence West parallel with the North line of said Block c. 50 feet; thence South 20 feet 7"; thence East parallel with the North boundary of said Block c. 50 feet to the East line of said Block; thence North 20 feet 7" to the point of beginning, containing in all 1,000 square feet, more or less. Thus excluded from the nominated area are portions of Tax Lot 2600 to the west and northwest of the Starr and Blakely Drug Store occupied by separate non-historic structures: a two-story storage building of 1981 and a single-story, shingle-clad, gable-roofed building with false front dating from c. 1945, respectively.