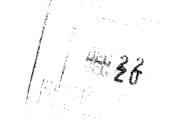
OMB No. 1024-0018

Form 10-900 (Rev. 10-90)

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

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 any 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		
nistoric name Brown, Stephen William, Stone House other names/site number		
other names/site number		
2. Location		
street & number 4829 75 R Ave SE	N/A	not for publication
city or town Montpelier		Vicinity
state North Dakota code ND county Stutsman	code 093	zip code 58472
		1
3. State/Federal Agency Certification		
As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I	hereby certify that t	his 🛮 nomination 🗆 request
for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in t		
the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the pro-	operty 🛭 meets 🗆	does not meet the National
Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant \square nationally \square states	wide ⊠locally. (□	See continuation sheet for
additional comments.)		
La Company Day Color	/ 2 .	16 63
Signature of certifying official/Title Merlan E. Paaverud, Jr.	_ 1 2 -	-19-03
State Historic Preservation Officer (North Dakota)		Date
State or Federal agency and bureau		
		
In my opinion, the property □ meets □ does not meet the National Register criteria. (□ See continuation she	et for additional comm	nents.)
Signature of commenting or other official Date		
State or Federal agency and bureau		
/		
4. National Park Service Certification	2) -	
	///	. /
I, hereby certify that this property is: Signature of the Keeper	Date of Action	- lulau
☐ See continuation sheet.	LOT /X	<u> </u>
determined eligible for the		· · /
National Register ☐ See continuation sheet.		ng garantilan dipensi pa
□ determined not eligible for the		
National Register ☐ removed from the National Register		
□ other (explain):		

Brown Stone House			Stutsman County, ND	
Name of Property			County and State	
5. Classification				
Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply) X private public-local public-State public-Federal	Category of Property (Check only one box) X building(s) district site structure object	Number of Resources within P (Do not include previously listed resour Contributing Noncontributing 1 0 0 0 0 1 0 1 1 1	ces in the count)	
Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)		Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register		
N/A		0		
6. Function or Use				
Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)		Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)		
DOMESTIC: single dwell	ling	VACANT/NOT IN USE WORK IN PROGRESS		
7. Description				
Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions) OTHER		Materials (Enter categories from instructions) foundation stone, concrete walls stone, concrete		
		roof <u>asphalt</u>		

Narrative Description

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

See continuation sheet

8. State	ment of Significance		
Applica (Mark "x	ble National Register Criteria " in one or more boxes for the criteria g the property for National Register listing)		Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)
⊠ _A	Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.		ARCHITECTURE AGRICULTURE SETTLEMENT
□в	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.		Period of Significance 1889-1932 Significant Dates 1889
Пρ	Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.	n	
	Considerations " in all the boxes that apply.)		Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above) N/A
	owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes. removed from its original location.		Cultural Affiliation N/A
□С	a birthplace or a grave.		Architect/Builder Brown, Stephen William
	a cemetery		Jackson, George; Porter, George
\Box E	a reconstructed building, object or structure.		
\Box F	a commemorative property.		
\Box G	less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.		
Narrati (Explain	ve Statement of Significance the significance of the property on one or more conti	inuation sheets.)	
9. Majo	r Bibliographical References		
	phy sooks, articles, and other sources used in preparing this for documentation on file (NPS):	Primary location	ontinuation sheets.) of additional data:
□ prev □ prev □ desi □ reco	iminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested. viously listed in the National Register viously determined eligible by the National Register ignated a National Historic Landmark orded by Historic American Buildings Survey # # # # # # # # # # # # # # # # # #		State Historic Preservation Office Other State agency Federal agency Local government University Other repository: ion of Floyd A. and Jean Brown

Name	of P	roperty						County	y and State	
10. Ge	eogr	aphical D	ata							
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		e rences onal UTM re	eferences on a continu	uation sheet)						
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2					4					
Zo	ne	Easting	Northing			Zone	Easting	Northing		
							See continuati	on sheet.		
			Description of the property on a	continuation sheet.)						
				,						
		Justificat the bounda		a continuation sheet.)						
				<u> </u>						
11. Fo	rm]	Prepared	By							
name/	title	Flovd A	. and Jean Brow	n, with assistance f	rom Marv Ka	te Rvan.	architectura	l historian		
	-	•			•	•			July 2003	
				telephone						
city or	tow	n <u>Montp</u>	elier			state	ND	zip code	58472	
Addit	iona	l Docume	ntation							
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Conti	nuat	ion Sheet	s							
Maps										
	USG	S map (7.	5 or 15 minute se	eries) indicating the	e property's lo	cation.				
A S	Skete	ch map fo	r historic district	s and properties har	ving large acr	eage or n	numerous res	sources.		
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		l items	or FPO for any ad	ditional items)						
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street	& nı	ımber <u>78</u>	880 52 R St SE				teleph	one <u>701-489-3</u>	3473	
city o	r tow	n <u>Mon</u>	tpelier			state	ND	zip code	58472	

Stutsman County, ND

Brown Stone House

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 listings. 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 the 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 Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Brown, Stephen William, Brown Stutsman County, ND

Description

The Stephen W. Brown Stone House is located on a hilltop near Buffalo Creek, on Section 4, Township 137, Range 65, in Sharlow Township, Stutsman County, North Dakota. Originally, it was the center of a 160-acre homestead, working ranch, and the nucleus of a growing farming community.

The house was built in two parts. The original, 1889 two-story house is twenty-four feet by thirty-four feet, with a hipped roof and topped with a cupola. In the 1890s, an additional two-story structure was attached to the north, matching the original in size and construction methods, but offset to the west by approximately 6 feet. A fieldstone foundation supports 18"-thick, cut and faced fieldstone walls, which helped keep the house warm in the winter and cool in the summer. The original roof was likely wood shingles, but is now asphalt shingles. The wood-framed, double-hung windows are mostly 1:1, and are 32" by 41" on the upper story, and 32" by 62" on the ground floor, with a non-original picture windows added on the south side of the house. Flat stone relieving arches can be seen over many of the lower story windows. A shallow, one-story entry addition was constructed of wood frame, with wood siding, in the 1980s.

The 1889 block is surmounted by a square cupola, wood-framed with wood horizontal siding. Its hipped roof is covered with asphalt shingles, but likely was also originally wood. Originally, each of the four sides had a 1:1, double-hung wood sash window affording views out over the plains. The south window was replaced with a door, now boarded over, in the 1980s.

The east side of the 1889 block faces the road that leads to the house and was the original entry to the house. It has four windows – two upper and two lower, with a door centered on the ground floor. Over the door is a date stone inscribed "1889," the construction date of the building. The 1890s block lies to the north, set six feet further west than the first block, creating an offset gap. There are three windows, two on the upper story, and one to the north on the ground floor. South of the center is a door. Originally, a hipped-roof, spindle-work porch filled the L-shaped corner between the blocks, but it was removed some time after the 1930s. Restoration plans include a reconstruction of the porch based on historic photos.

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Brown, Stephen William, Brown Stutsman County, ND

Description (continued)

The south side of the 1889 block has two windows placed symmetrically on the top floor. Underneath the west window is a typical ground floor window, but under the east window is a 59" by 78" picture window, which replaced an original bay window sometime in the 1980s. Restoration plans include a reconstruction of the bay window from historic photos. Currently, the door to the entry way addition stands to the west of the 1889 block of the house, the door opening south. Originally, a half-glazed panel door led into the 1890s block, the door opening south. The glazing consisted of a large, clear, center pane, surrounded by squares of colored glass. The door still exists inside the addition, but has a hole from a dryer vent cut through it.

The west side of the 1890s block has two widely-spaced windows on top, with windows on the ground floor beneath each. In the middle of this wall is a door. The west side of the 1889 block has two windows on the top floor, one off-center to the south, and the other to the far north. The ground floor projects forward to meet the 1890s block with the shed-roofed entry way addition, a wood-framed, wood-sided, shed-roofed structure. A standard 1:1 double-hung wood window sash is placed under the north upper story window. Beneath the south window is a 49" by 62" picture window. Between these is a door, now boarded up, and to the south is a horizontal sliding window. The original stone wall is set approximately 6 feet east of the 1890s block, with, from the south, a typical window, two side-by-side sash of the same configuration, and a door, all still extant inside the entryway addition. A porch stretched across each block, with the same spindle-work detailing as the east porch. A small pediment capped the porch on each block to mark the entryways to the houses. Restoration plans include removal of the 1980s addition and reconstruction of these porches from historic photographs.

The north side of the 1890s block has four 32" by 41" windows, two upstairs, and two down, symmetrically placed. The stone relieving arches are clearly evident over the two lower story windows. The north side of the first block has one typical upper story window, and one typical lower story window.

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Brown, Stephen William, Brown Stutsman County, ND

Description (continued)

Inside the house, the first block was built and used to house the Stephen W. Brown family, and later, the family of his son Edward. From the "main" entrance on the east side, one enters the living room, which spreads out to the south, with a bedroom to the north, built for Stephen's wife Ann. The rear of the block contains the old kitchen to the south, and the winter dining room/summer living room to the north. From the latter room, there is a pass-through to the dining room of the 1890s block.

The 1890s block was used to house guests and ranch hands, as well as having a large kitchen to feed the farm workers their meals. According to the family, at noontime, the workers would enter the 1890s block from the east, through a utility room located between the pantry and the stairs. After washing up, they could proceed through the large summer kitchen and into the dining room. The dining room was furnished only with a large, long table, and sideboards for serving the food.

Upstairs, the 1889 block has three bedrooms, two large closets, and a bathroom arranged around a central hallway that also contains steep, narrow stairs to the cupola. The 1890s block has a bedroom, bath, open area, and two closets in the north half. The south half of the block was a large open room used as a bunkhouse for the year-round ranch hands, and later for a game or play room.

The interior of the 1889 block was altered in the 1980s. Many of the interior finishes were stripped, including wainscoting, and paneling was used to cover the walls. One set of pocket doors was paneled over, but is believed to be intact behind the paneling. The interior moldings that surrounded all of the openings are intact. The layout of the house was not altered.

Integrity

Although the Brown Stone house has suffered from deferred maintenance, it has undergone few changes in the 114 years since its construction. The porches on the east and west sides of the house were removed at an unknown date. In the 1980s, to make the buildings more inhabitable, new interior finishes were added to the 1889 block. The bay window, on the south side was changed into a picture window. Also in the 1980, an entry addition filled the offset gap between

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Brown, Stephen William, Brown Stutsman County, ND

Description (continued)

the blocks on the west side. Besides the dryer vent cut in the original door, the addition did not damage the historic material. In 2002 and 2003, the foundation suffered some damage, most noticeably on the west side of the 1890s block. In spring of 2003, water damage cause the center of the west wall of the 1890s block to collapse, leading to the collapse of some portion of the wall above. All of the original stone has been salvaged and will be restored. The foundation on the west side is currently being rebuilt with a concrete foundation on concrete footings. The original stone will be restored on the outside. As the foundation overall has showed some signs of weakness, a new concrete retaining wall on concrete footings is being built inside the existing, original foundation. The space between old and new will be filled with concrete to buttress the original foundation and prevent further damage. The land around the house is being regraded for proper drainage. All of the stone and the majority of the windows are original. None of the changes are irreversible, and none damaged the stone itself. The Brown family still owns the property, and the area surrounding the house is a working ranch belonging to Darrel Brown.

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Brown, Stephen William, Stone House Stutsman County, ND

Statement of Significance

The Stephen W. Brown Stone House is significant under criterion A for its physical representation of the pioneering spirit that guided an east coast family to the plains of North Dakota. Their journey was probably typical of many family journeys, but it demonstrates the influence of the Homestead Act of 1862 and the railroad on settlers heading west. The Brown family came to North Dakota at the end of the first population boom, 1878 to approximately 1883. As a structure designed by and for the patriarch of a large family that settled significant portions of Sharlow Township, the stone house was the hearth of a pioneer family. Built of stone, a native and permanent material, the house was continuously inhabited by Brown and his descendants until the late 1980s.

The house itself is significant under criterion C for its simple, practical, vernacular style, which is dictated by its materials, with a plan clearly defined by the needs of a late nineteenth-century agricultural and ranching family. The permanence of stone reflects a commitment to living on the prairie, and utilizes the passive heating and cooling properties of stone to address North Dakota's extreme climate.

HISTORY

The Browns came to the United States from England in 1636. After the family had lived six generations in New York, Stephen William Brown was born in 1832 to Marlin Brown and Marie Van Tassell Brown. Stephen grew up in a farming area near the small town of Coughdeney, near Syracuse. He married Ann E. Snell in 1857, and they had four sons and two daughters. One of the daughters died at age 3, when she fell into a hog scalding kettle. In New York, Stephen ran profitable businesses, and he was well-to-do, which allowed him to finance the trips to Dakota Territory and purchase livestock and machinery.

Stephen was a trader. In New York, he peddled timber and canal boats, which he built from timber. He also sold very fine cheese, which he and his wife Ann made from her family recipe. He traded for cattle and smoked bison. He traded in New York, Ohio, Michigan, Wisconsin, and into the Red River Valley, occasionally making trips into the West.

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Brown, Stephen William, Stone House Stutsman County, ND

Statement of Significance (continued)

In 1884, a Mr. George Cooke returned to NY from a trip to the Dakota Territory. Cooke was a friend of the Brown family. His stories inspired the Brown boys to think about travel to the Dakota Territory, and he put them in touch with James Sharlow, a settler in the Dakota Territory who was from Iowa. Frank and Newton Brown corresponded with Sharlow, and then traveled out to the territory with a load of horses. They farmed, through the summer of 1884, 400 acres rented through James Sharlow, using, among other equipment, a horse-powered threshing machine. They returned to New York in December of 1884.

The brothers returned in March 1885 with brother Fred and more machinery. While they farmed that summer, their father, Stephen W. Brown, visited them for a month. He laid claim to a parcel of land that summer, and returned in March 1886 with Frank, who had wintered in New York. They brought a load of cattle and hogs. That summer they used a tread mill with which to power their threshing machine to thresh their grain. The tread mill was powered by 3-5 horses.

Stephen came to prove up on his preemption claim from the previous summer. In June of 1886, Ann Snell Brown, Edward, the youngest son, and daughter Ella, as well as two grandchildren, joined Stephen in the Dakota territory. Stephen had constructed a common granary building of wood, with a kitchen, living room, and sleeping attic, which they lived in for 2 years. In 1887, he took up the homestead on the same section, and also purchased the next 80 rods wide and a mile long.

The Browns raised wheat and oats, but later added corn, flax, and barley. Stephen shipped in horses, cattle, hogs, and sheep from the east, sometimes entire train loads, as well as farming machinery and lumber used for the various outbuildings. There was an abundance of game, including, swans, ducks, geese, prairie chickens, and grouse, with which to supplement the heavier, ranch-grown meats. Flax was hauled to St. George (now Edgeley) to be sold, and wheat reserved for the family was ground at the mill in Jamestown.

¹This and subsequent information taken from the Works Progress Administration Historical Data Project interview by Cecil Baker of Florence Hart Brown, daughter-in-law of Stephen W. Brown, wife to Frank Brown. Biographies Tapes, series 30529, Roll 26.

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Brown, Stephen William, Stone House Stutsman County, ND

Statement of Significance (continued)

The stone house was constructed of stones Stephen brought in from the fields each day as he farmed. He used a big stone boat, pulled by two teams of horses, to haul the stones he found in the creek bed and fields. Many stones had to be reduced in size by blowing them apart, which took a lot of powder, before they could be moved. A few of these rock segments are still on the ranch.

Eventually, in 1888, Stephen hired George Jackson, a mason, to shape the stones for the walls of the house. Jackson used no machines, but did all the cutting and facing by hand, without electricity. It is assumed by the family that Stephen designed the building. Stephen's finances were such that he could afford this labor-intensive construction, giving physical form to his investment in prairie life.

The following year, Stephen hired carpenter George Porter for \$350 to roof the building. Porter also constructed the cupola on top of the building. The cupola is said to have served as a beacon. The family placed a lantern in it at night to guide any traveler needing directions. One story recounts a family heading into a blizzard. They were able to make it to the safety of the stone house, where they remained until the blizzard was over and they could safely continue to their destination. Travelers trapped by the rising waters of Buffalo Creek also stayed at the stone house. The stone house was a haven during summer and winter for folks traveling along the prairie road.

The house was finished in 1889, and the Browns occupied the building for only a few months before Stephen's wife Ann passed away. She was buried in her native New York, but a year or so later, Stephen donated a portion of land south of the ranch house for a school and cemetery.

Ann Snell Brown's body was brought back to Dakota Territory from New York, and she became the first person buried in the cemetery, which is still today the Brown family cemetery. Stephen W. is buried there. Two of their sons, Newton and Edward, as well as their wives, are also buried there. Four generations of Browns have found their eternal rest here, and it is a place of memory for the family.

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Brown, Stephen William, Stone House Stutsman County, ND

Statement of Significance (continued)

Stephen was very enterprising and soon became a respected trader, farmer, and rancher in North Dakota. He helped to establish two of his sons in the threshing business, and a grandson and granddaughter in farming. He and his sons were the first farmers in the area to have a threshing machine, and they harvested crops for most of the community. They also helped other farmers whenever possible, loaning labor and machinery.

This source of machinery helped new farmers and homesteaders to become established. Besides farming, the Browns were influential in civic and social ways. One son, Newton, was postmaster of the Sharlow post office, which was his house, from 1889-1897. Two of his daughters-in-law taught school.

As there was no church or school in the area at the time, church services were held in members homes. As the Brown house was large and accommodating, services were held there frequently. School also took place in the house prior to the building of the school house. Jack Sinclair of Cleveland built the new school house. Leta Richardson was the first teacher in it. Even after the school house was built, teachers still roomed at the stone house.

In the 1890s, the north addition was built because Stephen's son Edward and his wife Mattie had moved in to help manage the ranch. They moved into the first block, the family house, but the second block added space to house the year-round ranch hands, feed all the farm workers, and allow for more kitchen space. It was expected that, with Edward's help, the ranch would expand. At the time of the new construction, the entire house was "modernized" with central heating and running water, as well as a bath. The water was pumped from a spring about eighty rods from the house by a "ram." H.P. Taylor was the master plumber and steam fitter.

The plan allows for and reflects a separation of the family space and semi-public space. With two blocks, the distinction between these spaces is visually evident on the exterior, as well as the interior. Since the stone house was a gathering place, not just for the family, but for their workers, friends, visitors, and the community, a clear delineation of family and public spaces was necessary. The second block plan reflects the spaces needed for a ranch of this size: an upper story bunk room for ranch hands to live in, a large communal dining area attached to a large

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Brown, Stephen William, Stone House Stutsman County, ND

Statement of Significance (continued)

kitchen for feeding everyone, and a space to wash up on the way in. The first block is more typical of what one would expect for a single-family home: three bedrooms and a bath upstairs with ample closet space, and living/parlor, dining, and kitchen spaces, as well as another bedroom, on the ground floor. As mentioned above, the cupola also serves a functional purpose as a lookout.

Stephen W. Brown's stone house was a hearth for the entire extended Brown family. All the land owned was managed somewhat collectively, and the large dining room was used to feed all the workers farming the 5 ranches – Stephen's, those of his two sons, grandson, and granddaughter. In total, they were farming approximately 10,000 acres. Besides being the nucleus for the family, it was also a community gathering place, being used as church, school, emergency rooming house, machinery rental shop, and other purposes, as needed. This demonstrates the versatility of the buildings, as well as the common sense planning. It also demonstrates the openness of the Browns, and how they became an important family in the community.

Stephen's son Ed learned to call for square dances, which were held in the house until the barn was built. A 1922 letter from grandson Stephen to his future wife mentions going to a dance at the stone house. Stephen's son Frank was nominated and elected on the IVA ticket, to serve in the House of Representatives for the 1927-1928 sessions. He served with Art Rulon and Fred Kneeland of Jamestown. Stephen's great-grandson, Floyd, ran unsuccessfully for the Senate in 1968.

Many third, fourth, and fifth generation members of the Brown family still reside in Sharlow Township, and the original homestead claim of Stephen W. Brown remains in the family. Stephen's grandson Darrel and his wife Nadine, along with their son Matthew, his wife Pam, and their daughter Jamie, farm 15-20 quarters in Sharlow township. Stephen's grandson Richard, his wife Beatrice, their sons Lon Dean and Curtis, with Curtis' wife Laurie and their children, Troy and Heather, also farm in Sharlow township today. Other family members live nearby in Jamestown and Montpelier. Floyd and Jean Brown, residents of Montpelier, North Dakota, have used the genealogy of the family to track down descendants of Stephen W. Brown across the

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Brown, Stephen William, Stone House Stutsman County, ND

Statement of Significance (continued)

United States, soliciting their support to restore the family home. They have received many positive responses, and began their first restoration project, the foundation rebuilding, in summer 2003.

Bibliography

- Brown, Florence Hart. Interview by Cecil Baker, undated. Works Progress Administration Historical Data Project, Biographies Tapes, series 30529, Roll 26.
- Brown, Frank N. M. "Writings." Memoirs, undated. Personal collection of Floyd A. and Jean Brown, Montpelier, ND.
- Brown, Stephen William, Jr. "The Brown Family, Volumes I and II." Family memoirs, undated. Personal collection of Floyd A. and Jean Brown, Montpelier, ND.
- Marker, Geraldine Brown. "First 100 Years, Montpelier History 1886-1986." [N.p., n.d.] Personal collection of Floyd A. and Jean Brown, Montpelier, ND.
- Still, Ella Mae Brown. "Writings." Memoirs, undated. Personal collection of Floyd A. and Jean Brown, Montpelier, ND.

Verbal boundary description

At present, the stone house stands on about one acre of land, surrounded by a gravel driveway on three sides and the road on the east side. Originally, a picket fence surrounded the nominated site, falling to the inside of the existing driveway. The nominated parcel is a rounded rectangular shape.

Verbal boundary justification

The site chosen for nomination includes only the ranch house. The rest of the homestead claim was either donated to local groups (the school and the cemetery), or is currently being used for a working ranch. The nominated site retains its historic integrity.

