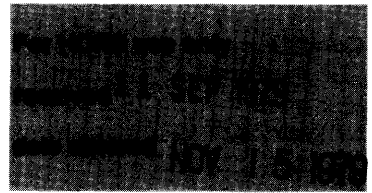


**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**



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

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic BROWN, HUGH LEOPER, BARN

and/or common

2. Location

street & number SE of Brownsville on OR 228 not for publication

city, town Brownsville vicinity of congressional district 4th

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> museum |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private | <input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied | <input type="checkbox"/> commercial | <input type="checkbox"/> park |
| <input type="checkbox"/> structure | <input type="checkbox"/> both | <input type="checkbox"/> work in progress | <input type="checkbox"/> educational | <input type="checkbox"/> private residence |
| <input type="checkbox"/> site | Public Acquisition | Accessible | <input type="checkbox"/> entertainment | <input type="checkbox"/> religious |
| <input type="checkbox"/> object | <input type="checkbox"/> in process | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted | <input type="checkbox"/> government | <input type="checkbox"/> scientific |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> being considered | <input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted | <input type="checkbox"/> industrial | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> no | <input type="checkbox"/> military | <input type="checkbox"/> other: |

4. Owner of Property

name Don Bowers

street & number 22009 Coburg Road

city, town Harrisburg vicinity of state Oregon 97446

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Linn County Courthouse

street & number

city, town Albany state Oregon 97321

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

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 type="checkbox"/> good | <input type="checkbox"/> ruins | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered | <input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair | <input type="checkbox"/> unexposed | | |

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Hugh Brown Barn was built approximately 130 years ago (ca. 1849) to serve as the principal agricultural building on the Donation Land Claim farm of Hugh Leeper Brown, and it remains in limited use today. Although the designer of the barn is not known, it is possible that help in the execution was contributed by neighbors of the district. The structure was assembled entirely from local materials.

The site of the barn is in Sec. 5, T.14S., R.2W. of the Willamette Meridian in Linn County, Oregon. The barn stands less than one half mile south of the Calapooya River and about one mile east of Brownsville. On its site the barn is oriented with the long sides north and south and ends facing east and west. The ridge line is approximately twenty-six feet above grade. Directly to the north of the barn, at a distance of two hundred feet is Highway 228 running east to west. Within 200' of the barn's east end is a farm house and antique store. Fifty feet to the south of the barn is a large old oak tree. Surrounding the barn to the north, south, and east are flat open prairies cultivated annually in wheat and grass. These prairies of the Willamette Valley are what attracted the earliest settlers to this part of Oregon.

In plan, the barn is a simple rectangle, seventy six feet long by fifty four feet wide. The ground level originally consisted of a central space with a raised wooden floor, surrounded by spaces used as stalls for livestock and grain and implement storage. The large open central space with raised floor provided a year-round dry work area for threshing grain. Wagons loaded with hay or grain to be threshed entered the barn through the large doors in one long side of the open space, unloaded, and exited through doors on the opposite side of the barn. Along the full width of the east end of the barn at ground level is a space that is separated from the main central space by feed troughs, and from the side stalls by doors and walls. This end space is open to the east, and at one time it was fenced in at the eastern edge. Above this eastern space, above the stall spaces at both sides of the main space, and above the grain storage bins at the west end of the main central space, are lofts that served as hay or grain mows. No lofts occurred over the main central space or over the alley that led to the main doors on either side of the barn.

The barn structure consists of seven bents of mortised and tenoned construction. Basically, these bents are of post and beam design, forming braced queen post trusses to support the roof rafters. Typical bents have five posts reaching the ground, resting on large foundation stones. The two bents parallel and adjacent to either side of the main doors feature beams twenty inches deep that span twenty eight feet across the central space.

The roof was originally covered with hand split shakes that vary from six to eight inches in width. Sheathing of exterior walls is of the same thickness. Much of the original metal hardware (hinges, handles, nails, latches) was of hand-wrought iron. Most of the elements are still in place.

Between 1911 and 1936 a shed was added to the west end of the barn. This shed was built, at least in part, from lumber taken from other parts of the original barn. In the late 1950's Mr. Rupert Leonard made repairs to the barn, which included the removal of rotted flooring, replacement of the footings and bottom portions of many failing posts, as well as the replacement of the original shake roof with one made of sheet metal. These alterations have prolonged the barn's useful life by protecting the aged wooden members from the rainy winter climate.

8. Significance

| Period | Areas of Significance—Check and justify below | | | |
|---|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> community planning | <input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> religion |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499 | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic | <input type="checkbox"/> conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> law | <input type="checkbox"/> science |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> economics | <input type="checkbox"/> literature | <input type="checkbox"/> sculpture |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> education | <input type="checkbox"/> military | <input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799 | <input type="checkbox"/> art | <input type="checkbox"/> engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> music | <input type="checkbox"/> theater |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement | <input type="checkbox"/> philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1900- | <input type="checkbox"/> communications | <input type="checkbox"/> industry | <input type="checkbox"/> politics/government | <input type="checkbox"/> other (specify) |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> invention | | |

Specific dates ca. 1848-1850

Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Hugh Leeper Brown Barn is significant to Oregon as one of the oldest standing rural structures in the Willamette Valley. Only two other barns are known to be as old. It is representative of a barn built for general farming purposes in the first decade of pioneer settlement following opening of the Oregon Trail. While standard in concept, barns of this type are highly individual in construction detail.

The barn was built by or for its original owner, Hugh Leeper Brown, a pioneer settler of the Calapooya River Valley. A principal founder and the namesake of nearby Brownsville, Hugh Brown was an important figure in local as well as state history. Brown and his nephew, Capt. James Blakely, started one of the earliest stores established in the Upper Willamette Valley. He was also a partner in the first attempt to start a woolen mill in Brownsville. Although the original efforts failed, eventually the town became one of the centers for wool manufacturing in the state. Hugh Brown's public life included a term as representative to the state Constitutional Congress in 1856, and a subsequent term as a state senator in 1860.

According to Mrs. Rupert (Bessie) Leonard, great-granddaughter of Hugh Brown, the barn was erected in 1848-1849, after Brown had built his log cabin. It has been in continual agricultural use for one hundred thirty years. Originally, the barn housed livestock and stored the harvested grain and hay. The large raised central floor provided a dry working surface for threshing grain. During one ownership, the barn was used to house sheep. The moisture and acidity of sheep urine caused the deterioration of the central floor and the bottoms of many posts supporting the structure.

Uses of the barn have always reflected changes in local and regional agricultural economy, from pioneer subsistence, to sheep ranching, to the large grass seed and wheat farms of today. Currently the barn is used to store bales of hay.

The Brown Barn provides an excellent example of the earliest vernacular building of the region. Besides being one of the oldest standing buildings in the vicinity, it is a fine example of the building technology and design capabilities of the pioneer settlers of the Willamette and Calapooya Valleys. The barn has served its utilitarian purposes in a straight forward manner ever since construction.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Personal interviews: Mr & Mrs Rupert Leonard, September 27, 1977; Mrs Rupert Leonard (Bessie), April 20, 1978. Mrs. Leonard is the great-granddaughter of Hugh Leeper Brown. Leonard, Bessie E., "Great Grandpappy's Barn Still Stands...Withstood storm in '62" The Times, Brownsville, Oregon, vol. 86 #1, (June 14, 1973).

Cont.

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property ca. 1/2 acre **UTM NOT VERIFIED** Quadrange name _____ Quadrange scale 1:62500

UMT References Brownsville, Oregon

| | | | | | | | |
|---|------------|------------------|--------------------|---|------|---------|----------|
| A | <u>110</u> | <u>501331610</u> | <u>41911301715</u> | B | | | |
| | Zone | Easting | Northing | | Zone | Easting | Northing |
| C | | | | D | | | |
| E | | | | F | | | |
| G | | | | H | | | |

Verbal boundary description and justification

The north, east and west boundaries of the nominated property are all parallel to the respective sides of the barn structure and lie at a distance of twenty feet from the barn. The south boundary is at a distance of one hundred feet from the barn's south cont.

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

| state | code | county | code |
|-------|------|--------|------|
| state | code | county | code |

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Paul Derrall Klein-- Architecture Student--University of Oregon
 organization School of Architecture and Allied Arts date June 12, 1978
 street & number _____ telephone 503/687-9524
 city or town Eugene state Oregon, 97403

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

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

State Historic Preservation Officer signature David Stollat

title State Historic Preservation Officer date August 27, 1979

| | |
|--|----------------------|
| For HCRS use only | |
| I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register | |
| <u>Carol Skel</u> | date <u>11-15-79</u> |
| Keeper of the National Register | 10/30/79 |
| Attest: <u>Kristin O'Connell</u> | date <u>10/30/79</u> |
| Chief of Registration | |

FHR-8-300A
(11/78)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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

| | |
|-------------------|-------------|
| FOR HCRS USE ONLY | |
| RECEIVED | 11 SEP 1979 |
| DATE ENTERED | NOV 15 1979 |

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9

PAGE 4

Historical Atlas of Marion and Linn Counties, Oregon, Edgar Williams & Co.
Portland, Ore., 1878.

History of Linn County, Oregon Writers Program, 1941.

FHR-8-300A
(11/78)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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RECEIVED **11** SEP 1979

DATE ENTERED

NOV 15 1979

CONTINUATION SHEET

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side and runs in an east-west direction, parallel to the long axis of the barn. (This southerly extension of the boundaries allows the inclusion of a large oak tree on the nominated property). Total land area included is approximately 125' N-S by 175' E-W, or about 1/2 acre.

HUGH BROWN BARN
BROWNSVILLE, OREGON
PHOTOGRAPHER UNKNOWN
(COPY OF ORIGINAL)
PHOTO DATED 1911

CAMERA LOOKING
WEST

NO 3

