

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property

historic name: BROWN, DR. FLAVIUS, HOUSE
other name/site number:

2. Location

street & number: Old Wilderness Road not for publication: N/A
city/town: Summersville vicinity: N/A
state: WV county: Nicholas code: 067 zip code: 26651

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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 forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide X locally. (See continuation sheet.)

Susan M. Perce 7/2/02
Signature of Certifying Official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau Date

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 Date

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:	Signature of Keeper	Date of Action
<input type="checkbox"/> entered in the National Register <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined eligible for the National Register <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined not eligible for the National Register	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> removed from the National Register	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> other (explain): _____ _____ _____	_____	_____

5. Classification

Ownership of Property:
(Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- private
 public-local
 public-State
 public-Federal

- building(s)
 district
 site
 structure
 object

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	TOTAL

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

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6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

Current Functions

Domestic – Single Dwelling

Social – Community Center

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

Materials

Late 19th and 20th Century Revivals -
Neoclassical

Foundation Stone
Walls Wood
Roof Asphalt Shingles
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.

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Criteria Considerations

(Mark "X" in all the 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 within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

Health/Medicine

Architecture

Period of Significance

1925-1945

Significant Dates

1925

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Brown, Dr. Flavius Hugh

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

(See continuation sheets.)

Brown, Dr. Flavius, House
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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):

- 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: City of Summersville

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: 5.88 acres

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

17 513112 4236357
Zone Easting Northing

Summersville Quad Map

Verbal Boundary Description

(See continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(See continuation sheet.)

Name of Property

County and State

11. Form Prepared By

Name/Title: Kristen Peck Eakle

Organization: City of Summersville Date: January 31, 2002

Street & Number: 400 North Broad Street Telephone: (304) 872-1211

City or Town: Summersville State: WV ZIP: 26651

Property Owner

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

Name: City of Summersville

Street & Number: 400 North Broad Street Telephone: (304) 872-1211

City or Town: Summersville State: WV Zip: 26651

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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Architectural Description:

The Brown House is a two-story, approximately 2400 square foot Neoclassical Revival style home, built around 1925 for Dr. Flavius Brown. Built on what was originally a 25 acre farm, the house now sits on the remaining 5.88 acre site. Mature hardwood trees are evenly spaced across the lot. The property is located on the southeast edge of Summersville's downtown district, where Old Wilderness Road and Arbuckle Road intersect. Also located on the property is a two-story, three bay garage, built about nine years after the house was built, circa 1934.

Dr. Flavius Brown House

ca. 1925

Contributing Building

The Brown house has a hipped roof with asphalt shingles. It has an interior brick chimney, visible on the south slope of the roof, and a corbeled brick exterior chimney visible on the north side elevation. The exterior is sheathed with German siding with corner and frieze boards. On the main façade, which faces west, there are six 6/1 double-hung sash windows on the second floor, and 9/1 double-hung sash windows on the first floor, arranged in two groups of three. The two-story, gabled portico includes slender, two-story Doric columns. These columns replaced the original brick supports, a change made in the 1950's when Flavius Jr. purchased the home from his mother. In addition to changes to the porch, he placed shutters around the windows. The main entrance door has an undivided transom and sidelights. A split-faced, random ashlar sandstone foundation is visible between the lower edge of the siding and the ground. This foundation detail is visible on all elevations.

On the north elevation, there is a one-story, hip roof porch with four square support posts. The porch foundation consists of split-faced, random ashlar sandstone with a stone flight of steps centered on the north side of the porch. Two multi-pane wooden doors open on the porch, divided by the exterior brick chimney. On the second story level of the north elevation, two 6/1 double-hung sash windows are visible to each side of the chimney.

The rear elevation faces east, and is a near copy of the main façade in terms of its window arrangement. The main difference is the one-story, hip roof back porch on the left side of the elevation. The porch has been enclosed since its original construction, and was subsequently damaged by fire. At the present time, a sandstone faced concrete handicap access ramp is being constructed parallel to the back wall of the porch.

The south side elevation reveals the interior brick chimney, visible near the peak of the roof. The second story windows are 6/1 double hung sash, with two individual windows present in the left half of the wall, and a paired set on the right. On the first story, there are two sets of triple double-hung windows, with the left set composed of 9/1 sashes, and the right composed of 6/1 sashes. A basement entry is visible at the foundation level in the lower left corner of the elevation.

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Garage

ca. 1934

Non-contributing Building

The garage was built circa 1934, near the end of the Great Depression, when Dr. Brown's financial situation enabled him to do so. The work was done by Dr. Brown and his sons, except for the brick laying, which was done by Jim Walker of brick manufactured by the Walker family in Summersville. Mr. Walker also laid the brick for the house, and crafted the fish design in the stone found on the side porch. Dr. Brown requested this design to display his Christian faith.

The garage is a hipped roof design with asphalt shingles. The first floor is brick, and the second floor is board and batten siding. The garage has been extended in length since it was originally built, and it is believed that the second floor and garage bay sections are later additions. Because of these modifications, it has been determined that the garage does not contribute to the Brown House's historic integrity, and is therefore considered a non-contributing resource.

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The Brown House, built around 1925, is a significant location in the history of Summersville, West Virginia. The home was built for Dr. Flavius Hugh Brown, one of only two doctors practicing in the area at that time. Dr. Brown lived in the house with his wife, Elizabeth Huff, and their nine children, and remained there until his death in 1945. The property is eligible under Criterion B for Dr. Brown under Health and Medicine and Criterion C for Architecture. The period of significance is 1925-1945 for Dr. Brown's tenure in the residence.

Dr. Brown was born September 18, 1878, in Birch River, West Virginia, the son of James Frame Brown and Sally Scott Brown. His father was a Baptist minister. Flavius began his career as a school teacher in a one-room school in Beaver, West Virginia. After that, he served as a storekeeper and deputy sheriff, before attending the College of Physicians and Surgeons in Baltimore, Maryland from September 1907 to May 1911. He put himself through school with the five hundred dollars he made from the sale of his house in Craigsville, and a loan of fifty dollars from his sister. After graduation, he and his family returned to Craigsville, where he began his first medical practice in the front rooms of their house in the center of town. They moved to Summersville a few years later, where he kept his office on Main Street above Stower's Meat Market.

The Summersville area was steadily growing during this time period (there were approximately 100 residents in 1884; there were 700 residents in 1930). Most residents were farmers, as agriculture was the primary industry in Summersville at that time. As there was only one other doctor in the area at that time, and the closest hospital was in Richwood, Dr. Brown was kept very busy, and served quite a large area.

During the years Dr. Brown practiced medicine in Nicholas County, he often traveled to more remote areas to see patients; areas including Birch River, Dixie and Upper Glade were mentioned in diaries kept by Mrs. Brown. On Sunday afternoons, he made house calls to homebound, chronically ill patients. Often he visited his patients on horseback, and at times he was known to stay overnight when performing deliveries. Later he drove his Chevy to visit patients, many times having to meet a patient's family member on a farm tractor who would take him the rest of the way when the road got too rough for a car.

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Dr. Brown made a practice of giving free physical exams to young men playing high school sports, and treated their subsequent injuries free of charge as well. Since there was no hospital in Summersville at this time, referrals were sent to Richwood or to Charleston. Throughout his practice, he never refused a patient who was unable to pay cash for medical services. He often accepted payment in country eggs, homemade butter and breads, and once even a truckload of coal. This method of payment, while convenient for the patient, led to additional sacrifices to be made by Dr. Brown and his family. During the Great Depression, two of his children had to drop out of college temporarily due to lack of money to pay tuition.

The strong character of Dr. Brown and his family is also evidenced in the fact that all of Dr. Brown's children attended and graduated from West Virginia University—a significant achievement in itself. Even more impressive is the fact that four of these children went on to become doctors, like their father, and three others became dentists. It is not surprising, then, that Mrs. Brown was named "Mother of the Year" for West Virginia in 1949. The accomplishments of this family are evidence of the hard work, qualities and values that the people of this time period possessed.

The architecture of the house itself is significant to the area because it was an unusually high style for a residence of that time period. Summersville's residences were primarily smaller houses, as opposed to the larger Neoclassical Revival house owned by the Browns. It was a residence well-suited for a prominent doctor and his family. According to a study done regarding the condition of the house, it is still in good structural condition for a building of its age. It stands today as a reminder of the class and caliber of the family that it housed.

At the present time, the house is undergoing exterior cosmetic renovations and interior repairs to the areas that were damaged by a fire. It is hoped that, upon completion of these repairs, the home can be used as a community gathering place. Its location, near the heart of town makes the house an excellent candidate for this function.

For Summersville residents, the house represents the values and determination of one of the founding families of our town, and of others from times past, and perhaps inspires us to show that those qualities are not forgotten.

(NPS Form 10-900)

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Bibliography

Juergens, Alice Marie Brown. Letters and notes submitted to City of Summersville, including information obtained from the diaries of Elizabeth Huff Brown.

Lewis, Betty Dotson. Interview with Lieber Cutlip, long-time Summersville resident, regarding historical information. Online. www.appalachianpower.com/Depression. November 18, 2001.

Nicholas County Historical and Genealogical Society, Inc. Nicholas County, West Virginia History, 1985. Walsworth Press, Inc., 1985.

Richardson, Wilma. Interview regarding the Nicholas County area during the time period in which Dr. Brown practiced medicine. January 31, 2002.

ZMM Inc. Evaluation of The Brown Property – One Wilderness Road. August 2000. 222 Lee Street, West, Charleston, West Virginia. Building evaluation and feasibility study for the City of Summersville.

(NPS Form 10-900)

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Verbal Boundary Description

Beginning at a fence post corner to the Gladys Vaught line and in the right of way line of the Old Wilderness Road, and running with the Gladys Vaught line N. 89 degrees 26' E. 511.75 feet to a fence post corner to Gladys Vaught and a tract of land heretofore conveyed by Josephine H. Brown, widow, to the Laird Memorial Foundation, N. 0 degrees 45' W. 236.58 feet to a stone; thence S. 88 degrees 1' W. 41.73 feet to a fence post; thence N. 17 degrees 19' W. 295.88 feet to a fence post corner to Kincaid property; thence running with the Kincaid line S 86 degrees 38' W. 465.41 feet to a fence post in the right of way line of the Old Wilderness Road S. 9 degrees 49' E. 503.11 feet to the place of beginning and containing 5.88 acres, more or less.

Being the same property conveyed to the City of Summersville Building Commission, a public corporation, by deed dated October 21, 1999, from Carl F. Sullivan and Betty Sullivan, his wife, recorded in the office of the Clerk of the County Commission of Nicholas County, West Virginia, in Deed Book 281, Page 246.

Boundary Justification

Description from Deed of Trust, dated 10/22/99.

Nominated property includes the house, garage, and yard historically associated with the Brown Family.

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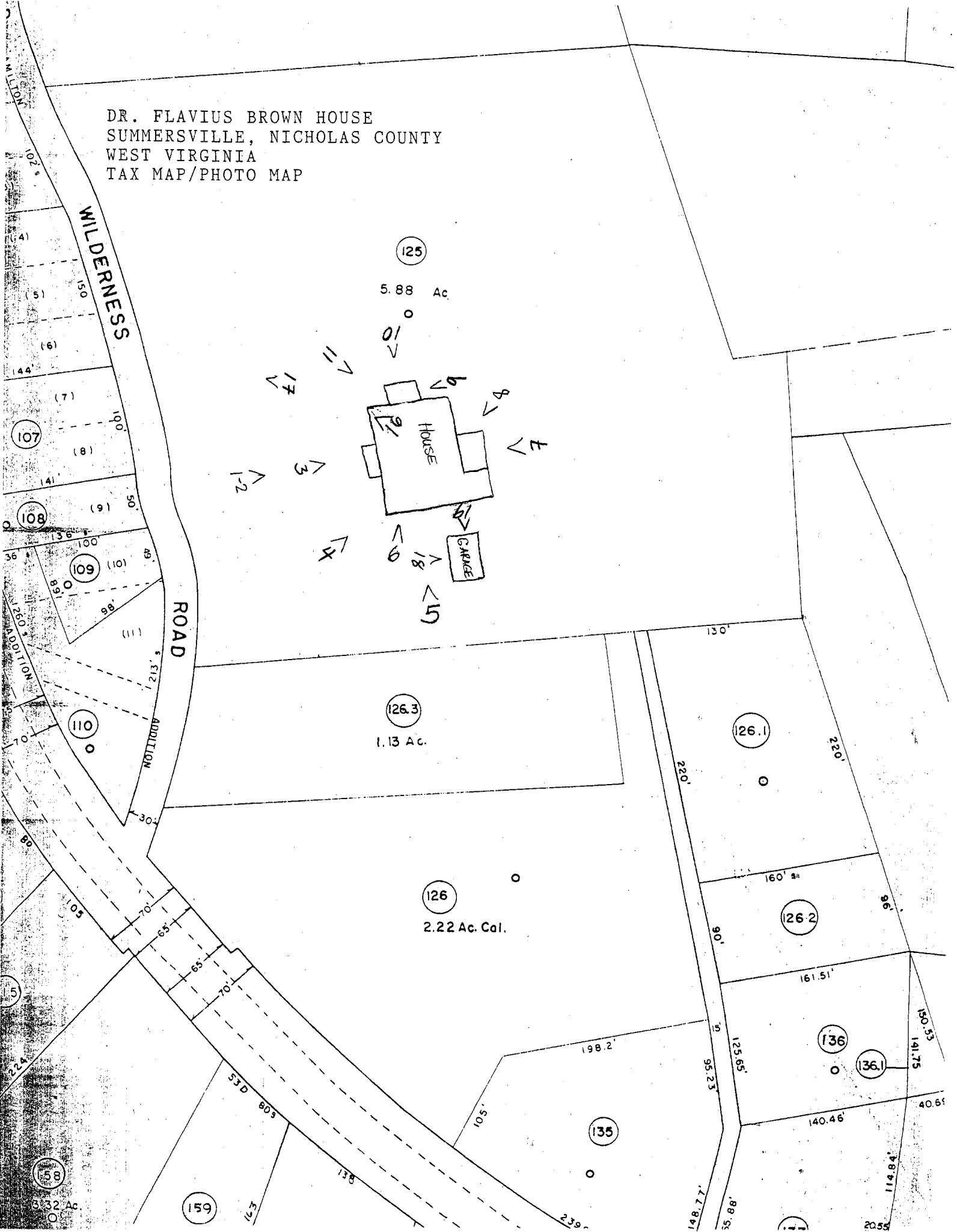
Nicholas County, WV
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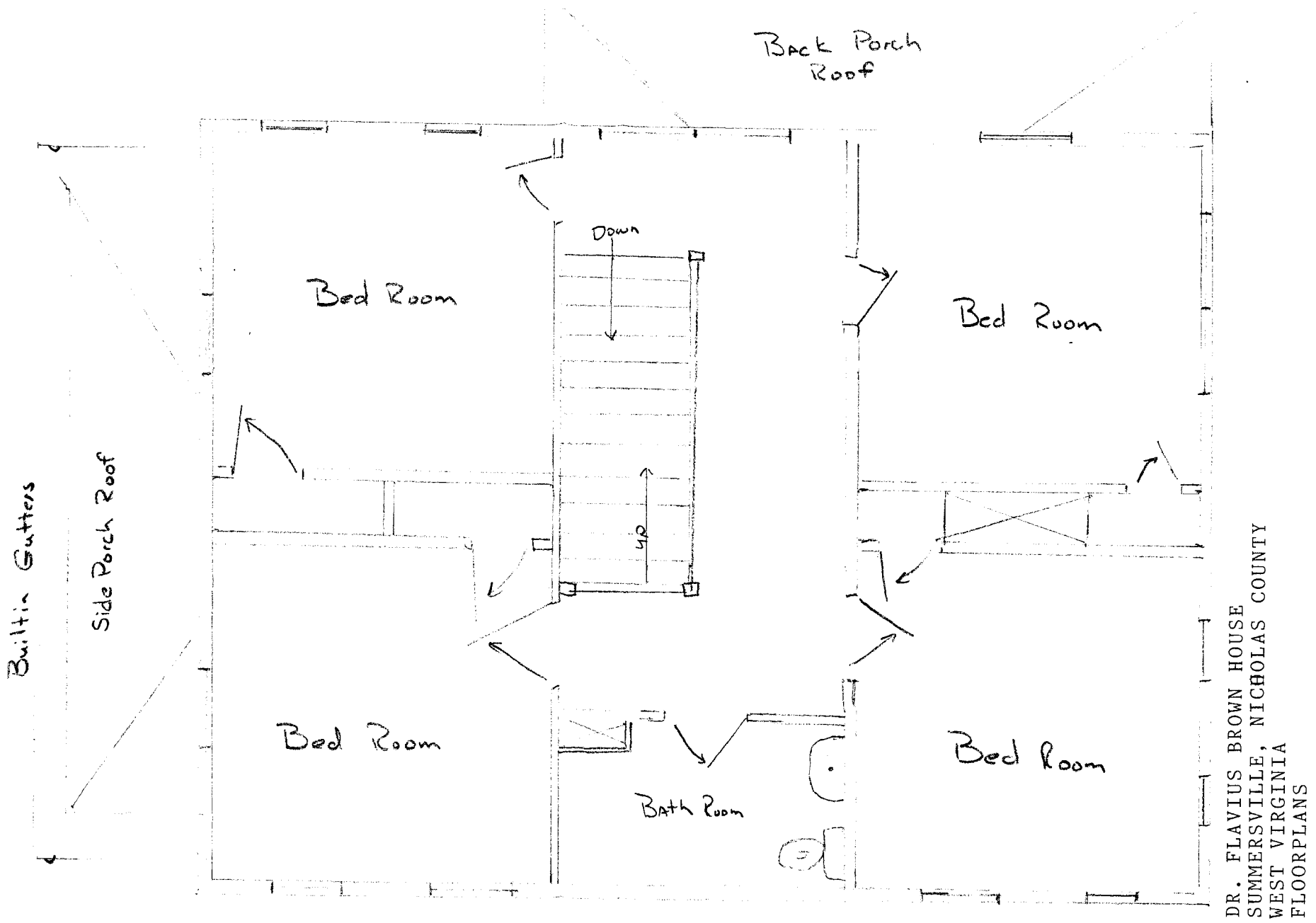
Section Number **Photo** **Page 1**

All photos taken by Kristen Peck Eakle, City of Summersville, January 15, 2002
Original negatives located in the City Municipal Building, 400 North Broad Street, Summersville,
WV

- | | |
|-----------------|---|
| Photo 1 of 19: | Front of house, camera facing east |
| Photo 2 of 19: | Front of house, camera facing east |
| Photo 3 of 19: | Detail: Porch pediment, camera facing east |
| Photo 4 of 19: | Corner of house, camera facing northeast |
| Photo 5 of 19: | Side of house, camera facing north |
| Photo 6 of 19: | Close-up of basement entrance, camera facing north |
| Photo 7 of 19: | Back of house, camera facing west |
| Photo 8 of 19: | Close-up of back porch , camera facing northwest |
| Photo 9 of 19: | Fish figure carved in stone on side porch, camera facing west |
| Photo 10 of 19: | Side of house, with side porch, camera facing south |
| Photo 11 of 19: | Corner of house, camera facing southeast |
| Photo 12 of 19: | Interior, room off of side porch |
| Photo 13 of 19: | Interior, stairway from front door, back door shown |
| Photo 14 of 19: | Interior, room on right coming in from front of house |
| Photo 15 of 19: | Interior, upstairs southwest facing room |
| Photo 16 of 19: | View from upstairs northwest facing room |
| Photo 17 of 19: | Stream in front yard of house |
| Photo 18 of 19: | Front of garage, camera facing east |
| Photo 19 of 19: | Side of garage, camera facing south |

DR. FLAVIUS BROWN HOUSE
SUMMERSVILLE, NICHOLAS COUNTY
WEST VIRGINIA
TAX MAP/PHOTO MAP





DR. FLAVIUS BROWN HOUSE
 SUMMERSVILLE, NICHOLAS COUNTY
 WEST VIRGINIA
 FLOORPLANS

Brown House
 Second Floor
 3/16 scale



DR. FLAVIUS BROWN HOUSE
 SUMMERSVILLE, NICHOLAS COUNTY
 WEST VIRGINIA
 FLOORPLANS

Brown House
 First Floor
 3/16 scale

Dr. Flavius
Brown House
Summersville,
Nicholas Co.,
W. Va.

UTM:

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