



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

Brown Oaks

PROPERTY ACQUISITION

Originally a twenty-five acre farm, the remaining 5.88 acre “Brown Oaks” property is located at the Southeast edge of the City of Summersville’s downtown district, where Old Wilderness Road intersects Arbuckle Road and Broad Street.

The property was purchased by the city in 1999 by then Mayor Stanley Adkins. Spring of 2000 saw the beginning of site improvements with the clearing of brush, sowing of grass seed and securing of the house from the elements. After much discussion of the possible uses for the property, including demolition of the house, the city committed to having a feasibility study done to evaluate its potential and value. The architectural evaluation of the house and property was completed in August of 2000.

In July of 2001 City Council determined that the house was worthy of preservation and began the rehabilitation of this significant local landmark. The comprehensive project on the main house was completed and dedicated in June of 2002 and was followed by the restoration of the Carriage House later that fall. Landscaping, gardens and outdoor structures were completed in the spring of 2004.

The adaptive reuse of this historic house and property, under the ownership and care of the City of Summersville, has created a jewel in the heart of town that is used as a gathering place for a variety of community events and can be rented for private or business events.

The house was named “The Flavius H. Brown House” after the prominent physician who built it and the property called “Brown Oaks” after the two Brown families that lived on the oak covered knoll for 57 years. The circa 1923 house was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2003.