

The Project site is currently utilized as the temporary storage location of the historic Rudolph J. Brown Residence (Brown House). The residence consists of a single story farmhouse constructed in 1886 and a water tower, constructed circa 1936, situated near the rear of the house. The Brown House is recognized for being one of the oldest standing structures in the Elsinore Valley and its association with a prominent figure in the history of the Wildomar area, Rudolph J. (R.J.) Brown.

The architectural style of the Brown House is typical of the modest Folk Victorian farmhouses that were common in agricultural areas of southern California during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. As described by the 2004 Historical Resources Assessment conducted by PCR Services Corporation:

The one-story house, primarily rectangular in plan, is of wood-frame construction on a raised foundation surrounded by a skirt of vertical boards. A moderately-pitched, cross-gabled roof caps the dwelling. Exterior walls are sheathed in wide horizontal boards, narrow clapboard siding, and vertical boards. Fenestration includes a mixture of wood-framed, double-hung sash, multi-pane fixed, and metal-framed sliding windows. Roof elements include overhanging boxed eaves, a molded cornice, and horizontal slat vents in the gable peaks.

Since its original construction, the house has undergone several alternations. A large family room was added to the west side of the house in 1953. In addition, the interior (including the bathroom, kitchen, and wall paneling) has been substantially remodeled. **The porches and walkway were lost when the house was transported to its current location.**

Next to the farmhouse stands the two-story water tower. The water tower is square in plan and free-standing. PCR Services summarized its appearance as following:

Narrow clapboard siding with corner boards sheathes the exterior walls of the structure's multi-story, flared base above the vertical board foundation skirt. Elongated, wood-framed, double-hung sash windows with plain surrounds punctuate the east and west elevations while elongated, vinyl-framed sash windows also framed with plain wood surrounds pierce the north and south elevations. The structure's only entrance is a partially glazed panel door that is recessed into the west elevation of the base. Sitting atop the large, flared supporting base is a square shaped, box-like structure sheathed in wide clapboard siding. Sheltered by a pyramidal roof, the entire space once housed an actual water tank (since removed, date unknown). A ribbon of very narrow clerestory type window/vents wrap around the upper portion of the tank enclosure.

The Brown family is associated with agricultural history of the Elsinore Valley area. Physician Oscar S. Brown moved to Wildomar with his wife from Ohio in 1890 seeking a better climate for his poor health. They had three children, one of whom was Rudolph J. Brown. Rudolph Brown studied agriculture at the University of California at Berkeley and afterward returned to Wildomar to become a successful dry land farmer. His crops included wheat, barley, and alfalfa. Starting from the 17-acre parcel that he purchased in 1917, which contained the Brown House, by 1958, Brown's farmland grew to several hundred contiguous acres. In addition to the farmland surrounding the Brown House, the Browns owned hundreds of acres of land on parcels scattered throughout the Elsinore Valley. The Brown family was also involved in local schools, parks, the Riverside County Farm Bureau, the Zone 7 Flood district, and the Riverside County Grand Jury.

R.J. Brown lived in the historic Brown House from 1917 to 1958, after which he moved to Northern California to become a cattle rancher. In 2001, all structures on the ranch property aside from the house and water tower (including barn buildings, a garage, and a radio tower) were demolished to make room

for development. Originally located on 22060 Grand Avenue in Wildomar, the house was moved to its current location on Baxter Road on January 1, 2006.