

**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

For HCRS use only

received 4 SEP 1979

date entered OCT 16 1979

1. Name

historic Woolen, ^{of} Isaac, House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 131 N. Main Street _____ not for publication

city, town Ashland _____ vicinity of _____ congressional district 4th

state Oregon code 41 county Jackson code 029

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input 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 checked="" 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 Mr. and Mrs. Charles Wingrove

street & number 131 N. Main Street

city, town Ashland _____ vicinity of _____ state Oregon 97520

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Jackson County Courthouse

street & number 8th and Oakdale Streets

city, town Medford _____ state Oregon 97501

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Statewide Inventory of Historic Properties has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1976 _____ federal state _____ county _____ local

depository for survey records State Historic Preservation Office

city, town Salem _____ state Oregon 97310

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Isaac Woolen House was constructed in 1876 as a private dwelling for Isaac, Esther, and Mabel Woolen. It is in excellent condition and currently is a single-family residence owned and occupied by Ashland residents.

Located in T.39 S, R.1 E, Section 9, the Woolen house is situated on Tax Lot 3800, Block 26, Plat 9b, in the town of Ashland, Oregon. The house has three primary gables formed by its pitched roof. The architectural details reflect a strong Italianate character; outstanding are a bracketed cornice at the eaves, and smaller versions of the roof detail above windows and porches on the lower portions of the facade. Two ornate bay windows grace the exterior.

The home stands on the west side of N. Main Street overlooking the town and the hills to the east of Ashland. Neighboring houses on the street also represent the economic successes of the community's prominent citizens. A motel, which took the place of the Presbyterian church, is across the thoroughfare from the Woolen house. Despite the intrusion of this ordinary commercial structure, the northern entrance to Ashland is lined by several attractive and well-maintained homes.

The Woolen house is a 1½-story structure. "L"-shaped, the wood frame dwelling is covered with 8" channel siding, bound at the sides by decorative corner boards. Projecting window bays are located on the front, or east elevation, and on the south elevation of the first story. The pitched roof has eaves with boxed cornices, large decorative brackets and a panelled frieze. The house has a high brick foundation which measures five feet at this highest point under the front bay window. The original house is approximately 46' across the front and 33' deep on its longest side. An addition at the rear is approximately 16' in width and 26' deep.

On the east, north and south elevations the eaves are ornately bracketed. Ornamental pendants on the brackets, dentils between brackets, and the panelled frieze add richness. On the east, or front elevation, a window bay projects and reflects the top of the facade with a smaller version of bracketed cornice and panelled frieze. Two segmentally arched one-over-one double hung windows are at the front of the bay, and one window is on each side. The balcony above the bay window has a turned railing. The double doors from the balcony to the interior have a bracketed cornice above. There are six lights in the two doors. The bay on the south elevation is similar. It has a boxed cornice with brackets, dentils and ornamental pendants. There are three one-over-one double hung windows with segmental arches on the face of the bay and one on each side. The balcony railing is plain; the door to the interior has a bracketed cornice above. The door has a single panel at the bottom and a one-over-one non-sliding sash window above.

The front entry porch projects from the corner formed by the "L" of the house. There are pilastered posts against the front walls and one supporting post. The porch has a boxed cornice with brackets repeating the pattern under the eaves. Scroll brackets make the porch post connections on the front and sides and one large ornamental pendant is suspended from the center of the porch.

The front door of the house is inset and has four panels. The top two panels are arched above and the bottom panels are scalloped. The entry wall is segmentally arched at the top and contains a transom window which also has a segmental arch defining its shape. Cut-out scroll work details the space above the arch of the door.

On the north elevation of the Woolen house is a projecting entry porch with balcony above. The porch has a bracketed cornice at the top and two supporting porch posts. Scroll brackets form porch post connections at the front and sides of this north porch. Scroll work forms a railing. The door to the interior from the porch is four-paneled wood with a small transom above. The door from the balcony above the porch to the interior is wood with two panels at the bottom and four lights above. Over the door from the balcony is a small

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triangular pediment forming a hood. Brackets and ornamental pendants are at each corner. A simple railing surrounds the balcony.

Two windows on the front, or east elevation, of the Woolen house are one-over-one double hung windows, segmentally arched at the top. Similar windows are elsewhere; one on the north elevation, and one at the rear. Each window except the one at the rear has a bracketed cornice, dentils and ornamental pendants. There are two two-over-two lights, double hung windows at the rear of the original house. They are surrounded by plain trim. A small window under the eaves on the front elevation is not original and will be removed and filled. Attic vents in the gable and walls have cornice mouldings.

An addition constructed earlier in the century which was not on a foundation, and in poor condition, was removed by the owners and replaced. The new addition is accurately constructed to blend with the original building. The roof pitch matches the main roof and the new shingles are wood. Eight inch channel siding on the addition matches the original exterior. One-over-one light, double hung wood windows have been installed. The eave projection is the same depth as the eaves on the original house. A plain frieze board extends around the top of the addition. A four-panelled wood door allows entrance to the addition from the rear. Light gray/green paint with off-white trim ties the addition and original structures together visually. A small part of the addition fills the space in the "L" at the rear of the Woolen house. There are two small windows in this section of addition.

The roof of the house is composition. Two original brick chimneys with corbelling rise from the interior. There are three more doors to the house. Two wood doors are at the rear under a shed roof overhang. One wood door on the north elevation is not original and will be boarded in with siding.

The Isaac Woolen house is surrounded by lawn, trees and decorative planting. Originally North Main Street was much higher and in 1900 the road was graded. A steep bank was landscaped and retained by a native cut rock wall which runs the length of the block. The front portion of the yard is ivy-covered. A walk rises from the street to the front steps. Ten wood steps lead to the wooden porch. Two posts with platform tops begin a moulded railing supported by pairs of turned balusters. The porch surface is wood.

The spatial organization of the interior of the Woolen house retains its original plan. A central hall plan places a large parlor on one side, and a parlor and dining room on the other. Entering the house the hall leads to the single large parlor on the left. There are eleven-foot ceilings in the room and moulding strips a short distance down the walls, which are plastered and painted. The bay alcove has a curved top; architrave moulding surrounds the windows and doors. Baseboards are plain. The 7' doors to the central hall from this parlor have transoms above.

On the right from the central hall a smaller parlor has cornice moulding around the ceiling-wall connection. A fireplace in the right parlor has a segmentally arched top in its wooden framing. A wooden cartouche adds detail. The corniced mantel shelf has small ornamental brackets which match those used on the exterior.

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The rear room on the right side of the house is used as a dining room. Ceilings are eleven feet and the floor material is wood. Architrave moulding is around windows and doors. Wainscoting on the walls has moulded trim on the top. Doors to this room have four panels. Ceilings in all three original downstairs rooms have moulded plaster forms for chandelier placement.

The stairway to the rooms above is a single flight, open well, curved stair. The open string stairway has a large newel post at the bottom and ornamental brackets under the ends of the treads. Upstairs is a large central hall, one large master bedroom, a smaller bedroom, and a room now being used as a study. Wood flooring is in all upstairs rooms. There is a small fireplace in the study. A new bathroom is in the small upstairs addition.

Downstairs, the addition houses kitchen, a bathroom and utility room.

8. Significance

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

Specific dates 1876 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The fashionable home built for Isaac Woolen in 1876 is significant to Ashland as an exceptionally intact example of Italianate residential architecture. Together with the W.H. Atkinson House, its immediate neighbor to the south, it forms the strongest element in a row of noteworthy houses lining Ashland's main street at the north end of town. It was Isaac Woolen, the first of two successful Rogue Valley farmers to occupy the house, who subdivided his property in 1880 and sold the south half of his holdings to W.H. Atkinson. In 1884, Woolen sold his house to Thomas Smith, a Territorial and State Legislator, who occupied the house until his demise in 1892.

A fine home in its own right, the Isaac Woolen house combines with other buildings along the west side of North Main Street to provide a unique and attractive entrance into Ashland from Medford and the freeway. The combination of appearance and location make the retention of each particular structure critically important to the town.

The Woolen house has sheltered two of Ashland's most prominent citizens during the period 1876 to 1892. Isaac Woolen came to Jackson County before 1860 and farmed in the Bear Creek Valley for 15 years. At the age of 54, he married for the second time and purchased land in Ashland on North Main Street. In 1876 he constructed his large home on the hill, and he, his wife and 14-year-old daughter became the first residents.¹ Isaac Woolen became one of the first Ashland townspeople to bring water directly to the house when a water pipe was installed from the West Ashland Ditch to the house in 1878.²

In March of 1880 the Woolens sold ½ of their lot to W.H. Atkinson and took the money from the sale to finance a year-long trip to San Francisco. After an extended absence, the family returned to Ashland and decided to move to a smaller house. At 64, Isaac Woolen sold his lovely home to Captain Thomas Smith and the newspaper recorded the change: "*Capt. Thomas Smith has sold his orchard and vineyard...and will reside in the Woolen House on the hill.*"³ Thomas Smith paid \$4,500 for his new home and land.⁴ Like his predecessor in the home, Thomas Smith had lived in Jackson County many years. He was born in Kentucky in 1809 and arrived in the Bear Creek Valley in November, 1851. He farmed south of Ashland on a Donation Land Claim, and at 75 years of age, decided to give up his ranch and move into Ashland. He chose "the Woolen house on the hill."⁵ Thomas Smith represented constituents in the territorial legislature from 1855-1856. In 1868 he was elected to the State Legislature and in 1880 chosen again for the same office.⁶ Like other men of his position, Thomas Smith was active in community affairs and with his neighbor Mr. Atkinson, and others, formed the nucleus for the organization of the Bank of Ashland. He was married to Margaret who died in 1874 and had one child. Thomas Smith died in his home on North Main Street in November, 1892 at the age of 83.

1. Jackson County Tax Assessor's Record, 1876.

2. Ashland Daily Tidings, May 31, 1878.

3. Ashland Daily Tidings, April 25, 1884.

4. Jackson County Deed Records, Book 11, P. 440.

5. Ashland Daily Tidings, April 25, 1884.

6. Walling, A.G. A History of Jackson, Josephine, Douglas, Curry and Coos Counties. Portland, 1884.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Ashland Daily Tidings, May 31, 1878
 Ashland Daily Tidings, April 25, 1884
 Jackson County Tax Assessor's Records, 1876
 Jackson County Deed Record, Book 11, p. 440
 Walling, A.G. A History of Jackson, Josephine, Douglas, Curry and Coos Counties, Portland, 188

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one (90.5x193')

UTM NOT VERIFIED

Quadrangle name Ashland, Oregon

Quadrangle scale 1:62500

UMT References

A

1	0	5	2	3	4	2	5	4	6	7	11	7	12	15
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

Zone		Easting				Northing					

C

Zone		Easting				Northing					

D

Zone		Easting				Northing					

E

Zone		Easting				Northing					

F

Zone		Easting				Northing					

G

Zone		Easting				Northing					

H

Zone		Easting				Northing					

Verbal boundary description and justification

The Isaac Woolen house is located in Section 9, Township 39 South, Range 1 East, of the Willamette Meridian. It occupies Lot 2, Block 26 of the original plat of Ashland, Oregon. Tax Lot 3800

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 Kay Atwood

organization _____ date March 12, 1979

street & number 102 S. Pioneer St. telephone 503/482-8714

city or town Ashland state Oregon 97502

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 H. Tallent*

title State Historic Preservation Officer date August 13, 1979

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I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

for *Carol Hull* date *10-16-79*
 Keeper of the National Register

Attest: *W. Ray Luce* date *Oct 16, 1979*
 Chief of Registration

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Both the builder of the Woolen house and its second resident were important members of the Ashland community; both were associated with the house during the latter part of their lives. Their period of residence occurred during socially and economically successful days for each man. The 16 years of their time in the Woolen house spanned the time that Ashland changed from a small farming supply center to a functioning business and cultural community, supporting churches, schools, a bank and a newspaper. By the turn of the century, when both Mr. Woolen and Mr. Smith were dead, the business center of town began to move out the Boulevard to the south. The economic and personal world centered in the Plaza and on North Main just above was changing, and would continue to do so through the decades.

Ashland has other homes which reflect the lives of successful men, and each is unique. The Woolen house, the Atkinson, H. Carter and McGall houses may be the finest, and each is in excellent condition. The Woolen House has been taken seriously by its owners and its exterior and interior retain original characteristics...a fortunate circumstance for the community of Ashland.

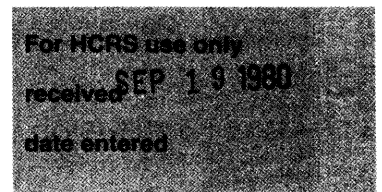
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Based on information recently discovered in 1881 issues of Ashland's newspaper, The Tidings, it appears that the longitudinal section of the T-shaped Isaac Woolen House is a portion of the original house built for Woolen on the nominated property in 1876. According to local newspaper accounts, this section was moved forward on its lot into alignment with the neighboring house of W. H. Atkinson (1880), a National Register property, and enlarged to its present configuration.

Following is the passage which suggests that the original Woolen House "on the hill" immediately above Main Street was subdivided, relocated and enlarged.

Isaac Woolen will use the southern L of his present dwelling house in the construction of the fine new home he has begun. The other two sections will go to other lots for houses.¹

In connection with new buildings being constructed in the summer of 1881 of lumber produced by L. S. P. Marsh's planing mill, it was reported as follows.

Of these at least four will be large fine residences for Messrs. Isaac Woolen, B. F. Meyer, J. M. McCall, and Henry Norton.²

¹Ashland Tidings, June 24, 1881.

²Ashland Tidings, July 8, 1881.