United States Department of the Interior Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form



not for publication

code

003

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

1. Name

historic James O. Wilson House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 340 SW 5th Street

city, town Corvallis

01 vul 113

ode	41	

county Benton

vicinity of

congressional district 1st

state Oregon

code

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
district	public	_X_ occupied	agriculture	museum
X_ building(s)	X_ private	unoccupied	commercial	park
structure	both	work in progress	educational	park _X_ private residence
site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	entertainment	religious
object	in process	_X_ yes: restricted	government	scientific
	being considered	yes: unrestricted	industrial	transportation
		no	military	other:

4. Owner of Property

tricia and Jay M	ackie			
ber 340 SW 5th	Street			
Corvallis	vicinity of	state	Oregon	97330
cation of	Legal Description			
registry of deeds, etc.	Benton County Courthouse			
ıber 120 NW 4th	Street			
	ber 340 SW 5th Corvallis Cation of registry of deeds, etc.	registry of deeds, etc. Benton County Courthouse	iber 340 SW 5th Street Corvallis	iber 340 SW 5th Street Corvallis

city, town Corvallis

6.	Representation	in	Existing	Surveys

titleStatewide Inventory of Hist. Propertieshas this property been determined elegible? ____ yes _X__ no

date 1976

___ federal _X__ state ____ county ____ local

state

depository for survey records Oregon State Historic Preservation Office

city, town Salem

state Oregon 97310

Oregon 97330

7. Description

Condition

excellent	deteriorated
<u> X good</u>	ruins
fair	unexposed

ted ____ unaltered ____ altered

Check one X original site moved date

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Queen Anne house constructed by carpenter-builder and entrepreneur Bushrod Wilson for his son, James O. Wilson, in 1891 occupies two corner lots at the northwest corner of the intersection of 5th Street and Adams Avenue in southeast Corvallis, within a few blocks of the Willamette River. It is among the oldest houses in the immediate neighborhood.

Irregular in plan, the two-story frame house is essentially a rectangular volume, oriented east to west, with the numerous gablets, bays, porches and projections which typify the Queen Anne Style. Ground story siding is drop siding with horizontal and vertical strips applied as surface paneling in the tradition of the Stick Style. Fish scale shingles cover second story exterior walls and have a slight up-turn, or flare at the bottom course. The main volume of the house is covered by a shingled, jerkin-headed hipped roof, the east end of which is finished with a solid vergeboard with rectangle appliques. Vergeboards of gable ends and gablets are similarly styledbut have, in addition, scalloped termini. Vergeboard decoration of the front gablet is further distinguished by cut-out work at the apex. Two tall brick chimneys with corbelled tops and neckings break the roofline on the south and west sides. Originally, all roof ridges were decorated with cresting.

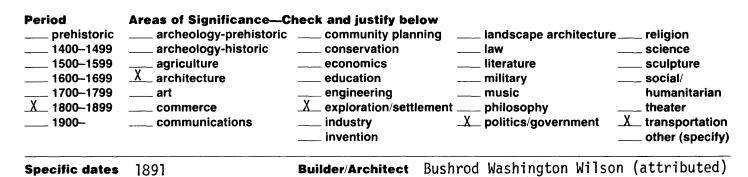
The principal, or east facade, is composed of a two-story gable-roofed projection with single-story bay on the south side and the main wall plane, on the north, which is crowned by the jerkin-head gable. In the main wall plane is a triangular-arched double window which gives access to the deck of a small, shed-roofed porch originally embellished with spindle work in a cut-out frieze and arch. Balustrades for decks of the proch and the front window bay have since disappeared, but are to be reduplicated along with roof ridge cresting. Porch railings have been lost in the intervening years also. All other features of the exterior are intact.

The south elevation, fronting Adams Avenue, has two distinctive features: a blind gablet behind which the south chimney rises, and a shallow, two-story wing in which outer ground story bays are beveled and shaded by scroll-sawn skirtings suspended from the angles of the walls above. Typical windows are tall, double-hung windows with one over one lights. The upper lights in the central, paired openings of either gable end on east and south elevations are bordered by rectangles of colored glass in wood muntins. Several single windows in the north elevation are similarly glazed. Upper portions of the paired window under a triangular arch head on the east elevation are fitted with colored glass also.

The distinctive feature of the north elevation is a shallow, two-story polygonal bay which, with its faceted, conical roof, is Richardsonian in inspiration. The rear, or west elevation is more plainly finished. Some of the original window openings in this elevation were modified in the interior remodeling of 1934, but not to the detriment of overall design.

Interior spatial organization, plaster walls, fir flooring, and unpainted fir trim are intact. The entry stainhall contains on the north wall a winding stair-open at the stringwith turned balusters and posts. Baseboards have a deep crown mold. Wall openings have beaded surrounds with bosse-embellished corner blocks. Oak picture molding is found in the parlor and diningroom. The focal point of the parlor is the chimneypiece on the south wall with its glazed ceramic tile surround and bracketed overmantel of oak and beveled mirror glass. Access to the parlor and diningroom is from the entry stainhall, through sliding pocket doors. The two rooms, in turn, are connected by a double sliding door in the wall between them. The only significant changes to the interior were carried out in 1934. At that time a basement was excavated for a wood furnace, which has since been converted to oil. Cupboards, countertops,

8. Significance



Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The house erected at the northwest corner of 5th Street and Adams Avenue for James O. Wilson in 1891 is significant to Corvallis as an exceptionally intact and distinctive example of Queen Anne Style architecture believed to have been built by the Wilson family patriarch, Bushrod Washington Wilson, a carpenter who became prominent in the upbuilding and politics of Benton County. The house is noted for the quality of its joinery and, with few exceptions, it has retained all of the fullsome decorative detail which typifies its style. It is the closest link with Bushrod Wilson remaining in Corvallis, and it is noteworthy also for its association with Wilson's son, James Offin Wilson, a County Judge, and Alva C. White, a prosperous local rancher.

The property on which the Wilson House stands was purchased, with the rest of Block 29, by Bushrod Wilson from Joseph C. Avery, founder of Corvallis, in 1866. The house which Wilson built on the northeast corner of the block and in which he raised nine children, one of whom was to build the existing Wilson House on the southeast corner was razed in 1906. Wilson was among the early settlers in the Willamette Valley and was active in the public affairs of Corvallis. He was elected to the position of County Clerk in 1864 and held that position for most of his life. He was active in the establishment of the State Agricultural College (now Oregon State University) and was one of the founders of the Oregon and Pacific Railroad. He was Secretary and later President of the Railroad. While the OPRR spurred the growth of Corvallis, it proved to be a financial disaster to its backers, including the family patriarch and his grown sons who were associates in the enterprise. The Wilson property consequently was heavily mortgaged and, perhaps to keep debtors from foreclosing, title to Lots 1 and 2 (and others) was transferred from one Wilson son to another over a period of years. In 1891 the present Wilson House was built for newly-weds James O. and Lulu Wilson. Lulu received the deed for the house and property in 1892. James followed in his father's footsteps, first becoming deputy to the County Clerk and later a County Judge.

In 1901, the existing Wilson House was purchased by another early pioneer, Alva C. White. In the 1870s and 1880s Mr. White has been active in cattle ranching in Colorado and Wyoming. (He is said to have shipped the first car load of cattle from Wyoming). In 1895 he came to Oregon and continued with the cattle business, shipping stock to Chicago ten or twelve times a year. His 320-acre ranch was at nearby Blodgett in weastern Benton County. The Whites lived in this house for over 25 years with their daughter, Georgia. Georgia was voted "The Goddess of Liberty" for an early Corvallis 4th of July parade.

In 1934, Thomas and Frances Roeser purchased the house and lived there until 1969. Robert and Elizabeth Lyman lived in the house until December 1979, when it was purchased by the present owners.

The James O. Wilson House is one of the outstanding houses of the Victorian period remaining in Corvallis. It has long been admired by local residents and is much photographed. It is included in Mary Newitt's "Marysville Revisited: A Tour of Historic Corvallis Houses," brought out in 1976. It is believed to be one of the first houses in Corvallis to have been wired with electricity.

9. Majo	or Bib	liogra	hical	Refere	enc	es		
Carey, Charl 1922.	les Henry	. <u>History</u>	of Oregor	<u>n</u> , Portland	: The	e Pioneer	• Historical	Publishing Co
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		parca						
name/title Pat	: Mackie					• 		
organization				·	date	March 1	980	
street & number	340 SW !	5th Street		······	teleph	ione 503/	754-8494	
city or town Co	prvallis				state	Oregon	97330	
<u>12. Sta</u>	te Hi	storic	Prese	rvation	n Of	ficer	Certifi	cation
The evaluated sig	inificance of	this property	within the sta	ite is:				
	national	sta						
As the designated 665), I hereby non according to the d	ninate this p	roperty for inc	lusion in/the	National Regis	ter and	certify that	it has been eva	
State Historic Pre	servation Of	ficer signature	· KMI	NAM 245			,	
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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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Wilson, James O., House, Corvallis, Benton County

CONTINUATION SHEET	ITEM NUMBER	7	PAGE 1	

new plumbing, and a wood lift were installed in the kitchen. The pantry was converted to a breakfast nook, and a bathroom was made of the former butler's pantry. Plywood covering was added over existing horizontal wall cover in the kitchen. It will be removed to expose original wall finish. The upstairs contains two large bedrooms above the parlor and diningroom and a smaller bedroom above the entry stairhall. A fourth bedroom over the kitchen had been converted to a bathroom prior to 1934.

A single-car garage, built prior to 1934, is situated behind the house to the west. On the north side of the house is a small formal garden with gravel walks and brick terrace, a grape arbor, and mature plum tree. FHR-8-300A (11/78) UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

Wilson House - Corvallis, Oregon

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CONTINUATION SHEET	ITEM NUMBER	9	PAGE	1	

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Portrait and Biographical Record of Willamette Valley, Oregon. Chicago: Chapman Publishing Co., 1903, pp. 971-972. Biog. note on Bushrod W. Wilson.

Abstract of Title for years 1959 to 1934.