

**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

**1. Name**

historic Eddings-Provost House

and/or common

**2. Location**

street & number 364 Vista Street \_\_\_\_\_ not for publication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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name Mr. & Mrs. Andrea Minutoli

street & number 348 Vista Street

city, town Ashland \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ state Oregon 97520

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Jackson County Courthouse

street & number Eighth and Oakdale Streets

city, town Ashland, \_\_\_\_\_ state Oregon 97520

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Ashland Historic Buildings Survey has this property been determined eligible? \_\_\_\_\_ yes  no

date 1974 \_\_\_\_\_ federal \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ county  local

depository for survey records Ashland Public Library

city, town Ashland \_\_\_\_\_ state Oregon 97520

## 7. Description

Condition		Check one		Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed				

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Construction of the Eddings-Provost House was commenced in 1888 and completed in 1889 for George C. Eddings. It is a distinctive example of Queen Anne architecture with surface decoration in the Eastlake tradition. Ashland contractor, Colonel James Norris, served as architect/builder of the prominently-sited residence on the hillside of Summit Addition. It has served continuously as a family dwelling and is in good condition.

The house stands on Lot 9, Block 46 of the Summit Addition of Ashland, Oregon, facing north onto Vista Street, a winding road which runs from nearby Lithia Park to its end at the Ashland Public Library. The neighborhood contains many older homes, including the Baldwin Beach House one street below and the H.B. Carter House immediately to the south -- both National Register properties. The Mark Anthony Hotel is two streets below, but the immediate neighborhood is residential in character.

The basic shape of the house is rectangular. It's dimensions are 36' in width by 32' in depth. The back porch adds 6' depth on the south east corner. A 2½ story Richardsonian wing, or bay on the west elevation extends 10' out from the house and is 15' wide. A low stone foundation supports the front (north) portion of the house and the west, or uphill side. A cut stone foundation, approximately 3' in height extends across the east elevation. Lattice work masks the base of the veranda which wraps around the northwest corner of the house.

The frame house is sided with standard 4" lap siding. Lapped shingles in an imbricated pattern cover the wall surface of the central and primary gable. The roof shape is determined by a series of gables in a relatively steep form. The polygonal projecting bay on the west elevation is covered by a high gable roof with conical end. Existing cover is composition shingle. There are two interior brick chimneys.

A shed-roofed veranda wraps around the northwest corner of the house. It is supported by eight tapered columns with spool turnings and is decorated by frieze and railing of horizontal and vertical members arranged in a repeating pattern which appears to owe something to the contemporary taste for Chinoiserie.

An angled projecting window bay on the northeast corner of the house is covered by a hipped roof. The frieze is trimmed with a dentil course and paneling in which carved scallop shells -- or fans perhaps -- are set into alternating panels. The fan decoration is repeated on the interior of the house.

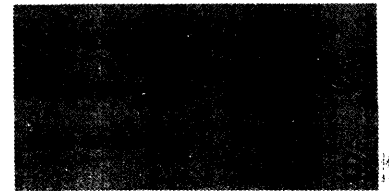
Typical door frames and trim for the one-over-one double-hung windows consist of plain classical architraves. On the front (north) elevation are two sets of paired window openings. Shingle siding above second story openings is flared to create hoods.

The front door is double-leaf type with glazed upper panels and lower panels trimmed with small corner blocks and central bosses in keeping with Eastlake Style. The rear door, giving access to an enclosed porch is a modern glazed type in wood frame. On the west elevation, a wood four-panel door leads to the dining room.

The eave overhang is wide at the front and sides of the main body of the house and narrow on the east elevation, the south elevation, the projecting bay on the west, and the small bay window on the northeast corner. All soffits are closed and beaded and cornices are boxed. At the gable ends, verge boards of lattice work embellished with finials and bosses echo the membering of porch frieze and railing. A simple frieze board with unarticulated "triglyph blocks encircles the east, south and west elevations. Other surface decoration

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include sawtooth trim which runs as a belt course between upper stories across the facade and as a "skirt" for the hooded lintel of the central paired opening in the facade gable end. Eastlake console brackets are used atop corner boards on the facade.

The original spatial organization of the interior has been retained, and may be termed a side hall plan, two rooms deep. The interior reflects very few alterations from plan or decorative detail. The spacious entry hall contains the elaborate stairway to the second story, with its two flights and one landing. The open string stair has a railing with open lattice work trim and small fan detail, reflecting a motif on the exterior of the house. Paneling encloses the space below the stair and covers the bottom of the upper flight. The small panels have moulding trim providing enrichment of detail. Both fir and mahogany are used throughout the interior. A four-paneled door leads to the under-stair space. A large ornate pendant is suspended from the upper stair section, near the fireplace. The paneled newel post at ground level has a base, panels, chamfered corners and dentil detail near the top. A carved newel cap ornaments the top. The newel post supports a fine moulded handrail. Two landing newels, one at the first landing and one on the second floor are alike. They are smaller and simpler than the newel post, with chamfered corners and a smaller newel cap.

Standard window and door moulding trim which appear throughout the Eddings-Provost House are examples of symmetrical moulding and corner blocks and plain moulding with slight exterior curve and corner blocks. The first surrounds doors and windows in the central hall and parlor, with the exception of a door to the former maid's room (now utility) off the central hall, which has symmetrical moulding and corner blocks. Standard wall material throughout the house has been lath and plaster. The owner has replaced some damaged walls with sheet rock although all original ten foot ceiling heights have been retained. There are two elaborate fireplaces on the ground floor; one in the hall, and one in the parlor. The hall fireplace has a rectangular opening with double colonettes at each side. The wood decorative detail includes baseboard with carved mouldings and a corniced mantel shelf. The fireplace in the parlor has an elaborate overmantel with a beveled mirror. The corniced mantel shelf is supported by spindles, and the sides of the fireplace are enriched with scrollwork and small inset panels.

Double doors with fifteen small lights each, lead from the central hall to the parlor. Paneling below the windows in the parlor extends to the ground. Baseboards with moulding trim at the top surround parlor walls and extend throughout the house. The dining room windows have symmetrical moulding and corner blocks. Cornice moulding on the south wall contains grooves for plate storage and display. Three-inch wainscoting extends around dining room walls. A built-in cabinet with glass and wood doors stores china and silver. Contemporary paneling and a lowered ceiling will be removed and the surface returned to the original. The kitchen has a new oak floor. The doors are all four-paneled and have symmetrical moulding trim in each panel. The owner has relocated the basement stair, creating more room in the kitchen. All other original door and window openings remain.

Upstairs are four bedrooms, a bath, and a small bath added in a large closet. Original door, window and spatial arrangement have not been altered. Doors on the second floor are four-paneled and have symmetrical moulding and corner block trim. There are transom openings above two bedroom doors. Original light fixtures remain in several rooms. The hall way contains the opening to an early heating system which the owner plans to use. A clay pipe, built into the interior of the fireplace chimney, heats, draws cool air from the basement

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which becomes hot as it travels upstairs. The large open attic is 15' high at the peak. The space has been divided into two rooms. The current owner plans to finish and use the space for his family.

In addition to changes already mentioned, the owner has installed new plumbing, insulated the bathrooms and the kitchen, and added central heat. A new electrical system has been installed, and the metered electrical service which was on the front porch is now underground and runs to the street. While the occupant family may put some rooms to different uses than they had originally, (the maid's room may be dining space, and the former closet a half-bath) all original spatial arrangement, ceiling heights and decorative detail will be retained. The owner plans full repair and restoration of the Eddings-Provost House respecting the integrity of the structure.

The grounds surrounding the house contain several large evergreen and deciduous trees; old shrubbery, hedges and ivy extend across the front elevation. Lawn, divided by a concrete walkway slopes to the street. While the yard is in fairly good condition, it too needs care, which the owner will provide.

## 8. Significance

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

Specific dates 1889

Builder/Architect James Norris

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The house completed in 1889 for prosperous hardware merchant George C. Eddings is significant to Ashland as an intact and distinctive example of domestic architecture in the Queen Anne Style with some surface decoration in the Eastlake tradition. The decorative program includes interesting, if somewhat primitive detail, including hand-carved scallop shells in the frieze of a bay window. Constructed from plans provided by local carpenter-builder James Norris, the house displays the wrap-around veranda, variegated siding and Richardsonian polygonal wing which are hallmarks of the Queen Anne Style. Within five years of its construction, the house was acquired by H.B. Provost, a Canadian, who was Eddings' successor in the hardware business and who became an officer of the Ashland Iron Works and town mayor. The Eddings-Provost House occupies a lot adjacent to the H.B. Carter House, a National Register property, which also was completed in the Queen Anne Style in 1889. The neighboring houses are mutually supportive visually and historically. They are among the first houses to have been built in the hillside Summit Addition, and they represent the period of rapid growth which followed completion of the Oregon and California Railroad to Ashland in 1887. Current owners have recently completed code work and are now carrying out general repairs to the house.

The year 1888 was one of rapid growth for Ashland. The Oregon and California Railroad, completed December, 1887, brought hundreds of new residents to the community. During the first week of 1889, the local paper reported the changes that had occurred the year before.

"There is not an empty dwelling or business house in Ashland and a number of families who came to spend the winter have been obliged to move to other places in the valley."<sup>1</sup>

The construction business flourished and sixteen individual architects and builders advertised their trade in 1888 issues of The Ashland Tidings. Gains for Ashland in 1888 included 800 people, 25 percent taxable property increase, 50 percent business transactions, 2 hotels, a depot and dining room, roundhouse, 2 telegraph offices, 2 brick business blocks, a church, and more than 100 new dwellings and other buildings.<sup>2</sup>

One of the new arrivals to Ashland was the G.C. Eddings family. In June, 1887 Mrs. Eddings and her children preceded her husband to Ashland while he completed business arrangements. In August, 1887 G.C. Eddings' advertisement appeared for the first time in the local paper, announcing his purchase of the old Willard and Eubanks hardware business.<sup>3</sup> During the next year they lived in temporary quarters on a ten acre tract of fruit land Mr. Eddings had

<sup>1</sup> The Ashland Tidings, January 4, 1889

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid., August 22, 1887

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Ashland City Directory, 1912  
Ashland Tidings, January 4, 1889, August 22, 1887, October 12, 1888, April 2, 1914,  
November 20, 1888, January 4, 1889, April, 1889, November 24, 1893  
Jackson County Deed Records, Jackson County Courthouse, Jackson County Title Company (cont.)

# 10. Geographical Data

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED  
UTM NOT VERIFIED

Acreeage of nominated property less than one (75 x 142')

Quadrangle name Ashland, Oregon

Quadrangle scale 1:62500

### UMT References

A 

1	0	5	2	3	9	4	0	4	6	7	1	0	2	5
Zone				Easting				Northing						

B 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

C 

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D 

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H 

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

Lot 9, Block 46, Summitt Addition to Ashland, Jackson County, Oregon, being the easterly 75' of Tax Lot 8400.

### 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 9, 1980

street & number 102 South Pioneer Street

telephone 503/482-8714

city or town Ashland

state Oregon 97520

# 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 

title Deputy SHPO

date August 15, 1980

For HCERS use only  
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date 11-6-80

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: 

date 11-4-80

Chief of Registration

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purchased on arrival. During this time Nellie Eddings taught music at Ashland State Normal School and taught private lessons in her home. In October, 1888 the local paper announced:

"George C. Eddings has bought a building lot of H.B. Carter, a part of the C. W. Logan tract in the southern part of the town and will build a handsome new cottage thereon. Colonel Norris has already prepared the design and the plans, and the foundation is being laid by W.H. Wickham. The house will cost about \$2,500.00."<sup>4</sup>

By November the house construction was well underway. On November 20, 1888, the Ashland Tidings reported that, "A.W. Scott is drawing up plans for the H.B. Carter house to be built this winter near that of G.C. Eddings, now in the course of construction."<sup>5</sup> By early 1889, Colonel Norris, who advertised in the paper to "furnish plans for any and all kinds of buildings and superintend construction of same . . ." had completed the Eddings residence.<sup>6</sup> Next door the Carter House progressed and was finished by late spring, 1889 at a cost of \$5,000.00.<sup>7</sup>

Five years later, the Eddings were ready to leave Ashland, Nellie Eddings and her children left first; George Eddings sold his hardware business and followed. In April, 1893 a new advertisement appeared for the first time in the Ashland Tidings. Kinney and Provost were new successors to the G.C. Eddings Hardware.<sup>8</sup> D.B. Provost purchased the business and also bought the Eddings home on Vista Stret. He apparently lived elsewhere in town the first year. When visiting his property late in 1893, D.B. Provost discovered some vandalism.

"D.B. Provost, who owns the Eddings residence property on the hill below the Roper and Carter additions, discovered the other day that 15 or 20 of the large panes of glass in the windows had been broken by stones thrown into the house. The broken glass represents many dollars damage, the large sized lights being expensive."<sup>9</sup>

Damina Banani Provost purchased the large home for his brother and family who were to come to Ashland from Canada. Provost was born near Montreal in 1852 and educated in the national schools of Canada. He came to Oregon in 1870. For three years he lived in Marion County and farmed. Provost moved to Yamhill County in 1874 and ran a meat business, while raising stock on an 800 acre farm near Sheridan. In 1893 he sold all and moved to Ashland where he purchased the Eddings hardware business. He bought out his partner and ran the business alone until 1902 when he sold the store to nephews. Active in the Ashland Iron Works,

<sup>4</sup> The Ashland Tidings, October 12, 1888

<sup>5</sup> Ibid., November 20, 1888

<sup>6</sup> Ibid., January 4, 1889

<sup>7</sup> Ibid., June 21, 1889

<sup>8</sup> Ibid., April, 1889

<sup>9</sup> Ibid., November 24, 1893

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Provost became its president and treasurer. In his last years he owned and operated the Ashland brickyards. Provost served as mayor of Ashland from 1902-1903. He also was a member of county and state central committess. He did not marry and upon his death in March, 1914, left his brother Pierre and family.<sup>10</sup>

The Provost family was a large one and continued as active members of the community throughout the twentieth century. There were eleven individual Provosts mentioned in an early city directory. Their trades included that of plumber, baker, clerk, mechanic, hardware store. Dom Provost, descendant of Pierre Provost, now owns and operates Provost's Furniture Store in Ashland.<sup>11</sup>

The Eddings-Provost House retains it's architectural integrity. One of Ashland's early prominent homes, it has seen few alterations. The exterior is in need of basic maintenance and replacement of broken decorative items. The current owners, the fifth family to occupy the home since D.B. Provost sold it, are providing the general care the property needs, and removing some interior alterations. These include lowered ceilings, linoleum, and modern paneling. The only addition to the house is the back porch which was added early in the century. One door and two windows are not visible from the street.

The house definitely has an identifiable relationship to the period of Ashland's history in which it was constructed. The Eddings-Provost House and the H.B. Carter House next door are two of Ashland's most elaborate residences, built by prominent citizens during years when Ashland was experiencing rapid growth. Their condition is good. The neighborhood remains the location of several older homes which all overlook the valley and the hills to the east.

Ashland has several homes of this vintage but few in such original condition. The interior finishing details are particularly fine. The residence was built expressly for one of Ashland's new businessmen who arrived in the community with many others -- hoping to succeed in the thriving town. Other comparable homes were built slightly earlier by businessmen who had lived in Ashland for several years, in more modest homes, and finally achieved the goal of an excellent new residence. The Eddings-Provost House and the H.B. Carter House were built by new residents who came to Ashland with money and who intended to make more.

<sup>10</sup>The Ashland Tidings, April 2, 1914

<sup>11</sup>Ashland City Directory, 1912



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Provost, Flora. Written communication, San Jose, California, January 24, 1980.  
(only remaining child of Pierre Provost)