

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED DEC 28 1979
DATE ENTERED MAR 7 1980

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 Greene, Nelson H., House
AND/OR COMMON N. H. Greene House

2 LOCATION
STREET & NUMBER 502 South Adams St.
CITY, TOWN Ritzville VICINITY OF 5th CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT Thomas S. Foley
STATE Washington CODE 053 COUNTY Adams CODE 001

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY
NAME Mr. and Mrs. Don Jordin
STREET & NUMBER 502 South Adams
CITY, TOWN Ritzville VICINITY OF Washington STATE 99169

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Adams County Courthouse
STREET & NUMBER 210 West Broadway
CITY, TOWN Ritzville STATE Washington 99169

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS
TITLE Washington State Cultural Resource Survey: Adams County
DATE 1979 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Adams County Planning Department, Box 335
CITY, TOWN Othello STATE Washington 99344

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input 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

The N.H. Greene House is located at the corner of Fifth Avenue and Adams Street, facing northwest in grounds bordered by an evergreen hedge. South of the house is a two-story frame carriage barn with transverse-gable roof and bracketed eaves with returns.

Measuring approximately 44 by 55 feet, the main house has a masonry foundation, first and second-story walls of beige-colored brick laid primarily in header bond, and an attic story sheathed in the original clapboard. The transverse-gable roof has prominent bracketed eaves terminating in boxed cornices. On the southeast slope are two tall single-stack chimneys which are the original installments. A verandah with projecting eaves, paired wooden Ionic columns, original balustrade, and latticed masonry-pier foundation begins at the main entrance and wraps around the northeast elevation to a secondary entrance. A semicircular two-and-one half story tower corresponds to the larger curvature of the verandah where the front and side elevations meet. The tower, topped by a conical roof with flaring eaves, is lighted on the first two stories by double-hung sash with curved glass. Window types elsewhere in the principal stories of the house include single, double, triple, and rectangular bay, some of which are crowned by flat arches. In the attic-story windows is leaded glazing in an elongated geometric pattern, and a curvilinear leaded glass design is utilized in the sidelights and transoms which frame the inner and outer doors of the double main entrance. Above the latter, on the second story, is a recessed gallery which occupies approximately half the volume of the facade gable at that level. It is supported by a single Ionic column at the north corner.

The interior of the house contains eleven rooms, including bathrooms and hallways. Walls and ceilings are plastered, and the hardwood finish, primarily oak, is notable throughout, beginning with the entrance hall floor of variegated checkerboard, serpentine, and octagonal parquetry. Highlighting the parlor are an unusually heavily molded cornice, showing to particular advantage in defining the curved projection of the tower space, and a classical screen composed of Ionic columns, paneled pedestals, and exposed beams. The screen transforms the fireplace end of the room, with its flanking built-in bookshelves, into an inglenook. In the dining room across the hall are a rectangular window bay on the south wall, serving as a solarium, and a massive breakfront which repeats the leaded glass design of the main entrance. The halfturn stairway with landings has turned balusters, molded handrail, carved newel posts and paneled soffit. It leads to a second-floor hallway in which the inglenook theme, complete with benches, recurs in the space opening onto the exterior recessed gallery. The screen separating the inglenook from the hallway is especially fine, its Tuscan columns and attenuated versions of the stairway balusters surmounted by a spindled frieze. The third floor contains a ballroom and a smaller billiard room; a carved wooden window seat follows the configuration of the tower space. Throughout the house, door and window framings feature shelf cornices.

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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input checked="" 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 1902

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The N. H. Greene House was built by Greene, a locally prominent merchant, banker, real estate promoter, and public official who was instrumental in the early development of Ritzville. An important social center during the early years of the century, the house continues to be stylistically the most fully developed example of residential architecture in the community.

Nelson H. Greene arrived in Ritzville during the first significant immigration to the area in 1883-1884. Throughout 1884, he shipped in stocks of building materials to the small settlement, and for many years thereafter he operated, with his son Orr, the building store of Greene and Son. He also opened the town's second store, a general merchantile establishment, in 1884 in partnership with Clark Long. The following year Greene built the frame structure, purchased by the county commissioners, which was to become the first courthouse. Also in 1885, he erected the First Congregational Church. Although not a builder by profession, Greene financed numerous projects, and his name is given in records of the period as the builder. He was also called upon for community and county leadership. In 1885 he was appointed the county school superintendent and sheriff, and a year later he was elected to the board of county commissioners. During the summer of 1888, a fire destroyed most of Ritzville's commercial district, including Greene's store. As a gesture of confidence, he immediately set to work constructing the first brick commercial building in town, which was completed the following year. In December, 1888, he filed his first addition plat, which was to become a major residential development. That same month, Ritzville was officially incorporated and Greene was appointed the first mayor. The area continued to grow, with immigrant groups settling the surrounding countryside and establishing wheat farms which were soon bringing in profitable crops. As a grain broker, Greene shipped much of the area's wheat to Eastern markets. With increasing assets gained from his many projects, he established the Pioneer State Bank in April, 1901. The remainder of his active work life in Ritzville was in banking.

Greene financed the building of his house in 1902, a year when Ritzville was experiencing a surge of physical and economic growth. At that time the town was declared the largest inland wheat-shipping port in the United States, an achievement accounting for its optimistic expansion and reflected in the building of numerous commercial blocks and fine homes, of which Greene's was the most ambitious. The first major residence of brick in Ritzville, the house is distinguished not only by the quality of its construction but also by its design concept. Its exterior combines the irregular massing and contrasting materials of the towered Queen Anne house type with references to Classical Revivalism in the pediments and columned portico. Inside is evidence of the late nineteenth-century taste for inviting interiors derived from the early colonial tradition, a trend which followed in the wake of the American Centennial. Visual warmth is produced by materials (gleaming hardwood finish) and design elements (inglenooks and the relationship of stairhall to rooms, which opens up the floor plan somewhat). The status of the house as a social statement is retained, however, in the formalizing impact of room size, the rather monumental staircase, and the consistent application of classical motifs throughout, particularly the most graceful of the orders, the Ionic.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

(see attached)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

UTM NOT VERIFIED

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .344 acre
UTM REFERENCES

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

Quad Name: Ritzville S.E., WA
Map Scale: 1:24,000

A	1 1	3 9 5 7 0 0	5 2 1 9 5 2 5
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C			

B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The property includes Lots 1-3, Block 83, Greene and Prouty's Second Addition to the City of Ritzville, Washington. The property line extends from the corner of Fifth Avenue and Adams Street southwesterly 150 feet through Lots 1-3. From the same corner going in a south-easterly direction along Adams Avenue, the property extends 100 feet to the alley.

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

Art Wildey, Survey Coordinator.

Edited by Dawn Maddox

ORGANIZATION

Adams County Planning Department

DATE

September 19, 1979

STREET & NUMBER

P.O. Box 334

TELEPHONE

(509) 488-9441

CITY OR TOWN

Othello

STATE

Washington 99344

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 National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Jeanne M. Welch 12/14/79

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Carol O'Shull

DATE

3-7-80

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

DATE

3-7-80

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 1

Adams County Pioneer Edition, Ritzville Journal Times, September 15, 1949.

"Adams County, Washington." The Coast Magazine, January, 1908.

Frank, Mrs. Homer. P.O. Box 527, Basin, Wyoming 82410 (granddaughter of N.H. Greene; lived in house as a child). Letter to Art Wildey.

Jordin, Mrs. Don. Interview with Art Wildey, December 12, 1978.

Steele, R.F. History of The Big Bend; Part IV, History of Adams County. Spokane, Washington: Western Historical Publishing Company, 1904.