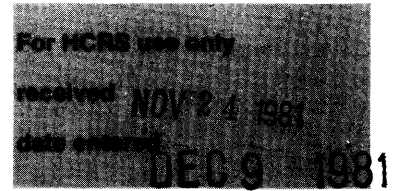


**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**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 Rice, Napoleon, House

and/or common

**2. Location**

street & number 709 Kane St.  not for publication

city, town Roseburg  vicinity of Fourth congressional district

state Oregon code 41 county Douglas code 019

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" 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 Lenore Paulsen (See continuation sheet)

street & number 1044 SE Terrace

city, town Roseburg  vicinity of Oregon state 97470

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Douglas County Courthouse, Clerk's Office

street & number 1036 SE Douglas Avenue

city, town Roseburg  vicinity of Oregon state 97470

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

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

date April 19, 1976  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records State Historic Preservation Office

city, town Salem  vicinity of Oregon state 97310

## 7. Description

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

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

The Napoleon Rice House, a two-story, woodframe dwelling in the Queen Anne Style, is situated on an 81 x 110-foot lot at the SE corner of Cass Avenue and Kane Street, one block east of the central business district in Roseburg, Oregon. Basically rectangular in plan, the house measures 14.5 x 27 feet and is oriented longitudinally, east to west, with the front facing Kane Street. It was erected about 1893 by James Hewitt, a Roseburg builder, from plans drawn by J. A. Perkins, architect. The central, main volume of the house has a steeply-pitched hip roof and gable-roofed wings projecting at right angles from NE and SW corners. At the NW corner is a ground story bow window encircled by a wrap-around veranda and surmounted by a turret, or round, open balcony with a conical roof covered with patterned shingles.

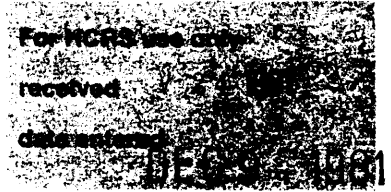
The front door is approached by a flight of nineteen steps. In the concrete of the front sidewalk leading to the steps, the name "N. Rice" is inlaid in metal. The house rests on a high basement which has an earth floor, except for one cement section. The wood foundation walls rest on concrete footings. Porches are supported by brick piers which also are supported by concrete footings. The piers are covered with cement plaster. The exterior is clad with shiplap siding. A band of patterned shingles girdles the house between the first and second stories. The double hung sash in the bow window have a convex curve. The toplight of the paneled and glazed front door is bordered by squares of colored art glass. Veranda steps, railings and cornice skirting are of turned spindle work, as is the cornice skirt of the turret above. The balcony floor is tin. Four turned porch posts culminate in solid brackets at the roofline. North and west facing gable ends are clad with patterned shingles in the peaks and are decorated with vergeboards with fancy cut out work. The original cedar shingle roof was surmounted with cresting at roof ridges which has long since disappeared, except for the turret finial. All roofing was replaced in kind by the current owners in recent months.

Typical elongated window openings are fitted with double-hung sash with one over one lights, those in the gable roofed wing sections being grouped in pairs at first and second story levels and their spandrels being ornamented with Eastlake Style paneling with bosses. On the west face, the ground story openings in the projecting section, or wing were converted in later years to a tripartite bay, and the porch eavesline was extended south across the front of the bay. A minor porch at the NE corner of the house was enclosed in 1947 in a way which is reversible. Railings, posts and bracketed cornice are all intact. The corners of the NE projecting section, or wing are beveled at the ground story level to contain windows. The sheltering overhangs above them are decorated with scroll-sawn skirting. The second story stair landing window has small square panes of colored glass like those of the front door top light. The chimneys were originally elaborately banded and capped with triangular hoods of brick. Painted white in later years, the house will be repainted by the current owners to recreate original treatment as documented through careful testing. The earliest historic view of the house believed to have been taken ca. 1893, shows that the body color was light with trim painted a darker, contrasting color.

The entrance hall is separated from the parlor by panelled sliding doors 8½ feet high. The first floor consists of a parlor, dining room, sitting room, pass-pantry, kitchen and bath-room. The kitchen has a wainscot. The original dining room is contained in the beveled bay section on the north face. A 13-inch frieze and cornice molding tops the walls in the parlor, dining room and sitting room. The 12-inch high baseboards throughout the house are finished with decorative moulding. All woodwork is Douglas fir. Door and window trim is Eastlake in style with corner block paterae and beaded boards. Original interior hardware (doorknobs, hinges, door pulls and window catches) of ornamental brass and copper

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet Rice, Napoleon, House

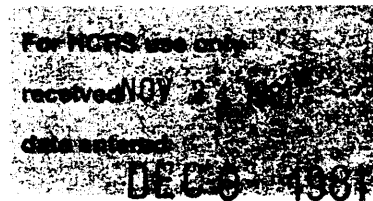
Item number 4

Page 1

Lewis and Beverly Paulson  
1397 SE Lane  
Roseburg, OR 97470

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet Rice, Napoleon, House

Item number 7

Page 1

is intact. The entrance hall features a staircase which has Eastlake newel posts and spool-turned balusters rising from a landing inside the bow window. A curved window seat is located at the second story landing. The second floor has three bedrooms. All bedrooms have picture moulding.

Most lighting fixtures date from the time the house was wired for electricity. Originally, there were two chimneys and no fireplace. Rooms were heated with stoves.

It was about 1914 that the front parlor wall was pushed out flush with the porch and the 3-window grouping was installed. At this time, also, the dining room and original sitting room were switched and a Mission, or Craftsman Style fireplace with flanking settles and ceramic tile surround was added to the new dining room space. Sleeping porches were added in second story gables on south and east sides of the house. All original flooring is of Douglas fir. In 1927 oak flooring was laid in the entrance hall and three first-floor rooms.

Two duplexes were built on either side of the house; one in 1950 and the other in 1959.

A small shiplap-sided and gable-roofed shed, or garage of unknown building date is situated at the back of the property. It has a loft and wooden floor and is in need of repair. Siding is identical to that of the house.

## 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

**Specific dates** ca. 1893 **Builder/Architect** J. A. Perkins, architect; James Hewitt, contractor.

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The house built for Napoleon Rice at 709 Kane Street in Roseburg, Oregon about 1893 is significant as one of the three outstanding examples of high style Queen Anne architecture in the Douglas County seat. It was built by local contractor James Hewitt from plans drawn by J. A. Perkins. Undated pencil and pen-and-ink drawings signed by the architect are in possession of the current owners. Owing to a paucity of local directories for the period, it has not been possible to discover whether Perkins was living in Roseburg at the time. In Myrtle Point, in neighboring Coos County, the Binger Hermann House was built from identical plans. While the Rice House is not as grand in scale as Hewitt's house for Moses Parrott (1891), a National Register property, or the nearby Judge J. W. Hamilton House, it nonetheless displays the diversity of massing and surface decoration and the novel rounded corner bay and balcony turret which are essential characteristics of its type and style. The house is being rehabilitated by its present owners for commercial lease, and, to date, the roofs of the main volume and balcony turret have been replaced with regular, fancy-butted cedar shingles matching the original except for treatment of the ridges. The Rice House possesses integrity of location and design; sufficient integrity of setting, materials and workmanship, and integrity of feeling and association with Napoleon Rice (1859-1947), a third generation member of Douglas County pioneer family and longtime councilman and mayor of Roseburg over the period 1896 to 1924.

The patriarch of the Rice family in Douglas County was W. S. Rice, a native of Canada who had emigrated as a young man to Indiana to farm. In 1840 Rice removed to Missouri, and eight years later led his young family across the plains to California. Rice kept a public house at Sutters Fort on the Sacramento River in the winter of 1848-1849, and engaged in mining, unsuccessfully, for a time. In 1850 he brought his family to Oregon and settled on the Tualatin Plains in Washington County. Ica F. Rice, one of his two sons, and the future father of Napoleon Rice, was at this point a boy of fifteen. It was he who two years later came to Douglas County to scout a more favorable location and encouraged his father to take up land about six miles north of Oakland which was ideally suited for stock raising. The area in which the Rice farm was established ca. 1854 was later named Rice Hill. During the Rogue River Indian War of 1855, the Rices lost many head of cattle. Discouraged, father and son sold the ranch and departed for California in 1856 only to return with their respective families two years later to buy back the old place near Oakland. Ica F. Rice subsequently added to the holdings and at one time owned a thousand acres. In 1891 Rice the younger moved to Roseburg and carried on a substantial business in real estate. He had married Martha Bramlett, a native of Tennessee, also an overland pioneer, in Douglas County in 1854. Napoleon Rice was the first of three children born to Ica F. and Martha Rice.

Napoleon Rice was married May 5, 1886 to Annie Harvey. Their daughter, Etta Beatrice, born in 1890, died in 1895. A portrait of her as a child of 2½ years in front of the house at 709 Kane Street has provided the attributed date of construction for lack of other documentary evidence. Another daughter, Jeannette, now living in San Diego, California, married the son of James Hewitt, the builder of the Rice House. The property on which the house is situated was originally owned by Aaron and Frances Rose. Aaron Rose was the founder of Roseburg. On May 20, 1892, Aaron Rose gave the property to the Methodist Episcopal Church for the sum of \$1. On the same day it was purchased by Napoleon Rice for the sum of \$850.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet.

# 10. Geographical Data

ACREAGE NOT DETERMINED

Acreeage of nominated property less than one

Quadrangle name Roseburg, Oregon

Quadrangle scale 1:62500

### UMT References

A 

1	0	4	7	2	2	2	5	4	7	8	3	6	0	0
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 Napoleon Rice House is located in NW $\frac{1}{4}$ , SW $\frac{1}{4}$ , Sec. 19, T. 27S., R. 5W., W. M., and is more particularly described as occupying Lot 5 of Block 46 of the Overlook Addition to Roseburg, Douglas County, Oregon. Tax Lot 52360.

### 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 Lenore Paulsen and Beverly Paulson

organization

date February 21, 1981

street & number 1044 SE Terrace

telephone 503/673-6928, 672-5011

city or town Roseburg

state Oregon 97470

# 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 State Historic Preservation Officer

date July 28, 1981

For HCRA use only

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

Entered in the National Register

date 12/7/81

Keeper of the National Register

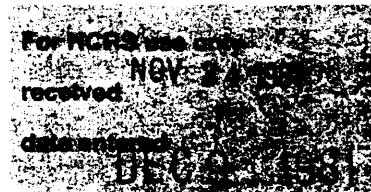
Agent

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet Rice, Napoleon, House

Item number 8

Page 1

Napoleon Rice, with his cousin, M. R. (Mose) Rice, operated what was at one time thought to be the largest furniture store in Southern Oregon. He started in the furniture business in 1890, carrying used and second-hand goods. The establishment was named "Rice & Rice House Furnishers" and offered everything to furnish a house. The firm furnished houses complete for cash or on installments and developed a mail-order business. Merchandising methods in the store were far ahead of the times.

Following seven years on the city council, Napoleon Rice was first elected mayor of Roseburg in 1913. After serving five years he retired from office, but was elected mayor again in 1922 and served another two years. According to an obituary written by Charles Stanton in 1947, Mayor "Nap" Rice was known for his city beautification projects. He was a great lover of flowers and encouraged residents of the city to beautify yards surrounding their homes. City employees were given the task of keeping crosswalks clean. "During his last term of office he commissioned the late Corinne C. Alley, then city treasurer, to plan and plant flower gardens around the city hall, and paid the cost from his own pocket. He was a venturesome, progressive type of citizen, contributing much to Roseburg's business improvement"<sup>1</sup> Ironically, later development has hemmed in the house and little remains of the period plantings in Rice's own yard. Napoleon Rice lived in the house at 709 Kane until his death in 1947. That same year, Dr. and Mrs. M. C. Cassel bought the property, moved to it from Klamath Falls, and established a chiropractic office in the house. Dr. Cassel maintained his office there for the next 20 years. The house was occupied by Dr. Cassel's widow, Edith Cassel, until 1978.

In 1959, a parked truck loaded with dynamite exploded, and the blast created a 50-foot crater in downtown Roseburg. Damage to the Napoleon Rice house consisted of shattered windows and cracked plaster. The walls were later covered with sheet rock.

Original drawings signed by "J. A. Perkins, Architect" were acquired with the house by the present owners. These drawings cover both sides of three sheets of 20 x 30 - inch heavy paper. The sheets are torn and friable, but the drawings are legible. Also included is a basement plan drawn with ink on linen tracing paper. Fragments and several partial rolls of wallpaper used in the early years are also part of the historical record on the premises.

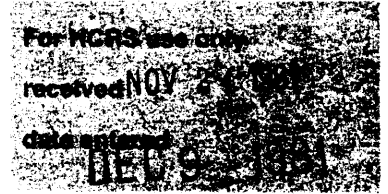
The building date of the house has been documented by the date of acquisition of the property by Napoleon Rice (1892) and by the photograph of the 2½ year old Etta Beatrice Rice playing in the street on the north side of the house. The little girl died September 27, 1895.

No information has been found regarding J. A. Perkins. The Binger Hermann House at 805 Fifth Street in Myrtle Point, Coos County was built from the same plans but has been extensively remodeled and is in poor condition. The date of construction of the Hermann House is unknown.

<sup>1</sup> Charles V. Stanton, "Born 50 Years Too Soon", Roseburg News Review, March 10, 1947 (obituary).

**United States Department of the Interior  
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**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet Rice, Napoleon, House

Item number 9

Page 1

## INTERVIEWS

- February 15, 1981: Curtis Beckham, Myrtle Point, local historian.  
 February 14, 1981: Marion D. Ross, Professor of Architecture emeritus, University of Oregon  
 January 27, 1981: Jeanette Rice Hewitt, daughter of Napoleon Rice. (telephone interview)

## NEWSPAPER ARTICLES

- "Napoleon Rice, Ex-Mayor, Pioneer Business Man of Roseburg Taken by Death", Roseburg News Review, March 8, 1947.  
 "Born 50 Years Too Soon", Roseburg News Review, March 10, 1947. Obituary by Charles V. Stanton.  
 "Rice and Rice, the House Furnishers", Roseburg News Review, January 1903. Vol. 25, No. 31

## COURTHOUSE RECORDS

- Court Record #195 and 196. Filed May 20, 1892 by Y. A. Taylor, County Clerk.  
 Roseburg, Oregon Survey Map, May 1873, by A. R. Flint.

## OTHER

- Portrait and Biographical Record of Western Oregon (Chicago: Champan Publishing Company, 1904), 829-830. Note on Ica F. Rice, father of Napoleon Rice.