## National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received JAN 2 & 1986 date entered FEB 2 7 1986

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

# 1. Name

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| depository for sur | vey records   | <u>State Hi</u>  | <u>storic Pres</u>   | ervation               | Office,        | 525 Tra  | de Street                             | ; SE   |
| city, town         |   | Salem            |  | <u>.</u>               |                | state  | Oregon                                | 97310  |

# 7. Description

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

The Bennett-Williams House, constructed in 1899, is the largest, most elaborate and best-preserved example of Queen Anne style architecture in The Dalles. No architect is known for the imposing residence, which is partially utilized today as a bed and breakfast inn. The interior and exterior possess a high degree of integrity.

Oriented to the northeast on a 1.35-acre sloping parcel, the house occupies the major portion of Block 51 of the Military Addition to the City of The Dalles, Wasco County, Oregon. It is located at the southwest corner of the intersection of West Sixth (old Columbia River Highway) and Trevitt Street. The parcel is demarcated by an original stone and wrought iron fence on the street sides. Many large mature trees, including fir, cedar and oak are dispersed around the lot, and a privet hedge runs east/west between West Sixth Street, and the house, thus and creating an outer front yard, which is shaded by a row of birches paralleling the deciduous trees planted in the parking strip. South of the house, the ground rises steeply up basalt rock formations to the upper level of the city. In recent years, a portion of Lots A and B at the southwest corner of Block 51 was partitioned from the historic holding and developed as a separate tax lot. The dwelling constructed on the adjoining tax lot is visually separated by its situation on the upper level, atop the basalt outcrop.

The immediate neighborhood is characterized by a mixture of well-maintained Victorian era houses, early 20th century Bungalows and more modern residences. The low area of Mill Creek defines the western edge of the property, with the Mill Creek Bridge (a Columbia River Highway bridge) being located near the northwest corner of the property. Across Mill Creek are two historic auto campground motels. It is the rear, shiplap-sided garage with hipped roof and folding doors having top lights, which dates from the early automobile era, and the perimeter fence, an extensive and well-preserved example of ornamental wrought iron and masonry work, which are counted as features contributing to the significance of the property in addition to the house.

Of balloon-frame construction, the house is  $2\frac{1}{2}$  stories tall (fifty feet) with a foundation and basement of quarry-faced random-range Columbia River basalt. Essentially rectangular, the ground-plan measures  $38 \times 53$ ' apart from the exterior porches. Typically, massing is irregular beneath moderately pitched, intersecting gable and hipped roofs, all covered in comparatively new cedar shingles. Wall coverings above the foundation are wooden, and include eight inch to the weather shiplap siding, panels, vertical tongue and groove siding, and fish scale shingles.

The north (front) elevation is characterized by asymmetrical massing. A projecting gabled wing in the northwest corner is distinguished by a corner turret featuring an open second story porch and steeply-pitched, faceted roof with finial.

An eleven step, straight run stair, centered on the north facade, leads under a projecting pedimented entry, whose tympanum is filled with fish-scale shingles. This entry gives access to the prominent veranda, which covers much of the north

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|--------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|----------------|
| elevation          | and a nortion of the east | elevation The visually pr | rominent porch |

elevation and a portion of the east elevation. The visually prominent porch elements are further emphasized by the projecting, cone-roofed pavilion on the northeast corner. An additional second-story porch faces the north.

Decorative features, primarily Eastlake in character, are generally restrained and are indicative of the transitional period before the ascendance of the Colonial Revival style. Decoration is extensive but not unusual in the variety of forms. The various porch designs are almost identical, being characterized by turned baluster railings, turned porch posts, simple spindle friezes and some jigs awn panels and brackets. Pierced work is found in the gable ends. The overall effect is one of elegance rather than exuberance. This quality is enhanced by the consistent use of a slightly flared fish-scale covered skirt above the first floor, and a paneled frieze. Both of the elements are found on each exterior elevation.

Notable architectural elements on the east elevation include a large oval stained glass window with keystone frame and central cantilevered bay with a diminuitive recessed porch in the attic gable end, which is covered in fish-scale shingles and framed by a half-moon opening. A compatible modern porch extension beginning on the southeast corner of the elevation echoes the historic porch design in overall design but is not duplicative. This extension leads to the southern elevation, where a gazebo of more recent construction is located. A characteristic projecting box-over-slant bay is found on the west elevation.

Fenestration is disposed assymetrically, and is generally composed of single and paired one-over-one, double-hung sash of varying dimension. There are also intermittent leaded glass transom panels and a few multi-light windows.

Two tall, flare-top brick chimneys, among the hallmarks of the Queen Anne style, are intact. One at the SE corner of the house served the kitchen, originally, and the other, at the core, served sitting rooms fireplaces on two stories.

Interior layout is typical of the period, with high-ceilinged formal rooms on the ground story radiating from a stair hall in the northeast corner. Ground story rooms include a front parlor, a sitting room with fireplace, dining room, bedroom suite, kitchen, pantry and service area. Upstairs are the master bedroom suite and subsidiary rooms. Finish work is typical of the Eastlake tradition, with elaborately molded window and door trim, some with corner blocks, and paneled wains coting in the dining room. The formal stairway is a dog-leg stair with three straight flights and railing of turned balusters. The square newel post is finished with square and rectangular raised panels which echo paneling in the formal door.

The interior is little changed in plan from its original configuration, although there have been some second floor bedroom partition changes and a bathroom added. The kitchen and pantry were modernized also. The house has undergone regular, but

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sympathetic interior wallpaper replacement and repainting throughout its history. Other than these alterations, all interior finishes and trim remain substantially as originally installed. Plaster on woodlath; some mahogany woodwork and some grained finishes; the old fireplace mantels and a cast-iron fireplace insert; marble and tile hearths and fireplace faces, and both hardwood and softwood flooring. Interior lighting is with both original and replacement antique brass fixtures. All rooms are furnished with family heirlooms and furniture of the period.

### History of Alterations

When Edward M. and Elizabeth Williams moved to the house in 1926, the electrical system was upgraded for the first time.

In 1951, under supervision of architect J. C. Payne of Portland, the original kitchen with food and butlers pantries, including a wood and electric stove, was modernized. In doing this the architect moved the back porch from the rear to the side of the house, making a more convenient entrance. The new kitchen combined the butler and food pantries. A large china cabinet of the Victorian era was moved into the rearranged space.

In 1962 another interior change was made on the second floor. On the east side of the house, a bathroom was added at the head of the main stairwell. There is one bedroom on this side of the house. By incorporating the closet to this room and using a large vacant space at the top of the stairs, a second bathroom was added to serve the front bedrooms.

The old bathroom located at the south end of the upstairs hall, consisted of a separate toilet room and tub and lavatory room. These were blocked from the hall and made into a bath and dressing room combination for the master suite on the second floor. Completing the suite is the upstairs sitting room with its fireplace surround in the Arts and Crafts/Colonial Revival vein.

Previously, the master suite had been that in the southwest corner of the main floor. The latter now serves as the guest suite.

In the 1960s the wiring system was<sup>re</sup>vamped again, with new panels to bring the system to current standards. Also, all the furnace duct work was updated for better heat circulation.

The rear gazebo, compatible architecturally with the style of the house, was designed by Portland architect Alfred Staehli and erected in 1974. In 1980 Mr. Staehli supervised general refurbishing of the house. A new heating and air conditioning system was installed. New gutters were added and a new cedar shingle roof put on. The weather vanes were restored and returned to their original locations. The exterior was scraped and painted, dry rot on the porches repaired, and new hardwood flooring was laid downstairs. Storm windows and doors were installed for energy conservation.



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# 8. Significance

| Period<br>prehistoric<br>1400–1499<br>1500–1599<br>1600–1699<br>1700–1799<br>1800–1899<br>1900– |           | heck and justify below<br>community planning<br>conservation<br>economics<br>education<br>engineering<br>exploration/settlement<br>industry<br>invention | Iandscape architecture<br>X law<br>Iterature<br>military<br>music<br>philosophy<br>politics/government | e religion<br>science<br>sculpture<br>social/<br>humanitarian<br>theater<br>transportation<br>other (specify) |
|---|-----------|--|--|---|
| Specific dates  | 1899-1928 | Builder/Architect  | Unknown  |   |

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Bennett-Williams House in The Dalles was built for Circuit Court Judge Alfred S. Bennett in 1899 and was sold in 1926, following Judge Bennett's death, to Edward Marshall Williams and his wife, Elizabeth, leading figures in the social and business life of the historic community on the Columbia River. The house, situated on a rise of land at the intersection of the original Columbia River Highway and Trevitt Street at the west edge of the city, is the largest, most elaborate and best-preserved example of architecture in the Queen Anne style in The Dalles. It is nominated with 1.36 acres, nearly all of the full block of the Military Addition to the town plat with which it has been associated historically. While long recognized in the Statewide Inventory of Historic Properties as the outstanding example of its style locally, the house has not been attributed to an architect, builder or pattern book source to date. Of balloon-frame construction on a basement of native basalt, the house is two and a half stories in height and displays the complex massing, flare-top chimneys. surface varigation, and many porches, bays and projections which are characteristic of the Queen Anne style. Interior finish work is typical of the Eastlake tradition, marked by extensive inset paneling, wainscots, molded baseboards, beaded door and window frames with corner blocks, and chimney pieces showing decided influence of the English Arts and Crafts.

The house is significant primarily under National Register criterion "c" as the outstanding example, locally, of the Queen Anne style. It is significant secondarily under criterion "b" for its association with Judge Alfred S. Bennett (1854-1925), well-known Circuit Court Judge in Wasco County who served briefly toward the end of his career as a Justice of the State Supreme Court. Because of the contributions of Edward Marshall Williams to The Dalles mercantile and banking history, the property's period of significance extends to the time of Edward Williams' death in 1928. Williams' heirs have occupied the property to the present day.

The nominated property is an unusually well-preserved reflection of the ultimate attainment of Alfred S. Bennett's career in Wasco County. In September, 1899, Judge Bennett and his wife of twelve years, the former Mary McCauley, and the couple's four children moved into the fashionable Queen Anne style house built for them at the westerly edge of the county seat. It was to be Bennett's home until his death in 1925 at the age of 70.

Alfred Bennett was born in Dubuque, Iowa June 10, 1854. His parents were Thomas M. and Zilpha A. Bennett. When Alfred was eleven years old the family crossed the plains to Oregon, settling in the Willamette Valley in 1865. Eventually, however, Bennett removed to Wasco County, east of the the Cascades, where he worked on area

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# 9. Major Bibliographical References

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| name/title   | E. D. Wil   |   |  |   |   |
| name/title   | E. D. Wil<br>N/A  | liams   |  | date  | August 14, 1985   |
| name/title<br>organization   | E. D. Wil<br>N/A  |   |  | date<br>telephone   | (500) 000 0000  |
| name/title<br>organization<br>street & number  | E. D. Wil<br>N/A  | liams<br>Sixth Street   |  |   | · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·   |
| name/title<br>organization<br>street & number<br>city or town  | E. D. Wil<br>N/A<br>r 608 West<br>The Dalle   | liams<br>Sixth Street   | :  | telephone<br>state  | (503) 296-2889  |
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farms until he was nineteen. Having received a common school education, Bennett spent several years teaching and was elected Superintendent of Wasco County Schools in 1878. During this period he read law with the Hon. J. B. Condon in The Dalles. Condon, co-incidentally, was the brother of Thomas Condon, Congregational minister and amateur paleontologist who pioneered investigation of the now-famous John Day formations in central Oregon.

In January, 1880, Bennett was admitted to the bar. Thereafter he centered his practice of law at The Dalles, where he took part in many noteworthy civil and criminal trials. He was elected to the State Legislature in 1882, but resigned his office before the Legislature convened to accept appointment as Circuit Judge of the Fifth Judicial District by Governor W. W. Thayer upon the resignation of the Hon. Lewis Linn McArthur. He served on the circuit bench several years before returning to private practice. He also continued an interest in farming and stock-raising.

A life-long Democrat, Bennett was an unsuccessful candidate for Congress and was a delegate to the Democratic national conventions of 1904 and 1912. He was associated with the Hon. John M. Thurston in the defense of Senator Mitchell in 1905 and assisted in the defense of Congressman J. N. Williams on in a land fraud case. In 1918 he stood for election to the Oregon Supreme Court and was elected. He served less than a year on the high court bench, however, having had to resign on account of ill health in October, 1920. Bennett returned from the capital city to The Dalles and resumed the practice of law until his death five years later.

Bennett's wife was the former Mary McCauley of Dayton, Washington. They were married in 1887. In 1926, in the wake of Judge Bennett's death. Mrs. Bennett sold the property to Mr. and Mrs. Edward M. Williams.

On September 26, 1986, sixty years from the date the Edward M. Williams family moved to the property, the house will have been a home to members of the Williams family.

Edward Marshall Williams, the son of Griffith Evans Williams and Anna Marshall Williams, was born in The Dalles in 1865. Griffith Williams was born in Bedgelart, North Wales in 1836, and upon the death of his parents migrated to this country at the age of 12 with his two older sisters and brother Robert. The children arrived in this country in 1846 at New Orleans. The two older sisters remained in New Orleans and their history has been lost.

Robert and Griffith migrated north and joined a Welsh community in Wisconsin, where Griffith apprenticed as a carpenter. Robert Williams married, and in 1852 the brothers joined a wagon train for Oregon. It was at Wells Springs, Oregon, west of Heppner, that Robert died along with many others of his party, including cattle, from contaminated water.

With his brother's widow and infant son, Griffith continued to Oregon City. By





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himself he went to Yreka, California. Instead of digging gold he pursued his training as a carpenter, building houses, privies, slush boxes. Earning in the neighborhood of \$3,000 to \$6,000 in gold, he returned to Oregon City. On his return he and a partner started a sawmill, which burned. Neither partner had the capital to reconstruct the mill.

Griffith Williams married Anna Marshall in 1859 in Oregon City. A son born to Griffith and Anna in Oregon City died at birth. In 1862 the Williams moved to The Dalles, where Griffith was employed by the Oregon Steam Navigation Company, building cars for the portage railroad which ran from The Dalles to the mouth of the Deschutes River. The Williams'second child, Jeanette, was born in 1862, Edward Marshall in 1866, then Griffith Evan, Mary (May), Grace, Annie, Pearl, Carl, Robert, and Florence.

In 1866, G. Williams and Edward Wingate, who also had worked for the Oregon Steam Navigation Company, opened a general merchandise store at 155-162 East Second (presently 304-306 East Second) which outfitted ranchers, farmers and prospectors headed to the gold fields of Idaho. Williams also served on the city council.

When Wingate died in 1883, Williams continued with Wingate's widow as a partner. Williams himself died on March 6, 1883. The month before he died, Williams had seen the First National Bank of The Dalles open for business. He had been one of the incorporators and was a member of the board of directors. The two widows of the deceased partners ran the store with a man by the name of Hartman as manager for a few years. In 1888, Mrs. Williams purchased Mrs. Wingate's interest in the store and made her 23-year-old-son, Edward, manager of A. M. Williams & Company. Edward took his father's place on the bank's board of directors and served as its president from 1918 until his death in 1928.

In 1901 Edward Marshall Williams and W. E. Walther formed Walther-Williams Hardware Company, a retail and wholesale concern which also handled farm machinery and was one of the largest automobile distributors in eastern Oregon. Walther-Williams was the first Dodge agency in The Dalles. In 1914 the first Dodge for the agency was shipped unassembled, from the Port of Seattle to Portland, then by river boat to The Dalles where it was assembled in the company's shops.

A. M. Williams and Company, meanwhile, evolved as a clothing store. General merchandise was dropped in 1891. By the time of the Great Depression, the company hac expanded to six outlets. In 1962, A. M. Williams and Company and Walther-Williams Hardware, the two businesses which Edward M. Williams had headed, were merged. The A. M. Williams Company store is still extant in downtown The Dalles, but altered since Edward M. Williams' lifetime. The Bennett-Williams House, therefore, is the best preserved property in the community directly associated with the prominent businessman.



# National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form



Continuation sheet Item number 9 Page 1

Gaston, Joseph, <u>Centennial History of Oregon</u> (Chicago: S. J. Clarke Publishing Company, 1912). Volume 4, page 1054.

#### OMB No. 1024-0018 Expires 10-31-87

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

Continuation sheet Bennett-Williams House 10 Item number Page 1

The Bennett-Williams House is located in NE<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> Section 4, T.1N., R.13E., Willamette Meridian, in the city of The Dalles, Wasco County, Oregon. It occupies nearly all of Block 51 in the Military Addition at said location. The nominated area consists of all of Tax Lot 2300, an area of 1.36 acres, more or less, and is more particularly described as follows:

All of Block 51 in Military Addition to Dalles City, Wasco County, Oregon EXCEPTING therefrom the following described property which is expressly reserved: Beginning at the Southeast corner of Lot "A", Block 51, Fort Dalles Military Reservation, in Dalles City, Oregon. Running thence North 55 degrees 44' West along the Southerly line of said Block 51, a distance of 100 feet, to the Southwest corner of Lot "B" in said Block 51; thence North 34 degrees 07' East, along the line between Lots "B" and "C" in said block 51, 15 feet; thence South 84 degrees 32' East, 20.8 feet; thence North 17 degrees 05' East, 21 feet; thence South 75 degrees, 21' East, 17.9 feet; thence South 68 degrees 00' East, 17.4 feet; thence North 34 degrees 07' East, 20.2 feet; thence South 55 degrees 44' East, 54 feet, to the Easterly line of said Lot "A"; thence South 34 degrees 07' West, along said lot line, 75 feet, to the pont of beginning. (The excepted area contains 5,910 square feet, or .0135 acres, and is otherwise described as Tax Lot 2400.)

Following is an account of property ownership concerning Block 51 of the Military Addition to the plat of The Dalles.

In 1850, land encompassing the nominated property became part of the U.S. military resevation for Fort Drum, renamed Fort Dalles in 1853. Fort Dalles was abandoned by the military in 1866, and the property was placed in the hands of Jacob Fritts for liquidation in 1873. In 1877, the property was taken over by the U. S. Department of Interior for disposal.

The first recorded sale in Block 51, location of subject property, was August 13, 1883 to George Allen, from the U.S. Government.

According to a deed recorded September 12, 1892, George Williams purchased lots G and H. Subsequently, over several years, Ben Snipes acquired lots I, J, K, L and the A, B, C, D and E from the U. S. Government.

In 1895 Judge A. S. Bennett acquired ten lots of Block 51, including lot F. At the death of Judge Bennett in 1925, his wife, Mary Bennett received title to the ten lots.

On September 4, 1926 Mrs. Elizabeth S. Williams received title to the Bennett property. Also at this time, title was cleared on lots G and H and these lots were acquired by Elizabeth S. Williams, who then became owner of Block 51 of the Military Addition in entirety.



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Continuation sheet Bennett-Williams House Item number 10 Page 2

At the death of Elizabeth S. Williams, the property passed to her daughter, Florence E. Williams.

In 1962 Florence E. Williams sold the property to her brother, Edward D. Williams, under whose ownership it has remained to the present day.

In 1962 parts of Lots "A" and "B" were left in Florence E. Williams' possession as a separate tax lot for a home site. Accordingly, E. D Williams constructed a house on the separate for his sister's use.





Υ.