

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

282

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

JAN 26 1990

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Voorhies, Amos E. House  
other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 421 NW "B" Street N/A not for publication  
city, town Grants Pass N/A vicinity  
state Oregon code OR county Josephine code 033 zip code 97526

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u> objects
		<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A  
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

[Signature] January 10, 1990  
Signature of certifying official Date  
Oregon State Historic Preservation Office  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official Date  
\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register. Entered in the National Register  
 See continuation sheet. [Signature] 2/23/90

determined eligible for the National Register.  See continuation sheet. \_\_\_\_\_

determined not eligible for the National Register. \_\_\_\_\_

removed from the National Register. \_\_\_\_\_

other, (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

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The Amos E. Voorhies House occupies a double lot (100 x 100 feet) at the southeast corner intersection of "B" and Second streets in the city of Grants Pass, Oregon. It was constructed in 1929. Plans for the Colonial style house bear the title block of Boston architect Frederick H. Gowling. They were adapted by local contractor Gustav A. Lium.

The house has a 2 1/2 story main volume measuring roughly 36 x 25 feet in ground plan which rests upon a post and pier foundation. It faces north and is set back 30 feet from the street, surrounded by 60 year-old maple trees and a fir tree. A giant redwood tree in the backyard was planted by Amos and his grandson John nearly 60 years ago from a seedling from the coast. The tree is now 170 feet tall and the tallest tree of its type in the city.

The house shows the influence of the boxey gable roofed Cape Cod Colonial type which was fashionable in the 1920s. Its facade organization and interior layout are essentially symmetrical. Other elements that are distinguishing aspects of the Colonial style are wide lapped weatherboards, a boxed cornice with returns, and a broken pedimented front door frame supported by engaged columns. All windows are wide and tall, fitted with six-over-six, double-hung sash. All outside windows and door frames have two-inch back band moldings. All sash is of best White pine and 1/2-inch thick.

The interior of the house is organized on a central stairhall plan, with a parlor and sun room on one side and the dining room and enclosed sunporch on the other with kitchen and bath behind. The second floor contains four bed chambers and two baths, and there are two finished rooms in the attic. There is also a complete basement. Interior walls of plaster are trimmed with four-inch base moldings and two-inch picture moldings in all room and halls except kitchen and rear hallway. Interior woodwork is fine, standard millwork of the period. The staircase bannister of plain square balusters and shaped handrail curls into a circular configuration at the base of the stairs. The main floor has oak flooring. The upstairs and attic area floors are of fir.

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The dining room displays a built-in corner china hutch with cut glass hardware. All lighting fixtures are original to the period of construction. There are several sets of interior and exterior French doors throughout the house and many multi-paned window banks which give the interior a light and airy feeling.

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National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 2

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The living room displays a built-in bookcase with cabinets and shelves extending 14 feet (the width of the room). Many rooms, including the living room, have functional screens which are built into the window frames which pull down and push up with double locks that lock into the bottom of the window frames.

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The sunroom displays a 20-foot-long window seat on the east side of the room. Above the window seat are four sets of ten-next-to-ten, multi-paned casement windows which open out to a view of the side yard and maple trees. There are also two paired, double-hung windows facing north and a set of French doors facing south which open onto the backyard.

The kitchen was remodeled in 1970 to make it more efficient. The size remains the same, and no outside walls or windows were changed. New cabinets were installed, as were sink and appliances.

The upstairs bathrooms have been remodeled or added since 1970. The house was extended four feet out above the back porch allowing for a second bath adjoining the master chamber. The original bath was enlarged.

The 16 x 32-foot backyard swimming pool was installed in 1970. The backyard also contains an ornamental cement-lined pond, 5 x 15 feet, believed to have been introduced at the time the house was constructed.

**8. Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally     statewide     locally

Applicable National Register Criteria     A     B     C     D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)     A     B     C     D     E     F     G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Communications  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Period of Significance

1929-1939  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Dates

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Person

Voorhies, Amos Earle (1869-1960)

Architect/Builder

Frederick H. Gowing, architect  
Gustav A. Lium, builder

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

See continuation sheet

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

Grants Pass Sanborn Map, 1930.  
Grants Pass Daily Courier, April 19, 1929; November 24, 1929; April 3, 1935; April 3, 1985.  
Personal Interview with Martha Murphy, local historian, March, 1989.  
Josephine County Historical Highlights, Grants Pass, Oregon 1976.  
Telephone interview, John Voorhies, grandson of Amos Voorhies, August 3, 1989.  
Grants Pass Advisory Committee on Historic Preservation, Grants Pass.  
Inventory Summary completed October 1, 1981.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
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- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository:

Grants Pass Public Library

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreeage of property approximately 0.23 acres Grants Pass, Oregon 1:24000

UTM References

A 

1	0
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4	7	2	9	8	0
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4	6	9	8	9	6	0
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Zone Easting Northing

C 

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B 

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Zone Easting Northing

D 

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated area is located in SE $\frac{1}{4}$  NE $\frac{1}{4}$  Section 18, Township 36S, Range 5W, Willamette Meridian, in Grants Pass, Josephine County, Oregon. It is legally described as Lots 5 and 6 of Block 12, Original Plat of Grants Pass, and is otherwise identified as Tax Lot 900 at said location.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The nominated area is the entire 100 x 100' urban tax lot historically owned and developed by Amos E. Voorhies from 1897 onward. The existing house is the second house that Voorhies built on the lot. It was completed in 1929.

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Debra & Stephen Gugenheim, owners of property  
organization N/A date April, 1989  
street & number 421 NW "B" Street telephone (503) 476-8095  
city or town Grants Pass state Oregon zip code 97526

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 1

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The two-and-a-half-story modern Colonial house at the southeast corner of the intersection of "B" and Second street in Grants Pass, the Josephine County seat, was built in 1929 for Amos Earle Voorhies (1869-1960), long-time publisher of the Grants Pass Daily Courier, and a leading figure in Oregon journalism.

Voorhies started in the newspaper business as an apprentice in the office of a weekly newspaper in his native town of Greenville, Michigan. He arrived in Grants Pass in 1895 and soon acquired the Courier, then a struggling weekly. He married the daughter of his former employer, the publisher of the Greenville weekly, and established his home and "B" and Second streets. In 1910 Voorhies became a widower. He remarried in 1926 and three years later redeveloped his property with the commodious gable-roofed Colonial residence which is the subject of this nomination.

Plans for the house were supplied by Boston architect Frederick Gowing. The builder was Gustav Lium, the local contractor whom Voorhies and fellow stockholders of the Oregon Caves Company engaged to build tourist facilities at Oregon Caves National Monument soon after the company's incorporation in 1923.

The nominated property meets National Register Criterion B as that which is most importantly associated with the leader of the communications field in Grants Pas. Amos Voorhies made his home in two different houses on the same corner property from 1897 to the time of his death in 1960. In the first 40 years of the 20th Century, Voorhies developed the Weekly Courier into one of the most respected dailies in the state. He founded the local radio station and was part-owner of another in Medford. He worked vigorously to promote civic pride and economic development as a member of the Grants Pass Chamber of Commerce and the city's booster club, the Oregon Cavemen. He was an incorporator of the Oregon Caves Company which sought, with success, to encourage tourism in the Illinois Valley by building a resort at the Oregon Caves.

Voorhies headed the Oregon State Press Association and was a state vice-president of the National Editorial Association. Toward the end of his career, he was honored by his peers in Oregon journalism for his record of service to the field. The Courier has continued to the present day under management of Voorhies's son Earle (1899-1971), now deceased, and grandson John Voorhies.

Architecturally, the Voorhies House of 1929 is a workmanlike Colonial house, locally distinctive primarily because of its prominent corner location on a generous lot. Its front entrance is framed by an engaged portico with a broken pediment and vase-turned finial. The house is highly rated in the local cultural resource inventory as the best example of Colonial architecture in the modern

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National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 2

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period. Its completion date of 1929 is documented by the following articles in the Grants Pass Daily Courier.

A. E. Voorhies has taken a permit for the construction of a dwelling on B street, at Second, to cost \$6,000. Gust Lium has the contract for the house.  
April 19, 1929.

Mr. & Mrs. A. E. Voorhies had as Thanksgiving guests at their new home at 201 B Street. . . .  
November 28, 1929.

The property's address has since been renumbered 421 NW "B" Street.

Amos Earle Voorhies was born on a farm near Greenville, Michigan on June 6, 1869. Early in life his parents moved to the neighboring town of Stanton and remained there for ten years, later moving to Greenville, where young Voorhies attended high school and was graduated in 1888. For a year or more he clerked in a grocery store. Later he entered, as apprentice without pay, the office of the Greenville Independent, a weekly newspaper, which was published by E. F. Grabill for 47 years.

A. E. Voorhies came to Oregon in 1891 and worked as apprentice in several Portland job printing offices, one of them being the Irwin-Hodson Company, where he assisted in laying the type when that firm started business. These were days of economic depression and work was scarce. Much time was spent in tramping the streets of Portland seeking work of any kind, and accepting odd jobs wherever available.

Finally, Voorhies joined the force of the Portland Sun, a daily morning newspaper established and published by 40 or more former employees of the Morning Oregonian, who were thrown out of work by the installation of Linotypes and other modern machinery. There was plenty of work, but no pay days. Work at the Sun plant commenced at about 4 o'clock in the afternoon and ended around 2 o'clock in the morning. The four or five miles from home to the Sun office was made on foot to save the nickel street car fare, and the walk home in the early morning hours was necessary because street cars did not run at that hour. Finally, after struggling for a few months, the Morning Sun gave up the ghost and Voorhies was elected by fellow employees to wind up the business.

In the fall of 1895 Voorhies came to Grants Pass to take the position of foreman on the Oregon Observer. The duties included all work about the office and soliciting of subscriptions. Much of Josephine County was covered on horseback in an effort to increase the circulation of the paper.

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Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 3

Voorhies married Miss Clara Grabill of Greenville, Michigan on July 23, 1896, and a few months later he was let out of the Observer, due to the general business depression.

The following July, 1897, C. S. Price and A. E. Voorhies formed a partnership for the purchase of the Courier, then a struggling weekly. On October 19, 1899, Earle Elliot Voorhies was born. On October 23, 1910, Clara Grabill Voorhies died. Mr. Voorhies was again married on July 8, 1926 to Miss Lu Lu Benedict. Their new home was on Second and "B" streets in Grants Pass, the same corner which had been the Voorhies home since 1897. The original house was torn down and replaced by the modern Colonial in 1929.

In 1899, Price sold out his interest in the Courier, claiming the paper was not profitable enough to support two families. "Boss," as Voorhies was known by employees and customers, ran the business and production end of the newspaper with an eye to new technology and machinery. The Courier was the first weekly in Oregon to have a typesetting machine and a Linotype. When the newspaper went daily in 1910, the Courier became the smallest paper in the country to have a leased wire service. The newspaper was also headquarters for the first telephone exchange in Grants Pass. The line went to Crescent City on the northern California coast. Voorhies was also involved in the establishment of radio station KUIN, now KAGI, and was part owner of KBES-TV, now KOBI in Medford.

Mr. Voorhies had been a member of Bethany Presbyterian Church since 1897 and had been elected clerk of the congregation over 36 consecutive years. He was an honorary member of Sigma Delta Chi, professional journalism fraternity, Grants Pass Lodge No. 84, A.F. & A.M., Grants Pass Rotary Club, charter member and past master artisan of Grants Pass Lodge of United Artisans, and charter member of Grants Pass Lodge No. 1854, B.P.O.E. He was a member of the Grants Pass Chamber of Commerce and an associate member of Oregon Cavemen, Inc. He was one of the founders of Company H Oregon National Guard, the first guard company organized in the city (1899). He served as quartermaster sergeant, first sergeant, first lieutenant, and was captain when the company was mustered out. He was one of the eight stockholders of the Oregon Caves resort and had been secretary of that company for several years starting at its organization in April, 1923. Voorhies was president of the Oregon State Press Association in 1917, and for several years was state vice-president of the National Editorial Association. He never held a political office. He was identified with every booster organization that operated in the city.

The Daily Courier marked several accomplishments under the leadership of Amos Voorhies as mile posts of its record in a feature article in the issue of April 13, 1935. The Courier claimed the first use of a type setting machine in Oregon outside of Portland, use of a wire service and production of a daily paper since



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National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 4

1910, production of two editions daily, morning and afternoon, since 1929, and development of the best equipped commercial printing department in the newspaper industry in southern Oregon.

Amos Voorhies worked consistently to better his newspaper. As of August 26, 1935 the Daily Courier claimed the state's only photo-engraving plant supporting a daily outside of metropolitan Portland. Local news photographs enlivened the paper as events occurred, not days later, after zinc cuts came back from Portland by mail. Popularity of local news photos was credited for a hike in circulation to 963 by the end of 1937. The Daily Courier was, in fact, the only locally-produced newspaper in the small lumber-manufacturing and agricultural community which today numbers its population under 17,000. Clearly, the newspaper guided public opinion and influenced the settlement of local issues. In the 1920s and 1930s, particularly, editorial staff under Voorhies's direction promoted public works and other developments which promised to bolster the depressed economy. For example, the modern concrete arch bridge over the Rogue River on U.S. Highway 199 to Cave Junction and points south, was completed under state and federal auspices in 1931 after persistent endorsement from the Courier. The bridge was an up-to-date link to the tourist attractions of Oregon Caves National Monument and the northern California coast, and made Grants Pass a northern gateway to a vast Redwoods recreational area. The January 27, 1937 edition of the Courier was a 50-page special edition on local mining resources which heralded a revival of the hard-rock mining industry in the surrounding Siskiyou Mountains at the height of the Depression.

In 1957, the Oregon Highway Department and the City of Grants Pass named a street for him, "Voorhies Way." He was named to the Oregon Newspaper Roll of Honor by the Oregon Newspaper Publishers Association in recognition of his 50 years in Oregon journalism, and in 1979 he was posthumously named to the Oregon Newspaper Hall of Fame. "Boss" died in 1960 after having a stroke at home while raking leaves at the corner which had been his home for over 64 years. He had spent 64 of his 91 years at the Courier.

Voorhies's son, Earle, inherited the role as publisher of the Courier. Earle had been born the year his father acquired sole ownership of the paper. He worked for the Courier for 46 of his 71 years, starting as a carrier at the age of 11. His long career at the Courier was interrupted by both World Wars, and by his years at the University of Oregon School of Journalism. He came back to the Courier in 1925 after time on the San Francisco Chronicle's copy desk. In addition to running the news side of the paper, Earle sold subscriptions, managed distribution, and wrote editorials. Over the years, he also worked as janitor, pressman, news editor and co-publisher. "Boss" had bought and produced the Courier, but Earle made it "a news product" by implementing plans he had drawn at night while in the service. Earle was an avid baseball fan who made the Courier

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National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 5

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plant a local World Series broadcast headquarters by rigging speakers and a score chart on the buildin'gs exterior. He was also an expert golfer who became involved in the management of the Grants Pass Golf Course. Earle died of a heart attack at home in 1971.

The role of publisher was left to Earle's son, John Voorhies, who still heads the Courier operation. John started his newspaper career as a carrier in 1938 and worked through his teens doing everything from "pouring pigs" (hot lead poured into molds for use on the Linotype) to sweeping floors and changing rolls on the press. He also worked in the photography and photo-engraving departments. After World War II, he attended the University of Oregon School of Journalism. After graduating in 1950, he spent some years in the circulation department, working as a vacation "fill-in" in the newsroom, pricing job work, and working in bookkeeping and accounting.

The Courier holds the distinction of having been owned and operated by members of one family for a longer period of time than any other business in the history of Grants Pass.



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Signature of certifying official Oregon State Historic Preservation Office  
Date  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.  
Signature of commenting or other official \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
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I, hereby, certify that this property is:  
 entered in the National Register.  
 See continuation sheet.  
 determined eligible for the National Register.  See continuation sheet.  
 determined not eligible for the National Register.  
 removed from the National Register.  
 other, (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_

Entered in the  
National Register

[Signature]

2/23/90

[Signature]  
Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number   7   Page   1  

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Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Communications  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Period of Significance

1929-1939  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Dates

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Person

Voorhies, Amos Earle (1869-1960)

Architect/Builder

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See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository:

Grants Pass Public Library

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreeage of property approximately 0.23 acres Grants Pass, Oregon 1:24000

UTM References

A 

1	0
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4	7	2	9	8	0
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4	6	9	8	9	6	0
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Zone Easting Northing

C 

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B 

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Zone Easting Northing

D 

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated area is located in SE $\frac{1}{4}$  NE $\frac{1}{4}$  Section 18, Township 36S, Range 5W, Willamette Meridian, in Grants Pass, Josephine County, Oregon. It is legally described as Lots 5 and 6 of Block 12, Original Plat of Grants Pass, and is otherwise identified as Tax Lot 900 at said location.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The nominated area is the entire 100 x 100' urban tax lot historically owned and developed by Amos E. Voorhies from 1897 onward. The existing house is the second house that Voorhies built on the lot. It was completed in 1929.

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Debra & Stephen Gugenheim, owners of property  
organization N/A date April, 1989  
street & number 421 NW "B" Street telephone (503) 476-8095  
city or town Grants Pass state Oregon zip code 97526



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The two-and-a-half-story modern Colonial house at the southeast corner of the intersection of "B" and Second street in Grants Pass, the Josephine County seat, was built in 1929 for Amos Earle Voorhies (1869-1960), long-time publisher of the Grants Pass Daily Courier, and a leading figure in Oregon journalism.

Voorhies started in the newspaper business as an apprentice in the office of a weekly newspaper in his native town of Greenville, Michigan. He arrived in Grants Pass in 1895 and soon acquired the Courier, then a struggling weekly. He married the daughter of his former employer, the publisher of the Greenville weekly, and established his home and "B" and Second streets. In 1910 Voorhies became a widower. He remarried in 1926 and three years later redeveloped his property with the commodious gable-roofed Colonial residence which is the subject of this nomination.

Plans for the house were supplied by Boston architect Frederick Gowing. The builder was Gustav Lium, the local contractor whom Voorhies and fellow stockholders of the Oregon Caves Company engaged to build tourist facilities at Oregon Caves National Monument soon after the company's incorporation in 1923.

The nominated property meets National Register Criterion B as that which is most importantly associated with the leader of the communications field in Grants Pas. Amos Voorhies made his home in two different houses on the same corner property from 1897 to the time of his death in 1960. In the first 40 years of the 20th Century, Voorhies developed the Weekly Courier into one of the most respected dailies in the state. He founded the local radio station and was part-owner of another in Medford. He worked vigorously to promote civic pride and economic development as a member of the Grants Pass Chamber of Commerce and the city's booster club, the Oregon Cavemen. He was an incorporator of the Oregon Caves Company which sought, with success, to encourage tourism in the Illinois Valley by building a resort at the Oregon Caves.

Voorhies headed the Oregon State Press Association and was a state vice-president of the National Editorial Association. Toward the end of his career, he was honored by his peers in Oregon journalism for his record of service to the field. The Courier has continued to the present day under management of Voorhies's son Earle (1899-1971), now deceased, and grandson John Voorhies.

Architecturally, the Voorhies House of 1929 is a workmanlike Colonial house, locally distinctive primarily because of its prominent corner location on a generous lot. Its front entrance is framed by an engaged portico with a broken pediment and vase-turned finial. The house is highly rated in the local cultural resource inventory as the best example of Colonial architecture in the modern

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period. Its completion date of 1929 is documented by the following articles in the Grants Pass Daily Courier.

A. E. Voorhies has taken a permit for the construction of a dwelling on B street, at Second, to cost \$6,000. Gust Lium has the contract for the house.  
April 19, 1929.

Mr. & Mrs. A. E. Voorhies had as Thanksgiving guests at their new home at 201 B Street. . . .  
November 28, 1929.

The property's address has since been renumbered 421 NW "B" Street.

Amos Earle Voorhies was born on a farm near Greenville, Michigan on June 6, 1869. Early in life his parents moved to the neighboring town of Stanton and remained there for ten years, later moving to Greenville, where young Voorhies attended high school and was graduated in 1888. For a year or more he clerked in a grocery store. Later he entered, as apprentice without pay, the office of the Greenville Independent, a weekly newspaper, which was published by E. F. Grabill for 47 years.

A. E. Voorhies came to Oregon in 1891 and worked as apprentice in several Portland job printing offices, one of them being the Irwin-Hodson Company, where he assisted in laying the type when that firm started business. These were days of economic depression and work was scarce. Much time was spent in tramping the streets of Portland seeking work of any kind, and accepting odd jobs wherever available.

Finally, Voorhies joined the force of the Portland Sun, a daily morning newspaper established and published by 40 or more former employees of the Morning Oregonian, who were thrown out of work by the installation of Linotypes and other modern machinery. There was plenty of work, but no pay days. Work at the Sun plant commenced at about 4 o'clock in the afternoon and ended around 2 o'clock in the morning. The four or five miles from home to the Sun office was made on foot to save the nickel street car fare, and the walk home in the early morning hours was necessary because street cars did not run at that hour. Finally, after struggling for a few months, the Morning Sun gave up the ghost and Voorhies was elected by fellow employees to wind up the business.

In the fall of 1895 Voorhies came to Grants Pass to take the position of foreman on the Oregon Observer. The duties included all work about the office and soliciting of subscriptions. Much of Josephine County was covered on horseback in an effort to increase the circulation of the paper.

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Voorhies married Miss Clara Grabill of Greenville, Michigan on July 23, 1896, and a few months later he was let out of the Observer, due to the general business depression.

The following July, 1897, C. S. Price and A. E. Voorhies formed a partnership for the purchase of the Courier, then a struggling weekly. On October 19, 1899, Earle Elliot Voorhies was born. On October 23, 1910, Clara Grabill Voorhies died. Mr. Voorhies was again married on July 8, 1926 to Miss Lu Lu Benedict. Their new home was on Second and "B" streets in Grants Pass, the same corner which had been the Voorhies home since 1897. The original house was torn down and replaced by the modern Colonial in 1929.

In 1899, Price sold out his interest in the Courier, claiming the paper was not profitable enough to support two families. "Boss," as Voorhies was known by employees and customers, ran the business and production end of the newspaper with an eye to new technology and machinery. The Courier was the first weekly in Oregon to have a typesetting machine and a Linotype. When the newspaper went daily in 1910, the Courier became the smallest paper in the country to have a leased wire service. The newspaper was also headquarters for the first telephone exchange in Grants Pass. The line went to Crescent City on the northern California coast. Voorhies was also involved in the establishment of radio station KUIN, now KAGI, and was part owner of KBES-TV, now KOBI in Medford.

Mr. Voorhies had been a member of Bethany Presbyterian Church since 1897 and had been elected clerk of the congregation over 36 consecutive years. He was an honorary member of Sigma Delta Chi, professional journalism fraternity, Grants Pass Lodge No. 84, A.F. & A.M., Grants Pass Rotary Club, charter member and past master artisan of Grants Pass Lodge of United Artisans, and charter member of Grants Pass Lodge No. 1854, B.P.O.E. He was a member of the Grants Pass Chamber of Commerce and an associate member of Oregon Cavemen, Inc. He was one of the founders of Company H Oregon National Guard, the first guard company organized in the city (1899). He served as quartermaster sergeant, first sergeant, first lieutenant, and was captain when the company was mustered out. He was one of the eight stockholders of the Oregon Caves resort and had been secretary of that company for several years starting at its organization in April, 1923. Voorhies was president of the Oregon State Press Association in 1917, and for several years was state vice-president of the National Editorial Association. He never held a political office. He was identified with every booster organization that operated in the city.

The Daily Courier marked several accomplishments under the leadership of Amos Voorhies as mile posts of its record in a feature article in the issue of April 13, 1935. The Courier claimed the first use of a type setting machine in Oregon outside of Portland, use of a wire service and production of a daily paper since

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1910, production of two editions daily, morning and afternoon, since 1929, and development of the best equipped commercial printing department in the newspaper industry in southern Oregon.

Amos Voorhies worked consistently to better his newspaper. As of August 26, 1935 the Daily Courier claimed the state's only photo-engraving plant supporting a daily outside of metropolitan Portland. Local news photographs enlivened the paper as events occurred, not days later, after zinc cuts came back from Portland by mail. Popularity of local news photos was credited for a hike in circulation to 963 by the end of 1937. The Daily Courier was, in fact, the only locally-produced newspaper in the small lumber-manufacturing and agricultural community which today numbers its population under 17,000. Clearly, the newspaper guided public opinion and influenced the settlement of local issues. In the 1920s and 1930s, particularly, editorial staff under Voorhies's direction promoted public works and other developments which promised to bolster the depressed economy. For example, the modern concrete arch bridge over the Rogue River on U.S. Highway 199 to Cave Junction and points south, was completed under state and federal auspices in 1931 after persistent endorsement from the Courier. The bridge was an up-to-date link to the tourist attractions of Oregon Caves National Monument and the northern California coast, and made Grants Pass a northern gateway to a vast Redwoods recreational area. The January 27, 1937 edition of the Courier was a 50-page special edition on local mining resources which heralded a revival of the hard-rock mining industry in the surrounding Siskiyou Mountains at the height of the Depression.

In 1957, the Oregon Highway Department and the City of Grants Pass named a street for him, "Voorhies Way." He was named to the Oregon Newspaper Roll of Honor by the Oregon Newspaper Publishers Association in recognition of his 50 years in Oregon journalism, and in 1979 he was posthumously named to the Oregon Newspaper Hall of Fame. "Boss" died in 1960 after having a stroke at home while raking leaves at the corner which had been his home for over 64 years. He had spent 64 of his 91 years at the Courier.

Voorhies's son, Earle, inherited the role as publisher of the Courier. Earle had been born the year his father acquired sole ownership of the paper. He worked for the Courier for 46 of his 71 years, starting as a carrier at the age of 11. His long career at the Courier was interrupted by both World Wars, and by his years at the University of Oregon School of Journalism. He came back to the Courier in 1925 after time on the San Francisco Chronicle's copy desk. In addition to running the news side of the paper, Earle sold subscriptions, managed distribution, and wrote editorials. Over the years, he also worked as janitor, pressman, news editor and co-publisher. "Boss" had bought and produced the Courier, but Earle made it "a news product" by implementing plans he had drawn at night while in the service. Earle was an avid baseball fan who made the Courier

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plant a local World Series broadcast headquarters by rigging speakers and a score chart on the buildin'gs exterior. He was also an expert golfer who became involved in the management of the Grants Pass Golf Course. Earle died of a heart attack at home in 1971.

The role of publisher was left to Earle's son, John Voorhies, who still heads the Courier operation. John started his newspaper career as a carrier in 1938 and worked through his teens doing everything from "pouring pigs" (hot lead poured into molds for use on the Linotype) to sweeping floors and changing rolls on the press. He also worked in the photography and photo-engraving departments. After World War II, he attended the University of Oregon School of Journalism. After graduating in 1950, he spent some years in the circulation department, working as a vacation "fill-in" in the newsroom, pricing job work, and working in bookkeeping and accounting.

The Courier holds the distinction of having been owned and operated by members of one family for a longer period of time than any other business in the history of Grants Pass.

SE1/4 NE1/4 SEC 8 T36S R5 W.W.M  
JOSEPHINE COUNTY

1"=100'

