

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

received FEB 1 1985  
date entered FEB 28 1985

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

1. Name

historic Silsby, Colonel William H., House

and/or common Same

2. Location

street & number 111 Third Street N/A not for publication

city, town Ashland N/A vicinity of Fourth Congressional District

state Oregon code 41 county Jackson code 029

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	N/A in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	N/A being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: Professional office & clinic

4. Owner of Property

name Dr. David Kirkpatrick

street & number 111 Third Street

city, town Ashland N/A vicinity of state Oregon 97520

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Jackson County Courthouse

street & number 10 South Oakdale Avenue

city, town Medford state Oregon 97501

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

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

date  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records City of Ashland

city, town Ashland state Oregon 97520

# 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input checked="" 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 date <u>N/A</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

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

The Colonel William H. Silsby House is a two-story wood frame structure built in the Queen Anne style of architecture. The architect of the house, completed in 1896, is unknown. The Colonel William H. Silsby House is located in the Railroad Addition of Ashland, Oregon. To the southwest is the East Main Street Commercial District comprised of one to two-story brick or concrete commercial buildings. Two blocks to the north are the Southern Pacific Railroad grounds and tracks. To the east, north and west are older residential structures that comprise the Railroad Addition neighborhood. Most of these are more modest wood frame dwellings of one to one and one-half stories in height.

## LOCATION

The Colonel William H. Silsby House is located in Township 39S, Range 1E of the Willamette Meridian, Section 9, Tax Lot 8800 located in the Railroad Addition Plat (1884) of Ashland, Oregon. The nominated property includes Lots 23, 24 and the south half of 25 in Block M. The property is rectangular in shape, measuring 62.6 feet by 142 feet.

## SETTING

The Colonel William H. Silsby House property is at the northwest corner of Third and C Streets. One block south is Ashland's East Main Street, historically the major commercial street. Many brick, concrete and stucco-faced commercial blocks constructed during the town's earliest robust periods of development remain standing along East Main Street in the vicinity of the Colonel Silsby House. To the west, north, east and southeast are a number of modest frame dwellings that comprise the Railroad Addition (District) neighborhood. While many of these dwellings are of similar vintage to the Silsby House, few are of similar scale or architectural articulation. One block to the northeast stands a half dozen frame, brick and concrete commercial buildings which formed the once-active Fourth Street Commercial District at the turn of the century. Two blocks to the north is the Siskiyou Line of the Southern Pacific Railroad.

## SITE DESCRIPTION

The principal facade of the Colonel William H. Silsby House is oriented to the southeast and is set back from Third Street twenty-five feet. Landscaping on the north, east and south sides of the dwelling consists of a thick, manicured lawn, older shrubbery plantings and seasonal annual flower beds along the walkways and the foundation. A large maple tree is located near C Street towards the southwest corner of the house and probably dates from early in the dwelling's history. Three conifer trees, fir, cedar and juniper, are also on the property. A low slat rail fence defines the property line along the public sidewalks. A five car, paved parking lot is off the public alley at the rear of the house.

## ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION : EXTERIOR:

The two-story, wood frame Colonel William H. Silsby House is sheathed with horizontal 'v' joint shiplap on the first story and ornamental wooden shingles on the upper story and in the gable ends. The Queen Anne style dwelling's original 'T' plan has been modified with the early enclosure of rear service porches and additions. The building is irregular in shape with overall dimensions of approximately 74 feet by 38 feet. A steep cross gable roof caps the main body of the house and an early single-story

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'cottage' addition in the rear. Shed or pent roofs are used on the front and side entry porches and the now-enclosed rear wrap-around porch. Wood shingles are the primary roofing material. The house rests on a concrete brick foundation with a crawl space clearance of approximately two and one-half feet. A small brick chimney is located in the rear half of the structure.

Windows are predominantly one-over-one double-hung wooden sash and are used individually or in groupings of two or three. Multi-colored lights surround a clear light in the upper sash of the windows on the first and second levels of the facade. A pair of French casement windows are located on the south elevation of the 'cottage' addition at the building's southwest corner.

The Colonel William H. Silsby House exhibits a variety of elements characteristic of the Queen Anne style of architecture. The main facade features a prominent front entry porch with a screened balcony on the second floor. The balcony railing incorporates a decorative jigsaw cut motto which reads "Our Home." A lathe-turned corner post supports the porch roof. A slightly projecting windowhood is positioned over the sash window with colored lights on the second story. The rich texture created by the three patterns of imbricated shingles on the upper story exists on all of the elevations. The flared shingle coved belt course wraps around the dwelling and defines the division between the first and second floors. Other Queen Anne elements include an irregular skyline, assymetrical massing and applied Eastlake decorative ornamentation.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION: INTERIOR:

The Colonel William H. Silsby House has a total of eleven rooms, excluding halls, foyers, three bathrooms, small storage rooms and the stairway. Interior spatial arrangement is based on an assymetrical plan. On the first floor the foyer, hallway and stairwell provide access to the private offices and waiting rooms. On the right of the main hall are a waiting room (former parlor) and the business office. To the left are a private counseling office and a second waiting room. Towards the rear of the first floor are a large kitchen, two bathrooms, several small storage rooms and two private office spaces. On the second floor three rooms are reserved for office use, while a fourth room is a children's therapy room. A third bathroom is placed under the slope of the gable roof and contains early fixtures. At the southeast end of the hallway a panel door with glazed lights above opens onto the screened balcony. The attic is unfinished. The open stairway consists of a double run at a right angle with diagonal corner steps at the intersection. Ceilings are covered with drywall with a painted finish. Walls are predominantly a painted plaster finish or wallpapered. Double wood flooring is covered with wall to wall carpeting or linoleum.

The woodwork throughout the house is essentially intact. Newel posts, handrails and turned bannisters on the stairway; four-panel doors and the door and window moldings with corner rosettes are representative of late 19th century woodwork. The selection of color schemes, wallpapers and furnishings are complimentary to the dwelling's design and period.

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ALTERATIONS

The Colonel William H. Silsby House has been moderately altered, both on the exterior and the interior. Significant exterior alteration to the dwelling occurred early in the building's history between 1898 and 1907.<sup>17</sup> This was limited to the first floor and toward the rear of the structure, and consisted of partial enclosure of two of three sides of a wrap-around service porch; incorporation of a single-story 'cottage' and the addition of a room on the north side. These changes were functional in nature and occurred during the occupancy of the Silsby family. The original or early interior spatial arrangement has been maintained and adapted to the structure's current use. Beginning in the 1930s until its purchase by the current owners in the 1980s, the dwelling served as rental rooms and later an apartment house with four units. Adaption for this use consisted of interior partitions within rooms and the addition of bathrooms and kitchen facilities.

Work begun in 1983 consisted of replacement in kind of deteriorated siding and shingle-work on the wall surface, and removal of the composition shingle roof and installation of the wooden shingle roofing. The interior spatial arrangement was restored with the removal of partitions, kitchen spaces and one bathroom. Years of neglect required the removal of damaged lath and plaster work in only the northeast corner room upstairs. This room was divided into the present two rooms; the children's room and a front office space. Old materials such as woodwork, hardware and windows were reused where possible.

# 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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates** 1896 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Colonel William H. Silsby House, located at 111 Third Street in Ashland, Jackson County, Oregon, meets Criteria "b" and "c" for listing in the National Register of Historic Places for local significance through its association with Colonel William H. Silsby and his family, original occupants of the house. Colonel Silsby, a distinguished Civil War veteran, purchased the substantial Queen Anne style dwelling in the Ashland Railroad Addition during the district's heyday, and on the eve of the Rogue River Valley's orchard boom. Architecturally, the Silsby House embodies design characteristics of the Queen Anne style popular throughout the region at the end of the last century. It is distinctive when compared to neighboring dwellings in the Railroad Addition in scale, size and architectural detailing. The Colonel William H. Silsby House possesses integrity of location, materials, workmanship, design and feeling. It is one of the best preserved Victorian era houses within Ashland, a city gaining recognition for its architectural collection of 19th and early 20th century buildings. The exterior of the house is virtually unchanged since its ownership and occupancy by the Silsby family. The alterations that it has received occurred early in its history and contribute to the property's historical and architectural sense of time and place. Insensitive alterations were removed after 1981.

The Colonel William H. Silsby House was completed in the fall of 1896 by Judge Thomas J. Howell. The architectural style selected for the frame dwelling may have been derived from a pattern book design. It is also conceivable that Judge Howell's early association with Medford architect, W. J. Bennet, may have resulted in the drafting of plans for the house.<sup>6</sup> If the latter was the case it was not noted in the local Ashland Tidings newspaper in November, 1896. The article announced completion of the house and provided a brief outline of its ownership and construction history:

"Colonel W. H. Silsby and family have moved into their new home in [the] railroad addition which they recently purchased from T. J. Howell. The residence was started by E. E. Witte who sold it to Mr. Howell before completing it. The latter finished it up in handsome style and made it one of the attractive residences of Ashland, disposing of it last week to Mr. Silsby."<sup>9</sup>

Early development had occurred on the site in 1893 following Elmer E. Witte's purchase of Lots 23 and 25, Block M in the Railroad Addition from his future in-laws, Sylvester and Carrie Cowles, for \$175.00.<sup>19</sup> Plans for the construction of a dwelling by Witte were reported in the Ashland Tidings during December, 1893:

"E. E. Witte is building a solid and commodious cottage on his lots on 3rd Street, between Main and Spring [B] Streets. Looks like luxurious quarters for a single man." [4]

ASHLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
 111 THIRD STREET  
 ASHLAND, OREGON 97520  
 TEL. 754-1111

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property less than one

Quadrangle name Ashland, Oregon

Quadrangle scale 1:62500

UTM References

A 

1	0	5	2	4	0	7	5	4	6	7	1	3	7	5
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 Colonei William H. Silsby House is located in Section 9, Township 39S, Range 1E, Willamette Meridian, otherwise known as Tax Lot 8800 of Railroad Addition (1884), Block M. Lots 23, 24 and the south half of 25.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state None code county code

state None code county code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title L. Scott Clay

organization Consultant date August, 1984

street & number 407 Park Avenue telephone (503) 772-6519

city or town Medford state Oregon 97501

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

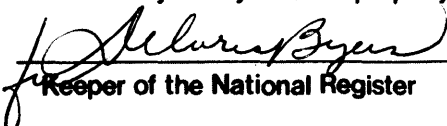
As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature 

title Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer date January 9, 1985

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

  
Keeper of the National Register

Entered in the  
National Register

date 2-28-85

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

Chief of Registration

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The ". . . solid and commodious cottage. . ." may be the now-attached, single-story, gable-roofed "cottage" on the building's southwest corner.

On April 29, 1984, Elmer Witte and Fautie S. Cowles were married at the home of the bride's parents.<sup>28</sup> The couple maintained a household on Third Street for two years. The personal column of the Tidings, in May, 1896, commented on the family's departure:

"E. E. Witte, wife and infant left yesterday for New York City and expect to make their home in the future there or in Brooklyn. Mr. Witte sacrificed his property here in order to accept a position which has been offered him in the big metropolis."<sup>7</sup>

The property and "cottage" were sold for \$350.00 to Judge Thomas J. Howell.<sup>8</sup> Howell, a lawyer and judge in Siskiyou County, California, began investing in Ashland real estate in the summer of 1893.<sup>2</sup> By that fall he had relocated his family to Ashland from Etna, California and increased his land holdings substantially.<sup>3</sup>

Judge Howell, born in St. Clair County, Illinois on April 3, 1838, first arrived in Oregon during 1883. He soon moved to the Puget Sound for a period of a year. This was followed by residency in Arizona and California before his 1893 return to Oregon. His political involvement in southern Oregon afforded him appointments as the Jackson County delegate to the State's 1894 convention,<sup>31</sup> and installation as deputy sheriff for the collection of taxes in the Ashland precinct in 1895.<sup>5</sup> Ironically, the Jackson County Tax Rolls of this period do not show Thomas Howell as a property owner nor a tax payer. His real estate ventures included residential and commercial holdings. In April, 1895, he commissioned Medford architect W. J. Bennett to prepare plans and specifications for a \$38,000 commercial block on East Main Street opposite the Hotel Oregon. The plans were for a two-story brick building, measuring 80 feet by 100 feet, with five store spaces on the street level and ten office suites of two rooms each and a "society" hall on the upper floor.<sup>6</sup> It is unclear whether his venture, one of Howell's most ambitious, proceeded or not. The investment in the Witte property was made in May, 1896. Between May and November of that year the two-story dwelling was completed and Colonel Silsby and family took occupancy. Property title remained in Howell's name until 1899 when it was officially transferred to Helen M. Silsby, wife of the Colonel.<sup>20</sup> While newspaper accounts of Howell's real estate interest are few, following the above transaction it is known that he continued to practice law in Ashland until after the turn of the century.<sup>32</sup>

Colonel Silsby arrived in Ashland with his family in 1893.<sup>1</sup> During the eight remaining years of his life he became well known and respected within the Ashland community. The Colonel was born August 31, 1822 in Pennsylvania. He later settled in Newton, Iowa in 1854. In 1855 he married Helen M. Smead. Together they raised a family of four children; Charles, John, Mary and Esther. During his residence in Newton he was engaged in the furniture and mercantile business and held the public offices of Justice of the Peace, postmaster, and United States Marshall in 1860. At the beginning of the Civil War he enlisted as a private in Company I, 10th Iowa Volunteer Infantry. He soon gained promotion to First Lieutenant, then Captain of Company A, followed by Lieutenant Colonel, and finally he was commissioned as Colonel of the 10th Iowa. During his four

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years of service he participated in several of the major engagements of the Civil War - the battles of Vicksburg, Chattanooga, Mission Ridge, Savannah and Atlanta. At the close of the war he participated in General Sherman's March to the Sea. Colonel Silsby's service ended in September, 1865, and he returned to his family in Newton, Iowa.<sup>11, 12</sup> Due to severe chest injuries received March 30, 1865 at Cox's Bridge, North Carolina, he never regained full health.<sup>18, 35</sup> At the time of his move to Ashland he had retired from active business pursuits and civic involvements. The 1900 Federal Census listed Colonel Silsby as a fruit farmer. It remains vague to what extent he was involved with the orchard industry.

Following the arrival of the Oregon and California Railroad in the Rogue Valley in the 1880s, substantial acres of land were planted in apple and pear orchards. The development and promotion of the region's orchard industry during the closing years of the 19th century attracted many new settlers, such as the Silsby's, from midwestern states. The railroad, which became the Southern Pacific Company, made it possible to export the locally grown fruit. It also spurred the development of Ashland, a division point on the railroad's Siskiyou line. The Southern Pacific played a major part in Ashland's economic and physical growth. The Railroad Additions of 1884 and 1889 alone doubled the size of the town. Between the years of 1883 and 1889, seventeen plats were annexed to the town.

The Southern Pacific Company also supplied a livelihood for the sons of Colonel Silsby, Charles and John.<sup>10, 15, 32</sup> Both served as engineers with the company. Charles was stationed out of Dunsmuir, California, the division point on the south side of the Siskiyou grade.<sup>16</sup> He eventually was promoted to the company's main office in San Francisco.<sup>33</sup> A grandson, Nelson, served as conductor on the Pacific and Eastern Railroad between Medford and the town of Butte Falls, Oregon in the southern Cascade Mountains.<sup>25</sup> The Silsby daughters both taught music privately and through the Southern Oregon Normal School, predecessor to Southern Oregon State College.<sup>32</sup> After Colonel Silsby's death in 1901 the house remained in family ownership and continued to be occupied by family members.<sup>15, 25, 26, 27</sup>

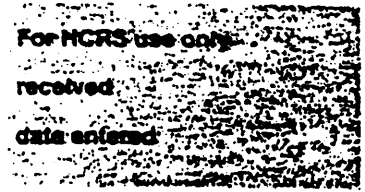
In 1920, Helen Silsby, then living with son John and his family in Cottage Grove, Oregon, sold the house to J. M. and Minnie Casebeer.<sup>21, 33</sup> They retained possession of the property for three years. J. M. Casebeer arrived in Jackson County in 1877, with his family, from Red Cloud, Nebraska. In partnership with his father, Josiah, and brother, Edwin, he owned and operated several large agricultural operations in the vicinity of Ashland. Selling his interest in the operation in 1881, he relocated to Klamath County for a period of four years. In 1885 he returned to Ashland, developed a 400 acre grain and hay farm four miles north of town, and a 360 acre stock ranch fifteen miles east of town. The latter was known as the "Green Springs Ranch." He married Minnie Dohack in August, 1887, and they had two sons, Chauncy and Lloyd.<sup>30</sup>

The former Silsby residence went through two sales in 1923 before being purchased by Jessie Hopkins, who retained ownership until June, 1940.<sup>22, 23, 24</sup> The next owner, Margaret E. Platt, kept the property, using it as a four unit apartment house, until she sold it to its current owner, Dr. David Kirkpatrick, in 1981. The house has served as a single-family dwelling since its occupancy by the Casebeer family.



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Initially, rooms were rented on a "room and board" basis.<sup>13</sup> During the 1940s it was remodeled into a four unit apartment building during the period of the Camp White Army Training Center north of Medford.<sup>25</sup>

Current use of the property is for a multi-disciplinary counselling, therapy and mental health center.<sup>14</sup> The center is called 111 Third Street, and has adopted as its motto the original owner's motto, "Our Home," a prominent jigsaw-cut detail in the balcony railing above the front entrance.

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## MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES

Ashland Tidings

118	Augst 1893	page 3, col.4
21	Septmeber 1893	page 3, col.3
329	September 1893	page 3, col.4
48	December 1893	page 3, col.2
526	March 1895	page 3, col.3
64	April 1895	page 3, col.3
711	May 1896	page 3, col.4
821	May 1896	page 3, col.5
99	November 1896	page 3, col.2
1027	August 1897	page 3, col.4
119	May 1901	page 3, col.2
1213	May 1901	page 3, col.1

Ashland Daily Tidings

1327	April 1938	
148	January 1984	Secton 2, pg.1

<sup>15</sup>Directory of Ashland, Medford, Jacksonville, Gold Hill and Central Point, Grants Pass, Roseburg, Drain, Oakland and Yoncalla, Portland, Oregon: R. L. Polk and Company, Publishers, 1906.

<sup>16</sup>Evans, Gail E. H., National Register Nomination, Dunsmuir Commercial District, Dunsmuir, California, 1982.

<sup>17</sup>Insurance Maps of Ashland, San Francisco/New York: Sanborn Map Company, 1898, 1907, 1911, 1928.

<sup>18</sup>Iowa Department of Veterans Affairs, Military Records, correspondence, 1 December, 1983.

<sup>19</sup>Jackson County Deed Records

Vol 26, page 339  
Vol. 36, page 356  
Vol. 125, page 369

Vol. 145, page 455  
Vol. 151, page 7  
Vol. 228, page 474

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- <sup>25</sup>Jackson County Directory, Vol. I, Portland, Oregon: R. L. Polk and Company, Publishers, 1911.
- <sup>26</sup>Jackson, County Directory, Vol. I, Portland, Oregon: R. L. Polk and Company, Publishers, 1912.
- <sup>27</sup>Jackson, Josephine and Douglas County Directory, Vol. II, Portland, Oregon: R. L. Polk and Company, Publishers, 1910.
- <sup>28</sup>Jackson County Marriage Records, Vol. 5, page 207.
- <sup>29</sup>Medford and Ashland, Oregon, Directory, Seattle, Washington: R. L. Polk and Company, Publishers, 1943
- <sup>30</sup>Portrait and Biographical Records of Western Oregon, Chicago, Illinois: Chapman Publishing Company, 1904, page 804-807.
- <sup>31</sup>Republican League Register of Oregon, Portland, Oregon, 1896, page 225.
- <sup>32</sup>United States Federal Census, Jackson County, Oregon, 1900.

INTERVIEWS

- <sup>33</sup>Anthony Netboy, husband of Elizabeth Silsby Netboy, a granddaughter of Colonel Silsby.  
The Netboys now live in Ganges, British Columbia, Canada.  
Personal Interview: 21 June 1984  
Jacksonville, Oregon