

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

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

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

**1. Name**

historic Ahlstrom, (Nils) House

and/or common

**2. Location**

street & number 248 5th Street \_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Ashland \_\_\_ vicinity of congressional district 4th

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 <span style="margin-left: 100px;"><input type="checkbox"/> museum</span>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <span style="margin-left: 100px;"><input type="checkbox"/> park</span>
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <span style="margin-left: 100px;"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence</span>
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <span style="margin-left: 100px;"><input type="checkbox"/> religious</span>
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <span style="margin-left: 100px;"><input type="checkbox"/> scientific</span>
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <span style="margin-left: 100px;"><input type="checkbox"/> transportation</span>
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <span style="margin-left: 100px;"><input type="checkbox"/> other:</span>

**4. Owner of Property**

name Mr. and Mrs. George Lanning

street & number P.O. Box 334

city, town Butte Falls \_\_\_ vicinity of state Oregon 97522

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Jackson County Courthouse

street & number Eighth and Oakdale Streets

city, town Medford state Oregon 97501

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

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

date 1974  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Ashland Public Library

city, town Ashland state Oregon 97520

## 7. Description

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

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

The Nils Alhstrom House was constructed in 1888 as a private residence for a railroad worker and his family. The house is simple in plan, with a large rectangular main block with short wing added at the rear forming a T shape. The two story structure is finished simply on the exterior and exhibits modest Classical Revival details. It's builder was John Fruhan, an Ashland workman of the period. Always used as a private residence, the Ahlstrom House has served as a rental for the past several years. It is currently in fair condition; most of the changes needed are to rehabilitate the house after years of renter neglect and abuse of the surfaces; walls, floors and ceilings.

Located in Section 9, Township 39 Range 1 East, in Ashland, Oregon, the Alhstrom House occupies Lot 4100 on Block E of the Railroad Addition to Ashland. The plat number is 39 1E 9AB. The building faces north on 5th street and is surrounded by other older homes. Immediately to the east is one large house and blank lot on the Railroad Depot. The homes in the same block as the Alhstrom House have considerable vintage, but they have not yet been conserved or restored to support the Alhstrom House, apparently the oldest in its immediate neighborhood.

The two story house has the following dimensions: The main block is approximately 28' wide by 22 feet deep. The T wing is about 20' deep and 12 feet wide. The structure is frame and is finished with eight inch channel siding. The roof is hipped and is currently composition. The house has a low stone foundation. The current owners plan an appropriate new foundation under the building.

The north and front elevation has an old, delapidated porch, which is not original and will be removed. The porch and steps to it have been primarily used as a means to enter the second story from the exterior. Early photographs indicate the presence of a small porch but a detailed view of the Ahlstrom House has not been discovered to indicate its appearance. There are four large windows on the facade; three are one-over-one, double hung, that the owners have found stored on the property. The front door is wood and is five-panelled with one glass light. An original transom which was located above the door has been found and will be replaced. The door to the second level of the Alhstrom House has two panels and six lights. There are two interior chimneys at the center of the rectangular main block of the house. They retain their corbelling.

On the east elevation are three single one-over-one double hung windows, and one paired window of the same description. The south elevation of the main block of the house contains two windows of the common pattern which have been altered. Both will be returned to their full size. Two small shed roofed additions to the T wing, (on either side) may be removed. They currently provide pantry and bathroom space. These additions are old and each has two small square windows. A door leads from the shed additions to the back porch. There are two one-over-one double hung windows on the upper floor of the T wing at the rear. A small windown allows in light on the east elevation of the T wing. Removal of the shed additions will allow proper restoration of original windows.

The exterior decorative details are simple. There are cornice details above window and door frames. Other surrounding trim is plain. The eave overhang is deep on the main rectangular block of the house and more shallow on the T wing. A wide plain frieze board surrounds the house under the eaves and is joined to the closed soffit with bed moulding. There are plain corner boards on both the main block and the T wing. Each corner board has a small cornice-like trim piece at the top.

The interior of the Ahlstrom House has a simple plan. There is no central hall; the front door directly enters a space that originally must have been used as a parlor. A four-

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR HCRS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	JAN 14 1980
DATE ENTERED	FEB 15 1980

Ahlstrom (Nils) House

**CONTINUATION SHEET**

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 1

panelled door leads to a second parlor just to the right of the front door as one enters the house. A room partition which must have separated dining area from the left parlor has been removed, making one large room. The T wing houses the kitchen and pantry on the first story, as well as the stair which rises to the second level. There are four rooms downstairs. All are plain, and all need care to restore their original condition. The interior trim of the front door and the right parlor is symmetrical moulding with corner blocks. The right parlor retains its ten foot ceiling; the other ceilings have been lowered to about eight feet with wall board. The kitchen has been remodelled from its original, and will require much work to make it functional and attractive.

Upstairs is one long central hall and four bedrooms leading from the hall. Each has fir flooring as does the rest of the house, and each retains original eight foot ceilings. Four-panelled doors occur throughout the second story. The T wing contains an extra bedroom, bath and the stairs from the first level.

The original floor plan of the house has not been drastically altered, although rooms may be serving different uses now than originally. The greatest amount of effort will need to be given to the surface repair and restoration of areas of the house abused by renters, and to the exteriors conservation and maintenance.

There are several large old trees and shrubs on the deep lot; lilac, spirea, roses and other flowering bushes are neglected but can be improved. The main outbuilding is a large garage-shed which is old, but currently useful for storage during the improvement process. The owners have already removed a dilapidated carport addition to the rear shed area.

## 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

**Specific dates** 1888 **Builder/Architect** John Fruhan (builder)

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Nils Ahlstrom House, located in the Railroad Addition to Ashland, Oregon is an excellent example of the kind of dwelling that housed railroad workers of the late nineteenth century. Standing about one half-block from the Depot, the Ahlstrom House is one of the earliest constructed after the completion of the route between Portland and northern California.

Nils Ahlstrom, a conductor on the Railroad route, came to Ashland for his work, and is not particularly distinguished as an individual citizen but as a representative of hundreds of men who arrived in the community for the same purpose. He purchased his lots six months after the driving of the Golden Spike in December, 1887 and John Fruhan, a local contractor was at work on the Ahlstrom House by October 1888.

The Nils Ahlstrom House is located on 5th Street in Ashland, which ends a half-block from the house in front of the Depot. Its proximity to the railroad complex is accentuated by a large empty lot which stands between the Ahlstrom House and the railroad. The disposition of this lot is critically important in what Ashland calls the Railroad District. An old home, which can be seen in the historic photographs accompanying this application, is no longer there.

The nomination of the Ahlstrom House to the National Register is important for Ashland at this time. The owners are among the first to apply for a nomination in the Railroad District, and the District's future is being determined right now. Many appropriate and exciting uses of property are occurring; especially on the street immediately adjacent to the Railroad. There are unfortunately, continuing threats and realities of indiscriminate choices for building on blank lots and old building sites. The Railroad District needs an encouraging example; and the intent of the owners to care for the Ahlstrom House will be just that.

Architecturally the Ahlstrom House retains enough of its significant design to be entirely recognizable although repair and conservation are both needed. The house has an identifiable relationship to the history of the Railroad area and retains the integrity necessary to reflect that period and the development of the economy and of transportation.

Ashland's relationship to the railroad has always been a vital one. Ashland is the end of the division line, and the end of the regular trip from the north and the south. The railroad crews; conductors express messengers, mail clerks, firemen and callers have long used Ashland as their base. Their numbers increased in earlier years because Ashland was a mountain division which always required more men than valley sections.

In the early 1880's, as the track approached Jackson County, the area prepared for a new beginning. Immigrants arrived who knew the economic benefits the railroad would bring. The diary of Abel Helman, on whose donation Land Claim Ashland began, reflected the excitement and attention given the coming of the "cars" in the spring of 1884:

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Ashland Daily Tidings, January 6, 1888, May 4, 1888, July 13, 1888, October 2, 1888, Farnham, Wallace D. "The Development of An Oregon County, Mines Farms and A Railroad." Pacific Historical Review, Volume XXV, No. 1, (Feb. 1956) University of California, Berkeley.

## 10. Geographical Data

**UTM NOT VERIFIED**

Acreege of nominated property less than one  
 Quadrangle name Ashland, Oregon-California

**ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED**

Quadrangle scale 1:62500

### UMT References

A 

1	0	5	2	4	3	5	0	4	6	7	1	3	7	5
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

  
 Zone Easting Northing

B 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

  
 Zone Easting Northing

C 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

D 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

E 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

F 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

G 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

H 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

### Verbal boundary description and justification

The Nils Ahlstrom House is located in Sec. 9, T.39S, R1 E of Willamette Meridian, in Jackson County, Oregon. It occupies Tax Lot 4100 in Block E of the Railroad Addition to the Plat of Ashland.

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

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title <u>Kay Atwood</u>	
organization	date
street & number <u>102 South Pioneer Street</u>	telephone <u>482-8714</u>
city or town <u>Ashland,</u>	state <u>Oregon 97520</u>

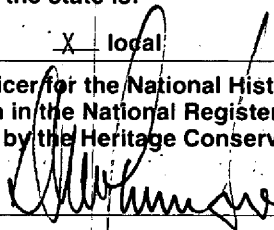
## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

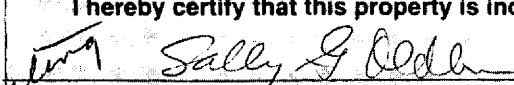

national  state  local

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

State Historic Preservation Officer signature



title State Historic Preservation Officer's Designee date December 1979

For HCRS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	
 Keeper of the National Register	date <u>2/15/80</u>
Attest:  Chief of Registration	date <u>2/11/80</u>

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR HCRS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JAN 14 1980

DATE ENTERED

FEB 5 1980

Ahlstrom (Nils) House

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 1

- |       |    |   |
|-------|----|---|
| April | 17 | Track of O and C RR reached the plaining mill; the train came to the plaining mill. |
|       | 24 | Train of O and C RR crossed the bridge at Ashland.                                  |
|       | 25 | The construction train went over to the Ashland depot.                              |
|       | 26 | Snowed like Jehu, evening at 6 o'clock  |
|       | 27 | First passenger car came into Ashland   |
| May   | 3  | First passenger engine came in Ashland  |
|       | 4  | First train of passenger cars came in Ashland <sup>1</sup>                          |

Most of the railroad stations were placed around the valley with little reference to the old communities and several new towns were founded. Woodville, Gold Hill, Central Point, Talent and Medford suddenly became busy centers of commerce and residence. On its first anniversary Medford counted four hundred new residents and by 1890 has almost a thousand citizens.<sup>2</sup>

Ashland grew quickly. Business sales doubled in 1884 and many new houses went up. The town acquired a water system, electric lighting, a modern hotel, and Siskiyou Boulevard; and doubled its population by the end of the decade.<sup>3</sup> The largest increase in people and improvements happened just after the driving of the ceremonial spike in December, 1887. ON January 6, 1888 the local paper announced that railroad lots were being sold rapidly. By the end of the year lot sales would total \$36,995.00.<sup>4</sup> At the end of January the ice house was finished, and in February the carpenters had almost completed a large dining room for the Depot. On May 4, 1888 the Daily Tidings reported the building of a Depot Hotel. On July 13, 1888 MILs Ahlstrom, like so many other workers, invested in his new home near the railroad, and purchased five lots in Block E.

On October 2, 1888, the Ashland Daily Tidings announced the "Mr. Ahlstrom's two story dwelling on 5th Street was raised this week. . ." At the beginning of 1889 when the paper printed its annual report of building projects finished within the year, Nils Ahlstrom's new house was included:

"1888 Growth. Nils Ahlstrom. Two Story dwelling on 5th Street, John Fruhan, builder, Cost: \$800.00."<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Farnham, Wallace D. "The Development of an Oregon County, Mines Farms and a Railroad," Pacific Historical Review, Volume XXV, No. 1. (Feb. 1956) Unveristy of California, Berkley. p. 42

<sup>2</sup>Ibid. p.43

<sup>3</sup>Ibid. p 43

<sup>4</sup>Ashland Daily Tidings, January 4, 1889.

<sup>5</sup>Ashland Daily Tidings, January 4, 1889.

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR HCRS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	JAN 14 1980
DATE ENTERED	FEB 5 1980

Ahlstrom (Nils) House

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

The Ahlstrom family lived in the house until about 1920 when they deeded the property to one of their children. Once a large family, Nils Ahlstrom and his wife buried five of their small children in Ashland cemetery after a diphtheria epidemic. The Ahlstroms are buried near their children. Several descendants of the family remain in Ashland.

The Ahlstrom House has always been a private residence; in the last years, like many other Ashland homes, it has been used as a rental. The new owners have committed themselves to rehabilitating the house and repairing the physical neglect imposed by years of renters. The alterations are entirely changeable, many items removed from the house have been stored on the property.

The Ahlstrom House in one of several old homes in the Railroad District. It is one of the first, built during the height of the town's railroad "boom." It is a simple house; constructed to house a working man's family, and it is larger than many in the area. Ashland is fortunate to have its Railroad District primarily intact, but is constantly threatened by unfortunated intrusive structures. The Nils Ahlstrom House is unique because it stands for many homes and families and Ashland cannot afford to lose it, or the area immediately around it.