

DATA SHEET

Form 10-300
(Rev. 6-72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Oregon
COUNTY:	Douglas
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	JUN 5 1975

1. NAME	
COMMON:	Willis (Judge William R.) House
AND/OR HISTORIC:	

2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: 744 SE Rose Street			
CITY OR TOWN: Roseburg		CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: Representative John Dellenback Oregon Fourth Congressional District	
STATE Oregon	CODE 41	COUNTY: Douglas	CODE 019

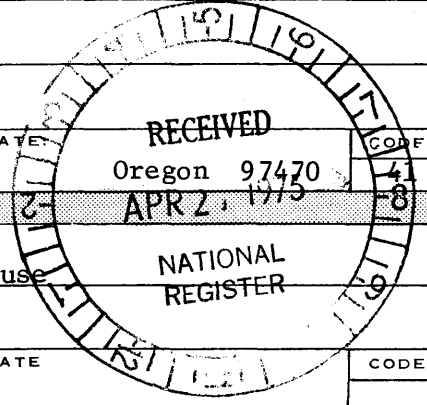
3. CLASSIFICATION			
CATEGORY (Check One) <input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	OWNERSHIP <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Both <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	STATUS <input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious	<u>Future uncertain</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY			
OWNER'S NAME: City of Roseburg			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
CITY OR TOWN: Roseburg	STATE:	COUNTY: Douglas	CODE: 41

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION			
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Douglas County Courthouse			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
CITY OR TOWN: Roseburg	STATE:	COUNTY: Douglas	CODE: 41

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS			
TITLE OF SURVEY: Statewide Inventory of Historic Sites and Buildings			
DATE OF SURVEY: 1973 <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local			
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Parks and Recreation Section			
STREET AND NUMBER: State Highway Division			
CITY OR TOWN: Salem	STATE:	COUNTY: Douglas	CODE: 41

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



STATE: Oregon
COUNTY: Douglas
ENTRY NUMBER: JUN 5 1975
DATE:

1912 A100

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Judge William R. Willis house in Roseburg was built in 1874 as a two-story frame house in the Bracketed Villa mode then fashionable. It now faces easterly in the middle of a block on a lot which provides an open green in the downtown district of the city where it was moved in 1910, from its original site facing northerly on the northeast corner of the same block.

The following item appears in the Roseburg PLAIN DEALER August 22, 1874:

JUDGE WILLIS' NEW RESIDENCE. On last Tuesday we were shown through the new residence which Judge Willis is having erected on the beautiful plat of ground in the central part of town. The main building is twenty-nine by thirty-nine feet, with an extension for a library fourteen by sixteen feet, all of which is two stories high. The kitchen is fourteen by twenty-three feet, and is built one story, forming an ell to the main building. The sitting room there is an elegant stone fireplace, the work of Mr. John Smith of Wilbur. There are two elegantly wrought bay windows, one above and one below stairs. The main front entrance leads into a spacious hall, from which the stairs lead to the upper rooms. The building is hard finished throughout, with lime from the kilns of E.S. Morgan & Co. about four miles east of town. Messrs. John Berry and D. Morgan of Albany have the contract of the plastering. G.W. Rhodes of Salem is superintending the carpenter work. When completed, this will be one of the finest residences in Southern Oregon, and an ornament to the town.

As originally sited, the house consisted of a two-story rectangular volume with a two-story bay window at the south end of the east wall and a smaller two-story volume attached to the west side. A small one and a half story block, possibly an addition as it does not seem to be present in an early photograph of the house, containing a return staircase with a curved dog-leg at the top was set in the northwest corner between the two volumes, and a one-story kitchen wing extended to the south of the main volume. A flat-roofed porch with ornamental railing was carried on four chamfered posts with molded trim capitals and brackets across the north face of the main volume. There was also a small porch, now removed, containing a bay window with a similar flat roof on the west side of the kitchen wing. A gable roof of low-to-medium slope covered each of the three sections, with a gable in pediment-like fashion over the two-story bay window. Ornament consisted of a paneled frieze and cornice atop the first and second levels of the bay window.

Windows, double-hung sashes each containing a single pane, were set in architraves of ornamental millwork with broad molded cornices and had double-leaf louvered shutters. Fenestration was regular. The cornice of the window centered under the gable on the second floor of the north face, now removed, was sharply pedimented. The main door at the lower right hand corner of the north face was recessed and contained side lights and transom windows. The upper panels of the original (continued)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Oregon	
COUNTY	
Douglas	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	JUN 5 1975

(Number all entries)

WILLIS (JUDGE WILLIAM R.) HOUSE (CONTINUED)

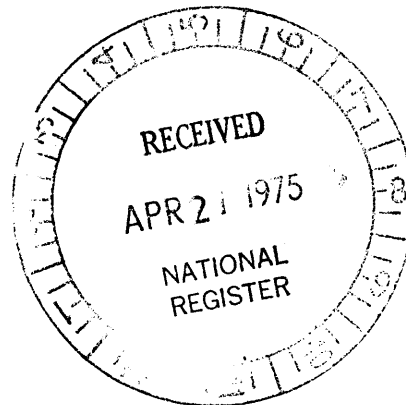
2. Location

The Judge William R. house is located in the SW 1/4 NW 1/4, Sec. 19, T. 27 S., R.5W. of the Willamette Meridian, on Lots 4 and 5, Block 50 of the Railroad Addition to Roseburg, Douglas County, Oregon.

7. Description

four-panel door were arched. A small chimney with molded cap straddled the ridge of the main volume toward the north end and there was a fireplace chimney with molded cap in the east slope at the south end.

The house has been somewhat altered over the years. The pedimented window in the north, now east, front face has been removed and three windows have been added in the gable to illuminate the attic. One bay has been added to the front porch and the original chamfered bracketed posts have been replaced with square tapered columns, and there is now a dormer in the south (formerly east) slope of the main volume. These and formerly mentioned alterations may have been effected when the house was placed on its present ashlar foundation or in 1924 when it became the Roseburg City Library. Further alteration and partitioning of the interior occurred when the city occupied it as City Hall after the former city headquarters was destroyed in an explosion in 1959. Despite these alterations, the building is substantially original.



4. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1874

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

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The Judge William R. Willis house is a well-proportioned example of the Bracketed Villa style of the 1870s and 1880s. It was for many years one of the finest residences in Roseburg, has a long history of public use, and is regarded as a local landmark.

The house was built in 1874 by William R. Willis, a successful lawyer and first Justice of the Peace in Douglas County. Willis was born in Ohio in 1825 and grew up in Illinois. He taught school for a while in Ohio and Illinois and then became a steamboat pilot on the Illinois and Mississippi rivers. In 1853 he accompanied his mother to Oregon, taking a steamer from New York to the Isthmus of Panama and thence to San Francisco and Portland. Other members of the family took the land route across the great plains, and were met by Willis' father who had come to Oregon the previous year. William Willis raised stock for several years on a Donation Land Claim of 160 acres he took in 1854 south of Roseburg, and then was employed as a clerk in Roseburg before he was appointed Justice of the Peace. He was County Judge from 1860 to 1864, was admitted to the State Bar in 1864 and became a prominent attorney. Willis served many years on the Roseburg City Council and was Mayor for three terms.

President and Mrs. Rutherford B. Hayes were overnight guests in the house in October, 1880, during a tour of the West, as suitable hotel accommodations were not available in Roseburg. Several of the Presidential party were also invited to dine there. One, Gen. W. T. Sherman, reportedly was not impressed with the menu. He ate little and when asked what he liked, grumped, "Hard tack and bacon."

The house was moved to its present site in 1910 and it served as the Roseburg City Library from 1924 until 1956. After an explosion heavily damaged the Roseburg City Hall in 1959, city offices were headquartered in the Willis house until 1973 when a new City Hall was completed next to it. The future of the house is at this time uncertain.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Dan Folk, "Rutherford Slept Here," News-Review (Roseburg, Oregon, Nov. 19, 1973, p. 9.

Portrait and Biographical Record of Western Oregon, (Chicago: Chapman Publishing Co., 1904) pp. 779-780.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES					
CORNER	LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		LATITUDE		LONGITUDE			
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	
NW	0	'	"	0	'	"	43	0	20	43
NE	0	'	"	0	'	"	UTM:			
SE	0	'	"	0	'	"	A 10 - 471950 - 4783800			
SW	0	'	"	0	'	"				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1/4

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
D. W. Powers III, Assistant

ORGANIZATION: Parks and Recreation Section DATE: August 27, 1974

STREET AND NUMBER:
State Highway Building

CITY OR TOWN: Salem STATE: Oregon 97310 CODE: 41

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name: Daniel G. Volkert Date: 6/5/75

Title: State Parks Superintendent ATTEST: [Signature]

Date: 4-14-75 Date: JUN 3 1975

Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
Keeper of The National Register

SEE INSTRUCTIONS