

**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

For HCRS use only

received NOV 20 1981

date entered DEC 2 1981

1. Name

historic Calhoun, George, House

and/or common Noble/Gohrke House

2. Location

street & number 612 N.W. Fifth Street _____ not for publication

city, town Grants Pass _____ vicinity of congressional district 4th

state Oregon _____ code 41 _____ county Josephine _____ code 033

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name Daniel F. Hughes, Michael J. Bird and Richard K. Lane

street & number 612 NW 5th Street

city, town Grants Pass _____ vicinity of state Oregon 97526

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Josephine County Courthouse

street & number Sixth Street (no street number)

city, town Grants Pass _____ state Oregon 97526

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title _____ has this property been determined eligible? _____ yes no

date _____ federal _____ state _____ county _____ local

depository for survey records _____

city, town _____ state _____

7. Description

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

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The two-story Craftsman Style house completed in 1910 for Grants Pass merchant George S. Calhoun occupies three city lots at the intersection of N.W. Fifth and A Streets. The structure maintains a key position at the edge of an extensive neighborhood of homes of similar vintage and quality. The Calhoun House, however, is the singular example of its particular type: The quintessential Craftsman box with hipped roof and dormer. It exhibits features characteristic of the bungalow: overhanging eaves on shaped rafters, variegated siding on first and second story exterior walls, and a veranda with shingled arcade and flared solid railing. Other distinctive features are a cantilivered polygonal window bay on the north wall, and hip-roofed second story corner pavilions on ogee corbels. Directly across Fifth Street is the rear face of the Josephine County Courthouse. Nearby are several other public buildings, including the County Library. Until recently the house has been used as a single-family dwelling. The current owners are preparing to convert the house to use as a law office which they themselves will occupy.

Located in Sec. 17, T. 36S., R. 5W., W.M., the house is squarish in plan and measures, in its main volume, thirty-two by thirty-four feet. The structure rests on a block foundation, masked at the front and side by lath. The central portion of the house is covered with a wood shingled hipped roof. Corner bays, or pavilions project on the second level of the facade. Either has a hipped roof. The attic dormer centered in the front slope of the roof also has a hipped roof with overhanging eaves on rafters. A single brick interior chimney with corbelled cap rises from the center of the structure. Ground story siding is three inch lap siding trimmed with corner boards. The upper level is covered with dark stained shingles, the bottom course of which is flared.

On the principal, or east elevation is a porch which extends nearly the length of the facade, divided into semi-elliptical shingled arches. The hipped roof of the porch is crowned by a curved wood railing that forms a balcony for a smaller inset upper porch between the corner pavilions. Windows in the facade include a large picture window and a leaded glass stairwell window with yellow-green hues and fleur-de-lis motif on north and south sides of the front door, respectively. The blond oak door with matching screen has a large beveled glass light. Windows in the second story corner pavilion are double-hung with two lights over two. The attic dormer has a band of three center-mounted pivoting lights.

About 1930 a 12 x 14-foot garage was joined to the house at the southwest corner. Its weatherboard siding was matched to that of the main house. Both of its gable ends are clipped, or jerkin-headed.

Windows in the addition have a six-light pattern and are placed in groups of three with the central panel stationary and the side panels casement-type.

The west elevation has a single-story projection with a hipped roof, deck and railing. Windows on the lower level include a bank of three six-light casement windows, and a bank of three smaller windows lights the upper wall under the eaves. A large window on the second story near the south west corner of the house will contain french doors with multiple lights and provide an exit to the fire escape and rear parking area. At the rear of the house, joined to it by a brief passageway, is the second garage (dimensions 20" by 35") on the Calhoun property. The attorneys will use it for a conference room and file storage. Probably constructed about 1940, the garage is sided in three inch tongue and groove material. The rafters are exposed. Its gable roof is surmounted by small cupola and weathervane. Garage doors on the north elevation have been replaced by a window which will contain a bank of six-light casement windows, similar to those used in the main volume of the house. A door on the

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south wall will be used to enter storage areas. On the north elevation a ramp has been installed for handicapped people's access and will be masked by plants. An enclosed stairway for access to the second level of the offices at the rear has been constructed on the alley and parking side of the Calhoun property. It will be sided to match the original buildings.

The interior spatial arrangement, with a few exceptions, remains intact. The ground floor follows a modified side hall plan, two rooms deep. Visitors enter a hall distinguished by a window seat in the bay and five-foot paneled wainscoting on the walls, with cornice molding at the top. This hall will serve as a reception area. Through an arched opening one enters the former parlor, now a secretary's office. Fir flooring is intact through-out. A fireplace will be retained in this office. The former dining room stands behind the parlor and retains its attractive four foot high natural wood paneling on the walls. Other salient features of the room include the corniced wood mantel shelf with dentils below, built-in cabinetry containing drawers and cupboards. Swinging five panel doors lead from this room. A small, former pantry will be office space. The kitchen has been completely re-done. The walls will be painted and papered and to serve, in combination with the former back porch, as a secretarial pool.

The lower level of the original garage will house equipment. Stairs lead from the front entry hall to a half level in the garage addition. The former library will serve as an attorney's office. Eleven steps lead to the second level. Three attorney's offices will be housed in former bedrooms. Each of the corner bays provides office space. Paint and wallpaper will be used to refurbish the rooms in keeping with their period characteristics. Doors which lead to the second story porch or balcony all have original screens and hardware.

A short flight of stairs leads to the attic dormer. The law library will provide attorney research space in this topmost part of the house. The brick chimney rises through this room.

The immediate environment of the George S. Calhoun House is supportive. Both Fifth and A Streets contain many fine older homes. Original plantings in the yard were carefully done and have been well maintained over the years. Old healthy deciduous trees are on the lot and holly bushes and other evergreens grace the property. An extended trellis and lath fence defines the back perimeter of the yard and will be maintained. Parking for the planned offices will be off an alley on the south side of the house, and is to be masked by a shrubbery screen from N.W. Fifth Street.

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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1909-1910 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The house built at Northwest Fifth and A Streets for George S. and Ella Calhoun in 1909-1910 is significant as a singular example of the quintessential Craftsman house in Grants Pass. It is located across Fifth Street from the rear of Josephine County Courthouse; it is near the public library and other civic buildings in the heart of town, and it helps define the eastern edge of the large residential area of which it is a part and which was developed early in the 20th Century. The house possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association with George Calhoun, a noteworthy local mercantilist and haberdasher who served as Josephine County Treasurer 1918-1922 and who occupied the property until 1923.

Minor alterations to the back yard and to the house exterior were made approximately forty to fifty years ago. Further adaptive-use changes by the owners will not affect building's stylistic integrity or identifiable association with the property's past. The three lot parcel on which the house stands was purchased by George S. Calhoun in February, 1909.¹ Within one year the Calhouns were listed as living in their residence at 612 N.W. Fifth Street.² The large residence with a carefully landscaped yard and garden was one of several private homes constructed between 1905 and 1915 in the same area of the community. Most of the occupants of the neighborhood were successful business and professional men who had lived and worked in Grants Pass for many years.

George S. Calhoun was born in Hartford Connecticut in 1867 and moved west with his parents and several brothers and sisters about 1888. He came directly to Grants Pass and operated a grocery store for a short time. At the invitation of a brother, George Calhoun closed his business and left for California, where he stayed two years. Returning to Grants Pass in 1893, he opened a men's clothing and furnishing store. Ella Drake, youngest of five children in a prominent Ashland merchant family, became his wife about 1898. Her brother, F.M. Drake, and her brother-in-law, J.R. Norris, were partners in the Ashland firm of Vaupel, Norris and Drake, a clothing store on Ashland's plaza.

By 1909, advertisements regularly appeared in the Rogue River Courier promoting the "George S. Calhoun Co., Outfitters to Boy and Man," located at the southeast corner of Sixth and Front Streets. The business was apparently successful, for in May, 1909 the paper announced:

"The George S. Calhoun Co. has doubled its business capacity. It has absorbed the rooms formerly occupied by the Courier printing establishment. The Calhoun Store will be one of the largest in town, having a floor space of over 6000 ft."³

¹ Josephine County Deed Records, Volume 35, page 362.

² Polk's Jackson, Josephine, and Douglas County Directory, 1910.

³ Rogue River Courier, May 20, 1909.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Grants Pass Daily Courier, November 20, 1939
Josephine County Deed Records
Polk's Jackson, Josephine and Douglas County Directory, 1910.
Oral Communication: Miss Bertha Calhoun, Mrs. Elaine Fought, Mrs. James Humberd
Rogue River Courier, May 20, 1909.

10. Geographical Data

~~UTM NOT VERIFIED~~ ~~ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED~~

Acreeage of nominated property less than one
Quadrangle name Grants Pass, Oregon Quadrangle scale 1:62,500

UMT References

A	<u>1</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>7</u> <u>3</u> <u>2</u> <u>7</u> <u>5</u>	<u>4</u> <u>6</u> <u>9</u> <u>8</u> <u>8</u> <u>7</u> <u>5</u>	B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

The George Calhoun House is located in Sec. 17, T. 36S., R. 5W., W.M., and occupies Lots 1, 2 and 3 of Block 5 of the Original Townsite of Grants Pass, Josephine County, Oregon

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 Kay Atwood

organization _____ date October 8, 1980

street & number 102 So. Pioneer telephone (503) 482-8714

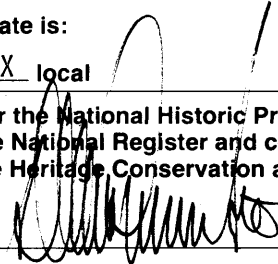
city or town Ashland state Oregon 97520

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

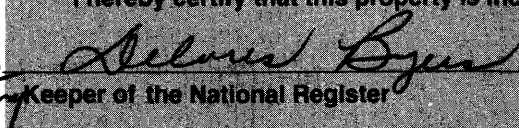
As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage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

State Historic Preservation Officer signature: 

title Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer date June 3, 1981

For HCERS use only

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

 Entered in the National Register date 12/2/81

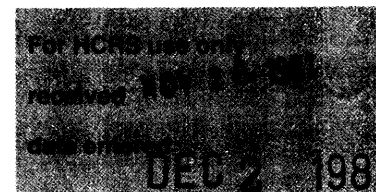
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: _____ date _____

Chief of Registration

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During this economically stable period of their lives, the Calhouns directed the construction of their new home. At this time George S. Calhoun joined the Commercial Club, served as a member of the Grants Pass Board of Education, and helped select the location of the new Grants Pass high school. The Calhouns raised one son in their comfortable residence. About 1916, Calhoun gave up his store and spent more time doing tailoring of men's clothes, using the special skill he had acquired. From 1918 to 1922 he served as Josephine County Treasurer.⁴ Whether for health or reduced economic means, the Calhouns sold their home in 1923 to James Noble, a miner who had accumulated some wealth. Noble owned the house until his death in 1931, at which time it was willed to his daughter. In 1944 the Edward Gohrke family purchased the house and occupied it until 1979, when it was sold. Mr. Gohrke, who operated a utilities company in Grants Pass, died in 1951. George Calhoun died in Grants Pass in November, 1939.⁵ His wife, Ella, survived for several years.

The George S. Calhoun House is an outstanding residence in Grants Pass, bordering the community's most cohesive early 20th century residential neighborhood. It is well known by local townspeople, as descendants of the Calhouns, Nobles and Gohrkes continued to live in the area.

⁴ Mrs. James Humberd, Josephine County Treasurer, 1980 (Oral Communication).

⁵ Grants Pass Daily Courier, November 20, 1909.