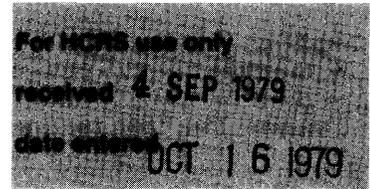


**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**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 Atkinson, (W.H.), House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 125 N. Main St. not for publication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 <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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Mr. and Mrs. James M. Taylor

street & number 125 Main St. N

city, town Ashland vicinity of state Oregon 97520

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Jackson County Courthouse

street & number 8th and Oakdale Streets

city, town Medford state Oregon 97501

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Statewide Inventory of Historic Properties has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1976 federal state county local

depository for survey records State Historic Preservation Office

city, town Salem state Oregon 97310

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<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 _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The W.H. Atkinson House, 125 N. Main Street in Ashland, Oregon, stands on a western bank overlooking the northern entrance to the community. The house was constructed in 1880 as a private residence for W.H. and Eugenia Atkinson, prominent Ashland citizens. Although the architect and builder are now unknown, the home was immediately considered an example of Ashland's finer residences, and featured in the August, 1883 edition of The West Shore.¹

Pronounced Italianate details are identifiable on the exterior of the Atkinson House. Large, elaborate roof brackets with ornamental pendants, and bay windows with bracketed sills and cornices are outstanding architectural features. The detail and trim as well as the basic structure of the home is in excellent condition. The past and present use of the home as a private residence has helped insure its good care and maintenance.

Located in T.39S, R.1E, Section 9, the Atkinson House stands on Tax Lot 3900, Block 26, Plat 9B. The row of homes which line the west side of N. Main Street were built for Ashland's economically successful citizens during the late 19th century. This house faces the street directly, and has a large piece of property around it. The neighborhood is a collection of the community's finest older homes, and at the same time provides housing for families who live and participate in the life of the community.

The Atkinson House has two stories. Originally it was rectangular in shape; the addition on the rear has given it an "L" shape. The basic rectangle of the house is 32' wide and 30' deep. From the back wall of the "L" to the front of the houses measures 51'6". The roof is pitched and one large central gable is centrally placed. The eaves have boxed cornices with pairs of decorative roof brackets joining the eaves and a wide frieze.

When the Ashland Daily Tidings announced in 1888 that W.H. Atkinson had spent \$500 on improvements to his home, the paper was recognizing the addition of two bay windows.² The bays--one on the north and one on the south elevation--each replaced single windows. The high brick foundation has common bond brick with seven stringer courses between the header courses. The exterior is finished with 8" channel siding which is in excellent condition. On the upper portion of the rear addition, the siding is not original, but has been matched closely. The shingled roof is now covered with composition material. Little of the roof is visible from the street front.

The east, and front elevation of the house has a long veranda, supporting a balcony. They run within four feet of each end of the facade. Under the balcony is a panelled frieze board with decorative brackets, from which drop ornamental pendants. Four posts support the balcony and scroll brackets form post-porch connections. A large ornamental pendant hangs from the middle of the veranda. Scroll work forms the railing on the veranda and is original. The balcony railing has been replaced and matched to its original scroll work. A door leads from the balcony to the second floor. Above the door is a small hood with pitched roof and trim forming a triangular pediment. The little hood is supported by two large brackets with ornamental pendants.

There are four windows on the facade. The two on the first story have bracketed cornices with trim extending part way down the window. The rest of the window trim is plain. The upper two windows have triangular pediments supported by ornamental brackets and decorated with trim extending down the sides. All the windows in the original house follow the pattern of two-over-two lights with a double hung sash. Only the bays are exceptions.

On the south elevation, the window bay has three one-over-one double hung windows at the front and one on each side. The south bay has boxed eaves and brackets beneath the overhang. Panelling is set above and below the windows. Additional windows on the south elevation are like those on the facade; a bottom window has bracketed cornice and trim, two top windows have triangular pediments and trim.

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The north elevation of the Atkinson House also has a window bay. It runs from the ground to the second story. The bottom portion of the bay has three windows with one-over-one double hung windows, like those on the south. There is one window in each end of the bay. The roof of the lower section of bay is a Mansard covered with small, diamond shaped, wooden shingles. At the top of the upper portion of this window bay is a cornice with small brackets. There are two windows in the upper part of the bay; each is a double hung window with one-over-one lights. The north elevation of the original house has three other windows. One, on the second story, has a triangular pediment above. Two on the first story have bracketed cornices. All are two-over-two double hung windows.

An addition was made to the Atkinson House in the 1890s. It became the kitchen and the pantry downstairs, and a servant's bedroom and sleeping porch upstairs. An indoor bathroom was added with this construction. The addition has 8" channel siding which matches the original exterior. The sleeping porch has been filled in and the siding on it is wood but does not identically match the original siding. Two contemporary windows are in the wall of the closed-in sleeping porch. They have horizontally sliding frames and plain trim. The porch below is wood surfaced and has four supporting posts with scroll brackets which form porch-post connections. The single wood door has two panels below and a section of glass with six lights. One double hung window with one-over-one lights, and one small rectangular window with four lights allow illumination for the interior. In the "L" formed by the addition, there is one original window remaining; it has two-over-two lights and a double hung sash. Next to it a window was added by the previous owner. It does not follow the original plan and may be changed.

The rear elevation of the addition has a single gable and plain frieze board. On the second story is a window identical to original windows with a triangular pediment. A window on the first story has a cornice like other first story windows, but was added by a previous owner. Channel siding is all around the addition. On the north side of the addition there are two one-over-one double hung windows on the second story. One modern window with horizontal sliding glass is on the north elevation. A wooden, six panelled door allows entrance. The floor of the front porch is wood. The front door of the Atkinson House has a bracketed cornice and plain board trim down the sides. The door has four panels, and side lights around a rectangular transom above it.

Two interior brick chimneys remain in the body of the house; both have brick corbelling. On the north wall of the rear addition an exposed brick chimney without corbelling extends from the ground to the second story.

The Atkinson house is in its original location but its relationship to the street has changed somewhat over the years. Photograph #5 indicates the appearance of the house and yard shortly after 1880. A white wooden fence with arched wooden gateways defined the space belonging to the Atkinsons and the Woolens. Trees were planted at regular intervals along N. Main Street in front of both houses. At that time N. Main Street came into Ashlan on a very steep grade and dropped down into the plaza area. In 1900 the street was graded and a steep bank cut in front of the Atkinson and Woolen houses. The bank was eventually landscaped and shaped, and ivy planting introduced as a ground cover. The plantings

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in the yard are now low evergreens and flowers; bulbs in the spring. A stairway of 24 stone steps rises from the sidewalk to the yard. By the curved sidewalk on the south side is a wood and wrought iron fence which is not original. The large oak trees which were young when the houses were built remain. There is a rose garden in the rear. The old outbuildings are gone. A small shed stands at the rear of the property.

The interior of the Atkinson House has retained its original spatial arrangement. The original rectangle has a central hall plan--two rooms on each side. Facing the house, there is a double parlor on the left side, and a parlor and dining room on the right side. The parlor on the right side has had a bath incorporated into its space. Upstairs is a large central hall with two bedrooms going off the hall on each side. On the ground floor the addition is the kitchen; upstairs it includes a bathroom, bedroom and additional hall.

The rooms downstairs have ten-foot ceilings with a moulding strip a foot down from the ceiling. The walls are plaster. Architrave moulding is around the windows and the doors. The baseboards are 8" with moulding trim. The rear parlor on the left has wide wainscoting with moulding trim. The dining room has narrow kitchen wainscoting around the walls. All rooms have soft wood flooring. Upstairs the rooms have 10' ceilings and moulding strip trim. The bedrooms have wainscoting used as a material for wardrobes. There are large hanging brass electrical fixtures with fluted glass shades in the original rooms of the house upstairs and downstairs.

The central stair is an open string stairway, with a single flight. It has a large newel post and turned baluster. The climber holds a simple moulded handrail.

There have not been extensive or permanent changes to the interior appearance of the rooms. The owners are carefully considering decisions regarding the finishing of the interior--wallpaper and paint, refinishing of floors, etc. The house is in excellent condition inside and out and will continue to be maintained with care.

1. The West Shore, Portland, 1883, p. 182.
2. Ashland Daily Tidings, January 6, 1889.

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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation		
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)		

Specific dates 1880 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The W.H. Atkinson House (1880) is significant to Ashland as one of the community's outstanding examples of the Italian Bracketed, or Italianate Style. It is among the most elaborately decorated and best preserved of its type. Together with the Isaac Woolen House, its immediate neighbor to the north, it forms the strongest element in a row of noteworthy houses lining Ashland's Main Street at the north end of town. A native of England, W.H. Atkinson arrived in Ashland in 1874 and figured in the town's principal industrial and banking enterprises. The Atkinson House has had only seven owners in the last 100 years. Eugenia Atkinson owned her house for 24 years; the second owner for 27 years, and the third owner for 29 years. The individuals who have made their home there have consistently maintained it as a family residence; a circumstance allowing the house to retain its original purpose as well as its architectural integrity. The one rear addition was made early in the property's history. The front and side elevations have not been changed.

The Atkinson House was associated with its first owner, Mr. W.H. Atkinson, from its construction in 1880 until the owner's unexpected death at age 50 in 1894. In its size, position on the hill above the community, and architectural form, the Atkinson House conveys with accuracy Mr. W.H. Atkinson's economic and social standing in the community. At age 36, W.H. Atkinson built his fine new home near the center of his business world. His home on the hill was visible to all the town below, and a short walk brought him to the center of town and his business activities.

W.H. Atkinson was born in England in 1844. He moved to New York in 1846 and grew up in the east and midwest. In 1868 he married and in 1874, the year Ashland was incorporated as a town, moved with his wife Eugenia to the small community in the Bear Creek Valley. On his arrival he purchased a 1/3-share in the Ashland Flour Mill and entered into partnership with J.M. McCall. In 1879 he became a partner and business manager of the Ashland Woolen Manufacturing Company.¹ The year after his arrival, he participated in the founding of the Presbyterian Church, which was built across from the site of his future home. Mr. Atkinson became its first clerk and treasurer. He was a charter member of the Ashland Masonic Lodge which organized in June 1875. In 1879 he helped organize the Ashland Library and Reading Room Association.²

In August of 1880 the Atkinsons bought 1/2 of Isaac Woolen's lot on North Main Street.³ Their new home was planned and in the autumn the local paper reported: "*The frame on W.H. Atkinson's new home was raised this week.*"⁴

1. Walling, A.G. A History of Jackson, Josephine, Douglas, Curry and Coos Counties. Portland, 1884. p. 523.
2. Ashland Daily Tidings, August 30, 1894.
3. Jackson County Deed Records, Vol. 9, page 39.
4. Ashland Daily Tidings, September 17, 1880.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Ashland Daily Tidings, May 3, 1884
 Ashland Daily Tidings, August 30, 1894
 Eugenia Atkinson Scrapbook (Ashland Public Library)
 Jackson County Deed Records, Volume 9, p. 39
 Walling, A.G. A History of Jackson, Josephine, Douglas, Curry and Coos Counties, Portland 1884, p. 523

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property less than one (91x236')
 Quadrangle name Ashland, Oregon

UTM NOT VERIFIED

Quadrangle scale 1:62500

UMT References

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

B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing
D			
F			
H			

Verbal boundary description and justification The W.H. Atkinson House, 125 N. Main St., Ashland, Oregon, is located in Section 9, Township 39 South, Range 1 East, of the Willamette Meridian. It occupies Lot 3, Block 26 of the original plat of Ashland, Oregon. Tax Lot 3900.

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

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Kay Atwood	date	March 18, 1979
organization		telephone	503/482-8714
street & number	102 S. Pioneer St.	state	Oregon 97520
city or town	Ashland		

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 *[Signature]*
 title State Historic Preservation Officer date August 13, 1979

For HCRS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	
<i>[Signature]</i> Keeper of the National Register	date 10-16-79
Attest: <i>[Signature]</i> Chief of Registration	date Oct 16, 1979

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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Atkinson (W.H.) House

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In May, 1884 a group of Ashland leaders assembled in the Masonic Hall. Among them were Captain Thomas Smith, E.V. and H.B. Carter, J.M. McCall and W.H. Atkinson. Out of the meeting came the organization of the Bank of Ashland and the election of its first officers and directors. A few days later the doors opened at the woolen mill office. Mr. Atkinson was the first president.⁵ He retained the position until his death in August, 1894. Mrs. Atkinson was active in the Presbyterian Church and was a charter member of the Ashland order of Eastern Star. In 1912 she paid \$800 for the construction of the Atkinson Memorial Bridge over Ashland Creek in Lithia Park. The Memorial Bridge is 45' long, has an arch of 24', and is 8' wide.⁶ Mrs. Atkinson remained in Ashland after her husband's death, contributing to community events until her own death in 1938.

5. Ashland Daily Tidings, May 3, 1884.

6. Eugenia Atkinson Scrapbook, page 100 (December 5, 1928, ADT)