

ROSEBURG CULTURAL AND HISTORICAL RESOURCE INVENTORY

IDENTIFICATION:

13800

T 27 S R 05 W Sec. 19 $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW

Tax Account No.: 52386.00

Address: 744 SE Rose Street

Name: Willis (Judge) House

PEOPLE:

Current owner: City of Roseburg

Architect: _____

Builder: _____

Original owner: Willis (Judge)

THEME:

Residential

USE:

Present: Office

Original: Residence

STRUCTURE:

Type: House

Date Constructed: _____

Style: _____

Roof: _____

Wall: _____

Windows: _____

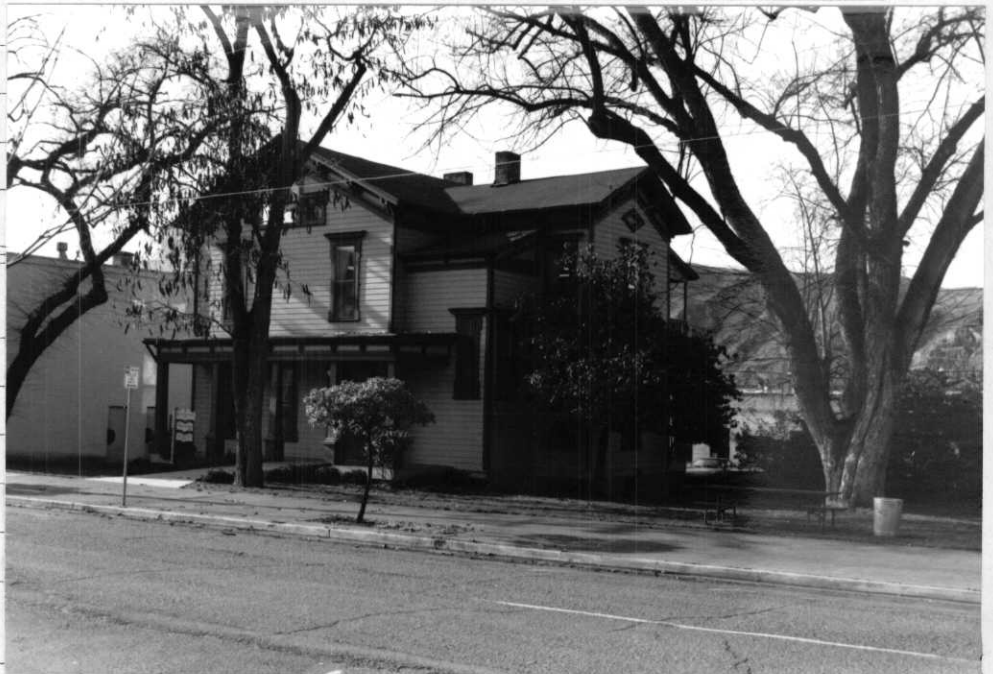
Doors: _____

Foundation: _____

Additions: _____

MINOR STRUCTURES AND OBJECTS:

Type: _____



Recorded by: Ntnl. Reg.

Date: _____



**OREGON STATE
HIGHWAY DIVISION**

RECEIVED

APR 27 1983

DOUGLAS COUNTY
PLANNING COMMISSION

HIGHWAY BUILDING • SALEM, OREGON • 97310

Robert W. Straub
XXXXXXXXXX
GOVERNOR

June 24, 1975

F. B. KLABOE
Administrator of Highways

Mr. Mike R. Wyatt, Mayor
City of Roseburg
City Hall
Roseburg, OR 97470

Dear Mayor Wyatt:

Earlier this year, action by the State Advisory Committee on Historic Preservation led to nomination of the following property to the National Register of Historic Places:

Willis (Judge William R.) House
Roseburg
Douglas County

Official notification has been received from the Director of the National Park Service that the property was entered in the National Register on April 21, 1975.

Oregon's Congressional Delegation was also informed of this action. We extend our congratulations to all concerned.

A National Park Service brochure describing the program is enclosed for your information. If you have any questions concerning the program, please contact Paul B. Hartwig, State Historic Preservation Office, 319-B State Highway Building, Salem, telephone 378-6118.

Sincerely,

David G. Talbot
David G. Talbot
State Parks Superintendent

Enclosure

cc: Governor Robert W. Straub
Mr. Lewis L. McArthur, Chairman
State Advisory Committee on Historic Preservation

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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

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

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC	
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	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"/> Comments
<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	Future uncertain	
<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: Oregon
 CODE: 97470 41

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION
 COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Douglas County Courthouse
 STREET AND NUMBER:
 CITY OR TOWN: Roseburg
 STATE: Oregon
 CODE: 97470 41

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS
 TITLE OF SURVEY: Statewide Inventory of Historic Sites and Buildings
 DATE OF SURVEY: 1973
 Federal State County Local
 DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Parks and Recreation Section
 STREET AND NUMBER: State Highway Division
 CITY OR TOWN: Salem
 STATE: Oregon
 CODE: 97310 41

STATE: Oregon
 COUNTY: Douglas
 ENTRY NUMBER:
 DATE:
 FOR NPS USE ONLY

CONDITION	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Unknown
	(Check One)				
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered			(Check One)
				<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

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

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 Isthmas 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.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

STATE	Oregon	
COUNTY	Douglas	
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
COMMON	Willis (Judge William R.) House		
AND/OR HISTORIC:			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
744 Rose Street SE			
CITY OR TOWN:			
Roseburg			
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Oregon	41	Douglas	019
3. PHOTO REFERENCE			
PHOTO CREDIT:	Unknown		
DATE OF PHOTO:	c. 1885		
NEGATIVE FILED AT:			
Parks and Recreation Section, State Highway Division, Salem, Oregon 97310			
4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.			
1. View of the Willis house from the northeast about 1885.			

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE	Oregon
COUNTY	Douglas
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
COMMON:	Willis (Judge William R.) House		
AND/OR HISTORIC:			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER:	744 SE Rose Street		
CITY OR TOWN:	Roseburg		
STATE:	Oregon	CODE	COUNTY:
		41	Douglas
			CODE
			019
3. MAP REFERENCE			
SOURCE:	USGS Topographic 15 Minute Series, Roseburg Quadrangle		
SCALE:	1:62500		
DATE:	1955		
4. REQUIREMENTS			
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS			
1. Property boundaries where required.			
2. North arrow.			
3. Latitude and longitude reference.			

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.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	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	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		43° 12' 29"	123° 20' 43"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		UTM:		
SE	° ' "	° ' "		A 10 - 471950 - 4783800		
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

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
<p>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:</p> <p>National <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> Local <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Name: <u><i>Dan Folk</i></u></p> <p>Title: <u>State Parks Superintendent</u></p> <p>Date: <u>4-14-75</u></p>	<p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.</p> <p>_____ Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation</p> <p>Date: _____</p> <p>ATTEST:</p> <p>_____ Keeper of The National Register</p> <p>Date: _____</p>

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- ENCLOSE WITH PHOTOGRAPH

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Willis (Judge William R.) House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

CITY TOWN

Roseburg

____ VICINITY OF

COUNTY

Douglas

STATE

Oregon

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT Douglas County

DATE OF PHOTO

1969

NEGATIVE FILED AT SAME

4 IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT. GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

PHOTO NO.

Front of house, looking northeast.