



STATE OF OREGON INVENTORY  
OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES  
State Historic Preservation Office  
Oregon State Parks, Salem, OR 97310

Significance Primary No. 17  
County Jackson  
Theme \_\_\_\_\_  
Name "Dr. Will Jackson House"  
(Common) Jacksonville Business (tax) Service  
(Historic) Dr. Will Jackson House  
Address 235 East California Street  
Jacksonville, Oregon 97530  
Present Owner Gemaelich, Robert L./Lana M.  
100 Huener's Lane  
Address Jacksonville, Oregon 97530  
Original Use Residential  
Date of Construction 1873

Physical description of property and statement of historical significance:

The Dr. Will Jackson House is a one story, wood frame building painted light green. Its basic rectangular shape with an early rear extension has received two more recent additions. They are on the east side of both the main portion and the rear extension. The house was constructed in 1873. The architect and builder are not known. The house is essentially Classic Revival in style.

The building is clapboarded and has corner boards on all portions. A porch extends across the front (south) side, then turns the corner and runs along part of the east side. Lattice-work posts support the porch roof.

The main (south) facade is two bays: a six-over-six, double hung sash window is on the west and a door on the east. The west elevation is three bays consisting of a central door flanked by a south six-over-six and north three-over-three, double hung sash window. The later addition on the east side of the main portion has a single six-over-six, double hung sash window. A recent addition on the east side of the rear portion of the house has a more modern window and door. All windows on the main section of the house have a plain architrave with a simple, rectangular molding.

The roof on both the main portion and rear extension is a gable. The later eastern additions and the porch have shed roof. All are finished with wood shingles. A brick chimney strides the ridge of the main portion of the house.

Recorded by Gail E.H. Evans Date December 1979

Photographed by Gail E.H. Evans

Sources consulted (continue on back if necessary):

Please refer to footnotes

Please enclose map. Township 37 <sup>N</sup> <sub>(S)</sub> 2 <sup>E</sup> <sub>(W)</sub> Section 32, Block 4, part of lots 3 and 4 (repeat)  
Account No. 7900. (32BA) 92

The foundation under all but the most recent addition in the rear is brick and mortar.

The house is situated in the middle of the block and set back from California Street approximately fifteen feet. The property to the east has a small brick structure. On the west is a dirt parking area associated with a service station. A short picket fence runs parallel to the street on the south. Bushes, small shrubs, and plants fill most of the front and side yards. The rear (north) yard is taken up by a gravel driveway and lattice-type shed attached to the north wall of the house.

This commercially used building is maintained in fair condition.

In July of 1873 The Democratic Times newspaper recorded the erection of Dr. Will Jackson's house. "Dr. Jackson is building a neat residence near his office which will add quality to the beauty of that section of Jacksonville."<sup>1</sup> One long-term resident of Jacksonville recalled that Will Jackson was the only dentist until the 1880's.<sup>2</sup> The lack of local newspaper advertisements for dentists other than Jackson seems to indicate that he was in fact the only dentist based in Jacksonville during the town's early years of existence.

Will Jackson, who was born in Missouri, came to the county in 1868-69,<sup>3</sup> arrived in Jacksonville soon after the quarantine for smallpox was lifted,<sup>4</sup> and became a well-established dentist in the town until the late 1880's.<sup>5</sup>

Shortly after Jackson arrived in Jacksonville a local newspaper reported: "'Doc' has built up a fine reputation as a dentist during his short residence here, and well deserves it. Anyone who wants teeth pulled or nice natural looking teeth supplied, where the natural teeth are wanting, can not do better than apply to him immediately."<sup>6</sup>

Although Jackson had his office in Jacksonville only a few feet from his residence, he made periodic trips to Ashland and Kerbyville,<sup>7</sup> and possibly other communities, to offer his services. Dr. Jackson is believed to have been the first dentist in the valley who attempted to use fillings in teeth<sup>8</sup> (rather than extract them). A colleague of Dr. Jackson's remembers him as "quite a large man, with black hair, black whiskers who wore that determined look that made the small boy who was in need of his services feel that he was not to be trifled with."<sup>9</sup>

Before Dr. Jackson's house was constructed in 1873 there were previous structures on the property which in themselves recount an interesting segment of Jacksonville's earlier history. George Sherman, the man responsible for surveying and laying out Jacksonville's grid pattern arrangement of streets, was deeded the entire block on which the Jackson House stands by James Cluggage in 1852.<sup>10</sup> (Cluggage was one of the original gold discoverers and was first to lay claim to most of the original Jacksonville townsite.) By 1855 the eastern half of the block was in the possession of Cram Rogers and Company<sup>11</sup> with Cornelius C. Beekman acting as their express agent who carried by horseback an estimated fifteen million in gold dust between Jacksonville and Yreka, California,<sup>12</sup> over a period of roughly three to four years. Beekman established his own banking house in Jacksonville and acted as the local Wells Fargo Express Company agent for forty-two years.<sup>13</sup>

When Cram Rogers failed in 1856,<sup>14</sup> C. C. Beekman acquired the eastern half of the block which, at that time, had a corral and stable. An 1856 lithograph of Jacksonville depicts a long, narrow building on the lot, no doubt used as the stable.<sup>16</sup> For a very short period in 1857 M. G. Kennedy, merchant, well-known commercial property owner<sup>17</sup> and probably Jackson County's first elected sheriff,<sup>18</sup> owned a parcel of land where the Will Jackson House now stands.<sup>19</sup>

In that same year the property began its long association with some of Jacksonville's most prominent doctors and dentists. Although no new structure



was built to complement the already existing stables,<sup>20</sup> Dr. Louis Ganung, one of the town's earliest physicians, purchased a portion of the present Jackson House lot.<sup>21</sup> In 1864 it appears that all buildings had been removed from the property,<sup>22</sup> but by 1866 Dr. E. H. Greenman had purchased a 100' x 66 2/3' corner parcel<sup>23</sup> and within two years Greenman had established his doctor's office in a small wood frame building on the property.<sup>24</sup> Dr. E. H. Greenman advertised his office at the corner of California and Fifth Streets in the local newspapers<sup>25</sup> until early in 1871 when The Democratic Times newspaper noted the presence of Dr. Jackson in the building "at California and Fifth Streets formerly of E. H. Greenman, MD."<sup>26</sup>

Jackson no doubt rented his office building from the actual property owners, Thomas and Margaret Smith,<sup>27</sup> for two to three years until the spring of 1872 when "Hattie Jackson" (Will Jackson's wife) bought it.<sup>28</sup> And by the summer of that year it was announced that Dr. Jackson was preparing to erect a new building between the "Stinson and Neil Law Office and his dental office."<sup>29</sup>

Less than a year later an account of the destructive U.S. Hotel fire reported that "The office of Dr. Jackson, occupied by Stinson and Neil [?], was torn down" to keep the fire from communicating further to the east.<sup>30</sup> Not deterred, Jackson proceeded to build his "residence near his office"<sup>31</sup> (which must have quickly been rebuilt at its previous location on the corner). It was completed by December of that year<sup>32</sup> and, according to a fire insurance policy on the house, was a "one story hand finished dwelling house" located only twelve feet west of his dentist's office.<sup>33</sup>

Dr. Jackson's "dwelling house" has received some additions and alterations since its construction. Prior to 1884 a rear east/west addition may have been built.<sup>34</sup> By 1890 part of the east porch had been enclosed and a long, narrow outbuilding constructed along the back property line.<sup>35</sup> Since then it appears that two additions have been made on the east side of the house.

The building is presently occupied by Jacksonville Business Service.

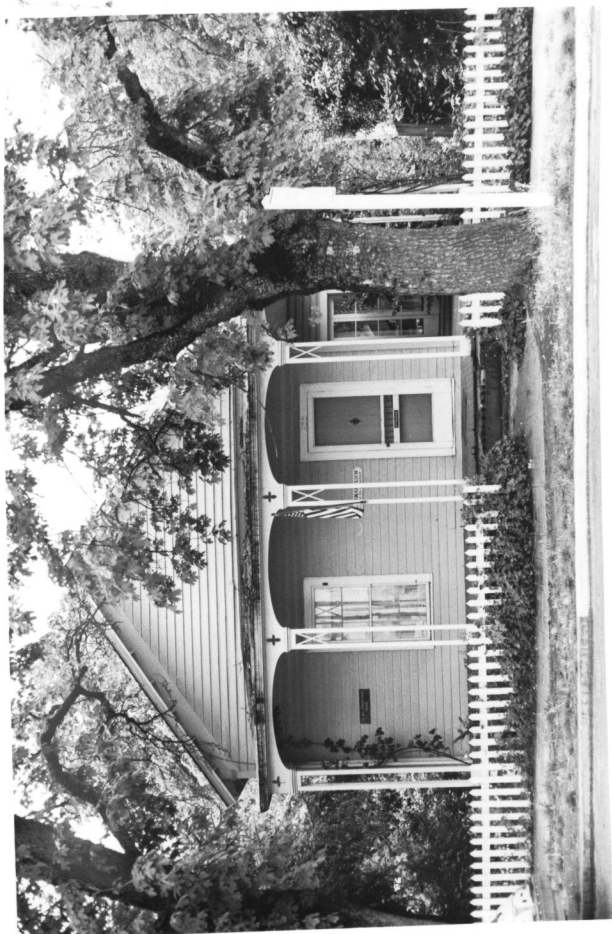
#### FOOTNOTES

1. The Democratic Times, July 26, 1873.
2. "Fletcher Linn Memories," Southern Oregon Historical Society.
3. Walling, A. G., History of Southern Oregon Comprising Jackson, Josephine, Douglas, Curry and Coos Counties, Publishing House of A. G. Walling, Portland, Oregon, 1884, p. 504.
4. Adams, W. Claude, DDS, MSD, History of Dentistry in Oregon, Binford and Mort, Portland, Oregon, 1956, pp. 198-199.
5. Adams, W. Claude, DDS, MSD, History of Dentistry in Oregon, Binford and Mort, Portland, Oregon, 1956, p. 199.
6. Jacksonville, Sanborn Map and Publishing Company, 1884 (Jackson's office building has "DENTIST" written on it); 1888, corrected to 1890 (Jackson's office building has "DR'S OFFICE" written on it).
7. The Democratic Times, December 26, 1890. (Robert A. Miller in building formerly occupied by Dr. Will Jackson).
8. Adams, W. Claude, DDS, MSD, History of Dentistry in Oregon, Binford and Mort, Portland, Oregon, 1956, p. 199.
9. Ibid., p. 199.
10. Jackson County Deeds, October 9, 1852. (Christopher Owens)
11. Ibid., April 25, 1855; June 9, 1855. (Christopher Owens)

12. Beekman, Benjamin B., an account of Cornelius C. Beekman by his son. (Southern Oregon Historical Society)
13. Ibid.
14. Walling, A.G., History of Southern Oregon Comprising Jackson, Josephine, Douglas, Curry and Coos Counties, Publishing House of A. G. Walling, Portland, Oregon, 1884, p. 524.
15. Jackson County Deeds, April 18, 1856. (Christopher Owens)
16. Kuchel and Pressel, "Jacksonville, Jackson County Oregon, Oregon Territory," 1856.
17. Ibid.
18. Jackson County Commissioner Journals, 1853-1856, front page of volume. Researched by Ora Strom. (Marshall Lango)
19. Jackson County Deeds, January 21, 1857. (Christopher Owens)
20. Ibid., September 2, 1858. (Reference to express company stables is made. (Christopher Owens)
21. Ibid., January 29, 1857. (Christopher Owens)
22. J. M. Curley, "Map of Jacksonville," 1864.
23. Jackson County Deeds, October 2, 1866. (Christopher Owens)
24. "Silk Map," Jacksonville, approximately 1868.
25. The Jacksonville Reveille Weekly, January 4, 1868. (Christopher Owens); The Oregon Sentinel, July 25, 1868.
26. The Democratic Times, January 21, 1871. (Christopher Owens)
27. Jackson County Deeds, November 19, 1869. (Christopher Owens)
28. Ibid., April 19, 1872. (Christopher Owens)
29. The Democratic Times, July 20, 1872. (Christopher Owens)
30. The Oregon Sentinel, April 5, 1873.
31. The Democratic Times, July 19, 1873.
32. Ibid., December 6, 1873.
33. Phoenix Insurance Company, June 1874 - June 1875.
34. Jacksonville, Sanborn Map and Publishing Company, 1884.
35. Ibid., 1888 (corrected to 1890), 1892, 1898.



STATE OF OREGON INVENTORY  
 HISTORIC SITES AND BUILDINGS  
 State Historic Preservation Office  
 Oregon State Parks, Salem 97310



County Jackson  
 Theme 10-A  
 Name (Common) Jackson (Dr. Will) House  
 (Historic) (same)  
 Address 235 E. California  
Jacksonville, Oregon  
 Present Owner \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Original Use Residence  
 Date of Construction c. 1868

Physical description of property and statement of historical significance:

The Dr. Will Jackson house is a one story, wood frame building with a clapboard exterior and gable roof that stands on East California Street in Jacksonville. The building, which has a verandah on its south (front) elevation, has six-over-six, double hung sash windows. The building presently houses R. L. Gemaehlich, Tax Consultant Offices.

Dr. Will Jackson was born near Huntsville, Missouri, and emigrated to Oregon in 1866. A dentist, Jackson settled in Jacksonville in 1869. He married in 1871 to Hattie Thompson.

For more information on the architecture and history of this structure see the forthcoming publication:

Ross, Marion D. and Christopher Owens. "An Area Study of Jacksonville, Oregon: The Commercial District, and the Chuches and Courthouse."

For a photographic record of this structure see picture #134 in the HABS files taken 2-5 August 1971 by Jack E. Boucher. This photograph is on file in the Jackson County Museum Library, Jacksonville, Oregon.

continue on back if necessary

Recorded by Stephen Dow Beckham Date 27 Aug. 1976

For Oregon State Historic Preservation Office

Please enclose map Township 37 <sup>N</sup> <sub>S</sub> 2 <sup>E</sup> <sub>W</sub> Section 32

Sources Consulted:

"Dr. Will Jackson." Walling, A.G. History of Southern Oregon. Portland, Ore.: A. G. Walling, 1884, p. 504.

*see p. 48 Jacksonville survey vol 1 1979*