

**OREGON CITY
PARK PLACE NEIGHBORHOOD
HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY 1990**

HISTORIC NAME: Rittenhouse, Wilson and Claude, House
COMMON NAME:
PROPERTY ADDRESS: 16393 S. Front Avenue
OWNER: Edith L. Smith
OWNER'S ADDRESS: 16393 S. Front Avenue, Oregon City
RESOURCE TYPE: Building
PRESENT USE: Residential
THEME: Culture
ARCHITECT/BUILDER: Unknown
COUNTY: Clackamas
QUAD: Oregon City
T/R/S: 2-2E29AD
TAX LOT: 300
**ADDITION
BLOCK:** J. T. Apperson's Subdivision of Blocks 5, 6, & 7
LOT: 8
LOT SIZE: 5, parts of 6 and 7
ZONE: .50 acres
RD-4 Two-Family Residential

HOUSE

DATE BUILT: c. 1905
STYLE: Vernacular
PLAN TYPE/SHAPE: Asymmetrical
NO. OF STORIES: 1½
FOUNDATION MATERIAL: Concrete block
BASEMENT: No
ROOF FORM AND MATERIALS: Gable w/ comp. shingles
WALL CONSTRUCTION/STRUCTURAL FRAME: Wood/stud
PRIMARY WINDOW TYPE: Double-hung, some wide
EXTERIOR SURFACING MATERIALS: Wide shiplap, corner boards
DECORATIVE FEATURES: Champfered pilasters
OTHER: Full-width shed porch w/plain posts e. elev.; full-width shed porch w/champfered posts; flush doors; hipped ell, s. elev.; shed, roof ell, w. elev.; interior chimney
CONDITION: Good
EXTERIOR ALTERATIONS (DATE): Hipped ell added (n.d.); shed roof ell added (n.d.); door removed, n. elev., (n.d.)

NOTEWORTHY LANDSCAPE FEATURES:

Ornamental plantings: rose bed near right-of-way, laurel hedge between subject property and rear lot; old apple tree in back yard.

NON-CONTRIBUTING FEATURES:

SETTING: Located on west side of Front Avenue. Houses in this area date from late 19th century to mid-20th century. Parcel is deep and level with some ornamental plantings. Parcel is deep and level with more some ornamental plantings.

RECORDED BY: Koler/Morrison

DATE: August 1990

SHPO NO. _____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

ADDRESS: 16393 Front

HISTORIC NAME: Rittenhouse, Wilson and Claude, House

Wilson Rittenhouse is believed to be the original owner of the subject property, which he purchased in 1905. Two years later he deeded the property to Ivan Rittenhouse, presumably a relative. Ivan in turn sold to Claude Rittenhouse, son of Wilson and Sara Jane Rittenhouse. Sara Jane Rittenhouse was born in Iowa. Claude owned the house for several years, selling to William Wagner in 1919. Wagner deeded it to Lizzie R. Wagner in 1924. Lizzie sold to W.C. and Nellie M. Burke, who sold to Emily Elliot, a employee of Holman, Hankins-Rilance Funeral Home in Oregon City. Elliot owned the subject house through the historic period.

According to Mel Freeman, grandson of Sara Jane and Wilson Rittenhouse, the subject house is approximately 100 years old and was built by his grandfather. The elder Rittenhouse also built several other houses on Front Street with his sons, Claude, Calvin, Austin and Clarence.

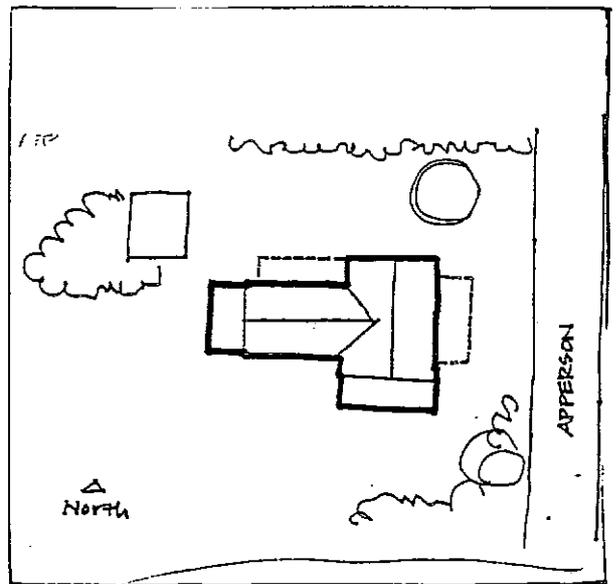
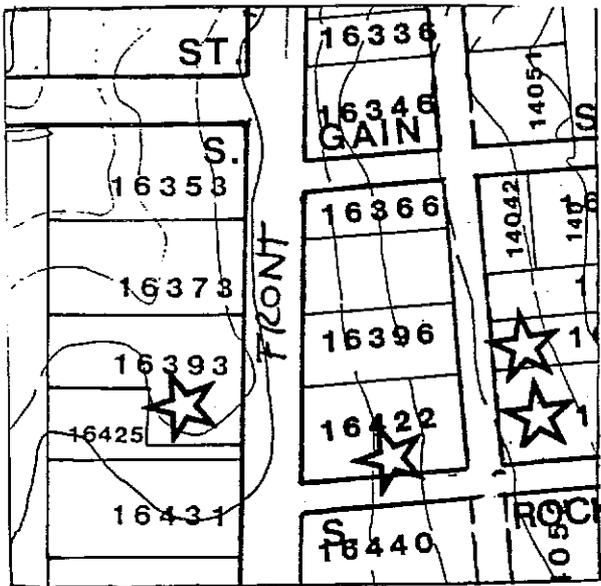
The house is a good example of the Vernacular style. It is composed of perpendicular volumes covered with wide, dropped siding and finished with corner and rake boards. Despite the additions the original building envelope is clearly visible.

Landscape features, including roses, a laurel hedge and a mature apple tree in the back yard, contribute to the historic character of the dwelling.

Sources: Clackamas County Directory, 1916-17; 1947-48.
Freeman, Mel. Interview w/ Kathy McCullaugh, August 1990.
Oregon City Landmarks Inventory, Urban Growth Boundary, 1982.
Oregon City Telephone Directory, 1916.
Oregon Journal. 24 January 1924, page 7.
Oregonian. 8 July 1934, page 2.
TICOR Title Company records, Oregon City, OR
Vanzandt, Margie. Interview w/ Kathy McCullaugh, August 1990.

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SITE PLAN AND PHOTOGRAPH: 16393 Front Avenue



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