Form 10-300
(Rev. 6-72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY – NOMINATION FORM

*(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)*

| STATE: | Oregon |
|---|---|
| COUNTY: | Clackamas |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY | |
| ENTRY DATE | DEC 2 1974 |

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

## 1. NAME

COMMON: "Rose Farm"

AND/OR HISTORIC: Holmes (William L.) House

## 2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: 534 Holmes Lane — Representative Wendall Wyatt

CITY OR TOWN: Oregon City — CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: Oregon First Congressional District

STATE: Oregon — CODE: 41 — COUNTY: Clackamas — CODE: 005

## 3. CLASSIFICATION

| CATEGORY (Check One) | OWNERSHIP | | STATUS | ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| ☐ District ☒ Building<br>☐ Site ☐ Structure<br>☐ Object | ☐ Public<br>☒ Private<br>☐ Both | Public Acquisition:<br>☐ In Process<br>☐ Being Considered | ☒ Occupied<br>☐ Unoccupied<br>☐ Preservation work in progress | Yes:<br>☐ Restricted<br>☐ Unrestricted<br>☒ No |

PRESENT USE *(Check One or More as Appropriate)*

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| ☐ Agricultural | ☐ Government | ☐ Park | ☐ Transportation |
| ☐ Commercial | ☐ Industrial | ☒ Private Residence | ☐ Other (Specify) |
| ☐ Educational | ☐ Military | ☐ Religious | |
| ☐ Entertainment | ☐ Museum | ☐ Scientific | |

☐ Comments

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## 4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Mrs. Albert Powers

STREET AND NUMBER: 554 Warner Ponott Road

CITY OR TOWN: Oregon City — STATE: Oregon 97045 — CODE: 41

## 5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Clackamas County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Oregon City — STATE: Oregon — CODE: 41

## 6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1934 ☒ Federal ☐ State ☐ County ☐ Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: National Park Service

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Washington — STATE: District of Columbia — CODE: 11

STATE: Oregon — COUNTY: Clackamas

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## 7. DESCRIPTION

| CONDITION | (Check One) | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | ☐ Excellent | ☐ Good | ☒ Fair | ☐ Deteriorated | ☐ Ruins | ☐ Unexposed |
| | (Check One) | | | (Check One) | | |
| | ☒ Altered | ☐ Unaltered | | ☐ Moved | ☒ Original Site | |

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL *(if known)* PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The William Holmes house, also known as "Rose Farm," is sited facing north near a spring on a hill known as "Mount Pleasant" about a mile south of the original part of Oregon City, one of the earliest settled parts of Oregon. It has a view of Mount Hood to the east which stands with majestic silence over the northern end of the Willamette Valley. Built in 1848, it is the second structure on the site, the first being a log cabin completed by Holmes in 1844.

The Holmes house is a two-and-a-half story rectangular structure with Classical Revival detail. A broad gable roof of medium slope originally extended with unbroken slope over a double piazza on the front side, the two end bays of which were enclosed on the second floor. The lower piazza contained six square columns with simple capital and plinth trim. The center two columns were more closely spaced than the others, and the upper piazza, which was actually more like a recessed porch, contained two posts, chamfered from the railing level upwards, above them. Fenestration was formal: a door opened onto the lower piazza on either side of the vertical axis, with a double-sash window containing six lights over six in each of the end bays on the second floor. Fenestration at the ends appears to have been less formally organized. Openings were set in slender architraves with a very small cornice trim. Interior brick chimneys with slightly projecting cornice trim straddled the ridge at either end. These chimneys were mortared with clay earth, and it is thought that the hand-made bricks were made at the site or nearby.

The exact original organization of the interior is not altogether clear. The lower floor contained two sitting rooms within the main block of the house, and possibly a long dining room as well. Historic American Buildings Survey photographs taken in 1934 show a long wing at the rear of the house, but it is known that an owner removed an "ell, containing five rooms," and a porch coveing the well on the west side between 1929 and 1933. According to some sources, the original kitchen was detached, but additional research is needed to establish its relationship with other parts of the house and which parts were built at what time. At any rate, a dog-leg stair at either end of the main block led to a large room on the second floor, usually referred to as the "ballroom." The two small rooms forming the end bays of the second floor porch opened off this room and served as dressing rooms for the social events held in it in Oregon's Territorial days. One is known as the "pink" room, and the other as the "blue" room. The attic contained bedrooms, though whether from the first is not known. Much romanticized misinformation has grown about the house over the years, and most published information, including HABS information, must be regarded with caution. Window boxes, an extention of the roof across the front, and scalloped vergeboards around the eaves which appear in HABS photos appear to be later additions. All lumber in the house is said to be hand-sawn or brought around the Horn, and though the sill beams are hewn, the lumber more probably came from one of the sawmills in operation in the vicinity at the time.

(continued)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Form 10-300a
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES**
**INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

*(Continuation Sheet)*

| STATE | |
|---|---|
| Oregon | |
| COUNTY | |
| Clackamas | |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY | |
| ENTRY NUMBER | DATE |
| DEC 2 | 1974 |

*(Number all entries)*

"ROSE FARM" (CONTINUED)

2. Location

The William Holmes house is located in the SE 1/4 NE 1/4, Sec. 6, T. 3S., R.2E., of the Willamette Meridian, Oregon City, Clackamas County, Oregon.

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Also:

Statewide Inventory of Historic Sites and Buildings
1970
Parks and Recreation Section
Oregon State Highway Building
Salem, Oregon 97310 (Code: 41)

7. Description

The house today remains substantially intact, though so altered in appearance that at first glance it is not recognizable. All the second floor porch has been filled in, window openings altered and reduced, and the house given a new siding of shakes. The two closely-spaced columns in the lower piazza now appear as a solid wall or fin. The rooms have been sub-divided with partitions, and until recently the house served as a rental duplex. It has been purchased by an Oregon lady who has an impressive record of buying historic properties around the state and making authentic and sensitive restorations with her own funds.

8. Significance

1919, during which time numerous additions and remodellings appear to have been made. Portions of the land claim were sold off to accommodate a growing Oregon City, which now surrounds the slightly less than two acres on which the house is sited yet preserving a semi-rural setting.

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## 8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD *(Check One or More as Appropriate)*

- ☐ Pre-Columbian
- ☐ 15th Century
- ☐ 16th Century
- ☐ 17th Century
- ☐ 18th Century
- ☒ 19th Century
- ☐ 20th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) *(If Applicable and Known)* 1848

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE *(Check One or More as Appropriate)*

- Aboriginal
  - ☐ Prehistoric
  - ☐ Historic
- ☐ Agriculture
- ☒ Architecture
- ☐ Art
- ☐ Commerce
- ☐ Communications
- ☐ Conservation
- ☐ Education
- ☐ Engineering
- ☐ Industry
- ☐ Invention
- ☐ Landscape Architecture
- ☐ Literature
- ☐ Military
- ☐ Music
- ☒ Political
- ☐ Religion/Philosophy
- ☐ Science
- ☐ Sculpture
- ☐ Social/Humanitarian
- ☐ Theater
- ☐ Transportation
- ☐ Urban Planning
- ☐ Other *(Specify)*

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The William Holmes house is among the oldest extant structures in the state. Built in 1848, it is associated with the transition of government in Oregon to Territorial status. It was here that the inauguration celebration for the first Territorial governor, Gen. Joseph Lane, was held March 3, 1849. Though Oregon had been created a Territory in 1848, Lane's arrival March 2 marked the end of the Provisional government which had existed since a vote of 52-50 had favored the establishment of American rather than British law in the country in 1843. It is said that Lane delivered his inaugural address from the second floor piazza, and it is known that after a feast of beef, venison, and bear pit-roasted on the grounds, celebrants danced away the night in the large room on the second floor to an orchestra consisting of two violins and a clarinet under the direction of Mr. Knighton, proprietor of the City Hotel. Distinguished guests included Dr. John McLoughlin, founder of Oregon City and chief factor of the Hudson's Bay Company post there, George Abernathy, retiring governor under the Provisional government, and Supreme Judge A. L. Lovejoy, one of the founders of Portland, and nearly the entire population of Oregon City.

Holmes was Sheriff of Clackamas County under the Provisional government, which at that time extended east from the Willamette River to the Rocky Mountain divide and included most of the present State of Washington. In 1849 he was elected Doorkeeper of the first Territorial legislative assembly. According to one source, the legislature met in the large room July 5, 1849, and it may well be that elected members of the Provisional government did meet there previously as it was their habit to meet in various homes, or that they did meet there in an unofficial session on that date, but the first official session was in Oregon City on July 16 of that year. The room is also generally said to have served for a while as a school after a nearby log schoolhouse burned in 1848 or 1849.

William Livingston Holmes, a native of Tennessee and Mary Holmes, born in South Carolina, migrated to Oregon with their three children from Missouri in the great migration of 1843. They took a land claim of 640 acres under the laws of the Provisional government about a mile south of the settlement at Oregon City, where the Willamette Falls barred farther navigation up the Willamette River from the sea. It is said that Holmes patterned the house after his former house in Tennessee. "Rose Farm," as the house has come to be known from the many roses around it, remained in the Holmes family until

(continued)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

## 9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES


Dana, Marshall, "Rose Farm, 1847-Oregon City" Oregon Historic Landmarks (Portland: Oregon Society, Daughters of the American Revolution, 1957), p. 50-51.

Oregon Journal. "Where Notables were Entertained," (July 9, 1934), p. 6.

Lockley, Fred. "Impressions and Observations of the Journal Man," Oregon Journal, June 18, 1933, Sec. 1, p. 6.

Myra, Weston. "Old Holmes Located Here," Oregon Enterprise September 12, 1935, p. 16.


## 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 | ° | ' | " | ° | ' | " | 45 ° | 20 ' | 31 " | 122 ° | 36 ' | 00 " |
| NE | ° | ' | " | ° | ' | " | | | | | | |
| SE | ° | ' | " | ° | ' | " | | | | | | |
| SW | ° | ' | " | ° | ' | " | | | | | | |

UTM 10/531350 5020780 CL

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1.91

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |
|---|---|---|---|
| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY: | CODE |
| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY: | CODE |
| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY: | CODE |

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## 11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Paul Hartwig, Park Historian, D. W. Powers III, Assistant

ORGANIZATION: Oregon State Highway Division

DATE: August 21, 1974

STREET AND NUMBER: State Highway Building

CITY OR TOWN: Salem

STATE: Oregon 97310

CODE: 41

## 12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

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:

National ☐ State ☒ Local ☐

Name: David B. Talbot

Title: State Parks Superintendent

Date: Sept. 18, 1974

## NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

A. R. Mortensen

*Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation*

Date: 12/2/74

ATTEST:

Carl Shultz

*Keeper of The National Register*

Date: 11-21-74

☆ U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE : 1973-729-147/1442 3-1

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

## PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

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

| STATE | |
|---|---|
| Oregon | |
| COUNTY | |
| Clackamas | |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY | |
| ENTRY NUMBER | DATE |
| | DEC 2 1974 |

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**1. NAME**

COMMON: "Rose Farm"

AND/OR HISTORIC: Holmes (William L.) House

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER: 534 Holmes Lane

CITY OR TOWN: Oregon City

| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY: | CODE |
|---|---|---|---|
| Oregon | 41 | Clackamas | 005 |

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**3. PHOTO REFERENCE**

PHOTO CREDIT: Oregon State Highway Division

DATE OF PHOTO: 1970

NEGATIVE FILED AT:
Parks and Recreation, State Highway Division, Salem, Oregon 97310

**4. IDENTIFICATION**

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

1. Current view of the William Holmes house from the northeast.

1 of 2

1 of 2

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

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

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CITY OR TOWN: Oregon City

| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY: | CODE |
|---|---|---|---|
| Oregon | 41 | Clackamas | 005 |

**3. PHOTO REFERENCE**

PHOTO CREDIT: Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE OF PHOTO: 1934

NEGATIVE FILED AT: Library of Congress

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**4. IDENTIFICATION**

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

2. View of the William Holmes house from the north in 1934.

#282

#282

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