

Forest Grove Historic Resource



2004 17TH AVENUE - Jacob Buxton House

Description:

This is a two-story, partially remodeled wood-framed, wood-sheathed vernacular farmhouse. Footprint resembles an L; roof elevation varies, otherwise it is a cross-gable; composition shingles. Gable on primary facade adorned with stickwork ornamentation. Partial porch with shed roof supported by boxed columns. Tall, narrow, one-over-one double-hung sash windows. Very large mature deciduous tree on public right-of-way immediately west of subject property. Corner lot; picket fence.

History:

The Buxton House at 2004 17th Avenue was probably built around 1894 for Lilly Hampton and Jacob Buxton. Lilly Buxton bought the property in May that year from C.L. Large, who had owned it briefly. Jacob Buxton was born in Forest Grove in 1862 to a large family parented by Henry and Rosanna Wooley Buxton, Jr., who had settled in the area in the 1840s and took out a donation land claim in 1851 on the western periphery of Forest Grove. In 1883 Jacob married Lilly, born in 1866 in North Dakota. They parented one child, Jessie, born in 1884. Jacob Buxton worked as an undertaker in Forest Grove. The Buxtons sold this house to W.B. Haines in 1900.

In 1903 Mayne J. and Mary Abbott bought this property and owned it until 1920. Mayne, born in Minnesota in 1877, and Mary A., born in Kansas in 1878, married in 1902. In 1902 and 1912 the plan of the house appears much the same as its plan in 2000, however, the projecting eastern stem with a porch extending across the north wall was then only one-story high (according to Sanborn Company fire insurance maps of Forest Grove for those dates). (The second story has been added since 1983.) Mayne J. Abbott worked with his father, John A. Abbott, in the business of Abbott & Son jewelers in the early 1900s. After his father's death, Mayne Abbott continued in the jewelry business for many decades. He was a partner in the ownership of the Abbott-Thornburgh-Bailey Building, constructed in 1909, at 1930-1936 Pacific Avenue in Forest Grove.

Grant Bailey and his wife bought the Buxton House in 1923 and owned it until 1946. Carl J. and Grace W. Mortensen owned the property from 1946 to 1968. Mortensen operated a mimeograph shop at this address in the 1960s.