

Forest Grove Historic Resource



2006 18TH AVENUE - Thomas/Hoge House

Description:

This is a two-story wood-framed, wood-clad (channel drop) vernacular farmhouse style house with a composition shingled mansard roof with gable roofs over two projecting wings (one on the north, one on the west). Windows are one-over-one double-hung sash. Both gable ends adorned with fan (or "sunburst") ornamentation. Tapered round columns that originate from a balustrade support the front porch roof that wraps partially around both north and west sides.

History:

The original owners of the house at 2006 18th Avenue, reportedly, built in the 1880s, are not known at present. It is known that Arthur B. and Mary Thomas owned a large parcel on which this house stood from the 1890s to the early 1900s. (On the same parcel the Thomas couple also owned an extant 1890s house at 2014 18th Avenue until 1903.) Mary E. and Arthur B. Thomas owned the property until 1902.

Arthur B. Thomas, a native of Cascade, Iowa, born in 1848, enlisted in Company L, First Iowa Volunteer Cavalry and fought in the Civil War when only a teenager. Immediately after the war, he engaged in the general merchandise business in Des Moines, Iowa. He soon moved this business to nearby Ames, Iowa, where he operated this business with his brother, A.C. Thomas, for the next twenty years. The destruction of this store by fire influenced the Thomas couple's decision to move to Forest Grove, Oregon, around 1890. Thomas opened a successful general merchandise store in Forest Grove that he operated with Edwin B. James, under the name of Thomas & James general merchandise, until 1905 when he took up real estate. It is said that, in 1905, Thomas traveled to the Lewis and Clark Exposition in Portland, selling cherries and encouraging people to move to Forest Grove and buy land. Prior to 1910 it is believed that the Thomas's may have lived at the northeast corner of 18th Avenue and Cedar Street. In 1910 the Thomas couple had moved to a new location on 18th Avenue. Also by 1910, A.B. Thomas had bought an orchard; he engaged in fruit farming until around 1930. Arthur B. Thomas died in 1936 at age eighty-eight. Mary E. Thomas, A.B. Thomas's third wife, preceded him in death (Oregon Journal, March 6, 1936; "Board of Trade edition, Washington County News, April 1908; "Washington County Cultural Resources Inventory, 2307 18th Avenue property, 1983).

In 1902 Walter and Belle T. Hoge bought this property from the Thomases. Walter Hogue worked as the proprietor of the Forest Grove Times newspaper in the early twentieth century. By 1909 William S. and Elizabeth Gordon owned and may have lived in the house at 2006 18th Avenue. It appears that they and others owned the property until 1942 when Howard Lenn and Neva Cameron, husband and wife, bought it. In 1946 Randolph L. and Maxine A. Howe bought the house and owned it until 1950. Around that time, this very large house was converted into apartments.