

Forest Grove Historic Resource



2015 18TH AVENUE - Laughlin-Marshall House

Description:

This is a 1-1/2 story, wood-framed, wood-clad (channel drop), gable-roofed Queen Anne style house. Gable ends adorned with fishscale shingle ornamentation. Three-window bay on primary facade; windows are one-over-one double-hung sash. Partial front porch with cantilevered front porch roof. Attached one-car garage with shed roof. Footprint is rectangle with attached garage at NW corner.

History:

The Laughlin House at 2015 18th Avenue was probably built in the summer and fall of 1902 for Bedford H. and Nora E. Johnson. Bedford Laughlin took up residence in Forest Grove in the fall of 1901. On June 18, 1902, he married Nora E. Johnson. The 1902 Sanborn Company map of Forest Grove depicts the footprint of the present house (with its corner front porch), as does the 1912 Sanborn map of Forest Grove.

Bedford H. Laughlin was born on his parents' (William and Poebe Roberts Laughlin) farm in Yamhill County in 1858. Bedford H. Laughlin was the first of sixteen children born to this union. After completing his education in district schools, he conducted a meat market in Forest Grove for about a year. He then round to mining for several years. In 1883 he mined in the Coeur d'Alene district, then went to British Columbia. He worked in the mines there for about five years, and then engaged in railroading with the Northern Pacific and the Oregon Railroad and Navigation Company. The discovery of gold in Alaska in the mid-1890s, encouraged him to go back to mining. He ventured to the northern end of Cook's Inlet, then, in March 1897, started over the Chilkoot Pass to the Klondike mining district. From there he traveled down the Yukon River and took up a mining claim on American Gulch, a tributary of Bonanza Creek. For three years, he and others worked assiduously and realized considerable success. Laughlin spent the winter of 1900-1901 in North Yamhill, and in the spring mined on Alaska's Copper River country.

Laughlin arrived in Forest Grove in the fall of 1901. He bought a livery and transfer business that he built up over the next two years, selling it in 1903. Laughlin and his new wife, Nora E. Johnson, bought the property on which the present house stands about a week after their marriage in June 1902. About six months after Laughlin sold his livery business, the couple sold the Laughlin House, in December 1903. That same year, Laughlin began construction of the Laughlin Hotel in Forest Grove that was completed in 1904. The citizens of Forest Grove elected Bedford H. Laughlin mayor for at least two terms in the early 1900s (Portrait and Biographical Record of the Willamette Valley, Oregon, Chicago: Chapman Publishing Company, 1903; and Forest Grove News Times, January 21, 1909).

In 1903 Samuel and Alice V. Marshall bought the Laughlin House. They owned it until 1944. That year Alice, then a widow, sold the property to Frank A. and Amy A. Deming. Two years later, the Demings sold the house to Calvin and Francis Haller. Clarence L. and Betty J. Sander owned and occupied the Laughlin House from 1950-1958.