

Forest Grove Historic Resource



2039 18TH AVENUE - Hughes House

Description:

This is a one-story, wood-framed, wood-clad (channel drop), cross-gabled Queen Anne style house having fish scale shingle ornamentation in the gable end on the primary facade. Three-window bay on the primary facade. Windows are one-over-one double-hung sash. West side has exterior back of fireplace and chimney. Roof is composition shingle. Large, mature deciduous tree in the east side lawn. Front porch has wrought iron balustrade and bilateral wrought iron handrails descending front steps.

History:

The house at 2039 18th Avenue was probably built in the 1890s, when its Queen Anne architectural style was especially popular throughout Oregon. The building's original owner is not known with certainty. M.E. Austin and his wife owned this property around the turn of the century until 1902. Nancy McNamer owned the house from 1902 to 1907. That year Georgia A. Hughes, wife of the deceased Samuel R. Hughes, bought this house. Although she died in 1914, the Hughes children (including Samuel G. and George R. Hughes) retained ownership until 1921. The building is known as the Hughes House because of the family's longer-term early ownership.

In 1850 Georgia A. Hughes traveled with her parents to Oregon on a wagon drawn by oxen. She married Samuel R. Hughes in 1859, pioneer merchant in Forest Grove. Sam Hughes opened Forest Grove's first hardware store in 1872 (Portrait and Biographical Record of the Willamette Valley, Oregon, 1903). He also served as mayor of Forest Grove for three terms, and, in 1896, was elected to the Oregon State Senate for one term. After her husband's death in 1898, Georgia Hughes operated the store with her son, Samuel G. Hughes. Georgia purchased the property on 18th Avenue in 1907. Samuel G. Hughes managed the family hardware store and also owned a very successful local independent telephone exchange in Forest Grove for many years (Oregon, Washington, and Idaho Gazetteer and Business Directory, 1889-1890). Samuel G. Hughes served two terms as a Forest Grove councilman and, in 1896 was elected city treasurer ("Board of Trade Supplement," Washington County News, April 1908). The Hughes House was conveyed to George R. Hughes late in 1916. He remained the owner of the property until 1921.

In the 1920s, four different parties owned the Hughes House: L.B. McKeever and his wife (1921-1925), Alice Gillenwater (1925-1928), E.M. Pray and his wife (1928-1929), and Charles T. Hess (1929-1930).

Loyal M. and Carrie A. Graham and their children owned the property between 1930 and 1944. Loyal M. Graham, born in Butler County, Pennsylvania, in 1861, lived and received his education in Iowa and, later, Nebraska, before arriving in Forest Grove in 1911. From 1911 to 1915, he was the Forest Grove city attorney. He served in the Oregon State Legislature for five terms in the late 1910s and the early 1920s. In 1927, during his last term, he chaired the House Roads & Highways Committee. Graham became widely known as the father of the Oregon gasoline users tax for highway construction. The bridge over the Devil's Fork of the Wilson River was named "Graham Bridge" in honor of his work (Forest Grove News Times, July 20, 1961).

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His son, Warren Graham and his wife, Verna G., acquired this property in 1932. Warren worked as a mining engineer. During World War II, he and his family spent three unfortunate years in a Japanese prison camp (Hillsboro Argus, March 18, 1976). Warren and his wife, Verna, sold this property in 1944 to Anna Strohmayer, a widow, who sold it in 1959 to Nobie and C.E. Musgrove.