

Forest Grove Historic Resource



2118 18TH AVENUE - Caple(s) House

Description:

This is a two-story wood-framed, wood-clad (channel drop) vernacular farmhouse with gable roof. Full width porch with hip roof supported by round columns originating from balustrade. Crawl space beneath porch is faced with lattice. Windows are one-over-one double-hung sash, front windows have ornamental shutters. Most windows have lintel cornices.

History:

The Caple (sometimes spelled Caples) House at 2118 18th Avenue was built for John W. and Harriet Caple around 1904. In June that year, the Caples bought the northeast quarter of this block from Tualatin Academy (Pacific University). The footprint of the present house is clearly visible on the 1912 Sanborn Company map of Forest Grove. The Caple family owned this property until 1925.

John W. Caple was an early and long-time Forest Grove merchant. The John W. and Harriet Gilson Caple moved to Forest Grove from Woodland, Washington, around 1883. By 1888, J.W. Caple operated a general store in Forest Grove. He continued in the general merchandise/grocery business for the next several decades, joined by his son, Arthur B. Caple, in the 1910s. Under the name of Caple's and Company, J.W. and Arthur Caple worked together into the early 1920s. John W. Caple died in 1928. Arthur B. Caple continued operating Caple's Grocery at 21st Avenue and Main Street, as well as Caple's Shoe Store in Forest Grove for several years. He also owned two theatres and The Badger Café in Salem (Washington County News Times, January 19, 1928 and July 13, 1961).

In 1925 Fred and Edna Poorman bought the Caple House. Fred Poorman, a farmer in the Forest Grove area, died at age forty-three. Edna later married Frank H. Wilson. They sold the property in 1939 to L.L. and Stella C. Haller. Between 1943 and 1954, Mabel H. Fraer, a widow, owned the Caple House. That year she sold it to Hugh W. and Sheila Edwards.