

Forest Grove Historic Resource



1606 ASH STREET - Hancock/Johnson House

Description:

This is a 1-1/2 story, wood-framed, wood-clad Bungalow single-family residence with a shingles covered cross-gable roof. It has one-over-one double-hung sash windows. Large, mature deciduous trees in the front and evergreen in the rear distinguish its landscaping. Its architecture is distinguished by the primary facade presenting both eave side and gable end. The gable end is distinctive in its asymmetric roof. The porch is half the width of the house and has two massive boxed columns. The roof has large, overhanging eaves. South elevation dominated by a gable end fireplace and chimney.

History:

The Hancock/Johnson House at 1606 Ash Street was built around 1906, according to previous inventory forms completed for this property. Florentine and G.G. Hancock owned this property between 1901 and 1909. They are noted as the owners on the 1909 Wilkes Brothers Abstract Company map of Forest Grove, published in the Atlas of Washington County. This house is definitely present on the November 1912 Sanborn Company map of Forest Grove. Although the Hancocks ownership was short-lived, they may have been responsible for its construction.

Little is known about the Hancocks at present. G.G. Hancock was co-proprietor, with Frank Gordon, of the Hancock and Gordon "fashionable livery, feed, and sale stable" in Forest Grove. Their business is listed in the 1907-1908 Oregon and Washington Gazetteer and Business Director. A sizeable ad in that publication depicting a horse and carriage declared that "special attention [was] given to commercial travelers' patronage." By the early 1910s, they are no longer listed in Forest Grove business directories. In 1909 Florentine Hancock sold the 1606 Ash Street property to John Baxter, who, the next year, sold it to John W. and Esther E.J. Fuqua.

Laura H. and M.R. Johnson bought this house in August 1916. Born in 1880 in Waupaca, Wisconsin, Laura Hatch attended a teachers college in Wisconsin. She then taught school for several years in Waupaca County, Wisconsin. She married Myron R. Johnson in 1906. They moved to Forest Grove in 1916, where Myron Johnson was an official in the First National Bank in Forest Grove. The Johnsons raised two children who lived to adulthood: Alice Daley and Ed Johnson. Laura H. Johnson died in 1968.

In 1941 Paul Anthony and Elaine Menegat bought this house from the Johnsons. Paul Menegat, born in 1901 in Coos Bay, Oregon, graduated from Pacific University and received his doctorate from Oregon State University. Paul Menegat was a public school teacher and administrator in Forest Grove for many years and also in Heppner, Scappoose, Medford, and The Dalles. He also was superintendent of the Air Force Dependent Schools in Madrid, Spain, and of Army Schools in Verdun, France, and Nuremberg, Germany. After working in the Education Department at Pacific University from 1961 to 1966, he retired and went to Puerto Rico to teach at the Inter-American University. Paul Menegat married Alice Montgomery; they raised two daughters: Joan [Scott] and Judy [Giesbers]. Paul Menegat died in 1976; his wife survived him. The Menegats sold their Ash Street property in 1973 to James George and Joy E. Hills.