

Forest Grove Historic Resource



1614 ASH STREET - Philip House

Description:

This is a one story, wood-framed, wood-clad Queen Anne single-family residence with a composition shingle covered hip roof. It has one-over-one double-hung sash. Its landscaping is distinguished by concrete block front retaining wall. Large, mature deciduous and evergreen trees throughout yard. Its architecture is distinguished by being a small, modest one-story Queen Anne. Wrap-around porch with round columns and an ornamental small, centered gable roof dormer on the primary facade.

History:

The Philip House at 1614 Ash Street was probably built around 1908. It does not appear on the 1902 Sanborn Company map of Forest Grove but the house, with its distinctive wrap-around porch, is unquestionably present on the 1912 Sanborn map. Thomas C. Philip bought this property in October 1907 from James Clarke.

Thomas Philip, born in Ontario, Canada, on February 13, 1847, married Jeanie Cochran on September 19, 1872 in Almant, Canada. In 1885 the couple left Canada for the United States. The Philips operated a "well-improved farm that reached down into the bottomland at the west end of Pacific Avenue on Gales Creek" in Forest Grove, according to the Washington County News Times (June 12, 1930). It is not clear whether the Philips family lived in the house at 1614 Ash Street. Thomas Philip's 1930 obituary never notes that he lived on his farm in the "Groveland District." The Philips time in this house would have been brief, in any case, since they sold this property in 1913. Two of their three children, Andrew C. Philip and Lizella Underhill, survived Thomas Philip at the time of his death. Lizella Underhill owned and probably lived at the house at 1613 Ash Street, directly across the street, built around 1908, the approximate date of the Philip House.

Between 1913 and 1930, this property had several owners. They included: J.N. Hoffman (1913-1914); Ellen Keen (1914-?); Lucy Buchanan (c. 1920-1922); C.W. and Lena Metz (mid-1920s-1929); and Ben A. Hensen (1929-1930).

Walter N. Sears bought this property in 1930 and owned it until 1944. Sears was born on July 18, 1872 in rural Polk County, Oregon, to pioneers Samuel C. Sears and Celeste Comstock. At the age of four, Walter Sears moved with his family to Washington County. On October 6, 1897, he married another pioneer child, Laura Baker. Walter Sears owned and operated his own barbershop in Forest Grove for many years. Sears died in 1942, leaving his widow and daughter, Norma Sears (News Times, August 20, 1942).

After Paul and Alice Menegat owned this property briefly between 1944 and 1946, Nellie M. Montgomery bought the Philip House in 1946. Montgomery was born Nellie Imet on January 27, 1888, in Clackamas, Oregon, and attended Portland High School. In January of 1907, she married John Montgomery, who passed away in 1918. During World War II, Nellie Montgomery worked in the shipyards. After the war she became a housemother at Knight Hall and the Gammas House on the Pacific University campus. Montgomery sold the property in 1981 and passed away in May of 1983.