

Forest Grove Historic Resource



1604 BIRCH STREET - Hines House #2

Description:

This is a 1-1/2 story, wood-framed, wood-clad single-family residence with a composition shingle covered gable roof. It has four-over-four double-hung sash. Its landscaping is distinguished by large, mature fruit tree, side yard has large mature oak. The open porch being covered by a dropped deck roof supported by four heavy boxed columns distinguishes its architecture. Gable end fireplace and chimney.

History:

The Hines House, built around 1859, stands at 1604 Birch Street. In the 1880s, the Hines moved this house from the southern periphery of Forest Grove (in the present South Park Addition) to its present location at the northwest corner of Birch Street and 16th Avenue. The Hines property was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1987.

Thomas M. Hines and his wife, Mary Buckingham Hines, were among the earliest settlers in the Tualatin River Valley, arriving in 1848. Thomas Hines, born in Franklin, Missouri, in 1819, married Mary Buckingham, a native of Pennsylvania. Their son, Cicero Hines, was born in Missouri in 1846. Two years later, the Hines family joined a wagon train in St. Joseph, Missouri. In the fall of 1848, the Hines family settled in Yamhill County, briefly, before claiming land along the Tualatin River in Washington County. In 1849 Hines participated in the California Gold Rush, but soon returned to Oregon. The Hines family farmed their donation land claim for eight years. Four sons were born to Thomas and Mary Hines in the 1850s: George (1851), Thomas W. (1854), Willis (1856), and Charles (1858). The family moved to Forest Grove in 1858-1859 where Thomas Hines bought about 420 acres and, reportedly, constructed the Hines House. Hines subdivided his entire acreage in 1882, giving a sizeable parcel of land to each of his three living sons. (Willis died at age thirteen.) The Hines House was probably moved about four blocks (from 2225 12th Avenue) to its present location at 1604 Birch Street around that time. Hines, reportedly, lived off the interest of his money made from land sales, and was considered a wealthy man in the late 1800s. Thomas and Mary Hines died shortly after the turn of the century.

Subsequent owners of the Hines House include: Martha Whitney and the Walt James family. Harriet and Arnold Lindstrom moved into the house in 1934. Following Arnold's death, Harriet married Alfred Lewis. After Alfred's death, Harriet Lewis continued living in the Hines House.