

Forest Grove Historic Resource



1616 BIRCH STREET - Elder House

Description:

This is a two-story, wood-framed; wood-clad Queen Anne style single family residence with a composition shingle covered hip roof. It has one-over-one double-hung sash. A solid vertical board fence along side property line distinguishes its landscaping. Front yard is aesthetically pleasing multi-plant garden. A projecting two-story bay distinguishes its architecture with pediment on the primary facade. Open porch protected by dropped, wrap-around hip roof supported by four round columns.

History:

The Elder House, constructed around 1900, stands at 1616 Birch Street. In 1884 John Elder, a native of Kentucky born in 1857, married Mary, a native of Iowa born in 1866. They moved to Oregon shortly afterwards and were living in the state by 1887. The Elders, reportedly, built this house around the turn of the century. By 1910, John Elder had retired and was living in the Elder House with Mary and a daughter, Lillian, and a son. Lillian taught music lessons in Forest Grove. She continued living in the Elder House into the 1920s with other family members, including a nephew (or brother), Lanborn.

Christian Magnus and Ellen Halverson Bagstad occupied this house in the early 1950s (1952), along with Margaret Hinman. Christian M. Bagstad had come to Forest Grove in 1926 and, with his brother, operated a wood business from the Carnation Mill for many years. He later worked at Stimson Lumber Company. After retiring, he worked as a custodian at the Forest Grove City Hall and the Methodist Church in Forest Grove. The Bagstads lived in the Elder House for a number of years, before moving to Portland around 1960. In the early 1960s, the James Warner family lived at 1616 Birch Street. Later in the 1960s, Richard Brautigan lived in the house.