

Forest Grove Historic Resource



1810 BIRCH STREET - Ebert/Walker House

Description:

This is a one story, wood-framed, wood-clad Minimal Traditional single-family residence with a composition shingle covered gable roof. It has one-over-one double-hung sash with plastic casements. Its landscaping is distinguished by large, mature deciduous tree in rear yard. Its architecture is distinguished by twin entryways, each covered by token gable roofs, supported by ornamental brackets. The northernmost entryway on the east (primary) facade originates from a wall dormer having a ground floor window and a gable window. Gable ends are eaveless. North-facing facade is gable end with fireplace and chimney.

History:

The Ebert/Walker House, built around 1940, stands at 1810 Birch Street. Will F. Ebert and Jesse W. Bunch bought this property in April 1940 from the City of Forest Grove, who acquired it in 1932 during the Great Depression. Ebert, reportedly, had this house constructed. Carlton Nursery may have been his source of plantings for the house's landscaping. In 1947 Will Ebert bought, from Louise D. Bunch, the Bunch interest in this property.

Ebert rented the house to the Clyde Walker family in the mid-1940s. Clyde Walker, born in Nebraska in 1901, graduated from the University of Nebraska in 1924 and received his master's degree in 1930. He taught agricultural engineering at Oregon State University in Corvallis from 1928 to 1943. For eighteen months, Walker served as a supply pastor for the Methodist Church in Alsea, Oregon. From 1945 to 1948, Clyde Walker worked with R.M. Wade and Company, an agricultural supply company, in Portland. He owned Walker Tractor Company for two years. The Walkers owned the Mills House at 1648 Ash Street during this time. In 1950 he joined Portland General Electric in Portland as public relations and educational director. In 1952 the Walker family spent two years in Jordan where Clyde Walker was a technical assistance in farming for the U.S. Department of Agriculture on the Point Four Program. Throughout his life, Walker was a prominent layman in Methodist Church activities throughout the Northwest. Walker was about to retire when he died from injuries sustained in a car accident on the Beaverton-Hillsboro Highway in 1968.

E. Myron and Eleanor L. Ray, apparently, became renters in the house in the early 1950s. Will Ebert sold the couple this house in 1953. The Ray family continued to live in the Ebert/Walker House into the 1960s. By the mid-1960s, the Haskin family, Kathleen B. and Dale, resided at 1810 Birch Street.