

## Forest Grove Historic Resource



### 1819 BIRCH STREET - Methodist Episcopal Parsonage

#### Description:

This is a two-story, wood-framed, wood-clad Foursquare single-family residence with a composition shingle covered hip roof. It has one-over-one double-hung sash windows. Its landscaping is distinguished by large, mature deciduous tree (oak) in front. A gable-roofed dormer and a full porch on the primary facade distinguish its architecture. The porch is covered by a dropped hip roof supported by large boxed columns set on piers and rising past a porch balustrade. Detached garage converted to living space in recent years.

#### History:

The Methodist Episcopal Parsonage, built around 1911, stands at 1819 Birch Street just north of the former Methodist Episcopal Church. The November 1912 Sanborn Company map of Forest Grove depicts the outline of the extant residence at 1819 Birch Street.

This new parsonage supplanted the second Methodist Episcopal parsonage, a two-story, wood frame dwelling built in 1891 at the northeast corner of Birch Street and 18th Avenue. The first church parsonage, built in 1875, stood on the same lot as the first Methodist Episcopal Church in Forest Grove (at the southeast corner of 19th Avenue and Elm Street). The church congregation sold this first parsonage in 1890 for \$1,000. By July 1891, the church trustees reported that they had bought a new parsonage, at the northeast corner of Birch Street and 18th Avenue, valued at \$1,900. This second parsonage was moved a block away to 19th Avenue and sold to William Hartrampf to make way for the construction of the third Methodist Episcopal Church in Forest Grove in 1911 (now the Church of Christ). The proceeds from the sale of the old parsonage contributed to the construction of the new parsonage. The parsonage's history is intimately associated with the history of the Methodist congregation in Forest Grove. The church trustees eventually sold the third Methodist Episcopal to a private owner. The house was later converted to multi-family housing.