

Forest Grove Historic Resource



1804 DOUGLAS STREET - Large House

Description:

This is a 1-1/2 story, wood-framed, wood-clad Vernacular farmhouse single-family residence with a composition shingle covered gable roof. It has two-over-two double-hung sash windows. Its architecture is distinguished by a projecting bay on the gable end of the primary facade adjacent to the small gable roofed porch. Broad overhanging eaves; windows have lintel cornices. Rear, detached garage may be original. Its landscaping is distinguished by surrounding picket fence; mature deciduous tree in the front.

History:

The Large House at 1804 Douglas Street was probably built around 1889. Zeurmiah Large bought the land on which the house stands from Moses Snelling and his wife in July 1889. Zeurmiah Bayley, born in 1836 in Springfield, Ohio, traveled to Oregon, over the Meek's cut-off in 1845 with her family, that included five daughters and two sons. The journey was a memorable expedition marked by a lack of food and other misfortunes (Portrait and Biographical Record of the Willamette Valley, Oregon, 1903). Zeurmiah Bayley married Francis Large, a carpenter and California and Idaho miner, in July of 1853. The Large family lived in Lafayette, Oregon, for many years, before moving to Forest Grove around 1881. Francis Large died in 1899. Zeurmiah and Francis Large had two children who lived to adulthood, Elizabeth Delphine, who married T.J. Harris, a former Yamhill County sheriff, and Charles Lester Large.

Charles Lester Large, born in 1856 and raised principally in Lafayette, Oregon, gained notoriety throughout Washington and Multnomah counties as a physician. He graduated from the College of Physicians and Surgeons at Keokuk, Iowa in 1880, and, after practicing in several different towns (including, Defiance, Missouri, Albina, Oregon, and La Center, Washington), began practicing medicine in Forest Grove in 1887. Large is listed as a physician for the first time in the 1889-1890 Oregon, Washington and Idaho Gazetteer Business Directory. Charles Large eventually specialized in obstetrics, and became very popular and well known in Forest Grove and beyond (Forest Grove News Times, January 21, 1943). He reported all of the births he attended in the local newspaper with the statement "Dr. Large attending." The idea for free advertising provided a helpful birth register before they were common. Dr. Large served as a Forest Grove councilman for five years and as the Washington County coroner in the late 1890s (Forest Grove News Times, October 22, 1908). After he retired in the 1910s, he spent much of his time attending criminal and civil trials in the Multnomah County Courthouse, where he became known as the "thirteenth juror." Charles Large and his wife, Edora, raised one child, Lucile, born around 1907. (Lucille Martin lived in Los Angeles after her marriage.)

Charles L. and Edora Large most likely lived in the house at 1804 Douglas, along with Zeurmiah Large after she became a widow. Both Charles and his sister Elizabeth D. Harris retained ownership of the Large property until 1939, after both of their spouses had died. Charles L. Large died of a heart attack in 1943.

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Franklin J. Lewis, a widower, and Minnie M. Lewis bought the Large House in 1944. Bolden and Barbara Duncan bought the property in 1956; Barbara Duncan continued as owner, after her husband's death, into the 1980s.