

Forest Grove Historic Resource



1823 DOUGLAS STREET - Mirehouse House

Description:

This is a 1-1/2 story, wood-framed, asbestos-clad post-World War II Minimal Traditional single-family residence with a composition shingle covered gable roof. It has one-over-one double-hung sash window. Its landscaping is distinguished by well-manicured foundation plantings. Its architecture is distinguished by small front, centered, gable-roofed porch emanating from the eave side of the house (primary facade). Its modest size and simple, unadorned architecture also distinguishes the house. Newer storage shed at the end of the driveway; small wing added to the southeast corner.

History:

The Mirehouse House at 1823 Douglas was probably constructed around 1940-1941, when Carnation Lumber Company held a mechanic's lien against the Mirehouse property. This house probably replaced a much older dwelling, built before 1912.

James and Bella Mirehouse bought this property in 1941 from Frank L. and Stella I. Stahl, who had purchased a larger parcel earlier that year from John and Emily Anderson. Both James and Bella Mirehouse hailed from Canada. James Mirehouse, born in Ontario in 1871, moved to Langdon, then, Sarles, North Dakota, as a teenager. He married Emily Jane Dillabaugh in 1894. More than ten years after her death in 1914, he married Bella Duncan Melville, who had also lost her spouse. Bella Duncan, born in 1879 in Ontario, moved with her parents to Mauntain, North Dakota, when a child. In 1902 she married Wallace Melville, who died in 1912. Bella and James Mirehouse married in 1925 in North Dakota.

The Mirehouse family moved to Forest Grove around 1936-1936 and may have taken up residence in the older house at 1823 Douglas in 1938. James Mirehouse, a carpenter by trade, may have helped build the present house around 1941. James Mirehouse died in Forest Grove in 1954. Bella Mirehouse, who continued to own and live at 1823 Douglas, died eleven years later in 1965. Lester Bunker moved into the house soon afterward.