

Forest Grove Historic Resource



1611 MAIN STREET - Clark House

Description:

This is a two-story single-family residence with a composition shingle cross-gable roof. It is a wood-framed modified vernacular farmhouse. Windows on the primary facade are predominately one-over-one double-hung sash. The structure is architecturally distinguished by a front porch that extends half way across the primary facade and is protected by a hip roof supported by round columns arising from a balustrade. A portion of this wrap-around porch has been enclosed. The gable end of the primary facade also has twin one-over-one double-hung sash windows with ornamental shutters; above these twin windows is a small one-over-one double-hung sash window. The cross gable roof has overhanging closed eaves without brackets. Mature deciduous and evergreen trees shade the side yards. A detached garage stands behind the house.

History:

The Clark House at 1611 Main Street was constructed in the early 1900s (between 1902 and 1912), judging from its vernacular farmhouse architectural features and historical information on Sanborn Company maps of Forest Grove. A 1902 map of the property depicts the footprint of a very different house on this lot; by 1912, the outline of the present house is on this property. J.S. Clark sold this property to his wife, Ella Clark, in 1906, which may be the construction date of the house.

In 1928 Mary Clark Abbott, presumably the daughter of J.S. and Ella Clark, acquired this house. The Abbott family owned this house until 1945. Mary Clark Abbot, born in Kansas in 1876, moved to Oregon with her parents as a young girl. After living in Hillsboro, Yamhill, and, then, on Sauvie Island, the family moved to Forest Grove. Mary Clark graduated from Pacific University (formerly Tualatin Academy), and taught school in Cherry Grove and Forest Grove. She married Mayne J. Abbott, a long-time Forest Grove jeweler and optician with a business on Pacific Avenue, and assisted him in the operation of the store for many years before the couple's retirement. Mary Clark Abbott's nephews, Chester Clark, long-time Coos Bay resident, and C. Bruce Roe, also of Coos Bay, acquired this property. Mary Clark Abbott died in 1958; her husband survived her.

In 1947 John W. and Rosa E. Gabbert bought the Clark House. They sold it in 1950 to Robert C. Willa I. Hayes. The Hayeses lived in the house for a period in the early 1960s.