

# Forest Grove Historic Resource



## 1320 CEDAR ST - V. S. Abraham House

### Description:

The 2-1/2 story V. S. Abraham House at 1320 Cedar Street was built in 1902. It could be described as an over-dimensional Craftsman-inspired American Foursquare with Classical Revival elements, especially as expressed by the Tuscan Doric columns of the front porch. The essential building footprint is square with a few projections, notably a one-story kitchen bump-out on the western end of the south elevation, the projecting full height front porch (east) and a 1970s garage attached to the rear (west). All roof forms are hipped, with the exception of the modern gabled garage. Dormers project from the north and south roof planes. A brick chimney with corbelled top pierces the western roof plane. The structure's primary window type is the 1/1 wood double-hung sash which tend to be evenly and symmetrically placed on all elevations. A notable exception are the Chicago-style openings that flank the porch on the ground floor. The paired windows in the dormers have been replaced with vinyl 1/1 double-hung openings with faux grids. All of the wood windows are protected with exterior storms. The Abraham House's most character defining feature is its two-story front porch. Raised slightly above ground level, it has sets of three Tuscan columns at either side. The deck of the second level is reduced in size, thereby creating a small skirt of roofing. There is also a knee wall, rather than railing, and reduced height columns, arranged here in two sets of two. The upper level of the house, including the dormer walls, is clad in wood shingles. The ground floor features round-edge drop siding. Plywood skirting hides most of the concrete foundation. Alterations in addition to the 1970s garage include a removable wheelchair ramp in front and some newer metal railing on the porch's side steps. The huge 1970s garage attached to the rear is presently being rebuilt with vertical groove plywood siding on the exterior.

### History:

The Abraham House was constructed by V.S. Abraham of Ogalalla, Nebraska who decided to locate in Forest Grove to provide a good education for his boys. Vestal and his brother owned a grocery and dry good store in downtown Forest Grove, known as Abraham and Sons. The older boys worked at the store and attended Pacific University. In 1913 Vestal Abraham sold the house and traded the store for a farm. Both the store and the house were sold to BF Purdy in 1913. In 1921 the house was the site of the Forest Grove Hospital which specialized in surgery and maternity cases until 1934.