

Forest Grove Historic Resource



1504 ELM ST

Description:

The elaborate Queen Anne mansion at 1504 Elm Street was built in the 1890s. The structure is roughly 2-1/2 stories tall with complex shape and massing. The main residential portion lies to the south and has a tall front gable. A second gable of the same height lies to the rear (west) of the south side. Lookouts are in evidence at the eaves. The front gable end includes a large projecting bay with a set of three narrow windows in front and one window on each of the sides. The base of the bay is paneled. A small frieze of paneling runs across the top of the bay as well, immediately below its fish-scale shingled, flaring, truncated hip roof. An identical bay can be found on the north elevation. The entrance porch wraps around the northeast corner. It is raised on a modern brick foundation and is accessed via five wood steps. The porch features turned posts as well as a railing with turned spindles. Additional decorative elements include small post brackets and a frieze of simple spindle work. The steep hipped porch roof terminates into a square tower almost 3-stories in height. The tower features two levels of windows, one immediately above the porch roof level with four smaller windows, the other a set of two larger windows immediately below the pyramidal roof. The eave of this roof is supported by small brackets. The structure's parged foundation is topped by a wide water table and cap. The ground floor above that is clad in channel drop siding. The second floor as well as the tower are clad in staggered wood shingles. The transition from drop siding to shingle is demarcated by a belt course as well as a slight flare in the shingling. There are two corbelled brick chimneys that emerge from the roof near its approximate center to the southwest of the tower. The structure's windows are primarily 1/1 wood double-hung. The exception to this rule can be found on a small one-story addition to the northwest which has bronze aluminum sliders on the east face and a row of glass blocks on the north elevation. This portion of the building constitutes either an early addition, or a more recent sympathetic one. The addition is clad in matching channel drop siding and has staggered shingle accents in the gable. A wide chimney, covered in siding, is attached to the north. A second addition with similar massing can be found on the west side. A small, non-historic screened porch has been attached to the southwest corner. The house's front yard is dominated by a huge oak on the northeast corner of the property. A 1950s two-car, two-door garage lies to the northwest of the house. It has a gable roof of moderate pitch and is clad in board and batten. The doors are paneled and have a single glazed panel in the center of the second row from the top. A small shed-roofed porch is attached to the south side.

History:

While the house is locally known as "the Barnes House," no evidence has been found that anyone by that name owned or constructed this property. It is possible that it was constructed by Miles Hendricks in 1896. Lavina Lyon Watt owned the house for five years (from 1901-1906). It appears as if she lived at this house while a new house was constructed for her across the street in 1905, now known as the "Watts House." Agnette Staehr purchased the property from Lavina Watt in 1906. Kirsten Staehr sold it in 1915. Kirsten Staehr had a music store in Forest Grove from 1907-1924. Her sisters Anna and Emma were photographers. Reverend Ivan Marble and his wife lived at the house from 1961 until his death in 1995. In 1952 Reverend Marble founded and served as Pastor of the Gales Creek Church of God, where he continued to serve for 43 years. He also was the chaplain for the Forest Grove Fire Department for years and gave comfort and help to those who lost their homes or loved

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ones. In 1964 Ivan opened Marble's Cabinet Shop in Forest Grove located on Main and 19th. In 1975 he turned the Cabinet Shop over to his two sons and became a full time pastor. His wife Muriel continued to live at the residence until 1999 when it was sold to the current owner.