

THE  
PAINTER'S  
— WOODS —  
NATIONAL REGISTER  
HISTORIC  
DISTRICT

FOREST GROVE, OREGON



PRODUCED BY THE FOREST GROVE  
HISTORIC LANDMARKS BOARD

WELCOME TO  
THE  
PAINTER'S WOODS  
NATIONAL REGISTER  
HISTORIC DISTRICT

FOREST GROVE, OREGON

*Located on land originally purchased by R.M. Painter from Forest Grove co-founder Harvey Clark, the Painter's Woods District includes portions of early neighborhoods subdivided in Forest Grove in 1891 and 1909. The district is a well-preserved example of residential development between 1880 and 1948.*

*Designated as Forest Grove's second National Register Historic District in 2009, the Painter's Woods District reflects a time of expansion when residents began drifting away from their agricultural roots toward more modern suburban living. As farming gave way to more commerce, dozens of homes were built on smaller lots for professional and working-class families.*

*Step back in time and come see for yourself the architecture, detail and history that awaits.*



*Painter's Woods Neighborhood, circa 1940*

PHOTO COURTESY MARY JO MORELLI

The National Park Service designated Painter's Woods as a National Historic District in 2009. Located on land originally purchased by R.M. Painter from town co-founder Harvey Clark, the Painter's Woods District includes portions of the first subdivisions in Forest Grove: South Park Addition (1891) and Knob Hill Addition (1909). The district is a well-preserved example of residential development in Forest Grove between 1880 and 1948.



Sheep graze near the Marble House  
COURTESY FRIENDS OF HISTORIC FOREST GROVE

Roughly 26 acres in area, Painter's Woods is a T-shaped district. At its widest points, the district lies between 15th and 12th Avenues running north and south, and between Elm and Ash Streets running east and west. The South Park and Knob Hill Additions included homes built on smaller, more affordable lot sizes than those found on the original town plat. This division occurred during a time of expansion when residents had begun drifting away from the town's agricultural roots.

Unlike Clark District lots, which were platted on one-acre plots large enough to grow food, lots within Painter's Woods were smaller (5,000 square feet) and were designated for residential use. This marked the beginning of Forest Grove's transition from a semi-rural community to a more modern suburban community.

The Painter's Woods District reflects Forest Grove's residential growth as the city grew from the efforts of a small group of missionaries interested in establishing a local school to a well-established community with a growing university. Early development of the district included two of the city's earliest hospitals, both of which are residences today.

The Macrum House housed the Forest Grove Hospital until 1918.



COURTESY SCOTT AND JORI RICHARDS



COURTESY SCOTT AND JORI RICHARDS

Many residents of the Painter's Woods district were professionals working in downtown Forest Grove



COURTESY MARY JO MORELLI

Early settlement of the Painter's Woods District drew from a diversified group of prominent citizens, professionals, and working-class families. Between 1880 and 1900, census records show a wide range of occupations among those employed and living in Forest Grove. These included physicians, attorneys, bookkeepers, bankers, merchants, as well as contractors and laborers.

Considered a desirable neighborhood in its time, Painter's Woods was connected to many facets of Forest Grove's history. As a result, styles represented in the district include many excellent examples of Queen Anne, Craftsman, Bungalow, Foursquare, Colonial Revival, English Cottage, Vernacular, WW II Era Cottage, Minimal Traditional, and Ranch architectures.

# THE PAINTER'S WOODS NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT

## WILSON HOUSE 1305 BIRCH STREET

Dr. Rex Wilson constructed this modestly sized Colonial Revival home in 1938. Dr. Wilson was a chiropractor who received his training at the Western States College of Chiropractic Physicians in Portland, where he later served on the faculty as an associate professor. The home's Colonial Revival architectural style was first adopted by the U.S. Army during the 1890s and continued to be built through the 1940s. Favoring simple, clean lines with minimal use of decorative elements, the goal of the Colonial Revival was to cause people to reflect on the early history of the United States, and was often used to evoke a sense of civic pride.



## SCHULTZ HOUSE 2204 15TH AVENUE

From 1907 to 1923, W.F. Schultz and son, Louis, operated a Forest Grove meat and grocery store known as Schultz and Son. Louis married Faye Templeton, for whom Faye's parents had the home built as a wedding gift in 1921. Harley and Adeline Barber bought the home from the Schultzes in 1943, sold it in 1948, and bought it back at its next sale. J. William and Beverly Young owned the home from 1964 to 1969, and both were active in Theater in the Grove productions. Past city councilor, Herb Drew, and wife, Carol, have owned the home since 1969. This 1½-story Craftsman Bungalow features a pillared porch spanning the entire front façade, over which a large gabled dormer projects from the roof.



## ABRAHAM HOUSE 1320 CEDAR STREET

The Abraham House was constructed in 1908 by Vestal S. Abraham of Ogalalla, Nebraska, who decided to locate in Forest Grove to provide a good education for his boys. Abraham and his brother owned a grocery and dry goods store in Downtown Forest Grove, known as Abraham and Sons. In 1913, Abraham sold the house and traded the store for a farm. Both the store and the house were then sold the same year to B.F. Purdy. In 1921, the house became the site of the Forest Grove Hospital, which specialized in surgery and maternity cases until 1934. The home is an example of Craftsman-inspired American Foursquare architecture with Classical Revival elements, especially as expressed by the Tuscan Doric columns of the front porch.



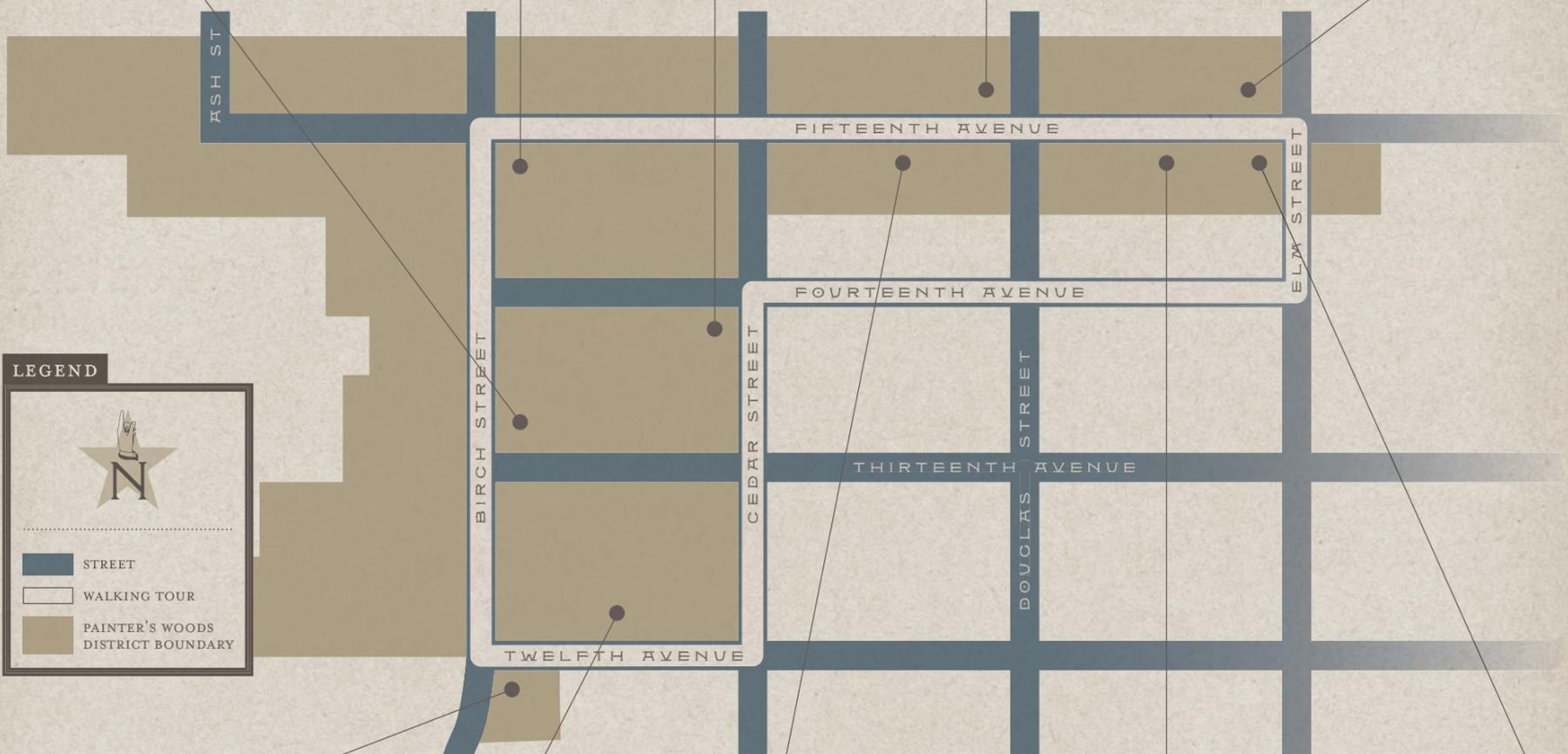
## MILLER HOUSE 1506 CEDAR AVENUE

This house was constructed in 1909 by F.J. Miller. John Buchanan, who served during the Spanish American War, owned the house from 1916 through 1925. E. Vernon Burlingham and his wife lived in the house from 1925 to 1955. Burlingham served on the Forest Grove City Council, the Forest Grove High School budget committee, in the Rotary Club, with the Forest Grove National Bank, and as President of the Chamber of Commerce. Willard and Opal Slabaugh owned the house from 1955 until 1990. Opal Slabaugh, a registered nurse, was the director of Student Health Services at Pacific University for 26 years. This 2½-story home is a fine example of Craftsman architecture and features a flared roof over dormers and bays.



## MARBLE HOUSE 1504 ELM STREET

This home was possibly constructed by Miles Hendricks in 1896. Lavina Lyon Watt owned the house from 1901 to 1906 when she sold it to Agnetta Staehr. Her sister, Kirsten, who owned a music store in Forest Grove sold the home in 1915. Reverend Ivan Marble and his wife bought the house in 1961. Rev. Marble founded and served as Pastor of the Gales Creek Church of God for 43 years, and was chaplain for the Forest Grove Fire Department. In 1964, he opened Marble's Cabinet Shop in Forest Grove. Following his death in 1995, Rev. Marble's wife kept the home until 1999 when it was sold to the current owner. The 2½-story home is an example of Queen Anne architecture and features a tower above the porch with two levels of windows.



**LEGEND**

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STREET

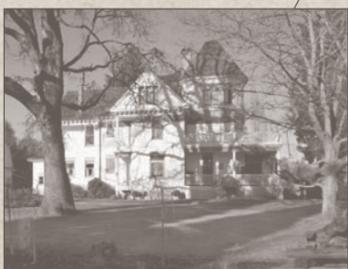
WALKING TOUR

PAINTER'S WOODS DISTRICT BOUNDARY



## BUXTON HOUSE 2206 12TH AVENUE

James T. Buxton purchased the property in 1904, built the home in 1916, and owned it until it was sold by his estate in 1928. Buxton was the grandson of Henry Buxton, Sr. who came to Oregon in 1841 as part of the Red River migration. Buxton served as a City Councilman and was a town blacksmith from 1881 to 1906. Albert and Emma Ellis purchased the home in 1928. Daniel and Florence Moore owned the property from 1951 until 1997. He operated a machine shop and was a realtor and developer. The 2-story home is an example of Craftsman architecture.



## MACRUM HOUSE 2225 12TH AVENUE

Isaac Macrum came to Oregon City in 1870 as an educator, financier, and lawyer, and became manager of the newly established Willamette Savings Bank in 1883. He moved his family to Forest Grove so his children could be educated at Pacific University, and constructed this family's grand Queen Anne home in 1888. A wealthy and successful businessman, the Macrum's home was one of the largest in Forest Grove, with some of the most modern electrical and plumbing systems, including indoor toilets, and interior electric lights. By 1910, however, the house was vacant and a caretaker was paid to live there. During World War I and in 1925, the Macrum House twice served as a hospital. In 1950, it was purchased for use as a preschool, known as "The Castle School." The house is on the National Register of Historic Places.



## WWII-ERA COTTAGE 2324 15TH AVENUE

The World War II Era Cottage appeared shortly before the beginning of World War II and continued to be built in great numbers for decades. The Great Depression of the 1930s led to this simple style of architecture, which often lacked decorative detailing. During World War II, there was a shortage of materials and housing. After the war, with the peacetime economy just beginning to emerge, materials were still in short supply with demand for housing exacerbated by returning GIs and their new families. In response to this demand, new houses were built rapidly and with little ornamentation, often in large subdivisions.



## BAILEY HOUSE 2422 15TH AVENUE

This house was built by John E. Bailey in 1893. In 1888, he became Forest Grove's station agent for the Southern Pacific railroad. He became a prominent businessman who started a general store on Main Street with Edward Haines in 1890. He continued to operate the store until his retirement in 1917. In 1907, Bailey helped to organize the Forest Grove National Bank where he served as Vice President. He served as a member of the City Council and as a Pacific University trustee. John Bailey died in 1935, and his daughter Mary Shipley, who had married William D. Clark (descendant of Harvey Clark) lived at the house until 1939. The two-story home is an example of Queen Anne architecture, and has a gabled roof that creates a tower-effect at its northeastern corner.



## WATTS HOUSE 2434 15TH AVENUE

In 1842, Harvey Clark built a log cabin on this site to house Tualatin Academy. The Academy later moved and became Pacific University. The house was built in 1905 for Lavina Lyon Watts by her brother, where she lived for 24 years. It was sold to Harley Armfield, a Forest Grove manager at the local J.C. Penney store. Ray Miller lived in the house from 1944 until 1948. He started the Rotary Youth exchange program. He served as Rotary President, was elected a County Commissioner and was a member of the Forest Grove Fire Department. The house was occupied by the Alpha Zeta Fraternity from 1948 until 1954. This 2½-story home is an example of Classical Revival architecture. A monument by the large oak tree marks the 1842 site of the Academy.

#### THE HISTORIC LANDMARKS BOARD

The Forest Grove Historic Landmarks Board is a volunteer advisory board to the city council that seeks to promote and preserve the historic features of Forest Grove. We manage an inventory of over 250 historic structures in town. The Board handles nominations to the landmarks list and also provides renovation assistance and grants for listed properties.

For more information, contact the Forest Grove Community Development Department at (503) 992.3229.

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The activity that is the subject of this brochure has been financed entirely with federal funds from the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior. However, the contents and opinions do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the Department of the Interior.

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