FOREST GROVE'S earliest roots are found in two dominating features of today—education and religion. The early settlers were educators and missionaries. Today we find Pacific University (chartered as Tualatin Academy in 1849) at Forest Grove's heart, along with a dense and diverse religious community.

In the 1840s early settlers arrived on the West Tualatin Plain and dwelt in crude log structures, none remaining.

Beginning in 1850 residents built frame buildings in the New England style. Several of these Classical Revival Buildings remain. Three, Old College Hall, the A.T. Smith House, and the Stephen and Parthena Blank House are listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Throughout the 1860s growth was slow and even homes of prominent residents were in simple styles with classical lines.

Pacific University was well established by the 1870s and the business community was expanding with the arrival of the railroad. A change in architectural style is seen in the appearance of larger, more ornate Victorian and Italianate structures. Although fire destroyed all business structures from this period, many residences from this period still stand. The Benjamin Cornelius House (C4) and the Robb/Roberts House (C8) are listed on the National Register.

It was in the late 1880s that Forest Grove boomed, land speculators and developers arrived. The "Gay Nineties" saw tremendous changes in the community. Electricity and water facilities were in place and many brick buildings in the current downtown were erected in this period. The Grove Furniture Building (E13) which is also on the National Register was built in this period.

At the turn of the century, Forest Grove was a modern, progressive city. Buildings reflected the impact of the automobile and growth continued through the 1920s. Most of the structures built in the first three decades remain, styles vary.

The Depression slowed growth and significantly changed housing styles. The city's recovery was hampered by the Tillamook Burn and World War II. The homes of this period were modest, changing to the modern ranch style home and on to the adaptations of today as the economy grew.

Many Forest Grove structures are remarkably well preserved and retain their original facades. The town's architecture shows a progression of cultural and economic change over its 150 year history. You will discover a rich and diverse heritage as you explore the Forest Grove of the 1990s.

SAVING OUR HERITAGE

Before the great westward migration began in the 1840's, this peaceful spot had long been home to the Atfalati Indians. The abundance of nature, a mild climate, and the beauty of the place made it desirable for both civilizations.

Within a generation, the natives were gone, replaced by proud and hardy New Englanders who left a history that still lives around us. Those of us living here now will be judged, in part, by our stewardship of that history.

There is much to be treasured, both of the past and of the present, here in Forest Grove. It is our sincere hope that you will come, learn, and enjoy the rich heritage being preserved in this very special place.

FRIENDS OF HISTORIC FOREST GROVE was formed for the purpose of recognizing National and State Historic Landmarks and local cultural resources, enhancing and promoting the historic environment of Forest Grove, and educating its members and the public in local history.

For membership information, write to:
Friends of Historic Forest Grove
P.O. Box 123
Forest Grove, OR 97116

THIS BROCHURE was produced by Friends of Historic Forest Grove using funds granted by the City of Forest Grove's Community Enhancement Project.

Photographs were provided by Eric Stewart, Washington County Museum and Pacific University Archives.

Content was researched and written by members of Friends of Historic Forest Grove Board of Directors, with contributions by Cliff Clark.

Colleen Cornish-Clark contributed to the brochure design.

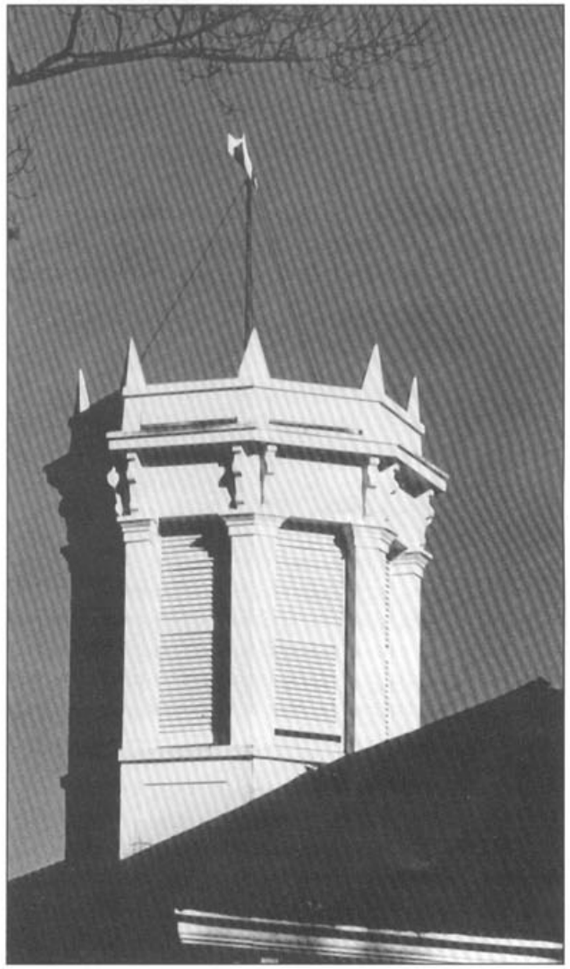
Layout and production were provided by Lynn Adamo, Our House Design Group.

1992

Tour

HISTORIC

Forest Grove



Old College Hall Cupola, Pacific University Campus

Map Inside $1.00

A picnic in the grove, 1895.

TREES

Forest Grove's love affair with trees began with the first settlers. They always called the area near the Tualatin Academy campus "The Grove". The stately native oaks, the evergreen Douglas firs, and the majestic Sequoias are prized by the residents. The Sequioas have a special place in Forest Grove. John Porter brought back seedlings from California that were planted in the 1870's. Some have been cut, but most of them still punctuate the skies above Forest Grove.

Tree City U.S.A. is a new honor to commemorate the past and future protection of the city's tree heritage. A planting program has begun which will grant to future residents pleasure in a tree-shaded community.

Forest Grove's name was chosen, and has lived up to it's reputation, because residents value trees. Naylor's Grove on the southwest edge of town has been the site of many G.A.R. (Grand Army of the Republic), 4th of July, and community gatherings. The south boundary of Forest Grove, and the bluff overlooking the floodplain of the Tualatin River and Gales Creek is still wooded as the pioneers saw it.

ARCHITECTURAL STYLES

CLASSICAL REVIVAL

These are the first framed buildings following the log cabin era. Common features of this style are a low pitched gable roof with eave returns and pilaster (corner columns). Double-hung, 6 over 6 sash windows are typical. Transoms are frequently seen above windows and doors.

(Refer to A1, A2 and A4 for examples of this style.)

SECOND EMPIRE

This architectural style is borrowed from nineteenth century France. The local example of this style has a straight sided mansard rood and tall, narrow 6 over 1 double-hung sash windows. Narrow bay windows and dormers add to the verticality of the structure.

(Refer to B3 for an example of this style.)

ITALIANATE

The adaptability of this style made it popular for commercial and public buildings as well as for housing. It is characterized by single or paired decorative brackets beneath overhanging or projecting eaves. Windows are commonly tall and narrow with arched or curved window crowns. Commercial buildings typically have flat roofs and houses usually have low-pitched hipped or gable roofs.

(Refer to C10 for an example of this style.)

A. Hinman House (C10)

Stephen and Parthena McMillen Blank House (A4)

VICTORIAN

The various forms of Queen Anne are asymmetrical and generally include a steeply pitched, multi-gabled roof. They may also include a wrap around porch and windows with stained glass. Towers and flared chimneys are not uncommon. Stick/Eastlake homes are very similar to the Queen Anne but are elaborately decorated with gingerbread such as turned posts, spindlework and latticework.

(Refer to E6, E17 and F1 for examples of this style.)

John Bailey House (E17)

CLASSIC (TRANSITIONAL) BOX

This style was a reaction to the flamboyance of the Victorian Era. The building's elements form a harmonious relation devoid of unnecessary ornamentation. The basic box is a two story cube with a low pitched hip roof, hipped dormers, full width porch and large 1 over 1 double hung sash windows.

(Refer to D6 for an example of this style)

COLONIAL & GEORGIAN REVIVAL

This is a large grouping of houses and buildings that has several subtypes. The **Dutch Colonial Revival** is usually a full two stories with a front facing gambrel roof, later versions were side gambrel. **Cape Cod** houses are generally 1-1/2 stories with a medium pitched gable roof. The floor plan is square or rectangular and they are frequently shingled. The **Georgian Revival** is most common locally as commercial and public buildings. Usually made of brick, the facade has symmetrically balanced windows and a center door. Doors and windows may be arched. Entries are accentuated with a decorative crown supported by pilasters or columns.

(Refer to F4, G8, H9 and H12 for examples of this style)

BUNGALOW / CRAFTSMAN

The chief characteristics of these styles are wide overhanging eaves, exposed rafters. and large, deep, covered porches with heavy support posts. Their simplicity evokes an earthiness carried out with the use of local, natural materials. Bungalows are 1 to 1 1/2 stories and have a horizontal emphasis. The Craftsman house may be a full 2 stories with decorative use of structural elements. Those elements being simple and rustic.

(Refer to F17, G5 and H5 for examples of this style.)

J. Thornburgh House (F17)

1850s

Classical Revival style derived from Greek and Roman architecture, classical elements such as columns, pedimented gables, and cornice returns which were superimposed on conventional building forms. The earliest surviving buildings are in some variations of this style.

- ☆ **A1** Old College Hall, Pacific University campus, 1850 (first Tualatin Academy building)
- ☆ **A2** A.T. Smith House, South Elm St. (beyond industrial park),1856 (Alvin and Abigail were the first settlers here in 1841)
- **A3** Sidney H. Marsh House, 2216 College Way, (Walker Hall) 1857/8
- ☆ **A4** Stephen and Parthena McMillen Blank House, 2117 A St., 1858/9 (the Old Stage Coach Stop)
- **A5** Thomas Hines House, 1604 Birch St., 1859 (moved to this site in1888)

1860s

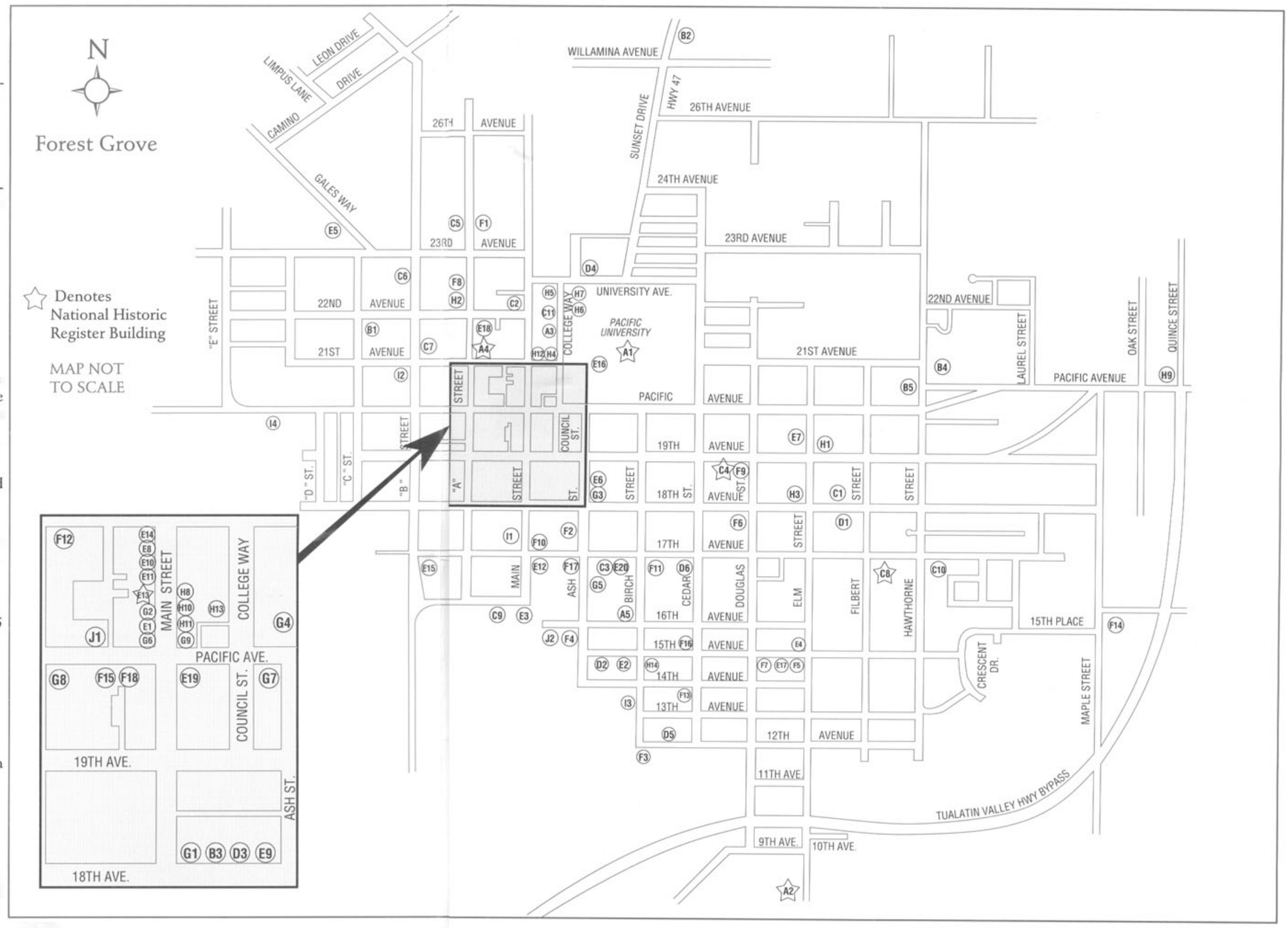
We see some carry over of the Classical Revival into this period. We also see a variety of new styles, the Italianate and Second Empire reflect the prosperity,and self-confidence of this era of growth. The versatility of these styles enhanced their popularity. However, the conservative elements of the community are also apparent in the Rural Vernacular with its simple farmhouse lines and minimal ornamentation.

- **B1** Dr. Bishop House, 1806 22nd Ave., ca. 1862 A. C.
- **B2** A.C. Brown House, on Sunset Drive north of Willamina Ave. ca. 1863
- **B3** Lilia Smith House, 2011 18th Ave, ca. 1865
- **B4** S. Hughes House, 2111 Hawthorne St., ca. 1865
- **B5** Patton/Nixon House, 2018 Hawthorne St., ca. 1865

1870s

In this decade we continue to see the Italianate and Rural Vernacular styles as well as the arrival of the Gothic Revival in this area. The buildings of this style are simple, some having distinctive Carpenter Gothic detailing. We also begin to see evidence of the Victorian era in this decade. The eclectic examples of the Victorian era are many and appealing.

- **C1** Lucinda Porter House, 2527 18th Ave., ca.1870
- **C2** M.E. Dilley House, 1933 22nd Ave, ca.1870 (moved here ca.1950.)
- **C3** Thomas Roe House, 2126 17th Ave, 1872



- ☆ **C4** B. Cornelius House, 2314 19th Ave., 1875
- **C5** D.C. & W. H. LaTourette House, 2314 A St., 1873
- **C6** H. Buxton Jr. House, 2234 B St., ca. 1873
- **C7** Jerome Porter House, 2119 B St., ca. 1873
- ☆ **C8** Robb-Roberts House, 2606 17th Ave., 1875
- **C9** H. D. Jones House, 1910 16th Ave., late 1870's
- **C10** A. Hinman Sr. House,1651 Hawthorne St., ca. 1878
- **C11** Mrs. S. H. Marsh House, 2218 College Way (Knight Hall), 1879 (Being built for Dr. Marsh at the time of his death)

1880s

This decade is represented by a continuation of the styles seen in the previous decade. Some houses are very stylized while others show their mixed origins.

- **D1** Judge W.H. Hollis House, 2620 18th Ave., ca. 1880
- **D2** G. Abernathy House, 2116 15th Ave., ca. 1880
- **D3** Unnamed House, 2033 18th Ave ca. 1880
- **D4** Ohio Watt House, 2103 University Ave, 1884
- **D5** A. I. Macrum House (the Castle), 2225 12th Ave., 1888 (hospital during World War I)
- **D6** E. Merrese House, 2238 17th Ave., ca. 1888

1890s

This is the decade in which most of the surviving downtown buildings were constructed. A new ordinance required buildings to be constructed of brick. Although there were many houses erected in this period, there were no introductions of new styles. We continue to see eclectic adaptations which make it difficult to label the houses as being a particular style.

- **E1** Haines & Bailey Bldg, 2008 Main St, pre 1890
- **E2** Charles Hines House, 2128 15th Ave., ca. 1890
- **E3** I. L. Smith House,1938 16th Ave., ca. 1890
- **E4** B. Barnes House, 1504 Elm St., ca. 1890
- **E5** L.G. Rodlun House, 2336 Gales Way, ca. 1890
- **E6** W.A. Goodin House,1807 Ash St., ca. 1890
- **E7** LeFrene House, 1924 Elm St. ca. 1890
- **E8** Wagner's Building, 2038 Main St., ca. 1892
- **E9** Unnamed House, 2039 18th Ave ca. 1892
- **E10** Ingles and Porter Bldg., 2032 Main St., 1892
- **E11** Ingles & Pope Bldg., 2030 Main, 1892
- **E12** M.J. Abbott Sr. House, 2004 17th Ave., pre 1892
- ☆ **E13** Woods and Caples Bldg, 2020 Main St. 1893
- **E14** Keep Bldg., 2040 Main St, ca. 1892
- **E15** Unnamed House, 1808 17th Ave, ca. 1895
- **E16** Marsh Hall-Pacific University Campus, 1895 (named for first President of Tualatin Academy)
- **E17** John Bailey House, 2422 15th Ave., ca. 1895 (tower added)
- **E18** Harry Crosley House, 2125 A St., 1895
- **E19** Johnson & Son Livery Bldg., 2000 Pacific Ave, 1896
- **E20** Charles Roe House, 2120 17th Ave., 1897

1900s

There is no clear style focus at the turn of the century. We continue to see a carry-over of earlier styles. Mid decade we begin to see a distinct change. The Victorian era is drawing to a close and the trend is to a simpler, more natural structure.

- **F1** Oscar Brown House, 2325 A St., ca. 1900
- **F2** F. Brodersen House, 1714 Ash St., ca. 1900
- **F3** D. Moore House, 2206 12th Ave., ca. 1900
- **F4** Unnamed House, 2036 16th Ave, 1900
- **F5** L.Watt House, 2434 15th Ave., 1905 (site of Harvey Clark's cabin; see commemorative stone.)
- **F6** M. Peterson House, 2338 18th Ave., c. 1905
- **F7** W. P. Spaulding, 2406 15th Ave., 1904
- **F8** W. W. McEldowney House, 2240 A St., ca. 1907
- **F9** Judge Stephenson House, 2338 19th Ave., ca. 1905
- **F10** A.G. Hoffman House, 1703 Main St., 1905
- **F11** Rasmussen-Price House, 1653 Birch St., 1905
- **F12** Dr. D. Ward house, 1912 21st St., ca. 1906
- **F13** V.S. Abraham House, 1320 Cedar St., 1906 (hospital 1922 to 1929)
- **F14** J. Templeton House, 1619 Maple St., 1906
- **F15** Knights of Pythias Hall, 1924 Pacific, ca. 1909
- **F16** F.J. Miller House, 1506 Cedar St., 1909
- **F17** J.Thornburgh House, 2038 17th Ave., 1909
- **F18** Timmerick and McNichol, 1936 Pacific Ave., 1909

1910s

The distinctly American innovative styles become much more apparent by the beginning of this decade. The Bungalow, Craftsman, and Shingle styles are appearing in large numbers. There is an example of one of these on most streets in this city. An early Art Deco appears in this period as well as some revivals of the classic forms.

- **G1** J.E. Loomis House, 1803 Main St., 1913
- **G2** Nixon Building, 2016 Main St, 1912
- **G3** John Ireland House, 1803 Ash St., 1912
- **G4** Carnegie Library, Pacific University campus, 1912
- **G5** I.J. Hoar House, 1623 Ash St., ca. 1912
- **G6** Old First National Bank Bldg, 2004 Main St., 1914
- **G7** The Star Theatre, 2028 Pacific Ave,1914 (first movie house)
- **G8** Christian Science Church, 1904 Pacific Ave, 1916
- **G9** Miller Bldg, 2003 Main St, 1917 (facade changed 1926)

1920s

The Craftsman style remained popular on the west coast into this decade. An interesting adaption is seen in the concrete houses built in this period. The process was patented by a local builder and there are many examples to be seen here. Commercial building in this era show a Renaissance in the nearly simultaneous appearance of all historic styles.

- **H1** G. Hughes House, 1905 Elm St., ca. 1920
- **H2** Dr. Taylor House, 2212 A St., ca. 1920 (poured concrete walls)
- **H3** Alpha Zeta Fraternity House, 1806 Elm St., 1923, Hospital 1940's.
- **H4** Old Rogers City Library, 2019 21st Ave, 1921 (brick walls survived 1919 fire)
- **H5** J. W. Hughes House, 2214 College Way, 1922
- **H6** Bates House, 2131 College Way, 1923 (Built as residence for Pacific University presidents.)
- **H7** McCormick Hall, Pacific University campus 1923
- **H8** Masonic Lodge, 2019 Main St., 1923
- **H9** Masonic and Eastern Star Homes 3505 Pacific Ave., ca. 1923
- **H10** Paterson Bldg, 2017 Main St., 1923
- **H11** Chowning Bldg., 2011 Main St, 1926
- **H12** American Legion Hall 2003 21st Ave, 1928
- **H13** Western Oregon Telephone Building, 2018 College Way, 1928
- **H14** L. Schultz House, 2204 15th Ave., ca. 1920

1930s

Public buildings followed classic forms in this decade, there was minimal commercial development as the area suffered the effects of the Depression. There is a definite change in style of residential building. Early we see the English Cottage style. Near the end of the decade early modern styles appear.
There is a conservative use of materials and resources which continued for many years.

- **I1** Central School, 1728 Main St., 1931 (site of first public school)
- **I2** R. A. McCurdy House, 2038 B Street, c. 1930
- **I3** L.G. Burlingham House, 1306 Birch St., 1939
- **I4** W.G. Paterson House, 1520 Pacific Ave., 1939 (site of Naylor's Grove)

1940s

The War years were again a time of limited building. Changes were made to many existing buildings to modernize them. By the end of the decade, what we here of as"post-war" housing began and there. Most examples are modest. However, exceptions such as the French Provincial McCready house can be seen.

- **J1** Forest Theatre Bldg, 1911 Pacific Ave, begun 1940 and completed in 1947
- **J2** W. McCready House, 2006 16th Ave., 1940