

Preserving Forest Grove

Newsletter of the Historic Landmarks Board

The Historic Landmarks Board has a grant to publish brochures in the summer of 2012 for our two latest historic districts. In the meantime we are using this newsletter to publish our working drafts. This issue highlights Walker-Naylor. Our intention is to follow the design we used for the existing Clark District brochure.

WALKER-NAYLOR National Register Historic District

In 2011, Walker-Naylor became Forest Grove's third National Historic District. Located just north of the downtown area and west of Pacific University, the district includes portions of two early Donation Land Claims – the first granted to Thomas G. Naylor in 1844 and the second granted to Elkanah Walker in 1849. Homes in the district were predominantly built between 1858 and 1959. But, very few residences existed in the district until after the Oregon State Legislature granted a charter to the Town of Forest Grove in 1872, and the Naylor's and Walker's Additions were platted in 1873.

From its early history, the Walker-Naylor District was a desirable neighborhood due to its close proximity to major transportation routes, the downtown business area, and Pacific University. The district was originally settled by town businessmen and professionals who constructed grand Victorian homes on large, semi-rural lots. Pacific University strongly influenced the neighborhood's development in the early 1900s with students, their families, and professors seeking out homes in the district. At the same time, a construction boom was fueled by growing demand for forest and agricultural products, resulting in rapid growth in the downtown business area and increased university enrollment.

Particularly during the 20s and 30s, construction occurred in the district at a feverish pace. During this time, it became popular for Walker-Naylor residents and speculators to subdivide their lots to increase their incomes while meeting growing demand for housing. Some property owners even built multiple homes for extended family or rental income. During this time, Victorian opulence gave way to more affordable architectural styles. In the 20s, the neighborhood's dominant architectural style was the Bungalow, whereas the 30s brought greater architectural diversity with styles such as English Cottage, Colonial Revival, Tudor Revival, and Minimal Traditional architectures. Following WWII, lots continued to be divided as homes were constructed in WWII Period Cottage and Ranch styles among others. By the end of the post-war building boom in 1959 the neighborhood had been largely built out.

The Walker-Naylor Historic District is generally bounded by 23rd Avenue on the north, 21st Avenue on the south, A Street on the east, C Street on the west, and Gales Way on the northwest corner.



Oscar Brown House - 2325 A St.

Irish immigrant and master craftsman, Oscar Brown, was both builder and first owner of this ca. 1900 home. Brown made his way from Ireland to Canada, where he apprenticed as a cheese maker before moving to several locations in Oregon and Washington. His employment even included a stint at the Tillamook Cheese Factory. He and his wife Harriet, who was also of Irish decent, moved to Forest Grove in 1893 because of the educational opportunities the area offered. The following year, they purchased approximately two acres of land on what is now A Street. The Browns built a barn where they and their three sons resided until Oscar completed this grand Stick Style Victorian home with extensive Eastlake embellishments.



McEldowney House #1 - 2240 A St.

This home was built in 1904 for Wilbur and Eleanor McEldowney by William McCready, founder of McCready Timber Company, which later became Copeland Lumber. McEldowney was a prominent banker at Forest Grove National Bank. In 1914, the McEldowneys transferred title to C.V.B. and Matilda Russell who came to Forest Grove in 1894. The Russells had one daughter, most likely Eleanor, who attended Pacific University. Prior to moving to Forest Grove, C.V.B. Russell published his own newspaper, the Independent Monthly, in Glenwood, Iowa, and later worked as a shoe dealer on Main Street after arriving in Forest Grove. Following Russell's death, the property reverted back to Eleanor who sold it in 1924. This stately Colonial Revival home is one of the most distinctive in Forest Grove.



Dr. Taylor House - 2212 A St.

Construction of this home was reportedly started in 1919 for Dr. W.R. Taylor, a physician and surgeon with offices on Main Street. John Taylor (no relation) designed and built the home using the Taylor Process Hollow Concrete Wall Method consisting of two 3" thick walls of concrete, separated by a 1-1/2" air space, connected together with metal ties. Taylor's company, "Thormost Building Corporation," co-owned by C.W. Wertz, marketed this unique process throughout the United States. From 1929 to 1947, George and Cynthia Bennett owned the home. The next long-term owners, Homer H. and Ann V. Waltz, purchased the home in 1949, and it has since remained in the Waltz family. This Dutch Colonial Revival home, with its gambrel roof and dormers, was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 2005.



Broderson House- 2204 A St.

Built in 1924 for Mrs. A.E. Broderson, the design for this "Builder Bungalow" home was purchased by mail order by her husband, Art, and then constructed by Mr. Loynes, a local carpenter. An advertisement placed around this time by mail-order home manufacturer, Gordon-Van Tine Company, features a home that looks strikingly like the one built for Mrs. Broderson. The ad offered, "complete plans, architectural service, pre-milled lumber, and building materials," shipped for \$1795. The variety of window types and sizes used in this home were typical of the bungalow movement, while symmetry and detailing, such as the paired classical columns gracing the home's front porch, were used in Colonial Revival styles. The use of the home's jerkinhead roof also expresses the eclecticism in housing styles of the 1920s.



Crosley House - 2125 A St.

This opulent Victorian home is believed to have been built in 1894 for Harry A. Crosley and his wife, Flora Belle, by Crosley's cousin, John Matthews. Crosley's father, William, arrived from Illinois about 1880. A wagon maker by trade, William later served as town councilman and postmaster. Harry had a photography studio on the second floor of his father's shop at Main and 21st. Soon after his father's death in 1895, Harry Crosley sold the house to Nellie W. Adams, one of the first Pacific University graduates and niece to George Lemuel Woods, third governor of Oregon and later appointed territorial governor of Utah by Ulysses S. Grant. The Crosley House was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1993 as one of the best remaining examples of Queen Anne architecture in Forest Grove.



Blank House - 2117 A St.

Known as the Stephen and Parthena Blank House, this home was constructed in ca. 1858. A native of New York, Blank owned a sash and door factory in Forest Grove. According to tradition, during the late 1800s the house was an overnight stagecoach stop between Portland and Tillamook, and is known locally as the “Old Stagecoach Stop.” The home was relocated from the southwest corner of the block to its present site forty yards north so another residence could be built in its place. The Blank House is a two-story home with Classical Greek Revival detailing and was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1988.



McCurdy House - 2038 B St.

Roy and Iva McCurdy built this charming home in 1932 for \$8000. McCurdy owned a tavern in Forest Grove and died sometime before Iva sold the home in 1979. Known locally as “The Storybook House,” it is an example of the English Cottage style, one of several period styles revived between 1910 and 1935 in Oregon. These historic styles were typically favored by European-trained architects for wealthy clients, but soon became used for more modest dwellings following WWI. The English Cottage style promoted asymmetry, the use of rustic materials, and a romantic feeling. The rolled shingle roof conveys the appearance of thatch, with “cat slides” on either end of the projecting gable, while the pointed conical roof above the arched entrance contributes to the home’s picturesque character.



McEldowney House #2 - 2114 B St.

This house was reportedly built and occupied by W.H. and Anna McEldowney in ca. 1935. The McEldowneys willed the property to their granddaughter, Mrs. Janice M. Charlton, in 1943. Robert and Rosa Bates purchased it from her in 1947, and the property is still owned by the Bates family. The home’s rectangular plan and lack of roof overhang are typical of Minimal Tract homes, while the steeply pitched gable roof gives the home a slight Tudor Revival flavor. A cross-gabled bay and a large entry porch, both of which are stuccoed, provide surface relief on the front. The gable on the bay is punctuated by an arched window, while the porch opening is artistically framed with a flattened pointed arch.



Bungalow - 2222 B St.

This modest 1910 American Movement home may be classified as “transitional” because it has both characteristics of a vernacular Cottage and the Bungalow style. Elements of the Bungalow style include the formerly full-width porch, hipped roof and dormer, exposed rafter tails, and a water table with cap. Plain Bungalows such as this are found in early pattern books. By eliminating many details and retaining a simple form, costs could be reduced, making decent housing affordable to a wider population.



Colonial Revival - 2235 C St.

The symmetrical façade of this ca. 1940 Colonial Revival home is composed of 6-pane, fixed windows and a centered entry surrounded by a simple entablature and pilasters that project slightly from the front entrance. The home’s 1 ½ stories are surfaced with beveled siding and are topped by a side-gabled, cedar-shake roof. Louvered gable vents and multi-pane-over-one, double-hung windows embellish the exterior of this simple yet classic design.

\$\$ *MONEY NOW FOR PRESERVATION* \$\$

Is your house on our local register? If it is, did you know that your house is eligible for restoration / rehabilitation grant funding? The Historic Landmarks Board has funds now to help you with your projects. If you are planning any exterior restoration work such as restoring architectural features or if you have structural work to do such a foundation repair, we'd love to help. We fund projects up to 50% of the cost of the job per grant, up to \$2000. We can also help you find historically appropriate solutions to challenges you may have. Contact James Reitz at 503-992-3233 or jreitz@forestgrove-or.gov to explore the possibilities.

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Preserving Forest Grove is a quarterly newsletter published by the Forest Grove Historic Landmarks Board to help fulfill its duty of public education regarding the preservation of cultural resources. If you would like to be on the mailing list, please call James Reitz at 503-992-3233, or jreitz@forestgrove-or.gov.

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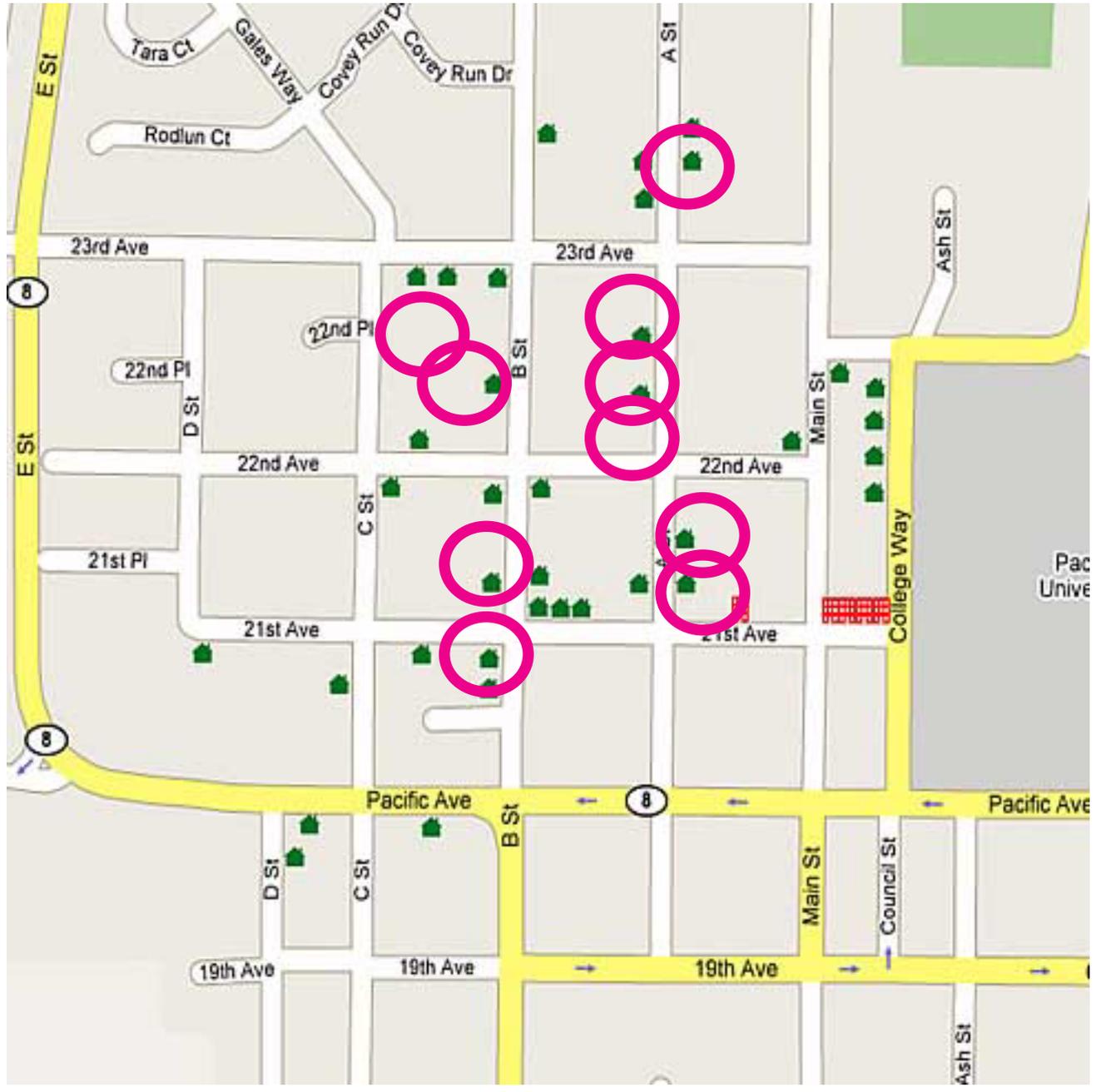
In this Issue:
Walker-Naylor National Register Historic District

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Walker Naylor Historic District



Indicates a house described on preceding pages