

Forest Grove Southside Intensive Survey

Address: 1320 Cedar Street
Historic Name: V.S. Abraham House
Date of Construction: 1902
Owner: David and Jo Morelli
Owner Address: 1320 Cedar
Legal Description: South Park Addition
Block 18, Lot 1, 2 and
pt. 3; 1S 36CA TL 3900
Classification: Historic Contributing



Description:

The Abraham House is a wood frame 3124 square foot two and a half story classical revival with concrete foundation. The first floor is sheathed in horizontal lap siding, second in shingles. The primary (east) façade is marked by an open porch decorated with three classically styled pillars on either side of the front door. Tripartite wood double hung windows flank either side of the front door, which is wood with a single pane on the top half. The second story has a smaller porch flanked by two smaller classical columns. A door with two vertical sidelights provides access to this porch. Two wide one over one double hung windows are on either side of this porch. The hipped roof is composition with a single brick chimney at the center. Two roof dormers with two small double hung windows with two over two divided panes are on the south and north facades. The south façade has five one over one windows on the first and second floors, and there is a new addition at the southwest corner. There is a new attached two car garage at the northwest corner. The north façade has one tripartite window on the first floor and a large one over one double hung window at the northeast corner. The second floor has two wide one over one double hung wood frame windows. The interior has been remodeled significantly over time.

Significance:

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.