

# Forest Grove Southside Intensive Survey

**Address:** 2434 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
**Historic Name:** Lavina Watts House  
**Date of Construction:** 1905  
**Owner:** Judith Loper Teel  
**Legal Description:** South Park Addition,  
Block 11 Lot 1-2 & pt 3;  
1S 36DB 1000  
**Classification:** Local inventory  
resource # 107; Historic  
Contributing, NR eligible  
individually



## Description:

The Watts House is two and one half stories in a bungalow style with classical detailing. Siding is horizontal shiplap. The house sits on the southwest corner lot at the intersection of 15<sup>th</sup> and Elm and faces 15<sup>th</sup>. The primary (north) façade has a wrap around porch which extends across the front and wraps around the east and west facades. On the first floor of the primary façade there are two large plate glass windows on either side of the front door. The porch is supported by Roman Doric columns. The second floor has a central tripartite window and two one over one windows on either side. Each window has simple decorative shutters. Three gable wood shingle dormers project from the roof, which have boxed cornice eaves and plain board trim. A brick chimney rises above the roof on the west side. The central gable has an unusual, one over one window with an arched small gable dormer. The main house has a square plan, with a rear addition, making the house an "L" shape. Both the east and west facades have small roof dormers.

## Significance:

Originally this property was the site where a log cabin was built in 1842 by Harvey Clark as a school for Native American children and orphans. There is a stone historical marker commemorating this as the site of a log cabin where Pacific University was originally founded. This house was built for Lavina Lyon Watts, a sister of the heir to the Dr. Lyons Tooth Powder fortune. He built the house for his sister in 1905, where she lived for 24 years when it was sold to Harley Armfield, a Forest Grove businessman and manager for the local J.C. Penney store. Ray and Norabel Miller lived here from 1944 until 1948. Mr. Miller started the Rotary Youth exchange program in Forest Grove, served as Rotary President, was on the Forest Grove City Council and the Chamber of Commerce. He was elected County Commissioner. Mr. Miller was a member of the Forest Grove Fire Department and was on the fire lines in three Tillamook forest fires. He purchased Forest Grove Hardware in 1935, which later became Ace Hardware. It was occupied by the Alpha Zeta Fraternity from 1948 until 1954.