

Oregon Historic Site Record

LOCATION AND PROPERTY NAME			
address:	833 NE Shaver St Portland, Multnomah County (97212)	historic name:	Rutherford, Otto and Verdell, House
assoc addresses:		current/other names:	The Rutherford House
location descr:		block/lot/tax lot:	
		twshp/rng/sect/qtr sect:	1N 1E 23
PROPERTY CHARACTERISTICS			
resource type:	Building	height (stories):	1.5
elig evaluation:	eligible/significant	total elig resources:	1
prim constr date:	1904	total inelig resources:	0
		NR Status:	Individually Listed
		second date:	c.1950
		date indiv listed:	08/05/2015
primary orig use:	Single Dwelling	orig use comments:	
second orig use:		prim style comments:	
primary style:	Late 19th/20th Amer. Mvmts: Other	sec style comments:	
secondary style:	Craftsman	siding comments:	Asbestos
primary siding:	Shingle	architect:	Unknown
secondary siding:	Wood:Other/Undefined	builder:	Joseph Tremblay (attributed)
plan type:			
comments/notes:			
GROUPINGS / ASSOCIATIONS			
Survey/Grouping Included In:	Type of Grouping	Date Listed	Date Compiled
African Americans in Oregon, 2014	Thematic Grouping		
SHPO INFORMATION FOR THIS PROPERTY			
NR date listed:	08/05/2015	106 Project(s):	None
ILS survey date:		Special Assess Project(s):	None
RLS survey date:		Federal Tax Project(s):	None
Gen file date:	07/07/2006		
ARCHITECTURAL / PROPERTY DESCRIPTION			
<i>(Includes expanded description of the building/property, setting, significant landscape features, outbuildings and alterations)</i>			
<p>The Rutherford House is a 2,337 square foot, one-and-one-half story bungalow with a basement, a rectangular footprint, and a steeply pitched hip roof. Hip-roof dormers on the south, east, and north sides and a dramatic tapered chimney on the east façade embellish the roofline. The wood-frame building, originally clad in narrow beveled siding, is finished in asbestos shingle siding; it has a concrete foundation and composition shingle roof. The ca 1905 building displays a central entry on the front (south) façade, overlooking NE Shaver Street. It is flanked by a shallow canted bay window under boxed eaves to the left, complemented by a flush, three-part window to the right. A similar bay is located on the east façade of the building, which fronts on NE 9th Avenue. The residence, which is slightly raised, is accessed via two flights of stairs that approach a small stoop covered with a gable roof supported by two substantial posts. A major change to the building is the enclosure of the recessed front porch, originally located on the east side of the front façade, in 1936. Additional character-defining features, which were added within the historic period, include modest classical references at the front entry and in the interior, which were added in conjunction with this renovation.</p>			
HISTORY			
<i>(Chronological, descriptive history of the property from its construction through at least the historic period - preferably to the present)</i>			
<p>The Otto G. and Verdell B. Rutherford House is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places at the local level under Criterion A, Social History, for its place in Portland's Albina neighborhood, the center of Portland's Civil Rights movement in the twentieth century. The Rutherford house is literally where meetings occurred, strategies were honed, letters were written, and posters and fliers created to promote key legislation supporting the movement. It is also eligible under Criterion B, Ethnic Heritage/Black, in recognition of Otto and Verdell's longtime leadership in this movement. The house, which is now owned by a third generation member of this activist family, was the only place where the senior William H. Rutherford could buy a residence, due to exclusionary practices in Portland aimed at "Negros and Orientals," in the 1920s. In the twentieth century, Albina was where the African American community lived, where their social institutions were located, including the NAACP, and where activism took place. Activism was sparked by poor housing conditions in the neighborhood, on-going discrimination, and repeated impacts by large public projects that cleared entire neighborhoods in the second half of the twentieth century. Otto and Verdell Rutherford were at the heart of this activism and played a critical role. They excelled in laying the ground work and maintaining the key relationships necessary to promote social change. Their efforts finally came to fruition with the 1953 passage of Oregon's Public Accommodations Act, commonly known as the Civil Rights Act, under Otto Rutherford's leadership as president of the Portland NAACP and Verdell's important supporting role as secretary.</p>			
RESEARCH INFORMATION			
<input type="checkbox"/> Title Records <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sanborn Maps <input type="checkbox"/> Obituaries <input type="checkbox"/> City Directories	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Census Records <input type="checkbox"/> Biographical Sources <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Newspapers <input type="checkbox"/> Building Permits	<input type="checkbox"/> Property Tax Records <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SHPO Files <input type="checkbox"/> State Archives <input type="checkbox"/> State Library	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local Histories <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interviews <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Historic Photographs
Local Library:		University Library:	
Historical Society:		Other Respository:	
Bibliography:			

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