

Oregon Historic Site Record

LOCATION AND PROPERTY NAME			
address:	2019 21st Ave Forest Grove, Washington County	historic name:	Rogers Building
assoc addresses:		current/other names:	Old City Library
location descr:		block/lot/tax lot:	
		twshp/rng/sect/qtr sect:	1N 3W 31
PROPERTY CHARACTERISTICS			
resource type:	Building	height (stories):	1.0
elig evaluation:	eligible/contributing	total elig resources:	1
prim constr date:	c. 1921	NR Status:	
	second date:	date indiv listed:	
primary orig use:	Library	orig use comments:	
second orig use:	COMMERCIAL: General	prim style comments:	
primary style:	Commercial (Type)	sec style comments:	
secondary style:		siding comments:	
primary siding:	Stucco	architect:	
secondary siding:		builder:	
plan type:			
comments/notes:			
Former stationary story was converted to library in 1907. It burned in 1919 and was rebuilt and reopened in 1921. Thought to be a designated local landmark.			
GROUPINGS / ASSOCIATIONS			
Survey/Grouping Included In:	Type of Grouping	Date Listed	Date Compiled
Forest Grove Downtown Historic District	Listed Historic District		2020
Walker Naylor RLS Update	Survey & Inventory Project		2009
SHPO INFORMATION FOR THIS PROPERTY			
NR date listed:	N/A	106 Project(s):	None
ILS survey date:		Special Assess Project(s):	None
RLS survey date:	01/01/1998	Federal Tax Project(s):	None
ARCHITECTURAL / PROPERTY DESCRIPTION			
<i>(Includes expanded description of the building/property, setting, significant landscape features, outbuildings and alterations)</i>			
Recessed panels above awning; corbeled pilaster capitals; recessed arched window brows; two windows and door with half-moon transom on east; New awning; new door on east; addition to north; window transom filled with bevel wood on east; filled arched door opening on SE corner; NE corner of 21st Avenue and College Way in a small commercial area; commercial building to W, church to S; adjacent to Pacific University			
HISTORY			
<i>(Chronological, descriptive history of the property from its construction through at least the historic period - preferably to the present)</i>			
<p>In 1872 the Reverend Elkanah Walker platted the land contained in his donation land claim just west of the Pacific University campus. One of the most notable early citizens of Forest Grove, Walker settled in the area in the area in 1849 and served as pastor at the Congregational Church. He donated land for the establishment of Tualatin Academy and platted the remaining property into four large blocks. These would eventually become the smaller residential and commercial blocks of the downtown area. The former Rogers City Library building lies at the northwest corner of 21st Avenue and College Way. The building is a small one-story structure, three bays wide and approximately 90 feet long. The structure features a flat roof, painted stucco covering its brick walls, and a small stuccoed chimney, which is visible above the northern portion of the building. The recessed main entry is on the south facade, with access to the building through two modern plate glass doors, which are flanked by storefront windows. Wide piers feature decorative corbels just above the window level. Above the door and windows is a small shingled awning. The east facade consists of a three-panel wood door with arched transom and segmented arched windows of four fixed lights and decorative transoms. A small shed addition is situated to the rear. The structure shares its west wall with the neighboring business at 2017 21st Avenue. The first library was an informal borrowing systems set up by a Miss Penfield. She operated it from her stationery shop which was located on this site in a building that was constructed sometime before 1892. In the years between 1906 and 1909, growing support for a public library resulted in the formation of Forest Grove's first Library Board and the levying of a mill tax to support a library. It is likely that the city purchased Miss Penfield's collection and began adding new books. Miss Penfield stayed on and was appointed the first librarian. The library was named after Adeline Fisk Rogers, a long-term benefactor of Forest Grove. She had purchased the building in 1907 and transferred title to the city in 1909. She also helped finance the construction of the First Church of Christ, Scientist at 1904 Pacific Avenue. Adeline was married to a dentist, Dr. George Oscar Rogers. Their extensive travels included a time in Hong Kong where Dr. Rogers set up a practice in 1873. The Rogers collected many valuable pieces of porcelain, which are now exhibited in the Boston Art Museum. The library operated until July 1919, when a fire destroyed the roof and part of the walls; a total loss of \$5,000 was incurred. Fortunately, sufficient warning was given that the townspeople were able to remove most of the books before the library burned. One month after the fire, J.S. Loynes, a prolific local builder, received a contract from the city to rebuild the library. Concrete floors were constructed and the walls rebuilt with Willamette cream-colored pressed brick. The front elevation was reconstructed as it was prior to the fire, retaining its storefront facade. The library was reopened in 1921 and continued to serve the public at this location until 1978 when it was moved to a new building on Pacific Avenue. Sources: Morelli Notes, Jo Morelli, 1998 "Washington County Cultural Resource Inventory," recorded by Scott Combs, May 1983 "Washington County Cultural Resource Inventory" for 2019 21st Avenue, 1993 Forest Grove Survey of 1904 Pacific Avenue by Peter J. Edwards, 1994 Margaret Gilbert, "History of the Forest Grove Library" Forest Grove News-Times, 6 July 1933 Washington County News-Times, 24 July 1919 Report and Recommendations of the Historical/Open Space/Cultural Preservation Committee, City of Forest Grove, July 1978 Peter J. Edwards, "Forest Grove: A Historic Context," 1993 Washington County title and assessment records Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, 1892 and 1912 US Dept of Agriculture aerial maps, 1936 (4738) and 1948 (DFR-3D-183) Forest Grove Street Surface Map, prepared by Oregon State Highway Department, 1939 Virginia and Lee McAlester, "A Field Guide to American Houses," 1984 Rosalind Clark, "Architecture, Oregon Style," 1983</p>			
RESEARCH INFORMATION			
Title Records	Census Records	Property Tax Records	Local Histories
Sanborn Maps	Biographical Sources	SHPO Files	Interviews
Obituaries	Newspapers	State Archives	Historic Photographs
City Directories	Building Permits	State Library	

Local Library:

Historical Society:

University Library:

Other Respository:

Bibliography: