

Cultural Resource Survey Form

Clackamas County

I.D. Number _____

Study Area: Milwaukie
Legal: T: 1 R: 1E Sec.: 36BA
Tax (lots): 3400
Zone: R-2 Lot Size: 40,324 sf

IDENTIFICATION

Common/Historical Name: Peter Mortensen House/City Water Works
Address: 2715 SE Monroe Street Area: Milwaukie
Current Owner: _____ Use: Residence/turbine
Original Owner: Peter Mortensen Original Use: Residence
Area of Significance: Town: x County: _____ City: _____ Nation: _____

HISTORIC INTEREST

Theme: Architecture -- 20th Century, Municipal Services Date: 1904 (dam); 1940 (house)
Description: Spring Creek cuts through this property. A small concrete dam with a sluice gate was part of the turbine-driven well system that was the city's first municipal water supply. The house was built on the foundation of an earlier building (possibly housing the turbine mechanicals) after a different municipal water system was built that replaced the well.

ARCHITECTURAL INTEREST

Style: Colonial Revival House Stories: 1 1/2
Date Constructed: 1904/1940 Condition: Very Good Architect: _____
Siding: Wide shingles
Roof: Side gable with wide shed-roofed dormer and a central brick chimney
Doors: _____
Windows: Dormer: 6/1 double-hung; main floor: fixed sash plate glass.

Main Entrance: Small hipped roof portico with a single front door at ground level.

Notes: Mature rhododendrons, camelias, and conifers surround the pond. The concrete dam appears to be in good condition, with a small sluice gate.



sluice gate in the dam



Date: February 2007
Recorder: Martha Richards

CITY OF MILWAUKIE
CULTURAL RESOURCE INVENTORY
Statement of Significance

ADDRESS: 2715 SE Monroe Street, Milwaukie

This site is significant for its association with the first municipal water supply. This lot was originally a part of the Bernard M. Fisch property, which extended along Spring Creek from SE Washington Street to an area north of SE Monroe Street. In 1904, Mr. Fisch and some other men formed a company to provide the community with its first water supply. A well was dug and a water tower constructed east of the creek (no longer in existence, these were located east of 2715 SE Monroe). Power for the pumping station was provided by a turbine in Spring Creek. The dam on the site was a part of the turbine system; a 1928 map shows a one-story building that probably housed the mechanical system. It is likely that the house that is now there was built on the same foundation. In the 1920s, the City converted its water supply to Bull Run.

The house was built in 1940 by Peter and Anona Mortensen, son-in-law and daughter of Bernard and Melinda Fisch. Peter Mortensen owned PEM Co. machine shop and was a member of the Milwaukie City Council. The house is a one and one-half story Colonial Revival with a side gable roof and wide shed dormer.

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Oregonian July 10, 1904, p. 30 c. 4
Sanborn Fire Insurance Map (1928)

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