

Myers House

5 1355 NW 14th Street
CIRCA: 1946

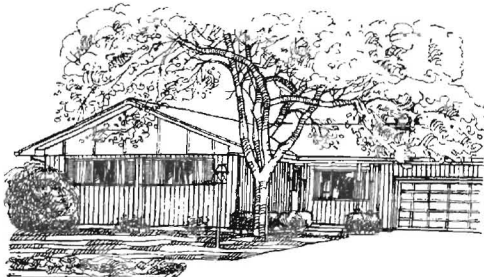
This house was built in 1946 in the Tinkham Tracts Subdivision and is still occupied by its original owner, John Myers. The house is well-kept and has several features that mark it as early postwar architecture. The near pyramid hip roof is typical of this era, as is the picture window. The siding is a man-made shingle that is very durable. Note the garage is detached. This was a transitional time when some garages were being attached to houses. Note also the two different garage doors: one original, the other replaced at a later time.



Nagy House

7 1425 NW 14th Street
CIRCA: 1965

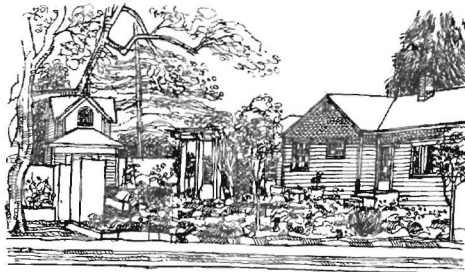
Built around 1965, John and Agnes Everhart bought the house in 1967. John was an auditor for the State Tax Commission. They sold the house in 1969 to Louis and Sherrie Nagy, and the Nagy family has lived there ever since. Louis was a chemist at Evans Products. This is a classic tract home with a distinct single-story horizontal, L-shaped orientation, original shutters and aluminum slider windows, attached double garage, and a gas-lit lamp post in the corner of the front yard by the wide driveway. The façade that faces the street uses a typical mix of materials, in this case plywood and vertical siding.



Baker House

6 1401 NW Grant Avenue
CIRCA: 1948

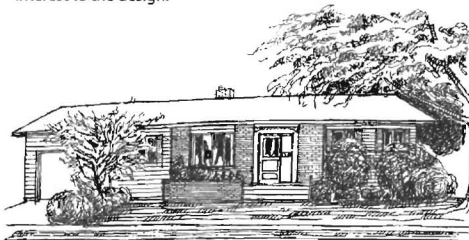
Originally built around 1948, Martin Baker lived here from 1948 until 1983. From 1984 through 1996 the house was a rental. In 1997, Raymond and Janice Keim took possession and ran Raymond Keim Architectural Services out of the house. Typical of the post-war era, this house is one-story with a large yard and a carport. It has the obligatory picture window (one large horizontal pane flanked by 8-over-8 side windows), and smaller windows set high in the walls of the front room. The façade is a mix of materials that include horizontal wood siding and fishscale shingles. The garden has undergone extensive renovation recently and now includes a charming little garden shed or "folly," and a distinctive concrete wall. A large plum tree anchors the southeast corner of the lot.



Hampton House

8 1370 NW Greeley Avenue
CIRCA: 1965
BUILDER: NORMAN MAGADANZ

This classic Atomic Ranch was built by Norman Magadanz in 1965, when the street was named Greeley Drive. In 1967 Dr. Richard Hampton, an associate professor at OSU, and his wife Willie Mae bought the house and lived there until 1997. This is the most horizontal of our Atomic Ranches, with its entire facade and attached garage facing the street and no changes in the roofline. It retains most of its classic Ranch architectural features: brickwork, a brick planter in front of the living room picture window, shuttered aluminum slider windows, and fancy ironwork on the small front porch and surrounding the door. Note the house number incorporated into the ironwork. Again, a combination of bricks and wood siding have been used to add textural interest to the design.



ATOMIC RANCH STYLE

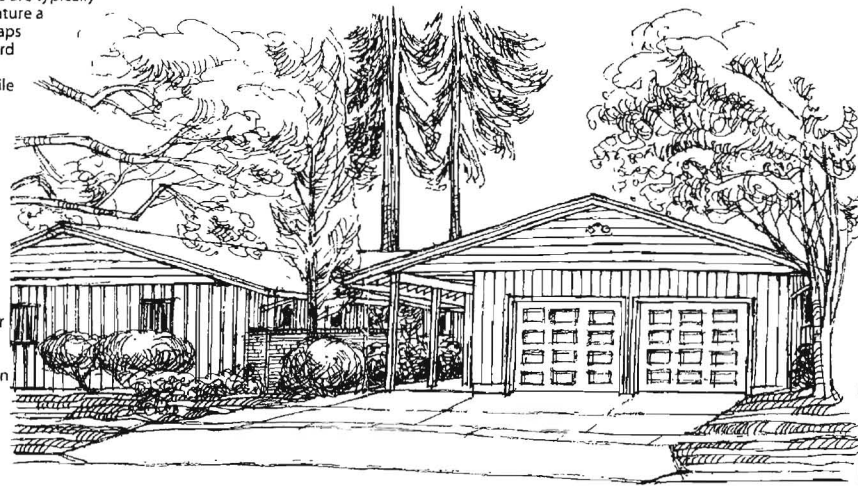
 Ranch-style houses (also American Ranch, California Ranch, Rambler or Rancher) is a uniquely American domestic architectural style. First built in the 1920s, the ranch style was extremely popular in the United States during the 1940s to 1970s, as new suburbs were built. The style is often associated with tract housing built during this period, particularly in the western United States, which experienced a population explosion during this period with a corresponding demand for housing. The ranch house is noted for its long, low to the ground profile, and minimal use of exterior and interior decoration. The houses fuse modernist ideas and styles with notions of the American Western period working ranches to create a very informal and casual living style. Their popularity waned in the late 20th century as neo-eclectic house styles, a return to using historical and traditional decoration, became popular. However, in recent years the ranch house has been undergoing a revitalization of interest.

~ Wikipedia

Webb House

9 1445 NW 13th Street
CIRCA: 1963

Built around 1963, Alvin and Jean Webb are the original owners. Alvin was office manager for Evans Products. This is a nice example of an Eichler type design. Eichler was active in California in the 1950s. His designs are typically one-story and feature a structure that wraps around a courtyard entry that offers some privacy while still defining the main entrance. This creates an open atrium and a small garden area. Unlike most Atomic Ranches, the orientation of the house is not the front but the more private back yard. As in many of the other Atomic Ranches on the tour, this design includes an attached double garage, vertical and horizontal siding, brickwork, and small, aluminum slider windows.



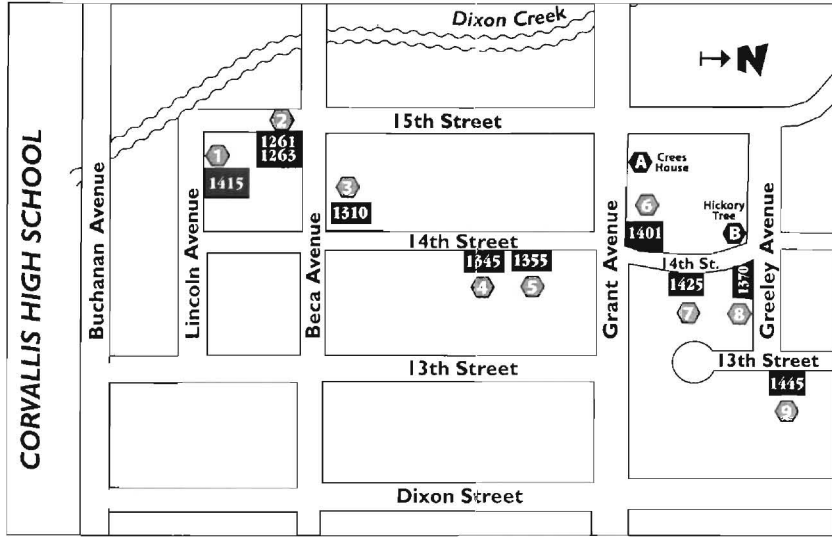
ATOMIC ranch neighborhood WALKING TOUR

Corvallis, Oregon

 Ranch-style houses are a uniquely American domestic architectural style. Long, low, and modern, they were popular in the western United States from the postwar period through the 1970s, including many neighborhoods in Corvallis.

ATOMIC ranch* neighborhood walking tour

Corvallis, Oregon



This tour has been designed to be easily walkable in an hour or less. The numbers on the map show the location of each historic house on the tour. Note that houses do not necessarily have to be viewed in this order.

Ranch Redo

1 1415 NW Lincoln Avenue
CIRCA: 1951 • BUILDER: SERENO BALDWIN

"Ranch Redo" was built in 1951 by Sereno Baldwin and sold for \$9,500. By 1953 George Harvey was renting the house. He lived in the house until approximately 1970, first as a renter and then as the owner. The garage was converted into a living space in 1976 and in 1991 a new garage was added to the front of the house.

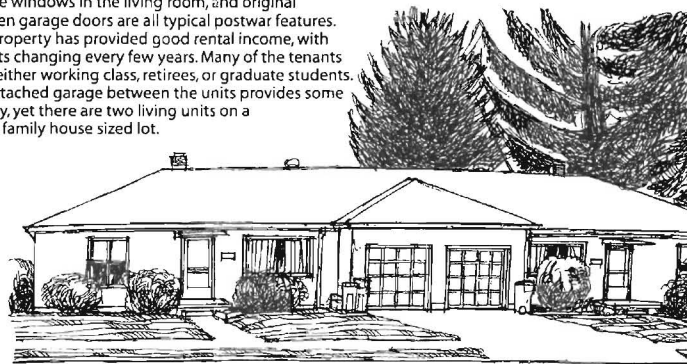
Before the current owners bought the house, the previous owners were having French doors put on the back of the house and the workers putting on the French doors said, "Hey! there is wood under this aluminum siding!" So the previous owner had all the aluminum siding removed and it revealed original mahogany siding. However, when the current owners bought the house the mahogany siding was in disrepair. Someone had added a varnish possibly 30+ years ago, and it was peeling and cracking because varnish is not suitable for exterior use. All the old varnish has been stripped and the wood treated with the same kind of stain that is used on log cabins.



Ranch Duplex

2 1261 & 1263 NW 15th Street
CIRCA: 1951

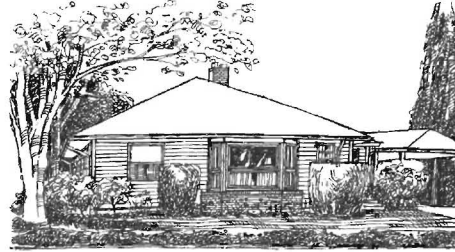
This duplex was built in 1951 and remains much the same. The metal awnings over the threshold, large picture windows in the living room, and original wooden garage doors are all typical postwar features. This property has provided good rental income, with tenants changing every few years. Many of the tenants were either working class, retirees, or graduate students. The attached garage between the units provides some privacy, yet there are two living units on a single family house sized lot.



Block House

3 1310 NW 14th Street
CIRCA: 1948

This early ranch house was built in 1948 and has had the same owner since 1968. It exhibits several classic postwar ranch features including the large, original bay window with narrow brick siding halfway up the bay. Note the front door leads directly to the driveway, a change in emphasis to an auto-based culture. A high window in a less public room allows light but preserves privacy. Some window replacement may have taken place, but at least one wooden, horizontally divided-light window is original.



About Dixon Creek

Dixon Creek was named after William Dixon, one of the founders of Marysville (the original name for Corvallis). The creek was included in part of his 1847 donation land claim, and originates in the present-day Timberhill area. It travels southeast to the Willamette River. Today Dixon Creek remains, for the most part, in a natural state.

Thaw House

4 1345 NW 14th Street
CIRCA: 1949

One of the first residents of this house was a teacher at Corvallis High School, located nearby. This neatly kept ranch house displays most of its original features, including the windows and garage door. The rectangular hipped roof is typical of this era, as are the horizontally oriented divided-light picture windows. Two chimneys suggest a fireplace as well as a furnace flue. Some modification to a two-car garage may have occurred, perhaps a conversion of one bay to living space. The other door is a single piece overhead door that appears to be original. The front stoop porch provides a small covered place to sit and interact with neighbors.



Crees House • 1441 Grant Avenue

A The landmark house at 1441 NW Grant Ave is one of the best local examples of the High Victorian Gothic style. This house was built in 1876 for William Crees, a prosperous 19th-century Corvallis farmer and dairyman.

Old Hickory Tree on 14th Street

B The mature hickory tree located on the corner of 14th Street and Greeley Avenue is a rare specimen and may be over 100 years old. A deciduous tree having shaggy bark and hard smooth nuts with an edible kernel, this hickory tree is one of a few of its kind found in Corvallis. This tree may have been planted during the same time the William Crees House was built in 1876.

For more information on trees in Corvallis see "Know Your Trees," a brochure produced by the Corvallis Parks and Recreation Department. Phone: (541) 766-6918.



NEIGHBORHOOD FACTS