

**Historic Resources Survey  
City of McMinnville  
Yamhill County, Oregon**

**Site Information**

**Site Address**

609 NE Cowls St.

**Owner at Time of Survey**

John & Mary Day

**Map/Tax Lot**

R4421BB18900

**Current Zoning**

O-R

**Special Tax Assessment**

No

**Downtown Historic District**

No

**Subdivision Name**

Willis Addition

**Block**

4

**Lot**

7

**Lot Size**

12,000 sq.ft.

**Quadrant**

NE

**Site Number**

5.20

**Aerial Number**

J-10

**Resource Classification**

A

**Resource Number**

355

**Historic Significance**

Primary Resource #101

**Historic Information**

**Date of Construction**

1897

**Early Additions/ Remodels**

remodeled 1909

**Builder/Architect**

Unknown

**Historic Name**

Apperson House

**Original Use**

Dwelling -  
Single Family

**Common Name**

**Present Use**

Dwelling -  
Single Family

**Condition of Structure**

Excellent

**Comments (at time of Survey)**

**Building Type**

Residential

**Outbuildings**

Garage w/apartment  
above, formerly the stable

**Building Style**

Bungalow, Hybrid

**Stories**

3

**Porch**

**Basement**

**Roof Style**

High Bellcast Hip

**Roof Type**

**Moved**

**Demolished**

**Year/Date**

**Permit Number(s)**

**Additions/ Alterations**

**Resource Information**

**Recorded By**

Mary Day

**Date**

7-1980

**Sources**

Owner

Historic Resource Survey  
City of McMinnville  
Yamhill County, Oregon

Statement of historical significance and description of property:

A355

Located on SE corner of block, faces east. E.W. orientation. Rectangular shape, two story with attic forming a third story. Brick foundation, wall originally wide bevel siding, now foam insulated and covered with aluminum siding. One exterior brick chimney, one interior. Full basement.

Hybrid style. The house, built 1896-97 by E. C. Apperson, originally was a one and one-half story bungalow with porch along east and south and round cupola at the corner. There was a massive remodeling in 1910-11 into present style, raising the roof and making six bedrooms, two baths upstairs, with full attic. Roof is now a high bell cast gable, with Tudor effect of plaster and lath on the front of the house at attic level. Larger columns replaced the slender ones on the porch, resting on brick bases. Also brick side to the steps. At some time the eastern end of the porch on the south side was enclosed with glass windows to make a sun porch, entered from the living room by French doors. Also at some time a large carport was built on the north side. There is an entrance here leading into a small anteroom with built in bench and steps heading to French doors in the main entry hall. Also at some time an angle in the upper story was enclosed to make a “sleeping porch” (the sixth bedroom).

There is a slanted bay on upper and lower stories on north side, three windows. Lower story windows appear to all have original glass. Predominant exterior feature is the use of leaded glass in a distinctive pattern—in an “oriel” window, 2<sup>nd</sup> story front, a high window on front porch, and as large panels on either side of the front door, all framed with oak moulding, pillars and entablature.

Interior changes include making the front parlor and back parlor into one large living room. The fireplace mantel, tile, etc. was placed in the master bedroom fireplace upstairs and new tile and mantel replaced it in the living room fireplace. Hardwood floors were laid throughout the house and 18” oak moulding (hand-turned) was put next to the ceiling in the dining room and entry hall. The only rooms without the hardwood flooring are the “sleeping porch” and the maid’s room at the rear of the upstairs area. There was a tube for communication between the master bedroom and the maid’s room. The maid used the back stairway to go downstairs to the kitchen.

About 1956, Mr. Arthur Fisher, owner at that time, remodeled the kitchen area, eliminating small pantries, etc. to make a breakfast room, kitchen and laundry room across the entire back of the house. He also made an apartment in the upper part of the garage—probably once a hayloft and storage area, as the garage was once the stable for Bridget, the horse, but later made into a garage for the Apperson Jackrabbit automobiles owned by the family.

Many of the plantings in the yard were obviously brought in from the woods—the incense cedar, the myrtle trees, the lavender rhododendrons, the fragrant white azalea, the sumac and numerous others which have spent twenty two years trying to grub out! We see similar shrubs and trees in the neighborhood—the families evidently worked at it together. The large holly tree on the corner, however, was the first registered holly tree in McMinnville, according to stories.

The Apperson's sold the home to Mrs. Ruby Haroun, who later sold it to Margaret and Arthur Fisher, from whom we bought it in 1958.

Note: The huge myrtle tree on the corner of 7<sup>th</sup> and Cows- “Aunt Myrtie Conner’s” house (sister of Mr. Apperson) – now owned by Roger & Sharon Hallum.

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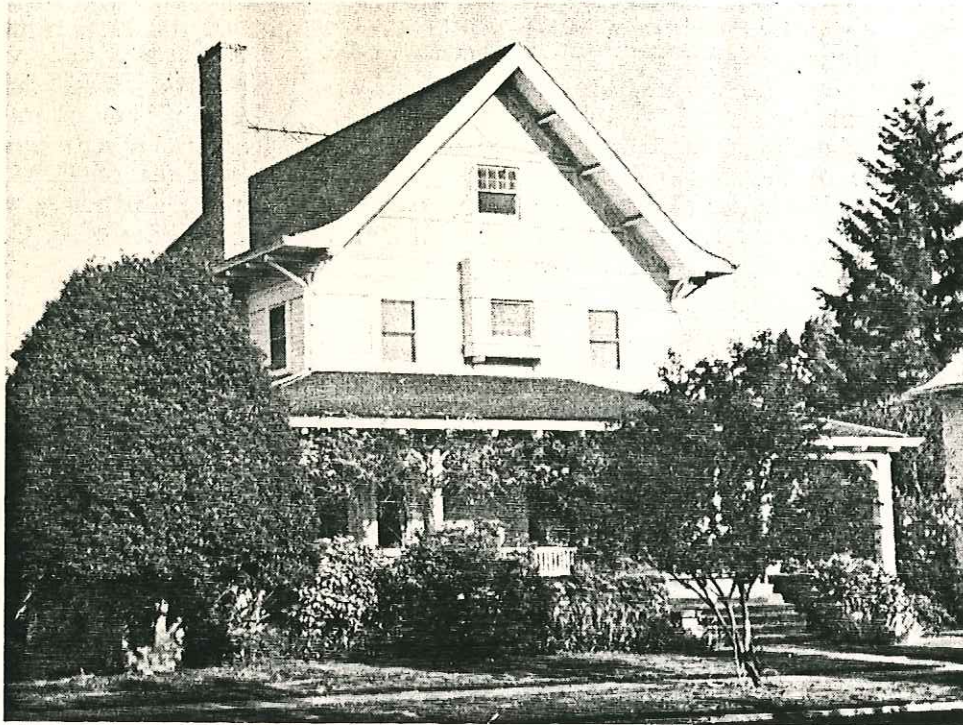
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## APPERSON HOUSE

This house on the northwest corner of 6th and Cowls was — and still is — one of McMinnville's finest homes. Its present owners, the John Days, regard it with the same affection that its original owners must have had for it. The house was built by E. C. Apperson, one of McMinnville's early bankers.

At the age of fourteen, in 1884, Edwin Clyde Apperson came from Oregon City to McMinnville with his parents, the Albert J. Appersons. His father owned a general merchandising business and the son's first job was working with his father in the store.

In 1888 the McMinnville National Bank was established (it later became the present U. S. Bank) and E. C. Apperson became its first bookkeeper. He was promoted to cashier in 1892. Two years later he married Alves Norwood of Marion County, and shortly thereafter bought the property on which the house would later be built. He was made a director of the bank in 1896. About this time, a house was built on the lot and the family (their first child was just a year old) moved into it in 1897.

Mr. Apperson became vice president of the bank in 1903 and in 1908 was elected president. Some time during these years the house was extensively remodeled to look like it does today.

After 49 years of banking, E. C. Apperson retired in 1937 to become president of Oregon Mutual — a position he held until his death in 1945. He acted as treasurer of Linfield College from 1933 to 1945. Mr. Apperson served the McMinnville community long and well.

The house was sold in 1944 to Vern and Ruby Haroun. Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Fisher bought it in 1949. They sold it in 1958 to Dr. and Mrs. John Day of Linfield College.

The house directly east of the Apperson house (across the street) was the Delschneider home. Mrs. Delschneider and Mrs. Apperson were sisters. The big white house just north and on the same block as Delschneider's was the home of the Roswell Connors. Mrs. Conner was a sister of E. C. Apperson. The house next door to the Apperson house on the north is now the property of the Richard Millers. Pat Miller is a granddaughter of E. C. Apperson.

#### Mary Day

Houses which have lived a long time are a fascinating study, to some people, because over the years they develop not only a history, but a personality of their own as well.

Our house came into existence in 1897 as a one-story residence, the home of the E. C. Appersons. Mr. Apperson was a Banker, and the best of materials went into the house inside and out. It still has the reputation of being one of the three best built houses in Yamhill County. About 1910 the Appersons undertook a massive remodeling project. The roof was raised, the domed cupola on the corner removed, six bedrooms were made upstairs, and a full attic constructed on a third floor. Downstairs, the partitions between the front parlor and the back parlor were removed, creating the large living room. Hardwood floors were laid throughout the house, including the stair steps ascending from the front hallway. Hand-turned oak molding was put in the dining room, living room and front hallway, the china closet was built, and the hammered brass chandelier with Tiffany glass panes was hung in the dining room. The leaded glass windows were installed at this time. Later one end of the porch was enclosed to form the sun porch, and the porte cochere was added on the north side. No further major work was done in the house until Mr. Fisher remodeled the kitchen area in 1955, following the specifications of his wife, who was head of the Home Economics department at Linfield at the time. Several small rooms were opened up to form one large area, and a large pantry was blocked off to make a smaller broom closet and provide space on the other side for a shower in the remodeled bathroom. Mr. Fisher also made a small apartment above the garage, which in former days was the stable housing Bridget, the Appersons' faithful horse.

In 1957 the Fishers moved into another home, and by 1958 ours was The House Nobody Wanted. It sat vacant for a year, with weeds taking over the garden and the windows still covered with newspapers after Mr. Fisher's painting job, to the dismay of citizens who remembered it as a showplace. Before we moved here from Redlands, Calif., our friends, Ken and Dottie Trolan, began to look for a "big old house" for us, knowing our taste, and when they wrote us about this house, we knew it was exactly what we wanted. We sent earnest money on it before ever seeing it. Some people were worried, wailing, "It's too big!" They didn't know that, with our five children, six bedrooms and three bathrooms sounded like Heaven itself!

We have made no attempt to restore the house to former glories. We have cleaned and painted and papered and fitted our own possessions and



life style into it. It has accepted us graciously. For all our children, it is a very dear and special place. There have been slumber parties with as many as forty-five girls wall-to-wall in the attic. There have been birthday parties, school parties and "cast" parties. There have been innumerable meetings of various kinds, and when it was too noisy to study in the college dorm, our son and his friends studied in the living room by the fire all night. The house has seen three lovely weddings, and now there are grandchildren who have come to know it well and love it. They have spent many happy Christmases in "Grandma's big old house." Each one has discovered, in delight, how to stand by the leaded glass windows of a morning and be covered with rainbows. And as one visitor remarked, "How could anyone ever be unhappy in a house full of rainbows!"

We welcome you to our home, because we feel it is a house to be shared — with children who gaze with awe at the large, high-ceilinged rooms, with craftsmen who can admire the materials and workmanship that went into it, with people who always wished they could see inside "the Apperson house." Our possessions have given it our personality, for whoever walks into a home sees a reflection of the owner, but we have always respected the house itself and cherished it, for it was here long before we were, and God and the city planners willing, it will be here long after we depart.



**Historic Resource No. A355**



Photo April 2001



Original 1983 Survey Photo