

# National Register of Historic Places

## Wayne Morse Farm, Eugene, OR

### Architectural Significance

While the Wayne Morse Farm is clearly significant for its association with the life and achievements of Senator Morse, it is also significant as a work of architecture. Designed by Wallace S. Hayden in 1936, the house is an important example of his work and of the simplified Colonial Revival style which became popular after 1930. Although Hayden's work has not received adequate study thus far, it is clear that he was a prominent Oregon designer, primarily of domestic projects, from 1930, when he became an instructor at the University of Oregon, into the 1980s.

Wallace S. Hayden graduated from the University of Oregon with a degree in architecture in 1928. He spent two years working for Seattle and Portland architectural firms before returning to the UO as an assistant professor. In 1954 he became a full professor, and he remained at the UO School of Architecture and Allied Arts until his retirement in 1971, teaching a total of forty one years and serving as mentor to countless students. During World War II, Hayden worked as an architect for several defense related sites built in the Northwest, including Tillamook Naval Air Station, Camp Adair and housing projects in Vancouver and Hansford. While teaching at the UO, Hayden also operated a private architectural practice and designed a number of buildings in Eugene, Springfield, Sun River and other parts of Oregon. These buildings were primarily private homes, although Hayden did design a number of medical buildings and other large structures. Hayden was an active member of the Southwest Oregon Chapter of the American Institute of Architects and served as its director in 1954-55. During sabbaticals, Hayden traveled extensively in Mexico, South America and Europe, studying historic architecture and indulging his interests in archaeology and the development of urban spaces. Wallace S. Hayden passed away in 1994.

The home that Wallace Hayden designed for Wayne and Mildred Morse in 1936 was reflective of the historic period styles popular in the 1930s. The house embodies many of the characteristics of the Colonial Revival, one of the period styles fairly common in Oregon from 1910 to 1935. The Morse house's low pitched gabled roof, interior brick chimney, small paned windows with sidelights, and shingled exterior are all elements of the Colonial Revival style. Colonial Revival styles were based on the seventeenth and eighteenth century houses built by early American colonists. Various revivals of the patriotic style have occurred since the 1880s, those built before 1910 tending to be more interpretive and exaggerated and those built after 1910 more archaeological and restrained. The simplified side gabled variant, of which the Morse house is a fine example, became popular after the Great Depression and continued to be constructed into the 1940s and 50s.

Hayden built a small number of houses in this style during the 1930s and possibly the 1940s. In addition to the Morse house, Hayden built three houses which can be classified as simplified versions of the Colonial Revival style, all of which stand on East 21s Avenue in Eugene (the Vincent house at 1066 East 21<sup>st</sup> Avenue, the Hayden house at 1086 East 21<sup>st</sup>, and the provisionally indentified Porter house at 1195 East 21<sup>st</sup>). Hayden's later work, which includes the Eugene Hearing and Speech Center, other Eugene and Springfield homes and offices, and a number of houses in the resort town of Sun River, is generally more modernistic and shows his move away from the period styles. The Morse house, with its high integrity and clearly articulated revival style characteristics, is perhaps the best indentified example of Hayden's early period style work. Hayden designed all three of the historic buildings on the property and was later involved in preserving the land and buildings as a public park. Wallace Hayden served on the board of the Wayne Morse Historical Park Corporation for many years and was responsible for the sympathetic design of the picnic shelter added to the property in the 1980s.

## SUMMARY

... While the Wayne Morse Farm was converted to a public park in the 1970s, it still retains integrity of design, materials and setting. The 1936 house designed by prominent local architect Wallace Hayden is a fine example of his work and of 1930s period styling. Both the interior and exterior appearances of the main house are substantially as they were during the time that Hayden designed the house and the Morses live there. The stable and garage have undergone only minor modifications and also possess high integrity.