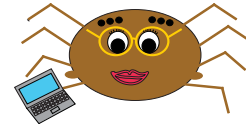


# Couch Historian Ep. 1

## How Old is this House?

### Answer Key



#### 1) When was North Salem High School Built? (765 14th ST NE, SALEM)

The oldest portion was built in 1936.

This is a good example of campuses that might have multiple buildings with multiple build dates. It is good to read through the document and take the dates in context. It should be noted, too, that building isn't instantaneous. Just because the building was started in 1936 (see article below), we know from newspaper reports, that it wasn't dedicated until 1937. If you Google, you might find the 1937 date on other sites like Wikipedia.



Oregon Statesman 30 Sept 1937 pg 3

#### 2) When was Gaiety Hollow (545 MISSION ST SE, SALEM) built? What famous women lived there?

Built 1932 and occupied by Elizabeth Lord and Edith Schryver - landscape architects.

#### 3) Who was the long time owner of the house at 12878 PORTLAND RD NE, GERVAIS? When was it built and what was it's nickname?

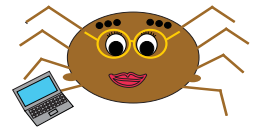
Sam Brown owned the house built in 1856 that had the whimsical nickname "The Willows"

#### Excavation Finished Senior High Building

N Hoffman Construction company finished excavations for the new senior high school on North B and D streets during the week, extended forms for concrete walls and flooring from the north wing toward the center of the structure and began laying foundations in the deep pit, under the auditorium, which will be used for a cafeteria. A donkey engine was in place, ready to operate the high concrete hoist when the walls are raised above the ground level.

Oregon Statesman 22 March 1936 pg 5

# Answer Key Continued



## 4) When was the Steusloff Building Built (399 COURT ST NE)?

Answer 1902

If you had trouble finding this in the Marion County Assessor's Records, so did I! 399 Court only brought up the result for the tenant (Starbucks), not the property record itself. So, I went in through the map feature on the Assessor's Website (knowing after checking GoogleMaps that the property is on the NW corner of Court and Liberty Streets). When I pulled up the property account for that square on the map it listed the address as 255 Liberty Street and a build date as 1940. <https://mcasr.co.marion.or.us/PropertySummary.aspx?pid=R89220&da=true>. I then went in and searched on the City of Salem's historic building map and found the 1902 date.

This is also a really good example of a building that doesn't look like it was built in 1902. Another set of clues we sometimes use in identifying the age of a building is style. Like clothes, certain architectural styles were popular at certain times. The weakness in this system is that often times people remodel buildings over time. See how different the buildings look now and back then?!? Maybe the 1940 date refers to the massive remodeling done about that time?



Left: Building as it looked about 1902. Photo Source Salem Public Library, Ben Maxwell Collection. Right: 2020 GoogleMaps

## 5) Can you determine the build date of the building you are in right now? Would you consider it an historic building?

You'll have to answer this one for yourself! Generally, buildings have to be over 50 years old. You can read about other criteria for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places here: <http://www.nationalregisterofhistoricplaces.com/faq.html>