

## GOTHIC CRAFTSMANSHIP



Built in classic neo-gothic style, gain an appreciation for the vertical and decorative.

- Approaching the front porch note the pointed pinnacle topped with a lathe-turned finial; a star with a rounded bottom cut in the face of the porch gable end and again in the top of the vergeboard (or decorative trim on the bell tower or attic balcony).
- A spiral staircase and dome accentuate the trip upstairs.
- Two dormer windows projecting to the front of the home are a feature of neo-gothic style.
- Transom windows are over both interior and exterior doors.
- 4x4 windows with a sash are standard but on the south we find a gothic style pointed window above the beautifully styled balcony.
- In the parlor is another architectural feature of note—two round arches with a decorative pendant accenting the entrance to the bay windows.

In 1872, the Reverend Ruben Nevius meet with Samuel French and sparked the first beginnings of the Episcopal Church in Cove. It is said that the Rev. Nevius contributed his architectural skills to the construction of the Ascension Church and Rectory, both built in neo-gothic style. He may well have suggested the plans for the Hendershott Home. The blueprints are in *Woodward's National Architecture, a Victorian Guidebook of 1869*. These are the only neo-gothic structures in Cove. The best collection in Eastern Oregon.

## HIGHLIGHTS OF ITS HISTORY

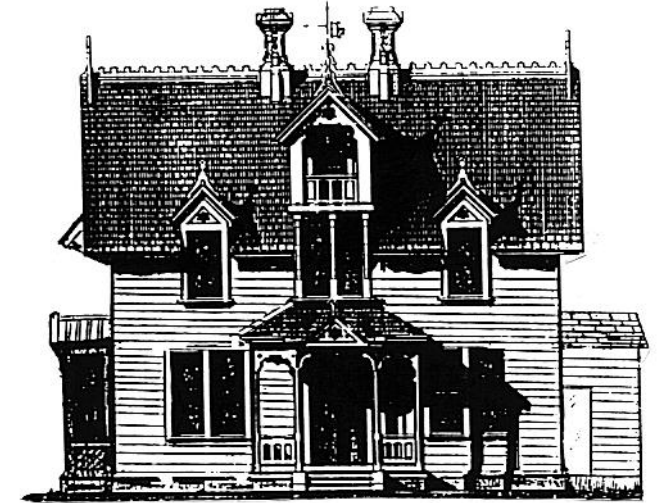
- Built by the Honorable James Hendershott, in 1877, and called Forrest Home. He and his family truly made it their home up to the turn of the century. They were the bedrock of Cove and Eastern Oregon. The inside of this pamphlet tells their story.
- Coyote hunts, fashioned after the English fox hunt, were held by John Smith, the owner in early 1900s. Horns blared and horses jumping the rail fences—what excitement!
- John Allen, the owner in 1933 was killed in a robbery attempt in the home. The incident spurred rumors of “buried treasure.”
- Herman and Marie Allen lived on the farm several years following father John’s death.



**Burton and Ilene Hill**

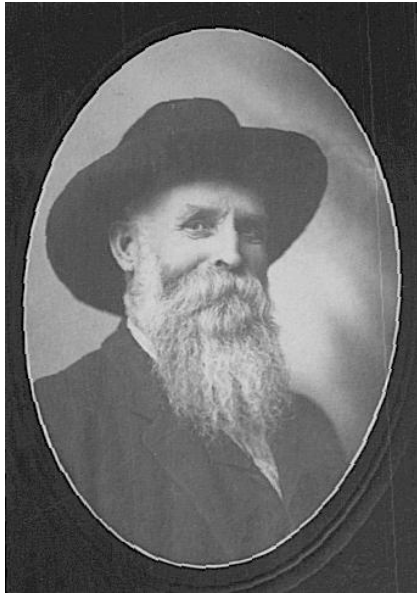
- Burton and Ilene Hill purchased the farm in 1945, raised their family there and have owned and occupied the home for over half a century.

## THE HENDERSHOTT - HILL HOME



### The Hendershott Story The Architecture Highlights of its History

by  
Alan J. Hill



**The Honorable James Hendershott**

- Born in Illinois, grew up in Iowa, looking west.
- Came to Oregon in 1852 in the Asa McCully Wagon train.
- First Sheriff of Josephine County (1854-1860) during the Rogue River Gold Rush. He and his brother, Sidney were active in politics and helped Oregon become a State.
- His wife, Harriett Jane, and his daughters traveled round the horn to San Francisco, and by stage to south-west Oregon in 1857 to join James.
- One of the first settler of Cove in 1862—set up an inn at Hendershott Point and raised fruits and vegetables for the mines.
- State Representative and Senator between 1866 and 1872.
- Succeeded with some political maneuvering in getting the County seat located in Union.
- Served as Register of the State Land Office from 1872 to 1874.
- 1872 member of the first committee that set up the Union County Fair.
- Influential lobbyist in the State Legislature. Candidate for U.S. Senate. Also had an office in Union, Oregon as a Notary Public and Conveyancer.



**Hendershott home in the late 1880s or early 90s. James and Harriett visit with daughter Minerva. Molly Bonn on horseback.**

- In 1868, Fred Nodine bought out the Hendershott's at the Point to turn the Hot Lake bottoms into a cattle ranch.
- James used his money to set up his farmstead in Cove.
- Built his home in 1877, the same year Chief Joseph of the Nez Perces left the Wallowas, just East of Cove.
- James called it "Forrest Home." He was Horticultural Commissioner beginning in 1889. He tested crops, flowers and scrubs for local adaptability. His flock of peafowl were the only such flock on the West Coast at that time.
- From the mid-1870s to the 1890s he was active in bringing the railroad to Eastern Oregon, including the Central Railroad from Union Junction to Cove, which ran through his property.
- In 1893 he was most likely the champion of the Chinese in Union. He "met a posse of excited men and persuaded them not to burn the houses and hang the Chinamen of the village."
- Always a promoter of Cove and Oregon.  
 "There is no place in all Eastern Oregon that the scenery is so sublime as that of the Cove."  
*James Hendershott, Eastern Oregon Republican, 1895.*
- Passed away in his home, January 26, 1897. He and his wife are buried in the Cove Cemetery.



**Harriett Jane Vincent Hendershott**

### **THE BETSY ROSS OF UNION COUNTY**

The 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration at Hendershott Point in 1863 had no flag. To several of her Unionist friends, Harriett announced that the oversight must be corrected. There was no material kept in the local stores that was suitable. Mrs. Hendershott could find no better purpose for her daughter Silena's beautiful red dress than to use it to form the red stripes. Silena had died in January 1863, shortly after the families' arrival in the valley. The keepsake was cut into strips and pieced together by hand. Mrs. Harriett Lewis, wife of E.H. Lewis, donated a white linen sheet for the white stripes and 13 stars. But what of the field of blue? Mrs. Hendershott had seen Martha Kroger, the 16-year-old daughter of a local minister, pass her home on horseback wearing a long flowing blue riding habit. Martha was told of Mrs. Hendershott's sacrifice of the red dress. That and her own patriotism brought a donation of the skirt. On Independence Day 1864, Harriett, her daughters and several women of Union publicly dedicated the flag—a symbol of community pride for many years.