

Forest Grove Historic Resource



240 Elm Street – A.T. Smith House

Alvin Smith settled on a 643 acre farm on the Tualatin Plains in 1841. He and his wife were the first permanent Euro-American settlers in the community that would later become Forest Grove. An earlier cabin on the property was destroyed in a flood, and their second cabin later became a post office. In 1854, he and his wife Abigail began the construction of this home. Alvin was a trained carpenter and did the work himself. Construction finished in 1856, and is the second oldest wood framed building in Forest Grove after Old College Hall at Pacific University. On the main floor there are multiple doors between the rooms to allow for church meetings. There were no church buildings in the early days of the community, so religious services were held in private home.

The Smith House is a 2 and ½ story Greek Revival Style House with a cross gable plan. Above ground, roughhewn logs and wooden pegs were used. Smith hewed the timber by hand using a broad ax. The house features horizontal wood siding and six-over-six wood sash windows.