



Who is Alvin T. Smith?

- In 1841 Alvin and Abigail Smith arrived as lay missionaries, becoming Forest Grove's first permanent settlers.
- He was appointed one of three Territorial magistrates at Champoege in 1843.
- With Harvey Clark, he founded the local Congregational Church (United Church of Christ) in 1845.
- He helped establish Tualatin Academy (now Pacific University) in 1849.
- He became postmaster of the Tualatin Plains in 1850.
- Trained as a carpenter, Smith built a two-story Greek Revival house in 1854 on his Donation Land Claim.
- His diaries, from 1820 to 1887, are preserved at the Oregon Historical Society.

Vision: Forest Grove Heritage Farm

We anticipate that this exciting venue will become a standard field trip for school children from around the metro area, as well as a major tourist destination, including:

- The A.T. Smith House Museum;
- A living history demonstration farm;
- A Native American interpretive center; and
- Exhibits including railroad transportation, Carnation Creamery and Lumber Mill.

Phase 1: Save the House

Our urgent goal is to save the house from destruction. Now that we have purchased the house, FHFG plans to stabilize and secure it against vandalism and further deterioration.

Phase 2: Preserve the Context

Our objective is to preserve the context of the house to meet the goals of our many partners. This is best attained by acquiring additional property around the house site.

The Zurcher farm, south and east of the house site, would provide the needed agricultural land and buildings, including a 1900-era railroad building.

Acquiring industrial property to the east would help save the agricultural context of the house by preserving Smith's view of Mt. Hood. It would provide ample space for parking and visitor facilities.

Phase 3: Cultural Heritage Center

The final phase would be development of the agricultural interpretive center and opening to the public. In addition to those components mentioned above, on-site caretakers/curators would help protect and maintain the property as well as welcome visitors.

Funding Goal \$3 Million

To accomplish this vision, Friends of Historic Forest Grove is seeking partnerships with organizations listed on the back page, as well as individual and corporate donors.

Beyond the purchase of the house and adjacent properties, FHFG will be seeking grants to preserve the house and develop and operate the cultural heritage center.

Public participation will include additional donations, fundraisers, and membership subscriptions.



"There are only about a dozen houses remaining from this era in Oregon, and this one has exceptionally high integrity. ... There is definitely a threat here, but there is also a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. I'm happy to see the Friends of Historic Forest Grove stepping up to the plate."

– David Skilton, Oregon Parks Dept., State Historic Preservation Office



Confluence of Cultures

In the 1800s, not far from where Gales Creek meets the Tualatin River, stood several Native American villages. The Tualatin band of the Kalapuya Indians cultivated camas, tarweed, and wapato in the area.

North of this fertile delta Alvin Smith established a Donation Land Claim and built his house. This property is significant to a variety of constituents, including the descendants of all who lived there.

Historic Preservation

The house Smith built was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1974. With credit to Smith's craftsmanship, and the Zurcher family, it remains virtually intact.

Agriculture and Economic Development

Beginning with the Tualatin Indians, the property has been farmed continuously, making it a prime site for demonstrating prehistoric, historic, and current agricultural practices.

The railroad cut north of the house in 1876 and a 1900-era railroad building still stands on the property. The Carnation Creamery and Lumber Mill were located just north.

Wetlands and Wildlife

Gales Creek, along the west side of the property, has been identified for protection. The southern floodplain is contiguous with Fernhill Wetlands, METRO wetlands mitigation property, and the US Fish & Wildlife Wapato Lake study area.

Kalapuyan Lad

by Charles Pickering

(copied from *The Kalapuyans*
by Harold Mackey, 1974)



Partners: Key to Success

“These partners will make the project educational and economically viable.”

– Tom Carlson, project co-chair

Representatives from these agencies comprise the advisory committee.

- USDA – Tualatin Soil & Water Conservation Dist.
- Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde
- Oregon Parks Department – State Historic Preservation Office
- University of Oregon
- METRO
- Washington County
- Clean Water Services
- Washington County Historical Society
- City of Forest Grove
- Lower Columbia Research & Archeology
- Forest Grove Chamber of Commerce
- Pacific University
- Forest Grove United Church of Christ
- Friends of Historic Forest Grove

Please partner with us to preserve this 150-year-old house, and to create an invaluable educational resource and economic enhancement tool.

Thank you for helping to revive a classic!

Contact Tom Carlson 503-357-3967 or
Mary Jo Morelli 503-357-0223.



**FRIENDS OF HISTORIC
FOREST GROVE**

PO Box 123

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www.historicforestgrove.org

501(c)3 charitable organization



To Save the A.T. Smith House

“The A.T. Smith House represents one of Oregon’s finest Classical Revival style pioneer homes.”

– Alfred Staehli, AIA,
architectural conservator