

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Oregon
COUNTY:	Washington
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	NOV 8 1974

2-10  
 N 5038800  
 7-1  
 741700

**1. NAME**

COMMON: Smith, Alvin T., House

AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**

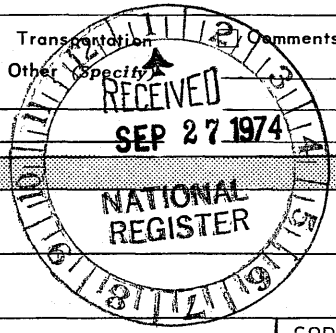
STREET AND NUMBER: Box 266 S. Elm Street Representative Wendall Wyatt

CITY OR TOWN: Forest Grove CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: Oregon First Congressional District

STATE	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Oregon	41	Washington	067

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)



**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME: Ted & Glen Zurcher

STREET AND NUMBER: Box 266, S. Elm Street

CITY OR TOWN: Forest Grove STATE: Oregon CODE: 41

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Washington County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Hillsboro STATE: Oregon CODE: 41

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY: Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1934  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: National Park Service

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Washington STATE: District of Columbia CODE: 11

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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**7. DESCRIPTION**

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Alvin T. Smith house, thought to have been built in the late 1850s, is located about a mile south of the present city of Forest Grove. The main part of the house is a rectangular block of two and a half stories with a side-hall plan and is detailed in the Classical Revival style. The house faces east and the hall runs east-west, the long axis of the house, on the south side of the main block. It contains a dog-leg stair at the west end which runs to the third or attic floor. A one-story hipped roof extension on the south side and west end of the house appear to be contemporary with the main block and built by the same hand, for detailing is identical to that of the main block. The whole of the house sits upon a brick foundation.

Classical Revival detail consists of a broad frieze with molded trim and a deep molded cornice with generous eave returns at the gable ends. The house is covered with clapboard siding with corner trim resembling engaged columns with molded capital trim where they meet the frieze. Openings are set in board architraves with a delicate cornice molding at the heads. The architrave heads are set considerably below the frieze on the second story of the main block, but butt against the frieze in the one-story portions of the house in all cases but the window to the south of the main door on the east face. Here the architrave originally extended up into the frieze so that the cornice elevation was the same as those on the lower floor of the main block. This window, which was originally the same as others in the house, has been replaced with a fixed sash window since Historic American Buildings Survey photographs were taken of the house in 1934. The frieze of this section of the house is only about half as broad as that of the two-story portion and has no trim molding. The cornice is not as deep, but it is detailed in the same way except that the cyma recta moldings above the cornice fascia are smaller in scale. All other details are identical.

Two architrave cornices are slightly pedimented, those of the main door and the attic window set in the east gable pediment. The four-panel main door has sidelights and a transom window. The attic window, smaller in dimension than others in the house, is slightly eccentric both to the ridge above and the window below it. Its double-hung sashes originally contained six lights over six, but now contain two single panes. All other windows contain six lights over six. A brick stove chimney on the north wall appears to be an addition, and at one time there was a chimney in the one-story portion on the south side. The house today is only in fair condition in need of upkeep and repair, yet it is in a fairly unaltered state.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



**3. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) late 1850s

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			_____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

The Alvin T. Smith house in Forest Grove is an exceptionally richly detailed example of the mushrooming of the Classical Revival in the Willamette Valley in the 1850s. The side-hall plan and the presentation of the gable end as the facade are also unusual among Oregon's Classical Revival houses, where the central hall plan is the general rule and the presentation of the longitudinal axis as the facade is almost universal. Also rare is the brick foundation, which if not original, replaced the piers usually under such houses at an early date.

Alvin Thompson Smith, also known as "God-Almighty Smith," was a very early pioneer to Oregon. He was born in Branford, Connecticut in 1802 and learned the carpenter's trade there. In 1827 he went to Illinois where he farmed and married Abigale Raymond, and in 1840 he and his wife crossed the plains for Oregon where he became a lay missionary to the Nez Perce Indians at the Spalding mission at Lapwai in the Clearwater country of what is now Idaho. There he repaired the grist mill and sawmill and built what is thought to be the first loom west of the Rocky Mountains. The Smiths moved on to the Willamette Valley in 1841, where they took a land claim of 640 acres and attempted to start a mission at the site of the present house. This endeavor however was not successful, for as Mrs. Smith noted, "The Indians were not willing to stop and cultivate the soil." She continues, "We have much reason to mourn over Zion; the spirit of the world prevails here too much, even in the hearts of Christians. There is much here to tempt and lead the mind from God. The greatest thing wanting here is good society--or faithful, praying Christians."

Smith is sometimes credited with being one of the men who voted 50-52 at Champoege on May 2, 1843 to establish a provisional government in the Oregon Country under American rather than British law. This appears doubtful as Smith records in his diary that he planted potatoes on that day. Nevertheless he was elected one of three magistrates at that meeting, is known to have had a keen interest in political affairs, and attended a May 5 meeting. His letters East contained strong appeals for the annexation of the Oregon country and he was deeply suspicious of the Hudson's Bay Company and Dr. John McLoughlin, "Father of Oregon" and factor of the company's post at Fort Vancouver. It was McLoughlin's tolerance and kindly humanitarianism which had opened the Oregon country to American missionaries and settlers. (continued)

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Lockley, Fred, "Impressions of a Journal Man," Oregon Journal, April 1, 1935, p. 6.  
 Lockley, Fred, "Impressions of a Journal Man," Oregon Journal, April 13, 1935, p. 12.  
 Richardson, John M., "Area Rich in Early Oregon Architecture," Oregon Journal, April 15, 1934, p. 5.  
 Dobbs, C., Men of Champoeg, (Portland: Metropolitan Press, 1932), pp. 82-87.  
 Hines, H. K., An Illustrated History of the State of Oregon, (Portland: Lewis Publishing Co., 1893), p. 1289. (continued)

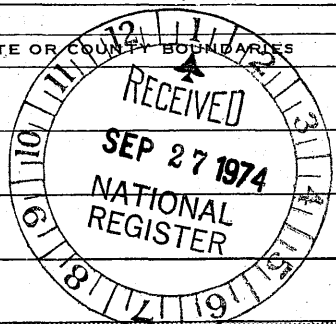
**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	0 . "	0 . "		45 0 30 . 16 .	123 0 06 . 10 .	
NE	0 . "	0 . "				
SE	0 . "	0 . "				
SW	0 . "	0 . "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 2

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
Paul B. Hartwig, Park Historian and D. W. Powers III, Temporary Assistant

ORGANIZATION: Parks and Recreation Section DATE: August 22, 1974

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Oregon State Highway Division

CITY OR TOWN: Salem STATE: Oregon 97310 CODE: 41

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name: David Ballard

Title: State Parks Superintendent

Date: September 18, 1974

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

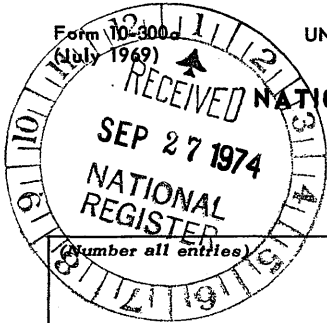
A. B. ...  
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 11/8/74

ATTEST:

Charles ...  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: 11.8.74



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
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(Continuation Sheet)

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SMITH (ALVIN T.) HOUSE (CONTINUED)

2. Location

The Alvin T. Smith house is located in the NE 1/4 NW 1/4 Sec. 7, T.1S., R.3W., of the Willamette Meridian, Washington County, Oregon.

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Also:

Statewide Inventory of Historic Sites and Buildings  
1970  
Parks and Recreation Section  
State Highway Building  
Salem, Oregon 97310 (Code: 41)

8. Significance

A man of unbending piety and a strict observer of the Sabbath (one Sunday he wrote in his diary, "Spent the day very unpleasantly to myself watching crows in my corn," which he had planted the previous day), Smith was also generous with his means. He donated \$1,000, an enormous sum at the time, especially in Oregon, to the Forest Grove Congregational church (from which he was later expelled), and he donated to schools and orphanages. He was one of the founders of what was to become Pacific University, and the Smiths, who never had any children of their own, took a number of orphans into their home. Abigale Smith died in 1858, and Smith remarried Jane M. Averill of Branford, thirty-six years his junior, in 1869. They lived in the house until 1875 when they moved into Forest Grove, where Smith died in 1888.

Though Smith was a carpenter by trade, it is not known at present if he built his house himself. Without question the trim and detail were selected by a practiced eye. Smith's diary, which is in the possession of the Oregon Historical Society and only part of which is available in typescript, has shed many insights into life in early Oregon. Through it is known that at least two previous structures stood on the site of the present house, and it is expected that as more of the diary becomes available additional information such as the exact date and builder of the present house will come to light.  
(continued)

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NOV 8		1974	

(Number all entries)

SMITH (ALVIN T.) HOUSE (CONTINUED)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Historic American Buildings Survey Data Sheet. ORE-16, revised January 1938.

Corning, Howard McKinley, ed., Dictionary of Oregon History (Portland: Bin-fords and Mort, 1956), 226.

Information submitted by R. L. Benson, Rte. 2, Portland, Oregon 97231.

