

Forest Grove Indian Industrial Training School (1880-1885)

Basic Information

1. One of three "off reservation" boarding schools established in the U.S. following an 1876 federal appropriation for the support of industrial schools for Indians. The other two schools were at Hampton, VA and Carlisle Barracks, PA. Goal of ACCULTURATION--destroy the "savage" culture; turn the Indians into productive members of white society (dominant culture).
2. Established at Forest Grove because of several influences--Military in region, Congregational Church (and missionary heritage), Tualatin Academy/Pacific University, and the City's alcohol policy (dry).
3. Located on block roughly surrounded today by 'C' & 'D' Streets and 22nd & 23rd Avenues (one structure remains today). Street names changed in 1893.
4. First group of students arrived 25 Feb 1880 from Puyallup Reservation near Tacoma, WA. After five years in Forest Grove, the first students left for Chemawa on 17 March 1885. The Federal Govt. moved the school because the FG site was too small for farming.
5. Students came from the Pacific Northwest--354 total during the five year period. The breakdown is as follows:
 - Washington Territory-187
 - Oregon-95
 - Idaho Territory-48
 - Alaska Territory-24
6. Age and gender: 10-20 age group, mostly males
7. Studied academic disciplines (geography, writing, reading, arithmetic) along with the industrial training.
 - Boys: farming, blacksmithing, shoemaking, harness making, carpentry, wagon making
 - Girls: housekeeping, sewing, laundry, cooking
8. Heavy emphasis on religious study (Christian).
9. Goal was to make the Training School a self-sufficient operation; also profitable.
10. The "Outing System" was used (Indian children go out into the community and work along with white laborers).
11. Severe policies: no Indian language allowed, keep students at school during entire educational period (no home visits), separate and mix cultures.