

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

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NATIONAL

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Smith, Charles F., House

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 140 Semmes Ave. N/A not for publication

city or town Canton N/A vicinity

state Mississippi code MS county Madison code 089 zip code 39046

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Kenneth H. P. Pool January 21, 1994
Signature of certifying official/Title Date
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register
 See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain) _____

Edson H. Beall Signature of the Keeper Date of Action 3/7/94
Entered in the National Register.

Smith, Charles F. House
Name of Property

Madison County, MS
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	2	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	2	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: single dwelling

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

vacant/not in use

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Queen Anne

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick

walls Weatherboard

roof Asphalt: shingles

other Wooden porch

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

PLEASE SEE CONTINUATION SHEETS

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

c. 1899

Significant Dates

c. 1899

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

Charles F. Smith House
Madison County, Mississippi

The Charles F. Smith House occupies the southeast corner of Semmes Avenue and Bellview Street. Set far back from the street, it is located on a small rise. The Smith House is a two-and-one-half story, three by five bay building designed in the Spindework mode of the Queen Anne style of architecture. Clad in shiplap, the wood-frame house rests on brick piers and is crowned by a complex roof that is punctuated by gables. The majority of the windows in the Charles F. Smith House are either single, paired or tripartite 1/1 double hung sash. Unlike the other windows, those on the second story have aluminum sash. Nevertheless, they reflect the same configuration as the original window sash.

The front facade boasts a one story, wraparound porch that features turned posts and a balustrade with turned spindles. A small gable that is decorated with a garland motif pierces the porch roof above the front steps. Centrally located in the porch area is a projecting, three-sided bay marked by a double-leaf entrance (that is temporarily boarded up) and two 1/1 double hung sash windows. This bay is flanked by 1/1 double hung sash windows.

Centrally located on the second story of the front facade is a balcony with a spindework treatment like that on the wraparound porch but it also includes pierced brackets and a spindled frieze. The balcony is capped by a gable-on-hip roof and the gable displays a sunburst motif. A single-leaf entrance accesses the balcony from the second floor foyer.

The front porch wraps around the northeast corner of the house. This corner is comprised of a two-and-one-half story, projecting, three-sided bay with a gable-on-hip roof. The gable displays a sunburst motif. On the northwest corner of the house is a two-and-one-half story bay with a similar design treatment. Abutting this bay is a one story, three-sided bay that is crowned by a hip roof. An entablature displaying simple dentils marks the front and side elevations.

The rear elevation features a two story addition. Set perpendicular to this addition is another one story addition off the southwest corner of the house. Both of these additions were built prior to 1930 (Charles F. Riddell, Jr. interview, 13 September 1993).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 2Charles F. Smith House
Madison County, Mississippi

On the first floor, the house has a central hall plan with two rooms off each side. A staircase rises along the east wall of the hall to a landing and then continues up to the second story along the west wall. Nestled near the bottom of the stairs alongside the newel post is a small, built in bench. Across the hall from the staircase is an arcade featuring Ionic columns which leads into the former parlor. Originally, the central hall probably led to a rear porch but now terminates at a rear hall set perpendicular to it which spans the width of the building.

All the first floor rooms in the original section of the house display wooden wainscoting and molded window and door surrounds. The door surrounds also have corner blocks with a decorative starburst pattern. On the second floor the staircase terminates at a small foyer. The original second story rooms retain their window and door surrounds. The door surrounds feature bull's eye corner blocks. The original mantels are no longer extant. The two rear additions, although historic, never had the fine design elements featured in the original portion of the house.

The house has suffered fire damage, particularly in the rear additions, and, to a much lesser extent, in the central hall. The building remains structurally sound, however, and much of the original detailing is still extant.

To the rear of the house is a greenhouse and a gable-oriented, frame building now used as a garage. Neither of these outbuildings have any historical or architectural significance. They are counted as noncontributing elements. A patio and remnants of a garden are still evident.

Historically, the property was larger than it is today and somewhat different in appearance. Evelyn Smith Riddell (1899-1962), the daughter of Charles F. and Annie Susan Smith, moved into the house with her family in the early 1930s. She created the beautiful gardens which once graced the property. Azaleas in varying shades of pink and red lined the one hundred foot long front sidewalk. Oak trees, dogwoods, Japanese magnolias, crabapple trees and holly trees were planted in the yard. There was a rose garden located next to the children's playhouse, neither of which are extant. The backyard featured a patio and barbecue designed by Mrs. Riddell's brother, Joseph Frazer Smith, along with a tennis court. The lot was originally much deeper and had a barn, a smokehouse and a pasture for

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Charles F. Smith House
Madison County, Mississippi

Section number 7 Page 3

livestock. This rear portion was given to Evelyn's son, Charles Foster Riddell and his bride, Dorothy Ann Stokes, when they married in 1950. They demolished the barn and the smokehouse and constructed a new home on this site in 1955 (C. F. Riddell, Jr. letter to CPB, 21 April 1993).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Charles F. Smith House
Madison County, Mississippi

Section number 8 Page 1

The Charles F. Smith House, constructed c. 1899, is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C. Located in Canton, the Smith House is a locally significant articulation of the Spindlework mode of the Queen Anne style of architecture and, despite the fire, retains a high degree of architectural integrity. Judged within the local context of Canton, the Charles F. Smith House is important for its architecture and also represents how the power base in Mississippi shifted from the rural areas to the small towns in the late nineteenth century.

Queen Anne architecture is best understood as a "movement containing several related but divergent stylistic modes" rather than a distinct style. The major shared attributes of Victorian Queen Anne architecture are:

- an informal, asymmetrical plan
- a steeply pitched roof with elaborately designed chimneys, often displaying a tower or cupola
- wall surfaces with a variety of textures
- an eclectic variety of design details (excluding Gothic or Italianate). The character of the design elements is the chief differentiation between the five modes of the style (Cawthon 1991:3).

Richard J. Cawthon, chief architectural historian with the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, identified five modes of the Queen Anne style that were constructed in the United States. In Mississippi, the most popular modes were the Rectilinear mode, the Spindlework mode and the Free Classical mode. The Charles F. Smith House is a locally important illustration of the Spindlework mode. According to Cawthon, "The Spindlework mode began to become widespread by about 1890 for both brick and wood buildings, but is more commonly seen in wood. It is distinguished by extensive use of lathe-turned ornament, particularly evident in balustrades and open friezes trimming broad verandas. The Spindlework mode often has round or curved features, including turrets and gazebo-like extensions of the veranda" (Cawthon 1991:3-4).

In Mississippi the majority of Queen Anne buildings are single-family residences and generally appear in one of two basic plans. The first is a large house of two or two-and-one-half stories with asymmetrical massing. The second is a smaller,

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetCharles F. Smith House
Madison County, MississippiSection number 8 Page 2

one-story cottage with a central block from which a gabled wing extends asymmetrically from one side of the front facade and a porch spans the rest of the elevation. Its design elements are often less ornate and its floor plan simpler than those of the larger houses (Cawthon 1991:5-6).

The Queen Anne style dominated residential architecture in this country from circa 1885 to 1905. Its era of popularity roughly corresponded to the period 1880 to 1914 when political and economic leadership in Mississippi was in the hands of a newly empowered town-based elite. The power of the state's antebellum planter class was usurped in the late nineteenth century by an educated upper middle class that was town-based. This change occurred as Mississippi's economy became more industrialized. Members of this class often chose the Queen Anne style when constructing their new homes. Thus, a Queen Anne house came to symbolize the wealth and power of the new elite. Because the state's newfound prosperity was town-based, most Queen Anne houses are found in the towns rather than in the rural areas (Cawthon 1991:1, 8; Federal Writers Project 1938:150-152 & Bettersworth II 1973:632).

The partial survey of Canton that was conducted in 1987 and 1988 by the Mississippi Department of Archives and History identified thirty-seven Queen Anne residences of various modes. One of the most significant articulations of the Spindlework mode found in the community is the Charles F. Smith House at 140 Semmes Avenue. Despite the fire, the house retains a high degree of integrity on the exterior and the interior and represents how the Spindlework mode of the Queen Anne style was interpreted in Canton. The Charles F. Smith House features asymmetrical massing and a wraparound porch and a balcony displaying a profusion of "lathe-turned ornament" (Rubach 1991:5 & associated survey forms).

According to family tradition, the house was constructed for the Charles F. Smith family c. 1899. Charles Foster Smith (1866-1921) graduated from the Vanderbilt University School of Dentistry in 1892 and then set up a practice in Canton with his cousin William Bole Smith. Dr. Charles Smith married Annie Susan Cheek (1869-1932) in 1893. They began construction on their Queen Anne house on the edge of Canton around 1899 and moved into it with their three children the

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Charles F. Smith House
Madison County, Mississippi

Section number 8 Page 3

following year. The couple later had two more children (Charles F. Riddell, Jr. interview, 13 September 1993 & C. F. Riddell, Jr. letter to CPB, 21 April 1993).

One of their sons, Joseph Frazer Smith, moved to Memphis as an adult and became a regionally prominent architect. He is perhaps best known today as the author and illustrator of White Pillars. A daughter, Evelyn Smith Riddell and her family moved into the house in the early 1930s (C. F. Riddell, Jr. letter to CPB, 21 April 1993).

Today the house remains within the Smith family. The great-grandchildren of Charles F. and Annie Susan Smith own the property and are committed to its preservation. The owners hope to renovate the Charles F. Smith House using the Investment Tax Credits.

In summary, the Charles F. Smith House is a locally significant articulation of the Spindework mode of the Queen Anne style of architecture. Furthermore, the house illustrates the social changes that occurred in small town Mississippi as the state's power base shifted from the planters in the country to the professional class in the urban centers.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Charles F. Smith House
Madison County, Mississippi

Section number 9 Page 1

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Charles F. Smith House
Madison County, Mississippi

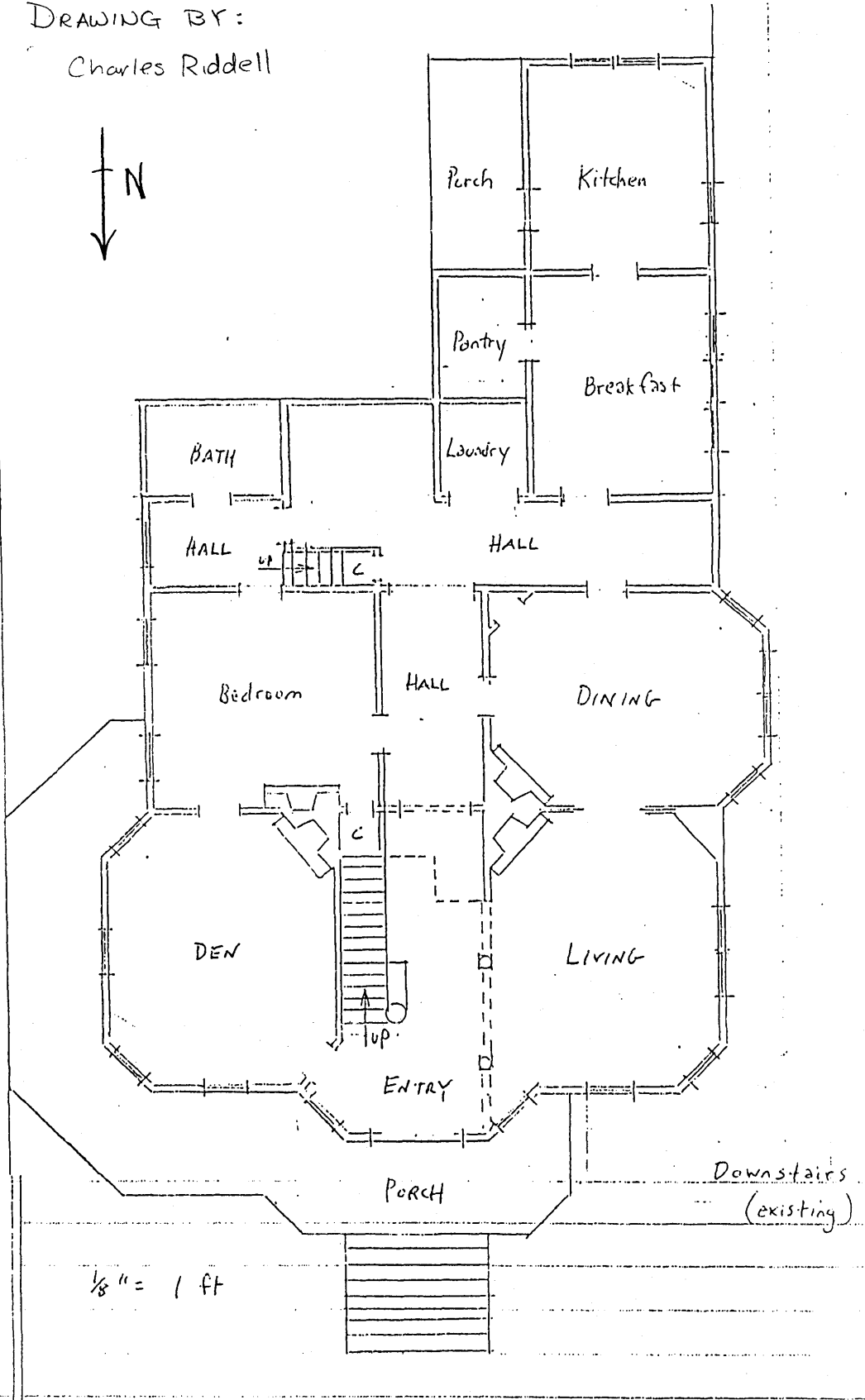
Section number 10 Page 1

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: Parcel No. 19C-123

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION: These are the boundaries currently associated with the property. Historically, the property was larger, but a rear portion of it was given away in 1950.

Charles F. Smith House
Canton, Madison County, MS

DRAWING BY:
Charles Riddell



Charles F. Smith House
Canton, Madison County, MS

DRAWING BY:
Charles Riddell

