

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

For NPS use only  
received DEC 1 1982  
date entered

1. Name

historic Samuel G. Smith Farm  
and/or common

2. Location W of Richmond at

street & number 3431 Crowe Road N/A not for publication  
city, town Richmond vicinity  vicinity of ~~Congressional district~~  
state Indiana code 018 county Wayne code 177

3. Classification

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<u>N/A</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Harold Smith  
street & number 3431 Crowe Road  
city, town Richmond  vicinity of state Indiana 47374

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Wayne County Courthouse, Auditor's Office  
street & number Main Street  
city, town Richmond state Indiana

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no  
date 1979-80  federal  state  county  local  
depository for survey records Indiana Department of Natural Resources  
Division of Historic Preservation  
city, town Indianapolis state Indiana

## 7. Description

### Condition

excellent  
 good  
 fair

deteriorated  
 ruins  
 unexposed

### Check one

unaltered  
 altered

### Check one

original site  
 moved date N/A

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Samuel G. Smith farm is a complex of buildings which includes an extremely fine farmhouse, carriage house, barn, corncrib, chicken house and ice house (converted to a brooder house c. 1910). A smokehouse is now attached to the house. A log house, for which a very approximate date of construction would be 1820, was moved into the complex in the early 1930's from a site, still on the farm, about 100 yards to the east.

The entire farm encompasses nearly 79 acres of flat and rolling ground. Some cattle are grazed in the pastures in the summer, but the farm has not been in active operation for a number of years. There is a fine stand of woods to the southeast of the house, and the pastures are sprinkled with mature hardwoods. There are 20 acres of arable ground on the place, though more were under cultivation in the past. The site being included in this nomination includes the barnlot and lawn, an area of six acres, more or less.

The house is a two-story cruciform plan building with a one-story kitchen wing off the back. It is of brick bearing-wall construction on a dressed limestone foundation. The bricks are laid in a mortar using white quartz sand not naturally occurring locally. Box gutters drain the patterned-slate hip roof, which is surmounted by a low monitor at the crossing of the transverse section.

The three-bay facade faces north, toward the road. The double doors and stoop of the east bay are sheltered by a large hood supported by brackets with sunbursts in their openings. Open spindles and corresponding semicircles carved in the frieze combine to create the impression of a miniature arcade in the frieze. At the two front corners of the hood are spherical pendants; above them are small brackets supporting the box gutters. The roof is a bell-cast, slate-covered mansard, surmounted by iron cresting around the flat portion of the top.

Sills and lintels on this elevation are typical of those throughout the house, being smooth-dressed limestone with simple, incised floral decoration set flush with the wall. The original 1/1 sash are present in this elevation, as they are throughout the house. The shutters remain on their self-locking hinges, but cannot be closed because of the addition of storm windows.

On the east elevation, two mirror-image porches flank the two-story, half-octagonal bay which projects from the transverse section. These porches are similar to the hood over the front door, and differ only in details made necessary by the differences in their basic nature, i.e., in the addition of columns and railings. It may be assumed that the porches are made principally of standard, mill-produced details: the columns, brackets and other elements are quite similar to corresponding details on other porches of the same era, and were generally available then. Like the door hood, the side porches have bell-cast mansard roofs, and also have iron cresting, though of a different pattern.

The windows of this elevation are like those of the rest of the house, but the brickwork surrounding those lighting the stair hall and the second story windows of the bay break from the norm: laid in a sawtooth pattern in the former case, and corbelled above the latter, in a way more commonly associated with Queen Anne than Italianate.

The kitchen, on the back of the house, is one story high with box gutters and a hip roof having a small platform at its peak surrounded by iron cresting (of yet a third pattern). A small, shed-roofed, enclosed porch connects to a workshop, originally a smokehouse at the family's earlier home across the road, moved to a site several yards from this house, and subsequently moved to its present site. This workshop was largely rebuilt in 1967 after a serious fire that did not affect the house, itself.

# 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
	<input type="checkbox"/> invention			

**Specific dates** April to Dec., 1888     **Builder/Architect** Edward Powell & Co., Masons  
Edward B. Bryant, Carpenter

**Statement of Significance** (~~in two paragraphs~~)

The Samuel G. Smith Farm is significant because of the fine detailing and excellent state of preservation of the Italianate farmhouse, and because so many of the original outbuildings are still extant on the property, offering some sense of the 19th century farmstead.

Samuel G. Smith was a farmer who lived from 1840 to 1895. His first farm was across the road from the property being nominated. It covered 70 acres, had a three room log house and a fine barn of vast proportions which he probably built in the 1870's. He bought the 78 acre farm, part of which is being nominated herein, in 1881 for \$4,500.00. At that time a brick house, probably built in the 1840's, stood near the present barn. When the "new" house was being built, this earlier structure was torn down and its bricks were used for backing and in the interior bearing walls.

The house Smith built for himself is far finer than one would expect from a farmer with 148 acres and only three sons (one of whom was an invalid). It follows, therefore, that he was an extremely industrious man. It was probably this industry and a certain business acumen that gave him the means to build on such a scale as this.

In the late 19th century, Richmond was an important industrial center, and the well-to-do from the city often built fine farmhouses for themselves in the surrounding countryside. Smith's house is notable in that it is every bit as fine a building as most of these, though built without the income supplement of a holding in some sort of commercial concern. There can be no doubt, however, that his proximity to the city gave him more ready access to local markets than most farmers enjoyed at that time. His daybook records numerous small but, in the aggregate, substantial sales of farm products in the city.

It must be remembered that the existing buildings are but part of the complex Smith built in his lifetime. The earlier, and much larger barn which stood across the road was an integral part of the farm, but was separated in the division of property after his death. In contrast to the care given this set of buildings in the ensuing years, subsequent heirs of that portion of the property allowed the buildings to deteriorate to the point that the log house is little more than a ruin, and the barn, after a number of years of disuse, burned to the ground in the early 1950's. Even though we no longer have a complete picture of the farm as it was in Smith's day, it is, because of the partition of the farm following his death, much as it was when his wife first inherited it.

Beyond the normal wear and tear one can expect even in the best-maintained buildings, the farm complex here is in a remarkable state of preservation. Though changes have occurred since 1888, there is a prevailing sense that they have been made in a very natural, one might almost say organic, way over the years. Within the context of 93 years of continuous inhabitation and use by three generations of a family, the alterations have very nearly the same significance as the original act of construction. The back porch and workshop, for instance, could be considered additions to the house but, though stylistically at odds with the original structure, they still seem to be natural extensions of it: with no great impact on the building, they enhance its usefulness. The same can be said

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Smith, Samuel G. Day Book, 1867-1890. Unpublished. Collection of Harold Smith  
 Abstract of Title  
 Conversations with Harold Smith (owner, grandson of builder)

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property Approx. 6

Quadrangle name Richmond

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UMT References

A 

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4	4	1	1	7	8	0
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 Zone Easting Northing

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**Verbal boundary description and justification** Part of S.E. 1/4, Sec. 15, Twp. 16 N., Range 14 E. Bounded on North by Crowe Road, on east by a fence running south to 2nd fence on a line with south side of barn, on south by that fence, on west by imaginary line from a point 20 feet west of the barn, running north to the road. Encompasses yard and barnyard.

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state <u>N/A</u>	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Louis D. Joyner

organization N/A date July 20, 1981

street & number 9050 Krueger St. telephone

city or town Culver City state California 90230

## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature *M. Redman*

title Indiana State Historic Preservation Officer date 11-22-82

For NPS use only

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

date 1/14/83

*Bruce Lee Maynard*  
 Keeper of the National Register

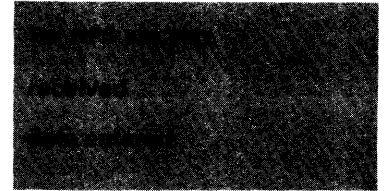
Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet Samuel G. Smith Farm

Item number 7

Page 1

The west elevation is noteworthy by the presence of four sets of paired windows—not terribly unusual for the period, but not commonly found in Italianate houses.

The frieze is of wood, made up of molding-framed panels alternating with windows above each of the bays. A heavy molding skirts the bottom of the frieze, another runs at the top, and yet a third runs at the leading edge of the box gutters. Large, heavy brackets, the height of the frieze and the width of the soffit, support the box gutters. The brackets are rather nicely done, with fans on the sides of the quadrant located at the inside corner and a full complement of lumps, bulges, and moldings elsewhere.

The slate roof is original and in very good condition. It is grey and laid in rows of squares and diamonds. Tin coping covers the ridges of the slopes. A crested tin coping in an alternating geometrical pattern culminating in crockets weatherproofs the peaks.

A small gable springs from the roof about half-way down the north slope. The bargeboard of this gable has incised decoration; there is an incised sunburst design on the tympanum.

The monitor at the crossing of the roof is little more than a platform, sided with beaded tongue-in-groove boards. It has a frieze with small brackets. Its cresting was recently taken down: in need of repair, it simply crumbled while being dismantled. A stair in the attic leads to a hatch opening onto the platform.

The house has three chimneys: one on the west just north of the transverse section, one on the east, just south of the transverse section, and one on the south end of the kitchen. All are replacements of the originals, and approximate but do not duplicate their profiles with elaborate smokebells at the top.

The double front doors open into a small vestibule. A single door with stained glass opens into the stairhall. The two-run open staircase is of oak with a heavy carved Queen Anne newel post. The balusters are turned, the stringers are decorated with reeding and stylized flowers similar to those of the newel post. Door and window trim is of oak. Doors are seven-panel with brass hardware.

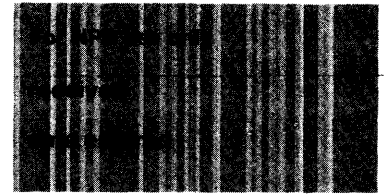
There are four original light fixtures downstairs. Originally made for kerosene, they have since been converted to electricity. The vestibule has a nice, globe-shaped fixture of pressed glass with brass trim hanging from three long chains. The other three are more conventional, being brass frames that originally held lamps, covered with hemispherical colored glass shades.

To the right of the vestibule is the front parlor, with trim of butternut or white walnut. A fireplace in the southwest corner is surrounded by a marbled slate mantel. In front of this is a most impressive coal-burning stove, brought into the house about 1905, rarely used now, but in working condition.

Behind the front parlor is the back parlor, or family living room. This room seems to have been primarily a circulation space, with seven doors opening into it. What wall space is left is filled by the windows of the east bay and the marbled slate mantel in the middle of the south wall. Trim in this room is of white walnut. To the west of the back parlor is a bedroom. Between these two rooms are the back stairs, which run from south to north in a single run. The back parlor and bedroom make up the transverse section.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet Samuel G. Smith Farm

Item number 7

Page 2

The next room back is the dining room, with a marbleized slate mantel in the northeast corner. This room has oak trim.

Behind this is the kitchen, with a stair to the basement in the northwest corner, and some original cupboards.

The only alterations to the house consist of the removal of the monitor's iron cresting, the addition of the workshop, electricity, plumbing, and heat (a wood burning, forced air system, with hot water preheater).

The house is furnished eclectically, with numerous original furnishings alongside more modern pieces.

The barn (photo #13), which stands about 150 yards south and slightly west of the house, was built around the time of the house's construction. It is a mortise and tenon structure framed in beech and oak, built in a hillside on a quarried limestone foundation. It is sided in vertical poplar boards, has a wood shingle gable roof and a cupola at the ridge. The "windows" apparent in the photograph are ventilators for the haymows, made up of wooden slats in frames with slightly pedimented drip caps decorated with moldings. A one-story shed roof addition runs across the south side.

The interior of the basement was arranged with horse stalls on the east, a single large pen to the west, and an aisle down the center. The stalls have been rearranged for the sake of convenience, but the rest of the basement retains its gates, panels, and built-in hay feeders. The main floor is divided into haymows with a machinery bay or threshing floor down the center.

The corncrib (photo #14) is a one-story mortise and tenon structure. It has a gable roof, a drive-through with cribs on either side, and a vertical slat siding. It stands about 30 feet west of the barn, but was moved there in the early 20th century from a site about 50 yards to the northeast, near where the log house now stands. It appears to be made of hewn timbers from another building, but was probably built at the same time as the house and barn.

The chicken house (photo #15) is a long, low, balloon-framed structure with a saltbox roof. It is now used as a garage. Built about 1900, it originally stood on the farm of Mr. Smith's father, about three miles away. More recently, it stood about 40 feet to the north of its present location, about 150 feet south of the house.

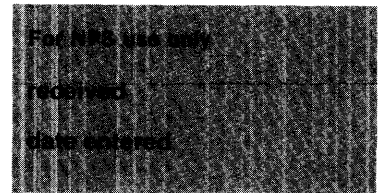
The ice house (photo #16) is a small, gable-roofed structure with vertical tongue-in-groove siding and clapboards in the gables. The sawdust insulation was removed early in the century when the clapboards were replaced with the present siding, and it was converted to a brooder house with windows on the south side. It was probably moved from the farm across the road when the house was built, and now stands next to the chicken house, having stood about 40 feet to the north for several years.

Built at the same time as the house, with a sawed beech mortise and tenon frame, the carriage house (photo #17) was moved to its present site about 1932 from a site about 100 feet southeast of the house. It is a 1½ story, gable-roofed structure with board and batten siding, originally with one door in the end wall, now with two overhead doors on the north side.

0125  
EXP. 12/31/84

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet Samuel G. Smith Farm Item number 7 Page 3

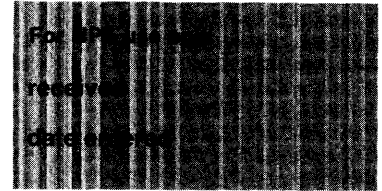
The log house (photo #18) is a 1½ story structure with a gable roof. Because it was probably built as a temporary housing, there was never much to it, and because of considerable alterations over the years, it is now little more than a shell. It is now used as a storage building. It was moved to the present site in the early 1930's from a site about 100 yards to the east.

The house is situated on a slight rise of ground above the road. The lawn covers about one acre, and is shaded by numerous large trees, mainly mature maples and black locusts. A circular drive loops past the carriage house on the east side of the house, and continues back to the barn.

The chicken and ice houses stand about 150 feet south of the house in a fenced lot. A fairly old house trailer is situated east of these. About 100 feet south of the trailer is the log house, standing in the large barnlot sprinkled with beech trees.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet Samuel G. Smith Farm

Item number 8

Page 4

for the alteration of the ice house and the rearrangement of the basement floor of the barn: no changes have been made here unless they were for a good purpose, and what changes have been made have been well executed, with minimal impact and in a manner generally respectful of the surroundings.

The house that Smith had built for himself is a fine example of the last phase of the Italianate style. It is extremely well executed, and utilizes the elements commonly associated with Italianate in a polished manner rarely found in farmhouses locally. It is interesting to note, however, the presence of Queen Anne detailing throughout—not to any great extent, but an interesting exercise in the addition of new formal tendencies on the predominating form of an older style. This can be seen in the brackets of the door hood, the small gable and its decoration, located on the north slope of the roof, some of the brickwork, and in the interior detailing. It is not surprising to find Queen Anne influence in a house of this date, but its presence in a building so clearly Italianate in its basic conception is an excellent example of the continuous process of change and assimilation which takes place in even the most stylish of vernacular buildings, as is this one.

Because Samuel Smith kept a day book, mainly recording financial transactions, it is possible to get a rough idea of his daily life. The day book, however, spans the years 1867-1890, and seems not to have been kept on a regular basis. No organization is visible in it, as he seemed to make entries on the first clean page he found, so that dates more than a decade apart are often found on adjoining leaves.

The importance of this house to him can be sensed in the meticulous care he took in the records of its construction, though that care was necessitated, in part, by the great amount of barter involved.

From this book it is possible to ascertain the names of the workers, the sources of materials, the time required for construction, in addition to the total cost of the building, which was \$4,697.38. Locally, this illuminating document is the only record this writer knows of which shows how a farmer dealt with such important financial matters as the construction of his home.



DOMINATION BOUNDARY

CROWE RD.

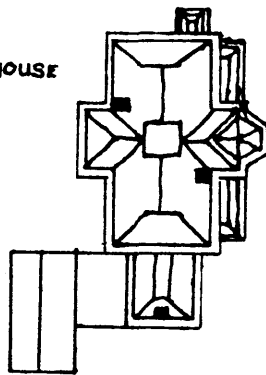
SAMUEL SMITH FARM

Not to scale

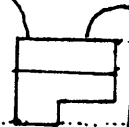


ERED MATURE TREES  
SHOULDNOMINATED SITE

HOUSE



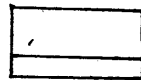
CARRIAGE HOUSE



ICE HOUSE



CHICKEN HOUSE



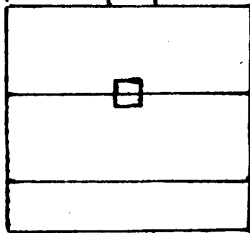
TRAILER



LOG HOUSE

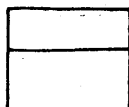


BARN



RETAINING WALL

CORNERIS



LANE

