

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM

APR - 3 2001

479

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 any 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 Smurthwaite House

other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

2. Location

street & number 1317 W. Jefferson  not for publication

city or town Phoenix  vicinity

state Arizona code 013 county Maricopa zip code 85007

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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.)

James W. Gamson AFB/PO 3/29/01  
Signature of certifying official Date

ARIZONA STATE PARKS  
State or 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 commenting or other official Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this 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): \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Keeper (for)

Date of Action

Aarah D. Pope 5/17/01

**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**

Contributing

Noncontributing

\_\_\_\_\_1\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_1\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

buildings  
sites  
structures  
objects  
**Total**

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register \_\_\_\_\_1\_\_\_\_\_

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

Nineteenth Century Residential Buildings in Phoenix

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Category

Subcategory

\_\_\_\_\_domestic\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_single dwelling\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Category

Subcategory

\_\_\_\_\_recreation and culture\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_museum\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

\_\_\_\_\_Shingle Style\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation

\_\_\_\_\_concrete\_\_\_\_\_

walls

\_\_\_\_\_brick/shingle\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

roof

\_\_\_\_\_wood shingle\_\_\_\_\_

other

\_\_\_\_\_

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

See continuation sheet.

**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 a 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.

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

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

See continuation sheet.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Architecture\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

\_\_\_\_ 1880-1901 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

\_\_\_\_ 1897 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

\_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**

\_\_\_\_ Creighton, James M. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



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**11. Form Prepared By**

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name/title Roger Brevoort (amended by Jodie Brown)  
organization City of Phoenix Historic Preservation Office date 29 January 1992 ( amended 31 August 2000)  
street & number 200 West Washington telephone 602-261-8699  
city or town Phoenix state AZ zip code 85003

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**Additional Documentation**

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**Submit the following items with the completed form**

Continuation Sheets

**Maps**

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage  
or numerous resources.

**Photographs**

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

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**Property Owner**

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**(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)**

name City of Phoenix  
street & number 200 West Washington telephone 602-261-8699  
city or town Phoenix state AZ zip code 85003

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section   7   Page   6  

  Smurthwaite House    
name of property  
  Maricopa County, Arizona    
county and State  
  Nineteenth Century Residential Buildings in Phoenix    
name of multiple property listings

Narrative Description

The Smurthwaite House was constructed in the Shingle Style in 1897. Designed by prominent Arizona Territorial architect James Miller Creighton, it illustrates the Custom Architectural Design property type discussed in the MPDF "Nineteenth Century Residential Buildings in Phoenix." Virtually unaltered since its construction, it conveys a high level of integrity of design, materials, workmanship, and association.

The house was located at the northeast corner of Seventh Street and Fillmore Street, in the Churchill Addition. The house was oriented to the east, with the primary façade fronting onto Seventh Street, an arterial road leading to downtown Phoenix. The south elevation was along Fillmore is also a prominent principal elevation.

Architecturally, the Smurthwaite House is a two and a half story building, with a steeply pitched gambrel roof. The first story is constructed of brick on a new, concrete foundation. Typical of the Shingle Style, the upper stories are wood frame and sheathed with wood shingles. There are several bands of half round, diamond cut, and tabbed shingles which provide additional texture and ornamentation to the wall surfaces. The wall surface is slightly flared at the second story level at the interface of the brick and wood siding. The upper portion of the wall of the attic level projects slightly and there is a shallow overhang marking the change at the top of the second story. The attic area features a small Palladian window, a Colonial revival form that often appears on Shingle Style houses. All windows on the house have original wood-framed one-over-one sash.

Other prominent exterior features include a large hipped dormer and two smaller hipped dormers symmetrically located on the front roof slope. The first story also features an inset porch which spans the façade and continues along the front half of the south elevation. The porch is articulated with chamfered posts which visually support the main front slope of the gambrel roof. An original two-story ell, slightly off center, extends from the rear elevation. At some point in the early twentieth century, the ell was extended by a wood-framed addition. The upper story of this addition, initially a sleeping porch, has been infilled.

The exterior of the house remains intact, with the majority of its original fabric still in place. The interior features, including all hardware and wood trim, are also intact.

Unfortunately, the historic setting of the house was compromised by the encroachment of street widening and commercial development, to the extent that its integrity was seriously impacted. It originally had an expansive front yard area, but soon sat within fifteen feet of the roadway. The lawn and other site vegetation had been removed, so the house stood in compromised surroundings that did not reflect the historic setting of a prominent mansion set on a large, landscaped lot. In addition, development pressures around the previous site exerted a strong force to demolish the house due to the rise in land values.

The Smurthwaite House was donated to the City of Phoenix, and is under the jurisdiction of the Parks, Recreation and Library Department. The Smurthwaite House falls under Criteria Consideration "B" because it has been "removed from its original location." The donation was partially contingent on the agreement that the house be relocated in order to ensure its preservation, with a stipulation that it be used for a public purpose. In conjunction with the City of Phoenix Historic Preservation Office, the house was moved to a new location in the summer of 1992.

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The new location is on the corner of Eleventh Avenue and Jefferson Street, adjacent to the Pioneer and Military Memorial Cemetery. The cemetery is also a locally designated historic district where many of the early Phoenix settlers are interred. This location is within the Phoenix and State Governmental Mall, and two other restored properties, the J.M. Evans House (NR) and the Phoenix Carnegie Library (NR) are in close proximity and within view. In preparation for the move, a full archaeological evaluation of the site was conducted. An ancient Hohokam housing unit was located at the site.

At the new location, the house is set forty feet back from the edge of Jefferson Street and a sense of the original lawn and landscaping has been replicated. The setbacks are based on the placement of the house indicated on a 1911 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map. The house is reoriented ninety degrees to face north, but it will retain its orientation toward a major street which historically featured several residential properties. The previous southern elevation is now facing east, due to the site design, this elevation will remain the prominent elevation visible to public view. In this sense, the visibility and public perception of the Smurthwaite House was not altered.

At its new location, the exterior appearance of the Smurthwaite House have been fully restored, and the interior rehabilitated for use as the interpretive center for the Pioneer Military and Memorial Park. It has become the permanent headquarters for the Pioneer Cemetery Association, a statewide organization managing archival research into Arizona's historic cemeteries.

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
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  Smurthwaite House    
name of property  
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name of multiple property listings

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Narrative Statement of Significance

The Smurthwaite House is significant under Criterion "C" for its architectural significance as the City's only extant example of Shingle Style architecture. It is also associated with the historic context "Residential Architecture in Phoenix Prior to 1901," presented in the Multiple Property Documentation Form "Nineteenth Century Residential Buildings in Phoenix." As defined in the MPDF, the Smurthwaite House exemplifies the Custom Architectural Designed House, and is notable as one of sixteen examples of this category in Phoenix that date to the nineteenth century. Although the house has been moved to a new location, the Shingle Style architecture is retained. Smurthwaite House retains enough of its integrity of design, materials, workmanship, feeling and association to convey its architectural merit.

The Shingle Style emerged on the East Coast in the 1880s. Its identifying characteristics included a gambrel roof form and the use of wood shingles as roof and wall sheathing. Details were often in Colonial Revival style motifs. All of these elements are primary features of the Smurthwaite House. The Smurthwaite House therefore meets Criterion "C" as an example of a major American architectural style that was rare in Phoenix.

The Smurthwaite House also meets Criterion "C" as a design of James M. Creighton, one of the most influential and prominent architects of Arizona's Territorial period. During the years from 1882 through 1926, Creighton designed a large number of Victorian-era buildings throughout the Territory. Notable examples around the state include Old Main at the University of Arizona in Tucson, and several of the original buildings (no longer standing) at the Phoenix Indian School. Examples of his residential designs include the Queen Anne style Niels Peterson House in Tempe, 1892 (NR), and the W.J. Murphy House, 1896, in Phoenix, also in the Queen Anne style. The Smurthwaite House is the only residence known that Creighton designed in the Shingle Style and is a departure from the larger body of his work which was in more traditional Victorian styles.

In addition to the architectural importance of the house, the historic associations are worth discussing. The house was originally built as a rental property by Dr. Darius Purman, who lived on the adjacent lot to the north on Seventh Street. The Purman family moved to Phoenix from Indianapolis, Indiana, in the early 1890s because of Mrs. Purman's health. Dr. Purman established a substantial medical practice and became the President of the Arizona Medical Association in 1896. He subsequently was the head of the first Medical Examining Board in Arizona. It was the Purman family who commissioned James Creighton to design the Smurthwaite House.

The House was sold in 1903 to the Connell family, which would become the long-term occupants. Captain Trustim Connell, a Civil War veteran later involved in the Indian wars, moved with his family to Phoenix in 1898. Connell was the manager of the Wells Fargo Office, and ultimately the commercial agent for America Railroad Express. In 1907, the Connell's daughter, Caroline, married Charles Frederick Smurthwaite in what has become known as the Smurthwaite House. Mr. Smurthwaite was the Superintendent of the Grand Traverse and Arizona Mining Company in Cave Creek. In 1911, the Smurthwaites moved back to Phoenix to reside in the house at 602 North Seventh Street with the Connell in-laws. The Smurthwaites were divorced in 1934.

In 1929, Caroline Smurthwaite opened an art and antique shop at the newly completed Arizona Biltmore Hotel. As a purchasing agent for collectors throughout the country, she became a nationally known authority in the field of antiques and decorative arts. By that time, portions of the house were also being used as a gift shop. Carolann Smurthwaite joined the antique business with her mother. Caroline died in 1971, and Carolann died in 1982.

At that the time of Carolann's death, the house was willed to the Museum of Northern Arizona, the Heard Museum, and the Phoenix Art Museum. The conditions of the will required that the house be relocated due to the changing character of the neighborhood, and that it be used for public purposes. The donation of the house to the City of Phoenix Parks, Recreation and Library Department, and its move to the Pioneer Military and Memorial Park, was in accordance with the wishes of the Smurthwaite family members who were the primary long-term occupants.



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name of multiple property listings

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All photos were taken by Jodie Brown. The negatives are available at the City of Phoenix Historic Preservation Office.

Photo # 1 - 28/7/00 - The photo shows the front façade which faces north towards Jefferson Street.

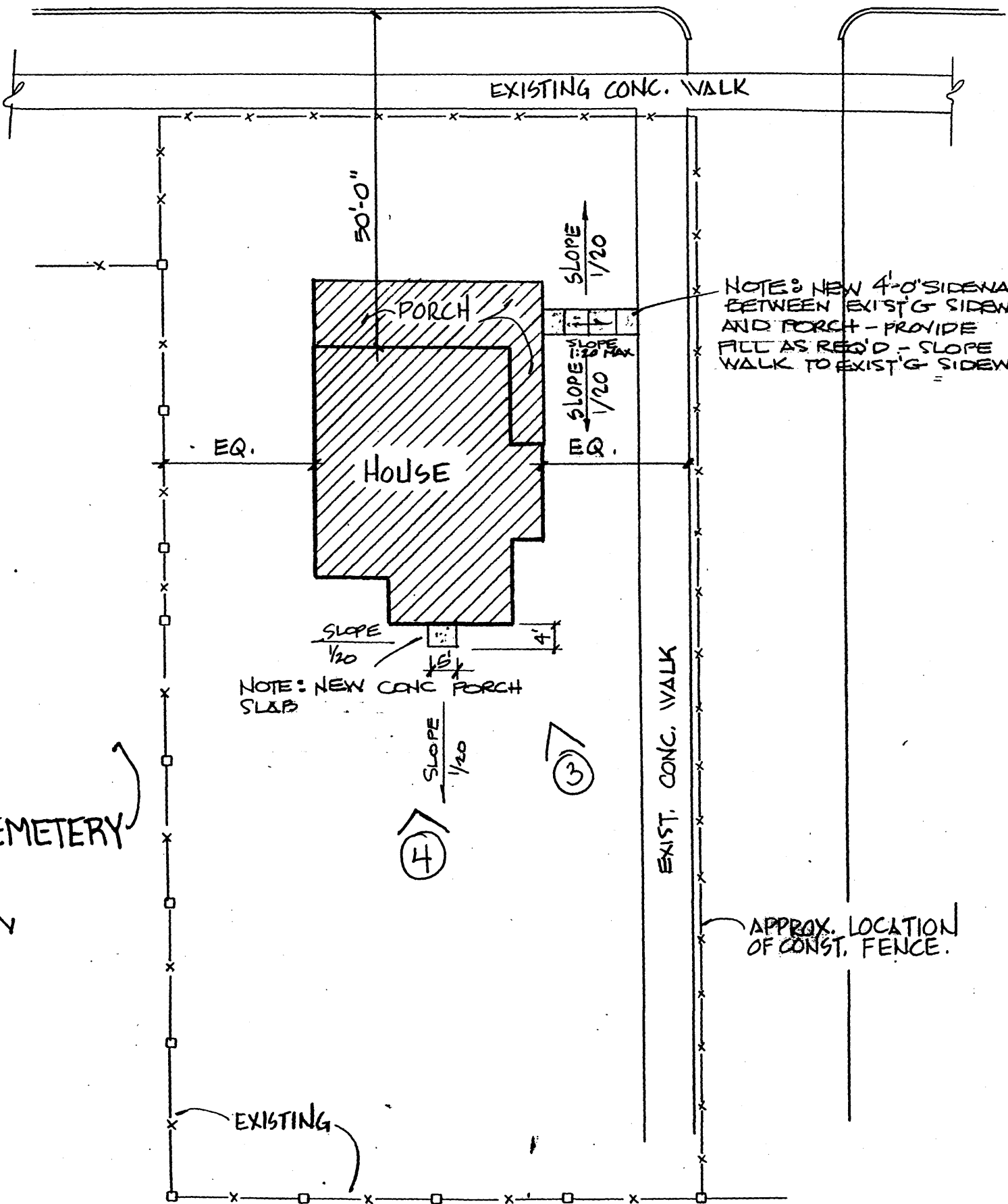
Photo # 2 - 28/7/00 - The photo shows the northwest façade of the house. It also includes a surrounding shot of Pioneer Military and Memorial Park. The photos is taken from a parking garage located across the street in order to add a sense of the surrounding area.

Photo # 3 - 28/7/00 - Photo number three shows the eastern façade of the house. The picture was taken from the rear yard of the house.

Photo # 4 - 28/7/00 - Photo number four shows the southern façade of the house.

②

JEFFERSON ST. 



EXISTING CONC. WALK

50'-0"

PORCH

HOUSE

EQ.

SLOPE 1/20

SLOPE 1/20

SLOPE 1/20

SLOPE 1/20

NOTE: NEW CONC PORCH SLAB

NOTE: NEW 4'-0" SIDEWALK BETWEEN EXIST'G SIDEWALK AND PORCH - PROVIDE FILL AS REQ'D - SLOPE WALK TO EXIST'G SIDEWALK

EXIST. CONC. WALK

CEMETERY

APPROX. LOCATION OF CONST. FENCE.

EXISTING

SMURTHWAITE HOUSE, MARICOPA CO., ARIZONA