## UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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1 NAME	/			
HISTORIC	4			
	SMITH (MILTON W.) HO	USE		
AND/OR COMMON	MILTON W. SMITH HOUSE			
LOCATION				
STREET & NUMBER	•			
SINCE! & NUMBER	0305 SW Curry Ave. (d	or. 3434 SW Kellv)	NOT FOR PUBLICATION	
CITY, TOWN		, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	CONGRESSIONAL DISTR	ICT
	Portland	VICINITY OF	First District	t
STATE	_	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
	Oregon	41	Multnomah	051
ĆLASSIFIC	CATION			
CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRES	ENTUSE
DISTRICT	PUBLIC	_XOCCUPIED	AGRICULTURE	MUSEUM
XBUILDING(S)	X_PRIVATE	UNOCCUPIED	X.COMMERCIAL	PARK
STRUCTURE	вотн	WORK IN PROGRESS	EDUCATIONAL	PRIVATE RESIDENCE
SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	ENTERTAINMENT	RELIGIOUS
OBJECT	IN PROCESS	_XYES: RESTRICTED	GOVERNMENT	SCIENTIFIC
	BEING CONSIDERED	YES: UNRESTRICTED NO	INDUSTRIAL MILITARY	TRANSPORTATIONOTHER:
OWNER O	F PROPERTY			
NAME Dr. a	nd Mrs. Ivan B. Inger			
STREET & NUMBER				
	NW Saltzman Road			
CITY, TOWN	1		STATE	07000
Portl		VICINITY OF	Oregon_	97229
LOCATION	N OF LEGAL DE <b>S</b> CR	IPTION		
COURTHOUSE,	ETC M 7			
REGISTRY OF DEEDS	ETC. Multnomah County C	ourthouse		
STREET & NUMBER	1021 SW Fourth Ave	nuo.		
CITY, TOWN	1021 SW 1 OUT CIT AVE	inue	STATE	
	Portland		Oregon	97204
6 REPRESEN	TATION IN EXIST	ING SURVEYS	-	
TITLE				
	Portland Historica	1 Landmark		
DATE	1970	FEDERAL	TATECOUNTY _XLOCAL	
DEPOSITORY FOR	13/0		TOOMI MOCAL	
SURVEY RECORDS	Portland Historica	1 Landmarks Commiss		<u> </u>
CITY, TOWN	Portland		state Oregon	97204



EXCELLENT

XGOOD

FAIR

#### CONDITION

\_\_DETERIORATED
\_\_RUINS

#### CHECK ONE

\_UNALTERED

#### CHECK ONE

XORIGINAL SITE

### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Milton Wirt Smith House, built in 1891-92, occupies a 100' x 100' lot in Caruther's Addition, a fasionable residential area in southwest Portland during the years 1890-1920. The house is located on lots 5 and 6, a property consisting of one-fourth of Block No. S. 136.

The Caruther's Addition became an important residential area in southwest Portland at the end of the nineteenth century. Several large, single family structures were erected in this district in the 1890's. While Italianate and Queen Anne styles were among the most popular, the Milton W. Smith House may have inaguarated a new trend in Oregon's architecture. The building was perhaps Portland's first Colonial Revival Style residence, was certainly one of the earliest built in the state, and was possibly the first residence constructed in Portland which was wired for electricity.

By the 1920's newer neighborhoods in the Portland Heights and Dunthorpe drew many of the residents out of the older areas of southwest Portland. The large homes in the Caruther's Addition underwent many alterations with division of many of them into apartment units. For the next forty-five years the area was in general decline. In the mid-1970's, however, the neighborhood began to change again as new owners purchased old structures and began restoring them for use as single family living units.

The Smith House is a large, wood frame building of two and one-half stories set upon a brick foundation. The structure has a full basement with eight foot ceilings and concrete floor. The house has an irregular shape but is essentially rectangular with a two story, projecting window bay located on the east elevation and a long verandah extending across the full south (front) elevation and parts of the west and east elevations. An open balcony enclosed with a porch railing is located atop the verandah. The building has a hip roof broken with prominent dormers on the east, south, and west elevations. Two chimneys rise on either side of the dormer on the south (front) elevation and give the strucutre a feeling of height and massiveness. Two other chimneys serve the other fireplaces and stoves in the house. The building has five fireplaces.

The exterior of the house is covered with narrow weatherboard or clapboard siding. Wood lattice encloses the open areas beneath the porches. The verandah is supported with round, hollow, wood columns. The eaves are boxed and are decorated at the base of the cornice with a series of turned, wooden balls (used as dentils) which form a small band encircling the entire house. The fenestration is irregular; however, one-over-one, double hung sash windows in simple, wood surrounds are the most common window type. Six-over-one, double hung sash windows are used in the paired window bays in the dormers in the upper half story. Leaded windows, including a pair of casement windows, are located in the central stair hallway. The roof is covered with wood shakes.

This house is constructed of fir framing with wooden floor joists and wooden rafters. Oak is the secondary wood.

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The first floor consists of the following rooms: entry vestibule, entry hall with stairway to second floor, southwest parlor, southeast parlor, dining room, butler's pantry, kitchen, eating area, pantries, bathroom, and back stair hallway. These major rooms are large and well proportioned.

The vestibule and main stair hallway are panelled in oak wainscoating. A large, storage closet with built-in drawers is located beneath the main stairway. The staircase makes four turns around a large two story opening and is lighted by leaded glass windows in the west wall of the second story. The square newell posts are in-filled with turned, oak spindles in the decorative railings. All the woodwork is in its original condition and is varnished. The vestibule has been wall-papered. The southwest parlor, connected to the southeast parlor by a pair of sliding doors, probably has had the upper mantle of the fireplace removed. Remaining is a full, wood mantle surrounding a glazed tile enclosure of the exterior of the firebox. The southeast parlor is virtually as constructed, except for the parquet floors. The fireplace has a complete overmantle with bevelled mirror. The mantle is either cherry or mahogany. Brass, bracketed wall lights provide illumination and are original in this room. A large, leaded glass, grape-design lamp on chain hangs in this room but was probably originally in the dining room.

The dining room faces east and has a projecting window bay which originally gave views of Mount Hood. With the removal of the false wall this room has resumed it original appearance except for the filling-in of the doorway to the butler's pantry off the kitchen. The fireplace in this room is surrounded by a wood mantle. The original glazed tile hearth remains; the tiles have been removed from the brick surrounding the fire box. The dining room has the same, varnished oak wainscoating that appears in the stair hallway and the vestibule.

Pairs of double, oak doors (each with four panels) are located between the southwest and the southeast parlors, between the southeast parlor and the main stair hallway, and between the southwest parlor and the dining room. A single, massive, sliding oak door opens a similarly sized entry from the main stair hallway into the dining room. When all of these doors are opened a spacious and open series of public rooms exists on the main floor of this building. The arrangement was obviously one created for entertaining of large groups in this home.

In the back stair hallway the wainscoating, trim, and doorways are fir. A dumb waiter once reached from the basement to the three floors above. While the shaft for the dumb waiter remains, the doors to the waiter on the various floor open, at present, into cupboards placed in the shaft.

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The kitchen contains the original cupboards with two walk-in pantries on the west wall. In the eating area (possibly once an open, back porch) are located a set of cupboards with leaded, bevelled glass doors. These may likely have once been located in the butler's pantry off the kitchen where they were momentarily visible to guests in the adjacent dining room.

The lavatory on the first floor contains its original plumbing fixtures as does the bathroom in the basement. The basement bathroom has a shower, a toilet with oak seat, and a pair of sinks with white marble counter and splash boards. Also located in the basement in the laundry area are three original porcelain tubs with central pedastal cast iron bases.

The ceilings in the two parlors and the dining room are coved. The walls were originally wallpapered. The present owners have a book containing samples of all of the wall paper originally used in the house by the Smiths at the time the building was erected in 1891-92.

On the second floor are three main bedrooms, two with fireplaces, and a children's nursery. The southwest bedroom has a walk-in closet above the vestibule at the main entry. The southeast bedroom has a large fireplace on its south wall with original mantle and decorative glazed tiles. The east bedroom, located above the dining room, also contains a fireplace with glazed tiles with cattail designs surrounding the firebox. A walk-through closet is attached to this room and leads to a nursery with walk-in closet on the north side of the house.

Each the three main bedrooms and the upper stair hallway have had parquet floors laid down over the original fir boards. The same is true of the parlors, dining room, vestibule, and stair hallway on the first floor. Drop ceilings have been installed in the three main bedrooms on the second floor.

The bathroom on the second floor consists of a lavatory room with white marble floor and a tub room. The oversize, cast iron and porcelain tub is presently located in the upper half story. The tub room and back stair hallway have fir wainscoating.

A single stairway leads to the upper half story and opens into a large servants' sitting room. Bedrooms are located on the south and east sides of the house with dormer windows providing lighting. The windows on the east bedroom open onto a small, enclosed balcony above the projecting two story bay in the dining room and master bedroom on the floors below. A small bathroom is located off the east bedroom. Its cast iron tub is, at present, stored in the servant's sitting room along with the bathtub from the second floor tub room.

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The original lighting fixtures for this structure--possibly the first in Portland with domestic electrical systems included as part of its designare virtually all present. While the ceiling lights have been removed from the three main bedrooms on the second floor, they are stored in the servants' bedrooms on the floor above. The large brass lamp with its frosted glass shades hanging in the main stair hallway is an original. So too is the stained glass, leaded lamp with grape designs (probably from the dining room) which now hangs in the southeast parlor.

The house was built with a hot water heating system. Each room has steam radiators. This system is yet in use throughout the structure. To conform to city code the furnace in the basement has been enclosed in a furnace room.

The landscaping of the Smith House is probably very close to the original. A massive rhododendron of perhaps eighty or more years growth is located in front of the house on Curry Street. The rhododendron is flanked by two large holly trees. Wisteria vines trail across the verandah.

Physically the Smith House is remarkably as it was built. The alterations have been minimal.

SPECIFIC DAT	<sup>ES</sup> 1891-92	BUILDER/ARCH	HITECT Whidden and	Lewis
-		INVENTION		
1900-	COMMUNICATIONS	INDUSTRY	POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	OTHER (SPECIFY)
_X 800-1899	COMMERCE	EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	PHILOSOPHY	_TRANSPORTATION
1700-1799	ART	ENGINEERING	MUSIC	THEATER
1600-1699	XARCHITECTURE	EDUCATION	MILITARY	SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
1500-1599	- AGRICULTURE	ECONOMICS	LITERATURE	SCULPTURE
1400-1499	ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	CONSERVATION	LAW	SCIENCE
PREHISTORIC	ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	COMMUNITY PLANNING	LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	RELIGION
PERIOD	AF	REAS OF SIGNIFICANCE CH	IECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW	

#### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Milton W. Smith House, erected in 1891-92, has been identified by George McMath and Thomas Vaughan in <u>A Century of Portland Architecture</u> (1969) as perhaps the earliest example of Colonial Revival architecture in Portland. Clearly by its design, quality construction, and good state of preservation, this house is a significant building in Portland and in Oregon. Its design by the firm of Whidden and Lewis and its early place in their designs further set it apart. The use of residential electricity in this structure may be the first such use in Portland.

Milton Wirt Smith, first owner and long resident, was born on July 15, 1855, in Aurora, Oregon, where his father, David Smith, owned a sawmill and grist mill. The elder Smith had emigrated overland to Oregon in 1851 with his wife, the former Ann Maria White. Shortly after the birth of Milton Smith, the family sold out to Wilhelm Keil and his Aurora Colony and relocated at a sawmill on Panther Creek in Yamhill County. In 1857 the Smiths moved to a farm near Lafayette. Milton Smith was educated at the Lafayette Academy.

In 1878 Milton W. Smith earned an A.B. from Pacific University; he was awarded the M.A. in 1881. On November 16, 1878, he began reading law with Judge Matthew Paul Deady in Portland, Oregon. His close association with Deady brought Smith into contact with many of the most prominent families in Portland. Apparently Deady served as a social patron of his law clerks and mentioned in his diary taking them, including Smith, to several social events. In March, 1881, Smith gained admittance to the bar and began a long career in law practice in Portland (he died in 1950). In 1881 he married Alice Sweek, daughter of John and Maria Sweek who had emigrated to Oregon in 1852 from Missouri.

From the opening of his practice in August, 1881, Smith played an active role in his community. By the 1890's he was an officer in the Portland Library Association, a Director and several times President of the Multnomah Law Library, a trustee of Pacific University, and the Vice-President of the Free Kindergarten Association. Undoubtedly the presence of his three daughters--Ruth, Josephine, and Marian--fostered that latter interest. Smith was also a member of the Portland Rowing Association as early as 1890 and was a member of the Arlington Club, the University Club, and the Waverly Golf Club.

The Smiths moved in Portland's socially elite set from the 1890's until the 1920's. Smith's club memberships attested to his financial and social connections in the city. At least one of his daughters, Marian, attended Miss Catlin's School. From the 1890's onward the Smiths were listed in Portland's Blue Book.

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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The "paste over" correction of the 1889 Sanborn Insurance Map as amended to 1895. p. 10, Block S. 136, indicates that a house formerly stood on this location. The name Smith is written on it. Possibly this pencil note was entered on the map to guide a clerk in pasting on the Smith house erected in 1891-92. may also indicate that an earlier structure occupied the corner of the block. all events, the Smiths moved to this house, then known as 135 Curry Street, in In 1891 they had resided at 48 Sherman. Milton and Alice Smith remained the occupants of this house until 1925 when they moved to 269 Eleventh Street.

The Smith House was designed by the firm of Whidden and Lewis, a leading architectural firm in Portland at the end of the nineteenth century. William M. Whidden. a graduate of M. I. T., had studied for four years in the Ecole Beaux Arts in Paris prior to his association in the East with Charles F. McKim of the firm of McKim, Mead & White. This connection with this firm has led to the erroneous conclusion that Stanford White designed the Smith House. Whidden came to Portland in 1883 with Charles McKim to examine lands owned by Henry Villlard's Northern Pacific Railroad for potential structures. Whidden participated in 1883 in the original design of the Portland Hotel and resumed his involvement in that building when new investors took over the project in 1888-90. Ion Lewis, also a graduate of M. I. T., served in the firm of Clark and Lewis in Boston prior to moving to Oregon and joining William Whidden. This firm designed several of Portland's most notable buildings: Portland Hotel (1888-90), McKenzie House (1892), Hamilton Building (1893), Portland City Hall (1895), the general architecture of the Lewis and Clark Exposition of 1905-06, the Multnomah County Courthouse, and the Lipman-Wolfe Building.

Notably, the Smith House was one of the earlier residential structures designed by the firm of Whidden and Lewis. The structure reflected their association with the then popular Colonial Revival Style of the East Coast. Almost two decades were to pass before this style became widespread in Oregon.

The history of the house between 1925 and 1962 remains obscure. In the latter year, however, Mrs. W. M. Heacock began conversion of the building from residential to commercial use for her son-in-law Richard C. Kneeland. A Certified Public Accountant, Kneeland moved his offices from the Public Service Building to this The most substantial change made during this period of alteration in use was the laying of parquet floors over the floors on the first and second stories of the house. Kneeland also had two floor-to-ceiling bookcases installed in the parlor on the southeast corner of the house. In May, 1974, the building became the headquarters for the Visiting Nurse Association and housed a number of staff workers in offices on the first two floors. Minor alterations included the installation of telephones, the construction of a false wall in the dining room (since removed), and the placing of overhead lights in the dining room. On the

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second floor the ceilings in the southwest, southeast, and east bedrooms were altered by installing false or drop ceilings--metal frames with accoustical tiles.

The present owners use this structure as a complex of consultation rooms for patients seeking counselling and psychiatric help. To the best of their knowledge the first alteration in the use of the building from single family residence to commercial use occurred in 1962. The present use of the building creates an atmosphere very much like that of a residence. Each of the "offices" is furnished with sofas and chairs. The feeling of warmth and home stated by the building is matched in the present furnishing and use.

The present owners are very seriously interested in this building's unique history. They plan to continue to restore the structure and to maintain its integrity and design. For these reasons they have sought to have it placed on the National Register.

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