

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	JAN 26 1976
DATE ENTERED	MAY 17 1976

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC *AK*
~~*~~ Smith, David V., House
AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
104 South Main Street
CITY, TOWN
Elmer
STATE
New Jersey

--- NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
2nd

--- VICINITY OF
VICINITY OF
2nd

CODE
034

COUNTY
Salem

CODE
033

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Maurice, Evelyn and Patricia Keegan

STREET & NUMBER
104 South Main Street

CITY, TOWN
Elmer

STATE
New Jersey

--- VICINITY OF
VICINITY OF

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Clerk's Office, Salem County Court House

STREET & NUMBER
94 Market Street

CITY, TOWN
Salem

STATE
New Jersey

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
New Jersey Historic Sites Inventory

DATE
1973

--- FEDERAL STATE --- COUNTY --- LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS Department of Environmental Protection

CITY, TOWN
Box 1420, Trenton

STATE
New Jersey

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The original house was a 2 1/2 story central block with one wing constructed circa 1830. Built of frame, it had one inside end chimney, a double door, side and transom lights, pillared portico, and a large wooden front stoop.

The house, however, was so thoroughly remodeled between 1898 and 1903 that its original appearance is scarcely recognizable. Consequently, the current appearance of the house embodies many of the features that became prominent during the Victorian period. The architect for the remodelling was H. M. Smith of Watson and Huckey in Philadelphia, while the contractors were Smith and Conover of Bridgeton.

The house retained its central block with one wing plan. On the exterior it has a box cornice with dentils. There are two large pillared piazzas supported by brick tiers on the south and east sides of the house, each of which has lattace wood-work between the piers. The friezes around the piazzas are decorated with carved laurel wreaths etched in black. These designs match the carvings on the interior mantle. The house has a large center tower with bell-shaped roof and a third floor gable with a palladian window. A second floor doorway with an elliptical fanlight opens unto the hood of one of the piazzas. There are four dormer windows, two of which are pedimented and two are arched. On one side there are two matching bays, one at the first floor level and the second directly overhead on the second floor. There is a third floor balcony with ballustrade. The front and rear stoops are wooden. There is a large brick flower and shrub box across the front and a lean-to addition in the rear. Detached from the house is a small cookhouse.

On the interior, there are hard oak floors throughout, some of which are pegged. All the ceilings are a uniform eight feet in height. The reception hall has paneled wainscotting, a paneled door, and a cornice. The trim around the interior doors is symmetrically molded with corner blocks, while the trim around the parlor windows has dentils and carved laurel wreaths above the openings. The double window in the parlor has a swinging panel at the bottom so that when the window is open it can also serve as a door. The front stairs have a large square newel post (crowned with a large urn) and culminates with the capital of an ionic column. Each side of the newel post is fluted. The balusters are turned and there is a wellhole under the stairway. One side of the stairway is enclosed by a lower panel, column, and upper opening in the form of balusters surrounding an elliptical opening. The living room mantle has carvings on the frieze and a cornice with dentils. In the dining room there is a built-in china closet with leaded glass windows overhead. This room also has a stringboard with dentils across the walls at the height of the top of the door. This serves as a plate rack.

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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES c. 1830, 1898-1903 BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

ARCHITECTURE: The Smith House is significant as a typical example of Victorian architecture, without, of course, the excesses that characterized some dwellings. The center tower, the large piazzas, the third floor gable, and the two bays are all predominant features of Victorian architecture and are found in some combination in many of the New Jersey communities that began to grow in the decades after the Civil War. The interior, while also Victorian in design, is curious in that Rufus Smith, who remodeled the house between 1898 and 1903, apparently expressed a preference for earlier detail. The carved laurel wreaths, the symmetrically molded door trim with corner blocks, and the large plaster cornices are details that became popular during the early nineteenth century and generally tended to lose favor during the late Victorian period. Smith, however, apparently had an eye for this style and sought to incorporate these earlier features into his otherwise characteristic Victorian residence.

COMMERCE: Several of the owners of the Smith House devoted themselves to commerce and obtained local recognition as prominent merchants. David V. M. Smith operated a blacksmith shop and sold farm implements in the 1850's. After his death in 1863, his wife Elizabeth ran a general store until 1898. The next owner, Rufus Smith, built and operated a large feed and farm implement supply store. He also helped found the First National Bank of Elmer and served as Vice-President until 1908. His son Charles ran a Buick agency and followed his father as Vice-President of the bank. Another resident, J. B. Smith, was also active in the automobile business and was also associated with the Travelers Insurance Company for 31 years. The numerous commercial activities that the Smiths engaged in earned them the reputation as "one of Elmer's oldest and most respected families." (Elmer Times, September 5, 1963, p. 1)

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Elmer Times, September 5, 1963, p. 1
 Philadelphia Inquirer, September 16, 1930, p. 1
 Smith and Conover to Rufus Smith, October 22, 1898, (this and subsequent citations are private letters in the possession of the Keegans).
 Smith and Conover to R. Smith, February 1, 1899.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1/2 acre
 UTM REFERENCES

A	1 8	4 5 5 4 6 0	4 3 8 2 4 2 0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Dr. Arthur F. Sewall, Historian
 (Revisions by Nanci Kostrub, Historic Sites Section, DEP, Trenton).

ORGANIZATION Salem County Department of Community Development. DATE _____
 STREET & NUMBER 90 Market Street TELEPHONE _____
 CITY OR TOWN Salem STATE New Jersey

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 [Signature] DATE NOV 20 1975
 TITLE Commissioner, Department of Environmental Protection

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 5/12/76

ATTEST: [Signature] DATE 5-17-76
 CHIEF DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

David Smith House

Elmer

Salem County

New Jersey 024

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

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RECEIVED JAN 26 1976

DATE ENTERED

MAY 17 1976

8. SIGNIFICANCE (continued)

David V. Smith House, Salem County, New Jersey

COMMUNICATIONS: The Smith House also has significance in the field of communications in that it was the first post office in Elmer (from 1861 until 1885). David Smith was the first postmaster and was succeeded by his wife Elizabeth in 1863.

The chain of title to the house runs as follows: David V. Smith (builder) c. 1830; John Smith, to 1838; Joseph Pinyard, 1838-1865 (house occupied during this period by David Smith); Elizabeth Smith, 1865-1898; Rufus Smith, 1898-1938; Charles C. Smith, 1938-1948; John B. Smith, 1948-1956; Helen B. Smith, 1956-1963; Maurice, Evelyn and Patricia Keegan, 1963-present.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES (continued)

Contract between Smith and Conover and R. Smith, November 2, 1898.
Contract between Smith and Conover and R. Smith, December 31, 1889.