

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**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 Smith House

and/or common Same Allain House See letter

2. Location

street & number 909 Second Street not for publication

city, town Franklin vicinity of congressional district 3rd - David Treen

state Louisiana code 022 county St. Mary code 101

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"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
			<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Charles de Villeneuve Allain

street & number 909 Second Street

city, town Franklin vicinity of state Louisiana

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. St. Mary Parish Courthouse

street & number

city, town Franklin state Louisiana

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title La. Historic Sites Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1979 federal state county local

depository for survey records State Historic Preservation Office

city, town Baton Rouge state Louisiana

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Smith house is set in the old residential section of Franklin on a large lot with live oak trees which obscure much of the facade. The house itself is a large two and one-half story, gallery fronted building with a brick lower story and frame upper stories. Though mainly English in derivation, the house has French characteristics as well. English features include the five bay symmetrical articulation, the central hall plan, the Federal style corner block fenestration, the unusually elaborate Adam mantels, the segmental pedimented dormers, the fan lighted upstairs front door, the meager Doric columns on the upper gallery, and the two exterior chimneys.

French features include the use of transomed French doors on the front galleries and the placement of the staircase in the two story rear gallery between pairs of cabinets. The staircase has an unusually complex design with three flights of steps and a differently turned pattern on each of the four newel posts.

Major changes made in the 1920's include the construction of a rear lean-to extension, the addition of closets and bathrooms, the enclosure of the ground floor open hall, and the construction of two brick arches between downstairs rooms.

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 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	1832	Builder/Architect	John Hartman
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Statement of Significance (in one paragraph) Criterion C

The Smith house is significant in the area of architecture as a large, early, and important example of the influence of the English architectural tradition in French Louisiana. The design represents a heavily Anglicized Creole house plan with a standard of Federal style woodwork which is seldom surpassed in terms of fullness of detail. The staircase is particularly noteworthy because it represents one of the most complex and elaborate pieces of staircase design and craftsmanship in Louisiana. Most staircases of the period had one or two flights of steps with one or two plain newel posts, but the Smith house staircase has three flights of steps and four completely different newel posts each with its own intricately turned pattern.

The Smith house was built in 1832 by John Hartman as a wedding gift for his bride, Sarah Knight.

The Hartmans, however, did not remain in the house long. In 1837, the New Orleans Canal and Banking Company acquired the house and opened the first bank in St. Mary's Parish in the living room.

In 1848, Dr. James Smith bought the property. The house was occupied by members of the Smith family until 1917. It has remained known as the Smith House due to its long association with this family.

Upon the death of Dr. James Smith's son in 1917, the house was sold to Joseph Birg, who kept it only a short time. In 1918 it was bought by Mr. George Palfrey, who lived there with his family for six years. In 1924 Mr. Paul Kramer acquired the house and completely renovated it. In 1954 the house was sold to its present owners, Mr. and Mrs. Charles de V. Allain.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Rilma Kramer, "The Smith House", Attakapas Gazette, March 1970, pp. 3-5.

10. Geographical Data

UTM NOT VERIFIED

Acreeage of nominated property approx. 1.7 acre

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

Quadrangle name _____

Quadrangle scale _____

UMT References

A

1	5	6	4	4	6	3	0	3	2	9	6	8	2	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

B

Zone			Easting				Northing							

C

Zone			Easting				Northing							

D

Zone			Easting				Northing							

E

Zone			Easting				Northing							

F

Zone			Easting				Northing							

G

Zone			Easting				Northing							

H

Zone			Easting				Northing							

Verbal boundary description and justification

Boundaries are drawn to recognize only the house because the setting has significantly changed since the house was built.

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 Mathe Allain

organization _____ date November 1979

street & number 105 Hillside Drive telephone (318) 232-1600

city or town Lafayette state Louisiana

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature [Signature]

title State Historic Preservation Officer date 3/27/80

For HCRS use only

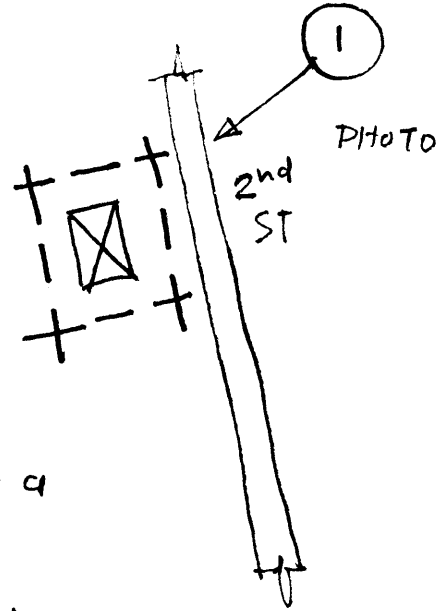
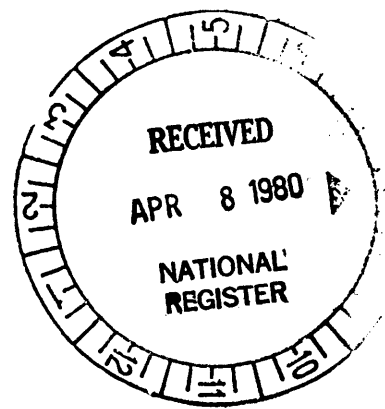
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

[Signature] date 6/6/80
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: [Signature] date 6/3/80

Chief of Registration

SKETCH MAP



Boundaries extend 5 feet from the house on each side forming a rectangle in which the sides run parallel to the facades of the house.

Approx. .1 acre

