

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

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received **AUG 29 1985**

date entered **SEP 28 1985**

**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 The Smith House

and/or common same

**2. Location**

street & number 1801 York Street ~~NA~~ not for publication

city, town Denver ~~NA~~ vicinity of

state Colorado code 08 county Denver code 031

**3. Classification**

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

**4. Owner of Property**

name L. Douglas Hoyt

street & number 59 South Steele Street, Suite 795

city, town Denver ~~NA~~ vicinity of state Colorado 80203

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Clerk & Recorder - Denver City Hall

street & number 14th & Bannock St.

city, town Denver state Colorado

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Colorado Inventory of Historic Sites has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date ongoing  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Office of Archaeology & Historic Preservation

city, town Denver state Colorado

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<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 Smith Mansion is a large, imposing three-story house designed in 1902 by prominent Denver architects William Ellsworth Fisher and Daniel R. Huntington. Constructed in the French Eclectic style, the building consists of a three-part composition in gray-tan brick with white terra cotta trim and red tile hipped roof. Its location is on the northwest corner of East 18th Avenue and York Street, with the front facing York Street, and overlooking City Park. At the rear (west) of the property, off East 18th, is a one and one-half story carriagehouse which matches the main house in design and materials. It dates to the period of the main house and is a contributing element.

The formal symmetrical facade contains a wide central bay flanked by projecting pavilions and accented with terra cotta detailing. In 1902 the design was termed "modern French" but today might be more accurately labeled French Eclectic. Features of the building referring to the style include the arrangement of its elements, in addition to the use of a hipped roof, quoins, through-the-roof windows at the top story, and circular dormers. These features as well as a variety of other classical detailing, such as consoles, cartouches, and pediments embellishing the bays, lend great animation to the exterior. The trim is further enhanced by its execution in terra cotta which is in distinct contrast to the gray-tan brick of the remaining wall surface.

The first floor consists of a central entrance with a flat arch of terra cotta. To the immediate south is a large multi-paned window and, to the north, a small three-paned window with terra cotta surround. The projecting end pavilions contain French doors with multi-paned transom and a copper panel above. Wrought iron in a delicate scroll pattern has been used in the window grilles on the first floor and basement windows and over the front entry doors.

The second floor has French doors in the center with terra cotta consoles and a center cartouche. To each side of the doors is a narrow eight-pane window with terra cotta flat arch. Enclosing the center bay is a balustrade of turned spindles separated by square piers. In each of the flanking pavilions is a six over six pane double window decorated with consoles and a center cartouche.

Dividing the second and third floors is a wide metal cornice with paired brackets which lends a strong sense of horizontality to the design. Set in relief in the cornice, over the windows in the end pavilions and over the center doors is the date of construction of the house, "MCMII."

At the third level are three double windows which pierce the roof line and are capped with a pediment. The center window is given greater prominence by the use of terra cotta quoins as trim and a decorative scroll on each side of the window, breaking the cornice. The narrow cornice at the eave line contains small lion heads in relief around the frieze similar to those on the Frederick Vanderbilt House in Hyde Park, New York, designed by McKim, Mead and White in 1896. The front pitch of the roof is distinguished by two circular roof dormers executed in copper with deep surrounds. At each corner of the roof is a tall chimney with a classically detailed cap.

Windows on the remaining walls at the first and second floors are for the most part rectangular with terra cotta arches. The third floor windows have detailing matching that of the facade. The only arched bay is on the rear wall at the second level--placed

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at the head of the staircase—with waved upper panes suggesting the Art Nouveau. Additional entrances to the house are on the south side leading to the porte cochere and at the rear. Also off the rear (west) wall is a small one-story addition which functioned as the servants' dining area and is believed to be original to the construction of the building.

The raised front porch is of brick matching the house with terra cotta trim. The wall has coping, corner quoins and a water table of terra cotta and extends around the south side to join the porte cochere. The one-story flat porch roofs of the porte cochere and the facade are supported by square brick piers extending to the brick wall. The same elliptical medallion seen in the cartouches above the front second floor bays are set into the caps of the piers.

The only notable alteration to the exterior is the addition of a fire escape in 1951 on the rear wall when the house was converted to a rooming house.

In spite of the numerous occupants and owners, the outstanding interior woodwork and fine plaster detailing remain relatively untouched with the exception of the kitchen. (When the house was converted into offices in 1971, the entire kitchen area was renovated into office space.)

Among the notable interior features is the grand staircase at the west end of the large entry hall with an intricately designed wrought iron rail. On the landing, to either side of the arched double doors are arched niches with mahogany wainscoting and plaster molding.

The front entrance leads into a small foyer with large statuary niches on each side with a Georgian shell motif at the top. Just off the porte cochere entrance is a small reception room with marble faced fireplace and molded plaster wall panels.

The dining room shows the influence of the Craftsman style with oak ceiling beams, wainscoting with a plate rail and oak trim over the fireplace. The basement billiard room is also designed in the Craftsman style, complete with oak paneled walls and an inglenook at one side of the fireplace. The red brick fireplace has a wide arched opening and deep brick hearth laid in herringbone pattern. Other features throughout the house include original fireplaces, brass light fixtures and pocket doors.

The carriage house is similar to the design and ornamentation of the main house. The wide segmental arched carriage door openings are set in the east and west walls with the original iron wheel guards set in the bottom of the door surrounds. When the carriagehouse was renovated into offices in 1971, the east carriage door was removed to create a recessed entry. The interior was completely renovated, leaving only the original machinery for lifting hay through an opening to the second floor.

None of the original landscaping features have survived except three large cottonwoods in the parking area on York. The south portion of the yard was paved for parking in 1971.

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The current owner is in the process of complete exterior and interior renovation for continuing office use, with careful attention to the restoration of original ornamental details. The site will be landscaped with plantings similar to the varieties used in Denver in the early 1900s.

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The Smith House is important in Denver's architectural history as an early 20th century example of the work of architect William Ellsworth Fisher and his partner Daniel Riggs Huntington. The excellent materials, craftsmanship and attention to decorative detail were a Fisher hallmark and are seen in his subsequent designs for all types of buildings, from residential to school, to hospital and commercial structures. Huntington left Denver in 1905 to practice in Seattle, and Fisher was joined by his brother Arthur Addison Fisher. Together they built one of the largest architectural practices in the Rocky Mountain region, spanning over seventy years of continuous operation.

## 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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates** 1902

**Builder/Architect**

Contractors: McDonald & Morrison

Architects: Fisher & Huntington

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Smith Mansion is an important visual landmark in Denver, sited on a prominent corner at York and 18th streets, directly west of City Park. It achieves significance for its architectural design by one of Denver's most distinguished and respected architects, William Ellsworth Fisher, in partnership with Daniel R. Huntington. The exterior of the house is highly animated, with extensive use of terra cotta decorative elements. The interior is equally impressive, with fine woodwork and plasterwork detailing.

In June of 1902, Frank L. Smith bought five lots across from City Park at the northwest corner of East 18th Avenue and York Street from A. M. Ghost, a real estate developer.<sup>1</sup> Construction of the house and carriage house began in October of 1902 for an estimated cost of \$32,000. Fisher and Huntington were the architects, and McDonald and Morrison were the contractors.<sup>2</sup> Smith, his wife, Josephine Hill Smith, and their three sons, Eben Henry, Melvin Hill and Frank Leonard moved into the house in 1903.<sup>3</sup>

Frank Smith was the treasurer of the Mine and Smelter Supply Company, founded by Smith's father Eben Smith. Frank Smith began his career in the mining industry while the family lived in Leadville in the 1880s and 1890s.

Eben Smith, one of the most prominent men in the development of Colorado's mining resources, founded the Mine and Smelter Supply Company with John S. and Robert J. Cary in 1896. Smith served as president of the company until 1901, when, at the age of 73, he sold his interest in the company and moved to California.<sup>4</sup> He died in 1906 at the Denver home of his daughter, Mrs. Charles T. Carnahan, while he was on a visit from California.<sup>5</sup>

Frank Smith lived at 1801 York until November 1907 when the Smiths were divorced. In 1908, Mrs. Smith married Richard Louis Hughes and they lived in the house until 1911 or 1912.<sup>6</sup> In 1920 the house was rented to John Anthony Crook and his wife, Millie Cleo Crook. Crook bought the property in August of 1923.<sup>7</sup> Crook, who moved to Denver in 1917, founded the Denver Steel and Iron Works.

After Crook's death in 1937, his wife became the president and treasurer of her husband's business and continued to live in the house until 1950.<sup>8</sup> Mrs. Crook was prominent for her involvement with the Central City Opera House Association and was among those who initiated the efforts to restore the opera house and establish the summer opera festival.

In 1950, the Smith Mansion was converted into a guest or rooming house by Laura Fern Mitchell, with minimal alterations. In April 1971, the property was sold to Maxwell Saul and Bob Hesdorfer who renovated the house and carriagehouse into offices.<sup>9</sup>

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

see footnotes

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property under 1

Quadrangle name Englewood

Quadrangle scale 1:24 000

UTM References

A 

1	3	5	0	3	4	6	0	4	3	9	9	2	6	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

Lots 27 - 34 inc., Block 5 - Parkside Subdivision

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

state n/a code county code

state code county code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Barbara Norgren Ed: GM

organization Consultant date

street & number 7453 E. Jefferson Dr. telephone (303) 740-7860

city or town Denver state Colorado

# 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 Barbara Norgren

title State Historic Preservation Officer date 8-7-85

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

for [Signature]  
Keeper of the National Register

Entered in the National Register date 9/26/85

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

Chief of Registration

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Major Bibliographical References and Footnotes

<sup>1</sup>The Denver Times, 6/21/1902 p.2, c.4; 6/26/1902 p.5, c.4.

According to previous information it was believed the house was built by Eban Smith as a gift to his son, Frank. However, Frank Smith bought the lots and built the house himself and his father, who was living in California at the time, was not connected with its construction.

<sup>2</sup>Building Permit Application #1407 and 1408, October 25, 1902.

Western History Department, Denver Public Library.

<sup>3</sup>The Denver Times, 12/7/1909, n.p. Clipping File - Bio., Western History

Department.

<sup>4</sup>The Trail, Vol. V, November 1912, pp. 8-11.

<sup>5</sup>Rocky Mountain News, 11/6/1906, p.3, c.6-7.

<sup>6</sup>The Denver Times, 12/7/1909, n.p. Clipping File - Bio., Western History

Department.

<sup>7</sup>Master Property Books, Microfilm. Denver Tax Assessor Office. It is not known who lived in the house from 1912 to 1920.

<sup>8</sup>State Historic Preservation Office history files.

<sup>9</sup>Master Property Books, loc. cit.