NPS Form 10-900 (Oct. 1990)

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

### RECEIVED

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NATIONAL REGISTER

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 an 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 <u>William Smith</u> house	
istoric flame william Smith house	
other names/site number N/A	
2. Location	
street & number <u>NJ Route 45 and Bassett Road</u>	N $\!$
city or town <u>Mannington Township</u>	□ vicinity
state <u>New Jersey</u> code <u>034</u> county <u>Salem</u>	code <u>033</u> zip code <u>08079</u>
3. State/Federal Agency Certification	
Mark   does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that   nationally   statewide   locally. (I) See continuation sheet for additionally   Signature of certifying official/Fine   Date	Resources/DSHPO
Signature of certifying official/Title Date	
State or Federal agency and bureau	
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William	Smith	house	
Name of Pro	perty		

NJ	Salem	County
County	and State	

Category of Property (Check only one box)	Number of Res (Do not include pre	sources within Propert eviously listed resources in the	t <b>y</b> le count.)	
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	roof fiberglas	shingle, wood shi	ngle	
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Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

NJ Salem	County
County and State	•

8. Sta	tement of Significance	
(Mark "x	able National Register Criteria  '' in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property  onal Register listing.)	Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)
		Architecture
	Property is associated with events that have made	
	a significant contribution to the broad patterns of	
C	our history.	
□ВЕ	Property is associated with the lives of persons	
	significant in our past.	
	Property embodies the distinctive characteristics	
	of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses	
	nigh artistic values, or represents a significant and	
	distinguishable entity whose components lack	Period of Significance
i	ndividual distinction.	ca.1765
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	Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, nformation important in prehistory or history.	
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	a Considerations N/A	Significant Dates
(Mark ">	x" in all the boxes that apply.)	ca.1765
Proper	ty is:	
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	owned by a religious institution or used for	
r	religious purposes.	Significant Person
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	a commemorative property.	
_ • .		Architect/Builder
	ess than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.	
V	within the past 50 years.	Unknown
Narrati	ive Statement of Significance	
	the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)	
	or Bibliographical References	
Bibilog (Cite the	<b>graphy</b> books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one	or more continuation sheets.)
•	us documentation on file (NPS): N/A	Primary location of additional data:
	reliminary determination of individual listing (36	☐ State Historic Preservation Office
•	CFR 67) has been requested	☐ Other State agency
□р	reviously listed in the National Register	☐ Federal agency
	reviously determined eligible by the National	☐ Local government
	Register	☐ University ☑ Other
	esignated a National Historic Landmark ecorded by Historic American Buildings Survey	Name of repository:
	#	Salem County Historical Society
□ re	ecorded by Historic American Engineering	datem double, historical bociety
	Record #	

William Smith house	NJ Salem County
Name of Property	County and State
10. Geographical Data	
Acreage of Property 145.7 acres	Salem Quad
UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)	
1 1 8 4 6 4 2 3 2 4 3 8 5 2 0 7  Zone Easting Northing	3 1 8 4 6 5 7 2 0 4 3 8 4 2 5 6  Zone Easting Northing
2 1 8 4 6 5 7 2 0 4 3 8 5 2 0 7	4 1 8 4 6 4 2 3 2 4 3 8 4 2 5 6  See continuation sheet
<b>Verbal Boundary Description</b> (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)	
Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)	
11. Form Prepared By	
name/title Janet L. Sheridan, Christopher D. Ba	te, Michael J. Chiarappa
organization Preservation Salem, Inc.	date <u>May 1993</u>
street & number P.O. Box 693	telephone <u>(609)</u> 935-7635
city or town <u>Salem</u>	state NJ zip code 08079
Additional Documentation	
Submit the following items with the completed form:	
Continuation Sheets	
Maps	
A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the	e property's location.
A Sketch map for historic districts and properties ha	iving 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)	
Property Owner	
(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)	
N.J.D.E.P.E./ Division of Fish, Game &	Wildlife

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.).

\_\_ telephone \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ state <u>NJ</u> zip code <u>08625</u>

name

street & number \_

city or town \_\_\_\_\_

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Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including 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 Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

<b>-</b>		7	_	1
Section	number		Page	

William Smith House Mannington Township, Salem County, NJ

#### NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

#### **SUMMARY**

Situated in rural Mannington Township, Salem County, the William Smith House is an eighteenth century timber-frame double-pile side-hall Georgian-style (two-thirds Georgian) farmhouse which was doubled in size with a Greek Revival-style addition in the mid-nineteenth century.

The William Smith House is located on a knoll about 20 vertical feet above Mannington Meadow, a vast, wildlife-rich wetland, which encircles the property on three sides. At the end of a 2300' dirt lane, it is surrounded by woods and fields, practically invisible from the nearest roads, NJ Route 45 and Bassett Road, both of which are approximately 2000' from the house.

The house is two-and-a-half stories high, of wood frame construction, clad with wood siding--flat plank on the front (south) elevation, and clapboard on the other sides--now hidden behind asbestos shingles of more recent date. There are no shutters on the house at present, but three-panel shutters stored within the house may be evidence of original or early shutters (see Photo #14).

The roof is a simple gable type, with a ridge running east-west, covered with solid planking and wood shingles, which are covered with modern asphalt shingles. The two halves of the house are linked by connecting doorways at basement, first floor, and second floor levels.

The windows are generally six-over-six sliding sash (see Photos #13 and #17), currently boarded over on the outside. There are two rear windows in the later section on the second floor which are six-over-nine.

The interior finishes and features of the eighteenth-century section are architecturally noteworthy. The house appears to have been both well-maintained and little altered through the centuries, and thus has retained its architectural integrity. Recently, however, some interior damage has occurred through vandalism in the now-vacant house.

There is a shed-roofed kitchen annex at the rear of the house, which seems to be contemporary with the second phase of construction, and a later gable addition to the east of the kitchen. There were a number of outbuildings associated with the house, all of which were demolished in 1992.



## **National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet**

Section number _	7	Page	2
		. 490	

William Smith House Mannington Township, Salem County, NJ

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION (continued)

**EXTERIOR** 

#### South Elevation

The front elevation (see Photo #1) of the William Smith House faces south, and although it was built in two phases approximately a century apart, presents a roughly symmetrical six-bay composition, unified by the centrally positioned portico, which is two bays wide and supported by two fluted Greek Doric columns standing on a concrete stoop.

The earlier section is to the west; although the molded box cornice continues on one level across the whole facade, the windows of this early section are higher than those of the later section to the east. This is a reflection of the lower floor level and higher ceilings of the newer part of the house, which also results in the base of the siding being a full course lower on the newer, east, section. At foundation level, there is a small window opening aligned with each of the four first floor windows.

Visible at the southwest corner of the house where some of the asbestos siding has been torn away is wide wooden planking attached with wrought nails.

Within the central portico there are two front doors, one for each section of the house. The older portion of the house has a wide opening containing a four-panel door entering into the hall of the original section of the house. This door has a three-light sidelight on each side and a rectangular four-light transom above, and is flanked by shallow pilasters which taper towards the top. To the right of this door is a narrower opening, about one foot lower, which contains a four-panel door entering directly into the south parlor of the nineteenth century section.

### West Elevation

The west elevation (see Photo #2) contains two bays with aligned windows at basement, first and second floor levels; two windows within the gable end are set closer in towards the center; the windows above basement level are now boarded over but previously showed six-over-six sash. Along the slope of the gable is a raking cornice presently covered over with white aluminum sheeting. At the center of the elevation is a brick chimney.

#### North Elevation

The north elevation (see Photo #3), is the original rear elevation, which has the shed-roofed kitchen

## **National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet**

Section	number	7	Page	3
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William Smith House Mannington Township, Salem County, NJ

### NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION (continued)

attached on its east side; east of the kitchen is a single-story addition.

On the first floor of the west (eighteenth-century) half of the main house there is a boarded over six-over-six window, and to the left is a doorway which enters into the back of the original hallway. A smaller window on the second floor is aligned with the first floor window; below, at basement level, there are two small windows. Above the rear doorway is a small window which lights the main staircase from the hall up to the second floor.

On the east half of the main house there are two windows, with lower sills than those of the west section. The sills of these windows rest directly on the shed roof of the kitchen, and the two first floor windows are vertically aligned with them. The single story east addition is about two feet lower than the kitchen, and contains a door and a window.

#### East Elevation

The east elevation (see Photo #4) consists of the gable end of the main house and the gable end of the east, one-story addition. A raking cornice follows the slopes of the main house gable and there are two windows at third floor level, aligned with two windows on the second floor; on the first floor there are three windows, two of which are located close to the edges of the elevation, and one which aligns with the north side windows on the second and third floors. The one-story addition shows two windows. Inside this later addition can be seen beaded clapboards on the east wall of the kitchen shed.

### INTERIOR

#### Basement - General

The basement has brick floors throughout, the eastern half being about a foot lower than the floor on the west side. The walls are stone up to varying heights, topped with brick which continues up to the sills above grade. English bond is seen in the foundation wall of the west section of the house.

#### Western (eighteenth-century) portion of basement:

Interesting features of the basement in the west half of the house include adzed (see Photo #20) and pitsawn oak joists which span from the outer masonry foundations to the dividing wall which runs east to west. The floorboards above are adzed where they lay on the joists, evidencing the eighteenth-century

## **National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet**

Castian number	7	Dogo	4
Section number		Page	<del></del>

William Smith House Mannington Township, Salem County, NJ

### NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION (continued)

method for creating a flat floor out of boards of varying thicknesses by rabbetting the edge and hacking out the excess thickness.

The first floor fireplaces are supported by brick arches springing from the diagonal masonry walls to the timber beams (see Photo #19). The east wall of the south room evidences changes in the brickwork, such as what may be a former fireplace support that was removed. There are other irregularities in the bond in this wall, as well.

The dividing wall between the north and south rooms contains a window opening with horizontal wooden bars forming a grill. This grillework and opening is typical of the exterior window openings, as well. The exterior window covers are wood board-and-batten, attached with iron strap hinges.

The first-floor framing above the north room is covered with whitewash. There is no such whitewash on the underside of the first floor in the south room. All the walls are whitewashed.

#### First Floor

The west half of the house has a wide hall with a four-panel entrance door, sidelights and transom on the south side (see Photo #5), opening onto the Greek Revival porch. Six-panel doors open into the two west parlors, both of which have fine corner fireplaces surrounded by raised wood panelling, crown moldings and a molded chair rail (see Photos #6, #7, and #8). The panelling is characterized by plain-ovolo moldings, which would indicate a date prior to the Revolution.

The staircase to the second floor rises from the hall and has a turned newel post and balusters with square tops and bottoms (see Photos #9 and #15). The cap of the newell post is distinguishing and suggests the 1760s. A molded chair rail on the wall follows the line of the balustrade on the opposite side (see Photo #10). Behind the staircase is a closet with beaded pegboards lining the walls. Iron butterfly hinges support the closet door. The rear door to the hallway is hung with iron strap hinges.

The east half of the house is much plainer than the west, having no particular features of note, apart from typical Victorian panelled doors and a well-proportioned fireplace surround in the southeast parlor (see Photo #16). There is a separate staircase up to the second floor, which may be evidence that this half of the house served at one time as a separate residence. This half of the house is also connected to the rear kitchen, which has a brick fireplace (see Photo #21) and storage closet with panelled doors made in two sections (see Photo #22). The kitchen chimney was constructed within the main block of the house.

## **National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet**

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William Smith House Mannington Township, Salem County, NJ

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION (continued)

#### Second Floor

On the second floor of the eighteenth-century west section, there are two chambers west of the landing, corresponding in plan to the two west parlors on the first floor. At the front of the hallway is a modern bathroom.

The two chambers also have corner fireplaces, with panelled closets above (see Photos #11 and #12) complete with original latching hardware. Although the chair rail goes around all the walls in these chambers, the crown molding is confined to the diagonal fireplace walls.

On the second floor of the east section there are two large chambers, a hall, and a modern bathroom, and a small closet. A steep staircase behind a door off the hall goes up to the third floor.

### Third floor

The third floor spaces on the west and east halves of the house are not connected, each one being reached by a separate staircase from the second floor. On each side the third floor space consists of a large, plain, plastered room without any special finishes or detail, in keeping with their probable function as sleeping areas for servants or storage. A fixed wooden ladder in the west half gives access to the attic space, where pegged and Roman-numeralled rafters can be seen (see Photo #18).

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Section	number		Page	

William Smith House Mannington Township, Salem County, NJ

#### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The William Smith House is named for the Mannington Township Quaker who owned and lived in this property until his death in 1819.

Deeds of the parcel on which this house sits trace back to a 350 acre parcel belonging to William Smith. An 1821 subdivision plan indicates two dwellings on the property. One is in the location of the subject building of this nomination, and the other is in the location of an extant brick house, locally known as the "Samuel Smith House".

William Smith, Esq. was descended from early settler John Smith of Krindaill Parish, Kent County, England, a yeoman, who with his wife Susannah sailed for America in 1685. In 1696 they purchased one-half of the 2000-acre Hedgefield tract from Samuel and Ann Fenwick Hedge. Hedgefield, in Mannington, was a land grant to Samuel Hedge in 1676, from John Fenwick, the Quaker founder of Fenwick's Colony (the area including present-day Cumberland and Salem counties) and father-in-law to Hedge. John Smith must have been closely associated with Fenwick, for he was an executor of Fenwick's estate, though he did not arrive in Salem until the year following Fenwick's death. Fenwick willed Smith several tracts of land.

On John Smith's death in 1722, his Mannington tract, known as "Smithfield", was divided among his three sons, Joseph, the eldest, John, Jr., and William. His will further stipulated that son Joseph's 350 acres was to be handed down to Joseph's son Thomas at the age of 21. Thomas married Sarah Bassett in 1740, and had three sons. Thomas' eldest son William was born in 1741, and married Sarah Chambless of Alloways Creek "contrary to discipline" in 1765. The year of William Smith's marriage is consistent with the architectural style of the earlier side of the house.

William Smith in 1793 was named a Trustee of Mannington Town Hall School. The deed declares, "If any of these people should renounce the Quaker religion, they should no longer hold title." William Smith was the 21st name on the "Petition against Slavery" sent to Governor William Franklin on February 8, 1774 from the Salem Monthly Meeting of Friends. The 1773-1774 Mannington Township ratables list shows William Smith with 300 acres, 30 cows, 1 servant, and 1 riding chaise.

In 1780, the mean farm acreage in Mannington Township was between 150 and 175 acres, and farms of 50 to 99 acres accounted for only 20 to 30% of all farms. 50 to 60% of all taxable people were landless. This helps to put into perspective the standing of William Smith, who, with 350 acres, must have been a major landholder of his time, continuing his family's traditional community dominance into the early nineteenth century.

The inventory taken of his estate on his death in 1819 lists "Cash on hand, obligations at interest, interest on obligations, plate & household goods, plows & other implements of husbandry, horned cattle, horses,

## **National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet**

Coation	number	8	Dogo	7
Section	number		Page	

William Smith House Mannington Township, Salem County, NJ

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (continued)

sheep & swine, hay and grain, stove & other household goods", totaling \$5242, the bulk of that being obligations at interest at \$3540.

A deed in 1829 granted a 148-and-one-half acre portion of William Smith's 350 acres to one "Benjamin Franklin of the Township of Mannington". A newspaper notice of November 11, 1851 advertised an executor's sale of Benjamin Franklin's 149.19 acre plantation in Mannington, "of which 23 acres are meadow, 17 acres are woodland, and the remainder arable land in a high state of cultivation. The buildings are a large Mansion House, Barn, Wagon House, Crib House, Smoke House; — Also a small Tenant House. The fencing is of cedar and in good order. On the premises there is an abundance of marl."

Most recently, the property was purchased from South Jersey Colonial Nurseries, Inc. by the Nature Conservancy, then was purchased by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection with Green Acres funds as a part of the Salem River Meadows Wetlands Conservation Project.

A federal tax document of the year 1798 provides some insight into this property at the time of William Smith's occupation of the house at Smithfield. The 1798 Federal Direct Tax was instituted during the administration of President John Adams in order to pay for the undeclared war with France. In the State of New Jersey, very few of these lists have been found, and in Salem County, three survive. The Mannington Township list is one.

The list is a compilation of the dwellings in a township subject to valuation. Listed are the occupant, the owner, the dwelling's dimensions, the number of stories, dwellings, windows, kitchens, and outhouses. Together with no more than two acres the property was valued for taxing purposes. Two lists were created: an "A" list comprised of properties of more than \$100 in value, and a "B" list comprised of properties of up to \$100 in value.

A "William Smith, Esq.", appears on the "A" list as owner and occupant of a two-story wood dwelling house measuring 22 feet by 30 feet, containing 16 windows and two kitchens. Its assessed value is \$1,000. The western, earlier, portion of the William Smith House was found to be roughly 22 feet by 30 feet in plan.

The 1798 tax list clearly identifies the house by material, elevation, dimensions, number of windows, and assessed value, but only the level of detail found in the dwelling itself enables us to comprehend what made the Smith house worth a \$1,000 -- an amount representing the top 5 to 10 per cent of all housing values over \$100.

## **National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet**

Castian		8	Dage	8
Section	number		Page	

William Smith House Mannington Township, Salem County, NJ

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (continued)

The William Smith House is particularly significant because of the remarkable integrity of the eighteenth-century portion of the house. For such an early timber frame dwelling to survive in such good condition and with such little alteration is rare indeed, and could no doubt yield important information about the building practices and lifestyles of the period of early settlement in West Jersey.

Every room in the eighteenth-century half of the house retains a large percentage of its interior finishes. It appears that the early exterior surfaces are preserved under the modern siding. The flat planked front elevation, and the large front door flanked with sidelights and transom, indicate a particular level of architectural sophistication, as do the interior chair rails, formal staircase, crown moldings, and panelled fireplace walls. The craftsmanship is of the highest order without being flamboyant, which seems quite appropriate for the dwelling house of a Quaker gentleman.

The survival of this material is architecturally significant in its own right, but it is also extremely important to the definition of historic contexts and eighteenth century property types in southwest New Jersey. The level of finish enables us to better understand the qualitative issues related to eighteenth- century housing standards, particularly in Salem County, the site of the first permanent English settlement in the Delaware Valley.

The 1760s ushered in a shift in architectural tradition as the I-house of early settlement gave way to the Georgian-influenced double-pile side passage plan. This would indicate another level of significance for this house in that the c. 1765 William Smith House would have been a leading example of such a change in the building tastes of the time.

Later architectural features of the house are also of interest, such as the front portico which spans the two front doors. Greek Revival porticos such as this, over one or two doors, have been noted on other Salem County houses, and seem to indicate a building trend of the second quarter of the nineteenth century.

Also associated with the later additions is the rear kitchen shed, which indicates another post-colonial architectural trend: that of pushing cooking functions to the rear of a house.

Another significant quality of the William Smith House is that its physical and natural context has been maintained since the early nineteenth century. The integrity of the building and 147 acres of land continually associated with it and under cultivation since colonial times contributes to an understanding of the agricultural, economic and social context of this resource.

For both architectural and historical reasons, the William Smith House is a significant cultural resource within the State of New Jersey worthy of preservation and recognition as such.

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number	9	Page	9
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William Smith House Mannington Township, Salem County, NJ

#### **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

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- Almanac and Year Book 1901-1921, First National Bank, Woodstown, NJ, reprinted 1974. At Salem County Historical Society, 83 Market St., Salem, NJ.
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# **National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet**

Section number 9 Page 10

William Smith House Mannington Township, Salem County, NJ

**BIBLIOGRAPHY** (continued)

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## **National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet**

S	ection	number	10	Page	10
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William Smith House Mannington Township, Salem County, NJ

#### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The Block 39, Lot 25, on the Tax Map of Mannington Township.

### **BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION**

The nominated property consists of the remaining parcel of land historically associated with the William Smith House, which is now in State ownership and has not been separated from it through subdivision or development.

# **National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet**

Section number	Page

William Smith House Mannington Township, Salem County, NJ

#### **PHOTOGRAPHS**

The following information is the same for all photographs:

- 1) William Smith House, Mannington Township
- 2) Salem County, NJ
- 3) Janet Sheridan
- 4) January 1992
- 5) Negatives held by Janet Sheridan, President, Preservation Salem, P.O. Box 693, Salem, NJ 08079

### List of Photographs:

- 6) View of south elevation, looking north
- 7) Photo #1 of 22
- 6) View of west elevation, looking east
- 7) Photo #2 of 22
- 6) View of north elevation, looking south
- 7) Photo #3 of 22
- 6) View of east elevation, looking west
- 7) Photo #4 of 22
- 6) Interior view, front door in west section, looking south
- 7) Photo #5 of 22
- 6) Interior view, fireplace in southwest parlor, looking west
- 7) Photo #6 of 22
- 6) Interior view, fireplace in northwest parlor, looking west
- 7) Photo #7 of 22

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number	Page	12

William Smith House Mannington Township, Salem County, NJ

### **PHOTOGRAPHS** (continued)

- 6) Interior view, six-panel door of northwest parlor, looking west
- 7) Photo #8 of 22
- 6) Interior view, detail of newel post of west staircase in hall at first floor level, looking east
- 7) Photo #9 of 22
- 6) Interior view, detail of chair rail at first landing of west staircase, looking northeast
- 7) Photo #10 of 22
- 6) Interior view, fireplace in second floor southwest chamber, looking northwest
- 7) Photo #11 of 22
- 6) Interior view, fireplace in second floor northwest chamber, looking southwest
- 7) Photo #12 of 22
- 6) Interior view, north window of second floor northwest chamber, looking north
- 7) Photo #13 of 22
- 6) Interior view, stored exterior shutter in second floor northwest chamber, looking west
- 7) Photo #14 of 22
- 6) Interior view, west staircase at second floor landing, looking northeast
- 7) Photo #15 of 22
- 6) Interior view, southeast parlor, looking southeast
- 7) Photo #16 of 22
- 6) Interior view, window in second floor northeast chamber, looking east
- 7) Photo #17 of 22
- 6) Interior view, detail of pegged and numbered rafters in west section, looking west
- 7) Photo #18 of 22
- 6) Interior view, southwest room in basement of west section, looking northwest
- 7) Photo #19 of 22

## **National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet**

Sect	ion	number		Page	_13
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William Smith House Mannington Township, Salem County, NJ

### PHOTOGRAPHS (continued)

- 6) Interior view, detail of adzed oak floor joist in southwest room in basement of west section, looking east
- 7) Photo #20 of 22
- 6) Interior view, fireplace in shed-roof kitchen on north side of house, looking south
- 7) Photo #21 of 22
- 6) Interior view, cupboards in shed-roof kitchen on north side of house, looking east
- 7) Photo #22 of 22





