

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**FOR NPS USE ONLY**  
RECEIVED MAY 7 1982  
DATE ENTERED

**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 Dr. William Austin Cannon (Prof. Andrew Ellicott Douglass Residence)

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

1189 East Speedway

N/A NOT FOR PUBLICATION *2nd*  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

CITY, TOWN

Tucson

N/A VICINITY OF

STATE

Arizona 85719

CODE

04

COUNTY

Pima

CODE

019

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

**CATEGORY**

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

**OWNERSHIP**

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH

**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**

- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

**STATUS**

- OCCUPIED
  - UNOCCUPIED
  - WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
  - YES: UNRESTRICTED
  - NO

**PRESENT USE**

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERCIAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Dr. George E. P. Smith, Jr.

STREET & NUMBER

207 Sierra Vista Drive

CITY, TOWN

Tucson

N/A VICINITY OF

STATE

Arizona 85719

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Pima County Recorder, Pima County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

115 N. Church Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Tucson

STATE

Arizona 85701

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

N/A

Determined Eligible NO

DATE

N/A

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

# 7 DESCRIPTION

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

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

### SUMMARY/CONTEXT:

The Dr. William A. Cannon/Professor Andrew E. Douglass House is a vernacular "L" plan, one-story Bungalow with stuccoed brick walls highlighted by open truss cornice brackets and a finial on the main gable end. Constructed in 1906, it is located on the north side of East Speedway Avenue, a main commercial thoroughfare in Tucson, Arizona, the largest city in the southern tier of the state. Sited across the street from the University of Arizona campus, the Cannon/Douglass House occupies a landscaped 60'x195' lot and stands adjacent to the George E. P. Smith House, another historic, early twentieth century residence (nominated concurrently), located immediately to the east.

### ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

The house's asymmetrical facade faces south and reflects its "L"-shaped plan. The prominent feature of the facade is the front gable of a north-south oriented frontispiece. A hip-roofed wing extends to the east. The raking eaves of the gable end are detailed with wide fascia boards and an overhanging soffit resting on open truss brackets with curved struts. The south gable features a central elliptical attic ventilator. A finial projects from the apex of each gable.

The gabled frontispiece of the facade also features a recessed corner entry located near the center of the house and set beneath an inset porch. The entry consists of an oak and glass panel door which is flanked by  $\frac{1}{2}$  sidelights with two raised panels below. Rectangular 1/1 windows are centrally located on the frontispiece and side wing. The windows are articulated by projecting stuccoed sills.

The side and rear elevations exhibit a minimum of detail other than irregularly spaced 1/1 windows, and the roofline has a sloping soffit and exposed rafters. The gable end of the rear elevation also is detailed with a segmental attic ventilator, open truss brackets and a finial identical to those on the facade. An original rear entry porch on the rear elevation has been enclosed, and a larger enclosed porch added ca. 1920 spans the rear gable.

The low-pitched roof surfaces are sheathed with rolled asphalt applied over the original wood shingles. There are two stuccoed chimneys, one rising from each section of the house.

The simply finished interior has oak hardwood floors laid over the original pine flooring. The original 5 panel interior doors and simple wood trim remain intact, as well as a simple Colonial-motif fireplace surround in the living room.

The house is in good structural condition, although some minor maintenance is required on the exterior. The prominent architectural features remain intact and overall the house retains its vernacular architectural integrity. Mature landscaping on the property partially obscures the house from street view, but this does not adversely affect the historic or architectural qualities of the house.

# 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 checked="" 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 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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" 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

1906

## BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Unknown

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

### SUMMARY:

The Cannon/Douglass House, built for William A. Cannon in 1906, is significant for its historic associations with two notable Arizona scientists, William A. Cannon and Andrew E. Douglass, both University of Arizona professors with national reputations for their scientific achievements -- Cannon for his research in desert ecology and Douglass as the founder of dendrochronology. The Cannon/Douglass House is also significant for its relationship to the early twentieth century history of Tucson as one of the first houses constructed by a University of Arizona professor when Tucson's University environs were emerging as residential areas. The Cannon/Douglass House shares this significance with the George E. P. Smith House (1904) located immediately to the east.

### HISTORIC ASSOCIATIONS:

William A. Cannon, the initial owner and occupant of the house from 1906 to 1913, came to the University of Arizona in 1903 as the first botanist on the staff of the new Desert Botanical Laboratory\*, a project of the Carnegie Institution in Washington, D.C. The laboratory was the first center for the study of North American desert ecology and through its research established the basis for further ecological analysis of desert areas throughout the world. Dr. Cannon served on the staff until 1932, specializing in the physiology and root systems of arid region plants. In addition to his Arizona research, he studied desert plants in Africa and Australia.

Professor A. E. Douglass, who occupied the house from 1913 to 1923, developed the technique of dendrochronology, a major contribution to the fields of archaeology and geology. The use of dendrochronology to analyze tree rings to determine and correlate ages of archaeological ruins and fossils, as well as indicate past climate changes, was pivotal to expanding the scientific and cultural knowledge of the prehistoric southwest and integral to worldwide geological analysis.

Prior to Douglass's move to Tucson, he served as the first director of the Lowell Observatory\* in Flagstaff, Arizona, which is known for its early research into other planets. Douglass's personal research into sunspots and their relation to climatic changes while at the Lowell Observatory contributed to his later conclusions on dendrochronology.

Douglass was appointed professor of Physics at the University of Arizona in 1906 and subsequently introduced astronomy into the curriculum. While a professor, he successfully founded the Steward Observatory outside of Tucson in 1916. It was completed in 1922 and is now among the world's largest astronomical observatories.

In 1922-23 Professor Douglass and his wife traded the house with Professor Charles Turrell, a Professor of Romance Languages, and moved into Turrell's house closer to the Steward Observatory.

\* Designated National Historic Landmarks in 1965.

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

UTM NOT LISTED  
ACREAGE NOT LISTED

See Attached

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 0.27 acre

QUADRANGLE NAME Tucson, Arizona

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 12 504380 3566420  
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B           
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C         

D         

E         

F         

G         

H         

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION Lot 14 and E.10' Lot 13, Block 8, Buena Vista Addition. East Boundary: Lot 15, Block 8, Buena Vista Addition - 195' (Prof. George E.P. Smith Residence). South Boundary: East Speedway - 60'. West Boundary: Lot 13, Block 8, Buena Vista Addition - 195'. North Boundary: Dedicated Alley - 60'

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
N/A			

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
N/A			

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

Dr. George E. P. Smith, Jr., Owner, March 1980

ORGANIZATION

Edited, Roger Brevoort, Architectural Historian, Arizona State Parks Board, Historic Preservation Section, March 1982.

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

207 Sierra Vista Drive

(602) 323-0455

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Tucson

Arizona 85719

**12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL   

STATE   

LOCAL X

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

*Ann D. Pitzlaff*

TITLE

*State Historic Preservation Officer*

DATE

*14 April 1982*

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

*Linda M. Cloward*

DATE

*10/25/82*

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

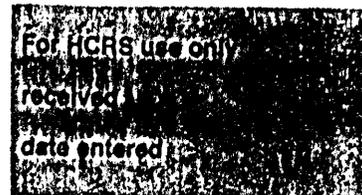
ATTEST:

DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form



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The house was later sold to Miss Hester Hunter, who operated a specialty bookstore in the house through the Depression and into the 1940's.

In addition to these historic associations, the Cannon/Douglass House is significant for its relationship with the development of neighborhoods adjacent to the University of Arizona. When constructed in 1906, it was the second house built in the area north of the campus on East Speedway Avenue in an area of undeveloped desert, the first being the George E. P. Smith House, completed in 1904 on an adjacent lot. These were the first houses constructed in this section which developed in the early twentieth century into a neighborhood occupied primarily by University professors.

Architecture:

The Cannon/Douglass House is interesting architecturally as an example of vernacular, turn-of-the-century, residential architecture in Tucson. It was built during the transitional period between the preceding Anglo-Territorial style and the traditional Bungalows which dominate Tucson's early twentieth century architecture. Both periods are represented by the house's simple details. The truss brackets, kingposts and wide fascia boards on the gable ends reflect Victorian ornamentation of the nineteenth century, while the low pitch gables, projecting roof overhang, and stuccoed walls are more typical of the twentieth century. In this stylistic regard, the Cannon/Douglass House (1906) contrasts with the adjacent George E. P. Smith House, built only two years earlier (1904), which is more nineteenth century in character.

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ANDREW E. DOUGLASS:

Andrew Ellicott Douglass - Papers and Publications - collection in University of Arizona Library, Special Collections Department.

"Andrew Ellicott Douglass", Who Was Who in American History, Science and Technology, Marquis, Who's Who, Inc., Chicago, IL, 1976, p.163.

Bannister, Bryant, "Andrew Ellicott Douglass, 1867-1962", The Year Book of the American Philosophical Society, 1965, pp.121-125.

Cattell, Jacques, ed., "Professor Andrew Ellicott Douglass", American Men of Science, 8th Edition, 1949, Science Press, Lancaster, PA, p.644.

Marquis, A. An., ed., Who's Who in America, vol.19, 1936-37, A. N. Marquis Company, Chicago, IL, p.752.

Overstreet, Daphne, "The Man Who Told Time By the Trees, Dr. Andrew Ellicott Douglass, Father of the Science of Dendrochronology", The American West, vol.11, no.5, September 1974, pp.26-29, 60-61.

Webb, George Ernest, "A Dedication to the Memory of A. E. Douglass, 1867-1962", Arizona and the West, vol.20, no.2, Summer 1978, pp.103-08.

---. "The Indefatigable Astronomer; A.E. Douglass and the Founding of the Steward Observatory", Journal of Arizona History, vol.19, no.2, Summer 1978, pp.169-188.

---. "The Scientific Career of A. E. Douglass, 1894-1962", Ph.D. Dissertation, University of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona, 1978.

WILLIAM A. CANNON:

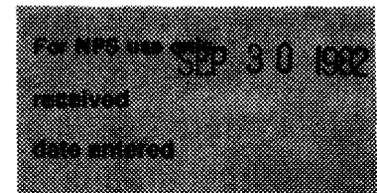
Cattell, Jacques, ed., American Men of Science, 8th Edition, 1949, Science Press, Lancaster, PA, p.378.

Marquis, A. N., ed., Who's Who in America, vol.19, 1936-37, A. N. Marquis Company, Chicago, IL, pp. 434-35.

William Austin Cannon publication in Author Index, University of Arizona Library, Tucson, AZ.

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SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION:

The following biographical information is an addendum to the Statement of Significance included in the National Register nomination.

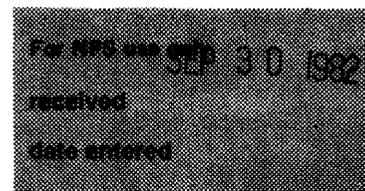
W. A. Cannon, the initial owner and occupant of the Cannon/Douglass house, was born in Michigan in 1870. He eventually studied botany at the University of Michigan, graduating in 1899, then did graduate work at Columbia and Stanford Universities earning his doctorate in Botany from Columbia in 1902. Cannon moved to Tucson in 1904 to assume his research position with the Desert Botanical Laboratory.

Upon moving to Tucson, Cannon initially lived in a temporary structure near the laboratory at the base of Tumamoc Hill. Not wishing to live in any of Tucson's established residential neighborhoods, Cannon built the house at 1189 East Speedway in what was then a sparsely-settled, desert area adjacent to the University of Arizona campus. Cannon remained in the Speedway Avenue house until 1913, after which he spent seventeen years travelling extensively throughout the world conducting research in desert areas for both the Desert Lab and the Carnegie Institution. Apparently, he did not resettle in a permanent residence until 1932 when he became a lecturer of botany at Stanford University.

The Cannon/Douglass House derives its main historic significance as the primary residence of Professor A. E. Douglas (1867-1962), who occupied it from 1913 to 1923. These years were a critical period in Douglass' emerging scientific career as it was during this time that Douglass conceptualized and researched the theories of dendrochronology which led to his worldwide scientific reputation. Douglass published his initial conclusions regarding dendrochronology as a dating technique in 1919 in a paper entitled Climatic Cycles and Tree Growth. He concurrently recognized and demonstrated the application of dendrochronology to archaeological research, a continuing effort begun in 1914 with the encouragement of the National Geographic Society. Douglass also finally succeeded in his ten-year, single-handed crusade to secure funding to build the Steward Observatory,

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dedicated in 1923. All of these endeavors reached fruition while Douglass lived at the 1189 East Speedway house, thus establishing its status as the property most strongly associated with Douglass' career and scientific achievements. Additionally, the location of this house adjacent to the University of Arizona campus conveys a contextual link with Douglass' University affiliation.

Douglass' relationship to other properties in Tucson reinforces the status of 1189 East Speedway as the primary historic resource associated with Douglass. A native of Windsor, Vermont, Douglass moved to Flagstaff, Arizona in 1894 and to Tucson in 1906 where he settled on a permanent basis, occupying nine houses in Tucson during his lifetime. In three of these house, he lived for less than tow years. Three others have been demolished. After moving from 1189 East Speedway, Douglass' next long-term residence was at 2344 East Speedway, where he lived between 1936-1943. This house has been remodelled for office use. Douglass' last residence, built circa 1950, is located at 2120 East Hampton, on Tucson's east side. The current resident, Edith Douglass, a niece, concurs that the residence ay 1189 East Speedway is the most significant house associated with Douglass due to its relationship with his developing career.

Information from telephone conversations between George E. P. Smith, Jr., Tucson, Arizona, and Ann A. Pritzlaff on 7/23/82 and Roger A. Brevoort on 8/4/82.