

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

MAR 23 1989

NATIONAL REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Clifford Percival Smith House
other names/site number Walker House

2. Location

street & number 501 East Park Avenue
city, town Houma
state Louisiana code LA county Terrebonne code 109 zip code 70364

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: [X] private, [] public-local, [] public-State, [] public-Federal
Category of Property: [X] building(s), [] district, [] site, [] structure, [] object
Number of Resources within Property: Contributing 1, Noncontributing 0 buildings, 0 sites, 0 structures, 0 objects, Total 1

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this [X] nomination [] request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property [X] meets [] does not meet the National Register criteria. [] See continuation sheet.
Signature of certifying official Leslie Tassin, State Historic Preservation Officer Dept of Culture, Recreation & Tourism
Date March 17, 1989

In my opinion, the property [] meets [] does not meet the National Register criteria. [] See continuation sheet.
Signature of commenting or other official
Date
State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- [X] entered in the National Register. [] See continuation sheet.
[] determined eligible for the National Register. [] See continuation sheet.
[] determined not eligible for the National Register.
[] removed from the National Register.
[] other, (explain):

Entered in the National Register 4/20/89
Signature of the Keeper
Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC - single dwelling

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Vacant

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Queen Anne Revival

Colonial Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation brick

walls weatherboard

roof slate and asphalt

other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Smith House (1905), a Queen Anne residence which also displays significant elements of the Colonial Revival style, is a one-story frame structure with a two-story rear wing. Framed by a short alley of century old live oaks, the house is located on the northern bank of Bayou Terrebonne in central Houma on a large parcel contiguous to and overlooking a portion of the city's historic district. East Park Avenue, a major thoroughfare which parallels the bayou, forms the property's southern boundary. Although a series of additions and alterations have been made on the structure's rear elevation, the original facade is intact and the home's National Register eligibility remains uncompromised.

The floorplan consists of a large, one-story block with a two-story wing attached at the northeast corner. In the main block, a range of three symmetrical rooms (an entrance hall flanked by living room and parlor) opens into a rear range containing single bedrooms on either side of a central dining room. Both bedrooms project slightly beyond the exterior side walls of the front rooms they adjoin. Large pocket doors connect the entrance hall to both the living room and the dining room, creating the open floor plan popular during the last years of the nineteenth century. The placement of other interior doors creates a circular traffic flow within the main block. A bath adjoins the west bedroom on its northern wall. Both the west bedroom and the dining room open into a large enclosed rear porch. The dining room also opens into the kitchen wing, as does the bedroom on the east. The wing contains a bath for the adjoining bedroom, a stairwell leading to the second floor, a large L-shaped space whose use is unclear, and a kitchen. The wing's second floor consists of two rooms flanking a small hallway and bath. The attic space above the main block remains unfinished.

Constructed of cypress clapboards and raised on seven foot high brick piers, the Smith House provides a clear example of the mixing of styles during a transitional period in which the popularity of the Queen Anne style declined as that of the Colonial Revival grew. The building's Queen Anne elements include two large semi-hexagonal bays, a large wraparound veranda flowing into a turreted porch at the front right corner, and a truncated hipped roof with a cross gable-like frontal dormer and corbelled chimney caps. The most outstanding Colonial Revival motifs are the veranda, the front entrance, and the treatment of the dormer. Tuscan columns rising from paneled pedestals support a veranda roof which sweeps outward at the facade's center to form a curving portico suggestive of the Federal style. Twin curved stairways descend from the veranda to the lawn on either side of the portico. Standing opposite the portico and slightly

 See continuation sheet

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Clifford Percival Smith House, Houma, Terrebonne Parish

Section number 7 Page 1

indented behind an open vestibule-like space, the entrance is flanked by tall fluted pilasters supporting an ornamental entablature. Nine foot high glass double doors surrounded by a three light transom and two single pane sidelights open into the entrance hall. The outer vestibule is framed by fluted cast-iron pilasters with egg and dart capitals and a denticulated entablature. The dormer features gable end returns and a pretentious Palladian window with multiple panes of colored glass harkening back to the Queen Anne style.

Despite the passage of time, the decorative features of the twelve foot high interior remain virtually intact. The woodwork in the home is outstanding. Its noteworthy elements include two large pocket doors framed by Victorian grilles with spindles and scrolls, original wainscoting and interior window shutters in the dining room, picture moldings in several rooms, heavy window and door casings, high baseboards, and wooden floors. Four of the five original mantels remain in place, some displaying mirrors, Ionic columns, and pressed wood bas relief. Each of the remaining hearths and fireplace surrounds is tiled in a different color. The original coal covers also remain in place in the firebox openings. Many interior doors are topped by transoms, and most of the structure's hardware appears to be intact.

Assessment of Integrity

Like most old homes, the Smith House has experienced some changes over the years, the most important being a series of alterations and additions on the rear elevation. Although the absence of adequate coverage by Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps makes it difficult to date the various additions, architectural evidence suggests that the first floor of the kitchen wing was original to the house while its second floor was a later addition. Pipes are attached to the wing's eastern exterior wall, and its upper and lower windows do not match. The maps show conclusively that the upper rooms and bath were in place by 1924. Another change concerns the wing's original side porch, which was enclosed and widened by the addition of a shed roof screened porch running parallel to it. The third major alteration at the rear was the addition of a small room, possibly an enclosed porch, and a shed roof bath. Like those of the wing, the bath's pipes are exposed on an exterior wall. Other exterior changes include the filling of spaces between foundation piers with boards and windows on the rear elevation and with brick on the facade and sides, poor patching of the slate and asphalt shingle roof, and the addition of large screened doors covering the main entrance.

Except for some correctable water damage and reversible "improvements", the interior of the Smith Home's main block looks much as it did in 1905. Minor changes include the installation of ceiling tiles and wainscoting made from 1960s era paneling in some rooms, replacement of an original bedroom mantel with a brick substitute, the conversion of several windows to doors in order to gain access to newly added rear spaces, adaptation of the old gas fixtures to

CONTINUED

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Clifford Percival Smith House, Houma, Terrebonne Parish

Section number 7 Page 2

electricity, installation of a modern intercom system and a furnace with accompanying floor registers, and the placement of a plastic film over several windows to simulate stained glass. The wing's interior has been altered through the addition of a stairwell to the second floor and a small bath connecting to the east bedroom. Because the building's fine interior woodwork is largely untouched, its major alterations all occur at the rear, and its transitional Queen Anne/Colonial Revival facade remains intact, the Smith Home retains its National Register eligibility. It is one of only two houses in the parish incorporating turrets or curving porticos.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G N/A

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1905

Significant Dates

1905

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Smith Home is locally significant in the area of architecture within the context of Terrebonne Parish because it is an outstanding example of the transitional stage between the Queen Anne and Colonial Revival styles. In a parish in which prosperous citizens were slow to abandon previously accepted housing forms, the building is one of only a few which attempt to articulate Queen Anne or Colonial Revival characteristics on a house of any distinction.

Terrebonne is a largely rural parish with a core of elaborate homes displaying outdated architectural styles. For example, as late as the last two decades of the nineteenth century, large houses in the older Gothic Revival and Greek Revival modes were being erected by wealthy but conservative citizens who withheld their patronage from the newer Queen Anne and Colonial Revival motifs. Instead, it was the more stylistically up-to-date middle class which adopted elements of the Queen Anne by attaching semi-hexagonal or semi-octagonal bays and gables with patterned shingles to otherwise plain cottages. As a result, the Queen Anne seldom reached its full decorative potential on a Terrebonne Parish house. The Colonial Revival seems to have found even less acceptance than the Queen Anne. The Historic Standing Structures Survey for Terrebonne Parish records only eight buildings with clearly recognizable Colonial Revival elements.

Against this background, the Smith Home is significant for its carefully articulated Queen Anne turret and wraparound veranda as well as its stylistic application of the Tuscan columns, dentils, pilasters, curved portico, and Palladian motif associated with the Colonial Revival style. Thus, the home is a classic illustration of the mixing of decorative elements which occurred as styles changed. It is especially noteworthy as one of only two parish structures displaying a Queen Anne turret and one of two exhibiting a pretentious Federally-inspired curved portico with flanking stairs.

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Historic Standing Structures Survey, Terrebonne Parish.
Site visit by Division of Historic Preservation National Register staff.
1924 Sanborn Insurance Map, Houma.

Previous documentation on file (NPS): N/A
 preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
 previously listed in the National Register
 previously determined eligible by the National Register
 designated a National Historic Landmark
 recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
 recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

State historic preservation office
 Other State agency
 Federal agency
 Local government
 University
 Other

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of property approximately 1.2 acres

UTM References

A

1	5	7	2	0	9	2	0	3	2	7	6	4	2	0
Zone					Easting					Northing				

B

Zone					Easting					Northing				

C

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

D

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Please refer to enclosed plat map.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

Boundaries follow the property line except at the northwest corner where they cut in and follow the fence line in order to exclude two unrelated buildings.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title National Register Staff
organization Division of Historic Preservation date February 1989
street & number P. O. Box 44247 telephone (504) 342-8160
city or town Baton Rouge state Louisiana zip code 70804

Present Owner: Dr. and Mrs. Craig Walker
211 Brinwood Avenue
Houma, LA 70360

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Clifford Percival Smith House, Houma, Terrebonne Parish

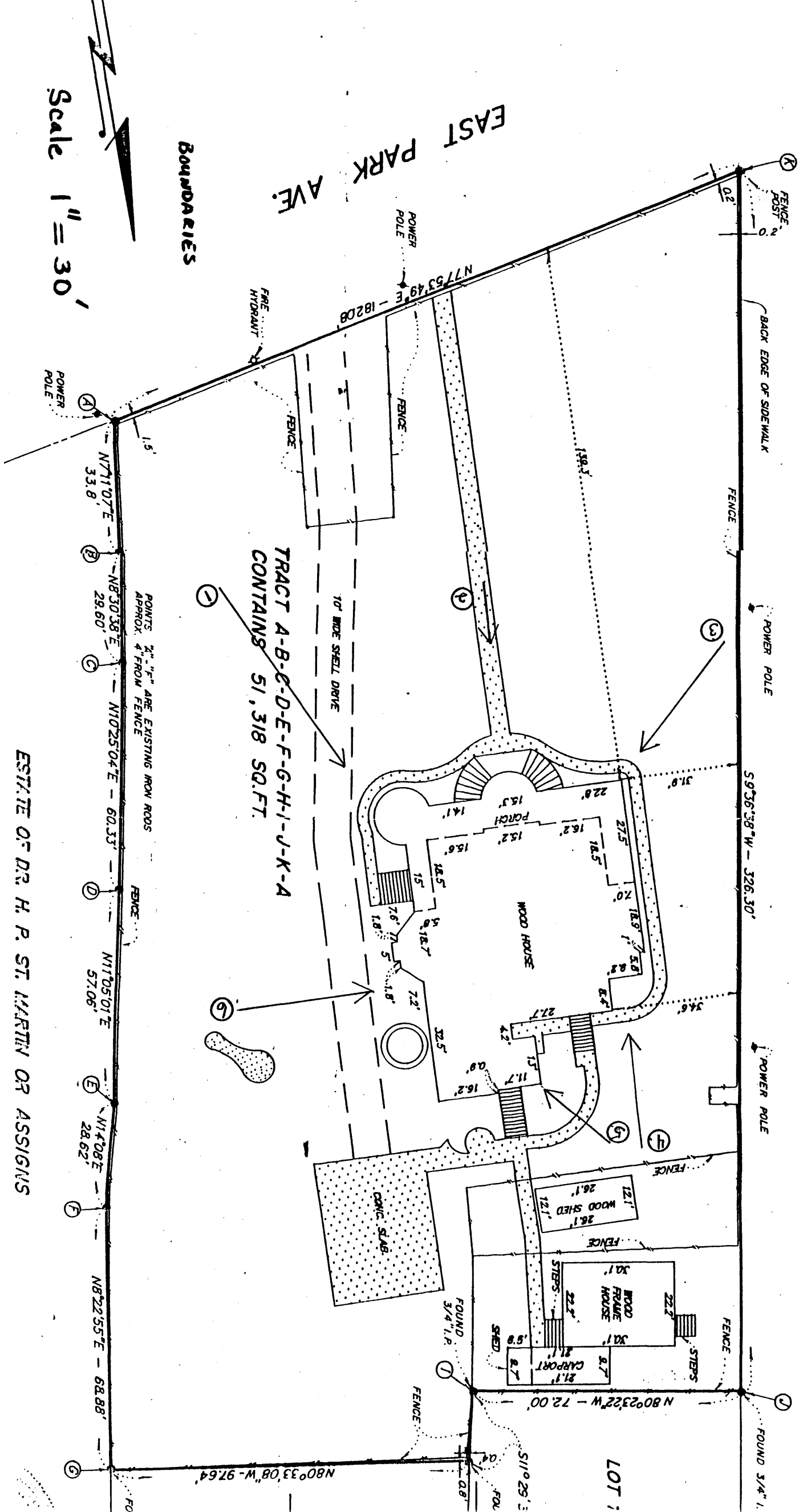
Section number 8 Page 1

Historical Note

Clifford Percival Smith built the house at 501 East Park Avenue in Houma for his wife Clara in 1905. A successful businessman, Smith operated a livery stable before organizing C. P. Smith and Company, a lumber operation with large tracts of timberland and its own sawmill, around 1895. He sold the company in 1903 but retained ownership of a large parcel fronting on Bayou Terrebonne for construction of his home. Later, Clara Smith sold the rear portion of this parcel, which was subdivided to create a neighborhood known as Smithland. The home itself remained in the family's hands until 1986 when it was willed to a non-family member. It is now owned by Dr. and Mrs. Craig Walker, who plan to restore the structure for use as offices.

Clifford Percival Smith House Houma, Terrebonne Parish, LA

WILLIAMS AVE.



TRACT A-B-C-D-E-F-G-H-I-J-K-A
CONTAINS 51,318 SQ.FT.

POINTS "A"-"F" ARE EXISTING IRON RODS
APPROX. 4" FROM FENCE

BOUNDARIES

Scale 1" = 30'

ESTATE OF DR. H. P. ST. MARTIN OR ASSIGNS