

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

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 Smith, Christopher H., House
other names/site number Smith-Trahern Mansion; Queen of the Cumberland

2. Location

street & number Spring Street and McClure Street NA not for publication
city, town Clarksville NA vicinity
state Tennessee code TN county Montgomery code TN125 zip code 37040

3. Classification

Ownership of Property		Category of Property		Number of Resources within Property	
<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u> </u>	<u> </u> sites
		<input type="checkbox"/> object		<u> </u>	<u> </u> structures
				<u>1</u>	<u>1</u> objects
					<u>1</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: NA
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 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 meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.
Herbert E. Bryan Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, Tennessee Historical Commission
Date 1/29/88
State or Federal agency and bureau

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:
 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:)

Herbert E. Bryan Entered in the National Register 3/8/88
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)
Social/meeting hall

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)Greek Revival

Italianate

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Limestonewalls Brick

roof Tinother WoodMetal

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Christopher H. Smith mansion, known as the "Queen of the Cumberland", was constructed between 1856 and 1859 by wealthy tobacconist Christopher Smith. Located on the east bank of the Cumberland River in Montgomery County, it sits in one of the oldest sections of the city of Clarksville (population 70,552) and is surrounded by an old tobacco warehouse on the south and on the north by the city's oldest cemetery, Riverview. The mansion reflects the transitional style between Greek Revival and Italianate that was popular in the 1850s. While it is believed that noted architect Adolphus Heiman designed the house, there is no conclusive proof at this time. Greek Revival elements are illustrated by four large columns which support a massive entablature and Corinthian columns that support a one story portico. The Italianate style is seen in the central pavilion with its three arched windows capped by hoodmolds and bracketed window lintels. The two story brick residence was constructed with a common bond brick pattern. Today, the hip roof has a deck with a wood balustrade where an octagonal observatory once sat. The original floor plan downstairs includes a central hall with double parlors to the left and double parlors to the right, while the upstairs has four bedrooms and a gallery porch across the rear. A one story addition is located at the southeast corner of the house. The house changed hands several times before it was restored by Margaret and Joseph Trahern in 1947 and later by the city of Clarksville as part of its Tennessee Homecoming 1986 celebration. A caretaker's residence is also included within the boundaries of the property. Although the house has undergone interior remodelings, it still retains a high degree of integrity.

Flanking a central pavilion, the symmetrically proportioned east facade has four square monumental columns with capitals composed of anthemion leaves and paneled shafts. One column was replaced during the 1947-1949 renovation. An entablature with a molded cornice with dentil trim, a frieze embellished by nine laurel wreaths, and a molded architrave rest below the eave. The dentil trim and architrave are seen on all elevations of the house. Fenestration is comprised of 6/6 double-hung sashes capped by cornice moldings, scroll brackets, and anthemion ornamentation. The first story windows are set above movable wood panels. On the central pavilion, four one story columns with Corinthian capitals and fluted shafts support an entablature identical to the principal one. Double-leaf glass and panel doors surrounded by sidelights and a transom provide access to the house. Additional ornamentation on this portion of the house is

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provided by scroll brackets. The second story of the pavilion has three sets of paired circular arch double-hung 2/2 windows. These are set below arched molded hoodmolds. Metal balustrades are also located on this facade.

The north elevation is plain in design and has only four 6/6 double-hung sashes with flat lintels. Two inside end chimneys pierce the roofline.

The east or rear elevation has a one story gallery porch topped by a wood balustrade. This is a circa 1947-1949 replacement of an earlier porch. Double-hung windows and single-leaf doors both have flat lintels. A one story gable roof dining area (now used as a kitchen) is at the southern corner of this elevation. A modern one story brick addition with a flat roof has been appended to the kitchen.

Similar to the north elevation, the south elevation shows four 6/6 double-hung sashes and two inside end chimneys. The modern addition is visible from this view.

The interior of the house has a central floor plan with two parlors on each side of the large hall. Door and window casings and baseboards are constructed of molded wood. Four laurel wreaths embellish the entablature above the main door, while dentil trim delineates the interior window lintels. Four-panel wood doors have the same laurel wreath moldings and are surmounted by cornices. One fireplace has a simple mantel shelf and laurel leaves in the frieze. A set of pocket doors are surrounded by molded wood casings with dentil trim. Leading to the second story is a curved cantilevered stairway with a polygonal newel post, turned wood balusters, and sawn wood trim below the risers. During the 1947-49 remodeling, the wood floors and plaster were replaced, the pocket doors were moved from one side of the hall to the other, and two niches were added to the hall. Although originally the kitchen and house were connected by an interior door, a second door was cut at this time. All but one fireplace were sealed up.

A one story gable roof brick caretaker's building of unknown date is located on the property. The west facade has two single leaf doors with flat lintels. A large carport and tool shed have been added to this building, making it non-contributing.

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 NA

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture
Commerce

Period of Significance
circa 1859-1886

Significant Dates
circa 1859

Cultural Affiliation
NA

Significant Person
Smith, Christopher H.

Architect/Builder
Unknown

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

The Christopher H. Smith House is being nominated under criterion B and C because of its local significance in the areas of architecture and commerce. Smith was a prominent figure in the development of the extensive export of the dark-fired tobacco, known as "Clarksville tobacco," that made the city an international market for this product. He owned warehouses near the Clarksville Steamboat Landing and dealt with the international trade through the port of New Orleans. Smith helped promote a product that grew from the first crops exported in the 1820s to be one of the most sought after tobaccos in Europe and the U. S .by the 1850s Architecturally, this circa 1859 house is a fine example of the transitional Greek Revival-Italianate style. Symmetric proportions, Corinthian columns, bracketed and arched windows, and an elaborate front entablature characterize the style of this house. Embellishments in the interior utilize similar molded trim, dentils, and laurel wreaths that are seen on the exterior.

The growth of Clarksville's international tobacco market dated from the 1820s and culminated in the crop of 1855. A local firm headed by Andrew Vance and John Dick was founded in 1819. The partners owned two steamboats and it was they who began an extensive trade to New Orleans. Mr. Vance handled the firm's activity at Clarksville, while John Dick lived in New Orleans and managed the growing commission business from the Cumberland region to that city.

Mr. Dick died while in New Orleans in about 1843 and the firm dissolved. It was replaced by a series of incorporations that included Witherspoon and Company; Beaumont, Payne and Co.; Trice and Barker; and, finally, Barker and Dieffendorfer. The last of these was purchased in 1854 by Smith and Seat. This new enterprise was organized into three companies: Christopher H. Smith and S. B. Seat operated the central tobacco warehouse, John Kimble Smith built and operated a pork process plant and, along with the other two partners, built a rolling mill. Christopher Smith (1824-1886) and his brothers, John Kimble (1822-1911) and William Cosby (1830-1899) also owned warehouses and steam boats in Clarksville.

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Previous documentation on file (NPS): NA
 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

Acreage of property Approximately 7.3 acres

UTM References

A

1	6	4	6	7	4	3	0	4	0	4	3	1	0	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

B

Zone			Easting				Northing							

C

Zone			Easting				Northing							

D

Zone			Easting				Northing							

See continuation sheet

Clarksville 301 SE

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary includes all of parcel 45, City of Clarksville, Montgomery County, TN, as outlined on the accompanying tax map.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes land currently associated with the house...

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Patricia G. Winn and Dr. Thomas H. Winn
organization Montgomery County Historical Society date October 1987
street & number 1616 Deerfield Drive telephone 615/645-2317
city or town Clarksville state TN zip code 37040

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Christopher Smith continued in the tobacco business as a commission and forwarding merchant and tobacco salesman at the central warehouse, although he sold his interest in the rolling mill to Seat and Dropp in 1857. In 1856, Smith married, and in May 1858 purchased four lots in what was then known as the Wilcox Division of Clarksville, for \$4,000. He completed the imposing brick mansion with its monumental columns and elaborate trim by 1859.

The three Smith brothers expanded their enterprise, eventually replacing the earlier Vance and Dick Company, by serving as commission agents at New Orleans on a continuing basis throughout the Civil War and until Christopher Smith's death in 1886. The firm handled the area tobacco, so in demand around the world after 1855, as well as other agricultural products from the Cumberland around Clarksville. However, their chief focus was Clarksville tobacco. The three Smith brothers owned tobacco warehouses and exported the tobacco from three separate steamboat landings they operated. Christopher Smith had his warehouse at the Central Clarksville Landing within walking distance from his newly constructed home overlooking the Cumberland River. John Kimball Smith operated from Red River Landing on the north bank of that river at its confluence with the Cumberland River.

William Cosby and John Kimball remained in Clarksville while Christopher H. Smith split his efforts between the Clarksville tobacco warehouses and landings and New Orleans. There the firm conducted its international commission trading with Christopher H. Smith as the firm's representative in much the same manner as had John Dick earlier in the history of the Clarksville tobacco trade.

Christopher Smith and his brothers continued in the tobacco export business until Christopher Smith's death in New Orleans in 1886 from yellow fever. His body was shipped via steamer back to Clarksville, however, the vessel sank, along with the remains of Christopher Smith, somewhere in route on the Mississippi River.

Following Smith's death in 1886, his wife remained at the home along with one of their daughters. They resided there until Mrs. Smith's death in 1905. The estate was left to a grandson who sold it in 1919. After that the house was used for various rental purposes until 1936 when the house and land were acquired by the City of Clarksville. Plans were made to convert the mansion into the Clarksville Hospital and to use it as a home for nurses working in the nearby hospital. The house was not so used, but was purchased from the city in 1947 by Joseph Trahern and his wife. The house passed from the Traherns to another party briefly until it was

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purchased by the City of Clarksville during the Homecoming 1986 period and turned into a community center.

Smith's house may have been designed by prominent Nashville architect Adolphus Heiman who was working on the Bryce Stewart House in Clarksville in 1859. There are several stylistic similarities between this house and others known to be designed by Heiman. The Smith house, built about 1859, has the porch and entrance that Heiman used later at Elmwood near Nashville in 1861. A similar porch is found on another Heiman house, the Williams Law Murfree House on Vauxhall Place in Nashville. This house has a center pavilion and portico. This feature, as well as the belvedere that Heiman used repeatedly (and according to some became his signature in his country villas), is also a prominent feature of the Smith house, leaving a clear suggestion that the structure was designed or, at a minimum, can be attributed to Heiman's designs.

During the 1850s, when Clarksville was prospering as a result of the tobacco industry, many merchants erected substantial brick residences, however, few of these houses remain. Many were built in the Greek Revival, Italianate, or transitional style. One residence built in 1859 in the city, also built by a tobacco merchant, is Tip Top. It has massive columns with capitals like those on the Smith house and similar proportions. Another 1850s house, Oak Top (NR 7/8/80), combines elements of the Greek Revival and Italianate styles, but it has only a one bay, two story portico supported by Corinthian columns. Brackets, molded lintels, 6/6 double-hung sashes, and an entry with sidelights and transom are prominent details on this house. It does have a metal balcony like the Smith house. The Smith-Hoffman House (NR 8/22/87) is another 1850s house in Clarksville. It is predominantly Greek Revival in style with no elaborate ornamentation. (It was built for William Cosby Smith.) The Christopher H. Smith House compares favorably to all of these houses.

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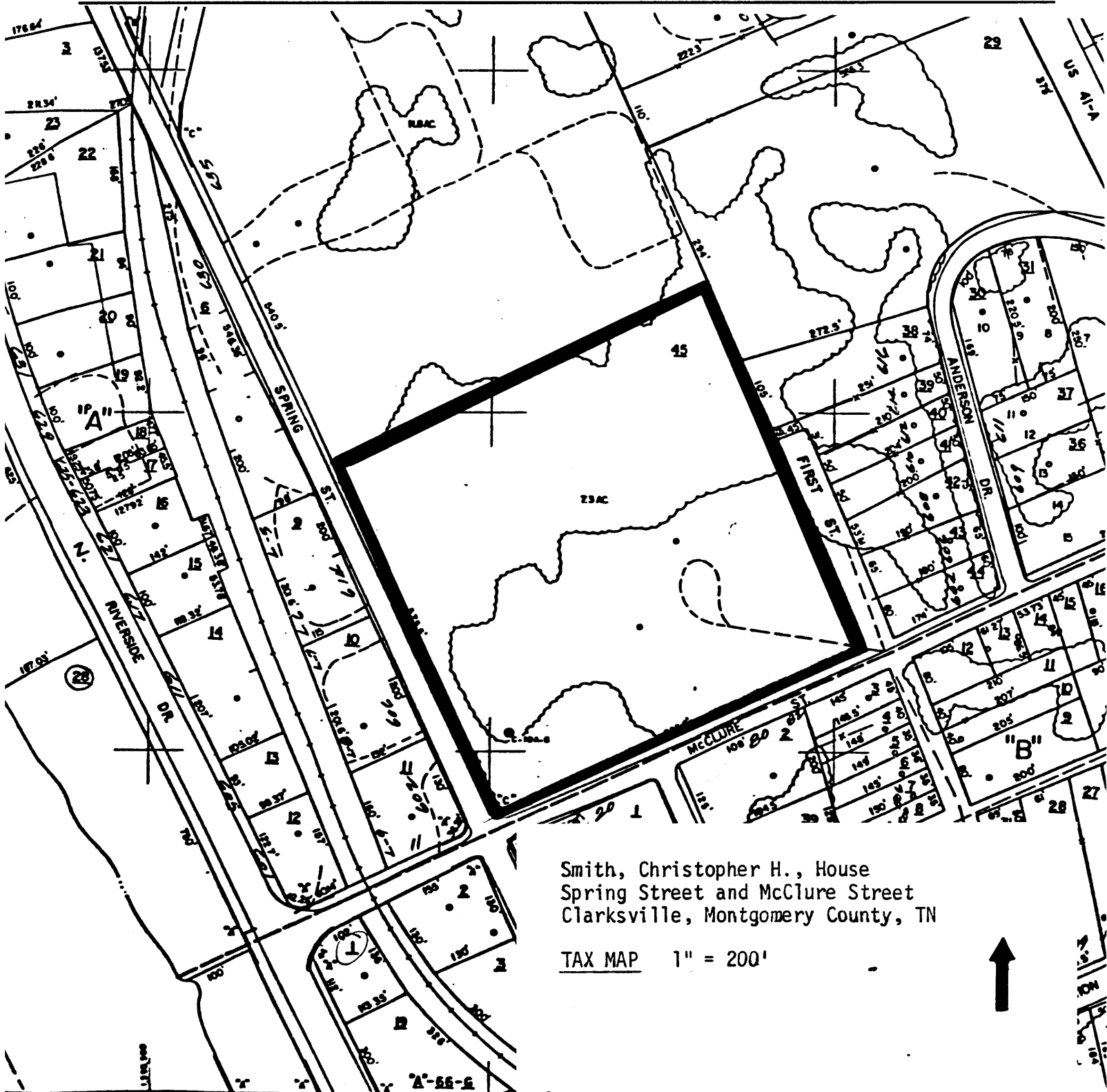
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Smith, Christopher H., House
Spring Street and McClure Street
Clarksville, Montgomery County, TN

TAX MAP 1" = 200'

