

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

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**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received APR 7 1986

date entered MAY 8 1986

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*

Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic George W. Smith House (NEHBS # FM05-31)

and/or common Hughes House

2. Location

street & number West side of 12th Street between I and J Streets NA not for publication

city, town Geneva NA vicinity of

state Nebraska code 31 county Fillmore code 059

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> 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 Fillmore County Bank

street & number 1022 G Street

city, town Geneva NA vicinity of state Nebraska

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Register of Deeds, Fillmore County Courthouse

street & number N/A

city, town Geneva state Nebraska

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Nebraska Historic Buildings Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date On-going federal state county local

depository for survey records Nebraska State Historical Society

city, town Lincoln state Nebraska

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date N/A
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The George W. Smith house is a large frame dwelling of two and one-half stories. The house was built in 1890 in Geneva, Nebraska and is representative of the Queen Anne style of architecture. It is rectangularly shaped in plan and is distinguished by Eastlake details. Distinctive features include a multi-gabled roof, flared second story, and a full frontal, partial side, and small back porch. Walls and gables are textured with decorative panels and siding. The dwelling served as Mr. Smith's home until 1921 and was used as a hospital from 1925 until 1942. A second contributing property is the carriage barn, now converted into a garage, located at the rear of the property. Integrity for both buildings is very high.

George W. Smith's residence is located in Geneva, Nebraska (1980 population: 2400). Geneva was established in 1879 and grew largely as a result of the railroad in 1886. The Smith house was described in 1890, while under construction, to be "the handsomest in the county." (Wilber G. Gaffney, The Fillmore County Story). After completion it was called, "a credit to the town its owner has done so much to build up and improve." (Memorial and Biographical Record of Butler, Polk, Seward, York and Fillmore Counties, Nebraska). The exterior features of the house include walls textured with decoratively carved panels, horizontal wood siding and imbricated shingles. The full frontal porch was originally topped with a balcony for the second floor and had a lattice work base. It has been rebuilt in the last ten years, however, the original turned posts with knobs, spindles, and fan like brackets still remain. The present owners hope to restore the front porch. The small porch located near the back of the house has its original lattice work base. The side porch's balcony still remains. It features diagonally placed spindles on the side rails set off from other diagonally placed members. Pendants are located at the top of the porch between the large turned balusters. Vertical spindles run above this and horizontal panels are between these and the roof line. The facade of this house is characterized by the details of the porch. The large front gable is decorated with three windows that have small multi-colored square lights in the upper sash. These windows are surrounded by diagonal panels which enhance the rest of the gable's surface. Scroll brackets placed at the roof line distinguish the gable from the rest of the facade. The right upper story window is original with two panes placed side-by-side and a paneled arrangement below it. A very prominent chimney projects from the southeast corner of the roof. A large two-story bay window is located on the south side of the house. On the first floor, the center panel has a rectangular pane of stained glass. The other two panels have small multi-colored lights around the top sash border. This is repeated on the window directly opposite the bay. Double doors give access to the entrance of the house. A large open stairway with massive balusters and turned spindles is located in the front foyer. A vertical placed stained glass window is on the wall of the landing. The parlor is entered through pocket doors. The wood within the parlor is cherrywood which is in the floor, moldings, doors, and fireplace. Oak trim is found throughout the rest of the house. Along with the fireplace in the parlor,

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Continuation sheet Description Item number 7 Page 2

two other fireplaces exist in the house. One in the room beyond the parlor and another upstairs in what was originally used as a sitting room. The original icebox is still in the kitchen including the window to the back of the house where the ice was put in.

In 1925 the Smith house was converted to a hospital by Anna Eggenberger, a registered nurse. It remained a hospital until 1942. Currently the house is being used as a residence.

There is a carriage barn located at the rear of the property. It is a simple one-story frame structure with gable roof. Modern garage doors have replaced the original hinged doors.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input 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 1890 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The George W. Smith house is significant in architecture as a fine example of a vernacular Queen Anne style dwelling. This house, built in 1890, is also significant for its association with early Geneva settler, George W. Smith, two time mayor of the town, who also founded a local banking institution and was very influential in platting the expansion of Geneva and promoting the settlement of this southeastern Nebraska community.

George W. Smith was raised on a farm in New York State and led a varied life as a medical student, drug salesman and grocer in New York before coming to Nebraska in 1873. He settled in the four year old town of Geneva and established a loan office which became the predecessor of the Geneva Exchange Bank. In 1888, this bank became the First National Bank of Geneva which was administered by Smith until he sold his assets in 1899 to devote his time to other interests, mainly real estate and investments.

Since his arrival in Geneva, Smith did much to promote growth and settlement in the town. Through his banking business and also as a partner in a land development company, he platted and promoted the sale of building lots in the First and Second Additions to Geneva in the early 1880's. In 1887, he platted a subdivision in his own name which further expanded the town.

The Smith house is significant architecturally as a very good example of the Queen Anne style of architecture. The house, which also displays Eastlake details, stands out as an architectural landmark in this rural Nebraska community which does possess other "high style" structures, though none of this magnitude. The house and vintage carriage barn have been very well preserved and maintain their historic and architectural integrity. This integrity is enhanced by the property's location on a very large tree-shaded lot.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Geneva, Nebr.

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A

1	4	6	1	8	7	9	0	4	4	8	7	2	3	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

This property can be described as the east 1/2 of out lot 20, Original Town of Geneva and includes all of the historically associated property.

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

state NA code county code

state NA code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Janet Jeffries Spencer, Cultural Historian
Michelle Lenser, Student intern, University of Nebraska

organization Nebraska State Historical Society date November, 1984, January, 1986

street & number 1500 R Street telephone 402/471-4767

city or town Lincoln state Nebraska

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 James A. Johnson

title Director, Nebraska State Historical Society date April 1, 1986

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

Entered in the
National Register

for Allois Byer
Keeper of the National Register

date 5/8/86

Attest:

Chief of Registration

date

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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