

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received JAN 30 1984

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Anderson-Smith House

and/or common Whitehaven

2. Location

street & number Lone Oak Road .

n/a not for publication

city, town Paducah

n/a vicinity of

state Kentucky

code 021

county McCracken

code

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input 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 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 type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" 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 Kentucky Department of Transportation

street & number n/a

city, town Frankfort

n/a vicinity of

state Kentucky

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. McCracken County Courthouse

street & number Sixth and Washington Streets

city, town Paducah

state Kentucky

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Survey of Historic Sites in Kentucky has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1977

federal state county local

depository for survey records Kentucky Heritage Council

city, town Frankfort

state Kentucky

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date <u>Constructed 1865</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			<u>remodelled 1903</u>
				<u>restored 1982-83</u>

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Whitehaven is a Classical Revival mansion that has been restored for a state tourist welcome center on a major interstate highway. Whitehaven was originally a large country estate located on the rural Lone Oak Road outside of Paducah. The surrounding area was made up of large country homes belonging to prominent local families. While most of these homes remain, they are now surrounded by subdivision development. In the past twenty years, Lone Oak Road has become a major traffic artery and much of the front yard of Whitehaven has been taken for road expansion. In the late 1970s, Interstate 24 was constructed directly to the east of the house. After years of deterioration, Whitehaven was restored to perfect condition in 1982-83. The setting of Whitehaven was altered with the addition of roadways and parking lots necessary for a tourist welcome center. However, a green space around the mansion and three significant accessory structures were retained. Whitehaven now stands as a spectacular landmark visible from several roads.

In its architectural development, Whitehaven represents the successful transformation of a Victorian farmhouse into a grandiose Classical Revival mansion. The original owner, Edward Anderson, began work on the house in 1859, but it was not completed until 1865. Anderson constructed a simple, two-story brick house with a central doorway and vernacular front porch. The bricks for the house were fired in a pit on the grounds. A separate brick kitchen was constructed behind the main house.

In 1903 the Anderson family sold the house to Edward L. Atkins. Atkins commissioned the Classical Revival remodeling that gives the house its current architectural character. To design the updating, Atkins hired Paducah architect A.L. Lassiter. Lassiter had recently proved his adeptness with working in the Classical Revival style with his outstanding design for the Carnegie Library in downtown Paducah. Lassiter's design for Whitehaven transformed it into one of the most beautiful and up-to-date houses in Western Kentucky. Whitehaven was recognized then, as it is today, as one of the great landmarks of this area.

The most startling change Lassiter made to the house was the addition of a grand Corinthian-columned front portico. The eight massive columns were wood with plaster capitals. A new classical front doorway was added with flat Corinthian-topped pilaster and bevelled glass windows. A balcony was installed above the entranceway.

Extensive use of stained glass was used in the house. The most elaborate window was installed above the staircase landing with the date 1903 placed in it. A mantle with the work WHITEHAVEN carved into it was installed in one of the front parlors. Elaborate plaster ceilings were installed in each of the downstairs rooms and the front hallway. Crown molding was added to the Victorian woodwork above the double pocket doors in each of the two downstairs parlors. Colorful stencilling was added to each of the rooms in the house.

The area between the main house and the kitchen was enclosed and made into a butler's pantry. The exterior of the house was painted white for the first time and the house was named Whitehaven.

In 1908 the house was purchased by Mayor James P. Smith. With his large family, Smith made several additions and changes. Carpenters and decorators from Marshall Field of Chicago were brought to the house. Among the new carpentry additions were a pair of benches in the front hallway, book shelves with bevelled glass doors in the library, and built-in closets in the upstairs bedrooms. The most dramatic change was made to the third floor attic space. This area was converted into a playroom for the Smiths' six children. Double dormer windows were installed to provide light to this area. The walls of the play area were stencilled in an Oriental motif with pagodas and willow trees.

The Smiths later added a carport to the east side of the house, plus a side entranceway and a back staircase.

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/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" 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 Constructed 1865 **Builder/Architect** A.L. Lassiter (1903)

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Whitehaven is a beloved Paducah landmark that has been beautifully restored by the State of Kentucky for a tourist welcome center on Interstate 24. The antebellum house was the home of three prominent Paducah families, the Andersons, Atkins, and Smiths. After years of neglect, the house was purchased by the Kentucky Department of Transportation and transformed into a welcome center for travelers entering into Kentucky and the South. Whitehaven is the only historic house in America that has been restored for an interstate tourist welcome center.

Whitehaven can be classified as the finest example of residential Classical Revival architecture in extreme Western Kentucky. An outstanding quality of materials and craftsmanship went into the construction and remodelling of Whitehaven. The superb restoration work on Whitehaven in the past two years has complimented and increased the architectural quality of the house. Many area residents would simply describe Whitehaven as the most beautiful house around.

Whitehaven possesses great architectural and historical significance. The main portion of the house was built in the 1860s by Edward L. Anderson. The original house was a rather plain two-story brick farmhouse. After Anderson's death in 1872, his land was divided among his children and the tract with the house on it went to Mary Anderson.

The house remained in the Anderson family until 1903 when it was sold to Ed L. Atkins, a cashier at the American German Bank. The McCracken County Deed Books reveal that the property was conveyed to Ed Atkins by Norton B. Anderson on April 7, 1903 for \$4,000.00. Mr. Atkins commissioned his good friend, A.L. Lassiter, to do a complete remodelling of the house. Mr. Lassiter was a Paducah architect who designed such buildings as the Carnegie Library, the Sinnott Hotel and the Fisher Mansion.

In 1908 the house was purchased by James P. Smith, who was then the Mayor of Paducah. Mr. Smith was a prosperous merchant in the wholesale grocery business. The deed books reveal that the house and 57 acres were purchased on May 21, 1908 by the J.R. Smith estate (James P. Smith) from Grace and Ed L. Atkins of Enid, Oklahoma, for \$7,000 cash in hand. The house was described as being 3 miles from the city on the Paducah and Lovelaceville Gravel Road.

James P. Smith is remembered as being one of the most effective mayors in Paducah's history. In a biographical sketch of Mayor Smith, local historian Fred Neuman wrote, "An indefatigable zeal for the city's welfare marked the administration as one of the most successful in the history of the city". Mayor Smith's achievements include building a new downtown fire station, removing political influence from the police and fire departments, increasing wages of city employees, remodelling city hall, and building a tuberculosis sanitarium. After his term as mayor ended in 1911, Smith remained active in Paducah politics and served for several years as Paducah City Manager.

Soon after moving into the house, the Smiths renamed it Bide-A-Wee. Mrs. Smith was Scottish and Bide-A-Wee is Scotch for "Come Rest a While". The word Bide-A-Wee was spelled out in a stained glass window above the front doorway.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Neuman, Fred. Paducahans in History. Paducah: Young Printing Company, 1922.
 Shelton, Elizabeth Smith. Personal Interview. June 19, 1982.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 3/4 acre

Quadrangle name Paducah

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

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

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 Zone Easting Northing

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Verbal boundary description and justification Included in this nomination is the Whitehaven structure, three out buildings - the gazebo, carriage house, and storm shelter - and a 30 foot perimeter surrounding these buildings. Not included in the nomination are the access roads and parking lots surrounding the structures.

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

state	n/a	code	county	code
state		code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Richard Holland, Preservation Director

organization Paducah-McCracken County Growth, Inc.

date August 31, 1983

street & number 126 S. 2nd St., P.O. Box 2632

telephone (502) 443-9284

city or town Paducah

state Kentucky

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

Mary Ann Appel

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date January 27, 1984

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

J. Melrose Byers
 Keeper of the National Register

date 3/1/84

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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The house suffered a great deal of deterioration after the last members of the Smith family left the house in 1968. Water damage and vandalism damaged many of the architectural features of the house. Water leakage damaged many of the interior floors and ceilings and much of the front portico. All of the original stained glass windows, light fixtures, and mantles were removed from the house. Every pane of glass in the house was also broken, except for one small window transom panel. A portion of the east wall also collapsed.

The restoration of Whitehaven began in the summer of 1982. Plans for the restoration were guided by the principle that as much original architectural fabric as possible should be salvaged and reused. Missing pieces were carefully recreated to match the original. While the house was basically restored to its 1903 appearance, some significant additions by the Smith family were retained.

On the exterior, the collapsed east wall was rebuilt with concrete blocks then veneered with original bricks. Pieces of a front column that had fallen into the front yard were rescued and glued together. Over 200 fragments of the plaster capital were also pieced together. The rest of the front portico, the front balcony, and the entranceway were repaired. Exterior window shutters were recreated based on one surviving original shutter. Many of the rooms and porches on the rear of the house were removed.

On the interior of the house, photographs of the original stained glass windows allowed a local craftsman to produce exact duplicates. Surviving portions of the elaborate plaster ceiling details were carefully removed and preserved. After the rebuilding of the ceilings, the original decorative plaster details were returned. Missing details were restored. All of the windows in the house were replaced with historic glass donated by downtown Paducah merchants.

When the restoration of Whitehaven was announced, many of the missing original details of the house were returned. The most significant contribution was the return of the original music room mantle with the word WHITEHAVEN carved into it. Three original light fixtures and the pair of benches added to the front hallway were also brought back. The bevelled glass doors from the library shelves are also being returned.

While the main portion of the house was restored to its early twentieth century appearance, extensive changes were made to the rear kitchen wing. The restrooms and vending machine area necessary for an interstate welcome center were restricted to this section of the house. Two of the original brick exterior walls were kept with one exterior wall and side porch being rebuilt.

Three significant out structures were retained during the Whitehaven restoration. On the west side of the house was a frame gazebo structure sitting over a cistern. Behind the house was a concrete storm shelter built by Mr. Smith in the 1940s. Also behind the house was a brick carriage house that was restored for a storage area. A metal hitching post also was kept.

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The area surrounding the house was landscaped with plants appropriate to the Classical Revival period. The walks leading up to the house were paved with historic Paducah sidewalk bricks salvaged by the local preservation society. An extensive roadway and parking lot system necessary for an interstate welcome center was added surrounding the house. This system has not harmed the integrity of the house though.

Whitehaven remains one of the great landmarks of Kentucky today. It was the outstanding architectural significance of the house that warranted its preservation. The beauty and grandeur of Whitehaven greets thousands of visitors each day.

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Mrs. Smith and her daughter, Elizabeth Smith Shelton, were enthusiastic gardeners. Extensive formal gardens were laid out around the house and the Smiths would have beautiful garden parties here. At one time the gardens at Bide-A-Wee were toured by members of the Garden Club of America

The generosity and hospitality of the Smith family were famous in Paducah. Mrs. Smith was constantly taking food and flowers to the sick and needy. The Smiths' hospitality was especially extended during the 1937 floor when over forty refugees stayed at the house.

Elizabeth Smith Shelton was the last member of the Smith family to live in the house. She left in 1968 when the family believed that the house would be torn down due to the construction of I-24. Although the house was not demolished, it was left empty and a great deal of vandalism took place. All of the original stained glass was removed or stolen, the interior mirrors were destroyed, and most of the doors and windows were broken. Water leakage also damaged much of the ceilings and floors.

In Paducah and the surrounding area, there was great concern about the future of the house. It appeared that the house was doomed until three events took place in the spring of 1981. First, the Smith family sold the house and the property to the Paducah Community College Board. While the Paducah Community College Board was mainly interested in acquiring the property, it was sympathetic to hearing proposals for saving the house. Second, the State of Kentucky reallocated the money for building an I-24 Tourist Welcome Center in the Paducah area. Third, and most important, Kentucky Secretary of Transportation Frank Metts and Governor John Y. Brown threw their entire support to restoring the Smith Mansion for the Tourist Welcome Center instead of building a new one. These three events made possible the saving of the Smith Mansion.

As the new welcome center, the house has been renamed Whitehaven. The Kentucky Department of Transportation believes that Whitehaven is the only historic house in the United States that has been restored for an interstate tourist welcome center. In May, 1983, the Ida Lee Willis Foundation presented the Kentucky Department of Transportation a Preservation Project Award for the restoration of Whitehaven. The house now faces a new and exciting purpose as the official welcoming station for the Commonwealth of Kentucky and all of the South.