

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

For NPS use only

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

received AUG 22 1984
date entered SEP 20 1984

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

1. Name 5DV1487

historic Pierce T. Smith House

and/or common The Old Smith Mansion

2. Location

street & number 1751 Gilpin Street n/a not for publication

city, town Denver n/a vicinity of

state Colorado code 08 county Denver code 031

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 checked="" 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	<u>n/a</u> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<u>n/a</u> 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 (legal owner) OSM Properties (direct correspondence to Charles Welton)

street & number 1751 Gilpin Street

city, town Denver n/a vicinity of state Colorado 80218

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Denver County Courthouse

street & number 1437 Bannock Street

city, town Denver state Colorado 80202

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Colorado Inventory of Historic Sites has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1984 federal state county local

depository for survey records Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, 1300 Broadway

city, town Denver state Colorado 80203

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 _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Smith House is two and one half stories high (rear section is three stories) with an east (front) facade facing on Gilpin Street. The design of the house displays many of the characteristics of the late 19th century Queen Anne style such as irregular plan and multiple roof configurations. The main roof is a combination of steep pitched hip and truncated hip. There are gables on the front, south and rear walls and the circular front porch has a low pitched conical roof. Other Queen Anne elements are the wall surfaces of contrasting materials and textures as seen in the rock faced stone foundation, the smooth faced brick walls and the wood shingles on the gable faces and base of the upper story porch. The three-story bay on the north side, originally terminating in a roofed porch which is now enclosed, is another element often seen on Queen Anne houses. The porch columns, tapered at both ends, rests on panelled blocks, which support the porch railing with balusters that are scaled down versions of the columns. The porch detailing includes heavy over-sized brackets with rounded ends placed beneath the porch eaves which create a large scale dentil effect. The second floor porch is much lighter in feeling. (The porch, previously enclosed, has been restored to its original appearance after determining the shape of the columns and balusters from the ghost marks on the brick walls.) It sits behind the conical roof of the first floor porch and rests on a rectangular base which is faced in scalloped shingles. A low spindle railing encircles the balcony. The hip roof is supported by slender turned wood columns with a spindle frieze under the eaves.

The wide first floor front window contains a stained glass window of contemporary design in the upper arched portion replacing the original which had disappeared. The arch is outlined with rock faced sandstone. Above, on the second floor, are two tall narrow, one over one double hung wooden sash windows which are divided by a mullion resembling a fluted pilaster. Over the top of the window is a spindle screen with narrow bands of brick diapering on either side. The front gable has a decorative barge board supported by over-sized brackets at each end and a small double window in the center. The gable is faced with scalloped shingles.

On the south side of the house there are two chimneys which have been shortened from their original height. Each chimney projects out slightly from the wall and each has two panels of brick diapering, one above the other. There is a metal fire escape extending from the second to third floor. At the west rear of the house there is a two-story stuccoed addition dating from 1938, a replacement for the original two-story wooden back porch.

The interior of the Smith House is an excellent example of late 19th century craftsmanship. There is extensive golden oak trim throughout the first and second floors. Most of the front hall panelling, stair balusters, wide baseboards and door and window frames had been painted. When the building was renovated for office use in 1983, all paint was removed and the woodwork restored to its original appearance. The missing elements were milled to duplicate the original.

Sometime between 1913 and 1926, the house was extensively remodeled to create small apartments and by 1927 it contained eleven units. When the old apartment partitions were removed during renovation, three wide double doorways were discovered connecting the front parlor, back parlor and dining room. Two of these had their original double pocket doors which have been restored and the doors for the third doorway are in the process of being duplicated.

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One of the outstanding interior features is the oak stairway in the entry hall. The base of the steps has deep set panelling which blends with the original painted front door. One newell post cap and three stair balusters were missing and have been duplicated.

The woodwork surrounding the fireplaces and overmantels in the front and second parlors has been stripped and the missing tiles surrounding the opening of the second parlor fireplace have been replaced.

When the house was constructed, a two and one-half story brick barn was built at the rear of the property. Later, it was converted into a garage and eventually fell into such disrepair that under an order from the Denver Building Department, the structure was torn down in July 1935. The backyard has now been paved and is used for parking for the tenants of the building.

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 type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input 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 1891 **Builder/Architect** Architect & Builder: Glen W. Huntington

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Pierce T. Smith House, constructed in 1891, is significant for its architectural design representing the Queen Anne style in its basic form.

The Queen Anne characteristics of the Smith House are seen in the complex roof combining steeply pitched hip, truncated hip, gable and conical. They are also found in the contrasting textures and materials used on the exterior wall surfaces. Porches and bays are other important elements of the Queen Anne house. The Smith House has three porches, one now enclosed is at the top of the bay on the north side of the house and the other two are on the front facade. The one-story circular front porch, with its conical roof is reminiscent of the towers which were found on many earlier Queen Anne houses. The elements of the front porch include porch columns that resemble heavy table legs and over-sized eave bracketing.

The interior of the house contains much fine golden oak woodwork and is a good example of the excellent craftsmanship available for upper-middle class home construction in the 1890s.

The original owner/occupant of the house was Dr. Pierce T. Smith, a dentist who came to Denver ca. 1880. He first practiced with Dr. Edward Lawrence in an office on Larimer Street, but soon went on his own in an office in the Tabor Opera House Building at 16th and Curtis streets. In 1891, Smith formed a partnership with H.A. Fynn and a few years later with Ben A. McGee. For reasons unknown, Smith left dental practice ca. 1899 to become the vice-president and general manager of the International Mining Exchange.¹

Dr. Smith moved from 1751 Gilpin to 1451 High Street ca. 1894 and from that time to 1913, the owners or occupants of the house are unknown.² On May 19, 1913, the house was bought by Mrs. Pauline Youngberg and sometime between 1913 and 1926, it was converted to a four unit rooming house.³ In 1927, the house was known as the Woodbine Apartments and contained eleven units. The name had changed to the King Apartments by 1929.⁴

The builder of the Smith House, Glen W. Huntington, was one of the city's most prolific residential builder/architects.⁵ He came to Denver in 1880 and was associated with James C. Mosier, a builder in the late 1880s constructing houses in the Whittier Neighborhood. From the late 1890s to ca. 1906, Huntington worked in the office of William C. Fisher, one of Denver's most prominent architects, and then established his own practice. One of Huntington's best known non-residential buildings is Denver Fire Station Number One (1910) on Tremont Street, listed in the National Register and a designated Denver Landmark.

9. Major Bibliographical References

(see attached)

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than 1

Quadrangle name Englewood

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Lots 18 & 19 and the S. 1/4 of L 20
Block 41, McCullough's Hill Addition to the City of Denver

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 Charles Welton, Attorney; and Barbara Norgren
organization Davidovich & Welton
Partner OSM Properties; Preservationist date
street & number 1751 Gilpin Street telephone (303) 333-8447
7453 E. Jefferson Dr. telephone (303) 740-7860
city or town Denver state Colorado 80218
Denver state Colorado 80237

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 Barbara Sudler

title State Historic Preservation Officer date 8-14-84

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

for [Signature] Entered in the National Register date 9-20-84
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: date

Chief of Registration

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¹Denver City Directory, 1880 - 1900.

²Ibid. 1894, 1895.

³Denver Tax Assessor Office, Master Property Books, microfilm: McCullough's Hill.

⁴Denver Householder Directory, 1926 - 1929.

⁵Denver Building Department, Building Permit Application #747, 5/26/1891.

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Denver City Directory, 1880-1900.

Ibid.1894, 1895.

Denver Tax Assessor Office, Master Property Books, microfilm: McCullough's Hill.

Denver Householder Directory, 1926-1929.

Denver Building Department, Building Permit Application #747, 5/26/1891.