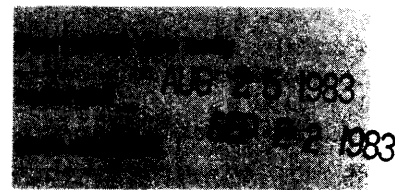


**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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



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

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OCT 04 1982

1. Name

historic Smith and Clark Brothers Ranch House and Grounds OHP
and/or common Willard Smith Home

2. Location

street & number 18922 Santiago Boulevard N/A not for publication
city, town Villa Park N/A vicinity of congressional district 35th
state California code 06 county Orange code 059

3. Classification

Category <input type="checkbox"/> district <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) <input type="checkbox"/> structure <input type="checkbox"/> site <input type="checkbox"/> object	Ownership <input type="checkbox"/> public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private <input type="checkbox"/> both Public Acquisition <input type="checkbox"/> in process <input type="checkbox"/> being considered N/A	Status <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied <input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> work in progress Accessible <input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted <input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	Present Use <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> educational <input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> museum <input type="checkbox"/> park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence <input type="checkbox"/> religious <input type="checkbox"/> scientific <input type="checkbox"/> transportation <input type="checkbox"/> other:
-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

4. Owner of Property

name G. Abbott and Levora R. Smith
street & number 10341 South Center Street
city, town Villa Park N/A vicinity of state California 92667

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Orange County Recorder
street & number 630 North Broadway
city, town Santa Ana state California 92701

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title N/A has this property been determined eligible? yes no
date _____ _____ federal _____ state _____ county _____ local
depository for survey records _____
city, town _____ state _____

7. Description

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

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Smith and Clark Brothers Ranch House and Grounds is located on the southerly side of the 18000 block of Santiago Boulevard in Villa Park, California. Although this one acre parcel is surrounded by modern tract and estate residential lots, it is well buffered by high hedges, block walls and heavy landscaping. These features cause the property to be very introspective. Standing within this property the viewer is impressed by the appearance of an interesting island of Orange County's bygone agricultural lifestyle.

The property contains a main house and four outbuildings clustered close together within the site's westerly half. The main house is a single story, wood frame structure with concrete foundations. It is of the time generally known as the Victorian, although its general simplicity reflects the pioneer era of its 1881 construction date. The house is regular in design forming a slight "L" shape. The roof is a plain gable type with wall sidings composed of wide, horizontal boards. Most of the detailing is associated with the tall, vertical windows which include rounded arched sashes and bracketed decorative hoods. The remaining trimwork is reserved in nature. The original front veranda has been enclosed with screens in a manner acceptable with the rest of the building and almost unnoticeable. The interior and its furnishings continue to retain the basic ranch house atmosphere.

The four outbuildings are also of wood frame construction and while they vary in size and use, all remain within the same style and scale of the main building. A "wash house" appeared in 1911 followed in 1915 by two other structures called the "Bear House" and the "Gym." A garage was included in the 1950s. All of these and the main house are painted white and are in excellent physical condition.

The adjacent grounds contain a wide number of mature trees of different types. For instance, the graveled driveway is lined with several forty foot palm trees which

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led up to the base of a spreading Morton Bay Fig tree said to have been planted in 1899. In the easterly half of the property, a grass area has been laid out with a fish pond and artificial running stream. This grass area is surrounded by various native or imported trees, including a number of mature California Oaks, palm and pepper trees which photographic evidence indicates were planted around the turn of the century.

The property is currently in private hands and under the ownership of the same family which originally constructed the main house in 1881. The owners manage the property with a strong commitment to the preservation of the historic values associated with the buildings and grounds.

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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input 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 checked="" 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 1881

Builder/Architect

unknown

Statement of Significance (In one paragraph)

The Smith and Clark Brothers Ranch House stands as a one-hundred year old reminder of Orange County's pioneer past. The surrounding landscaped grounds have grown out of the planting and related design activities from the 1890s to the 1930s. Age is a major factor in determining the significance of this property; it is one of the last remnants of the early settlement history of the local area. The main ranch house is a simple, wood frame building with Victorian ornamentation popular at the time of its construction. This was typical of pioneer era buildings throughout the Villa Park-Orange community.¹ "Today the house is basically the same structure," comments local historian Louise Booth, "and probably the oldest house in town that has had little change and has been occupied continuously by the same family."²

This early ranch house and surrounding grounds is, not surprisingly, closely associated with the founding and settlement of Villa Park. James M. Smith purchased this property in 1878 shortly after the area had been surveyed and offered for sale as the Lotspeich Tract (1876). Smith brought his wife, Sophronia, and her two sons by a previous marriage, Orange I. Clark and Abbott B. Clark. Later in March 1882, Willard Smith was born in the main house. The first Villa Park School conducted classes in a small shed which no longer stands on this property in 1880.

The Smith and Clark Brothers contributed in both an unique and interesting way to the agricultural development of Southern California. This property is the remainder

9. Major Bibliographical References

(See Continuation Sheet)

10. Geographical Data

Acree of nominated property 0.833 acre

Quadrangle name Orange

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

1	1	4	2	5	9	0	0	3	7	4	1	6	5	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 A portion of Lot 5 of the Lotspech Tract (1876) located on the south side of Santiago Boulevard beginning at the NW property corner southerly 222 feet thence in an irregular line northeasterly 350 feet thence westerly along Santiago Boulevard 247 feet to the beginning. Boundaries encompass the remaining

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries limits of the historic resource, and are shown on the code accompanying map.
state N/A code county N/A code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Paul F. Clark, Secretary

organization Orange Community Historical Society date September, 1982

street & number 224 Glenview Place telephone (714) 787-6564

city or town Orange state California 92668

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Km 9lln

title State Historic Preservation Officer date 6/29/83

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

Luisa McCluskey date 9.22.83
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

Chief of the National Register

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of the once 62 acre Smith and Clark Brothers Orchards. Most of this establishment included citrus acreage, but also a substantial nursery was maintained where horticultural experiments were conducted by Willard Smith and the two Clark brothers. By 1910 the two Clark brothers became associated with the Theosophical community at Point Loma near San Diego. It was at Point Loma that Orange and Abbott Clark engaged in pioneer research which laid the foundation for other horticultural work at such California agricultural institutions as the University of California's experimental station at Riverside. The importance of this Villa Park site in agricultural history lies not only as the place where the Clark brothers learned the art of horticulture, but also as the location where Point Loma obtained its first successful citrus stock.³ Willard Smith also contributed to regional agricultural development by his research into the effects and mitigations for the Santa Ana winds on citrus groves."⁴ The existing landscaping surrounding the current property was laid out by Smith and his two half-brothers beginning at the turn of the century. The existing trees and landscape features were completed in the 1930s. The trees have now matured to provide a striking landscaped setting which captures the feeling of the early Orange County ranch lifestyle.

It is now important to focus more closely on Willard Smith, who resided at this location all his life and after 1910 assumed the day to day management of the Smith and Clark Orchards. Smith made contributions to county and state wide commerce and government concerns. He served as one of the original organizers and first president of the Villa Park Orchards Association. He was president from 1913 until

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1959. He acted as that organization's representative to the Orange County Fruit Exchange, and was the Exchange's Chairman for over thirty-five years. Smith served also as a member of the Board of Directors of the California Fruit Growers Exchange during the 1920s. This position of prominence in the area's commercial affairs eventually led to Smith's election to the Orange County Board of Supervisors. He is believed not only to have served the longest term on the Board in Orange County, but one of the longest in the state - thirty-three years. Smith's membership on the Board was from 1922 until 1955. He was also chairman for many years. He also represented the Board and acted as president of the California Supervisor's Association. In summary, comments historian Thomas B. Talbert, "Willard Smith, lifetime resident, with his wife Edna (Lee) Smith constantly beside him, has given professional and voluntary services unstintingly to Orange County development."⁵

Notes

¹ See forthcoming results of the Orange Historic Resources Survey, Summer 1982.

² Louise Booth, Villa Park: Then and Now, (Villa Park Historical Society: Santa Ana), 1976, pp. 22-23.

³ Emmett A. Greenwalt, The Point Loma Community in California, 1897-1942: A Theosophical Experiment, (University of California Press: Berkeley), 1955, p. 129.

⁴ Ibid., p. 130, and Willard Smith, "Wind Damage and its Prevention," The California Citrograph (February 1924).

⁵ Thomas B. Talbert, Historical Volume and Reference Works, Vol. III (Historical Publishing Co." Whittier), 1963, p. 559.

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Greenwalt, Emmett A. The Point Loma Community in California, 1897-1942. 1955

Pleasants, J.E. History of Orange County. 1931.

Talbert, Thomas B. Historical Volume and Reference Works. 1963.

Interview with Edna Lee Smith by Fern Colman, 1970, The Oral History Program,
California State University, Fullerton.

SKETCH MAP

SMITH AND CLARK BROTHERS RANCH HOUSE
AND GROUNDS

18922 Santiago Boulevard
Villa Park, Orange County, CA

- 1 -- Main House
- 2 -- Wash House
- 3 -- Bear House
- 4 -- Gym
- 5 -- Garage
- 6 -- Morton Bay Fig (Rubber) Tree

