

1294

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

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 Robert Shand Smith House
other names/site number The Pines

2. Location

street & number 902 South Spring Street (State Route 47)
city, town Washington () vicinity of
county Wilkes code 317
state Georgia code GA zip code 30673

() not for publication

3. Classification

Ownership of Property:

- (x) private
() public-local
() public-state
() public-federal

Category of Property:

- (x) building(s)
() district
() site
() structure
() object

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing

Noncontributing

buildings	2	2
sites	0	0
structures	0	0
objects	0	0
total	2	2

Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: N/A

Name of previous listing: N/A

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

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 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 the National Register criteria. () See continuation sheet.



Signature of certifying official

9-10-02

Date

 W. Ray Luce
Historic Preservation Division Director
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

In my opinion, the property () meets () does not meet the National Register criteria. () See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

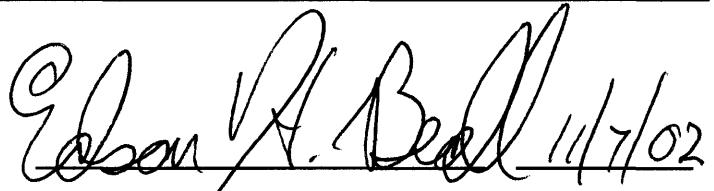
Date

State or Federal agency or bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

() entered in the National Register

 11/17/02

() determined eligible for the National Register

() determined not eligible for the National Register

() removed from the National Register

() other, explain:

() see continuation sheet

 Keeper of the National Register

Date

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions:

Domestic: single dwelling

Current Functions:

Domestic: single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

Mid-19th Century: Greek Revival

Materials:

foundation	Brick
walls	Wood: weatherboard
roof	Asphalt
other	Glass

Description of present and historic physical appearance:

The Robert Shand Smith House is a large, Greek Revival-style house located on South Spring Street on the south side of the city of Washington in Wilkes County, Georgia. The 21-acre property includes the main house, built c.1854, a historic shed, and two nonhistoric sheds. Much of the property is open pasture with scattered hardwood trees, including oaks, hollies, and grove of pecan trees north and west of the house. Wills Memorial Hospital is located to the north and to the south is the Willis-DuBose-Barnett House, an antebellum Greek Revival-style house.

The Robert Shand Smith House is a two-story, three-bay frame house built in the Greek Revival style with additions to the rear and south sides (photos 1-5). Constructed in c.1854, the Smith house is clad in weatherboard and covered with a side-gable roof. The north gable end features a full return that forms a stylized Greek temple front (photo 4). The house is distinguished by the two-story portico that occupies the center bay (photo 3). The portico is supported by Doric posts and surmounted by a pedimented roof and wide entablature. The first- and second-floor entrances feature identical Greek Revival-style surrounds, which include sidelights and transom, and heavy molded entablatures. An entrance on the north side of the house also features a Greek Revival-style surround, which is sheltered by a gable-roofed porch (photo 4). The six-over-six-light sash windows feature plain surrounds, molded hoods, and wood shutters.

Although from the exterior the house appears like a typical Georgian-plan house with four rooms divided by a center hall, the Smith house features an unusual floor plan. Rather than four principal rooms, the main block includes two large parlors separated by a central hall (photos 6-8). A stair hall set perpendicular to the center hall is located across the back of the house (photo 10). The rear stair

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Section 7--Description

hall, which provides access to the second floor, is longer and wider than the center hall. The formal front rooms can be isolated from the rear service spaces by pocket doors at the end of the center hall.

The first-floor plan is repeated on the second floor with two bedrooms located across the front of the house (photos 11-12). In about 1900, the north end of the stair hall was enclosed to create a dressing room. The great-granddaughter of Robert Shand Smith, who was born in 1914 and grew up in the house, remembered the dressing room from her earliest memory. The dressing room was converted to a bathroom in the 1930s.

Many of the original interior finishes throughout the main block survive intact, such as wood floors and plaster walls. The molded door surrounds with pyramidal corner blocks and the two-panel doors are also original (photos 6-8 and 10). The windows feature similar surrounds with paneled aprons (photo 7). The south parlor includes a jib window that opens onto the front porch. The fireplace mantels in the first-floor parlors and the two second-floor bedrooms are original (7-8 and 12). The plain Greek Revival-style mantels are characterized by a wide entablature supported by Doric pilasters. In the parlor mantels, the heavy Greek proportions are relieved by recessed panels in the frieze and pilasters. The crown molding was added in 1967.

Several additions have been made to the house since it was built in the middle of the 19th century. In the 1870s or 1880s, the addition on the southwest corner of the main block was built (photos 1-2 and 5). This two-story addition features one room on each floor and a chimney across the west side so each room is heated by a fireplace. In c.1900, the Smiths built a nursery on the south side of the earlier addition (photo 9). The nursery is heated by a chimney on the south gable end. Both rooms are joined across the front by a shed-roofed porch with ornate jigsawn brackets and balusters.

The kitchen, which is located in a rear addition behind the back stair hall, was built in c.1940 and was extensively remodeled in the late 1960s (photo 5). The kitchen was built in the location of the original rear ell, which was connected to the main house by a covered breezeway. Also in the late 1960s, a small rear porch located north of the kitchen was converted to a laundry room. In 1967, a carport was built on the rear of the house. Its shallow-pitched gable roof is supported by large brick piers (photo 5).

The Robert Shand Smith House includes three outbuildings and open pasture land. Located directly behind the main house is a small historic frame outbuilding built about 1920 (photo 13). Described by a Smith family member as a barn, it measures 12 by 16-feet and is clad in weatherboard and covered with a side-gabled roof with exposed rafter ends. The door is centered on the east end facing the house. A shed-roofed addition was built on the west side. Its small size and configuration make it more likely to have been used as a shed rather than a barn.

The two noncontributing outbuildings are located further from the house and outbuilding complex. A large equipment shed is located in the pasture area west of the main house (photo 14). It features an open front and sides for farm equipment storage. The second noncontributing outbuilding is an

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agricultural shed. It is located southwest of the main house (no photo). Both noncontributing sheds are less than fifty years of age.

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): N/A

A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions):

Architecture

Period of Significance:

c.1854 – c.1940

Significant Dates:

c.1854 – Robert Shand Smith House constructed.
c.1940 – Kitchen addition built on the rear of the house.

Significant Person(s):

N/A

Cultural Affiliation:

N/A

Architect(s)/Builder(s):

Unknown

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Section 8--Statement of Significance

Statement of significance (areas of significance)

In 1954, Wilbur Zelinsky, writing in the *Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians*, observed that some of Georgia's largest concentrations of Greek Revival-style houses are found in Washington, Wilkes County and its vicinity. The city's location at the intersection of major transportation corridors and its good soils resulted in Washington's rise as a local center for cotton production and shipping. The area's growth and prosperity in the decades before the Civil War are evident in its surviving antebellum architecture, especially its colonnaded Greek Revival-style houses.

The Robert Shand Smith House represents the concentration of wealth and the prosperity that existed in Washington, Wilkes County and the South before the Civil War. The Smith house is significant at the state level in the area of architecture as an outstanding example of Greek Revival-style architecture in Georgia. Contrary to the popular image of the state, relatively few houses were built in the Greek Revival style in Georgia. Most were constructed in towns rather than on rural plantations. By the 1840s, according to *Georgia's Living Places: Historic Houses and their Landscaped Settings*, Georgia was completely settled, and the Greek Revival style, used from the 1840s to the 1860s, became the first architectural style to appear statewide. A statement of cultural independence, the Greek Revival was clear break with English and other European Renaissance building traditions. The style was a romantic revival that drew directly from the original source. It was a sentimental imitation of the architecture of ancient Greece, which provided a young nation with associations of Greek democracy. The Greek Revival style, which is thought of as a national style, was used extensively throughout the United States at every level of society.

The Robert Shand Smith House features the basic characteristics of the Greek Revival style. The main façade is dominated by a two-story portico with a shallow-pitched triangular pediment supported by square Doric posts. The full return in the north gable end forms a stylized Greek temple front. The first- and second-floor center-bay entrances on the main façade are set within identical Greek Revival-style surrounds, which include sidelights and transom, and heavy molded entablatures. The heavy proportions of the architraves are matched on the fireplace mantels, especially the mantel in the south second-floor bedroom.

The central-hall plan of the Robert Shand Smith House is unusual because it includes a larger rear stair hall that runs the full length of the house. Although its exact purpose is not known, the back stair hall may have used to confine servants to the rear of the house and isolate the front parlors from the daily activities of the household. The Willis-DuBose-Barnett House on the adjoining property to the south also features a central-hall plan with a back stair hall. The Willis-DuBose-Barnett House was built in the 1830s and then dramatically altered in the 1850s to include a Greek Revival-style portico and a rear stair hall. James DuBose, who owned the house from the late 1820s until his death in 1867, carved out a parcel of land for Robert Shand Smith to build a house. Although both DuBose and Smith built houses with the unusual rear stair hall, it is not known who influenced whom in the design and layout of their houses.

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Section 8--Statement of Significance

National Register Criteria

C –The Robert Shand Smith House is significant in the area of architecture as an excellent antebellum example of Greek Revival-style architecture in Georgia.

Criteria Considerations (if applicable)

N/A

Period of significance (justification)

The period of significance begins with the construction of the house in c.1854 and ends in c.1940 when the rear kitchen addition was built. The kitchen is the last historic alteration to the house.

Contributing/Noncontributing Resources (explanation, if necessary)

The two contributing resources associated with this nomination are the Robert Shand Smith House and the historic shed located to the rear of the house. The two noncontributing buildings are outbuildings less than fifty years of age. The larger of the two is located in the center of the pasture west of the main house. The smaller noncontributing outbuilding is located southwest of the main house and is surrounded by a fence.

Developmental history/historic context (if appropriate)

Robert Shand Smith was born April 11, 1815 in Charleston, South Carolina. In about 1835, Robert married Violetta Mouzon of Charleston. Smith had several children with Violetta, who died in c.1840. Robert married Susan Mary Muncreef Dart on April 6, 1843. Susan was born August 4, 1805 in Charleston, South Carolina. Susan Dart descended from the prominent Motte family of Charleston. Her great-grandfather was Jacob Motte (born in November 1700 in Dublin, Ireland and June 20, 1770 in Charleston), who for thirty years was public treasurer of South Carolina. (The Jacob Motte House is located at 61 Tradd Street in Charleston.) Susan Dart had several children from her first marriage to William Vance II, who died in 1838. Robert and Susan had two children, Susan Mary Smith, born April 24, 1845 and Robert Motte Smith, born May 16, 1849.

In about 1854, James DuBose, a prominent Wilkes County lawyer, gave Robert Smith a 75-acre portion of his adjacent estate, which is located south on Spring Street. Robert Shand Smith likely built his house and moved in with his family that same year. A June 8, 1855 entry in Smith's diary reads: "A beautiful day. This day a year ago we moved home and we have spent a very pleasant year and have a great deal to be thankful for. Our family both white and black have enjoyed good health and we have not had cause to call a physician but once or twice and that was to some of the children that were a little indisposed. What shall I render unto the Lord for all his benefits toward me." The property was first known as The Pines because of its location in a dense stand of pine trees.

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 8--Statement of Significance

Robert Shand Smith, according to his great-granddaughter, was gentleman farmer. He grew cotton and raised cattle and horses, but because he owned only 75 acres it was not a major agricultural operation. Smith came from a wealthy family and agriculture remained a leisure pursuit. Another of Smith's leisure activities was his involvement in the Methodist Church in Washington. For many years he served as church secretary and as a church steward.

Robert Shand Smith died on March 31, 1887 in Washington. His wife, Susan Dart Smith, died on October 20, 1880 in Washington. Their son, Robert Motte Smith, who spent most of his childhood in the Smith house, married his first cousin Sarah Louise Gronin in June of 1877. The couple inherited the Smith property. Robert Motte Smith worked for many years as an insurance agent in Washington with the Union Central Life Insurance Company. The couple had twelve children, eight of whom lived to adulthood. Like his father, Robert Motte Smith was active in the Washington Methodist Church as a church steward. He also served on the committee that planned the construction of the Washington First United Methodist Church at 102 West Liberty Street in 1907. Robert Motte Smith continued some of his father's agricultural pursuits and was a member of the East Wilkes Club. This agricultural organization was founded in March 1884 by Wilkes County farmers interested in encouraging agricultural diversification. Robert Motte Smith died on March 2, 1923.

The son of Robert and Sarah Smith, Marion Vance Smith, was born on January 14, 1892. Marion inherited the property and was the last Smith to reside in the Robert Shand Smith House. Marion married Fanida Rhodes on September 19, 1936. Following Marion's death in 1967, Fanida sold the property to Dr. and Mrs. Carlton W. Hearn, the current property owners. The Hearns reared their children in the Smith house and have occasionally used the open fields for pasture.

9. Major Bibliographic References

- Hearn, Barbara. Interview by John A. Kissane. March 1999.
- Kissane, John. Robert Shand Smith House. National Register of Historic Places Registration Form. On file at the Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta, Georgia.
- Newsome, Jane R. *At Home in Washington-Wilkes*. Washington, Georgia: Wilkes Publishing Company, Inc., 1986.
- Skinner, Lillian. Great-granddaughter of Robert Shand Smith. Interviews by John A. Kissane. July and October 1999.
- Wilkes County Deed Records.
- Wilkes County Tax Records.
- Willingham, Robert M., Jr. *We Have This Heritage: The Story of Wilkes County Georgia, Beginnings to 1860*. Washington, Georgia: Wilkes Publishing Company, 1969.
- Work Projects Administration. *The Story of Washington-Wilkes*. Athens, Georgia: The University of Georgia Press, 1941.
- Zelinsky, Wilbur. "The Revival House in Georgia." *Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians* 13(1954): 9-12.

Previous documentation on file (NPS): (x) N/A

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been issued
date issued:
- 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 #

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State Agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other, Specify Repository:

Georgia Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): WS-W-464

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 21.5 acres

UTM References

- | | | | |
|----|---------|----------------|------------------|
| A) | Zone 17 | Easting 338400 | Northing 3733150 |
| B) | Zone 17 | Easting 338680 | Northing 3733110 |
| C) | Zone 17 | Easting 338590 | Northing 3732710 |
| D) | Zone 17 | Easting 338300 | Northing 3732770 |

Verbal Boundary Description

The National Register boundary is indicated by a heavy black line on the attached map, which is drawn to scale.

Boundary Justification

The National Register boundary follows the current legal boundary and contains the Robert Shand Smith House and three outbuildings on 21 acres. The Smith estate originally totaled 75-acres.

11. Form Prepared By

State Historic Preservation Office

name/title Steven H. Moffson, Architectural Historian
organization Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources
mailing address 156 Trinity Avenue, S.W., Suite 101
city or town Atlanta **state** Georgia **zip code** 30303
telephone (404) 656-2840 **date** September 1, 2002
e-mail steven_moffson@dnr.state.ga.us

Consulting Services/Technical Assistance (if applicable) () not applicable

name/title John A. Kissane,
organization (historic preservation consultant)
mailing address 310 Three Oaks Drive
city or town Athens **state** GA **zip code** 30607
telephone N/A
e-mail N/A

- property owner**
 consultant
 regional development center preservation planner
 other:

Property Owner or Contact Information

name (property owner or contact person) Dr. Carlton Hearn
organization (if applicable) N/A
mailing address 902 South Spring Street
city or town Washington **state** GA **zip code** 30673
e-mail (optional) N/A

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Photographs

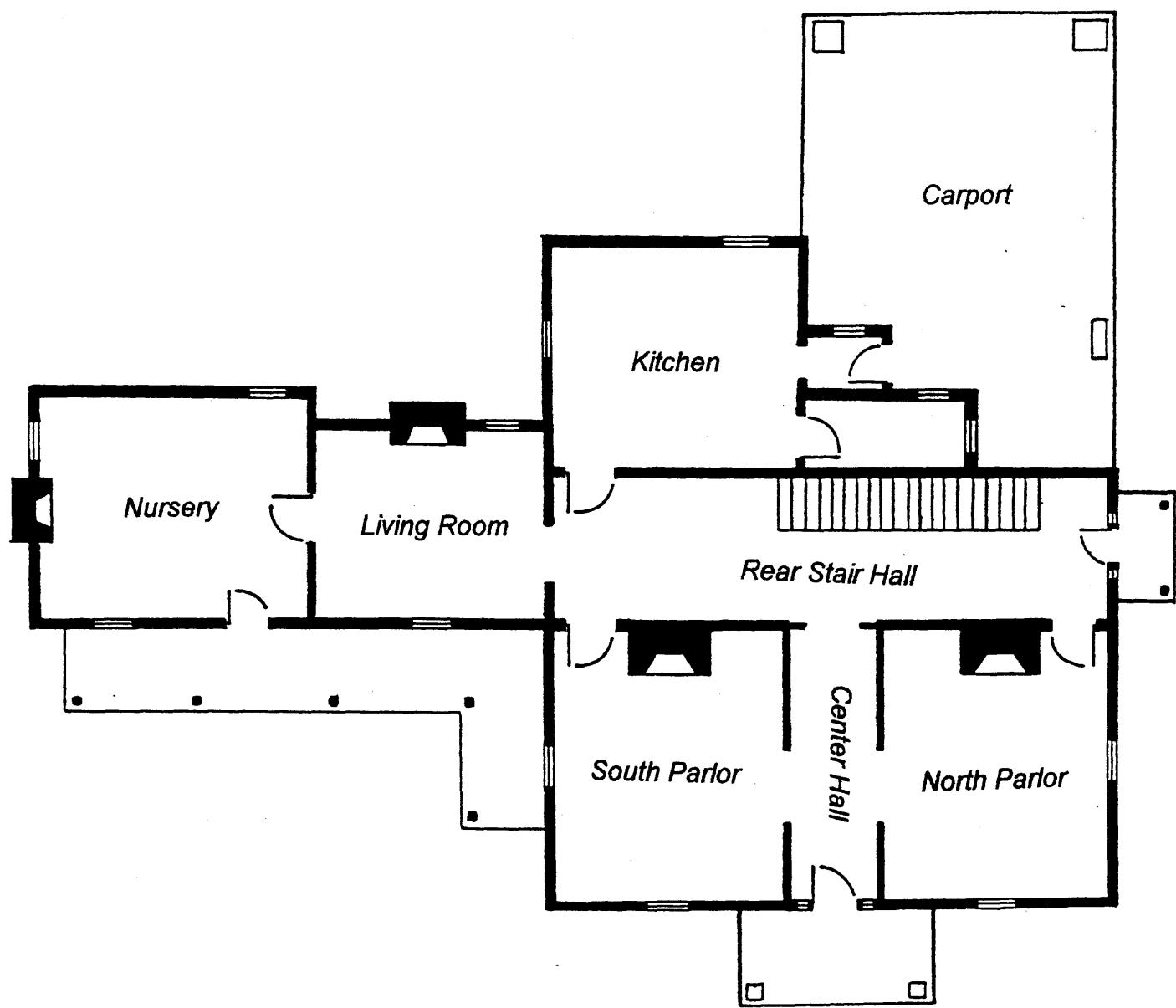
Name of Property: Robert Shand Smith House
City or Vicinity: Washington
County: Wilkes
State: Georgia
Photographer: James R. Lockhart
Negative Filed: Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Date Photographed: January 2000

Description of Photograph(s):

Number of photographs: 14

1. South and main facades, photographer facing northeast.
2. Main façade, photographer facing west.
3. Main façade, photographer facing west.
4. Main and north facades, photographer facing southwest.
5. Rear facades with shed (extreme right), photographer facing east.
6. Interior, center hall, photographer facing west.
7. Interior, north parlor, photographer facing northwest.
8. Interior, south parlor, photographer facing southwest.
9. Interior, nursery, photographer facing southwest.
10. Interior, rear stair hall, photographer facing south.
11. Interior, second-floor stair hall, photographer facing north.
12. Interior, second-floor (south) bedroom, photographer facing northwest.
13. Shed, photographer facing northwest.
14. Equipment shed, photographer facing west.

(HPD WORD form version 11-03-01)



Robert Shand Smith House
Washington, Wilkes County, Georgia
Main Floor Plan

No Scale

North →