

PH 0508446

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED OCT 31 1977
DATE ENTERED FEB 8 1978

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC Thomas Smith House

AND/OR COMMON
Same

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
524 Cross Main Street

CITY, TOWN New Castle VICINITY OF CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 06

STATE Kentucky CODE 021 COUNTY Henry CODE 103

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
			<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
W. T. McConnell

STREET & NUMBER
524 Cross Main Street

CITY, TOWN New Castle VICINITY OF STATE Kentucky

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Henry County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER
CITY, TOWN New Castle STATE Kentucky

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
Survey of Historic Sites in Kentucky

DATE 1971
FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS
Kentucky Heritage Commission

CITY, TOWN Frankfort STATE Kentucky

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 _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Thomas Smith House is located on Main Cross Street in the rural community of New Castle, the county seat of Henry County. New Castle, in the center of the county, retains several early 19th century residences, as well as a number of fine late 19th century structures, including the Henry County Courthouse (listed on the National Register April 1977).

The house is a five-bay, two-story brick structure on a stone foundation. The facade is laid in Flemish bond with queen closers at the corners, while the sides and back are laid in common bond. Paired interior brick chimneys are located at the ends. The structure, which is large in scale and almost square, is capped by a very low hipped roof (see photo 1).

The front entrance, in the center bay, is composed of a delicate elliptical fanlight flanked by four pane sidelights. Grooved moldings with rosettes in the corner blocks outline the entrance (see photo 2). A one-story Greek Revival porch, supported by paired Ionic columns frames the entrance. Situated directly above the entrance is a Palladian window (see photo 3). The facade openings have nine-over-six pane sash with jack arches above and narrow stone lintels below. Extending around the house is a large boxed cornice which appears to have been added at a later date since the frieze of the cornice covers the arches above the second floor openings. Narrow basement windows, located below the first floor openings, have been obscured by a flower bed which has been planted across the front. Regular nine-over-six openings are placed at each end of the sides as well (see photo 4). The rear fenestration includes a round arched opening set below the line of second floor windows in the center. The window, which reflects the Palladian window in the facade, lights the stairway. A narrow brick smokestack projects forward from the wall surface to the right of the opening. A one-story brick room, which appears to be original, extends off the south side of the back. Adjoining the room on the north is a new one-story, screened-in porch which spans the rear of the house (see photo 5).

The floor plan of the house is composed of a central hall with two rooms off each side. The hall is quite expansive and contains a graceful semicircular staircase with low risers in the northeast corner. The stringers are decorated in a scroll design with primitive leaf-like images branching off (see photo 6). The hall chair-railing has a bead along the top, bottom, and middle. The moldings around the doors and windows are grooved with concentric circles in the corner blocks. Raised panels line the door jambs and window casings.

(continued)

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input 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 1818

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Thomas Smith house, built in 1818, is located on Cross Main Street in New Castle, the county seat of Henry County. Thomas Smith (1790-1850), the builder of the house, was a successful merchant and trader, as well as being the president of the Louisville and Lexington Railroad and a director of the Bank of Kentucky. The house is one of the oldest residences in New Castle and is a fine example of the Federal style of architecture.

Thomas Smith was born in November 1790 in Henry County. He was the son of Nicholas Smith, an early settler. Although he inherited his father's farm, Smith chose to work in a store in Shelbyville, ten miles south of New Castle. After a few years Smith moved to Port William (now known as Carrollton) where the Kentucky River flows into the Ohio, and opened his own store. He afterwards returned to New Castle and entered the mercantile trade with his brother William, and Daniel Brannin. Shortly afterwards, in 1818, Thomas Smith built the Federal style house in the heart of town.

In the course of his business, Smith made buying trips to Baltimore where he purchased goods, which were shipped by flatboat to Carrollton and then brought by wagon to New Castle. According to an 1878 source, Smith's store was a depot for everything in demand by the residents of the area, and in return he bought their tobacco crops and livestock, gaining control of the market in a large part of the state. His business was so extensive, in fact, that he traded in all parts of the country and in some parts of Europe and became the most widely known influential trader and businessman in the state. In 1837 when Smith sold his interest in the mercantile business in order to devote his time to land speculations, he had made over a half million dollars (Armstrong, p. 188).

In 1847 when the work on the Louisville and Lexington Railroad was suspended, Smith was induced to become president. Under Smith's supervision the construction of the railroad resumed and the project was almost completed at the time of his death in 1850. Because of Smith's influence, a branch of the railroad was run through

(continued)

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

An Atlas of Henry and Shelby Counties, Kentucky. Philadelphia: D. J. Lake & Co., 1882.

Drane, Maude Johnson. History of Henry County, Kentucky. 1948.

(continued)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Latitude: 38° 26' 00"

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .5 acre

Longitude: 85° 10' 16"

UTM REFERENCES

(A USGS map with UTM ticks is not available for the New Castle quadrant.)

A	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

B	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
D	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Mary Cronan Oppel, Historian

ORGANIZATION

Kentucky Heritage Commission

DATE

August 1977

STREET & NUMBER

104 Bridge Street

TELEPHONE

(502) 564-3741

CITY OR TOWN

Frankfort

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

Eldred W. Meeter

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

10/26/77

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

W. J. ...

DATE

2-7-78

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHITECTURE AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST

Charles ...

DATE

2-7-78

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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Thomas Smith House

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The south parlor retains its unusual chair-railing which is decorated with a series of graduated grooves terminated by indented dots which form a swag motif. Three parallel grooves flank the swags while a geometric flower design separates each section. A row of raised beads is immediately below (see photo 7). The mantel in the south parlor has gougework across the top with a series of raised moldings extending across the mantel at the bottom of the frieze. The end blocks are supported by paired fluted colonnettes (see photo 8). A door centered in the east wall opens onto the southeast room which has been panelled. The mantel and chair-railing have been removed, and the corner of the room has been partitioned off to form a bathroom.

The mantel in the north parlor has a row of reeding at the top with dowels placed between the raised moldings of the center and end panels. Paired fluted colonnettes support the end blocks (see photo 9). Like the south parlor, a door in the east wall opens onto the northeast room. This room has been slightly altered to accommodate a modern kitchen. However, it still retains a cupboard that flanks the fireplace, chair-railing and the original mantel. The chair-railing, which extends around the room, has a row of beading at the top and bottom. The mantel is similar to those in the front parlors, but in a simpler vein, with plain panels supported by paired fluted colonnettes (see photo 10).

The second floor of the house follows the same plan as the first floor, including a spacious center hall which is illuminated by the Palladian window in the west wall and the round arched opening, opposite in the east.

Like the room below on the first floor, the mantel and woodwork in the southeast room has been removed and replaced with panelling and a bathroom has been partitioned off. The remaining three rooms retain the original chair-railing and mantels. The rooms on each side of the hall are also connected by a center door. The fireplace in the southwest room is placed slightly off center and now has a Victorian grate. The mantel has reeded end blocks and center panel and is supported by delicate grooved pilasters (see photo 11). The mantel in the room

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opposite has a reeded shelf with concave ovals outlined with raised beads in the center and end panels. Paired fluted colonnettes without bases or capitals support the frieze (see photo 2).

Originally a brick kitchen was connected to the house by a shed roof on the northeast side of the main block. The brick slave quarters also extended off the southeast rear of the house and together with the kitchen formed a small "U" shaped courtyard. Unfortunately none of the outbuildings survive.

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Henry County instead of straight through Shelby County which is due south of it. Smithfield in southwestern Henry County was named after Thomas Smith because he donated the land on which the railroad was built.

Smith was also an active director of the Bank of Kentucky. While he was a merchant, his store served as the deposit bank for the surrounding county.

After the death of Thomas Smith, the house passed through several owners. In the early 1900s the house was divided into apartments, although no structural changes were made. It is now used once again as a private residence.

The Thomas Smith house, built in the Federal style, retains the original woodwork, including seven mantels, each with different ornamentation. Of particular interest is the chair-railing in the southwest parlor which is composed of a reeded swag design interspersed with a geometric flower. A row of raised beads extends below.

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PAGE 2

The Biographical Encyclopedia of Kentucky of the Dead and Living Men of the
Nineteenth Century. Cincinnati, Ohio: J. M. Armstrong and Co., 1878.



BLACKSMITHS AND WAGON MAKERS.

J. M. BARNES & SON, Blacksmiths, Plow, Carriage and Wagon Makers. Repairing of all kinds promptly attended to. We also keep the Champion Reaper and Mower, and a supply of Duplicate Parts that may be wanted. Plows of different manufacture, and all kinds of Farming Implements, at Factory Prices, delivered in New Castle.
W.M. J. WRIGHT, Blacksmith, Propr. of Carriage, Wagon and Plow Factory. Manufactures and Repairs all kinds of Machinery. Prompt attention given to all work. Horse Shoeing a specialty.

DRY GOODS AND GROCERS.

J. T. HAYDON, Dealer in Dry Goods, Hats, Cars.

DRUGGISTS AND PHYSICIANS.

J. N. CAPLINGER, Dealer in Drugs and Chemicals, Standard Patent Medicines, Paints, Oils, Varnishes, Dye Stuffs, Hair and Tooth Brushes, Toilet Articles, Perfumery, Soap, Shoulder Braces, Trusses, Sponges, and all Varieties of Druggists, Sundries, Cigars, Pure Wines and Liquors for medicinal uses, School Books, Blank Books, and a full line of Stationery. Physicians' Prescriptions carefully compounded. Hardware and Cutlery. Also Agent for Adams' Express Co., and Aetna and Hartford Ins. Co.'s.
S. J. OLDEHAM, Physician and Surgeon. West side of Main street, bet. Main, Cross and Church streets.
I. V. MCGINNIS, Physician and Surgeon.

FURNITURE DEALERS.

SURVEYORS.

ISAAC W. KELLY, Surveyor and Civil Engineer
W. W. TURNER, Surveyor.
J. A. FITZGERALD, Surveyor.

TOBACCO AND LIQUOR DEALERS

J. P. RANSDALL, Dealer in Leaf Tobacco
D. R. CASTLEMAN, Tobacco Dealer.
N. KELLEY, Dealer in Choice Liquors, Wines, Tobacco and Cigars.

LAGER AND BOTTLED BEER.

G. W. HARPER, Proprietor of Saloon and Billiard Rooms.

MISCELLANEOUS.

BEN. B. GRAY, Propr. of "Gray House," east of Main and Main Cross streets.
WILL A. ROSS, Insurance Agent.

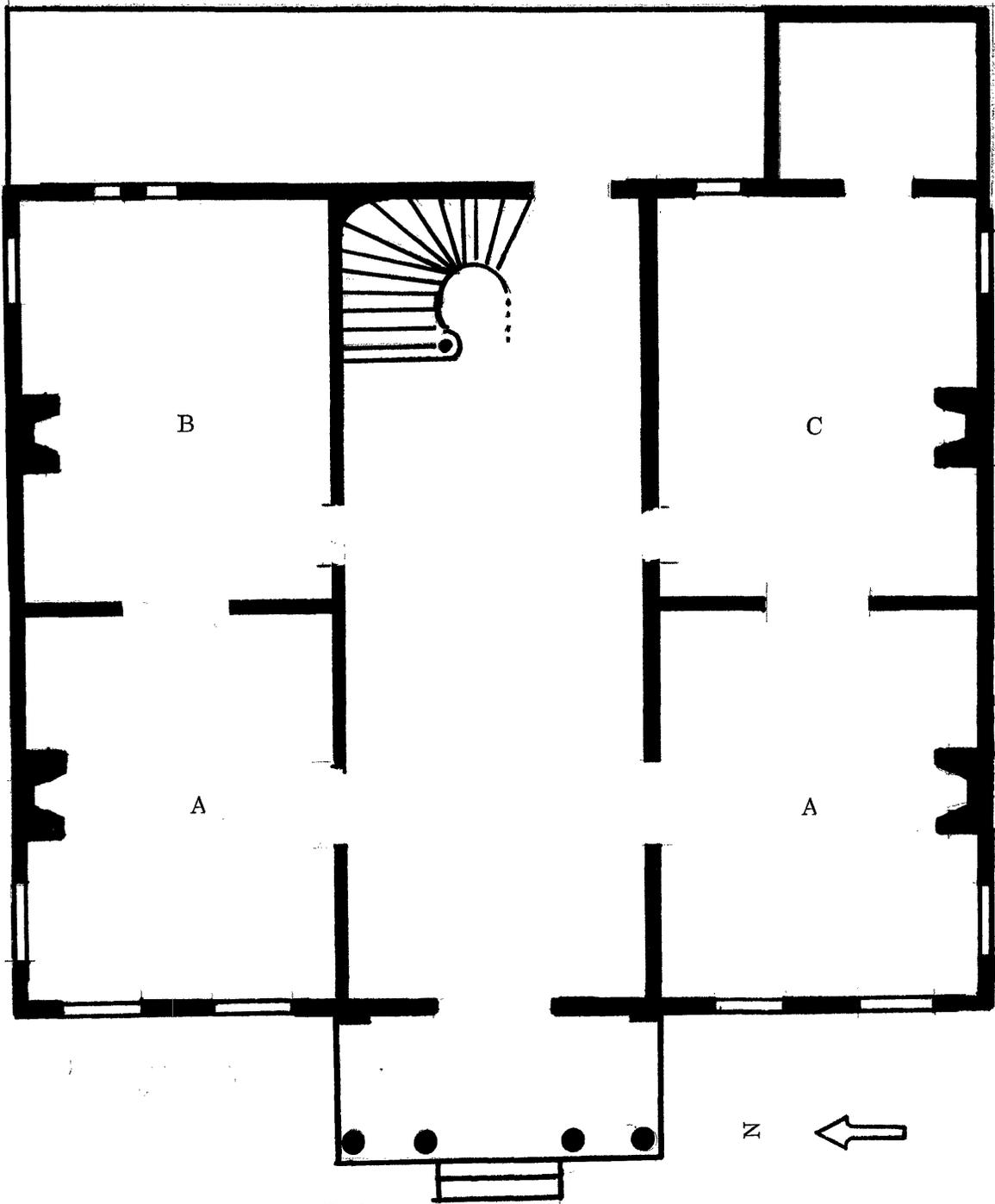
Thomas Smith House
New Castle
Henry County
Kentucky

OCT 31 1977

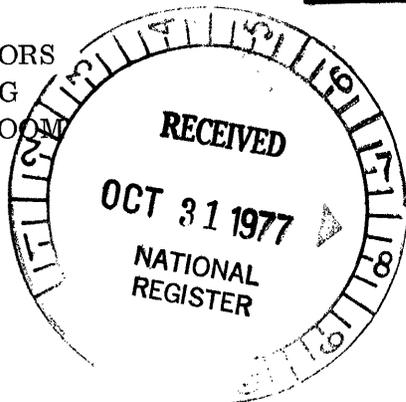
FEB 8 1978

An Atlas of Henry and Shelby
Counties, Kentucky. Philadelphia:
D. J. Lake and Co., 1882.

Map 2.) The Thomas Smith House
outlined in red.



- A PARLORS
- B DINING
- C BEDROOM



THOMAS SMITH HOUSE
HENRY COUNTY, KENTUCKY

FIRST FLOOR -- NO SCALE

Thomas Smith House
New Castle
Henry County
Kentucky

FEB 8 1878

Dan Kidd, August 1977
Sketch Plan
No Scale
Map 3. Sketch of first floor.