

OCT 18 1989

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

1982

# 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 Smith, William Alexander, House  
other names/site number OL-368

### 2. Location

street & number 108 Mt. Mercy Drive N/A not for publication  
city, town Pewee Valley N/A vicinity  
state Kentucky code KY county Oldham code 185 zip code 40056

### 3. Classification

#### Ownership of Property

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

#### Category of Property

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

#### Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u> buildings
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> sites
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> structures
<u>2</u>	<u>1</u> objects
	<u>1</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:  
Historic Resources of Pewee Valley, Ky. MPL

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

### 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  request for determination of eligibility 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  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

David L. Morgan 10-9-89  
Signature of certifying official David L. Morgan Date  
State Historic Preservation Officer, Kentucky Heritage Council  
State or Federal agency and bureau

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 and bureau

### 5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register.  
 See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register.  See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain:)

Delores Byers Entered in the National Register 11/27/89

for Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

**6. Function or Use**

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/single dwelling

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/single dwelling

**7. Description**

Architectural Classification  
(enter categories from instructions)

Italianate

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation stone/limestone

walls wood/weatherboard

wood/novelty siding

roof asphalt

other wood

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

**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)     A     B     C     D     E     F     G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Suburban Development  
Architecture

Period of Significance

1860 - 1917

Significant Dates

1860

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

Smith, William Alexander

Architect/Builder

Smith, William Alexander

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

Beers and Lanagan. Atlas of Jefferson and Oldham Counties.  
Philadelphia, 1979, Plate 53,

Oldham County, Kentucky. Deed Books.

Smith, Katie. Interviewed by Carolyn Brooks at her home. January 3, 1989.

Also see the bibliography with the Historic Resources of Pewee Valley, Kentucky Multiple Property Listing.

- Previous documentation on file (NPS): na
- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
  - 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 # \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet

- Primary location of additional data:
- State historic preservation office
  - Other State agency
  - Federal agency
  - Local government
  - University
  - Other

Specify repository:  
Kentucky Heritage Council

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of property Approximately 7 acres

UTM References

A 

16	63	1	66	0	4	24	0	6	30
Zone	Easting			Northing					

C 

Zone	Easting			Northing					

B 

Zone	Easting			Northing					

D 

Zone	Easting			Northing					

Crestwood, Kentucky Quadrangle

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary coincides precisely with lot "Pewee Valley 5-2-13" as drawn in the Oldham County Plat Books. It is outlined with a heavy black line on an accompanying sketch map.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary of the nominated property includes the entire historic acreage associated with the house. This boundary has been selected in order to document the large landscaped grounds that were historically associated with many of Pewee Valley's residences.

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Carolyn Brooks, Historic Preservation Consultant

organization \_\_\_\_\_ date July 30, 1989

street & number 1288 Bassett Avenue telephone 502 456-2397

city or town Louisville state Kentucky zip code 40204

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Smith, William Alexander HouseSection number 7 Page 1Description

The William Alexander Smith House (OL-368), built in 1860, is a two-story wood-framed house with Italianate and a few Stick style influences evident in its plan and detailing. It is located at 108 Mt. Mercy Drive within the area of the Historic Resource of Pewee Valley Multiple Property Listing. The house sits on a nearly seven-acre property which retains much of its historic landscaping. The nominated area coincides with the seven-acre lot. A driveway leading from Mt. Mercy Drive loops around to the northeast side of the house. At the entrance to the drive are historic entrance gateposts (a contributing structure) topped by sculptures of dogs. A board fence fronts the property and continues along a portion of both sides. One non-contributing outbuilding, an L-shaped cottage adapted from a 1940s garage, is located at the rear of the driveway loop and to the north of the house. Large shade trees, evergreens, dogwoods, and hollies are dotted around the open and level grassed property. The lot is flanked by small Bungalow/Craftsman style houses dating from the 1910s or 1920s. To the rear is a large area of undeveloped wooded land. The property is well-maintained, and the house is in good condition.

The L-plan house with its gable roof and front facing wing has an early, but probably not original, two-story rear ell flanked by one-story porches which are now filled-in on the southwest side and screened-in on the northeast side respectively. The house is sheathed with weatherboards with the exception of the front-facing gable end and a front tower which have shiplap siding.

The front facade is highlighted by the three-story square entrance tower in the angle of the "L" which has a steep pyramidal roof and a shingled bell cast pent roof above the second floor windows. Both rooflines are trimmed with simple brackets under the eaves. The main front entrance, located in the tower, has a paneled door flanked by narrow sidelights and topped by small overlights. The original half-width front porch was removed in the 1950s and replaced with a small concrete stoop with cast-iron railings. The front facing gable wing is richly detailed with a first-floor bay window and decorative stick work and shingle work in the pedimented attic area of the gable. A central panel in this area has a triangular sunburst design. This gable end detailing, which is closer in styling to the 1890s than the 1860s, may have been added at the same time as the shiplap siding, which is obviously not original.

The house has nine-over-nine double hung sash windows on most of the first floor and one-over-one windows on the second floor. The foundation is limestone block. Three exterior brick chimneys rise from the sides of the house, one on the northeast side and two on the southwest side.

The house sits about 250 feet back from Mr. Mercy Drive facing the road and the railroad tracks. A number of mature shade trees, evergreen, dogwoods, and hollies dot the large sweep of rough grass in front of and behind the house. The driveway winds from the east corner of the property to the northeast side of

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the house making a loop at the side of the house and in front of the non-contributing L-shaped cottage. This gable-roofed outbuilding, originally a garage dating from the 1940s, has had several rooms added on to it and is now sheathed with vertical paneling. It is the only outbuilding on the property.

Marking the driveway are historic stone gateposts topped by sculptures of dogs cast in concrete. This contributing structure was probably built in 1901 when the owners conveyed to the town a strip of land across the front of the property for the purpose of widening Mt. Mercy Drive (then Railroad Avenue) for the interurban tracks. The deed documenting this land transaction states that the Pewee Valley Electric Railway Company was to build a new fence and a stone and iron gate along the new property line. The present unpainted board fence along the front is a replacement, but the gates, although slightly damaged in a 1920s tornado are still in place.

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Smith, William Alexander HouseSection number 8 Page 1Statement of Significance

The William Alexander Smith House (OL-368) is an important residential property individually nominated as part of the Historic Resources of Pewee Valley Multiple Property Listing. The 1860 house and grounds are eligible for the National Register under Criteria A, B, and C. The house is a good example of the property type residential buildings which was developed as part of the historic context, "Suburban Development in Pewee Valley, 1851-1935." It has been evaluated to meet the registration requirements established for individual listing in the residential buildings property type. Its period of significance dates from 1860, the probable year of its construction, to 1917 when the second owners sold the house and by which time all historic additions and alterations are believed to have been made.

In terms of Criterion A and the area of significance, Suburban Development, the William Alexander Smith House is very important as documentation of the initial period of suburban development that occurred in Pewee Valley in the years immediately before the Civil War. It is one of only three intact residences remaining from that time period.

In terms of Criterion B and C and the area of significance, Architecture, the William Alexander Smith House is important as one of a group of houses in Pewee Valley exhibiting elements of the Italianate style. This nationally popular style is found infrequently in Oldham County, except in Pewee Valley. There it has been identified in the residential buildings property type description as one of the principal styles associated with Pewee Valley's country estates. The Smith House, in which the stylistically correct entrance tower, bay window, and L-shaped plan are combined with a pyramidal tower roof and a gable roof which is too steeply pitched and which lacks the prerequisite bracketed cornice, provides an interesting contrast to several more high-style Italianate houses in Pewee Valley. The decorative detailing in the front gable end, more suggestive of the later Stick or Queen Anne style, is probably a late nineteenth century addition. It provides interesting documentation of the common practice of updating houses with elements of the newest popular style.

The house has particular significance as one of the very few remaining and intact houses in Pewee Valley associated with the Henry S. Smith family who originally owned such a large amount of land in the area and for whom the community, for a short time known as "Smith's Station," was probably named. William Alexander Smith (1831-1909) was the son of Henry Smith. He purchased eight acres of land from his father in August 1860 and is believed to have built the house soon after to house his family of eight children. William Alexander is said to have been a builder by trade and, no doubt, constructed the house for himself. Local tradition credits him with building other Pewee Valley residences as well. In 1888 the house was sold to Joseph T. O'Neal whose family retained ownership of the property until 1917. O'Neal, who appears to have used the house as a summer residence, was a prominent Louisville lawyer.

PV 5-2-13.

SMITH, WILLIAM ALEXANDER  
HOUSE  
PEWEE VALLEY, OLDHAM  
COUNTY, KENTUCKY.

SKETCH MAP

Source: Oldham County  
Plat Maps

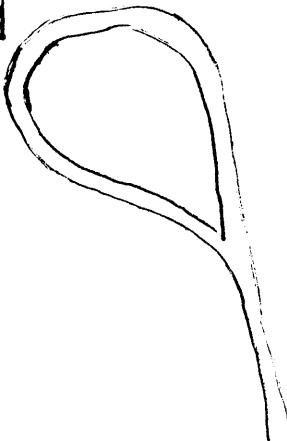
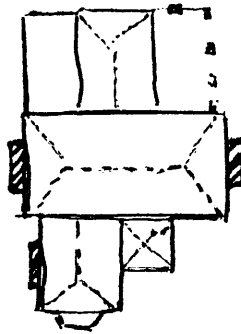
Scale: 0 ————— 100'

North: ↗

Property Boundary: —————

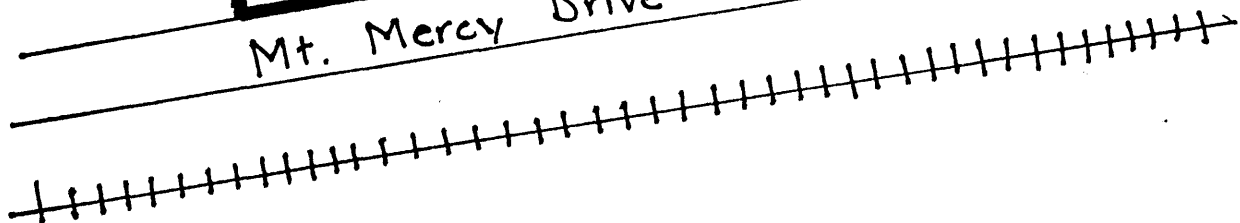
Parcel Number: PV 5-2-13

Cottage



Gateposts → ■ ■

Mt. Mercy Drive





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Smith, William Alexander, House  
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PHOTOGRAPHS

1. Smith, William Alexander, House
2. Pewee Valley, Oldham County, Kentucky
3. Photographer: Carolyn Brooks
4. Date: April, 1989
5. Negatives of file with the Kentucky Heritage Council, Frankfort, Ky.

(The above information is the same for all 4 photographs submitted with the nomination. Below, the photographs are listed in order of their photograph numbers , and each view is described.)

1. Front facade; photographer facing northwest.
2. Rear facade; photographer facing southeast.
3. Non-contributing cottage to north of house; photographer facing north.
4. Contributing gateposts; photographer facing northwest.