

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED MAY 7 1982

DATE ENTERED JUN 3 1982

**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 The Professor George E. P. Smith House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

1195 East Speedway

N/A NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Tucson

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Arizona

N/A VICINITY OF

CODE

04

COUNTY

Pima

CODE

019

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

- N/A IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
 - UNOCCUPIED
 - WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
 - YES: UNRESTRICTED
 - NO N/A

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERCIAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Dr. George E. P. Smith, Jr.

STREET & NUMBER

207 Sierra Vista Drive

CITY, TOWN

Tucson

N/A VICINITY OF

STATE

Arizona 95719

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Pima County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

115 N. Church Street

CITY, TOWN

Tucson

STATE

Arizona

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

N/A

Determined Eligible NO X

DATE

N/A

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 type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input 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

SUMMARY/CONTEXT:

The Professor George E. P. Smith House is a one-and-a-half story, brick residence featuring a four bay veranda and a shingled wall dormer on the facade. Constructed in 1904, it is located on the north side of East Speedway Avenue, a major east-west thoroughfare in Tucson, the largest city in southern Arizona. The Smith House occupies a landscaped 100'x195' lot across the street from the University of Arizona in an area of predominantly recent commercial development. Although the concurrent expansion of the University and commercialization of the area have dramatically changed the surroundings and historic context, the Smith House and grounds are unaltered and retain their historic integrity. The Smith House is adjacent to the 1906 Cannon/Douglas House (nominated concurrently), and together the two residences illustrate the historic early twentieth century character of the area.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

The Smith House is a vernacular Queen Anne cottage with a predominant gambrel-roofed wall dormer and partial veranda applied onto a basic Anglo-Territorial style dwelling. The main block is an asymmetrical, one story, hip-roofed, brick structure with an irregular 4x2 bay design. It is constructed on a foundation of native volcanic stone which is a contrasting lighter color than the native red brick of the walls. The windows of the house contain wide, rectangular 1/1 sash and are inset in shallow reveals and topped by flat arches with a keystone motif incorporated in the brickwork. Projecting brick string courses encircle the house at the sill and lintel levels. The moderately-pitched, hip roof terminates in a sloping soffit with exposed rafters and is now sheathed with asphalt shingles applied over the original cedar shakes. Chimneys with corbelled bases and caps project from mid-wall level on the east and west elevations, and a third chimney extends from the eastern end of the ridgeline. The house has been well maintained and is in excellent physical and structural condition.

The primary focus of the south-facing facade is a symmetrical 3x1 bay veranda spanning the western two-thirds of the wall surface. Four paneled Tuscan piers with acanthus cap moldings rise from brick pedestals to support a shed roof sheathed with rolled asphalt. Over the center bay is a small pediment embellished with an acanthus medallion and floral motifs in the tympanum. The house's main entry contains an original oak and glass panel door and is visually framed by this central porch bay. The entry is flanked on the facade by wide rectangular windows.

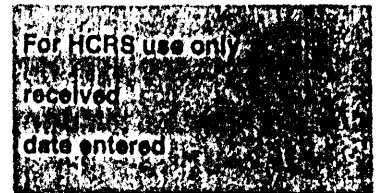
Centered on the roof of the veranda, a parapet wall and balustrade of Colonial Revival-style scale and design surround an open sleeping porch. Corresponding with the width and symmetry of the veranda, there is a broad gambrel-roofed wall dormer sheathed with painted wood shingles. An elliptical arch pierces the center of the dormer. It is this dormer and arch that establish the Queen Anne character of the house. The arch opening and open deck area form the sleeping porch which is linked by an interior stairway to the master bedroom on the first story.

Located near the rear of the west side elevation is a three-sided bay window, an uncommon element for Anglo-Territorial period houses in Tucson and usually only found on residences with other Queen Anne characteristics.

Appended to the northwest corner is a small ell added in 1931, along with a shingled shed dormer over the central portion of the rear elevation. Both additions accurately match the original building and are both contributing and complementary to the architectural character and integrity of the house.

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The interior of the house remains completely intact, with plaster walls, original wooden doors, pine woodwork and hardwood floors. The living room features an ornamental fireplace with green ceramic tiles framing the firebox and a wooden overmantel embellished with Colonial Revival moldings. Other significant details on the interior are spindle screens in the two doorways to the living room and pine Doric columns framing the entry to Professor Smith's study.

The house sits on the southeastern corner of the lot, close to the intersection of Speedway Avenue and Santa Rita Avenue. The lot is attractively landscaped with mature ornamental vegetation. Two small outbuildings stand behind the house, one a wooden shed in poor condition, the other a brick garage in good condition.

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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input 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

1904

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Hiram McMillen/George E.P. Smith

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SUMMARY:

The Professor George E. P. Smith House in Tucson, Arizona is historically significant as the residence of Professor George Smith, a University of Arizona civil engineering professor and geologist whose work with underground water supplies and desert irrigation techniques played a key role in facilitating agricultural expansion in Arizona and other parts of the southwest. Smith, who was apparently fluent with the popular architectural styles at the turn of the century, designed the house himself in 1904, incorporating Queen Anne features which distinguish the house from the simpler Anglo-Territorial style dwellings characteristic of Tucson during the early twentieth century. The Smith House is also significant as one of the first residences of University of Arizona professors built adjacent to the campus in what was then an isolated desert area outside the city. This significance is shared by the ca. 1906 Professor A. E. Douglas House, which stands immediately to the west. Smith's active participation in Tucson's municipal affairs further complements the local significance of the house.

HISTORIC ASSOCIATIONS:

The residence is of historical significance due to the national reputation achieved by Professor Smith for his accomplishments in locating water resources and developing methods to distribute the water for productive use in desert agriculture. During his fifty-five years at the University of Arizona (1900-1955) and sixty-nine years that he occupied the house (1906-1975), Professor Smith became a recognized authority on all aspects of water supplies in Arizona, especially the occurrence and utilization of groundwater for agricultural irrigation. His research into groundwater supplies was universally applicable to arid regions, and publication of his works as well as his research in the southwestern United States and parts of Europe, earned him an international reputation in the field of agricultural engineering.

Professor Smith's accomplishments and contributions to engineering, geology and water distribution within Arizona are summarized in the following list:

1. Analysis of the underground water supplies in the Rillito River Valley near Tucson, Arizona. Conducted in 1903-1904, this was the first study of groundwater in Arizona and later included other areas of the state.
2. Between 1907 and 1917, Smith developed a data bank concerning underground water supplies in Arizona valleys which fostered a great increase in irrigation throughout the state.
3. During 1914-1919, Smith campaigned for establishment of a State Water Code; he authored and obtained passage of Arizona's first Water Code in 1919.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See Attached

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 45 acre

QUADRANGLE NAME Tucson

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 12 504400 3566420

B

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION Lots 15 and 16, Block 8 Buena Vista Addition; East Boundary: Santa Rita Ave. - 195'; South Boundary: East Speedway - 100'; West Boundary: Lot 14, Block 8, Buena Vista Addition - 195' (Cannon/Douglas Residence); North Boundary: Dedicated Alley - 100'.

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

STATE	N/A	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	N/A	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

STATE	N/A	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Dr. George E.P. Smith, Jr.

Edited, Roger Brevoort, Architectural Historian, Arizona State Parks Board, Historic Preservation Section March 1982

ORGANIZATION

Owner

DATE

March 1980

STREET & NUMBER

207 Sierra Vista Drive

TELEPHONE

(602) 323-0455

CITY OR TOWN

Tucson

STATE

Arizona 85719

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL X

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

Ann D. Pitzlaff

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE 16 April 1982

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

J. Delores Byers
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Entered in the National Register

DATE

6/3/82

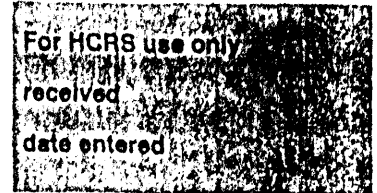
ATTEST:

DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

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4. Smith's extensive hydrologic studies of the Gila River Valley at Eloy in the 1920's and 1930's proved that surface flows, underground percolation and storage waters comprised the same sources for groundwater supplies.
5. Between 1922 and the mid-1940's, Smith helped establish the legal groundwork enabling a more equitable distribution of the waters of the Colorado River through compromise between the State of Arizona and the Colorado River Project, which ultimately led to formation of the Central Arizona Project in 1962.
6. Smith completed the first comprehensive land use inventory covering the State of Arizona in the 1930's.
7. An analysis of the geologic physiography of Arizona Valleys, with his results being applicable to most of the western states. His analysis is widely accepted as the basis for interpreting the geologic history of the valleys.
8. Smith's experience with irrigation techniques established him as a recognized authority on the manufacture and use of concrete pipe for irrigation. His related studies of irrigation methods used for lettuce crops and citrus orchards resulted in improved yields for Arizona farms.

Professor Smith was also extremely active in the municipal affairs of Tucson and contributed much to the early planning of the city. As a consultant to the Tucson Water Department in 1913, he authored a comprehensive report on the city's underground water resources which correctly indicated an adequate supply for the next fifty years. Smith was among the first advocates for zoning in Tucson and was appointed to the first permanent Tucson Planning and Zoning Commission in the 1930's. Smith successfully advocated stopping the quarrying activity on Sentinel Hill (now "A Mountain") outside Tucson and helped establish it as a city park. He also supported re-routing the United States Highway around Tucson which later became I-10.

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE:

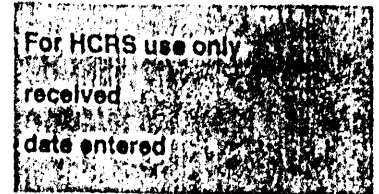
The Smith House is architecturally significant as a unique, eclectic blend of architectural characteristics not found elsewhere in Tucson. The house is distinguished by a large, shingled dormer on the facade which reflects the late nineteenth century Queen Anne and Shingle styles, examples of which are rare in Tucson. The large dormer and a heavily scaled balustrade of Colonial Revival design are turn-of-the-century architectural elements that do not appear on other houses of the period in Tucson.

Stylistically, the Smith House facade is clearly reminiscent of east coast architecture of the late nineteenth century. During the early years of the twentieth century, eastern architectural influences were being introduced to the west by new residents, a trend well illustrated by the widespread application of late nineteenth century styles. As supporting evidence, Professor Smith, who designed his house himself in 1904, was a Vermont native who had moved to Arizona in 1900. The eastern stylistic references of the house clearly suggest Smith's New England background and are indicative of this architectural migration.

Tucson contractor, Hiram McMillen, constructed the house from Smith's plans. The architectural drawings, contracts and receipts from 1904 are still in possession of the current owner, George E. P. Smith, Jr. In 1931 a small addition was made to the northwest corner and a dormer was added to the north side of the roof. These minor alterations were designed to match the existing house by H. O. Jaastad, a well known Tucson architect who also served several terms as Tucson's mayor from 1933 to 1947.

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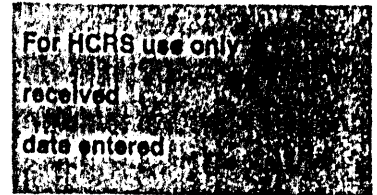
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Additionally, the Smith House is significant in context with the development of Tucson and the University of Arizona. When Smith completed the house in 1904, the Speedway Avenue location and the University were isolated in the desert outside of Tucson, far removed from the central city. The Smith House was the first residence to be built north of East Speedway, which is now a major east-west thoroughfare. Other houses were subsequently erected in the area by University professors, but the Smith House and the adjacent Professor Douglas House (1906) are the only early professors' residences to survive along this section of Speedway Avenue adjacent to the University. In this regard they are primary historic resources that reflect the initial development of the University of Arizona.

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BIBLIOGRAPHY:

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2. "George Edson Philip Smith", Who Was Who in American History - Science and Technology, Bi-centennial Edition, Marquis Who's Who, Inc., 1976, Chicago, IL. p. 562.
3. Marquis, A. N. ed., Who's Who in America, vol. 19, 1936-1937, A. N. Marquis Company, Chicago, IL. p. 2256.
4. Schwalen, Harold C., "George Edson Philip Smith, F.A.S.C.E., 1873-1975", Memoir prepared for the American Society of Civil Engineers. Full copy held by American Society of Civil Engineers Library, 345 East 47th Street, New York, NY, 10017. Abstract published, Transactions, American Society of Civil Engineers, vol. 141, 1976, pp. 552-3.
5. Smith, George E. P., unpublished papers: (a) "Contributions of the Department of Agricultural Engineering (University of Arizona) to Arizona's Agriculture", 1932.
(b) "Professor George E. P. Smith, Who Celebrates his 100th Birthday December 29, 1973". Dec. 26, 1973.
(c) "Some George E. P. Smith Firsts", 1955.

Papers held by Dr. George E. P. Smith, Jr., Tucson, Arizona. Copies on file, Arizona State Parks Board, Historic Preservation Section.
6. University of Arizona, Department of Engineering, 1955, "Publications of George E. P. Smith, C.E.