

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received APR - 6 1983
date entered

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

1. Name

historic Smith, Herbert and Katherine, House
and/or common Smith-Carnahan House

2. Location

street & number 139 S. W. I Street N/A not for publication
city, town Grants Pass N/A vicinity of Second Congressional District
state Oregon code 41 county Josephine code 033

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>N/A</u> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
	<u>N/A</u> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Mr. and Mrs. John Vaagen
street & number 130 S. W. I Street
city, town Grants Pass N/A vicinity of state Oregon 97526

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Josephine County Courthouse
street & number Sixth Street
city, town Grants Pass state Oregon 97526

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Statewide Inventory of Historic Properties has this property been determined eligible? yes no
date 1976 federal state county local
depository for survey records State Historic Preservation Office
city, town Salem state Oregon 97310

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 <u> N/A </u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Herbert and Katherine Smith House on the southeast corner of SW Fifth and SW I Street in Grants Pass was constructed in 1908. The nine-room, one-and-a-half story brick building is one of only two substantial brick residences remaining in or near the original town plat. Rectilinear in plan with a gable roof, Smith House is distinguished by paired cross gables on the north and south elevations which are reminiscent of English Arts and Crafts architecture, and by a polygonal bay window and veranda. At the northwest corner, a veranda with Tuscan columns and railing with turned balusters wraps around the house. A smaller porch with turned posts instead of columns is found at the northeast corner. Two brick chimneys with corbelled caps rise from the interior. The interior is intact and is finished with dark wood trim, built-in cabinetry and light fixtures and hardware typical of the period preceding the First World War. A major feature is the parlor chimneypiece with tile surrounding an iron firebox and a bevelled mirror overmantel. With the exception of a small bricked-in rear porch, the Smith House retains complete integrity throughout. The yard was lined with privet and planted with roses and flowering shrubs by Katherine Smith, an accomplished gardener whose work reflected her English heritage. The grounds have changed little through the 75 years the house has been occupied by the Smiths, their heirs and descendents. Outbuildings include a brick shop structure which stands to the rear of the house. The Smith House is located one block west of Sixth Street, the main thoroughfare in Grants Pass. Hedges and trees of the yard provide a congruous setting for the house despite expansion of the commercial area over the years. Some nearby properties have been in commercial use for at least fifty years.

The Smith House is located in Section 17, Township 36 South, Range 5 West, W.M., and occupies Lot 5 and 6 of Block 66 of the Original Town of Grants Pass, in Josephine County, Oregon. The main axis of the house runs east and west. The ground plan measures 35 by 62 feet and the facade faces north onto SW I Street. The property is at the southeast corner of SW I and SW 5th Streets. Constructed of brick finished in a common bond pattern, the house is characteristic, to a degree, of the English Arts and Crafts style.

The building appears to be an exceptional example of the use of brick exterior wall construction for a dwelling, in Grants Pass, and its style is clearly influenced by the English Arts and Crafts style. The paired gables of the facade are very reminiscent of the work of English architect C. F. A. Voysey which influenced a number of American architects slightly before the turn of the century and later.

The paired cross-axial gables, with their intersecting interior slopes, dominate both the north and south elevations of the house. The house stands on a brick foundation which is covered with stucco. Brick wall construction is trimmed with staggered brick quoins and corbelled brick bandings forming a string course at the top of the wall. Window openings have segmental brick arch heads and cement sills. The one-story polygonal bay projects from the facade, slightly offset from the center. The veranda has a pedimented front at the west end. The veranda roof with its simple classical entablature, is supported by four tapered Tuscan columns and has a railing with turned balusters. A smaller east porch shelters an exterior entrance to the kitchen. A small rear porch on the south elevation was enclosed with brick thirty years ago.

The Smith House has boxed cornices with returns at all gable ends. The roof cover is being replaced to match original wood shingles. Exterior doors have five panels and are distinguished by etched glass lights. The common window pattern is one-over-one light

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in double-hung sash, and windows are occasionally grouped in double or tripartite arrangements. A diamond-shaped window is located near the west end of the facade.

The interior of the Herbert and Katherine Smith House retains its original spatial configuration. The house contains a living room, dining room, kitchen, pantry, three bedrooms and two baths downstairs and five bedrooms on the upper floor. Softwood floors and nine foot ceilings are typical. The dining room has a built-in china cabinet, plate rail and an original central light fixture with opaque glass shades. Lath and plaster wall finish has been papered throughout. Double doors lead to the living room, or main parlor, where dark-stained window and door trim is typical. The parlor chimneypiece has a bevelled mirror overmantel and cast iron firebox with a surround of mottled tile. The mantel shelf incorporates lamp brackets. The front door has an etched glass panel. Bedrooms on the lower level are finished in a similar manner, with papered walls, window and door trim with molded architraves, and some original fixtures. One lower level bathroom has a marble wash stand. The kitchen retains original wall surfaces and trim and has a dumb waiter to deliver wood from the basement. The pantry contains floor-to-ceiling cabinets. A central downstairs hall also has built-in cupboards and cabinets extending to the ceiling. On the upper floor, a long central hall gives access to five bedrooms. The closed string, single-flight stair which leads to the second floor has a simple hand railing and newell posts.

Outbuildings on the property include a brick two-car garage constructed about 1935. It is rectangular in shape and measures approximately 20 by 26 feet. A smaller brick shop building of comparable date to the house measures approximately 10 by 18 feet and contains one door and one window. Both buildings have double pitched roofs. The older outbuilding has a chimney.

The grounds, encompassing one sixth of the city block, were planned and planted by the Smiths. Katherine Smith, particularly, was a skilled gardener and pursued her interest throughout her life. English influence can be seen in the privet hedges, roses, and large shrubs which were planted to screen the property from neighboring ones. Other plantings include camellias, hydrangeas, flowering trees and lilacs. Several mature trees grace the lot and cement walks lead to the front door on the west and along the north side. A brick wall separates the Smith property from the surface parking lot of the commercial property to the east.

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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1908 **Builder/Architect** unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The one-and-a-half story brick house at 139 SW I Street in Grants Pass, Oregon was built in 1908 for prosperous dry goods merchant Herbert Smith and his wife, the former Katherine Bingham who, like Smith, was a native of England. The Smith House is one of only two substantial and distinctive brick residences antedating 1910 in Grants Pass today. The standing examples, and seven others which were destroyed over the years, represented a surge of residential construction with brick following the town's last major fire of 1902. The Smith House occupies a prominent site at the southeast corner of I and Fifth Streets, two blocks south of the old commercial core and one block west of the main thoroughfare--Sixth Street. Inevitably, commercial development expanded from Sixth and G Streets in later years and encroached on the neighborhood of the Smith House. The neighborhood now includes a drive-up bank, parking lots and former residences converted to commercial use. However, the location of the house was purposely chosen by Smith in 1908 to be in close proximity to the business district so he could walk to his store on G Street. The Smith store building still stands at 125 SW G Street, but has not been occupied by the family business since 1970. The plantings of the yard, arranged by Mrs. Smith and still flourishing, provide a congruous immediate setting for the house. Outbuildings at the rear of the property are a small brick shop and a garage dating from about 1935.

The architect of the house has not been identified to date, but the most distinctive features of the design, namely the paired gables on front and rear elevations, clearly show the influence of English architect C. F. A. Voysey, a proponent of the Arts and Crafts style. Although Voysey's work influenced American architects around the turn of the century, it is possible that the design was guided by the taste of the English couple who commissioned the building. The Smiths settled in Grants Pass in 1893, and Smith operated his store at different locations following the fires of 1899 and 1902. Smith served two terms on the city council and was a U. S. Land Commissioner. Following his demise in 1925, the house continued to be occupied by Smith's widow and his daughters until Nan Smith Carnahan's death in 1979. The house is presently occupied by the Smiths' great-grandson.

The house is locally significant under National Register criterion "b" as the ultimate property associated with prominent Grants Pass merchant Herbert Smith (1860-1925), but chiefly the Smith House meets criterion "c" as the singular example of English Arts and Crafts architecture in Grants Pass. Though it suffered some deferred maintenance in recent years, the house is exceptionally intact, including the interior, which has retained complete integrity throughout. Interior finish work and features such as the chimneypiece and built-in cabinetry are typical of the Arts and Crafts style.

Herbert Smith was born February 6, 1860 at Doveridge, England in the County of Derbyshire. He emigrated to the United States in 1887 with his wife, Margaret Swindlehurst Smith, and a small child. The couple settled in Lyons, Kansas on Christmas Day, 1887. There Smith opened a shoe store. Their second child was born in the spring, and Margaret Smith died soon after. Smith returned to England and on December 21, 1890, married Katherine Bingham, whose brother Alfred J. Bingham, was a masonry contractor in Portland, Oregon. Shortly after their marriage, the Smiths returned to the United States, stopping in Kansas City,

9. Major Bibliographical References

Grants Pass Daily Courier, June 29, 1925; May 5, 1981.
City of Grants Pass Cultural Resources Inventory, Mayor's Advisory
Committee on Historic Preservation, October, 1981.

(continued)

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property less than one

Quadrangle name Grants Pass, Oregon

Quadrangle scale 1:62500

UTM References

A

1	10	4	7	13	0	5	10	4	16	9	18	2	10	10
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 The Herbert and Katherine Smith House is located in Section 17, Township 36 South, Range 5 West, W.M., in Grants Pass, Josephine County, Oregon. It occupies Lots 5 and 6 of Block 66 of the Original Twon of Grants Pass, and is otherwise described as Tax Lot 9600.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county N/A code

state N/A code county N/A code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kay Atwood

organization N/A date August 5, 1982

street & number 102 S. Pioneer Street telephone (503) 482-8714

city or town Ashland state Oregon 97520

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 

title Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer date 3-28-83

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

Entered in the
National Register

date 5/9/83

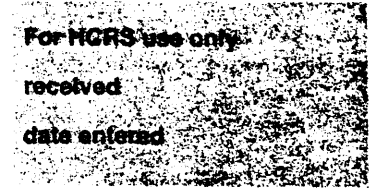

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: _____ date _____

Chief of Registration

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Missouri to settle business there. They travelled then to Portland, where they spent some time with the Bingham family.² In 1893, with two railroad cars loaded with personal belongings, glass show cases and store merchandise, the Smiths moved to Grants Pass, where Herbert Smith immediately opened a general dry goods store in temporary quarters on G Street.

After experiencing the destruction of two stores by fire, Herbert Smith constructed a brick building on G Street between 5th and 6th Streets.³ The family maintained a home on Main Street until 1908, at which time they commenced construction of their new brick house on I Street. Smith's two children by his first marriage, and the four born to Katherine Smith, moved with them into the new home.⁴ Herbert Smith operated his store on G Street for over thirty years, served on the city council for two terms, and served as United States Land Commissioner in Grants Pass from 1911 until the week before his death on June 28, 1925.⁵ Katherine Bingham Smith died November 7, 1943. Ann (Nan) Smith Carnahan and Margaret Smith continued their father's business as a variety store until 1970. After becoming a widow, Nan Smith Carnahan joined her sister, Margaret, in the house at 139 Southwest I Street, and there the two lived out their lives. Mrs. Carnahan died in 1979. The Smiths' son, Gladwyn, and Wilbur Carnahan operated an automotive business in Grants Pass for many years.

When the Smiths' planned their new home, they prudently chose brick as a building material for they had experienced fire in the nearby commercial district. It is possible also that their connection with family in Portland, prominently involved in brick masonry contracting, influenced their choice of building material. The influence of their English background is apparent in the English Arts and Crafts style characteristics of their home. The style has been described as an art movement prominent in the latter half of the 19th century which "spilled over into architecture and which stressed the importance of craftsmanship and high standards in design and production of everyday items."⁶

Grants Pass remained a small stage-station stop until 1883 when the railroad arrived and a passenger station was built on the northwest corner of Sixth and Front (G) Streets. The town plat was filed on December 10, 1883 by Jonathan Bourne.⁷ By 1890, three years before the Smiths arrived, the town's population was 1,432, and by 1900 had grown to 2,290.⁸ The steady progress of the community was interrupted twice in three years by fires which swept the business district and part of the residential area. In September, 1899, almost all business along G Street constructed of wood burned to the ground. On July 17, 1902, the Rogue River Courier announced a \$40,000 loss to fire. Headlines read.

The fire sweeps businesses, residences, railroad and church property.

Front, or G Street suffered most extensively, but by the same time the following year, the area was on its way to recovery.

There is more building going on in Grants Pass than ever before. All over the business portion of town are brick buildings in the process of construction, and dwellings are going up everywhere.⁹

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The demand for brick was high as property owners rebuilt after both the 1899 and 1902 fires. At the opening of each construction season, the demand for brick far exceeded the supply. The brickyards flourished through the remainder of the decade.

The Colvin brickyard began brick making on Monday... Three brickyards are now operating in and near Grants Pass and the brick famine which has been prevailing since the first of the year will soon be relieved. The Woolfolk yard has a kiln now burning and the Mensch yard will fire a kiln in about a week and a half.¹⁰

In 1908 construction was still active and headlines indicated that new houses were being constructed all over the city.¹¹ Among them was the new brick house for the Smiths.

The new nine room brick residence of Herbert Smith on Fifth and I Street is nearing completion. This will be one of the fine residences of the city.¹²

By 1910 a total of nine brick residences stood within the original town area or on its border.¹³ Today, only the Smith House and the Dr. William H. Flanagan House remain.

The Herbert and Katherine Smith House retains integrity of location, design, materials, workmanship and feeling. The plantings of its grounds are well preserved also, and the property includes one original outbuilding and a garage that is fifty years old. The relationship of the house to the commercial area is significant. Herbert Smith daily walked two blocks north to his store on G Street. Commercial expansion south toward the Smith House began gradually in 1920.

The Herbert and Katherine Smith House was included in the City of Grants Pass Cultural Resource Inventory, completed by the Mayor's Advisory Committee on Historic Preservation in 1981. It was given a high rating for its exceptional significance to the community.¹⁴ In 1981 the house drew media attention when, officials of the neighboring U. S. National Bank expressed interest in acquiring the property for expansion. Threat of demolition prompted many citizens and the Mayor's Advisory Committee to express strong support for preserving the house. The local paper announced:

U. S. National offered to buy the house for \$175,000 last month, but notified First National officers it was withdrawing the offer this morning...U. S. National has said there are too many red flags waving in Grants Pass...their interest has waned because of the bad publicity. At this time, they do not desire to pursue it. They don't want bad publicity.¹⁵

Herbert Smith's great-grandson and family are the present owners of the house and have begun a program of reversing the deferred maintenance.

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- ¹Portland City Directory, 1905. A. J. Bingham and J. McClelland, masonry contractors. Smith family records indicate that A. J. Bingham was contractor for Union Station in Portland (1890).
- ²Herbert Smith's sister was A. J. Bingham's wife. A. J. Bingham was Katherine Smith's brother.
- ³Herbert Smith called his store first, The New York Racket Store. It was later called Smith's Notions and Smith's Variety Store, successively.
- ⁴Their first two children were Ada and May. Others were Ann, Gladwyn, Margaret and James.
- ⁵Grants Pass Daily Courier, June 29, 1925.
- ⁶Cyril Harris. Historic Architecture Sourcebook, New York: McGraw Hill Book, Co. 1977.
- ⁷Edna May Hill. Josephine County Historical Highlights, Vol. II. Josephine County Library, 1979 page iv.
- ⁸Ibid., xv.
- ⁹Rogue River Courier, June 11, 1903.
- ¹⁰Rogue River Courier, May 11, 1906.
- ¹¹Rogue River Courier, November 12, 1908.
- ¹²Rogue River Courier, November 6, 1908.
- ¹³Sanborn Map Company, Grants Pass 1898, 1907.
- ¹⁴City of Grants Pass Cultural Resource Inventory, Mayor's Advisory Committee on Historic Preservation, October, 1981.
- ¹⁵Grants Pass Daily Courier, May 5, 1981.

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Hill, Edna May. Josephine County Historical Highlights, Volume II. Grants Pass:
Josephine County Library, 1979.

Portland City Directory, 1905.

Potter, Elisabeth Walton, State Historic Preservation Office, letter to Glenn Johnson,
Grants Pass, April 27, 1981.

Rogue River Courier, June 11, 1903; May 11, 1906; November 6, 1908; November 12, 1908.

Sanborn Maps of Grants Pass, 1898, 1907.