

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**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 Smith-Ohmart House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 2655 East Nobb Hill SE not for publication

city, town Salem vicinity of congressional district 2nd

state Oregon code 41 county Marion code 047

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 type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Charles and Karen Dunn

street & number 2655 East Nobb Hill SE

city, town Salem vicinity of state Oregon 97302

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Marion County Clerk (Recorder)

street & number Marion County Courthouse

city, town Salem state Oregon 97301

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title -- has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 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 type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Smith-Ohmart House is a two-story frame building, rectangular in plan, in the Italian Bracketted Style. Oriented to the west, it has a porch with deck and railing across the facade. The hipped roof has overhanging eaves supported by large console brackets with drop ornaments arranged in pairs along the wide, plain frieze board in alignment with the outer corners of each second story window opening. Fenestration is regular, and tall openings are fitted with double hung sash with six over six and six over one lights and trimmed with molded lintel caps. The central opening in the three-bay second-story facade is a door opening from the stair hall onto the porch deck. The original deck railing with its turned posts and balusters was lost and replaced by the present owners with a railing slightly taller (to meet code requirements) and with membering of square posts and balusters, but which is generally in tune with the facade nonetheless. Porch uprights are posts with jigsaw cut-out decoration bridged by a bracketted and scalloped fascia board. Siding on the wall plane protected by the porch is vertical tongue-and-groove, whereas the body of the house is clad with horizontal shiplap. Corner boards and porch posts have molded caps. The central entry in the ground story is a four panel door with arched top panels having transom and sidelights. The door frame is crowned by a simple but well-proportioned classical entablature. A single-story gable-roofed ell extending from the center of the rear, or east face, has been remodeled internally. In earlier days, it had a water tower on the south side and a gable-roofed wood shed off the southeast corner. The water tower is no longer extant, and the woodshed was moved westerly of its original site to serve as a bathroom, thus making an L-shaped configuration of the rear wing. In recent years a carport with deck railing to match that placed on the front porch was added off the southeast corner of the rear wing.

Since its construction c. 1870, the "pleasant home" of Fabritus Smith commanded "a magnificent view for miles of the surrounding country: the Cascade Range crowned with Mts. Hood, Jefferson, Rainier and the other grand snow peaks, the Coast Range lying to the westward and Salem, the 'City of Peace', nestling in the valley northward." (Oregon Statesman, June 9, 1886). The house still stands on the top of Nob Hill in South Salem, surrounded by the remains on an ancient oak and madrona grove and other plantings, in a completely private setting, which now includes a formal English garden being developed by the present owners. The original approach from Commercial Street was cut away by commercial development in 1929, and that area is now screened from the garden by fence and plantings. At present, access to the house is from East Nob Hill Street to the rear, and there is a drive from the street into the carport that was erected on the site of the old woodshed. To the east there is a settled residential district; to the north, a school park has just been developed with the consequence of blocking through traffic at the south end of East Nob Hill Street. To the south, in the valley, there are apartment house developments.

Interior spaces of the main block of the house are arranged around a central stair hall and include a parlor and dining room, both of which have their original fireplaces with wooden mantel pieces sharing a common chimney on the central wall. An arch was added to make a single larger area of the small front bedchamber and the parlor behind it. Upstairs, there are three bedrooms and a bath off the central hall. The L-shaped kitchen ell at the back of the house at present includes a family room, bathroom, a long kitchen space on the north, and a second family room in the leg of the L, on the south.

Window and door trim and mop boards in the main portion of the house are intact, but--a reversible condition--modern wainscot has been added in the stair well and in one bedroom upstairs. Original flooring is refinished. There was a second chimney for a stove in the downstairs front bedroom on the northwest corner, but it has been removed from the room above.

FHR-8-300A
(11/78)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

Smith-Ohmart House

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 1

Upstairs, there are vents for stove pipes in the main chimney stack. Remaining traces of original or early trim in the single-story ell include built-in cabinet with glass doors and a porch door with colored glass, and some window and door trim. It is reported that in 1938 the sills and siding on the south side were replaced. The sills were found to be put together with wooden pegs. The water tower which stood on the south side of the ell is gone, and the woodshed beside it was moved west to the site of the water tower to create a bathroom. The bathroom upstairs was created out of an unheated maid's room.

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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates c. 1870

Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Italian Bracketted farmhouse built about 1870 for Fabritus Smith, Oregon Trail pioneer of 1846 and state legislator, predates by several years the Italianate house of Asahel Bush, a National Register property and best-known of historic homes in Salem. The former property--one of the earliest developed in all of South Salem--is comfortably buffered by its oak and evergreen-shaded yard atop a knoll. For 73 years, it was the "home place" for the families of Fabritus R. Smith, his daughter Velleda Smith (Mrs. Adam Ohmart), and the patriarch's grandson, Roy V. Ohmart. Inevitably, the city grew out to encompass the Smith claim, and the house is now the barrier between strip development along South Commercial Street, route of the old Pacific Highway, on the west, and a residential neighborhood east of the house which was developed between the 1920s and the Post War period on land sold off from the original claim. The Smith-Ohmart House is significant to Salem as a well-preserved example of the Italian Bracketted Style in which the main volume is virtually unaltered. It is significant also for its association with Fabritus Smith and his family who were its occupants for nearly three-quarters of a century.

Agriculture

The Smith-Ohmart House was the third farm home of successful farmer Fabritus R. Smith on his Donation Land Claim of 635 acres. The first, a log cabin built in 1849, stood over a mile away on the east edge of the property near the only road to the south, now 12th Street SE. The second--a frame house, built in the early 1850s--stood a few yards west of the present house and was lost to fire.

Education

For many years, Fabritus Smith served as Vice-President of the Board of Trustees of Willamette University. His first wife, Virginia Pringle Smith, taught at the first school in Salem, outside of the University and its Academy, and her grandmother is credited with founding Pacific University at Forest Grove. Other members of the family who have resided in the house have also been teachers.

Exploration/Settlement

As the third farmhouse, the house represents the growing prosperity of an agricultural family who came over the Oregon Trail in 1846, the consumation of the dream which inspired that first large migration to Oregon. Fabritus, a native of Rochester, New York, earned his way to Oregon by driving an ox team and wagon for Joseph Waldo. His wife, Virginia Pringle, came with her family by the disasterous southern route and arrived in Salem barefooted and sodden by rain and snow on Christmas Day, 1846, when Fabritus first saw her outside the Jason Lee House, where he boarded. Some of their children married into other pioneer families.

Political/Government

Fabritus served two terms in the Oregon legislature in 1876 and 1878. He also served on the local school board. Other family members have also served in similar capacities. Fabritus was also coroner for Marion County in 1866.

Religion

Fabritus Smith was an early member and leader in the First Methodist Church of Salem, now the United First Methodist Church.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet

10. Geographical Data

UTM NOT VERIFIED

Acreeage of nominated property less than one (185x115.07')

Quadrangle name Salem West, Oregon

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

1	0	4	9	6	6	9	0	4	9	7	3	4	1	0
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 NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 32 T7S, R3W, W.M. Tax Lot 32228-001 in Block of Ohmart Tracts between Ohmart and Waldo Streets and South Commercial and East Nob Hill SE. Beginning at a point 140' south of the NE corner of said block on the east line, thence West 185', thence south 115.07'; thence east 185'; thence north 115.07' to the point

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

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title David C. Duniway

organization _____ date April 27, 1979

street & number 1365 John St. S telephone 503/581-2338

city or town Salem state Oregon 97302

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature David Duniway

title SHPO date September 27, 1979

For HCRS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	
<u>Carol Ashwell</u>	date <u>11-16-79</u>
Keeper of the National Register	
Attest: <u>Kristin O'Connell</u>	date <u>11/16/79</u>
Chief of Registration	

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 1

Williams, Edgar & Co. Illustrated Historical Atlas Map of Marion & Linn Counties, Oregon,
1878, p. 36 (map), 46, 98, 104.

Genealogical Forum of Portland, Oregon. Genealogical Material in Oregon Donation Land
Claims. Vol. 1, p. 4, Oregon City Claim No. 80.

Oregon Statesman, Salem, Oregon

June 9, 1886 and March 14, 1889 -- Elizabeth Smith 100th Birthday and obituary
Oct. 4, 1898 -- Fabritus R. Smith obituary
April 6, 1927, Nov. 13, 1929, Aug. 7, 1943 -- Valleda Smith Ohmart and Adam Ohmart,
50th wedding anniversary and obituaries
Oct. 7, 1929 -- Roy V. Ohmart, retirement from the Thomas Kay
Woolen Mill.

Hendricks, R.J. "Bits for Breakfast" in Oregon Statesman, Salem, Oregon.

Jan. 22-25, 1935, Feb. 3-8, 1939 -- interviews with Valleda Smith Ohmart

Lockley, Fred, "Impressions and Observations of the Journal Man" in Oregon Journal,
Portland, Oregon.

March 1, 1934 -- interview with Valleda Smith Ohmart

Statesman-Journal, Salem, Oregon. October 17, 1977, article by Cathy Beckham with pic-
tures on Smith-Ohmart House.

Ohmart, Valleda Smith. Scrapbook in possession of Valleda Ohmart Lizburg of Portland.