

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only  
received JUL 12 1982  
date entered

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

1. Name

historic Smoot, Richmond Kelley, House

and/or common Pecan Place

2. Location

street & number 1316 West <sup>6th</sup> Sixth Street N/A not for publication

city, town Austin N/A vicinity of ~~congressional district~~

state Texas code 048 county Travis code 453

3. Classification

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>
<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	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
	<input type="checkbox"/> 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 The Heritage Society of Austin, Inc.

street & number Post Office Box 2113

city, town Austin N/A vicinity of state Texas 78767

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Travis County Courthouse

street & number 1000 Guadalupe Street

city, town Austin state Texas

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Historic Sites Inventory has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1974  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Texas Historical Commission, Recorded Texas Historic Landmark

city, town Austin state Texas

## 7. Description

Condition                      Check one                      Check one  
 excellent                       deteriorated                       original site  
 good                               ruins                               moved                      date N/A  
 fair                                 unexposed                               altered

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Richmond Kelley Smoot House is of interest as one of the most intact High Victorian homesteads in the Austin area. The house is a good example of a substantial brick Italianate dwelling and its Colonial Revival double galleries, in place for well over half a century, are an important part of the history of the house and represent the last major change of the 105 year party of occupancy. The Smoot House is particularly unusual in having retained a large portion of its historic grounds, gardens and out-buildings in the midst of high density development.

As originally built in 1877, the house consisted of a roughly square, two-story brick structure with rear ell in the Italianate style, and subsequent modifications have generally been in the form of additions rather than alterations. The front (south) elevation as built consisted of double front doors with elaborate Eastlake screen doors surmounted by a segmental arch transome and second story single window, and to the east of the door a two story bay with three four-over-four segmental arch windows. First and second floors were defined by a paneled Italianate entablature surmounted by a small overhang and supported by S-shaped brackets with drop finials. A similar but somewhat larger entablature with a repeating half-circle motif surrounds its upper perimeter. Twin bay windows create a remarkable rhythmic effect in the massing of the building on its east facade.

In 1882, a wing was added to the west of the main block. Rising two stories, it added two additional one-over-one windows to the entrance front; the west end of the wing is in the form of a large single bay window with two side windows and a center fireplace. Two years later, a kitchen was added to the rear of the original dining room ell, again rising a full two stories. Architectural detailing and materials remained much the same, although the entablature treatment is without panels or brackets. Brickwork throughout is common bond, and the brick was made locally by the Bulter Brick Company. The roof of the house is almost flat.

The final and most visible change to the exterior of the house occurred in 1925, when the small Eastlake front porch was replaced by a larger two tiered porch supported by five Doric columns; the upper tier is screened and features a classical balustrade. At the same time a two tiered screen porch supported by brick piers was added to the east and north of the rear ell. These porches, identified with the house for well over half a century, have become an important architectural feature of the Smoot House.

The entrance hall is part of original two-room side hall plan. It is entered through etched glass double doors with simple varnished walnut architraves. The curved, cantilevered staircase has turned balusters and Italianate detailing. The front parlor (southeast room) has two bay windows and a marbleized slate mantel, one of seven found in the house. Architectural detailing in the old living (north-east) room and dining (south rear ell) room is similar. The library (west room), however, features beaded architraves with bullseye corner blocks. The upstairs rooms generally repeat architectural detailing found in the lower rooms of the same date.

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date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 7

Page 1

Outbuildings on the property include the garage (formerly the carriage house), the lumber room (built prior to the main house), the Arbor (the greenhouse reconstructed) and an early barn.

The grounds of the Smoot House are a particularly unusual survival: surrounded by a highly active urban setting, the Smoot property retains an almost rural atmosphere. It is located on a major thoroughfare on a rise near the Colorado River twelve blocks west of Austin's central business district; immediate neighbors are small bungalows and car lots, and the Smoot House, surrounded by a six-foot open metal fence, presents an oasis-like appearance. The curving carriage driveway has been paved but otherwise retains its original configuration and winds along the very large pecan and oak trees toward the main and carriage houses. Gardens to the south and east of the main house and a meadow at the rear (north) of the property further enhance the historic structure and feature certain later Victorian popular plant materials and landscape devices.

## 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 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 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** 1877, 1882

**Builder/Architect** R.V. Loving & W.W. Maxwell

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Smoot Home is of significance as the residence of a single prominent Austin family whose members included a Presbyterian clergyman of national reputation and founder of Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary, Dr. Richmond Kelley Smoot; Lawrence Smoot, librarian and court reporter for the Texas Supreme Court for over sixty-six years; and his sister-in-law, Dr. Amelia Worthington Williams, a writer and professor of history at the University of Texas. Retaining the bulk of its original nineteenth century furnishings, the house is one of the few Victorian mansions with fine Italianate detailing remaining in Austin situated in its original picturesque setting.

The house was constructed for Dr. and Mrs. Richmond K. Smoot. Dr. Smoot was born in Huntingdon, Tennessee in 1836, a son of Judge John N. Smoot. He was educated at Hanover College in Indiana and at Danville Theological Seminary in Kentucky. After ordination he became pastor of the Presbyterian Church in Bowling Green, Kentucky in 1860, and remained there sixteen years. He married Miss Sarah Jane (Sallie) Graham of Bowling Green in 1866, and had two children, Asher Graham Smoot (later a founder and editor of the Austin American) and Lawrence Kelley Smoot.

Shortly after the Smoots' arrival in Austin in 1876, they acquired a five-acre tract of land one mile west of town on Pecan (now Sixth) Street from James H. Raymond, erstwhile Treasurer of the Republic of Texas. The Smoots subsequently entered into a contract with R. J. Loving and W. W. Maxwell, contractors and builders on September 1, 1877, to build their new home, which was completed by December 15 of that year. Dr. Smoot called the new family home Pecan Place, while his wife preferred Flower Hill; neither name, however, prevailed, and it is known simply as the Smoot Home. In the next decade, library and kitchen wings were added to the original house in a similar architecture vocabulary.

Dr. Smoot became pastor of the Free (later First Southern) Presbyterian Church at the time of his arrival in Austin, and held that post until his death. He was appointed Moderator of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in 1882, the highest position of honor in that denomination in the United States. Dr. Smoot served as Chaplain of the Texas State Senate for ten consecutive years, and was also on the Board of Pardons during the Sayers administration. In 1882, Dr. Smoot and the Rev. Robert L. Dabney (former Chief of Staff to General T.J. "Stonewall" Jackson) founded the Austin School of Theology in the library of the Pecan Street house; the school was a forerunner of the Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary, which is the major training center for Presbyterians in the Southwest.

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Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 1

Another event of note occurred in the front parlor of the Smoot House in its early days: this was the marriage of the writer O. Henry (William Sydney Porter) and Miss Athol Estes in 1887. Porter, age 25, and Miss Estes, 17, were both in the choir of Smoot's church, and their marriage was an elopement. It was destined to be a happy but unenduring union, ending with Athol Estes Porter's death a decade later.

Dr. Smoot died at home in 1905 and his widow in 1916. They were succeeded in the house by their only surviving child, Lawrence, and his wife, the former Julia Williams, a history teacher of long standing from Maysfield, Texas. The younger Smoot was a lawyer, first serving as librarian for the Texas State Supreme Court and then for almost thirty years as the official court reporter for the Texas Supreme Court. He retired at age 86 after 66 years of service to the state, and died at 92 in 1968. These second generation occupants made one substantial but harmonious change to the house: in 1925 Colonial Revival double galleries were added to the structure replacing inadequate Eastlake porches. Since then, no significant modifications have been made to the structure. The interior furnishings and most important part of the grounds have survived substantially intact making the Smoot Home one of the least changed Victorian homes in the City.

Dr. Amelia Worthington Williams, a sister of Julia Williams Smoot and very prominent educator in her own right, lived in the Smoot Home from 1925 until her death in 1958. Dr. Williams was a longtime professor of history at the University of Texas at Austin. She was author of The Siege of the Alamo and edited The Writings of Sam Houston in conjunction with Dr. Eugene C. Barker.

In 1973, Miss Jane Smoot, daughter of Lawrence and Julia Smoot and the only surviving descendent of Dr. Richmond K. Smoot, generously presented the house, grounds and furnishing to the Heritage Society of Austin, retaining a life tenancy. Miss Smoot, a teacher for many years following family traditions, has done much over the years toward preservation and enhancement of her family home. The Heritage Society, a non-profit organization chartered by the State of Texas, was founded in 1953 to encourage and promote the preservation of buildings, sites and records of historical or cultural importance to the community, and it has been instrumental in restoring and adapting several key structures in Austin. The Smoot Home received a Texas State Historical Medallion in 1965.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

William A. McLeod, Story of the First Southern Presbyterian Church; Texas Senate Journal - 29th Legislature, 20 January 1905, p. 77; Smoot Home file, Austin - Travis County Collection, Austin Public Library, Austin. Interviews with Miss Jane Smoot, October 1978 and June and August 1979.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acree of nominated property 1.17

Quadrangle name Austin West

Quadrangle scale 1:2400

### UMT References

A 

1	4	6	1	9	3	4	0	3	3	4	9	6	4	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

Lots 12-15 Smoot Addition & adj. 405.5 ft. of 3 Div. 2

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

state	code	county	code
N/A			

state	code	county	code
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## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Peter Flagg Maxson and Mary Margaret Albright, President

organization Heritage Society of Austin, Inc. date May 10, 1980

street & number Post Office Box 2113 telephone 474-5198

city or town Austin state Texas 78768

## 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 State Historic Preservation Officer

date 5/14/82

For NPS use only

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

Helene Byers

Entered in the  
National Register

date

8/12/82

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

Ref. # 82004527

Smoot, Richmond Kelley, House, Travis County,  
TEXAS,

Working No. 7/12/82-1984

Fed. Reg. Date: 2.1.83

Date Due: 8/12/82 - 8/26/82

Action:  ACCEPT 8/12/82

Entered in the  RETURN

National Register  REJECT

Federal Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

- resubmission
- nomination by person or local government
- owner objection
- appeal

Substantive Review:  sample  request  appeal  NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom./Criteria \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewer \_\_\_\_\_

Discipline \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for:  technical corrections cited below  
 substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
	Public Acquisition	Accessible	

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input 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 paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- alterations/integrity
- dates
- boundary selection

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## **8. Significance**

Period \_\_\_\_\_ Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates \_\_\_\_\_ Builder/Architect \_\_\_\_\_

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

- \_\_\_\_\_ summary paragraph
- \_\_\_\_\_ completeness
- \_\_\_\_\_ clarity
- \_\_\_\_\_ applicable criteria
- \_\_\_\_\_ justification of areas checked
- \_\_\_\_\_ relating significance to the resource
- \_\_\_\_\_ context
- \_\_\_\_\_ relationship of integrity to significance
- \_\_\_\_\_ justification of exception
- \_\_\_\_\_ other

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## **9. Major Bibliographical References**

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## **10. Geographical Data**

Acres of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_

UMT References \_\_\_\_\_

Verbal boundary description and justification \_\_\_\_\_

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## **11. Form Prepared By**

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## **12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification**

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

\_\_\_\_\_ national \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature \_\_\_\_\_

title \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

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## **13. Other**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Maps
- \_\_\_\_\_ Photographs
- \_\_\_\_\_ Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: 202 272 - 3504

Comments for any item may be continued on an attached sheet



Smoot, Richmond Kelley, House  
1316 West Sixth Street  
Austin, Travis County, Texas

Photo by J.A.K.

Negative filed with the Texas Historical  
Commission

June 1974

Southeast oblique / Camera facing northwest

Photo # 1 of 5



Smoot, Richmond Kelley, House

1316 West Sixth Street

Austin, Travis County, Texas

Photo by Peter Flagg Maxson of the Texas  
Historical Commission

March 1982

South elevation / Camera facing north

Photo # 2 of 55



Smoot, Richmond Kelley, House  
1316 West Sixth Street  
Austin, Travis County, Texas  
Photo by Peter Flagg Maxson of the Texas  
Historical Commission  
March 1982  
West elevation / Camera facing northeast  
Photo # 3 of 5



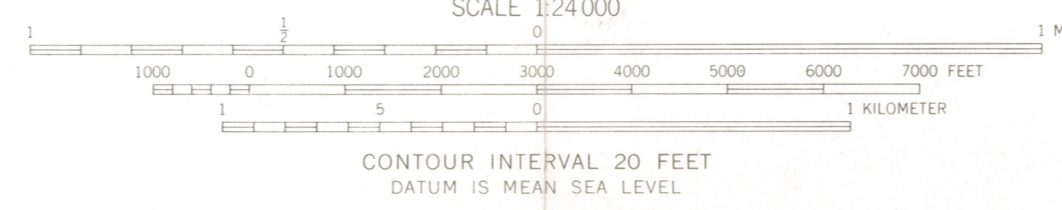
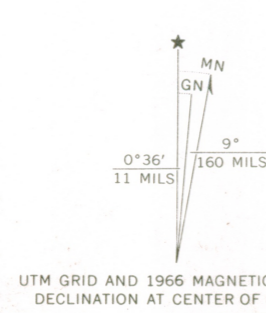
Smoot, Richmond Kelley, House  
1316 West Sixth Street  
Austin, Travis County, Texas  
Photo by Peter Flag Maxson of the Texas  
Historical Commission  
March 1982  
East elevation / Camera facing northwest  
Photo # 4 of 5



Smoot, Richmond Kelley, House  
1316 West Sixth Street  
Austin, Travis County, Texas  
Photo by Peter Flagg Maxson of the Texas  
Historical Commission  
March 1982  
Ground floor porch / Camera facing south  
Photo # 5 of 5



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey  
Control by USGS and USC&GS  
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1952. Field checked 1954. Revised from aerial photographs taken 1966. Field checked 1966  
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum  
10,000-foot grid based on Texas coordinate system, central zone  
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 14; shown in blue  
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown  
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence lines



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Heavy-duty	Light-duty
Medium-duty	Unimproved dirt
U.S. Route	State Route

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

AUSTIN WEST, TEX.  
SE 1/4 LAKE TRAVIS 15' QUADRANGLE  
N3015—W9745/7.5

3097-231  
1966  
AMS 6444 IV SE—SERIES V882

SMOOT HOUSE  
1916 WEST SIXTH STREET  
AUSTIN, TRAVIS CO., TEXAS  
UTM REFERENCE:  
14T619340 / 3349640