

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received

JAN 14 1985

date entered

FEB 20 1985

Continuation sheet

Item number 4,7,8,9,10

Page 1

INDIVIDUAL PROPERTIES WITHIN THE MULTIPLE RESOURCE AREA

#37, PHOTOS 2,3

NAME: John Sterling Smith, Jr., House

DATE: 1855, 1910

ADDRESS: Chestnut Street

BLOCK/LOT: Lot #3 (See Verbal
Boundary Description)

PRESENT OWNER: Mr. and Mrs. M. H. Cron
10807 Pepper Lane
Houston, Texas 77079

ACREAGE: 1

ORIGINAL USE: Residence

CURRENT USE: Residence

U.S.G.S. QUADRANGLE: 7.5' Chappell Hill, Tx

U.T.M. REFERENCE: 14/764580/3337640

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

Physical Condition: Fair

Dates of Alterations: 1910

The original L-shape part of this residence was constructed ca. 1855, while extensive additions and alterations made in 1910 resulted in the present asymmetrical 1½-story plan. The residence, which exhibits modified Queen Anne elements in its design, is constructed in cedar with clapboard siding. The front (north) elevation consists of an encircling porch supported by slightly tapered Doric columns and a projecting bay whose gable end contains a single square window. Rising from the tall hipped roof covered with composition shingles is an octagonal turret with a tent roof and a dormer with a gable roof. The turret contains 2/2 wooden windows in each face. The roof dormer has a pair of similar windows with fish-scale shingles appearing in the gable and pediment above them. A single gable-roof dormer also appears in the roofline at the rear.

There is a single front entry door with a transom above. Current windows, which are all 2/2, wooden, double-hung sash, replaced earlier 6/6 windows after 1910. The original wooden shutters remain and are operable. A projecting bay window is formed on the first floor directly below the turret. Two tall brick chimneys with corbeled caps pierce the roof. One of which is an end chimney, the other an interior chimney.

Noteworthy interior features include the grained pine flooring in the front hall and a simply carved mantelpiece located in the rear east room. At the main entrance is an open-well stairway with a paneled newel carved with scroll designs. The original 1855 structure contained a central hall with a room on each side and a rear ell extension to the east. The plan and entire appearance of the structure was changed drastically in 1910.

The only outbuilding on the property is a rectangular board-and-batten garage of uncertain date constructed with boards salvaged from an old barn demolished earlier on the property.

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SIGNIFICANCE:

Period: 1800-1899; 1900-

Areas of Significance: Architecture

Architecturally, this residence is significant as the only surviving example of this house form in the multiple-resource area and Chappell Hill vicinity. The basic form and asymmetrical arrangement is representative of a widespread phenomenon in residential architecture in Chappell Hill--evolution of the structure from a modified central-hall or dog-trot plan to a more popular turn-of-the-century form. Its overall arrangement, interior plan, and Queen Anne detailing reflect a vernacular treatment of the type and style, as might have been inspired by a builder's guide. The house retains its architectural integrity and has remained virtually unaltered since extensive modification in 1910.

The potential for historic archeological investigation exists on the property. The house's original cistern reportedly lies directly beneath the present kitchen and might yield artifacts and other valuable refuse. In addition, archeological exploration could possibly determine the location and use of outbuildings associated with the small original residence.

The Smith House is also important for its association with John Sterling Smith, Jr., a prominent citizen and influential factor in the economic development of Chappell Hill. He was a dominating force in connection with early 20th-century business and farming activities in the county. His father, John S. Smith, Sr., had developed an extensive area of land, and in 1874 acquired one of the most architecturally outstanding structures in the county, the old Colonel William Sledge homestead (HABS, 1936).

John Sterling Smith, Jr., was born on March 8, 1874, in the Colonel Sledge home three miles east of Chappell Hill; he attended Soule University and Blinn Moore College in Brenham. Besides his extensive farming interests, Mr. Smith engaged in the general mercantile business in Chappell Hill in 1904. In 1907 he was an influential factor in the organization of the Farmer's State Bank of Chappell Hill and was a member of the original Board of Directors. He served as president of the bank in 1912 and 1916. Mr. Smith's success as a prominent cattle raiser and landowner resulted in the enlargement and modification of his modest residence in 1910. When the alterations were completed, the house was considered one of the most attractive residences in Chappell Hill.

Situated on a large lot and low rise near the east end of Chestnut Street, the Smith House was a landmark in the residential neighborhood. There is physical evidence of a garden area with historic plantings to the southeast of the house.

The property remained in the original family from 1873 until 1983, when it was sold to Mr. M. H. Cron of Houston. The current owner plans to restore the residence to its 1910 state.

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BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Washington County Deed Records, Brenham, Texas

RELATIONSHIP TO SURROUNDINGS: Located in residential section on large lot and situated on a low rise; currently bordered on either side by vacant lots.

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

All that lot or parcel of land in the town of Chappell Hill, Washington County, Texas, known on the map of said town as Acres Lot #3, more particularly described as commencing on the South side of Chestnut Street at the intersection of Chestnut and Church Streets; thence with the South line of Chestnut Street 185 feet to a point which is the Northeast corner of this lot; thence South 210 feet; thence West 210 feet; thence North 210 feet to Chestnut Street; thence East along the South side of Chestnut Street 210 feet to the Northeast corner of this lot, containing 1 acre in a square form.

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Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

dnr-11

Name Chappell Hill Multiple Resource Area
State Washington County, Texas

Cover account.

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

- | | | | | |
|-----|---|----------------------------------|------------|--------------------------|
| 1. | Main Street Historic District | Substantive Review | Keeper | Linda McClelland 5/15/85 |
| | | | Attest | |
| 2. | Applewhite, Isaac, House | Entered in the National Register | for Keeper | Shelene Byers 2/20/85 |
| | | | Attest | |
| 3. | Chappell Hill Circulating Library | Entered in the National Register | for Keeper | Shelene Byers 2/20/85 |
| | | | Attest | |
| 4. | Chappell Hill Methodist Episcopal Church | Entered in the National Register | for Keeper | Shelene Byers 2/20/85 |
| | | | Attest | |
| 5. | Chappell Hill Public School and Chappell Hill Female College Bell | Substantive Review | Keeper | Linda McClelland 2/20/85 |
| | | | Attest | |
| 6. | Felder, E. King, House | Entered in the National Register | for Keeper | Shelene Byers 2/20/85 |
| | | | Attest | |
| 7. | Rogers, William S., House | Entered in the National Register | for Keeper | Shelene Byers 2/20/85 |
| | | | Attest | |
| 8. | Routt, J.R., House | Entered in the National Register | for Keeper | Shelene Byers 2/20/85 |
| | | | Attest | |
| 9. | Smith, John Sterling, Jr. House | Entered in the National Register | for Keeper | Shelene Byers 2/20/85 |
| | | | Attest | |
| 10. | | | Keeper | |
| | | | Attest | |

85000349

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Smith, John Sterling, Jr. House (Chappell
Hill MRA)
Washington County
TEXAS

Working No. JAN 14 1985
Fed. Reg. Date: 2-4-86
Date Due: 2/14/85 - 2/28/85
Action: ACCEPT 2-20-85
RETURN
REJECT
Federal Agency: _____

Entered in the
National Register

- ☐ 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 Public Acquisition	Status Accessible	Present Use
----------	---------------------------------	----------------------	-------------

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

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

UTM References _____

Verbal boundary description and justification _____

11. Form Prepared By

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

13. Other

- ☐ Maps
- ☐ Photographs
- ☐ Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: _____



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①

Historic Resources of Chappell Hill
Chappell Hill, Washington County, Texas

#37 John Sterling Smith, Jr. House
Chestnut Street

Photo by William Schaer, April 1984, neg on
file at Texas Historical Commission

North facade, camera facing south

Photo 2 of 58



J. S. Smith. 1910.

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Historic Resources of Chappell Hill
Chappell Hill, Washington County, Texas

#37 John Sterling Smith, Jr. House (Historic
Photo) Chestnut Street

Photographer unknown, 1910, neg on file
at Texas Historical Commission

Northeast elevation camera facing southwest

photo 3 of 58

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Please refer to the map in the
Multiple Property Cover Sheet
for this property

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000834