

NPS Form 10-900
(Rev. 8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

RECEIVED
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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

NATIONAL
REGISTER

1. Name of Property

historic name: Smith-Marcuse-Lowry House

other name/site number:

2. Location

street & number: 3913 Avenue C

city/town: Austin

state: TX County: Travis code: 453 zip code: 78751

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: private

Category of Property: building

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing	
2	0	buildings
_____	_____	sites
_____	_____	structures
_____	_____	objects
2	0	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

Name of related multiple property listing:

HISTORIC AND ARCHITECTURAL RESOURCES OF HYDE PARK, AUSTIN, TEXAS

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. See continuation sheet.

Quentin J. Russell Signature of certifying official 27 June 1990 Date

Texas Historical Commission State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

 Signature of commenting or other official Date

 State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

Entered in the National Register

- entered in the National Register Allores Beyer 8/16/90
See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register
See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain):

 Signature of Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic: Domestic Sub: single dwelling

Current: Domestic Sub: single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

Queen Anne

Materials:	foundation	brick
	walls	wood - weatherboard
	roof	metal
	other	

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

See continuation sheet.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: locally

Applicable National Register Criteria: C

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) : N/A

Areas of Significance: Architecture

Period(s) of Significance: 1894

Significant Dates: 1894

Significant Person(s): N/A

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: Geggie, John (builder)

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

See continuation sheet.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

The Smith-Marcuse-Lowry House is a 2-story frame dwelling situated on a large lot at the southeast corner of Avenue C and West 40th Street. Virtually unaltered and in good condition, the house stands in a predominately residential area just south of the Hyde Park Historic District. A wood fence resting on a brick foundation encloses the property, whose noteworthy landscaping features include mature oak, crepe myrtle, and juniper trees. At the southeast corner of the lot stands a 1-story board-and-batten carriage house classified as a contributing element.

Clad in wood siding, the residence features frame construction resting on a pier-and-beam foundation. The generally rectangular plan is atypical of Victorian-era dwellings in the neighborhood and the composition relies on placement of architectural features to achieve the more characteristic asymmetry. A two-tiered porch extends across the primary (west) facade. Three bays, delineated by chamfered columns, are enlivened by a jigsawn porch frieze and a balustrade assembled in an elaborate geometric design. The dwelling's primary entrance features single doorway with art-glass lights and a transom opens into the southernmost bay of the porch. The uncovered upper level of the porch features a wooden balustrade similar to that of the ground level. Access to the balcony is provided by a single door that reflects the detailing and placement of that below. A rear wing slightly set back on the south elevation houses a 2-story porch with similar detailing, although the lower level has been screened. Simply architraved fenestration and a paneled frieze below the eaves suggest the modest influence of the Victorian Italianate style.

The dwelling's most distinctive architectural element is a 2 1/2-story, polygonal tower on the north elevation. The engaged tower culminates in a steeply pitched octagonal roof capped by a small pinnacle. This strong vertical feature contributes to the asymmetrical composition.

The composition is surmounted by an elaborate roofscape dominated by a steeply pitched hipped roof clad in pressed-metal shingles. A lower hipped roof covers the rear wing. A highly crafted brick chimney with corbelling rises from the eastward slope of the roof.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 1

The Smith-Marcuse-Lowry House was among the first residences constructed in Hyde Park. As a highly visible example of the Queen Anne style, it reflects the marketing strategy of the Missouri, Kansas and Texas Land Company to encourage construction of large and architecturally pretentious houses in order to lure potential investors to the new subdivision. Distinguished by lively ornamentation and composition, the house is also indicative of the eclectic tastes prevalent during the Victorian period. As the property retains a remarkable degree of its historic character, it is being nominated for its local architectural significance under Criterion C.

The Missouri, Kansas and Texas Land and Town Co. and investors A.C. and Gertrude S. Marconnier sold lots 1-4 in Block 10 of Hyde Park Addition No. 2 to George Smith on May 8, 1894, for \$840, obligating him to initiate construction of a home worth at least \$1500 by September 1st. Smith contracted with local builder John Gergie to construct a 2-story house with eight rooms and necessary additions and appurtenances (DR 119:630; 126:17; Mechanics' Liens 90:605). Smith subsequently moved to Houston, selling 3913 Avenue C to Ada Smith and Willie R. Smith on January 21, 1901. In turn, they conveyed the property to Louis Marcuse on July 25, 1905 (DR 198:596,610).

A native of Koenigsberg, Prussia, Marcuse immigrated to the United States in 1867 and settled in Austin in 1873. He worked as a bookkeeper for carriage and wagon dealer Michael Paggi before opening his own grocery and feed store. Although apparently retired by the time he acquired 3913 Avenue C, he served for six years on the City Board of Equalization while residing at the house. (City of Austin. Historic Landmark Inventory File C14h-76002). His widow, Emma, continued to live there after his death on February 13, 1920. The Marcuse's daughter, Alwine (Alvina), married realtor Nelson R. Lowry and the couple set up housekeeping with her mother. After Lowry's death about 1924, Alwine and her son continued living at 3913 Avenue C until the property was conveyed to a local real estate broker in 1968.

Recent owners George and Martha Boutwell purchased the Smith-Marcuse-Lowry House after it had been condemned by the City of Austin. Their restoration efforts included replacement of the roof and reconstruction of the porches, balustrades and fencing based on historic photographs. Zoned historic by the City of Austin on June 19, 1977, the house received an Historic Preservation Award from the

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 2

Heritage Society of Austin in 1983 (City of Austin. Historic
Landmark Inventory File C14h-76-002; Hyde Park Historic Homes Tour
1984:6).

9. Major Bibliographical References

X See bibliography for associated historic context.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

_ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.

- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey#
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record#

Primary Location of Additional Data:

- x State historic preservation office
- Other state agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other -- Specify Repository:

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: less than one acre

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

A 14 621800 3352900 B
C _ _ _ _ _ D _ _ _ _ _

Verbal Boundary Description:

Lots 1-4, Block 10, Hyde Park Addition No. 2

Boundary Justification:

Boundaries are those historically associated with the property.

11. Form Prepared By

Name/Title: Martha Doty Freeman - Historian
Organization: RioGroup Architects and Planners Date: July 1988
Street & Number: 1711 S. Congress Avenue Telephone: 512/440-8751
City or Town: Austin State: TX Zip: 78704

Name/Title: David Moore - Historian
Organization: Hardy-Heck-Moore Date: July 1988
Street & Number: 2112 Rio Grande Telephone: 512/478-8014
City or Town: Austin State: TX Zip: 78705

7/5/90

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

Hyde Park MPS Travis County, TEXAS

Date Listed

COVER

- | | |
|--|---------|
| 1. Bluebonnet Tourist Camp | 8/16/90 |
| 2. Commercial Building at 4113 Guadalupe St. | 8/10/90 |
| 3. Covert, Frank M. and Annie G., House | 8/10/90 |
| 4. Hildreth-Flanagan-Heierman House | 8/10/90 |
| 5. Hyde Park Historic District Substantiva Review | 8/10/90 |
| 6. Hyde Park Presbyterian Church | 8/16/90 |
| 7. Ledbetter, Charles P., House | 8/10/90 |
| 8. Mansbendel, Peter and Clotilde Shipe, House
Substantiva Review | 8/16/90 |
| 9. Missouri, Kansas and Texas Land Co. House | 8/16/90 |
| 10. Oliphant--Walker House Substantiva Review | 8/16/90 |
| 11. Page--Gilbert House | 8/10/90 |
| 12. Parker, James F. and Susie R., House | 8/16/90 |
| 13. Ramsey, F. T. and Belle, House Substantiva Review | 8/16/90 |
| 14. Sears, Rev. Henry M. and Jennie, House | 8/10/90 |
| 15. Shadow Lawn Historic District | 8/16/90 |
| 16. Smith--Marcuse--Lowry House | 8/16/90 |
| 17. Williams, W. T. and Clotilde V., House | 8/16/90 |
| 18. McCauley, Robert H. and Edith Ethel, House | 8/16/90 |
| 19. Robbins, Alice H., House | 8/16/90 |

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Smith--Marcuse--Lowry House

MULTIPLE NAME: Hyde Park MPS

STATE & COUNTY: TEXAS, Travis

DATE RECEIVED: 7/05/90 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 7/17/90
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 8/02/90 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 8/19/90
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 90001180

NOMINATOR: STATE

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT

8/16/90 DATE Entered in the
National Register

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM./CRITERIA _____
REVIEWER _____
DISCIPLINE _____
DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

CLASSIFICATION

___count ___resource type

STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

FUNCTION

___historic ___current

DESCRIPTION

___architectural classification
___materials
___descriptive text

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

BIBLIOGRAPHY

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

___acreage ___verbal boundary description
___UTMs ___boundary justification

ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION/PRESENTATION

___sketch maps ___USGS maps ___photographs ___presentation

OTHER COMMENTS

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to

Phone

Signed Date



SMITH - MARCUSE - LOWRY HOUSE

3913 AVENUE C

AUSTIN, TRAVIS CO., TEXAS

DANIEL HARDY

MARCH 4, 1987

NEGATIVE WITH TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

CAMERA FACING NORTHEAST

10 OF 49

negative Texas Historical Commission

Austin Tx

view: looking northeast

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64500640