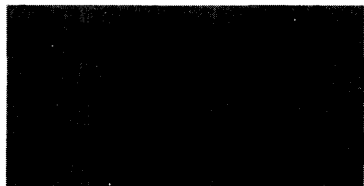


**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



81

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

1. Name

historic Smith, Mary J. G., House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 2256 N.W. Johnson Street not for publication

city, town Portland vicinity of First congressional district

state Oregon code 041 county Multnomah code 051

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 type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" 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 Mary S. Farnham

street & number 2157 N.W. Irving

city, town Portland vicinity of Oregon state 97210

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Multnomah County Recorder's Office

street & number Multnomah County Courthouse

city, town Portland vicinity of Oregon state 97204

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Portland Historical Landmark has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1980 federal state county local

depository for survey records Portland Bureau of Planning

city, town Portland vicinity of Oregon state 97205

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 Mary J. G. Smith House is a 2 1/2-story residence in the Colonial Revival Style which has been maintained as a five-plex since the 1940s. It is rectangular in plan, measuring approximately 35 x 68 feet, and is oriented longitudinally on its lot, facing north. It is of wood frame construction on a concrete foundation and full basement. The hipped roof has slightly bell-cast, overhanging eaves. A large, gable-roofed dormer with cornice returns lights the attic at the center of the front slope of the roof, its Palladian window trimmed with a stylized wooden keystone at the apex--a hallmark of the Colonial Revival Style. Two tall brick chimneys with corbeled caps project above the eaves. Exterior walls are clad with lapped weatherboards. The overall character of the facade is one of bilateral symmetry, and the most distinctive features are a central, second story bow window and full length veranda with central bowed portico. Porch posts are Ionic columns with entasis. Shadow pilasters at the corners are fluted and of the Ionic order. Ionic pilasters trim the second story corners also. The porch railing has square balusters, and lattice work covers the porch foundation. Bowed wood porch steps echo the bow of the portico. The entablatures of main volume and porch are completed by unadorned architrave and frieze.

Side lights in the Palladian window of the attic dormer have leaded panes in a diaper pattern. Second story openings are wide windows fitted with double-hung sash with one-over-one lights. The heads of the windows abut the architrave. On either side of the oak paneled front door are slant-bay windows with leaded top lights in the central panel.

The east and west sides of the house have projecting slanted bays on the ground story which overhang the foundation. The window treatment is the same as the front bays, with the exception of a different pattern of leading and beveling in the east bay. There are cross gabled dormers with leaded windows above the eaves.

Exterior changes to the house include the addition of an exterior flight of wooden stairs on the west side to gain private access to the second story rear apartment. Fire escapes were replaced on the east side, and the west side basement windows were modified to conform with city fire codes. A 19 x 24-foot ground story room was added onto the back of the house, enclosing one side of the rear porch/private entry. All these additions and replacements were made in 1979 by a master builder working under an architect's supervision at the direction of the current owner.

During the 1940s, the Smith house had been converted into five apartments by the U. S. Naval Housing Authority to provide war housing. Since that time, the house had fallen into disrepair. In 1979 the interior was modified to create more architecturally cohesive individual apartments. The first floor front apartment takes up almost the entire original first floor. Remaining from the original interior furnishings are the door knobs, knob plates, window hardware and sliding door plates which are all brass with floral embossing around the edges. The original fir door and window trim and wainscoting are intact. There are very large sliding cedar doors between what was once the parlor and entrance hall. All of the original cedar doors, including the sliding ones, have been stripped and stained.

The second story contains two two-story apartments which incorporate the previously unused attic. One apartment runs across the front, or north side of the building and the other across the rear, or south side. Portions of walls and floors were removed or added as necessary to evoke this change. Access to the front apartment is through a side door at first floor level on the west side and up an interior stairway with two

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Continuation sheet Mary J.G. Smith House

Item number 7

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landings. Both upper apartments retain all of the original door hardware in which knobs and oval plates have narrow beading around the edges. Many of the original light fixtures have been refitted and retained.

The basement apartment is a large studio unit, and the ground floor rear apartment is a small one-bedroom unit.

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/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" 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 1906 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Mary J. G. Smith House at 2256 NE Johnson in the Nob Hill district of Northwest Portland was built in the Colonial Revival Style in 1906 for the widow of saloon keeper John G. Smith. Mrs. Smith and her children took up residence in the house in 1907, and the property remained in Smith family ownership until 1940. The house, declared a Portland Historical Landmark by the City of Portland in 1980, is significant as an externally well-preserved and unusual example in the city of the ubiquitous dormered box rendered in full blown Colonial Revival Style, replete with central second story bow window and bowed portico supported by Ionic columns with entasis. During the Second World War, when extra housing was required shipyard workers, the house was converted by the U. S. Naval Housing Authority to a five-unit apartment building. Most recent concessions to the use of the house as a multi-unit dwelling include construction of an exterior wood stairway on the west side to provide access to the second story rear unit, addition of fire escapes on the east side, modification of west side basement windows to comply with fire safety code, and enclosure of one end of the rear porch. While original hardware and trim remains, some of the former hall space, including the entry stairhall, has been incorporated into individual dwelling units. Notwithstanding the conversion of the house to apartment use, the Mary J. G. Smith House embodies the distinctive characteristics of the Colonial Revival Style and possess integrity of location, design, setting, and sufficient materials and workmanship to meet the criteria of the National Register.

The property on which the Smith House stands was originally part of the donation land claim of Amos N. King, noted in Portland's early history as a developer and entrepreneur. King came to Oregon in 1845 and settled below Corvallis. In 1849 he moved to Portland. A portion of King's claim and all of Captain John Couch's adjoining holdings on the east became known as the Nob Hill district, one of Portland's most fashionable neighborhoods. Lots in King's Second Addition were sold off in the 1880s as waterfront development forced residential neighborhoods farther west.

Lots 10 and 11, Block 8 were sold to Sarah Tanner on March 9, 1889. Mrs. Tanner and her husband, Albert H. Tanner, assumed joint title in 1898. Judge Tanner was a respected member of Portland's legal community, having served in the State Legislature in 1882, as City Attorney in 1884, and as a city municipal judge. Sarah Tanner was the daughter of early Portland figure John Kelly. In 1890 the Tanner House was built on Lot 10, and Lot 11 was the site of the Tanner stables until the property was sold to Mary J. G. Smith on October 9, 1905. Mrs. Smith was the widow of John G. Smith, who was the former proprietor of one of Portland's early saloons, the City Brewery Saloon, which was located on Front Street. Mrs. Smith had the house built in 1906 and moved in with her two children in 1907. She or her heirs continued to own and occupy the house until it was sold in 1940.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet attached.

10. Geographical Data

UTM NOT LISTED ADDRESS NOT PRINTED

Acreeage of nominated property less than one

Quadrangle name Portland, Oregon - Washington

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

1	0	5	2	3	7	0	0	5	0	4	1	4	8	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

Lot 11, Block 8, King's Second Addition to the City of Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon.

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

state code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Bonnie Chambers

organization date October 10, 1980

street & number 1840 S.W. Palatine Street telephone 503/246-3774

city or town Portland state Oregon 97219

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 

title Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer date June 17, 1981

For HCRS use only

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

Entered in the National Register

date 12/2/81

 Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

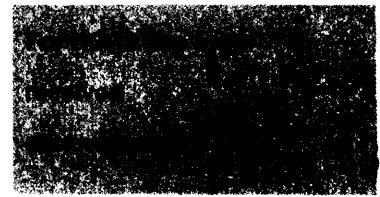
date

Chief of Registration

NOV 22 1981

**United States Department of the Interior
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Continuation sheet Mary J. G. Smith House

Item number 9

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Recorders Office
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Daily Oregonian
Oregon Journal
Willamette Week



October 1980

Smith, Mary J. G., House
2256 NW Johnson
Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon

NOV 20 1981

Bonnie Chambers Photo, 1980
1840 SW Palatine
Portland, OR 97219

DEC 2 1981

1 of 1
North (front) elevation

2256 N.W. Johnson Street, Portland, OR 97210