

Site: M:26/16/4

The Smith House

Built: c. 1915

13 Martin's Lane

Builder: S. Leonard Gray

Private

This L-shaped, 2-1/2 story vernacular dwelling with Colonial Revival details was constructed for a local black family on land that had once been part of Samuel Martin's farm. Evelyn Smith, who, with her husband Simon, contracted with Arlington builder S.L.Gray to build the house, was a member of the Johnson family, of which family four siblings lived on Martin's Lane. Because of his relationship to the family, builder Gray was called upon to construct several houses on the street.

Maryland Historical Trust

State Historic Sites Inventory Form

DOE yes noNR yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic The Smith House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 13 Martin's Lane not for publicationcity, town Rockville vicinity of congressional district 8state Maryland county Montgomery (RV Planning Area 4)

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 type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Mohammad A. and M. Shamsstreet & number 13 Martin's Lane telephone no.: unlistedcity, town Rockville state and zip code Maryland 20850

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Montgomery Co. Land Records liber 6257street & number Montgomery Co. Courthouse folio 667city, town Rockville state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Maryland - National Capital Park and Planning Survey, 1976site Park Historians Office federal state county localdepository for survey records Needwood Mansion, Needwood Roadcity, town Derwood state Maryland

7. Description

Survey No. M:26/16/4

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date of move _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The subject house faces south on Martin's Lane situated on a deep, one-and-three-quarter acre lot with shrubs, cedars and evergreens framing the front facade and sidewalk and planted along the foundation. A hedge marks the east property line. Driveway access is on the west side of the house, leading to a parking area at the rear. Shade trees, shrubs, and a large garden are located on the northern half of the lot.

This 1915 L-shaped, three-bay by three-bay, 2-1/2 story vernacular dwelling with Colonial revival details has a low cross-hipped roof covered with composition shingles. The house is sheathed in German siding, finished with vertical cornerboards with wide fascia at the cornice, and rests on a fieldstone foundation. It also contains two corbelled interior brick chimneys. In mass, this house is rectangular with a wing on the northeast corner. A full-width front porch wraps around the east facade to meet the wing. Windows are predominately 2/2 with plain window and door surrounds. Some windows are flanked by wooden louvered shutters.

The three-bay south (front) facade has a two bay main block and a one bay wing. The main block has one window in each bay, second story, and a pair of longer windows in the east bay, first story. A 15 light wood exterior door is in the west bay. The wing has one window first and second story. The wraparound front porch has a low-hipped roof supported by six Doric columns. Three concrete steps access the porch.

The east facade has one window in the second story main block, and one window on the south bay and one small square light on the first story. The wing has one window centered first and second stories.

The three-bay north (rear) facade has one window in the west bay, second story main block, and a first story full-width porch, now enclosed, with a square post supported shed-roofed open porch added on the rear. The enclosed porch has a small square window on the west bay, a 2/2 window in the middle bay and a light wood exterior door on the east side. Two six light windows are on the west side of the enclosed porch.

The two-bay west facade has one window symmetrically placed in each bay, first and second story.

8. Significance

Survey No.M:26/16/4

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 type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) local history

Specific dates c. 1915 **Builder/Architect** S. Leonard Gray (B)

check: Applicable Criteria: A B C D
and/or
Applicable Exception: A B C D E F G
Level of Significance: national state local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Significance

The Smith house was built for a local black family on land that had once been part of Samuel Martin's farm. It has been little altered since its construction c. 1915.

History and Support

Samuel Martin, born a slave in the Nichols family, chose to remain near Rockville after his emancipation at the age of 29. When he died in 1873, he left a comfortable legacy to his children. He divided an 8-3/4 acre parcel just outside of the town of Rockville into five equal parts, willing Lot No. 5 at the eastern end of his property to his daughter Miranda Watkins Martin. 1/

By her death in 1902, Lot No. 5 was owned by Catherine M.W.Martin, who resided at 1713 R. Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. Her will empowered executor Frank Higgins to sell Lot No. 5 and divide the proceeds between her two daughters. 2/

The following year, each daughter purchased half of the property. Blanche Mead Rogers, who lived in new York City, purchased the western half of Lot No. 5, three roods and 23 square perches of land, for \$200 from her mother's estate. 3/ She still lived in New York seven years later when she and her husband sold the parcel to Simon and Evelyn M. Smith of Montgomery County.

Evelyn Smith was a Johnson, of which family four siblings lived on Martin's Lane. Arthur Johnson built #11 Martin's Lane in 1916, Aubrey Johnson built #201, and Daisy Johnson built #12 (since demolished and replaced). About 1915, Evelyn Johnson Smith and her husband Simon contracted with Arlington builder S. Leonard Gray (who had married a Johnson) of Gray & Boswell to build their home at #13 Martin's Lane. 5/

Because of their relationship to the Johnson family, builders Gray and Boswell were called on to construct houses for several families on Martin's Lane. These included #11, #12, and #13 Martin's Lane, and others on Washington Street near Middle Lane. 6/

continued on attachment 8.1

Mr. Smith commuted by automobile to his job at a bank in Takoma Park, while Mrs. Smith was a housekeeper for white families in Rockville. To the original house they added a kitchen to the rear, a back porch, and front cement steps in the 1930s. They kept chickens and pigs, and always had a large garden. Mrs. Smith was known for her immaculate housekeeping, and her lawn was the showcase of Martin's Lane. Mr. Smith had kennels in the back yard, where he boarded other people's dogs as well as kept his own.

Simon Smith died about 1965. Daughter Evelyn Smith Welsh returned to Rockville after her mother died in 1970, living there until her death in 1982. The property then passed to her niece Barbara Rollins and to her brother Charles "Woody" Smith, who sold it to the present owners two years later.

Footnotes:

1. Montgomery County Judgment Records EBP14/120(1873).
2. Montgomery County Will Records, HCA4/85 (1902).
3. Montgomery County Land Records TD27/196 (1903).
4. Ibid, 212/25 (1910).
5. Date provided by Charles W. Smith, who was two or three at the time his parents built the house.
6. Interviews with Barbara Rollins, Barbara Talley, Rosalie Campbell, and Charles W. Smith.

1982
City of Rockville
scale: 1" = 600'

M:26/16/4

4

Smith House

13 Martin's Lane





RICHARD H. ANDREWS
424-8282
1608 FARRAGUT AVE.
ROCKVILLE, MD 20851

06861701

m/26/16/4
Smith House
13 Martins Lane
Rockville
6-86