

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY  
HISTORIC SITE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey #: P.G. #75A-13 Building Date: mid to late 19th c.  
Building Name: J. H. Smith House  
Location: 2608 Parkland Drive, Suitland, Maryland

Private/Residence/Occupied/Good/Inaccessible

Description

The J. H. Smith house is a two-and-one-half-story cross-gabled frame house, located in a densely populated area near Marlboro Pike. The house is L-shaped, and consists of a three-bay north facing gabled section to which a south wing is attached at right angles. The north facade is three-bays with entrance in the central bay. There is a corbelled brick chimney at the ridge. At third story level in the west gable end (which forms the first two bays of the west facade) are two side-by-side single sash eight-pane windows. The west, and now principal, facade continues, flush with this gable end, four bays across, with entrances in the second and third bays. The two entrances are covered by an asymmetrical pedimented canopy, and supported by metal trellis posts. There is a corbelled brick chimney at the ridge. An additional bay's width has been added on the first and second stories to the east facade of this south section and the roof has been extended to cover it, giving the east plane of the roof a catslide profile. There is a basement under the three-bay north section. Hand hewn beams, ca. 8" square in section, form the sill. Light green aluminum siding covers the old German siding. Foundations are brick with some concrete block.

Significance

The J.H. Smith House is a much-expanded and much-altered dwelling, the nucleus of which was probably constructed in the period immediately following the Civil War. It was constructed across the Washington-Marlboro Turnpike from the toll gate. The main part of the building is two-and-one-half stories and three bays by two bays. Its original plan of central passage and flanking parlors has been altered, to house two families. The rough hewn character of the sill beams visible in parts of the basement suggests that this section may precede the Civil War, although the house does not appear on the Martenet map of 1861. The 100-acre farm on which it stands was purchased in 1866 by J.H. Smith, who may have built the structure at that time. It is not clear when the L-shaped wing was added on the south; it is notable for its unusual method of framing: 3" x 4" trimmed lumber laid directly on top of one another. The 100-acre farm passed through a series of owners during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. In 1925 the area was subdivided into the community of Parkland. Recent changes include adding a bay's width to the south ell, and covering it with a catslide roof. The German siding of the entire building has recently been replaced by aluminum siding. The result is a tall and spacious building which houses two families and a small business, and which retains none of its historical character.

Acreage: .26 acre

# Maryland Historical Trust

## State Historic Sites Inventory Form

### 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic J. H. Smith House

and/or common

### 2. Location

street & number 2608 Parkland Drive  not for publication

city, town Suitland  vicinity of congressional district 5

state Maryland county Prince George's County

### 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 type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

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

name Blythe B. Miller

street & number 2608 Parkland Drive telephone no.:

city, town Suitland state and zip code Maryland 20747

### 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Prince George's County Courthouse liber 3646

street & number Main Street folio 837

city, town Upper Marlboro state Maryland

### 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Prince George's County Inventory of Historic Sites

date 1974  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records History Division, M-NCPPC

city, town Riverdale state Maryland

# 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>	
<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 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 J. H. Smith house is a two-and-one-half-story cross-gabled frame house, located in a densely populated area near Marlboro Pike with its principal facade now facing roughly west onto Parkland Drive. There are several very large oak trees in the small yard area.

The house is L-shaped, and consists of a three-bay north facing gable-roofed section to which a south wing is attached at right angles. The north facade is three-bays with entrance in the central bay. The entrance is covered by a small pedimented canopy supported by metal trellis posts. There is a corbelled brick chimney at the ridge between first and second bays. At third story level in the west gable end (which forms the first two bays of the west facade) are two side-by-side single sash eight-pane windows. The west (and now principal) facade continues, flush with this gable end, four bays across, with entrances in the second and third bays. The two entrances are covered by an asymmetrical pedimented canopy, extended south to cover the second entrance, and supported by metal trellis posts. There is a corbelled brick chimney at the ridge between second and third bays. An additional bay's width has been added on the first and second stories to the east facade of this south section and the roof has been extended to cover it, giving the east plane of the roof a catslide profile.

There is a basement under the three-bay north section. Hand hewn beams, ca. 8" square in section, form the sill.

Light green aluminum siding covers the old German siding. Windows are 6/6 double hung sash and have dark green louvered aluminum shutters. Foundations are brick with some concrete block, and the roof is covered with asphalt shingle. At the east gable end of the north section is a breeze-way/garage, and beyond it, a small one-story shop building.

# 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 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 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** mid to late 19th Cen. **Builder/Architect**

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.

The J.H. Smith House is a much-expanded and much-altered dwelling, the nucleus of which was probably constructed in the period immediately following the Civil War. It was constructed across the Washington-Marlboro Turnpike from the toll gate, and may have been, as local tradition suggests, the home of the gate keeper, although this has not been substantiated.

The main part of the building is two-and-one-half stories and three bays by two bays. Its original plan of central passage and flanking parlors has been altered, and the interior renovated, to house two families. The rough hewn character of the sill beams visible in parts of the basement suggests that this section may even precede the Civil War, although the house does not appear on the Martenet map of 1861. The 100-acre farm on which it stands was purchased by J.H. Smith in 1866; he may have built the structure at that time, or perhaps rebuilt an earlier tenant building which stood there during the previous ownership of Zachariah Berry and Washington J. Beall.<sup>1</sup>

It is not clear when the L-shaped wing was added on the south; it is notable for its unusual method of framing: 3" x 4" trimmed lumber laid directly on top of one another.

The 100-acre farm passed through a series of owners during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. In 1925 the area was subdivided into the community of Parkland. Resubdivision has created a .26 acre lot in Parkland on which the house stands.<sup>2</sup>

Recent changes include adding a bay's width to the south ell, and covering it with a catslide roof. A one-story hip-roofed addition with carport attached has been built onto this section. Another major addition on the east gable end of the main block includes a garage and key shop. The German siding of the entire building has recently been replaced by aluminum siding. The result is a tall and spacious building which houses two families and a small business, and which retains none of its historical character.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

cf. Chain of Title  
cf. Notes, Item #8

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 0.26 acre s  
Quadrangle name Anacostia, Sec. C

tax map 81 (6580) Lot B  
Quadrangle scale \_\_\_\_\_

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing
C	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
E	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
G	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

B	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing
D	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
F	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
H	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Verbal boundary description and justification

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

state	code	county	code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Susan G. Pearl, Research Historian		
organization	Historic Preservation Commission	date	September 1985
street & number	c/o County Planning Division, M-NCPPC	telephone	952-3521
city or town	Upper Marlboro	state	Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
Shaw House  
21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 269-2438

#8. Continued

Notes

1 Martenet Map of Prince George's County, 1861; G.M. Hopkins Atlas of Prince George's County, 1878; Prince George's County Land Records FS #4:369.

2 Prince George's County Equity #6427; Plat Book #3:28.

116# 175A-13  
1702205504

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

NOMINATION FORM  
for the  
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

<b>1. NAME</b>				
COMMON:				
AND/OR HISTORIC: J. H. Smith House				
<b>2. LOCATION</b>				
STREET AND NUMBER: Old Silver Hill Road and Parkland Drive				
CITY OR TOWN: District Heights				
STATE: Maryland			COUNTY: Prince George's	
<b>3. CLASSIFICATION</b>				
CATEGORY (Check One)		OWNERSHIP		STATUS
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object		<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work In progress
		Public Acquisition:		ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
		<input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered		Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)				
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	_____	_____
<b>4. OWNER OF PROPERTY</b>				
OWNER'S NAME:				
STREET AND NUMBER:				
CITY OR TOWN:			STATE:	
<b>5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION</b>				
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:				
Prince George's County Courthouse				
STREET AND NUMBER:				
CITY OR TOWN: Upper Marlboro			STATE: Maryland	
Title Reference of Current Deed (Book & Pg. #):				
<b>6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS</b>				
TITLE OF SURVEY:				
None				
DATE OF SURVEY: <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local				
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:				
STREET AND NUMBER:				
CITY OR TOWN:			STATE:	

7 DESCRIPTION	
CONDITION	(Check One)
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/> Ruins <input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 45%;">           (Check One)  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered              <input type="checkbox"/> Uncltered         </div> <div style="width: 45%;">           (Check One)  <input type="checkbox"/> Moved              <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site         </div> </div>
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE	
<p style="text-align: center;">The house is a two story, frame building now covered with shingles. The three bay north facade has a central doorway covered with a pedimented porch. The windows are 6/6 double hung sash. To the south is a two-story ell. The frieze, with a center moulding, continues across the gable end.</p>	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**8. SIGNIFICANCE**

**PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)**

- Pre-Columbian       16th Century       18th Century       20th Century
- 15th Century       17th Century       19th Century

**SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)**

**AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)**

- |  |  |   |   |
|--|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal<br><input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric<br><input type="checkbox"/> Historic<br><input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture<br><input type="checkbox"/> Architecture<br><input type="checkbox"/> Art<br><input type="checkbox"/> Commerce<br><input type="checkbox"/> Communications<br><input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Education<br><input type="checkbox"/> Engineering<br><input type="checkbox"/> Industry<br><input type="checkbox"/> Invention<br><input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture<br><input type="checkbox"/> Literature<br><input type="checkbox"/> Military<br><input type="checkbox"/> Music | <input type="checkbox"/> Political<br><input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy<br><input type="checkbox"/> Science<br><input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture<br><input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian<br><input type="checkbox"/> Theater<br><input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning<br><input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)<br><hr/><br><hr/><br><hr/><br><hr/><br><hr/><br><hr/> |
|--|--|---|---|

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

[Empty space for Major Bibliographical References]

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

**Acreage Justification:**

[Empty space for Acreage Justification]

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE: Christopher Owens, Park Historian	
ORGANIZATION: MNCPPC	DATE: 12 Sept 74
STREET AND NUMBER: 8787 Georgia Avenue	
CITY OR TOWN: Silver Spring	STATE: Maryland

**12. State Liaison Officer Review: (Office Use Only)**

Significance of this property is:

National  State  Local

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

## Chain of Title

J.H. Smith House  
P.G. #75A-13

#3646:837 24 Sept. 1968 Deed	Salvino and Ester Macario to Blythe B. and Alba M. Miller; Lot "B" of Resubdivision of Lots 7, 8, 9 and part of 10, Parkland; same which grantors acquired by #1006:155.
#1006:155 23 Jan. 1948 Deed	Louise M. Moran, widow, to Salvino and Ester Macario; Lot "B" of Resubdivision of Lots 7, 8, 9 and part of 10, Parkland, in Spaulding District.
#744:323 10 March 1945 Deed	William A. and Robbie E. Hitt to Louise M. Moran; Lots 7, 8, 9 and 10 in subdivision known as Parkland as shown in Plat Book #3:28.
#638:195 22 Oct. 1941 Deed	Robert W. and Sadie D. Hitt to William A. and Robbie E. Hitt; Lots 1 to 3, inclusive; 5 to 13, inclusive; 22, 23, 25 to 29, inclusive; 45 to 49, inclusive, and 58 in Parkland.
#638:181 22 Oct. 1941 Deed	William A. and Robbie E. Hitt to Robert W. and Sadie D. Hitt; Lots 1 to 3, inclusive; 5 to 13, inclusive; 22, 23, 25 to 29, inclusive; 45 to 49, and 58 in Parkland.
#616:141 26 April 1941 Deed	John W. Batts to Robbie E. Hitt; Lots 1 to 3, inclusive; 5 to 13, inclusive; 22 to 29, inclusive; 47 to 49, inclusive, and 58, Parkland.
Equity #6427 1925	William A. Hitt and John W. Batts petitioned for admittance to record of a plat for a subdivision named Parkland; 23 Oct. 1925 Court ordered plat received for record; same land which was conveyed by #148:269 and #152:262.
#152:262 10 Feb. 1920 Deed	For \$4,300, William A. and Robbie E. Hitt to John W. Batts; one-half undivided interest in 100 acres in Spauldings District; same which grantor acquired by deeds from Nannie Purdy and Arch Butler.
#148:272 6 Oct. 1919 Deed	Arch Butler, husband of Caroline (Purdy) Butler, to William Addison Hitt; 100 acres in Spauldings District; all Butler's interest in the estate of William A. Purdy, deceased.
#148:269 23 Dec. 1919 Deed	Nannie Purdy et al, heirs of William A. Purdy, to William Addison Hitt; 100 acres in Spauldings District; same ratified by Court in Equity #5257; same land which William Purdy acquired by #12:37.

- 2 -

#147:239  
18 Oct. 1919  
Deed

For \$8,600, S. Marvin Peach, trustee in Equity #5257, to William Addison Hitt; 100 acres in Spauldings District; same which William Purdy, deceased, acquired by #12:37.

Equity  
#5257  
1919

Nannie Purdy, widow, vs. heirs of William A. Purdy; W.A. Purdy died intestate 23 April 1917 leaving his widow and ten children as heirs; they petitioned for the court's ratification of a contract to sell the deceased's real estate to William Addison Hitt; Decree - 19 Oct. 1919. Contract ratified, sale confirmed and S. Marvin Peach appointed trustee to make conveyance.

#12:37  
1 Dec. 1902  
Deed

For \$4,000, Amos and Alice M. Zigler and Jacob H. and Ella M. Zigler of Lancaster, Pennsylvania to William A. Purdy; 100 acres lying on the turnpike road from Washington to Upper Marlboro; same which was conveyed by J. Hoffman Smith to Conrad Zigler on 1 Nov. 1871 and same which was conveyed by Washington J. Beall to John H. Smith on 14 Dec. 1866.

WRS #1:85  
23 Feb. 1880  
Will

Estate of Conrad Zigler who died 16 Feb. 1880; after cash bequests to grandchildren, deceased devised residue of his estate to his son John for his life and then it was to be equally divided among John's children. John died 17 Nov. 1894 before completely settling his father's estate so the Register for the probate of wills in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania appointed Amos Zigler administrator in his place. Amos and Jacob H. Zigler were both witnesses to Conrad's will.

HB #5:237  
1 Nov. 1871  
Deed

John Hoffman and Susannah Smith to Conrad Zigler; 100 acres lying along the turnpike from Washington to Upper Marlboro; same which grantors acquired 14 Dec. 1866 from Washington J. Beall.

FS #4:369  
14 Dec. 1866  
Deed

For \$5,000, Washington J. and Mary A. Beall to John Hoffman Smith; 100 acres known as The Levels, binding on the public road leading from Forestsville to Washington; part of the same property conveyed by W.O. Sprigg to Zacariah Berry on 19 Sept. 1820, same which Zacariah Berry bequeathed to his daughter, Mary A. Beall, and same which Mary A. Beall conveyed as a gift to her son, Washington J. Beall.





P.G.#75A-13

J. H. Smith House

Prince George's County, MD

Susan G. Pearl

May 1985

Northwest 3/4 elevation

Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD



P.G.#75A-13

J.H. Smith House

Prince George's County, MD

Susan G. Pearl

May 1985

North elevation

Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD\*



P.G.#75A-13

J. H. Smith House

Prince George's County, MD

Susan G. Pearl

May 1985

West elevation

Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD



P.G.#75A-13

J. H. Smith

Prince George's County, Md.

Susan G. Pearl

May 1985

South elevation

Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD



NAME # 75A-13 J.H. SMITH HOUSE PG: 75A-13  
LOCATION CORNER OF MARLBORO PIKE + PARKLAND DR DISTRICT HEIGHTS, MO  
FACADE NW  
PHOTO TAKEN 9/13/74 MOWYER