

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NR 5-29-9

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Smith, Morgan, Dr., House

other names/site number Site # PU8496

2. Location

street & number 5110 Stagecoach Road

not for publication

city or town Little Rock

vicinity

state Arkansas code AR county Pulaski code 119 zip code 72204

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this  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 for in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Cecilia Matthews  
Signature of certifying official/Title

3/20/09  
Date

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. ( See Continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official/Title

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

- I hereby certify that the property is:
- entered in the National Register.
    - 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 the Keeper

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Action

Smith, Morgan, Dr., House

Pulaski County, Arkansas

Name of Property

County and State

**Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

**Category of Property**  
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in count.)

	Contributing	Noncontributing	
	2	0	buildings
	0	0	sites
	1	1	structures
	1	0	objects
	4	1	Total

**Name of related multiple property listing**  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

**Number of Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

N/A

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

- DOMESTIC/Single dwelling
- HEALTH CARE/Medical Office
- DOMESTIC/Secondary Structure
- LANDSCAPE/Street Furniture/Object

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

- DOMESTIC/Single Dwelling
- DOMESTIC/Secondary Structure
- LANDSCAPE/Street Furniture/Object

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)  
LATE 19<sup>TH</sup> AND EARLY 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS/Craftsman

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)  
foundation STONE/Granite

walls WOOD/Weatherboard

roof Asphalt shingles

other

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Smith, Morgan, Dr., House

Name of Property

Pulaski County, Arkansas

County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- Criteria A, B, C, D with checkboxes. C is checked.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- Criteria A-G with checkboxes. A is checked.

Levels of Significance (local, state, national)

LOCAL

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1918

Significant Dates

1918

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation (Complete if Criterion D is marked)

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- Documentation checkboxes: preliminary determination, previously listed, designated landmark, recorded by survey.

Primary location of additional data:

- Location checkboxes: State Historic Preservation Office, Other State Agency, Federal Agency, Local Government, University, Other.

Name of repository:

Smith, Morgan, Dr., House  
Name of Property

Pulaski County, Arkansas  
County and State

**Geographical Data**

Acreage of Property Less than two

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 15 556377 3840103  
Zone Easting Northing  
2 \_\_\_\_\_

3 \_\_\_\_\_  
Zone Easting Northing  
4 \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

**Boundary Justification**

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Mason Ellis; Edited by Van Zbinden, National Register Historian  
organization Arkansas Historic Preservation Program date April 30, 2008  
street & number 323 Center Street, Tower Building 1500 telephone (501) 324-9880  
city or town Little Rock state AR zip code 72201

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets**

**Maps**

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location

A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

**Photographs**

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

**Additional items**

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

**Property Owner**

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name William G. Ellis  
street & number 5110 Stagecoach Rd telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
city or town Little Rock state AR zip code 72204

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listing. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.)

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P. O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20303.

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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### Summary

The Dr. Morgan Smith House was built in 1918 in the Craftsman style. Dr. Smith was a well respected and successful physician in the state and used the home for both his living quarters and an office. The home sits on a hill overlooking one of Arkansas's oldest roadways in the southwestern part of the city of Little Rock. Embracing a Jeffersonian ideal, Smith constructed his ample home on a large property in rural setting surrounded by farms. Though the architect is unknown, the architecture of the home shows a level of refinement not seen in many of Little Rock's Craftsman suburbs.

### Elaboration

The Dr. Morgan Smith House sits on a hill top adjacent to Stagecoach Road. A few miles down the road is the Ten Mile House (PU3156, NR listed 6/22/1970) built between 1835 and 1838. Stagecoach Road was once known as the Military Road running diagonally from Northeast to Southwest across the state of Arkansas. During the Civil War, Union forces occupied the nearby Ten Mile House and foraged among the farms in the area. On this property there have been a few bullets and even a cannonball found; believed to be from the nearby Battle of Brodie Creek. A large property, the location was still rural farmland well out of the city limits of the city of Little Rock when the home was built.

After many years of collecting construction material, the house was built in 1918. It is said that all the stonework on the home was recovered from cobblestone streets in downtown Little Rock. Additionally, the original garage appears, and there is oral history to support the supposition, to sit on reclaimed sections of concrete sidewalk. The home has many characteristics of the Craftsman style of architecture, notably a side gabled roof design, with prominent dormers, and multiple roof planes. Verandas and porches, large windows, exposed structural elements, and the use of natural materials are also hallmarks of the design found in the Dr. Morgan Smith House.

In the English cottage tradition, the Dr. Morgan Smith House occupied a sizeable acreage. Like the Stick style designs influenced by Andrew Jackson Downing almost fifty years earlier, the home seems natural, fitting comfortably in its bucolic setting. Unlike the bungalow homes being built at the same time in Little Rock's streetcar suburbs, the Dr. Morgan Smith house embraced its surroundings and wasn't crowded on a small city lot. Though the architect is unknown, the home reflects the Craftsman language voiced by Greene and Greene and so popular throughout the United States.

When this house was constructed it was one of a handful of properties on large parcels of land. Throughout the twentieth century, increasing movement toward the suburbs brought additional construction in the area. This gradual settlement of the property along Stagecoach Road in Southwest Little Rock is a microcosm of architecture in the city as a whole.

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The southwest side being anchored by the Adam style Ten Mile House and the northwest anchored by the Morgan Smith House, the street has later infill of Mission Revival, International, Ranch, Plain-Traditional and contemporary post-war housing. With the majority of infill being built after 1950, the Dr. Morgan Smith House stands out with the Ten Mile House as a shining example of the home of a moderately wealthy gentleman farmer. Additionally it is the best example of Craftsman architecture in this area.

### Southeast Façade / Front

The southeast facade of the house faces the highway and is the front of the house. The partial width, wooden porch rests on a cobblestone foundation and is supported by cobblestone columns with original wood balustrade. The asymmetrically placed front entrance is a fifteen-light, wood door flanked on either side by three pane casement windows. To the northeast are two three-over-one, double-hung windows. On the southwest side of the porch are a pair of fifteen light French doors that enter into the southwest bedroom.

The second floor dormer faces southeast, perpendicular to the axis of the home, with a moderately pitched gable roof. The dormer is fenestrated with four, three-over-one, double-hung windows. The large dormer provides additional floor space and natural light to the rooms of the second floor. On the northeast and southwest elevations of the dormer are three-over-one, double-hung windows. The roof has fully exposed rafter tails on the dormer and partially exposed rafters on the moderately overhanging eaves of the main roof. The roof of the dormer and the principal roof are supported by triangular knee braces along the rake.

To the southwest of the entry porch is the southwestern bedroom which has two sets of twelve-over-three casement windows on the southeast elevation. Sitting on a cobblestone foundation, this southwestern section of the house has a flat roof and corbel table that wraps the top edge with pediment above.

### Southwestern Façade / Side

The southwestern elevation of the home is a complex multi-level eave presentation. The prominent southwestern bedroom on the southern edge of the elevation dominates, giving the elevation a strongly horizontal appearance. The white, trellised corbel table running along the elevation also accentuates the horizontal. However, the asymmetrical location of the southwestern bedroom toward the southern edge and the equally asymmetrical placement of the bathroom at the northern edge interrupts this horizontal wall. Originally the southwestern bedroom and the bathroom were connected with a veranda. This veranda was enclosed by the current owners. Both the southwestern bedroom and the bathroom have flat roofs with parapets. The western roofline of the principal roof terminates at the flat roof of the bathroom.

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As with the rest of the home, this elevation sits on a cobblestone foundation. At the base of the wall is the coal chute, flanked on either side by three-light casement windows. Access to the full height cellar is through a southwestern facing door at the base of the fireplace. The cellar can also be accessed in the house through a small coat closet in the center of the house. The cellar originally housed the boiler for the house. The flue for the boiler was located in the chimney shared with the bedroom fireplace; a cobblestone chimney projecting through the west slope of the principal roof.

The southwestern elevation has two, large, twelve-over-four casement windows, similar to those on the southern bay of the southeast side. On the western side of the southern bedroom section, is a single-pane stationary window with decorative transom. Next to that western facing window is a cobblestone chimney that extends a full story above the roof of the bedroom. This chimney, which anchors the southern side of the house, provides a strongly vertical element and accentuates the asymmetry of the home. The corbel table continues around this side of the home with a weatherboard clad pediment above.

To the north of the southwestern bedroom is a former veranda. This veranda was enclosed by the current home owners to make it an all-weather room. Inset into the elevation, this veranda space further provides vertical interruption of the otherwise horizontal elevation, a key design element of the Stick based styles. Enclosed using cypress weatherboard of similar size and shape, this former veranda space is fenestrated with one nine-light wooden panel door and one box-bay window.

The bathroom to the northwest of the veranda is fenestrated with three-over-one, double-hung windows under a trellised corbel table. Just to the northwest of this section is a small addition that has similar siding but a cinder block base. The addition houses a walk-in closet and is not fenestrated.

On the second story of the elevation there are two, three-over-one, double-hung windows and a smaller, three-light casement window. The side facing gable has a fascia and is open but does not have exposed rafter tails on the principal roof. The gable of the principal roof is supported by three triangular knee braces along the rake.

### Northwest Façade / Back

The northwest elevation, like the southeast façade, has a prominent central dormer rising above a secondary coping roof. Much of the elevation is obscured by a carport addition built in May 1969. While the carport does not attach to the house, its size and proximity obscure much of the western elevation. The rear elevation is fenestrated by a two-pane, half-light door with three horizontal rectangular panels below. To the left of the door are three, four-over-four, double-hung windows.

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There is an eastern exposure of the northwest elevation fenestrated with one three pane window and on the eastern most corner a northwest facing three-over-one, double-hung window.

Above, on the second floor, the northwest facing dormer has three, three-over-one, double-hung windows. As with the dormer on the southeastern façade both the northeast and southwest elevations of this northwest dormer are fenestrated with one three-over-one window. One cobblestone chimney rises along the northwest wall of the dormer and extends through the slope of the gabled, dormer roof. The primary roof, the secondary slope roof, and dormer roof are supported by knee braces.

### Northeast Façade / Side

The northeastern elevation is dominated by a porte cochere with a former sleeping porch above. This sleeping porch is now used as a studio/office. The porch is supported by two, cobblestone columns and the drive is defined by a low, cobblestone wall. The original three-over-one, double-hung windows on the sleeping porch were replaced in 1996 with new three-over-three, double-hung windows in an effort to conserve energy.

The northeastern elevation is fenestrated by the original twelve-light, full-height, wood door. To the left of the door is the primary stone chimney, flanked on either side by three-over-one, double-hung windows, and a small, casement window. To the northwest side of the elevation is a large four-over-one, double-hung window that is still operable.

The multi-level roof provides a vertical complexity to this elevation. Though a horizontal entablature anchors the second floor, the principal roof rises steeply to a crest under the hipped roof of the sleeping porch. The chimney, which provides textural relief on the first floor, elongates the northeastern side of the house by rising above the porch at the peak of the roof. The sleeping porch eaves are open with partially exposed rafter tails. Knee braces support the principal roof.

There is one contributing building, an original garage, and one contributing structure, the water well for the home, extant. Additionally, a stone wall, with two gates, at the foot of the hill along Stagecoach Road, contributes to the designed landscape of the home. The carport, added in 1969, is a non-contributing structure.



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### Interior

From the wide front entry porch one entered a foyer with large doors to the right and left and a staircase set off center from the door. Combined with a low ceiling and a low entry to the dining room this emphasized the horizontality of the home seen on the exterior of the home. This entry foyer and living room-study juxtaposition give the first floor a primary southwest-northeast axis. Smith's study, on the east corner, northeast side, featured a large fireplace and a Colonial Revival timbered ceiling with built in bookshelves. Set off from the wide entry hall, with wide passages from room to room, this space is reminiscent of William R. Emerson's 1879 Mt. Deseret house. Though the home has a long axis along the front, the location of the dining room, kitchens, baths, and mudroom, behind the study and dining room break the axis and the space is as well organized. It is possible that in the original design this space was primarily for domestic service and therefore need not be directly connected.

The formal dining room is located off Smith's study. This elegant room features an original mural entitled "Going Home." The muralist, who remains unknown, painted a work in the style of the Hudson River School; one of illusion where the viewer's eyes are drawn down the winding road home regardless of where one stands in the room.

From the entry hall a set of stairs rises to the second floor. These stairs are offset from the front door and are hidden; within one quarter flight the vertical movement is hidden behind the balustrade and foyer wall. The stairs rise into a small parlor in the center of the second floor. From the northeast, southwest, southeast, and northeast the room receives ample light. The lower ceiling height emphasizes horizontality, as on the first floor, and a fireplace provides heat to the floor. To the northeast from the parlor is the former sleeping porch, now a studio. To the northwest and southeast are bedrooms housed in the expansive dormers on the home. These rooms give the second floor a definite cross axis to that of the first. It is on this floor that the home's original bathroom is located.

### Garage

To the northwest of the home is a double bay garage that is original to the house. The garage is clad in cypress weatherboard siding. The lapped siding is the same proportion and material as the home itself and is painted the same barn red color. Modern garage doors have been installed in the two bays on the southeast side of the structure. The northeast and southwest elevations of the garage have been fenestrated with six-over-six, double hung windows.

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The foundation for the garage consists of large sections of concrete, which are said to be remnants of old concrete sidewalks from downtown Little Rock that were demolished, removed to the house site and stacked to provide the base.

### Well/Well House/Kitchen Site

To the west of the garage stood an old well house and kitchen that have since been demolished. The well house was approximately fifteen feet square and sat adjacent to the home's cistern. Though the well house was torn down, the old well remains in a garden to the north of the house. A detached kitchen, approximately twenty-feet square, was once located to the north of the home and west of the extant garage.

### Wall

Adjacent to Stagecoach Road, there is a 370 foot long stacked stone wall. The cut stones, set in random pattern run along the gently curving southeastern boundary of the property. The wall runs from the northeast corner of the property to the southwest corner. As the elevation of the Dr. Morgan Smith House grounds increases toward the southeast the gravity wall becomes a retaining wall below the grade of the hill. On the southwestern corner the wall is again above grade, the hill having decreased elevation rapidly. At the northeast corner of the property the wall begins a compound curve toward the north cresting with two concrete capstones approximately ten feet high. On top of each capstone is a large carriage light with amber glazing. Each of the columns supports the weight of a large wrought iron gate. These columns form a grand, but simplified portal through which the drive passes. Toward the southwestern end of the wall there is a similarly styled gate for pedestrian access to and from the grounds.

### Carport

The non-contributing carport was installed on the northwest elevation of the home in 1969. An inscription in the concrete reads, "Bet. 5-27-1969." This was Betty Davis the home's owner at the time. The structure is standard carport construction with metal support columns and steel warren trusses supporting the flat, corrugated roof.

### Integrity

The Dr. Morgan Smith House retains good integrity. The most significant change has been the installation of the carport on the northwest elevation. That elevation was historically the service elevation facing the well, a kitchen, and the garage and was not visible from the road. It remains a largely invisible portion of the modern home and the carport has little effect on the overall character of the home.

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Likewise, the addition in the 1960s of a closet on the northwest corner has little effect on the historical integrity of the home. The addition is located on the north corner of the northwest side of the home. On the exterior of the home the addition, which measures no more than eight feet by fifteen feet, is only noticeable by the presence of an expansion joint and the cinder block foundation. The location places the addition out of view for vehicles approaching the home on the drive and from the roadway. The addition has minimal visual impact when seen from the southwest or west but this is primarily due to the fact that the addition lacks any fenestration. The cypress lapped siding on the addition matches that of the home and the sloping roof maintains the same angle as the existing roof line.

Some of the windows have, by necessity, been replaced. In 1983, a tornado damaged some of the windows of the first floor bedroom, but they were replaced to match the style and size of the original. The windows of the former sleeping porch have been replaced with windows of similar style. In each case the replacement window selection has been of similar architectural style to match the home and the original windows. There are a number of additions to the property of the home outside of the period of significance. These changes have been elaborated upon in Section 8 of the nomination. Even with the few changes to the home, the home has been well maintained and retains the feeling, workmanship, materials, and design of a well designed Craftsman structure.

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### Summary

The Dr. Morgan Smith House is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places with **local** significance under **Criterion C** as an excellent example of the Craftsman form of architecture in Southwest Little Rock. The home's key Craftsman features include multiple roof planes, wide overhanging eaves, knee bracing, expansive dormers, exposed rafter tails, transom windows, and the use of natural materials. The home was built for Dr. Morgan Smith, who played a vitally important role in the medical profession in Arkansas.

### Elaboration

Abraham Flexner reported in his infamous Flexner Report that of the two medical schools located in Arkansas in 1909, "neither has a single redeeming feature."<sup>1</sup> When released to the public in 1910, the Flexner Report was a great embarrassment to the state of Arkansas and galvanized the various medical parties of the state to action. In 1911, the state legislature began financial responsibility for the medical program as part of the University of Arkansas. After a difficult transition period Dr. Morgan Smith was named Dean of the school in 1912.

Smith was born in El Dorado, Arkansas, in 1868. He got his first medical degree from the medical department of the Arkansas (Industrial) University in 1889. After several years of successful private practice in El Dorado, Smith gained entry to Tulane Medical School earning his additional degree in 1904. He operated successful practices in Hillsboro and El Dorado and served two years as city physician for El Dorado prior to moving to Little Rock.<sup>2</sup>

As an active member, and later president, of the Arkansas Medical Society, Smith was an active supporter of Progressive reform. Smith was appointed Hookworm Officer for the state of Arkansas under the Rockefeller Foundation's Sanitary Commission for the Eradication of Hookworm Disease program. As Hookworm Officer he convinced Governor George Donaghey that the state needed a board of health and in 1911, the Arkansas Board of Health took up residence in the Old State House. In addition to serving as director of the Rockefeller Foundation's program in Arkansas, a position he held until 1913 when he was appointed as State Health Officer in 1913. Smith was named dean of the medical school in 1912 where he also was chair of children's diseases department.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Abraham Flexner, *Medical Education in the United States and Canada, A Report to the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching*, 1910 (New York: Arno Press, 1972); quoted in Cynthia Dehaven Pitcock and Mark Christ, "Old State House," National Historic Landmark Nomination, 1997, on file at the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program.

<sup>2</sup> Dallas T. Herndon, *Centennial History of Arkansas*, Volume III (Chicago: S. J. Clarke Publishing Company, 1922), 1023-4.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid. See also David M. Moyer, "From Quackery to Qualification: Arkansas Medical and Drug Legislation 1885-1909" *Arkansas Historical Quarterly* XXXV, No. 1 (Spring 1976): 3-26.

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Morgan Smith served as Dean of the Medical School until 1923 when he resigned.<sup>4</sup> He was asked to serve another appointment in 1924 and he served another three years as Dean. It is said that Smith was the first pediatrician in the state of Arkansas. After construction in 1918, Smith used his home as an office for his medical practice.

When the home was constructed, its location was in a rural farming community well outside the city limits of Little Rock. This was not surprising, given Smith's creed: "Rise early, go to bed early, live close to nature, have high ideals, take less medicine and more advice."<sup>5</sup> The house site had a prominent location at the top of a hill, overlooking the road below and near the crossing of Brodie Creek. To the north was a dairy farm, along the banks of Brodie Creek, called Tall Timber Farms; where Tall Timber subdivision is today.

With his home removed to this distant location, Smith continued a long tradition in American vernacular construction. The philosophical roots of the nineteenth century American house lay in Jefferson's agrarian ideals: individual ownership of land, superiority of farm life over urban living, and Jeffersonian inventiveness in a concern for labor saving devices. Jefferson's attempt at creating a new American architecture based on the forms of antiquity and classical geometries resulted in the Greek Revival. That attempt failed, dying by the 1840s. However, Andrew Jackson Downing introduced to the United States the ideals of picturesque design; in essence furthering Jeffersonian ideals. Downing's series of books in the 1840s and 1850s on home architecture and garden design introduced Italian villas and cottage design long established in Europe. These picturesque homes revolted against classical forms by emphasizing natural materials, expansive natural settings, and asymmetry of form.<sup>6</sup>

From Downing's influence the Stick style was born. A style built primarily in wood, the Stick began a redefinition of the American house form by capitalizing on new methods in frame construction. By the late 1870s, architectural style moved away from the Stick and toward the Queen Anne, maintaining though its Jeffersonian ideals. With the work of Henry Hobson Richardson, Stanford White, Charles Follen McKim, and others in the East at the end of the nineteenth century a new definition of interior space and exterior space appeared. A combination of Queen Anne, Colonial, and European styles, the new American home form featured rich textures, large windows, and large living rooms. An increasingly modern, mechanical, and complex life in industrializing America drove people to embrace older styles like those seen in Colonial house forms.<sup>7</sup>

<sup>4</sup> *Fayetteville Democrat*, June 2, 1924.

<sup>5</sup> University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, "Past UAMS College of Medicine Deans" available online at <http://www.uams.edu/com/deans/>. Accessed January 7, 2009.

<sup>6</sup> Vincent Scully, *Modern Architecture and Other Essays*, selected and with introductions by Neil Levine (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2003), 36.

<sup>7</sup> *Ibid.*, 40-1.

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The combination of forms and refinement of ideals led to the Shingle style. An asymmetrical style with an exterior unified by its cladding, the form depended heavily on adaptation from earlier styles. The new room forms featured large fireplaces and lower ceiling heights, emphasizing horizontality rather than verticality; key features of Queen Anne interiors. These new Shingle homes also had wide porches, gambrel roofs, lean-to additions, applied classical detailing, irregular shapes, and used stone prominently on exterior surfaces. Shingle homes remained primarily high style homes designed by architects and were seldom presented in plan books. These architects often included towers, bays, Palladian windows, large dormers, and windows of unequal glazing—multi-pane above, single below—to open the interior spaces to the outside. This redefinition of space brought the outside, on those idyllic lots, inside the home.<sup>8</sup>

By the late 1890s, the Shingle influence on the definition of space in the American home was widespread. Combined with the Stick style, the Arts and Crafts ideals of Gustav Stickley, Japanese aesthetics, and new construction methods, the Craftsman style was born on the West Coast of the United States. This new form was influenced by an informal life-style and a mild climate. The Craftsman spread quickly and widely across the United States in builder's plan books and magazines.

Craftsman homes were a combination of Stick, Shingle, Colonial, and Queen Anne forms. Many of their features include multiple roof planes, wide overhanging eaves, knee bracing, expansive dormers, exposed rafter tails, transom windows, and the use of natural materials. From Gustav Stickley the form was imbued with a philosophy of country living, one which left the commercial, industrial life behind for a "wholesome country life" free of restlessness and "feverish ambition."<sup>9</sup> Like the Jeffersonian ideals of the early nineteenth century, the philosophy of the form placed emphasis on the natural environment and yet embraced modern efficiency and convenience. Like the Shingle style, Craftsman homes redefined interior and exterior spaces, bringing the inside out and vice versa. Interior spaces had lower ceilings and featured large fireplaces. Large windows, or windows set in ribbon, allowed natural light to spill into the home, and the porches and verandas of the form brought the living space outside. These characteristics can all be found in the Smith House.

For a man whose creed was to live close to nature, rising early and going to bed late, the Craftsman was an ideal architecture. More than architecture though, Smith was a well respected physician in a period when the ideal healthy life was country living. At the end of the nineteenth century American cities were seen as unhealthy places to live. Continuing in a long tradition of dependence on nature for medical remedies, the medical field at the change of the twentieth century still often suggested clean air and clean water as best for healthy living.

<sup>8</sup> Virginia McAlester and Lee McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1998), 290.

<sup>9</sup> Gerald Foster, *American Houses: A Field Guide to the Architecture of the Home* (Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 2004), 348.

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The area southwest of Little Rock where Smith built his home was once primarily cattle and livestock farms. One of the largest landowners in the area was William McHenry. McHenry's Ten Mile House, or McHenry House, was surveyed as part of the Historic American Building Survey in 1936 (PU3156, NR listed 6/22/1970, HABS AR-13). Ten Mile House, also called the Stagecoach House; a pre-civil war, Federal style house designed by Gideon Shryock, in 1835. Gideon was also the architect of the Old State House, in downtown Little Rock. The house served as an Inn and stagecoach stop outside of Little Rock, and is the oldest brick building in Pulaski County. Just past the house is a marker, noting the retreat of the remaining Confederate forces from Little Rock after the occupation of Little Rock by Union troops.

About 800 feet, to the northeast of the Dr. Morgan Smith House is a large field, bordering Brodie creek, where a Civil War skirmish took place as the confederates retreated from little rock. Numerous bullets and even a cannonball have been found around the property and are in the possession of the Ellis family. Another notable feature nearby is the Stone House or the "Castle", as it is known. This is a stone house that lies a mile to the southwest. It was originally built by a prominent Little Rock dentist as the dream home for his wife in the early 1940s.

Dr. Smith lived and maintained his practice in the house with his sister living with him. Originally, the southwestern, 1st floor bedroom, was the main living room. The current living room served as a library and the current kitchen location was where Dr. Smith had his office. Though the shelves were removed from the living room by the current owners in 1980 they remain in storage on the site.

After Dr. Smith's death the house was sold to a Doctor Hill who lived there with his wife and three teenage children. Dr. Hill dammed up a small creek that ran along the base of the hill on the southwestern part of the property in 1941 forming an approximately three acre pond. It was in this pond that Mrs. Hill fished everyday of her life. The house was then sold to Atley and Betty Davis. Atley, a prominent Little Rock businessman, purchased the home in 1960. The carport and closet addition on the northwest corner of the building were added in the 1960s.

Cooley Mason constructed the closet addition and was retained to replace all the cabinet doors in the current kitchen. His name is written on the back wall, in the cabinet above the stove. Cooley Mason was the father of Alda Ellis, the current owner. In 1980, the house was sold to William G. and Alda Ellis, who currently reside at the house and have raised two boys there.

In 1986, a dock was added by the current homeowners so that they might better enjoy the lake and in 1998 a stone fountain was added with creek that starts at the top of the hill and empties into the pond below. A white cross rail fence, built in 1990, follows the drive way up to the house and runs alongside the highway on the northeastern end of the property, bordering a pasture.

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A red metal barn built in 1998 sits in the pasture and has three horse stalls, built from wood that came from a large cedar tree on the grounds that was hit by lightning. To the north of the barn was an old wood cabin, believed to be a house that was part of the former dairy farm. The building was demolished to expand the pasture, but the old concrete water trough and a telephone pole remain. Some of the old barn wood was salvaged and later reused when the metal building to the northwest of the house was converted into a guest house.

### Summary

The Dr. Morgan Smith House is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places with **local** significance under **Criterion C** as an excellent example of the Craftsman form of architecture in Southwest Little Rock. The home's key Craftsman features include multiple roof planes, wide overhanging eaves, knee bracing, expansive dormers, exposed rafter tails, transom windows, and the use of natural materials. The home was built for Dr. Morgan Smith, who played a vitally important role in the medical profession in Arkansas.



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### Verbal Boundary Description

Beginning at a point  $34^{\circ}42'05''\text{N}$  by  $92^{\circ}23'01''\text{W}$  proceed Northwest 195' to a point at  $34^{\circ}42'06''\text{N}$  by  $92^{\circ}23'02''\text{W}$ . Thence southwest approximately 180 feet to  $34^{\circ}42'05''\text{N}$  by  $92^{\circ}23'04''\text{W}$ . Thence southwest approximately 90 feet to a point at  $34^{\circ}42'04''\text{N}$  by  $92^{\circ}23'05''\text{W}$ . Thence southeast 258 feet to a point at  $34^{\circ}42'02''\text{N}$  by  $92^{\circ}23'03''\text{W}$ . Then returning northeast approximately 343 feet to the beginning.

### Boundary Justification

This description includes the land historically associated with the Dr. Morgan Smith House containing the largest concentration of historic resources.



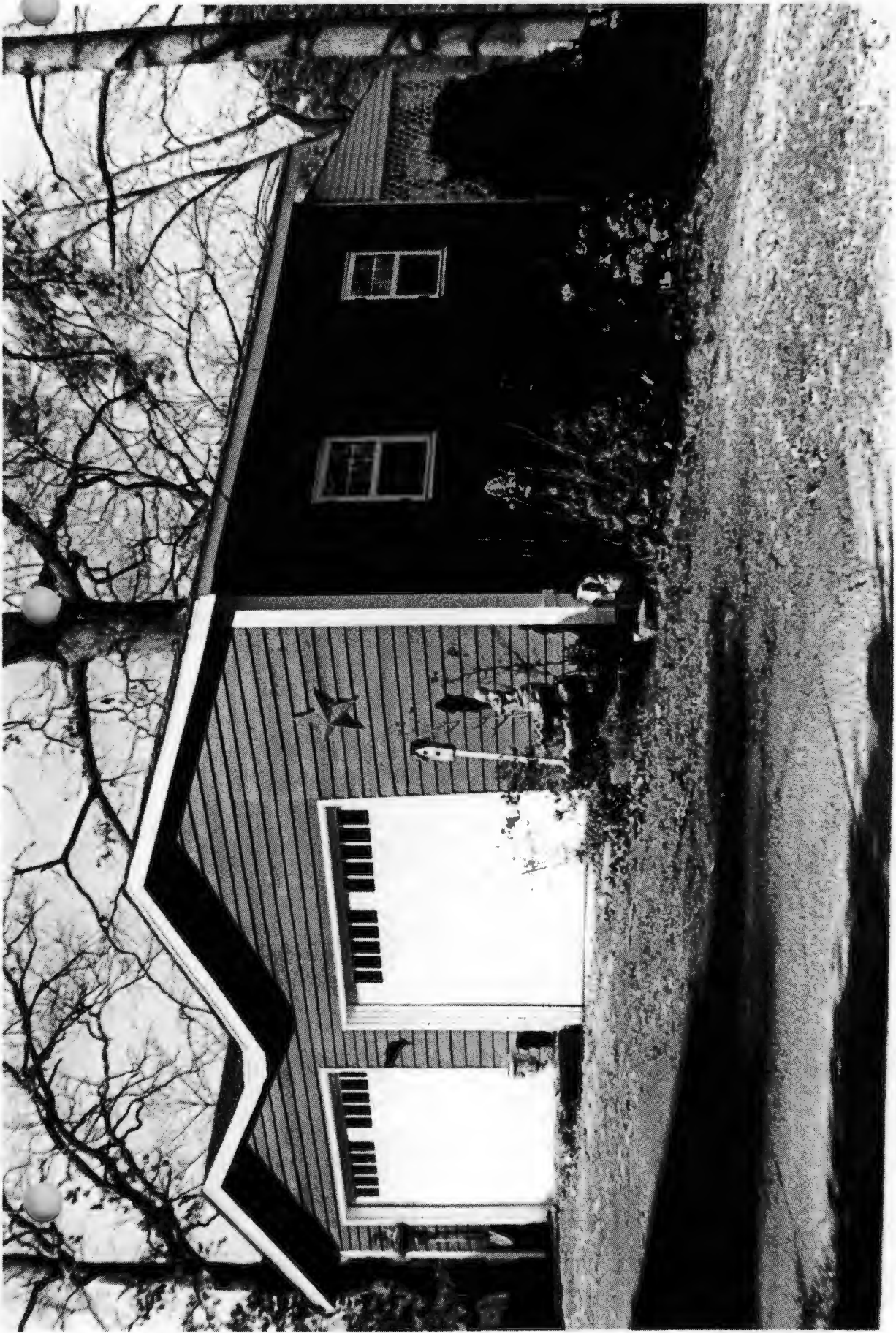




















42  
41  
42'30"  
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Smith, Morgan,  
DR., House  
Little Rock  
Polaski Co.  
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UTM REFERENCE

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