

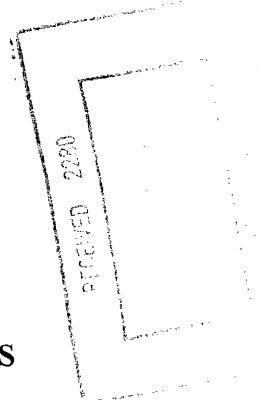
Smith, Jr., Isaac H., House

Craven County, NC

(Rev. 10-90)
NPS Form 10-900

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



905

**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 any 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, Jr., Isaac H., House

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 605 Johnson Street not for publication N/A
city or town New Bern vicinity N/A
state North Carolina code NC county Craven code 049 Zip 28560

3. 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant ___ nationally ___ statewide X locally. (___ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Jeffrey Crow SAPO _____
Signature of certifying official Date 7/1/02

North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources

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 commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this 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]
Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Edson H. Beall

9/14/02

5. 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

Contributing Noncontributing

 1 0 buildings

 0 0 sites

 0 0 structures

 0 0 objects

 1 0 Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

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

 N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: DOMESTIC Sub: single dwelling

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Vacant Sub: Not in Use

7. Description

Smith, Jr., Isaac H., House

Craven County, NC

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19TH/EARLY 20THC. /Craftsman

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick

roof Asphalt

walls Weatherboard

other Aluminum

Wood, Brick

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

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)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
-
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Area of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Ethnic Heritage: African American

Social History

Period of Significance ca. 1923-1952

Significant Dates ca. 1923

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Smith, Jr., Isaac H., House

Craven County, NC

Cultural Affiliation N/A

Architect/Builder Mr. Rhem (first name not known)

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)

- 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

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: Craven County Public Library, New Bern, N. C.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property .06

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Zone Easting	Northing	Zone Easting	Northing
1 18	313760	3886980	2 _____
3 _____	_____	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: Penne Smith Sandbeck / Nomination Preparer

Organization: _____ date December 10, 2001

street & number: P. O. Box 456 telephone 757-258-1501

city or town Williamsburg state VA zip code 23187

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 the SHPO or FPO.)

name Pamela Green for Green Property Management, LLC

street & number 4152 Stoddard Street telephone 919-419-1411 (NC); 248-539-1750 (MI)

city or town Bloomfield state MI zip code 48323

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 listings. 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 the 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 Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Smith, Jr., Isaac H., House
Craven County, N. C.

Section 7 Page 1

7. Summary Description:

The Isaac Hughes Smith, Jr., House, located at 605 Johnson Street in New Bern, North Carolina, is a two-story Craftsman style frame dwelling with a brick basement and small attic story constructed between 1922 and 1924. A side-gable building, it was initially two rooms deep with a small extension at the east elevation until the Smith family added a two-story extension to the back of the house and extended the side extension to two stories in the 1940s. Original Craftsman style decoration and form includes the raised front-gable porch that retains exposed rafter ends and knee bracing, and the shed roof attic dormer, also with exposed rafters, that has paired six-light casement windows. Aluminum siding, a 1950s addition, covers original wood weatherboards but exposed rafters and knee bracing beneath the eaves have remained untouched. Inside, the house's main block follows a two-room deep plan with two extra rooms provided by the 1940s addition.

Located at the edge of the African-American development of Dryborough and the downtown white residential area comprising many nineteenth- and twentieth-century dwellings—the Isaac H. Smith, Jr., House is part of an African-American neighborhood that developed to the south and east of Cedar Grove Cemetery in the late nineteenth century. The immediate area includes the African-American St. Cyprian's Episcopal Church, St. Peter's A. M. E. Zion Church, and other houses owned by the Smith family. Houses in this area are situated on small lots with plantings and mature flowering trees. Located at Johnson Street's south side, the Smith House faces the intersection of Johnson and Queen Streets, where St. Cyprian's is located. No outbuildings appear to have ever existed on this property.

The house's brick basement, rising to about three feet above ground, is pierced by fixed two-pane sash windows, and has an exterior entrance at the west elevation. At the house's rear extension, constructed for Smith in the 1940s, the basement was extended, using a foundation of brick piers with concrete block infill. Inside, the six-foot tall walls are parged with cement. The basement was used for storage and to house the furnace. Above the basement, the house is clad in aluminum siding that covers original wood weatherboarding. Plain wood door and window surrounds have never been covered with siding. Metal awnings shelter several windows at the house's east and west elevations. The raised full-width, front-gable porch shelters the house's front entrance and a paired six-over-one double-hung sash window. At the west elevation is a side entrance with a Craftsman style front-gable door hood. Originally, the front porch roof rested on wood posts; these have been replaced by decorative metal supports. A solid brick and concrete stoop, constructed between 1945 and 1950, secures the porch's decking and structural system. The porch's manufactured beaded board ceiling, in addition to its exposed rafter ends and knee bracing have never been altered, nor have the front gable's exposed rafter ends or knee bracing. Windows, single and paired, are all double-hung with six-over-one sash. The main block's side-gable roof has wide eaves supported by original knee bracing; other extensions, such as the small two-story east extension and the two-story rear extension, have low shed roofing but are decorated with exposed rafter ends in keeping with

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Smith, Jr., Isaac H., House
Craven County, N. C.

Section 7 Page 2

the main block. At the front elevation, a shed dormer lit by two casement windows breaks the side-gable roof line. The three chimney flues all appear to be original.

Inside, the house follows an irregular two-room deep plan with two later rear rooms, the south parlor and an extension of the original kitchen. Downstairs, most of the rooms retain original plastered ceilings and some plastered walls; upstairs, the ceiling height has been lowered through the use of suspended acoustical tiles. In addition, most second-floor rooms have sheetrock walls. Upon entering through the paneled Craftsman style front sash door, there is a living room spanning the width of the house. A closed string staircase is situated in the room's southwest corner. It extends to a landing, then continues eastward to the second floor. The stair railing consists of a prominent Colonial Revival style newel post with paneling and small applied woodwork decoration; the balustrade consists of a molded handrail and simple square balusters. A single window at the room's west wall is situated at the foot of the stair. Otherwise, two paired six-over-one double-hung sash windows light the room. On the east wall is a corner fireplace, its flue shared by a corner fireplace in the adjoining dining room. Handsome Craftsman style brick mantelpieces with a basket weave pattern frieze grace both fireplaces. Although the floor is carpeted, original pine flooring is underneath and the original wide baseboards and shoe molding are visible. The dining room, whose double french door entrance appears to have been a 1940s alteration, has a simple molded chair rail, above which the walls are wallpapered. Wide baseboards and shoe molding, as well as original pine flooring, exist in this room. The dining room forms part of the two-story side bay extension, where a paired six-over-one double-hung sash window is located. Besides the living room entrance, the dining room opens into the kitchen at its west wall and a room at its south wall.

The first floor's southeast room, part of the 1940s rear extension, has pine flooring, baseboards, and plain door and window surrounds comparable to the living and dining rooms. The south half of the east elevation bay, contains a small bathroom that is accessed through the room. Original finishes, such as the unusual marbled blue tile with black detailing, survive intact in the bathroom. On the west wall of this southeast room is a doorway leading to a small back room that functioned as the kitchen pantry, as is evidenced by its substantial built-in cabinets and shelving. The pantry's north wall, which separates it from the kitchen, still has a double-hung six-over-one sash window, indicating that this was originally an exterior wall. An exterior entrance is located on the west wall of the pantry. In the pantry's southeast corner is a flue serving both southeast room and pantry. The kitchen itself, one of the smallest rooms in the house, has built-in wood cabinets comparable to the pantry, 1950s appliances, and an entrance into the basement.

The upstairs rooms are irregularly configured. Around the small center hall are three bedrooms and a small bathroom. Behind the main block's south bedroom are two back rooms, part of the 1940s rear extension. Throughout the second floor, the finish is comparable to that of the first floor, but simpler. One exceptional survival is the upstairs bathroom, whose walls are covered with white and yellow Carrara glass tiles and whose floor has its original blue and yellow linoleum covering. The bathroom mirror, an Art

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Smith, Jr., Isaac H., House
Craven County, N. C.

Section 7 Page 3

Deco style cabinet, incorporates the Carrara glass pattern as well. This decoration was a popular feature in New Bern's white residences during the 1930s as well.¹

The lot surrounding the house is quite small. Although some mid-twentieth-century garden plantings surrounding the house have survived, the property, in keeping with early twentieth-century urban townhouses seen in African-American neighborhoods, never had extensive landscaping or lawns. One unique surviving feature is the small brick ribbon driveway at the house lot's east end. Surviving plantings include camellias, holly bushes, and crepe myrtle trees. A 1950s-era cement walk with a small curb rises from the sidewalk at the front of the house, and extends to the basement entrance at the west elevation. Within and without, the house is quite intact with nearly all original features.

ENDNOTES FOR SECTION 7

¹ New Bern's William Hollister House, a transitional Federal/Greek Revival style dwelling at 613 Broad Street, has a comparable bathroom installed on the second floor during the 1930s.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Smith, Jr., Isaac H., House
Craven County, N. C.

Section 8 Page 1

8. Statement of Significance

Constructed between 1923 and 1924, the Isaac H. Smith, Jr., House is nominated to the National Register under Criterion A for Black Ethnic Heritage and Social History. The home of one of New Bern's most financially successful African American businessmen during the privations of the early twentieth century, it is locally significant as a symbol of the financial and social success that was possible for African Americans in the community. Although the house is not architecturally significant due to the application of modern synthetic siding, it still exhibits its vernacular Craftsman style as practiced by urban African-Americans in the early twentieth-century South. The house, which has remained quite intact with nearly all its interior finish, is still owned by the family. The period of significance begins in 1923 and ends in 1952, a year before Isaac H. Smith, Jr.'s death. The last year of his life has been determined to be not of exceptional significance.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND: BLACK ETHNIC HERITAGE AND SOCIAL HISTORY CONTEXT

New Bern, which became a trading center for northeastern North Carolina in the mid-eighteenth century, was a lively and cosmopolitan, if small, city for much of the nineteenth century. Besides opening its doors to Scottish, French, and German immigrants, it was also a home to many Africans, whether through enslavement or opportunity.² During the antebellum period, a number of free blacks, from boatmen and peddlers to carpenters and bricklayers, were prosperous. The most prosperous included Donum Mumford and John Carruthers Stanly, who owned property.³ Between 1862, when Union forces captured New Bern, and 1865 New Bern's African American population, already over twelve percent of the town's overall population, expanded from nearly 3,000 to 10,000 people; this was due to the influx of fugitive slaves seeking protection and work.⁴ After the war, New Bern continued to be a profitable and stable place for African Americans, who were active in the local Republican party and enjoyed the town's economic boom from the lumber and seafood industries.⁵

It was in this bustling, thriving environment, during the period between the end of the Civil War and North Carolina's passage of the Disfranchisement Amendment in 1900, that Isaac H. Smith, Sr., (1852-1915) began his career. The son of Craven County African Americans who may or may not have been slaves, Smith fortunately came under the patronage of a white family in New Bern who educated him and made it possible for him to attend St. Augustine's College. St. Augustine's, founded by the Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina for blacks, was also where Smith's son, Isaac Jr., would spend his undergraduate years.⁶ By the early 1870s Smith, Sr. was in New Bern where he taught school. His career in real estate began in 1872, but Smith continued to teach into the 1880s.⁷ By the 1890s he was able to devote his attention to real estate and money lending full-time, and began doing business at 130 Middle Street, within the white commercial district.⁸ At that time Smith resided at 47 Queen Street but by 1900, two years after he married his second wife, Carrie Rhone, he and his family were living at what is now 607 Johnson Street. Their son, Isaac Hughes Smith, Jr., was born in 1899.⁹

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Smith, Jr., Isaac H., House
Craven County, N. C.

Section 8 Page 2

Besides his real estate and banking ventures, Isaac H. Smith, Sr., briefly became involved in politics at a particularly virulent time. Smith, a Republican, was part of the African American committee that met with North Carolina's Populist leaders in 1892 to explore forming a coalition; this coalition, known as Fusionism, was successful in the 1894 state elections but, eventually, came apart by 1898.¹⁰ Optimistic about African Americans' political future, Smith became more involved in the process, donating money to Daniel Russell's 1898 gubernatorial campaign and then, in turn, being elected Craven County's Representative to the North Carolina General Assembly in that year. But things would soon go badly for Smith, as well as for the thousands of other African Americans in North Carolina. With the engines of white supremacy turning, stoked by Democrats such as Furnifold M. Simmons, Smith tried to straddle the gulf between Republicans and Democrats to get the best deal possible for his African American constituency. In at least one case, he infuriated fellow African American Republicans by his gestures of appeasement to Democratic legislators; he was consequently expelled from a Republican caucus.¹¹ In spite of friction, Smith remained in office until 1900. During his term, he proposed a number of resolutions and bills advocating compulsory education for Craven County children, fair representation on African American institutional boards, and reparation for customers of the Freedman's Saving and Trust Company, which failed during the 1875 economic crisis.¹² The 1900 Disfranchisement Amendment, which initiated the era of repression known as Jim Crow, effectively ended Isaac H. Smith's political career.

After his time in the Legislature, Smith returned to New Bern and continued to build his real estate, insurance, and banking business. In 1904 his advertisement in Hill's New Bern, NC, Directory was no doubt a beacon to struggling African Americans:

**The Accommodating Office for Various Kinds of Business
CALL**

We Can Loan You Money. You do not have to come twice to get your loan

We Buy and Sell Real Estate

We Collect Rents

We will Build you Houses for less money than any other man¹³

As a developer, Smith owned and developed property in New Bern's African American neighborhoods, his most ambitious project being "Smithtown" a block of rental housing immediately south of Greenwood Cemetery.¹⁴ Surviving houses known to have been built by Smith include many two-story frame houses, termed "straight up-and-down houses" by a family descendant, due to the immediate presence of the staircase and narrow hallway upon entry.¹⁵ He also sold insurance and collected rents for white businessmen who owned property in those neighborhoods.¹⁶ Smith kept his office at 130 Middle Street until 1914 by which time he had relocated the business to 84 ½ Queen Street in the African American commercial district.¹⁷

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Smith, Jr., Isaac H., House
Craven County, N. C.

Section 8 Page 3

By the time Isaac H. Smith, Sr., died from diabetic complications in 1915 his son Isaac, Jr. (1899-1953) had been in the business for at least four years.¹⁸ Sixteen years old in 1915, the younger Smith worked part-time for his father while attending school. The terms of Isaac H. Smith, Sr.'s will provided that his business would be run by his wife Carrie as executor and trustee of the estate until Isaac H. Smith, Jr., came of age.¹⁹ According to family history, the younger Isaac Smith also attended Howard University's law school after graduating from St. Augustine's College but directory and census information suggest that Smith barely had time to graduate from college, let alone attend law school.²⁰ While at St. Augustine's, Smith joined Omega Psi Phi, a prestigious African American fraternity. It was during this time that he apparently met Annie Day Shepherd, the daughter of Dr. J. E. Shepherd, an African American educator who founded what is now North Carolina Central University. Miss Shepherd, a Simmons College graduate who would later attend Columbia University Teachers College, married Isaac H. Smith, Jr., who was then no longer a student, in 1921.²¹

One of New Bern's most recollected catastrophes took place the following year, when a fire on December 1, 1922, devastated the Rowland Lumber Company mill, forty blocks of the city's African American neighborhoods, and left 3,000 people without homes.²² It was particularly hard on the Smith family, who lost several houses, residential and rental. Family history relates that the young couple saw their new home burn in the Great Fire of 1922, along with all of their wedding presents. Isaac H. Smith, Sr.'s house at 607 Johnson Street burned, and the Smithtown development was also destroyed.²³ By 1924 Carrie Rhone Smith had a two-story brick American Foursquare constructed on the site of the former family home. Smith and his wife built a two-story frame house next door at 605 Johnson Street during that time.²⁴ A carpenter now only known as "Mr. Rhem" built Smith's house.²⁵ At the time, Isaac and Annie Day Smith's house was only a two-story side-gable Craftsman style dwelling with a small side extension (apparently the location of the bathroom) and a small rear porch.²⁶ Smith later expanded the house with a rear extension and an enlargement of the side bay between 1935 and 1940.

Isaac H. Smith, Jr., was apparently as acute a businessman as his father, for the real estate company continued to prosper in spite of Jim Crow era restrictions and the Depression. Smith sold the Smithtown lots in order to pay back taxes on his father's estate, and to develop rental shotgun-type housing in another African American neighborhood, Duffyfield.²⁷ In 1926 he and other New Bern African American businessmen formed the Negro Business League, which met at Smith's office at 94 Queen Street. Officers were L. C. Starkey, also in real estate, who served as president; Simeon Hatch, a funeral director, who was vice-president; G. A. Moore, a grocer, who was treasurer; and Smith, who was secretary.²⁸ Between 1937 and 1940 Smith constructed an imposing two-story brick building at 906 Queen Street to house the Isaac H. Smith, Jr., Real Estate and Insurance Agency.²⁹ According to family records, Smith built and operated property in African American neighborhoods such as Reizensteinville (now the location of Craven Terrace), Dryborough, Pavietown, and James City.³⁰

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Smith, Jr., Isaac H., House
Craven County, N. C.

Section 8 Page 4

No business correspondence or recollections of Isaac H. Smith, Jr., are known to survive, nor are any records known to have survived from New Bern's Negro Business League. However, a short memoir by fellow New Bern resident Isaiah Prophet Hatch (1871-ca. 1965), Simeon Hatch's father and founder of the I. P. Hatch Funeral Home, described the rough-and-tumble world of black businessmen in the twentieth-century South. In An Autobiography Of I. P. Hatch, the former undertaker listed a number of adversities encountered during his forty-four years in the business. He was once jailed because local authorities forgot he had paid his Undertaker's License fee one year in advance. He also encountered extortion by white undertakers. Hatch nevertheless persevered and was prosperous, as was Smith in his own business.³¹

Privately, Smith continued to practice family traditions inspired by his father. Like his father, he was an active member of St. Cyprian's Episcopal Church, becoming a vestry member in the 1940s. He was also on the board of directors of Banker's Fire Insurance Company, and the Good Shepherd Hospital, which served New Bern's African Americans.³² Smith donated land for the Cedar Street Recreation Center, a park for the town's African American children. He and his wife had two children, Annie Day Smith Donaldson and Carolyn Smith Green. Mrs. Donaldson, when interviewed in 1993, recalled her childhood as very orderly and quiet, and her father as a formidable presence: "I think I was a little more afraid of my father . . . because he was sort of a stern person." She also went on to say that her parents "instilled in me that we had so much to live for, and so much to do, and so much history and interests behind us, you know, that we felt like we couldn't fail."³³

Isaac H. Smith, Jr. died at Good Shepherd Hospital in New Bern on July 26, 1953, from a stroke and complications due to high blood pressure.³⁴ His wife continued to live in their home until her death in 1975. In her last twenty-two years, Annie Day Shepherd Smith was instrumental in organizing New Bern's first African American library. She also was very involved in teaching and leading a local Girl Scout troop.³⁵ After her death the house was rented for some years, but family descendants are now in the process of restoring the house.

ARCHITECTURE CONTEXT

Isaac H. Smith, Jr., was one of New Bern's more fortunate African American residents during this country's unfortunate period of virtual apartheid. Having been left a profitable business by his father and blessed with both business acumen and a sense of social responsibility, he did better than most of New Bern's African Americans and many of its white residents. His access to materials and craftsmen made his own dwelling, a comfortable, well-appointed Craftsman style house, possible.

Compared to other New Bern African-American houses constructed between 1924 and 1945, this house shows a number of refined treatments. In plainer period African American housing seen in New Bern and

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Smith, Jr., Isaac H., House
Craven County, N. C.

Section 8 Page 5

nearby towns such as Kinston, corner mantelpieces are wooden, walls are roughly plastered with some tongue-and-groove wainscoting, ceilings are of manufactured beaded board, and all is quite plain. At 605 Johnson Street, however, original "push-button" light panels, the radiators' wooden covers, built-in shelving and closets throughout the house, and the aforementioned Art Deco style bathroom, brick mantelpieces and imposing stair show attention to details and access to materials the average 1930s or 1940s African-American would not have had. And yet, compared to the Craftsman style dwellings in New Bern's middle-class white neighborhoods of Riverside and Ghent, this was a comparatively humble house. Smith's rooms, particularly his kitchen, bathrooms, and bedrooms, were considerably smaller than those of white contemporaries. Instead of the period expansive front lawn, shaded by pecan and oak trees with dogwoods, crepe myrtle, and other verdant plantings, Isaac H. Smith's house, as with other early twentieth-century African American residential areas, stands on a small lot with little room for its luxuriant holly bushes and camellias. That the house is so intact within and without gives the observer a view into the world of Jim Crow no longer so easily seen.

ENDNOTES FOR SECTION 8

- 1 Thomas W. Hanchett and Ruth M. Little, "The History and Architecture of Long Wharf and Greater Duffyfield: African American Neighborhoods in New Bern, North Carolina." Private Manuscript, City of New Bern Historic Preservation Commission, 1994: pp. 3-6.
- 2 Hanchett and Little, p. 5.
- 3 *Ibid.*, p. 7.
- 4 *Ibid.*, pp. 8-11.
- 5 Stephen E. Massengill, "Isaac Hughes Smith," in *Dictionary of North Carolina Biography*, ed. William S. Powell (University of North Carolina Press, 1979), p. 378.
- 6 Massengill, p. 379. Also, Hanchett and Little, p. 13.
- 7 *New Bern, N. C., City Directory* (Raleigh: Edwards & Broughton, 1893), p. 56.
- 8 Craven County 1900 Federal Census, Population Schedule for New Bern, Johnson Street.
- 9 Helen Edmonds, *The Negro and Fusion Politics In North Carolina, 1894-1901* (University of North Carolina Press, 1973), pp. 35-38, 202-203.
- 10 Edmonds, pp. 106-107, and Massengill, p. 379. Also, Alan Watson, *A History of New Bern and Craven County* (New Bern: Tryon Palace Commission, 1987), p. 495.
- 11 Massengill, p. 379.
- 12 *New Bern, N. C., Directory, 1904-1905* (Richmond: Hill Directory Company, 1904), p. 142.
- 13 Hanchett and Little, p. 13.
- 14 Hanchett and Little, p. 33 (1994 interview with Annie Day Donaldson, granddaughter of I. H. Smith, Sr.)
- 15 *Ibid.*
- 16 *New Bern, N. C., Directory, 1911-1912* (p. 149), and *1914-1915* (p. 154)
- 17 *Ibid.*
- 18 Massengill, p. 379. Also, *1918-1919 New Bern, N. C., Directory*, p. 216.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Smith, Jr., Isaac H., House
Craven County, N. C.

Section 8 Page 6

19 1920 New Bern City Directory, p. 236. Also, Craven County 1920 Federal Census, Population Schedule for New Bern, Johnson Street.

20 Pamela M. Green, Study List Application for Isaac H. Smith, Jr., House (on file with North Carolina Historic Preservation Office, Raleigh, N. C.), Section 10 ("Supporting Information"). Also, the 1920 census mentions that Isaac H. Smith, Jr., was working as a bill collector, presumably for the company.

21 Gertrude S. Carraway, Crown of Life—History of Christ Church, New Bern, N. C. 1715-1940 (New Bern: Owen G. Dunn, 1940), p. 201.

22 Green, Section 10. Also, Hanchett and Little, pp. 37-38.

23 Ibid.

24 Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, New Bern, N. C., Aug. 1924 (p. 19) and Jan. 1931 (p. 23).

25 Hanchett and Little, pp. 68 and 72.

26 Hill Directory Company's 1926 New Bern City Directory, p. 178. Also, Hanchett and Little, p. 20.

27 Hanchett and Little, p. 82. Directory research (New Bern City Directory, 1937-1941) indicates that, contrary to family history, the Smith Building was probably not constructed until 1940.

28 Pamela Green, transcription of property managed and/or owned by Isaac H. Smith, Jr., from Craven County Register of Deeds (in Study List materials).

29 Isaiah Prophet Hatch, An Autobiography of I. P. Hatch (I. P. Hatch, Private Printing, 1963: there is a copy in the Craven County Public Library, New Bern, N. C.), pp. 26-30, 60-61.

30 Isaac H. Smith, Jr., obituary, The Sun-Journal (New Bern, N. C.), July 28, 1953, p. 3.

31 Annie Day Smith Donaldson, New Bern, N. C., August 8, 1993 interview with Sonya Ramsay for Behind The Veil: Documenting African American Life in the Jim Crow South (Durham: Duke University, 1992-1997).

32 Craven County Public Records, Death Certificate for Isaac H. Smith, Jr., Book 1953, p. 338.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Smith, Jr., Isaac H., House
Craven County, N. C.

Section 9 Page 1

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Carraway, Gertrude S. Crown of Life—History of Christ Church, New Bern, N. C. 1715-1940. New Bern: Owen G. Dunn, 1940.

Craven County Public Records. Death Certificate for Isaac Hughes Smith, Jr. Book 1953, p. 338

_____. Deed Register Book 1689, p. 789 [Carolyn Smith Green and J. P. Green to Green Property Management, April 1999]

Donaldson, Annie Day Smith. August 3, 1993, interview with Sonya Ramsey for Behind The Veil: Documenting African American Life in the Jim Crow South. Taped documentary, Center for Documentary Studies, Duke University, Durham, N. C. (copy of interview at Craven County Public Library, New Bern, N. C.)

Edmonds, Helen. The Negro and Fusion Politics in North Carolina, 1894-1901. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1973.

Green, Pamela. Study List Application for Isaac H. Smith, Jr., House. Raleigh: National Register files, State Historic Preservation Office, 1999.

Hanchett, Thomas W., and Ruth M. Little. "The History and Architecture of Long Wharf and Greater Duffyfield: African American Neighborhoods in New Bern, North Carolina." Private Manuscript, City of New Bern Historic Preservation Commission, 1994.

Hatch, Isaiah Prophet. An Autobiography of I. P. Hatch. New Bern: I. P. Hatch, 1963 (copy of book at Craven County Public Library, New Bern, N. C.).

Hill Directory Company. New Bern, NC, City Directories, 1904-1955. Richmond: Hill Directory Company (copies obtained from Kellenberger Room, Craven County Public Library, New Bern, N. C.).

Massengill, Stephen E. "Isaac Hughes Smith," in Dictionary of North Carolina Biography, Vol. 5, ed. William S. Powell. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1979.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps. "New Bern, North Carolina." Pelham, New York: Sanborn Map Company, 1913, 1924, and 1931.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Smith, Jr., Isaac H., House
Craven County, N. C.

Section 9 Page 2

Sandbeck, Peter B. The Historic Architecture of New Bern and Craven County, North Carolina. New Bern: Tryon Palace Commission, 1988.

The Sun-Journal, New Bern, North Carolina. Obituary for Isaac H. Smith, Jr., in "Negro News." July 28, 1953, p. 3.

United State Census Records for Craven County, North Carolina, Population Schedules for New Bern, North Carolina, 1900, 1910, and 1920.

Watson, Alan. A History of New Bern and Craven County. New Bern: Tryon Palace Commission, 1987.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Smith, Jr., Isaac H., House
Craven County, N. C.

Section 10 Page 1

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated property is identified by the enclosed New Bern, North Carolina, GIS tax map. The map's scale is 1" = 170' and shows lot 8-003-010, the Isaac H. Smith, Jr., property lot, which measures fifty by fifty-one feet. It is also represented in Craven County Deed Book 1689, page 707.

BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated property represents the entire lot historically associated with the Isaac H. Smith, Jr. House.

ISAAC H. SMITH JR. HOUSE
605 JOHNSON STREET
NEW BERN
CRAVEN COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA
1 inch = 170 feet

