

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

### 1. Name of Property

historic name Smith- Williams-Durham Boarding House  
other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

### 2. Location

street & number 247 5th Avenue West N/A not for publication  
city, town Hendersonville N/A vicinity  
state North Carolina code NC county Henderson code 089 zip code 28739

### 3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	_____ buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	_____	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____	_____ structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	_____	_____ objects
		<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:  
Historic and Architectural Resources in Hendersonville NC A Partial Inventory  
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

### 4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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 forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

William S. Fair  
Signature of certifying official 12-28-88  
Date

State Historic Preservation Officer  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official Date

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

### 5. 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:)

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**6. Function or Use**

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Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling  
DOMESTIC: hotel

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Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE/TRADE: business

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**7. Description**

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Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Classical Revival

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Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation brickwalls weatherboard

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roof asphaltother woodbrick

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Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Smith-Williams-Durham Boarding House is situated on an 112 foot wide by 150 foot deep city lot, located to the west of the Main Street Historic District, and is one of three remaining early residences on the north side of Fifth Avenue. It is a rambling two-story frame former dwelling with a prominent front projection. Its original 1909 one-story form was completely obliterated by the 1918 remodeling, which raised it to two stories and included a two-story addition to the east. The structure has a low hipped roof with extended and bracketed eaves. A single tiered porch extends from the front projection and wraps around the side of the house. The porch has a shed roof and original simple wooden, square posts. The porch railing was replaced in 1981. The glazed front door has a glass transom and sidelights; most of the windows are 6/6 sash. The 2/2 sash windows on the rear upper floor and both first and second floors on the west side appear to be original as well. The interior chimney stack has been rebuilt. The exterior east side chimney, probably part of the 1918 remodeling, is well preserved.

The rambling form of the structure is due primarily to the extensive additions made to the building in its conversion to a boarding house. The entrance and porch are of Classical Revival style; the rest of the house is "boarding house plain."

One enters a central hallway with stairs ascending from the rear. The interior is "boarding house plain," as well, with simple woodwork. The door and window surrounds are composed of plain board and backband. Stair newells and balusters are square. The walls are plaster and floors are broad pine boards. The mantels in the ground floor rooms on the west side of the building are earlier in style and appear to identify these two rooms as the original 1909 house. They are late Victorian in style, and the mantel in the front west room has an overmantel. The room which served as the main parlor in the enlarged 1918 boarding house is the large room to the east of the entrance. It has a handsome brick Craftsman style fireplace. There are 13 bedrooms and nine baths in the house. The rooms upstairs have metal numbers on their doors. Some have venetian swinging doors outside the entry doors. Also upstairs, at the top of the stairs, along the rear, is a sleeping porch.

The only major recent alterations are the introduction of some glass panels in the east side of the central hall, between the hall and the ground floor room on the east side of the building, and the removal of the partition wall between the dining room on the east side of the hall and the sunroom located behind the porch on the east side.

**8. Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally,  statewide  locally

Applicable National Register Criteria  A  B  C  D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)  A  B  C  D  E  F  G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

ENTERTAINMENT /RECREATION  
ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1918-1929

Significant Dates

1918

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Smith-Williams-Durham Boarding House is a fine example of the many homes which were transformed into boarding houses in the early 20th century during the Hendersonville area's apex as a tourist attraction. It is representative of the Inns, Boarding Houses, and Hotels property type. Its relationship to Hendersonville is explained in "Tourism Development in Hendersonville, N C in the Railroad Years, 1879-1929," Hendersonville Multiple Property Documentation Form.

The Smith-Williams-Durham Boarding House is one of the many dwellings used as a boarding house in Hendersonville during its resort development in the first third of the 20th century. It was built as a private residence by T. M. Smith, who purchased the property in 1901 (Henderson County Deed Book 43, p. 68). In the April 1, 1909 French Broad Hustler, it was announced that "T. M. Smith is just completing a pretty new cottage near W. J. Davis' residence, near town." The 1915 Hendersonville City Directory lists a T. M. Smith living at 216 N. 5th Avenue West, which later was renumbered 247 N. 5th Avenue West (Henderson County Deed Book 205, p. 71). Smith apparently was the city tax collector at this time; the 1926/27 Hendersonville Directory lists him as the ex-city tax collector. The same Directory gives the April 1, 1909 French Broad Hustler description of the Smith house but listed under the next owner's name.

During the First World War, Lillie and Jonathan Williams, the town's first railroad agent, bought the house and made an extensive enlargement in order to establish a boarding house. Lillie's sister Kate Shipman Durham remembers the remodeling and can pinpoint the date to 1918. The one-story cottage was given an upper story and grew to thirteen bedrooms. The Williams House was opened all year, providing room and board for the guests. The cook, known as Henny, developed a fine reputation for her good food (author interview with Katherine Durham, 1987).

The Williams House earned a good reputation during the boom years of the 1920s, but struggled to survive after the Crash of 1929 (see Henderson County Deed Book 205, p71). According to the County Deed Book, Mrs. Lillie S. Williams (widow) defaulted on a loan, and the property, "being known as the T. M. Smith House," was sold at public auction in March, 1933. Her sister, Katherine S. Durham bought it for \$1,060.00 By 1938, the

See continuation sheet

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 1

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Williams House had become re-established as a boarding house under the direction of Kate Durham, whose husband Albert had recently died.

Mrs. Durham successfully built up a regular group of visitors, but with the labor shortages during World War II, and all the difficulties of rationing, she was forced to discontinue her meal service. Mrs. Durham managed the rooming house until 1980, when she began to approach 90 years of age. The house is now owned by Frank Schell, who has converted it for commercial use. The building now serves as office space for a travel agency, a real estate company, and several other small business concerns.

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

Durham, Katherine, Hendersonville resident. Interivew with Sybil Bowers, 1987.  
French Broad Hustler, April 1, 1909, Hendersonville.

Henderson County Deed Books, North Carolina Archives, Raleigh, N C.

Hendersonville City Directory, 1915.

Hendersonville City Directory, 1926/27.

See continuation sheet

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

Specify repository:

Western Office, N C Archives & History

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of property 0.37 acre

UTM References

A     
 Zone Easting Northing

B     
 Zone Easting Northing

C

D

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property is outlined in red on the enclosed Henderson County Tax Map No. 9568.07, parcel no. 1581. It measures approximately 111' x 146'.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the entire city lot currently associated with the property.

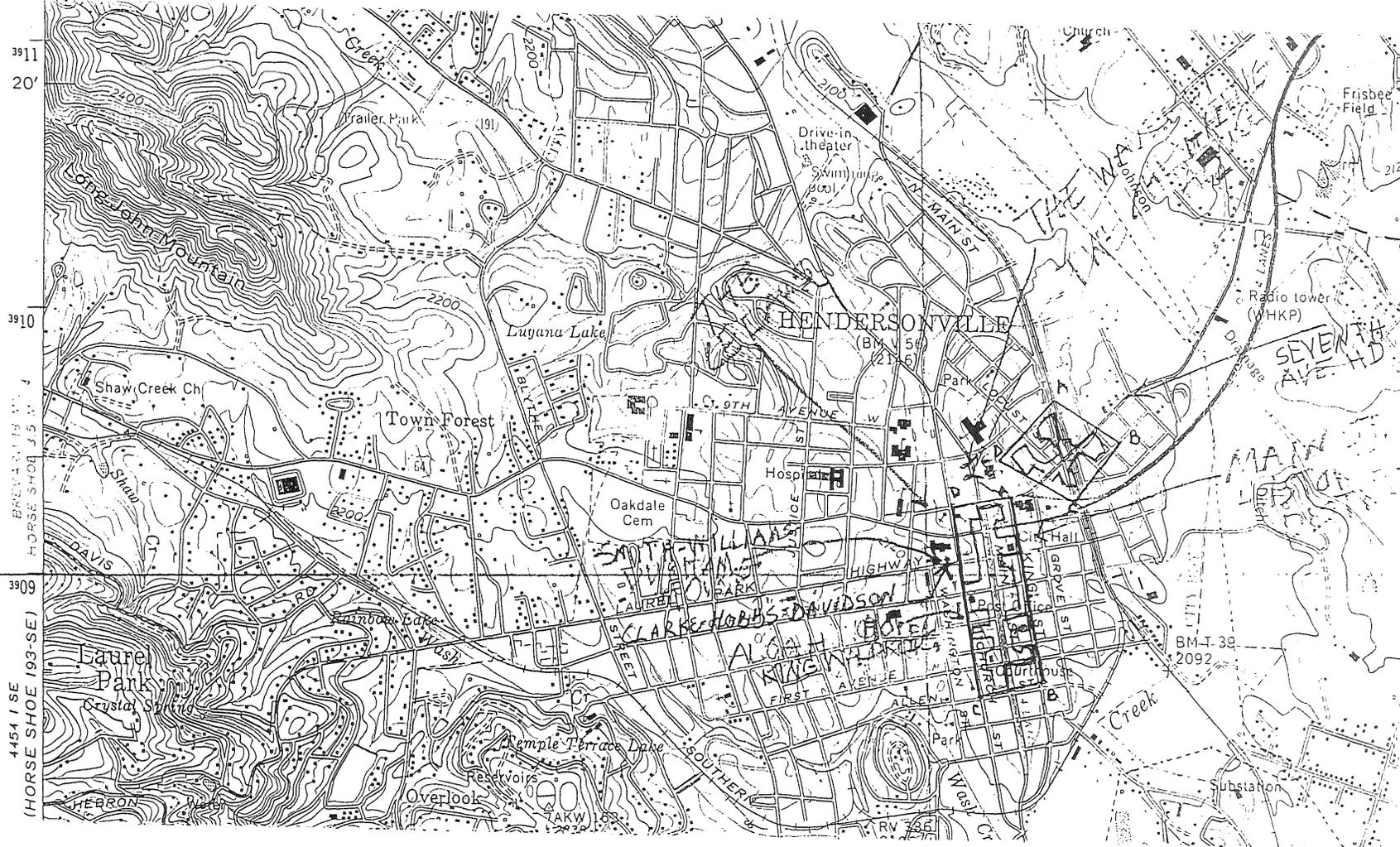
See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Sybil Bowers, consultant; Ruth Little and Margaret Rothman, staff  
 organization North Carolina Historic Preservation Office date 1987-1988  
 street & number 109 E. Jones St. telephone (919) 733 6545  
 city or town Raleigh state NC zip code 27611

N173909050

WAVERLY  
E 171367140  
N173909410



SMITH-WILLIAMS DURHAM  
BOARDING HOUSE

E 171367040  
N 173909050