

STATE:
North Carolina

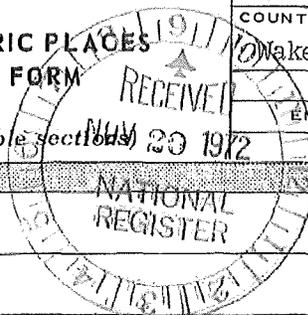
COUNTY:
Wake

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY NUMBER: _____ DATE: _____

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)



1. NAME

COMMON:
Lewis-Smith House

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
515 North Wilmington Street (Fourth Congressional District, The Hon. Nick Galifianakis)

CITY OR TOWN:
Raleigh

STATE: North Carolina CODE: 37 COUNTY: Wake CODE: 183

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	_____	_____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Mrs. Charles Lee Smith *State of North Carolina*

STREET AND NUMBER:
515 North Wilmington Street *Blount Street*

CITY OR TOWN: Raleigh STATE: North Carolina CODE: 37

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Wake County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Raleigh STATE: North Carolina CODE: 37

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY: _____ Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: _____ STATE: _____ CODE: _____

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Lewis-Smith House is a handsome, well-maintained Greek Revival dwelling set back from the street in a large lot planted with trees and flowering shrubs. The property formerly included the entire block and the house was flanked by its dependencies and extensive gardens, but turn-of-the-century dwellings were built on the north and south ends of the lot; a wide side yard to the south remains along with lawns running the depth of the block between Halifax and Wilmington streets. A semicircular drive leads from the busy downtown residential street, Wilmington Street, to the front of the house.

The building is a substantial frame structure, two stories high above a full basement and covered by a shallow hip roof. The main (east) facade is three bays wide, dominated by a striking two-tier pedimented entrance portico. The portico is quite academic, with paired Greek Doric columns at the first level and well-detailed Ionic ones at the second; those at the second level are connected by a simple balustrade. Pilasters paneled with a bold Greek fret occur on the facade at the ends of the porch; the sheltered wall surface is flush-sheathed. Each element of the large double door with transom and sidelights is framed by a symmetrically molded architrave with plain corner blocks; a larger architrave frames the entire composition. Similar architraves frame the large flanking windows of this facade, which contain six-over-six sash. The same window treatment occurs around the main block. At each corner of the facade is a fluted corner post. These support a well-defined cornice featuring sawn brackets beneath the wide overhang of the roof. The brackets are evenly spaced, and their upper elements rather resemble undercut modillions. This bracketed cornice carries around the main block as well as along the frieze and around the pediment of the portico. Three large interior chimneys with elaborate molded caps pierce the roof, one on the north and two on the south.

On each side of the house is a centrally-placed two-story, demi-octagonal projecting bay, added in the early twentieth century to provide bathrooms, and, on the first floor, a conservatory. The roofline is continuous with the main block and the bracketed cornice is repeated. A balustrade tops the flat roof of each projection. At the first-floor level, running from the side projection around the corner to the front portico is a roofless deck. At the rear of the house there is said to have been a wide one-story porch; it has been replaced by a one-story frame addition.

The interior of the house is a well-preserved, spacious example of the Greek Revival style, with furniture and adornments reflecting the Victorian and early twentieth century fashions. The main block follows a center-hall plan two rooms deep, with the stair rising at the rear of the hall. Consistent throughout are large rooms with high ceilings and heavy molded baseboards and cornices, typical simple Greek Revival mantels, and doors with fine original hardware and long panels outlined by broad moldings. The architraves are quite heavy, being symmetrically molded with a faceted center strip and faceted corner blocks. Those at the first-story windows reach to the floor, framing a single panel beneath each window. The main rooms on the first floor have foliated plaster ceiling medallions. The central hall is divided midway by a pair of elaborate Neo-Classical

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Revival fluted Ionic columns. Each rests on a paneled pedestal that extends to the wall, where it also serves as a base for a fluted pilaster with a cap ornamented with foliated bands. The northeast room, which is rather small, was Dr. Smith's library and is still lined with bookshelves filled with books and momentos.

The two south rooms, the most elaborately finished, are joined by a wide sliding double door with an original, ingenious lock-handle device. Each room has a marble mantel whose design--simple pilasters supporting a wide frieze and plain shelf--resembles that of the wooden mantels in the other rooms. Elaborately ornamented cast-iron grate covers fill the fire openings. Suspended from the ceiling medallion in each of these east rooms hangs a superbly flamboyant bronze chandelier (once for gas, now electrified) with floral glass shades and sinuous naturalistic elements. That in the rear (west) room is especially interesting. Twisting foliated and fish forms compose the bulbous central portion, which is suspended by bronze cables on which perch realistic bronze birds. A cupid with a hat sits atop the upper finial. Other elaborate early gas fixtures appear elsewhere in the house.

The open-string stair, which rises in two flights with a wide landing, has a heavy turned newel and slender balusters square in section that carry a graceful rounded handrail. At the landing there is a double window beneath a shallow fanlight; the upper sash of each window and the fanlight are delicately leaded. The plan of the second floor is much like the first, and the finish is similar but simpler.



SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Lewis-Smith House is of considerable significance to the city of Raleigh historically and architecturally. It was the home during most of the first half of the twentieth century of Charles Lee Smith, one of the state's most distinguished and respected men in the fields of publishing and education. The building is one of only two major Greek Revival dwellings surviving in Raleigh. With its handsome proportions, its striking Doric-Ionic double portico, and the pure Greek Revival simplicity of its interior, it is an important member of the handful of antebellum structures that remain in the downtown area. The combination of the basically Greek Revival form with the rhythmic Italianate bracketed cornice visually relates the building to the nearby main building of Peace College, with its great pilastered brick facade and four-level entrance portico also lightened by a bracketed cornice. The Lewis-Smith House is a well-preserved and valuable vestige of the nearly-gone antebellum capital city whose northern boundary was edged by the gracious houses and shady lawns south of Peace Street.

The Lewis-Smith House appears to have been built by Dr. Augustus M. Lewis shortly after he bought 3.36 acres from Kenneth Rayner of Hertford County on February 23, 1854. The property, located on the east side of the main road leading from Raleigh to Louisburg, was 417 feet from the northern boundary (North Street) of Raleigh. (The Louisburg Road became Halifax Street after it crossed North Street.) Dr. Lewis represented Wake County in the General Assembly from 1854 to 1856. The house was owned by several members of the Lewis family and was referred to as the A. M. Lewis home place when his widow, Sarah M. Lewis, then of Iredell County, sold the property to Dr. Albert Anderson on April 4, 1908. He in turn sold the place in 1912 to Charles Lee Smith. It is not certain whether it was Anderson or Smith who added the two-story bays and made other minor changes.

Dr. Charles Lee Smith was a distinguished educator, publisher, and writer of whom a contemporary wrote, "In studying the rise of the new education in North Carolina and the South it will be found that few men have been of more real, vital service than Charles Lee Smith." He was born in Granville County, moved to Durham as a boy, was graduated from Wake Forest College in 1884, and entered Johns Hopkins University in 1886. There he "filled successively positions of University Scholar (1886-87), fellow in history and political science (1887-88), and received the degree

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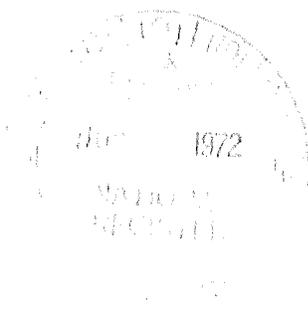
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of Doctor of Philosophy in 1889, was instructor in history and lecturer on sociology in the University (1888-91)." In 1888 he published The History of Education in North Carolina, a pioneer work that is still a respected standard reference. In 1891 he was invited to teach history and political science at William Jewell College in Missouri, and in 1905 he was chosen president of Mercer University in Georgia. There, he "wished to make radical changes in the curriculum of the college, . . . but he was ahead of his constituency and resigned at the end of the scholastic year." He returned to Raleigh, where in 1912 he purchased the house on Wilmington Street. Dr. Smith became secretary and treasurer of the Edwards and Broughton Printing Company, and in 1915 president of the company. The firm flourished and expanded under his leadership, printing books for individuals and institutions, including the Duke University and University of North Carolina presses. Throughout his life Dr. Smith traveled widely, gathering works of art and a library of rare and important books, of which he donated over 7,000 to Wake Forest College. In addition, his interest in education led to his serving in various capacities outside his business concerns; Who's Who in America listed over a dozen, including service as a trustee and a member of the executive and building committees of the University of North Carolina (1911-1932) and as chairman and member of the executive committee of the North Carolina Library Commission (1909-1921). The house is now the home of Dr. Smith's widow.



9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Research by Greer Suttlemyre, survey specialist; architectural description by Catherine Cockshutt, survey specialist.
 Paschal, George Washington. A History of Printing in North Carolina. Raleigh: Edwards and Broughton Company, 1946.
 Wake County Records, Wake County Courthouse, Raleigh, North Carolina, Office of the Register of Deeds (Subgroups: Deeds, Wills).
 Wake County Records, State Department of Archives and History, Raleigh, North Carolina (Subgroups: Deeds, Wills, and Maps).
 Waugh, Elizabeth C. North Carolina's Capitol, Raleigh. Raleigh: The Junior League of Raleigh, Inc., and the Raleigh Historic Sites Commission, Inc. 1967.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES				
CORNER	LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	0	'	"	0	'	"	35°	47'	08"
NE	0	'	"	0	'	"	78°	38'	08"
SE	0	'	"	0	'	"			
SW	0	'	"	0	'	"			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: less than 1 acre

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Survey and Planning Unit Staff

ORGANIZATION: State Department of Archives and History DATE: 10 November 1972

STREET AND NUMBER:
109 East Jones Street

CITY OR TOWN: Raleigh STATE: North Carolina CODE: 37

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name: H. G. Jones Title: State Historian/Administrator Date: 10 November 1972

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Robert H. Utley
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 12/11/72

ATTEST:
Lucy S. Rouse
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: 12/8/72

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

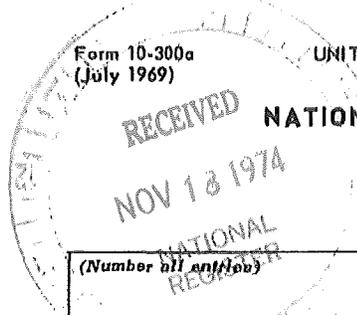
Form 10-300a
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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In 1972 and 1973, one house after another in the dedining residential section of north Raleigh was razed by the state. In some cases, parking lots were made; most of the destruction, however, was in order to clear land for the planned state government center, which was to encompass all of North Wilmington and Halifax streets between the Legislative Building and Peace Street. At the March 29, 1973, meeting of the North Carolina Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, a staff report was made urging that modifications be made to the state government center plan to provide for the continued existence in situ of the Lewis-Smith House. A presentation was also made by Carroll Mann, state property control officer, stating that such a modification was not feasible.

In 1973 and early 1974, more and more land was cleared, leaving the Lewis-Smith House alone on its site, amid a vast blank expanse. Finally, during the week of June 10, 1974 (after lengthy preparation including moving across the street Mrs. Smith, who lived in the Lewis-Smith House), the large frame house was moved across Wilmington Street, north along that street about one-half block, and through the block to a site facing North Blount Street. The house was placed on a concrete block foundation, which was concealed behind a latticed brick outer foundation beneath the porch--essentially reproducing the original appearance.

The Division of Archives and History strongly and consistently urged that the Lewis-Smith House be preserved on its original site. This, however, was not possible according to the property officer. The moving appears to have been accomplished without damage to the architectural integrity of the house, and when landscaping is complete the appearance of the house will be quite similar to its previous condition. The site, on North Blount Street, is only a stone's throw from the previous site. The area that was once North Wilmington Street has been utterly transformed, eliminating any trace of the tree-shaded residential area that existed there. North Blount Street, paralleling North Wilmington Street, is apparently being preserved as a residential area (with the exception of parking-lot gaps). The streetscape of late nineteenth and early twentieth century houses and large trees is similar to that of North Wilmington Street, and the cultural history is the same for both streets. Thus while it is unfortunate that the house could not have been preserved on its original site, its preservation on its new site is a reasonable and appropriate second choice. Certainly its architectural integrity and its historic significance remain essentially what they were when the building was nominated; it should continue to be listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

Donald D. Greenberg 12/31/74
Keeper of the National Register

A. R. Mortensen 12/31/74
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

