



DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Planning Division

m e m o r a n d u m

TO: The Urbana Historic Preservation Commission

FROM: Rebecca Bird, Planner II

DATE: December 28, 2012

SUBJ.E.CT: 801 W Indiana Avenue (J.E. Smith House): historic landmark application, Case No. HP 2012-L-01

Introduction

Historic Preservation Case No. HP 2012-L-01 is an application submitted by T.J. and Louise Kuhny to designate the house at 801 W Indiana Avenue (referred to as the J.E. Smith House) as a local historic landmark. Bank Champaign Trust / T.J. and Louise Kuhny are the property owners.

The Historic Preservation Ordinance requires that the Commission hold a public hearing on the application within 60 days of receiving a complete application. At the public hearing, the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) should take comments from the nominator, the owner, and any other parties who wish to be heard on the application. In addition, the HPC should consider all written comments received prior to or during the hearing. It is the responsibility of the nominator to provide evidence of suitability for historic landmark status as well as documentation of such evidence. The owner of the subject property may request a continuation of the public hearing until the next regularly scheduled HPC meeting. If such a request is made, the HPC should continue the public hearing until the next meeting.

Following the public hearing, the HPC should review all information presented to it pertinent to the nomination. If the property owner consents in writing to landmark designation and the HPC finds that the property conforms to one or more criteria set forth in Section XII-5.C.1, the HPC may make the final determination to designate the property as a historic landmark.

Should the application be approved, the owner would be required to obtain a Certificate of Appropriateness from the Historic Preservation Commission for future exterior changes to the property, including any proposed demolition.

Background

James Elmo Smith, a three-term mayor of Urbana, civil engineer, and major local real estate developer, built the house at 801 W. Indiana Avenue in 1920. Architecturally, the house is a variation of an American Four Square with a restrained but eclectic mix of elements from several architectural styles. American Four Squares are typically two stories and two bays wide and deep. The subject house differs from this with a two-story projecting bay window on the east elevation, and a two-story projecting bay on the south elevation connecting to an attached two-car garage. Most American houses do not fit neatly into one particular architectural style, but instead are a mixture of two or more styles. Such houses may have been built as a stylistic mixture or may have resulted from later attempts to alter the style through remodeling. The J.E. Smith House was built as a stylistic mixture, rather than undergoing changes through renovation. The house has elements of the following architectural styles: Victorian (the projecting bay window), Arts & Crafts (the three-over-one window sashes and the monumental porch supports), and Colonial Revival (the pedimented roof dormers). (See photos in Exhibit B.)

The application states that the J.E. Smith House:

- Has significant value as part of the architectural, artistic, civic, cultural, economic, educational, ethnic, political or *social heritage* of the nation, state, or community; and
- Is associated with important persons and events in national, state, or *local* history; and
- Is representative of the distinguishing characteristics of an architectural type inherently valuable for the study of a period, style, craftsmanship, method of construction or use of indigenous materials and which retains a high degree of integrity.

Discussion

The action necessary at the January 2nd Historic Preservation Commission meeting is to determine whether the property qualifies for designation as a local historic landmark. Due to property owner support in this case, the HPC may designate the property as a historic landmark without City Council review and approval.

Criteria

Under Section XII-5.C of the Urbana Zoning Ordinance, the proposed landmark must meet one or more of the following criteria for designation. Following each criteria (*provided in italics*) is analysis offered by City staff.

- a) *Significant value as part of the architectural, artistic, civic, cultural, economic, educational, ethnic, political or social heritage of the nation, state, or community.*

According to the application, the J.E. Smith House has significant value as part of the social heritage of the community. The house was built by James Elmo Smith, a three-term mayor of Urbana who was influential in his day and is described in further detail in the following section. According to the

application, in addition to the connection with J.E. Smith, the subject house was also home to others actively engaged in the community.

Frances McClelland Smith, wife of James Elmo Smith, was a civic leader. “She was dedicated to her work as superintendent of Sunday school for the Methodist Episcopal Church of Urbana, with many newspaper accounts of her activities coordinating education, setting standards, and examinations for various grade levels, and finally being elected vice president of the Illinois Council on Religious Education,” (application, p. 11). In addition to her work in religious education, Mrs. Smith was involved in a number of other social service organizations.

Following the Smiths’ occupancy, Fred A. Russell and his wife Myra Parker Russell, owned the house from 1926 to 1966. According to the application, Fred Russell was a professor of economics and business. His mark on the University was not just as a professor, though, as he was also the Director of the University of Illinois Athletic Association and was instrumental in the financing of the building of Memorial Stadium and furnishing the Illini Union. His wife, Myra, was also active in the civic life of Urbana, particularly with education organizations. Please see the application for more information about the Russells.

b) Associated with an important person or event in national, state or local history.

According to the application, the J.E. Smith House is associated with an important person in local history. The house was built in 1920 by James Elmo Smith, a real estate developer, civil engineer, and three-term mayor of Urbana. According to a 1952 *News-Gazette* article, Smith was born in 1877 near Rockford, Illinois, and moved to Urbana in 1907 to join the University of Illinois faculty as an assistant professor of civil engineering. From 1913 to 1917, he served as an Urbana alderman. Then, according to an article published about him in an engineering journal, James Elmo Smith received both the Republican and the Democratic mayoral nominations in 1919 and was elected mayor by a large majority (“The Engineer in Public Life”, *Engineering News-Record*, August 17, 1922). Under Smith’s leadership, Urbana underwent a period of modernization:

“It was during his terms as mayor that Urbana built its first concrete pavement. An ornamental lighting system was installed, and numerous other civic improvements were carried out.”

“James Elmo Smith, Urbana Mayor 1919 to 1924, Dies”, *News-Gazette*, November 6, 1952.

For further information on James Elmo Smith, please see the attached application and journal articles.

The Historic Preservation Commission may be interested to note that at least four of Urbana’s ten residential landmarks were homes of former mayors. For example, the City designated the home of Chester Richards, the mayor of Urbana from 1917-1919, the years immediately before Smith’s tenure, on September 3, 2008 (305 W. High Street, Richards-Latowsky House). In addition to Chester Richards, Ezekiel Boyden, Eli Halberstadt and R.A. Sutton were all former mayors of Urbana whose houses are now locally-designated landmarks.

City staff finds that the J.E. Smith House is associated with an important person in local history.

- c) *Representative of the distinguishing characteristics of an architectural type inherently valuable for the study of a period, style, craftsmanship, method of construction or use of indigenous materials and which retains a high degree of integrity.*

The J.E. Smith House was built in 1920. In form, the Smith House can be characterized as an American Four Square, two-and-a-half stories in height, two bays wide and two bays deep. As with most American houses, it is not strictly limited to one architectural style, but has elements of several different styles. The two-story projecting bay window on the east elevation was a feature popular during the earlier Victorian era, while the three-over-one windows and the solid monumental porch supports are Craftsman in style, and the unusual roof dormers with a classical and dominant pediment are Colonial Revival in style.

The second part of this criterion deals with integrity—the ability of the house to convey its significance. The house appears to have a high degree of integrity, with the original building form and massing remaining as well as its carefully restored original windows and doors, porches, dormers, and garage. The original siding in the gable ends as well as the fascia and soffits has been covered, but this does not compromise the house’s architectural integrity as most of the house has brick siding.

- d) *Notable work of a master builder, designer, architect or artist whose individual genius has influenced an area.*

According to the application, the J.E. Smith House does not qualify under criterion d). The architect and builder are not known.

- e) *Identifiable as an established and familiar visual feature in the community owing to its unique location or physical characteristics.*

According to the application, the J.E. Smith House does not qualify under criterion e).

- f) *Character as a particularly fine or unique example of a utilitarian structure, including, but not limited to, farmhouses, gas stations or other commercial structures with a high level or integrity or architectural significance.*

According to the application, the J.E. Smith House does not qualify under criterion f). The house is not a utilitarian structure.

- g) *Located in an area that has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in history or prehistory.*

According to the application, the J.E. Smith House does not qualify under criterion g). City staff and the applicant are not aware of any archaeological significance of the area.

Summary of Findings

Recommended statements of findings based on the application and Staff analysis are below. The Commission may revise these findings based on the review and consideration of the case.

1. Article XII. of the *Urbana Zoning Ordinance* provides the City of Urbana the authority to designate local landmarks and historic districts with the stated purpose to promote the educational, cultural, economic and general welfare of the community.
2. The City of Urbana on November 28, 2012 received a landmark application, consented to by the property owner, to designate the property located at 801 West Indiana Avenue as a local landmark.
3. The Urbana Historic Preservation Commission held a public hearing on January 2, 2013 to consider the landmark designation of the subject property.
4. The designation of the subject property will further promote the educational, cultural, economic, and general welfare of the community.
5. The property located at 801 West Indiana Avenue and known as the J.E. Smith House was constructed in 1920.
6. The J.E. Smith House has significant value due to its association with an important person in local history. The house was built by and for James Elmo Smith, a three-term mayor of Urbana who is credited with modernizing the city of Urbana with the use of concrete in paving city streets, and bringing modern lighting and telephone systems to Urbana.
7. The J.E. Smith House retains a high degree of architectural integrity.

Options

In Case No. HP 2012-L-01, the Historic Preservation Commission may:

- 1) Find that the nomination meets the criteria for designation as a local landmark, in which case the Commission may approve the application and designate the property as a local landmark; or
- 2) Find that the nomination does not meet the criteria for designation as a local landmark, in which case the application shall be denied.

In either case, the Historic Preservation Commission should include Findings of Fact in their motion. The Findings of Fact should summarize the Commission's justification for finding that the nomination either does or does not meet the criteria. The vote required is a majority vote of those members present and voting but with not less than three affirmative votes.

Staff Recommendation

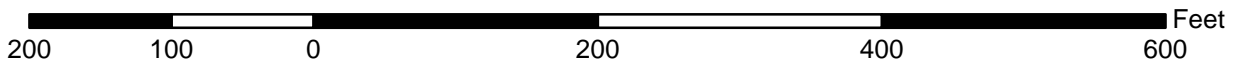
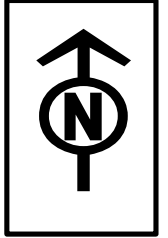
Because the application was consented to by the property owners, the Historic Preservation Commission has decision-making authority in this landmark application.

Based on the application and analysis herein, staff recommends the Historic Preservation Commission find that the landmark nomination for 801 West Indiana Avenue conforms with criteria b) in Section XII-5.C of the Urbana Zoning Ordinance and **APPROVE** the application.

cc: T.J. and Louise Kuhny, applicants (lkuhny@ameritech.net)
Bank Champaign, property owner (John Clausen, jclausen@bankchampaign.com)
Elizabeth Tyler, FAICP, Community Development Director
Robert Myers, AICP, Planning Manager
Mayor and City Council

Attachments: Exhibit A: Location Map & Aerial Photo
Exhibit B: Application & Photos
Exhibit C: City of Urbana Historic Resource Survey for 801 W Indiana Avenue
Exhibit D: Journal articles about James Elmo Smith

Location Map

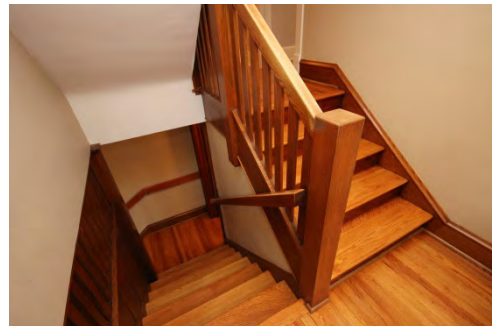


Case: HP-2012-L-01
Subject: Landmark Designation Application
Location: 801 W Indiana Ave
Petitioner: TJ & Louise Kuhny

 Subject Property



*801 W. Indiana Avenue
Urbana, Illinois
Application for Historic Landmark Designation
November 2012*





Application for Historic Landmark Designation

Historic Preservation Commission

APPLICATION AND REVIEW FEE – NO CHARGE

Although there is no fee to file an application for Historic Landmark Designation, the Applicants are responsible for paying the cost of legal publication fees. The fees usually run from \$75.00 to \$125.00. The applicant will be billed separately by the News-Gazette.

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE - FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Date Application Filed _____ Case No. _____

PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION

1. APPLICANT CONTACT INFORMATION

Name of Applicant(s): **KUHNY, T.J. AND LOUISE** Phone: **630-835-7101**

Address (street/city/state/zip code): **801 W. INDIANA AVE., URBANA, IL 61801**

Email Address: **LKUHNY@AMERITECH.NET**

Property interest of Applicant(s) (Owner, Contract Buyer, etc.): **RESIDENTS AND BENEFICIARIES OF TRUST**

2. OWNER INFORMATION

Name of Owner(s): **BANKCHAMPAIGN TRUST** Phone: **217-351-2870**

Address (street/city/state/zip code): **2101 SOUTH NEIL STREET, CHAMPAIGN, IL 61820**

Email Address: **BANKCHAMPAIGN.COM**

3. PROPERTY INFORMATION

Location of Subject Site: **801 W. INDIANA AVE., URBANA, IL 61801**

PIN # of Location: **93-21-17-304-005**

Lot Size: _____

Current Zoning Designation: **R2**

Current Land Use (vacant, residence, grocery, factory, etc): **SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENCE**

Present Comprehensive Plan Designation: **RESIDENTIAL URBAN PATTERN**

Legal Description: LOT 10 IN LINCOLN PLACE, AN ADDITION TO THE CITY OF URBANA AS PER PLAT RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK "C" AT PAGE 50, SITUATED IN CHAMPAIGN COUNTY, ILLINOIS.

Date of Construction of Structure: 1920

Attach a map showing the boundaries and location of the property proposed for nomination.

Attach photographs showing the important structures or features of the property or structure

Indicate which of the following criteria apply to the property or structure (***check all that apply***). Additionally, attach a statement that describes the proposed landmark and its historic significance; list reasons why it is eligible for nomination; and show how the proposed landmark conforms to the criteria for designation (*see attached Suggested Format*).

- Significant value as part of the architectural, artistic, civic, cultural, economic, educational, ethnic, political, or social heritage of the nation, state or community;
- Associated with an important person or event in national state or local history;
- Representative of the distinguishing characteristics of an architectural type inherently valuable for the study of a period, style, craftsmanship, method of construction or use of indigenous materials and which retains a high degree of integrity;
- Notable work of a master builder, designers, architect or artist whose individual genius has influenced an area;
- Identifiable as an established and familiar visual location or physical characteristics;
- Character is a particularly fine or unique example of a utilitarian structure, including, but not limited to, farmhouses, gas stations or other commercial structures with a high level of integrity or architectural significance;
- Yields, or may be likely to yield information important in history or prehistory

NOTE: If additional space is needed to accurately answer any question, please attach extra pages to the application.

By submitting this application, you are granting permission for City staff to post on the property a temporary yard sign announcing the public hearing to be held for your request.

CERTIFICATION BY THE APPLICANT

I certify all the information contained in this application form or any attachment(s), document(s) or plan(s) submitted herewith are true to the best of my knowledge and belief, and that I am either the property owner or authorized to make this application on the owner's behalf.

Applicant's Signature

Date

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM ONCE COMPLETED TO:

City of Urbana
Community Development Department Services
Planning Division
400 South Vine Street, Urbana, IL 61801
Phone: (217) 384-2440
Fax: (217) 384-2367

URBANA HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
Suggested Format for Content and Organization of “Statements”
For Property Located in a Proposed Historic Landmark

Summary Paragraph

- Criteria which apply to subject property
- Introductory or background statement about significance of subject property
- Statement of integrity

Property Description

- Architectural style
- Date of construction; date of major modifications
- Name of architect and builder, as available
- Construction materials (foundation, walls, roof shape/material)
- Description of building elements: number of stories, window type and shape, porches, entrances, etc.
- Description of unique architectural elements
- Alterations or additions to building
- Missing or removed architectural features
- Outbuildings and important landscape or streetscape features

History

- Brief community background (downtown development, neighborhood development, etc.)
- Discussion of property as it relates to the development of the community
- Important people associated with the property
- Important events associated with the property

For Architectural Significance

- Background of the style and/or architect
- Why/how the building reflects the style and/or architect’s work
- Other works in the community/elsewhere by same architect; discuss briefly

Context

- Placement or location of property within the city/community
- Relationship to other properties of similar architectural style and date/era of construction

801 W. Indiana Urbana Historic Landmark Supplemental Narrative

Summary

The home at 801 W. Indiana, Urbana, Illinois (southwest corner of Lincoln and Busey) is presented for Historic Landmark Designation. We will demonstrate how it meets the City of Urbana's Historic Preservation Commission criteria for: a) significant value as part of the heritage of the community; b) association with important persons and events in local history; and c) representative of the distinguishing characteristics of an architectural type and retains a high degree of integrity. This home was built by the Mayor of Urbana in 1920, and has been continuously occupied by important professors at the University of Illinois and their social-activist wives. Mayor (and Professor) Smith was integral to the modernization of Urbana, and Professor Russell was the lead fundraiser for both the construction of Memorial Stadium and the furnishing of the Illini Union. As noted in multiple publications, the home hosted important meetings and civic functions. Its architecture is typical of Urbana homes that were owned by leaders of the community.

In terms of integrity, the home is almost completely intact as originally built. Nearly all major original exterior elements remain including all brick, front and side porches, windows, entrance doors, dormers, roof structure, garage and even the front steps. The home's interior is also almost completely intact as originally built. Nearly all major original interior elements are very well-preserved including oak flooring on the first and second floors, Douglas-fir flooring on the third floor, Craftsman windows, Craftsman doors, wide oak craftsman baseboards and crown moldings, solid brass door hardware, fireplace mantel/surround, built-in bookcases, stair railings and newel posts, and even board-and-batten walls on the third floor.

Property Description

Architectural Style: The home appears to be heavily influenced by the Craftsman movement, but some elements of Georgian Revival are present on the exterior.¹ The general proportions of two-and-a-half stories and horizontal massing suggest Georgian Revival, but the heavy porches supported by chunky square columns suggest Craftsman. The cross-gabled roof and its dormers seem to be Georgian, but the double-hung three-over one fenestration with wide interior frame is clearly Craftsman. Of note is the fact that the brick color and architectural design is similar to many building on the University of Illinois campus, less than one block from this house.² The floor plan is a classic American Foursquare³ with an additional side porch⁴. Virtually all interior elements are Craftsman with clean lines and simple form⁵. Capped oak baseboards are broad at 10 ½ inches, and all rooms have a wide crown molding that is mounted slightly off the ceiling to be used as a picture rail.

Date of construction; date of major modifications: The home first appears on Sanborn Maps in 1923, but no building plans could be found. However, the June 8, 1920 Urbana Courier⁶ proclaims, “Mayor James Elmo Smith and family are moving from 807 W. Indiana Avenue to 801 W. Indiana Avenue.” The footprint of the home on the 1923 Sanborn Maps⁷ remains unchanged today, including the attached garage and both porches. Drawings for the “modernization” of the kitchen date to 1966, which was also the year recently found by a serviceman on the ductwork for HVAC system. Please note that the property was purchased by

¹ William Morgan, *The Abrams Guide to American House Styles* (New York: Harry N. Abrams, 2004), 238-282.

² Ilona Matkovszki and Dennis Roberts, *Images of America: Urbana* (Charleston: Arcadia, 2009), 37-43.

³ Gerald Foster, *American Houses: A Field Guide to the Architecture of the Home*, (Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 2004), 346-9.

⁴ Michael Dolan, *The American Porch: An Informal History of an Informal Place* (Guilford: Lyons Press, 2002), 181-200.

⁵ David Cathers, *Stickley Style: Arts and Crafts Homes in the Craftsman Tradition* (New York: Simon & Schuster, 1999), 42-9.

⁶ “Social Column”, *Urbana Daily Courier*, June 8, 1920.

⁷ “Urbana, Illinois, Map 36.” *Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps* (New York: Sanborn Map Company, 1923).

the Wagman family in 1966 and it is probable that they converted the heating system and remodeled the kitchen and baths in that same year. A Formica-covered powder room off the kitchen was probably either originated or remodeled at that time. Unfortunately, the gables, soffit and fascia were covered in aluminum trim at some point, possibly during the 1966 remodeling.

The 2012 restoration was guided by local architect Andrew Fell, who was chosen not only for his design skill but also because he has won many awards for historically respectful restorations, remodels and additions⁸:

- Exterior
 - New roofing, gutters and downspouts
 - Reconstruction of the crumbling “wing walls” on both sides of the front steps using existing limestone caps and as much existing brick as was possible
 - Replacement of the front walk/stairs leading from the public sidewalk to the front steps. It was concrete that appeared to have been partially replaced and repaired in patches over the years, and was absolutely unsafe for pedestrians due to crumbling steps and lack of level walking surface. Victorian-styled pre-fabricated railings were irreparable. Limestone (to echo the caps on the porches) and bluestone was utilized for the new materials. New custom railings, chosen by the architect for their Craftsman style, were installed.
 - Restoration of the front porch
 - Replacement of the unsalvageable (we tried) garage door with an almost exact replica
 - Tuck-pointing and restoration of parts of the garage and the side porch

⁸ “Recognitions,” Andrew Fell Architecture and Design, accessed November 2, 2012, <http://www.andrewfell.com/PracticeRecognitions.html>.

- Removal of many dead and neglected foundation plants and hedges, as well as a plethora of invasive species and weeds including honeysuckle and buckthorn. The yard was re-graded, then professionally designed and landscaped by carefully utilizing plant material and design concepts from the era the home was originally built⁹. Please note that all large trees (three pines and a blue spruce) were declared healthy by an arborist and were retained.
- Interior
 - Historic renovation of all windows by Wooten Historic Renovations. The windows were removed from the house, professionally restored and reinstalled. They are now all fully functional as originally designed, except that Mr. Wooten did replace sash cords with sash chains.
 - Plaster restoration and repair wherever needed
 - Refinishing of all hardwood floors
 - Major kitchen and bath renovation using historically-respectful choices of materials, colors, design, etc.
 - Careful matching of new doors to existing ones including door and hardware
 - Removal of Victorian and economy lighting fixtures, replacement with choices compatible with materials and design of the era
 - Electrical and plumbing updates
 - Replacement of historically-inappropriate mid-century hardware and accessories (vent covers, door plates, door stops, etc.) with choices appropriate to the original Craftsman design

⁹ Gustav Stickley, *Craftsman Homes: Architecture and Furnishings of the American Arts and Crafts Movement (Reprint)* (New York: Dover, 1979), 113-124.

Name of architect and builder, as available: Mayor James Elmo Smith built this and many other homes¹⁰. He was a major real estate developer in Urbana; his buildings include 801-807 Indiana as well as two complete subdivisions named after him. Mr. Smith was not an architect, but he was a professor of Civil Engineering at the University of Illinois.¹¹

Construction materials (foundation, walls, roof shape/material): Unusual for its era, this home has a poured concrete foundation that (amazingly) has no cracks. The house is balloon-framed¹² and has its original brick exterior. The roof is high-pitched and cross-gabled, and has multiple dormers. The roofs of the two porches and garage are hipped¹³. When the home was purchased in May 2012, the roof materials were a collage of four different types of asphalt shingles, some unidentifiable due to extreme wear and heavy moss growth. A new roof of asphalt shingles has been installed. Interior walls are plaster and lathe, and all necessary repairs to the plaster were completed during this year's restoration.

Description of building elements: number of stories, window type and shape, porches, entrances, etc.: The home is a 2 ½ story house. The third floor is finished and may have been completed at the time of original construction, or perhaps shortly thereafter. All first and second floor windows, along with those in the stairwells and some in the attic, are double-hung and three-over-one in design. The attic boasts four beautiful and (after restoration) fully-functional French casements. The front porch is original, as are the concrete stairs leading to it. It is large but does not traverse the entire front of the house, and it has two large built-in limestone seats that flank the front door. The side porch is very large, is accessed off the dining room, and boasts what appears to be its original red decorative cap (now restored). There is a full, deep

¹⁰ "Building Boom in Southwest Section Given New Impetus," *Urbana Daily Courier*, April 29, 1924.

¹¹ "Mayor James Elmo Smith Resigns Chair at University of Illinois," *Urbana Daily Courier*, February 21, 1922.

¹² Gerald Foster, *American Houses: A Field Guide to the Architecture of the Home*, (Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 2004), 48.

¹³ See note 12, pages 418-420.

basement that would easily allow finishing. The basement has storage under both porches; the large room under the side porch had been finished as a larder and its shelves are now useful for general storage.

Description of unique architectural elements: This home, in terms of its brick design and architectural style, echoes the design of many buildings on the University of Illinois campus¹⁴, which is less than one block to the west. Furthermore, it is similar in size and structure to many homes on surrounding streets; these homes have served important professors and civic/business leaders for approximately 100 years. Unique architectural elements on the exterior include two generous porches, an original attached garage (rare for 1920), Craftsman-style “chunky” brick porch supports, three-over-one double-hung fenestration, cross-gabled roof and dormers, and original concrete porch steps. The home’s poured concrete foundation was unique in 1920 and has certainly stood the test of time. Original and unique architectural elements abound inside, including expertly renovated original windows with “wavy” glass, two-panel doors with solid brass hardware, a beautiful entry closet door with inset beveled mirror, built-in entry cabinet (also with “wavy” glass), grand staircases with solid oak Craftsman-style trim and posts¹⁵, hardwood floors (oak on the first and second floors, Douglas-fir on the third floor), beautiful exterior doors with beveled glass, brick fireplace flanked with Craftsman oak trim, broad oak baseboards, and picture rails throughout.

Alterations or additions to building: There are no exterior alterations to the structure of the building. It remains intact as pictured on the 1923 Sanborn Map¹⁶, and there are no tell-tale signs of any changes in terms of exterior brick, basement concrete or support structure/beams.

¹⁴ Willis C. Baker and Patricia L. Miller, *History in Postcards: Champaign, Urbana, and the University of Illinois* (Champaign: Illinois Heritage Association, 1993), 44-5.

¹⁵ See note 9, page 125-7.

¹⁶ See note 7.

Some interior remodeling occurred around 1966, and is surmised to consist of conversion from radiator to forced-air heating, kitchen “modernization” with blonde walnut cabinets and Formica counters/backsplashes, addition (or perhaps remodeling) of the first floor powder room, and retiling of the 2nd floor bath in bright pink. At some point, exterior wood trim was covered in aluminum soffit/fascia, and triple track storms and screens were added. Please note that an inquiry at the City of Urbana Building Department yielded no permits on file prior to the 2012 restoration.

Missing or removed architectural features: There are no known missing or removed architectural features.

Outbuildings and important landscape or streetscape features: This home proudly sits on Indiana Avenue, which is a cobblestone street. There are no outbuildings, but the attached garage appears to be original. Four large evergreens (three pines and one spruce) remain, and the arborist stated that they appear to be approximately the same age as the house. As noted above, the home has been professionally landscaped with materials and design befitting its 1920 date of construction. The home sits high up on its lot, with a total of twelve steps from the sidewalk to the front door. The two homes to its west are similar in size and materials, having also been built by Mayor (and Professor) James Elmo Smith.

History

Brief community background (downtown development, neighborhood development, etc.):

Urbana is a vibrant community and is the seat of Champaign County, situated in east central Illinois. While a few French Jesuit missionaries were in the Illinois territory in the 17th century, European Americans did not settle in the U.S. territory until migration from the south and northeast began in the late 18th century. Illinois achieved statehood “on December 3, 1818 with

approximately 40,000 residents...”¹⁷ most of whom were engaged in agricultural pursuits. Illinois only had fifteen counties when it became a state, and Champaign County was not established until 1833. Urbana was an attractive candidate for the county seat, having good water access and a bounty of timber; however the location of the county seat was in question. Legend has it that Isaac Busey (reminder: the home in this application is at the corner of Indiana and Busey) convinced members of the county seat committee to locate the county seat on his land in Urbana after entertaining them late into the night with a good deal of whiskey.¹⁸

Champaign County experienced exponential growth from 1850 to 1860, with its population increasing from 2,645 to 14,629.¹⁹ Urbana was incorporated in 1855, and already had a thriving downtown area with businesses including merchants of all kinds, two banks, and every type of professional service; a railway was only two miles away. However, Urbana’s destiny as Illinois’ center of education was established in 1867 when the state’s land-grant university was located there.²⁰ The University of Illinois (formerly Illinois Industrial University) remains a critical force in the economic, social and cultural fabric of Urbana.

Discussion of property as it relates to the development of the community: Lincoln Place, the neighborhood in which 801 W. Indiana is located, has a record of ownership dating back to 1896 in the ownership of Margaret B. and James H. Morris²¹. Much of this area remained undeveloped, but being adjacent to the University of Illinois it became desirable for professors and administrators. Development of the east end of campus was active in the 1920s, with the University Hospital (now McKinley Health Center) having its groundbreaking in 1924.²²

¹⁷ See note 14, 5.

¹⁸ See note 2, page 9.

¹⁹ See note 2, page 19.

²⁰ Dannel McCollum, *Remembering Champaign County* (Charleston: The History Press, 2010), 56-63.

²¹ Champaign County Historical Archives (Author Unknown), “Abstract 2704: Lincoln Place.” *Map and Ownership History of Lincoln Place 1896-1907*, (The Champaign County Historical Archives, Urbana, IL.).

²² See note 17, page 110.

McKinley is still actively utilized by students today, being the only health service for approximately 40,000 students. McKinley is on the corner of Indiana and Lincoln Avenues, and is less than one block from the home featured in this application. Mayor James Elmo Smith built the subject home and both homes to its west (closer to campus).

Important people associated with the property: This home has been owned by three distinguished professors, two of whom had important social-activist wives:

From 1920-1926, Mayor (and Professor) James Elmo Smith and his wife Frances McClelland Smith lived at 801 W. Indiana Avenue. Mayor Smith is one of the most important civic leaders in Urbana history, having served as mayor and a variety of other public offices, was a major real estate developer in the area, and is credited with the modernization of paving, lighting and telephone systems in the City.

James Elmo Smith was born December 13, 1877 in Boone County (near Rockford).²³ His undergraduate degree in engineering was completed at the University of Wisconsin in 1902, after which he worked as a railroad engineer until 1907²⁴. He joined the University of Illinois as an “instructor of civil engineering”²⁵ in 1907 for a salary of \$110 per month; he listing 608 South Matthews as his address. He was awarded the degree of Civil Engineer from the University of Illinois in 1909. Mayor Smith was an active man with many professional pursuits, primarily real estate development, politics and civil and professional service.

Mayor Smith’s was a prolific real estate developer. A search on this topic yielded over 300 newspaper articles detailing his land purchases, subdivision developments, and advertisements for the sale of houses. For example, Mayor Smith was noted to have

²³ “James Elmo Smith, Urbana Mayor 1919 to 1924, Dies,” *The News-Gazette*, November 6, 1952. The Champaign County Historical Archives, Urbana, IL.

²⁴ *James E. Smith Papers, 1907-1932, 1936-41, 1947, 1950*. Record Group 11/5/32. The University of Illinois Archives, Urbana, IL.

²⁵ University of Illinois Board of Trustees, Transactions of the Board of Trustees, 1906-8, pg. 368.

“purchased...five acres on the north side of East Washington street extending from Anderson to Vine, and will plat the tract immediately”.²⁶ He is noted to have developed both the East Oregon and James Elmo Smith subdivisions. A plethora of advertisements list “thoroughly modern” homes, with contact information from 1920-1926 listed as “JE Smith, 801 W. Indiana”, the very home that is the subject of this application.

Mayor Smith was also a political leader. He first served as alderman from 1913-1917. His three terms as mayor lasted from 1919 to 1925, and he remains the only mayor to have also been a University of Illinois professor. In fact, he resigned his university position when concerns were raised about potential conflict of interest between the university and the city. His mayoral accomplishments were widely lauded, and he was credited with modernization of street paving, decorative lighting systems, telephone service and general cleaning and beautification of Urbana.²⁷ Mayor Smith’s service to other civic organizations was prolific. He was a member of the Urbana Board of Education from 1918-1926, and served as its president from 1926-1929. He was the Champaign County Probation Officer from 1926-1933.

Mayor Smith was also a widely-respected engineer and inventor. He held a patent for the “Smith Draftsman’s Protractor”. He was the assistant superintendent of buildings and civil engineer for the University of Illinois from 1943 to 1947. He served in the American Society of Civil Engineers and the Illinois Society of Professional Engineers. He held Illinois licensure as a land surveyor and professional engineer.²⁸

Mayor Smith married his first wife, Frances McClelland, on June 25, 1906. Miss McClelland was born October 30, 1876 in Cambridge Ohio. Her family moved to Joliet, Illinois where she graduated high school. She attended the Art Institute of Chicago, and afterwards

²⁶ See note 10.

²⁷ See note 23.

²⁸ See note 24.

taught in the Joliet public schools²⁹. To her marriage with J.E. Smith she brought a daughter from a previous marriage, Katherine McClelland Dennis; Mayor Smith was Ms. Dennis' legal guardian³⁰. Together they had three sons, all of whom graduated from University of Illinois along with their half-sister.

Mrs. Smith, in addition to being a teacher, was a civic leader in her own right. She was dedicated to her work as superintendent of Sunday school for the Methodist Episcopal Church of Urbana, with many newspaper accounts of her activities coordinating education, setting standards and examinations for various grade levels, and finally being elected vice president of the Illinois Council on Religious Education³¹. In that capacity, she toured many churches and Sunday schools in order to learn from other organizations' successes. Mrs. Smith was also elected president of the Neighborhood Club, credited with work done in the early stages of south Urbana. She was an officer with the Champaign County Home Bureau and the Women's Club³², both early social service organizations providing assistance to women and children of the area.

The home was owned from 1926-1966 by Professor Fred A. Russell and his wife Myra Parker Russell; they lived there until retiring to Arizona in 1966. Professor Russell began at the University of Illinois as a fellow in economics May 20, 1913 at a salary of \$350 per year.³³ He was made Professor of Business Organization and Operations in 1922, and became Professor Emeritus in 1952. He taught more than 20 different classes over his tenure, and published five books. He was often cited as a favorite professor, always introducing practical applications to the material he taught.

²⁹ "Mrs. J.E. Smith, Ill for Several Months, Passes," *The News-Gazette*. May 20, 1937. The Champaign County Historical Archives, Urbana, IL.

³⁰ Champaign County Court Records, *James Elmo Smith appointed guardian of the estate of Katherine McClelland Davis, a minor* (October 1911, Champaign County Historical Archives).

³¹ "Mrs. Smith Elected," *The Daily Illini*, June 22, 1928.

³² See note 28.

³³ See note 25, 1912-1914, page 467.

While Professor Russell's academic career was certainly well-esteemed, his service to the University was most notable in his capacities as Athletic Director and fundraiser. He was elected Director of the University of Illinois Athletic Association in 1926, serving until his term limit in 1938. He was vice president of finance for the Association from 1935-1938, and is credited with being instrumental in building of Memorial Stadium: "...when the cry was, 'Build a stadium', he was active in training student salesmen for the campaign."³⁴ His obituary states, "In the 1920s Mr. Russell trained the solicitors who collected the \$2 million which built Memorial Stadium."³⁵ His many papers in the University Archives include letters to university trustees, leaders of professional sporting organizations and famous athletes of the era; each of them is written with the purpose of advancing university athletics.

Professor Russell's support of University of Illinois athletics is complemented by his support of the Illini Union. His fundraising efforts, which were so critical in building Memorial Stadium, were utilized again in the late 1930s as furnishings and art was sought for the Union. Professor Russell is lauded in many publications for his training of solicitors that sought funds by mail and in person. One of his strategies was to engage current students in fundraising by having them solicit alumni in their hometowns during school breaks.³⁶ Additionally, he personally addressed and solicited alumni during mass meetings, including one group of 1100 from Cook County treated to an evening of "jamboree" at the auditorium.³⁷ He was the first to utilize creative radio broadcasts via WILL to ask for donations³⁸. Finally, his relationships with

³⁴ Kraus, Herb, "Meet the Faculty... Fred A. Russell," *The Daily Illini*, February 28, 1939.

³⁵ "UI Professor F. Russell dies at 87," *Urbana Daily Courier*. July 23, 1973, The University of Illinois Archives, Urbana, IL.

³⁶ "Student Solicitors Return Reports in Union Drive." *The Daily Illini*. April 12, 1939.

³⁷ Lambert, Quent. "Cook County Illini Meet Tonight." *The Daily Illini*. March 29, 1939

³⁸ Lambert, Quent, "Union Drive Skit will be Aired over WILL," *The Daily Illini*. April 6, 1939.

wealthy alumni led to large donations, such as Robert Allerton, to donate priceless art for the enjoyment of Illini Union visitors.³⁹

Professor Russell was also a civic leader. He was elected president of the Kiwanis Club, and was credited with leading that organization to aid 2100 men in securing employment during the Depression.⁴⁰ On a national scale, he was president of the American Marketing Association and a member of the American Economic Association. Being a graduate of Albion College, he was a charter member of their Phi Beta Kappa chapter.⁴¹ On a local level, he was the chairman of the Outlook Sanatorium board⁴², a critical institution in the first half of the 20th century when tuberculosis was a common threat because effective antibiotics had not yet been discovered. He was also noted to be a dynamic and often-sought speaker.

Professor Russell married Myra Parker Russell in 1911. They had a son, Carleton and a daughter, Helen. Mrs. Russell, like Mrs. Smith, was a teacher and a community leader in her own right. She frequently hosted events for her organizations in her home at 801 West Indiana. On an international level, she was very active in the PEO (now the P.E.O. Sisterhood), an organization providing funding for women's education; 801 West Indiana served as a type of home base for meetings and fundraising. On a state level, Mrs. Smith represented the east central district PTA at state meetings, and often spoke on topics relating to indicators for measurement of education effectiveness.⁴³ When the PTA convention was held in Urbana in 1926, there was a lack of hotel rooms for all the delegates. Mrs. Smith coordinated available rooms in private homes to accommodate the visitors. She was also the president of the

³⁹ "Union to Contain Art Works," *The Daily Illini*, March 18, 1939.

⁴⁰ "Fred Russell Honored By Kiwanis Club," *Urbana Daily Courier*, June 23, 1933.

⁴¹ "Honorary to Initiate Fred Russell," *The Daily Illini*, November 8, 1940.

⁴² "Sanatorium Operates With Capacity Group," *The Daily Illini*, September 16, 1932.

⁴³ "Mrs. Russell Made District P.T.A. Leader," *Urbana Daily Courier*, April 26, 1930.

University Mothers' Club⁴⁴, and supported her husband's career by frequently entertaining the College of Commerce Wives Club at her home.⁴⁵

From 1966-2012, Professor Morton Wagman and his wife Miriam called 801 West Indiana their home. While little is published about Mrs. Wagman, Professor Wagman taught psychology and served as a therapist at the University Counseling Center. He was well-known to many at the University of Illinois for overcoming his disability, which was blindness reportedly incurred while serving his country in World War II. He was frequently seen around campus with his guide dog, and was even featured in newspapers across the nation when the Associated Press published his photograph as he stood in full academic regalia with his guide dog during graduation from Columbia University in 1948.⁴⁶ Professor Wagman was a prolific author, publishing 20 books in the latter part of his career, mostly in the area of artificial intelligence. He was honored as a Distinguished Professor by the American Psychological Association in 1990.⁴⁷

Important events associated with the property: Newspaper listings of activities hosted at 801 West Indiana number nearly one hundred. The Smiths held frequent meetings and gatherings of the many organizations that they led, including those of the Methodist Episcopal Church, religious and public educational boards, Women's Club, Neighborhood Club and Champaign County Home Bureau. Mr. Smith coordinated his land development and real estate business out of the house, as evidenced by the many advertisements containing the 801 West Indiana address. Many social events of the early 1920s were held there, with the social column of the local

⁴⁴ "Mothers of Illini Name New Officers," *Urbana Daily Courier*, May 12, 1934.

⁴⁵ "Commerce Wives to Meet," *The Daily Illini*, March 19, 1933.

⁴⁶ "Guides His Master to Graduation", *Zanesville Times-Recorder*, June 3, 1948.

⁴⁷ Wagman, Morton, *The Human Mind According to Artificial Intelligence: Theory, Research, and Implications* (Westport, CT: Praeger) 1999

newspaper frequently listing the address as the location of dances, teas, youth clubs and even receptions for exchange students. The Russells similarly used the home for their many contributions to the community, including meetings of the PEO, PTA, University Mothers' Club and College of Commerce Wives Club.

For Architectural Significance

Background of the style and/or architect: The builder of the home was Mayor (and Professor) James Elmo Smith, who was not an architect but rather a civil engineer. The home's exterior is a mix of Craftsman and Georgian Revival periods. Please see pages 2-8.

Why/how the building reflects the style and/or architect's work: The home is almost entirely intact as built, and is a high-quality reflection of Craftsman style as built for those citizens who were leaders in the community. Please see pages 2-9.

Other works in the community/elsewhere by same architect: Mayor (and Professor) James Elmo Smith developed entire neighborhoods in Urbana. He also built the two homes to the east of the subject home. Please see pages 9-10.

Context

Placement or location of property within the city/community; relationship to other properties of similar architectural style and date/era of construction: This home sits not quite one block from the University of Illinois in Lincoln Place. This neighborhood has been, and remains, home to many professors and community leaders. Please see pages 8-9.

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HISTORIC RESOURCES SURVEY FORM

HISTORIC PROPERTY NAME Russell House	
COMMON/CURRENT PROPERTY NAME	
PROPERTY ADDRESS 801 W. Indiana St., Urbana, IL 61801	
ASSESSOR'S PARCEL NUMBER 93-21-17-304-005	
OWNER/OCCUPANT Morton Wagman	
OWNER'S ADDRESS 801 W Indiana St., Urbana, IL 61801	
PROPERTY'S HISTORIC USE Single family house	
PROPERTY'S CURRENT USE Single family house	
ARCHITECT'S NAME	
BUILDER/CONTRACTOR James Elmo Smith	
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION ca. 1921	
ARCHITECTURAL STYLE OR VERNACULAR BUILDING TYPE Craftsman, Georgian Revival	
PHOTO BY James VandeBerg	
FORM PREPARED BY James VandeBerg	VIEW OF PHOTO North/main facade
PROPERTY DESCRIPTION (GEOGRAPHICAL DATA: LOT SHAPE, LOT DIMENSIONS) The house is located at the southwest corner of the intersection of South Indiana and South Busey Avenues. Sidewalks are concrete in the area, but streets are brick. The back yard of the property is surrounded in chain link fencing, and nearly the entire property — front, back, and sides — is covered in evergreen trees. There is an attached garage that appears original on the south side of the house that that opens on its east side. A concrete driveway leads off South Busey Avenue to this garage. The house is set back approximately 20 feet from the sidewalk. The front yard has a rather steep dropoff between the house and the sidewalk — about two or three feet — but there was no visible retaining wall. The front yard is covered in ivy.	

HISTORY OF STRUCTURE

CHAIN OF OWNERSHIP OR OCCUPATION

<i>PREVIOUS OWNERS</i>	<i>DATE(S) OF OWNERSHIP</i>	<i>USE</i>
James Elmo Smith	1921-1926	Single family house, continuously
Fred A. Russell	1926-1966	
Morton Wagman	1966-present	

Attach additional pages, if necessary

CURRENT DESIGNATIONS

Is property National Register Listed?	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If yes, is it a...	Individual property <input type="checkbox"/>	District <input type="checkbox"/>
If no, it is...	Not Eligible <input type="checkbox"/>	Eligible <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Is Property an Urbana local landmark?	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

STATEMENT OF HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

801 W Indiana Avenue was constructed around 1921 by James Elmo Smith, who was serving as mayor of Urbana at the time. Smith, who was mayor from 1919-1924, was also an assistant professor of civil engineering at the University of Illinois. When he died in 1952, obituaries noted that he was the only University employee to also serve as the mayor of Urbana. While mayor, Smith initiated many infrastructure improvements, including Urbana's first paved concrete street. He also installed an ornamental street lighting system throughout the city. Smith resigned from his position at the University in 1922 amid concerns from his co-workers there that his position as mayor conflicted with his academic duties, but came back as a civil engineer for the physical plant in 1934. Smith built a number of houses in Urbana, and developed a subdivision on East Oregon Street. He also built the first house south of Washington Street, at the corner of Busey and Michigan.

Fred A. Russell was a professor of marketing at the University. He taught advertising and salesmanship in the College of Commerce and was also associated with the journalism school due to his work in advertising. He was the author of five textbooks and taught over twenty courses. In the 1920s, Russell trained the solicitors who raised money to build Memorial Stadium. Russell retired in 1951.

Morton Wagman is a professor emeritus of psychology at the University who has authored several books. No information was available at University Archives regarding him.

The house combines a variety of Gregorian Revival and Craftsman influences. The two roof dormers, as well as the front porch massing, show Gregorian influence, but the windows, with their three-paned tops and one-paned bottoms, are more influenced by Craftsman styles. The house combines elements of the two styles handsomely, but is not a particularly solid example of either style alone. Neighboring houses appear to have been built around the same time as 801 W Indiana, which first appeared on Sanborn maps in 1923 and in city directories in 1921. By 1923, when the block first appeared in maps, nearly all lots in the immediate area had been built on. The dominant architectural styles are Craftsman, Tudor Revival, and Colonial Revival. 1923 maps show the house in its present form, including the attached garage.

INFORMATION SOURCES

1915, 1923, and 1923-45 Sanborn maps
Champaign-Urbana City Directories, 1921, 1923, 1926, 1936, 1946, 1966, 1976-2001
University Archive files on James Elmo Smith and Fred A. Russell; no file was available for Morton Wagman.
Champaign News-Gazette and Urbana Courier articles and obituaries regarding J.E. Smith
Urbana Courier obituary regarding Fred A. Russell

STRUCTURE SURVEY

INTEGRITY

- Unaltered (All or most architectural details present)
 Slight modifications (largely intact, but lacking some details)
 Major alterations (All or most architectural details missing)

CONDITION

- Excellent (Roof, walls, and foundation in good repair)
 Good (Same as "Excellent," but in need of some maintenance work)
 Poor (Major overhaul work required)

ADDITIONS/ALTERATIONS (include dates and architects/contractors, if known)

CURRENT AND HISTORIC USES

Current

Historic

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Single-Family Residence |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Multi-Family Residence |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Apartment Building |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Commercial |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Industrial |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Public Building |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Educational Building |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Religious Building |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Vacant |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Other |

EXTERIOR WALL MATERIAL

- Brick
 Stone
 Wood siding
 Wood shingles
 Stucco (historic or modern)
 Asphalt siding
 Asbestos siding
 Concrete block
 Artificial siding
 Other

ROOF MATERIAL

- Asphalt shingles
 Wood shingles
 Slate shingles
 Tile shingles
 Metal
 Tar
 Other

ORNAMENTAL/ARCHITECTURAL DETAILS

(Check all that apply)

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Arcading | <input type="checkbox"/> Porte-Cochere |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pilasters | <input type="checkbox"/> Cornice |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Recessed Panels | <input type="checkbox"/> Cornice Returns |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Buttresses | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Porch |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Piers | <input type="checkbox"/> Stoop |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Spandrels | <input type="checkbox"/> Balcony |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Portico | <input type="checkbox"/> Oriel Window |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Quoins | <input type="checkbox"/> Columns or Posts |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bay Windows | <input type="checkbox"/> Tower or Turret |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other | |

ROOF FEATURES

- Dormer
 Urn/Finial
 Bargeboard
 Belvedere
 Gablet
 Parapet
 Skylight
 Other

ROOF TYPE

- Hip
 Flat
 Mansard
 Gable
 Shed
 Hipped Gable
 Pyramidal
 Other

DESCRIBE ABOVE ORNAMENTAL DETAILS

See continuation form.

OUTBUILDINGS

- Garage Carport Coach House Pool Gazebo Greenhouse Storage Shed Other

Describe location, construction, and date of detached structures:

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS/FEATURES



The house is two stories and is two bays wide on each floor. The house is two piles deep. There is an attached garage on the south side of the house that opens onto Busey Avenue. The garage door is made of separate panels with windows at the top and appears original. No foundation materials were visible, as the exterior brick extends to the ground. The brick is largely unornamented except for a line of soldier bricks running just above the basement windows around the entire house.

Windows appear original and consist of a top sash with three vertical panes and a bottom sash with one pane. All windows are covered in storm windows. The second story middle bay window is much square and much smaller than the other windows. The front door and storm door also appear original and show craftsman influence as well. The front porch has two large pillars at the front and two smaller pillars against the main house. The roof above the porch is flat. There is an additional porch on the south side of the house. A two story bay extends off this side of the house, with the side porch nestled into it. A door on the north side of the bay opens onto this porch, which is nearly the same size as the front porch if not bigger.

Another gabled two story bay extends off the west side of the rear of the house: the garage extends off the first story of this bay. The section of this gable enclosed by the roofline is covered in aluminum siding, as are the sides of the main house within the roofline. There are two dormers in front of the house and one on the east side of the back of the house. The sides of these dormers have been covered in large asphalt shingles.

Continuation Sheet B: Owner History

Owner	Time Period	Occupation	Occupation Address
James Elmo Smith	1921-1926	Urbana mayor, civil engineering professor at U of I	n/a
Fred A. Russell	1926-1966	Professor in U of I College of Commerce	n/a
Morton Wagman	1966-present	Psychology professor at U of I	n/a

The Engineer in Public Life

JAMES ELMO SMITH

Since 1919 Urbana, Ill., has had an engineer as its mayor. After service in the City Council from 1913 to 1917, James Elmo Smith received both the Republican and the Democratic mayoralty nominations and was elected by a large majority three years ago.



Mr. Smith was born in Sharon, Wis., in 1877 and after graduation from the University of Wisconsin in 1902 with the degree of B.S. in Civil Engineering he entered railroad construction in Tennessee under the late W. D. Taylor. He was successively with the C. B. & Q. R.R., the Wisconsin Central R.R. and the Virginia & Southwestern Ry. as resident engineer or in some similar capacity. In September, 1907, he was employed as instructor in the civil engineering department of the University of Illinois and has been with that institution continuously up to the present. He is a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers, the Society for the Promotion of Engineering Education, the Illinois Society of Engineers, and for several years a member of the American Railway Engineering Association. He is also a member of the executive committee of the Illinois Municipal League.

As mayor of Urbana, Mr. Smith's aim has been to give an efficient administration, and to make Urbana measure up to her opportunities as a great educational center. About \$750,000 has been spent on local improvements, the city is well equipped with pavements, lights and parks.

Mayor Smith has also for several years been a member and the secretary of the Urbana Board of Education.

Contractors Propose Excursion to South America

A winter excursion to Panama, Argentine and Brazil to study opportunities for construction work and to learn the conditions under which construction has to be prosecuted is proposed by *The Earth Mover*, of Aurora, Ill. It is planned to start early in December and remain two or three months visiting the principal cities and such construction operations as are accessible along the main routes of travel. It is pointed out that in all South America there is prospect of great activity in railroad, public works and highway construction.

It is believed that a visit by a representative body of American contractors would result in some contracts, as well as establishing acquaintance and confidence leading to future business relations of mutual benefit and profit. Contractors interested in the trip may secure further information by addressing the editor of *The Earth Mover*, Aurora, Ill.

New Kind of Engineering

Dr. Frank A. Waugh, professor of landscape engineering, Massachusetts Agriculture College, has been appointed recreation engineer in U. S. Forest Service. His work will be the development of public camp grounds and summer home sites in the National Forests of the western states. It is part of an established plan toward providing adequate camp and sanitation facilities for the 5,500,000 tourists who visit the national forests yearly.

Program for Port Authorities' Convention Announced

Operation and management of the ports of New York, San Francisco, Chicago, and New Orleans, besides general questions relating to port management, make up the major portion of the discussions to be had at the annual convention of the American Association of Port Authorities which will be held in Toronto, Sept. 14-16 inclusive. Among the speakers will be E. H. Outerbridge, chairman, Port of New York Authority; B. F. Cresson, Jr., chief engineer, Port of New York Authority; Bancroft Hill, J. H. Walsh of New Orleans, John Meigs, John H. McCallum of San Francisco, Joseph B. Strauss of Chicago, and Dr. Herman von Schrenk.

The convention will be opened by an address by C. Alfred Maguire, Mayor of Toronto.

Arbitration Court Plans to Cut Legal Red Tape and Delays

Based upon a little-known law passed by the New York State legislature in 1920, which provides that any persons who wish to arbitrate a dispute may present it to an arbitrator of their own selection, free from the formalities of the ordinary court, the Arbitration Society of America has been organized and has opened headquarters in New York City.

Under this plan, the arbitrator may be any one selected by the parties to the controversy and may be of any vocation. He will have the power of subpoena and of rendering judgment, financial or otherwise, from which there is no appeal except in case of proved fraud and corruption. The society now has pledges of assistance and of service as arbitrators from hundreds of prominent business and professional men who are willing to serve without compensation. All kinds of controversies, except criminal, divorce and a few special actions, may be lawfully determined by these arbitrators. The tribunal will be open to trade disputes, but will not be a trade court, and settlement of industrial controversies will, for the time being, be discouraged. The cost of arbitration will be small and it is expected that these courts will become "poor men's courts."

The society plans to conduct an international campaign of education to promote the general cause of arbitration for all disputes and differences, to move for a uniform arbitration law in all the states, to urge the insertion of arbitration clauses in all trade and industrial contracts, and to organize and operate in New York City and elsewhere, tribunals of arbitration to carry on this work. The executive offices are now at 115 Broadway, New York.

ENGINEERING SOCIETIES

Calendar

Annual Meetings

- ENGINEERING INSTITUTE OF CANADA, Montreal, Que.; Professional Meeting, Winnipeg, Man., Sept. 5-7.
- NEW ENGLAND WATER WORKS ASSOCIATION, Boston; Annual Convention, New Bedford, Mass., Sept. 12-15.
- AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF PORT AUTHORITIES; Montreal, Que.; Annual Convention, Toronto, Ont., Sept. 14-16.
- AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR MUNICIPAL IMPROVEMENTS, St. Petersburg, Fla.; Annual Convention, Cleveland, Ohio, Oct. 2-6.

The Texas Section, American Society of Civil Engineers, will hold its fall meeting in San Antonio, Texas, October 20 and 21.

PERSONAL NOTES

M. B. GREENOUGH, who has been secretary of the National Paving Brick Manufacturers' Association for the past several years, will sever his connection with that organization Jan. 1, 1923. He has been offered, and has accepted, an opportunity to become associated with W. M. Lasley, of the Southern Clay Manufacturing Co., Chattanooga. His new association will be with a firm, not only dealing in paving brick, but doing contracting and other business as well.

C. H. BIRDSEYE, chief topographer of the U. S. Geological Survey, is making an inspection trip through the western states. On September 1 he will join the party being formed by E. C. LaRue for a trip from the Colorado river. During Col. Birdseye's absence, E. M. Douglas will be acting chief topographic engineer.

COL. WM. KELLY, chief engineer of the Federal Power Commission, is in California making a personal inspection of water-power projects.

MAJOR E. A. WOOD, formerly engineer for the metropolitan development association of the Dallas Chamber of Commerce, was appointed city plan engineer for the City of Dallas, Texas, on Aug. 1. Major Wood has been engaged in city planning in Dallas for the past three years under the direction of George E. Kes'ler. He had practiced engineering in Canada, the Far East, and later in Texas, with the Texas & Pacific R. R. and the state highway department.

E. W. ROSSITER, formerly chief engineer of the Interstate Iron & Steel Co., Calumet River, Chicago, has been appointed engineer of construction for Freyn, Brassert & Co., engineers, Chicago. Prior to Mr. Rossiter's connection with the Interstate company he was with the American Sheet & Tin

Concrete Pavements a Success in Urbana, Illinois

Appearance, durability and economy were the three important qualities which the taxpayers of Urbana, Ill., insisted upon in the construction of their streets. They wanted better streets in both business and residential sections; they wanted paved connections between city streets and the hard surfaced highways of Illinois and those being built by Champlain county, of which Urbana is the county seat. They desired all these things represented by one pavement.

Urbana is the home of the University of Illinois which institution has over 8000 regular students, and it is a typical American community of about 11,000, its interests well diversified among manufacturing, agricultural and financial activities, and is located in the center of a remarkably fertile district.

To build these streets having appearance, durability and economy, James Elmo Smith, mayor of Urbana, a civil engineer and assistant professor of civil engineering at the University, took occasion to study the various types of street paving, and after this study he decided upon concrete.

The reasons for his decision and the service rendered by the paving are given substantially in Mr. Smith's own words:

"Since early in 1919 we have built and have under construction in Urbana more than 103,000 sq. yds. of concrete pavement and we have built no other kind since I became mayor of this city. Lower cost of concrete as a paving material has been an item of considerable weight during the past 2 years during which time people have been frugal in their expenditures, and, other things being equal, it was easier to keep up interest in improvements, provided the good pavement could be obtained at a minimum cost. Many people

have been more or less skeptical of getting a good job with concrete and I am sure the co-operation and the inspection service given by the Portland Cement Association overcame prejudice and gave our people confidence and additional assurance of getting the best job that could be obtained.

"After we had constructed a pavement or two they argued their own case successfully. It was proven that good concrete could be made and placed successfully in street pavement, and that concrete is as resistant and durable as any other street paving material. The mix used was a 1:2:3, and sample cores taken at random before the pavements were 1 year old, showed a strength of 4000 lbs. per sq. in.

"The work in Urbana has been done almost wholly by local contractors, who, up to 2 years ago, had had little or no experience with concrete street construction but who, through common sense, intelligent management and honesty have given us some most excellent work.

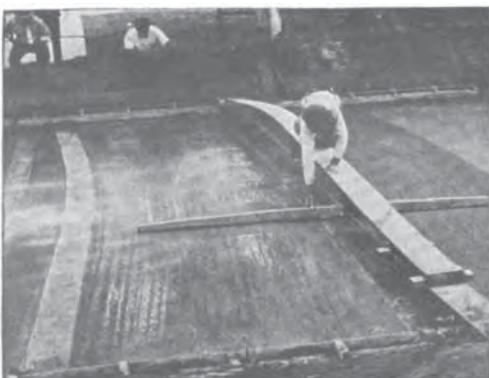
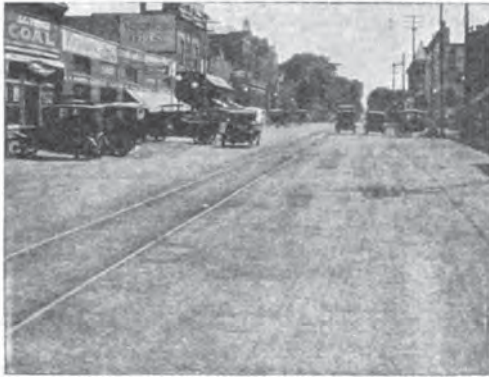
"The construction of a good, smooth expansion joint has been accomplished, and the general surface has been perfected by use of the belt finish. Comfortable and pleasing riding qualities of a continuous-surface pavement, such as concrete, is very attractive and all traffic, even bicycles, make no apologies for going out of their way in order to ride over our streets.

"Pavements have been made 26 to 32 ft. wide in the residential districts and have averaged from 7 to 8 ins. thick. They were built in one course and reinforced at the center with 35 lbs. of steel per 100 sq. ft. We are also placing about 13,000 sq. yds., averaging 8 ins. thick, reinforced with 50 lbs. of steel per 100 sq. ft., in the principal business section of the city.



Green Street, One of Urbana's Inviting Concrete Paved Thoroughfares in Residential Section of City.

Beautiful Concrete Paved Streets of Urbana, Illinois



"After intimate acquaintance with the construction of these concrete pavements during the last 2 years I am convinced of the possibilities of building a superior pavement of concrete. The surface is pleasant to ride over; the color is pleasing and harmonious with the green grass; shrubbery and trees and the night adds perceptibly to the illumination of the traveled way. A concrete street is ideal from a sanitary viewpoint and very easily cleaned, in fact a good rain will quite effectively clean most of our concrete pavement, although the grades are not steep. In these days when appropriations for street cleaning and maintenance are hard to obtain, the last item mentioned is well worth considering in the choice of a paving material.

Method of Removing Obstructions from Tubes and Conduits During Construction

By E. GEORGE CHEUVREUX, JR.

There is at present no device in commercial use that will effectually remove obstructions in tubes, conduit or pipes placed in the walls or other positions during the construction of a building. Pipes, and particularly electrical conduits, are usually placed in position before the cementing or plastering is completed, and during the time that such work is being accomplished. It has not been found practical by experience to cap the ends of these pipes, although sometimes wooden plugs or waste rags are placed in the exposed ends, and oftentimes these plugs or rags or cement are forced into the tubes to such an extent that when they are sealed into position by the completion of the walls, the pipe is practically useless, unless a great deal of labor is employed to extract the obstructions. In many cases during the construction of a building electrical conduits had to be abandoned and other lines run.

A device has been patented and will probably be placed on the market in the near future that will "blow down" any foreign matter in pipes, such as wooden plugs, waste, cement plaster, even ice, and on a test it "blew" through 200 ft. of conduit, around elbows, carrying before it all material in the tube.

This device is about 4 ins. in length, weighs 1 lb., and consists of six parts, viz.:

(a) A fitting made of cold rolled steel, threaded on one end, and the other end containing a cartridge chamber for a 32-blank cartridge.

(b) Another fitting made of cold rolled steel, threaded on one side, containing passage for firing pin, spring, etc.

(c) Firing point of hardened steel.

(d) Firing pin.

(e) Spring.

(f) Cap for firing pin.

The principle of the device is concussion, and the tool itself is very simple in construction, easily handled, with no danger of injury to the operator.

The drawings show (1) pipe clearing device as attached to pipe, and (2) sectional view and details.

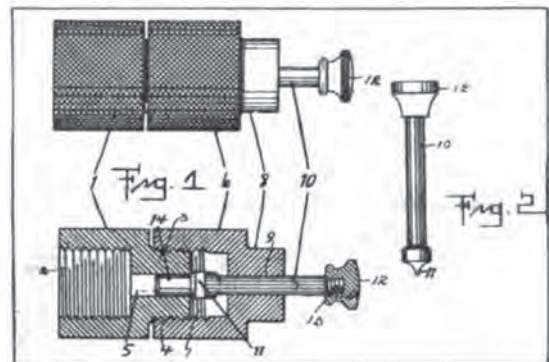
The tubes on which this invention is intended

to be used are usually provided with screw threads on the exposed ends to which fittings are usually screwed. It is on these exposed threaded ends that the device is screwed.

Fig. 1 shows a fitting which may be a casting finished in black enamel or galvanized, or it may have its exterior knurled.

Fig. 2 shows the sectional view. The interior of one end has screw threads (2), while the other end is reduced and provided with screw thread (3) and (4), and communicating with (2) is a small bore (5). Member (6) is similar to member (1) and it is also provided with screw threads (7) into which member (1) is screwed. Member (6) is also provided with a reduced portion (8), having a longitudinal passage through which the firing pin passes. The firing pin consists of a knob (12) and a firing point (11). The knob or firing plate is screwed (13) to the pin itself. The pin operates freely in the passage (9) so that there is no effective pressure until the time desired.

The device is operated as follows: Member (1) is screwed to the pipe, and this member can be made in any size to suit the diameter of the pipe; can be used on two sizes of pipe by means



of reducers, and can be used on elbows or any fitting attached to the pipe. A blank cartridge (14) of 32-calibre is then placed in the passage (5) with its flanged end resting on the face of the passage. The member (6) is then screwed to this very firmly. A blow of a hammer on the knob will explode the cartridge. The explosion in the pipe will cause sufficient pressure to blow out all foreign matter. If a single cartridge does not accomplish the work effectually, a second or even a third may be used, but it will be found that one will usually do the work.

This device is really very simple. One has been made for testing purposes and has been used for several years with great success. It assures absolutely clean pipes on the job and it works just as well on 200-ft. lengths as on 30-ft.

A special election was called Nov. 1 to vote on a proposed bond issue of \$204,447 to finance improvements of La Grande's (Ore.) water supply. It is proposed to install a pumping plant on the Grand Ronde river, capable of delivering 1,000,000 gals. per day to the reservoir, and the latter is to be rebuilt and enlarged to give it a storage capacity of 300,000,000 gals. The plan also contemplates overhauling and partly rebuilding the pipe line between river and reservoir.