

# Spokane Register of Historic Places

## Nomination Form

RCVD.  
SEP 10 1985

City/County Historic Landmarks Commission  
Fourth Floor - City Hall  
Spokane, Washington 99201-3333

Type all entries—complete applicable sections

### 1. Name

historic Edwin A. Smith House

and/or common Smith Cottage

### 2. Location

street & number North 1414 Summit Blvd.

city, town Spokane vicinity of

state Washington county Spokane

### 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	n/a	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

### 4. Owner of Property

name Rex and Joan Hollowell

street & number North 1414 Summit Blvd.

city, town Spokane vicinity of state Washington 99201

### 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Spokane County Courthouse

street & number West 1116 Broadway

city, town Spokane state Washington 99201

### 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Historic Landmarks Survey

City of Spokane 1979

date 1979, . federal state county ☒ local

depository for survey records Spokane City/County Historic Preservation Office

city, town City Hall, Spokane state Washington 99201

OPR 85-569

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved      date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Edwin A. Smith House, built in 1912, is a wood frame, two story house with cross gabled roof, shingle siding, and half-timbered gable ends reflecting a modified Tudor style. Located in one of Spokane's early suburban neighborhoods on the city's west side, the house rests on a bluff overlooking the Spokane River. The house and detached garage, which have nearly complete integrity, were designed by Spokane architect Charles Wood. The interior of the house reflects the Arts and Crafts influence of the era and was designed to function without servants.

The facade of the house is dominated by two gables faced with stucco and decorated with half-timbering. The larger (west) gable is the secondary cross gable of the structure; the smaller is a gabled wall dormer above the main entry on the east side of the facade. Both gables have overhanging eaves with simple vergeboards. A shed roof porch spans nearly the full width of the facade. The enclosed western section of the porch is glazed with multi-paned windows. The porch roof is broken on the east side by a truncated gable with a carved vergeboard. Beneath that gable, the porch entry is framed by wooden posts and a Tudor arch. Red tile steps lead to the oak front door. The door is lighted at the top by six small bevelled glass panes set into carved mullions.

The northeast elevation, dominated by the half-timbered gable end, is irregular. A large shed dormer projects from just below the ridge of the roof, a first story shed roof projects further back below the dormer, and the rear rake board of the primary gable extends below the eave line. All but the upper gable end are sided with brown double-course shingles. The rear (southeast) elevation, sided entirely with shingles, is composed of the cross gable and the long side of the primary gable with a one-story enclosed shed roof porch along its eastern half. An exterior brick chimney rises from the roof of the porch through the gable slope. The southwest side elevation has a half-timbered gable end and a brick chimney which rises from the foundation to the upper gable end and then emerges above the roof. Fenestration is varied and includes casement, double-hung sash, and ribbon windows. The most distinction windows in the house are the Tudor-inspired diamond-paned casements. A bay of three transom windows with diamond-paned glass is on the northeast side.

The remarkably well-preserved interior remains original for the most part and features some notable Arts and Crafts details. The entry hall features a distinctive staircase and has quarter-sawn oak panelling. In the living area, the mitered box beams, the window seats, the built-in cabinetry, and the typical Arts and Crafts mantle above the fireplace are crafted from coast fir. Almost the entire south wall of the living area is covered with an inset mirror, creating an illusion of light and space. The fireplace is surrounded by a frame of glazed tiles. The original woven grass cloth is in good condition on the entry, living, and dining area walls. The living room French doors feature leaded, colored glass. A Handel copper-leaded dining room light fixture reflects Art Nouveau influence as does the waterfall fixtures of Steuben glass in the living room.

The detached one story garage, with clipped gable roof, is sided with shingles and is in original condition. The lawn and house are shaded by several trees which screen the house somewhat from its neighbors.



## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Agricultural Editorial Service in Washington, Idaho, Oregon. The Cowles Publishing Co., Spokane, 1921.  
Aslet, Clive. The Last Country Houses, Yale University Press, New Haven and London, 1982.  
Blue, Cynthia. "Influences on Interior Surface Treatments in Two Residences in Spokane, Washington, During 1911 and 1912," Washington State University, 1981. (continued)

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property less than one

### Verbal boundary description and justification

Sherwood Res & Ext B1  
SWLY 25 Ft. L13, ALL L 14

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state n/a county

state n/a county

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Joan Hollowell

organization

street & number North 1414 Summit Blvd.

city or town Spokane

Edited by Janice Rutherford,  
Spokane City/County HPO &  
Leonard Garfield, OAHF

date December 31, 1984

telephone (509) 325-4390

state Washington 99201

## 12. Signature of Owner(s)

Joan Hollowell  
Romy

For Office Use Only:

Date Received: 9-10-85

Date Heard: 10-15-85

Commission Decision: APPROVED

Council/Board Action: Approved

Date: October 21, 1985

Attest: Elizabeth Davidson  
Deputy City Clerk

Approved as to form: Romy  
Ass't. Corporation Counsel

We hereby certify that this property has been listed on the Spokane Register of Historic Places:

Mayor Robert M. Higgins or Chair, Spokane County Commissioners

Joan Hollowell  
Chair, Spokane City/County Historic Landmarks Commission

Joan Hollowell  
City/County Historic Preservation Officer

13 B-5

## 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1912-1935

Builder/Architect

Charles Wood, Architect

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Edwin A. Smith House is historically significant for its association with Smith, an editor of leading farm journals for forty years and in influential advocate of improving the quality of rural life. In addition, the house is a well-preserved example of the small scale Tudor cottages that characterized American suburbs in the early twentieth century. The house features an interior distinguished by Arts and Crafts detail.

Edwin A. Smith (known to his friends as "Major Smith") was born in 1853 in Balasore, India, the son of Baptist missionaries. He graduated at age 19 from Bates College (Maine), practised law briefly, and worked on a local newspaper before moving to Spokane in 1892. Shortly after his arrival, Smith began working for the Spokane Spokesman-Review. In 1895, he was appointed managing editor of the newspaper's farm edition, the Twice-a-Week Spokesman-Review. This bi-weekly publication reached thousands of farm families throughout the region. Smith was editor of the Twice-a-Week for 35 years, but he combined the job with other responsibilities. In 1914, Smith assumed editorial management of a new weekly agricultural magazine, the Agricultural Age. The next year, Smith became the managing editor of three farm journals acquired by the Cowles Publishing Company--The Washington Farmer, The Oregon Farmer, and The Idaho Farmer--known collectively as "the Pacific Northwest Farm Trio." He served as managing editor of these journals until 1935 when he retired.

Throughout his journalistic career (1895-1935), Smith was a vocal champion of the American farmer and a tireless crusader for improving farm life. Through his publications and editorials, he tried to alleviate the isolation of the western farm family. His influence was widely felt. For example, Smith published extensive plans for model farm houses and farm buildings designed by farmers themselves. He inaugurated a campaign to name farms which led to the adoption of 2200 Farm names. He founded the Country Life Booster Club and the Order of Antaeus to promote the ideals of farm living and sponsored a series of Young Farmer's Conferences in Spokane and Tacoma. Through his editorials, Smith was an early and prominent supporter of agricultural education, farm youth groups, rural community halls, and cooperative marketing.

When Congress denied funds for publishing the results of Theodore Roosevelt's Country Life Commission, Smith initiated the movement that raised private money for that purpose. In addition to his political activism, Smith was admired for the quality of his writing. As Lucille Fargo observed in Spokane Story (1950), Edwin Smith's writing may have best captured the spirit of the region's land. Smith died in Spokane in 1938.

Some of E. A. Smith's personal beliefs are reflected in the home he built in 1912. Like other Americans at the period, Smith wanted housing of high quality construction, conducive to family life, and possible to maintain without servants. Smith chose a site on a bluff above the Spokane River for its proximity to his wife's sister, Mrs. James N. Glover (whose husband was Spokane's founding father). Quality craftsmanship is evident

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throughout the house, especially in the Arts and Crafts detail of the interior. The Tudor design evokes the popular English Revivals of the era, a rural motif appropriate to Smith's interests.

The architect of the house, Charles Wood, is reputed to have worked in the office of prominent Spokane architect Kirtland K. Cutter at this time. Smith's daughter, Edith, has related that during the construction of the house, Cutter visited the structure and placed a box of ball bearings on the floor. When the balls did not roll to either side, Cutter pronounced the house "good".

When completed, the house fit well into the countryside. It is equally at home today surrounded by more recent houses and screened somewhat by an impressive array of trees. The character of the Smith family as reflected in their home is a tribute to a quality of the American past which helped create interdependence as well as independence, quality in the context of simplicity, and commitment to causes the results of which cannot be seen in a single lifetime.





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- Clemens, Fred. Telephone interview, West 2225 Milford Place, Spokane, Washington 99201; November 14, 1983.
- Downing, A. J. The Architecture of Country Houses, Dover Publications, Inc., New York, 1969.
- Fargo, Lucille. Spokane Story, Columbia University Press, New York, 1950.
- Historic Landmarks Survey: A Report and Site Inventory of Spokane's Historic Resources. City Plan Commission, Spokane, 1979.
- Loth, Calder, and Julius Trousedale Sadler, Jr. The Only Proper Style, New York Graphic Society, Boston, 1975.
- Weale, Mary Jo, James W. Croake, W. Bruce Weale. Environmental Interiors, MacMillan Publishing Co., Inc., New York, 1982.
- Whiffen, Marcus. American Architecture Since 1780: A Guide to the Styles, The MIT Press, Cambridge, 1969.
- Woodbridge, Sally B., and Roger Montgomery. A Guide to Architecture in Washington State, University of Washington Press, Seattle and London, 1980.

