

Sebastian County
Fort Smith
Tillman-Shaw House

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

LISTED
5/16/88

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

1. Name of Property

historic name Tillman Shaw House
other names/site number McCartney House

2. Location

street & number 500 South 19th Street N/A not for publication
city, town Fort Smith N/A vicinity
state Arkansas code 05 county Sebastian code 129 zip code 72901

3. Classification

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

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official _____ Date _____
Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
State or Federal agency and bureau _____

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

N/A
Signature of commenting or other official _____ Date _____
State or Federal agency and bureau _____

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain): _____

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic - single dwelling

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic - hotel

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Mission/Spanish Colonial Revival

Prairie

Colonial Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation limestone

walls brick

roof tile

other limestone sills and lintels

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

SUMMARY

Situated on a prominent corner site, the Shaw House is a two-story, red brick residence constructed about 1909 by Tillman Shaw. The house has undergone few alterations since its construction, and its original design—which combines elements of several early-20th century architectural styles—remains largely intact.

ELABORATION

Fort Smith's Shaw House stands tall among its neighbors, not just because of its elevated corner site (reportedly the work of Tillman Shaw, the home's original owner, who is said to have had dirt hauled in to create the elevation), but also because it is a two-story residence in a neighborhood otherwise comprised almost entirely of late-19th and early-20th century cottages and bungalows.

The design of the Shaw House grafts details from various early-20th century styles—Mission, Prairie, Colonial Revival—onto what is essentially an American Foursquare form. The house is saved from being perfectly square by a rear section that makes the floorplan longer than it is wide. A bay window and a two-story projecting bay add further interest to the shape of the house, as do breaks in the roofline created by a parapet, dormers, and chimneys.

Sitting on top of a full basement, the Shaw House is constructed of pressed red brick. Limestone provides contrasting trim and is used for all window sills and lintels, for the foundation, and for the bases and caps of the front porch piers. The home's steeply-pitched hipped roof flares at the eaves and is covered with green barrel tile. The Prairie influence is seen in the overhanging, boxed eaves, which contain gutters at their perimeters.

The main (east) facade is distinguished by a Mission-style shaped parapet that rises through the cornice in the center of the facade. The parapet has limestone coping and contains an arched, leaded-glass window, also trimmed with limestone.

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Directly below the parapet, at the second-floor level, is an oval, leaded-glass window with limestone trim. Tall, wide windows with diamond-paned transoms are located on either side of the oval window.

A broad, one-story porch wraps around the house, starting at the two-story, projecting bay on the south facade, spanning the main facade, and running about two-thirds the length of the north facade. The porch roof is covered with the same green tile as the main roof and is supported by brick piers on stone bases. The floor of the porch is concrete, and the ceiling is covered with pressed tin. Three original copper and glass light fixtures hang from the porch ceiling.

Broad concrete steps lead up to the porch at the main entrance, located just south of the center of the main facade. The entrance consists of a glazed oak door and sidelights, all containing beveled glass, topped by a leaded and beveled glass transom. In the Colonial Revival vein, narrow Corinthian columns frame the door, which still is protected by what appears to be the original oak screen door.

Just south of the main entrance is a small double-hung stairway window with leaded glass in its upper sash. A bay window projects from the facade just north of the main entrance.

Another flight of broad concrete steps leads to the porch on the north facade, the second street facade. On this side of the house, the porch shelters three one-over-one, double-hung windows and another glazed oak door, all opening into what now is one long living room. Originally, however, a chimney--now seen only at the second-floor level and above--rose from the basement, through the porch floor, and up the side of the house at the first-floor level. The chimney marked the location of an interior wall that was removed--along with a corner fireplace and the first-floor section of chimney--around 1925. The removal of this interior wall created the existing large living room where originally there had been two smaller rooms (probably double parlors or a parlor and library).

These alterations were accomplished in a manner that left remarkably few telltale signs of change. On the exterior, a new window (the middle one of the three existing windows) evidently was inserted near where the chimney had been. Brick removed to make way for the window may have been used to patch the wall area where the chimney was dismantled. There is no discernible difference in the brickwork at this point, and the newer window is identical to the originals. Only a patch in the porch floor and seams in the pressed tin ceiling indicate where the chimney once stood.

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Above the porch, the second story of the north facade is defined by three one-over-one, double-hung windows and the chimney, which rises through the roofline. An arched dormer, containing a limestone-trimmed, arched window, adjoins the chimney at the roofline.

At the west end of the north elevation, the section of the house not encompassed by the porch contains a single one-over-one, double-hung window on each of the two floors. It is the presence of this rear section that makes the floorplan of the house rectangular rather than square.

At the center of the south facade is the two-story, projecting bay with hipped roof that marks the beginning of the wraparound porch. Each level of the bay contains three windows, five of which are of the one-over-one, double-hung variety. The sixth window, located in the center on the first floor of the bay, contains leaded glass. It is a wide, short window set high in the wall that comprises the south end of the dining room.

Also on the south facade, a third flight of steps leads to the porch, though there is no corresponding door into the house at this location. Rather, the porch shelters two windows, one opening onto the main staircase and the other under the staircase, and both containing leaded glass. Above the porch roof is a double-hung window with a diamond-shaped pattern created by wooden muntins in its upper sash. At the west end of the south facade, on the other side of the projecting bay from the porch, the rear section of the house contains two one-over-one, double-hung windows on each floor.

On the rear (west) facade of the Shaw House, what originally was a two-story screened porch has been enclosed with clapboard siding. A hipped dormer projects through the main roof above the porch, as does the kitchen chimney.

The interior of the Shaw House is distinguished by the oak woodwork found through the main rooms—entry hall, living room, and dining room—on the first floor. Door and window casings are Colonial Revival in character, with a band of egg-and-dart molding forming part of the cornice across the top of each door and window opening. The balustrade of the main staircase, however, shows the Craftsman influence, as do the mantels in the entry hall and dining room. (It is theorized that the dining room fireplace is not original but was created using the corner mantel removed c. 1925 from the original front parlor fireplace).

Oak ceiling beams, used in the entry hall and living room, evidently were added during the c. 1925 remodeling that created the present living room, but they are in harmony with the original oak woodwork.

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Five-panel, oak pocket doors open from the entry hall into the living room and into the dining room. The original Craftsman-style brass door hardware is intact throughout the house.

8. Statement of Significance

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

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

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

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)
Architecture

Period of Significance
c. 1909

Significant Dates
c. 1909

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Significant Person

Architect/Builder
unknown

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

SUMMARY

The stylish Tillman Shaw House is a noteworthy component of Fort Smith's architectural heritage. Constructed c. 1909 in a neighborhood of modest cottages, this one-time single family residence is significant for its scale and the finely crafted details it displays. Built by saloon-keeper Tillman Shaw, it was rumored that this "mansion" was intended to help gain social recognition for the Shaws - an ambition thwarted by the successful Prohibition movement. The property is being nominated under Criterion C as a representative of its architectural period.

ELABORATION

The city of Fort Smith, Arkansas was incorporated in 1842, and much of its early history was closely tied to its role as a federal military outpost and court site. The town itself remained relatively small until settlement of the surrounding farmlands in the Arkansas River valley resulted in Fort Smith's emergence as a regional trade center. During the 1880's a large number of German and Irish settlers were "lured" to this area by cheap land that was offered by the railroad companies. These immigrants and the strong Roman Catholic Church organization that accompanied them played a significant role in the history of Fort Smith.

The Shaw House was constructed c. 1909 on lots 10-12, Block CC, Fitzgerald Addition. The Fitzgerald Addition (comprised of land earlier deeded to Edward Fitzgerald, Bishop of Arkansas) was annexed to the city of Fort Smith in 1887. This area was located approximately one-half mile south and east of the city's earliest residential neighborhood and, by the turn of the century, would contain the Catholic church, convent, school and cemetery. According to a 1901 Sanborn Map, all of the residential dwellings in the Fitzgerald Addition were frame, one-story cottages, reflective of the residents' occupations as shopkeepers and small businessmen.

Tillman Shaw and his family were early settlers in the Fort Smith area, arriving shortly after the Civil War. Shaw served for several years during the 1890's as the Sebastian County Jailer before establishing himself as a saloonkeeper, a prosperous

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occupation in Fort Smith due to its location as a border city directly across from Indian Territory where liquor was not allowed. In fact, during the early 20th century there were at least 50 saloons located in a ten block "stretch" of Garrison Avenue.

Two developments occurred during the early 1900's that account for a dramatic increase in Fort Smith's population and subsequent development. [U.S. Census statistics - 1900--11,587; 1910--28,975] In 1900 Congress donated the old military reservation, adjoining the main part of town, to the Fort Smith School District with the agreement that the land would be sold and the funds used for school improvements. These newly-available tracts of land - over 300 acres - were the catalyst for continued development and growth. A short time later, natural gas was discovered east of the city. This new, cheap source of fuel began to attract industry to Fort Smith and the city became a manufacturing center.

The decade of prosperity that followed these developments also resulted in a dramatic increase in the number of substantial and stylish homes in Fort Smith. The Shaw House was especially impressive in size and design, given its startling contrast with the simple cottages which were its neighbors. Although Tillman Shaw duplicated the 1907 Mowen House (located at 123 N. 14th Street but converted to office use) in plan and style, his residence was purported to be much more lavish with regard to the craftsmanship exhibited and the fine attention to detail. The pressed brick, barrel tile and limestone detailing displayed on the exterior of the Shaw House are indicative of the exceptionally fine materials Shaw used throughout the house. Unique in Fort Smith for its full basement and load-bearing brick walls, the Shaw House also gains distinction as one of the few residences expressing elements of the Mission style. Other rich details, such as the pressed-tin porch ceiling, leaded and beveled glass windows and entrance treatment, and finely-crafted interior woodwork, while aptly demonstrating the eclecticism frequently found in residences of this period, reinforce the significance of the Shaw House as an example of Fort Smith's architecture of the early 20th century.

The Shaw family's association with their lovely home was short-lived. Shaw's financial success as a saloon owner ended abruptly with the advent of Prohibition. By 1919 he was forced to sell the residence at 500 S. 19th Street and return to his former home - a one-story cottage located just one block south at 600 S. 19th. John S. Hill, the President of Mechanics Lumber Company, and his family owned the Shaw House until 1925 when it was purchased by local coal mine operator George Allen. Shortly thereafter the only significant alteration to the Shaw House was made; the parlors were joined and a fireplace removed. Allen's widow sold the residence to Mr. and Mrs. S. L. McCartney in 1945 and they occupied it until 1984. Dr. and Mrs. Douglas Parker adapted the spacious Shaw House for use as a Bed and Breakfast, naming it the McCartney House - an easily recognizable association in Fort Smith since Mrs. McCartney had frequently hosted special functions such as weddings and parties.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Butler, William J.. Fort Smith Past and Present: A Historical Summary. Fort Smith: The First National Bank, 1972.

Fort Smith City Directories, 1881-82, 1890, 1894-95, 1897, 1898, 1900, 1904, 1907, 1910, 1911, 1912-13, 1914, 1918, 1919-20, 1923-24, 1925-26.

Fort Smith Death Records, Tillman Shaw; Mary McCormack Shaw, located at Fort Smith Public Library.

Fort Smith Times Record, articles on the following dates: December 22, 1909 (p. 7, c. 2); September 5, 1909 (p. 3, c. 6); January 22, 1934 (p. 1, c. 5).

Interview with Helen Goodman (Tillman and Margaret Shaw's grandniece), Conducted on August 27, 1987 in Fort Smith.

Mapes, Ruth B. Old Fort Smith: Cultural Center on the Southwestern Frontier. Little Rock: The Pioneer Press, 1965.

See continuation sheet

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property less than one acre

UTM References

A 1,5 | 37,1645 | 3,915,775
 Zone Easting Northing

C | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

B | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
 Zone Easting Northing

D | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Lots 10 - 12, Block CC. Fitzgerald Addition.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the 2 entire city lots that have been historically associated with the property.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Julie Wiedower
 organization History, Inc. date January, 1988
 street & number 1721 South Gaines telephone (501) 227-8346
 city or town Little Rock state Arkansas zip code 72206

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

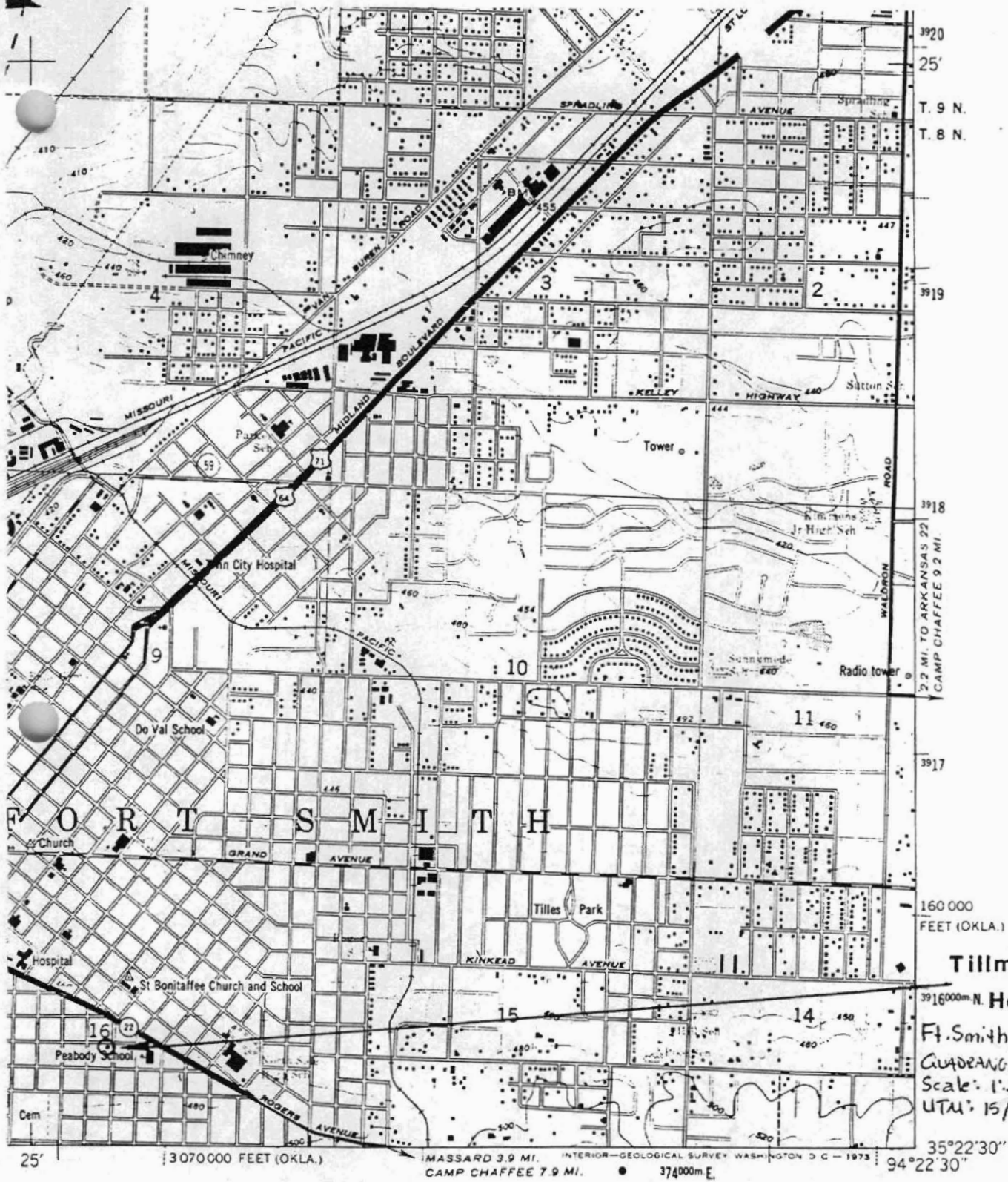
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Sanborn Maps-Fort Smith, Arkansas, 1908, 1950. Sanborn, New York: Sanborn Insurance Company.

Southwest American. articles on the following dates: January 24, 1934 (p. 2);
March 18, 1935 (p. 2).



Tillman Shaw
 3916000m N. House
 Ft. Smith, Sebastian Co.
 QUADRANGLE: Ft. Smith, Ark.
 Scale: 1:24000
 UTM: 15/371645/3916775

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

- Heavy-duty Light-duty
- Medium-duty Unimproved dirt
- Interstate Route
- U. S. Route
- State Route



FORT SMITH, ARK.—OKLA.
 NW/4 VAN BUREN 15' QUADRANGLE
 N3522.5—W9422 5/7.5

Revisions shown in purple compiled by the Geological Survey from aerial photographs taken 1971. This information not field checked

Purple tint indicates extension of urban areas

1947

PHOTOREVISED 1971

(BARLING)
 7.50 17 SE

