

81 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)		
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION				

SPECIFIC DATES ca. 1855

BUILDER/ARCHITECT W. C. Smith

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Since the Smith-Hoffman House appears on a topographical map of Clarksville and vicinity prepared by Union Army surveyors in 1864, and all nonmilitary construction ceased after the collapse of the Confederate stronghold at Fort Donelson in February 1862, an 1860 or earlier construction date is substantiated. For six generations the Smith and Hoffman families have dwelt in the house, and during this period, except for the early twentieth-century modifications, few changes were made in its appearance.

William Cosby Smith (1830-99) and his brothers were born in Virginia and moved from Kentucky, where they settled in 1831, to Montgomery County some years before the Civil War. They engaged in wholesale tobacco merchandising and operated warehouses at Trice's Landing on the Cumberland and at a similar facility on the Red River. As the company expanded, one brother established and operated a branch office in New Orleans while W. C. and the remaining brothers attended to the local business.

Mason Hoffman, a carpenter, and his brother-in-law Herman Bridgewater purchased the house in 1907 or '08, and the Hoffman descendants resided there until 1975. The family still owns the property and it is now rented.

New Providence was a separate community when the Smith-Hoffman House was built on the hill overlooking Trice's Landing, where tobacco was loaded on to steamboats bound for Ohio and Mississippi river ports. Corp of Engineers projects have resulted in the inundation of the old tobacco port. New Providence has been annexed by the city of Clarksville and is now a low-rent residential area. The Smith-Hoffman House remains one of the few nineteenth-century buildings in New Providence and the only brick, antebellum residence in the area. It is also the only extant structure associated with the tobacco trade and warehousing business which flourished at Trice's Landing.