

VLP- 3/17/99  
NRHP- 6/29/99

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Marshall-Rucker-Smith House  
other names/site number VDHR file no. 0104-5073

2. Location

street & number 620 Park Street N/A not for publication  
city or town Charlottesville N/A vicinity  
state Virginia code VA county Charlottesville (city) code 540 zip code 22902

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant \_\_\_ nationally \_\_\_ statewide X locally. ( \_\_\_ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Signature] April 5, 1999  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date  
VA. DEPT. OF HISTORIC RESOURCES  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property \_\_\_ meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register criteria. ( \_\_\_ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official/Title Date  
\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is: Signature of the Keeper Date of Action  
\_\_\_\_ 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): \_\_\_\_\_

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

**Category of Property**

(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	Total

**Name of related multiple property listing**

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Category	Subcategory
DOMESTIC	single dwelling
RECREATION	sports facility

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Category	Subcategory
DOMESTIC	single dwelling
DOMESTIC	secondary structure
RECREATION	sports facility

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Queen Anne

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation	BRICK
walls	BRICK
roof	Slate
other	WOOD
	METAL
	STONE

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations**

(Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past fifty years.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

**Period of Significance**

1894-ca. 1930

**Significant Dates**

1894

Ca. 1930

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Vandegrift, William T. (builder)

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**Bibliography**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

**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

Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** approximately 0.8 acres

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	17	721600	4212550	3	17	
2	17			4	17	

\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

**Verbal Boundary Description**

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

**Boundary Justification**

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title	<u>J. Daniel Pezzoni</u>	date	<u>December 16, 1998</u>
organization	<u>Landmark Preservation Associates</u>	telephone	<u>(540) 464-5315</u>
street & number	<u>6 Houston St.</u>	zip code	<u>24450</u>
city or town	<u>Lexington</u> state <u>VA</u>		

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets**

**Maps**

- A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

**Photographs**

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

**Additional items**

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

**Property Owner**

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Lloyd Thomas Smith Jr.  
street & number 620 Park St. telephone (804) 293-6435  
city or town Charlottesville state Virginia zip code 22902

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

Marshall-Rucker-Smith House  
Charlottesville, Va.

---

## NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

### Summary

The 1894 Marshall-Rucker-Smith House, located at 620 Park Street in Charlottesville, Virginia, is a large two-story brick dwelling with attic and basement levels. Basically square in form, the Queen Anne-style house is given a complex asymmetrical appearance by features such as a three-story octagonal corner tower, a prominent front gable projection of the slate-shingled hip roof, a two-story rear wing, and multiple one-story porches. The main section of the house has a two-room-deep center-passage plan. Plaster-and-lath wall and ceiling finishes, wood floors, mostly natural wood finishes, and ornate mantel and stair details characterize the interior. A ca. 1930 addition along the south side of the rear wing has a lower-level solarium with a library above. The narrow rectangular house lot retains its historic appearance with shade trees, iron fences and stone retaining walls, and planting beds. At the back of the lot is a ca. 1930 swimming pool accompanied by small modern service buildings. The west-facing house stands among older homes and modern buildings in the historic Park Street neighborhood.

### Inventory

1. House. 1894. Contributing building.
2. Swimming pool. Ca. 1930. Contributing structure.
3. Pool pump house/bar/toilet. 1979. Noncontributing building.
4. Pool equipment shed. Ca. 1989. Noncontributing building.

### House Exterior

The house is constructed of brick laid in a stretcher bond with occasional header-stretcher courses. White penciling is apparent in sheltered areas. Decorative effects include corbeling, projecting belt courses of pressed brick (as over the second-story windows), gauged jack arches of pressed brick over some first-story and basement windows, and recessed panels. Accomplished brickwork appears in the front gable which has a Romanesque triple-arched inset balcony or loggia with square recessed panels in the walling under the openings. Originally the house had tall chimneys with recessed panels in their shafts; these were lowered about 1970 but they were restored to their original height in the 1990s based on historic photographs. The house also has sandstone window sills and lintels over some openings.

Aside from the aforementioned gable the dominant features of the front elevation are the octagonal tower and the full-facade porch. The tower has an eight-sided slate-shingled pyramidal roof with hipped dormers, a crocket-like metal finial, and a double cornice with a frieze of

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

**Marshall-Rucker-Smith House  
Charlottesville, Va.**

Section number 7 Page 2

---

**Description (continued)**

pressed shingle-pattern metal. (Less ornate metal crestings and a dormer also appear on the main house roof.) The porch stands on Roman Doric columns, grouped in twos and threes, above tall brick pedestals. It has lower and upper or roof balustrades with turned balusters, a dentil cornice, exposed ceiling joists, and latticed underpinnings.

A similar porch--but with a decorative gable at one end--extends along the south elevation and adjoins a two-story bay window. This porch connects by way of a reconstructed historic deck or promenade to the front porch. Three small porches to the rear have (in varying combinations) brick pillars, turned posts and balusters, and spindle friezes. The front entry is set in a round-arched opening with a transom, double-leaf louvered wooden outer doors, and a terra-cotta pearl molding in the arch. Windows are one-over-one double-hung sash with some four-over-four sash to the rear. The front first-story windows extend almost from floor to ceiling and the sashes lift upward into pockets.

**House Interior**

At the front entry double-leaf inner doors with glass panels and a square-headed transom open into the center passage. The passage is divided across the middle by a round archway constructed of walnut-stained poplar and supported by Doric columns and pilasters on paneled pedestals. At the rear of the passage is a two-run stair with square newel posts, turned balusters, ramped handrails, and paneled spandrels. At the front of the passage wide doorways lead into the front parlors; these doorways have paneled pocket doors suspended from their inner sides by folding scissor-like mechanisms. The north parlor (known as the drawing room) features a two-stage mantel with paired colonnettes with foliated caps, other decorative carvings, a mirror in the overmantel, and a fireplace surround of mottled white and pink glazed tiles. Molded baseboards and door and window surrounds, picture rails, and gold-painted radiators and exposed steam pipes are typical in this room and in other rooms. The south parlor, which has a corner bay window formed from the base of the octagonal tower, has a two-stage mantel designed by architect Don Swofford and using elements of the original mantel. Behind the south parlor is the dining room, entered through doorways with transoms (transoms occur over other doorways in the house). The dining room has a plate rail and a two-stage mantel with fluted colonnettes, a mirror in the overmantel, a fireplace surround of reddish glazed tiles, a patterned iron fireplace lining, and tiles stamped with a shell motif forming the hearth. Behind the drawing room--formerly communicating with it through pocket doors that are now fixed--is a room presently used as a bedroom, with a mantel similar to that in the drawing room. The mantel in this room has a fireplace surround with a painted design by Ashlin Smith that is derived from the

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

**Marshall-Rucker-Smith House  
Charlottesville, Va.**

Section number 7 Page 3

---

**Description (continued)**

decorative carving on the mantel.

The first-floor of the ca. 1930 rear addition contains the solarium, illuminated by large windows glazed with "vita glass," an English-manufactured glass that was intended to permit only the "beneficent rays" of the sun. Each pane is etched in a lower corner with a tiny sunburst trademark. The solarium is also distinguished by a green-tile wainscot and a fireplace surround of blue and green tiles with Arts and Crafts tilework in the overmantel featuring a depiction of Lombardy poplars. The asphalt-tile solarium floor was replaced in 1998 with ceramic tiles that evoke the design of the original. A corridor which is an enclosure of part of the original south-elevation porch connects the solarium to the front of the house. The first-floor of the rear wing contains the kitchen, which has a modern segmental-arched brick fireplace that replaces an original bricked-up fireplace, and cabinetry designed and installed by Taylor Gimbert. Next to the kitchen is a large pantry with glass-fronted cabinets. The cabinets on the north and south walls of the pantry date to the 1890s; those on the west wall date to the 1930s. Also in the rear wing are a servant's stair and a bathroom designed by architect Hank Brown.

The second floor bedrooms have ornate Victorian mantels, two with turnings in the pilasters, one with a diminutive spindled curb for preventing items from rolling off the shelf, and two others with bracketed shelves. The upstairs of the ca. 1930 addition contains a library with paneled walls, glass-fronted book shelves, crown moldings, an arched doorway to an adjoining den, and a small fireplace with a Georgian Revival architrave mantel. Modern tapestry wall coverings above the paneling evoke the original treatment. Visible in the upstairs are original ducts that once allowed for the passive flow of air for cooling the house; these were modified as air conditioning ducts about 1990. Also upstairs are modern bathrooms designed by M. Jack Rinehart, cedar-lined linen closets dating to the 1930s and 1990s in the passage, and an original open-air alcove on the front elevation now enclosed for closets.

The unfinished attic, now used as a recreation room, has a raised platform in the corner tower room of unknown function, although in the early twentieth century the Marshall's daughter Elizabeth and her neighborhood playmates used it as a stage for skits. The basement has a concrete floor (probably poured during the Rucker ownership), exposed ceiling joists, painted brick walls, batten doors, and a closet that once contained a toilet for use by the servants. Part of the basement has been made into a workshop and a formerly unexcavated area under the house has been made into an apartment.

**Landscape Features and Outbuildings**

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

**Marshall-Rucker-Smith House  
Charlottesville, Va.**

Section number 7 Page 4

**Description (continued)**

The lot on which the house stands measures eighty-eight feet across the front and 393 deep. Photographs taken in the 1910s indicate that the property has much the same appearance as it did then. The present cast-iron fence, with its gate bearing the plaque of the Springfield Architectural Ironworks of Springfield, Oh., extended across the front of the lot, with yuccas flanking the gate as they do today. Deciduous trees shaded the front yard then as now. The front walk of poured concrete with diagonal scorings dates to the early twentieth century. Other features, such as the stone wall along Park Lane, date to the Rucker years.

At the back or east end of the lot is the Rucker's swimming pool, constructed about 1930, with a line of contemporary Deodar cedars beyond. The pool's concrete walls and bottom were refinished in recent years. Flanking the pool are an equipment shed and a pump house, which also contains a bar and toilet. These small modern frame buildings have board-and-batten siding and shed roofs. The swimming pool and attendant buildings occupy the general location of a small two-story frame dwelling (probably servants quarters) and two one-story sheds that appear in the 1920 Sanborn map. In the 1939 Sanborn maps these buildings had been removed and a story-and-a-half garage-apartment built further to the east. This brick building, designated 618 Park Lane, has a gable roof and gable dormers. (It is not owned by the present owner of the main house.) To the north of the Marshall-Rucker-Smith House, across Park Lane are a 1960s apartment building and a row of single-family dwellings dating from the 1920s and 1930s. Older homes adjoin the house on the south side and across Park Street.

**Integrity Statement**

The Marshall-Rucker-Smith House retains excellent architectural integrity from the period of significance, 1894 to ca. 1930. Important character-defining features such as the corner tower, front gable, porches, and ca. 1930 addition remain in place and unchanged. The only appreciable alterations on the front are the enclosure of a second-story open-air alcove to provide closet space on the interior, and the rebuilding of the tops of the chimneys (this to return them to their original height and appearance). The interior retains its original floor plan, finishes, and features such as mantels, stairs, pocket doors, and so forth. Modernizations are limited primarily to the kitchen, bathrooms, and basement. The property has much the same character portrayed in 1910s photographs, and a number of features such as the fence, gate, yucca bed, stone walls, and swimming pool survive from the period of significance. The three small modern buildings near the pool are unobtrusive. The Marshall-Rucker-Smith House is surrounded by historic buildings, except for the 1960s apartments across Park Lane. The property's integrity has been enhanced over the past four decades through the preservation efforts of the present owner.



**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

**Marshall-Rucker-Smith House  
Charlottesville, Va.**

Section number 8 Page 5

---

**NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

**Summary**

The Marshall-Rucker-Smith House, located at 620 Park Street in Charlottesville, Virginia, is an imposing Queen Anne residence dating to 1894. The two-story brick house was built by Charlottesville builder William T. Vandegrift for dry goods merchant J. William Marshall and his wife Carrie. Considered a premier example of the Queen Anne style in the city, the house is distinguished by its octagonal corner tower and Romanesque-inspired gable arcading and by the lavish appointments of its spacious interior. A later owner, philanthropist William J. Rucker, added a two-story solarium and library wing about 1930. In the mid-twentieth century, after the house had been made into apartments, future Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor numbered among its residents. Restored by present owner Lloyd T. Smith, the Marshall-Rucker-Smith House is today considered a Charlottesville landmark.

**Justification of Criteria**

The Marshall-Rucker-Smith House is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C in the area of architecture as a leading example of the Queen Anne style in Charlottesville. The period of significance extends from the date of construction in 1894 through the addition of the solarium and library about 1930. The property is eligible at the local level of significance.

**Acknowledgments**

A number of individuals and organizations assisted in the preparation of this report. Foremost among them is the owner, Lloyd T. Smith, Jr., whose restoration of the home since 1962 returned it to its turn-of-the-twentieth-century grandeur, and whose research forms the basis of this nomination. Others who provided assistance included Melinda Frierson, K. Edward Lay, and Margaret O'Brien, all of Charlottesville, and Robert A. Carter, John S. Salmon, and Marc C. Wagner of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources.

**Historical Background**

The Marshall-Rucker-Smith House stands in the Park Street neighborhood of Charlottesville, historically one of the City's most desirable residential addresses. Development on the street, which leads northward into Albemarle County from the county courthouse, had commenced by the 1820s, and by the late antebellum period some of the City's largest and most stylish residences were being erected there. In 1850, when a lot roughly corresponding to the present property was sold by John and Elizabeth Timberlake to David Wood, a Mrs. Julia Holladay occupied the property. Recent landscaping activity has identified what appear to be brick

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Marshall-Rucker-Smith House  
Charlottesville, Va.

Section number 8 Page 6

---

**Statement of Significance (continued)**

foundations and a brick-lined well that may be related to the antebellum dwelling on the lot. Tax records suggest that this dwelling or a later one may have survived as late as 1893.<sup>1</sup>

In December 1892 Carrie M. (sometimes H.) Marshall and her children purchased the property, then estimated at just under two acres in extent. Marshall was the wife of Charlottesville dry goods merchant J. William Marshall, who opened a store on Main Street in the 1880s. In an 1888 city directory Marshall advertised millinery and fancy goods for sale and in an 1898 directory he advertised dry goods and notions. In 1894 Marshall's business was described in the *Charlottesville Chronicle* as "Marshall Bros. . . . headquarters for all kinds of Dry Goods, Notions, Millinery." The name of the firm was given as J. W. Marshall & Company in the aforementioned 1898 directory. Since one line of the business was millinery--often a female occupation during the period--it seems plausible that Carrie Marshall had a hand in the family enterprise. In later years J. W. Marshall gave his occupation as traveling salesman.<sup>2</sup>

The Marshalls hired Charlottesville builder William T. Vandegrift to erect their grand Park Street residence. In the January 5, 1895 issue of *The Daily Progress*, in an article entitled "Buildings Erected in 1894," the Marshall's house appears at the top of the list; at \$10,000 the house was apparently the most costly residence built in Charlottesville in 1894. W. T. Vandegrift contributed to the article, which noted that "in spite of the financial depression [following the Panic of 1893] Charlottesville has steadily builded [*sic*] to the best interests of its people." The construction of the house is also traced in city tax records. In 1893 the value of buildings on Carrie Marshall's Park Street lot stood at \$1,500, a figure that probably represented the pre-existing dwelling. In 1894 no improvements existed on the lot, but in 1895, 1896, and 1897 the value of buildings was given as \$5,000. Photographs of the property in the 1910s indicate that few changes have occurred to the front elevation of the house since that time, and even the front

---

<sup>1</sup> Rawlings, *Early Charlottesville*, 37; Albemarle County Deed Book 49, p. 183; Lloyd Smith interviews; and Charlottesville tax records.

<sup>2</sup> Charlottesville Deed Book 3, p. 458; *Turner's Annual Directory* [1888], 119; *Directory of Charlottesville* [1898], 70; *Charlottesville Chronicle*, December 14, 1894; and *Charlottesville . . . Directory* [1906], 117.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Marshall-Rucker-Smith House  
Charlottesville, Va.

Section number 8 Page 7

---

Statement of Significance (continued)

yard has retained the iron gate, yuccas, and other features shown in the old views.<sup>3</sup>

In 1913 the Marshalls conveyed the property to William J. Rucker, who paid \$18,375 for it. Rucker, who was known for his philanthropy--the present Kluge Rehabilitation Center was once named the Rucker Wing of the Martha Jefferson Hospital after him--lived in the house with his wife, Sallie Wood Rucker. In later life Sallie Rucker developed health problems and as part of her therapy the Ruckers added a solarium to the southeast corner of the house about 1930. Evidence such as dates stamped on bathtubs, a newspaper stuffed into a construction cavity, and the recollection of the Rucker's former house keeper, Mary Thomas, corroborate a date of about 1930 for this and other smaller alterations. The swimming pool, excavated at about the same time, may also have been related to Mrs. Rucker's therapy. W. J. Rucker died in 1941; in his will he devised his home to the Martha Jefferson Hospital and Sanitorium to serve as the "Sallie W. Rucker Home for Nurses." The hospital chose not to use the property as a nurses' home and sold the house to Lucille S. Keresey in 1943. In the 1950s the house was converted into apartments by then owner Mary Thomas. It was during this period that future Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor lived in the house.<sup>4</sup>

Present owner Lloyd T. Smith, Jr. purchased the property in November 1961 and since then Mr. Smith and his wife Ashlin have restored the Marshall-Rucker-Smith House as a private residence, stripping paint from originally naturally finished wood and removing other unsympathetic modern features. The Smiths's restoration efforts were recognized by the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities (APVA) in 1988.<sup>5</sup>

---

<sup>3</sup> *The Daily Progress*, January 5, 1895; Charlottesville tax records; Holsinger Collection, neg. no. 4117B-B; and A. P. Bibb Co.

<sup>4</sup> Charlottesville Deed Book 25, p. 54 and Deed Book 114, p. 286; Charlottesville Will Book 5, p. 54; and Lloyd Smith interviews.

<sup>5</sup> Charlottesville Deed Book 229, p. 30; Lloyd Smith interviews; and Henry, "Marshall-Rucker-Smith House."

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Marshall-Rucker-Smith House  
Charlottesville, Va.

Section number 8 Page 8

---

Statement of Significance (continued)

Architectural Discussion

The Marshall-Rucker-Smith House is regarded as the premier example of the Queen Anne style in Charlottesville. A 1978 survey of the city's historic landmarks identified the house as "perhaps the most significant structure built in the 1860-1910 period" in the historic Park Street neighborhood, itself described as a residential area that "knows no equal" in the city. In a forthcoming architectural history of Charlottesville and Albemarle County, architectural historian K. Edward Lay and historian John S. Salmon single out the house as an "excellent" example of the Queen Anne style, and also a rare local expression of the Romanesque Revival style for its gable arcading.<sup>6</sup>

Charlottesville builder William T. Vandegrift (1860-1935) was responsible for the construction of the house, as he himself affirmed in an 1894 newspaper advertisement listing his clients, but it is not known whether he also designed the house. Nor is the architect of the 1930 south wing added by the Ruckers known. What is known are the suppliers and installers of some of the details and systems in the house. Pencilled on the back of a bedroom mantel is the name F. A. Marshall and the date April 2, 1894. F. A. Marshall is identified as a mechanic in an 1898 city directory; presumably he was employed by Vandegrift as a workman or subcontractor. The Charlottesville and University of Virginia Gas and Electric Company wired the house and installed a back-up gas lighting system. A local furniture dealer supplied the mirrors for the overmantels, and the A & E Tile Company executed the fireplace tilework. Of particular interest is the name Barnes Lumber Company that appears on some of the woodwork of the main staircase. This firm is not thought to have established itself in Charlottesville until 1902, eight years after the construction of the house. Possibly, completion of the interior was postponed, or the Ruckers made alterations after they acquired the house in 1913.<sup>7</sup>

---

<sup>6</sup> Henry, "Marshall-Rucker-Smith House;" Lay; and Salmon.

<sup>7</sup> *Daily Progress*, August 21, 1894; Lay; *Directory of Charlottesville*, 70; and Lloyd Smith interviews.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Marshall-Rucker-Smith House  
Charlottesville, Va.

Section number 9 Page 9

---

**BIBLIOGRAPHY**

A. P. Bibb Co. Realtors Catalogue, ca. 1910. Copy of advertisement for the Marshall-Rucker-Smith House in the possession of Lloyd T. Smith, Jr., Charlottesville, Va.

"Abstract of Title to property described as 620 Park Street, Charlottesville, Virginia."  
Typescript, 1961.

Charlottesville, City of, deed and tax records. Charlottesville Clerk of Court, Charlottesville, Va.

*Charlottesville and Albemarle County, Virginia Directory, 1906-1907.* Richmond, Va.:  
Hill Directory Company, 1906.

*Charlottesville Chronicle* (Charlottesville, Va.).

*Charlottesville (Virginia) Directory, 1919-20.* Richmond, Va.: Hill Directory Company,  
Inc., 1920.

*Chataigne's Virginia Business Directory and Gazetteer, 1880-81.* Richmond, Va.:  
Baughman Brothers, 1980.

*Chataigne's Virginia Gazetteer and Classified Business Directory, 1893-94.* Richmond, Va.:  
J. H. Chataigne, 1893.

*The Daily Progress* (Charlottesville, Va.).

*Directory of Charlottesville, Virginia.* Charlottesville, Va.: Harris & Sharpe, 1898.

Granger, Lenny. "Miscellaneous Styles Adorn Victorian Home." *The Daily Progress*,  
July 23, 1978.

Henry, Geoffrey. "Marshall-Rucker-Smith House." Virginia Department of Historic Resources  
Preliminary Information Form, 1997.

Holsinger Collection. Alderman Library, University of Virginia, Charlottesville.

Lay, K. Edward. Excerpts from forthcoming book, *The Architecture of Jefferson Country,  
Charlottesville and Albemarle County, Virginia.* (Expected publication, University Press  
of Virginia, Spring 2000).

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Marshall-Rucker-Smith House  
Charlottesville, Va.

Section number 9 Page 10

---

**Major Bibliographical References (continued)**

\_\_\_\_\_. "Charlottesville's Architectural Legacy." *The Magazine of Albemarle County History*. vol. 46 (May 1988): 29-95.

Ovuka, Philip. "Marshall Rucker House." Typescript report, 1975, at the Fine Arts Library, University of Virginia, Charlottesville.

*Prout & Fyler's Directory of Charlottesville, Virginia, 1895*. Charlottesville, Va.: Prout, the Printer, 1895.

Rawlings, Mary. *Early Charlottesville: Recollections of James Alexander, 1828-1874*. Charlottesville, Va.: Albemarle County Historical Society, 1963.

Salmon, John S. Excerpts from introduction to forthcoming book by K. Edward Lay, *The Architecture of Jefferson Country, Charlottesville and Albemarle County, Virginia*. (Expected publication, University Press of Virginia, Spring 2000).

Sanborn Map Company. Maps of Charlottesville, Va., 1886, 1891, 1896, 1902, 1907, 1913, 1920, 1929 and 1939. Microfilm at Alderman Library, University of Virginia, Charlottesville.

Smith, Lloyd, Jr. Interviews with author, Charlottesville, Va., 1998.

Swofford, Don. Interview with author, Charlottesville, Va., November 21, 1998.

*Turner's Annual Directory for the City of Charlottesville, Virginia, 1888-9*. Yonkers, N.Y.: E. F. Turner & Co., 1888.

Wells, John E., and Robert E. Dalton. *The Virginia Architects, 1835-1955: A Biographical Dictionary*. Richmond, Va.: New South Architectural Press, 1997.

*Young & Co.'s Business and Professional Directory [1900-01]*. 1900.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 10 Page 11

**Marshall-Rucker-Smith House  
Charlottesville, Va.**

---

**Verbal Boundary Description**

The boundaries of the nominated parcel are portrayed on the accompanying 1:200 scale map. The parcel measures eighty-eight by 393 feet and is bounded on the west by Park Street, on the north by Park Lane, and on the south and east by residential lots.

**Boundary Justification**

The boundaries of the nominated parcel correspond to the modern property lines of the lot on which the principal historic resource, the Marshall-Rucker-Smith House, stands. The parcel includes approximately the front third of the lot as it was configured at the time the house was built.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Marshall-Rucker-Smith House  
Charlottesville, Va.

Section number Photo Page 12

---

PHOTOGRAPHS

All photographs are of the Marshall-Rucker-Smith House, Charlottesville, Va. (VDHR File No. 104-5073). Negatives for photographs 1 through 7 archived at the Library of Virginia, Richmond. Negative for photograph 8 archived in the Holsinger Collection, Alderman Library, University of Virginia, Charlottesville.

1. CREDIT: J. Daniel Pezzoni DATE: November 1998  
VIEW OF: Front (west) elevation of house. Direction of view: east.  
NEG. NO.: VDHR # 17240 PHOTO 1 of 8
2. CREDIT: J. Daniel Pezzoni DATE: November 1998  
VIEW OF: South elevation of house. Direction of view: northwest.  
NEG. NO.: VDHR # 17240 PHOTO 2 of 8
3. CREDIT: J. Daniel Pezzoni DATE: November 1998  
VIEW OF: Front gate. Direction of view: east.  
NEG. NO.: VDHR # 17240 PHOTO 3 of 8
4. CREDIT: J. Daniel Pezzoni DATE: November 1998  
VIEW OF: Swimming pool and pump house. Direction of view: northeast.  
NEG. NO.: VDHR # 17240 PHOTO 4 of 8
5. CREDIT: J. Daniel Pezzoni DATE: November 1998  
VIEW OF: First-floor northwest parlor.  
NEG. NO.: VDHR # 17240 PHOTO 5 of 8
6. CREDIT: J. Daniel Pezzoni DATE: November 1998  
VIEW OF: Entry and stair hall.  
NEG. NO.: VDHR # 17240 PHOTO 6 of 8
7. CREDIT: J. Daniel Pezzoni DATE: November 1998  
VIEW OF: Fireplace in solarium.  
NEG. NO.: VDHR # 17240 PHOTO 7 of 8
8. CREDIT: Rufus W. Holsinger DATE: 1916  
VIEW OF: Front (west) elevation of house. Direction of view: east.  
NEG. NO.: 4117B-B PHOTO 8 of 8



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Marshall-Rucker-Smith House  
Charlottesville, Va.

Section number Exhibit Page 13

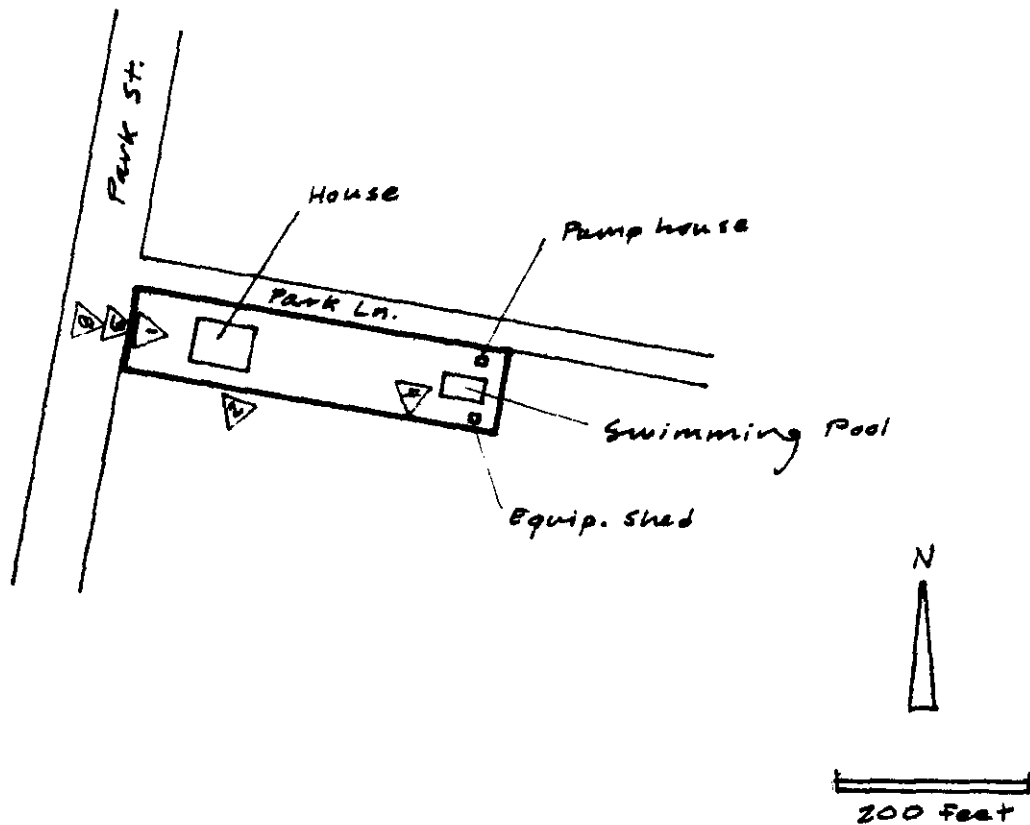
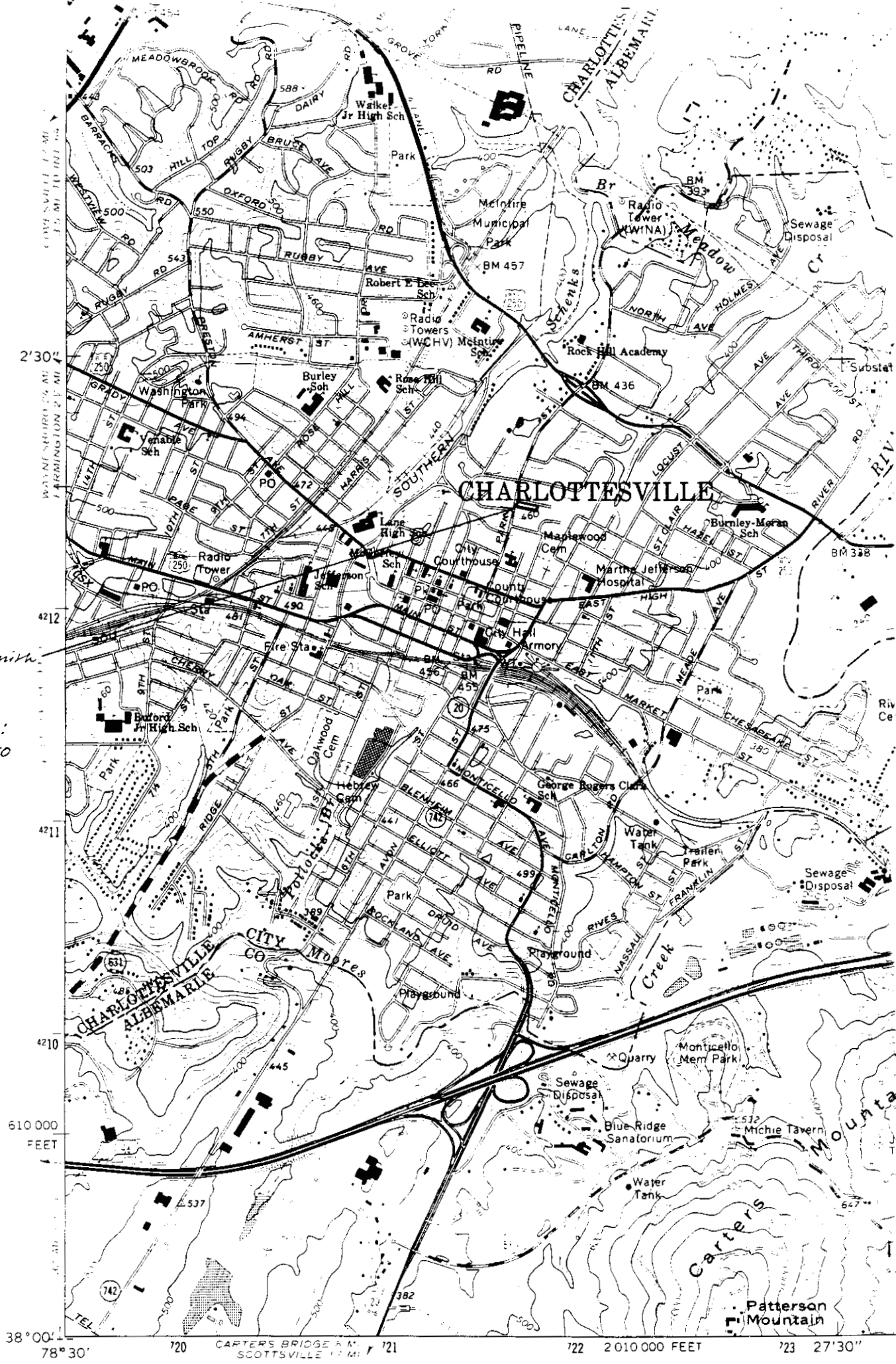


Exhibit 1: Marshall-Rucker-Smith House nominated parcel, 620 Park St., Charlottesville, Va. Parcel boundaries indicated by heavy line. Number and direction of view of photographs indicated by triangular pointers.



Marshall-Rucker-Smith  
 CIVIC  
 Charlottesville, VA  
 721600 N 4212550