

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Listed 9/2/2022

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 National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. 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.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Smucker, J.M., House

Other names/site number: _____

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

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

2. Location

Street & number: 708 North Main Street

City or town: Orrville State: OH County: Wayne

Not For Publication: Vicinity:

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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 at the following level(s) of significance:

 national statewide X local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

 A X B C D

<p><i>Barbara Towen</i> DSHPO/Dept. Head for Inventory & Registration July 18, 2022</p>	
Signature of certifying official/Title:	Date
<p><u> </u> State Historic Preservation Office, Ohio History Connection _____</p>	
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	

<p>In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.</p>	
Signature of commenting official:	Date
<p>_____</p>	
Title :	State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

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

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Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Domestic/Single Dwelling

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Business/Office Building

Park/City Park

Transportation/Trail

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Late 19th and Early 20th Century/Prairie/Craftsman

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Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property:

Foundation: Sandstone

Walls: Wood/Weatherboard

Roof: Synthetics/Rubber

Other: Brick, Wood

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

The J.M. Smucker house, located at the original site on which it was built in 1907, was constructed for Jerome Monroe (J.M.) Smucker and his family. The home is located across the street from the business J.M. founded in 1897, The J.M. Smucker Company.¹ The house is a simple, two-story American Foursquare typical of other residences in the area with an intersecting gable, bay window, wide front porch and smaller side porch. The wooden siding and trim are painted green and cream, and the house maintains the original sandstone foundation, exterior and interior architectural features and details original to the house. The house interior reflects the simplicity of J.M.'s Mennonite religion and straightforward philosophies, with woodworking of an Arts and Crafts style featured in the flooring, fireplace mantle, room dividers, and pocket doors to the library. Located just outside of Orrville's historic downtown area, the house faces west on the corner of Main Street and Strawberry Lane. The railroad spur, originally installed in the 1930s to provide access to the fruit spreads plant, runs just diagonally to the house. The area is a mix of single-family homes, restaurants, and businesses. The immediate surroundings include a park-like setting. Older trees, grassy lawns, and well-maintained flowerbeds surround the home. The J.M. Smucker Company campus serves as a backdrop to the park area. The residential property retains historic integrity and has been maintained by The J.M. Smucker Company since 1981.

Narrative Description

Located on the north side of historic downtown Orrville, a district on the National Register of Historic Places, The J.M. Smucker House is a single-family dwelling built in 1907. The house is situated at the front of a rectangular, 0.197-acre lot just alongside the rail spur that connects to

¹ The J.M. Smucker Company manufacturing plant was located at Walnut and Tanner streets, just northeast of the Smucker house. Throughout the early to mid-twentieth century the plant expanded with additional buildings and increasing acreage to the present day complex.

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The J.M. Smucker Company for delivery of ingredients to the manufacturing facility (Photo 0001).

The surrounding area is a mix of residential homes, restaurants, retail, and industrial sites. Since the mid-1970s, the areas adjoining the Smucker House property have been owned by The J.M. Smucker Company to ensure a space for future growth of the business, as well as create a park-like setting for employees and locals alike. The property contains older trees, several concrete walking paths, a brick drive, picnic spots, wooden benches, and black lampposts, and is tastefully landscaped with grassy lawns and flowerbeds of daylilies and hydrangeas. The property is well-maintained by the Company. The Company's Orrville campus, which is home to the corporate headquarters and the largest jams and jellies plant in the world, serves as a backdrop to the house and park (Photos 0001, 0003).

The two-story house is an American Foursquare plan, a style common in first-generation suburbs and often found as kit homes, particularly in railroad communities such as Orrville. The house overall is roughly square in shape (28 by 32 feet) and has 1,932 square feet of living space. The kitchen sits in a 10-by-14-foot projection on the back (east) side of the house. This section may have been added to the traditional plan because space typically used for the kitchen was dedicated to J.M.'s home office. (Photo 0003)

The house is simply detailed with a Craftsman-style aesthetic. Its wooden weatherboard siding is painted green, and its trim is painted cream. The roof of the structure has been shingled with EcoStar tiles to resemble the original slate roof. The foundation is sandstone, and the chimney on the south side of the house is exposed red brick. (Photo 0016)

Unlike many Foursquares, this house has a front-facing gable and a small intersecting gable on the rear of the structure. The wide front porch, which spans the entire length of the front façade, is 8 by 25 feet and has a hipped, low-pitched roof. Four slightly tapered square columns support the porch roof (Photo 0002). The three front steps leading to the painted wooden porch are flanked by sandstone entryway walls, which were decorated with flowerpots in J.M.'s day (Fig. 1). The front façade is symmetrical, with two large double hung windows on the first floor flanking the single sash wood front door. The front door has its original, oval-shaped brass door handle. A pair of second-story double hung windows are symmetrically placed above the lower windows, and a squared Palladian-style window is centered in the gable end pediment over the belly band. The double hung windows on the second floor feature a three-over-one lite pattern.

The one-story kitchen addition projects from the east elevation on the rear of the home. The addition has a low-pitched hipped roof. It is flanked on the north side by a small wooden porch. A wooden staircase leads up to this side-porch, providing access to the house's second point of entry: a partially screened wooden storm door over the original oak door, complete with a window. The north façade has three irregularly placed windows on each level, with the largest double hung window marking the room that served as J.M.'s office. A small additional window is centered in the attic dormer. Two basement windows can be seen in the sandstone block foundation (Photo 0004).

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On the rear of the house are five windows: two on the ground floor, two on the upper floor, and a small window in the attic gable. The small window on the rear of the home is decorative stained glass. It depicts an abstract apple tree in homage to J.M. Smucker's first product, apple butter. (Photo 0003)

The red brick chimney is on the south side of the house, flanked on both sides by windows on both the first and second story. To the right of the chimney is a bay window on the ground floor. A small window is symmetrically placed above the bay window roof. Another window can be found on this side of the kitchen addition. (Photo 0016)

Typical of American Foursquare homes, the interior floorplan features four main rooms on both floors, not counting the addition on the rear for the kitchen. The front door opens to two rooms, which include an entryway/reception hall and living room (Photo 0005). Directly across from the main entry is a mirrored, paneled door leading to a coat closet. To the right of the coat closet, a wooden paneled room divider and column provide partial separation between the front rooms and the dining room (Photo 0006). To the left of the front door, two substantial, square wooden columns delineate the living room (Photo 0005).

The hardwood floors are laid in picture frame pattern. The wooden baseboards are a substantial 8-inch width, and all doors are framed with Craftsman-style crossheads. There is crown molding detail throughout. Within the reception hall is an angled corner fireplace composed of a wood mantle with two square columns, a built-in mirror and shelf, and brown- and cream-colored tiled fireplace surround. The firebox is no longer functional, as it was tiled over and a register for forced heating was placed in front sometime in the 1940s (Photo 0007). There are two brass, four-light, close mount pan light fixtures in the center of each of the entryway rooms. Each of the brass chandeliers has four glass-shaded lights. While not overly ornate, they have some decorative elements. The hardware for the doors, latches, hinges, and brass and glass hanging light fixtures are believed to be original to the house (Photo 0008).

The dining room features a bay window with a wood seating area and a stained-glass window (Photo 0009). The stained-glass window, depicting a stylized apple tree in red, green, blue, and yellow colored glass, was re-created from a photograph (Photo 0010). There are four brass wall sconces on the two longest walls, and a five-light pan brass chandelier in the center of the room. The dining room connects to the kitchen as well as a small hallway to the stairwell and J.M.'s home office.

The living room features twin cherrywood pocket doors leading to what was J.M. Smucker's library and office. J.M.'s office features a large window that would allow him to observe his fruit spreads factory across Strawberry Lane (then named Snavely Street). Built-in bookcases were added in 1982, in keeping with the style of the home (Photo 0011). A three-light brass pan chandelier hangs in the room's center. A small closet is in the corner beneath the stairwell. The half-bath with a period tile floor and pedestal sink is accessible from J.M.'s office via a short hallway leading to the kitchen.

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The kitchen provides access to the full basement. In 1910, the basement's dirt floor was replaced with cement, which was dated and marked with a hand-written note by J.M.'s youngest daughter, Winna (Photo 0012). An oil-burning furnace was added in 1940, and the fireplace was then sealed to prevent drafts.

The second story is accessible via a dogleg stairway lit by a small window at the landing. There is a partial railing at the second set of steps in square Arts and Crafts style (Photo 0013). The second story has a central hallway with four bedrooms and a bathroom. To the left of the main stairwell is the entrance to the attic stairwell. To the right of the main stairwell is a small bedroom with a pair of brass wall sconces. While the other three bedrooms have closets, this one does not. All other bedrooms are fitted with a single-wall sconce for lighting. The bathroom has a sink, clawfoot bathtub, toilet, and blue tiled floor. Wall sconces flank the bathroom vanity. The bathroom fixtures are period, but not original to the house. The house is simply furnished with furniture period to the home, mostly in Craftsman style (Photo 0014).

Updates to the House

The house was purchased by The J.M. Smucker Company in 1981 as a touchstone to the Company's humble beginnings and commitment to the Orrville community. To preserve its historic integrity, the house was restored to turn-of-the-century design by prominent architect and historic preservation specialist Robert C. Gaede. Renovation of the exterior and lower floors began in 1981 and was completed in spring of 1982. Oak floors, interior beams, and the walnut staircase were replaced; walls were replastered; and wiring, plumbing, and heating systems were upgraded. In May 1984, The Cleveland Chapter of the American Institute of Architects presented a Preservation Award for Restoration and Adaptive use to The J.M. Smucker Company and Robert Gaede — with special consideration by the jury, as houses of this era had not, at the time, received such attention in historic preservation.

The house largely remains as it was when it was built in 1907. During J.M. Smucker's ownership, the sandstone porch supports were partially replaced. Metal supports were installed, which were later clad with wooden tapered square columns, done at least prior to 1948. A porch railing and trellis on the north side of the porch were also added during J.M.'s ownership (Fig. 2). The brick chimney was possibly rebuilt along the South side prior to 1920 (Fig. 3 and Photo 0016). When the house was purchased in 1981, the porch and foundation were sandblasted, and the siding repaired and repainted. The upper floor renovations were completed in 1994. The kitchen had been renovated and remodeled with modern conveniences to facilitate board meetings and luncheons in the 1980s. Though modern, the architect made efforts to preserve the original look and feel of the space. It was again updated with modern appliances and countertops in 2009 (Photo 0015). The original slate roof was replaced with EcoStar synthetic shingles in 2012, which were verified as being used on other historic homes. The house paint was refreshed and the windows were repaired in 2017. All casings and frames were repaired and/or patched, and broken glass was replaced with old glass, except for a single panel on the front of the house at the attic.

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Historic Integrity Assessment

The J.M. Smucker house's historic integrity is due to its *association* with entrepreneur and founder J.M. Smucker as well as its *location* as J.M.'s family home, and the *setting* near the business he founded in 1897.

The existence of the house and the business is, in part, conditional of one another. J.M.'s successful business earned him the means to purchase his own home, while his proximity to the company headquarters was instrumental in forming his business' culture. J.M. lived in the home from the age of 48 until his death in 1948. The house is located just across the street from the original cider mill, the view of which would have been visible from J.M.'s home office. This view would have existed during most of the period of significance. A cement pad was also placed in the rear of the home to accommodate a chair for J.M. to sit and greet employees as they passed by.

Regarding its *workmanship* and *design*, the home retains the simple Arts and Crafts workmanship and most of its original appearance as when J.M. lived there, including many of the updates and improvements he made while in residence such as the addition of forced heating and closing off of the chimney. It is typical of other homes that were being built in the area in the early 1900s, modest and on a small city lot. The house served not just as a home; the purpose and placement of the office provided J.M. with a place to quite literally "keep an eye on the business." J.M. managed his business from his home and was available to his employees as they walked to and from the plant. In his declining years, the office was converted to J.M.'s main living quarters, and the place where he passed away at the age of 89. The house, which remains at its original site, with its simple design including the retention of the interior office space and exterior features such as the porch, contributes to the *feeling* of the home. It best describes a life lived simply and the importance of family support in running a successful business.

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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.)

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B. Removed from its original location
- C. A birthplace or grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Commerce

Industry

Period of Significance

1907-1948

Significant Dates

1907 – construction

1948 – founder’s death

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Smucker, J.M.

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Original unknown

Gaede, Robert – renovation architect

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Jerome M. Smucker House is significant under Criterion B for its association with J.M. Smucker, who was an entrepreneur, businessperson, and community leader in Orrville. J.M. was the founder of The J.M. Smucker Company, a manufacturer of apple butter, jams, and jellies, which grew from a small regional brand to national distribution within J.M.'s lifetime. J.M. built his house in 1907 near the business he had established in 1897. J.M. and his family lived in the home for more than 40 years. During occupancy, J.M. was an instrumental leader in the community, serving as a board member of the local bank, helping to establish churches for the Mennonite congregations in the area and serving as Park Board founder for Orr Park. The house is modest, in keeping with the styles of other homes in the area, but remarkable for the care with which it has been maintained by subsequent generations of Smucker family members and the Company. The Period of Significance begins in 1907 with the construction of the house and ends in 1948 at the time of J.M. Smucker's death. The house is the best representation of J.M. Smucker's productive life and was his home during the period of growth and prosperity of his business and during the period in which he made important contributions to the Orrville community. The house retains historic integrity conveying its significance as the home of J.M. Smucker.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

Historic Context

A number of factors contributed to the success of J. M. Smucker's company grounded in changes in food production, consumption, and distribution during the last several decades of the nineteenth century into the early twentieth century. These factors relate to advances in food safety and variety improved as the result of the refrigeration of freight cars and the introduction of iceboxes in the home, the development of new canning and bottling technology, beginnings of a system of nationwide brand names for manufactured (processed) food, and the spread of chain food stores reduced prices by buying in volume.²

During the period immediately following the Civil War most Americans lived on farms and produced much of their own food. The most important single factor about food consumption during this period was the dominance of home production in a mostly rural nation. Diets were defined by what could be raised on their own farm and dictated by seasonal products depending upon location and what could be easily preserved. Fresh fruit was not often eaten because it could not easily be stored – often made into cider or brandy or consumed immediately. As the country became more urban beginning in the 1890s through the 1920s – the share of food and clothing produced at home declined sharply.³

² Robert J. Gordon, (2016), *The Rise and Fall of American Growth, The U.S. Standard of Living Since the Civil War*, Princeton: Princeton University Press, pp. 39-42.

³ Ibid

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Factors contributing to broadening food consumption included improved methods of preserving and shipping food. The icebox invented in the 1860s became more commonly used beginning in the 1880s. Refrigerated rail cars developed in 1871 and during the last part of the nineteenth century greatly expanded the variety of available food products. As processed foods were invented and became more popular and available – meal choices could be greatly expanded. By the 1920s, greater availability of fruits and vegetables could be attributed to the refrigerated boxcar and home iceboxes.⁴ Food processing and refrigerated shipping significantly increased the variety of food products and reduced the price of many perishable items, reduced seasonal fluctuations in prices and selections, increased the shelf life of many items. The period of 1890–1920 marks the transition, due to mass production and wide distribution, of a growing dominance of brand names that were not only affordable by middle class and the rich, but to a growing mass market of working class households.⁵ “New types of processed food were invented, and many of today’s name brands became commonplace in the last decades of the 19th century.”⁶ The founding and growth of the Smucker’s Company coincided with these significant changes in America’s food consumption.

With the enormous growth in manufactured food, canned goods were slower to be accepted in the eastern part of the country (more lingering emphasis on “putting up” ones own food and greater local selection). It was the growing western states where canned goods first reached widespread acceptance and demand, often the only way to introduce much variety into diets in these expanding portions of the country.⁷

Ohio played an important role in the country’s industrial growth and expansion. From the end of the Civil War until the Great Depression, Ohio experienced a phenomenal boom in economic activity and related industrial growth. At the beginning of the twentieth century Ohio’s major industries and businesses reflected most of the major industries developing throughout the country. The state’s location, natural resources, cheap energy, plentiful labor supply, and unrivalled transportation systems contributed to making Ohio a powerful and diverse economic and industrial center.

Ohio was the connector between industrial centers of the East and the expanding West. Principal east-west transportation corridors crossed the state. Orrville’s development as a railroad center reflected Ohio’s strategic role and location in the manufacturing and distribution of consumer products to nationwide markets. Orrville became the second largest city after the county seat of Wooster, in Wayne County, a rich agricultural county leading in dairy cattle/milk production, poultry, eggs, hay, and potatoes. Founded in 1852 by Judge Smith Orr, the railroad first came through what would become Orrville in 1851. The village grew with railroad prosperity, remaining on the Main Line (New York-Washington DC-Chicago) and the Norfolk & Western line (Toledo – Wheeling). Orrville incorporated in 1864 and reached city status with a population of 5,150 in 1950. Additionally, major truck routes run through Orrville – OH Route 57 through town along Main Street, connecting to US Route 30 and OH Route 585. Orrville was 50 miles

⁴ Gordon, pp. 70-71

⁵ Gordon, p. 74

⁶ Gordon, p. 62

⁷ Gordon, p. 73

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south of Cleveland, 25 miles southwest of Akron, 350 miles east of Chicago, 450 miles west of New York City. It proved to be a good location to establish a food-based business.

J. M. Smucker – founder of Smucker’s and his legacy

Jerome Monroe Smucker (1858-1948), called “J.M.”, was born in Green Township near Smithville, Ohio. He was the eldest of Gideon and Magdalena Smoker’s nine children (J.M. changed his name from Smoker to Smucker later in life). At the age of seventeen, when his mother passed away, J.M. became his father’s principal worker on their dairy farm and helped with the rearing of his younger siblings. As J.M. later wrote: “in...a measure [it] became my privilege to be a chum to no small degree to Father.” In addition to his work on the farm, J.M. helped establish Sunday school libraries across Ohio, Indiana, and Pennsylvania. At 23, he earned a teacher’s certificate from the Smithville Normal College and, for a while, taught penmanship. His travels for his church’s library work took him to Bristol, Indiana, where he met his wife, Ella Yoder.

While J.M.’s early career was in the creamery alongside his two brothers, he aspired to go into a business that had fewer adverse effects on his health, while also appealing to his natural business acumen. In 1896, his creamery business nearly failed. J.M. reportedly woke in the night “in a sort of nightmare of a dream, spoke out and said, ‘I made it once, I’ll make it again.’” J.M. did indeed continue his creamery business, but also took on a new venture. He relocated a small custom apple cider mill from Butterdom (near Smithville) to the outskirts of the growing railroad town of Orrville.

Orrville, Ohio, surrounded by rolling hills of farmland, owes its growth and prosperity to the railroad. When the railroad arrived in the early 1850s, the city became a major junction and switchyard on the Ohio and Pennsylvania Railroad. The small, rural village grew through agricultural and railroads into a city of diversified industries. The city became home to several notable and long-standing businesses such as the Schantz Organ Company (1873) (SG100006818) the oldest pipe organ builder in the U.S., Smith Dairy (1909), and The Will-Burt Company (1918), a custom machine shop. The J.M. Smucker Company would gain a neighbor with Quality Castings in 1933. With over 20 industries having operated in Orrville since 1970 or earlier, the city is one of diversified industry.

J.M.’s cider business was originally named The Orrville Cider Mill. The 1897 apple harvest was successful due, in part, to the number of nearby nurseries started in the mid-1800s by Johnny Appleseed, and there was a surplus of cider. J.M. repurchased the cider he’d pressed for the local farmers and, using a family recipe and his own ingenuity, boiled his own old-fashioned cider apple butter. Smucker realized the opportunity and profit to be made by taking the product of the orchard directly to the consumer, a higher profit could be gained by not selling apples, but apple butter and in 1897 saw the beginning of the Smucker Company manufacturing jams and jellies.

J.M. developed a process for cooking apple butter using wooden vats heated by steam-powered copper coils. The process reduced the time required for making apple butter, which was a multi-day, all-day process in J.M.’s time. To guarantee the quality of his product, as well as appeal to

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the Amish-Mennonite locals, J.M. signed each of his crocks of apple butter with his name, "Smucker's." The product was so successful, apple butter production increased. In 1907, J.M. was able to build his own house, about a block from his mill. J.M., his wife and their young family moved from another multi-family home in Orrville to their new house on the corner of Main Street and Snavelly (which was renamed Strawberry Lane in 1967). His workforce grew and, that same year, his apple butter output was 350 gallons of apple butter per day. By 1915, he had 20 employees and the capacity was 1,300 pounds of apple butter daily. Portions of the packing process were automated, and the Company turned a profit of nearly \$3,000. In today's dollars, that would equate to nearly \$1.3 million in revenue.

Part of J.M.'s success was the automation and production of a staple that previously took considerable time and effort to make. Add to that his exacting standards during a time when mass-produced foods were under much scrutiny after the publication of Sinclair's *The Jungle*.⁸ Although it was not known by its present name until 1930, the Food and Drug Administration's modern regulatory functions began with the passage of the 1906 Pure Food and Drugs Act, a law a quarter-century in the making that prohibited interstate commerce in poor quality and misbranded food and drugs.⁹ This legislation began the process of ridding the food supply chain of rotten meat, diluted milk, and intentional measurement errors. These regulations also helped to consolidate the manufacture of food products to the larger companies, as many of the smaller companies could not comply with the laws.¹⁰

The jam industry was the impetus behind the federal standards implemented by the FDA due to less scrupulous businesses putting high-pectin, low-fruit products on the market. J.M. hand-wrote his name on the label not just as a marketing tool; to put your family name on something was a promise, a guarantee of quality. Most jam and jelly operations were local businesses in the early 1900s, the name *Smucker's* would not be nationally recognized for years to come.

With an eye towards creating further efficiencies in production, a rail siding connecting the operations both physically and symbolically linked the Company to the nation. This key decision was made in 1928, and the siding still runs diagonally in front of the Smucker house.

In 1923, a wide assortment of fruit jellies, jams, and preserves was added to the Smucker's product line. J.M.'s son Willard, who had begun working for the Company at age six, began to take a larger role in the organization. The economic downturn of the 1930s proved J.M. had made a wise investment. In times of hardship, people turned to affordable and comfortable foods, like apple butter. In 1940, several fruit-based ice cream toppings and syrups were also manufactured. National distribution of fruit spreads began in 1942, thanks to the addition of the railway siding connecting the plant to the nation. The business would go on to become the leading manufacturer of jams, jellies, and preserves in the U.S.

⁸ Sinclair, Upton. (1906). *The Jungle*. London: Heinemann.

⁹ U.S. Food & Drug Administration. (2018, January 31). FDA History. <https://www.fda.gov/about-fda/histories-product-regulation/advisory-food-standards-under-1906-act-jelly-jarred>. Accessed May 2022.

¹⁰ Gordon, p. 83.

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Author William Donohue Ellis wrote: “The J.M. Smucker Company’s initial and present business secret for successful dealing with customers, suppliers, employees and stockholders”¹¹ was a Biblical quote favored by J.M.: Be not deceived; God is not mocked: For whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap (Galatians 6:7). The quote still hangs in the Smucker house today. Known as an honest, dedicated manufacturer, J.M. established the ethical bedrock upon which the Company operates. J.M. is recognized not just locally in Orrville, but also statewide and nationally, as his name now graces supermarket shelves across North America.

Ella Yoder Smucker and their four children – Willard, Wilma, Winna, and Welker – would all serve The J.M. Smucker Company in some capacity. Ella acted as Vice President on the Board of Directors when the Company incorporated in 1921. The four children would also join the Board, with Willard assuming role of Secretary and, later, President. The family was heavily involved in civic affairs, including the founding of Dunlap Hospital (now Aultman), Boys’ Village (now The Village Network), the Orrville Board of Education and other community improvements, such as the Orr Park and Crown Hill cemetery.

Finding a reliable successor in Willard, J.M. began to travel more often and widely. He took a series of round-the-world trips to Europe, Asia, and Africa. At the age of 75, J.M. traveled Europe during the time Hitler, Mussolini, and Stalin were in power and witnessed the rise of authoritarianism and extreme nationalism. Upon his return, J.M. wrote articles and spoke at the local schools, the Rotary Club and various gatherings about what he had seen on his travels.

His worldly view instilled in him the necessity to continue to improve his own hometown. Original Park Board Chairman Dr. Irvin said of J.M.: “One of our representative businessmen, who has traveled extensively, being ‘park-minded,’ kept an open mind as he went about the country and gathered many facts concerning places set apart for recreational purposes.” When the Orrville National Bank collapsed in 1933, J.M. helped organize a new one, provided funds, and served as a director. When the population of Orrville proved too small to support a YMCA, he instead devoted the funds he’d gathered towards community improvement. J.M. supported his employees and the community in other ways, from giving nickels to children who couldn’t afford to buy ice cream, to loaning money to support education and housing for his employees. According to his finances, many of these loans were forgiven. J.M. was involved in leadership of a three-state library operation, establishing libraries in Sunday schools. He was involved in the Mennonite Aid Plan, a mutual insurance plan organization of which he later became president. J.M. established the priority of corporate responsibility, and as a teacher himself had an eye towards self-improvement through continuing education. In an article for the Sugar Creek Budget in 1933, J.M. writes: “The largest asset we can possess is not what we do for ourselves but what we do for others--not for selfish motive but in the spirit of Christian fellowship. The situation is here when we must look to the interest of our boys and girls... The young generation will and must SPECIALIZE, SPECIALIZE, SPECIALIZE, to meet the exacting demands of the present future age.” An investment in the community and in education was an investment in the future.

² Ellis, W. D. (1987). *With a name like...* Orrville, Ohio: J.M. Smucker Co.

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While the house has not always remained in Smucker family custody, it was owned and maintained by two generations of Smuckers: J.M. himself from 1907 to his death in 1948, and then Winna Smucker Hostetler, J.M.'s youngest daughter and the executor of his estate, until 1962. The house was sold in 1962 to another Orrville resident, Michael Walker, who was also an employee of The J.M. Smucker Company. In 1980, Mr. Walker approached the then-CEO's sons, Tim and Richard Smucker, with the idea to sell the house back to the family. Upon the renovation and reopening of the home to the Company, Paul Smucker, CEO and J.M.'s grandchild, said: "We hope that the Jerome Smucker home will serve as a constant symbol to the values that helped our company grow and prosper." An illustration of J.M.'s home still graces the backs of many jars of *Smucker's*® fruit spreads (Fig 6).

Conclusion

The location is of significance, as the home was built for Jerome M. Smucker to literally keep an eye on his business. The original mill grew into the fruit spreads plant as the product line expanded to offer jams, jellies, preserves, and ice cream toppings. Portions of this plant, which date back to the late-1910s and early 1920s, are still visible from J.M.'s office window. Until the last year of his life, J.M. visited the plant nearly every day. On the rear of the property is a circular cement pad where J.M. would sit and be greeted by his employees as they walked to and from the factory. J.M. lived in the home until the end of his life, when he passed away in his home office at the age of 89. In *Preserving a Way of Life*, Wadsworth wrote about the house: This was where J.M.'s children,

Willard, Welker, Wilma, and Winna, had spent part of their youth; the house where Paul and his sister, Marcy, remembered Grandpa Smucker giving the Sunday dinner blessing in Pennsylvania German; the house J.M. returned to from his various trips abroad and where he would sit, in old age, on the porch to keep an eye on things at the plant next door. As much as any single building could embody the spiritual force behind the Company and its Basic Beliefs, this house was a symbol of the plain living and high thinking that characterized Smucker life. (JMSHouse 19)¹²

¹² Wadsworth, K. H., & Simpson, J. (2011). *Preserving a way of life*. San Francisco, CA: Chronicle Books LLC.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Ellis, W. D. (1987). *With a name like...* Orrville, Ohio: J.M. Smucker Co.

Gordon, Robert J. *The Rise and Fall of American Growth, The U.S. Standard of Living Since the Civil War*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2016.

U.S. Food & Drug Administration. (2018, January 31). *Advisory Food Standards under the 1906 Act: Jelly Jarred*. FDA History. <https://www.fda.gov/about-fda/histories-product-regulation/advisory-food-standards-under-1906-act-jelly-jarred>.

The J.M. Smucker Company. (1897-present). *Records of The J.M. Smucker Company*. The J.M. Smucker Company Collection. The J.M. Smucker Company Corporate Archives, Orrville, Ohio.

Wadsworth, K. H., & Simpson, J. (2011). *Preserving a way of life*. San Francisco, CA: Chronicle Books LLC.

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 # _____
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: The J.M. Smucker Company Corporate Archives

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): WAY-00326-10

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10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 0.197

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Latitude: 40.846109 | Longitude: -81.763896 |
| 2. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 3. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 4. Latitude: | Longitude: |

Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or NAD 1983

- | | | |
|-------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1. Zone: 17 | Easting: 435592 | Northing: 4521737 |
| 2. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 3. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 4. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The nominated property consists of lot identified by the Wayne County Auditor as No. 58-00677.000. It has a frontage of 60 feet. See map. Auditor website accessed November 24, 2021.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

It is the original parcel purchased by J.M. Smucker. The boundary represents the original 0.197-acre lot on which the J.M. Smucker House was erected in 1907. The property is now owned by The J.M. Smucker Company and is considered part of the corporate headquarters.

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11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Nicole D. Laflamme Ellis, Heritage & Creative Asset Manager
organization: The J.M. Smucker Company
street & number: 1 Strawberry Lane
city or town: Orrville state: Ohio zip code: 44276
e-mail: nicole.laflamme@jmsmucker.com
telephone: 330-234-6266
date: March 2022

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: The J.M. Smucker House

City or Vicinity: Orrville

County: Wayne

State: Ohio

Photographer: The J.M. Smucker Company

Date Photographed: 2022

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0001 of 0016. Facing south. The northwest corner of The Smucker House seen on the corner of Main Street and Strawberry Lane, corporate headquarters sign and railspur in the foreground.

0002 of 0016. Facing east. Front elevation of The Smucker House, showing porch and placement of windows.

0003 of 0016. Facing west. Rear of Smucker house, portions of pathway and park.

0004 of 0016. Facing south. North elevation of Smucker house, showing placement of windows, side gable, side porch and stairs, sandstone foundation.

0005 of 0016. Interior of Smucker House, taken from south side of entryway, facing the living room.

0006 of 0016. Interior of Smucker House, taken from west at the point of entry, facing the entry room.

0007 of 0016. Facing south. Tile and wood fireplace in entry room.

0008 of 0016. From below. Detail shot of brass pan chandelier.

0009 of 0016. Interior of Smucker home, facing east into the dining room from entry room, bay window to the right, stained glass window directly ahead.

0010 of 0016. Facing east. Detail of stained glass window.

0011 of 0016. Facing west. Interior photograph of built-in bookshelves in J.M.'s office, facing pocket doors and living room.

0012 of 0016. Facing down. Basement floor of The J.M. Smucker House, with Winna Smucker's inscription.

0013 of 0016. Facing east. Interior view of dogleg staircase.

0014 of 0016. Facing east. Interior view of one of the bedrooms on the second floor.

0015 of 0016. Facing north. Interior view of the kitchen.

0016 of 0016. Facing north. South elevation of the Smucker House showing bay window and exposed brick chimney.

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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.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

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National Park Service

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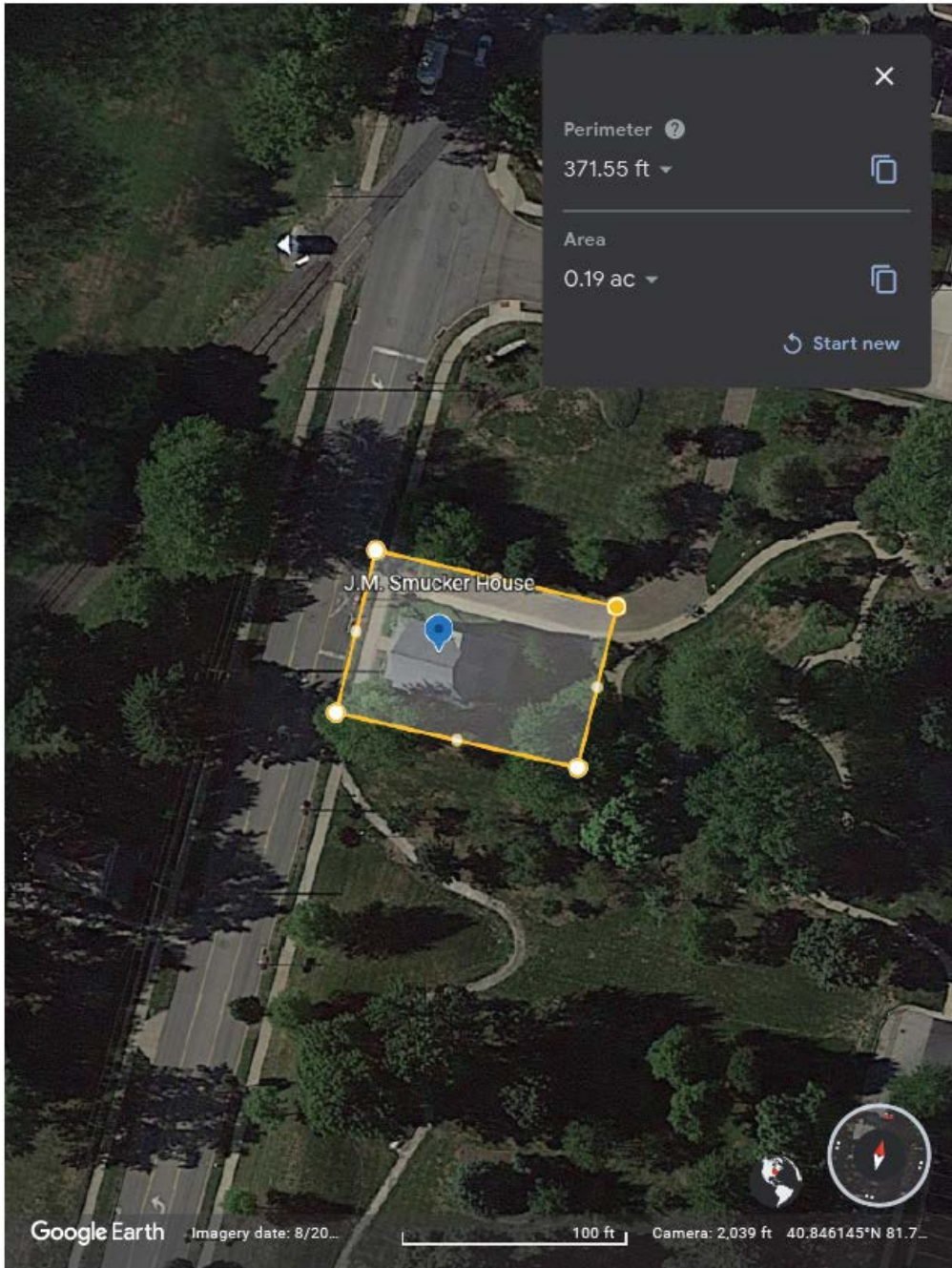
Page 1



Google Earth JMS
House Boundaries Ma

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Google Earth

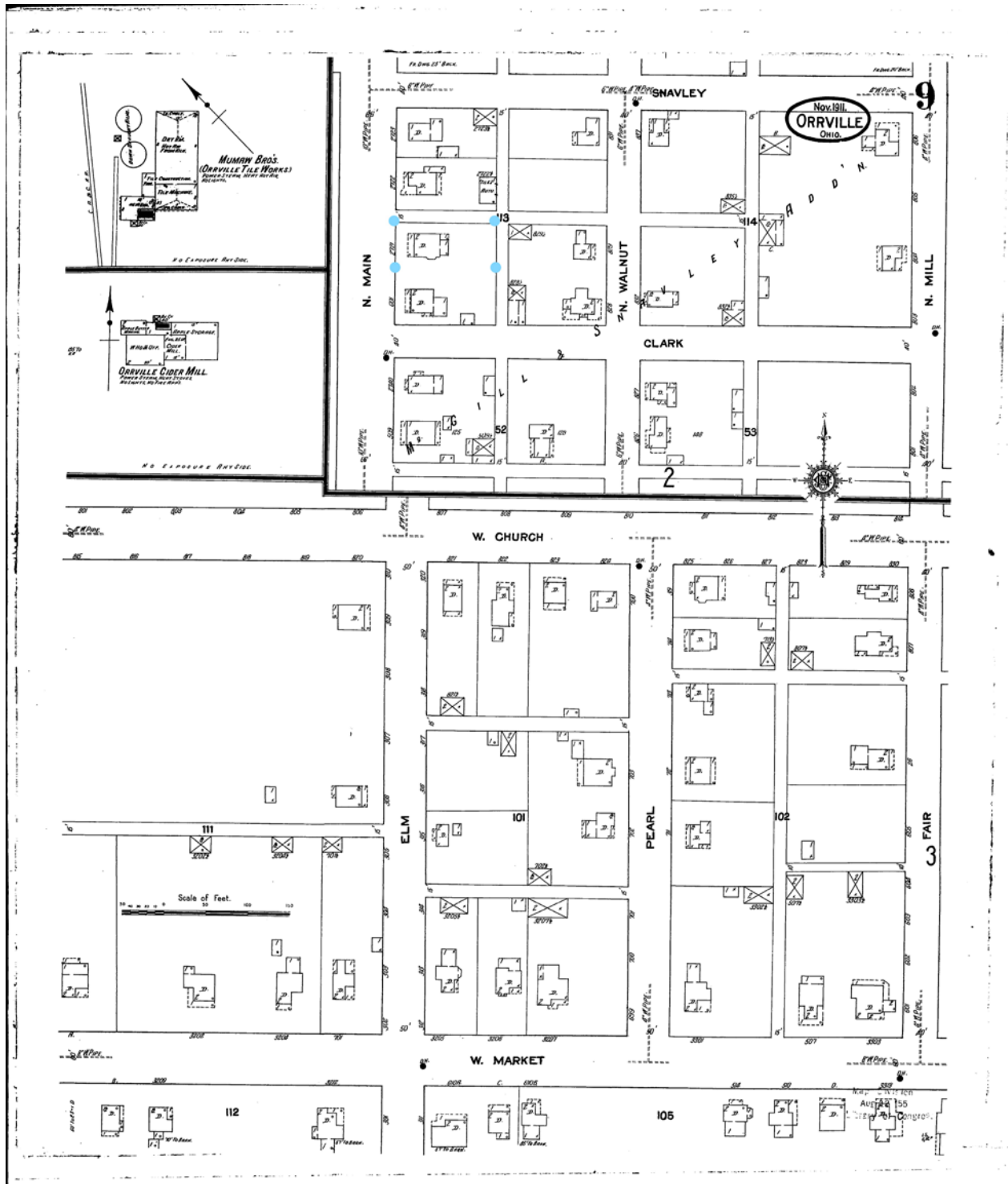


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1911 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map – Smucker house marked with blue.

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Fig 1



Fig 1.

Photographer: unknown

Date Photographed: 1920s

Fig 1: Facing east. J.M. and Ella Smucker seated on front steps, flanked by sandstone planters.

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Fig 2



Fig 2

Photographer: unknown

Date Photographed: late-1940s

Fig 2: Facing north. Willard, J.M. and Welker Smucker sitting on front porch of the J.M. Smucker home. Shows trellis and one of the support posts and railings.

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Fig 3



Fig 3

Photographer: The J.M. Smucker Company

Date Photographed: 1920

Fig 3: Facing north. Exterior view of the south side of the house with Smucker family. Shows bay window and exposed brick chimney.

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Fig 4



Fig 4

Photographer: The J.M. Smucker Company

Date Photographed: 1907

Fig 4: Facing east. Exterior view of the J.M. Smucker house as it stood in 1907. Members of the Smucker family are on the front porch.

Fig 5.1 Photo Views Sketch, First floor

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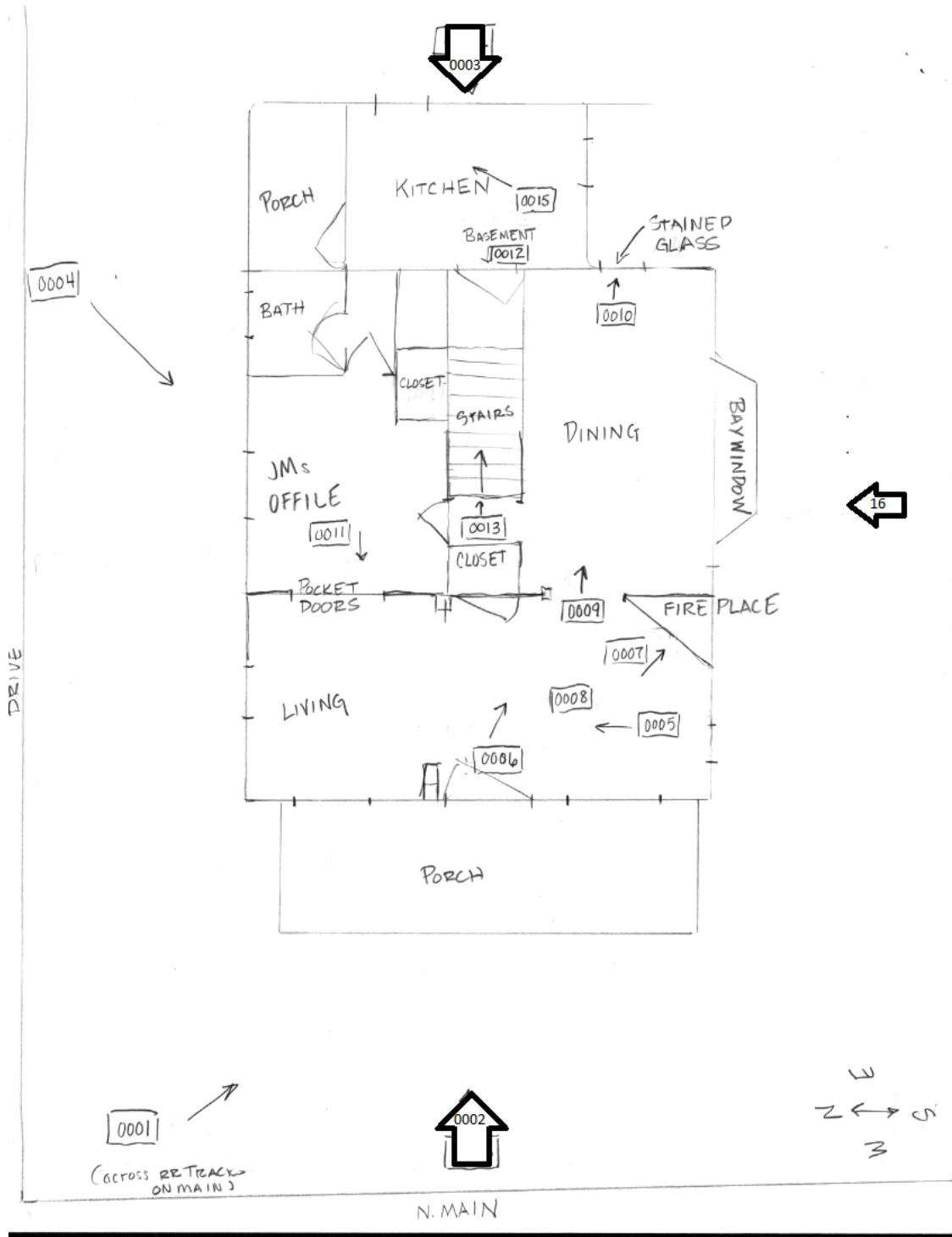


Fig 5.2 Photo Views Sketch, Second floor

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Fig. 6

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Fig 6: back of a Smucker's Strawberry jelly fruit spreads jar with image of JMS house watermarked (under Visit our Website), 2022.