

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

For NPS use only

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received **MAY 14 1986**

date entered **6-13-86**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*

Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Mitchell, Joseph, House

and/or common Mitchell-Christ House

2. Location

street & number 7008 Ketcham Road N/A not for publication

city, town Smithville vicinity of

state Indiana code 018 county Monroe code 105

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name William B. and Nelda M. Christ

street & number 7008 Ketcham Road

city, town Bloomington vicinity of state Indiana 47401

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Monroe County Recorder's Office

street & number Courthouse Square

city, town Bloomington state Indiana

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Indiana Historic Sites and Structures
Inventory #105-115-0144 has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1979 federal state county local

depository for survey records Indiana Department of Natural Resources

city, town Indianapolis state Indiana

7. Description

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

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Mitchell farm house is a one-story, L-shaped, simple Federal style house, with a rubble stone foundation; and a gabled roof with boxed cornice eaves and single plain returns on the south and east ends (photo 1). The house is built into the side of a hill, creating room for a cellar beneath the south end. The brick is laid in a common bond, with some glazed headers on the gabled ends. The house has flush end chimneys on the north, south and east gable ends, and one interior chimney in the east wing. The present roof is asphalt shingles, although manufactured wood shingles were found in the attic.

The four bay, west-facing main facade (photo 2) has three windows and an off-center, six-paneled door with a blind transom. Flanking the doorway are a nine-over-six sash window to the right and a one-over-one sash window to the left. Another door was installed about 1939 in the far left bay where a window had been; this opening was recently restored as a window, although the sash has not yet been installed. Replacement windows on the house will be modeled after the remaining original windows. The west facade also includes a rectangular, two-light cellar window. West facade door and window openings all have plain surrounds and flat, radiating brick heads, one-and-one-half blocks high.

The south gable end has no openings, except for a cellar door in the foundation with a flat, radiating voussoir arch. The wall surface of this end is decorated with glazed bricks in the header courses, beginning about one-third of the way up the wall. The gable trim has one return, on the left side. On the right side, the roof apparently continued down to form the roof of the porch; the porch has temporarily been removed, however.

The interior angle formed by the "L" was occupied by a full-length, L-shaped porch. The most recent porch was of concrete block and not original (photo 6); it was recently removed and will be replaced with a more appropriate structure of the same size. Facing east onto the porch are a window and door (photo 3). Both openings are now boarded to prevent weather damage during the restoration of the house. The window has a soldier arch, and the door a slightly radiating flat arch. Facing south onto the porch are two paneled doors, each with single lights and covered with screen doors. In the easternmost bay is a boarded window. The left-hand door has plain surrounds with a wood header. The other door has a brick soldier arch, and the window a header brick course at the top.

The east gable end (photo 4) has one small, boarded gable opening, and a single return on the right rake of the gable. The north elevation has four major openings. The easternmost bay is a six-over-six sash window, followed by a door with a multi-light storm door. Another six-over-six window follows, and finally another door, again with a multi-light storm door. The two windows and the westernmost door have simple header courses across the top; the other door has a flat brick arch, one-and-one-half bricks high. The north gable end is blank, except for a louvered opening near the top. There was a board and batten addition here, but it was removed in about 1979 because of deterioration. The siding has been saved to be reused when this addition is reconstructed.

The interior of the house consists of four basically unaltered rooms. Significant architectural details include four classically inspired mantels. The parlor is located in the southwest corner of the house and includes a fireplace with segmental arch opening framed by paneled pilasters and an entablature mantelpiece with plain frieze (photos 8, 9). Chimney cupboards with paneled doors flank the mantel and a poplar chair rail and baseboard complete the woodwork. Both the cupboards and windows have architrave trim.

The second room is referred to as a bedroom (photo 10). Here, the fireplace has a segmental arch opening which has been bricked in. The mantel has symmetrically molded trim with corner blocks, plain frieze and a simple mantel shelf. The chair rail has beaded

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input checked="" 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 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	c. 1835	Builder/Architect	Unknown
-----------------------	---------	--------------------------	---------

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Mitchell-Christ house is significant as a rare, local example of a small Federal style farmhouse, and according to the Monroe County Survey, probably the third oldest house in the county.

The house was built by Joseph Mitchell in 1835. Mitchell was a farmer and Justice of the Peace; while a resident of Kentucky he served in the War of 1812. On July 15, 1823, he was awarded a 160-acre land grant in Monroe County, Indiana, signed by President James Monroe. (The original parchment land grant is located in the Lilly Library at Indiana University.)

After moving to his land, Mitchell built a log cabin about one hundred yards southwest of the present house. The brick house was begun in 1835 and completed in 1837. Clay for the bricks was dug on the property and the bricks were fired in a kiln on the site. A porch and frame addition were added later.

Mitchell later moved his family to Iowa (c. 1852) and the property was sold to his younger brother, John Mitchell. The property remained in the Mitchell family until 1922 when it was purchased by Maude and Levi Hall. It then changed hands several times before being purchased by the Christ family in 1973.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Please see continuation sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property Approximately 5 acres

Quadrangle name Clear Creek

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	6
---	---

5	3	8	9	8	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

4	3	2	4	7	2	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

B

--	--

--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

C

--	--

--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

D

--	--

--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

E

--	--

--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

F

--	--

--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

G

--	--

--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

H

--	--

--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

Verbal boundary description and justification

Please see continuation sheet

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

state N/A code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Nelda M. Christ

organization Owner date October 29, 1985

street & number 7008 Ketcham Road telephone 812/824-4938

city or town Bloomington state Indiana 47401

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title Indiana State Historic Preservation Officer date 4-30-86

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Entered in 1986
National Register

date 6-13-86

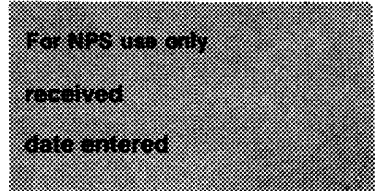
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: _____ date _____

Chief of Registration

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet John Mitchell House

Item number 7, 9, 10

Page 1

detail and the window trim and baseboard are unadorned, as is the clothes press located next to the fireplace. During the 1930s a doorway was cut through to the parlor. Restoration plans call for closing this doorway, which has caused some sagging.

The third room is called the "keeping room" (photo 11). Woodwork in this room is painted white. It includes a fireplace with rectangular opening and a mantel identical to the one in the parlor. The poplar wood door has a reeded detail while the chair rail and window trim have a beveled molding. The built-in cupboard next to the fireplace is also poplar and has large, six-paneled doors above and two-paneled doors below.

The fourth room is thought to be the original kitchen, as a large crane in the fireplace was recently unbricked (photo 12). The room opens to the north in the direction of the pump, garden and former outbuildings. As in the other rooms, the fireplace has a segmental arch opening and a somewhat ornate mantel, with dentiled detailing above the opening and in the mantel shelf. Window trim and chair rail are less ornate than in the other rooms.

The frame addition that was attached to the north elevation was entered from the outside. It had a narrow stairway on the east wall, which led to a sleeping loft. The loft had one three-over-three window.

The property no longer includes any outbuildings.

Item number 9

Doty, Mrs. Eva Emery (Mitchell descendant) The Mitchell House (1976) available from William B. Christ.

Bible record of John Mitchell.

The Mitchell Family, compiled by Homer Mitchell, Grace M. Mitchell, and Lura B. Emery.

Notebook of Lura Bell (Mitchell) Emery.

History of Lawrence & Monroe Counties, Inc. B. F. Bowen & Co., Inc., Indianapolis Indiana, 1914.

Blanchard, Counties of Morgan, Monroe & Brown, Indiana.

The Mitchell Farm, Revisited, videotape.

Item number 10

A part of the Northwest quarter of Section 5, Township 7 North, Range 1 West, Monroe County, Indiana, described as follows: Beginning at a point that is 1479.5 feet East of the Southwest corner of the said Northwest quarter, thence running West for 130.00 feet, thence North for 395.00 feet, thence West for 325.00 feet, thence North for 357.96 feet, thence East for 465.00 feet, thence South for 752.96 feet and to the point of beginning, containing in all 5.00 acres, more or less.