

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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



See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

**1. Name**

historic Overstreet House

and/or common

**2. Location**

*NE of Cowlington off U.S. 59*

street & number

\_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Cowlington

vicinity of

congressional district 003

state Oklahoma

code 40

county Le Flore

code 079

**3. Classification**

**Category**

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

**Ownership**

- \_\_\_ public
- private
- \_\_\_ both

**Public Acquisition**

- \_\_\_ in process
- \_\_\_ being considered

**Status**

- \_\_\_ occupied
- unoccupied
- \_\_\_ work in progress

**Accessible**

- \_\_\_ yes: restricted
- yes: unrestricted
- \_\_\_ no

**Present Use**

- \_\_\_ agriculture
- \_\_\_ commercial
- \_\_\_ educational
- \_\_\_ entertainment
- \_\_\_ government
- \_\_\_ industrial
- \_\_\_ military
- \_\_\_ museum
- \_\_\_ park
- \_\_\_ private residence
- \_\_\_ religious
- \_\_\_ scientific
- \_\_\_ transportation
- other: Unoccupied

**4. Owner of Property**

name Russell Overstreet

street & number 1618 N. Eye

city, town Ft. Smith

\_\_\_ vicinity of

state Arkansas

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Office of the County Clerk

street & number Le Flore County Court House

city, town Poteau

state Oklahoma

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Oklahoma Comprehensive Survey

has this property been determined eligible? \_\_\_ yes \_\_\_ no

date 1980

\_\_\_ federal  state \_\_\_ county \_\_\_ local

depository for survey records Preservation Office, Oklahoma Historical Society

city, town Oklahoma City

state Oklahoma

## 7. Description

**Condition**

excellent  
 good  
 fair

deteriorated  
 ruins  
 unexposed

**Check one**

unaltered  
 altered

**Check one**

original site  
 moved date \_\_\_\_\_

**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

The Overstreet home, constructed in 1891, is located at the foot of Short Mountain about a mile and a half south of the Arkansas River. The large 12-room square frame house is basically Italianate/Victorian in style. It has a hipped roof (with center captains walk) and gable additions. Wide eaves are ornamented with heavy brackets. Gable and porch ornamentations are Victorian in character, with fish scale shingles and turned spindle decorative elements. The house sits on a foundation of two foot high hand hewn stone from a nearby quarry.

Twelve foot ceilings, tall windows, door transoms, large halls, wide stairways, custom made stairrail and bannister, and fire place mantles characterize the interior. Most interior woodwork retains the original finishes and upstairs bedrooms contain original wallpapers. Most of the furnishings are original including carved bedsteads in the Belter style, an ornate pump organ, 1890s wicker baby buggy, and trundle bed.

There is no record of the house's builder. It was constructed of well-seasoned heart-pine shipped up the Arkansas river and milled on the site. The grounds also include a small one-room frame home built around the original log cabin, a lattice well house, a rock storage house and a smoke house with the original salting table.

The picket fence which surrounds the complex retains the original palings. Landscaping includes many original plantings.

Like much provincial adaptive building the Overstreet house obtains its character by borrowing elements of various styles. Prominent cornice brackets and square plan are Italianate while large porches with turned posts, bay windows and fish scaling in end gables are carpenter Gothic and picket fencing is Victorian romantic. The dissimilar elements treated by the builder with sensitivity to proportion and visual grace create an imposing structure in a wooded rural setting.

# 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" 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** 1891 **Builder/Architect**

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

The Overstreet home and grounds are significant because of their association with a family instrumental in the development of agriculture and cattle ranching in southeast Oklahoma. The house is also important to the area because of its architectural character and outstanding integrity.

T.G. Overstreet came to the Short Mountain area in Indian Territory in the early 1870s from Springfield, Missouri. He built a log cabin and began to clear the Arkansas River bottom land allotted to him as a Choctaw by intermarriage. He grew cotton, corn, and potatoes. Later he introduced alfalfa to the area as feed for cattle and as a soil builder. Present day crops also include soybeans and wheat.

T.G. remained at Short Mountain and turned pioneering efforts into a vast farming and ranching enterprise that included over 3000 acres--mostly under cultivation, 3,000 head of cattle and hundreds of horses and pigs. T.G. was a stockholder in the First National Bank of Fort Smith, Arkansas and operated a bank in Warner, Oklahoma. T.G. died in 1934 at the age of 93 and is buried in the family cemetery near the 12 room Italianate/Victorian frame house he built.

The house is a fine example of comfortable and fitting designs adapted for a time, an area, and a family involved in the emerging events of a territory in the process of becoming a state. Central focus for an extensive family enterprise, the house is still family owned and used, and retains most of its original attributes.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Peck, Henry L. The Proud Heritage of Le Flore County: A History of an Oklahoma County, Van Buren, Arkansas: The Press Argus, 1963.

**ITEM NOT VERIFIED  
ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED**

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property Five acres

Quadrangle name Robert S. Kerr Dam, OK

Quadrangle scale 7.5'

UMT References

A 

1	1	5	3	3	9	7	2	5	3	9	0	9	5	8	0
Zone			Easting					Northing							

B 

Zone			Easting					Northing						

C 

1	1	5	3	3	9	5	6	0	3	9	0	9	4	4	0
Zone			Easting					Northing							

D 

Zone			Easting					Northing						

E 

Zone			Easting					Northing						

F 

Zone			Easting					Northing						

G 

Zone			Easting					Northing						

H 

Zone			Easting					Northing						

Verbal boundary description and justification

T10N-R24E Section 28 N 1/2, NW 1/4, NE 1/4, NE 1/4, NE 1/4. This exactly defines the five acres encompassing the house, outbuildings, and most of the surrounding lawn.

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

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Diane Everman and Mary Ann Anders Directed by Dr. Annetta L. Cheek

organization Oklahoma Historic Preservation Survey date February, 1980

street & number Oklahoma State University telephone (405) 624-5678

city or town Stillwater state OK

# 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature [Signature]

title \_\_\_\_\_ date 9/30/80

For HCPS use only

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

[Signature] date 1/25/80

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

Chief of Registration