

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

received **AUG 5 1986**  
date entered

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

**1. Name**

historic MURPHY HOUSE

and/or common Same

**2. Location**

street & number 419 S. Monroe

NA not for publication

city, town Stillwater

N/A vicinity of

state Oklahoma

code 40

county Payne

code 119

**3. Classification**

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

street & number 419 S. Monroe

city, town Stillwater

N/A vicinity of

state Oklahoma

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Payne County Courthouse

street & number 606 Husband

city, town Stillwater

state Oklahoma

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Oklahoma Comprehensive Survey has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1985  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Oklahoma Historical Society

city, town Oklahoma City

state Oklahoma

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## 7. Description

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

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

The house, garage and cottage are located on a 75' X 140' corner lot in a residential area which is surrounded by commercial and State University related buildings. The native sandstone structure is a large eclectic two-story cottage with basement.

The primary entrance is centered on the west facade. The door is wood with one small opening centered at the top which has four lights. North of the entry the facade runs to the west a few feet to provide a protected entry from the northern exposure. This facade is accented with a large gable which contains three window openings. The center opening has a sash type four over four window which is topped with a fixed six light window. The tall narrow opening provides light to the interior stairway. The fixed portion of the elongated opening is flanked on either side by a small four light window.

The north end of the first floor of the west facade has a covered porch which is accessible from the interior through french doors and the north and east portions of the yard. The second floor area over the porch is enclosed, with a window centered in the large gable on the north.

There are two chimneys, one is an exterior end-wall on the north which serves both the living room and basement fireplaces and the other is an interior which provided for the exhaust from the original heating system.

The windows are asymmetrical with the first and second story windows being primarily four over four sash type, appearing in pairs or single as needed. The basement windows are casement type.

The southeast corner of the house is only one story and contains the kitchen. This area has been altered, probably in the early 1960's to contain a water problem. Originally there was a wood railing which protected a second story porch. The area has been modified with the addition of siding on the south and east walls on the second story facades and a slightly sloping roof has been added above the original floor of the porch. The kitchen entry on the south has been modified with the addition of wrought iron railings along the north and west sides of the stoop. Since the alteration was not on the primary facade, the overall integrity of the structure has not been affected, however this has become a mute point since the current owner is restoring the railing and removing the siding.

See continuation sheet #1.

## 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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates** 1935 **Builder/Architect** Barnard G. Browne, builder

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

The Murphy house is architecturally significant because of its eclectic Cottage styling.

The Period styling of the Thirties in American housing was virtually ignored in this small University town, which makes this house a unique resource. The eclectic house contains many Cottage elements including: the steep roof slopes, modified gable window, use of natural materials, porch and earth tone paint to harmonize with the landscape. The attached wall for garden enclosure was one of the Period modifications which adds to the uniqueness of the architecture of the home. The resource is located in a residential area of farm and bungaloid frame structures and has been touted as one of three architecturally significant homes in Stillwater by area architects. The design was highly unusual for the prairie landscape of the thirties, but after fifty years of vegetation growth the structure fulfills the 'rule of thumb' for Cottage design - to be picturesque.

The native sandstone structure is a large two-story house with a full basement and is topped with a steep gable roof. Both sash and casement type windows have been used and are asymmetrical. There are two chimneys, an exterior end and an interior. A covered porch is located at the northeast corner of the house. A modified gable window dominates the primary facade on the west. The gable contains a tall narrow window opening and two balancing side windows. The garage and cottage are constructed of the same materials.

The structure is one-of-a-kind in the area. A windshield survey of a fifty block area, which did not include University related properties, yielded only seven residential masonry structures. Of these, only the Murphy House was constructed of sandstone. Sandstone was used in area primarily for porch railings and columns in bungalow style houses.

The original owner and resident for over thirty years until his death was Dr. H.F. "Pat" Murphy. He was a significant member of the Oklahoma State University faculty, where he served as head of the Agronomy Department. He was active in the establishment of the Ethiopian A&M College by leading the Soil Science department. He was awarded one of three medals by Emperor Haile Selassie for outstanding work performed. A valley in Ethiopia was named for Dr. Murphy for his efforts to teach six Ethiopian youngsters to read and write English. The class grew to over 600 students.

Until the death of Dr. Murphy's wife recently, half of the basement housed many Ethiopian treasures and was known locally as the Ethiopian Museum.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Abstract for 419 S. Monroe  
"Murphy House", Donnelley  
Original Plans and Specifications  
American Shelter, Walker, Lester, The Overlook Press, Woodstock, N.Y., 1981.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property Less than one acre

Quadrangle name Stillwater South

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A	<u>1</u> <u>4</u>	<u>6</u> <u>7</u> <u>3</u> <u>6</u> <u>1</u> <u>0</u> <u>0</u>	<u>3</u> <u>1</u> <u>9</u> <u>9</u> <u>1</u> <u>8</u> <u>4</u> <u>2</u> <u>0</u>	B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

The south 75' of Lot 3 in Block 10 in West College Addition to the City of Stillwater, Less 10' off the east side, being a tract 75' N and S and 140' East and West.

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 Sandra S. Stratton, Consultant

organization

date June, 1986

street & number 3909 E. Northwood

telephone 405 348 3884

city or town Edmond

state Oklahoma

## 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

*C. M. Peters*

7-28-86

title

date

For NPS use only

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

*William B. Bushong*

date

9/18/86

Keeper of the National Register

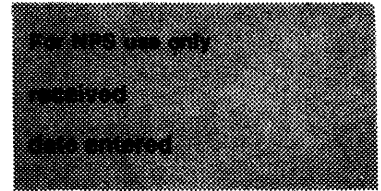
Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
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Continuation sheet Murphy House

Item number Seven

Page One

Description of Physical Appearance:

The garage and cottage were constructed at the same time as the main house and are the same materials and makes use of the same stylistic elements as the house.

The garage, which is located to the east of the main house was constructed for the parking of two automobiles and has individual wooden doors. The second floor contains a small efficiency apartment, original to the building. The gable has six over six over six windows. The garage is in good condition and retains historic integrity.

The cottage is located east of the garage and is of a basic straight line design, having two entries on the south elevation, an addition constructed after the historic period is present on east elevation as well a lean-to carport on the west elevation are attached to the cottage. The cottage is in good condition and retains its overall historic integrity.

Contributing properties:

Number of properties:

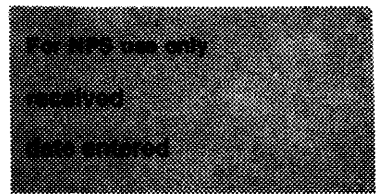
Three

Resource type:

Buildings

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
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Continuation sheet **Murphy House**

Item number **Eight**

Page **One**

Statement of Significance:

The Murphy House was certified as potentially eligible for individual listing in the National Register of Historic Places 2 OCT 85 by the Rocky Mountain Regional Office of the National Park Service.

An certified rehabilitation of the main house for use as commercial office space is at this nearing completion. This rehabilitation has returned the building to an state of good repair and of the historic, original appearance.