

PHO 663 875

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
FEB 27 1978	
RECEIVED	
DATE ENTERED	SEP 1 1978

**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 **
Harris House
AND/OR COMMON
"Pleasant Hill"

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 6 m. south of		_NOT FOR PUBLICATION	
CITY, TOWN Haworth		CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT No. 3	
STATE Oklahoma	VICINITY OF CODE 40	COUNTY McCurtain	CODE 089

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 type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Mrs. Ruby Harris ✓

STREET & NUMBER
Route 1 - Box 315

CITY, TOWN
Haworth

VICINITY OF
Oklahoma 74740

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Office of the County Clerk

STREET & NUMBER
McCurtain County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN
Idabel

STATE
Oklahoma

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
Geary Based Historical Survey

DATE
1977 _FEDERAL _STATE COUNTY _LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS McCurtain County Historical Society

CITY, TOWN
Idabel

STATE
Oklahoma

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED (basically)	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Harris House is quite traditional for its locale and period, though somewhat larger than most. It was built of sawed pine lumber throughout - in 1867, as the Choctaw Nation was beginning to pull itself back together following the tragically destructive Civil War years. A sizeable extension was added to the back of the house in 1877.

Basically, the original Harris House was a classic one-story box with steeply pitched, shingled roof. An extension of the roof on the north covered the full-width, pillared front porch. At the right rear was a chimneyed gable. There was also a chimney at each side gable. Bricks for all three were hand-made on the site. Only the chimney on the west is original. Deterioration of the older bricks has caused the other two to be replaced. Inside arrangement of the original box was equally familiar to the region - two roughly 16 x 16-foot rooms on either side of a 10 x 32-foot central gallery. Ceilings were 12 feet high throughout.

In 1877 a roughly 24 x 28-foot extension added three rooms to the left rear of the house. Sometime later a 20 x 24-foot screened porch was added to the east of this new wing. It enclosed the well, which is the house's water supply. Today, of course, the house is completely modern. The kitchen was remodeled in 1949. Windows, however, retain their original glass. The front shutters are also original.

Among the many original furnishings in the house is a bed the family brought with it from Mississippi in 1836. The house also contains many Harris family artifacts ... photographs, Bibles, utensils, and weapons, including a sword that belonged to John Pitchlynn, Judge Harris' grandfather, who was commissioned a major during the Revolutionary War by George Washington. In the house, too, is a voluminous collection of letters and documents relating to Harris' business, judicial, and political career.

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 type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" 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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1867 to 1899

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Henry C. Harris

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Henry Churchill Harris was born at Harris Mill, Choctaw Nation, in 1837 - the year following arrival of his parents from Mississippi. Here in the extreme south-eastern corner of the Nation (and present Oklahoma) his family built up a large plantation and prospered. Here the young Henry grew up. And here, but for intervals of public service in Washington, "Judge" Harris lived and labored in a variety of positions until his death in December 1899.

Involvement in public affairs in the Nation was only natural for young Harris, himself a quarter-blood Choctaw. His parents were William Riley Harris and Eliza Ann Pitchlynn Harris. He was the grandson of John and Sophia Pitchlynn. His uncles included Peter P. Pitchlynn, Samuel Garland, and Dr. Calvin Howell. All were well known Choctaw leaders.

The Harris Plantation was adjacent to the Old Military Road from Little Rock and it soon became an important trade center. Henry entered public service in 1859 - as postmaster of the newly established Harris Mill office. When the Civil War began he served briefly with the Sevier County Volunteers, followed by a year with a Choctaw Regiment based at Fort Washita.

In 1863 Harris married Margaret Lee. He established a home and was soon operating several plantations along Red River. When flooding forced him to move his family to higher ground, he selected the site being nominated. And here in 1867 he built a new home, the present Harris House. It and the plantation he called "Pleasant Hill," the name still carried by the tiny community a half-mile to the east. The road past the house (see map) was then known as Harris Ferry Road, for the ferry on Red River he had established that same year. At the ferry he also operated a trading post.

From the time he was postmaster Harris' adult life was one of almost continuous public service to the Nation. At various times he served as Senator, Representative, Tax Collector, National School Trustee, and in other posts. It was his long service as Supreme Judge of the Second Judicial District that made him Judge Harris, the name by which he was generally known. Perhaps his most significant post, however, was that of diplomat. He represented the Choctaw Nation as one of a three-man commission to the Federal Government in Washington, D. C. This assignment lasted twelve years and was concerned with negotiations involving the Leased District of the Choctaw Nation.

While fulfilling his public service obligations, Judge Harris looked after his plantation, operated sawmills at several locations, carried on a thriving business in timber products. He also used his vast influence with the Choctaws to help bring

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Miscellaneous materials collected by the McCurtain County Historical Society, supplemented by family documents and artifacts preserved in the family home.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY c. 1 acre
 UTM REFERENCES

A	_____	_____	_____	B	_____	_____	_____
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	_____	_____	_____	D	_____	_____	_____
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Note: UTM tics not available. Lat.: 33° 46' 06"
 Long.: 94° 40' 9.9"

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	
<u>Kent Ruth, Deputy</u>	
ORGANIZATION	DATE
<u>Oklahoma Historical Society</u>	<u>November 1977</u>
STREET & NUMBER	TELEPHONE
<u>Historical Building</u>	<u>405/884-5456</u>
CITY OR TOWN	STATE
<u>Oklahoma City</u>	<u>Oklahoma</u>

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 Harry L. Doughree III DATE 7-18-78

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST: Charles Henry DATE 9-1-78

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER DATE 8-30-78

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 1

Harris House

railroads to the Nation. So the Harris House at Pleasant Hill became a center for commercial and political activities, not only for the Harris family, but for the Choctaw Nation as well. Here, in 1878, Harris established a neighborhood school. And over the years he helped sustain a Methodist church, founded in 1844 and still in existence.

After Judge Harris' death in 1899, his son Bert moved into the house. Bert's youngest son Charley took possession in 1949 and, with the help of his wife Ruby, began restoration work. Mrs. Harris continues to live in the house.

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
COUNTY	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	1978

(Number all entries)

Harris House

Supplemental Statement of Significance - No. 8

Throughout his adult life Judge Henry Harris was deeply involved in virtually every aspect of life in the Choctaw Nation - as an operator of plantations, sawmills, a trading post and a ferry, as village postmaster, as local church and school booster, as Representative, Senator, tax collector, school trustee, judge, and diplomat on the national level. This period of service runs from 1859 to 1899 - from the halcyon days of the Nation, through the tragic Civil War years and era of painfully slow rebuilding, to the last decade of the Nation before it was absorbed into the new State of Oklahoma. For more than half his life, Judge Harris lived at "Pleasant Hill." And it is because of the significant role he played in the settlement, growth, and management, not only of the area he lived in but of the Choctaw Nation as well, that the house is being nominated.

