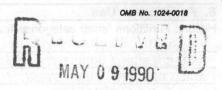
National Register of Historic Places Registration Form



NATIONAL REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines* for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

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	ell House		
other names/site number			
2. Location		to the state of th	vito anetzio, una suesa in europi
street & number State Highway	80		not for publication N/A
city, town Waltreak			vicinity N/A
state Arkansas code	AR county Y	ell code 1	49 zip code 72833
3. Classification			
Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Res	sources within Property
X private	X building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
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public-Federal	structure	5	structures
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	object	Manage and Association and Ass	objects
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4. State/Federal Agency Certifica	tion		
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National Register of Historic Places			
In my opinion, the property X mee	ts,does not meet the N	lational Register criteria. 📖 Se	e continuation sheet.
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Arkansas Historic	Preservation Progr	ram ·	
State or Federal agency and bureau	9		
In my opinion, the property mee	ts L does not meet the N	lational Register criteria. L Se	e continuation sheet.
Signature of commenting or other official	I		Date
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5. National Park Service Certifica	ation	Entered	in the
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See continuation sheet.	pllous	1 Jejen	6/1/10
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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number ____7 Page ____1

Summary

The Mitchell House is a single story, wood frame dogtrot with simplified Greek Revival and vernacular details. The single pile, central hall floor plan is augmented with a gable roof kitchen ell at the western end of the northern elevation and an 'L'-shaped porch (now enclosed) which runs along the eastern side of the ell and the northern side of the main house. Several outbuildings and original landscape features are included in the nomination.

Elaboration

The Mitchell House is a single story, wood frame dogtrot with simplified Greek Revival and vernacular details. The single pile, central hall floor plan is augmented with a gable roof kitchen ell at the western end of the northern elevation and an 'L'-shaped porch (now enclosed) which runs along the eastern side of the ell and the northern side of the main house. A single stone chimney rises through the center of the western gable end. The gable roofs are covered with asphalt shingles, the walls are sheathed with weatherboard (except for the wall beneath the porch, which is sheathed in flush plank) and the foundation is composed of stone piers.

The southern or front elevation is five bays in length and fenestrated by four wood sash windows with simple, decorative pyramidal wood crowns that flank the central hall. The entrance to the central hall has been filled with a pair of thin sidelights flanking a double-leaf entry. A flat roof porch, supported upon a wood platform, projects from the center of the wall and features a unique vernacular architectural vocabulary. Friezeboards and supports of various dimensions combine with unusual jig-sawn 'S'-shaped flat decorative brackets to create a lively and ambitious composition which dominates the elevation.

The western elevation consists of the gable end of the house to the south and the side wall of the rear kitchen ell to the north. The gable end is divided by the massive stone chimney and is fenestrated with two flanking double-hung wood sash windows with decorative crowns identical to those on the front. The elevation is completed by the side wall of the gable roof kitchen ell, which is relieved only by two single, symmetrically-placed wood sash windows. The eastern elevation is lighted with a single central, four-pane fixed wood window in the enclosed shed roof porch to the north and two symmetrically-placed wood sash windows in the gable end to the south. The enclosed porch runs along this side of the rear kitchen ell also.

The northern elevation is lighted only by a single four-over-four wood sash window in the center of the gable end of the rear kitchen ell; otherwise it is blank.

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The interior is largely intact and features the original tall baseboards in the front of the house and the unusual, geometrically-detailed fireplace mantel. Of special note is the cabinet work in the kitchen, which was executed in the mid-1930's as a demonstration to the local community of the skill of W.P.A. craftsmen.

The alterations to the house are relatively minor. They include the enclosing of the rear 'L'-shaped porch to shelter indoor plumbing and additional sleeping quarters, the refinishing of the plaster walls of the parlor to the west of the central hall and the filling of the originally open central hall with the pair of doors which survives today.

The nomination includes four associated outbuildings: a smokehouse, a combination chicken house and privy, all of which are original, plus another later chicken house and the later well house which covers the original well. Associated historic landscape features include the original picket fence, the original well, a variety of later but historic wire livestock fences and a fieldstone walk between the rear of the house and the outbuildings.

8. Statement of Significance					tenges assume	of the Health	海岸的1016月9日
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9. Major Bibliographical References	Statement of Stagistration of
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Previous documentation on file (NPS):	X See continuation sheet
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	Primary location of additional data; State historic preservation office Other State agency Federal agency Local government University
Survey # recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #	Other Specify repository:
10. Geographical Data	
Acreage of property Less than one	
UTM References A 1 5 4 4 3 7 7 0 3 8 7 1 2 8 0 Zone Easting Northing C	B Zone Easting Northing D See continuation sheet
Verbal Boundary Description	
	X See continuation sheet
Boundary Justification	
This boundary includes all the property hi which retains its integrity.	storically associated with this resource
	See continuation sheet
11. Form Prepared By	
name/title Kenneth Story, Architectural Histori	
organization Arkansas Historic Preservation Prog street & number 225 East Markham, Suite 300	
	telephone(501) 371-2763stateArkansaszip code72201
city or townLittle Rock	State Zip Code/2201

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Summary

Criterion C, local significance

The Mitchell House, constructed c. 1891 as a single story, wood frame dogtrot, survives in its original location as the finest and most stylistically unusual extant example in the area of this vernacular house type. Though once common in this rural section of Yell County, few other nineteenth century buildings of any kind remain in the vicinity of Waltreak. As such it is being nominated under Criterion C with local significance.

Elaboration

It was the abundance of fertile farming lands that originally encouraged Samuel and Harriet Cavinder Mitchell to emigrate from Hamilton County, Tennessee to Yell County, Arkansas in 1854. They settled on 120 acres along Dutch Creek and built a single pen log house for their family. Samuel Mitchell made improvements on his land and later purchased more property in the same neighborhood, where he continued to farm until his death in 1865 (his wife Harriet survived him by only two years). The Mitchells' sons also purchased land along Dutch Creek as they grew to maturity, leading to the name of Mitchell Branch for one of the tributaries of Dutch Creek that winds through lands still owned and farmed by Mitchell descendants.

The neighborhood that grew up along Dutch Creek Road (currently State Highway 80) at the site of the Mitchell families' homes was originally called Walnut Tree; over the years the name has been altered to Waltreak. In addition to their farming operations, the Mitchells operated a blacksmith shop, grist and saw mills, a wood working shop and mercantile stores. The family members have also served Waltreak, Dutch Creek Township, Yell County, and the State of Arkansas in an array of leadership positions that included justices of the peace, church deacons, members of the Masonic Lodge, county and state commissioners, political party officials, and a state legislator.

In 1888, Columbus "Tobe" Mitchell and his second wife, Ellen, were living in a single pen log cabin on the north side of Dutch Creek Road (this log cabin has since been moved by Boss Mitchell to his present home site in Danville). "Tobe" Mitchell had thirteen children by two wives, but only two children survived, Govenor and Arthur. That year, "Tobe" Mitchell contracted with an itinerant craftsman to have a house built for his family across Dutch Creek Road about 200 yards from his log cabin. The craftsman, whose name was not recorded, agreed to build the Mitchell's house for wages of one dollar a day plus room and board. Understandably, the craftsman was in no hurry and it took him three years to complete the house. And he must have liked the Dutch Creek area of Yell County as he built several other houses in the area with one at Blue Ball that was of the same design as the Mitchell house. It is not extant.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Family legends and records indicate that the unknown craftsman cut all the lumber used in building the house from the Mitchells' property. He used "Tobe" Mitchell's team of mules to skid the cut trees to the building site where he had set up his own saw mill. He then air dried all the cut lumber, which consumed quite a few of his work days. Using his own tools, the craftsman hand dressed all the materials used in constructing the house. The house he designed and crafted was a single story wood frame dog-trot.

The walls were solid wood and the floors were all 1" x 6" hand planed pine boards. The stone used for the firebox and chimney serving the parlor of the house was from Dutch Creek. The original wood shingles were hand split by the craftsman. He also built a well cover for the well at the east side of the front entrance, the smokehouse directly behind the house, a chicken house, a two-hole privy, and the picket fence that enclosed the house and yard. The house was painted blue.

After three years of work, the "Tobe" Mitchell family was able to move into their new residence and the craftsman moved on to another building site in the area. The Mitchells' two sons, Govenor and Arthur moved into the house with them. Arthur was only two months old and Govenor was two years old. Upon the deaths of "Tobe" Mitchell and his wife Ellen, Arthur Mitchell inherited the house and he lived there with his wife, Agnes. Arthur operated a mercantile store across the road from the house in addition to his duties as a rural mail carrier using a horse and buggy, a deputy sheriff, the president of the Waltreak School Board, and a county road commissioner. Six sons were born to Arthur and Agnes in this house and a cousin of the Mitchell's named all the boys. The first son was Boss Carrol Mitchell, born in 1915. The cousin doing the naming chose the name of a family friend when she chose "Boss," but there may have been some prophecy involved as Boss Mitchell, current owner of the Mitchell house, has been elected to many positions of leadership in his community, county, and state. After marrying his wife Katharyn in 1939 and moving to Danville, he was elected to the State Legislature and served four years in the House of Representatives and another four years in the Senate. He also served on the State Legislature Council, was assistant welfare commissioner, and was Chairman of the Board for the first vocational school in Pine Bluff.

Having grown up in the Mitchell house, Boss Mitchell recalls the changes seen today in the house and the surrounding settlement. In 1934 the original porch was removed and a porch the full length of the front elevation was added. In 1986 Boss Mitchell, being a talented craftsman himself, removed the later full-length porch and, using an historic photograph (c. 1897), faithfully restored the unique original porch. In 1936 Boss' brother, Drexel, who taught courses in woodworking, and another carpenter, Lester Thacker, built the cabinets in the kitchen as a W. P. A. project showing local residents how to do their own home improvements. The dogtrot of the house was enclosed in 1939 with extremely narrow side lights and double doors which, when opened, virtually return the dog trot to its original

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appearance. In 1940 the pine floors were all replaced but pine was again used. The replacement boards are narrower in width than the original 1" x 6" boards. The back porch was enclosed in 1946 and a bathroom was added at the north end of the "L"-shaped rear porch. The wood walls were sheet rocked in 1956 in order to add wall paper to the interior rooms. The picket fence surrounding the house was replaced in the 1950's with a wire fence and metal fence posts. In 1985 Boss Mitchell restored the white picket fence, again using the late 1890's photograph for duplicating the original design of the fence. When Dutch Creek Road was paved as the current State Highway 80, the yard fence had to be moved approximately twenty feet closer to the house. Katharyn Mitchell recalls her mother-in-law's front yard was always completely covered with flowers of all kinds which added color and beauty to the overall impression of the home site.

In addition to the well house (which was enclosed in the 1940's), smokehouse, chicken house, and privy, the home site presently includes a second chicken house that was built after the turn of the century. Boss Mitchell recalls that at least three barns stood across Dutch Creek Road surrounding the log cabin where "Tobe" Mitchell lived prior to building the 1891 frame dogtrot. These barns were all transverse cribs with lofts. Only one of the early barns remains. Senator Mitchell also remembers his father's mercantile store across the road from the house. He handled food stuffs, livestock feed, farm tools, and harnesses, and in later years he sold gasoline. It was in continuous operation from 1912 until the 1940's. The Mitchell family also had a grist mill, a saw mill, and a community dipping vat for livestock. The Mitchells did not charge for the use of the vat and the man in charge of the dipping asked only a small fee for his services. The family also served their community by providing threshing machines, in addition to their own threshing equipment, that could be used by people in the Dutch Creek area.

A Mitchell family cemetery is located on the north bank of Dutch Creek on land owned by Boss Mitchell and his wife Katharyn. When the Dutch Creek Bridge washed away in a flood in the 1970's, the access to the cemetery was lost and now Mitchell family members who are buried in the cemetery must be transported there by boat or tractor and wagon. Arthur Mitchell, father of Boss Mitchell, was a commissioner for the Dutch Creek Bridge.

The wood frame, dogtrot Mitchell House survives as the best and virtually last example in the Waltreak area of a vernacular house type which was had been common in the vicinity during the nineteenth century. Yet this particular design derives even greater significance from the unusual, vernacular decoration of the front porch, decoration which certainly distinguished this structure even during its period of construction. The flat, curvilinear, 'S'-shaped decorative brackets which span the area between the porch's upper cornice and the jig-sawn friezeboard below reveal the imagination of the craftsman who designed this house and are rather typical of the tendency among local Arkansas carpenters of this period to concentrate the ornamentation on the front porch, where it would be most visible to visitors and passing

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travelers. Thus the Mitchell House has always been a unique rendition of this common house type and it remains so to this day.

The Mitchell House and its site are also being nominated under Criterion D for their potential to reveal further information about what was a small, subsistence farmstead which also happened to be located along a major roadway between the state capital of Little Rock and Fort Smith, on the Oklahoma border (which had been Indian territory until 1889). Though the farmhouse and its associated outbuildings and landscape features (including the record of even flowering plants which were intended to serve as a decorative complement to the house and site) are all that remain from a once larger and more sprawling family settlement in the center of what is now known as Waltreak, it still may reveal further information about the domestic habits, family crop choices and other lifestyle decisions made by a rural family in western Arkansas, as well as information about their commercial interaction and familiarity with the outside world which they surely enjoyed through their ready access to such an important local road and artery. The character and quality of historic occupations by relatively common, undistinguished settlers has only recently become a subject of archeological inquiry; sites such as the Mitchell House, with its outbuildings, well, fences and original stone walks stand to tell us a great deal about the daily life of such historic occupations.

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Bibliography

Banks, Wayne, History of Yell County, (Van Buren, Arkansas, 1959), p. 268.

Bits and Pieces, Vol. 1, compiled by Mary Vinson Humphrey and Doyle Traxler, (1980), p. 25.

Census Records, Yell County, Arkansas.

Deed Records, Yell County, Arkansas.

Family Bible and Records, in the personal collection of the Mitchell family.

Goodspeed's History of Western Arkansas, (Chicago, Nashville and St. Louis, 1890), p. 171.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section	number	10	Page	1
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Verbal Boundary Description

Beginning at a point formed by the intersection of the northern edge of State Highway #80 with a perpendicular line running along the eastern edge of the original picket fence, proceed northerly along said line to a point formed by its intersection with the perpendicular line running along the northern or rear elevation of the chicken house/privy; thence proceed westerly along said line to a point formed by its intersection with a perpendicular line running along the western edge of the original picket fence; thence proceed southerly along said line to its intersection with the northern edge of State Highway #80; thence proceed easterly to the point of beginning, comprising in all less than one acre.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION	
PROPERTY Mitchell House NAME:	
MULTIPLE NAME:	
STATE & COUNTY: ARKANSAS, Yell	
DATE RECEIVED: 5/09/90 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 5/22/90 DATE OF 16TH DAY: 6/07/90 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 6/23/90 DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:	
REFERENCE NUMBER: 90000876 Date Weekler State Communication of the Commu	
NOMINATOR: STATE	
REASONS FOR REVIEW:	
APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N	
COMMENT WAIVER: N	
ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 6/2/90 DATE Entered in the National Register	
ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:	
RECOM./CRITERIA REVIEWER DISCIPLINE DATE	

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

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STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION		
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DESCRIPTION		3.79(0.1)
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ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION/PRESENTATION		
sketch mapsUSGS mapsphotog	raphspresenta	tion
OTHER COMMENTS		
Questions concerning this nomination may	be directed to	
	Phone	27 - 24 - 45 - 45 - 45 - 45 - 45 - 45 - 45
Signed	Date	



Mitchell House
Waltreak, Arkansas
Photographed by Joe De Rose
February 1990
Negatives on File at AHPP
View From South



Mitchell House Waltreak, Arkansas Photographed by Joe De Rose February 1990 Negatives on File at AHPP View From West



Mitchell House
Waltreak, Arkansas
Photographed by Joe De Rose
February 1990
Negatives on File at AHPP
View from West



Mitchell House
Waltreak, Arkansas
Photographed by Joe De Rose
February 1990
Negatives on File at AHPP
View From North



Mitchell House Waltreak, Arkansas Photographed by Joe De Rose February 1990 Negatives on File At AHPP View From EAST showing house and wellhouse in foreground



Mitchell House
Waltreak, Arkansas
Photographed by Joe De Rose
February 1990
Negatives on File at AHPP
Interior Fireplace Detail



MITCHELL HOUSE
WALTREAK, MRKANSAS
PHOTOGRAPHED BY J. DEROSE
FEBRUARY, 1990
NEGATIVES ON FILE AT AHPP
VIEW OF SMOKEHOUSE IND CHICKEN HOUSE FROM SOUTH



MITCHELL HOUSE
WALTREAK, ARKANSAS
PHOTOGRAPHED BY J. DEROSE
FEBRUARY, 1990
NEGATIVES ON FILE AT AHPP
VIEW OF SMOKEHOUSE FROM SOUTH



MITCHELL HOUSE

WALTREAK, ARKANSAS

PHOTOGRAPHED BY VOE DEPOSE

FEBRUARY, 1990

NEGATIVES ON FILE AT AHPP

VIEW OF CHICKEN HOUSE FROM SOUTH



MITCHELL HOUSE
WALTREAK, APERANSAS
PHOTOGRAPHED BY V. DEROSE
FEBRUARY, 1990
NEGATIVES ON FILE AT AHPP
VIEW OF CHICKEN HOUSE FROM SOUTHEAST



ARKANSAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM



NATIONAL REGISTER

May 4, 1990

Carol D. Shull
Chief of Registration
United States Department of the Interior
National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service
1100 "L" Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

RE: Mitchell House - Waltreak, Arkansas

Dear Carol:

We are enclosing for your review the nomination of the above referenced property. The Arkansas Historic Preservation Program has complied with all applicable nominating procedures and notification requirements in the nomination process.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Cathy Buford

State Historic Preservation Officer

CB:dg

Enclosures

