DATA SHEET

PH 0133493

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED APR 2 1 1975

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	TRUCTIONS IN <i>HOW TO</i> TYPE ALL ENTRIES O			
NAME				
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AND/OR COMMON Garla	nd-Mitchell House	eu, A. hombro		
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CITY, TOWN Little R	lock	VICINITY OF	congressional distr Second	ICT
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CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRES	ENTUSE
	PUBLIC	X_OCCUPIED	AGRICULTURE	MUSEUM
	PRIVATE	UNOCCUPIED	COMMERCIAL	PARK
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SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	ENTERTAINMENT	RELIGIOUS
OBJECT	IN PROCESS	X YES: RESTRICTED	GOVERNMENT	SCIENTIFIC
	BEING CONSIDERED	YES: UNRESTRICTED	_INDUSTRIAL	TRANSPORTATION
		_NO	MILITARY	_OTHER:
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CITY, TOWN			STATE	
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CITY, TOWN			STATE	Haran Salta
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TITLE		FEDERAL	STATECOUNTYLOCAL	in daya Lucino acc para abil Lucino acc

CONDITION

X_EXCELLENT _GOOD

__FAIR

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CHECK ONE

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CHECK ONE

X_ORIGINAL SITE
__MOVED DATE_____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

One of Arkansas' most important historic structures, the Garland-Mitchell House, is located in Little Rock's Quapaw Quarter historic district. Built in 1873, the house has undergone few alterations during the last century. It appears much the same today as when Governor Augustus H. Garland and his family lived there in the 1870's.

The dominant feature of the two storey frame structure is the two storey ell shape gallery which covers most of the east facade and the north elevation. Square cut posts with curved brackets are used for support on both the first and second stories. The ground floor porch railing has turned balusters while the second storey has a continuous band of open cut woodwork beneath the porch railing.

All door and window heads on the original structure have plain hoods with brackets. A wide transom covers the double door entry. The double-hung sash windows provide one of the most interesting features of the house. The first floor porch windows are tall enough to allow a person to walk underneath the upper sash when the lower sash is pushed up as far as possible. Though the second storey porch windows do not extend to the floor, the sill and under panels open to allow walk-through access to the porch.

At the south end of the east facade protrudes a one storey flat roofed bay. Pairs of plain pilasters separate each of the three windows which have horizontal panels below and curved brackets above.

The Garland-Mitchell Houses rests on a brickwork foundation and is sheathed in white clapboard with bracket topped pilasters at each corner. Continuous around the original structure is a bracketed cornice and frieze with dentillike trim. The truncated hip roof of the main structure and the gable roof of the kitchen wing are covered with wide panels of red tim.

The main portion of the Garland-Mitchell House is two stories. A one storey kitchen wing extends at the rear (west) elevation, thus giving the house a basic ell shape. The two storey section of the house originally had a slight ell shape because of the inverted southwest corner of the house; however, a two storey addition, probably made before the turn of the century, filled in this corner of the structure. Though the kitchen wing appears to be original, the present owner believes that it was added just after construction of the two storey portion of the house. Minor alterations in the early 1940's included a shed roof porch on the south elevation of the kitchen wing and enclosure of the northwest corner of the upstairs verandah.

Even though the Garland-Mitchell House has been divided into three separate apartments, the interior still retains its architectural integrity. The wide central hallway which once bisected the entire first floor of the house now terminates at a wall under the stairs which was added in the 1940's. On the south side of the main hallway are panelled sliding doors which open

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onto the south parlor. Along the north wall is the oak-treaded stairway which curves as it rises to the second floor. A walnut handrail, turned balusters, ornamental brackets, and panelled newel post are decorative features of the stairway.

The original cypress floors have been recovered, using oak over the downstairs and pine over the upstairs floors. The twelve foot ceilings on the second storey are just one foot shorter than the first storey ceilings. Interior features of special note are the original brass doorknobs and plates, architrave trim around window and door openings and mantel pieces installed about 1905 when the Mitchell family moved into the house.

On the southeast corner of the second floor is the library built by Augustus Garland for his large collection of law books. This large library was a major factor in Governor Brough's renting the house in 1917. Like Governor Garland, Brough also needed storage space for his large personal library.

Because of the prominent two storey porches which are reminiscent of nineteenth century riverboats, the Garland-Mitchell House is locally referred to as "steamboat Gothic" architecture; however, it also has elements of the Italianate Victorian style. The house has been well cared for over the years and is now carefully maintained and preserved by the present owner, who was born in the house in 1905. Resting on a spacious corner lot with shade trees and brick sidewalks, the Garland-Mitchell House is one of Little Rock's most historic and beautiful houses.

PERIOD

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

PREHISTORIC	_ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	COMMUNITY PLANNING	_LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	RELIGION
1400-1499	_ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	CONSERVATION	LAW	SCIENCE
1500-1599	AGRICULTURE	ECONOMICS	_XLITERATURE	SCULPTURE
1600-1699	X_ARCHITECTURE	EDUCATION	MILITARY	_SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
1700-1799	ART	ENGINEERING	MUSIC	THEATER
_X ₁₈₀₀₋₁₈₉₉ _X ₁₉₀₀₋	COMMERCECOMMUNICATIONS	EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENTINDUSTRY	PHILOSOPHY _XPOLITICS/GOVERNMENT	TRANSPORTATIONOTHER (SPECIFY)
		INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Ward and Lavender

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Because of the families who have lived there the Garland-Mitchell House in Little Rock is one of the most significant historic homes in Arkansas. It was built in 1873 by Augustus Garland, who later became governor, senator, and the first Arkansan to serve on a Presidential Cabinet. In the next decade the house was rented to the Fletcher family, during which time it became the birthplace of Arkansas' Pulitzer Prize-winning poet, John Gould Fletcher. A third prominent family to be connected with the Garland-Mitchell House was that of Dr. Charles H. Brough. During World War I Dr. Brough rented the house while he served as the twenty-fifth governor of Arkansas.

The house was constructed in 1873 as a residence for the Augustus Garland family. Contractors Ward and Lavender built the two storey frame house at a cost of about eight thousand dollars. Sometimes referred to as "steamboat Gothic" architecture, the Garland House features wide two storey verandahs on both the east and north elevations. Ornate brackets at the porch posts and cornice add to the stately appearance of the house. Though slightly altered since construction, the Garland-Mitchell House appears much the same today as when Augustus Garland lived there one hundred years ago.

Many historians view Augustus Hill Garland as Arkansas' greatest statesman. He was born near Covington, Tennessee in 1832, the third and youngest child of Rufus King and Barbara Hill Garland. In 1833 the family moved to Hempstead County, Arkansas, where young Garland acquired his early education at home. Receiving his formal education at St. Joseph's College in Kentucky, Garland graduated in 1849 and returned to Arkansas to teach school for a year. The next three years were spent reading law in his stepfather's law office in Washington, Hempstead County. (Garland's father died soon after moving to Arkansas.)

After being admitted to the bar in 1853 Garland formed a partnership with his stepfather, Judge Thomas Hubbard. That same year Garland and Sarah Virginia Sanders were married. In 1856 the Garlands moved to Little Rock where Augustus Garland formed a partnership with one of the state's foremost attorneys, Ebenezer Cummins. Within a short time Cummins died and his large practice fell into the capable hands of the youthful Garland. During the next decade Garland proved his legal talents in a number of important cases.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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The first elective office held by Augustus Garland was a delegate to the Arkansas Secession Convention held in March, 1861. Though a strong Union supporter at the March meeting, Garland voted with the majority to secede at the Convention's May meeting. For the next four years Garland was elected to serve in the Confederate Congress as Representative, then Senator, from Arkansas.

Following the Civil War Garland returned to his family in Little Rock with plans to resume his law practice; however, a law passed by the United States Congress during the war threatened to terminate the legal career of Garland and all other lawyers who had supported the Confederacy. In 1862 Congress passed the "iron-clad oath" law, requiring Federal officials to swear they had never borne arms nor aided those who had borne arms against the United States. Beginning in January, 1865, this oath was also required of all attorneys practicing in Federal courts.

In an effort to salvage the careers of Southern lawyers, Garland moved to test the validity of the iron-clad oath law. With the help of Reverdy Johnson and Matt Carpenter, two nationally prominent lawyers, Garland filed suite under "Ex Parte Garland." The Supreme Court decision in Garland's favor was rendered in 1867, establishing his reputation as one of the outstanding lawyers in the country. The ruling not only permitted Southern lawyers to practice, but it set a precedent for undoing the unconstitutional legislation passed during the latter part of the Civil War and immediately thereafter.

In 1867 Garland was elected to the United States Senate; however, the Senate refused to seat the Arkansas delegation, along with other delegations from the Southern states. He returned to Arkansas to continue his law practice until 1874, when he was elected as the first Democratic governor after Reconstruction. In his campaign for governor Garland strongly urged the ratification of the proposed constitution. His support helped secure the adoption of the 1874 constitution which is still in effect today (1975).

In 1876 Garland was again elected to the United States Senate, and this time was seated. He served as Senator until March, 1885, when he was appointed Attorney General in President Grover Cleveland's first Cabinet.

Garland's seat in Cleveland's Cabinet was threatened in 1886 when he was under Congressional investigation concerning his highly questionable involvement with the Pan-Electric Telephone Company. During the course of the hearings Garland denied seeking dishonest profit in his dealings with Pan-Electric. Making light of the charges he testified; "I had

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two

never undertaken to make any money at anything but law and poker; . . . I always lost at poker, but sometimes won at law. . . "*

Garland withstood the Pan-Electric controversy and continued to serve as Attorney General throughout Cleveland's first term. Following his tenure in the Cabinet, Garland spent the remainder of his life practicing law in Washington, D. C. He died suddenly on January 26, 1899, just after arguing a case before the Supreme Court.

The home which Augustus Garland built housed his family for only a short time. In 1877 Mrs. Garland died, and Mr. Garland's mother moved into the house to help care for his children. In 1883 the Garland family vacated the house. They lived in Washington, D. C. during most of the year and when in Arkansas, stayed at their country retreat just south of Little Rock.

For the next fifteen years the Scott Street house was retained by the Garland family but rented to others. During this period the Pulaski County Sheriff, Captain John G. Gletcher, moved his family into the Garland House. On January 3, 1886, John Gould Fletcher, probably Arkansas' greatest literary figure, was born there. Though Captain Fletcher wanted to buy the house, Garland refused to sell. After renting the Garland House for six years, the Fletcher family bought the nearby Albert Pike House in 1889 (The Pike-Fletcher-Terry House was added to the National Register in 1972.)

Of the nine children born to Augustus and Sarah Garland, only three were living in 1896 when their father had the Garland House deeded to them. By 1900 each of the three sons had sold his one-third interest in the house to Mrs. Logan H. Roots (see nomination of Ft. Logan H. Roots, added to the National Register in 1974). After renting the house to various occupants, Mrs. Roots gave the house to her daughter as a wedding gift when she married William Starr Mitchell in 1905. In its one hundred year history the house has been owned by only two families, the Garland family and the Roots-Mitchell family.

At the time of his marriage to Frances Roots, William S. Mitchell was publisher of the Arkansas Democrat. He was later engaged in the real estate and insurance business, and in 1917, was appointed treasurer of the Federal Bank in St. Louis. The Mitchell family resided in the house at varied intervals and rented it to other families when they were not in residence.

In 1917 the Garland-Mitchell House once again became the governor's residence when Governor and Mrs. Charles H. Brough rented the house. Governor Brough, with a Ph.D. from John Hopkins and an LL.B. from the University of Mississippi,

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was Arkansas' best educated governor. After eleven years of teaching economics and soicology at the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville, Dr. Brough campaigned for governor on the Democratic ticket. His election gave Arkansas an administration which supported women's suffrage legislation and increased state support for highways and schools.

The Garland-Mitchell House is now owned by William Starr Mitchell, Jr., son of William and Frances Roots Mitchell. Though the house has been converted into three separate apartments, very few alterations have been made to the basic structure. Over one hundred years later the house looks much the same as when built by Augustus Garland in 1873. Its association with several prominent Arkansas families has made the Garland-Mitchell House one of the most important historic landmarks in the State.

*U.S., Congress, House, Testimony Taken by the Committee to Investigate Charges Against Certain Public Officers Relating to the Pan-Electric Telephone Company, 49th Congress, 1st session, 1885-86. House Miscellaneous Documents, Vol. XIX, pp. 649-650.

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Congress, 1st session, 1885. House Miscellaneous Documents, Vol. XIX.

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Federal Register Entry	<u>85-75</u> Re-submit	3011 - 0 13/3



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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

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SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS TYPE ALL ENTRIES ENCLOSE WITH PHOTOGRAPH

NAME

HISTORIC

Augustus Garland House

AND/OR COMMON

Garland-Mitchell House

LOCATION

CITY, TOWN

Little Rock

_VICINITY OF

Pulaski COUNTY

STATE Arkansas

PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT

Dianna Kirk

1975 DATE OF PHOTO

NEGATIVE FILED AT Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

facade, viewed from the east

1

PHOTO NO.

#295

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

#205



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Little Rock

____VICINITY OF

COUNTY Pulaski

STATE Arkansas

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT

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DATE OF PHOTO 1975

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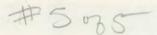
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rear elevation, viewed from the southwest

2





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2 LOCATION

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Little Rock

___VICINITY OF

COUNTY Pulaski

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3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT

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РНОТО НО.

#4035

interior detail of second storey window

3



Sarland - Mitchell House

Pulaski () Ankansas central h

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Little Rock

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COUNTY Pulaski

STATE Arkansas

PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT

Dianna Kirk

DATE OF PHOTO 1975

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PHOTO NO.

central hallway, viewed from entry

4

#1035

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#185



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1 NAME

HISTORIC

Augustus Garland House

AND/OR COMMON Garland-Mitchell House

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN

___VICINITY OF

COUNTY Pulaski Arkansas

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

Little Rock

PHOTO CREDIT

Dianna Kirk

DATE OF PHOTO 1975

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4 IDENTIFICATION

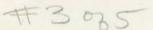
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PHOTO NO.

1905 mantlepiece, upstairs bedroom

5



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TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- ENCLOSE WITH MAP

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Augustus Garland House

AND/OR COMMON

Garland-Mitchell House

2 LOCATION

CITY. TOWN Little Rock

__VICINITY OF

COUNTY Pulaski

STATE Arkansas

3 MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE

United States Geological Survey

SCALE

1:2400

DATE

1961 (photorevised 1970)

4 REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

- 1. PROPERTY BOUNDARIES
- 2. NORTH ARROW
- 3. UTM REFERENCES

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE

ARKANSAS

Date Entered

JUN 1 0 1875

Name

Location

Garland, Augustus, House

Little Rock Pulaski County

Walker House

Fayetteville Washington County 2

Wommack Kiln

Community of Wave Dallas County

Also Notified

Hon. John L. McClealan

Hon. Dale Dumpers

Hon. Wilbur D. Mills

Hon. John P. Hammerschmidt

Hon. Ray Thornton

Regional Director, Southwest Region

State Historic Preservation Officer

Mr. William E. Henderson

Director, Arkansas Department of

Parks and Tourism

State Capitol

Little Rock, Arkansas 72201

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