

**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 Hargis-Mitchell-Cochran House

and/or common "Green Leaf"

**2. Location**

street & number 204 East Robert S. Kerr N/A not for publication

city, town Wynnewood \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ congressional district No. 3

state Oklahoma code 40 county Garvin code 049

**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	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>N/A</u> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" 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 Mr. and Mrs. James P. Cochran

street & number 204 East Robert S. Kerr

city, town Wynnewood \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ state Oklahoma

**5. Location of Legal Description**

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

street & number Garvin County Courthouse

city, town Pauls Valley \_\_\_\_\_ 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 Oklahoma Historical Society

city, town Oklahoma City \_\_\_\_\_ state Oklahoma

## 7. Description

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

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

"Green Leaf" was built in 1901, on Main Street in Wynnewood, a street lined with both residential and commercial buildings surviving from Territorial days. Basically a bungalow - though larger (3,500 square feet of floor space) and perhaps a bit more elaborate than most - it boasted solid brick walls to the second story. (It is believed to be the only surviving solid brick walled residence in the city.) The second and attic stories have the conventional shingle siding - of cedar and dark stained. The principal gable on the front covers the living room and (upstairs) the master bedroom. The sashed windows are for the most part multi-paned. There are also a number of fine stained glass sashes. In short, it is a large, fairly typical bungalow, well built (inside and out), and well cared for over the years with relatively few changes.

Interior of the house is Victorian and reflects the relative affluence of the builder. Woodwork throughout is of oak, dark stained, and evident in the large siding doors and the French doors, all of which have beveled glass panes. The built-in china cabinet also has leaded glass in its many ornamental panels. Brilliant, jeweled, stained-glass windows feature the bayed stair landing on the west and the balancing dining room bay on the east. The stairway itself is broad, ascending gracefully from a large entrance foyer complete with peddler's bench.

One unusual feature of the house: the three ornate fireplaces operating from a single chimney in the center of the house. Together they form a triangle, opening into the entryway, living room, and dining room. Another nice feature, commonplace today, but not so at the time it was built: closets in each of the five upstairs bedrooms. Interior walls are papered. Light fixtures are Tiffany, brass, crystal. The present owners have restored the interior and added turn-of-the-century furniture and massive antique armoires to underscore its beauty and spaciousness. The Mitchells, the home's second owners, would occasionally hire a small orchestra to play from the stair landing for guests dancing in the living and dining rooms.

A back stairway leads down to the kitchen, and from there to the basement, which is divided into two large rooms. One has been turned into a club room. The work room contains the furnace. A coal burner originally, it gave the house a central heating system. In 1940 it was converted to diesel fuel, otherwise it continues to serve.

# 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 checked="" 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)

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**Specific dates**      1901                      **Builder/Architect**      A. J. Barrett

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

The Hargis/Mitchell/Cochran House is significant for the influential role its three owners have played in the some 90-year existence of the Wynnewood community and for the unusually fine workmanship (again in the context of a young pioneer settlement) that went into its construction. No one associated with the house has yet been elected president of the United States (and Wynnewood is considerably larger than Plains). Nor has the AIA seen fit to date to drape any honors on its generally bungalow design, at least so far as the exterior is concerned. But several of its interior features (No. 7) - triangular fireplace opening into three first floor rooms, built-in china cabinet, stained-glass windows - were a bit unusual, especially for a small frontier town. And its owners have played their local roles well.

J. F. Hargis, who built the house, was one for Wynnewood's first settlers. He was an original stockholder in the Southern National Bank, founded in 1901, and its first cashier. His wife was one of the four ladies who founded the Matrons' Club in 1895. And also a founder, in 1903, of the Tuesday Thimble Club. And anyone inclined to smile indulgently at a claim of significance for a women's organization so named has little or no first-hand knowledge of small town life in America. Mr. and Mrs. Hargis were civic leaders.

As were the E. J. Mitchells, who bought the house in 1915. Mr. Mitchell was a prominent local businessman. He owned many commercial buildings in the business district, was himself owner of a cotton gin, furniture store, drug store, and automobile agency. (Mr. Hargis owned one of the town's first cars.) Mrs. Mitchell's father, J. H. Walner, was the founder of Wynnewood, called Walner for several months before the name became officially to Wynnewood. Cochran, third owner of the house, has long been active in historic preservation. In addition to restoring his own house he is president of the Wynnewood Historical Society, which maintains a museum in the Eskridge Hotel, already listed in the National Register.

For the influential role in the community played by its three owners, then, and the fine workmanship that distinguishes its interior, the Hargis/Mitchell/Cochran House is considered worthy of and is therefore recommended for National Register status.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Notable Men of Indian Territory 1904-1905, Paul W. H. Dewitz, ed., Muskogee, Southwestern Historical Co., 1905.

"The Wynnewood New Era" - Miscellaneous newspaper stories from 1903-1910. Interviews by the owner with several long-time Wynnewood area residents.

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than 1 acre

Quadrangle name Pauls Valley

Quadrangle scale 7.5 minute

UMT References

A 1 4 | 6 6 7 8 4 0 | 3 8 3 4 7 7 5  
Zone Easting Northing

B [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]  
Zone Easting Northing

C [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Lots Three (3) and Six (6), Block One Hundred Eighty-eight (188) in the city of Wynnewood, Oklahoma, according to the official recorded map and plat thereof.

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 Kent Ruth, Deputy

organization Oklahoma Historical Society

date August 1980

street & number Historical Building

telephone 405/884-5456

city or town Oklahoma City

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature [Signature]

title SHPO

Cemetery 1-18-82

date 11/21/80

For HCPRS use only

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

[Signature] date 1/7/82

Keeper of the National Register

Attent: \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

Chief of Registration

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received APR 27 1982

date entered

Continuation sheet Hargis/Mitchell/Cochran House Item number Nos. 7 & 8

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Local significance only is claimed for this house - the local significance of the two first families to own it and the local significance of its architectural features (size, three-faced fireplace, unusually good woodwork). Wynnewood is a small town (pop. 2,512). It was even smaller (pop. circa 1,800) in 1901 when it was built. The house was built, that is. The town was also young (est. 1887) and Indian Territory was still the frontier.

It is in this context that significance is claimed for the strong, active community role played by the first two owners. Hargis was an original stockholder and first cashier of the Southern National Bank when it was founded in 1901, the year he built his house. His wife was a founder and/or co-founder of women's clubs in 1895 and 1903. We can only repeat - and, perhaps, underscore - what we wrote on the original nomination: "And anyone inclined to smile indulgently at a claim of significance for a women's organization so named (the Tuesday Thimble Club) has little or no first-hand knowledge of small town life in America." We could have said the same thing of Mr. Hargis' role in the community. We are not speaking here of the 32nd vice president of Chase Manhattan; we're claiming community importance for the cashier of a small town bank at the turn of the century.

As for Mr. and Mrs. Mitchell, the same brief is valid. What is meant by ... "they too must be evaluated in terms of the town's historical development"? In a rural Oklahoma town of 1,800, in the late teens and early 1920s, when they own "many commercial buildings in the business district (and) a cotton gin, furniture store, drug store, and automobile agency . . ." what can they do but play an important role in "the town's historical development."

Similarly, local significance only is claimed for the architectural features mentioned - this in the context of a small town boasting only a handful of comparable houses. "Green Leaf" is believed to be the only surviving solid brick-walled residence in Wynnewood. No other house in town boasts a triangular fireplace with mantels in three different rooms. Other distinguishing features of the Victorian interior, as noted, include the fine quarter-sawed oak woodwork, the built-in China Cabinet with leaded glass panes, Tiffany light fixtures and windows.

In short, the Hargis/Mitchell/Cochran House was an imposing, well constructed residence with a number of features not commonly found in small towns in Indian Territory at the turn of the century. And today, 80 years later, it remains with almost complete integrity. It is in this context that National Register status for it is sought.