

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PH 0680206

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
JUL 24 1978	
RECEIVED	OV 17 1978
DATE ENTERED	

**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

Barnes - Stevenson House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

3 SE Adams Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Idabel

VICINITY OF

No. 3

STATE
Oklahoma

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

Harold Stevenson Jr.

STREET & NUMBER

3 SE Adams Street

CITY, TOWN

Idabel

VICINITY OF

STATE

Oklahoma

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Office of the County Clerk

STREET & NUMBER

McCurtain County Court House

CITY, TOWN

Idabel

STATE

Oklahoma

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Barnes-Stevenson House 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 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		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Judge Barnes (cf. No. 8) hired Jewell Hicks of Texarkana (TX) and Durant (OK) as architect for his house, R. D. (Bob) Cheatham as the prime contractor. Hicks was a one-time associate of Solomon Layton, Oklahoma's best known architect. Cheatham, a master builder, was responsible for construction of some of the more significant structures in McCurtain County and southeastern Oklahoma. The four-story (with basement and full attic) was under construction for more than 14 months between 1911 and 1912. The local paper admitted June 27, 1912, that it might seem "unreasonable" for a house in Idabel to take more than a year to build, "but such is nevertheless true." And went on to say that when completed "it will be without question one of the finest structures of architecture in the state of Oklahoma."

Of wood construction over a full concrete and brick basement, the 23-room house (7 in the basement) is in a neo-romantic Greek Revival style, with subdued Victorian over-tones. Two circular towers feature the front corners of the comfortably gracious old home. A graceful, balustraded veranda wraps its way around the north and east face of the house, protected by a column-supported, balustraded, second-floor balcony, part of which is in turn protected by the extended north gable. There is a screened porch across the back of the house.

The seven rooms on the first floor are finished in quartered oak, hand dressed and polished. Hardware throughout the house is that originally installed. The parquet floors are of seasoned ash, hand dressed and filled. The windows are of leaded glass, much of which is the original.

The second floor contains a sitting room, six bedrooms, and a bath. Woodwork is yellow pine and cypress with edge-grain flooring. Windows are also of leaded glass. The house was wired for electricity when built and also contained indoor plumbing - among the first in Idabel to contain such amenities.

The house generally was constructed of the best materials available at that time and in that relatively isolated region. It was well maintained over the years and the present owner, artist Harold Stevenson Jr., who bought it from the Barnes family in 1973, has carefully restored it to its 1912 condition with proper respect for historical integrity. Fortunately, it had undergone no structural changes and the minor changes he has made pertain largely to the utilities, appliances, and such. Some of the rooms he has furnished with the proper period antiques, others with furniture and furnishings collected from around the world.

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/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES 1911-1912 to present BUILDER/ARCHITECT Jewell Hicks

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Judge T. J. Barnes came to this extreme southeastern corner of what was then the Choctaw Nation, Indian Territory, about 1898. A lawyer, he settled first at the "court town" of Goodwater, moving to Garvin in 1902 when it was the provisional seat of McCurtain County, prior to statehood. He moved his thriving law practice to Idabel when it became county seat. In 1907, when Oklahoma Territory and Indian Territory were joined to become the 46th state, he became a candidate for the office of county judge.

He was elected Sept. 17, 1907, and helped to organize the first county government. Although he resigned in 1911 to return to his private law practice and by now expanding business interests, his effectiveness and competence as a judge is indicated by the fact that none of the cases he presided over were ever reversed by higher courts of appeal. On the record he was an acknowledged authority on Indian land title matters and probate actions, both common judicial activities in the early years of the county.

But Judge Barnes played an active role in other aspects of community life. In 1908 he helped organize one of the first banks in Idabel, serving as its first president. For a time he published a newspaper. He personally financed construction of some of the first permanent (brick) business buildings in Idabel, many of which still stand. Active in politics, he helped finance and press a state-wide campaign to amend the state election laws. He organized and served as first president of the McCurtain County Bar Association.

Judge Barnes was, in short, one of Idabel's outstanding early-day citizens, public spirited and in the forefront of all civic improvement efforts as they developed. And his gracious 65-year-old home - one of the first of a half-dozen or so similarly impressive "mansions" built in the booming new county seat during this period (another is the Spaulding-Olive House, placed in the National Register in 1976) - is an altogether fitting memorial to the man himself.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Democrat-Record, Idabel, June 27, 1912
McCurtain Gazette, Idabel, June 20, 1974

Miscellaneous materials from the McCurtain County Historical Society

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than 1 acre

UTM REFERENCES

A

1	5
---	---

3	3	1	4	2	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

3	7	5	1	6	8	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B

--	--

--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

--	--

--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

D

--	--

--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Kent Ruth, Deputy

ORGANIZATION

Oklahoma Historical Society

DATE

April 1978

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 National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE

Harry E. Dempree M.D.

DATE

7-14-78

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Charles H. ...

DATE

11-17-78

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

MEMBER ON THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

Marvella ...

DATE

11-16-78

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER