

60-20-1100-61

NR 6-10-75

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

RECEIVED

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 Augustus Garland House

AND/OR COMMON  
Garland-Mitchell House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER  
1404 Scott Street

CITY, TOWN  
Little Rock

STATE  
Arkansas

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF  
CODE

05

\_\_\_ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
Second

COUNTY Pulaski CODE 119

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

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME  
William Starr Mitchell

STREET & NUMBER  
5412 Hawthorne Road

CITY, TOWN  
Little Rock

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE  
Arkansas

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.  
Circuit Clerk's Office

STREET & NUMBER  
Pulaski County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN  
Little Rock

STATE  
Arkansas

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

\_\_\_ FEDERAL \_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_ COUNTY \_\_\_ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

## 7 DESCRIPTION

### CONDITION

EXCELLENT  
 GOOD  
 FAIR

DETERIORATED  
 RUINS  
 UNEXPOSED

### CHECK ONE

UNALTERED  
 ALTERED

### CHECK ONE

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 dentil-like trim. The truncated hip roof of the main structure and the gable roof of the kitchen wing are covered with wide panels of red tin.

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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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE one

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.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
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

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.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE one

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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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

8

PAGE

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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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE three

was Arkansas' best educated governor. After eleven years of teaching economics and sociology 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.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Arkansas Gazette, January 15, 22, 1956.  
 Arkansas. General Assembly. Report of the Joint Committee to Investigate  
 The Matter of the Election of the Honorable Stephen W. Dorsey as  
 Senator of the United States from Arkansas. Stenographic Report.  
 Little Rock: Gazette Printing Office, 1876.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre

UTM REFERENCES

A	115	516,616,610	3,814,316,9,0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

Dianna Kirk, Historian

ORGANIZATION

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

DATE

3-11-75

STREET & NUMBER

300 West Markham

TELEPHONE

(501) 371-1639

CITY OR TOWN

Little Rock

STATE

Arkansas

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

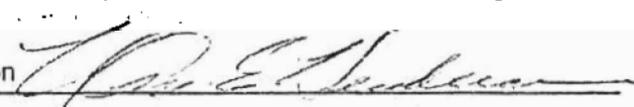
NATIONAL x

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.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE William E. Henderson



TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE 3-11-75

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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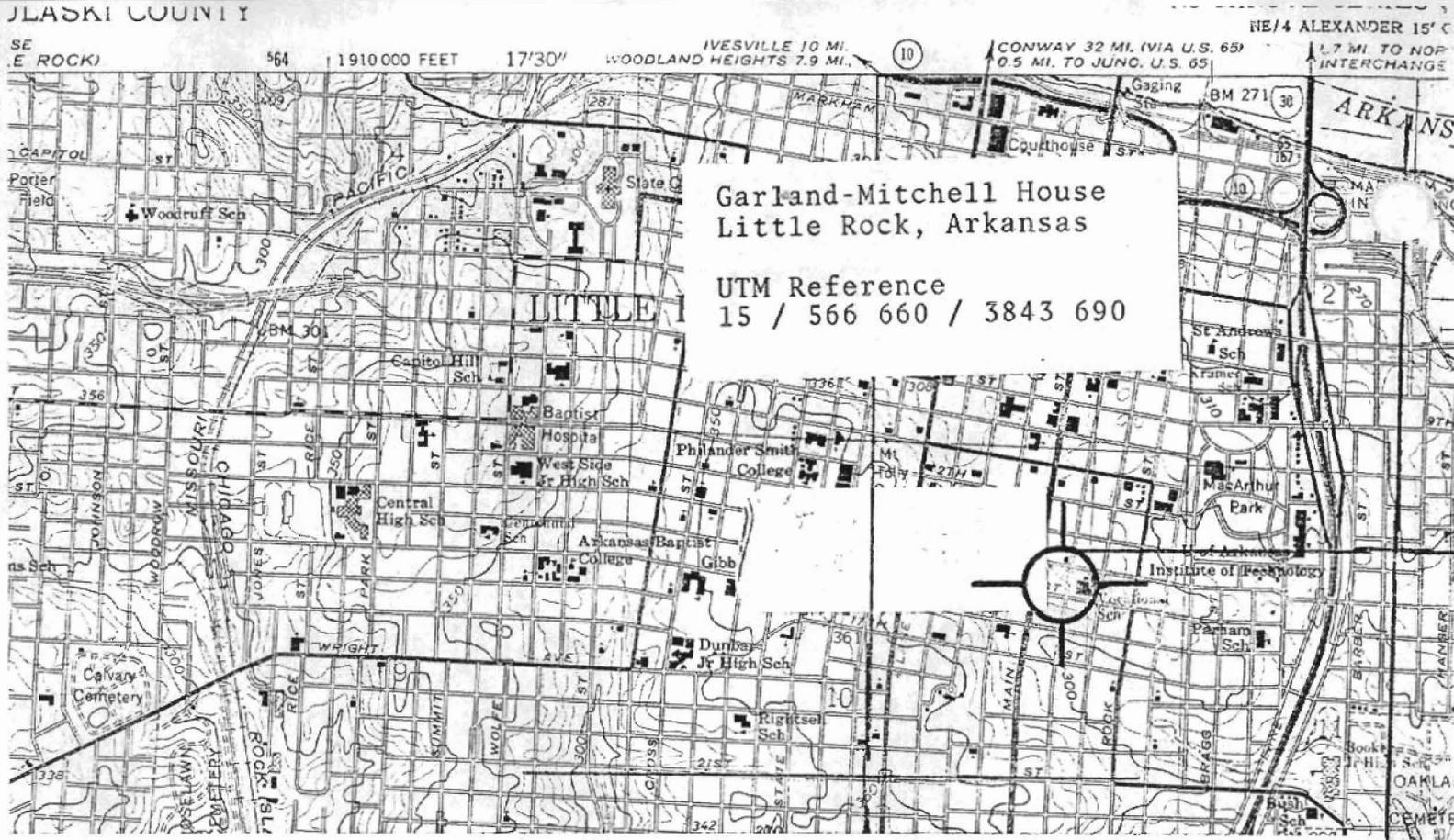
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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9

PAGE one

- Garland, Augustus Hill. Experience in the United States Supreme Court. Washington, D. C.: John Byrnth and Company, 1898.
- Hallum, John. Biographical and Pictorial History of Arkansas. Albany, New York: Weed, Parsons and Company, Printers, 1887.
- Kennedy, Lawrence F., compiler. Biographical Directory of the American Congress, 1774-1971, (1971 edition). Washington, D. C. Government Printing Office, 1971.
- Metcalf, Marguerite Pearce. "Augustus H. Garland - Arkansas Reconstruction Orator." Southern Speech Journal, XVII (December, 1951), pp. 85-98.
- Newberry, Farrar. A Life of Mr. Garland of Arkansas, publisher unknown, 1908.
- U.S. Congress. House. Testimony Taken by the Committee Appointed by the House of Representatives to Investigate Charges Against Certain Public Officers Relating to the Pan-Electric Telephone Company. 49th Congress, 1st session, 1885. House Miscellaneous Documents, Vol. XIX.



Form No. 10-301  
Rev. 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY MAP FORM**

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

**NAME**

HISTORIC Augustus Garland House

AND/OR COMMON

Garland-Mitchell House

**LOCATION**

CITY/TOWN Little Rock      VICINITY OF      COUNTY Pulaski      STATE Arkansas

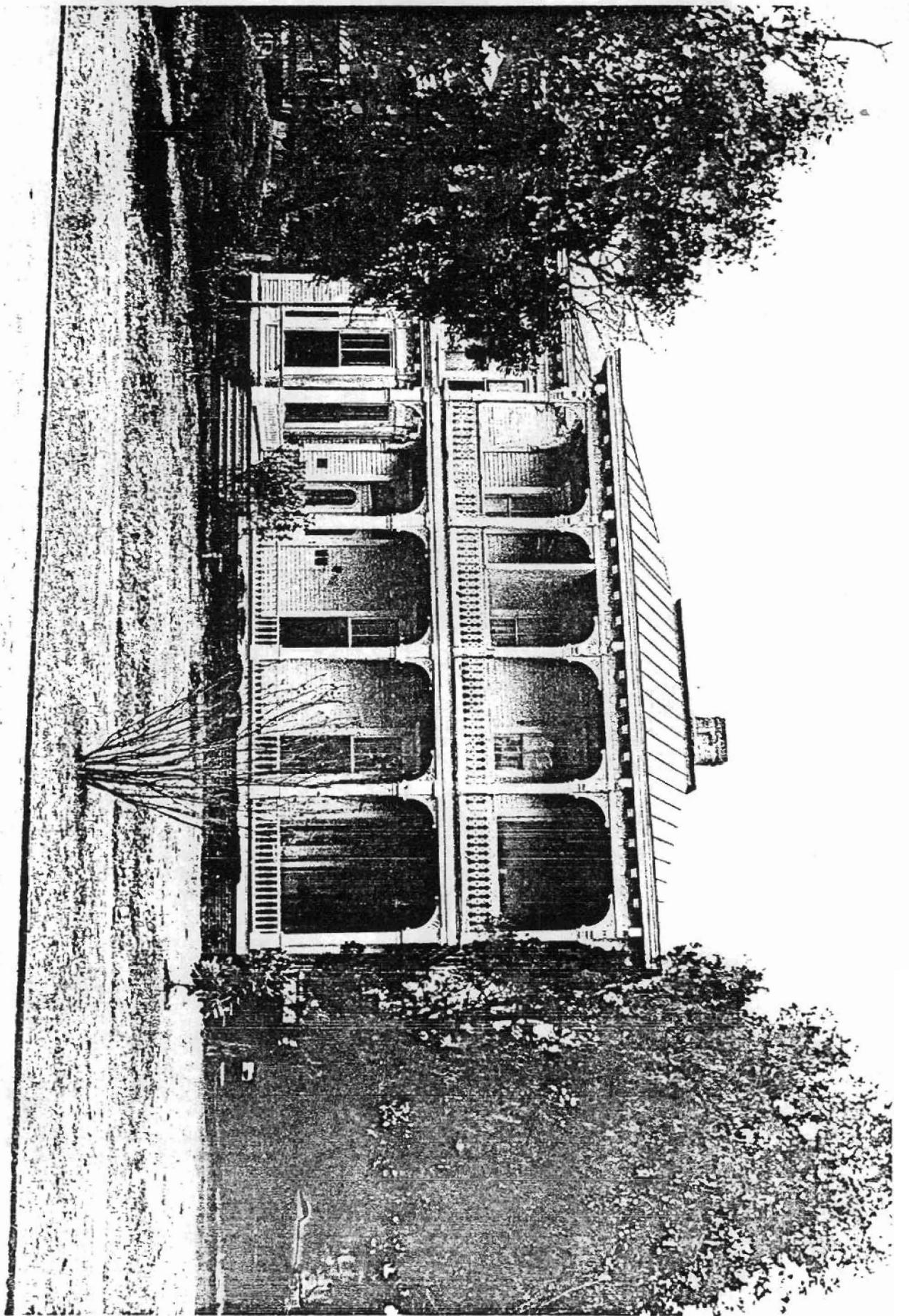
**MAP REFERENCE**

SOURCE United States Geological Survey

SCALE 1:2400      DATE 1961 (photorevised 1970)

**REQUIREMENTS**

- TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS
1. PROPERTY BOUNDARIES
  2. NORTH ARROW
  3. UTM REFERENCES



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

**1** NAME

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**2** LOCATION

CITY, TOWN Little Rock VICINITY OF COUNTY Pulaski STATE Arkansas

**3** PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT Dianna Kirk DATE OF PHOTO 1975

NEGATIVE FILED AT Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

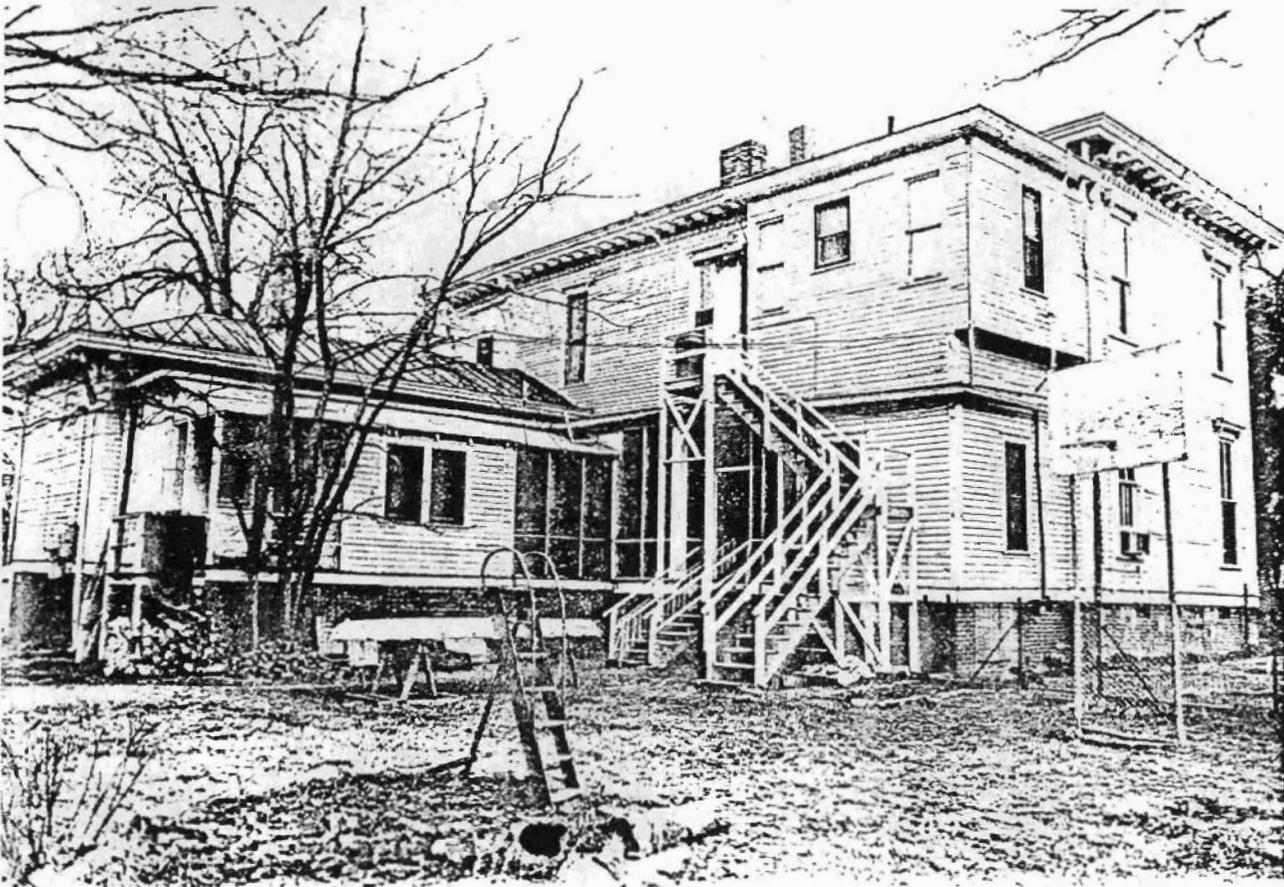
**4** IDENTIFICATION

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

PHOTO NO.

facade, viewed from the east

1



Form No. 10-301a  
(74)

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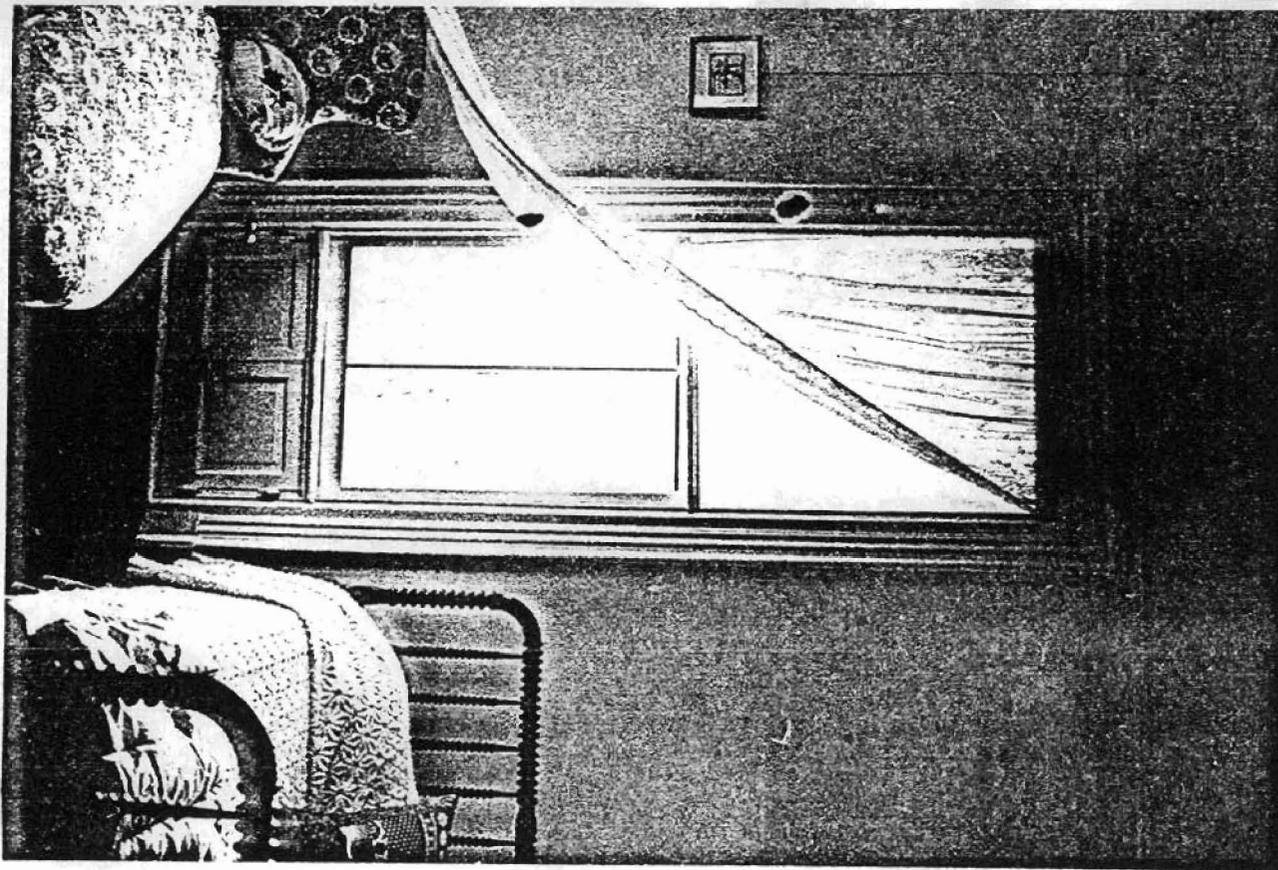
NEGATIVE FILED AT Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

**4 IDENTIFICATION**

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PHOTO NO.

rear elevation, viewed from the southwest



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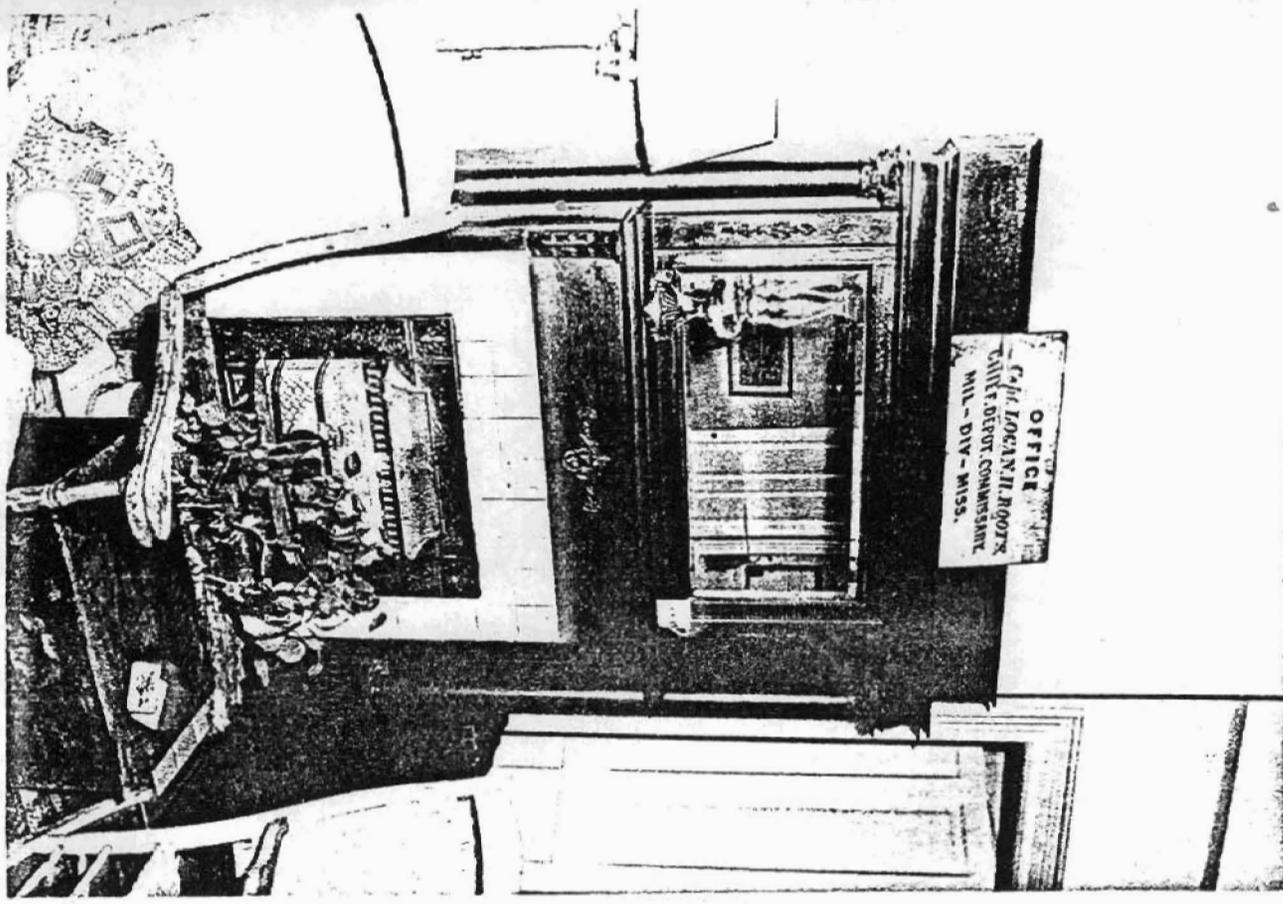
**4 IDENTIFICATION**

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

PHOTO NO

interior detail of second storey window

3



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DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET PHOTO NO

1905 mantelpiece, upstairs bedroom 5



Handwritten notes in the top right corner, including "Augustus Garland House" and other illegible text.

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(Rev. 10-74)

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**4 IDENTIFICATION**

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PHOTO NO.

central hallway, viewed from entry