

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

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N-5253

Property Name: Mondamon Farm (J. McMullins Farm, 1868) Built ca. 1840 with additions.

Local and Verbal Boundary Descriptions:

Mondamon Farm is located on Rt. 2 approximately one mile east of its intersection with Rt. 13. The farmstead is situated in a rural area and remains in agricultural use. The nominated parcel contains ten acres and includes the house, hay barrack, granary, barn, a schoolhouse, and related outbuildings.

The nominated parcel begins on the north side of Rt. 2 at a point 200 feet east of the intersection of Rt. 2 and the present driveway. The line extends 1,000 feet north to a point where it turns 90° and continues west for 1,000 feet to a point where it turns south and runs back to Rt. 2. The closing boundary of the property is defined by joining the two points on the south side of Rt. 2.

The nominated parcel includes sufficient acreage to provide for the preservation of the house, outbuildings, grounds and immediate setting.

Tax parcel 13.009.00-001

Owner: Lillian McMullin

R. D. 1, Box 199

Middletown, Delaware

Description:

Mondamon Farm is an unusually complete mid to late nineteenth century agricultural complex. The central element of the farm is the two-and-a-half story frame house with its two-bay, two-story shed roof service ell. The house, with its balanced five-bay fenestration, stands on a brick foundation and is now covered with aluminum siding over the first period weatherboard. The moderately pitched gable roof is covered with composition shingle over wood shingle and is finished with flush verge boards and a plain boxed cornice. The windows, set in plainly molded architraves, are six-over-six light sash with raised panel shutters on the ground floor and louvered shutters on the second.

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Over the front door is a five-light transom fitted with alternating elliptical and lozenge shaped lights mounted in wrought iron comes. The sidelights are finished with split elliptical lights. A tetra-style one-story frame porch covers the principal entry into the house and a two-story porch provides sheltered access to the rooms contained in the service ell.

The outbuildings associated with the house include a framed granary and barn of the types typically found throughout the area as being a part of the redesign of farmsteads in New Castle County's lower hundreds during the nineteenth century. Of equal significance, is the earthfast hay barrack raised on unhewn posts set in the earth and then hewn square at the height of approximately ten feet to take the braced framing required for the roof structure. Documentary references to these structures used to store sheaves prior to threshing or to shelter hay stacks are quite frequent, but the Mondamon barrack is the only one known to survive in the area from the nineteenth century. Also included in the nomination are several small storage sheds, a frame privy, and a schoolhouse moved to the site and converted into a storage structure.

Historical Background and Significance:

Built in the second quarter of the nineteenth century, Mondamon Farm has remained in the possession of the McMullins family up to the present day. The house begun as a center-passage plan illustrates the integration of most domestic service activities into the main block of the house by the mid 1800s. The pattern of giving up separate kitchen structures and dairies and bringing them into the dwelling has its local origins in the 1770s, although it is not until the 1830s that the pattern became common.

As a farm operation, Mondamon remained at around 190 acres through the mid nineteenth century. From 1860 to 1870 the value of the farm as evidenced on the manuscript agricultural census returns showed a general increase. The value of the farm rose \$3500.00 from \$20,000.00 in 1860 and the value of wheat and Irish potatoes rose at a parallel rate. Little change is seen in the number of livestock or in the cultivation of oats, but there is a 40% decrease in the amount of butter produced on the farm. The most dramatic changes occur in the four fold increase in the value of farm machinery and the appearance of orchard crops in 1870. While the so-called "Peach Boom" is credited with generating much of the capital invested in the rebuilding of mid nineteenth century St. Georges Hundred, it is clear that the buildings were erected in advance of any appreciable orchard generated revenues.

As a statistically average farm of the mid nineteenth century, (as exemplified by its agricultural status at mid century and the extent and condition of its numerous farm structures) Mondamon Farm is a significant representation of the rebuilding process.

Nomination by Bert Jicha and Trish Bensinger

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MONDOMAN FARM N-5253

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D 18/444840/4375020