

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED JUN 17 1975
DATE ENTERED JUL 24 1975

**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
W. J. McGee Boyhood School

AND/OR COMMON
Lincoln School *use this*

2 LOCATION

about 4 mi. N of Farley
STREET & NUMBER S. W. Corner of Lot 2, N. W. 1/4 of S. E. 1/4 of Section 29,
Township 89 N, R. W, 5th P.M.

CITY, TOWN

VICINITY OF Farley

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Second

STATE
Iowa

CODE
14

COUNTY
Dubuque

CODE
061

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" 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 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 type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: Not In Use

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
John J. Heisler and Margaret Heisler

STREET & NUMBER
R. F. D. #1

CITY, TOWN

Farley

VICINITY OF

STATE

Iowa

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Dubuque County Courthouse, Recorder's Office

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Dubuque

STATE

Iowa

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
U. S. Geological Survey, Peosta

DATE
1896

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

The W. J. McGee Boyhood School is a wood frame gable roofed rectangular building three bays long. Not unlike many one-room schoolhouses in Iowa, it is nevertheless distinctive because it is on its original location, has not yet been converted into a school museum and because it retains its aged but original exterior appearance. Although the wood shingles of the roof may have been replaced, they are authentic in appearance. Certainly authentic and possibly even original is the clapboard siding. No elaborate mill work or other ornamentation is applied to this pristinely simple building: the brick chimney projecting from the northern edge of the ridge has a corbeled cap; the windows are framed with slim wood strips; the one bay wide entryway (added in the 1890's) has a two light transom. On the interior, simplicity of design is continued. The wood floors sag from years of weight suffered under the pressure of grain which was stored here. A platform extends along the north end where a wood burning stove also once stood.

The setting for the W. J. McGee Boyhood School is rural--complete with grasses, trees and panoramic view of the nearby Little Maquoketa River and Valley.

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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input 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

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

While of significance as one of a fast declining number of single room pioneer schools in Iowa, the building's greatest historical significance rests in its association with the achievements of W. J. McGee, an outstanding man of science, whose only formal education was attained in this school. No other building remains in Iowa that can be connected to McGee's most productive period of scientific accomplishment.

William John McGee was born in 1853 and died in 1912. He was the third son of James A. and Martha Anderson McGee, who resided in Section 31 of Iowa Township, Dubuque County.

Lincoln School was the sole source locally of whatever education the pioneer settlers and their children received. W. J. McGee attended this country schoolhouse during the four winter months of each year from about 1858 to 1867. After discontinuing his attendance at age 14, he then spent the period 1867-1874 at self study in Latin, German and higher mathematics, including astronomy, while he worked as a surveyor and blacksmith. Interspersed with these endeavors were geological investigations into the nearby caves and caverns. Such studies were later extended to Jackson, Clayton, Delaware and Allamakee counties in Iowa. After 1874 his life's activity centered almost wholly on scientific pursuits in the areas of geology, anthropology and hydrology.

The range of McGee's scientific accomplishments is immense, with over 300 treatises credited to his name. McGee pioneered, for example, in the study of this region's glacial history, establishing a knowledge of successive invasions and recessions of the ice-sheet that supported the theory of the complexity of the Great Ice Age. His most notable contributions to American geology relate to the Atlantic Coastal Plain where he pursued pioneer studies of broad problems of stratigraphic continuity and succession, and continental elevation and depression. Also noteworthy are his hydrological studies concerning the distribution of water on and beneath the surface of the United States and its industrial ramification. In the field of anthropology, his principal contribution was a study of the Seri Indians, a warlike tribe inhabiting islands off the coast of Lower California.

As a result of his original findings in the Upper Mississippi Valley, McGee received an appointment as an assistant to the Director of the U. S. Geological Survey in 1883. Shortly thereafter he was promoted to Director of the Atlantic Coast Division. McGee remained there until 1893 when he assumed the position of ethnologist in the Bureau of American Ethnology. Within one year, he became Director of the Bureau, a position held by him until 1903. Thereafter he served important positions with the St. Louis Public Museum, the Inland Waterways Commission, and the Bureau of Soils.

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W. J. McGee Boyhood School	Eight	Two

The prominent academic leadership achievements of W. J. McGee also merit attention. He was a founder and early president of the National Geologic Society. In addition he served as president of the American Anthropological Association, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the National Geographic Society, and the Anthropological Society of Washington.

His final article, "Symptomatic Development of Cancer" was a special study of his own case, a disease which took his life in 1912. In hopes that humanity might be benefitted, he recorded the progress of the disease in an article that was published a few days after his death. His selfless final act for human well being, unusual at that time, was the bequest of his body to the Jefferson College of Medicine in Philadelphia.

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Who Was Who In America, Volume 47.