

**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 McCall, John, House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 153 Oak Street not for publication

city, town Ashland vicinity of congressional district 4th

state Oregon code 41 county Jackson code 029

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<u> </u> district	<u> </u> public	<u> </u> occupied	<u> </u> agriculture	<u> </u> museum
<u> X </u> building(s)	<u> X </u> private	<u> X </u> unoccupied	<u> </u> commercial	<u> </u> park
<u> </u> structure	<u> </u> both	<u> </u> work in progress	<u> </u> educational	<u> X </u> private residence
<u> </u> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<u> </u> entertainment	<u> </u> religious
<u> </u> object	<u> </u> in process	<u> </u> yes: restricted	<u> </u> government	<u> </u> scientific
	<u> </u> being considered	<u> X </u> yes: unrestricted	<u> </u> industrial	<u> </u> transportation
		<u> </u> no	<u> </u> military	<u> </u> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Ms. Phyllis Courtney Knecht

street & number 305 Liberty

city, town Ashland vicinity of state Oregon 97520

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Jackson County Courthouse

street & number Eighth and Oakdale Streets

city, town Medford vicinity of state Oregon 97501

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Statewide Inventory of Historic Properties
Ashland Historic Buildings Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes X no

date 1970, 1974 federal X state county X local

depository for survey records State Historic Preservation Office

city, town Salem vicinity of state Oregon 97310

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" 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

The John McCall House is Ashland's outstanding example of Italianate architecture. Constructed in 1882-1883 for the McCall family, the residence is the work of L.S.P. Marsh, prominent local builder. The house was occupied by McCall and his descendents for eighty years. During recent years a law office occupied the first floor. The current owner plans to bring the upstairs up to code and operate the house as a small inn or "bed and breakfast" boarding house to help fill the demand for such accommodations during the peak of the Oregon Shakespearean Festival season.

The McCall house was constructed during years of Ashland's fastest growth for one of the town's leading citizens. John McCall's frequent trips to Portland may have introduced him to the work of Warren H. Williams, an architect who produced several houses with matching two-story bays and a central porch on the facade. Whether or not McCall was specifically aware of Williams' work, he chose the fashionable Italianate style for his new home.

"The symmetrical two-story, double bay form of house with which Williams worked was not an uncommon type in either urban or rural Oregon, and radically simplified Italianate houses such as the Barlow house in Barlow or the Gildersleeve house in Baker indicate the popularity of the plan."¹

The heavily bracketed cornices, low hipped roof, bay windows and bilateral symmetry are characteristics of the Italianate style which the McCall House exhibits. Segmental arched windows, another common feature of the style, are used in the facade and side elevation of the house.

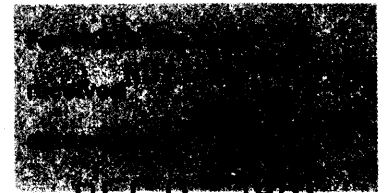
Located in Sec. 9, T. 39S., R. 1E., W.M., the McCall House stands on Block 3 in the Original Plat of Ashland. An 1867 map shows Block 3 in its original form. When the house was first built, it stood behind several other buildings. As traffic increased, a corner of the block was taken for roadway, leaving the McCall House much closer to the main road. It stands facing Oak Street, the first in a row of older residences. A real estate office separates the property from C Street. The Ashland armory is directly across the road from the McCall House. Oak Street has been a major Ashland thoroughfare since the town began. It continues to provide access to the railroad area, and the light industrial and commercial enterprises flourishing in the area.

The McCall House is rectangular in shape and measures approximately 52 by 38 feet. The two-story building is of frame construction and finished with 8" channel siding. The foundation is brick, measuring 2' 6" at the front and 6' at the rear of the structure. The roof at the main volume is a low hipped roof. The rear-ell has a pitched, or gable roof. A "widow's walk," or balustrade, which once surmounted the hipped roof is no longer in place. However, sections of the balustrade were found on the premises recently and could be reconstituted. The outstanding architectural features of the facade are two ornate polygonal bays which extend from the roof to the ground, and a balconette, or porch hood with deck and railing carried on elaborate s-curve consoles to shelter the entrance centered in the facade.

¹Space, Style and Structure, Portland: Oregon Historical Society, 1974, p. 283.

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The main facade is dominated by its bays, which contain twelve segmental arched windows, each having one-over-one lights in double hung sashes. The door giving access to the balconette also has a segmental arched head with four fixed panes. Ornate brackets and a paneled frieze extend across the facade and two sides of the house under the cornice. Bell-shaped drop ornaments are now missing from the cornice brackets. The deep closed soffit is separated from the frieze by bed molding and dentils. Ornate pilasters give relief to the facade, setting of each bay and first and second story doorways. Trim panels with incised ornament decorate the spandrels of bay window openings. Each corner of the house is trimmed with 8" corner boards topped with capitals and brackets. The double-leaf front door is set into a paneled recess. The segmental arched transom has two fixed panes. Spandrel ornament and a keystone top the transom. The two leaves of the front door are paneled below round-arched lights.

In the south elevation are four segmental arched windows. Two on the lower level have bracketed hooded lintels. All have sills with small ornamental brackets. The north elevation of the main portion of the house is identical. The west, or rear elevation from which the ell projects is no less elaborately finished. A window on the upper level is rectangular with four-over-four lights and a double hung sash. The two-story ell has three windows in the north elevation. The upper level windows are one-over-one with double hung sashes. On the lower level is one set of three windows with four lights each and one smaller four-over-four light window with a double hung sash. On the top level of the west elevation of the addition are two small two-light windows and one door which leads to a simple railed porch. A porch has been added onto the south side of the ell. Under its overhang are visible a large double hung window with four-over-four lights and two doors. One has two panels and a four light glass panel. The other has been temporarily boarded over, but a transom is apparent above it. An attractive lattice porch screen covers a portion of the porch. There are three windows in the south elevation of the porch addition. Two have four-over-four-lights with double hung sashes. The other is a small four-light window.

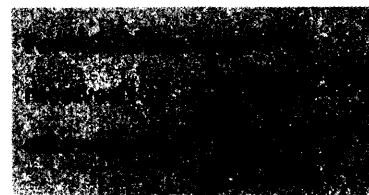
There are three interior brick chimneys on the McCall House. Most of the corbelling is missing.

The plan of the interior is divided by a central hall with two rooms on each side. Downstairs are two formal parlors, a master bedroom and a dining room. At the rear is the kitchen, pantry, additional porch space and two bathrooms added at a later date. All are original spaces but the two bathrooms and the porch space. On the upper story are four large bedrooms, a storage area with stairs that lead down to the kitchen and a bathroom. The attic is accessible but not finished. All spatial organization of rooms is original.

The central hall contains two wide arches, each of which leads to a parlor. Fluted, pilastered columns trim the side of each entry way. Architrave molding forms the top of each arch. Sliding pocket doors are in good condition. Each has four panels. Matching pocket doors and a similar arch provide entry from the right parlor to the dining room. At one end of the central hall is the stairway. It is a straight, single-flight stair with a curved baluster and railing. The open string stair reveals delicate ornamental brackets, molded nosing and paneling beneath. The newel post has several small panels and an ornate top piece.

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Each of the downstairs rooms has 11' 8" ceilings. All downstairs doors have architrave molding trim and 1' 10" high transoms with two lights above them. Each door has four panels with molding trim. There are small metal heat registers in the rooms. Electric light fixtures hang from ceilings in the central hall, parlors, and master bedroom. Original porcelain and brass hardware still exist on each door.

Eight-inch baseboards surround each wall. They are topped with molded trim. The kitchen has 4" wainscoting which is 3' high. The rear door has two panels and a four-light window. A pass-through cupboard connects the kitchen and dining room. An original sink remains in the kitchen. The one fireplace in the house is located in the master bedroom. It has a segmental arched firebox, brick-faced surround, and wood mantel piece with pilasters and curvilinear crest. Floors throughout the house are soft wood, cut at varying widths.

When the attorney's office occupied the first floor, a partition was added temporarily to close off the open stair well. A door kept the public from entering the upstairs. These are to be removed. From the central hall doors lead to four large bedrooms. Each has 10' ceilings. A storage room at the back of the house serves now as a hall. Stairs from it lead to the kitchen. The one upstairs bathroom is accessible from this hall.

There are no outbuildings on the property at present. Barns, sheds and a chicken house have been removed to make way for other houses as surrounding property was gradually sold. A driveway and alley provide access to the property on each side of the house. An outstanding landscape feature of the McCall House is an eighty-year-old magnolia tree, planted by Mary McCall in 1890. It stands in the front yard. Other plantings are evergreen bushes, a large oak tree in the back yard, and lawn.

The property on which the John McCall House stands is zoned for commercial use. Its new owner plans to open the house as a small inn. The first floor of the house has been brought to code by the previous owner. The second floor would require similar procedures. The only proposed alteration would be at the rear. The kitchen might have to be enlarged slightly. Otherwise, room arrangement will remain the same. The house would provide an excellent facility for short-term guests, and City and Oregon Shakespearean Festival Association Officials have received the proposal enthusiastically.

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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1882–1883 **Builder/Architect** L.S.P. Marsh

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The two-story High Victorian Italianate house built for Ashland Woolen Mill founder, successful capitalist and state legislator John McCall in 1883 is significant as the outstanding example of its type and style in Ashland and as one of the best-preserved examples of Italianate residential architecture now standing in the State. It is significant also as an example of the distinctive millwork of local builder L.S.P. Marsh. The house was constructed over an eighteen month period and completed in January of 1883. Its owner, General J.M. McCall, one of Southern Oregon's leading citizens when he was ready to build his last home, selected the prominent local craftsman L.S.P. Marsh, to serve as architect/builder. Marsh was active in Southern Oregon for at least two decades, during which he constructed numerous public, commercial and residential buildings. Among these were the Old Jackson County Courthouse, the Isaac Woolen House, and the B.F. Meyer House. For twelve years following its completion, the McCall House was the scene of memorable social and political gatherings. It possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association with prominent figures in late 19th century Ashland history.

The McCall house ^{was} occupied by the McCall family from the date of completion until 1964, when John McCall's granddaughter sold the structure to an Ashland resident. Thereafter, the ground floor of the house was used as an attorney's office for several years. Currently the building is unoccupied while the new owner plans its future use.

John Marshall McCall was involved in almost every aspect of life in his community and the region. Born in Pennsylvania January 15, 1825, he came to Oregon in 1850 and to Jackson County in 1852. He mined first at Yreka, California, and then took mining claims on tributaries of the Applegate River outside Jacksonville, Oregon. John McCall farmed on Wagner Creek until 1856, then ran a store at Galice, a thriving mining community on the Rogue River. In 1859, with a good financial foundation, McCall purchased an interest in the Ashland Flour Mill. In 1861 the First Oregon Cavalry formed and he was commissioned 2nd Lieutenant of Company D, and by 1865 was promoted to Captain. After escorting B.J. Pengra, who was surveying a wagon road from Eugene to Steens Mountain, Captain McCall was discharged at Vancouver and returned home.¹

With the enthusiasm of his community behind him, McCall founded the Ashland Woolen Mill in 1867. The business would become the major employer of residents of the area until the completion of the railroad almost twenty years later. In April, 1868, Lindsay Applegate's daughter Theresa and John McCall were married. She died six years later, leaving her husband three children. On July 4, 1876 he married Mary Anderson Brown, a long-time Ashland resident. Mary Anderson had come to Jackson County in 1854 from Indiana. She

¹A.G. Walling. A History of Jackson, Josephine, Douglas, Curry and Coos Counties. Portland: 1884, p. 533.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED
UTM NOT VERIFIED

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Ashland, Oregon-California

Quadrangle scale 1:62,500

UMT References

A 1,0 5,2,3 6,5,0 4,6,7,1 5,7,5
Zone Easting Northing

B
Zone Easting Northing

C

D

E

F

G

H

Verbal boundary description and justification

The John McCall House is located in Sec. 9, T. 39S., R. 1E., W.M. It occupies Tax Lot 11600 of Block 3 of the Original Plat of Ashland, Jackson County, Oregon.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kay Atwood

organization date July 12, 1980

street & number 102 So. Pioneer Street telephone (503) 482-8714

city or town Ashland state Oregon 97520

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

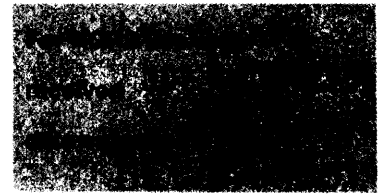
State Historic Preservation Officer signature *[Signature]*

title Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer date June 1, 1981

For HCERS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	
<i>[Signature]</i>	Entered in the National Register
Keeper of the National Register	date <u>12/9/81</u>
Attest:	date
Chief of Registration	

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travelled with her widowed mother, brother and sister to a brother, E.K. Anderson's home in Jackson County. In 1854-55 Mary Anderson taught the first school in Ashland, and in 1858 married a Methodist minister, George Brown, who died in 1866. His death left Mary Brown with the care of her niece, Anna Anderson, who had been adopted by the couple after the death of her parents.²

The years after John McCall's marriage found him busily involved in the community of Ashland. His J.M. McCall Co., founded in 1873, flourished. In 1879 he became a founder of the Ashland Library and Reading Room Association. His commission as Brigadier General of the Oregon State Militia was awarded by Governor Moody in 1883. The Bank of Ashland incorporated February 9, 1884 with a capital stock of \$50,000. The incorporators were J.M. McCall, W.H. Atkinson and H.B. Carter.³

John McCall served his community and the region in several political offices. He was first treasurer of the newly organized city of Ashland. In 1876 he was elected on the People's Ticket as a representative in the Oregon State Legislature. In 1891 McCall served again as representative. As a member of the Board of Regents of the State Normal School of Ashland, John McCall opened his home for their regular meetings. Like many of his contemporaries he was active in several fraternal organizations.⁴

General John M. McCall died November 7, 1895 and was buried from his home on Oak Street. The house from which his funeral procession left was one of Ashland's finest homes. John McCall had purchased a large piece of property near central Ashland in 1867.⁵ He replaced his earlier home with a fine new one in 1882-1883. In the spring of 1881 the local paper announced:

"J.M. McCall intends to build a handsome dwelling this summer on the vacant lot between his and H.S. Emery's residence. It is to be larger than any house on that street and will be finished in a style equal or superior to that of any house in town.⁶

By mid-summer the construction had yet to begin:

"Marsh's planing mill and factory is kept running steadily to prepare for the several buildings Mr. Marsh will erect this season. Of these at least four will be large fine residents, for Messrs. Isaac Woolen, B.F. Meyer, J.M. McCall and Henry Norton.⁷

² Ashland Daily Tidings, October 27, 1912.

³ Ashland Daily Tidings, November 7, 1895.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Jackson County Deed Records, Volume 4, page 599, October 22, 1867.

⁶ Ashland Daily Tidings, May 20, 1881.

⁷ Ashland Daily Tidings, July 8, 1881.

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Whether materials were in short supply or Mr. Marsh had over-committed himself in a work schedule, it was almost eighteen months before the McCall House was completed.⁸ In December, 1882, Baldwin Beach was doing the finish carpentry work and finally, in January, 1883, a gala housewarming party was held:

"He now has as comfortable and elegant home as can be found in the state outside of the cities. When the interior finish and furnishing is completed, the house will bear comparison for convenience of appointments and tasteful adornments with the pretentious dwellings of wealthy people of the metropolis.

As thrown open for the reception, two spacious parlors, one on either side of the hall in the front of the house, each with spacious bay window apartments, were merged by the opening of the large sliding doors, the pleasant dining room in which the elegant supper was served. From parlor to kitchen and from garret to cellar the house is fitted with all the modern conveniences that are practicable in a country place like this."⁹

In following years joyous and sad occasions occurred in the home. December 21, 1887 was the wedding of Anna Anderson and J.M. Wagner, and guests gathered in one of the parlors. In 1890, Elsie McCall, aged seventeen, died and was buried from the home. In following years General and Mrs. McCall died and family members gathered for services. In 1954, Elizabeth Wagner Sommer, daughter of Anna and J.M. McCall, returned to the house to care for her mother and aunt. After their deaths she remained in the home, maintaining it in very good condition.

The building has an identifiable relationship to the history which has been described. There have been very few alterations to the property. While it borders both the commercial and residential areas of Ashland, the house remains at the heart of the community, is thoroughly visible and conveys with integrity the period of the town's history when the McCalls and their home were significant.

⁸ Elizabeth Wagner Sommer explained that L.S.P. Marsh owed J.M. McCall money for lumber he purchased from the McCall-Atkinson lumber yard, and supplied his labor on the McCall home as payment. (June 16, 1980).

⁹ Ashland Daily Tidings, January 16, 1883.

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Ashland Daily Tidings

Vaughan, Thomas, (ed.) Space Style and Structure, Portland: Oregon Historical Society, 1974.

Wagner, Elizabeth (Sommer), Oral Interview June 16, 1980.

Walling, A.G. A History of Jackson, Josephine, Douglas, Curry and Coos Counties.
Portland: 1884.