

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED FEB 29 1980

DATE ENTERED

MAY 29 1980

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME *McCoy Farmhouse*

HISTORIC

Brown Farmhouse

AND/OR COMMON

McCoy Farmhouse (preferred)

2 LOCATION *S of Madison at*

STREET & NUMBER

2925 Syene Road

___ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Madison

 VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Second

STATE

Wisconsin

CODE

55

COUNTY

Dane

CODE

025

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" 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	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input 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"/> OTHER: vacant

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation - James S. Pike, Director

STREET & NUMBER

614 North Walnut Street

CITY, TOWN

Madison

___ VICINITY OF

STATE

Wisconsin 53706

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE.

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Dane County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

210 Monona Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Madison

STATE

Wisconsin 53703

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Wisconsin Inventory of Historic Places

DATE

1977

___ FEDERAL STATE ___ COUNTY ___ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

State Historical Society of Wisconsin

CITY, TOWN

Madison

STATE

Wisconsin 53706

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 type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The McCoy farmhouse is a symmetrical, two-story Italianate house constructed of cream-colored brick. On the main square mass, the gently sloping hipped roof is crowned by a simple wooden cupola, and brackets decorate the eaves. The central door on the main facade is flanked by floor-to-ceiling windows which are capped with carved stone lintels. The foundation is sandstone, most likely of local origin.

A two-story brick wing in the back is original, but it appears to have been shortened and a wood frame wall added across the back. The front porch originally extended across most of the front of the house (as evidenced by the dark markings on the brick). It has been replaced by a smaller gabled porch supported by wooden posts.

The interior is austere in design and has been little altered through the years. A central hallway with a graceful, simple stairway separates the dining room and kitchen on the left from the parlor and a smaller room on the right. Off the dining room is a large, rectangular conservatory bay. The back wing contains smaller service rooms. The floors are wide hardwood boards and the windows are trimmed in painted wood, simply molded.

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 checked="" 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 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 type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) Home of Elizabeth McCoy
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1852-1885

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The McCoy House was built in 1861 on one of Wisconsin's first tobacco farms by one of Dane County's most successful pioneers in tobacco cultivation. Since 1949 the house has been associated with Elizabeth McCoy, a prominent microbiologist who gained international recognition during her 50 year career as a teacher and research in bacteriology.

Agriculture. The parcel of land upon which the McCoy House stands was part of a 160 acre quarter-section purchased in 1846 by Henry Yager. Yager first cultivated the land, but it was not until 1853 that the area's most successful crop - tobacco - was first grown on the site. In that year, two Ohioans named Ralph Pomeroy and Jacob R. Hiestand emigrated to Wisconsin. These men rented ten acres of Yager's land and grew a crop of tobacco-- "a very large growth, estimated to yield at least a tone per acre."¹ This was one of the first successful cultivations of tobacco in Wisconsin, and several authorities have claimed it to be the first true commercial crop in the state.²

Tobacco was only sparcely grown in Dane County and the rest of Wisconsin until the American Civil War. That conflict had the effect of cutting off the supply of Southern tobacco, raising the price of this demanded item, and encouraging Northern farmers to grow more of it. Throughout the remainder of the 19th century, tobacco growing in the Northern states steadily, albeit unevenly, increased.³ It was during the first year of the Civil War that Benjamin F. Brown, a native of New York, bought what had been the Yager farm. By then the farm was more valuable as improved land, with soil conditioned to tobacco growing.⁴ Brown built here his farmhouse, located just off the road (now Syene Road) that marked his property line. He imported cream brick from Milwaukee for the structure⁵ Brown's farm was typical of thos tobacco farms that benefited from the war. By the time of his death in 1874, the farm's value was five times greater than when he had purchased it, an increase that was well above the norm for the area. The major cause of this increase was doubtless due to the greater worth of the tobacco he grew.⁶

Dane County was by 1874 Wisconsin's main tobacco growing area. Generally, the tobacco that was grown was a seedleaf, binder type used for wrapping cigars.⁷ In 1898, Dane County farms, particularly those in the southeastern part of the country, grew one quarter of the state's tobacco.⁸ By 1906, production reached 25 million pounds for the year, more than any other country in the United States.⁹ Dane was still Wisconsin's tobacco leader in 1911 (about the time that tobacco growing ended on the Brown farmland), with more than 14,000 acres of land cultivated with tobacco.¹⁰

Elizabeth McCoy. Most recently, the Brown farmhouse has been the home of Elizabeth McCoy, and in the area is popularly known as the McCoy House. Miss McCoy (1903-1978) was "recognized throughout the world as a truly great microbiologist."¹¹ She received her PhD in 1929 from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and for most of her fifty year career she taught and researched at the same school. She became one of the first

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See continuation sheet

UTM NOT VERIFIED

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 3.0

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

QUADRANGLE NAME Madison West, Wis.

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 16 304670 4764960
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Building is located in the NE 1/4 of the NW 1/4, Sec. 11, T-6-N, R-9-E (Town of Fitchburg). Boundaries of nominated property are limited to the three acres immediately surrounding the house.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Whitney Hould

~~Katherine H. Rankin, Preservation Planner~~

ORGANIZATION

City of Madison Madison Landmarks Comm.

DATE Aug 14, 1979

~~September 1979~~

STREET & NUMBER

351 West Wilson Street 901 Jennifer St.

TELEPHONE 257-6679

608/266-6552

CITY OR TOWN

Madison

STATE Wisconsin 53709³

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL STATE X 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

Richard Murray

TITLE

Director, State Historical Society of Wisconsin

DATE

2/20/80

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

John W. Ray
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

5/29/80

ATTEST: *Kristin O'Connell*
CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

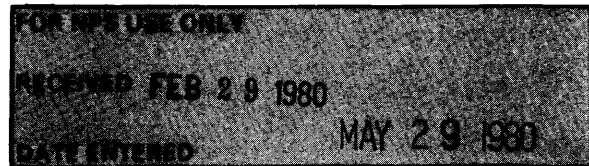
DATE

5/28/80

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

McCoy Farmhouse, Madison, Wis., vicinity



CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 1

8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (continued)

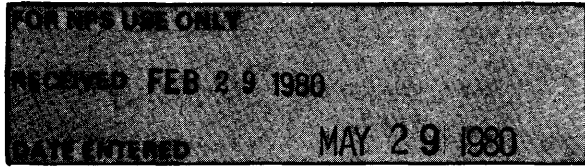
women to contribute to the study of microbiology, doing major research in bacteria toxins and in botulism. During World War II, she worked with penicillan and actually detected the strain that caused this drug to be produced for common use.¹² Miss McCoy bought the Brown farmhouse because it had been owned by her grandfather, James McCoy, in the late 19th century. James McCoy farmed tobacco there, while Elizabeth remembered visiting the farm as a child; she considered the property as a kind of family memory. She lived on the farm from 1949, when she bought it, until her death in 1978. By her arrangement, the property was left in the hands of the Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation, the present owners of the property. It was Miss McCoy's wish that the property and house be preserved as they are today.¹³

NOTES

- 1) Deed dated October 9, 1846, which sold to Henry W. Yager for \$504 the NW 1/4 of section 11, in township 9 (Fitchburg), is on deposit at the Archives Division of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin (hereafter SHSW); for confirmations that on this farm Ralph Pomeroy and J. R. Hiestand grew their tobacco, see Wisconsin Tobacco Reporter, Oct. 2, 1885. See also Elisha Keyes, ed., History of Dane County, Western Historical Association, Madison, 1906, p. 409-411.
- 2) Benjamin H. Hibbard, The History of Agriculture in Dane County, Wisconsin, Bulletin of the University of Wisconsin, no. 101, Madison, 1904, p. 155-159. See also Frederick Merk, Economic History of Wisconsin During the Civil War Decade, Wisconsin Historical Publications by the SHSW, Madison, 1916, Vol. 1, p. 36n; G. Melvin Herndon, William Tatham and the Culture of Tobacco, University of Miami Press, Coral Gables, Florida, 1969, p. 407.
- 3) Hibbard, p. 159. See also Carl Russell Fish, "Phases of Economic History of Wisconsin, 1860-1870," Wisconsin Historical Society Proceedings, SHSW, Madison, 1907, p. 215.
- 4) For the importance of improved soil, see James Johnson, "Tobacco Culture in Wisconsin," University of Wisconsin A.E.S. Bulletin, no. 206, 1911, p. 4-9; Hibbard, p. 171-172.
- 5) History of Dane County, Wisconsin, Western Historical Co. of Chicago, Chicago, 1880, p. 215.
- 6) Fitchburg Tax Rolls, 1852-1870, on deposit at the Archives Division, SHSW.
- 7) Meyer Jacobstein, The Tobacco Industry in the United States, Columbia Studies in History, Economics and Public Law, Columbia University Press, New York, 1907, 56-57; Joseph C. Robert, The Story of Tobacco in America, Alfred A. Knopf, New York, 1949, p. 180-181.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**



McCoy Farmhouse, Madison, Wis., vicinity

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (continued)

NOTES (continued)

- 8) Hibbard, p. 160.
- 9) Keyes, ed., p. 278.
- 10) Johnson, p. 3-4.
- 11) American Society of Microbiology News, Vol. 44, no. 5, 1978, p. 266-267.
- 12) Ibid., Vol. 42, no. 9, 1976, p. 531-535.
- 13) Interview of Elizabeth McCoy by Elizabeth Anderson, May 10, 1975. This interview was taped and the tapes are in the possession of John M. Koepl, attorney for the town of Fitchburg. A transcript of the interview is in this office.

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

McCoy Farmhouse, Madison, Wis., vicinity

CONTINUATION SHEET

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9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

American Society of Microbiology News

Fish, Carl Russell, "Phases of Economic History of Wisconsin, 1860-1870,"
Wisconsin Historical Society Proceedings, Madison, 1907.

Herndon, G. Melvin, William Tatham and the Culture of Tobacco, Coral Gables,
Florida, 1969.

Hibbard, Benjamin, The History of Agriculture in Dane County, Wisconsin,
Madison, 1904.

Jacobstein, Meyer, The Tobacco Industry in the United States, New York, 1907.

Johnson, James, "Tobacco Culture in Wisconsin," University of Wisconsin A.E.S.
Bulletin, Madison, 1911.

Keyes, Elisha, ed., History of Dane County, Madison, 1906.

McCoy, Elizabeth, Interview by Elizabeth Anderson, May 10, 1975.

Merk, Frederick, Economic History of Wisconsin During the Civil War Decade,
Madison, 1916.

Robert, Joseph C., The Story of Tobacco in America, New York, 1949.

Western Historical Co. of Chicago, History of Dane County, Wisconsin, Chicago,
1880.

Wisconsin Tobacco Reporter, Edgerton.

FHR-8-300A
(11/78)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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McCoy Farmhouse, Madison, Wis., vicinity

CONTINUATION SHEET

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Verbal Boundary Description (revised, 5/2/80)

The McCoy Farm is located in the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 11, T-6-N, R-9-E, the town of Fitchburg. The farm is approximately 300 yards west of the junction of Syene Road and McCoy Road, two miles south of the city of Madison. The boundary of the nominated property is formed by a rectangle of ground, the base of which is the north edge of Syene road; the McCoy house is the exact center of the rectangle, the dimensions of which run 200 feet from the center of the house, north and south, and 150 feet from the center of the house, east and west.

Submitted by Shoptaugh
(5/2/80)

FHR-8-300A
(11/78)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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McCoy Farmhouse, Madison, Wis., vicinity

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 11 PAGE 1

11. FORM PREPARED BY

Terry L. Shoptaugh, Historian, Historic Preservation Division

State Historical Society of Wisconsin

December 3, 1979

816 State Street

608/262-3390

Madison

Wisconsin 53706

Whitney Gould

Madison Landmarks Commission

901 Jenifer Street

608/257-6679

Madison W

Wisconsin 53703

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

McCoy Farmhouse, Madison vicinity, Dane County, Wisconsin (NRHP 05-29-80)

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 11 PAGE 2

FORM PREPARED BY:

Please delete: Katherine H. Rankin, Preservation Planner

City of Madison

September 1979

351 West Wilson Street

608/266-6552

Madison

Wisconsin 53709

and substitute therefor:

Whitney Gould

August 14, 1979

Madison Landmarks Commission

608/257-6679 - 252-6436

901 Jenifer Street

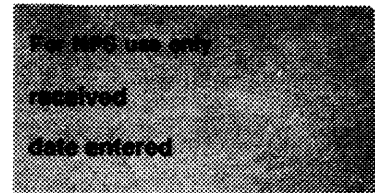
Madison

Wisconsin 53703

Donald N. Anderson
Historian & Registrar
July 17, 1980

cc: Katherine H. Rankin

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



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

Continuation sheet

Item number

Page

PROPERTY NAME McCoy Farmhouse

8	0	0	0	1	2	4
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

REFERENCE NUMBER

W	I
---	---

STATE

0	2	5
---	---	---

COUNTY CODE

Due to new incorporation, is now located in the City of Fitchburg.

[Handwritten Signature]

2/13/86

SIGNED, SHPO OR AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE

DATE