

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name McCready, Robert W. & Mary F., House

other name/site number "Westwind"

2. Location

street & town 139 Orange Turnpike (NY Route 17) ☐ not for publication

city or town Village of Sloatsburg ☐ vicinity

state New York code NY county Rockland code 087 zip code 10974

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☒ nomination  
☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic  
Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  
☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  
☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Richard Purpant / DSHPO 11/17/09  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

☐ entered in the National Register.

☐ See continuation sheet.

☐ determined eligible for the  
National Register

☐ See continuation sheet.

☐ determined not eligible for the  
National Register.

☐ removed from the National  
Register.

☐ other, (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Registration Form



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☐ removed from the National  
Register.

☐ other, (explain):

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

*for*  
Ethan H. Beall

10-4-11

McCready, Robert W. & Mary F., House  
Name of Property

Rockland County, New York  
County and State

## 5. Classification

**Ownership of Property**  
(check as many boxes as apply)

- ☐ public-local  
☒ private  
☐ public-State  
☐ public-Federal

**Category of Property**  
(check only one box)

- ☐ district  
☒ building(s)  
☐ site  
☐ structure  
☐ object

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
3	0	buildings
0	0	sites
6	0	structures
0	0	objects
9	0	Total

**Name of related multiple property listing**  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

**Number of contributing resources previously listed  
in the National Register**

## 6. Function or Use

**Historic Function**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

**Current Function**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

## 7. Description

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN  
LATE 19<sup>th</sup> and EARLY 20<sup>th</sup> CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS:  
Bungalow/Craftsman

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE  
walls WOOD  
roof ASPHALT  
other METAL, BRICK, GLASS

**Narrative Description**  
(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

See Continuation Sheets-



Property Name *McCready, Robert W. & Mary F., House*  
Location *Sloatsburg, Rockland County, New York*

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
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**7. Narrative Description**

*Location & Setting*

The Robert W. and Mary F. McCready House is located at 139 Orange Turnpike—New York Route 17—in the Village of Sloatsburg, Rockland County, New York. This location places the house on the north side of the village, north of Post Road, on the west side of Orange Turnpike. The parcel on which the house and associated resources are located measures roughly 150' in width (street frontage) by 300' in depth, equating to approximately one acre of land; it is essentially flat, the grade rising gently to the west, beyond the nominated property line. The main house is set back approximately 75' from Orange Turnpike, and accessed from the sidewalk by way of a brick-lined and concrete bordered walkway. Behind the main house is situated a small, oval-shaped area consisting of a koi pond and fountain, this area defined by a circular drive, an extension of the gravel-laid driveway that accesses the property from the main road. Further west of the garden area is a single-story frame bungalow residence, and beyond that a large 2 ½ story carriage barn of sizeable dimension. The nominated parcel is generally open with a small scattering of ornamental plantings around the two houses and garden, and a small number of deciduous and coniferous trees, including a substantial maple tree situated between the main house and sidewalk. To the west of the property line are thick woods. The overall character of the immediate neighborhood is that of residential properties aligning Orange Turnpike, of similar age to the nominated house.

*Identified Resources*

The nomination includes the following contributing resources: the c. 1889 McCready house; the c. 1930 Bungalow; the carriage barn; the brick and concrete walkway; the koi pond; the fountain and associated features; a hand-pump; a well; and the stone and concrete retaining wall that forms a terrace at the property's northwest corner. The main house, bungalow and carriage barn constitute contributing buildings; the walkway, pond, fountain area, hand-pump, well and retaining wall constitute contributing structures, all being related to the development of the property during the cited period of significance, c. 1889-1949, during the McCready ownership period.

*McCready House: Exterior & Interior*

The McCready house was built with its primary elevation facing eastward towards Orange Turnpike. It is a light-frame building built above a mortared cut-stone foundation, with a roughly self-contained footprint; it is covered by a steeply pitched gable roof with its ridge aligned front to back, an intersecting jerkin head gable roof corresponding with central bays on the north and south side elevations. The facade is defined by a four-sided projection that corresponds with an octagonal-shaped parlor and bedroom within, three bays of this projection being covered by a hipped roof situated beneath the front-facing gable. At first floor level on the façade the four-sided projection is fronted by a hip-roofed verandah; at second story level the roof of the verandah is terminated by the east wall of a small porch, shingle-sided, that is accessed via an upstairs bedroom. There are window openings in three of the four facets of the projection at the first and second story level, double-hung with period sash consisting of an upper unit with rectilinear borders above one-light units; an oculus window occupies a central position in the field of the front-facing gable. One of the window bays at first story level on the projection, however, is blind and shuttered over, corresponding with a mirrored wall on the interior. Apertures provide access to the verandah and second-story porch from the façade, at the extreme south side of this elevation. On the

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opposite side, on the north side of the verandah, is the primary entrance, consisting of a glazed door flanked by half-length sidelights and spanned by a rectangular-shaped transom, the sidelights and transom fitted with glass of a Colonial Revival type, with leaded intersecting arcs. The entrance is approached from grade via concrete steps flanked by pedestals with cast concrete owls; the verandah floor is laid with tongue-and-groove boards. Character-defining features of the façade are modest and include decorative brackets utilized in concert with the porch supports and open-frieze spindle work; moulded wood cornices; and narrow cornerboards that trim the clapboards.

The south-facing elevation of the McCready house is largely defined by the one-bay central section corresponding with the intersecting jerkin head gable, which is ornamented with a bracketed trim board with incised detailing; fenestration consists of the two-story, three-sided bay window projection, which features windows on each facet above paneled aprons, above which is a window fitted with two-over-two sash that brings light into the half story—partially obscured by the ornamental truss. To the left, or west of this central bay, is a hipped roof projection that contains a paired window grouping fitted with double-hung four-over-four wood sash divided by a central mullion, corresponding with the kitchen. Above this is a single large window, square in shape, fitted with leaded glass.

The opposite north elevation likewise has a single bay defined by the intersecting jerkin head gable, with three windows corresponding with the first and second floor, along with the attic levels; the openings decrease in size moving from the first story upward. The lower opening, lighting the stair hall, is fitted with Queen Anne style sash, the upper and lower units having a clear section bordered by colored panes; the second story window has clear sash with rectilinear border above a one-light unit, while the uppermost opening is fitted with two-over-two sash. The jerkin head gable is ornamented with the same type trim board utilized on the opposite side. To the right, or west of the central section, is a door into the rear vestibule and two window openings—one rectangular in shape and fitted with an 18-light glazed unit, the other a much smaller four-light unit—located beneath a hipped roof, cantilevered; and a window corresponding with the second floor, fitted with a clear bordered sash unit above a single-light unit. At half story level is a pent-roofed dormer punctuated with two windows fitted with leaded, Colonial Revival-type casements. The rear elevation has a recessed entry at first story level that leads into the kitchen; three windows at second-story level, two of which have bordered sash over a single light unit, and a similar window like the two just described, which brings light into the rear of the half story.

The McCready house's interior plan on the first floor consists of a small, square-shaped vestibule which opens into a larger stair hall, from which is accessed the octagonal-shaped parlor; the parlor communicates with the dining room, behind which is a generously scaled and rectangular-shaped kitchen, in addition to a pantry, a servants stair, a rear vestibule, and a bathroom. The second floor has four bedrooms, including the master above the dining room and the octagonal-shaped one above the parlor, in addition to a bathroom with an intact early 20<sup>th</sup> century sink, bathtub, and needle-type shower. The third floor has three small rooms, while the basement is unfinished.

Wall and ceiling finish is primarily plaster on sawn lath; in some areas—such as the kitchen and ceiling of the stair hall, parlor and dining room—deteriorated or completely failed plaster is being replaced, in some instances with period wood lath, in other instances with expanded metal lath. The vestibule, as already noted, utilizes wood for wainscoting as well as the walls and ceiling. Door and window openings are for

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the most part finished with moulded wood architraves—decorative pressed metal in the dining room—in some instance the wood ones further finished with roundel corner blocks. Moulded wood baseboards and cornices are present in the primary rooms of the first floor. Doors are typically of either a four or five paneled type; some have been fabricated to replace those now missing. Flooring includes quarter-sawn oak parquet work in the stair hall, parlor and dining room, and runs of pine board and oak strip flooring in other areas such as the kitchen and second floor. Colonial Revival-inspired interior treatments include the unfluted *in antis* colonettes and a corresponding moulded wood cornice defining the opening between the stair hall and parlor, and likewise the paneled wainscot utilized in the vestibule and beneath the main stair, along with fireplaces highlighted by ogee-form wood mantel shelves, moulded wood firebox architraves and recessed paneling in the parlor and dining room. The dining room mantel shelf is surmounted by ornate, foliate-carved wood colonettes with composite capitals, which give way to a moulded cornice, the cornice being a continuation of that which forms the transition between the walls and ceiling of the room. The firebox openings on the first floor are squared and not of the Rumford type, formed of brick, the hearths laid in a polychrome manner with red and black tile; those upstairs are of a splayed and shallow Rumford type. Mantels in two of the upstairs rooms are of a different type from those in the parlor and dining room below, and are wood with turned balusters flanking the firebox openings, with bracketed mantel shelves above. As for the blind exterior bay of the façade projection, it corresponds with a large mirror in the front parlor,

The kitchen is undergoing the most extensive restoration of any part of the house, due to non-sensitive changes made in recent years and likewise deterioration. Care has been taken to restore the pine flooring that was revealed upon the removal of a more recent linoleum surface, and likewise some original cupboards and cream-hued tile. The open-stringer stair is likewise being restored, and as such the balusters and handrail are currently removed; the alignment, treads, risers and nosings, along with the dropped acorn-form pendant of the upper newel post, are original and intact.

Notable are the early 20<sup>th</sup> century bathroom treatments which remain in the second floor bathroom, including a claw-foot tub, sink and needle-type shower, all of which are white marble with nickel-plated fixtures; located in the half-story are the zinc-lined storage tanks which supplied water to the bathroom and kitchen. The steam radiators appear of an early type, and represent either an original or early installation, this radiant heating system utilized in concert with the house's coal-burning fireplaces.

*Other Resources: Bungalow, Carriage Barn & Other Components*

The carriage barn is a substantial frame building, 2 and ½ stories in height, measuring approximately 60 feet in length by 20 feet in depth, with a hipped roof punctuated by dormers. Its frame is sheathed on the exterior with clapboard and wood shingles, the primary entrance consisting of large sliding doors; a projection at the northeast corner creates a porte-cochere. The roof is covered with asphalt, and pierced by a single cream and beige-hued brick chimney. Damage was rendered to a portion of this building in a 2002 fire, which was fortunately contained, and limited to the southernmost portion of the building. The interior includes areas finished for occupation on the second floor, though in many of these the plaster has been lost, leaving only the sawn lath on walls and ceilings. Tradition maintains this barn was originally located in Tuxedo Park, and moved to this location subsequently; it appears in this position on the 1942 Sanborn Fire Insurance map.



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The bungalow was apparently built c. 1930 by McCready as a rental property to help defray mounting financial losses at the onset of the Great Depression. It has a square-shaped footprint and is a single story in height, erected above a raised foundation of poured concrete. The roof is hipped, subtly concave in profile and covered with asphalt; the exterior is wood shingled. The larger windows are fitted with six-over-one sash; the main entrance is situated beneath a gable-roofed projection, the door consisting of sidelights and transom fitted with leaded and colored glass. There is likewise a porch on the east side, hip-roofed, supported by square posts and partially enclosed by runs of balustered rail. Interior treatments include a living room with paneled walls, marble mantel, and Colonial Revival-style closet doors presumably salvaged from a previous location.

Other contributing components include the koi pond, which is rectangular in shape and lined with cream and beige-hued brick, surmounted by rustic stonework; the fountain, with associated cast-concrete benches, walkway, and rustic stone work; the entrance walk that leads from the sidewalk to the house, consisting of trapezoidal-shaped cream and beige-hued brick with a slightly raised, poured concrete border—it is a straight run; a stone well; and a hand-pump.

McCready, Robert W. & Mary F., House  
Name of Property

Rockland County, New York  
County and State

## 8. Significance

### Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- ☐ A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☒ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

### Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- ☐ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ B removed from its original location.
- ☐ C a birthplace or grave.
- ☐ D a cemetery.
- ☐ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ F a commemorative property.
- ☐ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

### Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

### Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

### Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey  
# \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering  
Record # \_\_\_\_\_

### Areas of Significance

(enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

INDUSTRY

### Period of Significance

c. 1889- 1949

### Significant Dates

c. 1889; c. 1920; c. 1930; 1949

### Significant Persons

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

McCready, Robert Workman

### Cultural Affiliation

N/A

### Architect/Builder

McCready, Robert Workman; builder/architect

### Primary location of additional data:

- ☐ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_



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## **8. Narrative Statement of Significance**

### *Overview*

The Robert W. and Mary F. McCready house enjoys tangible historic associations with the life of Robert Workman McCready (1862-1949), an Irish-born builder who rose to prominence in the greater Sloatsburg area, particularly in association with the construction of major architectural commissions executed by his company in Tuxedo Park. Trained initially in his trade in Belfast, under the employ of the shipbuilding firm of Harland & Wolff, McCready came to America and in the ensuing years worked for the well-known construction firm of Mead & Taft. In 1889 he formed a professional partnership with his brother-in-law William Finch, general contractors under the name of McCready & Finch, before assuming sole ownership of the company in 1904. During its time the company was responsible for executing important domestic commissions in Tuxedo Park, New York, where major works of residential architecture were being built to the plans of some of the nation's leading architectural offices, and at the height of its prominence employed upwards of 600 employees. McCready retired from business in the 1920s, and lived in the nominated house, built c. 1889 as a wedding gift to his spouse Mary Finch McCready, until their deaths in 1949. It is an example of eclectic Late Victorian domestic design, with interior and exterior work reflecting Eastlake, Queen Anne and Colonial Revival-style influence, though not all representative of a single building campaign. In addition to the main house, the property includes a c. 1930 bungalow, a large frame carriage barn that is believed to have been moved here from Tuxedo Park, in addition to designed landscape components including a koi pond and fountain.

### *Historic Context: Development of Sloatsburg*

Among the first documented owners of property in the area that would develop as the Sloatsburg in Rockland County was Wynant Van Gelder, who purchased land here from local Native Americans in 1738.<sup>1</sup> The tract of land on which the hamlet evolved in the 19<sup>th</sup> century was obtained in June 1747 as a gift by Isaac Van Duser, who married Van Gelder's daughter. Stephen Sloat, for whose family the village takes its name, married Van Duser's daughter and received as dower the property on which he erected a stone house—which remains today, as a service wing to a later, early 19<sup>th</sup> century construct—on the south side of the hamlet on the Orange Turnpike. At one point the Sloat house, which stayed in the family for multiple generations, served as a tavern on the Orange Turnpike.<sup>2</sup> In the 19<sup>th</sup> century the hamlet developed in association with industries established here by Jacob Sloat, whose mid-19<sup>th</sup> century house, Harmony Hall, remains to chronicle this period of development and the Sloat family's continued presence here. Both the earlier family house and Harmony Hall are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The former Orange Turnpike, present-day Route 17, is among the older transportation arteries in the Hudson Valley; it proved to be one of the more significant overland transportation routes during the Revolutionary War, as it offered passage through the Ramapo Mountains, lending it tremendous strategic importance. This road's prominence as a major transportation artery, however, was partially diminished by arrival of the railroad, though it, along with the later New York State Thruway, followed the same corridor through the Ramapo Pass.

<sup>1</sup> Early history derived from Frank Bertangue Green, *The History of Rockland County* (New York: A.S. Barnes, 1886), 397.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid

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Sloatsburg was located on the New York & Erie Railroad, which allowed for easy access to the burgeoning metropolitan region to the south as well as offering a reliable source of transportation for goods manufactured at the Sloat mills. An excellent 19<sup>th</sup> century account, published in 1852 in *Harper's New York and Erie Rail-Road Guide Book*,<sup>3</sup> provides a sense of the character of the place at this time. Sloatsburg was described as a "Beautiful and thriving space [that] presents a singular aspect to the traveler. From the station he sees two substantial cotton factories, and not a sign of a village or Hamlet in sight, the damsels employed in them dwelling in the humble but neat abodes scattered along the 'happy valley.'" The writer further noted that "Embowered in noble trees, the mills look as though placed in a gentleman's park."<sup>4</sup> He continued:

Major Sloat's enterprise and mechanical ingenuity have brought the mills to their present flourishing condition, and his good taste has made Sloatsburg the fairest portion of the valley... If the tourist stopped here, and penetrated beyond that factory and its grove, he will see evidence of the immense influence of man's controlling taste in the well-fenced meadows, the sacred regard for trees that gives the place its park-like beauty, and the general prosperous air of every dwelling around him. And what nobler certificate of character can there be than is such fair characters neatness, order, and industry, written upon a man's estate?

To accommodate his neighbors, the Major has put up a "model Country store" stylish enough for a country residence from which however is rightly excluded all intoxicating drinks.<sup>5</sup>

Isaac Sloat had established a tannery here as early as 1792, and in 1815 the Sloat family built the first cotton mill, giving rise to a long period of manufacture under their guidance; in 1839 the firm of J. Sloat & Company was established, and in 1853 the Sloatsburgh Manufacturing Company. Sloat-related operations ceased here in 1878.<sup>6</sup> In 1882 the mill was renovated and opened by Robert McCullough for the production of spun silk thread. Around the time of the construction of the McCready house, the hamlet boasted six stores and about 50 dwellings.<sup>7</sup>

*Robert Workman McCready (1862-1949), Master Builder*

Robert Workman McCready was born in Belfast, Ireland in 1862, the son of Scots-Irish parents.<sup>8</sup> During his youth McCready was employed with the firm of Harland & Wolff, a shipbuilding company established in 1861 and located on Belfast's River Lagan. This firm rose to prominence under the auspices of Edward Harland and Gustav Wilhelm Wolff, and in 1870 was let the contract to build the *Oceanic* for the famed White Star Line shipping company, the first of 70 vessels built by Harland & Wolff for White Star, including the ill-fated R.M.S. *Titanic*. It was in the employ of this Belfast-based shipbuilding company that McCready learned the rudiments of carpentry and construction, prior to coming to America. Around 1884 McCready emigrated from his native Ireland to Falls River, Massachusetts, arriving there, as described by

<sup>3</sup> *Harper's New York and Erie Rail-Road Guide Book* (New York: Harper & Brothers, 1852), 326.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid

<sup>5</sup> Ibid

<sup>6</sup> Green, *Rockland*, 167.

<sup>7</sup> Ibid, 397.

<sup>8</sup> This sketch of McCready's life was in part compiled by Edward J. Marse, current owner of the nominated house; his research has included an examination of the McCready-Finch business books for the period 1896-1902, and likewise communications with McCready's great granddaughter.

Property Name *McCready, Robert W. & Mary F., House*  
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his great-granddaughter, "with a tool box under one arm and a five pound note in his pocket."<sup>9</sup> Some time thereafter McCready made his way to Sloatsburg, where he participated in the construction of that hamlet's Methodist Church, built in 1887 to replace an earlier edifice. Soon he gained employ in the construction firm of Mead & Taft of Cornwall, New York, which was responsible for the construction of some of the early dwellings in Tuxedo Park, a residential enclave nestled in the Ramapo Mountains. Tuxedo Park was developed as a high-scale suburb beginning in the 1880s, under the guidance of Pierre Lorillard V, in consultation with landscape architect Eugene Bowditch and architect Bruce Price; in the coming years it would include major works of domestic architecture built from the plans of prestigious designers and architectural offices such as McKim, Mead & White, Russell Sturgis, and William Lescage, to name but a few. Mead & Taft earned a wide-ranging reputation and was responsible for executing work for, among others, the architectural office of McKim, Mead & White, which placed them among their preferred list for designs rendered in frame construction.<sup>10</sup>

Having earned considerable experience in the employ of Harland & Wolff—and, after coming to America, Mead & Taft—in 1889 Robert McCready, in conjunction with his brother-in-law William Finch, established the general contracting firm of McCready & Finch. This partnership spanned the period 1897-1903, and in those years became the most prominent executing work in Tuxedo Park, constructing a large percentage of the houses built in that period. In 1904 the company was reorganized, at which time McCready became the principal owner, before retiring from active business in the mid-1920s. The company, in addition to providing general contracting services, executed cabinet-work and likewise offered upholstery and painting services. At the height of its success McCready's firm employed upwards of 600 employees during the construction season, and worked with some of the most prestigious architectural firms of the day, bringing from plan to realization many of Tuxedo Park's landmark domestic commissions. The following advertisement dates to 1906, and suggests McCready kept a professional office in Tuxedo Park:

Phone 4

Established 1889

**ROBERT McCREADY**

Successor to

**McCREADY & FINCH**

General Contractors

Cabinet Makers

Upholsters

Painters

Decorators

Tuxedo Park

New York

Masons

Laborers

Tinsmiths

Carpenters

Seventeen years in the contracting business in TUXEDO gives me the highest specimens of Residences and Stables to show as proof of my ability to satisfactorily carry out all work entrusted to me. The only complete plant on the ground.

I furnish everything from first work of the laborers to the most advanced and artistic productions of my upholsterers.

**ROBERT McCREADY**

TUXEDO PARK, N.Y.<sup>11</sup>

<sup>9</sup> Ibid

<sup>10</sup>Robert McKay, Anthony Baker and Carol Traynor, eds., *Long Island Country Houses and Their Architects* (New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 1997), 276.

<sup>11</sup>Advertisement in Donn Barber, ed., *Catalogue of the 25<sup>th</sup> Exhibition of The Architectural League of New York* (New York: 1906), 209.



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McCready's prominence in the development of Tuxedo Park's architecture was noted in a period obituary, which cited him as a "pioneer in the development" of that place.<sup>12</sup> Other noteworthy commissions included the house in Suffern built for Allen Ryan, Sr., son of the Wall Street financier Thomas Fortune Ryan; McCready likewise contracted to build the Harriman family barns at the Arden estate. It likewise appears McCready dealt in at least some level of real estate speculation, as a 1918 advertisement in the *New-York Times* noted his offering for sale, or let, a large farm property west of Newburgh in Orange County.<sup>13</sup>

As for his personal life, the year he formed the partnership with William Finch, 1889, was the same year McCready married Finch's sister Mary Finch. The nominated house was built by McCready as a wedding gift to his new bride; the couple resided here for nearly sixty years and it is here they raised their two children, Olive and R. Halsey. McCready and his wife Mary were prominent members of the Sloatsburg community, and involved with the Methodist Church, the construction of which had brought him Sloatsburg. In 1907, when a new church was erected to serve the congregation, McCready's company provided the contracting services and the couple donated two memorial glass windows, in honor of their recently deceased parents. McCready was a member of the Masonic Order and was a charter member of Lorillard Lodge 858 of Tuxedo; he was likewise a Knights Templar and member of the Shrine.<sup>14</sup> Mary F. McCready died in April 1949, Robert McCready the following fall.

*Architectural Analysis*

Built c. 1889, the Robert W. and Mary F. McCready House—known otherwise as "Westwind"—is an example of Late Victorian period domestic architecture, eclectic in its stylistic references. The frame building was erected using light milled components characteristic of the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, and built above a cut-stone foundation; the footprint of the house is largely self-contained, the building covered with an intersecting roof consisting of front and rear facing gables and, on the side elevations, jerkin-head gables. A two-story bay window is employed on the south elevation, while the façade is defined by a four-sided projection with associated verandah of the same form, hip roofed. The exterior would seem to defy precise stylistic definition but displays detailing associated with both Picturesque and Late Victorian period domestic architecture. Present are treatments alluding to the Eastlake and Queen Anne styles; Colonial Revival influence is evident on the interior, representative of the subsequent updating of the house after the original c. 1889 building campaign was undertaken.

Exterior treatments are for the most part understated and include the four-sided verandah—corresponding with an octagonal-shaped parlor on the interior, as partially expressed on the exterior, and the bedroom that occupies the position above—which has decorative open-frieze spindle work and posts with decorative brackets; the two-story bay window on the south elevation; an oculus window in the front gable field, and Queen Anne and Colonial Revival-style window sash; decorative trim boards utilized for the jerkin head gables, detailed with brackets and incised detailing; and one chimney with paired Gothic Revival-inspired terra cotta chimney pots. The exterior is sheathed with clapboard, excepting a shingle-

<sup>12</sup>"Robert McCready, Pioneer Builder, Is Buried Today," obituary; source unknown.

<sup>13</sup>*New-York Times*, 6 April 1918, classified section,

<sup>14</sup>"Robert McCready, Pioneer Builder."

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clad porch, and the roof, originally covered with cedar shingle, is now for the most part clad with rolled asphalt.

The McCready house has an interesting first floor plan with the octagonal-shaped parlor serving to link the entrance vestibule and stair hall with the dining room and rear kitchen and associated service areas. The primary entrance of the McCready house opens into the vestibule, which leads into an ample stair hall with open-stringer staircase; this hall accesses the octagonal-shaped parlor, situated in the front of the house, with large windows facing Orange Turnpike. Adjacent to the parlor is the dining room, on the south elevation and corresponding with the bay window, behind which is disposed the kitchen, a rear vestibule, pantry, and service stair. On the second floor are situated the bed chambers, four total including an octagonal-shaped one matching the dimensions of the parlor below, which opens onto a small porch; there are additionally three small rooms in the half story below the roof. So far as interior finish work is concerned, the transition from stair hall to parlor is marked by a Colonial Revival-style treatment with unfluted *in antis* colonettes and a corresponding moulded cornice defining the opening, while the vestibule features quarter-sawn oak wainscot, the wall and ceiling above finished with polychrome-stained wood in a herringbone pattern; the parlor has parquet oak flooring with a mahogany border, and a Colonial Revival-style fireplace with prominent ogee-form mantel shelf, a tripartite mirror above. The dining room, meanwhile, has a mantel similar to that in the parlor, though with an over-mantel area defined by ornate, hand-carved foliate columns believed to be of 18<sup>th</sup> century Venetian origin, which give way to a heavy moulded cornice. There is likewise a built-in cupboard in this room, the opening fitted with an oak door with leaded glazing, in a Colonial Revival manner; door and window architraves are formed of decorative pressed metal, while the floor, like that of the stair hall and parlor, is laid with oak parquet. Finish work upstairs includes a mantel in the master bedroom with paired, lathe-turned balusters flanking the firebox opening, above which is a bracketed frieze with moulded mantel shelf; and moulded wood door and window architraves with corner blocks, moulded wood cornices and baseboards, and thin-width flooring and plaster walls and ceilings.

Notable is the period bathroom in the second floor, which appears original to the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century; it retains its marble sink with backsplash and nickel-plated fixtures; a claw footed sink; and a marble-walled shower with a needle-type shower. Water was gravity fed via two zinc-lined storage tanks in the area beneath the roof, one for the bathroom, the other serving kitchen plumbing; the tanks were filled via a pump from ground level.

Finishes suggest the house was built by McCready and the interior subsequently updated over time, as he became more prosperous and as new stylistic influences and fashions arose, in part a consequence of his work as a contractor-builder, which included significant work at Tuxedo Park. The house's interior finish work, in particular, some of it executed in the years he rose to prominence as a builder in this region, should be viewed within the context of McCready's work in the building trades, which exposed him to designs of some of the premier architectural designers of the day. Treatments, while eclectic in scope, nevertheless portray characteristic Late Victorian treatments.

In addition to the main house, the property includes a c. 1930 bungalow; it is of frame construction with a subtly concave hipped roof, and is clad with wood shingles. By all indications it was built by McCready at the beginning of the Great Depression, as a rental property conceived to garner additional income in the

Property Name *McCready, Robert W. & Mary F., House*  
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face of mounting financial losses. There is likewise a frame carriage barn of significant scale, which tradition maintains was moved to the site from Tuxedo Park at the time it was replaced by a new construct; it appears on the 1942 Sanborn Fire Insurance map however it is not yet know when it was moved here. So far as landscape components are concerned, between the main house and bungalow is situated a brick-lined koi pond, and a fountain with cast-concrete benches and stone and brick elements; the pond and fountain are set within a circular drive. Additional landscape elements include a stone wall at the property's northwest corner, which, in concert with a concrete retaining wall, defined a terrace or garden area.



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**9. Major Bibliographical References**

Barber, Donn ed., *Catalogue of the 25<sup>th</sup> Exhibition of The Architectural League of New York*. New York: 1906.

Green, Frank Bertangue. *The History of Rockland County*. New York: A.S. Barnes, 1886.

*Harper's New York and Erie Rail-Road Guide Book*. New York: Harper & Brothers, 1852.

McKay, Robert with Anthony Baker and Carol Traynor, eds. *Long Island Country Houses and Their Architects*. New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 1997.

McCready, Robert W. & Mary F., House  
Name of Property

Rockland County, New York  
County and State

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Approximately one acre

### UTM References

(Place additional boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

1 18 567702 4557315  
Zone Easting Northing

2  
Zone Easting Northing

3  
Zone Easting Northing

4  
Zone Easting Northing

☐ See continuation sheet

### Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

### Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title William E. Krattinger

organization NYS OPRHP, Field Services Bureau

date July 2009

street & number Peebles Island State Park

telephone (518) 237-8643, ext. 3265

city or town Waterford

state NY zip code 12866

### Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

### Continuation Sheets

### Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

### Photographs

Representative **black & white** photographs of the property.

### Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

## Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name/title Edward J. Marse

street & number 8 Jackson Street

telephone \_\_\_\_\_

city or town Sloatsburg

state NY zip code 10974

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

Property Name *McCready, Robert W. & Mary F., House*  
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Section number 10 Page 1

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**10. Geographical Data**

*Verbal Boundary Description*

The boundary for the Robert W. and Mary F. McCready House National Register of Historic Places nomination is shown on the enclosed map, entitled "Robert W. and Mary F. McCready House, Sloatsburg, Rockland County, New York."

*Boundary Justification*

The boundary has been drawn to correspond with the current legal tax boundary for the nominated property. All of this land, approximately one acre in extent, is historically associated with the cited period of significance for the property, c. 1889-1949.



Property Name *McCready, Robert W. and Mary F., House*  
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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
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**Photographs**

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Photographs by William E. Krattinger, NYS OPRHP, Field Services Bureau  
March 2009

1. Exterior, primary and south elevations, McCready House, view west; bungalow in background left
2. Exterior, primary and north elevations, McCready House, view roughly southwest
3. Interior, entrance vestibule showing herringbone wainscot and sidelight leading
4. Interior, parlor, view of fireplace, mantel and over-mantel mirror
5. Interior, dining room, view of fireplace, mantel, and over-mantel treatment
6. Interior, dining room, detail of cabinet leading
7. Exterior, bungalow, primary elevation, view roughly southwest
8. Exterior, carriage barn, primary and north elevations, view roughly southwest

Property Name *McCready, Robert W. & Mary F., House*  
Location *Sloatsburg, Rockland County, New York*

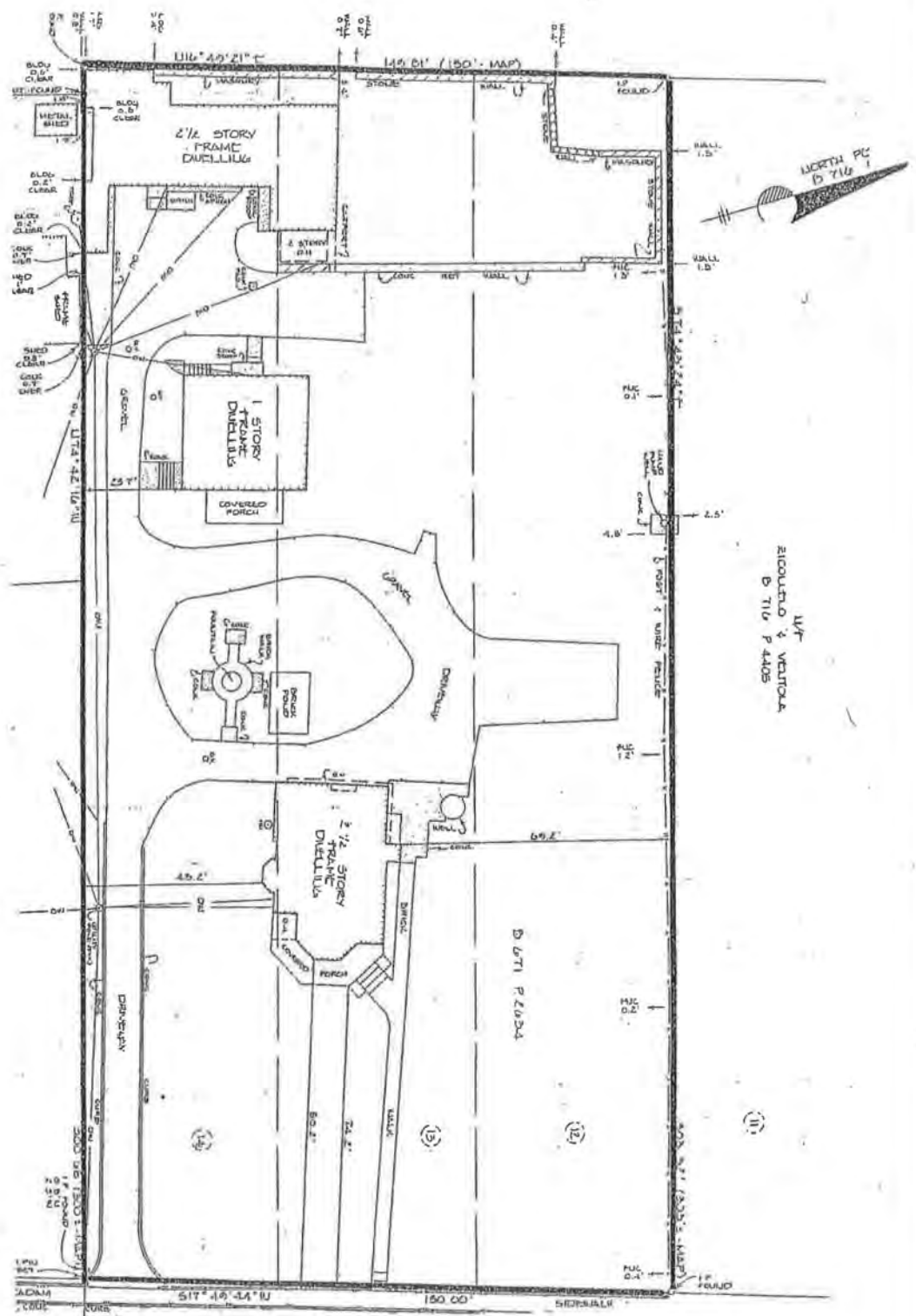
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Appendix

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Robert Workman & Mary Finch McCready; undated photograph



Robert W. and Mary F. McCready House, Sloatsburg, Rockland County, New York

Boundary shown as solid black outline  
Scale: 1" is equal to approximately 40'





Mc CREADY HOUSE  
SLOTTSBURG, ROCKLAND CO. NY  
#1



Mc CREARY HOUSE  
SLOATSBURG, ROCKLAND CO. NY  
#2





McCREADY HOUSE  
SLCATSBURG, ROCKLAND CO. NY  
#3



McCREARY HOUSE

SLAATSBURG, ROCKLAND CO. NY

#4





Mc CREARY HOUSE

SLAATSBURG, ROCKLAND CO. NY

#5



McCREADY HOUSE

SLATSBURG, ROCKLAND CO. NY

#6





McCREADY HOUSE  
SCOTTSBURGH, ROCKLAND CO. NY  
#7



McCREADY HOUSE

SLATSBOURG, ROCKLAND CO. NY

#8

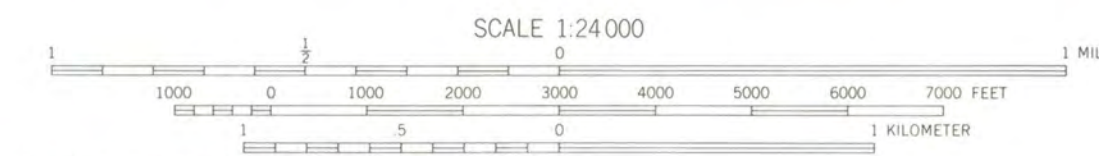


UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

SLOATSBURG QUADRANGLE  
NEW YORK-NEW JERSEY  
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)  
NW/4 RAMAPO 15' QUADRANGLE



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey  
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and N. Y. Palisades Park Commission  
Topography from aerial photographs by Wild A-8  
Aerial photographs taken 1952. Field check 1955  
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum  
10,000-foot grids based on New York coordinate system,  
east zone, and New Jersey coordinate system  
1,000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,  
zone 18, shown in blue  
Unchecked elevations are shown in brown



McCRADY, ROBERT W. & DAVID F. HOUSE  
139 ORANGE TURNPIKE, SLOATSBURG, NY  
SLOATSBURG ROAD 1:2400  
56702 455 7315

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY  
DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

ROAD CLASSIFICATION  
Heavy-duty ——— Light-duty ———  
Medium-duty ——— Unimproved dirt ———  
U.S. Route ——— State Route ———

SLOATSBURG, N. Y.—N. J.  
NW/4 RAMAPO 15' QUADRANGLE  
N4107.5—W7407.5/7.5

1955

AMS 6166 II NW—SERIES V821



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY McCready, Robert W. and Mary F., House  
NAME:

MULTIPLE  
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: NEW YORK, Rockland

DATE RECEIVED: 8/19/11 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 9/14/11  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 9/29/11 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 10/04/11  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 11000708

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N  
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N  
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

☒ ACCEPT ☐ RETURN ☐ REJECT 10/4/11 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Submitted by  
The National Register  
of  
Historic Places

RECOM./CRITERIA

REVIEWER *Chenault* DISCIPLINE

TELEPHONE DATE

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.

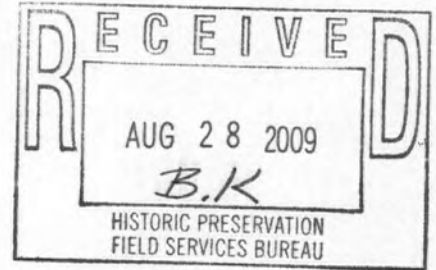
# Village of Sloatsburg

Incorporated October 7, 1929

96 ORANGE TURNPIKE  
SLOATSBURG, NEW YORK 10974

(845) 753-2727

Fax: (845) 753-2730



August 25, 2009

Ms. Ruth Pierpont, Director  
New York State Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation  
Historic Preservation Field Services Bureau  
Peebles Island  
P.O. Box 189  
Waterford, NY 12188-0189

Dear Ms. Pierpont:

I was delighted to learn that the McCready house located at 139 Orange Turnpike, Sloatsburg, NY has been nominated for the National and State Registers. This house reflects a very important architecture design and has much historical significance in our community.

The present owner, Mr. Edward Marse, has much knowledge on architecture and local history. He has devoted much time and energy as well as financial support in restoring this building.

The Village of Sloatsburg is in complete support of this nomination being approved. Should you wish additional information, please do not hesitate to call upon us.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Carl S. Wright".

Carl S. Wright  
Mayor