

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

NATIONAL REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name McFerrin, John B., House

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 156 West Poplar Avenue

N/A not for publication

city, town Collierville

N/A vicinity

state Tennessee code TN county Shelby

code 157 zip code 38017

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

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

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>1</u>	<u>2</u> buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u> sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u> structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u> objects
<u>1</u>	<u>2</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:
Hist. and Arch. Resources of Collierville, TN

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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. See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official Robert L. Hays Deputy SHPO, Tenn. Hist. Comm. Date 2/7/91

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official _____ Date _____

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register. 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 Melvin Byer Date of Action 3/29/91

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

DOMESTIC/secondary structure

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Other: Colonial Revival/Craftsman

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICK

walls BRICK

roof CERAMIC TILE

other STONE

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

See Continuation Sheet

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Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2 McFerrin, John B., House

Built in 1923 for a prosperous wholesale grocer, the John B. McFerrin House is an imposing element of the streetscape of West Poplar Avenue (State Highway 57) in the heart of Collierville, Shelby County, Tennessee (pop. 7,839, 1980 Census). The house stands as an important visual landmark for the modest but growing community located in the extreme southeastern corner of the county near the Fayette County line.

The McFerrin House is an imposing structure situated on a wide lot and atop a low rise, recessed from the surrounding streetscape by a deep setback of 100 feet from the right of way for West Poplar Avenue. The visual impact of the property is enhanced by its landscape setting, which includes its long semi-circular drive and its mature plantings of oaks and magnolia trees along the street frontage and scattered throughout the yard.

The McFerrin House was constructed in the form of a modified four-square plan and detailed with elements of the Colonial Revival and Craftsman styles. The two and one-half story, six bay wide, raked-brick veneered residence features a hip roof with four hipped dormers, covered with a green glazed tile roof. Its L-shaped porch is covered with a flat and hipped roof covered by a tile roof and supported by paired columns with Tuscan shafts and Doric capitals, supplemented by brick piers. The entrance for the structure is set within a reveal topped by a segmental arch with limestone spring blocks and keystone. The six-panel front door is surrounded by a full multi-light stained glass transom and sidelights. The windows of the facade are six-over-six double-hung sash lights on the second floor and eight-over-eight double-hung sashes on the first floor.

An interesting sidelight to the design of the home is the presence of two Masonic emblems on the spring blocks above the door. The emblems-- the divider and builder's square and the image of a camel and driver-- were placed on the structure by Mr. McFerrin and the builder Mr.

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McGinnis, both fellow Masons in the Collierville F&AM Lodge.

Additions to the McFerrin House are featured only on the northern (rear) and eastern (side) facades. In each case, the additions have been carefully executed to avoid conflict with the integrity of the original structure. To begin, the northern facade has seen the installation of two bay windows into enlarged openings on this facade. A chimney stack was added in between. Both alterations in this area date from 1988. A single-room addition was placed on the eastern facade by extending the eastern facade north and the northern facade east, thus filling this previously vacant corner. The addition also dates from 1988 and features a bay window on the eastern facade and an octagonal window on the northern facade.

The interior of the John B. McFerrin House is laid out in an irregular, off-center hall plan that combines formal and informal spaces flowing easily from one to another. The wide entrance hall acts as the crossing point of the entire internal flow pattern. The hall is simply detailed and features a two-run stair with double-wide landing at its end. To the right of the hall is the living room, featuring a restrained Colonial Revival mantelpiece with a dentiled frieze. Beyond the living room is a small office space through a multi-light door.

To the left of the hall through a pair of multi-light doors lies the formal dining room. Its major feature is a paneled wainscot and chair rail. Immediately beyond the formal dining room is a more informal dining area, which contains a glass-front, multi-light butler's pantry. A pair of multi-light doors connects this room to the side yard area outside of the house. The kitchen lies beyond the informal dining room at the rear of the house. It was renovated in mid-1970s to its current appearance, which includes a brick arched recess for the cooking area and half-timbered wall treatments.

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Across the stair hall from the kitchen and dining room area are a large den area and office. The den was created in 1988 from two smaller rooms-- one an original den and one a bedroom-- through the removal of a common partition wall. A fireplace and chimney stack were added to the room along with replacement bay windows. Wall surfaces in the room are covered with a raised-stile oak paneling treatment. The office area beyond was created at the same time.

The central stair leading to the upper floor features a Colonial Revival newelpost and turned balusters. A feature of the stair area is the tall semi-circular arched multi-light window that reaches from above the cross-landing to a point near the ceiling of the stair core. The upper floor of the residence contains five bedrooms laid out along a transverse hall, each with simple trim finishes. Of these, the northeastern-most bedroom was converted from a sleeping porch in ca. 1960. A bank of four eight over eight double-hung sash lights remains in this room to indicate its former use.

Associated with the property are the following non-contributing structures:

a. Garage/office, built ca. 1923; altered ca. 1975. One-story, brick veneered garage with a hip roof covered with asphalt shingles, box cornice and six-over-six windows. Garage doors enclosed with scored plywood paneling. (NC)

b. Barn, built ca. 1975. One-story frame storage barn with partially enclosed side wings, gable roof and scored plywood siding. (NC)

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G N/A

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1923

Significant Dates

1923

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

McGinnis, W. W.

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

See Continuation Sheet

See continuation sheet

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Section number 8 Page 2 McFerrin, John B., House

The John B. McFerrin House is significant under National Register criterion C as an important local example of the Colonial Revival style as manifested in the post-World War One period in transition with the Craftsman style and other contemporary influences. Though its designer is uncertain, the structure was built by W. W. McGinnis (1876-1959), an important local contractor and businessman who was responsible for many of residential and commercial structures built between ca. 1895 and 1940.

The impressive residence was built in 1923 for wholesale grocer John B. McFerrin (1876-1933). Though born and educated in the primary and secondary public schools of Collierville, McFerrin was schooled in business practices at the Memphis Business College, the leading school of its type in the Mid-South region at this time. McFerrin began his career in ca. 1903 with the company of W. C. Early, a large commission merchant and wholesale grocery firm located on Front Street in Memphis. McFerrin served the company as an outside traveling salesman from his base in Collierville, selling the company's products in the suburban and rural communities of West Tennessee and North Mississippi.

In ca. 1907, McFerrin joined the wholesale grocer Currie, McCraw Co. as a salesman at the time of its inception. The firm was based on Front Street in Memphis and grew to become a major wholesale firm trading nationally from its Memphis base. McFerrin continued to serve the firm until forced to retire in 1924 due to ill health. He died nine years later on April 15, 1933. The McFerrin family maintained ownership of the property until 1941, when it was sold to Ronald B. Smith, Sr. The second and third generations of the Smith family continue to occupy the house to this day.

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The John B. McFerrin House stands in conformance with the registration requirements for individual property nominations set forth in the Multiple Properties Documentation Form for the Historical and Architectural Resources of Collierville, Tennessee. Aspects of the structure's integrity are consistent with and maintained in the areas of design, setting, materials and workmanship of importance to residential structures nominated under Criteria C in the area of architecture. The property also reflects historical traits reflective of the historical context of the Post-Bellum Development of Collierville in the era of ca. 1920 to 1944.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Collierville Herald, Vol. V, No. 9, April 21, 1933. Obituary of John B. McFerrin.
Deed Book 26, pg. 889, February 19, 1923. Office of the County Register, Shelby County, TN
Jamison, Grace Ward, personal interview with John L. Hopkins, August 15, 1990.
Polk, R. L. & Co., Memphis City Directories: 1900, 1903, 1905, 1910, 1912, 1913, 1920.

See continuation sheet

Previous documentation on file (NPS): N/A
 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 # _____

Primary location of additional data:
 State historic preservation office
 Other State agency
 Federal agency
 Local government
 University
 Other
Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of property 2.9 acres

UTM References

A 16 256700 3881220
Zone Easting Northing
C _____

B _____
Zone Easting Northing
D _____

See continuation sheet

Collierville, TN 416SW

Verbal Boundary Description

The property in nomination occupies a lot in Civil District 10 of Shelby County in the Town of Collierville, identified on the enclosed Shelby County tax map 44L as parcel 774.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The property in nomination contains the largest portion of the land area historically associated with the John B. McFerrin House since the time of its construction in 1923.

See continuation sheet

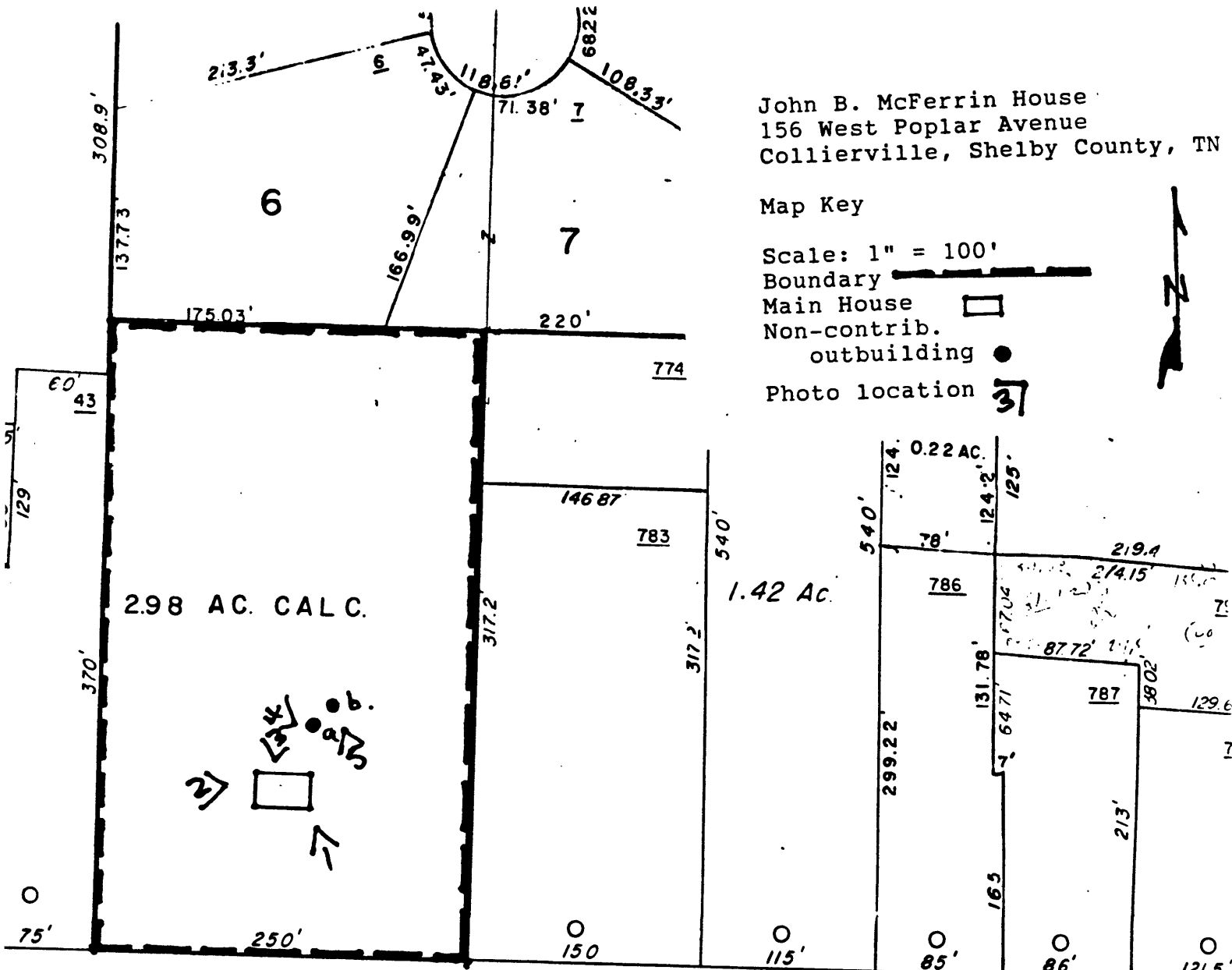
11. Form Prepared By

name/title John Linn Hopkins
organization Preservation Consultant date October 7, 1990
street & number 974 Philadelphia Street telephone (901) 278-5186
city or town Memphis state TN zip code 38017

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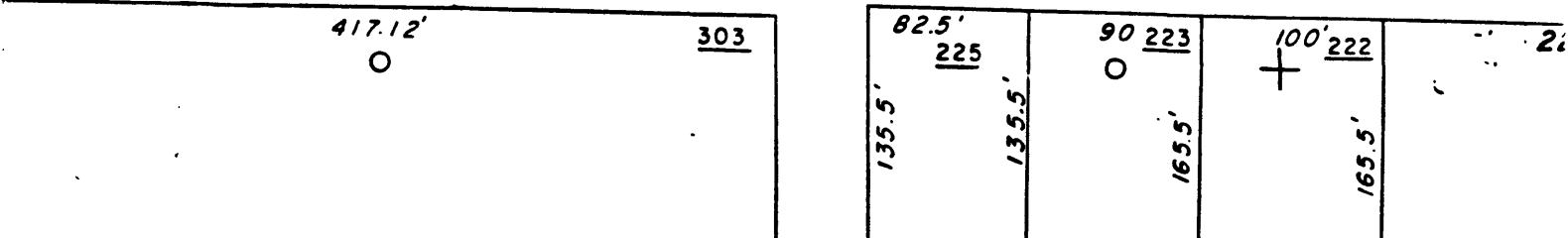


John B. McFerrin House
156 West Poplar Avenue
Collierville, Shelby County, TN

Map Key

- Scale: 1" = 100'
- Boundary
- Main House
- Non-contrib. outbuilding
- Photo location

POPLAR AVENUE (S.R. 57)



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Section number Photos Page 1 McFerrin, John B., House

Photograph List
John B. McFerrin House
156 West Poplar Avenue
Collierville, Shelby County, TN

Photographed by: Barry Heiflin
Date: August, 1990
Negs: Tenn. Hist. Comm.

View of the front (southern) facade and side (eastern) facade, facing generally northwest.
Photo 1 of 12

View of the side (western) facade, facing generally east.
Photo 2 of 12

View of the rear (northern) facades, facing generally southwest.
Photo 3 of 12

View of the western (front) and southern (side) non-contributing garage/office, facing generally northeast.
Photo 4 of 12

View of the front (southern) facade of the non-contributing barn outbuilding.
Photo 5 of 12

View of the front entrance hall, with the rear door at right, the door to the living room next to the stair, and the door to the parlor at right.
Photo 6 of 12

View of the formal dining room from the entrance hall.
Photo 7 of 12

View of the informal dining area with the kitchen beyond and the butler's pantry at right.
Photo 8 of 12

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View of the informal living room from the entrance
hall.
Photo 9 of 12

View of the office addition beyond the living room.
Photo 10 of 12

View of the semi-circular headed window at the first
stair landing, taken from the upper landing.
Photo 11 of 12

View of an upstairs bedroom, converted from an
original sun porch.
Photo 12 of 12

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Robert F. and Mary Jean Smith
156 West Poplar Avenue
Collierville, TN 38017
(901) 853-0476