

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:
Washington

COUNTY:
Whitman

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY DATE
NOV 21 1974

1. NAME

COMMON:
R. C. McCroskey House

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Corner of Fourth and Manning Streets

CITY OR TOWN:
Garfield

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
#5 - Honorable Thomas S. Foley

STATE: Washington CODE: 53 COUNTY: Whitman CODE: 075

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious	
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Mrs. Blanche McCroskey Johnson

STREET AND NUMBER:
4th and Manning

CITY OR TOWN:
Garfield

STATE:
Washington

CODE:
53

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Assessor's Office, Whitman County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Colfax

STATE:
Washington

CODE:
53

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

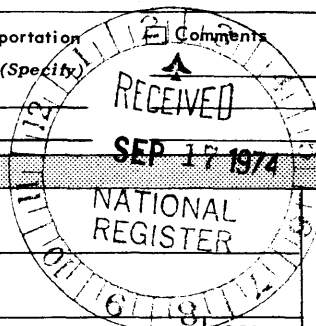
TITLE OF SURVEY:
None

DATE OF SURVEY:
 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
STATE:
CODE:



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Washington

COUNTY: Whitman

ENTRY NUMBER: NOV 21 1974

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/> Ruins <input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
(Check One)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered
(Check One)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The McCroskey property consists of a two story balloon frame house and a bunk house. It is situated on a 12.7 acre plot at the northern edge of the town of Garfield. Only the house and adjacent bunk house are nominated.

The main portion of the house measures fifty-nine by thirty-four feet, with a porch seven by nineteen feet at the southeast corner and a rear wing sixteen by twenty-four feet protruding from this basic rectangle. The first story contains nine rooms, a bath, two corridors and two stairways. The second story contains five rooms and a corridor. The attic is unfinished. No basement exists, although a small excavation was made under the house for a coal stoker, which is now an oil furnace.

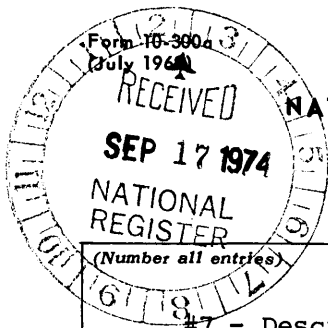
Of the original three porches, the largest is L-shaped and hugs the ^{east} southwest corner of the building. It extends from the main door to the dining room door on the south. The smaller porch on the south of the house is twenty-one by six feet and extends from the west facing dining room door to the south facing kitchen door. The third porch, which stands exactly opposite the smaller one, but on the north of the house, is also twenty-one by six. While these two porches were once identical, the one facing north is now enclosed with siding which matches the rest of the house. All three are supported by wooden Tuscan like columns under cornice boxed eaves and a dentil decorated frieze.

Both the exterior and interior of the buildings appear as originally built. The house foundation is stone and concrete. Exterior siding is four inch clapboard with mouldings at windows, doors, outside corners, frieze and foundation. Three single chimneys protrude from the recently added asphalt shingled roofing. The roof is in three distinct segments. From the ^{east} west (front) they are: thirty-eight by thirty-four foot truncated hip (formerly crowned by an open walk) with the north ^{east} west half extended into a gable, a twenty-one by twenty-eight foot medium gable with hipped dormer, and a twenty-four by sixteen foot three-quarters hip connected below the adjacent gable.

Of the seven exterior doors, ^{four} ~~three~~ are four panel (recessed and beveled) each with a leaded-glass window and flush transom of beveled, ornate leaded, glass.

The windows are predominantly double hung. The east face contains a large, single sash window and two single sash windows with side-lights all of which are surmounted by eyebrow windows of colored, leaded glass. In addition, a decorative window faces east from the vestibule. The north face contains a large window seat projection with a pediment above three windows with muntins in a diamond pattern.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



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

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Washington	
COUNTY Whitman	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	NOV 21 1974

#7 - Description (1)
R. C. McCroskey House

This serves to illuminate the main stair landing on the interior. The south elevation contains a single story bay window with a colored, leaded glass panel. On the second story level is a leaded glass window semicircular at the top and bottom with a hood moulding above.

On the interior, the ceilings are nine feet eight inches in height. Walls and ceilings are lath and plaster, with fir woodwork and fir floors. Hardware on all doors -- including hinges -- is brass.

The main stairway is a wide, straight-reversed stair with a large, three part ornate window on the landing (facing north). The rear stairway spirals in a small, square well. The first floor contains a vestibule, parlor, library, dining room, bedroom, bath, kitchen, laundry room, pantry, storage (formerly wood) shed and two corridors. The parlor has two sets of sliding doors and a tiled fireplace. Upstairs are four bedrooms and a large storage room. In the dining room and the library there are built-in cabinets with leaded glass doors to display the contents.

The twelve by sixteen foot bunk house stands ten feet from the north-west corner of the house. The door (four panels) faces north. There are two double hung windows: one facing east and one exactly opposite facing west. A single chimney is near the door. The exterior materials for walls and roofing are identical to that of the house. The foundation and cellar walls are stretcher bond brick covered with concrete. The interior consists of an unfinished attic and a single room of unpainted wood. The bunk house has no ornamentation; the door knob is porcelain.

The basement of the bunk house is a root cellar with a double doorway close to the north door of the kitchen. On the inside of the door is makeshift cloth insulation. The cellar floor is a thin layer of concrete. Southwest of the house is a small, frame garage built in the 1920's.

The north and east boundaries of the property are lined with spruce and fir trees, some in excess of two feet in diameter. The house and bunk house are located on their original sites.

The following alterations have occurred since the house was built in 1897:

1. Reroofing;
2. Interior repainting has covered some of the original decorative paintings (painted cherubs on the parlor ceiling);

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

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Washington	
COUNTY Whitman	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
NOV 21 1974	

(Number all entries)

#7 - Description (2)
R. C. McCroskey House

3. The open walk railing has been removed from the roof;
4. The foundation has been patched with concrete;
5. The north facing back porch has been enclosed.

These alterations have not significantly affected the architectural character.



8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1897**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

While the McCroskey property was undoubtedly in agricultural use throughout the 1880's, its historical importance did not begin until 1887 when Robert Crampton McCroskey (1845 - 1922) purchased the acreage. Over the ensuing twenty-five years R. C. McCroskey extended his land holdings until he had one of the largest wheat farms in Whitman County -- over two thousand acres.

Aside from his agrarian pursuits, McCroskey was a member of perhaps the most economically, socially, religiously and politically important family in Whitman County. His half-brother, J. P. T. McCroskey, was a representative from Whitman County to the Washington State Constitutional Convention of 1889; his cousin, the Reverend Solon McCroskey, was Garfield Washington's first Cumberland Presbyterian minister (the entire family being instrumental in the advancement of that church in Garfield); his nephew Virgil McCroskey gave Steptoe Butte to the State of Washington for use as a park; and his nephew, Milton McCroskey, aside from being Washington State University's first football star, was active in Whitman County government. R. C. McCroskey himself helped to represent the state at the 1896 National Democratic Convention.

McCroskey was elected to the Washington State Senate for the second and third legislative sessions (1891 - 1895). In this capacity he was active in the founding of the Agricultural College Experiment Station and the School of Science of the State of Washington (now Washington State University) in Whitman County. He was an instrumental force behind the Wasson Bill, which substantially reduced freight rates on farm produce, grain in particular. He was appointed to the Washington State Grain Commission and to the Board of Regents of the State College of Washington (formerly the Agricultural College Experiment Station and School of Science of the State of Washington). He served on the Board of Regents for the years 1897-1905 and 1909-1922, and his legislative acumen proved a tremendous asset to the life of the college.

R. C. McCroskey's home was known not only as a social center for visiting state officials, but for many Garfield community activities as well.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Bryan, E. A., Historical Sketch of the State College of Washington, 1890-1925, Spokane, Washington, Inland-American Printing Co., pp. 86, 156, 161.

Durham, N. W., History of the City of Spokane and Spokane County, Spokane, Washington, S. J. Clarke Publishing Company, 1912, Volume 3, pp. 293, 294.

Fuller, George W., The Inland Empire Who's Who, Spokane, Washington, Shaw and Border Company, 1928, Volume 4, pp. 159, 160.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

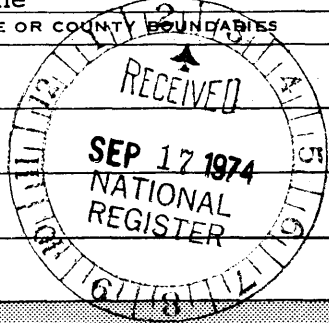
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		47 ° 00 ' 46 "	117 ° 08 ' 31 "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

UTM
11/489202
520438

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **Less than one**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Mr. Nicholas J. Manning

ORGANIZATION: **Whitman County Historical Society** DATE: **May 10, 1974**

STREET AND NUMBER:
P.O. Box 95

CITY OR TOWN: **Garfield** STATE: **Washington** CODE: **53**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name Charles H. Odegaard
Charles H. Odegaard

Title Director-Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission

Date Sept. 13, 1974

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Robert W. Hartman
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 11/21/74

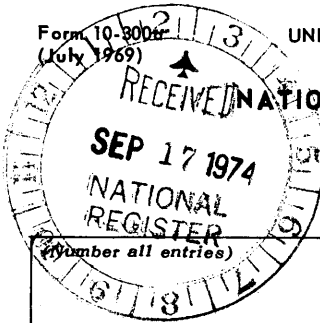
ATTEST:
William L. Manning
Keeper of The National Register

Date 11.13.74

Form 10-800a
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

STATE	Washington	
COUNTY	Whitman	
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER		DATE
		NOV 21 1974



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

#8 - Significance
R. C. McCroskey House

McCroskey, arriving in the year of the town's incorporation, proved to be a major force in the development of Garfield. Three additions to the growing town were from his land. He helped to organize (and was president of) the Garfield Hardware and Mercantile Company, helped to form the Bank of Garfield, and served as director in two other county banks.

The McCrosky House, as the headquarters of this man's extensive social, agricultural, political and economic affairs, aptly represents the impact of his activities. County records show the house as having been erected in 1897. With its semicircular arching soffit in between cornice returns on the east gable and slender "Tuscan" porch columns -- in contrast to the ornate trim and porch posts which typify most other Whitman County houses of the era, this house characterizes the American classical revival influence on an otherwise transitional, late Victorian building.

The house was designed by Julius Zittel of the firm Preusse and Zittel, architects. Mr. Zittel was highly active in the area, and his work includes all of the original buildings at Gonzaga University and Cheney Normal School, the courthouse at Coeur d'Alene and Finch School, Spokane.

The extensive use of leaded glass, stained glass and ornamentally muntined glass, as well as the three porches and open roof walk, contributed substantially to McCroskey House as being among the finest built in Garfield. The two stairways (one large with decorative windows in the front of the house and the other small and simple in the back of the house) and its unique east facing gable add to the architectural interest. With the functional rear portion and elaborate front portion, McCroskey House remains as an almost unaltered example of late Nineteenth Century, late-pioneer era elegance in rural Eastern Washington.

During this period the bunkhouse served to quarter as many as six "hired hands", (while the cook had a room to herself inside the main residence). With the root cellar underneath and its close proximity to the kitchen entrance at the back of the house, there is a definite relationship between these buildings that contributes to an understanding of the way in which the McCroskey farmstead functioned.

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

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Washington	
COUNTY Whitman	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
NOV 21 1974	

(Number all entries)

#9 - Major Bibliographical References
R. C. McCroskey House

Lever, W. H., An Illustrated History of Whitman County, Chicago, Illinois, Lever Publishing Company, 1901, pp. 260, 261.
Newspaper article from The Garfield Enterprise (Garfield, Washington), January 4, 1901.
Roberts, S. C., Pioneers I Have Known, Pullman, Washington, unpublished, 1936, pp. 115-128.

