

NPS Form 10-900
 (Rev. 8/86)
 Wisconsin Word Processor Format (1331D)
 (Approved 3/87)

OMB No. 1024-0018

OCT 03 1988

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 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. Use letter quality printer in 12 pitch, using an 85 space line and a 10 space left margin. Use only archival paper (20 pound, acid free paper with a 2% alkaline reserve).

1. Name of Property

historic name McFarland House

other names/site number McFarland House Inn

2. Location

street & number 5923 Exchange Street N/A Not for Publication

city, town McFarland N/A vicinity

state Wisconsin code WI county Dane code 025 zip code 53558

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	No. of Resources within Property	
		contributing	noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)		
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site		<u> </u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure		<u> </u> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object		<u> </u> objects
		<u>1</u>	<u>1</u> Total

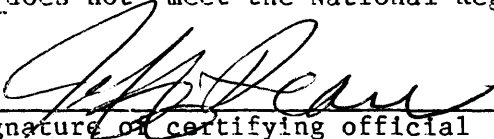
Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

No. of contributing resources
 previously listed in the
 National Register None

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

X 

Date 9/28/88

Signature of certifying official
State Historic Preservation Officer-WI

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

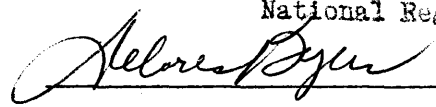
State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

Entered in the
National Register

X entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet



Date 11/3/88

 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

6. Functions or Use

Historic Functions
(enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions
(enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/Single Dwelling
Domestic/Hotel

Domestic/Single Dwelling
Commerce/Specialty Store

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Materials

(enter categories from instructions)

Greek Revival

foundation Stone

walls Weatherboard

roof Asphalt

other Wood

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The McFarland House is a vernacular Greek Revival style residence built in 1857 by the original owner, William Hugh McFarland. It is located in the small community of McFarland which is approximately five miles south of the city of Madison. The community has a current population of approximately 4,000 people and is experiencing rapid growth as an exurbia of Madison.

A large wood frame rectangular-shaped home, it is two and one-half stories high including the attic area. The house is covered with a sheathing of clapboards and its gabled roof has two brick chimneys, one on each end. Several trapdoors open through the roof from the attic. Two can be seen from the front of the house in early photographs. (Apparently these trapdoors were necessary for fire safety because the house was so close to the railroad and flying sparks from the trains.) The front entrance is situated at the center of this symmetrical building. It has two slim sidelights on each side of the door and the second story has five six-over-six double-hung windows. The first floor has similar wooden windows, two on each side of the entrance. The entrance has an simple unornamented wooden surround. A plain wooden frieze runs along the cornice. The foundation is composed of fieldstone.

The front elevation of the house is original except for the addition of shutters (forest green) on all of the windows. The wood roof shingles have been replaced with black asphalt shingles. Some of the trapdoors have been turned into skylights, but this change is hard to detect. Several of the original trapdoors were covered before the current owners bought the McFarland House. By uncovering them, they helped the home regain more of its original appearance. Two windows one on the south side and one in back have been made into doors. This was done sympathetically and does not detract from the overall historic appearance of the house, making the home more functional for the owners. A deck has been added at the new rear door which is not readily seen by the public.

The interior has been remodelled throughout the years by both the McFarland family and the Fagers. The third level, however, is unchanged. It is one large room with two large windows on each end and access to the trapdoors or skylights. (Fitting for the large gatherings that once took place there.) The second and the first floors are divided in half by the original stairway. The second story has three rooms on each side of the stairs which were made larger by combining some of the original rooms. Much of the woodwork is intact on all levels. The first floor was altered to accommodate first two families, then apartments and now a gift shop and herb store.

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McFarland, Dane County, WI

The house has a prominent location in the community, being adjacent to the railroad and next to the historic business core of the village of McFarland. It was the first home seen while traveling by train into the village and is still the focal point when arriving by auto into the original town center.

There is also a small one-story gable roofed building on the property which serves as a greenhouse and workshop. It is not a significant element given that it was added after 1969 by the Fagers

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: ___ nationally ___ statewide X locally

Applicable National Register Criteria X A X B X C ___ D

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

Areas of Significance

(enter categories from instructions)

Exploration/Settlement

Period of Significance

1857-1908

Significant Dates

1857¹

Architecture

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

McFarland, William Hugh

Architect/Builder

Builder: McFarland, William Hugh²

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

The 1857 McFarland House is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under criterion A for its local significance in the area of Exploration/Settlement. The building represents an important aspect of the early settlement era of this community during the mid-19th century, serving as a local center for civic and social events important to the early growth of the village. The house is also locally significant under criterion B for its association with William McFarland. The home served as the residence of McFarland, the community's founding father, from its construction in 1857 until his death in 1908. Architecturally, the building is locally significant under criterion C as a fine local example of vernacular Greek Revival building traditions.

EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT

Dane County during the 1850s was the center of a rapidly expanding agricultural frontier in Wisconsin. Small communities, providing centralized services to the area's farmers were developing throughout the region. In many cases, typical across the frontier, the coming of the railroad was a common prerequisite to any form of sustained development. Most of the early businesses revolved around the railroad which functioned as the shipping outlet for farmers and merchants.

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Section number 8 Page 1 McFarland House
McFarland, Dane County, WI

The McFarland house represents a significant resource within this type of community that flourished and declined with the coming and going of the railroad. The house, being situated adjacent to the railroad and depot, was the focal point in the community. The house itself became an unofficial boarding house for tourists, merchants and newly arriving families. Many community social events were held in the spacious attic of the house. Weddings, church socials and services, and town meetings were commonplace there. To many, the imposing building was a symbol of the village of McFarland's promising future.

By 1880 the community William McFarland platted in 1857 had a population of 168 and supported a thriving local commercial district. The McFarland House served as the home for the McFarland family from its first occupancy by the young pioneers in 1857 up until as recently as 1969. Now it is one of the few remaining buildings in the community related to McFarland's early years as an important railroad shipping and transportation center, and the sole resource representing William McFarland's contributions as founder of the village. McFarland's original depot was demolished in the 1880s. No known earlier houses associated with the pioneer era of McFarland's settlement remain extant. The few existing Greek Revival houses of similar appearance to the McFarland House are all of circa 1860s vintage, thus reaffirming the building's distinctive place in local history.

ASSOCIATION WITH A SIGNIFICANT PERSON

Built in 1857, the Greek Revival McFarland House was home to William Hugh McFarland, a British immigrant for whom the village of McFarland was named. Born in London in 1820, McFarland boarded a trading ship when he was fourteen and sailed to America. He landed in Charleston, South Carolina and from there, made his way to upstate New York, to Milwaukee and eventually to the area which was to become McFarland.

McFarland began his career in Wisconsin as a carpenter with the newly formed Milwaukee and Mississippi Railroad (later, the Chicago Milwaukee, and St. Paul), eventually working his way up to construction superintendent. In 1855 the railroad persuaded McFarland to build a depot in what was then a tiny settlement consisting of a few log cabins. The railroad desired to establish a station point between the communities of Madison and Stoughton. McFarland had expressed his desire for a job that would require less travelling and agreed to buy land and erect a depot in exchange for a position as local agent for the railroad. McFarland purchased a 160 acre parcel and constructed a depot (no longer extant) in 1856.

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McFarland, Dane County, WI

In 1857 he built the McFarland House, the first sizable permanent pioneer dwelling in the community. Due to its size and proximity to the depot, the McFarland house quickly became a stopping point for travellers and the center of business activity for travelling tradesmen and salesmen. He platted the village which took his name in the same year and the community soon grew into a busy agricultural center for wheat and later dairy farming.³

Clearly McFarland's individual contributions to the establishment and growth of the village are indisputable. He was the man most responsible for the establishment of the railroad station point which was an indispensable component of early commercial activity. McFarland's efforts towards directing the construction of the depot and his management of the station as local agent were the base upon which much of the later commercial activity developed.

McFarland's contributions to the development of the village continued until his death in 1908 at the age of eighty-six. Other important roles and accomplishments of William McFarland include: postmaster from 1869 to 1871, wheat farmer, and lumber supplier along with Freeman Eighmy. He also took an active interest in the village by donating property for the Methodist Church of which he was a member and deeding the land for a school.⁴ These accomplishments indicate that McFarland was not merely content to reap the economic rewards of his roles as railroad agent and community founder, but was a local "mover and shaker" who involved himself in numerous aspects of community life including private philanthropy.

On the subject of political views it has been said that in these matters he was independent and with characteristic self-reliance he backed his opinion with his vote.⁵ Beloved and respected by his neighbors, he was kindly remembered for his poetry and wheelbarrowing his unique phonograph to the village schoolhouse for the children to listen.⁶

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

The McFarland House is a fine example of vernacular architecture influenced by the Greek Revival style. As noted in the architectural study unit of Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin, the Greek Revival style was the first national style to have wide-ranging influence in the state and typified much of the early settlement era construction. It was popular in Wisconsin from 1830 to 1870. Examples of pure Greek Revival style are rare, many examples are basically astylistic, but display limited Greek Revival details and possess simple gabled forms which evoke the massing, regular fenestration and symmetrical composition characteristic of the style.⁷

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The McFarland house's simplicity and purity of design is definitely suggestive of the scale, materials and form typical of the Greek Revival style of architecture. The entrance is the focal point of the front facade. It is symmetrically placed in the center of the facade and is ornamented by sidelights on each side and a plain wood surround. It has an unadorned wood frieze along the cornice area and a low-pitch gable roof which evokes the triangular pediments of more high style Greek Revival architecture. The McFarland House's imposing scale in the village make it a readily recognizable visual landmark in the village.

Comparisons

Several other examples of vernacular Greek Revival construction are still extant in the village of McFarland. 5802 Main Street is a smaller scale Gabled-ell with Greek Revival influence. It has similar features to the McFarland House including sidelights and a wooden surround at the entry, a basically symmetrical design, and is simplistic in character. The building also has the square porch posts along the front facade and entryway which are often seen in the gabled-ell form of Greek Revival buildings. Other examples include a Gabled-ell at 6123 Johnson Street, a stuccoed Gabled-ell at 5803 Main Street and a Gabled-ell with an enclosed porch at 6123 Exchange Street. All represent various vernacular interpretations of Greek Revival design in varied states of integrity with none as imposing or intact as the McFarland house.

The period of significance corresponds to William McFarland's residency in the house from 1857 until his death in 1908.

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FOOTNOTES

¹Barbara C. Houghton, Jane C. Licht and Margaret F. Nielsen, City of the Second Lake: A History of McFarland, Wisconsin, (McFarland: Community Publications, 1976), p. 14.

²Ibid.

³Whitney Gould, Historic Places of Rural Dane County, (Madison: The Dane County Cultural Affairs Commission, 1981).

⁴Houghton, Second City, pp. 84, 16, 93.

⁵Roy McFarland, The History of the William H. McFarland Family, (by the author, 1975), p. 2.

⁶Ibid.

⁷Barbara Wyatt, Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin, Vol. 2, (Madison: State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1976), Architecture 2-3.

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- Heluke, Dorthy. "It Was a Big Day for McFarland When the Railroad Came to Town," The Capital Times, 27 December 1965, Greensheet, p. 1.
- Houghton, Barbara C., Licht, Jane C., Nielsen, Margaret F. City of the Second Lake: A History of McFarland, Wisconsin. McFarland: Community Publications, 1976.
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