

PH0369781

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	JUL 16 1976
DATE ENTERED	NOV 13 1976

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC
McBirney, James H., Mansion
AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER		--- NOT FOR PUBLICATION	
<u>1414 S. Galveston</u>			
CITY, TOWN		CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT	
<u>Tulsa</u>	--- VICINITY OF	<u>No. 1</u>	
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
<u>Oklahoma</u>	<u>40</u>	<u>Tulsa</u>	<u>143</u>

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
The McBirney Estate

STREET & NUMBER
1414 S. Galveston

CITY, TOWN
Tulsa --- VICINITY OF

STATE
Oklahoma

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Office of the County Clerk

STREET & NUMBER
Tulsa County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN
Tulsa STATE
Oklahoma

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
Special McBirney Mansion Survey

DATE
1975 --- FEDERAL --- STATE --- COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS Landmark Preservation Committee

CITY, TOWN
Tulsa (6111 E. Skelly Drive, Room 516) STATE
Oklahoma

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The McBirney Mansion is a four-level Tudor Gothic house on spaciouly landscaped grounds. Foundation is of 18-inch steel-reinforced concrete. It has a steel beam frame under hollow tile and interior walls are of plaster. House itself combines stone, brick and stucco, with slate roof, full copper guttering, leaded windows and stained glass, decorative brass and hand-wrought iron work. There is a separate two-level, four-car garage with quarters. Property is full fenced with double iron gates on Galveston at the front. Rock garden on the hillside slopes toward the Arkansas River. Landscaping includes several ponds and a natural spring-fed swimming pool. Originally the grounds accommodated a three-hole golf course. Trees include a number of fine magnolias and cedars.

Basement has a ground-level entrance on the south and west. It includes a combination club room with fireplace and billiard room with slate billiard table. Elevator is off an open, general-purpose room which provides access to laundry, furnace room, two storage rooms, back stairs, and half bath.

First floor rooms with the exception of a breakfast area all open onto an immense foyer, which in turn opens onto a large slate-floored terrace. Screened by huge magnolias, the terrace looks out onto the Arkansas River. The foyer also serves the elevator and stairway with its fine hand-carved oak railing. The library has leaded stained glass windows. The 24 x 51-foot living room features an imported oak and marble fireplace. Also on the first floor are a 25 x 24-foot music room, a 31 x 19-foot dining room with two lighted China display cabinets, a kitchen, butler's pantry, and two porches.

The second floor contains seven bedrooms, three full baths. The third floor, served by back stairs only, contains three additional dormer bedrooms and a full bath. The separate garages (on two levels) and quarters structure provides a one-room-and-bath combination and a complete apartment. In all the house contains 12,022 square feet of floor space - 3,487 square feet on the two lower levels, 3,332 square feet on the third, the balance on the dormered upper floor. The house abounds with intricately carved wood and textured plaster walls. Virtually all of its ornate furnishings are from the 1920s and 1930s. It is in excellent repair.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION (the
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY (the site)	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) site)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1927

BUILDER/ARCHITECT John Long

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The McBirney Mansion represents a happy blending of structure and setting. An imposing three-story house in authentic "Olde English" style, it occupies a riverfront site with strictly "New American" roots ... roots in such things as fording and ferry-boating, in the supplying of spring-fed water to travelers and their stock, and in providing impetus to the development of a booming oil town. Impressive in its own right as an architectural work of some significance, the mansion is also significant as a monument to successful individual effort in the traditional up-from-the-bottom manner.

* * *

James H. McBirney was born in Ireland in 1875, coming with his immigrant parents to Southeast Kansas and growing up there in time to make "the run" into the Cherokee Outlet in 1893 and claim land in what is now Enid. However, it was determined that the land he staked had been surveyed for public improvements and he lost his holdings. He moved on to Bartlesville, went to work for a company there, soon proving himself to be an important cog in the firm's semipro baseball team. And at last the classic Horatio Alger syndrome seemed to be working.

In 1897 the Tulsa Banking Company, seeking to better the fortunes of its own baseball team, lured McBirney away from Bartlesville. Starting as janitor, he rose rapidly ... to clerk and then to cashier. By 1904 he was vice president. That year he and a brother formed the Bank of Commerce in Tulsa. Soon he was building two of the city's early "skyscrapers" - the 10-story McBirney office building and, adjacent to it, the first, 8-story home for his bank. By 1918 he and two associates were developing the Childers Heights subdivision along the Arkansas River. Many of Tulsa's first mansions were erected here on the downtown perimeter by the city's early builders and developers. Ironically, McBirney's is one of the last still standing. McBirney died in 1944 at the age of 74. His wife was 95 when she died in 1975.

The brick, stone, and stucco house was built in 1927-1928 by John Long of Kansas City according to designs by a firm of St. Louis architects. It is proportioned on a grand scale, and meticulously crafted. Landscaping features fine magnolias and cedars, a grotto and rock-lined walk that make effective use of the spring that gave the site its original importance. House, furnishings, and grounds are all essentially unchanged from the original.

"McBirney Springs" has its source in an underground stream that surfaces here near the river. The site was used by pioneers and early residents of Indian Territory

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

-- Special Material Researched by the Landmark Preservation Committee
 (6111 E. Skelly Drive, Tulsa), now in the Oklahoma Historical
 Society files

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 3.5 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	<u>15</u>	<u>23,02,6,0</u>	<u>4,010,315,8,2</u>	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Kent Ruth, Deputy

ORGANIZATION

Oklahoma Historical Society

STREET & NUMBER

Historical Building

CITY OR TOWN

Oklahoma City

DATE

June 1976

TELEPHONE

405/884-5456

STATE

Oklahoma

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:


NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE



TITLE

SHPO

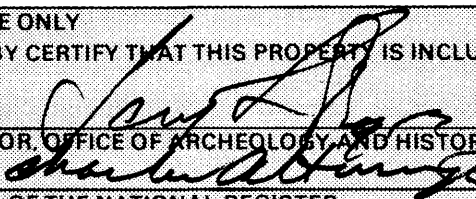
DATE

JUL 12 1976

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Attest



DATE

11/13/76

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST

DATE

11-10-76

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8

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McBirney, James H., Mansion

Tulsa for watering stock before crossing the Arkansas River. A ferry replaced the ford at this point, serving travel between Tulsa and Red Fork until the advent of bridges. Perhaps the first white man of importance to cross the Arkansas in this immediate area was Washington Irving in the 1830s. He was undoubtedly following in the moccasined footsteps of countless generations of Indians of many tribes.

The McBirney Mansion has yet another strictly modern tie - with aviation. It hosted Amelia Earhart, who was a friend of Dorothy McBirney, a daughter of James McBirney and also an aviatrix. Both women played a role in founding the famed "Powder Puff Derby" for women flyers.

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE **OKLAHOMA**

Date Entered **NOV 13 1976**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
McBirney, James H., House	Tulsa Tulsa County

Also Notified **Mr. George H. Shirk**
State Historic Preservation Officer
1108 Colecord Building
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73105

Hon. Henry L. Bellmon
Hon. Dewey F. Bartlett
Hon. James R. Jones
Regional Director, Southwest
Region

880 MMott/row 11/22/76