

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

(Type all entries complete applicable sections)

STATE: Ohio
COUNTY: Butler
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:
The William Holmes McGuffey House

AND/OR HISTORIC:
The William Holmes McGuffey House

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
401 East Spring Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Oxford

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
8th

STATE: **Ohio** CODE: **39** COUNTY: **Butler** CODE: **017**

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PUBLIC ACQUISITION: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered			
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____ _____ _____			

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Miami University; Dr. Phillip R. Shriver, President

STREET AND NUMBER:
Miami University

CITY OR TOWN: **Oxford** STATE: **Ohio** CODE: **39**

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Miami University-Archives

STREET AND NUMBER:
Miami University

CITY OR TOWN: **Oxford** STATE: **Ohio** CODE: **39**

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Department of Physical Facilities

DATE OF SURVEY: **1972** Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
✓ Miami University

STREET AND NUMBER:
Miami University

CITY OR TOWN: **Oxford** STATE: **Ohio** CODE: **39**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: **Ohio**
COUNTY: **Butler**
ENTRY NUMBER:
DATE:
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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)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The William Holmes McGuffey House, 401 Spring Street, Oxford Ohio, was designed and built by McGuffey in 1832-33. The house was only occupied by the McGuffeys for three years or until they moved to Athens. The house is a two-story brick structure that has seen various alterations since the McGuffeys lived there. When McGuffey occupied the house the main entrance was located on the east side; the north side is now used. Moreover, the porch located on the second floor on the east side of the house has been enclosed, whereas it was open between 1833-36. In 1855, a two-story wing containing a room on each level was added to the west side of the house. The north porch was likewise lengthened at a later time.

Various alterations have occurred on the interior of the house. Entering from the north porch one steps in to the hallway. A staircase now rises to the second level. This stairwell was not present when McGuffey lived there. On the right is the living room. Victorian furnishings are used for decor. The windows have been lowered to the floor and the original single door has been replaced with a double wide portal. The only furnishings in the room which relate to McGuffey are the portraits of him and his wife. To the south of this room is the dining room. Here wall paper has been removed and the original print with stencil design has been restored. In this room is a built-in cupboard in which are pictures, McGuffey's eye glasses, and other mementoes. To the west of this room is the ground floor wing of the 1855 addition in which are located many of the various editions of the McGuffey Reader as well as the octagonal table at which McGuffey composed a number of the Readers. This room was used as an office by the owner of the house who was a contractor. In a small hallway, which connects this room with the kitchen, is the original stairwell. The staircase has been turned, whereas it once was straight. On the second floor are located a number of interesting bedrooms including the "Borning Room," just off the master bedroom, above the parlor. In the second bedroom, above the dining room, is located the only original floor in the house, all the others have been replaced with narrow oak hardwood. The beds of the rooms are rather unique. All the beds have rope springs. The one in the second bedroom was finished to simulate mahogany, while the one in the master bedroom is made of cherrywood. The master bedroom contains the original mantel painted white to simulate Italian marble.

Miami University has restored the house and uses it as a museum to honor McGuffey. The house is opened throughout the year except August, on Saturday, 9:00 a.m.- 11:00 p.m.; Sunday, 2:00 p.m.-4:30 p.m.; and Tuesday 2:00 p.m.-4:30 p.m.

BOUNDARY INFORMATION AND JUSTIFICATION

The William Holmes McGuffey House sits on the corner of East Spring

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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) **1833-1836**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|---|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education | <input 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 type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input 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

This house located at 401 Spring Street was the home of William Holmes McGuffey from 1833-1836. In this house McGuffey compiled the First, Second, Third, and Fourth Readers. These and subsequent McGuffey texts, estimated to have sold more than 122,000,000 copies, reached generations of Americans and were a major cultural and educational influence in the life of 19th-century America. This astonishing figure alone testifies to the influence these volumes have had on the thinking of the Nation.

HISTORY

Born near Claysville, Pennsylvania, on September 23, 1800, McGuffey's family moved near Youngstown in 1802. There he spent the next sixteen years. His mother tutored him, as did the minister of the Presbyterian Church in Youngstown. In 1818, he matriculated at a school at Darlington, Pennsylvania; and from there entered Washington College, from which he was graduated in 1826.

Having received his degree, the compactly built and religiously devout McGuffey devoted the rest of his life to education. He assumed a professorship of languages at Miami University, Miami, Ohio, in 1826. Shortly after arriving in Miami, he married Harriet Spining, ^{with} whom he had five children.

He remained in Miami until 1836, when he resigned as the head of the department of moral philosophy, which he had come to head in 1832, in order to accept the presidency of Cincinnati College. Ohio University elected McGuffey to its presidency on September 17, 1839, and he held this position until 1843. About two years after departing from Athens, McGuffey became the professor of moral philosophy at the University of Virginia. By the time of his death on May 4, 1873, McGuffey had become the University's ranking professor.

McGuffey's fame stems not from his classroom lectures in college, but from his readers for children, the first four of which he compiled in his Spring Street house. He published a brief volume, Method of Reading, prior to 1833, and in 1836 a Cincinnati publishing house contracted with him to produce a series of children's readers. It was this series

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Carpenter, Charles, History of American Schoolbooks, (Philadelphia, 1963).
 Cubberley, Ellwood P., Public Education in the United States, (Cambridge, Massachusetts, 1947).
Dictionary of American Biography
 Mennich, Harvey C., William Holmes McGuffey and His Readers, (New York, 1936).
 Smith, William E., "The McGuffey Museum of Miami University" and William Holmes McGuffey," both published by Miami University* (n.d.).

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		UTM	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	0 ' "	0 ' "	16.694650.4375280	0 ' "	0 ' "	
NE	0 ' "	0 ' "		0 ' "	0 ' "	
SE	0 ' "	0 ' "		0 ' "	0 ' "	
SW	0 ' "	0 ' "		0 ' "	0 ' "	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Less than 1 acre.

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

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Joseph S. Mendinghall-Historian (Original form completed by S. Sydney Bradford)

ORGANIZATION: Historic Sites Survey DATE: 5/16/75

STREET AND NUMBER:
1100 L. Street, Northwest

CITY OR TOWN: Washington STATE: D.C. 20240 CODE: 11

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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 _____
 Title _____
 Date _____

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

Designated: DEC. 21, 1965
 date

Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Debra T. Conway
 Date April 10, 1978

ATTEST:
[Signature]
 Keeper of The National Register

Date 11/24/78

NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS)

(NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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CONTINUATION SHEET 1

ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE 2

Street and Oak Street. To the rear of the property is an accessway to a parking lot, while on the east side a chain fence separates the property from the remaining university grounds. The property is described by deed as follows:

Being a part of Outlot number Nine (9), in the city of Oxford, Butler County, Ohio, and described as follows, to wit: Beginning at the Northwest corner of said Outlot at the junction of Oak and Spring Streets in said City and running thence South along the west line of said Outlot a distance of One Hundred Forty-four and five tenths (144.5) feet; thence East on a line parallel with the north line of said Outlot a distance of One Hundred Twelve and five tenths (112.5) feet; thence North on a line parallel with the west line of said Outlot a distance of One Hundred Forty-four and five tenths (144.5) feet to the north line of said Outlot and south line of Spring Street; thence West along the north line of said Outlot a distance of One Hundred Twelve and five tenths (112.5) feet to the place of beginning.

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CONTINUATION SHEET 1

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 2

that made his name common. The First Reader appeared in 1836, as did the Second Reader. The Third and the Fourth Readers came out in 1837. Subsequent revision of the books improved them and increased their popularity. In 1851 a Fifth Reader was published, and in 1857 a Sixth Reader. The series was completely revised in 1879; and changes continued to be made until 1920.

Several factors contributed to the popularity of the books. First, a need existed for a well-written and interesting series of readers for children when McGuffey's volume first appeared. Second, the books taught by employing the social, economic, and political ideas then current and popular for decades to come. Admonitions about thrift, hard work, and patriotism, as well as many other virtues and ideas, appeared on almost every page. Third, the original publisher, and his successors, promoted the Readers with vigor and intelligence. Although McGuffey's poor business talents prevented him from making a fortune, the Readers' publishers recognized their commercial value and availed themselves of every opportunity to increase their use.

Perhaps the leading reason for the success of the readers was that McGuffey had written an excellent series. The books' material appealed to the mind of the child. Abstract ideas were ignored, and the child could recognize and understand the realistic situations and scenes that were presented. Since the material was not parochial, but wide ranging in nature, the child's interest was further sustained. Then too, McGuffey set a precedent in his copious use of pictures. Never before had children's text books been so profusely illustrated. Simple, direct writing supported all these concepts. McGuffey's presentation of easily grasped ideas in quick succession, his stress of the basic points in description, and his stimulation of the imagination initiated a quick response in his young readers.