

PH0021636

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Delaware	
COUNTY: New Castle	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	APR 24 1973

1. NAME

COMMON:  
McCoy House

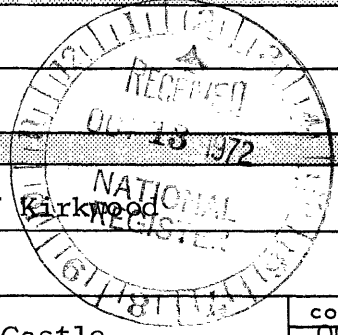
AND/OR HISTORIC:  
AuClaire School, Gingerbread House

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Kirkwood and McCoy Roads, 1 1/2 miles east of Kirkwood

CITY OR TOWN:  
Kirkwood

STATE: Delaware CODE: 10 COUNTY: New Castle CODE: 003



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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input 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) _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:  
Kenneth M. Mazik, AuClaire School for Autistic Children

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Kirkwood and McCoy Roads, 1 1/2 miles east of Kirkwood

CITY OR TOWN: Kirkwood STATE: Delaware CODE: 10

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Public Building

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Rodney Square

CITY OR TOWN: Wilmington STATE: Delaware CODE: 10

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:  
COUNTY:  
ENTRY NUMBER:  
DATE:

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

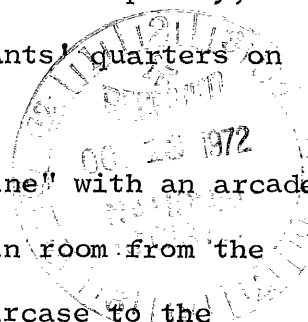
CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This 28-room house, begun in 1892 and completed ~~five years~~ later at a cost of \$60,000, is one of the most unusual structures in the State of Delaware. The north front of the house is six bays wide, two-and-a-half stories high with an attic above. The walls are built of light brown Roman brick laid in all stretcher bond, two feet thick. A one-story verandah runs the full length of the north and east walls. The steep gable roof encloses the upper story and attic of the house; windows for the third story are found in the gable end walls and in a cross gable. Brown glazed tiles, imported from Belgium, cover the house and the verandah; these tiles weigh ninety tons.

The main door of the house opens into a small alcove that provides access to a formal reception room, from which an open staircase rises to the third story. To the left of this room is a large dining room, and to the right are a parlor and a study. The second floor contains bedrooms, and a tiled bath that retains its original fixtures. The third floor contains more bedrooms. A rear ell contains a pantry, kitchen, and pump room on the first floor, and servants' quarters on the second and third stories.

The reception room is panelled in "cathedral pine" with an arcade of Doric columns in the same wood separating the main room from the staircase. From this room, one can look up the staircase to the sloping inside wall formed by the roof, upon which is mounted a mosaic of a Greek goddess, the design for which was taken from a coin in Dr. McCoy's collection. The dining room and the parlor are separated from the reception room by pairs of large sliding doors.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**3. SIGNIFICANCE**

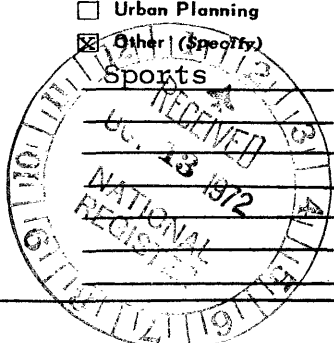
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<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) 1892

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) Sports
<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 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

This house, designed and built by Dr. John Cresap McCoy (1857-1924), is one of the most personal and unusual houses in the State of Delaware, yet its owner lived in it for only a short period.

Dr. McCoy was born in 1857, the son of Thomas Henry McCoy and Adeline Cazier McCoy. He attended local schools and went to medical school in Philadelphia. Family tradition states that he continued his medical education at Heidelberg, where he was deeply influenced by the German mediaeval tradition. After completing his education, he was called to St. Louis by a classmate's father to treat a son who had contracted tuberculosis. After the patient died, his

father gave Dr. McCoy \$3,000 which provided the capital for a patent-medicine venture. McCoy's catarrh remedy made him a fortune, which allowed him to retire to his native New Castle County, where he devoted his full time to horse breeding and racing.

As secretary of the Maple Valley Trotting Association, he introduced the public to the kite track. Shaped as a kite, rather than the traditional oval, the track was supposed to increase a horse's speed by eliminating the number of curves. Dr. McCoy's track, adjacent to his mansion, was constructed of soil that was specially treated to increase its elasticity. A mile of pipes fed

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Sunday Star, July 4, 1937, p. 4.

Wilson, W. Emerson, "Kite Track Drew Crowds," Wilmington Morning News, May 24, 1969, p. 2.

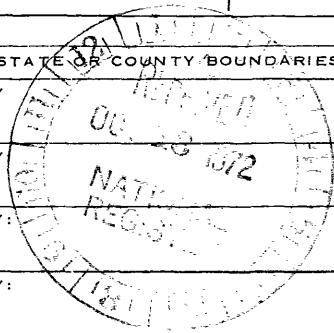
**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

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
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	39°	33'	34"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"	75°	40'	40"
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"			
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Ten

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
Miss Rosemary Troy and Mr. Richard Schmidt

ORGANIZATION: Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs      DATE: July 1972

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Hall of Records

CITY OR TOWN: Dover      STATE: Delaware      CODE: 10

**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 E. Berkeley Tompkins  
Dr. E. Berkeley Tompkins

Title Director, Div. of Historical and Cultural Affairs

Date 10-6-72

**NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

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

Robert M. Utley  
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 4/24/73

ATTEST:

[Signature]  
Keeper of The National Register

Date 4/13/73

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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(Continuation Sheet)

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	APR 24 1973

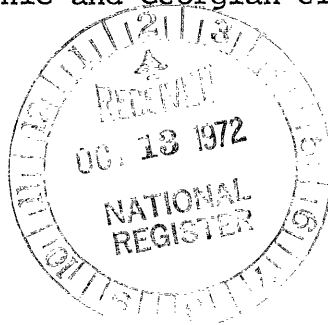
(Number all entries)

7. DESCRIPTION (continued)----

All four rooms on the first floor of the main block have brick mantels; the one in the reception room is especially large and ornate.

The rooms on the first two floors of the main block are especially well appointed, with panelling on the first floor and ceramic tile on the second. The tile mantels on the second floor are colored to match the wall coverings.

Architecturally, the house falls outside the usual traditions found in the United States. It cannot be said to be indigenous architecture, since it borrows heavily from European precedents and materials. Dr. McCoy is supposed to have been influenced by German architecture during his student days there, but the dominant architectural theme of the house derives from William Morris and the Arts and Crafts movement. Features such as the fireplace in the reception room, with its tiled hearth and three-dimensional use of brick, the openwork screen over the arcade in the same room, and the plan centered on the staircase, certainly owe a debt to Morris and his followers. Dr. McCoy's use of Grecian columns and egg-and-dart moulding details is not inconsistent with the rest of the house, since Philip Webb (designer of Morris' own house) often mixed Gothic and Georgian elements.



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8. SIGNIFICANCE (continued)---

the sprinkler system that moistened the surface.

The track at McCoy's farm was opened to the public on July 4, 1892. At any station on the Pennsylvania Railroad between Kirkwood and New York, patrons could purchase tickets that included transportation and admission to the track. By one count, the attendance that day was eight thousand, more than the three-thousand-seat grandstand and adjacent grounds could accommodate. The feature race upheld the claim that the Kirkwood track was the fastest in the East; the time was two minutes and twelve seconds, a second faster than the previous world record. Bicycle races, a foot race, and a dog race, provided an interlude between two cards of harness racing.

Dr. McCoy's racing venture was short-lived, however. Shortly after the house was finished, he left his wife and family to move to Pennsylvania, where he practiced medicine until his return to Delaware, shortly before his death in 1924.

McCoy's house is a unique expression of the Arts and Crafts movement that was sweeping Europe at the time. The use of expensive and elegant materials, the disposition and size of the rooms, the importance of brick as a building material, all recall the teachings of William Morris as practiced by such architects as Voysey and Webb, but seldom so eloquently expressed in America.

