

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**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 McAlester House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 14 East Smith Avenue _____ not for publication

city, town McAlester _____ vicinity of _____ congressional district 003

state Oklahoma _____ code 40 _____ county Pittsburg _____ code 121

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	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" 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 James T. McAlester

street & number 14 East Smith

city, town McAlester _____ vicinity of _____ state OK

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Office of the County Clerk

street & number Pittsburg County Court House

city, town McAlester _____ state OK

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Oklahoma Comprehensive Survey _____ has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1980 _____ federal state county local

depository for survey records Preservation Office, Oklahoma Historical Society

city, town Oklahoma City _____ state OK

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" 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

J.J. McAlester built a four room log structure about 1870. Around this house a larger single story home was built a few years later. The log walls and foundation are still intact and visible from underneath the house.

At the same time a large two story Victorian house was constructed by McAlester and connected to the single story house with a breezeway. This two-story Queen-Anne home was an area showplace and status symbol, and was McAlester's residence until his death. Its square peak roof tower gables with fish-scale shingles, stained glass windows, and large three-sided verandas represented its builder's wealth and stability to the mining community.

In 1960 the house was critically deteriorated. J. L. McAlester, J.J.'s grandson, restored the home making only minor changes externally (enclosing the breezeway) and internally (making two living rooms into one large room). The interior retains original woodwork, bannisters, door locks and hinges, and Belgium light fixtures. Walls have been repapered, central air/heat installed and bathrooms added.

Some of the original outbuilding are on the grounds, including a well-house and a small structure once used as a school.

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 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 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 type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1810-present **Builder/Architect**

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

This property is significant because of its architectural character and for its long association with J.J. McAlester. McAlester was the founder of the city of McAlester and active developer of industry in southeast Oklahoma.

In the late 1860s J.J. McAlester convinced a commercial firm to help him establish a trading post in Indian Territory at the juncture of the California and Texas Railroads. McAlester was aware of the coal out-croppings in the area and recognized the possibilities of mining development. In fact, another railroad, MK & T, changed its route, dropping south to McAlester's store at Bucklucksey (as it was first called) because of the prospect of the coal mines.

Later as mining, other industries and commerce developed around McAlester's stores Bucklucksey was changed to McAlester.

As his influence and popularity grew McAlester entered the political arena. When Oklahoma became a state he was elected its first Lieutenant Governor and later Corporation Commissioner of Oklahoma. He and his work led to the development of coal as king in southeast Oklahoma. He brought transportation and population expansion to the area and aided in the development of a thriving and productive state.

Now maintained by the McAlester family in keeping with its early 1900's character, the house is a fine example of style adapted for large family/small town living.

9. Major Bibliographical References

The History of McAlester, Hiram Impson. Pamphlet for city's 50th anniversary, 1949.
 Daily McAlester Democrat, Sec. B, p. 6. Friday, July 29, 1977.
 Gene Aldrich, "A History of the Coal Industry in Oklahoma to 1907." OU Phd., 1952.
 Indian-Pioneer Papers, Vol. 20, p. 41. "Interview with A. F. Clark, Clayton, OK, 1937",

10. Geographical Data

UTM NOT VERIFIED

Acreege of nominated property less than 1 acre

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

Quadrangle name McAlester, OK

Quadrangle scale 7.5'

UMT References

A

1	15	2	4	7	9	1	10	3	18	7	1	4	10	10
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D

Zone		Easting				Northing								

E

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H

Zone		Easting				Northing								

Verbal boundary description and justification

Lots 7, 8, 14, 15, and 16, Block 101

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 Diane Everman and Mary Ann Anders Directed by Dr. Annetta L. Cheek

organization Oklahoma Historic Preservation Survey date June 29, 1979

street & number Oklahoma State University telephone (405) 624-5678

city or town Stillwater state OK

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local *per 3/22/80 phone call 56*

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature H. Glenn Jordan

title State Historic Preservation Officer date 2-26-80

For HCRS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	
<u>Anthony Bruce Ara Dangel</u>	date <u>8/29/80</u>
Keeper of the National Register	
Attest: <u>Beth Gouvenor</u>	date <u>8/27/80</u>
Chief of Registration	

FHR-8-300A
(11/78)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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

FOR HCRS USE ONLY
RECEIVED FEB 29 1980
DATE ENTERED AUG 29 1980

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 1

Oklahoma Historical Society, Oklahoma City, OK.
Chronicles of Oklahoma, Vol. 11 (1933), p. 758-764. "J. J. McAlester,"
Paul Nesbitt.
Interview: Mrs. J. T. McAlester, January 21, 1979, McAlester, OK.