

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY  
NOMINATION FORM

3/2/79

Continuation Sheet

Item Number

Page 36

Name Historic Wallace-McGee House

Location 415 Harden Street

Common

Classification Building

Owner Mr. H. Glenn McGee  
415 Harden Street  
Columbia, South Carolina 29205

Representation in Existing Surveys

Description: Two stories high with a cellar, the Wallace-McGee House has an exterior of stucco painted white. The structural frame and floors of the house are concrete, floor joists are steel beams, and partitions are gypsum blocks and plaster.

The front facade features a two car garage topped by a sun deck. An entrance court on right is enclosed by a stuccoed wall added to the property in 1973.

On the rear facade are rows of windows and doors on both stories. The second floor features a sun deck and a sleeping porch. The present owner has added a swimming pool in the back yard.

Topped by flat roof, the house has eight rooms and four bathrooms. All rooms are unornamented and painted white. On the first floor are living room, dining room with semicircular end, and a room intended to be used as guest room or study. Also on first floor are two bathrooms, hall, and a dressing alcove. A maid's room has been converted to a kitchen and the original kitchen is now a bedroom.

(continued on back)

Significance: Probably the best example of the International Style in Columbia, the Wallace McGee House was constructed in 1937. The design for the house was based on plans by Edward I Stone which appeared in Collier's Magazine on March 28, 1936. Charles A. Wallace, the original owner, purchased these plans for \$3.00 and W. G. Lyles supervised the construction which was carried out by Wessinger and Stork.

After Charles Wallace, owner of Wallace Concrete Pipe Company, was killed in World War I his wife Kate Hedrick Wallace continued to manage the concrete pipe company. Following her death in 1968, the house was sold to the present owner, Glenn McGee, an architect and interior designer.

Almost identical to Stone's design of a "house for a man of modest means", appearing in Collier's Magazine, the Wallace-McGee House has features characteristic of the International style: white stuccoed unornamented exterior, large areas of glass, a flat roof, and a steel frame.

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Acreage: .46 acre

Verbal Boundary Description TMS 31-04-09; extending along Harden Street for 100' and side line of 201'

ITM Reference Point Southwest Columbia 17/498640/3761450

Other Information The fifty-year age requirement for National Register status should be waived for the Wallace-McGee House for the following reasons:

1. It is probably the best example of the International style in Columbia and is therefore of exceptional importance as a city landmark;
2. It is an integral part of the continuum of Columbia's architectural and historic development.

Description -- continued

inal kitchen space has been converted to a breakfast room by the current owner. Two of the three dining room doors have been replaced with glass <sup>block</sup> brick windows.

Upstairs, three bedrooms have rows of windows and doors that open onto a sun deck and a sleeping porch. Two bathrooms, a hall, and numerous closets are located on the second floor.

A cellar houses heating equipment and is used for storage.

Located on Harden Street in the Shandon residential area, the Wallace-McGee House faces west.

Significance -- continued

and reinforced concrete structural system.

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 type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1936-1940

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Edward D. Stone

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Wallace-McGee House is the most distinguished example in Columbia of the International Style. The house was built by Mr. Wallace, a local contractor, c. 1939, from a design by Edward D. Stone which was published in Collier's Magazine on March 28, 1936 (page 10 ff.). A subsequent article (April 11, 1936) presented a landscape plan developed by Stone for the dwelling. Without any major deviations, Mr. Wallace followed the Collier's plans and constructed a dwelling of a type rarely seen in South Carolina, a structure deemed by Collier's to be "the last word in efficiency, economy and charm . . . an ideal house for a man of moderate means."

The International Style developed in the late 1920s in Europe and was first codified in an exhibit held at the Museum of Modern Art in New York in 1932. Henry R. Hitchcock and Philip Johnson organized this exhibition and wrote a book to accompany it; the book, entitled The International Style, gave the style its name. The hallmarks of this style include asymmetrical compositions of rectilinear forms, the use of large areas of glass, the love of smooth surfaces devoid of applied ornament, the juxtaposition of solid and void, and the contrast of angular and curved forms. The Wallace-McGee House may be viewed as a catalogue of these stylistic devices. Beyond this, the house is structurally notable. It was built of concrete. The roof was wired to serve as a radio antenna. Water towers were placed in the basement to serve as a part of a cooling system. Thus, in construction as well as style, the Wallace-McGee House was exceptional in Columbia.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

UTM REFERENCES

A	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

B	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
D	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

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

ORGANIZATION

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

## 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

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER