

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

RECEIVED JUL 03 1990

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

NATIONAL REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name McCall, Cormack, House other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 817 Ravine Street NE N/A not for publication city, town Faribault N/A vicinity state Minnesota code MN county Rice code 131 zip code 55021

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: [X] private, [] public-local, [] public-State, [] public-Federal. Category of Property: [X] building(s), [] district, [] site, [] structure, [] object. Number of Resources within Property: Contributing 1, Noncontributing 0, Total 1. Name of related multiple property listing: N/A. Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0.

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this [X] nomination [] request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property [X] meets [] does not meet the National Register criteria. [] See continuation sheet. Signature of certifying official: Ian R. Stewart, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, Minnesota Historical Society. Date: 6/25/90.

In my opinion, the property [] meets [] does not meet the National Register criteria. [] See continuation sheet. Signature of commenting or other official: Date: State or Federal agency and bureau:

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is: [X] entered in the National Register. Entered in the National Register. Mark J. Baker August 3, 1990. [] determined eligible for the National Register. [] determined not eligible for the National Register. [] removed from the National Register. [] other, (explain:). Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)
Domestic/single dwelling

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)
Domestic/single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)
other:Faribault stone architecture

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation limestone
walls limestone

roof wood/shingles
other wood/clapboard

Describe present and historic physical appearance.
See continuation sheet

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Continuation Sheet

McCall, Cormack, House

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The Cormack McCall House is a detached 1 1/2 story dwelling constructed of locally quarried limestone and illustrates Faribault's early vernacular architecture. Its vernacular qualities are illustrated in its use of local building materials, its relatively simple footprint, its thick stone walls, protruding stone sills, flush lintels, and quality masonry work. Built circa 1871 for and by Cormack McCall, a prolific Faribault stone mason, the original structure consisted of the end-gabled main massing with central entrance on the north facade and a one-story kitchen wing off the south elevation. The main facade displays a slightly off-center entrance with flanking six over six windows on the first story and two wall dormers with six over six windows above. Two end-wall chimneys ride the roof ridge. The chimney to the west is a working chimney, with the "chimney" to the east being a false chimney added for visual balance.

The one story wing to the west is of wood frame construction with applied stone on the main facade. It, with the two-story wood-frame wing to the south, was probably added by Cormack as his family grew. It is reported that he and his wife had twelve children while living in this stone house.

Later additions to the house consist of the ornamental shutters and the single car garage added to the west wing in the 1970s. Although these alterations give the house a Colonial Revival style appearance, these elements do not significantly detract from the vernacular qualities or craftsmanship of the house.

The house is located on a spacious, well landscaped triangular lot on the eastern outskirts of Faribault.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G N/A

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

circa 1871-1915

Significant Dates

circa 1871

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

McCall, Cormack

Architect/Builder

McCall, Cormack, stone mason

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

See continuation sheet

See continuation sheet

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McCall, Cormack, House

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The Cormack and Honorah Crowley McCall House is significant within the context of the period of early settlement (ca. 1855-1875) in Faribault. This period encompasses roughly the first twenty years of settlement and corresponds to the Minnesota State Historical Society's *Early Agriculture and River Settlement* context. Within that broad context, the McCall House is specifically significant for its association with stone cutter and mason, Cormack McCall, who is recorded as having built some of Faribault's most outstanding native stone buildings. It is also significant as an example of the type of vernacular native stone housing built during the early settlement days.

Faribault's early settlement period was marked by the rapid influx of a variety of ethnic groups, both Yankee and European, and the establishment of the early local economy. That economy included a mix of local businesses including drygoods and hardware stores, clothing stores, meat and grocery markets, drug stores, boot and shoe shops, a wagon and sleigh building shop, furniture stores, restaurants and saloons, livery stables and blacksmith shops. This period also witnessed the development and the decline of the highly competitive milling (lumber, wool, and flour) industry along the Straight River Valley. Another of Faribault's earliest industries was the quarrying of stone. The variety of limestone that was quarried in this locale was eventually shipped throughout the region and was used for homes, churches and public buildings. The stone also comprises the building material of some of Faribault's earliest buildings. Faribault's later role in the regional economy was nurtured with the arrival of the first railroad in 1865 and the beginning expansion of trade outside the immediate vicinity of Faribault.

The rapid immigration to and formation of an economy in Faribault was owed to a location that initially brought settlers into Rice County via steam travel up the river valleys. As early as 1855, Faribault found itself at the intersection of an early network of roads including the Lake Pepin, Spirit Lake, Dodd (and St. Paul), and Hastings roads that brought immigrants from all directions. Faribault's strategic location on the Straight River and at the intersection of new roads, combined itself with an

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McCall, Cormack, House

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environment of bountiful waterways, hardwood forests, and farmland, and drew settlers who saw the potential for entrepreneurship and a better life.

The arrival of many ethnic laborers in Faribault, among them Irish and German stonemasons, influenced the design and material of many of Faribault's earliest buildings. Having come from areas in Europe with stone building traditions, these local builders continued to use their masonry skills and sense of design in many of Faribault's most handsome and well-built buildings. This indigenous natural resource, combined with the development of major religious and state institutions and their need for facilities, served to draw master craftsmen and designers to Faribault. Stonemasons William E. Jones, Edward Goodman, Thomas and Cormack McCall came to Faribault to work on the large stone contracts being generated by these institutions.

Cormack McCall was born in 1836 in Ireland, and as a youth learned stone cutting in England. By the mid-1850s Cormack and his brother Thomas had traveled to America and were working as stonecutters in New York City where they participated in the construction of Saint Patrick's Cathedral. Cormack McCall's obituary notice noted that he cut the cornerstone for the cathedral and was present at the laying of the stone in 1858.

McCall came to Minnesota in 1861 and settled in Faribault. In 1867 he purchased the Ravine Street site from Alexander Faribault and built his stone house ca. 1871.

Cormack and his brother, Thomas, served as stonemasons in Faribault for most of their adult lives. Cormack participated in the construction of the Episcopal Cathedral, Shumway Chapel and Shumway Hall at Shattuck School, the original School for the Feeble-Minded, Seabury Hall and Johnston Hall at the Seabury Divinity School, and Mott Hall at the School for the Deaf.

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Cormack McCall lived at the Ravine Street homestead for approximately forty-four years until his death in June of 1915. Cormack and wife Honorah Cronley McCall are reported to have had twelve children, ten of which survived Cormack at his death in 1915.

The Cormack McCall House, though simple in plan, is distinctive as the work of a craftsman who has mastered the medium of stone. The simple plan, modest size and minimal decoration of the McCall house is typical of the type of early housing built by local masons with their vernacular sensibilities. There are eleven other extant stone vernacular houses in Faribault, all built by working class families after an initial period of establishment within the Faribault economy. All exhibit simple plans, minimal stylistic embellishment, and labor intensive building techniques. They are distinctive for their flush stone lintels, protruding door and window sills, interior beveled window openings and approximately twenty-inch deep walls.

Cormack McCall's original house, consisting of the one and one-half story main massing and the one story limestone "summer kitchen" wing to the south, displays a cognizant simplicity and sensitivity to balance. This quest for balance in design is demonstrated with the false chimney located on the east end of the roof ridge. The "chimney" visually creates a balanced and familiar framing of the structures massing on the main (north) elevation but falls directly over the stacked windows on the lesser, east elevation. The simplicity of design, complemented by the sensitivity of additions through time have provided Faribault with one of its most outstanding stone houses. The alterations through time have not significantly compromised the quality craftsmanship or vernacular sensitivities of the house.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet

Previous documentation on file (NPS): N/A

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository:

Fort Snelling History Center
Saint Paul, Minnesota

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of property Less than one acre

UTM References

A

1	5
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4	7	9	6	6	0
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4	9	0	4	4	0	0
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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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D

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N/A See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description The nominated property occupies Lot #1, Block #1 McCalls Addition.

N/A See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the city lot that has been historically associated with the property. City legal description.

N/A See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

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organization Thomas R. Zahn & Associates, Inc. date December 7, 1988
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