

Property Name *McCready, Robert W. & Mary F., House*
Location *Sloatsburg, Rockland County, New York*

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section Number 7 Page 1

7. Narrative Description

Location & Setting

The Robert W. and Mary F. McCready House is located at 139 Orange Turnpike—New York Route 17—in the Village of Sloatsburg, Rockland County, New York. This location places the house on the north side of the village, north of Post Road, on the west side of Orange Turnpike. The parcel on which the house and associated resources are located measures roughly 150' in width (street frontage) by 300' in depth, equating to approximately one acre of land; it is essentially flat, the grade rising gently to the west, beyond the nominated property line. The main house is set back approximately 75' from Orange Turnpike, and accessed from the sidewalk by way of a brick-lined and concrete bordered walkway. Behind the main house is situated a small, oval-shaped area consisting of a koi pond and fountain, this area defined by a circular drive, an extension of the gravel-laid driveway that accesses the property from the main road. Further west of the garden area is a single-story frame bungalow residence, and beyond that a large 2 ½ story carriage barn of sizeable dimension. The nominated parcel is generally open with a small scattering of ornamental plantings around the two houses and garden, and a small number of deciduous and coniferous trees, including a substantial maple tree situated between the main house and sidewalk. To the west of the property line are thick woods. The overall character of the immediate neighborhood is that of residential properties aligning Orange Turnpike, of similar age to the nominated house.

Identified Resources

The nomination includes the following contributing resources: the c. 1889 McCready house; the c. 1930 Bungalow; the carriage barn; the brick and concrete walkway; the koi pond; the fountain and associated features; a hand-pump; a well; and the stone and concrete retaining wall that forms a terrace at the property's northwest corner. The main house, bungalow and carriage barn constitute contributing buildings; the walkway, pond, fountain area, hand-pump, well and retaining wall constitute contributing structures, all being related to the development of the property during the cited period of significance, c. 1889-1949, during the McCready ownership period.

McCready House: Exterior & Interior

The McCready house was built with its primary elevation facing eastward towards Orange Turnpike. It is a light-frame building built above a mortared cut-stone foundation, with a roughly self-contained footprint; it is covered by a steeply pitched gable roof with its ridge aligned front to back, an intersecting jerkin head gable roof corresponding with central bays on the north and south side elevations. The facade is defined by a four-sided projection that corresponds with an octagonal-shaped parlor and bedroom within, three bays of this projection being covered by a hipped roof situated beneath the front-facing gable. At first floor level on the façade the four-sided projection is fronted by a hip-roofed verandah; at second story level the roof of the verandah is terminated by the east wall of a small porch, shingle-sided, that is accessed via an upstairs bedroom. There are window openings in three of the four facets of the projection at the first and second story level, double-hung with period sash consisting of an upper unit with rectilinear borders above one-light units; an oculus window occupies a central position in the field of the front-facing gable. One of the window bays at first story level on the projection, however, is blind and shuttered over, corresponding with a mirrored wall on the interior. Apertures provide access to the verandah and second-story porch from the façade, at the extreme south side of this elevation. On the

Property Name *McCready, Robert W. & Mary F., House*
Location *Sloatsburg, Rockland County, New York*

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section Number 7 Page 2

opposite side, on the north side of the verandah, is the primary entrance, consisting of a glazed door flanked by half-length sidelights and spanned by a rectangular-shaped transom, the sidelights and transom fitted with glass of a Colonial Revival type, with leaded intersecting arcs. The entrance is approached from grade via concrete steps flanked by pedestals with cast concrete owls; the verandah floor is laid with tongue-and-groove boards. Character-defining features of the façade are modest and include decorative brackets utilized in concert with the porch supports and open-frieze spindle work; moulded wood cornices; and narrow cornerboards that trim the clapboards.

The south-facing elevation of the McCready house is largely defined by the one-bay central section corresponding with the intersecting jerkin head gable, which is ornamented with a bracketed trim board with incised detailing; fenestration consists of the two-story, three-sided bay window projection, which features windows on each facet above paneled aprons, above which is a window fitted with two-over-two sash that brings light into the half story—partially obscured by the ornamental truss. To the left, or west of this central bay, is a hipped roof projection that contains a paired window grouping fitted with double-hung four-over-four wood sash divided by a central mullion, corresponding with the kitchen. Above this is a single large window, square in shape, fitted with leaded glass.

The opposite north elevation likewise has a single bay defined by the intersecting jerkin head gable, with three windows corresponding with the first and second floor, along with the attic levels; the openings decrease in size moving from the first story upward. The lower opening, lighting the stair hall, is fitted with Queen Anne style sash, the upper and lower units having a clear section bordered by colored panes; the second story window is has an uncolored sash with rectilinear border above a one-light unit, while the uppermost opening is fitted with two-over-two sash. The jerkin head gable is ornamented with the same type trim board utilized on the opposite side. To the right, or west of the central section is a door into the rear vestibule and two window openings—one rectangular in shape and fitted with an 18-light glazed unit, the other a much smaller four-light unit—located beneath a hipped roof, cantilevered; and a window corresponding with the second floor, fitted with a clear bordered sash unit above a single-light unit. At half story level is a pent-roofed dormer punctuated with two windows fitted with leaded, Colonial Revival-type casements. The rear elevation has a recessed entry at first story level that leads into the kitchen; three windows at second-story level, two of which have bordered sash over a single light unit, and a similar window like the two just described, which brings light into the rear of the half story.

The McCready house's interior plan on the first floor consists of a small, square-shaped vestibule which opens into a larger stair hall, from which is accessed the octagonal-shaped parlor; the parlor communicates with the dining room, behind which is a generously scaled and rectangular-shaped kitchen, in addition to a pantry, a servants stair, a rear vestibule, and a bathroom. The second floor has four bedrooms, including the master above the dining room and the octagonal-shaped one above the parlor, in addition to a bathroom with an intact early 20th century sink, bathtub, and needle-type shower. The third floor has three small rooms, while the basement is unfinished.

Wall and ceiling finish is primarily plaster on sawn lath; in some areas—such as the kitchen and ceiling of the stair hall, parlor and dining room—deteriorated or completely failed plaster is being replaced, in some instances with period wood lath, in other instances with expanded metal lath. The vestibule, as already noted, utilizes wood for wainscoting as well as the walls and ceiling. Door and window openings are for

Property Name *McCready, Robert W. & Mary F., House*
Location *Sloatsburg, Rockland County, New York*

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section Number 7 Page 3

the most part finished with moulded wood architraves—decorative pressed metal in the dining room—in some instance the wood ones further finished with roundel corner blocks. Moulded wood baseboards and cornices are present in the primary rooms of the first floor. Doors are typically of either a four or five paneled type; some have been fabricated to replace those now missing. Flooring includes quarter-sawn oak parquet work in the stair hall, parlor and dining room, and runs of pine board and oak strip flooring in other areas such as the kitchen and second floor. Colonial Revival-inspired interior treatments include the unfluted *in antis* colonettes and a corresponding moulded wood cornice defining the opening between the stair hall and parlor, and likewise the paneled wainscot utilized in the vestibule and beneath the main stair, along with fireplaces highlighted by ogee-form wood mantel shelves, moulded wood firebox architraves and recessed paneling in the parlor and dining room. The dining room mantel shelf is surmounted by ornate, foliate-carved wood colonettes with composite capitals, which give way to a moulded cornice, the cornice being a continuation of that which forms the transition between the walls and ceiling of the room. The firebox openings on the first floor are squared and not of the Rumford type, formed of brick, the hearths laid in a polychrome manner with red and black tile; those upstairs are of a splayed and shallow Rumford type. Mantels in two of the upstairs rooms are of a different type from those in the parlor and dining room below, and are wood with turned balusters flanking the firebox openings, with bracketed mantel shelves above. As for the blind exterior bay of the façade projection, it corresponds with a large mirror in the front parlor,

The kitchen is undergoing the most extensive restoration of any part of the house, due to non-sensitive changes made in recent years and likewise deterioration. Care has been taken to restore the pine flooring that was revealed upon the removal of a more recent linoleum surface, and likewise some original cupboards and cream-hued tile. The open-stringer stair is likewise being restored, and as such the balusters and handrail are currently removed; the alignment, treads, risers and nosing, along with the dropped acorn-form pendant of the upper newel post, are original and intact.

Notable are the early 20th century bathroom treatments which remain in the second floor bathroom, including a claw-foot tub, sink and needle-type shower, all of which are white marble with nickel-plated fixtures; located in the half-story are the zinc-lined storage tanks which supplied water to the bathroom and kitchen. The steam radiators appear of an early type, and represent either an original or early installation, this radiant heating system utilized in concert with the house's coal-burning fireplaces.

Other Resources: Bungalow, Carriage Barn & Other Components

The carriage barn is a substantial frame building, 2 and ½ stories in height, measuring approximately 60 feet in length by 20 feet in depth, with a hipped roof punctuated by dormers. Its frame is sheathed on the exterior with clapboard and wood shingles, the primary entrance consisting of large sliding doors; a projection at the northeast corner creates a porte-cochere. The roof is covered with asphalt, and pierced by a single cream and beige-hued brick chimney. Damage was rendered to a portion of this building in a 2002 fire, which was fortunately contained, and limited to the southernmost portion of the building. The interior includes areas finished for occupation on the second floor, though in many of these the plaster has been lost, leaving only the sawn lath on walls and ceilings. Tradition maintains this barn was originally located in Tuxedo Park, and moved to this location subsequently; it appears in this position on the 1942 Sanborn Fire Insurance map.

Property Name *McCready, Robert W. & Mary F., House*
Location *Sloatsburg, Rockland County, New York*

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section Number 7 Page 4

The bungalow was apparently built c. 1930 by McCready, as a rental property to help defray mounting financial losses at the onset of the Great Depression. It has a square-shaped footprint and is a single story in height, erected above a raised foundation of poured concrete. The roof is hipped, subtly concave in profile and covered with asphalt; the exterior is wood shingled. The larger windows are fitted with six-over-one sash; the main entrance is situated beneath a gable-roofed projection, the door consisting of sidelights and transom fitted with leaded and colored glass. There is likewise a porch on the east side, hip-roofed, supported by square posts and partially enclosed by runs of balustered rail. Interior treatments include a living room with paneled walls, marble mantel, and Colonial Revival-style closet doors presumably salvaged from a previous location.

Other contributing components include the koi pond, which is rectangular in shape and lined with cream and beige-hued brick, surmounted by rustic stonework; the fountain, with associated cast-concrete benches, walkway, and rustic stone work; the entrance walk that leads from the sidewalk to the house, consisting of trapezoidal-shaped cream and beige-hued brick with a slightly raised, poured concrete border—it is a straight run; a stone well; and a hand-pump.