

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Dr. Cicero McAfee McCracken House

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 1384 Charlotte Highway N/A not for publication

city or town Fairview N/A vicinity

state North Carolina code NC county Buncombe code 021 zip code 28730

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this 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 meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Jeffrey Crows, Acting SHPO 19 July 95
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State of Federal agency and bureau _____

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:	Signature of the Keeper	Date of Action
<input type="checkbox"/> entered in the National Register. <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined eligible for the National Register <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined not eligible for the National Register.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> removed from the National Register.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> other, (explain): _____ _____ _____	_____	_____

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	2	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	2	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed
in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

DOMESTIC/secondary structure

COMMERCE/TRADE/professional

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

DOMESTIC/secondary structure

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Other: Foursquare

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete

walls Aluminum

Wood

roof Asphalt

other Wood

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

See continuation sheet

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- 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 # _____

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Health/Medicine

Period of Significance

1924-1942

Significant Dates

1924

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

McCracken, Cicero McAfee

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Oates, Bob--builder

Wright, Andy--builder

Fite, George--builder

Hill, Jay--builder

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 1Dr. Cicero McAfee McCracken House
Buncombe County, North CarolinaCicero McAfee McCracken House
Narrative Description

The Cicero McAfee McCracken House, occupying a residual lot of 2.96 acres on the north side of the Charlotte Highway (US 74), is a well-preserved two-story frame Foursquare-style house. When built in 1924, the house stood on a tract of 101.60 acres assembled through the purchase of five contiguous tracts between 1910 and 1917. These tracts formed an irregular rectangle with a narrow frontage on the south of the Charlotte Road. It was here that McCracken built this house. The majority of this Charlotte Road frontage survives intact with the residual lot. The entire 101.60-acre tract was sold in 1944 by Dr. McCracken's widow and afterward the large acreage which lay to the north of the house was separated from the house tract. That land, including open fields and pastures, was the site of McCracken's farming and gardening operations: today it is the site of a modern housing development. Erected in 1924 for Dr. McCracken (1868-1942), it stands together with two contemporary frame outbuildings. Immediately behind (north of) the house is a one-story frame garage which has been expanded/overbuilt on all four elevations. Standing to the west of the house is a one-story frame building, residential in appearance and now used as a rental dwelling. It was originally built as Dr. McCracken's office and stood on the roadside of the Charlotte Highway: it was moved to its present location in 1943 and fitted up as a rental dwelling by the doctor's widow. These three buildings stand at the rear of the rectangular lot which fronts on the south along US 74 for just over 250 feet. On the east the house lot is bounded by Fox Run Drive which leads northward off US 74 to a residential subdivision behind (north of) the McCracken house. The north boundary of the lot follows a small stream. The western boundary of the McCracken house lot is an unmarked property line shared with a neighbor, Jessie Paul Miller: his father, W. Lawrence Miller, acquired a four-acre lot in 1927 from Dr. McCracken for the construction of his own bungalow residence. The front part of the lot is open and mostly grass-covered: a part of it is cultivated as a vegetable garden by the owner, Julian Woodburn McCracken. About midway back from the highway, there is a row of spruces and hemlocks which were planted in 1924 to enclose the immediate house grounds of Dr. McCracken's residence. Today, this planting towers in the landscape and the thick branches of the trees effectively screen the house and its outbuildings from the road. The gravel entrance drive, leading northward from the Charlotte Highway, passes through the screen and curves to completely encircle the house in a gentle loop. The grass-covered open lawn of the house is planted with various deciduous trees and clumps or specimen plantings of lilac, forsythia, and other traditional shrubs. In recent years, Julian McCracken has planted apple trees. The foundation of the house is exposed except at the front where there are plantings of abelia and quince in front of the porch.

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The McCracken House is a substantial two-story frame house resting on a poured cement foundation which encloses a partial, unfinished basement: it is sheathed with wide aluminum siding which covers the original eight-inch wide German siding. The house is covered by a low hip roof of asphalt shingles. The wide eaves of the main roof and of the front and rear porches are faced with narrow tongue-and-groove ceiling. In the center of the front elevation, a hip-roof dormer rises to enliven the roofline of the house: paired six-over-one sash windows are centered on its south front. A single brick chimney rises through and above the roof on the east side of the dormer. The center-hall, double-pile plan of the interior is visible on the exterior of the house in its arrangement of windows and doors. The house is fitted with single and paired six-over-one double-hung sash windows set in plain board surrounds: a narrow projecting fillet carries across each lintel.

The south, front elevation of the McCracken house is preceded by a deep one-story hip-roof porch, set on poured cement piers and supported by plain square-in-plan wood columns. The porch carries across the facade, save a few inches at its west end, wraps the southeast corner of the house, and continues along the south half of the east elevation. It has a wood floor, and the porch ceiling is sheathed with narrow tongue-and-groove ceiling. The house's three-bay front elevation is symmetrically composed on both stories. The central entrance, opening from the porch to the center, stair hall, features a fifteen-pane French door flanked by five-pane sidelights above blind panels. The bays to either side hold paired windows. On the second story, the outer bays also contain paired windows while a single window, illuminating the hall, occupies the center bay. The east side elevation has a symmetrical two-bay division on each story with single windows in each of the bays.

The form of the expansive L-shaped front porch is repeated in a like, shallower L-shaped service porch which wraps the northwest corner of the house and carries along its west side and north, rear elevations. Its finish is virtually identical to the front porch. These two elevations have an asymmetrical arrangement of windows and doors. On the west elevation, on the first story, there is a pair of windows illuminating the dining room in the front southwest corner of the house. Behind the porch, there is a small, shorter pair of windows illuminating the kitchen, behind (north of) the dining room, and a service door connecting the porch and kitchen: it has four glazed panes above three horizontal panels. The second-story elevation has two symmetrically-placed windows illuminating bedrooms. The rear, north elevation of the house has a four-bay arrangement on each story. Here, on the first story, there is a door in the center of the elevation which opens from the porch into the center, stair hall: it has four glazed panes above three horizontal panels. To the left (east) there is a single window illuminating Dr. McCracken's room in the northeast corner of the house: to the right (west) there are two small windows illuminating the first-story bathroom and the

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former pantry. On the second story there are four windows positioned above these three windows and door. A brick flue stack rises along the wall, between the porch and the easternmost windows. At ground level, to the immediate east of the flue stack, there is a poured cement well, with seven steps, which provides access to the basement level. The door here has a large glazed pane above a single panel.

The interior of the McCracken house follows a center-hall, double-pile plan and its finish is as simple and workmanlike as that of the exterior of the house. Given the fact that it passed through a series of owners and was occupied by a succession of people as owners (1944-1974) and renters (1974-1983) over a nearly forty-year period, the house has survived remarkably intact and well preserved. The only significant change to the interior was the widening of the doorway connecting the kitchen and the pantry: the resulting alcove off the kitchen was refashioned as a breakfast nook. That project occurred during the ownership by Lloyd Roberson and probably shortly after he acquired the house in 1954. (Roberson also added the aluminum siding to the house, probably about that same time.) In 1983, Julian McCracken installed new chandeliers in the living and dining rooms. The original hanging fixture with three globes in the dining room was relocated to the first-story entrance hall and the hanging one-globe fixture which had been in place in the hall since 1924 was relocated to Dr. McCracken's room in the northeast corner. The two-globe fixture originally installed in the living room was moved to the second story hall. The rooms of the McCracken house are virtually identical in their finish and their appearance. On the first story the floors are all oak (except for Dr. McCracken's room which has a pine floor), the walls and ceilings are plaster, and baseboards and the door and window surrounds are a darkish red pine (described as "Arkansas pine"). The door and window surrounds consist of plain boards with small applied backbands. (At some point, probably early during the Roberson ownership, the first story woodwork was painted white: Julian McCracken has steadily removed the paint from the woodwork returning it to the appearance it had when he was a young boy.) This same finish was also used on the second story except that the floors there are pine rather than oak. The doors are all two-panel and retain their original metal knobs. The house is heated by hot water heat and the radiators remain in place.

In the first story hall, there are doors opening onto the front porch and the back porch as well as the series of public and private rooms of the doctor's double-pile plan house. On the west side of the hall there are doors into the dining room in the front southwest corner, the kitchen which is immediately behind it, and the small bathroom at the extreme north end of the hall. The finish of these rooms is as described except that the kitchen and the bathroom have sheet vinyl floors. The built-in cabinets in the kitchen probably date to the Roberson ownership. In the bathroom the original wall-hung sink survives in use; the tub was replaced by a prefabricated stall shower. On the

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east side of the hall there is a door at the south end which opens into the living room in the house's southeast corner and a second door to the north of the staircase which opens into Dr. McCracken's room in the northeast corner. Both of these rooms have fireplaces served by the brick chimney in the partition wall. These fireplaces, as was typical in many Foursquare-style houses, have brick mantels with corbelled cornices carrying a molded pine shelf. The hearths in both rooms are painted cement. The living room has a picture railing carrying at the ceiling level. Dr. McCracken's room has a celotex ceiling with a 1950s-style crown molding.

The stair, rising northward along the hall's east wall, is entirely of pine and has a simple molded newel, shaped handrail, and square-in-plan balusters. The treads have rounded ends finished with an applied molding. (Originally there was a closet under the stair; however, about 1928 the floor was removed and a stairway installed for in-house access to the food-stuff storage in the basement.) The railing continues on the second story to protect the stairwell. There are four bedrooms and a bathroom on the second story which generally occupy the spaces above the first-story rooms. The finish, as noted, is identical to the first story except that the floors here are pine. Each of the bedrooms was originally finished with a picture molding at cornice level: these all remain in place except for the southeast corner bedroom where it was removed at some point. The bathroom retains its original 1924 finish and all its original fixtures. The room has a high tower rail encircling the chamber and an inset medicine cabinet with a mirrored door. The white porcelain wall-hung sink, claw-foot tub, and toilet remain in good condition and in use.

The Garage

1924, with additions in the late 1920s, 1940s, and 1980s
Noncontributing building

The present appearance of this one-story frame gable-front building is the result of a series of expansions and additions effected to the original 1924 building in the 1920s, the 1940s, and the 1980s. The original building, standing inside these additions, is a small frame two-car garage which is covered with the same wide German siding used on the house. That garage stood as built until the late 1920s when an enclosed frame shed was added on the east side to shelter Elizabeth McCracken's car. In the 1940s, the Andersons added an enclosed frame shed on the west side: that addition has a door and windows on the south and small windows on the west. The simple gable-front frame building with enclosed shed-roof additions on the east and west remained unchanged until the 1980s when Julian McCracken took up permanent residency at his homeplace. In 1984 he replaced the original wood floor of the garage with poured concrete. In 1984 he also made an addition on the front of the garage and fitted the new, wide opening with an overhead garage door. In 1984 he enclosed a simple open shed, added at some point on the east side of

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Elizabeth's car shed, with vertical flush boards and board-and-batten doors. In 1988 he added a frame addition across the rear, north elevation of the garage to house his shop and for storage. The building, reflecting this series of additions, is not intrusive in the landscape: its classification as a noncontributing building reflects the fact that most of the visible fabric and the additions which surround the original building date after the period of significance.

Office/Rental Cottage

Built in 1924; relocated and fitted up as a rental dwelling in 1943
Noncontributing

This rectangular frame residential building, covered with an asphalt-shingle side-gable roof, was built in 1924 for use as Dr. McCracken's medical office. Sheathed in wide German sidings, it originally stood at the south end of the present lot at the roadside of the Charlotte Highway where it was used as the doctor's office until shortly before his death. In 1943, Mrs. McCracken had the office building moved northward on the property to its present location, facing east, and refitted it on the interior as a two-bedroom rental cottage. During that effort a stone chimney was built on the south gable end to provide a fireplace and a brick flue was raised on the north gable end for the kitchen. The building was resited on its original poured cement piers: there is later cement block infill.

The rectangular frame cottage has a five-bay front (east) elevation which is mostly sheltered by a simple shed-roof cement-floor porch. There are two doors: one opens into the living room and the second opens into the kitchen. The stone chimney is flanked by small windows on the south gable end where a larger, third window illuminates the bedroom in the southwest corner. On the north gable end there is a small window beside the flue, illuminating the kitchen and a four-over-one sash window illuminating the second bedroom in the cottage's northwest corner. The rear elevation has two six-over-six sash windows, one per bedroom, and a small window near the center of the elevation illuminating the bathroom. The interior of the cottage features a living room in the former examining rooms, a kitchen in the former pharmacy, a large bedroom in the former reception room, a small bedroom in the doctor's former office, and a bathroom. The original tongue and groove wall finishes have been covered with sheet paneling.

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Dr. Cicero McAfee McCracken House
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McCracken House
Statement of Significance

Summary Paragraph

The Dr. Cicero McAfee McCracken House, a well-preserved Foursquare-style frame dwelling erected in 1924, is important in the history of Fairview and Buncombe County as the residence of a long-time country doctor whose rural practice spanned a period of four-and-a-half decades in his adopted community of Fairview and the surrounding region. Dr. McCracken (1868-1942), a native of Haywood County and a member of the large McCracken family who resided in and around the Crabtree community, received his medical education in the then-typical combination of reading and work with a local physician, Dr. C. B. Roberts of Clyde, North Carolina, and study at Vanderbilt University Dental School and the North Carolina Medical College where he graduated in 1896. In the summer of 1896 he located in the small village of Fairview on the Asheville-Charlotte Highway where he opened his medical office and, in 1897, was married to Helen Lura Clayton (1878-1920). From at least the turn of the century until 1924, Dr. McCracken and his large family lived in houses in the village. For much of this period he occupied a house immediately south of the Fairview Baptist Church: it was pulled down in the mid 1980s. In 1924, a widower with seven children, Dr. McCracken built and occupied a new house, office, and garage on the north side of the Charlotte Highway, opposite the Fairview School campus. Those buildings, surviving to the present, were his home and office until his death on 8 December 1942. A member of the Fairview School Board (1913-1929) and the Buncombe County Board of Health (1918-1924), he was accorded the tribute of a biographical sketch in the Bulletin of the Buncombe County Medical Society in 1939 and the honor of a large public funeral in the auditorium of the Fairview School from whence his body was carried to Cane Creek Cemetery. The Dr. Cicero McAfee McCracken House is eligible for listing in the National Register under Criterion B for its association with the productive life of Dr. McCracken and as the major surviving building associated with his career: his practice embraced a territory from Asheville to Rutherfordton and from Black Mountain into Henderson County. The house is eligible for listing in the area of Health and Medicine for its association with the practice of a well-known and well-respected doctor whose career spanned four-and-a-half decades in Fairview and where he exercised parallel positions of leadership in his church, community, and profession.

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Buncombe County, North CarolinaSection number 8 Page 7Historical Background

Cicero McAfee McCracken (1868-1942), the builder and occupant of the house in Fairview which bears his name, was a member of the large McCracken family of Haywood County, North Carolina. The progenitor of that family, Joseph Cass McCracken (1776-1848), was born on 4 January 1776 in Habersham County, Georgia, the son of David E. McCracken (1750-1812). On 15 March 1798, Joseph McCracken was married to Sarah Vaughan (1779-1867), the daughter of George and Dorcus Vaughan. The couple's first child, a daughter named Carey (1799-1866), was born on 13 January 1799. According to family tradition, Joseph McCracken departed Georgia in 1800, together with his wife and young daughter, and removed to western North Carolina where he settled on a farm on Crabtree Creek in what is now Haywood County. Over the course of some forty-eight years, McCracken and his family prospered and expanded their holding, and for the remainder of the nineteenth century the McCracken family would be associated with the Crabtree community. Twelve additional children were born to Joseph and Sarah McCracken between 1800 and 1821: ten of the thirteen children would remain in Haywood County where they, too, would raise large families. Russell McCracken (1806-1891), Cicero McCracken's grandfather, was born in Haywood County on 24 October 1806, the fifth child and fourth son of Joseph and Sarah McCracken. He was married to Margaret Crocket Garrett (1810-1874) and, like his father, he, too, sired a large family. His eldest son, Joseph Franklin McCracken (1829-1913), was to become the father of Cicero McCracken. Joseph Franklin McCracken was born on 25 April 1829 and on 19 October 1854 he was married to Julia Ann Howell. Fourteen children were born to Joseph Franklin and Julia Ann McCracken between 1855 and 1879: Cicero McCracken was the ninth child and the fourth son. The nurturing influence of this large family proved to be important in Cicero McCracken's life and it was an influence which shaped both his professional practice and the life of the large family that he, in turn, sired and educated.¹

Cicero McCracken was born on 19 September 1868 at Crabtree in Haywood County and spent his formative years on the family farm and in the companionship of dozens of cousins and other relatives. He was educated in the local schools and at the Clyde Institute, a private school. In July 1890 he entered into a contract with the committeemen of District No. 5 of Haywood County to teach in the white public school at the rate of \$25.00 per month; it is not known how long he served as a school teacher. It appears that Cicero McCracken was disposed toward medicine from a relatively early age. An account of his medical training, published in a biographical sketch in the October 1939 number of the Bulletin of the Buncombe County Medical Society, outlines the combination of tutorial and formal study by which he gained his medical education:

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In 1889 Dr. McCracken chose as his preceptor Dr. C. B. Roberts of Clyde, North Carolina and for two years he read medicine in the office of Dr. Roberts and went with him on visits to his patients. In 1891 after two years with Dr. Roberts, Dr. McCracken entered Vanderbilt Medical College, Nashville, Tenn. He studied there for one year and then returned to Clyde, North Carolina, to practice with Dr. Roberts again for two years. In 1894 he entered the North Carolina Medical College then located at Davidson College, Davidson, North Carolina. He graduated from that school in the spring of 1896. In May 1896 he passed the State Board of Medical Examiners and was licensed to practice medicine.²

It is unclear at present why Cicero McCracken did not return to his native Haywood County to practice medicine: instead, he chose to locate his practice in the small, growing community of Fairview, then without a doctor, which was located a dozen or so miles to the southeast of Asheville in Buncombe County. It may have been as well the attraction of the Fairview Academy, a private boarding school established there in 1888, where he saw the potential of educating his future family. Fairview was also located on the main road, passing through Rutherfordton, between Asheville and Charlotte and a stop on the stage line which connected the two principal cities in western North Carolina. In August 1896, he is said to have opened an office in Fairview, presumably in rented quarters. Just over a year later, on 8 December 1897, he was married to Helen Lura Clayton (1878-1920), the daughter of R. C. Clayton of Cane Creek. On 3 March 1899, Elizabeth Ann McCracken (1899-1968) became the first-born of eight children born to Dr. and Mrs. McCracken between 1899 and 1916. The other seven children were: Beatrice Helen (1901-1966); Marvin Howell (1903-1974); Clayton Houston (1906-1983); Joseph Franklin (1908); Cicero McAfee, Jr. (b. 1909); Joseph Glenn (1913-1991); and Lura (born 1916).

On 16 March 1899, thirteen days after the birth of his daughter, Cicero McCracken purchased a one-acre tract of land in Fairview Township from Jason Ashworth.³ It was the first of some twenty-one tracts, mostly in Fairview Township, which McCracken acquired in the period up to 28 March 1917. An examination of the grantee and grantor indexes to deeds in Buncombe County indicates that McCracken was involved in a small real estate business in and around Fairview during the opening decades of the twentieth century which supplemented his income as a physician. (Five of these tracts, adjoining each other, became the principal house tract of 101.60 acres on the Charlotte Highway (US 74) on which McCracken would build this house in 1924.)⁴ Whether the parcel he purchased in 1899 was the tract on which he lived in the center of Fairview has not been determined; however, he occupied a two-story frame Victorian house immediately south of the Fairview Baptist Church from around the turn of the century until relocating this house in 1924. In February 1925, the grounds of the house were subdivided into lots.⁵ That house was eventually sold and stood into the mid 1980s when it was pulled down.

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Dr. Cicero McAfee McCracken House
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From the time of his arrival in Fairview in 1896 until his death in 1942--a period of forty-six years--Dr. Cicero McAfee McCracken was a respected leader in the community and a figure well-known throughout Buncombe County. During these four-and-a-half decades, he practiced medicine in now lost offices at Fairview, and later in a one-story frame building erected in 1924 which survives on this property. Throughout this long period, approaching a half-century, he was one of a small but highly respected group of men known as "Country Doctors." In the nineteenth century and through the opening decades of the twentieth century, such men were acknowledged as leaders in the community by virtue of their profession: together with ministers, they were the most respected members of their community. Dr. McCracken and other men in this group were turned to not only for medical advice, but for their opinions on a variety of topics and for civic leadership. According to the biographical sketch published in 1939 and two obituaries in 1942, Dr. McCracken exercised leadership in his profession, his church, and his adopted community of Fairview for the long tenure of his residency there. In part because of his own difficulty in gaining an education, he was a strong advocate for education in Fairview. The Fairview Academy, a private school, remained in operation until 1913: in 1904 a small frame public school was erected at Fairview for the sum of \$525 by A. B. Clayton, possibly a kinsman of Mrs. McCracken. In 1907 Fairview became the site of one of three high schools established in Buncombe County that year. In 1913 Dr. McCracken became a member of the Fairview School Board and served as a member until 1929. (It was during this period that he built this house on the north side of the Charlotte Highway, directly opposite the Fairview School campus.) In 1918 he became a member of the Buncombe County Board of Health and served until 1924. He was a lifelong member of the Baptist Church and a member of the Fairview Baptist Church from the time of his arrival in the community until his death. He was also a member of the Biltmore Masonic Lodge.

With the birth of his eighth child and third daughter, Lura, in 1916, the McCracken household consisted of the doctor, Mrs. McCracken, three daughters, and four sons. (Joseph Franklin McCracken, named for his paternal grandfather, was born and died in 1908.) For most if not all of the first two decades of the century, the family occupied the house standing south of the Fairview Baptist Church. On 5 June 1920 Helen Lura (Clayton) McCracken died at the age of forty-two: she was buried at the Cane Creek Cemetery at Fairview. For seven years, until his marriage in 1927, Dr. McCracken remained a widower and raised his family, presumably with the help of his two eldest daughters.

About 1923, Dr. McCracken determined to erect a new house--this house--for his family on an assembled tract of just over one-hundred acres which lay on the north side of the Charlotte Highway (US 74) directly across the road from the Fairview School. According to family tradition this decision was made so that his youngest children would be closer to school. The lumber for the house was

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cut from his acreage. Four local builders, Bob Oates, Andy Wright, George Fite, and Jay Hill, have been identified as the builders of the two-story frame Foursquare-style house. These builders also erected the frame office and the garage, now much overbuilt, which stands at the rear of the house. Following a center-hall, double-pile plan, the house is firmly in the American Foursquare tradition, well built yet simply finished. It is reasonable to ascribe the unusually plain finish of the interior of the house to the fact that it was built by men for a man, without the refinements that a wife might have encouraged in its construction. Except for the addition of aluminum siding in the mid 1950s, it survives today virtually as built in 1924. Initially electric power at the house and office were supplied by a Delco system acquired by Dr. McCracken. He also constructed a reservoir to provide running water for the house's kitchen and two bathrooms.

On 10 August 1927, Dr. McCracken was married to Johnnie Ruth Turner (1897-1987) of Winnsboro, Fairfield County, South Carolina. She was a graduate of the Charlotte Sanatorium School of Nursing. A daughter, Ruth Brice McCracken, was born in 1928; the family circle was completed by the birth of two sons, John Turner McCracken in 1930 and Julian Woodburn McCracken in 1932. The first years of the marriage were enjoyed in the prosperity that characterized life in many places in the 1920s; however, after the Crash of 1929, the condition of the McCracken finances worsened. During the later 1910s and 1920s, and the early 1930s, the education of his children was a great expense to the doctor. His three daughters graduated from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro (then Woman's College of the University of North Carolina) and his four sons of the first marriage all attended Wake Forest University, and three graduated from the school. Most of them went on to take secondary degrees and all took up professions in the fields of public education, medicine, and dentistry. Although the family garden and certain farm crops would have supplied most of the necessary foodstuffs for the family, together with other items bartered in exchange for medical services, there was a high need for income to meet the educational fees of his children. On 15 August 1931, the homeplace and its 101.60 acres were placed under mortgage for the sum of \$1,500 to the Federal Land Bank of Columbia, South Carolina. The principal and interest would not be paid off until April 1944, a year and a half after Dr. McCracken's death.⁶

These straitened circumstances of the McCracken family were not unusual in Buncombe County in the 1930s. The high life of Asheville's 1920s boom was brought to a cruel, grinding halt in 1930. On 20 November 1930, the Central Bank and Trust Company of Asheville, with assets in excess of \$52 million dollars, failed to open its doors and other smaller banks likewise failed in this period. Funds and investments of both the city of Asheville and Buncombe County disappeared in the collapse of the city's banks, and many businesses likewise were forced to close their doors.⁷ The depression spread into

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Buncombe County and to Fairview. The McCracken family would never recover the financial position they enjoyed previously; however, they retained their house and a warm family life and all of the children received good educations.

In the late 1930s, Dr. McCracken's stamina began to weaken; however, he continued to practice medicine, and he sometimes saw patients in the northeast corner room of his residence. He became critically ill in the autumn of 1942 and died in the morning of 8 December 1942, survived by his widow and ten children who ranged in age from forty-two to ten years of age. Obituaries in the Asheville TIMES, the city's afternoon paper, and the Asheville CITIZEN, the morning newspaper, both lauded him as a "well-known physician" and reported the broad outline of his life. Because of the affection and esteem in which Dr. McCracken was held Fairview, his funeral was held in the auditorium of the Fairview School, a public hall which could seat a larger number of mourners than the Baptist Church. He was buried beside his first wife at the local Cane Creek Cemetery.

Dr. McCracken's death, in very reduced circumstances, would eventually force his family to give up their Fairview home. Now a widow, Mrs. McCracken relocated the medical office back to its present position near the house in 1943, and used it as a rental dwelling. During 1943, however, it became clear that she would not be able to remain in Fairview. Early in 1944, she set about to relocate the family in Asheville. Final payments were made in April 1944 to satisfy the mortgage with the Federal Land Bank. Simultaneously, she sold this house and its 101.60 acres by deed of 28 March 1944 to J. M. and Bertha Anderson of Haywood County, North Carolina.⁸ That same year she acquired property on Woodlawn Avenue in Asheville and in 1945 she acquired additional property on Montford Avenue in the city. In the 1944 ASHEVILLE CITY DIRECTORY she is listed as a resident of 67 Cumberland Avenue. In the 1945-1946 edition of the ASHEVILLE CITY DIRECTORY she is listed as the proprietor of the McCracken Nursing Home at 199 Montford Avenue. Her eldest stepson, Dr. Marvin Howell McCracken (1903-1974) had his medical offices a few blocks away at 346 Montford Avenue.

For three decades, from 1944 until 1974, the McCracken house was the residence of a series of owners who might also have rented the former medical offices as a dwelling. J. M. and Bertha Anderson held the property until 19 September 1950 when they sold the house and its reduced lot of 21.90 acres to L. H. and Janet R. Holmes.⁹ On 26 May 1954, L. H. and Janet R. Holmes sold the house and its 21.90 acres to Lloyd and Helen Roberson.¹⁰ The property eventually passed into the ownership of Heritage, Inc., which subdivided the acreage which lay to the rear of the house. On 2 August 1974, Heritage, Inc. conveyed the McCracken house, the garage, Dr. McCracken's former office, and its reduced grounds of 2.96 acres to Julian Woodburn McCracken and his wife Sarah MacRae McCracken.¹¹ For nine years McCracken rented out the house. Julian Woodburn McCracken (born

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7 October 1932) had been a lad of ten when his father died and, at the age of twelve, he left his childhood home to live on Montford Avenue in Asheville. Like his elder brother, John, he was educated at Christ School, Arden. Following family tradition he attended Wake Forest University; however, he transferred to Clemson University. He was married to Sarah Woodward McRae in June 1955; two months later, in August, he was graduated from Clemson University with a B.S. degree. He also received a M.B.A. degree from Pepperdine University in 1972. Julian McCracken entered the United States Army and retired in 1983 in the grade of colonel at Fort McPherson Georgia, after a twenty-eight-year career of service. In September 1983 he and his wife returned to Fairview and occupied the house which remains their residence to the present.

Health and Medicine Context

The historical significance of the Dr. Cicero McAfee McCracken House lies in its association with the life and medical career of Dr. McCracken (1868-1942), who practiced as a physician at Fairview from August 1896 until shortly before his death on 8 December 1942. From the biographical account of his life published in October 1939 in the Bulletin of the Buncombe County Medical Society and the obituaries which appeared in the Asheville newspapers, it is evident that Dr. McCracken had a rural medical practice that was probably typical in most respects. With his office at Fairview, Dr. McCracken had a wide practice in the broad surrounding region stretching between Asheville and Rutherfordton and between Black Mountain and Henderson County. His second wife, Johnie Ruth, was a trained nurse, and she assisted Dr. McCracken from the time of their marriage through the remainder of his career. Dr. McCracken prepared many of his medicines in his office and dispensed them to patients: this practice was a common one for rural physicians who were far removed from pharmacies in the state's larger towns and cities. Consequently, his career cannot be lauded for notable achievements or discoveries in his profession, or for having been the attending physician to some notable personage. Coming from relatively humble circumstances, he was born to neither privilege nor affluence or family capital which might have pointed his medical career in another direction. As a result, he was not one of many doctors in the towns and cities of North Carolina who, in the decades around the turn of the century, opened their own clinics or invested in hospitals. Such men, including Dr. Richard Beverly Baker (1821-1906) of Hickory, are recalled by hospitals which bore their names before the advent of the corporate hospital industry. Instead, the significance of Dr. McCracken's career exists as a representation of the lives and careers of a large number of rural doctors, known affectionately as the "Country Doctor." It was these men, located throughout rural North Carolina, who provided medical services to the largest part of the state's population in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries and who held positions of public esteem and trust in a manner that is absent in late modern life. During the period in the 1920s when there was still but one doctor per 1,210

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inhabitants--an improvement over the ratio around the turn of the century--these men were critical to the health of their community, especially in a time when many lives were lost to typhoid fever and tuberculosis.¹²

The medical society sketch of his life, quoted earlier in this report, described the means by which Dr. McCracken gained his medical education and secured license to practice. That process was probably more typical--and likewise representative of the era--than that of men who might have been fortunate enough to have undertaken a full course of formal medical schooling. The establishment of medical schools in North Carolina came late in the nineteenth century. A medical school was established at the University of North Carolina in 1879; the North Carolina Medical College was established in Charlotte in 1887, and Cicero McCracken was a student at the school in 1894-1896 while it was located at Davidson. However, these schools struggled in their early years and did not have the prestige of educational programs offered by certain schools, including the University of Pennsylvania, the Jefferson Medical College, and New York University, to which most of the state's more affluent and ambitious medical students turned in the nineteenth century.¹³

The role of the medical preceptor was a distinguished one in this state's medical history and it was these men who served as medical educators before medical schools were formally established in North Carolina. Even with the establishment of the two schools in 1879 and 1887, that important tradition of medical education continued to the turn of the century and probably beyond in the western reaches of the state. Reading and work under a preceptor, such as Dr. C. B. Roberts of Clyde, not only provided training and insight into the profession and practice: it also provided experience which enabled students such as Cicero McCracken to reap the maximum benefit of formal schooling when he entered the Department of Dentistry at Vanderbilt University in 1891 and the North Carolina Medical College in 1894. Cicero McAfee McCracken graduated from the North Carolina Medical College in the spring of 1896 and in May of that year he passed the examination held by the North Carolina Board of Medical Examiners and was licensed to practice medicine. The sketch of his life, published in 1939 near the end of his career, recounted the broad outline of his practice in a few simple sentences which probably could have been used to describe the lives of many rural doctors in western North Carolina:

In August 1896 he located at Fairview, North Carolina where he has practiced medicine for forty-three years--sometimes with horse and saddle, sometimes with horse and buggy and sometimes on foot when the road came to a dead end and horse and buggy could go no farther and only a path penetrated into the cove or up the mountain side. But good roads into this mountain section in recent years have wrought great changes and Dr. McCracken has long dispensed with horse and buggy and is privileged to

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make his calls in an automobile. Dr. McCracken has had to be his own druggist--carrying his medicine with him and often preparing those mixtures necessary for his patient. The Fairview section in recent years has become a popular resort for tourists and these people have recognized the ability of Dr. McCracken and have not failed to avail themselves of his services when needed.¹⁴

The role and status of the "Country Doctor" in western North Carolina was not restricted to the practice of medicine but included civic leadership. In the nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries, the country doctor was turned to, time and again, for his opinions on a wide variety of issues which in Dr. McCracken's case included local education, good roads, and the advancement of his adopted community of Fairview. His service on the Fairview School Board (1913-1929) and on the Buncombe County Board of Health (1918-1924) reflect the two principal poles of his civic and professional interests. According to family tradition, Dr. McCracken also assisted young men from the region, with loans or grants, to pursue medical studies. In the absence of a modern history of Buncombe County and a like history of medicine in the county, a final assessment of his career in the context of other doctors remains to be confirmed. That said, however, the best critique of his life's work might well be the concluding paragraph of the 1939 biographical sketch which reflects the judgment of his peers.

Dr. McCracken has lived a full and useful life. By his untiring efforts for community progress and his devoted service to humanity he has endeared himself to all and justly honored by his professional associates and by the community as a capable physician, loyal friend and good citizen.¹⁵

Endnotes

1. Milton P. Moore, MC CRACKEN: A FAMILY HISTORY (Columbia, South Carolina: R. L. Bryan Company, 1991), 1-4, 7, 85, 98-100. A photograph of Dr. McCracken and his family, ca. 1934, is included in a group of photographs following page 108. It was taken on the east side of his house which appears in the background. Virtually all of the genealogical and biographical information on Dr. McCracken, his family, and his descendants is taken from this family history and will not hereafter be end-noted.
2. "Cicero McAfee McCracken, M.D.," BULLETIN OF THE BUNCOMBE COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY 3 (October 1939): 11-15. This biographical sketch was the source of information for the obituaries of Dr. McCracken which appeared at his death and are cited in part nine, Major Biographical References. This sketch, the obituaries, and the family history provided most of the information about Dr. McCracken's career which appears in this nomination.

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3. Jason Ashworth and wife to C. M. McCracken, 16 March 1899, Book 112, p. 270, Buncombe County Deeds, Office of the Register of Deeds, Buncombe County Court House, Asheville, North Carolina. Hereinafter cited as Buncombe County Deeds.
4. L. P. (?) Smart to C. M. McCracken, 18 April 1910, Book 171, p. 29, Buncombe County Deeds. John L. Smart and wife to C. M. McCracken, 24 January 1913, Book 184, p. 388, Buncombe County Deeds. W. C. Early and wife to C. M. McCracken, 13 August 1913, Book 188, p. 90, Buncombe County Deeds. G. M. Smart and wife to C. M. McCracken, 1 January 1915, Book 200, p. 129, Buncombe County Deeds. W. C. Early and wife to C. M. McCracken, 28 March 1917, Book 220, p. 194, Buncombe County Deeds. Most of the purchases cited in the grantee index were located in Fairview Township.
5. "Property of C. M. McCracken" Subdivision for Erskine Realty Company, Weaverville, North Carolina. Buncombe County Plat Book 6, p. 73, Office of the Register of Deeds, Buncombe County Court House, Asheville, North Carolina.
6. C. M. McCracken and Johnnie Ruth McCracken to Federal Land Bank of Columbia, 15 August 1931, Deed of Trust Book 276, pp. 505-509, Office of the Register of Deeds, Buncombe County Court House, Asheville, North Carolina.
7. Douglas Swaim, ed., CABINS & CASTLES: THE HISTORY & ARCHITECTURE OF BUNCOMBE COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA (Asheville: Historic Resources Commission of Asheville and Buncombe County, 1981), 44. Published at the conclusion of an architectural survey of Buncombe County, this book includes on page 145 a photograph and sketch of the house Dr. McCracken and his family occupied from ca. 1900 until 1924; however, it does not include this house: that house was pulled down a few years after publication.
8. Johnnie Ruth McCracken to J. M. Anderson and wife Bertha, 28 March 1944, Book 556, p. 175, Buncombe County Deeds.
9. J. M. Anderson and wife Bertha to L. H. Holmes and wife Janet, 19 September 1950, Book 696, p. 484, Buncombe County Deeds.
10. L. H. Holmes and wife Janet to Lloyd Roberson and wife Helen, 26 May 1954, Book 744, p. 686.
11. Heritage, Inc. to Julian W. McCracken and wife Sarah, 2 August 1974, Book 1105, p. 27, Buncombe County Deeds.

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12. The principal published source on the history of the practice of medicine in North Carolina is Dorothy Long, MEDICINE IN NORTH CAROLINA, 2 vols. (Raleigh: The North Carolina Medical Society, 1972). There is little discussion of the practice of rural doctors in these volumes during the period of Dr. McCracken's practice, 1896-1942. Instead, for this period, the author focuses her attention on advances in the education of doctors in North Carolina, increasing professionalization and standardization of practice, and the organization, construction, and operation of hospitals and health care facilities in the state. A lay knowledge of the role of the "Country Doctor" is held by this author: he was born on 20 June 1948 in a rural medical clinic at Toluca, in northeast Cleveland County, operated by Dr. Forrest D. Edwards (1885-1964) from the late 1910s until his death. The role of the country doctor is memorialized and honored in The Country Doctor Museum at Bailey, North Carolina. Samuel Huntington Hobbs, Jr., NORTH CAROLINA ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1930), 292.
13. Guion Griffis Johnson, ANTE-BELLUM NORTH CAROLINA (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1937), 289, 746-749.
14. "Cicero McAfee McCracken, M. D.," 13.
15. "Cicero McAfee McCracken, M. D.," 15.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

ASHEVILLE CITIZEN, Asheville, North Carolina. 9 December 1942.

ASHEVILLE TIMES, Asheville, North Carolina. 8 December 1942; 25 August 1989.

BULLETIN OF THE BUNCOMBE COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY, Vol. 3, No. 10 (October, 1939), pp. 11-15.

Buncombe County Deeds, Office of the Register of Deeds, Buncombe County Court House, Asheville, North Carolina.

Hobbs, Samuel Huntington, Jr. NORTH CAROLINA ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1930.

McCracken, John Turner, letters to Davyd Foard Hood, 21 February 1995 and 24 March 1995, in the possession of the recipient.

McCracken, Julian Woodburn, interviewed by Davyd Foard Hood, Fairview, North Carolina, 26 November 1994: interview notes in the possession of the author.

Moore, Milton P. MC CRACKEN: A FAMILY HISTORY. Columbia, South Carolina: R. L. Bryan Company, 1991.

Swaim, Douglas, ed. CABINS & CASTLES: THE HISTORY & ARCHITECTURE OF BUNCOMBE COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA. Asheville: Historic Resources Commission of Asheville and Buncombe County, 1981.

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10. Geographical Data

Verbal Boundary Description

The property included in this nomination is a 2.96-acre tract being parcel number 968604537210 on the Buncombe County Tax Maps.

Boundary Justification

The property included in this nomination is the 2.96-acre tract which comprises the location and the setting of the Dr. Cicero McAfee McCracken House, garage, and office/rental cottage. It is the residual tract of the larger property, consisting of 101.60 acres, on which these buildings were erected for Dr. McCracken in 1924 and which he occupied from 1924 until his death on 8 December 1942.

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Additional Documentation

Photographs

Dr. Cicero McAfee McCracken House: Schedule of Photographs

The following information applies to all of the photographs included in this nomination.

Name of Property: Dr. Cicero McAfee McCracken House
1384 Charlotte Highway
Fairview
Buncombe County
North Carolina

Photographer: Davyd Foard Hood

Date of Photographs: 26 November 1994

Location of Original Negatives: North Carolina Division of Archives and
History
109 East Jones Street
Raleigh, NC 27601-2807

1. Dr. Cicero McAfee McCracken House: overall view, looking north.
2. Dr. Cicero McAfee McCracken House: overall view showing rear and west side elevations, looking southeast.
3. Dr. Cicero McAfee McCracken House: former office, looking northwest.
4. Dr. Cicero McAfee McCracken House: living room view, looking northeast.
5. Dr. Cicero McAfee McCracken House: stairwell view, looking south.

