

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 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 McElroy, Samuel J., House

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 10915 Beatties Ford Road (SR 2074) not for publication

city, town Huntersville vicinity

state North Carolina code NC county Mecklenburg code 119 zip code 28078

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

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

Category of Property

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

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>2</u>	<u>1</u> buildings
_____	_____ sites
_____	<u>1</u> structures
_____	_____ objects
<u>2</u>	<u>2</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:

Historical and Architectural Resources of Rural Mecklenburg County, North Carolina

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 1

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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. See continuation sheet.

William J. Fair, Jr.
Signature of certifying official

12-21-90
Date

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

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:

entered in the National Register.

See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain): _____

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling
~~AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: storage~~

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling
vacant/not in use

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

other: vernacular Victorian

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation stone
walls weatherboard
metal
roof metal
other brick
wood

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

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Continuation Sheet

Samuel J. McElroy House, Mecklenburg Co., NC

Section number 7 Page 1

The Samuel J. McElroy House is among the finest and most intact of a collection of vernacular Victorian, two-story, T-shaped farmhouses to appear in Mecklenburg County (including five along Beatties Ford Road) after the Civil War. The house is situated in a rural setting just north of the historic Hopewell Presbyterian Church and the ca. 1800 Latta Plantation. An operating farm stands to the southeast of the property and an open field is located northeast across the road. The dwelling's asymmetrical form stands in contrast to the typically balanced facades of I-houses, which predominated in rural Mecklenburg during the 19th century. Built in the 1880s, the McElroy House is a picturesque mix of vernacular Victorian influences. Although the original weatherboards were covered with aluminum siding about 1980, the exterior retains much of its original decorative woodwork, including the Victorian sawnwork on the front porch. The house's gable-front section features a front-facing bay window on the first floor and a sash window with six panes in each sash on the gable-front facade of the second story. Original sash windows with six-over-six panes survive throughout the residence. The two-bay, one-room-deep side-gable portion features the largely intact front porch. This porch has pairs of slender wooden, chamfered supports with decorative sawn brackets. A sawnwork balustrade connects the porch posts. The main entrance, positioned at the corner of the two sections of the house and leading into the central hall, features a crosssetted surround and double doors with four panels in each. The paired screen doors are highlighted by ornate jig-sawed woodwork. According to information provided by the owners, the one-story, one-room bedroom wing on the north side of the rear of the house is original. However, its original gable roof was replaced by a shed roof in the early 1980s. At the south end of the rear elevation is a one-story kitchen wing topped by a gable roof that extends to incorporate an original smokehouse. The two units are separated by a narrow breezeway. This configuration is unique in Mecklenburg County. An engaged porch extends along the north and south elevations of the attached smokehouse. A presumably original back porch with chamfered supports and foundation of stone piers wraps around the rear of the smokehouse. The porch's irregularly shaped low-pitched roof is a later modification, and the porch has been partially rebuilt, with several of the original posts replaced with square wood supports, and a simple wood railing erected. All of the roofs on the McElroy House are covered with standing-seam metal sheathing.

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The interior of the main body of the house is essentially intact. The interior follows a central-hall plan, with a parlor on the northwest side (side-gable portion) and a living room and dining room on the southeast side (gable-front portion). The dining room leads into the kitchen wing, which has been remodelled and enlarged to include a section of the engaged porch on the northwest side. The original bedroom wing on the north side of the rear elevation has been remodelled as a family room and now also incorporates a portion of this porch. However, in the main T-shaped block of the McElroy House original vernacular Victorian elements survive intact. The central hall features an open-string stair ascending in two runs from the main entrance to three bedrooms in the second floor. The stairway has turned balusters anchored by a sturdy turned newel. Original mantels, four-panel doors, and delicately moulded door surrounds survive throughout the interior of the main block. The mantel in the south front room--the living room--is particularly elaborate. The frieze has a curvilinear motif with raised curved panels and three heavy wooden corbels supporting the shelf. The pilasters also have raised panels topped by moulded caps. Flanking this mantel are two original closets with doors having two vertical panels, a lingering vernacular Greek Revival trait. The other mantels--in the parlor, dining room, and three upstairs bedrooms--are simpler, but all reflect the vernacular Victorian style exemplified by the living room mantel. The original ceiling in the living room is covered by a modern rough-finished plaster coating; but all of the other rooms in the main block of the house have original board-and-batten ceilings. The walls of the house have original plaster, and original hardware, porcelain door knobs, and wood flooring survive throughout.

The McElroy yard, shaded by mature oak trees, comprises a mix of historical and modern elements. The remains of a fieldstone chimney (perhaps once a summer kitchen, but more research is needed to confirm its original function) stands behind the house to the south. Because its construction date and original function are unknown, it is not classified as either contributing or noncontributing. Other resources are listed below:

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Samuel J. McElroy House, Mecklenburg Co., NC

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Other Elements (keyed to map) C-Contributing; NC-Noncontributing

<u>Symbol</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>C/NC</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Description</u>
B	Tack house	C	ca. 1885	This frame gable-front building stands on granite slabs. It was built to store bridles, harnesses, and saddlery for horses and mules. it measures about eight by twelve feet. Its wood-shingled roof was added in 1988.
C	Swimming pool	NC	1989	This noncontributing pool measures about 15 by 25 feet and is surrounded by a concrete patio.
D	Auto garage	NC	1988	This frame building is topped by a side-gable roof and is also used for all-purpose storage.

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

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

ca. 1885

Significant Dates

ca. 1885

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

unknown

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

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Samuel J. McElroy House, Mecklenburg Co., NC

Section number 8 Page 1SUMMARY

The Samuel J. McElroy House is architecturally significant under Criterion C as an outstanding example of the T-shaped, two-story, vernacular Victorian farmhouses that were built in the county after the Civil War (see Associated Property Type 1--Houses--Postbellum Farmhouses). Erected in the 1880s for Samuel J. McElroy, a farmer, the dwelling features one of the more ornate post-Civil War front porches remaining in rural Mecklenburg. The interior, though not exceptionally decorative, retains mantels with curvilinear friezes and raised decorative panels, a turned-post staircase, board-and-batten ceilings, and intact doors and simply moulded door surrounds that exemplify the interior finishes of middle-class farmhouses across the county in the late 19th century. The house's asymmetrical form reflects the emerging preference among well-to-do farmers in the area for up-to-date picturesque domestic architecture, over the more conservative I-house. Yet, the basic design remains restrained both inside and out compared to the picturesque styles appearing in Charlotte and other substantial North Carolina cities in this period. The focus of stylistic attention is placed on the front porch and bay window. The attached smokehouse, which is unique in Mecklenburg County, reflects McElroy's concern for function as well as style in the overall design of his farmhouse. The tack house, which is the only surviving free-standing farm outbuilding on the tract, contributes to the architectural significance of the McElroy property (see Associated Property Type 2--Outbuildings).

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Samuel J. McElroy House, Mecklenburg Co., NC

Section number 8 Page 2

Historical Background

The Samuel J. McElroy House was built sometime after November, 1883, when Samuel Jefferson McElroy (1840-1927) purchased a ninety-one acre parcel on what is now Beatties Ford Road.¹ McElroy was descended from Scotch-Irish ancestry who came to America in 1729 and settled in Cumberland County, Pennsylvania. Sometime later they moved on to Virginia, then to Kentucky. One of the descendents, Samuel Jefferson McElroy, Sr., moved to Waxhaw in Union County, N.C., where he was engaged in mining and farming. One of his sons, Samuel Jefferson McElroy, Jr., moved to Mecklenburg County as a young man (he appears as a resident of the county in 1860).² A volunteer during the Civil War, McElroy was wounded at the Battle of Gettysburg, where he lost a finger, and was taken prisoner. After the war, on January 16, 1866, he married Margaret Janet Sample (1846-1928) of Hopewell, who was a great-granddaughter of Richard Barry, Sr., a signer of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence. They started their married life on the Dr. George Dunlap farm near Hopewell Presbyterian Church, which was part of her father's estate.³

The McElroys engaged in farming, took part in the community life that centered around Hopewell Presbyterian Church, and raised a large family. They raised crops and livestock on the old Dunlap place from 1866 to 1883, when they bought their own farm as mentioned above. A glimpse into the type of farming they did comes from the Agricultural Census of 1880, the last year the figures are available: they tilled 80 acres; had 2 mules, 3 milk cows and 3 other cattle, 7 swine, and 14 chickens; produced 350 bushels of corn, 50 bushels of oats, 43 bushels of wheat, 11 bales of cotton, 50 bushels of apples, and 12 bushels of peaches.⁴ Their production was typical of a Mecklenburg County farm (see Context Statement-Post-Bellum Agriculture).

Samuel and Margaret McElroy had eight children: William Edward; Henry Lynn; John Grier; Carrie Jane (Mrs. John Underwood); Flora May (Mrs. William E. Luckey); Una Dunbar (Mrs. Frank Patterson); Margaret Eugenia; and Martha Ellen. All were active members of Hopewell Presbyterian Church. John Grier McElroy (1878-1958) became an elder of the church in 1907.⁵ He also inherited the homestead from his father in 1928, where he lived and farmed.⁶

Just a few months before his death in 1958, John Grier McElroy sold off fifty acres of the ninety-three he had inherited from his father, and his children, John Grier Jr., Robert Sidney and Samuel Jefferson divided the remainder into three 15-1/2-acre lots. The S. J. McElroy House was acquired by John Grier McElroy, Jr. in the division.⁷ In 1976, J. G. McElroy, Jr. sold a

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1.88-acre parcel fronting on Beatties Ford Road that contains the house to Donald C. and Timola B. Moore, who in turn sold it to the present owners, Thomas M. and Mildred D. Snyder, in 1982.⁸

¹Mecklenburg County Deed Book 36, p. 102.

²1850 U. S. Census, Mecklenburg County, N.C.

³Charles William Sommerville, The History of Hopewell Presbyterian Church (Charlotte: Hopewell Presbyterian Church, 1939; reprint, 1987), p. 163.

⁴Agricultural Schedules, Mecklenburg County, 1880 U.S. Census.

⁵Ibid., pp. 163-164.

⁶Ibid., p. 164; Mecklenburg County Will Book U, p. 318.

⁷Mecklenburg County Deed Books 2001, p. 469; 2640, p. 365; 2640, p. 368.

⁸Ibid., 3860, p. 243; 4537, p. 964.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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 # _____

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

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

Specify repository:

N.C Division of Archives and History;
Survey and Planning Branch, Raleigh

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 1.88 acres

UTM References

A 17 5081850 3913850
 Zone Easting Northing

B _____
 Zone Easting Northing

C _____
 Zone Easting Northing

D _____
 Zone Easting Northing

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property is all of parcel 9 on page 3 of Mecklenburg County Tax Map Book 23.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the remaining land associated with the house.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Richard Mattson and William Huffman
 organization _____ date July, 1990
 street & number 422 Rensselaer telephone 704-356-4236
 city or town Charlotte state N.C. zip code 28203

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Section number 9 Page 1

Mecklenburg County. Deed Books.

----- Will Books.

Sommerville, Charles William. The History of Hopewell Presbyterian Church.
Charlotte: Hopewell Presbyterian Church, 1939; reprint, 1987.

United States. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census. Seventh
Census of the United States, 1850:Mecklenburg County, N.C.

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Continuation Sheet**

Samuel J. McElroy House, Mecklenburg Co., NC

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IDENTIFICATION OF PHOTOGRAPHS

Samuel J. McElroy House
Beatties Ford Road (SR 2074)
Huntersville vicinity
Mecklenburg County
Photographer: Richard Mattson
June 15, 1989
North Carolina Division of Archives and History, Raleigh

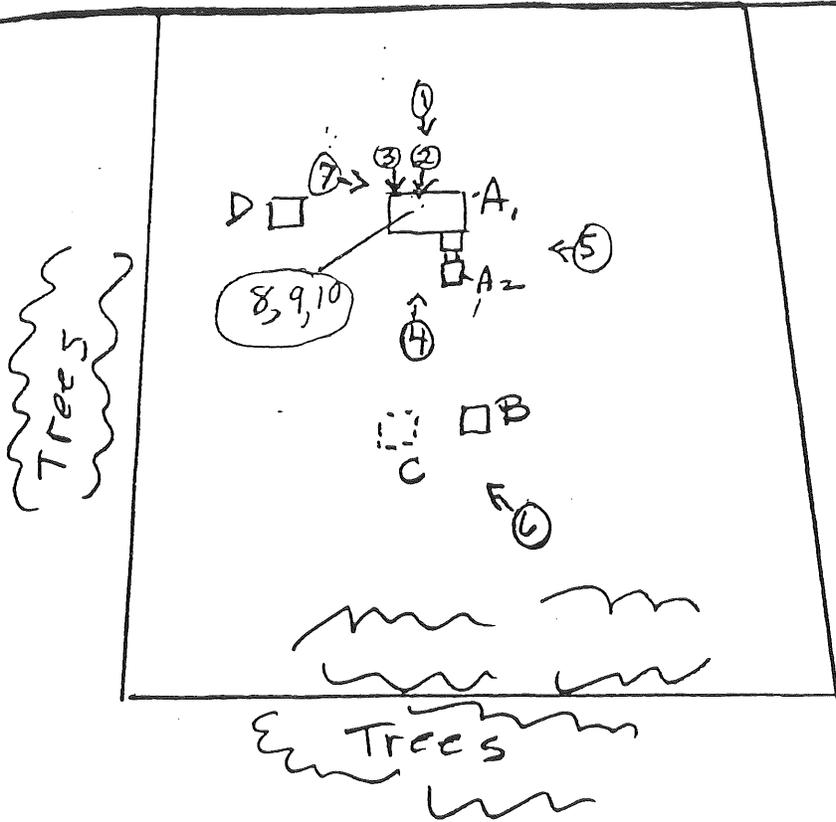
1. Front facade, looking southwest
2. Front entrance, front facade, looking southwest
3. Front porch sawnwork balustrade, looking southwest
4. Rear facade (southwest elevation), looking northwest
5. Rear kitchen ell and attached smokehouse, northeast elevation, looking northwest
6. Rear facade and view of backyard, including portions of swimming pool, tack house, and auto garage, looking north
7. Front facade and northwest elevation, looking south
8. First-floor stairhall, looking northeast
9. Closet door in living room, looking southwest
10. Living room mantel, looking southwest

Samuel J. McElroy House

Mecklenburg Co., NC



Beatties Ford Road (SR 2074)



Contributing Building

- A₁ - House
- A₂ - ATTACHED smokehouse
- B - Teck house

Noncontributing Building

- D - Auto garage

Noncontributing Structure

- C - swimming pool

R. Mattson

9/89

BK. 13

BK. 15

NECK RD #2074
397.32±

BEATTIES

FORD

HAMBRIGHT RD.
#2117

2070±±

1869.67±

693.97±
624.13±

5
22.53 AC

1208.09±
1162.97±

4
19.99 AC

8
232.77 AC±

CHURCH
183.08
183
140.14
140.12

6
800±
240±

509.89±

721.39±

2045.29±

31

7
30.00 AC
CEMETERY

#2074
410.34±

12
54.47 AC

11
5.15 AC

PG. 02

1082.37±
782.37±

1685.72±

10
50.28 AC

242.71±

19
5.41 AC

15
ESMT.

18
1.88 AC

13
1.76 AC

1101

672.29±

1332.57±

310.91±

5.00 AC

796
070

2
50.6 AC

070

725
2238±

1995±±

PG. 04

PG. 14

2910.27

1192.74

Samuel J. McElroy House
10915 Beatties Ford Road

TAX LINE MAP	BOOK 23	PAGE 03
MECKLENBURG COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA		
REVISED	SCALE 1" = 400'	

