

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

| |
|------------------------|
| STATE: Pennsylvania |
| COUNTY: Indiana |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY |
| ENTRY DATE |

1. NAME

COMMON:
John B. McCormick House

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Intersection of L.R. 32101 and T512

CITY OR TOWN: ~~West~~ ^{South} Mahoning Township

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
Twelve

STATE: Pennsylvania CODE: 042 COUNTY: Indiana CODE: 065

3. CLASSIFICATION

| CATEGORY (Check One) | OWNERSHIP | STATUS | ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC |
|---|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure | <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both | Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress | Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No |

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

| | | | | |
|--|--|---|--|-----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural | <input type="checkbox"/> Government | <input type="checkbox"/> Park | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | <input type="checkbox"/> Comments |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial | <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Educational | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Religious | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum | <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific | | |

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Mrs. Margery M. Stephenson

STREET AND NUMBER:
R.D. #1 Box 107

CITY OR TOWN:
Smicksburg

STATE:
Pennsylvania

CODE:
042

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Indiana County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:
Philadelphia Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Indiana

STATE:
Pennsylvania

CODE:
042

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Pennsylvania Register of Historic Sites and Landmarks

DATE OF SURVEY: June 1973 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
William Penn Museum

STREET AND NUMBER:
Box 1026

CITY OR TOWN:
Harrisburg

STATE:
Pennsylvania

CODE:
042

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Pennsylvania

COUNTY: Indiana

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)

Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Ruins Unexposed

(Check One)

Altered Unaltered

(Check One)

Moved Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The original main section of this house was built between 1817-1829 for Judge Joshua Lewis. Constructed in an austere style, the house had little ornamentation. Basically it was a simple 2½ story, three bay, stone house with a massive gable chimney. Front and rear doors were located in the first bay. Fenestration consisted of two windows on the first floor, three on the second, and two small square windows at the attic level. The medium pitch gable roof was highlighted by a boxed cornice.

The house was purchased by John B. McCormick in 1896. McCormick made several major additions to the house between 1902 and 1905. A large, two story, hip and gabled roofed addition was attached to the rear of the house. A small one story, shed roofed section is attached to the addition. A crenellated parapet runs across the front of the one story addition. Alterations to the original house include the extension of the roof to form wide overhanging eaves and cornice. Paired Italianate brackets were placed under the eaves and cornice. Brackets and overhanging eaves are also found on the gable end of the new addition. Two pedimented dormers in the Federal style were added to the front slope of the roof. The most striking addition was a large, three story, stone tower which was butted into the gable end of the original house. The tower has assymetrical window and door placement and is topped by a crenellated parapet. A wide porch was also added at this time. The porch is supported by Doric columns and runs across the front of the house and around the tower.

The house has remained relatively unchanged since the 1905 additions, and is currently in a good state of repair.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian; 16th Century 18th Century 20th Century
 15th Century 17th Century 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

1817-1820, 1902-1905

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

John Buchanan McCormick was born in 1834 in what is now Blair County. Shortly thereafter, his family moved to the Smicksburg area. As a youth, McCormick had little formal education, nevertheless, he was a man of varied talents and interests. At one time or another he was a raftsman on the Allegheny, a cabinet maker, a wood carver, a painter, and a music teacher. In 1851, he started a number of singing schools in the area. Over the next twenty years, he walked over 40,000 miles in managing his schools. McCormick was especially noted for his many politically slanted ballads.

In 1868, with the money realized from his singing schools, he began work on a water turbine. Around 1870 he moved to Holyoke, Massachusetts so that he might utilize the testing flumes at James Emerson's plant. The water turbine developed by McCormick was of the mixed flow type, and was particularly well suited for use in low water developments. The McCormick turbine was considered a major breakthrough in hydrodynamics. Under various names and patents it was manufactured in Holyoke; Dayton, Ohio; Glasgow, Scotland; and Imatra, Finland. McCormick turbines were used in such diverse places as Yokohama, Johannesburg, Cordoba, and Montreal. In 1890 a McCormick turbine took first place in the Edinburgh Exposition.

McCormick retired in 1892 and returned to the Smicksburg area. He personally designed the alterations and additions made to the farmhouse he had purchased. McCormick died in 1924, and his house is now operated as a museum. A display of his turbines is also found in the Smithsonian Institute. The McCormick house is significant not only because of McCormick's contributions to the science of hydrodynamics, but also because of its unusual melange of architectural styles.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Barrows, H.K. Water Power Engineering. New York: McGraw Hill Book Co. Inc., 1934.
 Emerson, James. Treatise on Water Power. Holyoke, Mass: 1879.
 Montgomery, Horace. "John Buchanan McCormick, Ballad Singer of Many Talents," The Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography. Vol. XCII, No. 2, April 1968.
 Uehling, Edward. "American Hydro Power in the 20th Century" Allis-Chalmers Electrical Review, 1955.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

| LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY | | | O R | LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES | | |
|--|-------------------------|-------------------------|--------|---|-----------|---------|
| CORNER | LATITUDE | LONGITUDE | | LATITUDE | LONGITUDE | |
| | Degrees Minutes Seconds | Degrees Minutes Seconds | | Degrees | Minutes | Seconds |
| NW | 0 . . " | 0 . . " | | 40° | 50' | 19" |
| NE | 0 . . " | 0 . . " | | 79° | 07' | 02" |
| SE | 0 . . " | 0 . . " | | | | |
| SW | 0 . . " | 0 . . " | | | | |

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Three

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |
|--------|------|--------|------|
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: William K. Watson, Historian

ORGANIZATION: Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission DATE: Sept., 1973

STREET AND NUMBER: Box 1026

CITY OR TOWN: Harrisburg STATE: Pennsylvania CODE: 042

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665). I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name William J. Wewer
 Title Executive Director, Pa. Historical & Museum Commission

Date 12/21/77

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST: _____
 Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

40° 52' 30"

159° 10' 00" E

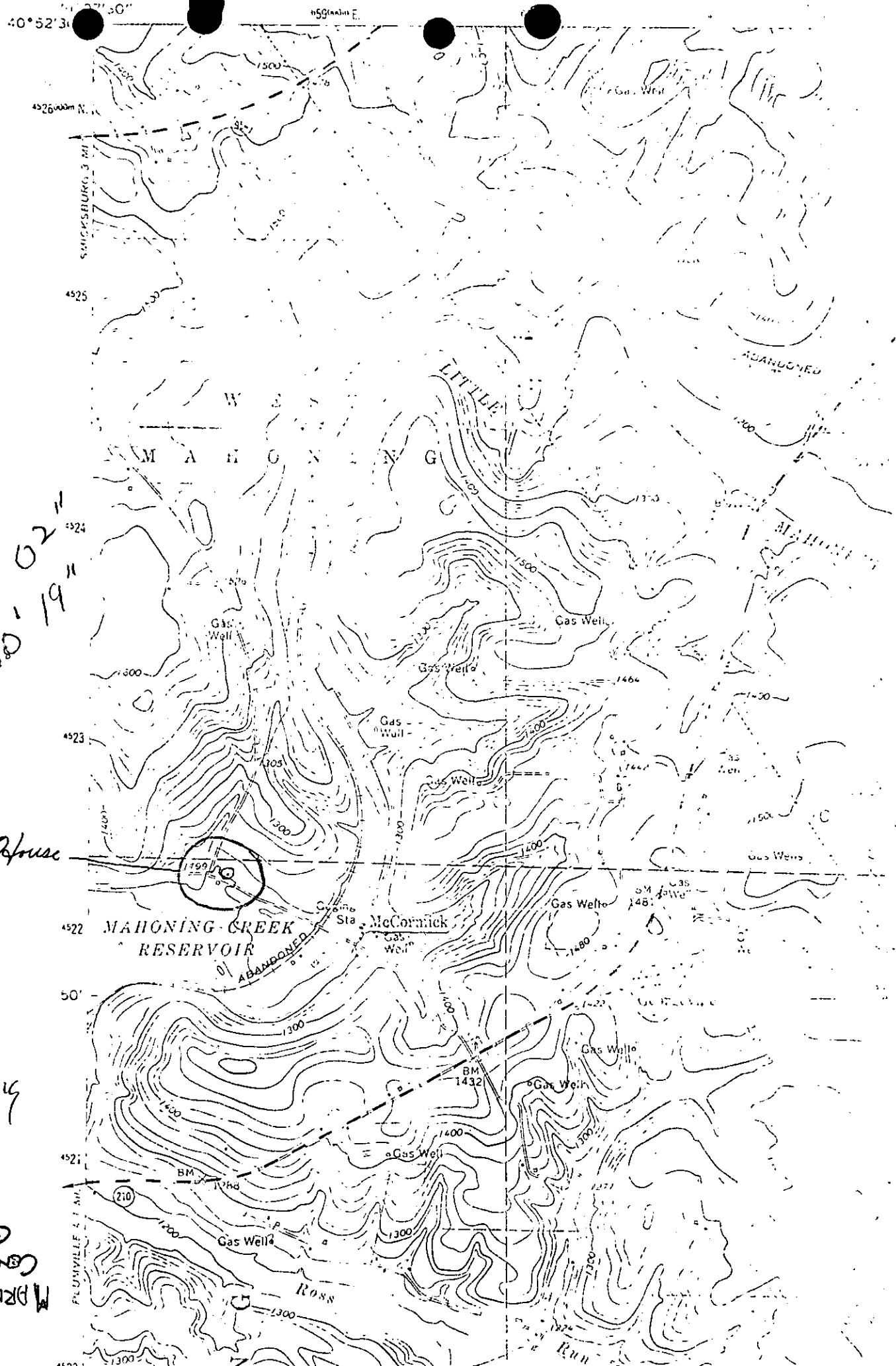
4526000 N. 11
S. 100° 00' 00" W. 3 MI

79° 07' 02"
40° 50' 19"

The Cormick House

32101
T512
West
Mahoning

MAPION
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CARTO



Marion Center
~~Smicksburg~~, Pa