

LOCAL LANDMARK DESIGNATION REPORT

J. Frank McCrary House, ca. 1933

(Exterior Designation)

232 Worth Street, Asheboro, N.C.

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

The J. Frank McCrary House, a Tudor Revival manor house, was designed by W.C. Holleyman Jr., a Greensboro architect. Construction began ca. 1933, and was completed in March, 1934. This home is said by McCrary family members to have been built for a cost of \$29,000 and is located on the previous home site of N.C. Governor Jonathan Worth facing north on the corner of Worth and Main Streets. The exterior, as well as 95% of the interior of the home is original to the detailed W.C. Holleyman Jr. architectural plans which are currently located at the Acme-McCrary Corp. The rambling Tudor Revival manor house combines such decorative details of Elizabethan England as the Tudor-arched entrance with embattled hood molding, oriel windows, and casement windows with leaded glass quarrels.

The English Tudor style utilizes excellent craftsmanship of locally mined slate that comprises the exterior and the roofing. The rear of the home is finished in Tudor wooden beams and stucco. Original leaded glass windows and copper guttering system remain in tact.

The exterior of the home maintains its original landscaping detail with English Boxwoods, dogwoods, holly, and hemlock. According to Asheboro resident and daughter of Frank McCrary, Martha “Boppy” McCrary Toledano, the large oak tree located in front of the house is said to have been planted by Governor Jonathan Worth. The trees can be seen in photographs of the Governor Worth house which occupied a site behind the present house. An ancient Pecan tree, surviving from what was once an orchard of Pecan trees encompassing the surrounding properties, continues to stand tall in the rear. Slate sidewalks form connection to adjoining residences originally owned by the McCrary family.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The J. Frank McCrary House, ca. 1933, is a Tudor Revival manor house designed by architect W.C. Holleyman Jr. The house maintains an outstanding degree of original integrity with regard to location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. Its unique location and distinctive architecture represents a established and familiar visual feature of the City of Asheboro. It is identified with J. Frank McCrary who was an individual that significantly contributed to the architectural, cultural, and economic development of Asheboro and Randolph County.

ARCHITECTURE CONTEXT

This house is constructed in Tudor Revival architectural design with emphasis on Elizabethan England theme. The Tudor Revival is based on English Gothic architecture and features round arches with points, half-timbering, low relief vertical ribs, combinations of brick, stone, stucco, and wood, crenellated parapets and other English Gothic forms. The J. Frank McCrary house is the only known house in Asheboro that can be attributed to Greensboro, N.C. Architect William C. Holleyman, Jr. However, Holleyman was well versed on the architectural styles of the early twentieth century based on his designs in other cities. Some of which are listed on the National Register of Historic Places (i.e. William C. Verdery House, Cumberland County). William Holleyman Jr. also designed the Herman Cone estate located in Irving Park, Greensboro, N.C.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

J. Frank McCrary was the son of Asheboro and N.C. textile leader D.B. McCrary. D.B. McCrary was the founder of Acme-McCrary Corp., and also a former mayor of Asheboro. J. Frank McCrary was a major contributor to the community and to the City of Asheboro. The McCrary name is considered a leader in the N.C. textile industry, but is also associated with many local endeavors from, but not limited to, Randolph Hospital and local baseball. The Governor Jonathan Worth house once occupied this location, at a site behind the present house.

The “J. Frank McCrary House” also stands as a reminder of the vital role textiles played in the history of Asheboro, Randolph County, and North Carolina.

MAP AND PLANS

A Geographical Information System (GIS) air photograph map, (produced by the Randolph County Planning Department) of this property reflecting the structure and its relation to nearby streets and other buildings is included as part of this report. The map identifies and labels all accessory buildings and structures on the property, including the exterior of the J. Frank McCrary House. Detailed floor plans are maintained by the Randolph County Tax Department, records of which are available to the Randolph County Historic Landmark Preservation Commission. In addition, photographs of the original architectural plans drawn by W.C. Holleyman, Jr., May, 1932, are included as attachment to this report.

PHOTOS

Submitted as part of this report are digital photographs, (including a compact disk) prepared by the Randolph County Planning Department. The photographs include significant landscape features to reflect physical setting. Also included are pictures of subsidiary buildings located on the property. Interior photographs are provided that reflect notable trim and significant interior features.

HISTORICAL RESEARCH CERTIFICATION

Historical data used for this report will be reviewed in public hearing by the Randolph County Historic Landmark Preservation Commission and the Asheboro City Council. A final record of Certification and history, after public hearings, will be reflected in the official minutes of the Commission and City Council.

**Chairman, Randolph County Historical Landmark
Preservation Commission**

Date