

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 National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any 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 certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).**

1. Name of Property

historic name McCartney, James H. and Mayetta (Degrush), House

other names/site number Ann E. and DeWitt McLallen House

Name of Multiple Property Listing Historic Resources of Mt. Vernon, Iowa

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

2. Location

street & number 214 2nd Street SE not for publication

city or town Mount Vernon vicinity

state Iowa county Linn zip code 52314

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance: national statewide X local

Applicable National Register Criteria: A B X C D

Signature of certifying official/Title: Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer Date

State Historical Society of Iowa
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official Date

Title State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

 entered in the National Register determined eligible for the National Register

 determined not eligible for the National Register removed from the National Register

 other (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

McCartney, James H. and Mayetta (Degrush), House
Name of Property

Linn County, Iowa
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply.)

Category of Property
(Check only **one** box.)

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

- private
- public - Local
- public - State
- public - Federal

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

<u>Contributing</u>	<u>Noncontributing</u>	
1	1	buildings
		site
		structure
2	0	object
3	1	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

DOMESTIC/secondary structure

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

DOMESTIC/secondary structure

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)

MID-19TH CENTURY

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: STONE/Limestone

walls: BRICK

roof: ASPHALT

other: _____

McCartney, James H. and Mayetta (Degrush), House
Name of Property

Linn County, Iowa
County and State

Narrative Description

Summary Paragraph (Briefly describe the current, general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

The McCartney House is located on the south side of 2nd Street SE in Mount Vernon. This comparatively small side-gabled brick house is banked into a fairly steep sideslope and is located along a narrow street that dead-ends to the east. This house was built on a locally-quarried limestone foundation and began as a one-story brick dwelling about 1855, just after this area was platted as part of Saxby's 1st Addition to Mount Vernon. The original house was enlarged with a second story c.1861, also built of brick. The structural brick walls are laid in the Common Bond pattern, with every eighth row turned. The brick is locally-manufactured, with the exterior walls now painted white as is the exterior of the limestone foundation. In 1877, a two-story frame addition and a one-story frame addition were added to the rear and southeast corner of the brick house. Significant features of this vernacular Mid-19th Century type house include the side-gabled orientation with enclosed triangular cornice returns on the gable ends and the symmetrical three-rank fenestration on the façade. The windows in the c.1855-c.1861 portion of the house are original 6/6 double-hung, wooden-sash windows that have flat brick soldier-course lintels and wooden plank sills. Around the 1920s, a small bathroom addition was made to the rear of the two-story frame addition, and in the 1970s, a two-level porch was also added to the rear of the house. Two contributing objects include a handwrought iron hitching post located in front of the house next to the street curb and a large stone mounting block located behind the house and covered by the 1970s porch addition. Both objects appear to be at their original locations and date from the property's period of significance. Therefore, these objects are counted as contributing. A noncontributing detached frame garage, built after the property's period of significance, is located downslope to the southwest of the house. The house retains excellent historic integrity.

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable.)

(Iowa SHPO Additional Instructions: After the main **Narrative Description**, discuss any physical alterations since the period of significance under the subheading **Alterations**, and the seven aspects of integrity as it applies to the property in a **Statement of Integrity**.)

The McCartney House is located on the south side of 2nd Street SE, with the lot sloping south from the street and the house banked into this slope. Large shade and cedar trees are to the front, east side and rear yard of the house. This small side-gabled brick house has a front-gabled frame ell on the rear. The entire house is built on a limestone foundation banked into the fairly steep slope, with the basement exterior fully exposed on the rear. The house began as a one-story brick dwelling, built c.1855, reportedly by the same person who built the Reuben Ash house at 702 8th Avenue NW in 1854 (Slaton Anthony, personal communication, 2018). The Ash House was built before the subject house, which appears to have been built circa 1855 after this area was platted as part of Saxby's 1st Addition to Mount Vernon in February of that year. The original house was enlarged with a second story in the early 1860s when a mortgage was taken out circa 1860-1861. In 1877, the two frame additions had been made to the rear and southeast corner of the house. In the 1920s, a small bathroom addition was made to the rear, with interior of the kitchen and dining room remodeled around that time as well. In the 1970s, a third addition was made to the rear of the house consisting of a two-level porch structure. The exterior of the brick walls is painted white as is the exterior of the limestone foundation. The brick is set in the Common Bond pattern, with every eighth row turned. The Mid-19th Century style of the house is reflected in the side-gabled orientation with cornice returns on the gable ends and the symmetrical three-rank fenestration on the façade. The cornice returns are somewhat unusual in that each return is enclosed with a triangular wooden insert. The windows in the 1850s-1860s portion of the house are the original 6/6 double-hung, wooden-sash windows that have flat brick soldier-course lintels and wooden-plank sills.

McCartney, James H. and Mayetta (Degrush), House
Name of Property

Linn County, Iowa
County and State

There is a detached frame garage toward the rear of the lot that is identified by the Assessor as a circa "1900" construction; however, the garage shown on the 1941 Sanborn map was at the southwest corner of the lot and not at the location of the extant garage, which is closer to the house. The extant building is an older building, probably built in the 1920s-1930s but was later shifted to its current location and likely turned east-west rather than its original north-south orientation. Therefore, while a historic-age building, it was built after the period of significance and is considered a noncontributing building. Two extant objects, that appear to be in their original locations and date from the period of significance, include an iron hitching post and a stone mounting block that is carved with a distinctive star pattern. These are considered contributing objects.

Façade (North Side)¹

The façade is the northerly face of this house and exhibits three-rank fenestration with the first story having the front entry door to the left and two 6/6 double-hung, wooden-sash windows evenly spaced to the right of the door (Figures 1-2). Originally, the center window was the front door when the house was a single story. When the second story was added, the door was shifted to the left side and now opens into a long hall that runs the depth of the two-story portion of the house. The shifting of the door is evidenced by the brick infill below the center window. The second story of the façade has three 6/6 double-hung, wooden-sash windows evenly spaced across. Above these windows is a wide frieze board under the moderate eave overhang and boxed eaves. The front door has a wooden screen door and is sheltered by a projecting, closed-gable porch hood that has vertical beadboard siding in the gable end and a slight eave overhang. The porch hood is supported by two full and two half spindle posts. The outer posts have scroll-cut brackets on the interior side of each post, while the two half posts at the brick wall flanking the front door only have brackets perpendicular to the house. The posts are set on a concrete slab that is not original. The porch is of historic age, but its Queen Anne detail of the turned spindle posts indicates a date of the 1890s-early 1900s. Of additional note on the façade is the tie rod at the first/second floor break. The tie rod has an S-curve wrought iron exterior bracket. A late 20th century photograph of the house showed it with functional shutters on the windows and a wooden plank fence along the street frontage (Figure 2). The current owner noted that the wooden shutters had deteriorated beyond saving, but he salvaged the handmade iron pulls on the shutters and used them for pulls on the kitchen cabinets (Slaton Anthony, personal communication, March 2019).

¹ In this area of Mount Vernon, the streets are oriented on a southeast to northwest angle. Therefore, in this narrative, "east" is actually southeasterly, "north" is northeasterly, "west" is northwesterly, and "south" is southwesterly."

McCartney, James H. and Mayetta (Degrush), House
Name of Property

Linn County, Iowa
County and State



Figure 1. Façade of the McCartney House looking South. Photograph taken May 2, 2018.



Figure 2. Undated but probably late 20th century photograph of the McCartney House looking SSE. Note that the windows then had aluminum-framed storm windows and shutters that have since been removed. Photograph obtained from Mount Vernon Historic Preservation Photograph Archives.

McCartney, James H. and Mayetta (Degrush), House
Name of Property

Linn County, Iowa
County and State

West Side

This side of the house has a single door to the left side on the first story, with two windows to the right that are not evenly spaced (Figure 3). The reason for the uneven spacing is the presence of an interior chimney centered on the wall. The window just to the right of the door is covered by closed wooden shutters on the exterior and is filled with brick on the interior. The window to the far right is a 6/6 double-hung. The second story has two 6/6 double-hung, wooden-sash windows placed to the left and right sides with no window in the center. The attic level has two small rectangular windows on either side of the interior chimney just below the wide frieze boards. The windows are each covered with a single wooden shutter on the outside. The boxed eaves on this gable end have cornice returns with cornice molding. The two-story rear ell has two 6/6 double-hung, wooden-sash windows on the first story of the west side, with a single 6/6 double-hung, wooden-sash window to the right side of the second story. This rear ell has wooden clapboard siding.



Figure 3. West side of McCartney House looking SSE. Photograph taken May 2, 2018.

Rear (South Side)

All three stories of the house are visible at the rear including the basement level and the two upper floors (Figure 4). The rear of the gable end portion of the house has an enclosed bathroom addition with a hip roof on the left side on the first floor. The stone foundation bumps out from the main foundation under this addition. The bathroom addition is sided with wooden clapboards and has no exterior windows. The rest of the first floor and the basement bump-out level is covered by the enclosed porch addition on the rear

McCartney, James H. and Mayetta (Degrush), House
Name of Property

Linn County, Iowa
County and State

of the gabled ell. This porch has a low-pitched shed roof, large fixed-pane windows and screens around the upper portion of the porch with a clapboard-sided railing around the lower portion. Underneath the screened-in porch is lower space enclosed by with picket fencing and latticework screens for another porch/utility space. On the second story of the front-gabled ell of the house, there are two evenly-spaced 6/6 double-hung windows.



Figure 4. Rear of McCartney House looking NNE. Photograph taken May 2, 2018.

East Side

The east side of the house has another front-gabled frame addition sided with wooden clapboards and built on a limestone foundation (Figures 5 and 6). The south side of this one-story addition has a single 6/6 double-hung wooden-sash window centered on the south wall. The east side of the front-gabled addition has no windows but does have a door to the far-right side of this gable end. This door has a small gabled porch hood of modern construction supported by two square wooden posts with small angled braces just under the eaves at the top of each post. There are also no windows on this side of the second story of the frame addition off the rear of the brick portion of the house. The east side of the brick portion of the house has two small rectangular attic windows just under the eaves identical to those on the west gable end. These windows are also covered by single wooden shutters. The gable end has the same wide frieze board and cornice returns as on the west gable end. The first floor of the east side of the brick section of the house has two windows towards either side of the wall. The window to the left is covered by two wooden shutters, while the window to the right is a 6/6 double-hung, wooden-sash window.

McCartney, James H. and Mayetta (Degrush), House
Name of Property

Linn County, Iowa
County and State



Figure 5. Rear and East side of McCartney House looking NNW. Photograph taken May 2, 2018.



Figure 6. East side of McCartney House looking West. Photograph taken May 2, 2018.

McCartney, James H. and Mayetta (Degrush), House
Name of Property

Linn County, Iowa
County and State

Interior

The interior floor plan of the two-story section of the house shows a hall-and-parlor plan. The front door opens into a long hall that extends the depth of the house, with the walnut staircase on the east (left) side of the hall towards the rear of the hall. These stairs lead up to a landing where they then turn to the west (right) up to the second-floor hall above. Underneath the staircase are the basement stairs. The hallway on the first floor leads into the rear kitchen addition. A doorway just to the right of the front door leads from the hall into the parlor, now used as a living room. There is an exterior door in the living room that is a later addition. The main walnut staircase has a turned newel post, turned balusters and handrail that are all varnished and is original to the early 1860s enlargement of this house. The wooden surrounds of the doors and windows have peaked lintel boards and architrave trim boards that have prominent molding. Other original interior details include: cornice molding around the ceiling of the parlor; wide floor boards; baseboards that have quarter-round molding on top and at the base; a low ceiling in the parlor; the four-paneled wooden interior doors with ceramic door knobs and metal hardware; and the basement rooms that were once finished with lath and plaster, some of which remains intact (Figures 7-9). The northern room in the basement was underneath the original circa 1855 house and has an intact hewn beam from that original construction. Details added in the late 20th century to the original section of the house include a wood-and-glass door installed in the west wall of parlor and the brick fireplace and mantel to the chimney bump-out in this room by the previous owners (Shirley M. and Joseph J. Giannini). This fireplace is built of brick pavers that were salvaged from the street in front of the house when it was being repaved. Historically, this room and the room above were heated by stoves vented to the chimney. The light fixture in the hallway dates from the 1940s but was also added by the Gianninis, who salvaged it from the Tipton Movie Theater. The Gianninis also added a slate floor in the front hallway and remodeled the bathroom and dining room interiors.

The rear addition is now the kitchen with a bathroom addition off the south side and the dining room addition off the east side now used as an office/den. A door in the kitchen leads into the rear porch addition. The basement has three rooms, with a small crawlspace under the bathroom addition. Historically, the basement walls and ceiling were finished with lath and plaster, with this area probably used for the kitchen and laundry. Some of the lath and plaster remains but moisture infiltration deteriorated most of the plaster to the point that it had to be removed. In the front room, the limestone foundation and interior brick walls are now exposed.

The second floor has a hallway off the staircase that leads into a front bedroom, which has a closet inside of which are the wooden stairs to the attic, which has been finished as a bedroom by the current owners. There is a second bedroom off the hallway, with a third larger bedroom in the south addition that is also entered from the hallway.

McCartney, James H. and Mayetta (Degrush), House
Name of Property

Linn County, Iowa
County and State

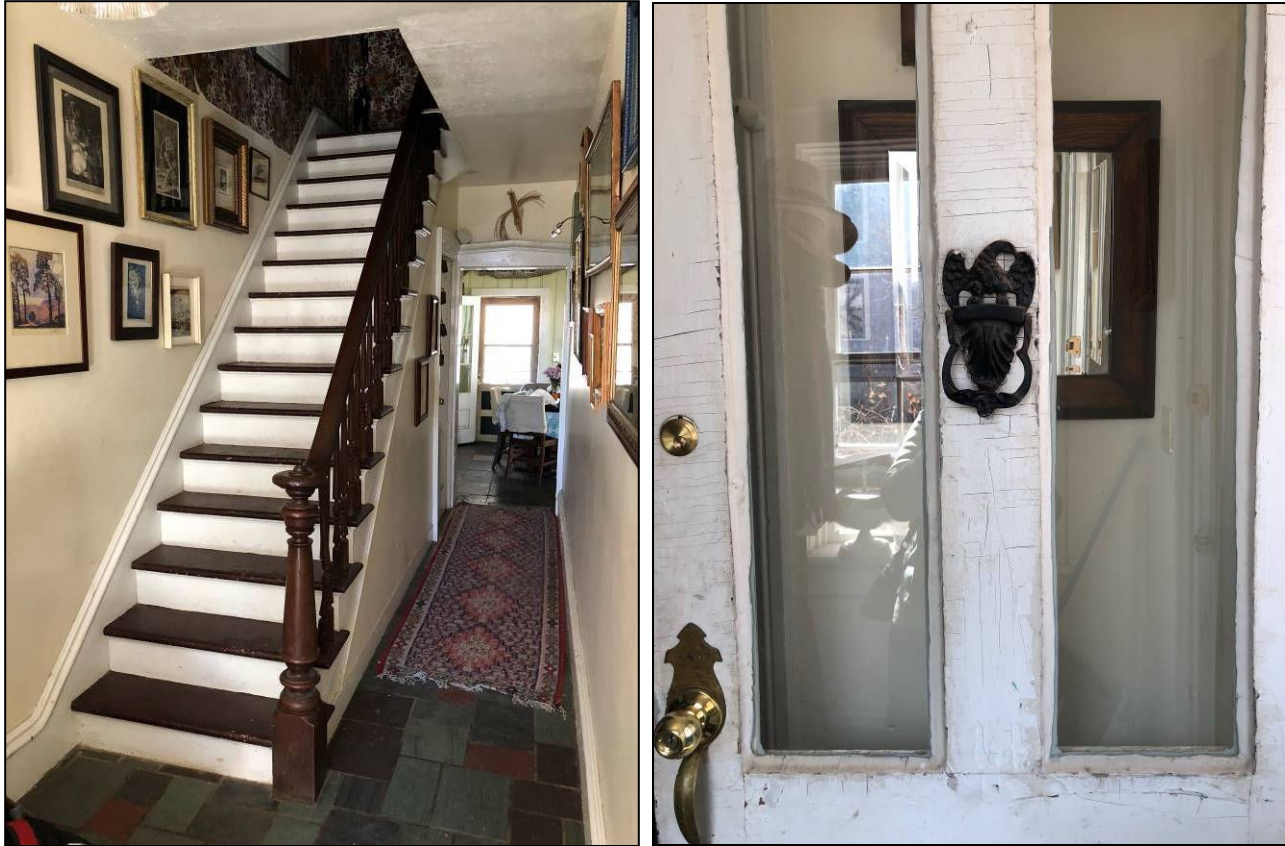


Figure 7. Interior views of the McCartney House. Top, left to right: walnut staircase in main hallway and detail of original front door and handmade door knocker; Bottom: 4-paneled wooden door on second-floor landing. Photographs taken March 23 and 30, 2019 (top) and August 8, 2018 (bottom).

McCartney, James H. and Mayetta (Degrush), House
Name of Property

Linn County, Iowa
County and State



Figure 8. Interior views of McCartney House. Top, left to right: detail of floor boards (painted) and detail of 6/6 wooden-sash window in front hall. Bottom: detail of woodwork on front door and crown molding at the ceiling. Photographs taken August 8, 2018.

McCartney, James H. and Mayetta (Degrush), House
Name of Property

Linn County, Iowa
County and State



Figure 9. Interior views of McCartney House. Left: wooden stairs to attic; Right: front parlor looking towards the kitchen and showing the fireplace added by previous owners. Photographs taken August 8, 2018.

Garage (noncontributing building)

The garage is located downslope behind the McCartney House and is noncontributing because it was built after the period of significance. However, this is a historic-age garage probably dating from the 1920s-1930s and originally located in the southwest corner of the lot. The 1941 Sanborn fire insurance map shows the only outbuildings in the southwest corner of the lot, with the largest (likely the extant building) then oriented north-south. Therefore, sometime after 1941, this building was moved closer to the house and turned east-west in its orientation.

This is a one-stall frame garage that has a front-gabled roof covered with asphalt shingles and walls with vertical board-and-batten wooden siding (Figure 10). The garage doors consist of two doors that open out and made of vertical board siding. The foundation is concrete.



Figure 10. Garage looking East.
Photograph taken March 23, 2019.

McCartney, James H. and Mayetta (Degrush), House
Name of Property

Linn County, Iowa
County and State

Hitching Post and Mounting Block (two contributing objects)

There are two contributing objects on this property including hitching post and a stone mounting block. The hitching post is a handwrought iron triangular post with an iron ball finial and attached handwrought iron ring (Figure 11). This post is in the public right of way in front of the house but is original to the McCartney House, or at least added during the period of significance. The mounting block is a large block of rough-cut and dressed stone that has a protruding disc with a star carved near the base of the block (see Figure 11). This too is in its original location behind the house, indicating that there was once a driveway that circled around the back yard between the original stables and the house where occupants could use the stone to mount a horse or a carriage from the back of the house. Today, the location of this block is on the interior of the two-level porch structure that was added to the rear of the house in the 1970s. The mounting block and the hitching post both date from the property's period of significance and are counted as two contributing objects.



Figure 11. Left: Hitching Post; Right: Mounting Block
Photographs taken March 30, 2019.

McCartney, James H. and Mayetta (Degrush), House
Name of Property

Linn County, Iowa
County and State

Statement of Integrity

The McCartney House retains excellent historic integrity in all seven of the aspects of location, design, materials, workmanship, association, setting, and feeling. The integrity of location of the house is excellent because it is located on its original site in the southeast quarter of Mount Vernon. The integrity of design of this house is reflected in the various stages of its construction from a one-story gabled brick cottage to a two-story brick hall-and-parlor house in a vernacular Mid-19th Century style. The two frame additions reflect the expansion of the house within the period of significance, all the while retaining its overall small scale and not detracting from the historic integrity of the early brick portions of the house.

Integrity of materials is represented in the use locally-manufactured bricks and locally-quarried limestone. The only modification to the exterior materials has been the painting of both the brick and stone. The interior notably retains a walnut staircase and interior woodwork added in the early 1860s when the original house was enlarged.

Integrity of workmanship is evidenced by the exterior masonry work in the brick and stone as well as on the interior with early carpentry work and materials on display in the original staircase, doors, windows, and woodwork.

Integrity of setting is reflected in the house notably banked into a steep wooded slope that has probably changed little since the 19th century. The setting of this property is along a comparatively narrow street that dead ends to the east, with most of the houses along this street also of historic age and including both brick and frame houses dating from the late 19th to early 20th centuries. As a result, the integrity of feeling is also excellent because this small brick house truly imparts a sense of time and place of a 19th-century brick cottage in the town of Mount Vernon.

Its association with the historic context of brick house construction in the Military Road era of Mount Vernon's early development is excellent as well. It is one of several such small-scale brick houses that were built in the mid to late 19th century by local builders using locally-made and obtained materials. However, this house is unusual in that it began as a one-story brick cottage and then was enlarged into a two-story house with stylish details in the early 1860s and enlarged again in the late 1870s with a sizeable frame addition to the rear of the house. Other one-story brick cottages are known in Mount Vernon but those examples remained one story and were enlarged simply with rear and side additions.

The modifications to this house have included expansions of this house that were executed within the period of significance and thus add to the architectural significance of this property rather than detract. These include the first addition to this house, which was an enlargement of the original c.1855 one-story, two-room brick cottage to its current two-story, side-gabled form in the early 1860s. The frame additions on the rear of the house were both built in 1877, also within the period of significance. In the 1920s, a small bathroom addition was made to the rear of the house but this is not visible from the public views of this house. Later modifications included remodeling of the kitchen and former dining room with beadboard wall paneling. The bathroom has also since been updated along with some features of the kitchen by the current owners. The brick and limestone were painted white on the exterior by at least the late 20th century if not long before that. Other late 20th century additions have included the insertion of a door to the exterior on the west side of the brick portion of the house, the addition of the brick fireplace in the living room, the addition of a two-level porch structure on the rear, and the updating of the bathroom and kitchen on the interior.

McCartney, James H. and Mayetta (Degrush), House
Name of Property

Linn County, Iowa
County and State

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 old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

c.1861-1877

Significant Dates

c.1861

1877

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation (if applicable)

Architect/Builder

McCartney, James H. and Mayetta (Degrush), House
Name of Property

Linn County, Iowa
County and State

Statement of Significance

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations).

The James H. and Mayetta (Degrush) McCartney House is locally significant and eligible for listing under the registration requirements for the "Local Brick and Stone Buildings, c. 1840-93" context for the National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Submission, *Historic Resources of Mt. Vernon, Iowa*. The McCartney House is significant under Criterion C as a property that "contribute[s] markedly to the distinctive architectural character of Mount Vernon" through its "wall covering of locally produced brick" on a locally quarried stone foundation and its Mid-19th Century stylistic influences. Built of locally made brick on a locally quarried stone foundation, the McCartney House combines "the use of brick with simple details and form [that] results in a simplicity that contributes markedly to the charm of the community." The period of significance for the McCartney House is c.1861 to 1877 from the approximate year the house was first built on the newly platted Saxby's Addition to the end of the period of significance for the "Mt. Vernon Local Brick Buildings, c.1840-93" context. Significant dates are c.1861 when the second story was added and 1877 when the two-story frame additions were made to the rear of the brick house.

This property is one of a group of 11 historic brick houses in Mount Vernon being nominated under the *Historic Resources of Mt. Vernon, Iowa* Multiple Property Submission in 2019.

Narrative Statement of Significance

 (Provide at least one paragraph for each area of significance.)

(Iowa SHPO Additional Instructions: For properties not nominated under Criterion D, include a statement about whether any archaeological remains within or beyond the footprint of the property were assessed as part of this nomination under the subheading **Archaeological Assessment**.)

Criterion C: Architecture of the James H. and Mayetta (Degrush) McCartney House

Under the registration requirements for Criterion C of the "Local Brick and Stone Buildings, c. 1840-93" context, the James H. and Mayetta (Degrush) McCartney House is an example of the "brick and stone buildings that contribute markedly to the distinctive architectural character of Mount Vernon." This house has "a wall covering of locally produced brick" on a locally quarried stone foundation and exhibits Mid-19th Century stylistic influences. As such, the McCartney House combines "the use of brick with simple details and form [that] results in a simplicity that contributes markedly to the charm of the community." According to the description of this property type:

Mount Vernon is blessed with a distinctive collection of brick buildings. By far most are houses. A significant number date from before the Civil War through the 1860s, but there are important examples from the 1870s and 1880s as well. Since locally produced brick continued to be used as a building material beyond the Military Road era (especially for houses), brick buildings are considered as a separate property type. There is overlap with significant examples from the Military Road-era context property type, however. In some cases the date of construction has not been more firmly determined than placing them before 1890. The local brickyard closed in 1893, marking the end of the locally produced brick period for the community. The visual impact of the ... residential examples ... upon the appearance of Mount Vernon is clear.

The houses for this property type are built of deep red-orange local brick. Rooflines vary and include gable-side (the dominant shape), gable-front, crossed-gable, upright-and-wing, mansard, and hipped. Later examples are more likely to be hipped and early examples tend to be gabled. Most are two-story. Foundations are of locally quarried limestone (generally rubble or roughly dressed). Some lintels and sills are also stone. Brick is sometimes used decoratively for cornices, cornice returns, and more elaborate lintels. With the earliest examples, the use of brick with simple details and form results in a simplicity that contributes markedly to the charm of the community (Long 1991:F3).

The McCartney House meets the registration requirements for Criterion C significance under this context, which states:

McCartney, James H. and Mayetta (Degrush), House
Name of Property

Linn County, Iowa
County and State

Buildings of locally produced brick and stone are a key visual element defining the nature and character of Mount Vernon, and their primary area of significance is architectural. Because of the key visual importance of this property type, most examples from the period c. 1840-1893 which retain their integrity are likely to be significant. Examples built after the Military Road era, that is, after 1870, reflect the continued interest in local brick as well as the prosperity that characterized the railroad era in the community. These later examples are typically more elaborate than those associated with the early settlement period. Together, they constitute a visually distinctive feature that is a major and longstanding visual defining element for Mount Vernon (Long 1991:F3-F4).

The McCartney House was likely built not long after James S. Saxby platted Saxby's First Addition to Mount Vernon in 1855 (Figure 12).² Built first as a one-story, two-room brick cottage (or hall-and-parlor house), the house was enlarged to its current two-story Greek Revival style form in the early 1860s. The new second story resulted in a side-gabled vernacular Greek Revival style house. The exterior walls (although painted white) are the deep reddish-orange locally produced brick that is the hallmark of Mount Vernon's Military Road era housing.

The house was probably built as the home of carpenter James H. McCartney and his first wife, Rebecah (Gordon) McCartney, the latter a sister of Dr. J.P. Gordon, an early Mount Vernon physician and druggist. In 1856, the McCartneys were living with Rebecah's sister, Rachel, and elderly father, Joseph Gordon. By 1860, the couple were living on their own. Rebecah McCartney died about 1864, and in 1865, James McCartney married widow Mayetta "Mary" (Nims) DeGrush. The couple had four children, three of whom survived to adulthood (Iowa State Census 1856; U.S. Census 1860; Find-A-Grave; *Iowa, Select Marriages Index, 1758-1996*; *MVH*, December 14, 1888).

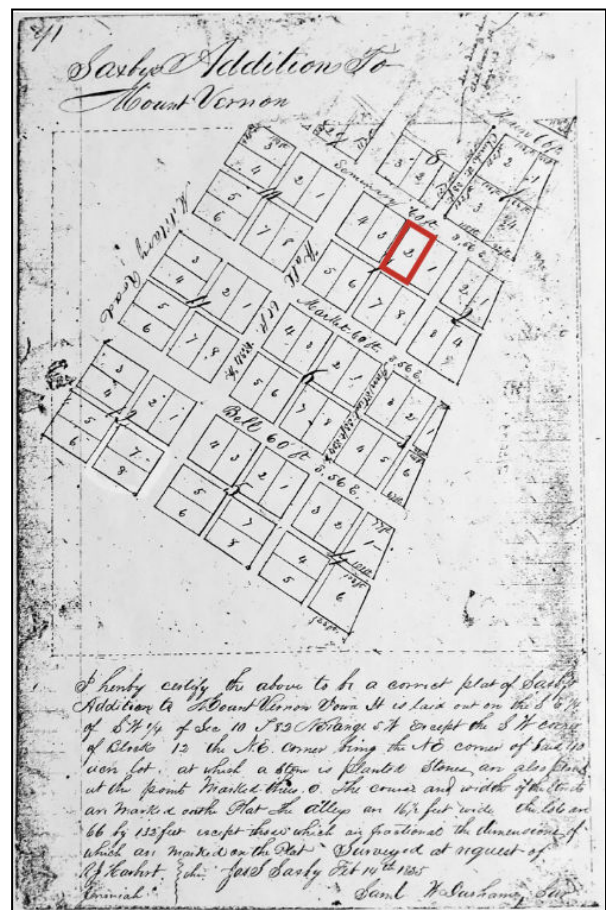


Figure 12. Plat of Saxby's [First] Addition to Mount Vernon, 1855, showing location of McCartney House. Source: Plat Book K, Linn County Recorder's Office, Cedar Rapids

² The name James H. McCartney has not been found in the recorded lot transfers for this parcel, however, the name is attached to this house (i.e., "James McCartney house") through mentions of subsequent owners in the Mount Vernon newspaper archives.

McCartney, James H. and Mayetta (Degrush), House
Name of Property

Linn County, Iowa
County and State

As Janet Dumbaugh observed in her survey of brick buildings in Mount Vernon in 1978, the early pioneers of Mount Vernon “depended on craftsmen to build their new dwellings, which usually reflected styles of homes from communities left behind.” Not only were an “unusually high number of brick homes” built during the Military Road era, Dumbaugh notes, but also “a high proportion of settlers were from the Lancaster, Pennsylvania area” (Dumbaugh 1980:2).³

The Lancaster area is world famous for its brick domestic and barn architecture. The Dutch settlers in the early 1700s were ingenious in putting to use the native lime and muddy soils needed to make bricks. These same resources were available in the Mt. Vernon locale. Clay was easily extracted from the sides of the hills, limestone was plentiful, and the Cedar River banks supplied the sand. . . . The craftsmen of Mt. Vernon probably did not use pattern books and most certainly were not guided by city codes. They brought their skills and ideas with them and were limited to repeating the same designs with little variation until perhaps ten years later. These men usually built double brick walls with the bricks laid lengthwise in two parallel rows joined by crosswise bricks in various patterns. . . . Because of the resources available to make the bricks and the talented craftsmen from Pennsylvania it was natural and fortunate that Mt. Vernon should reflect this heritage (Dumbaugh 1980:2; 4).

James H. McCartney was born in Pennsylvania in 1813 and was living in Mount Vernon by 1854, as were the possible builders of the original one-story brick house, the Albright brothers (Iowa State Census 1854). The Albright brothers – Henry D. and William D. – were born and grew up near Hanover, Pennsylvania, which is near Lancaster. They arrived together in Mount Vernon in June 1852, attracted by the founding of Cornell College, and for the next few years they worked as brickmakers and builders for early settlers, but are specifically known to have built Old Sem and College Hall at Cornell College and the house in which Henry and his wife Juliana would reside for most of the rest of their lives at 224 1st Street SW. According to Dumbaugh, all three buildings feature similarities:

All are basically rectangular, with the entrance centrally located on the long side, and windows placed symmetrically beside the door on each side and in the same position on the second or more stories. It is still domestic architecture that has been adapted in the case of the college buildings, for another purpose.

The Home and College Buildings share another feature that seems to be quite a common feature in this era of vernacular design and that is the inverted square U of raised brick forming the lintel and extending a short way down the side of the window. . . . Another common design is the use of a semi-circular window or vent at the gable (Dumbaugh 1980:5).

The Albright brothers had ceased their building partnership by 1860, and William D. Albright returned to Hanover, Pennsylvania. The builder of the second story could have been one of several brick masons residing in Mount Vernon in 1860 (US Census 1860). As with other houses of this period, the brick of the McCartney House is set in the Common Bond pattern, in which every eighth row is turned to form a tie between two rows of brick in a brick wall, creating a double wall. The double wall strengthened and supported the structure in addition to providing insulation and fire protection.

By 1869, the McCartneys had moved from the house, and a notice in the *Mount Vernon Hawk-Eye* alerted its readers to a “bargain:” “If you want a bargain in town property, call on J.T. Rice at this office. He will sell you that fine brick residence of James McCartney. Call soon if you want a bargain” (*MVH*, April 16, 1869). In 1872, Meiriam Sawyer, widow of Mount Vernon pioneer grocer D.C. Sawyer, purchased the James McCartney property and resided there with her son Willie until 1873, when she sold the house to another widow, Ann E. McLallen. A native of New York state, McLallen had been a widow since the 1850s and moved to Mount Vernon with her adult son, DeWitt McLallen, in 1873 (US Census 1860; 1870; *MVH*, September 5, 1873). In 1874, McLallen had a new roof put on “her fine residence” and was making other improvements (*MVH*, July 31, 1874). In 1877, the *Mount Vernon Hawk-Eye* noted the extent of the remodeling work that DeWitt McLallen, newly elected trustee of the town, was doing to the “old McCartney house” (*MVH*, May 11, 1877; *Western Historical* 1878:561).

³ The Pennsylvania Dutch, also known as Pennsylvania Germans, are descendants of early German immigrants to Pennsylvania.
Sections 8 page 18

McCartney, James H. and Mayetta (Degrush), House
Name of Property

Linn County, Iowa
County and State

DeWitt McLallen will have a large, commodious, and very desirable dwelling house when he gets all the additions and other improvements made that he contemplates making on the old McCartney house on College street. He is fitting it up in good style from cellar to garrett [sic] and when completed he will have one of the most convenient and homelike places in town. It begins to look a little suspicious, and it would not be at all surprising if DeWitt should make up his mind one of these days to go into matrimony. How is it DeWitt? (MVH, May 11, 1877).

DeWitt McLallen, however, never did marry. McLallen lived with his mother, Ann McLallen, until her death in 1909. In 1923, he sold the residence to the Mount Vernon #551 of IOOF of Iowa, Inc., and the fraternal order apparently allowed McLallen to continue living there. McLallen died in 1930 at the IOOF retirement home in Mason City, Iowa, after a brief residence there (*Probate Case Files, 1840-1924*; *Town Lot Transfers Vol. 2 p.255*; *US Census 1930*; *Mount Vernon Hawkeye-Record and Lisbon Herald*, November 6, 1930).

Subsequent owners included: Olga Jancik (c. 1949), Harold W. and Evelyn L. Minnick (1949-1965), Shirley M. and Joseph J. Giannini (1965-2012), and the current owner Slaton J. Anthony (since 2012). Slaton Anthony and his wife, Ashley are in the process of restoring the house and have made interior improvements to the bathrooms, kitchen, living room fireplace, and bedrooms.

The 1894 Sanborn fire insurance map shows the house with the two-story brick section, representing the early 1860s enlargement/remodeling of the original brick cottage, and the two and one-story frame additions on the rear that had been added in 1877 (Figure 13). This remained the configuration of the property through 1920, with the 1900 map showing a frame front porch (see Figure 13). However, by 1921, the rear porch had been replaced with the extant bathroom addition (see Figure 13). This remained the configuration through 1941.

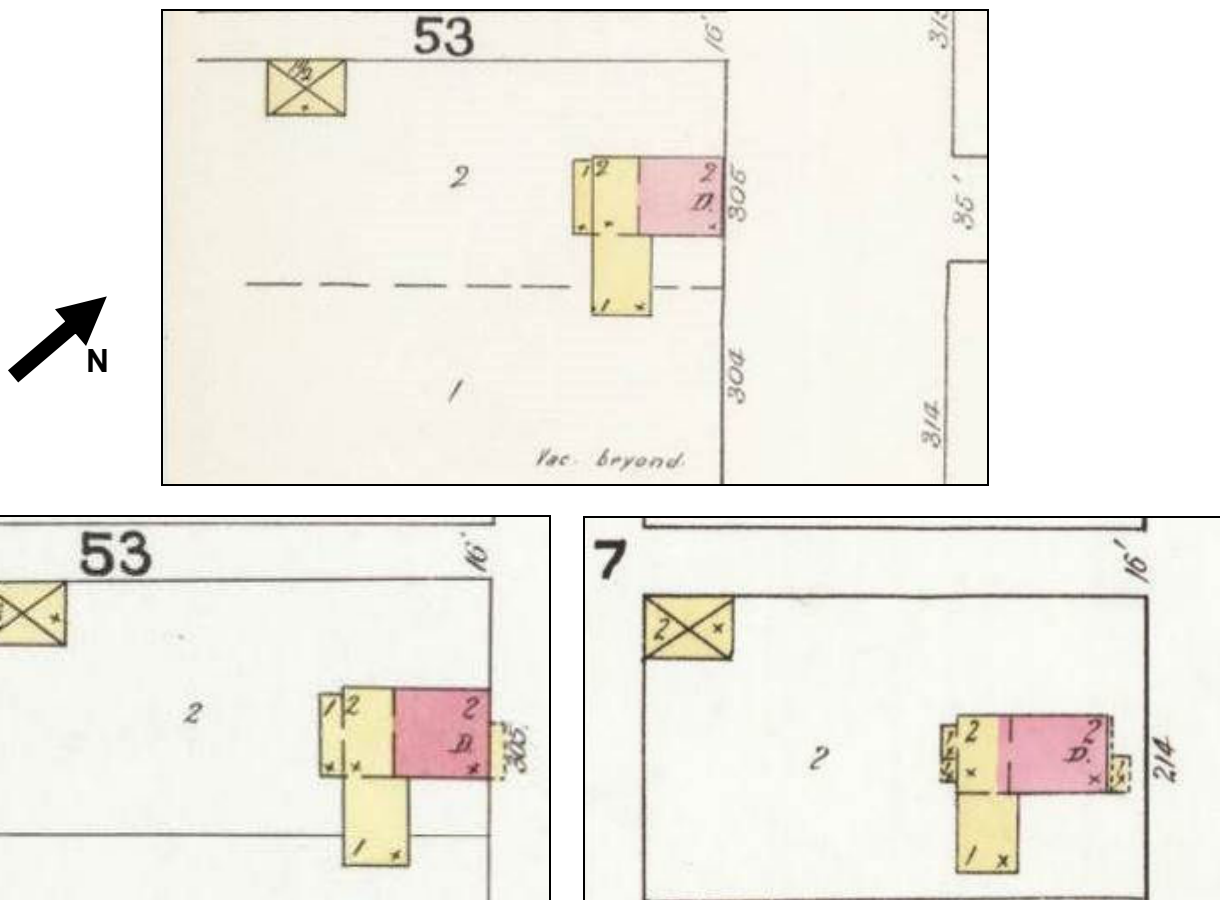


Figure 13. Sanborn maps showing 214 2nd Street SE in 1894 (top, then numbered 306), 1900 (bottom left) and 1921 (bottom right, number now 214). Sources: Sanborn 1894, 1900, 1921.

McCartney, James H. and Mayetta (Degrush), House
Name of Property

Linn County, Iowa
County and State

Archaeological Assessment

The potential for any prehistoric or historic archaeological remains within the property boundary was not evaluated as part of the present National Register nomination. However, the open yard areas to the sides and rear of this house have some potential for intact archaeological evidence of features such as a well, cisterns, privies, and other nonextant outbuildings. The current owner has noted that he finds foundation stones from an older building he believes to be the original detached kitchen in the northwest corner of the yard to the west of the house (Slaton Anthony, personal communication, March 2019).

Acknowledgements

The completion of this nomination was made possible by the assistance of members of the Mt. Vernon Historic Preservation Commission, who compiled the floor plans, conducted on-site photography, conducted historic research, and reviewed the various drafts of the nomination. The property owners also assisted with the compilation of floor plans, photography, and historical materials and reviewed the draft versions of the nomination. The City of Mt. Vernon provided support for the project and cash match towards the grant.

Disclaimer

The activity that is the subject of the National Register nomination has been financed in part with Federal funds from the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior. However, the contents and opinions do not necessarily reflect the view or policies of the Department of the Interior, nor does the mention of trade names or commercial products constitute endorsement or recommendation by the Department of the Interior.

This program receives Federal financial assistance for identification and protection of historic properties. Under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended, the U.S. Department of the Interior prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, disability, or age in its federally assisted programs. If you believe you have been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility as described above or if you desire further information, please write to:

Office of Equal Opportunity
National Park Service
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20204

McCartney, James H. and Mayetta (Degrush), House
Name of Property

Linn County, Iowa
County and State

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

"Obituary, DeWitt McLallen," *Mount Vernon Hawkeye-Record and Lisbon Herald*, November 6, 1930.
Dumbaugh, Janet. "A Survey of Brick Buildings in Mount Vernon, Iowa, 1850-1859. Unpublished typescript prepared for Nineteenth Century Architecture, University of Iowa, November 1980.
Find-A-Grave website at findagrave.com – 12/2018.
"Giannini House, 214 South 2nd Street East," Iowa Site Inventory Form prepared by Mount Vernon Historic Preservation Commission.
Iowa, Select Marriages Index, 1758-1996. Accessed at Ancestry.com – 12/2018.
Iowa State Census, 1854, 1856. Accessed at Ancestry.com – 12/2018.
Long, Barbara. "Historic Resources of Mt. Vernon, Iowa." National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form, National Park Service, Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C., 1991.
Mount Vernon Hawk-Eye, April 16, 1869; *MVH*, September 5, 1873; *MVH*, July 31, 18; *MVH*, May 11, 1877; *MVH*, December 14, 1888
Probate Case Files, 1840-1924, Iowa District Court, Linn County, Iowa. Accessed at Ancestry.com – 12/2018.
Sanborn fire insurance maps of Mount Vernon, Iowa, 1894, 1900, 1906, 1921, and 1941. Obtained from the Library of Congress website, 2018.
Town Lot Transfer Books, Linn County Recorder's Office, Cedar Rapids.
U.S. Federal Census, 1860, 1870, 1880, 1900, 1910, 1920, 1930. Accessed at Ancestry.com – 12/2018.
Western Historical Company. *History of Linn County, Iowa, A History of the County, Its Cities, Towns, Etc.* Chicago: The Western Historical Company, 1878.

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 # _____
 recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

State Historic Preservation Office
 Other State agency
 Federal agency
 Local government
 University
 Other
Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

McCartney, James H. and Mayetta (Degrush), House
Name of Property

Linn County, Iowa
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one

(Do not include previously listed resource acreage; enter "Less than one" if the acreage is .99 or less)

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1	<u>41.920546</u>	<u>-91.416193</u>	3	_____	_____
	Latitude	Longitude		Latitude	Longitude
2	_____	_____	4	_____	_____
	Latitude	Longitude		Latitude	Longitude

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The nominated property is a parcel defined as Lot 2 Block 7 in Saxby's First Addition to Mount Vernon located at on the south side of 2nd Street SE between A Ave SE and B Ave SE. The north and south boundaries are each 66 feet and the east and west boundaries are each 104 feet.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The nominated property includes the entire parcel historically associated with the James H. and Mayetta (Degrush) McCartney House at 214 2nd Street SE in Mount Vernon, Linn County, Iowa.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Jennifer A. Price, PhD/Consultant and Leah D. Rogers, Volunteer date March 1, 2020
organization Price Preservation Research telephone (319) 594-9513
street & number P.O. Box 5201 email jenniferprice1311@icloud.com
city or town Coralville state IA zip code 52241

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **GIS Location Map (Google Earth or BING)**
- **Local Location Map**
- **Site Plan**
- **Floor Plans (As Applicable)**
- **Photo Location Map** (Include for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map and insert immediately after the photo log and before the list of figures).

McCartney, James H. and Mayetta (Degrush), House
Name of Property

Linn County, Iowa
County and State

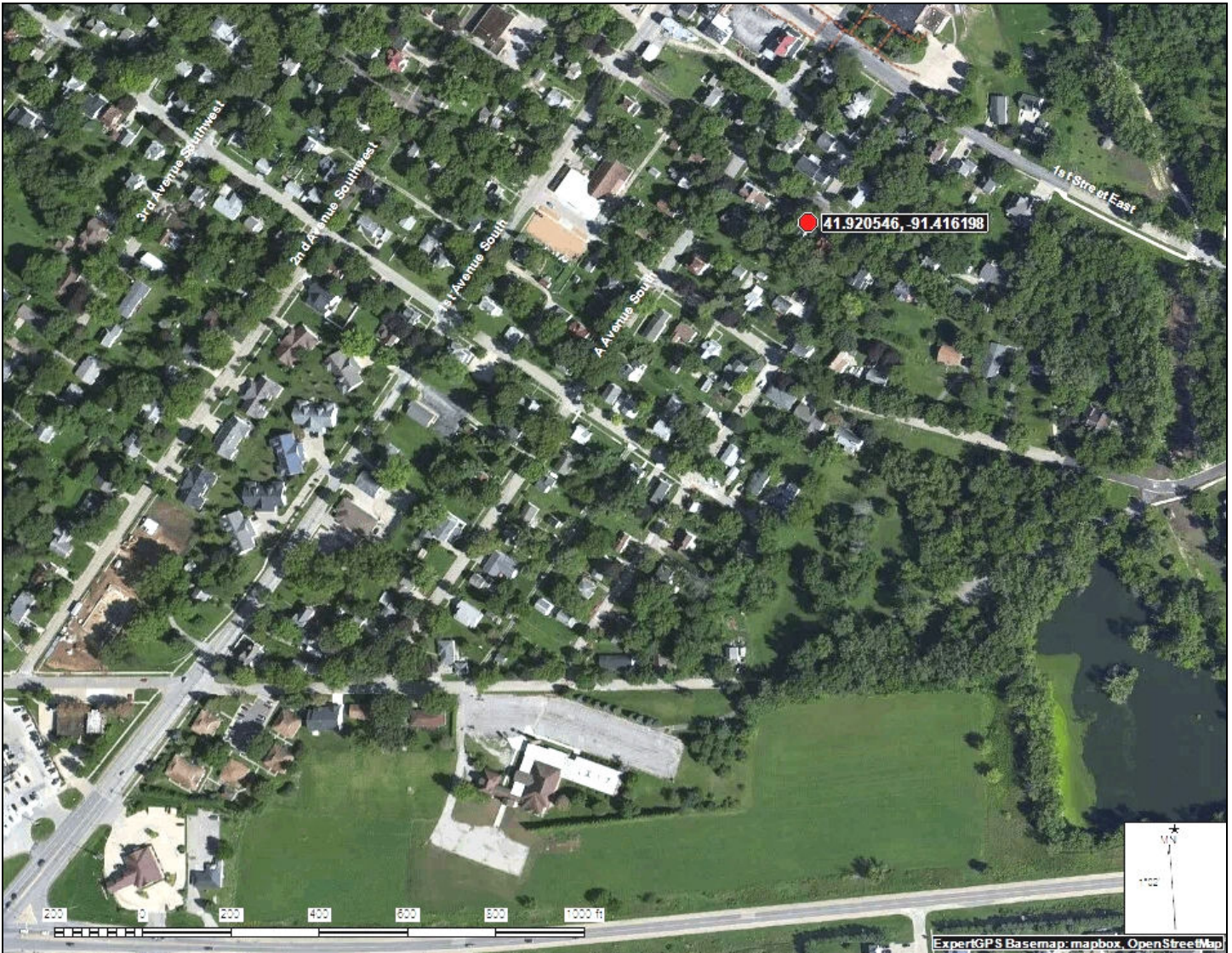


Figure 14. GIS Location Map.
Aerial map obtained from ExpertGPS Pro Mapping Software, 2018.

McCartney, James H. and Mayetta (Degrush), House
Name of Property

Linn County, Iowa
County and State



Figure 15. Local Location Map.
(white dashed line = National Register boundary)
Obtained from Linn County Iowa GIS Website.

McCartney, James H. and Mayetta (Degrush), House
Name of Property

Linn County, Iowa
County and State

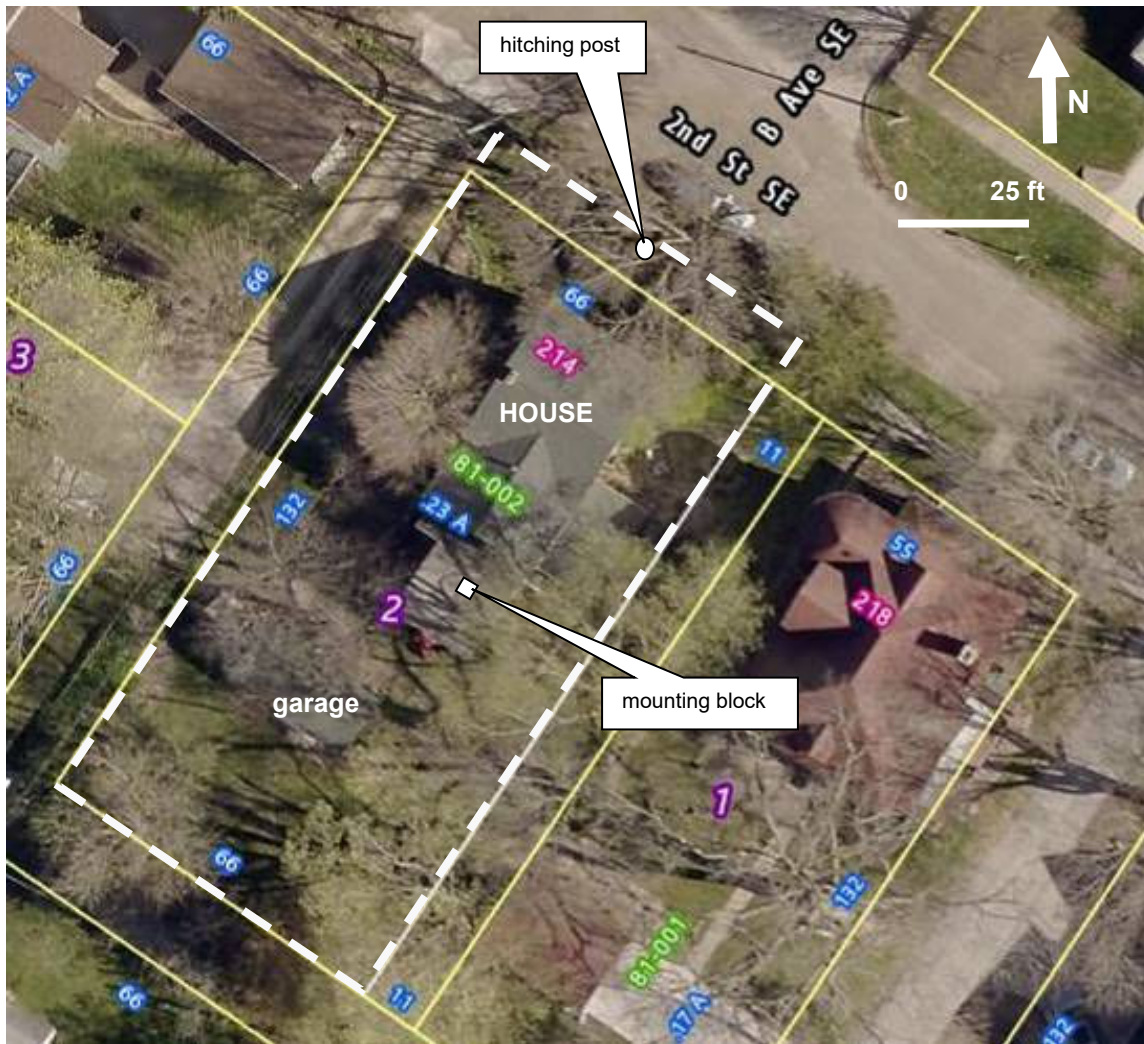
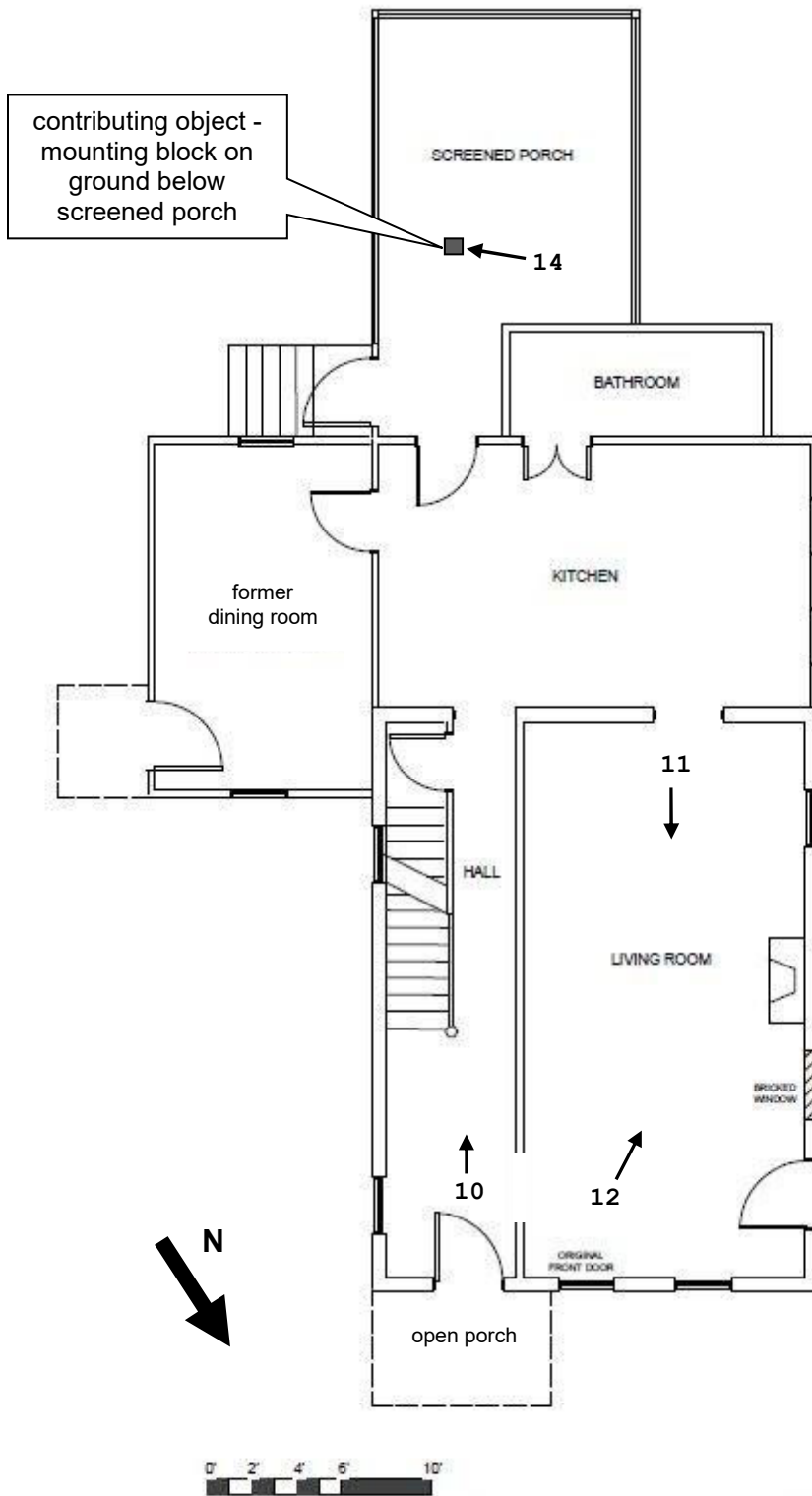


Figure 16. Site Plan Map showing NRHP Boundary of McCartney House.
Aerial obtained from Linn County Iowa GIS website.
(White square and dot = contributing objects)
(Dashed white line = NRHP nomination boundary)

McCartney, James H. and Mayetta (Degrush), House
Name of Property

Linn County, Iowa
County and State

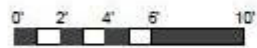
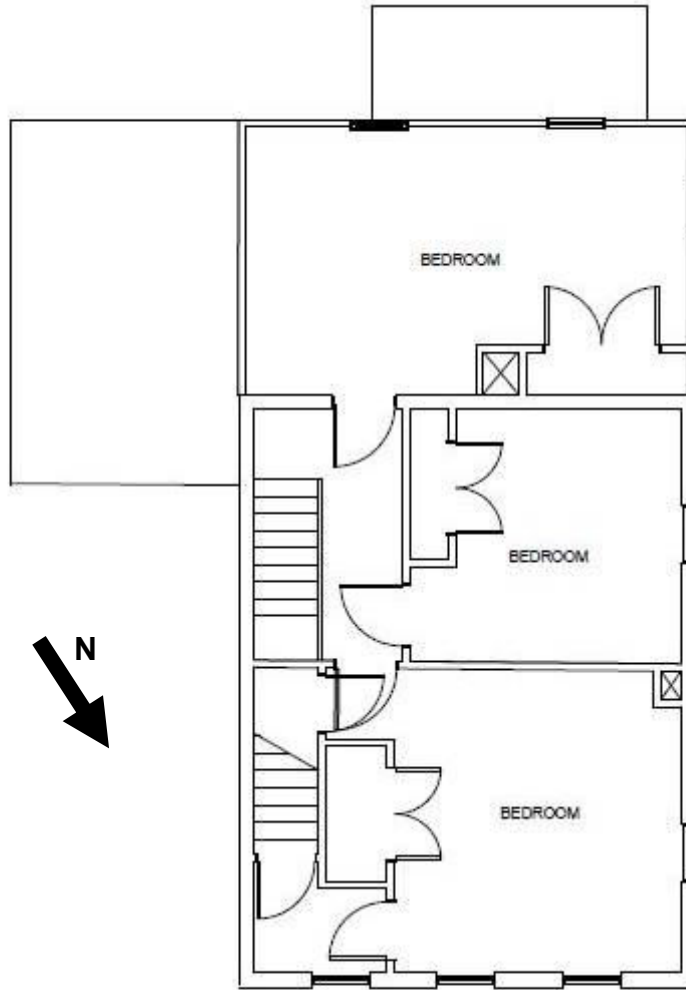


214 2nd St SE - MAIN FLOOR

Figure 17. Main Floor Plan showing direction of photographs #10-11 and 14
Drawn by Ed Sauter, Mount Vernon, Iowa

McCartney, James H. and Mayetta (Degrush), House
Name of Property

Linn County, Iowa
County and State



214 2nd St SE - UPPER FLOOR

Figure 18. Upper Floor Plan

Drawn by Ed Sauter, Mount Vernon, Iowa

McCartney, James H. and Mayetta (Degrush), House
Name of Property

Linn County, Iowa
County and State

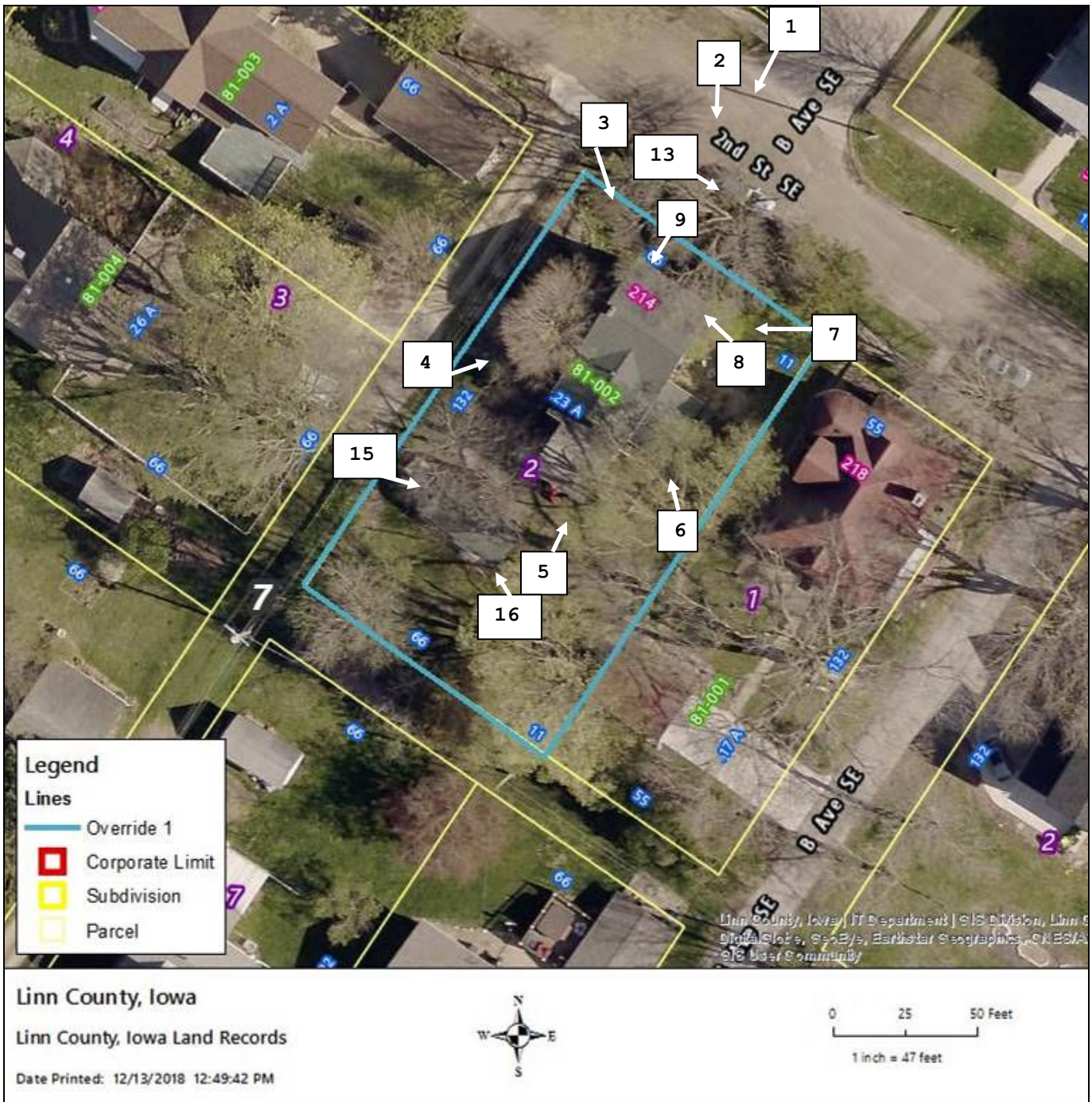


Figure 19. Aerial map showing direction of photographs #1-9 and #13-16
Obtained from Linn County Iowa GIS Website.

McCartney, James H. and Mayetta (Degrush), House
Name of Property

Linn County, Iowa
County and State

Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 3000x2000 pixels, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: McCartney, James H. and Mayetta (Degrush), House
City or Vicinity: Mount Vernon
County: Linn County **State:** IA
Photographer: Mary Evans and Leah Rogers
Date Photographed: May 2, 2018 (photos 1-9) and March 30, 2019 (photos 10-13, 15-16)

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

- Photo 1 of 16: General view of McCartney House looking SW from B Avenue S
- Photo 2 of 16: Façade of McCartney House looking South
- Photo 3 of 16: West side of McCartney House looking SE
- Photo 4 of 16: West side and rear of McCartney House looking ENE
- Photo 5 of 16: Rear of McCartney House looking NNE
- Photo 6 of 16: Rear and east side of McCartney House looking NNW
- Photo 7 of 16: East side of McCartney House looking West
- Photo 8 of 16: Detail of gable-end cornice return on McCartney House
- Photo 9 of 16: Detail of tie rod on façade of McCartney House
- Photo 10 of 16: Interior of front hallway looking SSW
- Photo 11 of 16: Interior of front parlor/living room looking NNE
- Photo 12 of 16: Interior of front parlor/living room looking SW
- Photo 13 of 16: Hitching Post in front of McCartney House looking ENE
- Photo 14 of 16: Mounting Block in rear of McCartney House looking ESE
- Photo 15 of 16: Garage looking ESE
- Photo 16 of 16: Garage looking NW

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.