

Edward W. McCready House  
231 North Euclid Avenue  
(southwest corner of North Euclid  
Avenue and West Erie Street)  
Oak Park  
Cook County  
Illinois

HABS No. ILL-1075

HABS  
ILL,  
16-OAKPA,  
1-

PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

*Reduced Copies of Measured Drawings*

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation  
801 - 19th Street N.W.  
Washington, D.C.

## EDWARD W. McCREADY HOUSE

HABS  
ILL,  
16-OAKPA,  
1-

Location: 231 North Euclid Avenue (southwest corner of North Euclid Avenue and West Erie Street), Oak Park, Cook County, Illinois.

Present Owner and Occupant: F. J. Mahon.

Present Use: Family dwelling.

Statement of Significance: This large, single-family dwelling is a simple, well-executed example of the work done by the Prairie School architects, Spencer and Powers. It was built in the early 1900's in suburban Oak Park.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

## A. Physical History:

1. Original and subsequent owners: Legal description of the property: North 110' of the east half of Block 3 (except part for alley) of James W. Scoville's Subdivision of the west half of the northeast quarter of Section 7-39-13.

The following information is an incomplete chain of title found in Book 110B, pp. 15-18, in the Cook County Recorder's Office: Edward W. McCreedy bought the property from Clara Ullmann and husband on March 1, 1907 (Document 3997522). It was mortgaged with the First Trust and Savings Bank on March 4, 1908 (Document 4168115). In McCreedy's inventory of November 20, 1919, the land and 2031 /sic/ Euclid are mentioned (Document 188/559). Caroline P. McCreedy turned the title deed over to the Northern Trust and Title Company on April 29, 1932 (Document 11085556) and apparently retained the house until May 7, 1958, when Northern Trust turned the deed over to Orville Shostrom (Document 17199464). Shostrom sold the property to F. J. Mahon on May 14, 1963, who then put the title in the Chicago Title and Trust Company (Documents 18805524-5).

2. Date of erection: 1913.
3. Architects: Spencer and Powers.

4. Original plans, construction, etc.: The first published views of the house appeared in The Brickbuilder, Vol. 23, No. 5 (May 1914); included are views of the entrance, the street front, the garden front, and plans of the first and second floors.

B. Historical Events and Persons Connected with the Structure:

The Book of Chicagoan's (1911) includes the following biography of McCready:

McCready, Edward Washington, corks; born Crisfield, Md., May 6, 1860; son George S. and Loney McCready; ed. country schools; married Caroline Pitkin, 1905. Now mgr. and treasurer, R. W. McCready Cork Co., established, 1866, and incorporated, 1891. Clubs: South Shore Country, River Forest Tennis, Chicago Athletic, Westward Ho. Recreations: golf and motoring. Residence: 231 N. Euclid Ave., Oak Park, Ill. Office: 344 W. Illinois St.

C. Bibliography:

Marquis, Albert Nelson (ed.). The Book of Chicagoan's. Chicago: A. N. Marquis & Company, 1911. p. 439.

The Brickbuilder. Vol. 23, No. 5 (May 1914). pls. 73-74.

Prepared by Larry J. Homolka  
Historian and  
Assistant Supervisor  
National Park Service  
September 1965

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: This large, single-family dwelling is a simple, well-executed example of the work done by the Prairie School architects, Spencer and Powers. It was built in the early 1900's in suburban Oak Park.

2. Condition of fabric: Excellent.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: L-shaped, 75'-1" (east front) x 107'-2", two-and-a-half stories.

2. Wall construction: Tawny colored roman brick.
3. Structural system and framing: There is a masonry bearing wall with timber framing and wooden rafters.
4. Porches, stoops: There is a concrete and red-brick stoop at the east (front) main entrance. An entrance porch at the center of the north wall has been enclosed. A breeze-way connects the garage and the house, on the north.
5. Chimneys: One roman brick chimney at the south end of the house.
6. Openings:
  - a. Doorways and doors: All exterior doors have wooden stiles and rails and a center glass panel with leaded geometric design.
  - b. Windows: The casement windows have a leaded geometric design. (The owner has a complete set of replacement windows for the house stored in the attic.)
7. Roof:
  - a. Shape, covering: The hipped roof is covered with flat red tiles.
  - b. Cornice and eaves: There is a plaster soffit with built-up wooden fascia and built-in gutter.
  - c. Dormers, towers: There are two small dormers on the east (front), and one large and one small dormer on the rear. The projecting front entrance bay is accented by tall strip windows located on the landing of the interior stairs.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans:
  - a. Basement: There is a recreation room at south end. Areas for storage, laundry, mechanical equipment occupy the remainder of basement.
  - b. First floor: There is a central entrance and stair hall with a living room to the south; dining room to the west; butler's pantry, kitchen and servant dining room to the north.

- c. Second floor: The master bedroom with dressing room and bath is to the south; guest bedroom with bath, to the north. Two additional bedrooms lie between them.
  - d. Attic: The rooms on the north which were originally servant quarters and bath are now family bedrooms. The south half of the attic is unfinished storage space.
2. Stairways: The main stair from the entrance hall to the second floor has oak treads, risers and railings. A secondary stair just north of the main stair runs from the basement to the third floor.
  3. Wall and ceiling finish: There is matched vertical oak paneling in the entry hall. The walls in the remainder of the house are painted plaster.
  4. Doorways and doors: Doorways and doors are of oak. Doors have recessed center panels.
  5. Decorative features and trim: There is a built-in window seat on the main stair landing. The living room has a dropped beam ceiling. The bottom and sides of the beams are incised with geometric designs similar to those in the windows.
  6. Lighting: The electrical fixtures in the house are not original.
  7. Heating: Central. There are fireplaces of roman brick with wooden mantel and roman brick hearth flush with floor in the basement recreation room, living room, and master bedroom. The living room fireplace has been painted.
- D. Site and Surroundings:
1. General setting and orientation: The house is located on a corner facing east in a well maintained area in the Chicago suburb of Oak Park.
  2. Outbuilding: A semi-detached garage is connected to the house by a breezeway which continues the garage roof line.
  3. Landscaping and walks: A roman brick retaining wall with concrete cap runs along the public sidewalk on the east side of the lot and on the north side back to the point at which the structure begins. The house abuts the sidewalk on the north side. The main entry walk is divided and has planting in the center. There are concrete foliage piers on either side of the main entry walk where it intersects the retaining wall, and concrete foliage urns on each

side of the main entrance stoop. There is an eating terrace at the rear of the house.

Prepared by J. William Rudd  
Supervisory Architect  
National Park Service  
August 1965

### PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

The records and measured drawings of this structure were made during the 1965 Chicago III Project. This was the third in a series of four summer projects designed to record the significant architecture of the Chicago area. Special attention was given to the Chicago and Prairie Schools of Architecture of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The project was sponsored by Mr. Earl A. Reed, FAIA. He was assisted by a Finance Committee composed of John Fugard, FAIA; William E. Hartmann, FAIA; Alfred Shaw, FAIA; and a Selection Committee consisting of James Arkin, AIA; Ruth Schoneman, Art Institute of Chicago; and J. Carson Webster, Northwestern University. Organizations cooperating with HABS in this project were the City of Chicago, the Chicago Chapter of the American Institute of Architects and its Foundation, the Society of Architectural Historians, the Garrick Salvage Fund, and the Women's Architectural League of Chicago. The University of Illinois provided office space.

Professor J. William Rudd, then of the University of Cincinnati, served as the project supervisor. Other members of the summer team were assistant supervisor and Historian, Larry Homolka, Harvard University; photographers, Harold Allen and Richard Nickel; secretary, Mrs. Bert P. Schloss, and student architects, Gary Burk, Texas Technological College; Charles Gregersen, Illinois Institute of Technology; Edward Popko, University of Florida; and Thomas Ross, University of Illinois, Urbana.

Photographic work was done by Richard Nickel in 1967.