

INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY FORM FOR

Fayetteville QUAD

Fayetteville

 MULTIPLE RESOURCE

OR

THEMATIC NOMINATION

1 NAME

HISTORIC

William Mc Diarmid House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

330 Dick Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Fayetteville

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

7th

STATE

North Carolina

VICINITY OF

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

037

Cumberland

051

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
DISTRICT	PUBLIC	X OCCUPIED	AGRICULTURE MUSEUM
BUILDING(S)	X PRIVATE	UNOCCUPIED	COMMERCIAL PARK
STRUCTURE	BOTH	WORK IN PROGRESS	EDUCATIONAL PRIVATE RESIDENCE
SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	ENTERTAINMENT RELIGIOUS
OBJECT	IN PROCESS	YES: RESTRICTED	GOVERNMENT SCIENTIFIC
	BEING CONSIDERED	X YES: UNRESTRICTED	INDUSTRIAL TRANSPORTATION
	N/A	NO	MILITARY X OTHER Law Office

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Reid, Lewis & Deese Attorneys-at-Law

STREET & NUMBER

330 Dick Street

CITY, TOWN

Fayetteville

VICINITY OF

STATE

North Carolina 28302

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Register of Deeds, Cumberland County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

P.O. Box 2039

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Fayetteville

North Carolina 28302

6 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Linda Jasperse, Principal Investigator, City of Fayetteville

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Consultant for Survey and Planning Branch

March 31, 1982

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

Division of Archives and History, 109 E. Jones Street 1-919-733-6545

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Raleigh

North Carolina 27611

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The William McDiarmid House, which dates approximately to 1907, is a typical early twentieth century American "foursquare" following the predominant Late Victorian/Colonial Revival architectural trends of the period. Though the style commonly is found in many Fayetteville neighborhoods--as well as in cities and suburbs all over the nation--the two-story three-bay frame William McDiarmid House is distinguished by a promenade-like wraparound porch and fine materials used in construction. Porches were commonly employed in domestic architecture for practical, aesthetic, and social reasons, and the type used on this house is gracefully designed and well-ornamented. What characterizes the substantial two-and-one-half-story frame hip-roof structure is bold, straightforward design.

The William McDiarmid House rests upon a cinder block foundation, which represents a choice of modern materials over the previously-preferred brick. Its front entrance is dominated by the massive wraparound porch which bears a gazebo-like pentagonal corner projection and a pedimented central gable dormer adorned with curved double bracketing near the base. The porch is supported by Tuscan columns and a heavy balustrade with squat, turned balusters.

The porch shields a three-bay front which is made up of shuttered 1/1 sash windows found singly or in clusters, plus a door in the lower central bay. On the second floor, the central bay contains a reduced-size shuttered opening framed by a miniature balcony. These are found scattered in front of windows throughout the structure. Rising from the roof face above is a pedimented gable dormer which is decorated with modillions and louvered shutters. Another such dormer rests in the rear roof face and bears modillion trim which is found liberally throughout many of the house's exterior cornices. Covered by a hip roof, the main block of the house is served by two interior chimneys. In addition, bays and squared projections on both sides break up the house's squared symmetry, as do several rear rooms which are either original or very early additions.

The main front entrance which the porch shields has double doors with full-length beveled glass panes and a classically-influenced surround. These doors open into a small foyer which has a tiled floor, consisting of circular white tiles with contrasting green ones forming a Greek key design around the perimeter, neatly paneled wainscot, and liberal use of ceiling molding including a heavy, wide cornice.

A second set of double doors lead from the foyer into what was formerly the front parlor. This room is one of the largest and most highly adorned in the house. A squared alcove containing a triple one-over-one sash window, a window seat, and two smooth composite columns with a cross-beam is set into the front (close to the southeast corner) wall. Windows feature 1/1 sash and have beaded hardware and channelled surrounds as do many doors found throughout. Other features include plain wainscot, a coved cornice, simple baseboards and narrow, machine sawn floorboards. In addition, three heavy beams are suspended from the ceiling. Heavy oaken doors lead from this room into the lesser front room.

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William McDiarmid House Architectural
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The floor plan is not entirely symmetrical due to the forward placement of the north side bay and the central-rearward placement of the south side bay. These projections are both two stories high. Halls are centrally located, though on the first floor the back hall begins beyond the front parlor. It contains entrances for several small first floor rooms, a main room, which blends into the south side bay, and the rear section which once housed kitchen facilities and a porch. Decorative features of the hall included cornices highlighted by modillions and rosettes as well as a plain wainscot.

A dog-leg staircase leads upward from this hall to the second floor. It has a squared paneled newel post, slender balusters, and a floral bracket along the string. Plain paneled wainscot lines the stairwell, which is lit at landing level by a tripartite window with diamond mullions in all top sashes.

The upper floor plan generally follows that of the first. Minor alterations to the original include a rear second-story porch which has been enclosed, and the upper hallway which has had two closets removed from the south end in order to make the passageway longer.

An important feature of the rooms on both floors are fireplace mantels. There are a total of six (one in each of the three main rooms on both floors) served by two chimneys. All fireplaces have features in common: ceramic tile faces and hearths (in a variety of colors), iron grates, shallow fireboxes, and classically-influenced architraves. The most elaborate mantels are found on the first floor, the most notable located in the front parlor. Features exhibited in one or more of the mantels include colonettes in the Ionic order, friezework, pilasters, egg-and-dart molding, garlands, beading, mirrors with beveled edges, brackets, and mythical figures.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

NATIONAL

STATE

X LOCAL

PERIOD

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
X 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES ca. 1907

BUILDER/ARCHITECT unknown

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The William McDiarmid House c.1907 is an example of Late Victorian/Colonial Revival architecture which dominated turn-of-the-century domestic architecture in Fayetteville. Its basic foursquare form is distinguished by an immense wraparound porch with corner gazebo and fine materials and detailing -- modillion trim, beaded hardware, diamond-mullioned windows, and six classically-inspired fireplace mantels -- used liberally in construction. These materials were very likely produced or provided for by the house's first owner, William McDiarmid, who was a prominent local wholesale and retail lumber dealer and sash and blind manufacturer. The house, adaptively restored by late local builder/decorator Earl Parks Bandy for use as offices for a local law firm, stands as a notable example and reminder of early century housebuilding trends.

CRITERIA ASSESSMENT

- A. Fayetteville's Dick Street was considered a fashionable residential area in the nineteenth century; this heritage was continued by the addition of fine homes such as the William McDiarmid in the early twentieth century.
- B. The original owner, William McDiarmid, and the subsequent owner, Rufus Brown, were both prominent local lumber suppliers in late nineteenth/early twentieth century Fayetteville.
- C. The substantial two-story frame William McDiarmid House exhibits Late Victorian/Colonial Revival styling and is distinguished by a solid, massive wraparound porch as well as fine materials used in construction.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The William McDiarmid House c. 1907 was built on a lot acquired by Fannie (Mrs. William) McDiarmid in 1906.¹ It was located on Dick Street, then one of downtown Fayetteville's prime residential areas. The neighborhood character of the area was established over one hundred years earlier with the construction of the Sandford House (c. 1800, now the Woman's Club) and the Baker-Haigh-Nimocks House (c. 1804), which are now part of the Heritage Square preservation effort. Both the McDiarmids and Mrs. McDiarmid's sister and brother-in-law, E.L. and Kate Pemberton, chose the Dick Street area as the place to build residences in the first decade of the twentieth century.²

The 1906 lot transfer from Georgie Hicks to Fannie McDiarmid contained an unusual clause. Miss Hicks retained temporary rights as follows:

.... This deed is made and accepted on the express condition, that the title to the lettuce and lettuce beds located on the above described lot shall not pass to the grantee herein, but the party of the first part [Miss Hicks] is to have until the first of May, 1906, to remove the short lettuce beds located on the western part of said lot, and the long bed located past of said short beds is to be removed whenever it becomes necessary to remove the same for the purpose of allowing the party of the second part [Mrs. McDiarmid], her heirs and assigns, to build on the said lot, but said bed shall be removed not later than May 1, 1906, at farthestest...³

According to local historian Jack Crane, lettuce money was pin money for the fashionable ladies in town. They obtained seed locally, cultivated the beds, and took their produce downtown to be sold or shipped out on the fruit and vegetable cargo trains which served Fayetteville. The inclusion of the above clause in a legal transfer of property reflects the importance attached to the lettuce-growing effort by ladies such as Miss Hicks.⁴

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Please see continuation sheet

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Less than one acre

UTM REFERENCES

A 17 6 913 41310 38 8 0 1 8,0
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B 1 1 1 1 1
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C D
VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

All of Lot 14, Block J, Map 78-3-1, Cross Creek Township, outlined in red on map. See map section.

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William McDiarmid was a wholesale and retail lumber distributor in turn-of-the century Fayetteville. Numerous establishments of this type could be found in the area which then was experiencing dramatic economic, population, and neighborhood growth. In 1909-10, for example, there were eleven such establishments in Fayetteville, with seven of the eleven located on Hay Street and five of those seven, including William McDiarmid's, at a central location at 208 Hay Street.⁵ McDiarmid also had an extensive shop complex, complete with a mill, lumber sheds and platforms, a dry house, and a sash, door, and blind manufactory, located one-and-one-half miles southeast of the Market House.⁶ No doubt McDiarmid used some of his finest materials in the construction of his house on Dick Street.

McDiarmid died in 1911⁷ but his company continued to operate throughout the decade with D.W. Currie as its president and general manager.⁸ His widow lived on in the family house until 1925, at which time it was sold to Rufus C. Brown.⁹

Perhaps Brown was a business contact, for he was also in the building supply business. In 1929, Brown was associated with the Rankin and Brown veneer plant, a plywood manufactory.¹⁰ He continued this association throughout the years, and in 1937 he was also president of the Douglas Manufacturing Company, a planing mill establishment, and vice-president of the Home Federal Savings and Loan Association.¹¹ Brown, his wife, and six daughters lived on Dick Street until 1940. It is said that the daughters made the Brown house a favored place for young suitors!¹²

John and Ada Beasley became the new owners of the house in 1940.¹³ After being widowed early in the decade, Ada Beasley opened a boarding house on the premises.¹⁴ This she continued to operate until the early 1970s when she sold it to Fayetteville Investments, Inc. for conversion into office space.¹⁵ Renovated by local builder/decorator Earl Parks Bandy, the building is now used for offices of the law firm Reid, Lewis, and Deese.

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Reference Notes:

¹Miss Georgie Hicks to Mrs. Fannie L. McDiarmid, 27 January 1906, Cumberland County Deeds, Office of the Register of Deeds, Cumberland County Courthouse, Fayetteville, Book 131, Page 590, hereinafter cited as Cumberland County Deeds.

²City Directory for Fayetteville, North Carolina: 1909-10.

³Cumberland County Deeds, Book 131, Page 590.

⁴Interview with Joann Herron, Paralegal, Reid, Lewis, and Deese, by Linda Jasperse, 25 June 1981, Fayetteville, North Carolina.

⁵City Directory for Fayetteville, North Carolina: 1909-10, 94, 181.

⁶Sanborn Map for Fayetteville, North Carolina, 1908, 9, paper copies obtained from the North Carolina Carolina Collection, Wilson Library, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, North Carolina.

⁷WPA, Cross Creek Cemetery Records, paper copies housed at the Cumberland County Public Library, Main Branch, Fayetteville.

⁸City Directory for Fayetteville, North Carolina, 1915-16, 159.

⁹Cumberland County Deeds, Book 322, Page 99.

¹⁰City Directory for Fayetteville, North Carolina, 1928, 69.

¹¹City Directory for Fayetteville, North Carolina, 1937, 49, 221, 390.

¹²"A Tour of Old Fayetteville by Candlelight," Christmas tour booklet, 20 December 1979, Fayetteville, North Carolina, entry entitled "Law Offices of (Pope), Reid, Lewis, and Deese"; hereinafter cited as "Tour Booklet."

¹³Cumberland County Deeds, Book 416, Page 57.

¹⁴City Directory for Fayetteville, North Carolina: 1948-49.

¹⁵City Directory for Fayetteville, North Carolina: 1970, Directory 3, 56; Cumberland County Deeds, Book 2292, Page 129; Articles of Incorporation for Cumberland County, Book 23, Page 499; Tour Booklet.

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References

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Articles of Incorporation for Cumberland County.

City Directory for Fayetteville, North Carolina: 1909-10, 1915-16, 1928, 1937, 1948-49,
1970.

Cumberland County Records: Deeds.

Herron, Joann, Reid, Lewis, and Deese Attorneys-at-law, Fayetteville, North Carolina.
Interview by Linda Jasperse.

Sanborn Insurance Map of Fayetteville: 1908.

"A Tour of Old Fayetteville by Candlelight." Christmas Tour Booklet, 20 December
1979, Fayetteville, North Carolina.

WPA, Cross Creek Cemetery Records. Cumberland County Public Library, Main Branch,
Fayetteville, North Carolina.

