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National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

received

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See Instructions in How to Complete National Register Forms

Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic John A. McKay House and Manufacturing Company

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 100 E. Divine Street

not for publication

city, town Dunn vicinity of

state North Carolina code 037 county Harnett code 085

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied (Mfg. Co.)	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied (house)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: House: vacant

4. Owner of Property

name (House) Leon A. and Leonora C. McKay (Mfg. Co.) Mr. George Glover

street & number 110 E. Divine St. Post St. & Railroad Ave.

city, town Dunn vicinity of state North Carolina 28334

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Harnett County Register of Deeds

street & number Harnett County Courthouse

city, town Dunn state N. C. 28344

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title N/A has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☒ no

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The John A. McKay House and Manufacturing Company provide a valuable picture of industrial history in North Carolina during the late 19th and early and mid-20th centuries. The house and manufacturing complex lie along the east side of the railroad tracks between Divine and Pope Streets in the town of Dunn, Harnett County, North Carolina.

John A. McKay drew his own house plans, modeled after his grandfather's house, Pleasant Plains, in rural Harnett County. Pleasant Plains (destroyed) was a ca. 1840 Greek Revival plantation house. John A. McKay's house has clearly Greek Revival inspiration in its central hall, two-room-deep plan, but also has early 20th century embellishments including a full-facade, one-story porch and two-story portico. The interior detailing is also clearly Colonial Revival. McKay is said to have paid \$8 rather than the going rate of \$5 per 1000 feet of lumber in order to hand pick the lumber for his dwelling. This careful attention to durability is evident in the soundness of the dwelling. Several outbuildings contemporary with the house remain and include a barn, later remodeled with garage doors, a smokehouse with clearly Greek Revival detailing, and a storage/wash house. Around the side and front house yards is an iron fence cast at the foundry. A later board fence separates the house lot from the manufacturing company lots.

The John A. McKay Manufacturing Company began in an old cotton gin building on the south side of Pearsall Street. In 1890 McKay purchased a lot and house from E. M. McDaniel. Three years later he built a foundry behind the house and facing west. The 1904 Sanborn Map shows a two-story U-shaped building which housed a foundry and blacksmith shops, and a number of support buildings (demolished). Across the rear of this main building is a two-story shed and beyond that is a gable roofed ell. Another ell runs to the north from the eastern end of this ell. The original cupola was located at the junction of these ells. This frame building is sheathed in weatherboard and a small one-bay gable roof shelters the loading dock on the west side. The gangplanks which slid under the loading dock are still in place, and were used to reach from the loading dock to the box cars on the siding which ran along the edge of the property. The interior of this building has been altered somewhat to accommodate changing uses. The most significant change was the enclosure of the open U created by the two rear ells.

In 1910 McKay expanded his company to the other side of East Pearsall Street. He had been using a frame structure there for storage and painting prior to this expansion. Between 1910 and 1911/12 McKay built a new foundry, steel house, wood storage house, flask house and combination blacksmith, machine and woodworking shops. The buildings are all frame and rest on brick foundations. All are sheathed in board and batten siding and present a unified appearance. Cupolas were originally on the gable ridges of these principal buildings, but have been removed. This removal of cupolas is the principal change in each building.

The largest, and visually most impressive, building is the U-shaped structure at the south west corner of Railroad and Pearsall Streets. At the northwest corner of the U-shaped building is a two-story tower which housed patterns for a time. The building housed the blacksmith forges, the machine shop with attendant milling machines, planers, punches, and presses, and woodworking shop. The machine shop occupied the central portion of the structure and a huge drive shaft runs the length of this section. It was originally

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powered by a steam engine which was located in the open area of the U. An auxilliary shaft ran down the eastern leg of the U which housed the woodworking shop. In the blacksmith shop there were originally four forges. Later these were replaced by huge presses and a punch. About 1930 the central open area was enclosed to house a trailer bed fabrication section. The machinery was then run off electric motors.

South of this buildings is the steel house which is a gabled building facing the railroad. A rear shed was added at some point after 1925 for additional storage. Opposite it, to the east, is a ca. 1930 wood storage building where the lumber for the trailer beds was kept. is a gable roofed building with six open bays along the east wall. A similar structure, built about 1910, is located to the south of this. Between the two is the pattern room, a brick structure with parapeted end walls, and a steel door. The patterns were checked out each morning and signed back in at night. The principal reason for this was safety and protection from fire.

The 1910 foundary is a long gable roofed building facing the railroad tracks too. To the east, on the south end is an ell which housed cleaning and sandblasting rooms and a room which still contains the oven used to bake the cores. Facing the tracks is a two-story gable roofed tower in which the cupola was housed. A pair of steps run up wither side, and an elevator was located on the front. Coke, lime and iron were lifted in the elevator to the second floor where they were piled and loaded into the cupola for the melting process. The interior of the foundary is exposed construction material and the site of the hearth is earth floored.

Also on the site are the remainders of coke, lime and sand piles. The foundation of the 1910 flack house remains but the sheathing has been used to rehabilitate other buildings on the site.

The McKay Manufacturing Company remained in operation during the Great Depression, although with a drastically reduced staff. After the Depression the company was once again shipping equipment to seven states, and in 1937 a new office was built. This one-story, three-by-three bay structure is sheltered under a pyramidal roof, and is a reminder of the success of the company and the business sense of McKay.

By the mid-20th century the McKay Manufacturing Company was producing equipment for shipment overseas. John A. McKay died in 1950 and the company passed to McKay's grandson, Leon A. McKay who began working with the company as a boy during summers, and he managed the company until 1979 when he sold the manufacturing company to George Glover. Mr. Glover operates an antique business in the machine shop and is working to stabilize the other structures on the site. Although most of the equipment was sold, a number of valuable remnants of the machinery remain. The drive shaft in the machine shop and wood working shop remain. A large number of wood patterns are on display in the antique shop. The core oven is still in place, and even contains a number of cores. These structures and artifacts provide one of the clearest pictures in the state of early 20th century industry. The company and house are a unified tribute to the inventive genius and business acumen of J. A. McKay and provide us with one of the most intact industrial sites in the state.

In the fall of 1985 John Clauser, historical archaeologist with the North Carolina

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Division of Archives and History, made a site visit to the McKay Manufacturing Company to talk with Mr. McKay and to photograph and make a preliminary assessment of the site. He plans at this time to revisit the site to obtain more archaeological information to add to the industrial history record of the state.

Key to inventory:

- P Pivotal. Those structures which define the character of the district.
- C Contributing. Those structures which, by virtue of age, materials, and/or use contribute to the overall character of the district.
- NC Non-contributing. Those structures which, while they are of the same materials, scale, and use are in keeping with the district, but which are not sufficiently old enough to be considered contributing to the district.
- I Intrusion. Those structures which are out of keeping with the scale, use, materials or style of the district.

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INVENTORY

1. John A. McKay House
100 E. Divinie Street
1910
P

The John A. McKay House was built in 1910 for John A. McKay, owner of the John A. McKay Manufacturing Company which is located directly to the south of the house. The plans for the house were drawn up by McKay after his grandfather's house, Pleasant Plains (ca. 1840), in rural Harnett County. The house follows a center hall plan, two rooms deep with interior chimneys and kitchen attached by a porch. The main block is two-by-three bays, and is covered by a hip roof. A nearly full facade one-story porch shelters the front facade. While the massing of the house is Greek Revival, the house features Neo Classical exterior details, especially in the one-bay, two-story gable roofed portico which shelters the central bay entrance. The roof of the portico is supported by paired fluted Ionic columns, as is the one-story porch. Surrounding the front and side yards is a cast iron and chain fence cast at the McKay foundry. Leading up to the porch are three iron steps with "John McKay", Dunn, N. C.", and "1910" cast into them.

The interior features a center hall plan with sheathed wainscot in the stair hall. The stair rises along the east wall of the hall in a single run. Operative transoms surmount doors leading from the stair hall. The west parlor retains its original wallpaper. There are wide baseboards and a Colonial Revival mantel with mirror. This mantel is repeated in the east parlor. The two rear rooms are similarly finished. The second floor follows the first floor plan, with the exception of a bathroom at the rear of the hall.

There is a one-story ell/extension of the hall which leads to the rear porch and kitchen. Lattice work shields the porch. To the west in the addition is a bath. In the center is the dining room and to the west is the kitchen. Between the kitchen and dining room is a pantry. The same Colonial Revival mantel found in the main house is in the dining room on the east wall. The kitchen is simply finished with a plain mantel on the east wall. There is an exterior brick chimney serving the kitchen. The sash here is four-over-four. Off the rear of the kitchen is a small porch.

2. Wash house/wood shed
ca. 1910
C

This small frame outbuilding is contemporary with the main house. The chimney, which once served the wash house, has been removed, and the entry has been altered. The basic form has been retained and the original configuration is apparent.

3. Smokehouse
ca. 1910
C

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The smoke house is finished much the same as the main house, and is reminiscent of the Greek Revival style. It is one-by-one bay under a gable front roof. The gable end faces the kitchen and features a transom over the entrance. The sash is six-over-six. There are modest corner boards.

4. Stable
Pre-1910
C

This gable front frame structure may be the outbuilding which accompanied the house bought by McKay in 1908 from E. . McDaniel. The east end now has a pair of double garage doors, ca. 1920. The structure is sheathed in flush boards.

5. Fence
1910
C

The fence which defines the front and side yards of the main house was cast at the McKay foundary and consists of flat posts joined by two rails and a chain.

The John A. McKay Manufacturing Company

6. John A. McKay Manufacturing Company
1903
P

The manufacturing company originally was housed in an abandoned cotton gin across the street from this structure and is now occupied by the 1910 company buildings. In 1903 McKay built this structure to house the foundary, machine shop, offices, and wood-working shops. The building is U-shaped. The main block is two stories under a gabel roof, and was originally surmounted by a cupole. The front facade, which faces the railroad tracks, is eight bays long and five wide. The entrance is off-center in the fifth bay from the south end, and is sheltered by a one-bay gable roofed porch. There is a three-bay shed addition to the north end of this block which was the office at one time. To the east is a rear shed, two bays wide and two stories tall. Beyond that is a one-story ell under a gable roof. To the north is another one-story ell which housed the foundary. Some of the interior walls have been moved over the years to accomodate changes in the uses of the building. Sash throughout is six-over-six. The site of the original furnace is now covered by a concrete loading dock on the east end of the rear ell.

7. Office
1937
C

This one-story, three-by-three bay frame office under a nearly pyramidal hip roof was built as McKay Manufacturing Company recovered from the Great Depression and was the first expansion project during that period. The central entrance bay is sheltered by a gable roof one-bay porch. Interior trim is simple and functional.

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8. Block storage building
mid-20th century
NC

This small block building was built for storage at the rear of the paint building.

9. Paint Shop
1960
NC

The paint shop is an aluminum building with loading doors on the south side. Items manufactured at the company were painted here. The sides are sheathed in corrugated aluminum.

10. Privy
Post-1925
C

This is a frame board and batten shed-roofed privy which does not appear on the 1925 Dunn Sanborn Map, but is in keeping with the character and scale of the manufacturing company. It may be pre-1925 and simply did not appear on the map.

11. McKay Manufacturing Company
1910
P

In 1910 McKay expanded his operations across East Pearsall Street with the addition of a new complex of buildings. The old manufacturing company was used for a number of things, principally the offices, painting and assembly, and storage. The new manufacturing company is U-shaped with a 12-bay section facing the north. At the northwest corner is a two-story tower with cupola where the patterns were kept on the second floor. The long section housed the machine shop. A drive shaft stretches the length of the building and was powered originally by a steam engine and later by electricity. The equipment powered by this shaft included planers, lathes, milling machines and saws. To the southwest was the blacksmith shop/ell where there were originally four forges; later two were replaced by punches weighing 38,000 pounds and capable of 180-ton punch. To the southeast was the wood-working shop/ell where wood-work and patterns were made for casting. A number of ornamental wood pieces were made here as well. The joists in the manufacturing plant are 26 feet long and are made of long leaf pine. There is double flooring, for both strength and comfort while standing at machinery. The entire structure is sheathed in board and batten siding. The steam engine which originally powered the machinery sat in the open space in the legs of the U.

12. Trailer assembly room
ca. 1930
C

As the company grew and diversified, the open space in the U of the manufacturing

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company was infilled with a room for the assembly of trailer beds capable of handling 2½ to 15 tons. The floor here is cement and bears scars from the presses used to fabricate the beds of trailers. The outside wall is board and batten.

13. Steel House
1910
C

This two-story, four-by-three bay gable-roofed board and batten structure was built to store the iron and steel used at the company. The second floor was used for tin fabrication. A three-by-one bay one-story shed is on the east wall and was used for additional storage space. There was, according to a 1939 post card, a cupola on the roof which has been removed. The gable ends are pedimented and sash is six-over-six throughout. There are ventilators at the gable ends. The interior is plainly and functionally finished.

14. Foundry
1910
P

This L-shaped frame structure was built to house the expanded foundry facilities. The facade facing the railroad tracks is eleven bays long, and has pedimented gable ends. The cupola and bull ladle were located in a gabled projection at the center of this facade. An elevator carried the coke, iron and additives to the second level where the cupola was loaded in layers. Exterior steps (one run remains) led to the second level, and the hearth is also visible on the inside. There is a replacement garage-type door in the south end. The interior is exposed construction material.

15. Cleaning rooms
1910
C

To the east on the southern end of the foundry is a one-story gable roofed ell, shown in the 1939 post card as a one-story shed across the southern end of the foundry as well. This four-by-one bay ell housed storage space, the sandblasting room for cleaning castings, the core room where molds were made, the cleaning shed where a tumbling machine cleaned the castings, and a room which contained the oven for baking the molds. The oven is still in this room. The interior is exposed construction material.

16. Wood Storage Building
1935
C

This six-open-bay frame gable roofed structure was built to store the lumber used to construct trailer beds. There are racks inside on which the lumber was stored. The structure is wood sheathed and the interior is exposed construction material.

17. Boiler Room
ca. 1925
C

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This small structure is located on the end of the wood storage building, separated by a brick stepped parapet. It was originally a boiler room and later housed a small forge.

18. Pattern Room
ca. 1925
C

The pattern room was used to store the patterns used in preparing the iron castings. This 11:1 common bond brick building has only one bay -- a steel door -- for security. The southern end is a parapet brick wall which separated it from the flask shop.

19. Flask Shop
1910
C

This area has seven open bays along the eastern wall. Here foundry tools were stored. The end bay was added and used for storage of various sands used in the casting and cleaning processes.

20. Privy
1910
C

This frame shed roofed privy appears on the 1913 Sanborn map of the company. It is sheathed with board and batten siding consistent with the other 1910 buildings.

21. Dump
C

During the operation of the foundry, blacksmith shop and other operations, this was the dump site for slag, iron, and other materials.

22. Spur line track bed
C

The spur line from the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad to the manufacturing company appears on the 1913 Sanborn maps. The tracks have since been removed, but the line originally ran beside the blacksmith wing, the steel house and the foundry.

23. Storage piles
C

The coke, sand and lime used in the casting process were stored here in piles. The remnants of the piles still lie here.

24. Foundation of the Flask Room
C

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The foundation of an early flask room is located at the end of the foundary building. The brick foundation still stands, but the board and batten siding has been salvaged to replace siding on other buildings at the site.

8. Significance

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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates	1895, ca. 1910 (Mfg. Co.)	Builder/Architect	Unknown
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Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The John A. McKay House and Manufacturing Company property is composed of the 1910 residence of John A. McKay, and the manufacturing company complex, built between 1889 and the 1930s. The house is a typical type, two story, central hall with two story portico, which was prevalent during the turn of the century in many North Carolina towns. The John A. McKay Manufacturing Company originally occupied a cotton gin on the site of the 1914 manufacturing plant. The operation was moved across the street in 1895 to new quarters, and during the next forty years expanded to occupy a complex of buildings occupying the better part of two blocks. John A. McKay was an inventor of agricultural equipment and had facilities for wood and metal fabrication. In addition to the physical plant, much of the original equipment and patterns are still in the manufacturing plant and remain a source of information about foundries in the state.

CRITERIA ASSESSMENT:

- A. Is associated with the growth of industrialization in then-rural North Carolina. McKay was responsible for improving and inventing new farm implements to improve the production on farms in ten states in which the company did business.
- B. John A. McKay, son of Dr. John McKay of Harnett County, was an inventor and entrepreneur who began as a carpenter, later a hardware shop owner/partner, who built a prosperous and efficient manufacturing company which turned out farm equipment and other iron and wood products.
- C. Is one of a very few intact foundries in the state. The house is of fine craftsmanship and embodies a style typical of the time and area. The manufacturing company is also of fine workmanship and represents several styles in building over the years of its growth.
- D. The site is extremely likely to yield valuable information about the foundry, iron-working, fabrication, and machine work industry in North Carolina.

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The McKay House, located at 100 E. Divine Street in Dunn, Harnett County, North Carolina was built in 1910 by John Archibald McKay. McKay was born in Harnett County in 1863, the son of Dr. John A. McKay. The McKay family were Scots Presbyterians who settled in Harnett County in the 1700s. John A. McKay later split from the Presbyterian church and became a Baptist. He was educated at the Lillington Academy and went to work as a carpenter. He moved from Buies Creek to Dunn in 1886.¹

In September 1888 McKay formed a partnership with Owen Houston as the McKay and Houston Hardware Store in Dunn. The store sold agricultural implements, brick mason's tools, turpentine tools, buggy and wagon material, fire irons, and plow castings, according to an 1888 advertisement. In December of the same year Houston sold his interest to McKay and in 1889 McKay opened a small iron working shop in an abandoned cotton gin which he rented at the southeast corner of Railroad and Pearsall Streets. The shop initially produced turpentine distilleries and equipment, and was the first industry in Dunn other than lumber mills. Within a few years the turpentine industry waned as the pine forests were depleted and McKay turned to the manufacture of horse-drawn farm equipment.²

On April 17, 1889, McKay married Melissa Massengail of neighboring Johnston County. The Reverend J. A. Campbell officiated at the ceremony. Campbell was a prominent Baptist educator and minister who founded the Buies Creek Academy at Buies Creek, which later became Campbell College.³ John and Melissa McKay had five children: George, Leon, Mary, Lucy and John A., Jr.

The McKays purchased the lot at the corner of Divine and Railroad streets, to the north of the foundry lot, from E. J. McDaniel in 1890.⁴ About 1893 McKay built a new foundry and shop on the southern end of the lot to house his expanding business. The 1904 Sanborn map shows this building, several support structures, and the house and outbuildings which McKay bought from McDaniel.⁵ This dwelling was later moved to another site in Dunn, and in 1910 McKay built the present house. The house plans were drawn by McKay after his grandfather's house, Pleasant Plains (ca. 1840 and now destroyed) in Harnett County on the Old State Road between Erwin and Buies Creek. The house has traditional Greek Revival massing and plan, a center hall, two rooms deep, with more contemporary Colonial Revival embellishments, including a nearly full facade one-story porch supported by Ionic columns, with two story portico, and Colonial Revival mantels. The house and manufacturing company are situated on the east side of the Wilson to Fayetteville Short Cut (later the Atlantic Coast Line) Railroad. Family tradition states that the proximity to the railroad line caused the clocks to run erratically as trains went by, and the house was often filled with smoke from passing trains.⁶ The three steps to the house were cast at the foundry and read: John A. McKay; Dunn, N. C.; 1910. The iron fence around the front and side yards was also a product of the foundry.

After several years McKay shifted from turpentine equipment to the production of farm machinery, first horse-drawn, and later tractor-powered. The company produced a number of kinds of equipment and McKay, who was a talented machinist, held patents on a number of pieces of equipment as well. The company produced stalk cutters for tobacco and cotton. In the early twentieth century improved farming practices called for the cutting and plowing under of stalks to prevent the wintering-over of cotton boll weevils and tobacco worms. McKay invented a stalkcutter capable of cutting the tough stalk. In addition, the company produced a number of planters and fertilizer spreaders.⁷

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In 1910/11 McKay expanded his business across Pearsall Street with the addition of a new, larger foundary, and a combination wood-working, metal shop, blacksmith operation, along with the necessary support buildings. The 1913 Sanborn maps show the expanded facilities, along with the original foundary, then used for painting. The company was now capable of producing all the necessary castings for its products. The plant advertised that it was equiped to make anything metal special order if it did not already product the required pieces.⁸

The McKay foundary was able to produce plans and patterns in the wood-working and blacksmith shops, and the patterns weve kept locked in the brick pattern room, built specifical for that purpose to protect the patterns from the threat of fire. Molds were made on the premises, and the iron was smelted in the cupola, in a two-story tower attached to the foundary building. The iron, coke and lime (to remove impurities from the iron) were layered in the cupola. The pours were made as successive layers of iron were melted. The castings were then cooled and taken to the sand-blasting room where they were blasted clean of any sand from the molds. The pieces were painted and assembled on site. Wooden parts of the various pieces of equipment were also produced by McKay. In the machine shop/woodworking shop a huge shaft drive stretahes across the ceiling, and once powered lathes and saws, planers and milling machines. The shaft drive was originally powered by steam and later with electric power.

Shipments were taken to the depot on mule-drawn wagons until the early twentieth century when the railroad ran directly to the foundary. Coke, lime, steel, iron and lumber were off-loaded and the finished products were loaded and shipped. The gang planks are still in place under the loading platform from the assembly rooms located in the 1893 building. The tracks have been removed, but the bed remains, as do piles of coke, lime and sand.¹⁰

By the beginning of the Great Depression John A.'s son, George Preston, was also working at the manufacturing company. It took until 1931 for the effects to be seriously felt, but much of the responsibility fell to George McKay. According to Leon A. McKay, son of George P. McKay, and later owner of the company, the McKays were able to keep the company in operation during the depression through lay-offs, and at least one deal with a local grocer to accept chits from the McKay employees until the company could adapt to the changing economy. The McKay's were able to redeem the vowells after a few months, and kept the company going when other companies throughout the country, county and town were going out of business. By 1937 the company had recovered and a new office was built.¹¹

The sucess of the company during the depression and the revival of the business after the economic devastation of those years were significant in the history of Dunn and the state. The ability of the company to weather those years, and to rebuild represent a triumph for the McKays and the economy of the town of Dunn. The 1937 office building is an important reminder of the ability of the McKays as businessmen.

The John A. McKay Company operated until 1979, first under the leadership of John A. McKay, then George P., and finally Leon A. McKay. John A. McKay died in 1950, after the death of his son George, and willed his house and furnishings to his daughter, Lucy McKay Westbrook, and his son, John A. McKay, Jr., for their lifetimes, after which the house was to be sold, and the proceeds split among the family members.¹² Lucy M. West-

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Page

brook lived in the house until her death in 1974. John A. Jr., moved into a nursing home in 1982; the house is now owned by Leon A. McKay. The Manufacturing Company was sold to George Glover in 1979. Glover has stabilized the 1910 machine shop and currently operates an antique shop there. ¹³

The John A. McKay House and Manufacturing Company are an important reminder of John A. McKay and his ability to find solutions to agricultural problems, to fabricate prototypes of equipment to solve those problems, and then to manufacture them. He did business in a ten-state area and overseas at the height of production. The house overlooks the enterprises of its builder and together the house and the manufacturing company present a tangible look at an early twentieth century entrepreneur. The company is a valuable example of industrial architecture, and the abundance of equipment which remains provides us with a record of the iron foundry business in the early twentieth century.

John Clauser, historic archaeologist with the Archaeology Branch of the North Carolina Division of Archives and History, has made a preliminary investigation of the site, and has plans to revisit the site and record the site more fully. Mr. Leon A. McKay, grandson of John A. McKay, worked in the factory for forty years, and has recounted some of the history of the foundry process.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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Continuation sheet McKay Hse. & Mfg. Co. Item number 8 Page 4

FOOTNOTES:

- 1 Harnett Courier, April 6, 1889.
- 2 Harnett Courier, April 6, 1889.
- 3 Harnett Courier, April 17, 1889.
- 4 Harnett County Deed Book B-2, p. 241, June 7, 1890.
- 5 Sanborn Insurance Map, Dunn, N. C., 1904.
- 6 Interview with Leon A. McKay by Barbara Jo Brown, 1982.
- 7 The Weekly Guide, Dunn, N. C., July 3, 1913.
- 8 Sanborn Insurance Map, Dunn, N. C., 1913.
- 9 Interview with Leon A. McKay by Virginia Oswald, August 27, 1985; hereinafter cited as McKay Interview.
- 10 McKay Interview.
- 11 McKay Interview.
- 12 Harnett County Will Book 8, p. 69-70.
- 13 Harnett County Deed Book 689, p. 759.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Harnett County Records
Harnett Courier, Dunn, N. C.
The Weekly Guide, Dunn, N. C.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 3 acres ±

Quadrangle name Dunn, N. C.

Quadrangle scale 1:24 000

UTM References

A

1	7
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7	1	7	0	6	0
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3	9	0	9	3	4	0
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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Approximately three acres bounded by Pope and Divine Streets and Railroad Avenue, and unpaved alley between Dixon and Pope Streets. Site map and copy of Glover deed are attached.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
N/A		N/A	

state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title History: Barbara Jo Brown Architectural Description: E. V. Oswald

organization Survey and Planning Branch date September 10, 1985

street & number 109 E. Jones Street telephone (919) 733-6545

city or town Raleigh state North Carolina 27611

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

☐ national ☒ state ☐ local

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature *William J. Rupp*

title State Historic Preservation Officer date October 10, 1985

For NPS use only

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

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

John A. McKay House and Manufacturing Co.
Dunn, Harnett County, North Carolina

- 1 John A. McKay House
1910
- 2 Washhouse
ca. 1910
- 3 Smokehouse
Ca. 1910
- 4 Stable
Pre-1910
- 5 Wrought Iron Fence
1910
- 6 Foundary
1903
- 7 Office
1937
- 8 Storage
Mid-20th century
- 9 Paint Shop
ca. 1960
- 10 Privy
ca. 1925
- 11 Machine Shop
1910
- 12 Trailer Shop
ca. 1930
- 13 Steel Storage
1910
- 14 Foundary and Cupola
1910
- 15 Cleaning Shed/Core Room/Sand Blasting
1910
- 16 Wood Storage (Trailer beds)
ca. 1930
- Boiler Room & Forge
- 17 Pattern Room
ca. 1910
- 18 Flask Room, tool storage
late 1920s
- 19 Wood Storage
1910
- 20 Privy
1910
- 21 Dump for Blacksmith shop
- 22 Bed of Rail line spur
- 23 Coal, sand, coke, lime heaps
- 24 Site/foundation of 1913 flask house



