

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

received FEB 19 1986

date entered MAR 20 1986

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*

Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic HUMPHREY-McMEEKIN HOUSE

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 2240 Douglass Boulevard \_\_\_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Louisville \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of

state Kentucky code 021 county Jefferson code

3. Classification

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input 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	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Mr. & Mrs. Don Ingwerson

street & number 2240 Douglass Boulevard

city, town Louisville \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of state Kentucky

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Jefferson County Courthouse

street & number Sixth & Jefferson Streets

city, town Louisville \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of state Kentucky

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Kentucky Historic Resources Inventory has this property been determined eligible? \_\_\_\_\_ yes  no

date 1983 \_\_\_\_\_ federal  state \_\_\_\_\_ county \_\_\_\_\_ local

depository for survey records Kentucky Heritage Council

city, town Frankfort \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of state Kentucky

## 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 **Humphrey-McKeekin House** is located just within the eastern-most boundary of the Highlands District (National Register, 1982). It is situated in the center of the corner lot formed by the intersection of Ellerbe Avenue and Douglass Boulevard.

This two-and-one-half story brick structure is "T" shaped with a solid, block-like massing. The recessed entry features a paneled door flanked by sidelights with curvilinear tracery, all of which is surmounted by an elliptically arched transom. The entryway is framed by a formal door surround composed of fluted, square, doric pilasters supporting a wide entablature with a balconet above. Small, multi-light windows with oval frames are found on either side of the doorway. On the five ranked front facade the windows are aligned horizontally and vertically in symmetrical rows. The twelve-over-sixteen windows on the first floor are low and rest very close to the building's foundation. The shorter second floor windows have an eight-over-eight light arrangement. Voussoirs and keystones embellish all of these windows heads with stone sills found below. Centered directly above the main entrance to the building is a stone cartouche incised with 1915, the year in which the building was completed. Six-light casement windows flank the centered cartouche. The building's cornice is bracketed. The steeply pitched slate roof features three evenly spaced gabled roof dormers with arched windows. Two massive chimneys rise from the roof to a height equaling the roof's ridgeline and are topped by three chimney pots each. The wide chimneys with coping, found at the building's side-facing gable ends, are non-functional, serving purely to enhance the building's roofline. The building's general box-like character is modified by identical, two-story, semi-circular porticos. Each features colossal columns and fretwork balastrades. The rear of the house forms one arm of the "T". It is two stories in height and has two, large, arched windows to the rear.

The interior of the Humphrey-McMeekin House is based on a central hall plan. A curved staircase that envelopes a glass and steel elevator (later addition) is flanked on one side by a large, well-appointed living room and on the other by a small wood paneled library and larger dining room. Both the living room and the dining room are richly enhanced by plaster moldings. The main block of the first floor is contrasted by the less opulent second floor. Attractive fireplaces are found in two of the four bedrooms. The most outstanding feature on the third floor is the large playroom with vaulted ceilings. The rear portion of the house is that which forms one end of the building "T" shape and was designed as a service area. A drive-in garage on the ground floor is topped by a first floor kitchen and pantry area with the second floor housing the servant's quarters.

Some unexpected amenities that reflect the owner's lifestyle include house phones to call the servants and a large safe in the pantry area that was probably used to store silver and other valuables.

## 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 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
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 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      1915

Builder/Architect    J. B. Hutchins & Gray and Wishmeyers

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The **Humphrey-McMeekin House**, designed by the architects George Gray and Herman Wishmeyer, is significant under Criterion C as one of Louisville's finest examples of the Colonial Revival style. The house captures the essence of this style in its free use and admixture of elements of various "colonial" styles. The visitor is welcomed by a handsomely arranged entrance which is slightly recessed and has an elliptical transom, sidelights, and a surround with pilasters and entablature. Splayed jack arches with stone keystones ornament the windows, which are over-large with twelve-over-sixteen sash. The massing and decorative brickwork of the chimneys is Renaissance in reference, while the two semi-circular porch projections found at the building's gable ends bear colossal Corinthian columns and balustrades styled after the "Chinese Chippendale" furnishings of the eighteenth century. The interior demonstrates such "colonial" features as well as those appropriate to the Arts and Crafts movement contemporary with the construction of the house (1915).

The architects responsible for the design of the **Humphrey-McMeekin House** were George Gray and Herman Wishmeyer. George H. Gray (1874-1945) grew up in Baltimore and received a B.A. degree from John Hopkins University. He worked as a student in architectural offices for several years before studying at the Ecole des Beaux Arts in Paris. He subsequently moved to Louisville and worked for D. X. Murphy, later forming his own firms under the names Gray and Hawes and Gray and Wishmeyer. He left Louisville in 1917 to join the service and later settled in New Haven, Connecticut.

Herman Wishmeyer (1875-1945) was a native of Baltimore who moved to Louisville and attended high school there. He next attended the Polytechnic Schools in Germany. He returned to Kentucky and began working with D. X. Murphy. His partnership with Gray began in 1912 and continued until 1917.

The Alfred Struck Company was responsible for executing the architect's design for the **Humphrey-McMeekin House**.

Lewis C. Humphrey and his wife, the former Eleanor Belknap, purchased the plot of land upon which the **Humphrey-McMeekin House** was built in 1914. Both were Louisville natives. Mr. Humphrey was associated for twenty-eight years as a news writer, political editor, and city editor for the Evening Post and was associate editor of the Herald-Post for two years until his death in 1927 at the age of fifty-one.

The next prominent owners of the property were Sam H. and Isabel McMeekin. They purchased this property in 1973. Sam McMeekin was the sports editor for the Courier-Journal from 1911 until 1923 when he assumed the position of placing judge and later steward for Churchill Downs. From 1937 to 1941 he was city safety director under

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet

# 10. Geographical Data

Acree of nominated property Less than one acre

Quadrangle name Louisville East

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A 

1	6	6	1	5	0	2	0	4	2	3	1	7	5	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

E 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

Verbal boundary description and justification

The legal description of this property is City of Louisville Block 78E, Lot 43.

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

state code county code

state code county code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Joanne Weeter, Research

organization Louisville Landmarks Commission date December, 1985

street & number 727 West Main Street telephone 502/587-3501

city or town Louisville state Kentucky

# 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

*David C. Morgan*

title STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER

date 7-13-86

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

*James M. McPherson*  
Keeper of the National Register

Entered in the  
National Register

date 3/20/86

Attest:

Chief of Registration

date

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Humphrey-McMeekin House

Continuation sheet Louisville, Jefferson Co., KY Item number

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the mayoral administration of Joseph D. Scholtz. In 1941 he resumed his position at Churchill Downs, later becoming an officer. He also worked for several other tracks in the mid-west that were owned by the American Turf Association until his death in 1965 at the age of seventy-six. Isabel McMeekin gained a high degree of respect and recognition as an author. She wrote both under her married name and under the pseudonum Clark McMeekin for those books she co-authored with Dorothy Park Clark. Alone or together she had a hand in writing twenty-six books. Show Me A Land, published in 1940 and written by the Clark/McMeekin team, was on the New York Times best seller list for several months.

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**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

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Allgeier, M. A., "Highlands Historic District." National Register Nomination, October 1982.

Caron's Annual Directories of the City of Louisville.

City of Louisville. Louisville Survey East Report. Louisville: Community Development Cabinet, 1979.

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McAlester, Virginia and Lee, Field Guide to American Houses. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1984.

Withy, Henry F. and Elsie Rayburn Withy, Biographical Dictionary of American Architects. Los Angeles: Hennessey and Ingalls, 1956.

Humphrey-McMeekin House  
2240 Douglass Blvd  
Louisville, Jefferson Co. KY  
Sanborn Map #920  
Sanborn Map Co. Inc.  
629 Fifth Ave.  
Pelham, N. Y.



LOUISVILLE KY VOL 9  
920



SCALE OF FEET  
0 50 100 200  
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Humphrey-McMeekin House  
2240 Douglass Blvd  
Louisville, Jefferson Co., KY  
Joanne Weeter  
Louisville Landmarks Commission  
727 W Main St  
Louisville, KY 40202

HIGHLANDS HISTORIC DISTRICT

February 11, 1983