

## Churchill Woods – McKee House and Buildings Fact Sheet

### Summary of Current Situation:

In recent months the DuPage County Forest Preserve Commissioners decided to raze the Churchill Woods McKee house property. The McKee house and associated structures are historically and architecturally significant, warranting preservation. Since the reasons for demolishing the McKee House and property are primarily financially driven, alternative proposals, including those that are revenue generating, should be considered by the Commission. Until alternatives may be explored, the Commission is urged to impose an immediate moratorium on razing the McKee House and property.

### Why are the McKee House and property significant?

- Eligible for the National Register of Historic Places by meeting all the Register's criteria:
  - Be associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history
  - Be associated with the lives of persons significant in our past
  - Embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction; represent the work of a master; possess high artistic value; or represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction (Have yielded, or be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.
- Designed and occupied by the DuPage County Forest Preserve's pioneer, first superintendent Robert L. McKee who founded DuPage County' forest preserve district and served for 30 years as an early environmentalist who vigorously supported reforestation and battled Dutch Elm disease and water pollution.
- Architecturally representative as a two-story Colonial Revival limestone edifice with almost symmetrical wings to the east and west
- Built in 1936 by the Works Progress Administration (WPA) under Robert L. McKee's supervision
- Attractive and ample stone structures set among a natural setting of mature oaks, shagbark hickory, and other vibrant plantings
- Possess significant potential for multiple public uses with easy access via a major road and plentiful parking:
  - Events, e.g. wedding receptions, corporation functions, and public meetings, similar to Wheaton's Danada house
  - Third party, non-profit or governmental organizational residence
  - Artists' colony with local programs
  - Other - - There are endless possibilities for this property

### What needs to be done to the McKee House and property?

- Mold removal and abatement
- Asbestos removal
- Basic structural upgrades to meet modern day code requirements

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How could McKee House be saved if funding is not available?

- Attracting local governments to consider property for use, e.g. alternative to Glen Ellyn boathouse plans
- Apply for grants and donor contribution
- Reassign priorities to the McKee House and property renovation

How can I help save the McKee House and properties?

- Write via e-mail the Forest Preserve Commissioners
  - D. "Dewey" Pierotti, Jr. (Forest Preserve District President) → [dpierotti@forestpreserve.com](mailto:dpierotti@forestpreserve.com)
  - Marsha Murphy → [mmurphy@dupageforest.com](mailto:mmurphy@dupageforest.com)
  - Joseph Cantore → [jfcantore@dupageforest.com](mailto:jfcantore@dupageforest.com)
  - Wallace Brown → [wbrown@dupageforest.com](mailto:wbrown@dupageforest.com)
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  - Roger G. Kotecki → [rkotecki@dupageforest.com](mailto:rkotecki@dupageforest.com)

Where are the McKee House and Properties?

- Located just east of the Churchill Woods main parking lot, directly situated on St. Charles Road, east of Swift Road and west of Rte. 53