

Midhurst, J. M. McBryde Estate, Blacksburg, Va.

Midhurst, J. M. McBryde Estate, Blacksburg, Va. (reproduction)

n.d.



Title Statement

Midhurst, J. M. McBryde Estate, Blacksburg, Va. Midhurst, J. M. McBryde Estate, Blacksburg, Va., January 28, 1932 Map.0689

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Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

Map.0689

Unit Date

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Maps

1 (object)

Language

The materials in the collection are in English.

Abstract

Blueprint copy of Map 0276, showing the Midhurst estate of J. M. McBryde, near Blacksburg, Virginia, in 1932. John McLauren McBryde (1841-1923) was the fifth president of Virginia Tech from 1891 thru 1907.

Creator

Wall, W. F.

Extent

0.1 Cubic Feet 29 x 17 in.

Repository

Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech

Administrative Information

Biographical Note

Known as the "father of VPI," John McLaren McBryde (January 1, 1841-March 20, 1923) was the fifth president of Virginia Agricultural and Mechanical College and Polytechnic Institute (VPI, or Virginia Tech). He was born in Abbeville, South Carolina, to Susan McLaren and John McBryde, a Scottish cotton merchant. In December of 1858, John McLaren McBryde enrolled in South Carolina College (later the University of South Carolina) in Columbia, South Carolina. He later transferred to the University of Virginia in 1859, leaving in 1861 to fight in the American Civil War for the Confederacy. Having joined the military, McBryde was stationed on both Sullivan and Morris Islands, reportedly seeing the first shot fired on Fort Sumter. In 1862, McBryde contracted typhus fever and was forced to leave the army, but went on to work for the Treasury Department of the Confederate States of America in Richmond, Virginia.

Following the end of the Civil War, McBryde ran a large farm named Branchland in Charlottesville, Virginia. During this time, he published numerous articles on the subject of agriculture, gaining him the attention that eventually led to his appointment as a Professor of Agriculture and Botany at the University of Tennessee in 1879. In 1882, McBryde was offered a chair at the South Carolina College, where he remained until 1891, expanding it into a university after becoming president. In 1891, South Carolina University was again reduced to a college and its agricultural department moved to Clemson, leading to McBryde's acceptance of the Presidency at the Virginia Agricultural and Mechanical College (VAMC).

During his time at Virginia Tech, McBryde divided the college into separate departments, expanded the curriculum, oversaw the installation of an infirmary and a new water system, added dormitories and faculty housing, and increased enrollment from 135 students in 1891 to 727 by 1903. After his retirement in 1907, McBryde was the first person elected president emeritus for the college, eventually becoming known as "the father of VPI."

On November 18, 1863, McBryde married Cora Bolton. They had eight children, six of whom lived to adulthood: Janet (1864-1869), James (1866-1925), Anna (1868-1948; later Mrs. Robert J. Davidson), John McLaren, Jr. (1870-1956), Charles (1872-1962), Susan (1874-1951), Meade (1877-1959), and Waid (abt. 1878-?). In 1923, McBryde died at his son's home in New Orleans but was returned to Blacksburg, Virginia for burial.

Related Archival Materials

There is another copy of this item in Midhurst, J.M. McBryde Estate, Blacksburg, Va., Map-0276.

See also the following related collections at Virginia Tech Special Collections and University Archives:

Records of the Office of the President, John McLaren McBryde, RG 2/5

J. Bolton McBryde Collection, Ms1992-059

McBryde House Specification Records, Ms1999-010

Larry McBryde Collection on the John McLaren McBryde Family, Ms2013-024

Janet Barnhill Collection on Cora Bolton McBryde, Ms2016-019

Polly Ashelman Collection on the John McLaren McBryde Family, Ms2019-017

John M. and Cora Bolton McBryde Family Papers, Ms2023-069

Photographs of John M. McBryde are in the Faculty/Staff Photograph Collection

Keywords

Blacksburg (Va.)

Local/Regional History and Appalachian South

Montgomery County (Va.)

Virginia -- Maps

Faculty and staff

University History

McBryde, John McLaren, 1841-1923

Existence and Location of Copies

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