

The McClelland-Grimes Farm

This idyllic corner of the world got a new name in 1989. Before it was known as Elysian Fields Farm, this farmland was known as the McClelland-Grimes Farm, and was revered for a storied agricultural heritage dating back to 1873.

Awarded its spot on the National Register of Historic Places in May, 2010, the ~200 acres of farmland and associated structures were designated as having made “a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.”

The original brick farm house and brick smoke house/ice house, both of which were constructed in 1873, as well as a large timber frame barn (c. 1883), smaller wood frame sheep barn (c. 1890) and wood frame wash house (c. 1910) are among the eight contributing farmstead structures on the property. On the following page, you can learn a bit about the architectural style of the home.

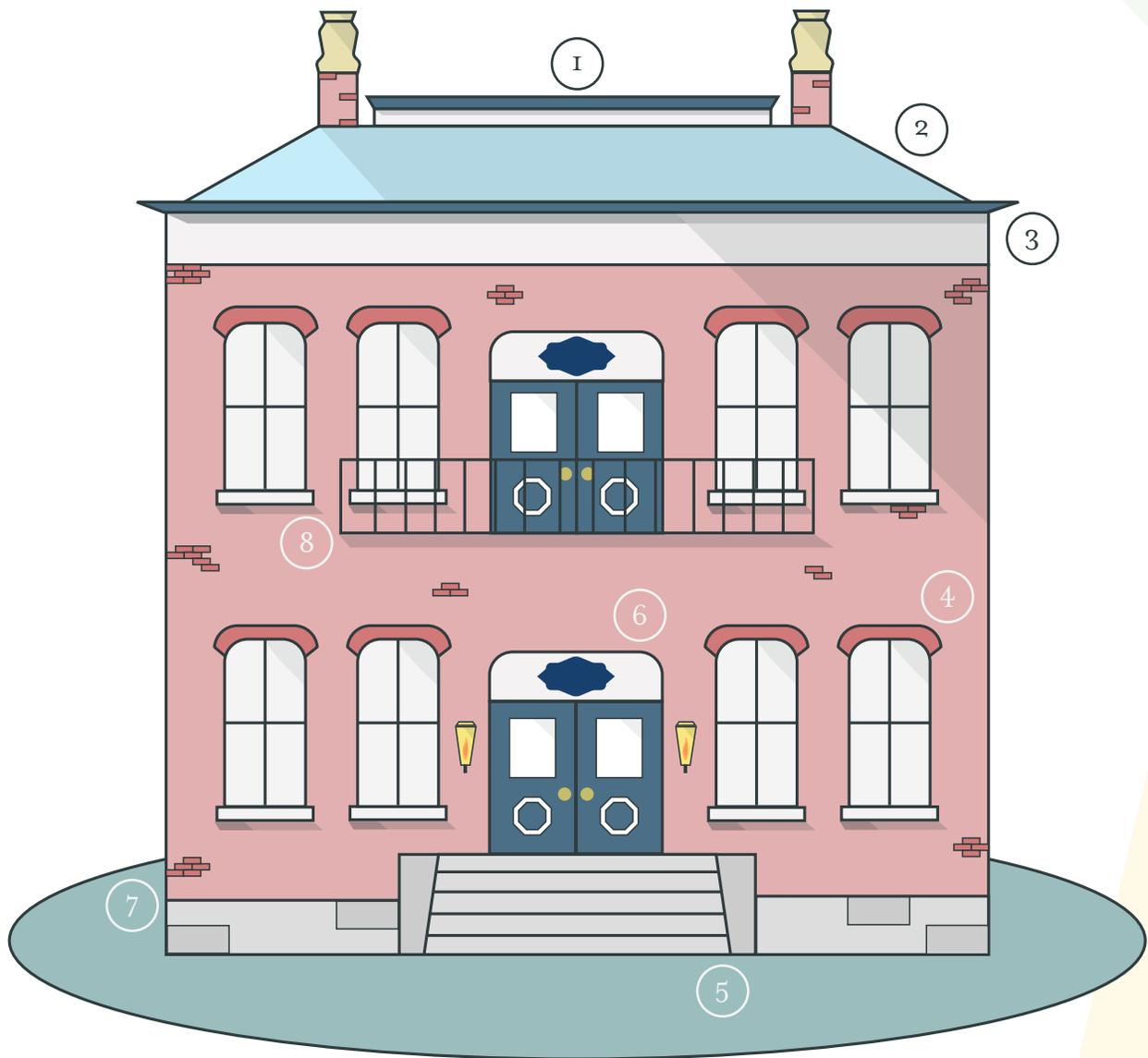
The farm land is defined by its topography. A narrow “Y” shaped strip of level land is surrounded by hills on the “Y’s” outside edges, and another hill protrudes into the space defined by the fork in the “Y.” A brief overview of the land can be within this document as well.

If you are interested in learning more about Elysian Fields Farm and the historic McClelland-Grimes Farm, please visit the National Archives Catalog at: <https://catalog.archives.gov/id/71992973>



The Historic Main House

The historic main house, built in 1873 by Michael M. McClelland and Stephen Acklin, is classified as “Italianate” in style. The below illustration details some characteristics of Italianate architecture.



1. Symmetrical rectangular design
2. Low-pitched roof with square cupola
3. Overhanging eaves
4. Tall, two-over-two, arched windows with predominate crowns
5. Smaller front porch
6. Paired doors with large panes of glass
7. Constructed of masonry materials
8. Cast iron features (balcony)

The Farmland

The bucolic farmland is located where the “important trends of sheep raising in a diversified agricultural context took place.” Steeply hilly, with flatter bottom land along streams, pastures predominate as this was, historically, a grazing region, but dense forests border the property and provide shade for the sheep grazing in the fields.

The lowest points of the farm sit at about 975 feet above sea level, with hills abruptly rising to about 1,300 feet. The slopes are occupied by pasture lots containing orchard grass and red clover, while the flat areas are comprised of meadow land, cropland, streams and wetlands.

The ~200 acres of farmland are mainly pasture, with the remaining land being divided between a 25-acre hay field and 50 acres of woodland.

