NPS Form 10-900
(Oct. 1990)

OMB No. 10024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name MacAlpine

other names HO-400

2. Location

street & number 3261 Macalpine Road ☐ not for publication

city or town Ellicott City ☒ vicinity

state Maryland code MD county Howard code 027 zip code 21042

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☒ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments).

Signature of certifying official/Title — Date 11-9-04

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments).

Signature of certifying official/Title — Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby, certify that this property is:
- ☐ entered in the National Register.
  - ☐ See continuation sheet.
- ☐ determined eligible for the National Register.
  - ☐ See continuation sheet.
- ☐ Determined not eligible for the National Register.
- ☐ removed from the National Register.
- ☐ other (explain): _____

Signature of the Keeper — Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- ☒ private
- ☐ public-local
- ☐ public-State
- ☐ public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- ☒ building(s)
- ☐ district
- ☐ site
- ☐ structure
- ☐ object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

N/A

number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN: Second Empire

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE
walls WOOD: Weatherboard
roof WOOD: Shingle; METAL
other

Narrative Description
(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets)

Description Summary:

MacAlpine is a post-Civil War country house located approximately 1¾ miles west of Ellicott City in Howard County, Maryland. The main block of the house dates to c. 1868 and faces west toward the road on generally level land that drops off sharply to the northeast, east, and southeast, exposing the rubble stone foundation. The house is a 2 ½-story, three-bay by two-bay frame structure clad in novelty siding with corner boards, with a mansard roof covered with wood shingles. There is a two-bay, two-story, gable-roofed hyphen on the south side, linking the main block with a two-story gable-roofed wing that is one-bay wide by three-bays deep. Standing seam metal covers the roof of the hyphen and wing.

General Description:

The west elevation of the main block has center double doors on the first story with two panels each. They have sunken fields and quirked ogee and bevel panel moulds, and are grained. There is head cut trim that has a beveled inner edge, a four-light transom, and a quirked ogee and bevel transom bar. The doors have shutters with one louver above one panel that has a sunken field and an ogee and bevel panel mould. To each side of the door is a six-over-six sash with head cut trim that matches the door and is typical for the house. There are also blinds hung on butt hinges that have two knuckles each. There is a three-bay, one-story porch set on brick piers, with wood tongue-and-groove deck and beaded-edge board soffit. It has a hip roof of standing seam and is supported by four paneled posts that have sunken, flat centers and chamfers with lambs-tongue stops on the corners. There are quirked ogee and bevel mouldings at the top of each post and approximately two feet below the top. The porch has a plain frieze, a large cavetto bed mould, and a cornice with a large Greek ovolo. There is an internal gutter. The balustrade consists of super-imposed crosses and x's, with a wood diamond at the crossing, and it supports a handrail that has a quirked ogee and bevel below it. In the center of the porch a porte cochere projects to the west, supported by four matching paneled posts. It, too, has a hip roof. The second story has three six-over-six sash with blinds, a plain frieze, and a cornice that matches the porch. There are also internal gutters here. The roof has diamond pattern shingles at the top and bottom, clipped butts in the center, and square butts separating the decorative courses. There are three dormer windows. The center dormer has paired, semicircular arched one-over-one sash with a pediment with returns on the front and a jig-sawn bracket on each side. The end bay dormers have one semicircular arched two-over-two sash with the same pediment. The break in the mansard roof has a plain frieze with an ogee bed mould above it. There is a brick chimney with a corbelled cap over the north bay.

The west elevation of the hyphen is recessed back of the main block about 6 ½ feet and has 4 ¾ to 5-inch-wide novelty siding. On the first story the north bay has a door with two lights over two panels that are sunken and flat and have ogee and bevel panel moulds. There is a three-light transom with an ogee and bevel on the transom bar. The door is grained and has typical head cut trim. The south bay has a typical six-over-six sash. There is a one-story, two-bay porch with a wood deck and plain wood slats with gaps between them on the soffit. The porch has square posts that have chamfered corners, and the balustrade matches that of the main block. On the south end of the porch, there is a beam between the tops of the posts, with a short post above this beam and the ghost of a pendant drop on the bottom side of the beam. On the west side of the porch are ghosts that indicate a similar arrangement with beam and short posts between the supporting posts, but this is now gone. The porch cornice matches the main block, and the roof is hipped on the south where it meets the wing. The second story has two typical six-over-six sash and the cornice matches the main block. The south elevation of the main block has a six-over-six sash with a plywood panel below it on the first story, and typical trim that is carried down to just above the floor. The second story has a window covered by closed blinds. The shingles on the roof match the pattern of the west elevation. In the west bay is a dormer that matches the end bays of the west elevation. There is a rebuilt brick chimney in front of the east bay. The west elevation of the wing has 5-inch-wide German siding with corner boards. The first story has a six-over-six sash with blinds, a cornice, and an ogee and bevel moulding at the top of the cornice. The second story matches the first. There is a lunette in the gable end and a box cornice on the raking eaves, with returns. This roof also has internal gutters.

The south elevation of the wing has a three-over-three sash in both the east and west bays of the foundation. The east bay has blinds while the west bay only retains the hinges for them. The first story has a center door that has four lights over three lying panels, with new trim and a three-light transom. The door is new. To each side of the door is a six-over-six sash with plain head cut trim. The second story has three six-over-six sash that match the first story, and the cornice matches that of the main block. The east elevation of the wing has brick at the south corner of the foundation, but it is otherwise rubble stone. The upper stories have German siding. The foundation has a door in the center with two lights over two panels that have sunken double fields. There is head cut trim in which the side pieces have beveled edges. The door is flanked by a six-over-one sash on each side that has the same trim. The first story has one new six-over-six sash with the trim wrapped in aluminum. The second story has an original six-over-six sash with the same trim as the basement windows, and it has blinds. There is a half-round oculus and cornice that match those on the west elevation. The east elevation of the hyphen has wide novelty siding. The foundation has two pair of six-light casements with bull nose frames. The first story has two new six-over-six sash that have head cut trim with beveled edges, and have blinds. The second story has two old six-over-six sash with blinds. The south elevation of the

main block has one bay to the east of the hyphen. The foundation has a six-light sash in a beaded-interior-edge frame. The first story and second story each have an old six-over-six sash with trim that matches the hyphen.

The east elevation of the main block has two six-light sash in beaded-interior-edge frames set to the south in the foundation. The center bay has a beaded-edge, vertical-board door on strap hinges. The north bay has a six-light sash like those in the south bay. The first story, south and center bays, have a six-over-six sash with head cut trim that has beveled edges. Beneath the window sill of each is plywood infill with applied panel moulds. The windows have blinds with a panel at the bottom that has a sunken field and an ogee and bevel panel mould. The north bay has a six-over-six sash with typical trim and blinds, but has siding below the sill. There are three rows of narrower siding below the sills of the south and center bays that were likely added later to cover the gap where the porch was attached when it was removed. There are also eight rows of narrower siding below the second story sills, probably marking where the porch roof connected to the wall and covered it. The second story south bay has French doors with a two-light transom and screen shutters. The center and north bays each have a typical six-over-six sash and the cornice, roof shingles, and dormers, match those of the west elevation.

The north elevation foundation has two three-sided bay rubble stone foundations. The east one has a one-light sash set in the rubble stone infill of a doorway. The first story has a four-over-four sash in all three sides of both bay windows, with blinds for each window. Below each window is a sunken panel of flush boards, with beveled edges to the rails and stiles. The first story windowsills have no mouldings below them. There is a wood box cornice on top of each bay that matches the west porch. Between the bays is a one-over-one sash with head cut trim that is beveled on both edges and has stops at the bottom. The second story has a two-over-two sash in the center, with trim that matches the first story center window. The bays have a four-over-four sash in each side of each bay, also with blinds. There is one sunken, flat panel below each window with an ogee and bevel panel mould. There is also an ogee and bevel below the windowsill. The cornice matches the rest of the house, as does the roof, and the two dormers match the west elevation end dormers.

The stairs to the basement are in the southwest corner of the wing. The southwest basement room has a dirt floor and much rotted wood that suggests it once had a wood floor on sleepers. The first story joists are circular sawn, are 2 ¼ inches to 2 ½ inches by 10 inches and are spaced 22 ½ inches to 26 inches on centers. They run north-south and have bridging with cut nails. The exterior walls are rubble stone with much brick around the window openings. The door to this room has beaded-edge, vertical boards, as does the wall, and the door has one light that is a reused sash but could be original to the door. The battens are screwed to the door and the

architrave has a beaded interior edge and is mitered at the corners. The door has plain cast iron butt hinges with five knuckles and fast joints. Some of the boards of the wall are reused from another stairway as there are ghosts of treads, risers, nosings, and a stringer. The door has a rim lock labeled "R&E MFG. CO. PAT. NOV 15 1864."

The southeast basement room has a beaded-edge, vertical-board door on cast iron butt hinges with five knuckles and fast joints. It has a plain cast iron rim lock with a porcelain knob, and a six-light sash set in the top of the door. There is random-width pine flooring that runs north-south and is 3 inches to 4 ½ inches wide. The south wall has beaded-edge-and-center, vertical-board, half-wainscot. The plaster and lath have been removed from the ceiling, and the lath was fastened with cut nails. The first-story joists are identical to those in the southwest basement room. On the west is a brick fireplace with straight jambs and a high, segmentally arched opening. The top of the interior is covered with corbelled brick and there is a stovepipe hole on the south side, though it is not certain whether this hole is original. On the ceiling is a board that runs north-south near the east wall and lines up with a similar board in the hyphen. There are eight new hooks holding eight wires on this board, and seven of them come through the center partition wall on the north. There is one angle for the eighth wire that runs from the west along this wall. On the south wall is a set of angles that connects these wires to the wires in the hyphen, even though it is a straight shot from this board through the wall into the hyphen. There are also two angles for wires that come straight down through the sill, together with a third angle for a wire from the west. There would thus seem to be more wires coming together here than the number of wires running through the hyphen. The north elevation has a door to the east that has typical architrave but a later beaded-edge-and-center vertical-board-door fastened with wire nails. To the west of the door is a patched hole in the wall and further west is a 10-inch-diameter metal duct that comes through the wall at an angle but is disconnected now. At the west end of this wall is a typical architrave and an original door made of tongue-and-groove, beaded-edge, vertical boards with slots cut out of the center. The door has plain cast iron butt hinges with two knuckles and a cast iron rim lock marked "P. & W. CO. PATENT[ED?] SEPT. [0?] 185[0]." It appears that the joists are just half lapped and set on the sills. In this room is an old boiler manufactured by the American Radiator Company and labeled "ARCO #W-1906-3M." On the west elevation, to the south, is a doorway with a later beaded-edge-and-center, vertical-board door on the outside and a door on the inside that is very similar to the west elevation north door. This door leads to a small basement room at the west end that has the same details as the south cellar.

The northwest cellar joists match that in the south cellar. A call bell wire comes down in the southwest corner, with an angle there, and then runs along the partition wall to the east where it is cut off. There is a six-light sash on the west elevation and a rubble stone foundation for the

bay window on the north. On the east is another brick shaft underneath the hearth, with an iron frame in the bottom opening and an iron door next to it that must come from here. This shaft also has a filled-in pipe hole. The hearth now has plywood. The fireplace header has through tenons with face pegs, and the joists are mortised and tenoned and pegged into the header. On the south side of the fireplace buttress is a call-bell crank, but the wire cannot be traced from this location. The sill on the wall between the northwest and northeast cellars is hewn. The joists appear to be half-lapped onto this sill and not pegged to it. Stored in the cellar are pieces of at least one marbleized slate mantel that appears not to be broken. There are three mantelshelves, apparently, two that are scalloped, and one that is a long rectangle. The mantel has a semicircular-arched opening and a scroll cartouche with a shield in the center. There is a wide opening in the wall on the east, to the south, that leads to the northeast cellar.

The northeast cellar has typical joists like the south cellar and a horizontal board wall on the east elevation. This wall has hewn studs with center tenons on the top of them and a hewn girt. The studs are 5½ inches wide by 7½ inches deep, approximately. On the north elevation is a three-sided rubble stone foundation for the bay window. Near the southeast corner are three call bell cranks, with one wire that runs to the west, and it appears that probably all three originally did. There are also three wires running from the north and all six head through the wall into the south cellar room, as previously noted. There is also a bell crank at this wall for a wire that runs along the wall from the west. Of the three wires that run from the north, two turn to the east at different locations and pass into the east wall, while the third turns to the west and runs to the south side of the fireplace buttress, where it passes up. At the north wall is a hewn sill, with several small joists beneath the bay window floor. The joists are approximately 2 by 4s laid 2 inches deep and 4 inches wide, and there is counter sealing between them. The joists on the west are set on a 1-inch-thick board in the stone wall. On the west is another vertical brick shaft with the bottom partly broken open revealing a hollow duct. The top appears to have had a pipe hole, but it is now widened. The interior is corbelled back to a duct in the hearth. The hearth has either been altered or re-laid, as there is now plywood beneath it. The framing for the hearth matches that of the northwest cellar.

The first story has a stair hall in the southwest corner, a room in the northwest corner, and a short passage from the stair hall to two rooms in the northeast and southeast corners. The hyphen has one room and a passage along the west side. The wing at the south end of the hyphen has a room on the east, a room in the southwest corner, and a stair passage in the northwest corner that connects to the passage in the hyphen. The stair hall flooring is 4 to 5 ½-inch-wide pine that runs north-south. The baseboard has a broken field and a quirked ogee and bevel on top. The architrave has a quirked ogee and bevel back band and a beaded interior edge on the doors but no bead on the window trim. The door architrave is miter cut while the window architrave has only

the back band mitered and the field varies in how it meets at the corners. There is a cast iron heating register in the floor on the center of the east wall. The register has a low relief lozenge pattern of decoration on each side, at the edges. There is no manufacturer's name on the grate. There is a three-run stair that ascends to the south on the west wall, with a landing in the southwest corner, and then ascends along the south wall, to the east, and along the east wall, to the north. It has a large turned, tapered newel that appears to be walnut, and a moulded handrail. There are turned balusters of oak. The stair has an open stringer with jig-sawn brackets and the stair cuts through the middle of the west and south windows. The front, or west, door has double doors with two panels each that have sunken fields and quirked ogee and bevel panel moulds. A new mortise lock replaces an earlier mortise lock. There are flush iron slide bolts at the top and bottom of the door. Each door is hung on plain cast iron butt hinges with two knuckles. There is a four-light transom with ovolo-profile muntins. The sash is mortised-and-tenoned-and-pegged and it pivots open. The west window has 12-inch by 18-inch lights with narrow ovolo muntins, parting beads, and spring latches at the top and bottom. There are also pulleys for sash weights. The window had shutters on the top but only the hinge mortises remain. The bottom shutters have two leaves to each half of the pair, with two panels on the outer leaves and one adjustable louver over one panel on the inner leaves. The bottom shutters are not hinged because the stairs block them. The shutter panels are sunken and flat, with quirked ogee and bevel panel moulds. The stair risers and treads are coped around the shutter rails and stiles, as well as the window architrave. The top half of the south window is blocked off by the stair and the plaster wall above. The bottom half matches the west window and is hung on sash cords. It has two typical two-leaf shutters that are mortised-and-tenoned-and-pegged and are hung on plain cast iron butt hinges with three knuckles and fast joints. Below the sash is a jib with two one-panel doors with sunk fields and quirked ogee and bevel panel moulds. There is a slide bolt on the bottom of the east door. The doors are hung on cast iron butt hinges with five knuckles and fast joints, but they are now inoperable. The south door leads to the hyphen passage and has floor panels with sunk fields and quirked ogee and bevel panel moulds on both sides. This is a typical interior door and is hung on plain cast iron butt hinges with two knuckles. It has a mortise lock with porcelain knobs and a slide bolt at the top of the door on the stair side. The door has through tenons but no pegs. There are plaster walls and ceiling and a narrow wood cornice moulding that was probably added in the early 20th century. It has a torus moulding at the top, one reed, and a cavetto at the bottom. It is face-nailed with what appears to be wire nails.

The northwest room has the same flooring, baseboard, architrave, and cornice moulding as the stair hall. There is a typical door on the south, but the lock is missing. The west window is also typical but the sash is hung on chains and there are new shutters. There is a bay window on the north elevation and the flooring continues uninterrupted into the bay. The sash have 12-inch by 18-inch lights with typical details, are hung on chains, and have new shutters. There is an

Adamesque plaster ceiling medallion with low relief of bell flowers with swags in a six-lobed ring, with a fan motif inside the ring and a row of leaves inside that. In the center of the east elevation is a fireplace with splayed jambs of firebrick and a white marble hearth. The bottom of the firebox has a flat iron door that pivots on center pins. Just west of the hearth is a square iron plate with a circular recess in it, but a knob that was clearly here is missing. The fireplace has a white marble mantel that is semicircular-arched, and has low relief carving of apples, pears, and leaves in the spandrels and a cartouche with fruit and leaves in the center. The shelf is scalloped. The mantel extends beyond the hearth into the wood trim on both sides and goes beyond this trim as the mantel steps back. The south side of the chimneybreast has a call bell crank made of brass with a white porcelain knob. The door on the east is typical and there is an old heating grate on the south wall, east of the door, that matches the grate in the stair hall.

The northeast room has typical flooring, baseboard, and architrave. There is a new cornice installed in sections, with the joints clearly visible between each section. The cornice has an egg and dart moulding with rosettes in a frieze below it. There is also a plaster ceiling medallion that has a solid center leaving no place to hang a chandelier. The inner ring has acanthus leaves, then large lobed leaves, and a bead and reel on the outer ring. The medallion is fairly flat and very Greek Revival in character. There is a fireplace on the west elevation with a firebox of firebrick and a white marble hearth. Just east of the hearth is a metal plate in the floor with a knob and the words "DRAFT DAM?" on the plate. There is a marbleized slate mantel with a semi-circular-arched opening. The spandrels have grooves cut in a roughly triangular pattern, there is a center cartouche, and the shelf is scalloped. There are four patterns of marbleizing on this mantel. The mantel aligns with the hearth, but the baseboard is several inches short of the mantel on both sides and the floor has a groove in it here suggesting that this mantel is altered or not original to this location. There is a typical heating grate on the west elevation between the two doors that are set to the south. There is a door to the north of the fireplace on the west elevation. It was typical, but has a new porcelain knob with flowers on it and has a piece added to the hinge stile to make it fit the opening. The wall has old plaster and is early, if not original. At the north end of the room is a bay window that is identical to the bay in the northwest room, and the floor here is continuous. This bay also has new shutters. The east window, set to the north, matches the west window in the stair hall and has old shutters with adjustable louvers in the top center two panels of the bottom pair and the bottom center two panels of the top pair. The west window set to the south is typical, with old shutters and a typical jib below. The south side of the chimneybreast has a call bell crank that matches that of the northwest room, and is typical. On the south elevation are large double doors with four typical panels on each, but the panels are larger. The doors are hung on three typical hinges each and have a mortise lock that is stamped with "RUSSELL & ERWIN MFG. CO." on the bolt. All of the locks have single keyed bolts. The side of the lock case is marked "R & E MFG.CO. PAT. MAY 29 1866."

To the north of the fireplace in the northeast room is a small powder room with a new marble tile floor and a wall built in on the south that has a vent opening at the top. The west wall has sawn lath. The window on the north has an ogee and bevel back band without the fillet and has a plain inner edge. There is a stained glass casement that has been added inside of the one-over-one sash, and there is a matching stained glass window added to the ceiling. In the corner is a quarter-round cast iron sink with a splash back and cast iron cabinet below the sink. The cabinet has a semicircular-arched door and a panel to each side. Inside of the door it is labeled "J. L. MOTT IRON WORKS 264 & 266 WATER ST, N. Y." At the west end of the cabinet are three cut outs apparently for pipes, but they are not now being used even though the sink still operates.

The southeast room has typical flooring, baseboard, and architrave. The cornice and ceiling medallion match those of the northeast room. The east window is typical, is hung on chains, has old shutters, and has a typical jib below it. The sash window is also typical, with chains and old shutters. In the center of the south elevation is a fireplace that is flush with the wall and has a firebox of firebrick. There is a white marble hearth and a black marbleized slate mantel with bolection-moulded spandrels and a scroll cartouche. The opening is semicircular arched and the mantelshelf is scalloped. The bottom of the firebox has a pivoting plate. Well north of the hearth is a metal plate in the floor that is missing the knob. The plate is square, with a square indentation in it. The hole for the knob is in the upper left-hand corner and the lower right hand corner is curved. At the bottom of the plate is the word "DRAFT" and on the right side the word "DAMPER." On the left is the word "OPEN" and at the top of the plate the word "SHUT." There is a door west of the fireplace that is typical, and the top architrave has the bead cut out for a slide bolt catch. The door on the north elevation, which leads to the passage, is typical but is missing its lock. To the east of this door is a typical heating grate in the floor.

The east room in the hyphen has 4-inch to 6-inch wide pine flooring that runs east-west, with 2 ½-inch pine flooring to the north and short sections of this along much of the west wall. The east windows are typical six-over-six mortised-and-tenoned-and-pegged sash with parting beads, sash chains, and spring latches. They have plain mitered trim. Between the windows is the ghost on the plaster wall of what appears to have been a partition wall running east-west, with what appears to be the ghost of a kitchen dresser that stood against the south side of this wall. The floor has a pattern of nail holes running east-west and set 24 inches apart where this wall was. Much of the east and south walls have been patched with sheet rock and a wood cove cornice has been added to the room. The baseboard is plain. The south wall has the ghost of two openings that are patched with hard, newer plaster. Because the bottom half of the walls is patched it is not possible to determine whether these were windows or doors with transoms. There is a door now in the center of this wall, in part of the ghost of one of these openings, but the door is

missing. The architrave here has a beaded interior edge and is mitered. To the west of the door is a built-in closet. The west wall has newer hard plaster on the north half, and there is a door in the north half that has four panels but is shorter and narrower than the typical interior doors. The panels are the same and the moldings are similar but slightly different. The architrave on this door matches that of the south door in this room. This door has a cast iron rim lock with a mineral knob and is marked "R & E." There is a slide bolt just above the lock, and the door has plain cast iron butt hinges with five knuckles and fast joints. The floor in this area is patched heavily with 2 ½-inch-wide pine. The center of the north wall is the back of the fireplace in the southeast room and is at least partly plastered with hard newer plaster at the bottom. The fireplace back projects into this room, with a closet to the east that has a four-panel door that matches the west door. It has the same architrave, but no lock. It originally had a small cabinet lock. There are new shelves in the closet and the original shelves were pulled out and patched over at some point. To the west of the fireplace breast is the remains of a closet that had shelves on top and has beaded-edge boards on the north wall. These boards are deteriorated and split, with some pieces missing. The ceiling in this room has sheet rock.

The west hyphen passage has a mixture of flooring identical to the hyphen east room, and some of the floorboards continue through under the door threshold. There are at least two areas of patching to the floor. The north and east doors have beaded-interior-edge, mitered trim. The east wall has a hollow wood box standing vertically on the wall almost three feet south of the door. The box is open on the top less than two feet below the ceiling where there is a 10 inch-wide board on the wall running horizontally from this box to the south. The board has a beaded bottom edge and patches along it. The bottom of this wall, south of the box, has beaded-edge, vertical-board half wainscot. On the south is a diagonal wall of sheet rock added to close off the passage. The passage connects to a two-run stair in the northwest corner of the wing. The stair has a turned, tapered newel post similar to the main staircase but smaller and simpler. There are round, tapered balusters and the handrail is ramped at the landing newel. The stair has a plain open stringer and has been closed off with sheet rock between the two flights on the first story. At the second story the stair is enclosed with beaded-edge, vertical boards. The west window matches the east windows in the hyphen east room, but has 10-inch by 16-inch lights. The sash is mortised-and-tenoned-and-pegged, with both spring latches and sash cords, has plain mitered trim, and has new shutters. The west door has beaded-interior-edge architrave that is side cut, with plain trim added on the face of most of it. The door has a cast iron rim lock with a mineral knob, and is labeled "R & E MFG. CO. PAT. MAY 29 1866." It appears that there was a slide bolt above the lock and one below it once. There is no evidence of any other lock on this door. The three-light transom is mortised-and-tenoned-and-pegged and is held in place with pivots.

The east room in the wing has had the lath and plaster removed from the ceiling. The second-story joists are circular-sawn, are 2 ½ inches to 2 ¾ inches wide by 9 ¼ inches to 10 inches deep, and are spaced 23 inches to 26 inches on centers. There is bridging fastened with cut nails between the joists. The flooring above is 3 inches to 4 ½ inches wide, is sash-sawn, and runs east-west. The walls in this room have beaded-edge, vertical-board, half wainscot and the floor is 2 ½-inch-wide pine that runs north-south. The south window is a typical six-over-six sash with 10-inch by 16-inch lights. It is mortised-and-tenoned-and-pegged, has spring latches, and has parting beads. There is plain trim with plain corner blocks. The east window is a new wood six-over-six sash. The north door has beaded-interior-edge trim that is mitered at the corners. In the center of the west elevation is a brick chimney that has been greatly altered to make a fireplace. The plaster has been removed and the brick re-pointed, and the east face has been rebuilt with old brick. The opening is 5 feet, 6 inches high, and is segmentally arched with an iron lintel. The center of the fireplace has old brick in the hearth, with the outer edge consisting of a concrete patch where it appears that a brick wall was removed. This would appear to have been an enclosed chimney flue originally, though it is not possible to completely understand how this feature has changed.

The southwest wing room, which is west of the kitchen, has random-width pine flooring that runs east-west and is 3 inches to 4 ½ inches wide. The door architrave has a beaded interior edge and corner blocks. The window architrave is plain and also has plain corner blocks. The sash has 10-inch by 16-inch lights, ovolo muntins, and is mortised-and-tenoned-and-pegged. The sash have parting beads and spring latches, and are hung on chains. There is a stairway to the cellar beneath the stairway to the second story, with a vertical-board door closing off the stairs at the landing on the west end.

The second story has a passage that runs north-south, with two rooms on the east, two rooms on the west, one room at the north end, and a closet at the south end, with the stairway in the southwest corner. The stairs ascend to the west on the north wall, and there is a landing at the west end. They then ascend along the south wall of the stair hall toward the east up to the third story. The railing and balusters are virtually the same on the first and second stories, though there are subtle differences between the two. The first story balusters have a deeper shoulder at the top of the baluster then on the second story balusters. Also, the first story balusters have a squared-off fillet beneath the torus near the bottom, while on the second story balusters this fillet has a slight flare to it. Both stories have the jig-sawn stair brackets, but they are of very different patterns. The first-story stairs end at a landing two risers below the passage to the north, and there is a door on the south side of the landing that leads to the hyphen. This door is typical of the first story doors, has the same architrave as the first story, and has a plain cast iron rim lock with a mineral knob. There are typical butt hinges and a slide bolt at the top of the door. There

is a piece added on the hinge side of the door to make it fit the opening. The baseboard and architrave in the passage match the first story. There are two breaks in the baseboard at the base of the stairs to the third story, suggesting an alteration here. The doors here are also typical and have three-light transoms that pivot on the center and have an ogee and bevel on the transom bar. The flooring runs north-south and is random-width pine between 3 ½ inches and 6 inches. The closet in the south has a typical door with no panel moulds on the inner side, and it has a small plain cast iron cabinet lock and a wood pull. There are shelves inside the closet on all three walls and they are supported on cleats nailed with cut nails. The plaster walls have circular-sawn lath. At the northwest end of the closet, on the exterior of the closet wall, by the stairway is the call bell angle. There is another angle to the south with a wire that passes into a small tube that runs down through the back band of the door and is set into the quirk of the back band. This tube runs down to near the baseboard where it appears to have been cut off and the hole in the baseboard for this tube is caulked. These two angles were probably originally connected, and the wire probably came from the third-story stairs.

The southwest chamber has typical flooring and baseboard and has new chair rail and cornice. The windows are typical, with 12-inch by 16-inch lights, have typical architrave, and typical original shutters. The door to this chamber is also typical, with a cast iron rim lock labeled "D.M. & CO. NEW HAVEN." and it has a mineral knob. The door had a slide bolt at the top, but it is now gone. On the north elevation, to the west, is a typical door and transom for a closet. The door has a cast iron cabinet rim lock and a new pull replaces the original. There is part of an original bell crank on the west wall, just south of the window. The floor is patched in the southwest corner, with carpet tack holes around this patch and breaks in the baseboard where the patch starts on the west and south walls. There are also vertical ghosts in the plaster of the south wall at this break and further east, with a horizontal ghost between them 8 feet, 4 inches above the floor, suggesting a door was here.

The northwest chamber has typical flooring, baseboard, architrave, windows, and doors, all with transoms. The doors have cast iron rim locks labeled "PATENTED MAY.5.1863. JUNE 7.1864." The northwest chamber door has a slide bolt at the top. There is a closet on the south elevation, set to the east, which matches the southwest chamber closet. On the north is a bay window with a seam in the flooring where the bay window begins. The floorboards do not align and the baseboard on the east is pieced and has a miter cut, indicating that the bay window was added later. The window sash have 12-inch by 16-inch lights and have typical original shutters. There is an original bell crank on the west wall, to the north.

The north-center chamber is a bathroom with typical flooring and doors, though the doors do not have panel moulds on the chamber side. The rim lock is identical to that in the northwest

chamber and has a mineral knob. The north-center chamber door has a slide bolt at the top. The architrave has a beaded interior edge and is head cut, and there are typical transoms. The baseboard is plain. The northwest corner has random-width, beaded-edge, vertical-board half-wainscot that appears to be original and has a small shelf on top of it with an ogee and bevel moulding beneath the shelf. There is also a shelf on the north wall that is supported by sawn scroll brackets that are old, if not original. In the center of the north wall, just above the wainscot, is a typical original bell crank. In this corner is a claw foot tub. The north elevation has a narrow two-over-two sash with 12-inch by 16-inch lights and it originally had shutters. The sash is otherwise typical. On the south wall is a bump out with a cast iron heating grate.

The northeast chamber has typical flooring, baseboard, architrave, and doors with mineral knobs. The door from the passage to this chamber has the same lock as the southwest chamber. There is a bay window on the north elevation that also has a break in the flooring indicating that the bay was added later. The ceiling of the bay is about three inches lower than in the rest of the room. The sash have 12-inch by 16-inch lights, parting beads, sash chains, but no evidence of spring latches. The original shutters survive on the bottom half of the windows. The east windows do not have shutters now. On the south elevation, set to the east, is a typical closet. To the west is a semi-circular-arched opening that gives access to the closet in the southeast chamber. The door to the passage has a slide bolt at the top.

The southeast chamber has typical flooring, baseboard, architrave, and door, and the rim lock matches that of the northwest chamber but has porcelain knobs. There is a slide bolt at the top of the door. There is a typical closet and door on the north elevation, to the west. The east wall has French doors with typical architrave and a pair of four-light doors with a two-light transom. The doors have butt hinges with loose joints and there are hinge mortises for shutters for the top half of the opening only. This opening was originally a window and was converted. On the south is a typical window with spring latches. In the center of the south wall is a doorway that is now closed off.

The hyphen and wing reads as one except that the wing floor is lower. There are rooms in the northwest, northeast, southwest, and southeast corners, with a stair hall in the west center leading to the wing attic. The northeast chamber in the hyphen has an exposed brick fireplace on the north that has three stovepipe hole patches. A closet has been added to the east of the fireplace and this blocks the doorway to the southeast chamber. There is a typical door leading to this room and it has a cast iron rim lock labeled "B.L.W." and other markings that are not legible. The lock has a mineral knob and there is a slide bolt just above the lock. The door has cast iron butt hinges with five knuckles and fast joints, and the beaded-interior-edge architrave is mitered at the corners. The windows have typical sash with 10-inch by 14-inch lights and plain mitered

architrave. The random-width pine floor varies between 4 inches and 6 inches and runs east-west. The ceiling lath and plaster has been removed, exposing the joists above. They are sawn and run north-south, with short joists on the east end that run east-west and have a center tenon and peg into the easternmost north-south joist. In the southeast corner is a diagonal dragon piece that runs to the southeast and is not mortised-and-tenoned-and-pegged. The doorway on the south never had a door, it appears, and must have been added. It has plain head cut trim.

The wing southeast chamber is two steps down from the hyphen and has new trim added on top of the old window trim. There is typical sash hung on sash chains, with 10-inch by 14-inch lights. The floor is carpeted and there is plain baseboard. On the west elevation, set to the south, is a doorway that is now closed off at the back and was probably originally a closet. The architrave has a beaded interior edge and plain corner blocks. To the north of this is another doorway with identical architrave and a four-panel door with sunken double fields and small ogee panel moulds. It has new hinges and the rim lock is missing. The wing southwest chamber is now a kitchen with linoleum flooring and typical windows that have plain architrave and plain corner blocks. The north door architrave has a beaded interior edge and plain corner blocks, but the door is missing. There is a closet on the east elevation, set to the south, with the same architrave as the north door but the door has been replaced with a pair of beaded-edge-and-center vertical-board doors.

The stair passage has a door closing off the stairs down to the first story, and it matches the door to the wing southeast chamber but is hung on new hinges and has clearly been added to what was originally just an opening. There is also a door to the attic stair that is identical to the door to the wing southeast chamber and appears to be original to this space. It is hung on plain cast iron butt hinges with five knuckles and fast joints and has a cast iron rim lock that is not original to the door. The lock is labeled "R&E MFG. CO. PAT. NOV. 15 1864." The hyphen northwest chamber has had a large bathroom added, with a passage to the north and west sides of this bathroom. The windows on the west side of the passage match those in the hyphen northeast chamber. The west wall of the bathroom has a large window turned on its side and set high on the wall, with no sash in the opening. The north wall has a four-panel door that matches those in the main block and has a three-light transom. The lock is labeled "R&E MFG. PAT. CO. NOV. 15 1864" and has a mineral knob.

The wing attic is constructed with a heavy timber frame that is mortised and tenoned and pegged and had plaster and lath on the west half, though most of the lath and all of the plaster is now gone. The enclosed stairway is located in the northwest corner and is constructed with cut nails. The framing in this area is sash-sawn and the studs are mortised and tenoned at the top, but not pegged, and are toe nailed with cut nails at the bottom. There is a girt below the floor joists and

a short wall above floor level. The framing at the stairs butts against the siding and frame of the southwest corner of the hyphen, and the south wall of the wing is constructed all at once, indicating that the wing was added to the existing hyphen. The rafters are mitered at the foot and toe nailed to the plate with cut nails. They are mitered at the ridge, are 3 inches wide by 4 inches deep and are spaced 23 ½ inches to 24 ½ inches on centers. The rafters support wide-board sheathing that is mostly circular-sawn and has gaps between the sheathing boards. On top of the boards are circular-sawn wood shingles fastened with cut nails. The wing plate is 3 ¾ inches square and the studs are approximately 2 ¾ inches wide by 3 ¾ inches deep. The northwest post has an up brace on the west side with a mortise and tenon on the top of the brace, and cut nails. On the south elevation is circular-sawn lath with wire nails that have little notches all down the shank. The window on the west appears to be an original sash and is held in place with two swivel latches. The east half of the wing was never lathed and plastered and has no floor. The joists here are circular-sawn, are 3 inches by 11 ¼ inches and are spaced 21 inches to 27 inches on centers. They run north-south. There are scraps of 1-inch boards nailed to the sides of the rafters to support the exterior cornice. The rafters in the center of the north roof of the wing have no nail holes, indicating that they were never sheathed.

The hyphen attic is open from the wing and originally had a hip roof, as the hip rafters are still in place and run from the south eave corners to approximately 2 feet from the south wall of the main block. A ridgepole was added to the south to convert the hip roof to a gable, with the rafters mitered and toenailed to the hip rafters at the bottom and to the ridgepole at the top. All of the construction uses cut nails. The south plate of the hyphen is sash-sawn and is 4 inches wide by 6 inches deep. The studs in the hyphen are not mortised and tenoned on top, but are toenailed with cut nails. The hyphen attic joists run north-south and are sash-sawn. They are notched on the bottom to lap over the plate, and are toenailed with cut nails. The south wall of the main block has circular-sawn studs that are toenailed with cut nails. The joists are also toenailed with cut nails. Most of the joists run east-west, but at the south end are short joists that run north-south and are mortised-and-tenoned-and-pegged to a joist to the north. There is a second layer of joists that run north-south and are higher than the first layer of joists. The top joists support the third-story floor. Some of the south ends of the upper-level joists are set on small blocks of wood, while others are nailed to one side of a stud or to the north face of a stud. Several of these studs are also set on blocks of wood, and the studs have kicked out to the south some. There is both circular-sawn and sash-sawn lath on the north face of the studs, with plaster. The whole hyphen attic has a new floor, with fiberglass insulation laid on top of it, so it cannot be inspected.

The third story of the main block has a window on the south side of the stair hall. The sash is mortised-and-tenoned-and-pegged, has a wide muntin, and is hung on sash tapes. The stair way

ends at the third story and the details of the stairway are the same as at the second story. At the top of the stairs on the north wall is a brass slide bolt with a hook on the top. The bolt slides up and down and has two holes in the bottom of the bolt to fasten a call bell wire. There is a hole in the floor for the wire to pass through. The passage runs north-south and has random-width pine flooring that is 3 inches to 4 ½ inches wide and runs east-west. There is plain baseboard with a natural finish. The architrave has a beaded interior edge, is mitered at the corners, and has blocks at the bottom. The four-panel doors have sunken double fields and ogee panel moulds. They are mortised and tenoned and pegged and are hung on cast iron butt hinges with two knuckles. The doors have mortise locks with porcelain knobs, and the lock cases are labeled "B.L.W. PAT. JULY 21 1863." There is a two-light transom that is hinged on the side over each door. All of the woodwork has a natural finish. There is a straight run of stairs to the attic in the center of the east wall and it has an open stringer. There is a tapered, chamfered newel post with lambs tongue stops at the bottom of it, a plain rectangular hand rail, and one rectangular baluster on each stair tread. The nail heads are puttied over but appear to be square.

The southwest chamber has the same floor, baseboard, and architrave as the passage. An egg and dart cornice has been added to the room. The center of the ceiling has a wood grate. The window sash match that at the third story stairs and have spring latches. There were interior shutters, but only the hinges with two knuckles remain. The northwest chamber matches the southwest chamber, with a similar wood grate in the ceiling. There is a closet on the east side with a door identical to the other third story doors, but it has a small cast iron cabinet rim lock with a porcelain pull. The northeast chamber matches the southwest, but the wood grate is gone and the hole has been boarded up. The door has one glass knob. There is a closet on the west side, to the north, that is the same as the northwest closet. The east-center chamber is a narrow room with the same details as the southwest chamber. The door lock is gone but the mineral knob remains. The southeast chamber matches the southwest chamber and retains its wood grate. The sash are now hung on tapes, but had spring latches, and the stops are fastened with cut nails.

The attic flooring is random-width pine that runs north-south. There is a hinged hatch door on top of the stairway and it is constructed of beaded-edge, tongue-and-groove boards. The ceiling has a hatch with a new door in what appears to be an original opening, and it is approximately 2 feet by 3 ½ feet. The boards in the hatch are face-nailed with cut nails and there are ghosts of a ladder stringer in this location. On the east and west sides of the attic are openings in the wall with narrow, beaded-interior-edge architrave and shutters that are reused from elsewhere. They have sunken, flat panels at the bottom and adjustable louvers at the top, with filler pieces on the top and bottom. The shutter faces have hinge mortises that have been filled. In the west attic is a ladder that probably is to reach the roof hatch. The rafters are circular-sawn, are 3 inches by 4 inches, and are spaced 23 inches on centers. They support sash-sawn board sheathing. The

rafters are set on top of the joists at the break in the mansard roof. The joists are also circular sawn 3 by 4s that run east-west. The wall framing has cut nails and circular-sawn lath. The lower half of the roof has wood shingles, but it is not clear whether this is the existing roof or an earlier one.

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria
(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- ☐ A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad pattern of our history.
- ☐ B Property associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations
(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply)

Property is:

- ☐ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ B removed from its original location.
- ☐ C a birthplace or grave.
- ☐ D a cemetery.
- ☐ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ F a commemorative property.
- ☐ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Area of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1868-1946

Significant Dates

1868

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance
(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography
(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets)

Previous documentation on files (NPS):

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

Primary location of additional data:

- ☒ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Name of repository:

Summary Statement of Significance:

MacAlpine is significant as a well-preserved example of a post-bellum country house of the Howard County gentry. It is eligible for the National Register under Criterion C, in that it embodies the distinctive characteristics of its type and period. Country estates once surrounded Ellicott City, but only a few have survived post-World War II development pressures. MacAlpine survives with few changes, and retains a number of the features of comfort that were developed in city houses before the Civil War and were introduced into country houses after the war, such as devices intended to increase fireplace efficiency and heat circulation, and a system of bells to call servants. MacAlpine thus illustrates the evolution of the country house through the last third of the nineteenth century into the early twentieth. The period of significance begins in 1868, the approximate date of construction, and ends in 1946 when the house passed out of the ownership of the original family.

Resource History and Historic Context:

MacAlpine was built c. 1868 as the home of James MacKubin, an Anne Arundel County attorney who was born on 12 September 1830 and grew up at Strawberry Hill, Annapolis. He was the son of George MacKubin, the Treasurer of the Western Shore for Maryland, and Eleanor (nee Maccubin), George's distant cousin. The family name was traditionally spelled with two "c"s, but George apparently changed the second "c" to a "K." James MacKubin graduated from St. John's College in Annapolis in 1849 and shortly afterward moved to what was then the Howard District of Anne Arundel County, where he soon began a law practice. James reportedly lived with the Pue family for some time, where he met and fell in love with Comfort Augusta Dorsey, youngest daughter of Charles Worthington Dorsey. They were married in November 1854, less than two years after the death of his father, and tradition has it that they lived at Grey Rock, the property of Thomas Beale Dorsey Pue. It was at this time that architect Nathan G. Starkwether was designing houses for a number of Dorseys in the area around Grey Rock, including Wilton for William H. G. Dorsey, El Monte for Sally Elizabeth Dorsey, Temora for Dr. Arthur Pue, and Chatham, reputedly being constructed by Charles Worthington Dorsey for his daughter, Comfort MacKubin. These houses were grand Italianate confections with deep, bracketed cornices, round-arched windows in single, paired, and triple configurations, elaborate wrap-around porches, and a lantern on the roof. The Dorseys were also responsible for hiring Starkwether to design St. John's Episcopal Church, of 1859-60, which is located just north of

MacAlpine. Comfort MacKubin died in 1858, however, and she and James never moved into Chatham. Instead, it passed to another of Charles Worthington Dorsey's children.[1]

In 1859 James MacKubin purchased Grey Rock, consisting of 404 acres, for $32,000, and the following year the agricultural census noted that 350 acres of this farm were improved. Among his livestock were eleven horses, six milch cows, six working oxen, six other cows, 90 sheep, and 50 swine, indicating that James was operating a substantial plantation. His principal crops and products were corn, wheat, potatoes, hay, wool and butter. The 1860 Martenet Map of Howard County shows that he was living at Gray Rock, at the 13-mile marker on the Frederick Turnpike, and not in the area where MacAlpine now stands. In 1862 he sold the property to his former father-in-law, Col. Charles W. Dorsey, and leased it back, and two years later James subleased the property to John H. Herbert. James remained close to Charles W. Dorsey, and even donated a memorial window to St. John's Church that was dedicated to him. The property was divided in 1867, with Herbert taking 361 acres and the Gray Rock buildings, and MacKubin taking the remaining 43 acres. There were apparently some problems with the division that were settled the following year in equity court, but the records of this case do not survive. Herbert, however, would remain at Gray Rock for the rest of his life. In November 1868 James married Gabriella Peter (b. 22 April 1844), daughter of George Washington Parke Custis Peter (who was born at Tudor Place in Georgetown). The Peters had a house just north of Ellicott City known as Linwood, which has been described as a summer place but apparently was, or by 1868 had become, their year-round residence. Thus, James presumably knew Gabriella for some time. Much has been made of Gabriella's connection to Martha Custis Washington, and she reportedly had furnishings from Mount Vernon at MacAlpine. Likewise, she was related to Robert E. Lee, and his daughter, Mary, was an occasional visitor to MacAlpine in the summers.[2]

An earlier survey of MacAlpine stated that James and Gabriella lived at Gray Rock and that Gabriella did not like the house, so James built MacAlpine for her, while a later history added that her dislike of the house stemmed from the view of Comfort MacKubin's grave in front, and

[1] Robert Harry McIntire, *Annapolis Maryland Families* (Baltimore: Gateway Press, Inc., 1980), v. 1, pp 441-42. Celia Holland, *Old Homes and Families*, (Privately printed, 1987). p. 99. *Baltimore News*, 12 September 1904, p. 13, c. 5. Mills Lane, *Architecture of the Old South: Maryland* (New York: Abbeville Press, 1991), p. 208.

[2] Howard County Land Records, WWW 20-133. U. S. Department of the Census, Howard County, Maryland, 1860. Marriage License in the collection of the Howard County Historical Society. I am indebted to Peter Pearre for genealogical information on the Peter family. Dysart McMullen, "Early Recollections of Howard County: Our Farm in the Country," *Ellicott City Heritage*, 6, no. 2 (May 1979), p. 2.

another history stated that James did not want to bring Gabriella to the old house, so he built MacAlpine for her instead. These histories apparently did not know the date of James' second marriage and assumed that James remarried rather quickly, while he still owned Gray Rock. Clearly, this was in error. The earlier survey also claimed that the kitchen wing of the house was constructed first, c. 1860, and the main block added c. 1868.[3] Physical evidence, however, clearly demonstrates that the kitchen wing was added to the hyphen. On the exterior, the siding is different, with the main block and hyphen having earlier, wider novelty siding and the wing built with the later, narrower German siding of the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries. The siding could have been replaced, of course, but other details confirm the later date. The west porch on the hyphen has a hip roof that slopes down toward the kitchen wing on the south, an arrangement that would never have been made intentionally, since it carries water against the wood siding, inviting decay. If the roof were added later, a gable would have been built to carry water off to the west. Also, the south end of the porch has a horizontal beam running from the west wall of the hyphen to the southwest corner post of the porch, and both the porch and the beam are set several inches away from the wing. The horizontal beam originally had decorative details added to it, but they have since been removed leaving only ghosts to indicate where they were. Had this porch been added later, the post would have been set against the wall of the wing and there would have been no need for decorative details, much less a horizontal beam, on the south end. The former would not have been visible and the later would be structurally redundant.

The interior holds additional clues. The south wall of the hyphen has patches in the plaster indicating two windows or doors were there. There are no such patches in the plaster of the north wall of the wing, since this wall would have been an exterior wall covered in siding, and the siding was replaced with plaster when the wing was added. The attic of the wing holds the most obvious clue, since the short section that is the west end of the north wall of the wing butts against the west end of the south wall of the hyphen, with separate corner posts for both portions of this wall. The south wall of the wing is all of one build. The wing rafters on the north side that are covered by the hyphen roof clearly never had any roofing or sheathing nailed to them. Also, the hyphen roof was originally a hip, but unlike the porch, it was decided that converting it to a gable was important. The original hip ridge rafters are still in place, and a new ridge pole was added, with new sections of rafter nailed to this pole at the top and the rafter feet cut off at an angle and nailed to the hip rafters at the bottom. The wing is constructed with a heavy timber, mortised and tenoned and pegged braced frame, with cut nails used to fasten smaller members.

[3] Cleora Barnes Thompson, *Maryland Inventory of Historic Places*, HO-400, MacAlpine, 1977. "Historical Sketch of Howard County: Distinguished Families and their Manor Homes." *Ellicott City Heritage*, 6, no. 2 (May 1979), p. 1. Cecilia Holland, *Old Homes and Families*, p. 99.

The west end of the attic was once finished with lath and plaster, but only some of the lath survives on the south wall. It is fastened with early wire nails that have small nicks along the shaft, perhaps to give them extra holding power, since wire nails were suspect among carpenters when they were first introduced. It is not clear whether the lath was installed during construction or represents a later alteration.

The main block is also more complicated than was originally believed. In the 1868 transfer book it is recorded that James MacKubin made improvements to his property, but it is not specified what these improvements were or what their value was.[4] It is this record that apparently influenced the earlier survey to conclude that this is when the house was built. It is not known where James was living in 1868, but it is reasonable to speculate that perhaps he built the main block that year with his impending marriage in mind. The plan of the house he built, with the first story stairway located across the front of the house, where it cuts across one of the windows, is known as the "Annapolis Plan." Michael Trostel has described this as a common regional type of the eighteenth century rarely found elsewhere.

One characteristic was the use of a floor plan with a short entrance passage and the staircase to one side. Opposite the stair was a chamber. Across the garden side of the house were two rooms, with the larger one extending beyond the center of the house and having a door or a jib window on axis with the entrance door. This room was usually used as the parlor. The plan was more sophisticated than one having a center passage containing the stair and running the depth of the house: with the least space lost to the passage, it provided convenient circulation among all the rooms; there could be a variety of room sizes, with a large, well-lighted parlor on the garden side of the house; and the plan still permitted exterior symmetry and a formal axis with a view from the entrance through the house to the garden in summer, when the doors would be standing open. This basic plan, sometimes with a small room between the stair and the front, was increasingly used for important houses in Maryland until the end of the colonial period.[5]

This describes precisely the arrangement and function of spaces in MacAlpine, right down to the use of jib windows. The one difference is that MacAlpine is built at the edge of a steep drop, with a grand view east over Ellicott City toward Baltimore, and the jib windows opened onto a porch that was likely intended to take advantage of this prospect.

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[4] Howard County Transfer Book, 1859-71, Maryland State Archives.

[5] Michael F. Trostel, A.I.A., "The 'Annapolis Plan' in Maryland," in Mario di Valmarana, ed., *Building by the Book II* (Charlottesville: University Press of Virginia, 1986), p. 2. See also, Marcia M. Miller and Orlando Ridout V, eds., *Architecture in Annapolis: A Field Guide* (Crownsville, MD: Vernacular Architecture Forum and Maryland Historical Trust Press, 1998).

As yet it would seem that no one has explored the survival of the "Annapolis Plan" after the colonial period and its spread to other locations in Maryland. The source of this floor plan at MacAlpine is intriguing, if uncertain. Being an Annapolis native, it is reasonable to assume that James MacKubin could have known the house plan first-hand. Strawberry Hill, MacKubin's boyhood home, was taken down during the Civil War, and its plan is not known, so MacKubin could have simply copied what he grew up with. The timing of the construction of MacAlpine was such that he could have been reacting to its demolition for a hospital just a few years earlier. The "Annapolis Plan" is also the plan used at Mount Clare in Baltimore, the Carroll family property that passed to James Maccubin in the early nineteenth century. In order to inherit, James Maccubin, James MacKubin's great uncle on his mother's side, changed his name to Carroll. James (Maccubin) Carroll died two years after the birth of James MacKubin, and the house passed to his son, James Carroll, Jr. Whether James MacKubin knew Mount Clare through his family connections could not be established.[6]

When built, MacAlpine was somewhat different than what one sees today. The mansard roof did not exist, and instead there was a low hip roof. The first story has mortise locks while the second story, not surprisingly, has the less refined rim locks. The third story, which has later four-panel doors with double fields, and later varnished trim, also has mortise locks. Clearly, the mansard was finished at a later date, though it could have been an unfinished space originally. However, the stairs were built in two stages. The stairway on the first story was carefully coped to fit around the shutters of the west window, which were fixed closed over the lower sash and were never hung on hinges, as they could never be operated. The stairway from the second story to the third has a different configuration, crammed into the southwest corner in a much less elegant arrangement than that of the first story. It also has noticeably different stair brackets, and the balusters, though of the same pattern, have several subtle differences. When the stairs to the mansard story were added, the window on the south elevation of the second story was closed off inside, with the exterior blinds permanently closed. Adding the stairs required changes to the southwest chamber. There was apparently a closet in the center of the south end of the southwest chamber. It projected to the south and the original stair handrail would have butted up against it. To the east of this closet is the landing at the top of the stairs, which still exists in its original configuration. To the west of the closet the wall was pushed to the north to create sufficient headroom for the stairs as they ascend along the west wall. The closet had to be removed to insert the new stairs. At the same time, part of the area that was originally open to the first story stairs was floored, making the southwest corner of the southwest chamber slightly larger. This was done at the expense of headroom for the first story stair, which is now a little tight. The

[6] Michael F. Trostel, A.I.A., *Mount Clare: Being and Account of the Seat built by Charles Carroll, Barrister, upon his Lands at Patapsco* (Baltimore: National Society of the Colonial Dames of America in the State of Maryland, 1981), pp. 15, 83.

reason for doing this was likely that had the original west end of the south wall of the southwest chamber been left in place, there would have been a small dead space between this wall and the new stairs to the south. The original hip roof created a shallow attic that would not have been accessible by a stairway anywhere but in the center, and there is no evidence that there ever was such a stairway. Most likely, the attic was not accessible because it was so small and low, so the stairs to the third story were not needed until the mansard was added.

The other strong evidence for the hip roof is the floor framing of the main block, which is visible at the south end, in the hyphen. The mansard story has two layers of joists, both of which are of shallow depth. The bottom level runs east-west, but on the south side there are short joists that run north-south. These joists are typically used to support the rafter ends and cornice of either hip roofs or mansards, and the same arrangement can be seen in the hyphen (which originally had a hip roof), where the lath and plaster was removed from the second story ceiling in the east chamber to expose the framing. Since there is a second layer of joists above this layer, the short joists could not have been intended to support the mansard roof, and indeed, they do not. The presence of the hip on the hyphen and the lack of a stairway to the attic, as well as the shallow nature of the joists, suggests that the house must have had a hip roof originally. The upper level of joists run north-south and rest on rough blocks of wood set on the south plate, appearing very much to be an addition rather than original construction. Some of the south studs on the mansard story also rest on blocks set on the plate. The use of two sets of joists can be found in eighteenth century Annapolis houses and was used as a means of preserving plaster ceilings from cracking by hanging the ceiling from a different set of joists than those that carried the floor above. Thus, when the floor joists deflected due to either live or dead loads, the deflection would not be transferred to the ceiling below. However, in the case of MacAlpine, the lower level joists are rather small to have carried a floor and the upper level appear to be added. In addition, there is no evidence that the second story ever had any decorative plasterwork, so it would seem that this was not the intention of the two layers of joists in this instance. In fact, the finishes throughout the house are very simple, and the exterior was nothing like the elaborate houses that Starkwether designed for the Dorseys. Starkwether was likely working in Washington, D. C. by 1868, but there were other Baltimore architects that MacKubin could have called on, such as Starkwether's former assistant, E. G. Lind. Instead, it would seem that MacKubin and a local builder collaborated on the design of MacAlpine, using stock materials that probably came from Baltimore via the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad to Ellicott City. For example, the interior shutters and newel post are similar to those illustrated in the 1879 George O. Stevens catalogue, though the forms chosen by MacKubin were generic enough to have been available much earlier, and from many other Baltimore sash and door manufacturers.[7]

[7] Diana S. Waite, ed. *Architectural Elements: The Technological Revolution* (New York: Bonanza Books, n.d.), pp. 13, 40.

There is a large variety of labeled locks used throughout the house, most of which have patent dates in the 1860s, though most of the makers were in business for a long time, and thus do not tell us much about the period of construction other than it must be after 1866. These locks include Russell & Erwin mortise locks on the first story of the main block with a patent date of 1866, Russell & Erwin rim locks on both stories of the hyphen with 1864 and 1866 patent dates, and a Branford Lock Works rim lock in the hyphen (marked "B.L.W.") that must date after their founding in 1865. The second story of the main block has rim locks with a patent date of 1864, and a Davenport, Mallory & Co. lock (marked "D.M. & Co") that must date to 1861-1865. This is the most suggestive lock, since it was not manufactured for long. The third story mortise locks are also by Branford Lock Works, and have a patent date of 1863, but the company was in business for a long time. Several of these locks can also be found in the basement, along with a lock by Parker & Whipple Co. (marked P. & W. Co.). The partners began producing locks in 1835, and this one appears to have a patent date of 1850, but the company was not incorporated under this name until 1868. The presence of this lock, which appears to be original to the house, suggests that construction could not have been completed until 1868, at the soonest. Unfortunately, only one lock survives in the wing, and it is a Russell & Erwin rim lock with an 1864 patent date, but this lock is not original to the attic door where it is now found. Of note for the rarity of its survival is the hardware for the servant's bells and the early heating and ventilation system, consisting of brick shafts under the fireplaces that led to dampers in the bottoms of the fireboxes, as well as the controls in the floor to open and close these dampers. Equally as unique is the cast iron sink in the first story powder room, which is labeled "J.L. Mott Iron Works 264 & 266 Water St., N.Y." This room, along with most of the house, was thoroughly remodeled in 1985 as a decorator's show house, but this sink was in MacAlpine before then. It was noted in 1979, and was believed to be an original feature of the house at that time. The room that it is in is certainly an unusual one, but it appears to be an original space, and always had a small window set high on the wall, consistent with a water closet. This sink is illustrated in Mott's catalogue of 1888, though how early it was produced is not known. It would seem that this room functioned as a water closet at an early date, if not originally.[8]

In the 1876-1896 tax assessment ledger for District 2 of Howard County, James MacKubin is assessed for "additional improvement" valued at $1800.[9] As with the earlier assessment, just

[8] Thomas F. Hennessey, *Locks and Lockmakers of America*, rev. 3rd ed. (Park Ridge, Ill: Locksmith Publishing Corp, 1976, 1997), pp. 49-50, 58-9, 143. J.L. Mott Iron Works, *Catalog "G" Illustrating the Plumbing and Sanitary Department*, (1888. Reprinted as *Mott's Illustrated Catalog of Victorian Plumbing Fixtures for Bathrooms and Kitchens*, New York: Dover Publications, Inc, 1987), p. 185.

[9] Tax Assessment Ledger, District 2, Howard County, 1876-1896. Maryland State Archives.

what this improvement was is not made clear, and the actual date of the change is also not mentioned. Given that the buildings were assessed at $6,000 and that many properties in the neighborhood had assessments of from $250 to $2500, it is reasonable to assume that this notation documents significant changes to the house – either the kitchen wing addition or the mansard roof. At this point it is not possible to determine whether both changes were made at the same time or at two different periods. It would seem that they were done at different times, if only because the wing was given a low-pitched gable roof. The whole house would have been better tied together if the wing and hyphen were also given a mansard, and the hyphen roof had to undergo substantial alteration, anyway. Tearing it off would have made it easier to add the mansard, but if the hyphen roof had been changed not too many years previous, there would likely have been reluctance to destroy it. Thus, it would seem that the wing was added first and the mansard at a later date. Gabriella's childhood home, Linwood, has a mansard roof, though the history of this feature there, and thus its possible influence on MacAlpine is not known. The MacKubin's five children were born between 1870 and 1878, which certainly could have occasioned the expansion of the house. The hyphen was likely always a pantry, and there is clear indication that at some point it was divided in half by a wall that ran east-west, with a kitchen dresser on this wall in the southernmost room. The kitchen was probably located in the basement of the hyphen, but the fireplace that most likely contained the range has been bricked in and is thus not accessible for examination. The addition of the wing moved the kitchen to the first story and provided chambers above either for children or servants. If there were servants in the hyphen chambers, they were probably moved to open these spaces up for the children. Once the wing was erected, it would seem that the MacKubins would have had little need for the space in the mansard. The roof could have been added purely for decorative reasons, but if so, there would have been little cause to finish the rooms on that level. Perhaps, as the daughters got older but did not marry, the mansard was added in order to make more room for the children to spread out. The presence of a call bell pull at the top of the stairs suggests that the mansard story was not intended for servants, as does the fact that it could only be accessed from the main stairway. Though they first became popular in Maryland in the 1860s, mansard roofs continued to be added to houses into the early twentieth century. Examples from 1890-1910 have been observed in Carroll and Frederick counties.[10] Thus, the whole story of MacAlpine cannot be completely understood at this time.

James MacKubin died in September 1904 and Gabriella inherited the property. The inventory of James's property mentions only the hall, library, parlor and dining room on the first floor, plus a hall and bedroom on the second story and three bedrooms on the third story. This confirms the

[10] Examples include the Forrest Sisters House (CARR-1574) at 153 E. Green Street in Westminster, built in 1907, and the Staley-Kemp-Shaffer Farm house at 2411 Steepleview Court in Frederick, with a mansard added c. 1896-1910.

existence of the mansard by 1904, but the lack of mention of a kitchen cannot be taken to have any significance, since the rooms in the original hyphen are not listed, and there is no acknowledgement that there was a kitchen anywhere, which is clearly an oversight. Gabriella died in February 1920, and her inventory is more complete in the list of rooms, though the objects in each room are not itemized. The list of rooms included: hall, dining room, library, parlor, pantry no. 1 & no. 2, back passage, kitchen, breakfast room, bedroom no. 1, bedroom no. 2, bedroom no. 3, bedroom no. 4, garret room no. 1, garret room no. 2, sewing room, and maid's room. This clearly did not cover all of the rooms in the house, though this may be because Gabriella's three daughters had their own personal possessions in some of the other rooms. It does suggest that the hyphen was still two pantry rooms, and the room in the southwest corner of the wing served as a breakfast room. Gabriella left everything to her three unmarried daughters and left her son George nothing because, as she stated in her will, they needed it and he did not.[11]

On the MacAlpine property was a stone building often described as a slave quarter, though its use was primarily conjectural and the date of construction is unknown. It survives, much altered and added to, at 3645 Macalpine Road (outside the current property boundaries). There was also an ice pond on the property. As a neighbor recalled, "In winter we skated on the pond, but in midsummer it was drained to avoid the possibility of a breeding place for mosquitoes. In winter it provided clear ice with which to fill the MacKubin and Woodley icehouses." Gabriella MacKubin's inventory mentions two other buildings on the estate, a carriage house and an office.[12] Though most lawyers lived in the county seat so they could be near the courthouse, and had their office there, as well, MacKubin must have felt that he was close enough at MacAlpine and apparently did not have an office in town.

George MacKubin (b. 30 August 1872) did not need his mother's property because he was very successful in business. He became a stockbroker and founded the brokerage firm of MacKubin, Goodrich & Co., which later became MacKubin-Legg and then Legg-Mason. In 1928 he also founded the Houston Natural Gas Company, which he sold to Atlantic Richfield thirty years later. Parke Custis MacKubin (b. 11 November 1873) managed a farm on Kent Island that was owned by his father, but he was killed in a logging accident in 1903. Mildred Lee (b. 7 November 1878) married and moved to a Baltimore apartment. She sold her interest in MacAlpine to her two sisters in 1925. According to a neighbor's recollections, "Emily [b. 17 March 1876] was considered to be an accentric [sic] because she dressed in khaki divided skirt,

[11] Howard County Register of Wills, James MacKubin Will, WHM 4-279; Inventory, WHM 10-138. Howard County Register of Wills, Gabriella MacKubin Inventory, RD 12-177; Will, RD 6-102.

[12] McMullen, "Early Recollections of Howard County," p. 4. Gabriella MacKubin Inventory, RD 12-177.

Sam Brown belt, Stetson hat and wore a holstered revolver strapped to her right hip." She never married and when she died in 1943 she left her half of MacAlpine to her sister, Ella. Ella (b. 17 August 1870) was reportedly "hyper-religious" and also never married. She continued to live at MacAlpine until 1946.[13]

Marcus A. Wakefield, Jr. purchased MacAlpine from Ella MacKubin in 1946 and developed the Dunloggin neighborhood that now surrounds the house. The house was cut off onto four lots and sold to the Cavey family, who owned it until 1962. It changed hands several times in the 1960s and supposedly had "fallen into a sad state of disrepair" that prompted one restoration in 1965. The owner, William Clark, tried to convert the house to an antique store and dwelling, but was denied zoning and sold the building. In 1974 Carl and Linda Papa purchased the property and they, too, worked on a restoration of the house. A commune had been living in the house at the time, and "bedrooms were painted deep purple and black." The restoration included replacing the roofing, rebuilding all of the fireplaces, sandblasting the brick of the kitchen chimney and altering it in ways as yet undetermined, and refinishing the floor by 1979. The mantel in the northwest room was moved to the northeast room, and a marble mantel from the Baltimore home of the Schmidt family, of brewing fame, was placed in the northwest room. The northeast room mantel was reportedly damaged, but it may survive in the basement. It reportedly matched the existing mantel in the southeast room. The Greek Revival ceiling medallion in the southeast room was also added in this renovation, and as it is identical to that in the northeast room, the latter must have been done at the same time. The Federal ceiling medallion in the northwest room is also likely of the same period. All three are very well executed plasterwork. The east

[13] St. John's Episcopal Church, Record of Births. Copy in Howard County Historical Society, VF, "MacKubin." McMullen, "Early Recollections of Howard County," p. 2. Howard County Land Records, H.B.N. 125-139. Howard County Register of Wills, Emily Boyce MacKubin will, R.L.P. 9-368.

porch was already missing by this time. The 1985 decorator's show house was primarily concerned with redecorating, and made few changes to the fabric of the building. The one exception is that the foam cornice mouldings were apparently added at that time.[14]

[14] Howard County Land Records, 192-80, 193-217. *Ellicott City Times*, 23 December 1965, p. 11. Clipping in Howard County Historical Society VF, "MacAlpine." Howard County Land Records, 683-222. Kathryn Mann, "Historical Home Once Owned by Washington's Kin," Howard County Times, 17 January 1979, p. B-7. Clipping in Howard County Historical Society VF, "MacAlpine." Gill Chamblin, "Everything's Rosy at MacAlpine Manor," 1980. Clipping in Howard County Historical Society VF, "MacAlpine." Gerri Kobren, "A Peek at the Past," *Sun* (Baltimore) 20 October 1985, p. 9K.

Major Bibliographical References:

See footnotes.

MacAlpine (HO-400)
Name of Property

Howard County, Maryland
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 0.7 acres Ellicott City, MD quad

UTM References
(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
1	18	342153	4348530	3			
2				4			

☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description
(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet)

Boundary Justification
(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kenneth M. Short
Organization _____ date June 2003
street & number 610 Regester Avenue telephone 410-377-4953
city or town Baltimore state Maryland zip code 21212

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional Items
(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO)

name Michael & Laura Sullivan
street & number 3261 Macalpine Road telephone 410-480-9747
city or town Ellicott City state Maryland zip code 21042

Paperwork Reduction Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et. seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

Verbal Boundary Description:

The boundaries are shown on Howard County Tax Map 24, Parcel 1006.

Boundary Justification:

The nominated property represents the remnant of the acreage historically associated with the resource. The property was reduced to its current extent in 1946, when MacAlpine passed out of the ownership of the original family.

The National Register nomination for "MacAlpine" noted that the physical evidence indicated that the main block was constructed first, with the Mansard roof added to it later and the wing added to the hyphen between 1876 and 1896. It was not clear whether these two changes were made at the same time, with the conclusion that the whole story of the house could not be known at that time. The discovery of an unusually complete newspaper account of the renovations from September 1877 not only dates the changes, but confirms many of the conclusions made in 2003. It also documents that the roof and wing were constructed at the same time. The notice is quoted in full:

> Among the many notices of improvements recently appearing in these columns none deserve more favorable mention that those at "MacAlpine," the beautiful residence of Hon. James Mackubin, two miles west of this city. It is situated on a plateau immediately fronting St. John's P. E. Church and commands an extensive view of the surrounding region. The improvements consist in part of the addition of a mansard roof to the original building, thus acquiring four large rooms, ingeniously ventilated by an opening in the new observatory now crowning this part. The two bay windows on the west end of this building have been raised to describe two stories, and are crested with balconies reached from the mansard addition. On the west front a commodious porch spans the entire length, in the front centre of which is a "drive-porch," the first and only one we know of in the county. This is an attractive feature of the new work. In the basement has been placed a large furnace with which the building will be heated by hot air. To the south side a complete three-story addition with gable roof forms the principal improvement. Six rooms are thus acquired. In the garret a large water tank has been placed, making two in the house. A well over forty feet deep has been sunk near by, furnished with a force pump to be used in filling the tanks when the dry weather will have made it a necessity. These tanks will be valuable auxiliaries in case of fire. This addition will allow the removal of the whole culinary department to the second floor, on a level with the dining hall, an accommodation Mr. Mackubin has sought in the present instance. The laundry, store, bath and clothes' rooms occupy locations in this addition, several of which have so utilized the vacant spaces made in the construction as to excite admiration of the disposition made by the carpenters. The building has been thoroughly painted inside and out, the color of the latter being light pearl with brown trimmings, the former nearly all white, while on the mansard roof several colors are used on the different figures. One of the pleasing features of "MacAlpine" is the complete absence of extravagant ornamentation, so prevalent in modern buildings, but on the contrary modest and chaste work is agreeably met with at every turn. All in all the improvement is a reflex of good workmanship, and to Mr. Wm. Gerwig, of Catonsville, the carpenter and designer, great praise is due. Mr. John Low, of

> Union, did the painting; Weatherly & Co. the furnaces, and Morrison & Co. the plumbing, the two latter of Baltimore.[1]

The implication of the article is that the kitchen was originally in the basement, probably of the hyphen, and was moved to the first story of the new wing to make it more convenient. The furnace was probably placed in the old kitchen fireplace.

The mention of paint colors is rather rare and worth some consideration. The color "pearl," obviously a white, was not a term used frequently in the second half of the nineteenth century. In his 1812 treatise on house painting Hezekiah Reynolds described pearl color as white with Prussian blue and spruce yellow mixed into it. House painting guides published after the Civil War tended to promote darker colors and earth tones, with white anathema to them. The description of the painting of the "different figures" of the Mansard roof suggests that there were decoratively cut wood shingles in more than one pattern; unfortunately, the colors used, and their placement, were not delineated. Decorative treatments of shingle roofs can be seen in many of the Victorian era paint literature. As with any prescriptive literature, the question is how closely was it followed, and by whom? This description of "MacAlpine" suggests that these books had some influence on the roof and the use of brown on the trim, but that the general popularity of white houses was not easily overcome. The use of an off-white (if the pearl color was similar to earlier descriptions) rather than a pure white may have been a slight concession to changing taste.[2]

It was speculated that James MacKubin and his builder were likely responsible for the design of the original house, but the design of the additions was not considered. This theory cannot be tested for the original work, but the article clearly notes that builder William Gerwig was the designers of the changes. Gerwig was born in Baltimore in 1835 and first worked for Peter Haus of Catonsville before going into business for himself in 1861. He advertised as an architect and builder by at least 1882, though this information clearly indicates that he was designing projects before that time in the time-honored tradition of many builders.[3]

Kenneth M. Short
September 2008

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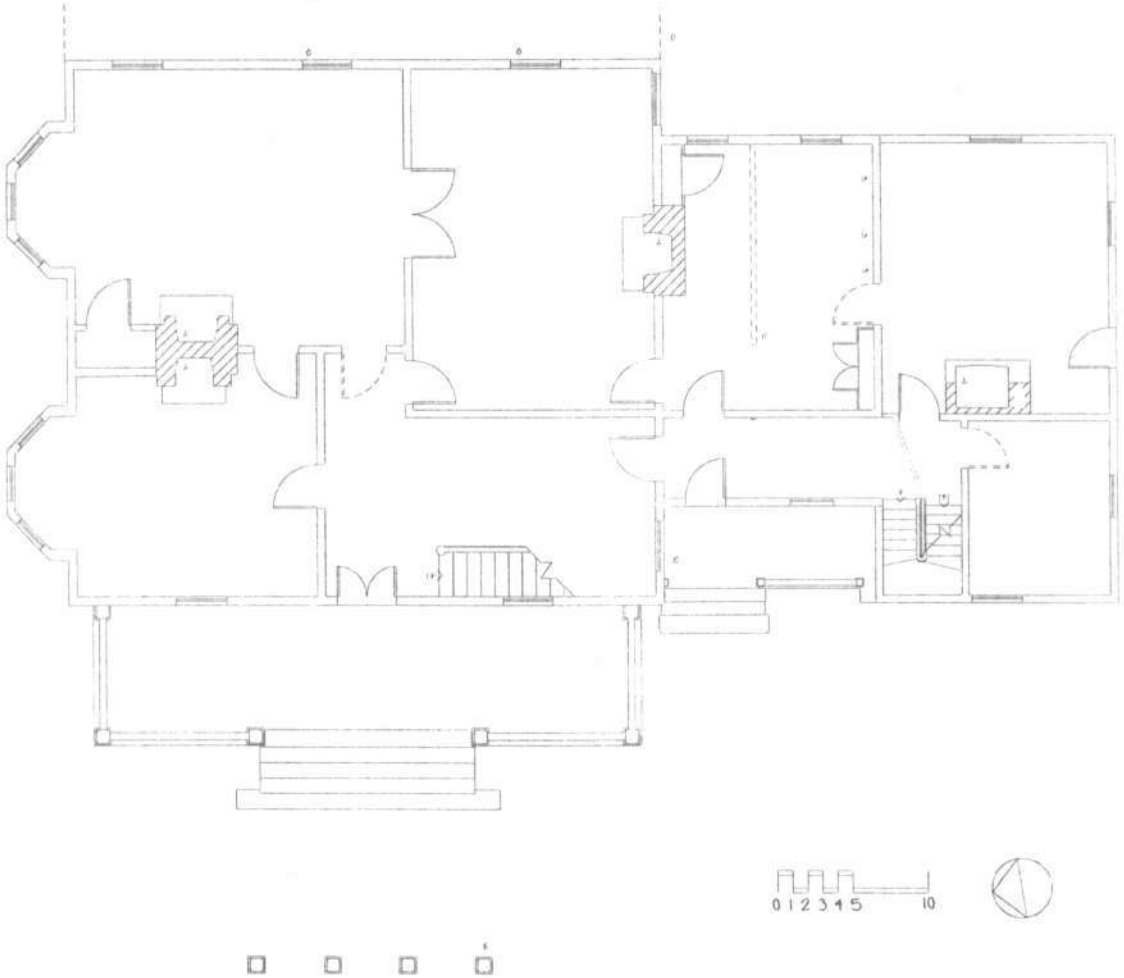
[1] *Ellicott City (Maryland) Times*, 1 September 1877, p. 3.

[2] Matthew J. Mosca, "Paint Decoration at Mount Vernon: The Revival of Eighteenth-Century Techniques," in Roger W. Moss, editor, *Paint in America: The Colors of Historic Buildings* (Washington, D. C.: The Preservation Press, 1994), p. 110. See Roger W. Moss and Gail Caskey Winkler, *Victorian Exterior Decoration: How to Paint Your Nineteenth-Century American House Historically* (New York: Henry Holt & Co., 1987).

[3] Kenneth M. Short, "Old Catonsville Historic District (BA-2975)," *National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form*, 2001, Section 8, p. 9.



NOTES

A FIREBOX REBUILT/ALTERED
B JIB WINDOW
C NEW PORCH NOT SHOWN
D GHOST OF PORCH
E PORTE COCHERE
F GHOST OF WALL
G GHOST OF WINDOW/DOOR OPENINGS

HO-400 "MACALPINE" 3621 MACALPINE ROAD

FIRST FLOOR PLAN MEASURED BY KEN SHORT & KAY SMITH DRAWN BY KEN SHORT MARCH 2003

Ellicott City

Ho-400
MacAlpine
Howard County, MD
8-342153-
4348530