Form No. 10-300 (Rev. 10-74)

BA-1107

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC
SUMMIT; Elsinore

AND/OR COMMON
James A. Gary House, now Summit Park Apartments

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
10 Stanley Drive — __NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN
Catonsville — __ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
Third

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
Maryland	024	Baltimore	005

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
__DISTRICT	__PUBLIC	X OCCUPIED	__AGRICULTURE	__MUSEUM
X BUILDING(S)	X PRIVATE	__UNOCCUPIED	__COMMERCIAL	__PARK
__STRUCTURE	__BOTH	__WORK IN PROGRESS	__EDUCATIONAL	X PRIVATE RESIDENCE
__SITE	**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**	**ACCESSIBLE**	__ENTERTAINMENT	__RELIGIOUS
__OBJECT	__IN PROCESS	X YES: RESTRICTED	__GOVERNMENT	__SCIENTIFIC
	__BEING CONSIDERED	__YES: UNRESTRICTED	__INDUSTRIAL	__TRANSPORTATION
		__NO	__MILITARY	__OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Adolf Saxon

STREET & NUMBER
1300 Summit Avenue

CITY, TOWN
Catonsville, — __ VICINITY OF

STATE
Maryland 21228

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Baltimore County Courts Building

STREET & NUMBER
401 Bosley Avenue

CITY, TOWN
Towson,

STATE
Maryland 21204

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

__FEDERAL __STATE __COUNTY __LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
_EXCELLENT	_DETERIORATED	_UNALTERED	X ORIGINAL SITE
_GOOD	_RUINS	X ALTERED	_MOVED DATE_____
X FAIR	_UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Summit is located at number 10 on the north side of Stanley Drive, one block south of Frederick Road (Maryland Route 144), one block north of Rolling Road (Maryland Route 166) and one block east of Hilton Avenue, in Catonsville, Baltimore County, Maryland.

The large, brick house, once part of a country estate, might be classified as a Franco-Italianate villa. It now sits on a small lot with its architectural front facing north and its east facade facing the street. Viewed head on, it is not overwhelming, seeming to be of domestic proportions. But from the east it is of massive dimensions, with a three-story Italianate tower and large wing extending to the rear.

The main facade is three stories tall and five bays wide, with the tower on the east side extending it visually. A one-story porch with square columns and railings in a scallop pattern runs across the full facade. A row of basement windows is under the porch, two to the west of the stairs and three to the east, the last in line with the tower. The windows contain large, vertical panes. The stairs, flanked by square newel posts and railings with a pattern of two concentric circles, rise before the entrance. The double doors have pilasters on either side and a large, five-light transom and sidelights of three lights over a panel. The four windows on the first floor are narrow and very tall with four-over-four light sash. On the second floor above these windows are also four-over-four light windows, though shorter than those below. In the center bay over the doorway is a three-part window consisting of a window like the others flanked by narrow sash with two-over-two lights placed vertically. Above this is a row of decorative dentils in the brickwork. Most of the windows on the first and second floors have louvered shutters.

The three third floor windows are set in the mansard roof, which is sheathed in slate in several alternating rows of square and hexagonal shingles. The hexagonal rows are in colors, the others grey. A row of iron roof cresting runs around the edge of the roof. The dormers contain double windows with two, two-over-two light sash. Above each pair is a steep gable roof with carved verge board decoration in the peak. The central window is set apart by strips of wood shaping a rhombus. A bracketed cornice runs just under the mansard roof. The flat porch roof has a similar cornice, but with smaller brackets above a plain frieze.

The ground slopes away on the east facade of the house, making room for a range of full-size basement windows. The tower rises two bays to the rear of the main facade. It is two bays wide and one deep. Rising slightly above the mansard roof, it terminates with a bracketed cornice and flat roof. The third floor of the tower has decorative brickwork consisting of a band above and below the windows, of different patterns, and narrow, inset panels on either side of and between the windows.

See Continuation Sheet #1

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Summit
Baltimore County,
Maryland

DESCRIPTION (continued)

The tall windows here have been bricked in at the top and replaced with shorter one-over-one sash. The other windows in the tower remain unaltered. To the north of the tower, one bay from the main facade is a one-bay projection, a later addition. The roof cornice continues around this, and the porch cornice extends across it as well.

Behind the tower extends the back wing, also of three stories with a high basement. It is four bays long with a door in the last bay; a one-story porch has been built over the door and window next to it. The window sash in the wing have six-over-six panes. A pavilion one bay wide projects eastward from the rear to balance the tower.

The wing is three bays wide on the south. A large chimney runs up the center bay, with a window through it at the mansard level.

The west facade of the wing formerly had a portico for carriages. This side, not visible from the street, now has a fire escape.

The brick house is presently painted gray with white trim. It is evident from an earlier black and white photograph that the house was once painted a lighter color with dark trim.

It was not possible to get into the building for the purposes of this report. First divided into apartments in 1919, the house still serves as Summit Park Apartments. Before the present owner purchased the building in 1977, many of the original architectural features remained inside. It is not known what alterations have been made by the owner, if any.

The house had wide halls and ceilings ranging from ten to fifteen feet high. There were tall doorways, but the door knobs were set only two feet off the floor. A recent Summit tenant measured a typical window in the main block as 36" wide by 110" high. There was a wealth of paneling. The house had a water tank and bathroom from its beginning and was equipped with stoves rather than fireplaces.

None of the outbuildings remain on the property.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
__PREHISTORIC	__ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	__COMMUNITY PLANNING	__LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	__RELIGION
__1400-1499	__ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	__CONSERVATION	__LAW	__SCIENCE
__1500-1599	__AGRICULTURE	__ECONOMICS	__LITERATURE	__SCULPTURE
__1600-1699	X ARCHITECTURE	__EDUCATION	__MILITARY	__SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
__1700-1799	__ART	__ENGINEERING	__MUSIC	__THEATER
X 1800-1899	__COMMERCE	__EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	__PHILOSOPHY	__TRANSPORTATION
__1900-	__COMMUNICATIONS	__INDUSTRY	X POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	__OTHER (SPECIFY)
		__INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Summit is a survivor from Catonsville's history as a summer retreat for Baltimore's very rich. From the 1840s through the 1800s, wealthy merchants and bankers, among others, purchased property here and erected large summer homes. The Italianate villa, a popular type at mid-century, appear here as is evidenced by the Summit. Begun in the 1850s in this style as a two-story house, the Summit probably faced west. It is thought to have been incomplete in 1860, and, in any case, damaged during the Civil War. A later owner altered the house in the French Second Empire style, adding the third floor mansard roof on the house and the fourth story mansard on the tower (the latter now gone). These changes were probably made by James A. Gary, a well-known man in national Republican politics during the last quarter of the 19th century and the first two decades of the 20th The addition of a mansard was a way of altering a house to make it more stylish, something desired by and feasible for a man of Gary's position.

After about 1890 Catonsville was still largely a summer resort, but a different group of people was building during this period. They were from Baltimore's upper middle class, and many of their houses were built in the Queen Anne style. The houses remaining in Catonsville from its period as a fashionable summer place are for the most part from this later period. The Italianate houses of the earlier time, altered by later taste or not, have suffered a harder fate. Most of them are gone or in very deteriorated conditon, leaving Summit as one of the few reminders of their time.

Summit was begun between 1850 and 1857, most probably shortly after the land was acquired by Margaret Elizabeth Koefoed from William T. Somerville in 1854. Before that date the property appears to have been unimproved, being lot #60 of the Baltimore Iron Company's holdings in what was to become Catonsville. The 58 1/2-acre tract passed from Zachariah Rhodes to Mathias Benzinger in 1848 (B.C. Deeds AWB 401:95), and the 1850 Baltimore County map by J. C. Sidney shows Benzinger's dwelling south of Frederick and east of Rolling Roads. Benzinger sold the property to Francis Rutter in April 1850 (Deeds AWB 432:513), and in 1851 the land was acquired by William T. Somerville, a member of a prominent Catonsville and St. Mary's County family (Deeds AWB 465:224). He, and John L. Caton, in turn, conveyed the property to Mrs. Koefoed "as if she were sole and unmarried." (Deeds HMF 9:476). The property appears on Robert Taylor's 1857 county map as "Elsinore" owned by Margaret husband, Charles Koefoed.

See Continuation Sheet #2

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (continued)

Mrs. Koefoed was born Margaret Elizabeth Carpenter in St. Mary's County, where her family was wealthy and prominent. Family traditions relate she met her husband, Charles J. Koefoed of St. Thomas, Danish West Indies, on a sea voyage she had taken for her health. Koefoed had left his native Denmark at the age of 12 and become wealthy and successful. He came to Baltimore as 'consul' for St. Thomas. He was also owner of the St. Thomas Ice Establishment. His descendants claim he designed the Catonsville house himself, but never lived to see it completed. He was dead by 1862, and his widow, Margaret "of St. Thomas, Danish West Indies, now temporarly in Maryland" died in 1864 leaving four children (Mettie, Charles, Caspar, and Albert) in the guardianship of her brother, William C. Carpenter (Wills JLR 2:358). Her inventory is that of a two-story house with the following rooms: West Room, Hall, East Room, South Room upstairs, West Room upstairs, West Room in the Garret, Kitchen, Pantry, East Room upstairs, East Room in the Garret (Inventories JP 6:9-14). Outbuildings consisted of a tool house and dog house. Family tradition claims that at this time the mansion was still incomplete, and that Mrs. Koefoed resided in a cottage on the grounds. They also say soldiers used the unfinished mansion as quarters during the Civil War, damaging its interior.

By the time Mrs. Koefoed's executor came to sell the property, it had acquired the name "the Summit." A subdivision plan was drawn by the Baltimore landscape architect J. Wilkinson, showing Stanley Drive much as it is today, skirting the northeast corner of a very large house with a wide main block and a spacious back building (Orphans Court Records, Account of Sales, JP 4:344). In September 1867 Mrs. Koefoed's executor made a private sale of Lot #2, with the main house, and other lots, to Gustave A. Meyer (Account of Sales, JP 4:343), Deeds EHA 57: 479). Meyer mortgaged the property in 1871 to James A. Gary (Mortgage Records EHA 43:166); two years later Gary sued Meyer and as mortgagee ordered the "magnificent country estate" to be sold.

The following advertisement appeared in the Baltimore American of June 18, 1873, p. 3:

> THAT MOST BEAUTIFUL COUNTRY SEAT KNOWN AS THE "SUMMIT," situated on the Frederick Turnpike road, about six miles from the city of Baltimore, just beyond and adjoining the thriving and beautiful village of Catonsville.
>
> It contains about sixty-one acres of land, twenty-one of which is a delightful grove, the balance in a high

See Continuation Sheet #3

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (continued)

> state of cultivation. The improvements consist of a large DOUBLE BRICK MANSION, two stories and a-half high, divided into large and convenient apartments, with high ceilings, wide halls, broad piazza, and all the modern convenience of bath room, closets, a fine billiard room, water reservois etc. There is a fine large Barn, Carriage House, Ice House, Gardener's House, and all the improvements harmonizing with the mansion. There is a great variety of beautiful shade trees, an excellent Orchard of select fruit, and the choicest of Grapes, berries, and small fruits.
>
> The entire establishment is one of the most beautiful desirable and healthful, for a Country seat in the vicinity of Baltimore while its proximity to the thriving village of Catonsville, adds greatly to its value, as it is in demand for building purposes, and avenues might be opened through it and the property sold or leased in lots at highly advantageous terms. It affords a rare opportunity for investment to any capitalist desiring a fine residence, or for suburban improvements.
>
> Colonel Bowen, on the premises, will take pleasure in showing the property at any time prior to the sale, to any persons contemplating purchase.
>
> The Catonsville cars, leaving Baltimore every hour pass directly by the place. The 12 o'clock car on the day of the sale will reach the place in season for persons desiring to attend.

James A. Gary was the highest bidder, purchasing the estate for $28,000. The property appears on the 1877 inset map of Catonsville in the G. M. Hopkins atlas of Baltimore County. The 1876 tax ledger for the First District describes the dwelling: "Improvements $9025." Gary was not able to execute a deed to himself, and none was recorded.

James Albert Gary, Postmaster General for President McKinley, was born in Uncasville, Connecticut, in 1833. His father, James Stanley Gary, was in the cotton manufacturing business, and in 1838 moved to Laurel, Maryland. In 1853 he established the Alberton Manufacturing Company at Elysville. Young Gary was educated at Rockhill Institute in Ellicott City, and received a B.A. from Allegheny College in 1854.

See Continuation Sheet #4

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (continued)

He also worked for his father's company half of each year from the age 13. When he entered business with his father in 1861 as a partner of James S. Gary and Son, he knew the cotton manufacturing business from the ground up. By 1861 the company had expanded to have plants in Alberton (now Daniels) in Howard County, and in St. Louis, Missouri. Gary took over the company on his father's death in 1870, and remained active until shortly before his death in 1920.

While pursuing his manufacturing business, Gary became active in politics, first as a Whig, then in 1861 as a member of the newly formed Union Party; he was a delegate to that party's first convention in 1861 When the Union Party became the Republican Party after the Civil War, Gary took a leading roll. He attended every Republican National Convention from 1872 to 1896. He ran (unsuccessfully) for Congress in 1872, and for governor in 1879. He was frustrated in his efforts on behalf of the Republican party in a state controlled by Democrats, but the nation consistently elected Republican presidents, and federal patronage in Maryland was largely Republican. An intimate of President Hayes, in 1880 he became a Republican National Committeeman. During the presidencies of Garfield, Arthur and Harrison he controlled much Maryland patronage, particularly that of the post office. In 1883 he became chairman of the Republican State Central Committee. By the 1890 the Republicans, riding a wave of Progressive reform which had focused on the abuses of the Gorman-Rasin machine, gained power on the state level, electing a governor in 1896, and carrying the state for McKinley in the national election. The enormity of this task becomes apparent when one realizes that Maryland had strong southern sympathies during the Civil War, and McKinley had been a Union general.

McKinley appointed Gary Postmaster General in March 1897; he served until April 1898 when poor health and a desire to look after his personal business caused him to resign. While Postmaster General he was a known advocate of postal savings. He remained interested in politics, and his only son, E. Stanley Gary, became closely associated with reform politics in Baltimore City.

There are many references to Gary entertaining at his "fine country house in Catonsville" in the columns of Herald Argus during the 1890s. The Garys, like other prominent and wealthy Baltimoreans, summered in Catonsville. He was married to Lavinia W. Corrie in 1856, and had seven daughters and one son. He and his wife entertained President McKinley and members of the Cabinet at their town house on Linden Avenue, and most likely at the Summit as well. In November 1900 President McKinley attended the wedding of one of their daughters. The

See Continuation Sheet #5

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Summit
Baltimore County, Maryland

CONTINUATION SHEET ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 5

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (continued)

Linden Avenue residence no longer exists.

In 1919, a year before his death, Gary sold the Summit to Martin Healy, Samuel H. Helfrich and Frank L. Mohler, partners in the Summit Park Company (Deeds WPC 516:254, 498). They subdivided the outlying grounds, and turned the mansion into ten apartments. The development company sold Summit Park Apartments to Walter R. TAbler and wife in 1944 (Deeds RJS 1341:519) and the Tabler family sold it in March 1977 to the present owner, Adolf Saxon (Deeds EKH Jr. 5731:544).

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Genealogy and Biography of Leading Families of the City of Baltimore and Baltimore County, (New York: 1897), 296.
"On Your Neighborhood," Baltimore Post (1933), 25-27 (note collection of articles).
David H. Carroll & Thomas G. Boggs, Men of Mark in Maryland, II, (Baltimore:1911), 135.
"James Albert Gary, "Dictionary of American Biography, VII, 176-77.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1,838

UTM REFERENCES

	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
A			
B			
C			
D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

njm

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE: Bayly Ellen Marks

ORGANIZATION: Office of Planning and Zoning — DATE: July 24, 1977

STREET & NUMBER: County Landmarks Commission, 401 Bosley Avenue — TELEPHONE:

CITY OR TOWN: Baltimore, — STATE: Maryland 21204

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL ___ STATE ___ LOCAL ___

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE — DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER — DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION — DATE

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

GPO 892-453