

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

Draft

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC

"Mount Lookout"

AND/OR COMMON

McPike House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

2018 Alby Street

CITY, TOWN

Alton

— NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Illinois

— VICINITY OF
CODE

56th

COUNTY

Madison

CODE

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

— DISTRICT

 BUILDING(s)

— STRUCTURE

— SITE

— OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

— PUBLIC

 PRIVATE

— BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

— IN PROCESS

— BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

— OCCUPIED

 UNOCCUPIED

— WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

— YES: RESTRICTED

— YES: UNRESTRICTED

 NO

PRESENT USE

— AGRICULTURE

— COMMERCIAL

— EDUCATIONAL

— ENTERTAINMENT

— GOVERNMENT

— INDUSTRIAL

— MILITARY

— MUSEUM

— PARK

 PRIVATE RESIDENCE

— RELIGIOUS

— SCIENTIFIC

— TRANSPORTATION

— OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Paul Davis

STREET & NUMBER

122 Sullivan

CITY, TOWN

Rosewood Heights

— VICINITY OF

STATE

Illinois

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Madison County Court House

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Edwardsville

STATE

Illinois

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Alton Historic Buildings Survey

DATE

1967

— FEDERAL — STATE — COUNTY LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Hayner Library

CITY, TOWN

Alton

STATE

Illinois

(SEE CONTINUATION SHEET)

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
COUNTY	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS (Cont.)

TITLE Open Spaces and Historic Sites Preservation Study
Madison, St. Clair, Monroe, Randolph Counties, Illinois
DATE February 1973 X Regional
DEPOSITORY Southwestern Illinois Metropolitan Area Planning Commission
CITY, TOWN Collinsville STATE Illinois

TITLE Historic Sites Inventory For The St. Louis Metropolitan Area
DATE June 1976 X Regional
DEPOSITORY East-West Gateway Coordinating Council
CITY, TOWN St. Louis STATE Missouri

TITLE Inventory of Architecture Before World War II In Madison County
DATE October 1973 X State
DEPOSITORY Illinois Dept. of Conservation, Division of Historic Sites
CITY, TOWN Springfield STATE Illinois

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Built in 1869 for Henry Guest McPike, this three story, mansard-roofed red brick Second Empire Italionate mansion was designed by architect Lucas Pfeiffenberger. The structure has sixteen rooms on three floors. The below-grade limestone-walled basement is compartmented into 6 chambers including a vaulted wine cellar. The entire front block of the house has round-head windows, including the three dormers in the concave-slope mansard roof (the center dormer is Palladian in style); the rear wing has segmental arch windows. At the ground and second floor levels, the symmetrical east (entrance) facade has twin round-head stone-silled windows on either side of an extended center section which has triple windows. Each of the windows is separated from its twin (or triplet) by a narrow brick mullion. A full width front porch with paired posts, a rear porch, and a rectangular side bay-solarium (on the south) form extensions to the T-shaped structure. Elaborate railings over the front porch, the back porch and bay have been removed. ~~The round-headed double door entranceway is ornamented with rope~~ moulding and contains ~~two~~ doors with round-head lights. The house has six interior chimneys and a limestone string course. Paired and widely-spaced decorative brackets support the overhanging eaves. In front of the house, the original iron fence and gate still guard the large yard.

Eleven of the sixteen rooms in the McPike House are bedrooms. Originally, Italian marble mantels graced fireplaces in almost every room - at present, only one mantel remains. Thieves and vandals have either taken or destroyed all but the steps of the once magnificent, wide staircase which rose continuously from first to third floor. Wide ornamental woodwork still borders window and door openings in the interior of the house; in the northeast double parlor, the sculptured grape-design moulding between walls and ceiling is still intact. First floor ceilings are at least twelve feet in height. All floors are oak. John Haley McPike, the last of the McPike family to live in the house, had electricity and steam heat installed; radiators were made of solid brass. Years of vacancy (since the 1950's) have taken their toll, but the house is still structurally sound, albeit endangered.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1871 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Lucas Pfeiffenberger

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The McPike House is a fine example of the Second Empire Italianate style. Set in its large grounds and almost hidden much of the year by vegetation, occasional glimpses of the vacant McPike mansion excite the imagination of the casual passerby as well as the seasoned Altonian. It was designed for Henry Guest McPike, who played a very important role in the early beginnings of the City of Alton, by architect Lucas Pfeiffenberger. Pfeiffenberger also played an important role, not only as a prominent regional architect, but also as another of Alton's leading citizens.

In Alton, the highest ground was commonly sought out first by industrial and commercial magnates for building their splendid baronial palaces of the post-Civil War days. In 1871, after three years of construction, the McPike House was completed in "Mount Look-out Park", a 15-acre estate of trees and rare shrubs, vineyards, orchards, fruits and flowers. Situated on one of Alton's high hills, to the south, east, and west, the house overlooks ravines cut by the Little Piasa Creek; to the north the hilltop gradually merges with the high prairie back from the river. Although Alby, 20th, and Piasa Streets, which bound the property on east, south and west, are some of the city's most traveled thoroughfares, the house is shielded by a large grove of trees along Piasa Street and by a luxuriant growth of vegetation and trees on 20th and Alby streets. On the north, neighboring houses are set well apart and back from the street. Surrounded by its remaining 4.4 acres, the McPike house still retains its air of isolation and sufficiency of space in the center of the busy city.

The McPike family lived in the house until 1936, when ownership passed from the family. Since then, Browns Business College was located there, briefly; later it became a multi-person dwelling. The house has been unoccupied since the 1950's.

Henry Guest McPike came to Alton when he was a young man of 22; he soon rose to prominence and his influence was widely felt in the city: during his lifetime no one in Alton was more closely involved in the city's business, political, cultural, industrial, horticultural and literary interests. In addition, McPike had state and national political connections. He was mayor of Alton from 1897 to 1891. He was a partner in the Alton City Mills (Farber McPike and Co.): and he perfected a corrugated paper machine and established a box factory which had become the largest such business in the country by 1907 and was the forerunner of the Alton Boxboard industry. McPike, having learned the printers trade in his fathers newspaper office, was the author of many articles on history which were published in magazines of his time. A horticulturalist of some note, having developed the mammoth McPike grape, he was a charter member of the oldest Horticultural Society (from 1853) in the State of Illinois, and was president of the Society in 1876. McPike served as provost marshall of the (then) 12th Congressional District in the service of the War Department during the Civil war, resigning April 2, 1865. He was one of the committeemen in charge of arrangements for the Lincoln-Douglas Debate in Alton in 1858. Influenced by the antislavery views of his father, McPike became a Republican when that party was founded and was a leader in the Republican Party for the rest of his life. He was a friend and associate of Abraham Lincoln and other leaders of the party and was a prominent figure in

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
COUNTY	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

8. SIGNIFICANCE (Cont.)

state and national conventions. In November 1860, he accompanied Alton's U. S. Senator Lyman Trumbull to Springfield where he was with Lincoln in the telegraph office when Lincoln received word of his election to the first term of his presidency.

Architect Lucas Pfeiffenberger established the Alton architectural firm of Pfeiffenberger and Sons in 1857 and headed the firm until his death in 1918. Pfeiffenberger designed buildings in Illinois and Missouri, indeed throughout the midwest as far west as Colorado. His work was wide in range and scope--he designed everything from modest dwellings to mansions, from churches to business establishments, from firehouses to courthouses, from libraries to factories, from hotels to lime kilns. Besides being Alton's most sought after architect, Pfeiffenberger was four times mayor of Alton and was, throughout his life, much involved in civic improvement. He was progressive in his thinking and quick to accept modern inventions. While he borrowed liberally from many different styles, in his period, his designs were considered to be quite daring in their use of architectural innovations. The McPike House is among the finest of his many designs.

Note: The McPike House is not located within the boundaries of any of Alton's three National Register Historic Districts.

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
COUNTY	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES (Cont.)
Illinois Historical Society Journals, Vol.5, p. 261
McEvoy and Bowron, Alton City Directory and Business Mirror for 1858, 1858,
Alton, Illinois, McEvoy and Bowron.
McPike, Thomas D., Interview, 1972
Norton, W. T., Centennial History of Madison County, 1912, Chicago and
New York, Lewis Publishing Co.
Reid, James Allan, Alton Illinois Illustrated, 1912, St. Louis, Missouri
and Alton, Illinois, James Allan Reid
Souvenir Album, 1895, Alton, Illinois, Sentinel Democrat
Young, J.M., Alton Illinois Illustrated, 1907, Alton, Illinois, J. M.
Young and Company

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Alton Telegraph, April 18, 1910
 Brink, W.C., History of Madison County, 1882, Edwardsville, Illinois, W.R. Brink & Co.
 Brink, W.C., Illustrated Encyclopedia and Atlas Map of Madison County, 1873, St. Louis, Missouri, Brink-McCormick and Co.
 Combs and Elgin, Alton Historic Buildings Survey, 1967, Alton Rotary Club.
 Davis, Paul, Conversation, 1972
 Hair, James T., Gazetteer of Madison County, 1866, Alton, Illinois, James T. hair

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 4.4 Acres

QUADRANGLE NAME _____			QUADRANGLE SCALE _____				
UTM REFERENCES							
A	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	B	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	D	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
E	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	F	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
G	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	H	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION The McPike House is located on Tract 1 and Tract 2, south one half of Mount Lookout Park, O.M. Adams Second Addition. Beginning at the north west corner of Alby and Twentieth Streets, proceed 607.85 feet west to Piasa Street, then 300 feet north on Piasa; then 607.85 feet east to Alby Street, then 300 feet south along Alby Street to the point of beginning.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Ruth Means

ORGANIZATION

DATE

January 1980

STREET & NUMBER

R. R. #2

TELEPHONE

(618) 259-6710

CITY OR TOWN

Alton

STATE

Illinois

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

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

ATTEST:

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For HCRS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet "Mt. Lookout" (McPike Hs) Item number 10

Page 2

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The McPike House is located on Tract 1 and Tract 2, south one half of Mount Lookout Park, O.M. Adams Second Addition. Beginning at the north west corner of Alby and Twentieth Streets, proceed 607.85 feet west to Piasa Street, then 300 feet north on Piasa; then 607.85 feet east to Alby Street, then 300 feet south along Alby Street to the point of beginning.

(signed)



David Kenney
State Historic Preservation
Officer

6/9/80
(dated)

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE ILLINOIS

Date Entered JUN 17 1980

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Mount Lookout	Alton Madison County

Also Notified

Honorable Charles H. Percy
Honorable Adlai E. Stevenson
Honorable Paul Findley

For further information, please call the National Register at (202)343-6401.