

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

For HCRS use only

received APR 21 1980

date entered JUN 17 1980

1. Name

historic Mount Lookout

and/or common McPike House

2. Location

street & number 2018 Alby Street _____ not for publication

city, town Alton _____ vicinity of _____ congressional district 56th

state Illinois code 012 county Madison code 119

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
☐ district	☐ public	☐ occupied	☐ agriculture	☐ museum
☒ building(§)	☒ private	☒ unoccupied	☐ commercial	☐ park
☐ structure	☐ both	☐ work in progress	☐ educational	☒ private residence
☐ site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	☐ entertainment	☐ religious
☐ object	☐ in process	☐ yes: restricted	☐ government	☐ scientific
	☐ being considered	☐ yes: unrestricted	☐ industrial	☐ transportation
		☒ no	☐ military	☐ 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 has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☒ no

date 1967 _____ federal _____ state _____ county ☒ local

depository for survey records Hayner Library

city, town Alton _____ state Illinois

(See Continuation Sheet)

7. Description

Condition

☐ excellent
☐ good
☒ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☐ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date _____

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 tall 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 scuptured 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.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 6 PAGE 2

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
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

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	☒ architecture	☐ education	☒ military	☐ social/
☐ 1700-1799	☐ art	☐ engineering	☐ music	☐ humanitarian
☒ 1800-1899	☒ commerce	☐ exploration/settlement	☐ philosophy	☐ theater
☒ 1900-	☐ communications	☒ industry	☒ politics/government	☐ transportation
		☒ invention		☐ other (specify)

Specific dates 1871 **Builder/Architect** Lucas Pfeiffenberger

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

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 this 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 father's 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 marshal 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

(SEE CONTINUATION SHEET)

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.

10. Geographical Data

UTM NOT VERIFIED

Acreage of nominated property 4.4 Acres

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

Quadrangle name ALTON

Quadrangle scale 1:24 000

UMT References

A 15 744230 4309900
Zone Easting Northing

B
Zone Easting Northing

C

D

E

F

G

H

Verbal boundary description and justification

see continuation sheet received 6/16/80

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title Dir. Ill. Dep't. of Conservation

date 4/1/80

For HCRS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

for [Signature]
Keeper of the National Register

date 6-17-80

Attest: Kristen T. O'Connell

date 6/16/80

Chief of Registration

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8. SIGNIFIANCE (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 Pfeifferberger established the Alton architectural firm of Pfeifferberger and Sons in 1857 and headed the firm until his death in 1918. Pfeifferberger 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, Pfeifferberger 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.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 2

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES (Cont.)

- 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
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

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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date entered JUN 17 1980

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)



6/9/80

(dated)

David Kenney

State Historic Preservation
Officer

Property

Mount Lookout

80001389

State

Ill-Madison

Working Number

4-21-80 1179

TECHNICAL

Photos 11Maps 1

CONTROL

HISTORIAN

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

Outstanding French Second Empire brick house with
Italianate detailing, set on elevated 4-acre lot, and
significant not only as a fine example of its style but for
its associations with Henry Gust McPike, its first owner. He was
a local industrialist who developed an invention of a corrugated paper
machine into a large box factory; among his other achievements

Call then Accept

VBD
rec'd
6/16/80O'Connell
5/23/80

were the development of a new strain of grape and his service in
political offices ranging from Mayor of Alton to provost marshal of the
congressional district during the Civil War.

no VBD — must call for this

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

HAER

Inventory _____

Review _____

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

BRANCH CHIEF

Note city opposition.

Accept 6-17-80
J. Town

KEEPER

National Register Write-up _____

Send-back _____

Entered _____

Federal Register Entry

2.3.81

Re-submit _____

JUN 17 1980



Mount Lookout

Madison CO.

(11)

1. McPike House

2. Alten, Illinois

3. Robert K. Graul

4. January 1980

5. Robert K. Graul files

6. Camera is facing northwest; view is of southeast corner of McPike House

7. 1/11

APR 21 1980

JUN 17 1980



Mount Lookout Madison CO.

(Il)

1. McPike House

2. Alton, Illinois

3. Robert K. Graul

4. January, 1980

5. Robert K. Graul files

6. Camera is facing west; view is of front (east) facade of McPike House

7. 2/11

APR 21 1980

Jan- 1980

JUN 17 1980



Mount Lookout Madison Co. (Ill)

1. McPike House
2. Alton Illinois
3. Robert K. Graul
4. January, 1980
5. Robert K. Graul files
6. Camera is facing mid-front (east facade) of structure; view is of under eaves
7. 3/11

APR 21 1980

1-80

JUN 17 1980



Mount Lookout Madison Co.

(JL)

1. The Pike House
2. Alton, Illinois
3. Robert K. Graul
4. January 1980
5. Robert K. Graul files
6. Camera is facing west; view is of main entrance
(East facade).

J. 7/11

APR 21 1980

JUN 17 1980

1-5



Mount Lookout

Madison Co.



1. McPike House
2. Alton, Illinois
3. Robert K. Graul
4. January, 1980
5. Robert K. Graul files
6. Camera is facing southwest; view is of northeast corner of McPike House
7. 5/11

APR 21 1980

JUN 17 1980



Mount Lookout Madison CO.

(21)

1. McPike House
2. Alton, Illinois
3. Robert K. Gravel

4. January, 1980

5. Robert K Gravel files

6. Camera is facing slightly south of west; view is of east (front) facade of McPike House
showing ^{N.E.} corner
J₁

7. 6/11

APR 21 1980

JUN 17 1980



RESIDENCE OF EX-MAYOR H. G. McPIKE.

NOTE TOP SE
PERSON REMOVED
BY 1907

2018 ALBY

Mount Lookout

Madison Co. (Il)

1. McPike House

2. Alton, Illinois

3. Robert K. Graul from photograph (photographer unknown), in

Souvenir Album of Alton Illinois
published by Sentinel Democrat
1895

4. 1895

5. Robert K. Graul files

6. View is of southeast corner of McPike House

camera is facing northwest.

7. 7/11

APR 21 1980

JUN 17 1980



Mount Lookout, Residence of Hon. H. G. McPike.
20TH AND ALBY STREETS

Mount Lookout Madison Co. (L)

1. McPike House
2. Alton Illinois
3. Robert K. Graul from photograph (photographer unknown) in
4. 1907
5. Robert K. Graul files
6. view is of southeast corner of McPike House
(camera facing northwest)
7. 8/11

Alton Illinois Illustrated
compiled and published by
J. M. Young and Co.
1907

APR 21 1980

JUN 17 1980



Morant Lookout

Madison Co.

(D)

1. McPike House
2. Alton, Illinois
3. Robert K. Graul
4. 1955
5. Robert K. Graul files
6. Camera is facing west; view is of east (front) facade of McPike House
7. 9/11

APR 21 1980

May 5, 1955

JUN 17 1980



Handwritten notes in purple ink, including the number "12" and some illegible scribbles.

Mount Lookout Madison CO. (2)

1. McPhee House
2. Alton, Illinois
3. Robert K. Graul
4. 1955
5. Robert K. Graul files
6. Camera is facing east; interior view is of part of northwest double parlor in 1955
7. 10/11

APR 21 1980

1955

JUN 17 1980



Mount Lookout

Madison Co. (Ill)

1. McPike House
2. Alton, Illinois
3. Robert K. Graul

4. 1955

5. Robert K. Graul files

6. Camera is facing northeast; interior view is of part of northwest double parlor in 1955

7. 11/11

before mantel was stolen; however,
the remaining mantel in the house
is very similar to this one.

APR 21 1980

1955

JUN 17 1980

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

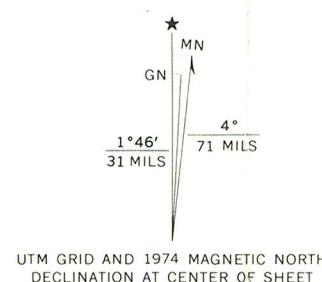
STATE OF ILLINOIS
DEPARTMENT OF REGISTRATION AND EDUCATION
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY DIVISION

ALTON QUADRANGLE
ILLINOIS—MISSOURI
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)
NW 1/4 ALTON 15' QUADRANGLE

"Mount Lookout"
McPike House
Z 15
E 744 230
N 4 309 900



Mapped by the Geological Survey
Revised by the Army Map Service
Published for civil use by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and Mississippi River Commission
Topography from aerial photographs by multiplex methods and
planimetric surveys by the Geological Survey 1947-1948
Planimetric detail revised from aerial photographs taken 1952
Field check 1954
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grids based on Illinois coordinate system, west zone
and Missouri coordinate system, east zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 15, shown in blue
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown



SCALE 1:24,000
CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
STATE GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, URBANA, ILLINOIS 61801
AND BY THE DIVISION OF RESEARCH AND TECHNICAL INFORMATION
MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES, ROLLA, MISSOURI 65401
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Heavy-duty	Light-duty
Medium-duty	Unimproved dirt
U. S. Route	State Route

ALTON, ILL.—MO.
NW 1/4 ALTON 15' QUADRANGLE
N 3852.5—W 9007.5/7.5
1954
PHOTOREVISED 1968 AND 1974
AMS 2961 1 NW—SERIES V863

RECEIVED
APR 21 1980
NATIONAL REGISTER

QUADRANGLE LOCATION

Revisions shown in purple compiled by the Geological Survey
Survey from aerial photographs taken 1968 and 1974
This information not field checked
Purple tint indicates extension of urban areas

JUN 17 1980

CITY OF ALTON, ILLINOIS

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
CITY HALL ALTON, ILLINOIS

March 31, 1980



Illinois Department of Conservation
605 Wm. G. Stratton Building
400 South Spring Street
Springfield, Illinois 62706

Attention: Jeffrey S. Flemming
National Register Coordinator

Re: Henry McPike House
and William Post House
Alton, Illinois

Dear Mr. Flemming:

This letter is in reference to your correspondence dated March 18, 1980, concerning the subject house located at 2018 Alby Street. You indicated this house is being considered for placement on the National Register of Historic Places.

The City of Alton is planning construction of a major East-West arterial along 20th Street. I am enclosing a set of design plans for your review. Sheet 3 shows the subject house located in the center of our proposed improvement. The first stage of the East-West highway is funded for 1982 and the remaining construction is estimated to be funded by 1987.

This structure has laid vacant and vandalized for over 15 years. It is a neighborhood eyesore. I would be interested to know if anyone has indicated a desire to expend the considerable funds necessary to reconstruct this building. Otherwise it will continue to deteriorate. If our proposed construction is obstructed with the nomination of this building, the plans must be revised to include demolition of many homes which would otherwise not be affected.

I request that you consider the above points in your decision making process.

Very truly yours,

R. James Henrikson

R. James Henrikson
City Engineer

RJH/sev

NAME OF FUGITIVE: ~~Mount Lookout~~ "Mount Lookout" JL

Date Information Requested/Date Put in "Hold" Drawer: 5/27/80

Date to Be Pulled from "Hold" Drawer: 6/27/80
(30 Days from Date Requested)

Information Requested From: Mike Ward

Information Requested/Reason Nomination Is Being Held:

VBD

Reviewer

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

State Historic Preservation Officer
Dr. David Kenney
Director, Department of
Conservation
602 State Office Building
400 South Spring Street
Springfield, Illinois 62706

NR

Byers/mjd 6/30/80

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