

## **CAPSULE SUMMARY**

**PG: 71B-002-21**

**Magruder-Bell House**

**8520 Chestnut Avenue**

**Bowie, Prince George's County, Maryland**

**c. 1900**

**Private**

The Magruder-Bell House was constructed c. 1900 at 8520 Chestnut Avenue in Bowie, Maryland. Bowie, a mid-nineteenth-century railroad community, was platted in 1869 by Benjamin M. Plumb. The construction of an important railroad junction by the Baltimore and Potomac Railroad Company provided the impetus for the development of Huntington City (now Bowie). The area grew quickly and was an economically and racially diverse community with an assortment of commercial and domestic buildings. It is probable that this dwelling, which has an American Foursquare form, was constructed c. 1900 during a later phase of development. From 1907 to 1913, the Magruder-Bell House was owned by M. Hampton Magruder, a prominent lawyer from a well-known Prince George's County family. Magruder was also associated with the House of Reformation (PG: 82A-019) located in Cheltenham, Maryland. The J. Guy Bell family owned the property from 1915 until 1955 and expanded the parcel with the purchase of Lot 12 in 1935. Robert Joseph Thompson and Theresa Thompson, the current owners, purchased the property in October 2007. The Magruder-Bell House still retains sufficient integrity to convey its significance as a single-family dwelling constructed in Bowie at the turn of the twentieth century.

Constructed c. 1900, this two-story, two-bay, Colonial Revival-style dwelling has an American Four-Square form. The wood-frame dwelling is clad with aluminum siding, which has replaced the original wood weatherboard siding. It is set on a solid poured concrete foundation. A hip roof covered with asphalt shingles caps the dwelling and is pierced by a central-interior brick chimney with a corbeled cap. The roof is finished with overhanging eaves and a boxed cornice. The main block is fenestrated with 1/1, vinyl-sash windows with vinyl-clad surrounds.