I. Name of F	Property	(indicate preferred n	name)		
historic	Magruder-Bell House				
other					
2. Location					
street and number	8520 Chestnut Avenu	le			not for publication
city, town	Bowie				vicinity
county	Prince George's				
B. Owner of	Property (g Robert J. and Theresa	ive names and mailing	addresses of a	Ill owners)	
street and number	13103 11th Street	-		telepho	ne
city, town	Bowie		state MD	zip code	e 20715-3725
4. Location	of Legal Desc	ription			
courthouse, registry	of deeds, etc. Prince	George's County Cou	rthouse	liber 28951 f	folio 462
city, town	Upper Marlboro	tax map 29	tax parcel	10, 11, 12	tax ID number 14 162352

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

Contributing Resource in National Register District
 Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
 Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
 Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
 Recorded by HABS/HAER
 Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
 X Other: Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, Prince George's County Planning Department

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function		Resource Co	ount
district X_building(s) structure site object	public _X_private both	agriculture commerce/trade defense _X_domestic education funerary government	landscape recreation/culture religion social transportation work in progress unknown	Contributing	Noncontributing buildings sites objects O Total
		health care industry	vacant/not in use other:		ntributing Resources ed in the Inventory

7. Description

Condition

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Magruder-Bell House is located at 8520 Chestnut Avenue in Bowie, Maryland. This single-family dwelling is sited on a westward-sloping lot and directly faces the concrete sidewalk. A paved driveway enters the property from Chestnut Avenue and travels west towards the freestanding garage. A paved parking lot is located west of the dwelling. A metal chain-link fence bounds the west edge of the property. A garage is sited south of the dwelling, near the southern boundary of the property.

DWELLING

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 parged concrete foundation. A hip roof of 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.

A one-story, full-width porch stretches across the façade (east elevation) and is possibly original to the main block. The porch, now enclosed, is clad with aluminum siding and is set on a solid concrete foundation. A half-hip roof of asphalt shingles caps the porch. The end bays of the façade of the porch contain paired 1/1, vinyl-sash windows with vinyl-clad surrounds. The north and south (side) elevations of the porch are each pierced by one window opening containing paired 1/1, vinyl-sash windows with a vinyl-clad surround. The second story of the façade (east elevation) of the main block is pierced by two window openings with inoperable vinyl shutters.

The central bay of the first story of the north elevation contains a single-leaf, paneled, wood door with lights. The door is sheltered by a one-story, one-bay porch, which is set on a solid concrete foundation. The half-hip roof of the porch is covered with asphalt shingles and is supported by turned wood posts. Metal balusters complete the porch. Flanking the central door are 1/1, vinyl-sash windows with inoperable vinyl shutters. The second story features two window openings directly above the first-story window openings. Each opening contains a 1/1, vinyl-sash window with inoperable vinyl shutters.

The second story of the rear (west) elevation has two window openings, each containing a 1/1, vinyl-sash window. The one-story, full-width addition is located on the rear elevation. Constructed c. 1940, the wood-frame addition is clad with aluminum siding and is set on a solid parged foundation. A half-hip roof of asphalt shingles caps the addition. The rear elevation is fenestrated with paired 1/1, vinyl-sash windows. The north elevation has a single 1/1, vinyl-sash window, while the south elevation has one opening containing paired 1/1, vinyl-sash windows. One-light, vinyl awning windows pierce the foundation.

The western bay of the first story on the south elevation contains a single-leaf, paneled, wood door with lights and a square-edge wood surround. The eastern bay of the first story contains a 1/1, vinyl-sash window, as does the second-story window opening. A two-story, one-bay addition projects from the south elevation of the main

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block. Constructed c. 1940, the wood-frame addition is clad with aluminum siding and is set on a solid foundation. A shed roof of asphalt shingles shelters the addition. The addition is fenestrated with 1/1, vinyl-sash windows. A one-story, three-bay addition, constructed c. 1930, is located on the southeast corner of the main block and projects eastward to be flush with the façade's enclosed porch. The wood-frame addition is clad with aluminum siding and is set on a solid parged foundation. A shed roof of the addition is covered with asphalt shingles. The central bay of the façade (east elevation) contains a single-leaf, paneled, wood door with one-light, a square-edge wood surround and full-length, vinyl shutters. Flanking the door are 1/1, vinyl-sash windows with vinyl-clad surrounds and inoperable vinyl shutters. The south elevation is fenestrated with a 1/1, vinyl-sash window with a vinyl-clad surround.

GARAGE

A one-story, one-bay garage, constructed c. 1930, is located south of the main dwelling. The wood-frame garage is clad with German vinyl siding and is set on a solid poured concrete foundation. A pyramidal roof of asphalt shingles caps the garage. Overhanging eaves and exposed rafter ends finish the roof. The façade (west elevation) is fenestrated with a metal roll-up door.

INTEGRITY

The Magruder-Bell House retains a moderate level of integrity of design, workmanship, and materials as a result of the application of aluminum siding, the replacement of the original windows, and the construction of multiple additions. The building maintains a high level of integrity of feeling, location, setting, and association due to its association with the Bowie community.

The garage maintains a moderate level of integrity of design, workmanship, and materials as a result of the application of German vinyl siding and the replacement of the original garage door. The building retains a high level of integrity of feeling, association, location, setting, and association due to its continuing association with the single-family dwelling located at 8520 Chestnut Avenue.

Overall, the Magruder-Bell House and garage maintains a moderate level of integrity.

8. Signific	ance			Inventory No. PG: 71B-002-21
Period	Areas of Significance	Check and	justify below	
1600-1699 1700-1799 1800-1899 X1900-1999 2000-	 agriculture archeology architecture art commerce communications community planning conservation 	 economics education engineering entertainment/ recreation ethnic heritage exploration/ settlement 	 health/medicine industry invention landscape archite law literature maritime history military 	 performing arts philosophy politics/government religion science social history transportation other: Local History
Specific dates	c. 1900		Architect/Builder	Unknown
Construction da	ates c. 1900, c. 1930, c. 1	940		
Evaluation for:				
	National Register		Maryland Register	not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

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 Four-Square 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 socially and politically 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.

HISTORIC CONTEXT

The Magruder-Bell House is located in present-day Bowie, a railroad community that was platted in 1870. In 1853, Colonel William D. Bowie successfully lobbied the Maryland General Assembly to charter the Baltimore and Potomac Railroad Company. The charter indicated that the company had the authority to construct the main line into Southern Maryland, as well as lateral spurs of approximately twenty miles in length. The project was delayed first by the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad balking and being unwilling to fund the project and ultimately by the outbreak of the Civil War. Following the war, the Pennsylvania Railroad offered the appropriate assistance and construction began in 1869.¹ The particular location of the junction of the main line of the Baltimore and Potomac Railroad and its spur line into the City of Washington gained the attention of Ben M. Plumb, a Washington, DC. developer and speculator.² Plumb gathered several associates and, in 1869, purchased 300 acres of land that had been part of the estate of Henry Carrick.³ The tract, then known as

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Huntington City, was approximately one square mile and was laid out on a grid plan. The streets running north and south were named after trees and those running east and west were given numbers. Lots, each 2,500 square feet, were available for purchase beginning in 1879.⁴ The first residents of Bowie consisted of a racially mixed population of professionals, craftsmen, and laborers.⁵ As the community grew, a movement towards incorporation began and in March 1874, the Maryland General Assembly granted a charter to the Commissioners of Huntington. Renamed "Bowie" c. 1880 after the members of the family who promoted the railroad construction, this community continues to thrive today and has expanded dramatically beyond its original bounds.⁶

Benjamin M. Plumb was born in 1844 in New York, and at the time of the 1870 U.S. Federal Census was residing in Washington, DC, with his wife. Lizzie. He was as a lawyer.⁷ By 1880, the Plumb family had moved to Brooklyn, New York, where Benjamin Plumb was working as a telegraph operator.⁸ He platted Huntington City (now known as Bowie) in 1869. The intermittent deeds were not located and further research is being done to determine the transfer of the individual lots to the future residents.

In 1906, Thomas Wells purchased the property at 8520 Chestnut Avenue from George Hardy, the Prince George's County Treasurer at public sale. The county acquired the rights to the property after the previous owner, William Hall, did not pay his taxes.⁹ It is most likely that the current dwelling had been constructed on the property approximately c. 1900, possibly when Hall owned it. Thomas Wells was born in August 1856 in Maryland. At the time of the 1900 U.S. Federal Census, he was residing in Bowie with his brother, John D. Wells and was employed as a bar keeper.¹⁰ In 1907 Thomas Wells transferred the property in Bowie to Mercer Hampton Magruder¹¹ Magruder was a native of Maryland, born in 1875. ¹² The 1910 census states that Magruder was a state attorney for Prince George's County, Maryland, a position he held from 1903 to 1911. Magruder, a prominent political figure in Prince George's County, served as the chairman of the board of the First National Bank of Southern Maryland. He attended Loyola College in Baltimore, and received his law degree from Georgetown University (1898). Appointed by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt to serve as Collector of Internal Revenue for the District of Maryland in 1935, Magruder remained in this post until 1943. He was elected president of the Prince George's County Bar Association in 1947. Magruder received the "Distinguished Citizen Award" from Maryland Governor J. Millard Tawes in 1961. Additionally, Magruder was the president of the Bowie Racetrack, a member of the board of the Rosecroft Trotting and Pacing Association, a member of the Clan Gregor Society, belonged to the St. Mary of the Assumption Catholic Church in Upper Marlboro, and acted as the director of the House of Reformation in Cheltenham, Maryland (PG: 82A-019).¹³

In 1913, Magruder sold Lots 10 and 11 in Square 19 to Ruby Paul Watts, a general store merchant from Prince George's County.¹⁴ Watts was born in Maryland, in 1878 and married his wife, Daisy (a native of Kansas), in 1898. The 1910 census shows that the Watts family consisted of Ruby and Daisy, as well as their six sons, Joseph I. Ralph C., Charles J., Kenneth, Dalee, Leslie, and John H. Watts.¹⁵

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In 1915, Watts conveyed Lots 10 and 11 to J. Guy Bell.¹⁶ Bell was born in 1886 in Maryland. The 1920 U.S. Federal Census shows Bell was residing in the Bowie house at 8520 Chestnut Avenue with his wife, Anna Augusta, and their children (John A. and J. Guy Bell, Jr.). He worked as a telephone company laborer.¹⁷ In 1930, Bell was employed as a U.S. Tobacco Clerk and had expanded his family to include M. Virginia, A. Elder, R. Delores and John E. W. Bell.¹⁸ Bell expanded the Bowie property in 1935 when he purchased Lot 12 in Square 19 from John H. and Alice Randall Prout.¹⁹

In 1955, Anna Augusta Bell, now widowed, sold Lots 10, 11, and 12 to Patricia Jean Kline.²⁰ No information regarding Patricia Jean Kline could be located. In 1956, Kline (now Patricia Jean McRae) and her husband, Carlton Warren McRae, conveyed the property to her parents, Paul Cabot Harris and Minnie Florence Harris.²¹ No information regarding the Harris family could be located.

In 1968, Paul Cabot Harris and Minnie Florence Harris conveyed the property to John W. Cassidy, who a day later transferred it back to the Harris family.²² In 1977, Paul and Minnie Harris and their daughter, Mary I. Windsor, with her husband, Robert Lee Windsor, transferred their undivided ½ interest in the property to Howel Mole, a real estate agent in Bowie, and Janice E. Mole.²³ No additional information regarding Howel Mole and Janice E. Mole could be located.

The property was sold to Robert Joseph Thompson and Theresa Thompson, the current owners, by the Moles in 2007.²⁴ No information regarding the Thompsons could be located.

¹ George Denny, Jr., *Proud Past, Promising Future: Cities and Towns in Prince George's County, Maryland* (Brentwood, MD: George D. Denny, Jr., 1997), 73.

² Denny, *Proud Past, Promising Future*, 74.

³ Denny, Proud Past, Promising Future, 74.

⁴Denny, Proud Past, Promising Future, 74.

⁵ Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission and Prince George's County Planning Department, Historic Sites and Districts Plan (1992).

⁶Denny, Proud Past, Promising Future, 75.

⁷ 1870 U.S. Federal Census, Washington Ward 1, Washington, District of Columbia, Series M593, Roll 123, Page 34, Image 72, Ben M. Plumb.

⁸ 1880 U.S. Federal Census, Kings (Brooklyn), New York City-Greater, New York, Series T9, Roll 845, Family History Film 1254845, Page 158, 2000, Enumeration District 82, Image 0455, Benjamin Plumb.

⁹ George W. Hardy, Treasurer, to Thomas Wells, Prince George's County Land Records, 34:96.

¹⁰ 1900 U.S. Federal Census, Bowie, Prince George, Maryland, Series T623, Roll 626, Page 8A, Enumeration District 106, Thomas Wells.

¹¹ Thomas Wells to M. Hampton Magruder, Prince George's County Land Records, 40:340.

¹² 1910 U.S. Federal Census, Kent, Prince George's, Maryland, Series T624, Roll 567, Page 15A, Enumeration District 74, Image 521,

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Mercer H. Magruder.

¹³ "M.H. Magruder Dead; Leader in Prince Georges: He was 86.." The Washington Post, Times Herald (1959-

1973), October 12, 1962, http://www.proquest.com.proxy.library.cornell.edu/ (accessed February 18, 2009).

¹⁴ M. Hampton Magruder to R. Paul Watts, Prince George's County Land Records, 96:113.

¹⁶ R. Paul Watts and Daisy I. Watts to J. Guy Bell, Prince George's County Land Records, 102:310.

¹⁷ 1920 U.S. Federal Census, Bowie, Prince Georges, Maryland, Series T625, Roll 674, Page 6B, Enumeration District 88, Image 742, Anna Augusta Bell.

¹⁸ 1930 U.S. Federal Census, Bowie, Prince George's, Maryland, Series 878, Page 2A, Enumeration District 29, Image 75.0, Anna Augusta Bell.

¹⁹ John H. Prout and Alice Randall Prout to J. Guy Bell, Prince George's County Land Records, 430:448.

²⁰ Anna Augusta Bell, widow and sole devisee under the will of J. Guy Bell, to Patricia Jean Kline, Prince George's County Land Records, 1885:283.

²¹ Patricia Jean McRae (a.k.a Patricia Jean Kline) and Carlton Warren McRae to Paul Cabot Harris and Minnie Florence Harris, Prince George's County Land Records, WWW 2048:79.

²² Paul Cabot Harris and Minnie Florence Harris to John W. Cassidy, Prince George's County Land Records, WWW 3619:708; John W. Cassidy to Paul Cabot Harris and Minnie Florence Harris, Prince George's County Land Records, WWW 3619:710.

²³ Paul Cabot Harris and Minnie Florence Harris and Mary I. Windsor and Robert Lee Windsor to Howel Mole and Janice E. Mole, Prince George's County Land Records, 4781:250.

²⁴ Howel Mole and Janice E. Mole to Robert Joseph Thompson and Theresa Thompson, Prince George's County Land Records, 28951:462.

¹⁵ 1910 U.S. Federal Census, Bowie, Prince George's, Maryland, Series T624, Roll 567, Page 20B, Enumeration District 76, Image 618, Ruby P. Watts.

9. Major Bibliographical References

1870, 1880, 1900, 1910, 1920, 1930 U.S. Federal Census (Population Schedule). Online: The Generations Network, Inc., 2007. Subscription database. Digital scan of original records in the National Archives, Washington, DC. http://www.ancestry.com.

Denny Jr., George. Proud Past, Promising Future: Cities and Towns in Prince George's County, Maryland (Brentwood, MD: George D. Denny, Jr., 1997)

Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission and Prince George's County Planning Department, *Historic Sites and Districts Plan*, 1992.

Pearl, Susan G. "Country Lace Antiques," (PG: 71B-2-21) Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form, 1992. Prince George's County Land Records.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property	0.1722	
Acreage of historical setting	0.1722	
Quadrangle name	Laurel	Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000
-		-

Verbal boundary description and justification

The Magruder-Bell House is located in Bowie, Maryland, on a 0.1722-acre parcel, historically known as Lots 10, 11, and 12 in Block 19. The east edge of the property is bounded by Chestnut Avenue, while the north edge is bounded by 11th Street. The western boundary is lined by a metal chain-link fence. The southern boundary follows the edge of the asphalt parking lot. This property has been associated with Parcels 10 and 11 as noted on Tax Map 29 since its construction c. 1900.

11. Form Prepared by

name/title	Paul Weishar and Maria Dayton/Architect	ural Historians	
organization	EHT Traceries, Inc. for M-NCPPC Planni	ng Department date	March 2009
street & number	1121 Fifth Street, N.W.	telephone	(202) 393-1199
city or town	Washington	state	D.C.

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to:

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Department of Planning 100 Community Place Crownsville, MD 21032-2023 410-514-7600

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Inventory No. PG: 71B-002-21

<u>Chain of Title</u> Prince George's County Land Records

Lots 10 and 11:

Deed could not be located.

Tax Deed 34:96 March 5, 1906	George W. Hardy, Treasurer, to Thomas Wells for William Hall. (Lots 10 and 11 in Square 19)
Deed 40:340 May 7, 1907	Thomas Wells to M. Hampton Magruder. (Lots 10 and 11 in Square 19)
Deed 96:113 June 17, 1913	M. Hampton Magruder to R. Paul Watts. (Lots 10 and 11 in Square 19)
Deed 102:310 March 7, 1915	R. Paul Watts and Daisy I. Watts to J. Guy Bell. (Lots 10 and 11 in Square 19)
<u>Lot 12:</u>	
Deed Not Located	Benjamin M. Plumb and wife to Robert S. Widdicombe. (Lots 12 and 13 in Square 19)
Deed WAJ 1:199 September 8, 1879	Robert S. Widdicombe and Alice R. Widdicombe to Anne Grace Gaither and Maria Gaither (Lots 12 an 13 in Square 19)
Deed 137:488 February 8, 1919	Anna Grace Gaither to John H. Prout and Alice Randall Prout. (Lot Number 12 in Square 19)

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Deed 430:448 December 19, 1935	John H. Prout and Alice Randall Prout to J. Guy Bell. (Lot 12 in Square 19)
Lots 10, 11, and 12:	
Deed 1885:283 July 26, 1955	Anna Augusta Bell, widow and sole devisee under the will of J. Guy Bell, to Patricia Jean Kline. (Lot 10, 11, and 12, in Square 19)
Deed WWW 2048:79 November 2, 1956	Patricia Jean McRae (formerly Patricia Jean Kline) and Carlton Warren McRae to Paul Cabot Harris and Minnie Florence Harris. (Lot 10, 11, and 12 in Square 19)
Deed WWW 3619:708 August 1, 1968	Paul Cabot Harris and Minnie Florence Harris to John W. Cassidy. (Lot 10, 11, and 12 in Square 19)
Deed WWW 3619:710 August 2, 1968	John W. Cassidy to Paul Cabot Harris and Minnie Florence Harris. (Lot 10, 11, and 12 in Square 19)
Deed 4781:250 June 23, 1977	Paul Cabot Harris and Minnie Florence Harris, as to an undivided ¹ / ₂ interest and Mary I. Windsor and Robert Lee Windsor, as to an undivided ¹ / ₂ interest to Howel Mole and Janice E. Mole. (Lots 10, 11, and 12 in Block 19)
Deed 28951:462 October 31, 2007	Howel Mole and Janice E. Mole to Robert Joseph Thompson and Theresa Thompson. (Lots 10, 11, and 12 in Block 19)

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Photo: Magruder-Bell House, Bowie, façade (east elevation), view looking southwest. (February 2009)

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Photo: Magruder-Bell House, Bowie, façade (east elevation), view looking northwest. (February 2009)

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Photo: Magruder-Bell House, Bowie, rear (west) elevation, view looking southeast. (February 2009)

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Photo: Magruder-Bell House, Bowie, rear (west) elevation, view looking northeast. (February 2009)

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Photo: Garage, Bowie, façade (west elevation), view looking southeast. (February 2009)