

HARRISVILLE HISTORIC AND ARCHITECTURAL RESOURCES SURVEY
INDIVIDUAL INVENTORY FORM

DISTRICT: SITE #:
-- IP-16

| | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| PROPERTY NAME (HISTORIC): Fasnacloich | OWNER (ORIGINAL): Mr. & Mrs. Charles MacVeagh |
| PROPERTY NAME: Fasnacloich | OWNER: Louise MacVeagh |
| LOCATION: At the end of an extension of the No. Four Hill Road and just north of the Dublin town line. | ADDRESS: Richard F. McCready, Jr. 49 South Main Street Winchester, Kentucky 40391 |
| UTM REFERENCES: 18-736000-4756250 | ACREAGE: 1.3 RANGE/LOT: VIII-16 |
| USGS QUADRANGLE: Monadnock | VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION/JUSTIFICATION: See Site Map |
| DATE: 1911/1916-17 | |
| SOURCE: William Morgan/Barry Faulkner | |

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: Built in 1911 and enlarged in 1916-17, Fasnacloich retains its original appearance as a scholarly and romantic recreation of a late Medieval English country manor house. The house is two stories, constructed of masonry covered with stucco; the many tall chimney stacks are of brick and are composed of smaller stacks grouped together in the Jacobean manner. The window frames, mullions, and occasional exposed framing members are hand-hewn beech (cut and seasoned on the property) stained black. The roof is slate. The plan of the house is U-shaped, composed of 114' (Continued)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE: Fasnacloich is a romantic yet scholarly recreation of an English country manor house of the late Medieval period, incorporating Tudor, Elizabethan, and Jacobean details. New York architect A. S. Bell built the house, but the design reflected the taste and ideas of the owners, Charles and Fanny Mac Veagh, who drew their inspiration from a variety of English and Scottish Medieval examples. Fasnacloich's Anglo-Italian garden is one of the best examples of its style in the United States. Fasnacloich represents the climax of summer colony architecture in the Dublin, Harrisville area and is Harrisville's most important, least compromised surviving summer residence. As the home of Ambassador to Japan, Charles Mac Veagh, nephew of U. S. Treasury Secretary Franklin Mac Veagh and father of Lincoln Mac Veagh, Ambassador to Spain, Portugal, and Greece (see Ambassador Mac Veagh Reports: Greece, 1933-1947, John O. Latrides, Ed., Princeton, 1980) as well as first U. S. (Continued)

REFERENCES:
Faulkner, Barry. "Fasnacloich." Unpublished, 1962.

MAP: SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

DESCRIPTION OF VIEW:
1 - Front (east) elevation facing west

PHOTOGRAPHER: R. Forbes

NEGATIVE FILE #: 15-1; 8/24/83

RECORDED BY: William Morgan/Cini

SPONSORING ORGANIZATION:

Historic Harrisville, Inc.

DATE: October 1983



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National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
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PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:

entrance facade (as the base of the U) and unequal-length arms (the south wing is 70', while the north wing is 58½').

The east, or entrance, facade (which faces a circular drive) is interrupted only by two entrance porches (the main one constructed of half-timber with brick infill) and a prominent full-height chimney. The second story projects slightly and the fenestration consists of several tall narrow windows grouped in pairs. The ground floor of this section contains an entrance hall with fireplace, three bedrooms, and a long hall or gallery, approximately 60' in length. Like almost all the rooms in the house, these are of half-timber construction with stucco infill.

The south wing of the house contains a 13' by 17' library (known as the Orchard Room) and a 2 story high "great hall" or music room, 17' by 55½'. Called the Terrace Room, this has three fireplaces and a "minstrel's gallery" on the east wall. This room is lit by three monumental windows (filled with small leaded panes and decorative shields); outside, each of these bays is articulated by a steeply-pitched gable.

Connecting the Terrace Room and the dining room to the north is a 74' covered walkway, or cloister. This runs alongside the long hall and has an arcade of seven Tudor arches.

The north wing contains an entrance hall, a servants' room, the kitchen, two pantries, a 7' by 19' smoking room (paneled in olive wood) and a 15 by 40 foot dining room with a plaster strapwork ceiling. Above the dining room on the second story is a 9' by 12' consecrated Episcopal chapel, called the Oratory. The bedroom above the Orchard Room has a secret hiding place behind the fireplace, known as a "priest's hole," a reminder of the reign of Mary Tudor.

An addition was added to the north of the smoking room in 1916-17, much of which is taken up by the 31' by 46' library. Lined with bookcases (set off by pairs of Tuscan pilasters, suggesting the introduction of Italian Renaissance elements into Jacobean England), the library has a monumental fireplace on the north wall and is spanned by a gently-bowed ceiling of elaborate Jacobean plaster strapwork. The library is lit by a pair of 13' wide windows, which are repeated on the second story; these bays are further emphasized by peaked gables at the roof level.

The most prominent aspect of the exterior landscaping is the Terrace Garden which has four levels extending from a stone promenade, or belvedere, running the length of the south side of the house. The first level is supported by a fieldstone retaining wall (which extends around three sides of the garden) topped by a low stone balustrade composed of Jacobean balusters. The fourth side of the garden is defined by arbor vitae that was originally shaped as topiary. The grass terraces culminate in an octagonal marble pool with a central fountain bought in Italy. Various pieces of classical statuary adorn the Terrace Garden. (To the east of the house, beyond the circular drive, there is a kitchen garden sheltered by tall fieldstone walls.)

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SIGNIFICANCE:

Minister to Iceland, and Fanny Davenport Rogers Mac Veagh (author of the 1915 book, Fountains of Papal Rome), it was an important center of artistic, literary, and social life, that welcomed such distinguished visitors as Nelson Rockefeller, Henry Cabot Lodge, Grenville Clark, author of A Plan For Peace, John Jay Chapman, author; Thomas Whittemore, eminent Byzantine scholar, Lord Dunsany, poet of the Irish Renaissance and contemporary of W. B. Yeats, George de Forest Brush, Richard Meryman, and Barry Faulkner, famous painters, portraitists and muralists, as well as John Marquand, author of the Pulitzer Prize winner The Late George Apley.

The Mac Veaghs, who had summered at Narragansett Pier in Rhode Island, were captivated by Dublin during a visit to Franklin Mac Veagh's Knollwood (see Dublin Multiple Resource Nomination to the National Register, 1982) and purchased the 1809 Rowe Farm here in 1903. The Adams Farm (IP-17) was later added to their holdings.

The name of the house, as well as its style, were inspired by several visits to Britain to search for the roots of Mrs. Mac Veagh's Scottish ancestry. (The original Fasnacloich in Scotland burned, and a 19th century house, still named Fasnacloich, stands in its place.) A likely source for the Dublin house is Kelmscott Manor, the Oxfordshire home of William Morris, poet, artist, social reformer, and guiding light of the Arts and Crafts Movement. Although the plans were prepared by A. S. Bell, Fanny Mac Veagh was the actual designer of Fasnacloich and she oversaw all the ornamental and technical details of the house, which was built in 1911. In 1916-17 the addition containing the library was added, probably under the supervision of Mr. Bell.

Charles Mac Veagh was general counsel for U. S. Steel, and served as Ambassador to Japan. His father, Wayne Mac Veagh, was Attorney General in President Cleveland's cabinet. His son, Lincoln Mac Veagh, held the diplomatic posts mentioned above, as well as Minister to the Union of South Africa and Ambassador to the Yugoslav Government in Exile. (Before that Lincoln was founder and publisher of the Dial Press.) His brother, Ewen, co-authored a book about World War I called The Yankee in the British Zone. Their circle of friends included Nelson Rockefeller, Henry Cabot Lodge, Sir Ronald and Lady Lindsay, the British Ambassador, Charles Platt, the architect, the artists of the Cornish Colony of Augustus St. Gaudens. Robert Cameron Rogers, the poet who wrote "The Rosary" which was a famous song of its day, was the brother of Fanny Mac Veagh. John Marquand met his first wife, Christina Sedgwick, here, when visiting his friend Ewen Mac Veagh, Christina's cousin.

Even without the important associations of the Mac Veagh family and all of the political personalities, literary figures, and artists (and their artwork) which filled the house, Fasnacloich is a major landmark in the Dublin-Harrisville area's rich heritage of summer colony architecture and garden design of the period. Fasnacloich represents an optimistic eclecticism recalling the wealth and taste that could import such a convincing evocation of English culture to the Monadnock Region. It stands as it was originally built, its artworks and furnishings as the Mac Veaghs installed them. As such, it is a symbol of an era and a way of life that did not survive the First World War.

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SIGNIFICANCE:

It meets Criteria A, B and C of the National Register of Historic Places and has been determined eligible for inclusion in that listing.

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DESCRIPTION OF VIEW:

Side (south) elevation and garden facing north

PHOTOGRAPHER: R. Forbes

NEGATIVE FILE #: 15-16; 8/24/83



DESCRIPTION OF VIEW:

Rear (west) elevation facing east

PHOTOGRAPHER: R. Forbes

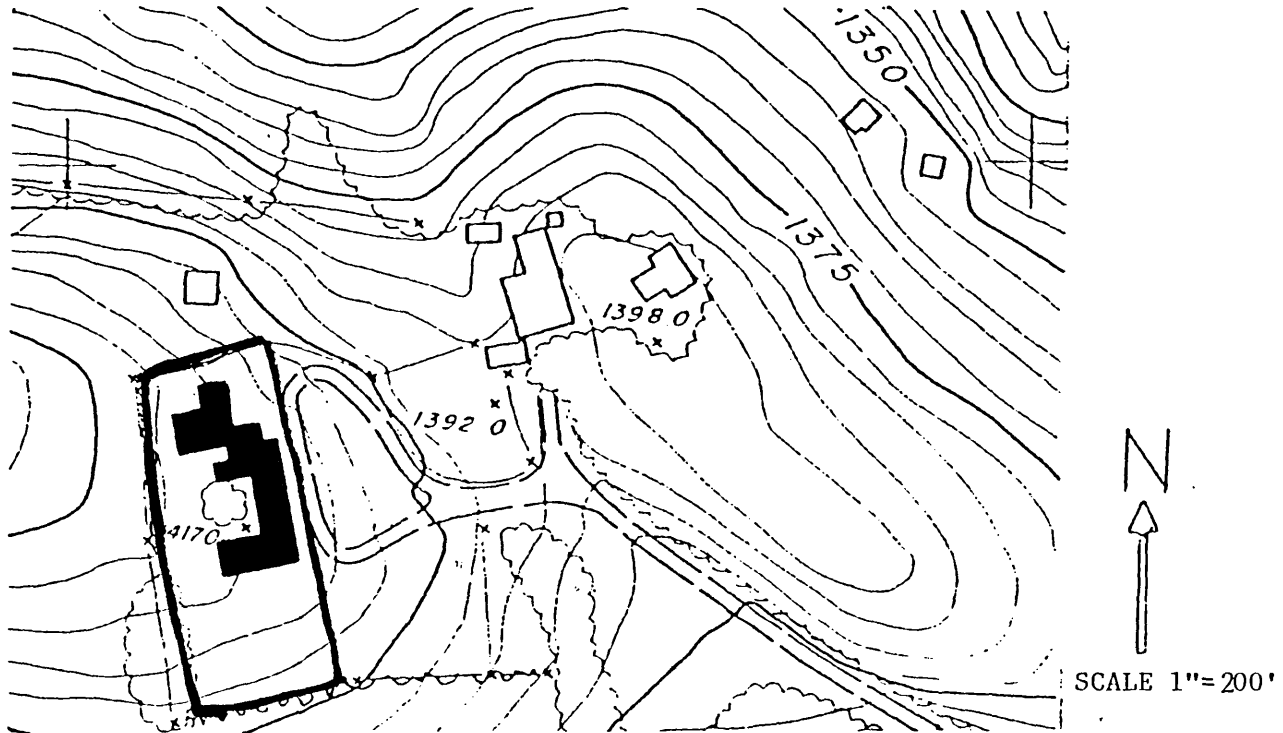
NEGATIVE FILE #: 15-22; 8/24/83



HARRISVILLE HISTORIC AND ARCHITECTURAL RESOURCES SURVEY
 INDIVIDUAL INVENTORY FORM

DISTRICT: -- SITE #: IP-16

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| | ACREAGE: 1.3 RANGE/LOT: VIII-16 |



- Contributing
- Non-contributing

BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION / JUSTIFICATION:

Bounded on the north a wall on the east by the driveway and an arbitrary line extending to the edge of trees on the south and on the west by the edge of trees and a line of shrubs.

Includes the immediate visual surroundings incorporating the features contributing to the property's architectural and historical significance.

Designated as IP-16 on the Town of Harrisville Map, included with this nomination.

The boundaries of the property are indicated by the heavy black line on the sketch map above.

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Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

Name Harrisville MRA
State Cheshire County, NEW HAMPSHIRE

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

- | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------|-----|--------|------------------------|
| 21. Clymer House ✓ | Substantive Review | for | Keeper | Patrick Andrus 1/14/88 |
| | | | Attest | Betty L. Sarge 1/14/88 |
| 22. Farwell, Corbin C., Homestead ✓ | Substantive Review | for | Keeper | Patrick Andrus 1/14/88 |
| | | | Attest | Betty L. Sarge 1/14/88 |
| 23. Fasnacloich ✓ | Substantive Review | for | Keeper | Patrick Andrus 1/14/88 |
| | | | Attest | Betty L. Sarge 1/14/88 |
| 24. Kendall Cottage ✓ | Substantive Review | for | Keeper | Patrick Andrus 1/14/88 |
| | | | Attest | Betty L. Sarge 1/14/88 |
| 25. Needham House ✓ | Substantive Review | for | Keeper | Patrick Andrus 1/14/88 |
| | | | Attest | Betty L. Sarge 1/14/88 |
| 26. Point Comfort ✓ | Substantive Review | for | Keeper | Patrick Andrus 1/14/88 |
| | | | Attest | Betty L. Sarge 1/14/88 |
| 27. Raubold House ✓ | Substantive Review | for | Keeper | Patrick Andrus 1/14/88 |
| | | | Attest | Betty L. Sarge 1/14/88 |
| 28. Silver Lake Farm ✓ | Substantive Review | for | Keeper | Patrick Andrus 1/14/88 |
| | | | Attest | Betty L. Sarge 1/14/88 |
| 29. Smith--Mason Farm ✓ | Substantive Review | for | Keeper | Patrick Andrus 1/14/88 |
| | | | Attest | Betty L. Sarge 1/14/88 |
| 30. Willard Homestead ✓ | Substantive Review | for | Keeper | Patrick Andrus 1/14/88 |
| | | | Attest | Betty L. Sarge 1/14/88 |