

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY
HISTORIC SITE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey #: P.G.# 72-9-23 Building Date: ca. 1904

Building Name: Alice R. Dorsey House

Location: 910 59th Avenue, Fairmount Heights, Md.

Private/Residence/Occupied/Fair/Inaccessible

Description:

The Alice Dorsey House is a two-and-one-half story hip-roof Foursquare House; it fronts to the east toward 59th Avenue. The building is an irregular four bays by three. Entrance is in the second (center) bay of the irregular four-bay east facade through a door with single-pane transom and a plain board surround. The north bay of the east facade consists of a flush crossgable, with two windows, surmounted at loft level with a pedimented gable lighted by a small single-sash rectangular window. Original siding is covered with white asbestos shingle with green trim. Windows are generally 2/2 double-hung-sash with plain board surrounds painted green; there are no shutters. The hip roof is covered with gray-green asbestos shingle; its plain cornice boards are painted green.

Significance:

The Alice Dorsey House is a variation of the popular Foursquare house form. It was built circa 1904 on a lot in the Fairmount Heights subdivision. It is a variation on the Foursquare house form, which was very popular at the turn of the twentieth century; basically square in plan, in this case it is varied by a flush crossgable on the main facade which gives it an asymmetrical appearance. Alice R. Dorsey owned the property (lots 30 and 31 in Block B of the Fairmount Heights subdivision) and had the house built circa 1904. She listed herself as a messenger for the U. S. Treasury in the 1910 census; she was 51 years of age at that time, had been born in South Carolina, and lived in this house with her sister, Anne Bryant, her daughters, Marion Dorsey and Daisy Thornton, and Daisy's two children.

Acreage: 7,375 square feet

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Alice R. Dorsey House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 910 57th Avenue ___ not for publication

city, town Fairmount Heights ___ vicinity of congressional district 5

state MD county Prince George's

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Louisa Fagins

street & number 910 57th Avenue telephone no.:

city, town Fairmount Heights state and zip code MD 20743

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Prince George's County Courthouse liber 908

street & number 14735 Main Street folio 483

city, town Upper Marlboro state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title None

date ___ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date of move _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

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

The Alice R. Dorsey House stands at 910 59th (originally Fairmount) Avenue. It was built circa 1904 on lots 30/31, Block B of the Fairmount Heights Subdivision which was platted in 1900.

The Alice Dorsey House is a two-and-one-half story hip-roof Foursquare House; it fronts to the east toward 59th Avenue. The building is an irregular four bays by three. Entrance is in the second (center) bay of the irregular four-bay east facade through a door with single-pane transom and a plain board surround. The north bay of the east facade consists of a flush crossgable, with two windows, surmounted at loft level with a pedimented gable lighted by a small single-sash rectangular window. Original siding is covered with white asbestos shingle with green trim. Windows are generally 2/2 double-hung-sash with plain board surrounds painted green; there are no shutters. The hip roof is covered with gray-green asbestos shingle; its plain cornice boards are painted green.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates ca. 1904

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: A B C D
and/or

Applicable Exception: A B C D E F G

Level of Significance: national state local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The Alice Dorsey House is a variation of the popular Foursquare house form. It was built circa 1904 on a lot in the Fairmount Heights subdivision.

The Town of Fairmount Heights is located just outside the easternmost point of the District of Columbia in Prince George's County, Maryland; it is composed of a group of early twentieth-century subdivisions that form one of the earliest planned communities for blacks in the Washington, D. C., area. The community began with the Fairmount Heights subdivision in 1900, followed by five adjoining subdivisions, the last being Sylvan Vista platted in 1923. The Town was incorporated in 1935, and grew steadily through the years before World War II.

The land which was to become Fairmount Heights consisted, during the late nineteenth century, principally of parts of the small farms of John H. Wilson, John and Caroline Silence, Samuel Hoover, Mosby Brown and John Wiessner, all clustered around the east corner of the District of Columbia. In the early years of the twentieth century, these farms were bought up and subdivided by land speculators, who then began to sell individual lots to black families, most of whom worked in the District of Columbia.

The first section of Fairmount Heights was subdivided in 1900 by Robinson White and Allen Clark (both white men) out of parts of several small farms which they had purchased from the Wilson, Godfrey, Belt and Lee families. Robinson White was a lawyer and developer who resided in the District of Columbia; Allen C. Clark was a lawyer and manager of the Equitable Life Insurance Company of Washington, D. C. White and Clark had approximately fifty acres surveyed by County Surveyor Edward L. Latimer, and laid out in lots and streets radiating

from the northeast boundary of the District of Columbia. The deep, narrow lots were generally 25 by 125 feet; two of the streets were named for these first two developers. Sale of lots began almost immediately, and within a few years, dwellings were constructed and a community began to form.

From the beginning, blacks were encouraged to buy lots and settle in the new community. White and Clark sold the lots at relatively low prices, making home ownership finally attainable for black families. Most of the earliest purchasers of lots worked for government agencies; many built their own houses, or relied on friends and family to help with construction. Many families were quick to seize the opportunity to move out of the city, determined to progress, by hard work and amid healthful surroundings, toward a better life.

The earliest dwellings were of frame construction, modest in size and form, and many of these have not survived. Within a few years, however, several interesting and substantial houses were constructed for individuals who would make significant contributions to the development of Fairmount Heights.

The Alice Dorsey House is a variation on the Foursquare house form, which was very popular at the turn of the twentieth century; basically square in plan, in this case it is varied by a flush crossgable on the main facade which gives it an asymmetrical appearance. Alice R. Dorsey owned the property (lots 30 and 31 in Block B of the Fairmount Heights subdivision) and had the house built circa 1904. She listed herself as a messenger for the U. S. Treasury in the 1910 census; she was 51 years of age at that time, had been born in South Carolina, and lived in this house with her sister, Anne Bryant, her daughters, Marion Dorsey and Daisy Thornton, and Daisy's two children.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. PG#72-9-23

P.G. Co. Deeds; P.G. Co. Tax Assessments 1900-1910, Federal Census
P.G. District 13, 1910

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 7375 sq ft

Quadrangle name Washington East

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

TM 65, FH Blk B, lots 30,31

A	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing
C	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
E	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
G	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

B	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing
D	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
F	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
H	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Verbal boundary description and justification

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 Susan G. Pearl, Research/Architectural Historian

organization Prince George's County Historic Preservation Commission date June 1991

street & number c/o M-NCPPC, 4th floor CAB telephone 301-952-3521

city or town Upper Marlboro state MD 20772

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory 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.

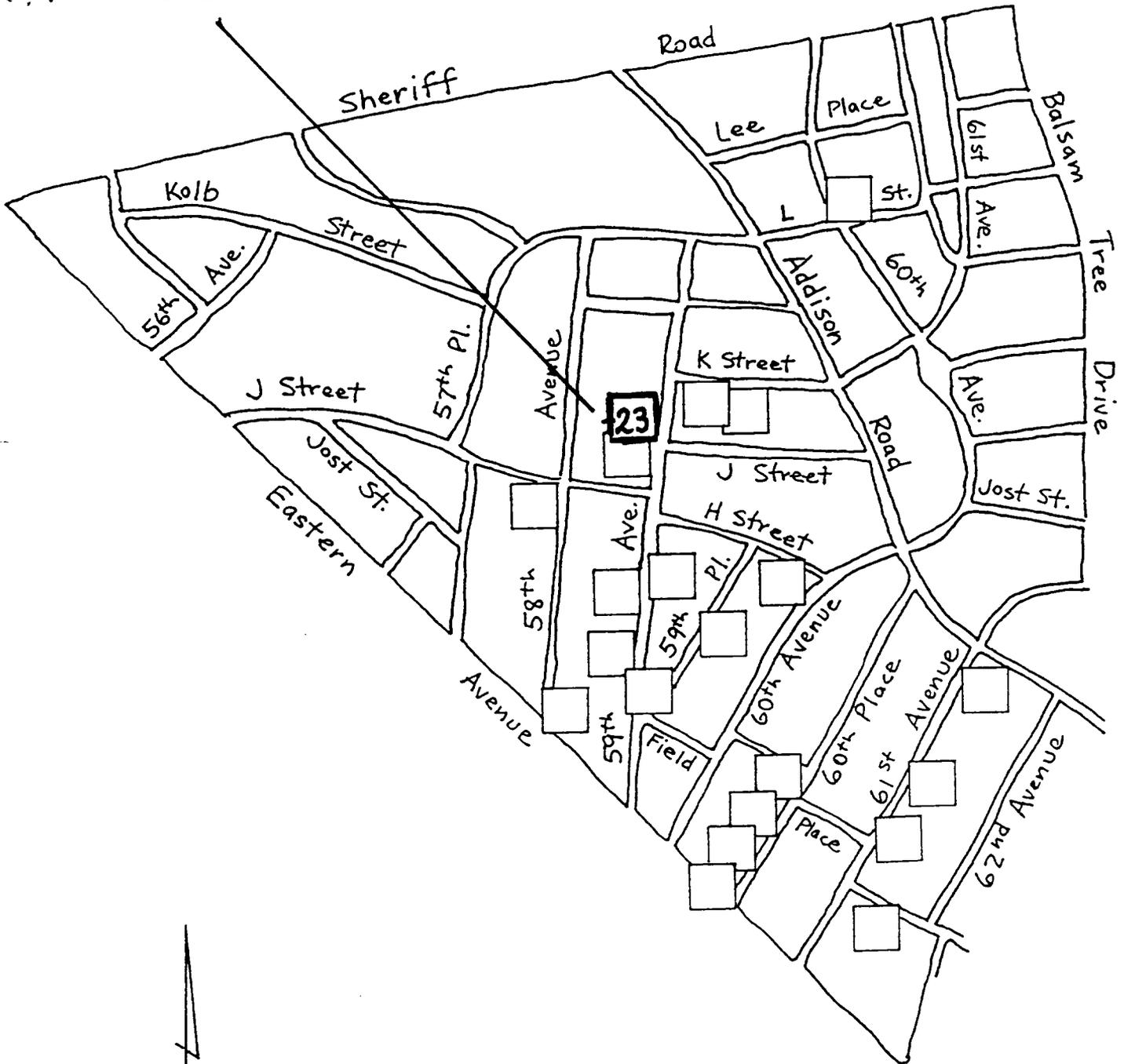
The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

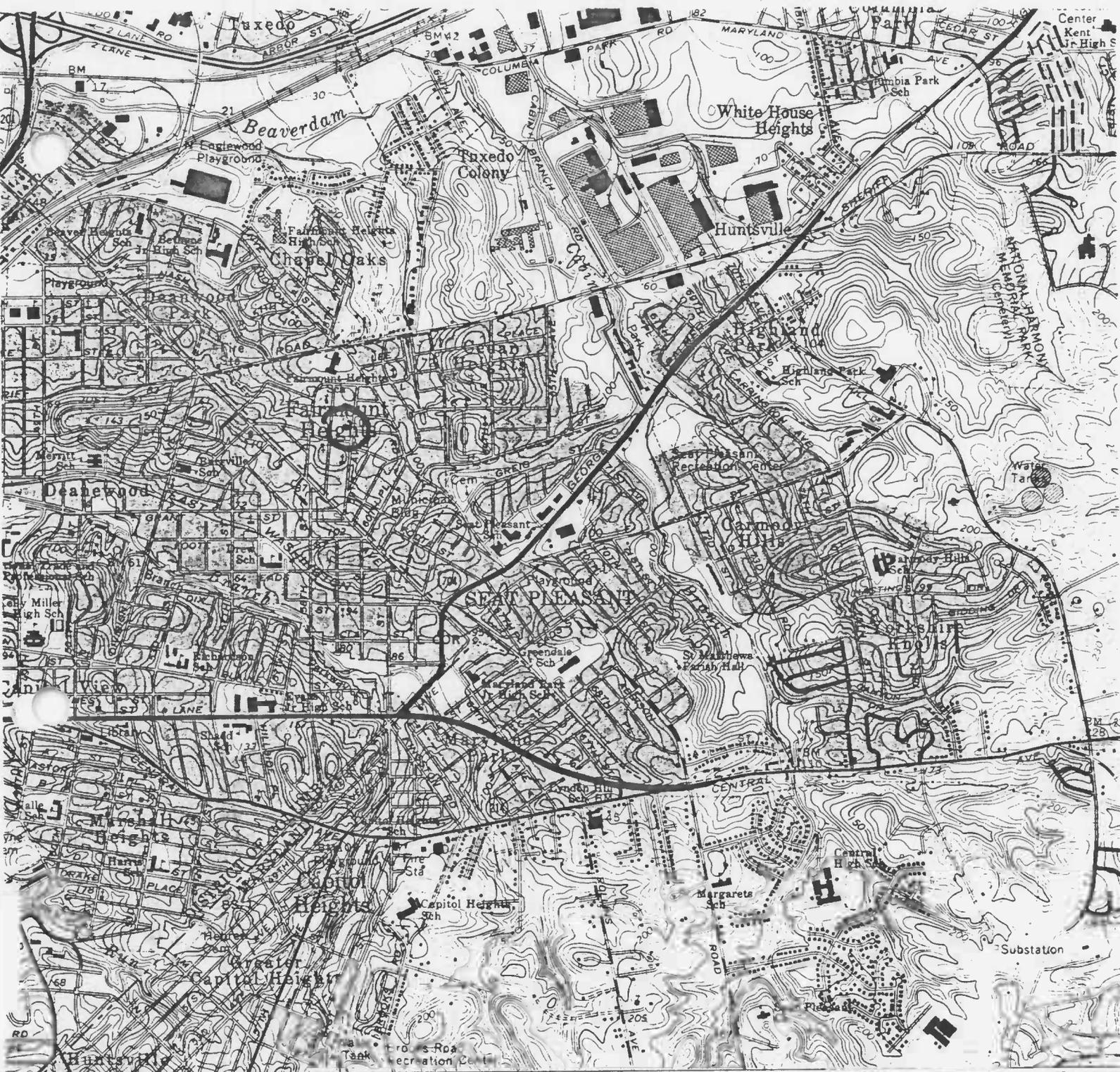
return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

Town of Fairmount Heights

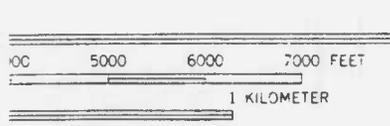
ALICE DORSEY HOUSE

PG: 72-9-23





DISTRICT HEIGHTS 2.3 MI. UPPER MARLBORO 1.1 MI. 55' 334 335000m E. INTERIOR—GEOLOGICAL SURVEY WASHINGTON D. C. — 1976



LEVEL MEAN LOW WATER
 AN HIGH WATER
 EET

PG: 72-9-23
72-9-23



QUADRANGLE LOCATION

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Heavy-duty	—————	Light-duty	—————
Medium-duty	—————	Unimproved dirt	-----
Interstate Route	⊖	U. S. Route	⊖
		State Road	⊖

ACCURACY STANDARDS
 WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242
 ABOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

WASHINGTON EAST, MD. — D. C.
 N3852.5—W7652.5/7.5

1965
 PHOTOREVISED 1971
 AMS 5661 IV NW—SERIES V833



PG # 72-9-23

(4)

Miss Daisy Hense
Susan H. Pearl
June 1990

910 59th Ave

B: 30-31

Fairmount Heights