

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY

HISTORIC SITE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey #: P.G.# 72-9-39 Building Date: 1908

Building Name: Robert S. Nichols House

Location: 802 58th Avenue, Fairmount Heights, Md.

Private/Residence/Occupied/Good/Inaccessible

Description:

The Robert S. Nichols House is a large two-part frame dwelling, of complex Foursquare plan. The main block is 2 1/2 stories high with hip roof, three bays by two; attached to its north elevation is a two-story hip-roof wing, two bays by two, inset from the principal east facade. Entrance to the main block is in the third bay of the east facade, through a door with a single-pane transom. This entrance is sheltered by a one-story hip-roof porch with turned posts, jig-sawn brackets and plain balustrade railing; the porch wraps around the north elevation of the main block to shelter also an entrance into the east facade of the wing. The building is covered with a combination of yellow bricktex and brown synthetic siding. Windows are 2/2 double hung sash with plain board surrounds painted white (as is the other trim) and brown louvered shutters. Centered in the east plane of the roof of the main block is a hip dormer with a six-pane window. The house rests on a high brick basement which encloses a basement.

Significance:

The Robert S. Nichols House is a noticeable landmark in Fairmount Heights and was certainly one of the handsomest and most substantial houses in the community when it was built in 1908. The two lots on which it stands were purchased in 1908 by John F. Collins, and in that year he built this house. In the following year he sold the new dwelling to Robert S. Nichols, who worked in the District of Columbia at the U. S. Pension Office. Nichols, who had come to Maryland from Texas, settled with his young family in this house in 1909. He soon became active in community affairs, heading the citizens committee which pursued and brought about the establishment of a public school in Fairmount Heights. In 1912 he served on the building committee of that new primary school. In 1914, Nichols contracted with the Detroit Heating Company to install a complete system of central heating in his house; the same company installed a similar system in the same year in the home of William Coles. Nichols worked toward the incorporation of Fairmount Heights, and, in 1935, when the town was incorporated, he was elected as its first mayor, and served two consecutive one-year terms. The house on White (now 58th) Avenue remained in Nichols family ownership until after Robert Nichols' death in 1960.

Acreage: 6,250 square feet

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Robert S. Nichols House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 802 58th 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 Lottie Thompson

street & number 802 58th 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 5175

street & number 14735 Main Street folio 842

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

Survey No. PG#72-9-39

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date of move _____
<input 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 Robert S. Nichols House stands at 802 58th (originally White) Avenue. It was built in 1908 on Lot 8, Block C of the Fairmount Heights subdivision, which was platted in 1900.

This is a large two-part frame dwelling, of complex Foursquare plan. The main block is 2 1/2 stories high with hip roof, three bays by two; attached to its north elevation is a two-story hip-roof wing, two bays by two, inset from the principal east facade. Entrance to the main block is in the third bay of the east facade, through a door with a single-pane transom. This entrance is sheltered by a one-story hip-roof porch with turned posts, jig-sawn brackets and plain balustrade railing; the porch wraps around the north elevation of the main block to shelter also an entrance into the east facade of the wing.

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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 Nichols House is a noticeable landmark in Fairmount Heights and was certainly one of the handsomest and most substantial houses in the community when it was built in 1908. The two lots on which it stands were purchased in 1908 by John F. Collins, and in that year he built this house. In the following year he sold the new dwelling to Robert S. Nichols, who worked in the District of Columbia at the U. S. Pension Office. Nichols, who had come to Maryland from Texas, settled with his young family in this house in 1909. He soon became active in community affairs, heading the citizens committee which pursued and brought about the establishment of a public school in Fairmount Heights. In 1912 he served on the building committee of that new primary school. In 1914, Nichols contracted with the Detroit Heating Company to install a complete system of central heating in his house; the same company installed a similar system in the same year in the home of William Coles. Nichols worked toward the incorporation of Fairmount Heights, and, in 1935, when the town was incorporated, he was elected as its first mayor, and served two consecutive one-year terms. The house on White (now 58th) Avenue remained in Nichols family ownership until after Robert Nichols' death in 1960.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. PG#72-9-39

Prince George's County Tax Assessments 1907-1915
Federal Census, Prince George's County District #13, 1910
Floyd, Bianca P., Records and Recollections, M-NCPPC, 1989
Prince George's County Administration File #13525; P.G.Co. Deeds #42:509,
#52:343, #99:273

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nomlated property 6,250 sq ft
Quadrangle name Washington East Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references TM #65 FH Blk C, lots 8-9

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

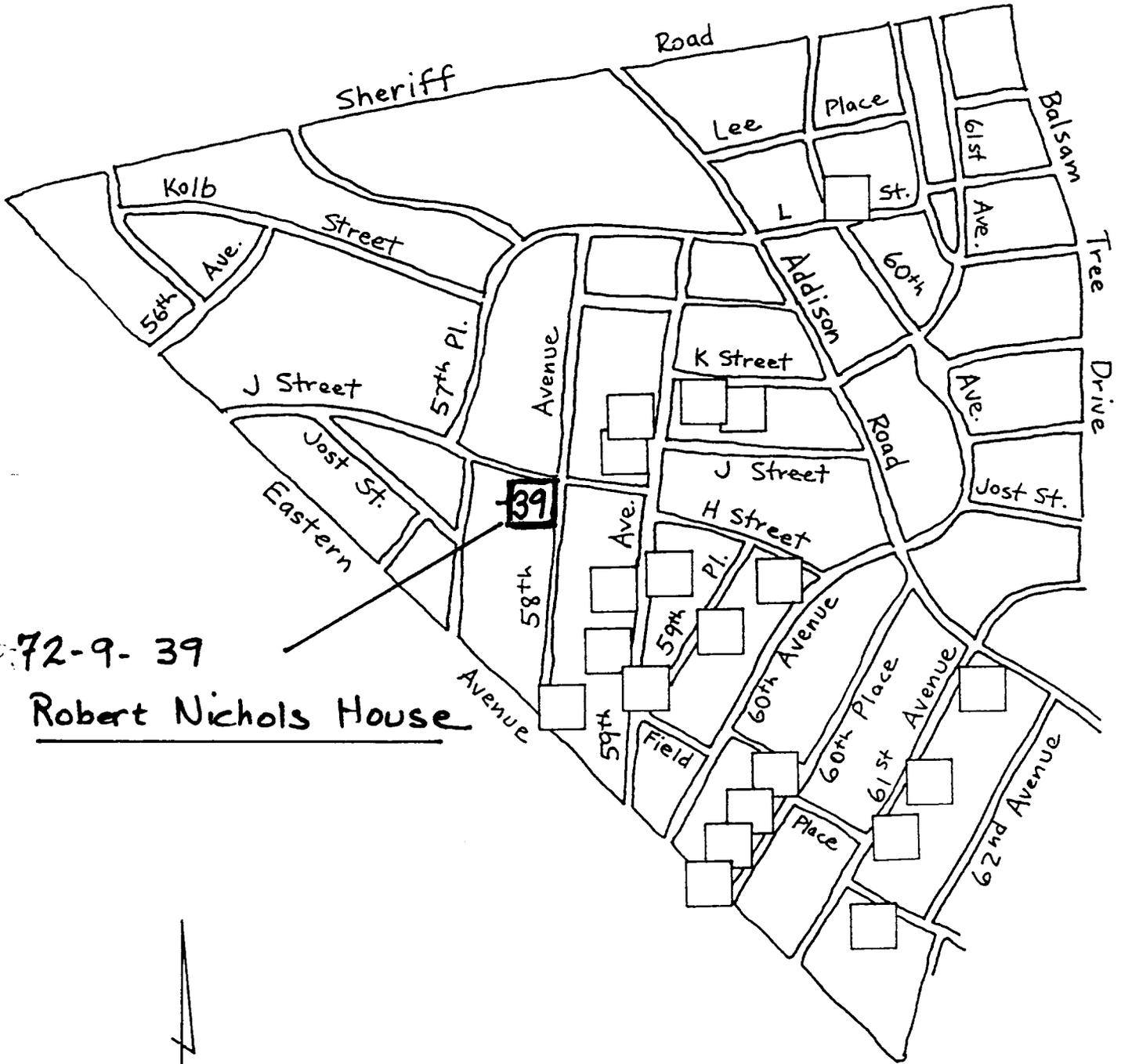
name/title Susan G. Pearl, Research/Architectural Historian
 organization Prince George's County Historic Preservation Commission date June 1991
 street & number c/o M-NCPPC, 4th floor CAB telephone 301-952-3521
 city or town Upper Marlboro state MD 20772

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

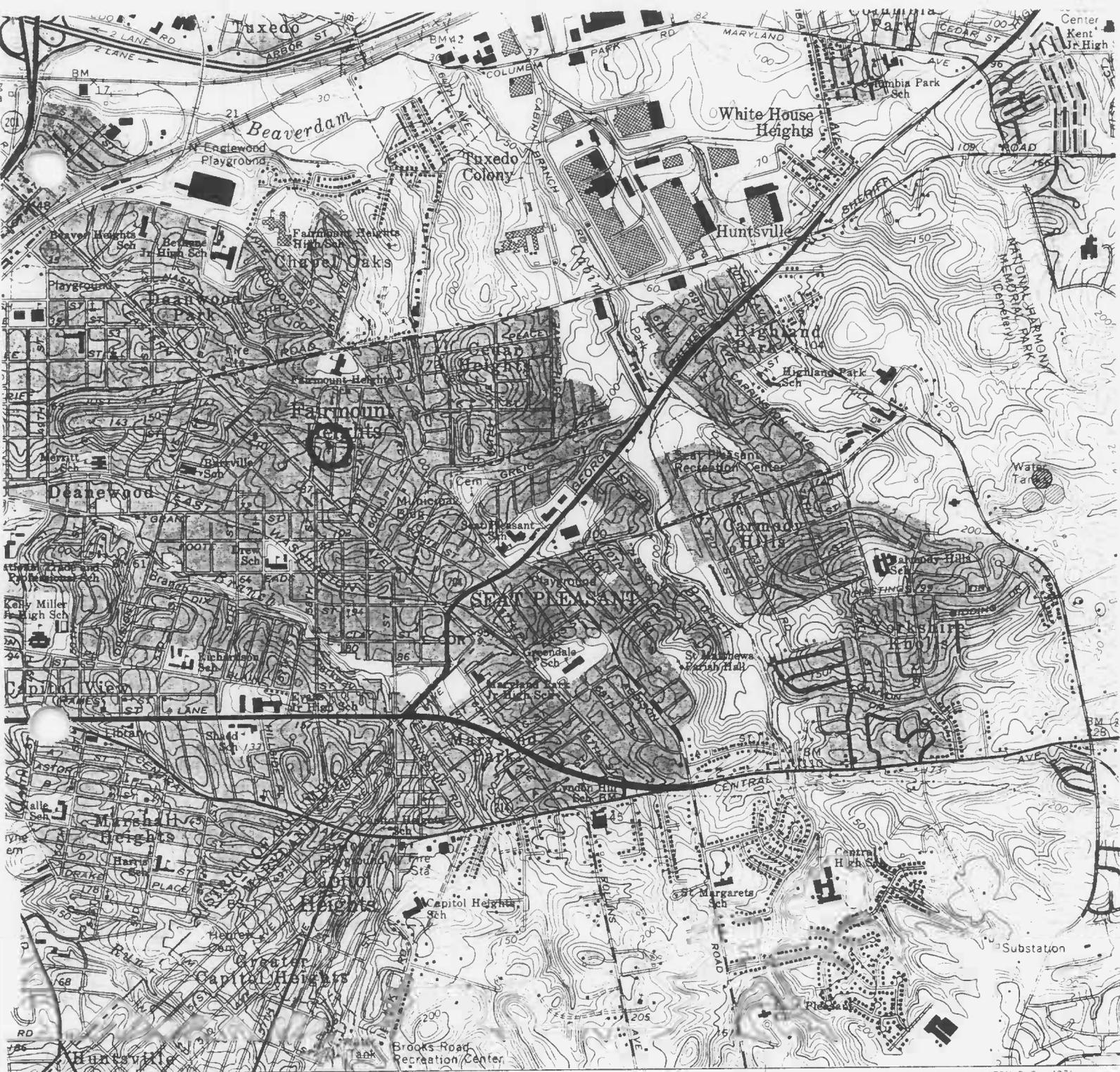
Town of Fairmount Heights



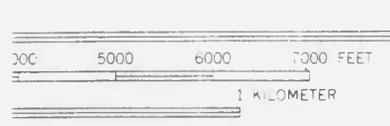
PG: 72-9-39

Robert Nichols House





UPPER MARLBORO 2.7 MI. 3.1 3.000m INTERIOR-GEOLOGICAL SURVEY WASHINGTON D.C. - 1971



10 FEET
EVEL
ATUM IS MEAN LOW WATER
LINE OF MEAN HIGH WATER
DATE: FEET

PG: 72-9-39
72-9-39



QUADRANGLE LOCATION

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

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

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

1965
PHOTOREVISED 1971
AMS 5661 IV NW - SERIES V833

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



P6 # 72-9-37

Robert Specter's Hs.
802 58th Ave., Leermount Hgts

(FH C:8)

Prince George's Co. MD.
Anwar N. Pearl
March 1991
East facade

ref: 1117