NPS Form 10-900
(Rev. 8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name: Upper Fairmount

other names/site number: UPPER FAIRMOUNT HISTORIC DISTRICT (preferred) S-164

2. Location

street & number: State Route 361 N/A ☐ not for publication

city, town: Upper Fairmount N/A ☐ vicinity

state: Maryland code: MD county: Somerset code: 039 zip code: 21867

3. Classification

Ownership of Property
- [X] private
- [ ] public-local
- [ ] public-State
- [ ] public-Federal

Category of Property
- [ ] building(s)
- [X] district
- [ ] site
- [ ] structure
- [ ] object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
20	12	buildings
9		sites
		structures
		objects
29	12	Total

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this [X] nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property [X] meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official: STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER — Date: 7/30/93

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official — Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- ☐ entered in the National Register. ☐ See continuation sheet.
- ☐ determined eligible for the National Register. ☐ See continuation sheet.
- ☐ determined not eligible for the National Register.
- ☐ removed from the National Register.
- ☐ other, (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper — Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)	Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)
DOMESTIC/single dwelling	DOMESTIC/single dwelling
RELIGION/religious facilities	RELIGION/religious facilities
FUNERARY/cemetery	FUNERARY/cemetery

7. Description

Architectural Classification (enter categories from instructions)	Materials (enter categories from instructions)	
FEDERAL	foundation	BRICK, STONE
GREEK REVIVAL	walls	WOOD
LATE VICTORIAN		METAL
	roof	ASPHALT
	other	WOOD

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

DESCRIPTION SUMMARY:

Upper Fairmount is a rural village situated on both sides of State Route 361 which runs east/west down the spine of the Fairmount peninsula, historically known as Potato Neck. The Annemessex River, the Manokin River and its tributary Back Creek, and Tangier Sound are the major bodies of water that surround this flat, low-lying peninsula of Somerset County. The village is essentially landlocked, rural in character, and surrounded by farm fields and woods. Most of the houses that comprise the Upper Fairmount historic district are oriented to State Route 361, also known as Fairmount Road, which curves in a gentle arc as it passes through the village. Surrounding most houses are generous lots with mature shade trees and, in a few cases, period outbuildings accompany the dwellings. In addition to approximately twenty houses, the district contains two churches and one old store building. A cemetery for the no-longer-extant St. Stephens Episcopal Church is located at the east end of the village. Remaining in the center of Upper Fairmount is a remnant of the initial Methodist church cemetery, which was relocated when a new church was built at the west end of the village in 1870-73. Several small family burial plots are located in various parts of the village as well, such as at the Dr. J.E. Tull House.

[X] See continuation sheet No. 1
For General Description

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:
☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally

Applicable National Register Criteria ☒ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)
ARCHITECTURE
COMMERCE

Period of Significance
c.1825-1940

Significant Dates
c.1825
1940

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Significant Person
N/A

Architect/Builder
Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY:

The Upper Fairmount Historic District stands out as the best preserved of the rural villages that developed in various sections of Somerset County during the nineteenth century as small commercial centers supplying goods for the surrounding area. With many of its essential historic features still intact, the village retains a cohesive nature that has been lost in other places. The Upper Fairmount district is comprised mostly of mid-to-late nineteenth century two-story dwellings along with two churches and a late nineteenth century store building. Several houses are joined by period outbuildings. Improved house lots, dotted with mature shade trees, are interspersed between small fields and garden plots. All buildings are of frame construction and most followed popular second half of the nineteenth century styles imposed on vernacular floor plans. The influence of the Italianate and Gothic Revival are evident in the most expensively erected dwellings and two churches. Other less elaborate houses, built after vernacular forms as well, are more plain in their exterior and interior finishes. Like materials used in the construction of village dwellings link several structures to the same building traditions, and perhaps the same craftsman, although documented builders for specific houses have not surfaced during the research for this nomination. The range of nineteenth century houses reflects the middle to upperclass status of the village residents who built them. The period of significance spans the years from around 1825 to 1940, during which the village developed into a prominent location of commerce and trade centered on the Fairmount peninsula.

☒ See continuation sheet No. 13
For HISTORIC CONTEXT and MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA.

9. Major Bibliographical Reference

See Continuation Sheet No. 20

[X] See continuation sheet No. 20

Previous documentation on file (NPS):
- [ ] preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- [ ] previously listed in the National Register
- [ ] previously determined eligible by the National Register
- [ ] designated a National Historic Landmark
- [ ] recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- [ ] recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:
- [X] State historic preservation office
- [ ] Other State agency
- [ ] Federal agency
- [ ] Local government
- [ ] University
- [X] Other

Specify repository:
Somerset County Historical Trust
Princess Anne, Maryland 21853

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property Approximately 80 acres
USGS Quad: Marion, Maryland Quad

UTM References

	Zone	Easting	Northing
A	18	430270	4217990
B	18	430260	4217680
C	18	429520	4217450
D	18	429460	4218000

[ ] See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

[X] See continuation sheet No. 21

Boundary Justification

[X] See continuation sheet No. 21

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Paul B. Touart, Architectural Historian
organization Private Consultant date 12/1/92
street & number P.O. Box 5 telephone (410)651-1094
city or town Westover state Maryland zip code 21871

*U.S.GPO:1988-0-223-918

GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

NOTE: Numbers enclosed with parenthesis are Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties numbers.

Upper Fairmount is a rural village situated on both sides of State Route 361, which runs east/west down the spine of the Fairmount peninsula, historically known as Potato Neck. The Annemessex River, the Manokin River and its tributary Back Creek, and Tangier Sound are the major bodies of water that surround this flat, low-lying peninsula of Somerset County. The village is essentially landlocked, rural in character, and surrounded by farm fields and woods. Hall's Creek, a tributary of the Annemessex River, is located to the south of the village, and on the north side Fishing Island is situated along the Manokin River. The district covers roughly 95 acres.

Most of the houses that comprise the Upper Fairmount historic district are oriented to State Route 361, also known as Fairmount Road, which curves in a gentle arc as it passes through the village. Surrounding most houses are generous lots with mature shade trees and, in a few cases, period outbuildings accompany the dwellings. In addition to approximately twenty houses, the village district contains two churches and one old store building. A cemetery for the no-longer-extant St. Stephens Episcopal church is located at the east end of the village. Remaining in the center of Upper Fairmount is a remnant of the initial Methodist church cemetery, which was relocated when a new church was built at the west end of the village in 1870-73. Several small family burial plots are located in various parts of the village as well.

The oldest structure in the district is the Littleton Dorsey house (S-57), commonly known as the Cook residence. Set back from the main road, the Littleton Dorsey house is an early nineteenth century plantation dwelling reached by a farm lane that intersects Fairmount Road. While the Littleton Dorsey house stands outside the main village grouping, the dwelling is clearly within the purview of State Route 361 and adds to the visual character of the district. Two stories tall and two bays across, the side hall/double-pile frame dwelling, supported on a raised brick

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foundation, is distinguished by a large brick fire wall on the west gable end. Covered by a steeply pitched asphalt shingle roof, the main block is covered by beaded weatherboards and lighted by nine-over-six sash windows on the first floor and six-over-six sash windows on the second. Rising through the gable end is an interior end brick chimney stack of narrow proportions. The extended eaves and bold cornice blocks are a mid-nineteenth century alteration. The interior is fitted with well-executed Federal woodwork dating to around 1810. Attached to the east gable end is a two-story frame wing.

The oldest dwellings to remain standing within the village proper include the Robert H. Jones house (S-59) and the Hall house (S-58). Both structures date to around 1825, and were modified during the mid-to-late nineteenth century. The Robert H. Jones house is one of the largest and most architecturally distinctive dwellings in the village with its blockish proportions, bracketed eave, and corbelled cap chimneys.

Three bays across by two bays deep, the center hall frame dwelling has an early nineteenth century core that features Federal woodwork. Supported on a low brick foundation, the house is sheathed with plain weatherboards, and is covered with a medium pitched asphalt shingle roof. Attached to the back of the main block is a two-story service wing. The front door, sheltered by a gable-roofed portico, is highlighted by an exuberant late nineteenth century surround featuring etched glass sidelights and transom. Lighting the first and second floors are six-over-six sash windows. The two-story service wing includes a two-story porch on the west side. Standing to the east of the house are two outbuildings, a weatherboard frame smokehouse and an octagonal lattice gazebo.

The Hall house, the other second quarter of the nineteenth century dwelling in the village, stands on the north side of Fairmount Road near the west end of the district. Facing south, the two-story, side hall/parlor frame dwelling is supported on a low brick foundation, and is covered by a medium pitched asphalt shingle roof. A boxed cornice trims the base of the roof and the gable ends are flush. The exterior is clad with asbestos shingles. The west gable end is distinguished by an exposed brick fire wall

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of three-course common bond. Extending eastward from the main block is a two-story mid-to-late nineteenth century addition and, to the rear, a single-story kitchen wing. Sheltering the front entrance is a three-bay, shed-roofed porch supported by turned posts. The house is lighted by six-over-six sash windows. A mixture of late Federal and Greek Revival woodwork finishes the interior. A small family burial plot is located directly west of the house.

The largest share of dwellings that define the village district dates from the second half of the nineteenth century when Upper Fairmount reached its peak in population and economic activity. Dating to around 1860 is the H.C. Tull house (S-165), which stands in the center of the village on the south side of Fairmount Road. Facing north, the two-story, three-bay frame structure is unusual in the village because of its raised brick foundation, hip roof, and rear wall placement of the chimney stacks. The north (main) elevation is a symmetrical three-bay facade with a center entrance sheltered by a flat-roofed portico featuring a cross-stick balustrade. Six-over-six sash windows, flanked by louvered shutters, light the first and second floors. The raised basement is marked by cellar windows fitted with horizontal wooden grills. The low pitched hip roof is trimmed with widely spaced modillion blocks. Standing west of the house is a pyramidal roofed dairy covered with weatherboard siding and trimmed with corner pilasters.

Close in date to the H.C. Tull house is the Dr. J.E. Tull house (S-150), which stands at the west end of the village and serves as a visual anchor for the district. The prominent three-story, three-bay frame house stands out in the Fairmount area as one the best preserved Italianate-inspired dwellings. With its three-story elevations, low pitched hip roof, corner pilasters, bracketed eaves, and rear service wing, the center hall/single-pile dwelling represents the highest level of mid-nineteenth century domestic architecture in the village. Supported by a low brick foundation and covered with a low pitched hip roof, the house is sheathed with plain weatherboards and trimmed at the corners with paneled pilasters. Heavy brackets embellish the eave of the hip roof. Centered on the north (main) facade is a boldly molded double-leaf door flanked by three-light sidelights and topped by a

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six-light transom. Located to each side are paired four-over-four sash windows. The second floor is lighted by two pairs of four-over-four sash windows to either side of a center six-over-six sash window. The center sash is flanked by narrow sidelights. The third floor is pierced by paired two-pane windows, and the center window has narrow sidelights as well.

Lighting the house on each end are paired four-over-four sash windows on the first and second floors, and the third floor has the same small windows. Stretching to the back of the house is a service wing with shed additions to each side.

The interior is fitted with third-quarter of the nineteenth century woodwork. The stair is comprised of a heavily turned newel post and turned balusters that support an oval-profile handrail which continues in an uninterrupted line to the third floor. Mantels, baseboards, and doors follow standard mid-to-late nineteenth century forms.

Located in the backyard are several outbuildings including a pyramidal roofed frame dairy, a combination workshop/privy, a corn crib, and a wagon house. The dairy is a weatherboard frame structure trimmed with paneled corner pilasters like the house. The northeast wall contains the entrance, while the remaining walls have four-pane windows. The interior is plastered. Exposed sections of sawn lath reveal the mature cut nails used to fasten the lath to the studs. The shelves have been removed, but a few bracket supports survive.

Standing behind the service wing is a long narrow frame outbuilding with a combined purpose as a workshop and privy. A simple wood shingled gable roof covers the rectangular, board-and-batten structure. A four-panel door and adjacent six-pane window serve the centrally positioned privy, while a board door to the left opens into the largest room, apparently used as a shop. To the right of the privy is a smaller room presently used for storage. The rear wall of this structure contains a clean-out section fixed under the privy seats.

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The corn crib is a rectangular mortise-and-tenon frame structure supported by brick piers. A wood shingled roof covers the rectangular crib which is sheathed with narrowly spaced vertical boards. Standing west of the corn crib is a single-story board-and-batten garage or wagon house, covered by a medium pitched gable-front roof of asphalt shingles. A large door opening with a sliding board door pierces the front wall. Located in the yard to the east of the house is a prominent tombstone marking the grave of Dr. J.E. Tull, who died on 30 October 1873.

Several houses in Upper Fairmount follow less elaborate architectural forms common to the Eastern Shore during the third quarter of the nineteenth century. The Pearson house (S-166) is a two-story, three-bay, cross-gabled frame dwelling that stands on the south side of Fairmount Road, although the cross-gabled elevation is oriented to face the side entrance lane. The elevation that faces the main road includes the gable end of the main block in addition to the side elevation of the two-bay east wing. The entire first floor is sheltered by a chamfered post front porch featuring small cross gables at the entrances. Supported by a continuous brick foundation, the frame dwelling is sheathed with plain weatherboards and the ell-shaped house is covered by a steeply pitched asphalt shingle roof. Paneled pilasters rise on each corner of the house under extended eaves. Rising through the center of the house are narrow brick chimney stacks finished with corbelled caps. Piercing the first and second floors are two-over-two sash windows flanked by louvered shutters, and small round headed windows pierce the upper gable ends.

One of the most prominent cross-gabled dwellings in the district stands in the center of the village and is known as the Windsor house (S-154), which dates to around 1880. A low brick foundation supports the center hall frame house, which is covered by a steeply pitched cross-gable, asphalt-shingle roof. Narrow brick stove stack chimneys protrude through the roof. Extending to the rear is a two-story, two-room plan kitchen wing. The exterior is clad with German siding.

The south (main) elevation is a symmetrical facade marked by a center double-leaf door and flanking two-over-two sash windows. The first floor is sheltered by a wrap-around porch supported by

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Tuscan columns. Shallow cross gables are centered on the south and east elevations of the porch. The second floor is marked by a symmetrical placement of two-over-two window sash, with a paired set located in the center bay. All of the windows are framed by louvered shutters. Piercing the cross gable is a small two-pane window featuring a segmental arched header and slightly arched louvered shutters.

The two-story rear service wing forms a T-shaped plan with a two-story shed roofed porch on the east side. The porch has been partially enclosed, but the square columns with sawn brackets still support the shed roof. A center brick stove stack chimney protrudes through the roof of the service wing.

Smaller, more modest late nineteenth century dwellings include the Catlin house, also located on the north side of Fairmount Road. Dating to around 1880, the two-story, three-bay house is sheathed with plain weatherboards, and is covered by a steeply pitched asphalt shingle roof. Narrow brick stove stack chimneys protrude through the roof to each side of the center stair hall. Attached to the back of the house is a story-and-a-half kitchen wing that dates to the middle years of the nineteenth century.

In addition to the two-dozen houses that define the village, there are two churches, the Upper Fairmount M.E. Church (S-152), and the Centennial M.E. Church (S-153). Standing prominently at the west end of the district, the Upper Fairmount M.E. Church is an elaborate example of Gothic Revival architecture. Built in 1870-73, the buttressed frame structure rests on a low granite foundation, and is covered by a steeply pitched asphalt shingle roof. The first floor of the church, between buttresses, is covered with horizontal weatherboards, while the second floor is sheathed with board-and-batten siding. The perimeter of the roof is trimmed with brackets. Rising on the northwest corner of the church is a three-story bell tower that has been reduced in height due to damage by lightning.

The north (main) elevation of the church has a center buttressed and gable entrance bay which projects from the main wall of the church. The steeply pitched gable roof projection has a bracketed eave which covers a Gothic arched door opening. A pair

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of paneled doors is topped by a colored glass transom. Flanking the entrance are small lancet windows. The upper level of the church has a large tripartite colored-glass window in the center with flanking colored glass lancet windows. The windows are set within a field of board-and-batten siding.

The three-story bell tower rises on the northwest corner and contains a separate entrance. Like the main body of the church, the tower has a buttressed first floor with weatherboard siding. The tower contains an individual Gothic-arched, double-door entrance. The second floor of the tower is sheathed with board-and-batten siding and the walls are pierced by small lancet windows with additional round windows above, all filled with colored glass. Stretching around the mid-level of the tower is a molded cornice with a dentiled bed molding. The third floor is marked by paired and louvered lancet-shaped vents, and the corners are trimmed with pilasters. The capped broach spire rises atop the third story, and the tower sides feature small gabled dormers filled with lancet-shaped openings. An octagonal cap replaces the original spire.

The east and west sides of the church are divided into five evenly spaced bays. Each first floor bay is flanked by buttresses. An entrance with a gabled hood occupies the north bay, while the other bays are filled with paired lancet windows. The upper level is pierced by five colored glass lancet windows.

The south gable end is a relatively plain wall repeating the combination of a weatherboarded first floor and board-and-batten second floor. A two-story apse, covered by a hip roof, is centered on the rear wall and lancet windows pierce each side.

The interior is divided into two levels with a small sanctuary or meeting room and Sunday school rooms on the first floor. The main sanctuary is located on the upper level. The principal stair is located in the northeastern corner of the front vestibule, and a heavily turned newel post is joined with turned balusters to support the molded handrail. The stringer is finished with a scrolled decoration. The first floor sanctuary has two fluted iron columns and a pressed metal ceiling.

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The second floor walls and ceiling, on the other hand, are fully sheathed with pressed metal sheeting. Portions of the wall are differentiated by various patterns. A molded chair rail separates a small check pattern below from a larger square design above. The cornice and ceiling have a different treatment as well. The sanctuary contains Gothic inspired pews, altar rail, and altar furniture.

The tower has been partitioned off from regular use. An open stair with turned newel post and balusters rises to the second floor and from there the stairway is enclosed to the bell room. Joining the church on the property is a single-story concrete block congregational hall.

Situated on a lot along Hall's Creek Road, south of the Upper Fairmount M.E. Church, is the African American Methodist church known as Centennial M.E. Church, erected in 1884 and remodeled in 1910. The large two-story, gable-front frame church, sheathed with plain weatherboard siding, is covered by a steeply pitched asphalt shingle roof. Three bays across by four bays deep, the church is an anomaly for rural black congregations due to its large size. A three-story bell entrance and bell tower rise on the northwest corner.

The north (main) facade of the church is three bays across with a center double-door entrance and flanking two-over-two sash windows. Each opening on the first and second floors is topped by a molded pediment. A round opening in the attic has been boarded over. Small cornice brackets are fitted with the eave. The bell tower has a double leaf door with a molded pediment on the first floor, a round opening on the second floor, and a diamond-shaped opening on the third floor. A small balustrade fills the lower corner of each diamond-shaped opening. The tower is capped by a low pitched pyramidal roof.

The east and west sides are four bays across with pedimented two-over-two sash windows on the first floor. Long two-over-two sash windows mark the second floor sanctuary. Widely spaced brackets embellish the cornice. Fixed in the southeast corner of the east side is a door opening topped with a pediment and filled with a four-panel door.

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The south (rear) wall is marked by a two-story gable-roofed apse with narrow windows also topped by pediments. Rising through the center of the church is a narrow brick stove chimney.

Also dating to the late nineteenth century is Ford's store (S-155), a central fixture in Upper Fairmount. Standing near the intersection of Fairmount and Fishing Island roads, the two-story, gable-front store building is supported by a minimal brick foundation, and the structure is sheathed with wood shingles. The steeply pitched roof is covered with sheet tine, and a small stove chimney protrudes through the roof.

The south (main) facade is two bays across with a recessed commercial entrance flanked by large display windows. A shed-roofed porch shelters the first floor entrance and display windows. Attached to the west side is a shed roofed addition that formerly housed a millinery and shoe shop. The second floor of the store is marked by a pair of two-over-two sash windows, while the attic is pierced by a six-over-six sash window.

The west side of the main block has the single-story shed-roofed addition, while the second floor is pierced by four evenly spaced two-over-two sash windows. The north gable end of the store is marked by a center entrance and flanking replacement windows. Large two-over-two sash windows pierce the second floor.

The interior retains nineteenth century counters and shelving in the large front room. The back room retains some shelving as well, and an interior stair has been built to provide internal access to the second floor. Upstairs there is a small stage faced with narrow beaded board in the north end. Two small rooms are positioned in the front of the upstairs room, and four-panel doors open into the individual spaces. A narrow brick stack rises through the center of the building and protrudes through the roof.

A relatively small number of principal buildings that stand in the district date to the first half of the twentieth century. One of the most prominent early twentieth century dwellings is the Upper Fairmount M.E. Church parsonage, which stands at the corner of Fairmount and Hall's Creek roads. The two-and-a-half story American four-square house dates to around 1930. Sheathed with

See Continuation Sheet No. 10

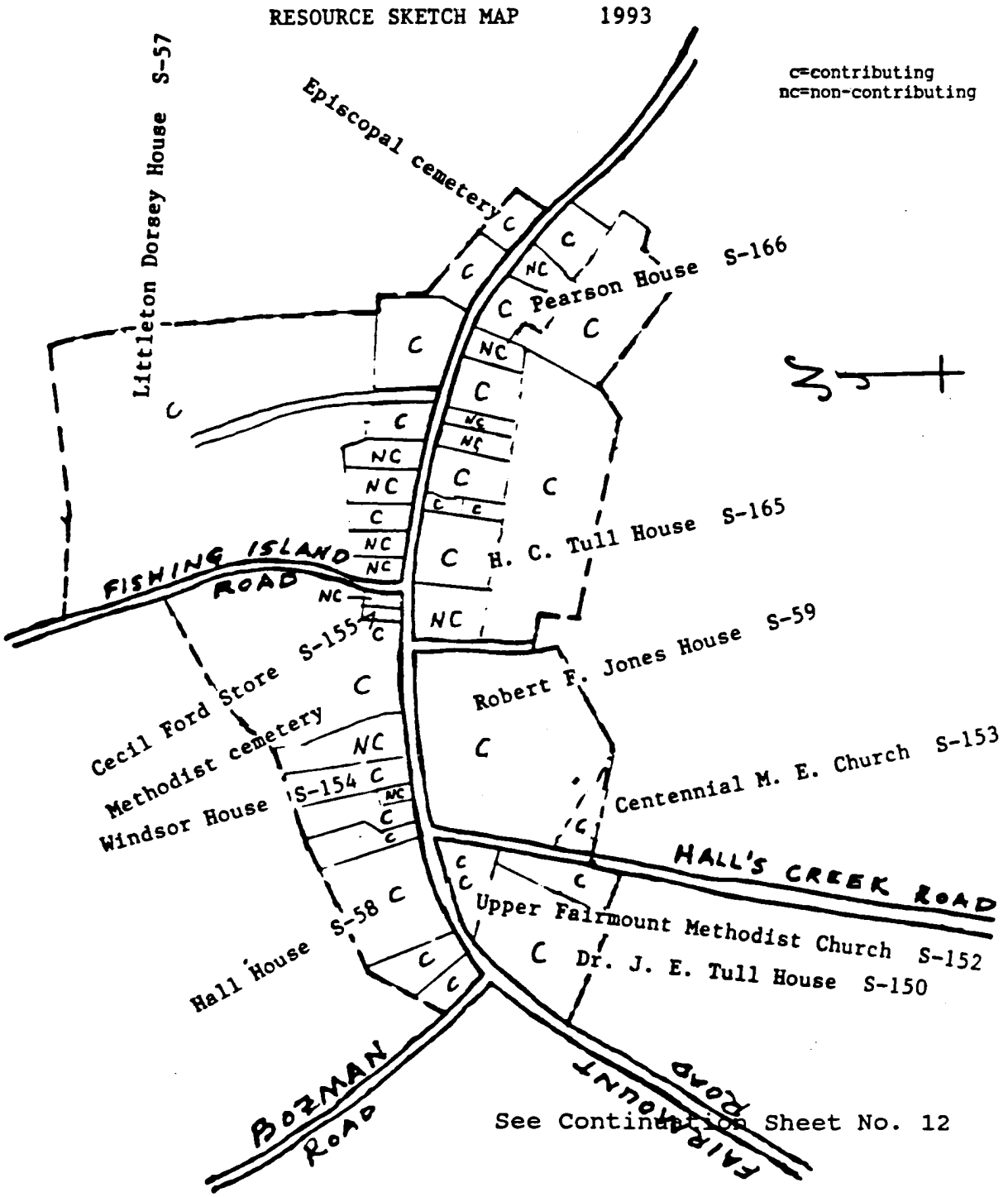
vinyl siding, the squarish dwelling is covered by an asphalt shingle hip roof. Centered on the north (main) slope is a hip roofed dormer. The first floor is sheltered by a hip roofed porch, supported on large tapered piers that rest on brick plinths.

The houses that have been erected during the past fifty years include several single-story "ranch" style dwellings of brick and/or frame construction, in addition to modest story-and-a-half frame and brick houses. A few prefabricated mobile-type trailer homes have been moved into the village as well.

RESOURCE COUNT:

Each property was counted as one resource with the principal resource on the property used to determine resource type: building or site. No effort was made to include in the count various outbuildings dotted around the district. As an example, the Dr. J.E. Tull house on the west end of the district has a house and a family cemetery. For counting purposes, the resource was counted as one building as the house is the prominent feature of the complex with the cemetery secondary in nature.

See Continuation Sheet No. 11



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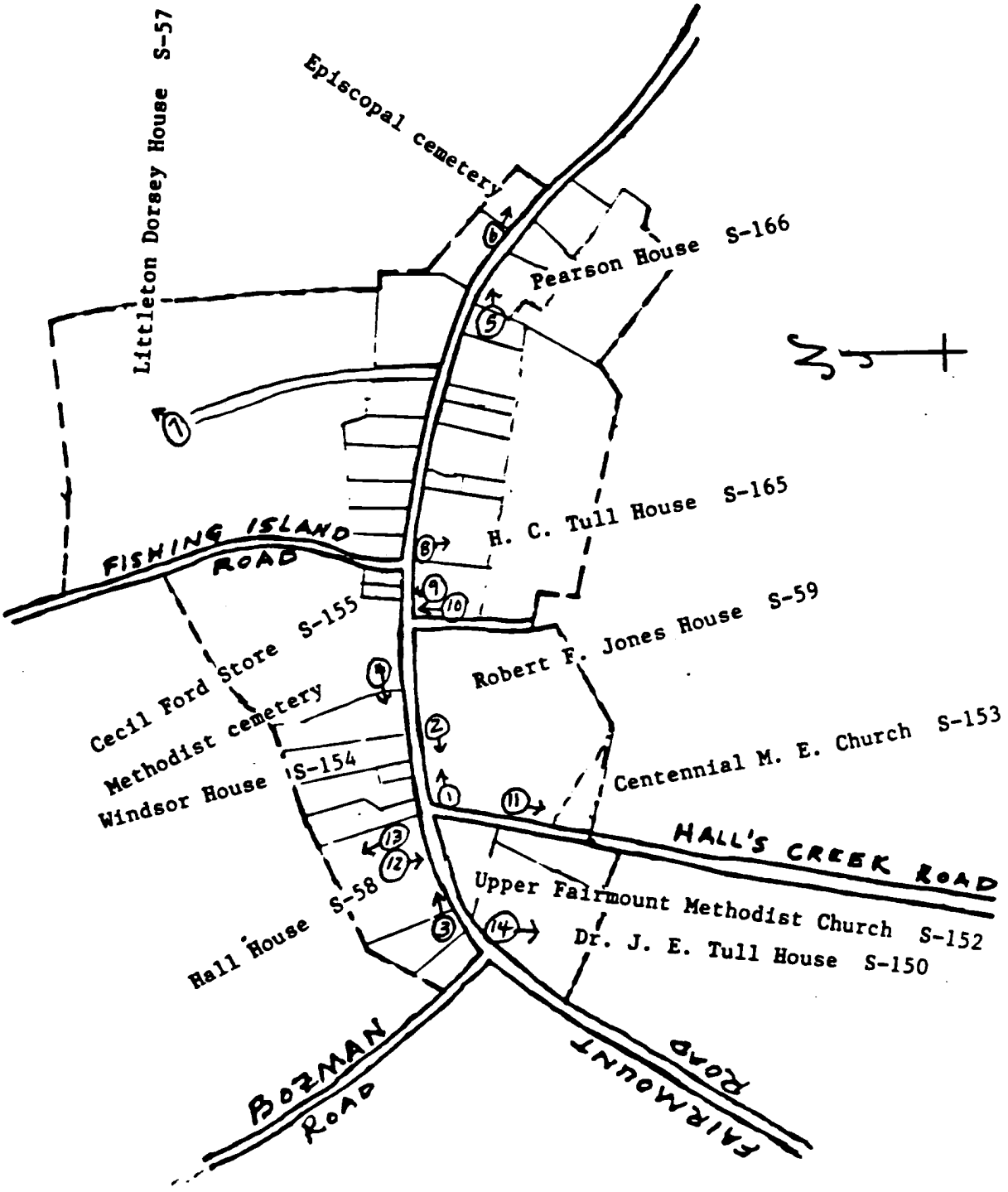
PHOTOGRAPH MAP 1993



HISTORIC CONTEXT:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Eastern Shore

Chronological/Developmental Period(s):

Industrial/Urban Dominance A.D. 1870-1930
Modern Period A.D. 1930-Present

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme(s):

Architecture/Landscape Architecture/Community Planning
Economic (Commercial and Industrial)

Resource Type:

Category: District

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function(s) and Use(s):

DOMESTIC/single dwelling
RELIGION/religious facilities
FUNERARY/cemetery

Known Design Source: None

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HISTORIC CONTEXT:

The Upper Fairmount Historic District stands out as the best preserved of the rural villages that developed in various sections of Somerset County during the nineteenth century as small commercial centers supplying goods for the surrounding area. With many of its essential historic features still intact, the village retains a cohesive nature that has been lost in other places. The Upper Fairmount district is comprised mostly of mid-to-late nineteenth century two-story dwellings along with two churches and a late nineteenth century store building. Several houses are joined by period outbuildings. Improved house lots, dotted with mature shade trees, are interspersed between small fields and garden plots. All buildings are of frame construction and most followed popular second half of the nineteenth century styles imposed on vernacular floor plans. The influence of the Italianate and Gothic Revival are evident in the most expensively erected dwellings and two churches. Other less elaborate houses, built after vernacular forms as well, are more plain in their exterior and interior finishes. Like materials used in the construction of village dwellings link several structures to the same building traditions, and perhaps the same craftsman, although documented builders for specific houses have not surfaced during the research for this nomination. The range of nineteenth century houses reflects the middle to upperclass status of the village residents who built them. Surrounding the group of approximately twenty village houses are widely dispersed rural dwellings that improve larger farm acreages. Along the south side of the village are medium to large-sized wooded lots that occupy the poorly drained non-tidal wetlands bordering Hall's Creek.

The period of significance spans the years from around 1825 to 1940, during which the village developed into a prominent location of commerce and trade centered on the Fairmount peninsula. The rural population was engaged principally in farming, canning produce and seafood, and shipbuilding, along with the attendant activities for these principal occupations. Upper Fairmount reached a peak in population and economic activity around 1900-1910. With the eventual disappearance of steamboat travel and the increased mobility of the village residents with the widespread sale and ownership of the automobile, the village slowly declined

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in importance after 1930. Due to a stagnated economic base during the mid-to-late twentieth century, the village has retained a nineteenth century character with few intrusions. Dating outside the period of significance are a handful of modern residences erected during the past forty years.

Central to the development of Upper Fairmount was the establishment of Maddox's Church at the turn of the road to Maddox's Warehouse. Dating to around 1825, the formation of this early Methodist congregation contributed to the overall development of Methodism as one of the principal religions in Somerset County. The construction of the Centennial M.E. Church represents the African American counterpart for this congregation.

Centrally located on the Fairmount peninsula, the village of Upper Fairmount emerged during the second half of the nineteenth century as one of the principal locations of commerce and trade in central Somerset County, serving the rural agrarian and watermens' communities of the region. The village developed along the principal east/west road where it intersects Fishing Island Road. The road occupies a narrow rise of high ground that spans much of the peninsula.

In place by the mid-eighteenth century, the east/west peninsular road was created initially to provide plantation owners access to Maddox's warehouse on the nearby Manokin River. Designated on Dennis Griffith's Map of Maryland, published in 1795, the road made a right-angle turn to the north in approximately the same spot where Fishing Island Road is located today. Plantation owners sent their hogsheads of tobacco or bushels of corn or wheat to this site on the south side of the river to await export. This important transshipment point is designated on the Griffith map as well, identified as "Maddox's W. H."

The buildings that marked the turn in the road to Maddox's warehouse at the turn of the nineteenth century are not known, but there may have been a dwelling or two, a store, or perhaps a blacksmith shop. Prominent plantations improved by impressive dwellings were located along the Manokin and Annemessex rivers, the principal watercourses that form the north and south boundaries of the Fairmount peninsula. Due to the shallow and twisting nature of

See Continuation Sheet No. 16

the Manokin River above its intersection with Back Creek, Maddox's warehouse served as a convenient destination for the transshipment of produce for much of central Somerset County.

The first indication of a specific building at the intersection of Fairmount and Fishing Island roads is found in the Somerset County land records. On 1 March 1824, Lazarus Maddox and Tubman Mitchell sold to the "Trustees of Maddox's Church" one-half acre for £5. Named in the deed were trustees Daniel Ballard, Robert E. Waters, John Hall, and William Maddox, all members of prominent families of what was then known as Potato Neck. Presumably, within a year or two, the trustees of the Methodist congregation financed the construction of a temple-front Greek Revival frame church that stood on the site until the 1870s when it was torn down. Although the initial church has disappeared, a couple of table markers and several upright tombstones remain at this location, beside the present Cecil Ford's store.

Limited information is available on the development of Upper Fairmount during the second and third quarters of the nineteenth century. The village of "Fairmount" appears on Martenet's atlas of Somerset County, published in 1866. In addition to the Methodist Episcopal church, a store and school are indicated at the crossroads along with Maddox's Landing and Fishing Island to the north. Fairmount Academy, located west of the village proper and outside the nominated district, developed into an important school for the entire region, and it was later absorbed into the Somerset County public school system. Known to stand around that time were several dwellings including the Littleton Dorsey farmhouse (S-57), the Hall house (S-58), The H.C. Tull house (S-165), and a portion of the Robert H. Jones house (S-59).

It is not exactly certain when the village of "Upper Fairmount" achieved its name, but it probably happened between the publication of the Martenet atlas in 1866 and the Lake, Griffing, and Stevenson Atlas eleven years later. "Upper Fairmount" was used to distinguish the main village from the small community of "Lower Fairmount," which developed to the southwest on a slightly lower parallel. Distinct African-American communities of "Upper Freetown" and "Lower Freetown" were positioned to the northeast and southwest of the main village as well. The naming of the black

See Continuation Sheet No. 17

communities followed the same reasoning since Upper Freetown is located on a slightly higher parallel and Lower Freetown a lower one, in relation to Upper Fairmount. (See Lake, Griffing, and Stevenson Atlas, 1877.)

Published with the district map of "Fairmount" in the 1877 atlas is a small inset map of "Upper Fairmount P.O." By the time of the publication of the atlas in 1877, the Methodist congregation had relocated from their original Greek Revival building to a new Gothic structure erected in 1870-73 at the west edge of the village. As indicated on the town map, the old church was used in part as a "Town Hall," but the property itself had been sold in 1874 to Daniel W. Miles, Josiah Avery, and John T. Ford, business partners trading as "Miles, Avery, and Company." Their initial store building was located a short distance west of the church as indicated on the 1877 map. A few years later, however, a new, two-story frame store, now known as Cecil Ford's store (S-155), was erected next to the church and both buildings were used for commercial purposes.

"Miles, Avery, and Company" was a principal business that operated in the center of Upper Fairmount during the fourth quarter of the nineteenth century. In addition to a complete line of general merchandise, the firm also engaged in the packaging of fruit and vegetables for export. The earliest known firm to package, can, and export produce and/or seafood from the region was Hamblin, Baker & Co., which first appears in state business directories by 1871. Located at nearby Fishing Island, Hamblin, Baker & Co. financed the construction of a small village of buildings to capitalize on many business ventures under way at the time. Fruit and oyster packing houses at Fishing Island were sited near the Manokin River wharf along with a steam sawmill, a lime kiln, a blacksmith shop, and a granary. Also located along the river was a shipyard where John Branford, a Finnish immigrant, supervised the construction of some of the finest baycraft of the late nineteenth century. The commercial development of Fishing Island contributed to the growth and prosperity of the entire area.

Although a rail line was never built down the spine of the Fairmount peninsula, regular freight and passenger travel could be arranged at the Westover station, a few miles east of Upper

See Continuation Sheet No. 18

Fairmount. Located nearer to town was Ford's wharf, where scheduled stops were made by bay steamboats. In a short description written for the 1891-92 Maryland Gazetteer and Business Directory, Upper Fairmount was described as follows:

> This village is situated in Somerset County 14 miles southwest of Princess Anne c(ourt) h(ouse), the location of the nearest bank, and 6 miles from Westover, the nearest rail approach. Ship by water to Ford's wharf.

Included in the short profile of the area was the village population of 257 residents along with a list of Fairmount businesses operating at the time. Partially reflective of the local economy during the late nineteenth century, the list includes four general stores, a milliner, a confectioner, three oyster packers, four carpenters, two physicians, two saw mills, two flour mills, and one boat builder.

The prosperity experienced in the Upper Fairmount Historic District during the late nineteenth century spilled over into the early twentieth century with a gentle rise in population that occurred throughout Somerset County in general. Boatbuildng, canning produce and seafood, farming, crabbing, and oystering remained the main occupations of area residents. During the early years of the twentieth century, perhaps in an effort to appear more urban, the old Miles, Avery, & Co. store was renamed under later owners as the "Fairmount Department Store." The first floor of the store continued in use for the sale of general merchandise, and the large room upstairs was sometimes converted to a viewing room for early motion pictures.

After the stock market failure in 1929 and the attendant depression, commerce and prosperity was slowly drained from Upper Fairmount. Population growth in the region stagnated and declined during the following decades, as residents moved elsewhere for work. Regular schedules for the steamboats were discontinued by the early 1930s, and the automobile provided personal transportation for area residents to larger shopping districts in Princess Anne, Pocomoke City, and Salisbury. The "Fairmount Department Store," operated as a general grocery store by Cecil and Bertha Ford, continued as a local business until the late 1980s

See Continuation Sheet No. 19

when they sold the property. The store has since been adapted into a manufacturing establishment by a local ceramicist, and one seafood business still operates within the district. In addition, fields surrounding the village continue to yield yearly crops of corn and/or soybeans. Today, Upper Fairmount exists largely as a residential community for a number of Somerset citizens who work in the region or who have opted for retirement in a quiet rural village.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES:

Griffith, Dennis. Map of Maryland, 1795. Maryland State Archives.

Lake, Griffing, and Stevenson Atlas, 1877, Bicentennial Reprint Edition. John L. Graham, ed., 1976.

Martenet, Simon. Martenet's Map of Somerset County, 1866. Maryland State Archives.

Maryland and District of Columbia Gazetteer and Business Directory for 1891-92, Vol. II. Baltimore.

Maryland Inventory Of Historic Properties, Somerset County. Maryland Historical Trust, Crownsville, Maryland.

Somerset County Land Records. Somerset County Courthouse, Princess Anne, Maryland.

Survey files of the Somerset County Historical Trust. Princess Anne, Maryland.

Touart, Paul Baker. Somerset: An Architectural History. Annapolis and Princess Anne: Maryland Historical Trust and Somerset County Historical Trust, 1990.

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

The boundaries of the Upper Fairmount Historic District are delineated on the map found on Continuation Sheet No. 22. The boundaries consist of property and inner curb lines, with the exception of the southern border of parcels 124 and 133. This boundary is an arbitrary line drawn straight from a mete point of parcel 122 to a mete point of parcel 124 to the eastern boundary of parcel 132, which is not in the district. The lower sections of parcel 124 and 133 are not necessary for defining district boundaries.

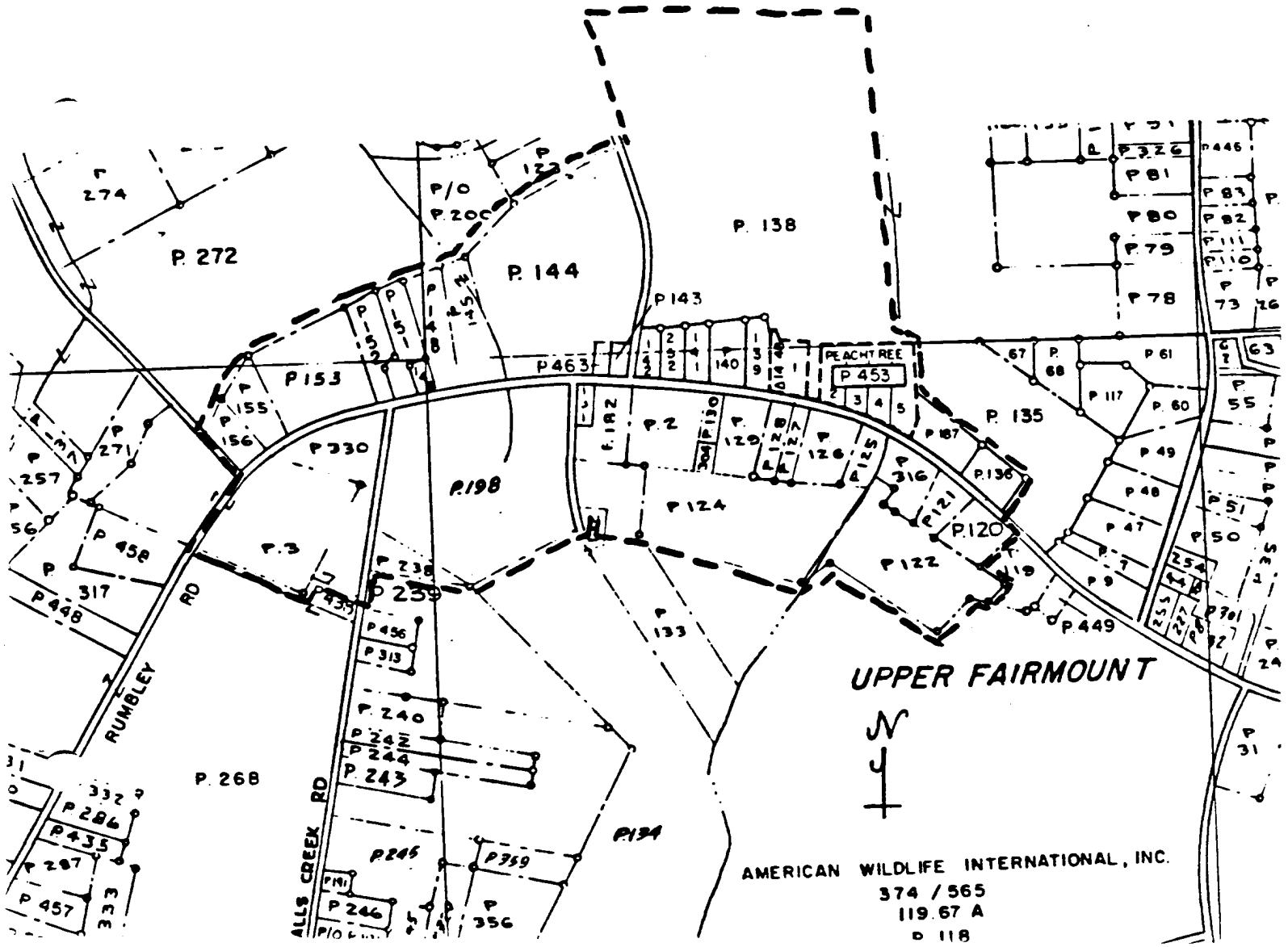
BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION:

The boundaries are drawn to include the concentration of historic resources which make up the Upper Fairmount Historic District, and to exclude concentrations of non-contributing resources which surround them. Although part of the visual quality of the district, parcel numbers 119 and 449 on the east end are excluded because they do not contribute to the historic character of the district.

See Continuation Sheet No. 22

BOUNDARIES 1993

map source: Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation:
Somerset County Map 39



PROPERTY OWNERS:

NOTE: City and State for all owners is Upper Fairmount, Maryland 21867, unless otherwise indicated.

1. Chris Anderson
   c/o George Anderson
   27528 Fairmount Road
   Parcel 145

2. Atwood S. Barwick
   P.O. Box 139
   Parcel 152

3. Charlene Bozman
   27737 Fairmount Road
   Westover, Maryland 21871
   Parcel 119

4. Harold Bozman
   P.O. Box 195
   Parcels 124, 125, 127

5. Pauline Bozman
   P.O. Box 107

6. Dorothy Catlin
   P.O. Box 164
   Parcel 252

7. Eula Catlin
   P.O. Box 223
   Parcel 141

8. William & Bonita Catlin
   Parcel 140

9. Centennial M.E. Church
   Hall's Creek Road
   Parcel 238

10. Otis Clough
    P.O. Box 317
    Parcels 155, 156

11. Mr. & Mrs. Jackson Lee Cook
    P.O. Box 136
    Parcels 135, 142, 453

12. Lewis T. & Beulah Dize
    P.O. Box 244
    Parcels 130, 304

13. Mr. & Mrs. Cecil Ford
    P.O. Box 105
    Parcel 182

14. Mr. & Mrs. Richard L. Ford
    P.O. Box 221
    Parcel 139

15. Martin Holland
    Parcel 128

16. Warren Holland
    1323 Cape St. Claire Road
    Annapolis, Maryland 21401

17. Michael B. Jacobs
    P.O. Box 166
    27510 Fairmount Road
    Parcel 148

18. James F. Koons
    P.O. Box 215
    Parcel 187

See Continuation Sheet No. 24

PROPERTY OWNERS: (Continued)

19. Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Lattimore
Parcel 129

20. Mr. & Mrs. Wm Milligan, Jr.
P.O. Box 106
Parcel 126

21. Daniel P. Muir
c/o James Rouse Inc.
P.O. Box 905
Columbia, Maryland 21044
Parcel 149

22. Christ M.E. Church
c/o Mr. & Mrs. Nevette Muir
P.O. Box 132
Parcel 330

23. John Orth & Dana Simson
P.O. Box 200
Parcel 463

24. Samuel J. & Elizabeth Pearson
P.O. Box 92
Parcels 316, 122

25. Stephen L. & Cynthia Pratt
P.O. Box 342
Parcel 120

26. Mr. & Mrs. August Reichert, Jr.
P.O. Box 157
Parcel 2

27. Mr. John Sandusky
P.O. Box 345
Parcel 150

28. Mr. & Mrs. Paul Stevens
P.O. Box 227
Parcel 153

29. Ms. Patricia Snow Strauss
P.O. Box 185
Parcel 3

30. U.S. Postal Service
Fairmount Star Route
Parcel 449

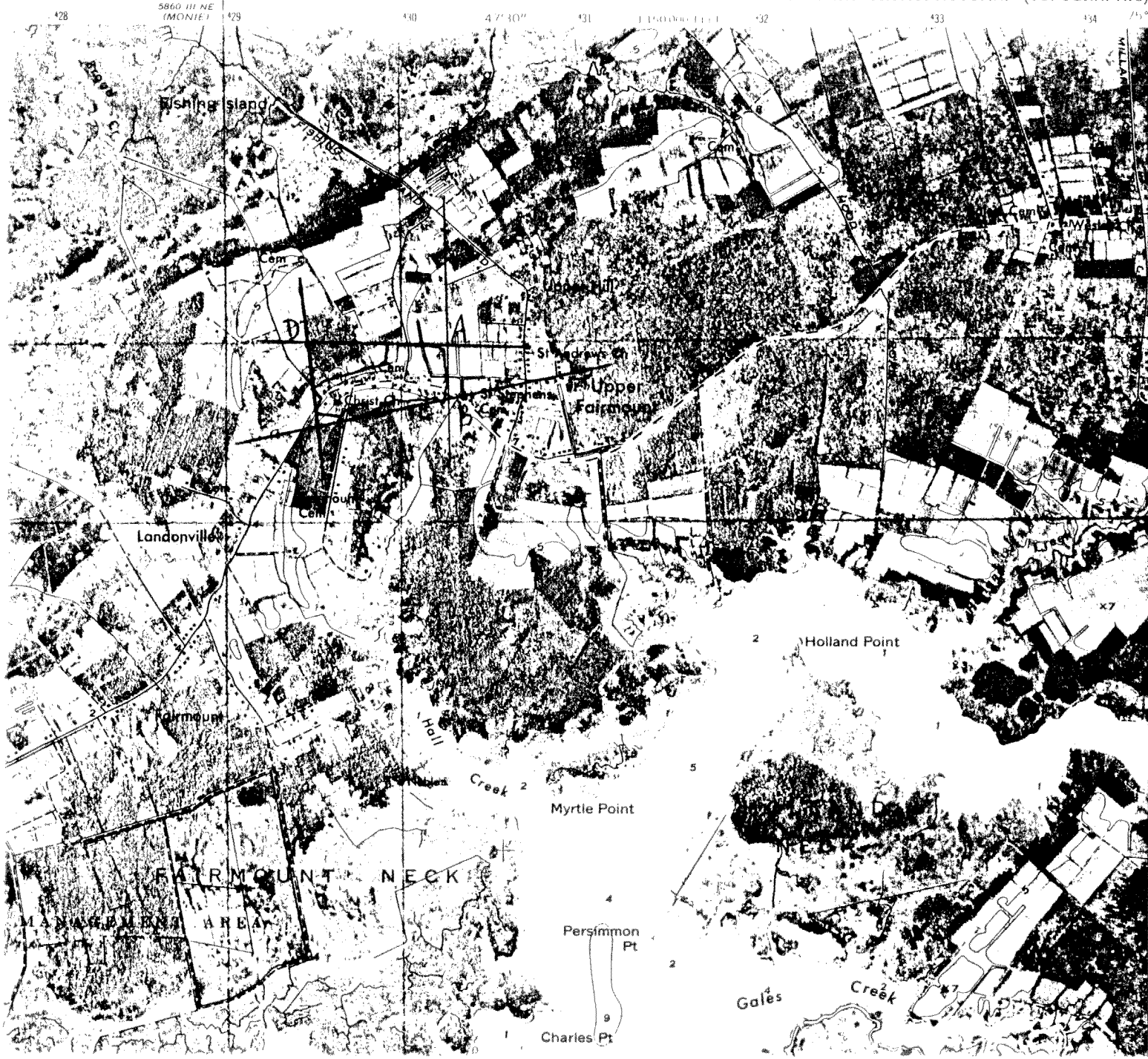
31. Vestrymen of Coventry Parish
c/o Charles Lankford
Route 1, Box 259A
Westover, Maryland 21871
Parcel 136

32. Opal Warwick
P.O. Box 201
Parcel 121

33. Mr. & Mrs. Karl H. Zickrick
P.O. Box 186
Parcel 198

Upper Fairmount Histor ...
Somerset Co Maryland

MARION QUADRANGLE
MARYLAND–SOMERSET CO.
7.5 MINUTE SERIES ORTHOPHOTOMAP (TOPOGRAPHIC)



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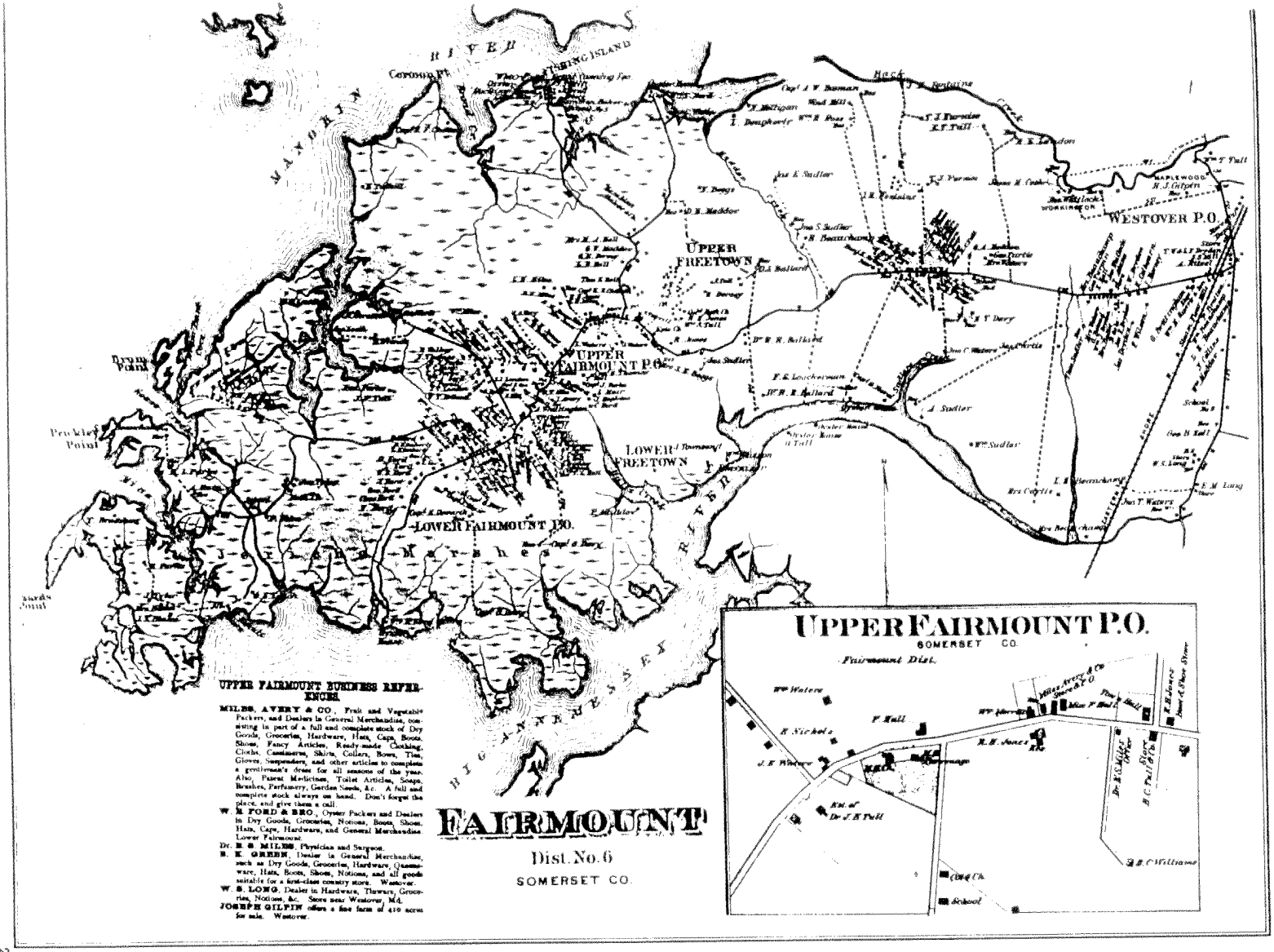
B. 18/430260/4217680

C 18/429520/4217450

D 18/429460/4218000



UPPER FAIRMOUNT BUSINESS REFERENCES.

MILES, AVERY & CO., Fruit and Vegetable Packers, and Dealers in General Merchandise, consisting in part of a full and complete stock of Dry Goods, Groceries, Hardware, Hats, Caps, Boots, Shoes, Fancy Articles, Ready-made Clothing, Cloths, Cassimeres, Shirts, Collars, Bows, Ties, Gloves, Suspenders, and other articles to complete a gentlemen's dress for all seasons of the year. Also, Patent Medicines, Toilet Articles, Soaps, Brushes, Perfumery, Garden Seeds, &c. A full and complete stock always on hand. Don't forget the place, and give them a call.

W. S. FORD & BRO., Oyster Packers and Dealers in Dry Goods, Groceries, Notions, Boots, Shoes, Hats, Caps, Hardware, and General Merchandise. Lower Fairmount.

Dr. E. S. MILES, Physician and Surgeon.

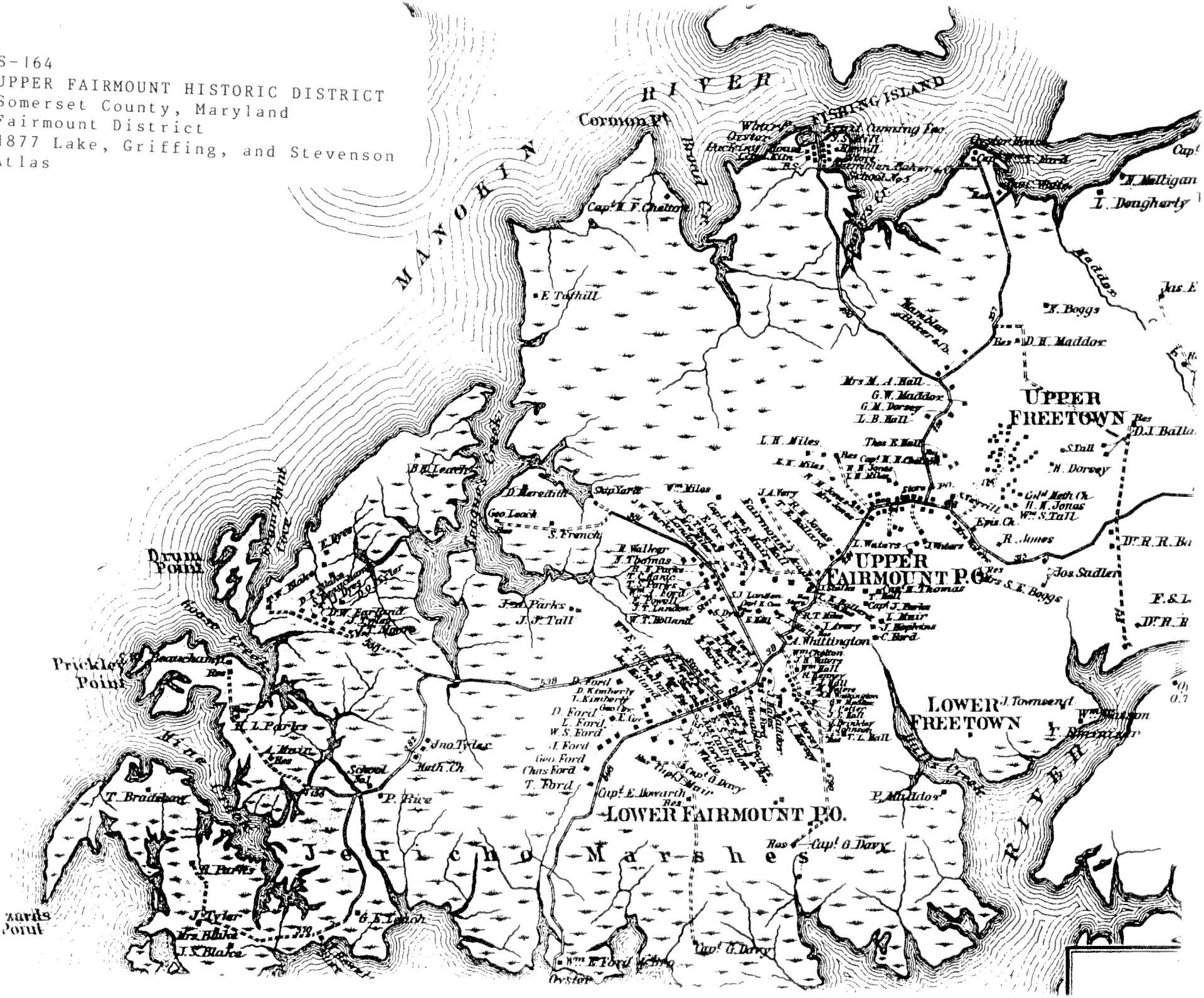
E. K. GREEN, Dealer in General Merchandise, such as Dry Goods, Groceries, Hardware, Queensware, Hats, Boots, Shoes, Notions, and all goods suitable for a first-class country store. Westover.

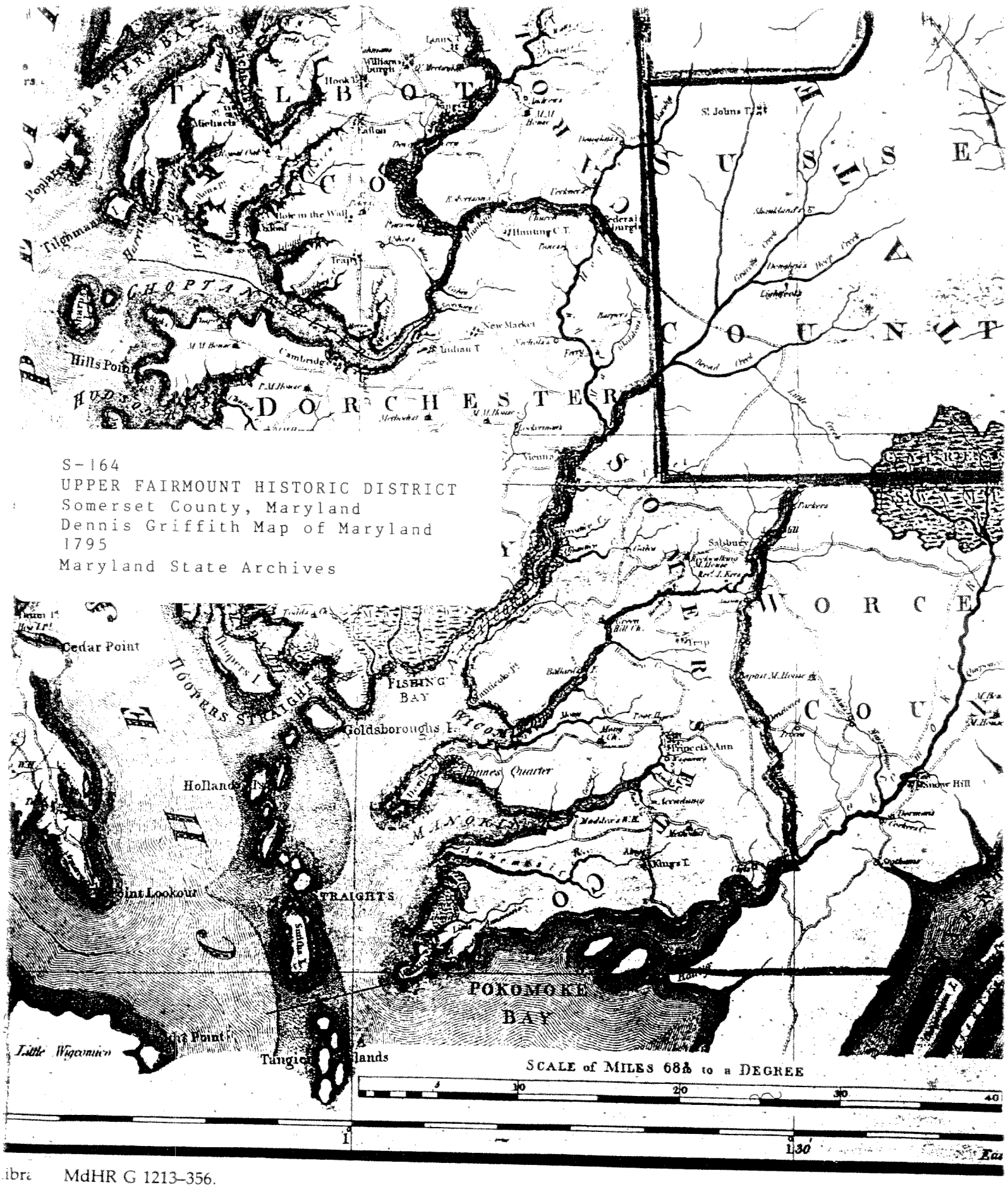
W. S. LONG, Dealer in Hardware, Thinware, Groceries, Notions, &c. Store near Westover, Md.

JOSEPH GILPIN offers a fine farm of 410 acres for sale. Westover.

S-164
UPPER FAIRMOUNT HISTORIC DISTRICT
Somerset County, Maryland
Fairmount District No. 6 with
inset map of "Fairmount P. O."
1877 Lake, Griffing, and Stevenson
Atlas

S-164
UPPER FAIRMOUNT HISTORIC DISTRICT
Somerset County, Maryland
Fairmount District
1877 Lake, Griffing, and Stevenson
Atlas





S-164
UPPER FAIRMOUNT HISTORIC DISTRICT
Somerset County, Maryland
Dennis Griffith Map of Maryland
1795
Maryland State Archives

ibra MdHR G 1213-356.

MARION QUADRANGLE
MARYLAND–SOMERSET CO.
7.5 MINUTE SERIES ORTHOPHOTOMAP (TOPOG

S-164
UPPER FAIRMOUNT HISTORIC DISTRICT
Somerset County, Maryland
Marion, Maryland Quadrangle
1972

HAROLD BOZMAN
SEAFOOD
STEAMED CRABS-OYSTERS
FRESH CRAB MEAT
651-0847

S-164

UPPER [illegible]

SOMERSET COUNTY, MARYLAND

MD 361 LOOKING EAST

1/93, PAUL TOUART, PHOTOGRAPHER

NEG. / MD. HISTORICAL TRUST

3 of 4

UPPER FAIRMOUNT HISTORIC DISTRICT

NORTH ELEVATION

UPPER FAIRMOUNT HISTORIC DISTRICT

SOMERSET COUNTY, MARYLAND

1/93. PAUL TOUART, PHOTOGRAPHER

NEG. / NPS. HISTORICAL ARCHIVE

S-164

Hall House

Upper Marlboro Historic District

Somerset County, Maryland

South elevation

1/93, Paul Touart, Photographer

Neg. / MHT Historical Trust

S-164

Tall House

Upper Kensington Historic District.

Somerset County, Md.

North Elevation

1/93. Paul Touart, photographer

Neg. / MHT (Historical Trust

S-164

UPPER FAIRMOUNT HISTORIC DISTRICT

SOMERSET COUNTY, MD.

MD 361 LOOKING WEST

1/93, PAUL TOURNAY, PHOTOGRAPHER

NEG. MD HISTORICAL TRUST

S-164

UPPER FAIRMOUNT HISTORIC DISTRICT
SOMERSET COUNTY, MARYLAND

VIEW OF ROBERT H. JONES HOUSE FROM
HAIL'S CREEK LEAD

1/93, PAUL TOUART, PHOTOGRAPHER

NEG. / MD HISTORICAL TRUST

S-164

UPPER FAIRMOUNT HISTORIC DISTRICT
SOMERSET COUNTY, ALLEGANY
MD 361 LOOKING WEST
1/93, PAUL TOUCHET, PHOTOGRAPHER
NEG. / MD HISTORICAL TRUST

S-164

UPPER FAIRMOUNT HISTORIC DISTRICT
SOMERSET COUNTY, MARYLAND

MD 361 LOOKING EAST FROM METHODIST CHURCH

1/93, PAUL TOURNAY, PHOTOGRAPHER
VEC / NPS HISTORICAL TRUST

9164

UPPER FAIRMOUNT HISTORIC DISTRICT

OLD METHODIST CEMETERY NEXT TO

FORD'S STORE

1/93, PAUL TOUART, PHOTOGRAPHER

NEG. / IND. HISTORICAL TRUST

SAINT STEPHEN'S CHURCH
COVENTRY PARISH
ESTABLISHED BY THE MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY, JUNE, 1751, NEAR COTTINGHAM'S FERRY, WORCESTER COUNTY, ON THE SAME SITE, A NEW CHURCH, CONSECRATED BY THE RIGHT REVEREND WILLIAM R. WHITTINGHAM, BISHOP OF MARYLAND, DECEMBER, 1849, WAS SUBSEQUENTLY MOVED TO UPPER FAIRMOUNT AND USED UNTIL 1934.
MARYLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

S-161

LITTLETON DORSEY HOUSE

UPPER FAIRMOUNT HISTORIC DISTRICT

SOMERSET COUNTY, MARYLAND

SOUTH ELEVATION

1/93. PAUL TOUCHET, PHOTOGRAPHER

MHT/MD HISTORICAL TRUST

[illegible]

CENTENNIAL M.E. CHURCH

UPPER FAIRMOUNT HISTORIC DISTRICT

SOMERSET COUNTY, MARYLAND

1/93, PAUL TOUART, PHOTOGRAPHER

NORTH ELEVATION

MHG / MD. HISTORICAL TRUST

JONES

5-164

DR. J. E. TULL HOUSE

UPPER FAIRMOUNT HISTORIC DISTRICT

SOMERSET COUNTY, MARYLAND

NORTHEAST ELEVATION

1/93, PAUL TOUART, PHOTOGRAPHER

NEG./ MD HISTORICAL TRUST

S-164

CECIL FORD'S STORE

UPPER FAIRMOUNT HISTORIC DISTRICT

SOMERSET COUNTY, MARYLAND

SOUTHEAST ELEVATION

1/93, PAUL TOURNIER, PHOTOGRAPHER

MEC/MD HISTORICAL TRUST

1987

S-164
Upper Fairmount Survey District
Private Residences

c. 1800-1920

Upper Fairmount is one of the best preserved rural villages in Somerset County. These small inland communities catered to the needs of local farmers and watermen. A variety of improved house lots, churches, stores and small garden plots characterize the village. All buildings are of frame construction and reflect the middle class incomes of the village residents.

Upper Fairmount's history is closely tied to the fact that better inland roads relieved the need to travel exclusively by water. As a result, these land-locked villages developed along the major road which runs the length of the peninsula. By the early 1820s, Maddox's Church had been formed in the village. Several important plantation houses stand within a short distance of Upper Fairmount and undoubtedly helped to maintain a relatively strong agricultural economy. During the next few decades, the village apparently grew at a modest pace, while a flurry of building occurred after the Civil War. Upper Fairmount evidently hit a peak around 1890-1920. Since then the village has experienced a slow decline and period of stagnation, which has been the main reason for the maintenance of the 19th-century village character.

Survey No. S-164

Magi No. 2001645538

DOE __yes __no

Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Upper Fairmount

and/or common Upper Fairmount Survey District

2. Location

street & number MD 361 (Fairmount Road) ___ **not for publication**

city, town Upper Fairmount ___ **vicinity of** **congressional district** First

state Maryland **county** Somerset

3. Classification

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

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

name Various Owners

street & number telephone no.:

city, town state and zip code

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Somerset Clerk of Court liber

street & number Somerset County Courthouse folio

city, town Princess Anne **state** MD 21853

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ___ **federal** ___ **state** ___ **county** ___ **local**

pository for survey records

city, town **state**

7. Description

Survey No. S-164

Condition		Check one	Check one
___ excellent	___ deteriorated	___ unaltered	_X_ original site
_X_ good	___ ruins	_X_ altered	___ moved date of move _____
___ fair	___ unexposed		

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

Upper Fairmount is a quiet rural village situated along MD 361, which runs east/west along the Fairmount Peninsula. The Annemessex River, the Manokin River and its tributary, Back Creek along with Tangier Sound are the major water courses which bound this flat, poorly drained portion of Somerset County. The village is landlocked, rural in character, and surrounded by farms, fields, wooded land and a few modern houses.

Most of the buildings face MD 361, which curves in an arc as it passes through the village. Surrounding most houses are generous lots with mature shade trees, and in a few cases, period outbuildings accompany the dwellings. In addition to approximately thirty houses, the village contains two churches and two store buildings.

The oldest house in the village is the Cook House (S-57), which dates to the turn of the 19th century. Two stories tall and three bays wide, this side hall/double pile house is distinguished by a partial brick gable end. All other village buildings post-date 1830 with a majority erected after the Civil War. One of the most prominent houses is the Robert Jones House (S-59) which stands in the middle of the village. The exterior is trimmed with Italianate brackets and a sawn baluster side porch. The uniform exterior disguises the ante-bellum core of the structure.

A good percentage of the dwellings are simple vernacular buildings embellished with simple late 19th-century trim. Perhaps the most significant structure still standing is the Upper Fairmount M. E. Church, located at the west end of the village proper. Built in 1870 to replace the first Greek Revival Church, this structure is a well-executed and interesting Gothic Revival Church sheathed in board and batten siding. The interior is especially noteworthy, for both the ceiling and the walls are covered with decorative, pressed-tin sheeting.

Cecil Ford's store is the last mercantile business to survive in the town. Daniel Miles' store is located across the road but has not been active for several years. A half dozen grave markers remain between the post office and Ford's store and are the only above-ground indications that this was the site of the first Methodist Church.

8. Significance

Survey No. S-164

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below				
___ prehistoric	___ archeology-prehistoric	___ community planning	___ landscape architecture	___ religion	
___ 1400–1499	___ archeology-historic	___ conservation	___ law	___ science	
1500–1599	___ agriculture	___ economics	___ literature	___ sculpture	
___ 1600–1699	X architecture	___ education	___ military	___ social/ humanitarian	
___ 1700–1799	___ art	___ engineering	___ music	___ theater	
X 1800–1899	___ commerce	___ exploration/settlement	___ philosophy	___ transportation	
___ 1900–	___ communications	___ industry	___ politics/government	___ other (specify)	
		___ invention			

Specific dates **Builder/Architect**

check: Applicable Criteria: X A __B X C __D
and/or
Applicable Exception: __A __B __C __D __E __F __G

Level of Significance: __national __state X local

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

Upper Fairmount is one of the best preserved of Somerset County's rural villages which catered to the needs of local farmers and watermen. A variety of improved house lots, churches, stores and small garden plots characterize the village. All buildings are of frame construction and reflect the middle class incomes of its residents.

Upper Fairmount's history is closely tied to the fact that better inland roads relieved the need to travel exclusively by water. By the 1820s, Maddox's Church had been formed in the village. Several important plantation houses stand within a short distance of Upper Fairmount. During the next few decades the village apparently grew at a modest pace, while a flurry of building occurred after the Civil War. Upper Fairmount evidently hit its peak around 1890-1920. Since then the village has experienced a slow decline and period of stagnation, which undoubtedly has been the reason for the maintenance of its 19th-century village character.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. S-164

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name Marion **Quadrangle scale** 1:24000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A	Zone	Easting	Northing	B	Zone	Easting	Northing
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

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 PAUL TOUART - ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

organization SOMERSET CO. HIST. TRUST **date** 6/10/84

street & number 424 N. SOMERSET AVE. **telephone** 651-1094 (HOME)

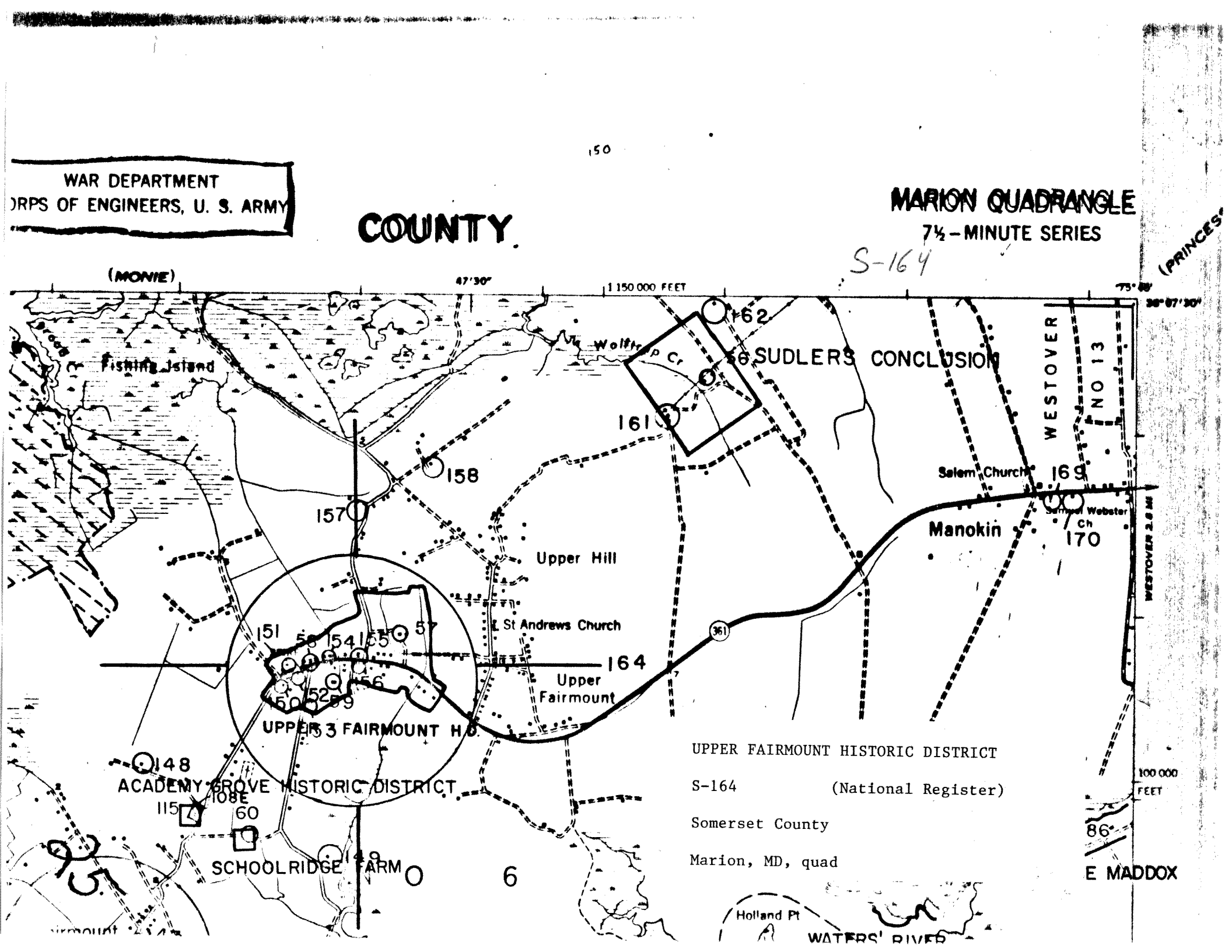
city or town PRINCESS ANNE **state** MD 21853

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

PS-2746



UPPER FAIRMOUNT HISTORIC DISTRICT

S-164 (National Register)

Somerset County

Marion, MD, quad

S-164

S-164, Upper Fairmount.

UPPER FAIRMOUNT
1800-1920
Private

Upper Fairmount is one of the best-preserved rural villages in Somerset County. A variety of improved house lots, churches, stores, and small garden plots characterize the village. All buildings are of frame construction and reflect the middle class incomes of the village residents who built them. Small inland communities such as this one catered to the needs of local farmers and watermen during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

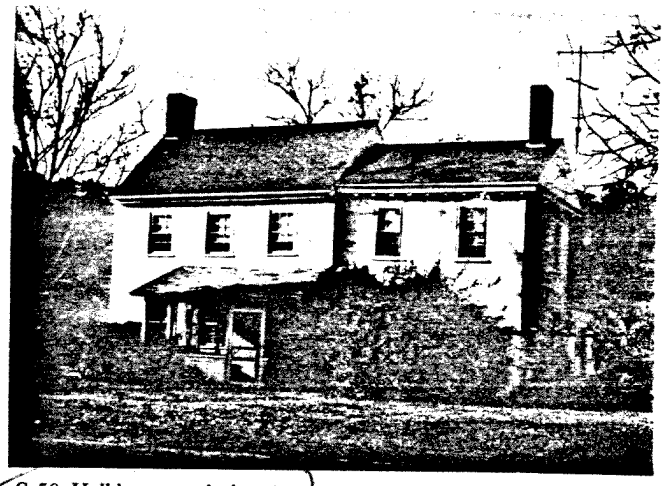
Upper Fairmount's history is closely tied to the development of better inland roads, which reduced the need to travel by water. As a result of the improved transportation system, landlocked villages grew up along the major road that runs the length of the Fairmount peninsula. By the early 1820s Maddox's Church had been formed in the village. The location of several important plantation seats within a short distance of Upper Fairmount undoubtedly helped maintain a relatively strong agricultural economy. The village apparently grew at a modest pace, with a flurry of building after the Civil War, which peaked around 1900. Since that time the village has experienced a slow decline and period of stagnation, which is the main reason its nineteenth century village character has been maintained.

HALL HOUSE
Circa 1825
Upper Fairmount
Private

The Hall house, located at the west end of Upper Fairmount, is one of the oldest houses to survive in the village. Notable architectural features include a side hall/parlor plan, well-executed second quarter of the nineteenth century woodwork, and an exposed brick fire wall on the west gable end. During the third quarter of the nineteenth century, the frame house was extended with a two-story, two-bay frame addition trimmed with bracketed eaves. A small family burial plot is also on the property.

Exactly who built the original house is not clear, but the land was known as part of "End of Strife" and described in Lazarus Maddox's will of 1841, in which he left all his lands except his home farm to his two daughters, Sarah Hall and Kitty Ballard. Sarah and her husband, Tubman L. Hall, sold the tract where this house stands to Francis A. Hall in 1853. Francis Hall, his wife Mary, and three children are listed in the 1850 Somerset County census. Francis, described as a carpenter, may very well have built the east gable end addition.

S-165, Lower Fairmount post office, north elevation.



S-58, Hall house, south elevation.