

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY
HISTORIC SITE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey #: P.G. #68-28 Building Date: 1890

Building Name: Baker-Dornan House

Location: 5319 42nd Avenue, Hyattsville, Maryland

Private/Residential/Occupied/Excellent/Inaccessible

Description:

The Baker-Dornan House is a two-and-one-half story, frame, cross-gable dwelling with Victorian decorative features. It stands on a corner lot in a residential community. The main block is five bays by two, with horizontal board siding. The off-center west doorway is covered by a one-story hip-roof porch supported by plain bracketed posts. The front gable extends outwards and is two bays by one bay. To the south of the front facing gable, another secondary entrance approached by a flight of narrower steps. From the south elevation, a shed roof, two-story porch, one bay wide, extends to the east. The second level is an open porch with balustrade, the first level is enclosed. The roof is a cross gable with a hip roof on the east elevation.

Significance

The Baker-Dornan House is a large asymmetrical late Victorian frame dwelling which stands in a commanding position on one of the highest points in Hyattsville. It is a highly visible landmark in the Victorian section of that town. In 1873, Hyatt had a section of his property surveyed and platted into building lots. By the late 1870's, Hyattsville was developing into a desirable place of residence for commuters to the Capital City. In 1882, development began in Wine and Johnson's First Addition to Hyattsville; in 1884, Wine and Johnson platted another section of the growing community, just to the east of their First Addition, and began to sell more building lots. In 1890, Lots 30-32 in Block F of this new subdivision were purchased by John Baker, a Englishman who had been naturalized in the United States in 1873, and worked as a U.S. government clerk. Baker began the construction of his house in the year of his purchase. It was a large house with strong vertical lines which contributed to its high visibility on what came to be called Baker's Hill. The house was fairly plain, with only the west bracketed porch contributing to its ornamentation. There have been several additions to the rear of the house, including the increase in depth of the north wing, and the enclosure of the first story of the two-story rear porch. The current owners have begun new repairs on the house, and it is a prominent landmark in the town of Hyattsville.

Acreage: 6,668 square feet

Magi No.

DOE yes no

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Baker House

and/or common Dornan House

2. Location

street & number 5319 42nd Avenue not for publicationcity, town Hyattsville vicinity of congressional district 5

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

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

name James and Diane Dornan

street & number 5319 42nd Avenue telephone no.: 927-2219

city, town Hyattsville state and zip code Maryland 20781

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Prince George's County Courthouse liber 4781

street & number Main Street folio 624

city, town Upper Marlboro state MD 20772

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title None

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. P.G. #68-28

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input checked="" 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 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 Baker-Dornan House is a two-and-one-half story, frame, cross-gable dwelling with Victorian decorative features. It stands on a corner lot in a residential community. The main block is five bays by two, with horizontal board siding.

The off-center (west) main entrance contains a transom and lights (on its surrounds) and is approached by a flight of steps. The doorway is covered by a one-story, full facade, hip-roof porch supported by plain bracketed posts.

The front gable extends outwards and is two bays by one bay. It contains two symmetrically placed 2/2 windows on the first and second levels, and a third window of the same size on the third level below the gable peak. To the north of the front gable there is a 2/2 window directly above the main entrance. To the south of the front facing gable there is a 2/2 window at each level, and another secondary entrance approached by a flight of narrower steps.

The south elevation contains the cross gable which is extended back of the front gable. The gable contains one 2/2 windows slightly off-center on each level and a third smaller window below the peak of the gable. A shed roof, two-story porch, one bay wide, extends to the east.

The second level is an open porch with balustrade; on the facade behind is a door with a plain transom and just to the north is a three-bay one-story bay window. Below on the first level is an enclosed room with two large windows.

On the main block north of the porch there are two levels of two symmetrically placed windows, then a lower, two-story, dropped roof addition containing two small windows, one on each level. Centered on the east facade at third level is a gable dormer with two 2/2 windows.

The northern elevation is void of detail. It contains one small window under the gable peak. The northeast addition contains two small windows, one on each level.

The roof is a cross gable with a hip roof on the east elevation; it is covered with asphalt shingle. The east plane of the roof contains four small skylights near the eaves. A central chimney is located at the cross of the gables. The main block of the house rests on high brick piers with lattice panels.

8. Significance

Survey No. P.G. #68-28

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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) Local History

Specific dates 1890 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 Baker-Dornan House is a large asymmetrical late Victorian frame dwelling which stands in a commanding position in one of the highest points in Hyattsville. It is a highly visible landmark in the Victorian section of that town.

By the middle of the nineteenth century, Christopher C. Hyatt had purchased property at the intersection of the Old Washington Baltimore Turnpike and the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad north of Bladensburg; he built his brick mansion (no longer standing) on the west side of the railroad, and opened a store directly across the tracks. In 1859, Hyatt was appointed postmaster of the new crossroads community which from thence forward was to bear his name.

In 1873, Hyatt had a section of his property surveyed and platted into building lots roughly 60 by 280 feet. This roughly 20-acre area was known as Hyatts Addition to Hyattsville.¹ By 1878, the town was developing into a desirable place of residence for commuters to the Capital City. An 1878 account describes the new town as follows: "Hyattsville, on the Washington Branch of the Baltimore Ohio Railroad, is a beautiful village, tasteful houses in the modern style of architecture, ornamented with gardens and lawns, is largely indebted, for its prosperity, to Christopher C. Hyatt, ...it has gradually increased in beauty and prosperity until it stands as one of the foremost villages between Baltimore and Washington."²

In 1882, George Johnson and Louis Wine purchased 196 acres adjoining the original section of Hyattsville, and undertook the development of what they called "Wine and Johnson's First Addition to Hyattsville." This section was surveyed and platted by Surveyor George W. Jackson in September 1882, to create approximately 100 building lots (roughly 50 by 150 feet each), two areas of parkland, and street names honoring the developers.³

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM
Statement of Significance (continued)

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Section 8 Page 2

In 1884, Wine and Johnson surveyed and platted another section of the growing community, just to the east of their First Addition, and began to sell the building lots (143 more lots, approximately 50 by 150 feet each).⁴ In 1890, Lots 30-32 in Block F of this new subdivision were purchased by John Baker, a Englishman who had been naturalized in the United States in 1873, and worked as a U.S. government clerk. Baker began the construction of his house in the year of his purchase.⁵ It was a large house with strong vertical lines which contributed to its high visibility on what came to be called Baker's Hill. The house was fairly plain, with only the west bracketed porch contributing to its ornamentation.

There have been several additions to the rear of the house, including the increase in depth of the north wing, and the enclosure of the first story of the two-story rear porch. For many years this house was the home of the James family. The current owners have begun new repairs on the house, and it is a prominent landmark in the town of Hyattsville.

Notes

1 Prince George's County Deeds JBB #1:280; JBB #2:481; JBB #4:113,337; CSM #3:476,477, Prince George's County Plat HB #8:176.

2 G. M. Hopkins Atlas of Prince George's County, 1878, "Historical Sketch".

3 Prince George's County Plat JWB #1:286.

4 Prince George's County Plat JWB #2:618.

5 Prince George's County Deed JWB #14:384; Census for Prince George's County, Hyattsville, 1900.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. P.G. #68-28

CF. Chain of Title

Cf. Notes, Item #8

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property 6,668 square feet
Quadrangle name Washington East, Section E

Block F. Lot 41 Tax Map 50

Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

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

11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Susan G. Pearl, Research Historian		
organization	Historic Preservation Commission	date	September 1987
street & number	#4010 CAB	telephone	952-3521
city or town	Upper Marlboro	state	Maryland

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

WASHINGTON EAST





P.G. #68-28

Baker-Dornan House
Prince George's County, Maryland
Susan G. Pearl
May 1987
West elevation
Neg: Maryland Historical Trust
Annapolis, MD



P.G. #68-28

Baker-Dornan House
Prince George's County, Maryland
Susan G. Pearl
May 1987
Southwest 3/4 elevation
Neg: Maryland Historical Trust
Annapolis, MD