

Circa 1803

P. G. #72A-10  
The Mitchell house, "Cherry Hill"  
4706 Mann Street, Deanwood, Md.  
Priv/Occ/Res/Good

The Mitchell house is a two-and-one-half story brick gable-roofed house with a five-bay main (west) facade. The entrance is in the central bay of this west facade, across which runs a one-story porch supported by brick piers and surmounted by a modern railing. The windows are 6/6 double-hung sash, under flat relieving arches. A flush gable chimney rises at the ridge of each of the north and south gable ends. On the east and west slopes of the roof are three modern dormers, and there is a one-story brick addition which runs the length of the east (rear) facade. The brickwork of the original house is laid in American bond, and the entire house has been painted white.

This house was built in 1803 by Archibald Van Horn on a tract of land, "Fife Enlarged", inherited by his wife, Alethea from her grandfather Joshua Beall who had patented the tract in 1764. Archibald Van Horn served as a member of the Maryland House of Delegates (1801-05), and as a member of the U.S. Congress (1807-11); at the time of his death (1817) he was a member of the State Senate. The house and property passed to his son-in-law, Walter T. G. Beall, and in 1842 to James Fowler, whose family remained there until 1893. After the turn of the century this area at the edge of the District of Columbia began to be developed into black communities, and in 1940 the Fowler house and large lot were purchased by Benjamin and Clara Mitchell from Tuskegee University, leaders in the Muslim faith. Since that time it has been visited by such prominent black individuals as Portia Washington Pittman, Mohammed Ali, Elijah Mohammed, Malcolm X, and Anwar Sadat. Because of this, and because of its architectural prominence in a predominantly black community today, it is significant in the Black history of Prince George's County.

# Maryland Historical Trust

## State Historic Sites Inventory Form

### 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic The Archibald Van Horn House

and/or common Cherry Hill/Mitchell House

### 2. Location

street & number 4706 Mann Street  not for publication

city, town Deanwood  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 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	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<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 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 Benjamin and Clara Mitchell

street & number 4706 Mann Street telephone no.:

city, town Upper Marlboro state and zip code Md.

### 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. P. G. County Courthouse liber 577

street & number Main Street folio 365

city, town Upper Marlboro state Maryland

### 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title P. G. County Inventory of Historic Sites

date 1974  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records History Division, M-NCPPC

city, town Riverdale state Md., 20737

## 7. Description

Survey No. P.G.72X-10

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<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 Archibald Van Horn house is a two-and-one-half-story brick gable-roofed house with a five-bay main (west) facade. The entrance is in the central bay of this west facade, through a door with a single-light transom. Across the west facade runs a one-story porch supported by brick piers and surmounted by a modern railing. The windows are 6/6 double-hung sash, under flat relieving arches.

A flush gable chimney rises at the ridge of each of the north and south gable ends. Built onto the south gable end is a one-story one-room hip-roofed brick addition. Just east of the chimney on the north gable end is an exterior entrance to the unfinished basement; a massive timber serves as a lintel for this low entryway.

On the east and west slopes of the roof are three modern dormers, and there is a one-story brick addition which runs the entire length of the east (rear) facade.

In plan, the house consists of Central passage (with stair case), and a parlor on each side running the full depth of the original house. The basement is under the north parlor and central passage only. There is a supporting arch under the north gable chimney, but a large part of the other brick work in the basement has been replaced.

All of the exterior brick work of the original house is laid in American bond (6 stretcher courses to one header course), and all has been painted white since the purchase by the present owners (1940).



8 - SIGNIFICANCE (Cont'd)

buy a house on Capitol Hill for her five unmarried children. Her son-in-law, Walter T. G. Beall, husband of daughter Amelia, purchased the property in Prince George's County, but it is not certain that he ever lived there.

Archibald Van Horn had an extensive law library in his home on "Fife Enlarged"; his widow specified in her will that it should go to their young son William.

The house and 40-acre farm eventually passed from the heirs of Walter T. G. Beall (d.1826) to James H. Fowler in 1842, and remained his home until his death thirty years later. It was sold out of the Fowler family in 1893.

The significance of this early 19th century house in the Black history of Prince George's County began in the early twentieth century when the area including Fairmount Heights began to develop into suburbs for Black residents. In 1940, the house and large lot were purchased by Benjamin and Clara Mitchell from Tuskegee University, leaders in the Muslim faith. Since that time, it has been visited by such prominent Black individuals as Portia Washington Pittman (cf. P.G. #72A-18), Mohammed Ali, Elijah Mohammed, Malcolm X, and Anwar Sadat.

The Van Horn house would be significant in any case because of its architecture and the prominence of its builder. But, because it has been the frequent visiting place in the last 40 years of many prominent Blacks, and because it is outstanding architecturally in a predominantly Black community today, it can be considered significant in the Black history of Prince George's County.





7. DESCRIPTION	
CONDITION	(Check One)
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/> Ruins <input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered <input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered <input type="checkbox"/> Moved <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE	
<p>The house is a two story, brick building with a five bay main (south) facade. On either end are flush gable chimneys. The windows have 6/6 double hung sash below flat relieving arches. On the north facade a one story, brick enclosed porch hides the first floor. There are three dormer windows on the south slope of the roof.</p>	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**8. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian       16th Century       18th Century       20th Century
- 15th Century       17th Century       19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |   |  |   |  |
|---|--|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Aboriginal</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Historic</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Architecture</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Art</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Commerce</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Communications</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Conservation</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Education</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Engineering</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Industry</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Invention</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Literature</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Military</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Music</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Political</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Science</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Theater</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Transportation</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)</li> <li>_____</li> <li>_____</li> <li>_____</li> <li>_____</li> <li>_____</li> </ul> |
|---|--|---|--|

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

*(This area is currently blank for the statement of significance.)*

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				C R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES							
CORNER	LATITUDE				LONGITUDE			LATITUDE			LONGITUDE	
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

Acreage Justification:

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:  
Christopher Owens, Park Historian

ORGANIZATION: MNCPPC      DATE: 25 Oct 74

STREET AND NUMBER:  
8787 Georgia Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: Silver Spring      STATE: Maryland

12. State Liaison Officer Review: (Office Use Only)

Significance of this property is:  
 National     State     Local

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

P.G.#72A-10

CHERRY HILL



(ANACOSTIA) 566' IV SW

DISTRICT HEIGHTS 2.3 MI UPPER MARLBORO 11 MI

SCALE 1:24 000

1 MILE

1000 2000 3000 4000 5000 6000 7000 FEET

1 KILOMETER

CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET

NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929  
ELEVATIONS AND SOUNDINGS IN FEET—DATUM IS MEAN LOW WATER  
DOTTED LINE SHOWN REPRESENTS THE APPROXIMATE LINE OF MEAN HIGH WATER  
THE MEAN RANGE OF TIDE IS APPROXIMATELY 2.9 FEET



QUADRANGLE LOCATION

- ROAD
- Heavy-duty ———
- Medium-duty ———
- Interstate Route

WASHINGTON

N385

COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092  
FOR MORE INFORMATION ON TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

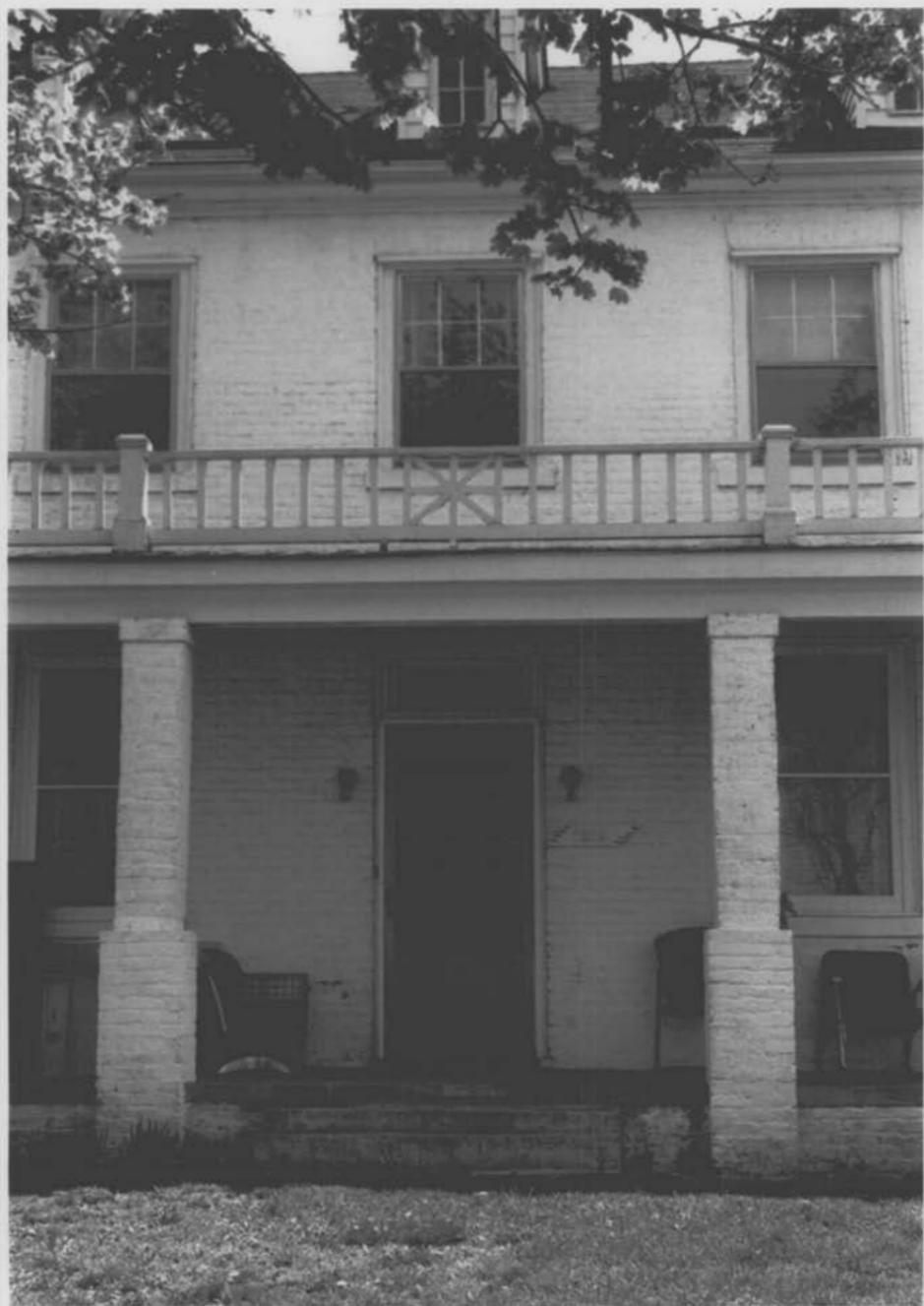
There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of  
the National or State reservations shown on this map  
Boundary lines shown in purple compiled from latest  
information available from the controlling authority

PHOTO  
AMS 566



P. G. #72~~A~~-10

Cherry Hill  
Prince George's County, Md.  
Susan G. Pearl  
April 1983  
West Elevation  
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, Md.



P. G. #72~~A~~-10

Cherry Hill

Prince George's County, Md.

Susan G. Pearl

April 1983

West Elevation (Detail)

Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, Md.



NAME CHERRY HILL

LOCATION EASTERN AVE. AT MANN ST. (D.C. LINE) FAIRMONT HEIGHTS  
Md.

FACADE SE

PHOTO TAKEN 10/25/74 M DWYER

PG: 72-10