

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY

HISTORIC SITE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey #: P.G.# 72-9-28 Building Date: 1930

Building Name: Louis Brown House

Location: 701 58th Avenue, Fairmount Heights, Md.

Private/Residence/Occupied/Excellent/Inaccessible

Description:

The Louis Brown House is a two-story asymmetrical cross-gable frame dwelling of the English style; it has considerable variety in the lines of its gables, dormers and wrap-around porch. The first story is covered with light brown brick, and the second story with light blue-green asbestos shingle. There is a one-story hip-roof porch which shelters the entrance into the asymmetrical principal west facade, and wraps around to shelter much of the north elevation as well. The porch is supported by pairs of tapered square wood posts on high bases of molded concrete block; the porch is further embellished with dentilled frieze and boxed cornice, all painted yellow. Windows are generally 3/1 double hung sash, with narrow vertical upper panes typical of a style popular in the 1920s and '30s. Secondary windows are single sash, with six narrow vertical panes. The building rests on a foundation of molded concrete block, which encloses a full basement.

Significance:

The Louis Brown House is a handsome English style dwelling, and a noticeable landmark on the boundary of the community. It was built circa 1930 on a lot in the Fairmount Heights subdivision.

The house stands in the location of an earlier dwelling of the same family. A house was built on this lot as early as 1905, after the two unimproved lots were purchased by Daniel Brown from developer Robinson White. It is not known what form the original house had, but it is likely that it was destroyed at the time of construction of the present structure. Tax assessment data indicate the construction of a new dwelling in the late 1920s. This new construction was undertaken by carpenter Louis Brown (son of Daniel Brown), who built several other dwellings in the community (e.g., the James Campbell House). Louis Brown resided in the subject house for the rest of his life. This handsome English-style dwelling incorporates distinctive decorative features popularly found in catalog houses of the period; it is a noticeable landmark in the town of Fairmount Heights.

Acreage: 6,250 square feet

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Louis Brown House

and/or common

## 2. Location

street & number 701 58th Avenue  not for publication

city, town Fairmount Heights  vicinity of congressional district 5

state MD county Prince George's

## 3. Classification

| Category  | Ownership  | Status                                       | Present Use                            |   |
|---|--|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> district               | <input type="checkbox"/> public                    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture   | <input type="checkbox"/> museum                       |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private        | <input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied          | <input type="checkbox"/> commercial    | <input type="checkbox"/> park                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> structure              | <input type="checkbox"/> both                      | <input type="checkbox"/> work in progress    | <input type="checkbox"/> educational   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence |
| <input type="checkbox"/> site                   | <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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no       | <input type="checkbox"/> military      | <input type="checkbox"/> other:                       |

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

Darrell Harrington

street & number 701 58th Avenue telephone no.:

city, town Fairmount Heights state and zip code MD 20743

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Prince George's County Courthouse liber 7733

street & number 14735 Main Street folio 5

city, town Upper Marlboro state Maryland

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title None

date  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records

city, town state

# 7. Description

|   |                                       |   |   |                    |
|---|---------------------------------------|---|---|--------------------|
| <b>Condition</b>                              |                                       | <b>Check one</b>                            | <b>Check one</b>                                  |                    |
| <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 Louis Brown House stands at 701 58th (originally White) Avenue. It was built in 1930 on lots 31/32, Block D of the Fairmount Heights subdivision, which was platted in 1900.

This is a two-story asymmetrical crossgable frame dwelling of the English style; it has considerable variety in the lines of its gables, dormers and wraparound porch. The first story is covered with light brown bricktex, and the second story with light blue-green asbestos shingle. There is a one-story hip-roof porch which shelters the entrance into the asymmetrical principal west facade, and wraps around to shelter much of the north elevation as well. The porch is supported by pairs of tapered square wood posts on high bases of molded concrete block; the porch is further embellished with dentilled frieze and boxed cornice, all painted yellow. Windows are generally 3/1 double hung sash, with narrow vertical upper panes typical of a style popular in the 1920s and '30s. Secondary windows are single sash, with six narrow vertical panes. The building rests on a foundation of molded concrete block, which encloses a full basement.

# 8. Significance

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

**Specific dates** ca. 1930 **Builder/Architect** Louis Brown

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 Louis Brown House is a handsome English style dwelling, and a noticeable landmark on the boundary of the community. It was built circa 1930 on a lot in the Fairmount Heights subdivision.

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Louis Brown House stands in the location of an earlier dwelling of the same family. A house was built on this lot as early as 1905, after the two unimproved lots were purchased by Daniel Brown from developer Robinson White. It is not known what form the original house had, but it is likely that it was destroyed at the time of construction of the present structure. Tax assessment data indicate the construction of a new dwelling in the late 1920s. This new construction was undertaken by carpenter Louis Brown (son of Daniel Brown), who built several other dwellings in the community (e.g., the James Campbell House). Louis Brown resided in the subject house for the rest of his life. This handsome English-style dwelling incorporates distinctive decorative features popularly found in catalog houses of the period; it is a noticeable landmark in the town of Fairmount Heights.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No PG#72-9-28

Prince George's County Tax Assessments, 1900-1934  
Federal Census, Prince George's County District #13, 1910

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 6250 sq ft

Quadrangle name Washington East

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

TM 65 FH Blk D, lots 31-32

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 Susan G. Pearl, Research/Architectural Historian

Prince George's County

organization Historic Preservation Commission date June 1991

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

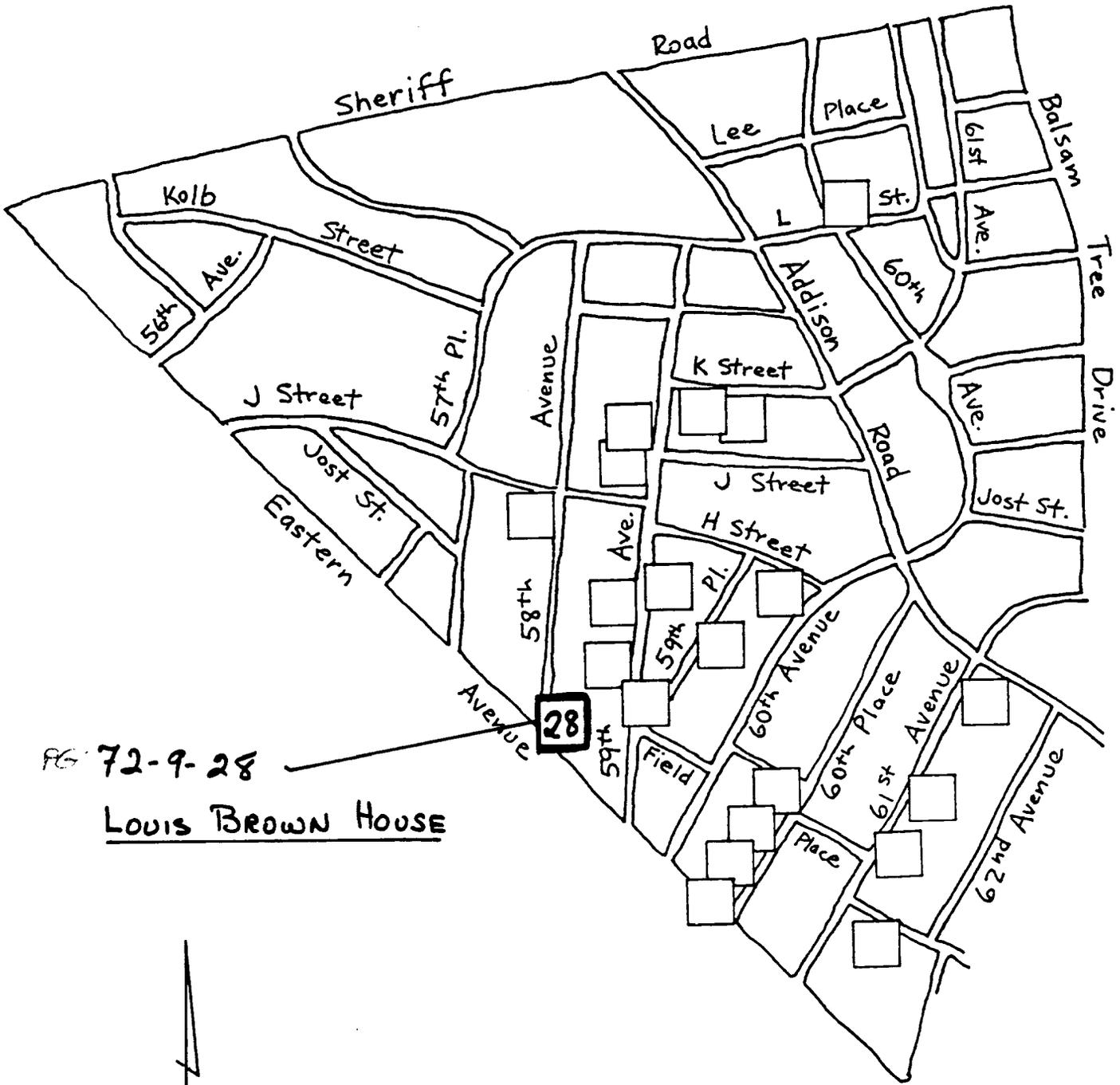
city or town Upper Marlboro state MD 20772

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

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

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

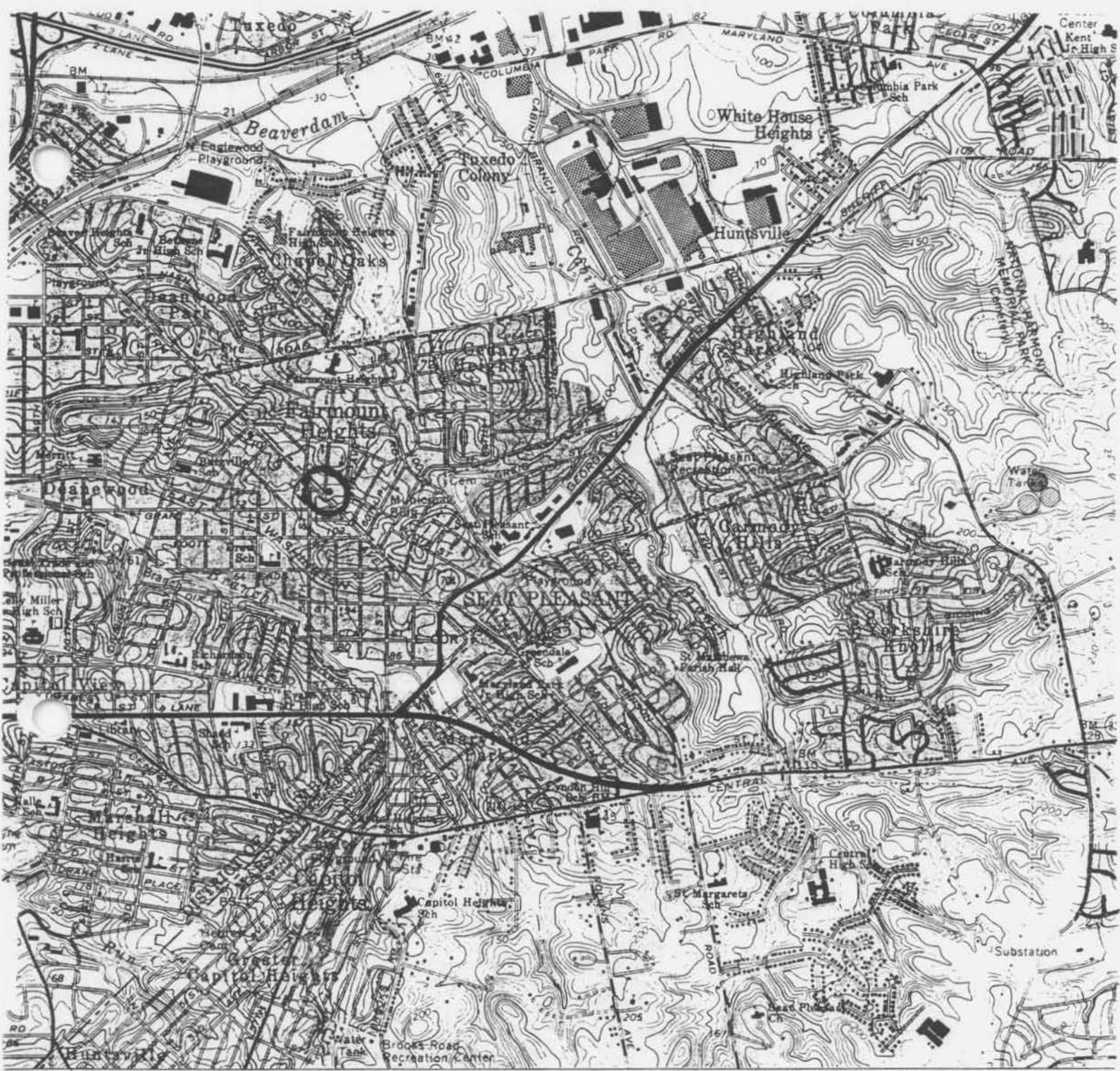
# Town of Fairmount Heights



FG 72-9-28

LOUIS BROWN HOUSE

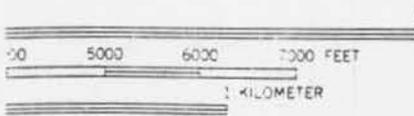




DISTRICT HEIGHTS 2.3 MI  
UPPER MARLBORO 11 MI

55' 334 335000m E 76'

● INTERIOR—GEOLOGICAL SURVEY WASHINGTON D C — 1971



PG: 72-9-28  
**72-9-28**

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

|                    |              |                 |               |
|--------------------|--------------|-----------------|---------------|
| Heavy-duty         | —————        | Light-duty      | —————         |
| Medium-duty        | —————        | Unimproved dirt | -----         |
| ○ Interstate Route | ○ U.S. Route | ○ State Route   | ○ State Route |

1 FEET  
EVEL  
M IS MEAN LOW WATER  
LINE OF MEAN HIGH WATER  
ET



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

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

1965  
PHOTOREVISED 1971  
AMS 5661 IV NW—SERIES V833



Pl # 72-9-28

Louis Brown House

701 58<sup>th</sup> Ave, Fairmount Heights  
(FH D: 31-32)

Prince Georges Co. MD.

Susan H. Pearl

March 1991

West facade  
ref: 1147