PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY

HISTORIC SITE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey #: P.G.# 72-9-30 Building Date: circa 1911

Building Name: Isaac Brown House

Location: 715 59th Place, Fairmount Heights, Md.

Private/Residence/Occupied/Good/Inaccessible

Description:

The Isaac Brown House is a two-story, front-gabled frame house. Entrance is in the second bay of the two-bay (north)west gable front, and this facade is sheltered by a one-story hip-roof porch with turned bracketed posts. This dwelling has the simple shotgun plan which was common in the developing suburbs of the early 20th century, but is embellished with characteristic and attractive late Victorian detail.

Significance:

The Isaac Brown House is a good example of a house form which was popular in the developing suburbs of the early twentieth century. It was built circa 1911 for Isaac and Maria Brown, who purchased two unimproved lots from developer Robinson White in 1909. In 1911, they had this house built, and apparently operated it as a rental property. The property was sold by the heirs of Isaac and Maria Brown in 1954 and was for more than 30 years afterwards the home of the Gordon family.

This is a modest house of a form popular in many early 20th century residential suburbs; houses of this type, and of a slightly larger form, can be found today in communities like Fairmount Heights, North Brentwood and Bowie. Although very simple in plan, this dwelling is a representative and therefore important example of a type of house popular in modest developing suburbs.

Acreage: 5,250 square feet

Survey No. PG#72-9-30

Magi No.

DOE __yes __no

Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Isaac Brown House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 715 59th Place ___ not for publication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	
___ district	___ public	X occupied	___ agriculture	___ museum
X building(s)	X private	___ unoccupied	___ commercial	___ park
___ structure	___ both	___ work in progress	___ educational	X private residence
___ site	**Public Acquisition**	**Accessible**	___ entertainment	___ religious
___ object	___ in process	___ yes: restricted	___ government	___ scientific
	___ being considered	___ yes: unrestricted	___ industrial	___ transportation
	X not applicable	X no	___ military	___ other:

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

name James Carter

street & number 715 59th Place 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 7146

street & number 14735 Main Street folio 109

city, town Upper Marlboro state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title None

date ___ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. PG#72-9-30

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.

The Isaac Brown House stands at 715 59th Place (originally Belmont Avenue). It was built circa 1911 on lots 12/13, Block F of the Fairmount Heights subdivision, which was platted in 1900.

This is a two-story, front-gabled frame house. Entrance is in the second bay of the two-bay (north)west gable front, and this facade is sheltered by a one-story hip-roof porch with turned bracketed posts. This dwelling has the simple shotgun plan which was common in the developing suburbs of the early 20th century, but is embellished with characteristic and attractive late Victorian detail.

8. Significance

Survey No. PG#72-9-30

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
___ prehistoric	___ archeology-prehistoric	X 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	
___ 1800–1899	___ commerce	___ exploration/settlement	___ philosophy	___ theater
X 1900–	___ communications	___ industry	___ politics/government	___ transportatior
		___ invention		___ other (specify

Specific dates ca. 1911 **Builder/Architect**

check: Applicable Criteria: __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.

The Isaac Brown House is a good example of a house form which was popular in the developing suburbs of the early twentieth century. It was built circa 1911 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 Isaac Brown House was built for Isaac and Maria Brown, who purchased two unimproved lots from developer Robinson White in 1909. In 1911, they had this house built, and apparently operated it as a rental property. The property was sold by the heirs of Isaac and Maria Brown in 1954 and was for more than 30 years afterwards the home of the Gordon family.

This is a modest house of a form popular in many early 20th century residential suburbs; houses of this type, and of a slightly larger form, can be found today in communities like Fairmount Heights, North Brentwood and Bowie. Although very simple in plan, this dwelling is a representative and therefore important example of a type of house popular in modest developing suburbs.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. PG#72-9-30

Prince George's County Tax Assessments, 1908-1915
Federal Census, Prince George's County District #13, 1910

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 5250 sq ft

Quadrangle name Washington East **Quadrangle scale** 1:24,000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references TM 66, FH Blk F, lots 12-13

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
A				B			
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

organization Prince George's County Historic Preservation Commission **date** June 1991

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

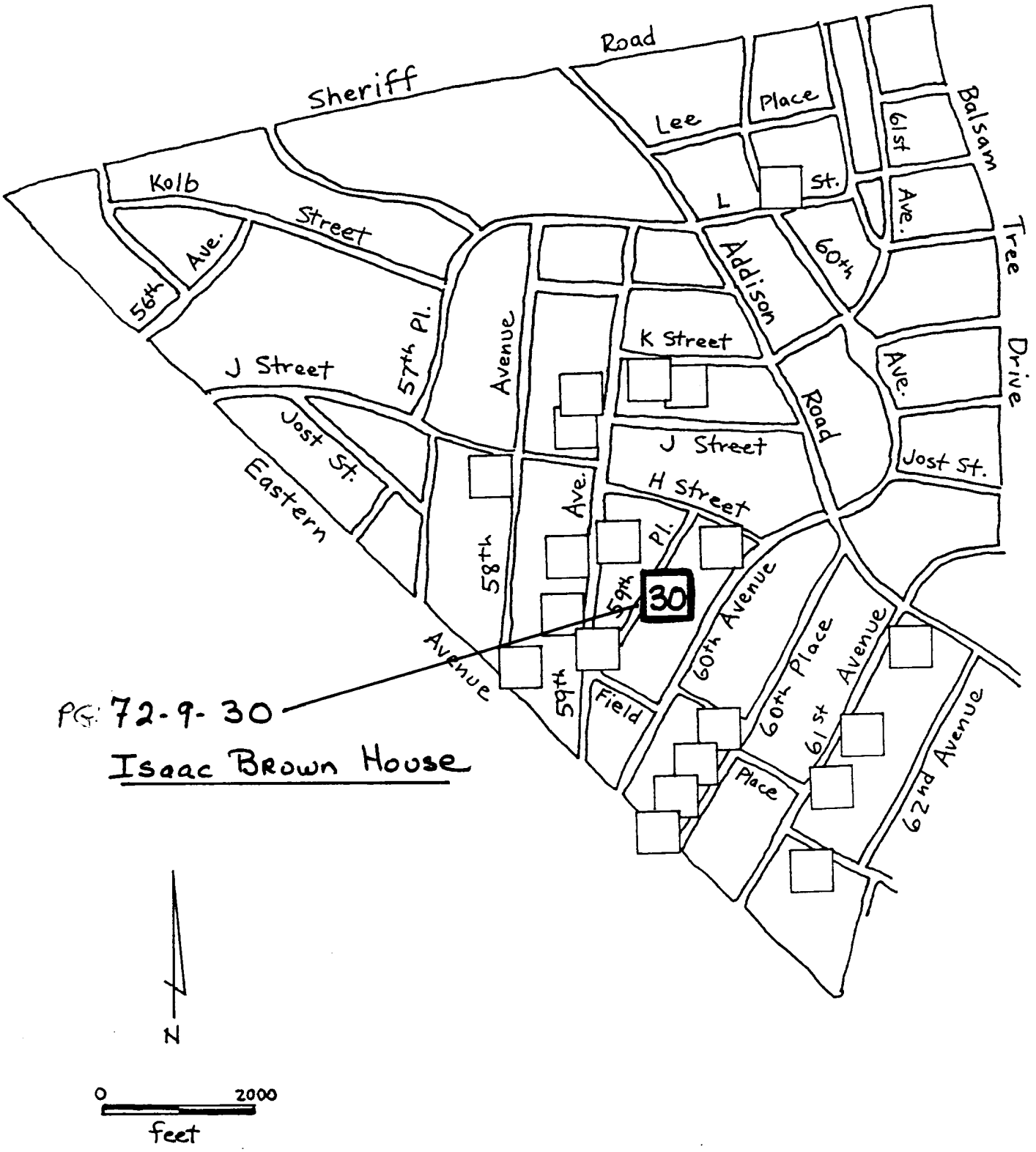
city or town Upper Marlboro **state** MD 20772

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

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

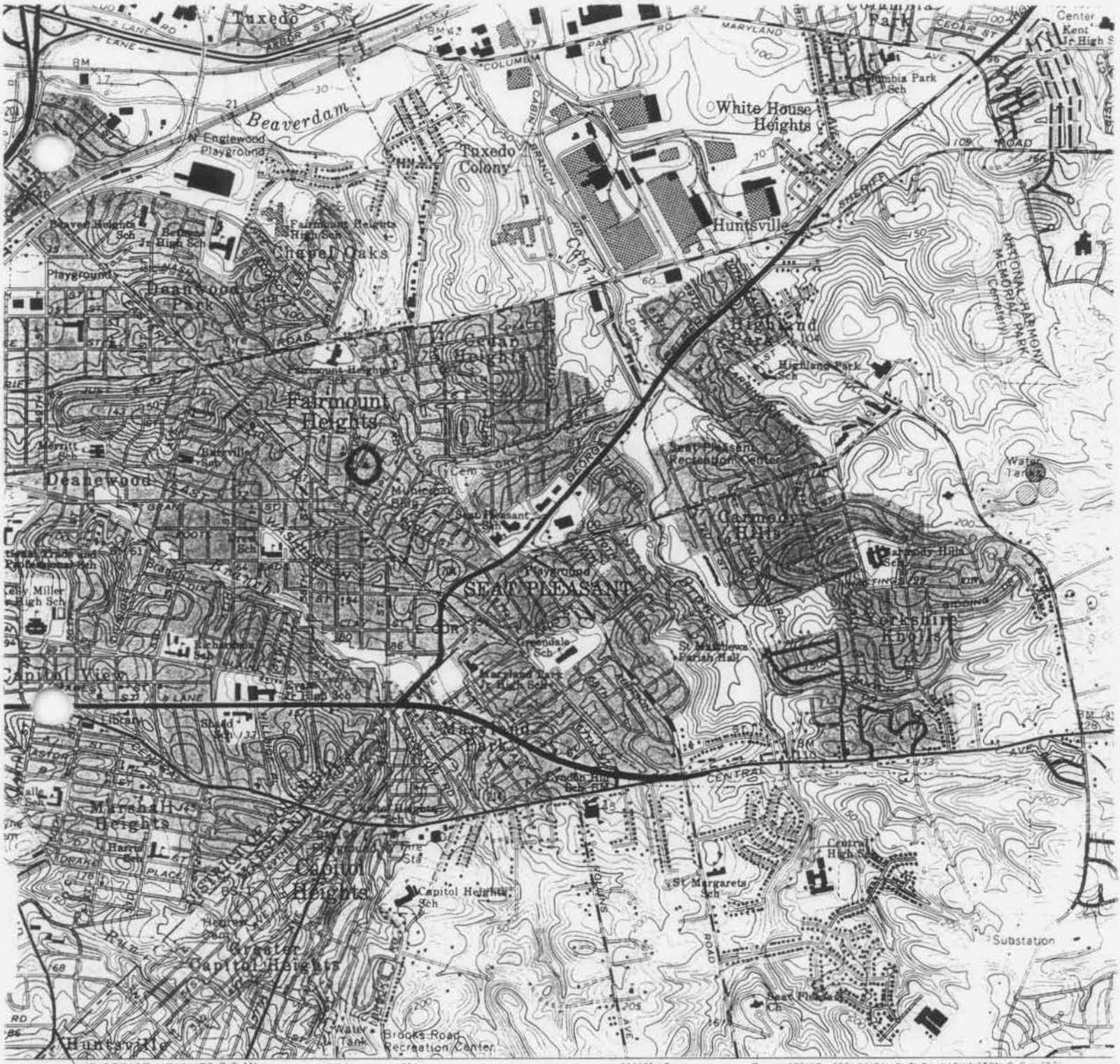
return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

Town of Fairmount Heights



PG: 72-9-30

Isaac Brown House



1 MILE

5000 6000 7000 FEET

1 KILOMETER

FEET
EVEL
TUM IS MEAN LOW WATER
LINE OF MEAN HIGH WATER
ATEL ET

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

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QUADRANGLE LOCATION

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Heavy-duty — Light-duty

Medium-duty — Unimproved dirt

Interstate Route — U. S. Route — State Ro

WASHINGTON EAST, MD.—D. C

N3852.5—W7652.5/7.5

1965
PHOTOREVISED 1971
AMS 5661 IV NW—SERIES V833

Pk # 72-9-30

Isaac Brown House
715 59th Place, Fairmount Heights
(FH F:12-13)
Prince Georges Co. MD

Susan G. Pearl
February 1991
Northwest Parade
7/7: MHT