

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY  
HISTORIC SITE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey #: P.G.# 72-9-31 Building Date: circa 1906

Building Name: William B. Coles House

Location: 730 60th Avenue, Fairmount Heights, Md.

Private/Residence/Occupied/Excellent/Inaccessible

Description:

The William B. Coles House is a two-and-one-half-story frame crossgable structure which occupies a prominent site at the top on one of the highest hills in Fairmount Heights. Entrance is in the third bay of the three-bay principal (south)east gable front, and this facade is sheltered by a one-story hip-roof porch with three turned posts and plain balustrade railing. The original wood siding of the house is presently covered with white aluminum siding, and the windows are fitted with black synthetic louvered shutters; the boxed cornice (now sheathed with aluminum) is returned at the gable ends, and the gabled roof is covered with standing-seam metal. There is a small hip dormer in the north plane of the roof, and a larger (modern) gable dormer in the south plane; two ornamental lightning rods rise from the ridge. The house rests on a stone foundation, painted white, which encloses a full basement. The grounds are defined by a low stone wall, with gateposts which lead to the principal east entrance.

Significance:

The William B. Coles House is a good example of a substantial crossgable dwelling and a prominent landmark in its community. It was built circa 1906 on a group of lots in the Fairmount Heights subdivision.

The Coles House is one of the most prominent in the community by virtue of its handsome lines and its location at one of the highest points of land. It was built in 1906 by Ezra and Florence Kemp, who purchased four unimproved lots from developer Allen C. Clark in 1900. In 1908, after the death of Ezra Kemp, his widow sold the house and four lots to William B. and Isadora Coles, who raised their family in this house. Like many of his neighbors, William B. Coles commuted into the Federal City, where he worked as a clerk in the U. S. Department of the Treasury. In 1914, William B. Coles contracted with the Detroit Heating Company to have a complete system of central heating installed in the house, and this transaction is recorded in detail in a legal agreement. The property passed, after the death of William and Isadora Coles, to their son William T. Coles, and remained the home of his family until 1936. Although considerably altered by the application of new siding, the Coles House is a good example of a substantial crossgable house, and is a prominent landmark in the community of Fairmount Heights today.

Acreage: 14,250 square feet



# 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 William B. Coles House stands at 730 60th (originally Clark) Avenue. It was built circa 1906 on lots 29-31, Block F of the Fairmount Heights subdivision, which was platted in 1900.

This is a two-and-one-half-story frame crossgable structure which occupies a prominent site at the top on one of the highest hills in Fairmount Heights. Entrance is in the third bay of the three-bay principal (south)east gable front, and this facade is sheltered by a one-story hip-roof porch with three turned posts and plain balustrade railing. The original wood siding of the house is presently covered with white aluminum siding, and the windows are fitted with black synthetic louvered shutters; the boxed cornice (now sheathed with aluminum) is returned at the gable ends, and the gabled roof is covered with standing-seam metal. There is a small hip dormer in the north plane of the roof, and a larger (modern) gable dormer in the south plane; two ornamental lightning rods rise from the ridge. The house rests on a stone foundation, painted white, which encloses a full basement. The grounds are defined by a low stone wall, with gateposts which lead to the principal east entrance.

# 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input 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 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 type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates ca. 1906

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 William B. Coles House is a good example of a substantial crossgable dwelling and a prominent landmark in its community. It was built circa 1906 on a group of lots 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.

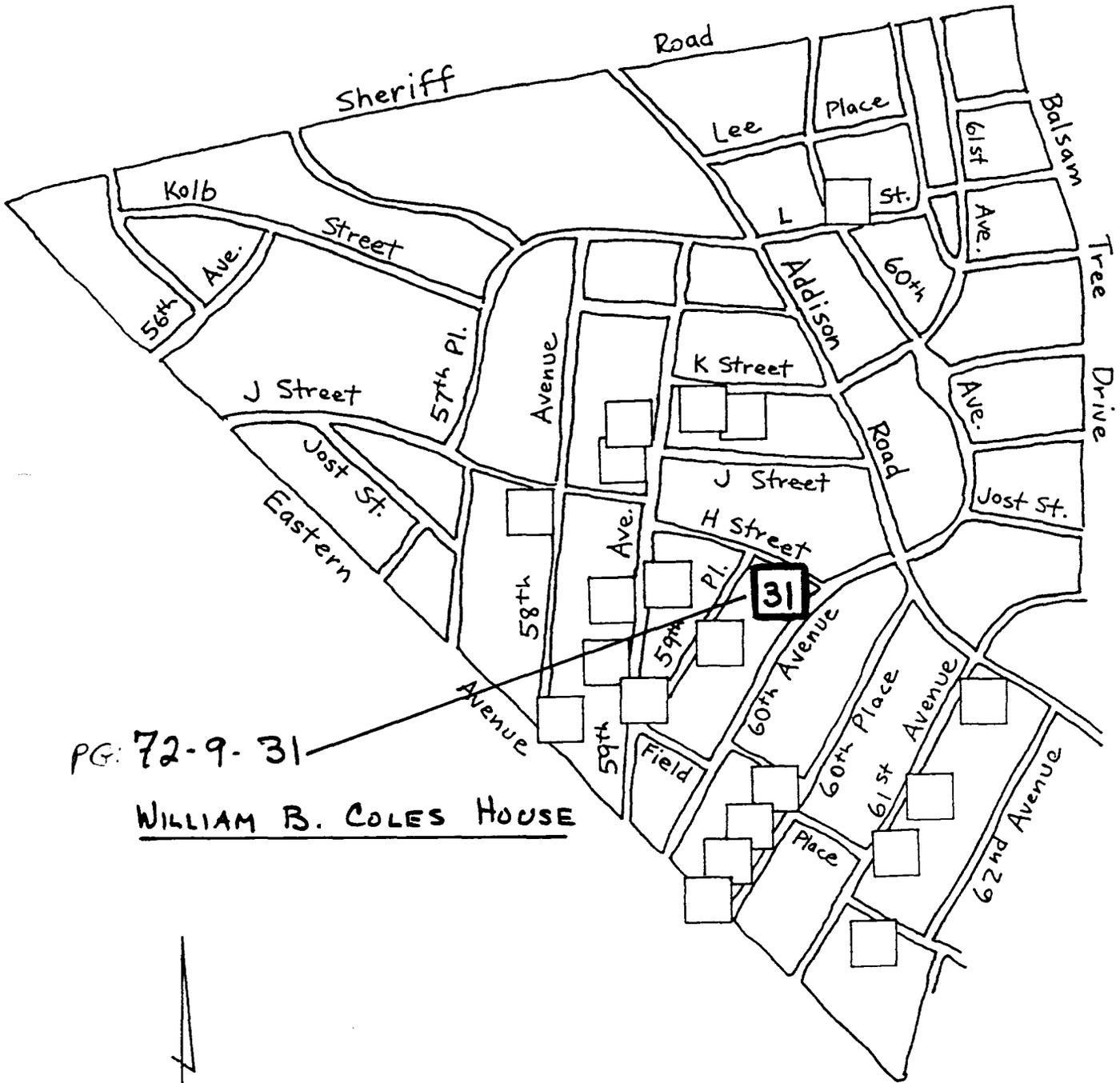
From the beginning, blacks were encouraged to buy lots and settle in the new community. White and Clark sold the lots at relatively low prices, making home ownership finally attainable for black families. Most of the earliest purchasers of lots worked for government agencies; many built their own houses, 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 Coles house is one of the most prominent in the community by virtue of its handsome lines and its location at one of the highest points of land. It was built in 1906 by Ezra and Florence Kemp, who purchased four unimproved lots from developer Allen C. Clark in 1900. In 1908, after the death of Ezra Kemp, his widow sold the house and four lots to William B. and Isadora Coles, who raised their family in this house. Like many of his neighbors, William B. Coles commuted into the Federal City, where he worked as a clerk in the U. S. Department of the Treasury. In 1914, William B. Coles contracted with the Detroit Heating Company to have a complete system of central heating installed in the house, and this transaction is recorded in detail in a legal agreement. The property passed, after the death of William and Isadora Coles, to their son William T. Coles, and remained the home of his family until 1936. Although considerably altered by the application of new siding, the Coles House is a good example of a substantial crossgable house, and is a prominent landmark in the community of Fairmount Heights today.



Town of Fairmount Heights



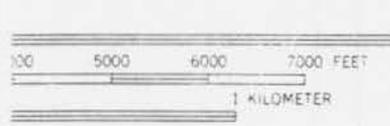
PG: 72-9-31

WILLIAM B. COLES HOUSE





DISTRICT HEIGHTS 2.3 MI. UPPER MARLBORO 11 MI. 55' 34 335000m E. INTERIOR—GEOLOGICAL SURVEY WASHINGTON D. C. — 1971 76'



PG: 72-9-31

72-9-31

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

- Heavy-duty Light-duty
- Medium-duty Unimproved dirt
- Interstate Route U.S. Route State Ro.

FEET  
EVEL  
ATUM IS MEAN LOW WATER  
LINE OF MEAN HIGH WATER  
ATEL FEET



QUADRANGLE LOCATION

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

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

1965  
PHOTOREVISED 1971  
AMS 5661 IV NW—SERIES V833



William B. Coles House.

730 60<sup>th</sup> Ave, Summit Heights  
(FH F: 29-31)

Preco Sharp's Co. MD.

Susan L Pearl

February 1991

East facade

Ref: M+17