

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY  
HISTORIC SITE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey #: P.G.# 72-9-35 Building Date: 1912

Building Name: Cornelius Fonville House

Location: 602 60th Place, Fairmount Heights, Md.

Private/Residence/Occupied/Excellent/Inaccessible

Description:

The Cornelius Fonville House is a large two-story frame dwelling of the Foursquare plan, three bays by three, with a hip roof. The original wood siding is presently covered with grained white vinyl siding. Entrance is in the central bay of the three-bay main (south)east facade. There is a one-story hip-roof porch across this main facade; the porch rests on high brick piers, and is supported by trellis-style posts on high brick bases, all painted white. The house rests on a high brick foundation which encloses a basement.

Significance:

The Cornelius Fonville House is representative of the Foursquare houses popular in the early years of this century; it is one of the more substantial houses in the community. It was built in 1912 by Cornelius Fonville, a man who worked as a messenger for the Bureau of Engraving, and who settled in Fairmount Heights with his wife and family in the early years of the development. In 1912, he had this dwelling built, and the Washington Bee, one of Washington's black newspapers, reported that it was "a fine eight room dwelling with cellar, furnace and all modern improvements . . . Fairmount Heights is on a boom." Fonville was active in the citizens' associations of Fairmount Heights, and was one of the leaders in the movement toward the Town's incorporation. His house is one of the more substantial houses in the community, and has remained to the present in the possession of his descendants.

Acreage: 11,409 square feet

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Cornelius Fonville House

and/or common

## 2. Location

street & number 602 60th Place  not for publication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	
<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)

name Charlotte Head et al

street & number 602 60th 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 6967

street & number 14735 Main Street folio 288

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#72-9-35

<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 Cornelius Fonville House stands at 602 60th Place (originally Addison Avenue). It was built in 1912, on lots 24/25, Block M of the Fairmount Heights subdivision, which was platted in 1900.

This is a large two-story frame dwelling of the Foursquare plan, three bays by three, with a hip roof. The original wood siding is presently covered with grained white vinyl siding. Entrance is in the central bay of the three-bay main (south)east facade. There is a one-story hip-roof porch across this main facade; the porch rests on high brick piers, and is supported by trellis-style posts on high brick bases, all painted white. The house rests on a high brick foundation which encloses a 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/
<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**      1912      **Builder/Architect**

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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 Cornelius Fonville House is representative of the Foursquare houses popular in the early years of this century; it is one of the more substantial houses in the community. It was built in 1912 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 Fonville House is representative of the large Foursquares which were popular in the early years of this century. It was built by Cornelius Fonville, a man who worked as a messenger for the Bureau of Engraving, and who settled in Fairmount Heights with his wife and family in the early years of the development. In 1912, he had this dwelling built, and the Washington Bee, one of Washington's black newspapers, reported that it was "a fine eight room dwelling with cellar, furnace and all modern improvements . . . Fairmount Heights is on a boom." Fonville was active in the citizens' associations of Fairmount Heights, and was one of the leaders in the movement toward the Town's incorporation. His house is one of the more substantial houses in the community, and has remained to the present in the possession of his descendants.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. PG#72-9-35

Pearl, S.G., Fairmount Heights, Maryland, A. History, M-NCPPC, 1991  
~~Prince George's County Tax Assessments 1910-1915~~  
Washington Bee, 18 May 1912  
Federal Census, Prince George's County District #13, 1910  
Prince George's County Deeds #59:414

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 11,409 sq ft

Quadrangle name Washington East

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

TM # 16, FH Blk M, lots 24-27

A	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

B	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

C	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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D	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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E	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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F	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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G	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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H	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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# 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

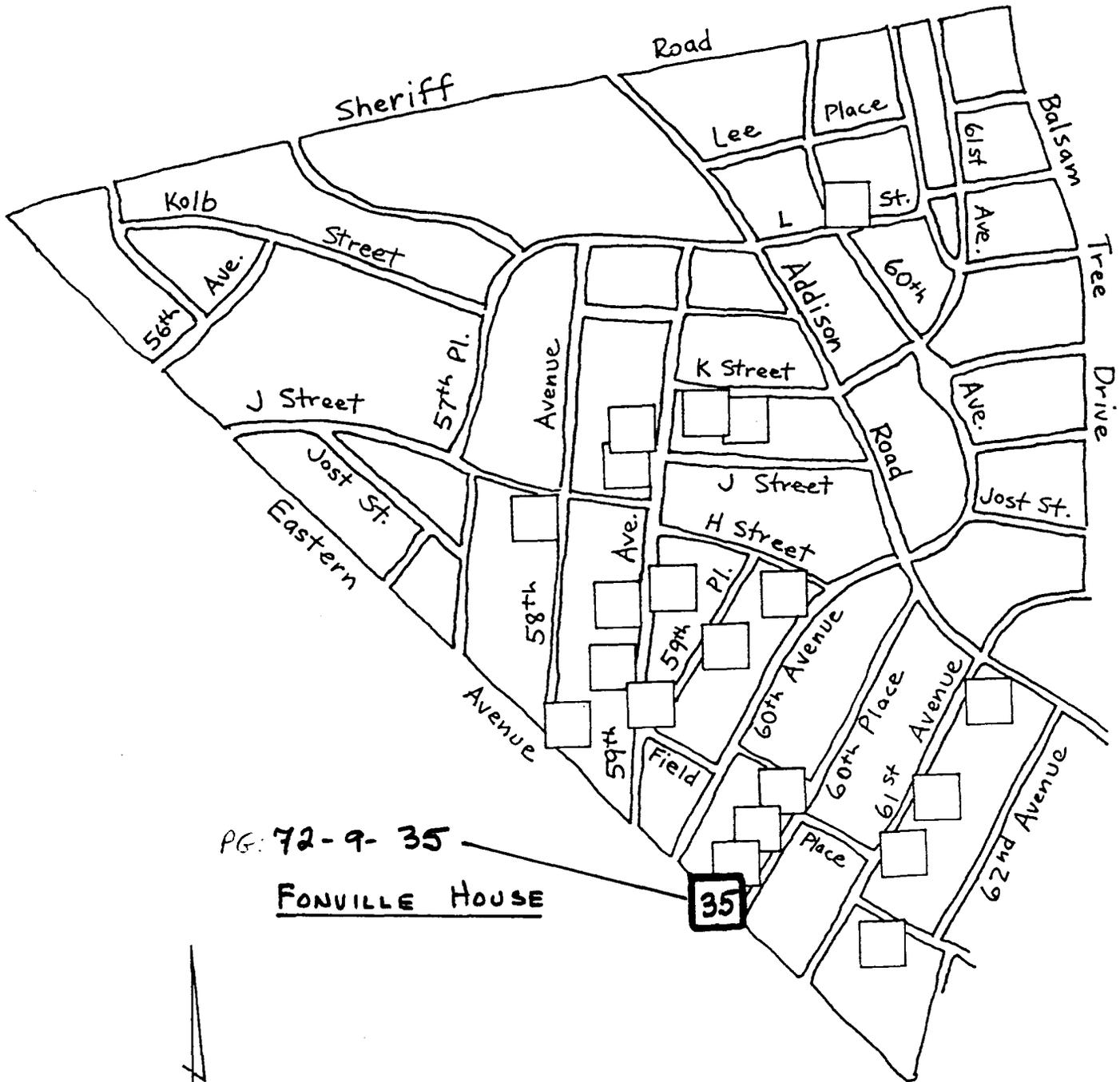
city or town Upper Marlboro state MD 20772

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.

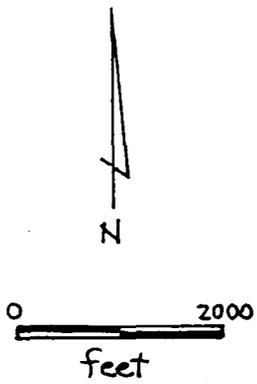
The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

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

# Town of Fairmount Heights



PG: 72-9-35  
FONVILLE HOUSE





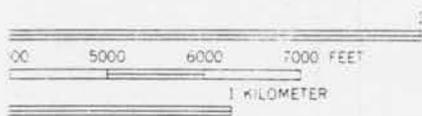
DISTRICT HEIGHTS 2.3 MI.  
UPPER MARLBORO 11 MI.

55' 334

335000m E

INTERIOR—GEOLOGICAL SURVEY WASHINGTON, D. C. — 1971

76'



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

PG: 72-9-35  
**72-9-35**



QUADRANGLE LOCATION

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

- Heavy-duty
- Medium-duty
- Light-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

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



Pb. # 72-9-35

(17)

Louella Knoc

Austen L. Pearl

January 1991

602 60<sup>th</sup> Place

M: 24-25

Edmonton & Hayes