

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY

HISTORIC SITE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey #: P.G.# 72-9-38 Building Date: circa 1908

Building Name: Charity Hall

Location: 715 61st Avenue, Fairmount Heights, Md.

Private/Residence/Occupied/Good/Inaccessible

Description:

Charity Hall is a large, frontgabled frame building. It was originally built as a multi-purpose social hall. It has been enlarged and altered over the years to become a large family residence. This building has three bays across the second story of the principal (north)west gable front, while the first story is lighted by two large modern two-part picture windows. The first story of the main gable front is sheathed with a brick veneer. The gable front is enlarged in width by a shed-roof addition on each side. Entrance is through a modern door with dentilled pediment. A high one-story flat-roof porch shelters the main gable front and south addition. The original building was two bays in depth; a gable-roof wing of three additional bays has been constructed at the rear, resulting in a very long building with clear demarcations in its roofline. The entire building, wing and additions, is covered (with the exception of the brick-veneered first story of the gable front) with beige vinyl siding.

Significance:

Charity Hall, though substantially altered from its original form, is an important historic component in the community. The main block of the building was constructed circa 1908 by the Fairmount Heights Mutual Improvement Company, to serve as a public hall for religious, charitable and social functions. The Mutual Improvement Company had been organized by architect W. Sidney Pittman in 1901, and one of its purposes was to provide a social center for the community. In 1908 the company purchased two unimproved lots on Chapel Avenue and erected this building, which then served not only as a social hall, but briefly as the first location of Methodist church services in 1909. It also served as a classroom until the public school was completed in 1912. In 1924, the two lots were purchased by Malkiah Charity, one of the original directors of the Fairmount Heights Mutual Improvement Company, and it continued to be used as a gathering place for a variety of religious, social and charitable events. It has always been known as Charity Hall. In recent years, the building has been enlarged by both a rear wing and two asymmetrical flanking additions to the gable front. Consequently it bears little resemblance to its original historic form; it is, however, an important historic component in the community of Fairmount Heights.

Acreage: 12,500 square feet

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Charity Hall

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 715 61st Avenue not for publicationcity, 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	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<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 Robert Hagler

street & number 715 61st 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 2503

street & number 14735 Main Street folio 636

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#72-9-38

Condition		Check one	Check one
<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.

Charity Hall stands at 715 61st (originally Chapel) Avenue. It was built circa 1908 on lot 20, Block I of the Fairmount Heights subdivision, which was platted in 1900.

This large, frontgabled frame building was originally built as a multi-purpose social hall; it has been enlarged and altered over the years to become a large family residence.

This building has three bays across the second story of the principal (north)west gable front, while the first story is lighted by two large modern two-part picture windows. The first story of the main gable front is sheathed with a brick veneer. The gable front is enlarged in width by a shed-roof addition on each side: one story on the left (north), and two stories on the right (south). Entrance is through a modern door with dentilled pediment which opens into the south addition to the principal gable front. A high one-story flat-roof porch shelters the main gable front and south addition; it is supported by five pairs of square panelled columns.

The original building was two bays in depth; a gable-roof wing of three additional bays has been constructed at the rear, resulting in a very long building with clear demarcations in its roofline. It is built into a slope, so that the main front is raised on a high foundation and the porch is approached by a double flight of steps. The entire building, wing and additions, is covered (with the exception of the brick-veneered first story of the gable front) with beige vinyl siding.

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 checked="" 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. 1908 **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.

Charity Hall, though substantially altered from its original form, is an important historic component in the community. It was built circa 1908 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. Also in these early years, the community institutions began to develop.

The nucleus of Charity Hall was constructed circa 1908 by the Fairmount Heights Mutual Improvement Company, to serve as a public hall for religious, charitable and social functions. The Mutual Improvement Company had been organized by architect W. Sidney Pittman in 1901, and one of its purposes was to provide a social center for the community. In 1908 the company purchased two unimproved lots on Chapel Avenue and erected this building, which then served not only as a social hall, but briefly as the first location of Methodist church services in 1909. It also served as a classroom until the public school was completed in 1912. In 1924, the two lots were purchased by Malkiah Charity, one of the original directors of the Fairmount Heights Mutual Improvement Company, and it continued to be used as a gathering place for a variety of religious, social and charitable events. It has always been known as Charity Hall.

In recent years, the building has been enlarged by both a rear wing and two asymmetrical flanking additions to the gable front. Consequently it bears little resemblance to its original historic form; it is, however, an important historic component in the community of Fairmount Heights.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. PG#72-9-38

Prince George's County Tax Assessments 1906-1910
Prince George's County Land Records #50:6, #208:273
Washington Bee 6 June 1908, 12 December 1908
Prince George's County Incorporation Records JBB#1:134

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property 12,500 sq ft
Quadrangle name Washington East Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references TM #66, FH Blk I, lots 18-21

A	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	B	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	D	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
E	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	F	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
G	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	H	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

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

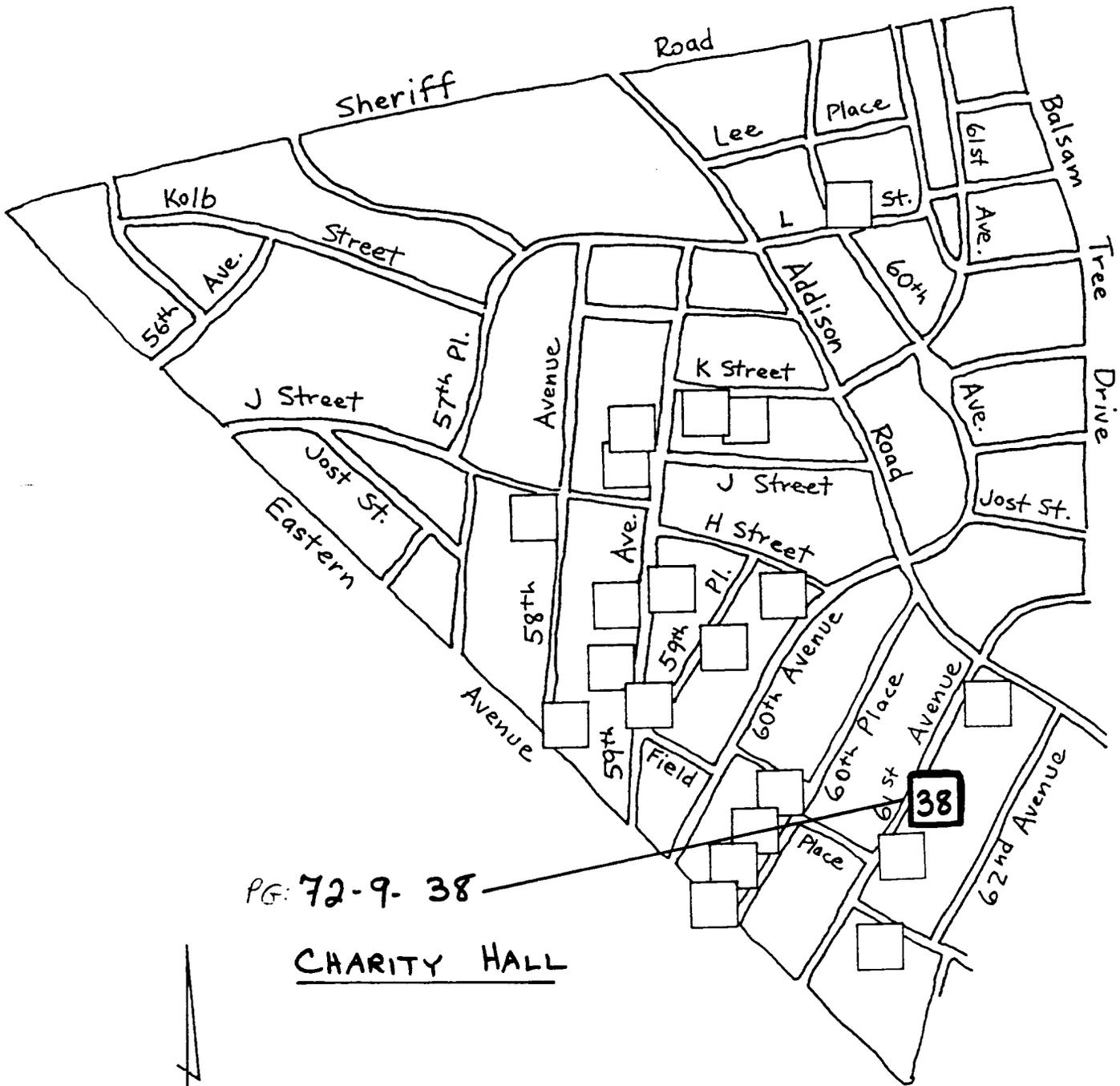
name/title Susan G. Pearl, Research/Architectural Historian
Prince George's County
organization Historic Preservation Commission date June 1991
street & number c/o M-NCPPC, 4th floor CAB telephone 301-952-3521
city or town Upper Marlboro state MD 20772

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

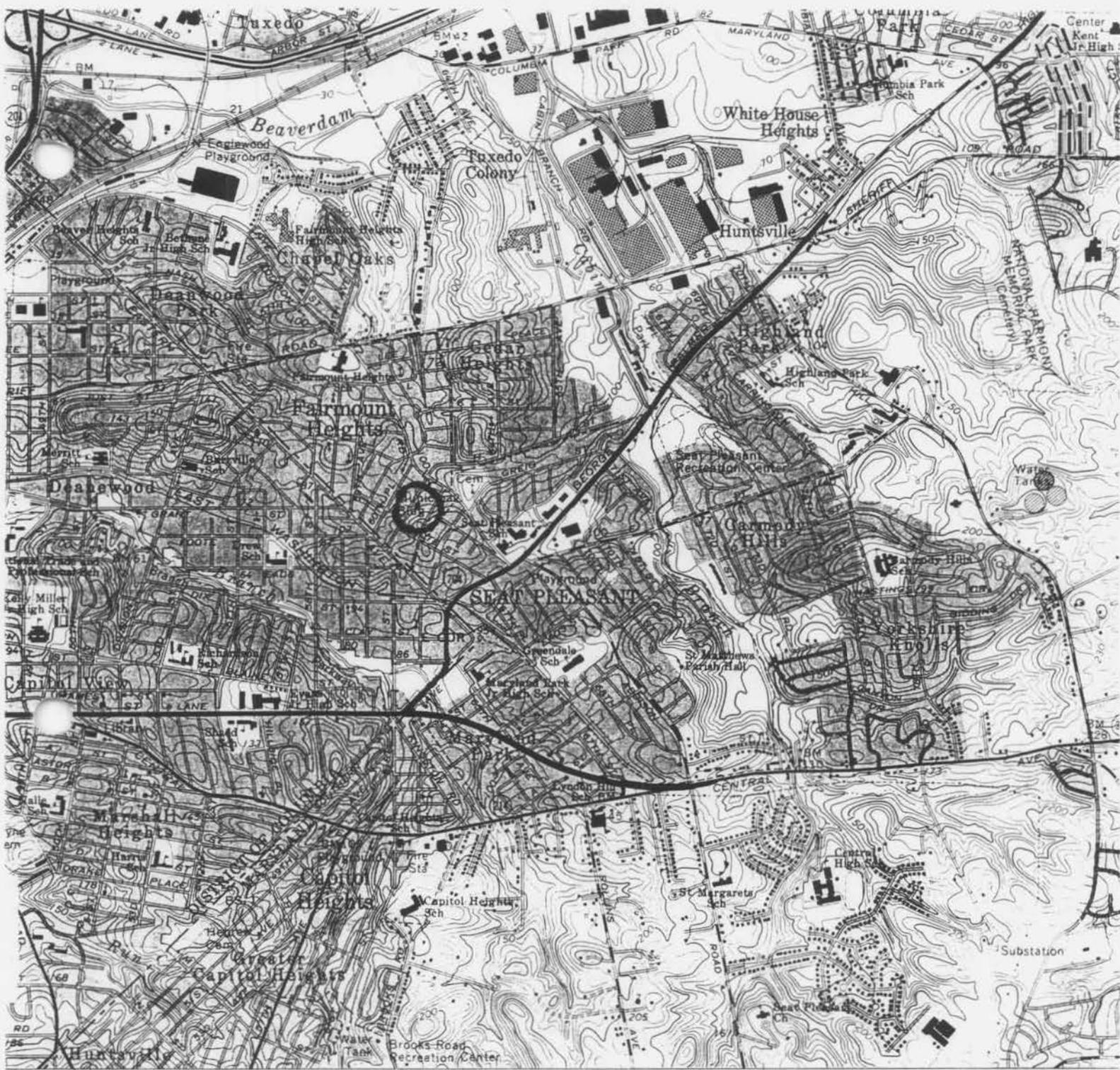
Town of Fairmount Heights



PG: 72-9-38

CHARITY HALL

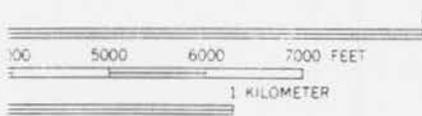




DISTRICT HEIGHTS 2.3 MI.
UPPER MARLBORO 11 MI.

55' 334 335000m E

INTERIOR—GEOLOGICAL SURVEY WASHINGTON D. C. — 1971 76



PG: 72-9-38
72-9-38

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

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

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



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



Charity Hall

715 61st Ave, Sacramento Heights
(FA I: 20)

Prince's League's Co. MD.

Susan L. Prall

February 1991

Westwest facade
ref: 1147