

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY
HISTORIC SITE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey #: P.G.# 72-9-40 Building Date: 1954

Building Name: Sylvan Vista Baptist Church

Location: 1103 60th Avenue, Fairmount Heights, Md.

Private/Religious/Occupied/Excellent/Accessible

Description:

Sylvan Vista Baptist Church is a large, front-gabled brick church building, with a three-story corner entry tower, and a modern two-story parish hall attached. The church fronts on 60th Avenue, and entrance is in the west gable front. There is a three-story pyramidal-roof entry tower set into the northwest corner of the church structure; a one-story gabled vestibule forms the entrance into this tower and into the nave. In the second story of the entry tower is a tall narrow window filled with stained glass, and above this at third level are three small rectangular windows also filled with stained glass. The nave is seven bays long, and the long south side of the building is punctuated by eight slim concrete-topped brick buttresses. The windows are rectangular, and filled with new stained glass memorials. There is a cornerstone in the south corner of the west main gable front. Attached to the north long side of the church is a two-story flat-roof education building, built of concrete block, with brick facing and shallow parapet on the west front.

Significance:

The Sylvan Vista Baptist Church is a noticeable landmark and an important example of community effort. It was built in 1954 on a group of lots in the Sylvan Vista subdivision. The congregation was organized by Arthur Lockett, and first met on the site of the present church in July 1925, in a small brush shelter. By September of that year, members of the group had constructed a small frame meeting house, and before the end of the same year, the church was recognized by the Baptist Conference of Washington D. C. In 1927, Arthur Lockett was ordained pastor; in the same year, he purchased the five lots which encompassed the site of both the shelter and the frame church. Within a few more years, the small frame meetinghouse was replaced by a larger frame structure, covered with stucco. The present church was built in 1954, its construction a real community effort. The earlier stucco-covered church was demolished, and, in 1968, the education building was built in its place. Since its establishment, the Sylvan Vista Baptist Church has been actively involved in the social, educational, and charitable life of Fairmount Heights. It is an important example of construction through community effort, and is a noticeable landmark in the subdivision of Sylvan Vista.

Acreage: 16,075 square feet

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Sylvan Vista Baptist Church

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 1103 60th 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 type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input checked="" 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 Sylvan Vista Baptist Church, c/o Arthur Lockett

street & number 1103 60th 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 314

street & number 14735 Main Street folio 19

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#72-9-40

Condition		Check one	Check one
<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
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Sylvan Vista Baptist Church stands at 1103 60th Avenue (originally Maple Boulevard). It was built in 1954 on lots 289-293, Block K of the Sylvan Vista subdivision, which was platted in 1923.

Sylvan Vista Baptist Church is a large, front-gabled brick church building, with a three-story corner entry tower, and a modern two-story parish hall attached. The church fronts on 60th Avenue, and entrance is in the west gable front. There is a three-story pyramidal-roof entry tower set into the northwest corner of the church structure; a one-story gabled vestibule forms the entrance into this tower and into the nave. In the second story of the entry tower is a tall narrow window filled with stained glass, and above this at third level are three small rectangular windows also filled with stained glass.

The nave is seven bays long, and the long south side of the building is punctuated by eight slim concrete-topped brick buttresses: one at each corner, and six more forming lines of demarcation between the seven windows. The windows are rectangular, and filled with new stained glass memorials; above each window is a rectangular transom, also filled with decorative stained glass. (Until the beginning of 1991, all of the windows were original dating from 1954, the double hung sash windows filled with clear glass surrounded by clear border lights, and the transoms with decorative stained glass.) There is a cornerstone in the south corner of the west main gable front; it reads

"Sylvan Vista Baptist Church
Organized and Erected
April 1926 . . . Rebuilt 1954
Rev. A. Lockett, founder".

Attached to the north long side of the church is a two-story flat-roof education building. It is built of concrete block, with brick facing and shallow parapet on the west front. Entrance is in this west front through a gabled vestibule similar to that in the entry tower of the church building.

8. Significance

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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 checked="" 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	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 1954 **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 Sylvan Vista Baptist Church is a noticeable landmark and an important example of community effort. It was built in 1954 on a group of lots in the Sylvan Vista 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. 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.

Within the next few years, four more subdivisions were platted and developed adjacent to the original Fairmount Heights subdivision. The final subdivision was Sylvan Vista. In 1922, 35 acres of the farmland of Samuel Hoover, which adjoined Fairmount Heights on the east, were purchased by the Weeks Realty Corporation; in the next year, the Corporation had the property platted for a subdivision called Sylvan Vista. Sylvan Vista had deep, narrow lots (generally 25 by 125 feet), but it differed from the earlier subdivisions in that it was designed around a market circle, with radiating streets and lots, and parkland reserved along the branch that flowed through it.

The Weeks Corporation began selling lots, and construction began on small dwellings in this new section of the community; these dwellings were generally smaller and more modest than the houses in the earlier subdivisions. At the same time, church congregations began to form among these new residents.

The congregation of Sylvan Vista Baptist Church was organized by Arthur Luckett, and first met on the site of the present church in July 1925, in a small rough-built brush shelter. By September of that year, members of the group had constructed a small frame meeting house immediately to the north (in the present location of the education building), and before the end of the same year, the church was recognized by the Baptist Conference of Washington D. C. In 1927, Arthur Luckett was ordained pastor; in the same year, he purchased the five lots at the corner of Maple Boulevard and Ohio Street (now 60th Avenue and L Street) which encompassed the site of both the shelter and the frame church. Within a few more years, the small frame meetinghouse was replaced by a larger frame structure, which was later covered with stucco.

The present church was built in 1954, its construction a real community effort. The building was constructed of bricks salvaged from the demolition of

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM
Statement of Significance (continued)

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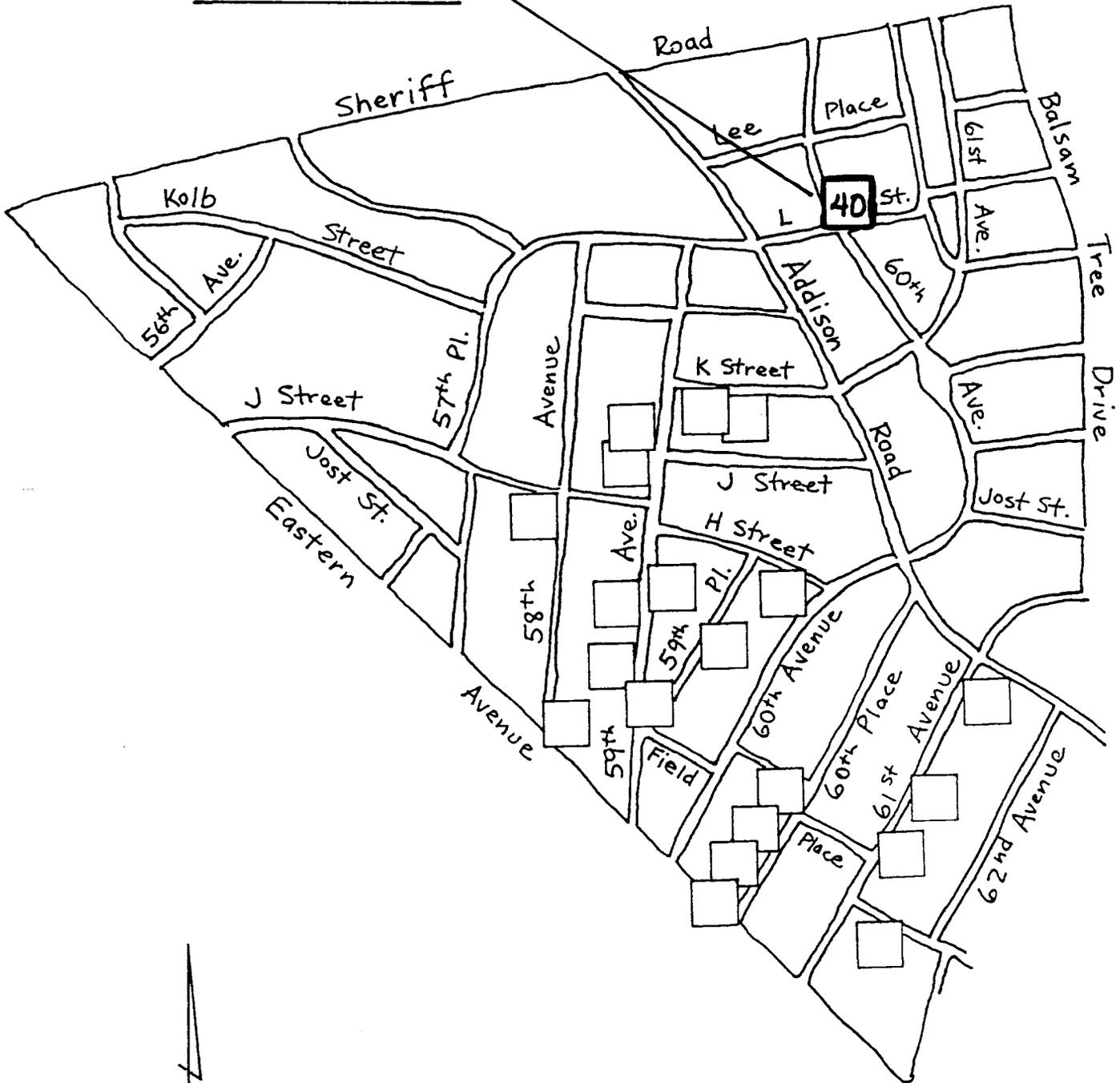
houses in southeast Washington, and hauled to Fairmount Heights by a local resident/contractor, the Greenwood Transfer Company. Students from Fairmount Heights High School cleaned the bricks, and church members experienced in the building trades worked on actual construction of the building. The earlier stucco-covered church was demolished, and, in 1968, the education building was built in its place.

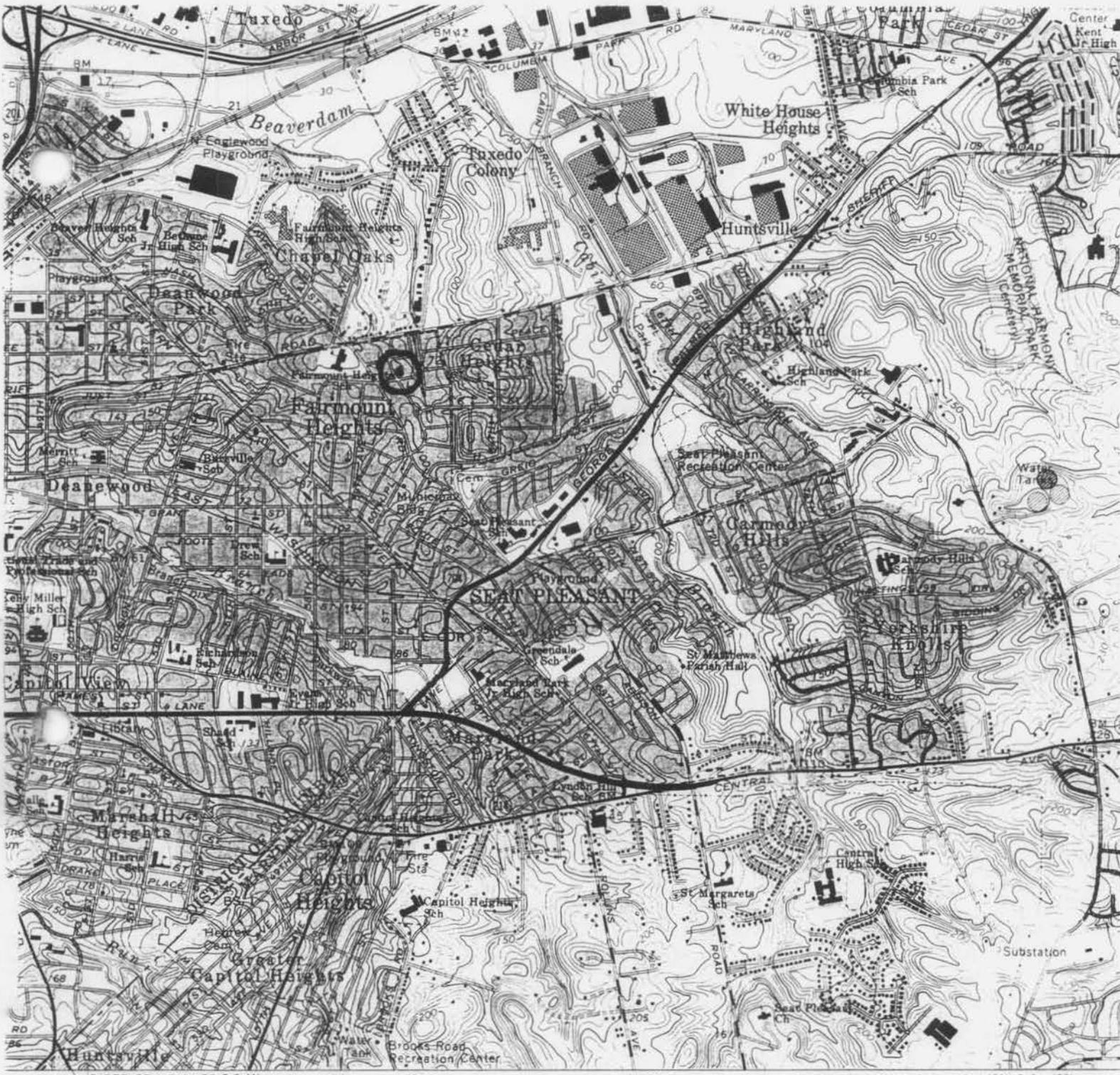
Since its establishment, the Sylvan Vista Baptist Church has been actively involved in the social, educational, and charitable life of Fairmount Heights. It is an important example of construction through community effort, and is a noticeable landmark in the subdivision of Sylvan Vista.

Town of Fairmount Heights

PG. 72-9-40

SYLVAN VISTA
BAPTIST CHURCH





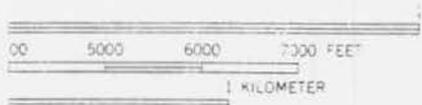
DISTRICT HEIGHTS 2.3 MI
UPPER MARLBORO 11 MI

55' 334

135000m E

INTERIOR-GEOLOGICAL SURVEY WASHINGTON D.C. - 1971

76



PG: 72-9-40
72-9-40

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

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

FEET
EVEL
TUM IS MEAN LOW WATER
LINE OF MEAN HIGH WATER
ATELY 10 FEET



QUADRANGLE LOCATION

WASHINGTON EAST, MD. - D.
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



Pb # 72-9-40

Sylvan Vista Baptist Church
1103 60th Ave., Fairmount Heights

(SV K: 289-293)

Prince George's County, MD.

Susan G. Pearl

March 1991

Arch donation

Ref: 11117



Pg # 72-7-40

Ayleron Vesta Baptist Church
1103 60th Ave., Sacramento Heights
(SU K: 289-293)
Princi Lerpi's Co. MD
Susan H. Pearl
March 1991
Interior, view to east

Ref: 12117