

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY
HISTORIC SITE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey: PG#72-9-43 Building Date: 1924

Building Name: Prince Albert Washington House

Location: 949 Eastern Avenue, Fairmount Heights, Maryland

Private/Residence/Occupied/Excellent/Inaccessible

Description:

The Prince Albert Washington house is a handsome side-gabled frame bungalow of 1 1/2 stories. It is three bays by three, with an inset front porch. Principal entrance is in the central bay of the three-bay main southwest facade, sheltered by a facade-wide front porch; the porch is inset beneath the principal plane of the roof and supported by four tapered panelled wood posts which rest on bases of molded concrete block. The first story is sheathed with wood siding painted white, and the gables are sided with brown rectangular shingles. Windows are generally 6/1 double hung sash, and have plain board surrounds painted white. Centered in the front plane of the roof is a large balconied dormer, whose overhanging eaves are supported at apex and corners by decorative stick-style brackets. The balcony is inset into the plane of the roof, and is enclosed by a plain balustrade railing painted white.

Significance:

The Prince Albert Washington House is a particularly handsome example of a side-gabled bungalow; it was built in 1924 in the subdivision called West Fairmount Heights, located on the boundary of the District of Columbia. The Town of Fairmount Heights 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 fifth of these was West Fairmount Heights, platted in 1911. It created 14 more blocks of building lots near the District of Columbia boundary line, and extended the Fairmount Heights community to its present northwest limits. In 1921, Prince Albert Washington purchased two lots in West Fairmount Heights, and had a frame bungalow built on them. This side-gabled bungalow with inset porch and dormer balcony strongly resembles the "Westly" model available through Sears, Roebuck and Company during this period, and was probably built from Sears mail-order material. It is a noticeable and handsome feature in the Fairmount Heights community.

Acreage: 6000 square feet

Prince Albert Washington House

PG#72-9-43

HISTORIC CONTEXT:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Western Shore

Chronological/Development Periods:

Industrial/Urban Dominance - AD 1870-1930

Historic Period Themes:

Architecture, Landscape Architecture, Community Planning

Resource Type:

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Suburban

Historic Functions and Uses: Domestic/Single Dwelling

Design Source: probably Sears, Roebuck and Company

"Westly" mail order model

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Magi No.

DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Prince Albert Washington House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 949 Eastern Avenue not for publicationcity, town Fairmount Heights vicinity of congressional district 4

state Maryland county Prince George's County

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 Calvin Donelson

street & number 949 Eastern Ave. 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 Court House liber 3190

street & number 14735 Main Street folio 223

city, town Upper Marlboro state MD

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title None

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

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	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 Prince Albert Washington house is a handsome side-gabled frame bungalow of to 1 1/2 stories. It is three bays by three, with an inset front porch.

The principal facade fronts (to the southwest) directly onto Eastern Avenue (originally District boulevard), which is the northeast boundary line of the District of Columbia. Principal entrance is in the central bay of the three-bay main southwest facade. Each of the flanking outer bays consist of two side-by-side 6/1 double-hung-sash windows.

Inset beneath the principal plane of the roof is a facade-wide front porch, supported by four tapered panelled wood posts which rest on bases of molded concrete block.

The first story of the house is sheathed with wood siding painted white, and the gables are sided with brown rectangular shingles. Windows are generally 6/1 double hung sash, and have plain board surrounds painted white. The roof is covered with gray asbestos shingle and has a deep overhang; the slope of the roof ends noticeably higher in the rear than in the front. A single corbelled brick chimney rises from the ridge, to the left (northwest) of center.

Centered in the front plane of the roof is a large balconied dormer, which lights the upper story. This front-gabled dormer encloses three side-by-side openings: a central door flanked by two 6/1 double-hung-sash windows, over which is a shed-roof awning. The deeply overhanging eaves of the dormer are supported at apex and corners by decorative stick-style brackets. The balcony is inset into the plane of the roof, and is enclosed by a plain balustrade railing painted white.

This handsome bungalow stands on two adjoining long narrow lots which slope sharply downward to the rear (northeast). The rear of the lots is wooded.

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 1924 **Builder/Architect** Sears, Roebuck & Co. Plan

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 Prince Albert Washington House is a particularly handsome example of a side-gabled bungalow; it was probably built from the Westly model distributed by Sears, Roebuck and Company. This bungalow was built in 1924 in the subdivision called West Fairmount Heights, located on the boundary with the District of Columbia.

The Town of Fairmount Heights 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 for the Wilson, Godfrey, Belt and Lee families. They had approximately fifty acres surveyed 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.¹

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; some purchased mail order houses. The earliest dwellings were of frame construction, modest in size and form, and many of these have not survived.²

In 1911, West Fairmount Heights (also known as Bryn Mawr) was platted for subdivision by the heirs of John T. and Caroline A. Silence, on a 36-acre part of the Silence family farm. This was the fifth subdivision in the new community. It created 14 more blocks of building lots around the Silence family homestead, which fronted on the District of Columbia boundary line; it extended the Fairmount Heights community to its present northwest limits.³

In 1921, a man named Prince Albert Washington purchased two lots in West Fairmount Heights from Eugene Silence, one of the heirs of John and Caroline Silence and developers of that family's land. Washington had a frame bungalow built on these lots (21 and 22 of Block 12) in 1924, fronting on the District Boulevard (now Eastern Avenue). This side-gabled bungalow with inset porch and dormer balcony strongly resembles the "Westly" model available through Sears, Roebuck and Company during this period, and was probably built from Sears mail-order material. The house is still owned by descendants of Prince Albert Washington.⁴

¹ Prince George's County Plat JWB#5:652 (A-85), 1900; Prince George's County Deeds JB#1:787, JB#2:680, JB#4:218. JB#6:58; see also Prince George's County Tax Assessments, 1898-1908.

² Pearl, Susan G., Fairmount Heights, Maryland - A History: From its Beginnings (1900) to Incorporation (1935), M-NCPPC, 1991, passim

³ Prince George's County Plat #2-5.

⁴ Prince George's County Deed #175:5; Prince George's County Tax Assessments 1920-1926; Prince George's County Administration File #13031; Stevenson and Jandl, Houses by Mail, A Guide to Houses from Sears, Roebuck and Company: The Preservation Press, Washington, D.C., 1986, page 123.

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

Survey No. PG#72-9-43

Section 8 Page 3

The Prince Albert Washington Bungalow is today one of the handsomest dwellings in Fairmount Heights. It still embodies the distinctive characteristics of the craftsman bungalow form and is a noticeable landmark on the boundary between the District of Columbia and Fairmount Heights. It is probably the best preserved of the 1920s bungalows in the inner-Beltway area of Prince George's County, and is an outstanding example of the use of Sears-type dwellings in growing suburban communities.

THE WESTLY



This two-story bungalow is built on a concrete block foundation and is sided with narrow beveled clear cypress siding. All rooms on both floors are light and airy.

Details and features: Seven rooms and one bath. Shed dormer opening onto balcony; full-width front porch supported by brick and wood piers; exposed roof rafter tails and knee braces; front door with beveled plate glass. Colonnaded openings off hall; corner fireplace in dining room with oak mantel.

Years and catalog numbers: 1913 (206); 1916 (264P206); 1917 (C206, C2026); 1918 (2026); 1921 (2026, 3085); 1922 (12026, 13085); 1925 (13085); 1926 (P13085); 1928 (P13085); 1929 (P13085)

Price: \$926 to \$2,543

Locations: Washington, D.C.; Aurora, Ill.; Gary, Ind.; Milford, Iowa; Boston, Mass.; Ord, Neb.; Vine-land, N.J.; Fort Covington, N.Y.; Pittsburgh, Pa.; Sioux Falls, S.D.; McLean, Va.; Parkersburg, W.Va.; Kenosha, Wis.



No. 144



Similar to: No. 144

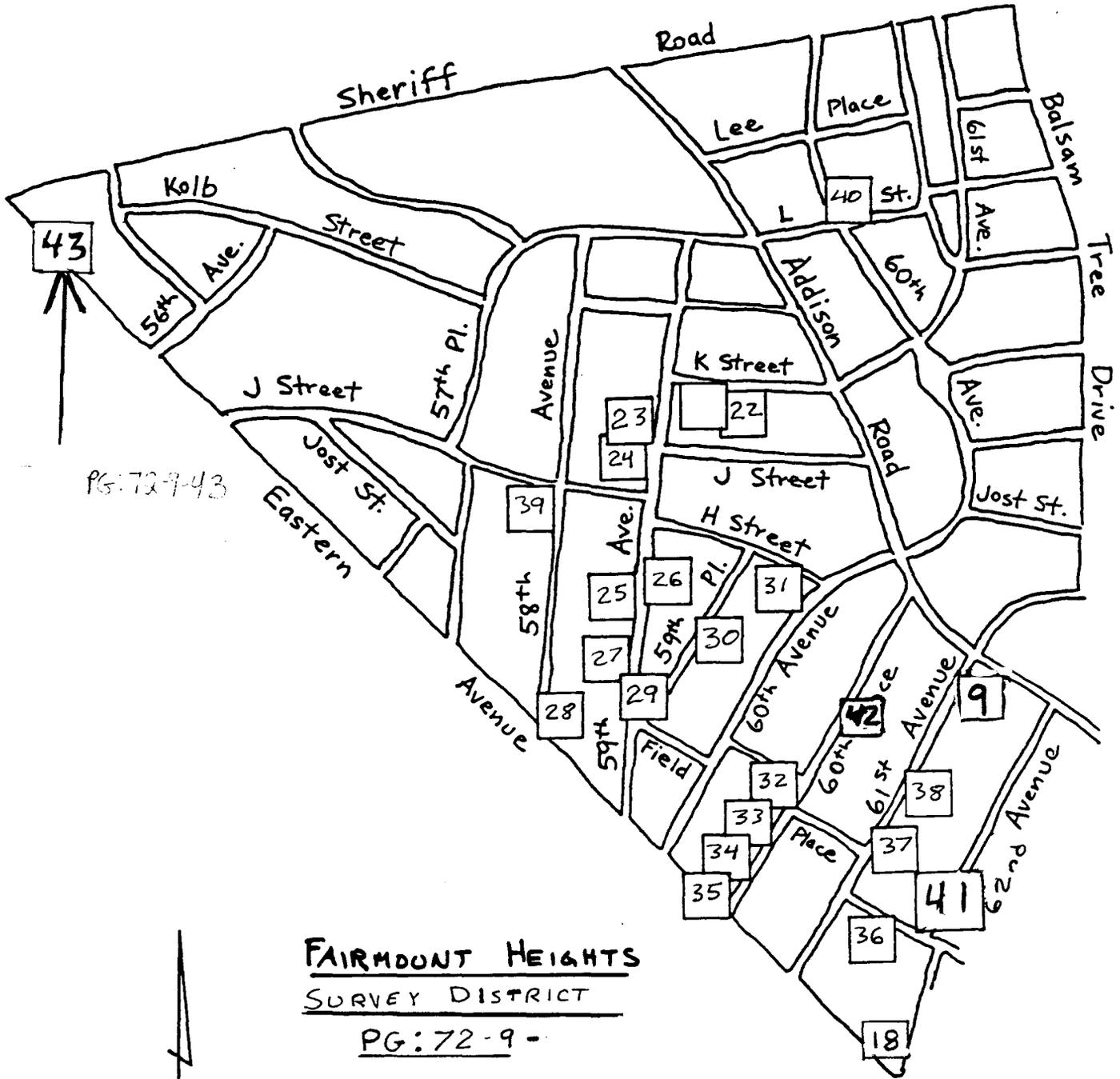
Differences: Dormer and porch design modifications

Years and catalog numbers: 1911 (144); 1912 (144); 1913 (144)

Price: \$829 to \$926

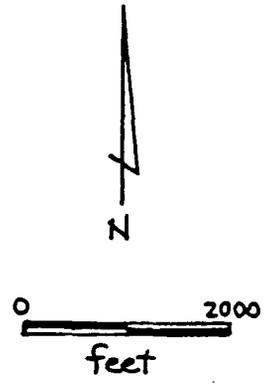


Town of Fairmount Heights



PG: 72-9-43

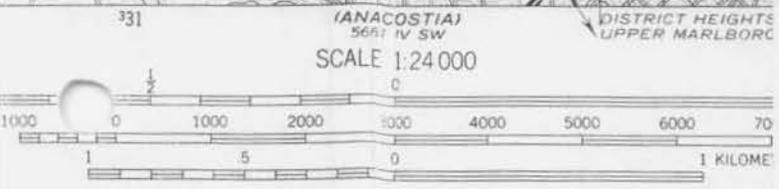
FAIRMOUNT HEIGHTS
SURVEY DISTRICT
PG: 72-9-





PG#72-9-43

PG#72-9-43
 Prince Albert Washington House
 Fairmount Heights
 Prince Georges County
 Washington East



CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
 NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929
 DEPTH CURVES AND SOUNDINGS IN FEET—DATUM IS MEAN LOW WATER
 SHORELINE SHOWN REPRESENTS THE APPROXIMATE LINE OF MEAN HIGH WATER.
 THE MEAN RANGE OF TIDE IS APPROXIMATELY 2.9 FEET





PG # 72-9-43

Prince Albert Westport Hs.
Prince George's Co MD
Susan H. Pearl

September 1992
MD SHPO

SW facade

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PG # 72-9-43

P.A. Washington House
Pence Hays Co. MD
Susan H. Pearl
September 1992
MD SHPO
View from west

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P.C. # 72-9-43

P. A. Washington House
Prince George's Co. MD

Susan H. Pearl

March 1993
MD SAPO

Vicinity from South

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