

ADDENDUM

William Sidney Pittman House
PG: 72-009-18
505 Eastern Avenue
Fairmount Heights, Prince George's County
Stacy Patterson
The Ottery Group, Inc.
March 10, 2009

Chain of Title

Block O, Lot 17, 18, 19, 20

Deed
7: 227
September 28, 1902

Robinson White and Minnie L. White to William Rutland (Lot 17)

Deed
28: 399
June 6, 1906

William T. Rutland to William Sidney Pittman (Lots 17, 18, 19, and 20)

Deed
108: 111
July 1, 1915

William Sidney Pittman and Portia W. Pittman to Ellen Adams (Lots 17, 18, 19, and 20)

Deed
4469: 553
November 30, 1972

Alice M. McPherson, Charles F. McPherson, Catherin E. Fullen, Novil C. Fullen, Oliver F. Upshur, Frank N. Upshur, Odessa V. Upshur to Bernard M. Upshur, Sr. and Maxine C. Upshur (The first undivided ½ interest of mother Ruth Adams Upshur, sister to Agnes Adams Brown and daughter of Ellen Adams) (Lots 17, 18, 19, and 20)

Deed
5525: 804
April 7, 1982

Lucille Miller, Personal Representative for the Estate of A. Agnese Browne (aka Agnese Adams Browne or aka Agnes A. Holmes- deceased, sister to Ruth Adams Upshur and daughter of Ellen Adams) to Bernard Upshur Sr. and Maxine C. Upshur (The second undivided ½ interest) (Lots 17, 18, 19, and 20)

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Section 7. DESCRIPTION

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

SUMMARY

The William Sidney Pittman House is located in the Town of Fairmount Heights on the north side of Eastern Avenue. It stands on high ground overlooking Eastern Avenue to the south, as well as the boundary between Fairmount Heights and the District of Columbia. The house was constructed in 1907 and is a 3 x 3 bay, two-and-one-half story dwelling with Colonial Revival features. The cross-gable roof has a steeply pitched side gable and a shallow front gable with overhanging eaves and asphalt shingles. Many original materials have been replaced, including windows, doors, and siding on the main house and many of the original porch materials. There are also several additions to the house.

DESCRIPTION

This house is located in the Town of Fairmount Heights on the north side of Eastern Avenue facing south. It stands on high ground overlooking Eastern Avenue, the boundary between Fairmount Heights and the District of Columbia. An unpaved driveway is located southeast from the dwelling. The front lawn is bounded by a stone retaining wall at street level; concrete steps with an iron railing lead from the street level up to the walkway and an entry porch. A high curb and concrete sidewalk are located on the southern boundary. The dwelling has a moderate, fifteen-foot setback. The land has a steep slope to the south. Several trees are located southeast of the dwelling. Small, dense plantings are along the foundation. A wood fence borders the northern boundary. There are no visible secondary resources.

The William Sidney Pittman House was constructed in 1907 and is a 3 x 3 bay, two-and-one-half story dwelling with Colonial Revival features. The cross-gable roof has a steeply pitched side gable and a shallow front gable with overhanging eaves and asphalt shingles. There is a brick header chimney with a corbelled cap on the roof's ridge and a brick chimney on the northeast addition. The addition's chimney is located on the roof's ridge and has a parged flue. The dwelling is wood frame with a raised concrete foundation and aluminum cladding that most likely obscures the original wood siding noted in a previous survey of the house. The asymmetrical fenestration consists of tall, single, two-over-two double-hung wood sash windows at the first story, and single one-over-one double-hung vinyl replacement sash windows at the second story, and a single four-pane square window in the attic gable peak. The casing on the windows is wood. An unglazed, paneled, modern wood door with thick wood casing and a transom is located in the first bay of the porch. The full length one-story wrap-around porch

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has a hipped roof with asphalt shingles, and vinyl replacement Doric support columns. Two sets of several concrete steps lead up to the porch. A modern metal railing is next to the first set of steps.

There is a 1 x 3 bay, one-story addition attached to the east of the house. It is clad like the house. The addition has a flat roof and two-over-two double-hung wood sash windows with wood sills. There is a second paneled and unglazed replacement door on the south elevation of this addition. A one-bay, two-story addition is attached to the northeast portion of the house. The addition has a shallow-pitched gable roof. The parged chimney on this addition is located on the roof ridge. A third 1 x 2 bay, one-story addition is attached to the northeast portion of the house. It is clad like the house and has a steeply pitched gable roof with asphalt shingles. The windows are two-over-two double-hung wood sash with wood sills.

The interior was not accessible in 2008 for an updated description. In 1992 the Interior Plan of the house consisted of a small entry/stairhall which led east into a side parlor; another parlor (library) was located behind the stairhall, and a dining room was behind the parlor. The closed-strong stair ran along the west wall of the narrow stairhall; it had a turned newel and turned balusters. There was a closet beneath the staircase, accessible from the (rear) library. Doors and windows had multi-band molding with bullseye corner blocks. Floors had been replaced by narrow board; there were high baseboards with crown molding. A handsome Classical Revival style mantel framed the fireplace in the dining room, set diagonally in the southwest corner. The firebox was framed by fluted pilasters surmounted by a course of spherical beads; decorative swags and flowers were centered in the plain wide frieze. The mantle had been removed from the parlor fireplace which backed up to the dining room fireplace. To the left (west) of the parlor fireplace was a door that originally led from the parlor to the library; this door had been closed.

The William Sidney Pittman House retains a moderate integrity for association, design, location, feeling and setting as it remains in its place atop the hill at the edge of Fairmount Heights. The house retains a low integrity for workmanship and materials as many original materials have been replaced, including windows, doors, and siding. The original porch materials have been replaced and there are also several additions to the house.

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Section 8. SIGNIFICANCE

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Pittman House is representative of the modest vernacular house forms of the early twentieth century. Although it has no outstanding features, and has been significantly altered by the application of aluminum siding and the replacement of the original porch, it is still a noticeable landmark on the boundary between Prince George's County and the District of Columbia. Its greatest significance is the fact that it was designed by and served as the home of one of the area's first and most prominent African-American architects, William Sidney Pittman.