

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY

HISTORIC SITE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey #: P.G.# 72-9-28 Building Date: 1930

Building Name: Louis Brown House

Location: 701 58th Avenue, Fairmount Heights, Md.

Private/Residence/Occupied/Excellent/Inaccessible

Description:

The Louis Brown House is a two-story asymmetrical crossgable frame dwelling of the English style; it has considerable variety in the lines of its gables, dormers and wraparound porch. The first story is covered with light brown brick, and the second story with light blue-green asbestos shingle. There is a one-story hip-roof porch which shelters the entrance into the asymmetrical principal west facade, and wraps around to shelter much of the north elevation as well. The porch is supported by pairs of tapered square wood posts on high bases of molded concrete block; the porch is further embellished with dentilled frieze and boxed cornice, all painted yellow. Windows are generally 3/1 double hung sash, with narrow vertical upper panes typical of a style popular in the 1920s and '30s. Secondary windows are single sash, with six narrow vertical panes. The building rests on a foundation of molded concrete block, which encloses a full basement.

Significance:

The Louis Brown House is a handsome English style dwelling, and a noticeable landmark on the boundary of the community. It was built circa 1930 on a lot in the Fairmount Heights subdivision.

The house stands in the location of an earlier dwelling of the same family. A house was built on this lot as early as 1905, after the two unimproved lots were purchased by Daniel Brown from developer Robinson White. It is not known what form the original house had, but it is likely that it was destroyed at the time of construction of the present structure. Tax assessment data indicate the construction of a new dwelling in the late 1920s. This new construction was undertaken by carpenter Louis Brown (son of Daniel Brown), who built several other dwellings in the community (e.g., the James Campbell House). Louis Brown resided in the subject house for the rest of his life. This handsome English-style dwelling incorporates distinctive decorative features popularly found in catalog houses of the period; it is a noticeable landmark in the town of Fairmount Heights.

Acreage: 6,250 square feet

Survey No. PG#72-9-28

Magi No.

DOE yes no

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Louis Brown House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 701 58th 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 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)

~~Darrell~~ Darrell Harrington

street & number 701 58th 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 7733

street & number 14735 Main Street folio 5

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

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 Louis Brown House stands at 701 58th (originally White) Avenue. It was built in 1930 on lots 31/32, Block D of the Fairmount Heights subdivision, which was platted in 1900.

This is a two-story asymmetrical crossgable frame dwelling of the English style; it has considerable variety in the lines of its gables, dormers and wraparound porch. The first story is covered with light brown bricktex, and the second story with light blue-green asbestos shingle. There is a one-story hip-roof porch which shelters the entrance into the asymmetrical principal west facade, and wraps around to shelter much of the north elevation as well. The porch is supported by pairs of tapered square wood posts on high bases of molded concrete block; the porch is further embellished with dentilled frieze and boxed cornice, all painted yellow. Windows are generally 3/1 double hung sash, with narrow vertical upper panes typical of a style popular in the 1920s and '30s. Secondary windows are single sash, with six narrow vertical panes. The building rests on a foundation of molded concrete block, which encloses a full 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"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
			<input type="checkbox"/> science
			<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
			<input type="checkbox"/> social/humanitarian
			<input type="checkbox"/> theater
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates ca. 1930 Builder/Architect Louis Brown

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 Louis Brown House is a handsome English style dwelling, and a noticeable landmark on the boundary of the community. It was built circa 1930 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

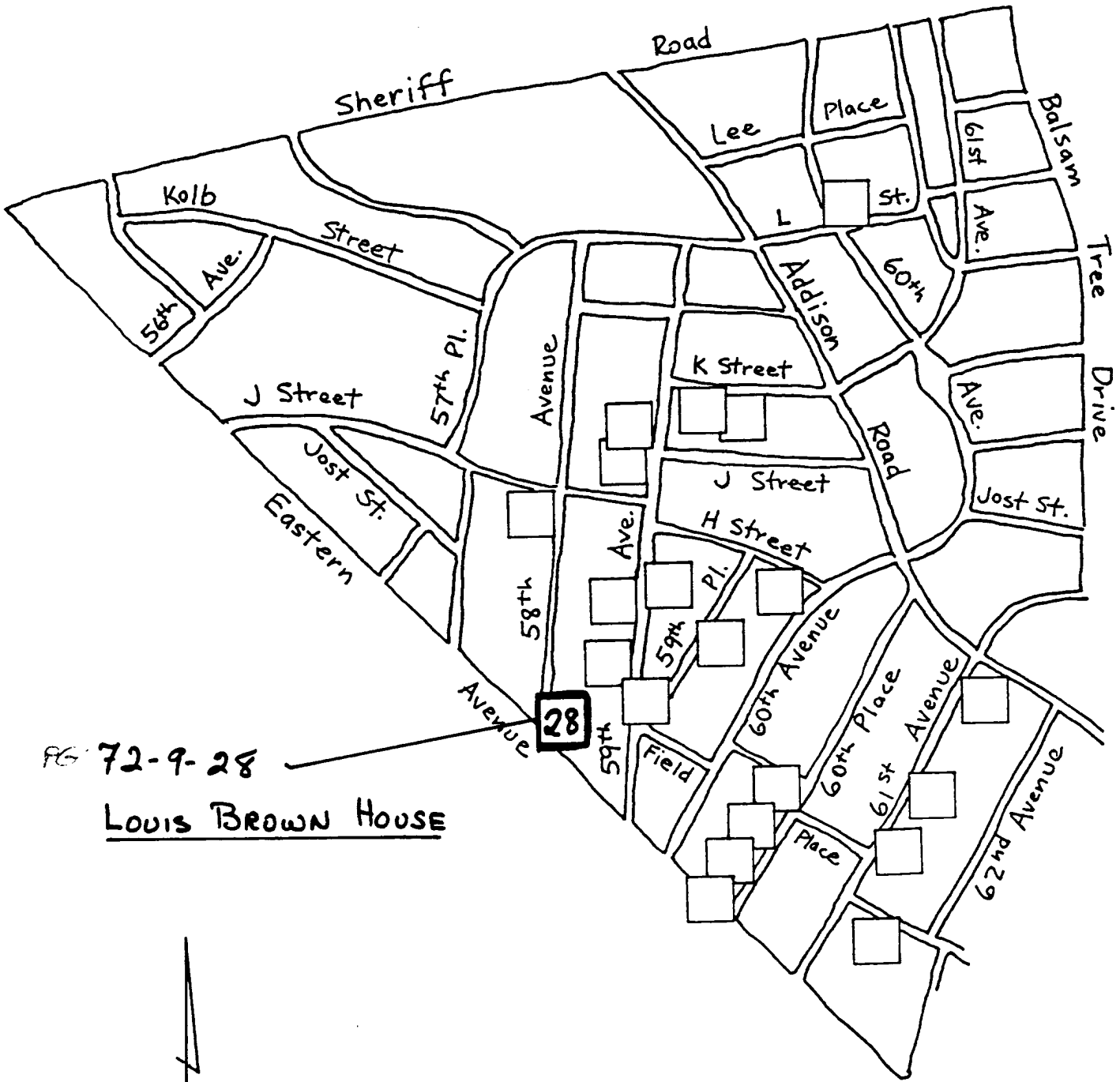
County Surveyor Edward L. Latimer, and laid out in lots and streets radiating from the northeast boundary of the District of Columbia. The deep, narrow lots were generally 25 by 125 feet; two of the streets were named for these first two developers. Sale of lots began almost immediately, and within a 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 Louis Brown House stands in the location of an earlier dwelling of the same family. A house was built on this lot as early as 1905, after the two unimproved lots were purchased by Daniel Brown from developer Robinson White. It is not known what form the original house had, but it is likely that it was destroyed at the time of construction of the present structure. Tax assessment data indicate the construction of a new dwelling in the late 1920s. This new construction was undertaken by carpenter Louis Brown (son of Daniel Brown), who built several other dwellings in the community (e.g., the James Campbell House). Louis Brown resided in the subject house for the rest of his life. This handsome English-style dwelling incorporates distinctive decorative features popularly found in catalog houses of the period; it is a noticeable landmark in the town of Fairmount Heights.

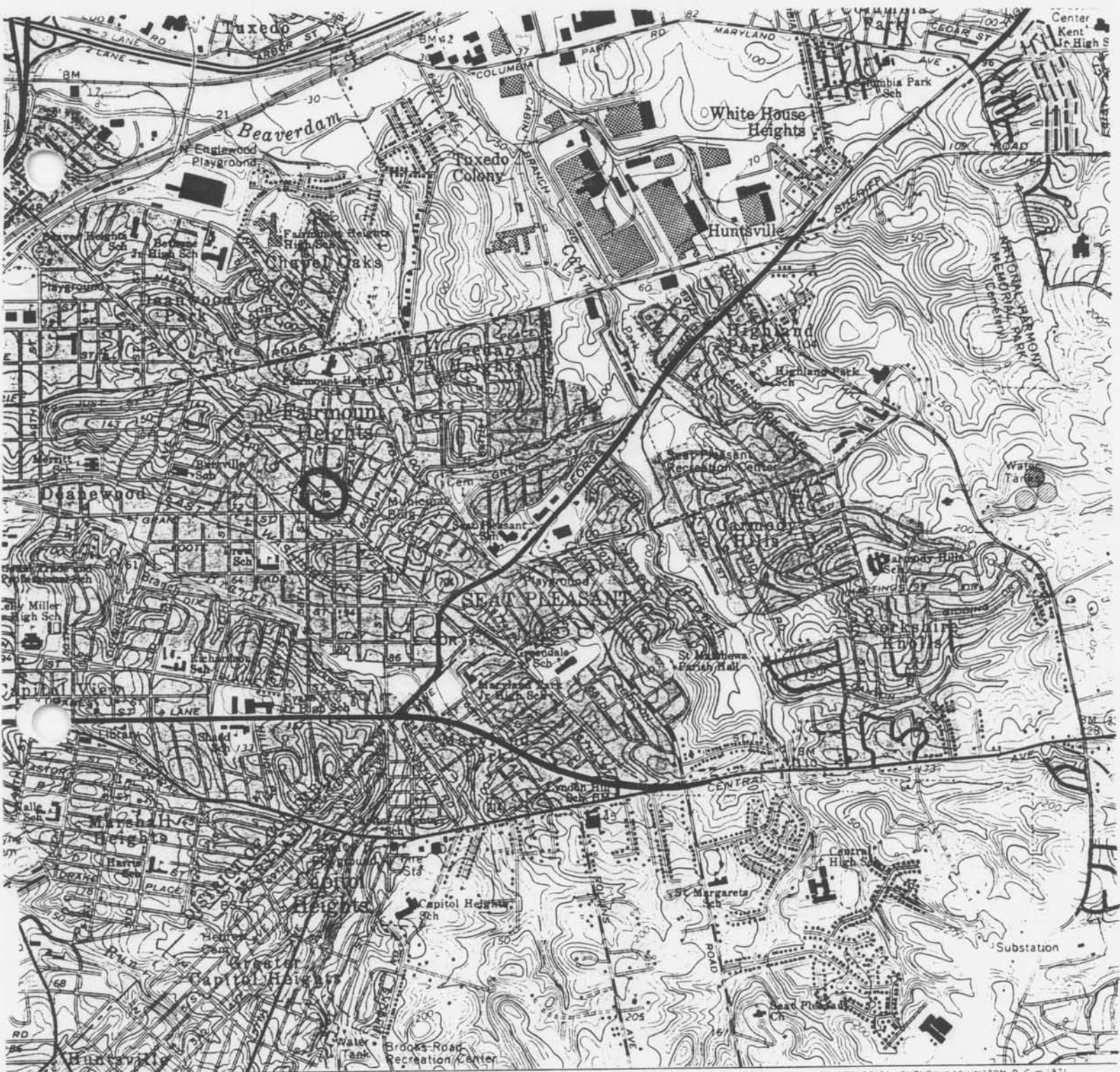
Town of Fairmount Heights



FG 72-9-28

LOUIS BROWN HOUSE



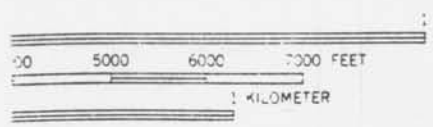


DISTRICT HEIGHTS 2.3 MI.
UPPER MARLBORO 11 MI.

55' 334

335000m E.

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



PG: 72-9-28
72-9-28

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

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

1 FEET
ELEVATION IS MEAN LOW WATER
LINE OF MEAN HIGH WATER



WASHINGTON EAST, MD.—D. C.
N3852.5—W7652.5/7.5

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

1965
PHOTOREVISED 1971
AMS 5661 IV NW—SERIES V833



Pl. # 72-9-28

Louis Brown House

701 58th Ave., Summit Heights
(FH D: 31-32)

Prince Georges Co. MD.

Susan H. Pearl

March 1991

West facade

ref: 11HT