

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

NATIONAL  
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Upper Fairmount  
other names/site number UPPER FAIRMOUNT HISTORIC DISTRICT (preferred) S-164

2. Location

street & number State Route 361 N/A  not for publication  
city, town Upper Fairmount N/A  vicinity  
state Maryland code MD county Somerset code 039 zip code 21867

3. Classification

<b>Ownership of Property</b>	<b>Category of Property</b>	<b>Number of Resources within Property</b>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<b>Contributing</b>	<b>Noncontributing</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<u>20</u>	<u>12</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>9</u>	<u>      </u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u> objects
		<u>29</u>	<u>12</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.  
Signature of certifying official [Signature] STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER Date 7/30/93  
State or Federal agency and bureau \_\_\_\_\_

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.  
Signature of commenting or other official \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau \_\_\_\_\_

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:  
 entered in the National Register. Patrick Andrews 9/13/93  
 See continuation sheet.  
 determined eligible for the National Register.  See continuation sheet.  
 determined not eligible for the National Register.  
 removed from the National Register.  
 other, (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

**6. Function or Use**

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Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwellingRELIGION/religious facilitiesFUNERARY/cemetery

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwellingRELIGION/religious facilitiesFUNERARY/cemetery**7. Description**

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

FEDERALGREEK REVIVALLATE VICTORIAN

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICK, STONEwalls WOODMETALroof ASPHALTother WOOD

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

DESCRIPTION SUMMARY:

Upper Fairmount is a rural village situated on both sides of State Route 361 which runs east/west down the spine of the Fairmount peninsula, historically known as Potato Neck. The Annemessex River, the Manokin River and its tributary Back Creek, and Tangier Sound are the major bodies of water that surround this flat, low-lying peninsula of Somerset County. The village is essentially landlocked, rural in character, and surrounded by farm fields and woods. Most of the houses that comprise the Upper Fairmount historic district are oriented to State Route 361, also known as Fairmount Road, which curves in a gentle arc as it passes through the village. Surrounding most houses are generous lots with mature shade trees and, in a few cases, period outbuildings accompany the dwellings. In addition to approximately twenty houses, the district contains two churches and one old store building. A cemetery for the no-longer-extant St. Stephens Episcopal Church is located at the east end of the village. Remaining in the center of Upper Fairmount is a remnant of the initial Methodist church cemetery, which was relocated when a new church was built at the west end of the village in 1870-73. Several small family burial plots are located in various parts of the village as well, such as at the Dr. J.E. Tull House.

**8. Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally  statewide  locally

Applicable National Register Criteria  A  B  C  D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)  A  B  C  D  E  F  G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

COMMERCE

Period of Significance

c.1825-1940

Significant Dates

c.1825

1940

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY:

The Upper Fairmount Historic District stands out as the best preserved of the rural villages that developed in various sections of Somerset County during the nineteenth century as small commercial centers supplying goods for the surrounding area. With many of its essential historic features still intact, the village retains a cohesive nature that has been lost in other places. The Upper Fairmount district is comprised mostly of mid-to-late nineteenth century two-story dwellings along with two churches and a late nineteenth century store building. Several houses are joined by period outbuildings. Improved house lots, dotted with mature shade trees, are interspersed between small fields and garden plots. All buildings are of frame construction and most followed popular second half of the nineteenth century styles imposed on vernacular floor plans. The influence of the Italianate and Gothic Revival are evident in the most expensively erected dwellings and two churches. Other less elaborate houses, built after vernacular forms as well, are more plain in their exterior and interior finishes. Like materials used in the construction of village dwellings link several structures to the same building traditions, and perhaps the same craftsman, although documented builders for specific houses have not surfaced during the research for this nomination. The range of nineteenth century houses reflects the middle to upperclass status of the village residents who built them. The period of significance spans the years from around 1825 to 1940, during which the village developed into a prominent location of commerce and trade centered on the Fairmount peninsula.

See continuation sheet No. 13

See Continuation Sheet No. 20

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet No. 20

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository:

Somerset County Historical Trust  
Princess Anne, Maryland 21853

10. Geographical Data

Acres of property Approximately 80 acres  
USGS Quad: Marion, Maryland Quad

UTM References

A	1 8	4 3 0 2 7 0	4 2 1 7 9 9 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing
C	1 8	4 2 9 5 2 0	4 2 1 7 4 5 0

B	1 8	4 3 0 2 6 0	4 2 1 7 6 8 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing
D	1 8	4 2 9 4 6 0	4 2 1 8 0 0 0

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

See continuation sheet No. 21

Boundary Justification

See continuation sheet No. 21

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Paul B. Touart, Architectural Historian  
organization Private Consultant date 12/1/92  
street & number P.O. Box 5 telephone (410)651-1094  
city or town Westover state Maryland zip code 21871

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GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

NOTE: Numbers enclosed with parenthesis are Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties numbers.

Upper Fairmount is a rural village situated on both sides of State Route 361, which runs east/west down the spine of the Fairmount peninsula, historically known as Potato Neck. The Annemessex River, the Manokin River and its tributary Back Creek, and Tangier Sound are the major bodies of water that surround this flat, low-lying peninsula of Somerset County. The village is essentially landlocked, rural in character, and surrounded by farm fields and woods. Hall's Creek, a tributary of the Annemessex River, is located to the south of the village, and on the north side Fishing Island is situated along the Manokin River. The district covers roughly 95 acres.

Most of the houses that comprise the Upper Fairmount historic district are oriented to State Route 361, also known as Fairmount Road, which curves in a gentle arc as it passes through the village. Surrounding most houses are generous lots with mature shade trees and, in a few cases, period outbuildings accompany the dwellings. In addition to approximately twenty houses, the village district contains two churches and one old store building. A cemetery for the no-longer-extant St. Stephens Episcopal church is located at the east end of the village. Remaining in the center of Upper Fairmount is a remnant of the initial Methodist church cemetery, which was relocated when a new church was built at the west end of the village in 1870-73. Several small family burial plots are located in various parts of the village as well.

The oldest structure in the district is the Littleton Dorsey house (S-57), commonly known as the Cook residence. Set back from the main road, the Littleton Dorsey house is an early nineteenth century plantation dwelling reached by a farm lane that intersects Fairmount Road. While the Littleton Dorsey house stands outside the main village grouping, the dwelling is clearly within the purview of State Route 361 and adds to the visual character of the district. Two stories tall and two bays across, the side hall/double-pile frame dwelling, supported on a raised brick

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foundation, is distinguished by a large brick fire wall on the west gable end. Covered by a steeply pitched asphalt shingle roof, the main block is covered by beaded weatherboards and lighted by nine-over-six sash windows on the first floor and six-over-six sash windows on the second. Rising through the gable end is an interior end brick chimney stack of narrow proportions. The extended eaves and bold cornice blocks are a mid-nineteenth century alteration. The interior is fitted with well-executed Federal woodwork dating to around 1810. Attached to the east gable end is a two-story frame wing.

The oldest dwellings to remain standing within the village proper include the Robert H. Jones house (S-59) and the Hall house (S-58). Both structures date to around 1825, and were modified during the mid-to-late nineteenth century. The Robert H. Jones house is one of the largest and most architecturally distinctive dwellings in the village with its blockish proportions, bracketed eave, and corbelled cap chimneys.

Three bays across by two bays deep, the center hall frame dwelling has an early nineteenth century core that features Federal woodwork. Supported on a low brick foundation, the house is sheathed with plain weatherboards, and is covered with a medium pitched asphalt shingle roof. Attached to the back of the main block is a two-story service wing. The front door, sheltered by a gable-roofed portico, is highlighted by an exuberant late nineteenth century surround featuring etched glass sidelights and transom. Lighting the first and second floors are six-over-six sash windows. The two-story service wing includes a two-story porch on the west side. Standing to the east of the house are two outbuildings, a weatherboard frame smokehouse and an octagonal lattice gazebo.

The Hall house, the other second quarter of the nineteenth century dwelling in the village, stands on the north side of Fairmount Road near the west end of the district. Facing south, the two-story, side hall/parlor frame dwelling is supported on a low brick foundation, and is covered by a medium pitched asphalt shingle roof. A boxed cornice trims the base of the roof and the gable ends are flush. The exterior is clad with asbestos shingles. The west gable end is distinguished by an exposed brick fire wall

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of three-course common bond. Extending eastward from the main block is a two-story mid-to-late nineteenth century addition and, to the rear, a single-story kitchen wing. Sheltering the front entrance is a three-bay, shed-roofed porch supported by turned posts. The house is lighted by six-over-six sash windows. A mixture of late Federal and Greek Revival woodwork finishes the interior. A small family burial plot is located directly west of the house.

The largest share of dwellings that define the village district dates from the second half of the nineteenth century when Upper Fairmount reached its peak in population and economic activity. Dating to around 1860 is the H.C. Tull house (S-165), which stands in the center of the village on the south side of Fairmount Road. Facing north, the two-story, three-bay frame structure is unusual in the village because of its raised brick foundation, hip roof, and rear wall placement of the chimney stacks. The north (main) elevation is a symmetrical three-bay facade with a center entrance sheltered by a flat-roofed portico featuring a cross-stick balustrade. Six-over-six sash windows, flanked by louvered shutters, light the first and second floors. The raised basement is marked by cellar windows fitted with horizontal wooden grills. The low pitched hip roof is trimmed with widely spaced modillion blocks. Standing west of the house is a pyramidal roofed dairy covered with weatherboard siding and trimmed with corner pilasters.

Close in date to the H.C. Tull house is the Dr. J.E. Tull house (S-150), which stands at the west end of the village and serves as a visual anchor for the district. The prominent three-story, three-bay frame house stands out in the Fairmount area as one the best preserved Italianate-inspired dwellings. With its three-story elevations, low pitched hip roof, corner pilasters, bracketed eaves, and rear service wing, the center hall/single-pile dwelling represents the highest level of mid-nineteenth century domestic architecture in the village. Supported by a low brick foundation and covered with a low pitched hip roof, the house is sheathed with plain weatherboards and trimmed at the corners with paneled pilasters. Heavy brackets embellish the eave of the hip roof. Centered on the north (main) facade is a boldly molded double-leaf door flanked by three-light sidelights and topped by a

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six-light transom. Located to each side are paired four-over-four sash windows. The second floor is lighted by two pairs of four-over-four sash windows to either side of a center six-over-six sash window. The center sash is flanked by narrow sidelights. The third floor is pierced by paired two-pane windows, and the center window has narrow sidelights as well.

Lighting the house on each end are paired four-over-four sash windows on the first and second floors, and the third floor has the same small windows. Stretching to the back of the house is a service wing with shed additions to each side.

The interior is fitted with third-quarter of the nineteenth century woodwork. The stair is comprised of a heavily turned newel post and turned balusters that support an oval-profile handrail which continues in an uninterrupted line to the third floor. Mantels, baseboards, and doors follow standard mid-to-late nineteenth century forms.

Located in the backyard are several outbuildings including a pyramidal roofed frame dairy, a combination workshop/privy, a corn crib, and a wagon house. The dairy is a weatherboard frame structure trimmed with paneled corner pilasters like the house. The northeast wall contains the entrance, while the remaining walls have four-pane windows. The interior is plastered. Exposed sections of sawn lath reveal the mature cut nails used to fasten the lath to the studs. The shelves have been removed, but a few bracket supports survive.

Standing behind the service wing is a long narrow frame outbuilding with a combined purpose as a workshop and privy. A simple wood shingled gable roof covers the rectangular, board-and-batten structure. A four-panel door and adjacent six-pane window serve the centrally positioned privy, while a board door to the left opens into the largest room, apparently used as a shop. To the right of the privy is a smaller room presently used for storage. The rear wall of this structure contains a clean-out section fixed under the privy seats.

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The corn crib is a rectangular mortise-and-tenon frame structure supported by brick piers. A wood shingled roof covers the rectangular crib which is sheathed with narrowly spaced vertical boards. Standing west of the corn crib is a single-story board-and-batten garage or wagon house, covered by a medium pitched gable-front roof of asphalt shingles. A large door opening with a sliding board door pierces the front wall. Located in the yard to the east of the house is a prominent tombstone marking the grave of Dr. J.E. Tull, who died on 30 October 1873.

Several houses in Upper Fairmount follow less elaborate architectural forms common to the Eastern Shore during the third quarter of the nineteenth century. The Pearson house (S-166) is a two-story, three-bay, cross-gabled frame dwelling that stands on the south side of Fairmount Road, although the cross-gabled elevation is oriented to face the side entrance lane. The elevation that faces the main road includes the gable end of the main block in addition to the side elevation of the two-bay east wing. The entire first floor is sheltered by a chamfered post front porch featuring small cross gables at the entrances. Supported by a continuous brick foundation, the frame dwelling is sheathed with plain weatherboards and the ell-shaped house is covered by a steeply pitched asphalt shingle roof. Paneled pilasters rise on each corner of the house under extended eaves. Rising through the center of the house are narrow brick chimney stacks finished with corbelled caps. Piercing the first and second floors are two-over-two sash windows flanked by louvered shutters, and small round headed windows pierce the upper gable ends.

One of the most prominent cross-gabled dwellings in the district stands in the center of the village and is known as the Windsor house (S-154), which dates to around 1880. A low brick foundation supports the center hall frame house, which is covered by a steeply pitched cross-gable, asphalt-shingle roof. Narrow brick stove stack chimneys protrude through the roof. Extending to the rear is a two-story, two-room plan kitchen wing. The exterior is clad with German siding.

The south (main) elevation is a symmetrical facade marked by a center double-leaf door and flanking two-over-two sash windows. The first floor is sheltered by a wrap-around porch supported by

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Tuscan columns. Shallow cross gables are centered on the south and east elevations of the porch. The second floor is marked by a symmetrical placement of two-over-two window sash, with a paired set located in the center bay. All of the windows are framed by louvered shutters. Piercing the cross gable is a small two-pane window featuring a segmental arched header and slightly arched louvered shutters.

The two-story rear service wing forms a T-shaped plan with a two-story shed roofed porch on the east side. The porch has been partially enclosed, but the square columns with sawn brackets still support the shed roof. A center brick stove stack chimney protrudes through the roof of the service wing.

Smaller, more modest late nineteenth century dwellings include the Catlin house, also located on the north side of Fairmount Road. Dating to around 1880, the two-story, three-bay house is sheathed with plain weatherboards, and is covered by a steeply pitched asphalt shingle roof. Narrow brick stove stack chimneys protrude through the roof to each side of the center stair hall. Attached to the back of the house is a story-and-a-half kitchen wing that dates to the middle years of the nineteenth century.

In addition to the two-dozen houses that define the village, there are two churches, the Upper Fairmount M.E. Church (S-152), and the Centennial M.E. Church (S-153). Standing prominently at the west end of the district, the Upper Fairmount M.E. Church is an elaborate example of Gothic Revival architecture. Built in 1870-73, the buttressed frame structure rests on a low granite foundation, and is covered by a steeply pitched asphalt shingle roof. The first floor of the church, between buttresses, is covered with horizontal weatherboards, while the second floor is sheathed with board-and-batten siding. The perimeter of the roof is trimmed with brackets. Rising on the northwest corner of the church is a three-story bell tower that has been reduced in height due to damage by lightning.

The north (main) elevation of the church has a center buttressed and gable entrance bay which projects from the main wall of the church. The steeply pitched gable roof projection has a bracketed eave which covers a Gothic arched door opening. A pair

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of paneled doors is topped by a colored glass transom. Flanking the entrance are small lancet windows. The upper level of the church has a large tripartite colored-glass window in the center with flanking colored glass lancet windows. The windows are set within a field of board-and-batten siding.

The three-story bell tower rises on the northwest corner and contains a separate entrance. Like the main body of the church, the tower has a buttressed first floor with weatherboard siding. The tower contains an individual Gothic-arched, double-door entrance. The second floor of the tower is sheathed with board-and-batten siding and the walls are pierced by small lancet windows with additional round windows above, all filled with colored glass. Stretching around the mid-level of the tower is a molded cornice with a dentiled bed molding. The third floor is marked by paired and louvered lancet-shaped vents, and the corners are trimmed with pilasters. The capped broach spire rises atop the third story, and the tower sides feature small gabled dormers filled with lancet-shaped openings. An octagonal cap replaces the original spire.

The east and west sides of the church are divided into five evenly spaced bays. Each first floor bay is flanked by buttresses. An entrance with a gabled hood occupies the north bay, while the other bays are filled with paired lancet windows. The upper level is pierced by five colored glass lancet windows.

The south gable end is a relatively plain wall repeating the combination of a weatherboarded first floor and board-and-batten second floor. A two-story apse, covered by a hip roof, is centered on the rear wall and lancet windows pierce each side.

The interior is divided into two levels with a small sanctuary or meeting room and Sunday school rooms on the first floor. The main sanctuary is located on the upper level. The principal stair is located in the northeastern corner of the front vestibule, and a heavily turned newel post is joined with turned balusters to support the molded handrail. The stringer is finished with a scrolled decoration. The first floor sanctuary has two fluted iron columns and a pressed metal ceiling.

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The second floor walls and ceiling, on the other hand, are fully sheathed with pressed metal sheeting. Portions of the wall are differentiated by various patterns. A molded chair rail separates a small check pattern below from a larger square design above. The cornice and ceiling have a different treatment as well. The sanctuary contains Gothic inspired pews, altar rail, and altar furniture.

The tower has been partitioned off from regular use. An open stair with turned newel post and balusters rises to the second floor and from there the stairway is enclosed to the bell room. Joining the church on the property is a single-story concrete block congregational hall.

Situated on a lot along Hall's Creek Road, south of the Upper Fairmount M.E. Church, is the African American Methodist church known as Centennial M.E. Church, erected in 1884 and remodeled in 1910. The large two-story, gable-front frame church, sheathed with plain weatherboard siding, is covered by a steeply pitched asphalt shingle roof. Three bays across by four bays deep, the church is an anomaly for rural black congregations due to its large size. A three-story bell entrance and bell tower rise on the northwest corner.

The north (main) facade of the church is three bays across with a center double-door entrance and flanking two-over-two sash windows. Each opening on the first and second floors is topped by a molded pediment. A round opening in the attic has been boarded over. Small cornice brackets are fitted with the eave. The bell tower has a double leaf door with a molded pediment on the first floor, a round opening on the second floor, and a diamond-shaped opening on the third floor. A small balustrade fills the lower corner of each diamond-shaped opening. The tower is capped by a low pitched pyramidal roof.

The east and west sides are four bays across with pedimented two-over-two sash windows on the first floor. Long two-over-two sash windows mark the second floor sanctuary. Widely spaced brackets embellish the cornice. Fixed in the southeast corner of the east side is a door opening topped with a pediment and filled with a four-panel door.

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The south (rear) wall is marked by a two-story gable-roofed apse with narrow windows also topped by pediments. Rising through the center of the church is a narrow brick stove chimney.

Also dating to the late nineteenth century is Ford's store (S-155), a central fixture in Upper Fairmount. Standing near the intersection of Fairmount and Fishing Island roads, the two-story, gable-front store building is supported by a minimal brick foundation, and the structure is sheathed with wood shingles. The steeply pitched roof is covered with sheet tine, and a small stove chimney protrudes through the roof.

The south (main) facade is two bays across with a recessed commercial entrance flanked by large display windows. A shed-roofed porch shelters the first floor entrance and display windows. Attached to the west side is a shed roofed addition that formerly housed a millinery and shoe shop. The second floor of the store is marked by a pair of two-over-two sash windows, while the attic is pierced by a six-over-six sash window.

The west side of the main block has the single-story shed-roofed addition, while the second floor is pierced by four evenly spaced two-over-two sash windows. The north gable end of the store is marked by a center entrance and flanking replacement windows. Large two-over-two sash windows pierce the second floor.

The interior retains nineteenth century counters and shelving in the large front room. The back room retains some shelving as well, and an interior stair has been built to provide internal access to the second floor. Upstairs there is a small stage faced with narrow beaded board in the north end. Two small rooms are positioned in the front of the upstairs room, and four-panel doors open into the individual spaces. A narrow brick stack rises through the center of the building and protrudes through the roof.

A relatively small number of principal buildings that stand in the district date to the first half of the twentieth century. One of the most prominent early twentieth century dwellings is the Upper Fairmount M.E. Church parsonage, which stands at the corner of Fairmount and Hall's Creek roads. The two-and-a-half story American four-square house dates to around 1930. Sheathed with

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vinyl siding, the squarish dwelling is covered by an asphalt shingle hip roof. Centered on the north (main) slope is a hip roofed dormer. The first floor is sheltered by a hip roofed porch, supported on large tapered piers that rest on brick plinths.

The houses that have been erected during the past fifty years include several single-story "ranch" style dwellings of brick and/or frame construction, in addition to modest story-and-a-half frame and brick houses. A few prefabricated mobile-type trailer homes have been moved into the village as well.

RESOURCE COUNT:

Each property was counted as one resource with the principal resource on the property used to determine resource type: building or site. No effort was made to include in the count various outbuildings dotted around the district. As an example, the Dr. J.E. Tull house on the west end of the district has a house and a family cemetery. For counting purposes, the resource was counted as one building as the house is the prominent feature of the complex with the cemetery secondary in nature.

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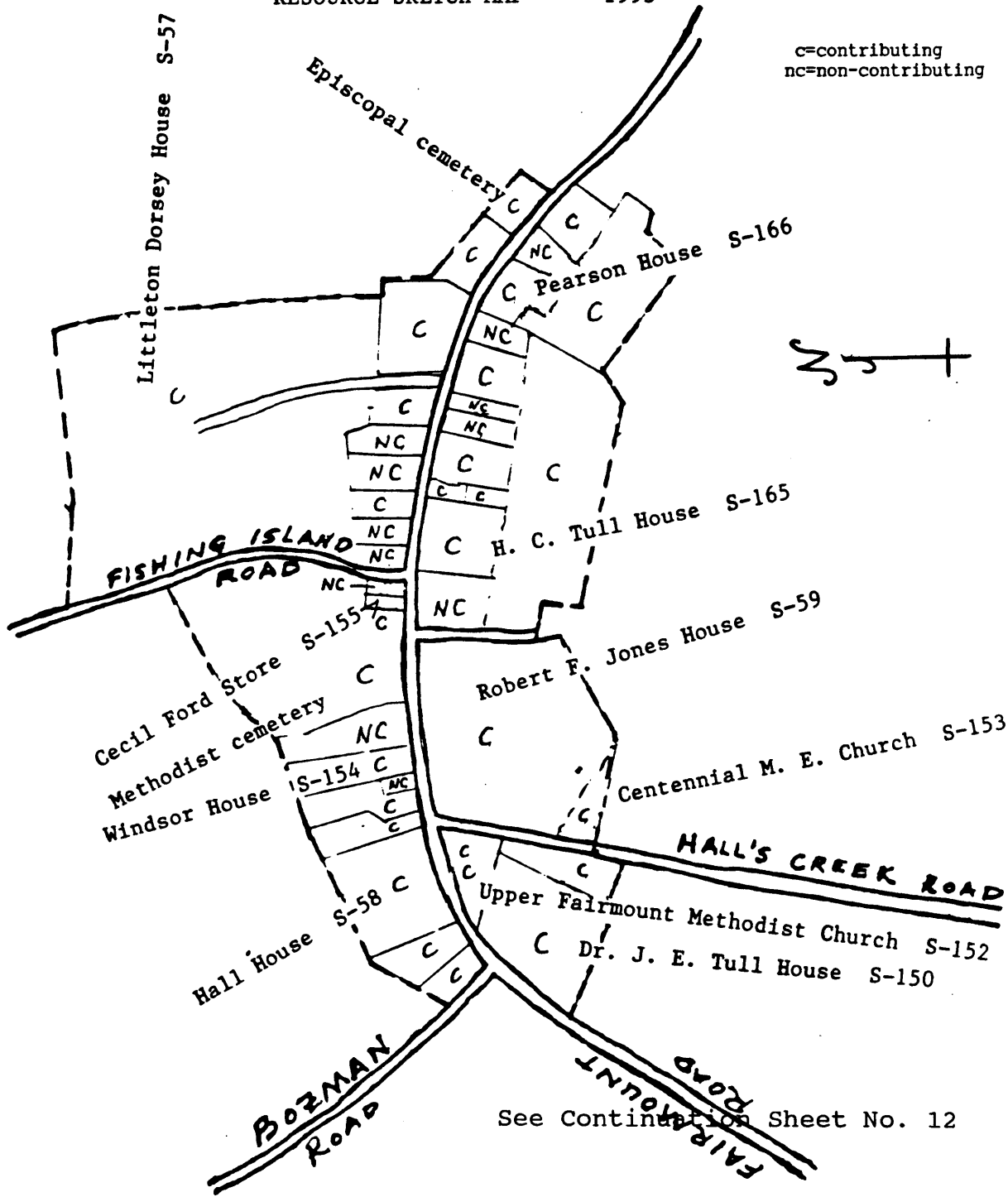
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RESOURCE SKETCH MAP 1993



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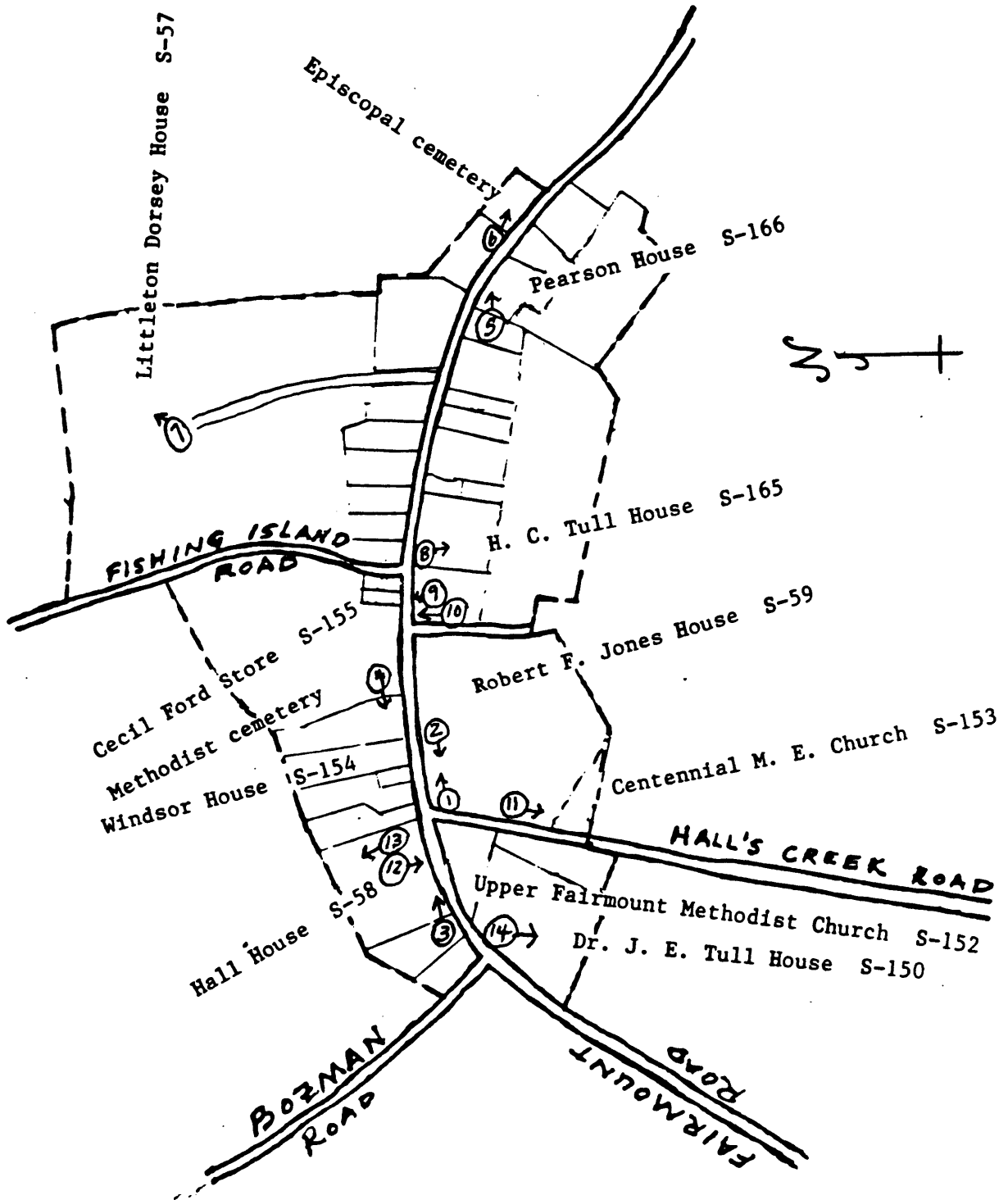
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PHOTOGRAPH MAP 1993





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HISTORIC CONTEXT:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Eastern Shore

Chronological/Developmental Period(s):

Industrial/Urban Dominance A.D. 1870-1930  
Modern Period A.D. 1930-Present

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme(s):

Architecture/Landscape Architecture/Community Planning  
Economic (Commercial and Industrial)

Resource Type:

Category: District

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function(s) and Use(s):

DOMESTIC/single dwelling  
RELIGION/religious facilities  
FUNERARY/cemetery

Known Design Source: None

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Section number 8 Page 14HISTORIC CONTEXT:

The Upper Fairmount Historic District stands out as the best preserved of the rural villages that developed in various sections of Somerset County during the nineteenth century as small commercial centers supplying goods for the surrounding area. With many of its essential historic features still intact, the village retains a cohesive nature that has been lost in other places. The Upper Fairmount district is comprised mostly of mid-to-late nineteenth century two-story dwellings along with two churches and a late nineteenth century store building. Several houses are joined by period outbuildings. Improved house lots, dotted with mature shade trees, are interspersed between small fields and garden plots. All buildings are of frame construction and most followed popular second half of the nineteenth century styles imposed on vernacular floor plans. The influence of the Italianate and Gothic Revival are evident in the most expensively erected dwellings and two churches. Other less elaborate houses, built after vernacular forms as well, are more plain in their exterior and interior finishes. Like materials used in the construction of village dwellings link several structures to the same building traditions, and perhaps the same craftsman, although documented builders for specific houses have not surfaced during the research for this nomination. The range of nineteenth century houses reflects the middle to upperclass status of the village residents who built them. Surrounding the group of approximately twenty village houses are widely dispersed rural dwellings that improve larger farm acreages. Along the south side of the village are medium to large-sized wooded lots that occupy the poorly drained non-tidal wetlands bordering Hall's Creek.

The period of significance spans the years from around 1825 to 1940, during which the village developed into a prominent location of commerce and trade centered on the Fairmount peninsula. The rural population was engaged principally in farming, canning produce and seafood, and shipbuilding, along with the attendant activities for these principal occupations. Upper Fairmount reached a peak in population and economic activity around 1900-1910. With the eventual disappearance of steamboat travel and the increased mobility of the village residents with the widespread sale and ownership of the automobile, the village slowly declined

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in importance after 1930. Due to a stagnated economic base during the mid-to-late twentieth century, the village has retained a nineteenth century character with few intrusions. Dating outside the period of significance are a handful of modern residences erected during the past forty years.

Central to the development of Upper Fairmount was the establishment of Maddox's Church at the turn of the road to Maddox's Warehouse. Dating to around 1825, the formation of this early Methodist congregation contributed to the overall development of Methodism as one of the principal religions in Somerset County. The construction of the Centennial M.E. Church represents the African American counterpart for this congregation.

Centrally located on the Fairmount peninsula, the village of Upper Fairmount emerged during the second half of the nineteenth century as one of the principal locations of commerce and trade in central Somerset County, serving the rural agrarian and watermens' communities of the region. The village developed along the principal east/west road where it intersects Fishing Island Road. The road occupies a narrow rise of high ground that spans much of the peninsula.

In place by the mid-eighteenth century, the east/west peninsular road was created initially to provide plantation owners access to Maddox's warehouse on the nearby Manokin River. Designated on Dennis Griffith's Map of Maryland, published in 1795, the road made a right-angle turn to the north in approximately the same spot where Fishing Island Road is located today. Plantation owners sent their hogsheads of tobacco or bushels of corn or wheat to this site on the south side of the river to await export. This important transshipment point is designated on the Griffith map as well, identified as "Maddox's W. H."

The buildings that marked the turn in the road to Maddox's warehouse at the turn of the nineteenth century are not known, but there may have been a dwelling or two, a store, or perhaps a blacksmith shop. Prominent plantations improved by impressive dwellings were located along the Manokin and Annessex rivers, the principal watercourses that form the north and south boundaries of the Fairmount peninsula. Due to the shallow and twisting nature of

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the Manokin River above its intersection with Back Creek, Maddox's warehouse served as a convenient destination for the transshipment of produce for much of central Somerset County.

The first indication of a specific building at the intersection of Fairmount and Fishing Island roads is found in the Somerset County land records. On 1 March 1824, Lazarus Maddox and Tubman Mitchell sold to the "Trustees of Maddox's Church" one-half acre for £5. Named in the deed were trustees Daniel Ballard, Robert E. Waters, John Hall, and William Maddox, all members of prominent families of what was then known as Potato Neck. Presumably, within a year or two, the trustees of the Methodist congregation financed the construction of a temple-front Greek Revival frame church that stood on the site until the 1870s when it was torn down. Although the initial church has disappeared, a couple of table markers and several upright tombstones remain at this location, beside the present Cecil Ford's store.

Limited information is available on the development of Upper Fairmount during the second and third quarters of the nineteenth century. The village of "Fairmount" appears on Martenet's atlas of Somerset County, published in 1866. In addition to the Methodist Episcopal church, a store and school are indicated at the crossroads along with Maddox's Landing and Fishing Island to the north. Fairmount Academy, located west of the village proper and outside the nominated district, developed into an important school for the entire region, and it was later absorbed into the Somerset County public school system. Known to stand around that time were several dwellings including the Littleton Dorsey farmhouse (S-57), the Hall house (S-58), The H.C. Tull house (S-165), and a portion of the Robert H. Jones house (S-59).

It is not exactly certain when the village of "Upper Fairmount" achieved its name, but it probably happened between the publication of the Martenet atlas in 1866 and the Lake, Griffing, and Stevenson Atlas eleven years later. "Upper Fairmount" was used to distinguish the main village from the small community of "Lower Fairmount," which developed to the southwest on a slightly lower parallel. Distinct African-American communities of "Upper Freetown" and "Lower Freetown" were positioned to the northeast and southwest of the main village as well. The naming of the black

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communities followed the same reasoning since Upper Freetown is located on a slightly higher parallel and Lower Freetown a lower one, in relation to Upper Fairmount. (See Lake, Griffing, and Stevenson Atlas, 1877.)

Published with the district map of "Fairmount" in the 1877 atlas is a small inset map of "Upper Fairmount P.O." By the time of the publication of the atlas in 1877, the Methodist congregation had relocated from their original Greek Revival building to a new Gothic structure erected in 1870-73 at the west edge of the village. As indicated on the town map, the old church was used in part as a "Town Hall," but the property itself had been sold in 1874 to Daniel W. Miles, Josiah Avery, and John T. Ford, business partners trading as "Miles, Avery, and Company." Their initial store building was located a short distance west of the church as indicated on the 1877 map. A few years later, however, a new, two-story frame store, now known as Cecil Ford's store (S-155), was erected next to the church and both buildings were used for commercial purposes.

"Miles, Avery, and Company" was a principal business that operated in the center of Upper Fairmount during the fourth quarter of the nineteenth century. In addition to a complete line of general merchandise, the firm also engaged in the packaging of fruit and vegetables for export. The earliest known firm to package, can, and export produce and/or seafood from the region was Hamblin, Baker & Co., which first appears in state business directories by 1871. Located at nearby Fishing Island, Hamblin, Baker & Co. financed the construction of a small village of buildings to capitalize on many business ventures under way at the time. Fruit and oyster packing houses at Fishing Island were sited near the Manokin River wharf along with a steam sawmill, a lime kiln, a blacksmith shop, and a granary. Also located along the river was a shipyard where John Branford, a Finnish immigrant, supervised the construction of some of the finest baycraft of the late nineteenth century. The commercial development of Fishing Island contributed to the growth and prosperity of the entire area.

Although a rail line was never built down the spine of the Fairmount peninsula, regular freight and passenger travel could be arranged at the Westover station, a few miles east of Upper

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Fairmount. Located nearer to town was Ford's wharf, where scheduled stops were made by bay steamboats. In a short description written for the 1891-92 Maryland Gazetteer and Business Directory, Upper Fairmount was described as follows:

This village is situated in Somerset County 14 miles southwest of Princess Anne c(ourt) h(ouse), the location of the nearest bank, and 6 miles from Westover, the nearest rail approach. Ship by water to Ford's wharf.

Included in the short profile of the area was the village population of 257 residents along with a list of Fairmount businesses operating at the time. Partially reflective of the local economy during the late nineteenth century, the list includes four general stores, a milliner, a confectioner, three oyster packers, four carpenters, two physicians, two saw mills, two flour mills, and one boat builder.

The prosperity experienced in the Upper Fairmount Historic District during the late nineteenth century spilled over into the early twentieth century with a gentle rise in population that occurred throughout Somerset County in general. Boatbuilding, canning produce and seafood, farming, crabbing, and oystering remained the main occupations of area residents. During the early years of the twentieth century, perhaps in an effort to appear more urban, the old Miles, Avery, & Co. store was renamed under later owners as the "Fairmount Department Store." The first floor of the store continued in use for the sale of general merchandise, and the large room upstairs was sometimes converted to a viewing room for early motion pictures.

After the stock market failure in 1929 and the attendant depression, commerce and prosperity was slowly drained from Upper Fairmount. Population growth in the region stagnated and declined during the following decades, as residents moved elsewhere for work. Regular schedules for the steamboats were discontinued by the early 1930s, and the automobile provided personal transportation for area residents to larger shopping districts in Princess Anne, Pocomoke City, and Salisbury. The "Fairmount Department Store," operated as a general grocery store by Cecil and Bertha Ford, continued as a local business until the late 1980s

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when they sold the property. The store has since been adapted into a manufacturing establishment by a local ceramicist, and one seafood business still operates within the district. In addition, fields surrounding the village continue to yield yearly crops of corn and/or soybeans. Today, Upper Fairmount exists largely as a residential community for a number of Somerset citizens who work in the region or who have opted for retirement in a quiet rural village.

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

The boundaries of the Upper Fairmount Historic District are delineated on the map found on Continuation Sheet No. 22. The boundaries consist of property and inner curb lines, with the exception of the southern border of parcels 124 and 133. This boundary is an arbitrary line drawn straight from a mete point of parcel 122 to a mete point of parcel 124 to the eastern boundary of parcel 132, which is not in the district. The lower sections of parcel 124 and 133 are not necessary for defining district boundaries.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION:

The boundaries are drawn to include the concentration of historic resources which make up the Upper Fairmount Historic District, and to exclude concentrations of non-contributing resources which surround them. Although part of the visual quality of the district, parcel numbers 119 and 449 on the east end are excluded because they do not contribute to the historic character of the district.

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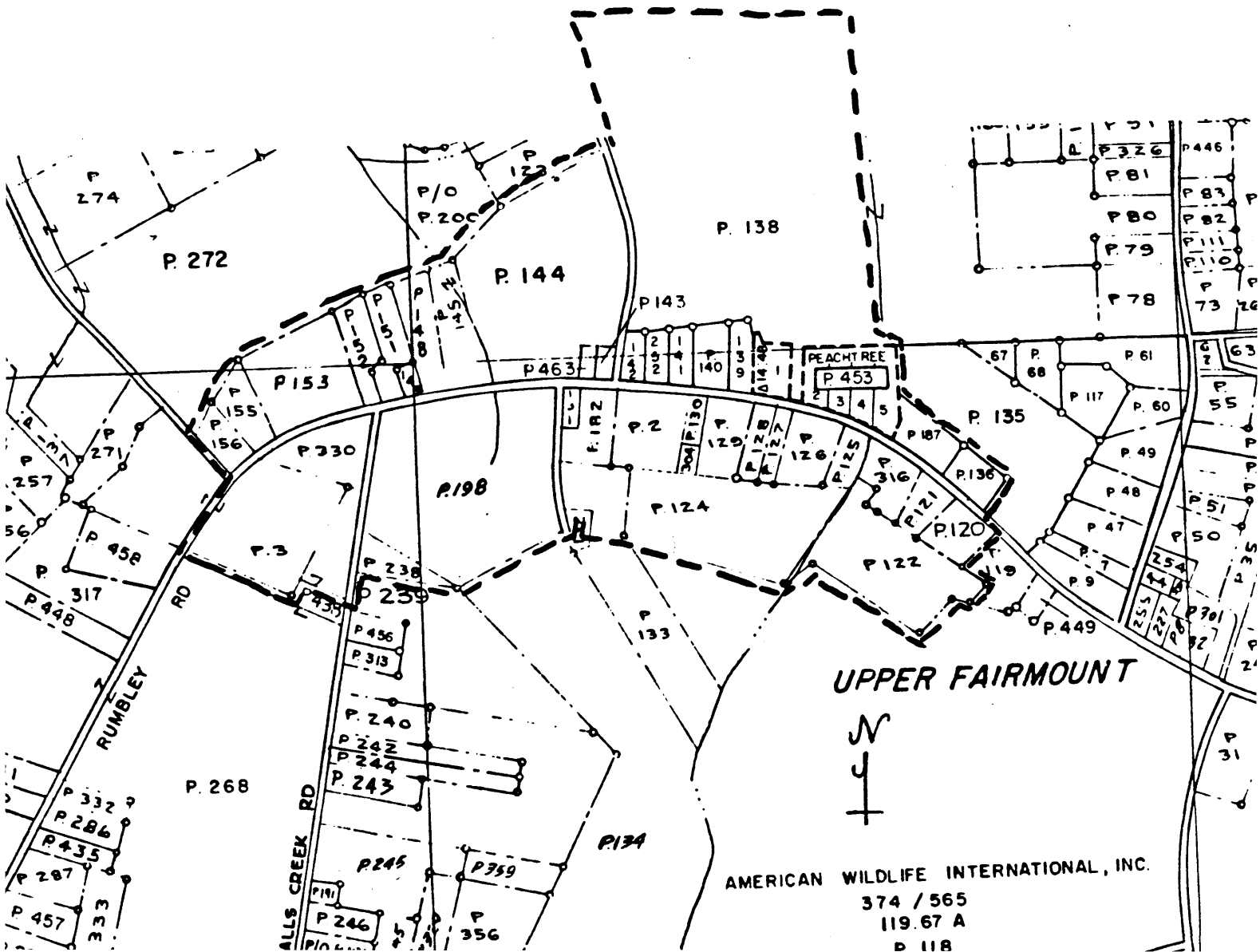
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BOUNDARIES 1993

map source: Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation:  
Somerset County Map 39



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PROPERTY OWNERS:

NOTE: City and State for all owners is Upper Fairmount, Maryland 21867, unless otherwise indicated.

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1. Chris Anderson<br>c/o George Anderson<br>27528 Fairmount Road<br>Parcel 145       | 10. Otis Clough<br>P.O. Box 317<br>Parcels 155, 156                          |
| 2. Atwood S. Barwick<br>P.O. Box 139<br>Parcel 152                                   | 11. Mr. & Mrs. Jackson Lee Cook<br>P.O. Box 136<br>Parcels 135, 142, 453     |
| 3. Charlene Bozman<br>27737 Fairmount Road<br>Westover, Maryland 21871<br>Parcel 119 | 12. Lewis T. & Beulah Dize<br>P.O. Box 244<br>Parcels 130, 304               |
| 4. Harold Bozman<br>P.O. Box 195<br>Parcels 124, 125, 127                            | 13. Mr. & Mrs. Cecil Ford<br>P.O. Box 105<br>Parcel 182                      |
| 5. Pauline Bozman<br>P.O. Box 107  | 14. Mr. & Mrs. Richard L. Ford<br>P.O. Box 221<br>Parcel 139                 |
| 6. Dorothy Catlin<br>P.O. Box 164<br>Parcel 252                                      | 15. Martin Holland<br>Parcel 128   |
| 7. Eula Catlin<br>P.O. Box 223<br>Parcel 141   | 16. Warren Holland<br>1323 Cape St. Claire Road<br>Annapolis, Maryland 21401 |
| 8. William & Bonita Catlin<br>Parcel 140   | 17. Michael B. Jacobs<br>P.O. Box 166<br>27510 Fairmount Road<br>Parcel 148  |
| 9. Centennial M.E. Church<br>Hall's Creek Road<br>Parcel 238                         | 18. James F. Koons<br>P.O. Box 215<br>Parcel 187                             |

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PROPERTY OWNERS: (Continued)

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|--|--|
| 19. Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Lattimore<br>Parcel 129  | 27. Mr. John Sandusky<br>P.O. Box 345<br>Parcel 150  |
| 20. Mr. & Mrs. Wm Milligan, Jr.<br>P.O. Box 106<br>Parcel 126  | 28. Mr. & Mrs. Paul Stevens<br>P.O. Box 227<br>Parcel 153  |
| 21. Daniel P. Muir<br>c/o James Rouse Inc.<br>P.O. Box 905<br>Columbia, Maryland 21044<br>Parcel 149 | 29. Ms. Patricia Snow Strauss<br>P.O. Box 185<br>Parcel 3  |
| 22. Christ M.E. Church<br>c/o Mr. & Mrs. Nevette Muir<br>P.O. Box 132<br>Parcel 330                  | 30. U.S. Postal Service<br>Fairmount Star Route<br>Parcel 449  |
| 23. John Orth & Dana Simson<br>P.O. Box 200<br>Parcel 463  | 31. Vestrymen of Coventry<br>Parish<br>c/o Charles Lankford<br>Route 1, Box 259A<br>Westover, Maryland 21871<br>Parcel 136 |
| 24. Samuel J. & Elizabeth Pearson<br>P.O. Box 92<br>Parcels 316, 122                                 | 32. Opal Warwick<br>P.O. Box 201<br>Parcel 121   |
| 25. Stephen L. & Cynthia Pratt<br>P.O. Box 342<br>Parcel 120   | 33. Mr. & Mrs. Karl H. Zickrick<br>P.O. Box 186<br>Parcel 198  |
| 26. Mr. & Mrs. August Reichert, Jr.<br>P.O. Box 157<br>Parcel 2                                      |  |