

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. PG: 72-009-48

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Dorsey-Bush House (preferred)

other Tyrone and Carolyn Bush House

2. Location

street and number 5603 Addison Road __ not for publication

city, town Fairmount Heights __ vicinity

county Prince George's

3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Tyrone and Carolyn Bush

street and number 5603 Addison Road telephone

city, town Fairmount Heights state MD zip code 20743-1660

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Prince George's County Courthouse liber 9251 folio 685

city, town Upper Marlboro tax map 66 tax parcel 1, 2, and 3 tax ID number 18 2020766

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- Contributing Resource in National Register District
- Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
- Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
- Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
- Recorded by HABS/HAER
- Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
- Other: _____

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function		Resource Count	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	_____	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> domestic	<input type="checkbox"/> social	_____	_____ structures
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	_____	_____ objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u> Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> unknown		
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use		
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> other:		
				Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory	
				<u>0</u>	

7. Description

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Condition

excellent deteriorated
 good ruins
 fair altered

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

The Dorsey-Bush House is located at 5603 Addison Road in Fairmount Heights. The dwelling is located on the southwest side of Addison Road and has a deep setback from the street and concrete sidewalk. The dwelling is sited on an eastward-sloping, grassy lot, which includes mature trees and shrubs, as well as foundation plantings. Large tree stumps are scattered around the front and rear yards. A paved driveway enters the property from Addison Road, east of the dwelling, and travels along the northwest (side) elevation of the dwelling before terminating in a small parking area at the rear of the property. A prefabricated shed is located in the northwest corner of the property.

DWELLING

Constructed c. 1905, this two story, two-bay single-family dwelling has a rectangular detached rowhouse form. The wood-frame structure is covered with stucco, that conceals the original German wood siding. Set on a solid stretcher-bond brick foundation, the dwelling is capped by a shed roof covered with asphalt shingles. The roof is finished with overhanging eaves, a boxed wood cornice, sawn wood brackets and a wide, fascia board on the façade (northeast elevation). A centered gable projects from the façade of the dwelling. An interior brick chimney rises from the interior of the dwelling and pierces the roof.

The southeastern bay of the façade contains a single-leaf, paneled wood door with lights and a square-edge wood surround. The northwestern bay contains a 1/1, vinyl-sash window with a vinyl-clad surround. A one-story, two-bay porch stretches across the façade and shelters the first story. The porch is set on a solid foundation of concrete blocks and has a flat roof supported by metal filigree posts. Square metal balusters complete the porch. The second story of the façade features two openings, each containing a 1/1, vinyl-sash window with vinyl-clad surrounds. The centered gable contains a diamond-shape, fixed wood window with a wood surround.

The first story of the northwest (side) elevation is pierced by one window opening in the southwestern bay. The opening contains a 1/1, vinyl-sash window with a wide, vinyl-clad surround. One opening containing a 2/2, wood-sash window with a square-edged wood surround also pierces the second story. Brick steps run parallel to the northwest elevation and descend to the single-leaf, metal door, which accesses the basement.

The southeast (side) elevation is fenestrated with 1/1, vinyl-sash windows with vinyl-clad surrounds. The central bay of the first story features a three-sided, canted bay window with a half-hip roof of asphalt shingles. The bay window is stuccoed and contains 1/1, vinyl-sash windows with vinyl-clad surrounds. The southwestern bay of the first story features an integrated porch supported by a square wood post. A single-leaf, paneled wood door with nine-lights and a one-light wood transom provides access to the interior of the dwelling. A 1/1, metal-sash window with a square-edge wood surround also pierces the bay.

The rear (southwest) elevation is fenestrated with 1/1, vinyl-sash windows with vinyl-clad surrounds.

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PREFAB SHED

This one-story, one-bay prefabricated shed is located west of the dwelling and is sited near the northwest boundary of the property. Constructed c. 1985, the wood-frame shed is clad with standing-seam metal and is capped by a gambrel roof, also of standing-seam metal. Double-leaf, metal doors pierce the façade (northeast) elevation.

INTEGRITY

The Dorsey-Bush House maintains a moderate level of integrity of design, workmanship, and materials as a result of the application of stucco, the replacement of the original windows, and the construction of a non-original porch on the façade. The building maintains a high level of integrity of feeling, location, setting, and association due to its association with the Fairmount Heights community.

The prefabricated shed is considered a non-contributing resource due to its recent construction date.

Overall, the Dorsey-Bush House maintains a moderate level of integrity.

8. Significance

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Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: <u>Local History</u>

Specific dates	c. 1905	Architect/Builder	Samuel Fowler
Construction dates	c. 1905		

Evaluation for:

National Register

Maryland Register

not evaluated

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 Dorsey-Bush House, a two-story frame house of detached rowhouse form, was constructed c. 1905 by Samuel Fowler at 5603 Addison Road in Fairmount Heights, Maryland. Fairmount Heights, an early-twentieth-century working-class suburb, was intended for African American residents who commuted daily to Washington, DC. The dwelling was constructed c. 1905 presumably by Samuel Fowler, a carpenter by trade, who had purchased the lots in 1904 from Robinson White, the original subdivider. The dwelling remained in the Fowler family until 1919, when it was conveyed to Charles M. Dorsey. Dorsey enlarged the property with the purchase of Lot 3 in 1923. The Dorsey family owned the property until 1984, when it was purchased by the current owners, Tyrone and Carolyn Bush. Although altered, the building still retains sufficient integrity to convey its significance as an early-twentieth-century dwelling constructed in the Town of Fairmount Heights.

HISTORIC CONTEXT

The Dorsey-Bush House is located in the present-day Town of Fairmount Heights. Fairmount Heights is an early-twentieth-century, African American suburb located just outside the easternmost corner of the District of Columbia in Prince George's County. The community is roughly bounded by Sheriff Road, Balsamtree Drive, 62nd Place, and Eastern Avenue. In the late nineteenth century, the area that would become Fairmount Heights was the site of several small farms owned by the Wilson, Silence, Hoover, Brown, and Wiessner families. These farms were purchased and consolidated by land speculators in the first decades of the twentieth century. Fairmount Heights contains six subdivisions platted between 1900 and 1923 by different developers. The first was platted as Fairmount Heights in 1900 by Robinson White and Allen Clark, two white attorneys and developers from Washington, DC. The initial platting contained approximately 50 acres that were divided into individual building lots, each typically measuring 25 by 125 feet.¹

Robinson White and Allen Clark encouraged African Americans to settle in the area and the subdivision became one of the first planned communities for black families in the Washington, DC area. White and Clark ensured that the lots were affordable, thus making home ownership attainable for many black families. The

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earliest dwellings were of wood-frame construction of modest size; however several substantially sized houses were also built.² Early on, the neighborhood was home to several prominent African Americans including William Sidney Pittman, a noted architect and son-in-law of Booker T. Washington. Pittman took an active interest in the development of his own neighborhood. He formed the Fairmount Heights Improvement Company, whose purpose was to construct a social center for the community. Pittman oversaw construction of Charity Hall, which was used for social events, as a church, and as the community's first school.³

In 1908, the Washington, Baltimore and Annapolis Electric Railway opened, providing easy access for commuters into Washington, DC. Residents of Fairmount Heights used the neighboring Gregory Station, located in Seat Pleasant.⁴ Because of the early success of the subdivision and new transportation options available nearby, several new subdivisions were platted adjacent to Fairmount Heights. Waterford, a very small subdivision adjacent to the northeast corner of Fairmount Heights, was platted by J.D. O'Meara in 1907. Mount Wiessner was platted by the Wiessner family in 1909 and featured lots approximately 50 by 125 feet. In 1910, Elizabeth Haines platted North Fairmount Heights on approximately 15 acres of land. The Silence family platted West Fairmount Heights (also known as Bryn Mawr) in 1911 out of the family farmstead.

Other African Americans, encouraged by the development in Fairmount Heights, soon settled in the area. In addition to the Pittmans, James F. Armstrong (supervisor of Colored Schools in Prince George's County), Henry Pinckney (White House steward to President Theodore Roosevelt), and Doswell Brooks (supervisor of Colored Schools in Prince George's County and the first African American appointed to the Board of Education) all constructed houses in the neighborhood. Fairmount Heights was also home to a growing professional community and many residents worked as clerks or messengers for the federal government. The increased growth in the community created a pressing need for a dedicated school, which resulted in the construction of the Fairmount Heights Elementary School. Designed by Pittman, the school opened in 1912.⁵ In 1920, developer Robinson White constructed 19 bungalows on 62nd Avenue in the original Fairmount Heights subdivision.⁶ Because of the large number of families moving to Fairmount Heights, the original school proved too small and a new larger school opened in 1934.⁷

In 1922, approximately 35 acres of farmland located east of Fairmount Heights was purchased by the Weeks Realty Company and platted as Sylvan Vista. The development marked the sixth and final subdivision making up the present-day Town of Fairmount Heights. Sylvan Vista had deep, narrow lots, generally measuring 25 by 125 feet, similar to the original subdivision of Fairmount Heights. The neighborhood was designed around a market circle with radiating streets. Although the lots were of similar size, the dwellings were generally smaller and more modest than the houses built in the earlier subdivisions.⁸

After several unsuccessful attempts to incorporate in the 1920s, the Town of Fairmount Heights was officially incorporated in 1935 with a mayor-council form of government.⁹ The town included all six subdivisions platted between 1900 and 1923. By the end of the 1930s, the new town consisted of a brick schoolhouse, four churches,

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a fire department, print shop, and several restaurants and stores.¹⁰ The community continued to grow in the mid-twentieth century and was largely developed by the 1980s. Today the community remains predominantly an African American suburb in Prince George's County.

Robinson White and his partner, Allen C. Clark, subdivided the first section of Fairmount Heights in 1900 from land that they purchased from the Wilson, Godfrey, Belt and Lee families. Composed of approximately 50 acres, the land was surveyed by County Surveyor Edward L. Latimer and then divided. The initial plan for the subdivision was to have streets radiate from the northeast boundary of the District of Columbia.¹¹ In 1908, Robinson White and Minnie L. White, his wife, conveyed Lots 1 and 2 in Block "K" to Julia Fowler of Washington, DC.¹² Julia Fowler was born in 1869 in England, and married Samuel Fowler of Maryland, in 1889. At the time of the 1910 U.S. Federal Census, the Fowlers resided in Prince George's County, Maryland, with their children, Isaac L., Julia E. Samuel V, and Johanna M. Fowler. Samuel Fowler was a carpenter with his own shop and it is presumed that he constructed the dwelling at 5603 Addison Road in 1905.¹³ It appears the dwelling, because of its rowhouse-like form, was constructed in the anticipation of adjoining development in the near future.

In 1919, the Fowlers conveyed the property to Charles M. Dorsey, a well driller, residing in Washington, DC.¹⁴ Dorsey, born in 1872 in Maryland, married his wife, Julia, in 1896 and together they had six children (Gladys, Mabel, Charlie, Julia, Elsie, and Ralph).¹⁵ In 1923, he purchased Lot 3 in Block "K" from Robinson and Minnie White.¹⁶ By 1930, the property was assessed with a value of \$3,000.

Upon the death of Charles M. Dorsey, the property, now composed of three lots, was conveyed to his daughter, Mabel Estelle Dorsey Ferguson.¹⁷ In a divorce, full title to the property was returned to Mabel Estelle Dorsey in 1977, when she was formerly known as Mabel Estelle Dorsey Ferguson.¹⁸ No further information regarding Mabel Estelle Dorsey could be located.

In 1984, Tyrone Aaron Bush, the personal representative of the Estate of Mabel Estelle Dorsey, conveyed the property to himself.¹⁹ Bush held the property solely until 1993, transferring one-half interest to his wife, Carolyn.²⁰ No further information regarding the Bush family could be located. Tyrone and Carolyn Bush have owned and occupied the dwelling jointly since 1993.

¹ Susan G. Pearl, "Fairmount Heights: A History From its Beginnings (1900) to Incorporation (1935)" (Upper Marlboro, MD: M-NCPPC, 1991), 1.

² Susan G. Pearl, African-American Heritage Survey (Upper Marlboro: M-NCPPC, 1996), 64.

³ George Denny, Jr., Proud Past, Promising Future: Cities and Towns in Prince George's County, Maryland (Brentwood, MD: George D. Denny, Jr., 1997), 171-172.

⁴ Pearl, "Fairmount Heights," 12.

⁵ George Denny, Jr., Proud Past, Promising Future: Cities and Towns in Prince George's County, Maryland (Brentwood, MD: George D. Denny, Jr., 1997), 171-172.

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⁶ Denny, Proud Past, Promising Future, 172.

⁷ Denny, Proud Past, Promising Future, 173.

⁸ Pearl, "Fairmount Heights: A History," 32.

⁹ Denny, Proud Past, Promising Future, 174.

¹⁰ Pearl, African-American Heritage Survey, 65.

¹¹ Pearl, 1.

¹² Robinson White and Minnie L. White, his wife, to Julia Fowler, Prince George's County Land Records, 18:476.

¹³ 1910 U.S. Federal Census, Kent, Prince George's, Maryland, Series T624, Roll 567, Page 3A, Enumeration District 74, Image 497, Samuel Fowler.

¹⁴ Julia Fowler and Samuel Fowler to Charles M. Dorsey, Prince George's County Land Records, 138:479.

¹⁵ 1910 U.S. Federal Census, Precinct 9, Washington, District of Columbia, Series T624, Roll 154, Page 7B, Enumeration District 185, Image 594, Charles M. Dorsey.

¹⁶ Robinson White and Minnie L. White to Charles M. Dorsey, Prince George's County Land Records, 217:150.

¹⁷ Charles M. Dorsey, deceased, to Mabel Estelle Dorsey Ferguson, Prince George's County Land Records, WTD 6:377.

¹⁸ Mabel Dorsey Ferguson (now known as Mabel Estelle Dorsey) by Divorce Decree Equity # DE73-1406 to Mabel Estelle Dorsey, Prince George's County Land Records, NLP 4828:296.

¹⁹ Tyrone Aaron Bush, Personal Representative of the Estate of Mabel Estelle Dorsey, to Tyrone Aaron Bush, Prince George's County Land Records, NLP 5964:360.

²⁰ Tyrone Aaron Bush to Tyrone Aaron Bush and Carolyn Bush, Prince George's County Land Records, VJ 9251:685.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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- 1910 U.S. Federal Census (Population Schedule). Online: The Generations Network, Inc., 2007. Subscription database. Digital scan of original records in the National Archives, Washington, DC. <http://www.ancestry.com>.
- George Denny, Jr., *Proud Past, Promising Future: Cities and Towns in Prince George's County, Maryland* (Brentwood, MD: George D. Denny, Jr., 1997).
- Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission and Prince George's County Planning Department, *Historic Sites and Districts Plan*, 1992.
- Prince George's County Land Records.
- Susan G. Pearl, "Fairmount Heights, Maryland, A History: From its Beginnings (1900) to Incorporation (1935)," M-NCPPC Planning Department, Prince George's County, July 1991.
-

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of surveyed property	<u>0.2185</u>	
Acreeage of historical setting	<u>0.2185</u>	
Quadrangle name	<u>Washington East</u>	Quadrangle scale: <u>1:24,000</u>

Verbal boundary description and justification

The Dorsey-Bush House is located on a parcel in Fairmount Heights on a 0.02185-acre parcel, historically known as Lots 1, 2, and 3 in Block "K" of the Fairmount Heights subdivision. The northeast boundary of the property follows Addison Road. The northwest boundary extends along a wood fence. The southeastern boundary extends along a steeply pitched slope and the southwest boundary follows an allee of trees. This house has been associated with Parcels 1, 2, and 3 on Tax Map 66 since its construction c. 1905.

11. Form Prepared by

name/title	Paul Weishar and Maria Dayton/Architectural Historians		
organization	EHT Traceries, Inc. for M-NCPPC Planning Department	date	March 2009
street & number	1121 Fifth Street, NW	telephone	202.393.2014
city or town	Washington	state	DC

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Department of Planning
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600

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CHAIN OF TITLE
PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY LAND RECORDS

Lots 1 and 2 of Block "K"

Plat Fairmount Heights platted
JWB 5:652
1900

Deed Robinson White and Minnie L. White, his wife, to Julia Fowler.
18:476
February 16, 1904

Deed Julia Fowler and Samuel M. Fowler, her husband, to Charles M. Dorsey.
138:479
April 19, 1919

Lot 3 of Block "K"

Plat Fairmount Heights platted.
JWB 5:652
1900

Deed Robinson White and Minnie L. White, his wife, to Charles M. Dorsey.
217:150
June 27, 1923

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Lots 1, 2, and 3 of Block "K"

Will Charles M. Dorsey, deceased, to Mabel Estelle Dorsey Ferguson.
WTD 6:377
February 18, 1941

Deed Mabel Dorsey Ferguson (now known as Mabel Estelle Dorsey) by Divorce
NLP 4828:296 Decree Equity # DE73-1406 to Mabel Estelle Dorsey.
September 28, 1977

Deed Tyrone Aaron Bush, Personal Representative of the Estate of Mabel Estelle
NLP 5964:360 Dorsey to Tyrone Aaron Bush.
August 13, 1984

Deed Tyrone Aaron Bush to Tyrone Aaron Bush and Carolyn Bush, his wife.
VJ 9251:685
December 17, 1993

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Photo: Dorsey-Bush House, Fairmount Heights, façade (northeast elevation), view looking west. (February 2009)

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Photo: Dorsey-Bush House, Fairmount Heights, façade (northeast elevation), view looking south. (February 2009)

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Photo: Prefabricated Shed, Fairmount Heights, view looking south. (February 2009)