

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM**

NR Eligible: yes no

Property Name: Eldersburg Commercial Corridor District Inventory Number: CARR-1691

Address: MD 32/Sykesville Road south of MD 26/Liberty Road Historic district: yes no

City: Eldersburg Zip Code: 21784 County: Carroll

USGS Quadrangle(s): Finksburg

Property Owner: Multiple Tax Account ID Number: Multiple

Tax Map Parcel Number(s): Multiple Tax Map Number: 73

Project: MD 32: South of MacBeth Way/Piney Ridge Pkwy to MD 26 Agency: Maryland State Highway Administration

Agency Prepared By: Maryland State Highway Administration

Preparer's Name: Stephanie Foell Date Prepared: 12/05/2005

Documentation is presented in: _____

Preparer's Eligibility Recommendation: _____ Eligibility recommended Eligibility not recommended

Criteria: A B C D Considerations: A B C D E F G

Complete if the property is a contributing or non-contributing resource to a NR district/property:

Name of the District/Property: _____

Inventory Number: _____ Eligible: yes no Listed: yes no

Site visit by MHT Staff yes no Name: _____ Date: _____

Description of Property and Justification: *(Please attach map and photo)*

Introduction

The Eldersburg Commercial Corridor District (CARR-1691) developed over the course of the twentieth century in an area along MD 32/Sykesville Road south of MD 26/Liberty Road. Most of the buildings that are more than 50 years of age were initially constructed as modest residences, although they are now used as small businesses. Sykesville Road is the main corridor through the commercial area and the buildings that line the roadway have varying setbacks. The predominant forms are bungalows, cottages, and Minimal Traditional style houses that are largely devoid of ornamentation. Most have been substantially altered and retain little historic integrity. The application of various types of siding and replacement windows are the most common alterations. Commercial buildings, which were purpose-built, are interspersed with the historic buildings. Generally, they date from the 1960s through the 1990s and are of a larger scale. Approximately one-third of the buildings in the district are less than 50 years of age.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW	
Eligibility recommended <input type="checkbox"/>	Eligibility not recommended <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Criteria: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D	Considerations: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> G
MHT Comments:	
<u><i>Jim Tomlinson</i></u> Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services	<u>1/4/05</u> Date
<u><i>B. Kuntz</i></u> Reviewer, National Register Program	<u>1/9/05</u> Date

200503773

Description of Resources

The modest Minimal Traditional house at 6242 Sykesville Road is one-and-one-half stories in height with a cross-gable roof configuration with no eave overhang. It is clad in asbestos siding and the replacement windows are flanked by novelty shutters. The roof is covered in asphalt shingles. It is largely devoid of ornamentation and original features have been obscured by the application of siding and storm windows.

Another Minimal Traditional house is located at 6235 Sykesville Road. It also has a cross-gable roof configuration with no eave overhang. This former residence now houses a veterinary hospital. It is clad in vinyl siding and features replacement windows flanked with new shutters. The entrance, which contains a new metal door, is reached by three brick steps which have been surrounded by a new balustrade. The roof is covered with asphalt shingles. While the building is in very good condition, the alterations have altered the character of the building.

A brick Minimal-Traditional residence, also currently in commercial use, is located at 6314 Sykesville Road. It contains elements of the subset of buildings referred to as the Cape Cod form. The building is one-and-one-half stories in height and has a single-story stucco addition on the side. Two gable-roof dormers punctuate the gable-end roof. Original windows with three ribbon panes over a single pane remain on the building. A storm door obscures the original door.

A similar building clad in stucco is located on parcel 336 along Sykesville Road (no street address). It has no eave overhang and is modest in both form and architectural details. A shed-roof extension covers the entrance and appears to be a recent addition.

A small building that represents a transition from the Minimal Traditional style to Ranch houses is located at 6310 Sykesville Road. The modest building, which has a centrally placed gable pediment over the entrance and was built in 1948, is a typical example of a common building form. It now houses a nursery/gardening center.

The building that contains Nathan Henry's Restaurant at 6228 Sykesville Road was built in 1943 as a residence. Like other buildings along the corridor, it has been altered by the application of siding and replacement windows, as well as a large addition.

Buildings with elements of the bungalow form are also common in the district. The building at 7100 Smiths Road, a private lane off of Sykesville Road, contains a vernacular example of a bungalow blended with characteristics of the Minimal Traditional style. The building faces the commercial corridor. The building has minimal eave overhang, but is clad in dark wood shingles. A gable extension covers the entrance and is supported by brick columns.

The buildings at 6247 and 6251 Sykesville Road are located next to each other and are both one-and-one-half story bungalows with side-gable roofs. Each has an integral, full-façade, shed-roof porch and a gable-roof dormer on the façade. The building at 6247 has replacement windows while the building at 6251 retains its original windows.

Another bungalow is located at 6305 Sykesville Road. Like the others, it has a side-gable roof with an integral shed-roof porch. A shed-roof dormer is located on the roof and an exterior brick chimney is present. A small shed-roof addition extends from the side of the building, which now houses a laundromat.

A substantially altered building that likely once displayed characteristics of the bungalow form is located at 6217 Sykesville Road. The overall building form indicates that it was once a one-and-one-half-story building with two front-facing gables set on different planes. A cross-gable ell extends from the rear of the building. Single-pane replacement windows are located throughout the building. Original arched openings have been enclosed and smaller replacement windows have been installed. The building has

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_____	_____
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services	Date
_____	_____
Reviewer, National Register Program	Date

been clad in synthetic material that imitates stucco. The roof is covered in synthetic shingles that imitate historic tile shingles. The extensive alterations obliterate the historic character of the building.

Other heavily altered buildings include the 13th Tribe Building at 6242 Sykesville Road, which is virtually unrecognizable as a historic building due to its extensive alterations to the roof. New siding encapsulates the building, and irregularly spaced openings, most likely not in their original locations, are located throughout the building. A modest gable-end building is located to the north at 6222 Sykesville Road. The two-story building is clad in brick veneer and vinyl siding, and its fenestration pattern has been altered. An extensively altered building constructed in 1950 is located at 6328 Sykesville Road. The fenestration pattern has been altered by siding that covers original openings.

Recently Constructed Buildings

Buildings constructed within the last 50 years include a car sales office at 6229 Sykesville Road; the Optimist Club at 6315 Sykesville Road; the Pizza Hut at 6323 Sykesville Road; two rows of connected commercial buildings on both sides of Sykesville Road; the Verizon Building at the southeast corner of Sykesville Road and MacBeth Way; and a modern gas station/convenience store on the parcel at the northeast corner of the intersection of MD 32 and MD 26. These buildings are all typical examples of recent construction; none display characteristics that would make them exceptionally significant according to National Register of Historic Places guidelines.

Demolished Buildings

One of the older buildings in the district at 1271 Liberty Road (CARR-1630) was recently demolished by the owner. It was previously documented on a Determination of Eligibility (DOE) form and determined not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) in 2001. Please refer to the DOE form for a complete description and significance evaluation.

Directly south of this building is a vacant lot where an abandoned, one-and-one-half story frame building used to be. It was also recently demolished by the owner. The building was constructed in 1946. It did not have a street number, but is located on parcel #36.

History of Eldersburg

The first settlement in the vicinity of what is now Eldersburg was known as the Freedom District and was located on the southeast corner of present-day Carroll County. Settlers of the Freedom District were primarily of Scotch and Irish descent. Present-day Liberty Road, designated as MD 26, was an early route that passed through Eldersburg. By 1753, it was locally known as "the great road."

The first landholders in the area focused their efforts on agriculture and the land patterns that they adopted were similar to those used by the first settlers of the southern Maryland counties that border the Chesapeake Bay. Land patents in the area ranged from five to two hundred acres. However, landowners did not build large plantations and estates like their Tidewater counterparts.

During the first half of the eighteenth century, tobacco was the primary crop cultivated in the area. By the Revolutionary War, wheat had superseded tobacco, and corn was also a prominent crop. Both grains were sold to local markets. When grain prices were depressed, farmers could store the grain, consume it themselves or feed it to livestock, or use it to manufacture alcohol.

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Agriculture remained the predominant land use in and around Eldersburg until the middle of the twentieth century. In addition to wheat and corn, farmers raised oats and rye, and kept livestock such as hogs, sheep, dairy cattle, horses, and mules.

The community of Eldersburg developed in the nineteenth century near the current intersection of MD 32 and MD 26. The town was laid out before 1800 by John Elder. Eldersburg is located on the crossroads of Liberty Road and MD 32, which proved to be a good location to access markets for agricultural products. A trip by wagon to Baltimore, which is 32 miles to the south, could take two or three days. However, when the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad line in Sykesville, which was only three-and-one-half miles from Eldersburg, was constructed in 1831, the trip took only several hours. Farmers immediately took advantage of this new transportation method that allowed them to transport items formerly deemed too perishable to sell in distant markets. Milk, butter, eggs, and certain fruits and vegetables could now reach their intended urban customers more quickly than ever.

In 1880, agriculture continued to dominate Eldersburg, which has a population of 50. However, several manufacturing and professional enterprises had also been established, including three blacksmiths, two carpenters, two masons, two millers, and a cooper and a wheelwright. Other occupations represented in the town included a physician, constable, general-store operator, and a furniture maker who also worked as an undertaker. The village contained a public school with two teachers, a Lodge of Good Templars, and Freedom Grange 139.

Around the same time, some farmers began specializing in poultry, leading to an increase in egg production. Orchard fruits and garden vegetables became increasingly important as Baltimore's canning industry boomed. Dairy farming also expanded, with acreage devoted to feed such as hay, clover, and corn for cattle.

In an effort to connect outlying areas to Baltimore, MD 26/Liberty Road was reconstructed and paved between 1921 and 1927. This provided an improved route into the city for farmers. However, during the Great Depression, many farms failed, and by the beginning of World War II, dairying was the most prevalent form of agriculture in Eldersburg. At the end of the war, the county's population was rising dramatically, while the number of individuals involved in agriculture dropped dramatically. By 1975, Eldersburg was the largest unincorporated population center in Carroll County. At that time Eldersburg was no longer agrarian in nature, but was functioning as a suburban bedroom community.

Previous Documentation

One of the older buildings within the district, 1271 Liberty Road (CARR-1630) was previously documented on a Determination of Eligibility (DOE) form and was determined not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) in 2001. The building is no longer extant; it was recently demolished by the property owner.

Resources within the Eldersburg Commercial District

The Eldersburg Commercial Corridor District contains buildings along both sides of MD 32 between MD 26 and MacBeth Way. While sections of MD 26 contain larger chain-retail establishments, the Eldersburg Commercial Corridor District contains smaller local businesses in modest former residences.

The building stock within the Eldersburg Commercial District varies greatly. The earliest buildings were constructed as residences. Later commercial buildings that are less than 50 years of age were purpose-built and are interspersed with older buildings. The early buildings are primarily bungalows and modest residences that have been substantially altered by the application of siding, the installation of replacement windows, and changes to fenestration patterns.

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Significance Evaluation

The Eldersburg Commercial Corridor District is not eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. It is not eligible under Criterion A because it is not associated with any significant events in the past. The district is not associated with any important people, and is therefore not eligible under Criterion B. The district is also not eligible under Criterion C. The buildings within the district do not display a cohesive or evolutionary period of development. Most are heavily altered examples of typical, modest building types that are common throughout Howard County and Maryland. The district's archeological potential was evaluated as part of this project and was determined to have a low potential to yield information about the past. It is not eligible under Criterion D.

The resources within the Eldersburg Commercial District have suffered a loss of integrity of design, setting, materials, workmanship, association, and feeling. No significant concentration, linkage, or continuity of resources sufficient enough to establish an identifiable entity was found in the district. The substantial alterations to buildings more than 50 years of age, coupled with the intrusion of a large number of dominant new buildings, render the district not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. None of the resources are individually eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

Works Consulted

Cramm, Joetta. Howard County: A Pictorial History. Norfolk: Donning Co., 1987.

Holland, Celia M. Landmarks of Howard County, Maryland: A Bicentennial Presentation. University Park, Maryland: C.M. Holland, 1975.

Holland, Celia M. Old Homes and Families of Howard County, Maryland. Catonsville, Maryland: C.M. Holland, 1987.

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form for 1271 Liberty Road (CARR-1630). Completed in 2001. Located in the Maryland Historical Trust Library.

R. Christopher Goodwin & Associates, Inc. MD 26: Liberty Reservoir to MD 32, Carroll County, Maryland. Completed for the Maryland State Highway Administration, December 2000.

Stein, Charles Francis. Origin and History of Howard County, Maryland. Howard County Historical Society, 1972.

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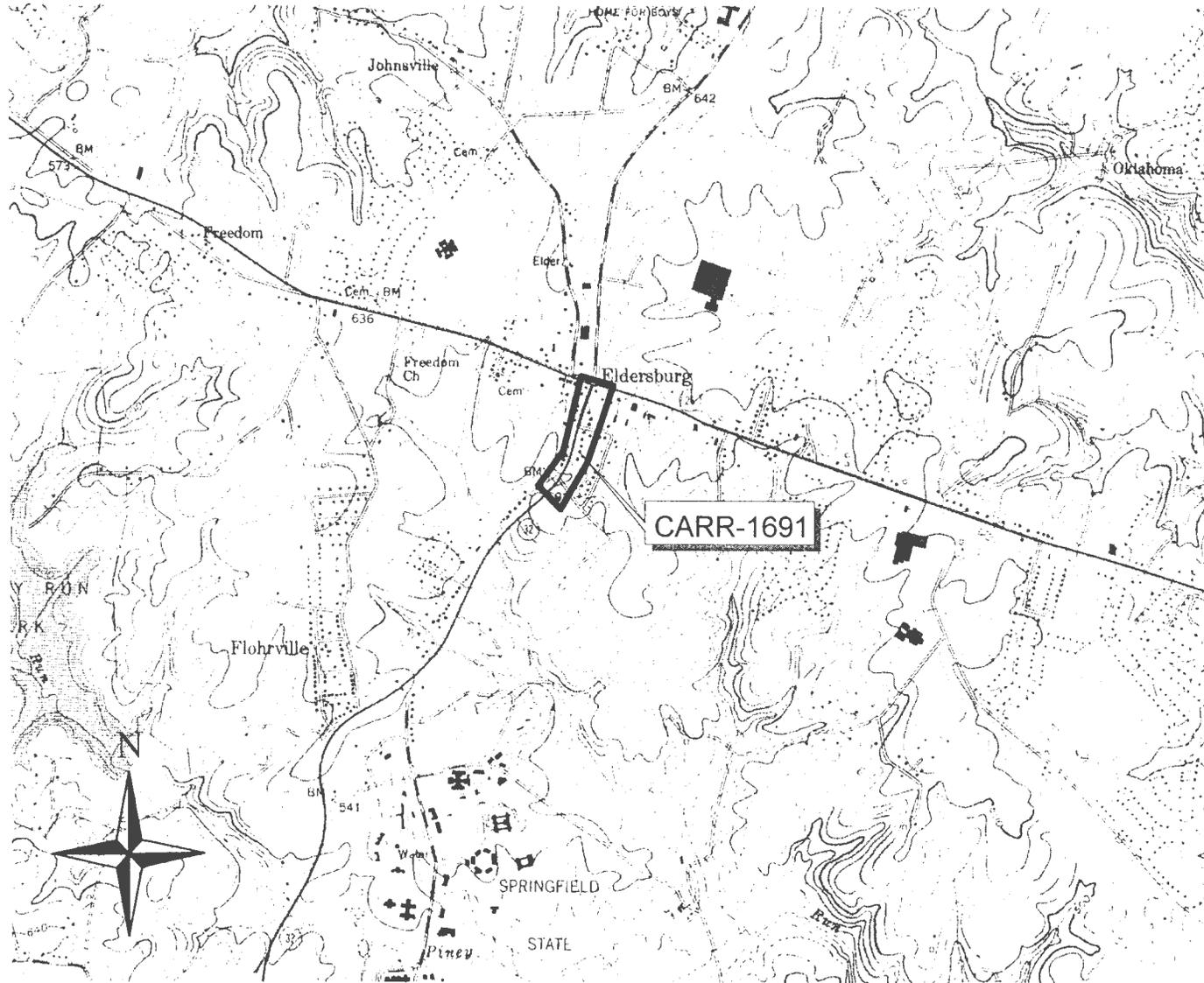
Date

Reviewer, National Register Program

Date

Eldersburg Commercial Corridor District (CARR-1691)

Location Map



Finksburg 7.5' USGS Topographic Quadrangle
1:24,000





SPEED
LIMIT
40

Mills

16:00

CARR -1691

General streetscape view to the southeast,
Eldersburg Commercial Corridor
District.

Carroll Co., MD

S. Foell

ART-2611 <No. 25A>B26
4257817 N N-77 (042)0

9/2005

MD SHPO

View to the southeast - Sykesville Rd /
MD 32

1/20



W. 26th St



26

EXXON
2795
2885
2955
3025

1 5 20

CARR -1691

Intersection of MD 32 and MD 26; Eldersburg
Commercial Corridor District

Carroll Co., MD

S. Foell

9/2005

ART-2611 <No. 0A>001

MD SHPO N-69 <042>0

View to the NE

2/20



FREE MARRIAGE SEMINAR
FOR ALL COUPLES
THERE IS HOPE - THERE IS HELP

JCT
MARYLAND
26

1 5:54

CARR-1691

6222 + 6242 Sykesville Rd; Eldersburg
Commercial Corridor District

Carroll Co., MD

S. Foell

9/2005

ART 2611 No. 21A>B22
42B 7817 1 11 N-33 (842)@

MD SHPO

View to The NW

3/20



CARR - 1691

6228 Sykesville Rd; Eldersburg Commercial
Corridor District

Carroll Co., MD

S. Foell

9/2005

MD STRPO

View to the west

4/20



State Farm Insurance

Total One Of
CARROLL'S BEST
BUSINESSES IN 2004
by the members of the Carroll County Chamber

1 5:59

90

CARR-1691

6242 Sykesville Rd, Eldersburg Commercial
Corridor District

Carroll Co., MD

S. Foell

9/2005

ART-2611 <No. 19A>020
427777 N-53 <042>0

MD SHPO

View to the west

5/20



1 547

CARR - 1691

6314 Sykesville Rd, Eldersburg Commercial
Corridor District

Carroll Co, MD

S. Foell

9/2005

ART-2511

<No. 159>016

42

37 (842)8

MD SHPO

View to The West

6/20



1 5:32

CARR - 1691

6235 Sykesville Rd; Eldersburg Commercial
Corridor District

Carroll Co., MD

S. Foell

9/2005

ART-2691 No. 6A>007
428 7817 -1 N N N-73 (042)0

MD SHPO

View to the SE

7/20



LORDS OF THE HOUSE
REAL ESTATE

1 5:38

CARR-1691

6247 + 6251 Sykesville Rd, Eldersburg

Commercial Corridor District

Carroll Co, MD

S. Foell

9/2005

ART 2611 <No. 7A>000
428 7817 <N. 3-55 (042)>0

MD SHPO

View to the SE

8/20



1 5:48

CARR-1691

6310 Sykesville Rd. and Parcel 336, Map 73
(no street address); Eldersburg Commercial
Corridor District

Carroll Co., MD

S. Foell

9/2005

MD SHPO

View to the NW

9/20



CARR-1691

Streetscape w/ 6217 Sykesville Rd., Eldersburg
Commercial Corridor District

Carroll Co, MD

S. Foell

9/2005

MD SHPO

View to the SE

10/20



CARR-1691

6217 Sykesville Rd, Eldersburg Commercial
Corridor District

Carroll Co., MD

S. Fell

9/2005

MD SHPO

View to the east

11/20

Self-Service
CAR WASH
OPEN 24 HRS



ED'S
LAUNDROMAT
& CLEANERS

GENESIS FLOORS
2700 FORD ROAD

1 5:35

CARR-1691

6305 Sykesville Rd., Eldersburg Commercial
Corridor District

Carroll Co., MD

S. Foell

9/2005

MD SHPO

View to the SE

12/20



1 5:29

CARR-1691

7100 Smiths Rd, Eldersburg Commercial
Corridor District

Carroll Co., MD

S. Fell

9/2005

ART-220 No. 4A>005
428 7817 -1 N N-3 47 (042)@

MD SHPO

View to the NE

13/20



CARR-1691

6229 Sykesville Rd, Eldersburg Commercial
Corridor District

Carroll Co., MD

S. Foell

9/2005

ART No. 5A>006
428 7817 -1 N N N-54 (042)0

MD SHPO

View to the east.

14/20



THE HARBOR LIGHT CENTER
1000 14th St
WILMINGTON, DE
302-439-7100

1 5:37

CARR-1691

6315 Sykesville Rd; Eldersburg Commercial
Corridor District

Carroll Co., MD

S. Foell

9/2005

MD SHPO

View to the east.

15/20



Framing Plus

1 5:50

CARR-1691

6252 Sykesville Rd, Eldersburg Commercial
Corridor District

Carroll Co., MD

S. Foell

9/2005

ART-2511 No. 17A>01B
428 7817 -1 N N N-93 (042)0

MD SHPO

View to the west.

16/20

CTION!

CARPET
WOOD
CERAMIC
VINYL

AD

105700

Pizza Hut

ITALIAN
PIZZERIA

PIZZA HUT
ITALIAN
PIZZERIA

CALL BEFORE
YOU PARK
WE'LL BE THERE

1 5:37

CARR - 1691

6323 Sykesville Rd., Eldersburg Commercial
Corridor District

Carroll Co., MD

S. Foell

9/2005 No. 10A>014
426 722 N N-3-57 (842)0

MD SHPO

View to the Southeast.

17/20



West Air

1 5:40

CARR-1691

SE corner of Sykesville Rd + MacBeth Way;
Eldersburg Commercial Corridor District

Carroll Co., MD

S. Focu

9/2005

ART-2611 <No. 12A>013

428 7817 - 1 N N N-25 <042>0

MD SHPO

View to the SE

18/20

A Second
Glance
Salon
Hair Care
Nail Care
Skin Care
Massage
4108549600

1 5:39

CARR-1691

6328 Sykesville Rd., Eldersburg Commercial
Corridor District

Carroll Co., MD

S. Foell

9/2005

MD SAPO

View to the NW

19/20



1/5/42

CARR-1691

6332 Sykesville Rd., Eldersburg Commercial
Comidar District

Carroll Co., MD

S. Foll

9/2005

ART-2611 <No. 13A>B14

428 2611 2005 N N 06 <042>0

MD SH100

View to the west

20/20