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## 7. Description

Inventory No. M:36-54

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### Condition

excellent      \_\_\_ deteriorated  
 good            \_\_\_ ruins  
 fair              \_\_\_ altered

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

This building, constructed in 1930, exhibits classic Art-Deco features and is an excellent representative of its type. True to its original design and materials in almost every respect, it possesses a relatively high degree of physical integrity, having had only the second story windows replaced with modern sashes that are reasonably sympathetic to the buildings design. It is eligible for the National Register as highly representative of a type.

This building, constructed in 1930, exhibits classic Art-Deco features and is an excellent representative of its type. It is a two-story brick commercial building with limestone front façade. The building is approximately 120' wide and 70' deep, with the left side of the rear of the building tapering in a trapezoid shape to conform to the acute angle formed by the intersection of Georgia and Eastern Avenues. The front façade houses seven storefronts from 7900 Georgia Avenue through 7912 Georgia Avenue. The first story is composed of glass show windows and entrance doors set in aluminum frames. These storefronts are recessed from the front plane of the structure. Below the window level lie panels of green polished marble. Above the showroom windows is a nearly continuous line of canvass canopy that hides multi-light windows set above the show windows. These multi-light windows are steel sash with operable central awning sashes.

Four main vertical limestone pilasters that rise from the ground to the roof parapet, piercing the parapet like a stepped battlement, separate the storefronts. These four vertical posts have stepped or recessed sides typical to Art-Deco design. A tapered recess cut into each post front deepens as it rises to the roof level. Between the two center vertical posts is a more massive central post that houses the front entrance. This entrance is recessed with a stepped architrave trim and recessed panel above the door. panel. The cornice below the architrave trim is decorated with an egg and dart motif. The door is a replacement glass door with anodized aluminum frame and thin sidelights and slight fixed transom. Limestone pilasters having a simple carved base and capital flank the sidelights.

The second story consists of 17 bays separated by smaller vertical posts that originate at the base of each window bay and pierce the roof at regular intervals, creating a castellated appearance. Each bay holds a paired casement window, which is topped with a large fixed window. The second story windows are all late-twentieth century replacements consisting of single panes of glass in anodized aluminum frames with false muntins giving the windows a multi-light appearance. These windows do not detract from and are compatible with the design. Above each window there is a recessed rectangular panel carved in the sandstone. This building possesses a high degree of integrity of materials, workmanship and design and has had few alterations other than the replacement of second story windows. This building is eligible for the National Register as an excellent example of commercial retail architecture executed in the Art-Deco Style.

# 8. Significance

Inventory No. *M:36-54*

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 type="checkbox"/> other:

Specific dates

Architect/Builder

Construction dates 1930

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.)

This building was constructed in 1930 on the first lot to be developed in the intersecting area of Georgia Avenue and Eastern Avenue. When further development of this area began in 1938, it was platted as the North Washington Shopping Center by the Montgomery Land Company.<sup>1</sup> In 1936, Silver Spring Commercial Properties Inc. sold this and other lots to the Montgomery Land Company. E. Brooke Lee, T. Howard Duckett, and Henry F. Taff – all prominent Silver Spring businessmen, owned the Silver Spring Commercial Properties Inc..<sup>2</sup>

Colonel E. Brooke Lee came from an illustrious family that included a signer of the Declaration of Independence, Maryland and Virginia governors, diplomats, a postmaster general, and Congressmen. He was a powerful figure in Maryland politics and business, creating new suburbs out of family owned estates, he served as Secretary of State of Maryland in 1923 and 1924, served in the Maryland House of Delegates in 1926, and served as House Speaker for the legislature from 1928 through 1931.<sup>3</sup>

Frank L. Hewitt started as a grocery store owner around 1903, having a small general store on Georgia Avenue (then known as the Brookville Pike) in the area that is now Silver Spring. Hewitt also entered real estate development. He began by constructing three brick houses on Sligo Avenue east of Fenton Street and convinced the Potomac Electric Power Company to extend its lines to Silver Spring. He served as Silver Spring's postmaster in 1906, and became prominent in Republican Party politics. Upon seeing the need for financial capital, he became an organizer, partner, and vice-president of the Silver Spring National Bank (Suburban Trust Company). He later founded the Citizen Savings and Loan Association in 1929. In addition to serving as a member of the National Guard at the Armory, he served as a member of the Volunteer Fire Department when it was organized in 1915.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Montgomery County Plat No. 963.

<sup>2</sup> Montgomery County Deeds, Liber 644, Folio 272.

<sup>3</sup> William Bushong, Silver Spring Armory Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form, 1994.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid.

# Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. M : 36-54

Name  
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 2

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Eager to attract business to the Silver Spring area, it is possible that these men constructed this building on speculation. None of the owners had any interest in owning a store and their business was land speculation and development. The Montgomery County Land Company owned this building until 1986, when it sold the property to Goldorf Associates Limited Partnership.<sup>5</sup> This building remained the sole building in the area for at least ten years. There were still no other buildings on the North Washington Shopping Center parcels when A. T. and Audrey Androus purchased the property adjacent to it, including lot No. 7, as well as lots 1, 2, and 3 in 1939.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> Montgomery County Deeds, Liber 7054, Folio 839.

<sup>6</sup> Montgomery County Deeds, Liber 729, Folio 68; Plat No. 1500; Klinge 1941.

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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Montgomery County Deeds and Plats.

William Bushong, Silver Spring Armory Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form, 1994.

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## 10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of surveyed property 00.21 acre  
Acreage of historical setting 00.21 acre  
Quadrangle name Washington West

Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

The building at 7900-7912 Georgia Avenue is bounded by Georgia Avenue on the east and consists of the entire 00.21-acre tax parcel (P316). This boundary is its historical setting and is practically synonymous with the footprint of the building.

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## 11. Form Prepared by

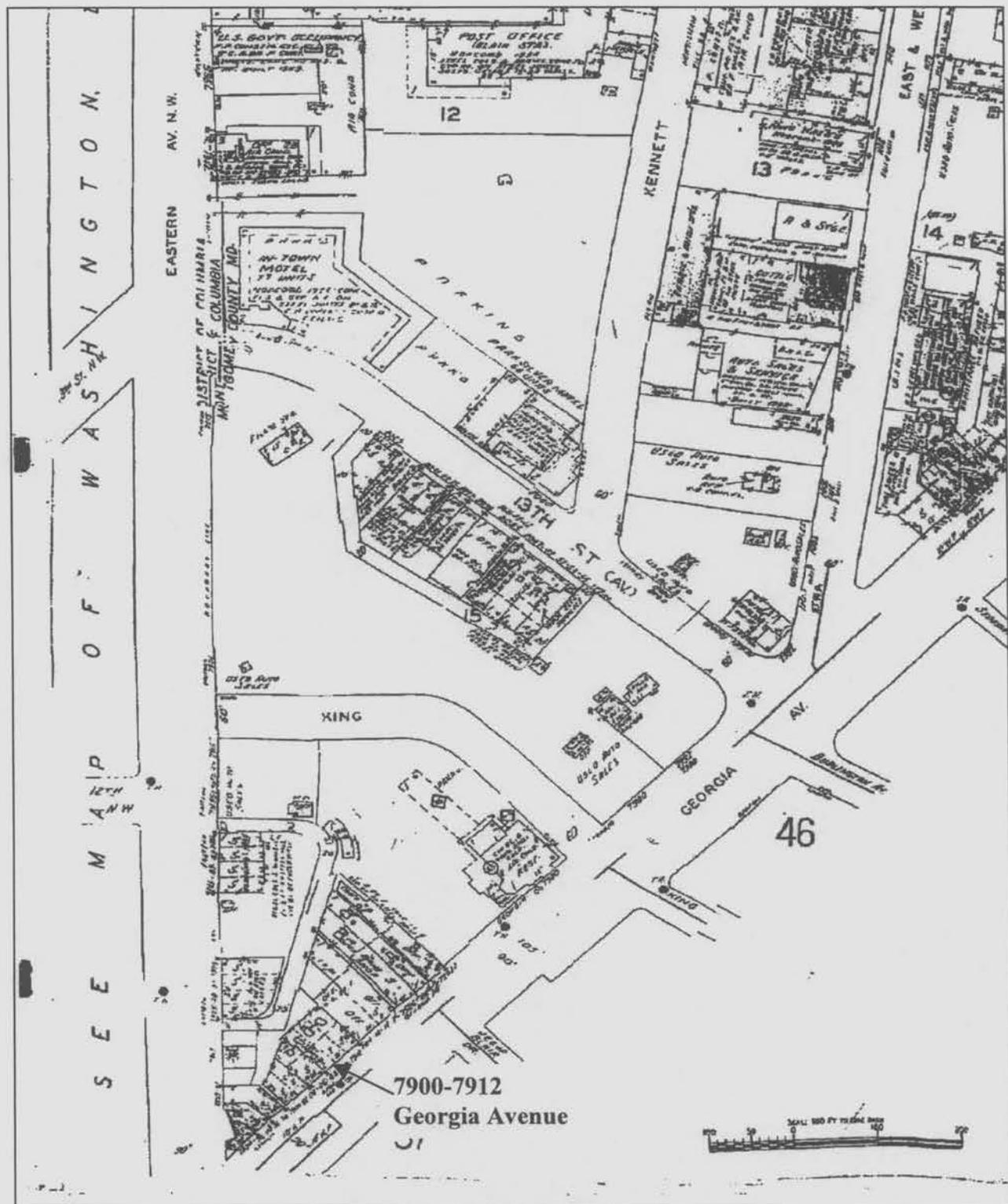
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name/title	David C. Berg, Architectural Historian		
organization		date	October 15, 2002
street & number	R. R. 1, Box 16	telephone	570-465-2614
city or town	Susquehanna	state	Pennsylvania

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.

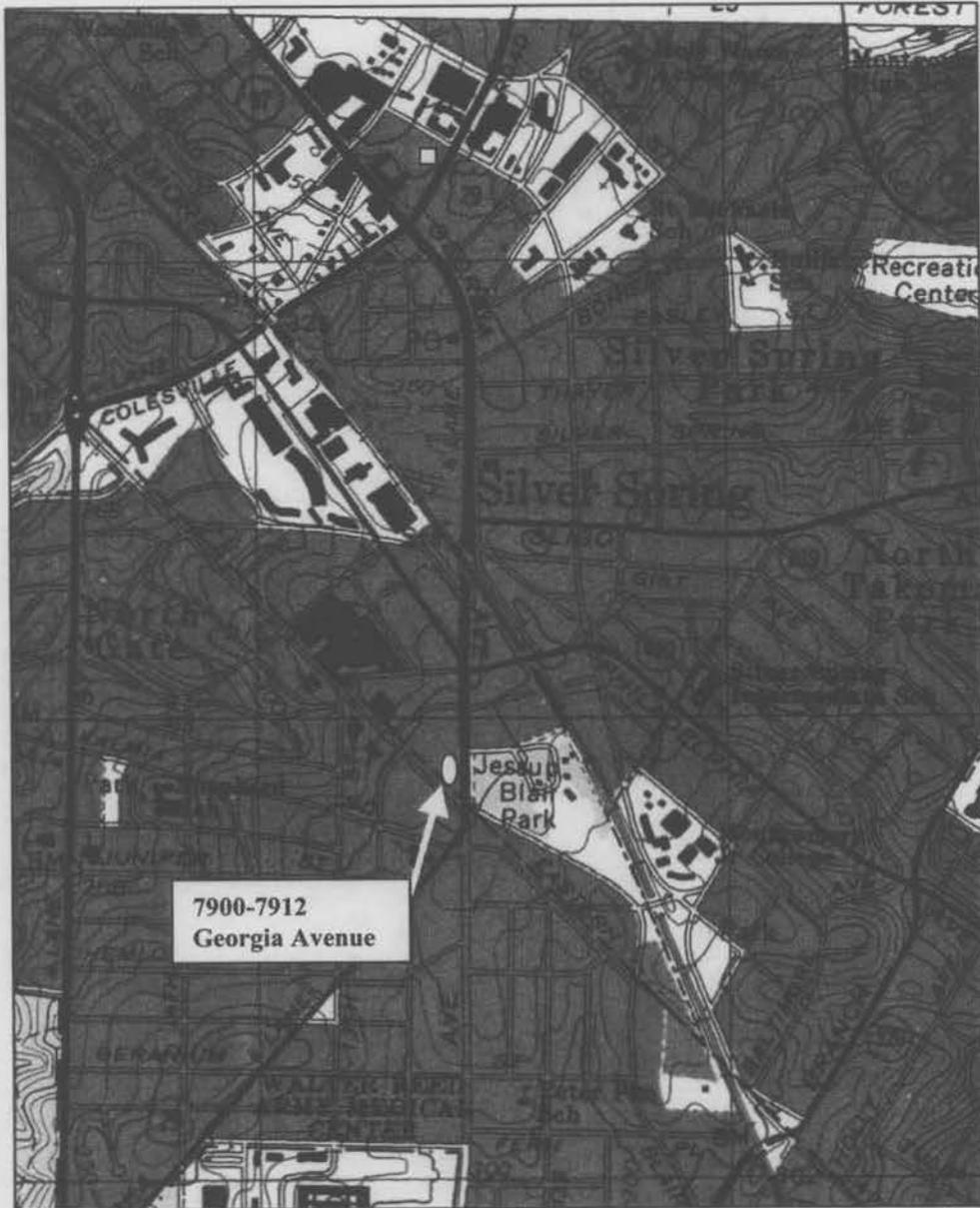
return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
DHCD/DHCP  
100 Community Place  
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023  
410-514-7600



Sanborn Map Showing 7900-7912 Georgia Avenue in 1959.

7900-7912 Georgia Avenue  
Silver Spring  
Montgomery County

MIHP No. *M: 36-54*  
Washington West



M:36-54

7900, 7902, 7904, 7906, 7908 & 7910 Georgia Ave (NW)



M: 36-54

7912 Georgia Ave (W)

