

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common Whosoever Will Printing

2. Location

street & number 4007 34th Street not for publicationcity, town Mt. Rainier vicinity of congressional district 5

state Maryland county Prince George's

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

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

name Fred and Sylvia Chen

street & number 4701 Willard Avenue telephone no.:

city, town Chevy Chase state and zip code Maryland

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Prince George's County Courthouse liber 5264

street & number Main Street folio 215

city, town Upper Marlboro state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Historic Sites and Districts Plan

date 1981 federal state county local

depository for survey records Historic Preservation Commission, M-NCPPC, CAB, Rm. 401

city, town Upper Marlboro state Maryland 20772

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date of move _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

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

4005-4007-4009 34th Street is a one story, yellow brick, rectangular plan commercial block (see Slide #34). The block contains three storefronts sharing the building's west (main) facade and the entire block is surmounted by an unadorned parapet which is stepped above the storefront at 4007 34th Street. The centered parapet ties the three units together in a symmetrical composition. A stepped parapet on the north and south walls of the block conceals a shed roof sloping to the rear (east). The block is attached to the adjacent building to the south and freestanding to the north.

Each storefront in the block has a centered double door entrance flanked by two projecting rectangular plan plate glass display windows set on brick bases. Above the projecting shop windows and entrances are fixed multi-paned transoms. Centered above each storefront below the parapet is a slightly recessed brick panel, probably intended as a place for signage.

The windows and entrance of 4005 34th Street are sheltered by an aluminum awning. The present entry doors of 4007 34th Street are not original and a small aluminum awning shelters the entry. The exterior configuration of 4009 as a storefront has been retained although the double entry doors are replacements. The present doors are of painted wooden inset with rectangular glass panes in the form of a cross.

8. Significance

Survey No. P.G #68-13-37

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1935 **Builder/Architect**

check: Applicable Criteria: A B C D
and/or
Applicable Exception: A B C D E F G

Level of Significance: national state local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

CONTRIBUTING

The three unit block of stores at 4005-4007-4009 34th Street (Block 1, parts of Lots 1 and 2, Mt. Rainier) is a significant example of commercial architecture as built in Mt. Rainier throughout the 1920's and 1930's. The block is rather straight forward and unadorned and relies on a centered stepped parapet and projecting shop windows for its defining architectural detail. While each of the three storefronts has suffered slight changes and additions, particularly to their entries, the block retains its 1930's character. The block is also significant as the both the historic and present termination point of the 34th Street commercial corridor's northeastern edge. North of 4009 34th Street is residential in character.

4005-4007-4009 34th Street occupies portions of Lots 1 and 2 in Block 1 of the original Mt. Rainier Subdivision.¹ Although these lots were initially sold in the early years of the subdivision, they were not built upon until the mid-1930's. The exception to this is the small frame dwelling facing Bunker Hill Road that occupies the easternmost portion of Lot 1. Built sometime prior to 1921, this house is not part of the 34th Street commercial corridor (and outside of the survey area).²

The unbuilt portion of Lot 1 as well as Lot 2 were owned by William W. BonDurant beginning in 1908. In 1934 he either sold or traded portions of these lots to his brother Edgar H. BonDurant.³ The BonDurant brothers built the present commercial block by 1935, when the parcels were newly assessed for an improvement of "three stores" valued at \$9,000.⁴

Edgar BonDurant (see form 3828 34th Street) retained ownership of 4005 34th Street until 1946, when it was sold to Mark and Sarah Meckler. After a succession of owners, 4005 34th Street was sold to Glut Foods, Inc., a non-profit food co-operative which has operated from the storefront since 1984.⁵

4007 34th Street is the center unit of the block of stores at 4005-4007-4009 34th Street. The entry of 4007 is the point of axial symmetry for the commercial block. After erecting the block in 1935 the Bon Durant family retained ownership of the center unit until 1947, when it was sold to Sidney and Martha Shochet. At this time the Mt. Rainier Pharmacy was located at 4007 34th Street.⁶ The Shochets sold the storefront in 1980 to Fred and Sylvia Chen.⁷

After its construction in 1935, Edgar Bon Durant apparently leased the storefront at 4009 to tenant before selling it to David and Ruth Metz in 1947. In 1951 Howard and Mainerva Meincke purchased the property.⁸ From 1948 to 1979 the Meinckes operated Howard's 5¢ to \$5 store on the premises. As a neighborhood variety store, Howard's was a vital part of the commercial and social life of the area. In 1979, due to his declining health, Mr. Meincke sold the building to Charles and Sylvia McConkey and the variety store was closed.⁹

Since 1982, 4009 34th Street has been occupied by the Whosoever will Church of God. Although the interior has been altered to accommodate the present religious use of the building, the storefront maintain its 1930's character and contributes to the context of the commercial area along 34th Street.¹⁰

Notes:

- 1 Prince George's County Land Records, Plat JWB5:658 or A:5.
- 2 Sanborn Insurance Map, 1921, pg. 5.
- 3 Prince George's County Land Records, 419:123.
- 4 Prince George's County Assessment Records, E.D. 17, 1932-1936, pg. 50.
- 5 Prince George's County Land Records, 863:453;5960:642.
- 6 See advertisement in The Prince Georgian, November 21, 1947, p. 4.
- 7 Prince George's County Land Records, 906:371; 5264:215.
- 8 Prince George's County Land Records, 975:450.
- 9 "Seniors mourn closing of a store in Mount Rainier," The Prince George's Journal, March 16, 1979, p. C3.
- 10 City of Mt. Rainier 75th Anniversary Book, 1985, p. 115.

