

1. Name (Indicate preferred name)

Survey no. ^{P6} 58-4-13

historic Collier House
and/or common

2 Location

street & number 4606 Oliver Street
city, town Riverdale
state Maryland

___ not for publication
___ vicinity of congress'l dist. 5
county Prince George's

3 Classification

| Category | Ownership | Status | Present Use | |
|---|---|---|-------------------|--|
| ___ district | ___ public | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied | ___ agriculture | ___ museum |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private | ___ unoccupied | ___ commercial | ___ park |
| ___ structure | ___ both | ___ work in prog. | ___ educational | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> priv. res. |
| ___ site | Public Acquis. | Accessible | ___ entertainment | ___ religious |
| ___ object | ___ in process | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restrict | ___ government | ___ scientific |
| | ___ being consid. | ___ yes: unrest. | ___ industrial | ___ transport. |
| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applic. | ___ no | ___ military | ___ other |

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

name Mr. Roy M. Young
street & number 4606 Oliver Street
city, town Riverdale

telephone no.: not listed
state, zip code Maryland

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds etc. P.G.C. Courthouse
street & number Main Street
city, town Upper Marlboro

liber 5645
folio 004
state Md

6 Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title
date
depository for survey records
city, town

___ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local
state

7. Description

Survey No.

PG 68-4-13

Condition

Check One

Check One

excellent

deteriorated

unaltered

original site

good

ruins

altered

moved date of move

fair

unexposed

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

4606 Oliver Street is a front-gabled house with a square footprint, which stands on one lot in Riverdale. This house is vernacular Victorian in look. It is quite a typical style in the north-east of the U.S. from around the turn of the century, and many similar houses can be found in surrounding communities. It has for this type of house quite common fish scale shingles creating a pediment of the gable area. A front porch with delicate posts stretches along the front facade. There are two front bays, and the entrance is through the left bay. The interior moldings are Victorian crown with bulls eye blocks. The foundation is of minimal height. There is a side entrance with a covered stoop to the west. Despite a large two-story addition in back and aluminum siding, this house has kept most original features, but the present owner has added jigsaw decorative details to the apex of the gable and the porch, which may or may not have been on the original house.

This house is a beautifully proportioned house which has an ungainly, two-story kitchen addition in back, which is probably relatively old as well. It was originally covered in horizontal, grooved wood siding, which was covered by aluminum siding some time ago. The shed on the west side towards the back of the garden is still covered in the old siding. (See photographs)

The roof pitch is quite steep, and the roof is covered with what looks as asbestos shingles. There is a gable shaped dormer with a single window facing east. The addition has the same interrupted gable pediment, indicating the eave line, as the front gable.

The front porch has four thin posts in the shape of decorative spindles. The porch rail is new as well as the porch roof supports, all "gingerbread" style. The porch roof is of shed type, sheathed with asbestos shingles.

The fish scale shingles at the top of the front gable are painted in bands of yellow-beige and brown. The rest of the house is painted yellow-beige and the shutters on the two front windows are painted brown. The woodwork around the windows and eaves is white, and the "gingerbread" additions are light blue.

The windows are original, double-hung with a centered vertical muntin. There are basically two bays of single windows on each elevation with a centered window in the front gable area. The right bay window on the front porch is a double window.

The interior layout consists of a large room across the front, which was possibly an entrance hall and a room on the right originally. In the back wall of the main room is a fireplace which also opens towards the dining room behind, in the north-east corner of the house. The original kitchen which was very small, was in the north-west corner. It is now a pantry for the kitchen in the addition behind. The stairs to the bedroom floor above is located in the north-west corner of the large, main room and are ascending towards the front of the house. In this stairwell, some old wallpaper was discovered which has the date 1909 and a signature. I did not see the second floor.

The moldings on the ground floor are Victorian crown moldings, about 3-4 inches wide, with bulls eye blocks in the corners. The wood floor may be new. The ceiling height is also typically Victorian. Probably around nine feet.

The owner is in the process of restoring the house and is quite interested in the possible historicity of his house.

Note:

Enclosed photograph of shed siding and one of a piece of the original siding.

8. Significance

Survey No. PG # 68-4-13

| Period | Areas of Significance - Check and justify below | | | |
|---|--|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> archeol.-prehist. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> comm. plann. | <input type="checkbox"/> landsc. arch. | <input type="checkbox"/> religion |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499 | <input type="checkbox"/> archeol-hist. | <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/ /humanitar. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799 | <input type="checkbox"/> art | <input type="checkbox"/> engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> music | <input type="checkbox"/> theater |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> explor./settl. | <input type="checkbox"/> philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> transport. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1900- | <input type="checkbox"/> communications | <input type="checkbox"/> industry | <input type="checkbox"/> politics/ /government | <input type="checkbox"/> other |

Specific dates around 1900

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.

The Collier house is so called because not until 1920-1923 was it recorded in the assessment book (1), but I believe that it was built either before or just after the property was sold by Joseph A and Fannie Blundon to Clifton E. and Flora P. Deener on October 10, 1901. (2) Joseph Blundon was an officer of the Riverdale Park Company and a personal investor who bought and sold lots and houses. (3) It is indicated on the 1904 plat map with houses. (4) Due to the houses location along the old entrance road to Riversdale Mansion the owner believes that this could be an old farmhouse along this road. The interior moldings make me not believe that this was a farm house, but that it was a house built along with the other vernacular Victorian houses with Queen Anne touches in the community. The gable front with fish scale shingles support this theory but did also exist earlier. The very low foundation indicates that the house was probably not built later than the turn of the century and could support the farm house theory.

The Town of Riverdale became known in 1889 as Riverdale Park, when the subdivision plat was recorded by the Riverdale Park Company. The new planned community with tree-lined streets was located on land previously called Riversdale Plantation, which had been owned by the Calvert family. The Baltimore & Ohio Railroad cuts the community in half, which at the end of the

8. Significance (cont'd)

Survey No. Pg # 68-4-13

19th century meant a perfect location for a railroad suburb. Riverdale is about 7 miles from the center of the District of Columbia. The early houses were built in different vernacular Victorian styles, some with elaborate Queen Anne details. There were a few larger houses, while most were average sized. The bungalow style took over around 1920. Most houses were built of wood with clapboard siding, only a few were built of brick.

This house stands on lot 9 in block 45 in Riverdale. Block 10 was added to the property in 1909, which could also be a possible year of renovation of the house as the wallpaper in the stairs is dated 1909 (5) Lot 10 was sold off between 1937 and 1955 (6) It has not been possible to ascertain when the lots were sold by the Riverdale Park Company.

This house could possibly be an old farmhouse, but more probably it dates from the first 15 years of Riverdale Park's existence. It was indicated on the 1904 plat with houses, and its appearance and interior moldings enforce this guess. The windows with a centered vertical cross mullin are also true of that period. Furthermore, Joseph Blundon extended a mortgage of \$1,300 to the Beeners, when they purchased the property. This could have been a construction loan or a house mortgage (7)

Clifton Hicks who owned the property between 1905 and 1913 is listed in the top margin of the 1909 assessment book and subsequent ones as owning lot 14 in block 42, at the corner of Riverdale Road and Columbia Avenue. Why neither the lots nor the house are included in any assessment book until 1920 is a mystery.

Notes:

1. 1920-1923 Assessment Book for P.G. County for district 19.
2. Chain of title.
3. Assessment Books for P.G. County for district 2.
4. Plat of Riverdale, dated 1904, with existing houses marked. On reserve.
5. Owner showed it to me, but it was too high up to be legible.
6. Chain of title.
7. 1901 Assessment Book for P.G. County for district 2.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey no.: PG 68-4-13

Chain of title enclosed.

Notes under Item # 7.

Notes under Item # 8.

10. Geographical Data

Acresage of nominated property about 9,000 sq. ft., lot 9, block 45, Riverdale

Quadrangle name Washington East Section B

Quadrangle scale

Verbal boundry description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries.

state

code

county

code

state

code

county

code

11. Form Prepared By

name /title Lena Gill, Master of Architecture Candidate, Catholic University

organization George Washington University

date March 28, 1990

street & number

telephone 965-2027

city or town Washington

state D.C.

This form is a copy of the Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form. It is not identical as it has no heading and the UTM references have been removed from item 10. This copy is prepared by Lena Gill.