

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Magi No.

DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic ~~Riverdale Park~~ Rhode Island Avenue House (Cleveland Ave.)

and/or common ~~Riverdale~~

2. Location

street & number 5904 ~~Rhode Island Avenue~~ Cleveland Avenue not for publication

city, town Riverdale vicinity of congressional district

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

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

name Carlos D'Arruda

street & number telephone no.: 262-3827

city, town Bowie state and zip code Maryland

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Prince George's County Courthouse liber 7023

street & number 14735 Main Street folio 123

city, town Upper Marlboro state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Unknown

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date of move _____
<input 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.

This early twentieth century, c. 1904, mail order style home is a good example of its type. The house is two stories high, has a cross gambrel roof and rests on a cement foundation. All major windows are 6/6 light double hung sash. A modern two story addition extends the full width of the rear facade. The main facade of the house faces east. The first story is four bays wide. From south to north, these bays consist of a small six light window, a nine light door followed by two double hung sash windows. A porch extends the full width of the house. It has a gently sloping roof with a pediment centered above the staircase which leads to the house. The porch is supported by plain square posts resting on brick bases. A plain railing with square newels surrounds the porch. The second story consists of a triple window centered above the pediment. Centered above this, at the attic level, is a small square window. The south facade has random windows and is otherwise unremarkable. Centered on the north facade is an exterior brick chimney. Random windows flank the chimney on either side. The west facade of the original house is concealed by a two story modern addition.

8. Significance

Survey No. PG # 68-4-19

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 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
			local history	

Specific dates	Builder/Architect
check: Applicable Criteria: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D and/or	
Applicable Exception: <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	
Level of Significance: <input type="checkbox"/> national <input type="checkbox"/> state <input type="checkbox"/> local	

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

Situated on lot 25 of Block 50, this house represents one of the early buildings constructed in Riverdale Park. It is located along the tracks of the Washington commuter line of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad. The house was constructed c. 1904. Based on the construction history of other buildings in the neighborhood, it is possible that the house was built by the Riverdale Park Company. Exact dating of the house was difficult because of gaps in tax assessment records. Block 50 of Riverdale Park is listed as being held by the Riverdale Park Company in 1900. For the years 1901-1915, neither the Company nor any individual are listed as holding the block. Beginning again in 1916 the lots reappear in the records with various individuals listed as lot owners. When the Riverdale Park Company sold the lot to Thomas Grant in 1904, it was valued at \$774, suggesting improvements had been made prior to the sale. With minor variations, the house is strongly reminiscent of mail order houses of the period. It is possible that mail order houses existed in the area and influenced the design for this structure. Since 1904 the house has changed hands nearly 20 times. Oral history indicates that the building was often occupied by tenants and not the actual owners. This was a common trend during this period when there was an abundance of speculative building in suburban developments. Along the lines of much of the house's past, it is currently tenant occupied.

