

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

PG #68-4-2  
Magi No.DOE  yes  no

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic ~~Riverdale Park~~ Gray House (~~Rhode Island Street House~~)and/or common ~~Riverdale~~ (Cleveland Avenue)

## 2. Location

street & number 5910 Cleveland Avenue ~~Rhode Island Avenue~~  not for publicationcity, town Riverdale  vicinity of  congressional districtstate 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	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

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

name Peter E. Heyden and Jeffrey G. Ploskonka

street &amp; number 5910 Rhode Island Avenue telephone no.: 779-5968

city, town Riverdale  state and zip code Maryland

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Prince George's County Courthouse liber 6969

street &amp; number 14735 Main Street folio 236

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

Survey No. FG 68-4-21

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<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 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.

This turn of the century, c. 1902, vernacular house is two and a half stories high with a cross gable roof and center chimney. It is finished with white painted clapboard now covered with modern vinyl siding. A small wing with gable roof extends off the rear of the house. The main windows are two light double hung sash. There are no shutters. The main facade, which faces east, has a porch with a gable roof extending the full width and wraps to face the east half of the north facade. It has plain posts with no remaining railing. The first story consists of a modern door in the left bay with two windows to the right. The second story has three window openings and the upper level has a small window. The north facade has two bays; the right has a three window projecting semi-hexagonal bay while the left bay on this fenestration as well as the remaining bays on the upper floors consist of two light windows. The south facade has random window openings with a side entry door in the west bay on the first story. It is otherwise unremarkable. The west facade has a one story summer kitchen which extends the full width of the wing. The kitchen is four bays wide with small four light windows.

# 8. Significance

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

**Specific dates** **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.

Situated on Lots 21, 22 and part of "A" in Block 50, the Gray House is a good example of turn of the century suburban vernacular architecture. It is located along the tracks of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad and was one of the earlier houses to be constructed in Riverdale Park. According to oral history, the house was constructed by the Riverdale Park Company in 1902. Speculative building such as this was common in early suburban developments. Oral history was necessary for dating due to 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 in 1916 the lots reappear in the records with various individuals listed as lot owners. To establish the date of 1902 interviews were conducted with current and previous owners and neighbors. The house is significant because the original owner, William Gray, husband of Henrietta, was the first chief of the Riverdale Park Fire Company. He is pictured in Town of Riverdale, Maryland, 1920-1970 with his crew of volunteers in the towns first fire house. Unfortunately, there have been considerable alterations made to the interior of the house. The exterior, while basically intact, has also gone through numerous changes. These were due primarily to a house fire which occurred in the late 1960's.

