

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Magi No. <sup>PG#</sup> 68-4-29DOE  yes  no

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Riverdale Parkand/or common Riverdale

## 2. Location

street & number 5005 Riverdale Road  not for publicationcity, town Riverdale  vicinity of congressional district 5state 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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

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

name Gerald and Penny E. Martinstreet & number 5005 Riverdale Road telephone no.: (301) 864-1854city, town Riverdale state and zip code MD 20737

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Price George's County Courthouse liber JWB 5street & number 14735 Main Street folio 474city, town Upper Marlboro state Maryland

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Prince George's County Inventory of Historic Sitesdate 1990  federal  state  county  localdepository for survey records Maryland Historical Trustcity, town Annapolis state MD 21401

# 7. Description

Survey No. PG 68-4-27

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>	
<input checked="" 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 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 is a wood framed building covered with a hipped roof, with cross gables. The little protruding extension at the back is covered by a shed, slightly sloping and joined to the existing roof. The exterior wall of the building is clad partly by wood shingles and partly by asphalt shingles. The roof covering is asphalt shingles. The gable ends have the original shingles, which include bands of fishscale shingles. Some windows have been replaced, but some windows upstairs are reported to have old glass panes. The surface of the glass seems to ripple. There is also reportedly a circle of bricks in the ground at the back of the kitchen which appears to be the remains of a well. The circle is 3 feet in dia.

The main floor has a large entry hallway. One wall of the living room is bayed. The entry to the basement has been changed, and also the original back door. Part of the wraparound porch is missing. The porch roof is supported by several spindle columns of the Eastlake style. The porch rails are simple rectangular pieces. Parts of the railings are missing. The original front door was reported to be a full 7 feet.

The upper floor has three bedrooms and a small room next to the master bedroom, which could have been a nursery. Some of the original gas light outlets and the gas conduits are still in the building. The gas light outlets are still visible on the wall in the bedrooms and in the hallway outside.

The walls of the basement are of poured concrete. The basement still has the appearance of the old cellar. The ceiling height is only 6 feet 3 inches. There is an exterior door. The floor is of rough concrete.

5005 Riverdale Road  
Description ctd.

The flooring boards are nailed directly to the floor joists. There is no subflooring. There is a brick chimney measuring about 20 inches square, but there is no fireplace. There are circular openings about 6 to 8 inches in diameter in this chimney. These openings are located about 6 feet above finish floor.

The main floor is about 1 foot 6 inches above ground level at the front. The <sup>ground</sup> slopes down to the back. The interior walls are of lath and plaster.

The first electrical wires that were installed can still be seen in a part of the basement. There is evidence that the trim and the exterior woodwork was painted dark green.

The owners reported that fragments of newspapers dating the first decade of this century was found in the wall.

# 8. Significance

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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"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
			<input type="checkbox"/> science
			<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
			<input type="checkbox"/> social/
			<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
			<input type="checkbox"/> theater
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<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.

This building is a good example of the Queen Anne type Victorian house. At present there is very little alteration, and if repairs and renovations are carefully carried out, it can maintain a very original appearance.

This house was built by Mr Walter R. Wilson, one of the earliest residents of Riverdale, and one of the most active real estate business men of the period. The date of construction was 1908.

The present owners had found 1907 newspapers in the wall. It will be interesting to know if newspapers were used as insulation

This house was victim ~~of~~ the severe flooding of the thirties.

Closer examination is required to see whether the block formation at the backyard really signifies a well.

The internal chimney is significant. ~~They were~~ <sup>is was</sup> well built, and served as outlets for the smoke of the coal or wood stoves. One resident of that era early twenties, had reported that children had to bring in wood every night and set it in a corner.

