

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey # 68-4-37

Magi No.

DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common Peelers Dry Cleaners

2. Location

street & number 6227 Baltimore Ave. ___ not for publication

city, town Riverdale ___ 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 type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" 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 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 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 Roger and Mary Carlsen

street & number telephone no.:

city, town state and zip code

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Prince George's County Courthouse liber 5614

street & number Main Street folio 362

city, town Upper Marlboro state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ___ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. PG-68-4-39

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input 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.

6227 Baltimore Avenue is a one story commercial building in the town of Riverdale. At present, it houses Peelers Dry Cleaners.

The main facade, facing Baltimore Avenue, features two single-door entries and three plate glass display windows. The facade appears to be of a sandstone veneer with a decorative course at the top of the doors and windows. From the design of the facade, it is possible that the building at one time housed two different tenants at once.

The southern elevation, facing the parking area, features a side entry with flanking window service openings. There is also a carport structure at this entry. The wall of this elevation is of concrete block with several window openings and a stepped parapet.

8. Significance

Survey No. PG# 68-4-39

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/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify) local history
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1951 (est.) **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.

This is an example of a one-part commercial block, common in Victorian towns of the late 19th and early 20th Centuries.¹ While Riverdale was platted in 1889 and incorporated as a town in 1920, this building was built between 1940 and 1951.² At the time, Route One (Baltimore Avenue) was nearing the end of its peak as a thriving commercial strip. Although the road was still the main north-south east coast arterial, many were calling for a replacement because of increased suburban growth which overburdened the road.³

Peelers of Maryland, Inc. owned the property as far back as 1951.⁴ In 1961, the property was turned over to W. Peeler, then the president of the company, who retained it until 1973, when the present ownership took over.⁵

Notes

1. Longstreth, R. The Buildings of Main Street (National Trust for Historic Preservation, 1987), p.54.
2. Tax assessments for Election District #19.
3. State Roads Commission of Maryland A History of Road Building in Maryland, 1958, p. 83.
4. Tax assessments for Election District #19.
5. Prince George's County Deeds; 4127:464, 4219:612, 5614:362.

