

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common Riverdale Shoe Repair / Second Time Around Consignment Shop

2. Location

street & number 6237-41 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 not for publication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 Louis and Samuel Caruso / Dominic and Agatha Bruno

street & number - see attached sheet - telephone no.:

city, town state and zip code

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Prince George's County Courthouse liber 5625

street & number Main Street folio 447

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. 868-9-91

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.

6237-41 Baltimore Avenue is a two story commercial building located at the southwest corner of the Baltimore Avenue/East-West Highway intersection. At present it houses two retail establishments - the Riverdale Shoe Repair Shop and the Second Time Around Around consignment shop.

The building is rectangular in plan, with the shorter end facing west, toward Baltimore Avenue. This main facade reflects the dual ownership of the building with different treatments on each half. The general elements are similar on both halves: a light brown brick facade with first level storefronts. The halves each have two entries - the outer doors servicing the first level shops and the center doors servicing the upper level. Between the entries on each side are square bay windows for display purposes. Each opening on the first level has a transom window above. The second level has six six-over-one sash windows, three on each side. The brick is patterned in a stretcher bond with row-lock courses directly below the cornice and the second level windows. Additionally, there are decorative courses above the first level transoms, above the second level windows and below the cornice.

The differences in treatment for the two halves are mainly cosmetic. The southern half uses a black paint on the trim of the shop's door and display window. It also uses black shutters on the second level. The remainder of the trim is beige. On the northern half, all trim is beige and there are no shutters on the second level. The doors vary from full glass panelled to wood panelled with glass panels at the top to a solid door with a vertical glass panel by the knob.

The north facade, towards East-West Highway, has a stucco facing. It has a stepped parapet roof and several small window openings on the second level. This facade is marked by a mural of an old man and a boy seated on the steps of a Victorian home.

8. Significance

Survey No. PG # 68-4-41

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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) local history
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1925-6 **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.

6237-41 Baltimore Avenue is a typical example of a two-part commercial block, which were common from the 1850's to the 1950's, especially in towns that developed along streetcar lines.¹ While Riverdale was platted in 1889 and incorporated as a town in 1920, this building was constructed in 1925-6 by J. Berlin, who also built 6231-3 Baltimore Avenue, next door.² At this time, Route One (Baltimore Ave,) was the main road from Washington to the north. It had also just been incorporated into U.S. Route 1 - the main north-south arterial on the east coast, stretching from Maine to Florida. This designation encouraged a tremendous amount of commercial buildup along the road to service travelers.³

Berlin also constructed a store immediately north of this building, but it was removed for the extension of East-West Highway in the 1960's.⁴ Berlin sold the northern half of lot 2 in 1931 to E. Lacroix. This sale included only the northern half of this building, presently occupied by the shoe repair shop. The southern half of Lot 2 was sold to M. and G. Gorin in 1932. This included the southern half of this building as well as 6231-3 Baltimore Avenue.⁵

The mural on the northern facade was mounted in 1977 as part of the Prince George's County Murals Project, sponsored by the Maryland/National Capital Park and Planning Commission. The program was the first in the country to promote the use of murals in a suburban setting.⁶ The artist, John Ford, was the grandson of former Riverdale councilmember Walter Ford. The mural depicts an old man and a young boy sitting on the steps of a Victorian home, Symbolic of Riverdale architecture and the relationship between young and old.⁷

