

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Magi No.

2/1000
PG# 08-4-51

DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic N/A

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 6411 49th Street Avenue not for publication

city, town Riverdale vicinity of congressional district # 19

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 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 Mrs. Katherine Powers

street & number 6411 49th Street Avenue telephone no.: (301) 927-2028

city, town Riverdale state and zip code Maryland 20737

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Prince George's County Courthouse liber 2014

street & number 14735 Main Street folio 125

city, town Upper Marlboro state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title N/A

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

PG: 68-4-51

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

The Powers House is a typical 1930s mail order Bungalow with 1 full floor, a full basement and two rooms on a second floor. The siding consists of white-painted, wood shingles and an asbestos shingle roof.

Built in 1933, this mail order house from Sears, has a square hip roof with one front gable over the porch. The front door is situated in the center of the house and there are two symmetrical windows on each side of the front door. The roof consists of asbestos shingles, which have been replaced three times.

The house has a stone foundation, which is shifting slightly. The front porch, which covers the full front of the house, is painted grey and is a full three inches higher at the entrance to the house than at the top of the steps. The porch has two columns and a gable above the door. Brick steps lead up to the porch and are in good condition. Wood, white-painted railing adorns the porch. A green lattice grille lies between the porch and the ground below.

The chimney, which is located on the north side of the house (the fireplace is in the living room), is built into the roof, that is, the roof is cut out for the chimney. The house has no shutters, but it does have several windows on each facade and all have green trim. There is one dormer window on the back side of the house (east facade).

On the interior, windows and doors are adorned with dark wood trim. The living room area has a beige patterned wallpaper, which is not original. The living area was originally planned as two semi-separated rooms with the front door situated between them. They are now used as two living areas. The house has one bathroom on the first floor and two bedrooms on the second floor.

There is also an exterior, detached, single car garage, built at the same time as the house from the Sears mail order catalog.

CHAIN OF TITLE

2014:125 Samuel R. Gillman and Jessie P. Coffay to Meredith and Katherine Powers Deed July 16, 1956 for Lots 1,2,3,4 of Riverdale Park Subdivision, Block 8 .

2014:123 Jessie Powers Coffay to Samuel R. Gillman Deed July 26, 1956 for Lots 1,2,3,4 of Riverdale Park Subdivision

515:31 William P. Magruder and Dorothy W. Magruder to Jessie S. Powers and Meredith L. Powers and Katherine Powers. Deed. January 27, 1939.

396:385 William P. Magruder and Dorothy W. Magruder to Jessie S. Powers and Meredith L. Powers. Deed, dated July 20, 1933 for lots 1,2,3,4 in Block 8

389:229 Riverdale Park Company of New York to William P. and Dorothy W. Magruder. Deed dated August 6, 1932 for lots 1-7 of Block 8.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1930-1940		<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> local history	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1933 - built **Builder/Architect** Sears Plan/ Private Contractor

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.

The Powers' House is an excellent example of a 1930s Sears mail order home. The plans were purchased from Sears but a private contractor was hired to locate materials. The plan is almost exactly as it appears in the Sears 1933 catalog (photocopy of original catalog and plans enclosed). The land was originally owned by William P. Magruder, mayor of Hyattsville and an important leader in regional planning.

The land was originally sold to William P. Magruder by the Riverdale Park Company in 1932. The Magruder's purchased lots 1, 2, 3 and 4. The Magruders sold the land to Mrs. Jessie Powers and her son, Meredith Powers, in 1933. The Powers selected the house from the Sears catalog and hired a contractor to built it. The house is a bungalow, but the Sears plan has a different rendering of the plan - The Gainsboro. When Meredith Powers married, the deed was changed to include Katherine Powers, who now owns the house.

William P. Magruder was an important figure in the history of Riverdale and nearby Hyattsville. Magruder owned a shop in Riverdale, started the Hyattsville Building Association in Riverdale, became Mayor of Hyattsville, had a park named after him in Hyattsville, and was one of the founders of the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission, whose Prince George's County office was located in the Calvert Mansion for some time. The Riverdale Park Subdivision was first formed in the 1880s when land (app. 475 acres) was purchased from the Calvert family and developed into the community of Riverdale Park. The town of Riverdale was incorporated in 1920. The subdivision contains a wide variety of styles of architecture and at least 8 Sears catalog homes.

The Powers' home is an excellent example of a typical 1930s bungalow adapted from a Sears catalog plan but using local materials and a local contractor. It is simple in style and remains virtually unaltered. The lot is quite large and adds to the "bungalow spirit" of the home.

1. Chain of title, attached
2. Town of Riverdale, Maryland 1920-70 (History of Riverdale) PG 13-451
3. Prince George's County Tax Assessments, Election District 19 (1932-)
4. Prince George's County Plat JWB # 5 Folio 688
5. Hyattsville Our Home Town 1886-1986
6. Sears Catalog, 1933 (attached)

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

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Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Barbara Noriko Wood/ Student, Department of Urban and Regional Planning

organization The George Washington University date 3/28/90

street & number 2023 G Street, N.W. Rm. 101 telephone (202) 994-7475

city or town Washington state D.C. 20052

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438