

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Magi No.

DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

S and J Grill

and/or common

2. Location

6108 Rhode Island Avenue

street & number

not for publication

city, town Riverdale

vicinity of

congressional district

state Maryland

county Prince George's

3. Classification

Category

district
 building(s)
 structure
 site
 object

Ownership

public
 private
 both

Public Acquisition

in process
 being considered
 not applicable

Status

occupied
 unoccupied
 work in progress

Accessible

yes: restricted
 yes: unrestricted
 no

Present Use

agriculture
 commercial
 educational
 entertainment
 government
 industrial
 military

museum
 park
 private residence
 religious
 scientific
 transportation
 other:

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

name Arthur J. and Sarah B. Krise

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 4711

street & number 14735 Main Street

folio 21

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

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.

S and J Grill, Block 40/Lot 11, is located at the intersection of Rhode Island Avenue and Queensbury Road on the southwest corner, where it has operated for roughly thirty years. Tax records indicate original construction date circa 1929. The one-story, stretcher-bond brick structure has three public facades, one facing north onto to Queensbury, the second facing east onto Rhode Island, and the third, containing the main entrance, facing at an angle to the street corner. A blue, half-story wooden, semicircular vestibule has been added surrounding the entrance forming a vestibule. A yellow-tinted, textured brick has been applied to this three-sided front. A brick design consisting of alternating groupings of three horizontal and three vertical bricks adorns the facade roughly ten brick courses from the roofline. The roofline, following a zigzag pattern interrupted at regular intervals by a semicircle, is outlined with a white border. A white diamond at the base of each semicircle emphasizes the elaborate design. Original window openings on this public facade have been covered by an extension added to the building, composed of a four-foot brick base supporting windows topped by a flat roof, connecting this extension to the building and to the main-entrance vestibule. A wooden trim has been added across the top of the vestibule in imitation of the zigzag roofline. An S and J Grill sign hangs above the entryway.

The south facade is laid in red, common-bond brick of a six-to-one ratio. There are no openings on this side which faces a small parking lot. At the west end of this facade, the building extends southward an additional four or five feet. The west facade is equally plain. The brick has been painted a golden-yellow to complement the more public north and east facade. A door at the north ends opens into the parking lot on this side.

The interior of the restaurant is divided into three sections determined by function. The first portion of the interior is arranged for seated dining with both booths and free-standing tables. The second section features a lunch counter, and the third is allocated as a kitchen. The interior lighting is dim, accentuated by the dark green walls and floors.

Both interiorly and exteriorly the building is in good condition with few modifications made to accommodate the restaurant and its clientele.

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 checked="" 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"/> other (specify)		

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.

Riverdale, Maryland, was a creation of the Riverdale Park Company, established by New Yorker John Fox and partners, on the Riversdale estate, home to descendants of Maryland founder Lord Baltimore. As a Washington suburb, Riverdale was chiefly dependent upon the nation's capital for commercial needs until the 1910's when Riverdale's own mercantile area was constructed on Rhode Island Avenue, adjacent to the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad tracks and directly opposite the original depot site. A conglomeration of approximately eight stores served the city in various commercial capacities throughout the years until the city's focus was shifted to Baltimore Avenue with the advent of the car. This store grouping is now largely vacant, but those operating stores draw a loyal clientele, keeping the area active.

The S and J Grill, with its Art Deco motif, is unusual even today in its plain setting. At its circa 1929 construction, it must have been outstanding in Riverdale's bucolic environment. In addition to its unique design, the building has been occupied continuously since its completion, passing between only two owners, accounting for its good condition and little-altered state. The Grill is still a vital social location for Riverdale residents, and it keeps busy serving a widerange of patrons, both new and old.

