

Magi No.

DOE  yes  no

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

Park Avenue Window Fashion Center; Entertainment World, Inc.;  
and/or common Riverdale Club AA

## 2. Location

street & number 6214-6218 Rhode Island Avenue  not for publication

city, town Riverdale  vicinity of congressional district

state Maryland county Prince George's

## 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input 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 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 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 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 Richard W. and Evelyn Lenzner

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 5036

street & number 14735 Main Street folio 130

city, town Upper Marlboro state Maryland

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date  federal  state  county  local

pository for survey records

city, town state

# 7. Description

Survey No. PG:68-4-54

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>	
<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.

6214-6218 Rhode Island Avenue is one of the oldest commercial sites in Riverdale still standing and operating. Tax assessments indicate the building's construction as circa 1921, but photos clearly show a structure on this site as early as 1915. The current building is a rectangular-shaped masonry construction, while that present on the 1924 Sanborn Fire Insurance map is an irregularly-shaped wooden structure. As the footprint of both the current building and the that on the Sanborn approximate each other in size, and the current main, or east facade, is similar to those of historic photos, it is possible that the building's original wood frame was only replaced by the current masonry during additions.

The main facade of the one-story, six-bay structure faces east onto Rhode Island. The facade is faced with a textured brick laid in stretcher bond and recently painted creme. A decorative brick pattern of alternating three horizontal bricks and three vertical bricks adorns the facade across its entire width in two locations, once roughly five courses from the roofline and a second time just above the door. The facade brick texture and decoration are similar to that of the S and J Grill at 6108 Rhode Island Avenue. A modern, glass door is found in each odd-numbered bay starting at the southern end. The doors are separated from each other by a three-paned showcase extending about a foot-and-a-half onto the sidewalk. The showcase is composed of a wooden base, three-paned vertical window, and a small, sloped shingle roof.

The south facade is connected to the neighboring building, but extends past its juncture. It is constructed of large cinder blocks patched with brick. The north facade is identical but appears to be in better condition with no brick patches. Both sides have two small rectangular, bar-covered windows. The north facade has a door at its midpoint that opens into a narrow alleyway. The west facade abutts the steep incline to the rear of the building. The stepped roof, sloping downwards to the west, is covered with modern shingles.

The building was recently divided interiorly into three sections, each stretching the depth of the building, indicated by its own door and showcase on the main facade. The building currently houses Park Avenue Window Fashion Center, Entertainment World, Inc., and the Riverdale Club of Alcoholics Anonymous.

# 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/ 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 type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

**Specific dates** **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.

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.

6214-6218 is one of Riverdale's oldest and still operating commercial buildings, constructed circa 1915. The building has housed a wide range of businesses from the Sanitary Grocery Company in its earliest days to the the Park Avenue Blind Company for the last forty years. An early deed included an inventory complete with bins, scales, mahogaony shelving, meat-care equipment, showcases, and a soda fountain (Libre 156, Folio 451). Tax assesments indicate a consistant investment of money in the buildings upkeep, evident in the building's good condition. The services provided by its current occupants make this bulding a vital part of modern Riverdale.

