

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY  
HISTORIC SITE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey #: P.G. #68-55 Building Date: c. 1924

Building Name: Murphy Building

Location: 3229-3231 Rhode Island Avenue, Mt. Rainier, Maryland

Private/Commercial/Occupied/Fair/Restricted

Description

3229-3231 Rhode Island Avenue is a one story brick commercial block with a rectangular plan and a horizontal parapet surmounted by a metal crown molded cornice concealing a rear (south) sloping shed roof. Below the cornice is a facade-wide unadorned entablature. The main (north) facade is divided into two storefronts. The east storefront has a metal clad glass entry door at left (east) and a two-part plate glass display window on a brick base at right (west). Surrounding the door and display window below the entablature is painted vertical wood siding. The west storefront has a centered metal clad glass entry door flanked by large plate glass display windows on brick bases. The storefront is sheltered by a canvas awning. Above each storefront is a non-historic sign. Although each storefront has been altered with incompatible windows, doors and modern signage, the plan and size of the storefronts and surmounting cornice appear to be original. The scale and relationship to the streetscape are consistent with other small commercial blocks along Rhode Island Avenue and 34th Street.

Significance

The small commercial building at 3229-3231 Rhode Island Avenue (Block 1, Lot 3, Roger's Second Addition to Mt. Rainier) contributes to the early 20th century character of the downtown Mt. Rainier survey area. The straightforward building is virtually unadorned and relies on a molded cornice with a plain entablature and large display windows for its visual interest. Although it has been altered with unsympathetic materials, the building retains its original scale and storefront use. Lot 3 in Block 1 was originally sold by James C. and Blanche R. Rogers in 1922. The lot changed hands several times that year before it was acquired by Washington C. and Lettie H. Murphy. The Murphys apparently erected the present building by 1924 when assessment records first indicate an improvement valued at \$2,000.

Magi No.

DOE  yes  no

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Murphy Buildingand/or common 3229 - 3231 Rhode Island Avenue

## 2. Location

street & number 3229 - 3231 Rhode Island Avenue (U.S. Route 1)  not for publicationcity, town Mt. Rainier  vicinity of congressional district 5state 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	<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 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 Jay K. Yustreet & number 8348 Terra Grande Avenue telephone no.:city, town Springfield state and zip code Virginia 22153

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Prince George's County Courthouse liber 5582street & number Main Street folio 495city, town Upper Marlboro state Maryland

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Historic Sites and Districts Plandate 1981  federal  state  county  localdepository for survey records Historic Preservation Commission, M-NCPPC, CAB, Rm. 401city, town Upper Marlboro state Maryland 20772

# 7. Description

Survey No. P.G. #68-55

**Condition**

excellent  
 good  
 fair

deteriorated  
 ruins  
 unexposed

**Check one**

unaltered  
 altered

**Check one**

original site  
 moved      date of move \_\_\_\_\_

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

3229-3231 Rhode Island Avenue is a one story brick commercial block with a rectangular plan and a horizontal parapet surmounted by a metal crown molded cornice concealing a rear (south) sloping shed roof. (See Slide #122.) Below the cornice is a facade-wide unadorned entablature. The main (north) facade is divided into two storefronts. The east storefront has a metal clad glass entry door at left (east) and a two-part plate glass display window on a brick base at right (west). Surrounding the door and display window below the entablature is painted vertical wood siding. The west storefront has a centered metal clad glass entry door flanked by large plate glass display windows on brick bases. The storefront is sheltered by a canvas awning.

Above each storefront is a non-historic sign. Although each storefront has been altered with incompatible windows, doors and modern signage, the plan and size of the storefronts and surmounting cornice appear to be original. The scale and relationship to the streetscape are consistent with other small commercial blocks along Rhode Island Avenue and 34th Street.

# 8. Significance

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

**Specific dates** c. 1924 **Builder/Architect**

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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.

CONTRIBUTING

The small commercial building at 3229-3231 Rhode Island Avenue (Block 1, Lot 3, Roger's Second Addition to Mt. Rainier) contributes to the early 20th century character of the downtown Mt. Rainier survey area. The straightforward building is virtually unadorned and relies on a molded cornice with a plain entablature and large display windows for its visual interest. Although it has been altered with unsympathetic materials, the building retains its original scale and storefront use.

Lot 3 in Block 1 was originally sold by James C. and Blanche R. Rogers in 1922.<sup>2</sup> The lot changed hands several times that year before it was acquired by Washington C. and Lettie H. Murphy (see Chain of Title). The Murphys apparently erected the present building by 1924 when assessment records first indicate an improvement valued at \$2,000.

Notes

- 1 Prince George's County Land Records, 179:203.
- 2 Prince George's County Assessments, E.D. 17, 1923-1926, p. 162.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. P.G.#68-55

See Notes, #8

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle name Washington East

Quadrangle scale \_\_\_\_\_

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

B	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

C	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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D	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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E	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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F	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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G	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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H	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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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
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state	code	county	code
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# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Howard S. Berger, Consultant

organization Historic Preservation Commission date March 1988

street & number 14741 Gov. Oden Bowie Drive telephone 952-4609

city or town Upper Marlboro state Maryland 20772

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

Chain of Title  
P.G. 68-55  
3229-3231 Rhode Island Avenue

5582:495 2 September 1965 Deed	Charles J. Saglinbene to Jay K. and Sun Im Yu. Grantor conveys Lot 3 in Block 1, Roger's Second Addition to Mt. Rainier. Plat recorded BDS1:48. Same obtained from Thelma M. Lee, et al, 9 August 1972, 4121:667.
4121:667 9 August 1972 Deed	Thelma M. Lee, Jean M. Foster and Joseph S. Cullins, Jr., representative of Francis Hilda Murphy, deceased, devises of Washington Clayton Murphy to Charles J. Saglinbene. Grantors convey Lot 3 in Block 1. Same obtained from Frank M. and Grace R. Coward, 28 November 1922, 190:140.
190:140 28 November 1922 Deed	Frank M. and Grace R. Coward to Washington Clayton and Lettie H. Murphy. Grantors convey Lot 3 in Block 1. Same obtained from Annie H. Bernabo, 24 October 1922, 189:202.
189:202 24 October 1922 Deed	Annie H. Bernabo to Frank M. Coward. Grantor conveys Lot 3 in Block 1. Same obtained from James C. and Blanche R. Rogers, 10 May 1922, 179:203.
179:203 10 May 1922 Deed	James C. and Blanche R. Rogers to Annie H. Bernabo. Grantors convey Lot 3 in Block 1. To clear title, this deed is made.



26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34
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1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32
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1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35
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# HOWARD VIDEO

3229  
\$1<sup>00</sup> PER NIGHT

S  
A  
N  
D  
W  
I  
C  
H  
E  
S

52 free  
RENTALS  
PER YEAR

VCR  
REPAIR  
WE REPAIR ALL MODELS

UNITED P  
WE

UNITED  
LABOR



PA# 68-55

Murphy Building  
3229-3231 Rhode Island  
Prince George's Co, MD  
Howard Berger  
Oct 1987

Neg. MD Historical Society  
Annapolis, MD