

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY
HISTORIC SITE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey #: P.G. #68-56 Building Date: c. 1938

Building Name: United Pawn Brokers

Location: 3225 Rhode Island Avenue, Mt. Rainier, Maryland

Private/Commercial/Occupied/Fair/Restricted

Description

3225 Rhode Island Avenue is a two-story brick-faced cinder block commercial building with a rectangular plan. The first story of the main (north) facade contains a storefront and a recessed entry (at left) providing access to the second story apartment. The storefront has a deeply recessed single door entry between flanking show windows whose fronts are flush with the facade. The bases of the show windows are sheathed with opaque black glass panels. Above the show windows is a fluted aluminum cornice. The extreme east and west portions of the main facade and the area under the windows of the second story are faced with square panels of a light gray material that appears to be either limestone or concrete. The remaining portion of the second story is faced with reddish-brown brick. Evenly spaced across the second story are six 1/1 sash double-hung windows. The facade is surmounted by a horizontal parapet with an unadorned capstone of material similar to the first story facing. The building has a flat roof. A two-part contemporary, backlight sign protrudes above the storefront which is fitted with a modern security gate.

Significance

The building at 3225 Rhode Island Avenue (Block 1, east half of Lot 2, Roger's Second Addition to Mount Rainier) is a significant example of mixed-use architecture of the 1930's. The building's scale and configuration contribute to the character of the Rhode Island Avenue streetscape. The building's first story accommodates a commercial function while the second story contains an apartment. There is no evidence that the east half of Lot 2 had been improved prior to the construction of the present building at 3225 Rhode Island Avenue. Harry and Mary Lebowitz purchased all of Lot 2 in 1922. A prominent local businessman, Lebowitz had established a dry cleaning and tailor shop at 3817 34th Street in 1909. In 1935, Lebowitz divided Lot 2, selling the west half to Harry and Mary Clayton. In 1937 Lebowitz transferred title to the remaining portion of Lot 2 to Ell Properties, a family affiliated entity. By 1939 the Lebowitz family erected the building that presently occupies the east half of Lot 2. In that year the parcel's assessment included a \$9,000 improvement for a "store and apartment." The building remained in the Lebowitz family until 1963.

Maryland Historical Trust

State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common United Pawn Brokers

2. Location

street & number 3225 Rhode Island Avenue (U.S. Route 1) not for publicationcity, town Mt. Rainier 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 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 Samuel and Sadie Milewsky

street & number 723 Dartmouth Avenue telephone no.: (301) 585-9160

city, town Silver Spring state and zip code Maryland 20910

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Prince George's County Courthouse liber 3203

street & number Main Street folio 44

city, town Upper Marlboro state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Historic Sites and Districts Plan

date 1981 federal state county local

depository for survey records Historic Preservation Commission, M-NCPPC, CAB, Rm. 401C

city, town Upper Marlboro state Maryland 20772

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 type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date of move _____
<input checked="" 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.

3225 Rhode Island Avenue is a two-story brick-faced cinder block commercial building with a rectangular plan (see slide #123). The first story of the main (north) facade contains a storefront and a recessed entry (at left) providing access to the second story apartment. The storefront has a deeply recessed single door entry between flanking show windows whose fronts are flush with the facade. The bases of the show windows are sheathed with opaque black glass panels. Above the show windows is a fluted aluminum cornice. The extreme east and west portions of the main facade and the area under the windows of the second story are faced with square panels of a light gray material that appears to be either limestone or concrete.

The remaining portion of the second story is faced with reddish-brown brick. Evenly spaced across the second story are six 1/1 sash double-hung windows. The facade is surmounted by a horizontal parapet with an unadorned capstone of material similar to the first story facing. The building has a flat roof. A two-part contemporary, backlight sign protrudes above the storefront which is fitted with a modern security gate.

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 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. 1938 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.

CONTRIBUTING

The building at 3225 Rhode Island Avenue (Block 1, east half of Lot 2, Roger's Second Addition to Mount Rainier) is a significant example of mixed-use architecture of the 1930's. The building's scale and configuration contribute to the character of the Rhode Island Avenue streetscape. The building's first story accommodates a commercial function while the second story contains an apartment.

There is no evidence that the east half of Lot 2 had been improved prior to the construction of the present building at 3225 Rhode Island Avenue. Harry and Mary Lebowitz purchased all of Lot 2 in 1922. A prominent local businessman, Lebowitz had established a dry cleaning and tailor shop at 3817 34th Street in 1909. In 1935, Lebowitz divided Lot 2, selling the west half to Harry and Mary Clayton. In 1937 Lebowitz transferred title to the remaining portion of Lot 2 to E11 Properties, a family affiliated entity.¹ By 1939 the Lebowitz family erected the building that presently occupies the east half of Lot 2. In that year the parcel's assessment included a \$9,000 improvement for a "store and apartment."² The building remained in the Lebowitz family until 1963.

According to its current owner, Sadie Milewsky, for about twenty-five years beginning in the late 1950's the storefront was occupied by the Landmark Finance Company. The first story has been occupied for several years by United Pawn Brokers.³

Notes

- 1 Prince George's County Land Records, 191:125, 434:221, 474:375.
- 2 Prince George's County Assessment Records, E.D. 17, 1937-1941, p. 137.
- 3 Interview, Sadie Milewsky, February 14, 1988.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. P.G.#68-56

See Notes, #8

10. Geographical Data

Acree of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name Washington East

Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A
Zone Easting Northing

B
Zone Easting Northing

C

D

E

F

G

H

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 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. 68-56
3225 Rhode Island Avenue

3204:44
2 September 1965
Deed
Ely (Eli) and Lena Weinkranz and Abraham and Helen Goldkind to Samuel and Sadie Milewsky. Grantors convey east half of Lot ~~2~~ in Block 1, Rogers Second Addition to Mt. Rainier. Plat recorded BDS1:48. Same obtained from Sam and Sadie Lebowitz et al, 10 January 1963, 2782:315.

2782:315
10 January 1963
Deed
Sam and Sadie Lebowitz et al to Ely and Lena Weinkranz and Abraham and Helen Goldkind. Grantors convey part of Lot 2 in Block 1. Same obtained from E11 Properties, 31 December 1962, 2782:312.

2782:312
31 December 1962
Deed
E11 Properties to Sam and Sadie Lebowitz, et al. Grantor conveys part of Lot 2 in Block 1. Same obtained from Harry and Mary Lebowitz, 22 April 1937, 474:375.

474:375
22 April 1937
Deed
Harry and Mary Lebowitz to E11 Properties. Grantors convey part of Lot 2 in Block 1. Same obtained from Julia L. Stilwell, 6 December 1922, 191:125.

191:125
6 December 1922
Deed
Julia L. and Donald H. Stilwell to Harry and Mary Lebowitz. Grantors convey all of Lot 2 in Block 1. Same obtained from Clara P. and Thomas F. Lyons, 22 October 1918, 138:87.

138:87
22 October 1918
Deed
Clara P. and Thomas F. Lyons to Julia L. Stilwell. Grantors convey all of Lot 2 in Block 1. Same obtained from James C. and Blanche R. Rogers, 26 February 1909, 67:134.

67:134
26 February 1909
Deed
James C. and Blanche R. Rogers to Clara P. Lyons. Grantors convey all of Lot 2 in Block 1. To clear title, this deed is made.



PGH 68-56

United Pawn Brokers
3225-3227 Rhode Island Ave.
Prince George's Co, MD
Howard Berger
Oct. 1987

reg: MD Historical Trust
Annapolis, MD