

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Magi No.

LOE  yes  no

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Sehorn House

and/or common 4906 Ravenswood Dr.

## 2. Location

street & number 4906 Ravenswood Dr.  not for publication

city, town Riverdale  vicinity of congressional district 5

state Maryland county Prince George's

## 3. Classification

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>	
<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	<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

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

name Gerald and Shirley Burris

street & number 4906 Ravenswood Dr.

telephone no.:

city, town Riverdale state and zip code MD. 20737

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Prince George's County Court House liber JWB5

street & number 14735 Main Street folio 474

city, town Upper Marlboro state MD

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date  federal  state  county  loc

depository for survey records

city, town state

# 7. Description

Survey No. PG 68-4-56

<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
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date of move _____

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

The Sehorn house is a two story bungalow with one large gable located at the front of the house (south side). Built by George Sehorn in 1904, it is located on the north side of Ravenswood Dr. on the north side of East-West highway.

The house originally had a porch on the south-west corner, but this was enclosed before 1976. Steel siding of a mustard color was placed on the house in 1978 by the current owners. This siding covers the attic windows that are visible in the early brochure. These windows do, however, still exist, and are still visible from the inside.

Of the two original fireplaces only one is currently operational, but the second is only enclosed by panneling, and could be easily reopened.

The only artistic detail left from the original house is the moulding in the kitchen. This is true because much of the first floor had to be demolished in the late '70s due to a huge roach infestation.

Most of the doors and windows have been replaced, and modified. Doors are smaller and windows are of the new thermal variety. A new window has been cut into the west side of the house, evidence of which is in the pictures. All of the glass in the house has been replaced with the exception of the dormer windows in the attic.

In 1980 a first floor addition, consisting of three rooms was completed.

The shed visible in the early brochure was blown down in a storm in 1985 and has not been rebuilt.

# 8. Significance

Survey No. PG 68-4-56

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1904	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
			<input type="checkbox"/> science
			<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
			<input type="checkbox"/> social/
			<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
			<input type="checkbox"/> theater
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify

Specific dates 1904 Builder/Architect George Sehorn

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 significance of the Sehorn house is based in its history as opposed to its architecture. It was one of the first homes in the Riversdale Park community that was inhabited year-round. Its owner George Sehorn was a laborer in a government printing office, and could not have afforded two houses.

The house has changed hands many times over the course of the century and each owner has added personal touches and modifications to the building. These alterations have left little of the original structure in tact.

Lot 11 block 23 was bought by George Sehorn from William Connell in 1903. William Connell was the secretary of the Riversdale Park Co., but we were unable to locate the deed for his purchase of the land. On Nov. 24, 1903 George Sehorn recieved a loan for \$1,200.00 which was applied to the building of his house. The house was completed in the Spring of 1904.

The main conditions for ownership in the Riversdale Park community were: no buisnesses could be run from residences, and each home must be valued at \$1,500.00 minimum. These statistics show that George Sehorn had some money saved before he applied for the loan. The Sehorns were originally from Washington, DC, and they had two daughters, Cora and Mae.

