

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY

HISTORIC SITE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey #: P.G. #69-20 Building Date: ca. 1930

Building Name: Sears House and Store

Location: 5105 Edmonston Road, Rogers Heights

Private/Residence/Occupied/Good/Inaccessible

Description

The Sears House fronting on Edmonston Road is a three story, gable roof frame dwelling of two-by-two-bays, set on a high, rock-faced cement block foundation. The building contains three apartment units. The two-bay west (main) facade has entry in the first bay, through a modern door reached by a long cement stairway. A two foot roof overhang composed of a wide frieze and overhanging eaves supported on brackets crosses the main facade. The second bay is an enclosed porch incorporated beneath the roof of the main block. Two Tuscan Doric pillars support the roof overhang and are still visible although the porch was enclosed by a half wall surmounted by a band of casement windows, the whole sheltered by a canvas awning. A metal placque is riveted to the south corner of the main facade. It reads: The Public August Shoppe Riverdale District, Prince George's County, Maryland Sears, Roebuck and Company Philadelphia Dedicates Our Guest Home, Showroom and Our First Ice Cream Parlour The Overnight Visitor, Often Finds His Way to Our Guest Home and to The World's Largest Store Gen. R. E. Wood, President E. J. Pollack, Vice President, 1930. The building is covered with yellow-painted asbestos shingle. A three-bay shed roof dormer is centered above the main facade. The building has an asymmetrical roofline, the west slope of the gable roof is much longer than the east slope.

Significance

The house at 5105 Edmonston Road is of little significance, architecturally. It has interest because it may be a Sears, Roebuck and Company mail-order house, adapted for commercial use as a Sears product showroom and ice cream parlor. The property was deeded in 1930 to William J. and Clare Estelle Miller by Sears, Roebuck and Company. Attached to the southwest corner of the building is a metal plaque dated 1930, which proclaims that the building was an ice cream shop, guest house and Sears showroom. The enclosed porch at the front of the building is equipped with a wooden booth for seating, and an old ca. 1930's refrigerator. The house is not similar to any of the Sears mail-order houses depicted in the book Houses by Mail. Three long-time residents of the area could not remember any commercial use of the property. Whether the placque is genuine has at this time not been answered.

Acreage: 4,570 square feet

# Maryland Historical Trust

## State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Magi No.

DOE  yes  no

### 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common Sears House and Store

### 2. Location

street & number 5105 Edmonston Road  not for publicationcity, town Rogers Heights (unincorporated)  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 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 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 Robert Louis Chambers

street &amp; number 5105 Edmonston Road telephone no.:

city, town Rogers Heights state and zip code MD 20781

### 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Prince George's County Courthouse liber 5736

street &amp; number Main Street folio 155

city, town Upper Marlboro state MD

### 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title NA

date  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Historic Preservation Commission, Rm. 4010, CAB

city, town Upper Marlboro state MD

# 7. Description

Survey No. P.G.#69-20

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input 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.

The Sears House at 5105 Edmonston Road is a three story, gable roof frame dwelling of two-by-two-bays, set on a high, rock-faced cement block foundation. Situated on a lot of 4,570 square feet and fronting on Edmonston Road, the building contains three apartment units.

The two-bay west (main) facade has entry in the first bay, through a modern door reached by a long cement stairway. The entry is at the second story level due to the high, above-ground basement the building is set on.

A two foot roof overhang composed of a wide frieze and overhanging eaves supported on brackets crosses the main facade. The second bay is an enclosed porch incorporated beneath the roof of the main block. Two Tuscan Doric pillars support the roof overhang and are still visible although the porch was enclosed. The enclosure is a half wall surmounted by a band of casement windows, the whole sheltered by a canvas awning with the decorative inscription "August 2, 1949".

A metal placque measuring approximately one-by-two-feet is riveted to the south corner of the main facade. The placque reads:

The Public  
August Shoppe  
Riverdale District, Prince George's County, Maryland  
Sears, Roebuck and Company  
Philadelphia  
Dedicates Our Guest Home, Showroom and  
Our First Ice  
Cream Parlour  
The Overnight Visitor, Often Finds His Way  
to Our Guest Home and to  
The World's Largest Store  
Gen. R. E. Wood, President  
E. J. Pollack, Vice President  
1930

The building is covered with yellow-painted asbestos shingle. The foundation is grey painted rock-faced cement block and the building is roofed with asphalt shingle. The overhanging eaves have a narrow, boxed cornice with cornice returns. A three-bay shed roof dormer is centered above the main facade. It contains three 6/1 double-hung-sash windows with plain board surrounds.

The north and south gable ends of the house are two bays, irregularly fenestrated with single and double 6/1 sash windows. The building has an asymmetrical roofline, visible from these elevations. The west (main) slope of the gable roof is much longer than the east (rear) slope.

The east (rear) elevation is two bays on the second story, with a one-story shed roof three-bay wing set on the same high cement block foundation as the main block. The overhanging eaves on this wing have projecting rafter ends. There is also a one-story, two bay shed roof frame lean-to attached to the northeast corner of the building. This lean-to contains an efficiency apartment.

The interior of the front enclosed porch appears to have been used as a small ice cream shop. The porch is reached by a flight of wooden stairs up the south side of the building. There is one booth, composed of a wooden table and two wooden benches, to the west as one enters the porch. An entry door to the main block of the building is to the east. To the north or rear of the porch room is a wall with a door and a large rectangular opening, now boarded over, where one could place an order and receive ice cream. An old metal refrigerator with a circular motor enclosure on top has the inscription "Sears, Where Ice Cream is Never More than 11 Cents".

In the rear yard, southeast of the house is a small, one-story fieldstone structure, partially below ground level. There is a central arched entrance on the north side. This structure is used as a one-room, efficiency apartment.

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

Specific dates 1930 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.

The house at 5105 Edmonston Road is of little significance, architecturally. It has interest because it may be a Sears, Roebuck and Company mail-order house, adapted for commercial use as a Sears product showroom and ice cream parlor.

The property was deeded in 1930 to William J. and Clare Estelle Miller of Riverdale by Sears, Roebuck and Company.<sup>1</sup> Attached to the southwest corner of the building is a metal plaque dated 1930, which proclaims that the building was an ice cream shop, guest house and Sears showroom. The enclosed porch at the front of the building is equipped with a wooden booth for seating, and an old ca. 1930's refrigerator. The property owner found a large box of Sears mail order catalogs dating to the 1930's and a stack of wooden cases containing 6-1/2 oz. glass coke bottles, left in the attic.

The house is not similar to any of the Sears mail-order houses depicted in the book Houses by Mail, which is an incomplete but fairly detailed catalogue of the dwellings Sears offered for mail-order between the years 1908 and 1940.<sup>2</sup> Three long-time residents of the area were consulted and none could remember any commercial use of the property.<sup>3</sup> The question of whether the placque is genuine has at this time not been answered.

### Notes

1 Land Records of Prince George's County, 360:275.

2 Catalogs unrepresented in Houses by Mail are from 1909, 1910, 1915, 1923 and 1930. Very few of the house models were offered for only one year, however. A building introduced in one of the missing cataloges would be repeated in the following years. Houses by Mail, Katherine Cole Stevenson and H. Ward Jangl, Preservation Press, Washington, D.C., 1986.

3 Interview with Francis X. Geary, Robert Miller and James Rogers, August 1987.



Chain of Title

Sears House and Store  
P.G. #69-20

5736:155  
4 Aug 1983  
Deed  
Pierre A. LeBlanc and Bethsabe L. Reyton, of Manuela LeBlanc of Manuela LeBlanc, dec'd. to Robert Louis Chambers. For \$46,500 grantors convey that parcel in Bladensburg District, Lot B on 1926 Plat. Contains 4570' square feet. Same obtained from Albert R. Minder and Frances B. Minder, 17 June 1975, 4506:641.

4506:641  
17 June 1975  
Deed  
Albert R. and Frances B. Minder and Ralph A. Birkel to Pierre and Manuela LeBlanc. For \$10 grantors convey Lot B, contains 4570 square feet. Same 4318:942.

4318:992  
21 Dec 1973  
Ralph A. Birkel to Albert R. and Frances B. Minder and Ralph A. Birkel, same Lot B as above. Deed recorded 360:273.

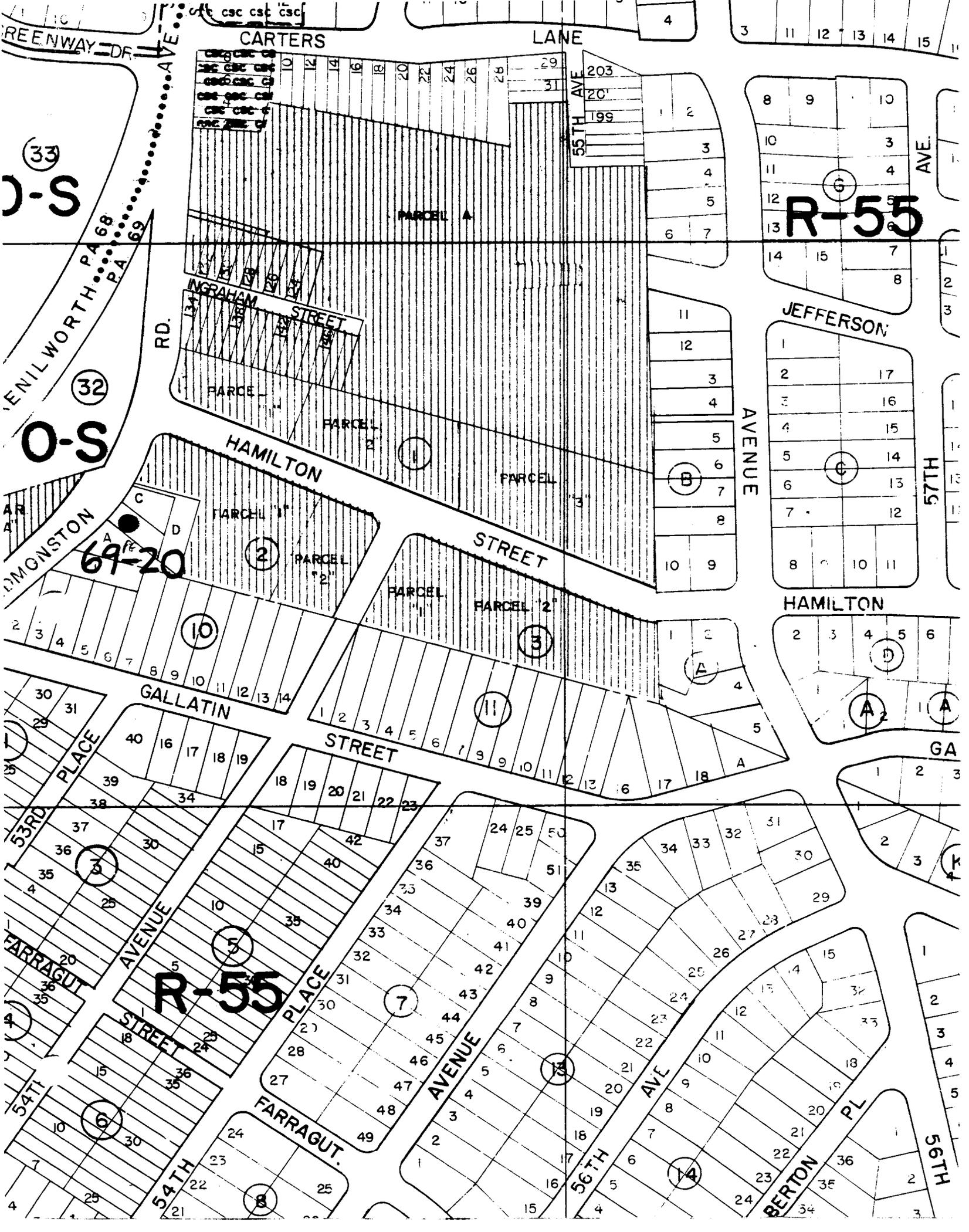
2648:161  
2 Jan. 1962  
Deed  
George E. and Pearl Hamilton to Robert J. Manovill and Reeva E. Brown, for \$10 grantors convey Lot D in East Hyattsville and Lot B on Edmonston Road of 4,570 square feet.

2408:424  
3 Dec. 1959  
Deed  
William J. and Mathilda Miller, to George E. and Pearl C. Hamilton. For \$10 grantors convey Lot B in Riverdale District, 4,570 square feet.

418:353  
8 Aug. 1934  
Deed of  
Trust  
William J. Miller and Clara Estelle Miller to Henry P. Blair and Allen C. Clark of D.C., Trustees. Millers indebted to Equitable Life Insurance for \$2,300. To secure debt, convey Lot B, 4,570 square feet.

360:273  
15 May 1930  
Deed  
Sears, Roebuck & Company to William J. and Clara Estelle Miller of Riverdale. For \$1 grantor conveys that improved Lot B of 4570 square feet, subject to mortgage \$3284.16.

360:275  
15 April 1930  
Mortgage  
William and Clara Estelle Miller of Riverdale to Edmond D. Ford of Philadelphia, Trustee. Whereas grantors indebted to grantee for \$3284.16, to be paid in installation of \$35.00/mo.



CARTERS

LANE

GREENWAY DR

AVE

10 12 14 16 18 20 22 24 26 28 29 31 203 200 199

3 11 12 13 14 15

(33)

O-S

PA 68 PA 69

RD

INGRAHAM STREET

PARCEL 1

55TH AVE

8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15

R-55

(32)

O-S

PARCEL 2

HAMILTON STREET

PARCEL 3

AVENUE

JEFFERSON

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

57TH

MONSTON

69-20

PARCEL 1 PARCEL 2

STREET

PARCEL 1

PARCEL 2

(B)

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17

HAMILTON

2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11

GALLATIN STREET

STREET

53RD PLACE

54TH PLACE

FARRAGUT STREET

R-55

54TH PLACE

54TH PLACE

FARRAGUT

AVENUE

56TH AVE

BERTON PL

56TH

30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 16 17 18 19

18 19 20 21 22 23 17 15 10 35 30 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 A

24 25 50 37 36 35 34 33 32 31 30 29 28 27 26 25 24 23 22 21 20 19 18 17 16 15 14 13 12 11 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

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

15 14 13 12 11 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

1 2 3 4 5

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 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49

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 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49

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 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49

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 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49

# WASHINGTON EAST





P.G. #69-20

Sears House and Store  
Prince George's County, Maryland  
Marina King  
April 1987  
West elevation  
Neg: Maryland Historical Trust  
Annapolis, MD



P.G. #69-20

Sears House and Store  
Prince George's County, Maryland  
Marina King  
April 1987  
South elevation  
Neg: Maryland Historical Trust  
Annapolis, MD

5105

ESTABLISHED  
AUGUST 1892  
BY THE  
MILK PROCESSING BOARD  
OF CALIFORNIA  
OUR FIRST ICE-  
CREAM PARLOUR  
THE WORLD'S LARGEST STORE

P.G. #69-20

Sears House and Store  
Prince George's County, Maryland  
Marina King  
April 1987  
Plaque, southwest corner  
Neg: Maryland Historical Trust  
Annapolis, MD