**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST**
**NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM**

Property Name: Help Association Thrift Shop Inventory Number: CT-1268

Address: 1200East Block of Mt. Harmony Road, NorthSide, Owings, MD 20736, Calvert County

Owner: Charlotte M & Herbert C Dowell, 8446 Stevens Rd. Owings, MD 20736

Tax Parcel Number: 33 Tax Map Number: 7

Project MD 260: Bridge 4022 and Relocations of Mt. Harmony R Agency State Highway Administration (SHA)

Site visit by SHA Staff: __ no X yes Name: Kelly Steele Date: 05/23/2000

Eligibility recommended __ Eligibility **not** recommended X

Criteria __A __B X C __D Considerations: __A __B __C __D __E __F __G X None

Is property located within a historic district? X no __ yes Name of District: _____

Is district listed?: X no __ yes

Documentation on the property/district is presented in: Project Review and Compliance Files

Description of Property and Eligibility Determination *(Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map and photo)*

Description:
The building located at the Mt. Harmony Road/Lafayette Drive/MD 260 westbound intersection houses the Help Association Thrift Shop. This 1940s one-story, painted concrete block building sits towards the western edge of the lot and is surrounded by pavement at the east and south, and vegetation to the north and west. The structure has a rectangular footprint, and the double-door entrance creates a diagonal at the southeast corner. The low-pitch, gable roof runs east-west along the structure. A chimney pierces the roof at the west end, and asbestos shingles cover the wall surface in the gables on the east and west facades.

The main façade, the east façade, has a large,centered two-pane window. Above this contemporary display window, a store sign, a slatted vent opening, and a light are stacked and centered in the gable. A customer information sign stands to the north of the display window. At the south end, the wall cuts back from the roofline and angles to the south façade, creating an inset porch for the entrance. The porch is supported by single wooden post, and a set of two stairs provide access to the porch from the east and the south. Nine-pane, double doors are centered on the angled

Prepared by: Kelly Steele Architectural Historian SHA

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**Eligibility recommended** __ **Eligibility not recommended** ✓

**Criteria:** __ **A** __ **B** ✓ **C** __ **D** **Consideration** __ **A** __ **B** __ **C** __ **D** __ **E** __ **F** __ **G** __ **None**

**Comments:** _____

**Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services** 8/22/00 **Date**

**Reviewer, NR Program** 8/28/00 **Date**

wall and provide a main entrance. Another customer information sign hangs on the wall to the south of the doors.

The south elevation houses a second two-pane, large display window near the main entrance, as well as four modern, small two-pane windows at the eave. One of the smaller windows holds an air conditioning unit. At the west end of this façade stands a nine-pane door and a single-pane basement window.

At the west elevation the adjacent land has been excavated in order to expose the basement wall in addition to the main level. On this side, a metal garage door stands at the far north end, providing access to the basement level. On the main level, two contemporary two-pane windows flank a centered nine-pane window. And, an opening in the gable holds a vent and nine-panes.

The north elevation has five openings, evenly spaced along the wall at the eave. Three of the openings now hold air conditioning units and the remaining two contain older, four-pane windows. Below these eave-line windows, at the west end are two, two-pane units.

Significance:
Calvert County, established in 1654, is located in southern Maryland on the western shore of the Chesapeake Bay. Within the county, settlement occurred along the north and south shores of the Patuxent River as early as 1639. Settlement spread quickly through the county, with most of the tillable land occupied by the end of the 17th century. With this dispersed settlement, the county contained few towns

A combination of favorable soil and topography, and good river transportation helped establish agricultural as the main economic factor. Tobacco became the chief crop and remained so until the late 20th century. This emphasis on agriculture promoted large land holdings without much town development. This pattern continued through the Revolutionary War, at which time the decline of the plantation system and the proliferation of small farms changed the county socially and supported the growth of small towns and crossroad villages.

The introduction of the railroad in 1868 also helped influence the development of the county. While railroads did not play a large role in Calvert County, the Washington & Chesapeake Railroad, started in 1891 to provide travel between Washington , DC and a planned resort at Chesapeake Beach, did spur the development of small communities and service centers around the railroad freight and flag stops. However, during the 1930s, substantial road improvements replaced the reliance on boats and trains for transportation. Such infrastructure improvements enabled the county to grow and develop in conjunction with the Washington-Baltimore metropolitan area expansion. With these metropolitan areas extending into Calvert County, the economic reliance on tobacco declined, and metropolitan development, recreation and tourism started driving the economy of Calvert County.

The area around the Mt. Harmony Road/ MD 260 intersection was slow to develop, with the first road in the area appearing on an 1865 map (predecessor of Mt. Harmony Road). On an 1885 map, a "colored" church appears in the area. Then, between 1897 and 1899, the Washington & Chesapeake Beach Railway came through the area, and the Mt. Harmony railway station was located within the project area (despite the fact that the village of Mt. Harmony was about 1 mile west). However, the railway went bankrupt in 1935, and its tracks were taken up, and the bed abandoned. A large portion of MD 260 was subsequently built on the abandoned railroad alignment. Many of the residential and commercial structures in the project area were built during the 1940, with some adjacent residences constructed in the 1980s.

National Register Evaluation:
While the Help Association Thrift Shop does represent 1940s commercial architecture in Calvert County, it is not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, as defined by the criteria of eligibility in 36 CFR 60. The structure does not possess an association with significant events or trends, and is not eligible under Criterion A. The structure is not eligible under Criterion B either. Research did not identify any known association with significant persons Similarly, the structure is not eligible under Criterion C because it does not embody distinctive

characteristics of a type and period of construction. While the Thrift Shop does characterize a gable-front, vernacular plan commercial structure, the structure is not unique and modern additions and county development have compromised the structure's design, setting, materials, and association. Finally, the property has no known potential to yield important information, so it is not eligible under Criterion D, and the seven criteria considerations do not apply.

Inventory No. CT-1268

**PRESERVATION VISION 2000; THE MARYLAND PLAN**
**TATEWIDE HISTORIC CONTEXTS**

**I. Geographic Region:**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ____ | Eastern Shore | (all Eastern Shore counties, and Cecil) |
| X | Western Shore | (Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, Prince George's and St. Mary's) |
| ____ | Piedmont | (Baltimore City, Baltimore, Carroll, Frederick, Harford, Howard, Montgomery) |
| ____ | Western Maryland | (Allegany, Garrett and Washington) |

**II. Chronological/Developmental Periods:**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ____ | Rural Agrarian Intensification | A.D. 1680-1815 |
| ____ | Agricultural-Industrial Transition | A.D. 1815-1870 |
| ____ | Industrial/Urban Dominance | A.D. 1870-1930 |
| X | Modern Period | A.D. 1930- Present |
| ____ | Unknown Prehistoric | |
| ____ | Unknown Historic | |

**IV. Historic Period Themes:**

____ Agriculture
X Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Community Planning
____ Economic (Commercial and Industrial)
____ Government/Law
____ Military
____ Religion
____ Social Educational/Cultural
____ Transportation

**V. Resource Type:**

Category: Building

Historic environment: Rural

Historic Function(s) and Use(s): Commerce/specialty store

Known Design Source: None

Survey No. CT-1268
Resource Name Help Association Thrift Shop
Town/County Owings/Calvert County
Quad Map North Beach

1. Help Association Thrift Shop
2. "
3. Calvert County, MD
4. Heather Comfort
5. Feb. 2000
6.
7. SE corner of building
8. 1 of 1

CT-1268

1200 E block nr. Harmony Rd
Owings, MD