The first John Heidelbach Company, a Queen Anne style commercial building constructed circa 1880, is located within the heart of Catonsville. Together with the 1925 Classical Revival style store at 720 Frederick Avenue, the wood frame building served as the Heidelbach Grocery Store from 1899 until 1965. The building, located on Frederick Road, is representative of the commercial development that defined the main thoroughfare of Catonsville at the turn of the 20th century.

The Heidelbach Store, located at the west end of a row of other commercial buildings, is two stories high and three bays wide with a central entry. The rectangular-shaped building is constructed of wood frame, set upon a parged foundation. A front-gabled roof with asphalt-shingle cladding and cornice returns covers it. The façade is clad with wood fishscale shingles, while the side and rear elevations have vinyl German siding. Extensively altered since its construction, the building has a commercial storefront on the façade, has been renovated on the side and rear elevations, and enlarged by shed roof additions. The adjacent masonry building at 720 Frederick Road, constructed in 1925 to serve the growing commercial interests of the Heidelbach Company, obscures the east elevation from view.
Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

1. Name of Property
   historic  John Heidelbach Company; Heidelbach Store (Frame)
   other  Plymouth Wallpaper Company

2. Location
   street and number  724 Frederick Road  not for publication
   city, town  Baltimore  vicinity
   county  Baltimore

3. Owner of Property  (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)
   name  Dorothy Swimmer
   street and number  724 Frederick Road  telephone  410.788.8500
   city, town  Baltimore  state  Maryland  zip code  21228-4501

4. Location of Legal Description
   courthouse, registry of deeds, etc.  Baltimore County Courthouse  tax map and parcel  m: 101, p: 1768
   city, town  Towson,  liber  6634  folio 146

5. Primary Location of Additional Data
   Contributing Resource in National Register District
   Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
   Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
   Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
   Recorded by HABS/HAER
   Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
   Other:________

6. Classification

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[Image 0x-0 to 616x795]

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

Built circa 1880, the wood frame Heidelbach Store at 724 Frederick Road is two stories high and three bays wide with a central entry. This Queen Anne-style building is located in the town of Catonsville at the west end of a row of other commercial buildings. The rectangular-shaped building is constructed of wood frame, set upon a parged foundation. It is covered by a front-gabled roof with asphalt-shingle cladding and cornice returns. The façade is clad with wood fishscale shingles, while the side and rear elevations have vinyl German siding. Extensively altered since its construction, the building has a commercial storefront on the façade, has been renovated on the side and rear elevations, and enlarged by shed roof additions. The adjacent masonry building at 720 Frederick Road, constructed in 1925 to serve the growing commercial interests of the Heidelbach Company, obscures the east elevation from view. Paved parking is located to the west and rear. The building currently houses the Plymouth Wallpaper Company.

EXTERIOR

The three-bay wide façade faces Frederick Road, to the south, and is marked on the first story by a projecting storefront. The three bay wide façade has a canted central entry, holding two single-leaf wood doors. One of the doors is paneled with lights; while the other is flush. Flanking the recessed entry are fixed plate glass display windows with metal frames, dating from the middle part of the 20th century. A band of nine fixed three-light windows is directly above the show windows, serving as transoms. These have been painted, and are now opaque. The top of the storefront is embellished with cornice molding, and covered by a half-hipped standing-seam metal roof. The second story is clad with wood fishscale shingles and is pierced by three symmetrically placed windows. Queen Anne in style, each has a multiple-light upper sash, with one large center pane surrounded by smaller panes, above a two-light lower sash. The center window is slightly larger than the side windows, and is sheltered by a front-gabled hood supported by two wood brackets. An unusual rectangular structure clad with fishscale shingles and cornice molding rests on top of the hood, in front of the peak of the front gable. The function of this structure has not been determined.

Clad with vinyl German siding, the west elevation of the main block is three bays deep and includes two one-bay deep rear additions. The main block features a row of eight one-light square vinyl windows on the first story. These are symmetrically placed, although not equally spaced, and have wide square-edged surrounds. On the second story, three 1/1 vinyl windows with square-edged surrounds pierce the main block of the building. The center opening is standard, while the flanking windows are elongated. The shed roof addition on the rear of the main block has two standard 1/1 vinyl windows with wide square-edged surrounds on the second story. The one-story addition has a single-leaf door with one light above two panels. A shed-roof hood shelters the door, and is supported by a square-edged wood brace at the northern end. Above the entry, slightly asymmetrically placed, is a fixed one-light vinyl window with a wide square-edged surround.
The rear, or north, elevation is also clad with vinyl German siding, and is comprised of the north side of the shed-roofed rear addition. This wall is pierced by two 1/1 vinyl windows and a fixed square one-light vinyl window—each with wide square-edged surrounds. A concrete block interior-end chimney adjoins the adjacent building, but is located on the roof of the shed-roof addition. The gable of the main block is clad with vinyl German siding and marked by a narrow fixed one-light window.

The interior was not accessible at the time of the survey.
8. Significance

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Evaluation for:

- National Register
- Maryland Register
- not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance reports, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

The first John Heidelbach Company, a Queen Anne style commercial building constructed circa 1880, is located within the heart of Catonsville. Together with the 1925 Classical Revival style store at 720 Frederick Avenue, the wood frame building served as the Heidelbach Grocery Store from 1899 until 1965. Located on Frederick Road, the building is representative of the commercial development that defined the main thoroughfare of Catonsville at the turn of the 20th century.

BUILDING HISTORY

The prosperity of the 1920s and the growth of suburbs around Baltimore City brought a surge of new construction and tremendous influx of new residents to Catonsville. The population jumped from about 5,000 in 1920 to over 9,000 in 1930, with almost 900 new dwellings built in the village core and in surrounding subdivisions. These residents relied heavily upon the commercial services provided in the town, primarily those located along Frederick Road. The Heidelbach Grocery Store was one such establishment. Originally located at 918 Frederick Road, the grocery store was owned and operated by John Heidelbach between 1883 and 1889. In 1889, the store was moved to 722 Frederick Road (now 724 Frederick Road) where it continued to operate until 1965. The success of the Heidelbach store led to the opening of a second store in Roland Park, a neighborhood in Baltimore City.

The commercial building at 724 Frederick Road appears as a grocery store on the Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps as early as 1899. To the rear of the grocery store, there were two stables and an unidentified outbuilding, none of which are extant. In 1899, the block on which the Heidelbach Store was located consisted of a number of other commercial buildings, including two other groceries, a meat market, two barber shops, a plumbing store, a jewelry store, two tin shops, two bakeries, a tobacco shop and a hotel. Although the use of these buildings has changed over time, the commercial nature of the block has remained. The first change to the property can be seen in 1910, when a warehouse and two additional outbuildings replaced the unidentified outbuilding and adjacent stable. However, no change to the primary building can be seen at this time. The need for expansion in 1925 led to the construction of the Classical Revival building at 720 Frederick Road, directly adjacent to the store at 722 Frederick Road. Despite the fact that newspapers confirm the construction of the new store in 1925, the building does not appear on the
Sanborn Maps until 1930. With the construction of the new store came the demolition of most of the historic outbuildings, including the circa 1910 warehouse. By 1925, as noted on the maps, the property contained the grocery store, a warehouse, two two-story vacant buildings to the rear of the grocery, and a one-story outbuilding. The warehouse, located at the northwest corner of the lot, appears to have the same footprint and location of the former stable. It is possible that the stable appearing on the maps from 1899 through 1919 was converted to a warehouse between 1919 and 1925. The warehouse once again seems to have undergone a transformation, being listed as a shed in 1930. Within thirty years, only the two commercial buildings remained on the site.\(^1\)

Owned by John and Mary Heidelbach, the property, including both parcels of land on Frederick Road, was deeded to William J. Heidelbach, George C. Heidelbach, J. Walter Heidelbach, and B. Sidney Heidelbach in 1925 for the sum of five dollars. Following John Heidelbach’s retirement in the 1920s, his wife and sons continued to operate the store. An advertisement in *The Argus* from 1926 indicates that the store continued to be known as the John Heidelbach Company, despite the transfer of ownership to his sons.\(^2\) Both buildings continued to operate as the Heidelbach Store until 1965. The two buildings continue to operate as one business, housing the Plymouth Wallpaper Company.

**Chain of Title:**

**Part 1:**

September 14, 1858: Joseph P. and Caroline Fusting to Thomas Burgess  
Land Records of Baltimore County  
Liber 23 Folio 221

July 14, 1876: Thomas and Juliana Burgess to M. E. Gerry  
Land Records of Baltimore County  
Liber JB 98 Folio 405

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Part 2:

May 13, 1868: Nathan R. Gerry to Margaret E. Gerry
Land Records of Baltimore County
Liber EHA 58 Folio 233

Both Parts:

December 1, 1892: Margaret E. and Nathaniel R. Gerry to Frank Wilson
Land Records of Baltimore County
Liber 195 Folio 123

September 11, 1924: Katie Wilson, widow, and Frank Wilson, Jr., her son, to John Heidelbach, William Heidelbach, George C. Heidelbach, J. Walter Heidelbach, and B. Sidney Heidelbach
Land Records of Baltimore County
Liber 596 Folio 501

March 1, 1925: Mary A. and John Heidelbach to William J. Heidelbach, George C. Heidelbach, J. Walter Heidelbach, and B. Sidney Heidelbach
Land Records of Baltimore County
Liber 619 Folio 30

May 22, 1969: Ruth and William J. Heidelbach, George C. Heidelbach, widower, Irene and Walter Heidelbach, Ruth and Sidney Heidelbach to the Heidelbach Company
Land Records of Baltimore County
Liber 5010 Folio 348

Land Records of Baltimore County
Liber 5102 Folio 479

July 8, 1974: Pick-White-Monger, Inc. to Samuel Barron, individual
Land Records of Baltimore County
Liber 5485 Folio 261
December 2, 1983: Dorothy Swimmer, personal representative of Samuel Barron, deceased, to Dorothy Swimmer
Land Records of Baltimore County
Liber GLB 6634 Folio 146
HISTORIC CONTEXT:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Piedmont

Chronological/Developmental Period(s): Industrial/Urban Dominance (1870-1930)
Modern Period (1930-Present)

Historic Period Theme(s): Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Community Planning
Economic (Commercial and Industrial)

Resource Type:

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Town

Historic Function(s) and Use(s): COMMERCE/TRADE/Specialty Store

Known Design Source: Unknown
9. Major Bibliographical References

Baltimore County Land and Will Records. Baltimore County Courthouse, Towson, Maryland.


10. Geographical Data

Acreage of project area: Less than one acre
Acreage surveyed: Less than one acre
Quadrangle name: Baltimore West
Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The property known as the first John Heidelbach Company is located at 724 Frederick Road in Catonsville, Maryland as noted on Tax Map 101, Parcel 1768. The commercial building has been associated with this site since the last quarter of the 19th century.

11. Form Prepared by

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>name/title</th>
<th>Robin Weidlich, Christopher Novelli, and Laura Trieschmann, Architectural Historians</th>
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<td>city or town</td>
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The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties 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
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032
410-514-7600
NOT DRAWN TO SCALE
BA-2906
Heidelbach Store
724 Fredrick Road
Catonsville, Baltimore County
USGS Quad Map: Baltimore West
BA 2906
Heidelbach Store
724 Frederick Road, Catonsville
Baltimore County
Traceries
1/100
Maryland EXPO
South elevation  LOOKING NORTH
1 of 3
BA 2906
Heidelbach Store
724 Frederick Road, Catonsville
Baltimore County
Traceries
100
Maryland SHPO
west elevation LOOKING SOUTHEAST
2 of 3
BA 2900
Heidelbach Store
724 Frederick Road, Catonsville
Baltimore County
Traceries
1100
Maryland SHPO
north elevation LOOKING SOUTH
3 of 3