

# Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. PG: 66-021-11

## 1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Harrison Store and Dwelling (preferred)  
 other Trolley Stop Sweet Shop

## 2. Location

street and number 4622-4624 College Avenue \_\_\_ not for publication  
 city, town College Park \_\_\_ vicinity  
 county Prince George's County

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

name Warren and Helen Creech  
 street and number 7100 Lois Lane telephone  
 city, town Lanham state MD zip code 20706-1106

## 4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Prince George's County Courthouse liber 8098 folio 93  
 city, town Upper Marlboro tax map 33 tax parcel D4 tax ID number 21 2350221

## 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: Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, Prince George's County Planning Department

## 6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	Contributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<u>2</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input type="checkbox"/> domestic	<u>      </u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	<u>      </u> structures
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	<u>      </u> objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	<u>2</u> Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	
		<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	
		<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	
		<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
		<input type="checkbox"/> social	
		<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	
		<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	
		<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use	
		<input type="checkbox"/> other:	
			<b>Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory</b>
			<u>1</u>

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## 7. Description

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### Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

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

The Harrison Store and Dwelling, also commonly known as the Trolley Stop Sweet Shop, is located at 4622-4624 College Avenue in Old Town College Park. The property is a contributing resource in the Old Town College, Park Prince George's County historic district. The structure includes two buildings located on the northwest corner of Rhode Island Avenue and College Avenue. The building at 4624 College Avenue was constructed in 1908 as a one-story grocery store and expanded into its present two-story form in the 1930s. The building at 4622 College Avenue was constructed in 1912 and originally had commercial space on the first story and residential space on the second story. It currently serves as a multiple dwelling, while 4624 College Avenue continues to serve as a commercial building. Although they read as two separate structures, the two buildings have long been considered a single resource. A garage is located at the rear of the property.

### COMMERCIAL BUILDING

Located at the corner of College Avenue and Rhode Island Avenue, the wood-frame commercial building at 4624 College Avenue was constructed in 1908. Set on a concrete foundation, the wood-frame structure is clad in asbestos shingles. The shallow front-gable roof, adorned with a boxed cornice, presents a three-bay-wide façade on College Avenue. The roof is covered in asphalt shingles. The first story façade (south elevation) has a projecting full-width storefront that originally was an open porch, mimicking those of the neighboring dwellings. The second story is fenestrated by three 6/6 windows with square-edged surrounds. The three-sided bays of the canted storefront, now set on a brick base, contain plate glass windows that flank the recessed entry. The opening has been reduced to include a single wood-and-glass door, as indicated by the five-light sidelight on its eastern side.

The first story of the east (side) elevation is fenestrated by a 1/1 vinyl-sash replacement window, paired 1/1 vinyl-sash replacement windows, and a smaller 1/1 vinyl-sash replacement window. The second story is fenestrated by four 6/6 windows and a single-leaf wood door. A wooden exterior staircase provides access to the second story. All windows have a square-edged surround.

A one-story shed-roofed addition is located on the north (rear) elevation of 4624 College Avenue. The wood-frame addition is set on a concrete foundation and is clad in asbestos shingles. The east (side) elevation is fenestrated by a single 1/1 window with a square-edged surround. The north (rear) elevation is fenestrated by a single-leaf paneled vinyl replacement door and a small 1/1 vinyl-sash replacement window, both with square-edged surrounds. The second story of the main block is visible above the shed addition. It is fenestrated by a 2/2 vinyl-sash replacement and a 4-light vinyl casement replacement window. A rectangular vent is located in the gable end. The interior of the building was not accessible at the time of the on-site survey.

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### MULTI-FAMILY DWELLING

The multi-family dwelling at 4622 College Avenue is a wood-frame building, erected as a one-story structure in 1912, and enlarged to two-and-a-half stories in the mid-1930s. The building, now clad with asbestos shingles, is three bays wide with symmetrically placed front-gabled dormers and a modest Colonial Revival-style entry surround. A brick chimney sited on the rear-exterior breaks the side gable roofline. The roof is covered in asphalt shingles. The building was constructed in 1912 for Wirt Harrison and was leased from 1912 until the mid-1930s to the United States government as a Post Office. The building, used as apartments with ground-floor commercial space since its alteration in the 1930s, was erected to augment the 1908 building at 4624 College Avenue.

The façade (south elevation) is fenestrated by a centrally placed single-leaf wood door flanked by 6/6 windows with square-edged surrounds. A front gable portico supported by metal filigree posts highlights the main entry. The second story is fenestrated by three 6/6 windows with square-edged surrounds. Three front-gabled dormers pierce the roofline. The dormers are clad in asbestos shingles and feature 6-light casement windows.

The west (side) elevation is fenestrated by a centrally placed single-leaf wood door on the first and second stories, flanked by 6/6 windows with square-edged surrounds. A wood deck supported by wood posts is located above the first story, with access from the second-story door. A rectangular vent is placed in the gable end.

The north (rear) elevation has a one-story concrete-block projection with a 6-light wood casement window placed on its west (side) elevation. The projection is covered by a flat roof. The first story of the main block is fenestrated by a 6/6 window with square-edged surround and two single-leaf wood doors. The second story of the main block is fenestrated by three 6/6 windows with square-edged surrounds. A single-leaf wood door on the second story opens onto the one-story projection. The interior of the building was not accessible at the time of the on-site survey.

### GARAGE

A one-story, two-bay garage is located on the northern portion of the property. The garage is accessed by a gravel driveway. Based on an examination of historic maps, the form, and materials the garage appears to date c. 1920. The wood-frame structure is clad in German siding. A front gable roof with

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exposed rafters covers the structure. The roof has a raked cornice and is covered in asphalt shingles. Two pairs of double-leaf hinged doors are sited on the façade (east elevation). The interior of the garage was not accessible at the time of the on-site survey.

### INTEGRITY

The multiple-dwelling and commercial building retains a moderate level of integrity. The property is a contributing resource in the Old Town College, Park Prince George's County historic district. The design and workmanship remain intact; however, the materials have been compromised with the use of asbestos shingles and vinyl-sash windows to replace the original wood siding and wood-sash windows. Located in Old Town College Park, and used as a commercial and residential property since their construction, the buildings retain their integrity of feeling, association, location, and setting.

The garage has a high level of integrity by retaining its design, materials, workmanship, feeling, association, location, and setting.

The Harrison Store and Dwelling property retains a moderate level of integrity.

## 8. Significance

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Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____

**Specific dates** 1908, 1912 **Architect/Builder** Unknown

**Construction dates** 1908, 1912, c. 1920, mid-1930s

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 projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Harrison Store and Dwelling, also known as the Trolley Stop Sweet Shop, at 4622-4624 College Avenue is significant as one of the oldest commercial buildings in Old Town College Park. The property is a contributing resource in the Old Town College Park Prince George's County historic district. Although it can be read as two separate structures, the two buildings have long been considered a single resource because of their construction history and association. The buildings retain sufficient integrity to convey the mixed-use of commercial and residential functions for which they are significant.

### HISTORIC CONTEXT

The Harrison Store and Dwelling is located within the boundaries of Old Town College Park. John O. Johnson platted the subdivision of College Park in 1889. Johnson subdivided a 125-acre tract of land conveyed to him by Ella Calvert Campbell; the land was part of the Calvert family's Riversdale estate. The subdivision was located near the Maryland Agricultural College (present-day University of Maryland College Park campus) and the College Station stop of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad. As the University of Maryland grew, so did Johnson's subdivision.<sup>1</sup> At the turn of the twentieth century the streetcar line was extended from Washington D.C. along Rhode Island Avenue opening up business opportunities in College Park.<sup>2</sup>

The first commercial resources in the neighborhood were located along College Avenue, as envisioned by the developers, Johnson and Curriden. As the residential neighborhood grew, so did the commercial building stock. Commercial buildings were established along the primary thoroughfare intended by the developers to serve the residents. One of the first such facilities was the Harrison Store at 4624 College Avenue, erected in 1908 at the corner of College Avenue and Rhode Island Avenue. This modest wood-frame building was constructed as a

<sup>1</sup> Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission and Prince George's County Planning Department, *Historic Sites and Districts Plan* (1992), B-4.

<sup>2</sup> Susan G. Pearl, "Harrison Store and Dwelling," (PG: 66-11) Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form (1985), 8:1.

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one-story grocery store for Wirt Harrison. At the time of the 1910 census, Harrison, age twenty-nine, was living in a boarding house in Hyattsville and worked as a clerk at the Maryland Agricultural College.<sup>3</sup>

The one-story grocery store was subsequently enlarged in the mid-1930s to provide a second story. Harrison used the second story of the store as residential space, presumably renting to students and professors of the college. At the time of the 1930 census, Harrison was living in Berwyn, Maryland with his wife, their daughter, one servant and two lodgers. Harrison is listed as a general store merchant.<sup>4</sup> The store was operated by Harrison until 1941.

The Harrison Store was also commonly known as the Trolley Stop Sweet Shop, as the streetcar stopped at the nearby intersection. The streetcar ran from 1902 to 1962, and the only stop in Old Town College Park was at Harrison's Store. Encouraged by the need for commercial facilities within the growing neighborhood, Harrison had a second structure constructed at 4622 College Park as rental property. From the time of its construction in 1912 until the middle of the 1930s, the second building was leased to the federal government for use as the College Park Post Office, which had been located at the intersection of Calvert Road and Amherst Avenue when the suburb was platted in 1889. In the mid-1930s, the rental property was renovated to serve as apartments, a new housing type generated by the influx of college students to the area.

Wirt Harrison died in 1949 and left the property to his wife, Dora M. Harrison.<sup>5</sup> The property was willed to his daughter, Florence H. Johnson, in 1970. She sold the property in 1991 to the current owners, Warren and Helen C. Creech.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> 1910 U.S. Federal Census, Hyattsville, Prince George's County, Maryland, Series T624, Roll 567, Page 31A, Wirt Harrison.

<sup>4</sup> 1930 U.S. Federal Census, Berwyn, Prince George's County, Maryland, Roll 878, Page 5A, Wirt Harrison.

<sup>5</sup> Wirt Harrison to Dora M. Harrison, Prince George's County Land Records, Administration #9365.

<sup>6</sup> Florence H. Johnson to Warren and Helen C. Creech, Prince George's County Land Records, VJ 8098:93.

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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- 1910, 1930 U.S. Federal Census (Population Schedule). Online: The Generations Network, Inc., 2007. Subscription database. Digital scan of original records in the National Archives, Washington, DC. <http://www.ancestry.com>.
- Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission and Prince George's County Planning Department, *Historic Sites and Districts Plan*, 1992.
- Pearl, Susan G. "Harrison Store and Dwelling" (PG: 66-11) Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form, 1985. Prince George's County Land Records.

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## 10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of surveyed property less than one acre  
Acreage of historical setting less than one acre  
Quadrangle name Washington East Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

The Harrison Store and Dwelling is sited on a corner lot at College Avenue and Rhode Island Avenue. The property consists of Lot 7 and 8 in Block 16 of Johnson's and Curriden's subdivision of College Park. The buildings have been associated with Parcel D4 as noted on Tax Map 33 since their construction.

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## 11. Form Prepared by

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name/title	Saleh Van Erem, Architectural Historian		
organization	EHT Tracerics, Incorporated	date	October 2007
street & number	1121 5th Street NW	telephone	202.393.1199
city or town	Washington	state	DC

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 21032-2023  
410-514-7600

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## Chain of Title

Deed 47:478 September 4, 1908	Ida Bunch to Wirt Harrison (Lot 8 in block 16 at College Station, \$250)
Deed 83:366 August 1, 1912	H. M. Simmons to Wirt Harrison (Lot 7 in Block 16 of Johnson's and Curriden's subdivision of College Park)
Administration #9365 1949	Wirt Harrison died intestate 1949, leaving widow Dora M. Harrison (Real estate including Lot 7 & 8 of block 16. Lots appraised at \$3,500, improvements at \$11,500.)
Will GSMcG 8:780 September 14, 1970	Testator, Dora M. Harrison, to daughter Florence Harrison Johnson (one-third interest in southerly 150 feet of lots 7 and 8 of Block 16)
Deed WWW 4060:962 April 6, 1972	Florence Johnson, personal representative of estate of Dora Harrison, to Florence H. Johnson. (Parts of College Park including decedents one-third interest in the southerly 150 feet of Lots 7 and 8 in Block 16.)
Deed VJ 8098:93 October 24, 1991	Florence H. Johnson, Trustee, to Warren and Helen C. Creech.



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Photo: Harrison Store and Dwelling, façade (south elevation), looking north.

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Photo: Harrison Store and Dwelling, façade (south elevation) of dwelling, looking north.

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Photo: Harrison Store and Dwelling, east (side) elevation of store, looking west.

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Photo: Harrison Store and Dwelling, north (rear) elevation, looking south.

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Photo: Garage, northeast corner, looking southwest.