

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Farmers Supply Company Complex (Wagoner & Matthews Foundry and Machine Shop)

and/or common B.F. Shriver Company, Old Stone Building

2. Location

street & number 12-24 Liberty Street (Liberty and Green Streets) N/A not for publication

city, town Westminster N/A vicinity of congressional district 7th

state Maryland county Carroll

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<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 type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: vacant

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

name City of Westminster c/o Office of Housing, Community Development & Personnel

street & number 56 Main Street telephone no.: 410-876-6322

city, town Westminster state and zip code Maryland 21157

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Carroll County Circuit Court liber EAS No. 225

street & number 55 N. Court Street folio 243 etc.

city, town Westminster state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Westminster Historical Sites Survey (Maryland Inventory of State Historic Sites)

date August 1977 federal state county local

depository for survey records Maryland Historical Trust

city, town Crownsville state Maryland

7. Description

Survey No. CARR-472

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date of move _____
<input checked="" 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.

CONTRIBUTING RESOURCE COUNT: 4

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

The Farmers Supply Company Complex consists of a city block on Liberty Street, one block south of the downtown crossroads of Main and Liberty at the center of Westminster, Maryland. The four structures on the property reflect the evolution of the site over a 100 year period. A two-story, gable roofed stone building, constructed as a foundry ca. 1865, is situated at the northeast corner of the site.¹ A mid-19th century brick building on a stone foundation, used as a packing house, sits at the center of the block. The most architecturally significant building on the block is the 1947 Farmers Supply Company Building, a one-story concrete block and glass international style building that occupies the southeast corner. Based on a prototype developed by noted industrial designer Raymond Loewy, the Farmers Supply Company Building is a virtually unaltered example of an important mid-20th century building typology. A mid-20th century corrugated metal and concrete block warehouse structure wraps around the north and west sides of the block. Both the stone building and the brick barn have been altered over the years. The Farmers Supply Company Building is in good condition, the stone building is in fair condition, the warehouse is in fair condition, and the brick packing house is in deteriorated condition.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

The Farmers Supply Company Complex provides a visual record of the development of the block bounded by Liberty, Green, and Depot Alley. The warehouses, brick barn, and stone building situated on the northern two-thirds of the property occupy the lots the Wagoner and Matthews Foundry and Machine Shops and the B.F. Shriver Company developed in the 19th century. The Farmers Supply Company Building at the east end of the southern third of the block was constructed on a site associated with the Koontz Dairy through the mid 20th century. Located on Liberty Street, along the historic road connecting Baltimore and Emmitsburg, the block is less than 100 yards from the intersection of Main Street (Route 32) and Liberty Street that marks the center of downtown Westminster. The site is one block northwest of the location of the site of the Western Maryland railroad passenger depot. The topography of the downward slope in grade from west (rear alley) to east (Liberty Street) is still apparent. The lower half of the block occupied by the stone building and the Farmers Supply Company Building has been graded to the level of Liberty Street. A retaining wall and banked earth drives mark the transition to the higher grade at the west end of the block.

¹The block on which the Farmers Supply Company property is situated faces southeast onto Liberty Street. In order to simplify architectural description and to conform with architectural descriptions in earlier survey forms and with architectural drawings, southeast (Liberty Street) has been designated "east," southwest (Green Street) "south," northwest (back alley) "west," and northeast (Depot Alley) "north."

Stone Building

The oldest surviving structure on the site is the rectangular, two-story stone building that occupies the northeast corner of the block. This random ashlar structure, constructed around 1865 for the Wagoner and Matthews Foundry, sits on the property line along the east (Liberty Street) and north (Depot Alley) sides of the block. The seven bay stone building has interior end chimneys and a slate gable roof. A one-story stone lean-to addition with a standing seam metal shed roof is attached to the south wall of the stone building. This side addition extends west beyond the footprint of the main block of the building and does not appear to connect to the interior of the main block. A second, two-story rear addition of corrugated metal with a standing seam metal shed roof is attached to the center bay of the west (rear) facade of the stone building and opens into the interior of the main block. The rear addition rests on a concrete foundation that appears to pre-date its exterior walls. There is a plywood clad pent housing a rear entrance adjacent to the rear addition on the north. There are three additional entrances to the main block and an entrance to the south addition on the east facade.

The exterior of the stone building is articulated in a simple manner appropriate to its original industrial use. Large stone quoins are visible at the corners of the building, which has a modillioned cornice articulated in sawtooth and corbelled brick. Original window openings have wood sills and lintels. The massive interior brick chimney on the south displays a corbelled brick cap. There are round, cast iron hooks attached to the east side of the building below the cornice. At the center of the roof ridge, a lightning rod sits above a frame cupola decorated with jigsaw trim. With the exception of small windows in the attic gables, all of the historic window openings with 6-over-6 sash are boarded up (windows on the 1st floor of the rear facade have been infilled with brick and concrete block); most of doors appear to date to the late 19th or early 20th century. The entrance to the 2nd floor at the south end of the front of the main block has a wood door with six lights above two panels. The entrance on the north end has a recent door placed within a frame with bead mold. The small attic window on the north facade has 2-over-2 sash.

The stone building has been altered over time as its function changed from foundry, to canning warehouse, to garage and machine shop, to restaurant and dance studio use. The building originally had a much taller stack consistent with foundry use in the location of the present massive brick chimney. This stack can still be seen in a photograph taken between 1913 and 1918.² Most of the changes to the 1st floor of the front facade appear to date to the mid-20th century. Only the entrance at the north end of the front facade of the main block, which displays bead molding, appears to be original. The present wide central entrance has been inserted under an I-beam marked "Lackawanna." There are large plate glass windows within recent brick surrounds to either side of the new center entrance. The entrance at the south end of the main block, which appears to have been inserted within a window opening, opens onto a stair to the 2nd floor. Tie rods reinforce the structure of the building. Mortar has been extensively patched. The double course of brick in the gables below the roof

²The historic photograph, which depicts motorcyclists, can be dated by comparing neighborhood businesses with businesses listed on the Sanborn Maps of 1910 and 1918.

combined with physical evidence in the attic suggest that the present slate roof replaced an earlier roof.³

The rear (west) facade has been changed by the two-story corrugated metal addition attached to the center bay of the building and by the insertion of a loading bay on the 2nd floor in the 2nd bay from the north. The opening under the existing wood lintel was widened and lowered to create an opening wide enough for loading. Paneled wood double doors have been inserted within the enlarged opening, which probably dates to the B.F. Shriver occupancy.

The addition on the south side of the building has a front entrance facing Liberty Street with a four-light, one-panel wood door with porcelain door handle. This entrance is recessed within a small, 6 ft. high opening under a wood lintel. There are two openings (now boarded up) on the south side of the addition. On the rear (west), the west wall is bead board and stone and the north wall is corrugated tin. There is a roof hatch in the standing-seam metal roof of the south addition.

The interior of the stone building has been extensively altered and walls and floors covered with recent finishes. As a foundry, the building would have housed a single, full-height open space instead of the two floors now incorporated within the building. The 1st floor is now divided into two rooms with subsidiary spaces located along the south wall of the south room and against the west wall of the north room. Finishes consist of ca. 1970s paneled walls, linoleum floors, and dropped ceilings. There is no access to the 2nd floor from the 1st floor space. The door at the south end of the front facade of the main block provides access to the stair to the 2nd floor. This stair appears to date to the early 20th century. The 2nd floor consists of a single large room on the north occupying approximately 80% of the space and a smaller, secondary area on the south by the stair. The service space on the south houses small storage rooms, the stair, and a southwest corner bathroom with overhead tank toilet. The south wall of the large room consists of closets framed with novelty siding. The large room has a wall board ceiling and a mid-20th century dance floor with diagonal floor boards. The sides and tops of the splayed window openings on the north are framed with architrave molding; the bases of the windows have simple shelf molding with rounded corners. The windows on the south have no trim. (The floor and recent wall finishes obscure evidence that would indicate whether the large 2nd floor room was once subdivided into two smaller spaces corresponding to the differing window treatment.)

While recent finishes and the degree of interior change make it difficult to trace the sequence of early 20th century alterations for the stone building, it is likely that these changes took place between 1918 and 1936, a period that is consistent with the appearance of surviving physical evidence. It is unlikely that the B.F. Shriver Company made improvements to the property after they abandoned it around 1901. The Farmers Supply Company acquired the property from B.F. Shriver in 1917. Comparison of the 1910 and 1918 Sanborn Maps suggests that interior changes could have been made when the building was converted from garage and seed grain storage (1910) to machine shop, storage, and office space (1918). The 1918 Sanborn Map shows the northern third of the first and second floors used as office space. The larger portion of the 1st floor was used as a machine shop; the larger portion of the 2nd floor, for storage. The division of the 2nd floor roughly corresponds with the division line between 2nd floor windows with trim and 2nd floor windows lacking trim. The toilet at the rear of the

³The cupola with lightning rod, however, appears on all historic photographs including one dating to the 1870s.

1st floor, the oldest surviving fixture in the building, is stamped with a 1936 date, the same date for the extensive parging applied to the interior of the brick packing house, suggesting 1936 as a second date for early 20th century alterations. The appearance of the sash in the packing house and the sash in the stone building is similar and the appearance of the window molding on the 2nd floor of the stone building is consistent with ca. 1920s-1930s stock colonial revival molding. Fluorescent light fixtures on the 2nd floor of the stone building, which appear to date from the mid-1930s, provide further evidence of extensive early 20th century remodeling to convert the building to office use. Further research and investigation of physical fabric should be undertaken to determine the extent and sequence of the early 20th century changes.

Brick Packing House

The brick packing house, constructed prior to 1887, is situated at the center of the site on axis with the south wall of the main block of the stone building. The grade slopes down approximately 4 ft. from the west end of the building. The rectangular building rests on a random ashlar stone foundation and is topped by a standing seam metal gable roof. There is a louvred wood cupola with a pyramidal roof at the center of the roof, two roof hatches on the north side of the roof at the ridge line, and one roof hatch on the south side of the roof at the ridge line. A frame 2nd story was added to the western end of the building during the mid-1890s.⁴ The 2nd floor addition, which also has a gable roof, is clad with frame machine siding.

There are three large loading bays on the south, east, and north facades. Only the east bay, which is placed under a wood lintel, appears to be original to the building. Window openings are detailed with brick jack arches and wood sills. The brick walls and stone foundation have been extensively patched and repointed. The roof over the frame 2nd floor addition has failed and the addition is in ruinous condition. The interior of the building consists of open plan space above a concrete floor. A frame mezzanine with machinery occupies the frame 2nd floor addition. The roof is supported by simple roof trusses consisting of tensioned steel king posts between wood chords. There is a small, interior chimney flue at the center of the west facade. The interior walls were parged in the mid-1930s. An inscription on the parging at the west side of the north loading bay reads, "Wm Bell 1936."

The exterior and interior of the building have been extensively reworked with original window openings sealed and new openings inserted. Sanborn Maps dating to the Shriver occupancy show that the east bay would have opened into a one-story "steaming shed," now gone, constructed against the east wall of the building. The single window opening within the east facade, now bricked up, was located above the steaming shed within the gable. This window appears to postdate the building's construction since it is topped only with a course of headers. The loading bay on the north faced buildings, now gone, used for storage. This loading bay has frame sliding doors at grade level. There are windows, now boarded up, below jack arches to either side of the loading bay. The south facade has been extensively reworked. The appearance of the foundation, height of the loading bay, and interior appearance show that the loading bay was added after the building's construction. Jack arches indicate that the south facade was constructed with three openings, a door at the north end of the facade (now infilled with brick) and two windows at the center of the facade. Four smaller, lower

⁴1892 and 1897 Sanborn Maps.

window openings were later inserted. Because the head of the loading bay below the tripartite, six-light transom matches the heads of the inserted windows, the loading bay was probably cut into the facade when the newer windows were installed. Windows within the building (now boarded over) consist of 6-over-6 and 12-over-12 sash.

By 1897, the B.F. Shriver Company had constructed a larger corn crib that extended across the back of the property and a two story structure to connect the western portion of the brick packing house and its new 2nd story addition to the corn crib. The steaming shed, corn crib, and other frame outbuildings associated with the B.F. Shriver Company were removed from the site by the date of the 1904 Sanborn Map, the first Sanborn Map to depict the site after the B.F. Shriver Company relocated its operations to the outskirts of town.

Farmers Supply Company Building

The Farmers Supply Company Building is a square, one-story glass and concrete block International Style building constructed in 1947. The steel frame structure, which faces east, is comprised of two distinct elements with separate flat roofs. The front half (eastern portion) of the building was used for offices, equipment showroom, and parts sales and storage. The rear half (western portion) was used for a maintenance shop. A large concrete block pylon interrupts the front facade and extends well above the roof of the building.

The exterior of the building expresses the functions that the building houses. The appearance of the rear maintenance shop is more conventional than the more public showroom area that faces the street corner. The maintenance shop is detailed in concrete block with steel industrial sash windows. This portion of the building is taller, reflecting the height required to service large equipment. There are two tripartite steel windows on the south side of the maintenance shop and a bank of industrial sash windows that form a glazed wall across the rear (west) facade. The glazing on the west wall is framed by solid corners formed by concrete block end walls. The blank walls in the southwest corner express the toilet and boiler rooms housed in that area. The only exterior entrances to the maintenance shop are a garage bay and pedestrian door on the north facade. A clerestory window with industrial steel sash extends across the top of the east wall of the shop at the intersection of the higher shop roof and lower showroom roof.

The front half of the building is more complex, reflecting the multiple functions housed within this area. The signature pylon marks the separation between the equipment showroom and the area shared by administrative functions, parts sales, and parts storage. On the exterior, fixed, single pane sash windows placed between wood mullions articulate the showroom. The showroom, which rests above a shallow concrete block foundation, is completely glazed. The rhythm of the glazing is established by the building's steel frame structure. The primary entrance to the building is located within double doors immediately south of the pylon. The glazing pattern of the three-light doors matches the glazed curtain wall. The transom windows above the door pivot for ventilation. The articulation of the area north of the pylon differentiates public display required for parts sales from the private, subsidiary function of parts storage. The portion of the northern section adjacent to the pylon is completely glazed in a manner similar to the showroom at the southeastern corner. The northern half of the building is detailed in concrete block with a ribbon window immediately below the roof. There is a

single door in the north facade opening into the parts area. Unlike the rear facade of the maintenance shop, both corners of the front facade exhibit the erosion of the corner that is a hallmark of International Style design. The flat roof of the front portion of the building thrusts out beyond the east facade and pylon to form a canopy that extends across the front of the building. The steel girders supporting the corrugated iron roof are left exposed with bolts and rivets grouped in a decorative manner. Vertical I-beams are clearly visible immediately behind the curtain wall glazing of the front and side facades. Historic photographs show that the building originally featured free-standing sans serif lettering above the front edge of the roof. In a manner typical of International Style design, the lettering served as a decorative element. Now missing letters advertised "TRACTORS & EQUIPMENT" above the southern portion of the building housing the showroom and "PARTS & SERVICE" above the northern section of the building housing the parts department. The pylon bears the legend, "FARMERS SUPPLY CO.," in serified replacement lettering in the location of original lettering; there is a small, square shadow in the upper corner in the location of the missing International Harvester logo.

The interior of the building consists for the most part of open plan space with exposed concrete block walls and an exposed metal ceiling. The exposed metal ceilings are red; woodwork is painted pale green. The maintenance shop is entirely open. A toilet in the southwest corner is enclosed with concrete block; the concrete block walls enclosing the heating plant adjacent to the corner toilet were constructed at a later date. In the southeast, the toilet rooms associated with the showroom are enclosed within concrete block and extend back into the garage area. The interior of the front portion of the building is divided into roughly three zones that correspond with the functions housed within that area. The southern third, which was used for equipment display, is entirely open. Two small restrooms are located against the southern part of the rear (west wall). The remainder of the wall between the maintenance shop and the showroom is visually open. A large overhead garage door with glazed panels at eye level flanked by narrow glazed partitions allows full view of the maintenance shop from the showroom.

The articulation of the center portion of the front section of the building provides a frame for the parts department at the northern end of the structure. On the east, the pylon, which houses a cleaning closet, extends into the showroom; on the west, two small offices framed with wood glazed partitions project into the open space. Both offices, which are interconnected, have glazed doors opening into the maintenance shop and the sales floor. A large walk-in vault encased within concrete block walls projects out from the north wall of the north office. Both offices have geometric patterned linoleum floors.

A partial partition extends down from the ceiling and runs across the upper third of the building from the offices to the front (east) wall. This partition demarcates the former location of the now missing parts counter. Original recessed light fixtures are visible on the underside of this partition. While the concrete floor of the showroom area and central portion of the building is detailed in 4 ft. 2-1/2 in. squares, the concrete floor in the restricted parts department north of the ceiling partition is undetailed. A shallow mezzanine, barely 5-1/2 feet high, is suspended from the ceiling behind the partial partition. While the parts counter and shelves have been removed, the shadows of the parts shelves are still visible on the floor and gouges in the floor near the offices indicate the location of the parts counter. A concrete block room, which extends into the area of the service garage, in the northwest corner of the

Parts Department may have functioned as a locker room. The appearance of the concrete block differs from other block in the building, suggesting that this room may have been added or enclosed with concrete block walls after the building's construction.

Warehouse Building

A warehouse comprised of components constructed between 1927 and 1959 extends around the perimeter of the northwest corner of the site. The continuous ell-shaped structure is one to two stories in height; its components are constructed of concrete block and of corrugated metal over wood and steel frames. The perimeter warehouse is comprised of four sections: the alley warehouse along the west, the concrete block warehouse occupying the corner at the intersection of the rear alley and Depot Alley, the implement warehouse on the north side of the property along Depot Alley, and the lean-to addition attached to the east end of the implement warehouse. The alley warehouse is a two-story rectangular structure of wood post and beam construction clad with a corrugated metal skin. Its north wall adjoins the concrete block warehouse. Although a concrete block foundation is visible under the stair located at the southern end of the alley warehouse, examination of the interior of the warehouse shows that there is no foundation under the building itself, which rests directly on the ground. The alley warehouse is topped with a metal shed roof. The northern quarter of the building is separated from the rest of the structure, which consists of open plan space. The building has four sets of sliding wood doors that constitute most of the 1st floor east wall facing the interior of the site. There are eight boarded-up window openings on the 2nd floor of the east wall. A door leading to the stair has been cut into the south end of the east wall. The south wall of the building is blank. Metal loading bays above grade are located on the west side of the building along with a second pedestrian entrance at the north end of the west facade. The appearance of the corrugated metal south wall and the interior of the alley warehouse suggests the possibility that the 2nd floor may have been added or inserted after the building's initial construction. The wood post and beam construction supporting the 2nd floor and the 2nd floor flooring is exposed. Metal splicing reinforces several of the wood posts.

The concrete block warehouse is a one-story, concrete block rectangular structure situated at the intersection of the rear alley and Depot Alley. The warehouse is topped with a flat roof. The eight bay building, which has buttresses along the street facade, is accessed from the interior of the site. The only openings in the street facades are seven small windows set under cast stone lintels. The trapezoidal corner of the building's street facade is blank and features concrete block quoins in a contrasting finish. The northern portion of the building's east facade, which faces the interior of the site, adjoins the implement warehouse that extends east perpendicular to the concrete block warehouse. The east wall of the concrete block warehouse is dominated by a single large loading bay with a metal door that occupies its northern half. There is a pedestrian door below a small window to the south of the loading bay. The interior of the concrete block warehouse could not be accessed for this survey. The interior, however, is visible through a 2nd floor window in the wall between the concrete block warehouse and the alley warehouse. The interior of the concrete block warehouse consists of full-height, open plan space.

The implement warehouse is a one-story rectangular building set on a concrete block foundation. The building is clad with corrugated metal siding and is topped by a shed roof supported by metal trusses. The building, which is presently boarded-up, has five paired six-over-six windows on the north facade

facing Depot Alley. The south facade facing the interior of the site is comprised of five massive loading bays with sliding doors. The lean-to addition on the east provides the only pedestrian entry to the building; there is no separate pedestrian opening on the exterior. Windows, now boarded up, are set within each of the sliding doors. The west facade adjoins the concrete block warehouse and the east facade adjoins the lean-to addition. There are three windows in the east wall above the roof of the lean-to addition. The interior consists of open plan space with a wainscot of wood siding extending up to the meeting rail of the windows.

The lean-to addition is a one-story rectangular building constructed against the east wall of the implement warehouse. The floor level of the addition is approximately 3-1/2 ft. below the floor level of the implement warehouse. Wood steps within the addition connect the addition with the implement warehouse. The addition is clad with corrugated metal siding and is topped by a shed roof. An interior brick flue extends up from the north wall between two six-over-six windows. The south wall is dominated by a large loading bay with a metal door. The east facade has a door opening and three window openings. The interior is clad with wood, metal, and wall board. There is a furnace in the northwest corner.

It is difficult to determine the sequence of construction of the four components that comprise the warehouse building, particularly since these buildings appear to follow the footprint of earlier buildings. The 1959 paste-up of the 1927 Sanborn Map is the first to depict the perimeter warehouses. Historic photographs and Sanborn Maps show that the rear of the site exhibited a pattern of use devoted to storage and back-of-house function supporting operations at the eastern end of the property. Photographs dating to foundry occupancy reveal the area used for outdoor storage of raw materials and finished beams. The 1887 Sanborn Map, the earliest Sanborn Map to depict the site, shows a corn crib along the rear alley and storage in the northwest corner of the site. By the date of the 1904 Sanborn Map, the rear of the site had been completely cleared; only the stone building and brick packing house remained. This use of the property is consistent with B.F. Shriver Company moving its operations to the outskirts of town shortly after the turn of the century. Sanborn Maps show no structures on the rear of the B.F. Shriver Company portion of the site through the date of the 1927 map.

FARMERS SUPPLY COMPANY COMPLEX
CARROLL COUNTY, MARYLAND
MARYLAND INVENTORY No. CARR-472

HISTORIC CONTEXT

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization:	Piedmont
Chronological/Development Period(s):	Agricultural-Industrial Transition Modern Period
Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme(s):	Agriculture Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Community Planning Economic (Commercial and Industrial)
Resource Type:	
Category:	Building(s)
Historic Environment:	Village
Historic Function(s) and Use(s):	Foundry, Canning Factory, Garage, Restaurant, Dance Studio, Office, Storage, Farm Equipment Retail and Maintenance
Known Design Source:	Adam Rickell (stone building), Raymond Loewy (Farmers Supply Company Building), Unknown (packing house, warehouse)

8. Significance

Survey No. CARR-472

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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates	Builder/Architect
check: Applicable Criteria: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D	
and/or	
Applicable Exception: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> G	
Level of Significance: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> national <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> state <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> local	

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

SUMMARY SIGNIFICANCE

The Farmers Supply Company Complex consists of a city block on Liberty Street, one block south of the central crossroads of Main and Liberty Streets in Westminster, Maryland. The four structures on the property reflect the evolution of the site over a 100 year period. The history of the site reveals the shifting face of the town of Westminster as Carroll County was transformed by the industrialization of agriculture and increasing reliance on the automobile. Beginning around 1865, the northern two-thirds of the block was occupied by the Wagoner and Matthews Foundry and Machine Shops, which constructed the stone building at the northeast corner of the property (1866) and the brick packing house in the center of the block. After the foundry's bankruptcy, the B.F. Shriver Company acquired the site and adapted the stone building and brick packing house for their cannery.

The B.F. Shriver Company, which came to operate plants at several sites, became a major canning operation through the application of technology to agriculture and through attention to the vertical integration of food production, canning, and distribution. By 1904, B.F. Shriver Co. had outgrown this downtown site and moved their operations to a new purpose-built factory on the outskirts of Westminster.

In 1917, the Farmers Supply Company, which had been located across the street from the site, purchased the northern portion of the property, which was used for various purposes through the 1930s. Farmers Supply acquired the southern third of the property, which had been occupied by the Koontz Creamery, in 1942. The Farmers Supply Company Building, an international style structure based on renowned industrial designer Raymond Loewy's prototype design for the International Harvester Company, was constructed in 1947.

NARRATIVE HISTORY

Foundry Occupancy (1865-1881)

The Wagoner and Matthews Foundry and Machine Shops constructed the stone building in 1866. No structure is depicted on the site in Martinet's 1862 *Map of Carroll County*. In October 1864 John T.

Mathias, executor of the Estate of Jacob Matthias, recorded a plat subdividing the larger parcel of land on which the Stone Building is located into 12 lots along Liberty Street.¹ Surveyor William A. Wampler's plat does not indicate improvements; the sales price for the lots was consistent with the value of unimproved lots of the period.² George W. Matthews and Elijah Wagoner assembled the three lots on which the stone building is located between October 1865 and January 1866. On October 10, 1865, John T. Mathias sold Lot 3 George W. Matthews for \$350 and Lot 2 to Elijah Wagoner for \$605.³ Francis Butler purchased Lot 1, the corner lot at Liberty and Depot Alley, from John T. Mathias and sold it to Matthews and Wagoner for \$612 on January 2, 1866.⁴

On November 29, 1866, the *American Sentinel* ran the following advertisement:

LOOK HERE, the undersigned having completed their NEW FOUNDRY AND MACHINE SHOPS near the Railroad Station in Westminster, would respectfully inform the public that they are now prepared to furnish STOVES, Blacksmith Toe Irons, Tire Benders, Hollow Anvils, Bakeoven Doors and Hearth Plates, Cellar Window Grates, Porch Post Irons and Casting in general, Corn and Cob Crushers, Corn Shellers, Circular Saws with benches complete for sawing firewood, etc., Horse Powers and THRESHING MACHINES, Cutting Boxes and Plows of different kinds. But would call attention to their justly celebrated 3 horse plow commonly called the PRICE PLOW. Also their well-known and unsurpassed GRAIN DRILL for sowing all matter of Grain including Oats. Repairing of all kinds of attended promptly at liberal rates. Having First Class Mechanics employed will guarantee satisfaction. Wagner [sic] and Matthews.⁵

The advertisement continued to run for the next six months.⁶

Local tradition holds that the stone building was designed by Adam Rickell (1834-1908), a German born mason and candy maker. Rickell lived at 9 West George Street, where he had six acres of land and his confectionery operation. Rickell and his sons are said to have constructed several buildings in Westminster including the Orndorff's/Grumbine store, the Babylon & Lippy Archway, and the Stewart Building (Graceland Apartments). Rickell was a brickmason as well as a stonemason and laid cobblestone streets and gutters as well as constructing buildings.⁷

¹Register of Wills, Sales of Real Estate, Liber 2, Folio 192 as cited in Getty "Stone Building on Liberty Street."

²Joe Getty, "Stone Building on Liberty Street" typescript, p. 2. Getty suggests that the slight variation in the sales prices of the lots reflects minor improvements and the increased value of the corner lot.

³Mathias to Wagoner, Oct. 10, 1865, 32/439 and Mathias to Matthews, Oct. 10, 1865, 32/442 in Carroll County Land Records. (Getty, "Stone Building on Liberty Street")

⁴Butler to Matthews and Wagoner, Jan. 2, 1866, 32/454 in Carroll County Land Records. Also Yingling and others to Edward Shriver, Feb. 24, 1879, 51/71. (Getty, "Stone Building on Liberty Street")

⁵*American Sentinel*, November 29, 1866. (Getty, "Stone Building on Liberty Street")

⁶Joe Getty, "Stone Building on Liberty Street," p. 2.

⁷Typescript entitled "History of Westminster, Famous Taffy Maker and Stone Mason."

In March 1867 Matthews and Wagoner purchased a second parcel fronting on Liberty Street and extending back to the railroad from Jesse Reifsnider and others.⁸ That same month the two men mortgaged their property and foundry equipment to Joshua Yingling, Edward Lynch, and David Fowble for \$8,000.⁹ In January 1875 Matthews withdrew from the business, selling his interest to Wagoner for \$4,350.¹⁰ Contemporary sources suggest that Matthews devoted his attention to real estate as the population of Westminster grew following the 1861 opening of the Western Maryland Railroad.¹¹ Two weeks after Matthews sold his interest in the partnership, Wagoner became the sole party responsible for the \$8000 mortgage, which Yingling, Lynch, and Fowble continued to hold.¹² Around 1876 Wagoner constructed "a large and newly built two-story Frame warehouse 45 feet front and running back 80 feet . . . so arranged as to be adapted to any public business."¹³

Three years later Wagoner defaulted on the mortgage and his property and equipment were sold at auction. Newspapers advertised the sale of "machinery, engines, patterns of a great variety, castings at the extensive foundry and machine shop of E. Wagoner" to take place October 29, 1878. The property, auctioned in November, described the land and improvements as follows:

These three last named lots lay contiguous to each other. The improvements on the second and third parcels consists of a newly and substantially built Two-story STONE BUILDING, 65 x 30 feet with Engine and Boiler House attached, all covered with slate roof. . . .¹⁴

Edward H. Shriver bought the foundry property, operating it as the Westminster Foundry and Machine Shops. Newspaper advertisements noted that Shriver was the "successor to E. Wagoner. . . having purchased most of the Patterns from E. Wagoner, parts of his make of implements can be supplied at short notice."¹⁵ This business proved to be short-lived and in April 1881 Shriver sold the property to the B.F. Shriver Canning Company for \$5000.¹⁶

B.F. Shriver Canning Company Occupancy (1881-ca. 1901)

The Shriver family had been associated with agricultural production and processing in Carroll County since the end of the 18th century. David and Andrew K. Shriver operated Union Mills in Myersville,

⁸Carroll County Land Records 34/147, March 25, 1867. (Getty, "Stone Building on Liberty Street")

⁹Joe Getty, "Wagoner's Foundry," *Carroll County Time*, Sept. 22, 1991 (typescript, p. 1)

¹⁰Carroll County Land Records 44/433 cited in "Wagoner's Foundry," p. 1.

¹¹Getty notes that Matthews advertised in 1880s newspapers as the owner of a real estate concern ("Wagoner's Foundry, p. 1). An 1887 promotional directory for Westminster discusses the growth of the town and noted that "Edward Lynch continued Green to Liberty, and George W. Matthews continued it westward, opened a part of Bond Street and donated land for a public square, now known as Belle Grove Square (*Westminster. Its Location and Advantages as a Place of Residence or for Business Including a Directory*, p. 4.)

¹²Carroll County Real Estate Mortgages, 8/356, January 29, 1875. (Getty, "Wagoner's Foundry")

¹³Newspaper advertisement for auction quoted in "Wagoner's Foundry," p. 2.

¹⁴"Wagoner's Foundry," p. 1.

¹⁵"Wagoner's Foundry," p. 2.

¹⁶Carroll County Land Records 54/522, April 4, 1881. (Getty, "Wagoner's Foundry")

which later became known as Union Mills. The Shriver's obtained the post office for the town; the postmastership was held by family members for over 80 years. Benjamin Franklin Shriver (1843-1921), the grandson of Andrew K. Shriver, founded the area's first canning plant in 1869, operating out of an old cooperage shop near the family mill. By 1872 he moved across the Baltimore-Gettysburg Turnpike to a larger, purpose-built plant. That same year he established the "Blue Ridge" and "A No. One Brand" labels that were still in use in 70 years later.¹⁷ Shriver's business was devoted primarily to peas, corn, and tomatoes with some production of fruits and berries. An 1874 inventory listed "canned pie peaches, gooseberries, whortleberries, peas, quinces, pears, corn, tomatoes, applesauce," and four varieties of cherries.¹⁸

The B.F. Shriver Company prospered through the application of technology to agricultural production and processing and through attention to the vertical integration of food production, canning, and distribution. From the beginning, Shriver incorporated technological innovation to make the canning process more efficient. He adapted the concave blades of a threshing machine cylinder to create an early version of a cob-crusher. His brother, Mark, patented one of the first closed retorts used in the canning process.¹⁹

Shriver also expanded the ownership of the company to acquire the funds the operation needed to respond to the growing industrialization of agriculture. In 1874, B.F. Shriver restructured his business by forming a partnership with his brother, Thomas Herbert Shriver. By paying the interest on B.F. Shriver's inventory, worth approximately \$6000, Thomas Shriver assumed an equal share in the profits and losses of the new entity, "B.F. Shriver Company of Carroll County." In 1881, the Shriver's took on a third partner to finance an expansion to Westminster.²⁰ Elias O. Grimes, owner of the Grimes and Stauffer feed and fertilizer business, joined the new venture, B.F. Shriver Company of Westminster. Grimes continued as a partner through 1887 when he sold his interest back to the Union Mills parent company.

The B.F. Shriver Company moved their operations into the stone building on the site they purchased at the bankruptcy auction for the Wagoner Foundry. The plant packed corn, peas, and beans. The specialization and technical innovation that had marked Shriver's operations continued. The B.F. Shriver Company was one of the first companies to use a chain conveyor to move empty cans. In conjunction with another can company, they developed a mechanism that directed empty cans from a single conveyor to two filling machines. "Cremoginized Corn" was also developed for the United Products Company at the Liberty Street site. Martin J. Leahy (b. 1852), the first superintendent of the Westminster plant, worked in Baltimore for the John L. Shriver & Bros. canning business. Indicative of the impact of new transportation systems on the spread of technology and expertise, Leahy, who was born in Kilkenney County, Ireland, for many years commuted weekly from his home in Baltimore. His sons and grandson followed him into the business, continuing the family association with the B.F.

¹⁷James M. Shriver, "History of the B.F. Shriver Company," p. 2.

¹⁸Shriver, p. 3.

¹⁹Shriver, p. 2.

²⁰In 1872, B.F. Shriver previously attempted to expand to Westminster, locating a plant on the 2nd floor of a Coal House on Lynch's Lumber Yard, on George Street south of Green Street next to the Western Maryland Railroad. The absence of fresh water caused this expansion to fail within a year. Lynch's Lumber Yard was owned by Ed Lynch, who held the note for the Wagoner Foundry. (Shriver, p. 2)

Shriver Company through 1943.²¹ B.F. Shriver occupied the downtown Westminster site until they moved to a new purpose-built plant on the northeast edge of town in 1901 or 1904. The B.F. Shriver Company owned the property until June 1917, when it sold the land to the Farmers Supply Company.²²

Throughout the 19th and early 20th century the B.F. Shriver Company continued to expand their operations, acquiring farms and constructing plants throughout the region. The Shriver's purchased additional acreage for the "Home Farm" in Union Mills in 1871, 1884, and 1886. In 1891, the Union Mills farm was combined with the newly purchased 270 acre farm known as "The Oaks" to form the "Farm and Oaks" property comprised of over 400 acres. In 1887, the company purchased "Meadows," a 132 acre farm three miles from Westminster. In 1893 they acquired "Pennland," a 99 acre parcel in Littlestown, Pennsylvania where they opened a third cannery. In 1901 the B.F. Shriver Company bought "Hoppe," 105 acres two miles from Westminster. From 1901 through 1909 they purchased parcels of the Miller Farm northeast of Westminster. The B.F. Shriver Company located their new plant on this site, which ultimately included 400 acres. In 1903, they expanded to New Windsor, Maryland.²³ In 1905, the business was reorganized as a corporation, "B.F. Shriver Company of Carroll County, Inc." Officers were members of the Shriver and Park family.²⁴ Eventually, the company owned 28 farms totaling approximately 5500 acres.²⁵

The 1887 Sanborn Map is the earliest Sanborn Map to depict the configuration and function of B.F. Shriver Company's use of the site. Both the south addition to the stone building and the brick packing house are depicted in this map. The Sanborn Map notes that the steam-powered operation was fueled by coal. Buildings utilized stoves for heat and had gas lights. The stone building, formerly a foundry and machine shop, was used as a warehouse. A one-story frame coal shed was attached to the north side of the south addition and extended along the west wall of the stone building; scales were located to the south of the addition. The brick building at the center of the site served as a "Packing & Work Room." A one-story frame steaming shed and tanks were located immediately east of the brick building. There were significant storage facilities on the site. A one-story corn crib occupied most of the rear of the lot along the alley. There were additional one-story frame storage facilities across from the brick packing house on the north. A windmill, well, and stone water tank were located in this area. Successive Sanborn Maps illustrate how the B.F. Shriver Company significantly enlarged and rationalized their operation between 1887 and 1897. The 1897 Sanborn Map notes that the factory was run three months of the year. By 1904, the B.F. Shriver Company had moved their operations from this site and removed all of the structures but the stone building and the brick packing house.

The Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps reveal that the area around the block occupied by B.F. Shriver Company underwent only minor changes in land use during the period from 1892 to 1918, shortly after the B.F. Shriver Company sold the site. As late as 1897, there were cultivated fields within four blocks of the B.F. Shriver property. The Western Maryland Railroad clearly influenced the mix of

²¹Shriver, p. 3.

²²Carroll County Deed Book, 131/5, June 5, 1917. (Survey Form)

²³Shriver, p. 4.

²⁴Shriver, p. 4.

²⁵Shriver, p. 7.

uses in the area around the intersection of Liberty and Main Streets. Spurs off the main line served various establishments. Industrial uses and grain elevators were located less than one block from dwellings and typical downtown businesses. In 1892 Westminster Flouring Mills was situated across Liberty Street from the B.F. Shriver Company. Warehouses, buildings housing agricultural implements, and hardware stores were all located along Liberty Street. While there was a building housing agricultural implements at the southwest corner of Liberty and Green Streets, the area south of Green Street along Liberty appeared to be thinly settled by free-standing dwellings. The north side of Main Street was well established with saloons, hotels, a cigar store, dwellings, N.J. Gorsuch & Sons' grocery, warehouse, and grain elevator and J.W. Smith's Lumber Yard. Depot Alley was lined with stables serving free-standing dwellings along the west side of Main Street and East side of Green. St. John's Roman Catholic Church and the Catholic cemetery occupied a large tract of land east of the railroad tracks.²⁶

With few changes, this pattern of land use persisted through the date of the 1904 Sanborn Map, the first Sanborn Map after the B.F. Shriver Company relocated their operations. Westminster Flouring Mills became Carroll Mills/Robert Roop & Company. Smith & Reifsnider operated the Wood, Coal and Lumber Yard between Chapel Street and the railroad tracks. While the north side of Green Street above the rear alley of the B.F. Shriver Company block was settled with free-standing dwellings and a church, the south side between Liberty and Belle Grove Park developed industrial uses. The Westminster Hat Factory, J.H. Sullivan Carriage Manufacturing and a machine shop occupied the south side of Green Street between Liberty Street and Belle Grove Park. Buildings devoted to agricultural implements and carriage upholstery were located on the south side of Green Street west of Liberty.²⁷ By 1910 "A.E. Zoontz" [H.E. Koontz] had established a creamery and ice cream factory at the northwest corner of Liberty and Green Streets. A building at the southwest corner of the former B.F. Shriver Company block was used for carriage painting and for the W.I. Grumbine Shirt Factory. The stone building and brick packing house were used as the Westminster Garage and as a feed warehouse, respectively.²⁸

The 1918 Sanborn Map, which shows Westminster shortly after the B.F. Shriver Company sold the property, depicts the magnitude of changes created by World War I. The impact of the automobile can be clearly seen at this time. An "auto service station" is located on John Street and the "Square Deal Garage" occupies the rear of the lot at the northeast corner of the intersection of Liberty Street and Main Street. Carroll Mills - Englar & Sponceller occupy the greater portion of the block east of Liberty Street adjacent to the main line of the Western Maryland railroad between Main and Green Streets. "Farmers Feed & Fertilizer Company," the predecessor to Farmers Supply Company, operated directly across the railroad tracks from the railroad depot. The American Sentinel newspaper offices and presses occupied a narrow rectangular building on Liberty Street. The stone building housed United Machinery Company, which was still present in a 1920 photograph.²⁹

²⁶Sanborn Maps of Westminster, 1887 and 1892.

²⁷Sanborn Map of Westminster, 1904.

²⁸Sanborn Map of Westminster, 1910.

²⁹"Wagoner's Foundry," p. 2 and Sanborn Map of Westminster, 1918.

The Farmers' Supply Company (1917-1988)

Founded in 1913, the Farmers Supply Company was originally located on Liberty Street across from the present site. In June 1917, Farmers Supply Company purchased the B.F. Shriver Company property on the northern two-thirds of the site.³⁰ The company acquired the southern third of the block, where the Koontz Dairy had been located, for \$11,500 in February 1942.³¹

In 1947, Farmers Supply Company constructed the present International Style building on the southeast corner of the site.³² The building was a variation on a prototype that renowned industrial designer Raymond Loewy developed for International Harvester. By the early 1940s, International Harvester had completed a detailed program for the "Dealer's Base of Operations" in anticipation of comprehensive postwar new construction. Based on extensive study of marketing and retailing of farm equipment, International Harvester devised a program for retailers to construct a building to meet their needs that would, in effect, be a merchandising tool for the dealership and for its corporate products. Approximately 1800 of these buildings, which served as distinctive visual markers for International Harvester's progressive approach to agriculture, were constructed in the United States and throughout the world.³³ The program provides an excellent illustration of how corporations adopted the aesthetics of the International Style with little reference to its social content -- in effect coopting the social conscience of the style to promote consumer culture.

Raymond Loewy (1893-1986), "the father of streamlining," established the profession of industrial design and was one of its foremost 20th century practitioners. Born in Paris, Loewy's talent was apparent at an early age. When he was 15 he designed a prize-winning model airplane powered by rubber bands, which he patented and sold. Loewy graduated from the University of Paris at the age of 17 and studied advanced engineering at the Ecole de Laneau. Unable to find work in France after his graduation in 1919, Loewy embarked for New York to join his brother and look for opportunity in America. A portrait sketch he made on the passage across brought him an introduction to Conde Nast, *Vogue's* publisher, and launched him on an early career in fashion illustration and window display. By 1927 Loewy established his own business for industrial design, becoming art director for Westinghouse in 1929.

Loewy proselytized for functional design, promoting the idea that "every object no matter how simple or how complex, has an ideal form which can express its function with economy and grace."³⁴ Loewy

³⁰Carroll County Deed Records, Liber EOC 131/ 5 etc., June 5, 1917.

³¹Carroll County Deed Records, Liber LDM 178/64 etc., February 21, 1942.

³²The 1947 date is based on telephone conversations with Mr. Tarturro of the Farmers Supply Company Board of Directors and the article, "Store of the Month: Farmers Supply Company Westminster, Maryland," which appeared in *International Harvester Dealer News* in August 1947. The article states that Farmers Supply Company was founded in 1913 and that it moved across the street 34 years later --indicating Farmers Supply Company first occupied the building in 1947. A diligent search of the microfilm for the *Westminster Times* from 1945 through 1947 produced no mention of the construction and opening of the building and no advertisements from Farmers Supply.

³³*Industrial Design Raymond Loewy*, p. 127.

³⁴Marjorie Dent Candee, ed., *Current Biography* (1953), p. 368.

designed the Gestetner duplicating machine, Hupmobiles, and the streamlined Sears Coldspot refrigerator, which won first prize at the Paris International Exposition of 1937. Sales figures for Loewy's products provided powerful ammunition for his firm's services. As Loewy stated, "What I had instinctively believed was being proved by hard sales figures. You take two products with the same function, the same quality and the same price: the better-looking one will outsell the other."³⁵ One of the secrets of Loewy's success was that he astutely realized the importance of the relationship between the appearance of the object and the user's perception of the object and its technology. For example, his streamlined design for Gestetner's duplicating machine was a success because it essentially hid the intimidating functional elements of the machine, emphasizing the user's interaction with the machine rather than expressing its inner workings.³⁶

In 1938 Loewy became a U.S. citizen. In 1945 he brought in five partners and established Raymond Loewy Associates. The firm, which was the largest industrial design concern in the world, had offices in New York, London, Chicago, Los Angeles, South Bend, and Sao Paulo and employed over 200 people. In addition to his work designing tractors, trucks, and buildings for International Harvester, Loewy designed the Studebaker Avanti, the Pennsylvania Railroad's Broadway Limited, Greyhound busses, and department stores for Lord and Taylor and Foley's. Loewy's firm also designed the interiors for Lever House, a landmark of American International Style design. In the 1950s Loewy devoted increasing attention to business logos, designing trademarks for British Petroleum, Shell, Esso, and the U.S. Postal Service. The Smithsonian Institution mounted a retrospective exhibit of his work in 1975. Loewy died in 1986 at the age of ninety-two.³⁷

Raymond Loewy developed a prototype design for International Harvester dealerships with four basic variations that permitted a dealer to customize his facility in accordance with the prototype's basic scheme. Loewy based the plan of the prototype on the different operations encompassed within a dealership: equipment sales, equipment service, and parts sales. The percentage of a dealer's revenue derived from each of these three operations determined the square footage of the functional areas housed within the building.³⁸ The dealer's annual revenue suggested which one of the four prototype forms would be most appropriate for an individual dealer. Standard Plan No. 1, Farmers Supply Company's prototype, contained 7,520 sq. ft. and was appropriate for dealers with annual retail sales of \$125,000. Plan No. 2 housed 9,024 sq. ft. for annual retail sales of \$225,000, Plan No. 3 encompassed 10,528 sq. ft. for annual sales ranging from \$250,000 - \$300,000, and Plan No. 4, for dealerships with an annual sales volume of \$75,000 contained 6,016 sq. ft. All of the plans had approved variations. The six variations for Plan No. 4, housing from 5,248 sq. ft. to 8,928 sq. ft., suggests that the smaller dealerships may have been the most numerous.³⁹

The design of the building reinforced sound marketing practice, creating an environment where the physical setting, rather than the personality of the dealer, drove the sales and merchandising of goods. Parking was placed away from the display areas to enhance the showroom's visibility from the street.

³⁵Alvin Krebs, "Raymond Loewy, Streamliner of Cars, Planes and Pens, Dies," in *New York Times Biographical Service*, p. 895.

³⁶Thomas Hine, *Populuxe*, pp. 62-63.

³⁷Obituary and information from biographical dictionaries.

³⁸International Harvester provided explicit formulas and tables for using revenue to calculate square footage.

³⁹"The Prototype Design" in *Architectural Forum*, Vol. 84, No. 1, (January 1946), pp. 114-122.

Ranks of low, step display shelves were placed in front of the parts counter, which itself was turned into a display case, to promote impulse purchases.⁴⁰ Bin-end display cases behind the parts counter further transformed utilitarian parts into desired consumer goods. The modern service garage was visually open to the showroom area, advertising the up-to-date service and maintenance the dealership offered. A feature that the Farmers Supply Company chose not to incorporate in their building, but which was highlighted in the prototypes and dealership literature, was the unit tool room. This glass-enclosed area, which projected into the showroom, housed the most highly skilled mechanics, emphasizing the corporate-backed dealership's competitive advantage over smaller, local operations. Even the prototype building's color palette was carefully controlled and limited to eight customized shades of red, white, and gray.⁴¹

The plan and interior detailing of the building explicitly emphasized surveillance and the visual interpenetration of exterior and interior space. Circulation of personnel, equipment, and parts was carefully worked out and tied into extending the range of the manager's supervisory gaze. Offices had glass partitions so that the manager could view the entire operation from any office. Offices opened into one another and into the showroom, maintenance shop, and parts area.

The exterior of the prototype design provides an excellent example of International Style aesthetic principles. The appearance of the exterior reflected the functions housed within the building. The prototype divided the massing of the building into two distinct areas. The greater height of the maintenance shop at the rear reflected higher headroom required to service large farm equipment. A clerestory provided the transition between the lower mass of the front and the taller shop. The showroom within the front of the building was glazed to draw the gaze of passersby. The tall pylon that punctuated the front facade marked the location of the entrance and served as a visual separation between the larger equipment showroom and smaller parts display area. It was an identifying device scaled to the motorist rather than the pedestrian. "THE PYLON as a distinctive identifying symbol for an International Harvester dealership With such a signing device uniformly used by International Harvester dealers, its brilliant mass of color will promptly and unmistakably identify the dealer's place of business with the product he sells, and in a manner definitely suggesting solidity and permanence."⁴² The blank wall and ribbon window opposite the glazed showroom marked the location of the parts storage area, a private space accessible only to dealership employees. Although marked by blank walls, this device served to emphasize the size and depth of the parts department by making its volume visible to the spectator. Signage was a critical element of the design program. Loewy specified sans serif lettering for the signage, which was to appear at the edge of the horizontal roof.

International Harvester devoted as much attention to the implementation of the prototype design as they did to its development. International Harvester submitted the initial design to selected dealers' architects for testing prior to producing final plans and literature. The functional prototype could be

⁴⁰"Modernizing the Parts Department" informs the dealer that the new merchandising methods the corporation advocated were consistent "with a pronounced trend in the automotive industry toward open display selling of parts and accessories," n.p.

⁴¹"Base of Operations for International Harvester Dealers: Floor Sales Fixtures, New Counter Units, Modern Parts Bins, Bin-End Display Cases," n.p.

⁴²"Presenting the Key Design for the Dealer's Base of Operations," in *Store Technics: Ideas for International Harvester Dealers*, vol 2, nos. 9-10 (September-October 1944), p. 5.

customized to suit the individual dealer. Moreover, Loewy's skillful design of the exterior, which was based on the contrast between the open showroom and the closed parts area, the horizontal roof and vertical pylon, offered enormous flexibility in its execution. As an international corporation, International Harvester required that their prototype design be adapted to a wide range of climates, building materials, and construction practices. Loewy anticipated the use of either hipped or flat roofs, local materials, and different glazing patterns. International Harvester urged dealers to hire an architect to adapt the plan to local climate, site condition, and materials. International Harvester also worked within the constraints of material shortages after World War II in the initial literature they sent to dealers. Drawings and specifications for display cases, overhead doors, etc. combined manufactured and standardized parts for ease of assembly. The company provided drawings and specifications for constructing furnishings and cabinetry out of wood with the explicit anticipation that standardized metal components would soon be manufactured and become widely available.

The corporation devoted considerable attention to promoting the prototype building to their dealerships. They published extensive descriptive literature detailing the "Dealer's Base of Operation." International Harvester made explicit connection between all aspects of the design and increased profitability of the dealership. Text included in a booklet treating "Floor Sales Fixtures, New Counter Units, Modern Parts Bins, Bin-End Display Case" argued that these furnishings "have already demonstrated their worth in promoting sales and increasing profits for many dealers.... They are designed not only for efficiency and appearance, but to promote sales and profits."⁴³ An article on Chas. C. Strohl's building in Lincoln, Nebraska, the first prototype to be constructed, notes that Mr. Strohl's dealership was already more profitable because of "the closer management made possible by its plan." International Harvester issued certificates of appreciation to dealers erecting the new prototype buildings and offered matchbooks illustrated with farm equipment on one side and the prototype building with the dealer's name and address on the other. Nevertheless, despite these powerful incentives, International Harvester eventually made the prototype mandatory for its dealerships, creating consternation among dealers forced to construct new dealership buildings.⁴⁴

A 1947 feature article on the Farmers Supply Company Building as International Harvester's Store of the Month details the genesis of the Farmers Supply Company's prototype building:

In 1913, five progressive farmers down in Carroll County, Free State of Maryland, organized the Farmers Supply Company, of Westminster, and acquired the general line franchise. Thirty-four years later, the firm moved across the street from its original frame building into a beautiful new prototype base of operations.... The Farmers Supply Company is still managed by a board of five directors, all active, practical farmers, three of whom are descendants of the original founders....

⁴³"Base of Operations for International Harvester Dealers: Floor Sales Fixtures, New Counter Units, Modern Parts Bins, Bin-End Display Case," n.p.

⁴⁴Telephone conversation with Cindy Knight, McCormick-IHC Archivist, State Historical Society of Wisconsin. We are indebted to Ms. Knight for searching out material relating to the prototype plans and for locating the article on the Farmers Supply Company.

In 1940, acting upon the advice and vision of Elmer P. Pfoutz, secretary-treasurer-manager of the firm, property across the street from the original location was purchased. A few years earlier, warehouse and shop areas had been purchased in order to take care of the annual expansion of the business.... Thus the stage was set for consolidation of a new base where all business could be more closely coordinated.

Plans for new construction were drawn up before the war but, because of the latter event and the associated shortage of labor and materials, were pigeon-holed....

The termination of World War II allowed Pfoutz to revive his plans for a new base. He and Arthur B. Shipley, one of the directors, journeyed to Chicago in order to obtain first-hand knowledge of what Harvester might be suggesting in the way of new construction.

Now completed, this fine new prototype base is, in appearance and efficiency of arrangement, the outstanding business establishment in Carroll County.

Elmer Pfoutz reports a grand increase in business since the new base has been open. This increase has been particularly noticeable in the service and parts departments. Not only is Farmers Supply Company able, for the first time in thirty-four years, to give A-1 service, but it is now in an excellent position to meet and compete with all comers in the over-all competitive field.

With the new base of operations naturally come new merchandising methods. Today's buying public is once again becoming highly critical. That public will do business with the IH dealer whose house is in order. And for that reason, the agricultural trade of Carroll County is coming and will continue to come to Farmers Supply Company of Westminster, Maryland.⁴⁵

For its Base of Operations, Farmers Supply Company chose Standard Plan No. 1 -- a building with total floor area of 7,520 sq. ft. designed for annual sales of \$125,000. While the Farmers Supply Company Building is essentially International Harvester Prototype No. 1, the building differs from the prototype in two major ways that then forced other minor deviations from the prototype plan. First, the building is situated in downtown Westminster on a block occupied by several 19th and early 20th century structures. Second, the building lacks the unit overhaul and tool room, a key component in International Harvester's "Dealer's Base of Operations." International Harvester strongly advocated a site "away from downtown congestion, in a part of town where future industrial or business growth is anticipated."⁴⁶ A site on the outskirts of town held several advantages for a growing dealership. It provided room for expansion, outdoor areas that could be used for outdoor showrooms and warehouse space, and plenty of room for parking at the rear of the building where parked cars would not obscure showroom space as they might on a downtown street. An empty site offered the opportunity to

⁴⁵"The Store of the Month: Farmers Supply Company Westminster, Maryland" in *International Harvester Dealer News*, Vol. 1, No. 10 (August 1947), pp. 16-17.

⁴⁶"Dealer's Base of Operations: Explanatory Data" (1944), p. 6.

configure farm equipment circulation efficiently and to provide the 30 ft. setback from the property line that International Harvester recommended. Farmers Supply Company chose a site in downtown Westminster across Liberty Street from the long-time location of their dealership. While this resulted in no diminution of the overall footprint of Prototype No. 1, it resulted in the elimination of the outdoor sales area and probably resulted in a smaller outdoor warehouse and receiving area, normally situated at the rear of the building. The siting also eliminated one of the most attractive functional features the prototypes offered -- cross circulation for vehicles through the maintenance shop. The upward grade and narrowness of Green Street did not permit a second garage entrance to the shop. There was only one entrance situated at the north end of the shop instead of entrances to either side.⁴⁷

The lack of outdoor showroom space caused by downtown siting may have resulted in other changes to the Prototype No. 1 plan. Because an earlier structure, now gone, occupied the southwest corner of the rear of the property facing Green Street, there would have been little land available for outside storage and display of equipment.⁴⁸ The size of the equipment sales area was increased at the expense of the shop. Restrooms opening onto the equipment sales area are carved out of the shop; the unit overhaul and tool room, an integral part of International Harvester's Dealer's Base of Operation, was eliminated. The unit tool room was an important part of the corporate strategy to differentiate International Harvester dealers from their competitors. This area permitted a dealer to retain work formerly sent out to specialty shops. The unit tool room housed mechanics doing precision work on injector pumps, compressors, brake assemblies, transmissions, etc. It forced greater efficiencies in shop operation by promoting a hierarchy of skills and labor. Use of a separate room differentiated from the shop floor required that complex components be removed from farm equipment by less skilled labor for attention from the more highly skilled mechanics stationed in the unit tool room. Because the glazed room opened onto the sales area, the skilled mechanics became an advertisement for the technical capability of the dealer's repair staff:

*Long Step from the Old Blacksmith Shop: 'precision,' the new keyword in dealer service. Precision-built trucks, tractors, must be serviced with precision tools in the hands of precision-minded workmen. Clean, light unit-overhaul room for close work. Plainly visible from the showroom. Attracts attention, inspires confidence, draws trade.*⁴⁹

⁴⁷"The Store of the Month: Farmers Supply Company Westminster, Maryland," published in *International Harvester Dealer News*, Vol. 1, No. 10 (August 1947), pp. 16-17 suggests that Farmers Supply Company operated a makeshift maintenance and repair service on the perimeter of the block prior to construction of the new building. "This increase [in business] has been particularly noticeable in the service and parts departments. Not only is Farmers Supply Company able, for the first time in thirty-four years, to give A-1 service..." This lack of experience may have made Farmers Supply Company less appreciative of the production efficiencies offered in the prototype design of the maintenance shop and may have made them less inclined to devote square footage and personnel to the unit tool room.

⁴⁸This structure, now gone, was still standing in August 1977 when the Maryland Inventory of Historic Sites Survey form was prepared. (Maryland Inventory of Historic Sites Form, B.F. Shriver Company, CARR-472)

⁴⁹"Base of Operations for the International Harvester Dealer." Punctuation has been adapted from the original, which is set out in a manner similar to advertising copy.

Other variations from the prototype in the Farmers Supply Company Building include the inclusion of a large, walk-in vault opening into the accountant's office, the placement of a probable locker room on the north side of the building, and the use of undifferentiated open plan space within the shop. No reason for the existence of the vault has been discovered. Careful examination of the prototype plans demonstrate that vaults of this size were not contemplated for any of the dealerships. Enclosing space within the shop was problematic because the single garage bay required room to maneuver equipment within the shop. Separate, enclosed areas for painting or equipment overhaul that the prototype specified would have compounded the difficulties of equipment circulation. The Farmers Supply Company appeared to handle these subsidiary service functions in the warehouse area on the perimeter of the site. The locker room, ordinarily backed onto the public toilets, appears to have been situated against the north wall of the Farmers Supply Company Building. This location permitted it to be shared easily by both the parts department and the maintenance shop. From the functional design of the shop, this was the most efficient location of the locker room, given the relocation of the footprint of the restrooms into the southern corner of the shop, the area normally occupied by the locker room.

The Farmers Supply Company constructed a warehouse around the northwest perimeter of the block on Depot Alley and the rear alley. Components of the warehouse may have predated the 1947 building. The siting of the Farmers Supply Building and the circulation requirements in its Maintenance Shop in comparison with the prototype design suggests that the Farmers Supply Company probably shifted selected functions detailed in the prototype building to other parts of the site. The warehouse structures all face the interior of the site rather than Depot Alley or the rear alley, demonstrating their functional relationship to the Farmers Supply Company Complex.

The present appearance of the interior of the small lean-to addition to the implement warehouse shows that it was used for painting -- a function housed within an enclosed room within the maintenance shop in all of the Loewy prototype buildings. The large stove provided the higher heat required to dry paint and walls are covered with paint. The 1959 Sanborn Map notes that the concrete block warehouse and the warehouse along Depot Alley functioned as "Agric'l Implt" warehouses. The brick packing house was also used as a "Ware Ho Farm Implt." The 2nd floor of the northern section of the alley warehouse was used for "Furne Rep." with the remainder of the alley warehouse in general warehouse use.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. CARR-472

Please see Continuation Sheets.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Westminster, MD

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

B	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

C	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
---	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------

D	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
---	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------

E	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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F	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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G	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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H	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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Verbal boundary description and justification

All those two contiguous parcels of land situate at the northeast corner of Liberty and Green Streets, in the City of Westminster...containing 28,396 sq. ft. of land and 12,525 sq. ft. of land.... This constitutes the legal description of the property.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	N/A	code	county	code
state	N/A	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Betty Bird	date	February 1998
organization	Betty Bird & Associates	202-588-9033	
street & number	2607 24th Street, NW, Suite 3	telephone	202-588-9059 (fax)
city or town	Washington	state	DC 20008

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory 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.

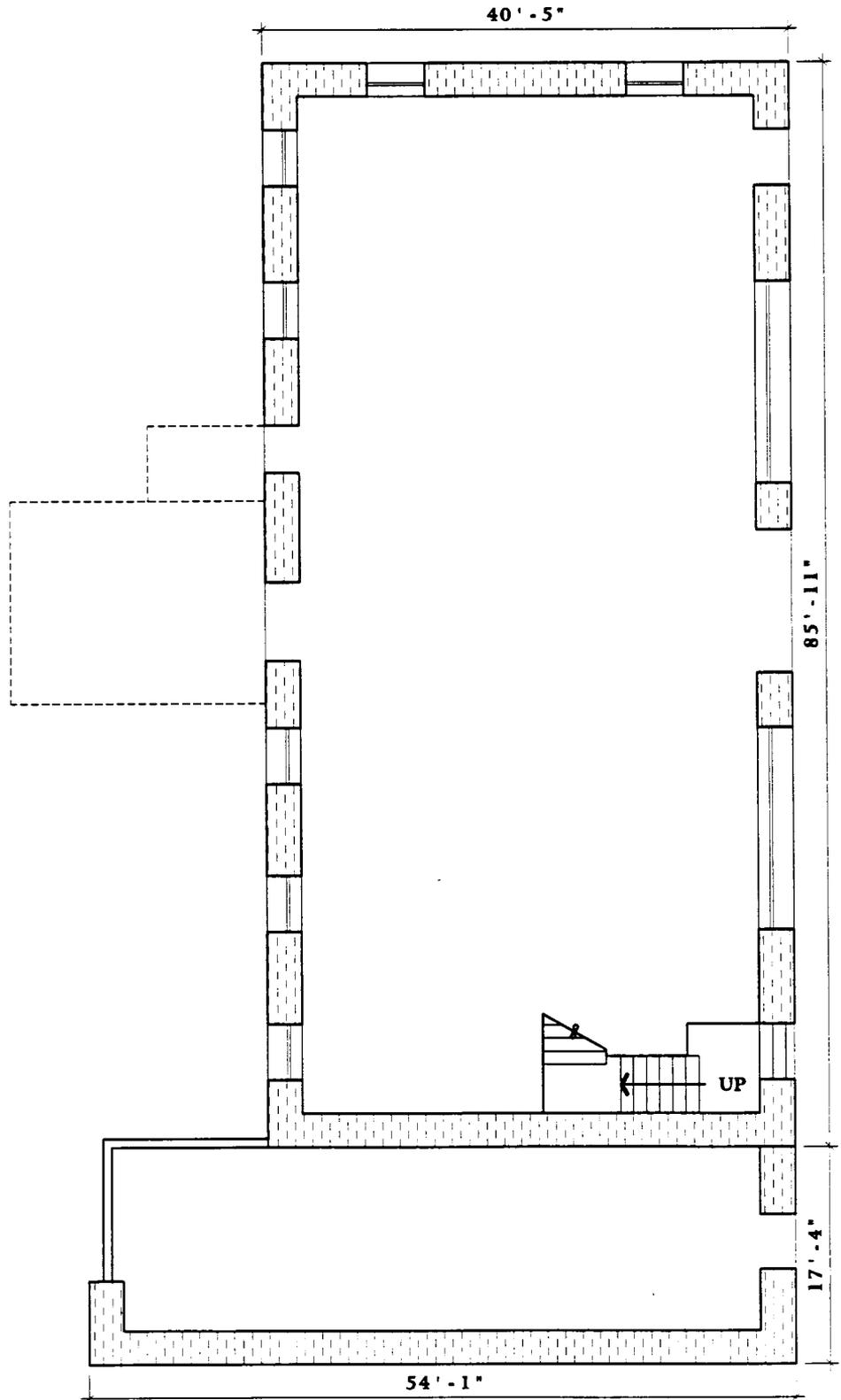
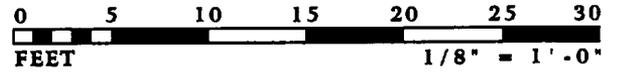
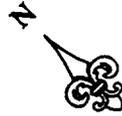
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Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

BIBLIOGRAPHY

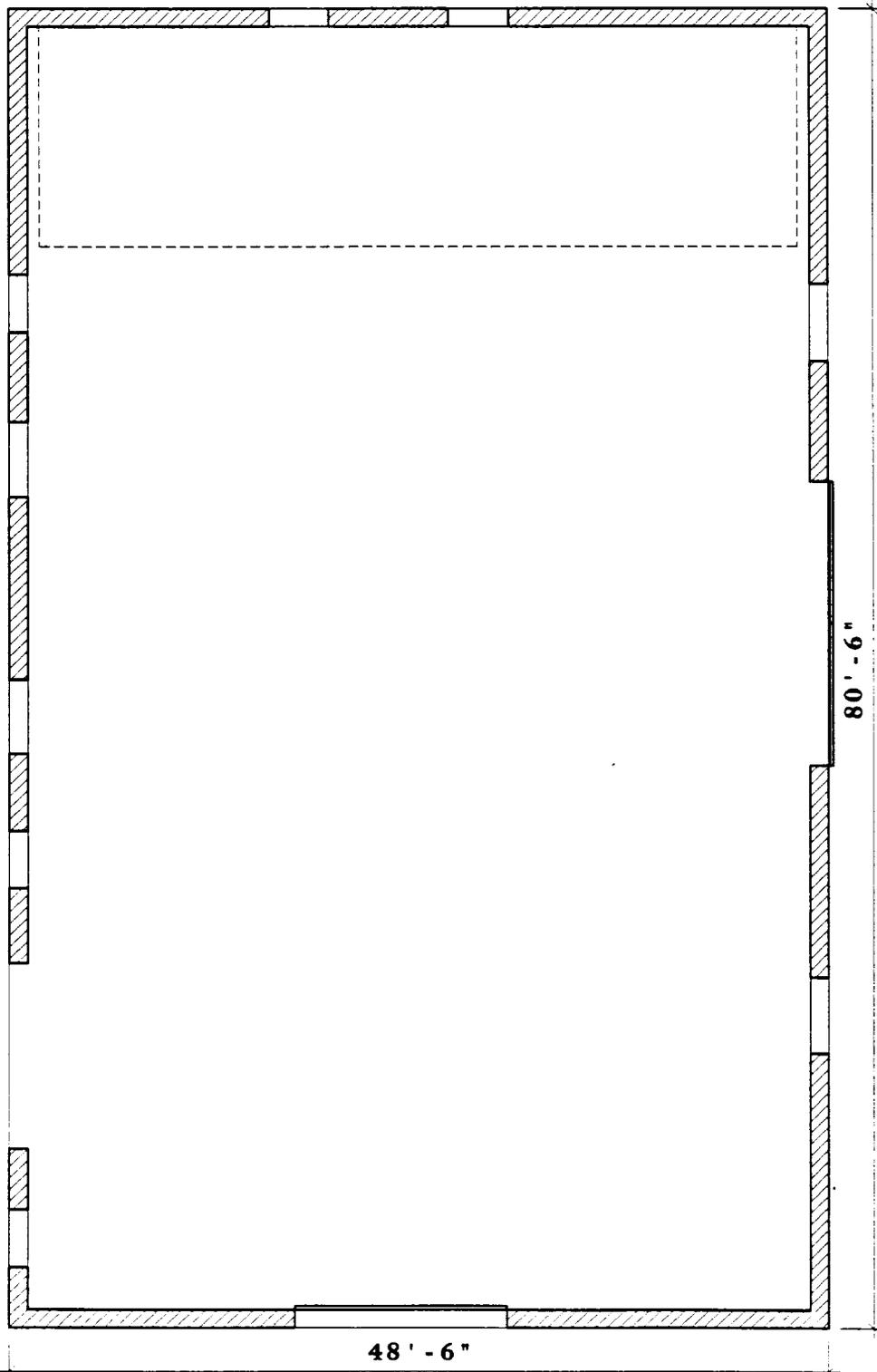
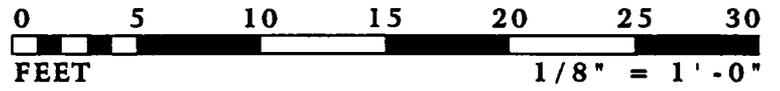
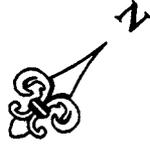
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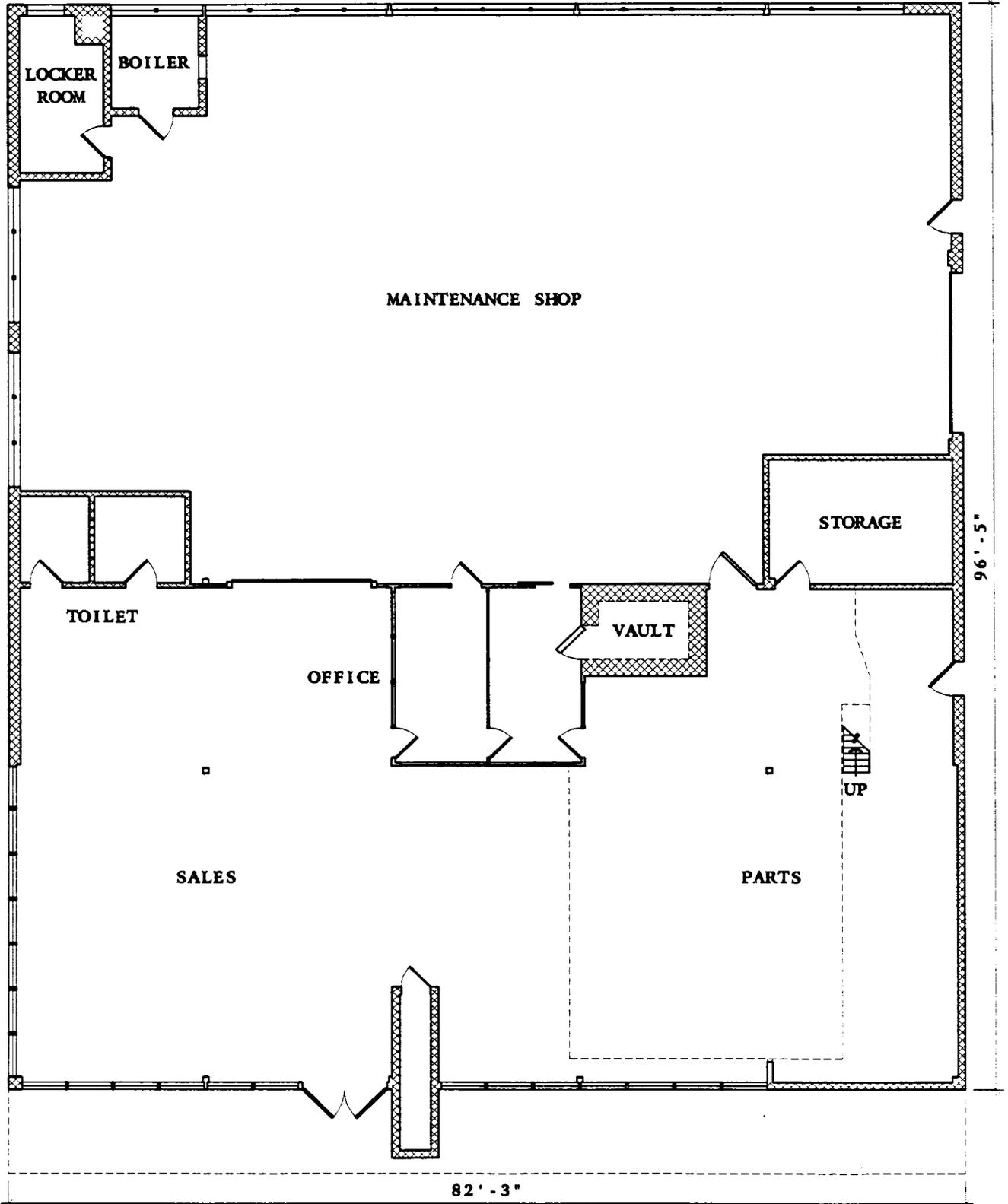
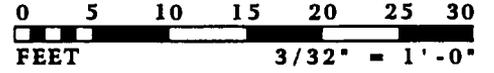
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FARMERS SUPPLY CO. COMPLEX
STONE BUILDING
FIRST FLOOR PLAN
WESTMINSTER, MD
CARROLL CO.
J. RAUL VAZQUEZ, 1998



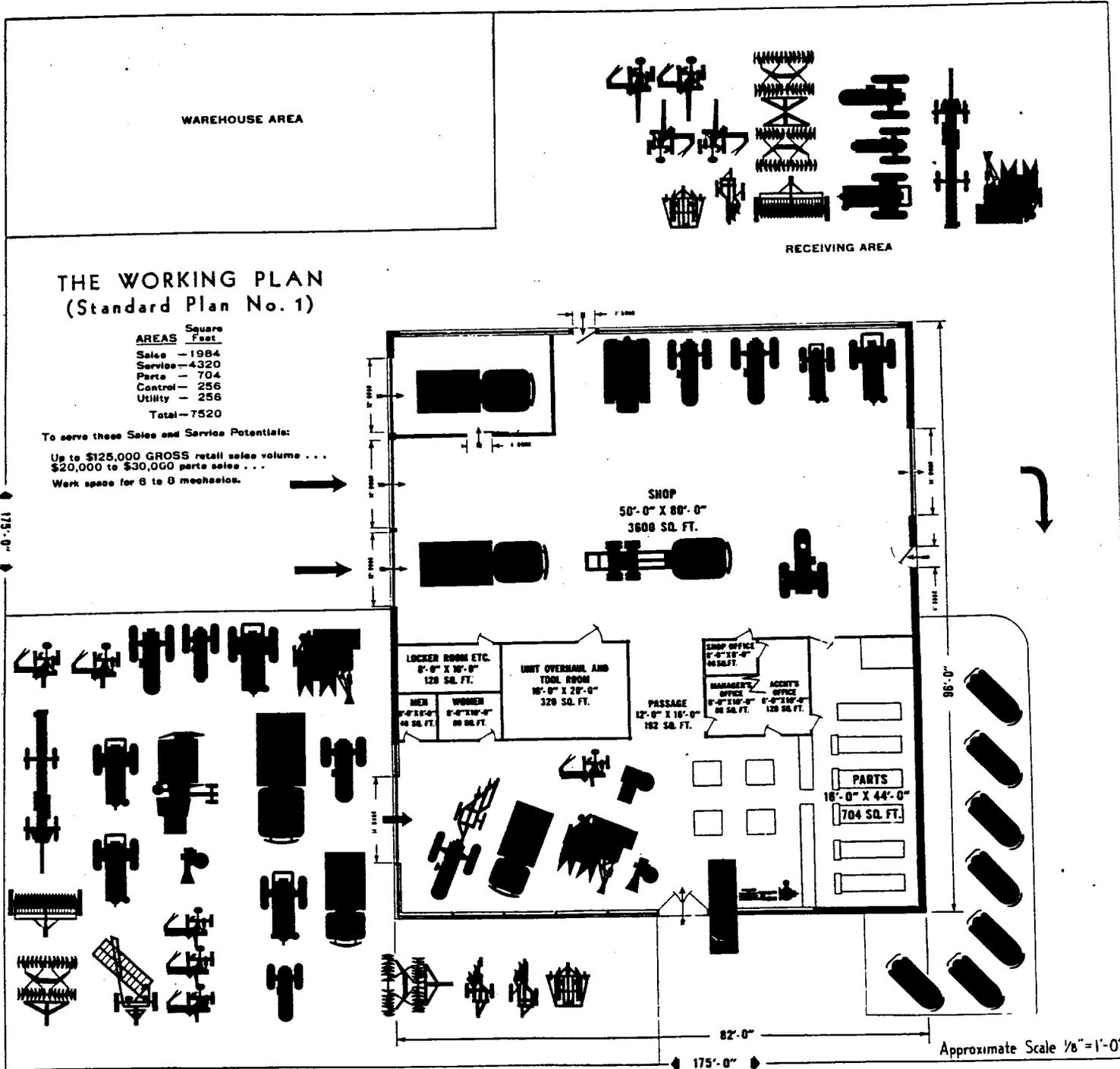
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FARMERS SUPPLY CO. COMPLEX
PACKING HOUSE
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WESTMINSTER, MD
CARROLL CO.
J. RAUL VAZQUEZ, 1998



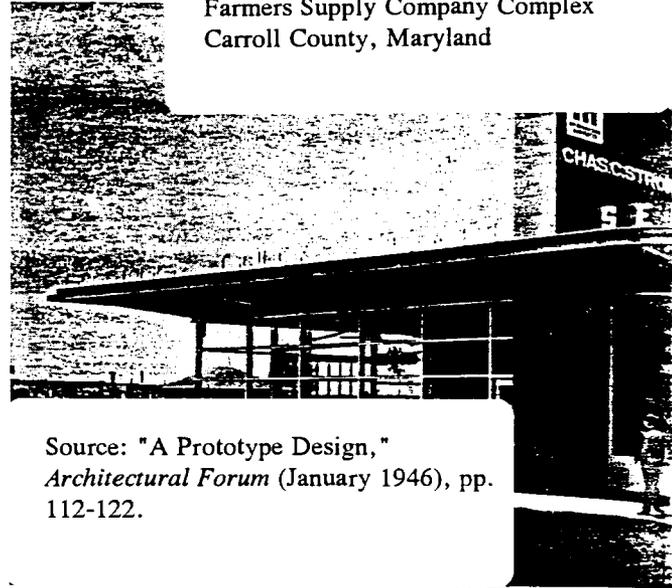
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FARMERS SUPPLY CO. COMPLEX
FARMERS SUPPLY CO. BUILDING
FLOOR PLAN
WESTMINSTER, MD
CARROLL CO.
J. RAUL VAZQUEZ, 1998



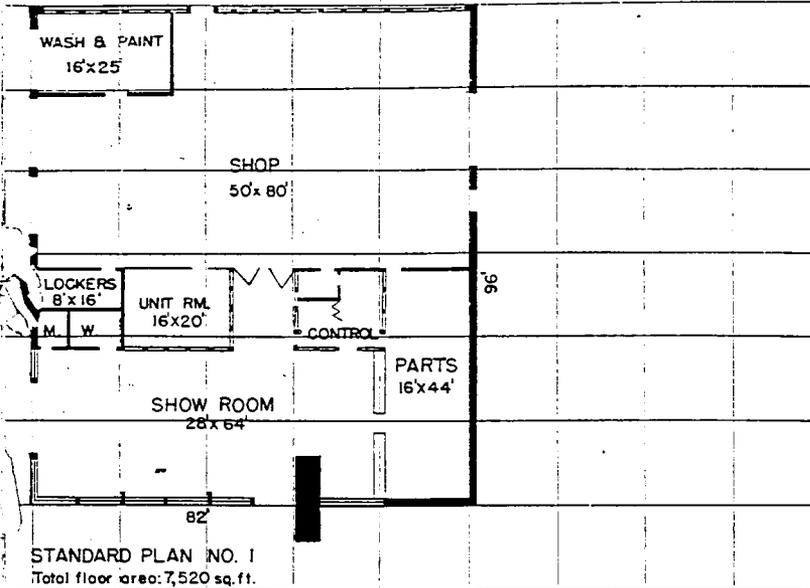
INTERNATIONAL HARVESTER
 PROTOTYPE NO. 1



Source: International Harvester,
 "Dealer's Base of Operations: Basic
 Floor Plans, (1945)

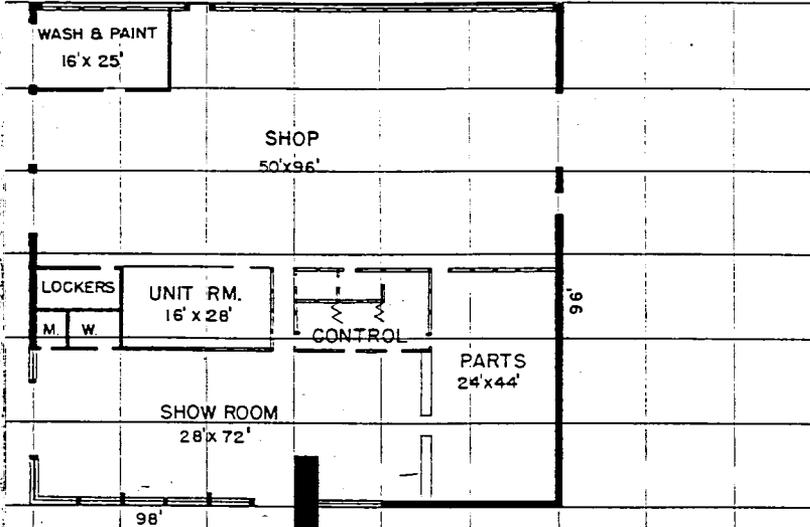


Source: "A Prototype Design,"
Architectural Forum (January 1946), pp.
112-122.



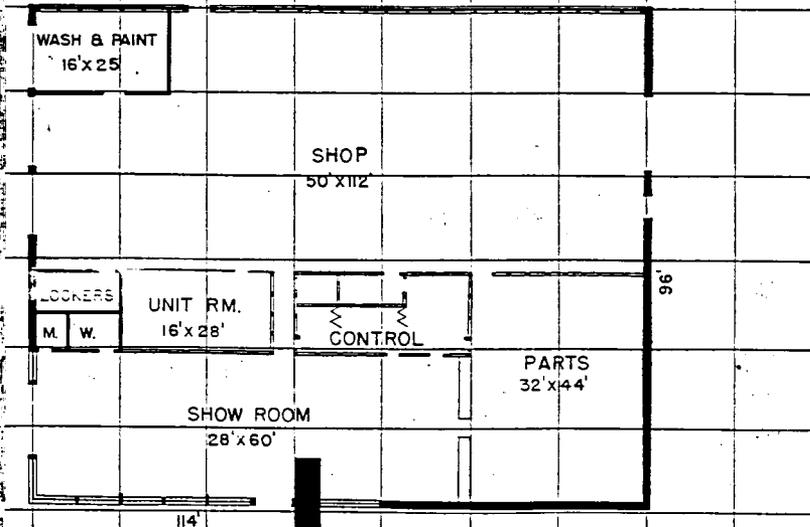
STANDARD PLAN NO. 1
Total floor area: 7,520 sq. ft.

For annual retail sales up to \$125,000



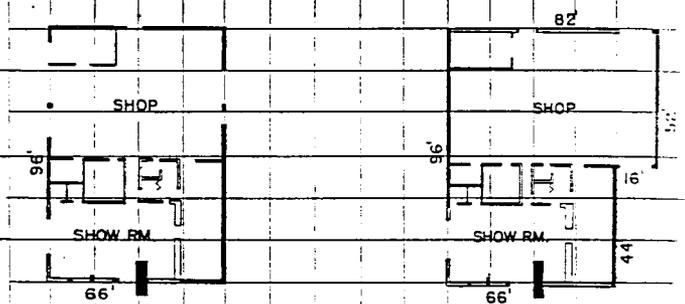
STANDARD PLAN NO. 2
Total floor area: 9,024 sq. ft.

For annual retail sales up to \$225,000



STANDARD PLAN NO. 3
Total floor area: 10,528 sq. ft.

For annual retail sales up to
\$250,000 to \$300,000



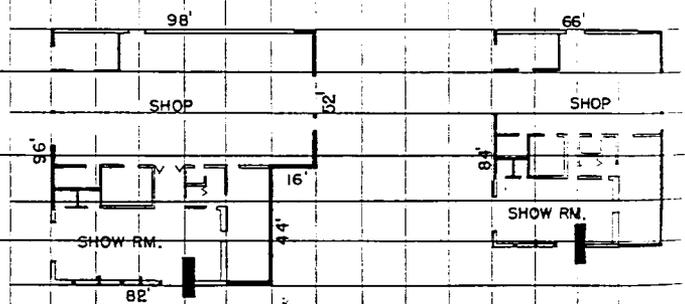
STANDARD PLAN NO. 4

Total floor area: 6,016 sq. ft.

For gross retail sales up to \$75,000

VARIATION A

Total floor area: 6,752 sq. ft.

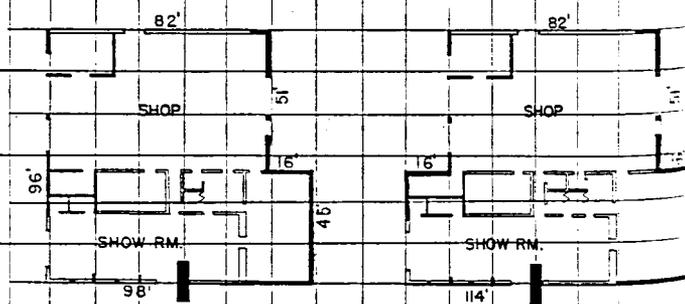


VARIATION B

Total floor area: 8,320 sq. ft.

VARIATION C

Total floor area: 5,248 sq. ft.



VARIATION D

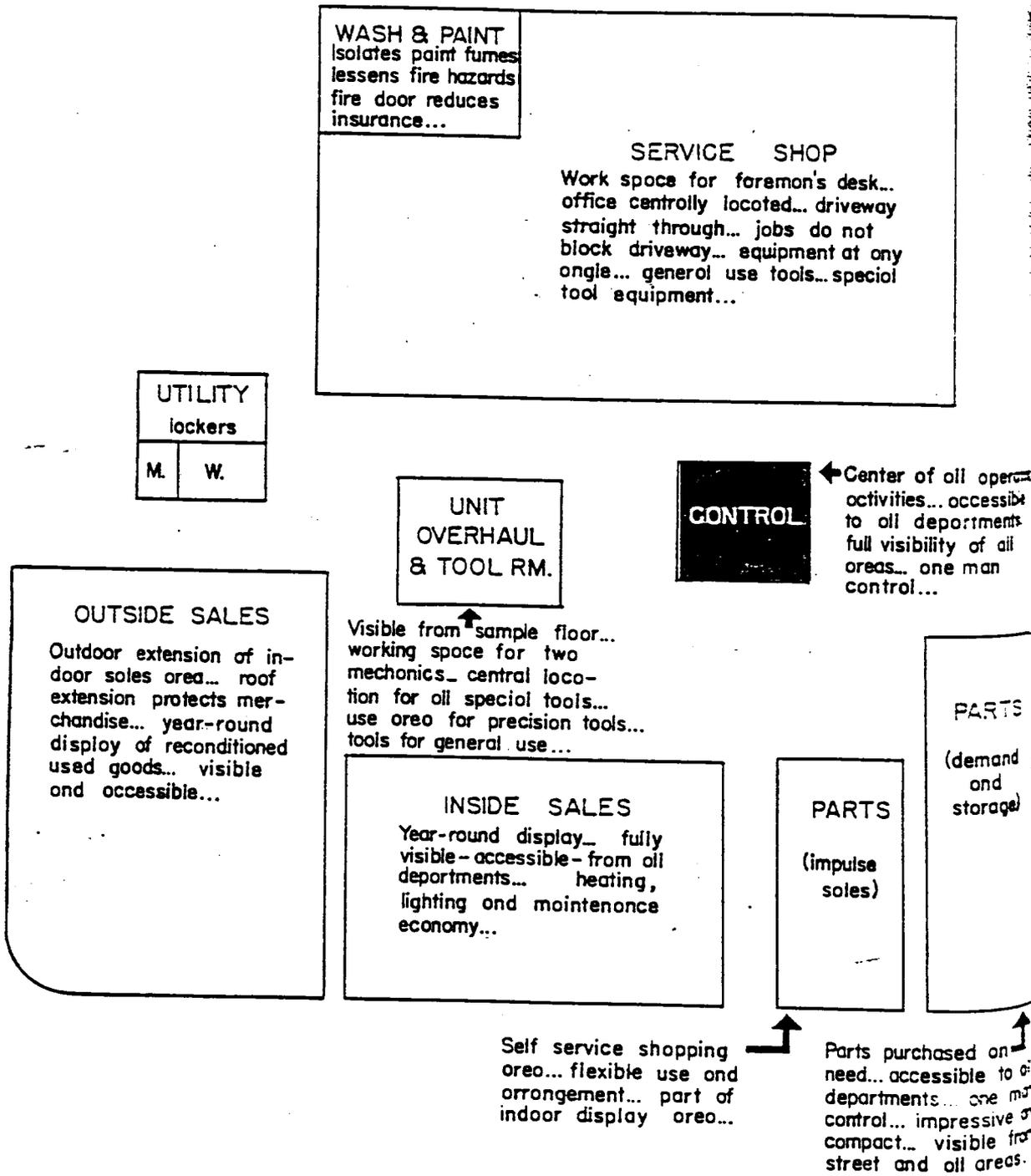
Total floor area: 8,224 sq. ft.

VARIATION E

Total floor area: 8,928 sq. ft.

0 16 32 48 FT.

**PROTOTYPE
 FACILITIES
 PLANNING DIAGRAM**



AREA ANALYSIS: Although four basic types and five variations were evolved, they are all identical in basic organization. All details of space allocation, floor plan and ground use have been developed on the tested operating principle of a fully departmentalized dealership. This led to the basic areas shown above. These are in turn expressed architecturally in the plan (facing page) which includes development of the lot—parking, outside sales future expansion, etc.

CARR-472
Farmers Supply Company Complex
Carroll County, Maryland



The STORE of the MONTH

FARMERS SUPPLY COMPANY WESTMINSTER, MARYLAND

IN 1913, five progressive farmers down in Carroll County, Free State of Maryland, organized the Farmers Supply Company, of Westminster, and acquired the International Harvester general line franchise. Thirty-four years later, the firm moved across the street from its original frame building into a beautiful new prototype base of operations. There is a real story behind the operation of this company during that period of time—too long a tale to tell here. Suffice it to say, the Farmers Supply Company is still managed by a board of five directors, all active, practical

farmers, three of whom are descendents of the original founders.

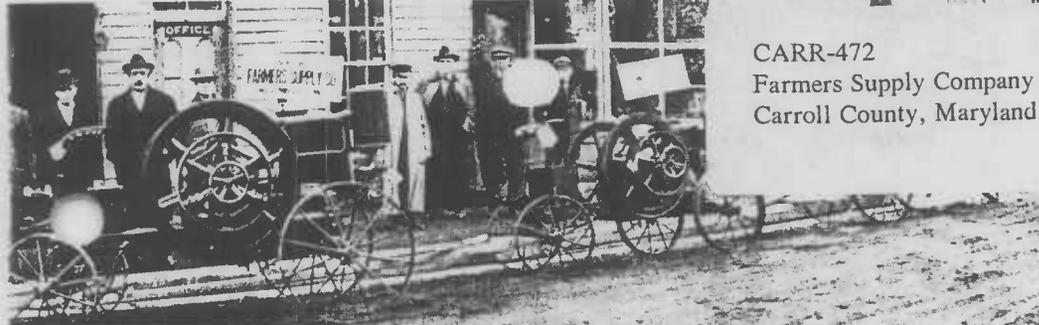
It is not hard to understand the success of this long-time IH dealership. The pages of Carroll County's and Maryland's early history are replete with enterprise and independence. The descendents of the men who lived that history have made the most of their heritage.

In 1940, acting upon the advice and vision of Elmer P. Pfoutz, secretary-treasurer-manager of the firm, property across the street from the original location

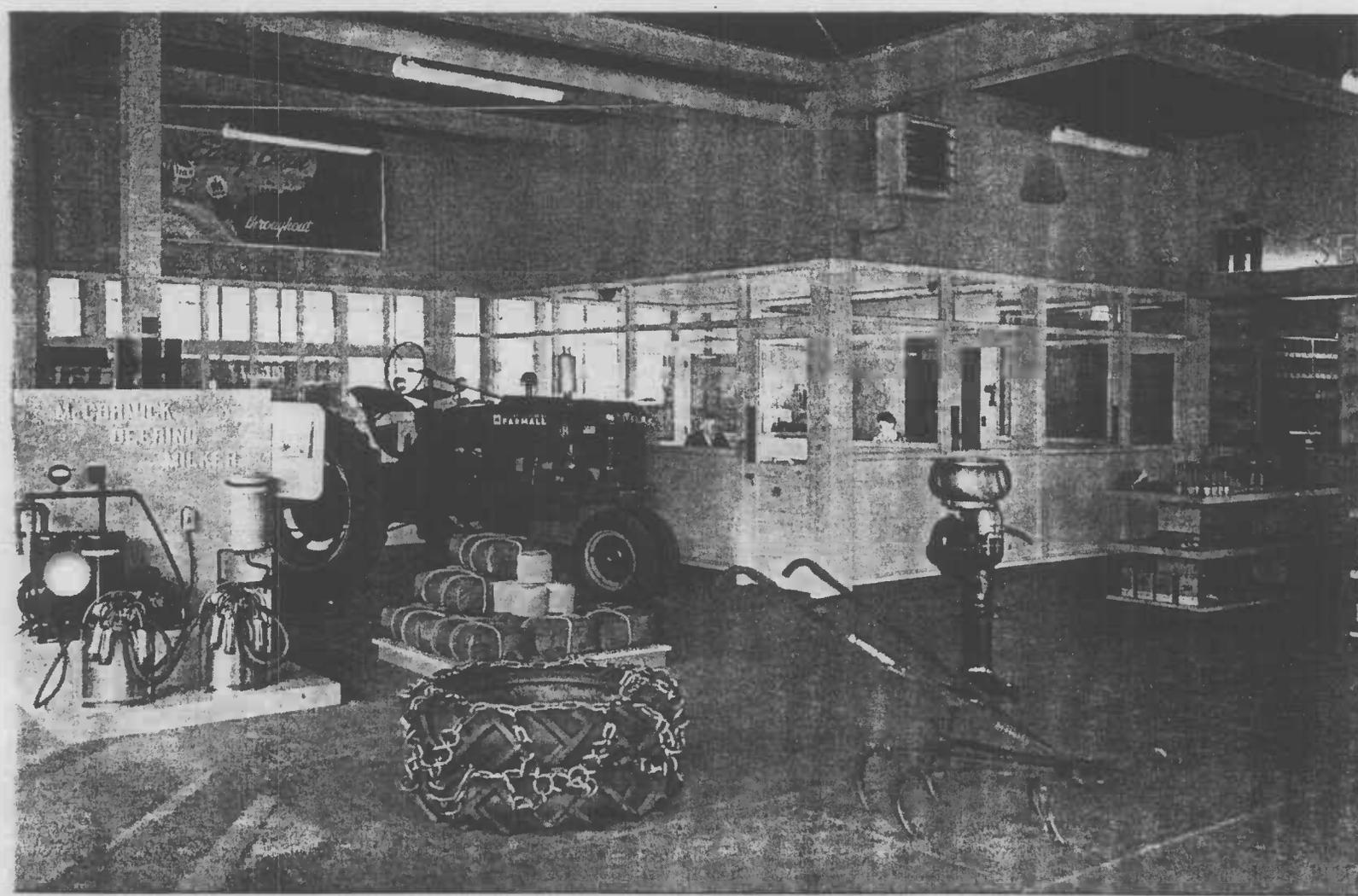
was purchased. A few years earlier, warehouse and shop areas had been purchased in order to take care of the annual expansion of the business. The latest acquisition made available a combined tract of land having a frontage of 250 feet and a depth of 198 feet. Thus the stage was set for consolidation of activities through the construction of a new base where all business could be more closely coordinated.

Plans for new construction were drawn up before the war but, because of the latter event and the associated shortage of labor and materials, were pigeon-holed. During

CARR-472
Farmers Supply Company Complex
Carroll County, Maryland



It was a big day in Westminster. This picture, which appeared in the July, 1914, issue of *Harvester World*, proves that merchandising, as we know it today, was not unknown to the founders of Farmers Supply Company.



Left: Thirty-four years of service to the community laid the foundations of this highly efficient, grand-to-look-of IH base of operations.

Above: A job of merchandising is carried on here. Show-room and parts displays are utilized to full advantage. Good housekeeping is a "must."

those years, the firm's resources were devoted exclusively to helping the farmer meet the war-accelerated world-demand for agricultural produce. The shortage of new equipment and the corresponding increase in consumer service and parts needs permitted no time to think of anything other than whipping the immediate job at hand. Farmers Supply Company did meritorious work during this crisis.

The termination of World War II allowed Pfoutz to revive his plans for a new base. He and Arthur B. Shipley, one of the directors, journeyed to Chicago in

order to obtain first-hand knowledge of what *Harvester* might be suggesting in the way of new construction.

Now completed, this fine new prototype base is, in appearance and efficiency of arrangement, the outstanding business establishment in Carroll County.

Elmer Pfoutz reports a grand increase in business since the new base has been open. This increase has been particularly noticeable in the service and parts departments. Not only is Farmers Supply Company able, for the first time in thirty-four

years, to give A-1 service, but it is now in an excellent position to meet and compete with all comers in the over-all competitive field.

With the new base of operations naturally come new merchandising methods. Today's buying public is once again becoming highly critical. That public will do business with the IH dealer whose house is in order. And for that reason, the agricultural trade of Carroll County is coming and will continue to come to Farmers Supply Company of Westminster, Maryland.

WEST MAIN STREET (MD. RTE. 31 & 32)

CARR-472

CARR (15)

CARR JOHN RESI REST (7)

CARR ALBI (1-3)

CARR-1293 LOCUST WINES (10)

CARR-1026 FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF WESTMINSTER (6)

CARR-1025 KRICKTON'S BICYCLE SHOP, SITE (12)
CARR-472 B.F. SHRIVER BLDG.

CARR-427 COVER HOUSE (35)

CARR 428/18? (53)

CARR-485 GERMAN REFORMED CHURCH PARSONAGE (15)

CARR-476 H. MORELOCK HOUSE (34)

CARR-475 (30)

Demolished C. 2000

CARR-1022 WILLIAM F. MYERS CO. BLDG (28)

CARR-474 (24-26)

GREEN ST.

CARR-477 G.W. MATHEWS HOUSE

CARR-478 BELLE GROVE SQUARE

PLACE

CARR-480 (13)

CARR-486 (17)

CARR-473 (19)

CARR-507 J. BLIZZARD E. LINDSAY HOUSE (36)

BOND STREET

PARK ST.

PARK

CARR-483 E. J. SNYDEN (19)

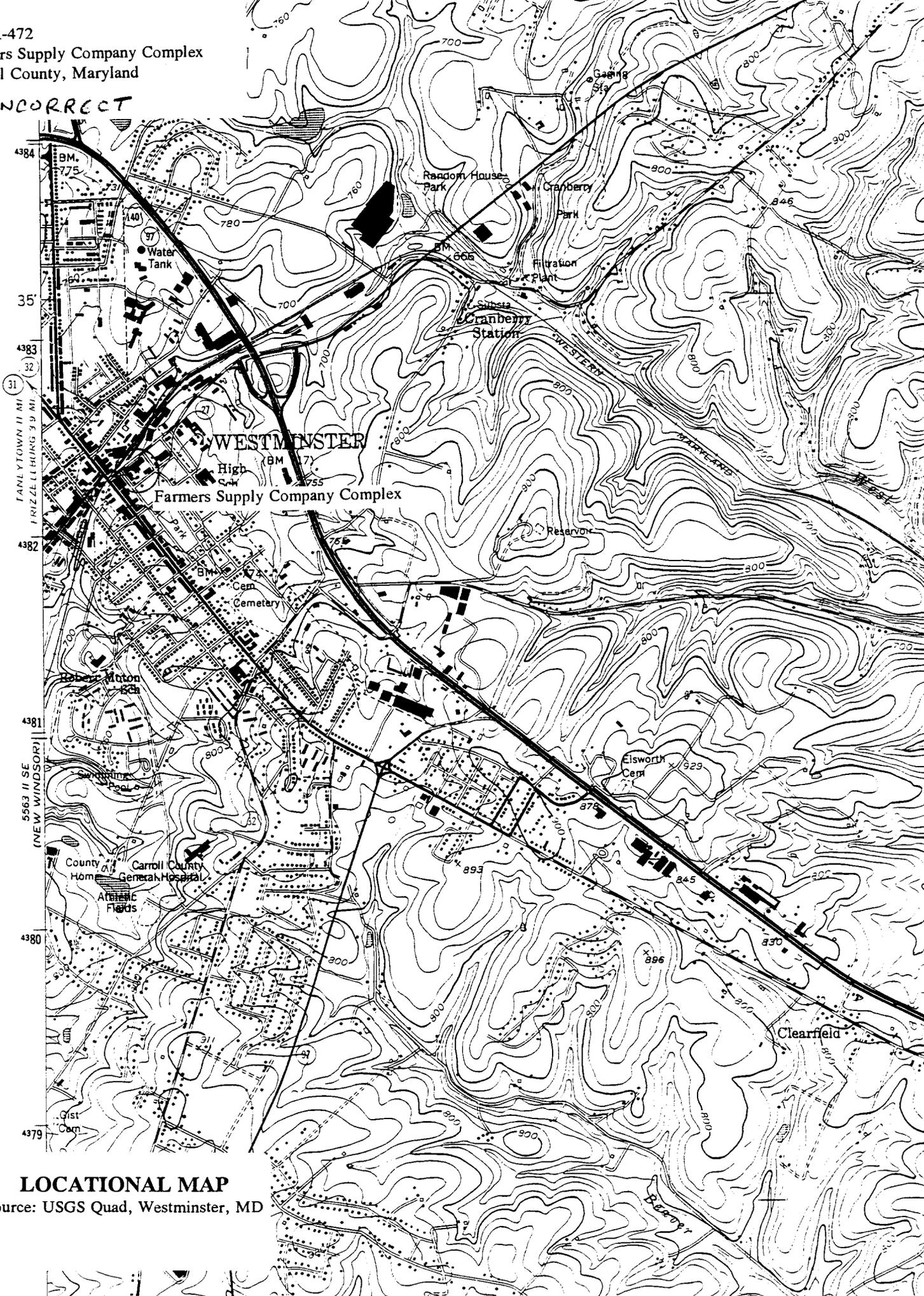
CARR-505 518 (21)

CHASE STREET

Index Map Historic Sites Survey 1977
The City of Westminster
1" = 100'
R. H. Coburn

CARR-472
Farmers Supply Company Complex
Carroll County, Maryland

INCORRECT



LOCATIONAL MAP
Source: USGS Quad, Westminister, MD

[Click here for a plain text ADA compliant screen.](#)

 Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation CARROLL COUNTY Real Property Data Search	Go Back
	View Map
	New Search
	Ground Rent

Account Identifier: District - 07 Account Number - 058128

Owner Information

Owner Name:	WESTMINSTER TOWN CENTER CORPORATION	Use:	COMMERCIAL
Mailing Address:	56 W MAIN ST WESTMINSTER MD 21157-4844	Principal Residence:	NO
		Deed Reference:	1) / 2123/ 844 2) / 3171/ 475

Location & Structure Information

Premises Address	Legal Description
20 LIBERTY ST WESTMINSTER 21157	LT 2B -5920 SQ FT LIBERTY ST 46-272 AMND MATTHEWS ADD TO WEST

Map	Grid	Parcel	Sub District	Subdivision	Section	Block	Lot	Group	Plat No:	Plat Ref:
104	9	704					2B	82		46/ 272

Special Tax Areas	Town Ad Valorem Tax Class	Enclosed Area	Property Land Area	County Use
Primary Structure Built		4,540 SF	5,920.00 SF	
1880				
Stories	Basement		Type	Exterior

Value Information

	Base Value	Phase-in Assessments		
		Value As Of	As Of	As Of
Land:	85,200	01/01/2003	07/01/2003	07/01/2004
Improvements:	39,500	46,000		
Total:	124,700	131,200	126,866	129,032
Preferential Land:	0	0	0	0

Transfer Information

Seller: WESTMINSTER TOWN CENTER	Date: 12/19/2002	Price: \$0
Type: NOT ARMS-LENGTH	Deed1: / 2123/ 844	Deed2: / 3171/ 475
Seller: CARROLL COUNTY BANK AND	Date: 11/23/1998	Price: \$0
Type: IMPROVED ARMS-LENGTH	Deed1: / 2123/ 844	Deed2:
Seller: MAYOR & COMMON COUNCIL	Date: 10/14/1998	Price: \$293,939
Type: MULT ACCTS ARMS-LENGTH	Deed1: / 2105/ 43	Deed2:

Exemption Information

Partial Exempt Assessments	Class	07/01/2003	07/01/2004
County	000	0	0
State	000	0	0
Municipal	000	0	0

Tax Exempt: NO	Special Tax Recapture:
Exempt Class:	* NONE *

[Click here for a plain text ADA compliant screen.](#)

	Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation CARROLL COUNTY Real Property Data Search	Go Back View Map New Search Ground Rent
---	---	--

Account Identifier: District - 07 Account Number - 139187

Owner Information

Owner Name:	FARMERS SUPPLY LLC	Use:	COMMERCIAL CONDO
		Principal Residence:	NO
Mailing Address:	10087 TYLER PLACE HYATT PK #2 IJAMSVILLE MD 21754	Deed Reference:	1) / 2904/ 672 2)

Location & Structure Information

Premises Address	Legal Description
LIBERTY ST WESTMINSTER	UNIT 1A -3346 SF LIBERTY ST 48-52/58 WESTMINSTER SQUARE

Map	Grid	Parcel	Sub District	Subdivision	Section	Block	Lot	Group	Plat No:
104	9	704					UN 1A	82	Plat Ref: 48/ 52

Town Ad Valorem Tax Class WESTMINSTER

Primary Structure Built	Enclosed Area	Property Land Area	County Use
0000		8,326.00 SF	000000

Stories	Basement	Type	Exterior
---------	----------	------	----------

Value Information

	Base Value	Value			Phase-in Assessments	
		As Of	As Of	As Of	As Of	As Of
		01/01/2003	07/01/2003	07/01/2004		
Land:	56,600	63,700				
Improvements:	0	0				
Total:	56,600	63,700	58,966	61,332		
Preferential Land:	0	0	0	0		

Transfer Information

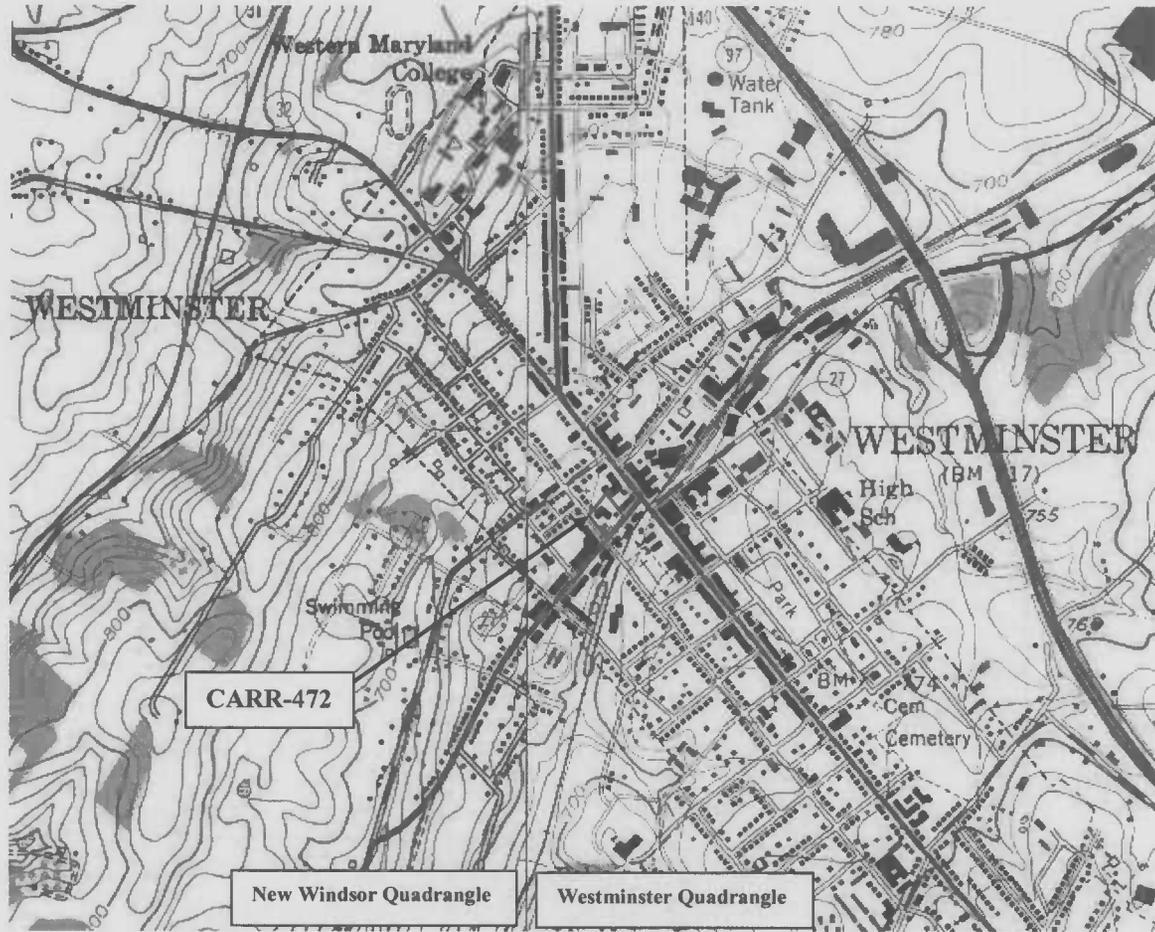
Seller: MAYOR AND COMMON COUNCIL OF	Date: 05/10/2002	Price: \$0
Type: NOT ARMS-LENGTH	Deed1: / 2904/ 672	Deed2:
Seller: CARROLL COUNTY BANK AND	Date: 11/12/1999	Price: \$0
Type: NOT ARMS-LENGTH	Deed1: / 2278/ 890	Deed2:
Seller: MAYOR & COMMON COUNCIL	Date: 10/14/1998	Price: \$293,939
Type: MULT ACCTS ARMS-LENGTH	Deed1: / 2105/ 43	Deed2:

Exemption Information

Partial Exempt Assessments	Class	07/01/2003	07/01/2004
County	000	0	0
State	000	0	0
Municipal	000	0	0

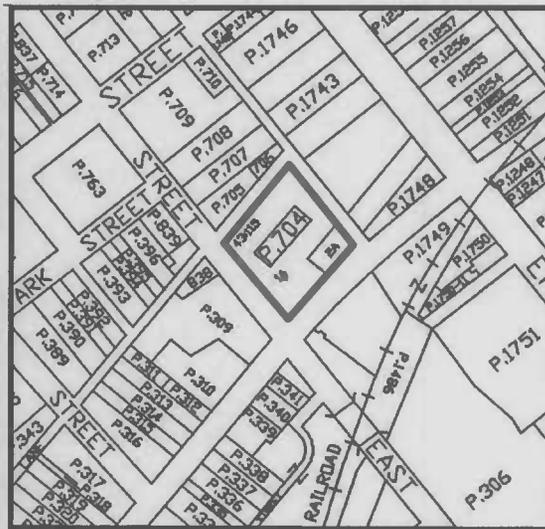
Tax Exempt: NO **Special Tax Recapture:**
Exempt Class: * NONE *

CARR-472
Farmers Supply Company Complex
12-14 Liberty Street (MD 27)
Westminster Quadrangle



1991-95 Aerial Photo

Tax Map 104





CARR-472

FARMERS SUPPLY CO. COMPLEX

CARROLL CO., MD

PHOTO: BETTY BIRD

DEC. 1997

MD SHPO

SITE FROM NE

S024NOR T00349 P226



CARR-472

FARMERS SUPPLY CO. COMPLEX

CARROLL CO., MD

PHOTO = BETTY BIRD

MD SHPO

DEC. 1997

SITE FROM SE SHOWING SOUTH & EAST FACADES OF FARMERS
SUPPLY CO. BLDG

S024 +1 T00457 P295



CARR-472

FARMERS SUPPLY CO. COMPLEX

CARROLL CO., MD

PHOTO: BETTY BIRD

DEC. 1997

MD. SHPO

STONE BUILDING: EAST & NORTH FACADES FROM NE

S024N0R T00357 P230



CARE-472

FARMERS SUPPLY CO. COMPLEX

CARROLL CO., MD

PHOTO = BETTY BIRD

DEC. 1997

MD SHPO

STONE BUILDING: EAST FACADE FROM SE

S024NOR T00386 P234



CARR-472

FARMERS SUPPLY CO. COMPLEX

CARROLL CO., MD.

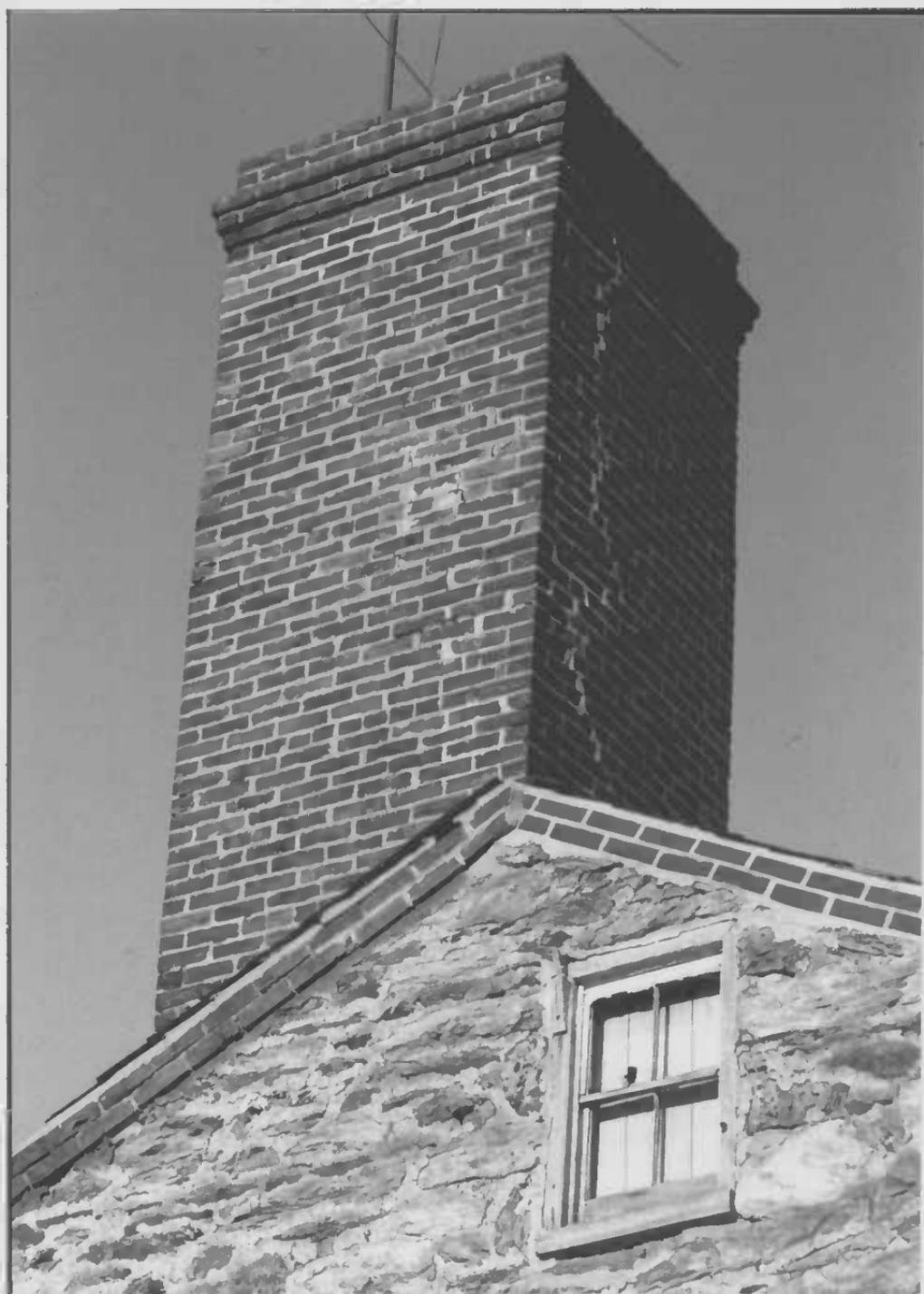
PHOTO: BETTY BIRD

DEC. 1997

MD. SHPO

STONE BUILDING - SOUTH WALL & LEAN-TO ADDITION FROM SE

S024N0R 100484 P248



CARR-47Z

FARMERS SUPPLY CO. COMPLEX

CARROLL CO., MD

PHOTO: BETTY BIRD

DEC, 1997

MD SHPO

STONE BLDG = CHIMNEY & WINDOW ON SOUTH FACADE

S024NOR T00394 P292



CARR-472

FARMERS SUPPLY CO. COMPLEX

CARROLL CO., MD

PHOTO: BETTY BIRD

JAN. 1998

MD SHPO

STONE BLDG: REAR(WEST) WALL FROM WEST

S024NOR T00514 P278



CARR-472

FARMERS SUPPLY CO, COMPLEX

CARROLL CO., MD

PHOTO: BETTY BIRD

DEC. 1997

MD SHPO

STONE BLDG: DETAIL OF CORBELLING & BOLT ON EAST FACADE

S024 +1 T00254 P303



CARR-472

FARMERS SUPPLY CO. COMPLEX

CARROLL CO., MD

PHOTO: BETTY BIRD, DEC. 1997

MD SHPO

STONE BLDG: CUPOLA & LIGHTNING ROD



CARR-472

FARMERS SUPPLY CO. COMPLEX

CARROLL CO., MD

BETTY BIRD

JAN 1998

MD SHPO

STONE BUILDING INTERIOR = 2ND FLOOR SOUTH CLOSET WALL

S822 +3 T01400 P811



CARR-472

FARMERS SUPPLY CO, COMPLEX

CARROLL COUNTY, MD

BETTY BIRD

JAN 1998

MD SHPO

STONE BUILDING INTERIOR: 1ST FLOOR-VIEW FROM S

S022 -1 T00610 P025



CARR-47Z

FARMERS SUPPLY CO. COMPLEX

CARROLL CO., MD

BETTY BIRD

JAN 1998

MD SHPO

STONE BLDG INTERIOR: VIEW OF REAR ADDITION FROM NE

S022N0R T01134 P027



CARR-472

FARMERS SUPPLY CO. COMPLEX

CARROLL COUNTY, MD

BETTY BIRD

JAN 1998

MD SHPO

STONE BUILDING INTERIOR: 2ND FLOOR - VIEW FROM N

S022NOR T00841 P019



CARR-472

FARMERS SUPPLY CO. COMPLEX

CARROLL CO., MD

BETTY BIRD

JAN 1998

MD SHPO

STONE BUILDING INTERIOR - 2ND FLOOR WINDOW

5822NOR T01536 P024 WITH TRIM



CAR2-472

FARMERS SUPPLY CO. COMPLEX

CARROLL CO., MD

PHOTO: BETTY BIRD

DEC. 1997

MD SHPO

SITE FROM NE SHOWING PACKING HOUSE & EAST & NORTH
WALLS OF NORTH WAREHOUSE

S024 +1 T00404 P297



CARR-472

FARMERS SUPPLY CO. COMPLEX

CARROLL CO., MD

PHOTO: BETTY BIRD

MD SHPO

DEC. 1997

PACKING HOUSE: VIEW FROM SE SHOWING S & E FACADES

S024NOR T00327 P250



CARR-472

FARMERS SUPPLY CO. COMPLEX

CARROLL CO, MD

PHOTO: BETTY BIRD

MD SHPO

DEC. 1997

PACKING HOUSE = SOUTH WALL FROM SW

S024NOR T00434 P260



CARR-472

FARMERS SUPPLY CO. COMPLEX

CARROLL CO., MD

PHOTO: BETTY BIRD

DEL. 1997

MD SHPO

PACKING HOUSE: WEST & SOUTH FACADES FROM SW

S024 -1 T00537 P268



CARR-472

FARMERS SUPPLY CO. COMPLEX

CARROLL CO., MD

BETTY BIRD

JAN 1998

MD SHPO

PACKING HOUSE - VIEW FROM NE SHOWING EAST & NORTH
FACADES

S022N0R T01015 P001



CARR-472

FARMERS SUPPLY CO, COMPLEX

CARROLL CO, MD

PHOTO: BETTY BIRD

DEC. 1997

MD SHPO

PACKING HOUSE = 2ND FLOOR ADDITION FROM NE

S024NOR T00295 F299



CARR-472

FARMERS SUPPLY CO. COMPLEX

CARROLL CO., MD

BETTY BIRD

JAN 1998

MD SHPO

INTERIOR OF PACKING HOUSE - VIEW FROM NE

S022 +1 T00363 P004



CARR-472

FARMERS SUPPLY CO. COMPLEX

CARROLL CO., MD

BETTY BIRD

JAN 1998

MD SHPO

INTERIOR OF PACKING HOUSE - VIEW FROM SW

9022 +2 100368 F005



CARR-472

FARMERS SUPPLY CO. COMPLEX

CARROLL CO. MD

PHOTO: BETTY BIRD

DEC. 1997

MD SHPO

WAREHOUSES FROM SE SHOWING S & E WALLS OF N WAREHOUSE

S024N0R T00392 P256



CARR-472

FARMERS SUPPLY CO. COMPLEX

CARROLL CO., MD

PHOTO: BETTY BIRD

DEC. 1997

MD SHPO

WEST WAREHOUSE FROM SW SHOWING SOUTH & WEST FACADES

S024NOR 100386 P262



CARR-472

FARMERS SUPPLY CO. COMPLEX

CARROLL CO., MD

PHOTO = BETTY BIRD

DEC. 1997

MD SHPO

SITE FROM NW SHOWING WEST & NORTH WALLS OF WAREHOUSES

S024 -1 T00613 P270



CARR-472

FARMERS SUPPLY CO. COMPLEX

CARROLL CO., MD

BETTY BIRD

JAN. 1998

MD SHPO

INTERIOR OF IMPLEMENT WAREHOUSE - VIEW FROM WEST

S022NOR 100343 P014



CARR-472

FARMERS SUPPLY CO. COMPLEX

CARROLL CO., MD

BETTY BIRD

JAN 1998

MD SHPO

INTERIOR OF REAR ALLEY WAREHOUSE - VIEW FROM NE

S022 +2 T00910 P610



CARR-472

FARMERS SUPPLY CO. COMPLEX

CARROLL CO., MD

BETTY BIRD

JAN 1998

MD SHPO

LEAN-TO ADDITION TO IMPLEMENT WAREHOUSE-VIEW
FROM SE

S022NOR T80720 P018

B. F. SHRIVER COMPANY

LIBERTY STREET

The several lots and the buildings thereon used by the B. F. Shriver Canning Company in the late 19th century, are located on the west side of Liberty Street (St. Route 27) about 100' south of that street's intersection with Main Street (St. Route 32) in Westminster.

The most obvious building on the site, popularly known as the "Old Stone House", is a seven bay by two bay coarsed fieldstone pile nearly flush with the street. Its eastern (principal) facade is unaltered on the second floor. Here is a unified row of seven six over six paned double-hung sash windows whose simple enframement, modillions transoms, sills, and lintels, is painted pale yellow. Below, there has been more alteration. Two original doors exist, to the extreme north and south; these are half glass late-Victorian doors and possess massive sills: doors and sills are painted canary yellow. The main entrance door, the door that leads to the main dining room of the building's present occupant (B's Coffee Shop and Dining Room), is centrally located. It is a slightly recessed glass and aluminum storm door that sits below a shed roofed quasi-cedar shake awning. An original broad wooden lintel tops the awning. Large plate glass picture windows, enframed in brick, flank the door and fill up most of the rest of the ground floor. (It seems that this brick has been used to replace the original wood).

The buildings constructed for the use of the B. F. Shriver Company, canners of fruit and vegetables, are significant in the history of Westminster, as well as of Carroll County. Further, activities of the company, as well as of the family, have had an importance that goes beyond local boundaries.

Benjamin Franklin Shriver was the fourth generation of that family born in the Westminster Carroll County area. He was the founder of the first canning plant in this area in 1869, beginning his operation in the old cooperage shop near Union Mills. According to an informal history of the company written in 1950 by James M. Shriver, "in the year 1872 he adopted the 'Blue Ridge' a no. 1 brand labels.....During these early years the founder began the development of the modern cob-crusher by utilizing a threshing machine cylinder with its concaves. A brother, Mark O. developed and patented the first closed retort which was used here in this pioneering stage. The growth of business "induced the founder to locate another plant in Westminster in the year 1872." This was on George Street adjacent to the present Western Maryland Railroad track, but "this venture was doom to failure as a result of severe water shortage." During the 1870's the company grew as other members of the family took various rolls in it; a partnership was formed between B. F., and Herbert Shriver with the latter taking charge of office and sale, while B. F. applied most of his time to the farming and canning operations. Early products of the company, were, according to the history "canned pies, peaches, goose

berries, whortle berries, peas, quinces, pears, corn, tomatoes, apple sauce, and four different types of cherries." In 1881 a second move was made in Westminster to of the building here discussed. Operations continued on this Liberty Street site "until 1901 or 1904 where they were moved to the present site, northeast of town."

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC B. F. Shriver Company

AND/OR COMMON Farmers Supply

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER Liberty Street

CITY, TOWN Westminster VICINITY OF _____ CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 7

STATE Maryland COUNTY Carroll

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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Farmers Supply Company Telephone #: 848-6776

STREET & NUMBER Liberty & Green Streets

CITY, TOWN Westminster VICINITY OF _____ STATE, zip code Maryland 21157

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Carroll County Office Building Liber #: 225

STREET & NUMBER Center Street Folio #: 243

CITY, TOWN Westminster STATE Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE None

DATE _____

_____ FEDERAL _____ STATE _____ COUNTY _____ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS _____

CITY, TOWN _____ STATE _____

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE		CHECK ONE	
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED	DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED			
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED				

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The several lots and the buildings thereon used by the B. F. Shriver Canning Company in the late 19th century, are located on the west side of Liberty Street (St. Route 27) about 100' south of that street's intersection with Main Street (St. Route 32) in Westminster.

The most obvious building on the site, popularly known as the "Old Stone House", is a seven bay by two bay coarsed fieldstone pile nearly flush with the street. Its eastern (principal) facade is unaltered on the second floor. Here is a unified row of seven six over six paned double-hung sash windows whose simple enframingent, modillions transoms, sills, and lintels, is painted pale yellow. Below, there has been more alteration. Two original doors exist, to the extreme north and south; these are half glass late-Victorian doors and possess massive sills; doors and sills are painted canary yellow. The main entrance door, the door that leads to the main dining room of the building's present occupant (B's Coffee Shop and Dining Room), is centrally located. It is a slightly recessed glass and aluminum storm door that sits below a shed roofed quasi-cedar shake awning. An original broad wooden lintel tops the awning. Large plate glass picture windows, enframed in brick, flank the door and fill up most of the rest of the ground floor. (It seems that this brick has been used to replace the original wood).

One small 2/2 window lights the attic in the gable of the south facade, just east of the massive brick corbel capped chimney that dominants the facade, if not the whole building. A large shed-roofed extension fills the rest of the facade. It is covered in white tin (the main building is roofed in slate). It has a recessed half glass/half wood lintel door facing Liberty Street, and two 1/1 windows to the south towards Green Street. The buildings north facade has two windows on each of its floors including two 2/2 attic windows. All windows have yellow wooden lintels and sills (including the attic windows). The second story windows are 6/6 paned; ground story windows have been boarded over.

The west facade, looking over the lots is more jumbled and presents a disorderly array of original windows, later additions, and yellow stairs. Perhaps the most interesting thing about this structure, the best way to describe it, is its massiveness. This quality exists from the huge size of the fieldstone which form the walls, to the large southern chimney. But perhaps the quality is most evident at the rough, but clearly intentioned, quoins found on all four

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

A short history of the B. F. Shriver Company by
James M. Shriver, 1950, unpublished.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Consisting of lots 1, 2 and 3 of J. T. Mathias' Addition to Westminster as shown on an 1877 plat of the City located on the northwest side of the intersection of Liberty and West Green Street in Westminster.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	COUNTY
STATE	COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Christopher Weeks, Consultant

August, 1977

ORGANIZATION

Westminster Historical Sites Survey

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

c/o City Hall - Public Works Department

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Westminster

STATE

Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory 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
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

x ~
corners.

A barn-like structure laid in five course common bond brick is to the rear (west) of the old stone house. It has a massive lintel wooden door to the east and a sliding wooden door to the north (just west of a more conventional hinged door). A four sided louvered window cupola crowns the "Barn" in its center at the peak of its slate roof. The building was a uniform size, except for the later wood 10' western section which is a full two stories tall and has its own northern door and second story (now boarded over) window.

One final building which is slightly later than the other two (it is not, as the others are, located on the 1877 plat of the City) is a two story gable roofed barn structure which fronts Green Street, about a 100' west of that street's intersection with Liberty Street. This building has four 6/6 simply enframed windows facing Green Street; windows have segmental arches. A large barn door fills nearly half of the ground floor, to the west. Its board and batten construction is painted yellow, as is the small wooden cornice. Other three, crowded, ground story bays are two central doors (the one to the east has a large segmental arch, that to the west shows evidence of a transom) and an eastern 6/6 segmental arched window. East and western facades, below their simple eaves, consist of six (three per floor) regularly spaced 6/6 gauged flat arched windows. The simple flat roof of this structure is given extra importance on the principal facade by having the facade wall extended upwards a few feet allowing only a central then-fashionable Gothic peak in the center.

SHRIVER'S

BLUE RIDGE
BRAND

The B. F. Shriver Company

CANNERS AND FARMERS OF VEGETABLES

Westminster, Md.

June 29, 1950

The Honorable Earl Shipley
c/o Brown and Shipley
Attorneys-at-Law
Westminster, Maryland

Dear Senator Shipley:

I have prepared a "History of The B. F. Shriver Company" which you might like to place in the files of the Carroll County Historical Society. Before you place it in the files of the Society, however, I would appreciate it very much if you would read it yourself and give me your comments on it. I hope you will find it interesting.

Very sincerely yours,

James M. Shriver

JMS:DK

ENCL.

-1-

The B. F. Shriver Company, Inc. and its predecessors has been engaged in the canning business for eighty-one years in Carroll County, Maryland and for fifty-seven years in Adams County, Pennsylvania. This long history of successful operation in this most important food industry has encompassed most of the outstanding changes in agricultural production and in food processing that this country has known. From the time of its founding to the present day the enterprising owners of this business have been engaged in the improvement of farm produce, the methods of processing these materials, and the conservation of the land resources. As a result of these efforts they have been able to market better goods more efficiently as the years have gone by. Furthermore, they are improving the conditions of the soil which is essential for the continuation of the high standards of quality which they seek to attain.

Andrew Shriver, the first of three children of David Shriver, was born at Avondale, Maryland, on Little Pipe Creek, November 7, 1762. At the age of twenty-nine he moved to Littlestown, Pennsylvania, and there established the first contact of this family with Adams County that was to be continued in later years by his descendants. In the year 1797 he moved from Littlestown to a tract of land purchased in partnership with his brother, David from the heirs of Jacob Bankerd. This property was situated along the north side of the Baltimore-Gettysburg Turnpike at its intersection with the north branch of Pipe Creek five miles southeast of the Mason & Dixon Line in Frederick County, (now Carroll County) Maryland. The property was on the east side of the creek and contained an old grist mill, a saw mill, and a tannery.

The present mill and two small houses were constructed in 1797 on the site of the old grist mill. The cost of the same is recorded as 100 pounds sterling in a contract between Andrew and David Shriver and Henry Kohlestock, the builder. The millwright work was completed for the sum of \$430 by John Mung. It is assumed that the above mentioned costs involved labor only but this is not certain. The two original houses mentioned were of two-story construction. Each being 14 X 17 feet in dimensions, connected by a ten-foot passage-way and porch and located adjacent to the mill on the site of the present house now occupied by Mrs. Elizabeth Kemp, niece of the late Louis E. Shriver. The houses were completed in 1797 and occupied by Andrew and David Shriver, partners of the business. The first floor of one of the houses was occupied by a general store operated by them. Andrew Shriver was instrumental in securing the first post office for Union Mills (Myersville) and consequently, served as the first postmaster. William and Andrew K. Shriver also served in this capacity. For nearly four score years this postmastership remained in the family.

This partnership of Andrew and David in the milling business suggested the name "Union Mills" to their homes and was subsequently, extended to embrace the whole village formerly known as Myersville, having been named after one of the original settlers, Peter E. Myers.

This partnership was subsequently dissolved and the entire business came under the control of Andrew and later of two of his sons, Andrew K. and William, who in 1848 divided the business as follows:

To Andrew K. the main dwelling adjacent to the mill, the so-called old oil mill property and tannery, and also all of the land situated on the east side of the turnpike. To William (b. Littlestown, Pennsylvania, December 23, 1796; d. Union Mills, Maryland, June 11, 1879; buried St. John's Cemetery, Westminster, Maryland) the grist and saw mill and the house adjacent to the mill then housing the blacksmith, and all of the land on the west side of the turnpike. It was at this location that William built his home and raised his thirteen children. Here also, his father, Andrew lived until his death on September 20, 1847.

Benjamin Franklin Shriver, the tenth child of William, was born December 25, 1843. He was destined to be the founder of the first canning plant in this area in 1869. He began his operations in the Old Cooperage Shop near the site of the present mill. This building was only 18 feet square at the start but it was soon found to be necessary to add a 12 foot extension. Three years later he moved across the turnpike to the south side and occupied a new plant designed in an L shape. This was a considerable expansion as the floor area measured 45 X 20 feet for one section and a two-story section 30 X 25 feet. The chief products at this time were Peas, Corn, and Tomatoes with some Fruits and Berries. In the year 1872 he adopted the "Blue Ridge" and "A No. One Brand" labels which are still in use at the present time. During these early years the founder began the development of the modern day cob-crusher by utilizing a threshing machine cylinder with its concaves. A brother, Mark O., developed and patented the first closed retort which was used here in this pioneering stage. Apparently the business grew in volume and complexity and eventually he found it necessary to employ Austin Stonesifer (b. May 23, 1850; d. November 24, 1909) as the first Plant Superintendent. When the expansion to Littlestown occurred, Stonesifer moved there as its Superintendent.

The growth of the business, in terms of volume of sales and demand for additional raw materials, induced the founder to locate another plant in Westminster, Maryland in the year 1872. He took as his assistant one Louis E. Shriver, a son of Andrew K., and started a plant on the second floor of a Coal House belonging to Ed Lynch, and known as "Lynch's Lumber Yard". This property was located to the south of Green Street on what is now known as George Street adjacent to the Western Maryland Railroad. This venture was doomed to failure as a result of a severe water shortage on the location and the equipment was returned to Union Mills the following year. It might be added that the assistant abandoned his job due to homesickness at a distance of seven miles from his family.

The year 1874 witnessed the formation of the partnership between Benjamin Franklin Shriver, the founder of the business, and his brother, Thomas Herbert Shriver. This was known as the "B. F. Shriver Company of Carroll County". Thomas was the eleventh child of William and was born at Union Mills on February 19, 1846. The rapid increase in business necessitated a division of labor and T. H. took charge of the office and sales while B. F. applied most of his time to the farming and canning operations. The basis of this partnership was agreed upon

as follows: That Thomas Herbert should pay interest on the amount of money appraised as the value of the inventory of Benjamin Franklin which amounted to slightly above \$6,000; and in so doing, shared equally in the profits and losses of the Company. It is interesting to note that the inventory, aside from property and equipment, included such items as Canned Pie Peaches, Gooseberries, Whortleberries, Peas, Quinces, Pears, Corn, Tomatoes, Applesauce, and four different types of Cherries.

The location at Union Mills still proved inadequate to meet all the needs of the expanding operations and consequently, in 1881, a second move was made to Westminster. This time the Shriver brothers received the financial support of Elias O. Grimes (1838-1922), a partner in the firm of Grimes and Stauffer engaged in the feed and fertilizer business. This new enterprise operated under the name of the "B. F. Shriver Company of Westminster" and continued as such until 1887 when Grimes sold and deeded his holdings to the parent company of Union Mills. The plant was located in what is now known as the "Stone House" on the northwest side of Liberty Street. Operations continued here until 1901 or 1904 when they were removed to the present site northeast of town along the Western Maryland Railroad. The new building here was a two-story frame structure, 75 X 40 feet, which was quite a contrast to the 18 X 18 foot shop in which the Company had originally started.

From the start, work in Westminster was under the able supervision of Martin J. Leahy, a true son of Kilkenney County, Ireland, where he was born in the year 1852. Prior to his employment at this plant he had been with the firm of John L. Shriver & Bros. in Baltimore who were also engaged in the canning business. So devoted to Baltimore was this son of Erin that he commuted weekly for some time before he finally moved to Westminster. His sons, James and John, were also employed by the Company for a period of years and a grandson, James G., was Superintendent of the Westminster Factory as late as 1943.

The packing of Corn, Peas, and Beans comprised the main operations of this plant during this period. At about this time the Company, in conjunction with the American Can Company, developed a simple device to divide the cans from a single conveyor to feed two filling machines. Prior to this they had been the first to convey empty cans by means of a chain conveyor. Most of the development work with new devices and new forms of preparing produce has been carried out at this plant. Important among these is the experimental work in connection with the preparation of "Cremogenized Corn". This product is considered to be outstanding in the field and far superior to the old "Cream Style Corn". Directing this enterprise was the United Products Company which holds the patent rights involved in the process.

It is fitting to recognize the contributions of Theodore Massicott to many of these improvements in processing technique. During the forty years that he has served the Company as a machinist, he has offered invaluable assistance on many occasions. One instance of this

is the Asparagus Packer developed by him and now manufactured by Sinclair-Scott Company and distributed throughout the United States.

During the years of operations at the plant in Westminster many different items have been packed. Chief among them may be listed the following: Whole Kernel Corn, Cremogenized Corn, String Beans, Lima Beans, Pork & Beans, edible Soy Beans, Peas, Peas and Carrots, Carrots, Beets, Asparagus, and Tomatoes.

The rapid growth in business and the increased amount of produce packed with the more efficient machinery made it necessary to enlarge the plant in 1918. This involved the construction of the main factory building of brick, a large two-story warehouse on the railroad siding, a blacksmith and carpenter shop to take care of factory and farm implement repairs, and a two-story concrete feed house for the distribution of feed to the farms. The operations at this plant are presently under the supervision of Robert C. Stone-sifer.

The early years of the Company exhibited a remarkable growth in demand for this type of produce and as a result the Company found it advisable to locate plants in several other towns in this region. The first of these was established at Littlestown, Pennsylvania, in 1893. At this time a tract of land containing a tannery was purchased from Charles H. Duttera. It was situated in Germany township just south of Littlestown on the Baltimore Turnpike adjacent to a stream known as Piney Creek. At present this location is known as South Queen Street in Littlestown. This plant, at the time it was established, was utilized in packing String Beans and Cream Style Corn while today it packs Whole Kernel Corn, Peas, Tomato Juice, and Tomato Aspic. Due to its fine location and the quality of the produce grown in this area it is the only other plant operated by the Company at the present time.

The chief personalities engaged in the supervision of the Littlestown Plant are the following men: Austin Stonesifer, who came from Union Mills as the First Superintendent, John Bittinger, Edward Grau, Lawrence B. Fink, John W. Burgoon, and the present incumbent, Lowell S. Ruggles.

After ten years of successful operation in Adams County, Pennsylvania, the Company saw fit to open another plant at New Windsor, Maryland. Property for this development was purchased from D. P. and A. C. Smelser on June 10, 1903, and lies along the Western Maryland Railroad to the southeast of the town. A unique document was executed with Marshall Lambert and wife deeding certain water rights to a spring in order to supply this very necessary element to the enterprise. The deed executed in 1903 is still in force at the present time. The plant was originally utilized in the packing of Corn and Peas until it was converted to pack Whole Kernel Corn in 1933. This being the first such operation by the Company.

During the winter months of 1934, following drought and severe dust storms in the West, the plant was engaged in packing many carloads of frozen beef. The whole project was done under contract with the Federal Government which had purchased the stock from the farmers in the stricken area. Credit for the success of this enterprise rests in large part with the Plant Superintendent, Earl H. Senseney, and J. R. Stuart, Production Manager for the Company.

The efficient work done at this plant in its early years was in no small measure due to the untiring efforts of John H. Smith. As a result of his work here he was entrusted with the supervision of a new plant erected in Sykesville, Maryland, in 1917. The site was purchased from Wade H. D. Warfield and was located on the west branch of the Patapsco River in Howard County, just across the state road bridge and near the B&O Railroad Station. The plant was utilized in the packing of Peas and Cream Style Corn until it was discontinued in 1931 and the location sold to Sidney Renehan.

One other expansion took place during this period of increased operations, due somewhat to the pressure of events caused by the first World War. On April 4, 1917, a cannery was purchased at Williamsport, Washington County, Maryland, from the Williamsport Canning Company. It was operated for a time under the supervision of William Babylon and later John Leahy, of the Westminster Plant. A variety of produce was packed here including Peas, Cream Style Corn, Raspberries, Blackberries, and Cherries. With the increased efficiency of the Westminster and Littlestown Plants and the changing market conditions it was found advisable to discontinue operation here in 1920.

The partnership of T. H. and B. F. Shriver sufficed as an operating organization until 1905 when it was deemed advisable to form a corporation. This was done and the firm name then became "B. F. Shriver Company of Carroll County, Inc." The officers of the firm at this time were as follows:

President - Thomas Herbert Shriver
 Vice President - Benjamin Franklin Shriver
 Second Vice President - Joseph N. Shriver
 Secretary and Treasurer - R. Abner Park
 Assistant Secretary and Treasurer - William H. Shriver
 Directors: T. H. Shriver, B. F. Shriver, Charles E. Stuart, George M. Park, and Robert S. Shriver

After the death of Thomas Herbert Shriver in 1916, Benjamin Franklin Shriver became president until his death in 1921. Joseph N. Shriver succeeded to the office and remained as president until the reorganization of the Company in 1934. At this time the firm name was changed to "The B. F. Shriver Company, Inc." and James M. Shriver became the president. The other present officers are:

Vice President - C. Edward Cootes

Secretary-Treasurer - Guy F. Fowler
Assistant Secretary-Treasurer - Philip E. Wampler
Production Manager - John W. Burgoon
Farm Superintendent - Herman F. Ramsburg
Field Supervisor - Earl W. Myers

While the Company was progressing and expanding in the canning industry it proceeded to increase and improve its farming operation. The Company found it desirable from time to time to acquire additional farm properties and to integrate them into an efficient production system to supply the plants with needed produce. The following list contains some of the farms so acquired with the date of purchase and the acres contained therein:

1. The "Home Farm" located at Union Mills, purchased in 1853 containing 104 acres with the following additional purchases 1871, 11 acres; 1884, 23 acres; 1886, 2 acres.
2. "Meadows" located on the road between Westminster and Union Mills, approximately three miles from Westminster and purchased in 1887 and containing 132 acres.
3. "The Oaks" located at Union Mills purchased in 1891 and containing 270 acres. This farm was combined with the "Home Farm" and named "Farm and Oaks".
4. "Pennland" located southeast side of Littlestown, Pennsylvania, purchased in 1893 and containing 99 acres. This farm contains the factory site of the Littlestown Plant.
5. "Hoppe" located along the road between Westminster and Union Mills about two miles from Westminster, purchased in 1901 and containing 105 acres.
6. "Miller Farm" located immediately northeast of Westminster consisting of three purchases 1901, 154 acres; 1901, 29 acres; and 1909, 17 acres; total of 200 acres. This acreage contained the site now occupied by the Westminster Plant.
7. "Rockland" located between Westminster and Uniontown, purchased in 1904 and containing 242 acres.
8. "Caylor" located the same and connecting with the "Rockland" farm, purchased in 1904 and containing 161 acres.
9. "Fenby" located along the road leading from Westminster to New Windsor, approximately two and one-half miles out of Westminster, purchased in 1905 and con-

taining 169 acres.

10. "Avondale" located along the road leading from Westminster to New Windsor, approximately three miles from Westminster, purchased in 1905 and containing 242 acres.
11. "Snader" located approximately two miles southwest of New Windsor, purchased in 1907 and containing 138 acres.
12. "Eden" located northwest of Westminster about one mile, purchased in two purchases, 1908, 177 acres; and also in 1908, 27 acres; total of 204 acres.
13. "Sunnyside" located in Bachman's Valley about one mile to the right of the road leading from Westminster to Union Mills, purchased in 1908 and containing 123 acres.
14. "Thomas" located approximately the same and connecting with "Sunnyside" farm, purchased in 1908 and containing 156 acres.
15. "Maus" located the same and connecting with the "Thomas" and "Sunnyside" farms in Bachman's Valley, purchased in 1909 and containing 265 acres.
16. "Rhinehart" located two miles out of Westminster on the Westminster-Uniontown Road, purchased in 1910 and containing 88 acres.

These farm purchases continued with about the same regularity until the Company owned and operated a total of 28 farms containing approximately 5,500 acres. With the sale of some properties and the purchase of others today the Company operates 24 farms containing approximately 5,000 acres.

It is interesting to note the change from horsepower to mechanization on the farms. This had a beginning about 1935. At one time, the Company owned as many as 220 horses and mules and as of today this amount has been reduced to 19. These animals having been replaced by tractors and modern equipment.

To establish a source of additional labor for these farms during World War I a number of college students were recruited and established in a camp near the Westminster Factory. This camp was operated along the lines of army organization with its own officers including mess sergeant and mess hall. It was named and spoken of as the "Farm Army". To cope with a similar labor situation during World War II the Company was instrumental in establishing a prisoner of war camp in the county. In order to establish this camp, a corporation (Carroll Canner-Farmer Labor Co-op, Inc.) was formed with Mr. Guy F.

Fowler, Secretary-Treasurer of The B. F. Shriver Company, as its President. This camp contained approximately 1,000 prisoners of war and was located on what is known as the Company's "Fenby" farm along the Westminster-New Windsor Road. Labor was drawn from this camp to farms and industries throughout the entire county.

In addition to the above source of labor, which was a temporary arrangement during the war years of World Wars I and II, for many years it had been customary to recruit Polish labor from Baltimore and to encamp them near the Westminster Factory for the purpose of harvesting or picking of the bean crops. This latter procedure was followed until the war years of World War II when this type of labor became very scarce and it became necessary to turn to the use of negro labor which is picked up in Baltimore and transported to and from there daily during the bean season.

As a winter industry on the farms, the Company feeds approximately 1,000 head of beef cattle and in addition to this maintains a herd of purebred Angus and also a herd of Herefords. The two above mentioned breeder herds were primarily begun to improve the pastures and wastelands of the farms and thereby improve their value and appearance. The feeding of beef cattle and the maintenance of the two breeder herds serve to utilize to a great advantage the corn silage and pea vines, two byproducts of the canning operation.

Approximately fifteen years ago, the Company began a program of soil conservation or contour farming on the "Avondale" farm along the New Windsor Road. This operation has produced significant and remarkable results and today, as a result of the above mentioned moreorless experimental project, the Company is almost 100 per cent contour farming where it is necessary. Aside from this practice of contouring many hillsides and rather inaccessible places have been taken out of cultivation and put into permanent pastures, or in some instances, planted into pine. It is interesting to note, that as early as 1871, in some correspondence between B. F. Shriver and John L. Shriver of Baltimore, these men were aware of the importance of conservation as one stated to the other, "We must not forget the necessity for the conservation of our forests and land". As a direct result of this soil conservation program and other improved methods, these farms are more productive and in a better state of cultivation than at any time in the history of the Company.

This story of the development of The B. F. Shriver Company, Inc. would not be complete without the mention of the citations received for outstanding services to the country. During World War I the Company recieved special recognition in a citation from the Government signed by President Woodrow Wilson. During World War II the Company again received special recognition in the "A" Award for outstanding services in time of war. This award was further supplemented by the addition of a "Star". The Company hopes to continue in the forefront of the canning and agriculture industries as it has during the eighty-one years of its existence.

To be added to
B. F. Shriver Co. file.

RECEIVED
OCT 1 1977
MARYLAND HISTORICAL
TRUST

HISTORY OF WESTMINSTER

FAMOUS TAFFY MAKER AND STONE MASON

Adam Rickell was known throughout the County as a stone mason and candy maker. At the Farm Sales of Carroll County there was always one of his taffy stands to the delight of those attending the sale.

Adam Rickell was born November 29, 1834 in Germany. He died September 19, 1908 in Westminster, Maryland.

Adam Rickell and his wife Catherine were the parents of twelve children--8 boys, 4 girls--William, Frank, Charles, Thomas, John, George, Joseph, Agusta, Ann (Mrs. Slorp), Mary (Mrs. Hahn), Ella (Mrs. Miller), and Catherine (Mrs. Warthen).

His residence was at 9 West George Street. Here on six acres of land he farmed and made his famous candy.

After his death his son John followed the candy business and sold candy in front of the old First National Bank, Westminster, Md.

Adam Rickell built many buildings with his sons in Westminster. He was a fine cobbler and laid ^{Little Stone Street and in town} many of the brick pavements in town. Some of the buildings he built were Orndorff's, later Grumbine's the store at the Forks, Babylon & Lippy Archway, and the Stewart Building now Graceland Apartments. He built the old stone building of B. F. Shriver Company on Liberty Street and many of the other fine brick buildings in Westminster.

These pictures are of Adam Rickell and his wife Mary C. Rickell, born January 1, 1838 in Pennsylvania, died December 2, 1922. The pictures are the property of Alice Rickell Haines, daughter of John Rickell who carried on the taffy stand for many years after his father's death.

140 P89 S.S. # 450/0 G-7



G-7

140 P89

CLXIV

140

S.S.

P. 89 - History Section

Sect. 'G' - Inventory ~~(p. 11)~~

~~# 472~~

~~# 6-7~~

CARR 472

B.F. Shriver Co. Warrington

SE jacaranda

collected 6/77



CARR-472

B.F. Shriver

stone building

NW facade (Rear)



CARR-472

B.F. Shriver complex

Stone building quoins



CARR-472

B.F. Shriver complex

Packing House



Can 472
B.F. Skinner Co. Westmink
NE facade
C. Wech 6/77



BS

FARMERS
SUPPLY CO.

CARR 472

B.F. Shriver complex

stone building rear facade



CARR 472

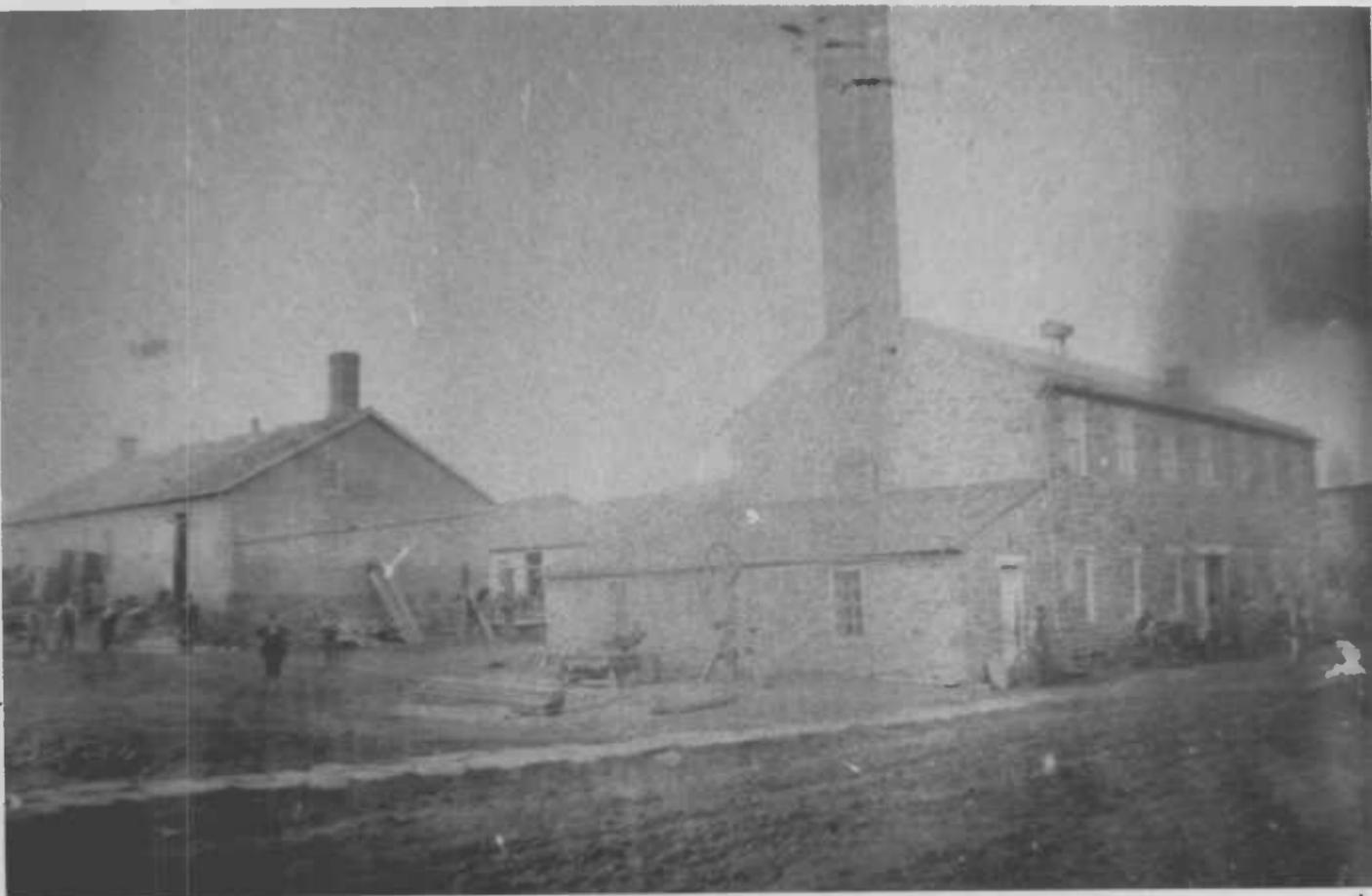
B.F. Shinn Co. Westminster
(Bldg. on W. Green St.)

C. Weck 6/77



BUMPS
C B SALES

Case 472
B.F. Shreve Co.
(bldg. on Green St.)
Westminster
C. Weed 6/77



830/0



~~189~~ 83%
189

B.F. Shriver Co. Plant on Liberty Street

photo ca. 1885

Cumley Hist. Soc. of Conn. Co.

CLXIV

472

87% ✕



CLXII, A

#138

87%

P-8688

Works at B.F. Shriver Co. Plant,
 Westminster. Photo courtesy Hist.
 Soc. of Carr. Co; ^{c. 1900} ~~data~~

(472)