Burned 12/19/91

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY

HISTORIC SITES SUMMARY SHEET

P.G. County Survey # (Laurel Hist.Dist.) Date 1844-45

Building Name Avondale Mill (Crabbs Mill)

Location 21 Avondale Street, Laurel, Maryland

Open to Public ____ yes _x_ no

Avondale grist mill, constructed of rough, uncoursed stone, is ten bays long and three bays wide; it is three-and-one-half stories high. The windows have granite lintels, and roughly worked granite quoins decorate the corners of the building. The eaves of the gable roof are finished with a simple boxed cornice. The south gable end was the original front of the building, with central door (at grade level) on the second story; a twentieth century addition covers the first story.

Laurel was an important mill town in the mid-nineteenth century, its prominence enhanced by its location on the railroad between Baltimore and Washington, and by the swiftness of the Patuxent River at this point. Avondale Mill is the only mill structure surviving from Laurel's nineteenth century industrial development. It was constructed in 1844-45 for the manufacture of fine cotton cloth, and was converted to a grist mill ten years later. During the last quarter of the nineteenth century, it was owned by B.F. Crabbs, and came to be known as "Crabbs Mill". From 1915 to 1917, the Southern Embroidery Company used the mill as a lace factory, and turned out chevrons for First World War uniforms. Since 1961 Avondale Mill has been owned by the City of Laurel, and the surrounding riverfront area has been used for outdoor recreation programs.

Form No 10-300 REV. (9/77)

PG-LAU-4

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED Laurel - 4
DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

Bound 12/19/91

HISTORIC
AVONDALE MILL; CRABB'S MILL

AND/OR COMMON
Avondale Mill (preferred)

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
21 Avondale Street — NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN
Laurel — VICINITY OF — CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
Maryland	24	Prince George's	033

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
__DISTRICT	X PUBLIC	__OCCUPIED	__AGRICULTURE	__MUSEUM
X BUILDING(S)	__PRIVATE	X UNOCCUPIED	__COMMERCIAL	X PARK
__STRUCTURE	__BOTH	__WORK IN PROGRESS	__EDUCATIONAL	__PRIVATE RESIDENCE
__SITE	**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**	**ACCESSIBLE**	__ENTERTAINMENT	__RELIGIOUS
__OBJECT	__IN PROCESS	X YES: RESTRICTED	__GOVERNMENT	__SCIENTIFIC
	__BEING CONSIDERED	__YES: UNRESTRICTED	__INDUSTRIAL	__TRANSPORTATION
		__NO	__MILITARY	__OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Mayor and City Council of Laurel

STREET & NUMBER
350 Municipal Square

CITY, TOWN
Laurel — VICINITY OF — STATE
Maryland 20810

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Land Records Division Prince George's County Clerk

STREET & NUMBER
Prince George's County Courthouse (Copy of Deed Attached)

CITY, TOWN
Upper Marlboro — STATE
Maryland 20870

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE — __FEDERAL __STATE __COUNTY __LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN — STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

PG: LAU-4

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
__EXCELLENT	X__DETERIORATED	__UNALTERED	X__ORIGINAL SITE
__GOOD	__RUINS	X__ALTERED	__MOVED DATE_____
__FAIR	__UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Avondale Mill is located on the south bank of the Patuxent River at the end of Avondale Street in the City of Laurel. The stone grist mill was built in 1845; two steel-framed additions have been added in the mid-20th century, covering the south end and part of the west side of the original mill.

The stone mill structure measures approximately 46-1/2 feet by 95-1/2 feet. It is three stories high, ten bays long, and three bays wide with a gable roof. The ridge extends approximately north-south. The walls are uncoursed rubble with roughly worked granite quoins. The windows have six-over-six light sash with granite lintels. The eaves are finished with a simple boxed cornice.

SOUTH FACADE

The gable end was the original front of the mill. The central bay has a door at grade on the second level, and there is a window in each flanking bay. There are three windows in the third story and a single window in the gable end in the attic. A cement ramp bridges the change in elevation from the grade to the front door. The first story of this facade is covered by a 20th century addition.

This side is ten bays long with a short expanse of blank wall at either end. There are ten windows on the third floor and nine on the second. The four southernmost bays on the second floor have artificial six-over-six sash; the rest of the windows on the top two floors have double-hung sash. In the sixth bay from the south on the second floor is a narrow four-panel door in an opening, with stone lintel, that is lower than the flanking windows. The threshold of the door rests on the lintel of the sixth bay below. The first floor has a plain wood door in the southernmost bay. The second, third, and fourth bays contain windows now closed with concrete block. A garage door spans the fifth and sixth bays with concrete block supports, steel lintels, and brick infill above. Two granite lintels still appear in the wall above the garage door, indicating the former existence of windows in the fifth and sixth bays. Four large louvered panels have replaced window sash, in the north four bays.

NORTH END OR RIVER FACADE

This end is three bays wide and is stone on the first two stories and brick above. The first floor has louvered panels in each window opening; the easternmost opening is only half as tall as the other two. These openings have granite lintels. The second floor has windows in the central and west bays. A nine-light window in the east bay fills the top of a former doorway , which is filled in with stone below. All three windows have granite lintels. The third floor wall is brick, but the granite quoins at the corners are continued. The east bay contains a four-light window in what was originally a larger opening; the space below the sash has been filled in with stone. The other two windows on this story have flat brick arches. There is a single window in the gable.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #1.

Form No 10-300a
(Rev. 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

(DESCRIPTION, continued)

WEST FACADE

This side of the building is also twelve bays long. On the first floor all original windows have been removed. The northernmost six bays have louvered panels in place of the original windows. The fifth bay from the south now serves as a door from grade into the first floor. The four southernmost bays have been closed with concrete block. The second and third floors contain the original six-over-six light, double-hung sash windows.

INTERIOR

Wood beams eight feet on center, measuring 10 inches by 15 inches, span east-west to delineate each bay. On the first story they are supported at mid-span by chamfered square wood columns with flat impost blocks. On the second story (the principal story accessible from the front entrance in the south end), tapered round wood columns of the Doric order support the beams at mid-span.
There are no columns on the third story where the beams are the bottom chords of king post trusses. Wood planks three inches thick and 8 to 12 inches wide spanning the beams are finished on the underside in the second or principal story with random-width beaded boards. Walls are plastered directly on the stone, and the splayed window jambs are finished with plaster, devoid of wood trim. The second story is divided into a central corridor and several small rooms by walls of 20th century stud construction. Under the northern two bays of the first story is a subcellar nearly filled with water. Now full with water, its function is not clear, but it was probably related to the original power system, quite likely the location of turbines. No milling machinery or power apparatus remains.

ADDITIONS

The two additions to the mill building, made in the 1930s, were constructed of timber and steel. Walls are industrial metal-framed windows. The additions were made without altering the fabric of the stone mill and could be removed leaving the mill as it was.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PG:LAU-4

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
__PREHISTORIC	__ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	__COMMUNITY PLANNING	__LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	__RELIGION
__400-1499	__ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	__CONSERVATION	__LAW	__SCIENCE
__1500-1599	__AGRICULTURE	__ECONOMICS	__LITERATURE	__SCULPTURE
__1600-1699	X ARCHITECTURE	__EDUCATION	__MILITARY	__SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
__1700-1799	__ART	__ENGINEERING	__MUSIC	__THEATER
X 1800-1899	X COMMERCE	__EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	__PHILOSOPHY	__TRANSPORTATION
__1900-	__COMMUNICATIONS	X INDUSTRY	__POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	__OTHER (SPECIFY)
		__INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Avondale Mill, on the bank of the Patuxent River in the City of Laurel, was constructed in 1844-45. At that time it was provided with the machinery for the manufacture of fine cotton cloth, running 1500 spindles. It was converted to a grist mill ten years later.

Prince George's County has been throughout its history an agricultural rather than an industrial area. Most of the industrial activity was in the northeastern part of the County, that closest to Howard County, a well-known milling center. Laurel is located here, and in the mid-19th century it was a prosperous mill town with the largest population of any town in the County.

The Avondale Mill is the only mill structure of its size and fabric remaining in the Laurel vicinity. It is a link to the economic history of the City and a substantial structure capable of adaptive use. The Mayor, City Council, Greater Laurel Jaycees, and the Laurel Horizon Society are interested in and investigating the possibilities for restoration of the structure.

"Avondale" has connections with the Snowden family of Laurel. The home of Nicholas Snowden, Jr., who was killed in the Civil War in 1862, was called "Avondale", it continued to stand west of the B & O tracks about opposite present day Montgomery Wards. In its later days, this home and its surrounding grounds was the Avondale Military Grammar School. The Snowden family owned much of the property and mills in early Laurel history.

The 1861 and 1878 maps of Laurel show George Wheeler as owner of the Avondale Mill property. The 1894 Illusrrated Laurel Directory contains a photograph of Avondale Mill with B.F. Crabbs, Owner and Proprietor. In the last quarter of the 19th century, it is referred to as "Crabbs Mill." B.F. Crabbs (1836-1906) is buried in Ivy Hill Cemetery.

The dam for the mill was located at the foot of Post Office Avenue. Gates could be cranked upward to permit the penned up water to rush from one side of the dam into a huge ditch or race that ran downhill paralleling Main Street to the waterwheel of the mill.

The Southern Embroidery Company used the mill as a lace factory from 1915 to 1917 and, among other items, turned out chevrons to be used on the uniforms of non-commissioned officers in World War I.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #2.

PG:LAU-4

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(SIGNIFICANCE continued)

In 1961 the City of Laurel purchased the mill and riverside property of approximately 17 acres. The City Department of Parks and Recreation used it for indoor programs and storage and a picnic and playground area, but was recently forced to vacate the building due to its structural instability.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

PG:LAU-4

1894 Illustrated Laurel Directory
Laurel Centennial Booklet
Historic Sites in Bicounty Area - Montgomery and Prince George's Counties. MNCPPC, April 1969.
The News Leader

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

QUADRANGLE NAME _____ QUADRANGLE SCALE _____

UTM REFERENCES

	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
A				B			
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE
Elizabeth Compton, Stuart Hurtt, Edwin Stretch, Members of

ORGANIZATION
Laurel Horizon Society

DATE
June 28, 1978

STREET & NUMBER
P. O. Box 403

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN
Laurel

STATE
Maryland 20810

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL ____ STATE ____ LOCAL ____

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

ATTEST: KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

PG:LAU-4

STATE OF MARYLAND - DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

MEMORANDUM

DATE: December 19, 1991

TO: Ron Andrews
Bill Pencek
Charity Davidson
Michael K. Day

FROM: Mark R. Edwards MRE
Deputy Director, DHCP

RE: Fire at Avondale Mill,
Laurel

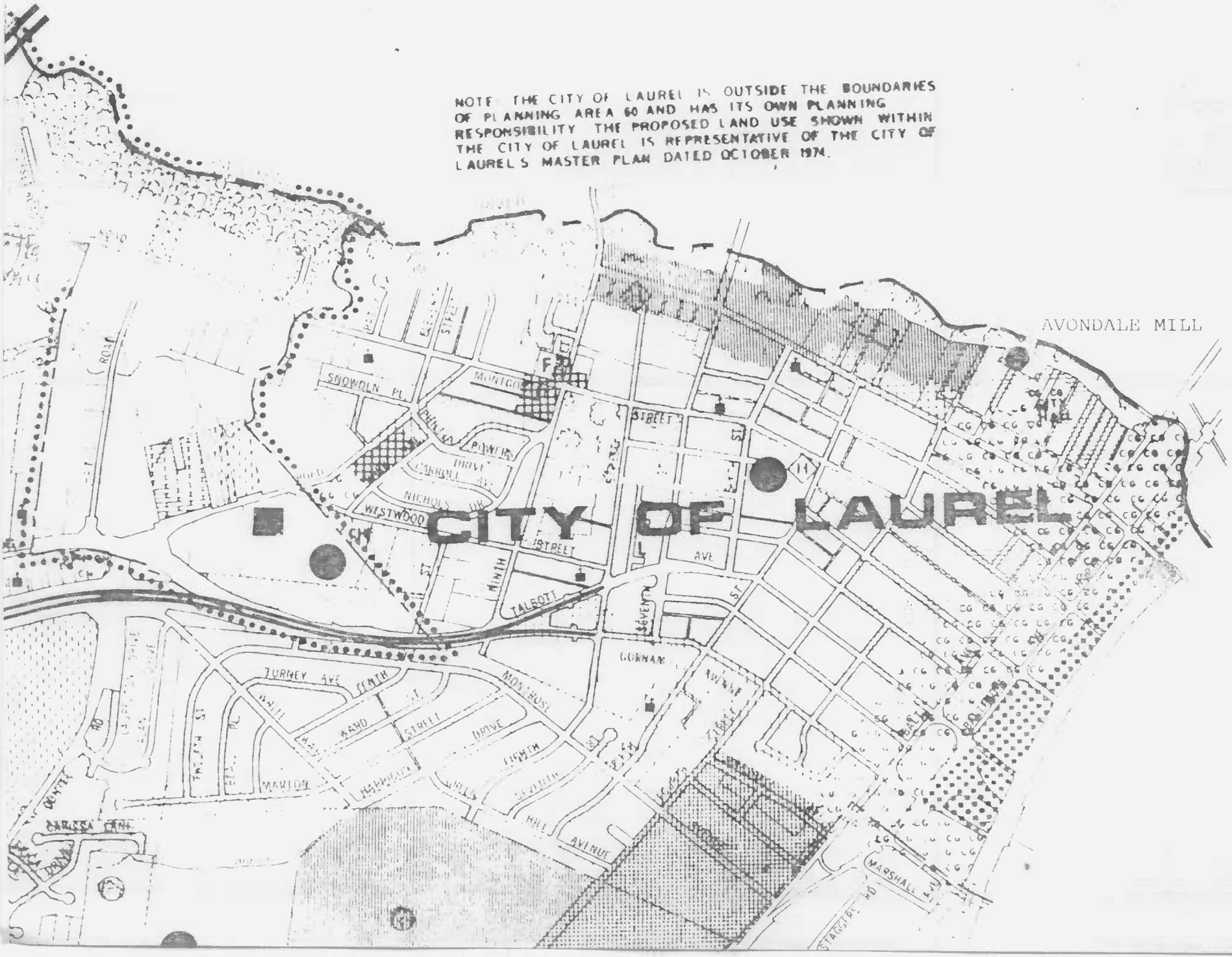
Early this morning, I received a telephone call from Mr. Marty Fleming, an official with the City of Laurel, regarding a major fire at the Avondale Mill. Apparently, a fire was lit by a homeless person last night, which caught the building on fire, damaging it extensively. The City's Building Department believes it is now a life-safety hazard, and has recommended immediate demolition.

As the building is listed on the National Register, I told Mr. Fleming that we would ultimately need photographic documentation (I suggested both black and whites and slides) of the damage, as well as a letter outlining what actions were ultimately taken. At that point, we ought to move forward with official de-listing.

If Mr. Fleming or any other official with the City call, I will let you know.

MRE:me
cc: J. Rodney Little

NOTE: THE CITY OF LAUREL IS OUTSIDE THE BOUNDARIES OF PLANNING AREA 60 AND HAS ITS OWN PLANNING RESPONSIBILITY. THE PROPOSED LAND USE SHOWN WITHIN THE CITY OF LAUREL IS REPRESENTATIVE OF THE CITY OF LAUREL'S MASTER PLAN DATED OCTOBER 1974.



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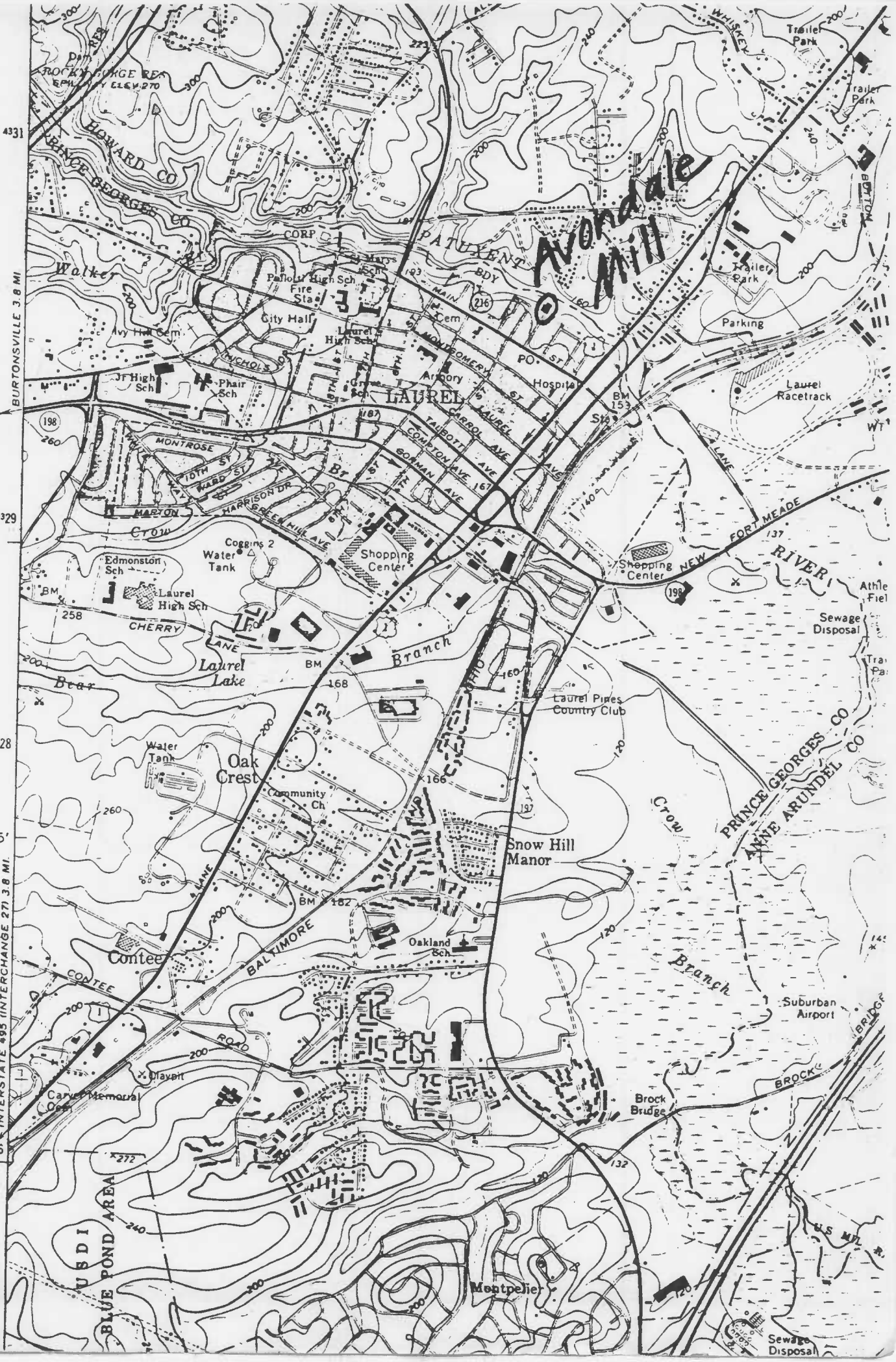
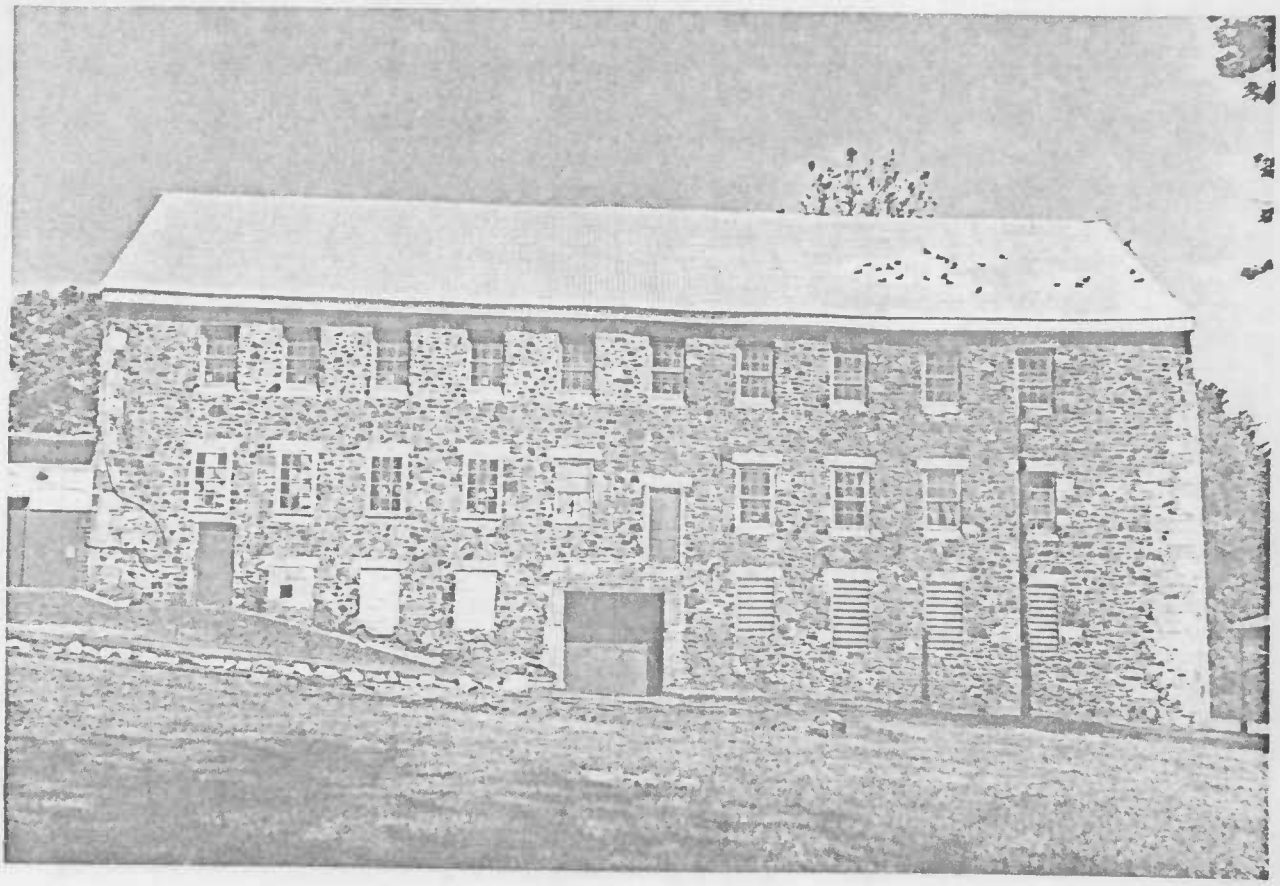
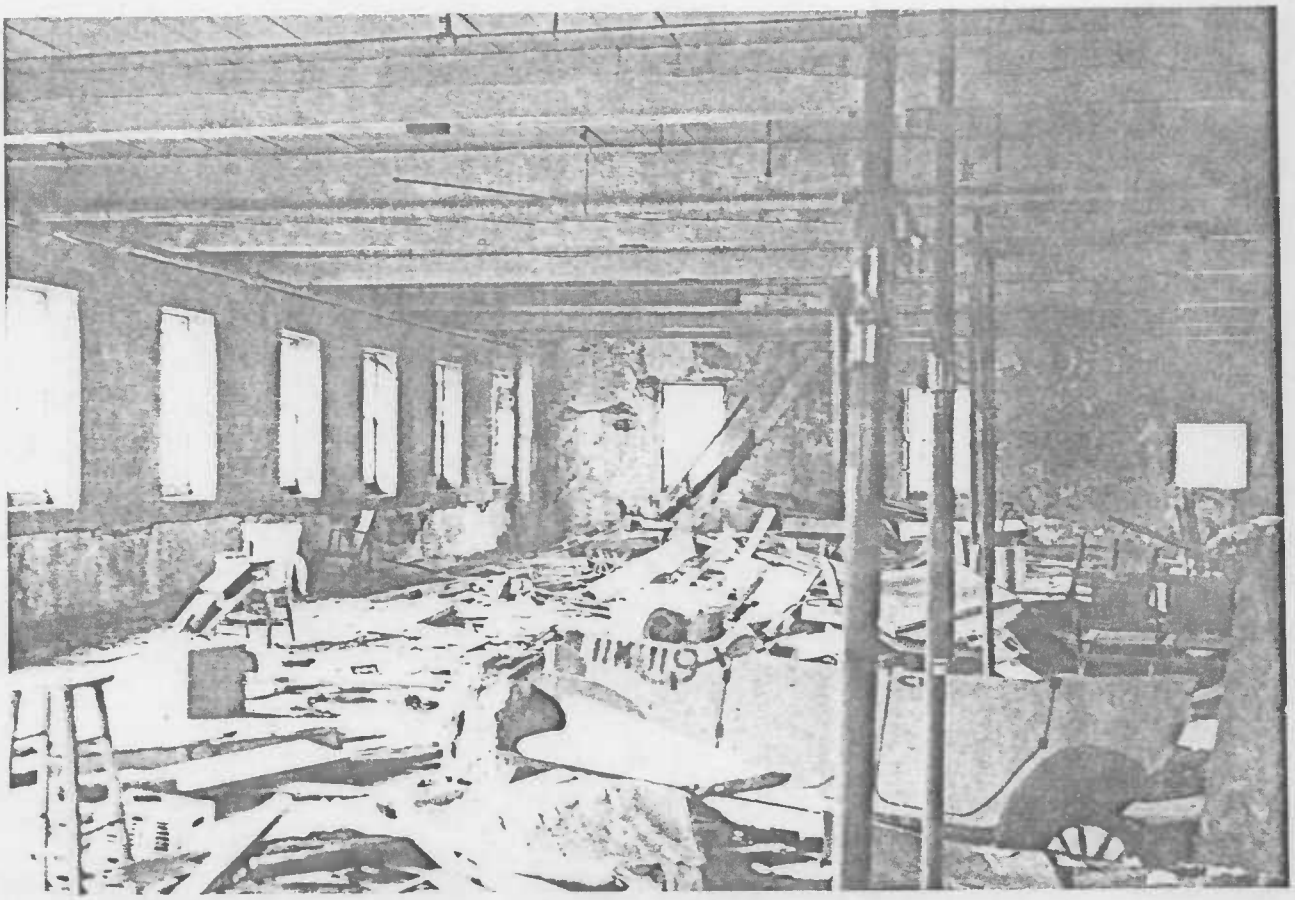
PG: LAU-4



Avondale Mill
HOWARD CO
PRINCE GEORGES CO
PATUXENT
LAUREL
City Hall
Laurel High Sch
Pallotti High Sch
Fire Sta
Jr High Sch
Phair Sch
Ivy Hill Cem
Walker
Crow
Shopping Center
Coggins 2
Water Tank
Edmonston Sch
Laurel High Sch
CHERRY LANE
Laurel Lake
Bear
Branch
Laurel Pines Country Club
Oak Crest
Community Ch
Snow Hill Manor
Oakland Sch
Contee
CONTEE ROAD
BALTIMORE
Claypit
Carver Memorial Cem
Brock Bridge
Suburban Airport
Montpelier
Sewage Disposal
Trailer Park
Parking
Laurel Racetrack
NEW FORT MEADE
RIVER
PRINCE GEORGES CO
ANNE ARUNDEL CO
BURTONSVILLE 3.8 MI
WASHINGTON MONUMENT 17 MI.
INTERSTATE 495 (INTERCHANGE 27) 3.8 MI.
5662 III SW
(BELTSVILLE)
USDI
BLUE POND AREA

PG: LAU-4

Representative of Prince George's County's early industry is the Avondale Mill, built in Laurel in 1845. It is the only one of Laurel's nineteenth-century mills to survive to this day. Built for the manufacture of cotton cloth, it became a grist mill ten years later, but was used as a lace factory for a few years early in this century. Today the Avondale Mill, owned by the city of Laurel, is part of a park. It is sometimes known as Crabbs Flour Mill for a nineteenth-century owner, B. F. Crabbs. The mill stands one block off Main Street on the banks of the Patuxent River—the source of its power. This photograph was taken by Robert H. Sadler, Jr. in the very early years of this century. Courtesy of Dr. Robert S. McCeney and John C. Brennan

virta, 1984

Avondale Mill PG: LAV-4