PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY

HISTORIC SITES SUMMARY SHEET

P.G. County Survey #(Laurel Hist.Dist.) Date 1899

Building Name Laurel High School

Location Montgomery Street between 7th and 8th St., Laurel, Md.

Open to Public x yes ____ no

Laurel High School is a brick Georgian Revival structure, a principal two-and-one-half-story T-shaped section with hyphen and wing on each side. The main section is nine bays wide with hip roof and octagonal cupola. The entrance is in the central bay of the south facade, framed by a round arch. Above this entrance is a Palladian style window. A molded string course (egg and dart) separates first and second stories, and a bracketed wooden cornice frames the south facade and two sides. The rear section of the school extends to the north, forming the stem of the T.

The central T-shaped portion of the school was constructed in 1899; it was the first public high school in Prince George's County. In 1908 the first water system in a county school was installed in Laurel High School. The west wing was added in 1935, and the east in 1950, both conforming in style to the original structure. In 1963 the students were transferred to the new Laurel Senior High School, and the old school began to serve a variety of community uses.

Laurel High School was built by Edward Phelps, who, by 1900, had served seven one-year terms as mayor of Laurel. It now bears his name; since 1976 it has been known as the Edward Phelps Community Center.

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

PG:LAU-5

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED Laurel - 5
DATE ENTERED

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC
Laurel High School

AND/OR COMMON
Edward Phelps Community Center

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 700 Block of Montgomery Street, north side, between 7th and 8th Streets — NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN Laurel — VICINITY OF — CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE Maryland — CODE 24 — COUNTY Prince George's — CODE 033

3 CLASSIFICATION

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

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN — STATE

__ VICINITY OF

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Land Records Division, Clerk of Circuit Court

STREET & NUMBER Prince George's County Court House

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

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
__EXCELLENT	__DETERIORATED	__UNALTERED	X ORIGINAL SITE
__GOOD	__RUINS	X ALTERED	__MOVED DATE_____
X FAIR	__UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Old Laurel High School is a red brick, Georgian Revival structure built in 1899, with several later additions. It is composed of 2-1/2 story, T-shaped central pavilion with hyphen and wing on each side.

THE CENTRAL PAVILION

The central pavilion is the portion of the Old Laurel High School of greatest architectural significance. It is 2-1/2 stories tall, nine bays wide, and three bays deep with a five-by-two bay section on the rear forming a T. It has a hip roof with cupola at the peak. The walls are laid in five-course common bond, inrubbed brick on the front (south) facade. All windows have 6/2 sash, stone sills, and brick lintels. A bracketed wooden cornice surrounds the front and sides of the structure; the rear and the base of the T have a plain wooden cornice. The building sits on a raised basement of native coursed rubble stone with a watertable of molded brick capped with stone.

The south facade of rubbed brick is laid with every fifth row recessed on the first story to give the effect of rustication. This pattern of recessed rows is continued in the round arch which frames the recessed entrance in the central bay. The entrance consists of a fanlight over a double door. Each wide leaf has two narrow horizontal panels above and below a large pane of glass. On either side of the entrance are four windows with jack arches. Two bricks in each arch are recessed to simulate keystones. A molded stringcourse in the egg and dart pattern separates the first and second stories.

The central bay of the second story contains a Palladian-style window with a round-arched window flanked by two smaller 1/1 sash windows. Each of the latter has a stone lintel; a heavy molded dentil arch trims the round arch which also has a stone keystone. A stone plaque below this window reads "High School." On either of the Palladian window are four 6/2 windows with lintels containing four raised brick to embellish small stone keystones.

At the peak of the roof is an octagonal lantern cupola with Doric pilasters at the corners and alternating six and nine light sash. Under the eaves of the pointed roof is a wood dentil cornice.

The east and west sides of the main block are two bays deep, the projection of the T is five bays wide and two deep. The walls in these areas are laid in plain (not rubbed) red brick. The windows have stone sills, rusticated on the front portion and smooth behind, and 1-1/2-brick jack arches. All basement windows are blocked up; one second story window has been made into a fire exit.

The interior of the central pavilion has a T-plan hall with a classroom on each side in the front and rest room and offices across the back.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #1

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

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

On the second floor is a two-part library, two classrooms, a small teachers' room.

THE WEST WING (1935)

The west hyphen is one-story, of five-course common bond with two banks of five 9/9 sash windows on the south. To the east of these is a modern fire door; there is a brick patch above this doorway, a wide board cornice with a strip of molding at top and bottom runs under the eaves of the gable roof. The rear also has two banks of five windows, but these have been bricked up, leaving the sash on the interior.

The west wing is a one-story structure of five-course common bond with a hip roof. Three bays wide and five deep, it has a cornice like that on the hyphen. The center of the south facade projects and rises above the wall on either side. Two brick pilasters,every fifth row of bricks recessed and with a brick and molded concrete design at the top, rise to meet a pediment. A round-arched opening with molded keystone concrete and impost blocks, surrounds the recessed entrance.

The entrance consists of a double door and fanlight (the latter now boarded up). On either side of this projection is a 9/9 light window with molded concrete sills and flat brick lintels. At each corner is a brick pilaster with every fifth row recessed.

The west facade of the west wing is made up of five bays divided by brick pilasters. The first four contain 9/9 ligh sash flanked by 6/6 light sash in a configuration imitating a Palladian-type window. The last bay contains a six-panel door with a round ventilator over it. The rear (north) facade has two window openings now bricked up. The sills and lintels are the same on these facades as those on the front. A wide entrance is located at the north end of the east facade.

The interior of the hyphen consists of two classrooms across the front and two across the back and a hall between. The interior of the wing houses an auditorium and an entry foyer flanked by rest rooms and a storage room.

THE EAST WING (1950)

The east wing and hyphen are two stories tall as the ground slopes away to the east. They are balanced with the west hyphen and wing because the roof heights remain the same. The east hyphen is laid up in common bond and has two banks of five windows, like those on the west, on the

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #2

Form No. 10-300a
(Rev. 10-74)
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

second floor. There is a single window in the easternmost bay of the second floor and two doors and a window in a blank brick wall on the first floor. The rear has three banks of windows and several other single windows. The hyphen has a cornice like that on the west side.

The east wing is a 2-1/2 story structure, three bays wide by eight deep. The brick walls are laid in common bond with a pedimented projection in the center of the front which contains three recessed doorways and no other openings. Windows on the ground floor of this section are blocked up.

The interior of the last hyphen has a central hall with two classrooms across the front and three across the rear on the first floor; there are two classrooms and offices on the second floor. The interior of the east wing houses a cafeteria and kitchen on the first floor and a gymnasium and locker rooms on the second floor.

THE OUTBUILDING

A low one-story building is located behind the school; it is not visible from the front. It is built of common bond brick and contains three classrooms.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
__PREHISTORIC	__ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	__COMMUNITY PLANNING	__LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	__RELIGION
__1400-1499	__ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	__CONSERVATION	__LAW	__SCIENCE
__1500-1599	__AGRICULTURE	__ECONOMICS	__LITERATURE	__SCULPTURE
__1600-1699	X ARCHITECTURE	X EDUCATION	__MILITARY	__SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
__1700-1799	__ART	__ENGINEERING	__MUSIC	__THEATER
X 1800-1899	__COMMERCE	__EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	__PHILOSOPHY	__TRANSPORTATION
__1900-	__COMMUNICATIONS	__INDUSTRY	__POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	__OTHER (SPECIFY)
		__INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1899 BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The present, central portion of Old Laurel High School was constructed in 1899: the first public high school in Prince George's County. Among other "firsts" for this building include the first water system put in county schools (1908) and first inside toilets installed in a county high school (1916). Laurel and Hyattsville received the first sewing machines purchased for Domestic Science classes.

The original building and later additions housed high school students for 64 years. Its grounds occupy the entire block between 7th and 8th Streets on Montgomery Street in the City of Laurel. The West Wing was added in 1935 and the East Wing in 1950; both conform in style to the original structure. In 1963 all high school students were moved to the new Laurel Senior High School on Cherry Lane, and the "Old Laurel High School" was used for the overflow of elementary and junior high students and called Laurel Education Center. For a time it was used as the Northern Regional Center of the Prince George's County Community College. It is now leased to the Laurel Boys and Girls Club, who sub-leases sections to several community groups.

In 1976 the name of the school was changed to the Edward Phelps Community Center to better describe its current use and reflect the role of the man who was the vital force in its foundation.

Edward Phelps, Mayor of Laurel for seven one-year terms prior to 1900, was the moving power behind the legislation which provided for the erection of the school. A booklet, "The Public Schools of Prince George's County from 17th to 19th Century", published by the Prince George's Country Retired Teachers Association in 1976, quotes an article written by Edward Phelps as follows:

> The High School of Laurel, Maryland was the inspriration of the pupils who had educational experiences at School #1. This elementary school was built in 1869 by George P. Tiffany who owned Laurel Mills. A bill providing for the erection of a high school in Laurel was drawn and presented to the County Legislature in 1896 but was never reported out after being referred to committee. However, the Legislature of 1898 passed the bill. Upon getting a copy, I found the clause inserted with approval of the County Commissioners. A clause was tacked on as follows: "the bonds would be issued to the amount of

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #3

Form No. 10-300a
(Rev. 10-74)
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SIGNIFICANCE, continued)

$8,000.00 when and only when a total of $2,000.00 would be subscribed and paid by citizens of Laurel". A Building Committee was named. Their names are on a tablet in High School Hall.

The original contractor failed to give bond and then declined the contract. I resigned from the Building Committee and offered to build it. The offer was accepted with my bid of $8,365 and work commenced in July 1898. Mr. G. B. Timanus hauled all the stone for foundation very reasonably from Guilford, Howard County, the bricks from Washington, and the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad gave 50% rebate on the freight. Mr. R. R. Waters at lumber and coal yard gave a very low price on Gulf Cypress and Georgia Pine lumber and I expected to break even on my bid but "Man Proposes and God Disposes."

On February 12, 1899, we had a long-to-be remembered old time snow blizzard and the thermometer fell to 16 degrees below 0. Although I used salamanders in every room, burning coke all the winter, the second coat of plaster froze with the extreme of temperature and fell off, causing labor and materials to be done over again. With a few other mishaps, I ended up my contract with $1,000 loser. With all these troubles I had the trees planted, ground graded and drive completed by May 1st when I threw it open for inspection to Laurel and Prince George's County people. The Laurel High School ready for occupancy September 1, 1899 was in fact completed by July 1, 1899."

During World War II the cupola atop the center of the building was used as a Civil Defense Aircraft Spotting Station. High School students and local adult volunteers were trained in airplane identification and manned the station around the clock reporting by phone every plane seen or heard.

In 1977 the Laurel Horizon Society, a recently formed group interested in the historical and architectural heritage of Laurel, joined the Laurel High School Alumnae Association and Laurel Boys and Girls Club in sponsoring an "All High Reunion" celebration to raise funds to help maintain the original building. With the funds the old roof has been

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #4

PG:LAU-5

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

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SIGNIFICANCE, Continued)

replaced and plexiglass windows now cover the originals to protect them from vandalism. Further painting and maintenance are planned.

The original building is not only a historic landmark in public education but it is unique in the area for its architecture (the only Georgian Revival remaining here) and is among a large group of buildings in the community of comparable age, which reflects an image important enough to its townspeople to have recently supported the establishment of a local ordinance historic district. Laurel contains one of the largest concentration of 19th century structures left in Prince George's County. Laurel High School - The Edward Phelps Community Center is one of them, relevant to its citizens who want to see it recognized, maintained and used.

PG:LAU-5

·HICAL REFERENCES

irectory of 1894.
oklet
Sep ·ber 2, 1976, June 2, 1977.
County Schools from the 17th to the 19th
shed by the Retired Teachers Association of
ounty, 1976.

NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
ENTERED

ATA

3.5009 acres

QUADRANGLE SCALE

PAGE 5

NORTHING | B ZONE | EASTING | NORTHING
D
F
H

TION

eet #5

OUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

CODE	COUNTY	CODE
CODE	COUNTY	CODE

BY

Jane Cole, Stuart Hurtt, members of
ety

DATE June 28, 1978

TELEPHONE

STATE Maryland 20810

PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

JATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

STATE ____ LOCAL ____

reservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665). I
inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the
y the National Park Service.

FICER SIGNATURE

DATE

IC PRESERVATION OFFICER

S PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

L REGISTER

DATE

as described in Prince
12, 1976, as follows:

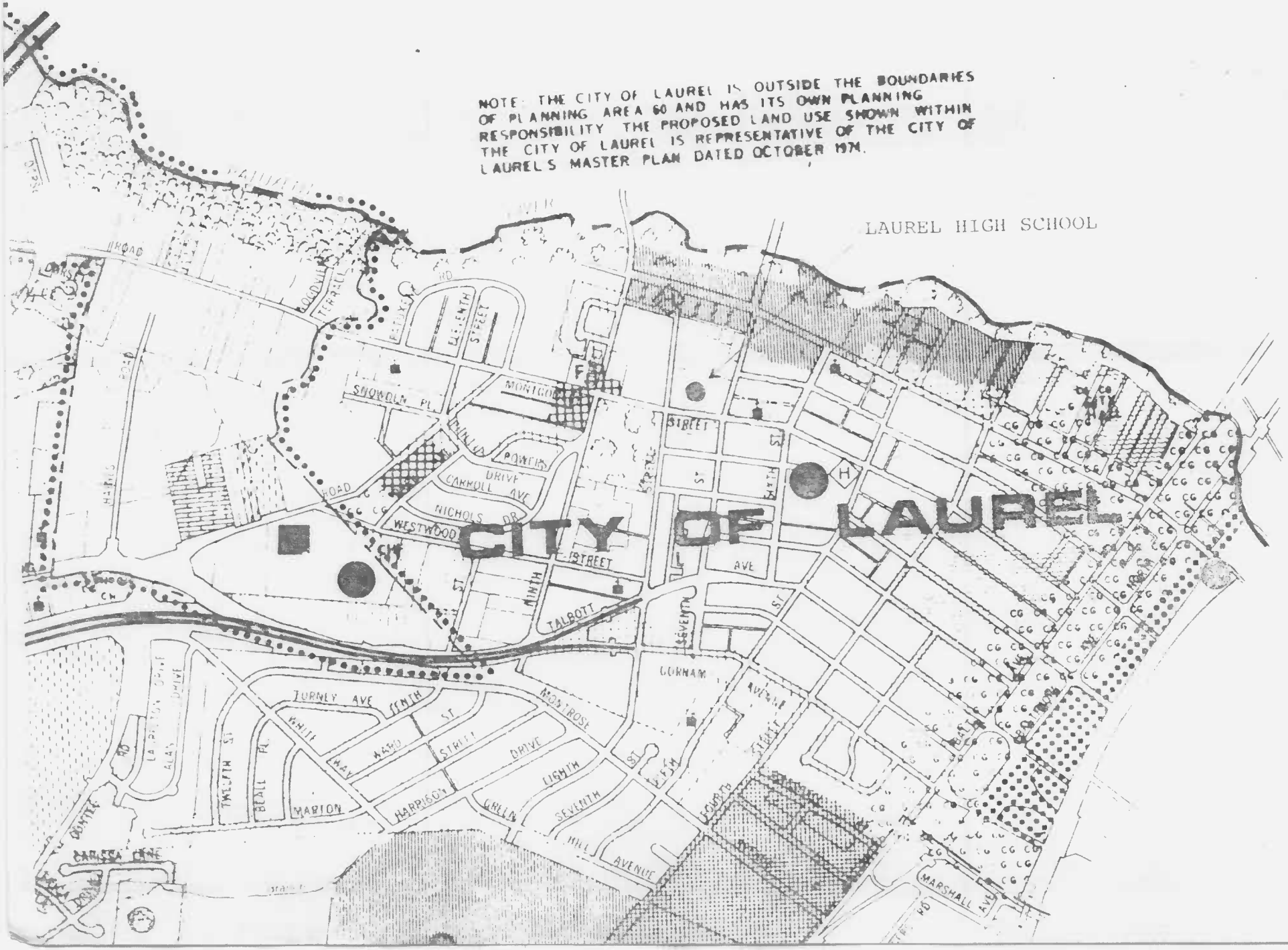
Prince George's County,
ong the Land Records
on District) in Liber
ribed as follows:

lying in the north-
feet wide) and
of Education land
at Folio 3) and
deg. 28 min. 14 sec.
hence along the
Avenue (50 feet
t to an iron pipe,
ght of way line of
8 sec. E, 362.81 feet
division line between
. Mary's Church,
e point of beginning.

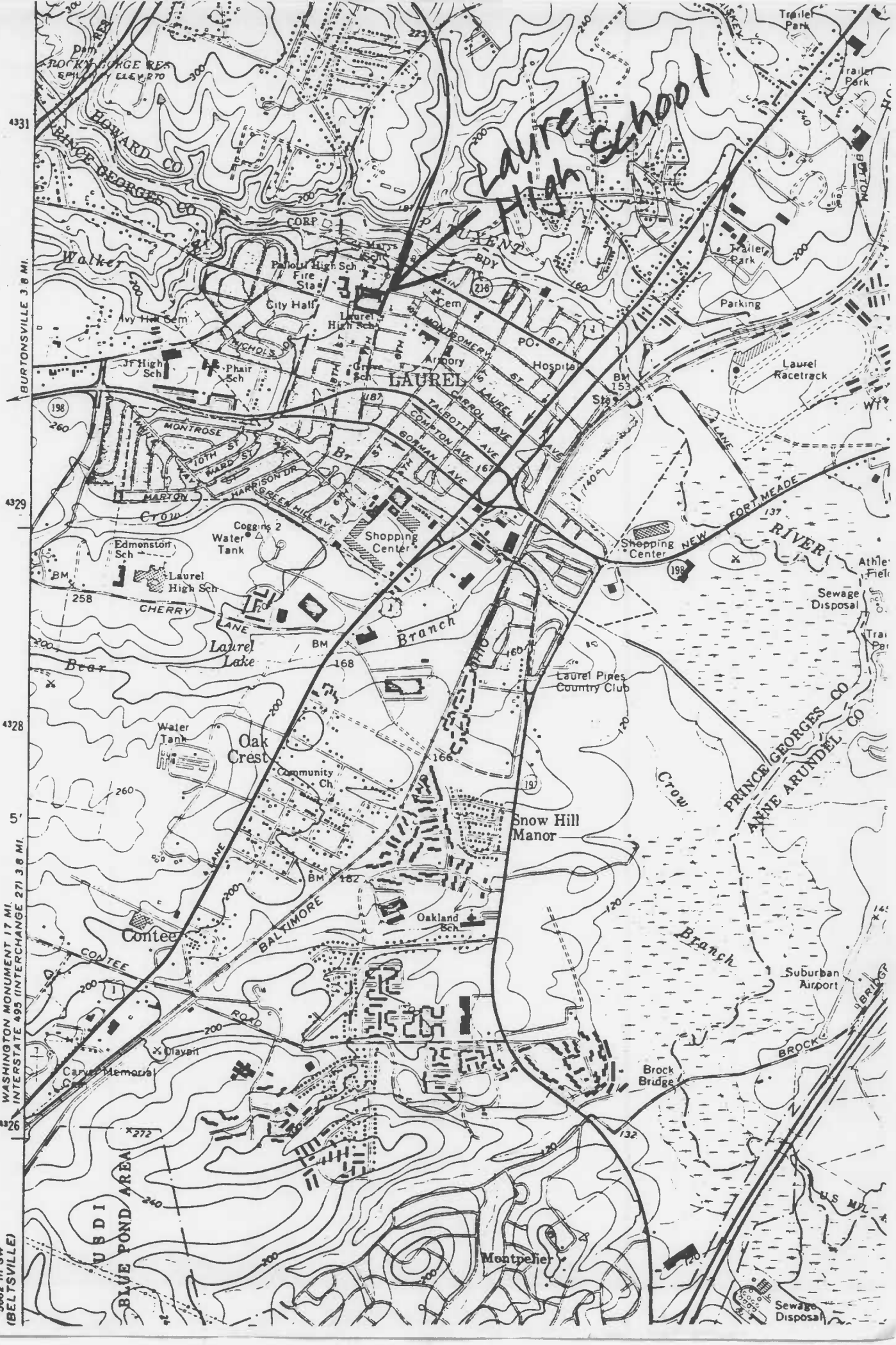
cres, as per survey
Being assesed as

GPO 921-803

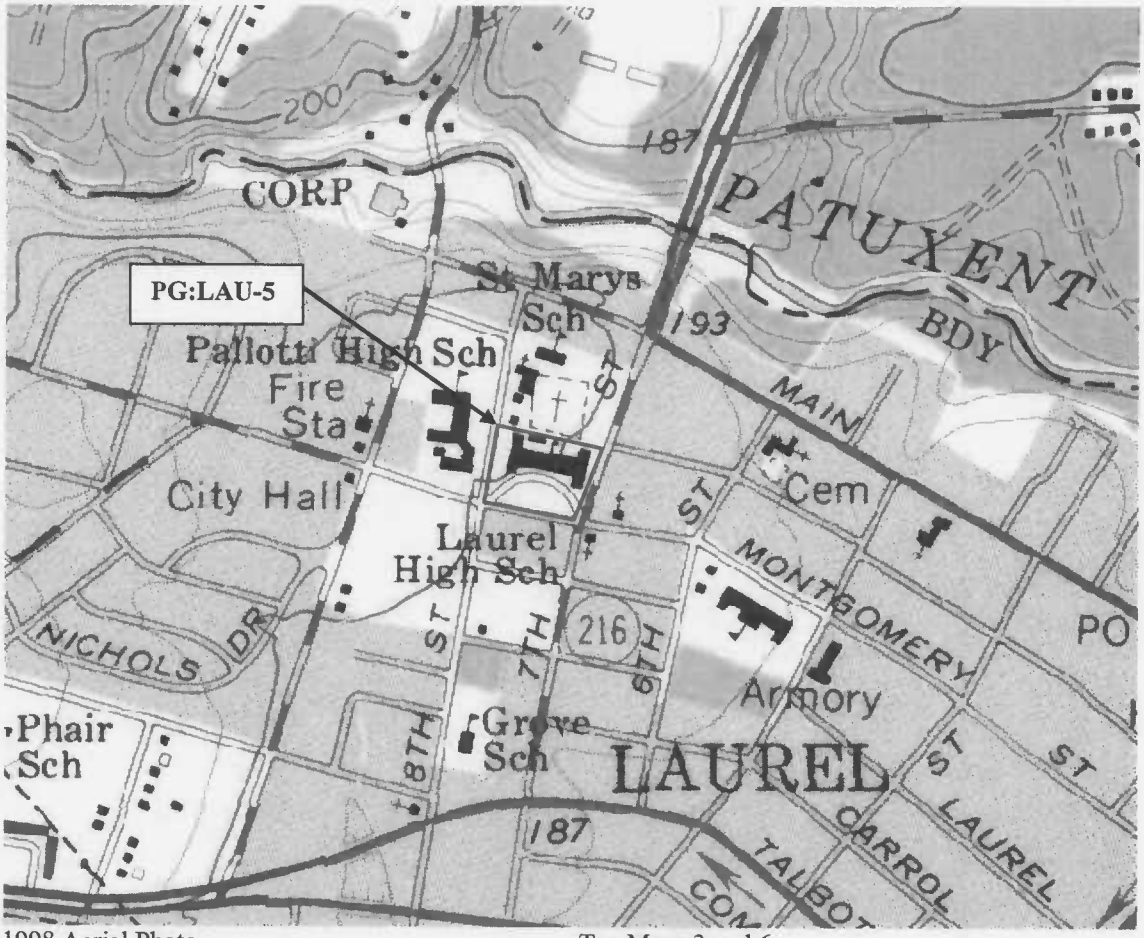
NOTE: THE CITY OF LAUREL IS OUTSIDE THE BOUNDARIES OF PLANNING AREA 60 AND HAS ITS OWN PLANNING RESPONSIBILITY. THE PROPOSED LAND USE SHOWN WITHIN THE CITY OF LAUREL IS REPRESENTATIVE OF THE CITY OF LAUREL'S MASTER PLAN DATED OCTOBER 1974.



PG. LAU-5

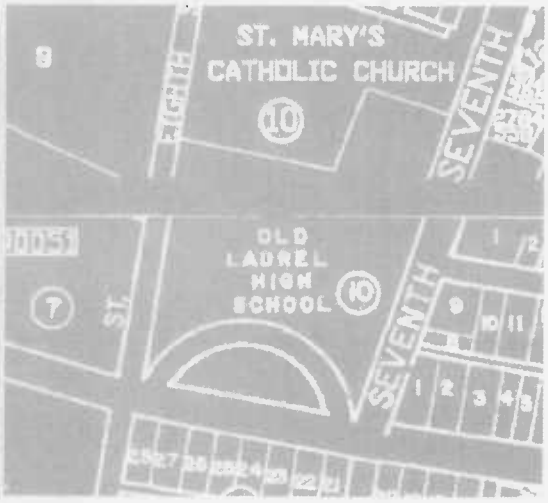

Laurel High School
Laurel Quad
PG: LAU-5
LAUREL
Laurel High Sch
Pallotti High Sch
City Hall
Fire Sta
Jr High Sch
Phair Sch
Armory
Hospital
Parking
Laurel Racetrack
Trailer Park
Shopping Center
Coggins 2
Water Tank
Edmonston Sch
Laurel Lake
Laurel Pines Country Club
Oak Crest
Community Ch
Snow Hill Manor
Oakland Sch
Contee
Carver Memorial Cem
Claypit
Brock Bridge
Suburban Airport
Montpelier
Sewage Disposal
Crow Branch
Bear Branch
NEW FORT MEADE
RIVER
PRINCE GEORGES CO
ANNE ARUNDEL CO
HOWARD CO
BURTONSVILLE 3.8 MI.
WASHINGTON MONUMENT 17 MI.
INTERSTATE 495 (INTERCHANGE 27) 3.8 MI.
5662 III SW (BELTSVILLE)
U S D I BLUE POND AREA
BALTIMORE
CONTEE ROAD
CHERRY LANE
MONTROSE
HARRISON DR
GREEN HILL AVE
MONTGOMERY ST
CARROL AVE
TALBOTT AVE
COMPTON AVE
GORMAN AVE
BROCK BRIDGE
4331
4329
4328
4326

PG:LAU-5
Laurel High School
(Edward Phelps Community Center)
116 St. Mary's Place, Laurel
Laurel Quadrangle



1998 Aerial Photo

Tax Maps 3 and 6



PG:LAU-5

Click here for a plain text ADA compliant screen.

Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation
PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY
Real Property Data Search

Go Back
View Map
New Search

Account Identifier: **District -** 10 **Account Number -** 1004076

Owner Information

Owner Name: LAUREL BOYS & GIRLS CLUB INC

Use: EXEMPT
Principal Residence: NO

Mailing Address: 701 MONTGOMERY ST
LAUREL MD 20707-4072

Deed Reference: 1) /16605/ 132
2)

Location & Structure Information

Premises Address
116 ST MARYS PL
LAUREL 20707

Zoning
R20

Legal Description
N SIDE MONTG BETW
7TH & 8TH
LAUREL- E SIDE 9TH

Map	Grid	Parcel	Sub District	Subdivision	Section	Block	Lot	Group	Plat No:	
6	C1			4600		10	1	81	Plat Ref:	L-0848

Special Tax Areas
Town LAUREL
Ad Valorem
Tax Class 02

Primary Structure Built	Enclosed Area	Property Land Area	County Use
0000		3.50 AC	901

Stories	Basement	Type	Exterior

Value Information

	Base Value	Value As Of 01/01/2002	Phase-in Assessments As Of 07/01/2003	As Of 07/01/2004
Land:	115,000	115,000		
Improvements:	715,480	790,140		
Total:	830,480	905,140	880,252	905,140
Preferential Land:	0	0	0	0

Transfer Information

Seller:	PRINCE GEORGES COUNTY	**Date:**	12/23/2002	**Price:**	$0
Type:	NOT ARMS-LENGTH	**Deed1:**	/16605/ 132	**Deed2:**	
Seller:	BOARD OF EDUCATION	**Date:**	04/13/1976	**Price:**	$0
Type:	UNKNOWN	**Deed1:**	/ 4604/ 916	**Deed2:**	
Seller:		**Date:**		**Price:**	
Type:		**Deed1:**		**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: COUNTY AND STATE
Exempt Class: CLUBS

Special Tax Recapture:

* NONE *

Laurel High School

A →2 →2A →3 →3A →4 →4A →5 →5A →6 →6

SAFETY FILM 5063 KODAK SAFETY FILM 5063 KODAK SAFETY FILM 5063 KODAK SAFETY FILM 5063

A →7 →7A →8 →8A →9 →9A →10 →10A →11 →11

KODAK SAFETY FILM 5063 KODAK SAFETY FILM 5063 KODAK SAFETY FILM 5063 KODAK SAFETY FILM 5063

→12 →12A →13 →13A →14 →14A →15 →15A →16 →16A

K SAFETY FILM 5063 KODAK SAFETY FILM 5063 KODAK SAFETY FILM 5063 KODAK SAFETY FILM 5063

3A →27 →27A →28 →28A →29 →29A →30 →30A →31 →3

KODAK SAFETY FILM 5063 KODAK SAFETY FILM 5063 KODAK SAFETY FILM 5063 KODAK SAFETY FILM 5063

1A →32 →32A →33 →33A →34 →34A →35 →35A →36 →36

KODAK SAFETY FILM 5063 KODAK SAFETY FILM 5063 KODAK SAFETY FILM 5063 KODAK SAFETY F

→17 →17A →18 →18A →19 →19A →20 →20A 3 6 1 →21

ILM 5063 KODAK SAFETY FILM 5063 KODAK SAFETY FILM 5063 KODAK SAFETY FILM 5063 KODAI

A →22 →22A →23 →23A →24 →24A →25 →25A →26 →26

Old Laurel High School
PG-City of Laurel
PMJ 9/78

PG.LAU-5

Old Laurel High School
PG-City of Laurel
PMJ 9/78

PG.LAU-5

Old Laurel High School
PG-City of Laurel
PMJ 9/78

PG.LAU-5