

**Maryland Historical Trust**  
**Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form**  
**InterCounty Connector Project**

DOE \_\_\_yes \_\_\_no

**1. Name:** (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common Laurel Sand and Gravel Property

**2. Location:**

street &amp; number 5107 Van Dusen Road \_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Laurel  vicinity of congressional district

state Maryland county Prince George's

**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 type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> structure              | <input type="checkbox"/> both               | <input type="checkbox"/> work in progress           | <input type="checkbox"/> education <input type="checkbox"/> private residence  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> site                   | <b>Public Acquisition</b>                   | <b>Accessible</b>                                   | <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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> other: |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> not applicable     | <input type="checkbox"/> no                         | <input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> transportation      |

**4. Owner of Property:** (give names and mailing addressed of all owners)

name Laurel Sand and Gravel Inc.

street &amp; number 5107 Van Dusen Road telephone no.:

city,town Laurel state and zip code MD 20707

**5. Location of Legal Description**

Land Records Office of Prince George's County liber 5548

street &amp; number 14741 Governor Oden Bowie Drive folio 921

city,town Upper Marlboro state MD

**6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys**

title

date \_\_\_federal \_\_\_state \_\_\_county \_\_\_local

depository for survey records

city,town state

# 7. Description

Survey No. PG: 60-18 (PACS E2.13)

| 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    |   |   |                    |

Resource Count: 7

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

The Laurel Sand & Gravel Property is a 1-story, 10-bay vernacular commercial building on the south side of Van Dusen Road in the Laurel vicinity, Prince George's County. The building and the related outbuildings were constructed circa 1945-1950.

The building has a flat roof. It is of concrete masonry construction, and it has a concrete masonry foundation. The windows are double-hung aluminum sash. There is an enclosed vestibule which projects from the north, or front facade.

There are six outbuildings associated with this property. The first outbuilding is a concrete mixing plant complex, with a main building constructed of concrete masonry, with a corrugated metal gable roof. The main building, constructed circa 1945-1950, is part of a mixing complex consisting of mixing towers, conveyors and temporary metal buildings. The structure is located west of the office, across Indian Creek and near Potomac Electric Power Company right-of-way for power lines.

The second outbuilding is a warehouse with a corrugated metal gable roof. Constructed circa 1945-1950 it is of concrete masonry construction. The structure is located north of the mixing plant across Van Dusen Road.

The third outbuilding is a quonset. Constructed circa 1945-1950, it is of sheet metal construction. The structure is located north of the mixing plant across Van Dusen Road, immediately northeast of the warehouse.

The fourth outbuilding is a storage shed. Constructed circa 1945-1950, it is of concrete masonry construction. The structure is located immediately west of the warehouse.

The fifth outbuilding is a weigh station. Constructed circa 1960, it is of concrete masonry construction. The structure is located on Van Dusen Road approximately 1/2 mile east of Old Gunpowder Road.

The sixth outbuilding is the Gould Property, which is a 1 1/2-story, 3-bay front-gable cottage on the south side of Van Dusen Road immediately southeast of the weigh station. Constructed circa 1940, the building is a vernacular cottage with enclosed porches on the north and south sides. The structure has an asphalt shingle, front gable roof with a large, centered cross gable dormer on the west side. It is of concrete masonry construction with a concrete masonry foundation. The windows are double-hung wood sash. The house has two hipped-roof enclosed porches on the north and south elevations. The porches both have asphalt sheet siding.

The property is located on the south side of Van Dusen Road. The office, mixing plant and warehouses are located in the Indian Creek Valley, between two high ridges. Open gravel pits surround the property on all sides; however, there are woods immediately north and east of the office. The Gould House is located on a flat topped ridge above Van Dusen Road. The property's setting is rural, however, the landscape has been drastically altered by gravel mining operations.

## 8. Significance

Survey No. PG: 60-18 (PACS E2.13)

| Period                                    | Areas of Significance—Check and justify below    |   |   |  |
|---|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric      | <input type="checkbox"/> archaeology-prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Community planning     | <input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> religion                |
| 400-1499                                  | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic     | <input type="checkbox"/> conservation           | <input type="checkbox"/> law                    | <input type="checkbox"/> science                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599        | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> economics              | <input type="checkbox"/> literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> sculpture               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699        | <input type="checkbox"/> architecture            | <input type="checkbox"/> education              | <input type="checkbox"/> military               | <input type="checkbox"/> social/<br>humanitarian |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799        | <input type="checkbox"/> art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> music                  | <input type="checkbox"/> theater                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899        | <input type="checkbox"/> commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement | <input type="checkbox"/> philosophy             | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation          |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900- | <input type="checkbox"/> communication           | <input type="checkbox"/> industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> politics/government    | <input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)         |
|   |  | <input type="checkbox"/> invention              |   |  |

Specific dates circa 1945 - 1950

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria:  A  B  C  D  
and/or  
Applicable Exceptions:  A  B  C  D  E  F  G  
Level of Significance:  national  state  local

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

The Laurel Sand and Gravel Property is a complex of industrial buildings, constructed circa 1945 to 1950. The property was acquired by the 1325 G Street Associates Limited Partnership in 1982. The 236.3 hectares (583.9 acres) of land is comprised of fourteen tracts acquired by four companies through 25 deeds of sale from 1947 through 1973: the Contee Sand and Gravel Company (1947-1973), the Admix Concrete Corporation (1955-1959), the Prince George's Sand and Gravel Company (1957-1959), and Percon Incorporated (1966). The building and the related outbuildings were constructed circa 1945-1950 and do not appear on Martenet's 1861 Map of Prince George's County or Hopkins' 1878 Atlas of Prince George's County.

The Laurel Sand and Gravel Property is located in the Laurel vicinity. Laurel is located on land originally patented to Richard Snowden in 1715 as "Snowden's New Birmingham Manor" in Prince George's County. "Snowden's New Birmingham Manor" was approximately 1214 hectare (3000 acres) from Old Columbia Pike to the present city of Laurel, and from south of Greencastle and Van Dusen Roads to north of Sandy Spring Road. The 1715 patent increased the already substantial Snowden land holdings, and later additions to Snowden land eventually covered 3749 hectare (9265 acres) by 1743. (Geraci, 1976: 4; Cook, 1976: 270-271).

The Snowden family had established a grist mill at Laurel about 1810. In 1824, the grist mill was adapted to spin cotton yarn that was shipped to textile mills. In 1835, the mill was converted back to a grist mill. Snowden family members and the O.C. Tiffany company of Baltimore established the Patuxent Cotton Manufacturing Company. Factory buildings were built along the river, and the town of Laurel developed as a manufacturing town along Main Street running between the factory and the B&O Railroad station (Prince George's County 1974: 283; Prince George's County Historical Society 1980: 37). Laurel became the largest town in the county. The textile mill provided the basis for Laurel's economy into the twentieth century. When textile output began to decline early in the century, Laurel began to develop as a suburb for both Washington and Baltimore. Located halfway between the two cities, Laurel was accessible to commuters by the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad and by U.S. 1 (Prince George's County 1974: 284).

Industrial buildings constructed during the 1920-1945 period, such as the structures of the Laurel Sand and Gravel Property, reflect the demand for considerable open interior space. With the coming of truck freight hauling, many industrial buildings were designed to facilitate

CONTINUATION SHEET

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

RESOURCE NAME: Laurel Sand and Gravel Property

SURVEY NO.: PG: 60-18 (PACS E2.13)

ADDRESS: 5107 Van Dusen Road, Laurel, Prince George's County

8. Significance (Continued)

freight loading and transfer, and featured loading docks, cargo platforms, and special elevators. New buildings, built for specialized processing or warehousing, were also erected between 1920 and 1945. While new machine shops or auto repair garages were often built, older factories were also often converted into such facilities.

National Register Evaluation:

The Laurel Sand and Gravel Property, constructed circa 1945 to 1950, is not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. The property is not eligible under Criterion A, as research conducted indicates no association with any historic events or trends significant in the development of national, state or local history. Historic research indicates that the property has no association with persons who have made specific contributions to history, and therefore, it does not meet Criterion B. The property is not eligible under Criterion C, as is an undistinguished example of a mid-twentieth century industrial complex. The structures are of a common building type, and their architectural integrity has been compromised through the installation of replacement materials and additions to the structures. Finally the property has no known potential to yield important information, and therefore, does not meet Criterion D.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

Eligibility recommended \_\_\_\_\_

Eligibility Not Recommended  \_\_\_\_\_

Comments

Reviewer, OPS: Andrew Levin

Date: 11/05/01

Reviewer, NR Program: [Signature]

Date: 11/9/01

✓-entered

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References Survey No. PG:60-18(PACS E2.13)

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See Continuation Sheet

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## 10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_  
Quadrangle name Beltsville

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

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

| state | code | county | code |
|-------|------|--------|------|
|-------|------|--------|------|

|       |      |        |      |
|-------|------|--------|------|
| state | code | county | code |
|-------|------|--------|------|

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## 11. Form Prepared By

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name/title Caroline Hall/Ryan P. McKay

organization P.A.C. Spero & Company

date October 1996

street & number 40 W. Chesapeake Avenue, Suite 412

telephone (410) 296-1635

city or town Baltimore

state Maryland

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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  
DHCP/DHCD  
100 Community Place  
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023  
(410) 514-7600

CONTINUATION SHEET

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

RESOURCE NAME: Laurel Sand and Gravel Property

SURVEY NO.: PG: 60-18 (PACS E2.13)

ADDRESS: 5107 Van Dusen Road, Laurel, Prince George's County

## 9. Major Bibliographical References (Continued)

Brugger, Robert A. Maryland, A Middle Temperament 1634-1980. Baltimore and London: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1988.

Cook, William G. Montpelier & the Snowden Family. Privately Printed, 1976.

Hiebert, Ray Eldon, and Richard K. MacMaster. A Grateful Remembrance: the Story of Montgomery County, Maryland. Rockville, Maryland: Montgomery County Government and the Montgomery County Historical Society, 1976.

Hopkins, G.M. Atlas of 15 Miles Around Washington including County of Prince George's, Maryland. Philadelphia: G.M. Hopkins, 1879; reprint, Riverdale, Maryland: Prince George's County Historical Society, 1975.

Land Records of Prince George's County, Upper Marlboro, Maryland.

"The Laurel Factory." News and Notes from the Prince George's County Historical Society. (July 1980): 38-40. (First published in The American Farmer. Baltimore, Maryland, August 1845.)

Prince George's County Community Renewal Program. The Neighborhoods of Prince George's County. Upper Marlboro, Maryland: Prince George's County Government, 1974.

Tindall, George Brown. America: A Narrative History. 2 vols. New York: W.W. Norton & Company, Inc., 1984.

Virta, Alan. "The Pretty, Rosy-Cheeked Girls of Laurel." News and Notes from the Prince George's County Historical Society. (July 1980): 37.

Virta, Alan. Prince George's County: A Pictorial History. Virginia Beach: The Donning Company Publishers, 1984, rev. 1991.

Zimiles, Martha and Murray Zimiles. Early American Mills. Boston: Clarkson N. Potter, Inc., 1973.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

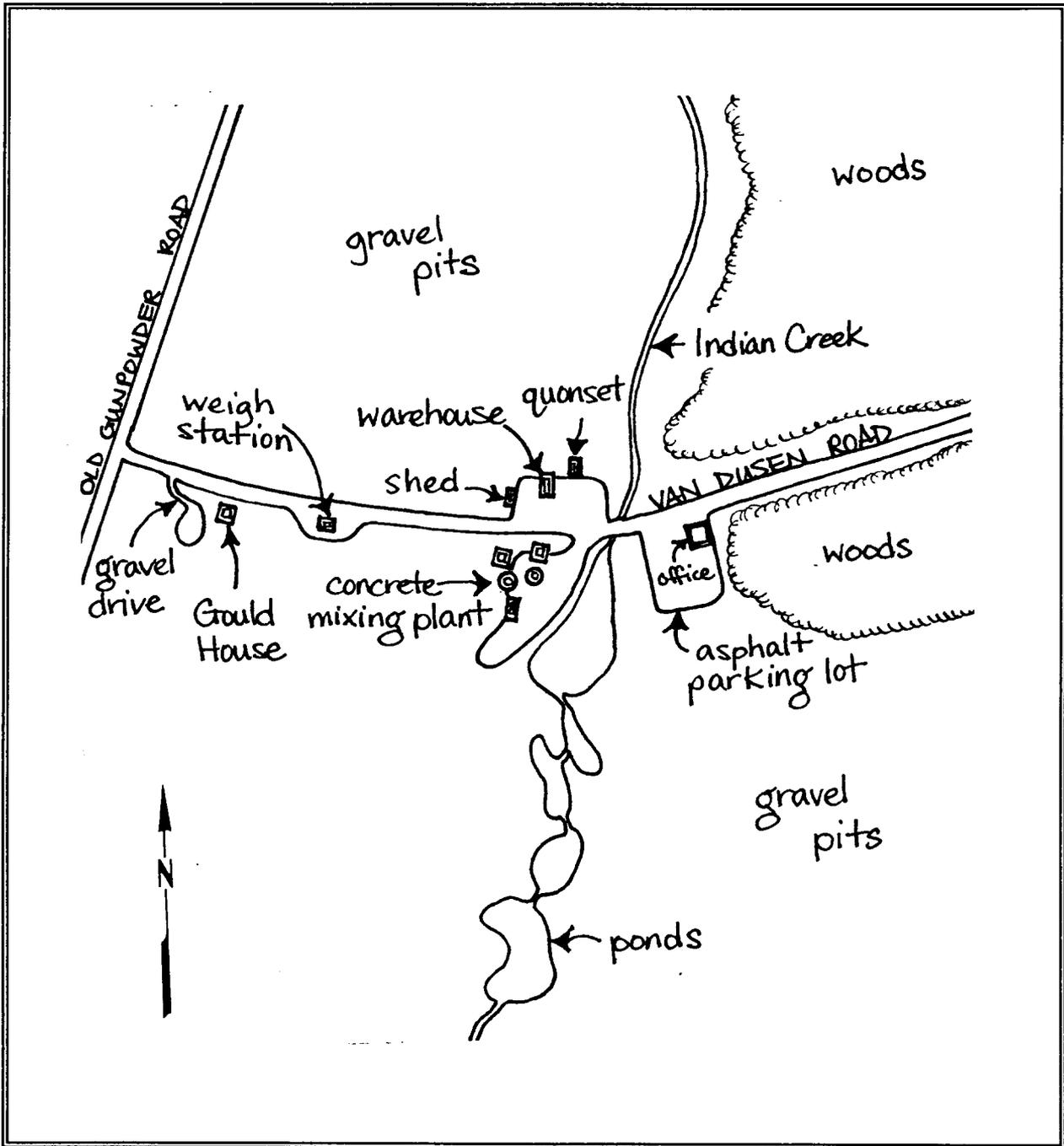
RESOURCE NAME: Laurel Sand and Gravel Property

SURVEY NO.: PG: 60-18 (PACS E2.13)

ADDRESS: 5107 Van Dusen Road, Laurel, Prince George's County

10. Geographical Data (Continued)

Resource Sketch Map:



CONTINUATION SHEET

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

RESOURCE NAME: Laurel Sand and Gravel Property

SURVEY NO.: PG: 60-18 (PACS E2.13)

ADDRESS: 5107 Van Dusen Road, Laurel, Prince George's County

Maryland Comprehensive Historic Preservation Plan Data Sheet

Historic Context:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Piedmont

Chronological/Developmental Period Theme (s):

12. Modern Period A.D. 1930 - present

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme(s):

3. Economic (Commercial and Industrial)

RESOURCE TYPE:

Category (see Section 3 of survey form):

Building

Historic Environment (urban, suburban, village, or rural):

Suburban

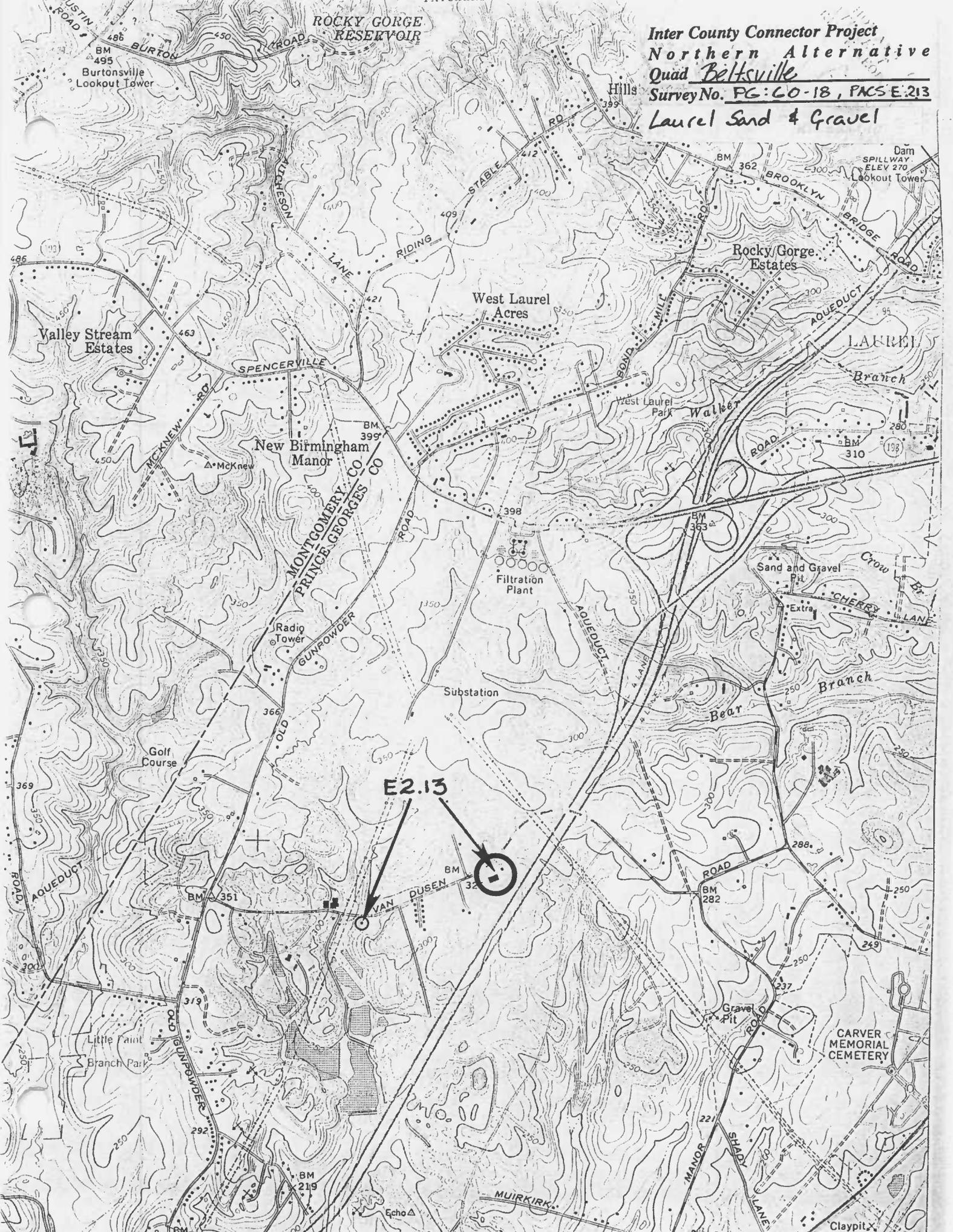
Historic Function(s) and Use(s):

Industrial

Known Design Source (write none if unknown):

None

Inter County Connector Project  
Northern Alternative  
Quad Beltsville  
Survey No. PG:CO-18, PACS E.213  
Laurel Sand & Gravel





LADDER BAND & MUSIC, Inc.

1) PE:K-10

2) Laurel Sand and Gravel

3) Prince George County

4) Ryan McKay

5) Feb 1996

6) P.P.E. Sprinkler, Laurel, MD

7) Laurel Sand + Gravel, 5107 Van Dusen Road,

Office - North facade



1 PG 37-38

2) Laurel Sand and Gravel

3) Prince Georges County

4) Ryan McCay

5) Feb. 1998

6) P.A. C. Sporo Co., Lanham MD

7) Laurel Sand and Gravel, 5107 Van Dusen Road,

8) 2d 7

Office - West and South  
facades



- 1) F-60-18
- 2) Laurel Sand and Gravel
- 3) Prince George County
- 4) Ryan McKay
- 5) Feb. 1992
- 6) P.A.C. Sports + Co., Jowson Mill
- 7) Laurel Sand and Gravel, 2102 Van Dusen Road,  
Concrete Mixing Plant
- 8) 3-3-9



- 1) PG: 60-18
- 2) Laurel Sand and Gravel
- 3) Prince George County
- 4) Ryan McKay
- 5) Feb. 1996
- 6) P.N.C. Spero + Company, Frederick, MD
- 7) Laurel Sand and Gravel, 5107 Van Dusen Road,  
Warehouse
- 8) 4 of 7



- 1) PG-60-1\*
- 2) Laurel Sand and Gravel
- 3) Prince Georges County
- 4) Rippl McKay
- 5) Feb. 1996
- 6) PA-C Spore-C<sub>2</sub>, Jensen MD
- 7) Laurel Sand and Gravel, 5107 Van Dusen Road,  
Shed
- 8) 5077



1) PG: 60-18

2) Laurel Sand and Gravel

3) Prince Georges County

4) Ryan McKay

5) Feb. 1976

6) P.H.C. Spurr & Co., Jackson MD

7) Laurel Sand and Gravel, 5107 Van Dusen Road,

5/6/77  
House - South and West facades



1) PG:60-10

2) Laurel Sand and Gravel

3) Prince Georges County

4) Ryan McKay

5) Feb 1996

6) R.A. C. Spier + Co, Towson MD

7) Laurel Sand and Gravel, 5107 Van Dusen Road,  
Hawes - South and West tracks

8) 7 7 7

**Maryland Historical Trust**  
**Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form**  
**Intercounty Connector Project**

DOE \_\_\_yes \_\_\_no

**1. Name:** (indicate preferred name)

historic Contee Sand and Gravel Company Property (preferred)

and/or common Laurel Sand and Gravel Property

**2. Location:**

street & number 5701, 5801, 5809 Van Dusen Road N/A not for publication

city, town Laurel x vicinity of congressional district

state Maryland county Prince George's

**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 type="checkbox"/> commercial            | <input type="checkbox"/> park              |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> structure   | <input type="checkbox"/> both                      | <input type="checkbox"/> work in progress           | <input type="checkbox"/> education             | <input type="checkbox"/> private residence |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> site        | <b>Public Acquisition</b>                          | <b>Accessible</b>                                   | <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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> industrial | <input type="checkbox"/> other:            |
|   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable | <input type="checkbox"/> no                         | <input type="checkbox"/> military              |  |
|   |  |   | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation        |  |

**4. Owner of Property:** (give names and mailing addressed of all owners)

name 1325 G Street Associates Limited Partnership

street & number P.O. Box 719 telephone no.:

city, town Laurel state and zip code MD 20707

**5. Location of Legal Description**

Land Records Office of Prince George's County liber 5548

street & number 14741 Governor Oden Bowie Drive folio 921

city, town Upper Marlboro state MD

**6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys**

title

date \_\_\_federal \_\_\_state \_\_\_county \_\_\_local

depository for survey records

y, town state

## 7. Description

Survey No. PG: 60-18 (PACS E2.13)

|  |                                       |   |   |                    |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|---|--------------------|
| 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    |   |   |                    |

Resource Count:

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

The Laurel Sand and Gravel Company Property is a complex of buildings, industrial structures and sand and gravel pits located on several hundred acres west of Laurel in Prince George's County. The core of buildings currently extant on the property was constructed by the Contee Sand and Gravel Company circa 1950. The buildings are located at the crossing of Van Dusen Road (formerly Contee Road) over Indian Creek. The buildings include a main office building, maintenance sheds, equipment sheds, concrete and asphalt mixing machinery and sand washing equipment. Although it was not possible to confirm precise construction dates of the buildings and machinery, all date to periods of expansion and infrastructure improvements which occurred circa 1950 and circa 1980.

The main office building on the Laurel Sand & Gravel Property is a 1-story, 10-bay vernacular commercial building on the south side of Van Dusen Road in the Laurel vicinity, Prince George's County. The building and related outbuildings were constructed circa 1950. The building has a flat roof. It is of concrete masonry construction, and has a concrete masonry foundation. The windows are double-hung aluminum sash. There is an enclosed vestibule which projects from the north, or front facade.

On the north side of Van Dusen Road are three maintenance buildings. The first building is a warehouse with a corrugated metal gable roof. Constructed circa 1950 it is of concrete masonry construction. The structure is used by Bardon Company, which also leases the concrete mixing plant, located south of Van Dusen Road.

The second building is a Quonset hut. Constructed circa 1950, it is of sheet metal construction and is located east of the warehouse.

The third building is a storage shed. Constructed circa 1950, it is of concrete masonry construction. The front facade has been replaced with new concrete block and central double doors. The building is leased by Costello Construction of Maryland, general contractors, and is located immediately west of the warehouse.

In addition to the office and maintenance buildings, the property includes a sand washing area, concrete and asphalt mixing plants, a weigh station, a 1½-story wood-frame residence, a modular house and a site of worker housing.

The sand washing area, including a complex of machinery and outbuildings, is located immediately southwest of the concrete mixing plant. The process begins in the northernmost portion of the complex where the excavated material is dumped into a hopper. The sorting of the sand and gravel in the hopper is the first of many screenings to separate the fine grain sands and various size gravel. The loosely sorted material is carried on a conveyor belt to two revolving barrels which continue the sorting process. The sand then travels through a screen and is washed prior to being separated into grades for either concrete mortar or construction fill.

The sand washing complex contains two metal-sided sheds constructed in the 1970s, which are in poor condition, and an abandoned 2-story concrete block office building constructed circa 1950. The office building, with large metal awning windows, is located between the sand washing area and asphalt mixing plant.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

SOURCE NAME: Laurel Sand and Gravel Property

INVENTORY NO.: PG: 60-18 (PACS E2.13)

ADDRESS: 5701, 5801, 5809 Van Dusen Road, Laurel, Prince George's County

## 7. Description (Continued)

Both the concrete and asphalt mixing plants were constructed in the 1980s. The concrete plant is leased by the Bardon Company, while the asphalt plant operates as the Laurel Asphalt Company. The concrete mixing plant complex contains a main building constructed of concrete masonry with a corrugated metal gable roof. The main building is part of a mixing complex consisting of mixing towers, conveyors and temporary metal buildings constructed circa 1980. One metal-sided shed in the complex remains from circa 1970. The complex is located west of the office, across Indian Creek and near Potomac Electric Power Company right-of-way for power lines.

The weigh station, constructed circa 1960, is of concrete masonry construction. The structure is located on Van Dusen Road approximately .8 kilometers ( $\frac{1}{2}$ -mile) east of Old Gunpowder Road.

A  $1\frac{1}{2}$ -story, 3-bay front-gable cottage, known as the Gould Property, is located on the south side of Van Dusen Road immediately southeast of the weigh station. Constructed circa 1940, the building is a vernacular cottage with enclosed hipped roof porches on the north and south sides. The structure has an asphalt shingle, front-gable roof with a large, dormer on the west side. It is of concrete masonry construction with a concrete masonry foundation. The windows are double-hung wood sash. The property is owned by the sand and gravel company, however, the building has no association with the industry and pre-dates the purchase of the land by the Laurel Sand and Gravel Company for industrial use.

A modular house is located on the south side of Van Dusen Road, east of the main office building. Constructed circa 1980 for an employee of the company, the 1-story wood-frame house has vinyl siding and an asphalt shingle roof. The building has been vacant since a fire in December 1997. Adjacent to the house are an attached garage and shed. The garage is of wood-frame construction with corrugated metal siding and roof. The shed is of wood-frame construction with a concrete block south wall and wood clapboard siding on the north and east elevations.

The site of worker housing is located west of the modular house. The "village" of worker housing was constructed on the south side of Van Dusen Road and approximately 245 meters (800 feet) east of the main office building. The village contained ten structures and used old concrete mixing barrels for the septic systems. The complex of buildings was demolished in the 1980s (Schmidt, 1997). The site was used as a gravel pit since the demolition of the structures, therefore there is no potential archaeological resources in this area. A sand deposit area has been located adjacent to the site. A dirt road leading to the sand piles is located in what would have been the rear yards of the houses (Schmidt, 1998).

The property is located on the south side of Van Dusen Road. The office, mixing plant and warehouses are located in the Indian Creek Valley, between two high ridges. Open gravel pits surround the property on all sides; however, there are woods immediately north and east of the office. The Gould House is located on a flat topped ridge above Van Dusen Road. The property's setting is rural, however, the landscape has been drastically altered by gravel mining operations.

# 8. Significance

Survey No. PG: 60-18 (PACS E2.13)

| Period                                    | Areas of Significance—Check and justify below    |   |   |  |
|---|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric      | <input type="checkbox"/> archaeology-prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Community planning     | <input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> religion        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 100-1499         | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic     | <input type="checkbox"/> conservation           | <input type="checkbox"/> law                    | <input type="checkbox"/> science         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599        | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> economics              | <input type="checkbox"/> literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> sculpture       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699        | <input type="checkbox"/> architecture            | <input type="checkbox"/> education              | <input type="checkbox"/> military               | <input type="checkbox"/> social/         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799        | <input type="checkbox"/> art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> music                  | <input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899        | <input type="checkbox"/> commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement | <input type="checkbox"/> philosophy             | <input type="checkbox"/> theater         |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900- | <input type="checkbox"/> communication           | <input type="checkbox"/> industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> politics/government    | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation  |
|   |  | <input type="checkbox"/> invention              |   | <input type="checkbox"/> other (specify) |

**Specific dates** circa 1950 - 1980 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

check: Applicable Criteria:  A  B  C  D  
 and/or  
 Applicable Exceptions:  A  B  C  D  E  F  G  
 Level of Significance:  national  state  local

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

The Laurel Sand and Gravel Company is an industrial complex located in the Laurel vicinity, Prince George's County, Maryland. The sand and gravel industries provide the raw materials used in road and building construction in Maryland. The continued growth of urbanized areas necessitates a supply of sand and gravel resources. For economical building products, the resources must be close to the market they serve. The markets for sand and gravel products include the I-95 corridor from Cecil County, Maryland to Washington, D.C. and incorporated towns scattered throughout the state. According to the Sand and Gravel Resources-Planning Directions prepared by the Comprehensive Policy Planning Division,

the major location of sand and gravel is in the eastern portion of the state. On the Western Shore of the Chesapeake Bay, formations containing sand and gravel are present in the Baltimore and Washington metropolitan areas as well as the southern Counties of Calvert, Charles, and St. Mary's. On the Eastern Shore, gravel lenses and sand layers are present over most areas, with active mining in all areas (Comprehensive Policy Planning Division 1982, v).

Maryland has three physiographic provinces: the Coastal Plain, Piedmont Plateau and Appalachian Uplands. The Baltimore-Washington corridor is located within the Coastal Plain province. This contains the majority of sand and gravel resources within the state, with minor deposits in the other provinces. The Coastal Plain is described as, "composed of gently eastward dipping, unconsolidated sands, gravel and muds," of variable quantity and quality (Comprehensive Policy Planning Division 1982, 2). The Baltimore-Washington corridor contains the most valuable deposits of sand and gravel within the Coastal Plain. The mining industry has historically utilized the sand and gravel deposits within the metropolitan corridor because of its close proximity to growing markets and abundance of construction-grade gravel. In addition, the mineral deposits contain a quality composition of both sand and gravel, providing economical and efficient extraction of the resources. The mining operations must be as close as possible to the market demand. The average cost of sand and gravel at the mining site would double in cost when transported more than 32 kilometers (20 miles) (Werth 1980, 1).

The most common method of extracting sand and gravel is through surface mining. The deposit is extracted through open cuts after penetrating or removing the surface rock material. The raw material is transported to the processing site, then washed to remove any impurities.

The sand and gravel industry is influenced by the trends within road and building construction industries. In 1910, the total tonnage of sand and gravel extracted from Maryland was 860,000

## CONTINUATION SHEET

### MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

### STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

**SOURCE NAME:** Laurel Sand and Gravel Property

**INVENTORY NO.:** PG: 60-18 (PACS E2.13)

**ADDRESS:** 5701, 5801, 5809 Van Dusen Road, Laurel, Prince George's County

## 8. Significance (Continued)

tonnes (954,393 tons). By 1930, the total amount of sand and gravel produced in Maryland had risen to 2.3 million tonnes (2.6 million tons). The amount of mined resources remained nearly constant between 1930 and 1940. The largest increase in sand and gravel production occurred in the years between 1940 and 1950, a phenomenon of post-World War II development. The total sand and gravel production in Maryland increased 185 percent in that decade, rising from 2.4 million tonnes (2.7 million tons) in 1940 to nearly 7.2 million tonnes (8 million tons) in 1950. The increase in sand and gravel consumption continued through the following decades. Nearly 13.6 million tonnes (15 million tons) of sand and gravel were produced in 1980. The rise of sand and gravel production correlates with the statewide increase in population, especially within the resource-abundant Baltimore-Washington corridor, and the increased use of sand and gravel products per capita. The population of the state rose 28 percent in the decade between 1940 and 1950, while the per capita consumption of sand and gravel products rose 122 percent during the same decade. The Counties of Anne Arundel, Prince George's and Baltimore were the leading producers of sand and gravel in 1950 and 1960. By 1980, the only active sand and gravel mining sites within the Washington Metropolitan Area were located within Prince George's County (Comprehensive Policy Planning Division 1982, 6-7).

The Laurel Sand and Gravel Company began sand and gravel mining operations along Van Dusen Road in the Laurel vicinity, Prince George's County in 1981. The company purchased nearly 243 hectares (600 acres) on the west side of I-95 and several hundred more acres on the east side of I-95. This land included sand and gravel pits, an office building, two sand washing areas, a concrete mixing plant, an asphalt mixing plant, several maintenance buildings, storage sheds and worker housing, all of which belonged to the Contee Sand and Gravel Company. The Contee Sand and Gravel Company has mined land west of Laurel and Muirkirk since the beginning of the twentieth century.

According to charters and articles of incorporation filed at the Prince George's County Land Records Office, a corporation known as Contee Sand and Gravel Company was incorporated in June 1905. The company leased 26.3 hectares (65 acres) of land to mine and sort sand and gravel from the Secretary of the corporation, Floried Hillers. The purpose of the company, as stated in the Article of Incorporation and Charter, is for "mining and quarrying sand, gravel, stone, rock and all other economic minerals or mineral substances in whole or in part, silica or silicates and for washing, dressing, sorting and otherwise preparing the same for market and for transporting the same to market by railway or otherwise" (Land Records Office of Prince George's County, Corporation Book JBB 1/Page 58: 1905). The lease agreement between the Contee Sand and Gravel Company and Floried Hillers was to last for 99 years and gave the company a right-of-way to construct a rail line and side-lines from the adjacent Baltimore and Ohio Railroad. The operation conducted business on the 26.3 hectares (65 acres) located on the west side of Muirkirk Station (now Muirkirk) and the south side of Contee Road. The owner of the land, Floried Hillers, filed for bankruptcy in 1909. The land was sold at public auction on April 27, 1909 to C.E. Ewig, a lawyer from Monmouth County, New Jersey (Deed Book 49/Folio 377, 1909). The land was immediately sold to another lawyer from New Jersey, then to R.H. McNeil in that same year. R.H. McNeil was a large landholder in Prince George's County, Maryland (Deed Book 49/Folio 381, 1909).

CONTINUATION SHEET

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

SOURCE NAME: Laurel Sand and Gravel Property

INVENTORY NO.: PG: 60-18 (PACS E2.13)

ADDRESS: 5701, 5801, 5809 Van Dusen Road, Laurel, Prince George's County

8. Significance (Continued)

There are no records available to determine if the Contee Sand and Gravel Company moved their mining operations to a different parcel immediately after the public auction of its leased land. However, the company began to purchase and lease additional land beginning in the 1930s. In 1932, the company bought 52.2 hectares (129 acres) of land, 3.2 kilometers (2 miles) northwest of Muirkirk, from Rowland Bortner (Deed Book 390/Folio 444, 1932). The company leased 4 hectares (10 acres) of land on the north side of Contee Road (now Van Dusen Road) from Eugene Dustin in 1936. The company leased an additional 4 hectares (10 acres) from the same individual in 1939 (Deed Book 529/Folio 243, 1939).

The lease represents a movement of the mining operations to new sand and gravel pits to the west of the original pits. The sorting and mixing operations would also move to the location of new pits to reduce costs involved in transporting and processing the excavated materials. This expansion and movement of mining operation would continue into the 1950s.

By 1938, the Contee Sand and Gravel Company had established a new pit along present Van Dusen Road at the headwaters of Indian Creek, 3.2 kilometers (2 miles) northwest of Muirkirk. United States Geological Survey Bulletin 906-A, Gravel and Sand Deposits of Eastern Maryland, Adjacent to Washington and Baltimore, discusses the excavation pits of a hillside near Indian Creek by the Contee Sand and Gravel Company:

The floor of this pit is about 240 feet above sea level. The product is a clean, hard gravel, most quartzite, concrete sand, and sand for mortar. The excavations began low on the slope in a mass of talus that furnished much gravel and sand, but in advancing westward they have cut into the edge of the higher slope. This has a cap of gravel of a remnant of the old plateau but is underlain by a thick body of sand of the lower formation of the Potomac group. At the beginning of operations it was supposed that the talus material was the outcrop of a very thick gravel deposit, but as excavations progressed the fine sand of the Potomac group was revealed. The sand is of excellent quality for mortar and does not contain much gravel or coarse sand. The ordinary working capacity of the Contee Plant is about 700 tons a day, consisting of the following materials:

|   |                |
|---|----------------|
| Large gravel, for road base and heavy foundations . . . . . | 100 tons daily |
| Medium or 2 inch gravel . . . . .                           | 300 tons daily |
| Pea gravel . . . . .  | 40 tons daily  |
| Sand, washing; suitable for concrete . . . . .              | 300 tons daily |

The proportions vary greatly at different parts of the workings, especially in the talus materials, and in places there is more or less a mixture of the fine-grained Potomac sand (Darton, 1939: 23).

The U.S. Geological Survey bulletin included a map showing the distribution of gravel and sand deposits in the Washington-Baltimore region. The map identified the location of the working sand and gravel pits of the Contee Sand and Gravel Company at the intersection of Van Dusen Road and Indian Creek (the location of the present operations).

CONTINUATION SHEET

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

RESOURCE NAME: Laurel Sand and Gravel Property

SURVEY NO.: PG: 60-18 (PACS E2.13)

ADDRESS: 5701, 5801, 5809 Van Dusen Road, Laurel, Prince George's County

## 8. Significance (Continued)

In 1939, a new Certificate of Incorporation was granted for the Contee Sand and Gravel Company to the Gudelsky family, as subscribers and directors, and Abraham Davidson, as resident agent. The purpose of the corporation was:

(1) To wash, distribute and sell, and otherwise deal in, sand and gravel. (2) To distribute and sell concrete, particularly that product known as ready-made concrete, and to otherwise deal in said product. (3) To engage in the construction of roads and streets, and to engage in any other business that the said corporation finds necessary in the conduct of said road and street construction. (4) To manufacture, purchase, sell and otherwise deal in sand and sand products and gravel and gravel products, and in any stock, ware, merchandise kindred to such products. (5) To manufacture, purchase, sell and otherwise deal in all supplies and raw and other materials in the manufacture of said sand and gravel and sand and gravel products (Corporation Book 7/Page 272, 1939).

Beginning in 1945, the Gudelsky family and the Contee Sand Gravel Company purchased parcels of land west of Muirkirk, along present-day Contee Road, Van Dusen Road and Old Furnace Road. By 1954, the company had acquired over 445 hectares (1,100 acres) of land, comprising land holdings called "Shenandoah Farm" 133 hectares (329.61 acres) and "Seven Knolls Farm" 184 hectares (455.4 acres) and including tracts owned by Frederick Raulin, John Lewis Smith and T. Howard Duckett. These parcels often contained residential buildings, such as the Gould House and a farmhouse on the Seven Knolls Farm tract. The Gould house remains on the south side of Van Dusen Road, while the house on Seven Knolls Farm tract was demolished.

On July 1, 1947, a new Certificate of Incorporation was recorded for the Contee Sand and Gravel Company, with W. Gibbs McKenney, Louis J. Berman and Robert Goldman as directors and Isadore Gudelsky as resident agent. The purpose statement for the corporation remained the same as in previous years except for one clause. The corporation had the authority to, "carry on and conduct a general engineering and contracting business, including therein constructing, enlarging, repairing, removing or otherwise engaging in any work upon buildings, roads, highways, bridges..." (Corporation Book BB 10/Page 64, 1947). This statement allowed the company to construct new equipment and structures to conduct the mining and processing operations.

The housing and road construction boom of the post World War II period, the establishment of mineral aggregate specifications for quality control in concrete products, and the purchase of large land holdings west of the original sand and gravel pits between 1945 and 1954 necessitated the construction of new structures and equipment. The center of mining operations for the Contee Sand and Gravel Company moved to Van Dusen Road at the crossing with Indian Creek. The company constructed an office building, maintenance warehouses, two sand washing plants, a concrete mixing plant, an asphalt mixing plant and various sheds circa 1950.

## CONTINUATION SHEET

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

RESOURCE NAME: Laurel Sand and Gravel Property

SURVEY NO.: PG: 60-18 (PACS E2.13)

ADDRESS: 5701, 5801, 5809 Van Dusen Road, Laurel, Prince George's County

### 8. Significance (Continued)

The company continued operations until filing for bankruptcy in the late 1970s. The property was purchased by the 1325 G Street Association Limited Partnership in 1981, which renamed the corporation Laurel Sand and Gravel Company. When the property was acquired in the early 1980s nearly all of the engineering structures and equipment were out-dated and replaced. The main office building on the south side of Van Dusen Road (east of Indian Creek) and three maintenance buildings on the north side of Van Dusen Road (west of Indian Creek) were retained. The ready-mix concrete plant was replaced and leased to the Bardon Company. One wood-frame shed, measuring approximately 3 meters (10 feet) by 30 meters (100 feet), with wood siding and an asphalt shingle roof was retained in the concrete mixing plant. One of the sand washing plants was demolished, while the other was replaced. Two metal-sided sheds and a small 2-story concrete block office building, constructed circa 1950, remain. The asphalt mixing plant was replaced and a stone crushing operation on the north side of Van Dusen Road was added. In the late 1940s and early 1950s, a concrete block "village" of worker housing was constructed on the south side of Van Dusen Road and approximately 245 meters (800 feet) east of the main office building. The village contained ten structures and used old concrete mixing barrels for the septic systems. The complex of buildings was demolished in the 1980s (Schmidt, 1997). The site was used as a gravel pit since the demolition of the structures, therefore there is no potential archaeological resources in this area. A sand deposit area has been located adjacent to the site. A dirt road leading to the sand piles is located in what would have been the rear yards of the houses (Schmidt, 1998).

#### National Register Evaluation:

The Laurel Sand and Gravel Company Property is not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. The property is not eligible under Criterion A. Although research conducted indicates that the property has an association with the sand and gravel industry in the Baltimore-Washington corridor from the early twentieth century, the property no longer possesses any buildings related to the industry from the first half of the twentieth century. The earliest industrial structures date to a period of alteration and expansion at the property circa 1950. A circa 1940s residential structure is located on the property, however, it is not historically associated with the industry. In addition, the industrial landscape has been altered by shifting gravel pits, processing areas and sand deposit areas. Chapters of the Society of Industrial Archaeology (SIA) in Baltimore and Washington, D.C. have been contacted regarding the significance of the Laurel Sand and Gravel Property. The SIA has not toured the facility and has no knowledge of the significance of the property.

The property does not have a core of structures which date to concurrent time periods. Buildings and machinery dating from circa 1950 through circa 1980 are scattered along Van Dusen Road. Many of the structures which were constructed circa 1950, including the worker housing and engineering structures such as the concrete mixing plant, asphalt mixing plant and sand washing machinery, have been demolished or replaced. The property does not retain structures which represent the practice of mining in the region from the early to mid twentieth century.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

RESOURCE NAME: Laurel Sand and Gravel Property

SURVEY NO.: PG: 60-18 (PACS E2.13)

ADDRESS: 5701, 5801, 5809 Van Dusen Road, Laurel, Prince George's County

8. Significance (Continued)

National Register Evaluation (continued):

The buildings on the property which relate to the industry do not date to an historic period. Therefore, National Register Criteria Consideration G, as set forth in National Register Bulletin 22, must be applied to assess the significance of a property which has a majority of structures constructed within the last fifty years. This property does not possess structures of exceptional importance required to meet this consideration. The buildings and machinery currently in operation on the property represent a sand and gravel industry of the 1980s, rather than an early twentieth century industry which would be considered significant within the historic context of sand and gravel industries.

According to historic research, the property has no association with persons who have made specific contributions to history, and therefore, it does not meet Criterion B.

The property is not eligible under Criterion C, as it is an undistinguished example of a mid-to late twentieth century industrial complex. There are no industrial structures which are more than fifty years old, therefore the buildings do not date to the period of significance of the property. The structures are of a common building type, and their architectural integrity has been compromised through the installation of replacement materials and additions to the structures.

The property has no known potential to yield important information, and therefore, does not meet Criterion D. The site of the worker housing has subsequently been used as a gravel pit; therefore, there is no potential for archaeological resources in this area. According to the archaeological context prepared for the Intercounty Connector Project by Chris Barse of SHA, the region which includes the Laurel Sand and Gravel Property was identified as highly disturbed with a low potential for archaeological resources.

|   |                                       |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST   |                                       |
| Eligibility recommended _____   | Eligibility Not Recommended <u>XX</u> |
| Comments <u>Not eligible due to constant change of site &amp; no resources older than 50 years.</u> |                                       |
| Reviewer, OPS: <u>[Signature]</u>   | Date: <u>5/14/98</u>                  |
| Reviewer, NR Program: <u>[Signature]</u>  | Date: <u>5/11/98</u>                  |

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. PG:60-18  
(PACS E2.13)

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See Continuation Sheet

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## 10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle name Beltsville

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

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

| state | code | county | code |
|-------|------|--------|------|
|-------|------|--------|------|

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|       |      |        |      |
|-------|------|--------|------|
| state | code | county | code |
|-------|------|--------|------|

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## 11. Form Prepared By

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name/title Caroline Hall/Ryan McKay

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organization P.A.C. Spero & Company

date October 1996/revised February 1998

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street & number 40 W. Chesapeake Avenue, Suite 412

telephone (410) 296-1635

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city or town Baltimore

state Maryland

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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  
DHCP/DHCD  
100 Community Place  
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023  
(410) 514-7600

CONTINUATION SHEET

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

RESOURCE NAME: Laurel Sand and Gravel Property

SURVEY NO.: PG: 60-18 (PACS E2.13)

ADDRESS: 5701, 5801, 5809 Van Dusen Road, Laurel, Prince George's County

## 9. Major Bibliographical References (Continued)

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CONTINUATION SHEET

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

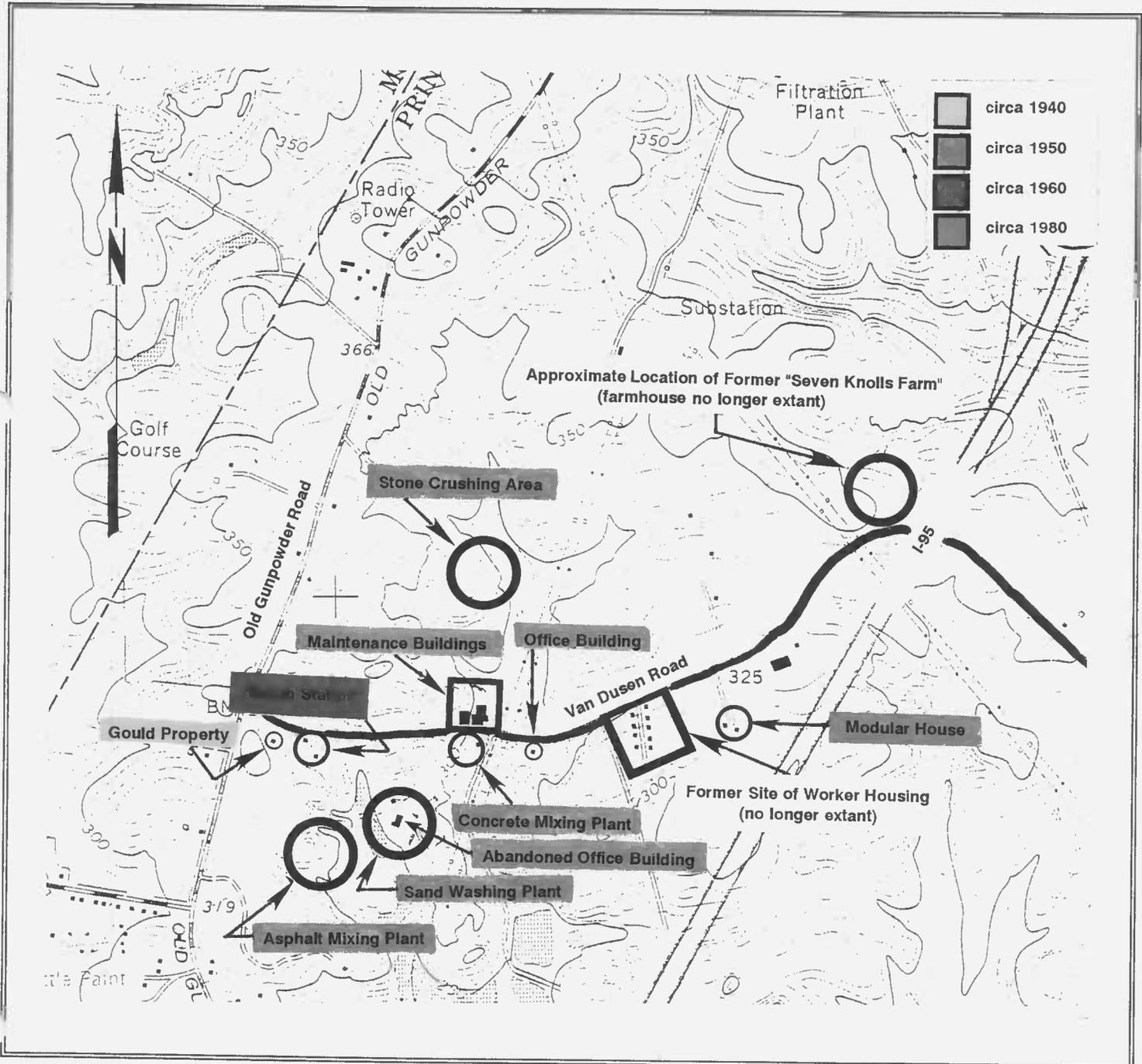
RESOURCE NAME: Laurel Sand and Gravel Property

SURVEY NO.: PG: 60-18 (PACS E2.13)

ADDRESS: 5701, 5801, 5809 Van Dusen Road, Laurel, Prince George's County

10. Geographical Data (Continued)

Resource Sketch Map:



CONTINUATION SHEET

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

RESOURCE NAME: Laurel Sand and Gravel Property

INVENTORY NO.: PG: 60-18 (PACS E2.13)

ADDRESS: 5701, 5801, 5809 Van Dusen Road, Laurel, Prince George's County

Maryland Comprehensive Historic Preservation Plan Data Sheet

Historic Context:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization:

Piedmont

Chronological/Developmental Period Theme (s):

Modern Period A.D. 1930 - present

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme(s):

Economic (Commercial and Industrial)

RESOURCE TYPE:

Category (see Section 3 of survey form):

Building

Historic Environment (urban, suburban, village, or rural):

Suburban

Historic Function(s) and Use(s):

Industrial

Known Design Source (write none if unknown):

None

Preparer:

P.A.C. Spero and Company

October 1996/revised February 1998

**ADDENDUM TO CONTEE SAND AND GRAVEL COMPANY**  
**MIHP NO. PG:60-18**

Address: 5701, 5801, 5809 Van Dusen Road, Laurel, Prince George's County, Maryland

*Industrial History of Prince George's County*

During the nineteenth century, sand and gravel mining was a localized industry. Northern Prince George's County was a rural area, with a network of narrow roads, including Furnace and Contee Roads connecting the outlying residents with the smaller villages. Contee Road linked the western part of the county with the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad's Contee Station east and south of Laurel. While the *1878 Hopkins Atlas*<sup>1</sup> (Attachment 1) for Prince George's County notes the presence of iron ore and the Muirkirk Furnace in the vicinity of the Contee Sand and Gravel mine, other large-scale mining activities such as clay pits for brick making or gravel pits for asphalt are not noted, as they would be on the twentieth century maps for the same area. Furthermore, the area around Indian Creek and Contee Road was undeveloped forested land. Only F.W. Plummer and Wm. Kelly are shown as landowners in the last quarter of the nineteenth century. Both properties would eventually be taken over by Contee Sand and Gravel for mining purposes.

In the twentieth century, the Maryland Geological Survey's geologists began publishing information about the mineral deposits of Maryland. Benjamin Miller's 1911 report, *The Mineral Resources of Prince George's County*, stated that the

mineral resources of Prince George's County are neither extensive nor especially valuable, but the county contains some deposits that are of considerable economic importance, although they have not hitherto been largely worked. Among the most important are clays, sands, gravels, and building stone.<sup>2</sup>

The map supplementing the 1911 Report indicated the presence of one new farm on the south sides of Contee Road, known as the Zantzinger Property, west of Furnace Road (Attachment 2). F.W. Plummer's farm (MIHP #PG:60-3) has a new entrance from Contee Road, while off the former entrance from Furnace Road has been closed off. However, nothing on the map indicates that the area around Indian Creek and Contee Road was mined at that time.

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<sup>1</sup> Hopkins, G. M., C.E., *Atlas of Fifteen Miles Around Washington, Including the County of Prince George Maryland*, Philadelphia, PA: 1878, maps of Vansville and Laurel regions.

<sup>2</sup> Miller, Benjamin, *The Mineral Resources of Prince George's County*, Maryland Geological Survey, Baltimore, MD: The Johns Hopkins Press, 1911, page 137, and "Map of Prince George's County and District of Columbia Showing The Geological Formations."

*Mine Site Chronology:* The 1926 15' USGS Laurel Quadrangle continues to depict the two farms north and south of Contee Road and one building west of Indian Creek.<sup>3</sup> The landscape of the mine is illustrated on this map as hilly (Attachment 3), and the map indicates that the contour interval is twenty feet. To the east, the farmsteads appear to be flatter, as the ground has been altered through the tilling of the land. In 1934, the United States Geological Survey conducted investigations of sand and gravel deposits between Washington, D.C. and Baltimore, Maryland. As Spero's 1998 form noted, *The Bulletin* specifically identified the Contee Gravel Company's operations at Indian Creek.<sup>4</sup> No buildings or structures are mentioned, but the aerial photographs for 1937-1938 indicate that one structure had been built: the sand washing complex on the west bank of Indian Creek (Attachment 4).<sup>5</sup>

Mining activities on both sides of Contee Road are evident in the 1937 aerial photograph.<sup>6</sup> In the northern mining area, a narrow isthmus connects one ovoid area to the larger site near the road, and an exterior haul road links the north field with Contee Road. On the south side of Contee, the west bank of Indian Creek in an active pit. However, the entire property remained surrounded by trees or farm land, except for the narrow strip of land which constitutes the Susquehanna Transmission Company's right-of-way for its transmission towers<sup>7</sup>.

There is little information about the mining activities during the early 1940s, while the United States fought in World War II. Road building was not activity that had a high priority for most of the war, since there were no engineers to design the roads, nor sufficient workers or materials with which to build them. In Maryland, the only roads that were built were the Suitland Parkway, Indian Head Highway (MD 210) and the extension of MD 236 to the Patuxent River Naval Air Station in St. Mary's County, all roads which connected military bases to Washington, D.C. However, in the post-war period, Contee Sand and Gravel began to expand. The 1949 7.5' USGS Laurel Quadrangle indicates that ten workers' houses and the office building east of Indian Creek, the warehouse building, the concrete mixing plant, the weigh station and the Gould House had all been built (Attachment 5).<sup>8</sup> This USGS map was created based on aerial photographs from 1947 and 1948. SHA staff have not been able to locate these

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<sup>3</sup> Department of Interior, United States Geological Survey, Map for Laurel, MD, published at Washington, DC by USGS, 1926.

<sup>4</sup> Darton, N.H., *Gravel and Sand Deposits of Eastern Maryland Adjacent to Washington and Baltimore*, United States Department of the Interior, Bulletin 906-A, Washington: United States Government Printing Office: 1939.

<sup>5</sup> Aerial Photograph dated May 31, 1937, #FC-135-21, Maryland Geological Survey, Baltimore, Maryland and 1938 Aerial Photograph, Countywide Planning Division, MNCPPC (Prince George's County), Upper Marlboro, Maryland.

<sup>6</sup> The road name was changed only after I-95 was built. Until the 1979 USGS Quadrangle, the road was called Contee if any name was identified.

<sup>7</sup> Because the Susquehanna Company's right of way occurred as the mine was started, it does not appear that the transmission line alters the integrity of the mine.

<sup>8</sup> Department of Interior, United States Geological Survey, Map for Laurel, MD, published at Washington, DC by USGS, 1949.

specific images. While the mining company did provide housing for some workers, that did not include the Gould House. The Gould House was constructed before the war<sup>9</sup>, and was not controlled by Contee Sand and Gravel at that time. However, a former employee of Contee Sand and Gravel, William (“Billy”) B. Martin, stated that he lived in other Contee owned housing in Silver Spring and Kensington, Maryland.<sup>10</sup> The additional housing sites indicate that Contee’s mining operations crossed over into Montgomery County.

The 1952 aerial image does not appear to contain all of the buildings identified on the 1949 Laurel Quadrangle (Attachment 6).<sup>11</sup> Missing are the office building and the weigh station. However, the road leading to the workers’ houses is present. A new wide haul road cuts through the trees to mine sites at the southern edge of the property (now east of I-95). Also in the photograph are the two buildings associated with sand cleaning, the sand washing apparatus and one very large gable roof building on the north side of Contee Road. The northwest section of the mine had been enlarged and continued to encroach on the surrounding farms. However, much of the area remained forested.

A second series of aerial photographs from 1957 shows all of the sites mined by the Contee Company. In this image (Attachment 7) several other discontinuous mine sites are visible. These may have been owned or controlled by Contee or by other mining companies then operating in the same area. Beginning in the late 1940s, Prince George’s County experienced steady population growth as more people came to live in the suburbs outside the District of Columbia. New roads, such as the Baltimore-Washington Parkway east of Laurel, and housing developments abounded. Concrete and asphalt were products in high demand. The image also provides information about the development of Contee Road. The road lost some of its sharp curve as it passed over the creek. Instead it had been straightened out, and portions of the old road were incorporated into the haul road system of the mine.

The ongoing development of the mine site indicates the importance of the industry to the local economy. By 1952, Contee had built the required pieces for large-scale mining operations. Business would remain steady through the early 1970s as construction of the I-95 corridor from Washington, D.C. to Cecil County, Maryland occurred. Maps from *The Directory of Mineral Producers* published in 1966 and 1971 shows how the various mining operations clustered around the construction areas and then moved south to new areas of activity once the interstate construction was complete (Attachments 8 and 9).<sup>12</sup>

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<sup>9</sup> 1940 in accordance with the 1998 Spero form.

<sup>10</sup> Email correspondence from William B. Martin, August 23, 2001.

<sup>11</sup> Aerial Photograph Dated October 17, 1952, #AHV-6K-90, Prince George’s County Soil Conservation District, Upper Marlboro, MD.

<sup>12</sup> Edwards, Jonathan, Jr., *Directory of Mineral Producers in Maryland – 1966*, Information Circular 3, Baltimore Maryland, 1966; and *Directory of Mineral Producers in Maryland – 1971*, Information Circular No. 11, Baltimore, Maryland, 1971, State of Maryland, Maryland Geological Survey, Baltimore, Maryland.

The 1964 7.5' Beltsville USGS Quadrangle (Attachment 10) with revisions in 1979, show the additions made in the 1960s to various buildings in the southern mine area, the network of roads and the stark change in the formerly hilly landscape.<sup>13</sup> As a result of some forty years of mining, the land had become flat and the forest had largely disappeared. Other alterations to the landscape include several new lagoons or ponds to contain Indian Creek. The Plummer and Zantzinger Farms remained active as farms. This would change by 1973 when Contee purchased the properties for mining purposes.<sup>14</sup>

*Significance:* The Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places requested that SHA assess significance both locally and regionally. Contee Sand and Gravel started the mining operations in the 1930s, and they continued in business at this site until 1981. However, because the National Register's regulations limit the period of significance to fifty years, it is SHA's opinion that the period of significance began in 1934 and ended in 1952. While Contee's mining activity continued for another thirty years, there is no evidence that the property meets the requirements for Criterion Consideration G. By 1952, the site formed a complete unit made up of the office buildings, sheds, processing equipment for washing, cleaning and storing the sand and gravel, the haul road network and the pits. Contee continued to develop the site, but the most active period appears to have been between 1957 and 1979, with many expansions into the farms surrounding the mines.

*Integrity:* When Laurel Sand and Gravel took over the site in the early 1980s, the new mining enterprise made alterations to the property, such as demolishing the ten workers' houses, a shed, the Gould House (as of 2001) and one of the concrete mixing plants, which was replaced with an asphalt plant. In addition to the demolition of buildings, the area around the former housing complex was mined for its gravel, thus altering the residential area of the mine. The new mining company extracted the remaining sand and gravel, and then began the reclamation process as required by law. Because the site had been extensively mined for the previous forty years, Laurel Sand and Gravel's operations focused on extracting the larger boulders which could be broken up into smaller usable pieces when put into the crusher. This new piece of equipment was added to the landscape in the early 1980s on the north side of Contee Road.<sup>15</sup>

Following the enactment of the environmental law in 1977, Contee Sand and Gravel was among the first to apply for mining permits for its site. Each permit that was issued contained a plan for extracting minerals and then for conducting the reclamation within a specific period of time, usually two years, but often within six months of the final mining efforts. The Maryland Department of the Environment's permits require that the pit be filled with clean fill, although minor amounts of concrete or asphalt are acceptable, while trash or reinforced concrete are not acceptable. The land is graded to

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<sup>13</sup> Department of Interior, United States Geological Survey, Map for Beltsville, Maryland, published 1964 and revised and republished 1979, USGS, Washington, DC, 1979.

<sup>14</sup> The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties form for the Plummer House (PG:60-3) completed in 1973 indicates that Contee then owned the land.

<sup>15</sup> Personal communication with Mr. Tim Schmidt, Laurel Sand & Gravel, August 10, 2001.

make it level and then seeded with grass to prevent erosion.<sup>16</sup> The reclamation process has been conducted for most of the mine on the east side of I-95, and is continuing to occur in the western portion of the site. At the same time, Laurel Sand and Gravel has leased various parts of the mine equipment to other smaller mining companies. For example, the concrete plant has been leased to Bardon Company, and the office building is leased to Bozzuto Landscaping. However, Laurel Sand and Gravel continues to use the sand washing equipment once every six months for smaller jobs as necessary. However, no active mining occurs at the site.<sup>17</sup> Some of the reclaimed land has been further converted. The Conterra Model Plane Airpark and the Fairland Regional Park are two local examples of reclaimed mine sites, once worked by Contee. The Conterra Airpark is the site of the Plummer farm on the north side of Contee Road. When the airpark was constructed, it required additional leveling in order to insure that the model plans could take off and land. Fairland Regional Park is west of Old Gunpowder Road, and some of it was mined by Contee or by others during the past sixty years. The Park is one example of a reclamation permit issued to Laurel Sand and Gravel who did not previously mine the site. Because the mining and reclamation sites are being converted to recreational or commercial uses, SHA does not believe that these retain historic integrity setting, design and association.

With regard to a boundary for the site, we believe it should be confined to that portion of the property west of I-95, since that was the area most heavily mined in the 1940s and early 1950s (Attachment 11).<sup>18</sup> While the mine is not an example of an industrial complex from the early part of the twentieth century, it does reflect the developments of surface mining practices from the mid-twentieth century (National Register Criterion A). However, because mining operations continued after the period of significance, and because some of the components have been demolished, the Contee Sand and Gravel Mine has lost integrity. Furthermore, although the individual mining structures, buildings and roads reflect that mid-century period, some have been replaced or altered and no longer retain architectural or engineering integrity (Criterion C). Finally, none of the literature indicates that the structures were unique or led to the development of new mining technologies. It is therefore SHA's opinion that the site is not eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A or C.

Form Prepared by: Anne E. Bruder  
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Maryland State Highway Administration  
September 5, 2001

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<sup>16</sup> Personal communication with Ms. Molly Gary, Maryland Department of the Environment, September 4, 2001.

<sup>17</sup> Mr. Tim Schmidt, August 10, 2001.

<sup>18</sup> Prince George's County Tax Map #9.



PG:60-18  
Laurel Sand and Gravel Property  
(Contee Sand and Gravel Property)  
5701, 5801, 5809 Van Dusen Road, Laurel  
Beltsville Quadrangle





1. PG:60-18
2. Laurel Sand & Gravel Co. property / Gould House
3. Prince George's Co., MD
4. Tim Tamburrino
5. 12/97
6. MD SHPO
7. View South
8. 1 of 23



- 1, PG:60-18
- 2, Laurel Sand & Gravel Co. property/Gould property, west elev.
- 3, Prince George's Co., MD
- 4, Tim Tamburrino
- 5, 12/97
- 6, MD SAPO
- 7, View Southeast
- 8, 20F23



1. PG:60-18
2. Laurel Sand & Gravel Co. property/Weigh Station
3. Prince George's Co., MD
4. Tim Tamburrino
5. 12/97
6. MD SHPO
7. View East
8. 3 of 23



1. PG: 60-18
2. Laurel Sand & Gravel Co. property / Sand washing area
3. Prince George's Co., MD
4. Tim Tamburrino
5. 12/97
6. MD SHPO
7. View Northeast
8. 4 of 23



1. PG:60-18
2. Laurel Sand & Gravel Co. property / Abandoned office bldg.
3. Prince George's Co., MD
4. Tim Tamburrino
5. 12/97
6. MD SHPO
7. View West
8. 5 of 23



- 1, PG:60+18
- 2, Laurel Sand & Gravel Co. property / Asphalt mixing plant
- 3, Prince George's Co., MD
- 4, Tim Tamburrino
- 5, 12/97
- 6, MD SHPO
- 7, View East
- 8, 6 of 23

LAUREL SAND & GRAVEL,  
INC.



1. PG:60-18
2. Laurel Sand & Gravel Co. property / Main office bldg.
3. Prince George's Co., MD
4. Tim Tamburrino
5. 12/97
6. MD SHPO
7. View South
8. 7 of 23



1. PG: 60-18
2. Laurel Sand & Gravel Co. property / Main office bldg.
3. Prince George's Co., MD
4. Tim Tamburrino
5. 12/97
6. MD SHPD
7. View Southeast
8. 8 of 23



1. PG:60-18
2. Laurel Sand & Gravel Co. property / Main office bldg.
3. Prince George's Co., MD
4. Tim Tamburrino
5. 12/97
6. MD SHPO
7. View Southeast
8. 9 of 23



1. PG:60-18
2. Laurel Sand & Gravel Co. property / Concrete mixing plant
3. Prince George's Co., MD
4. Tim Tamburrino
5. 12/97
6. MD SHPO
7. View East
8. 10 of 23



- 1, PG:60-18
- 2, Laurel Sand & Gravel Co. property/Sand sorting area
- 3, Prince George's Co., MD
- 4, Tim Tamburrino
- 5, 12/97
- 6, MD SHPO
- 7, View East
- 8, 11 of 23



1. PG: 60-18
2. Laurel Sand & Gravel Co. property / Maintenance bldg.
3. Prince George's Co., MD
4. Tim Tamburrino
5. 12/97
6. MD SHPO
7. View Northeast
8. 12 of 23



1. PG:60-18
2. Laurel Sand & Gravel Co. property / Quonset Hut
3. Prince George's Co., MD
4. Tim Tamburrino
5. 12/97
6. MD SHPO
7. View North
8. 13 of 23



1. PG: 60-18
2. Laurel Sand & Gravel Co. property/Equipment bldg.
3. Prince George's Co., MD
4. Tim Tamburrino
5. 12/97
6. MD SHPO
7. View Northeast
8. 14 of 23



1. PG:60-18
2. Laurel Sand & Gravel Co. property/Site of worker housing
3. Prince George's Co., MD
4. Tim Tamburrino
5. 12/97
6. MD SHPO
7. View South
8. 15 of 23



1. PG: 60-18
2. Laurel Sand & Gravel Co. property / Site of worker housing
3. Prince George's Co., MD
4. Tim Tamburrino
5. 12/97
6. MD SHPO
7. View Southeast
8. 16 of 23



- 1 PG: 60-18
- 2 Laurel Land & Gravel Property
- 3 Prince Georges Co, MD
- 4 San Ambrosino
- 5 2/98
- 6 MD SHPO
- 7 Modular House
8. 17 of 23



- 1 PG.60-18
- 2 Laurel Sand & Gravel Property
- 3 Prince Georges Co, MD
- 4 Jim Jamursund
- 5 2/98
- 6 MD SHPO
- 7 Shed/garage
- 8 19 of 23



- 1 PG:60-18
- 2 Laurel Sand + Gravel Property
- 3 Prince Georges Co., MD
- 4 Tom Tamburino
- 5 2/98
- 6 MD SHPO
- 7 Shed/garage
- 8 18 of 23



1. PG:60-18

~~2. Laurel Sand & Gravel Property~~

3. Prince Georges Co, MD

4. Jim Tamburino

5. 2/98

6. MD SHPO

7. Modular House

8. 2007 23



1 PG: 60-78

2 Laurel Sand - Gravel

3 Prince Georges Co., MD

4 Jim Tamburino

5 2/98

6 MD SHPO

7 Site of worker housing

8 21 of '23



- 1 PG 60-18
- 2 Laurel Sand & Gravel Property
- 3 Prince Georges Co, MD
- 4 Jim Lombardino
- 5 2/98
- 6 MD SHPO
- 7 Site of worker housing
- 8 22 of 23



- 1 PG. 60-18
- 2 Laurel Sand & Gravel Property
- 3 Prince Georges Co., MD
- 4 Jim Lambussino
5. 2198
- 6 MD SHPO
- 7 Sand deposit area next to site of worker housing
8. 23 of 23