

Memo to file

December 30, 2003

From: Peter E. Kurtze
Administrator, Evaluation and Registration

Re: PG:60-24
Laurel Block Corporation Property

The property documented in the following MIHP form has not been formally evaluated for eligibility for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. The comments in the text are those of the preparer of the documentation. The State Historic Preservation Officer has neither concurred nor disagreed with those comments.

CAPSULE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey No.: PG:60-24 (PACS 1.2) Construction Date: 1946

Name: Laurel Block Corporation Property

Location: 5800 Sandy Spring Road, Laurel Vicinity, Prince George's County

Private/Industrial/Occupied/Fair/Restricted

Description:

The Laurel Block Corporation Property is a 1-story, 6-bay commercial/industrial building on the north side of Sandy Spring Road in the Laurel vicinity, Prince George's County. Constructed in 1946, the building is rectangular in plan with several 1-story additions on the front elevation. The structure has a front gable roof with a false stepped parapet. The roof is covered in composite sheet roofing material. There is a front-gable roof addition with two shed roof extensions. It is of concrete block construction. The building has metal casement windows.

Significance:

The Laurel Block Corporation Property was constructed beginning in 1946 by Henry and Lena Gudelsky. The Gudelsky family were prominent land owners and business owners in Montgomery, Prince George's, and Charles Counties in the mid-twentieth century. As well as owning the Laurel Block Corporation, they owned Laurel Sand and Gravel (PG:60-18), and numerous other sand and gravel and block companies in the region. The Gudelskys purchases approximately 1.2 hectares (3 acres) of land from James and Edna Harrison in 1946. The parcel would later be known as Lot 7 in Wootens Corner subdivision, as laid out by the Harrisons in 1948. Henry and Lena Gudelsky sold the property to Albert and Jerome Gudelsky in 1960. They remain the current owners.

Maryland Historical Trust
 Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form
 Montgomery-Prince George's Short-term Congestion Relief

DOE ___yes ___no

1. Name: (indicate preferred name)

historic Laurel Block Corporation Property

and/or common

2. Location:

street & number 5800 Sandy Spring 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n/a not for publication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 | |
|----------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|
| <u> </u> district | <u> </u> public | <u>X</u> occupied | <u> </u> agriculture | <u> </u> museum |
| <u>X</u> building(s) | <u>X</u> private | <u> </u> unoccupied | <u>X</u> commercial | <u> </u> park |
| <u> </u> structure | <u> </u> both | <u> </u> work in progress | <u> </u> education | <u> </u> private |
| <u> </u> site | Public Acquisition | Accessible | <u> </u> entertainment | residence |
| <u> </u> object | <u> </u> in process | <u>X</u> yes: restricted | <u> </u> government | <u> </u> religious |
| | <u> </u> being considered | <u> </u> yes: unrestricted | <u>X</u> industrial | <u> </u> scientific |
| | <u>X</u> not applicable | <u> </u> no | <u> </u> military | <u> </u> other: |
| | | | <u> </u> transportation | |

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

name Albert and Jerome Gudelsky

street & number 7309 Barra Drive

telephone no.:

city,town Bethesda

state and zip code Maryland 20817

5. Location of Legal Description

Land Records of Prince George's County

liber 8870

street & number Prince George's County Judicial Center

folio 175

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:60-24 (PACS 1.2)

| 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: 1

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

The Laurel Block Corporation Property is a 1-story, 6-bay commercial/industrial building on the north side of Sandy Spring Road in the Laurel vicinity, Prince George's County. Constructed in 1946, the building is rectangular in plan with several 1-story additions on the front elevation. The structure has a front-gable roof with a false stepped parapet. The roof is covered in composite sheet roofing material. There is a front-gable roof addition with two shed roof extensions. It is of concrete block construction. The building has metal casement windows.

The south, or front elevation is the result of three distinct phases of building. The first phase consisted of the main building block, with a stepped false parapet. The lower half of that elevation is currently obscured by the second and third building periods. The second period addition consisted of a low, 1-story concrete block section with a front-gable roof and a shed roof portion to the side. There was also a shed roof addition added to the west side of the buildings. The third phase of building resulted in a flat-roof, rusticated concrete block section with a cantilevered overhang. There is a garage door opening in the side, shed roof addition. There are two 2-light sliding windows in the western half of the second period addition. In the third period addition, which currently serves as the office, there is a glass door in the first bay, and two window openings in the second and third bays. The window openings are each fitted with three 3-light casement windows.

The west elevation also shows the results of the three building phases. There are two window openings with 2-light sliding windows on the side shed-roof addition. There is one 12-light metal window in the front-gable addition. The middle panels are fixed, but the 3-light panels on the ends are casement windows. There is a window opening on the west side of the third phase addition. It has three 2-light casement windows.

The north elevation is built into the side of a hill. There are no openings on this elevation.

The east elevation also shows the results of the three building phases. There are three long, low storage compartments attached to the east side of the building. They are built of concrete block and are open on the east end. There is a filled-in door opening adjacent to the storage compartments. It now contains a small window. There are three window openings on the front-gable addition and one window opening on the third building phase addition. The window in the office addition is a 6-light fixed cashiers window. The first window in the front-gable addition is a 9-light window with a fixed center panel and end casement panels. The second window is a 12-light window with fixed center panels and end casement panels. The third window opening has two 2-light casement windows.

There are no outbuildings associated with this building, but the entire site is used for the storage and distribution of sand and gravel products and concrete block products.

The property is located on the north side of Sandy Spring Road (MD 198), with residential property to the north, south, east, and west. There are trees to the north and east of the property to shield the adjoining residential properties from the industrial nature of this site. The property's setting is relatively unchanged from its historic setting.

8. Significance

Survey No. PG:60-24 (PACS 1.2)

| 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"/> 1400-1499 | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic | <input type="checkbox"/> conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> law | <input type="checkbox"/> science |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599 | <input 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 | 1946 | Builder/Architect |
|----------------|---|-------------------|
| check: | Applicable Criteria: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D and/or | |
| | Applicable Exceptions: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> G | |
| | Level of Significance: <input type="checkbox"/> national <input type="checkbox"/> state <input type="checkbox"/> local | |

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

The Laurel Block Corporation Property was constructed beginning in 1946 by Henry and Lena Gudelsky. The Gudelsky family were prominent land owners and business owners in Montgomery, Prince George's, and Charles Counties in the mid-twentieth century. As well as owning the Laurel Block Corporation, they owned Laurel Sand and Gravel (PG:60-18), and numerous other sand and gravel and block companies in the region. The Gudelskys purchases approximately 1.2 hectares (3 acres) of land from James and Edna Harrison in 1946. The parcel would later be known as Lot 7 in Wootens Corner subdivision, as laid out by the Harrisons in 1948. Henry and Lena Gudelsky sold the property to Albert and Jerome Gudelsky in 1960. They remain the current owners.

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 (Land Records of Prince George's County, 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.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

RESOURCE NAME: Laurel Block Corporation Property

SURVEY NO.: PG:60-24 (PACS 1.2)

ADDRESS: 5800 Sandy Spring Road (MD 198), Laurel Vicinity, Prince George's County

8. Significance (Continued)

The Laurel Block Corporation Property is located to the west of Laurel, immediately to the east of the Montgomery/Prince George's County line. 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 hectares (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 hectares (9265 acres) by 1743. (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). The area is also known for its clay, sand, and gravel mining. Red and grey clays that are useful for making bricks have been mined in the area since the nineteenth century. Sand and gravel were also mined, and during the 1940s mining in the area increased significantly. Currently, much of the land between Laurel and Beltsville on either side of Interstate 95 consists of gravel pits and sand piles.

The Laurel Block Corporation Property is an industrial building. Industrial buildings constructed during the 1920-1945 period reflect the demand for considerable interior open space. With the coming of truck freight hauling, many industrial buildings were designed to facilitate 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.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

RESOURCE NAME: Laurel Block Corporation Property

SURVEY NO.: PG:60-24 (PACS 1.2)

ADDRESS: 5800 Sandy Spring Road (MD 198), Laurel Vicinity, Prince George's County

8. Significance (Continued)

National Register Evaluation:

Constructed 1946, the Laurel Block Corporation Property 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. Although the property was owned by the same family who operated the Laurel Sand and Gravel Company (PG:60-18), there is no evidence that this site is related to those operations. This site is used for the commercial distribution of building materials, and does not have a direct association with the mining and production of sand and gravel. There is no local significance for sites associated with the distribution of building materials. 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. It is not eligible under Criterion C, as it is an undistinguished example of a common industrial-type building which has been altered with additions. The building no longer retains integrity of design, feeling, materials or workmanship due to the alteration of the structure. Finally, preliminary studies conducted for this project indicate the need for further assessment of the archaeological potential of this property. Therefore, no evaluation under Criterion D is being conducted at this time.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

Eligibility recommended _____ Eligibility Not Recommended _____

Comments

Reviewer, OPS: _____ Date: _____

Reviewer, NR Program: _____ Date: _____

9. Major Bibliographical References Survey No. PG:60-24(PACS 1.2)

See Attached

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____
Quadrangle name Beltsville, MD Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

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

state code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Susan L. Taylor

organization P.A.C. Spero & Company

date May 1998

street & number 40 W. Chesapeake Avenue, Suite 412

telephone (410) 296-1635

city or town Baltimore

state Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
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 Block Corporation Property

SURVEY NO.: PG:60-24 (PACS 1.2)

ADDRESS: 5800 Sandy Spring Road (MD 198), Laurel Vicinity, Prince George's County

9. Major Bibliographical References (Continued)

- Brugger, Robert A. 1988. Maryland, A Middle Temperament 1634-1980. Baltimore and London: Johns Hopkins University Press.
- Cook, William G. 1976. Montpelier & the Snowden Family. Privately Printed.
- Hiebert, Ray Eldon, and Richard K. MacMaster. 1976. A Grateful Remembrance: the Story of Montgomery County, Maryland. Rockville, Maryland: Montgomery County Government and the Montgomery County Historical Society.
- Hopkins, G.M. [1879] 1975. Atlas of 15 Miles Around Washington including County of Prince George's, Maryland. Reprint, Riverdale, Maryland: Prince George's County Historical Society.
- 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. 1974. The Neighborhoods of Prince George's County. Upper Marlboro, Maryland: Prince George's County Government.
- Tindall, George Brown. 1984. America: A Narrative History. 2 vols. New York: W.W. Norton & Company, Inc.
- Virta, Alan. 1984. Prince George's County: A Pictorial History. Rev. 1991. Virginia Beach: The Donning Company Publishers.
- Virta, Alan. "The Pretty, Rosy-Cheeked Girls of Laurel." News and Notes from the Prince George's County Historical Society. (July 1980): 37.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

RESOURCE NAME: Laurel Block Corporation Property

SURVEY NO.: PG:60-24 (PACS 1.2)

ADDRESS: 5800 Sandy Spring Road (MD 198), Laurel Vicinity, Prince George's County

Maryland Comprehensive Historic Preservation Plan Data Sheet

Historic Context:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Western Shore

Chronological/Developmental Period Theme (s): Modern Period A.D. 1930-Present

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme(s): Industry

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, Commercial

Known Design Source (write none if unknown): None

Preparer
P.A.C. Spero & Company
May 1998



1 PG 160-201

2 Laurel Bldg. Corp. Property

3 Prince George's Co. Md

4 Susan Taylor

5 5178

6 MASHPO

7 SW corner detail

8 1779

248001.00000

LAUREL BLOCK CORP

BALCON
• Patios • Walkways
• Driveways • Pool Decks



1 PG 60-3-5

2 La. and Bl... Corp. Property

3 Prince Geo - Co. Md

4 Jenson Dayton

5 5/78

6 Md 5/1/78

7 S elevation

8 2 of 9

2024 NOV 22 00 00



1 P6-60-20

2 2nd Black Corp Property

3 Peace St. 2nd St. M.

4 Susan Taylor

5 5196

6 Old St. 4th

7 SW corner

8 3-A 7

27th Nov 1880 942



NO SIGN
EAB

1 PG:60-211

2 Samuel Black Corp Prop. Tax

3 Penna. Longwood Mtd

4 Susan Taylor ✓

5 5/77

6 MD SHPO

7 W elevation

8 4 of 9

27th Nov 1977



1 PG-60-24

2 Laurel Birch Corp Property

3 Penn. Sengels

4 Penn. Sengels

5 - 1/2

6 MA SHPO

7 NW corner

8 5 of 9

ENR 1/1/72 1982



1 Pt 1:30-1:45

2 Laurel Brook Corp. Property

3 Prince Georges Co. Md

4 Susan Taylor

5 1:30

6 Mrs. Smith

7 N. elevation

Station 1420-5, 1

8 6 of 9



1 Pg 60-24

2 Laurel Black Corp Paper

3 Prince George Co, Md

4 Susan Taylor

5 5/28

6 11/24 SAPO

7 East elevation

ER 11/11 1200 900

8 7 7 9



1. Pg. 60-24
2. Laurel Black Corp. Property
3. Purze Lumber Co. etc
4. Susan Dayton
5. 5197
6. MASHPS
7. E. elevation
8. 8 57 9
- 9.

2011-12-28



BALCON

BALCON
Interlocking Pavers
• Patios • Walkways
• Driveways • Pool Decks

BALCON
Specialized Products

1 Pt. 60-24

2 Laurel Block Corp. Property

3 Prince George Co, Md

4 Susan Taylor

5 5/77

6 Ord. 848

7 SE corner

STANDARD SURVEY

8 979