CAPSULE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey No.: PG:62-32 (PACS 2.9) **Construction Date:** circa 1940

Name: United Fabricators Incorporated Property

Location: 12306, 12332, 12300 Conway Road, Beltsville Vicinity, Prince George's County

Private/Industrial/Occupied/Good/Restricted

Description:

The United Fabricators Incorporated Property is an industrial property with three industrial buildings dating from circa 1940. The three buildings are now owned by separate owners, but all date to the period when the property was owned by United Fabricators Incorporated. The first building is a 1-story, side-gable corrugated metal building with a central vented cupola. The second building is a 1-story concrete block building with an arched roof and multi-light metal casement windows. The third building is a 1-story, 12-bay brick building with stepped parapet.

Significance:

The United Fabricators Incorporated Property was developed starting circa 1940 on 4.9 hectares (12.3 acres) of land adjacent to the B & O Railroad which was purchased from the heirs of Charles Coffin. The area where the three industrial buildings are now located was once the site of a small worker's housing community which developed in the late 19th century to support the Muirkirk Iron Furnace and kiln. The furnace had ceased operations in 1911, six years after the death of Charles Coffin. The Coffin Family continued to own the property until 1941, when it was purchased by United Fabricators Incorporated.

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

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 United Fabricators Incorporated Property (preferred)

and/or common James Myers Company, Rentacrate, Inc., U.S. Metal Forms and Tubes, Inc.

2. Location:

street & number 12306, 12332, 12300 Conway Road n/a not for publication

city, town Beltsville _X_ vicinity of congressional district

state Maryland county Prince George's

3. Classification:

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
___district	___public	_X_occupied	___agriculture	___museum
_X_building(s)	_X_private	___unoccupied	___commercial	___park
___structure	___both	___work in progress	___education	___private residence
___site	**Public Acquisition**	**Accessible**	___entertainment	___religious
___object	___in process	_X_yes: restricted	___government	___scientific
	___being considered	___yes: unrestricted	_X_industrial	___other:
	_X_not applicable	___no	___military	
			___transportation	

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

name Multiple Owners (see continuation sheet)

street & number telephone no.:

city,town state and zip code

5. Location of Legal Description

Land Records of Prince George's County liber 5399, 7292, 3249

street & number Prince George's County Judicial Center folio 422, 7, 569

city,town state MD

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ___federal ___state ___county ___local

depository for survey records

city,town state

4. Owner of Property (Continued)

James E. and Ellen S. Myers
12306 Conway Road
Beltsville, MD 20705

Jeffrey D. Faigle
1202 Brunswick Avenue
Trenton, NJ 08638

U.S. Metal Forms and Tubes, Inc.
Conway Road
Muirkirk, MD 20829

7. Description

Survey No. PG:62-32 (PACS 2.9)

Condition		Check one	Check one	
_excellent	___deteriorated	___unaltered	_X_original site	
_X_good	___ruins	_X_altered	___moved	date of move _____
___fair	___unexposed			

Resource Count: 3

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

The United Fabricators Incorporated Property is an industrial property with three industrial buildings dating from circa 1940. The three buildings are now owned by separate owners, but all date to the period when the property was owned by United Fabricators Incorporated. The first building is a 1-story, side-gable corrugated metal building with a central vented cupola. The second building is a 1-story concrete block building with an arched roof and multi-light metal casement windows. The third building is a 1-story, 12-bay brick building with stepped parapet.

The first building is 12306 Conway Road, currently occupied by the James Myers Company. The building is a long, rectangular structure with a side-gable roof covered in corrugated metal. A pyramidal roofed vent extends from the center ridgeline of the roof. The structure is of wood-frame construction sheathed in corrugated metal siding. The building is attached on its east side to a vertical-seam metal sided building which was built circa 1980. There is a pedestrian entrance on the north side of the building in the gable end. It has a single entrance at the northwest corner. There is also a vent located in the center of the wall. The west elevation has a brick veneer and a cornice which has been enclosed with aluminum siding. The south gable end is covered in aluminum siding to the level of the gable. There is a pedestrian entrance at the southwest corner and a large machine door centered on the wall. There is a large, flat roof metal overhang supported by metal poles attached to this end of the building.

The second building is 12332 Conway Road, and is currently occupied by Rentacrate, Inc. It is a large rectangular concrete-block building with an arched roof that extends into a flat-roof section. It is attached on its north end to a modern concrete block and metal building. The east elevation has seven large window openings each filled with two 25-light windows with central hopper panels. The south elevation serves as the current entrance to the building and has undergone recent renovations. The arched roof section has a centered garage door, a pedestrian entrance, and a 6-light window. The flat roof section is 5 bays wide. The entrance is in the second bay from the left. The other bays are fitted with paired 1/1 double-hung vinyl windows topped with 2-light transoms. The west elevation faces the B & O Railroad tracks. It is 8 bays wide. The first and second bays have 25-light windows, the third bay has a loading dock door. The fourth bay has paired 25-light windows. The fifth and sixth bays are fitted with smaller windows, of 6-lights and 9-lights, respectively. There is a door in the seventh bay, and a 1/1 double-hung vinyl window with a transom in the eighth bay.

The third building in 12300 Conway Road, and is currently occupied by U.S. Metal Forms and Tubes, Incorporated. It is a large rectangular building constructed of 6-1 common bond brick, with a flat roof. The east or front elevation faces onto Conway Road and has a stepped false parapet with concrete coping. It has 12 window openings which have all been boarded. The south elevation is 19 bays wide. It has loading dock doors in the fourth, eighth, thirteenth, and eighteenth bays. The other bays have openings for windows, which have been boarded. The west side of the building is attached to a modern brick loading dock. The north side of the building has a fenestration pattern similar to the south side, with 19 bays and a combination of loading dock doors and boarded windows. The flat roof metal overhang attached to the south end of Building 1 is adjacent to the north elevation of this building.

7. Description (Continued)

The three buildings which make up the United Fabricators Incorporated property are arranged around a U-shaped access road which is off of Conway Road. The buildings are situated in an industrial park which has continued to develop and expand into the late-20th century.

8. Significance

Survey No. PG:62-32 (PACS 2.9)

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
_prehistoric	__archaeology-prehistoric	__Community planning	__landscape architecture	__religion
__1400-1499	__archeology-historic	__conservation	__law	__science
__1500-1599	__agriculture	__economics	__literature	__sculpture
__1600-1699	__architecture	__education	__military	__social/ humanitarian
__1700-1799	__art	__engineering	__music	
__1800-1899	__commerce	__exploration/settlement	__philosophy	__theater
X_1900-	__communication	__industry	__politics/government	__transportation
		__invention	__other (specify)	

Specific dates circa 1940 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 United Fabricators Incorporated Property was developed starting circa 1940 on 4.9 hectares (12.3 acres) of land adjacent to the B & O Railroad which was purchased from the heirs of Charles Coffin. The area where the three industrial buildings are now located was once the site of a small worker's housing community which developed in the late 19th century to support the Muirkirk Iron Furnace and kiln. The furnace had ceased operations in 1911, six years after the death of Charles Coffin. The Coffin Family continued to own the property until 1941, when it was purchased by United Fabricators Incorporated.

Muirkirk is 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).

Iron ore was noticed in the Muirkirk area about 1800, but since there is no natural source of power there and overland travel was difficult until the railroad was built, it was not until 1847 that the iron was mined (Brennan 1974: 2). The Ellicott family of Ellicott's Mills established a furnace at what is now the junction of U.S. 1 and Muirkirk Road. During the nineteenth century, the Muirkirk furnace supplied pig iron for use as gun carriages and engine cylinders. The Muirkirk MARC train station and a paint pigment manufacturing plant now occupy the site of the furnace.

The Muirkirk settlement, near the intersection of Muirkirk Road and Old Baltimore Pike, consisted of the furnace, kilns, the mansion of Charles Coffin, who owned the furnace after the Ellicotts, approximately thirty workers residences, a store and post office. Suburban development began with the formation of the Muirkirk Land Company and the construction of electric street car lines through Muirkirk to Laurel. The furnace operated until 1911, and was one of the last furnaces operating in Maryland (Brennan 1974: 3; Prince George's County 1974: 290).

The Muirkirk 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.

8. Significance (Continued)

Currently, much of the land between Laurel and Beltsville on either side of Interstate 95 consists of gravel pits and sand piles.

The United Fabricators Incorporated Property consists of three examples of industrial buildings. The most prevalent form of factory structure is a utilitarian single or multi-story form, with no formal architectural style. These buildings were used to produce component parts of a product or to perform specialized manufacturing functions. The size, shape and form of the building is dependant upon the building technology in use at the time of construction and according to the intended function of the building. The vernacular tradition of factory construction is a small or medium-sized building, often of masonry construction. The nineteenth century factory was frame, stone or brick, with small windows due to bearing-wall construction. The development of steel and reinforced concrete structural frames in the late nineteenth century eliminated the need for bulky bearing-wall construction and allowed larger exterior windows. The roof form was often pitched until the 1870s, at which time the roofs became flat or low-pitched (Vogel 1985, 103).

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.

8. Significance (Continued)

National Register Evaluation:

Constructed circa 1940, the United Fabricators Incorporated 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. 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 all of the buildings have been altered, are undistinguished examples of industrial building types, and do not hold together as a single resource. 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 X

Comments

Reviewer, OPS: _____ Date: 4/23/99

Reviewer, NR Program: _____ Date: 4/23/99

9. Major Bibliographical References Survey No.PG:62-32 (PACS 2.9)

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 purposed 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

9. Major Bibliographical References (Continued)

Brennan, John C. 1974. The Muirkirk Iron Mines and the 1940 WPA Maryland Guidebook. Unpublished paper.

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.

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

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

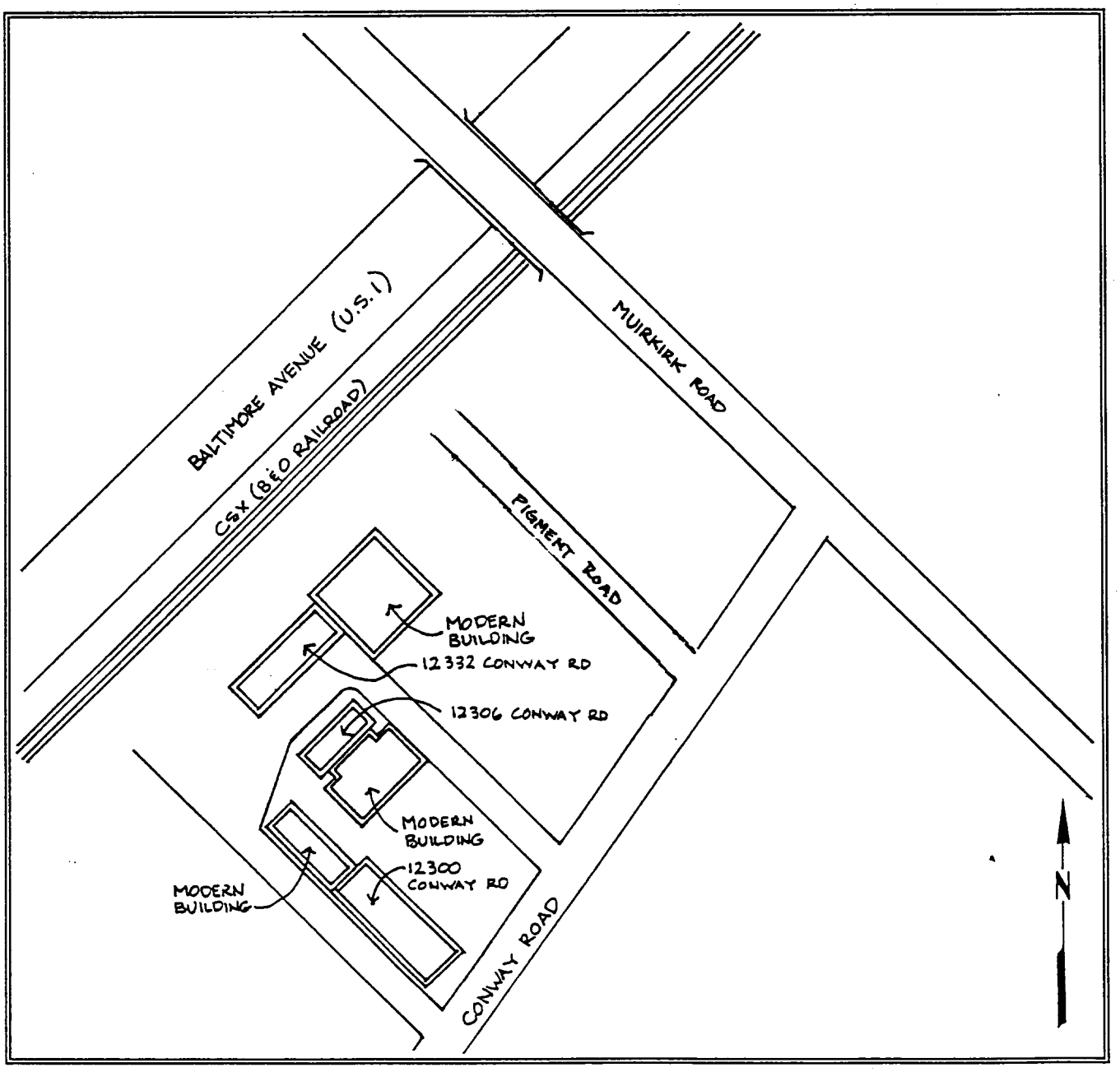
Tindall, George Brown. 1984. America: A Narrative History. 2 vols. New York: W.W. Norton & Company, Inc.

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

Vogel, Robert M. 1985. "Industrial Structures." In Built in the U.S.A., ed. Diane Maddex, 102-107. Washington, D.C.: The Preservation Press.

10. Geographical Data (Continued)

Resource Sketch Map:



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:

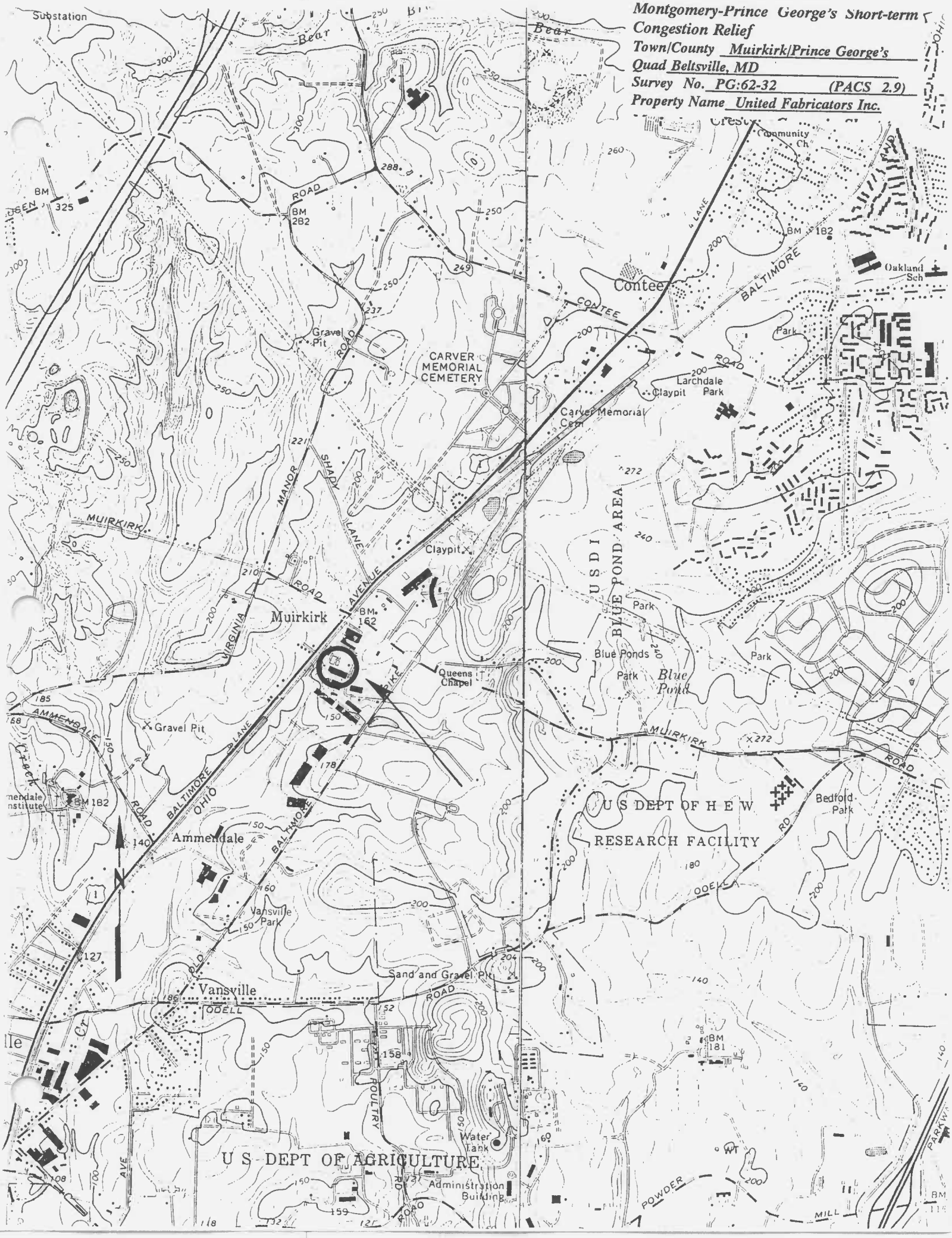
Category (see Section 3 of survey form): Buildings

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

Historic Function(s) and Use(s): Industrial

Known Design Source (write none if unknown): None

Montgomery-Prince George's Short-term Congestion Relief
Town/County Muirkirk/Prince George's
Quad Beltsville, MD
Survey No. PG:62-32 (PACS 2.9)
Property Name United Fabricators Inc.



1 PG:62-32

2 12306 Conway Rd - United Parcel Service Building

3 Prince Georges Co. MD

4 Susan Taylor

5 1/95

6 MD SHPO

7 North & West

8 1 of 12

1 PG:62-32

2 12306 Cummings Dr UNITED FABRICATORS INC BUILDING

3 Prince Georges Co MD

4 Susan Taylor

5 5/98

6 MD SHPO

7 Sue Corner

8 2 of 12

1 PG:62-32

2 12-306 Contractor UNITED FABRICATORS INC. BUILDING 1

3 Prince George's Co. MD

4 Susan Taylor

5 6/98

6 MD SHPO

7 W elevation

8 3 of 12

FORD

1 PG:62 32-

2 12332 Conway Rd - United Therapeutics Inc - Building 2

3 Prince George's Co MD

4 Susan Taylor

5 5/98

6 MD SHPO

7 east elevation

8 4 of 12

1 PG:62-32

2 12332 Conway Rd, United Fabricators Inc. Building 2

3 Prince George's Co, MD

4 Susan Taylor

5 5/98

6 MD SHPO

7 SE Corner

8 5 of 12

12332

1 PG:62-32

2 12332 Conway Dr, Unitd Fabricators Inc. Building 2

3 Prince Georges Co. MD

4 Susan Taylor

5 5/98

6 MC SHPO

7 E elevation

8 6 of 12

RENTACRATE

1 PG 62-32

2 12332 Conway Rd - United Fabricators Inc - Building 2

3 Prince George's Co. Md.

4 S. Jean Taylor

5 5/98

6 MD SHPO

West elevation

8 7 of 12

1 PG:62-32

2 [illegible] Savannah [illegible] FABRICATORS INC BUILDING 3

3 Prince Georges Co. MD

4 [illegible]

5 5/98

6 MD SHPO

7 [illegible]

8 8 of 12

1 PG:62-32

2 [illegible] Cutaway Dr - [illegible] Fabricators Inc - Building 3

3 Prince Georges Co, MD

4 Susan Taylor

5 5/98

6 MD SHPO

7 E. elevation

8 9 of 12

1 PG:62-32

2 12300 Cutway Dr - United Tech [illegible] - Building 3

3 Prince Georges Co, MD

4 Susan Taylor

5 5/98

6 MD SHPO

7 SE corner

8 10 or 12

PG: 62 32

12 [illegible] Conway Rd - United Fabrications, Inc Building 3

Prince Georges Co MD

11 Susan Taylor

5/98

6 MD SHPO

7 US metal forms + tubes, [illegible] elevation

8 11 of 12

1 PG:62-32

2 12300 Conway Dr - United Fabricators Inc Building 3

3. Prince George's Co. MD

4 Susan Taylor

5 3/98

6 MD SHPO

7 N elevation

8 12 of 12