CAPSULE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey No.: PG:LAU-1-11 (PACS 1.15) **Construction Date:** circa 1885

Name: Robert Coward Property

Location: 111 Second Street, Laurel, Prince George's County

Private/Commercial/Occupied/Good/Restricted

Description:

The Robert Coward Property is a 2-story, 3-bay front-gable building on the west side of Second Street in Laurel, Prince George's County. Constructed circa 1885, the building is rectangular in plan, and has a 1-story rear shed-roof addition on the northwest corner. The structure has a front-gable roof covered in asphalt shingles with an interior-end brick chimney on the rear elevation. It is of wood-frame construction with vinyl siding, and it has a parged stone foundation. The windows are double-hung wood-sash. The building has a 1-story hipped roof porch on the front elevation.

Significance:

The Robert Coward Property was built circa 1885 on 696 square meters (7500 square feet) of land which was purchased from Isabella Young in 1886. Robert and Emma Coward sold the property in 1893 to James Travers. Louise Lewis purchased the property in 1919. It was sold in 1927 to Ethel Millbrook. The heirs of Ethel Millbrook sold the property to the current owners in 1977.

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

Survey No. PG:LAU-1-11 (PACS 1.15)

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 Robert Coward Property (preferred)

and/or common Parsons Property

2. Location:

street & number 111 Second Street n/a not for publication

city, town Laurel ___ 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	_X_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	___industrial	___other:
	_X_not applicable	___no	___military	
			___transportation	

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

name John and Carolyn Parsons

street & number 125 River Run telephone no.:

city,town Queenstown state and zip code Maryland 21658

5. Location of Legal Description

Land Records of Prince George's County liber 4726

street & number Prince George's County Judicial Center folio 96

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:LAU-1-11 (PACS 1.15)

Condition		Check one	Check one	
__excellent	___deteriorated	___unaltered	_X_original site	
_X_good	___ruins	_X_altered	___moved	date of move _____
___fair	___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 Robert Coward Property is a 2-story, 3-bay front-gable building on the west side of Second Street in Laurel, Prince George's County. Constructed circa 1885, the building is rectangular in plan, and has a 1-story rear shed-roof addition on the northwest corner. The structure has a front-gable roof covered in asphalt shingles with an interior-end brick chimney on the rear elevation. It is of wood-frame construction with vinyl siding, and it has a parged stone foundation. The windows are double-hung wood-sash. The building has a 1-story hipped roof porch on the front elevation.

The east, or front elevation has a wrap-around porch with turned posts, flat-sawn brackets, and a square baluster rail. The porch is supported on brick piers. The basement level is obscured by the porch. The first story entrance is located in the second bay of the main block. The door is carved, and it has a 2-light transom. The fenestration is asymmetrical. The first bay has a 12-light bowed picture window. The third bay is located on the rear addition, and has a 2/2 double-hung window. The second story has two 2/2 double-hung windows. There is a louvered vent in the gable.

The north elevation has been altered by the rear addition. The porch extends to this elevation, and steps lead to a door in the second bay on the first story. The fenestration is symmetrical. The first bay has a 2/2 double-hung window. The second story has three 2/2 double-hung windows. The rear addition extends west past the main block of the building.

The west, or rear elevation has had a door added in the rear addition. There is a bulkhead door at the basement level of the main block. There are no openings on the first story, and the second story has two 6/6 double-hung windows.

The west elevation has been altered and the fenestration pattern has been changed. There is a door centered on the first story. There is an octagonal window above the door. The second story has two fixed-light windows.

There are no outbuildings associated with this building.

The Robert Coward Property is located on the west side of Second Street, and is surrounded by commercial properties. The setting is currently commercial, but the historic setting was a low-density residential neighborhood.

8. Significance

Survey No. PG:LAU-1-11 (PACS 1.15)

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	
X_1800-1899	__commerce	__exploration/settlement	__philosophy	__theater
__1900-	__communication	__industry	__politics/government	__transportation
		__invention	__other (specify)	

Specific dates circa 1885 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 Robert Coward Property was built circa 1885 on 696 square meters (7500 square feet) of land which was purchased from Isabella Young in 1886. Robert and Emma Coward sold the property in 1893 to James Travers. Louise Lewis purchased the property in 1919. It was sold in 1927 to Ethel Millbrook. The heirs of Ethel Millbrook sold the property to the current owners in 1977.

The Robert Coward Property is located on Laurel. 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 Robert S. Coward Property is an example of a front-gable building, probably used as a shop on the first floor and a residence on the second. Typically in such buildings, the front shop space was unheated, while the rear counting-room and upstairs were heated. Late-nineteenth and early-twentieth century rural, small-scale commercial buildings were most likely adaptations of simple dwelling and outbuilding forms. Often of frame construction and 1- to 2-stories tall, these buildings were built to serve specific roadside functions such as shops and stands. In 2-story structures, the top story provided living space for the proprietor. These buildings usually had front-gable or parapeted flat roofs and typically featured a large display window and a prominent sign over the entrance. Decorative features were limited to a transom over the door.

8. Significance (Continued)

National Register Evaluation:

Constructed circa 1885, the Robert Coward 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 it is an undistinguished example of a front-gable building which has been altered with vinyl siding and a rear addition. The interior layout of the building has been altered to suit modern commercial need. The property no longer retains integrity of materials, workmanship, feeling, or association. Finally, the structure has no known potential to yield important information, and therefore, is not eligible under Criterion D.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

Eligibility recommended_____ Eligibility Not Recommended X

Comments

Reviewer, OPS: [signature] Date: 9/7/99

Reviewer, NR Program: [signature] Date: 9/7/99

9. Major Bibliographical References Survey No. PG:LAU-1-11(PACS 1.15)

See Attached

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____
Quadrangle name Laurel, 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)

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.)

McAlester, Virginia and Lee. 1984. A Field Guide to American Houses. New York: Alfred A. Knopf.

Poe, Gertrude L. 1970. Laurel, Maryland: Centennial Souvenir Booklet. Laurel, Maryland: The News Leader.

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.

Maryland Comprehensive Historic Preservation Plan Data Sheet

Historic Context:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Western Shore

Chronological/Developmental Period Theme (s): Industrial/Urban Dominance A.D. 1870-1930

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme(s): Commerce/ Architecture

RESOURCE TYPE:

Category (see Section 3 of survey form): Building

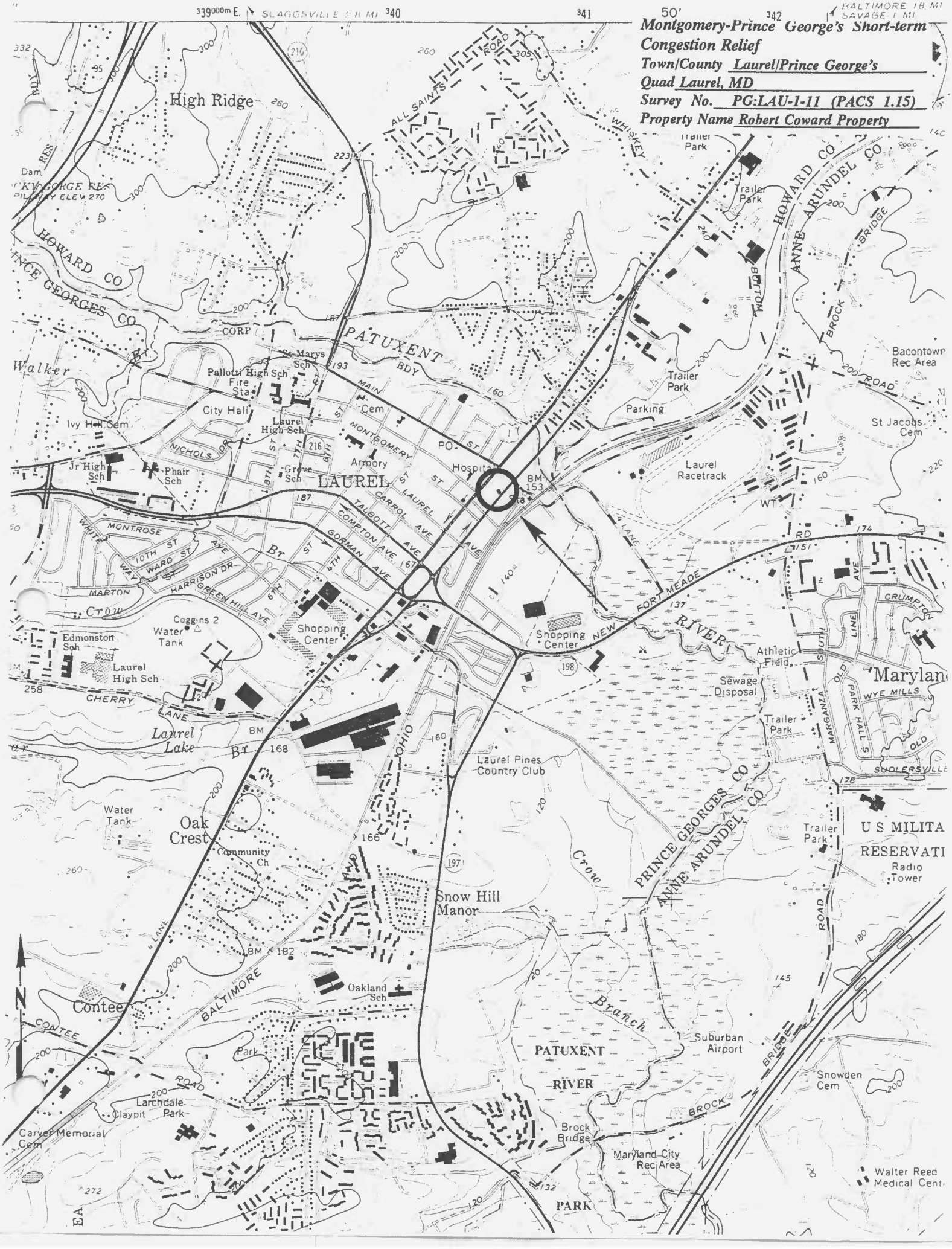
Historic Environment (urban, suburban, village, or rural): Village

Historic Function(s) and Use(s): Commercial/Private Residence

Known Design Source (write none if unknown): None

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

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY



1 PG:Lau-1-11

2 Robert Coward Property

3 Prince Georges Co Md

4 Susan Taylor

5 5/98

6 Md SHPO

7 E elevation

8 1 of 8

1 PG Lau 1-11

2 Robert Coward Property

3 Prince George's Md

4 Susan Taylor

5 5/98

6 Md SHPO

7 NE corner

8 2 of 8

1 PG Lane 1-11

2 Robert Coward Property

3 Prince George Co, Md

4 Susan Taylor

5 5/98

6 Md St Pl

7 N elevation

8 3 of 8

CH.H.H.H. 1200 SEP

1 [illegible]

2 Robert [illegible] Property

3 [illegible] Md

4 Susan [illegible]

5 5/98

6 Md SHPO

7 New [illegible]

8 4/98

1 PG Lake [illegible]

2 Robert Coward Property

3 Prince Georges Co. Md

4 Susan Taylor

5 5/28

6 Md SHPO

7 W elevation

8 5 [illegible]

1 PS Law [illegible]

2 Robert Howard Property

3 [illegible] Co, Md

4 Susan Taylor

5 5/98

6 Md SHPO

7 [illegible] corner

8 6 of 8

DINER

1 PG:Lan-1-11

2 Robert Coward Property

3 Prince George Co Mx

4 Susan Taylor

5 5/98

6 MASHPO

7 S elevation

8 7 of 8

1 PG. Lan-1-11

2 Robert Coward Property

3 Prince George Co Md

4 Susan Taylor

5 5/98

6 MD SHPO

7 SE corner

8 8 of 8