

CAPSULE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey No.: PG:LAU-1-16 (PACS 1.20) Construction Date: 1951

Name: Tastee Diner Property

Location: 118 Washington Boulevard, Laurel, Prince George's County

Private/Commercial/Occupied/Good/Unrestricted

Description:

The Tastee Diner Property is a 1-story, 3-bay commercial building on the east side of Washington Boulevard in Laurel, Prince George's County. Constructed in 1951, the building is a streamlined stainless steel rectangle attached to a 1-story yellow brick kitchen and service wing. The structure has a flat roof, and metal awnings over the windows. It is of stainless steel and brick construction and it has a brick foundation. The windows are fixed plate glass. The building has a centered projecting entrance bay with brick steps leading up to the doors.

Significance:

The Tastee Diner was brought to Laurel from Vineland, New Jersey by truck in 1951. The diner was located on lots 7, 8, and 9 in Block 56, which were owned by Walter Susini, Harry Susini, and Frank Tuozzo as the S & T Realty Company. The trustee for the S & T Realty Company Partnership sold the property in 1982 to M & W Tastee Foods of Beltsville, Incorporated. There is a second Tastee Diner in Silver Spring, Maryland.

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 Tastee Diner Property (preferred)
 and/or common Tastee Foods Property I

2. Location:

street & number 118 Washington Boulevard n/a not for publication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	
<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 checked="" 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
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	residence
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	

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

name M & W Tastee Foods of Beltsville, Incorporated
 street & number 118 Washington Boulevard telephone no.:
 city,town Laurel state and zip code Maryland 20707

5. Location of Legal Description

Land Records of Prince George's County liber 5550
 street & number Prince George's County Judicial Center folio 726
 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-1-16 (PACS 1.20)

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date of move _____
<input 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 Tastee Diner Property is a 1-story, 3-bay commercial building on the east side of Washington Boulevard in Laurel, Prince George's County. Constructed in 1951, the building is a streamlined stainless steel rectangle attached to a 1-story yellow brick kitchen and service wing. The structure has a flat roof, and metal awnings over the windows. It is of stainless steel and brick construction and it has a brick foundation. The windows are fixed plate glass. The building has a centered projecting entrance bay with brick steps leading to the doors.

The south, or front elevation is the principal facade of the diner. It faces onto an alley that connects Washington Boulevard with Second Street. The lower walls are molded stainless steel, and the upper walls have plate-glass windows. There are eight windows on either side of a centered projecting entrance bay. The doors are located on the east and west sides of the entrance bay. The yellow-brick service ell is barely visible behind the streamlined diner facade.

The east elevation is composed of the end of the diner and the end of the brick service wing. There are five windows on the diner. The service wing has three windows, and the last one is boarded. The windows are 27-light, metal frame with brick sills.

The north elevation is the rear of the brick service building. There are three boarded windows in the basement level. There are four window openings on the first story. All are blocked with concrete block, and two aluminum vents extend from the wall to the roof.

The west elevation consists of the formstone covered brick service wing and the west end of the diner. There is a bar in the brick building, and two doors flank a fixed-light window. There are five windows on the diner end.

The diner retains its neon signs on Second Street and Washington Boulevard. A silhouette of a cook carrying a plate of food is located in a lunette above the words "Tastee Diner."

There are no outbuildings associated with this property.

The Tastee Diner Property is located on the east side of Washington Boulevard, and is surrounded by commercial properties to the north, west, and south, and converted residential properties to the east. The setting is relatively unchanged from the historic setting.

8. Significance

Survey No. PG:LAU-1-16 (PACS 1.20)

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 1951 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 Tastee Diner was brought to Laurel from Vineland, New Jersey by truck in 1951. The diner was located on lots 7, 8, and 9 in Block 56, which were owned by Walter Susini, Harry Susini, and Frank Tuozzo as the S & T Realty Company. The trustee for the S & T Realty Company Partnership sold the property in 1982 to M & W Tastee Foods of Beltsville, Incorporated. There's a second Tastee Diner in Silver Spring, Maryland.

The Tastee Diner is located in 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 Tastee Diner is an example of a pre-fabricated mid-twentieth century diner building. Diners began in the late-nineteenth century as horse-drawn freight wagons which served lunches to night-shift workers. Since that time the function of diners has been to provide an efficient, economical space in which to prepare, serve, and eat food. The modern diner evolved after the depression, and was reduced to its well-known sleek form. Stainless steel, porcelain enamel, and glass block were the materials of choice to present an image of cleanliness and mobility. The interiors were also streamlined with stainless steel, Formica, chrome, and ceramic tile. Diners grew in size throughout their evolution. Diners started with a counter with a single row

CONTINUATION SHEET

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

RESOURCE NAME: Tastee Diner Property

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ADDRESS: 118 Washington Boulevard, Laurel, Prince George's County

8. Significance (Continued)

of stools and eventually became wider to accommodate window booths in addition to the lunch-counter stools. Diners began to lose their mobile image in the 1950s, as picture windows began to dominate the facades, diners were placed on permanent foundations, and kitchen facilities were moved into adjacent service wings (Maddex 1985:58-59).

National Register Evaluation:

Constructed in 1951, the Tastee Diner 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 example of a diner built in 1951. Diners are a common building type, and while this is a good example of a diner dating from the 1950s, it does not have exceptional design qualities or integrity. It does not meet Criteria Consideration G for properties which have achieved significance during the last 50 years, because it does not have exceptional importance within the local context of development, nor is it a unique example of diner architecture. 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 XX

Comments

Reviewer, OPS: [Signature] Date: 9/2/98

Reviewer, NR Program: [Signature] Date: 9/3/98

[Handwritten mark]

9. Major Bibliographical References Survey No PG:LAU-1-16(PACS 1.20)

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 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: Tastee Diner Property

SURVEY NO.: PG:LAU-1-16 (PACS 1.20)

ADDRESS: 118 Washington Boulevard, Laurel, 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.)
- Maddex, Diane, ed. 1985. Built in the U.S.A. Washington, D.C.: The Preservation Press.
- 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.

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MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

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ADDRESS: 118 Washington Boulevard, Laurel, 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): Architecture, Transportation

RESOURCE TYPE:

Category (see Section 3 of survey form): Building

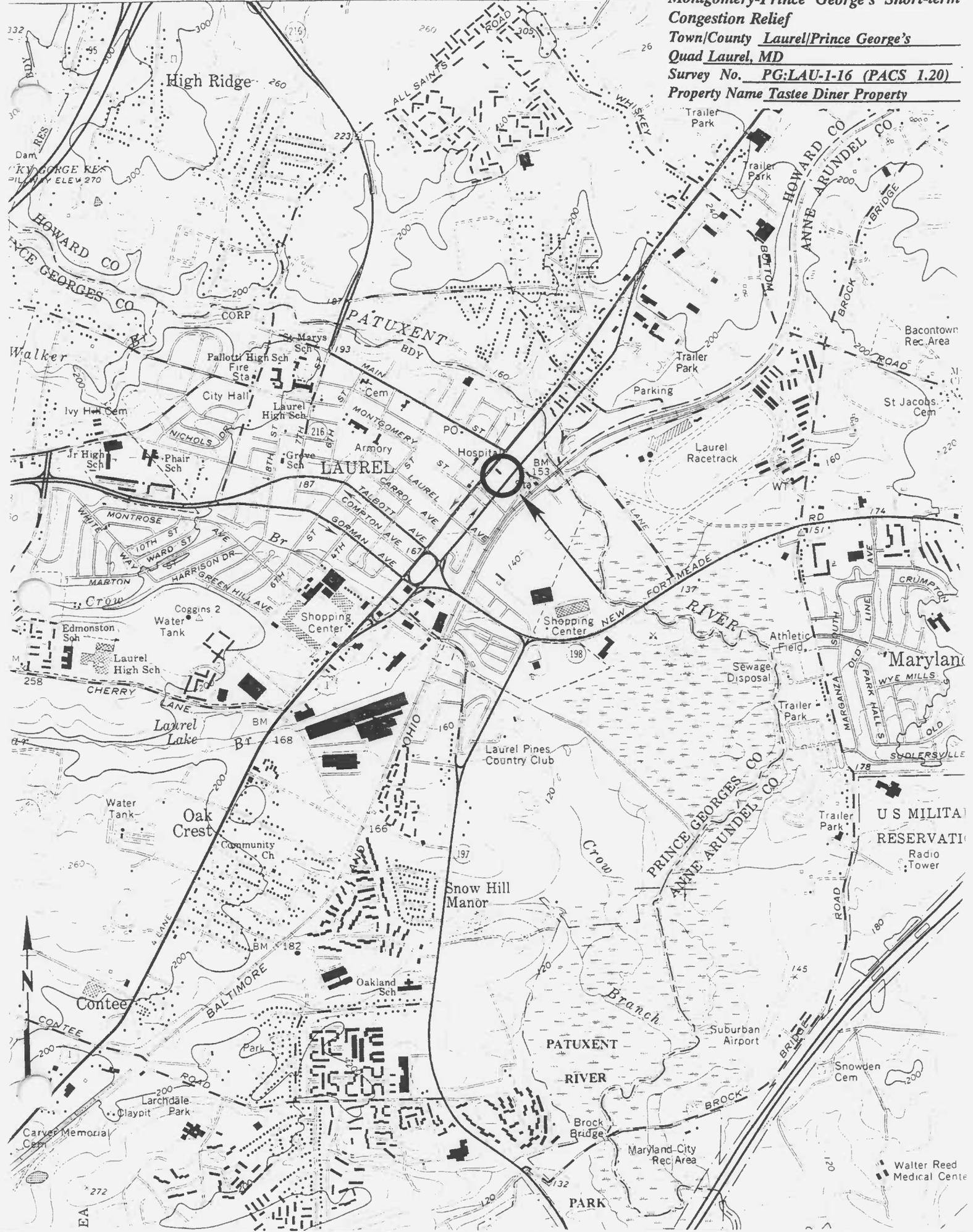
Historic Environment (urban, suburban, village, or rural): Urban

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

Known Design Source (write none if unknown): None

50' 347' BALTIMORE 16 M. SAVAGE 1 MI

**Montgomery-Prince George's Short-term
Congestion Relief**
Town/County Laurel/Prince George's
Quad Laurel, MD
Survey No. PG:LAU-1-16 (PACS 1.20)
Property Name Tastee Diner Property





- 1 PG - Can 1-16
- 2 Duke Turner Property
- 3 17. mile George's Dr, Md
- 4 Lease - info
- 5 5/178
6. WASHPO
- 7 S. elevation.
- 8 1 of 9

2011 11 12 10:54



- 1 PE: 1611-1-16
- 2 Waste Director Property
- 3 Prince Georges Co, Md
- 4 Susan Taylor
- 5 5/98
- 6 Md State
- 7 SE corner
- 8 2 of 9

2014 APR 1 10:06 AM



1 PG: Law 1-16

2 Jester Diner Property

3 Prince George's Co. Md

4 James Taylor

5 1-17

6 MT SHPO

7 E elevations

8 " of 9

14 11 11 12:00 PM



- 1 PG: Lan-1-16
- 2 Justice Dinner Property
- 3 Police Agency Co 1:2
- 4 Susan Taylor
- 5 5/98
- 6 Mid 5-45
- 7 Dinner, NE corner
- 8 4 of 7

DATE FILED 12/20/08



- 1 PRILAV 1-16
- 2 Justice Dir & Property
- 3 Prince Georges Co, Md
- 4 Susan Taylor
- 5 5/21
- 6 Md State
- 7 Dir & N. elevation
- 8 5/24

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- 1 P. C. Lane 1-1-2
- 2 Jester Diner Property
- 3 P. C. Lane Storage, Co. Md
- 4 Loran Taylor
- 5 1-1-2
- 6 NW SHPC
- 7 NW corner
- 8 6 of 9

1220558 1220558



- 1 PG- cam 1-16
- 2 Jacky D. net Property
- 3 Power House - in Co. 12
- 4 James Taylor
- 5 5/98
- 6 MID STOPS
- 7 W elevation
- 8 7.52 9

OPEN & N 1200 SFF



- 1 PG. Law 1-16
- 2 Eastern Dist. Properties
- 3 Prince Georges Co Md
- 4 Susan Taylor
- 5 5/98
- 6 Md SHIP
- 7 SW ENVIR
- 8 8 of 0

DINER PARKING ONLY
BACKSTREET
FRI SAT

- 1 PG: Lau 1-16
- 2 Justice Diner Property
- 3 Prince George's Co, Md
- 4 Susan Taylor
- 5 5/98
- 6 Md 5712
- 7 Sign Detail
- 8 9 of 9