HO-1016
Forest Diner
10031 Baltimore National Pike
Private

Description:
The Forest Diner is located on the south side of the road near Ellicott City in eastern Howard County, Maryland. The Diner is a one-story, eleven-bay by seven-bay frame structure with an uneven gable roof that has asphalt shingles, an east-west ridge, and a longer slope on the north side. There is a three-bay by five-bay frame wing on both the east and west ends, and they are set back two bays from the front of the main block and have a lower roof with the same profile as the main block. The north elevation has a stone ashlar planter box across the front, with concrete wall below eleven six-over-one sash and T1-11 siding above the windows. There are canvas awnings around the north, east, and west sides of the building. Above the north awning is a red neon sign, and there is red neon around the edge of the eaves. The west wing also has six-over-one sash, and there is brick veneer at the north end. The entrance is double doors in the north bay of the west elevation of the main block. The east wing is covered by modern decks, mechanical equipment, ducts, awnings, and an exterior brick chimney. The south elevation has a CMU wall on the bottom half with T1-11 siding above. The east end has mechanical equipment added and a shed-roofed frame addition with no openings.

Significance:
The Forest Diner was opened in 1946 by Bob Gearhart who placed a 40-seat dining car on the property, and it was named Gearhart's Diner at that time. In 1957 the diner was sold to William Carl Childress, who apparently started the Forest Motel next door in 1960, and the name was probably changed around that time. The present state of the diner reflects the move of the traditional road-side diner from a traditional stainless steel trailer to a more permanent building in contemporary materials. This transition seems to have occurred in the 1960s and 1970s, before a backlash brought back the stainless steel diner. This building has little or no architectural significance, but has social significance as a traditional eatery and meeting place for Howard Countians and is typical of such institutions prior to the rapid growth of upscale Columbia. The Forest Diner is scheduled to be demolished in a few years for redevelopment of the site.

Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of
Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. HO-1016

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Forest Diner

other

2. Location

street and number 10031 Baltimore National Pike ___ not for publication

city, town Ellicott City X vicinity

county Howard

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

name Bonnie Branch Corporation

street and number 4100 College Avenue telephone

city, town Ellicott City state MD zip code 21043

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Howard County Courthouse liber 11335 folio 618

city, town Ellicott City tax map 24 tax parcel 69 tax ID number

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

_____ Contributing Resource in National Register District
_____ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
_____ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
_____ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
_____ Recorded by HABS/HAER
_____ Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
_____ Other:_____

6. Classification

Category
____district
_X_building(s)
____structure
____site
____object

Ownership
____public
_X_private
____both

Current Function
____agriculture
_X_commerce/trade
____defense
____domestic
____education
____funerary
____government
____health care
____industry
____landscape
____recreation/culture
____religion
____social
____transportation
____work in progress
____unknown
____vacant/not in use
____other:

Resource Count

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	Total

Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory
0

7. Description

Inventory No. HO-1016

Condition

___ excellent ___ deteriorated
X_ good ___ ruins
___ fair ___ altered

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

The Forest Diner is located at 10031 Baltimore National Pike, on the south side of the road near Ellicott City in eastern Howard County, Maryland. The Diner is a one-story, eleven-bay by seven-bay frame structure with an uneven gable roof that has asphalt shingles, an east-west ridge, and a longer slope on the north side. There is a three-bay by five-bay frame wing on both the east and west ends, and they are set back two bays from the front of the main block and have a lower roof with the same profile as the main block. The north elevation has a stone ashlar planter box across the front, with concrete wall below eleven six-over-one sash and T1-11 siding above the windows. There are canvas awnings around the north, east, and west sides of the building. Above the north awning is a red neon sign, and there is red neon around the edge of the eaves. The west wing also has six-over-one sash, and there is brick veneer at the north end. The entrance is double doors in the north bay of the west elevation of the main block. The east wing is covered by modern decks, mechanical equipment, ducts, awnings, and an exterior brick chimney. The south elevation has a CMU wall on the bottom half with T1-11 siding above. The east end has mechanical equipment added and a shed-roofed frame addition with no openings.

8. Significance

Inventory No. HO-1016

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
__ 1600-1699	__ agriculture	__ economics	__ health/medicine	__ performing arts
__ 1700-1799	__ archeology	__ education	__ industry	__ philosophy
__ 1800-1899	X architecture	__ engineering	__ invention	__ politics/government
X 1900-1999	__ art	__ entertainment/ recreation	__ landscape architecture	__ religion
__ 2000-	__ commerce		__ law	__ science
	__ communications	__ ethnic heritage	__ literature	__ social history
	__ community planning	__ exploration/ settlement	__ maritime history	__ transportation
	__ conservation		__ military	__ other: ____

Specific dates N/A **Architect/Builder** unknown

Construction dates c. 1960-80.

Evaluation for:

_____ National Register _____Maryland Register ____X____not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

The Forest Diner was opened in 1946 by Bob Gearhart who placed a 40-seat dining car on the property, and it was named Gearhart's Diner at that time. In 1957 the diner was sold to William Carl Childress, who apparently started the Forest Motel next door in 1960, and the name was probably changed around that time. The present state of the diner reflects the move of the traditional road-side diner from a traditional stainless steel trailer to a more permanent building in contemporary materials. This transition seems to have occurred in the 1960s and 1970s, before a backlash brought back the stainless steel diner. This building has little or no architectural significance, but has social significance as a traditional eatery and meeting place for Howard Countians and is typical of such institutions prior to the rapid growth of upscale Columbia. The Forest Diner is scheduled to be demolished in a few years for redevelopment of the site.[1]

[1] Jennifer Choi and Derek Simmonsen, "Diner's Demise: Over Easy," *Howard County (Maryland) Times*, 19 February 2009, http://www.explorehoward.com/news/15804/diners-demise-over-easy/

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. HO-1016

See footnotes

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property	.6481 A		
Acreage of historical setting	.6481 A		
Quadrangle name	Ellicott City	Quadrangle scale:	1:24000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundaries consist of the property lines for tax map 24, parcel 69, which encompasses all of the historic structures on the property.

11. Form Prepared by

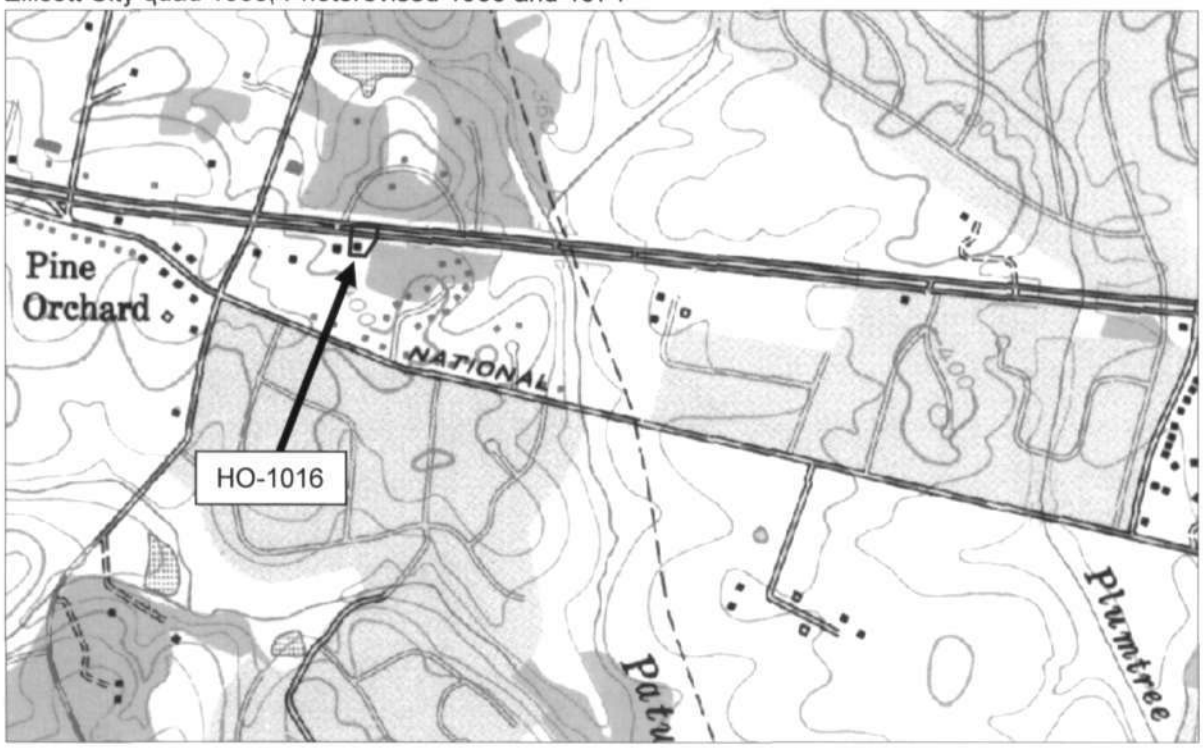
name/title	Ken Short		
organization	Howard County Department of Planning & Zoning	date	February 2010
street & number	3430 Courthouse Drive	telephone	410-313-4335
city or town	Ellicott City	state	Maryland

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties 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.

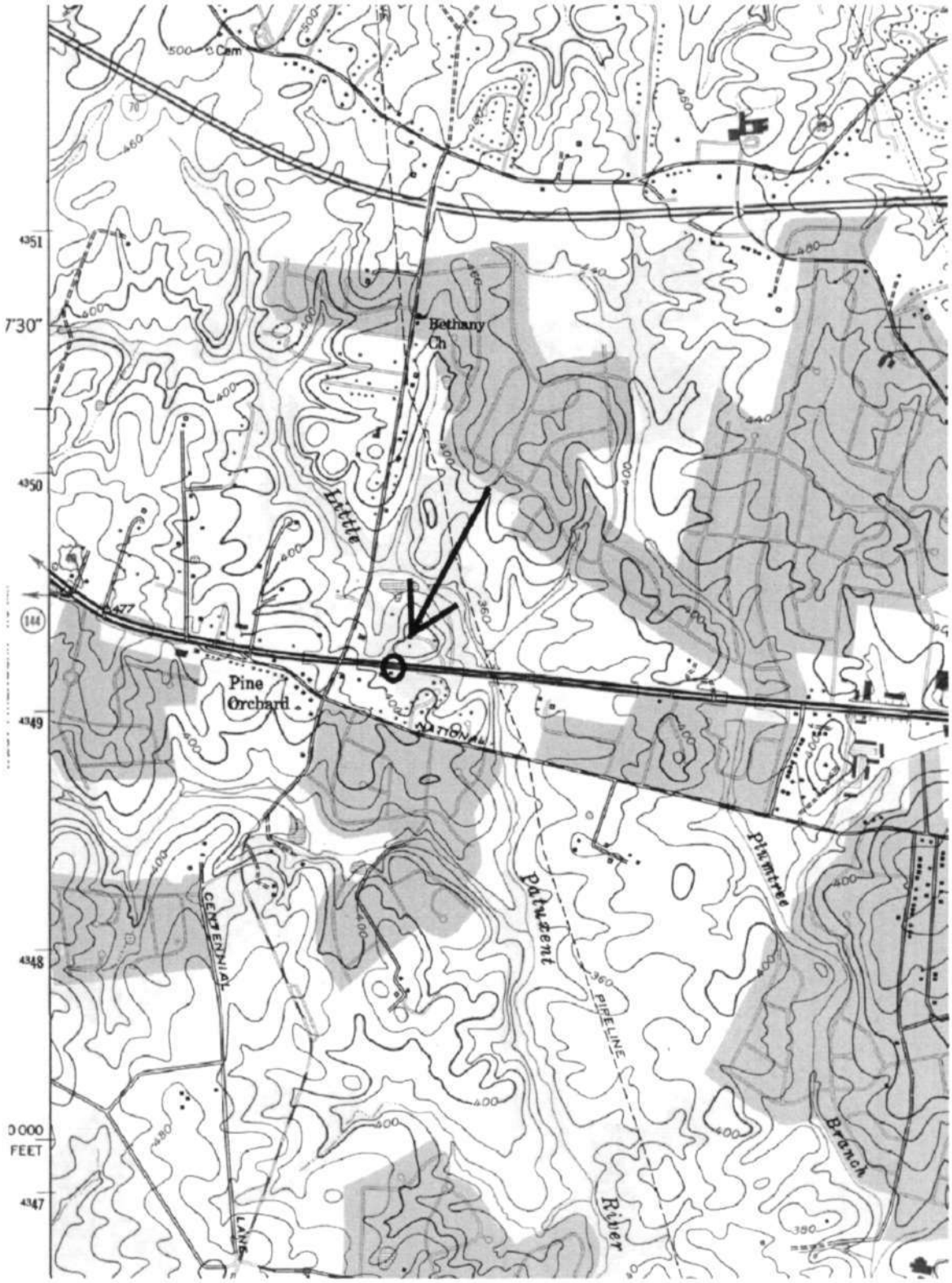
return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600

HO-1016
Forest Diner
10031 Baltimore National Pike (US 40), Ellicott City
Ellicott City quad 1953, Photorevised 1966 and 1974



Tax Map 24, Parcel 69

National Web Map Service 6" Orthophoto Map
c. 2010



HO-1016
Forest Diner
10031 Baltimore National Pike
Ellicott City quad

HO-1016
Forest Diner
10031 Baltimore National Pike
Howard County, Maryland
Ken Short, photographer

Photo Log

Nikon D-70 camera
HP Premium Plus paper
HP Gray Photo print cartridge

HO-1016_2010-01-21_01
East & north elevations

HO-1016_2010-01-21_02
West & south elevations

Forest River
SNOWPLOW

HO-1016
Forest Diner
10031 Baltimore National Pike
Howard County, MD
Ken Short
Jan. 21, 2010
MD SHPO
East & North Elevations
1/2

HO-1016
Forest Diner
10031 Baltimore National Pike
Howard County, MD
Ken Short
Jan. 21, 2010
MD SHPO
West & South Elevations

2/2