INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY/DISTRICT
MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
INTERNAL NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM

Property/District Name: Office, Factory B, Phillips Packing Co., Inc.  Survey Number: D-710
Project: MD 343; from MD 341 to US 50, Dorchester Co., MD  Agency: SHA

Site visit by MHT Staff:  X yes   Name ___________________________ Date __________
Eligibility recommended  X    Eligibility not recommended __________
Criteria:  X A  _____  B  _____  C  _____  D  _____  Considerations:  __A  _B  _C  _D  _E  _F  _G  ______

Justification for decision: (Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map)

The brick office of the former Phillips Packing Company is located on a triangular-shaped lot of land south of Washington Street and east of the railroad in a commercial/industrial area near the intersection of MD Route 343 and US Route 50, in southeast Cambridge, Dorchester County, MD. The building is the sole surviving remnant of the Factory B of the Phillips Packing Co., a once-thriving food plant and food packing company that was a major factor in Cambridge's economic growth and prosperity in the early 20th century. The office of Factory B, Phillips Packing Co., Inc. is considered eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

Established in 1902, the Phillips Packing Company became one of the largest fruit and oyster canneries in the eastern United States. Factory B packed potatoes, lima beans, peas, and 30th sweet and white potatoes. During World War I, Phillips Packing Company canned a large share of the rations of the American army and in World War II the company employed one-fourth of Cambridge's 8,000 inhabitants. The Company is also noted for supplying the canned food for Admiral Richard Byrd's polar expeditions to the Antarctic in the 1930s. The Phillips Packing Company was sold in the late 1950s to Consolidated Foods. Around 1965, the entire Factory B complex of the Phillips Packing Company was destroyed by fire, leaving only the offices of the industrial complex intact.

The former office of the Phillips Packing Co., is a modest-sized, 1-1/2-story, T-shaped brick building built ca. 1930 and presented in a Georgian Colonial Revival style. Given its size, style, and detailing, the building approximates a residential building which served as a welcoming gateway to the industrial complex behind it. Set upon a low foundation, the detached building consists of a central projecting pavilion and recessed wings behind it. It is covered with a combination hip and gable roof with oversized modillions and its walls are laid in Flemish bond brick with glazed headers. The facade of the main pavilion is divided into three bays with a central entry denoted by a segmentally arched portico and front door featuring a fanlight and sidelights. The windows to either side of the door are paired and feature 9/9 double-hung sash. A palladian-type window is located in the attic level above the central entry. The building is presented in a notably formal and high style that does not typically characterize the factory offices; in general the plant offices were attached to or located inside of a plant facility.

The office of the Phillips Packing Company, Factory B, along with two cylindrical brick stacks behind it, is all that survives of Factory B, Phillips Packing Company. The building is directly associated with this important industrial complex, which was significant in the economic and industrial history of Cambridge. The office of Factory B is eligible for listing on the National Register under Criterion A. Further, the building is designed in a Georgian Colonial Revival style not typically associated with industrial buildings and provides a good example of its type and style. The building retains its overall integrity, including much of the original interior fabric, despite some alterations and modifications in plan.
Documentation on the property/district is presented in: ________________________________

Prepared by: Rita Suffness, Leader, Cultural Resources Group, SHA

Kim Prothro Williams  
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services  
NR program concurrence:  yes  no  not applicable

[Signature]  
Reviewer/ NR program

April 16, 1996  
Date

April 17, 1996  
Date
MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA - HISTORIC CONTEXT

I. Geographic Region:

X Eastern Shore (all Eastern Shore counties, and Cecil)
_____ Western Shore (Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, Prince George’s and St. Mary’s)
_____ Piedmont (Baltimore City, Baltimore, Carroll, Frederick, Harford, Howard, Montgomery)
_____ Western Maryland ( Allegany, Garrett and Washington)

II. Chronological/Developmental Periods:

_____ Paleo-Indian 10000-7500 B.C.
_____ Early Archaic 7500-6000 B.C.
_____ Middle Archaic 6000-4000 B.C.
_____ Late Archaic 4000-2000 B.C.
_____ Early Woodland 2000-500 B.C.
_____ Middle Woodland 500 B.C. - A.D. 900
_____ Late Woodland/Archaic A.D. 900-1600
_____ Contact and Settlement A.D. 1570-1750
_____ Rural Agrarian Intensification A.D. 1680-1815
_____ Agricultural-Industrial Transition A.D. 1815-1870
_____ Industrial/Urban Dominance A.D. 1870-1930
X Modern Period A.D. 1930-Present
_____ Unknown Period ( ___ prehistoric ____ historic)

III. Prehistoric Period Themes:

_____ Subsistence
_____ Settlement
_____ Political
_____ Demographic
_____ Religion
_____ Technology
_____ Environmental Adaptation

IV. Historic Period Themes:

_____ Agriculture
_____ Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Community Planning
_____ Economic (Commercial and Industrial)
_____ Government/Law
_____ Military
_____ Religion
_____ Social/Educational/Cultural
_____ Transportation

V. Resource Type:

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Industrial Complex

Historic Function(s) and Use(s): Economic/Company Office

Known Design Source:
APPENDIX F

FRAMEWORK FOR IDENTIFYING COMPREHENSIVE PLAN DATA

HISTORIC CONTEXT:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Eastern Shore

Chronological/Developmental Period (s): Modern Period: 1930-Present

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme (s): Architecture, Economic

Resource Type:

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Urban

Historic Function (s) and Use (s): Economic/Commercial/Office

Known Design Source: Unknown
Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. D 710
Magi No.
DOE yes no

1. Name
(indicate preferred name)

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 16 Washington Street
not for publication

city, town Cambridge
vicinity of congressional district

state Maryland county Dorchester

3. Classification

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

name R. Curtis White, Jr. & Coastal Gunnite Construction Company

street & number P.O. Box 977
telephone no.: 410-228-8100

city, town Cambridge state and zip code MD 21613

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Dorchester County Courthouse
liber 250

street & number
folio 569

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Dorchester County Courthouse
liber 250

street & number
folio 569

city, town Cambridge state MD

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title N/A

date

federal state county local

repository for survey records

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

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET 7.1, 7.2
### 8. Significance

**Survey No. D 710**

**Period**
- prehistoric
- 1400-1499
- 1500-1599
- 1600-1699
- 1700-1799
- 1800-1899
- X 1900-

**Areas of Significance—Check and justify below**
- archaeology-prehistoric
- archaeology-historic
- agriculture
- architecture
- art
- commerce
- communications
- community planning
- conservation
- economics
- education
- engineering
- exploration/settlement
- industry
- invention
- landscape architecture
- law
- literature
- military
- music
- philosophy
- politics/government
- religion
- science
- sculpture
- social/humanitarian
- theater
- transportation
- other (specify)

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<td>and/or</td>
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Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

SEE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE SHEET 8.1, 8.2
9. Major Bibliographical References

Land Records, Dorchester County, Maryland//Grave, Caswell, Notes on the History of the Oyster in Maryland (Balto., s.m., 1922) // Directory of the Packing and Canning Industries of Maryland (Pearce Publishing Co., Baltimore, MD ca. 1890)

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

10. Geographical Data

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UTM References: do NOT complete UTM references

A  | Zone | Easting | Northing |
---|------|---------|----------|
B  | Zone | Easting | Northing |
C  | Zone | Easting | Northing |
D  | Zone | Easting | Northing |
E  | Zone | Easting | Northing |
F  | Zone | Easting | Northing |
G  | Zone | Easting | Northing |

Verbal boundary description and justification

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

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11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Rita Suffness, Leader, Cultural Resources Group

organization: MD State Highway Administration date: March 5, 1996

street & number: 707 N. Calvert Street telephone: 410-545-8561

city or town: Baltimore state: MD 21202

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 Shaw House 21 State Circle Annapolis, Maryland 21401 (301) 269-2438
D-710
Office, Factory B
Phillips Packing Company, Inc.
Dorchester County, Maryland

Continuation Sheet 7.1
Description

The small brick office, built ca. 1930 for the Phillips Packing Company, is currently owned by the Coastal Gunnite Construction Company which maintains its office there. It is located in southeast Cambridge in a commercial and industrial area. Due to the fact that a catastrophic fire destroyed the entire plant of the former Phillips Factory B complex, the structure is isolated in a largely desolate area on the south side of Washington Street east of the tracks of the Penn Central Railway, formerly the Cambridge-Seafood Railroad. The immediate environs of the structure is characterized by acres of gravel-covered ground interspersed with low lying foundation walls of the destroyed packing houses, warehouses, shucking sheds, etc., which were part of the large complex prior to ca. 1965. The sole remnant of Factory B, Phillips Packing Company, on the south side of Washington Street other than the office are two tall brick cylindrical stacks located immediately south of the office.

The office is placed a short distance from Washington Street to the north and utilized a Georgian Colonial Revival style which is more characteristic of residential architecture. Constructed of a brick Flemish bond with glazed headers, the hipped-roof rear wing parallels Washington Street, and a cross wing slightly east of center projects north from the middle bays. This cross wing, also one story high, has a flattened gable roof which is expressed on the north entrance facade by a truncated pediment. The roof extends beyond the face of the cross wing creating a deep soffit with a modillioned raking cornice. There is a pent roof at the first floor level, with a small Palladian window in the pediment. Centered between the paired nine-over-nine light windows is the entrance, complete with fanlight and three-light half transoms to each side of the door. The Palladian portico with an elliptical arch corresponding to the fanlight is carried on Doric collonettes. Attached pilasters mark the junction of the porch and walls.

The rear wing extends two bays to the east with two nine-over-nine lights, and a single six-light tiny window in the north face. The east facing facade is three bays deep. The extension of the lateral wing across the rear to the west, however, is only two bays wide, but otherwise the fenestration approximates that of the other side except that a doorway is located in the
south bay in place of a window. The rear, or south, is characterized by nine bays, with doorways in the second and seventh bays from the west. A brick wall extends from this elevation in the middle bays. Two chimneys with corbelled caps interrupt the roof line: one is located at the ridge of the roof of the lateral wing and one is on the same line but is offset to the exterior of the south facade.

The interior space of the structure echoes the three part organization of the exterior into center section and wings. Each wing is the location of an office, with the center of the south wall subdivided by partitions and walls to create private spaces. A large vestibule is located just inside the entrance on the north wall.

When the structure was purchased by the current owner in 1988 the floors and all of the interior plumbing, wiring and heating features were removed. A new concrete slab was poured and much interior renovation finished. The date of the structure is uncertain, as is the sequence of construction if the structure was built in sections. Given the uniformity of the interior and exterior trim as it currently appears it is difficult to ascertain if it was all built at one time or it was constructed in stages. Walls and ceilings were, in part, replaced during the 1988 renovations adding to difficulty in identification. Early twentieth century maps suggest that this building replaced an earlier smaller structure between 1930 and 1948, a theory partially corroborated by a family descendent, Mrs. Levi Phillips, Jr. It is possible that a small square structure pre-dating 1930 was expanded with wings, but this seems less likely. An even smaller structure existed on the site prior to 1918, which in turn had been replaced by 1930.
D-710
Office, Factory B
Phillips Packing Company, Inc.
Dorchester County, Maryland

Continuation Sheet 8.1
Statement of Significance

The former office of the Phillips Packing Company is a small T-shaped structure built in the Georgian Colonial Revival style. With its small size and detailing it approximates a modestly scaled residential structure. It was probably constructed in ca. 1930 to replace an earlier small structure on the same site which likely also functioned as an office for Mr. W. Grason Winterbottom, one of the vice-presidents. The building exhibits an interesting variation on the Georgian Colonial Revival cottage type in that it has a flattened gable-roofed entrance wing which projects northward from the rear cross arm of the T-shaped building. This structure, along with the Georgian Colonial Revival details, such as the modillion cornice and Palladian portico, creates an especially formal and high style example of a utilitarian type, remarkable as it was a detached office, unlike the dozens of plant offices that were usually attached to Phillips factory buildings.

Although the founders built some high-style Cambridge residences (D-95, D-517, D-536, D-538) and an impressive office for the Phillips's Packing and Hardware Company (D-380), usually the individual plant offices were attached to or located inside of a plant facility and not detached. Mr. W. Grason Winterbottom, who was in charge of Factory B, probably decided on this detached design of his new office in consultation with Mr. Levi Phillips. These two were responsible for the day to day supervision of the plants whereas Albanus Phillips, the other owner, ran the main office located at Race and Muir Streets in the Phillips Hardware Store (D-380).

This structure, along with two very tall cylindrical stacks behind it, is the sole remnant of Factory B, Phillips Packing Company, Inc. which burned in ca. 1965. The intersection of Washington Street and the Cambridge-Seaford Railroad (currently Penn Central Railroad) was the location of a vast complex of businesses owned by the Phillips family. Factory B, Phillips Packing Company, Inc., of which these structures are the sole remains, was located in a triangularly shaped property south of Washington Street and east of the railroad. Other large complexes, including Phillips Can Company, Inc. and Phillips Packing Company, Inc., Factory C, etc. were located north and west of it. Factory B was one of numerous enterprises scattered throughout the Cambridge area which were owned by Albanus and Levi Phillips in partnership with W.G.
Winterbottom. Additional facilities were located throughout the Eastern Shore of Maryland and Delaware. Almost all of the facilities were sold to Consolidated Foods in the late 1950's.

The Phillips Packing Company was established in 1902 by W. Grason Winterbottom and the brothers Levi and Albanus Phillips. It became one of the largest fruit and oyster canneries in the eastern United States. The founder was Levi B. Phillips, sometimes referred to as “Captain” from his days when he sailed his schooner in the British West Indies, in the pineapple and oyster trade. In 1898 he started the packing business, organizing the parent company (L.B. Phillips and Company) of which he was the sole owner. His brother Albanus, who was referred to as “Colonel,” entered into business with him in 1900 and organized, with Winterbottom, the Phillips Packing Company, which had the largest payroll of any single company in Wilmington, Delaware in its day and was the largest tomato packing company in the United States at one time.

In 1904 all three founded the Phillips Hardware Company, in 1907 the A. Phillips and Company Oyster and Fruit, and again in 1914 the Phillips Can Company. Factory B packed potatoes, lima beans, peas, plus both sweet and white potatoes.

The Phillips enterprise continued to expand into trucking and oil. It was a major factor in Cambridge's economic growth in the early twentieth century. During World War I, Phillips Packing Company canned a large share of the rations of the American army and in World War II the company employed one-fourth of Cambridge's 8,000 inhabitants. The packing industry was sold after the war, but the hardware and oil companies were retained by the family.

Because of the friendship of Albanus Phillips and Admiral Richard Byrd the Phillips Packing Company supplied the canned food for Byrd’s polar expeditions to the Antarctic in the 1930's.
Continuation Sheet 9.1
Major Bibliographical References

Truitt, Reginald V. *Investigation of the Oyster Industry of the Chesapeake Bay*, 1922 (Thesis)

Jones, Elias *New Revised History of Dorchester County, Maryland* (Tidewater Publisher, Cambridge, 1966)

Personal Communication with Curtis White, Jr., Edward Mowbray, Mrs. Levi Phillips, Jr., Mr. Robert Kerwin

D710
Office, Factory B
Phillips Packing Co
Downtown City MD
R Suffeross 2/16
Reg at MD State Hwy Admin
West Elevators
1/10
D-710
Office, Factory B
Phillips Packing Co
Ann Arbor, MI
R. Spafford 2/56
袋子在MD州国家海军中心
West Elevator

2/10
D-760
Office, Factory B
Phillips Packing Co.
Dorchester City MD
R. Suffren 2/46
res at MD State Hug
Adam

New London
3/10
D-710
Office, Factory B
Phillips Packing Co
Somerset City, MD 2196
R. Guffness, 4/96
Neg at MB State Hvy
Admin
N. Elevation
4/10
Office, Factory B
Phillips Packing Co.
Dubuque, Lowa, 1-46
N. Suffern 2146
meg at MP State Hwy
W. Corner
5110
Office, Factory B
Phillips Packing Co.
Dorchester Clay M.D.
R. Sutherland 2/96
neg at MD State Hwy.
Admissions
South Entrance
6/10
D. J. B. office, Factory B
Phillips Packing Co.
Dorchester City, MD
SMOKE STACKS
R. S. Hoffman 2/46
Regent MD
State Henry
N. E. Eaton

7/10
Office Factory B
Phillips Packing Co
Dorchester Clay M.D.

12/6

R. Saffire, M.D.
Messrs. M.D.
State House Adm.

Interior

S. W. Cornen

8/11
D. 710
Office, Factory B
Phillips Packing Co
Dorchester, MA
R.S. O'Flana 2/96
rez at M.N. State
1st yr.

Interior
S.E. Corner

9/110
D-710
Office, Factory 6
Phelps Packing Co.
Dunbar, Clu, M.D.
R. Gaffney 2/96
Key at MP State
Ney at MP State
Hay Alden
Interior

Vestibule, Main Entrance
Looking North

10/10