The W. C. Bradley & Son hardware store is a prominent commercial structure in the
town of Hurlock, and it is distinguished by its decorative pressed metal front
manufactured by C. L. Mesker & Company of Evansville, Indiana. The neoclassically
inspired cornice across the top of the two-story front included a large name plaque
identifying the building’s original owner, William C. Bradley. The early twentieth
century storefront has experienced few changes since its construction around 1910. The
original manufacturer’s plaques are located on the lower outside corners of the three-bay
first floor façade, which is marked by a recessed center entrance and large glass display
windows to each side. The interior is also distinctive for its pressed metal ceiling and an
iron vault made by the L. H. Miller Safe & Iron Works of Baltimore. Another unusual
feature is a narrow wooden ladder mounted on rollers for accessing merchandise stored
on high shelves.

William C. Bradley and his son Leland A. Bradley were successful and active
business leaders in Hurlock during the late nineteenth and early to mid twentieth
centuries. An advertisement for the hardware store claims a founding date in 1893. In
addition to the hardware store that offered a general line of farm implements, stoves,
paint, and seed, the W. C. Bradley also operated a “carriage repository” and later an
automobile service station across the street from the hardware store. W. C. Bradley also
served on the town’s library board as president for many years. In 1908 he was awarded
a franchise by the town to operate a municipal water works.
The site on which the hardware store is located was purchased from James M. Andrews in September 1901 for $300. The deed states that the lot was divided off the Andrews farm and it was located next to the "Bank lot." The hardware store remained under Bradley family ownership until 1959 when Leland A. Bradley and his wife Ruby sold the business location to Robert H. and Elaine M. French, in whose hands the store remained until 1973. During the last quarter of the twentieth century, the hardware store was operated by Harry E. Parker, Brooks W. Parker, and his son, Brooks W. Parker, Jr.
1. Name of Property  (indicate preferred name)

   historic  W. C. Bradley & Son Hardware Store
   other  Hurlock Hardware Company

2. Location

   street and number  102 Broad Street  not for publication
   city, town  Hurlock  vicinity
   county  Dorchester

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

   name  William N. and Brenda B. Windsor
   street and number  102 Broad Street  telephone  410-943-1302
   city, town  Hurlock  state  MD  zip code  21643

4. Location of Legal Description

   courthouse, registry of deeds, etc.  Dorchester County Clerk of Court  liber  650  folio  1
   city, town  Cambridge  tax map  400  tax parcel  614  tax ID number  15-003510

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

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   Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory
SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

The W. C. Bradley & Son Hardware Store, also known as the Hurlock Hardware Store, stands at 102 Broad Street in the center of Hurlock, Dorchester County, Maryland. The two-story, three-bay by four-bay frame store building is distinguished by a pressed metal front manufactured by C. L. Mesker & Company of Evansville, Indiana, which is embossed in raised lettering on rectangular panels on the bottom of each decorative leg on the outside edges of the first story elevation. The building is supported on a low brick foundation, and the exterior is clad otherwise in pressed metal imitating rusticated concrete blocks. The medium pitched gable roof behind the storefront is covered with seamed tin.

DESCRIPTION

Built during the first decade of the twentieth century (c. 1910), the two-story, three-bay by four-bay frame store building is distinguished by a pressed metal storefront and pressed metal sides. The medium pitched gable roof is covered with seamed metal. The southeast (main) elevation is a three-bay commercial façade with a recessed double-door entrance and flanking glass display windows. The entrance recess has a poured concrete paving with an incised star in the center. The ceiling is sheathed with narrow tongue-and-groove beaded boards. The adjacent windows rest atop raised panel knee walls, and a decorated muntin divides the two storefront windows. Located at the lower outside corners of each pressed metal leg on the outer edge of the commercial windows are embossed name plaques identifying the manufacturer of the pressed metal front, C. L. Mesker & Company of Evansville, Indiana. Sheltering the first floor is a metal awning supported on a framework of metal pipe. The second floor is defined by three boarded over window openings. Partially damaged in wind storm, part of the the neoclassical modillion block cornice and name plaque with W. C. Bradley & Son in large block lettering have been stored in the back room. The missing section of pressed metal front reveals a portion of diagonal board sheathing, also known as western plank framing that supports the decorative metal façade.

The side elevation are covered with pressed metal in the pattern of rusticated concrete blocks. High boarded over windows of square proportions mark the first story, and boarded over six-over-six sash windows light the second floor. The window openings have a molded lintel. Rising through the west side is an interior side brick chimney stack.

The interior retains a pressed metal ceiling and narrow tongue-and-groove board flooring. Fixed in the northwest corner of the commercial space is an early twentieth century staircase with a square paneled newel post, turned balusters and a molded handrail that rises in two flights to an enclosed section of staircase. The enclosed section of staircase is entered through an early twentieth century five-panel door, and the side is enclosed with tongue-and-groove beaded
boards. Also distinguishing the northwest corner is an iron vault made by L. H. Miller Safe & Iron Works of Baltimore as well as a narrow ladder mounted on a roller to access items stored at high levels. A second ladder is stored in the back room and was mounted on the east side of the building.
8. Significance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Areas of Significance</th>
<th>Check and justify below</th>
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<td>_ exploration/ settlement_</td>
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Specific dates

Architect/Builder C.L. Mesker & Co., Evansville, Indiana

(Pressed Metal Storefront)

Construction dates

Evaluation for:

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<tr>
<th>National Register</th>
<th>Maryland Register</th>
<th>not evaluated</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

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.)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The W. C. Bradley & Son Hardware Store is a prominent commercial structure in the town of Hurlock, and it is distinguished by its decorative pressed metal front manufactured by the C. L. Mesker & Company of Evansville, Indiana. The neoclassically styled cornice includes a large name plaque identifying the building’s original owner, William C. Bradley. The early twentieth century storefront has experienced few changes since its construction around 1910. The original manufacturer’s plaques are located on the lower outside corners of a three-bay commercial front with a recessed entrance and large glass display windows. The interior is also distinctive for its original pressed metal ceiling and iron vault made by the L. H. Miller Safe & Iron Works of Baltimore. Another unusual survival is a narrow wooden ladder mounted on rollers for accessing merchandise stored on high shelves.

HISTORIC CONTEXT

William C. Bradley and his son Leland A. Bradley were successful and active business leaders in Hurlock during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. An advertisement for the hardware store claimed a founding date in 1893. In addition to their hardware store that offered a general line of farm implements, stoves, paint, and seed, W. C. Bradley also operated a “carriage repository” and later an automobile service station. In 1908, the town granted him a franchise to operate the early water system. He also served for many years as the town’s library board president.

The site on which his hardware store was built was purchased from James M. Andrews in September 1901 for $300.1 The deed states that the lot was divided off the Andrews farm and located next to the “Bank lot.” The hardware store remained under Bradley family ownership until 1959 when Leland A. Bradley and his wife Ruby sold the business location to Robert H.

---

1 Dorchester County Land Record, CL 26/1, 9.23.1901, Dorchester County Courthouse.
and Elaine M. French,\(^2\) in whose hands the store remained until 1973.\(^3\) During the last quarter of the twentieth century, the hardware store was operated by Harry E. Parker, Brooks W. Parker and his son Brooks W. Parker, Jr.\(^4\)

---

\(^2\) Dorchester County Land Record, 117/202, 12.3.1959, Dorchester County Courthouse.  
\(^3\) Dorchester County Land Record, 182/588, 11.16.1973, Dorchester County Courthouse.  
W. C. Bradley & Son Hardware Store
102 Broad Street
Hurlock, Dorchester County, Maryland

CHAIN OF TITLE

650/01 Brooks W. Parker

to

5.3.2005 William N. Windsor and Brenda B. Windsor

$155,000 Parcel 1: 126' x 60' Adjacent to bank property
Parcel 2:
Parcel 3:

270/526 Brooks W. Parker and Brooks W. Parker, Jr.

to

7.26.1991 Brooks W. Parker

102 Broad Street

215/671 Harry E. Parker and Brooks W. Parker

to

8.19.1980 Brooks W. Parker and Brooks W. Parker, Jr.
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<td>182/588</td>
<td>Robert H. French and Elaine Mary French to Harry E. Parker and Brooks W. Parker, trading as Hurlock Hardware Company</td>
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<tr>
<td>12.3.1959</td>
<td>Parcel 1: “Beginning at the southeast corner of the Bank lot, running thence North, eighteen degrees and fifty-four minutes West, along the eastern boundary lien of said Bank lot and another Lot, one hundred and twenty-six feet, thence North, sixty-nine degrees East, sixty feet, then South eighteen degrees and fifty-four minutes East, one hundred and twenty six feet to said Broad Street, then with said Broad Street, sixty feet to the place of beginning.” Parcel 2: and Parcel 3 directly adjacent to the east of the store lot</td>
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<tr>
<td>CL 26/1</td>
<td>James M. Andrews and Sallie N. Andrews to William C. Bradley</td>
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<tr>
<td>9.23.1901</td>
<td>$300 ....all of that certain piece or parcel of land, situated lying and being in the village of Hurlock, in said Dorchester County, Maryland, lying on the North side of Broad Street; the same being</td>
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</table>
a part of the farm of the said James M. Anderson; said property being more particularly known and described by the following metes and bounds, courses and distances, namely. Beginning at the South east corner of the Bank Lot, running thence North....

CL 30/48 James M. Andrews

to

9.27.1904 William C. Bradley

Adjacent lot $25.00

Sanborn Map Company, 1914, Hardware and Agricultural Implements, Outline of two-story structure, implement storage in rear of adjacent lot
9. Major Bibliographical References

Dorchester County Land Records, various volumes, Dorchester County Courthouse.


Interview with William N. Windsor, 10.30.2007

10. Geographical Data

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<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>Acreage of historical setting</td>
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<td>Quadrangle scale</td>
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Verbal boundary description and justification

The metes and bounds of this property are coincidental with the current boundary of the lot.

11. Form Prepared by

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name/Title</th>
<th>Paul B. Touart, Architectural Historian</th>
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<tr>
<td>Organization</td>
<td>Chesapeake County Heritage &amp; Preservation</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Street &amp; Number</td>
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<td>Telephone</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>City or Town</td>
<td>Westover</td>
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<tr>
<td>State</td>
<td>Maryland 21871</td>
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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
GLEN OAK HOTEL
C. M. STEVENS, Prop.
Phone 21
HURLOCK, MD.

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Under New Management

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Soft Drinks and Confectionery
HURLOCK, MD.

HURLOCK ICE CREAM CO.
Manufacturers of
ICE CREAM AND WATER ICES
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HURLOCK, MD.

HARDWARE
Phone 1
STOVES - PAINTS - SEEDS
and
FARM IMPLEMENTS

GARAGE
Phone 69
ALWAYS OPEN
With
Service that you'll appreciate

W. C. BRADLEY & SON

Page Twenty-nine
D-339
W. C. Bradley & Son Hardware Store
Federalsburg, MD Quadrangle, 1944
W. C. Brandy & Son (Owners) 
Hulkona, Donner & Spencer Co., M.D.
Southeast elevation
7/07, Paul Touma, Photographer
V.C. M.D. Historical Trust
This turn-of-the-century hardware store, along with the Nichols House (D-340) across the street, are indicative of the wealth of their original owner, W.C. Bradley, a leading merchant in Hurlock. Its basically plain exterior is enlivened by a highly decorative patterned facade, topped by a dentiled cornice, which is, in turn, crowned by a large sign with raised lettering spelling out the owner's name. The building extends four bays to the rear and is lit on both stories by windows along each side.