

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY
HISTORIC SITE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey #: 68-41-5 Building Date: 1930

Building Name: Furman's Shopping Center

Location: 4806-4816 Rhode Island Avenue (U.S. Route 1)

Private/Shopping Center/Occupied/Good/Inaccessible

Description Summary

Furman's Shopping Center at 4806-4816 Rhode Island Avenue in Hyattsville (Lots 50-55, Furman's Addition to Hyattsville) is a one and two-story, brown brick, multi-unit, commercial building in the Tudor Revival style. The 7-by-6 bay building has a rectangular plan; a false-gable parapet of varied pitch and sheathed with green asphalt shingles, conceals shallow shed roofs that slope to the rear (west). The building is composed of a one-story brick storefront block with a brick, half-timbered and stuccoed second story at its southern end. The building contains six storefronts at the first story and a single apartment at the second. The shopping center is located on the west side of Rhode Island Avenue close to the street between 42nd Place and 43rd Avenue at the southern edge of the Hyattsville commercial area. A narrow service alley runs behind the building.

Significance Summary

Furman's Shopping Center (Lots 50-55, Furman's Addition to Hyattsville) is significant as one of the oldest planned shopping centers in Prince George's County. The shopping center is also representative of the evolution of commercial activity associated with the development of the County's close-in railroad, streetcar and automobile suburbs. The brick, stucco and half-timbered building in the Tudor Revival style is also an excellent example of early 20th century revival style architecture as applied to commercial buildings. The Center was built in 1930 for George B. Furman, a prominent Washington tax attorney. The building was designed Washington, DC, architect Harry Bennett and constructed by the Washington firm of Martin Bros. The building continues to serve as a local landmark more than 60 years after its completion.

Acreage: 18,073 sq. ft.

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Magi No.

DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common Furman's Shopping Center

2. Location

street & number 4806 - 4816 Rhode Island Avenue (U.S. Route 1) not for publication

city, town Hyattsville _____ vicinity of _____ congressional district 5th

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

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

name Wayne Z. Mailska, Etal

street & number 4806 Rhode Island Avenue telephone no.:

city, town Hyattsville state and zip code Maryland 20781

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Prince George's County Court House liber 6157

street & number 14735 Main Street folio 161

city, town Upper Marlboro state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title N/A

date _____ federal _____ state _____ county _____ local

depository for survey records

city, town _____ state _____

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

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

Furman's Shopping Center at 4806-4816 Rhode Island Avenue in Hyattsville (Lots 50-55, Furman's Addition to Hyattsville) is a one and two-story brick, multi-unit commercial building in the Tudor Revival style. The 7-by-6 bay building has a rectangular plan; a false-gable parapet of varied pitch and sheathed with green asphalt shingles, conceals shallow shed roofs that slope to the rear (west). The building is composed of a one-story brick storefront block with a brick, half-timbered and stuccoed second story at its southern end. The building contains six storefronts at the first story and a single apartment at the second. The shopping center is located on the west side of Rhode Island Avenue close to the street between 42nd Place and 43rd Avenue at the southern edge of the Hyattsville commercial area. A narrow service alley runs behind the building.

The building's two primary elevations to the east and south are constructed of brown brick. The southern half of the building, which is two stories, is also its decorative focus. Much of the second story is sheathed with decorative stucco and half-timbering. The second story of the building is lighted by 6/6 double-hung wood-sash windows. A single wood and glass door at the western edge of the south elevation serves as the entry to the second story apartment. Above the entry a shallow half-timbered and stucco panel surrounds a double-hung window. At the Rhode Island Avenue corner, a timber triangle surmounts the storefront entry. Along the Rhode Island Avenue elevation, asymmetrical timbering defines the northern limit of the second story.

The southernmost storefront, which is the largest, is located in the two-story portion of the building. The entry for this shop, at the corner of the building, is oriented to the southeast. The remaining five storefronts, face east and are defined by large plate-glass windows flanking a centered wood and glass entry door. Most of the entry doors and show windows appear to be original, while the window aprons are concealed by modern vertical board siding. All of the show windows are sheltered by green canvas awning which are modern.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input checked="" 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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1930 **Builder/Architect** Harry Bennett, Archt/Martin Bros Contractor

check: Applicable Criteria: A B C D
 and/or
 Applicable Exception: 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.

Furman's Shopping Center (Lots 50-55, Furman's Addition to Hyattsville) is significant as one of the oldest planned shopping centers in Prince George's County. The shopping center is also representative of the evolution of commercial activity associated with the growth of the County's close-in railroad, streetcar and automobile suburbs. The brick, stucco and half-timbered building in the Tudor Revival style is also an excellent example of early 20th century revival style architecture as applied to commercial buildings. The Center was built in 1930 for George B. Furman, a prominent Washington tax attorney. The building was designed Washington, DC, architect Harry Bennett and constructed by the Washington firm of Martin Bros.¹ The building continues to serve as a local landmark more than 60 years after its completion.

Located at the southern edge of Hyattsville's downtown, the shopping center was designed to serve Hyattsville residents and those of the nearby communities of Brentwood, Mount Rainier and Cottage City. The completion of the building in the fall of 1930 followed closely on the expansion, paving and extension of Rhode Island Avenue from Hyattsville to the District line at Mount Rainier in 1929. The completion of this stretch of road signaled a new phase of commercial development of the area.² Not only did the shopping center accommodate six businesses in

¹"The Evening Star", 3 May 1930, p.A-4 -- "Six Stores To Be Built On Rhode Island Avenue".

²Program "Celebrating the Official Opening of Rhode Island Avenue--Hyattsville, MD., December 7, 1993". Collection: Historic Preservation Section. Prince George's County Planning Department.

PG # 68-41-5

Furman's Shopping Center
4806-4816 Rhode Island Avenue

Hyattsville, Maryland

HISTORIC CONTEXT:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Western Shore

Chronological/Development Periods:

Modern Period - AD 1930 - Present

Historic Period Themes:

Architecture, Landscape Architecture, Community Planning

Resource Type:

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Suburban

Historic Functions and Uses: Shopping Center

Design Source: Harry Bennett

The five northern storefronts in the one-story portion of the building are sheltered by a false-gable parapet sheathed in green asphalt siding. At the north end of the range are three small hip-roof dormers. A single dormer is centered over the northernmost storefront and two others are centered over the storefront just to the south. Each of the dormers is lighted by a single four-pane, wood-sash window.

The north elevation of the building is composed of two sections. Toward the street, one-quarter of the wall is finished with brown brick. A simply-molded, wooden pediment defines the gable end of the parapet and encloses a small limestone decorative cartouche depicting a blank scroll. The remainder of the north elevation, which has a simple horizontal parapet concealing a shed roof, is constructed of common brick which has been painted white.

The west, or service elevation is built of common brick. To the south, at the two-story portion of the building there are several 6/6 double-hung wood-sash windows. Simple projecting parapets define the bearing walls that separate each of the stores in the one-story portion of the building. For each store, a wood and glass service door is centered between 6/6 double-hung windows. In most cases the windows and doors of this elevation have modern security grates or bars.

a modern building, its customer base was made up of local residents within walking distance as well as people from surrounding towns using both public transportation and the family car. The Furman building is sited close to the street, - to take advantage of curbside parking.

The shopping center was built for George B. Furman on land he had owned since 1921. Furman had been involved in local development activities for a number of years and had subdivided nearby land for residential use in the early 1920s.³ The Furman family lived nearby at 8 Owens Avenue (now the 4000 block of Hamilton Street). At that time, Furman was Vice President of Robertson, Furman & Murphy, a real estate investment and securities firm in Washington located at 16 Jackson Place, N.W.⁴ With the increased traffic brought by the completion of Rhode Island Avenue, Furman's frontage along the Avenue was better suited for commercial rather than residential use. A newspaper article from the spring of 1930 projected the cost of the building at \$48,000.⁵

Little is known about the architect employed by Furman to design the building. City and Suburban directories from the period include Harry Bennett only in 1930, the year he designed the shopping center. At that time he was identified as an "Associate Architect" at the Treasury Department, residing at 1313 Juniper Street, N.W.⁶ No other buildings by Bennett are known at this time. His choice of a european-inspired vernacular for this modest suburban building that was to be "modern in every respect", represents the interest in foreign architectural traditions that characterized American architecture throughout the early 20th century.

³See Prince George's County Land Records, 174:412; Prince George's County Subdivision Plats: 3:33.

⁴Polk's Washington Suburban Directory of Maryland And Virginia Towns Adjacent to the District of Columbia, 1928, 1930-1931. R. L. Polk & Co., Publishers.

⁵"The Evening Star". 6 May 1930, p.A-11 -- "Store and Apartments For Rhode Island Ave."

⁶Boyd's Directory of the District of Columbia, 1930. R.L. Polk & Co., Publishers.

Statement of Significance (continued)

Throughout the early 20th century, buildings of all types and sizes were built in a range of european revival styles. Houses, apartments, storefronts and office buildings in the English Tudor, English Gothic and the Norman and Mediteranean Revival styles appeared in large cities and small towns. In Hyattsville, a late 19th century railroad suburb with victorian cottages and craftsman style bungalows, Bennett's prominently sited Tudor Revival shopping center highlighted a new building type and a new architectural vocabulary.

Furman's Shopping Center was built by Martin Bros., a Washington, D.C., construction company established in 1923. The firm was active through the mid 1970s and was responsible for a number of churches, schools, office buildings and apartments in Prince George's County and throughout the Washington area.⁷

⁷"Martin Brothers General Contractors and Builders, Washington, DC, 1923-1963." Fortieth Anniversary Commemorative Book.

**Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form**



Survey No. ^{PG: 68-41-5}

Magi No.

DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Shopping Center- Furman's Addition to Hyattsville

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 4806-4816 Rhode Island Ave. not for publication

city, town Hyattsville 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"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

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

name Richard P. Roberson

street & number 4902 43rd Ave. telephone no.: 927-6827

city, town Hyattsville state and zip code Maryland

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Prince George's County Courthouse liber

street & number folio

city, town Upper Marlboro state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. PG:68-41-5

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			

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

This small, six store shopping center was completed in the mid-1930's and was done in a "domestic" style, that is, a style to blend in with the surrounding residential neighborhood. The building is predominantly one story; the section which is two story originally had apartments on the upper floor.

The two story section of the building, which is the more highly decorated, is faced with brick, and stucco and wood half timbering. There are three projections on the roof which give the appearance of a cross gable: one on the street facade, one at the corner of the building, and one towards the rear of the south side of the building. The later "gable" apparently marked the entrance to the apartments.

The one story section of the building also has a brick facade, with large display windows on either side of the entrances to the shops. There are prominent awnings and three dormers in the gabled roof.

The rear section of the building, with the exception of the above mentioned southern side, is of cement block construction and has a flat roof.

Changes to the building apparently have been minimal and have not significantly altered the overall appearance of the building. According to the present owner the only recent changes to the building have been painting and new awnings.

8. Significance

Survey No. PG-68-41-5

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-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
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<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"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Local Development Patterns

Specific dates 1933-1936 Builder/Architect George P. Furman

check: Applicable Criteria: A B C D
and/or
Applicable Exception: 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.

This shopping center was constructed by George P. Furman at the same time as the adjacent gas station (4802 Rhode Island Ave.) and is representative of early commercial development along Route 1, in the years after its construction. It represents one of the first Rt, 1 shopping centers in the Hyattsville area. Although the center catered at least partially to Rt, 1 traffic, no off-street parking was provided.

George Furman was a tax attorney who developed and built a number of other local residential, commercial and industrial properties, including the houses and warehouses located immediately behind the shopping center,

The stores have been occupied by innumerable short term tenants, due perhaps to parking problems. Early tenants included a bank, a cleaners, a dairy and a veterinarian. The shops are currently occupied by two printers, a sign maker and the Star of Hope True Church of God; two stores are vacant.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. PG:68-41-5

- (1) Sandborn Map of Hyattsville, 1922, 1933
(2) Oral interview William Hollingsworth
(3) Oral interview Henry Kuhn
(4) Oral interview Francis Geary

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A
Zone Easting Northing

B
Zone Easting Northing

C

D

E

F

G

H

Verbal boundary description and justification

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

state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Carol Hooper Photo- D. Woods

organization George Washington University date 4/15/87

street & number 923 N. Highland St. telephone 703 276-1528

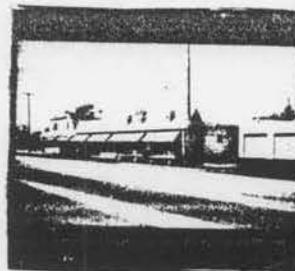
city or town Arlington state Virginia



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



Chain of Title

PG#68-41-5

Furman's Shopping Center
4806-4816 Baltimore Avenue

6157:161
15 August 1985
Deed

Patricia Furman Pierce, representative Evelyn Healy Furman, surviving tenant, George B. Furman, Jr., to Wayne Z. Mallska and Richard and Cynthia Ann Roberson. Grantor conveys lots 50, 51, 52, 53, 54 and 55 in Furman's Addition to Hyattsville. Plat recorded 4:45. Same obtained from George B. and Jestina W. Furman, 30 December 1935, 447:311.

447:311
30 December 1935
Deed

George B. and Jestina W. Furman to George B. Furman, Jr., and Evelyn H. Furman. Grantors convey lots 50, 51, 52, 53, 54 and 55 in grantors' subdivision of Furman's Addition to Hyattsville. Same obtained by George B. and Caroline B. Furman 6 September 1929, 338:17 and 5 September 1921, 174:412. To clear title, this deed is made.

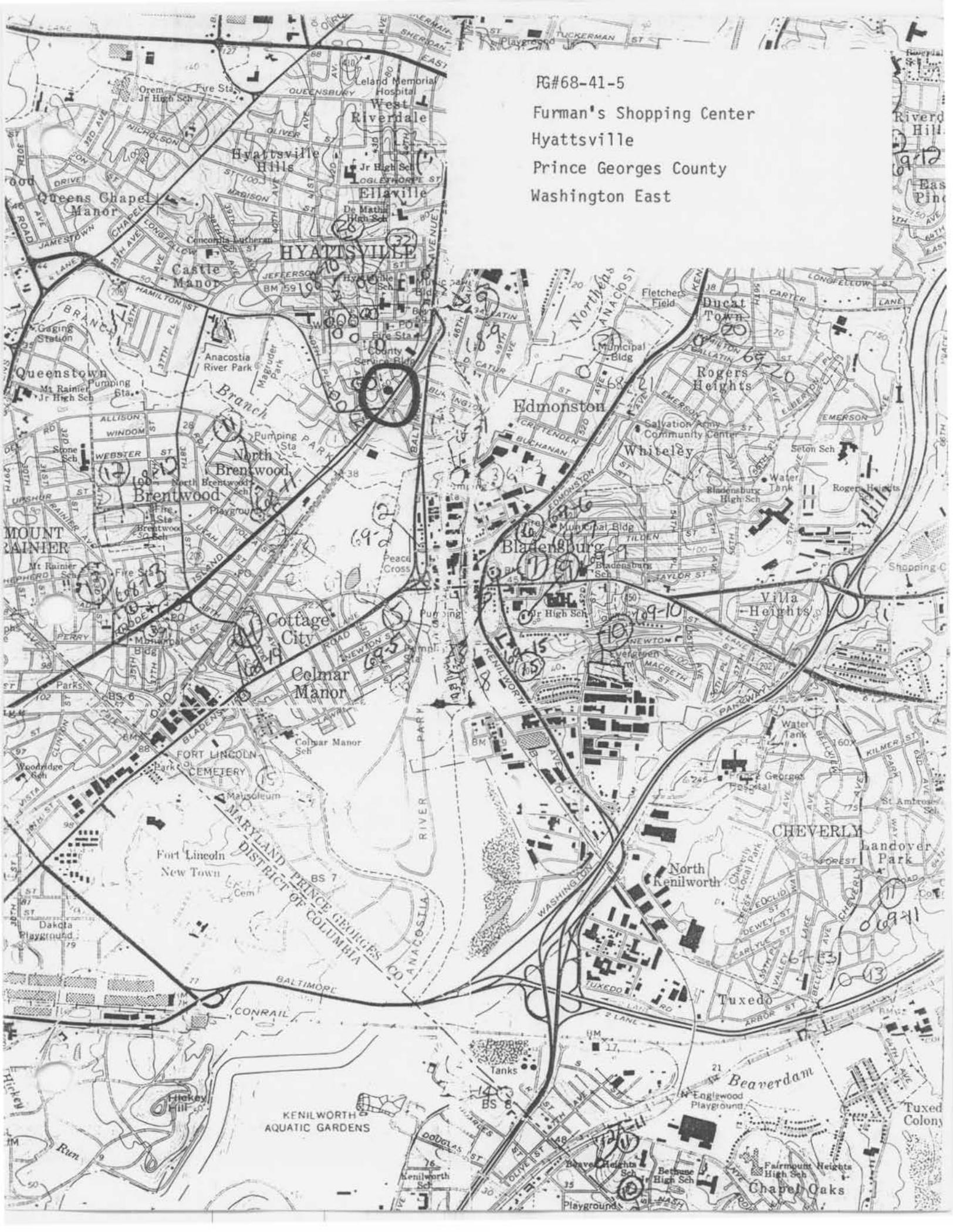
PG#68-41-5

Furman's Shopping Center

Hyattsville

Prince Georges County

Washington East





PG# 68-41-5

FORMAN'S SHOPPING CENTER, HYATTSVILLE
PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

HOWARD S. BERGER

JANUARY 1962

FROM SE

MD SAPO

10F5



PG#68-41-5

FURMAN'S SHOPPING CENTER, HYATTSVILLE
PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

HOWARD S. BERGER

JANUARY 1992

FROM NE

MID SHPO

2 OF 5



PG#68-41-5

FURMAN'S SHOPPING CENTER, HYATTSVILLE
PRINCE GEORGES COUNTY, MARYLAND

HOWARD S. BERGER

JANUARY 1992

FROM S (detail - storefronts)

MD SHPO

3 of 5



PG# 68-41-5

FURMAN'S SHOPPING CENTER, HYATTSVILLE

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

HOWARD S. BERGER

JANUARY 1992

FROM N (detail - end wall)

MD. SHPO

4 OF 5



P6# 68-41-5

FURMAN'S SHOPPING CENTER, HYATTSVILLE

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

HOWARD S. BERGER

JANUARY 1992

FROM SW (detail - alley elevation)

MD SHPO

5 OF 5