

CAPSULE SUMMARY
Camp Springs Auto Parts Store (PG: 76B-27)
6516 Old Branch Avenue
Prince George's County, Maryland

Built around 1950, the Camp Springs Auto Parts building illustrates the continued importance of the automobile as a primary means of transportation, as well as architectural trends during the third quarter of the 20th century. This building also reflects stylistic trends that were occurring in modern architecture during the 1950-1960s.

The Camp Springs Auto Parts store is situated on a slight rise between Old Branch Avenue and Maryland Route 5. It is surrounded by a paved parking lot. The commercial building is one-story in height and six bays in width. Set on a solid brick foundation, the building is constructed of brick laid in stretcher bond. A flat roof covers the building.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
MD INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Inventory No. PG: 76B-27

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1. Name of Property

=====

historic name _____
common/other name Camp Springs Auto Parts Store

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2. Location

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street & number 6516 Old Branch Avenue not for publication _____
city or town Temple Hills vicinity _____ state Maryland code MD
county Prince George's County code 33 zip code 20748

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3. State/Federal Agency Certification N/A

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4. National Park Service Certification N/A

=====

5. Classification

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Ownership of Property (Check all that apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing		Noncontributing		
<u>0</u>		<u>1</u>		buildings
<u>0</u>		<u>0</u>		sites
<u>0</u>		<u>0</u>		structures
<u>0</u>		<u>0</u>		objects
<u>0</u>		<u>1</u>		Total

Is this property listed in the National Register?

Yes _____ Name of Listing _____
No X

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties
Camp Springs Auto Parts Store
6516 Old Branch Avenue
Prince George's County, Maryland

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6. Function or Use

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Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: COMMERCE/TRADE Sub: Specialty Store

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: COMMERCE/TRADE Sub: Specialty Store

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7. Description

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Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Modern Commercial

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

Foundation Solid: Brick Stretcher Bond

Roof Flat: Not Visible

Walls Masonry: Brick Stretcher Bond

other _____

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property.)

See Continuation Sheet No. 7-1

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8. Statement of Significance
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Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties
Camp Springs Auto Parts Store
6516 Old Branch Avenue
Prince George's County, Maryland

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Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Commerce/Trade

Period of Significance 1960-1965

Significant Dates c. 1960

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation Undefined

Architect/Builder Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property.)

See Continuation Sheet No. 8-1

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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(Cite the books, articles, legal records, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Rivoire, J. Richard. *Homeplaces: Traditional Domestic Architecture of Charles County, Maryland*. Crownsville, MD: Maryland Historical Trust, 1990.

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10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of Property 16,067 square feet

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The property at 6516 Old Branch Avenue is designated as Parcel 75, Grid B1 as indicated on Map 107.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The building at 6516 Old Branch Avenue has historically been associated with Parcel 75 since its construction circa 1950.

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11. Form Prepared By

=====

name/title R. Weidlich and C. Novelli, Architectural Historians
organization EHT Traceries, Inc. date July 7, 1999
street & number 5420 Western Avenue telephone 301/656-5283
city or town Chevy Chase state MD zip code 20815

=====

12. Property Owner

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name Philip R. and Lillian E. Riley
street & number 6516 Old Branch Avenue telephone _____
city or town Temple Hills state MD zip code 20748

Section 7 Page 1

Camp Springs Auto Parts Store
name of property
Prince George's County, MD
county and state

=====

The Camp Springs Auto Parts store is situated on a slight rise between Old Branch Avenue and Maryland Route 5. It is surrounded by a paved parking lot. Constructed circa 1950, the commercial building is one-story in height and six bays in width. Set on a solid brick foundation, the building is constructed of brick laid in stretcher bond. A flat roof covers the building.

EXTERIOR DESCRIPTION:

A side passage entry and a band of fixed one-light windows that wrap around the building define the façade. Shallow concrete steps lead to the double leaf entry, which features two metal doors with one light apiece. A flat roof hood covers the doorway. Above the band of windows is a frieze of corrugated metal sheeting with a sign reading Camp Springs Auto Parts.

The wrap-around band of window extends to the east elevation. This elevation also features a single leaf metal door with one-light that is adjacent to a large one-light fixed window. Further defining this wall are two two-light fixed windows, one atop the other.

The rear or north elevation features a multi-light fixed/casement window, double leaf metal flush doors, and a large opening that has been infilled with vertical board siding. On the rear of the building, there is a one-story shed roof addition with vertical board wood siding, an asphalt shingle shed roof, and double leaf vertical board wood doors.

The west elevation is relatively devoid of ornamentation. A four-bay wide band of fixed, one-light windows pierce this side of the building. Above the band of windows is a frieze of corrugated metal sheeting.

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. PG: 76B-27

Section 8 Page 1

Camp Springs Auto Parts Store
name of property
Prince George's County, MD
county and state

=====

Built around 1950, the Camp Springs Auto Parts building illustrates the continued importance of the automobile as a primary means of transportation, as well as architectural trends during the third quarter of the 20th century. This building also reflects stylistic trends that were occurring in modern architecture during the 1950-1960s.

Automobiles and the expanding road and highway systems contributed to widespread commercial and residential development well beyond the rail corridors of the 19th century. As development and population density increased in Prince George's County, new road networks were erected to ease the movement of goods and people. The extension of Crain Highway to the Potomac and the completion of the Governor Harry W. Nice Memorial Bridge spanning the Potomac River bridge near Pope's Creek in 1940 served to link Charles and Prince George's Counties with transportation networks from Florida to New York. As a result, Crain Highway, and Branch Avenue, became main routes for commercial truck transportation. The growth in the number of automobiles during the first half of the 20th century resulted in an increase in the number of buildings such as repair shops, filling stations, parts stores, and car dealerships constructed to service them. Most of these tended to be located along major roadways or key intersections of primary and secondary transportation routes.

Following the ~~less~~ is more~~dictum~~ dictum of Mies van der Rohe, everything that could be considered ornament has been eliminated from the building, leaving a functional rectangular box. The building itself approaches the look of the ~~glass-walled box~~ made famous by Mies van der Rohe in his Farnsworth House of 1945-50. The wrap-around glass window of the 1940s and 1950s has now grown to cover most of the wall surface on two adjoining sides of the building as a glass curtain wall. Aluminum and large quantities of glass were used to give the building a distinctly modern look. The glass walls function as a taut membrane or skin, defining the interior space, while flooding the interior with light. The regularly spaced aluminum mullions articulating the glass walls promote a sense of grid-like order and geometric regularity, while alluding to the steel frame structural skeleton of the building.

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. PG: 76B-27

Section 8 Page 2

Camp Springs Auto Parts Store
name of property
Prince George's County, MD
county and state

=====
National Register Evaluation:

The commercial building at 6516 Old Branch Avenue is not eligible due to the fact that it does not meet National Register Criteria A, B, C, or D. Preliminary research has not revealed any association between the building and events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history (Criterion A) or the lives of persons significant in our past (Criterion B). Although the building provides an example of vernacular rural architecture, it is neither unusual nor distinguished; it does not represent the work of a master or display high artistic merit (Criterion C). There is no evidence that the property is likely to yield information important in history or prehistory (Criterion D). Thus, the property is not National Register-eligible.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

Eligibility recommended _____ Not Recommended X

Comments:

Review, OPS: [Signature] Date: 11/1/95

Reviewer, NR Program: _____ Date: _____

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. PG: 76B-27

Camp Springs Auto Parts Store
name of property
Prince George's County, MD
county and state

=====

HISTORIC CONTEXT:

Geographic Organization: Western Shore

Chronological/Development Period (s):

Modern Period (1930-present)

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme (s):

Architecture, Landscape, and
Community Planning
Economic

RESOURCE TYPE(S)

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function (s): COMMERCE/TRADE/Specialty Store

Known Design Source: Unknown

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

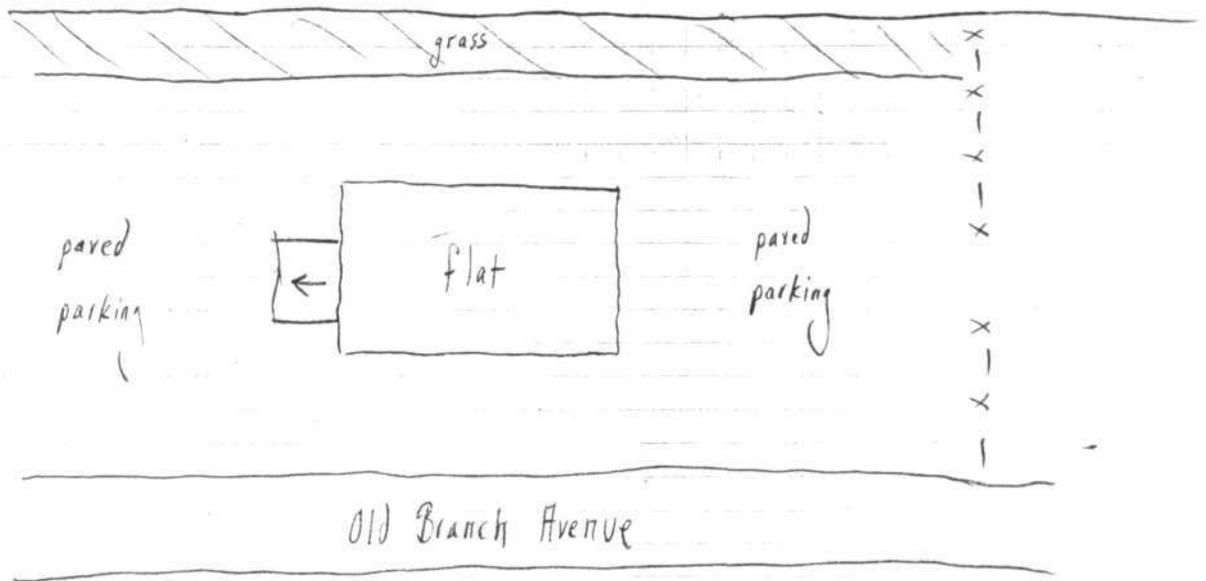
Inventory No. PG: 76B-27

Camp Springs Auto Parts Store
name of property
Prince George's County, MD
county and state

=====
Chain of Title:

- June 15, 1943: The United States of America to J. Harry and
 Annie L. Ley
 Land Records of Prince George's County
 Liber 658 Folio 437
- September 12, 1960: The United States of America, acting through
 Administrator of General Services, to Jesse P.
 and Emily A. Dove
 Land Records of Prince George's County
 Liber 2486 Folio 436
- March 19, 1964: Jesse P. and Emily A. Dove to John P. and Gene
 Ann Schwenk
 Land Records of Prince George's County
 Liber 2953 Folio 448
- May 1, 1980: John P. Schwenk and Gene Ann Schwenk to Philip
 R. and Lillian E. Riley
 Land Records of Prince George's County
 Liber 5256 Folio 344

Route 5
(Branch Avenue)

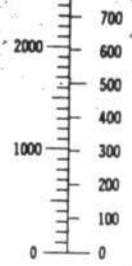


6516 Old Branch Avenue PG:76B-27

Prince George's County
Maryland

Resource Sketch Map
Not Drawn to Scale

1999



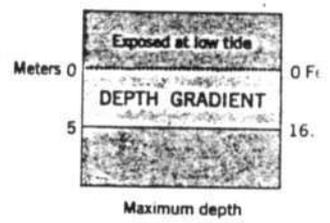
Feet	Meters
1	.3048
2	.6096
3	.9144
4	1.2192
5	1.5240
6	1.8288
7	2.1336
8	2.4384
9	2.7432
10	3.0480

To convert feet to meters multiply by .3048
 To convert meters to feet multiply by 3.2808

6206 OLD BRANCH AVENUE
 PG: 76B-25

6516 OLD BRANCH AVENUE
 PG: 76B-27

6605 OLD BRANCH AVENUE
 PG: 76B-28

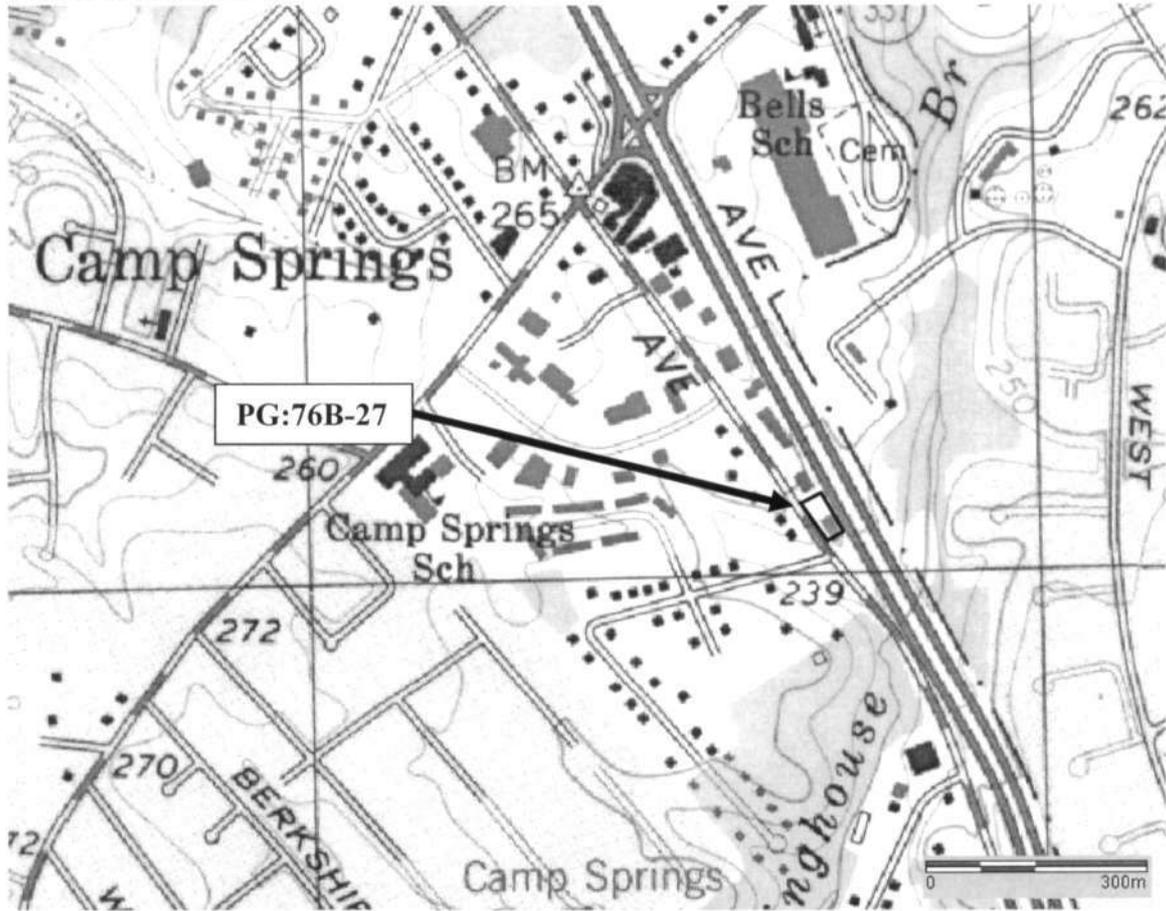


Anacostia USGS Quad



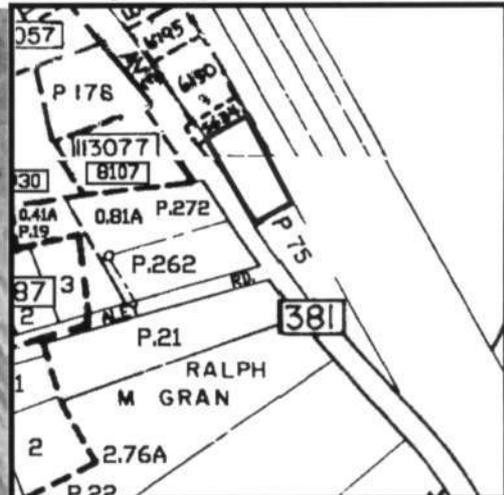
511 OLD BRANCH AVENUE
 PG: 76B-26

PG:76B-27
6516 Old Branch Avenue, Temple Hills
Anacostia quadrangle



1998 Aerial Photo

Tax Map 107, p. 75





Camp Springs Auto Parts

6516



EXIT BY REAR OF STORE
NO WORKING ON VEHICLES
IN PARKING LOT



7G: 76B-27

6916 OLD BRANCH AVENUE
PRINCE GEORGES COUNTY, MD

TRACERIES
JULY 1999
MD SHFD

Southwest corner
1 of 4

Camp Springs Auto Parts

Camp Springs Auto Parts



PG: 76B-27

6516 OLD BRANCH AVENUE
PRINCE GEORGES COUNTY, MD

TRACERIES

JULY 1999

MD SHPD

southeast corner

2 of 4



AutoLite

Camp Springs
AUTO
PARTS

Bendix

SHIPPING
and
RECEIVING

449-9190

Camp Springs
AUTO PARTS

WV

PG: 76B-27

4516 OLD BRANCH AVENUE
PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MD
TRACERIES

JULY 1999

MD SHPD

northeast corner

3 of 4



96:768-27

US16 OLD BRANCH AVENUE
PRINCE GEORGES COUNTY, MD

TRACERIES

JULY 1999

MD SHPO

southwest corner

4 of 4