

CAPSULE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey No.: PG:LAU-1-15 (PACS 1.19) Construction Date: circa 1940
Name: Little Tavern Hamburgers Property
Location: 115 Washington Boulevard, Laurel, Prince George's County

Private/Commercial/Occupied/Good/Unrestricted

Description:

The Little Tavern Hamburgers Property is a 1-story, 2-bay commercial building on the west side of Washington Boulevard in Laurel, Prince George's County. Constructed circa 1940, the building is rectangular in plan, and has a glass enclosure around the take-out window. The structure has a side-gable roof and a shed-roof rear wing with a stepped parapet. The front of the side-gable roof is covered in tiles and the rear in standing-seam metal. It is of brick construction, and has a brick foundation. The windows are fixed plate glass.

Significance:

The Little Tavern Hamburgers Property was built circa 1940 on the north corner of Lot 12 Block 46 by Little Tavern Shops, Incorporated. The company bought the property from Millie and Thomas Brashears in 1939. Little Tavern Shops was originally incorporated in Kentucky, but was re-incorporated under Delaware law in 1941. In 1957, the property was conveyed from the company to the president of the company, Harry F. Duncan. The property was sold in 1987 to G.E.W., Incorporated. The current owners purchased the property in 1988. Little Tavern Shops, Inc. operated a number of Little Tavern Hamburgers throughout the metropolitan Washington, D.C. region. A second Little Tavern Hamburgers still operates in Wheaton, Maryland, and there were additional locations in Alexandria, Virginia; on G Street in Washington, D.C.; and in Georgetown in the District of Columbia.

Preparer
P.A.C. Spero & Company
May 1998

Maryland Historical Trust
 Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form
 Montgomery-Prince George's Short-term Congestion Relief

DOE ___yes ___no

1. Name: (indicate preferred name)

historic Little Tavern Hamburgers Property (preferred)

and/or common

2. Location:

street & number 115 Washington Boulevard n/a not for publication

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

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

name Tavern Real Estate Limited Partnership

street & number PO Box 7398 telephone no.:

city,town Silver Spring state and zip code Maryland 20907

5. Location of Legal Description

Land Records of Prince George's County liber 7685

street & number Prince George's County Judicial Center folio 622

city,town Upper Marlboro state MD

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ___federal ___state ___county ___local

depository for survey records

city,town state

7. Description

Survey No. PG:LAU-1-15 (PACS 1.19)

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			

Resource Count: 1

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

The Little Tavern Hamburgers Property is a 1-story, 2-bay commercial building on the west side of Washington Boulevard in Laurel, Prince George's County. Constructed circa 1940, the building is rectangular in plan, and has a glass enclosure around the take-out window. The structure has a side-gable roof and a shed-roof rear wing with a stepped parapet. The front of the side-gable roof is covered in tiles and the rear in standing-seam metal. It is of brick construction, and has a brick foundation. The windows are fixed plate glass.

The east, or front elevation has a shed-roof projection which carries a two-sided neon sign, and there is a second neon sign at the ridgeline. The entrance is located in the second bay, and has a pedimented hood supported by brackets. There is a large picture window in the first bay, with a brick sill and an inverted jack arch. There is vertical brick detailing at the cornice line. The door into a metal and glass enclosure around the take-out window is located on the east elevation.

The north elevation is composed of the gable-end of the front-wing and the rear ell. There is a large picture window in the gable-end with a brick sill and inverted jack arch. The gable has decorative shingle detailing and a tiled roofline. The rear ell has a stepped parapet with vertical brick detailing. There is a single large picture window, and three smaller fixed-light windows in the rear ell. All have vertical brick sills and inverted jack arches.

The west, or rear elevation is composed of the rear roof of the front wing and the rear elevation of the ell. There is a large picture window with a brick sill and inverted jack arch in the first bay. The second bay has a 6-light door with a vertical brick lintel.

The south elevation is composed of the gable-end of the front wing and the rear ell. There are two large picture windows and a tall, narrow window in the rear ell. All have vertical-brick sills and inverted jack arches. The stepped parapet has vertical brick detailing. There is a take-out window in the gable-end of the front wing. It is enclosed by a metal and glass flat-roof box. The gable has decorative shingle detailing and a tiled roofline.

There are no outbuildings associated with this property.

The Little Tavern Hamburgers Property is located on the west side of Washington Boulevard next to Fetty Alley, and is surrounded by commercial properties to the north and west, and by the Laurel Post Office property to the east and south. The surrounding lot is paved for parking. The setting is relatively unaltered from the historic setting.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

RESOURCE NAME: Little Tavern Hamburgers Property

SURVEY NO.: PG:LAU-1-15 (PACS 1.19)

ADDRESS: 115 Washington Boulevard, Laurel, Prince George's County

8. Significance (Continued)

highways soon led to roadside commercial development, particularly along primary routes. About the time of World War I, shops began to appear along these routes almost anywhere the law permitted. Gas stations, produce stands, hotdog stands, restaurants, tourist cabins, motels, and many other businesses catered to a new generation of high-speed travelers. To capture their attention, there also appeared various forms of highly visible advertising such as billboards, signs prominently placed in front of businesses, and advertisements painted onto the sides of barns and other structures. With the emergence of a society in which most families owned cars, business owners could now locate in areas that had once been rural where large parking lots could accommodate their customers, and where land was cheaper than in town centers. These developments led to the decline of urban retailing districts all over the country particularly in the years following World War II.

In rural America, the rise of high-speed highways harmed some long-established businesses catering to local residents while giving rise to new businesses aimed at travellers. General stores, for example, declined during the middle decades of this century as rural customers gained easier access to stores in urban areas with better selection and lower prices. New businesses, however, such as motels, restaurants, and gas stations thrived during this period. Some older structures, such as train stations, were often converted into restaurants, souvenir shops, or bars. Roadside businesses aimed at middle class travelers by building structures that resembled bungalows with a tidy front yard and geraniums in the front windows. Other businesses employed marketing techniques similar to those used by amusement parks by constructing fantastically shaped advertising and attention-grabbing neon signs (Liebs 1985: 5-9).

CONTINUATION SHEET

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

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ADDRESS: 115 Washington Boulevard, Laurel, Prince George's County

8. Significance (Continued)

National Register Evaluation:

The Little Tavern Hamburgers Property, constructed circa 1940, is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C, as an excellent example of a mid-twentieth century "signature store" commercial building property. The property represents the growth of roadside businesses designed to capture the attention and business of passing motorists. It has excellent integrity, and retains its original tile roof, neon signs, and decorative features such as shingled gable-end and pedimented door hood. The interior retains the counter and stools. The Wheaton store has similar design features, such as a tile roof and inverted jack arches. The property is not eligible under Criterion A, as research conducted indicates no association with any historic events or trends significant in the development of national, state, or local history. Historic research indicates that the property has no association with persons who have made specific contributions to history, and therefore, it does not meet Criterion B. Finally, the structure has no known potential to yield important information, and therefore, is not eligible under Criterion D.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST	
Eligibility recommended <u>XX</u>	Eligibility Not Recommended _____
Comments <u>One of the few that survive intact</u>	
Reviewer, OPS: <u>[Signature]</u>	Date: _____
Reviewer, NR Program: <u>[Signature]</u>	Date: _____

[Handwritten signature]

9. Major Bibliographical References Survey No. PG:LAU-1-15(PACS 1.19)

See Attached

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 4000 square feet (.09 acres or .036 hectares)
Quadrangle name Laurel, MD Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

See Attached

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

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Susan L. Taylor

organization P.A.C. Spero & Company

date May 1998

street & number 40 W. Chesapeake Avenue, Suite 412

telephone (410) 296-1635

city or town Baltimore

state Maryland

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 purposed only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

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

CONTINUATION SHEET

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

RESOURCE NAME: Little Tavern Hamburgers Property

SURVEY NO.: PG:LAU-1-15 (PACS 1.19)

ADDRESS: 115 Washington Boulevard, Laurel, Prince George's County

9. Major Bibliographical References (Continued)

- Brugger, Robert A. 1988. Maryland, A Middle Temperament 1634-1980. Baltimore and London: Johns Hopkins University Press.
- Cook, William G. 1976. Montpelier & the Snowden Family. Privately Printed.
- Hiebert, Ray Eldon, and Richard K. MacMaster. 1976. A Grateful Remembrance: the Story of Montgomery County, Maryland. Rockville, Maryland: Montgomery County Government and the Montgomery County Historical Society.
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- Land Records of Prince George's County, Upper Marlboro, Maryland.
- "The Laurel Factory." News and Notes from the Prince George's County Historical Society. (July 1980): 38-40. (First published in The American Farmer. Baltimore, Maryland, August 1845.)
- Liebs, Chester H. 1985. Mainstreet to Miracle Mile: American Roadside Architecture. Boston: Little Brown & Co.
- McAlester, Virginia and Lee. 1984. A Field Guide to American Houses. New York: Alfred A. Knopf.
- Poe, Gertrude L. 1970. Laurel, Maryland: Centennial Souvenir Booklet. Laurel, Maryland: The News Leader.
- Prince George's County Community Renewal Program. 1974. The Neighborhoods of Prince George's County. Upper Marlboro, Maryland: Prince George's County Government.
- Tindall, George Brown. 1984. America: A Narrative History. 2 vols. New York: W.W. Norton & Company, Inc.
- Virta, Alan. 1984. Prince George's County: A Pictorial History. Rev. 1991. Virginia Beach: The Donning Company Publishers.
- Virta, Alan. "The Pretty, Rosy-Cheeked Girls of Laurel." News and Notes from the Prince George's County Historical Society. (July 1980): 37.

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MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

RESOURCE NAME: Little Tavern Hamburgers Property

SURVEY NO.: PG:LAU-1-15 (PACS 1.19)

ADDRESS: 115 Washington Boulevard, Laurel, Prince George's County

10. Geographical Data (Continued)

Verbal Boundary Description and Justification:

The National Register boundaries of the Little Tavern Hamburger Property follow the current property lines of 115 Washington Boulevard (Tax Map 6 and Block 34 Parcel 12). This 371.6 square meter (4000 square foot) parcel is bounded on the west and south by adjacent parcels and on the north by Fetty Alley, and on the east by Washington Boulevard. The boundary includes the Little Tavern Hamburgers building. According to deed research, the property was originally part of Lot 12 in Block 43, the northern portion of which was purchased by Little Tavern Shops, Inc. in 1939. The boundaries follow the historic boundaries of the property.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

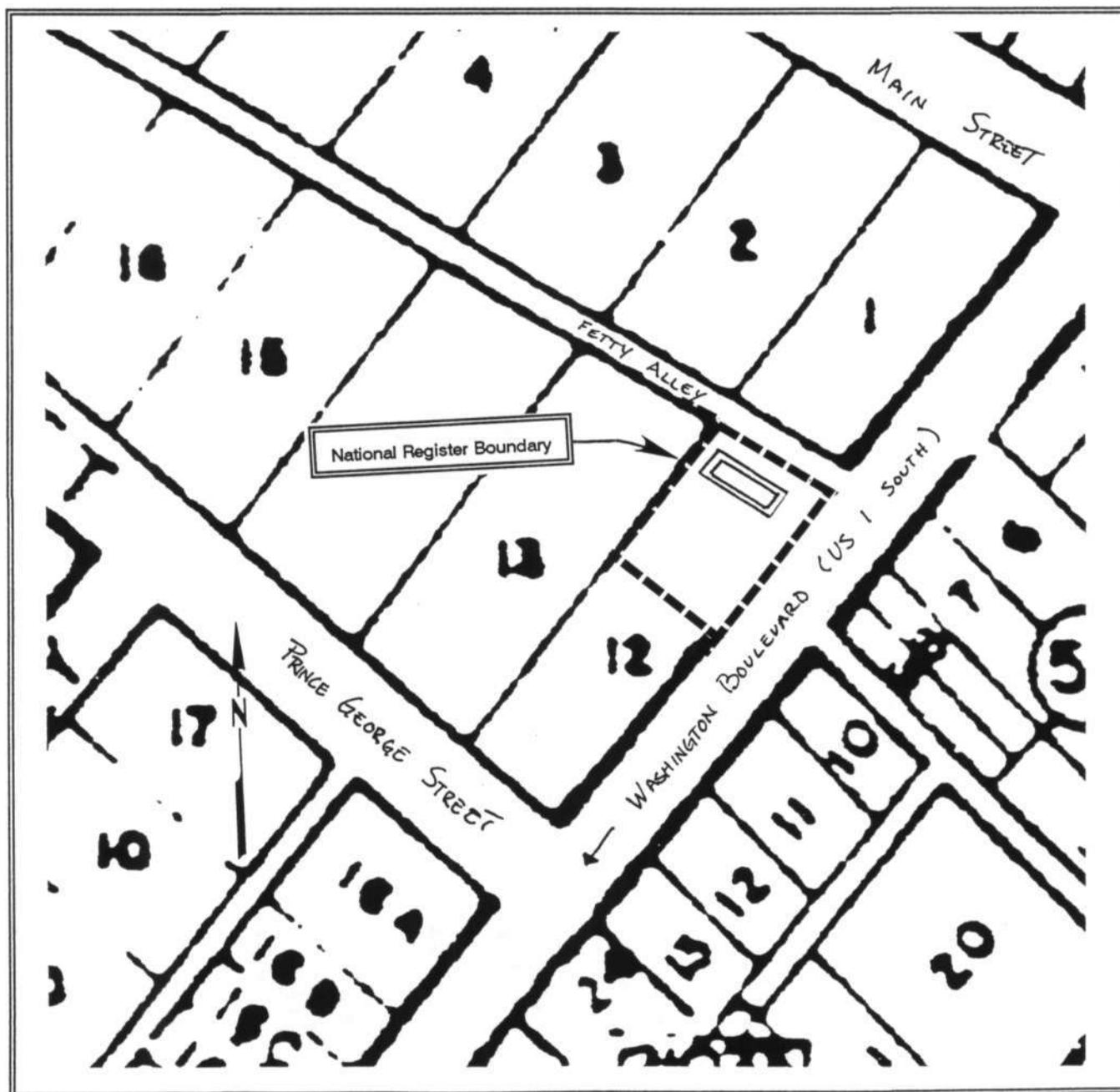
RESOURCE NAME: Little Tavern Hamburgers Property

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10. Geographical Data (Continued)

Resource Sketch Map and National Register Boundary Map:



CONTINUATION SHEET

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Maryland Comprehensive Historic Preservation Plan Data Sheet

Historic Context:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Western Shore

Chronological/Developmental Period Theme (s): Modern Period A.D. 1930-Present

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

RESOURCE TYPE:

Category (see Section 3 of survey form): Building

Historic Environment (urban, suburban, village, or rural): Urban

Historic Function(s) and Use(s): Commercial

Known Design Source (write none if unknown): None



LITTLE TAVERN

HAMBURGERS HAMBURGERS

"Buy 'em by the bag"

- 1 PG-Lau-1-15
- 2 Little Tavern Hamburger Property
- 3 Prince Georges Co, Md
- 4 Susan Taylor
- 5 5/98
- 6 Md SHPO
- 7 E elevation
- 8 1 of 8

106 0271 N N-N-22



1 PG: Law-1-15

2 Little Tavern Hamburger Property

3 Prince Georges Co, Md

4 Susan Taylor

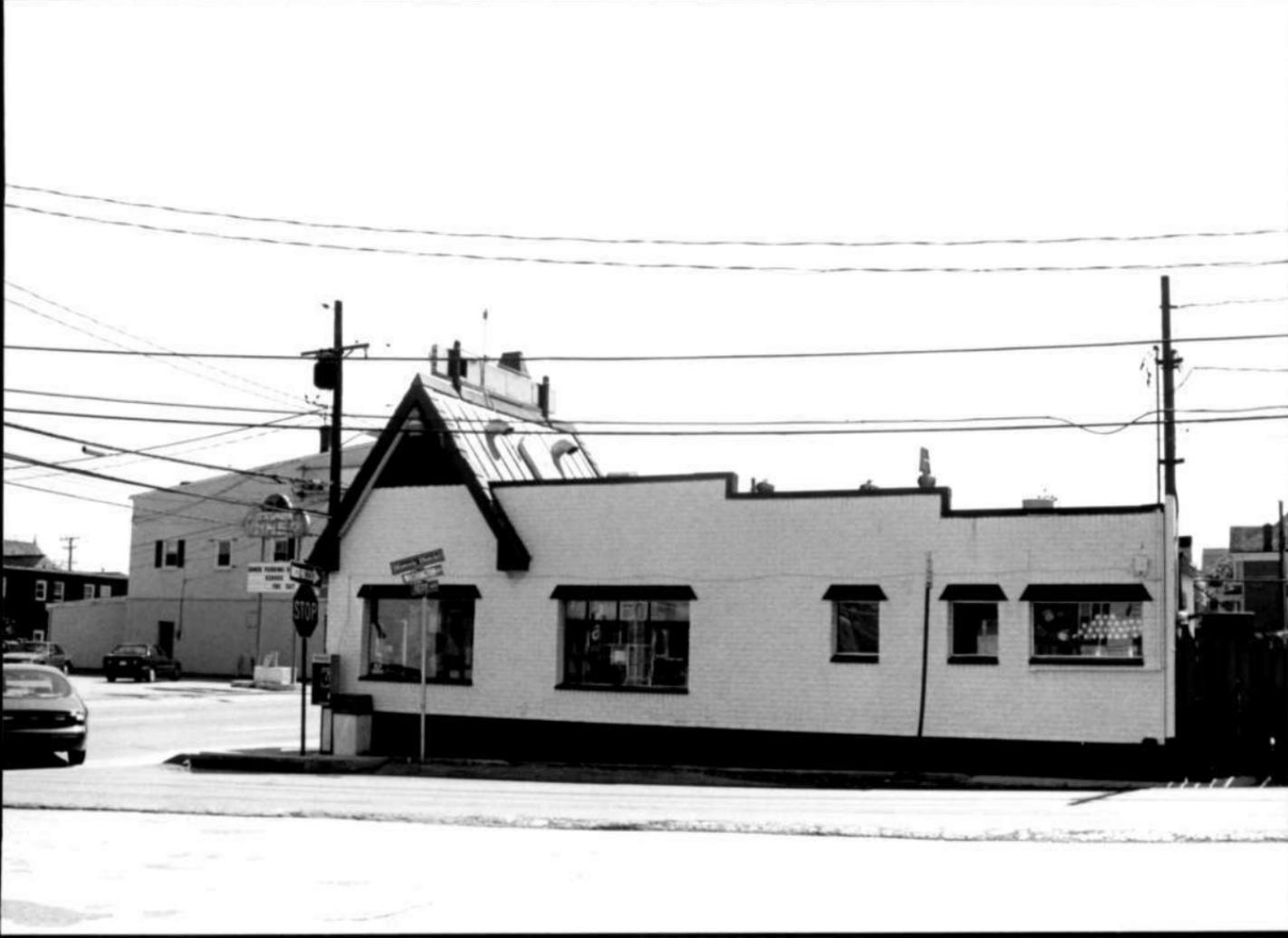
5 5198

6 Md SHPO

7 NE CORNER

8 2 of 8

006 0271 N N N-22



1 PG: Law-1-15

2 Little Tavern Hamburg Property.

3 Prince Georges Co, Md

4 Susan Taylor

5 5/98

6 Md SHPO

7 N elevation

8 3 of 8

006 0271 N IN 452



1 Pf: Law-1-15

2 Little Tavern Hamburger Property

3 Prince Georges Co, Md

4 Susan Taylor

5 5/98

6 Md SHPO

7 NW corner

8 4588



1 PG: Lau-1-15

2 Little Haven Hamburger Property

3 Prince Georges Co, Md

4 Susan Taylor

5 5198

6 Md SHPO

7 W elevation

8 5 of 8

20080271 N N N-12



1 PG:lan-1-15

2 Little Javen Hamburger Property

3 Prince Georges Co, Md

4 Susan Taylor

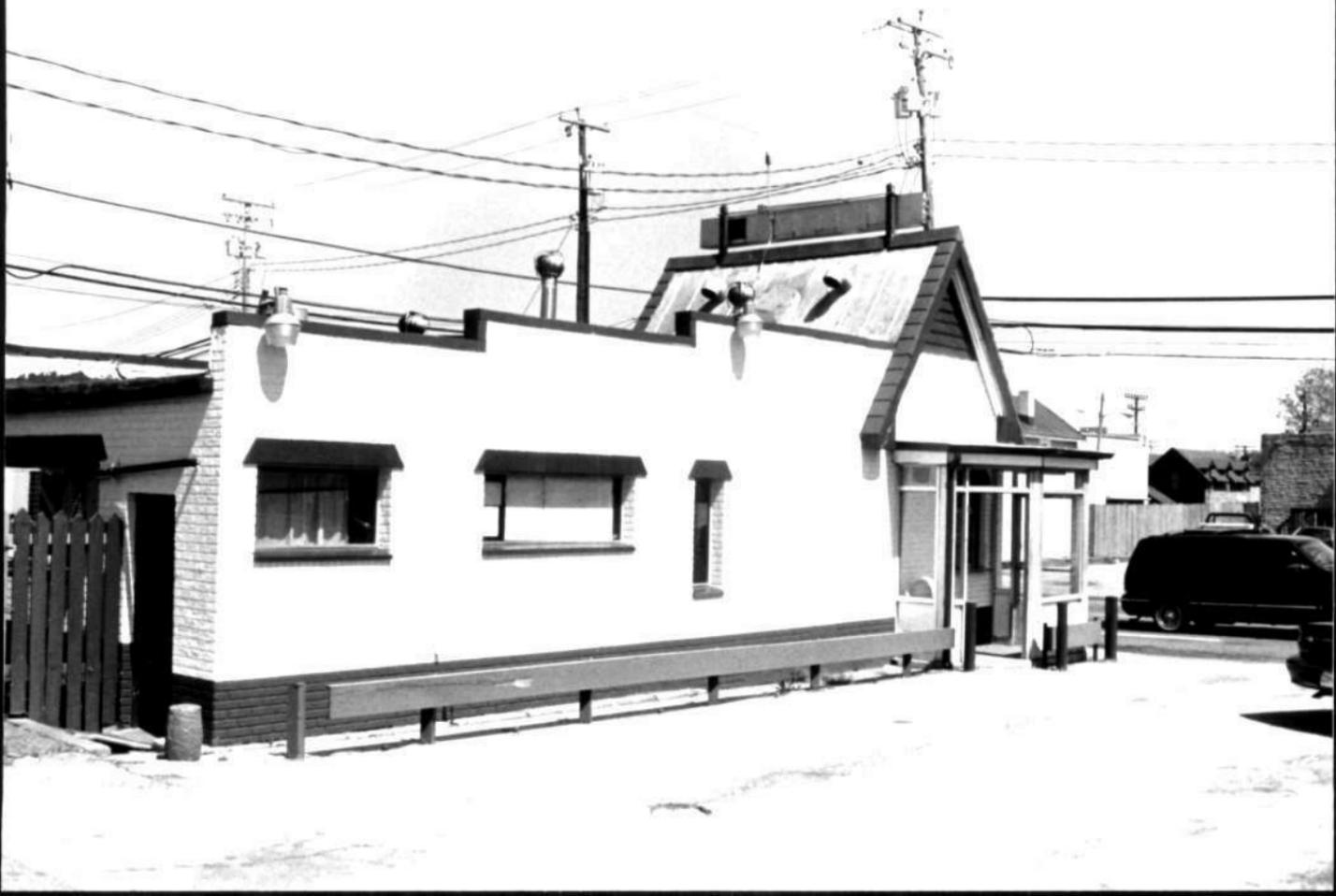
5 5/98

6 Md. SHPO

7 SW corner

8 6 of 8

21-N-N 1280802



1 PG = Lam-1-15

2 Little Tavern Hamburger Property

3 Prince Georges Co, Md

4 Susan Taylor

5 5/98

6 Md SHPS

7 S elevation

8 7 of 8



HANGURGERS

HANGUR

GOODWILL DRIP
DONATION C

- 1 PG; Law-1-15
- 2 Little Tavern Hamburger Property
- 3 Prince Georges Co, Md
- 4 Susan Taylor
- 5 5/98
- 6 Md SHPO
- 7 SE corner
- 8 8 of 8

0060271 N.N.N.1220900

MIHP # PG:LAU-1-15
Little Tavern Hamburgers Property
115 Washington Boulevard
Laurel, Prince Georges County, Maryland

Photograph Log

Image File Name	Description of View
PG;LAU-1-15_2008-09-24_01.TIF	View of front elevation, facing northwest
PG;LAU-1-15_2008-09-24_02.TIF	View of front and side elevations, facing west
PG;LAU-1-15_2008-09-24_03.TIF	View of side elevation, facing southwest
PG;LAU-1-15_2008-09-24_04.TIF	View of rear elevation, facing southeast
PG;LAU-1-15_2008-09-24_05.TIF	View of side elevation, facing northeast

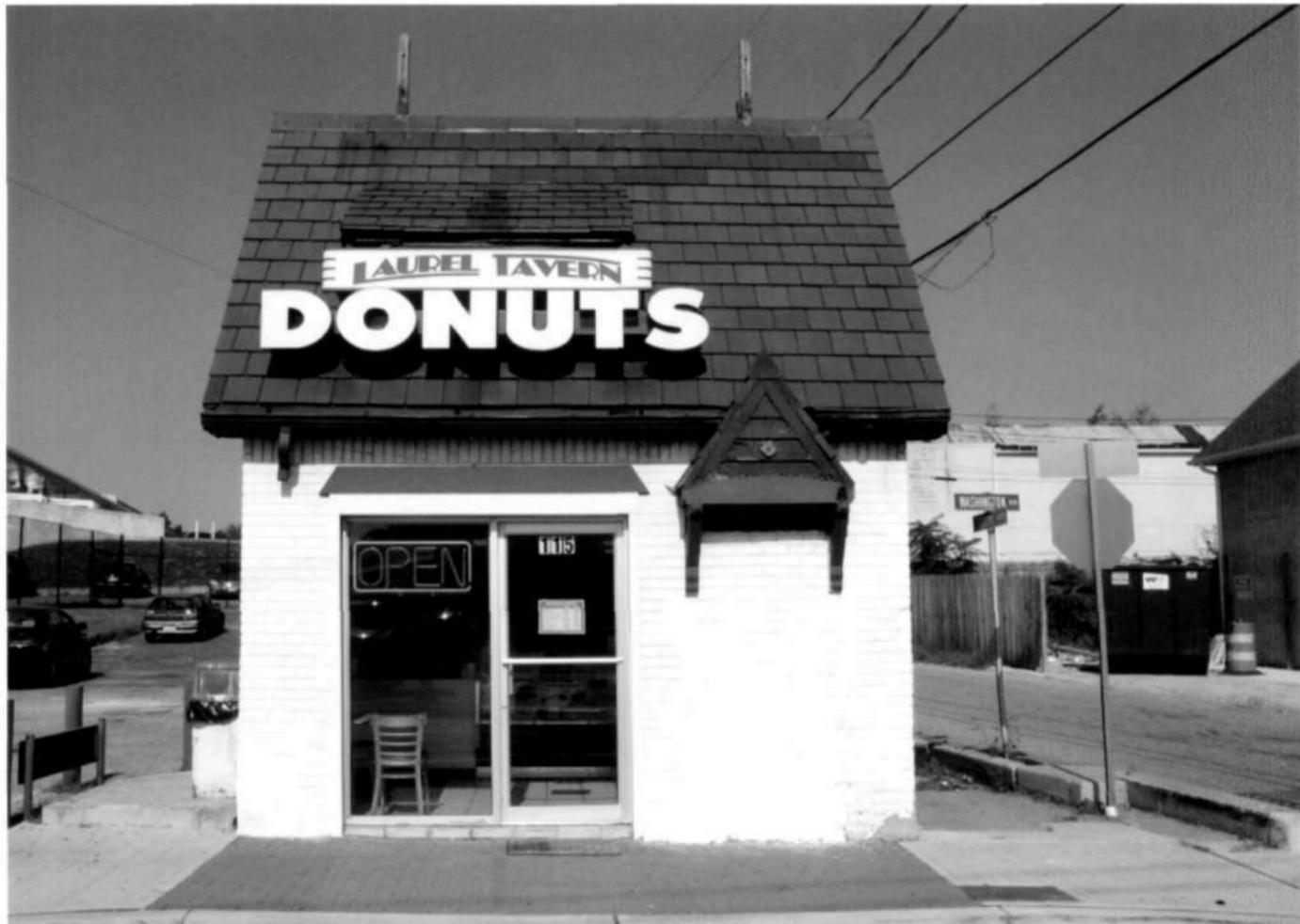
Printed on Epson Premium Photo Paper Glossy with Epson UltraChrome Black Ink

LAUREL TAVERN
DONUTS

OPEN

116115

WASHINGTON ST



MILHP # PG: LAU-1-15

Little Tavern Hamburgers

PG Co. MD

F. Kohler

9/08

MD SHPO

Front elev., facing NW

#1 of 5



MIHP # PG: LAU-1-15

Little Tavern Hamburgers

Pl Co. MD

F. Kohler

s/os

MD SHPO

Front + side elev., facing W

2 of 5



Hot
Fresh **Donuts** Every
Week
Sausage Rolls, Famous
Little Burgers
301-362-7551

MHP #PG: LAU-1-15

Little Tavern Hamburgers

PG Co. MD

F. Kohler

2/08

MD STRD

Side elev., facing SW

#3 of 5



MIHP # PG: LAU-1-15

Little Tavern Hamburgers

Pln Co. MD

F. Kohler

9/08

MD SHTPO

Rear elev., facing SE

4 of 5



MIHP #Pl: LAU-1-15

Little Tavern Hamburgers

Pl Co. MD

F. Kohler

9/08

MD SHPO

side elev., facing NE

5 of 5