

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM

Property Name: Bast Furniture Inventory Number: WA-II-783

Address: 109 North Main Street, Boonsboro, Maryland

Owner: Bast Furniture Inc.

Tax Parcel Number: 440 Tax Map Number: 601

Project: Boonsboro Streetscape - WA960A21 Agency: Maryland State Highway Administration

Site visit by: John Milner Associates, Inc. Staff: no  yes

Name: Kerri Culhane and Rachel Mancini Date: June 1999

Eligibility recommended  Eligibility **not** recommended

Criteria:  A  B  C  D Considerations:  A  B  C  D  E  F  G  None

Is property located within a historic district?  no  yes Name of district: Town of Boonsboro

Is district listed?  no  yes

Documentation on the property/district is presented in: Boonsboro Streetscape, Alternate US 40: MD 68 to East of Mousetown Road, Washington County, Maryland, SHA Report 215 (JMA 1999) and Final Report: Architectural and Cultural Survey of Boonsboro and Clear Spring, MD (Mueller 1992).

Description of Property and Eligibility Determination: *(Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map and photo)*

The Bast Furniture Store is the largest commercial building in Boonsboro. The building was built ca. 1925-1926 to replace the small, log Brining and Bast shop that previously occupied the site. The Basts were traditionally known as the town furniture and casket makers. Prior to the evolution of the modern practice of funeral direction, furniture builders, who provided caskets, commonly served as proxy undertakers. The Basts had such an enterprise and eventually split the business into a funeral home and furniture store. The undertaker's "office" was formerly located in the southern bay of this three-story, three-bay-wide, brick, commercial building. The facade brick is a textured brick laid in a stretcher bond. The sides and rear are laid in a five- to six-course American bond. According to Doug Bast, much of the common brick used in the building was salvaged from other buildings. The triple windows have 1/1 wood sashes and flank single 1/1 wood sash windows in the central bay. The lintels are rusticated stone. A recessed entry and plate-glass show windows occupy the north and central first floor bays. The flat roof is hidden behind a stepped parapet below which is a cornice. A diamond-shaped date stone in the parapet reads 1925. Behind the store are several outbuildings, including a barn with board and batten siding, a frame barn with metal siding, and brick, hip-roofed storage building with a patterned metal roof. The Bast Furniture Store is a twentieth century commercial building built for a company that traces its roots to the 1830s in Boonsboro. As an example of the commercial style, this building is a contributing resource to the town of Boonsboro Historic District.

Prepared by: Kerri Culhane, John Milner Associates, Inc., VA.

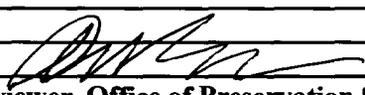
**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW**

Eligibility recommended

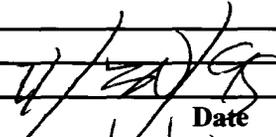
Eligibility not recommended \_\_\_\_\_

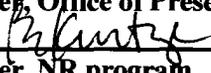
Criteria:  A  B  C  D Considerations:  A  B  C  D  E  F  G  None

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

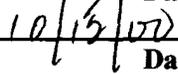
  
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

Date

  
11/20/95

  
Reviewer, NR program

Date

  
10/15/00



**PRESERVATION VISION 2000; THE MARYLAND PLAN  
STATEWIDE HISTORIC CONTEXTS**

**I. Geographic Region:**

- 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:**

- Rural Agrarian Intensification A.D. 1680-1815  
 Agricultural-Industrial Transition A.D. 1815-1870  
 Industrial/Urban Dominance A.D. 1870-1930  
 Modern Period A.D. 1930-Present  
 Unknown Period (  prehistoric  historic)

**III. Historic Period Themes:**

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

**IV. Resource Type:**

Category: Building  
Historic Environment: Village  
Historic Function(s) and Use(s): COMMERCE/TRADE/specialty store  
Known Design Source: none

STOLUFFER AVE.

Portion of Washington Co., MD Tax Map 601 showing the location of WA-II-783 (Parcel 440), 109 North Main Street, Boonsboro, MD

P. 321

P. 663-2

WA-II-830

P. 328

WA-II-831

P. 329

WA-II-832

P. 330

WA-II-833

P. 331

WA-II-834

P. 332

WA-II-835

P. 660 P. 661 P. 335

WA-II-836

P. 662 P. 663 P. 411

WA-II-837

P. 414 P. 412

WA-II-838

P. 413

WA-II-839

P. 415

WA-II-840

P. 416

WA-II-841

P. 417-1

P. 417-2

WA-II-842

P. 418

WA-II-843

P. 419 P. 420

WA-II-844

P. 421

WA-II-845

P. 422

WA-II-846

P. 424

WA-II-847

P. 423

WA-II-848

P. 425

WA-II-849

P. 426

WA-II-850

P. 427

WA-II-851

P. 606 P. 427

WA-II-852

P. 607 P. 605

STREET

WA-II-853

P. 608 P. 736

WA-II-854

P. 737

WA-II-855

P. 739

WA-II-856

P. 740

WA-II-857

P. 741

WA-II-858

P. 742

WA-II-859

P. 743

WA-II-860

P. 744

WA-II-861

P. 745

WA-II-862

P. 746

P. 648 P. 650 P. 651 P. 649

P. 690 P. 688 P. 689

P. 729 P. 730 P. 731 P. 732 P. 728 P. 727 P. 726

P. 342

P. 341

P. 340

P. 339

P. 338-2 P. 542

P. 338-1

P. 337-3

P. 337-1

P. 336-2

P. 335

P. 334

P. 446

P. 445

P. 444

P. 443

P. 442 P. 541

P. 441

P. 440

P. 439

P. 438

P. 437 P. 539

P. 436

P. 435 P. 540

P. 434

P. 433

P. 432

P. 431

P. 430

P. 429

P. 428

P. 799 P. 548

P. 798

P. 797

P. 796

P. 795

P. 794

P. 793

P. 792

P. 791

P. 790

P. 789

P. 788

GROVE

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CAMPUS GRC

P. 5 P. 5

WA-II-791

WA-II-790

WA-II-789

WA-II-788

P. 522 P. 523 P. 524-1 P. 524-2

P. 483

P. 512 P. 511

WA-II-787

WA-II-786

WA-II-785

WA-II-784

WA-II-783

WA-II-782

WA-II-781

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WA-II-627

WA-II-626

WA-II-625

WA-II-624

WA-II-623

WA-II-622

WA-II-621

WA-II-620

WA-II-619

WA-II-618

WA-II-617

WA-II-616



Best of Broomfield  
FURNITURE, CARPETS & ACCESSORIES  
est. 1932

WA-11-783

Sast Furniture

109 N. Main St

Boonsboro Washington Co MD

John Calhoun

2000

100 MP SHP

west elevation, main building



East of Broadway

WA-11-783

East Furniture

109 N. Main St

Boonsboro, Washington Co, MD

Kerri Culhane

6/1/99

reg. MD SHFD

west elevation, main building



WA-11-783

Best Furniture

109 N. Main St.

Boonsboro, Washington Co., MD

Keri Culhara

6/1999

neg MD 31P2

South elevation, main building



WA-11-783

Best Furniture

109 N. Main St.

Commerce - Waverly near Co. MD

Kerri Culhane

6/1999

neg. MD SHPO

looking NE, outbuilding



WA-11-783

East Furniture

109 N. Main St.

Boonsboro, Washington Co., MD

Herri Cahane

6/1999

neg: MD SHPO

looking SW, outbuilding



WA-11-783

Best Furniture

109 N. Main St.

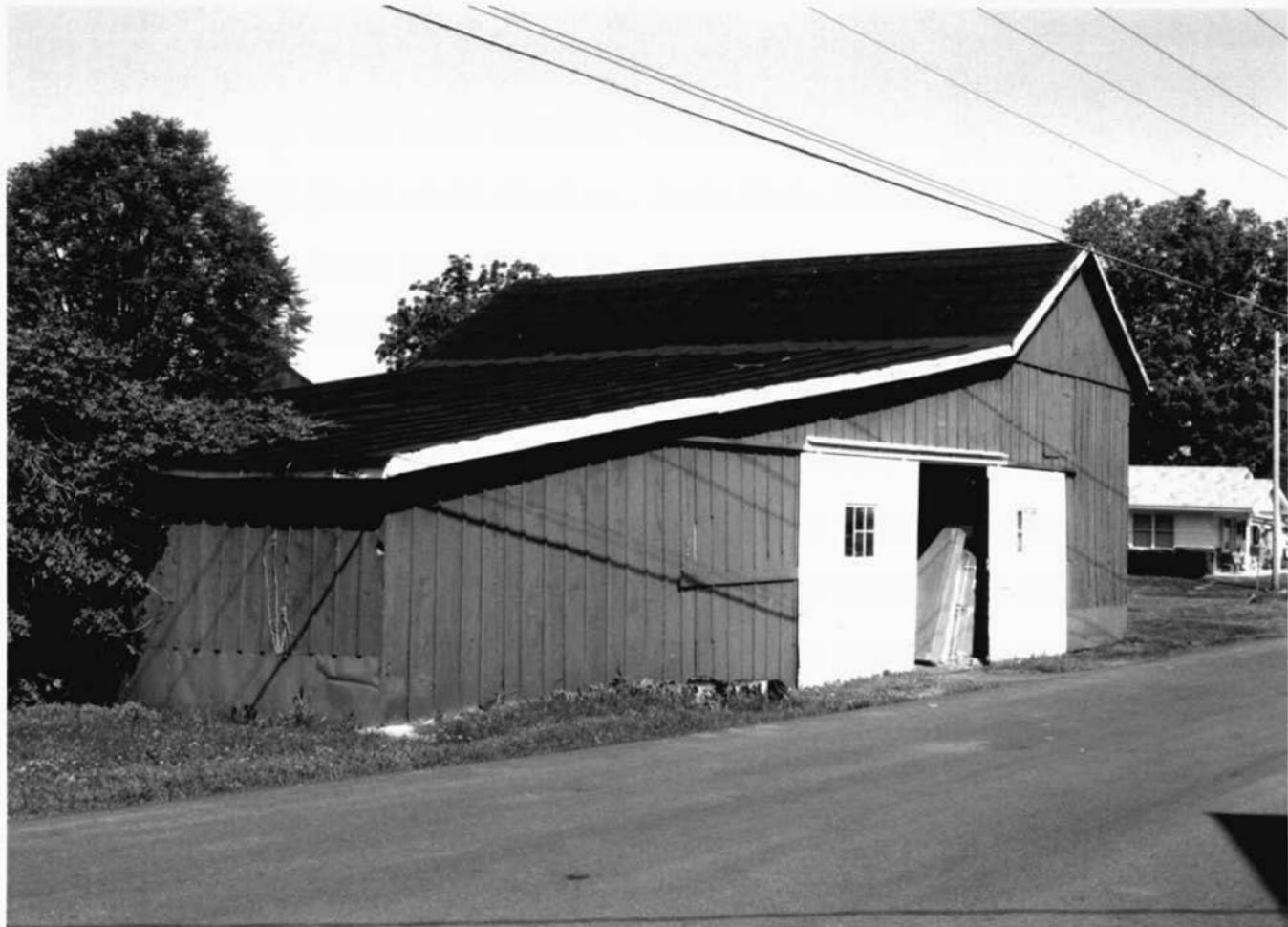
Boonsboro, Washington Co. MD

Kerri Culhane

6/1999

neg. MD SHPO

looking NE outbuilding



WA-11-783

Bast Furniture

109 N. Main St.

Boonville, Rockcastle Co., MD

Harry Calhoun

6/1990

neg: MD SHPO

looking NW, barn/storage

SITE NUMBER: WA-II-783

ADDRESS: 109 North Main Street, Boonsboro, MD

OWNER/LOT NUMBER/ACCESS: Bast of Boonsboro, open during business hours

BUILDING DATE: 1926

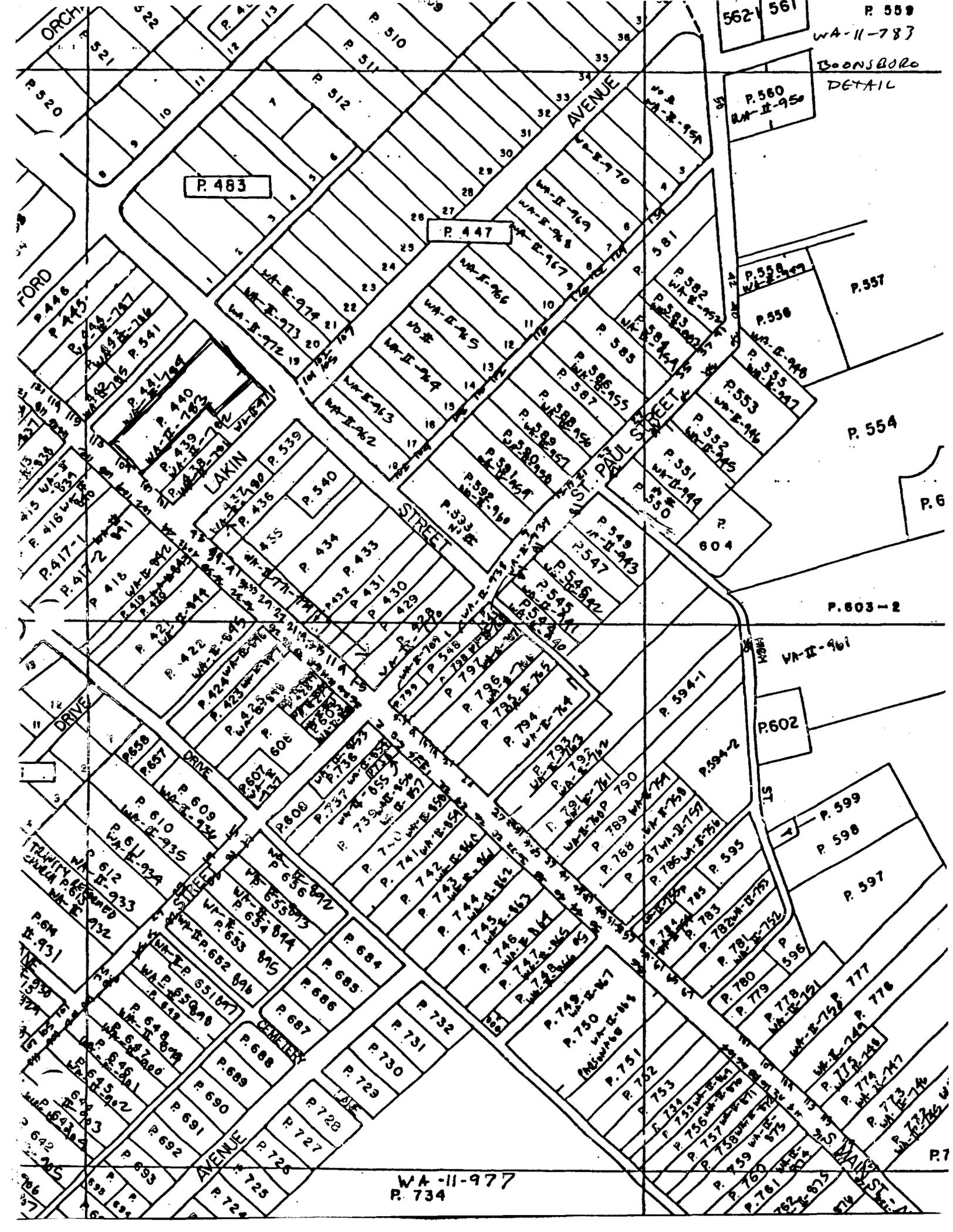
109 North Main Street is a west-facing, vertically massed, three-story, three-bay, brick, freestanding, commercial structure. The building, which is set directly at the public-right-of-way with a parking area to its north, rests on a stone foundation that has a concrete finish. The brick, which is set in a running bond on the front facade and in a common bond on the sides, is a deep orange color with a grey mortar. The frame storefront extends across the center and north bays and is protected by an awning. The roof is flat. The principal entrance, which is located in the center bay is a modern, aluminum frame door. A secondary entrance is located in the south bay. Fenestration includes double-hung, one-over-one windows set in triplets. All windows have rough-cut stone sills and lintels with six-over-one sash windows on the first floor and six-over-two windows on the second floor.

According to deed research by Doug Bast, this building rests on original lot 37 that was first purchased by Jacob Keller in 1792 for five pounds (Liber G, Folio 934). The Bast furniture business was founded on this site in 1837 and is believed to be the oldest continuously operating retail furniture store in Maryland. A smaller building than the extant structure is noted at this site on the 1877 atlas of Boonsboro. The 1897 Sanborn indicates a two-story building of the same configuration on the site and notes it as a furniture and undertaker's business. A one-and-one-half story rear addition contained a cabinet shop, to which another very small

one-story section had been added. The building is numbered 15 Main Street at that time and had a porch extending across its facade. The site continues to be noted in an identical fashion until 1924 when the Sanborn notes it only as a store with the cabinet shop in the rear. A much larger structure is noted on the 1940 Sanborn. It is indicated as a store with an undertaker's business occupying the south portion of the interior. Several outbuildings which appear on earlier Sanborns on a separate lot to the rear of this one are now consolidated into a single lot. These buildings include several multi-car garages, as well as several smaller structures. All Sanborns indicate that the adjacent lot to the north is vacant. According to the owner, Doug Bast, the store was erected in 1926 and one of the outbuildings was constructed from material from the town stable which was demolished at the beginning of the 20th century.

The building is within the Western Maryland Geographic Organization, the Development Period of Industrial-Urban Dominance, and falls within the Historic Period Themes of Economic; and Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Community Planning.

Prepared by Julianne Mueller, July 1992



P. 559  
WA-11-783

BOONSBORO  
DETAIL

562 561

P. 560  
WA-II-95

P. 483

P. 447

P. 557

P. 558  
WA-II-957

P. 556  
WA-II-940

P. 554

P. 553  
WA-II-946

P. 552  
WA-II-945

P. 6

P. 603-2

WA-II-961

P. 602

P. 599

P. 598

P. 597

P. 778

P. 779

P. 777

P. 776

P. 775

P. 774

P. 773

P. 772

WA-11-977  
P. 734

P. 7



Golden  
PARKING

WA-II-783

109 N. MAIN ST. BURNSBORO, WASH. CO.

12/91

JULIE MUELLER

LOOKING SE