

PH0673811

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED MAY 1 1979

JUN 27 1979

DATE ENTERED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Laurel High School

AND/OR COMMON

Edward Phelps Community Center

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

700 Block of Montgomery Street, north side,
between 7th and 8th Streets

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Laurel

VICINITY OF

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Maryland

24

Prince George's

033

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

DISTRICT

BUILDING(S)

STRUCTURE

SITE

OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

PUBLIC

PRIVATE

BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

IN PROCESS

BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

OCCUPIED

UNOCCUPIED

WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

YES: RESTRICTED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

NO

PRESENT USE

AGRICULTURE

COMMERCIAL

EDUCATIONAL

GOVERNMENT

INDUSTRIAL

MILITARY

MUSEUM

PARK

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

RELIGIOUS

SCIENTIFIC

TRANSPORTATION

OTHER:

Community Services

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

PRINCE GEORGES COUNTY GOVERNMENT
BUREAU OF BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS
ROOM 3182

ATTEN: MR. PHILIP SCHWARTZ

STREET & NUMBER

GOVERNMENT OGDEN DRIVE

CITY, TOWN

STATE

UPPER MARLBORO

VICINITY OF

MD

20870

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Land Records Division, Clerk of Circuit Court

STREET & NUMBER

Prince George's County Court House

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Upper Marlboro

Maryland 20870

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

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
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Old Laurel High School is a red brick, Georgian Revival structure built in 1899, with several later additions. It is composed of a 2 1/2 story, T-shaped central pavilion with hyphen and wing on each side.

The central pavilion is the portion of the Old Laurel High School of greatest architectural significance. It is 2 1/2 stories tall, nine bays wide, and three bays deep with a five-by-two bay section on the rear forming a T. It has a hip roof with cupola at the peak. The walls are laid in five-course common bond, in rubbed brick on the front (south) facade. All windows have 6/2 sash, stone sills, and brick lintels. A bracketed wooden cornice surrounds the front and sides of the structure; the rear and the base of the T have a plain wooden cornice. The building sits on a raised basement of native coursed rubble stone with a watertable of molded brick capped with stone.

The south facade of ^{pressed} rubbed brick is laid with every fifth row recessed on the first story to give the effect of rustication. This pattern of recessed rows is continued in the round arch which frames the recessed entrance in the central bay. The entrance consists of a fanlight over a double door. Each wide leaf has two narrow horizontal panels above and below a large pane of glass. On either side of the entrance are four windows with hack arches. Two bricks in each arch are recessed to simulate keystones. A molded stringcourse in the egg and dart pattern separates the first and second stories.

The central bay of the second story contains a Palladian-style window with a round-arched window flanked by two smaller 1/1 sash windows. Each of the latter has a stone lintel; a heavy molded dentil arch trims the round arch which also has a stone keystone. A stone plaque below this window reads "High School". On each side of the Palladian window are four 6/2 windows with lintels containing four raised brick to embellish small stone keystones.

At the peak of the roof is an octagonal lantern cupola with Doric pilasters at the corners and alternating six and nine light sash. Under the eaves of the pointed roof is a wood dentil cornice.

The east and west sides of the main block are two bays deep, the projection of the T is five bays wide and two deep. The walls in these areas are laid in plain (not rubbed) red brick. The windows have stone sills, rusticated on the front portion and smooth behind, and 1 1/2-brick jack arches. All basement windows are clocked up; one second story window has been made into a fire exit.

The interior of the central pavilion has a T-plan hall with a classroom on each side in the front and rest room and offices across the back.

On the second floor is a two-part library, two classrooms, a small teachers' room.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

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	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The present, central portion of Old Laurel High School was constructed in 1899; the first public high school in Prince George's County. Among other "firsts" for this building include the first water system put in county schools (1908) and first inside toilets installed in a county high school (1916). Laurel and Hyattsville received the first sewing machines purchased for Domestic Science classes.

The original building and later additions housed high school students for 64 years. Its grounds occupy the entire block between 7th and 8th Streets on Montgomery Street in the City of Laurel. The West Wing was added in 1935 and the East Wing in 1950; both conform in style to the original structure.

In 1963 all high school students were moved to the new Laurel Senior High School on Cherry Lane, and the "Old Laurel High School" was used for the overflow of elementary and junior high students and called Laurel Education Center. For a time it was used as the Northern Regional Center of the Prince George's County Community College. It is now leased to the Laurel Boys and Girls Club, who sub-leases sections to several community groups.

In 1976 the name of the school was changed to the Edward Phelps Community Center to better describe its current use and reflect the role of the man who was the vital force in its foundation.

Edward Phelps, Mayor of Laurel for seven one-year terms prior to 1900, was the moving power behind the legislation which provided for the erection of the school. A booklet, "The Public Schools of Prince George's County from 17th to 19th Century", published by the Prince George's County Retired Teachers Association in 1976, quotes an article written by Edward Phelps as follows:

The High School of Laurel, Maryland was the inspiration of the pupils who had educational experiences at School #1. This elementary school was built in 1869 by George P. Tiffany who owned Laurel Mills. A bill providing for the erection of a high school in Laurel was drawn and presented to the County Legislature in 1896 but was never reported out after being referred to committee. However, the Legislature of 1898 passed the bill. Upon getting a copy, I found the clause inserted with approval of the County Commissioners. A clause was tacked on as follows: "the bonds would be issued to the amount of

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #1

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Laurel Illustrated Directory of 1894.
Laurel Centennial Booklet
Laurel News Leader, September 2, 19-6, June 2, 1977.
"The Prince George's County Schools from the 17th to the 19th Centuries", published by the Retired Teachers Association of Prince George's County, 1976.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Approximately 4 acres
UTM REFERENCES

A	1 8	3 3 9	5 5 0	4 3 3 0	0 7 0	B					
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING				ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		
C						D					

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #3.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Elizabeth Compton, Jane Cole, Stuart Hurtt, members of
ORGANIZATION DATE
Laurel Horizon Society June 28, 1978
STREET & NUMBER TELEPHONE
P. O. Box 403
CITY OR TOWN STATE
Laurel, Maryland 20810

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL STATE LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

4-23-79

TITLE STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER

DATE

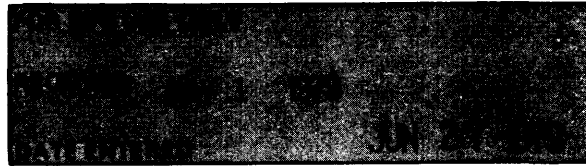
FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION DATE 6-27-79
ATTEST: Bill W. Branch KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER DATE June 26, 1979

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**



Laurel High School
Prince George's County
Maryland

CONTINUATION SHEET ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 1

SIGNIFICANCE, continued)

\$8,000.00 when and only when a total of \$2,000.00 would be subscribed and paid by citizens of Laurel". A Building Committee was named. Their names are on a tablet in High School Hall.

The original contractor failed to give bond and then declined the contract. I resigned from the Building Committee and offered to build it. The offer was accepted with my bid of \$8,365 and work commenced in July 1898. Mr. G. B. Timanus hauled all the stone for foundation very reasonably from Guilford, Howard County, the bricks from Washington, and the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad gave 50% rebate on the freight. Mr. R. R. Waters at lumber and coal yard gave a very low price on Gulf Cypress and Georgia Pine lumber and I expected to break even on my bid but "Man Proposes and God Disposes."

On February 12, 1899, we had a long-to-be remembered old time snow blizzard and the thermometer fell to 16 degrees below 0. Although I used salamanders in every room, burning coke all the winter, the second coat of plaster froze with the extreme of temperature and fell off, causing labor and materials to be done over again. With a few other mishaps, I ended up my contract with \$1,000 loser. With all these troubles I had the trees planted, ground graded and drive completed by May 1st when I threw it open for inspection to Laurel and Prince George's County people. The Laurel High School ready for occupancy September 1, 1899 was in fact completed by July 1, 1899.

During World War II the cupola atop the center of the building was used as a Civil Defense Aircraft Spotting Station. High School students and local adult volunteers were trained in airplane identification and manned the station around the clock reporting by phone every plane seen or heard.

In 1977 the Laurel Horizon Society, a recently formed group interested in the historical and architectural heritage of Laurel, joined the Laurel High School Alumnae Association and Laurel Boys and Girls Club in sponsoring an "All High Reunion" celebration to raise funds to help maintain the original building. With the funds the old roof has been

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET # 2

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**



Laurel High School
Prince George's County

CONTINUATION SHEET Maryland

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 2

SIGNIFICANCE, Continued)

replaced and plexiglass windows now cover the originals to protect them from vandalism. Further painting and maintenance are planned.

The original building is not only a historic landmark in public education but it is unique in the area for its architecture (the only Georgian Revival remaining here) and is among a large group of buildings in the community of comparable age, which reflects an image important enough to its townspeople to have recently supported the establishment of a local ordinance historic district. Laurel contains one of the largest concentrations of 19th century structures left in Prince George's County. Laurel High School - The Edward Phelps Community Center is one of them, relevant to its citizens who want to see it recognized, maintained and used.

The 1899 Laurel High School building is, in addition to its significance in Prince George's County education and the history and townscape of Laurel, a very fine example of Georgian Revival architecture. The facade is laid in high-quality pressed brick with elaborate detail typical of the style. It has survived in excellent condition and unaltered.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR HCRS USE ONLY

RECEIVED MAY 1 1979

JUN 27 1979

DATE ENTERED

Laurel High School
Prince George's County
Maryland

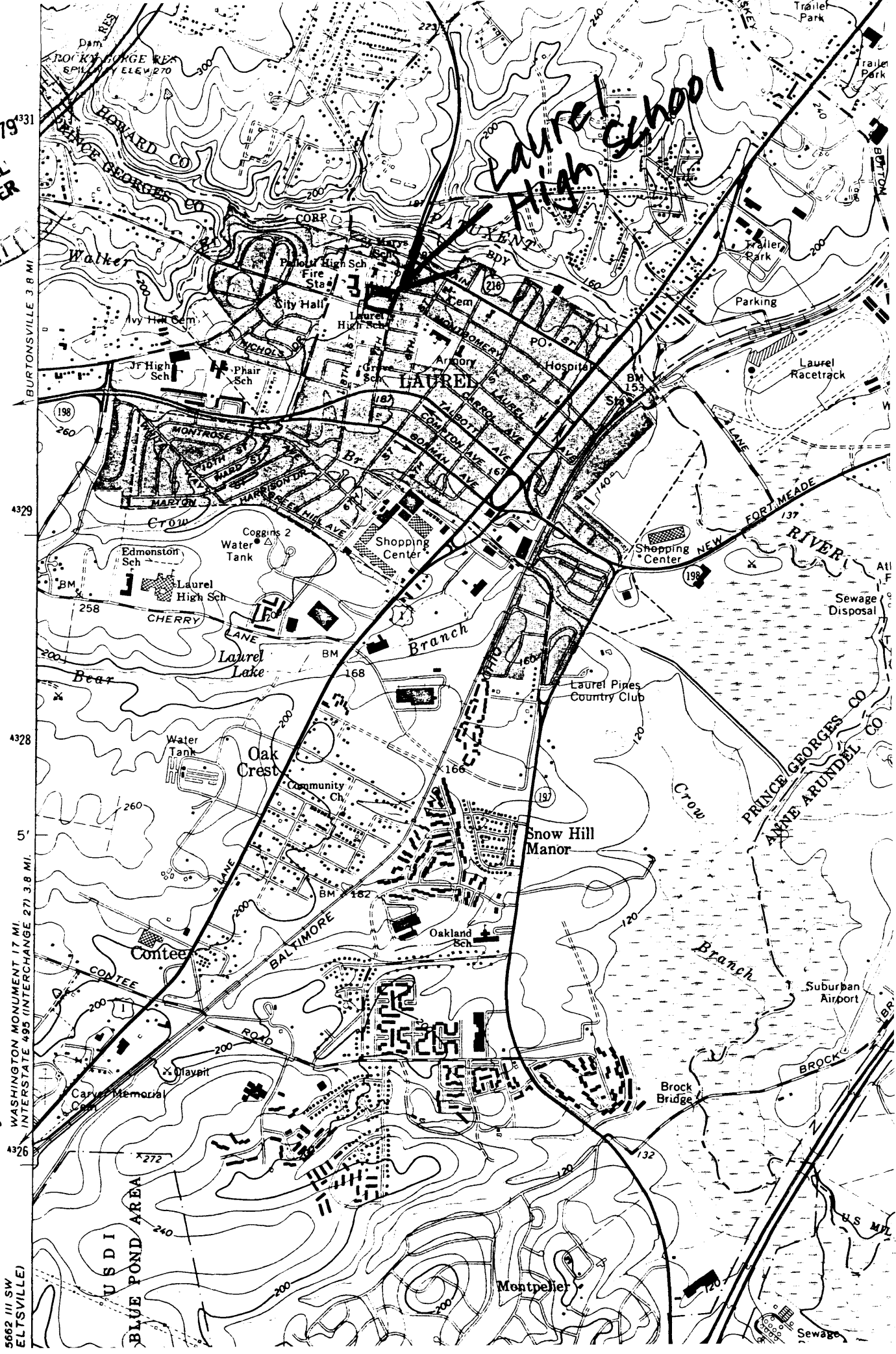
CONTINUATION SHEET ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 3

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning at the northeast corner of the intersection of Montgomery and 8th Streets, following 8th Street north 400 feet, then going east 500 feet to a point on the west side of 7th Street, then 400 feet south along 7th Street to the northwest corner of the intersection of Montgomery and 7th Streets, then along the north side of Montgomery Street 500 feet to the point of beginning, containing about four acres.

RECEIVED
MAY 1 1979⁴³¹
NATIONAL
REGISTER

Laurel
Quad



BURTONSVILLE 3.8 MI.

4329

4328

5'

WASHINGTON MONUMENT 17 MI.
INTERSTATE 495 (INTERCHANGE 27) 3.8 MI.

4326

5662 III SW
ELT(SVILLE)

USDI
BLUE POND AREA

Laurel High School

LAUREL

Oak Crest

Snow Hill Manor

Montpelier

Trailer Park

Trailer Park

Parking

Laurel Racetrack

Shopping Center

Sewage Disposal

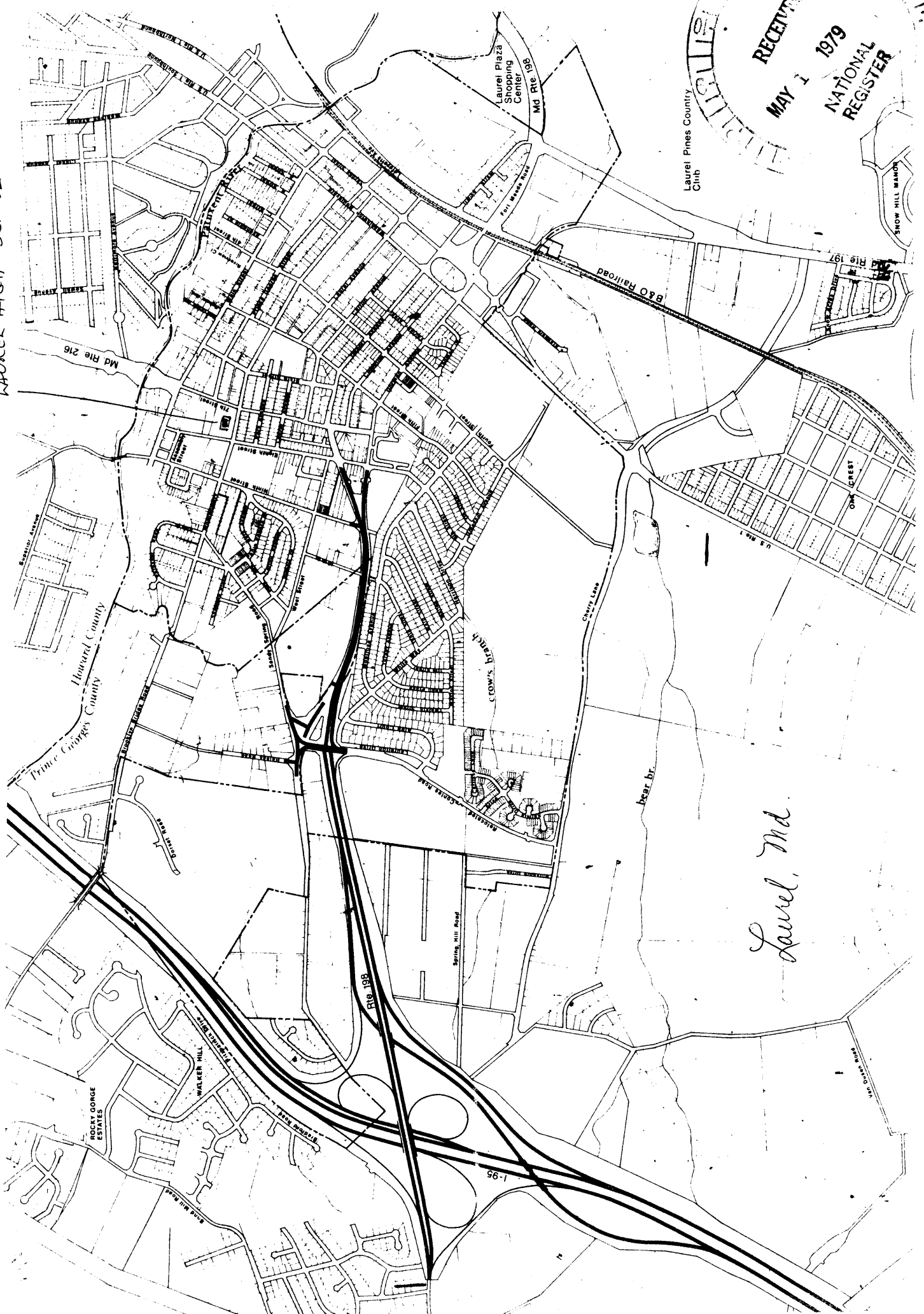
Suburban Airport

Brock Bridge

Sewage

LAUREL HIGH SCHOOL

RECEIVED
MAY 1 1979
NATIONAL REGISTER



Laurel, Md.