

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

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF  
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. 136-13

Magi No.

DOE   yes   no

**1. Name** (indicate preferred name)

historic Tastee Diner

and/or common

**2. Location**

street & number 8516 Georgia Avenue    not for publication

city, town Silver Spring    vicinity of    congressional district 8

state MD county Montgomery

**3. Classification**

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

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

name Triangle MLP LTD Partnership

street & number 1010 Wayne Avenue telephone no.:   

city, town Silver Spring state and zip code MD 20904

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Montgomery County Courthouse    liber 7813

street & number 51 Monroe Street    folio 185

city, town Rockville state MD

**6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys**

title N/A

date    federal    state    county    local   

pository for survey records

city, town    state

## 7. Description

Survey No. M. 36-13

### Condition

☐ excellent  
☒ good  
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated  
☐ ruins  
☐ unexposed

### Check one

☐ unaltered  
☒ altered

### Check one

☒ original site  
☐ moved      date of move \_\_\_\_\_

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

The Silver Spring Tastee Diner, transported and assembled on its site at the corner of Georgia and Wayne Avenues in 1946, is a classic example of commercial Art Deco/Moderne machine age architecture. The factory built restaurant constructed by Jerry O'Mahoney, Inc. of Elizabeth, New Jersey is a two-cell, one-story diner. The materials used to build the diner, particularly the formica and stainless steel, contribute to an intended machine-age imagery of modernity and cleanliness. The exterior surface of flat porcelain enamel has rounded corners trimmed with wraparound bands of stainless steel and has a streamlined ribbon window on the main facade. Originally flood-lit at night and crowned by a color neon "Tastee Diners" sign, the structure is a rare and remarkably intact example of early post-World War II commercial architecture.

The Tastee Diner's historic core was shipped in two parts by flatbed truck and attached together on the site in August 1946. This method, known as "split construction," was first developed by Paramount Diners in 1941. The diner was completely constructed at the O'Mahoney factory in Elizabeth, New Jersey with all exterior and interior design features and equipment installed before shipment to the site. The building originally comprised a two-part prefabricated main section that contains the restaurant, grill and kitchen area and had rear built-on-site office, storage room and a screened-in garbage disposal shed. In recent years a utilitarian cinderblock addition was built to extend the restaurant seating capacity (north). The diner's overall exterior design is symmetrical with a dramatic stainless steel central entry with a stainless steel canopy. The exterior walls were cream colored porcelain (now painted beige) trimmed with red porcelain strips.

A band of large windows trimmed in stainless steel contributes to the streamlined visual front that was common to modern sales structures in this period. The corners of the diner are rounded and the glass in one corner window has been set in beveled panes. It has a metal monitor roof that is painted silver and a flat asphalt roof covers the cinderblock additions. The rounded roof relates to the design of a rail car, but has a prominent exterior parapet to allow a

(Continued)

Continuation Sheet  
M: 36-13 - Tastee Diner  
Section 7: DESCRIPTION  
Page 7.1

higher interior ceiling. Originally a row of neon lights illuminated the roof at night and was crowned by a neon sign, TASTEE DINERS. This lighting and signage have been removed and today the decorative roof is partially covered by modern ductwork. The diner's dramatic streamlined exterior design has been further downplayed by the addition of a stripped brown canvas canopy and by painting the cream porcelain panels and arrow-like red trim in beige and brown.

The diner's overall streamlined styling is continued on the interior. The basic layout of the dining section is symmetrical and employs a long counter with stools running the length of the diner with food preparation behind. This counter has a central opening with double door access to the kitchen to the rear. The backbar is offset by stainless steel formed by factory sheet metal workers which features a large panel molded into a sunburst pattern. There are seven booths along the outside wall and eighteen stools around the counter. The patterns and materials of the interior surfaces are elaborate and maintain a predominate color scheme of salmon, wood-grain, and marbleized white. The ceiling has concave salmon and marbleized white formica panels held in place by stainless steel and formica strips. The floors are earth-toned terrazzo and the wall panels, main counter and booth tables are woodgrain formica with white marbleized formica tops. Stools and booth seats were finished in burgundy naugahyde in keeping with the primary salmon color scheme, but have been replaced over the years with brown naugahyde. Restrooms are placed behind a stainless steel and glass door on the south side of the restaurant.

The kitchen is entered through the counter opening and central double doors that provide the main circulation connection between the kitchen and dining areas. The kitchen equipment has been replaced as it has worn out, but the original formica ceiling and wall panels are intact and some of the stainless steel fixtures and counters are in place. There is an office, storage room and garbage disposal shed built on to the diner's prefabricated sections.

## 8. Significance

Survey No.

M 36-13

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 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 type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input 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 1946

Builder/Architect Mahoney, Inc.

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D  
and/orApplicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ GLevel of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☐ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

### Summary:

Silver Spring's Tastee Diner is exceptionally significant as an extremely rare building type and a classic example of Art Deco/Moderne commercial architecture. Today few factory built diners survive with integrity because of the intense competition within the restaurant industry and fast-changing pace of roadside architecture. There are only a dozen diners known to be extant in the state of Maryland that predate 1960.<sup>1</sup> Although it is a relatively young resource, the diner has received scholarly evaluation as a building type and the Silver Spring Tastee Diner has been featured in **Washington Deco** documenting its historic architectural design.<sup>2</sup>

### Historic Development of the Diner as a Building Type

The history of the diner may be traced to a night in Providence, Rhode Island in 1872 when Walter Scott rolled out and parked a horse drawn wagon in Westminster Street to sell sandwiches, boiled eggs, pie and coffee to the **Providence Journal's** night shift workers. His idea of a "night lunch wagon" caught on rapidly and by the late 1880s Samuel Jones in Worcester, Massachusetts had started manufacturing wagons large enough for customers to eat inside. Soon competitors such as Charles Palmer and Thomas H. Buckley opened rival manufacturing plants and improved on the lunch wagon designs. By the early twentieth century, brightly painted four-wheeled lunch wagons with several windows and a central door, resembling a cross between a omnibus and a circus wagon, were a common sight in northeastern American cities.<sup>3</sup>

(Continued)

Continuation Sheet  
M: 36-13 - Tastee Diner  
Section 8: SIGNIFICANCE  
Page 8.1

Business became so good that owners found they no longer needed to roam the city for customers, but could lease land and site a lunch wagon at a choice location. Lunch-car manufacturing boomed in the early twentieth century and soon firms such as Tierney (1903), Worcester Lunch Car (1906), and Jerry O'Mahoney (1913) mass produced semi-permanent lunch cars patterned after their barrel-roofed horse-car ancestors. However, by the 1920s these manufacturers began to develop a whole new generation of semi-permanent restaurants with designs reminiscent of Pullman-car architecture. By the 1930s the dining-car or "diner" as they came to be called was a fixture on the American urban landscape. Eating at the diner was cheap and the low overhead not only helped the operators to survive the Depression but to prosper. By the outbreak of World War II, the portable working-man's lunch wagon had made the dramatic transition into a prefabricated restaurant with broad customer appeal.<sup>4</sup>

As the diner gained a reputation as a safe, cheap place to eat in the 1920s, their looks began to change. The mass production of an affordable automobile during this period had an important influence on the diner's design. Roadside commercial buildings, most often viewed from behind the wheel of the car, were inevitable candidates for streamlining as industrial designers created a streamlined design aesthetic that swept the nation in the 1930s. Diners were industrial buildings that always made use of the "products of the future" as soon as they were available. The interiors were machines for cooking and serving food with stainless steel and formica laminate surfaces that were shiny and easy to clean, a prerequisite for the diner business. By the end of the decade, factory craftsmen, inspired by machine age iconography had created a classic diner building type characterized by its sleek shape and stainless steel and bright porcelain enamel materials all set off by colorful, glowing neon.<sup>5</sup>

The "golden age" of the diner came to an end in the late 1950s as drive-in chains became more popular and the emerging fast food restaurants burgeoned. Most of the diners that survived into the 1970s were remodeled and new diners were built as modular prefabri-

Continuation Sheet  
M: 36-13 - Tastee Diner  
Section 8: SIGNIFICANCE  
Page 8.2

cated buildings that bore little resemblance to their dining car ancestors. In the last decade there has been a resurgence of public interest in the classic diner of the 1930s and 1940s. New diners based on historic streamlined designs have been built and the original models have been preserved and rehabilitated. In the early 1980s the Modern Diner in Pawtucket, Rhode Island (1941) became the first diner to be listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Within the Washington metropolitan region, the Tastee 29 Diner in Fairfax, Virginia (1947) was listed in the National Register in 1992.<sup>6</sup>

### **Tastee Diners**

The Tastee Diner in Silver Spring was one of a chain of diners operated in Maryland by regionally famous dinerman Eddie Warner. His rise from dishwasher to the owner of a chain of diners was a Horatio Alger story duly recorded for the readers of the trade publication **Diner** in 1947. Warner operated the three original Tastee diners in Maryland at Rockville (1932; moved from Silver Spring site), Bethesda (1939), Silver Spring (1946) and added a Laurel location in 1951. He managed the chain until his retirement in 1968. Robert Traynor, the manager of the Silver Spring Tastee diner under Warner, leased and operated the restaurant until 1988. Gene Wilkes later acquired the Maryland Tastee diners and for a time was in partnership with Leonard Milliken, the owner of the 29 Diner in Fairfax accounting for its current name as the "Tastee 29 Diner." Today there are three Tastee Diners extant in Montgomery and Prince George's Counties operating at Silver Spring, Bethesda (1939 O'Mahoney that has been extensively altered), and Laurel (1951 model from Comac, Inc. that retains its design features).<sup>7</sup>

The Silver Spring Tastee Diner was manufactured by Jerry O'Mahoney, Inc. in 1946. The company began manufacturing lunch cars in 1913 and after several moves established a plant at Elizabeth, New Jersey where it manufactured diners until 1956. O'Mahoney, with his partner, John J. Hanf was one of the most successful diner manufacturers in the business producing hundreds of models over the years in

Continuation Sheet  
M: 36-13 - Tastee Diner  
Section 8: SIGNIFICANCE  
Page 8.3

a variety of styles. The O'Mahoney company had a major impact on the industry both as builders and skilled promoters. They launched their own magazine, **Dining Car News**, in 1927 and distributed the publication free of charge to owners and prospective buyers of their cars. Although it contained articles of general interest to dinermen, the real intent of the periodical was advertisement and promotion of O'Mahoney.<sup>8</sup>

The Tastee Diner in Silver Spring was a new model introduced by the O'Mahoney company in 1946 that featured enlarged windows, curved glass corners and taller trim above the windows. All of these features de-emphasized the railroad style monitor roof that had been a dominant design element for more than twenty five years. This new model, with standard air conditioning and radiant heat, created a new image sheathed in cream colored porcelain enamel with two horizontal porcelain stripes, usually turquoise or red, that met at the door in the form of an arrow. Interior color schemes were also changed to a pastel palette rather than the primary colors of past years.<sup>9</sup>

#### **Art Deco/Moderne Commercial Architecture**

The Silver Spring Tastee diner was erected on a crossroads site that was consciously selected to become a magnet for restaurant patrons. The county's population surged after 1930 growing from 49,206 to 83,912 by 1940 as the automobile and the expansion of the federal government during the New Deal era provided the transport and employment for thousands of new workers to settle in the area. In April 1946 the **Evening Star** (Washington) reported that the first quarter building permits reflected a "postwar building revival in the eastern suburban area of Montgomery County" that in terms of volume and cost smashed all previous records.<sup>10</sup>

By 1947 downtown Silver Spring had developed into the largest regional retail and business center in Montgomery County. The Art Deco Silver Theater and Shopping Center complex, clustered at the

(Continued)

Continuation Sheet  
M: 36-13 - Tastee Diner  
Section 8: SIGNIFICANCE  
Page 8.4

intersection of Georgia Avenue and Colesville Road, began the building boom that revolutionized the architectural image of Silver Spring. Art Deco/Moderne style buildings rose up along Georgia Avenue and Colesville to create a thoroughly modern "downtown" business community. The Tastee Diner, located just a block from the Silver Spring Shopping Center, well-expressed this new commercial aesthetic and was sited to take full advantage of the town's booming population and crowds of weekend shoppers who drove into town from the surrounding region.

Today the Tastee Diners in Silver Spring and Fairfax are considered the "most noteworthy Washington diners among the unremodeled specimens." Unfortunately, the 1939 Bethesda Tastee Diner has been heavily altered and has lost its architectural integrity. Wirz and Striner, in their study of the Washington metropolitan region's Art Deco/Moderne architectural heritage, consider Silver Spring's Tastee Diner to be "a splendid representation of vernacular design and streamline aesthetics . . ." and a "perfect representative of this machine expressive style."<sup>11</sup> Within the local historical context, the Tastee Diner is exceptionally significant because it is Montgomery County's best illustration of the diner building type and an outstanding example of early post World War II streamlined commercial architecture.

(Continued)



Continuation Sheet  
M: 36-13 - Tastee Diner

**Endnotes**

- 1 See the diner inventory for Maryland provided in Richard J. S. Gutman, **The American Diner: Then and Now**. (New York: Harper Perennial, 1993), 249.
- 2 Hans Wirz and Richard Striner, **Washington Deco: Art Deco Design in the Nation's Capital**. (Washington: Smithsonian Institution Press, 1984), 71, 73.
- 3 Gutman, **American Diner: Then and Now**, 12-32; and Chester Liebs, Main Street to Miracle Mile. (Boston: Little, Brown and Company, 1985), 216-224.
- 4 Gutman, **American Diner: Then and Now**, 32-72.
- 5 Richard J. S. Gutman, "Formica and Diners," in Susan Grant Lewin, ed., **Formica and Design: From the Counter Top to High Art**. (New York: Rizzoli, 1991), 101-105; Gutman, **American Diner: Then and Now**, 12-32; and Chester Liebs, **Main Street to Miracle Mile**. (Boston: Little, Brown and Company, 1985), 216-224.
- 6 Gutman, **American Diner: Then and Now**, 12-32; and Chester Liebs, **Main Street to Miracle Mile**. (Boston: Little, Brown and Company, 1985), 216-224.
- 7 Comac, Inc. was started by O'Mahoney's general manager Thomas J. McGeary and steel construction foreman John J. Costello in 1947. See "In Suburban Washington." **The Diner**. (May 1947): 8-11; Debbie Stone, "Silver Spring diner to close." **Montgomery Journal**. November 26, 1986; and Marc Christian Wagner, "Tastee 29 Diner." Fairfax County. National Register of Historic Places Nomination, Washington, D. C.
- 8 Gutman, **American Diner: Then and Now**, .

(Continued)

Continuation Sheet  
M: 36-13 - Tastee Diner

- 9 Ibid.
- 10 **Evening Star** (Washington), April 12, 1946, B-1.
- 11 Wirz and Striner, **Washington Deco**, 71, 73.

Preservation Planning Data:

- a) Geographic Organization: Piedmont
- b) Chronological/Development Periods: Modern Period - A.D.  
1930-Present.
- c) Historic Period Themes: Architecture
- d) Resource Type: Restaurant

(Continued)

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. M36-13

See Attached Sheet

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 9,494 sq. ft.

Quadrangle name

Quadrangle scale

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting		Northing			

B	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting		Northing			

C	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
---	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------

D	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
---	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------

E	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
---	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------

F	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
---	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------

G	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
---	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------

H	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
---	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------

Verbal boundary description and justification

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 William Bushong

organization M-NCPPC date August 31, 1994

street &amp; number 8787 Georgia Avenue telephone (301) 495-4570

city or town Silver Spring state MD

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

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
DHCP/DHCD  
100 COMMUNITY PLACE  
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023  
514-7600

Continuation Sheet  
M: 36-13 - Tastee Diner  
Section 9: Major Bibliographical References  
Page 9.1

Unpublished Sources

Walston, Mark and Striner, Richard. "Tastee Diner." Maryland Historical Trust Form for the Alloway Site and Cemetery, 1984. (MHT)

Wagner, Marc Christian. "Tastee 29 Diner." Fairfax County. National Register of Historic Places Nomination, Washington, D. C.

Published Sources

Anderson, Will. **Mid-Atlantic Roadside Delights: Roadside Architecture of Yesterday and Today in New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania.** Portland, Maine: Anderson and Sons' Publishing Company, 1989.

Arnoult, Sandra. "Still Tastee after all these years." **Montgomery County Journal.** March 17, 1993.

Baeder, John. **Diners.** New York: Harry N. Abrams, Inc., 1978.

Gutman, Robert J. S. In **Built in the U. S. A.** Washington: The Preservation Press, 1985: 58-59.

\_\_\_\_\_. "Formica and Diners." In **Formica and Design.** New York: Rizzoli, 1991: 101-105.

\_\_\_\_\_. **American Diner Then and Now.** New York: Harper, 1993.

Hiebert, Ray Eldon and Richard K. MacMaster. **A Grateful Remembrance: the Story of Montgomery County, Maryland.** Rockville, Maryland: Montgomery County Government and the Montgomery County Historical Society, 1976.

"In Suburban Washington." **The Diner.** (May 1947): 8-11.

(Continued)

Continuation Sheet  
M: 36-13 - Tastee Diner  
Section 9: Major Bibliographical References  
Page 9.2

Jackson, Donald D. "The American Diner is in decline, yet more chic than ever." **Smithsonian**. 17 (November 1986):

Kurtz, Stephen A. **Wasteland: Building the American Dream**. New York: Praeger Publishers, 1973.

Liebs, Chester H. **Main Street to Miracle Mile**. Boston: Little, Brown and Company, 1985.

McCall, Celeste. "Old-Fashioned Diners: Alive and Kicking." **Washington Times Magazine**. September 21, 1983.

Neufeld, Matt. "Historic eatery haven in storm." **Washington Times**. March 18, 1993.

Stone, Debbie. "Silver Spring diner to close." **Montgomery Journal**. November 26, 1986.

Weber, Eva. **Art Deco in America**. New York: Bison Books Corp, 1985.

Wirz, Hans and Striner, Richard. **Washington Deco: Art Deco Design in the Nation's Capital**. (Washington: Smithsonian Institution Press, 1984.

# MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

M36/13

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

### 1 NAME

HISTORIC

Tastee Diner

AND/OR COMMON

### 2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

8516 Georgia Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Silver Spring

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

MD

COUNTY

Montgomery

### 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
- ☐ MUSEUM
- ☐ COMMERCIAL
- ☐ PARK
- ☐ EDUCATIONAL
- ☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- ☐ ENTERTAINMENT
- ☐ RELIGIOUS
- ☐ GOVERNMENT
- ☐ SCIENTIFIC
- ☐ INDUSTRIAL
- ☐ TRANSPORTATION
- ☐ MILITARY
- ☐ OTHER

### 4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Maurice Bernstein

STREET & NUMBER

8516 Georgia Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Silver Spring,

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

MD 20910

### 5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC

Montgomery County Court House

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Rockville

STATE

MD

### 6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION**

M:36-13

**CONDITION**

☐ EXCELLENT  
☐ GOOD  
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED  
☐ RUINS  
☐ UNEXPOSED

**CHECK ONE**

☐ UNALTERED  
☐ ALTERED

**CHECK ONE**

☐ ORIGINAL SITE  
☐ MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

---

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**8 SIGNIFICANCE**

M:36-13

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 type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input 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 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

1946

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Transported and assembled on site in 1946, the Silver Spring Tastee Diner epitomizes the 20th century American Diner. Although impacted somewhat by later, heavier additions which tend to lessen the illusion of impeding movement, enough of the original "railroad car" lines show through to make this a good surviving example of the once ubiquitous roadside diner.

Diners are now widely recognized as classic examples of vernacular commercial architecture. The Silver Spring Tastee Diner, assembled in two segments on location in 1946, is featured in the book American Diner by Richard Gutman and Elliott Kaufman (New York, 1979). The diner, unlike the silvery aluminum or stainless steel examples to be found in other suburban areas of Washington, features surfaces of porcelain enamel with wrap-around turquoise trim on a cream-colored background. As Wirz and Striner have said in Washington Deco, the Silver Spring Tastee Diner "represents the aesthetics of the 1930's unaltered in any way. From the onset of the diner craze in the late 1920's — when hard edged Pullman cars and trolleys were adapted to use as restaurants — diners evolved into the sleek confections of porcelain enamel, stainless steel, and glass block that would dazzle roadside America throughout the 30's and 40's. The Silver Spring Tastee is a perfect representative of this machine-expressive style."

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY



**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

M:36-13

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION \_\_\_\_\_

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

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

Mark Walston/Richard Striner

8/84

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Park Historian - MNCPPC/Art Deco Society of Washington

STREET &amp; NUMBER

TELEPHONE

6700 Needwood Road/P.O. Box 11090

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Rockville, MD/Washington DC

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  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438

map from Bobbi Hahn  
15 May 87

Atlas boundaries

M: 36-13

Tastee Diner

8516 Georgia Avenue (MD 97)

M: 36-7

Montgomery Arms  
8700-8722 Colesville

Fenton Building  
8701-8719 Colesville

36-7-2 J.C. Penney's 1950

Hahn Shoes 1944

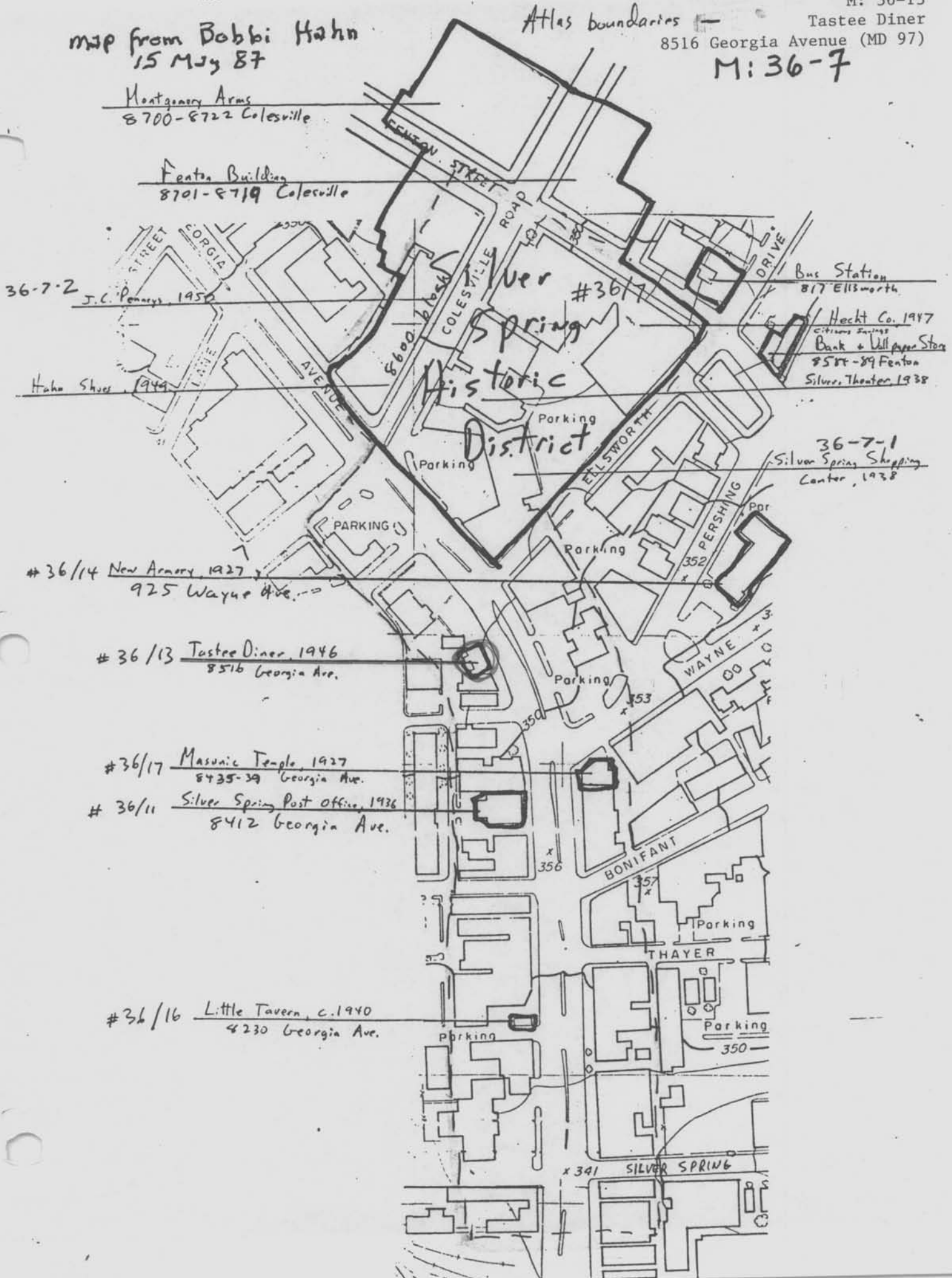
# 36/14 New Armory 1927  
925 Wayne Ave.

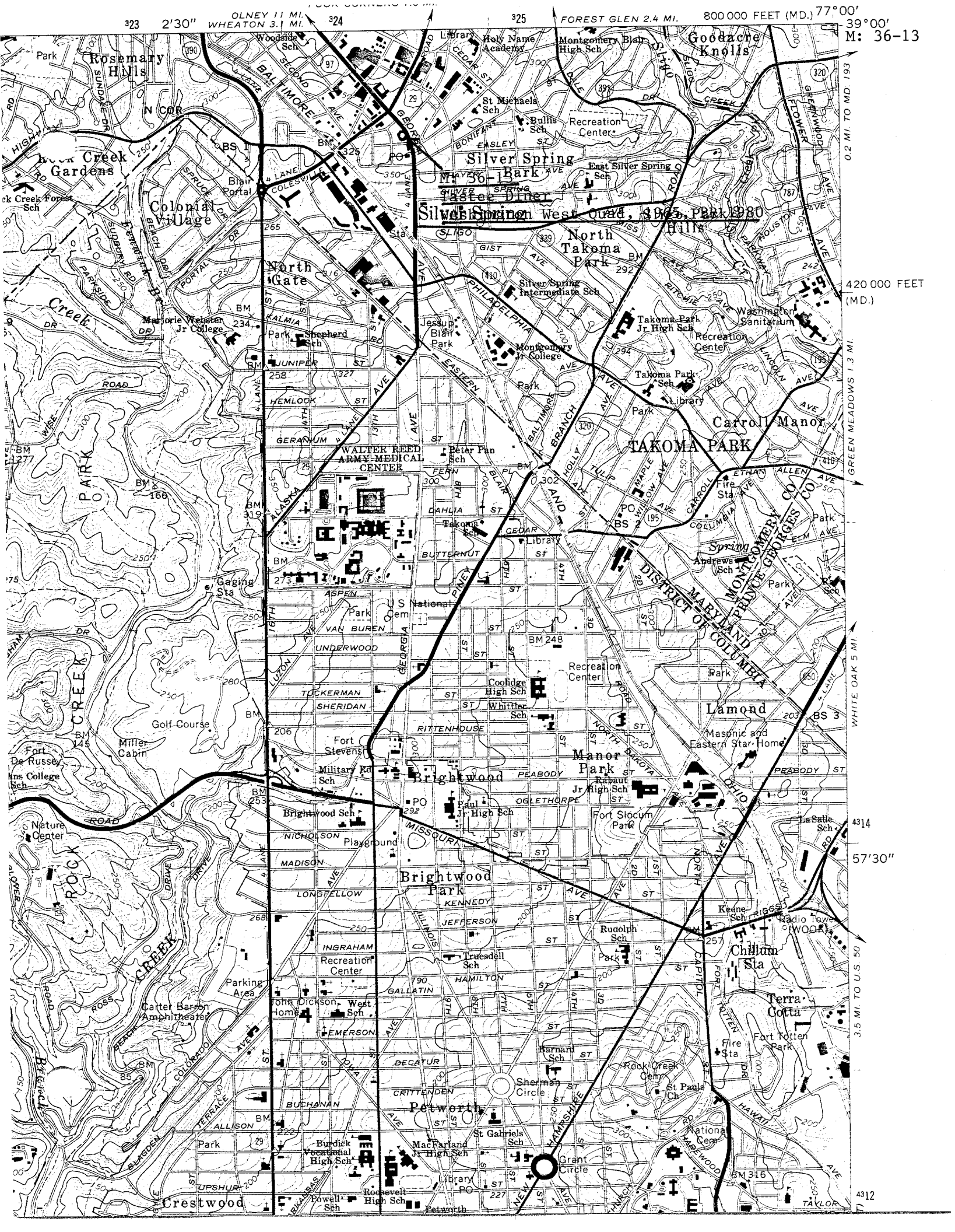
# 36/13 Tastee Diner 1946  
8516 Georgia Ave.

# 36/17 Masonic Temple 1927  
8435-39 Georgia Ave.

# 36/11 Silver Spring Post Office 1936  
8412 Georgia Ave.

# 36/16 Little Tavern, c. 1940  
8230 Georgia Ave.





323 2'30" OLNEY 11 MI. WHEATON 3.1 MI.

324

325

FOREST GLEN 2.4 MI.

800 000 FEET (MD.) 77°00'

39°00' M: 36-13

Silver Spring  
M: 36-13  
Silver Spring West Blvd, 3965, Park 1980

420 000 FEET (MD.)

GREEN MEADOWS 1.3 MI.

WHITE OAK 5 MI.

4314

57'30"

3.5 MI TO U.S. 50

4312



TASTE DINER

M136-13

M:36-13

Taslee Diner

8516 Georgia Avenue

1988

Andrews