

GA- 378

**WRIGHT MILL (SITE)** - Before 1807 - North side of Wrights Mill Road. This mill, probably the most primitive to survive into recent times in Maryland, was built before 1807 by the "ingenious mill-wright and mechanic", Joseph Evans. Its wooden works resembled designs for automatic gristmills published by Oliver Evans in 1795. Demolished February 1973, along with Katzen's general store.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Maryland  
COUNTY: Balto. Co.

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
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**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
Wrights Mill  
AND/OR HISTORIC:  
Valley Grist and Saw Mill

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Wrights Mill Road, north side, 2nd District

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE: Md. CODE: COUNTY: Baltimore Co. CODE:

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Public <input type="checkbox"/>	Occupied <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes: Restricted <input type="checkbox"/>
Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/>	Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Unoccupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/>
Object <input type="checkbox"/>	Both <input type="checkbox"/>	Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/>	No: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/>	Government <input type="checkbox"/>	Park <input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Comments <input type="checkbox"/>
Commercial <input type="checkbox"/>	Industrial <input type="checkbox"/>	Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/>	Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/>
Educational <input type="checkbox"/>	Military <input type="checkbox"/>	Religious <input type="checkbox"/>	<u>Out of use</u>
Entertainment <input type="checkbox"/>	Museum <input type="checkbox"/>	Scientific <input type="checkbox"/>	

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNERS NAME:  
Joseph Katzen

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
BC Land Records, Liber RJS No. 1390, f. 294; Parcel 311, Map 86. Courth.

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Washington Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:  
Towson, Md, 21204

ACREAGE APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: approx 35

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:

STATE: COUNTY: ENTRY NUMBER: DATE: FOR NPS USE ONLY

030 378591- 3A-14-078

N. R. FIELD SHEET

BA-372

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	Excellent <input type="checkbox"/>	Good <input type="checkbox"/>	Fair <input type="checkbox"/>	Deteriorated <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ruins <input type="checkbox"/>	Unexposed <input type="checkbox"/>
INTEGRITY	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	Altered <input type="checkbox"/>		Unaltered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Moved <input type="checkbox"/>	Original Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

2- $\frac{1}{2}$  story grist mill ~~with~~ with extension to rear; one story of stone, rest of weathered boards; no dormers; hoist intact; three loading doors.

**8. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Pre-Columbian <input type="checkbox"/>	16th Century <input type="checkbox"/>	18th Century <input type="checkbox"/>	20th Century <input type="checkbox"/>
15th Century <input type="checkbox"/>	17th Century <input type="checkbox"/>	19th Century <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Aboriginal <input type="checkbox"/>	Education <input type="checkbox"/>	Political <input type="checkbox"/>	Urban Planning <input type="checkbox"/>
Prehistoric <input type="checkbox"/>	Engineering <input type="checkbox"/>	Religion/Philosophy <input type="checkbox"/>	Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/>
Historic <input type="checkbox"/>	Industry <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Science <input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Agriculture <input type="checkbox"/>	Invention <input type="checkbox"/>	Sculpture <input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Art <input type="checkbox"/>	Landscape <input type="checkbox"/>	Social/Humanitarian <input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Commerce <input type="checkbox"/>	Architecture <input type="checkbox"/>	Theater <input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Communications <input type="checkbox"/>	Literature <input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation <input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Conservation <input type="checkbox"/>	Military <input type="checkbox"/>		_____
Architecture <input type="checkbox"/>	Music <input type="checkbox"/>		_____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Include Personages, Dates, Events, Etc.)

This is an example of a primitive early 19th Century country mill set in a picturesque ravine in unspoiled area only minutes from the urban buildup.

Wright's Mill is either the same as or a replacement of the Joseph Evans Mill of the 1818 tax list. Evans' executrix, Ann Evans, sold part of Evans Addition, Stinchcombs Hills, Lime Stone Valley, and Johns Beginning to Joseph Wright, 1833, BCLR TK No. 227, f. 127 and TK 231, f 237. 115-5/8 acres. Wright soon mortgaged the property to Noah Worthington. S.H. Wright is shown on the 1850 Sidney map.

Joseph Wright died 1875 and the mill passed to Owen Wright and others. It appears in the atlas as Valley Grist and Saw Mill owned by O. Wright; however, Mrs. S.H. Gaw was an atlas patron and was listed as miller at Alberton. Susan H. Gaw was Joseph Wright's daughter. The mill passed to Samuel Ellicott, the mortgage holder, in 1879 and went through various hands to Milton W. Offutt, who deeded it to Jacob Katzen in 1897; it became David Katzen's in 1911, and Joseph Katzen's in 1945, BCLR Liber & RJS No. 1390, f. 294.

The mill continued in the Katzen family to the present (1971) and is standing but closed on Granite Branch (or Brices Run) on Wrights Mill Road, a spot called "Jew Bottom" in Md. Geological Survey, Baltimore County p/ 260. There is also a closed up, two-story wooden general store and a stone residence.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

no known ~~xxx~~ articles

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN ONE ACRE		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:  
**John McGrain**

ORGANIZATION: **Baltimore County Historical Society**      DATE: **August 29 1971**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**9811 Van Buren Lane**

CITY OR TOWN: **Cockeysville**      STATE: **Md.**      CODE: **21030**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National     State     Local

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation*

Date \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Keeper of The National Register*

Date \_\_\_\_\_