CH-336

Allen's Mill Archeological Site, (Mill Dam)

Architectural Survey File

This is the architectural survey file for this MIHP record. The survey file is organized reverse-chronological (that is, with the latest material on top). It contains all MIHP inventory forms, National Register nomination forms, determinations of eligibility (DOE) forms, and accompanying documentation such as photographs and maps.

Users should be aware that additional undigitized material about this property may be found in on-site architectural reports, copies of HABS/HAER or other documentation, drawings, and the “vertical files” at the MHT Library in Crownsville. The vertical files may include newspaper clippings, field notes, draft versions of forms and architectural reports, photographs, maps, and drawings. Researchers who need a thorough understanding of this property should plan to visit the MHT Library as part of their research project; look at the MHT web site (mht.maryland.gov) for details about how to make an appointment.

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Last Updated: 11-21-2003
ALLEN'S MILL ARCHEOLOGICAL SITE (MILL DAM) circa 1676 and later
Private

The Allen's Mill site is one of Charles County's most important colonial archeological sites, known to have been standing and operating as early as 1676 when John Allen, the owner-builder, transferred a one-half interest in the complex and 50 acres to John Saunders "of Bristol, Kingdom of England, Merchant." The mill was established on two major transportation routes: an ancient Indian trail that became a major colonial post road (see CH-345), and the Zachia Creek, a once navigable body of water utilized by colonists owning inland plantations to barge tobacco to shipping wharfs on the Wicomico and Potomac Rivers.

In its early years Allen's Mill was an important center of colonial activity. The significance of the location is indicated by the fact that in 1674 John Allen was contracted to erect the county's first courthouse and other related structures on a nearby property. The immediate environs remained a center of governmental, social and commercial affairs until the county seat was formally established at Port Tobacco in 1726.

Despite the abandonment of the 1674 courthouse and the shift of the county's seat of government and principal port of entry to Port Tobacco, the mill complex continued to expand and prosper well into the eighteenth century. Several of the county's most prominent and wealthiest families, including the Fendalls, Marshall, and Lees, owned or maintained various commercial and industrial enterprises here.

It was toward the end of the eighteenth century that the site began its decline, influenced by the silting in of the Zachia and the establishment of better and more direct transportation routes. Nevertheless, the remaining mills and one store continued in operation until after the Civil War.
MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

ALLEN'S MILL ARCHEOLOGICAL SITE; MILL DAM

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Off Budds Creek Road (MD 234),
West Bank of Zachia Swamp, 3/4 mile north of Allen's Fresh

CITY, TOWN

Faulkner

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Faulkner

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Charles

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

DISTRICT

BUILDING(S)

STRUCTURE

OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

PUBLIC

PRIVATE

BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

IN PROCESS

BEING CONSIDERED

UNOCCUPIED

UNOCCUPIED

WORK IN PROGRESS

YES RESTRICTED

YES UNRESTRICTED

PRESENT USE

AGRICULTURE

MUSEUM

COMMERCIAL

PARK

EDUCATIONAL

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGIOUS

GOVERNMENT

SCIENTIFIC

INDUSTRIAL

TRANSPORTATION

MILITARY

OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

William E. Sill, Jr. (c/o Thomas Hindle)

George Levin

Telephone #: 934-9473

STREET & NUMBER

STATE, zip code

Faulkner

Maryland 20632

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Charles County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Charles Street (P.O. Box B)

CITY, TOWN

La Plata

STATE

Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL

STATE

COUNTY

LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE
Located on the east side of one of the oldest roadways in Southern Maryland, about one mile north of Allen's Fresh, the site of the mill complex of John Allen is marked by scattered remnants of brick foundation walls and a somewhat altered but still discernable mill pond.

Portions of the foundations of one structure, believed to have been a small, eighteenth century grist mill, are located against the east bank of the mill pond. Only the one-story east wall and parts of the two ends continue to stand; the remaining wall areas have fallen into the rubble-filled interior. The foundation area measures roughly 15 by 30 feet, but irregular portions of foundation walls radiating out from it indicate that the building had several shed attachments.

As early as 1676 the mill complex included two grist mills "under one roof," a smith shop, and assorted other buildings. By the mid-eighteenth century the complex had expanded to include several warehouses, and at least one store and two small dwelling houses. All of these buildings, except the foundations of the one structure already discussed, have completely disappeared. However, the amount of brick rubble and portions of foundation walls scattered within a 100-yard radius of the mill pond indicate that evidence of these buildings, their dimensions and possible functions, probably exist not far beneath the surface of the ground.
The Allen's Mill site is one of Charles County's most important colonial archeological sites, known to have been standing and operating as early as 1676 when John Allen, the owner-builder, transferred a one-half interest in the complex and 50 acres to John Saunders "of Bristol, Kingdom of England, Merchant." The Mill was established on two major transportation routes: an ancient Indian trail that became a major colonial post road (see CH-345), and the Zachia Creek, a once navigable body of water utilized by colonists owning inland plantations to barge tobacco to shipping wharfs on the Wicomico and Potomac Rivers.

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The Allen's Mill site extends on to two adjacent properties identified as parcel 6 (William Sill), and parcel 34 (George Levin), Map 73 of the Charles County Tax Map (revised, Jan. 1976).

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
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