

CHAS-336

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 CH-336
DOI #0403305027

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

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Faulkner

VICINITY OF Allen's Fresh 1st

STATE

COUNTY

Maryland

Charles

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

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

George Levin

Telephone #: 934-9473

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Faulkner

STATE, zip code

Faulkner

VICINITY OF

Maryland

20632

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Charles County Courthouse

Liber #: 142/109

Folio #: 391/273

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

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 type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

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.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
1400-1499	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES	1676	BUILDER/ARCHITECT	John Allen
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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

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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9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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).

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

STATE COUNTY

STATE COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

J. Richard Rivoire, Consultant

ORGANIZATION

Charles County Planning Department

DATE

January 1, 1978

STREET & NUMBER

Charles County Courthouse

TELEPHONE

645-6537

CITY OR TOWN

La Plata

STATE

Maryland

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