

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

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1303364617  
HA 335-336

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC Noble's Mill

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER Noble's Mill Rd.

CITY, TOWN Darlington

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
First

STATE Maryland

COUNTY  
Harford County

**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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME Louis Brown

Telephone #: 734-6416

STREET & NUMBER Noble's Mill

CITY, TOWN Darlington

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code  
MD 21034

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Harford County Courthouse

Liber #:

Folio #:

STREET & NUMBER 40 South Main Street

CITY, TOWN Bel Air

STATE  
MD

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

\_\_\_ FEDERAL \_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_ COUNTY \_\_\_ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

# 7 DESCRIPTION

<b>CONDITION</b>		<b>CHECK ONE</b>	<b>CHECK ONE</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED    DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This is quite a massive structure, facing Noble's Mill road to the east and Deer Creek to the south. The mill is three and one-half stories tall, the lowest level of coursed stone, the remainder of horizontal bevelled frame with corner posts. Overall, the structure measures five bays by three, the longer sides oriented north-south. The window sashes are 6x6's and are emplaced in nailed frames. The top floor has a very high gable on the eastern and western extremes, with three apertures in a triangular arrangement on both ends. There are three board-and-batten doorways situated on the eastern elevation, one above the other, with a wooden stairway leading from the second floor portal to the ground on the northern exposure is a similar door on the second story, sheltered by a shed-roof projection. A block and tackle beam and an exhaust ventilation are the only details of the eastern wall. The gable front roof slate, with gabled dormers on either side of the ridgelines. There are a pair of these, with 6x6 sashes, on either slope, with a third dormer on the southern slope located above the other two. The Millrace, which can still be seen, flowed from the impounded pond further up the creek, and turned an undershot wheel located under a frame shelter and masonry basin on the western exposure.

The nearby iron bridge was installed in 1893 by a Canton erecting outfit, and is a modified Pratt Span.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

1335 331

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
1000-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input checked="" 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 deeds record the presence of a mill on the property as early as 1844, when there was such a plant operating as a saw and Clover Mill. It was originally called Smith's Mill, perhaps after the miller, for no Smith ever owned the property. The earliest reference to the property was in 1790, when Priscilla Gover left a portion of land to Rober Gover, who owned it for over thirty years and established what was referred to in subsequent deeds as Gover's Mill. The existing mill was said to have been constructed in 1854 by Gerrard Gover, although Priscilla Gover was the owner at that time. It must be assumed that either the original structure burned or over lived it's usefulness after many years in the Gover Family, the mill was acquired by Benjamin Noble, an Englishman who had worked for Gover, in 1869. It was soon after converted for grist milling, using an undershot wheel. Taking advantage of swift flowing Deer Creek, which allowed the mill to operate at forty horsepower, the facility was capable of producing forty barrels of flour per day. The 1878 Martenet Map shows site a little settlement; Benjamin Noble's House, Gover's gristmill, a blacksmith shop, a sawmill, and several Gover houses. It was converted from Burrs to Rollers, in 1888, and in 1894, Benjamin Noble devised the operation to his son, William Noble, the younger Noble worked the mill until 1941, when it was briefly operated by several other until 1950.

Architecturally, the building is not inspiring, but it is an extremely massive and imposing building, making for a Currier and Ives setting alongside the stream and the wrought iron bridge.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

44-023

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Harford County Directory-1953  
Harford County Land Records  
Martent's Map of 1878  
Wright, C. Milton; Our Harford Heritage, 1967, French-Bray, Baltimore.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 2.96

### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The tract is located on the north bank of Deer Creek just west of Noble's Mill bridge. It is surrounded on the other three sides by the property of ~~MURROE DUKE~~ **MURROE DUKE**

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

STATE	COUNTY
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STATE	COUNTY
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## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Paul L. Penrod

October 26, 1976

ORGANIZATION

Historic District Commission

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

40 South Main Street

TELEPHONE

838-6000 ex. 207

CITY OR TOWN

Bel Air

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

HA-335



HARFORD COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Planning and Zonigg Dept.

RECEIVED

*marks - things are*

JUN 13 1986  
JUN 12 1986  
MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
*up here!*  
C

James W. Peck, Director  
Water Resources Administration  
Tawes State Office Building  
Annapolis, Md. 21401

Dear Mr. Peck: re: Restoration of dam at Noble's Mill

It has come to my attention that Mr. William G. Shimek and his wife would like to buy Noble's Mill on Deer Creek, restore it, and adapt it for use as an artist's studio and residence.

This seems to me a wonderful and imaginative thing to do because it would guarantee a productive future for one of the most historic structures in Harford County. The mill itself is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places and is included in the Maryland Historical Trust's Historic Sites Survey and Inventory.

Of course milling along colonial lines is not practicable in the last quarter of the 20th century and, as a result, many of the state's old mills have been abandoned and are suffering rapid deterioration; many have already collapsed into ruin, a fate which seems certain for Noble's Mill unless a new use can be found for it--that is precisely what Mr. Shimek is proposing.

The value of the structure, it seems to me, lies not just in the mill itself (interesting as it may be) but in the entire assemblage of mill, mill race, iron bridge, and dam. The Trust, infact, has praised the whole complex and its "Currier and Ives setting alongside the stream."

The Shimeks, as you know, would like to restore and repair the dam, damaged in 1972. I believe you must approve their plans and I sincerely hope you will be able to give them every assistance.

If you would like to discuss this in more detail, please give me a call at 879-2000, extension 207.

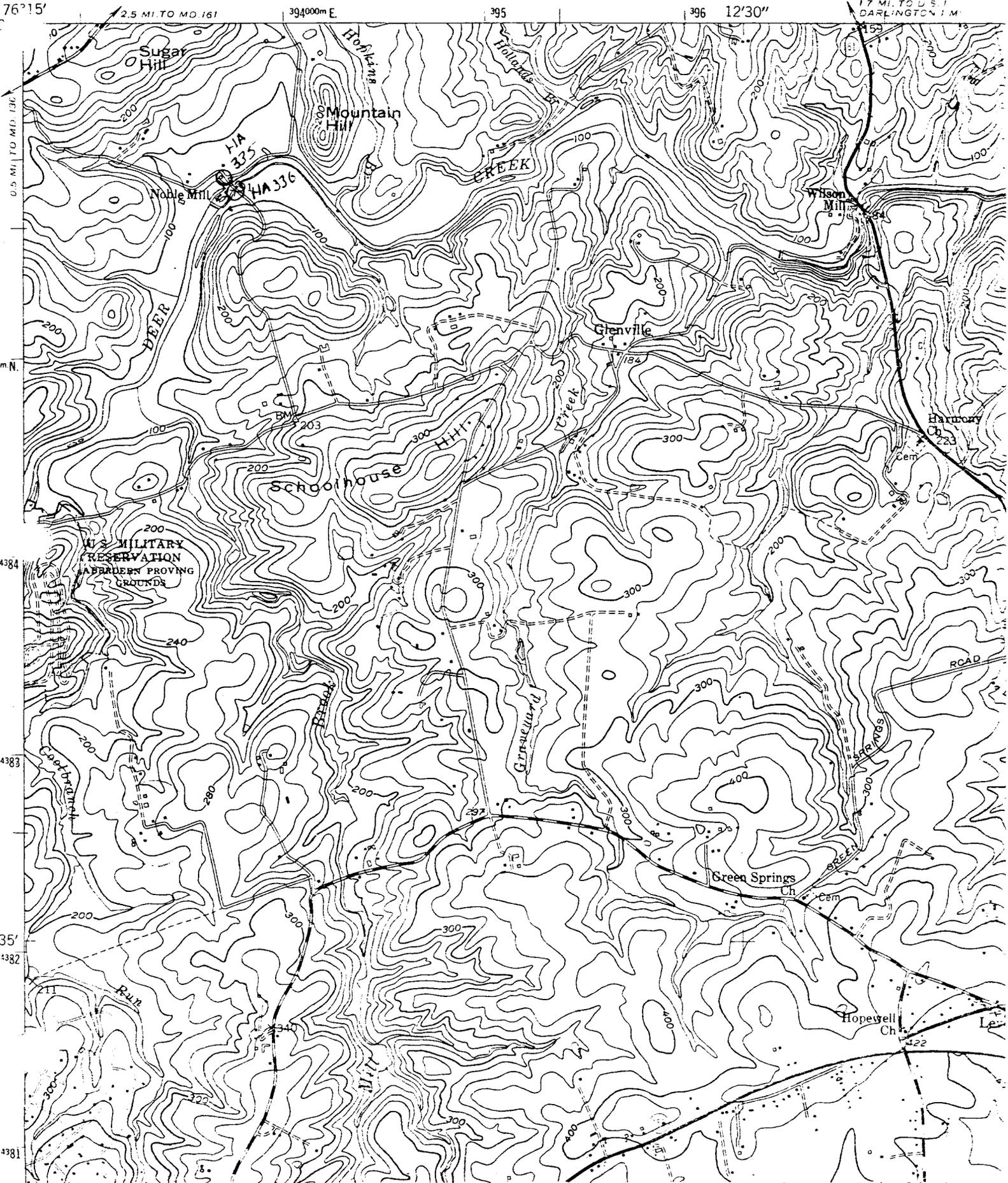
Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely yours,  
*Christopher Weeks*  
Christopher Weeks  
Historic Sites Surveyor

cc: The Hon. Catherine Riley  
William G. Shimek  
Mark R. Edwards

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

LINE  
2



76°15'

730'

2.5 MI. TO MD. 161

394000m E

395

396

12'30"

17 MI. TO U.S. 1 DARTINGTON 1 M

0.5 MI. TO MD. 136

3000m N

4384

4383

35'

4382

4381

Sugar Hill

Mountain Hill

Noble Mill

HA 335

HA 336

Noble Mill Creek

Glenville

Wilson Mill

Schoolhouse Hill

U.S. MILITARY RESERVATION  
LABRETTEN PROVING GROUNDS

Harmony Ch

Green Springs Ch

Hopewell Ch

Rail

ROAD



Noble's Mill  
Darlington, MD  
Susan M. Deeney  
November, 1976  
Southeast

HA-335



Noble's Mill  
Darlington, MD  
Susan M. Deeney  
November, 1976  
West

HA-335