

1. Name: Davis Mill and Miller's House

2. Planning Area/Site Number: 14/54 3. M-NCPPC Atlas Reference: Map 7
L-10

4. Address: House - Huntmaster Lane, Germantown
Mill - Davis Mill Road, Germantown

5. Classification Summary

Category <u>building</u>	Previous Survey Recording <u>M-NCPPC</u>
Ownership <u>private</u>	Title and Date: <u>1976 Inventory of</u>
Public Acquisition <u>N/A</u>	<u>Historical Sites</u>
Status <u>unoccupied</u>	Federal <u> </u> State <u>X</u> County <u>X</u> Local <u> </u>
Accessible <u>no</u>	
Present use <u>abandoned</u>	

6. Date: Mill - by 1854 7. Original Owner: Dr. Washington D. Waters

8. Apparent Condition

house - deteriorated
a. mill - ruins b. unaltered c. original site

9. Description: This log and frame, 2½ story, 3 bay by 1 bay house sits high on a hill facing west, overlooking Seneca Creek and the ruins of Davis Mill. Ruins of the frame mill and its stone foundation are visible. The impressions of both the head and tail races are clearly seen.

The miller's house is on fieldstone foundations. The gable roof has moss-covered shingles which appear to be wooden shakes. Remnants of boxed cornices remain. An old sycamore tree, about 20 ft. from the house, has shed its branches onto the roof and broken it. Windows were 2-over-2, double-hung, but are now broken. The log section is 1 bay by 1 bay, 1 story on log beams within the stone foundation. There is one board and batten door, and a narrow, closed string stairway ascending from west to east, indicating that there may have been a loft above this single story. The logs have small stones and sand mortar between them.

10. Significance: Harry W. Dorsey, who purchased large tracts of land in the area around 1798, may have built the mill and the house, although his first purchase of the property included buildings and improvements.

In 1840 Dorsey deeded property to Washington D. Waters to hold in trust for Dorsey's daughter. A mill was not mentioned in the description of the property, however, a mill was on the property by 1854 owned by Washington and Virginia Waters. They sold it to John Samuel Davis in 1855. Davis had learned how to operate a mill while living with his uncle, Washington Poole in Monrovia. He married Mary Ellen Phoebus of New Market, moved into the mill, and probably built the frame portion of their house to accommodate their family of 11 children.

The present owners bought the property with 46 acres from the Davis children in 1922. They used the house for weekends and summer vacations until about 15 years ago. Now the mill is in ruins and the house abandoned and dilapidated.

Barbara Knapp -10/79

11. Researcher and date researched: Margaret M. Coleman

12. Compiler: Gail C. Rothrock 13. Date Compiled: 10/79

14. Designation Approval

15. Acreage: 41.75 acres

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC Davis Mill and Miller's House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER House - Huntmaster Lane
Mill - Davis Mill Road

CITY, TOWN Germantown VICINITY OF Goshen CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 8

STATE Maryland COUNTY Montgomery

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	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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER Abandoned

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Helene H. Morse Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER 1400 Geary Blvd.

CITY, TOWN San Francisco VICINITY OF California STATE, zip code

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Montgomery County Courthouse

Liber #: 844
Folio #: 417

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN Rockville STATE Maryland 20850

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE M-NCPPC Inventory of Historical Sites

DATE 1976 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Park Historian's Office

CITY, TOWN Rockville STATE Maryland 20855

7 DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This log and frame, two-and-a-half story, three bay by one bay house sits high on a hill facing west, overlooking Seneca Creek and the ruins of Davis Mill. Ruins of the frame mill and its stone foundation are visible. The impressions of both the head and tail races are clearly seen.

The miller's house is on fieldstone foundations. The gable roof has moss-covered shingles which appear to be wooden shakes. Remnants of boxed cornices remain. An old sycamore tree, about 20 feet from the house, has shed its branches onto the roof and broken it.

Windows were two-over-two, double-hung, but are now broken.

The log section is one bay by one bay, one story on log beams within the stone foundation. There is one board and batten door, and a narrow, closed string stairway ascending from west to east, indicating that there may have been a loft above this single story. The logs have small stones and sand mortar between them.

The frame part is unpainted clapboard, with an interior brick chimney. There is a closed string stairway and the walls are plaster over lath. There is a panelled door on the front (west) facade, and there was another door on the rear (north).



Miller's House at Davis Mill
Huntmaster Lane, Germantown
Facade: West
Original photograph owned by Mrs. Harold Burdette,
Germantown, Maryland.
Date: c. 1920

8 SIGNIFICANCE

M.14-54

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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES by 1854 - mill

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Harry W. Dorsey?

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Davis Mill and the accompanying miller's house were one of several mill complexes near Goshen.

In 1854 the residents of what is now called Davis Mill Road petitioned a road to be laid out, and sketched the desired route, including a mill drawn at this site.¹ Called "Dr. Water's Mill" or "Water's Mill", the property is on the tracts Benjamin's Square and Lodewick's Range. Harry W. Dorsey may have built the mill and the house although his first purchase of these tracts in 1798 included buildings and improvements.² Dorsey continued buying for a total of twelve farms, mostly tracts in this Goshen area -- Benjamin's Square, Lodewick's Range, Thomas' Hog Pasture, Mill Pond and Brooke Plain.

In 1840 Dorsey deeded property to Washington D. Waters to hold in trust for Dorsey's daughter, Harriet, the wife of Samuel Blunt. Blunt had earlier sold his father-in-law all his household goods, including "one stone kitchen and one tin kitchen" and his crops of tobacco, corn, wheat and rye.³ Dorsey deeded the goods, 18 slaves and land to Waters to hold for his daughter "as if she were unmarried".⁴

However, a mill was on the property by 1854. John Samuel Davis (1838-1922) was living at the mill in 1879.⁵ In 1855 he bought 138½ acres including the mill from Washington and Virginia Waters.⁶ He took out a mortgage for \$3,000 from Harriet A. Cooke, wife of Nathan Cooke.⁷ Buildings and improvements are included in the purchase. It is assumed that he moved into the miller's house before 1879, and rented the property until 1885 when he bought it.

Davis had lived with his uncle, Washington Poole, at Monrovia and learned how to operate a mill from him. He married Mary Ellen Phoebus of New Market. They moved to the subject mill, and probably built the frame part of the house to accommodate their family of eleven children, all girls. The mill burned down shortly after his death.⁸

The present owners bought the property with 46 acres from the Davis children in 1922. They lived in Washington and used this place for week-ends and summer vacations until about fifteen years ago. At the present time the mill is in ruins and the house abandoned and dilapidated.

(Continued on Attachment Sheet A)

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Land Records of Montgomery County, Md.
 Deitrich, Elmira Davis Harper. Unpublished manuscript, "Davis", 1969.
 Maps - Martenet and Bond, 1865.
 G.M. Hopkins, 1879.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 41.75 acres

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The mill was located on Great Seneca Creek, just below its confluence with Wildcat Branch. The house is across the creek, on the crest of a hill.

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

STATE	COUNTY
STATE	COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE	Barbara Knapp	Margaret M. Coleman
	Margaret M. Coleman	Architectural Description
ORGANIZATION	Sugarloaf Regional Trails	DATE
		October 1979
STREET & NUMBER	Box 87	TELEPHONE
		926-4510
CITY OR TOWN	Dickerson	STATE
		Maryland 20753

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

Davis Mill and Miller's House

FOOTNOTES:

1. Land Records of Montgomery County, Md., JGH 3/433 (October 11, 1854).
2. Ibid., H/150 (May 7, 1798).
3. Ibid., Y/503 (November 10, 1826).
4. Ibid., ES 10/106 (March 24, 1840).
5. Hopkins Atlas, 1879.
6. Land Records, op. cit., EBP 36/105 (October 14, 1885).
7. Ibid., EBP 36/107 (October 14, 1885).
8. Elmira Davis Harper Deitrich, unpublished manuscript, Davis, 1969; p. 4.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

~~1609175514~~

NOMINATION FORM

1609125514

for the
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME					
COMMON:					
AND/OR HISTORIC: Davis Mill Site					
2. LOCATION					
STREET AND NUMBER: Davis Mill Road and Blunt Road					
CITY OR TOWN: Germantown					
STATE Maryland		COUNTY: Montgomery			
3. CLASSIFICATION					
CATEGORY (Check One)		OWNERSHIP		STATUS	
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object		<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both		Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC					
Yes:					
<input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No					
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)					
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment		<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum		<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) ruins		<input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____ _____	
4. OWNER OF PROPERTY					
OWNER'S NAME: Morse					
STREET AND NUMBER: Blunt Road					
CITY OR TOWN: Germantown			STATE: Maryland		
5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION					
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Montgomery County Courthouse					
STREET AND NUMBER:					
CITY OR TOWN: Rockville			STATE: Maryland		
Title Reference of Current Deed (Book & Pg. #):					
6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS					
TITLE OF SURVEY: None					
DATE OF SURVEY: <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local					
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:					
STREET AND NUMBER:					
CITY OR TOWN:			STATE:		

M: 14-54

7. DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The ruins of the stone foundation of the mill are visible, as are the impressions of both the head and tail races. The mill itself was a framed structure.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

M:14-54

B. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian
- 15th Century
- 16th Century
- 17th Century
- 18th Century
- 19th Century
- 20th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|---|--|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aboriginal <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric <input type="checkbox"/> Historic <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture <input type="checkbox"/> Art <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce <input type="checkbox"/> Communications <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Education <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering <input type="checkbox"/> Industry <input type="checkbox"/> Invention <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture <input type="checkbox"/> Literature <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Music | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Political <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy <input type="checkbox"/> Science <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian <input type="checkbox"/> Theater <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ |
|---|--|---|---|

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

[Empty space for statement of significance]

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Blank area for major bibliographical references.

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 TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

Acreage Justification:

Blank area for acreage justification.

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

STATE:		COUNTY:	

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Christopher Owens, Park Historian

ORGANIZATION: M-NCPPC

DATE: 22 Mar 74

STREET AND NUMBER:
8787 Georgia Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: Silver Spring

STATE: Maryland

12. State Liaison Officer Review: (Office Use Only)

Significance of this property is:

National State Local

Signature _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

See correspondence dated June 12, 1984

ACTION TAKEN

The following sites have been reviewed and found not suitable for regulation under the Historic Preservation Ordinance. Those sites also listed on the Locational Atlas will no longer be subject to regulation under the Moratorium on Alteration and Demolition.

Site No.

10/2		
10/9		23/70
10/11		23/98-1
10/22		24/12
10/25		24/14
10/54		24/15
10/71		25/1
10/73		25/10-1
	15/68	27/5
	15/69	27/7
10/74	16/19	*27/11
11/8	*17/4	*27/13
12/14-1	17/55	28/15
12/16	18/1	28/26
12/26	18/9	30/3
	18/22	30/7
13/15	18/27	30/9
13/16	18/29-1	30/15
13/28	19/8	30/17
13/32	19/18	30/19
	19/20	31/9
14/1	20/6	33/3
14/15	20/14	33/5
14/18	20/27	33/11
14/19	22/5	*34/1
14/23	22/6-1	*34/9
14/30	22/18	
14/31	22/21	
14/40	22/22	
14/48	22/23	
14/54	22/24	
15/10	23/13	
15/11		
15/18		
*15/62		

Site No.

- 35/6
- 36/9
- *37/4

*Recommended for designation by the Mont. Co. Historic Preservation Commission.

**These sites were previously considered by the County Council and found not to warrant regulation under the Historic Preservation Ordinance. They are listed here to bring the functional Master Plan in conformance with Council's actions.



Cedar Grove

Watkins Road

Ridge Road Route 27

Davis Mill Rd.

Wildcat Branch

Peole

Butler

Allin

Wildcat Rd.

Seneca Creek

Great

Wildcat Rd.

Woodfield

Huntmaster Rd.

Davis Miller House

Rt. 355

Brink Road

Davis Mill Road

Blunt Rd.

Frederick Road

- Paved road
- Unpaved road
- Streams

Scale 1" = 2000'
1 mile = approx. 2.6 inches



NAME M. 14-54
DAVIS MILL RUINS

LOCATION " " Rd. + BLUNT Rd. GOSHEN, Md

FACADE S

PHOTO TAKEN 3/28/74 MOWYER



NAME #14-54 DAVIS MILLER'S HOUSE
M.
LOCATION BLUNT RD., GOSHEN, MD.
FACADE S.E.
PHOTO TAKEN 3/28/74 W. RAWYER