

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM**

NR Eligible: yes   
no

Property Name: Nathan Shaw House Inventory Number: M: 23-111  
 Address: 15910 Emory Lane City: Rockville Zip Code: 20853  
 County: Montgomery USGS Topographic Map: Kensington  
 Owner: Carl D & HM Murphy Is the property being evaluated a district?  yes  
 Tax Parcel Number: P283 Tax Map Number: HS22 Tax Account ID Number: 00715448  
 Project: Intercounty Connector (BCS 99 21B) Agency: State Highway Administration  
 Site visit by MHT staff:  no  yes Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Is the property is located within a historic district?  yes  no

*If the property is within a district* District Inventory Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
 NR-listed district  yes Eligible district  yes Name of District: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Preparer's Recommendation: Contributing resource  yes  no Non-contributing but eligible in another context  yes

*If the property is not within a district (or the property is a district)* Preparer's Recommendation: Eligible  yes  no

Criteria:  A  B  C  D Considerations:  A  B  C  D  E  F  G  None

Documentation on the property/district is presented in:  
 MIHP forms and Addendums

Description of Property and Eligibility Determination: *(Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map and photo)*

The Nathan Shaw House property is associated with events and trends that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history. The property retains location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, and feeling, all elements of integrity relevant to Criterion A. Therefore, the Nathan Shaw House property is eligible under Criterion A. The property is not associated with any person or group of persons of outstanding importance to the community, state, and nation. Therefore the Nathan Shaw House property is not eligible under Criterion B. The Nathan Shaw House is not an exemplary representative of domestic architecture in Montgomery County or Maryland. Therefore, it is not eligible under Criterion C. Prior archeological investigations have concluded that the property surrounding the dwelling and its associated outbuildings was disturbed during the construction of Muncaster Mill Road and the excavation of a ditch that ran parallel to the road. The Nathan Shaw House property has been determined not to have the potential to yield important information and thus was not evaluated under Criterion D. Therefore, it has been determined that the Nathan Shaw House property is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A. The Nathan Shaw House was designated to the Montgomery County Master Plan for Historic Preservation.

Prepared by: EHT Tracerics Date Prepared: 11/11/2003

<b>MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW</b>	
Eligibility recommended <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Eligibility not recommended <input type="checkbox"/>
Criteria: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> D	Considerations: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> G <input type="checkbox"/> None
MHT Comments	
<u>[Signature]</u> Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services	<u>1/20/04</u> Date
<u>[Signature]</u> Reviewer, NR Program	<u>1/20/04</u> Date

200400073

## *Maryland Inventory of Historic Places Addendum*

**M: 23-111**

**Nathan Shaw House**

**15910 Emory Lane**

**Rockville, Montgomery County**

**EHT Tracerics, Inc., Surveyor**

**October 2003**

This addendum was prepared to address the association of the Nathan Shaw House with the Muncaster Mill, as well as any other mills and/or resources in this area. A more detailed description of the property was prepared to address its location along the creek, its vernacular character, and its physical evolution. Additionally, a context of mills within Montgomery County was prepared in order to properly understand the significance of the property. The significance of these resources was reevaluated based on additional documentation and site visits.

### **Section 7: Description**

The miller's house, known as the Nathan Shaw House, is a two-story, three-bay-wide house situated atop a knoll at the corner of Muncaster Mill Road and Emory Lane, near Norbeck in Montgomery County, Maryland. The wood-frame house, consisting of a main block and ell, was constructed as the residence of the miller for the Milton Mills and later Muncaster's Mills, which were in continuous operation from 1783 or earlier to 1925. Based on the materials and style of the house, the building appears to date to circa 1830, but most likely incorporates an earlier structure that is no longer discernable from an exterior reconnaissance survey. References to a miller's house on the property appear as early as 1783 and 1800.<sup>1</sup> Accompanying the Nathan Shaw House are a well, a carriage house, a stable, and a chicken coop.

Until the latter half of the twentieth century, the miller's house was part of an extensive mill complex. To the northwest of the house lie the ruins of a dam believed to have been constructed in the later half of the eighteenth century. The dam remained in continuous use until 1925. The ruins of a circa 1820 saw mill and an circa 1820 grist mill lie to the south of the dwelling, on the south side of Muncaster Mill Road, along the west bank of Rock Creek. The ruins of a third mill lie to the south of the dwelling on the east side of Rock Creek and may be the site of the eighteenth-century grist or saw mill constructed by Joseph Elgar, Jr., which was abandoned and dismantled in 1820.

#### Architectural Description: Nathan Shaw House

The miller's house is a two-story, three-bay-wide structure built circa 1830. Set upon a rubble stone foundation, the wood-frame dwelling is clad with wood weatherboards, has a boxed wood cornice, and is capped with a cross-gable roof covered with asphalt shingles. The main block of the house measures 31' x 16' and the rear ell measures 17' x 15'. The house has two exterior-end brick chimneys. One chimney stands against the north elevation of the main block and the other chimney rises along the west elevation of the rear ell. The base of the north chimney is constructed of fieldstones but has a brick stack.

Although not visible during an exterior reconnaissance survey, historical documentation as well as oral history from the current property owner suggests the present building may incorporate an earlier structure. The 1783 tax assessment and the advertisement of 1800 both refer to a dwelling associated with the miller's house. The current owner explained during the site visit in September 2003 that a portion of the house is constructed of hand-hewn logs and feature mortise and tenon joints. The house as it appears on the exterior is not a log dwelling and therefore possibly incorporates all or portions of earlier structure.

Between 1935 and 1941, the house underwent a series of alterations. This included the addition of a one-story kitchen with a shed roof on the north elevation of the house, the enclosing of a side porch on the south elevation, dismantling and rebuilding of both chimneys, and the rebuilding of the front porch. The chimney on the west elevation originally stood at the south elevation of the main house but was moved to where it currently stands.

The principle elevation faces east and is divided into three equal bays with a central entry shaded by a porch and flanked by two windows. Three equally spaced windows light the second story. The central entry features a four-paneled wood door and is highlighted by a one-story, one-bay porch with a projecting front-gable roof. Two millstones salvaged from the Muncaster mills site function as entry steps. The front porch features paired wood columns and glazed side walls. Built in 1935-1936, the current porch replaced an earlier porch. The square wood posts of the earlier porch survive and are stored in the stable. Single 6/6 wood-sash windows flank the central entry and three 9/3 wood-sash windows light the upper story. A frieze board decorated by raised wood shapes runs along the east elevation.

The south elevation of the main block of the house originally featured an exterior-end brick chimney, which was dismantled around 1938. The two 6/6 windows on the first story and the two 3-light awning windows located on the second story are not original. According to the current owner, Carl Murphy, whose family has owned the property since 1930, the windows were salvaged from a house in Rockville and were installed when the chimney was moved. An enclosed porch extends from the west elevation of the main house and is joined to the south elevation of the rear ell.

The west elevation of the main block of the house has been obscured by subsequent additions. Set on a stone foundation, the two-story, wood-frame ell extends from the west elevation of the main block. Clad with weatherboards, the ell is capped with a gable roof covered with asphalt shingles. The ell exhibits features similar to those found on the main block of the house, such as 6/6 windows and a frieze board decorated by raised wood embellishment. The west elevation of the ell does not contain any other features except for the centrally placed brick chimney, which originally stood on the south elevation of the main block. One-story, one-bay gabled additions flank the west elevation of the ell. These additions include an entry vestibule leading into a pantry/stair, which leads to the kitchen addition. The original bulkhead entry has been converted into a coal bin.

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The north elevation of the main block of the house features one centrally placed, exterior-end stone and brick chimney. The base of the chimney is constructed of random rubble stone, while the stack is of brick. The chimney stack was rebuilt during the 1930s. A one-story kitchen wing with a shed roof stretches along the north elevation of the rear ell. The kitchen was added in 1935-1936 and sits upon a rubble stone foundation. The interior of the house was not available for survey.

### Outbuildings

The carriage house, stable and chicken coop are located to the north of the main dwelling and the well is positioned to the southwest.

The carriage house is a small single-bay structure with two side sheds. Constructed circa 1910, the wood-frame building has a gable roof.

The stable, circa 1870, is a one-and-a-half-story, timber-frame structure covered with a gable roof, clad with standing-seam metal. The walls are covered with weatherboard. The interior of the barn has a ground-floor equipment room and four horse stalls, and an upper-level loft that is accessible from the interior by a ladder stair. The loft reveals the common rafter system and the mortise and tenon joints that are joined at the ridge with large wooden pegs.

The chicken coop is one story in height. It is a wood-frame structure covered with a gable roof that is sheathed with asphalt shingles. The window openings are covered with screens.

The original well for the house has been covered with a concrete cap and has not been in use since the late 1930s.

### Mill Complex:

All of the mill structures are in varying stages of ruin. The dam that controlled the water flow to the mills lies to the northwest of the miller's house, spanning Rock Creek. Some accounts claim that the dam, which was in use until 1925, was constructed by Joseph Elgar, Jr. in the 1770s. Further research and an archaeological excavation are recommended to determine whether or not this is true. The placement of the dam is very easily discerned because of the large number of stones lying across Rock Creek. However, the doors that controlled the flow of water to the mills are gone. The current owner states that the dam was breached in 1925, thereby causing the mill to close.

To the south of the miller's house, on the south side of Muncaster Mill Road, lie the ruins of three mill sites. The oldest site is located on the east side of Rock Creek and is on the verge of disappearing. All that remains to mark the site are a few large stones with post holes cut into them, and a large ditch cut into the earth that is surrounded by stone which appear to mark the position of the water wheel. According to the advertisement in the *Sentinel* in 1800, a saw mill and a grist mill were located on the property by 1800. In 1820, these mills were destroyed when

the water track failed. Instead of repairing the mills, the buildings were dismantled and two new mills, a saw mill and a grist mill, were constructed on the other side of the creek, closer to the dam.

One full side and three partial sides of a parged random rubble stone foundation mark the location of the grist mill on the west side of Rock Creek. This mill, according to tax assessments and local advertisements, was built circa 1820 and then burned in 1935. Afterwards, a homeless man used the mill as a shelter until the 1960s. The millraces for the grist mill can still be seen running from the direction of Muncaster Mill Road towards the mill. The widening of Muncaster Mill Road in the last half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century has damaged the millraces. A student archaeological research project of the site completed in 1969 uncovered the tailrace of the grist mill, which was marked by a stone and plaster tunnel supported with keystone arches.<sup>2</sup> Other finds at this site included two millstone fragments, an iron waterwheel shaft band, two iron anchors, square nails, and chunks of white mortar.<sup>3</sup>

The saw mill, built circa 1820 and destroyed by fire 1935, lies to the southwest of the grist mill. The saw mill ruins consist of four partially intact stone walls, three of which are in a line running north to south, and the fourth lies perpendicular running east to west. A stone-lined ditch for the water wheel is also visible. The 1969 student project also focused on this site and uncovered a tunnel with a keystone arch identical to the one found at the grist mill.<sup>4</sup> A millrace is still discernable, running from the saw mill under the current Muncaster Mill Road and continuing behind the miller's house. Other finds made by the high school team include three iron braces and a 13-inch iron rod.<sup>5</sup>

Historic twentieth-century photographs depict these two mills were separated by a road. The road bed was also identified by the 1969 archaeological excavation.<sup>6</sup> The road bed is the original route of Muncaster Mill Road.

## **Section 8: Significance**

Milton's Mills, later known as Muncaster's Mills, served an important role in the development of the surrounding area for over one-hundred-and-fifty years. The grist mill was able to grind corn to make feed, and a variety of grains for flour and cornmeal. The saw mill was used to cut wood for furniture and wagons. During the nineteenth century and early twentieth century, the mills operated two to three days a week and served twenty to thirty families from Olney, Gaithersburg, Rockville, and Norbeck communities of Montgomery County.<sup>7</sup> Although not much is known about the eighteenth-century mills on site, the nineteenth-century mills, which survived until 1935, were documented in both written observations and photographs. The grist mill operated with an overshot wheel measuring sixteen feet in diameter with a six-foot-wide face. The mill had three runs of stones for making flour and had a meal sifter for cornmeal. The saw mill was originally constructed with an oscillating saw operated by a water turbine. A circular saw later replaced the oscillating saw.<sup>8</sup> Although Muncaster's Mills were not unique in their design or unusual for this area, they were the last of the mills to close along Rock Creek. The Nathan

Shaw House documents the location and setting of this mill property as well as its continued operation into the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Therefore, the Nathan Shaw House property is associated with events and trends that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history. The property retains location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, and feeling, all elements of integrity relevant to Criterion A. Therefore, the Nathan Shaw House property is eligible under Criterion A. The property is not associated with any person or group of persons of outstanding importance to the community, state, and nation. Therefore the Nathan Shaw House property is not eligible under Criterion B. The Nathan Shaw House is not an exemplary representative of domestic architecture in Montgomery County or Maryland. Therefore, it is not eligible under Criterion C. Prior archeological investigations have concluded that the property surrounding the dwelling and its associated outbuildings was disturbed during the construction of Muncaster Mill Road and the excavation of a ditch that ran parallel to the road. The Nathan Shaw House property has been determined not to have the potential to yield important information and thus was not evaluated under Criterion D. **Therefore, it has been determined that the Nathan Shaw House property is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A.** The Nathan Shaw House was designated to the Montgomery County *Master Plan for Historic Preservation*.

#### History of the Property

The land upon which Muncaster's Mills, the miller house, and the dam are sited was part of an 810-acre tract of land originally called Batchelors Forrest. Batchelors Forest was surveyed on October 26, 1724 and patented in 1734 to James Edmundson and James Beall.<sup>9</sup> In 1753, the tract was resurveyed and 1,057 acres of Resurvey of Batchelors Forrest was granted to James Edmundson, Robert Beall, and Alexander Beall.<sup>10</sup> In a deed dated March 14, 1763, Archibald Beall transferred 25 acres of Resurvey of Batchelors Forrest to Joseph Elgar, Jr. Over the next two years Joseph Elgar, Jr. purchased an additional 442 acres of Resurvey of Batchelors Forrest from Benjamin and James Beall. He named the estate Milton and paid a sum total of 261 pounds.<sup>11</sup>

Joseph Elgar, Jr. was born in Pennsylvania in 1732, apprenticed as a millwright, and developed a skilled ability to build mills, forges, and furnaces. Eventually settling in Montgomery County, Maryland, he is credited with the design and construction of many of the late-eighteenth-century mills in the area.<sup>12</sup> Joseph Elgar, Jr. owned the tract of land purchased from the Bealls for about seven years. On November 30, 1772, Joseph Elgar, Jr. sold 164 acres of Milton to George Robertson of Anne Arundel County for 1054 pounds.<sup>13</sup> The increased value of the land suggests that improvements were made and may indicate that Joseph Elgar, Jr. constructed one or more mills on the property.

In 1783, eleven years after Joseph Elgar, Jr. sold the property, assessments carried out by the State of Maryland lists the 164 acres of Batchelors Forrest, or Milton as belonging to George Robertson. According to the assessment, the property contained one grist mill, a stone mill

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house, two log houses, a saw mill, a wood frame dwelling house, an "old" kitchen, three small log houses, "old" framed tobacco houses, and a framed barn.<sup>14</sup> Elsie White Haines, the daughter of Mr. George E. White, miller of the Muncaster's mills from 1892-1920, claimed the grist mill built by Joseph Elgar was one story in height and twenty-four feet square.<sup>15</sup> Other accounts claim the mill had a twenty-foot wheel.<sup>16</sup> Joseph Elgar, Jr. was also credited with the construction of a dam at the site of the present dam ruins and a wooden viaduct six to seven hundred feet long that carried the water to the mill.<sup>17</sup>

The current owner claims the Muncasters told his family that an earlier mill once stood on the east side of Rock Creek. A large ditch, which appears to be a water wheel well, and large stones with man-made holes carved into them litter the site along the east bank of the creek. These remnants may be from one of the original mills standing on the property by 1800.

Between 1793 and 1800, George Robertson died and the mill came under the temporary ownership and management of Susanna Robertson. On September 19, 1800, Susanna Robertson placed the following advertisement in the *Sentinel of Liberty* also known as the *George-Town* and *Washington Advertiser*:

Mills. The subscriber wishes to rent for one or more years her Grist and Saw Mill on Rock Creek distant 15 miles from George-Town and Federal City and 30 miles from Baltimore, in a good neighborhood for custom, and at little expense may do considerable merchant-work, as the stream is large and constant, the (mill) house calculated for merchant-work, large and roomy, good stone walls, three stories with two pair of stones; Also, a House and meadow convenient to the mill, which has always been occupied by the miller, will be let with the mill. The Saw Mill is in good order as it has been lately repaired.<sup>18</sup>

From this advertisement it is evident that not only were the grist and saw mills in operation by 1800, but that a miller's house was in existence. The location of the dwelling was described as being in a meadow convenient to the mill, and appears to describe what has previously been referred to as the Nathan Shaw House. This thesis supports the claim made by current owner, Carl Murphy, that sections of the house date to the late eighteenth century. However, an intensive survey of the interior of the dwelling at 15910 Emory Lane would need to be completed to determine whether or not this dwelling is old enough to be the miller's house referred to in the above description.

Many local histories and articles claim Joseph Elgar built the first mills on the site in 1820. The evidence provided by the state and county tax assessments as well as the newspaper advertisements discussed above disprove this thesis. If Joseph Elgar, Jr. constructed the mills, then he did so long before 1820, and most likely built them when he owned the land upon which they were located. The fate of the eighteenth-century Robertson mills believed to have been built by Joseph Elgar, Jr. is not completely understood. The eighteenth-century mills appear to have survived until at least 1813 when the Montgomery County tax assessments listed a mill site on the 164 acres of Batchelors Forrest belonging to William Robertson. The property was

valued at \$7.07 per acre, an average assessment for a farm property containing an active mill.<sup>19</sup> According to Elsie White Haines, the original eighteenth-century mill(s) built by Joseph Elgar were destroyed in 1820 and another newer mill was erected further upstream. The story, as she reported it in 1941, was that the wooden track carrying the water to the mill failed and it was decided to demolish the old mill and build a new one upstream. The strong timbers from the original mill were reused in the construction of a barn on the Robertson farm. According to Ms. Haines, the barn was razed in 1895, and the timbers were once again reused in some smaller outbuildings constructed on the property.<sup>20</sup> It appears from her statements that she was only informed about the fate of one of the Robertson mills, but the tax assessments and the advertisement for a miller make it clear that there were at least two mills located on the property. No written documentation detailing what happened to the other mill could be found.

On August 31, 1842, William Robertson, the owner of the Milton estate, deeded the 164 acres of land containing the mills and miller house, along with 356 acres of farmland, to his daughter Rachel and son-in-law Edwin Magruder Muncaster.<sup>21</sup> Rachel and Edwin Muncaster also inherited a 700-acre farm called Flower Hill, located on the nearby Milton estate. Edwin Magruder Muncaster was the son of Zachariah Muncaster (1778-1816) and Harriet Magruder Muncaster (1783-1865), who were the first Muncasters to settle in the Montgomery County area, coming from Charles County, Maryland.<sup>22</sup> The mill site continued to be a valuable piece of property for the Muncaster family throughout the nineteenth century. The 1843 Montgomery County tax assessment lists 340 acres of land, some of which was part of the Milton estate, belonging to Edwin Muncaster. The land was valued at \$10 an acre with one acre marked as the "mill seat" and valued at \$1,500.<sup>23</sup>

The first known miller who operated the site under the Muncaster family was George Gringle, but little is known about him. On January 21, 1859, a notice appeared in the *Sentinel*:

A good miller can be found at Mr. Muncaster's thoroughly repaired Mill on the country road, in the Forks of Rock Creek, in the person of Mr. George Gringle, who has rented the Mill. Mr. Gringle is said to be honest, sober and industrious; and from what we have seen and heard of him, he is in every respect worthy of the confidence of the surrounding community. For the accommodation of all who are without grain to send to the mill, he will keep on hand very good Meal and Flour, which can be obtained for cash.<sup>24</sup>

The following year the industrial census of Montgomery County listed George Gringle as operating a grist and saw mill that produced grains, corn, and lumber.<sup>25</sup>

Rachel Robertson Muncaster died in 1865, and the farmland and mill site was passed to her husband, Edwin Magruder Muncaster and their three children: Harriet Muncaster Talbot, William E. Muncaster, and Otho Muncaster. For \$5,000 Edwin, Harriet, and Otho Muncaster conveyed the Milton estate and the mills to William E. Muncaster.<sup>26</sup>

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An 1871 article in the *Sentinel* listed a new miller at what had by then become known as "Muncaster's Mills":

Having rented the Mills of William E. Muncaster, on Rock Creek, I am prepared, at all times, to grind Wheat, Corn, Buckwheat, or Rye in the best manner. Attached is a good Saw Mill and I am prepared to manufacture lumber of every description at short notice and on liberal terms. - William T. Gloyd<sup>27</sup>

It is unknown how long William Gloyd ran the mills, but sometime in the 1880s the mill was under the operation of Mr. Haviland. Haviland disappeared under mysterious circumstance during a journey either to or from Washington, D.C. His horses were found but he was never seen again.<sup>28</sup>

The next miller to run the site was George E. White, the father of Ms. Eloise White Haines. In a 1941 article, Ms. Haines recounted some of her memories of her father running Muncaster's mills from 1892 to 1920. According to her, the grist mill originally ran under the name of Milton Mills and the flour produced by the mill would be bagged and shipped to Washington for sale under that name.<sup>29</sup>

The first quarter of the twentieth century brought about a large number of changes that had an enormous impact on the lifestyles of the inhabitants of Montgomery County. The automobile was introduced to America and county roads were improved. Larger industrialized companies were producing feed and flour that was now available to anyone for a cheaper price than at the local mills. With the automobile and a better road system, people in rural Montgomery County no longer needed to rely on a local mill for their feed and grains, but could travel to industrialized areas to purchase supplies from the large grain companies. This made many of the rural mills obsolete. Business at Muncaster's Mills declined and George White left the property in 1920. From 1920 until 1925, a miller named Mr. Dove operated the mills.<sup>30</sup>

On December 22, 1922, the Muncasters placed an ad in the paper to sell 24-½ acres of land upon which were located the mill site, water rights, and ten acres of cleared land. "The cement mill dam and water rights lie entirely within the boundaries of the land to be sold." The listed improvements made to the land included a frame saw mill "in good condition with saw mill equipment for 24 feet logs," a frame grist mill "with 16 foot overshot water wheel and 3 runs of stones for grinding corn meal and feed" and "a Frame Dwelling House of six rooms and a cellar. Stable for two horses, garage for two autos, sheds and shedding for cows and implements and several other outbuildings." John E. Muncaster and Clifford H. Robertson, Trustees of William Muncaster, sold the property.<sup>31</sup>

The property changed hands a number of times over the next few years until it was purchased by Mr. Murphy, the current owner's father, in the early 1930s. According to owner Carl Murphy, his father was planning to re-open the mills as a tourist site and park area. However, before restoration could be completed both the saw mill and grist mill caught on fire for reasons unknown and burned to their foundations in 1935.<sup>32</sup>

A Phase Ib archeological investigation and sampling survey was conducted in 1997. The investigation concluded that the property has been substantially disturbed within the proposed right-of-way during the construction of Muncaster Mill road and by the excavation of a 0.5 meter wide ditch dug parallel to Muncaster Mill Road. Given these disturbances, no STPs were excavated within the APE. Further, a surface inspection of the APE did not reveal the presence of archeological deposits or features. Therefore, no additional work was recommended on the property surrounding the dwelling and its associated outbuildings.<sup>33</sup> Historical and spatial relationships can be established to the ruins of the mill sites along Rock Creek to the west of the dwelling; although due to the nature of this project no extended archeological component was undertaken.

### ***Rock Creek Mills***

During the nineteenth century, there were fourteen mills located along Rock Creek.<sup>34</sup> The mills located in what is now Rock Creek Park in the District of Columbia were White's or Peter's Mill, Blagden's and Argyle Mill, Pierce Mill, Adams or Columbian Mill, Lyon's or Federal Mill, Parrott's Mill, and Patterson's Paper Mill. The mills along Rock Creek north of Washington D.C. include Jones Mill, Duvall Mill, Newport Mill, Bowie Mill, Plyer's Mill, Beall's Mill, Veirs Mill, Beckwith Mill, Horner Mill, Elgar Mill, Muncaster Mill, and Mount Arrarat. The only surviving mill along this waterway is Pierce Mill.<sup>35</sup> Several of other mills operated saw mills and grist mills on site, including Muncaster's Mill, Pierce's Mill, and Newport Mill. According to the research done by Trammell M. Lonas for the article on mills along Rock Creek, many of these mills did have miller's houses associated with them. Muncaster's Mills were not unique in their design or unusual for the area. Most of these mills became redundant by the 1920s, and Muncaster's Mills were the last mills to close along Rock Creek.<sup>36</sup>

The residences of the millers were more commonly retained long after the mills themselves had ceased to operate. Throughout Montgomery County, a number of miller's houses have been recognized for their contribution to the history of mills. Examples include the stone Miller's House at 203 Market Street in the Brookeville National Register Historic District (M: 23-65), the Brookville Woolen Mill and House (M: 23-69/NR) on 1901 Brighton Dam Road, the Greenwood Millers' Cottage (M: 23-45) at 21414 Georgia Avenue, and the Hyattstown Mill Complex (M: 10-76) at 14920 Hyattstown Mill Road. Approximately twelve miller's houses, including the Nathan Shaw House, have been designated to the Montgomery County *Master Plan for Historic Preservation*. Two of these properties are listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

### **Endnotes**

<sup>1</sup> Maryland State Tax Assessment, 1783. Copy available at the Montgomery County Historical Society. Advertisement in the *Sentinel* (September 19, 1800).

<sup>2</sup> Charlotte Beckett, Lisa Neher, Janet Pusey, "The Muncaster Mill Site" (Anthropology Research Project, Walt Whitman High School, 1969), 4-5.

<sup>3</sup> Charlotte Beckett, Lisa Neher, Janet Pusey, "The Muncaster Mill Site" (Anthropology Research Project, Walt Whitman High School, 1969), 6-8.

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- <sup>4</sup> Charlotte Beckett, Lisa Neher, Janet Pusey, "The Muncaster Mill Site" (Anthropology Research Project, Walt Whitman High School, 1969), 4-5.
- <sup>5</sup> Charlotte Beckett, Lisa Neher, Janet Pusey, "The Muncaster Mill Site" (Anthropology Research Project, Walt Whitman High School, 1969), 8.
- <sup>6</sup> Charlotte Beckett, Lisa Neher, Janet Pusey, "The Muncaster Mill Site" (Anthropology Research Project, Walt Whitman High School, 1969), 4-5.
- <sup>7</sup> *Courier* (Montgomery County) 30 January 1980.
- <sup>8</sup> Information taken from vertical file on Muncaster at Montgomery County Historical Society Library.
- <sup>9</sup> Maryland Deed Book AM#1, folio 383.
- <sup>10</sup> BC&GS #5, folio 138
- <sup>11</sup> Frederick County Deed Book J, folios 1087, 1089, 1090.
- <sup>12</sup> Roger Brooke Farquhar. *Historic Montgomery County, Maryland Old Homes and History*, f. 214, 215. On file at Montgomery County Historical Society Library.
- <sup>13</sup> Frederick County Deed Book P, folio 499.
- <sup>14</sup> 1783 Maryland State tax assessment.
- <sup>15</sup> Elsie White Haines, "Montgomery Sidelights," in *Sentinel* (Montgomery County), 23 January 1941.
- <sup>16</sup> "All Roads Led to Mills In Beginning" in *Sentinel* (Montgomery County), 29 September 1955.
- <sup>17</sup> Elsie White Haines, "Montgomery Sidelights," in *Sentinel* (Montgomery County), 23 January 1941.
- <sup>18</sup> *Sentinel of Liberty* also known as *George-Town and Washington Advertiser* (Montgomery County and District of Columbia) 19 September 1800.
- <sup>19</sup> Montgomery County Tax Assessment, 1813.
- <sup>20</sup> Elsie White Haines, "Montgomery Sidelights," in *Sentinel* (Montgomery County), 23 January 1941.
- <sup>21</sup> Montgomery County Deed Book BS #11, folio 224.
- <sup>22</sup> Information on file with Montgomery County Historical Society.
- <sup>23</sup> 1843 Montgomery County tax assessment
- <sup>24</sup> *Sentinel* (Montgomery County) 21 January 1859.
- <sup>25</sup> U.S. Industrial Census of Montgomery County, Maryland, 1860.
- <sup>26</sup> Montgomery County Deed Book EBP #2 Folio 617.
- <sup>27</sup> *Sentinel* (Montgomery County) 1871. On file with Montgomery County Historical Society.
- <sup>28</sup> Elsie White Haines, "Montgomery Sidelights," in *Sentinel* (Montgomery County), 23 January 1941
- <sup>29</sup> Elsie White Haines, "Montgomery Sidelights," in *Sentinel* (Montgomery County), 23 January 1941.
- <sup>30</sup> William Dove, interview by Bill an Leuen (March 10, 1975). Transcript on file at Montgomery County Historical Society Library.
- <sup>31</sup> *Sentinel* (Montgomery County) 22 December 1922.
- <sup>32</sup> *Sentinel* (Montgomery County) 17 January 1935.
- <sup>33</sup> Greiner, Inc. "Phase Ib Archeological Identification and Sampling Survey of the Intercounty Connector (ICC), I-270 to US 1, Montgomery and Prince George's Counties, Maryland," Prepared for the State Highway Administration, Contract No. Mo971B12, Archeological Report Number 163, pp. 56 and 170.
- <sup>34</sup> *Courier* (Montgomery County) 30 January 1980.
- <sup>35</sup> Trammell M. Lonas, "20 mills along Rock Creek depended on water power through the 19<sup>th</sup> Century." *Towne* (Montgomery County) May 1996.
- <sup>36</sup> Charlotte Beckett, Lisa Neher, Janet Pusey, "The Muncaster Mill Site" (Anthropology Research Project, Walt Whitman High School, 1969), 1.

# RESOURCE SKETCH MAP

WOODED

STONE RUINS  
OF SAW MILL



MILL RACE

REBORN

HISTORIC DISTRICT

STONE FOUNDATIONS  
OF GRIST MILL



MILL RACE



WOODED

DAM  
RUINS ?



ROCK CREEK

ROCK CREEK

MUNCASTER MILL ROAD

PROPERTY  
BOUNDARY

STONE WALL



CHICKEN  
COOP



WELL



STABLE



CARRIAGE  
HOUSE



EMORY LANE



EARLIEST  
MILL SITE

WOODED AREA



NOT TO SCALE

ID#: M: 23-111

Name: Nathan Shaw House

Address: 15910 Emory Lane

Town/Town Vicinity: Rockville

County: Montgomery



M 23-III

NATHAN SHAW HOUSE  
MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MD

TRACERIES

12/2003

MD SHPO

VIEW LOOKING WEST

1 OF 6



M 23-111

NATHAN SHAW HOUSE

MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MD

TRACERIES

12/2003

MD SHPO

VIEW LOOKING NORTH

2 OF 6



M23-111

NATHAN SHAW HOUSE  
MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MD

TRACERIES

12/2003

MD SHPO

VIEW LOOKING EAST

30FL



M23-111

NATHAN SHAW HOUSE  
MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MD  
TRACERIES

12/2003

MD SHPO

VIEW LOOKING SOUTH

4 OF 6



M23-111

NATHAN SHAW HOUSE  
MONTGOMERY COUNTY

TRACERIES

12/2003.

MD SHPO

GARAGE LOOKING NORTH

5 OF 6



M23-111

NATHAN SHAW HOUSE  
MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MD  
TRACERIES

12/2003

MD SHPO

BARN AND CHICKEN COOP, LOOKING WEST

6 OF 6



M-23-111

Nathan Shaw House

15910 EMORY LANE

MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MD

TRACERIES

9/2003

MD SHPO

POSSIBLE SITE OF 18<sup>th</sup> CENTURY MILL, VIEW LOOKING SOUTH

1 of 9



M-23-111

Nathan Shaw House

15910 EMORY LANE

MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MD

TRACERIES

9/2003

MD SHPO

2 of 9



M-23-111  
Nathan Shaw House  
15910 EMORY LANE  
MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MD

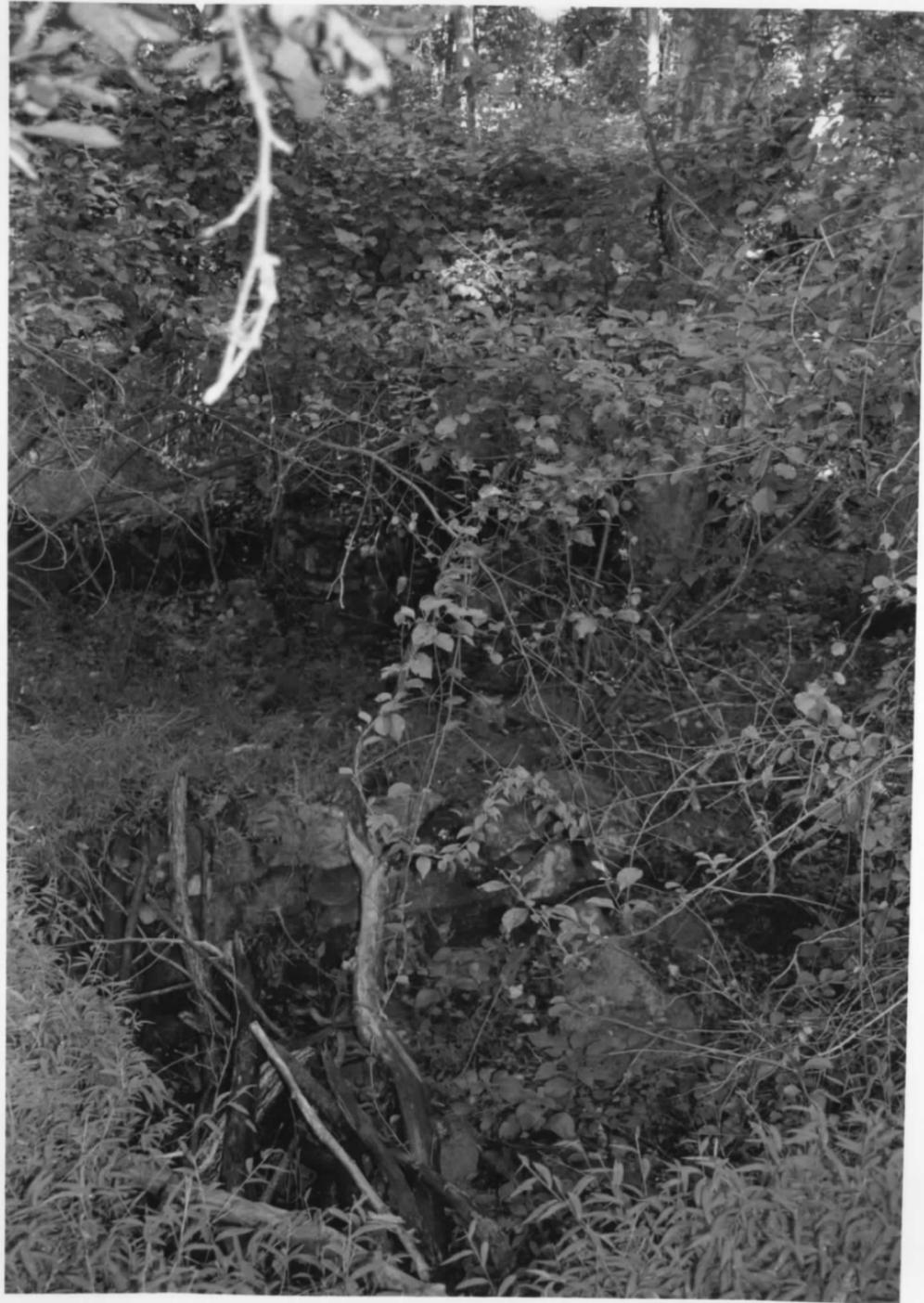
TRACERIES

9/2003

MD SHPS

FOUNDATIONS OF CIRCA 1826 GRIST MILL,  
VIEW LOOKING WEST

3 of 9



M-23-111  
Nathan Shaw House  
15910 EMORY LANE  
MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MD

TRACERIES

9/2003

MD SHPD

FOUNDATIONS OF CIRCA 1820 SAW MILL,  
VIEW LOOKING SOUTHWEST

4 of 9



M-23-111

Nathan Saw House  
15910 EMDRY LANE  
MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MD  
TRACERIES

9/2003

MD SAPO

FOUNDATIONS OF CIRCA 1820 SAW MILL,  
VIEW LOOKING SOUTHEAST

5 of 9



M-23-111

Nathan Shaw House

15910 EMORY LANE

MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MD

TRACERIES

9/2003

MD SHPS

ORIGINAL ONE-LANE BRIDGE OF MUNCASTER MILL ROAD,  
OVER ROCK CREEK - VIEW LOOKING NORTH

6 of 9



M-23-111

Nathan Shaw House

15910 EMORY LANE

MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MD

TRACERIES

9/2003

MD SAPO

RUINS OF DAM, VIEW LOOKING NORTH

7 of 9



M-23-111

Nathan Shaw House

15910 EMDRY LANE

MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MD

TRACERIES

9/2003

MD SHPO

RUINS OF DAM, VIEW LOOKING TOWARDS BREACH, LOOKING  
NORTHWEST

8 of 9



M-23-111  
Nathan Shaw House  
15910 EMDRY LANE  
MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MD  
TRACERIES

9/2003

MD SHPO

FOUNDATIONS OF CIRCA 1820 SAW MILL, VIEW LOOKING  
SOUTH

9 of 9

Property Address <u>15910 Emory Lane, Rockville vicinity (Norbeck), Montgomery County, MD</u>
Owner Name/Address <u>Carl D. Murphy, 15910 Emory Lane, Rockville, MD 20853</u>
Year Built <u>circa 1870</u>

**Description:**

The Nathan Shaw House was previously surveyed in 1976 by the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission. Since the time of the previous survey, the property is unaltered.

**National Register Evaluation:**

The Nathan Shaw House, constructed circa 1870, was previously surveyed by the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission in 1976. The property is not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. The property is not eligible under Criterion A, as research conducted indicates no association with any historic events or trends significant in the development of national, state or local history. Although some accounts suggest that the Nathan Shaw House was the miller's house for the Muncaster Mill, no documentation of this association was located. In addition, any association which may have existed has been lost, as no remnants of the mill are extant. Historic research indicates that the property has no association with persons who have made specific contributions to history, and therefore, it does not meet Criterion B. The property is not eligible under Criterion C, as it is an undistinguished example of a late nineteenth century I-house, with poor integrity. Finally, the property has no known potential to yield important information, and therefore, does not meet Criterion D.

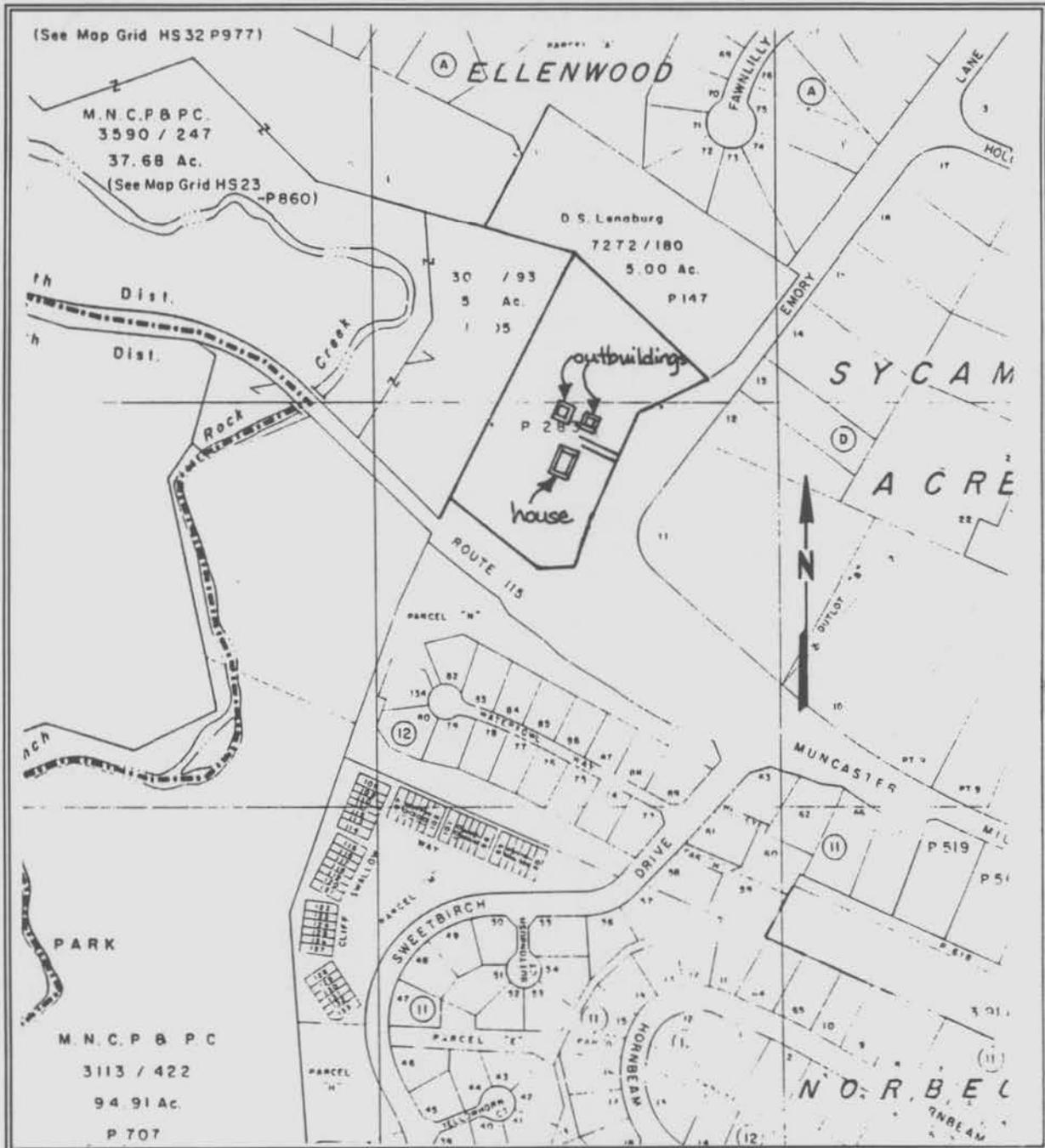
<b>MHT CONCURRENCE:</b>			
Eligibility	<input type="checkbox"/> recommended	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not recommended	
Criteria	<input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D	Considerations	<input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> G <input type="checkbox"/> None
Comments: _____			
_____			
_____			
E. Hannold/K. Williams		11/25/1996	
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services		Date	
		<i>[Signature]</i>	3/4/02
		Reviewer, NR program	Date

Preparer:  
P.A.C. Spero & Company  
December 1996



Property Address 15910 Emory Lane, Rockville vicinity (Norbeck), Montgomery County, MD  
Owner Name/Address Carl D. Murphy, 15910 Emory Lane, Rockville, MD 20853  
Year Built circa 1870

Resource Sketch Map:



Intercounty Connector Project  
Upgrade Existing Roads Alternative  
Quad Kensington  
Survey No. M:23-111 (PACS A5.12)  
Property Name Nathan Shaw House



M:23-111  
A5.12

Brooke Manor  
Country Club

Norbeck

Manor Park

English Manor

Aspen Knolls

Gate of Heaven  
Cemetery

Hermitage Park

Harmony Hills

Green Wood  
Knolls

Wheaton Woods

Radio tower

MUNCASTER

ROCK CREEK  
PARK

Sycamore  
Acres

Run

NORWOOD

PIPELINE

NORBECK

Earl B Wood  
Jr High Sch

Mary Barnier  
Sch

Recreation  
Center

Sycamore  
Creek

English Manor  
Sch

English Manor

Parkland  
Jr High Sch

Recreation  
Center

Brookhaven  
Sch

Rock Creek  
Valley  
Sch

Rock Creek  
Village

Meadow Hall  
Sch

Broome  
Jr High Sch

Brookrest

Carl Sandburg  
Sch

Peary  
High Sch

Aspen Hill  
Sch

Aspen Hill  
Park

Wheaton Woods  
Sch

Retreastion

St Marys  
Ch

Harmony Hills  
Sch

Georgian  
Forest

Green Wood  
Knolls

Playground

LITTLETON ST

DEAN ST

Ho  
EM

Bea  
Cem

Park

St  
Cem

Ge  
Sch

Fc



- 1 M: 23-111
- 2 Nathan Shaw House
- 3 Montgomery County
- 4 Caroline Hall
- 5 June 1996
- 6 PAC Spewand Company, 90 W. Chesapeake Ave,  
Suite 412 Tawson MD 21204
- 7 east elevation, 15910 Emory Lane.
- 8 1 of 2



- 1 M:23-111
- 2 Nathan Shaw House
- 3 Montgomery County
- 4 Caroline Hall
- 5 June 1996
- 6 PAC Spew and Company, 40 W. Chesapeake  
Ave. Suite 412 Towson MD 21204
- 7 east and north elevations  
15910 Emory Lane
- 8 2 of 2

Nathan Shaw House  
(Muncaster Miller's House)  
M:23-111  
Montgomery County, Maryland

The Nathan Shaw House, also known as the Muncaster Miller's House, is a two-story, three-bay frame T-house situated atop a knoll at the corner of Muncaster Mill Road and Emory Lane, near Norbeck in Montgomery County. The house was historically used as a miller's residence, there being several mills along the nearby North Branch of Rock Creek. Although the house may incorporate the foundations of earlier buildings on the site, the present structure dates to circa 1879. Also, included on this site, adjacent to the house is a carriage house and a barn.

The Nathan Shaw House was constructed by Nathan Shaw, and later sold to William Muncaster, a successful land owner, and grist and saw mill operator in the region. Muncaster did not live at the house, but used the dwelling as a tenant house for his mill operators. The property meets Criterion C of the Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties as the surviving remnant of a mill complex, a now-obsolete and quickly vanishing building type.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
MD INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Inventory No. M:23-111

=====

1. Name of Property

=====

historic name Nathan Shaw House

common/other name Muncaster Miller's House

=====

2. Location

=====

street & number Rte. 115 and Emory Lane not for publication       

city or town Rockville vicinity X state        code MD

county Montgomery code        zip code       

=====

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

N/A

=====

4. National Park Service Certification

N/A

=====

5. Classification

=====

Ownership of Property (Check all that apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	buildings
<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>	sites
<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>	structures
<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>	objects
<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	Total

Is this property listed in the National Register?

Yes        Name of Listing        No X

=====  
6. Function or Use  
=====

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: DOMESTIC Sub: Single Dwelling

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: DOMESTIC Sub: Single Dwelling

=====  
7. Description  
=====

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Other: Late 19th Century Vernacular

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone  
roof Cross gable: asphalt shingles  
walls Wood: weatherboard  
other \_\_\_\_\_

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property.)

See Continuation Sheet No. 7-1

=====  
8. Statement of Significance  
=====

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties  
Nathan Shaw House  
Montgomery County, Maryland

Inventory No. M:23-111  
Page 4

=====  
Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Period of Significance circa 1879  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Dates circa 1879  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)  
\_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Architect/Builder \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property.)

See Continuation Sheet No. 8-1

=====

9. Major Bibliographical References

=====

(Cite the books, articles, legal records, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Boyd, T.H.S., *History of Montgomery County*, 1879. Reprint. Baltimore, MD: Clearfield Comp., 1989.

Farquhar, Roger Brooke. *Old Homes and History of Montgomery County, MD*. Silver Spring, MD., 1952, 1962.

MacMaster, Richard K. and Ray Eldon Hiebert. *A Grateful Remembrance: The Story of Montgomery County, Maryland, 1776-1976*. Rockville, MD.: Montgomery County Historical Society, 1976.

Malloy, Mary Gordon and Marian W. Jacobs, compilers. *Genealogical Abstracts, Montgomery County Sentinel, 1855-1899* (Rockville, MD: The Montgomery County Historical Society), 1986.

Montgomery County Historical Society, Rockville, MD., Vertical Files.

Montgomery County Land Records, Montgomery County, Maryland.

Sandy Spring Museum, Sandy Spring, Maryland, Vertical Files.

Maps and Drawings and Photographs

Hopkins, G.M., comp. *Atlas of Fifteen Miles around Washington, including the County of Montgomery, Maryland*, 1879. Reprint. Rockville, MD.: Montgomery County Historical Society, 1975.

Martenet, Simon L. *Martenet and Bond's Map of Montgomery County*, 1865.

=====  
10. Geographical Data  
=====

Acreeage of Property \_\_\_\_\_

**Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)**

The property occupies parcel 283 of Montgomery County Tax Map HS 122.

**Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)**

This property has been associated with the parcel since construction of the present house circa 1879.

=====  
11. Form Prepared By  
=====

name/title Kim Williams & Michele Naru/Architectural Historians  
organization M-NCPPC date July 21, 1999  
street & number 1109 Spring Street telephone (301) 563-3403  
city or town Silver Spring state MD zip code \_\_\_\_\_

=====  
12. Property Owner  
=====

name Carl & H.M Murphy  
street & number 15910 Emory Lane telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
city or town Rockville state MD zip code 20853  
=====

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 1

Inventory No. M:23-111

Nathan Shaw House

name of property

Montgomery County

county and state

=====  
The Nathan Shaw House is a two-story, three-bay frame T-house situated atop a knoll at the corner of Muncaster Mill Road and Emory Lane, near Norbeck in Montgomery County. The house was historically used as a miller's residence, there being several mills along the nearby North Branch of Rock Creek. Although the house may incorporate the foundations of earlier buildings on the site, the present structure dates to circa 1879. Also, included on this site, adjacent to the house is a carriage house and a barn.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

The Nathan Shaw House is a two-story, three-bay T-shaped frame structure built circa 1879.<sup>1</sup> Set upon a rubble stone foundation, it is covered with a cross gable roof, clad with asphalt shingles and has weatherboard walls. The main block of the house measures 31' x 16' and the rear wing measures 17' x 15'. The house has two chimneys--one on the north end of the main block and one on the west end of the rear wing. Between 1935 and 1941, the house and grounds underwent a series of changes that included the addition of a one-story shed roof kitchen on the north side of the house; the conversion of a porch into an enclosed room on the south side of the house; the dismantling of a third chimney which originally stood on the south end of the main block; and the reconstruction of the front porch.

The east elevation is divided into three equal bays with a central entry and porch located on the first story and three windows on the second story. The central entry features a four-paneled wood door and a one-story, one-bay projecting gable roofed porch with a stone millstone used as an entry step. This porch, supported by coupled wood columns and having glazed side walls, was built between 1935 and 1936 to replace the original porch which was in deteriorating condition. The square wood posts of this original porch survive and are stored in the barn. To either side of the central entry are single, 6/6 windows. The second story has three quarter windows, where by the upper sash has 9 panes and the lower sash,

---

<sup>1</sup> The current owner of the house claims that it was built in three phases, based upon the configuration of walls in the foundation level of the house. The cellar was not available for surveying, and could thus not be confirmed. The date of construction is thus based upon historic maps and the building's architectural style. The building does not appear on Martenet and Bond's Map of Montgomery County (1865), but does appear on the G.M. Hopkins Atlas of Montgomery County (1879). A circa 1879 date of construction is consistent with the two-story, three-bay, T-house form.

=====  
three. Above the second story rises a boxed wood cornice and frieze board decorated by raised wood bas-reliefs.

The south end of the main block of the house originally featured an exterior end chimney, which was dismantled after 1938. The two 6/6 windows on the first story and the two three-light awning windows above were installed at this time, having been recovered from an old house in Rockville.<sup>2</sup> The north end of the main block of the house has a chimney on center of the wall and two three-light awning windows to either side on the first story. The chimney features a rubble stone base and a rebuilt, brick chimney stack.

The rear wing of the house projects from the center of the west wall of the main block of the house and measures 17' x 15'. Like the main block, it is set upon a stone foundation, has weatherboard walls and a roof clad with asphalt shingles. Similar features, including 6/6 windows and a decorated frieze indicate that this rear wing was an original part of the house.

On the north elevation, between the main block of the house and the rear wing is a one-story shed roof kitchen wing. This wing was added in 1935-1936 and sits upon a rubble stone foundation.

The west elevation of the house consists of the end wall of the rear wing and several projections. The end wall of the rear wing features a brick end chimney on center, and no openings, but several gable-roofed projections, including an entry vestibule leading into a pantry/stair, which in turn leads into the kitchen wing addition. The original bulkhead entry, located against this end wall towards the south, has been converted into a coal bin.

The interior of the house was not available for survey.

OUTBUILDINGS:

Two outbuildings--a barn and a carriage house--are located north of the main dwelling.

Barn: The barn is a tall, 1-1/2-story timber frame structure covered with a gable roof, clad with standing seam metal. The walls are covered with weatherboard. The interior of the barn has a ground floor equipment room and four horse stalls, and an upper

---

<sup>2</sup> The current owner recalls his father salvaging the windows from a house in Rockville.

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 3

Inventory No. M:23-111

Nathan Shaw House

name of property

Montgomery County

county and state

=====

level loft, accessible from the interior by a ladder stair. The loft reveals the common rafter system and the mortise and tenon joints, pegged at the ridge with large wooden pegs.

Carriage House: the carriage house is a small gable roofed single-bay structure with two side sheds. The shed roof extension to the west is original, while that on the east elevation was added circa 1941 to accommodate a 1941 Oldsmobile which would not fit in the original carriage house.

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

The Nathan Shaw House, also known as the Muncaster Miller's House is located at the intersection of Route 115 and Emory Lane near Norbeck, MD. The dwelling was constructed circa 1879, probably by Nathan Shaw, and later sold to William Muncaster, a successful land owner, and grist and saw mill operator in the region. Muncaster did not live at the house, but used the dwelling as a tenant house for his mill operators. The property meets Criterion C of the Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties as the surviving remnant of a mill complex, a now-obsolete and quickly vanishing building type.

Historic Context

The parcel of land on which the Nathan Shaw House was built was part of the original land tract "Batchellor's Forest."<sup>3</sup> In March of 1886, Nathan Shaw sold this parcel of land, the grist mill and the dwelling to William Muncaster.<sup>4</sup> William Muncaster was a successful land owner in this region, and operated a saw mill. After acquiring these 357 acres of land, William Muncaster continued to operate Nathan Shaw's grist mill and used the dwelling as a tenant house for his mill operators.<sup>5</sup> After William Muncaster's death, his land was bequeathed to his son, Luther M. Muncaster.<sup>6</sup>

In December, 1924 Luther Muncaster sold the Nathan Shaw House and land to Frank L. Hewitt.<sup>7</sup> The property changed ownership several times over the next ten years. Finally in 1934, Virginia Title Insurance Company sold the dwelling and 24 acres of land to George D. Murphy.<sup>8</sup> In January of 1938, due to a default having occurred

---

<sup>3</sup>Montgomery County Courthouse, Deed Book 741 Folio 286

<sup>4</sup>Montgomery County Courthouse, Deed Book JA 2 Folio 302

<sup>5</sup>Montgomery County Historical Society, Mutual Assurance Society Papers, Policy # 13781, 1885.

<sup>6</sup>Montgomery County Courthouse, Will Book HCA 26 Folio 175

<sup>7</sup>Montgomery County Courthouse, Deed Book 422 Folio 66

<sup>8</sup>Montgomery County Courthouse, Deed Book 582 Folio 41

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. M:23-111  
Nathan Shaw House  
name of property  
Montgomery County  
county and state

=====

**HISTORIC CONTEXT:**  
  
**Geographic Organization:** Piedmont

**Chronological/Development Period (s):**

Industrial/Urban Dominance (1870-1930)

**Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme (s):**

Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and  
Community Planning

**RESOURCE TYPE(S)**

**Category:** Standing Structure

**Historic Environment:** Rural

**Historic Function (s):** DOMESTIC/Single Dwelling

**Known Design Source:** Unknown

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. M:23-111  
Nathan Shaw House  
name of property  
Montgomery County  
county and state

=====

CHAIN OF TITLE:

March 26, 1886 Nathan Shaw to William E. Muncaster.  
357 acres. (Deed Book JA 2 Folio 302)

William Muncaster to his son, Luther M.  
Muncaster (Will Book HCA 26 Folio 175).

December 30, 1924 Luther M. Muncaster to Francis A. Thomas.  
(Deed Book 364 Folio 444).

March 5, 1927 Francis A. Thomas to Frank L. Hewitt.  
(Deed Book 422 Folio 66)

November 17, 1933 Wade B. Hampton Sur. Trust to Virginia  
Title Insurance Co. (Deed Book 562 Folio  
104)

November 9, 1934 Virginia Title Insurance Co. to George D.  
Murphy. (Deed Book 582 Folio 41)

November 9, 1934 George and Connie Murphy to Clarence R.  
Ahalt of Virginia Title Insurance Co.  
24.52 acres (Deed Book 590 Folio 362)

"Default having occurred in Deed of  
Trust from George D. Murphy and Connie E.  
Murphy to Clarence R. Ahalt, Trustee of  
Virginia Title Insurance Co.

January 20, 1938 Clarence R. Ahalt of Virginia Title  
Insurance Co. to Hugh V. Keiser. 24.52  
acres (Deed Book 700 Folio 72)

May 27, 1939 Hugh V. Keiser and Aline A. Keiser to  
George D. Murphy. 24.52 acres. "Part of  
Batchellor's Forest." (Deed Book 741  
Folio 286)

April 16, 1963 George D. Murphy died. His estate went to  
his son, Carl D. Murphy. (Deed Book 3077  
Folio 558)

September 25, 1996 Carl D. Murphy to Carl D. Murphy and Helen  
M. Murphy. 24.52 acres. (Deed Book 14839  
Folio 202)

# MUNCASTER MILLERS HOUSE (M: 23-111)



Visual User Application



MONTGOMERY COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PARK AND PLANNING  
THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION  
8787 Georgia Avenue - Silver Spring, Maryland 20910-3760

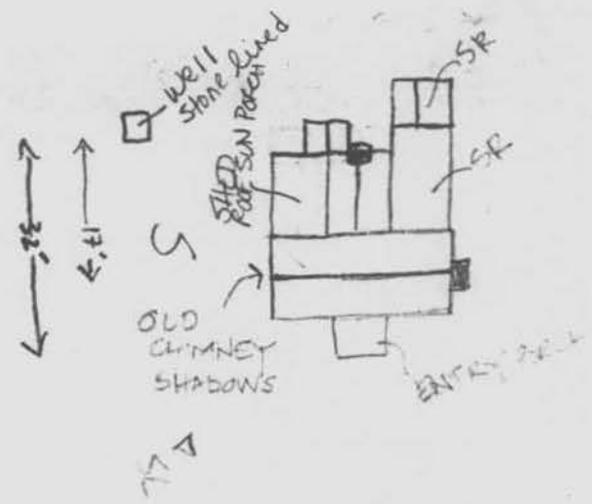
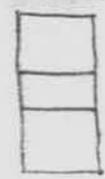
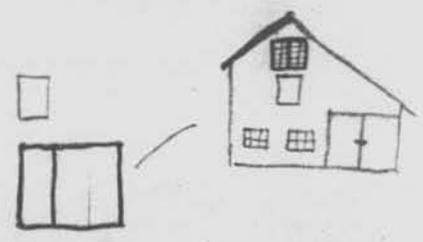


Scale 1" = 300'





NATHAN SHAW  
HOUSE M 23-111



Dimensions 31' x 16' (5'6" chimney)

Back bldg. x15'

RT 115

EMORY LN.

# MECHANICSVILLE DIST.

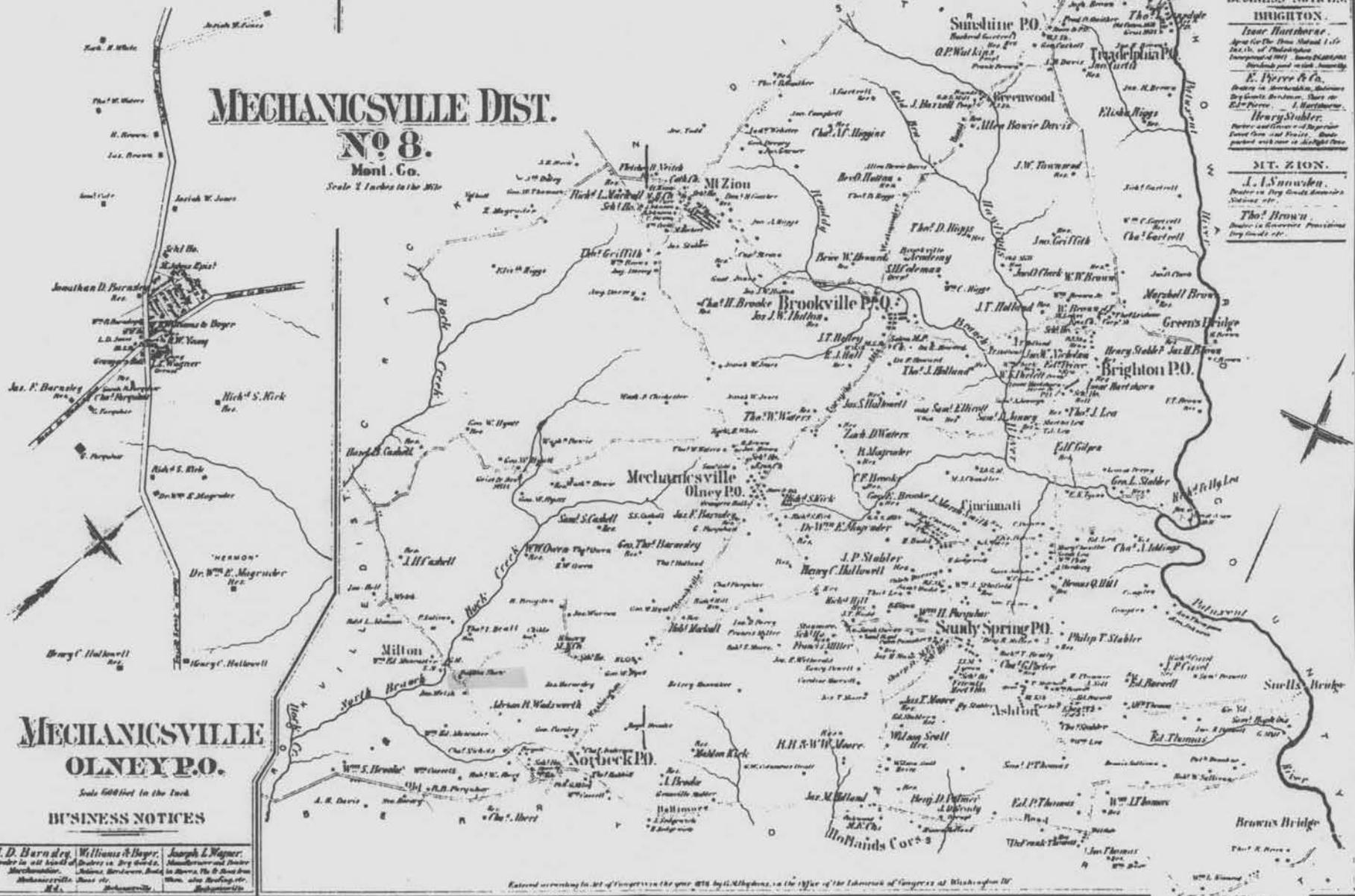
## No. 8.

### Mont. Co.

Scale 2 Inches to the Mile

**BUSINESS NOTICES.**  
**BRIGHTON.**  
*Issue Hartshorn*  
Agent for the Stone Millard & Co. of Philadelphia  
Incorporated 1861. Sales District  
Merchandise sold on Cash Account  
*E. Pierce & Co.*  
Dealers in American, German  
Dry Goods, Groceries, etc. Also  
Ed. Pierce - J. Hartshorn.  
*Henry Stabler.*  
Dealers and Grocers - J. Hartshorn  
Edward Pierce and Family. Goods  
purchased with care in the light of the  
market.

**MT. ZION.**  
*J. J. Snowden.*  
Dealers in Dry Goods, Groceries,  
Saddlery, etc.  
*Theo. Brown.*  
Dealers in Groceries, Provision  
Dry Goods, etc.



# MECHANICSVILLE OLNEY P.O.

Scale 600 Feet to the Inch

## BUSINESS NOTICES

**J. D. Barnley**  
Dealers in all kinds of  
Merchandise.  
Mechanicsville, Md.

**Williams & Beyer**  
Dealers in Dry Goods,  
Groceries, Hardware, Saddlery,  
Mechanicsville, Md.

**Joseph L. Wagner**  
Manufacturers and Dealers  
in Groceries, Flour, etc.  
Mechanicsville, Md.

Entered according to Act of Congress in the year 1879 by G.M. Hopkins, in the Office of the Librarian of Congress at Washington D.C.

M:23-111

Hopkins, G.M., comp. Atlas of Fifteen Miles around Washington, including the County of Montgomery, Maryland, 1879. Reprint. Rockville, MD.: Montgomery County Historical Society, 1975.

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

★ M: 23-109



Name: KENSINGTON  
Date: 7/13/99  
Scale: 1 inch equals 2000 feet

Location: 039° 06' 12.1" N 077° 05' 47.4" W  
Caption: MUNCASTER MILLERS  
NATHAN SHAW HOUSE (M: 23-111)  
5910 Emory Ln.



M 23-111

NATHAN SHAW HOUSE  
MONTGOMERY CO., MD

MICHELE NARU

7-1-99

MARYLAND SHPO

PROPERTY VIEW, LOOKING WEST FROM EMORY  
LANE

1 OF 8



M 23-111

NATHAN SHAW HOUSE

MONTGOMERY CO., MD

MICHELE NARU

7-1-00

MARYLAND SHPO

WEST ELEVATION LOOKING EAST

2 OF 8



M 23-111

NATHAN SHAW HOUSE

MONTGOMERY CO., MD

MICHELE NARU

7-4-99

MARYLAND SHPO

NORTH ELEVATION, LOOKING SOUTH

3 of 8



M 23-111

NATHAN SHAW HOUSE

MONTGOMERY CO., MD

MICHELE NARU

7-1-99

MARYLAND SHPO

SE OBLIQUE, LOOKING NORTHWEST

4 of 8



M 23-111

NATHAN SHAW HOUSE

MONTGOMERY CO., MD

MICHELE NARU

7-1-99

MARYLAND SHPO

SOUTH ELEVATION LOOKING NORTH

5 OF 8



M 23-111

NATHAN SHAW HOUSE

MONTGOMERY CO., MD

MICHELE NARU

7-1-00

MARYLAND SHPO

CARRIAGE HOUSE, SOUTH ELEVATION, LOOKING  
NORTH

6 of 8



M 23-111

NATHAN SHAW HOUSE

MONTGOMERY CO., MD

MICHELE NARU

7-1-99

MARYLAND SPO

SW OBLIQUE OF BARN. LOOKING NE

7 of 8



M 23-111

NATHAN SHAW HOUSE

MONTGOMERY CO., MD

MICHELE NARU

7-1-99

MARYLAND SAPO

EXPT ELEVATION OF BARN, LOOKING WEST

8 OF 8

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

1606165604

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Nathan Shaw House

AND/OR COMMON

Muncaster Miller's House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Rte. 115 & Emory Lane

CITY, TOWN

(Norbeck) Rockville

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Montgomery

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- MUSEUM
- COMMERCIAL
- PARK
- EDUCATIONAL
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- ENTERTAINMENT
- RELIGIOUS
- GOVERNMENT
- SCIENTIFIC
- INDUSTRIAL
- TRANSPORTATION
- MILITARY
- OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Carl D. Murphy

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

15910 Emory Lane

CITY, TOWN

(Norbeck) Rockville

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Montgomery County Courthouse

Liber #:

Folio #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Rockville

STATE

Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

M:23-111

**7 DESCRIPTION**

**CONDITION**

- EXCELLENT
- GOOD
- FAIR

- DETERIORATED
- RUINS
- UNEXPOSED

**CHECK ONE**

- UNALTERED
- ALTERED

**CHECK ONE**

- ORIGINAL SITE
- MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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

This is a two-story, frame house, with several wings, that sits atop a knoll at the corner of Rte. 115 & Emory Lane. It has a three-bay main (east) facade with a central door (the front step for the door is one of the old mill-stones from Muncaster's Mill.) Most of the window sash is 6/6, and the siding is of rough-sawn lumber (probably from the mill also.) On the north-end exterior wall is a stove-base chimney. Extending to the west rear of the main house is a two-story wing, with a large (newer) brick chimney on the west end. The outbuildings here include a large frame barn, now covered with tin siding. The rocky knoll here appears to have been disturbed at one time-perhaps for a tannery or similar operation associated with the mill.

**8 SIGNIFICANCE**

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

---

**SPECIFIC DATES**


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**BUILDER/ARCHITECT**


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**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

Some reports indicate this house is much earlier than it first appears. Mills were operated at this site from the 1770's to the 1920's. At any rate, this house does not appear on maps until Hopkins' 1878 Atlas. It was used as the miller's residence after that date, according to sources such as William Dove, the last miller here. According to some people, there was an old, two-story frame house overlooking the road just SE of here.

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

- 1) Old photos of Muncaster's Mill-early 1900's.
- 2) Muncaster Mill Archeological Report, 1969, by Walt Whitman H.S.
- 3) Maps of 1865 & 1878.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

1.6021 ACR. MILL

6000 ft. Ave

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

STATE \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY \_\_\_\_\_

STATE \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY \_\_\_\_\_

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

Michael F. Dwyer, Senior Park Historian

ORGANIZATION

M-NCPPC

DATE

4/12/76

STREET & NUMBER

8787 Georgia Ave.

TELEPHONE

589-1480

CITY OR TOWN

Silver Spring

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

301-223-2140