

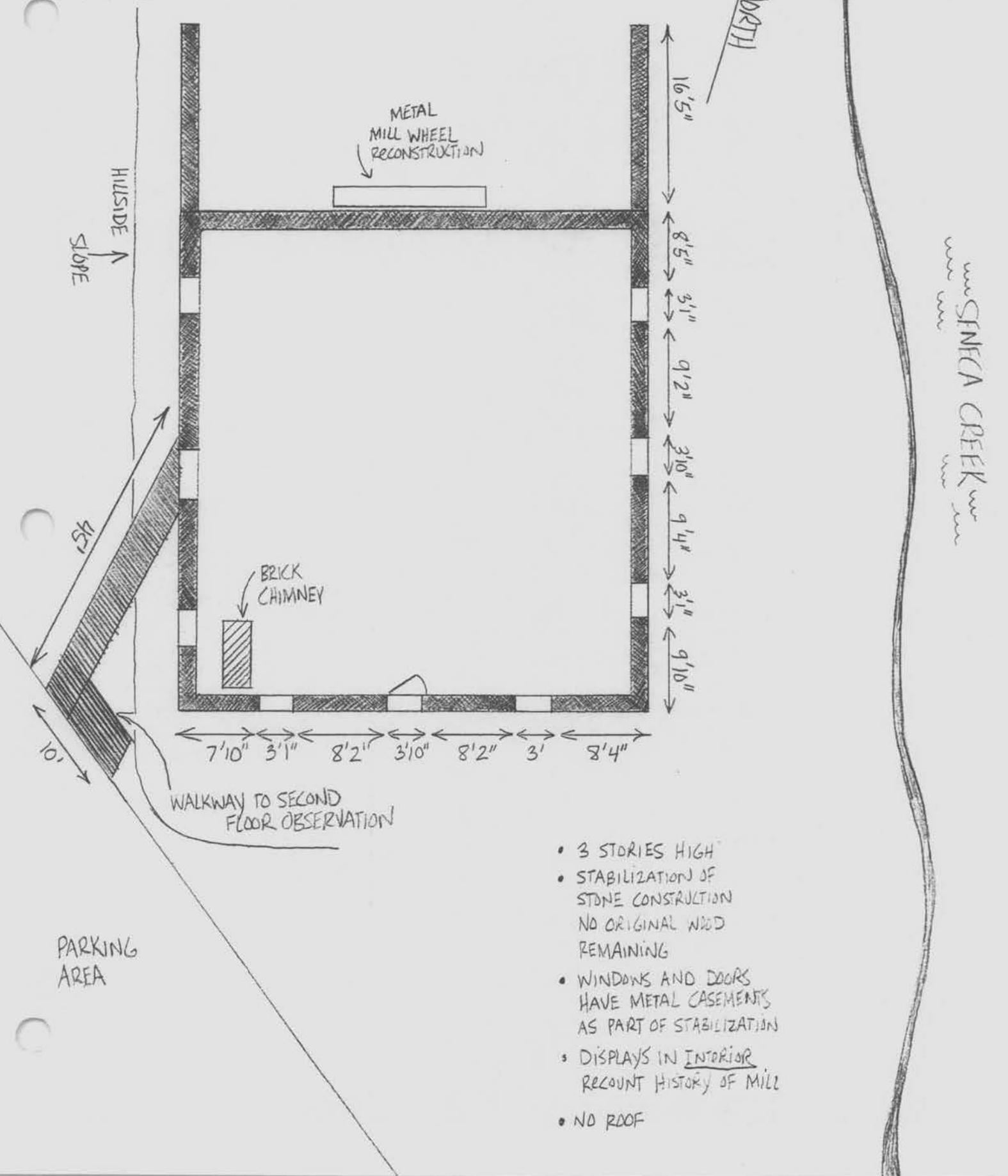
Addendum

M 24-6
Black Rock Mill
Montgomery Co., MD
C.. Mazurek
October 1997
Section 7.1

Black Rock Mill which is located in Seneca Creek State Park on Black Rock Road at its intersection with Great Seneca Creek underwent a stabilization effort that took place between 1979-1980. The entire mill was a ruin with all the wood elements destroyed and only the rubble fieldstone structure remaining. This stabilization attempted to prevent the total destruction of the building by installing metal casements around the doors and windows, as well as, providing wooden structural support to the upper levels of the stone walls near the roofline. In addition to the amendments to the structure, interpretive elements were also added such as display boards relating mill history, and representations of mill machinery. There is also a handicapped accessible walkway that leads to a second floor overlook of the displays. The choice to stabilize rather than restore the structure was the best course of action since it is susceptible to flooding.

BLACK ROCK MILL
 SENECA CREEK STATE PARK; MONTGOMERY CO., MD
 DRAWN BY C. MAZUREK; SEPT 29, 1997
 3/32 SCALE

M. 24-6



- 3 STORIES HIGH
- STABILIZATION OF STONE CONSTRUCTION
NO ORIGINAL WOOD REMAINING
- WINDOWS AND DOORS HAVE METAL CASEMENTS AS PART OF STABILIZATION
- DISPLAYS IN INTERIOR RECOUNT HISTORY OF MILL
- NO ROOF



24-6

BLACK ROCK Mill

MONTGOMERY Co., MD

C. MAZUREK

10/97

MD DEPT. OF NATURAL RESOURCES

NORTH ELEVATION

10FS



24-6

BLACK ROCK MILL

MONTGOMERY CO., MD

C. MAZUREK

10/97

MD DEPT. OF NATURAL RESOURCES

EAST ELEVATION

2 OF 5



24-6

BLACK ROCK Mill

MONTGOMERY Co., MD

C. MAZUREK

10/97

MD DEPT. OF NATURAL RESOURCES

WEST ELEVATION

3 OF 5



24-6

BLACK ROCK Mill

MONTGOMERY Co., MD

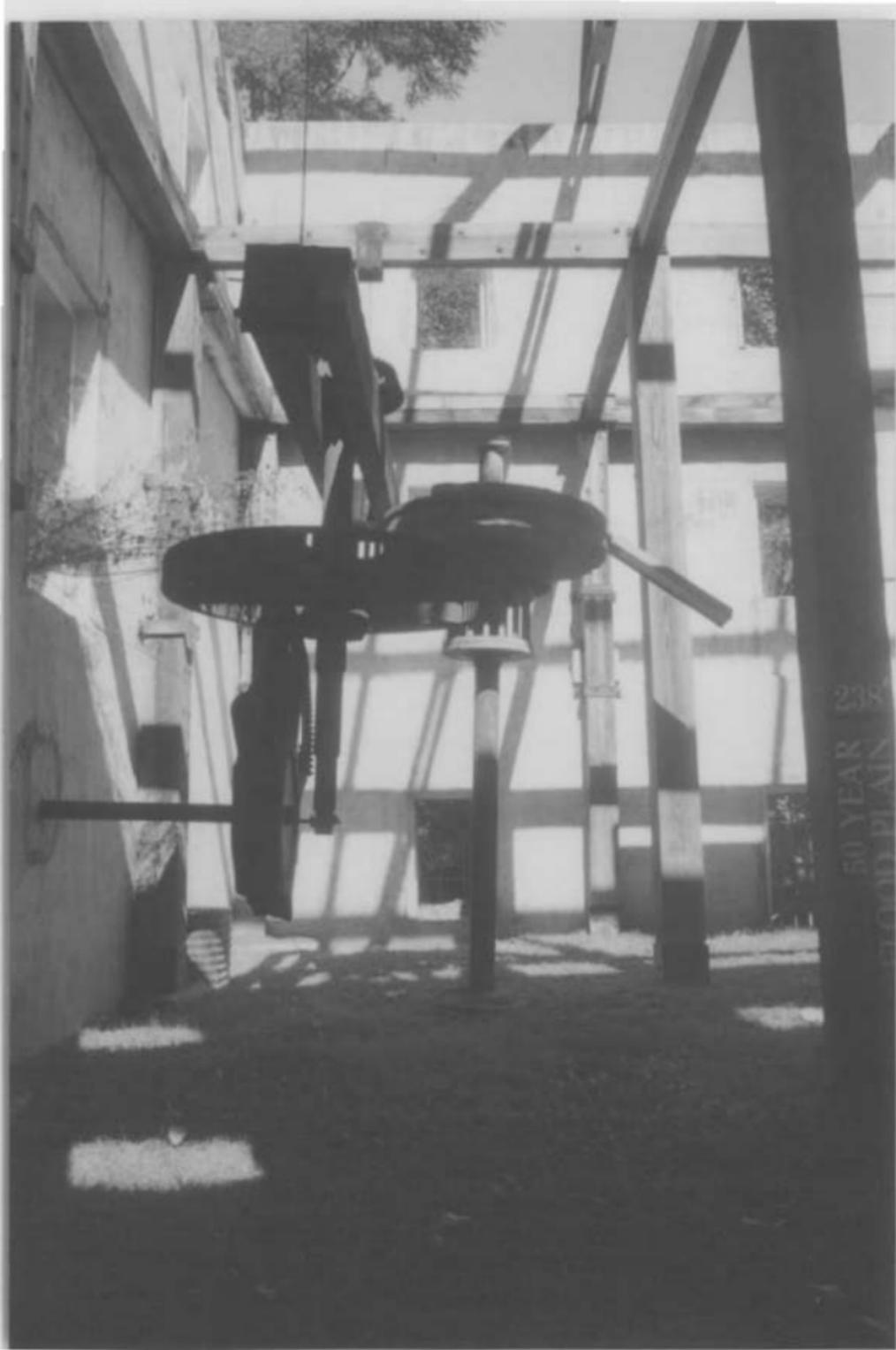
C. MAZUREK

10/97

MD Dept. OF NATURAL RESOURCES

WEST ELEVATION

4 OF 5



50 YEAR 23
STOOD PLAIN

24-6

BLACK ROCK MILL

MONTGOMERY CO., MD

C. MAZUREK

10/97

MD DEPT. OF NATURAL RESOURCES

VIEW OF MACHINERY DISPLAY INSIDE MILL

S OF S

ACHS SUMMARY FORM

M: 24-6

1. Name Black Rock Mill

2. Planning Area/Site Number 24/6

3. MNCPPC Atlas Reference Map 13
H-5

4. Address Black Rock Road, Seneca Creek

5. Classification Summary

Category building
 Ownership public
 Public Acquisition N.A.
 Status unoccupied
 Accessible no
 Present use other - vacant
 Previous Survey Recording M-NCPCC Federal State County X Local
 Historic Sites Inventory
 1976

6. Date 1815-1816

7. Original Owner Thomas Hilleary

8. Apparent Condition

a. deteriorated
 b. unaltered

c. original site

9. Description: This handsome three bay by three bay, two story stone mill is set into a hill beside Great Seneca Creek. Constructed of uncoursed rubblestone with sandstone corner quoins, the mill is in disrepair. All porches, doors, and windows have been removed and/or covered by plywood sheets. The mill probably had a hip roof, but this, too, is missing. The building has been capped to prevent further deterioration and plans are underway to restore the mill.

10. Significance: Black Rock Mill is a unique survivor of the many mills in Montgomery County harnessing the water-power of the creeks to grind wheat and corn into flour. It is one of only two mills still standing in a potentially restorable condition.

Black Rock Mill was constructed during 1815-1816 by Thomas Hilleary. Hilleary died in 1844 and the mill suffered neglect and incompetent management for some 20 years before being sold to Nicholas Offutt in 1866 for \$2,950. At the time of its sale it was advertised as "one of the best country mills in the County". Offutt ran the mill until his death in the 1890's. The milling business steadily declined as the mill changed hands throughout the 20th century.

11. Date researched and researcher Fall 1978

Mark Walston

12. Compiler Gail Rothrock

13. Date Compiled 12/78

Candy Reed - Architectural Description

14. Designation Approval

15. Acreage - part of state land

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

M: 24/6

MAGI#

see revised form

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC
Black Rock Mill
AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
Black Rock Road

CITY, TOWN
Germantown

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
8

STATE
Maryland

COUNTY
Montgomery

3 CLASSIFICATION

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

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
State of Maryland, Dept. of Natural Resources Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER
B-3, Tawes State Office Building, Taylor Avenue

CITY, TOWN
Annapolis

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code
Maryland 21401

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Montgomery County Courthouse

Liber #: 3794
Folio #: 90

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
MNCP+PC Historic Sites Inventory
DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS 6700 Needwood Road

CITY, TOWN
Derwood

STATE
Maryland

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This three bay by three bay, two story stone mill is set into the side of a hill beside Great Seneca Creek. Constructed of uncoursed rubblestone with sandstone corner quoins, this mill is in disrepair. All porches, doors, and windows are either missing and/or covered with plywood sheets. The mill probably had a hip roof, but this, too, is missing. The building has been capped to prevent further deterioration and plans are underway to restore the mill.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

M:24-6

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 1815-1816

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Black Rock Mill, situated on Seneca Creek, is one of only two mills standing in Montgomery County today in a potentially restorable condition. The mill was constructed during the years 1815-1816 by Thomas Hilleary, on a tract originally known as "Black Rock" but resurveyed in 1789 as "Sprained Ankle". The date of construction is deduced from the inscription upon the date stone in the east gable of the mill, which reads "Black Rock Mill T.H. 1815", and an advertisement appearing in the Frederick Town Herald for June 1, 1816, which identifies certain lands for sale by Thomas Gassaway as "...within one mile of Mr. Thomas Hilleary's mill now erecting on Seneca."

Thomas Hilleary died sometime during the 1840's, and, in the division of his real estate, the grist and saw mill and a surrounding 30 acres of "Sprained Ankle" was designated as Lot No. 1. The interest in this parcel was divided between the son of Thomas Hilleary, John H. Hilleary, and the daughter, Sarah T. Waters, wife of Franklin Waters. However, John H. Hilleary, being in "Embarassed circumstances", conveyed his moiety in deed of trust to Richard J. Bowie on May 4, 1859. [1] Bowie promptly offered up at public sale, on June 23, 1859;

...the undivided interest of John H. Hilleary, being one moiety of and in part of a tract called the Sprained Ankle, containing thirty acres, being Lot. No. 1 in the division of the real estate of the late Thomas Hilleary, containing a grist and saw mill (known as Black Rock Mill) and dwellings appurtenant thereto. [2]

Nicholas D. Offutt purchased the interest in the property at a cost of \$1,300. Offutt then filed a bill of complaint with the circuit court of Montgomery County in an attempt to procure the remaining interest in the mill. Apparently, Sarah T. Waters, to whom the other moiety descended, died before the age of 21, thus making any execution of a deed to legal title null and void. In addition, Franklin Waters, her husband, had been declared "a lunatic and incapable of managing his estate." [3] The property in the meantime was in

a dilapidated condition in so much that the rent of

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

the same is insufficient to keep up the repairs which are necessary to run the mills,,,the said property is wholly unproductive and has been for several years, and cannot be made productive except by a very large outlay of money, [4]

The creditors of John H. Hilleary joined in with Nicholas Offutt and finally forced through a court ordered sale of the property. The trustee's sale was held on October 13, 1866, and the handbill described the mill thus:

This mill is considered one of the best country mills in the county. The structure is built of stone, [a] fine sized building, has three sets of burrs, with saw mill attached; in good order for grinding grains of all kinds and sawing lumber. The water power is sufficient for all purposes, being abundant in all seasons and is unsurpassed by any water power on Seneca. The mill has a good country custom, and is susceptible of being made a first class merchant mill. There is attached to the mill a three story stone dwelling with necessary outbuildings,,,Any person desiring to engage in the milling business could scarcely find a more desirable opportunity, [5]

Charles Mansfield is listed as having charge of the mill at that time. Nicholas Offutt was high bidder at the sale, at a price of \$2,950, and thus owned full interest in the milling operation. Nicholas D. Offutt ran the mill up until his death in the 1890's. The milling business steadily declined as the mill changed hands throughout the twentieth century.

NOTES

1. Deed JGH 7/384, Montgomery County Land Records
2. Judgement JGH 3/320, Montgomery County Equity Records
3. Judgement EBP 1/49, Montgomery County Equity Records
4. ibid., loc., cit.
5. ibid., loc., cit.

SOURCES

Montgomery County Land Records
Montgomery County Equity Records
Frederick Town Herald, June 1, 1816
Vesbeck et al., Black Rock Mill Restoration Feasibility Study...

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE _____ COUNTY _____

STATE _____ COUNTY _____

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Mark Walston

Candy Reed - Architectural Description

ORGANIZATION

Sugarloaf Regional Trails

DATE

January 1979

STREET & NUMBER

Box 87, Stronghold

TELEPHONE

926-4510

CITY OR TOWN

Dickerson

STATE

Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC
Black Rock Mill
AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
Black Rock Road
CITY, TOWN
Seneca Creek State Park
STATE
Maryland

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
VICINITY OF
COUNTY
Montgomery

3 CLASSIFICATION

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

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Maryland Department of Natural Resources Telephone #: 410-326-1000
STREET & NUMBER
Taylor Avenue
CITY, TOWN
Annapolis
STATE, zip code
Maryland 21401

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Montgomery County Court House

Liber #:
Folio #:

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" 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

Black Rock Mill, located on the north side of Great Seneca Creek and directly accessible from Black Rock Road, is a three-story structure built of rubble fieldstone walls. An overshot wheel was once located at the building's west end, and the mill race extended along the south facade. A date stone located above the central third story window on the east gable end is carved with the inscription: "Black Rock Mill T.H. 1815". (The initials are those of Thomas Hilleary, the original owner of the mill.)

The north facade which overlooks the Great Seneca Creek is three bays wide, consisting of three sets of equal-sized windows at basement level and two stories above. The east gable end is also three bays wide, with three openings on each of the three story levels. The three central openings are proportioned like doors, longer than the windows which are positioned on either side. The south facade facing the mill race is three bays wide with central door openings on each level flanked by equal sized windows.

The corners of the building are distinguished by quoining which is executed in contrasting Seneca red sandstone. All windows have stone sills and plain, pegged wooden surrounds elaborated only by a thin outer molding.

Within the last five years, the building has lost its wooden gable roof and an attempt has subsequently been made to stabilize the exterior walls. Water is collecting in the basement and is causing accelerated deterioration of the building's condition.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

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 checked="" 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

1816

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Black Rock Mill, constructed of rubble stone and quoined in Seneca sandstone, has stood along the banks of Great Seneca Creek as a landmark since its construction in 1815-16. Thomas Hilleary, of Frederick County, is listed in the Montgomery County tax assessment as the owner of "Black Rock" (a tract of land totaling 355 acres), but this tax assessment listing in 1816 makes no mention of a mill located on this property.¹

The date stone which was located in the east gable of the mill until the dismantling of the roof is inscribed as follows: "Black Rock Mill T.H. 1815". T.H. is Thomas Hilleary, and it is probable that the tax assessment predates 1815 but the data was not recorded until 1816. Historian Michael Dwyer speculates that taxation would not begin until the mill "commenced operation". The Frederick Town Herald of June 1, 1816, cites "Mr. Thomas Hilleary's mill now erecting on Seneca."²

The Frederick Post of October 13, 1866, described Black Rock Mill as possessing unparalleled capacity for milling lumber and producing grain via "unsurpassed water capacity."³

The significance of Black Rock Mill to its context at Seneca Creek has been noted in other histories of the area:

Black Rock is a unique survivor among the many mills built in the country, harnessing the water power of the creeks to grind wheat and corn into flour. Flour milling was one of the most important services needed in colonial and Nineteenth Century Maryland. Descriptions of the milling operations under Americus Briggs and his son-in-law show that in addition to the two huge millstones grinding grain into flour, there was an up-and-down saw to cut lumber. Although the grist mill was mostly used following harvests, the sawmill operated almost year round. Ironically, lumber sawed at Black Rock Mill was used to build the Liberty Mill, a steam operation in Germantown, which subsequently helped put Black Rock Mill out of business.⁴

See continuation sheet

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

CONTINUATION SHEET

Black Rock Mill

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 1

A feasibility study commissioned by DNR and conducted by a Hyattsville architectural consulting firm, Vosbeck & Vosbeck in the mid-70s, suggested that full restoration of the mill to a working mill in its former appearance would be costly.⁵ Further stabilization is desirable; the Montgomery County Public Works Department was responsible for summary stabilization (with steel girders)⁶; but this shell requires additional immediate attention lest the integrity of the structure be further compromised.

As of November 1975, the mill was leased to the Montgomery County Department of Community and Economic Development. Black Rock Mill, even in its current state of disrepair, is the best preserved example of a grist/saw mill in the Seneca region. A comparable stone grist mill located on River Road disappeared in the 1960s, a victim of road widening. Clopper Mill's ruinous state is further advanced than Black Rock Mill, and is beyond reclamation as a reusable structure. The stone cutting mill included in the quarry complex, while stable structurally, is yet another ruin. So Black Rock Mill is important as the representative survivor and historically as a focus of economic activity in the area.

¹Dwyer, Michael: "Chronological Listing of Events Connected with Black Rock Mill", (appendix to MHT Survey Form M 24-6) p. 1.

²Ibid., p. 1.

³Montgomery County Courier, "Black Rock Mill: A Reminder of Times Forgotten", 2/12/73.

⁴Cohen, Cynthia, et al, Black Rock Mill, "Historic Association", Appendix to MHT Survey Form M 24-6.

⁵Maryland Park Service, Interpretive Prospectus: Seneca Creek State Park, Annapolis, Oct. 17, 1977, p. 11.

⁶Ibid; , op cit.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Cobb, Davis: Mills on the Seneca and Their Tributaries, Montgomery County Historical Society, Rockville, 1968.

Cohen, Cynthia, et al: Black Rock Mill, "Historic Association" Appendix to MHT Survey Form M 24-6.

Dwyer, Michael: "Chronological Listing of Events Connected with Black Rock Mill", Appendix to MHT Survey Form M 24-6, p.1.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY (see continuation sheet)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Partly owned by the State of Maryland
from 1800

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

STATE	COUNTY
STATE	COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE
 Ellen Coxe, Historic Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION
 Maryland Historical Trust

DATE
 March 1979

STREET & NUMBER
 Shaw House, 21 State Circle

TELEPHONE
 269-2438

CITY OR TOWN
 Annapolis

STATE
 Maryland

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RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
 The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
 Annapolis, Maryland 21401
 (301) 267-1438

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

CONTINUATION SHEET

Black Rock Mill

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 2

- Hiebert, Ray Eldon and MacMaster, Richard K.: A Grateful Remembrance: The Story of Montgomery County, Maryland, Montgomery County Government, Rockville, 1976.
- Maryland Park Service, Interpretive Prospectus: Seneca Creek State Park, p. 11, Annapolis, October 17, 1977.
- Montgomery County Courier, "Black Rock Mill: A reminder of times forgotten", 2/12/73.
- Vosbeck & Vosbeck: Black Rock Mill - Restoration Feasibility Study, Hyattsville, 1975.
- Kiplinger & Reber: Portrait in Time, Montgomery County Historical Society, Rockville, 1976.

1. Name of Landmark: Black Rock Mill
2. Location: On Black Rock Road at the intersection of Black Rock Road and Seneca Creek, approximately one-half mile north of Route 28.
3. Present use: The mill house is still standing and is part of the Seneca State Park. The state and county are planning to restore the water-powered mill, now closed to the public.
4. Owner: State of Maryland.
5. Date or period built: 1815 as shown in the inscription on the datestone in the east gable: "Black Rock Mill T.H. 1815."
6. Architectural description: A large, commanding rectangular field stone structure with wooden beams, gable roof, three floors and basement. The building measures 30' x 40'. It was powered by a single overshot water-wheel.
7. Builder: Unknown
8. Original owner: Thomas Hilleary. Ownership subsequently changed hands several times until the turn of the 20th century. It was operated into the 1920's by Americus Briggs and his son-in-law, C. Wallace Hughes.
9. Historic association: Black Rock is a unique survivor among the many mills built in the county, harnessing the water-power of the creeks to grind wheat and corn into flour. Flour milling was one of the most important services needed in colonial and 19th century Maryland. Descriptions of the milling operations under Americus Briggs and his son-in-law show that in addition to the two huge millstones grinding grain into flour there was an up-and-down saw to cut lumber. Although the gristmill was mostly used following harvests, the sawmill operated almost year around. Ironically, lumber sawed at Black Rock Mill was used to build the Liberty Mill, a steam operation in Germantown, which subsequently helped put Black Rock Mill out of business.
10. Bibliography:
 1. Mills on the Seneca and their tributaries. Doris B. Cobb. Reprinted by the Montgomery County Historical Society. 1968.
 2. Black Rock Mill - Restoration Feasibility Study. Vosbeck, Vosbeck, Kendrick and Redinger. undated.
11. Researchers:

Chiranjit Chakraverty 25 Nancy Place Apt. 1 Gaithersburg, Md. 20760	Ann Schuchat 36 Quincy Street Chevy Chase, Md. 20015
Cynthia Cohen 6803 Florida Street Chevy Chase, Md. 20015	

Chronological listing of events connected with Black Rock Mill
compiled by Michael F. Dwyer, M-NCPPC Park Historian

1760 - Tract of land called "Black Rock" on "Sinicar" Creek patented September 26, 1760 to John Briscoe. No existing improvements mentioned. (Patent Certificates, Md. Hall of Records).

1764 - "Resurvey on Black Rock" formed to include 355 acres. Surveyed for John Briscoe on May 17, 1764.

1783 - Tax assessment made throughout state of Maryland. No mill listed under "Black Rock" or "Resurvey on Black Rock".

1789 - "The Sprained Ankle" patented to Henry Hilleary of Montgomery County on December 11, 1789. This was actually a resurvey made to correct errors in previous surveys. The "Resurvey on Black Rock" was found to contain 359 1/4 acres but 1/4 acre was lost to an adjacent tract. A newly found vacancy of 7 1/4 acres was discovered however, and "The Sprained Ankle" became a tract of 366 1/4 acres. Improvements listed were about 200 old fence rails valued at two shillings six pence.

1789-1811 - Henry Hilleary died sometime during this period and apparently willed his property to relatives named West in Frederick County. I have not seen the probate papers yet but in April of 1811, a Thomas Hilleary of Frederick County starts to buy the interest of Henry Hilleary's estate from his relatives, members of the West family. These two families were well established settlers of Frederick County.

1812 - Thomas Hilleary, still of Frederick County, proceeds to buy unnamed land in Montgomery County that was deeded to the Wests by Henry Hilleary.

1816 - The County tax assessment for this year lists Thomas Hilliary (sic) as owner of "Black Rock" totalling 355 acres, but no mills are listed.

1815 - The inscription on the date stone in the east gable of the mill reads "Black Rock Mill T.H 1815". The tax assessment was probably made earlier than 1816 but not recorded until that year since no mills are listed. Presumably taxation would not begin until the mills commenced operation.

1816 - Perhaps the work on the interior etc. was still underway since the Frederick - Town Herald mentioned..."Mr. Thomas Hilleary's mill now erecting on Seneca " on June 1, 1816.

1821 - This is the first definite reference I can find that lists Thomas Hilleary and his wife Sarah as living in Montgomery County.

1844 - Franklin Waters and his wife Sarah(Hilleary) had become owners of the mill (willed to them by Thomas Hilleary). They sold the property in this year to Nicholas D. Warfield.

1850 - Federal Census records list Nicholas D. Offutt, age 25, as living with James Higgins family in the Rockville District. He was listed as a painter by trade.

1861 - One court accounts gives this year as the division of the estate of Thomas Hilleary to satisfy the debts of John Hanson Hilleary (apparently a son) of Frederick County. Also claims that Nicholas D. Offutt bought the mills in this year. Perhaps the Civil War interrupted the actual sale.

1864 - Nicholas D. Offutt files a bill of complaint with the Equity Court of Montgomery (see enclosed) and finally forces a Trustee's Sale of the mills which apparently had become dilapidated and were operated by the Charles Mansfield. Offutt was still considered the primary owner of the mill by 1865 although the actual sale didn't take place until 1866.

1894 - Lee Offutt, Executor of deceased Nicholas D. Offutt offered mill for sale. Property apparently stayed in the Offutt family for many years.

1951 - Asher Hobson and wife sell mill to John Shattuck and wife.

1955 - Shattuck and wife sell to Gladys Finegan.

1957 - Finegans sell to Gerald Ray Haney and wife. (Present owners)



An unidentified lass poses in front of Black Rock Mill as it appeared when this photo was taken in 1905.

Black Rock Mill:

A reminder of
times forgotten

By RICK SCHMITT

Nestled on the banks of the Great Seneca Creek, among the trees and sandstone of the Seneca State Park, rests the Black Rock Mill. It is a 160-year-old reminder that ground wheat and sawed lumber were once not as easily accessible as a trip to the local grocer or building supply company.

Built in 1815 by Thomas Hilleary, the 3½-story grist mill was the focal point for much of the activity of farmers and merchants in the Germantown, Darnestown and Dawsonville communities up until the turn of the century.

Inoperative since 1920, the mill, situated on Black Rock Road, was recently boarded up to guard against vandalism. It was also stabilized with steel girders by workers from the Montgomery County Public Works Department.

"I'm really a nut of mills and as far as I'm concerned, this is the oldest standing and best preserved grist mill in the county," said Mike Dwyer, a park historian with the

Maryland National-Capital Park and Planning Commission.

Information of the mill's history is difficult to obtain but Dwyer did discover a record of a proposed Trustee Sale in the "Frederick Post," dated Saturday, Oct. 13, 1866.

The advertisement described the mill as capable of sawing lumber and grinding grains utilizing "unsurpassed water capacity," labelling it as one of the best country mills in the county. The sale included 30-acres of surrounding land and a three-story stone building which Dwyer suspects was wiped out during one of the many floods in the Seneca creek.

"In those days, I used to lead a team of horses down to the mill and take grain down there to have it ground for our cattle," reminisced Slage Dorsey, an 86-year-old Germantown resident, citing his first encounters with the mill as an 11-year-old boy.

Born in Jefferson, Dorsey moved with his parents at the age of four to a 158-acre farm near Burdette Road, where the family raised dairy

cattle and grew corn, wheat, hay and potatoes.

Plans to restore the mill have been "bounced around" the Montgomery County government, the MNCPP and the Maryland
(Continued on Page Two)

County Office of Planning report "most" of the 11 in the Patuxent only at or above an amendment prohibiting tributary to any plant or sewer capacity. It also suggested that the commitments should be a part of all hearings, similar to the developed SSCAN.

The Plan should be a commitment for joint with local to develop a body of techniques and land use can provide treatment of run-off waters," said the report. It also warned that the plan in recommending not phosphorous the river, may not meet federal requirements for charge of pollutants in ripable waters be by 1985."

1001

persons will be chosen is committee from the led by the civic and in Olney.

that had he known that are going to be so slow asium would not be in r, he would have had repairs made so that children could have used nter.

builders and contractors

Basin Plan must be approved by each of the affected county's governments as a prerequisite to adoption. Failing that, a joint resolution from the Maryland General Assembly would be sufficient to send the plan to the Governor.

A final Basin Plan is currently being drafted and will be submitted to the county governments where action must be taken by Feb. 24. Federal law requires implementation of the standards by July of this year.

Following adoption, "feasibility plans" must be prepared by the localities and subsequently a local Comprehensive Water and Sewer

Plan which would set priorities for the construction of facilities in the basin.

The Patuxent River Basin, which serves seven Maryland counties including Montgomery, Howard, Prince George's, Anne Arundel, Charles, Calvert and St. Mary's, is one of 18 state watersheds designated by the Maryland Water Resources Administration.

The 110-mile Patuxent River, which originates just south of Mt. Airy at Parrs Ridge at the junction of Montgomery, Howard, Frederick and Carroll Counties and empties into the Chesapeake Bay at Solomons Island, is Maryland's largest intrastate river.

Black Rock Mill

(Continued from Page One)

Forest and Park Service, Swyer noted, but at a time when those agencies are slicing their respective budgets to the bone, prospects for restoration appear dim for the near future.

A "feasibility study," commissioned by the state Forest Service, was conducted two years ago by Vosbeck and Vosbeck, a Hyattsville consulting firm.

A \$500,000 price tag was pinned to a complete restoration, including full operation of the mill's grinding wheel, but Len Wilbur, Seneca State Park superintendent said that figure could easily reach 1 million

today.

Wilbur guessed that it would take from \$150,000-\$200,000 to restore the mill as a museum, youth hostel or meeting room.

The mill was purchased by the Forest and Park Service two years ago, but Wilbur said that the agency is not going to initiate a project of "that magnitude" while still working on the restoration of Fort Frederick.

For now, the mill will sit idle but majestic on the bank of the Seneca Creek, a reminder of a time long ago

Stamp meet

The Carroll County Philatelic Association will meet in the Engine House (second floor) of the Mt. Airy Fire Company, Main Street, Mt. Airy, Maryland on Thursday, Feb. 13 at 7:30 p.m. An auction will be held. Visitors welcome.



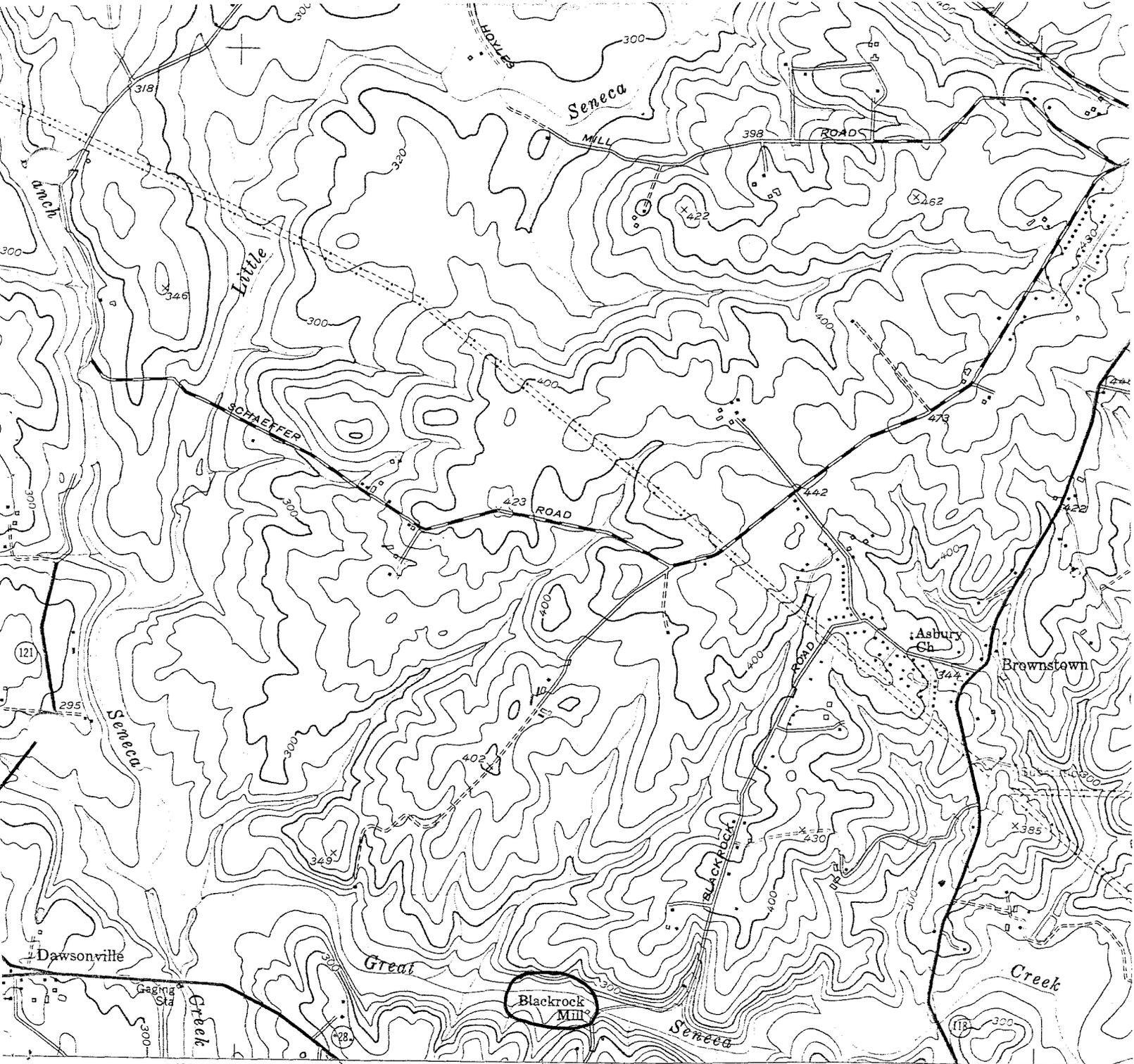
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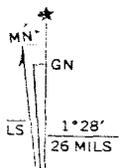
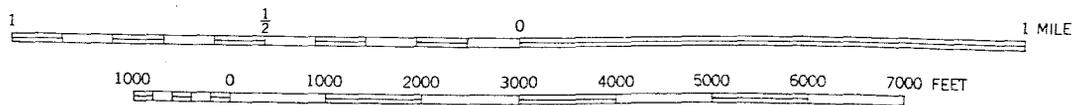


298 20' 299 (SENECA) 5562 III SE 301 17'30"

DARNESTOWN 2.4 MI.

1.1 MI. TO MD. 28

SCALE 1:24000



MAGNETIC NORTH AT TIME OF SHEET

M.24-6

U.S.G.S. MAP

GERMANTOWN, MD.

THIS MAP COMPLIES FOR SALE BY U.S.G. A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOG



M 24-6; SEN/DNR 22
BLACK ROCK MILL
SENECA STATE PARK
8/78 BMD
SE ELEV.



DANGER
KEEP OUT
AREA CLOSED

78

MONTGOMERY COUNTY

BLACK ROCK MILL PLC 757 567

JAMES P GLEASON, COUNTY EXECUTIVE
COUNTY COUNCIL

WALTER COMPTON
RUFUS MILLER
BRAND HENDERSON
JOHN JENKINS

JOHN JOHN HENRY
WAL RUTTEN
ELIZABETH WALL



THE WKR PARTNERSHIP

8401 BELLEVUE RD, SUITE 2

WINDSOR PARK, MONTGOMERY, MARYLAND

GENERAL CONTRACTOR: RONALD A. BEGGS

M 24-6 SEN/DNR 22

BLACK ROCK MILL

BLACK ROCK RD., SENECA CREEK S.P.

2/79 BMD

SE ELEVATION



5890

50/31



NAME BLACK ROCK MILL (DATESTONE)

#24-6

LOCATION BLACK ROCK Rd. & GR. SENECA DAWSONVILLE, Md.

FACADE E.

PHOTO TAKEN 11/6/72 M. DWYER



#24-6

NAME BLACK ROCK MILL

LOCATION BLACK ROCK RD. + QR. SEWACA CREEK

FACADE NE

PHOTO TAKEN 5/22/74

M. DWYER



NAME BLACK ROCK MILL

#24-6

LOCATION BLACK ROCK RD. & GR. SENECA CREEK DAWSONVILLE, Md

FACADE N.E.

PHOTO TAKEN 11/6/72 M. DWYER



NAME BLACK ROCK MILL - DATESTONE (1815)

#24-6

LOCATION BLACK ROCK Rd. & CR SENECA CREEK DAWSONVILLE, Md.

FACADE E. GABLE END

PHOTO TAKEN 11/6/72 M. DWYER

Handwritten text at the top of the page, possibly a name or address, which is mostly illegible due to fading.



M 24-6;DNR-22

Black RockMill
North Side of Great Seneca Creek
at Black Rock Road

SE Elevation Mont.Cty.Hist.Soc.