NPS Form 10-900
(Oct. 1990)

OMB No. 10024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Folck's Mill (site)

other names Wolfe Mill, AL-III-C-040

2. Location

street & number U. S. Route 40 at Evitt's Creek ☒ not for publication

city or town Cumberland ☒ vicinity

state Maryland code MD county Allegany code 001 zip code 21502

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☒ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments).

Signature of certifying official/Title — Date 10-3-08

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments).

Signature of certifying official/Title — Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby, certify that this property is:
- ☐ entered in the National Register.
  - ☐ See continuation sheet.
- ☐ determined eligible for the National Register.
  - ☐ See continuation sheet.
- ☐ Determined not eligible for the National Register.
- ☐ removed from the National Register.
- ☐ other (explain): _____

Signature of the Keeper — Date of Action

Folck's Mill site (AL-III-C-040)
Name of Property

Allegany County, Maryland
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as 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
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
		buildings
1		sites
1	1	structures
		objects
2	1	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

N/A

number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

INDUSTRY/PROCESSING/EXTRACTION/mill

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

VACANT/not in use

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

NO STYLE

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone
walls N/A
roof N/A
other

Narrative Description
(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets)

Folck's Mill (site) AL-III-C-040
Name of Property

Allegany County, MD
County and State

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 pattern of our history.

☐ **B** Property 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)

Property is:

☐ **A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

☐ **B** removed from its original location.

☐ **C** a birthplace or 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.

Narrative Statement of Significance
(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets)

Area of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions)

Military History

Period of Significance

1864

Significant Dates

August 1, 1864

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Unknown

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography
(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets)

Previous documentation on files (NPS):

☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
☐ previously listed in the National Register
☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey
_____
☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record
_____

Primary location of additional data:

☒ State Historic Preservation Office
☐ Other State agency
☐ Federal agency
☐ Local government
☐ University
☐ Other

Name of repository:

Folck's Mill site (AL-III-C-040)
Name of Property

Allegany County, MD
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Approximately 18.5 acres Evitts Creek, MD-PA-WV quad

UTM References
(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
1				3			
2				4			

☒ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description
(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet)

Boundary Justification
(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Cumberland Civil War Roundtable, c/o Harvey May, Secretary
Organization _____ date September 2007
street & number 1003 Brown Ave telephone _____
city or town Cumberland state MD zip code 21502

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional Items
(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO)

name _____
street & number _____ telephone _____
city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

Paperwork Reduction Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et. seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

Description Summary:

The Folck's Mill site is the location of the Civil War engagement locally known as "The Battle of Folck's Mill". The site is marked by the remains of a large 19th-century grist and saw milling complex on the floodplain of Evitts Creek, just north of Route 40 and I-68 east of Cumberland, Maryland. The stone foundation of the mill is the principal feature of the site.

General Description:

The Folck's Mill site is located in a wooded area a short distance north of Route 40 and I-68, east of Evitts Creek. The principal feature of the site is the surviving stone mill foundation, measuring approximately 30 by 40 feet. The foundation is built into a partially-excavated bank on its east and north sides; the south and west sides are fully exposed above grade and stand one story high. The foundation is constructed of roughly-dressed masonry. The west elevation has four openings: a wide entrance in the northernmost bay, a window opening to its right, a former doorway (altered to a window), and another window opening in the southernmost bay. The south wall has a single window opening. Water runs through a stone-lined trough along the interior south wall, and exits through an arched, dressed-stone opening at the southern corner of the west wall. Ath the east end of the trough, a similar arch appears at the top of the foundation, just above grade. The north wall is the least intact.

An undated early 20th century photograph shows the mill as a three-story, gable-roofed brick building resting on a stone foundation. Damage to the brickwork in the southwest corner of the mill has been interpreted as having resulted from artillery fire during the skirmish.

A short distance northeast of the mill foundation is a small square foundation constructed of poured concrete. Its function is unknown, but it appears to postdate the period of significance. Other elements of the mill complex have vanished, including a barn which reportedly caught fire during the battle and burned to the ground.

The mill site is owned and maintained by the Maryland State Highway Administration. It is periodically cleared of encroaching vegetation.

Summary Statement of Significance:

The Folck's Mill Site is significant under Criterion A for its association with the Civil War "Battle of Folck's Mill." On August 1, 1864, Union troops commanded by General Benjamin F. Kelley engaged General John McCausland's Confederate forces as they advanced along the Baltimore Pike towards Cumberland, Maryland after having burned the town of Chambersburg, Pennsylvania two days previously. The grist and saw mill complex of John Folck was located at the center of the action. The Confederates took shelter behind the mill buildings as Kelley's troops fired from the hillside above them; Folck's barn was hit and burned down. The skirmish lasted through the afternoon and into early evening. As Union reinforcements approached, the Confederates retreated into West Virginia. The "Battle of Folck's Mill", while resulting in relatively few casualties and only limited damage, is credited with turning the Confederates away from Cumberland, and possibly sparing the city from Chambersburg's fate.

Resource History and Historic Context:

The stone foundation supported a three-story brick mill building, constructed in the early 19th century by Thomas Beall (of Ninian) and originally known as Pleasant Mill. Jacob Hoblitzell, whose wife Amy Beall Hoblitzell was one of Thomas Beall's heirs, purchased the property from the estate in 1819. After John Hoblitzell's death in 1830, John Folck Sr. purchased the mill property. In 1840, John Folck Jr. purchased the mill from the estate of his father. Around the turn of the twentieth century, the Wolfe family purchased the Folck's Mill property, and operated the business for a short time.

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After razing Chambersburg by fire, McCausland's troops (numbering over 2,600) moved southwesterly toward McConnelsburg, PA and Hancock, MD.

About noon on July 31 the Confederates reached Hancock. Two companies of the 153rd Ohio and Co. K, 2nd Maryland Potomac Home Brigade commanded by Capt. Peter B. Petrie withdrew from the Hancock area in the face of the formidable enemy invasion. McCausland advanced toward Cumberland via the Baltimore Pike (present U. S. 40).

In Cumberland, Union General Benjamin F. Kelley commanded units of two West Virginia infantry regiments; three companies of Ohio infantry and one Ohio Cavalry unit; a battery of Illinois Light Artillery and Battery B, 1st Maryland Light Artillery, and a few hundred stragglers. Other Union troops were with General Averell in the Hancock area.

Kelley positioned part of his men in the fortifications on the hill above Christie Road, overlooking Folck's Mill from the west on August 1. The Confederate advance companies reached the area about 3 pm, and Battery L, 1st Illinois Light Artillery, opened fire. McCausland was surprised and fell back, taking shelter behind the mill structures. Confederate sharpshooters opened a galling fire on the Illinois battery, but Kelley fired back at them, rendering them ineffective.

McCausland rapidly deployed a line of skirmishers and placed four cannon on a high hill near the Baltimore Pike. The 14th Virginia, 16th Virginia, 17th Virginia, and 22nd Virginia Regiments were formed in a line of battle a short distance behind the residence of Jesse Hinkle.

The ensuing engagement lasted for several hours, consisting mainly of artillery firing, interspersed with an occasional volley of musketry. At 7:45 pm the shooting stopped, and McCausland retired for the night, with both sides occupying the same ground as they started with.

The dwelling, mill, and barn of John Folck were in the range of the Union guns, and were struck several times. The barn, containing almost the entire year's production, was set afire by an exploding shell and completely destroyed.[1]

Gen. Bradley T. Johnson arrived the following day and consulted with McCausland. The two agreed that with Kelley's sizable force in front of them, Averill behind them at Hancock, and since they were unfamiliar with the area, it was inadvisable to prolong the engagement. McCausland asked Maj. Harry W. Gilmor to find a route back to Virginia, so as to save the ammunition wagons and artillery. At 4 pm Gilmor encountered a local Southern sympathizer who informed him of the road to Oldtown nearby, and Gilmor notified McCausland that he had found a way to the Potomac.

McCausland advanced twice during the afternoon, once to make Kelley reveal the number of his men and their positions, and again after he had consulted with Johnson, in order to keep Kelley on the defensive as the Confederates organized their withdrawal. Johnson's Brigade withdrew at

[1] Research in Civil War records is ongoing in an effort to determine whether John Folck filed a claim for damages to his property.

about 11 pm, heading east on the Baltimore Pike for about seven miles before turning south onto the Hinkle Road.

The following first-person account of the battle is preserved in the archives of Bowling Green State University:

[Private Peregrine D. Layland Letter, Co.K 156th Ohio Volunteer Infantry Copy of transcription provided to Dan Masters by Joe Becker, Clemmons, North Carolina.

Peregrine "Perry" D. Layland enlisted as a Private in Co.K, 156th Ohio Volunteer Infantry on May 2, 1864 and was mustered in May 15, 1864 in Columbus, Ohio. His company spent its first months in service near Cincinnati before being moved to Cumberland, Maryland at the end of July 1864. On August 1st, it was involved in a fight near Folck's Mills, Maryland with Confederate cavalry under Gen. John McCausland following the burning of Chambersburg, Pennsylvania. Private Layland returned home unharmed and reenlisted in Co.D, 193rd Ohio Volunteer Infantry on February 8, 1865 and served through the rest of the war in the Shenandoah Valley. He mustered out August 4, 1865 at Winchester, Virginia. Below is a transcription of the letter, addressed to his sister Rebecca.]

August the 2, 1864
Cumberland City, Maryland

Dear Sister Rebecca:

. . . Well I have seen what they call the elephant, we had a fight last Monday. I guess there wasn't anyone killed in our regt. as I know of but there may be. We have seen a little harder times than we had in Kentucky. There was two thousand rebbles. That is the report but there is so many reports that I can't tell shure how many there was and don't know how many there was of us. There was two regt. of us that I am sure of- and three pieces of artillery but we whiped they out. The fite commenced about three o'clock P.M. and lasted until 8 o'clock. The the rebs fell back and left in the night some time. But I can't give any account how large a loss was on the other side. I tell you what. The shells came pretty close to us for a while. Our company was close to our artilery and the rebs was throwing shells at them, trying to whip them out or spile there cannon.

I am about 500 miles from home. Our time will be out the 22 day of August. Our time didn't commence till the 10th day of May. That was the day we was sworn into service. . . .

I have bin having a midling hard time since we came here. We didn't have any sleep for 4 nights of any account. It took us two days and nights to come here. We started from Cincinnati, the 27 of July and dident sleep any on the cars when we was comeing.

I have very good health ever since we came out. Well I must close for this time. My pen is very pore and have a very poor place to write and will do beter next time.

Perhaps I can give a better account of the battle nixt time.

. . .

Good bye for this time

From your brother
Perry Layland

Give my love
To all

Good bye
Write soon

The mill site does not retain sufficient integrity to meet National Register Criterion C as an example of a type of structure or complex associated with milling in the 19th century. It is referenced in John McGrain's comprehensive Molinography of Maryland only in connection with its association with the Civil War skirmish. Other better preserved 19th century mills survive in Allegany and Garrett Counties to represent their type, e. g., Taschenberger Grist Mill, AL-III-B-028, 1856; Stanton's Mill, G-II-C-013, c. 1859 on late 18th century foundation (NR).

Major Bibliographical References:

Haselberger, Fritz. Confederate Retaliation: McCausland's 1864 Raid. White Mane Publishing Co., December 1999.

J.William Hunt, "The Battle of Folck's Mills," Cumberland Times-News, February 17, 1963.

Frances H. Kennedy. The Civil War Battlefield Guide. 2nd ed. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Co., 1998.

McGrain, John. Molinography of Maryland. Ms., Maryland Historical Trust, Crownsville, MD.

Perry D. Layland Transcripts: August 1, 1864, MMS-1638, Bowling Green State University, http://www.bgsu.edu/colleges/library/cac/transcripts/mms1638.html, accessed September 11, 2006.