

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

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National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Kaese Mill

and/or common Kaese Mill

2. Location

street & number Fish Hatchery Road n/a not for publication

city, town Accident vicinity of congressional district Sixth

state Maryland code 24 county Garrett code 023

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Honorable Clifford and Mrs. Nellie Friend

street & number Route 2, Box 105

city, town Accident vicinity of state Maryland 21520

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Garrett County Courthouse

street & number Third and Alder Streets

city, town Oakland state Maryland 21550

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Coal Basin Historic Sites Survey
title Maryland Historical Trust has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1982 federal state county local

depository for survey records Maryland Historical Trust, 21 State Circle

city, town Annapolis state Maryland 21401

7. Description

G-II-B-024

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date <u>n/a</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Number of Resources

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Number of previously listed
National Register properties: 0

Original and historic functions
and uses: commercial, industrial

DESCRIPTION SUMMARY:

Kaese Mill, constructed in 1868, is a two and one half story frame water powered grist mill located on the south side of Fish Hatchery Road near Accident in Garrett County, Maryland. It is powered by a twenty horsepower iron overshot wheel manufactured by the Fitz Water Wheel Company of Hanover, Pennsylvania. The wheel is sixteen feet in diameter and is located on the south elevation. The mill rests on a concrete and stone foundation and is three bays wide and four bays deep. Entrances are located on the north and west elevations and the windows all have 6/6 sash. The walls are covered with weatherboard siding and the steeply pitched gable roof with standing seam metal. A mill race runs from Bear Creek, east of the mill, under Fish Hatchery Road and directs water into a wooden flume which begins three hundred feet east of the mill. The flume was once supported by a wooden frame; this has been replaced with a fieldstone base. The mill, still occasionally used by the present owner to grind buckwheat, retains nearly all of its late nineteenth and early twentieth century equipment, including the French-made stone burrs with straight furrows, steel rollers, sifters, bolting reels, grain hoppers and a balance scale. In fact the Kaese Mill is virtually unchanged either on the exterior or in the interior and is in good condition and still functional. Only those parts of the machinery or exterior which were worn out were repaired or replaced.

For General Description see Continuation Sheet No. 1

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Continuation sheet Kaese Mill
Garrett County, Maryland Item number 7 Page 1

GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

Kaese Mill, built by the German immigrant miller Henry August Kaese in 1868, is a two and one half story frame water-powered grist mill located on Bear Creek, north of Accident in Garrett County, Maryland. The mill stands on the south side of Fish Hatchery Road near the junction with Collier Road in a rural and heavily wooded area.

The mill rests on a concrete and stone foundation which replaces the original foundation damaged by a W.P.A. road crew in the 1930s. The two and one half story frame building is three bays wide and four bays deep and faces north on Fish Hatchery Road. The walls are covered with unpainted weatherboard siding and the steeply pitched gable roof with standing seam metal. The windows all have 6/6 sash, although a few have been boarded up or knocked out. There is a large central opening on each story of the front facade through which grain and other supplies were hoisted by the mechanism located at the top gable. Entrances are located on the north and west elevations.

Kaese Mill is powered by a twenty horsepower iron overshot wheel manufactured by the Fitz Water Wheel Company of Hanover, Pennsylvania. This rim-leverage wheel, now kept uncovered, is a c. 1900 replacement of the original wooden wheel installed in 1868. The original cogs, wheels and mechanisms of the wheel were all wooden, but have been replaced by iron ones.

A mill race runs from Bear Creek, east of the mill, under Fish Hatchery Road and directs water into a wooden flume which begins three hundred feet east of the mill. The head race was originally supported on two wooden posts at the wheel but later had to be replaced on dry laid stones. The head is created naturally by the flow and direction of the Creek - no dam was necessary. There was no race built and the water simply flowed through a shallow ditch back out to the creek.

The mill itself is still operational, although now run only occasionally by the present owner to grind buckwheat. Much of the late nineteenth and early twentieth century machinery and milling equipment still remains, including the French-made stone burrs with straight furrows, steel roller mill, sifters, a gyrator, a bolting reel, grain chutes, hoppers and a balance scale. Several of the pieces of machinery still have the manufacturers' names on them. For example, the gyrator has the words "This Gyrator built by the Wolf Co., Chambersburg, Pa., Patented December 21, 1857," inscribed on its base and there is an inscription "American Bolting Reel" on the bolter.

The machinery is in good to excellent condition and has been only slightly altered since the turn of the 20th century. There has been some damage to the more fragile portions, however, i.e. squirrels have eaten some of the canvas chutes and the Japanese silk screening in the sifter is torn on some of the plates. The large rubber belts now used are replacements of the older worn out leather ones.

See Continuation Sheet No. 2

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Continuation sheet Kaese Mill Item number 7 Page 2
Garrett County, Maryland

GENERAL DESCRIPTION (continued)

The lumber used in the construction of Kaese Mill was sawn at a small water-powered saw mill located near the original mill pond approximately halfway between the present mill and Bear Creek. No above-ground remains of the saw are still standing, however.

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Continuation sheet Kaese Mill Item number 8 Page 3
Garrett County, Maryland

HISTORY AND SUPPORT:

The Kaese Mill near Accident in Garrett County is significant as the only fully operational water-powered grist mill in Maryland as well as one of the oldest mills of any kind in the state. Although there are several functioning grist mills still standing in Maryland, such as Wye Mill in Talbot County, Stanton's Mill in Garrett County, Rockland Mills in Baltimore County and others, these have either been converted to other forms of power or are presently used as museums. Kaese Mill is therefore an important example of a commercial enterprise once very common in Garrett County and Maryland.

Probably the earliest mill built in what is now Garrett County was Vrooman's (Froman's) Mill which was erected near the mouth of Mill Run in 1774. Vrooman's Mill, the first of two flour mills, eight sawmills, and one woolen factory to be built in the nineteenth century on Mill Run, featured an overshot water wheel and a mechanical blower for winnowing. Gristmills were built throughout the nineteenth century in such rural communities as Swanton, Grantsville and Selbysport and formed the basis of such towns as Kitzmiller and Oakland, the future county seat. Of these nearly two dozen mills, only the Kaese Mill and Stanton's Mill near Grantsville (listed in the National Register) still stand.

Early nineteenth century Garrett County gristmills served vital functions in self-subsistent agrarian frontier communities. The traffic they generated often provided virtually the only contact isolated farmers had with the outside world and were sometimes constructed through an agreement with small groups of farmers who considered the convenient siting of a mill a practical necessity. Due to the scarcity of money the millers of the early nineteenth century in Garrett County customarily retained a portion of grain from each bushel brought in as a standard "toll" for their services. Mills were therefore an important part of the barter economy of early nineteenth century Garrett County.

Mills were also centers of community activities. Not only were they meeting places for the exchange of news, but they also served as area trading posts for bartered goods. For many years, Kaese's Mill and nearby Engle's Mill competed both commercially and politically. Both communities served as U. S. Post Offices, but the location changed depending on which party was in office: Kaese Mill when the Democrats were in power and Engle's Mill when the Republicans held office.

Henry August Kaese, the founder of Kaese Mill, was an immigrant German miller who moved to Western Maryland with his wife in the 1850s. Before settling in the Accident vicinity, he operated grist mills in West Virginia and at Borden Shaft, in Allegany County, Maryland. For a few years he worked at the aforementioned Engle's Mill before building his own mill and home on newly cleared farmland.

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Inventory—Nomination Form**

Kaese Mill

Continuation sheet Garrett County, Maryland Item number 8 and 10

Page 4

HISTORY AND SUPPORT (continued)

A sawmill was first built on the flood plain just below the mill to supply the lumber for the construction of the grist mill. While the grist mill was under construction Kaese lived in a small house which now stands in back of the present owner's home. When the gristmill was completed a larger frame house was constructed about where the driveway now exists. When the present owners built their home they razed the old house.

Although the mill is now only operated infrequently by Senator Friend, Kaese Mill in its heyday once employed between five and six men on two shifts working both day and night. Unlike most other gristmills still standing in the state, it is privately owned and not operated as a museum.

10. VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

Boundaries are depicted on the attached plat, and are defined by Fish Hatchery Road on the north and east, Maryland Route 219 on the west, and Bear Creek on the south.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION:

The nominated property, approximately 7 acres, encompasses the resource within its immediate setting and maintains its historic orientation to Bear Creek and Fish Hatchery Road.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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McGrain, John W., Jr. The Molinography of Maryland. 1971. Unpublished manuscript on file at the Maryland Historical Trust.
Schlosnagle, Stephen. Garrett County: A History of Maryland's Tableland. (Parson's W. Va.: McClain Printing Co., 1978).

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property Approximately 7 acres

Quadrangle name Accident, Maryland

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A

1	7	6	4	6	6	1	0	4	3	9	0	0	3	0
Zone	Easting		Northing											

B

1	7	6	4	6	0	5	0	4	3	9	0	0	8	0
Zone	Easting		Northing											

C

1	7	6	4	5	6	8	0	4	3	9	0	3	7	0
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D

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

See Continuation Sheet No. 4.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state n/a code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Geoffrey Henry with contributions by Donna Ware

organization Maryland Historical Trust date 1984

street & number 21 State Circle telephone (301) 269-2438

city or town Annapolis state Maryland 21401

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

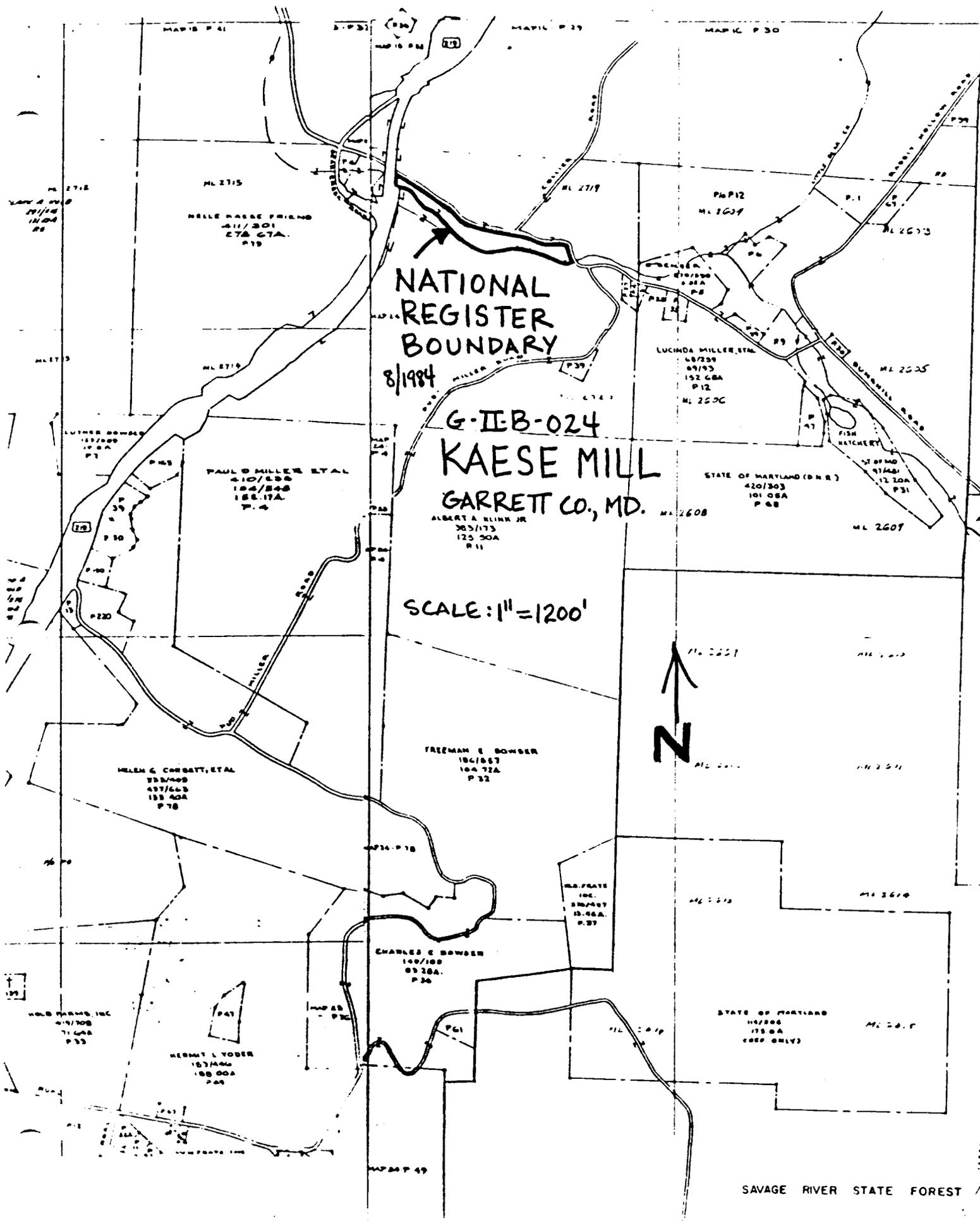
State Historic Preservation Officer signature [Signature] 8-8-84

title STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER date

For HCRS use only
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register
date

Keeper of the National Register
date

Attest: Chief of Registration
date



NATIONAL REGISTER BOUNDARY

8/1984

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 KAESE MILL
 GARRETT CO., MD.

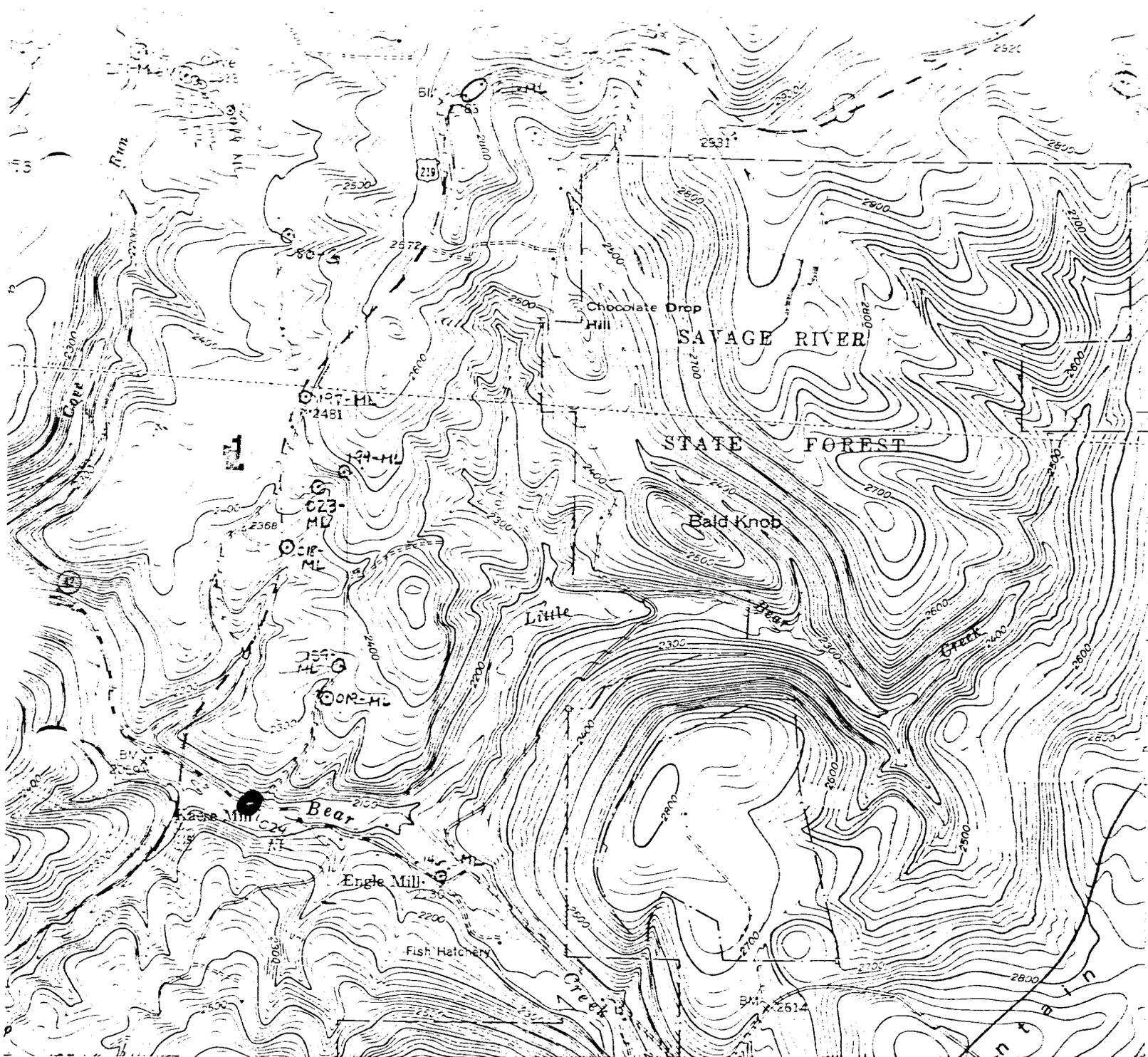
SCALE: 1" = 1200'



SAVAGE RIVER STATE FOREST

AGE MAP UNLIMITED

1988 10 000



Accident, MD-PA
 USGS 7.5 Minute Series
 Scale 1;24,000
 1948; photorevised 1974

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 Kaese Mill
 Fish Hatchery Road, South side,
 approximately 1000 feet east of Rt.
 219 and 2 miles north of Accident