

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties (MIHP) Property Detail Report

QA-30

Unicorn Mill, site

Inventory Number: QA-30

Property Name: Unicorn Mill, site

Address Millington Road (MD 313)

Town Millington Zip Code

USGS Quadrangle(s) Sudlersville

Digitized in GIS Yes Number of polygons 1 designation in GIS QA-30

Mapped on mylar T Detail map code

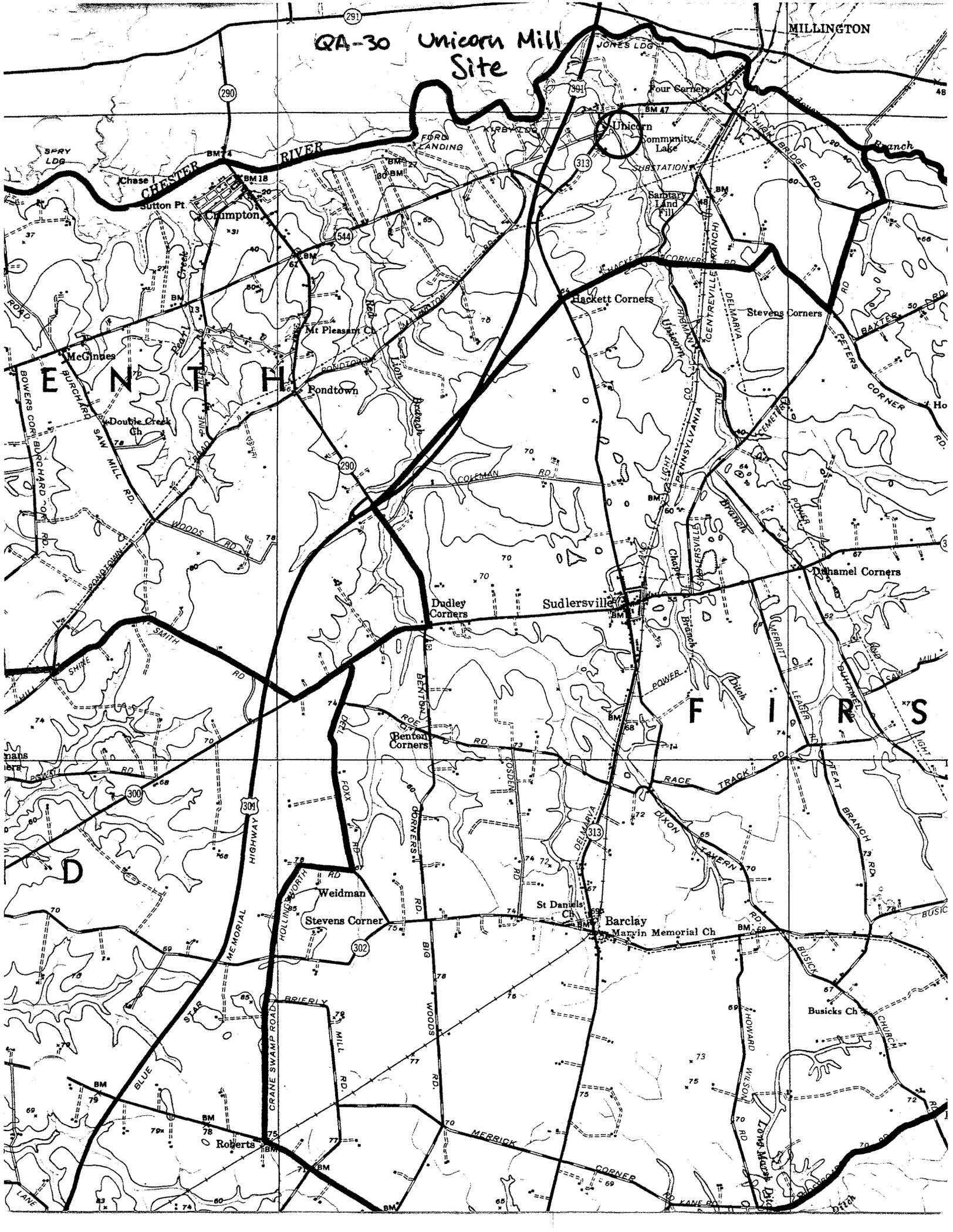
Within NR district F Within survey district F Materials in vertical file F

Other

Additional Designations:

National Register  Preservation Easement  Determinations of Eligibility  
 Contributing Resource Determinations of Eligibility  Related Inventory Numbers

QA-30 Unicorn Mill Site



MILLINGTON

JONES LDG

Four Corners

Unicorn Community Lake

Substation

Sanitary Land Fill

Hackett Corners

Stevens Corners

McGinnes

Mt Pleasant Ch

Fondtown

Dudley Corners

Sudlersville

Bentons Corners

F I R S

Weidman

Stevens Corner

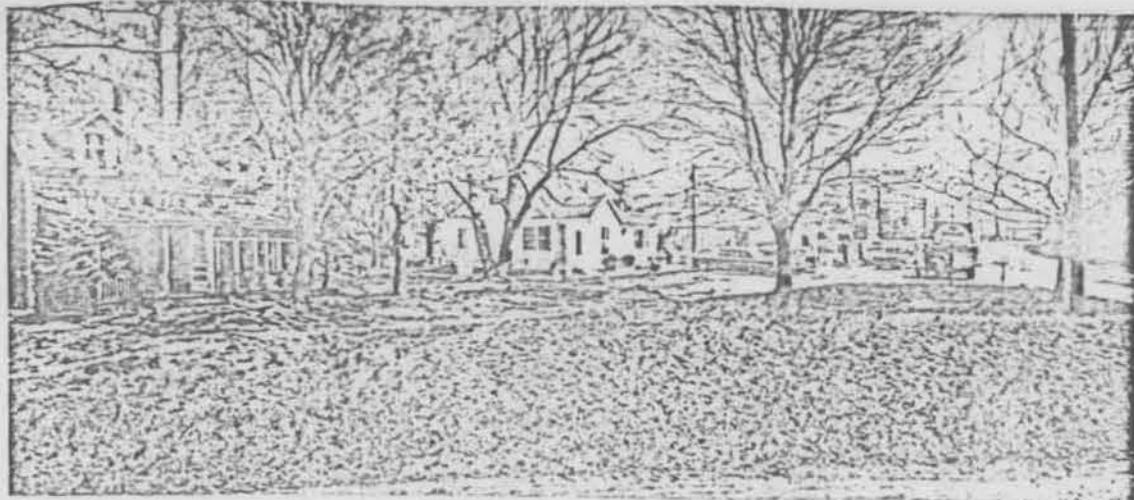
St Daniel's Ch

Barclay Marjyn Memorial Ch

Busicks Ch

Roberts

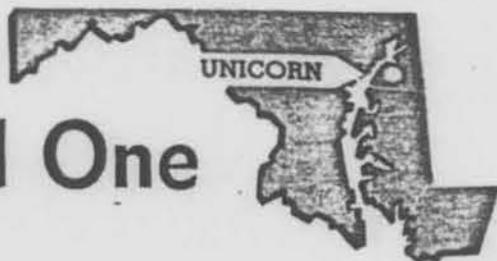
CORNER



Above, part of Unicorn in Queen Annes county, a community of about twenty houses on Route 313. Right, the crumbling "Mansion," once home of the owner of a woolen mill from which the name of the settlement possibly derives.



## Unicorn: It Really Had One



Maryland has many unusual place names, like Two Johns, Accident, Dames Quarter, Bestpitch, Plane No. 4 and Unicorn. This is another in a series of articles on the origins of these colorful names.

By John Dorsey

**UNICORN** is a settlement of about twenty houses on Route 313 in northeastern Queen Annes county. Its only business is a combined general store and filling station. Some of the residents are farmers, others work in nearby Millington or commute to Wilmington or Dover, Del.

The principal attraction of the area is Unicorn Lake, a 45-acre one that was obtained recently by the Maryland Game and Inland Fish Commission and has been turned into a public fishing spot. Opened to the public last year, it contains abundant supplies of bass, carp and pike.

From 1834 until about 1920 the lake was used as a mill pond by the Unicorn Mills, a woolen mill that may have given Unicorn its name. No one is quite sure whether it was the town or the mill that was named Unicorn first, but most residents think the latter more probable.

The mill is no longer there,

having closed about 40 years ago, but it left a landmark behind. Standing on a hill above Unicorn, surrounded by upstart trees, neglected shrubbery and weeds, is a large, gray, three-story Victorian house that is now nothing more than a shell, its doors gone, its floors and ceilings giving way, its empty rooms made eerie by the wind, which intrudes through broken windows and whines its way from room to room and up the ancient stairwell.

**T**HE old house was once the home of the Mallalieu, owners of the mill, and also served for a time as a boarding house for the mill workers. Vacant for many years, it is still referred to as the Mansion or the Boarding House by long-time residents of Unicorn.

Inhabitants of the village say it is a quiet place. They can recall no spectacular occurrences, but they do remember Unicorn's uni-

corn, a one-horned goat that lived in town during the late 1940's and early 1950's.

The goat, owned by Mr. and Mrs. Edward Van Sant, originally had two horns, but soon after it arrived in Unicorn it lost one of them. No one knows what happened, but the Van Sants think the goat may have lost it in a battle with another animal. Whatever the cause, Mrs. Van Sant remembers that the goat got along just as well with one horn as it had with two.

The goat was a true unicorn. For the Latin word *unicornus*, from which the English word comes, meant simply "having one horn." The Romans sometimes referred to rhinoceroses as unicorns, but the word could be used for any animal with a single horn.

The Van Sants' goat died about twelve years ago, and there hasn't been a one-horned animal in town since.