

**Addendum to
Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of
Historic Properties Form**

Inventory No. S-176

Page 1 of 1

Name of Property: Ritzel Mill (Ruark Mill)

Location: 30125 Fairmount Road (Southwest corner of MD 413 and MD 361)

The Ritzel Mill (also known as the Ruark Mill and Westover Mill) was a large, three-story steam-powered flour mill built in the late nineteenth century, served as a visual and commercial anchor for Westover at the southwest corner of State Routes 413 and 361. The mill is no longer standing. The property is currently occupied by a one-story, three-bay metal commercial building operated by the Somerset Well Drilling Company. A one-story cinder block building with asphalt roof is located west of the main commercial building.

Prepared by: Grant Johnson

Date: February 2014



Great Bay Wind Energy Center
 Somerset County - Maryland
Historic Resources Assessment
 February 2014

Notes: Basemap: ESRI USA Topomaps Online Map Service

- Demolished/Removed, Not Eligible
- EDR Recommends NRHP-Eligible
- EDR Recommends Not NRHP-Eligible
- Undetermined





S-176
Pitzel Mill (RUARK MILL.)
SOMMERSET COUNTY, MD.

GRANT JOHNSON

8/28/2013

DIGITAL FILE AT MD SHPO

VIEW SW TOWARD MODERN GARAGE

PHOTO #1

S-176-2013-08-28-01



S-176

RITZEL MILL (QUARK MILL)

SOMERSET COUNTY, MD

GRANT JOHNSON

9/19/2013

DIGITAL FILE AT MD SHPO

VIEW E TOWARD CONCRETE BLOCK BUILDING

PHOTO #2

S-176 - 2013-09-19-01

S-176
Ruark-Ritzel Mill
Westover
Private

1876 with later additions

The center three-story core of the Ruark-Ritzel Mill was erected by William Mahew Ruark in 1876, and it survives as the only mill of its kind in Somerset County. In addition to its significance as the last of the steam-powered flour mills, all the late 19th-century machinery and equipment remain intact. Standing at the south end of Westover, it is an important visual and symbolic anchor to this railroad-oriented village.

William Mahew Ruark purchased in November of 1875 a 131-acre tract of land from S. Anne Brinton, "... on the south side of County road leading from Potato Neck to Westover and on the west side of the Eastern Shore Railroad ..." During the following year William Ruark erected the center core of this rambling flour mill and powered it by steam. Accompanying the mill was a vast agricultural complex which totaled close to 1400 acres by 1877, making him one of the most prominent men in the Fairmount/Westover area. According to family history, as well as the county atlas, William Ruark settled in Somerset County around 1852, having moved south from Hooper's Island, Dorchester County. In the later years the mill was operated by the Ritzels who presently own the property.

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Ruark Mill - Ritzel Mill

and/or common Ritzel Mill

2. Location

street & number SW corner of MD 413 and MD 361 not for publication

city, town Westover vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Somerset

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 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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: None

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Lucille Ritzel - Mrs. James A.

street & number telephone no.: 651-0880

city, town Westover state and zip code Maryland 21871

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Somerset County Clerk of Court liber 280

street & number Somerset County Courthouse folio 516

city, town Princess Anne state Maryland 21853

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date federal state county local

pository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. S-176

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Ruark-Ritzel Mill stands on the southwest corner of the intersection of MD 413 and MD 361 in Westover, Somerset County, Maryland. The large three-story mill faces north with gable on an east/west axis. Attached to the main three-story center block are numerous gabled and shed additions, primarily extending to the south and east. A long shed-roofed frame corn crib stands independent of the mill to the west.

The center three-bay section of the mill is a mortise and tenon frame structure reported to have been erected in 1876. A brick and concrete foundation supports the original mill, and narrow weatherboards uniformly sheath each side. A medium sloped tin roof with extended eaves covers the building and is distinguished by a gabled "pully house." The fenestration is basically symmetrical with double doors on the first and second floors flanked by 6/6 sash windows. A timber hoisting beam is located between the second floor door and third floor window.

The west gable end of the main mill is entirely covered by a three-story c. 1900 addition once used primarily for grain storage. This section stands on concrete foundations but is very similar in general appearance to the main mill. An uneven fenestration of loading bays and six over six sash characterize the north wall.

The west end is a solid wall of weatherboards, aside from a single 6/6 sash which lights the attic.

Attached to the rear facade of the addition is a two-story gabled section, while the main mill is largely covered by a variety of shed additions, one of which houses the steam engine. An iron stovepipe protrudes through the shed roof.

Extending from the east end is an expansive shed-roofed storage room which includes a separate room for the mill office. This section was added in the early 20th century.

The mill framing is completely exposed in each section. The center block is of mortise and tenon frame construction with large chamfered support posts. All the flour mill equipment along with the wooden shoots and belt systems remain in place. The west end addition contains tremendous bins used for grain storage, that rise three stories.

The east end shed is one large storage room with a small space partitioned off to serve as an office. The interior and exterior of the office is sheathed with narrow beaded boards.

Standing to the west of the mill is an independent shed-roofed corn crib sheathed with vertical boards.

Several sections of 19th-century mill stones are found on the east end of the shed addition. These serve as steps to a side door.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. S-176

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A
 Zone Easting Northing

B
 Zone Easting Northing

C

D

E

F

G

H

Verbal boundary description and justification

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

state	code	county	code

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Paul Touart - Architectural Historian

organization Somerset County Historical Trust date

street & number 424 N. Somerset Avenue telephone 651-1094 (Home)

city or town Princess Anne state Maryland 21853

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
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

CHAIN OF TITLE

William R. Ruark and Sons 1877
Ruark Mill - Ritzel Mill
S-176

I.T.P. 280/516

James A. Ritzel - Marian B. Ritzel

to

5/16/1974

Lucille R. Ritzel

All these lots of land in Westover

O.T.B. 34/53

William M. Ruark
Annie Ruark

to

9/12/1902

William M. Ruark
Lafayette Ruark - trading as William M. Ruark
and son of Somerset County - all that piece
or parcel of land whereon the flour mill now
stands together with the mill barn and all
improvements

to William Ruark -

from Anna S. Brinton BFL 2/450
from Levin H. Beauchamp BFL 6/238
from Henry Ballard HFL 1/613
from Oliver T. Beauchamp HFL 5/551
from Charles Fontaine HFL 5/656
from Charles S. Baker HFL 9/528
from Clarene Honson HFL 10/272

-BFL 2/450 1/3/1880 - mentions Ruark Flour Mill

-BFL 6/238 - 6/12/1883 - mentions William M.
Ruark's Steam Flour Mill - acreage shall be
used, kept, maintained and disposed of as a
place of Divine Worship for the use of the
ministry and membership of the Methodist
Episcopal Church



Ruark-Ritzel Mill
Westover, Somerset County, Md
Documentary photograph, c. 1900
Copied 7/87, Neg. Md Hist. Trust
Courtesy of Louise Ritzel

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Ruark - Ritzel Mill
Westover, Somerset County
South Elevation
2/84 Paul Touart
Neg./Md. Historical Trust

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Ruark - Ritzel Mill
Westover, Somerset County
South Elevation
2/84 Paul Touart
Neg./Md. Historical Trust



Ruark - Ritzel Mill
Westover, Somerset County
Northwest Elevation
2/84 Paul Touart
Neg./Md. Historical Trust

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Ruark - Ritzel Mill
Westover, Somerset County
North Elevation
2/84 Paul Touart
Neg./Md. Historical Trust

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Ruark - Ritzel Mill
Westover, Somerset County
Mill Stones
2/84 Paul Touart
Neg./Md. Historical Trust

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