

ABSTRACT

WA-II-134

Late 18th Century

Roxbury Mill and Distillery Site

Hagerstown Vicinity

private

Roxbury Mills and Distillery site is significant for its contribution to industrial and commercial growth during the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries in Washington County and for its scenic value as an area of wooded land along rocky steep banks of the Antietam Creek.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

WA-II-134
District 12
Map 62
Parcel 161
MAGI # 2207355214

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Roxbury Mill and Distillery Site

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Roxbury Road, west of Antietam Creek

CITY, TOWN

VICINITY OF Hagerstown

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

6

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Washington

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- MUSEUM
- COMMERCIAL
- PARK
- EDUCATIONAL
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- ENTERTAINMENT
- RELIGIOUS
- GOVERNMENT
- SCIENTIFIC
- INDUSTRIAL
- TRANSPORTATION
- MILITARY
- OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Ralph M. Pickett

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

Park and Carroll Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Mt. Airey

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Washington County Court House

Liber #: 450

Folio #: 642

STREET & NUMBER

West Washington Street

CITY, TOWN

Hagerstown

STATE

Maryland 21740

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 type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input checked="" 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

The Roxbury Mill and Distillery site are located on both sides of Roxbury Road just west of the Antietam Creek south of Hagerstown. The buildings are in ruins in a scenic wooded area along the creek's edge. Ruins of two structures remain. One, believed to have been a large dwelling or hotel is located on the south side of the road. The other, also in ruins was a large stone building which operated presumably first as a mill and later as a distillery.

The first building appears to have had cut ashlar stone at its front elevation and more roughly coursed stone at its end walls. A segmentally arched cellar opening is located in the west end wall. Evidence remains of diagonally placed corner fireplaces inside the west end wall. Where wooden window frames remain they are narrow with wide wooden lintels at their tops.

The second building, the distillery located on the north side of the road, displays some rock faced ashlar stone on the remaining part of the front elevation. Some of this work would appear to date from the late 19th or early 20th century. Remaining in one corner of the building is a cylindrical brick structure presumably for part of the distillery process. Behind this structure is a stone lined raceway. Just to the east is a three arched stone bridge dating from 1824 and described in survey form WA-II-119.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Roxbury Mills and Distillery site is significant for its contribution to industrial and commercial growth during the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries in Washington County and for its scenic value as an area of wooded land along rocky steep banks of the Antietam Creek. A grist mill was in operation here during the late 18th century under ownership of John Shafer who migrated to Washington County from Lebanon County, Pennsylvania. Apparently the grist mill and a nearby saw mill were in operation through much of the 19th century, being listed under the ownership of Rowland in 1859 and Cook in 1877. The Roxbury Distillery company seems to have been established during the late 19th or early 20th century. According to Helen Ashe Hays in her book The Antietam and Its Bridges, the old stone mill was reused as one of the bonding houses.

It is not known from information available at present what role was played by the large stone building which stood on the south side of the road. It is marked as a dwelling on 19th century maps, but is said by local historians to have been a hotel.

The Roxbury Distillery Company changed hands many times during the early 20th century. See deeds 116/209, 141/542, 143/226, 143/351, 154/136, 168/192.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Hays, Helen Ashe, The Antietam and Its Bridges. New York: G. P. Putnum's Sons, 1910.

Washington County Land Records.

Williams, T.J.C. , History of Washington County. Hagerstown, Md: Mail Publishing Co., 1906.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 30 acres

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

Paula Stoner Dickey, Consultant

ORGANIZATION

Washington County Historical Sites Survey

DATE

February 1978

STREET & NUMBER

County Office Building, 33 West Washington Street

TELEPHONE

791-3065

CITY OR TOWN

Hagerstown

STATE

Maryland 21740

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



WA-11-154
Ridge 1, SE
As of 1988

Roxbury Mill and Distillery Site

Roxbury Road, W. of Antietam Creek
Hagerstown Vicinity

PAULA STONER DICKEY
CONSULTANT, WASHINGTON CO.
HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY



WA-11-192
35 22 NW
April 1975

Roxbury Mill And Distillery Site

Roxbury Road, W. of Antietam Creek
Hagerstown Vicinity

PAULA STONER DICKEY
CONSULTANT, WASHINGTON CO.
HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY



W. 11. 184

Road # 2, N. W.

June 1947

Roxbury Mill and Distillery Site

Roxbury Road, W. of Antietam Creek
Hagerstown Vicinity

PAULA STONER DICKEY
CONSULTANT, WASHINGTON CO
HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY



W-1-54
St. ...
Hagerstown

Roxbury Mill and Distillery Site

Roxbury Road, W. of Antietam Creek
Hagerstown Vicinity

ANGELA STONER DICKEY
COMMISSIONER, WASHINGTON CO.
HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY



Roxbury Mill and Distillery Site

Roxbury Road, W. of Antietam Creek
Hagerstown Vicinity

WA 7-157

Mill race, N.E. view

April, 1971

PAULA STONER DICKEY
CONSULTANT, WASHINGTON CO.
HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY