

Survey # WA-III-139

Approximate date Ca. 1810 (site)

Barkman's Mill

Street Address E/S Main Street at Hog Maw Road

Town, State Rohrersville, Maryland 21779

private , public

The site of Barkman's Mill is now overgrown with brush and trees, but remnants of a stone foundation remain, part of the raceway, and a one story two bay gable fronted log building which was in some way associated with the mill, perhaps as a cooper's shop. Fortunately photographs of the mill survive and have been published in the **Cracker Barrel** in December 1993 and February 1994 issues. The mill was a three and a half story stone building with a framed gable. At one gable was a wooden overshot waterwheel fed by a wooden flume. Apparently the mill was in use by the early 1800s. It was purchased by David Barkman in 1872 and operated by him, then his son until 1919. The surviving published photographs of the mill suggest an early 19th century construction date. Features that would suggest construction in the early 19th century include the framed gable, absence of flat or segmental arches over the openings, and fairly wide angle of the gable. The site is important as a local and regional industry. As such, it was in part responsible for the settlement of the village of Rohrersville.

#### MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

- I. Geographic Organization: Western Maryland
- II. Chronological/Developmental Period(s): Agricultural-Industrial Transition 1815-1870
- III. Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme(s):
  - Settlement
  - Architecture, Landscape Architecture and Community Planning
  - Economic (Commercial and Industrial)
- IV. Resource Type:
  - Category: Building, Site
  - Historic Environment: Village
  - Historic Function(s) and Use(s): Grist Mill, Cooper's Shop

Photo Reference: Photo # 16A, 16B

Form Prepared By: Paula S. Reed, PhD, Architectural Historian  
Woodward-Clyde  
200 Orchard Ridge Drive  
Gaithersburg, MD 20878

Date: 6/97

# Maryland Historical Trust

## State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. WA-III-139

Magi No.

DOE  yes  no

### 1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common Barkman's Mill

### 2. Location

street & number East Side of Main Street, at Hog Maw Road  not for publication

city, town Rohrerstown  vicinity of congressional district

state Maryland county Washington

### 3. Classification

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

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

name Mr. Burton Yavener

street & number 1779 N. Congress Avenue #307 telephone no.: 561-737-0577

city, town Boynton Beach state and zip code Florida 33426

### 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Washington County Courthouse Liber 729

street & number 95 W. Washington St. Folio 954

city, town Hagerstown state Maryland

### 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records

city, town state

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## 7. Description

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<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
excellent	deteriorated	unaltered	<u>x</u> original site
good	<u>x</u> ruins	<u>x</u> altered	moved      date of move
<u>    </u> fair <u>    </u> unexposed			

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

Resource Count = 2

The Barkman Mill site contains the remnants of a stone foundation, part of a raceway, and a one-story, two-bay gable fronted building which was possibly a cooper's shop associated with the mill. Surviving photographs indicate that the mill was a three-and-a-half-story stone building with a framed gable and a wooden overshot water wheel. Construction details suggest that the mill was constructed in the early 19th century.

The mill site is situated on the Antietam Creek on the north (or lower) end of Main Street in the Village of Rohrersville. The property aligns with Main Street and extends in an easterly direction to the creek. The land slopes gently down from the roadway to the creek and is characterized by scrub trees and thick brush. A split rail fence lines the property at the roadway.

The mill ruins are located south of the cooper's building, between the Antietam Creek and Main Street, and consist of a stone wall with a central opening running parallel to Main Street and a short stone wall a few feet from the above wall. This wall runs perpendicular to Main Street and follows a slight ravine in the property. According to published photographs of the mill in the Cracker Barrel, the former mill building was a three-and-one-half story stone building with a frame gable and a wooden overshot water wheel fed by a wooden flume. Windows appeared to be 6/6 double-hung sash. Mill features visible in the photograph suggest an early 19th century construction date based on the mill's framed gable, absence of flat or segmental arches over the openings, and the fairly wide angle of the gable.

The two-story cooper's building sits adjacent to the road and literally interrupts the flow of a wooden fence running along the roadway. The front gable roof is covered in standing seam metal. The main level is constructed of vertical wood siding on the northwest facade and side elevations and horizontal siding on the southeast rear elevation. Metal siding covers the wood siding on the facade which contains an off-center door and a small rectangular window in the gable. The southwest elevation contains two frame 2/2 windows and a portion of the wall is missing in the lower east side. The ground level is constructed of stone and the northeast elevation contains 2 small square windows framed with a row of bricks. With the exception of the metal siding on the facade, the building appears to retain its original material and massing, and therefore maintains a good level of integrity.

# 8. Significance

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Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below			
prehistoric	archeology-prehistoric	community planning	landscape architecture	religion	
1400-1499	archeology-historic	conservation	law	science	
1500-1599	agriculture	economics	literature	sculpture	
1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	education	military	social/	
1700-1799	art	engineering	music	humanitarian	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	philosophy	theater	
1900-	communications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry	politics/government	transportation	
		invention		other(specify)	

<b>Specific dates</b>	ca. 1810	<b>Builder/Architect</b>	unknown
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check: Applicable Criteria:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A	<input type="checkbox"/> B	<input type="checkbox"/> C	<input type="checkbox"/> D				
and/or Applicable Exceptions:	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	
Level of Significance:	<input type="checkbox"/> national	<input type="checkbox"/> state	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> local					

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Built in the early 19th century, the grist mill was in operation until at least 1920. Barkman's Mill is significant for its role as a grist mill serving the Pleasant Valley farming region and represents the importance of processing corn for local farmers from the early 19th to the early 20th centuries. The mill contributed to the settlement and subsequent growth of Rohrer'sville as a rural farm trading center and is a reflection of the agricultural prosperity surrounding it.

## History

In 1802, Frederick Rohrer purchased large tracts of land in the "Park Hall" and the "Resurvey of Park Hall" land grants; part of which land would become Rohrer'sville, together with such items as buildings, improvements, profits, orchards, and water ways<sup>1</sup>. Based on Rohrer's ownership of this property, an early map, and previous research, it is believed that Frederick Rohrer may have built the mill. Varle's 1808 map indicates two mills in what appears to be the future location of Rohrer'sville. A thesis on mills in Washington County notes two mills in the Rohrer'sville area, the Rohrer'sville Mill and Barkman's Mill, built before 1783 and between 1802 and 1808 respectively<sup>2</sup>.

Rohrer'sville, located in the fertile area known as Pleasant Valley between South Mountain and Elk Ridge in southern Washington County, was founded in the early 19th century by the Rohrer family who were associated with farming and milling. Southern Washington County produced significant amounts of grain resulting in a demand for grist and flour mills along its creeks. In the 18th century alone, fifteen grist mills operated along the Antietam Creek<sup>3</sup>. One such grist mill was located just outside the village of Rohrer'sville on the current day Hog Maw Road. In approximately 1810, a second grist mill which may have been built by a founding member of the Rohrer family, was built along the Antietam Creek. This mill was later to be known as Barkman's Mill in the late 19th century. As grist mill began dotting Pleasant Valley in the early 19th century, villages grew up around them to service surrounding farms, as was the case throughout much of the county. The Village of Rohrer'sville began as one of these villages as it started developing south of the Barkman Mill site.

In 1816, Frederick Rohrer conveyed to Samuel Rohrer 78 and one-quarter acres of land on part of "Park Hall" along with the use of the race and water that ran from the dam on David Rohrer's land to the mill<sup>4</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> Land purchased from Adam Kiplinger (Liber 0, Folio 337) and Martin Grim (Liber 0, Folio 340).

<sup>2</sup> Frye, Susan Winter. "Evolution of Mill Settlement Patterns in the Antietam Drainage, Washington County, Maryland." M.A. thesis, on file in the Western Maryland Reading Room, Washington County Free Library, Hagerstown, Maryland, 1984, p. 93.

<sup>3</sup> Reed, Paula S. "Funkstown Research Design Report." Preservation Associates, Inc., Hagerstown, Maryland, 1995, p. 6.

The 1840 census index lists only one Samuel Rohrer who resided in the Hagerstown District, and listed his occupation as agriculture.

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DOE  yes  no

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David Rohrer lived 400 yards east of Rohrersville indicating that the mill referred could have been in the location of Barkman's Mill. Grain consumption data for Barkman's mill was recorded in the 1820 manufacturing census. In 1847, a trustee for Samuel Rohrer sold the property, referred to as Rohrersville Mills, to Elias Rohrer who in turn sold it to Samuel Clopper in 1859. The mill does appear on Taggart's 1859 map.

The county's rich grain resources were partially responsible for the drive to bring the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad, through the southern portion of Washington County. Prior to this time the only access to the market was by wagon and mostly over extremely bad roads. This railroad was one of the nation's earliest railroads and extended west from Baltimore. In 1867, the railroad began traveling through four stations in Pleasant Valley, with one in Trego, just west of the village<sup>5</sup>. As the railroad expanded the farm market, it brought new growth and opportunities to the village and the area.

In the same year the railroad was constructed, Clopper sold the Rohrersville Mills to Samuel Beeler; along with another tract of land called Valley Mills<sup>6</sup>. Samuel Beeler obtained a common school education, and for many years worked as a laborer by the day or month. Beeler apparently became a successful farmer, eventually owning 500 acres of land<sup>7</sup>.

In 1872, David Barkman purchased both the Rohrersville Mills and the Valley Mills properties from Samuel and Elizabeth Beeler. Rohrersville Mill operated until circa 1880 and Barkman's Mill until after 1920<sup>8</sup>. It is unclear which mill(s) became known as the Barkman Mill. The deed states that Barkman had the rights of rebuilding and using the lower and upper Mill Dams, the right of free access to and from the dams by wagon, and the privilege of erecting or rebuilding the lower dam no higher than a former dam that had been washed away. David Barkman was listed in the 1877 Washington County Atlas as proprietor of Rohrersville Flouring Mill, Dealer in Grain, Flour, Meal, Fertilizer.

After David's death in 1898, the property was passed on to his son, George G. Barkman, who continued to run the business. In 1919, the mill left the Barkman family when David Barkman's heirs sold the property, noted in the deed as the Rohrersville Mills, to Noah O. Mullendore for \$1,000. The deed gave Mullendore the same rights as Barkman received when he bought the property and an additional stipulation to allow the four shade trees to remain standing along the public road. Mullendore transferred the property to the Rohrersville Milling Company for \$100 in 1920. In 1925, the Rohrersville Milling Company was transferred to G. B. Mullendore, I. J. Young, and S. Zecker for \$5.00, indicating that perhaps the Rohrersville Milling Company had remained in the Mullendore family between 1919 and 1920.

In 1959 the Mullendores sold the property to George and Helen Baer. The Baers operated a nursery out of the old cooper's building as indicated by faded signage on the extant building. Regarding the cooper's building, an article in the Cracker Barrel notes that William Norris of Rohrersville, learned the cooper's trade and operated a shop at the old mill where he worked until about 1870 when he went to work for the B&O Railroad<sup>9</sup>. Norris is listed as a cooper in the 1860 census.

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<sup>5</sup> Williams, Thomas, J. C. A History of Washington County, Maryland. John M. Runk & L. R. Titsworth, 1906, p. 401.

<sup>6</sup> No mill is referred to in the above thesis as Valley Mills.

<sup>7</sup> Williams, Thomas J.C. A History of Washington County. John M. Runk & L. R. Titsworth, 1906, p. 737. Beeler is also spelled as Bealer.

Frye, p. 93.

Ibid, p. 16.

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A former Rohrersville resident noted, "In milling days, Rohrersville was a much busier place. Farmers came from all around to have their corn and other grain ground. The miller kept out a toll (a portion of grain) for the price of grinding the grain"<sup>10</sup>. The mill race was also noted as a popular ice skating spot.<sup>11</sup>

The advent of modern transportation and modern mechanization brought changes to all of the county's villages in the 1920s and beyond. As farming became mechanized, small to medium sized farms could no longer compete and the grist mills went out of business. Barkman's Mill ceased operation after 1920.<sup>12</sup>

### Theme

Settlement in Rohrersville, Maryland, 1800-1820: Over the years, the location and development of mills was influenced by geography, transportation routes and methods, technology, natural resources, and market forces. The location of Barkman's mill is typical of these influences as seen in its location on the Antietam Creek, within an area of road networks of a rich agricultural region. Grist mills were crucial to the early settlement of Washington County in providing a method of grinding flour and wheat for local farmers more efficiently than the previously used handmills.

Early 20th century architecture in Rohrersville, Maryland 1800-1820. Barkman's Mill represented early mill architecture as seen in its framed gable, fairly wide gable angle, and the absence of flat or segmental arches over the openings. The mill building was the only building in Rohrersville constructed entirely of stone with the exception of one outbuilding (WA-III-141). Two dwellings are constructed partially of stone (WA-III-143) and (WA-III-164) and represent some of the older buildings in the community.

Industrial economics in Rohrersville, Maryland, 1820-1930: Rohrersville's economic development was greatly influenced by the surrounding farms. The cooper's building on this site is significant as representing the barrel making business needed in the agricultural community. However, of greater importance is the presence of the grist mill that was crucial to successful farming. Barkman's Mill is especially important as a mill that operated for at least 100 years and represents the typical growth and decline of milling due to changes in technology and transportation. According to previous documentation, many of Washington County's flour mills had ceased operation by the early 1900s or had converted to production of animal feeds and custom work for local farmers.<sup>13</sup> Expensive conversion of mills first to steam and then electricity hastened the demise of the small milling operation as the conversion was expensive. The decline of mills in Washington County in the early 1900s is consistent with that which occurred across the country. At the turn of the century, the federal census commented: "Every day observation shows us that the smaller establishments in many lines of industry tend to disappear before the superior competitive facilities of larger enterprises. Abandoned mill sites are common on streams which were once relatively valuable water powers, but which have been gradually

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<sup>10</sup> Woodring, Frank. "Seclusion Within Pleasant Valley Enables Rohrersville to Retain Charm." Maryland Cracker Barrel, Dec./Jan. 1983, p. 8.

<sup>11</sup> Ibid, p. 6.

<sup>12</sup> Frye, p. 93.

<sup>13</sup> Reed, p. 9.

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shrunk until they can be depended upon only for a portion of the year. This is especially true of saw and grist mills...<sup>14</sup> Eventually railway and highways left the old mills marooned far from trade routes.

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<sup>14</sup> Hunter, Louis. A History of Industrial Power in the U.S., 1780-1930, Vol. I, Waterpower in the Century of the Steam Engine, Charlottesville, VA: UVA Press, citing Twelfth Census, Manufacturers, p. 497.

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DOE  yes  no

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### Chain of Title

- 08/27/1816 Frederick Rohrer to Samuel Rohrer  
Liber BB Folio 463
- 05/18/1847 Thomas Crampton (trustee for Samuel Rohrer) to Elias Rohrer  
Liber IN 8 Folio 276
- 03/19/1859 Elias Rohrer to Samuel Clopper  
Rohrersville Mills  
Liber IN 14 Folio 179
- 03/25/1867 S. Harman Clopper & Ann M. Clopper to Samuel Beeler  
tract of land known as Rohrersville Mills, also part of land called Valley Mills  
Liber INN 14 Folio 179
- 04/23/1872 Samuel & Elizabeth Beeler to David Barkman  
Rohrersville Mills, part of tract of land called "Park Hall", and Valley Mills  
Liber MCKK 4 Folio 615
- 05/04/1898 David & Mary A. Barkman to George G. Barkman  
Liber 109 Folio 62
- 01/27/1919 George G. Barkman, David W. Barkman and Elsie Stine to Noah O. Mullendore  
Property known as the Rohrersville Mills  
Liber 154 Folio 337
- 12/21/1920 Noah D. & Clemmie I. Mullendore to The Rohrersville Milling Co.  
Liber 159 Folio 127
- 06/04/1925 Rohrersville Milling Co. to G. B. Mullendore, I. J. Young, and S. Zecker  
Liber 171 Folio 616
- 12/14/1931 Ira J. & Verdie F. Young and John S. & Angie Zecker to Harry M. & Atha M. Mullendore  
Liber 190 Folio 54
- 01/08/1959 Harry M. & Atha M. Mullendore to George F. & Helen M. Baer  
Liber 649 Folio 454
- 11/29/1977 Helen M. Bear, widow to Helen M. Baer & Angeline L. Buckheit  
Liber 650 Folio 63
- 08/08/1982 Helen M. Baer & Angeline L. Buckheit to Burton & Charlotte L. Yavener  
Liber 729 Folio 954

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### HISTORICAL CONTEXT:

#### MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Western Maryland

Chronological/Developmental Period(s): Agricultural-Industrial Transition, 1815-1870

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme(s): Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Community  
Planning  
Economic (Commercial and Industrial)  
Settlement

#### Resource Types:

Category: Building, site

Historic Environment: Village

Historic Function(s) and Use(s): Grist mill  
Cooper's building

Known Design Source: Unknown



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**Barkman's Mill**

**Washington County**

**Continuation Sheet 9.1: Major Bibliographical References**

Frye, Susan Winter. "Evolution of Mill Settlement Patterns in the Antietam Drainage, Washington County, Maryland." M.A. thesis, the College of William and Mary in Virginia, on file in the Western Maryland Reading Room, Washington County Free Library, Hagerstown, Maryland, 1984.

Hunter, Louis. A History of Industrial Power in the U.S., 1780-1930, Vol. I, Waterpower in the Century of the Steam Engine, Charlottesville, VA: UVA Press.

Lake, Griffing and Stevenson. An Illustrated Atlas of Washington County, Maryland. Philadelphia, PA, 1877.

Neal, Wickliffe B. The Rohrer Families. Arlington, KY, 1991.

Reed, Paula S. "Funkstown Research Design Report." Preservation Associates, Inc., Hagerstown, Maryland, 1995.

Taggart, Thomas. A Map of Washington County, 1859.

Varle, Charles. A Map of Frederick and Washington Counties. 1808.

U.S.G.S. Keedysville Quadrangle, 1985.

Washington County Land Records.

Williams, Thomas J.C. A History of Washington County. John M. Runk & L. R. Titsworth, 1906.

Woodring, Frank. "Mother Leaves Priceless Legacy." Maryland Cracker Barrel, February/March, 1994.

Woodring, Frank. "Seclusion Within Pleasant Valley Enables Rohrersville to Retain Charm." Maryland Cracker Barrel, Dec./Jan. 1993.



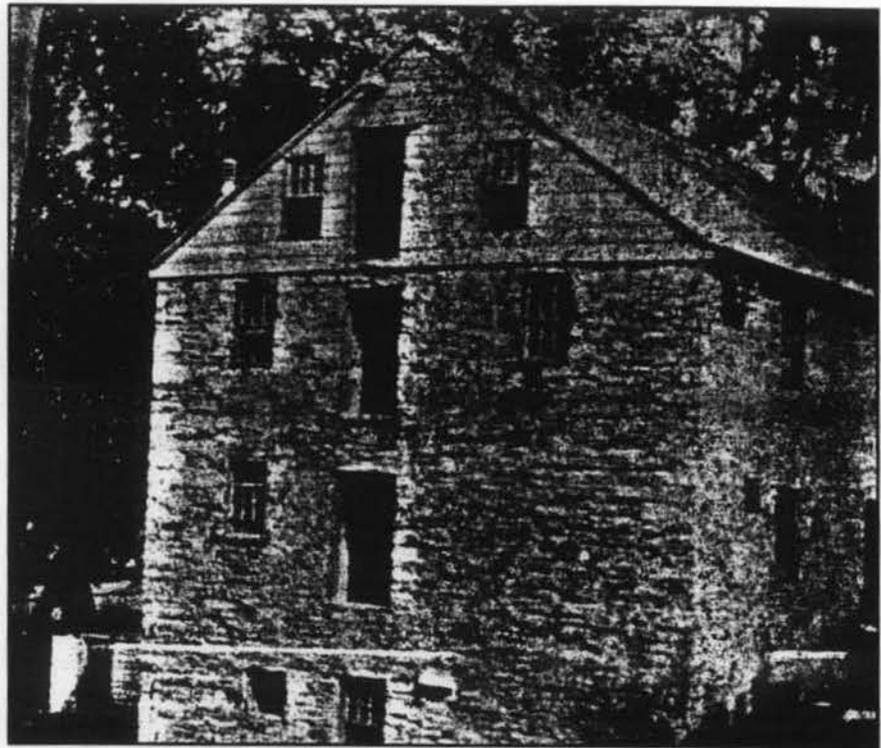
DAVID BARKMAN

## Barkman's Mill

Barkman's Mill was a popular spot in Rohrersville at one time. An 1816 deed indicates that Frederick Rohrer sold to Samuel Rohrer 78 and one-fourth acres and "the use of the race and water that runs from the Dam on David Rohrer's land to the mill" for \$5,045.

In 1872 David Barkman purchased the mill from Samuel and Elizabeth Bealer and operated it until his death when his son continued the business.

Finally in 1919 the mill passed from Barkman hands when it was sold to Noah O. Mullendore for \$1,000.



*(Photo courtesy of Grayson Cochran)*



MRS. DAVID BARKMAN



*(Photos to the left and immediately above courtesy of Kathy Hoffman)*

Survey No. WA-III-139  
Barkman's Mill

Rohrersville, Washington County  
Historic photograph



*Barkman's Mill along the Little Antietam Creek in Rohrerstown was operated initially by David Barkman and later his son Garley Garner or G.G. The photo at the left shows Isabell Hoover and Huldah Easton Gosnell in the mid-1920's. (Photo courtesy of Darce Easton)*

*The waterwheel at Barkman's Mill or the "old Rohrerstown Mill" is seen below. The mill was located at the lower end of the village's main street. (Photo courtesy of Preston Buck)*

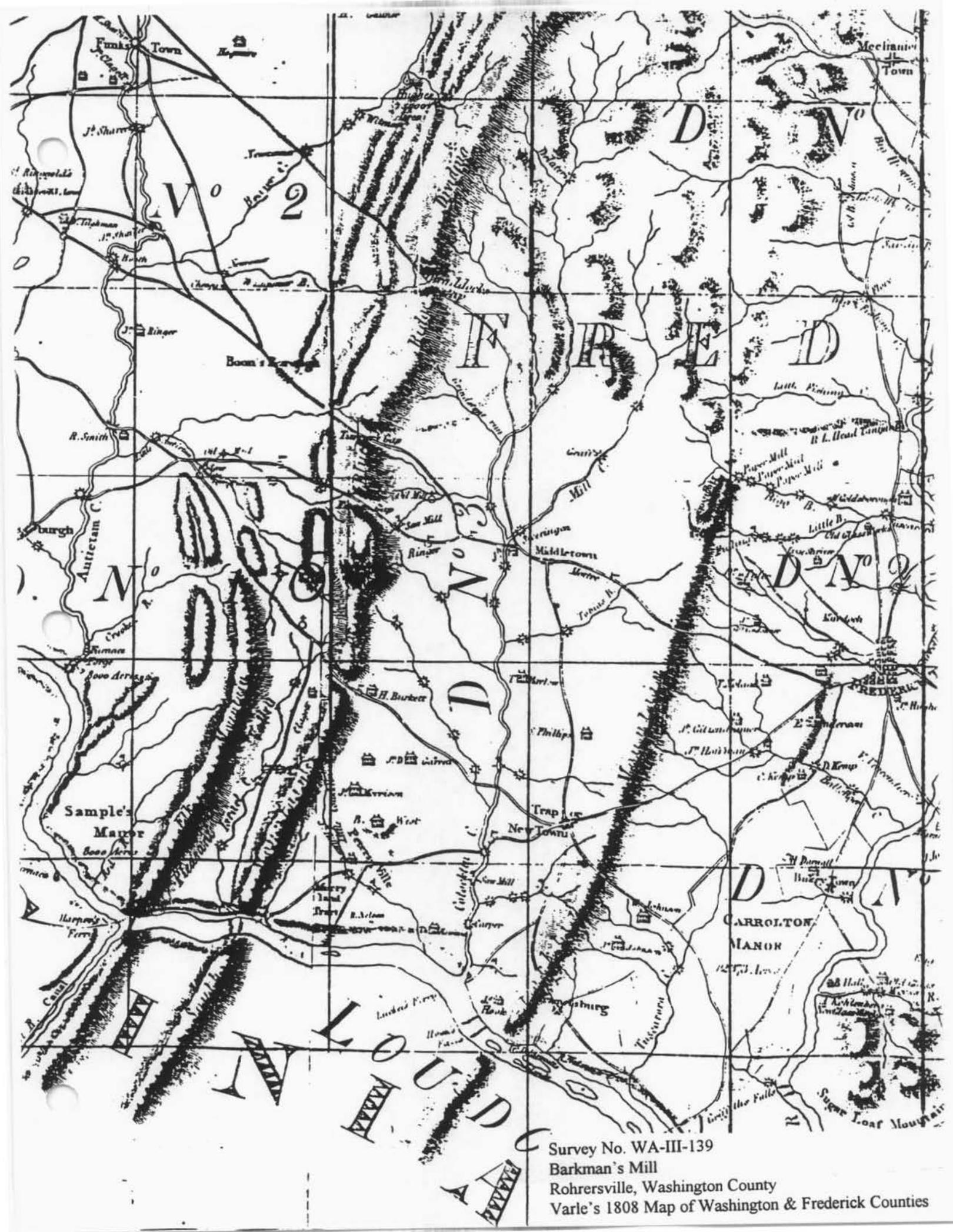


Maryland Cracker Barrel

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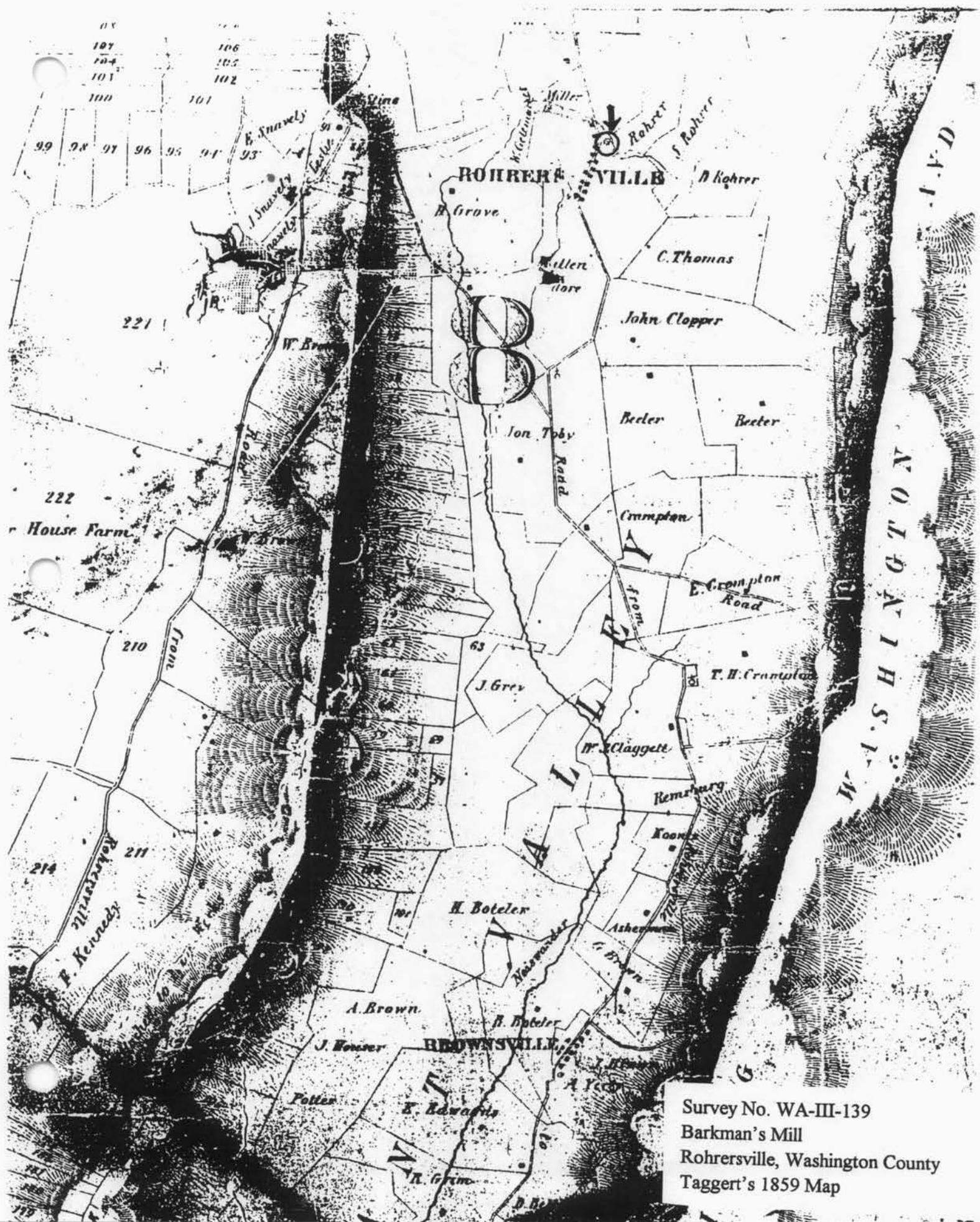
December/January 1993

Survey No. WA-III-139  
Barkman's Mill  
Rohrerstown, Washington County  
Historic photograph



Survey No. WA-III-139  
Barkman's Mill  
Rohrersville, Washington County  
Varle's 1808 Map of Washington & Frederick Counties

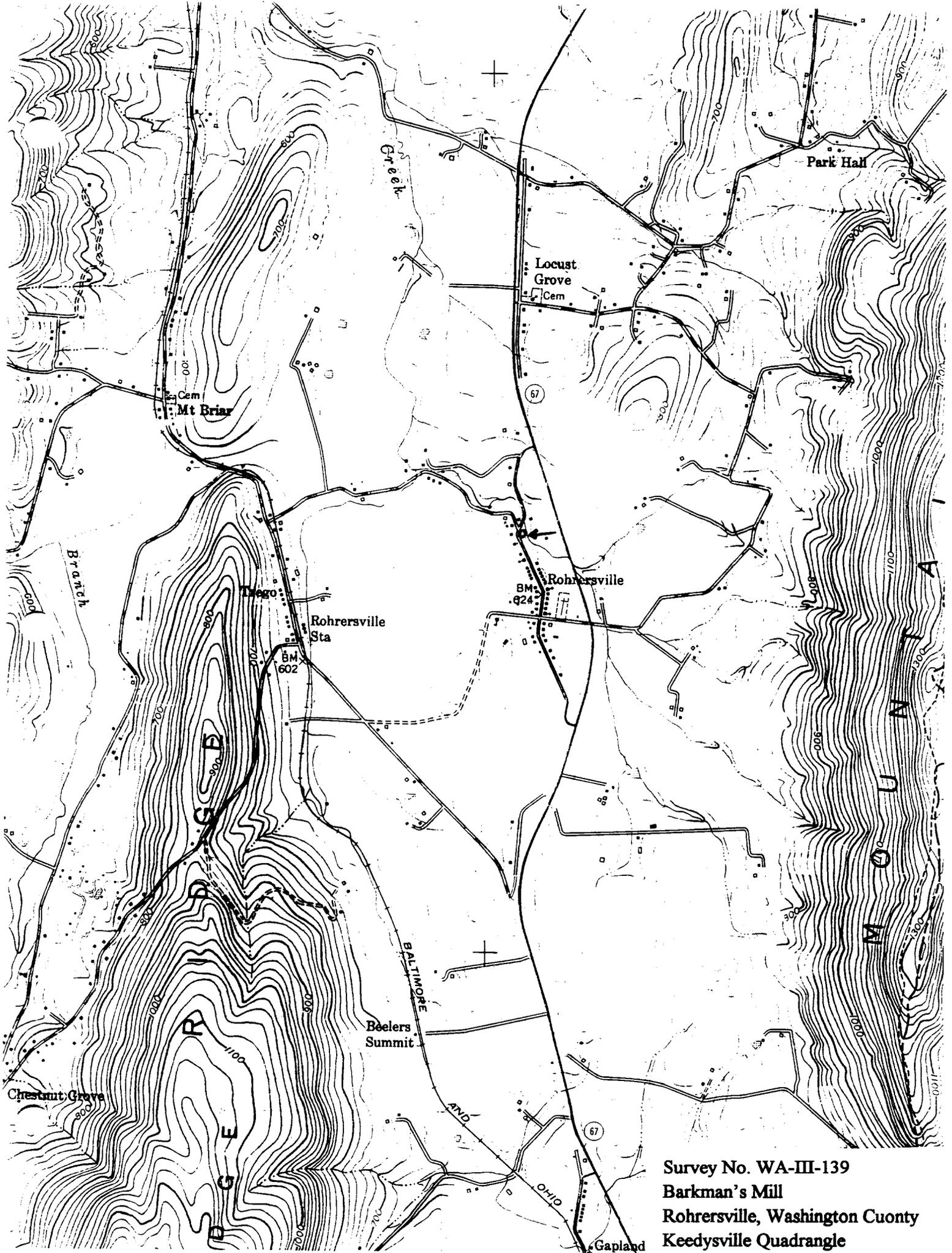
108	106
107	105
104	102
101	
100	101



Survey No. WA-III-139  
 Barkman's Mill  
 Rohrer's Mill, Washington County  
 Taggart's 1859 Map







Survey No. WA-III-139  
Barkman's Mill  
Rohrersville, Washington County  
Keedysville Quadrangle



NARROW  
BRIDGE

WA-III-139

E/S Main St at Hog Maw Rd, Rockersville

Washington Co MD

SC Salvatore

5/97

Neg - MD S14P0

E/S MAIN AT HOGMAW, NE VIEW COOPER'S BUILDING

#16B of 43 (caps)

#1 of 2 (wind)



WA-III-139

ES Main St po Hog Maw Rd, Rohertsville  
Washington Co, MD

Sc Salvatoru

5/97

Neq- MD SHPO

ES MAIN AT HOG MAW, SE VIEW TO MILL RUINS

#16A of 43 - caps

# 2 of 2 (ind)