### Site Information

**Site Number:** 18ST263  
**Site Name:** Watts Mill  
**Other name(s):**  
**Brief Description:** mid-18th - early 19th century grist mill

### Site Location and Environmental Data

- **Latitude:** 38.2692  
- **Longitude:** -76.5148  
- **Elevation:** 14 m  
- **Site slope:** 0 m

### Site Setting

- Site Setting restricted
- Lat/Long accurate to within 1 sq. mile, user may need to make slight adjustments in mapping to account for sites near state/county lines or streams

### Temporal & Ethnic Contextual Data

- **Paleoindian site:** Woodland site
- **Archaic site:** MD Adena
- **Early archaic:** Early woodland
- **Middle archaic:** Mid. woodland
- **Late archaic:** Late woodland
- **Unknown prehistoric context:**
- **Known historic context:**
- **Unknown historic context:**
- **Contact period site:** ca. 1820 - 1860
- **Prehistoric context:** ca. 1630 - 1675
- **Historic context:** ca. 1675 - 1720
- **Post 1930:**

### Site Function Contextual Data

- **Urban/Rural:** Rural
- **Domestic:**
  - Homestead
  - Farmstead
  - Mansion
  - Plantation
  - Row/townhome
  - Cellar
  - Privy
- **Industrial:**
  - Mining-related
  - Quarry-related
  - Mill
  - Black/metalsmith
- **Historic:**
  - Furnace/forge
  - Transportation
  - Canal-related
  - Road/railroad
  - Wharf/landing
  - Maritime-related
  - Bridge
  - Ford
  - Educational
  - Commercial
  - Trading post
  - Store
  - Tavern/inn
  - Military
  - Battlefield
  - Fortification
  - Encampment
  - Townsite
  - Religious
  - Church/mtg house
  - Ch support bldg
  - Burial area
  - Cemetery
  - Sepulchre
  - Isolated burial
  - Burial or foundation
  - Possible Structure
- **Post-in-ground:**
  - Frame-built
  - Masonry
  - Other structure
- **Slave related:**
  - Non-domestic agri
  - Non-domestic agri
  - Recreational
  - Midden/dump
  - Artifact scatter
  - Spring or well
  - Unknown
  - Other context

### Interpretive Sampling Data

- **Prehistoric context samples:**
- **Soil samples taken:**
- **Flotation samples taken:**
- **Other samples taken:**

- **Historic context samples:**
- **Soil samples taken:** No
- **Flotation samples taken:** No
- **Other samples taken:** No
### Diagnostic Artifact Data:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Projectile Point Types</th>
<th>Prehistoric Sherd Types</th>
<th>Historic Sherd Types</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Clovis</td>
<td>Koens-Crispin</td>
<td>Shepard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hardaway-Dalton</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Palmer</td>
<td></td>
<td>Ironstone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kirk (notch)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Ironstone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kirk (stem)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Ironstone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Le Croy</td>
<td></td>
<td>Ironstone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Morrow Mtn</td>
<td></td>
<td>Ironstone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guilford</td>
<td>Jackfield</td>
<td>Ironstone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Breerton</td>
<td>Jackfield</td>
<td>Ironstone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Otter Creek</td>
<td>Jackfield</td>
<td>Ironstone</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| **All quantities exact or estimated minimal counts**

### Other Artifact & Feature Types:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prehistoric Artifacts</th>
<th>Prehistoric Features</th>
<th>Lithic Material</th>
<th>Historic Features</th>
<th>Other</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mound(s)</td>
<td>Storage/trash pit</td>
<td>Fer quartzite</td>
<td>Const feature</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midden</td>
<td>Burial(s)</td>
<td>Chalcedony</td>
<td>Well/cistern</td>
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<td>Shell midden</td>
<td>Ossuary</td>
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<td>Cellar hole/center</td>
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<td>Postholes/molds</td>
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<td>Basalt</td>
<td>Hearth/chimney</td>
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<td>Housepattern(s)</td>
<td>Other</td>
<td>Rhyolite</td>
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### Radiocarbon Data:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Sample 1: +/- years BP Reliability</th>
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<th>Sample 3: +/- years BP Reliability</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>Sample 5: +/- years BP Reliability</td>
<td>Sample 6: +/- years BP Reliability</td>
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<td>Sample 7: +/- years BP Reliability</td>
<td>Sample 8: +/- years BP Reliability</td>
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**Additional radiocarbon results available**
**Phase II and Phase III Archeological Database and Inventory**

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**Brief Description:**

mid-18th - early 19th century grist mill

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**Summary Description:**

The Watts Mill site (18ST263) is a mid-18th to early 19th century grist mill. This site is located on the St. Mary’s River, immediately downstream from a major confluence. The site was abandoned and overgrown, and some of the mill dam had been washed out. Site dimensions are unknown although an extant section of the mill dam measures approximately 121 m (400') long. It trends from north-northeast to south-southwest and is connected to an upstream auxiliary dam of undetermined function. The main dam height varies greatly, the highest point being about 3.65 m (12') above the present ground level. No mill races or similar hydrologic features were observed downstream from the main mill dam. Soundings indicate that the rectilinear, water-filled depression in the mill dam gap is approximately 1.2 m (4') deep.

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources (Program Open Space) and the US Department of Agriculture (Soil Conservation Service) had proposed construction of a 307-acre reservoir on the upper St. Mary’s River in St. Mary’s County. As construction of the reservoir required a federal permit and federal funding, archeological reconnaissance was required in accordance with the 1966 National Historic Preservation Act. No archeological sites had previously been located and/or recorded in the project area. Therefore, it was necessary to conduct a survey to locate possible National Register-eligible sites that might be adversely impacted by the proposed construction. A total of 12 archeological sites were identified during survey of the area to be impacted. Watts Mill was not located during the initial survey because it did not appear on any of the secondary sources or manuscript maps. The site was located as a result of the examination of the ca. 1790 Mill Manor manuscript plat and a supplementary field check on 20 October 1980. Archival research indicated that the land occupied by Watts Mill was part of Mill Manor. The mill was running by at least 1765 as evidenced by a mill seat condemnation issued that year. Kenelm Watts obtained the property in 1780 by paying back taxes. The mill was destroyed in a flood in 1817 and was never rebuilt.

A non-systematic surface survey was conducted at the site in 1981 by T. Epperson from the Division of Archeology, Maryland Geological Survey. No subsurface testing was performed at that time and no artifacts were observed. After the initial discovery of the mill, a Phase II survey was conducted, including mapping of the site and the excavation of 63 shovel test pits. Although according to state nomenclature this level of investigation would not be called a Phase II, the archeologists considered it a Phase II study. Therefore, it is included here as a Phase II level study. An unsuccessful attempt was made to pump the mill pond in order to determine what was concealed under the water. A total of 3 objects were found during site clearing. This included a flattened lead weight, 1 broken iron band, and 1 cut nail. No items were collected from the shovel tests. The lead weight and iron band are listed as activity items in the table above, and the cut nail is listed under architectural items in the table above.

No notes exist at MHT from the Phase II testing conducted at the site by Epperson. This information was obtained by Otter and included in his 1997 report. In 1997, a second Phase II was conducted by Otter at some of the sites previously identified in the study area by Epperson. The study was required because Southern Maryland Electric Cooperative planned to install a new line along an existing right-of-way passing through St. Mary's State Park. No further work was done at the site in 1997 because it was determined that 18ST263 lay outside the right-of-way.

At present, too little work has been done at the Watts Mill site (18ST263) to determine if it is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Currently, the site does not appear to be in any immediate danger of destruction. Because of the mill’s period of use, it may be important for understanding part of the industrial aspects of St. Mary’s County around the beginning of the 19th century.

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**External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):**

00006385, 00006546