

HO 739, Davis Mills,
before 1850, ca. 1870.
Ellicott City vicinity, Ilchester area, private access.
Capsule Summary, page 1.

Description:

Six distinct architectural features survive of the Davis Mills complex, here designated A through F. Feature A is a dry-laid granite revetment wall set at the south bank of Bonnie Branch. Above this stood the foundation remains of the southernmost of the two original Davis Mills, destroyed in 1998. Feature B is a rough-cut granite dam abutment standing on the north bank of Bonnie Branch; it probably once secured a wooden dam (before 1850). Building C is a two-story dwelling with rough-cut granite walls and ashlar coins and lintels. Three bays of fenestration face Bonnie Branch road, and a large frame addition extends to the north. This structure, recently rebuilt as a residence, was originally a second mill building, and likely dates to the third quarter of the nineteenth century. Building D is also a dwelling, and was, at least in part, contemporaneous with Building C. It is a frame house covered in asbestos shingles, and is set on a high English basement of rough-cut granite with ashlar coins. Structure E is a dam, ca. 1870, built of ashlar blocks, repaired with rough-cut granite and a cap of poured

HO 739, Davis Mills,
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Capsule Summary, page 2.

concrete. Feature F is an extensive head race cut into the hillside
above Buildings C and D.

Significance:

The Davis Mills in a sense mark a contrary trend in the Patapsco Valley. This enterprise was always a small-scale installation, providing lumber, flour, and meal for the local market. Services such as these were initially offered by the merchant mills at Ellicott City, but over the second half of the nineteenth century, these large facilities dropped small-scale--or country--services in favor of consolidated operations. George Ellicott, Jr., of Ilchester sold Davis the site for these small-scale facilities, and they would have provided needed products for the Ilchester community that Ellicott was fostering. The earliest documented appearance of the Joshua Davis Mills is the 1850 Manufacturers' Census. Between 1860 and 1878, Davis expanded the complex by added a second dam upstream of the first, and for this constructed the head race still visible. It is likely that at this time the dwelling? (Building D) and

HO 739, Davis Mills,
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Capsule Summary, page 3.

a new stone mill (Building C) were constructed. The closure of
nearby factories and the suburbanization of the surrounding
community, with the concomitant growth of ready made products,
made the services offered at Davis no longer necessary.

Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. HO 739

Magi No.

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Davis Mills

and/or common

2. Location

street & number Bonnie Branch Road, Ilchester Area ☐ not for publication

city, town Ellicott City ☒ vicinity of congressional district Sixth

state Maryland county Howard

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
☐ district	☐ public	☒ occupied	☐ agriculture
☒ building(s)	☒ private	☐ unoccupied	☐ commercial
☐ structure	☐ both	☐ work in progress	☐ educational
☒ site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	☐ entertainment
☐ object	☐ in process	☒ yes: restricted	☐ government
	☐ being considered	☐ yes: unrestricted	☐ industrial
	☒ not applicable	☐ no	☐ military
			☐ museum
			☐ park
			☒ private residence
			☐ religious
			☐ scientific
			☐ transportation
			☐ other:

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

name Please see continuation sheet.

street & number telephone no.:

city, town state and zip code

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Please see continuation sheet. liber

street & number folio

city, town state

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title None

date ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. HO 739

Condition

☒ excellent
☒ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☒ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site

☐ moved date of move _____

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

Contributing Resource Count: 6

Six distinct architectural features survive of the Davis Mills complex (designated here A through F); a seventh was recently destroyed in new construction (1998).

Feature A is a rough-cut, dry-laid granite revetment wall set at the south bank of Bonnie Branch. The surviving portion stands approximately four feet high by fifteen feet long. On a terrace above the slope descending to this wall stood the rough-cut granite foundation, now destroyed, of the southernmost of the two original Davis Mills.

Feature B is a rough-cut granite dam abutment standing on the north bank of Bonnie Branch. Portland cement has been employed to re-point the mortar joints--indicating a later renewal of the structure. Though its fragmentary character makes a definitive determination of the material of the dam itself problematic, like many other dams on the Patapsco--the Dismal Mill, the Patapsco Cotton Factory, the Ellicott Iron Rolling and Slitting Mill, and the Orange Grove Mill--this original dam was also probably built of wood braced against stone abutments.

Building C is the substantially altered mill building north of Bonnie Branch Road which probably dates to the renovations done to the mill complex between the mid-1860s and 1878. The principal portion of the building consists of two-story rough-cut granite walls with ashlar coins and lintels. Three bays of fenestration face Bonnie Branch Road, to the south, and two bays open on the first floor of the east. Outlining an addition to the north elevation extends a rough-cut granite wall approximately 3.5 feet high. To these stone elements a wooden roof with gables to the east and west has been added, incorporating the depth of both the principal structure and the addition to the north. The pitch is sufficient to accommodate three bays of dormer windows to the south and a large gable window to the east. A frame extension to the north expands the floor space of the upper level; it is open underneath, including a series of decks added to the east and north. In 1993, James Peirce, a volunteer ranger with the Patapsco

[Please see continuation sheet.]

8. Significance

Survey No. HO 739

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	☐ architecture	☐ education	☐ military	☐ social/
☐ 1700–1799	☐ art	☐ engineering	☐ music	☐ humanitarian
☒ 1800–1899	☐ commerce	☐ exploration/settlement	☐ philosophy	☐ theater
☐ 1900–	☐ communications	☒ industry	☐ politics/government	☐ transportation
		☐ invention		☐ other (specify)

Specific dates before 1850, ca. 1870 Builder/Architect unknown

check: Applicable Criteria: ☒ A ☐ B ☐ C ☒ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

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

Davis Mills

In contrast to the large-scale merchant milling operations established in the Patapsco Valley in the late-eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, Joshua B. Davis set up a small milling enterprise for the local market alone. Built toward the end of the second quarter of the nineteenth century, the Davis Grist and Saw mills served the needs of nearby residents for the local consumption of meal, flour, and lumber. As the nineteenth century wore on, the larger flour milling enterprises ceased providing these "country" services, and moved ultimately toward a consolidation of facilities in more convenient locations. In this respect, the Davis mills outlasted many of the larger merchant flour mills in the area (see, for example, the Bonnie Branch Mill, inventory number, HO 738, and the Ilchester Mill, inventory number HO 737, Howard County, and the Orange Grove Mill, inventory number BA 2808, Baltimore County). Increasing suburbanization of the region and improved distribution of pre-packaged products eliminated the demand for the Davis mill services in the early twentieth century.

George Ellicott, Jr. (1798-1869) sold this parcel to Joshua B. Davis from larger tracts of land Ellicott had acquired in the 1830s (Baltimore 235/39, Anne Arundel 22/627, and Howard 1/291). The parcel lay mostly to the north side of Bonnie Branch, bisected by Bonnie Branch road. Some time before 1850, when the "Joshua Davis water mill" was listed in the United States Census (McGrain, *Molinography*), Davis here built a grist mill and a saw mill on the north and south sides of Bonnie Branch, separated by Bonnie Branch road, and just west of the intersection of a now-abandoned road to the south. The 1860 Martenet Map of Howard County shows "J. Davis Gst. & S. Mill" in operation adjacent each other on the north and south sides of Bonnie Branch, west of the intersection. The mills

[Please see continuation sheet.]

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. HO 739

Please see continuation sheet.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property four

1 : 24,000

Quadrangle name Savage

Quadrangle scale 7.5 Series

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

Zone	Easting							Northing	

B

Zone	Easting							Northing	

C

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

D

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

E

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F

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G

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H

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundaries of the site follow those of Howard County Tax Map 31, parcels 162, 166, and 803, comprising the site of the original mill, the remains of the two dams, and the two structures related to the enlarged operations.

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

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

1. Form Prepared By

name/title Henry K. Sharp

organization None

date 28 October 1998

street & number 100 South Street West

telephone 804/295-0140

city or town Charlottesville

state Virginia

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

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DHCP/DHCD
100 COMMUNITY PLACE
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2029

Inventory Number HO 739
Davis Mills, Howard County
Section 4.1

Howard County Tax Map 31, Parcel 166, north of Bonnie Branch Road:
Craig R. Phillips
4450 Bonnie Branch Road
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043

Howard County Tax Map 31, Parcels 162 and 803, south of Bonnie Branch Road:
Michael G. Mullendore and Susan E. Mullendore
6154 Hanover Road
Hanover, Maryland 21076

Inventory Number HO 739
Davis Mills, Howard County
Section 5.1

Howard County Circuit Court
8360 Court House Drive
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043

Howard County Tax Map 31, Parcel 166, north of Bonnie Branch Road, property of
Craig R. Phillips:
Liber 4109 Folio 349.

Howard County Tax Map 31, Parcels 162 and 803, south of Bonnie Branch Road,
property of Michael G. Mullendore and Susan E. Mullendore:
Liber 3592 Folio 228, and,
Liber 4176 Folio 132.

Inventory Number HO 739
Davis Mills, Howard County
Section 7.1

State Park, reported that this structure consisted only of foundations and standing walls; its transformation into a residence has occurred since that time (Peirce, p. 52).

Building D--or some portion of it--is also evidently a product of the mid-1860s or 1870s expansion of the complex. An English basement of rough-cut granite with ashlar courses supports a frame dwelling, now sheathed in painted asbestos shingles. The facade addresses the stone mill building to the east, and contains three bays of fenestration on the main level with two bays of shed-roofed dormers in the gable above. This descends on the west to a shed extension which meets the ground level at the rear, where the hillside was excavated to create building space. Similarities in the character of the stonework, best seen in building D on the south and east cellar elevations, and that of the mill (building C) suggest a contemporary construction date for both structures.

Structure E is the masonry dam constructed as part of the mid-1860s or 1870s expansion of the complex. Raised of ashlar granite blocks, the dam has evidently been repaired with rough-cut granite and a cap of poured concrete, which replaced the upper courses of stone.

Feature F is the extensive head race cut into the hillside to the west and north above buildings C and D. Though its original junction with the upper mill pool has been destroyed in the successive repairs and widenings made to Bonnie Branch Road, the headrace opens at the same elevation as the pool, and conveyed water apparently in an open channel to the mill.

Inventory Number HO 739
Davis Mills, Howard County
Section 8.1

appear again in this configuration on the Reynolds' Military map of 1863, though the proprietor and type of mill are unidentified. Similarly, the Schofield lithograph of the Patapsco Valley, dated to the early 1860s, shows two adjacent but unidentified structures up the valley of Bonnie Branch; these may be representations of the Davis Mills. James Peirce recognized a foundation on this site in March of 1993, and noted that sixty feet upstream were two ten-by-ten foot dam abutments (Peirce, p. 52). Although he attributes these ruins to an earlier mill, it is almost certain that what he observed were the ruins of the initial configuration of the Davis Mills--a frame structure on a stone foundation, and a frame dam secured by stone abutments. The paired mill on the north side of Bonnie Branch Road was probably replaced in a later and more costly renovation to the mill complex.

Substantial changes to this mill site occurred over the next decade and a half (from the early 1860s), and these are depicted in the Hopkins Atlas of Howard County. By the 1878 publishing date of the atlas, a large mill pool had been filled farther upstream of the former dam, and a head race excavated across Bonnie Branch Road to a new mill building. The site was again marked "S.M. [and] G.M.," for saw mill and grist mill, though it is not clear whether the new structure incorporated both functions; the old building south of the branch remains on the map. Incidentally, the new dam was built far enough upstream to clear the pool of the smaller original dam, so the earlier mill could have remained in operation as originally configured, with the new facility operating concurrently from the water fall of the new dam.

The remains of these expanded installations evidence a substantially larger investment: the new dam was masonry rather than wood, and it still stands. In addition, the new mill building itself was also of masonry construction, and was served by extensive head and tail races, cut into the hillside to the north. It is now incorporated into a private residence. A frame dwelling on a stone foundation stands on the same lot, to the west of the new mill. These three structures--the old mill, new mill, and dwelling--appear on the Road System of Baltimore County Map, executed in the second quarter of the twentieth century, while the road south from the mills was still in use.

The growth and prosperity of the Davis grist and saw mill is in a sense a contrary trend in the Patapsco Valley. This was a small-scale operation, dedicated to what the Ellicott family called "country work"-- grain grinding operations for local farmers and local consumption. The merchant flour mills in the valley operated on a large scale, producing vast quantities for national and

Inventory Number HO 739
Davis Mills, Howard County
Section 8.2

international sale. As these mills grew and professionalized, they ceased providing country services, which the Ellicott mills had done as an additional service during the eighteenth and early-nineteenth centuries. Consequently, a market for these local grain grinding and saw-milling operations existed throughout the nineteenth century until a number of economic and social developments made them obsolete. The shift of populations from agricultural to urban and suburban economies, and the development of integrated transportation systems--first of the railroad, and then of highway based transport--lead to the mass production and marketing of commercial products. Among these were lumber and foodstuffs, often produced far from the location of consumption, and at the end of the nineteenth century, produced in factories which need not rely either on water power or the remote and difficult locations water power required. Twentieth-century farmers and suburban villa residents had less use for local mills of this type as finished products became increasingly available and inexpensive on local store shelves.

Inventory Number HO 739
Davis Mills, Howard County
Section 9.1

Hopkins, G. M. *Atlas of Howard County Maryland*. Philadelphia: F. Bourquin's Steam Lithographic Press, 1878.

McGrain, John W. *Molinography in Maryland Series*, Howard County notebook. Maryland State Archives, Special Collections, MSA SC 4300, loc 02/04/14.

Peirce, James. *Patapsco Valley Mill Sites*. Research Notes, Howard County Historical Society Library, 1993.

Howard County Historical Society Library:

John Schofield, *Panoramic View of the Scenery on the Patapsco, Ellicotts Mills, Md.* [key]

Library of Congress, Geography and Maps Division:

Martenet's Map of Howard County, 1860, G3843 .H6 1860 .M3;

Raynolds' Military Map, Baltimore County, Maryland, 1863, G3843 .B3 1863 .R3.

Road System of Baltimore County, [ca. 1925-50]; G 3843 .B3P2 19-- .M3.

Inventory Number HO 739
Davis Mills, Howard County
Maryland Comprehensive State Historic Preservation Plan
Statewide Historic Contexts

Geographic Organization:

Piedmont

Chronological Development/Periods:

- | | | |
|--|------|-----------|
| 10) Agricultural-Industrial Transition | A.D. | 1815-1870 |
| 11) Industrial/Urban Dominance | A.D. | 1870-1930 |

Historic Period Themes:

- 1) Agriculture
- 3) Economic

Resource Type:

Category: Site (ruins and buildings)

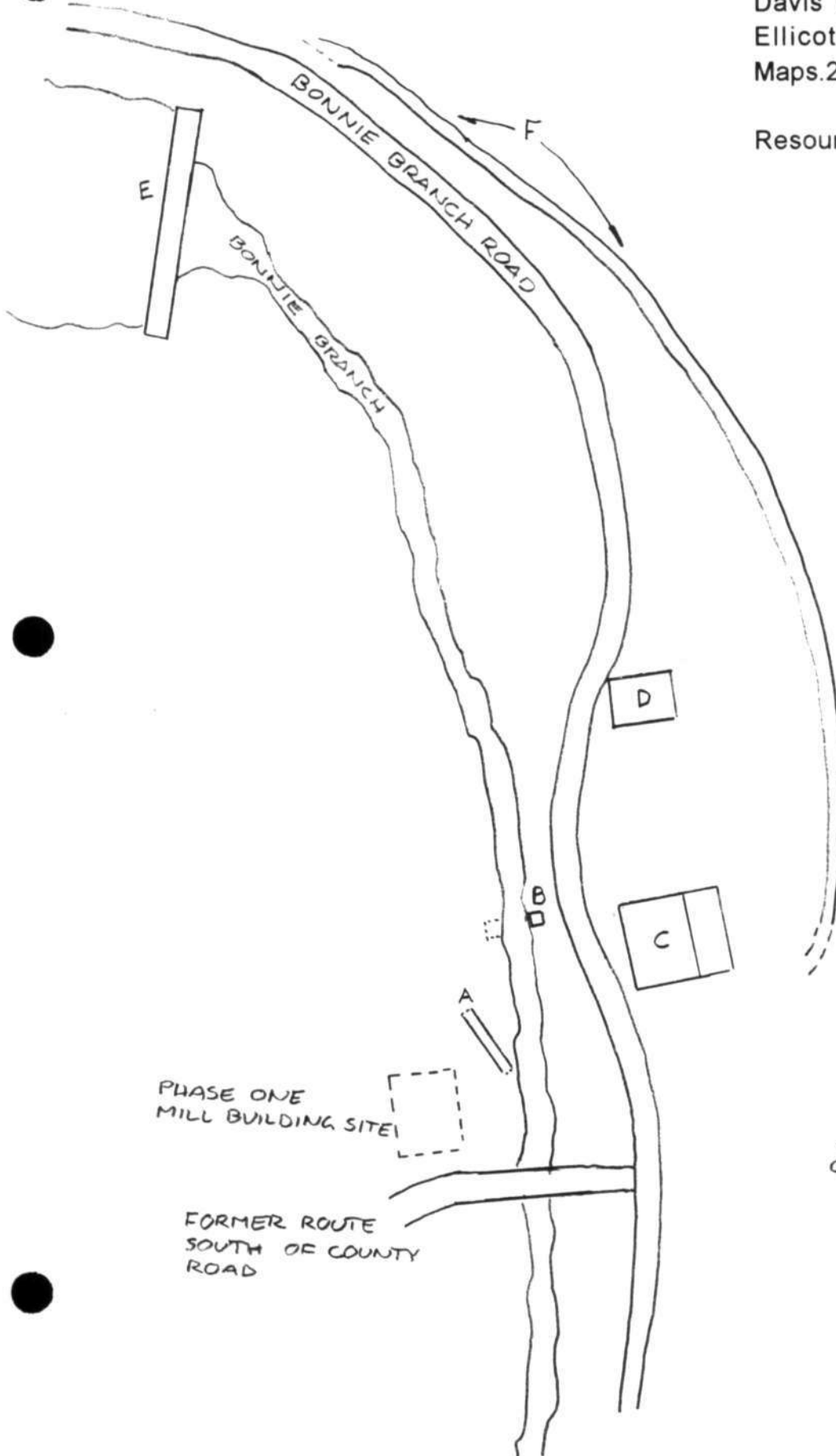
Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Functions and Uses: Grist Mill and Saw Mill.

Known Design Sources: None

Inventory Number HO 739
Davis Mills, Howard County
Ellicott City Vicinity, Ilchester area
Maps.2

Resource Site Plan



NOT TO SCALE
1998
H, K, SHARP

PHASE ONE
MILL BUILDING SITE

FORMER ROUTE
SOUTH OF COUNTY
ROAD

- A: REVETMENT FOR PHASE ONE MILL BUILDING
- B: PHASE ONE DAM ABUTMENT
- C: PHASE TWO(?) MILL BUILDING
- D: PHASE TWO(?) DWELLING
- E: PHASE TWO DAM
- F: PHASE TWO HEADRACE

Inventory Number HO 739
 Davis Mills, Howard County
 Ellicott City Vicinity, Ilchester area
 Maps.3

Martenet's Map of Howard County, 1860,
 Library of Congress, Washington, D.C., Geography and Maps Division: G 3843 .H6
 1860 .M3.



Inventory Number HO 739

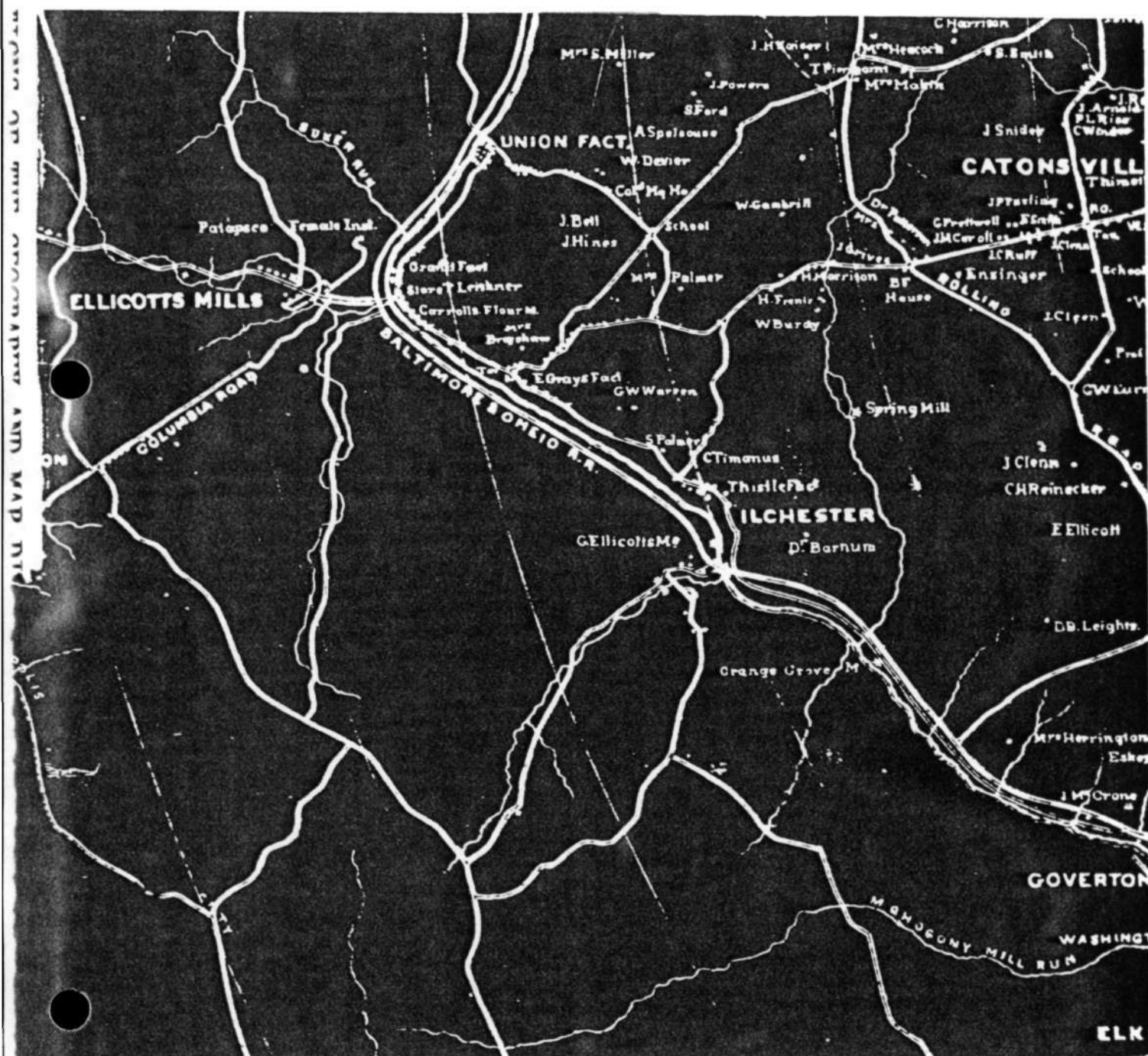
Davis Mills, Howard County

Ellicott City Vicinity, Ilchester area

Maps.4

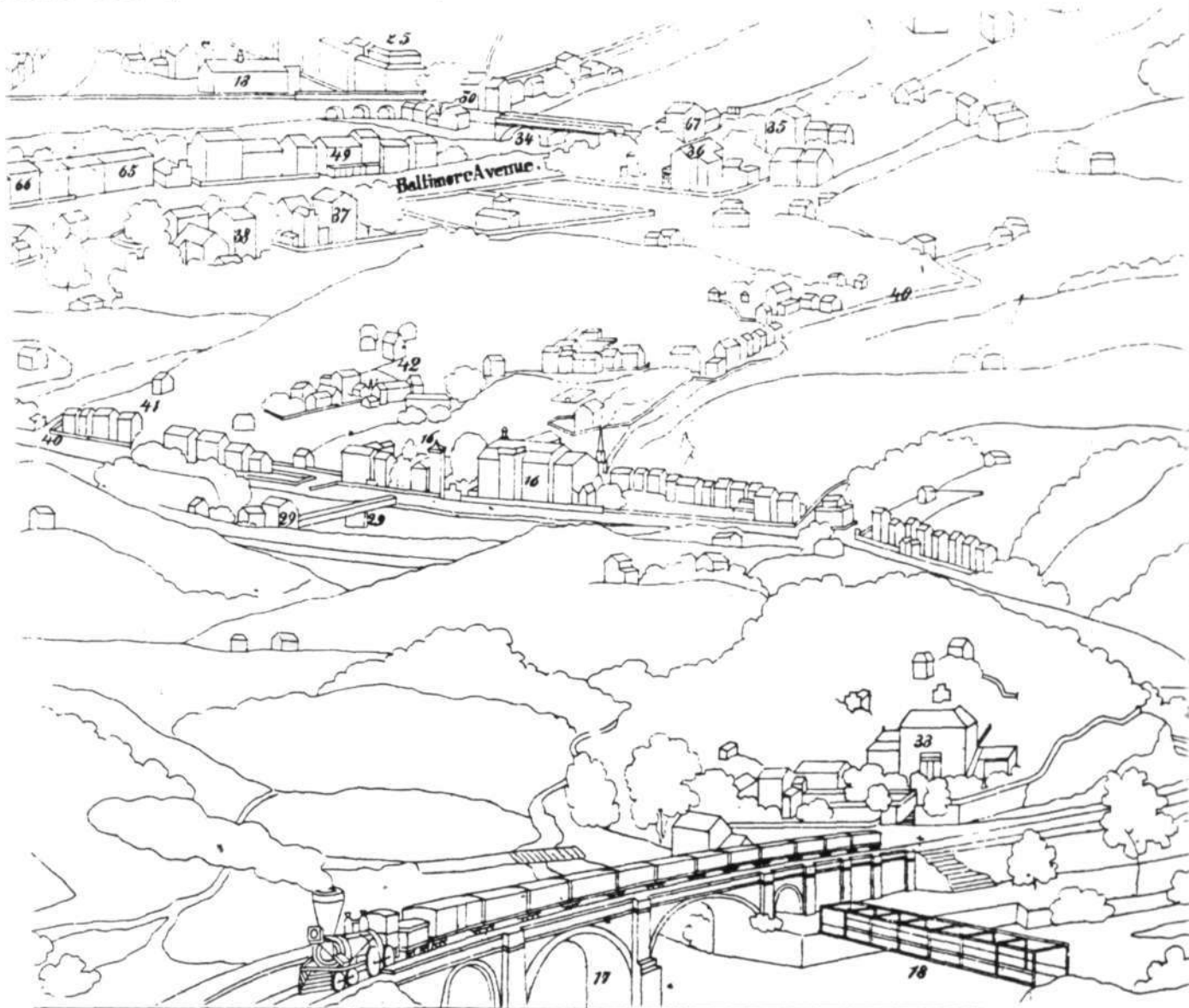
Raynolds' Military Map of Baltimore County, Maryland, 1863,

Library of Congress, Washington, D.C., Geography and Maps Division: G 3843 .B3
1863 .R3.



Inventory Number HO 739
Davis Mills, Howard County
Ellicott City Vicinity, Ilchester area
Maps.5

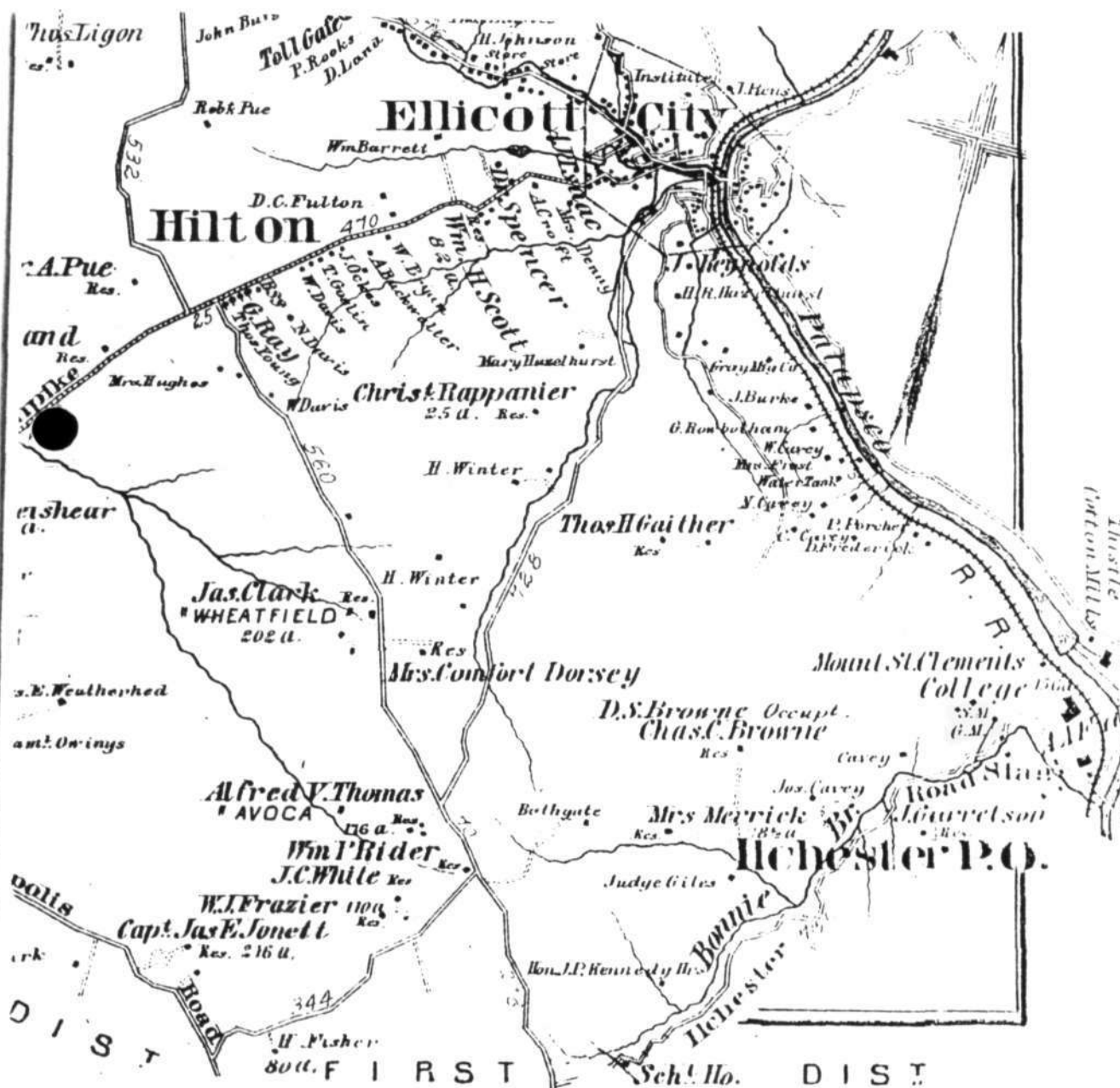
John Schofield, *Panoramic View of the Scenery on the Patapsco, Ellicotts Mills, Md.* [key],
Howard County Historical Society Library, Ellicott City, Maryland.



The two unidentified adjacent structures appearing in the valley of Bonnie Branch may represent the Davis Mill complex.

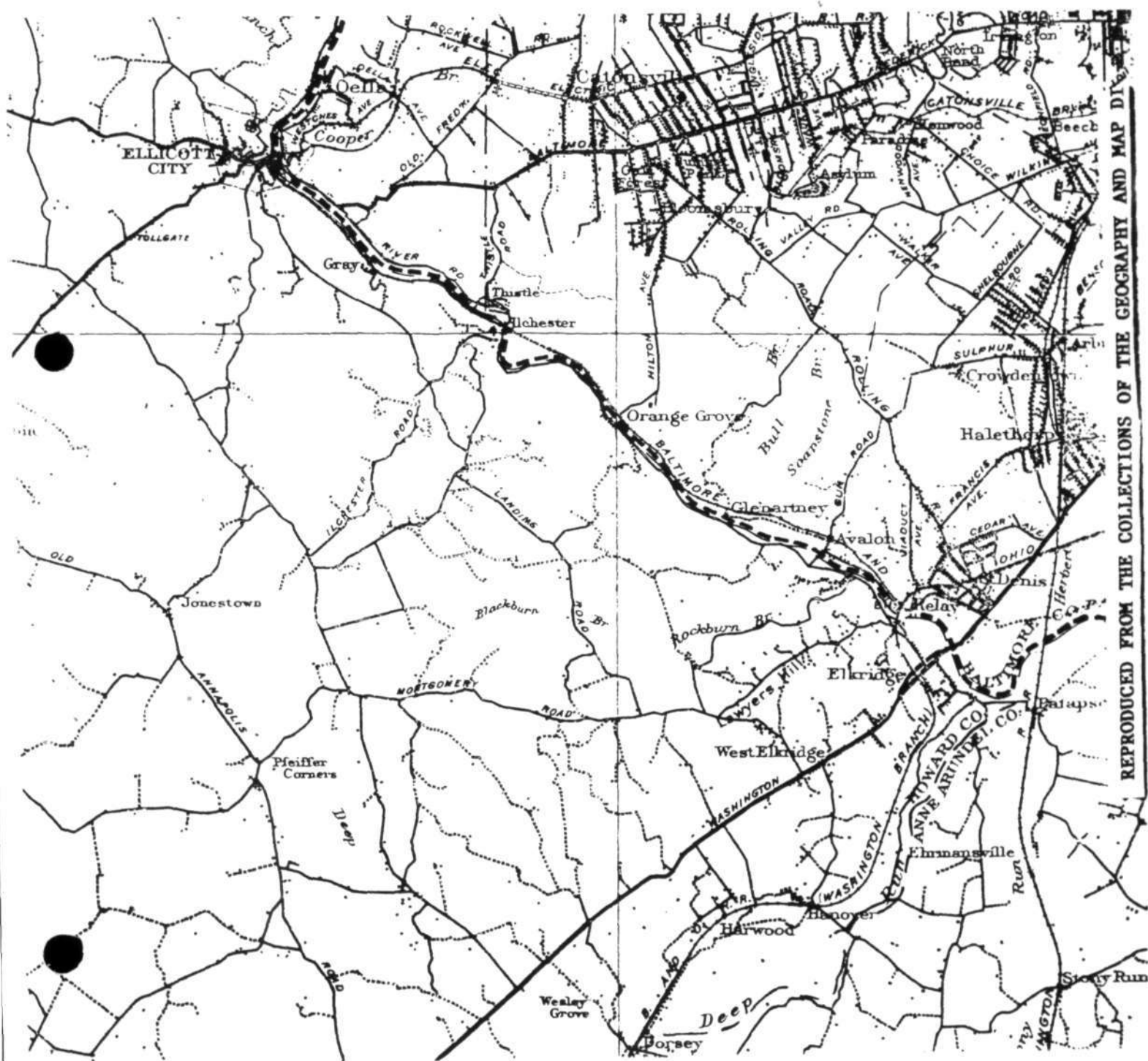
Maps.6

Steam Lithographic Press, 1878), p. 15.



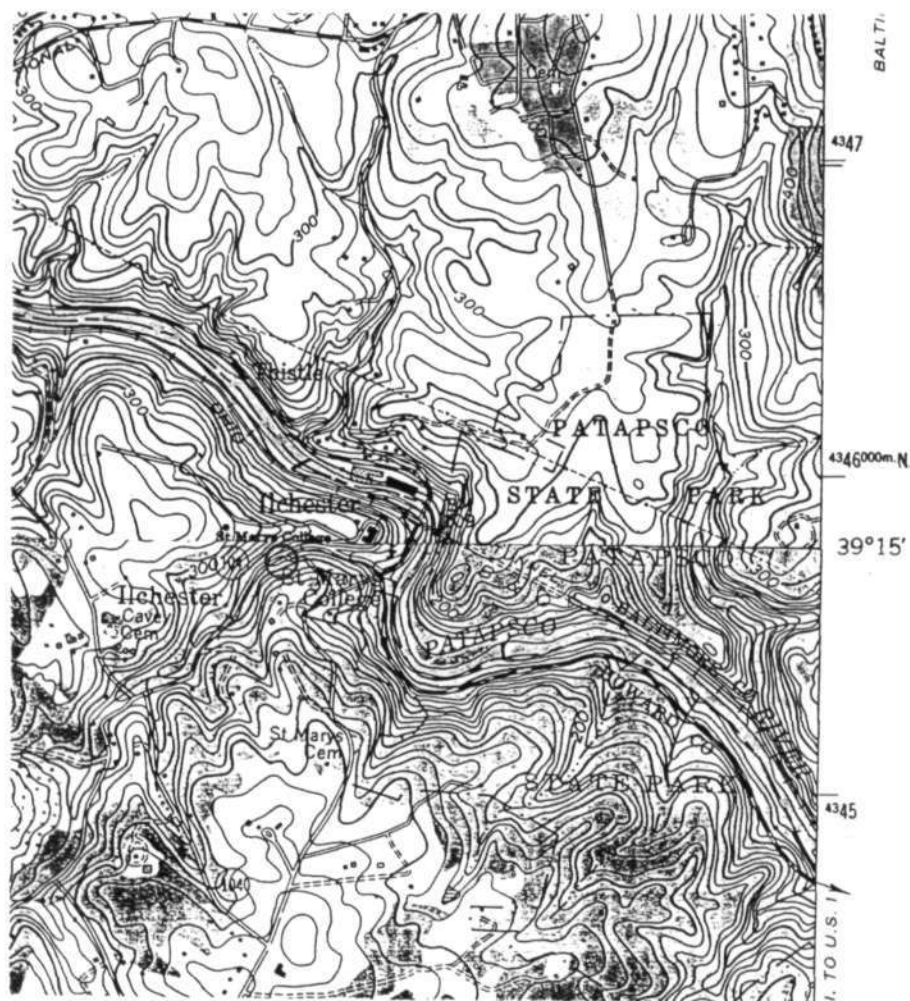
Inventory Number HO 739
Davis Mills, Howard County
Ellicott City Vicinity, Ilchester area
Maps.7

Road System of Baltimore County, [ca. 1925-50], Library of Congress,
Washington, D.C., Geography and Maps Division: G 3843 .B3P2 19-- M3.

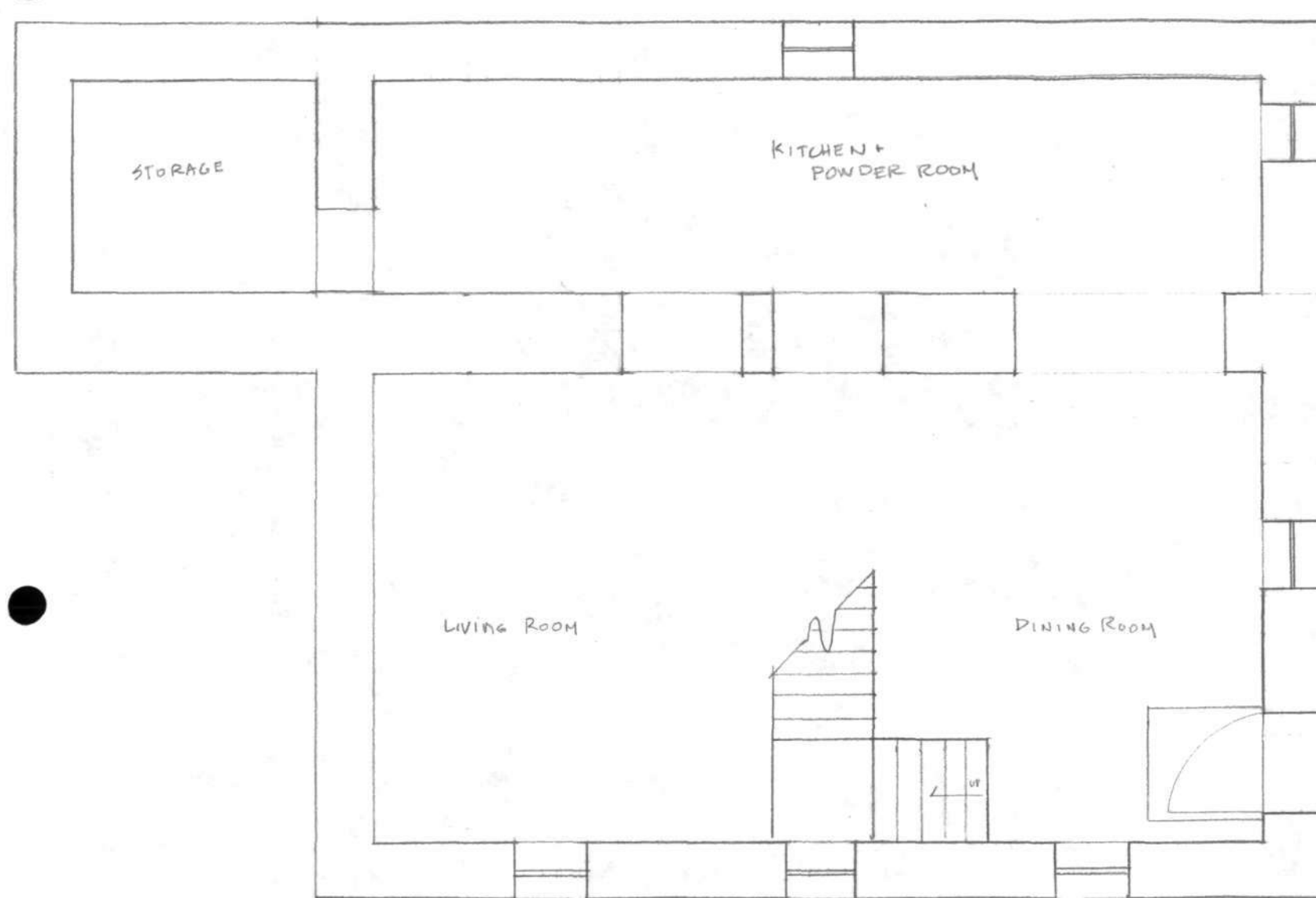


Inventory Number HO 739
Davis Mills, Howard County
Ellicott City Vicinity, Ilchester area
Maps.1

U.S. Geological Survey
Ellicott City 7.5 Quadrangle
Savage 7.5 Quadrangle



H0-739



DAVIS GRIST MILL (H0-739) 1st Floor

NTS

J. GOULD

03/05

HO-739 Davis 6nst M11

Rambles In The Rugged

Wildcat And Deer Formerly Roamed Through Wonderland Near Baltimore Which Has Earl's Name

By DR. HENRY J. DEBENIST.

A LAND of forest and stream, "of mountains and depths that spring out of valleys and hills," ever rolling toward the lower levels of the Patapsco river, covered with the noble growth of centuries. Deep ravine and high cliff bring variety to the restricted view; and at the foot of each lies always a brook rushing over polished stones; or the more silent water of a spring, pulsing its way through soft grasses and mosses.

On all sides there is a setting of green, and above an Italian blue sky, for the distance fading into the gray mists of the hills of Howard. Views there are near and views there are far. Near at hand is the volcanic-torn debris of the Water Gap, where the interior species of the earth met its cooling, and it is asunder, leaving huge dykes of lava in the cliffs it had torn from the earlier granite coverings.

ELICOTT CITY IN VISTA.

Far off one sees at the end of a long vista the smoke of the chimneys of Elicott City, apparently buried in an endless forest. Southeastward, in wide expanse spread the table-lands of distant Anne Arundel, and, perchance, one may glimpse on an unusually clear day the towers of the wireless station at Annapolis.

Everywhere are fields of corn and wheat, gardens and orchards, with here and there a vineyard on the steep slope of some sunny hill. In the open fields are ovals and oblongs of woodland, where the soil is too stony to permit profitable cultivation.

Such is Hechester, a wonderland of babbling rivulets seeking to enter the heart of the Patapsco, and of "forests solemn canopies."

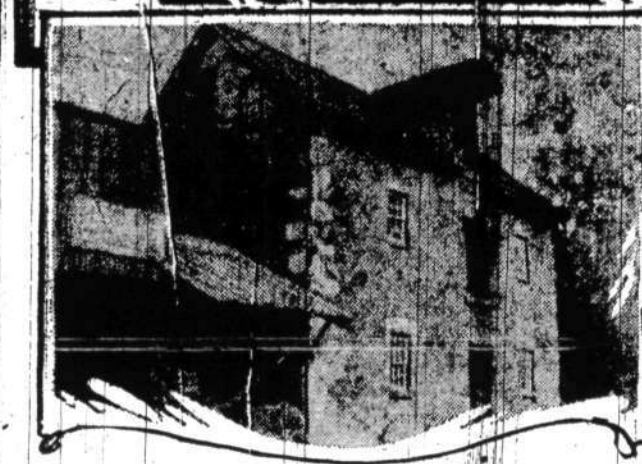
Calm and cool as a pool
In the river;
Mirrored on its breast are seen
The branching oaks of green,
And their reflect their shadow

PORT OF ELKBRIDGE.

When the Elicott brothers started on their memorable voyage from Philadelphia in 1772 to found the milling village of what is now Elicott City, on the Patapsco river, 10 miles from Baltimore, the most convenient place for the unloading of their equipment, men, merchandise, mechanical and agricultural implements, household goods and the wagons and horses to draw them was at the flourishing port of Elkbridge, four miles from their ultimate destination.

There was already a road constructed to Dorsey's Forge, at Avonlon, about a mile away, but beyond that point they entered a wild and difficult country and were obliged to build roadways and bridges for themselves, over which their light could pass.

On both sides of the river arose high, wooded hills, shutting off the sunlight



This old grist mill at Hechester was built more than one and one-half centuries ago. It still has the original wooden machinery of that time. The miller is in his eighty-seventh year.

at all hours of the day, and from the steep, almost unsurmountable sides of these hills poured brooks, streamlets, waterfalls and cascades. At several points, jutting far into the bed of the river and blocking progress, were ledges and points of rock, through and around which the caravan was obliged to find a way, with toil and difficulty.

The whole aspect of the region was one of extreme wildness, and of inhabitants there were none along the bottom lands.

NAME OF ELCHESTER.

After much labor they reached a place where the waters, in ages past, had broken through the hills and made a water gap. Everywhere there were dykes and seams of a lava-like rock, thrust forward through the surface and disturbing the face of Nature in a wonderful manner. This place was called Hechester, after Joseph, earl of

that name who married into the Ridout family, of Annapolis.

At a spot, just below where the old railway station at Hechester stood, they were barred from further progress by a wide and tumbling brook (the Bonnie Branch), and, with this surmounted by a bridge, they were compelled, by the projection of rocky cliffs into the stream bed, to dismantle their outfit and proceed by horse and manpower, leaving their heavy wagons behind until a road could be made.

Crowbars, picks and axes were brought into service and a pathway was dug, over which much of the machinery was transported by wheelbarrows and manpower to its destination.

COUNTRY'S WILDNESS.

Beautiful as is the region of the Water Gap today, it must have been much more so in its primeval state, for in the construction of the Baltimore and Ohio railroad, the sides of the cliffs

Patterson Viaduct, named for the first timore and Ohio Railroad, is shown thus in 1831.

have been blasted away, exposing large surfaces of a yellowish rock.

The wildness of this country was such at this date that deer were seen frequently and at night the call of the wildcat to its mate was heard; while a footstep from the pathway would cause a flutter of wings and the whirr of the pheasant from the nest in the bracken.

The impression given by the foregoing is that the entire region, at the beginning of the last quarter of the eighteenth century, was a wilderness and uninhabited. This was not the case, or rather the wilderness was only in the immediate valley of the river and its precipitous sides, where cultivation was impossible and the earth unfruitful. The uplands were divided into farms and the population was probably greater than it was after the Civil War, if one may judge from the frequency of the ruins and cellars of small houses.

TWO ESTATES.

On the Baltimore county side were two estates, "Brother's Expectation" and the "Tanyard." The first was patented by John Hollingsworth in 1688 and comprised 350 acres immediately above the "Thistle Milling Village." The other was a much larger estate, running from the western edge of "Brother's Expectation" to the vicinity of Elicott's Mills and across to the north of the New Frederick road.

The oldest dwelling house in the region is on "Brother's Expectation." Originally a stone house of four rooms, it has been so added to from time to time by its several owners that little of the original remains.

The kitchen still has the large open fireplace of the period, with the crane and pot hangers.

In another room are two high carved

mantels, in the ye of a per chimneys half of fireplace back built celled constructed brick tro and give

SU
In 171 William "Brother day it Smiths, I ers.

Zenas

This is the "WRINKLE PROOF" Iron!

40.739

Evilions Of Ilchester

prietor of Baranum's Hotel, probably the most noted hostelry that Baltimore ever has had. Mr. Baranum used the land as a market garden for the hotel and the house as a residence for himself and a favorite dog, which lived and traveled everywhere with him, the animal running by the side of his buggy when driving.

The "Tanyard," patented by the Balderston family, one of the early names of Baltimore and perpetuated in Balderston street, has long since been divided into a number of farms, the largest of them, after passing from Michael Balderston to his niece, Ruth Timanus, is now owned by the heirs of the late Cumberland Dugan. The old house has long since disappeared, having been absorbed into a modern one.

HOME OF JURISTS.

On the south side of the river in Ann Arundel county (Howard county since 1861) one of the notable places is that formerly belonging to Luther Martin, the noted jurist of Revolutionary days. His kitchen still is intact, having been built into the present mansion. In it hangs an engraved portrait of the jurist by Edwin, commemorative of the fact that he once lived here.

The late Mrs. Charles White had an adjoining farm with a beautiful view of the city and the Chesapeake Bay, while, looking westward, ranges of wooded hills arose one after another for miles and miles.

In post Civil War days this locality was a favorite one for the summer residences of the judiciary of this city, contending for the honor with Lawyers Hill at the Relay. The late Judges William Fell Giles, William A. Stewart and William Merrick all had residences overlooking Ilchester, as did Dr. Bernard B. Brown, a well-known physician. Mr. Ernest Morrison owned the estate now occupied by the Donaldson School.

These families comprised the community and all had fine residences.

MEANS OF ACCESS.

The present idea of difficult access is widely different from what it was in the year 1750, when the main trail for this entire region toward the East came from the Old Annapolis road, six miles away, along the Bonnie Branch to Ilchester, crossed the Patuxent river and passing through the Patuxent State Park, finally found entrance into the Rolling Road between Catonsville and Elbridge.

First a trail, then a wagon road, it persisted until comparatively recently.

It was not until the Ellicott brothers opened the "New Frederick road," from Baltimore to the Mills, thence westward to Carroll's manor, that there was any direct communication with the hub of the State.

PROSPERITY'S BEGINNING.

With the building of the Baltimore and Ohio railway, 1828 to 1830, an era of prosperity began for Ilchester. A cotton print mill was established shortly thereafter on the north bank of the river called the "Thistle" factory, from the home of the owners in Scotland, Messrs. George and William Morris, Scotchmen, came from Philadelphia in 1831 to conduct it, and in 1847 built the stone structure, still used, with a village around it.

Many of the operatives came from Wales. Many of the houses are so typically Welsh in appearance that without the exercise of any imagination, standing in the main street, one might think they were somewhere in North Wales, even to the coloring of the stone walls. Since the days of George Morris and his brother-in-law, William Wallace Spence, the mill has had many vicissitudes, but is being operated again successfully.

BRIDGE AND FLOOD.

When the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad built its first bridge at Ilchester to afford passage over the river to its trains it planned a stone viaduct of great strength and solidity, which the engineers considered would last for all times. In the great cloudburst of 1808, when Ellicott's Mills was partly destroyed, this viaduct was carried away by the rushing waters and disappeared, save one abutment.

The only memory of the Patterson viaduct, named after the early president of the railroad, is a lithograph by Swett, made in 1831, which shows quite an imposing structure, and on its rails are two open carriages, drawn by horses, giving some idea of how our ancestors of less than 100 years ago traveled.

Over Ilchester, on the Howard county side, stand the large buildings of the Seminary of St. Mary, of the Redemptorist Fathers. On their grounds, near the roadway, is the old granite house of George Ellicott, surrounded by a large wooden edifice used as a preparatory school; while on the height above are the brick dwellings of the "Upper House."

This property was acquired by the Redemptorist Order in 1866. The cornerstone of the "college" was laid in September, 1867, with impressive cere-

monies; but the wooden addition to the Ellicott building was not built until 1872. Around these several buildings is a well-kept farm, with gardens, fields and vineyards, attended by the Brothers.

POWER PLANT AND ROADS.

A quarter of a mile eastward, in the bed of the Patuxent, is the unique electric light dam and powerhouse of the Consolidated Gas and Electric Light Company, of this city. It is built under and in the bed of the stream, and is operated by turbine engines. It is the only one of this construction in Maryland and well worth a visit. Power and light are supplied from it to the Ellicott City and Catonsville neighborhoods.

The great need of the Ilchester region, especially that part of it in Baltimore county, is modern roads. For upward of 60 years not a thoroughfare has been constructed through it, and the Beautiful Patuxent State Park of 1,000 acres is entirely inaccessible to the people of the State, not having a single vehicular roadway into it. Were it laid open it would be a joy to thousands.

(Advertisement.)

Thousands Die Who Ought Not to Die

Kidney Troubles Responsible

Never mind how much you pay for a kidney medicine, if it puts your kidney in good shape, banishes that backache and drives puffiness from under the eyes.

Dr. Carey's Marshroot Prescription 777 (made of roots and herbs) costs \$1.50 a package, either in tablet or liquid form, and it's well worth the money.

A stitch in time saves nine—a few days' treatment right now with this amazing medicine may save a life—any heartbreak through grief—and perhaps the breaking up of a happy home.

Never mind what you have tried before—if you get up through the night, if your palms are moist, if you even suspect you have kidney trouble, get Dr. Carey's Marshroot Prescription No. 777 today at Read's Drug & Chemical Co.'s 19 stores, or any druggist anywhere, and if it doesn't help you, if you aren't glad in a week's time that you bought it, go and get your money back—it will be waiting for you.



Best Diamond Sale!

The especially great values we are offering on account of our special purchase has been a great surprise to our numerous customers since this sale began. And the unusually easy terms we are giving persons of approved credit make this a really outstanding diamond event. Secure



H0-739 Davis Grist Mill

HO-739



HO 739

DAVIS MILLS

HOWARD COUNTY, MARYLAND

HENRY K. SHARP

NOVEMBER 1998

MARYLAND SHPO

FEATURE A, VIEW SOUTHEAST

1/7



HO 739

DAVIS MILLS

HOWARD COUNTY, MARYLAND

HENRY K. SHARP

MARCH 1997

MARYLAND SHPO

PHASE ONE MILL BUILDING SITE (VIEW SOUTHWEST
(NOW DESTROYED))

2/7



HO 739

DAVIS MILLS

HOWARD COUNTY, MARYLAND

HENRY K SHARP

NOVEMBER 1998

MARYLAND SHPO

FEATURE B, VIEW SOUTHEAST

3/7



HO 739

DAVIS MILLS

HOWARD COUNTY, MARYLAND

HENRY K. SHARP

MARCH 1992

MARYLAND SHPO

BUILDING C, FOREGROUND. BUILDING D BACKGROUND
VIEW NORTHWEST

4/7



HO 739

DAVIS MILLS

HOWARD COUNTY, MARYLAND

HENRY K SHARP

NOVEMBER 1998

MARYLAND SHPO

BUILDING D, FOREGROUND, BUILDING C BACKGROUND
VIEW EAST

5/7



HO 239

DAVIS MILLS

HOWARD COUNTY, MARYLAND

HENRY K. SHARP

NOVEMBER 1998

MARYLAND SHPO

STRUCTURE E, VIEW SOUTH

6/7



HO 739

DAVIS MILLS

HOWARD COUNTY, MARYLAND

HENRY M. SHARP

JUNE 1949

MARYLAND SHED (FILED WITH HO 737)

FEATURE 4, AT REAR STONE WALL, VIEW NORTH-
WEST

7/2

Addendum to Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. HO-739

Page 1 of 10

Name of Property: Davis Mill

Location: Ilchester, Howard County

Description:

The Davis Mill property consists of two buildings now under separate ownership, plus the remains of mill infrastructure such as the dam and race, part of which belong to a third owner. The former mill proper is located at 4450 Bonnie Branch Road and no further examination of the building, or any infrastructure, was made at this time. The dwelling at 4456 Bonnie Branch Road, which was undergoing significant repairs, alterations and additions, was thoroughly documented during the repairs and alterations and is described below.

Exterior

The house at 4456 Bonnie Branch Road is located on the north side of the road, with one gable end facing the road and set very close to it. The front of the house faces east toward the mill. There is a steep hill to the north of the house, with stone retaining walls and the mill race running west to east along this hill, north of the house. While the hill slopes down to the south, the general grade of the land and the road also slopes down to the east. The Bonnie Branch stream runs from west to east along the south side of the road, eventually emptying into the Patapsco River.

The house is a 1 ½-story, three-bay by two-bay structure on a raised basement of random rubble stone. It is of frame with asbestos shingle siding and has a gable roof with asphalt shingles and a north-south ridge. There is a one-story, three-bay by one-bay shed-roofed addition on the west with the same materials. A small added wing, on the west side of the addition, is set to the south.

The east elevation basement is exposed. The south and center bays each have a door opening that appears to be original, with a new metal door in each. There is a seam in the stone wall between the center and north bays, with the stone to the north added. The north bay has a six-over-three sash with a wood sill and a beaded-interior-edge frame. The first story has a new deck and stairs added to the south and center bays. The south bay has a door with nine lights over a cross buck. The center and north bays each have a wood six-over-six sash with blinds. The eaves are open and have a plain fascia board. There are two shed-roofed dormers with a wood six-over-six sash, and a brick chimney in the center of the ridge. Beneath the asbestos shingles at the southeast corner are vertical boards painted white, with the ghost of a batten at the seams.

The south elevation has rubble stone under both the wing and the addition. The basement of the main block has a doorway near the west corner that has been infilled with rubble stone. The east bay has a window with a wood six-over-six sash, with a wood sill and blinds. The opening appears to have been cut through later, having mostly small stones at the jambs, though this is

Prepared by: Ken Short

Date: October 2022

Addendum to Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. HO-739

Page 2 of 10

Name of Property: Davis Mill

Location: Ilchester, Howard County

not definite on the exterior. The first story of the wing has a window with the blinds closed. The addition has one wood six-over-six sash with blinds, and the main block has two such windows on the first story. The gable end has a small one-light opening.

The west elevation of the addition has a door in the north bay with nine lights over a cross buck. The center bay has a window with a two-light sash. The south bay contains the wing addition and this wall has stockade fence covering it; it appears to have a doorway set to the north.

The north elevation of the basement is mostly set into the hill. The first story east bay has no opening and the west bay has a wood six-over-six sash. The addition also has a similar sash. The gable end has a small, boarded-up opening.

Interior, basement

The basement has a concrete floor and remnants of plaster on the stone walls. There is a ghost in the floor of a partition wall in the center, where the brick chimney is, that ran east-west. On the east wall between the two doors, at floor level, is a hole in the wall that is built-in, not cut through later. Whether this was meant as a drain, or a pocket for a sill that supported stable partitions, is not clear. The first-story joists are circular-sawn 3 by 8s that run east-west and are spaced 23 ½ to 27 inches on centers. They have cross-bracing with cut nails and were once lathed and plastered. A new summer beam has been added under the center of them. The window on the south elevation has brick in the west jamb and some brick in the east jamb, as though it was cut through later. There is a straight-run stairway on the south wall that ascends to the west. It has one tread added at the bottom, probably when the concrete floor was installed and some excavation was done. There is a hard edge in the plaster where a wall stood just west of the edge of the second step. The stairwell header has been cut out and moved to the east, probably when the extra step has added. There was a mirror stair on the north wall and the flooring at the north end was recently been replaced because it was rotten. The flooring above that survives is circular-sawn.

Interior, first story

The first story walls and ceiling have been stripped of lath and plaster. The floor is tongue-and-grooved pine that varies between 2 ½ and 3 ¾ inches wide and runs north-south. The main block was clearly built in two stages. The southern half has sash-sawn 6-inch by 6-inch square corner posts, with one 6 by 6 post in the center of each wall. The corner posts have down-braces that are toenailed with cut nails. They have a horizontal mid-rail with a waney edge that is tenoned into the posts and set flush with the outer face as a nailer for sash-sawn vertical board siding. There is no mid-rail, however, in the northern half of the original west wall, between the west-

Prepared by: Ken Short

Date: October 2022

Addendum to Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. HO-739

Page 3 of 10

Name of Property: Davis Mill

Location: Ilchester, Howard County

center post and the northwest corner post, and neither post has mortises for a missing mid-rail. Studs are added in later, mostly in two pieces that break at the mid-rail, and they are set back from the siding, being flush with the interior faces of the posts; they contain plaster burns. A plate and second-story joists were added at the same time, too. The joists are circular-sawn, are 3 by 6 inches, are spaced 20 ¼ to 27 ¼ inches on centers and run east-west. On the east elevation the south bay doorway has new pressure-treated jambs and there is no evidence whether this was ever an opening originally. The center bay window appears to be added when the studs were added, and the same is true for the two south elevation windows. The original northeast corner post was covered with lath and plaster running to the south, but the wall running to the north was thinner, leaving about 1 inch or so of the north face of the post exposed in the room, so that the east wall of the north unit had a break in it. The ceiling lath is circular-sawn and fastened with cut nails. There was a partition wall in the center, part of which still survives in the western half of the building, where there are back-to-back stairs. There are several studs missing at the east end of this wall, but the nail evidence for them is very clear. The brick chimney passes up through this area and it jogs to the north at the first-floor level, with a joist built into it at the second-floor level. Each unit was also divided into two rooms by a partition wall running north-south, located at the east end of the stairway from the basement. Only several studs near the stairway to the attic survive, but there are clear ghosts and nail evidence in the ceiling of the missing studs. The doorway in this room partition in the southern unit had been widened in the twentieth century, the header still being in place and having wire nails. The stairs are enclosed and each has a winder at the bottom and then turns to ascend to the east in a straight run. There was a four-panel door at the bottom of the stairs, now taken down but still in the building. The stringer on each is sash-sawn and is nailed over top of the wall lath. Beneath each set of stairs was a closet, and the studs for the closet were put in after the ceiling was lathed. On the west wall the south bay has a doorway with the stud that was in the middle of the present opening having been cut and moved to the north to create the north door jamb; clearly there was no door here originally. The framing for the northern half of the main block was added later. It is all built with 3-inch by 4-inch circular-sawn studs, with two mid-rails toenailed between the studs with cut nails. These were also to attach vertical-board siding. The corner posts are of the same dimensions as the studs, with down-braces nailed to them. The second-story joists are identical to those on the southern half of the main block. On the east elevation, the north bay window appears to be original to the addition. The north elevation had a window opening in the center that was later moved to the west bay of the main block. The west elevation has a doorway that was cut through at a later date.

The shed-roofed addition has 3-inch to 4 ¼-inch tongue-and-grooved pine flooring that runs north-south. The floor in the north half is now a combination of concrete and plywood with

Prepared by: Ken Short

Date: October 2022

Addendum to Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. HO-739

Page 4 of 10

Name of Property: Davis Mill

Location: Ilchester, Howard County

linoleum. There is the ghost of a wall that ran east-west in the center of the addition. There was a brick chimney centered on the west wall, where the ghost of the partition wall is; the remains of this chimney were recently removed. The addition is built with circular-sawn studs that are 3 inches by 4, with one mid-rail toenailed between the studs with cut nails, and with vertical-board siding on the exterior. The corner posts are 4 by 4 inches and the ceiling joists are 2 by 4 inches. The rafters are nailed to a ledger board running along the main block's west wall. The northwest corner is rotted and has brick nogging between the studs that was probably added because of the rot. The west face of the original center post in the main block west wall was cut back an inch prior to lathing and plastering the wall, which opened up the mortise for the mid-rail on the southern face of the post; there was no mortise on the northern face. On the northwest corner post a nailer for lath was attached to the south face and was recessed about 1 inch back of the west face of the post. On the southwest corner post the northwestern corner was left exposed in the addition room, with about 1 inch painted white. Where the west wall of the shed-roofed addition is captured by the later wing the joists have gutter hooks still attached. They are for half-round gutters, with a bend near either end to hold both top edges of the gutter in place, and the outer end of the hanger is extended to use for leverage in pulling the hanger loose from the gutter.

Beneath the floor of the southern half of the shed-roofed addition is a rubble stone retaining wall running east-west. The east end aligns with the original center post of the west wall of the main block and the west end aligns with the west doorway.

Interior, attic story

The upper story has also had all the lath and plaster removed from the walls and ceiling. The flooring spans the entire expanse and is tongue-and-grooved pine that runs north-south and varies between 2 ½ and 4 inches wide. At the south end the girt is 4 by 4 inches and is mortised and tenoned and pegged to the posts. All the studs are added. There are two sets of rafters in the southern half of the main block. The originals are spaced 39 inches on centers and are tapered, being 3 inches deep at the ridge and 4 inches deep at the foot, by 2 ½ inches wide. They have few tool marks but seem to be sash-sawn. The feet are mitered and extend beyond the eaves. The rafters are mitered and butted at the ridge. Board collars have been added to these rafters, being circular sawn 1 by 7s that are fastened with cut nails. Between these rafters other rafters have been added in. The feet of these additions do not extend beyond the eaves and they do not go up past the collar beams, which they also have. The roof sheathing on the southern half is original and is mostly 15-inch-wide boards. On the northern half these boards extend about 11 inches past the original north end rafter of the building and are whitewashed on the bottom face where they were exposed, except for 1 inch against the rafter where the siding was. This

Prepared by: Ken Short

Date: October 2022

Addendum to Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. HO-739

Page 5 of 10

Name of Property: Davis Mill

Location: Ilchester, Howard County

indicates that the original building did not have rake boards. The dormers on the east are added on top of riven shingles and are constructed with cut nails. The captured shingles appear to have had little weathering. A stud wall running east-west divides this space in two where the chimney is. There are no breaks in the original sheathing other than for the existing chimney, indicating that there was no internal chimney originally. The rafters in the northern half of the building all match the rafters added in to the southern half but extend up to the ridge.

Significance:

The Davis Mill apparently originated as part of the Ilchester Mill property of George Ellicott, Jr. that he inherited from his father, George Ellicott, Sr. The trustees for the division of his father's property stated in the March, 1839 deed that they were "... allotting to George Ellicott Jr. as a part or whole of his share as the case may be, the Dismal or Ilchester Mill at the estimated value of twelve thousand dollars" They included a plat of the property, locating the mill between the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad and the Patapsco River, with the southern-most corner of the lot on the south side of the Bonny Branch. In the 1849 tax assessments for Howard County, George Ellicott is charged with an additional assessment for a stone mill valued at \$1,000, which is almost certainly what would shortly become the Davis Mill. It is possible that Ellicott was operating the Ilchester mill as a merchant mill, shipping the products on the railroad into Baltimore, while his new, smaller mill was meant as a country mill for the benefit of local farmers' personal needs. By the 1830s Ellicott's Lower Mills in Ellicott City had two separate stone mills operating in this manner, which George Ellicott would have known intimately and was likely copying. George Ellicott was not operating either of his mills in 1850. The Ilchester Mill, with six pairs of burrs, was apparently being run by a nephew, Bayliss E. Tyson, and was valued at \$50,000. He had seven employees assisting him in the operation. In comparison the country mill, with two pairs of burrs, was being run by Joshua Davis and was only valued at \$100. It was primarily grinding corn and rye, and chop for feeding livestock, and Davis only had two employees. Not surprisingly, there were also two coopers and a blacksmith in Ilchester. Davis was listed in the census as a 28-year-old miller who was married and had one child. He had real estate valued at \$500, which must have been a house in the area.¹

¹ Howard County Land Records, JLM 2-1. Howard County Land Records, JLM 2-119. See also Henry K. Sharp, "Davis Mills" (HO-737), *Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties*, Maryland Historical Trust, 1998. Howard County Commissioners, Transfer Book, 1841-51, Maryland State Archives, p. 155. Henry K. Sharp, *The Patapsco River Valley: Cradle of the Industrial Revolution in Maryland* (Baltimore: Maryland Historical Society, 2001), pp. 16-19. U. S. Bureau of the Census, Census of Manufactures, Howard District, Anne Arundel County, Maryland, 1850. U. S. Bureau of the Census, Howard District, Anne Arundel County, Maryland, 1850.

Prepared by: Ken Short

Date: October 2022

Addendum to Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. HO-739

Page 6 of 10

Name of Property: Davis Mill

Location: Ilchester, Howard County

George Ellicott cut the Bonny Branch Mill off on three acres and sold it to Joshua B. Davis in 1857 for \$2,000. While the business was in no way as profitable as the merchant mill, it was still lucrative enough that Davis was able to earn enough to purchase it in just seven years, though he took out a mortgage on the mill for \$2,000. The mortgage took not only the mill as security, but another property Davis had bought in 1853 from Samuel N. France that was probably his home. The 1860 Martenet map shows the grist and saw mill on Bonnie Branch Road at the intersection with Ilchester Road, but shows Davis living further up Ilchester Road, at the intersection with Landing Road, just southwest of S. France. The purchase of the mill was reflected in the 1860 census, where the 38-year-old Davis's real estate was now valued at \$4,000. The census of manufactures listed the mill at \$2,000, while the Ilchester Mill was valued at \$150,000. Davis still had two employees and was still producing mostly corn meal, with a little bit of wheat flour. In early 1872 Davis sold the mill for \$6,000 to Matilda Esler, the wife of Ilchester's grocery store operator, Alexander Esler. This was most likely intended as an investment for the couple who were in their 30s. Matilda died two years later and the 1876 tax assessment listed the mill under Alexander's name, as heir. The 2 ½ acres of land was valued at \$250 and the mill was valued at \$2,250. The property was sold in 1877 for only \$2,300. The decline in value may have reflected neglect over the past three to five years, since the deed stipulated that the purchaser had to "... put the mill and buildings on said premises in good repair and to cause the same to be insured against fire to the amount of at least one thousand dollars" This clause was required because the purchaser, Mary Hause, was only paying part of the purchase price in cash and the remainder in promissory notes. Mary's husband, Benjamin, was a miller and the Hauses were living near Ellicott City in 1870. It is not clear if Benjamin worked at the Gambrill Mill or another, but presumably the Hauses were purchasing the mill for him to operate. At this time the mill seems to have been known, at least informally, as the Bonny Branch Mill. Mary died at their residence in Ilchester in 1879 and according to the 1880 census Benjamin, who was now 50, lived in Baltimore County, probably across the river from Ilchester.²

At the time of Mary Hause's death the mill was being foreclosed upon, and it was offered for sale in May 1879. Located "... about 300 yards from Ilchester Depot . . . ," it was described as "... being the property lately occupied by Joshua Davis and now in the possession of Benjamin F. Hause." Given that Davis had sold the mill seven years earlier, it would hardly seem that he

² Simon J. Martenet, *Martenet's Map of Howard County, Maryland* (Baltimore, 1860). { U. S. Bureau of the Census, District 2, Howard County, Maryland, 1860. U. S. Bureau of the Census, Census of Manufactures, District 2, Howard County, Maryland, 1860. U. S. Bureau of the Census, District 2, Howard County, Maryland, 1870. Howard County Commissioners of the Tax, Assessment, District 2, 1876-96, Maryland State Archives. *Baltimore Sun*, 15 October 1874, p. 2. *Ellicott City (Maryland) Times*, 18 August 1877, p. 2. *Baltimore Sun*, 7 April 1879, p. 2. U. S. Bureau of the Census, District 2, Howard County, Maryland, 1880.

Addendum to Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. HO-739

Page 7 of 10

Name of Property: Davis Mill

Location: Ilchester, Howard County

had lately occupied it, unless he rented it from the Eslers after he sold it. The advertisement also noted: "It is improved by a substantial two story stone mill house with two pairs of burrs, and good water power, with a good country custom There is also upon the premises a good stable and other necessary outbuildings." This notice is most significant in documenting that there were no tenant houses on the property yet, and the stable thus had not yet been converted (see below). The mill was purchased by the mortgage-holder, Gerhardt Brunsman, a 59-year-old farmer living near Oella. Brunsman probably bought the mill simply because it was not going to sell for enough to cover his investment in it, though he apparently put his son Augustus in charge of operating it; the State business directory for 1880 listed A. Brunsman as the miller at Ilchester. Given that Hause was still living in the area in 1880 and listed his occupation as a miller, it is possible that he rented the mill from Brunsman. This did not last, since in the 1887 directory the miller here was Z. Duvall. In 1891 Brunsman was assessed for "2 houses at mill property" worth \$200. In early 1893 it was noted that the mill was run by J. P. Tyrrell and that the house here, recently occupied by Milford Spicer, was now occupied by George Moore. Presumably, this was one half of the duplex. It was also noted that Brunsman intended to build ". . . two fine new houses . . ." very shortly. In October of that year a local correspondent noted: "Mr. August Brunsman, who owns the grist mill and several tenant houses near Ilchester, has purchased a lot from Mr. Mathew Powers where several years ago he carried on blacksmithing. The old shop has been torn down and workmen have begun to erect a large double dwelling." This must have been on a different site than the building under consideration and it is not known if it survives, but it illustrates both what was occurring around the mill at the time and the continued popularity for duplex workers housing. This was presumably the new house worth \$400 that Brunsman was assessed for in 1894. Brunsman had acquired a 323-acre farm by the time he died in 1896 and his son, Joseph, purchased the mill and the farm the following year. Joseph was also a farmer, living near Ellicott City on the Howard County side, and the mill was almost certainly just an investment for him, as well. It is not known who may have been operating the mill at this time. According to the tax assessment, a house valued at \$500 was washed away in 1907, which may have been the new one noted in 1894. Brunsman sold the mill in 1918 to the Redemptorists who ran the St. Mary's Seminary in Ilchester, and they apparently continued to lease it to a miller. In a 1924 Baltimore Sun article on Ilchester the Davis Mill was pictured, with a caption stating: "This old grist mill at Ilchester was built more than one and one-half centuries ago. It still has the original wooden machinery of that time. The miller is in his eighty-seventh year." The photo is definitely the Davis Mill, though at that time the stone building was a full two stories, with doors in the center of both stories on the road elevation and a dormer with door in the roof. Unfortunately, the article did not name the 87-year-old miller. The author may have confused this mill with the earlier Dismal Mill that had preceded the Ilchester Mill, since this mill on the Bonnie Branch was only about 75 years old, but given the mill's limited and probably

Addendum to Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. HO-739

Page 8 of 10

Name of Property: Davis Mill

Location: Ilchester, Howard County

declining use, it is not surprising that it still retained much early equipment. However, its days as a functioning mill were numbered. The mill building was converted to a water pump house for the seminary in 1929. Most likely it was a victim of changing agricultural, social, and economic patterns that had been gradually closing traditional grist mills for decades.³

According to Cugle family tradition, Frank and Mary Cugle rented this house (or at least part of it) in the 1920s. Frank was 52 and worked in a cotton duck mill in 1920, and Mary (Molly) was 46; they had seven children living with them in 1920, and two boarders. They were also employed heating the St. Mary's school building and working in the laundry there. Frank Cugle died in 1932 and it is not clear whether the Cugles were still living in this house at that time, nor whether Mary continued to live here, but she had apparently moved to another house in Ilchester prior to her death in 1945. She also worked as a midwife and operated a boarding house after Frank Cugle's death. This area was known as Smokey Hollow. The college closed in 1979 and by 1993 the mill was just stone walls, having lost its roof and interior floors. Whether this was the result of fire or simply neglect is not clear at this time. The ruins of the mill were converted into a residence in 1994, while the stable was converted from a duplex to a single-family home at an unknown date.⁴

The building was constructed as a stable about 20 feet square, with horses housed on the lower story and storage for hay and a wagon or carriage on the upper story. Banked barns such as this were common in the German-settled parts of Maryland to the west but were still rather rare at this time in Howard County. The east elevation had two doorways, possibly into pens for two horses, and the south elevation had a doorway at the west end probably to a feeding aisle that ran the length of the stable. The upper story only had one access, large wagon doors (most likely on pairs of hinges, though no evidence was found for any type of original hardware) in the north half of the west wall. This is the only portion of the original stable frame that never had a mid-

³ *Ellicott City (Maryland) Times*, 3 May 1879, p. 3. *Baltimore Sun*, 5 February 1892, p. 2. *Baltimore Sun*, 31 December 1896, p. 4. G. M. Hopkins, *Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland*, 1877. John McGrain, "Molinography in Maryland," typescript, Maryland Historical Society, "Davis Mill." U. S. Bureau of the Census, District 2, Howard County, Maryland, 1880. *Ellicott City (Maryland) Times*, 18 March 1893, p. 3. *Ellicott City (Maryland) Times*, 14 October 1893, p. 3. Howard County Commissioners of the Tax, Assessment, District 2, 1876-96, Maryland State Archives. U. S. Bureau of the Census, District 2, Howard County, Maryland, 1900. Howard County Commissioners of the Tax, Assessment, District 2, 1896-1910, Maryland State Archives. Henry J. Berkley, "Rambles in the Rugged Regions of Ilchester." *Baltimore Sun*, 16 March 1924, p. FS2. Quoted in McGrain, "Molinography."

⁴ Marvin Muhlhausen, "A Story of the Ancestors and Descendants of William Franklin Cugle and Mary Louise Moore," typescript, (Ellicott City, 1992), pp. 11-3 – 11-4.

Addendum to Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. HO-739

Page 9 of 10

Name of Property: Davis Mill

Location: Ilchester, Howard County

rail to stiffen the vertical-board siding that still survives on the building under later coverings. The doorway was accessed via an earthen ramp, and there was a stone retaining wall on the south side of this ramp. The stable was likely built c. 1850. Later in the nineteenth century the building was enlarged to the north and converted to living space and as part of that conversion. The northern wall of the stable was taken down and a new partition wall built a little to the north of it in the addition to create a duplex. The first story joists and flooring were completely removed and a new floor inserted, with stairways at the north and south ends to get up to the first floor. The only access into each dwelling unit was from the original doorways in the east wall of the lower story. A brick chimney stack was built in the center of the new partition wall for stoves in the lower story, which must have become the kitchen for each unit. Thus, entrance was into the basement kitchen. The northern unit was given a window in the new east wall of the basement, but the southern unit did not have a window, so one was cut through at the east end of the south wall. The doorway at the west end of this wall into the basement was no longer needed and was closed off. On the first story each unit was divided into two rooms; one was certainly a parlor and may have combined as a dining room. The other room could have been a separate dining room, or could have provided sleeping arrangements, perhaps for the parents. The stairways from this period remain along the partition wall, not aligned with the stairs from the basement. Two windows were added in the south wall, one for each room of the southern unit, and the present doorway on the east was probably originally another window, providing two windows to the east room. In the northern unit a window was added in the east wall of the stable and a second in the east wall of the expansion to get two windows into the east room. A window opening on the north wall was apparently located where the partition wall for the two rooms was placed and had to be moved to the west to provide one window for the western room of this unit. The west wall apparently had no openings added to it. An attic floor was added at the same time to provide sleeping arrangements for each unit, with a dormer on the east side to provide light and air. The underside of the roof retains the original sheathing boards of the stable, which end just past where the north wall stood and retain paint ghosts of the siding, without rake boards, that stood here. There is no surviving evidence that the attic story of either unit was subdivided. At a later date in the nineteenth century the shed-roofed wing was added to the west providing an additional first-floor room for each unit, with a doorway cut through the west wall into this new room. A chimney was added on the partition wall between both rooms, at the west end, and an exterior door in the west wall. These rooms were most likely intended as new kitchens, moving them up out of the basement.

There are several interesting features related to the conversion of the building. Because the addition was built with stud walls, and thus had thinner walls than the original stable, the east wall where the old and new sections joined had a break in it. Because the northern unit was

Prepared by: Ken Short

Date: October 2022

Addendum to Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. HO-739

Page 10 of 10

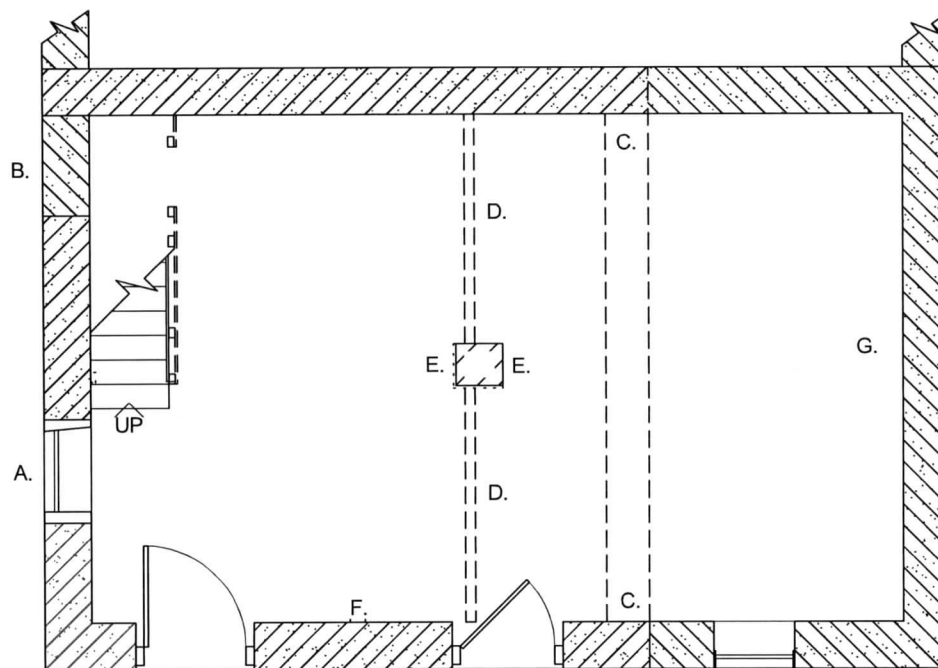
Name of Property: Davis Mill

Location: Ilchester, Howard County

configured partly in the old section as well as in the addition, this break in the wall was in the middle of the eastern room's eastern wall, where everyone would see it. A similar issue occurred when the shed-roofed addition was put on the west. For unknown reasons the original west-center post was cut back on the west face, thus being completely hidden in the wall, but the northwest corner of the southwestern corner post was not cut back, so the corner was exposed in the room and painted over. The northwest corner post also was not cut back, and as a result, there was a break in the wall here, too, as there was in the east wall earlier.

The stable was likely constructed in 1849-1850, along with the mill, though it is possible that it was added by Davis shortly after he acquired the property in 1857. The building seems to have remained a stable in 1879, based on the description at the time of sale. Based on an examination of the fabric the conversion to two dwellings probably came in the 1880s, perhaps as a result of needing additional labor, and thus housing for them. The tax record for two houses on the property in 1891, noted above, probably records this change in the building, made one or more years earlier. Young single apprentices would often be housed with the miller's family, but this housing in the converted stable was clearly geared toward families. It is also possible that Hause or Brunsman were responding to a need in the community, and not their own needs. In the deadly 1868 flood of the Patapsco the Ilchester Mill was reportedly "... almost totally destroyed, only a part of it remaining standing." There was no mention made of other buildings along the Patapsco in Ilchester, but likely some small buildings were also swept away.⁵ Once the continued viability of the Ilchester settlement was assured, property owners may have responded by gradually adding more housing. The expansion of the duplex to the rear, moving the kitchens out of the basement, seems to have followed soon after the conversion to housing, if not in the 1880s, then certainly in the 1890s. Additional valuable information, especially related to the other infrastructure of the milling operation, can be found in the original inventory form for this site.

⁵ *Baltimore Sun*, 27 July 1868, p. 1.



NOTES:

A. WINDOW CUT THROUGH LATER.

B. ORIGINAL DOORWAY CLOSED OFF.

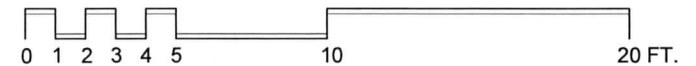
C. ORIGINAL GABLE END WALL REMOVED.

D. WALL LOCATION INDICATED IN REMAINS OF PLASTER ON BRICK.

E. STOVE PIPE THIMBLE LOCATED HERE, JUST BELOW CEILING.

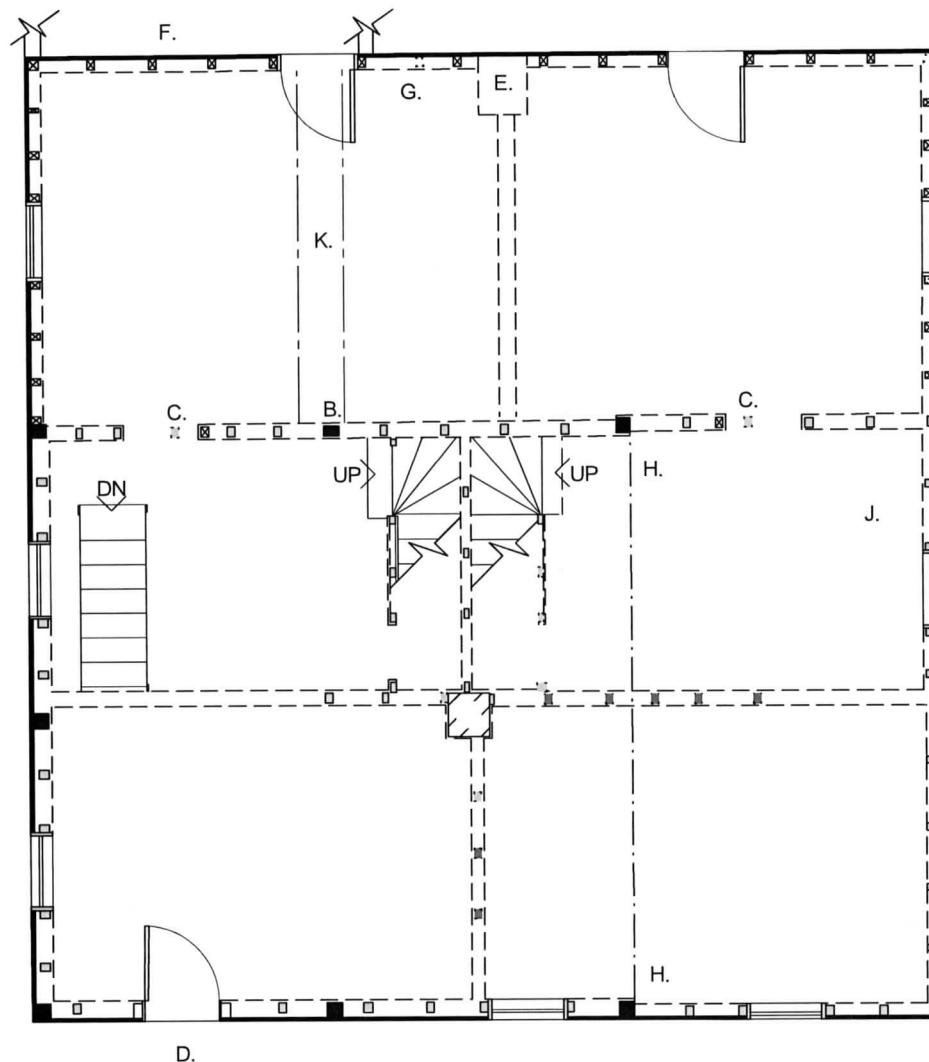
F. SQUARE OPENING IN WALL AT FLOOR LEVEL, 7 INCHES TALL, CLOSED OFF WITH STONE ON EXTERIOR. WHETHER IT WAS OPENED THROUGH THE WHOLE WALL UNDETERMINED.

G. STAIRWAY, JOISTS, AND FIRST-STORY FLOORING IN THIS LOCATION ROTTED AND REMOVED.



HO-739 DAVIS MILL DWELLINGS 4456 BONNIE BRANCH ROAD

BASEMENT PLAN -- MEASURED BY KEN SHORT, PETE MORRILL, & KAREN BEST -- DRAWN BY KEN SHORT -- JANUARY 2020



NOTES:

A. WINDOW OPENING FRAMED OUT BUT APPARENTLY CLOSED OFF AND NEVER USED.

B. CENTER POST CUT BACK WHEN SHED ADDITION CONSTRUCTED ON REAR.

C. STUDS MOVED OVER TO CREATE DOORWAYS INTO SHED ADDITION ON REAR.

D. MODERN DOORWAY CUT THROUGH, WITH NEW STUDS. NO CLEAR EVIDENCE OF EARLIER WINDOW OPENING HERE.

E. BRICK CHIMNEY STACK TAKEN DOWN RECENTLY.

F. MODERN ADDITION NOT SHOWN.

G. MODERN WINDOW HERE NOT SHOWN TO SHOW STUD.

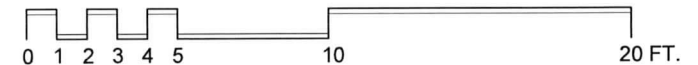
H. LOCATION OF ORIGINAL END WALL.

J. FLOOR REPLACED. FRAGMENTARY STAIRWAY REMOVED, LEAVING NO EVIDENCE.

K. RUBBLE STONE RETAINING WALL, PRESUMABLY TO CREATE RAMP FOR ACCESS INTO UPPER LEVEL OF ORIGINAL STABLE, NOW UNDER FLOOR. EXPOSED WHEN FLOOR TAKEN UP.

LATH AND PLASTER AND TRIM REMOVED FROM ALL WALLS. ALL DOORS REMOVED – ORIGINAL LOCATIONS OF HINGES AND SWINGS UNDETERMINED. MISSING STUDS SHOWN DOTTED IN, BASED ON SCARS ON CEILING AND FLOOR.

- PERIOD 1 POSTS
- PERIOD 2 STUDS
- ⊠ PERIOD 3 STUDS
- PERIOD 4 STUDS



HO-739 DAVIS MILL DWELLINGS 4456 BONNIE BRANCH ROAD

FIRST FLOOR PLAN -- MEASURED BY KEN SHORT, PETE MORRILL, & KAREN BEST -- DRAWN BY KEN SHORT -- JANUARY 2020

Davis Mill (HO-739)
4456 Bonnie Branch Road
CHAIN OF TITLE

GRANTOR/HOME	GRANTEE/HOME	DATE	LIBER/ FOLIO	INSTRU- MENT	CONSID- ERATION	ACREAGE	NOTES
The Redemptorists / MD crop	Impus E. Delectii Karen M. Best / ?	14 December 2018	WAR 18491-224	Deed - Fee Simple	\$110,000	.459A	See out conveyance to Michael Nibali 3 April 1980, 995-666
Joseph A. Brunzman & wife Mary A. / Howard	The Redemptorists / ?	27 May 1918	HBN 105-321	Deed - Fee Simple	\$5.00	3.47A	Land first named in deed below.
Margaret A. Westfall & husband Herman C. Frederick F. Brunzman & wife Jane August F. Brunzman & wife Virginia	Joseph A. Brunzman	13 October 1897	JHO 67-594	Deed - Fee Simple	\$4,000	1. Howard Co. 2. Baltimore City 3. Baltimore City	Gerhard H. Brunzman d. intestate & unmarried grantors & grantee are his only heirs make partition of RE land in Baltimore City & Baltimore & Howard Counties
Henry E. Wootton, attorney & trustee / Howard	Gerhard H. Brunzman / ?	21 June 1888	LJW 53-386	Deed – _____	\$1,600	3-1-29 ARP	Mortgage from Benjamin. Hause to Gerhard Brunzman 4 September 1877, 38-312 Public sale 19 May 1879 Matilda Esler died interstate & childless (1)
James Brady & wife Mary Jane William Welsh & wife Elizabeth / ?	Benjamin F. Hause & wife Mary A. / ?	1 September 1877	LJW 38-315	Deed – Indenture	\$2,300	3-1-29 ARP	\$1500 paid in cash, rest by note Grantors are heirs of Matilda Esler. “And the said parties of the second part hereby covenant with the parties of the first part to put the mill and buildings on said premises in good repair and to cause the same to be insured against fire to the amount of at least one thousand dollars...” (1)
Joshua B. Davis and wife Ann Rebecca / Howard	Matilda Esler / Howard	30 April 1872	WWW 32-285	Deed – Fee Simple	\$6,000	3-1-29 ARP	(1)

Davis Mill (HO-739)
4456 Bonnie Branch Road
CHAIN OF TITLE

GRANTOR/HOME	GRANTEE/HOME	DATE	LIBER/ FOLIO	INSTRU- MENT	CONSID- ERATION	ACREAGE	NOTES
George Ellicott and wife Agnes B / Howard	Joshua B. Davis / Howard	21 August 1857	WHW 18-362	Deed – Indenture	\$2,000	3-1-29 ARP	p/o Caleb's Vineyard, Ellicotts Park & Haywards Discovery mortgage to John Dabbs, 18- 364 - \$2,000 JBD's wife is Ann R. – Geo Ellicott reserves right to use road over western end of this land – includes the water power – includes land to J.B. Davis from Samuel N. France & wife, 18 May 1853, WHW 13-494 [No previous reference]

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

Inventory No: HO-739

Name: Davis Mill
Continuation Sheet

Number Photos Page 1

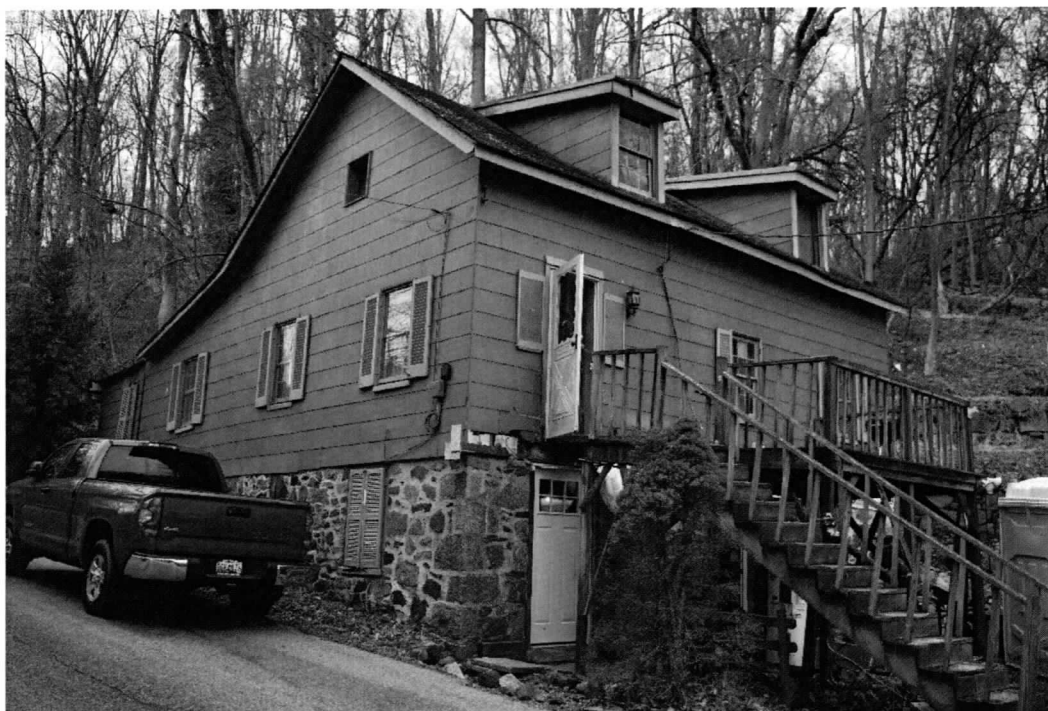


Photo 1 of 15: House, south & east elevations. 1/2/2020



Photo 2 of 15: House, east & north elevations, with retaining walls. 1/2/2020

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

Inventory No: HO-739

Name: Davis Mill
Continuation Sheet

Number Photos Page 2



Photo 3 of 15: House, north elevation from northwest. 1/2/2020



Photo 4 of 15: House, interior, first story east elevation of original section. 1/2/2020

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

Inventory No: HO-739

Name: Davis Mill
Continuation Sheet

Number Photos Page 3

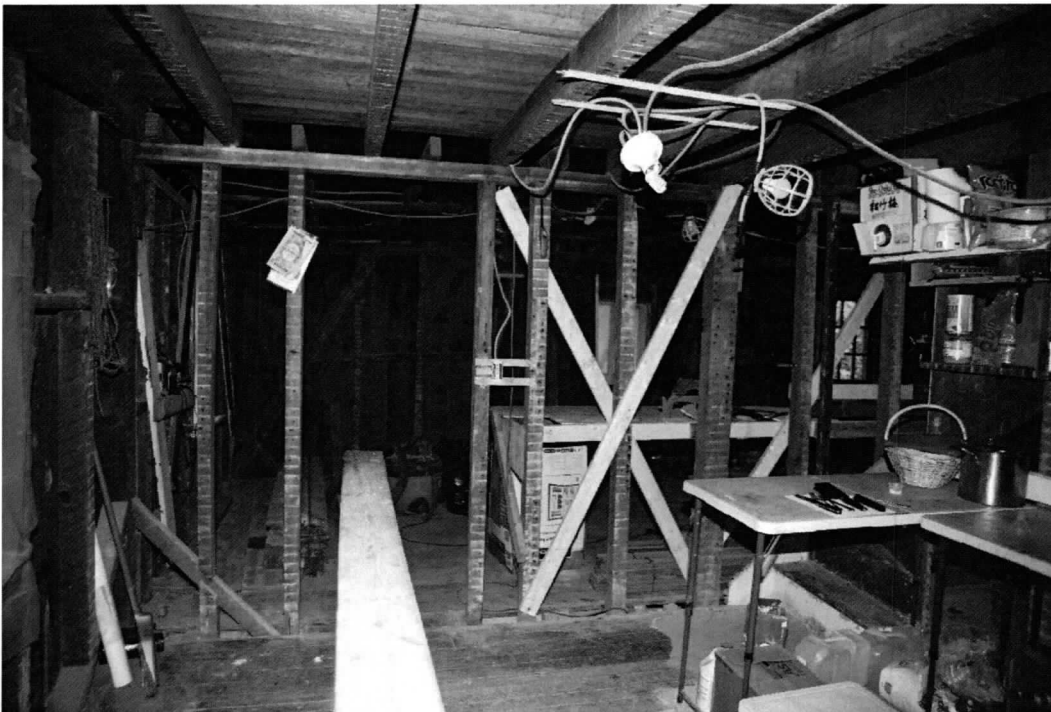


Photo 5 of 15: House, interior, first story, west elevation in original section. 1/2/2020

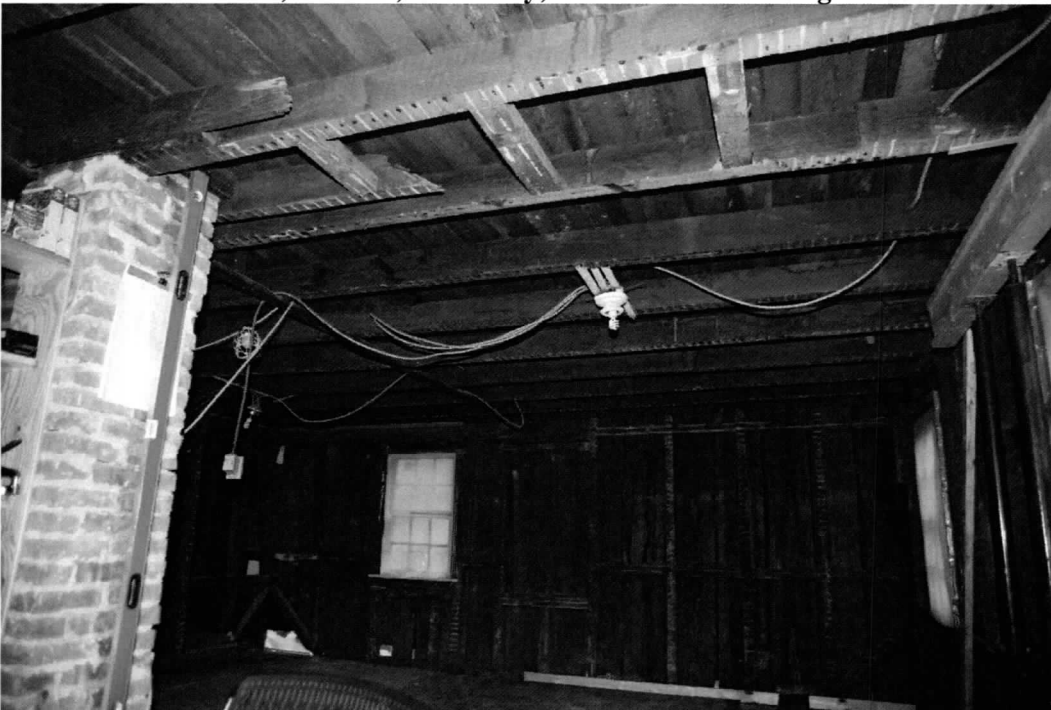


Photo 6 of 15: House, interior, first story, view north into north addition. 1/2/2020

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

Inventory No: HO-739

Name: Davis Mill
Continuation Sheet

Number Photos Page 4



Photo 7 of 15: House, interior, first story, east elevation of north addition. 1/2/2020

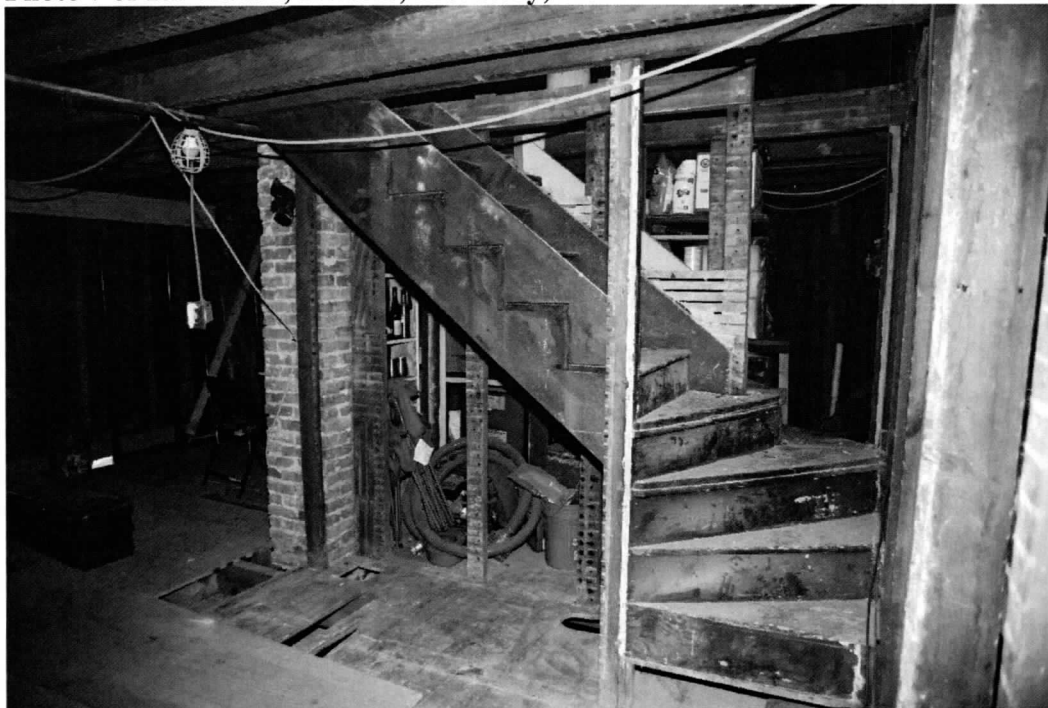


Photo 8 of 15: House, interior, first story, stairs in north addition. 1/2/2020

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

Inventory No: HO-739

Name: Davis Mill
Continuation Sheet

Number Photos Page 5



Photo 9 of 15: House, interior, view of back-to-back stairs looking down from attic. 1/2/2020



Photo 10 of 15: House, interior, view of original braced frame with inserted studs, ledger boards and joists. West wall, view from east side. 1/2/2020

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

Inventory No: HO-739

Name: Davis Mill
Continuation Sheet

Number Photos Page 6



Photo 11 of 15: House, interior, attic story, view east of north addition. 1/2/2020



Photo 12 of 15: House, interior, attic story, shingles on east captured under dormer. 1/2/2020

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

Inventory No: HO-739

Name: Davis Mill
Continuation Sheet

Number Photos Page 7



Photo 13 of 15: House, interior, gutter hanger captured in later addition. 1/30/2020



Photo 14 of 15: House, interior, retaining wall under west addition, view northwest. 3/6/2020

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

Inventory No: HO-739

Name: Davis Mill
Continuation Sheet

Number Photos Page 8



Photo 15 of 15: Water pipe running to mill along hillside north of buildings. 1/2/2020

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

Inventory No: HO-739

Name: Davis Mill
Continuation Sheet

Number Photos Page 9

PHOTO LOG

Name of Photographer: Ken Short
Date of Photographs:
Location of Original Digital File: MD SHPO

Photographs inserted on continuation sheets.

Photo 1 of 15:
House, south & east elevations.
HO-0739_2020-01-02_01.tif

Photo 2 of 15:
House, east & north elevations, with retaining walls.
HO-0739_2020-01-02_02.tif

Photo 3 of 15:
House, north elevation from northwest.
HO-0739_2020-01-02_03.tif

Photo 4 of 15:
House, interior, first story east elevation of original section.
HO-0739_2020-01-02_04.tif

Photo 5 of 15:
House, interior, first story, west elevation in original section.
HO-0739_2020-01-02_05.tif

Photo 6 of 15:
House, interior, first story, view north into north addition.
HO-0739_2020-01-02_06.tif

Photo 7 of 15:
House, interior, first story, east elevation of north addition.
HO-0739_2020-01-02_07.tif

Photo 8 of 15:
House, interior, first story, stairs in north addition.
HO-0739_2020-01-02_08.tif

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

Inventory No: HO-739

Name: Davis Mill
Continuation Sheet

Number Photos Page 10

Photo 9 of 15:

House, interior, view of back-to-back stairs looking down from attic.

HO-0739_2020-01-02_09.tif

Photo 10 of 15:

House, interior, view of original braced frame with inserted studs, ledger boards and joists. West wall, view from east side.

HO-0739_2020-01-02_10.tif

Photo 11 of 15:

House, interior, attic story, view east of north addition.

HO-0739_2020-01-02_11.tif

Photo 12 of 15:

House, interior, attic story, shingles on east captured under dormer.

HO-0739_2020-01-02_12.tif

Photo 13 of 15:

House, interior, gutter hanger captured in later addition.

HO-0739_2020-01-02_13.tif

Photo 14 of 15:

House, interior, retaining wall under west addition, view northwest.

HO-0739_2020-01-02_14.tif

Photo 15 of 15:

Water pipe running to mill along hillside north of buildings.

HO-0739_2020-01-02_15.tif

NOTE: Per the *Standards & Guidelines*, the preparer may submit up to 20 images in print form or on continuation sheets. Printed photographs must accompany all grant-funded and National Register nomination projects. If you elect to provide more than 20 images, please include them as digital files only on archival CDs. Each photo log should clearly indicate for which photo numbers there are hard copy prints or images on continuation sheets, and for which photo numbers there are additional digital images available on CD only.

HO-739
Davis Mills
Howard County
Jennifer Goold
May 16, 2005

ADDENDUM

The purpose of this Addendum is to add a copy of the text that John McGrain prepared documenting the Davis Grist Mill (4450 Bonnie Branch Road) as well as additional photographs of the property, a sketched floor plan of the building, a copy of a newspaper article that has an historic photo of the building, and current owner information.

The converted mill building is now owned by:

Bryan and Barbara Rowe
4450 Bonnie Branch Road
Ellicott City, MD 21043
browe@jhmi.edu

John McGrain also documented the building in his **Molinography of Maryland**:

"The 1850 census of manufactures listed Joshua Davis with a water mill worth \$100; 2 employees; 2 pair of burrs; annual output of 4000 bushels of corn and chop worth \$2500.

The mill was probably under lease to Davis because in April 1857, George and Agnes Ellicott sold three acres on Bonnie Branch to Joshua B. Davis. The tract names mentioned in the deed were Caleb's Vineyard, Ellicott's Park, and Hayward's Discovery. The deed mentioned Bonny Branch and the mouth of the tail race. This deed had no "same as" clause. Presumably the mill was built by George Ellicott who also owned the nearby Dismal Mill on Patapsco Falls downstream of the Thistle Factory (Deeds WHW 18:362).

The 1860 Simon J. Martenet map of Howard County showed the grist and saw mill of J. Davis on this site. The *Maryland Farmer* for April 1872 (9:121) reported that Joshua B. Davis sold his grist and saw mill and appurtenances, with three or four acres of land attached, located on Bonny Branch near Ilchester in Howard County, to Alexander Esler for the sum of \$6000. The actual deed is from Joshua B. and Rebecca Davis to Matilda Esler, April 13, 1872, for \$6,000 (Deeds WHW 32:285).

The mill was shown as a nameless grist and saw mill in the 1878 county atlas and it seemed to be part of the campus of Mount Saint Clemens College. At some point the mill passed into the hands of the Redemptorist Fathers who built a large college or seminary building on the hill overlooking the Dismal Mill site.

The mill is missing from the 1880 census of manufactures but the 1880 State business directory listed A. Brunsman as miller at Ilchester, while the 1887 issue listed Z. Duvall. This was after the burning of the much larger Dismal Mill on Ilchester Road near the present rail tunnel and steel bridge.

A photo of a stone mill appeared in a Baltimore *Sun* Sunday feature story about Ilchester on March 16, 1924, with the caption, "This old grist mill at Ilchester was built more than one and one-half centuries ago. It still has the original wooden machinery of that time. The miller is in his eighty-seventh year."

HO-739
Davis Mills
Howard County
Jennifer Goold
May 16, 2005

ADDENDUM

The photo matches the surviving building, but in 1924 there was only one dormer, that one fitted up with the hoisting mechanism; today, used as a residence, there are three smaller dormers.

Celia M. Holland in *Old Homes and Families of Howard County, Maryland* wrote that the college or seminary was closed in 1979 and the entire campus sold to developer Michael A. Nibali who hoped to turn the collegiate structure into residential space. This project failed. In 1980, the Redemptorists sold to Nibali the small mill parcel of 1.779 acres (Deeds CMP 995:660). Subsequent owners of the mill lot were Leslie J. Deutsch in 1985, Stephan J. and Joyce Jenkins in 1988, and Peter G. Ruff in 1994. Ruff completed the conversion of the mill into a residence. The current owner as of 2001, Craig Phillips, took title in 1997 (Deeds 4109:349).

An article in the real estate section of the *Sun* on June 17, 2001, described the restoration efforts expended on the mill and noted that, starting in 1929, the mill had been the water pump house for the college and that Mr. Phillips still had the large pump in his basement. The building is built with dressed granite from the Patapsco region.... There is no documentary evidence to push the origin of this mill back to the 18th century. It was apparently never upgraded to use any of the "new process" devices of the 1870s or the roller mill system of the 1880s.¹

¹ McGrain, John W. *Molinography of Maryland*, ms. (Held at the Maryland State Archives.)



HD-739

Davis Grist Mill

Howard County, MD

Jennifer Gould

03/12/05

NO SHPO

View NE. Shows Davis Grist Mill. Now
1068 converted to residence.



HO-739

Davis Grist Mill

Howard County, MD

Jennifer Gould

03/12/05

MD-CHPO

View W.

2 of 8

Shows Davis
residence.

Grist Mill now converted to



HO- 739

Davis Grist Mill

Howard County, MD

Jennifer Gould

03/21/05

MD SHPO

View W. Shows Davis Grist Mill now converted to
3 of 8 Residence.



HO-739

Davis Grist Mill

Howard County, MD

Jennifer Gould

03/12/05

MD SHPO

View S. shows Davis Grist Mill now converted to residence

4 of 8



HD-739

Davis Grist Mill

Howard County, MD

Jennifer Gould

03/12/05

MDISHPO

View W. Shows path of Mill race and adjacent
house.



H0-739

Davis Grist Mill

Howard County, MD

Jennifer Gould

03/12/05

MD SHPO

View N. Shows interior.

6068



HD-739

Davis Grist Mill

Howard County, MD

Jennifer Goold

08/12/05

MD SHPO

View E. Shows basement level.

Tab 8



HO-739

Davis Grist Mill
Howard County, MD

Jennifer Gould

02/12/05

MD SHPO

view W. Shows basement level.

Bob B