



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18AN1386

Site Name: Forge Mill

Prehistoric

Other name(s)

Historic

Unknown

Brief Description:

18th century iron forge mill

Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 7

SCS soil & sediment code SME,DxD

Latitude 39.2113

Longitude -76.7023

Physiographic province Western Shore Coastal

Terrestrial site

Underwater site

Elevation m Site slope 15%

Ethnobotany profile available Maritime site

Nearest Surface Water

Name (if any) Stony Run

Saltwater

Ocean

Estuary/tidal river

Tidewater/marsh

Spring

Freshwater

Stream/river

Swamp

Lake or pond

Spring

Minimum distance to water is 46 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

Topography

- Floodplain
- Hilltop/bluff
- Interior flat
- Upland flat
- Ridgetop
- Terrace
- Low terrace
- High terrace
- Rockshelter/cave
- Hillslope
- Unknown
- Other

Ownership

- Private
- Federal
- State of MD
- Regional/county/city
- Unknown

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

Contact period site ca. 1820 - 1860

ca. 1630 - 1675 ca. 1860 - 1900

ca. 1675 - 1720 ca. 1900 - 1930

ca. 1720 - 1780 Post 1930

ca. 1780 - 1820

Unknown historic context

Unknown context

Ethnic Associations (historic only)

Native American

Asian American

African American

Unknown

Anglo-American

Other

Hispanic

Y=Confirmed, P=Possible

Site Function Contextual Data:

Prehistoric

Multi-component

Misc. ceremonial

Village

Rock art

Hamlet

Shell midden

Base camp

STU/lithic scatter

Rockshelter/cave

Quarry/extraction

Earthen mound

Fish weir

Cairn

Production area

Burial area

Unknown

Other context

Historic

Urban/Rural? Rural

Domestic

Homestead

Farmstead

Mansion

Plantation

Row/townhome

Cellar

Privy

Industrial

Mining-related

Quarry-related

Mill Forge Mill

Black/metalsmith

Furnace/forge

Other

Transportation

Canal-related

Road/railroad

Wharf/landing

Maritime-related

Bridge

Ford

Educational

Commercial

Trading post

Store

Tavern/inn

Military

Post-in-ground

Battlefield

Fortification

Encampment

Townsite

Religious

Church/mtg house

Ch support bldg

Burial area

Cemetery

Sepulchre

Isolated burial

Bldg or foundation

Possible Structure

Interpretive Sampling Data:

Prehistoric context samples

Soil samples taken

Flotation samples taken

Other samples taken

Historic context samples

Soil samples taken

Flotation samples taken

Other samples taken



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Diagnostic Artifact Data:

Projectile Point Types			
Clovis	<input type="checkbox"/>	Koens-Crispin	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hardaway-Dalton	<input type="checkbox"/>	Perkiomen	<input type="checkbox"/>
Palmer	<input type="checkbox"/>	Susquehana	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kirk (notch)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Vernon	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kirk (stem)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Piscataway	<input type="checkbox"/>
Le Croy	<input type="checkbox"/>	Calvert	<input type="checkbox"/>
Morrow Mntn	<input type="checkbox"/>	Selby Bay	<input type="checkbox"/>
Guilford	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jacks Rf (notch)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Brewerton	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jacks Rf (pent)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Otter Creek	<input type="checkbox"/>	Madison/Potomac	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Levanna	<input type="checkbox"/>

Prehistoric Sherd Types

Marcey Creek	<input type="checkbox"/>	Popes Creek	<input type="checkbox"/>	Shepard	<input type="checkbox"/>	Keyser	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dames Qtr	<input type="checkbox"/>	Coulbourn	<input type="checkbox"/>	Townsend	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yeocomico	<input type="checkbox"/>
Selden Island	<input type="checkbox"/>	Watson	<input type="checkbox"/>	Minguannan	<input type="checkbox"/>	Monongahela	<input type="checkbox"/>
Accokeek	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mockley	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sullivan Cove	<input type="checkbox"/>	Susquehannock	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wolfe Neck	<input type="checkbox"/>	Clemson Island	<input type="checkbox"/>	Shenks Ferry	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Vinette	<input type="checkbox"/>	Page	<input type="checkbox"/>	Moyaone	<input type="checkbox"/>		
				Potomac Crk	<input type="checkbox"/>		

Historic Sherd Types

Earthenware		Ironstone	<input type="checkbox"/>	Staffordshire	<input type="checkbox"/>	Stoneware	
Astbury	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jackfield	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tin Glazed	<input type="checkbox"/>	English Brown	<input type="checkbox"/>
Borderware	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mn Mottled	<input type="checkbox"/>	Whiteware	<input type="checkbox"/>	Eng Dry-bodied	<input type="checkbox"/>
Buckley	<input type="checkbox"/>	North Devon	<input type="checkbox"/>	Porcelain	<input type="checkbox"/>	Nottingham	<input type="checkbox"/>
Creamware	<input type="checkbox"/>	Pearlware	<input type="checkbox"/>			Rhenish	<input type="checkbox"/>
						Wt Salt-glazed	<input type="checkbox"/>

All quantities exact or estimated minimal counts

Other Artifact & Feature Types:

Prehistoric Artifacts			
Flaked stone	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other fired clay	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ground stone	<input type="checkbox"/>	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stone bowls	<input type="checkbox"/>	Modified faunal	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fire-cracked rock	<input type="checkbox"/>	Unmod faunal	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other lithics (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Oyster shell	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ceramics (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rimsherds	<input type="checkbox"/>	Uncommon Obj.	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Prehistoric Features

Mound(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Storage/trash pit	<input type="checkbox"/>
Midden	<input type="checkbox"/>	Burial(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Shell midden	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ossuary	<input type="checkbox"/>
Postholes/molds	<input type="checkbox"/>	Unknown	<input type="checkbox"/>
House pattern(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>
Palisade(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Hearth(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Lithic reduc area	<input type="checkbox"/>		

Lithic Material

Jasper	<input type="checkbox"/>	Fer quartzite	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sil sandstone	<input type="checkbox"/>
Chert	<input type="checkbox"/>	Chalcedony	<input type="checkbox"/>	European flint	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rhyolite	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ironstone	<input type="checkbox"/>	Basalt	<input type="checkbox"/>
Quartz	<input type="checkbox"/>	Argilite	<input type="checkbox"/>	Unknown	<input type="checkbox"/>
Quartzite	<input type="checkbox"/>	Steatite	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Sandstone	<input type="checkbox"/>		

Dated features present at site

Historic Artifacts			
Pottery (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tobacco related	<input type="checkbox"/>
Glass (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Activity item(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Architectural	10	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Furniture	<input type="checkbox"/>	Faunal material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Arms	<input type="checkbox"/>	Misc. kitchen	<input type="checkbox"/>
Clothing	<input type="checkbox"/>	Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Personal items	<input type="checkbox"/>	Misc.	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Historic Features

Const feature	<input type="checkbox"/>	Privy/outhouse	<input type="checkbox"/>	Depression/mound	<input type="checkbox"/>	Unknown	<input type="checkbox"/>
Foundation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Well/cistern	<input type="checkbox"/>	Burial(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cellar hole/cellar	<input type="checkbox"/>	Trash pit/dump	<input type="checkbox"/>	Railroad bed	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Hearth/chimney	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sheet midden	<input type="checkbox"/>	Earthworks	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Postholes/molds	<input type="checkbox"/>	Planting feature	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mill raceway	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Paling ditch/fence	<input type="checkbox"/>	Road/walkway	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Wheel pit	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		

All quantities exact or estimated minimal counts

Radiocarbon Data:

Sample 1: +/- years BP Reliability Sample 2: +/- years BP Reliability Sample 3: +/- years BP Reliability

Sample 4: +/- years BP Reliability Sample 5: +/- years BP Reliability Sample 6: +/- years BP Reliability

Sample 7: 0 +/- years BP Reliability Sample 8: +/- years BP Reliability Sample 9: +/- years BP Reliability

Additional radiocarbon results available



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External Samples/Data:

Collection curated at

Additional raw data may be available online

Summary Description:

The Forge Mill Site (18AN1386) is the remains of an 18th century iron forge mill south of Halethorpe and east of Elkridge in Anne Arundel County. The site is situated in a wooded parcel to the west of a tributary of the Patapsco River, and within the Patapsco Valley State Park. Small streams and springs dot the surrounding landscape. The area surrounding the site has been known since historic times for its rich mineral resources, particularly iron in the form of bog iron and hematite rich clays. Soils at the site are primarily sassafras sandy loams and Croom gravelly clay loams.

Site 18AN1386 is located on a property historically known as "Stony Run Hills", which dates to 1724 and was first occupied by Thomas Hughs. In 1744, a description of the property reveals improvements on the property, including a 16 foot dwelling, a 16 foot square mill house with water wheel, shed, and chimney. This description could refer to an early sawmill, small bloomer, or a gristmill. The property was originally 50 acres but was enlarged to 118 acres in 1731.

James MacCubbin (also McCaubbin) started patenting property in the vicinity of Site 18AN1386 in the 1740s. His patents included Cupola Hill in 1742, Mineral Ridge in 1745 and MacCubbin's Discovery in 1745. Note that during the 18th century, a "cupola" referred in some instances to an iron furnace. James Walker consolidated MacCubbin's parcels, as well as other adjacent tracts including Stony Run Hills, to form Walker's Inheritance in 1757. This property included 1,730 acres, 799 of which were considered "vacant".

Dr. James Walker was a merchant from Scotland who had a store at Elkridge Landing on the Patapsco as early as 1748. He died in 1759 and his property was divided between his heirs (wife Susannah and 8 children) and his business partner Thomas Harrison. Harrison also became the guardian of Walker's two youngest sons, James and Charles, as well as co-executor of the estate. This likely denotes a close family relation. Alternatively, Walker may have been a debtor of Harrison. Thomas Harrison was a merchant who lived and owned a business in Baltimore City. He was also a land speculator and was involved in the development of Baltimore City.

Walker and Harrison invested in the development of iron rich land and production facilities in Anne Arundel County during the mid 18th century. Walker had a store in Elk Ridge Landing and was most likely very familiar with the activities of Caleb Dorsey & Co., who established the Elk Ridge Iron Works (Elk Ridge Furnace) in the summer of 1756. Walker's will outlined his plans for his land and property, including his intent to open an iron works. Site 18AN1386 was likely associated with the furnace complex planned by Walker and Harrison. The complex eventually included two mills, the iron works and multiple millraces from Stony Run and its tributaries.

In 1764, Lydia Dale and Frances Stallings, the daughters of Thomas Hughs, sold the outstanding 55 acre portion of Stony Run Hills to the heirs of James Walker and Thomas Harrison for £110. The ownership of the tract was then divided between Harrison and the Walker heirs. Each Walker heir received ownership of 1/16th of the property and they were to share it as "tenants in common and not joint tenants" with Harrison. The property was not physically divided into lots, but more likely the income from the property was divided into 1/16th shares. This arrangement for such a small piece of property denotes that it was improved in such a way that it produced income. There was a water-powered mill on the property as early as 1724 (see above), and profit may have come from milling operations. Alternatively, the income may have been derived from the presence of ore-rich deposits on the property.

In 1783 Thomas Harrison held most of the Walker's Inheritance property, amounting to 1,043 acres. James Walker (Jr.) owned 472 acres. These parcels were located in Huntington Hundred, an administrative subdivision of Anne Arundel County. Harrison also owned many of the tracts surrounding Walker's Inheritance. In contrast, the survivors of Dr. James Walker lived near Elk Ridge Landing in Patapsco Hundred.

Walker's Inheritance was further subdivided and reorganized after Thomas Harrison's death. Stony Run Hill (originally 118 acres in 1724) was paired with a section of Walkers Inheritance to contain 200 acres by 1788. Thomas Harrison had apparently planned to use this land to build a "mill seat" but died before it was constructed. After Harrison died, many of his holdings were sold by his agents West, Bowley, and Ridgeley. They sold the 200 acre Stony Run Hills property to Samuel Owings in 1788 for £20,000. This amount was an extraordinary amount of money for the period.

No land records have been discovered that show a conveyance from Owings to Jeremiah Yellott. By 1791, however, Yellott owned the sections of Stony Run Hills and Walker's Inheritance that Owings had held. At that time, Yellott sold a share of it to his business partner Ennion Williams. The 1791 conveyance from Yellott to Williams was noted as "all the one undivided equal third part, the whole into three equal parts to be divided of, and in two hundred acres of land with the dwelling house, gristmill and other buildings thereon, composed of one entire tract of land called Stony Run Hills and part of another tract called Walkers Inheritance". After the American Revolution, wheat and flour milling became an important economic stimulus in Maryland. The average annual volume of wheat and flour exports increased 50% between 1790 and 1792, overtaking tobacco exports.

This is the second record of a mill on Stony Run Hills. The first was that of Thomas Hughs in 1724. The remains of the forge or refining furnace at 18AN1386 were part of a complex containing millraces, a millpond, structures and a gristmill that dates to at least 1791 but likely replaced the earlier mill in the immediate area. The mill, known as Selby's Mill (18AN494) appears on a 1794 map of Maryland and was located on part of Walker's Inheritance to the north of 18AN1386.

By 1798, Walker's Inheritance had been divided among many owners. According to the 1798 tax records, Williams and Yellott held the 198 acre Selby's Mill property (later noted as 200 acres) as well as an additional 130¾ acre parcel of Walker's Inheritance. By 1799, the property where the forge and Selby Mill remains are located was recorded in a Bond of Conveyance between Jeremiah Yellott and Ennion Williams for £13,520 as "Lot Number One or Furnace Lot, where one Selby Mill stands containing 200 acres and Lot Number Two adjoins...containing 130¾ acres". It is unclear when the furnace was built but records suggest that it was before 1799. It appears that the gristmill was built before 1791. The properties designated Lots Number 1 (Furnace Lot with Selby's Mill) and Number 2 produced income through iron and milling activities. As a result, investors bought shares of interest in the lots.

Jeremiah Yellott was a merchant from Baltimore. He was among the largest ship owners in Baltimore during the last decade of the 18th century. Yellott milled flour, sold it, and transported it via his ships. This business made him a wealthy man worth (by some estimations) £500,000 at his death in 1805. After his death, his partner Ennion Williams and shareholders Francis Hollingsworth and Charles Worthington spent many years in court fighting over the Walker's Inheritance properties with Yellott's heirs. Yellott had apparently promised to sell his two shares (of the three in the property) to Williams, but the deed was not



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18th century iron forge mill

Unknown

executed before Yellot's death.

In 1808, Ennon Williams mortgaged the property (which had been conveyed to him by Jeremiah Yellott in 1791) to Francis Hollingsworth and Charles Worthington of Baltimore. In 1818, Williams sold the property to the firm of Hollingsworth & Worthington, merchants. During this period, mills and other industrial operations were becoming more mechanized, requiring investment in new equipment. Williams, as well as Hollingsworth & Worthington seemed to be involved in a financial relationship that likely backed the furnace and milling operations. Trade in flour expanded to the West Indies and South America making Baltimore the country's largest flour exporter from 1815 through the 1820s. Perhaps iron from the forge was used to make barrel hoops to containerize the flour from the mill.

In 1830, Hollingsworth & Worthington and Ennon Williams were listed as owners of two shares in a court case against the Yellott heirs, who owned one share of the properties. However, there were ongoing disputes over ownership of shares and the property for many years. Jeremiah Yellot had been dead for 25 years but the Stony Run Hills property and its mills and forge apparently produced enough income over which to litigate. The 1830 legal action resulted in a resurvey of all the Walker's Inheritance parcels to determine the size of the subdivided sections and the holding of both parties.

In 1852, a court-appointed trustee for the Worthington estate sold (for the payment of mortgage debt) the Stony Run Hills and Walker's Inheritance property to Henry J. Williams of Anne Arundel County for \$4,600. It is unclear if the mill or forge were operational during this period. In 1860, a map of Maryland depicted Selby's Mill and two additional buildings owned or occupied by H.J. Williams. One building is noted as his residence.

In 1869, the Baltimore and Potomac (B&P) Railroad Company made an agreement with Henry J. Williams to traverse his property for a new railroad line and paid him \$4,950 for "damages". The centerline of the railway bed was to cross very near the mouth of Stony Run and interfere with the "bottom of the head gate of said mill". To eliminate the interference, the run was to be diverted away from the rail line and forced into a new course that would service the mill.

In 1871, Henry J. Williams was forced to mortgage the Stony Run Hill property to John Glenn of Baltimore for a debt of \$7,500. The metes and bounds outlined both an upper and lower mill, two millraces, and a millpond. Williams mortgaged the property again in 1874 to J. Lisle Turnbull for \$2,500. Williams defaulted on his mortgages and in 1877 the court sold the Stony Run Hill property to Thomas H. Gaither of Howard County. Gaither's name appears on an 1878 Map of Maryland as owner of a structure across the street from a gristmill. Gaither purchased other sections of Walker's Inheritance in 1883. The Gaither's still owned the property in 1892 when they were approached by the B&P Railroad for additional right of way easements. A similar deed was executed between the B&P Railroad and Thomas H. Gaither in 1908 for construction of a railroad bridge.

Thomas Gaither began to subdivide the Stony Run Hills parcel on both sides of the railroad line in 1907. He sold the 38.5 acres containing Selby's Mill and the forge site to Rezin Hopkins of Anne Arundel County and his partner Oscar W. Anthony of New York City. Hopkins and Anthony further subdivided the property when they sold a five acre parcel to Charles Tooney in 1916. Tooney sold his 5 acres to the widow Mary E. Millbrook in 1919. She apparently owned adjacent property but the subdivisions during this period make the ownership very difficult to follow. The Millbrook property then passed to Joseph J. Benson and then to Louis and Stefania Mateja. The Mateja's sold their property to the Arundel Corporation in 1935. Six owners in the Stony Run Hills vicinity also sold their property (some 12,451 acres in total) to the Arundel Corporation between November of 1935 and April of 1939. In 1979, the Arundel Corporation sold the accumulated properties to the Maryland Department of Natural Resources to create this portion of Patapsco Valley State Park.

It is unclear how long the forge and mills on the Stony Run Hill property were in operation. Both buildings appear on the 1891 USGS topographic quadrangle. Selby Mill is clearly shown on the 1907 topographic map, but it is unclear if the forge at 18AN1386 is represented as well. Both buildings are gone by 1947. Land records show who owned the property, some physical characteristics, and how much the property was worth over time. Records suggest there was a mill in the vicinity as early as the 1720s. The legal battles over the property during the Yellott and Worthington & Hollingsworth occupations suggest a value that reflects the operation of the furnace. Records indicate that two mills were in operation in the late 18th century and throughout most of the 19th century. The gristmill apparently operated through the Gaither occupation and served as a local landmark. The early 20th century witnessed subdivision patterns consistent with residential occupation, likely representing the end of industrial use.

Site 18AN1386 was discovered during the installation of a sewer line to serve the Maryland Aviation Administration (MAA) and Baltimore/Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport (BWI Marshall). During the initial planning for the project, the Maryland Historical Trust (MHT) determine that an archeological survey was not required due to the limited area of disturbance, the presence of an existing sewer line, and the presence of a previous cultural survey that did not result in identification of significant archeological sites in the vicinity of the proposed route. The forge site was not identified during the previous survey. In addition, installation of the sewer was to be accomplished through the use of a jack and bore within a 36 inch casing. A jack and bore drills a horizontal tunnel approximately 2.4 m (8 ft) below the ground surface. Cultural resources located closer to the ground surface are not generally affected.

During Jack and bore activities in the vicinity of the forge site in the fall of 2007, the drill bit became stuck in the stone foundation wall of the forge. The wall was found to extend 3.35 m (11 ft) below the surface. The depth of the stone foundation was unexpected prior to drilling, resulting in the need for emergency consultation in order to allow construction to continue while preserving information about the site. Consultation with the MHT, Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the MAA proceeded primarily according to state law – the Maryland Historical Trust Act of 1985 (as amended). During a meeting held on November 27, 2007, the parties agreed that the forge site is eligible for the National and State Registers of Historic Places for its role in local industrial history. Due to design and cost considerations, it was decided that the jack and bore would be allowed to proceed along its current course following documentation of existing features. This fieldwork took place during the week of December 4, 2007. In addition, professional archeologist monitored construction-related activities that took place intermittently from December 18, 2007 to May 22, 2008.

The forge features documented in 2007-2008 included the forge mill foundation and wheel pit, a road, a head race and slag deposits. Other cultural features observed in the vicinity of the forge site included the remains of the previously identified Selby Mill (18AN494) and 20th century roads, building foundations, animal pens, fences, and trash deposits. The headrace for the Selby gristmill ran along Stony Run, to the east of an access road that traverses this portion of Patapsco Valley State Park. The remains of 20th century dwellings and outbuildings were present on top of the ridge.

The forge mill building was built into the east face of a hillside. In plan, the foundation was 11.6 X 20.7 m (38 X 68 ft), although a "shelf" within the soil slumping into the foundation on the north end may indicate the presence of the north wall, which would reduce the building size to 11.6 X 17 m (38 X 56 ft). The building remains visible above the surface included mortared stone walls on the south and east sides (cut and natural stones held together with a sandy mortar). The west and north walls, if present, were obscured under soils eroding from the banks. A wheel pit is located on the southern end of the building foundation. The outer wall of the wheel pit was represented by a stone wall approximately 2.4 m (8 ft) south of the south foundation wall. A head race directed



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water into the wheel pit from its southwest corner. An oval-shaped brick-lined opening was present within the south foundation wall 4.27 m (14 ft) from the southeast corner. It likely held the wheel shaft, which would have driven hammers and possibly bellows on the interior of the forge for refining iron. Two interior features were identified within the forge mill building footprint: an interior stone wall that lined up with the brick-lined opening, and a concentration of stone that may represent a stone platform near the southern end of the building's interior. A concentration of slag was observed on the slope to the northwest of a forge.

The wheel pit was located adjacent to the outside of the south foundation wall. It was defined by the south foundation wall and a second mortared stone wall roughly 2.4 m (8 ft) to the south. The wheel pit was found to have a wood lining along its base. The wood boards lining the wheel pit were preserved due to saturated soils and lack of exposure to air. A head race guided water from a mill pond (location undetermined) downhill to the water wheel, powering the forge mill. The head race drops down just before the southwest corner of the forge into the wheel pit and from there it was channeled to Stony Run. Based on the location and height of the head race above the forge, the wheel was likely an overshot or breast-shot wheel. A road trace runs approximately north-south on the west side of and above the forge and head race.

Because no archeological excavations were conducted, few dateable artifacts were found to assist in determining when the forge was in operation. Observed nails, however, all appeared to be machine cut, dating them from 1790-1880.

The purpose of the forge at 18AN1386 was to produce wrought iron. The forge may have operated as a bloomer, producing wrought iron from iron ore, or may have functioned as a finery for producing wrought iron out of cast pig iron acquired from a blast furnace. Iron ore or pig iron was likely transported to the site via the road beside the forge and/or a local road which appears to have been present by 1794.

The forge at 18AN1386 is significant as an example of an 18th century iron industry feature in Anne Arundel County. In addition, the forge is significant for its role in local industrial history and for the information it can yield about early iron smelting processes. Although part of the forge was impacted by construction of the sewer line, portions of the foundation and associated deposits remain intact. In addition, the forge was part of a complex of industrial features in the immediate area, the remains of some of which may retain integrity and information potential. In 2008, it was recommended that the rest of the remains of the iron forge be preserved and interpreted to the public. A plan for interpretation was to be developed through consultation between MAA, MHT, and DNR.

External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

95000738, Site Files