Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

Site Number: 18BA329 **Site Name:** Mill Complex

Other name(s) Fulling Mill

Prehistoric ☐ Historic ☑ Unknown ☐

Brief Description: 18th to 19th century fulling mill complex

Site Location and Environmental Data:

Latitude 39.4098 Longitude -76.8021

Elevation 146 m Site slope 0

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

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 14 SCS soil & sediment code

Physiographic province Eastern Piedmont Terrestrial site ☑ Underwater site ☐

Ethnobotany profile available ☐ Maritime site ☐

Topography

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

Ownership

Private	☑
Federal	☐
State of MD	☐
Regional/ county/city	☐
Unknown	☐

Nearest Surface Water

Name (if any) Red Run

Saltwater		Freshwater	
Ocean	☐	Stream/river	☑
Estuary/tidal river	☐	Swamp	☐
Tidewater/marsh	☐	Lake or pond	☐
		Spring	☐

Minimum distance to water is 20 m

Temporal & Ethnic Contextual Data:

Paleoindian site		Woodland site		Contact period site		ca. 1820 - 1860	Y
Archaic site		MD Adena		ca. 1630 - 1675		ca. 1860 - 1900	P
Early archaic		Early woodland		ca. 1675 - 1720		ca. 1900 - 1930	
MIddle archaic		Mid. woodland		ca. 1720 - 1780	P	Post 1930	
Late archaic		Late woodland		ca. 1780 - 1820	Y		

Unknown prehistoric context ☐ Unknown historic context ☐ Unknown context ☐

Ethnic Associations (historic only)

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

Interpretive Sampling Data:

Prehistoric context samples		Soil samples taken	
Flotation samples taken		Other samples taken	

Historic context samples		Soil samples taken	N
Flotation samples taken	N	Other samples taken	

Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

Site Number: 18BA329 **Site Name:** Mill Complex

Other name(s) Fulling Mill

Prehistoric ☐ Historic ☑ Unknown ☐

Brief Description: 18th to 19th century fulling mill complex

Diagnostic Artifact Data:

Projectile Point Types

Clovis		Koens-Crispin	
Hardaway-Dalton		Perkiomen	
Palmer		Susquehana	
Kirk (notch)		Vernon	
Kirk (stem)		Piscataway	
Le Croy		Calvert	
Morrow Mntn		Selby Bay	
Guilford		Jacks Rf (notch)	
Brewerton		Jacks Rf (pent)	
Otter Creek		Madison/Potomac	
		Levanna	

All quantities exact or estimated minimal counts

Prehistoric Sherd Types

Marcey Creek		Popes Creek		Shepard		Keyser	
Dames Qtr		Coulbourn		Townsend		Yeocomico	
Selden Island		Watson		Minguannan		Monongahela	
Accokeek		Mockley		Sullivan Cove		Susquehannock	
Wolfe Neck		Clemson Island		Shenks Ferry			
Vinette		Page		Moyaone			
				Potomac Crk			

Historic Sherd Types

Earthenware		Ironstone		Staffordshire	
Astbury		Jackfield		Tin Glazed	
Borderware		Mn Mottled		Whiteware	
Buckley		North Devon		**Porcelain**	
Creamware		Pearlware			

Stoneware

English Brown	
Eng Dry-bodied	
Nottingham	
Rhenish	
Wt Salt-glazed	

Other Artifact & Feature Types:

Prehistoric Artifacts

Flaked stone		Other fired clay	
Ground stone		Human remain(s)	☐
Stone bowls		Modified faunal	
Fire-cracked rock		Unmod faunal	
Other lithics (all)		Oyster shell	☐
Ceramics (all)		Floral material	☐
Rimsherds		Uncommon Obj.	
		Other ☐	

Prehistoric Features

Mound(s)		Storage/trash pit	☐
Midden	☐	Burial(s)	☐
Shell midden	☐	Ossuary	☐
Postholes/molds	☐	Unknown	☐
House pattern(s)	☐	Other	☐
Palisade(s)	☐		
Hearth(s)	☐		
Lithic reduc area	☐		

Lithic Material

Fer quartzite	☐	Sil sandstone	☐		
Jasper	☐	Chalcedony	☐	European flint	☐
Chert	☐	Ironstone	☐	Basalt	☐
Rhyolite	☐	Argilite	☐	Unknown	☐
Quartz	☐	Steatite	☐	Other	☐
Quartzite	☐	Sandstone	☐		

☑ **Dated features present at site**

Eighteenth/nineteenth century mill race and 20th century ice house

Historic Artifacts

		Tobacco related	
Pottery (all)	10	Activity item(s)	10
Glass (all)		Human remain(s)	☐
Architectural		Faunal material	☐
Furniture		Misc. kitchen	
Arms	1	Floral material	☐
Clothing		Misc.	
Personal items		Other ☐	

Historic Features

Const feature	☐	Privy/outhouse	☐	Depression/mound	☐
Foundation	☑	Well/cistern	☐	Burial(s)	☐
Cellar hole/cellar	☑	Trash pit/dump	☐	Railroad bed	☐
Hearth/chimney	☐	Sheet midden	☐	Earthworks	☐
Postholes/molds	☐	Planting feature	☐	Mill raceway	☑
Paling ditch/fence	☑	Road/walkway	☐	Wheel pit	☐

Unknown	☐
Other	☑
stone rubble conce	

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:	+/-	years BP	Reliability	**Sample 8:**	+/-	years BP	Reliability	**Sample 9:**	+/-	years BP	Reliability

☐ **Additional radiocarbon results available**

Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

Site Number: 18BA329 **Site Name:** Mill Complex

Other name(s) Fulling Mill

Prehistoric ☐ Historic ☑ Unknown ☐

Brief Description: 18th to 19th century fulling mill complex

External Samples/Data:

Collection curated at MAC

☐ Additional raw data may be available online

Summary Description:

The Mill Complex Site (18BA329) is an 18th and 19th century fulling mill complex. The site is located within the Red Run drainage southwest of Owings Mills, in Baltimore County, Maryland. The complex consists of a raceway, stone foundation and cellar hole, and a mounded area upon which the mill building proper once sat. The fulling mill was in operation by 1782, and additional milling activities (carding, sawmilling, grist milling, etc.) were added over time. The mill was probably out of operation entirely by around 1877. Several four wheel drive vehicle and dirt bike tracks have caused some damage to the area in modern times. Soils at the site are classified as Codorus silt loams.

Archival research was conducted as part of a Phase I survey conducted in the 1980s. Land patent records show that the area is within a region originally known as the Upper Patapsco Hundred. In 1733 that hundred was subdivided. The 100 acre tract on which the site is situated was first patented to a Charles Green in 1734 then re-patented to Samuel Owings in 1749. The fulling mill was established by Thomas Owings in the late 18th century on the northern part of his “Meadows” estate. The earliest mention of the property dates to 1782 when Thomas Owings advertised to employ a fuller. The fulling mill was mentioned again in an 1814 advertisement, which listed a grist, merchant, and fulling mill located 12 miles northwest of Baltimore. The mill was again listed in the 1818 tax list of Old District 7 as being owned by Owings. Thomas Owings died in 1822 and his fulling mill property went to his son Levi who advertised a “woolen factory for rent or lease”. The tax assessment noted that a fulling mill, saw mill, and two carding machines were located on the property. The operation was referred to as a woolen factory rather than a fulling mill. In 1829, the mill was bought by Levi Owings’ brother-in-law Peter Reister, although Levi continued to run it. Levi Owings had also advertised that a slave in the employ of the mill had run away. Levi Owings died in 1842 and two years later his brother-in-law sold the property back to his sister Hannah (Levi’s widow). By 1850 the mill is listed as “Woolen Factory Hannah Owings” on maps of the area, but maps from 1877 and later fail to show the mill. After changing hands several more times, “the Meadows” was finally sold to a development company called Commodore Holding Company.

In the 1980s, Baltimore County set up the Owings Mills Growth Area wherein areas were specified for either residential or commercial development. The Lakeside Development was a 432 acre residential development within the Growth Area. To facilitate the building of the development, the land owner was to fund the construction of the extension of two roads, which would cross over Red Run and its tributaries. In order to obtain the permits for the road construction, the developer was required to conduct a preliminary archeological and structural survey of the entire project area. The Phase I reconnaissance survey was divided into 2 stages of work: Stage 1 consisted of the survey of the proposed road alignments and ca. 150 acres of the development slated for construction in 1988 and Stage 2 consisted of the survey of the remaining 282 acres during the spring of 1988 while construction began in the Stage 1 area. Stage 1 fieldwork was conducted during the winter of 1987 and halted in December due to cold conditions. The Phase I survey strategy entailed testing all geologic formations and all environmental zones within the Lakeside project area. The center line of the two proposed road alignments served as the north-south and east-west grid lines for the shovel testing program in the 150 acre Stage 1 area. A total of 135 shovel test pits (STPs) were excavated on slopes of less than 15%. On slopes greater than 15%, instead of digging an STP, a two m² area was raked, first to remove the overburden then to break the ground a few inches below surface in order to locate any materials near the surface. In areas where artifacts were present, one meter test squares were opened up.

The area encompassing Site 18BA329 was under consideration by Baltimore County for the creation of a lake at the time of the Phase I survey and was situated on an adjoining parcel within the development area. Thus, the housing developer was not considering building there and it was not subjected to Phase I survey in 1988. No excavation work was conducted in the vicinity of 18BA329, but the site is mentioned in the full Phase I report. The purported mill foundations were noted, as were remnants of the mill race. No artifacts were collected.

In May and June of 1988, regulators’ attention turned to stormwater runoff within the development area, and the changes that would be needed to the watershed in order to effectively manage water if all of the plans went through. This problem necessitated assessment of 6 alternatives for stormwater management within the watershed, and identification of any archeological resources that these stormwater improvements would impact. Those alternatives were grouped into 3 broad categories: 1) a no build option (Alternative I), 2) a multiple regional pond system (Alternatives II and III), and 3) variants on a single regional lake system (Alternatives IV, V, and VI). The associated fieldwork was divided into 3 phases: 1) survey of the multiple regional pond system, 2) survey and limited testing of the single regional pond system, and 3) limited testing at the historic Fulling Mill Site (18BA329). Additionally, field data that had been collected by another survey one year after this survey was reviewed. The archeological work conducted within the proposed stormwater management areas was designed to provide assessment and probability of cultural resources within the watershed.

At the time of testing, the mill race was still visible as it ran between the mill ruins and Red Run, downstream towards the former home of Hannah Owings. Two test units were excavated as part of the “limited testing” requested for the Fulling Mill Site.

A 1x1.5 meters unit was placed on the exterior of the foundation structure (at its northwest corner) in order to investigate the composition of the surrounding hill slope and to reveal construction related features. The unit was excavated to 1.2 meters below surface at the foundation wall. Excavation was halted when the unit walls began crumbling, and neither the bottom of the stone wall nor the subsoil had been reached. Below the topsoil, which contained modern trash, 3 levels of Stratum B sandy clay were removed. Stratum C was a layer of sand and broken stone from which mortar fragments and a piece of wood containing cut nails were recovered. It was postulated that Stratum C was a fill layer.

A 1 m² test unit was placed against the interior of the west foundation wall near the center of the cellar in order to assess the depth of the cellar fill and to identify any construction or destruction features. Stratum A, a humic layer, and Stratum B, a sterile clay, were removed down to an artifact-laden layer of black micaceous loam. Most of the artifacts recovered from this layer were bottle glass or car and appliance parts. The only datable artifacts recovered from the fill were from the 1950s and 1960s and were probably related to the demolition of the structure. The presence of a few cut nails was the only indication of a possible 19th century occupation. Stratum D had a high organic content and the underlying Stratum E, a layer of coarse sand, contained a few fragments of mortar. It was suggested that Stratum E was laid down prior to the placement of a wood floor in the cellar. Bedrock was encountered below this stratum. The bottom of the foundation wall was encountered 60 cm below the cellar floor.

No accurate tally of artifacts recovered from 18BA329 is provided in the full site report for the watershed survey. Given that the majority of the materials recovered appear to be in fill deposits from the 20th century (and may have simply been discarded in the field), no estimated quantities have been provided for the tables above.

Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

Site Number: 18BA329 **Site Name:** Mill Complex

Other name(s) Fulling Mill

Prehistoric ☐ Historic ☑ Unknown ☐

Brief Description: 18th to 19th century fulling mill complex

Based on this limited survey and testing, it was determined that the multiple regional pond system would have impacts on some small prehistoric sites, but Site 18BA329 would receive some benefits of flood control, which would initially help in preservation of the site. However, the site would still be at risk from land development and if the impoundments at two of the ponds planned near the mill failed, the site would be at risk of flooding. Under the single regional lake system, Site 18BA329 could be adversely affected by design plans for the dam and outflow channel. Alternative VI, the multipurpose regional wet lake, was considered the most attractive alternative. There was some discussion of developing the Mill Site as part of a proposed buffer zone recreational park, but if that proposal was supported it was noted that further archeological testing would be needed for the site to be accurately reconstructed and interpreted.

A Phase I/II archeological testing program was undertaken within the Owings Mills New Town project area from March through June of 1989. Additional research had been requested by the Maryland Historical Trust for a portion of the Stage 1 area of the residential development project, as well as new investigations in the southern part of the section and in a Wetland Mitigation Exchange Area east of the Stage 1 section. The housing developer was initiating their construction phase at this time.

As with all Phase I surveys, the goals were to identify any cultural resources located within the area of potential effect and to make an assessment of eligibility for listing to the National Register of Historic Places. The same baselines that were established during the previous Phase I investigation were utilized. A total of 20 STPs were excavated at 20 or 30 meter intervals, and both sides of the mill raceway were probed to locate buried foundation remains. All excavated soils were screened and all materials were collected. The only artifacts recovered as a result of testing were a .22 caliber short shell casing and several small piece of barbed wire (recorded as 10 activity-related items). Extensive deposits of sediment resulting from periods of stream flooding were identified in STPs around and west of the mill race. Those sediments have potentially buried mill remains under up to a half meter of overburden. The lack of mill-related items found at the site may be a product of the use of wood for the structures, which may have been carried off site once the mill was abandoned or was simply not preserved. Metal would have been used less frequently in a mill of this period. More extensive excavation was recommended in order to locate industrial-related materials. The general running of a fulling mill would not have entailed the use (and disposal) of large amounts of domestic materials. The site appeared to have research potential related to early cloth manufacturing in the region. Although no construction impact was scheduled to the site as a result of development activities, the construction of a dam just to the north of the site for the proposed lake creation could potentially have impacted the site. Ultimately, no additional work is known to have been conducted at the site as a part of the Lakeside Development (also known as the New Town Development) project.

The site was again the subject of archeological research in 1995, during the course of a Phase I survey for a planned sewer interceptor installation. The project involved the construction of sewer interceptor pipes within 50 ft wide easements, including several stream crossings. The stream crossings required permits from the US Army Corps of Engineers, triggering section 106 compliance. The surveys were requested by the Maryland Historical Trust, pursuant to its review of project documents, and were specifically required under the terms of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended.

Phase I field testing consisted mainly of the systematic excavation of shovel test pits (STPs) at 10 and 20 meter intervals (conditions permitting) along the centerline of the sewer right-of-way. If ground visibility was greater than 50%, surface collection was initiated and all artifacts observed on the surface were plotted and collected. This only applied to a very small portion of the project area. However, since the location of 18BA329 was known from the outset of Phase I work, shovel testing was only carried out up to the established boundaries of the site, and then preceded beyond that. The site was easily identified by field crews because of the visible structural remains.

Phase II testing of the Fulling Mill Site involved a general surface reconnaissance of the entire site area, the excavation of STPs at 20, 10 and then 5 meter intervals along the right-of-way for the proposed sewer interceptor and a temporary construction easement, as well as the excavation of three 1 X 1 m test units and 2 backhoe trenches. Shovel tests were approximately 35 cm in diameter and were dug into culturally sterile subsoil, barring obstruction. Test units were excavated stratigraphically by levels of natural deposition (when discernable), and by 10 cm arbitrary levels when the stratigraphy was not readily apparent. All hand-excavated soils were screened through hardware cloth and data was recorded on standardized forms.

The surface reconnaissance and shovel testing resulted in the identification of three features, including a previously documented stone foundation, a millrace as evidenced by a long linear trough extending north to south parallel to Red Run, and the bulldozed remains of a possible mill structure located south of the documented stone foundation. The backhoe trenches were excavated across a section of the millrace (which was located directly in the path of the proposed interceptor) and across the area containing the concentration of stone rubble. The three 1 X 1 m test units were placed 1) between the stone foundation and the race in the hope of documenting a wheel pit or other mill associated feature, 2)inside the stone foundation, 3) and in the area containing the bulldozed rubble deposits.

A total of 62 artifacts were recovered in the course of Phase II testing, including ceramics, bottle and vessel glass, miscellaneous metal items, and one mill stone fragment. Sixteen of the artifacts were recovered on the surface of the site, 44 were recovered in the A Horizon or plowzone level of 9 STPs and 2 from the A Horizon of test units. Fifty-six of the items were of recent origin, dating mostly to the first half of the 20th century. Six items, including five sherds of American Blue and Gray Salt-glazed stoneware and a single sherd of redware, were the only items which could date to the 19th century. Only the possible 19th century items have been included in the artifact counts in the table above. The assemblage as a whole indicates 20th century use of the area for garbage disposal and contains very few items which were, or more likely were contemporaneous with and/or related to the operation of a fulling mill at this location.

The overall finding of the Phase II study in 1995 indicated that the portions of Site 18BA329 located within the right-of-way of the proposed sewer interceptor are not significant and do not have any potential to yield information beyond that which was recovered in the course of the Phase II survey. The only “Mill” related feature located in the right-of-way was a portion of a millrace which was documented in the course of testing. This feature was very shallow and it appeared that much of it had been previously destroyed. The stone foundation, which was also tested and thought to represent the partial remains of an 18th/19th century fulling mill, contained only modern deposits (post-1945). The position of this structure on the landscape and in relation to the millrace, the absence of any evidence of a wheel pit, as well as the size, configuration and composition of the remains themselves, all suggest that the foundation was probably not associated with the fulling mill, and more likely, represents the remains of an icehouse directly associated with a farmstead located nearby.

Based on the severe lack of physical and contextual integrity documented for the archeological deposits comprising the site, and on a determination that the site does not have any research potential beyond that which has already been addressed, Site 18BA329 does not appear to be significant.

External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

00005466, 00005475, 00005479, 00005526