



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18DO177

Site Name: Taylor Mill/Wilson Mill

Prehistoric

Other name(s)

Historic

Unknown

Brief Description:

late 19th century saw mill

Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 3

SCS soil & sediment code

Latitude 38.5666

Longitude -75.7673

Physiographic province Eastern Shore Coastal P

Terrestrial site

Underwater site

Elevation 5 m

Site slope 0

Ethnobotany profile available

Maritime site

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
- Stream bed

Ownership

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

Nearest Surface Water

Name (if any) Becky Taylor Branch

- | Saltwater | | Freshwater | |
|--|--|--|--------------------------------|
| Ocean <input type="checkbox"/> | Estuary/tidal river <input type="checkbox"/> | Stream/river <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Swamp <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Tidewater/marsh <input type="checkbox"/> | Lake or pond <input type="checkbox"/> | Spring <input type="checkbox"/> | |

Minimum distance to water is 0 m

Temporal & Ethnic Contextual Data:

- Paleoindian site
- Archaic site
- Early archaic
- Middle archaic
- Late archaic
- Woodland site
- MD Adena
- Early woodland
- Mid. woodland
- Late woodland
- Unknown prehistoric context

- Contact period site
- ca. 1820 - 1860
- ca. 1860 - 1900
- ca. 1900 - 1930
- Post 1930
- ca. 1630 - 1675
- ca. 1675 - 1720
- ca. 1720 - 1780
- ca. 1780 - 1820
- Unknown historic context
- Unknown context

Ethnic Associations (historic only)

- Native American
- African American
- Anglo-American
- Hispanic
- Asian American
- Unknown
- Other

Y=Confirmed, P=Possible

Site Function Contextual Data:

- ### Prehistoric
- Multi-component
 - Village
 - Hamlet
 - Base camp
 - Rockshelter/cave
 - Earthen mound
 - Cairn
 - Burial area
 - Misc. ceremonial
 - Rock art
 - Shell midden
 - STU/lithic scatter
 - Quarry/extraction
 - Fish weir
 - Production area
 - Unknown
 - Other context

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

Interpretive Sampling Data:

Prehistoric context samples Soil samples taken

Flotation samples taken Other samples taken

Historic context samples Soil samples taken N

Flotation samples taken N 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	<input type="checkbox"/>	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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>
		slag	<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Cellar hole/cellar	<input type="checkbox"/>	Trash pit/dump	<input type="checkbox"/>	Railroad bed	<input type="checkbox"/>	posts, beams, & planks in stream bed	
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 type="checkbox"/>		
Paling ditch/fence	<input type="checkbox"/>	Road/walkway	<input type="checkbox"/>	Wheel pit	<input 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: +/- 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 MAC

Additional raw data may be available online

Summary Description:

The Taylor Mill/Wilson Mill Site (18DO177) has been interpreted as the remains of a 19th century sawmill. The site lies in the streambed of the Becky Taylor Branch in Dorchester County. Soils at the site are Puckum muck and Zekiah sandy loams.

The site was identified in 1990 during Phase Ib intensive archeological survey of areas to be affected by the proposed widening and curve realignments in a section of MD 313. The purpose of the project was to determine the presence or absence of potentially significant archeological sites within the project area. The total project area consists of 6.44 km (4 miles) of existing right-of-way that parallels MD 313.

Archival research indicated that an unnamed sawmill (historic structure location #1) was illustrated on two maps dated 1866 and 1877 that lies within the site area. The mill was apparently established by Col. J. Wilson between 1860 and 1861. No sawmill was listed in Dorchester County on the 1860 manufacturing schedule but in 1861 Wilson died leaving a "sawmill seat" among his holdings. The earliest documentary information on the mill comes from the 1880 manufacturers' census schedule which lists the son of Col. Wilson as owner. It is not identified on a 1905 map of the area which suggests that the sawmill went out of use sometime between 1878 and 1905.

During the Phase Ib investigations it was revealed that the site was comprised of 11 submerged large beams or timbers that extend across the entire width of the stream. The beams are spaced at about 60.9 cm (2 ft) intervals and two of the beams are connected by large cross planks. Adjacent to the planks are 2 large posts that were driven vertically in the stream bed and are offset between the beams. The beams and cross planks are thought to be part of a carriage assembly which facilitated the movement of the logs toward the saw blade. There is also an artificial earthen mound adjacent to, and downstream from, the beams. It measures approximately 6.09 m (20 ft) by 3.96 m (13 ft) and is 0.30 m (1 ft) high. A notched beam and a piece of planking protrude from the downstream side of the mound. Non-systematic shovel test pits (STPs) were dug in the mound and on the floodplain opposite the mound.

Phase II investigations of the Taylor Mill/Wilson Mill Site involved pedestrian survey for water control features and the excavation of 5 STPs. A single test unit was placed on the earthen mound which was believed to be related to the mill operations. No mill-related features were identified in the immediate area of the structure or the mound during the pedestrian survey. The mill structure was mapped by measuring and plotting the submerged timbers where visibility allowed. Those areas with poor visibility were explored by hand. During the course of the underwater investigation, a crossbeam was located and it was determined that the mill structure continued under the road. Therefore, a trench was excavated in order to follow the crossbeam east until it intersected with the side of the mill. The trench was expanded to the north and another crossbeam and the side of the mill were encountered. The mill continued north under the road but the road fill was unstable; therefore, the trench was filled and coring was employed to identify the extent of the mill. Eight holes were drilled.

Phase II investigations revealed that the whole timber structure measured 5.5 m wide by 22 m long. The structure was made of oak, joined by mortise and tenon, and nails and spikes, and rests on piles driven into the stream bed. An opening located near the center of the structure may have served as the opening that contained the shaft that moved the saw blade or it could have been the location of the mill wheel. The mill was originally furnished with both a muley (stiff) saw and a circular saw. It was determined that the earthen mound post-dated use of the mill structure and thus was not associated with the mill. A number of artifacts were recovered from the site during these investigations. There were 50 historic artifacts. Architectural items were 1 brick fragment, 1 piece of mortar, and a plumbing pipe. There were 33 kitchen-related items (4 sherds of domestic brown stoneware with Albany slip and a Bristol glaze, 1 whiteware sherd, 11 bottle glass shards, 1 piece of table glass, 15 tin cans and fragments, and 1 tablespoon). Miscellaneous items consisted of 12 pieces of coal, 1 unidentified leather fragment, and 1 wooden peg (use unknown). Four prehistoric artifacts collected include 3 flakes and 1 cord-marked Mockley ware sherd. The archeologists suggest that based on their stratigraphic location one tin can and the flakes were probably deposited during the 1973 flood and the Mockley ware was likely deposited by the stream.

The Taylor Mill/Wilson Mill Site (18DO177) is an example of a once-common type of industrial structure that played a role in the economic expansion during the late 19th century in Dorchester County. Its significance is derived from the information it provides about the construction methods and techniques used in these structures. Wilson Mill was one of the first two sawmills in Dorchester County at the start of the area's lumber boom and remains largely intact. It is a manifestation of the increasing demand of lumber products as new railroads opened economic opportunities. Investigation of the site can add to our understanding of the economic theme described in The Maryland Comprehensive Historic Preservation Plan. The site was determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places in January 1992.

External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

00000202, 00000205