Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

Site Number: 18FR800 **Site Name:** New London Mill Complex

Other name(s) Evan Dorsey Mill Complex

Prehistoric ☐ Historic ☑ Unknown ☐

Brief Description: 19th century mill complex with gristmill and sawmill

Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 17 SCS soil & sediment code

Latitude 39.4263 Longitude -77.2536 Physiographic province Lancaster/Frederick Lowl Terrestrial site ☑ Underwater site ☐

Elevation m Site slope 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	☑	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) Bens Branch

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

Minimum distance to water is 0 m

Temporal & Ethnic Contextual Data:

Paleoindian site		Woodland site		Contact period site	
Archaic site		MD Adena		ca. 1630 - 1675	
Early archaic		Early woodland		ca. 1675 - 1720	
MIddle archaic		Mid. woodland		ca. 1720 - 1780	
Late archaic		Late woodland		ca. 1780 - 1820	
Unknown prehistoric context				Unknown historic context	
				Unknown context	

ca. 1820 - 1860	Y
ca. 1860 - 1900	Y
ca. 1900 - 1930	Y
Post 1930	Y

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**	☐
Homestead	☐	Other	☐	Battlefield	☐
Farmstead	☐	**Transportation**	☐	Fortification	☐
Mansion	☐	Canal-related	☐	Encampment	☐
Plantation	☐	Road/railroad	☐	**Townsite**	☐
Row/townhome	☐	Wharf/landing	☐	**Religious**	☐
Cellar	☐	Maritime-related	☐	Church/mtg house	☐
Privy	☐	Bridge	☐	Ch support bldg	☐
Industrial	☑	Ford	☐	**Burial area**	☐
Mining-related	☐	**Educational**	☐	Cemetery	☐
Quarry-related	☐	**Commercial**	☐	Sepulchre	☐
Mill	☑ grist and saw	Trading post	☐	Isolated burial	☐
Black/metalsmith	☐	Store	☐	**Bldg or foundation**	☑
		Tavern/inn	☐	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		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**

19th century grist and sawmill ruins

Historic Artifacts

		Tobacco related	
Pottery (all)		Activity item(s)	1
Glass (all)	6	Human remain(s)	☐
Architectural	30	Faunal material	☑
Furniture		Misc. kitchen	
Arms		Floral material	☐
Clothing		Misc.	10
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	☐

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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Brief Description: 19th century mill complex with gristmill and sawmill

Prehistoric ☐ Historic ☑ Unknown ☐

External Samples/Data:

Collection curated at MAC

☐ Additional raw data may be available online

Summary Description:

Site 18FR800, variously known as the New London Mill Complex or the Evan Dorsey Mill Complex, is the archeological remains of a 19th century grist and saw mill complex north of New Market in Frederick County. The site is situated on the floodplain and terrace along Bens Branch, a perennial stream that is a tributary to Linganore Creek. Bens Branch flows northwest through the site and then makes a sharp bend to the west. Soils at the site are primarily Hatboro and Codorus silt loams.

Early maps of the area show very little development in the vicinity of 18FR800. By the late 18th century, the villages of Libertytown (north of the site) and New Market (south of the site) had already been established. However, the site location (which would later come to be known as “New London”) is relatively undeveloped. A few roads linked the small towns with each other and with larger towns like Frederick and Baltimore. One of the earliest roads in the area was the turnpike connecting Frederick to Baltimore that ran through New Market south of the site.

Another early road was the Monocacy to Annapolis road mentioned in a land survey in 1739. The road started at a ford of the Monocacy River, ran southeast from the river, turned south at what is now Mt. Pleasant toward Mt. Airy, and continued through Poplar Springs and on to Annapolis. This road, about one mile north of the site, is shown on an 1808 map with some of the early settler’s names alongside it. Edward Dorsey of Anne Arundel County purchased over 400 acres of land, on the Monocacy-Annapolis Road, in 1749. East of Dorsey’s land was the land purchased by John James in 1742. John James was buried in the cemetery that still exists on that tract. His headstone is marked, “The original proprietor, July 11, 1700 – August 1, 1750”. The house and land passed to Daniel James, son of John James, and is shown as “D. James” along the Monocacy-Annapolis Road on the 1808 map.

Waterways played an important part in the settlement of Frederick County and the site area. A dependable supply of water was an important factor in determining the location of the mills that were an early industry in Frederick County. Gristmills, sawmills, and woolen and fulling mills were economically important from the early 18th century to the end of the 19th. Gristmills were the most numerous because of the amount of wheat grown in the county. The bulk of the wheat crop was ground into flour before being shipped. A late 18th century map shows a number of mills located along the Monocacy River, Catoctin Creek and their tributaries. However, none are indicated along Linganore Creek or Bens Branch in the site area. There are a number of gristmills northeast of the site along Sams Creek, and there is a sawmill at New Market, south of the site.

By the early 19th century, there were a number of gristmills and sawmills on Linganore Creek and Bens Branch. The 1808 map does not assign names to the mills, only to the plantation houses, making it difficult to identify the mill owners. Three mills are shown on Bens Branch. The mill depicted in the center is where the town of New London (a town which is first depicted on maps in 1839) was established.

The gristmill at New London was built by Evan Dorsey in 1804 and the sawmill a short time later. At about the same time, two houses were built that were associated with the mills. The Hobbs-Lowes House (MIHP# F-5-29) is located west of Bens Branch and south of the New London Road. The other house, the Evan Dorsey Miller’s House (MIHP# F-5-30), was located east of Bens Branch and north of the road. The town developed slowly from 1804 to 1870 around the site of the 2 mills and the intersection of the New London Road and other local roads.

In the 1830s, a copper mine was established at New London west of the main intersection. The New London mine was opened by Isaac Tyson, Jr., who was credited with the discovery in 1835 of copper ore on property owned by William Hobbs. The mine opened in 1837. The ore was sorted, crushed, and washed on the premises before being sent to a furnace three miles beyond Libertytown to be smelted. The development of the town depended on the success of the mine and the two mills throughout the 19th century. By 1858, a number of houses, a post office and store, a blacksmith shop, and a wheelwright shop (as well as the mills and copper mine) appear on a map of New London. By this time, one of the houses and some land were sold off separately from the mill property. The gristmill and sawmill, and the Hobbs-Lowe House (the house west of Bens Branch) were owned by William Hobbs, who had married Susan Dorsey, daughter of Evan Dorsey. The house east of Bens Branch , the Evan Dorsey Miller’s House, and 18 acres of land had been sold to James Smith in 1829. In 1852 it was transferred to the widow Micha Smith. At this time it was described as, “that house…known as the new house built by James Smith…and also the basement story of the house known as the old house lying contiguous…to the west end of said new house…including smoke house and dairy house”.

No records for this time period show the production and other statistics of the gristmill in the site area. However, a gristmill and sawmill complex on Bens Branch approximately 2 miles east of New London was operated by a William Harding. Harding’s gristmill had two sets of burrs (grindstones) and ground wheat, rye, and corn producing flour, rye chop, and corn meal valued at $500 annually. This may be similar to the production of the Dorsey/Hobbs’ gristmill.

From 1861 to 1865, the mills and the house changed owners several times, being owned for a brief period by the New London Copper Mining Company (NLCMC). The gristmill, sawmill, the dwelling house, a pump and dairy are shown as property of the NLCMC on a mine plat made shortly after the company acquired the mine. The mining company sold the mills and house to Joseph Lowe in 1865 for $8,000. An 1873 map shows “J. Lowe” as owner of the house and both mills and the NLCMC as owner of three houses on the north side of the road to New Market. The Hobbs-Lowe house and the mills were sold in 1873 to brothers Joseph and Edmond Cartzendafner. The gristmill is described as a wood-framed, weather-boarded building that had three pairs of burrs and a 14 ft. overshot wheel. The mill complex included a barrel house, a chopping and plaster mill, a sawmill, and a hominy mill associated with the sawmill.

In the 1880s, William Kolb owned and operated the mills. The 1880 Census listed Kolb’s custom mill and a 1,000 bushel elevator being worth $5,200. The mill had two overshot wheels 8 ft. wide that produced 15 horsepower. Three employees and three pairs of burrs could produce a maximum of 150 bushels per day. The total production of the mill that year was 60 barrels of flour, 10.4 tons of meal, and 6.3 tons of feeds valued at $375.

In the last quarter of the 19th century, the technology for grinding grain changed. Roller presses were being used that could grind more grain faster and could produce cleaner, whiter flour. Rollers made it possible to grind the hard red western wheat that had been almost unmarketable before. The increase in the wheat crop from Midwestern states, the speed of production, and the whiter appearance of the flour began to drive eastern mills out of business. The use of old millstones to grind the yellowish winter wheat grown in the east was no longer a viable business except on a very small local scale. A few mills operated in this manner into the early 20th century, but commercial milling in the county was finished in the 1920s. The gristmill at 18FR800 may have followed this path.

By 1898 it had been reconfigured again to have a 20 ft. overshot wheel, iron gearing and a new milldam. The local farmers may have kept the mill busy since Frederick County was the major wheat-producing county in Maryland. Like gristmills in both Maryland and Virginia, the mill seems to have modernized in the

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MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

Site Number: 18FR800 **Site Name:** New London Mill Complex Prehistoric ☐

Other name(s) Evan Dorsey Mill Complex Historic ☑

Brief Description: 19th century mill complex with gristmill and sawmill Unknown ☐

late 19th century as it tried to compete with the flour producing centers of the Midwest. During the remainder of the 19th century and into the 20th, the New London mills and the Hobbs-Lowe House seem to have been sold together, consisting of approximately 28 acres designated as the “New London Mills” in several deed transfers. In late June of 1903, several weeks of intense rain led to flooding along Linganore Creek and its tributary streams. Multiple news accounts report the destruction of the milldam at New London. A 1904 deed transfer mentions the rebuilding of the milldam to its original specifications to keep the mills in operation. After William Kolb’s ownership, the mills changed ownership several times and were torn down in the 1930s.

The site was first examined archeologically in 2003 during a combined Phase I and II project in the vicinity of the MD 874 bridge over Bens Branch. At the time, the Maryland State Highway Administration (SHA) was proposing the replacement of the existing bridge, which might potentially impact cultural resources in the area. Since the bridge replacement by SHA would be publically funded, consideration of cultural resources was required under both state and federal legislation. Phase I work revealed that the remains of the historic mill complex would be impacted and could not be avoided and, thus, Phase II testing was carried out at 18HO800 immediately.

The Phase I work in 2003 involved a pedestrian survey, remote sensing work, and shovel test pit (STP) excavation. Unsystematic pedestrian survey was used to initially identify areas of disturbance, to identify the probable location of the dam, gristmill, and sawmill, and to locate areas where testing was impracticable due to high slope angles and saturated soils. Manually excavated shovel test pits (STPs) were then placed throughout the area using two different methods. The first method was to use a 20 m interval in areas where there was no surface indication or historic documentation of industrial features, parallel to MD 874, and where practicable. The second method was used to target anomalies identified through GPR survey within those areas where there was a likelihood of industrial features based on a review of historic maps. This combined methodology resulted in the excavation of 15 STPs within the site area. The location of all STPs was plotted on the project base map within ArcGIS.

Manually excavated STPs measured approximately 50 cm in diameter and extended approximately 10 cm into natural subsoil or to depths where other impediments occurred (i.e. water table, impenetrable rock layers, etc.). All excavated soil was screened through hardware cloth screens to ensure the uniform recovery of artifacts. Each shovel test profile was recorded on a standardized form, minimally including depth, color, and texture of each soil horizon. Artifacts, if recovered, were retained in bas marked with the appropriate provenience information. A total of 13 STPs were excavated during Phase I work, 6 of which fell within the boundaries of what was eventually identified as 18FR800.

The ground-penetrating radar (GPR) survey was undertaken to collect geophysical data from the predicted locations of the gristmill, sawmill, and other industrial features as seen on the various historic maps. A Sensors & Software, Inc. NOGGIN 250plus and Smart CartTM, with a digital video logger, GPR system was used. The NOGGIN unit had a 250 MHz antenna with a Nominal 6dB bandwidth of 250 MHz. The total depth window for this system was 15 m. A shallower depth window of 2.5 m was set for this survey to assure the collection of data below the anticipated depth of the local soils. GPR time sections and time-slice maps were processed and plotted using Sensors & Software, Inc. EKKO_Mapper software.

The GPR survey was carried out over a gridded 20 X 11 m area thought to be the location of the gristmill. The grid was surveyed with 1 m spacing between time sections. Time-sections from this unit were used to produce an anomaly map for the 20 X 11 m gridded area. Targeted depth sections using the GPR were also taken across a swale noted on the floodplain and a possible landscape feature identified during the pedestrian survey.

The GPR survey on the west side of Bens Branch identified a portion of the headrace, the tailrace, and a large rectangular anomaly pattern relating to the gristmill foundation (as recorded on historic plat maps). Subsequent shovel testing resulted in the identification of a buried stone foundation. Based on these findings, Phase II testing was recommended to better define the features of the site.

Phase II investigations of the mill complex along the west side of Bens Branch began with the use of heavy equipment in the excavation of two exploratory trenches on the floodplain on the north side of Route 874. The first trench was designed to bisect the gristmill east-west. This would reveal the location and depth of interior and exterior walls and expose a profile inside and outside the structure to determine the ground surface exterior to the structure and the depth of the bottom interior of the mill. A second trench was then excavated perpendicular to the first. This trench was designed to bisect the gristmill north-south intersecting the north wall and exposing an exterior profile. Archeologists then photographed and drew a profile of one wall of each trench. This was hindered by ground water seeping into the trenches and rainwater from thunderstorms both partially filling the base of the trenches. Although the trenches were pumped regularly, the water continued to obscure the lower portions of the profile, making this process difficult.

Test units (91 X 91 cm or 3 X 3 ft) were then placed alongside the exploratory trenches to target specific ground surfaces, two on the exterior and one within the interior of the structure. Test units were excavated to subsoil in natural strata. If a stratum below the demolition debris of the structure was more than 10 cm thick, it was diverted into stratigraphic units arbitrarily set at 10 cm. Thus, a stratum 30 cm thick would be divided into three stratigraphic units. Information on soil stratigraphy, artifacts, and features encountered during the excavation of each test unit was recorded on standard forms. Soil profiles were drawn for one wall of each test unit. Soils were described using standard soil texture classes and color designations and descriptions. Soil matrices from the test units were screened through hardware cloth and artifacts were placed in bags and labeled by provenience. Important profiles were drawn and photographed. Notes and elevations of features were also taken. A total of 3 test units were excavated.

Heavy equipment was also used to excavate two exploratory trenches on the south side of Route 874 to investigate the historically recorded location of the sawmill. Initially, the trenches were located to bisect the sawmill north-south and east-west, exposing both interior and exterior profiles on at least three sides of the structure. When excavations began, subsoil was encountered at a depth greater than 2.5 m below ground surface requiring that the trench be stepped for safety. As a result of the depth and safety issues, the methods were modified after consultation with the SHA. Instead of excavating test units in this area, the excavations would consist of further trenching with heavy equipment (based on what was recovered in the first trench). The profiles in these trenches were also recorded through photography and drawing.

Phase II trenching verified the locations of both the gristmill and the sawmill foundations, as well as a stone foundation west of the sawmill ruins. Both the gristmill and sawmill foundations were partially demolished, and only a small section of the sawmill foundation remained. No intact interior features or mill machinery remained in either mill. The test units assessed an interior and two exterior occupation surfaces related to the gristmill. All three of these occupational surfaces revealed very few artifacts. Artifacts reported included 20 cut nails, 10 wire nails, 6 glass canning lid liners, 1 large metal saw blade fragment (from the sawmill location), and other miscellaneous artifacts. The foundation remnant identified west of the sawmill ruins did not appear to be intact. The feature was present in the predicted vicinity of the millrace and was thought to possibly represent a structure related to the race.

Additional mapping in the site area was able to help delineate the locations of the wheel pit, a loading ramp that abutted the gristmill, the possible location of

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the milldam, and a possible stone revetment. The site boundaries were drawn to include these features, the mill foundations and portions of the head and tail races.

Based on the Phase II excavations at 18FR800, only the area surrounding the gristmill offers a degree of integrity. While this portion of the site has integrity, it has little potential to contribute important information related to the activities that took place in the building or provide information on the technology of milling. Very few artifacts were recovered from the occupational surfaces in this locale. It is unlikely that additional investigations of the gristmill would produce more. Thus, site 18FR800 was determined not to meet the criteria for eligibility in the NRHP and no further archeological investigations are warranted.

External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

97001990