



# Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18MO253

Site Name: Valley Mill

Prehistoric

Other name(s) MO-U Mill, Duvall Mill

Historic

Brief Description:

Late 18th-Early 20th century mill complex; Late Archaic & Woodland short-term camps

Unknown

## Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 12

SCS soil & sediment code 16D,41B,53A

Latitude 39.0639

Longitude -76.9706

Physiographic province Eastern Piedmont

Terrestrial site

Underwater site

Elevation m

Site slope 0-25%

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

### Ownership

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

### Nearest Surface Water

Name (if any) Paint 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 50 m        |  |  |                                |

## Temporal & Ethnic Contextual Data:

Paleoindian site

Woodland site

Contact period site  ca. 1820 - 1860

Archaic site

MD Adena

ca. 1630 - 1675  ca. 1860 - 1900

Early archaic

Early woodland

ca. 1675 - 1720  ca. 1900 - 1930

Middle archaic

Mid. woodland

ca. 1720 - 1780  Post 1930

Late archaic

Late woodland

ca. 1780 - 1820

Unknown historic context

Unknown prehistoric 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
- 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  grist,saw
- Black/metalsmith
- Furnace/forge
- Other

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

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 N

Flotation samples taken N

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"/>	
Hardaway-Dalton	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Palmer	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Kirk (notch)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Kirk (stem)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Le Croy	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Morrow Mntn	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Guilford	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Brewerton	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Otter Creek	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Koens-Crispin	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Perkiomen	<input type="checkbox"/>	1
Susquehana	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Vernon	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Piscataway	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Calvert	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Selby Bay	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Jacks Rf (notch)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Jacks Rf (pent)	<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			Staffordshire			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"/>	10	Eng Dry-bodied	<input type="checkbox"/>
Buckley	<input type="checkbox"/>		North Devon	<input type="checkbox"/>		<b>Porcelain</b>	<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"/>	10
Ground stone	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Stone bowls	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Fire-cracked rock	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Other lithics (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Ceramics (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Rimsherds	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Other fired clay	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Modified faunal	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Unmod faunal	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Oyster shell	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Floral material	<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 checked="" 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"/>	40
Glass (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	25
Architectural	<input type="checkbox"/>	50
Furniture	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Arms	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Clothing	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Personal items	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Tobacco related	<input type="checkbox"/>	1
Activity item(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Faunal material	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Misc. kitchen	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Misc.	<input type="checkbox"/>	10
Other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	turbine

### 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"/>	turbine	
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 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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Unknown

## External Samples/Data:

Collection curated at

Additional raw data may be available online

## Summary Description:

The Valley Mill site (18MO253) is located along the western floodplain of Paint Branch in eastern Montgomery County. This mill ruin corresponds to the Duvall Grist and Saw Mill depicted on a late 19th century map of the county. Extant features of the site include the mill ruins, a raceway, 2 complete millstones, and the extant miller's house. The latter is the oldest standing structure on the site and was constructed in 3 stages. The original section of the building was constructed in 1794 by a Peter Kemp (see below). This brick dwelling is unique since, at that time, most dwellings in the county were of log or frame construction. The east portion of the house was built in the 1920s as a kitchen, replacing a previous basement kitchen. The latest addition was constructed in the late 1940s and the entire house was repainted and restored in the mid-1980s. The mill foundation, located southeast of the house contains very few bricks and is composed of conglomerate stone, granite, rhyolite, and micaceous schist. A significant wheelpit is present and contains a Poole & Hunt water turbine that is partially submerged in water filling the pit. All of the walls of the mill (particularly the south wall) have collapsed and fragments of brick and stone rubble litter the dirt floor. The mill site was originally situated on Chewalca and Wickam silt loams, but a significant amount of modern backfill has been brought into the area as a result of modern road construction projects.

This site was recorded in 1983 during a Phase I survey by MGS for a proposed highway project; the Inter-County Connector (ICC), an east-west route that would link two major north-south highways in Prince George's and Montgomery counties. Several alternative highway alignments were surveyed as part of the Phase I work. The Phase I survey involved a "windshield survey" of the entire project area followed by pedestrian survey of all areas with moderate to high archeological potential. Historical archeological potential was determined based on examination of a series of historic maps and atlases. During the Phase I survey, the mill was located on a historic map and ground truthing revealed the features identified above, along with the presence of apparent archeological trenches within the mill foundations. These had been excavated during the summer of 1983 by researchers at the American University. No final report from these excavations has ever been provided to MHT, but evidence uncovered in 1983 did seem to indicate that at least 2, and possibly 3 mills were present at the site. No excavations were apparently conducted at 18MO253 during the Phase I survey.

In the fall of 1984 and later in 1985, a local history teacher and students from the Magruder and Rockville High School Archeology Club conducted Phase II level investigations at the site. A preliminary report was prepared which provides some details about the manner of excavation and the artifacts encountered. It also provides an overview of the site history. The mill property was purchased in 1793 by Peter Kemp and in the following year he began construction of the miller's house. According to tax records, it is indicated that both the house and a mill were completed by 1799. The original mill measured 9.144 X 9.144 meters (30 X 30 ft) and was powered by a breast wheel. A large demand for wheat products, favorable environmental conditions such as the abundant water supply, and proximity to agricultural areas and urban markets sparked interest throughout the area and made milling an attractive investment. One of Kemp's successors was Washington Duvall, a country doctor and a state representative. During Duvall's ownership, the mill shifted primarily to the production of cornmeal. The mill was either rebuilt or substantially reconstructed between 1841 and 1842 as evidenced by an increase in property value from \$4.10 to \$20.00 per acre according to Montgomery County Tax Assessment records. The mill retained its original horizontal dimensions, but was increased from 2 to 2½ stories. Duvall passed away in 1874 leaving no will.

Following Duvall's death, a Franklin Pilling was persuaded by an ailing aunt to leave England and emigrate to America where he would manage a large farm for her. When his aunt refused him the deed, Pilling planned to return to England to solve his financial problems. His aunt then promised to give him \$5,000 to purchase and repair a local mill (the Valley Mill). The mill property was purchased for \$2,100 and the remainder of the money was used to repair and improve the mill. Pilling upgraded the machinery, which included installation of a Leffel-type turbine manufactured by Poole & Hunt of Baltimore. Typically, these turbines improved efficiency to approximately 95%, a substantial increase from the 30% efficiency of the breast-type vertical wheel. Pilling's mill business was unsuccessful and he lost the mill through foreclosure. The mill changed owners after 1888, becoming the property of Alberly C. Prather. Prather's 1896 insurance policy indicated a sawmill was on the site (a common occurrence near gristmills of the 19th century). The sawmill also appears on county maps from the late 1800s. Captain Winifield Scott Overton purchased the property in 1909. The captain's brother-in-law, Robert Vierling, managed the property for Overton until it was willed to his sister Helen in 1947. The mill was dismantled in 1941 and some of the gears were moved to the Weathered Oak Herb Farm in Bethesda. The property was transferred to Helen's daughter Mabel McEwan in the same year and the McEwan family built an addition onto the house, including a pond upstream from the mill, and operated a day camp until the property was purchased by the Montgomery County Parks Department in the 1970s.

The Phase II work conducted by the high school students began with gridding the site into 15.24 X 15.24 meter (50 X 50 foot) units, which were broken down into sixteen 3.05 X 3.05 meter (10x10 foot) units, and each of these was further subdivided into four 1.524 X 1.524 meter (5 X 5 foot) units. With the goal of discovering the remains of a penstock and verifying the presence of the historically documented sawmill on the east side of the mill, seven of the 1.524 X 1.524 meter units were opened up. Soil was removed by arbitrary 15.24 cm (6 in) levels within each soil stratum, and screened through hardware mesh. Within the test units, the strata showed a high degree of disturbance, with a mixture of 19th and 20th century cultural materials being found. In some cases modern material culture is found as deep as 1.524 meters below ground surface. There appears to have been much backfill piled against the foundation of the mill from grading for a nearby parking lot in the late 1970s (on the west wall). The mill race was used as a trash dump after the close of operations and many kitchen materials appear to have washed into units along the north end of the mill foundation and turbine intake tube. A wall found at a depth of about 61 cm may be an earlier mill foundation or a revetment to divert water from the race away from the mill foundation. A large/thick beam lies along the top of this wall feature and may be a sill plate or collapsed structural element of the mill. Wrought nails were found in this beam.

No detailed description of artifacts is provided in the report from the Magruder and Rockville High School group. However, the general excavation description indicates that architectural materials (19th century and modern window glass, wire and cut nails, brick, mortar, and architectural stone) and kitchen remains (annulware, whiteware, redware, stoneware, late 19th and early 20th century bottle glass, and some cut glassware) were the main items encountered. Other artifacts include pieces of sheet metal and a late 18th century pipe stem. Some prehistoric artifacts were also encountered, including several quartz flakes, a Perkiomen point, and several possible Woodland projectile point fragments.

Excavation of the mill race appears to indicate that water flowed directly into the turbine. No evidence of an elevated penstock has been found. Excavation of the turbine in the mill's wheel pit reveals that the model of the turbine was a Poole-Leffel Turbine Water Wheel produced by the Robert Poole & Sons Co. of Baltimore, Maryland. The turbine is housed in an iron globe casing with an access door on the east side of the casing. The turbine appears to have been mounted on a wooden support structure which collapsed, causing the turbine to drop from its original position. The interior of the mill (other than the wheel pit) has not been excavated. No excavation has yet been conducted around the Miller's House. Early photographs and aerial photos indicate an outbuilding east



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Unknown

of the house. Thus, despite the disturbances seen in the areas surrounding the immediate mill site, it is likely that intact deposits relating to the functioning of a 19th century mill community exist in the area of the miller's house, below the mill floor, and in other unexcavated portions of the site.

## External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

00006150, 00006168