



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18MO98

Site Name: Horner's Mill

Prehistoric

Other name(s) Horners Sawmill, Mill MO-JJ, ROCKVL-QF07

Historic

Unknown

Brief Description: 19th century grist and saw mill complex

Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 12

SCS soil & sediment code

Latitude 39.1015

Longitude -77.1247

Physiographic province Eastern Piedmont

Terrestrial site

Underwater site

Elevation 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 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) Rock Creek

Saltwater

Ocean

Estuary/tidal river

Tidewater/marsh

Minimum distance to water is 0 m

Freshwater

Stream/river

Swamp

Lake or pond

Spring

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 grist,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

mill complex,,miller's house

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		Koens-Crispin	
Clovis	<input type="checkbox"/>	Perkiomen	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hardaway-Dalton	<input type="checkbox"/>	Susquehana	<input type="checkbox"/>
Palmer	<input type="checkbox"/>	Vernon	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kirk (notch)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Piscataway	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kirk (stem)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Calvert	<input type="checkbox"/>
Le Croy	<input type="checkbox"/>	Selby Bay	<input type="checkbox"/>
Morrow Mntn	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jacks Rf (notch)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Guilford	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jacks Rf (pent)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Brewerton	<input type="checkbox"/>	Madison/Potomac	<input type="checkbox"/>
Otter Creek	<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	2	Eng Dry-bodied	<input type="checkbox"/>
Buckley	<input type="checkbox"/>	North Devon	<input type="checkbox"/>	Porcelain	12	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		Other fired clay	
Flaked stone	<input type="checkbox"/>	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ground stone	<input type="checkbox"/>	Modified faunal	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stone bowls	<input type="checkbox"/>	Unmod faunal	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fire-cracked rock	<input type="checkbox"/>	Oyster shell	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other lithics (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ceramics (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Uncommon Obj.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rimsherds	<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

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

Dated features present at site

Historic Artifacts		Tobacco related	
Pottery (all)	29	Activity item(s)	6
Glass (all)	219	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Architectural	514	Faunal material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Furniture	1	Misc. kitchen	8
Arms	1	Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Clothing	15	Misc.	32
Personal items	15	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Historic Features

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

19th century grist and saw mill complex

Unknown

External Samples/Data:

Collection curated at Montgomery College - Rockville Campus?

Additional raw data may be available online

Summary Description:

The Horner's Mill Site, 18MO98, represents the ruins of a 19th century grist and saw mill, mill race, and the foundation of what is believed to have been the miller's residence. The site is located within what is today known as Rock Creek Regional Park in Rockville, Montgomery County, Maryland. There are no traces of a dam across Rock Creek at this location, although the presence of a dam at the mill is indicated in historic records. The remnants of the mill race are too deteriorated to determine exactly where the mill race had entered Rock Creek. The mill structure itself has fallen down. However, portions of a stone foundation and a spillway remain. A tongue of land runs out into the mill race run-off which may have been support for the mill structure. Portions of probable wheel supports also remain. The stone foundation ruins of the probable miller's house were located approximately 15 meters to the north of the mill race. During the 18th and 19th centuries, the forests of the area were comprised of oak, hickory, white pine, yellow pine, scotch pine, hemlock, ash, cherry, walnut, and poplar. Many of these trees were used in the lumber industry, which flourished in Maryland from about 1814 to 1909. Pines and hardwoods were the most milled woods by Marylanders and were probably among the products of the Horner's Mill site. Soils of the site are of the Manor series.

The only known archeological work conducted at 18MO98 was conducted in 1975 as part of a fieldschool run by the Department of Sociology & Anthropology at Montgomery College. At that time, the Rockville Campus at the college was exploring the possibility of establishing a new program in archeological technology. In addition, the site itself was threatened by the prospect of a sewer line installation in the vicinity. Thus, Horner's Mill became a "test case" for the school. As a component of the fieldschool, students conducted archival background research.

The archival study revealed that Horner's Mill was one of 14 early mills located on Rock Creek. It was a saw and grist mill which operated by an overshot wheel that was replaced by a turbine toward the end of its use. The mill was situated approximately one mile below Muncaster Mill and three miles above Viers Mill. The site was originally part of a 410 1/2 acre land grant known as Needwood of "Hills and Dales" received by one William Dent. By 1786, the owners were listed as Elisha and Edward O. Williams. They sold the land to Charles Beckwith for 500 pounds. Multiple documents attest that a mill was present on Beckwith's land by this time. Charles' children sold the property with the mill to a John Lodge after Charles' death in 1799. However, it would be 20 years before Lodge would hold clear title to the land because of debts incurred by Beckwith which were not properly absolved by his heirs. It was recorded that in 1807 a new mill had been erected on the property. It was referred to locally as "Lodge's Mill". Lodge died in 1822 and his daughters sold his estate to John Braddock.

The mill changed hands several times until Benjamin S. Forrest acquired it at public auction in 1833 for \$2,050. The auction advertisements read, "...also part of a tract of land called 'Needwood' and part of a tract of land called the 'Resurvey' on same with a grist and saw mill thereon containing 166 1/2 acres more or less...and is considered one of the best mill seats in the county...". Upon Benjamin Forrest's death, the land went to his wife who sold it to Singleton Prather in 1846 for \$1,075. In the 1850 U.S. Census, Singleton Prather, age 41, his mother, and his two daughters, Florida and Elizabeth L., were listed. Singleton's occupation was 'farmer' and his real estate was valued at \$1,500. When Singleton Prather died in the early 1860's, the mill site was passed down to his daughters and their husbands. They divided the land into three sections and sold them all in 1877. The section containing the mill and 62 7/8 acres was sold to John W. and Frank B. Horner on May 28th, 1877 for \$1,250. An 1878 atlas records John and Frank Horner's residence and a grist and saw mill at the site. It is believed that they abandoned the milling operations in 1890. After John W. Horner died, Frank and his other brothers sold the property on December 7th, 1909. The land would eventually be sold to the Montgomery County Park and Planning Commission in 1963.

No archeological investigation was performed on the remnants of the mill structure itself due to time, funding, and equipment constraints. Instead, excavation focused on the possible miller's house foundation. First, all brush was cleared from around the building foundation to reveal it fully. The foundation measured 6.4 m (21 ft) X 6.1 m (20 ft) in size. The entire foundation was not visible, but enough was present to measure and draw the house foundation plans. The foundation was made of stone and on the east wall a pile of stone rubble was interpreted as possibly being the remains of a chimney and fireplace. In the middle of the house foundation was a pile of large stones; possibly used as a support since the ground was not level at this point. There were also many stones directly to the right of the house which may have been a room addition, a barn, or kitchen. Next, stakes were placed for a 6.7 meter X 91 cm (22 ft X 3 ft) test trench. This unit was subdivided into eastern and western halves which were excavated separately. Excavation initially proceeded in artificial levels, but due to recognizable changes in the soil, natural levels were used further on. Excavation proceeded to a depth of about 1.3 meters (4.3 ft) to culturally sterile soil.

Artifacts encountered during the 1975 fieldschool include 6 activity items, 514 architectural artifacts, 15 clothing-related artifacts, 1 furniture object, 193 kitchen-related artifacts, 15 personal items, and arms object, and 32 miscellaneous items. Among the activity items were a glass doll's eye, a glass marble, a boot scraper, a scissors handle, a metal wheel and rod, and a metal can with a screw-top lid. Architectural objects were 159 fragments of brick, 5 pieces of mortar, 93 pieces of plaster, 26 fragments of architectural stone, at least 58 window glass fragments, 7 handwrought nails, 85 cut nails, 3 wire nails, 76 unidentified nails, and 2 hinges. Clothing items consisted of a plastic button, 2 metal buttons, 7 other buttons, a thimble, a needle, a sewing machine foot, a belt buckle and a small buckle. The furniture item is made of wood, but is otherwise unidentified. Kitchen related artifacts include 12 probable porcelain sherds, 2 probable whiteware sherds, 2 pieces of crockery (probably stoneware or redware), 13 unidentified ceramics, at least 156 container glass fragments, a spoon, 2 animal bones, and 5 fragments of black walnut shell. Personal objects include 12 "icon" pieces, an 1865 two-cent piece, a gold wedding ring, and a brooch. The arms item was a bullet. And finally, the miscellaneous category included 5 metal scrap fragments, 5 unidentified glass objects, a piece of charcoal, and 21 rocks.

The student excavators were unable to prove conclusively that the house foundation was occupied by the miller in charge of Horner's Mill. The proximity of the foundation to the mill race and the mill itself lend weight to this hypothesis, as do the historical data. It seems certain that the structure was at one time used by a family based on the domestic nature of the finds. There was no evidence, for example, to indicate that the structure was in any way commercially involved with the operation of the mill. Temporal indicators, such as coins, ceramics, and nails are consistent, however, with a structure contemporaneous with the 19th century mill. The site, especially the unexcavated mill structure, races, and external walls of the domestic structure are likely to reveal additional important information. The site's integrity is difficult to determine with the data at hand, but is likely to provide significant data relating to 19th century milling operations.

External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

00006238

MARYLAND
HISTORICAL



TRUST

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