



# Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18WA480

Site Name: Miller Brothers Lumbermill

Prehistoric

Other name(s)

Historic

Unknown

Brief Description:

Mid-late 19th century plaster mill, Early 20th century lumber mill and ice house, slaughterhouse

## Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 19

SCS soil & sediment code

Latitude 39.5951

Longitude -77.8176

Physiographic province Great Valley

Terrestrial site

Underwater site

Elevation m Site slope

Ethnobotany profile available  Maritime site

### Nearest Surface Water

Name (if any) Chesapeake & Ohio Canal

#### Saltwater

Ocean

Estuary/tidal river

Tidewater/marsh

Minimum distance to water is 0 m

#### Freshwater

Stream/river

Swamp

Lake or pond

Spring

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

## 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. 1630 - 1675
- ca. 1675 - 1720
- ca. 1720 - 1780
- ca. 1780 - 1820
- Unknown historic context
- Unknown context
- ca. 1820 - 1860
- ca. 1860 - 1900
- ca. 1900 - 1930
- Post 1930

### 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? Urban

#### Domestic

- Homestead
- Farmstead
- Mansion
- Plantation
- Row/townhome
- Cellar
- Privy

#### Industrial

- Mining-related
- Quarry-related
- Mill  plaster, lumbe
- Black/metalsmith

Furnace/forge

Other  slaughterho

#### 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

Ice 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

<b>Earthenware</b>		Ironstone	<input type="checkbox"/>	Staffordshire	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Stoneware</b>	
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	110	Eng Dry-bodied	<input type="checkbox"/>
Buckley	<input type="checkbox"/>	North Devon	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Porcelain</b>	14	Nottingham	<input type="checkbox"/>
Creamware	<input type="checkbox"/>	Pearlware	20			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)	241	Activity item(s)	281
Glass (all)	3850	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Architectural	13483	Faunal material	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Furniture	294	Misc. kitchen	159
Arms	4	Floral material	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Clothing	75	Misc.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Personal items	17	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 type="checkbox"/>
Foundation	<input type="checkbox"/>	Trash pit/dump	<input type="checkbox"/>	Railroad bed	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cellar hole/cellar	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sheet midden	<input type="checkbox"/>	Earthworks	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hearth/chimney	<input type="checkbox"/>	Planting feature	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mill raceway	<input 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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## External Samples/Data:

Collection curated at NPS? - C & O Canal Park

Additional raw data may be available online

## Summary Description:

Site 18WA480, the historic Miller Brothers lumbermill, is situated in the town of Williamsport, MD along a turning basin of the C & O canal and is part of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park. The site was subjected to Phase II testing in preparation for the development of the Williamsport area of the park and in compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966.

Historical research revealed that after construction of the canal from Georgetown to Williamsport in 1835, the turning basin was being used as a trans-shipment point for coal, flour, and various other commodities. It was also an intermediate processing center for raw materials. In 1879, John A. and George A. Miller leased a parcel of land from Victor Cushwa at the edge of the Williamsport Turning Basin in order to construct and operate a plaster grinding mill. This mill was powered by water leased by Victor Cushwa from the C & O Canal Company. Though originally established as a plaster grinding mill, by the 1900s the Millers had shifted activities to lumber milling. The location of the lumber mill was ideal as the canal provided not only a power source, but also acted as a mode of transportation, both in bringing the raw logs to be processed and in taking the finished materials to a wider market. Around 1917 or 1918, when Williamsport was electrified, the canal side milling operations ceased. The mill building was then converted to an ice house, which subsequently burned down in 1921. The Miller Brothers Lumber Mill and Ice House was never reconstructed after this fire although the owner, J.M. Miller, wished to rebuild and restart his business. In 1928, the remaining foundations of the mill may have been used for the construction of a concrete building for a slaughterhouse. This building and its machinery were washed away during a massive flood in 1936. Another structure was built on the remaining concrete foundation and used by a local resident for equipment storage, but this structure was demolished in 1976 when the turning basin was acquired by the National Parks Service.

Before excavations started at the 18WA480 nothing was visible except the concrete floor and concrete foundations of the post-1921 slaughterhouse. In order to examine the visible features and answer a number of architectural questions the researchers had (see cover sheet), two long trenches and several other separate test units were excavated. A north/south trench was established to determine the limits of the lumber mill buildings and the slaughterhouse structure and to establish the stratigraphy of the site. An east/west trench was excavated for the same reasons. Other units were excavated to establish construction sequences, the conditions around the concrete foundations and to locate the in-flow and out-flow for the mill race. These test units were initially 0.762 X 1.524 meter (2.5 feet X 5 feet) trenches situated along the baseline established at the site. These units could then be expanded easily from long trenches to 1.524 meter square (5 foot) test units.

The stratigraphy encountered in these trenches appeared to be related to intentional filling episodes rather than a gradual, naturally occurring deposition. This was especially evident in the foundation area, where the various stages of excavation necessary to prepare for the construction of the different buildings on the site (lumbermill, slaughterhouse, etc.) are reflected in the stratigraphy. Thirty features were encountered during excavation and the full site report provides some architectural details on the dimensions and compositions of walls, and a detailed description of the interior of the slaughterhouse foundation. Also included is a chronology of construction and the methods used. However, researchers could not determine the precise dimensions of many of the buildings on the lumbermill site. Excavation did reveal details regarding the location and construction of the mill race inflow and outflow.

The artifact assemblage consisted of some 16491 objects. One is an unidentified prehistoric object, while the remaining objects are historic in origin. Of the 281 activity items recovered from the site, 6 are construction tools (files, drawknives, drill bits etc.), 4 are toys (3 marbles, 1 bike/tricycle part), 1 is a harmonica, 1 is a miniature, 1 is part of a book/magazine, 11 are fishing sinkers, 12 are storage items, 1 is table-related (a horseshoe), 243 are miscellaneous pieces of hardware, and 1 is a cleaning sponge. The architectural assemblage was, by far, the largest. It included a total of 13,483 items, including 4,215 nails (1501 wire nails, 567 modern machine-cut, 151 early machine-cut hand headed, 67 early machine-cut machine headed, 20 machine cut, 48 hand wrought, 14 other, and 1847 unidentified), 96 spikes, 1,931 pieces of window glass, 49 pieces of door/window hardware, 57 pieces of structural hardware, 189 shingles, 82 pieces of lumber, 19 pieces of sheathing, 15 fragments of mortar/plaster, 12 brick pieces, 26 pieces of wallpaper, 7 pieces of metal roofing, 20 other pieces of construction material, 6 pieces of water/sewer pipe, 3 fragments of utility meter seal, and an unidentified public utility item. Seventy-five clothing objects were recovered, 42 of which are shoe fragments. A glove, 14 pieces of apparel objects, 3 beads, 6 snaps, 4 buttons, and eyelet, 2 buckles, and 2 other clothing fragments were also recovered. Furniture items from the site include 2 drawer pulls, a refrigerator part, 8 lighting objects, and 283 decorative furnishings (most of them plant pot sherds). The kitchen assemblage consists of 2,319 artifacts. This is a rather large frequency for a site that was primarily an industrial area, but most of these are bottles and containers. Of the ceramics recovered, 110 sherds are whiteware, 20 pearlware sherds, 14 are porcelain sherds, 13 sherds are redware, 4 are granite china, and 80 are unidentified ceramics. A total of 1,919 kitchen glass shards were recovered, along with 3 soda cans, 4 utensils, 1 pot, 17 dutch oven parts, and a drinking straw. The remaining possible kitchen objects were 28 unidentified items, 16 ethnobotanical remains, and 89 faunal remains (the degree to which these latter two groups represent food remains is not noted in the report). Seventeen personal items were encountered such as a coin, 5 writing instruments objects, 9 grooming/hygiene objects, a watch key, and a pocket calendar. Twelve tobacco-related objects were found; 4 kaolin pipe fragments, 1 pamplin pipe, 3 tobacco tin parts, a piece of cigarette packaging, and 3 unidentified smoking-related objects. And finally, four arms-related objects were encountered. Three are rim-fire cartridges and one is a center-fire shotgun shell.

The Miller Brothers Lumber Mill/Slaughter House played an important part in the commercial history of Williamsport, Maryland, Washington County, and the C&O Canal. Although it was only a small business, it should be included in any interpretive plans for the Williamsport turning basin in the C & O Canal National Historical Park. However, the scarcity of documentary, archeological, and architectural information would make any attempt at reconstruction difficult if not impossible. Such a reconstruction would require unwarranted conjecture and would not be essential to the public understanding of the site. One possibility would be to develop the site through interpretive methods, to illustrate the diversity of industry beside the canal, as well as the changing face of the turning basin through time.

Since the archeological remains found at the lumber mill site are significant to the history of Williamsport and the C&O Canal, it was recommended that an archeologist be notified of any proposed ground disturbance in this area.

## External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

00006338