



# Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18WA587

Site Name: Darby Mill

Prehistoric

Other name(s) 4436-1; Isaac Gruber Mill, Darby and Gruber Mill

Historic

Unknown

Brief Description:

Prehistoric lithic scatter; Late 19th century mill site

## Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 19

SCS soil & sediment code HcD2

Latitude 39.5971

Longitude -77.8233

Physiographic province Great Valley

Terrestrial site

Underwater site

Elevation m

Site slope 0-3%

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) Potomac River

- | 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 289 m

## Temporal & Ethnic Contextual Data:

Paleoindian site

Woodland site

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 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? Urban

### Domestic

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

### Industrial

- Mining-related
- Quarry-related
- Mill  Lumber Mill
- 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 N

N

Flotation samples taken N

Other samples taken

### Historic context samples

Soil samples taken N

N

Flotation samples taken N

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"/>
Dames Qtr	<input type="checkbox"/>	Coulbourn	<input type="checkbox"/>
Selden Island	<input type="checkbox"/>	Watson	<input type="checkbox"/>
Accokeek	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mockley	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wolfe Neck	<input type="checkbox"/>	Clemson Island	<input type="checkbox"/>
Vinette	<input type="checkbox"/>	Page	<input type="checkbox"/>
Shepard	<input type="checkbox"/>	Townsend	<input type="checkbox"/>
Keyser	<input type="checkbox"/>	Minguannan	<input type="checkbox"/>
Yeocomico	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sullivan Cove	<input type="checkbox"/>
Monongahela	<input type="checkbox"/>	Shenks Ferry	<input type="checkbox"/>
Susquehannock	<input type="checkbox"/>	Moyaone	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Potomac Crk	<input type="checkbox"/>

Historic Sherd Types		Ironstone		Staffordshire		Stoneware	
<b>Earthenware</b>		Astbury	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jackfield	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tin Glazed	<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		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"/>
Midden	<input type="checkbox"/>
Shell midden	<input type="checkbox"/>
Postholes/molds	<input type="checkbox"/>
House pattern(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Palisade(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hearth(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lithic reduc area	<input type="checkbox"/>
Storage/trash pit	<input type="checkbox"/>
Burial(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ossuary	<input type="checkbox"/>
Unknown	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

Dated features present at site

Historic Artifacts		Tobacco related	
Pottery (all)	24	Activity item(s)	2
Glass (all)	4	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Architectural	18	Faunal material	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Furniture		Misc. kitchen	2
Arms		Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Clothing		Misc.	
Personal items	1	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Historic Features		Privy/outhouse		Depression/mound		Unknown	
Const feature	<input type="checkbox"/>	Well/cistern	<input type="checkbox"/>	Burial(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>
Foundation	<input checked="" 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:  0 +/-  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 National Parks Service

Additional raw data may be available online

## Summary Description:

The Darby Mill Site (18WA587) consists of the archeological remains associated with a late 19th century mill in Williamsport, Washington County. The site is situated on the outskirts of Williamsport along the east bank of the Chesapeake and Ohio (C&O) Canal, just northeast of Lock 44. It is within the C&O Canal National Historical Park. The surrounding landscape is heavily altered from its native state due to the construction of the canal and the installation of ancillary businesses and structures associated with the canal. Soils at the site are of the Berks-Weikert-Urban land complex.

The Darby Grain Mill was built sometime before 1877, based on its depiction on a map published that year. According to local newspaper reports, the mill burned down in 1904. Historical photos of the mill show a large frame structure and a railroad spur between the C&O Canal and the mill, so its foundations were set back some distance from the canal edge. No water wheel is visible in any photograph, and indeed the mill is not well sited for the use of water power. Its description on the 1877 map as "steam-powered" is, therefore, probably correct. One of the private houses across the street from the park property dates to the mid-1800s and is almost certainly the same structure marked on the 1877 map as the mill owner's office.

A coal and lumber yard was operated just north of the mill by a Mr. Steffey and a Findlay, and the general area is sometimes referred to as Steffey and Findlay's Wharf. The area has been used for other purposes in recent times, including a gravel parking lot, and buildings are shown here on maps dating to the 1980s.

The only documented archeological work at 18WA587 occurred in 2009 when a combined survey and evaluation (Phase I and II) was conducted in support of proposed canal restoration efforts by the NPS. The work was conducted pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended.

Testing in the vicinity of 18WA587 was aimed at determining if any traces of canal-related structures could be found. Shovel test pits (STPs) were placed in the area on a grid at 15.24 m (50 ft) intervals.

Shovel test measured approximately 45.72 cm (1.5 ft) in diameter. Most were excavated to a maximum depth of 91 cm (3 ft) because sterile subsoil could not normally be reached. When sterile subsoil could be reached, STPs were excavated 15.24 cm (6 in) into that subsoil. All soils were screened through hardware cloth for uniform artifact recovery. Obviously recent objects found in the shovel tests were noted and discarded, along with coal, clinker, brick, limestone, and other building materials. Other artifacts were bagged by provenience and STP data (soil descriptions and profile drawings) was recorded on standardized forms. Digital and black-and-white film photography was used to document excavations work and conditions. A total of 17 STPs was excavated across the site.

The buried foundations of a stone wall were encountered in 4 of the 17 STPs at an average depth of about 34 cm (1.125 in) below the ground surface. One of the shovel tests was expanded to a roughly 1.52 X 1.52 m (5 X 5 ft) test square. It was discovered that the shovel test fell very near to what would have been the corner of a structure. The walls were approximately 91 cm (3 ft) thick. Recent fill, consisting of several layers of clay, some of it mixed with coal ash, covered the area. Artifacts recovered from the fill included a mix of domestic and industrial material. The domestic objects included bottle glass, coarse red earthenware, a fragment from the face of a porcelain doll (1850-1890), and 19 pieces of whiteware plate with an embossed rim. Objects that may be related to the mill include an iron pulley and a railroad spike.

The full assemblage from 18WA587 consisted of a ceramic doll, an iron pulley, a railroad spike, an electrical insulator, 7 machine-cut nails, 1 wire nail, 6 unidentified nails, 3 screws, 21 whiteware sherds, 3 redware sherds, 1 piece of tableware, 4 bottle glass fragments, and a cow bone.

Based on these findings, it would appear that the Darby Mill Site (18WA587) retains intact archeological features related to late 19th century flour mill operations. The site has been determined eligible for listing on the National Register. The site has been graded and modern fill at least 30.5 cm (1 ft) deep is present across the site and protects the massive stone foundations of the former mill. Surface activity (the only actions planned during the 2009 NPS restoration project) will not have an adverse effect on the site. Any future excavations deeper than 30.5 cm on the site could result in damage to the surviving foundations. The site should be considered a significant resource for future research.

## External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

95001295