

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

M: 33-7

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Valley Mill House

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 1600 East Randolph Rd. ☐ not for publication

city or town Colesville, ☐ vicinity

state Maryland code MD county Montgomery code 031 zip code 20914

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☐ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☐ locally. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

☐ entered in the National Register.
☐ See continuation sheet.

☐ determined eligible for the
National Register
☐ See continuation sheet.

☐ determined not eligible for the
National Register.

☐ removed from the National
Register.

☐ other, (explain:)

Valley Mill House

Name of Property

M.33-7

Montgomery County, MD
County and State**5. Classification****Ownership of Property**

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- ☐ private
☒ public-local
☐ public-State
☐ public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- ☒ building(s)
☐ district
☐ site
☐ structure
☐ object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
2	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	1	structures
0	0	objects
2	1	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

**Number of contributing resources previously listed
in the National Register**

0

6. Function or Use**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling
PROCESSING: manufacturing facility

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling
VACANT
TRANSPORTATION: pedestrian related

7. Description**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Bungalow/ Miller

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICK

walls BRICK

roof WOOD: Shingled

other

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Valley Mill House
Name of Property

Montgomery County, MD
County and State

M: 33-7

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- ☐ **A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ **B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☐ **C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☒ **D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- ☐ **A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ **B** removed from its original location.
- ☐ **C** a birthplace or grave.
- ☐ **D** a cemetery.
- ☐ **E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ **F** a commemorative property.
- ☐ **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☒ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey
MD-568, MD-567
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Archeological/History non-aboriginal

Social History

Period of Significance

1794 - 1930

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Kemp, Peter

Primary location of additional data:

- ☐ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☒ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Name of repository:

M-NCPPC

M:33-7

Valley Mill House
Name of Property

Montgomery County, MD
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1.3 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	18	329000	4325770
Zone	Easting	North	ing
2			

3			
Zone	Easting	North	ing
4			

☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Christopher McKneely
organization Catholic University of America date May 2, 1992
street & number 3816 Delano Street telephone (301) 949-1377
city or town Silver Spring state MD zip code 20902

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name _____
street & number _____ telephone _____
city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

Valley Mill House
Montgomery County, MD

Description

The brick miller's cottage, known now as Valley Mill House, was built by Peter Kemp, a German, a short while after purchasing the land in 1794. Kemp built the central bay of the existing three bay house first, then added a smaller bay on the east side in the early 1800's. These two bays are of brick construction, face south, and constituted the entire house until a second addition was built on the west side in 1948. This third bay has wood siding on the exterior, and is painted white as is the trim for the entire house. Each of the three bays has a steeply-pitched gable roof of varying heights, with the central bay being the highest. The entire roof is covered with wood shingles.

The central bay has three floors and rests on a high brick basement. The three floors include a basement level and an attic. The main entrance to the house is on the left side of the central bay's south facade. It is framed by a recent pedimented portico with stairway. There are also three windows on this facade: two at the entrance level, and one at the basement level. The two at entrance level are six over six double hung sash windows, with wide wooden frames. This bay has a fireplace in the center of the east wall; the chimney projects through the apex of the gable roof.

The first addition is two stories high, and is offset from the central bay by one-half of a story. The south facade of this bay sits flush with that of the central bay. This bay is easily distinguishable because of the lower cornice and roof lines than those of the central bay. This bay also has an entrance door on it's south facade, only this one is at ground level. The second floor of this bay is also an attic level. This addition also has a fireplace on the center of it's east wall. The chimney is flush with the exterior wall, and passes through the apex of this bays roof.

The second addition is the only major alteration to the original house. This third bay is adjacent to the west wall of the central bay, however it does not sit flush with the south facade of the original house. This setback, along with the different materials, allows the original house, I feel, to maintain it's integrity.

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

Valley Mill House
Montgomery County, MD

Description (continued)

The brick work on the south facade is Flemish bond, while the sides and the rear are done in common bond. Some decorative features in the brick work include a water table, and random glazed bricks.

The house is basically a split-level house with a total of five floors (including the basement); three in the central bay, and two in the first addition. There is a conservative molded cornice that runs along the eaves of the entire house. The house remains in good condition, and has outlived all but the stone foundation wall of the original and two subsequent mills.

The mill ruins are located in a slight ravine about 120 feet from Valley Mill House, at about twenty degrees west of south. There is a swale in the ground running north to south, along the side of the house down to the site of the mill. This is all of what remains of the head race, by which the water was diverted from Paint Branch stream to turn the paddle wheel and operate the mill. The tail race is also still clearly visible. The mill was modernized in 1874 when a new turbine was installed and the traditional use of the paddle wheel was abandoned. Part of this turbine remains.

The mill's foundation is of random laid stone construction. The mill measured approximately 30 feet by 30 feet, with a ground floor from three to four feet below ground level. An inner wall or separation is apparent; it is about eight inches wide and divides the ground floor into a one-fourth and three-fourths arrangement. From floor level to top the walls measure eight feet at the highest point. The last mill to operate this site was constructed in 1879 and was a two and a half story frame building covered in horizontal siding with a gable roof covered in wooden shingle. A brick chimney rose from the southwest corner of the mill building.

The only other structure within the boundaries of the nomination, is a covered wooden pedestrian bridge. This bridge is a non-contributing structure, and crosses the swale of the head race at the southwest corner of the house.

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 3

Valley Mill House
Montgomery County, MD

Statement of Significance

Valley Mill House and Valley Mill are historically significant for their long association with the milling industry in Montgomery County. The milling industry is very important to the county's history, and it played a large role in the development of the county. Valley Mill House is an excellent example of 18th century architecture and construction and is one of the few early small houses remaining in Montgomery County. The house is in good condition and maintains its integrity in that it still serves as a residence.

Historical background and significance

The history of the milling industry in this area begins in the 1720's when land was first patented to Richard Snowden. There are references to a "Snowden's Mill" along Paint Branch, but the exact location is unknown. Another tract was patented to Ninian Edmonston in 1763, who sold it to Walter Beall in 1771. The first evidence of a mill on this site was from the public sale of this land in 1774, noting that Beall didn't last long in the milling industry. The land passed hands several times before being bought by Peter Kemp in 1794.

Peter Kemp expanded the tract from 3.75 acres to more than 114 acres. He then built the miller's house where it stands today. Kemp put an addition on the house in the early 1800's, and lived there and operated the grist and sawmill until he sold it in 1835 to Dr. Washington Duvall. Dr. Duvall built a new mill at the site of Kemp's original mill. Duvall's mill became Montgomery County's leading producer by the mid-nineteenth century. Dr. Duvall was a state senator from 1860 to 1865. He continued the milling operation throughout the Civil War, and until the mill's sale in 1879.

The mill and house were purchased at this time by Franklin Pilling, who built another mill, replacing the old paddle wheel with a more efficient Poole and Hunt turbine. This is the mill that became known as Valley Mill, and thus Valley Mill House. Several years later, however, Pilling went bankrupt and the mill was sold at public auction.

United States Department of the Interior
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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8,9,10 Page 4

Valley Mill House
Montgomery County, MD

Statement of Significance (continued)

Valley Mill changed hands several more times as the milling industry grew less and less profitable in Montgomery County. Most of the mill industry had moved to the Midwest where land and labor was cheaper. By 1930, Valley Mill had ceased to operate, and the building was abandoned. Several years later the building was dismantled, with some of the materials being taken offsite to construct other buildings.

Bibliography

Davis, Joel "Valley Mill Viewed As Historic District",
THE FREE-PRESS, 14 March 1990, p. 8.

Verbal boundry description

Boundaries are indicated on the accompanying base map. The parcel is a four-sided polygon. Beginning at the intersection of East Randolph Road, and the driveway for Valley Mill Park, proceed north 320 feet along the edge of the driveway and parking lot. Then proceed east 200 feet along the edge of the concrete patio of an adjacent swimming pool. Then turning south, proceed 250 feet back to East Randolph Road. Then proceed southwest along East Randolph Road back to the point of origin.

Verbal boundary justification

The boundaries encompass all sites and buildings which are directly connected to the historical significance of the nomination. These boundaries also exclude the recent parking area and swimming pool with bath house.

699.

Valley Mill
Colesville, Maryland



Historic American Buildings Survey
John O. Brostrup, Photographer

October 20, 1936
3:20 P. M.

VIEW OF MILLER'S HOUSE FROM SOUTH (front)

M:33-7
HABS No. 10,507

HABS
MD.

16 COLVIN

2-1

Valley Mill
Colesville, Maryland



Historic American Buildings Survey
John O. Brostrup, Photographer

October 20, 1936
2:45 P. M.

VIEW FROM SOUTHWEST

M: 33-7

HABS No. 100-568

HABS

M.D.

16 COLEMAN

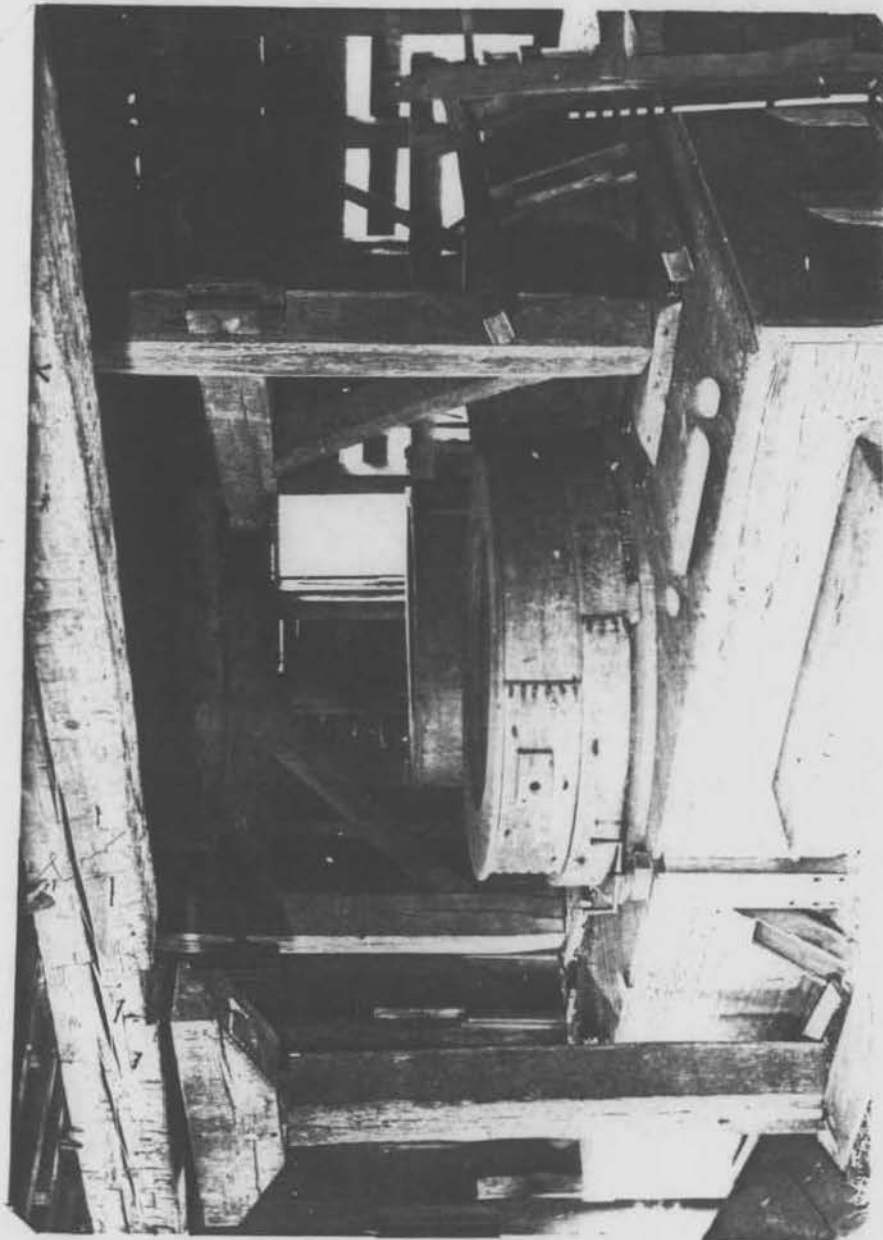
1-1

M:33-7

Valley Mill
Colesville
Montgomery County
Maryland

HABS No. MD-568

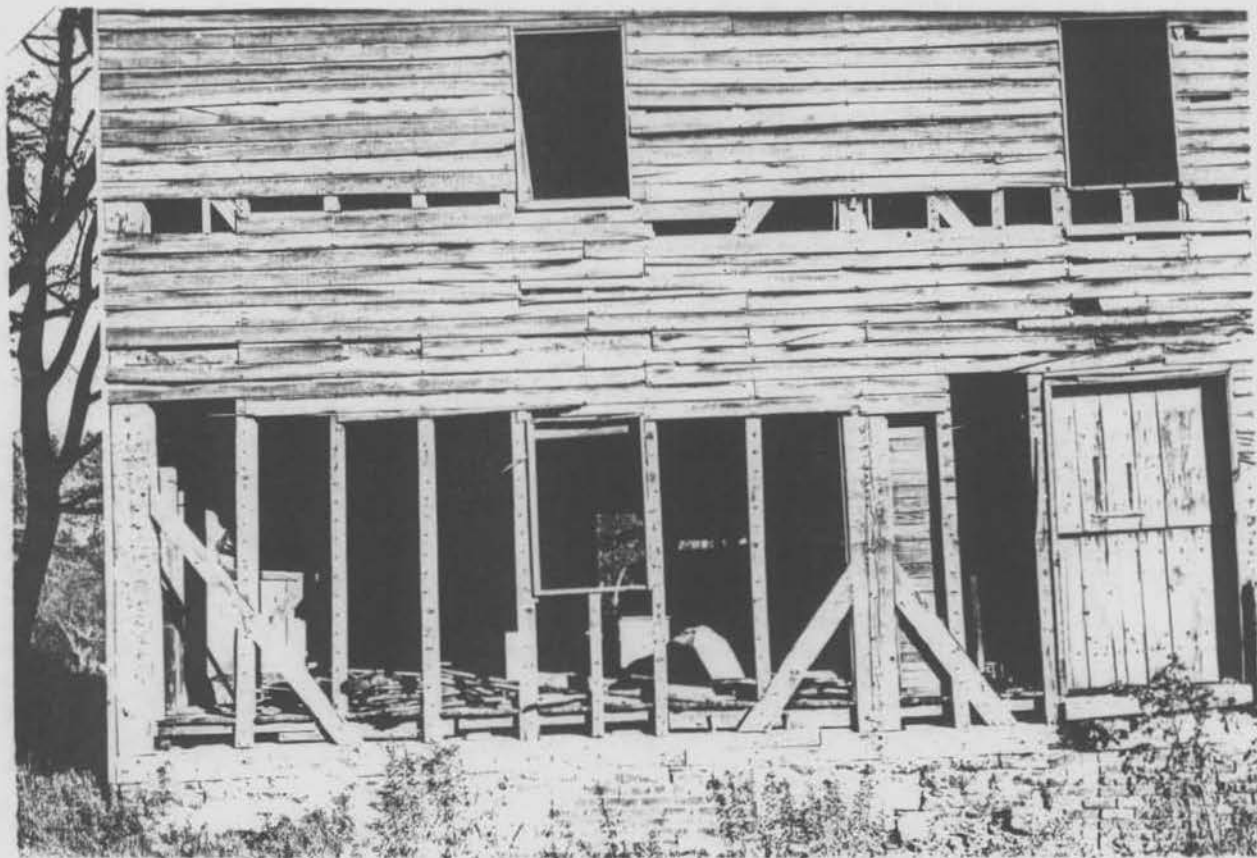
HABS
MD
16-COL.VI.V,
1-3



DETAIL OF MILL STONE TABLE

698.

Valley Mill
Colesville, Maryland



Historic American Buildings Survey
John O. Brostrup, Photographer

October 20, 1936
3:00 P. M.

DETAIL OF FRAMING CONSTRUCTION WEST ELEVATION.

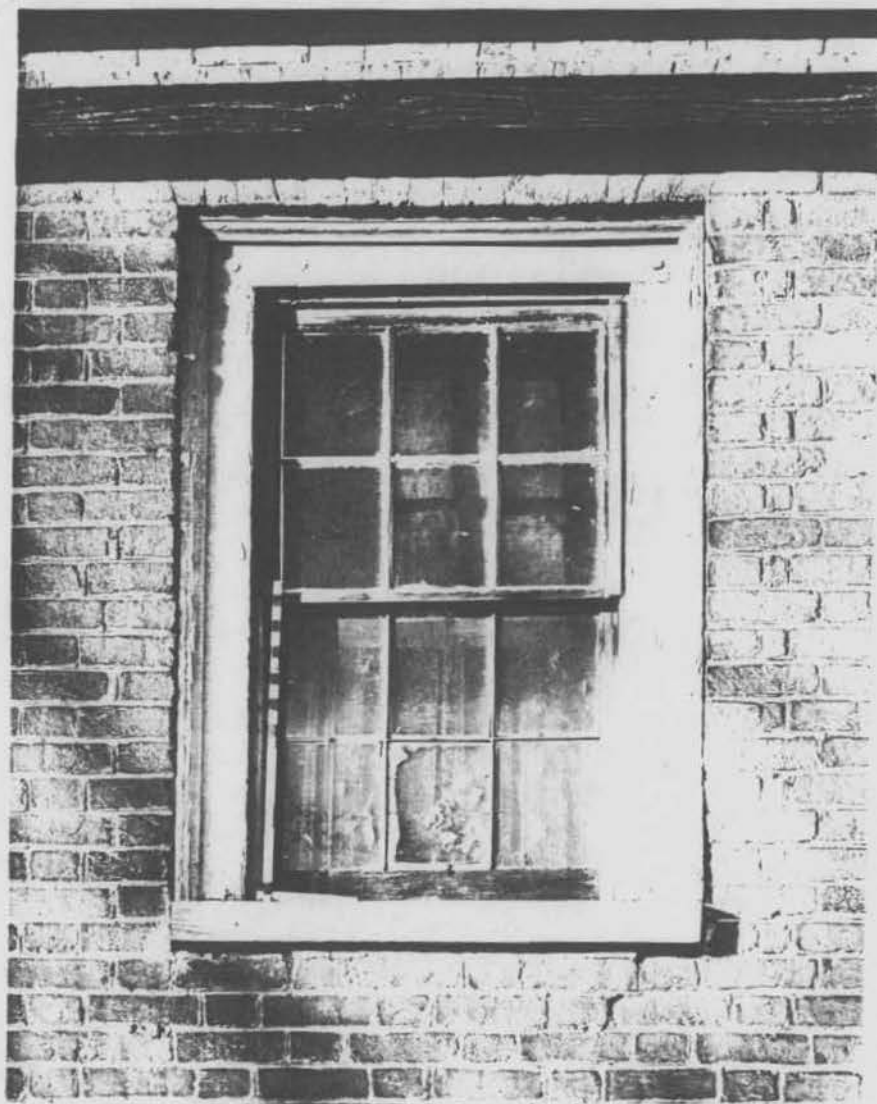
HABS No. Md-566
HABS
MD.
16 COLVIN
1-2

M: 33-7

Valley Mill
Colesville, Maryland

M:33-7
HABS No. MD-567
HABS
MD.
16 Colvi.V
2-2

700.



Historic American Buildings Survey
John O. Brostrup, Photographer

October 20, 1936
3:30 P. M.

DETAIL OF WINDOW AND BRICK WORK

ACHS SUMMARY FORM

M:33-7
(date entered 5-4-80)

1. Name: Valley Mill House

2. Planning Area/Site Number: 33/7 3. M-NCPPC Atlas Reference: Map 17
Coord. H-16

4. Address: 1600 East Randolph Road, Colesville

5. Classification Summary

Category	<u>building</u>	Previous Survey Recording	<u>M-NCPPC</u>
Ownership	<u>public</u>	Title and Date:	<u>1976 - Inventory of</u>
Public Acquisition	<u>N/A</u>	HABS-1936	<u>Historical Sites</u>
Status	<u>occupied</u>		
Accessible	<u>yes; restricted</u>	Federal <u>x</u>	State <u>X</u> County <u>X</u> Local <u> </u>
Present use	<u>park; private residence</u>		

6. Date: Mid-18th century 7. Original Owner: unknown

8. Apparent Condition
ruins (mill)a. good b. altered c. original site

9. Description: This five bay by one bay house sits on a hill facing south. Built in three sections, the two east sections are brick and the west section is frame. The east brick section is common-bonded, two bay, one story, and the west brick section is flemish-bonded, three bay, one-and-a-half story. There is a gabled south porch on the west brick section. It is supported by four narrow wooden posts. There are six-over-six double hung windows set into segmental arches on west brick section and diamond paned windows set into flat arches on the east brick section. The house has gable roofs with wooden shingles. The numerous outbuildings include a barn, bath house, swimming pool, 5 "open-air" shelters, tool shed and foot bridge.

The mill, of which only the foundation remains, is located in a ravine. It indicates the outline of a structure, approximately 30 feet by 30 feet.

10. Significance: The Valley Mill House is an early, substantial miller's house. It is connected with the Snowden family, influential Montgomery County settlers. In the late 18th century, Peter Kemp of Frederick County purchased land in the area, including the mill. He sold it in 1835 to Dr. Washington Duvall, successful doctor, state senator, and large landowner. Duvall constructed the last mill on the site in 1879, a saw and grist mill.

As milling became less rewarding as a business venture, due to technological advances which made the water-operated mills obsolete, the property was sold by Duvall's heirs and the mill and Valley Mill house sat abandoned. The mill was dismantled in the 1940s.

After receiving 48½ acres in 1948, Mabel and Robert McEwan restored the old brick house, added recreational facilities, and opened a summer day camp. The M-NCPPC has purchased the property for park land, over a period of 10 years.

11. Researcher and date researched: Donald M. Leavitt Candy Reed
Stuart Helble -7/79 Arch. Description12. Compiler: Eileen McGuckian 13. Date Compiled: 9/79 14. Designation
Approval

15. Acreage: 7.7705 acres

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

M: 33/7
Magi #

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Valley Mill House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

1600 East Randolph Road

CITY, TOWN

Colesville

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

8

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Montgomery

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☒ PUBLIC☐ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☒ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☐ COMMERCIAL☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☐ MUSEUM☒ PARK☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ OTHER:**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**NAME Maryland-National Capital Park &
Planning Commission

Telephone #: 565-7403

STREET & NUMBER

8787 Georgia Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Silver Spring

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 20907

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Montgomery County Courthouse

Liber #: 3681

Folio #: 582

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Rockville

STATE

Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

MNCPPC Inventory of Historical Sites & HABS 1936

DATE

1976

☒ FEDERAL ☒ STATE ☒ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Park Historian's Office

CITY, TOWN

Derwood

STATE

Maryland 20855

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD (house)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RUINS (mill)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This five bay by one bay house sits on a hill facing south. It was built in three sections. The two east sections are constructed of brick and the west section is frame. The east common-bonded brick section is two bays and one story; the west flemish-bonded section is three bays and one and a half story. On the south elevation, west brick section, there is a porch with a gable roof supported by four narrow wooden posts. The south (west) door is wooden paneled. The south (east) door is glass and wooden paneled. There is a brick patio on the north elevation. The north doors are glass and wooden paneled. The decorative brickwork includes a watertable and random glazed bricks.

The six-over-six double-hung windows in the west brick section are set into segmental arches while the diamond paned windows in the east brick section are set into flat arches. There are two four-light casement windows in the east gable of the west brick section and one four-light casement window in the east gable of the east brick section.

The house has gable roofs with wooden shingle covering. There is a massive chimney at the east gable-end of the west brick section and an end chimney at the east gable end of the brick section.

The south door (west section) opens into a center hall. An open string, single run, very steep stairway ascends north to south along the west wall. West of the hall is the frame addition. There are two bedrooms north and south, and a small bathroom in the frame section. East of the hall is a large living room and east of the living room and down several steps is the kitchen.

The kitchen has a flagstone floor. Four flagstone steps and two wooden steps lead to the west brick section where the floor has very wide random-width boards. The walls and ceilings are plaster over lath. The kitchen has wooden paneled walls. There is a double fireplace on the east wall of the west brick section. The windows are deeply recessed.

The numerous outbuildings include a barn, bath house, swimming pool, 5 "open-air" shelters, tool shed and foot bridge.

The mill is located in a ravine, possibly at one time a stream bed. Of the mill only the foundation remains. It indicates the outline of a structure, approx. 30 feet by 30 feet. It has a ground floor that is 3 to 4 feet below ground level. An inner wall or separation is apparent; it is about 8 inches wide, splitting the room into a 1/4 and 3/4 combination. In the smaller section, water seeps from the remnants of a well. In one wall there is a hole with is a round concrete disk.

When standing inside the structure, the walls measure highest at 8 ft. They are constructed of large rocks set on top of each other to form a wall measuring anywhere from 1-1 1/2 feet in width. In places a mortar was used to help hold them together but for the most part they are tightly packed with smaller rocks.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		Local History	

SPECIFIC DATES c. 1750

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Valley Mill House is an early, substantial miller's house. It is connected with the Snowden family, influential Montgomery County settlers.

In the early 18th century Richard Snowden received several land grants in the southeast section of the County. One of these tracts, granted to him in 1723, was called "Snowden's Mill Land" or "Snowden's Mill". This land encompassed much of the Paint Branch stream valley, and it is believed that the first mill on the site existed at that time. A dam was built to create a mill pond (a landmark still present today) and according to tradition the little brick miller's house was constructed in the mid-18th century.

In the late 18th century, Peter Kemp of Frederick County purchased land in the area, including the mill on Northwest Branch.¹ He operated the mill for many years before selling it, the miller's house, and the surrounding lands to Dr. Washington Duvall in 1835.² Duvall was a successful doctor, active in the Democratic party, a state senator from Montgomery County, and large land owner. He made his home in the Fairview estate across the road, and probably had an overseer operate the mill business and live in the brick house.

The last mill on the site was constructed in 1879 and the G.M. Hopkins Atlas of that year indicated that it was a saw and grist mill.

Upon his death a few years later, Washington Duvall's heirs divided up his immense estate and gave to Benjamin Duvall several tracts of land which included the mill.³

Milling became less rewarding as a business venture as technological advancements made the water-operated structures obsolete. In the late 19th and early 20th centuries Benjamin Duvall sold the land. After passing through several hands, the mill lands and the Fairview estate were purchased by Winifield Overton. The mill and miller's house sat abandoned. Sometime in the 1940s the mill was dismantled.

Overton's granddaughter, Mabel McEwan, was given 48½ acres of land surrounding the mill house in 1948.⁴ She and her husband Robert restored the old brick house, built a swimming pool and a bath house behind the building, and opened a summer day camp, called the Valley Mill Camp. In 1967 the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission made an agreement to purchase (over a period of ten years) the McEwan's property for park land.

FOOTNOTES: (See Attachment Sheet A)

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Land Records of Montgomery County, Md.
 McGrain, John, "The Molinography of Montgomery County", Montgomery
 County Historical Society, (mimeograph)
 Farquhar, Roger Brooke, Old Homes and History of Montgomery County, Md.,
 Washington, D.C.: Judd and Detweiler, 1962.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 7.7705 acres

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Located on East Randolph Road approximately 1 3/4 from Route 29.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Donald M. Leavitt/Stuart Helble

Candy Reed

Architectural Description

ORGANIZATION

Sugarloaf Regional Trails

DATE

July 1979

STREET & NUMBER

Box 87

TELEPHONE

926-4510

CITY OR TOWN

Dickerson

STATE

Maryland 20753

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created
 by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the
 Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA,
 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information
 and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringe-
 ment of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: ~~Maryland Historical Trust~~
~~The Shaw House, 21 State Circle~~
~~Annapolis, Maryland 21401~~
~~(301) 267-1438~~

SUGARLOAF REGIONAL TRAILS

Box 87, Stronghold
 Dickerson, Md. 20753
 (301) 926-4510

Valley Mill House

FOOTNOTES:

1. Land Records of Montgomery County, Md., F-6/122, (10/2/1794).
2. Ibid., BS7/353, (1/9/1835).
3. Ibid., EBP 29/1, (9/4/1883).
4. Ibid., 1178/21, (8/1948).

160834107

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

NOMINATION FORM
for the
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

1. NAME				
COMMON: Valley Mill House				
AND/OR HISTORIC:				
2. LOCATION				
STREET AND NUMBER: 1600 E. Randolph Road (at Paint Branch)				
CITY OR TOWN: Colesville				
STATE: Maryland		COUNTY: Montgomery		
3. CLASSIFICATION				
CATEGORY (Check One)		OWNERSHIP		STATUS
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
		Public Acquisition: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered		ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More, as Appropriate)				
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment		<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific
		<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____		<input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____
4. OWNER OF PROPERTY				
OWNER'S NAME: M-NCPPC (leased by previous owner, Mr. McEwan, for his				
STREET AND NUMBER: 8787 Georgia Ave. day camp)				
CITY OR TOWN: Silver Spring		STATE: Maryland		
5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION				
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Montgomery County Courthouse				
STREET AND NUMBER:				
CITY OR TOWN: Rockville		STATE: Maryland		
Title Reference of Current Deed (Book & Pg. #):				
6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS				
TITLE OF SURVEY: Historic American Buildings Survey				
DATE OF SURVEY: 1936 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local				
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Library of Congress				
STREET AND NUMBER:				
CITY OR TOWN: Washington, D.C.		STATE:		

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

M:33-7

7. DESCRIPTION	
CONDITION	<div>(Check One)</div> <div> <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/> Ruins <input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed </div>
	<div>(Check One)</div> <div> <input type="checkbox"/> Altered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered </div> <div>(Check One)</div> <div> <input type="checkbox"/> Moved <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site </div>
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE	
<p> This small, 18th Century brick house is unique to the area. The only other structure that bears a resemblance to it is the much larger "Cherry Grove" in Ashton. The style of architecture is Georgian (although the house is only one-story-with-loft.) The main part is a three-bay section that sits on a high brick basement. There are basement windows just above ground level. Brick work on the main (south) facade is Flemish bond, while the rear and sides are done in common bond. The entrance is in the west-end bay here, and the doorway is framed by a recent pedimented-portico-with-stairway. The decorative brick-work includes a watertable and random glazed bricks. The steeply-pitched "A" roof is covered with wooden shingles, and a large chimney stack sits flush with the east-end wall. Woodwork includes wide old window frames, 6/6 sash, and a conservative, molded cornice that runs along the eaves around the entire house. Attached on the east end is a smaller, two-bay, brick wing with a central door and a tall narrow chimney, flush with east-end wall. A now-dry mill race is spanned by a small covered bridge, just west of the house. </p>	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

M:33-7

B. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- ☐ Pre-Columbian ☐ 16th Century ☒ 18th Century ☐ 20th Century
☐ 15th Century ☐ 17th Century ☐ 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|-----------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi- | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | losophy | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human- | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | itarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Architecturally, this structure is absolutely in a class by itself. Its historical background is also unique. It is located on a tract of land called "Snowden's Mill Land" granted to Richard Snowden (of the "Montpelier" family) in 1723. At that time there was a small mill located here-perhaps the first one in Mont. Co. There were several successive milling operations here in later years, including Dr. DuVall's Mill in the Civil War period. The last mill (shown in the 1936 HABS photos) was built in 1879. It was dismantled around the 1940's, and some materials went into the Weathered Oak Herb Farm in Bethesda.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

M:33-7

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- 1) HABS (1936).
- 2) Land patents-Maryland Hall of Records.
- 3) Farquhar, R.B. OLD HOMES & HISTORY OF MONT. CO., MD. (1962) p. 152 ("Fairview" article)

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

Acreage Justification:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:

Michael F. Dwyer, Senior Park Historian

ORGANIZATION

M-NCPPC

DATE

8/21/75

STREET AND NUMBER:

8787 Georgia Ave.

CITY OR TOWN:

Silver Spring

STATE

Maryland

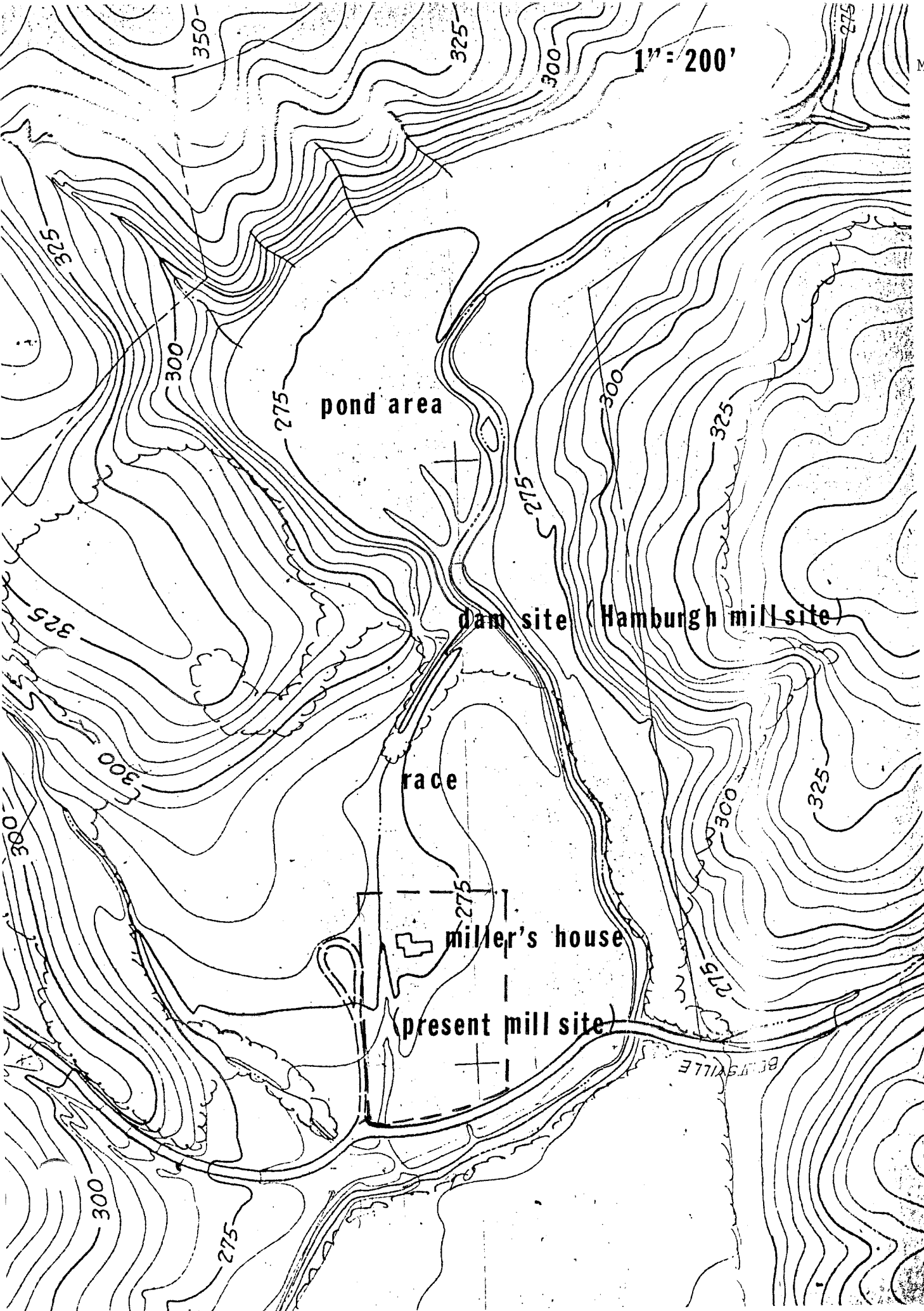
12.

State Liaison Officer Review: (Office Use Only)

Significance of this property is:

National ☐ State ☐ Local ☐

Signature _____



Beltsville Quad.

East Randolph Rd. →

M. 33-7

VALLEY MILL HOUSE
Colesville,
Montgomery County, MD
UTM Reference:
18/329000/4325770





M: 33-7

1. Valley Mill House
2. Mont. Co. MD
3. Chris McKneely
4. April 30, 1992
5. 3816 Delano St.
Silver Spring, MD 20902
6. South facade, looking north.

MIS 21500 NANN 504



M: 33-7

1. Valley Mill House
2. Mont. Co. MD.
3. Chris-McKneely
4. April 30, 1992
5. 3816 Delano St.
Silver Spring, MD 20902
6. South and West facades,
looking northeast

MIS 21+86 HNNNN 504



M: 33-7

1. Valley Mill House

2. Mont. Co. MD.

3. Chris McKneely

4. April 20, 1992

5. 3016 Delano St.

Silver Spring, MD 20902

6. North and east facades, looking southwest

MIS 21-00 NNNNN 504



M: 33-7

1. Valley Mill House
2. Mont. Co. MD.
3. Chris McKneely
4. April 30, 1992
5. 3016 Delano St
Silver Spring, MD 20902
6. North facade, looking southeast.

MIS 2101 NNNNN 504



M: 33-7

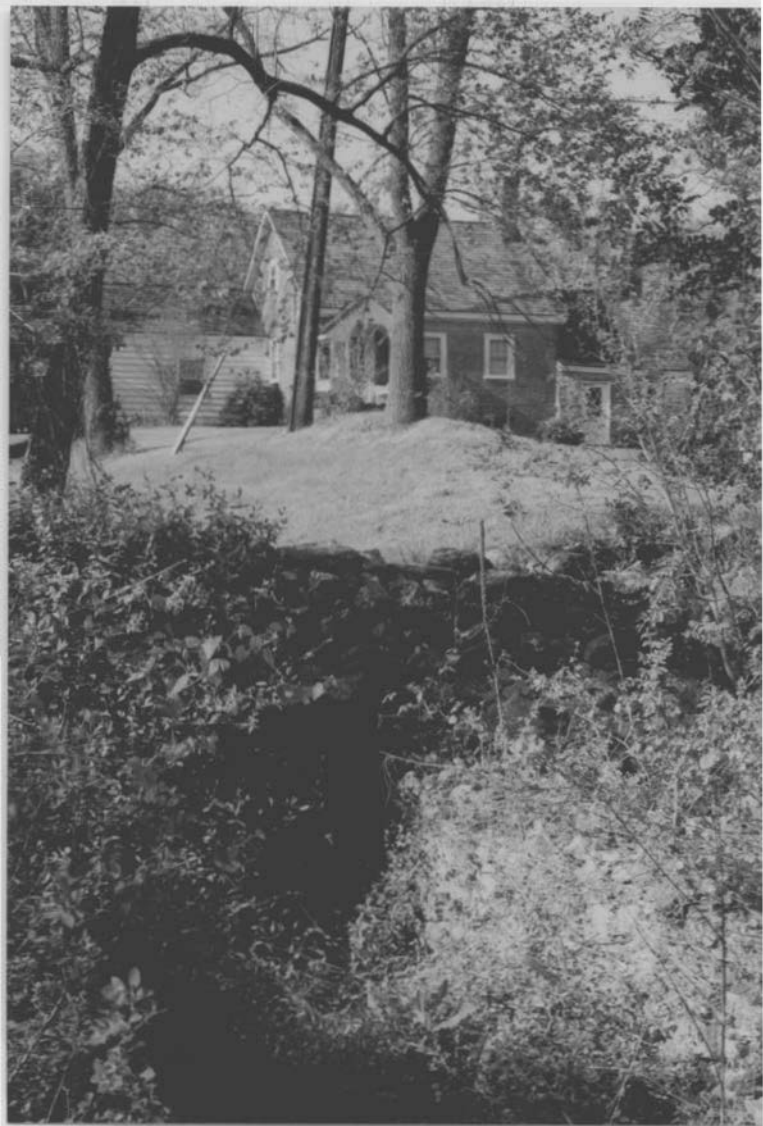
1. Valley Mill House
2. Moht. Co. MD
3. Chris McKneely
4. April 30, 1992
5. 3816 Delano St.
Silver Spring, MD 20902
6. South facade, looking north
from East Randolph Rd.



M:33-7

1. Valley Mill millstones
2. Mont. Co. MD
3. Chris McKeehy
4. April 30, 1992
5. 3816 Delano St.
Silver Spring MD 20902
- 6.

MIS 21+02NNNN 504



M:33-7

1. Valley Mill site and Valley Mill House.
2. Montgomery County, MD.
3. Christopher McKneely
4. April 30, 1992
5. 3816 Delano St.
Silver Spring, MD 20902
6. South facade from site
of old mill, looking northeast.

MIS 21+01 NNNNN 504



M: 33-7

1. Valley Mill
2. Mont. Co. MD.
3. Chris McKneely
4. April 30, 1992
5. 3816 Delano St.

Silver Spring, MD 20902

6. North and interior foundation walls, looking north.

MIS 21+01 NNNNN 504