

NOTE: Some of these mills were on land that was part of Maryland before the creation of the Federal District. Also included are mills in the part of the District that was ceded back to Virginia.

ADAMS MILL (NW)

Adams Mill was the 11th mill on Rock Creek and was built well before 1800 by Benjamin Stoddert, first Secretary of the Navy (under John Adams). Stoddert advertised the mill for sale in the *Md. Journal*, September 11, 1792; the mill was on Rock Creek, one quarter mile from Market Square in George Town. It was also one mile from President's Square . . . on tide water, 4 pair of stones, 24 to 30 foot fall. suffers great inconvenience from the event as the Stoddert sold to Walter MacKall in 1800, and MacKall sold in 1803 to Jonathan hoemaker of Pennsylvania. Shoemaker sold in 1809 to Roger Johnson, per the account in CHM, 31-32:100f. The *Baltimore American*, September 10, 1818, p. 2, quoted the *Washington City Gazette*, reporting that "Mr. Johnsons merchant mill, a little above Georgetown, was burnt down last Sunday morning; it is supposed that it took fire from the friction of the stones, and an empty hopper, in the absence of the miller. Our neighborhood mill generally furnishes a large proportion of the flour and meal used here." James Dunlop, trustee, gave dimensions of Columbia Mill as 50 x 54, four stories, with 3 pair of 6-foot burrs; 100 bbl/diem capacity, 60 bbl/diem in the driest season. Also a brick plaster mill rated at 12 tons/diem and a 20 x 30 millers house, *Frederick-Town Herald*, June, 14, 1823. A somewhat different descent was given in *John Quincy Adams and the Union*, Samuel Flagg Bemis, pp. 197-199:

In 1823 while still Secretary of State and not expecting to become President, John Quincy Adams invested "illadvisedly" in the Columbian Mills. His cousin George Johnson had bought the mill from Jonathan Shoemaker in 1809. Johnson went into bankruptcy, and Adams mortgaged his house on F Street and put \$9000 into the mill to become half owner. He expected the mill to support him in his life as a retired man of letters. The business was about 100 bbl/week.

There was flood damage in 1824; George Johnson was manager, but was later removed. Columbia Mills was offered for rent by John Adams, Jr. "At the President's Washington," *Frederick-Town Herald*, July 30, 1825. "This valuable property situated on Rock Creek one mile from Georgetown and the turnpike road, and well known by the title of the Columbia Mills is now for rent. It consists of a large brick FLOUR MILL, (capable of making from 80 to 100 barrels of flour per day)-one CORN and one PLASTER MILL."

John Adams, Junior took over after his father left the White House in 1829 and put the mills on a profitable basis but died in 1834. John Adams, Jr. had his father's secretary, William Greenleaf, as assistant. A relative of the Adams family, Nathaniel Frye, took over and finally made the business barely support the former President. Adams used to go down to the mills and view them with dismay; he referred to the

venture as an affliction of "gangrene." "The dam of the merchant mill in the vicinity of Georgetown belonging to the Hon. John Q. Adams (now in the occupancy of Mr. W. H. Ekles) has also been slightly injured [by storm waters]," *Baltimore Sun*, October 12, 1847. The mill was removed from the tax books in 1867, CHM 31-32:100f. Also HMCM, p. 76. The present Adams Mill Road runs east of the zoo and parallel to the creek.

A paper by Permilla Holmes and Sabina Wiedenhoef, under the direction of Dr. Cynthia R. Field for the Smithsonian Office of Architectural History and Historic Preservation was entitled, "The History of the Columbia Mills," and was found on the Internet in July 1999.

ADAMS MILL (VIRGINIA)

The same as Arlington Mill, Adams Mill was shown in 1789 on the east side of the road to Alexandria, 4-1/2 miles from George Town, on south bank of Four Mile Run, Plate 65, Christopher Colles, *Survey of Roads*. Arlington Mill was on the west bank of Four Mile Run and Columbia Road as shown on the military map of 1861. There was a metal wheel. The mill burned in 1925, CHM, 31-32:113.

ALEXANDRIA MILL (VIRGINIA)

Listed by William Bird in *Md. Journal*, December 7, 1792. This mill at Alexandria, was 30 by 45, 3 stories, lower of stone; 2 overshots 19 feet high, 3 pair of burr stones 4-1/2 and 5 feet in diameter; 4 bolting chests, 5 reels, "new invented machinery for elevating, cleaning, etc," 250 bbl per week; 10,000 per annum. "Built within last year," 1 mile from Alexandria and less than 2 by water and "wittin Call of the turnpike Road."

ANALOSTAN MILLS (NW)

See Shoemaker Mill.

ARGYLE MILLS (NW)

See Blagden Mill.

ARLINGTON MILL (NW)

See Rays Mill.

ARLINGTON MILL (VIRGINIA)

Same as Adams Mill (Virginia).

BARCROFT MILL (VIRGINIA)

This mill on Holmes Run near Columbia Road and the dam of Alexandria water works existed in 1824, when acquired from U.S. Marshall by Robert J. Taylor. It was acquired by William Kehoe, 1831; Smith Minor, 1838; Ambrose Bancroft, 1866. On

tract called Adams Mill lot, it was a small mill; stone, two stories, with a steel wheel, CHM, 31-32:113f.

BARRYS TAN YARD ()

Mentioned in *National Intelligencer*, July 31, 1822.

BARTON GRIST MILL (NW)

SW of Tennallytown, per atlas; apparently same as Murdock Mill, q.v.

BEALL & SHOEMAKER MILL (NW)

See Shoemaker (Analoestan) Mills.

BEALLS MILL ()

Josiah Beall of Frederick County took out a writ of *ad quod damnum* on Deep Branch which falls into the Potomac on June 3, 1761. The tract was valued at a total of 13/6 Sterling yearly and consisted of parts of White House, Noise Enough, and Amsterdam, belonging to John Murdock, Samuel Beall, and Rachel Edmonston, respectively. The grant was dated November 15, 1763 (Chancery Records, Liber 9, f. 174, MSA).

BINNEYS MILL-SITE (NW)

In 1829, Amos Binney sought an injunction against the C. & O. Canal Company's building of a dam abutting his property and ruining its potential mill sites. After an elaborate discussion of what made for good mill sites and their ownership, the court ruled against Binney and his partners because they did not own the entire stretch of river capable of being laid out as a working mill site (*High Court of Chancery*, 2 Bland 99, Binney's Case), which includes a diagram of the theory of laying out mills.

Bl;agdons Mill.



BLAGDENS MILL (NW)

Also called Argyle Mills for the patent name of the tract, this works was built by Thomas Blagden, who once owned an entire block on New Jersey Avenue SE.

Blagdens Wharf was at the foot of Third Street. The mill was on Rock Creek, a bone mill with a flour mill, upstream of Pierces Mill in G. M. Hopkins atlas. It was acquired by the Government in ruinous condition in 1890, CHM, 31-32:103. Blagdens Mill Road ran from Pierces Mill Road to Seventh Street on 1865 map and is now Blagden Avenue.

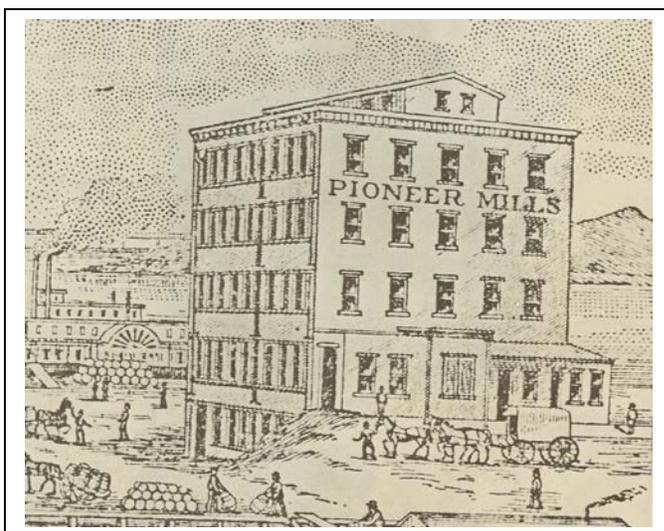
Current Maryland Archaeology, 9 (July 181): 2, reported, “Bert Salwen (New York University) will direct an archaeological field school this summer in Rock Creek Park. The historic Blagden Mill site and the prehistoric Piney Branch quarries will be investigated. Stephen R. Potter will serve as National Park Service historian.” The same journal, January 1982, p. 2, reported, “. . . In cooperation with the National Park Service, Bert Salwen, New York University, assisted by Susan M. Mayer, directed an archaeological field class at the site of the 19th century Blagden Mills in Rock Creek Park (Washington, D. C.) this past summer. Documentary research indicated that a bone mill and flour mill which shared the same raceway operated at this site in the late 1800s. Test excavations located a wall of the bone mill and the edge of the tail race. The base of a stone wall and floor associated with an earlier structure were uncovered under the bone mill refuse.”

BLUFFS WINDMILL (NW)

“On the Potomac River’s bank, ‘Bluff’s windmill’ ground grain for many years about where the Kenendy Center for the Performing Arts stands in the District of Columbia today,” Volta Torrey, *Windcatchers* (Brattleboro, Vermont, 1976).

BOMFORD MILL (NW)

Colonel George Bomford (1782-1848), the leading ordnance expert of the U.S. and owner of Kalorama Estate, started a flour mill in 1832 at the foot of Georgetown Market House; the mill burned in 1844. In 1845 he built a cotton factory on the ruins; it was a four-story building; 100 looms, 3000 spindles, 100 employees. The *Baltimore Sun*, March 8, 1847, reported, “Bomford’s Cotton Factory, Georgetown, D. C., expected to ‘break its first bale of cotton’ and start running on March 8.” The mill was sold in 1850 to Thomas Wilson of Baltimore. The cotton supply was cut off by the war in 1861. The mill building became the Pioneer Mill, which was separate from the Arlington Mill, or Ray’s Mill, until the merger of both under A. H. Herr. The Bomford building is still discernable in the present Wilkins-Rogers complex at Potomac and K Streets. *Historic Georgetown Waterfront*, p. 6lf.



Bomford Mills in 1887.

BRADLEY FURNACE (NW)

A steam power furnace was built at Georgetown about 1844 by William A. Bradley, but it was out of blast by 1855; a second furnace was built but never lined, Swank, *Iron In All Ages*, p. 257.

CANAL MILL (NW)

Canal Mill was built 1821 by Leonidas H. Johns at Little Falls near the locks. Cf. Johns Mill.

CAPITAL FLOUR MILLS (NW)

Capital Flour Mills was established in 1879 by W. H. Tenney and Sons, Georgetown. Output was 100-125 bbl/day and it produced Tenney's Hungarian Process, Tenney's Best Family, and John Davidson's Family Flour brands, HMC, p. 148. It was on the south bank of the canal between the Aqueduct Bridge and Fayette Street per *Hopkins Atlas* map of 1887. See photo inserted under Herr Mill in this chapter.

“W. H. Tenny & Sons mill at Georgetown, D. C., was flooded, and a large quantity of stock spoiled. Loss, \$3,000,” *American Miller*, 17 (July 1, 1889): 489.

CENTER MILLS (VIRGINIA)

George Drinker wrote from Center Mills to protest having Smith and Drinker's Manufactory of Cotton Twist omitted from Gallatin's report on manufactures. The mill was on Mile Run and began on April 1, 1810 in a 2-story brick building 30 x 33. Water power drove a 12-foot drum inside the factory which was linked by leather bands to the various machines: one cotton breaker; 2 finishers, single-gearred with 8 flat cards; 4 drawing heads, with cans; and bolting frames.

Output was 150 to 180 rounds of cotton per week. There were also 2 frames with 96 and 12 spindles operating at 3000 rpm. A rule of 20 spools with roving winders; and also a wool carder. Total employment was 9.

The company was installing 2 more 96-spindle frames and a mule of 140 spindles, a breaker, and 2 finishers with a set of drawing and roving heads. The existing spindles were said to be better and faster than the Arkwright type. The *Baltimore Whig*, October 5, 1810.

CISSEL MILL (NW)

Same as Pioneer-Ray Mill and Bomford Mill, Cissel Mill was the predecessor of Wilkins-Rogers Mill, q.v.

CLARKS MILL (NE)

Clarks Mill was shown in Martenet's 1866 atlas between Bladensburg Road and the B. & O., north of Queen's Chapel Road in G. M. Hopkins atlas.

COLUMBIA MANUFACTURING COMPANY (NW)

In 1809, two looms and one carding machine were installed on Pennsylvania Avenue in the "fourth house west of President's square." John Gardener was superintendent, Robert Brent, president. In 1812, the company moved to Greenleaf Point and built a factory and mill village. Wool and cotton were spun. Also called Columbia Factory, it was destroyed by the British attack on the arsenal on the same point in 1814 (MHM 51: 259-267).

COLUMBIA MILLS (NW)

See Adams Mill. See also Herr Mill (on the Canal).

COLUMBIAN PAPER MILL (NW)

See Pattersons Mill (NW).

DAVIS MILL (NW)

The *Baltimore American*, June 25, 1842, reported that a large flour mill was put into operation at Georgetown by Thomas J. Davis, Esq. It had 12 pair of stones and produced 2000 bu/diem using canal water for power. The *Baltimore Sun*, July 7, 1847, mentioned Davis Mill as one of three mills in Georgetown. Along with the new Robinson Mill and Rays Mill, there were 28 burrs within 100 yards of the canal.

DOMESTIC MANUFACTURE COMPANY OF ALEXANDRIA (VIRGINIA)

This company was within the Federal City when founded about 1800 in response to Jefferson's embargo but did not survive war of 1812, (MHM 51: 265,267).

DUVALL FOUNDRY (NW)

William T. Duvall built his 88.5 foot long foundry on the Canal at 30th (Washington) Street, 1854, *Historic Georgetown Waterfront*, p. 64. It was used as a Veterinary Hospital in 1914.

DYER PLANNING MILL (NW)

This works was on the west side of 27th Street, south of K Street in Georgetown and east of Rock Creek as shown in Hopkins Atlas map of 1887. It was owned by J. F. and W. H. Dyer.

EDES MILL (NW)

On the Potomac near C. & O. Canal and south of Chain Bridge, this mill was operated many years by William H. Edes of George Town. Built by Abner Cloud about 1801, it was called Lock Mill because it was on the canal that bypassed the Little Falls before the C. and O. canal was built. The mill was supposedly owned by President Monroe, CHM, 31-32:104f. Edward Beatty, Georgetown, D. C., advertised the Lock Mill on the C. & O. Canal, 2 miles above Georgetown, a canal mill with no water rent, lately rebuilt, capable of 100 bbl in 24 hours, *Baltimore American*, December 5, 1843. Beatty was still advertising the works, *American*, May 23, 1844. An advertisement for the William H. Edes merchant mill on the C. & O. Canal at Georgetown appeared in the *Baltimore American*, July 11, 1864.

ELTINGE MILL (NW)

Isaac Eltinge advertised "two good water mills" and 4.5 acres within a half-mile of George-Town, Frederick County, *Md. Gazette*, February 5, 1756.

ENTERPRISE LIME KILN (NW)

William Smith advertised his pure oyster shell lime works at Virginia Avenue and 27th, NW, *Montgomery Sentinel*, September 9, 1881.

EVANS MILL (NE)

Walter Evans, Gentleman of Prince Georges County, in 1784 sold to Richard Henderson, Sr., Merchant of Prince Georges County, a tract called "Chance" on the Eastern Branch of Potowmack River which included a mill seat, mill house, mill gears, mill stones, and other mill works and furniture, plus "all the Springs of water which fall into the Cool-Run." This tract had been patented in 1734 by Evans' father, Thomas Evans.

The tract was sold in 1792 by Henderson to Benjamin Stoddert of Montgomery County and to William Campbell of Annapolis for £ 3500 current money. The deed was recorded in both Prince Georges County and in Liber A, folio 188 "for that part of the District of Columbia which lies within the State of Maryland." This time the site was

described as "on the West side of the Eastern Branch of Potowmack and between the said Branch and the main road leading from Bladensburg to the ferry over said branch *to wit*, part of the Grange, two parts of Chance purchased from Walter Evans" (Original in MHS, Special Collections, Ms. 1341).

FEDERAL MILLS (NW)

See Lyons Mill.

FOXALL-COLUMBIA FOUNDRY (NW)

Henry Foxall started the Columbia Foundry on Deep Branch, Mill Branch, or Foundry Branch, 1 mile west of Georgetown in 1800 and sold out in 1815 to John Mason, who operated until his death in 1849. James Manadier Mason ran it until 1854. Swank in *Iron in All Ages*, p. 257, credited the plant with casting the first 100-pound cannon ball, "The Columbiad."

A map of 1803 showed a blast furnace, boring mill, and other buildings. Some substantial structures remained in 1907 as shown in "The Old Cannon Foundry" by Madison Davis (CM 11:26, 28, 30). Davis stated that the foundry at Georgetown attributed to Samuel Hughes by Historians Scharf and Bernard C. Steiner was mythical (Cf., HWM, p. 135). Slag piles and foundations remain in the woods near the Three Sisters. The works was fully described in "The Foxall-Columbia Foundry. An Early Defense Contractor in Georgetown," by Louis F. Gorr, CHM 71-72 (Spring 1973): 34-59.

GASKIN GUANO FACTORY (NW)

The Gaskin Guano Factory and gristmill are shown in the atlas south of the C. & O. Canal between the Distribution Reservoir and Little Falls.

GEORGETOWN IRON WORKS (NW)

All the buildings required for a large iron manufacturing establishment were advertised by Robert Ould, trustee of John Rynes, recorded in Liber WB 126:272, June 16, 1846. *Baltimore American*, March 20, 1848. The Old Foundry property west of Georgetown between the C. & O. Canal and the Potomac was for sale with a distillery on Mill Branch; not included were two stone mills assigned to D. L. Shoemaker and Brother by deed recorded in Liber 147:306 (*Baltimore Sun*, September 14, 1863). Cf. Hughes Foundry.

GEORGETOWN MILLS (NW)

On September 21, 1869, the *Evening Star* listed the following mills: Pioneer, Arlington, Riverside, Model, Youngs, Foundry, and Paper, CHM, 31-32: 105.

GEORGETOWN WOOLEN MILL (NW)

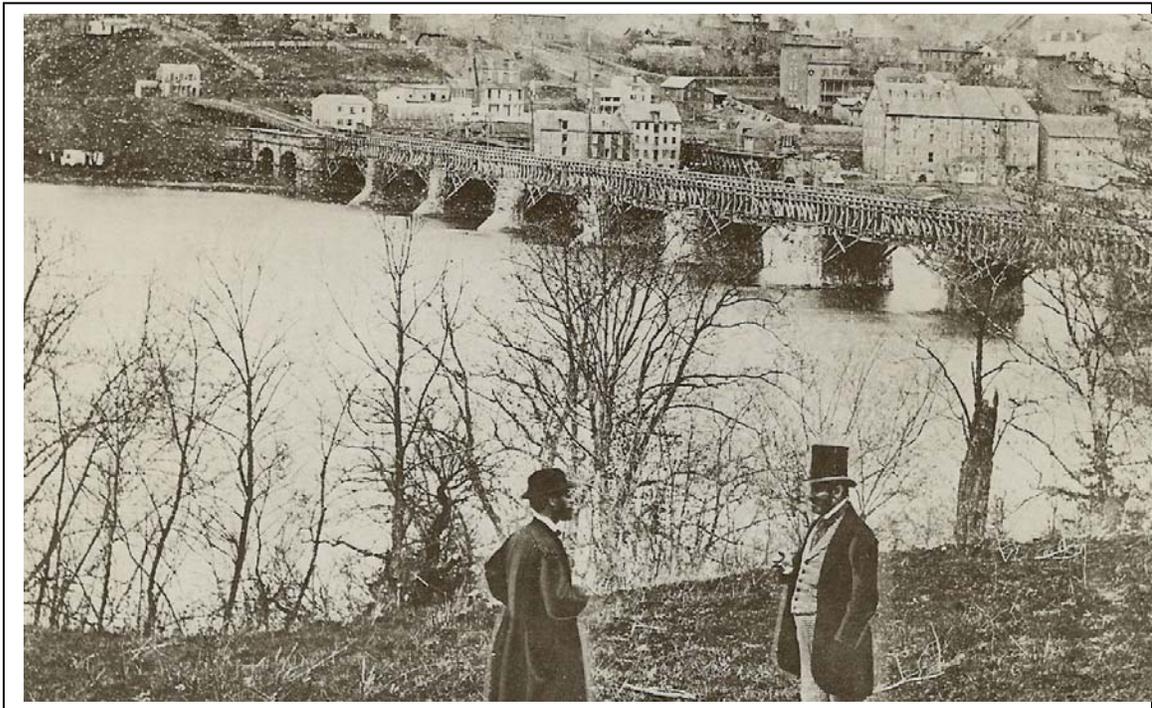
Georgetown Woolen Mill was opened about 1812 and was owned by E1kanah Cobb, Daniel Bussard and Company. It did not survive British Invasion, MHM, 51:266f. The mill manufactured blankets under a patented process.

HENDERSONS MILL (NE)

See Evans Mill.

HERR AND WELSH MILL (NW)

Herr and Welsh Mill was at Georgetown in 1876, *Monumental City*, p. 862. Same as Pioneer-Ray Mill, q.v.



Panorama of Georgetown Waterfront in 1865. Capitol Mills is the tallest of three buildings in the center. Herr's Mill is in the upper right corner. The aqueduct carried canal boats across the Potomac to Alexandria.

HERR MILL (NW)

A.H. Herr was shown as owner of Columbia Mills on the south bank of the canal between Favette and Frederick Streets in the 1887 Hopkins atlas

This four-story brick mill with two (partial) rows of dormers appeared in various Civil War era photos downstream of both the Aqueduct Bridge and the Capitol Mills. Entirely distinct from the Herr and Welsh Mill (etc.) above. *The American Miller*, 20 (August 1, 1892): 598, reported that the owner of Columbia Mills, Georgetown, sued the C. & O. Canal Company for cutting off their water supply. See also, *Historic Georgetown Waterfront*, p. 46.

HILL PAPER MILL (NW)

George Hill planned to build a paper mill on the C. & O. Canal in Georgetown (*Baltimore Sun*, May 16, 1863).

JACKSON PLANING MILL (SW)

E. J. Jackson advertised his three lumberyards in the District and his planing mill at 13th and B Streets, SW, *Montgomery Sentinel*, August 19, 1881.

LATROBE MILL (NW)

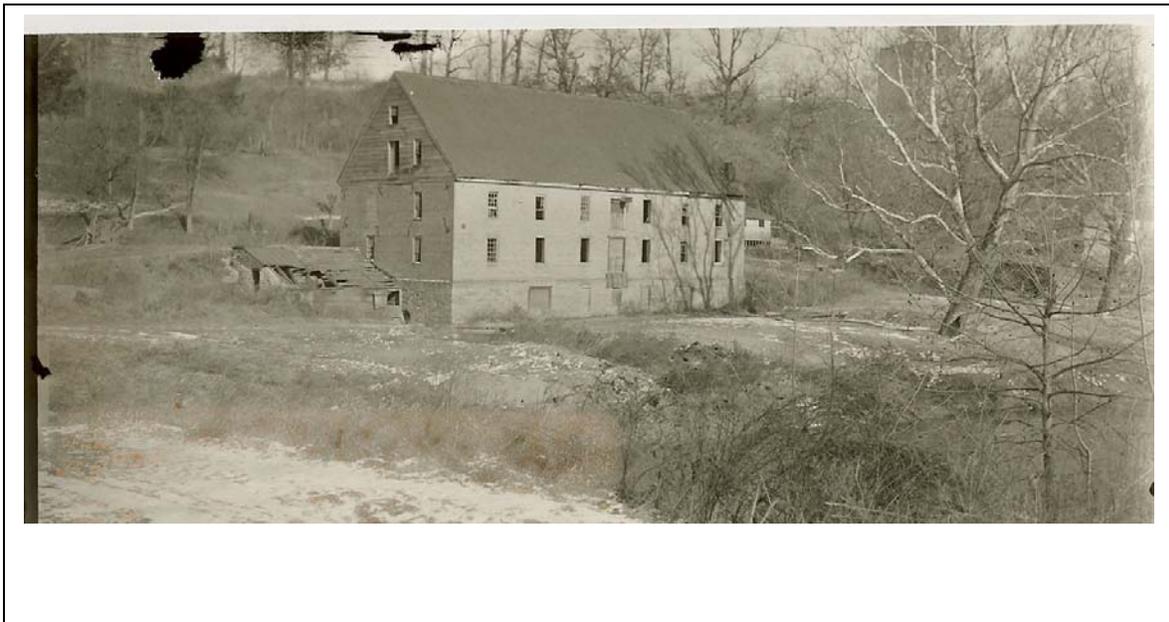
Benjamin Henry Latrobe designed a mill to hold 40 looms designed by Samuel Bydenburg of Connecticut; it was three miles above Georgetown. Latrobe began building a mill 40 by 18 feet, but Blydenburg failed to deliver the looms (August 1810). Latrobe wrote to Blydenburg, September 11, 1810, that Washington Manufacturing Company already had grooved cylinders that acted as cams to trigger the shuttle, thus Blydenburg could not hope to patent the idea (*Letterbooks*). By the summer of 1811, Latrobe was disillusioned, having lost \$2500. By 1817, he was bankrupt (*Engineering Drawings of B. H. Latrobe*, p. 55).

LOCK MILL (NW)

See Edes Mill.

JOHNS MILL (NW)

A milling site mortgaged by Leonard H. Johns and John K. Smith was offered in the *National Intelligencer*, May 22, 1823 (p. 3); “running westerly with the canal (at the Little Falls of the Potomac) leading to or near the mill erected by the said Johns on his said site . . .” Apparently same as the Canal Mill.



--Maryland State Archives

Lyons Mill from undated glass negative.

LYONS MILL (NW)

LYONS MILL ROAD

The 12th mill on Rock Creek was built by Pigman and Crow in 1780 and acquired by Joseph Rowles, Jr. in 1795; it was then called Federal Mill. The mill was on the north side of Rock Creek exactly across from the eastern boundary of Oak Hill Cemetery, approached from George Town by Mill Road. In its last days it was used for dances, social affairs, and Sunday School picnics. Joseph E. Rowles died in 1811. The mill was sold to Washington Bowie, Elisha Riggs, Evans Lyons, and John Kurtz for \$35,000 with 27-1/2 acres. When it was foreclosed in 1873, it was described as having 140 bbl/diem output, 65 acres, and mansion. Evan Hughes, Sr. was the last owner and died in 1875; the mill fell into ruin, CHM, 31-32: 99f. The pond had been used by Robert Fulton in 1807 to demonstrate a torpedo to Congress. The 1878 atlas showed Evans Lyons, occupant, downstream of Pierces Mill, in Georgetown, near the horse-car barn.

McFADDEN MILL (NW)

Alexander M'Faddon advertised for "A Single Man, who understands bleaching of Linnen, will meet with good Encouragement by applying to the Subscriber at George Town, Frederick County," published in a Maryland paper, week ending August 8, 1776, reprinted two centuries later in the Baltimore *Sun Magazine*. Alexander McFadden of Georgetown was given a grant by the Council of Safety to start a linen manufactory, 1777. *Western Maryland In the Revolution*, p. 47. McFadden advertised in the *Md. Gazette and Baltimore Advertiser*, September 17, 1777, that he had "erected a Flax Mill for bruising and swingling flax at Capt. Thomas Ball's grist mill . . ." He also advertised in the *Md. Journal*, December 9, 1777 for hemp-hackles and stated, ". . . weavers slays are made at said factory" (Bagnall, *Textile Industries in U.S.*, 1:80). Also mentioned in *Arch. Md.*, 11:473. Also mentioned in *A Grateful Remembrance*, p. 50.

METROPOLITAN RAILROAD MILL ()

"The Metropolitan Railroad of Washington, D. C., have ordered of the John T. Noye Mfg. Co., one of the Stevens' Roller Mills for use on corn," *American Miller*, 1 (January 1, 1883): 29.

MILL BRANCH (NE)

Mill Branch is a stream, shown on the east side of the Anacostia in the approximate area of present Anacostia Park on Johnson's 1855 map of Maryland and Delaware.

MILL BRANCH (NW)

Mill Branch was the site of a distillery on the Old Foundry property west of Georgetown, *Baltimore Sun*, September 14, 1863.

MILL SEAT (NW)

Mill Seat was a property of Francis Deakins and Thomas Sim Lee and Peter Casanave ordered sold by the Court of Chancery in 1800 following Casanave's death. The lot and other land was part of a marsh that the owners proposed to develop if the District Commissioners would build a bridge across the mouth of Rock Creek. It was sold by William Brent, trustee, to Lee and Deakins. Described in undated clipping of sale notice (dated December 12, 1800) from *Federal Gazetteer*, Washington (Chancery Papers No. 1577. Records, Liber B39, f. 598; 46, f. 269, MSA). No mill yet erected. A mill on Rock Creek, 1.5 miles from Georgetown, was advertised by Colonel Francis Deakins, Colonel Philip B. Key, and Walter MacKall, *Republican Gazette*, Frederick, August 13, 1803.

MILL STREET (NW)

Mill Street crosses Rock Creek on old George Town maps.

MURDOCK MILL (NW)

The mill was SW of Murdock Mill Road and Massachusetts Avenue Extended in the valley of Little Falls Branch, 1/2 mile SW of American University as described by the Rambler when he found it in a ruinous condition, 1914. William D. Murdock owned 1000 acres in the District; his estate stretched from Tenleytown to the river. He became an attaché at the French legation and died 1886. CHM, 31-32:95f. Also "With The Rambler," *Washington Sunday Star*, September 6, 1914 [clipping in MHS Library, VF, s. v., "Mills and Milling"].

NAIL FACTORY ()

A "nail factory in the City of Washington" was mentioned in the *Agricultural Museum*, 1 (July 18, 1810): 25.

NAVY YARD FORGE/ROLLING MILL (SE)

An anchor forge was built in the Navy Yard before 1812, enlarged 1830. In 1878, a rolling mill was established but discontinued in 1887. The forge was still in use 1892, Swank, *Iron in All Ages*, p. 257.

NAVY YARD STEAM SAWMILL (SE)

The Navy Yard steam sawmill was mentioned as in use 1830, *History of the Ten Miles Square*, p. 176. The New Navy Yard Sawmill was nearly completed, *American*, Baltimore, November 20, 1854.

NELSONS OLD MILL (VIRGINIA)

Nelsons Old Mill was on Kirby Road and was acquired from William Adams by William Nelson in 1825. There were two mills, the older of which was south of the other on Little Pimmit near its confluence with Big Pimmit. The mill was burned by

Federal troops. Nelson had died in 1854. CHM, 31-32:112f.

NOTLEYS MILL (NW)

“Notley’s Mill, Washington, D. C.,” was mentioned in connection with canal water, December 4, 1802, *Papers of Benjamin Henry Latrobe*, Edward C. Carter II, ed., (New Haven, 1984), p. 247. [Some link to the Notley Young Mill?]

PARROTTS MILL (NW)

The 13th mill on Rock Creek was Parrotts; it was on Mill Road which leads south from Lyons Mill Road. The ruins were at Q Street and 27th. It was in operation in 1813 carding and spinning wool. I. and W. Westerman, English manufacturers, were associated with Parrott in a firm called Georgetown Wool and Cotton Manufactory. Parrott had a mansion called Eilerslie, now in Montrose Park. Dolley Madison changed horses here on her flight in 1814. CHM, 31-32:98f. Also HMCM, p. 76.

PATTERSONS MILL (NW)

Pattersons was the 14th mill on Rock Creek, in a valley on the east bank where the ford was located at about the site of P. Street bridge. The mill covered Boundary Stone No.1. It was built in 1800 by Gustavus Scott and Nicholas Lingan. The road was down a steep slope and crossed the creek to the east side; it had three branches, one to Anacostia, one to Bladensburg and Rock Creek, and the third continued down the east side of the creek. Scott was one of the commissioners of the District of Columbia. The mill was acquired by Edgar Patterson in 1805. It then passed to Daniel Carroll of Duddington, Charles Carroll of Bellevue, and Elie Williams in 1811. Major Charles Carroll of Belvue (1767-1823) purchased the mill along with his brother Daniel for \$20,000. Charles Carroll of Belvue also purchased from Joseph Nourse a house at present 2715 Q Street, the Dumbarton House, which he called Belle Vue (Rev. Robert M. McNamara, *Rochester History*, 42 (October 1980: 42:6).

It was later known as Columbia Paper Mill of Rock Creek, and writing paper was manufactured there. The first bridge over the creek was built at this point. Joseph Gibson advertised paper there in 1820; the mill was described as 120 feet long, 3 stories, the first of stone, a two-vat mill. Andrew Way leased it in 1829-30. Boundary Street, now Florida Avenue, crossed P. Street at the front door of the mill (CHM, 31-32:96ff). See also HMCM, p. 76.

PATTERSONS MILL (VIRGINIA)

The Pattersons Mill of Virginia was at Chain Bridge, a paper, flour, and woolen mill advertised in 1821; three stories; 3 run of burr stones. It was at Little Falls Bridge on the turnpike. The wool factory was two stories, 110 feet long with 12 looms. Also a stone fulling mill with 2 pair of stocks and 27-foot fall on tidewater. It was built at cost of \$40,000 by Edgar Patterson. The tract was on the south side of the Potomac and had been acquired by Patterson in 1805. It descended through William Emmert;

Francis Hill; Richard A. Hill, 1843; Otho M. Linthicum, 1846; George Hill, Jr., 1865; Joseph C. O'Gorman, 1891; and Amherst H. Wilder, 1894. The Declaration of Independence and Journals of Congress were hidden here from the British invaders in 1814 by Stephen Pleasantson, government auditor (CHM, 31-32: 109-112).

PETERS MILL (NW)

Robert Peter patented Peters Mill Seat, 484.6 acres, in 1803 (Patents, Liber IC No.S:25, MSA). The mill on Rock Creek was advertised by Thomas Peter in 1872, just north of Blagden Mill south of military road. The Tract had been first patented as White's Mill seat in 1756 and resurveyed as Peters Mill Seat, 1800 (CHM, 31-32:104).

PIERCES MILL (NW)

The 10th mill on Rock Creek was built in 1820 by Isaac Pierce and his son Abner and operated commercially until about 1900. A spring house bears the initials, "I. P., B 1801." The tract was called Gift and contained 50 acres purchased by William Deakins, December 1794. Also 10 acres called Mill Seat patented to James White in 1772, HMCM, p. 75. Pierces Mill Road ran from 11th Street to the mill and on to Rockville-Georgetown Pike per an 1865 map. There was once a distillery here. When Abner Pierce died in 1851, the mill was acquired by his nephew, Pierce Shoemaker. None of these owners were millers but they hired experienced millers, Donald Tennyson, Gaskins, and Fleckker at salaries of \$1200 and \$1500. A 40-inch Leffel turbine was installed in 1876. The last hired millers were Alcibiades P. White and Charles White. The turbine broke in 1897 and the mill closed. The park service took over property and decay set in.

The mill was restored in 1936 and is now open to the public as part of Rock Creek Park. It is reached by Tilden Street going east from Connecticut Avenue. The

WPA restorers in the 1930's employed William G. Amonnette, 80 years old, as mill expert. "WPA Project 571," *Mayflower's Log*, July-August 1935, p. 8. Raymond Watt became the National Park miller and operated the mill from November to March each winter.

Mr. Watt held the post of miller from 1940 until 1966 and died shortly after the mill's July 1970 reopening after a second restoration. Harold L. Ickes, Secretary of the Interior, had pushed the mill's restoration of the 1930's and had a bag of flour and meal delivered daily, as did presidential advisor, Sherman Adams, in the 1950's. When Government Services Inc. switched to commercial flour for government cafeterias, the mill lost its biggest customer and closed, 1958. At its heyday, Mr. Watt had turned out 2 tons/diem. He retired the next year, but still helped out on weekends (*Washington Post*, September 17, 1970, "Raymond Ivatt, Park Miller, Dies at 76").

At its reopening in mid-1970, Roger Lewis was employed as miller, *Washington Post*, July 20, 1970.



Pierce Mill in 1970, photo by author.

Volta Torrey in *Old Mill News*, January 1976, p. 18, reported about “Pierce Mill . . . badly damaged by floods . . . It is the last surviving water-powered grist mill in Washington. It is an operating mill. . . . National Park attendants report that its lower floor was severely damaged when flooded and the mill cannot be run now. But repairs have been authorized by the National Park Service.” [This reflected the flood of September 1975.]

“Pierce Mill, in Rock Creek Park, is built of granite from an old quarry in pre-Cambrian rock on Broad Branch Road,” Martha S. Carr, *The District of Columbia, Its Rocks and Their Geologic History* (U. S. Geological Survey: Washington, D. C., 1950), p. 51 [Bulletin 967].

Sources:

"With the Rambler," *Washington Sunday Star*, June 14, 1914.

***Columbia Historical Magazine*, 31-32: 101f.**

"Just Half a Mile from 1957", Audrey Bishop, *Baltimore Sunday Sun Magazine*, Baltimore, March 3, 1957.

***Pierce Mill*, Government Printing Office, 1967.**

PIONEER MILLS (NW)

Originally Rays Mill and Bomford Mill, the Pioneer Mill was operated by Herr and Cissel, Georgetown; George IV. Cissel was president. The company produced Centennial 1st. Premium, Great Swiss Process, Denner & Cissel Fancy, A. H. Herr's Best, and Peerless Family Flour; output was 300 bbl/day, HMC, p. 148. The *Baltimore Sun*, July 7, produced Centennial 1st. Premium, Great Swiss Process, Denner & Cissel Fancy, A. H. Herr's Best, and Peerless Family Flour; output was 300 bbl/day, HMC, p. 148. The *Baltimore Sun*, July 7, 1847, reported, "During the present week the new flour mill of Mr. Ray will be put into operation on trial . . . Along with the new Robinson Mill near the aqueduct and with Davis's mill, there were 28 burrs within 100 yards of the canal." An advertisement for the Pioneer Mill, a cotton works, 40 x 110 feet, brick, three stories, with 84 looms, was published in the *Baltimore American*, April 16, 1859.

Pioneer Mills, Washington, D. C., was advertised in the *American Miller*, 19 (July 1, 1891): 494, as a ". . . 500 barrel mill . . . full roller mill . . . Edward P. Allis System . . . mill building is 40 130 feet, five stories high . . . warehouse and office 65 x 100, four stories . . . state of the art . . . water power derived from the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal . . . storage 16,000 bu in mill . . . 24,000 in warehouse.—Austin Herr."

PORT MILLS (NW)

Port Mills was on a tract called Mill Seat and existed in 1805 but probably was obliterated by building the C. & O. Canal; CHM, 31-32:105f.

QUARTERMASTER GENERAL'S MILL (SE)

An advertisement to sell a war surplus grist mill on a granite base powered by a 100 horse power engine with 22-inch cylinder; it had been used at Giesboro Point by the Quartermaster General, *Baltimore American*, April 19, 1866.

RAYS MILL (NW)

Rays Mill was built in 1847 by Alexander Ray on Lot 79 in Georgetown which he acquired from Colonel George Bomford. The *Baltimore Sun*, April 23, 1847, carried a letter dated at Washington on April 22, which mentioned the partial running of a cotton factory at Georgetown; a six-story flouring mill was also under construction and would be 40 x 80 feet, with eight pair of burrs. Daily capacity was to be 150 to 200 barrels. The owner was Alexander Ray. Millwright was Henry Rohrer, George H. Plant was bricklayer; cost of the mill was \$20,000. The mill was also called Arlington Mill and was located on a corner of Potomac and K Streets. It was powered by canal water tapped through an orifice in the wall of the adjoining Bomford Cotton Mill. The mill passed to A. H. Herr between 1865-70. It came to be called Pioneer Mills (the later name of Bomford's Mill) and was considerably enlarged in 1883.

"The 'Arlington Mill,' at Washington, D. C., Geo. Cissel & Co., proprietors, has been in operation about two months. The capacity of the mill is 400 barrels per day. The

machinery was carefully selected and is claimed to have no superior in American. It comprises the following: Eighteen double sets of Case Rolls; eight Double Case Purifiers; twenty Jonathan Mills Four Dressers; two 4-reel Lima Scalping Chests; four Prinz Dust Collectors; six Barnard & Leas Flour Packers, one milling and one receiving separator; one scourer; one double brush machine; one four-cylinder Kurth Cockle Machine; one Aug. Heine Bran Duster; one Howes & Ewell Magnetic Separator; and six reels that were made by the mill for scalping and dusting. The mill was built by Edward Corbett, and is now running under the supervision of Geo. W. Metz, and has run day and night almost from the start, as the firm cannot fill the orders for their flour," *American Miller*, 13 (December 1, 1885): 631.

The 1877 Hopkins atlas showed Argyle Mill and Pioneer Mills as separate entities. The company was called George W. Cissel & Company when it went bankrupt in 1913. It later passed to Wilkens Rogers who enlarged the mill in 1922 (*Georgetown Historic Waterfront*, p. 61ff).

RICHARDSONS MILL (NW)

This mill was listed under Montgomery County, q. v.

RICHARDSON-THOMPSON SALTPETRE WORKS (NW)

The Maryland Convention in 1775 appointed Thomas Richardson of Georgetown to set up a nitre works, but Richardson resigned the following April, stating that he knew nothing about nitre [potassium nitrate]. He was replaced by Richard Thompson, *A Grateful Remembrance*, p. 50. See also *Arch. Md.*, 11:348, 424. Also, *Maryland Gazette*, Annapolis, January 11, 1776.

ROBERTS MILL (VIRGINIA)

In Alexandria, the same as Barcroft Mill.

ROBINSON MILL (NW)

The *Baltimore Sun*, July 7, 1847, reported "work progressing on new flour mill of Mr. Robinson near the aqueduct . . . Georgetown . . . other mills . . . are Davis, Ray's . . . 28 burrs within less than one hundred yards of the canal."

ROBINSON SAWMILL (NW)

This sawmill was shown on maps 1887 as well as in the atlas. It was at the foot of Washington Street, Georgetown and was described as steam powered and the property of Deakin, Lee, and Cazanoves on the 1857 map.

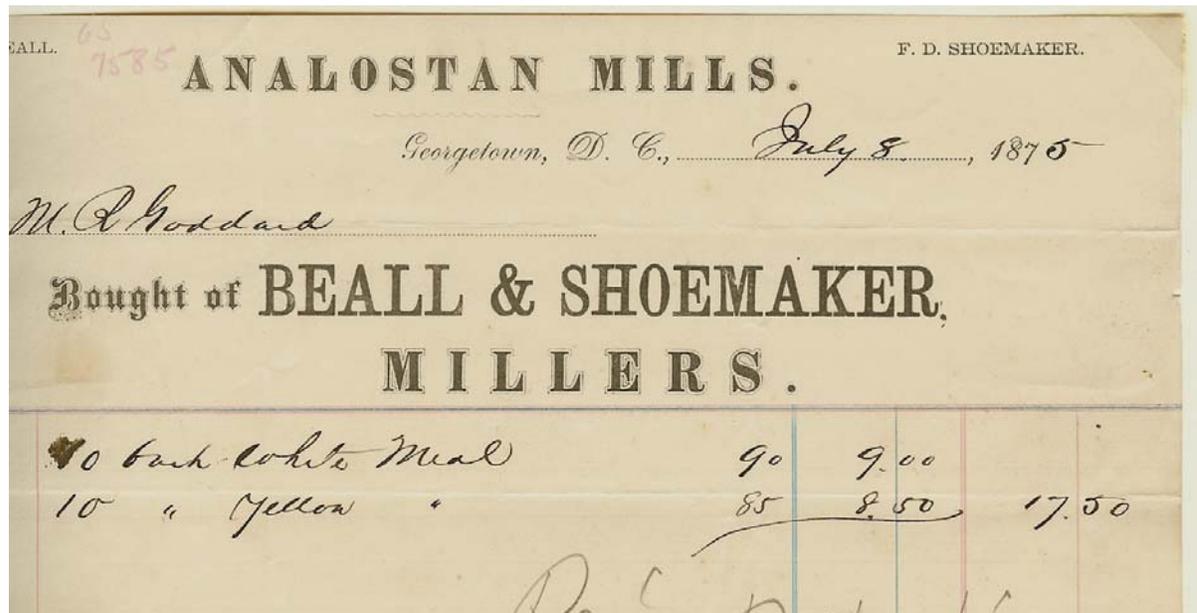
SAWPIT LANDING (NW)

Sawpit Landing was a trading post c. 1703 at the mouth of Rock Creek on the Georgetown side, *MHM*, 24:100.

SHOEMAKER MILLS (NW)

Two stone mills of the Old Foundry Property west of Georgetown were assigned to D. L. Shoemaker and Brother and recorded in Liber 147:306; between the Canal and the Potomac, were mentioned in the Baltimore, *Sun*, September 14, 1863.

Also called Foundry Mill, it appears as a "gristmill" west of the first creek west of Georgetown University, south of the canal and on the Potomac opposite Scheutzen Park in the Hopkins atlas. A letterhead printed in 1875 showed the names John J. Beall and F. D. Shoemaker, operating as Beall & Shoemaker, Millers at "Analostan Mills."



SHANE FOUNDRY (SW)

The Joseph Share and Sons foundry, a 2-story brick building with slate roof, cupola, and Watchman and Bratt 6 hp steam engine was for sale; on Maine Avenue between 4-1/2th and 7-1/2th Streets, *American*, March 13, 1840.

STODDERT AND CAMPBELL MILL (NE)

See Evans Hill.

STODDERTS MILL (NW)

See Adams Mill for the Stoddert Mill on Rock Creek.

SURRATT MILL (SE)

Per CHM, 31-32~107, John H. Surratt owned a mill on Oxon Run opposite Alexandria, Va. The 1850 census had shown William Chinn, miller, living at the family home. In 1865, Mrs. Surratt was illegally indicted and unconstitutionally tried by a military court and hanged as an accomplice in the assassination of President Lincoln.

The mill was Condin's about 1865 and appeared as F.A. Wahler's in the 1878 atlas within District 1, South East, located on east side of Oxon Run and north of Livingston Road, due east of Giesboro Point; Wahler was owner of 100 acres. Ruins survived until recent years per John M. Walton, Jr., of Clinton, Md. [1976]. See also, "With the Rambler," *Washington Evening Star*, April 15, 1917.

TANNERS MILL (NW)

A correspondent wrote to the editor from Georgetown about a tanner's mill that had been idle for a year had just been put to grinding bones. It had "a stone floor, and iron cogs to a heavy wheel of the old fashioned form," *American Farmer*, 3 (July 6, 1821): 120.

TENNY MILL (NW)

Same as Capital Mills.

TIBER MILLS (NE)

This valuable merchant mill one mile NE of the Capitol was advertised by R. Y. Brent and Joseph Pearson, *National Intelligencer*, July 29, 1822. B. McQuay advertised that he had taken Tiber Mills and was supplying corn meal, rye, chop, small hominy (Baltimore *Sun*, January 26, 1847. p. 2).

THOMPSON AND FARISH SNUFF MILL (NW)

Thompson and Farish was a tobacco manufacturing firm at Georgetown in 1766 with a store in Baltimore (HBCC, p. 372). Richard Thompson advertised in the *Virginia Gazette*, October 8, 1772, that he had removed from Bladensburg to the falls of the Potowmack and he was wholesaling snuff in country jars and in reused *Weston's* or *Kipper's* snuff bottles.

WAHLER MILL (SE)

See Surratt Mill.

WASHINGTON FLOUR AND FEED COMPANY ()

"The Washington Flour and Feed Co., Washington, D. C., are adding a roller corn mill," *American Miller*. 17 (March 1, 1889): 202.

WASHINGTON WOOLEN MILL

This works was established about 1809, and George Washington Parke Custis was an officer. It did not survive the War of 1812 (MHM, 51:263, 267).

WHITES MILL SEAT (NW)

Whites Mill Seat was in Rock Creek Park, the 9th mill on Rock Creek, on a grant of that name, patented in 1756; it was not used after 1800. See also Peters Mill.

In spite of being owner of the property, Zachariah White petitioned Governor Sharpe in 1759 that he had "discovered a Convenient Place in the county of Frederick on the Falls of Rock Creek on a tract of Land called Mill Seat to build a Grist Mill upon, and that the same Mill when Completed will be of great Utility and Ease to the neighborhood thereabouts -- 'Therefore your petitioner Prays your Excellency to Grant Him a writ of *ad quod damnum* to layout and secure to your Petitioner Twenty Acres of Land . . . in order that your petitioner may be enabled to Build a Grist Mill thereon and that on return thereof a Lease may issue to confirm your Petitioners Right to the same." The Governor ordered the writ issued on October 26, 1759 (MSA).

James White, Zachariah White, and David Ross advertised in the Annapolis *Md. Gazette*, July 12, 1764: "A Grist-Mill on Rock Creek, about five miles from George-Town, and about six from Bladensburg, with a tumbling dam that can never give way, and on a stream that has water in plenty in the driest weather, with a Boulting-Cloth and Lift Jack, and the necessary outhouses, a very good Negro Miller, and one hundred acres of land adjoining the mill, on which there is a plantation, besides twenty acres of Mill Land; also a good stock of hogs, and a pair of French Burrs never yet used . . . will be shown by James White, who lives within Two Miles of the Mill."

Zacharias White advertised in the *Md. Gazette*, June 4, 1772, offering "Two overshot Grist Mills and a Saw Mill, one on Rock Creek above five miles from George-Town which is in all probability will become one of the most flourishing towns in the Province where there is a good market and inspection for flour, and about six miles from Bladensburg; one of these mills is double geared with an exceeding good pair of French Bur [sic] stones; and 300 acres of land adjoining with Three Plantations that will rent for 25 pounds a year." This mill was replaced by Peters Mill.

WILKINS ROGERS MILLING CO., INC. (NW)

The Wilkins-Rogers mill is on the C. & O. Canal at Georgetown between 33rd Street and Potomac Street. The mill is powered by canal water. Shown on map No. 2 by William Cleague, *Collection of Maps of Chesapeake and Ohio Canal*. A 1600-cwt flour mill and 500-cwt corn mill, it was probably the largest producer of water ground corn meal. The firm was founded by Howard L. Wilkins and Samuel H. Rogers, who in 1914 purchased the old Cissel Mill built in 1849. The plant burned 1922 and was rebuilt. Wilkins was president from 1914-1949. Rogers became sole owner in 1949 and died 1954, whereupon Samuel H. Rogers Jr. took over. The Rogers family are descendants of old Virginia millers (*Flour Milling in America*, p. 177f). The company was still in business 1973, manufacturing Washington Flour and Indian Head, White, stone-ground corn meal which is available in most supermarkets. Wilkins Rogers bought the DCA Corporation's Ellicott City mill in Baltimore County in 1967 and were still operating there in 2007.

L. H. Luckado of Jessop, Md., reported that the *Washington Post* of April 30, 1977, had an article on the conversion of Wilkins-Rogers Mill into luxury apartments and office space, *Old Mill News*, July 1977, p. 18.

YOST FOUNDRY (NW)

John Yost of Georgetown was said to have cast cannon for the Council of Safety in 1777 (*Western Maryland in the Revolution*, p. 46).

YOUNGS MILL (NW)

Notley Young's mill was on an estate called Mill Tract on branch of Tiber near south side of N Street between First and Second Streets NW. This was the only mill within bounds of the original city. Also called Casanave, Fenwick, Pearson, and Logan Mills. Ann Young married the George Town merchant, Peter Casanave, a native of Spain; he soon died and Thomas Fenwick, brother-in-law of the widow, took over the mill. He was succeeded by Mrs. Joseph Pearson, another relative, and then by George W. Logan. An overshot wheel replaced the undershot wheel. This frame mill is now extinct (CHN, 31-32:83).

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