

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM

NR Eligible: yes no

Property Name: Little Elk Creek Valley Inventory Number: CE-1296

Address: From Mason Dixon line to I95 following the valle City: Elkton Zip Code: 21921

County: Cecil USGS Topographic Map: Bay View & Newark West

Owner: multiple Is the property being evaluated a district? yes no

Tax Parcel Number: n/a Tax Map Number: n/a Tax Account ID Number: n/a

Project: Construction in Floodplain Agency: MDE

Site visit by MHT staff: no yes Name: Patricia Blick Date: 01/14/2003

Is the property is located within a historic district? yes no

If the property is within a district District Inventory Number: _____
NR-listed district yes Eligible district yes Name of District: _____
Preparer's Recommendation: Contributing resource yes no Non-contributing but eligible in another context yes

If the property is not within a district (or the property is a district) Preparer's Recommendation: Eligible yes no

Criteria: A B C D Considerations: A B C D E F G None

Documentation on the property/district is presented in:

MIHP Form/George Lutz 1976

Description of Property and Eligibility Determination: *(Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map and photo)*

The Little Elk Creek Historic District is approximately 6.5 miles long and varies in width from 1/4 to 2.5 miles following the valley of Little Elk Creek. The dominating natural feature of the district is the Little Elk Creek, a small, swift-flowing body of water winding its way south to the Chesapeake. The terrain of the valley can be divided into two major areas, connected by their interdependent history and the creek itself. Above Rock Church in the northern section is a hill plain suitable for farming and grazing. The area to the south of the church is characterized by steep hills, woodland areas and a narrower valley interspersed with farmland stretching back from the banks of the creek.

Since the beginning of the 20th century there has been very little change in the manmade environment. The buildings in the district span construction dates from 1700 to the present, with 86% of the buildings built prior to 1900. The structures are constructed of a wide variety of materials including brick, stone, and wood.

The buildings and sites in the northern part of the district are centered around agriculture, with the exception of Rock Church and St. John's Church. South of Rock Church, there continue to be a good number of farm-related structures, but this area is primarily composed of milling resources. The mills and early industries in the Little Elk Creek Historic District included grist mills, saw mills, paper mills, fulling mills, a nail factory, an iron forge, and an oil factory.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility recommended Eligibility not recommended

Criteria: A B C D Considerations: A B C D E F G None

MHT Comments

P.Blick

Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

Reviewer, NR Program

January 22, 2003

Date

2/1/03

Date

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The development of milling and industry in the Little Elk Creek Historic District occurred after the establishment of successful farming techniques.

Scattered throughout the valley are the remains of early dams, mill races, stone foundations that once supported covered bridges, and a variety of bridges built in the late 1800s and the late 1900s.

In the 19th century the Little Elk Creek Valley was a thriving industrial center and prosperous agricultural region. It has changed very little in the 20th century, maintaining many early structures. These buildings are representative of architectural styles found in Cecil County in the 18th and 19th centuries.

The diversity of building types in the district, including farmhouses, farm buildings, mills, mill housing, churches and stores portrays America in transition from a strictly agricultural economy to a greater reliance on industry. Though there is modern intrusion within the district, the rural area maintains a high degree of integrity. Therefore meeting National Register Criteria A and C.

Prepared by: Patricia Blick

Date Prepared: 01/22/2003

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC Little Elk Creek Valley

AND/OR COMMON Little Elk Creek Historic District

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER From Mason Dixon Line to I-95, following the valley of Little Elk Creek

CITY, TOWN	Elkton	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> VICINITY OF	— NOT FOR PUBLICATION
STATE	Maryland	CODE	CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
		24	First
		COUNTY	CODE
		Cecil	015

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Multiple Ownership

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN _____ STATE _____
VICINITY OF _____

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, Cec il County Courthouse
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN Elkton STATE Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

— FEDERAL — STATE — COUNTY — LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN _____ STATE _____

7 DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Little Elk Creek Historic District is approximately 6.5 miles long and varies in width from 1/4 to 2 1/2 miles, following the valley of the Little Elk Creek. The area of the district is approximately 2,830 acres or 4.42 square miles. The northern boundary is the historic Mason-Dixon Line which separates Maryland from Pennsylvania. The southern boundary is I-95 where it crosses the Little Elk Creek.

The dominating natural feature of the district is the Little Elk Creek, a small, swift-flowing body of water winding its way south to the Chesapeake, slowed only by the mill dams. The terrain of the valley can be divided into two major areas, connected by their interdependent history and the creek itself. Above Rock Church in the northern section is a hilly plain suitable for farming and grazing. The area to the south of the church is characterized by steep hills, woodland areas and a narrower valley interspersed with farmland stretching back from the banks of the creek.

Since the beginning of the 20th century there has been very little change in the manmade environment. To catalogue the buildings in the district, four time periods were used with the following results 1700-1800, approximately 46 structures of this date; 1800-1850, 48 structures; 1850-1900, 50 structures; 1900-1976, 30 structures. This makes a total of 212 buildings in the district, 86% of which were built prior to 1900.

The buildings and sites in the northern part of the district are centered around agriculture, with the exception of Rock Church and St. John's Church. South of Rock Church there continue to be a good number of farm-related structures, but this area is basically composed of milling communities.

Many of the early structures of the Little Elk Creek Historic District are farm-oriented. They are built of a variety of materials which include brick, stone and wood. These farmhouses are situated on knolls that overlook the valley and the creek. Of all the buildings in the district those related to the farming industry are the most representative of building styles and are in better condition.

The earliest known farmhouses were built of stone and log. Hopewell is thought to be the oldest stone building in the district. Built circa 1730, it is located north of Rock Church on Little Elk Creek Road. This house is five bays long by two deep. The facade is laid in neatly cut blocks of stone with segmental arches above the first story windows. The other three walls are laid in rougher fashion. It is colonial vernacular in style and has a pent eave in both gable walls, revealing the nearby Pennsylvania influence.

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DESCRIPTION (continued)

Little Elk to the south of Hopewell was built about 1760 and is also constructed of stone. The stonework is neatly done and quite impressive. The house is large and built in two sections, one of which is thought to be earlier than the other. This colonial vernacular has slight Victorian renovations, including the porches and some interior woodwork.

The Henry Mackie Farmhouse is another of these early dwellings and is located at the end of Bennett Road. It is built of stone and has had several changes to it that have altered its appearance. It was built in 1784 and was a two-story stone dwelling. In the early 1800's an extra half story was added with eyebrow windows. It appears that the rear wing was also built at this time. Much of the original woodwork remains in the house, including chair rail, dog ear molding, staircase and doors.

An earlier building located just north of I-95 on the east bank of the Little Elk at the southernmost end of the district is Wilna. It is a large stone house built in three sections, the earliest by Richard Mickall who settled here in 1741. The present shape of the house is that of a backward L with the foot of the L being the facade. The main portion of the house is five bays long by two bays deep. The house is two stories in height and the rear wing probably served as a kitchen due to the large fireplace and remains of a bake oven.

The log buildings located within the district are almost impossible to date and are scattered throughout the area. The northern section of the district has two such structures remaining the Albert Janney House and the log outbuildings at the Melissa Mackie House. Both are covered with clapboard and no logs are visible from the exterior. The Albert Janney House is situated on the northwest corner of the crossroads of Indian Trail Road and Little Elk Creek Road. It is two stories in height with an interior chimney. A portion of this house that was part log and stone has been torn down.

Another log structure used as a house and an outbuilding is located near the Little Venture Farm. Now in ruins, it was two stories in height, four bays long by two bays wide. The logs are laid in the saddle notch style that is common to all the log buildings in the

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DESCRIPTION (continued)

district.

In the lower end of the district is a log ruin. This site is on the east bank of the Little Elk Creek just east of Leeds. The logs are laid in the saddle notch method to a height of one story and are covered with butted clapboard. The interior wall has crude lath nailed to the logs with hand wrought lath nails. A summer beam extended across the center of the only room. The east gable end of the cabin had a large stone fireplace laid with mud similar to that used to chink the logs. Unfortunately none of the roof is left.

The one notable exception to the early buildings in the Little Elk Creek Historic District is Brick Hill, a brick farmhouse west of 213 just south of St. John's Church. It is the only brick structure known to date from the 18th century. Supposedly built in 1751, the present facade of the building is laid in American bond while the gable walls and the original facade are laid in Flemish bond. There is a molded watertable on the original facade. The house is two bays deep and five bays long and two and a half stories in height. The top story is a frame Victorian addition. Brick Hill is very similar to Willshaven and the Robinson Farm in Calvert.

In the early 1800's a great many new buildings were constructed throughout the district. One of the most important of these is the brick farmhouse on Little Elk Creek Road built about 1830 and known as Little Venture Farm. It is two and a half stories in height and built of brick laid in common bond. In the uppermost story is a row of eyebrow windows. Another feature is the fan-shaped windows found in the gable walls. These are located between double chimneys and suggest Federal influences.

The Brookings House is a stone farmhouse on the west bank of the Little Elk Creek between Route 273 and Providence. This house was built of stone and is two stories in height, and five bays long by two deep. There is an inside end chimney in each gable wall. The interior possesses some fine woodwork which includes built-in cupboards, doors, chair rail, open string staircase and mantels.

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DESCRIPTION (continued)

The Little Elk Creek Historic District has three churches that played an important role in the spiritual lives of the community. The oldest of these is Rock Church, a stone structure erected in 1761 by a local Presbyterian congregation. It is situated on the east bank of the Little Elk, just north of Route 273. The present exterior dimensions are nearly the same as the original. During the second half of the 19th century the building underwent renovation work which altered the appearance of the church to a Victorian Gothic look with lancet windows on the east and west walls and a rose window in the south gable wall. The interior also has been altered from the colonial to the aforementioned Victorian style. The Rock Church is approximately one and a half stories in height with a steeply pitched roof. Also nearby is a Session House built of fieldstone which dates from the same period as the church.

In the village of Leeds on the north side of the Leeds to Cherry Hill Road is the Leeds Church built in 1812 by John Wilson. This small one-story stone structure was partially torn down in the early 1800's and only the lower three feet of the original walls remain standing. It is surrounded by a graveyard.

The last of the three churches is St. John's Church which is located west of Route 213 just below the Mason-Dixon Line. This church is built of brick and is two and one half stories in height. The brick is laid in common bond and the building has a gable roof. St. John's is rectangularly shaped and has a high stone foundation. The windows are of Romanesque style with semicircular arches over them. St. John's has a plaque that gives the date of construction as 186-.

The development of milling and industry in the Little Elk Creek Historic District occurred after the establishment of successful farming techniques. Once suitable crops were being harvested in surplus and the population began to grow, a need for mills was created. The earliest were probably either saw or grist mills. Of the sites and existing structures five are known to date from the 18th century. The Wilna Mill, or Cyclone Mill as it later was called, was an operating grist mill until the late 1800's. It was part stone and part frame. Only some of the foundation remains.

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DESCRIPTION (continued)

This house could have been built in the early 1790's when the property was bought by Dr. Richard Brookings.

Several frame farmhouses were built in the district during the mid-1800's, such as the King Farm and the Spence Farmhouse, located south of Carter's Mill. They have clapboard siding and are two stories in height. They are very plain and are basically of vernacular style that includes earlier influences, such as colonial and Federal, as well as Victorian as seen in the additions (basically porched). Both of these structures are on Spence Road on opposite banks of the Little Elk Creek.

In 1864 the McCleary Farmhouse was built after an earlier dwelling burned. It is a two-story, stone building with double inside end chimneys in the east gable wall. This house sits across the creek from the Brookings House. It is the last known stone house built in the district.

Several very plain Victorian farm dwellings are found in the district. These are the Snyder House, the Dupont Farmhouse (both located in the northern section of the district), the Gallagher House in Leeds, and the Harvey Victorian House, south of Childs. All of these are frame with clapboard siding. The Harvey House has a mansard roof and is the largest of this group. They all are two and a half stories in height.

In connection with many of these houses are outbuildings. The Spence Farm has a large frame barn of mortice and tenon construction, a dairy, a carriage shed-corn crib combination, and a one-story stone springhouse. The Little Venture Farm has a small one-story frame structure that was used as an ice house. Behind Melissa Mackie's House is a small stone meat house with a peaked roof covered with wooden shingles. Brick Hill has the largest collection of outbuildings. Most that have survived are frame and date from the late 1800's. An earlier stone building connected to the house was used to store meat and vegetables. There is also a great frame barn built with mortice and tenon with butted siding. The Brookings Barn and the barn at Rock View also attest to the wealth of the land by their size.

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DESCRIPTION (continued)

Moving upstream on the west bank near the Marley Mill was another grist mill which was operated by Colonel Henry Hollingsworth during the early part of the Revolutionary War. This building burned in the early 1800's and is a site only. Part of its foundation might have been incorporated in the later Marley Mill.

The Cecil Manufacturing Mill was located between Marley and Leeds and employed spinning and carding machines as early as 1796. The main mill building was 65 feet by 57 feet and stood four stories in height. An accompanying machine shop measured 56 feet by 20 feet. By 1810 there were over 173 looms in the area with seven stocking looms. The mill, later used in the manufacture of paper, today is in ruins.

The Wallace Grist Mill site, which later became Carter's Mill, was run by Dr. Michael Wallace who served with the Revolutionary Army. After Dr. Wallace's death, his relative Michael sold the mill to Robert Carter in 1814. The foundations of this building were incorporated into the later paper mill.

The Rock Road Mill stood to the north of Rock Church. The frame part of the mill was moved downstream during the 19th century and used as a grist and saw operation. The foundations and part of the dam breast are still visible.

In the year 1800 the Meeter Family of Delaware purchased property in Providence for a paper mill. Little is known about the success of this early business venture, except that the site remains active industrially to this day. Some stone walls and foundations are scattered throughout the area and could have been part of the original mill. The present structure is a large brick building dated from the late 19th century. It is two and a half stories in height and five bays long by three bays wide. The bricks were laid in common bond with brick return cornices.

The Harlan Wilson Mill site is located to the north of Leeds on the west bank of the Little Elk Creek. The stone mill was dynamited within the last 20 years, but some of the foundations remain. Initially

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DESCRIPTION (continued)

built by John Wilson for the manufacture of wollen cloth, the mill was converted to use as a pasteboard mill by the Harlan Family.

A mile upstream from this mill are the Carter-Wallace Mill ruins. This mill complex consists of numerous ruins connected to the mill and adjacent farm. The earliest mill was the aforementioned Wallace Grist Mill which was in operation in the latter half of the 18th century. In 1814 Robert Carter, a papermaker of Delaware County, Pennsylvania, purchased the mill from a member of the Wallace Family, and began to change it into a paper mill. The overshot wheel at this mill was 20 feet in diameter with a 12-foot face (CHS, Industry). Several large buildings from the early 1800's exist in semi-ruinous condition. Among these is the office building, a small two-bay by two-stone structure that had a gable roof and a full cellar. In the south gable wall is a brick stove chimney. About fifty feet to the southwest of the office is the main mill building. This is a large ruin standing in some places to height of two full stories with the sills of third story windows barely visible. This building also is built of stone with large stone quions at the corners. Although some of the stones are more neatly laid than others, the overall stonework is impressive. The northern section of this building is three bays by four with a full cellar. Adjoining the south wall of this section is a two-story wing also built of stone. Stone supports for machines are found in both sections. Portions of window frames exist as well as stone and hewn lintels. Directly to the east of this building is a foundation in which most of the stone is crudely laid with the exception of a stone arch in the western wall. Below this is a long rectangular building one story in height and eight bays long by three deep. This structure is built of stone and was used to dry the paper. It has large windows with brick arches. The mill race, two holding ponds and part of the original dam also remain. Fragments of slate indicate that the roofs of the mill buildings were slate covered. The foundation of a farmhouse, corn crib and part of a stone barn are also on the property. The mill was very prosperous until a fire destroyed it in 1900.

Just above the Carter-Wallace Mill is the Walnut Valley Grist Mill, built by Robert Carter in 1847. This is a large stone and frame structure, two and a half stories in height with a gambrel roof, unusual here. The remains of the waterwheel and some machinery survive in the cellar. The upper stories are filled with grain bins

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DESCRIPTION (continued)

with chutes leading to the loading areas below. Next to this building is a smaller stone structure built in 1811, supposed to be the site of Fulton's Flax Mill. The interior has been renovated to provide housing.

The Meeter Mill in Providence has already been mentioned. Kite's Mill, located between the Meeter Mill and Rock Church, was a grist mill. The building is frame and was moved from another site upstream about 1900. During recent years it has been converted into an apartment building. It is two stories in height and has clapboard siding.

Due to the abundance of mills in the valley, there was a need for housing to provide shelter for the workmen and managers of the various mills. Most frame mill housing is not in the best condition, although in many cases it is restorable. The row of eight workers' houses built north of Providence on A. Mackie Road are an example of this. They are virtually identical two-story buildings most likely built by the owners of the Meeter or Providence Mill. They have gable roofs with stove chimneys in various locations. The exterior walls are covered with clapboard and most of them have a hood over their entrances. To the south of these structures is a large frame dwelling which was used as a boarding house in the late 1800's to about 1910. Although not a fancy structure, it has been well kept. Other buildings in the Providence area involved in the mill industry are found on the east bank of the Creek. The principal structures in this group are three stone buildings built around 1800. They are colonial vernacular in style but with narrower chimneys than those normally found on 18th-century dwellings. Architecturally none is outstanding, but their impact as a group is important. The housing further down the creek at the Carter-Wallace Mill consists of several double houses. One of them, located between the main mill complex and the road, is in ruins. It was half stone and half frame with an inside end chimney in each gable end. According to an interview, up to five men lived here at the turn of the century. Several hundred feet south of the mill is another double house built entirely of stone, also in ruins. A black family used it for a home in the early 1900's. The Spratt House, located on the north side of the road below the mill, was not directly connected to the mill but some of its residents did work there.

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DESCRIPTION (continued)

At Leeds there are several structures that served as housing for the mill community. The Raneiri House, McCool House, Erickson House, and Gallagher House all housed mill workers or managers. All of these buildings were constructed of stone and only the Raneiri House is a single family dwelling. Childs and Marley also have numerous buildings with similar connections. They are for the most part Victorian, such as the row of houses at the crossroads in Childs.

The wealth the mills produced allowed their owners to build solid homes on the higher slopes of the valley. The Carter Mansion, Walnut Hill, sits almost 100 feet above the creek and on a clear day the headwaters of the Chesapeake are visible. Walnut Hill is a large stone mansion four bays by three with a covering of stucco on the exterior walls. The main part of the house is three full stories with a hip roof. A small, two-story wing extends from the rear of the main section and to the west is a late 18th century structure that adjoins the west gable of the main block. In the east gable is a marble datestone with "R & M Carter" and the date "1841" carved into it. On the facade is a two-story front porch supported by wooden columns. It is the only house in Cecil County of this date and style that has this porch feature.

Scattered throughout the valley are the remains of early dams, mill races, stone foundations that once supported covered bridges, and a variety of bridges built in the late 1800's and early 1900's to replace the earlier wooden ones and to accommodate the railroad. Some of these are single arch bridges built of local granite.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

CE-1296

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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

In the 19th century the Little Elk Creek valley was a thriving industrial center and prosperous agricultural region. It has changed very little in the 20th century and today approximately 86% of the structures in this district date from the period before 1900. These buildings are representative of architectural styles found in Cecil County in the 18th and 19th centuries, particularly colonial vernacular, Federal and Victorian designs. The diversity of building types in the district, including farmhouses, farm buildings, mills, mill housing, churches and stores, portrays America in transition from a strictly agricultural economy to a greater reliance on industry.

The terrain of the valley consists of plains, hills and hardwood forests surrounding the Little Elk Creek. The elevation changes within the district were a major factor in the development of industry and commerce in the valley. Agriculture thrived on the fertile soil and well watered and drained pasture land, and was economically viable due to the area's relative proximity to markets and waterways.

A farming area in the 18th century, the valley was first settled by Scotch Irish who were strongly influenced by the Presbyterian faith. The Mackeys, Wallaces, Mickalls and Rowlands accumulated wealth from their farms which later was used to develop the valley's industry. Traveling in this area La Rochefoucauld wrote: "By 1760 the northern counties (of the Eastern Shore) were raising little tobacco and their "winter wheat" had become famous. This they sent to the Brandywine Mills, to Philadelphia, and to Baltimore." (La Rochefoucauld II, p.492). Once they were established many of these families invested their wealth to establish local mills. The Hollingsworth family, perhaps the most important in 18th century Cecil County, held lands in the southern part of the valley, known as the Hollingsworth Patent and established their mills in the vicinity of Marley. Their grist mill there may have been the earliest in the district and was a source of their prosperity through the flour and grain trade. During the American Revolution when Colonel Henry Hollingsworth had trouble procuring flour acceptable to the Continental Army, he wrote to Governor Lee on August 11, 1781, that he was bolting and grinding flour in his own mill in hopes of meeting approval. (Archives of Maryland, 47:410)

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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

Little Elk Creek Valley
Elkton,
Maryland

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (continued)

Millers at the Kite, Wallace, Mackall and Levis Mills also ground wheat from the valley and kept the cooper's shop at Rock Church constantly busy. This regional prosperity was reflected in a 1778 report supported by Robert Alexander, a Cecil County Loyalist, in an effort to convince the British to occupy the area as a base of operations. This report stated that the "Elk and Mills in that Neighborhood" produced 10,000 bushels of wheat, 3,000 barrels of flour, 75 barrels of beans, 40 barrels of salt, 2,500 bushels of corn, and 1,000 bushels of oats. (Papenfuse, p. 183) By 1810 the amount of flour produced was over 17,000 barrels. (American State Papers II, p. 434).

The potential of this area brought capital from elsewhere into the little Elk Creek valley. Investors such as William Cooch of Cooch's Bridge, Delaware; Sam and William Meter, also from Delaware; and Robert Carter of Delaware County, Pennsylvania, were typical of these early 19th century entrepreneurs. One of the earliest of these industries was the "woolen mill" owned by the Cecil Manufacturing Company. Located between New Leeds and Marley and initially established in 1795, it was the first regularly organized company for the manufacture of woolen products in Maryland. (Bagnall, p. 232). James Mackey, then owner of Little Elk Farm, was one of the original members of the company. John Wilson, a preacher from England, was hired to manage the mill which wove the cloth for President Jefferson's inaugural suit. (Johnston, p. 383). In a report given by Albert Gallatin, Secretary of the Treasury in 1810, this mill had capital amounting to \$16,000., twenty employees, and an annual output of 8,000 yards of cloth. (Bolles, p. 376).

By 1811 two new enterprises had been established on Little Elk Creek, the Fulton Flax Mill and John Wilson's Mill. If Albert S. Bolles' figures are correct that 25 woolen factories existed in the United States in 1810, then Cecil County and her mills played a significant role in the early history of the woolen industry. (Bolles, p. 376).

The paper industry was introduced in the Little Elk Creek valley by Sam and William Meeter of Delaware who established a mill at Providence in 1800. The "paper king of Cecil County," Robert Carter, arrived in 1814 when he purchased land from Michael Wallace, son of Thomas.

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (continued)

(Deed JS 10/287). Carter not only built several structures to house his paper mill, but he also acquired other mills along the creek to expand his operation, including the Cecil Manufacturing Mill in 1828 and the Marley Mill in 1842. He built a paper mill at the latter in 1845. The paper-making industry in Cecil County was largely a hand-crafted one when Carter arrived, but paper-making machines were first used in France in 1815 (Munsell p. 59) and he apparently adopted them very early for his mills in the valley. A report in 1892 gives Carter credit for introducing the Foudrinier machine. (Cecil County newspaper of unknown date, Historical Society files).

The post Civil War era was the most prosperous for the Carter Paper Mill, later known as the Cecil Paper Mill. Paper was sold to business concerns in Baltimore, Boston and Pittsburgh. The major buyer was the Baltimore Sun which did all of its business with the Carter family for twenty years. (Johnston p. 476). In 1851 Carter sold the mill to I.D. Carter who ran it throughout this prosperous period. (Deed RCH 4/488) Robert D. Carter, a physician better known for his work at the Alms House, ran the mill from 1888 to 1896. In the latter year Charles L. Carter and George McQuilkin took over the mill and sold paper to the Philadelphia Public Ledger. (Cecil Democrat, no date, Historical Society files). At one time there was a capital investment of \$55,000 and from twenty to sixty men employed at Carter's Mill. A fire in 1900 damaged the mill so badly that it was abandoned. The ruins remain today, expressive of the mills' great capacity by their impressive size.

The Harlan Mill was built in 1828 by Jehu Harlans on the site of John Wilson's mill. Harlans' sons, Jehu, George and John, ran the mill which made bookbinding materials and pasteboard.

The Marley Mill was sold to George Childs, owner of the Philadelphia Public Ledger, in 1886. The output of the mill was four tons every twenty-four hours. C.B. Garrett and Sons later bought this mill and made additions to it. When it went bankrupt in 1936, it was sold to G. Howard Bathon and the process was changed to manufacture a brown corrugated liner. (Tercentennial Booklet p.19). This became a successful concern with 150 employees and a payroll of one million dollars. In 1969 the Weyerhaeuser Company bought the property and converted the mill to produce pulp paper. This caused a pollution problem and the

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (continued)

mill was forced to close. A fire in 1974 gutted the building and only the walls remain. (Tercentennial Booklet p. 19).

The Metter Mill site at Providence was purchased by a stock company in which William Singerly held controlling interest in 1881. Mr. Singerly owned the Philadelphia Record and paper used for the Record was made in Providence. The mill's volume in 1881 was ten tons per day; Singerly invested over \$200,000 in the business and by 1902 12,000 cords of tulip wood were consumed there. (Industry file, Historical Society). By 1910 the mill's capacity was 85,000 pounds of paper per day and 200 people were employed by the mill. Providence Mill has changed hands several times in the past fifty years and has recently come under criticism due to pollution.

Although the manufacture of iron products was more common in other areas of Cecil County, this type of business was found in the Little Elk valley on a small scale. A nail factory was started circa 1800 by Mr. Cleveland near the Marley Mill. Jeremiah Larkins Leslie, a Methodist preacher in Ohio, was the millwright at this nail factory. (Johnston p. 521). Until 1807 100 tons of nails were produced here each year. The nail factory at Marley was acquired by Elk Forge in 1808 and charcoal was used to manufacture bar iron.

In addition to the investment of their money to found the mills in the valley, the farmers here continued to be involved in local industry throughout the 19th century. The neighboring farmboys worked in the mills in off seasons and to make extra money. Some of these men eventually worked full time in industry. The mills also kept local craftsmen busy, for example, Bob Egnar who built and installed the huge water wheel at Carter's Mill.

Many of the less prominent mills and industrial sites in the valley also remained active into the 20th century. The Walnut Valley mill, the Kite grist mill and the Beyer's or Dolfinger Creamery, the latter just below Providence, are three of these.

The earliest center of worship in the Little Elk Creek valley was Rock Church, built in 1761 and still thriving at the same location. One of its early ministers was the Reverend James Finley whose brother, Dr.

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (continued)

Samuel Finley, established West Nottingham Academy in Rising Sun, Cecil County, and who later became President of Princeton. (Johnson p. 383). In 1812 a church was built at New Leeds by the Reverend John Wilson, a preacher of the society known as the Independent Presbyterians. His daughter, Miss Sarah Wilson, organized the first Sunday school in Maryland outside of Baltimore City in 1816. (Miller p. 71). In 1885 a new church was constructed on Blue Ball Road where services are held today. St. John's on the northern edge of the district was erected in 1866 to serve both Maryland and Pennsylvania Methodists.

In the late 18th century Cecil County, like other counties in Maryland, founded a place where paupers and the ill could be cared for by qualified people. The present site of Mount Aviat Academy was the Alms House location. Nearby a burial ground for the poor, called Potter's Field, was established. The Alms House was created by Law in 1787, but actual construction probably did not begin until later. (Tercentennial p. 27). The farm is now owned by the Oblate Sisters of St. Francis de Sales who operate a school for elementary age children.

Another educational building was the Eight Corner School House built by Robert Carter adjacent to the Spratt Farm below Carter's Mill. Unfortunately, this building has been destroyed.

The Little Elk Creek Historic District has a long medical heritage, beginning with the Mackall family. Three individuals stand out: Dr. Richard C. Mackall, Dr. Richard C. Brookings and Dr. Robert D. Carter. Dr. Mackall was born at Wilna and was one of the first two graduates of the Dental School at Johns Hopkins University. (Miller p.75). Dr. Brookings, a physician and entrepreneur, married Mary Carter. Their son Robert was the founder of the Brookings Institution in Washington, D.C., and achieved many great honors. Dr. Carter, whose office was in nearby Cherry Hill, was noted for his work at the Alms House.

From the days of the Cecil County militia through the Revolutionary War and the trying days of the War of 1812, the Little Elk valley supplied Cecil County with a number of patriots. In 1778 many residents subscribed to the Oath of Allegiance, among them Robert Mackey, James

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (continued)

Mackey, William Finley and Thomas Wallace. (Oath of Allegiance, Historical Society, March 2, 1778 p. 12). Some men took a more active role, enlisting in the army. By 1812 the United States was again embroiled in conflict with England. A list of officers attending Fort Defiance near Elkton in 1813 included William Mackey, Thomas Wallace and Robert Christy, all from the Little Elk valley. (Johnson p. 411).

In times of peace the people's minds were turned to politics, always a favorite pastime. Cecil County was an area of staunch Federalists until 1819 when the Democrats took over, especially in the northeastern section of the county where the Little Elk valley is located. This area became known as the "Gibraltar of Democracy" from 1819 on. The Elkton Press, owned by Robert Carter in 1828, was pro-Democrat, as was the Cecil Gazette and Farmers' and Mechanics' Advertiser, begun in 1834 by a Democratic Convention in the county. (Johnston p. 464-466).

The black history of the Little Elk Creek Historic District, as elsewhere in the south, was begun in slavery. Slaves were owned by most of the large landowners and were used solely as house servants in some families. In 1790 there were approximately 300 slaves in the valley, comprising roughly one-third of the total population. (U.S. Census, 1790). The slave population declined as the area's economy became more diversified, particularly after 1820, and the number of free blacks began to increase. This changing status is illustrated by Benjamin York, a free black yeoman who resided in the southern reaches of the valley and owned upwards of 112 acres by 1801. (Assessment Records). The free blacks later were active in the industry of the valley, examples being Bill and Chode Wesley who worked at Carter's Mill after 1850.

Recent survey has shown that many of the older mill buildings are being deteriorated by vandalism and the elements. The Marley Mill and the Carter's Mill ruins are crumbling and the Harlan Mill was dynamited in the mid-20th century. Most of the frame mill housing is not in the best condition, although it is certainly restorable. Certain of the stone farmhouses and some of the frame dwellings in the valley are well taken care of and local groups have shown interest in the area. The Elk's

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (continued)

Creek Bicentennial Committee and the Cecil Historical Trust, Inc. have both given much time toward the preservation of the valley. Local residents have initiated steps leading to the incorporation of a preservation group. The historic district is situated in the Rural Conservation North Planning Area in the Comprehensive Plan for Cecil County (Stotler, Stag & Associates, 1974).

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 2,830 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

B	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
D	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

bjn

George Lutz, Field Historican/Maryland Historical Trust 3/76

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Cecil Historical Trust/Maryland Historical Trust 301-267-1438

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

R.D. 2/21 State Circle

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Rising Sun/Annapolis

Maryland 21911/21401

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

FHA
Upper right
CE-1296

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

1. NAME

COMMON:
Little Elk Creek Historic District

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
from Mason Dixon Line to I-95 , width varies lies north of Elkton

CITY OR TOWN:
Elkton

STATE: Maryland COUNTY: Cecil

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Multiple ownership

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE:

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Clerk of Circuit Court

STREET AND NUMBER:
Court House

CITY OR TOWN: STATE
Elkton Maryland

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

Title Reference of Current Deed (Book & Pg. #):

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

7. DESCRIPTION	
CONDITION	(Check One)
	<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
	(Check One)
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered <input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered <input type="checkbox"/> Moved <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE	
<p>The Little Elk Creek Historic District is approximately 6½ miles long and varies in width from 2½ to ¼ miles. The acreage of the proposed district is approximately 2,830 acres or 4.42 square miles. Nearly all of the District lies in the Little Elk Creek Valley. The northern boundary of the District is the historic Mason-Dixon Line which separates Maryland from Pennsylvania. The southern boundary is I-95 which crosses the Little Elk Creek.</p> <p>The physical qualities of the valley make it a scene of beauty during any season. Sloping pasture land is contrasted by changes in elevation and the always present rock. Some parts of the lower valley are heavily forested with hardwood trees. Of course, the dominating natural influence is the Little Elk Creek, a small swift flowing body of water winding its way through the countryside only slowed by old mill dams.</p> <p>The terrain of the valley can be divided into two major areas. The northern section includes the land above Rock Church. It is chiefly made up of a rolling plain. This feature is unique to river valleys in Cecil County. The area to the south of the church is characterized by steep hills, woodland areas, a narrower valley and is interspersed by farmland stretching back from the banks of the Little Elk Creek. This section is a truer valley than the northern area.</p> <p>Since the beginning of the Twentieth Century there has been very little change in the manmade environment. In order to catalogue the buildings within the District, four time periods were used. The following is an inventory using these categories; 1700-1800 approximately 46; 1800-1850, 48; 1850-1900, 50; and 1900-1976, 30. This makes a total of 212 buildings with 86% of them being built prior to 1900.</p> <p>The northern part of the Little Elk Creek Historic District, as mentioned, is composed of a hilly plain which is suitable for farming and grazing. The buildings and sites in this area therefore are centered around agriculture with the exception of Rock Church and St. John's Church. The early dwellings are constructed of fieldstone which is very abundant. These buildings have gable roofs and large end chimneys. They are built on small knolls high enough to have a clear view of the valley and escape the spring thaws which could make the meandering Little Elk Creek overflow its banks. Many of these homes are simple in design while grand in size. Hopewell is a typical farmhouse of this style which is also found in neighboring Pennsylvania. Hopewell is a stone dwelling two storeys in height, five bays long, and two bays deep. The facade is laid in neat blocks of stone with segmental arches above the windows. The other three sides are laid in rough rubble stone. A pent eave at the attic level has been removed from the west gable. Some old sashes remain which are 6/9 on the first storey and 6/6 on the second storey. The west gable has an inside end chimney and, at one time, the east gable also had an end chimney. The facade has double entrances, one to each side of the house with transoms over them.</p>	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Other styles represented in this northern section are Gothic at Rock Church, Greek Revival at St. John's Church, and Victorian at the Synder House. Other features of this section are the 6th and 7th milestones of the Mason-Dixon Line. CE-1296

The barns connected with these farms are also of some interest since they display rustic craftsmanship with mortice and tenon construction and exhibit many fine examples of early ironwork, especially hinges. The Cherry Barn, the barn at Brick Hill, and the barn at Rock View Farm also attest to the wealth of the land due to their size.

At Rock Church, stone supports on either side of the Little Elk are the only remains of a covered bridge. Another covered bridge which stood near Wilna had an 80 foot span. A small community existed at this site before the Revolutionary War. It consisted of a mill, cooper's shop, several small dwellings, the Session House, and the Rock Church. By 1858 John Gallagher had a store at this location.²

The lower half of the District is basically composed of mills and milling communities although there are farms located here and there. Some of the farming land was used for sheep grazing and was owned by the mills. The earliest structures are built of stone and are similar to those in the northern section. The Levis home below Providence, Carter's Mill, the Marley Mill, the Neal House, and Wilna are fine examples of this stone building style. Some log buildings and ruins of an undetermined age exist in the New Leeds area. One of these exhibits the qualities that made the log cabin a legend. The logs are joined in the saddle notch style to a height of one storey and covered with butted clapboard. The interior wall is covered with crude laths nailed to the logs with hand wrought lath nails. A summer beam extends across the center of the only room. The east end of the cabin has a large stone fireplace laid with mud similar to that used to chink the logs. Unfortunately none of the roof remains and a majority of the cabin has rotted.

The majority of the housing for the mill workers of the area are located near the mills or at crossroads nearby. These villages from north to south are Providence, Carter's Mill, New Leeds, Leeds, Marley, and Spring Hill or Childs as it is known today. Of the ten milling sites only two remain active today and they are involved in the chemical industry. They are the Meeter site or Galaxy Mill in Providence and the Marley Mill near Childs. The mill sites are situated just far enough apart so that each one could make use of the Little Elk for a mill race. Dams were built to compound the water especially for the paper mills. Of the several dams that once stood, only the dam at Providence is in good repair. According to the Martenet Map of 1858 some of the dams were used by several mills, not just one.

The mills and early industries in the Little Elk Creek Historic served a variety of needs. A list of these includes grist mills, saw mills, paper mills, fulling mills, a nail factory, an iron forge, and an oil factory.

Although some of the mills are frame, such as the Kite Mill, the majority of the mills are made of stone. A unique building is the Walnut Valley Mill which is part stone and part frame with a gambrel roof. It was used as both a ~~mill~~ and grist mill. All of the mill sites were active before 1860.⁴

As the industry in this region began to expand, the manufacturing processes changed. Increased production led to the building of a large reservoir above Providence to provide the local factory with an additional water supply. Advancement into the 19th Century is coupled with an increase in the number of mills using a mechanized process to make their product. The Cecil Manufacturing Company employed the use

of spinning and carding machines as early as 1796.⁵ The Carter Mill also used machines at an early date. Machines, furthermore, required larger buildings and the sites on the Little Elk were not an exception. Of particular note is Carter's Mill. The Carter site has the ruins of seven buildings, five of which were directly connected with the manufacture of paper. The central mill was over three storeys in height with walls 18 inches thick. A separate office building and an on-site home for workers add to the size of this early plant. Perhaps the most interesting of the buildings at Carter's Mill is the drying shed used to allow the reams of paper to dry. This building measures 35 feet by 95 feet and has arched windows of a large size giving this particular ruin a medieval appearance. The overshot wheel at this mill was 20 feet in diameter with a 12 foot face.⁶

The Cecil Manufacturing Company building between Marley and New Leeds was 65 feet by 57 feet and stood four storeys high. An accompanying machine shop measured 56 feet by 20 feet. By 1810 there were over 173 looms in the area with 7 stocking looms.⁷

As the milling industries grew in size they caused small communities to grow up. One common feature to many homes in these villages is that they are double houses. All of these are built of stone and two storeys in height. Some have central chimneys with fireplaces on each side of the dwelling, such as the McCool House. While others have inside end chimneys like the two double houses at Carter's Mill. These homes for the most part remain in good condition with few alterations. Original flooring, interior trim, and window sash are found in many. Examples of this style are the Neal House at Childs, the Erickson and McCool houses at New Leeds, and the two double houses at Carter's Mill. Continued growth beyond 1850 showed that more housing space was needed, especially at Providence. In addition to a boarding house, 7 identical buildings were constructed just to the north of the mill.

The wealth of the mills allowed the owners to build nice homes on higher elevations. The Carter mansion, Walnut Hill, sits almost 100 feet above the mill and on a clear day you can see the headwaters of the Chesapeake Bay. Another fine building built under similar circumstances is the Ranieri House constructed by John Wilson, manager, first of the Cecil Manufacturing Mill and then of his own mill. The owners also sought managers to help them increase efficiency and to install new methods. In some cases the mill would provide housing for the mill manager. Such was the case at Marley where a large, frame, Victorian building was built for the manager. This home has a fine view of the nearby mill and many of the workers' houses.

Since the mills are not located on the main north to south transportation routes, they needed a system to carry their products to market or port. The present day Route 213 or Singerly Road, Blue Ball Road, and the Marley Road served as overland routes to nearby depots of Elkton and North East. At first most of the materials were hauled by drays. In 1892 the B&O Railroad laid a spur line up the Little Elk Valley to cater to the mills' business. Several fine stone bridges were constructed at that time to accomodate the tracks.

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Abor iginol | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi-
losophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Lonscape | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social/Human-
itorion | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportotion | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communicotions | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The most apparent quality of the Little Elk Creek Historic District is its natural beauty. The terrain consists of plains, hills, and hardwood forests centered around the Little Elk Creek. The presence of stone gives the valley a sense of strength. Each season has a dramatic effect invoking aesthetic appreciation. The elevation changes within the District are a major factor in the development of industry and commerce in the Little Elk Creek Valley.

The land itself is very important, providing tillable soils, building materials in wood and stone, and well watered and drained pasture land. This combination coupled with the regions relative proximity to markets and waterways greatly enhanced the growth of the Little Elk Creek Valley.

The early inhabitants of the valley, after the Indians, were immigrants predominately of British Isles' origin. The Hollingsworth Family, perhaps the most important family in the 18th Century in Cecil County, held lands in the southern part of the valley known as the Hollingsworth Patent. They concentrated their efforts in and around the Marley area.¹ Their grist mill at Marley could have been the earliest in the District and it certainly helped the Hollingsworths to establish their wealth through the flour and grain trade. At the time of the Revolutionary War Colonel Henry Hollingsworth was having a great deal of trouble trying to procure flour that was acceptable to the Continental Army, and in a letter of August 11, 1781 to Gov. Lee he wrote that he was bolting and grinding flour in his own mill in hopes of meeting approval.²

The northern part of the Little Elk Creek Historic District was chiefly farming area which produced some of the grain that was ground at Marley and other mills. The early settlers in this region were of Scotch Irish ancestry and were strongly influenced by the Presbyterian faith. The Mackeys, Wallaces, Mickalls, and Rowlands were the principal families. The results of their labor is still evident in the many homes and outbuildings that they built. These people began to accumulate wealth from their farms which inturn, created capital and a need for additional mills and services. La Rochefoucauld, when traveling through this area, said, " By 1760 the northern counties(of the Eastern Shore) were raising little tobacco and their ' winter wheat' had become famous. This they sent to the Brandywine Mills, to Philadelphia, and to Baltimore."³

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

See continuation sheet 3.

The Kite, Wallace, Mackall, and Levis Mill helped mill the wheat and kept the cooper's shop near Rock Church constantly busy. The prosperity of the region continued up to the time of the Revolution. In a report backed by Robert Alexander, a Cecil County Loyalist, figures of production were quoted in an effort to cause the British occupation of the region for use as a base of operations. This report filed in 1778 said, "Elk and the Mills in that Neighbourhood" produced 10,000 bushels of wheat, 3,000 barrels of flour, 75 barrels of beans, 40 barrels of salt, 2,500 bushels of corn, and 1,000 bushels of oats.⁴ By 1810 the amount of flour produced alone was over 17,000 barrels.⁵

The potential of this area brought capital from other states into the Little Elk Creek Valley. Investors such as William Cooch from Cooch's Bridge, Sam and William Meeter also from Delaware, and Robert Carter from Delaware County, Pennsylvania were typical of the early 19th Century entrepreneur. The early years of the 1800's nurtured the infantile American industry in a nation controlled by the Jeffersonians who were influenced by Federalist ideology. One of the earliest of these emerging industrial forces was the "woolen mill" owned by the Cecil Manufacturing Company located between New Leeds and Marley which was initially established in 1795. This was the first regularly organized company for the manufacture of woolen fabrics in Maryland.⁶ James Mackey owner of Little Elk Farm was one of the original members of the company. The owners hired John Wilson, a preacher, from England to manage the mill which wove the cloth for Jefferson's inaugural suit.⁷ In a report given by Albert Gallatin, Secretary of the Treasury in 1810, this mill had capital amounting to \$16,000, 20 employees, and an annual output of 8,000 yards of cloth.⁸ By 1811 two new enterprises of the same nature were established. One was the Fulton Flax Mill and the other was the mill of John Wilson located on the site of the Harlan Mill which in 1828 was a cotton mill of Jehu Harlans. The Harlan Mill was burnt and rebuilt as a factory to produce match box paper. The sons of Jehu, George and John ran the mill which made bookbinders and pasteboard. It operated until 1911 when it burned. If Albert S. Bolles figures are correct that 25 woolen factories existed in 1810 then Cecil County played a significant role in the early history of the woolen industry.⁹

The paper industry started in the Little Elk Creek Historic District when Sam and William Meeter of Delaware established a mill at Providence in 1800. The "paper king of Cecil County", Robert Carter, did not arrive until 1814 when he purchased land from Michael Wallace, son of Thomas.¹⁰ Robert Carter not only built several buildings to house his paper mill, but also began to acquire other mills along the Little Elk Creek to expand his operation. When Robert Carter moved into Cecil County the paper making industry was basically a machineless process. Carter soon became one of the first to use machines to make paper. This must have been after 1815 since machines were first used in France that year.¹¹ A report in 1892 gives Robert Carter credit for introducing the Foudrinier machine. The other mills bought by Carter were the Cecil Manufacturing Mill in 1828, and the Marley Mill in 1842. The Cecil Whig of October 25, 1845 said that the Marley Mill was owned by Robert Carter and that he was erecting a paper mill there.

The post Civil War era was the most prosperous for the Carter Paper Mill or the Cecil Paper Mill as it was later known. Paper was sold to business concerns in Baltimore, Boston, and Pittsburgh. The main buyer was the Baltimore Sun which did all of its business with the Carter Family for 20 years.¹² I.D. Carter ran the mill during this period from 1851 when Robert Carter sold it to him.¹³

Robert D. Carter, a physician, better known for his work at the Alms House ran the mill from 1888 to 1896 when Charles L. Carter and George McQuilkin took over and sold paper to the Philadelphia Public Ledger.¹⁴ At one time

there was a capital investment of \$55,000 and anywhere from 20 to 60 men were employed. In 1900, a fire damaged the Carter Mill so badly that it was abandoned.

The Marley Mill was sold to George Childs, who was owner of the Philadelphia Public Ledger, in 1886. The mill's output was 4 tons every 24 hours. C.B. Garrett & Sons later bought this mill and made additions. The Marley Mill went bankrupt in 1936 and was sold to G. Howard Bathon. The process was changed to manufacture a brown corrugated liner.¹⁵ This became a going concern with 150 employees and a payroll of one million dollars. In 1969 the Weyerhaeuser Company became the owners and they converted the mill to produce pulp paper which caused a pollution problem forcing the mill to close. A fire in 1974 gutted the building and only the walls remain.¹⁶

The Meeter Mill site at Providence was purchased by a stock company of which William Singerly held controlling interest in 1881. Mr. Singerly owned the Philadelphia Record and paper used for the Record was made in Providence. This mill's volume in 1881 was 10 tons per day. Singerly invested over \$200,000 in the mill and by 1902 12,000 cords of tulip tree were consumed by this mill.¹⁷ In 1910 the mill's capacity was 85,000 pounds of paper per day and the Providence Mill employed 200 people. The Providence Mill changed hands several times in the past 50 years. It recently came under criticism due to pollution. The owners known as Galaxy have just sold the mill to another firm.

Although the manufacture of iron products was more common in other areas of Cecil County, a nail factory was started around 1800 by Mr. Cleveland near the Marley Mill which produced 100 tons per year until 1807. Jeremiah Leslie was a millwright here and also a Methodist preacher. The Marley Mill was purchased by Elk Forge in 1808 and charcoal was used to manufacture bar iron.¹⁸ In 1812 it was managed by John Hayes. The nails were cut by water powered machinery, but were headed by hand.¹⁹ This was continued until 1842 when it was sold to Robert Carter.

Many of the less prominent mills and industrial sites remained active into the 20th Century. The Walnut Valley Mill, and the Kite grist mill are examples of this. The Beyer's or Dolfinger Creamery just below Providence operated in the 1900's also.

The Little Elk Creek Historic District, like other areas in the United States had many residents that were deeply religious. The oldest center for worship in the District, Rock Church, was built in 1761 and has thrived at the same location since. One of its early ministers was a Rev. James Finley whose brother Dr. Samuel Finley established West Nottingham Academy in Colora and later became president of Princeton.²⁰ In 1812 a church was built at New Leeds by Rev. John Wilson who was a preacher of the society known as the Independent Presbyterians. His daughter, Miss Sarah Wilson, organized the first Sunday School in the state of Maryland outside of Baltimore City in 1816.²¹ In 1885 a new church was constructed on Blue Ball Road where services are held today. St. John's Church at the northern most edge of the District was erected in 1866 to serve both Maryland and Pennsylvania Methodists.

In the late 1700's Cecil County, like other counties in the state of Maryland, founded a place where paupers and the ill could be cared for by qualified people. The present site of Mt. Aviat Academy was the Alms House location. Nearby, a burial ground for the poor called Potter's Field was created. The Alms House was established by law in 1787, but actual construction might not have begun until later.²² The farm is now owned by the Oblate Sisters of St. Francis de Sales who operate a school for elementary age children. Another educational building was the Eight Corner School House built by Robert Carter adjacent to the Spratt Farm below Carter's Mill. Unfortunately this building has been destroyed.

The Little Elk Creek Historic District has a long medical heritage beginning with the Mackall Family. Three individuals stand out; Dr. Richard

C. Mackall, Dr. Richard C. Brookings, and Dr. Robert D. Carter. Dr. Mackall was born at Wilna and was one of the first two graduates of the Dental School at John Hopkins University.²³ Dr. Carter whose office was in nearby Cherry Hill was noted for his work at the Alms House. Dr. Brookings, a physician and entrepreneur, married Mary Carter. Their son Robert became the founder of the Brookings Institute in Washington, and achieved many great honors.

From the days of the Cecil County Colonial Militia until the Revolutionary War and the trying days of the War of 1812 the Little Elk Creek Valley supplied Cecil County with a number of patriots. In 1778 many residents swore the Oath of Allegiance. Among these were Robert Mackey, ~~James Mackey~~, William Finley, and Thomas Wallace to mention but a few.²⁴ Some took a more active role by enlisting in the army. By 1812 the United States was again embroiled in conflict with England. A list of officers attending Fort Defiance near Elkton in 1813 included William Mackey, Thomas Wallace, and Robert Christy all from the Little Elk Creek Valley.²⁵

In times of peace the people's minds turned to politics, always a favorite pastime. Cecil County was an area of Staunch Federalists until 1819 when the Democrats took over, especially in the northeastern section of the county which includes the Little Elk Creek Valley. This area became known as the Gibraltar of Democracy from that time on. The Elkton Press which was owned by Robert Carter in 1828, was pro-Democrat as was the Cecil Gazette and Farmers' and Mechanics' Advertiser started in 1834 by Colonel William Mackey and Henry Miller.²⁶

The black history of the Little Elk Creek Historic District can be summed up by one word, slavery. Slaves were owned by most of the large land owners and by some families, were used solely as house servants. In 1790 there were approximately 300 slaves in the Valley comprising roughly one third of the total population. The changing status of the black man can be seen in the fact that by 1801 Benjamin York, a free yeoman, resided in the southern reaches of the Valley and owned upwards of 112 acres.²⁷ The slave population declined as the area began to diversify its economy, particularly after 1820. Also the number of free blacks began to increase.

Recent survey has discovered that many of the older mill buildings are being destroyed by vandalism and the elements. The Marley Mill, and Carter's Mill are crumbling away. The Harlan Mill was dynamited in the mid 20th Century. This area should be preserved due to its virtual unspoiled qualities. The majority of the buildings were built prior to 1900 and little development has occurred, which would destroy the natural beauty. This nomination also would fit in nicely with the Comprehensive Plan for Cecil County since all of the District is in the Rural Conservation North Planning Area.²⁸

Local groups have shown interest in the Valley especially the Carter's Mill site. The Elk Creeks Bicentennial Committee and the Cecil Historical Trust, Inc. have both given much time towards the preservation of this area. The Maryland Historical Trust has also become interested and hopefully some funding will be obtained. Another development in the Valley is that local residents have initiated steps towards incorporating a preservation group as a direct result of this nomination.

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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	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
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SE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 2,830

Acreage Justification:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
 George Lutz Field Historian

ORGANIZATION: Cecil Historical Trust Maryland Historical Trust DATE: March 1976

STREET AND NUMBER:
 RD 2

CITY OR TOWN: Rising Sun STATE: Maryland 21911

12. State Liaison Officer Review: (Office Use Only)

Significance of this property is:
 National State Local

Signature _____

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Cecil Whig
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- ² Archives of Maryland 47:410
- ³ La Rochefoucauld, Travels Through the U.S. Vol.II, p.492.
- ⁴ Edward C. Papenfuse, Jr. "Economic Analysis and Loyalist Strategy During the American Revolution" Maryland Historical Magazine March, 1974, p.183.
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The following material contained in this notebook deals with subject matter related to the Little Elk Creek Historic District. Included among these documents are Maryland Historical Trust survey forms on particular buildings, newspaper clippings, pictures, and early maps. The written material has been arranged around the photographs so that the reader can better understand the Historic District. This supplementary evidence is ordered from north to south, as best possible. (E-1296

Due to the vast amount of sites and buildings in the District, not all could be given adequate credit in the nomination form for the National Register. Hopefully this section will provide answers to any questions that the nomination is unable to clarify.



466 MASON AND
Lombard
Moores Chapel
Bluebell
Brick Hill
Fair Hill
Kenmore
Andora
Griffith Church
Cedar Hill
Pleasant Hill
Cherry Hill
Singerly
Mechanic Valley
Eder
Boelden Chapel
Nazarene Camp
Indian Falls
North East
Elk Neck State Forest
Elkton Landing
Frenchtown
CE-1296



466

VERT

Northeast

NORTH EAST

CHARLESTOWN

Lombard

Moore's Chapel

Blueball

Nazarene Camp

NORTH EAST

Northeast Harbor

Northeast Heights

MASON AND DIXON

Blue Ball

Blue Ball

Mechanic Valley

Indian Falls

NORTH EAST

Northeast Harbor

Northeast Heights

St. John's Ch

Blue Ball

Blue Ball

Union Ch

Mechanic Valley

Indian Falls

NORTH EAST

Northeast Harbor

Northeast Heights

Brick Hill

Blue Ball

Blue Ball

Pleasant Hill

Union Ch

Mechanic Valley

Indian Falls

NORTH EAST

Northeast Harbor

Northeast Heights

Brick Hill

Blue Ball

Blue Ball

Pleasant Hill

Union Ch

Mechanic Valley

Indian Falls

NORTH EAST

Northeast Harbor

Northeast Heights

COVERED BRIDGE

Blue Ball

Blue Ball

Pleasant Hill

Union Ch

Mechanic Valley

Indian Falls

NORTH EAST

Northeast Harbor

Northeast Heights

CE 1296



Rock Church

CE-1296



SPRATTS
GAME FARM

Spratt House
N. Carter's Mill

CE-1290



Worker's Row Providence
Winter 1976

CE-1296



Session House
Fair Hill

CE-1296



Ranieri and McCool Houses
South

CE-1296