

INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY/DISTRICT
MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
INTERNAL NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM

Property/District Name: Roops Mill Complex Survey Number: CARR-101

Project: Westminster Bypass (MD 140) Agency: SHA

Site visit by MHT Staff: no yes Name _____ Date _____

Eligibility recommended Eligibility not recommended

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

Justification for decision: (Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map)

This property was determined eligible for the NR by MHT letter dated 4/27/1994.

" We believe this property, in addition to being individually eligible, is also a contributing resource in the Roop Rural Historic District. "

Documentation on the property/district is presented in: Review and Compliance Files

Prepared by: Rita Suffness, Cultural Resources Group Leader, SHA, June 1993

Beth Hannold
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services _____ Date _____

NR program concurrence: yes no not applicable
BK _____ 5/23/97
Reviewer, NR program _____ Date _____

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA - HISTORIC CONTEXT

I. Geographic Region:

- Eastern Shore (all Eastern Shore counties, and Cecil)
- Western Shore (Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, Prince George's and St. Mary's)
- Piedmont (Baltimore City, Baltimore, Carroll, Frederick, Harford, Howard, Montgomery)
- Western Maryland (Allegany, Garrett and Washington)

II. Chronological/Developmental Periods:

- Paleo-Indian 10000-7500 B.C.
- Early Archaic 7500-6000 B.C.
- Middle Archaic 6000-4000 B.C.
- Late Archaic 4000-2000 B.C.
- Early Woodland 2000-500 B.C.
- Middle Woodland 500 B.C. - A.D. 900
- Late Woodland/Archaic A.D. 900-1600
- Contact and Settlement A.D. 1570-1750
- Rural Agrarian Intensification A.D. 1680-1815
- Agricultural-Industrial Transition A.D. 1815-1870
- Industrial/Urban Dominance A.D. 1870-1930
- Modern Period A.D. 1930-Present
- Unknown Period (prehistoric historic)

III. Prehistoric Period Themes:

- Subsistence
- Settlement
- Political
- Demographic
- Religion
- Technology
- Environmental Adaptation

IV. Historic Period Themes:

- Agriculture
- Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Community Planning
- Economic (Commercial and Industrial)
- Government/Law
- Military
- Religion
- Social/Educational/Cultural
- Transportation

V. Resource Type:

Category: Buildings; Structures

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function(s) and Use(s): Domestic/Single dwelling; Industry/manufacturing facility; Transportation/bridge; Industry/energy facility

Known Design Source: _____

CARR - 101

ROOP'S MILL HISTORIC DISTRICT

c. 1795

South side of Taneytown Pike;
.4 mile east of Meadow Branch Road
Westminster

Private

John Roop (1770-1852) moved from Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, to Meadow Branch near Westminster, Maryland, in 1795. He built a log house and mill on the property. The stone house was constructed shortly thereafter and the brick mill was built in 1816 on the original mill's stone foundation. The brick mill was constructed on the design of the inventor Oliver Evans, who patented rights to several mill innovations and charged millers for the right to use his designs. The overall concept was a gravity feed system that allowed for an efficient operation for processing the flour as it moved downward from floor to floor. The mill operated by a overshot waterwheel located on the ground floor inside the mill. The mill's power was also used to run an up-and-down sawmill (still intact) and a cidermill.

The mill remained in operation into the second decade of the twentieth century and contains many of its original features as well as artifacts of changing mill technology of the nineteenth century. The mill also contains an electrical generator that was installed by John D. Roop in 1914. The generator was run by the water-powered turbines that had replaced the waterwheel, and the electrical power was used

to operate lights and machinery on the farm. This was the first electrical system installed in Carroll County.

The complex also contains a stone house and several significant outbuildings. The stone house is a two-story structure of early nineteenth century construction. It was remodeled in the late nineteenth century to its present appearance that includes a Victorian-style front porch with elaborate porch railings and bracket trim, a brick two-story bay window on the east gable end, and replacement of the first story sash with tall narrow windows. Behind the mill is a one-story log coopers shop built into a bank on a high stone foundation. The structure is presently covered in asphalt siding, but a photograph taken by the Historic American Buildings Survey during the 1930s shows it as an exposed log structure. Several sheds and a late nineteenth century barn complete the farm complex.

A unique feature of the complex is an iron suspension bridge. It was constructed by David Roop when he built a new brick house in the 1860s located west of the homestead. To walk from his new house to the mill required passing through a swampy pasture land around the tailrace. To avoid this, David Roop constructed an iron suspension bridge supported on stone piers. The bridge consists of three piers supported by the iron super structure of two posts with a crossed-braced arched top. Suspended wires hold up metal supports for a wood deck.

The owners of Roop's Mill have been John Roop, David Roop, John D. Roop, William Roop, and John D. Roop.



DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT
225. N. Center Street
Westminster, Maryland 21157

WESTMINSTER PLANNING DISTRICT

FIELD SHEET--HISTORIC RESOURCES SURVEY

3/21

SURVEY NUMBER: CARR-101

NEGATIVE FILE NUMBER:

UTM REFERENCES:
Zone/Easting/Northing

U.S.G.S. QUAD. MAP: New Windsor

PRESENT FORMAL NAME: Roop's Mill

ORIGINAL FORMAL NAME: Roop's Mill

PRESENT USE: residence and farm

ORIGINAL USE: residence grist mill and farm

ARCHITECT/ENGINEER:

BUILDER/CONTRACTOR:

PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE:
Excellent () Good (X)
Fair () Poor ()

THEME:

STYLE:

DATE BUILT:

COUNTY: CARROLL

TOWN: WESTMINSTER VICINITY

LOCATION: South side of Taneytown Pike (MD 140) 1/4 mile west of Meadow Branch Road
TAX MAP 38 Block 15 P-36

COMMON NAME: Roop's Mill Historic District

FUNCTIONAL TYPE: house and grist mill

OWNER: John D. Roop

ADDRESS: 525 McKinstrey's Mill Road
Linwood, MD

ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC:
Yes () No (X) Restricted ()

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE:
Local () State () National (X)

GENERAL DESCRIPTION: Home

Structural System

- Foundation: Stone (X) Brick () Concrete () Concrete Block ()
- Wall Structure
 - Wood: Log () Post and Beam () Balloon ()
 - Wood Bearing Masonry: Brick () Stone (X) Concrete () Concrete Block ()
 - Iron () D. Steel () E. Other
- Wall Covering: Weatherboard () German Siding () Board and Batten ()
Wood Shingle () Shiplap () Novelty () Stucco () Sheet Metal ()
Aluminum () Asphalt Shingle () Brick Veneer () Stone Veneer ()
Bonding Pattern: Other:
- Roof Structure
 - Truss: Wood (X) Iron () Steel () Concrete ()
 - Other:
- Roof Covering: Slate () Wood Shingle () Asphalt Shingle (X) Sheet Metal ()
Built Up () Rolled () Tile () Other:
- Engineering Structure:
- Other:

Appendages: Porches (X) Towers () Cupolas () Dormers () Chimneys () Sheds ()
Ells (X) Wings () Other: Bay Window

Roof Style: Gable (X) Hip () Shed () Flat () Mansard () Gambrel () Jerkinhead ()
Saw Tooth () With Monitor () With Bellcast () With Parapet ()
With False Front () Other:

Number of Stories: 2

Number of Bays: 3 x 2

Approximate Dimensions: _____

Entrance Location: center

THREAT TO STRUCTURE:
No Threat (X) Zoning () Roads ()
Development () Deterioration ()
Alteration () Other:

LOCAL ATTITUDES:
Positive (X) Negative ()
Mixed () Other:

ADDITIONAL ARCHITECTURAL OR STRUCTURAL DESCRIPTION:

Early stone structure (c. 1800) with late nineteenth century ornamentation in the porch, east side bay window, and first story window sash.



RELATED STRUCTURES: (Describe)

- Mill - 1816 3 story brick mill structure, retains original and late nineteenth century artifacts
- Coopers Shop - log, 2 story, bank building
- Frame Barn - late nineteenth century
- Suspension Bridge - stone piers, homemade superstructure, wood deck

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

Property represents an early farm and mill complex that remains in the ownership of the original family with an intact grist mill machinery system, including a saw mill. The introduction of electricity to the county occurred with the installation of a generator at the mill. The architecture of the house and mill is representative of early construction techniques. Also, the suspension bridge is a unique feature of the property.

REFERENCES:

- 1862 Martenet's Map: Mill, D. Roop
- 1877 LG & S Atlas: J. D. Roop, Residence, Grist Mill, Limestone Quarry
- Englar, Herbert G. Genealogy of the Roop Family
- Historic American Buildings Survey, Library of Congress - 6 photographs taken in the 1930s

SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT:

- Open Lane () Woodland () Scattered Buildings ()
- Moderately Built Up () Densely-Built Up ()
- Residential () Commercial ()
- Agricultural () Industrial ()
- Roadside Strip Development ()
- Other:

RECORDED BY:

Joe Getty

ORGANIZATION:

Car. Co. Planning Dept

DATE RECORDED:

8/85

U.S.G.S. MAP
 NEW WINDSOR, MD.
 1:24000 SCALE

