

F-2-46

Benjamin Rice Mill (preferred); Parker's Mill, Mountain Mill
Jefferson, Maryland
Private

Ca. 1812

The Benjamin Rice Mill is a two-story brick grist mill with a raised stone foundation and a gable roof located on Catoctin Creek near Point of Rocks Road. Built about 1812, it is similar in appearance to the Lewis Mill (National Register; F-2-1), an 1810 brick mill also on Catoctin Creek. The mill may, have been originally built as early as the 1790's, but Benjamin Rice improved it in 1812, probably giving the building its current form. It reflects the increasing development of the Middletown Valley in the early 19th century as the need for grist and saw mills became widespread.

F-2-46

Benjamin Rice Mill (preferred); Parker's Mill, Mountain Mill
Jefferson
Frederick County

HISTORIC CONTEXT:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Piedmont
(Hardford, Baltimore, Carroll, Frederick, Howard, Montgomery Counties,
and Baltimore City)

Chronological/Development Period:

Rural Agrarian Intensification, A.D. 1680-1815
Agricultural-Industrial Transition, A.D. 1815-1870
Industrial/Urban Dominance, A.D. 1870-1930

Prehistoric/Historic Period Themes

Architecture, Landscape Architecture, Community Planning
Economic (Commercial and Industrial)

Resource Types:

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function and Use:

Industry/Processing/Extraction/manufacturing facility/mill

Known Design Source: None

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Magi No.

DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

Benjamin Rice Mill (preferred); Parker's Mill;
historic Mountain Mill

and/or common Bell's Mill

2. Location

street & number 2609 Point of Rocks Road ___ not for publication

city, town Jefferson ___X vicinity of congressional district 6th

state Maryland county Frederick

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: not in use

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Marcelene S. Bell

street & number 2609 Point of Rocks Road telephone no.:

city, town Knoxville state and zip code Md. 21758

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Frederick County Courthouse liber 1212

street & number 100 W. Patrick Street folio 196

city, town Frederick state Maryland 21701

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ___ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

pository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. F-2-46

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date of move _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

CONTRIBUTING RESOURCE COUNT: 1

The Benjamin Rice Mill is a two story brick industrial building erected about 1812 on the north side of Catoclin Creek just south of Point of Rocks Road (Maryland Route 464) near Jefferson, Frederick County, Maryland. The gable-roofed building has three bays on its west elevation, the principal entrance facade, and a raised, coursed rubble stone foundation. A one-story porch was once attached to the west elevation, as indicated by marks on the brick surface above the first floor openings. The roof is standing seam metal. The condition of the building is rather deteriorated, although the window openings are mostly intact. A frame shed over the wheel location on the south side has collapsed. The interior of the mill was not available for description.

The building is roughly rectangular in shape with its ridge running north-south. The walls are laid in 3-course American bond. The west elevation has a center entrance with a Dutch door of vertical boards and a 5-light transom. The missing one-story porch sheltered the door and the south window bay, perhaps connecting with the frame structure on the south elevation which is now in ruins. The windows on the first story are 6/6, with gauged brick arches. The second story windows are 9/6. The raised stone foundation extends to the sill level of the first floor windows. A box cornice terminates the wall at the gable roof of standing seam metal. The north elevation reveals the german sided gables of the mill. On this elevation, there are two bays with a loading door in the center of the second story. A mill stone rests near the foundation on this elevation. The east elevation gives the clearest view of the race as it enters the base of the mill through a round stone arch. The race is still filled with water, but does not flow and the top of the arch is barely visible above the water level. The south elevation, as stated, has the ruins of a frame structure which apparently sheltered the wheel.

The interior was not accessible at the time of the survey.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input 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 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 type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates c. 1812 **Builder/Architect**

check: Applicable Criteria: A B C D
and/or

Applicable Exception: A B C D E F G

Level of Significance: national state local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The Benjamin Rice Mill is a good example of a rural industrial structure of the first quarter of the 19th century. Similar in design, materials, and form to the circa 1810 Lewis Mill (National Register; F-2-1), which is also on Catoctin Creek, the Rice Mill apparently dates from about 1812, although the 1808 Varle map of Frederick and Washington Counties shows a mill symbol near its location. It also exemplifies the increasing development of the Middletown Valley, where the number of mills indicated on Varle's map shows the demand for milling services in the valley was already widespread.

The context of milling in the Middletown Valley is not yet complete; only the Rice and Lewis Mills have been identified so far. However, the significance of the Lewis Mill was in part based on its brick structure being unusual among the known early mills of Frederick County, most of which are stone. The Rice Mill's exterior appearance at least indicates that brick mills may have been more common than was previously believed. Since its interior has not been documented, it is difficult to compare the Rice Mill with the Lewis Mill. The Lewis Mill retains its original wheel; this may be the differentiating significance between it and the Rice Mill.

A local source, Ralph D. F. Martz, described the mill as having been built in 1792 by Rice. The construction qualities of the building suggest, however, that it is largely, if not entirely, an early 19th century structure. This is supported by a newspaper reference in 1812 which mentions that Rice was improving the mill site, while petitioning for road improvements in its vicinity (*Herald*, August 29, 1812). Rice operated both a grist and a saw mill at the site. The existing building was the grist mill, which operated until the 1960's or 1970's and was known as Bell's Mill from about 1895 onwards. Other names associated with the Rice Mill are Mountain Mills (1830's to 1860's), Parker's Mill (1860's to 1890's), and Catoctin Mill No. 10 (date uncertain). In the 1850's and 1860's, it was the center of a small complex of buildings including the saw mill, three distilleries, a cooper shop, and a blacksmith shop. No trace of these buildings is visible except for a 1-1/2 story log house north of the mill, now occupied by the property owner, which may date from the 1850's, a tractor shed/corn crib of the last quarter of the 19th century, and an early 20th century frame garage.

LIBER/FOL. } Bells Mill 2609 Point of Rocks Rd	GRANTEE	GRANTOR	ORIGINAL TRACTS	COST	DATE
1212/196 14 Sep. 83	Margaret S. Bell & al.	Marilyn V. Bell, Ariel E. Bell, pers. reps. of Estate of Charles William Bell, deceased 11 Feb 83	Parcel # 2, formerly known as "Parker's Mills" 43A.		
510/298 19 Dec. 52	Charles W. Bell of Knoxville	Helen Brooks Owen Henry W. Owen, husb. & daughter Winifred & Co. & husb. of New Haven, Conn.			
AF7/451 14 Sep. 1883	Silghman Brooks	Thomas Henderson			
AF4/417 13 Apr 1881	Thomas Henderson	Silghman Brooks		\$312.50	
CM4/431 12 Jan 1870	Silghman Brooks	Samuel & Elizabeth Clagett	6A. Lots #4 & 8 of a woodland tract purchased from Thos. H. Clagett	\$803.12 1/2	
CM2/553 30 Nov 1868	Samuel Clagett	Thos. H. & Lala Clagett	"Fielders" (sp?) 30 1/4 A.	\$5400	



1. SOIL, &c.
 northwest parts of 2, 4, 5 and 15. ac.
 timber, except in the rich and beau-
 about Wolfsville and Wolf's-tavern.

1. at productive and picturesque
 going predominate in Epidote, Mic-
 with Iron, Copper, &c.
 come the "Red Lands,"—a narrow-
 much Calico Marble; but extend-
 os. 4, 5 and 15, the northwest parts of
 rned from Red Clay Slates or Shales;
 productiveness, with Limestone near
 re three miles south.
 with the northwest of 13 and south-

FOR CHILDREN'S FIRST LESSONS ABOUT
 HOME.—Spread the map upon a table or clean floor,
 with the right hand side toward the sunrise, and the
 left hand side toward the sunset, to make it correspond
 with the country. The bottom and top may be rolled
 up to within 6 inches or a foot of home, to admit of
 getting near that part
 Then the learners should look over the map in a line
 with home and every place they notice, and thus learn

F-2-46
 Benjamin Rice Mill
 Frederick County
 Isaac Bond, Map of Frederick County,
 1858.

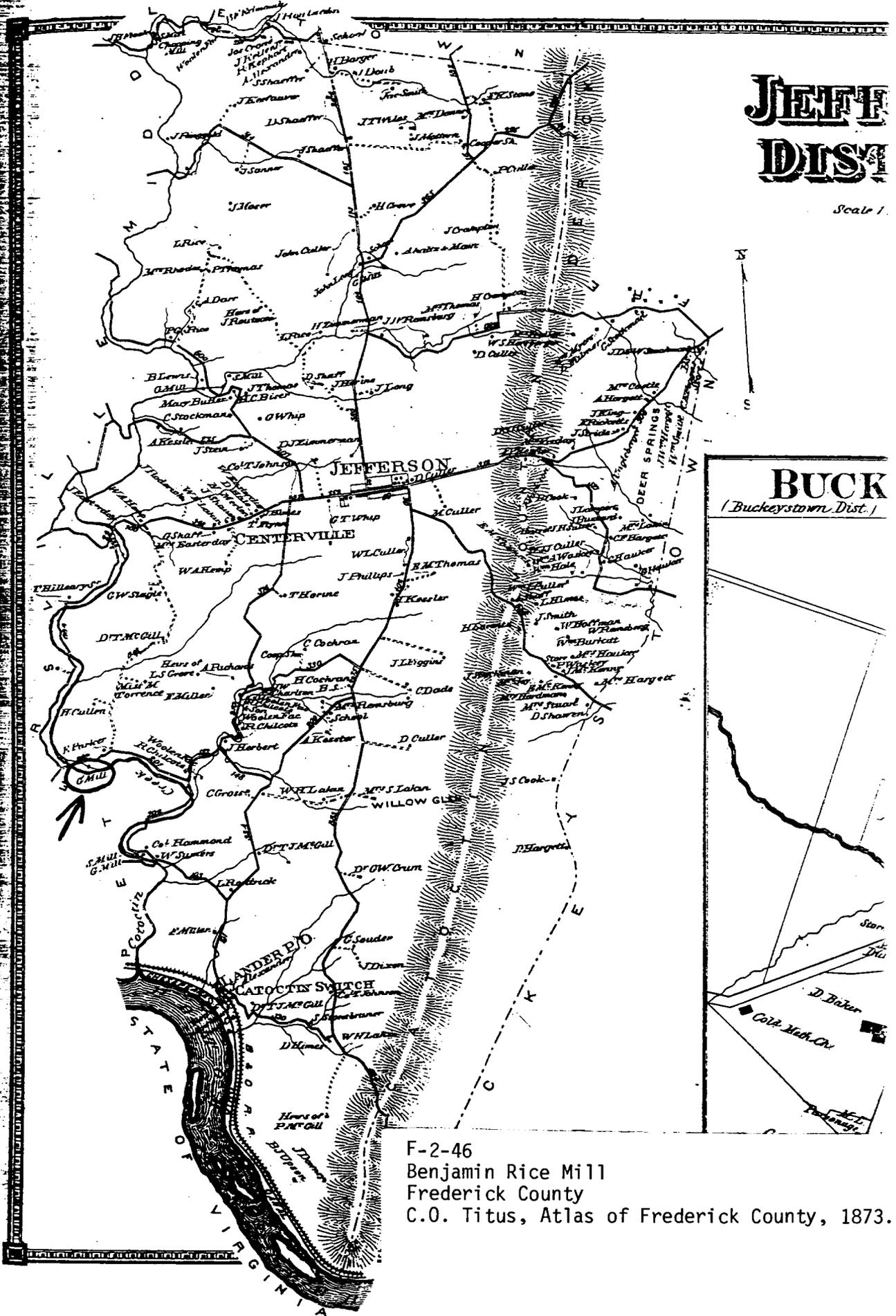
JEFF DIST

Scale 1.



BUCK

(Buckeystown Dist.)



F-2-46
Benjamin Rice Mill
Frederick County
C.O. Titus, Atlas of Frederick County, 1873.



F-2-46
Benjamin Rice Mill
Frederick County
USGS Point of Rocks, Md.-Va.
1:24000







