

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC Dunkale Mill

AND/OR COMMON PART OF

Whitakers Mill Historic District - BRIDGE #51

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER Parcels #30, 46, and 161 including 15.679 acres, more or less located on the North and South sides of Whitaker Mill Road

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Joppa

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

First

STATE

COUNTY

Maryland

Harford

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input 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	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> 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 type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Multiple Ownership: See attached sheet.

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, Harford County Courthouse  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Liber #:

Folio #:

STREET & NUMBER

40 South Main Street

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Bel Air

MD 21014

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

\_\_\_ FEDERAL \_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_ COUNTY \_\_\_ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION**

NA-1237

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

**DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**

This historic district includes a log and frame house on the north side of Whitaker Mill Road, a rubble stone mill and miller's house on the south side of Whitaker Mill Road and a single span, bow string arch, pony truss, iron bridge which spans Winters Run near the intersection of Whitaker Mill Road and Ring Factory Road. This includes 15.679 acres, more or less.

Whitaker's Mill is a rubble stone structure, two and one-half stories above grade on the north side, facing the road, three and one-half stories on its south side. It is four bays in length with a gabled roof, which extends beyond all four stone walls in a moderately-wide, plain overhang. High in the west gable is a stone inscribed: "1851 F. Whitaker".

The structure ceased being a grist mill about 1900 and was adapted as a barn, the milling apparatus removed. In 1961-62 it was adapted as a dwelling house, its present function. The last adaption was designed by Addison Worthington, A.I.A., Architect, of Baltimore.

The original structural system determined the contemporary floor plan, designed by Addison Worthington, A.I.A. The central of the three structural bays became a large entrance hall with an open staircase rising to the second floor; the kitchen occupies the southerly third of this bay; the westerly bay includes a narrow hall leading to the original west door, flanked by a library and an office; the large easterly bay became the living room. Interior finishes recall the character of the original; partitions are of vertical boards, the columns, girders and floor joists are exposed.

Adjacent to the mill, on the west, is the Miller's House. It is a rubble stone structure one and one-half stories in height, two bays in length, with a gable roof and flush end chimneys of brick. Oriented with its gable-end north, to the road, each bay comprises a single room. The original entrance to the house is in the north end, near the northeast corner; it is balanced with a 6/6 window near the northwest corner; the two windows of each side are, likewise 6/6; no windows are in the south gable end. Grade falls nearly a full story towards the south, allowing the basement or ground floor to be nearly above grade at that end. An entrance to the basement story is in the southerly bay of the east side and windows in each other bay light the basement story. Two dormers in each roof slope, each with 6/6 sash, light the second story.

The stair rises, with winders, between the two rooms. Each room in the principal story has a fireplace, and the (northerly or southerly or both) room in the basement has a large fireplace, intended for cooking. There are no fireplaces in the upper story. Interior finishes and details generally date from the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century.

A frame west wing, of similar size and shape, parallels the original structure, linked to it by a short frame and glass entrance hyphen. Exterior walls are sheathed in vertical cedar boards and windows are pairs of casements, void of muntins.

**CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY**

**8 SIGNIFICANCE**

HA-1237

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input checked="" 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

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

This district, which includes Whitaker's Mill, the miller's house, the frame and log dwelling situated on "Small Parcel," and the single span iron bridge crossing Winters Run, is significant for its historic associations with the development of the mill industry near Wilna as well as for its natural beauty.

Grist mills were once a vital element of every farming community. The natural waterpower available in this region allowed many mills, but the changes in agricultural technology, the elimination of so much farmland in favor of urbanization, and periodic flooding--for mills by their very nature were most often built in areas susceptible to flooding--have made them rare structures.

WHITAKER'S MILL represents perhaps the second generation of mills in the region, built after the region was developed to a high state of cultivation, and, therefore, large and substantial.

The tract on which the frame and log house stands, is one of the oldest in the county, patented as Dunkeil in 1683 by Daniel Scott, and this was conveyed to Gilbert Scott in 1699. Another early owner was one of the Bonds. Part of this part of Dunkeil or Duncale, surveyed as Small, was associated with nearby milling operations. A frame and log mill had been in existence prior to 1800, and when it burned, the timbers were used for the construction of a carriage house. The log section of the present home was the original dwelling, built either by John Wilson or James Trapnesl. Wilson, in 1783 owned the gristmill and 25 acres of Dunkeil and 18 acres of Small. Trapnell possessed 475 acres of Dunkeil in that year, and in 1798 served on the petit jury. He was named overseer of area roads in 1800. Throughout the 1800's the owner of the mill also had the log house. The main unit of this house was most likely built soon after the mill (1851), by the Whitaker family. In 1878 Martene's Map lists the owner as F. Whitaker. From 1897 until 1938.

Bridge #51, which spans Winters Run at Whitaker Mill Road, is endangered by proposed road improvements. The bridge was probably constructed in the late eighteen hundreds and represents one of a few remaining historic iron bridges in Harford County. A report of a severe flood in 1885 appeared in the Aegis newspaper of that time and mentioned an iron bridge over Winters Run at Whitaker Mill. It is assumed that the bridge in question and the one mentioned in the article are one and the same.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

American Association for State and Local History Technical Leaflet 95, HISTORY NEWS, Vol. 32, No. 5, May 1977. Bridge Truss Types: a guide to dating and identifying.

Harford County Directory, 1953.  
Harford County Land Records.  
Maryland Tax List, 1783, Harford County, Rhistoric Publications, Philadelphia, PA, 1970.  
Preston, Walter W; History of Harford County

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	COUNTY
STATE	COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

Susan M. Deeney, Field Historian

ORGANIZATION

Historic District Commission

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

45 South Main Street

TELEPHONE

838-6000, ext. 207

CITY OR TOWN

Bel Air

STATE

MD 21014

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

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

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

#4	Owner of Property	HA-1089, 1117, 1237
#5	Location of Legal Description	National Register Nomination
	Mr. and Mrs. James H. Magness 1213 Whitaker Mill Road Joppa, Maryland 21085 Parcel 30 5.326 Acres liber 1003, folio 830	877-7478
	Mr. and Mrs. William Paul Hicks II 1212 Whitaker Mill Road Joppa, Maryland 21085 Parcel 46 7.60 Acres liber 422, folio 128 Parcel 161 2.753 Acres	877-7379
	Harford County Government Department of Public Works 23 North Main Street Bel Air, Maryland 21014	838-6000

HA-1089, 1117, and 1237  
- Description continued -

The wing, containing two bedrooms and bath, was designed by James T. Wollon, Jr., A.I.A., Havre de Grace, Maryland, and constructed in 1975.

The Magness home, located on the north side of Whitaker Mill Road is situated on ground once known as "Small Parcel." The dwelling consists of two units, the larger of which is a two and one half story bevelled frame structure with wide batten trim. The smaller unit is a one and one half story log structure, covered with frame and attached to the eastern side of the larger portion. The larger, more recent unit is three bays by four. Windows are six lights over six and the doors have elaborate sidelights and transoms. This section is arranged in a-side through hall floor plan, two rooms deep.

There are two 6/6 gabled dormers on either side of the roof of the frame unit and two 4/4 gabled dormers on the southern slope of the log section, with one in the rear. Both units sit on low stone foundations.

A five-bay, shed-roof porch covers most of the western face of the structure, the roofs are gable flank-asphalt on the larger unit and wood shingles on the smaller one. Two brick chimneys, with corbelled caps, are situated parallel near the western end of the main section, while a third is on the eastern inside-end of the log unit. One unusual feature of the main building is an intricately patterned arched window, underneath the northern gable. The log wing also has a shed addition along the rear, with a board-and-batten door. The stone remnants of a springhouse can also be found near here.

Bridge #51 is a single span, bow string arch, pony truss, iron bridge which spans Winters Run near the intersection of Whitaker Mill Road and Ping Factory Road. This bridge originally had a wooden deck but this was replaced sometime during the last ten years by metal grating. The bridge has a holding capacity of ten tons. The web is triangular in outline and appear to be equilateral not unlike the description of a Warren truss. Dimensions of Bridge #51 are as follows:

clearance: 14 feet  
length: 72 feet  
width: 13 feet

The bridge is both pinned and riveted. The Harford County Department of Public Works has no information on either the construction date or its engineer.

The area included in this historic district nomination consists of the homes and other structures associated with the homes, lawns and fields, and the heavily wooded banks of Winters Run.

A proposal to remove the iron bridge, straighten the curve in Whitaker Mill Road, and construct a modern wider bridge at a slightly different location, will destroy the natural beauty of this setting as well as the habitat of many wild flora and fauna.

HA-1237

HA-10<sup>29</sup>, 1117, and 1237  
- Bibliography continued -

Press of the Sun Book Office, Baltimore, 1901.

Wright, C. Milton; Our Harford Heritage, French Bray Press, Baltimore,  
1967.

HA-1237

JAMES THOMAS WOLLON, JR., A.I.A.

Architect

600 Craigs' Corner Road  
Havre de Grace, Maryland 21078

Office telephone 879-6748      Residence telephone 734-7980

M A G N E S S   H O U S E

The principal section of the MAGNESS HOUSE is of frame construction, 2½ storeys high, three bays in length and it dates from ca. 1850. Its principal facade is to the south and a one storey shed-roofed porch extends across that facade. It dominates a smaller and older section to the east, 1½ storeys high, two bays in length, of log construction, dating from the late eighteenth or early nineteenth century. The log section measures approximately 16½ by 26 feet (the shorter dimension parallel to the roof ridge); a porch approximately 6 feet wide extends across its south front, and an addition or an enclosed porch of the same approximate width extends across its north front, each with roofs continuous with but of slightly lower pitch than that over the body of the log section.

The Older Section

Most of the oldest visible elements date from the second quarter of the nineteenth century, suggesting this as the construction date. However an earlier absolutely plain and basic house may have been restyled in the second quarter of the nineteenth century. Exterior walls are covered with plain weatherboarding, probably dating from the mid-nineteenth century. Two 4/4 dormers are in the south roof and one is in the north. An interior brick chimney rises at the west end of the roof ridge, adjacent to the taller and later section of the house. The principal entrance is in the easterly bay of the south front and it contains a door with six partially-raised panels having small loose echinus mouldings, probably dating from ca. 1825-1840. Windows have louvred blinds and 1/1 sash but their size indicates that they were originally 6/6 windows with 8 by 10 inch lights.

Within are two rooms, the dividing partition being approximately under the roof ridge. All rooms have plain plastered walls and ceilings and there are no chair rails. Each room has a corner fireplace beneath the chimney centered on the west wall. The staircase is enclosed and winding and it extends partially into each room at the east end of the dividing partition, the door to the stair being in the southerly room; a similar door in the northerly room leads to a closet beneath the stair in which the underside of the stair construction is exposed; it is assembled with cut nails. The two doors have six unmoulded, partially-raised panels. Architraves around doors and windows are of two planes with astragal.

The south room has a modern mantel with plain pilasters supporting a plain frieze. The northerly room (fitted as a modern kitchen) has a mantel with a paneled frieze similar in profile to the panels of the south front door. Later wainscotting covers the lower area of the mantel and the opening. A small cupboard is within the diagonal chimney breast above and to the right of the firebox below. The cupboard is enclosed with a door having a single unmoulded, partially-raised panel. The original north wall is removed to allow the northerly room to extend into the northerly extension (an addition or an enclosed porch about six feet wide).

A door leads from each room in the older section to the adjacent hall in the later section; the doors are immediately adjacent to the diagonal chimney breasts. The door from the southerly room appears to be the earliest detail in the structure, having six fully-raised panels with intergral ovolo mouldings without fillets. On the reverse side the identical ovolo profiles surround flat panels. The doorway from the northerly room is closed with built-in shelving.

In the upper storey a large room is above the northerly room and two small rooms are above the southerly room, a typical early plan. The southwesterly room is reduced to allow a narrow passage to the side hall of the adjacent later section. Doors have six unmoulded, partially-raised panels and they are fitted with Carpenter-type locks. The railing around the stairwell in the northerly room has a plain tapered newel receiving a plain rail with rounded top at a wood-pegged mortise-and-tenon joint.

The attic space above is inaccessible and no structural details are visible, save the ledge across the gable at the eave line, created by the top of the log wall which is thicker than the small studs which form the gable, typical of log construction. Visible in the stone-walled cellar, the first floor joists are straight-sawn. The corner fireplaces above are supported by stone vaulted squinch arches which spring from the walls above the floor.

#### The Later Section

The later section is of traditional style, closely related to houses half or three-quarters of a century older. Exterior walls are covered with plain weatherboards with wide corner boards. Two brick chimneys rise internally at the west end. The cornice has a large bed moulding and a wide plain frieze immediately above the weatherboards corresponding to a wide baseboard below. The rake cornices rise above eave returns.

The 6/6 windows have narrow beaded frames and louvred blinds, the latter with operable lower panels. Similar 4/4 windows

flank the chimneys in the west end. Two dormers are in each roof, also with 6/6 windows and ovolo eave and rake cornices, the latter rising from short returns. Centered in the west gable, lighting the attic storey, is a six-light sash with a wider semi-circular fanlight above having five radial muntins joined with swagged muntins near the outer circumference.

The south entrance in the east bay has sidelights and transom, the latter formerly with leaded glass, now in fragments in the cellar. The square columns of the south porch are large, reflecting the Greek-revival style, and they have large echinus capitals and tall plinth bases. The porch is accessible by a flight of wide plain granite steps, each a single slab. The north entrance has a transom only, no sidelights.

Within is a side hall and a pair of rooms to the west. The stair rises against the hall partition immediately inside the north door, a variation from the typical in this region where the stair usually rises from the principal (usually the southerly) entrance. Both doors have four panels with partial raises and loose ogee-with-bevel mouldings; both have Carpenter-type locks with wrought-iron cases. Architraves throughout the house have three planes with a beaded inner edge and plain corner blocks.

Double doors formerly closed the wide opening between the two west parlors, but they are removed. The northerly room has the more elaborate mantel: plain pilasters with echinus capitals (related to the porch columns) supporting a frieze having a bold ogee shaped soffit, a carved anthemion at the peak. The mantel in the southerly room has similar plain pilasters supporting a plain frieze. Narrow cupboards are on either side of the south chimney breast.

The staircase extends to the third floor. A massive turned walnut or cherry newel at the bottom and painted rectangular balusters support the round walnut rail. The smaller newels in the third storey are of cherry and the balusters are of unpainted walnut; presumably all balusters are of walnut.

The second floor plan is like that of the first, with a small room at the south end of the hall. Detailing throughout is similar. The southerly room has no fireplace. The firebox of the northerly fireplace is not centered within its mantel, the latter with plain pilasters supporting a plain frieze and thick shelf.

The single room west of the hall in the third storey has modern finishes which obscure the original structural elements.

A deep cellar extends beneath the entire house and each section has four walls. First floor joists are straight sawn.

## Architectural Significance

The oldest section of the MAGNESS HOUSE is of log construction, unusual in its two-room depth. Typically in this region houses of this size have roof ridges parallel to the longer dimension. (If this house can be identified in the 1798 Federal Direct Tax be sure to include a statement to that fact here. I can word it if required.)

The later addition which forms the principal section of the house today dates from the mid-nineteenth century but its traditional design is related to styles half to three-fourths of a century earlier.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

Edgewood Quadrangle

DE

75° 22' 30" W  
3820000m E

HA-1089, 1117, 1237

HA-1237





Bridge No. 51            HA-1237  
Whitaker Mill Road  
Joppa, Maryland 21085  
Susan M. Deeney  
Southwest



Bridge No. 51            HA-1237  
Whitaker Mill Road  
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