NPS Form 10-900
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HA-1745

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Jerusalem Mill Village

and or common Jerusalem Mill Village

2. Location

street & number Jerusalem and Jericho roads N/A not for publication

city, town Jerusalem N/A vicinity of First Congressional District

state Maryland code 24 county Harford code 025

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
X district	___ public	X occupied	___ agriculture	___ museum
___ building(s)	___ private	___ unoccupied	___ commercial	___ park
___ structure	X both	___ work in progress	___ educational	X private residence
___ site	**Public Acquisition**	**Accessible**	___ entertainment	___ religious
___ object	___ in process	___ yes: restricted	___ government	___ scientific
	___ being considered	X yes: unrestricted	___ industrial	___ transportation
	X not applicable	___ no	___ military	___ other:

4. Owner of Property

name multiple public and private (see attached list)

street & number

city, town ___ vicinity of state

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Harford County Courthouse

street & number Main Street

city, town Bel Air state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Maryland Historical Trust Historic Sites Inventory has this property been determined eligible? ___ yes X no

date 1986 ___ federal X state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records Maryland Historical Trust

city, town Annapolis state Maryland 21401

OWNERS

Miss Mary Helen Cadwalader
The Mound
2008 Old Joppa Road
Joppa, Maryland 21085

Drs. Keats and Phyllis Pullen
2807 Jerusalem Road
Kingsville, Maryland 21087

Mr. and Mrs. Milton W. Railey
2809 Jerusalem Road
Kingsville, Maryland 21087

State of Maryland
Department of Natural Resources
Tawes State Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

7. Description

HA-1745

Condition		Check one	Check one
___ excellent	X deteriorated	___ unaltered	X original site
X good	___ ruins	X altered	___ moved date N/A
X fair	___ unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Number of Resources

Contributing	Noncontributing	
12	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	1	structures
0	0	objects
12	1	Total

Number of previously listed National Register properties included in this nomination: 1

Jericho Covered Bridge, Harford County

Original and historic functions and uses: agruculture, commercial, industrial residential

DESCRIPTION SUMMARY:

Jerusalem Mill Village is located on the Harford County side of the Little Gunpowder Falls, at the stream's fall line, about 5 miles northeast of Kingsville. The village is at the intersection of Jerusalem and Jericho roads; part of the historic area is within the jurisdiction of the Gunpowder Park. The village consists of twelve historic standing structures, all centered on the once-flourishing Jerusalem Mill, built in 1772. These stone or stone and frame vernacular style structures, irregularly placed on large lots and shaded by aged oaks and pines, together form a rare example of a complete and self-sufficient rural industrial community that had its beginnings with the American advent of the industrial revolution. The entire village -- consisting of mill, miller's house, domestic outbuildings, supporting sawmill, coopershop, blacksmith shop, mill worker's house, farmhouse, and general store/post office -- was essentially in place by 1814 when David Lee I, the then-owner, was assessed for 7 buildings (6 of the 7 still standing); all others were added by 1880. Remarkably, no permanent structures except for a mid-twentieth century bridge on Jerusalem Road at the Little Gunpowder Falls, have been added since the Lees left in 1886.

For General Description see Continuation Sheet No. 1, Section 7.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The Jerusalem Mill Village is nestled on a small, pristine level area of land adjacent to the Little Gunpowder Falls at the Fall Line in Harford County, Maryland; the surrounding acreage now looks much as it did when the Lee family built and owned the mill and village between 1772 and 1886. The village is surrounded by only two properties: a large, flourishing farm called The Mound to the north and east, while the State of Maryland, Department of Natural Resources, owns the land to the south and west as part of the Gunpowder State Park.

In the following Building Inventory, buildings are geared to the accompanying sketch map and are numbered 1 through 12; in addition, Maryland Historical Trust Historic Sites Inventory numbers (e.g., HA-433), Historic American Buildings Survey data, and street addresses are included whenever possible. (In this rural part of the state, however, residents do not always bother with street numbers.)

1. Jerusalem Mill (HA 433); 1772 (datestone); interior continuously modified throughout mid 19th century (HABS MD 13-Jeru.-1)

Erected by the Quaker miller David Lee (1740-1816) this exceptional building is probably the oldest extant mill in northeastern Maryland, and has been called both "elegant" and "one of the most impressive of all 18th century mills still standing in Maryland"[1]. Measuring 36' x 60', "the four storied building serves as a visual `anchor` for the surrounding area. The ground floor and the partially enclosed basement to the rear are composed of local fieldstone laid in rubble bond, measuring two to three feet in thickness. The steeply sloping gable roof

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[1] John W. McGrain, Grist Mills in Baltimore County, (Towson: Baltimore County Public Library, 1980), p.2;
Letter from Mark R. Edwards (then Historic Sites Survey Coordinator for the Maryland Historical Trust) to Gene Cheers (Maryland Department of Natural Resources); dated August 18, 1976; on file at the Maryland Historical Trust, Annapolis.

is pierced by two ranges of dormer windows, one of the mill's most unique and visually pleasing features. Although much of the interior framing and woodwork has been altered in the 19th century, many original architectural features still exist, such as the two foot square white oak post located at the corners of each floor of the building. Similar chamfered posts are also placed in intermediate positions in the floor and serve to shoulder large oak beams that span the ceiling and support each upper floor. The corner posts, mortised, tenoned and pegged with large treenails, are for the most part structurally sound. Later 19th century mill equipment, notably the two sets of grinding stones, as well as large storage bins and canvas conveyor belts, are also of interest and importance. Unfortunately, the large sixteen foot diameter water wheel of the overshot type is no longer in place"[2].

When the water wheel system was replaced in the 19th century, two turbines were installed in a penstock, fed by a wooden flume and completely boxed in. The penstock is now awash in water, but the output shafts of the two turbines still rise up from the rusted housings.

2. 2807 Jerusalem Road; Jerusalem House (HA-431) c. 1800; c. 1840; c. 1869

Locally called the Mansion House, this handsome 2½ story stuccoed stone and frame dwelling was probably built in three stages by David Lee I (1780-1816), Ralph S. Lee (1780-1862), and David Lee II (1808-1886).

The main (c. 1800) unit of the dwelling is five bays long below a slate covered gable roof; principal entrance in the center bay of the west facade. This entrance has a wide, mounded panel door with a two-light transom. Windows in the first story are nine lights over six; those on the second elevation are six over six. All windows have louvered shutters.

The interior of this section is laid out in a classic through center hall plan. The stairway has a turned newel and handrail, pine treads, and scroll brackets on each step. A plain fireplace is in the center of the south wall of the south room.

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[2]Edwards to Cheers.

In the north room, there is also a fireplace and beaded wainscoting. A cut-out area in the floor and ceiling suggests the earlier presence of a corner winding stairway.

There is a crawl space under the south room and a conventional cellar under the entrance hall and the north room. A large stone arch, approximately 4 feet 10 inches high and 5 feet deep, forms a fireplace support. A small stone-walled room lies in the center of this area.

David Lee I probably began constructing the house using money made at his nearby and quite prosperous Jerusalem Mill. He died in 1816, and in his will left "all my real estate in Lands or Tenements of all and every kind whatsoever, with all Houses and Out Houses, Mills or any Improvements in any wise"[3] to his son, Ralph Sackett Lee. The senior Lee was wealthy enough to have built such a substantial dwelling, and it resembles nearby period dwellings of his economic peers in style and configuration. (See, for example, the 1810 house, Olney ,HA-154, built about one mile away by an in-law of Lee's, John Norris.) The interior is fairly plain; this may be explained by the local belief that a fire destroyed part of the house in the 1840s[4] and that Ralph Sackett Lee then re-outfitted the old dwelling. G. G. Curtis mapped the Jerusalem village in 1860, and the "Lee House" drawn in this site is the same configuration as the present "main section". Moreover,when Ralph Sackett Lee died in 1862, his estate inventory was compiled in a precise, room-by-room manner and indicates that this "main section" was the house therein described: listed rooms included a kitchen, dining room, pantry, sitting room, passage (with carpeting, a table, a gun, and 3 Demijohns and contents"), closet, stair (carpeted), big room upstairs, little room upstairs, room in garrett, and back porch.[5]

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[3]Will of David Lee; Will SR 1/72; probate records of Harford County, Maryland.

[4]"Harford Historical Bulletin", published by the Historical Society of Harford County. Spring 1986; pp. 34-35.

[5]Estate Inventory of Ralph Sackett Lee; Book 1/196; probate records of Harford County, Maryland.

Section two, probably added by R. S. Lee's heir about 1840, is located north of and adjacent to the main section; it is two stories high and one bay wide and appears to have been a kitchen at one time. A large brick fireplace, containing an iron crane and surmounted by a plain wood mantle, lies centered in the north wall. There is no cellar under this section. Windows in this section extend above the plastered ceiling. The plaster is rounded at the window frame. A two-story frame addition is located on this section's east side; it was a screened-in porch on the ground floor and a bedroom above.

3. Jerusalem Spring House (HA-432); 1840 (datestone)

This rubblestone building is two stories high, two bays long by one bay deep. It has a gable slate roof completely covered with ivy. Doorways are located on the north and south sides. Barely visible, a datestone at the peak of the roof's south side reads "1840". (It is also shown, in place, on the 1860 Curtis Map of Jerusalem.) This building had a dual purpose: it has a well or trough on the lower level, while the upper level was used as a smokehouse.

4. Jerusalem Stone Barn (HA-437); 1844 (datestone)

This massive (60' x 20') rubblestone barn was all but destroyed by fire in the 1970s. Its walls still stand, clocked in ivy and honeysuckle, to make an impressive ruin.

5. 2805 Jerusalem Road; Jerusalem Farm House (HA-430); 1800, with mid-19th century addition.

Shown on the 1860 Curtis Map as "Dwelling", this is believed to have been the residence of the Lees' tenant farmer.[6] The two-story house consists of two matching 2½-story modules, one wood-shingle frame, one rubble stone. Each module contains one room per floor. The stone (west) unit is older and is included in David Lee's 1814 tax roll; there is an interior brick chimney rising flush with the exterior (west) wall; it services a massive cooking fireplace in the cellar and progressively smaller fireplaces in the main floor and attic; this module also contains the stairs, two parallel straight flights.

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[6] "Harford Historical Bulletin", p. 43.

6. Worker's House; Gun and Coopershop (HA-434); c. 1775 (or earlier)

Built by David Lee I, this rubblestone building was probably originally a cabinetmaker's house and shop: the Maryland Legislature paid Lee £1000 in silver and gold after the Revolution for services rendered[7] --i.e., for making rifle stocks for the local militia.[8] It retained its artisan association throughout the 19th century: it is shown on the 1860 Curtis Map as "C. Shop" (thought to be the "Cooper Shop referred to in Ralph Sackett Lee's 1862 Estate Inventory); it is known that at that time the building was used for turning out barrels for the mill, "chair legs, stools and balusters, as well as tubs and casks. At other times, it was a cider mill and cannery"[9]. In the 20th century (from 1910 to 1942) it housed a couple employed by the miller, the husband was a mill hand, the wife a maid. The two-story building has large corner quoins, one room per floor, and a slate-covered gable roof. A clapboard addition is attached to the south facade. The dwelling is two bays across and one bay deep; the windows have pegged frames but are at present covered over. The western facade is marked by an unusual chimney whose stone outside end curves into the wall, buttress-like.

7. Jericho Covered Bridge (HA-438); 1865; National Register (HABS MD 13 - Jeru.v.-1)

This well-known structure was built as a cooperative venture of Harford and Baltimore counties in 1865 to carry Jericho Road (Franklinville Road in Baltimore County) across the Little Gunpowder Falls. It is approximately 300 yards downstream from the Jerusalem Mill. Thomas F. Forsyth, a machinist for Baltimore City actually built the Burr Truss bridge and was paid $3,125 for his efforts; Hugh Simms, owner of a nearby cotton factory, supervised construction. The 99-foot long bridge is 15 feet above water level; overhead clearance is 12 feet 4 inches at the centerline of the roadway and 10 feet at the curb line. On December 1, 1865, Simms wrote the Baltimore County Commissioner

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[7] "Archives of Maryland", Vol. 45, p. 4.

[8] "Harford Historical Bulletin", p. 24.

[9] "Harford Historical Bulltein", p. 43.

"the bridge is finished and is a very substantial structure, finished and reflects great credit upon Mr. Forsyth". The span, listed in the National Register in 1978, closed for repair in 1980 and reopened in 1983, is the only remaining covered bridge in Baltimore or Harford county.[10]

This was not the first covered bridge to serve the Jerusalem community; in fact, period photographs suggest that the 1865 bridge was closely modeled on an 1832-34 bridge the Maryland Legislature authorized "over the Little Gunpowder at Lee's Mill", upstream from the present bridge, nearer the village. The State authorized $550 in funds, and hired Ralph Sackett Lee to supervise construction.

Lee's ledger, recently discovered, contains a page labeled Bridge Account and listing these materials used:

"669 ft. rafters
1319 ft. scantlin
1860 ft. sheeting
3364 ft. weather boards
234 pounds 10-penny nails and
2 bushels of lime for whitewashing bridge."

Half a dozen workmen were hired at 50¢ per day.[11]

This 1830s bridge, shown on the 1860 Curtis Map (the site of the present bridge is labeled "Ford") deteriorated and was replaced by a single-arch concrete bridge in 1929.

8. Blacksmith Shop (HA-425); early 19th century

Probably dating to the era of David Lee (an 1806 deed to Lee for extra acreage mentions "a stone standing near David Lee's Blacksmith Shop"),[12] this is a 1½-story building of uncoursed rubble stone with quoined corners, located directly across

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[10] See also: John McGrain, "Jericho Covered Bridge", Maryland Historical Trust Historic Sites Inventory number HA-430.

[11] Ledger of Ralph Sackett Lee: on file at Historical Society of Harford County, Bel Air.

[12] Harford County Deed HDT/342.

Jerusalem Road from the mill. The walls are stucco-covered and the building reads as four bays by four, although there have been alterations to the walls. There is an attic opening at each gable-end. The windows are two over two with wooden lintels. Single doorways are located on both the western and southern sides. A new asphalt roof covers the gable-roof, with a stubby stone chimney centered on the ridgeline. The eastern side of this building is built into the slope of the land.

The structure is labelled "B. Shop" on the 1860 Curtis Map and in Ralph Sackett Lee's ledger (see Jericho Covered Bridge, above) and attests to the frequent purchase of quantities of bar iron from the Franklinville Iron Works--much of which probably was used in the blacksmith shop to fashion barrel staves, mill gears, etc. Moreover, Ralph Lee's 1862 Estate Inventory includes several lots "of ole iron", a "Blacksmith vize", "1 anville" and the "Blacksmith house". To the rear of the smithy once stood a wheelwright's shop; faint traces of it remain. Across the Jerusalem Road, between the mill, the concrete bridge, and the Falls stood the village sawmill.

9. 2802 Jerusalem Road; McCourtney's General Store (HA-429); c. 1844

By 1844, Jerusalem Mills was sufficiently a community center to deserve a post office; one was established (with Ralph Lee's son-in-law, John Carroll Walsh, as an early postmaster) and occupied part of this building. The structure is clapboard, 2½ stories high and 6 bays long beneath a gable roof. The house faces south and is built onto low, stone foundations. The main part of the house has three chimneys, one corbeled brick chimney at each inside gable end and one near the center of the roof ridge line. Doors and windows on the first elevation of the south side are arranged in the following manner: D-W-D-W-D-W, while there are four windows at the second floor.

Divided into three apartments, this building was the Jerusalem community store for over 100 years. Ralph Sackett Lee's recently discovered ledger implies that the store was operated under his supervision.[13] It is shown on the 1860 Curtis Map on this site as "Store". Lee's son, David Lee II, leased the store

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[13]"Harford Historical Bulletin", p. 44.

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to S.O. McCourtney in 1881,[14] shopkeeper, who bought it outright from Percy C. Lee in 1921; that deed, SWC 173/267, describes "the store lot at Jerusalem". McCourtney maintained the post office here until it was discontinued in 1923 and kept a store here until his death in 1939.

10. 2809 Jerusalem Road; Railey House (HA-487); c. 1850

This two-story frame building faces north and consists of two sections which form an L plan. Built onto high, stuccoed, stone foundations, the main part of the house is three bays by two. The front door is located in the center bay on the north and has a four-light transom flanked by sidelights, each with two panes of glass. Windows are two over two, with louvered shutters. The gable roof is covered with slate. A brick chimney is located at each of the two inside gable ends. The wide-eaved roof forms a gable peak above the center bay. A small semi-circular arched window is directly below this peak in the attic.

The wing to the south of the main section is two bays by two. A chimney is located on the south inside end. A porch on the south side of this section is one story high and has a shed roof. A screened porch on the southwest side of this section leads into a west entrance.

Inside, there are no fireplaces; instead there are openings for stove pipes in the chimney walls. The current owner contends that there had been an old Franklin stove in the house but that it had been removed by the previous owner. Wooden mantles are present. There are two separate staircases leading to the second floor: a rather formal one in the main section, and a set of back stairs above the cellar entrance in the south wing.

Off the porch south of the house is a structure which the owner calls a "well house". This is an asphalt-covered hip roof attached to four plain, wooded columns or supports. it serves as a cover for an old, manual pump.

This is shown on the 1860 Curtis Map, complete with L plan; it is labelled "Farmer".

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[14] "Harford Historical Bulletin", p. 44.

11. 2811 Jerusalem Road; Tenant House (HA-488); c. 1880

Not shown on the 1860 Curtis Map, this small, two-story frame house is built on a low, rubblestone foundation. Stylistically, it suggests the late 19th century and has a modified telescope form. It measures three bays wide and one deep beneath a gable roof. Windows are six over six; there is a lower two-story, one-bay addition (?) to the west with a single-story, single-bay wing further to the west.

12. Spring House; c. 1845

Shown on the 1860 Curtis Map, this functional structure measures about ten feet by ten feet and is built of rubblestone with corner quoins and a gable roof. Located in a field (called "Spring House Meadow" on the Curtis Map) about 100 yards east of the store, water still flows westerly from here to a small, unnamed creek, which passes between the Mound Tenant House and the Barn to empty into the Little Gunpowder Falls.

13. Bridge; mid 20th century
non-contributing

8. Significance

HA-1745

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
___ prehistoric	___ archeology-prehistoric	___ community planning	___ landscape architecture	___ religion
___ 1400–1499	___ archeology-historic	___ conservation	___ law	___ science
___ 1500–1599	___ agriculture	___ economics	___ literature	___ sculpture
___ 1600–1699	X architecture	___ education	___ military	___ social/humanitarian
X 1700–1799	___ art	___ engineering	___ music	___ theater
X 1800–1899	X commerce	___ exploration settlement	___ philosophy	___ transportation
___ 1900–	___ communications	X industry	___ politics government	___ other (specify)
		___ invention		

Specific dates 1772–1886 **Builder Architect** David Lee and others

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Applicable Criteria: A, C
Applicable Exceptions: none
Level of Significance: local

SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY:

The Jerusalem Mill Village developed around the 1772 Jerusalem Mill (the oldest extant mill in Harford and Baltimore counties), and is one of the oldest, most complete, and least altered mill villages in Maryland. It's the only extant representation of the early industrial development of the Little Gunpowder Falls, a river which figures prominently in the development of Harford and Baltimore counties, and was once almost literally lined with similar early industrial operations. Owned and operated by a single family, the Lees, for 100 years and largely in place by 1814, the village offers a locally unique--and rare anywhere--look at an intact, self-sufficient industrial proto-"company town" dating to the time when America was first being transformed by the Industrial Revolution. The Lee family sold the mill in 1886, marking the end of the historic significance of the village. By that date, however, the village was intact, for no structures have been added since. Moreover, the village's layout is a reminder to modern sensibilities of the sophistication of colonial and early Federal period millers and millwrights, who, with the possible exception of ironmasters, had the most advanced technical and mechanical backgrounds of their era. The mill's location was chosen for the fall of the stream; blacksmith and cooper shops and a sawmill were placed conveniently close by; the miller's dwelling was close enough to it all so he could keep aware of what was going on but far enough away to be free of most of the clamor; the community store was perched at the village's only intersection to draw pedestrian and vehicular trade from the entire area; the farmer's house and barn were on the outskirts of the village, near his fields; even the placement of bridges suggests a dynamically practical ordering of site and function among the village's components. In sum, Jerusalem mill--indeed the entire village-- "stands as a proud reminder of an industrial heritage that is increasingly being threatened by

For History and Supporting Documentation, see Continuation Sheet No. 1

an expanding, ever-changing world. In Maryland, literally hundreds of mills have succumbed to the ravages of time, with most falling into a state of disrepair and decay. Jerusalem Mill itself represents one of the most important examples of the state's mill architecture still standing. With its enormous size and unique double tier of dormer windows, the mill presents an image of our industrial past that should be preserved at all costs. This mill, as well as others that served the Little Gunpowder Falls in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, have now become as much a part of the landscape...as the forest and other geographic features that combined to form the area".[15]

History and Support

Anchored by the pre-Revolutionary Jerusalem Mill, Jerusalem Mill Village reflects the movement of capitalist merchant millers into the region of the Baltimore maritime economy. In addition, the village may be viewed as a very early company town, with most of its buildings built in support of the mill's operations and/or in order to meet the housing needs of the owner and his employees. As such, it "remains an impressive representative of Maryland's early industrial history".[16]

The Jerusalem Mill Village can trace its origins to a land survey made for Nicholas Hempsted, the original patentee, in 1687. Adjoining land, where the mill was actually built, was called "Bond's Water Mills" when it was laid out for Thomas Bond in 1723 on the east and west banks of the Little Gunpowder River.

The Bonds were one of Harford (then Baltimore) County's great land-owning and milling families. The first Bond to take up land in what is now Harford County was Peter Bond who moved into the area from Anne Arundel County in 1660.[17] He patented tracts ranging from present day Bel Air to the banks of the Patapsco at Gwynn's Falls. Thomas died in 1705 leaving four

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[15] Edwards to Cheers.

[16] Mary C. Dean et al, 350 Years of Art and Architecture in Maryland, (College Park: University of Maryland, 1984), p.111.

[17] Walter W. Preston, History of Harford County, Maryland, (Baltimore: Sun Book Office, 1901), p. 206.

sons: Peter (the eldest and heir), Thomas, William, and John. In 1700 Thomas had married Anna Robertson of Anne Arundel County, and in 1707 had patented Knave's Misfortune near present day Emmorton, Harford County. Thomas's other Harford County patents include Bond's Forest (1714, 3000 acres), Cheapside and Poplar Ridge (3000 acres), and Bond's Manor (1705, 500 acres). According to Preston's History of Harford County, Thomas was "a member of the celebrated grand jury which protested against the removal of the county seat from the Forks of the Gunpowder to Joppa, denouncing it as 'palpable, nefarious grievance to the county'".[18]

"Bond's Water Mills" contained a sawmill when it passed in 1772 to David Lee, identified as "a miller from Buck's County, Pennsylvania". Lee (1740-1816) lived for thirty years in Bucks County, where he served an apprenticeship as a millwright and developed skills as a miller and craftsman. There, he and Rebeckah Sackett were married and had their first child; it was from here, also, that Lee and his cousins Joseph, Andrew, and John Ellicott traveled together to the streams of Maryland looking for suitable water power sites and milling opportunities. The Ellicotts settled south of Baltimore and founded Ellicott's Mills in 1772 (now Ellicott City): also in 1772 Lee settled north of Baltimore, here near the Little Gunpowder, and built a mill and village of sturdy and enduring qualities, of a design that still attracts the attention of visitors.

In Lee's time, the port of Joppa was less than three and a half miles away, but even then it was rapidly being eclipsed by Baltimore Town. Only a few years earlier, in 1768, the county seat had been relocated from Joppa to Baltimore. In 1773, the northeastern sector of Baltimore County was delineated as Harford County; since the Little Gunpowder Falls provided a naturally convenient dividing line, Jerusalem Mill fell within the newly established jurisdiction.

Maryland mill authority John McGrain has identified over 300 millsites in Harford County;[19] fewer than 10 mills still stand in

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[18] Preston, p. 207.

[19] John W. McGrain, Molinography of Harford County,
(Footnote Continued)

the county, and Jerusalem is easily the most impressive. He also notes that "by 1772 mills were becoming large capitalistic ventures".[20] With its erection in 1772, at the peak of the pre-automation period in merchant mill development, Jerusalem mill and its supportive village reflect the movement of capitalist merchant millers into the region of the Baltimore maritime economy. This was an era of burgeoning overseas trade, influencing the increased cultivation of winter wheat and the milling of flour for export to the West Indies and Southern Europe. Jerusalem Mill was not constructed merely for local custom trade in a barter economy: it played an important role in the production of raw foodstuffs and, later on, the support sawmill turned out lumber, and those two products were among the most important essentials in the development of the surrounding area in the 18th and 19th centuries. The Little Gunpowder Valley was, in the late 18th century, dotted with similar industrial villages, but only Jerusalem remains in place, intact. Note, for example, the house known as Jericho Farm, located about one mile downstream in Baltimore County: it is all that remains of the once-flourishing Jericho Village; it was individually listed in the National Register in 1984.

Perhaps of prime importance to the success of the mill is the fact that Lee demonstrated to his Gunpowder neighbors that grain could be raised with greater economic stability than tobacco. Lee was an innovative agriculturalist and was among the first in the area to realize that an application of lime to the soil would stimulate growth, improve the yield, and add to the prosperity of the mill. A map of Jerusalem Farm in 1860 shows that one field was still called "Lime Kiln Field".

During the American Revolution, Lee was able to turn his woodworking skills into a profitable contract for making rifle stocks for the Maryland Militia for which he was paid 1,000 pounds in gold and silver. The gunshop still stands (HA-434). (It is interesting to note that the Quaker Lee did not seek membership in the Little Falls Friends Meeting at Fallston until

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(Footnote Continued)
typescript in Harford County Planning and Zoning Department, Bel Air.

[20] McGrain, Grist Mills in Baltimore County, p. 4.

the end of the contract.) In 1739 flour from the mill was "commandeered...for provisioning the Continental Army".[21]

Gristmills, from about 1725 to 1920, were some of the most important assets to American economic life. David Lee's enterprise seems to have prospered from its inception. The 1783 Tax List shows the miller as owning fifty acres of "Bond's Water Mills" (valued at 150 pounds) and "the mill thereupon" with a value of 500 pounds; he also owned 5 horses, 9 cattle and sundry other property for a total assessment of 769 pounds.

With growth of his business, in 1793 Lee took on a twelve-year-old named Russell Davis[22] who was to be trained as a miller and a cooper. The 1814 Maryland tax rolls cite Lee as owning seven buildings (including two "dwelling houses") and 173 acres of land. The houses undoubtedly include part of the extant Jerusalem house (HA-431) and the Farm House (HA-430); other c. 1800 still extant structures would include the Mill itself and the cooper and blacksmith shops; the sawmill has been destroyed. (See Description; unfortunately, the 1798 Federal Direct Tax rolls are missing for Gunpowder Upper Hundred, which contains the Jerusalem area.)

Jerusalem village was nearly a self-sufficient community: Lee's farmer lived in the stone tenant house and grew grain in the surrounding fields; this grain, and that of his neighbors, was ground in his mill; the nearby cooper's shop turned out staves for flour barrels produced across the road; lumber came in part from the Lee-owned sawmill. Lee was civic minded also and served as "Overseer of Public Roads in Harford County" in part of the Gunpowder Upper Hundred; his jurisdiction was described as being "from the Mill to Joppa".

In his will, David Lee left his real estate, houses, mills, and improvements to his son, Ralph Sackett Lee. Each of his grand children was mentioned by name in the will and 200 pounds in cash was left to each daughter for distribution to her family.

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[21]Elizabeth Armstrong, A Brief History of Jerusalem and Its Mill, 1939; typescript in Maryland Room of the Enoch Pratt Free Library, Baltimore.

[22]Armstrong, Jerusalem.

His beloved wife, Rebeckah, was left an annual income of 20 pounds, the use of the best room and furniture in the house, kitchen privileges, a part of the garden, a safe riding horse, "a milch cow", and plenty of firewood at the door.[23]

Ralph S. Lee in 1805 had married Alice Anna Bond, granddaughter of Thomas Bond. When his father died, Ralph was already managing the mill, sawmill, and farm. He expanded business opportunities by involving neighbors in crafts and sawmill activities on a profitsharing basis. He involved himself in school and community affairs. In the 1840s he was elected as a Commissioner of Harford County and was a founder and director of the Harford Mutual Insurance Company, a still-flourishing institution that has been of great importance to the County for 140 years.[24]

A road from Baltimore to Bel Air in those days passed through Jerusalem, making it an increasingly busy location. In 1832, the State Legislature enacted a bill "to build a bridge over the Little Gunpowder at Lee's Mill" and provided $550 in funds. Ralph Lee's ledger, recently discovered, contains a page labeled Bridge Account and listing these materials used.

"669 ft. rafters
1319 ft. scantlin
1860 ft. sheeting
3364 ft. weather boards
234 pounds 10-penny nails and
2 bushels of lime for whitewashing bridge."[25]

Half a dozen workmen were hired at 50¢ per day. The ledger also attests to the frequent purchase of quantities of bar iron from the Franklinville Iron Works--much of which probably was used in Lee's blacksmith shop across the road.

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[23] Will SR 1/72.

[24] C. Milton Wright, Our Harford Heritage, (Bel Air, Md: privately printed, 1967), p. 331.

[25] Lee Ledger.

By 1844, Jerusalem Mills was sufficiently a community center to deserve a post office; one was established, with Ralph Lee's son-in-law, John Carroll Walsh, as an early postmaster. Walsh, whose father was the contractor in charge of construction at the Roman Catholic Cathedral in Baltimore at Cathedral and Mulberry streets, owned part of the neighboring grant, Groome's Chance.[26]

In 1860, towards the end of his life, Ralph Sackett Lee hired George Graham Curtis to make a map of the Lee-owned Jerusalem Village. Curtis was born in Massachusetts where he graduated from the Sheffield Academy. He gained a bachelor's degree from Brown University in 1848. In 1850, Lloyd Norris (who owned the nearby farm, Olney), a grandson of David Lee and nephew of Ralph Sackett Lee, was successful in persuading Curtis to come to Harford County in order to teach in a private school at Wilna, between Olney and Jerusalem. However, during Curtis's third year at Wilna, he was forced to return to Massachusetts due to the severe illness of his father. Curtis was not to return to Harford County for five years. During those years, his father died and George placed the family farm on a sound economic footing. He also took time while in New England to return to Brown for a master's degree. In 1859, George Curtis taught one final year at the Wilna School. In 1860 he did the survey of the Jerusalem Farm; he did other surveys in the area and must have gained wide attention and acclaim for his work, for in 1870 he was asked to lay out the Bel Air Fair Grounds and one half mile Race Track.[27]

Curtis's map of Jerusalem is remarkable in detail and quality and shows the village at the height of its prosperity. Moreover, it shows a village which has endured nearly intact into the 1980s: the only destroyed structures are the wheelwright's shop, sawmill, and the 1832 bridge: the only added structures are a tenant house (c. 1880) and the 1865 Jericho Covered Bridge (National Register).

Ralph Sackett Lee maintained and strengthened the old ties with the Baltimore merchant community. Merely as one example, he advanced the idea of milling white flour by shaking it through

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[26] Armstrong, Jerusalem.

[27] "Harford Historical Bulletin", p. 42.

silk screens until all bran had been removed. This "fine-as-silk" flour was custom ground for the Jewish Passover celebration in the city.[28]

During the 45 years of Lee's management, Jerusalem Mill reached phenomenal success and profit, but the coming of the Civil Was disrupted the forward progress of the little community and the prosperity of the mill. This part of Maryland was spared any severe fighting, but in 1862 Confederate raiders rattled through Harford County: there was a skirmish at the mill during which a number of Union troops were killed when southern troops captured the mill, opened the mill race and flooded the area. An article in the Baltimore Sun of April 22, 1862, noted that "the invaders have long desired to obtain possession of this mill, as it is not only a strong position, but the mill itself furnishes provisions to a considerable extent for our troops". Two years later, on July 10, 1868, C.S.A. Col. Harry Gilmore's raiders swept through this area, "confiscating the prized riding horses of the Lee family and taking provisions from the village store".[29]

In his will,[30] Ralph S. Lee left all his milling property and all real estate to his son David II; also the wagons, mules, tools, and chains. The main section of the extant Mansion House was standing, and Lee's Estate Inventory cites the dining room, pantry, sitting room (heated by a Franklin stove valued at $4), passage, closet, parlor (which also held a stove), stair, "big room upstairs" (which had andirons), "little room upstairs", and "room in garrett"; the blacksmith shop, cooper shop, and sawmill were also appraised, and much of the personal property suggests the inventory for the general store, just as literally dozens of various lots of rye, corn, and wheat "in the ground" suggest the

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[28] Edward C. Papenfuse, et al, Maryland: A New Guide to the Old Line State, (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1976), p. 13.

[29] Armstrong, Jerusalem.

[30] Will CWB 7/814.

large scale of his (or his tenant farmer's) agricultural activities.[31]

Both mill and village prospered through most of the rest of the 19th century. The Lees were well-to-do and were alleged to "live high" with trips to Europe, a bit of gambling, horse racing, and nightlife--unlikely as these tales sound for the descendants of this sober Quaker clan. Such good times unfortunately drew to an end. By the late 1870s, other Lee interests took precedence in the family over the mill-village enterprise. The Lees no longer gave personal attention to the mill, and instead relied on tenants, the various operations being run by separate lessees--one for the farm, another for the sawmill, store, blacksmith shop, as well as the mill itself. It all culminated in 1886 when David Lee II sold Jerusalem Mill and 25 acres[32]; this ended 114 years of Lee ownership, broke the community's unity and coherence, and effectively serves as a cutoff date for the village's historic significance. For the record, however, owners during the successive decades have been:

Ezra E. Phillips	1886-1891
William A. Wilson	1891-1905
Joseph Weiner et al	1905-1907
H.M. Smotritsky et al	June-Oct. 1907
Alexander A. Hurley	1907-1926
Harry S. Pyle	1926-1944
James D. Bridges	1944-1961
Dept. of Natural Resources	1961-

As the 20th century arrived, the remaining Lees also began to sell off other parcels of land, and various structures in the village acquired new, non-Lee owners. Miss Elizabeth Lee (1838-1937) and her nephew, Percy C. Lee, stayed on in the big house but the farmland steadily shrank until May 28, 1921, when

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[31] Estate Inventory 1/196.

[32] Deed ALJ 56/452.

Percy Lee sold the main house and 115 acres[33] and 9.15 acres and the store/post office.[34]

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[33]Deed SEC 173/268.

[34]Deed SWC 173/267.

Elizabeth Armstrong, A Brief History of Jerusalem and Its Mill, 1939, typescript in Maryland Room of the Enoch Pratt Free Library, Baltimore.

Mary C. Dean, et al., 350 Years of Art and Architecture in Maryland, (College Park: University of Maryland, 1984).

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Edward C. Papenfuse et al., Maryland: A New Guide to the Old Line State, (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1976).

Walter W. Preston, History of Harford County, (Baltimore: The Sun Book Office, 1901).

C. Milton Wright, Our Harford Heritage, (Bel Air, Md., privately printed, 1967).

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA:

Boundary Description: The boundaries are formed on the east, south, and west sides as indicated on the sketch map, by Jerusalem and Jericho roads and the Little Gunpowder Falls. The northern boundary is formed by a line drawn at 350' north of the center of Jerusalem Road and parallel to the road and intersecting with a line drawn perpendicular to Jerusalem Road 50' east of the end of the house shown as structure number 12 on the sketch map.

Boundary Justification: The boundaries are drawn to include the historic resources in their immediate historic rural setting. Man-made and natural features, Jerusalem and Jericho roads and the Little Gunpowder Falls, which form strong visual boundaries which also relate to historic boundaries hemming the village, form the borders on the west, south, and east sides. The northern boundary is an arbitrary line drawn to retain the rural character in absence of the strong visual features denoting the other borders.

9. Major Bibliographical References

HA-1745

See Continuation Sheet Section 9, Page 1

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property approximately 27 acres

Quadrangle name White Marsh, Maryland

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

	Zone	Easting	Northing
A	18	380510	4368960
B	18	380660	4368420
C	18	380340	4368520
D	18	380220	4368840
E			
F			
G			
H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

See Continuation Sheet Section 10, Page 1

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
N/A			

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Christopher Weeks, Mary Helen Cadwalader, Hunter Sutherland, Greg Segretti

organization Harford County Planning Department date November 1986

street & number 220 South Main Street telephone (301) 879-2000, ext. 207

city or town Bel Air state Maryland 21014

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

___ national ___ state X 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 7-13-87

title STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER date

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: date

Chief of Registration

GPO 911-399

JERUSALEM MILL VILLAGE

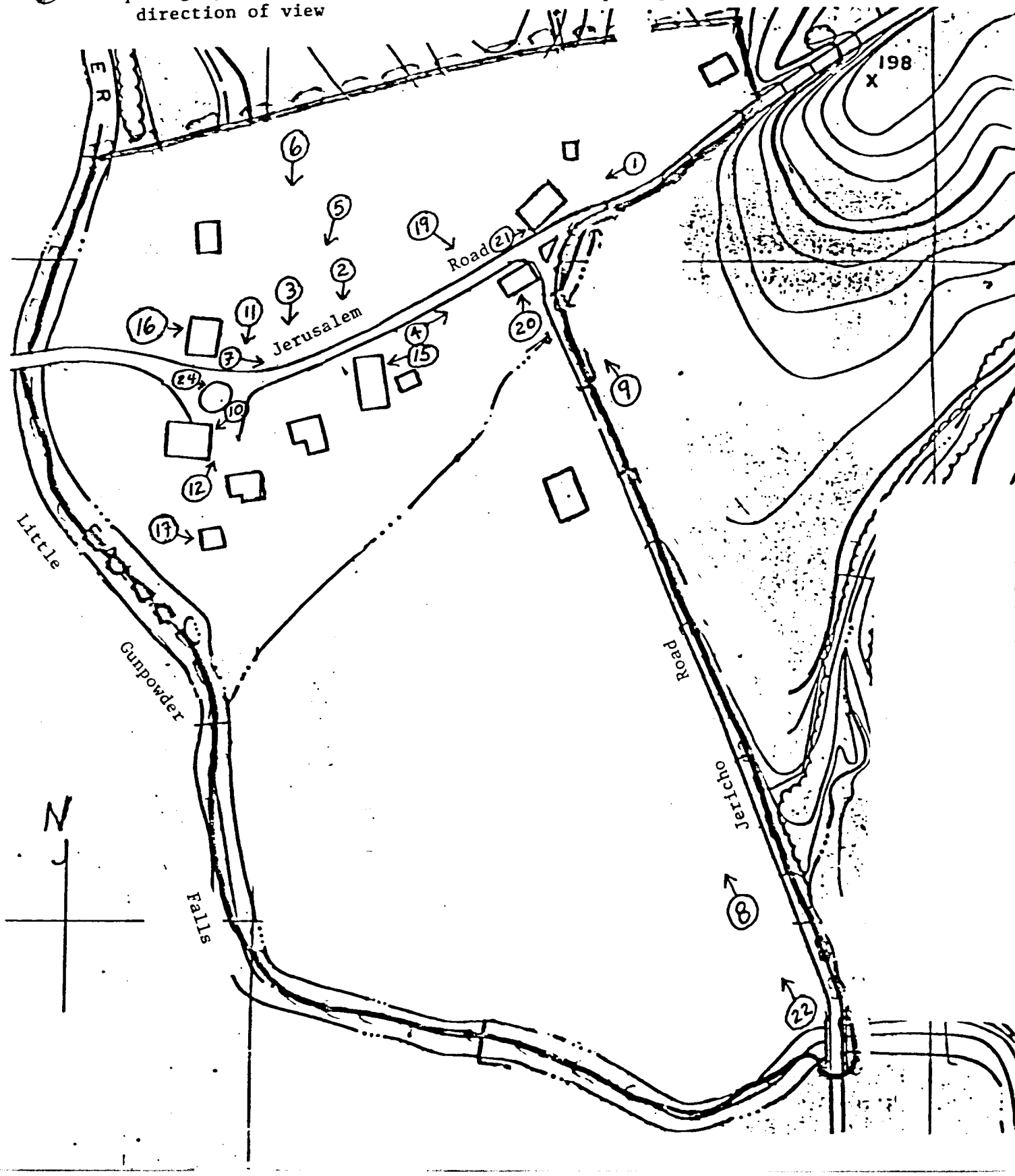
photos 13, 14, & 19 are details and not shown on this map

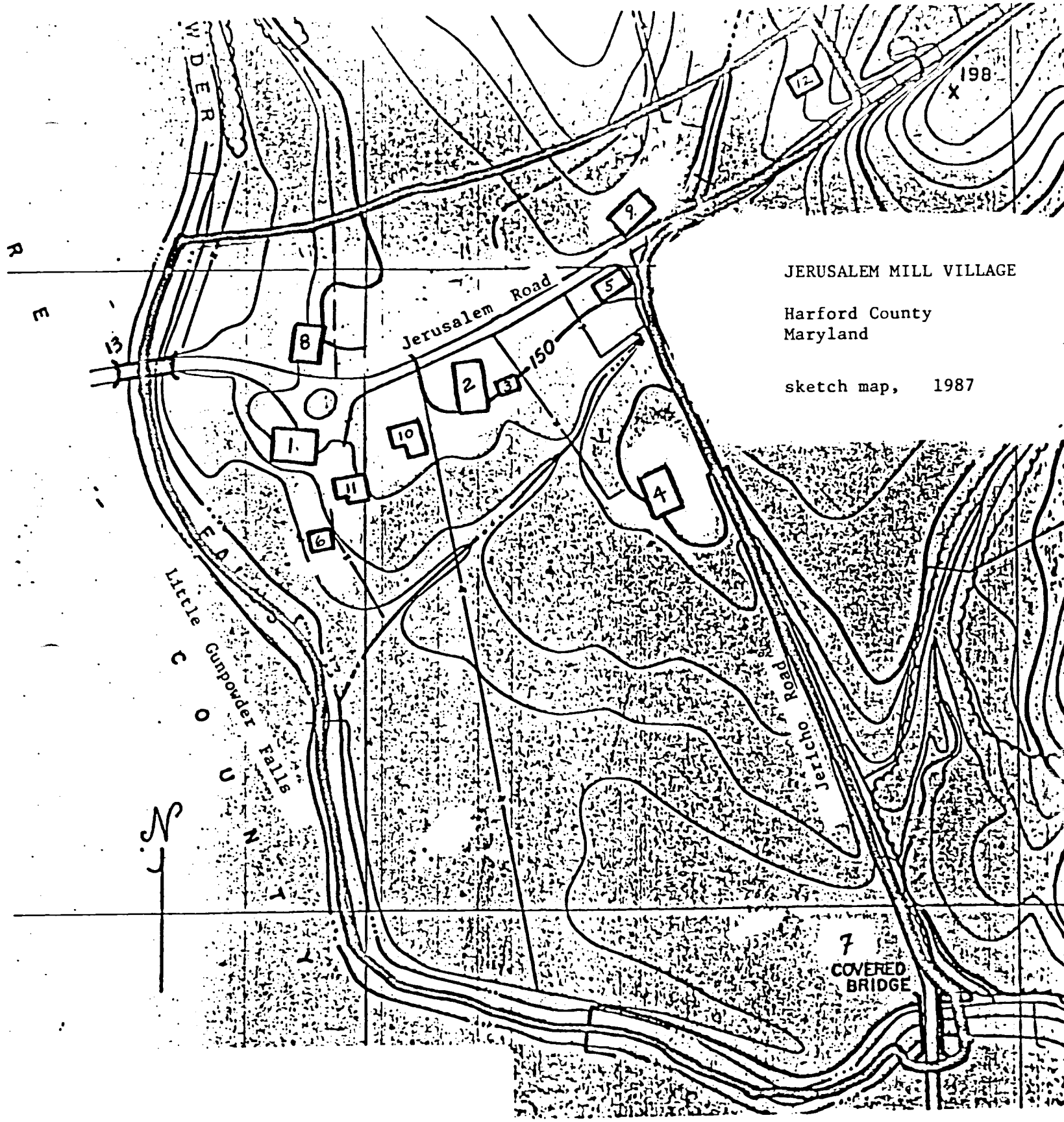
Harford County
Maryland

HA-1745

③ = photograph number and direction of view

photograph map, 1987

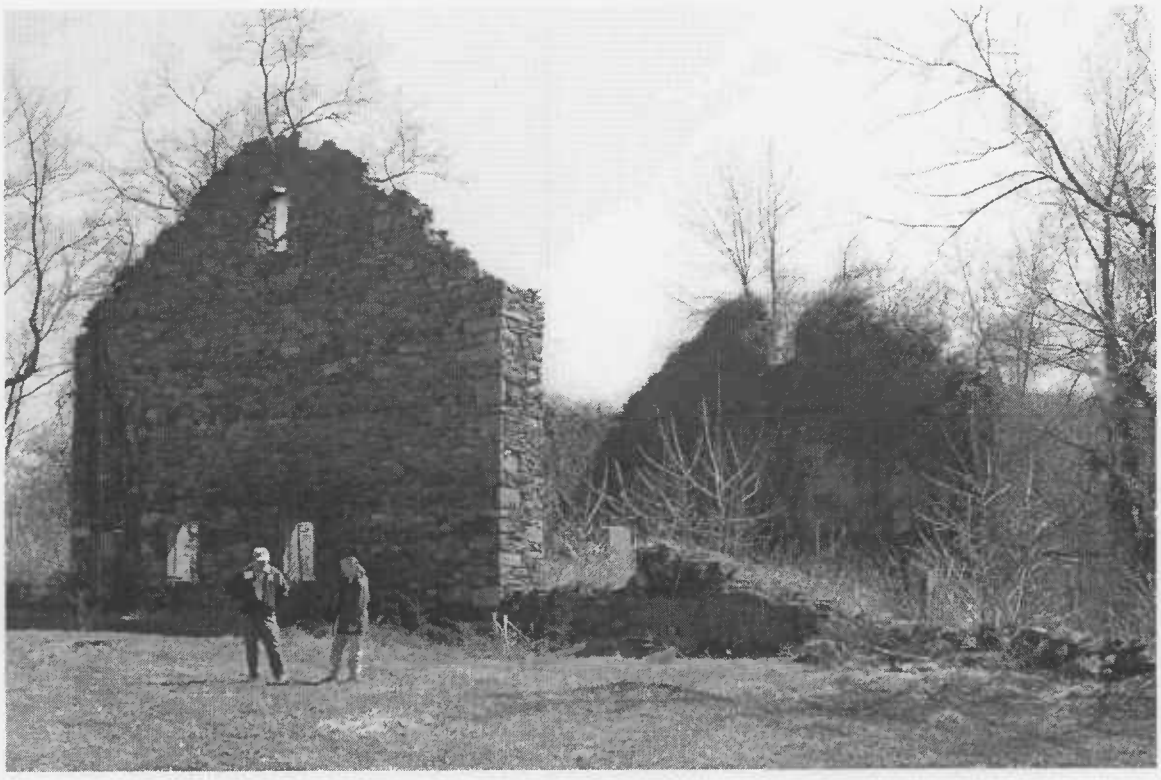


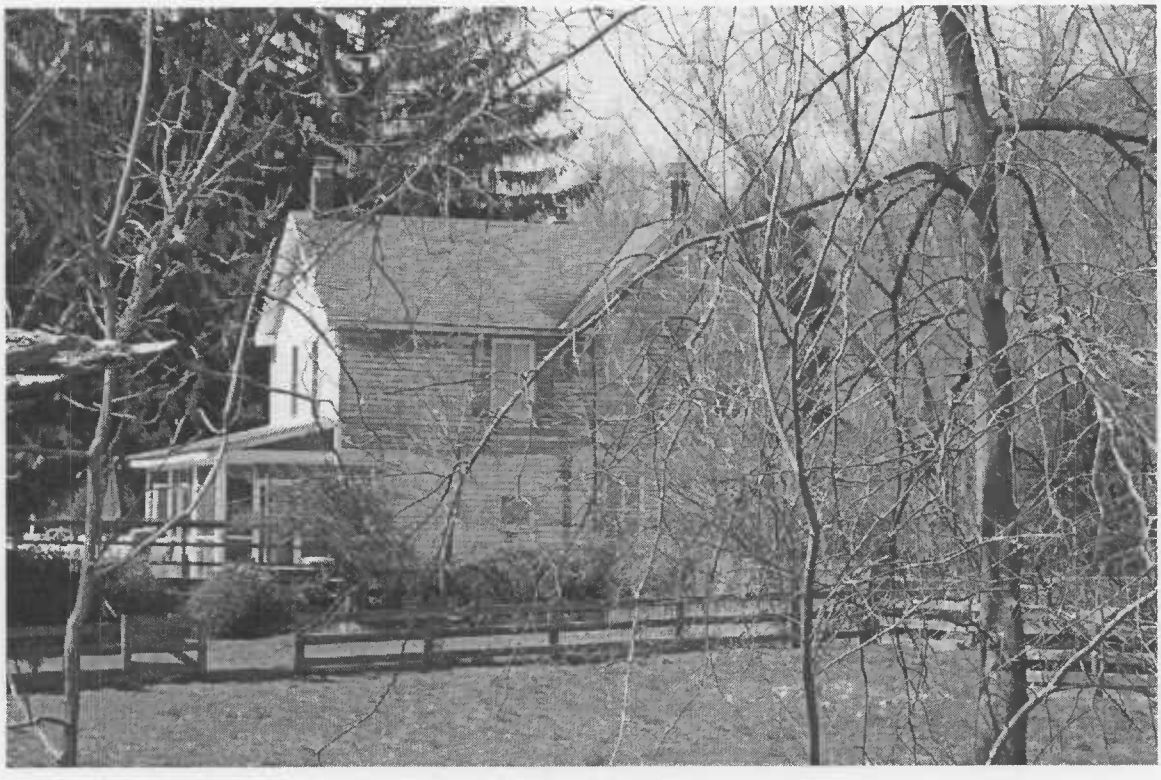


1. Jerusalem Mill
2. Jerusalem House
3. Jerusalem Spring House
4. Jerusalem Stone Barn
5. Mound Tenant House
6. Worker's House
7. Jericho Covered Bridge
8. Blacksmith Shop
9. McCourtney's General Store
10. Railey House
11. Railey Tenant House
12. Spring House
13. mid 20th century bridge (non-contributing)

HA-1745

Jerusalem Mill HA-1745 3/03

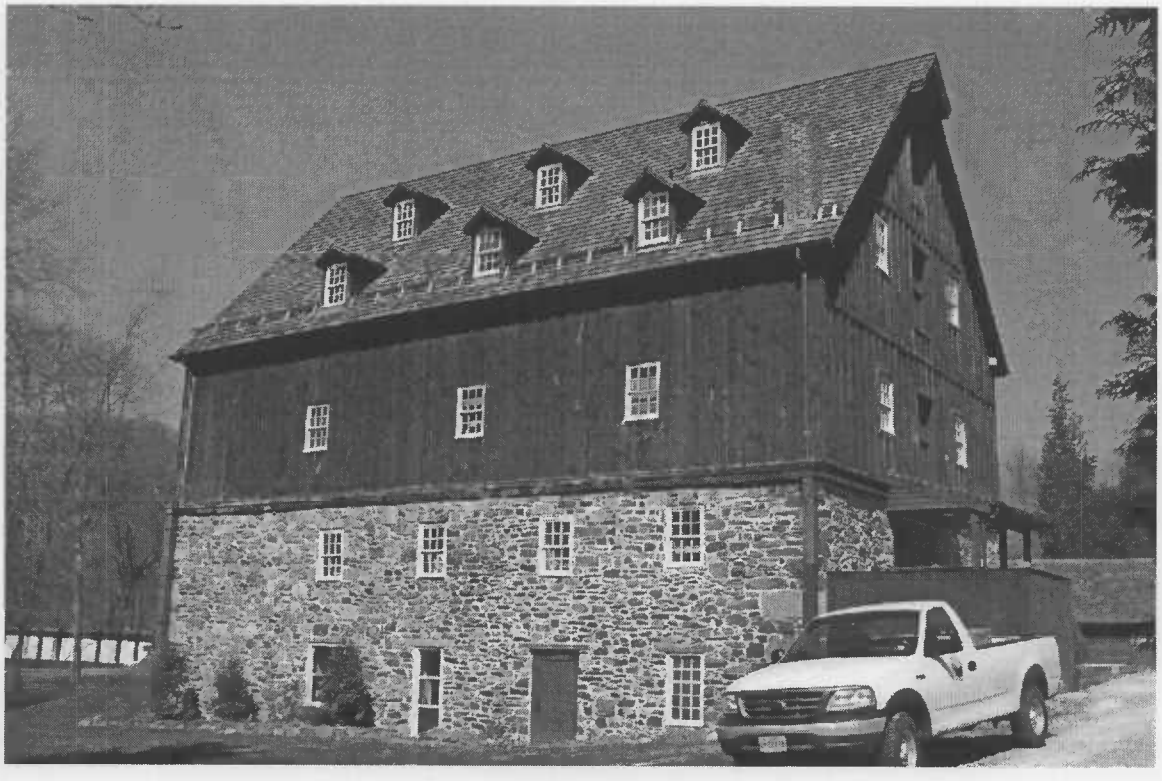




Jerusalem Mill HA-1745 3/03

Jerusalem Mill HA-1745
3/03

Jerusalem Mill HA-1745 3/03



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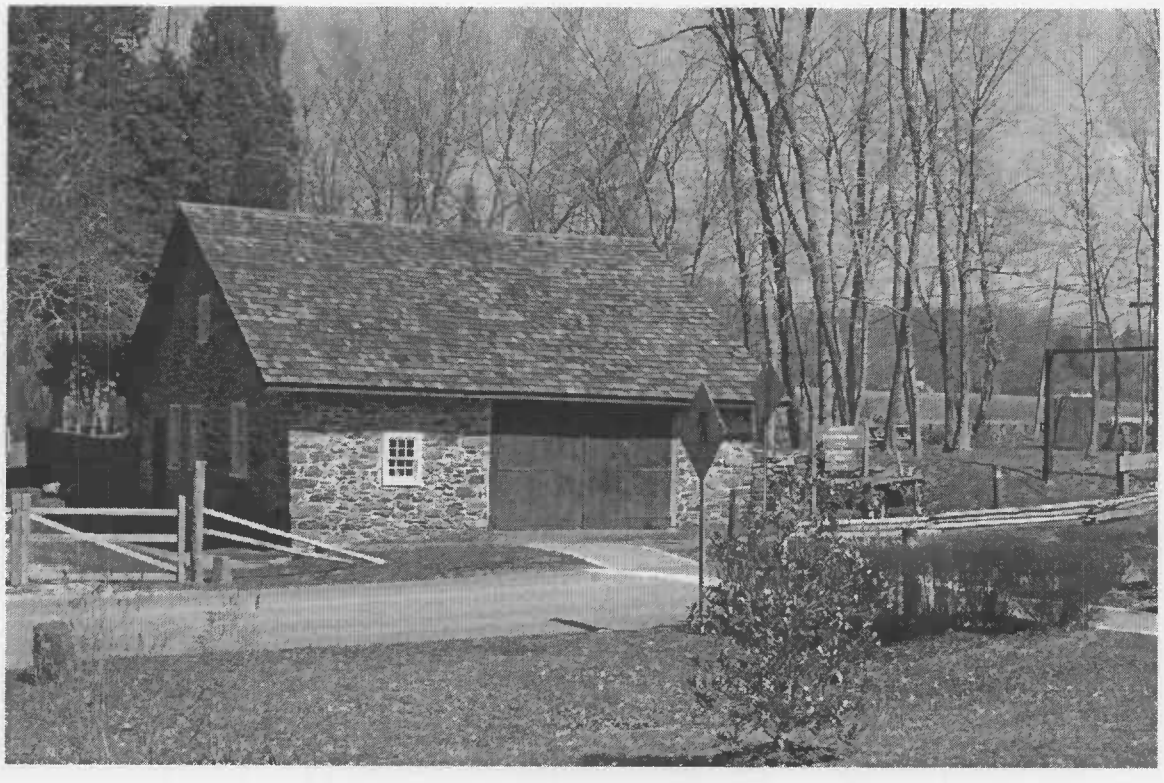
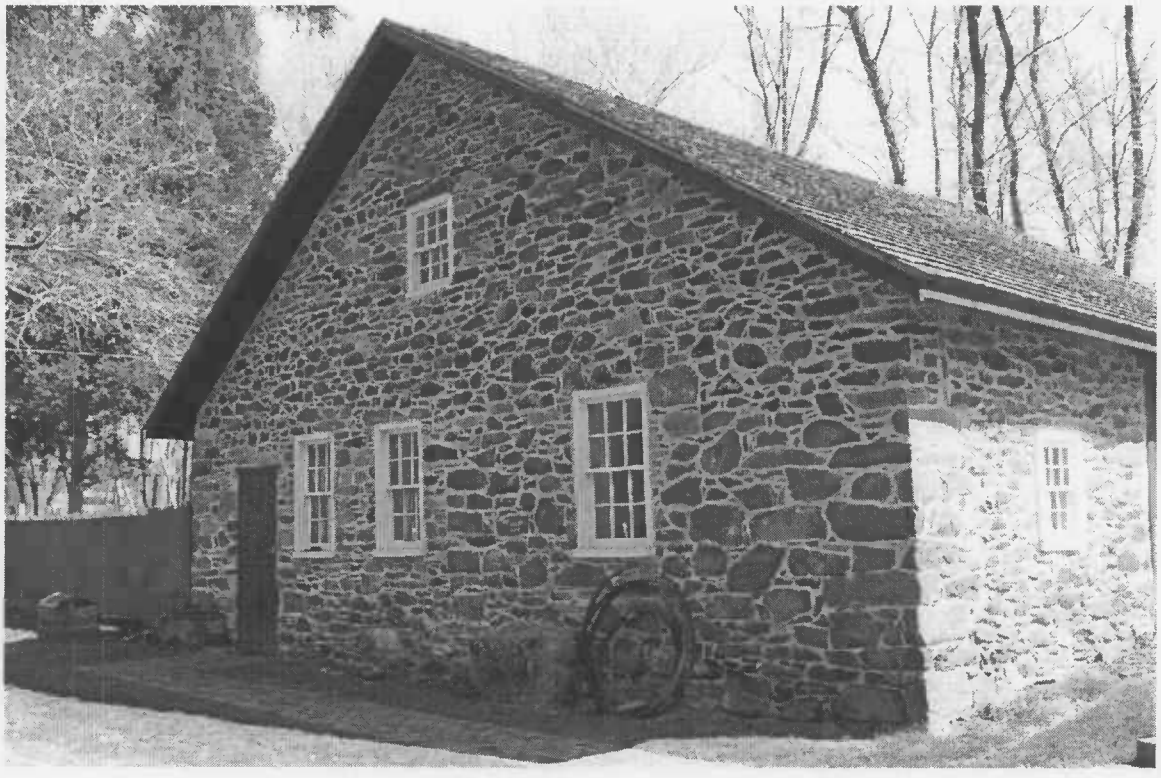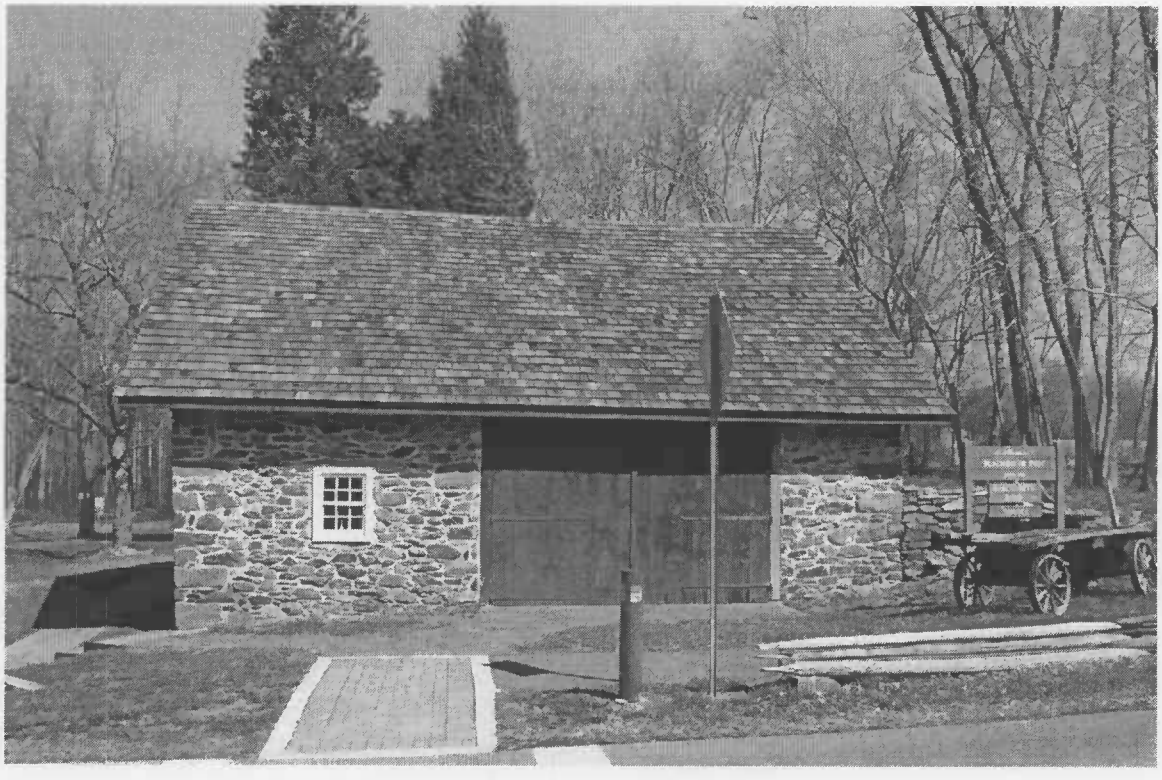
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