NPS Form 10-900
(Rev. 8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name MILL GREEN HISTORIC DISTRICT

other names/site number HA-1781

2. Location

street & number Mill Green and Prospect roads N/A ☐ not for publication

city, town Street ☒ vicinity

state Maryland code MD county Harford code 025 zip code 21154

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
☒ private	☐ building(s)	19	2 buildings
☐ public-local	☒ district		sites
☐ public-State	☐ site	8	1 structures
☐ public-Federal	☐ structure		objects
	☐ object	27	3 Total

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☒ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER Date 4/20/93

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

☐ entered in the National Register. ☐ See continuation sheet.

☐ determined eligible for the National Register. ☐ See continuation sheet.

☐ determined not eligible for the National Register.

☐ removed from the National Register.

☐ other, (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

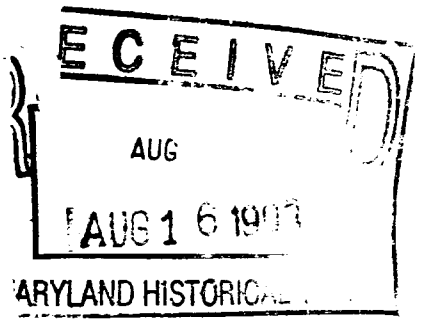
→RLA
HA-1781 HA-1781

NPS Form 10-900-a
(8-86)

OMB Approval No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet



Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 93000445 **Date Listed:** 6/3/93

Mill Green Historic District	Harford	MD
Property Name	County	State

N/A
Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

for Patrick Andrews
Signature of the Keeper

6/18/93
Date of Action

==========

Amended Items in Nomination:

U.T.M.: The U.T.M. coordinates are revised to read:
A - 18 386380 4391640
B - 18 386890 4391210
C - 18 386300 4390590
D - 18 385510 4390880
(An error was made in establishing the base line grid)

Significant Date:
The significant dates are revised to read c. 1770 and c. 1933 (not c.1770-c.1933). Only specific dates that relate to significant events are noted in this block. The revision corrects a typographical error.

This information was confirmed with Ron Andrews of the MD SHPO.

DISTRIBUTION:
National Register property file
Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling
INDUSTRY/manufacturing facility
COMMERCE/department store

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification (enter categories from instructions)

FEDERAL
LATE VICTORIAN

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE
walls STONE
FRAME
roof SLATE
other VINYL

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

DESCRIPTION SUMMARY:

The Mill Green Historic District consists of 10 principal buildings and their dependencies, which are dotted across approximately 100 acres of rolling countryside on both sides of Broad Creek. The district is located in the still-rural northeast section of Harford County, Maryland, about ten miles north of the county seat, Bel Air. The structures are built in various vernacular styles, range in age from the c.1770 miller's house (HA-92) to the late 19th century, are frame or native fieldstone, and without exception date to the years which make up the district's period of significance. The village owes its birth to John Ashmore's pre-Revolutionary gristmill and contemporaneous house; the mill was replaced by Nathaniel Bemis, an Ashmore in-law, in 1827 and this is the mill that still stands. The presence of the new mill quickly attracted other men and women to the area and these people built what became a self-sufficient community with a general store, post office, saw mill, cider mill, and undertaking establishment. The community became a hub of the region and flourished as such for approximately two generations; all principal buildings in the district contribute to the district's significance.

[X] See continuation sheet No. 1
For General Description

8. Statement of Significance

HA-1781

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally

Applicable National Register Criteria ☒ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Industry

Period of Significance

c.1770-c.1933

Significant Dates

c.1770-c.1933

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY:

The Mill Green Historic District is significant in the areas of industry and architecture. Centered around the 1827 Mill Green mill, the village is the largest extant 18th or 19th century industrial community remaining in Harford County, Maryland, which once boasted many such villages. The county, situated equally in the Piedmont and Tidewater regions of the state, is crossed by innumerable swift-flowing streams which were, in the 18th and 19th centuries, tapped and the controlled water was used to power scores of grist- and sawmills, iron forges and furnaces, and other such products of the American Industrial Revolution. Mill Green village came into being in the mid 19th century as shopkeepers, an undertaker, and a postmaster arrived and built residences for themselves, residences which often doubled as places of work; located far from any sizeable town the village perforce became a self-sufficient community. Roads, the descriptions for which always mention the mill as a starting (or ending) place were laid out through the rural countryside and the little community quickly became a hub for this part of the county. Once-comparable villages in the county have not fared as well as Mill Green: Stafford, the largest such village, has disappeared except for a solitary stack from its iron furnace; Jerusalem is slightly smaller than Mill Green and not so well maintained; Jerusalem Mill Village was listed in the National Register in 1987. The Mill Green village was essentially in place by the Civil War: there are 10 principal buildings in the district today and the 1878 Martinet map of Harford County shows 10 principal buildings in the community; the only changes to the village in the 114 years since that map was made is the loss of one structure (a sawmill) and the addition of another, a c.1898 house/office built by and for the village doctor. The district's appearance has remained essentially unchanged for the past century. The period of significance begins with the circa 1770 construction date of the miller's house, and ends with c.1933, about the time the mill ceased to operate and major machinery elements were removed.

☒ See continuation sheet No. 11
For HISTORIC CONTEXT and MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN data.

HA-1737

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet No. 23

[X] See continuation sheet No. 23

Previous documentation on file (NPS):
- [ ] preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- [ ] previously listed in the National Register
- [ ] previously determined eligible by the National Register
- [ ] designated a National Historic Landmark
- [ ] recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- [ ] recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:
- [ ] State historic preservation office
- [ ] Other State agency
- [ ] Federal agency
- [X] Local government
- [ ] University
- [ ] Other

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property approximately 110 acres
USGS Quad: Delta, MD-PA Quad

UTM References

	Zone	Easting	Northing
A	18	386220	4391640
B	18	386720	4391210
C	18	386120	4390590
D	18	385110	4390880

[ ] See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

[X] See continuation sheet No. 24

Boundary Justification

[X] See continuation sheet No. 25

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Christopher Weeks, Preservation Planner
organization Department of Planning and Zoning date May 1, 1992
street & number 220 S. Main Street telephone (410) 838-6000
city or town Bel Air state Maryland zip code 21014

★U.S.GPO:1988-0-223-918

GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

The highly picturesque Mill Green Historic District takes in approximately 100 acres of rolling countryside along both sides of Broad Creek and Fulling Mill Branch in the still-rural northeastern section of Harford County, Maryland.

Two historic and tortuous roads served the community: in 1801 a new road was laid out to connect the Harford County Seat, Bel Air, to the farming communities in southern York County, Pennsylvania; the original survey for the road used the mill here as a benchmark for the surveying team; in the mid 20th century the road was relocated just west of the community (the present Prospect Road) but the ancient roadbed through the village while abandoned is still visible; the other road is still functioning--it is called Mill Green Road and was laid out c.1820 specifically to connect the community (it dead ends here and is variously referred to in period deeds as "the road to Ashmore's/Bemis/Roberts Mill") to the larger market towns of Dublin and Darlington and, eventually, to deep-water shipping available at the docks in the city of Havre de Grace via the Susquehanna and Tidewater Canal.

The district is comprised of 10 principal buildings; built of either stone or frame, they represent various Mid-Atlantic vernacular styles and range in age from c.1770 to the late 19th century; most are accompanied by original outbuildings. All these structures grew up around two buildings erected by John Ashmore, the original c.1770 stone gristmill and residence; in the 1820s the mill and miller's house passed to Nathaniel Bemis, who had married an Ashmore; Bemis replaced the old mill with the present 3½-story stone structure.

Other enterprising sorts became attracted to Mill Green in the mid 19th century; they bought vacant land, established farms, and added several other buildings and trades to create a diversified and largely self-sufficient economy. Much of the property was purchased in 1933; milling operations then ceased, the miller's house was adapted for use as a vacation residence, thus marking an end to the hamlet's period of significance.

The historic district is and always has been a discreet industrial entity surrounded by and easily distinguished from the farmland which entirely surrounds it; buildings in the district are tied together not only by ties of use and ownership but also visually; placed in a seemingly random manner, all structures in fact are visually linked to the mill and miller's house, to the two roads, and to the millrace--the only such feature in original condition in Harford County--which flows through the entire district from west to east. Moreover, despite attempts to link the community to Darlington and the Deer Creek Valley by means of Mill Green Road, the simple fact of geographic distance kept Mill Green's residents isolated and separate from the somewhat more sophisticated millers and farmers of the valley: Mill Green was economically independent and functionally self-sufficient and none of its citizens married into any of the many Deer Creek Valley families: to pick but two examples of this, throughout the 19th century Mill Green kept its own post office and, as far as one can tell, villagers chose to bank in Bel Air or Delta, Pennsylvania, rather in Darlington (see HA-99 below), thus seeming to prefer to use the 1801 road rather than the somewhat later route.

See Continuation Sheet No. 2

Descriptions of individual structures follow; each has a number keyed into the accompanying Sketch Map, the name of the structure, its address, date, and (if applicable) entry number (e.g., HA-93) in the Maryland Historical Trust's Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties.

1. Mill Green Mill and Mill Race; 1827 (datestone) for mill; mill race c.1770; Mill Green Road; HA-93. One contributing building, one contributing structure. The successor to the 18th-century mill erected by William Ashmore and inherited by his son John Ashmore; the original mill was used as a polling place in 1775[2] and, when a new road was laid out from the Harford County seat, Bel Air, to Pennsylvania in 1801, one of the "Noted Places from Belle Air to Glasgow" delineated for the surveyors was "Ashmore's Mill."[3] The present 3½-story rubblestone, slate-covered gable-roofed structure was built on the site of the old mill by Nathaniel Bemis on the north bank of Broad Creek shortly after his marriage to Susanna Ashmore. John Ashmore and his wife, Margaret, deeded the Bemises seven parcels comprising over 1,600 acres in 1821; the Bemises pledged a $10,000 bond to the Ashmores, allowed the older generation to live in "the stone house near the mill [see item #2 below]" together with the garden and firewood left at the door; they also pledged to supply the Ashmores "with sufficiency for three persons of wheat, corn, and rye flour, sugar, tea, and coffee, pork, beef and fish and also two cows and one horse and keep the same as they keep their own."[4] The mill is three bays wide on its south or creek-facing gable-front facade; the ground-story door is flanked by two other doors; the doors on the upper levels by 6/6 sash windows; the paning is 6 over 6 but the upper sash is considerably larger than the lower. All doors and windows (including glass and framing) appears to be original; two small six-pane casement windows mark the attic; some glass has been replaced but the framing seems to date to the 1820s; the center of the gable contains an untouched oval datestone inscribed "N.S. Bemis Mills 1827." The east and west facades are two bays long; the west is two stories tall, the east three full stories. (The mill is built into a bank.) There is an original door at the north bay of the west facade; all other bays on both sides are marked by original 6/6 windows similar to those of the main facade. Structurally--in terms of floors, stairs, windows, doors, roofing, framing, etc.--the mill itself has remained unchanged since constructed in the 1820s; naturally enough, however, successive owners continuously replaced the mill's machinery while the mill was functioning throughout the 19th and early 20th centuries, prudently abandoning the out-dated with whatever was modern and efficient. Nevertheless and somewhat surprisingly, what seem to be the original wooden gears are still in place in the attic level.

The mill race, water from which powered the mill's undershot wheel, flows along the north side of the structure; the creek, which loops a twisty course through the community, is dammed about ¼ mile northwest of the mill; the race then runs straight to the mill; it then turns about 45 degrees and flows about 100 yards in front of the miller's house (see) to form an island of about an acre before rejoining Broad Creek. No millraces in the county "have survived intact but this one has with water flowing through it constantly."[5]

2. Mill Green Miller's House; c.1770 (with additions); 3660 Mill Green Road; HA-92. One contributing building, two noncontributing buildings, one noncontributing structure. This 2½-story, gable-roofed, rubblestone structure

See Continuation Sheet No. 3

was built with the mill and, though both have seen changes in ownership and use, has always been associated with it. William Ashmore's original two-bay dwelling contained--and contains--one room per floor; on William's death it passed to his son John who in 1798 was taxed on a "13 x 18 2-story stone house" along with a "Gristmill (25x45) 2-story stone," and various wooden outbuildings; he also owned 1,208 acres and five slaves for a total assessment of $3,390.45, easily the highest figure in Harford County's Deer Creek Middle Hundred except for Henrietta Wheeler ($8,290.54; she was heiress to the aristocratic Roman Catholic Wheeler family's 3,277-acre tract, Deer Park). The Ashmore house contains its original mantel, doors, and 9/6 windows and forms the north wing of the much-enlarged dwelling; the first enlargement, probably built by the Bemises in the 1820s, is a bankhouse, two bays wide and 2½-stories tall on the east facade behind a two-tier wooden porch and 1½ on the east; the ground level is stuccoed rubblestone and the upper frame; the ridge of the slate-covered gable roof runs perpendicular to the original section. Several small additions were put on throughout the 19th century; the latest addition, a high-tech kitchen dating to c.1990, is to the northwest of the Ashmore house; all additions are clearly distinguishable by scale, building material, and roofline. Also on the property are three non-contributing, mid-20th-century resources: a one-story concrete block bungalow built as a caretaker's house, a one-story, two-bay block garage, and a long, low one-story structure now used by the present owner for his computer company; all three noncontributing structures are small in scale, are placed away from the ancient miller's house, and do not jeopardize the district's integrity.

3. William G. Roberts House; c.1866; Prospect Road. Four contributing buildings. This five-bay, two-story gable-roofed frame house is remarkably similar, on a slightly larger scale, to the Robinson House/village store (HA-94). The Roberts house has an L-plan (the smaller house lacks the rear ell); the smaller structure has a single attic window in each gable end; this has two. The main facades of both houses are spanned by one-story porches. The lot around this larger dwelling is improved by three 19th-century frame outbuildings: a carriage shed/garage, a hay mow, and a large barn, all located north and west of the main house. When the Bemises acquired the Mill Green mill by inheritance from Susanna Bemis's father, John Ashmore, they also acquired hundreds of acres of farmland. They sold 214 acres east of Broad Creek to John Robinson in 1832 and the structures built on that acreage are discussed below; in 1838 the Bemises sold the mill and 476 acres on the west side of the creek to Thomas H. Roberts for $7,700.[6] Thomas and Margaret Roberts had four sons: Thomas Jr., William, George, and John. After the senior Roberts died the roughly 350 acres around the mill and main house were subdivided into four smaller lots and sold through the county equity court; Roberts's widow kept lot 1 (the 43½-acre mill lot and house) while lots 2 and 3 (totalling 182 acres) were sold to William Roberts in 1866;[7] young Roberts presumably built this house shortly thereafter for the name "William G. Roberts" appears with a house on this site on the 1878 county map. Lawrence Goodwin, who bought the mill property in the 1930s, also acquired much of the land that had been sold to William G. Roberts (with this house) and the combined acreages have remained a unit to this day.

See Continuation Sheet No. 4

*** Note: All of the above structures were built by and for the mill owners' families; the following were built after Nathaniel Bemis, the then-mill owner, sold the 214 acres that lay adjacent the mill lot to the east in the mid 19th century; the land was snapped up by shopkeepers, undertakers, farmers, etc., who, between c.1850 and c.1880 created the village of Mill Green.

4. Biles House/Mill Green Hotel; c.1852, with additions; Mill Green Road; HA-96. Three contributing buildings, one contributing structure. This two-story, four-bay frame dwelling, which has log framing beneath its clapboard, crowns the hillock that forms the southern flank of the community; it faces north towards Mill Green Road, located approximately 300 yards away. The entrance facade, marked by two machine-made entrance doors, is spanned by a one-story porch embellished with simple square posts and balusters typical of those built in Mill Green in the middle of the 19th century; all windows are 1/1. Both of this section's gable ends are treated identically with a pair of close-together 1/1 windows on the main floors and a small 1/1 window in the attic. There was originally a two-story, one-bay kitchen wing to the rear, the depth of which is still marked by a corbel-capped brick chimney. In 1852 John Biles "lately of Chester County, Pennsylvania," bought "all the land on the south side of the public road leading from Street's (formerly Ashmore's) Mill to Dublin" and in the "village called Mill Green;" he paid $3,000 for what was described as "being approximately 141 acres."[8] Biles, a farmer, then built the main, log and frame section of the extant structure: stylistically everything about it suggests the mid-19th century in Harford County and the two front doors somewhat imply Biles's Chester County origins. (Pennsylvania-influenced folk houses such as Biles's typically have "porches skirting the front, sides, and rear, and kitchen wings off...to the rear, which often have built-in porches....[T]he most common" such structures, "of a kind regularly found in south-central Pennsylvania and adjacent Maryland," "have four openings on the front of the first story.")[9] The house is shown ("Bile") on the 1856 Jennings and Herrick map of Harford County. Biles died in 1864; the compilers of his estate inventory noted five bedsteads, a dozen chairs, and other simple furnishings worth in all $149.25.[10] The property then passed to Biles's son Charles, who owned and operated a combination cider-press and sawmill on the farm--"they were located in the same building with the sawmill above the cider mill."[11] This operation was powered by Fulling Mill Branch, which still flows through the property. (See Significance.) John Biles was a farmer as was son Charles (in addition to his other pursuits) and the house still sits amidst a cluster of farm buildings, in varying states of repair; these include two large frame barns and a frame wagon shed. At least some of these structures are the one mentioned in a newspaper ad for a foreclosure sale: "the land on which Charles Biles now resides containing 140 acres, more or less....The improvements consist of a comfortable two-story log and frame DWELLING HOUSE, frame barn, Hay House, Wagon and Cow Shed, and other outbuildings. Also a log and frame TENANT HOUSE [see below, HA-97] in good repair, &c, [and a] SAW MILL in running order. There is a thrifty young Apple and Peach Orchard. About 25 acres is woodland, the balance under cultivation."[12]

See Continuation Sheet No. 5

5. Biles Tenant House; c.1852; Mill Green Road; HA-97. One contributing building. This small two-story log-framed clapboard-sheathed tenant house, which faces north towards the road located approximately 50 yards to the north and near the lane to the main house, was almost certainly built by John Biles shortly he after purchased the 140-acre tract here in 1852. (See #4 Biles House above.) It is essentially a diminutive version of Biles's own house: built on low rubblestone foundations, L-shape in plan, with a main section marked by four bays, two of which are front doors. The main facade has a one-story porch with squared balusters and simple turned posts. It is two rooms wide and one deep; windows have 2/2 sash; both gables have round-arched sash windows in the attic. The structure is shown on the 1856 county map and is mentioned in the ad for the 1879 foreclosure sale of the farm: "Also a log and frame TENANT HOUSE in good repair." Since built, ownership of the tenant house has always flowed with that of the main house, HA-96 above, and since 1908 both have been owned by members of the Famous family.

6. Treakle House; c.1873; 3648 Mill Green Road; HA-95. One contributing building, one contributing structure. A two-story, cross-gable frame structure built shortly after Edwin Treakle, Alonzo Huff, and J. Michael Huff purchased the property in March 1873.[13] It does not appear on the 1856 county map but does on the 1878 county map. The Huffs and Treakle bought the lot--slightly over 1½ acres--for $1,600 from Washington Barton and William Gibson,[14] who had bought the same lot for $1,800 from Charles Biles, the local farmer and sawmill-owner (see HA-96 above), in 1865;[15] the deed to Treakle refers to the "lane going into Charles Biles's house." Thomas Treakle and Alonzo Huff "conducted an undertaking establishment" in Mill Green "under the firm name of Huff and Treakle."[16] Treakle, who bought out his partners' interest in this place in 1884,[17] lived here, as did his descendants until 1935.[18] This structure has three bays on the main facade's ground story and four above; the entrance is the north bay and the other two bays are 2/2 windows; all windows on the second floor are 6/6. The entire main facade is spanned by a one-story hipped roof porch supported by machine-made turned posts and marked by a railing of squared balusters similar to the porches which mark virtually every other house in the village and which almost certainly were crafted in Charles Biles's sawmill, which stood on Fulling Mill Branch just a few yards to the southeast. There is a 19th-century, one-story, frame garage/wagon shed immediately south of the house. Both structures are virtually untouched from their 19th-century appearance.

7. Robinson-Huff-Famous House; mid 19th century; 3638 Mill Green Road; HA-99. Three contributing buildings, four contributing structures. This 2½-story, four-bay frame dwelling, three bays deep in the main section with a two-story, two-bay kitchen wing to the rear (north) is considerably more substantial than most of the other mid 19th-century dwellings in Mill Green. It was probably built by John Robinson, who purchased 214 acres of farmland adjacent the village to the east in 1832 and who died in Mill Green in 1856; the house stayed in the family through intermarriage with the Huff clan (prominent local merchants), until 1927. The house sits on low rubblestone foundations; two of its ground-story bays are front doors and the entire ground story on the main facade is sheltered by a one-story porch with simple squared posts. Perhaps the house's most striking feature--besides its depth--is the steeply-sloping center gable which contains a pair of attic windows; the house's massive slate-covered roof

See Continuation Sheet No. 6

is finished by a box cornice and is pierced--at the gable ends--by corbel-capped brick chimneys. As noted, feature for feature the house resembles its temporal peers in the village; only its somewhat greater bulk suggests that it was built by the community's largest land-owner and (after the mill-owners) most important citizen and was, for four generations, retained by his descendants. Indeed, it is still the residence of the area's main land-owner, farmer John Famous, which explains the array of much-used farm buildings placed to the rear (north) of the dwelling: a large frame barn, a low, frame chicken house, a pair of block sheds, and two other small frame structures; all of which seem to date to the district's period of significance. Robinson farmed the entire acreage until 1852 when he sold the land south of Mill Green Road to John Biles, retaining the roughly 70 acres north of the road. He died in 1856; his estate inventory, compiled that May, shows $852.84 worth of personal property (compare this to the $149 owned by his neighbor across the road, John Biles, in 1864). Robinson kept 10 sheep, 4 hogs, 3 cattle, an unspecified number of chickens; he had "10 acres wheat," "10 acres oats," and had harvested "lot buckwheat," "lot potatoes;" he was keeping "lot clover seed" in readiness for green manure. In addition to farming Robinson seems to have carried on several other trades useful to himself for his inventory includes a good deal of cooper's equipment (identified as such). The configuration of his house is not clear from the inventory although "carpet in the parlor" and "carpet upstairs" suggests the extant substantial, two-story dwelling. In 1858 the young Robinsons sold the house and the 62-acre farm to their in-law George Huff for $1,350[19] (he had married Hannah Huff in the 1840s); they excepted from this sale the 3½-acre lot at the intersection of the village's two roads, a site which already contained the house of young John Robinson (see HA-94 below) and which would become the village's general store and post office run by J. M. Huff. The store and the Robinson-Huff house (both labeled) are the only two structures shown on the north side of Mill Green Road on either the 1856 or 1878 county map. The George Huffs presumably had a son named George for a George Huff sold the farm to "Charity Huff, his wife" for $100 in 1893;[20] Charity Huff sold it to John Huff in 1901 but evidently lived on in the house for her estate inventory (complied on her death in 1909) lists as her only tangible property "bedroom furniture, $40;" no stranger to investments, she also held three mortgages and 12 shares of stock ($1,200) in the People's National Bank of Delta.

8. Huff/Famous Tenant House; third quarter of 19th century; 3631 Mill Green Road; HA-100. One contributing building. A small two-story, three-bay frame tenant/farmer's house probably built after the farm was acquired by the Huff family in 1858. It does not appear on either the 1856 or 1878 county map; that is not, however, definitive since documented tenant houses are known to have been frequently omitted on both maps. It faces Mill Green Road, which passes by closely to the south. The one-story porch seems to be original but the windows and doors are modern replacements; there is a low one-story brick addition to the east.

9. Mill Green Store and Post Office; c.1850; Mill Green Road; HA-94. Two contributing buildings, one contributing structure. A 2½-story, three-bay, cross-gable frame structure built as a residence and later used as the village store and post office. The entrance--a 19th-century mass-produced paneled door flanked by sidelights and topped by a narrow, flat transom--marks the center,

See Continuation Sheet No. 7

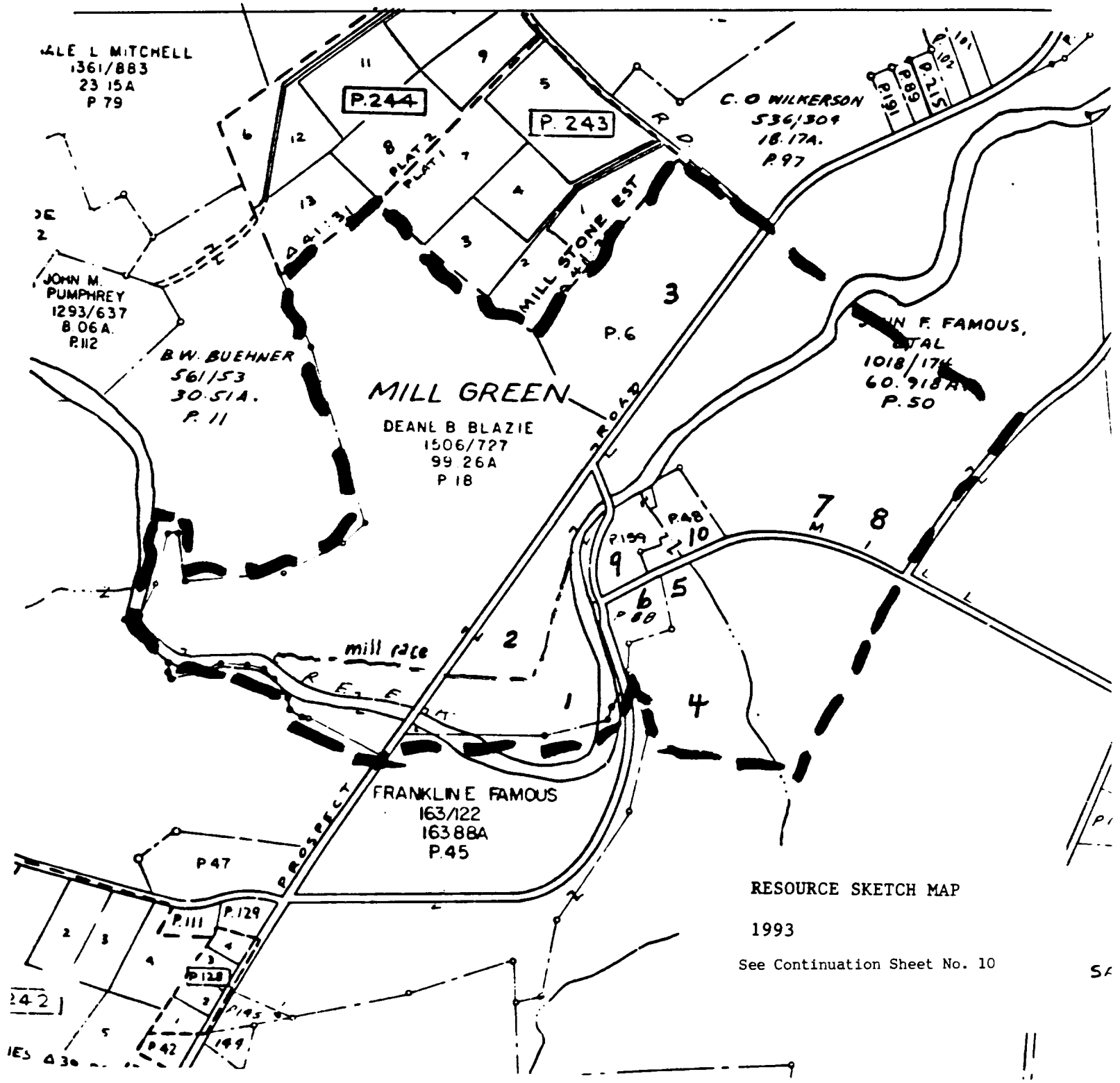
ground-story bay; all windows (two on the ground story and three above on the main facade and two on both stories on the sides) are 2/2. The entire main facade is spanned by a one-story, hipped roof porch with simple square balusters; the simple squared posts are topped by a minimal amount of sawn trim, which possibly came from the Biles sawmill across the road. The slate-covered roof has noticeably wide eaves; now plain they may have originally been enlivened with sawn trim similar to that seen at the tops of the porch posts; the main roofline is marked by twin corbeled brick chimneys. There is a large attic under the eaves; it is lighted by small 2/2 windows at each end and by an arched 2/2 window centered in the main facade's broad gable; the gable also allows greater room in the attic. The entire structure is virtually unchanged from its mid-19th-century appearance. The house is essentially a somewhat shallower version of the Robinson-Huff House just to the east, doubtless at least partially explained by the fact that this house was built by John Robinson, a son of the John Robinson who built the larger dwelling. The buildings sit on a 214-acre tract the senior Robinson purchased from Nathaniel and Susanna Bemis, the owners of the mill, in 1832.[21] Robinson sold most of the land but retained about 70 acres on the north side of Mill Green Road; he died in 1856. The main house was sold to in-laws, the Huffs, but excepted from the Huff deed was the 3½-acre lot at the corner of the village's two roads, the precise site of this house, HA-94. Young Robinson seems to have been the favorite of his father's two sons for he was willed cattle, grain, specific pieces of furniture, and the "shop tools;" sister Sarah was left livestock and two beds; the other siblings' inheritance (which John and Sarah would equally share) came from a general sale. It is thought that this was Robinson's house for its large scale and relatively high-style details (porch trim, corbeled chimneys) suggest that it is a small-scale copy of Robinson's father's house; moreover when the younger Robinson died in 1867 his estate inventory describes a building very much like the extant house: note four rooms downstairs "parlor [furnished with $50 worth of goods]; dining room, $35; bedroom downstairs, $20; servants room downstairs, $5," three bedrooms specified as being "upstairs" ($35, $50, and $40) and an inferentially-finished "garret, $10." Robinson's heirs sold the house to John Andrews for $400 in 1868.[22] Andrews was kept prosperous thanks to the family's nearby fulling mill, established "by Robert and Susannah Andrews in 1858. The mill was on Broad Creek about one-half mile north of the village of Mill Green. It was a two-story stone building and its dimensions were eighteen feet by twenty feet....The mill is no longer standing."[23] In fact all traces of it were obliterated c.1970 when Prospect Road was realigned; this complete destruction of any evidence of the mill is why the site is not included in this nomination. John Andrews sold the mill in 1896, but he sold the house in 1873; the mill brought $1,050; the house and 3½ acres $600.[24] When the same 3½ acres was sold in 1876 the deed noted that it was where the grantor and wife "now reside;"[25] the Centennial Year purchasers were John Michael Huff and Edwin J. Treakle (see above); the 1878 county map indicates a "Store, Huff & Treacle [sic]" on this site. An area resident recalled in 1933 that both the "store and post office" were "kept by J. Michael Huff....[it] was a center for the entire countryside where they [area farmers] brought their produce and obtained supplies and mail once a week....[and was] located directly in the village....The first telephone in Mill Green was in the store....Having a post office, which served a wide territory, in this same building helped bring business to the store."[26]

See Continuation Sheet No. 8

The lot (now about 2½ acres; HA-98 was built on the other acre, see below) also contains two 19th-century outbuildings: a one-story frame carriage house/garage and a small structure which was probably a chicken house.

10. Dr. William E. Arthur House; c.1898; 3645 Mill Green Road; HA-98. Two contributing buildings. This substantial, 2½-story frame dwelling was the last major structure to be built in Mill Green. It fits in remarkably well with the structures which predated it: its main section, which faces south towards Mill Green Road, is essentially identical to the two Robinson houses, HA-94 and HA-99; all three measure three bays by two beneath slate-covered gable roofs which are, in turn, marked by attic peaks; this one, however, boasts its original sawn trim. The center of the roof at HA-94 is marked by two corbel-capped chimneys; an identical one is present here but its placement here is such so as to suggest strongly that a second one was originally built. This structure is larger than the Robinson house/store (HA-94), having a one-bay, two-story frame wing to the rear (north). Both structures have porches; the one here is, again, more elaborate and wraps around two sides (south and west) of the dwelling; its flat roof is treated as a wrap-around balcony and has simple square balusters and railing. Perhaps one reason for the porch is to shelter the second principle entrance--a door placed to the west leading to a small, one-story, one-room office. This is all explainable when one learns that the house was built by Dr. William Arthur, who used the small extension as his office. The property had been part of the 3½-acre parcel mentioned above; the western portion of the small lot contained the village store and post office; both sites passed to the Huff family and in 1898 Charity Huff (then living in the Robinson-Huff House, HA-99) sold this lot--"one acre, three roods and ten square perches" to Dr. Arthur.[22] An area resident recalled in 1933 that "Dr. William E. Arthur...erected a fine home in Mill Green and...attained great popularity as a physician."[23] The attractively landscaped two-acre lot also contains a large frame barn/garage, doubtless dating to the Dr. Arthur era, to the rear (north).

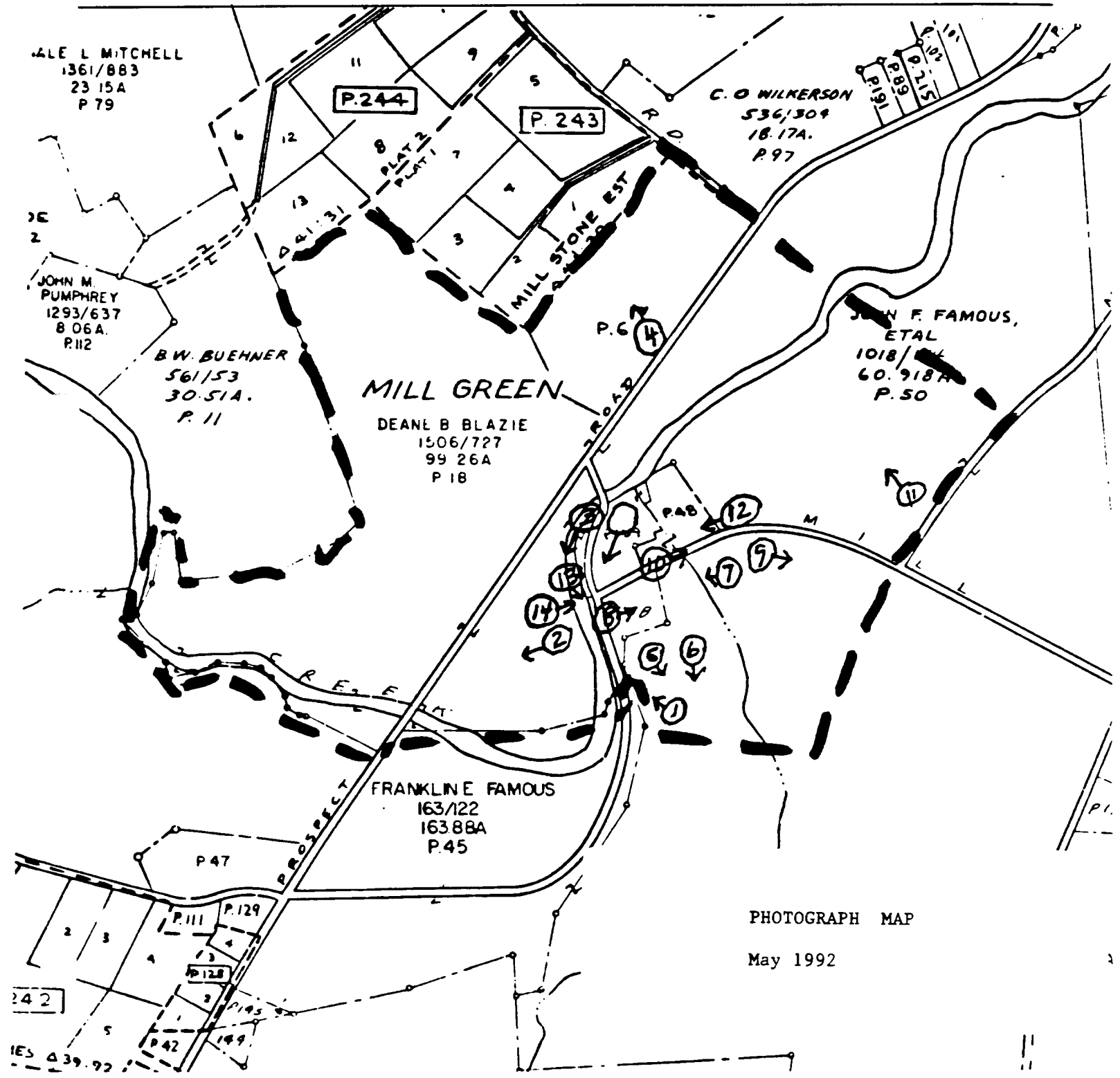
See Continuation Sheet No. 9



RESOURCE SKETCH MAP

1993

See Continuation Sheet No. 10


ALE L MITCHELL
1361/883
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P.244
P. 243
C. O WILKERSON
536/309
18.17A.
P.97
MILL STONE EST
JOHN M. PUMPHREY
1293/637
8 06A.
P.112
B.W. BUEHNER
561/53
30.51A.
P. 11
MILL GREEN
DEANE B BLAZIE
1506/727
99 26A
P 18
P.6
J F. FAMOUS, ETAL
1018/
60.918A
P. 50
P.48
FRANKLIN E FAMOUS
163/122
163.88A
P.45
P 47
PROSPECT
P.111
P.129
P.128
P.145
P.42
P.149
PHOTOGRAPH MAP
May 1992

HISTORIC CONTEXT:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Piedmont

Chronological/Developmental Period(s):

Rural Agricultural 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

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme(s):

Architecture/Landscape Architecture/Community Planning
Economic

Resource Type:

Category: District

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function(s) and Use(s):

DOMESTIC/single dwelling/residence
COMMERCE/department store/general store
INDUSTRY/manufacturing facility/mill

Known Design Source: Unknown

See Continuation Sheet No. 12

HISTORIC CONTEXT:

For 200 years water-powered industries--grist- and sawmills, iron forges and furnaces, fulling mills and tanneries--dominated the economy of the Piedmont counties which surround the city of Baltimore. The numerous swift streams which coursed through the Piedmont hills within a 25-mile radius of Baltimore were quickly tapped for power and turned hundreds of mill wheels in Harford, Baltimore, Carroll, Frederick, and Howard counties as the names of such well-known communities as Owings Mills, Union Mills, and Ellicott's Mills (now Ellicott City) attest. Baltimore's port was the focus of these activities, as is succinctly described in MARYLAND: A New Guide to the Old Line State: "In 1750 John Stevenson, an Irish immigrant, sent a shipment of flour back to Ireland [and this]....was the turning point in the town's fortunes....In 1756 a Baltimore ship sailed for the British West Indies with a mixed cargo consisting of flour...corn, beans...iron, barrel staves....Baltimore traders traveled through the high, well-watered valleys of the Piedmont, in Maryland and Southern Pennsylvania, dealing for the wheat crops that flourished in the region....The backlands filled with settlers....Much of their grain was shipped through Baltimore, and the trade stimulated the growth of flour mills and other related light industries."[29]

In Harford County alone, separated from Baltimore County in 1773, historians have counted an astonishing number of 18th and 19th century industrial establishments, with estimates ranging from "approximately 100 mills"[30] to approximately 400.[31] Harford County was the ideal site for such industries "because of the many streams ideally suited for furnishing power"[32] and because of the county's relative closeness to Baltimore, whose burgeoning population and deep-water shipping created a steady demand for milled goods for both the domestic and export markets.

Consequently, "for about 200 years" gristmills were "a most significant asset to our...life....The mill opened up new channels of trade and provided county folks with an opportunity to convert the products of their labor into food and cash....Several mills were located in various sections of the county by...1773....Soon after 1800, with the development of a system of crude roads, mills began to spring up on almost every usable stream," wrote Harford County historian C. Milton Wright.[33]

Where once there were hundreds, now there are "fewer than a dozen of these centers of industry" in the county.[34] (The number is difficult to state with certainty since virtually all the extant mills have been converted to other uses; sometimes the conversion has been successful and the old mill is still visually evident, as at Whitaker's Mill, a private residence since the 1950s; sometimes the results are less happy.) Only two historic mills in the county are still functioning, Walters Mill (a 1901 replacement of a c.1750 structure) and Rock Run (c.1794 and part of the Susquehanna State Park; it runs at a few specified times and then only to grind grain for tourists); both Walters and Rock Run are included in the proposed Lower Deer Creek Valley Historic District.

Geographic distance from towns determined which of two systems of development land around the mills would take. Most of the county's mills were built near market towns; thus the mills and the miller's house became isolated

See Continuation Sheet No. 13

incidents in the landscape since the millers could easily go to town for the mail, for groceries, and to see the doctor. On the other hand a few of Harford's mills were simply too far from towns and the towns had to come to the mills. The result was such villages of Jerusalem and Mill Green, communities which became the centers of life to farmers for miles around.

Harford's once-thriving milling industry came to an end in the early part of this century, as the vast fields of the midwest and plains states combined with railroading to render Maryland milling largely obsolete. Mill after mill shut down in Harford in the first quarter of the century; once shut down they were generally abandoned and destroyed. The mill at Mill Green stopped functioning possibly as late as about 1933 when major elements of equipment were removed. Somehow the mill building survived, as did the village which grew up around it; today both mill and village combine to provide a rare visual reminder of America's coming to industrial and commercial maturity.

The details of Mill Green's history, which follow, will bear out these generalities.

At about the time of the American Revolution, one William Ashmore arrived in the unsettled wilderness of north-central Harford County and began buying and patenting tracts of land along the east-flowing Broad Creek and its tributaries. Ashmore prospered. In the 1798 federal tax his property was valued at $3,390.45, the second highest in his Hundred; this consisted of 1,208 acres of land, a "Gristmill (25 x 45), stone" and a "13 x 18 2-story house, stone." The mill became a local landmark. Historian Mary Bristow has determined that "Ashmore's mill was declared a polling place in 1775" and the mill was "often cited as a survey call in land transactions and commissions."[35] The mill also became a starting point when county roads were laid out hereabouts: in the 1786 court records "William Prigg is named overseer for the road...to Ashmore's Mill"[36] and many c.1800 deeds contain references similar to the following, which appeared in 1814: "the land on the road leading from Stafford Mills to Ashmore's Mills."[37] When a road was laid out to link Baltimore (via the county seat, Bel Air) to the rich farms of southern York County, Pennsylvania, the county commissioners gave the surveying crew nine "noted places" to use as landmarks; number three was "Ashmore's Mill."[38]

On William Ashmore's death the property passed to his son John, a vigorous character not unacquainted with the county courts for on at least one occasion he "was accused of assault and battery by a neighbor."[39] John Ashmore and his wife, Margaret, had a daughter Susanna; the daughter married Nathaniel Bemis and in 1821 the Ashmores deeded to the Bemises seven parcels of land totalling over 1,600 acres; the Bemises pledged a $10,000 bond to the Ashmores and allowed the older generation to live in "the stone house near the mill" and guaranteed them produce from "the garden and firewood left at the door;" they also pledged to supply the Ashmores "with sufficiency for three persons of wheat, corn, and rye flour, sugar, tea, and coffee, pork, beef and fish and also two cows and one horse and keep the same as they keep their own."[40]

See Continuation Sheet No. 14

By this time the original Ashmore mill was 50 years old. In 1827 Bemis replaced it with a new 3½-story stone structure, the existing Mill Green mill (see Description). Maryland mill expert John McGrain has determined that the "new" mill was built on the same spot as the old, and used the same millrace. The race that powered the mills still flows; it is a long, narrow stream which begins at a dam on Broad Creek about 500 yards northwest of the mill. Bemis used an undershot wheel to power the mill and this was something of a local rarity: "the principal type of wheel used in Harford County was the overshot" writes one historian; "there were several breast wheels and a very few undershot wheels."[41] Mill and millrace, much repaired, have survived; the wheel, rotted, was removed c.1933 when milling operations may have ceased.

The Bemises also, it is thought, expanded the old 13' x 18' Ashmore stone house by adding a 2½-story frame wing, bankhouse style, to the south; later owners have added other wings, but both the Bemises' and the Ashmores' wings still stand and are easily discernable. Bemis was recalled as "a man of some means...[who] was probably the first one in this community to own a carriage and when he drove up to the old Slate Ridge Presbyterian Church the folks looked with wonder at him as though he were a nabob."[42]

Bemis, who was pleased enough with his new mill to incorporate an oval datestone in the south gable end ("N.S. Bemis Mills 1827") didn't retain ownership very long; in 1832 he and his wife sold 214 acres immediately east of the mill and bordering on Broad Creek to John Robinson for $2,575;[43] then in 1838 they sold 476 acres and the mill and house to Thomas H. Roberts for $7,700;[44] Roberts had been born in Virginia but moved to Maryland around 1825.[45]

Roberts died in 1841, aged but 36; his elegantly furnished house--the old Ashmore-Bemis house--contained furniture worth roughly $1,500 including many pieces of mahogany, "1 fine rug," several gilt looking glasses, "40 yards of English carpeting," an eight-day clock, and a good deal of silver; he owned some livestock but most of his assets consisted of items such as "oats...100 Bushels" and "wheat supposed to be 100 barrels" as well as milling equipment. His house had "a dozen Fancy Chairs" which probably meant painted chairs, suggestive of ties to Baltimore, then the center of painted furniture in America; this speculation is confirmed when Roberts's heirs filed an "Additional Inventory" which included rental "property in the City of Baltimore," "one small two story house and lot on block [?] street, $800," "one small two-story house and lot on Bond Street, $1,100," and "one large two story house and lot on Ann Street, $2,500."

A few years later Roberts's widow, Margaret, married St. Clair Streett, descendant of War of 1812 hero Col. John Streett and Martha St. Clair, builders the elegant Col. John Streett House (National Register), c.1810 about five miles from Mill Green. It suggests Mill Green's remoteness that the widowed Mrs. Roberts had to look five miles away (an enormous distance at the time) to find someone "suitable" for her remarriage.

The remarriage caused an altering of ownership in Mill Green. In 1866 the now Mrs. Streett purchased the 43-acre mill lot (and house) from her deceased first husband's estate. The same year Mrs. Streett's son William G. Roberts

See Continuation Sheet No. 15

purchased two parcels of land just north of the mill (totalling 182 acres) from the estate and built the frame house known as the Roberts House (see attached sketch map) with its array of outbuildings (carriage shed, hay mow, and barn). There is nothing on this site on the 1856 county map but when Martinet mapped Harford County in 1878 he showed a dot on this spot and labeled it "Wm G. Roberts."

The Streetts lived in high style in the old stone and frame house, employing a series of millers to do the actual work at the mill. The 1880 census lists Margaret Streett as owning "one custom mill" worth $4,000 with two employees, "3 run of stones and 60 bu/diem maximum;" the race drove the undershot wheel "at 6 rpm;" output was "200 bbl flour, 70 tons meal, 13.7 tons feed, 1 ton buckwheat" in all worth $3,100. The Mill Green mill was about an average operation in the county; for comparative purposes, Noble's Mill (built in 1854) on Deer Creek was valued at $8,000; the three employees there turned out "400 bbl flour, 240 tons meal, 23 tons feed, and 2.5 tons buckwheat" worth $8,000; the well-known Amos Mill turned out "500 bbl flour, two tons meal, 62.5 tons feed."

Margaret Streett died in 1883; the fine Baltimore furniture was still in the house and was essentially identical to what was listed 40 years earlier. Mrs. Streett willed $500 in cash to son William; the rest of her assets were to be sold with half the proceeds going to son John Roberts and half going to Sally, her daughter by Streett. The sale didn't take place until 1915 (!); that year George Peverly "of Middletown, Delaware" paid the Streett/Roberts heirs $2,400 for the house, mill, and 60 acres.[46] (Part of the reason for the delay, according to the Orphans Court papers, was that son William Roberts "departed this life some years ago without an estate" and it took some time to settle his affairs.)

The purchase price of $2,400--half the mill's appraised value in 1880--suggests that milling operations at Mill Green were not, in 1915, a growth industry. The inevitable came in 1933; that year Peverly's heirs abandoned milling and sold the property to Lawrence Goodwin, who valued the site for its scenic, quiet qualities rather than its industrial potential. Goodwin removed the millwheel (which had rotted), and converted the house and grounds to a retreat for country estate type living. This certainly marks the end of the district's period of significance. It is important to note that all changes and additions are clearly distinguishable from the Ashmore-Bemis buildings. None of the changes jeopardizes the district's integrity.

While the mill and the acreage west of Broad Creek passed from Bemis to Roberts to Streett, important changes--such as the creation of Mill Green Village--were taking place on the land east of the creek. Recall that in 1832 the Bemises sold 214 acres east of Broad Creek to John Robinson. Robinson farmed the land and built a frame house for himself and his family (HA-99) and he probably built a frame tenant/farmer's house as well (HA-100). In 1852 he sold all the land south of Mill Green Road (141 acres) to one John Biles;[47] Robinson died in 1856. His estate inventory shows $852.84 worth of personal property; he kept 10 sheep, 4 hogs, 3 cattle and an unspecified number of chickens; he had "10 acres wheat," "10 acres oats," and had just harvested "lot buckwheat." Certainly the presence of the mill made grain-growing a sensible occupation. In addition

See Continuation Sheet No. 16

to farming, Robinson must have carried on other trades as well for his inventory includes a good deal of cooperage equipment (identified as such), and barrels would not be unuseful in a milling community.

The configuration of Robinson's house is not clear although certain phrases (e.g., "carpet in parlor" and "carpet upstairs") suggest that the extant house is indeed Robinson's (see Description). Robinson had two sons, John and Joseph; he also had four daughters two of whom, Hannah and Elizabeth, married into the Huff family: the former wed George Huff in 1849, the latter wed John Huff in 1845. The house would stay in the Robinson-Huff family until 1927,[48] a date which further supports the period of significance chosen.

Robinson willed some livestock, bedding, and "chiney and Crockerware [sic]" to son John and an unmarried daughter; the rest was to be sold with the proceeds equally divided among all six children. In 1858 the house and 62 acres thus passed to George Huff for $1,350.[49]

The heirs excepted from the sale a 3½-acre parcel at the intersection of Mill Green's two roads, a site which already contained the house of John Robinson, Jr. (HA-94). This small lot was sold to John Michael Huff and Edward Treakle in 1876;[50] the two men established a store in the building and the federal government granted them the privilege of operating a post office there as well. The "Store, Huff & Treackle [sic]" is clearly shown on the 1878 county map; it and the Robinson-Huff House are the only structures shown on the north side of the road on that highly reliable map. In 1884 Treakle sold his interest in the 3½ acres, which according to the deed contained the "store and other outbuildings" to Huff; a long-time resident recalled in 1933 that the "store and post office" were "kept by J. Michael Huff....[it] was a center for the entire countryside where they [area farmers] brought their produce and obtained supplies and mail once a week....[It] was located directly in the village....The first telephone in Mill Green was in the store....Having a post office, which served a wide territory, in this same building helped bring business to the store."[51]

Treakle meanwhile had bought a 1½-acre lot on the south side of Mill Green Road in 1873[52] and built the building known as HA-95. Here he and Alonzo Huff "conducted an undertaking establishment" under "the name of Huff and Treakle;" Treakle also used the same property to conduct "blacksmith and wheelright operations."[53] Treakle's descendants would own and live in the house until 1935,[54] virtually the same time the mill ceased functioning and the Robinson-Huff House was sold out of that family.

Title to Treakle's small lot goes back to the 141 acres on the south side of Mill Green Road which John Robinson had sold in 1852. The purchaser was John Biles, a farmer attracted to Mill Green from his native Chester County, Pennsylvania. Biles built the main section of the house known as HA-96; the massing and most of the details of the structure suggests mid-19th century Harford County while the building's two front doors imply Biles's Pennsylvania origins (see Description). The house is shown ("Bile [sic]") on the 1856 map of Harford County. Biles also probably built a tenant/farmer's house (HA-97); this is a small log and frame building located near the long lane leading to the Biles

See Continuation Sheet No. 17

house. It is essentially a diminutive version of the larger dwelling.

Biles died in 1864. The compilers of his estate inventory listed five bedsteads, a dozen chairs, and other simple furnishings worth in all $149.25. The property passed to his son, Charles, who augmented farming income by building a combination sawmill/cider press on the farm: "they were located in the same building"[55] which Charles Biles built on Fulling Mill Branch, a small stream which still flows through the district. All of the "newer" houses in Mill Green sport virtually identical trim--porch balusters and posts, attic scrollwork, etc.; it is at least arguable that these details came from Biles's sawmill.

Biles ran into financial trouble; in 1870 he took out a mortgage which was foreclosed and in 1879, at a court-ordered equity sale, the property passed to Gabriel McComas and his daughter Amanda Scarff.[56] The newspaper ad for the Biles foreclosure sale describes the property as "the land on which Charles Biles now resides containing 140 acres, more or less....The improvements consist of a comfortable two-story log and frame DWELLING HOUSE, frame barn, Hay House, Wagon and Cow Shed, and other outbuildings. Also a log and frame TENANT HOUSE in good repair, &c, [and a] SAW MILL in running order. There is a thrifty young Apple and Peach Orchard." According to local sources the new owners then built a long five-bay extension off the kitchen wing, spanned the entire enlarged with a one-story porch thus orienting it to the old road between Bel Air and Pennsylvania, and operated the structure as the Mill Green Hotel.[57] It is this enlarged structure (which is framed in milled lumber not logs, as is the older section) which has lasted, virtually unchanged, to the present day.

There would be only one more building added to Mill Green: ownership of the 3½-acre store/post office lot passed to Charity Huff and in 1898 she sold "one acre, three roods, and ten square perches" to William Arthur.[58] In 1933 one long-time area resident recalled that Arthur was a doctor who "erected a fine home in Mill Green and...attained great popularity as a physician."[59] This house is HA-98, a fine frame dwelling that still retains the small one-room wing presumably built by Arthur as his office.

Dr. Arthur's professional predecessors as Mill Green's resident physician were all members of the Roberts family. Dr. George Roberts, a son of the Thomas Roberts who bought the mill in 1838, was the best known and "the talented Dr. Roberts" was remembered as "the head in this community."[60] Dr. Roberts apparently remained a bachelor; he "lived in the old home...with his mother and sister;"[61] an examination of courthouse records reveals that he never bought any real estate in the county and when he died in 1876 his estate inventory contains no furniture other than "1 chair, $1.50."[62] In fact of his personal property of $185, all is directly accountable to his profession: the "1 bay mare, $75" pulled either the "slay [sic], $8" or "1 buggy, $50" which took the doctor on his rounds; he kept warm thanks to "1 buffalo robe, $10;" the horses were controlled by "harness etc. $1.50." Except for "1 hog, $7" his only other asset was "medicines, $15." He had no will so his surviving siblings inherited his goods.

In the interim between drs. Roberts and Arthur, villagers had their health attended to by Roberts's nephew, William G. Roberts's son Thomas--"Dr. Thomas H. Roberts...[who] was about the last of the old-time country doctors who had

See Continuation Sheet No. 18

started practice on horseback," as one resident recalled him. Dr. Roberts also drew admiring words from the compilers of the 1897 Portrait and Biographical Record of Cecil and Harford Counties who wrote "There are few, if any, of the citizens of Harford County who surpass the subject of this biography in ability or popularity." Dr. Roberts was "born on the old homestead property at Mill Green...in 1840;" he attended the medical school of the University of Pennsylvania from which he was graduated in 1865; he returned to his native Mill Green and opened his practice. "He is a very busy man having, in addition to the management of a large [medical] practice, the responsibility of superintending the farm where he resides and the mill upon the place as well as the raising of cattle....When at leisure from professional cases, he may be found on his country estate...[which] presents a picture of rural comfort."[63] (Dr. Thomas Roberts shortly thereafter abandoned Mill Green in favor of the greater center of population, Churchville, a town about 10 miles to the south.[64])

In 1961 a Huff-Robinson descendant summed up the village's recent history: "Mill Green is not one of the thriving business centers today. When the railroad was built from Baltimore to Delta [it bypassed Mill Green and] the post office was moved from Mill Green to Highland to take advantage of the modern means of transporting mail. No water transportation, railroads, or important highways were built to Mill Green. Consequently few residents came here. Many of the industries did not survive because more modern methods outmoded them....A few families owned most of the land in Mill Green and there was no room for outsiders to buy. The residents liked the village with its adjoining farms and gurgling creek...."[65]

It is, of course, precisely this quality of being "outmoded" which has preserved Mill Green: there has always been enough money to keep the existing buildings repaired but there has been no reason to add or replace anything. As a result the village has been frozen, unchanged, for the past century and stands as a virtually intact--and rare--example of the sort of self-sufficient 19th-century rural industrial community that once dominated the landscape and economy of Piedmont Maryland.

See Continuation Sheet No. 19

1. There are only two functioning mills remaining in the county, neither of which has a millrace; the overshot wheel at Rock Run is powered by water which reaches the mill through a long metal pipe; Walter's Mill on Deer Creek is powered by BG&E-generated electricity; there is a millrace at Wilson's Mill on Deer Creek, but it was "restored" in the 1930s by architects Mellor & Meigs as a landscape/garden feature.

2. C. Milton Wright, Our Harford Heritage, (Bel Air: privately printed, 1967, p. 178).

3. Harford County deed Book JLG P, Page 298; recorded June 1, 1801.

4. Deed HD 5/61, dated May 11, 1821.

5. James T. Wollon, Jr., AIA, "Notes on Mill Green," prepared c.1984 for the annual house tour of the Historical Society of Harford County.

6. Deed HD 21/214.

7. See Equity Record WHD 7/376-379.

8. Deed ALJ 1/241.

9. Henry Glassie, Patterns in Material Folk Culture of the Eastern United States, (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1968), pp. 54-59.

10. Harford County Estate #3276.

11. "Lest We Forget," p. 5.

12. The Aegis and Intelligencer, August 29, 1879.

13. Susan Snodgrass, "Lest We Forget," unpublished paper written in 1961, p. 10; typescript in files of Historical Society of Harford County, Bel Air.

14. Deed ALJ 28/344; recorded March 31, 1873.

15. Deed WHD 16/37.

See Continuation Sheet No. 20

16. William H. Day, "Mills on Broad Creek," in the Bel Air Times, December 1933; clipping in the files of the Historical Society of Harford County, Bel Air.

17. Deed ALJ 51/308.

18. Deed SWC 234/471.

19. Deed ALJ 9/377.

20. The period of time involved--marriage in the 1840s, this deed in the early 20th century--suggests the relationship indicated; of course Hannah Robinson Huff could have died and Charity could have been George's second wife; these are, however, somewhat minor points.

21. Deed HD 15/135.

22. Deed ALJ 22/237.

23. "Lest We Forget," pp. 4-5.

24. Deed ALJ 29/189.

25. Deed ALJ 34/113.

26. Day, "Mills on Broad Creek."

27. Deed WSF 99/355.

28. Day, "Mills on Broad Creek."

29. Edward C. Papenfuse et al., MARYLAND: A New Guide to the Old Line State, (Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1976), pp. 352-353.

30. C. Milton Wright, Our Harford Heritage, (Bel Air: privately printed, 1967), p. 166.

31. John McGrain, "The Molinography of Harford County," unpublished typescript in files of the Historical Society of Harford County, Bel Air.

32. Wright, Harford, p. 166.

See Continuation Sheet No. 21

33. Wright, Harford, pp. 167-170.

34. Wright,Harford, p. 166.

35. Mary Bristow, "Two Hundred Years on John's Adventure," in the Aegis, June 30, 1977.

36. Bristow, "Adventure."

37. Deed HD Y/47.

38. Deed JLG P/298.

39. Bristow, "Adventure."

40. Deed HD 5/503.

41. Wright, Harford, p. 167.

42. Day, "Mills on Broad Creek."

43. Deed HD 15/135.

44. Deed HD 21/214.

45. Portrait and Biographical Record of Cecil and Harford Counties, (New York: Chapman Publishing Company, 1897), p. 165.

46. Deed JAR 150/11.

47. Deed ALJ 1/241.

48. Deed DGW 206/333.

49. Deed ALJ 9/377.

50. Deed ALJ 34/113.

51. Day, "Mills on Broad Creek."

52. Deed ALJ 28/344.

53. Day

54. Deed SWC 234/471.

See Continuation Sheet No. 22

55. Day, "Mills on Broad Creek."

56. Deeds ALJ 41/326 and WSF 79/284.

57. See Maryland Historical Trust Inventory forms prepared by Jean S. Ewing c.1970 and updated c.1980.

58. Deed WSF 99/355.

59. Day, "Mills on Broad Creek."

60. Day, "Mills on Broad Creek."

61. Day, "Mills on Broad Creek".

62. Estate #4015.

63. Biographical Portrait, pp. 165-166.

64. Day, "Mills on Broad Creek."

65. Snodgrass, "Lest We Forget," p. 15.

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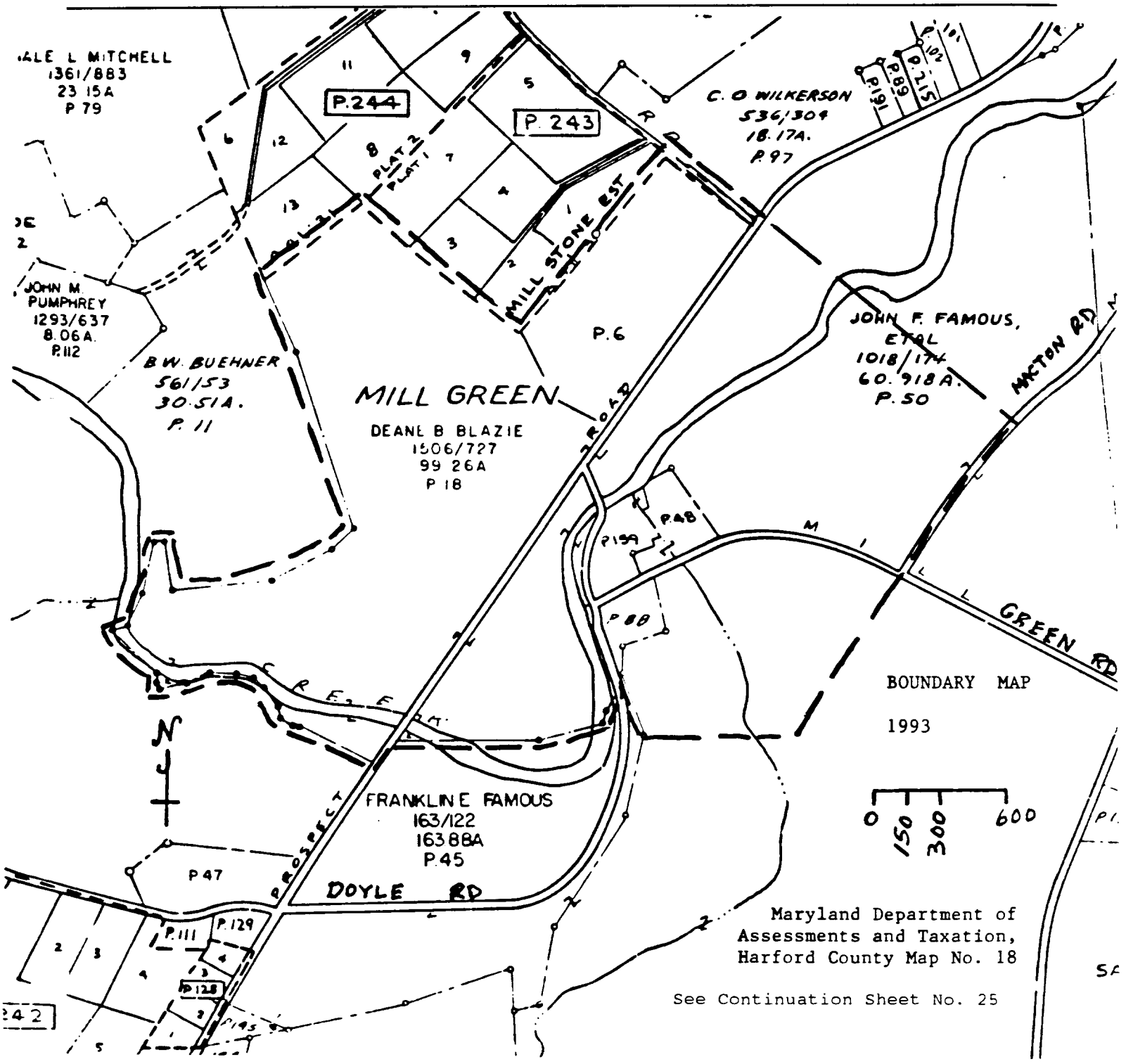
Edward C. Papenfuse et al., MARYLAND: A New Guide to the Old Line State, (Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1976).

Susan Snodgrass, "Lest We Forget," unpublished paper written in 1961; copy in files of Historical Society of Harford County, Bel Air.

William H. Day, "Mills on Broad Creek," Bel Air Times, December 1933.

BOUNDARY MAP



BOUNDARY MAP

1993

Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation, Harford County Map No. 18

See Continuation Sheet No. 25

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION:

Boundaries have been drawn to include land occupied by the historic structures and their historic surroundings. The acreage has been associated with the historic district since c.1770 and is necessary to maintain the resource's historic integrity of historic setting and character.

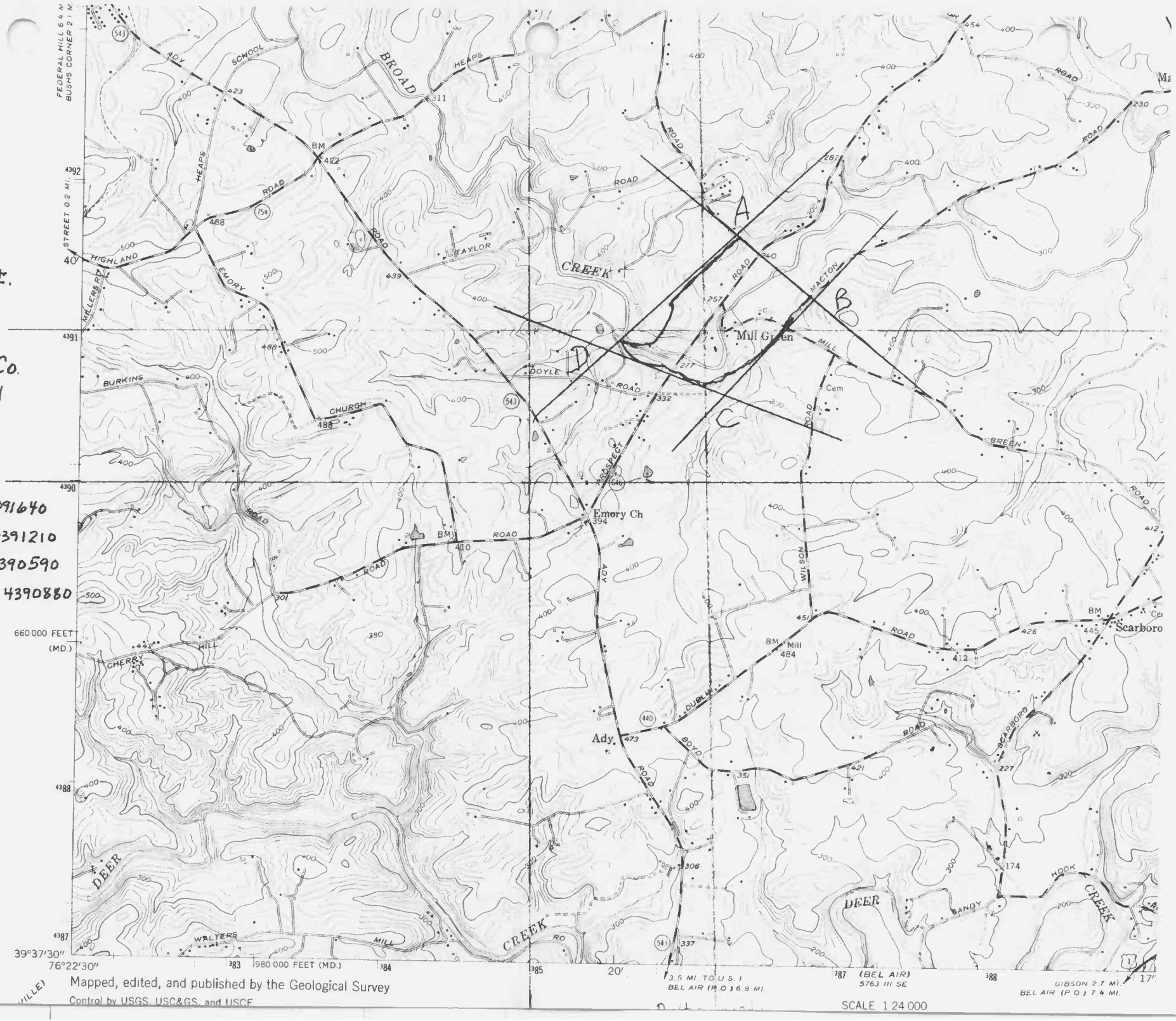
Mill Green
Hist. Dist.

HA-1781

Harford Co.
Maryland

A-18-386220-4391640
B 18-386720-4391210
C 18-386120-4390590
D 18-385510-4390880

Delta



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and USCE

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HA-1781

HA-1781

Mill Green MD

Harford Co. MD

c Creek

3/42

Hard Co. Planning Dept

Broad Creek in Tr[illegible]

3/15

HA-1781

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