

M: 27/19

Capsule Summary  
for  
Original Veirs Mill

June 1991

Mont. Co. survey prefix : 27  
Site number : 19  
Approx. building date : c. 1838  
Town/town vicinity : Rockville (vicinity)  
Access :  Public     Private

Short Description of Site:

According to several people with an interest in early Montgomery County mills, there are no above-ground remains of the Veirs Mill and its site has not been identified; an inspection of the general area provided no further clues.

Site Information Summary

for

Original Veirs Mill

June 1991

Site number : M:27-19  
Co. tax account number :  
Street address : Vicinity of Rock Creek and Viers Mill Road  
Name of property owner : M-NCPPC  
Addr. of property owner : 8787 Georgia Avenue  
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Historic Preservation Master Plan Recommendation: Unqualified

Historic Preservation Ordinance Criteria

(1) *Historical and cultural significance.* The historic resource:

- a. Has character, interest or value as part of the development, heritage or cultural characteristics of the county, state or nation;
- b. Is the site of a significant historic event;
- c. Is identified with a person or group of persons who influenced society;
- d. Exemplifies the cultural, economic, social, political or historic heritage of the county and its communities.

(2) *Architectural and design significance.* The historic resource:

- a. Embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction;
- b. Represents the work of a master;
- c. Possesses high artistic values;
- d. Represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or
- e. Represents an established and familiar visual feature of the neighborhood, community or county due to its singular physical characteristic or landscape.

Environmental Setting Recommendation:

N/A

Analysis of Evaluation  
for  
Original Veirs Mill

M: 27-19

June 1991

Value Descr.			
Outstanding			
Considerable			✓
Moderate			
Minor			
Evaluation Criteria	Arch. Signif.	Arch. Integrity	Historical Signif.

Procedure:

Rating =  $\frac{\# \text{ of Boxes Selected}}{12} \times 100$

0 - 25 % = Unqualified  
25 - 50 % = Minimal  
50 - 75 % = Mid-level  
75 - 100% = Good  
90 - 100% = Natl. Reg. (with possible exceptions)

**Rating for this site: Unqualified (no remains; site not identified)**

Criteria:

Arch. Significance - that quality which embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose component may lack individual distinction.

Historical Significance - that quality present in sites associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or that are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past; or that have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in history.

Arch. Integrity - determined by the number of architectural changes to the site...using the following list as a guide...(and) noting other unusual changes.

Detrimental Changes (depending on the quality of its original character):

- \_\_\_ new or relocated chimney
- \_\_\_ rebuilt foundation
- \_\_\_ new porch
- \_\_\_ original windows changed (at a later, but still historical, date)
- \_\_\_ modern windows in original frames
- \_\_\_ original windows intact but extra ones added
- \_\_\_ change in shape or size of window openings
- \_\_\_ lack of outbuildings
- \_\_\_ aluminum siding (unless original architraves and trim are retained)
- \_\_\_ asphalt or asbestos siding (over original siding)
- \_\_\_ recent change of location

Critical Changes:

- \_\_\_ aluminum siding added; architraves eliminated
- \_\_\_ additions engulfing or removing portions of original building

Value Descriptions

Outstanding - distinguished; of particular import. to Md. historic & arch. past.

Considerable - deserving of recognition; contributes to the understanding of history or architectural heritage represented in Maryland

Moderate - commonality...lack of historic signif. or arch. style, except if scarce

Minor - unimportant or inferior; little arch. worth and absence of hist. importance

Survey No. M: 27/19  
Magi No.  
DOE \_\_\_yes \_\_\_no

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Original Veirs Mill

and/or common Same

## 2. Location

street & number Near the intersection of Rock Creek and Veirs Mill Road  
in the vicinity of Twinbrook Parkway \_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Rockville \_\_\_X vicinity of congressional district 8

state Maryland county Montgomery

## 3. Classification

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

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

name Maryland National Capital Park & Planning Commission

street & number 8787 Georgia Avenue telephone no.: (301) 495-4570

city, town Silver Spring state and zip code Maryland 20910

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. None liber

street & number folio

city, town state

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title None

date \_\_\_ federal \_\_\_ state \_\_\_ county \_\_\_ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

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

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

According to several people with an interest in early Montgomery County mills, there are no above-ground remains of the Veirs Mill and its site has not been identified; an inspection of the general area provided no further clues.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Conversations with Robert Braumberg, mill researcher, Rockville, Maryland, and Michael Dwyer, Park Historian, M-NCPPC; 3/91

# 8. Significance

Survey No. M:27-19

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

**Specific dates** c. 1838 **Builder/Architect** Samuel Clark Veirs/---

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

Applicable Exception:  A  B  C  D  E  F  G

Level of Significance:  national  state  local

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

The original Veirs Mill was built by Samuel Clark Veirs sometime after 1838 on the 400 acre farm which Veirs acquired in that year about two miles south of Rockville, on Rock Creek; the farm was part of an original land grant called "Prevention".

Born near Dawsonville, Maryland, in 1798 (d. 1872), Samuel Clark Veirs was an important figure in the county. A member of a family reputed to have settled in Maryland before 1700, he served as a judge of the Orphans Court from 1864 to 1880 and was a successful farmer and miller. Although the spelling is different, Viers Mill Road was named in his honor.<sup>1</sup>

The sixth mill to be built on Rock Creek, Veirs Mill operated successfully for approximately 80 years. The mill is identified as "Rock Creek Mills" on the 1865 Martenet & Bond Map and the "Veirs Bros. Grist Mill" on the G.M Hopkins Atlas for 1879; it was located close to what is now the intersection of Aspen Hill and Viers Mill Roads.<sup>2</sup>

As an article on early mills notes, "The local mill was vital to American agrarian life in the seventeenth, eighteenth, and early nineteenth centuries...the locations of towns in early Maryland were often determined by the presence of suitable mill sites on creeks and rivers."<sup>3</sup>

The Veirs Mill (driven by an overshoot wheel nine feet broad) was representative of the larger "merchant mills" of the period. Operated on a full-time basis, they did custom milling for individual farmers and also bought grain from local growers, ground it, and sold the flour. The smaller "local" or "custom" mills ground the mill owner's grain and (upon payment of a toll) that of his neighbors.

The 1880 census listed Veirs and Bro. Mill as having 14 employees and a 100 bushel per day capacity.

Veirs mill, along with the Veirs house, Meadow Hall, was a landmark in the Rockville area for many years. After the coming of the railroad in 1873, improved transportation made local mills less of a necessity.

<sup>1</sup> Portrait and Biographical Record of the Sixth Congressional District, Maryland, Chapman Publishing, p.159.

<sup>2</sup> "The Molinography of Montgomery County," John W. McGrain.

<sup>3</sup> "Rockville Mills," Robert Braunberg.

John W. McGrain, "The Molinography of Montgomery County:", undated.  
Robert Braunberg, "Rockville Mills", Rockville Newsletter, June 18, 1975.  
Portrait and Biographical Record of the Sixth Veirs, Samuel Clark,  
Chapman Publishing, New York, 1898.

(cont.)

### 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property n/a

Quadrangle name Kensington

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing
C	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
E	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
G	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

B	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing
D	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
F	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
H	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

#### Verbal boundary description and justification

n/a

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

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

### 11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Lois Snyderman, Historic Preservation Consultant		
organization		date	June 1991
street & number	8804 Spring Valley Road	telephone	(301) 654-6423
city or town	Rockville	state	Maryland

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

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

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
Shaw House  
21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 269-2438

**#9. Major Bibliographical References (cont.)**

**Original Veirs Mill**

Historic Montgomery County, Maryland, Old Homes and History, Roger Brooke Farquhar, 1952.

Eleanor M.V. Cook, "Early Water Mills in Montgomery County", Montgomery County Historical Society Newsletter, Vol. 33, No. 4, November 1990.

G.M. Hopkins Atlas, 1879.

Interviews with Robert Braumberg, mill researcher, Rockville, Maryland and Michael Dwyer, Park Historian, Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission, March 1991.



