

ABSTRACT

WA-I-365

Red Mill

Williamsport Vicinity

private

Early 19th Century

This stone and timber frame mill is no longer standing. In ruins at the time it was photographed in 1975, the mill was destroyed shortly thereafter. The type of masonry utilized in the foundations, the timber framing, wrought nails and general construction techniques all suggest that it was built during the late 18th or early 19th century.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

WA-I-365  
District 2  
Map 48  
Parcel 65  
MAGI # 2205795314  
1399

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC  
Red Mill  
AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER  
Kemp's Mill Road, route 63, north of Williamsport

CITY, TOWN VICINITY OF Williamsport CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 6

STATE Maryland COUNTY Washington

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: Not In Use

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME Flo J. Forsyth C/O Donald C. Drury Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER  
33 East Potomac Street

CITY, TOWN Williamsport STATE, zip code Maryland 21740

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Washington County Court House

Liber #: 587  
Folio #: 606

STREET & NUMBER  
West Washington Street

CITY, TOWN Hagerstown STATE Maryland 21740

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION**

<b>CONDITION</b>		<b>CHECK ONE</b>	<b>CHECK ONE</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED After 1975		

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

The "Red Mill" which was in ruins when photographed in 1975 was shortly thereafter torn down so there is no longer any evidence of it remaining. It was situated on the south side of Semple's Run, a small tributary of the Conococheague Creek, west of Kemp's Mill Road just north of the Western Maryland Railroad tracks about one mile north of Williamsport in Washington County, Maryland. The mill stood on an area of level ground at the edge of the creek on a north-south axis with entrances in both the north and south elevations.

The mill was a frame structure which stood on stone foundations that formed the entire first story. It had at least three stories and was probably three and a half stories in height. Remains of the mill reveal timber frame construction with massive members showing evidence of both hewing and mill sawing. Joints are mortised, tenoned and pegged throughout. On the west elevation, the mill was sheathed with early beveled siding trimmed with a bead at the bottom edge. Elsewhere, late 19th century German siding was used. The foundations were of coursed native stones, relatively flat and uniform in size. Early mortar displayed the raised "V" design. Exposed joists above the second story openings protrude beyond the walls suggesting an overhang at the third story. Traces of red paint remained on exterior wood surfaces. All nails that were observed were hand wrought.

Framing of doors and windows was wide with pegged joining and quarter round trim. Windows in the frame portion varied in size and style suggesting several renovations.

Inside, the mill was supported by large chamfered posts finished with lamb tongues. On the ground at the interior were remains of stone milling machinery including parts of a cog wheel.

Also associated with the mill were stone walls which curbed the race and a stone arched culvert which carried the road over it.

On higher ground south of the mill are ruins of a house which appears to have burned. Presumably it was associated with the mill in some way.

The property on which these buildings stood has been known as the Red Mill Farm since the 19th century. The present tract contains 3.24 acres.

**8 SIGNIFICANCE**

WA-I-365

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900- Early	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)		
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION				

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This stone and timber frame mill is no longer standing. In ruins at the time it was photographed in 1975, the mill was destroyed shortly thereafter. The type of masonry utilized in the foundations, the timber framing, wrought nails and general construction techniques all suggest that it was built during the late 18th or early 19th century. A mill is depicted on this site on an 1808 Map of Washington County. A mill is not shown however, on a 1794 map of the County. It should be noted, however, that these maps are not completely accurate.

According to Washington County Land Records, this mill was for many years in the Van Lear Findley families who were related by marriage and who were prominent landowners in the Williamsport vicinity. The "Red Mill" property was part of the estate of Mary Van Lear, widow of Matthew Van Lear whose will was made in 1826 and probated in 1829. The mill became the property of her son Joseph T. Van Lear who willed it to his sister Sophia Findley who in turn sold it to David Z. Miller in 1863. (IN16/439 Chancery Records 10/465). In the 19th century records the complex is described as the "Red Mill" with improvements listed as a merchant mill and log dwelling house.

Further information on the Van Lear family will be found in survey form WA-I-023 for Tammany Manor, the Van Lear mansion near Williamsport.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Varle', Charles, Map of Frederick and Washington Counties, 1808.  
Washington County Land Records.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 3.24 acres

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	COUNTY
STATE	COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE	DATE
Paula Stoner Dickey, Consultant	October 1977
ORGANIZATION	TELEPHONE
Washington County Historical Sites Survey	791-3065
STREET & NUMBER	STATE
County Office Building, 33 West Washington Street	Maryland 21740
CITY OR TOWN	
Hagerstown	

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

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

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

*Williamsport Quadrangle*

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
CORPS OF ENGINEERS

*WN I-365*

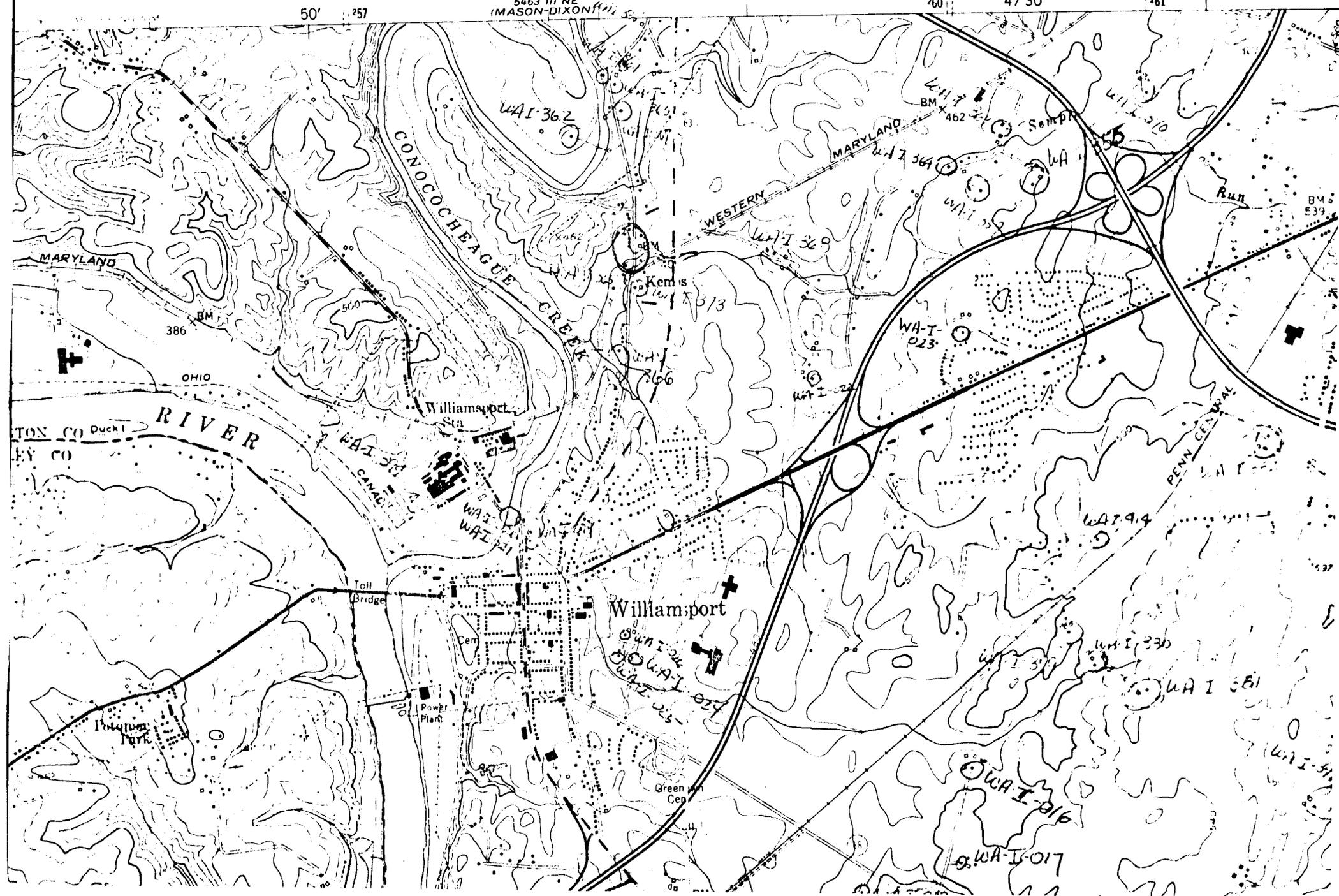
50' 257

5463 III NE  
(MASON-DIXON)

260

47'30"

261





1-1-52  
1000 E. 1st  
Blacksburg, VA

PAULA STONER DICKEY  
CONSULTANT, WASHINGTON CO.  
HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY



6/11/85  
1000  
Paula Stoner

PAULA STONER DICKEY  
CONSULTANT, WASHINGTON CO  
HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY



107 5 265  
2000 5 265

See also

March 1985

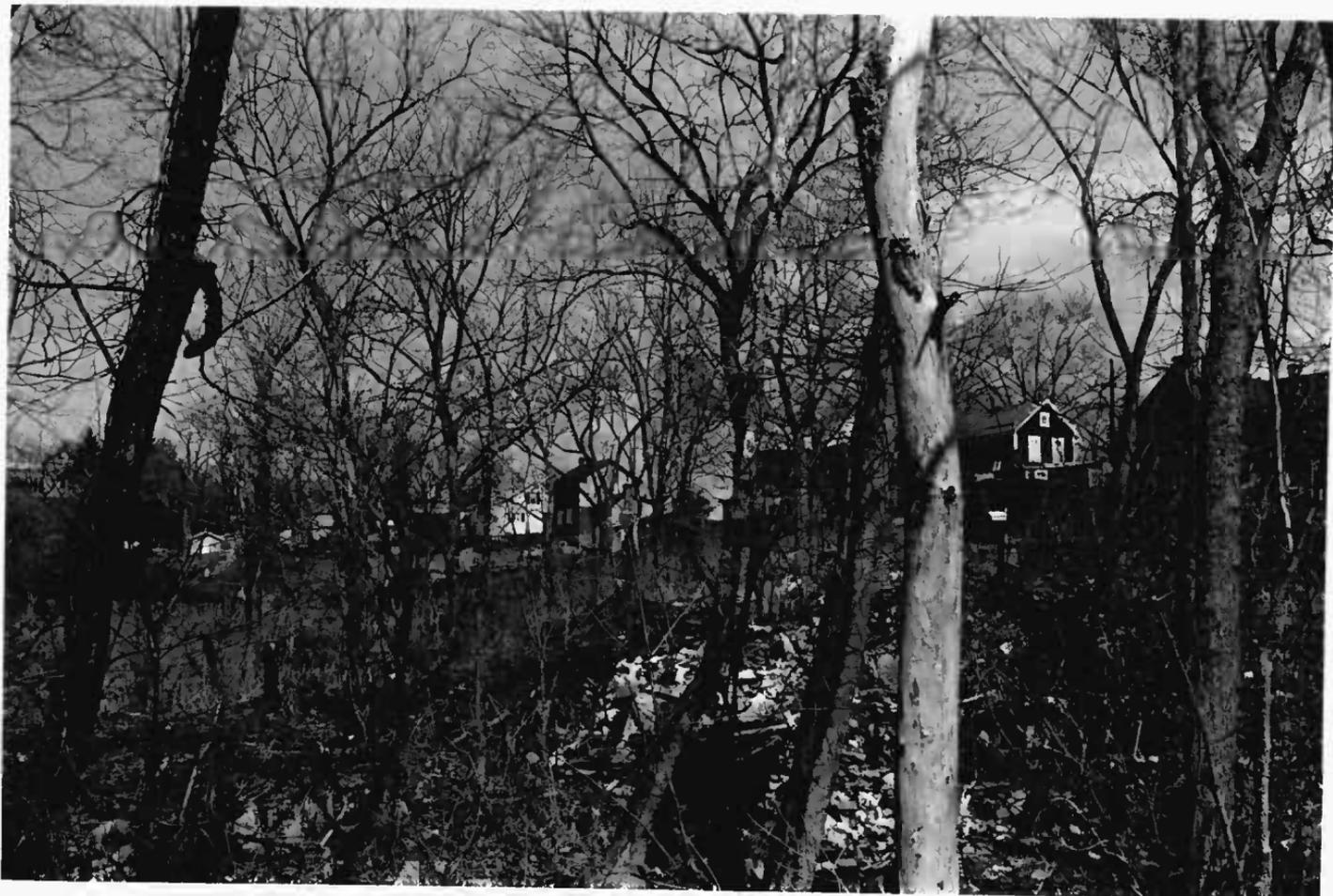
Red Mill

PAULA STONER DICKEY  
CONSULTANT, WASHINGTON CO.  
HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY



WPA 5-565  
d. 2. 1900  
H. 1900  
Bud Mill

PAULA STONER DICKEY  
CONSULTANT, WASHINGTON CO.  
HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY

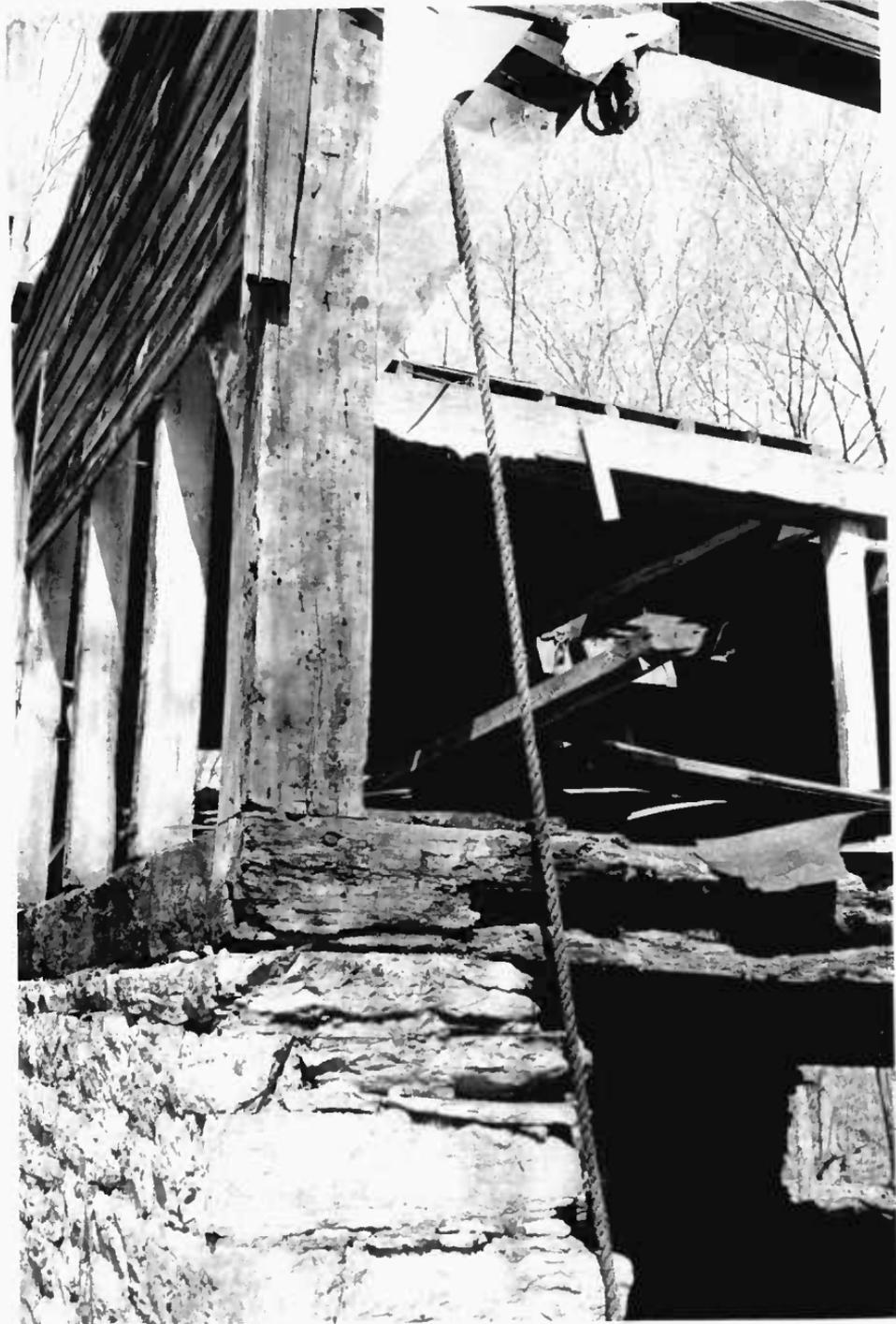


PA 200  
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100000

PAULA STONER DICKEY  
CONSULTANT, WASHINGTON CO.  
HISTORICAL SITE SURVEY







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2024-2025

**PAULA STORER DOWNEY**  
CONSULTANT, WASHINGTON CO  
HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY



1913-1914

1914-1915, 1915-1916, 1916-1917

1917-1918

1918-1919

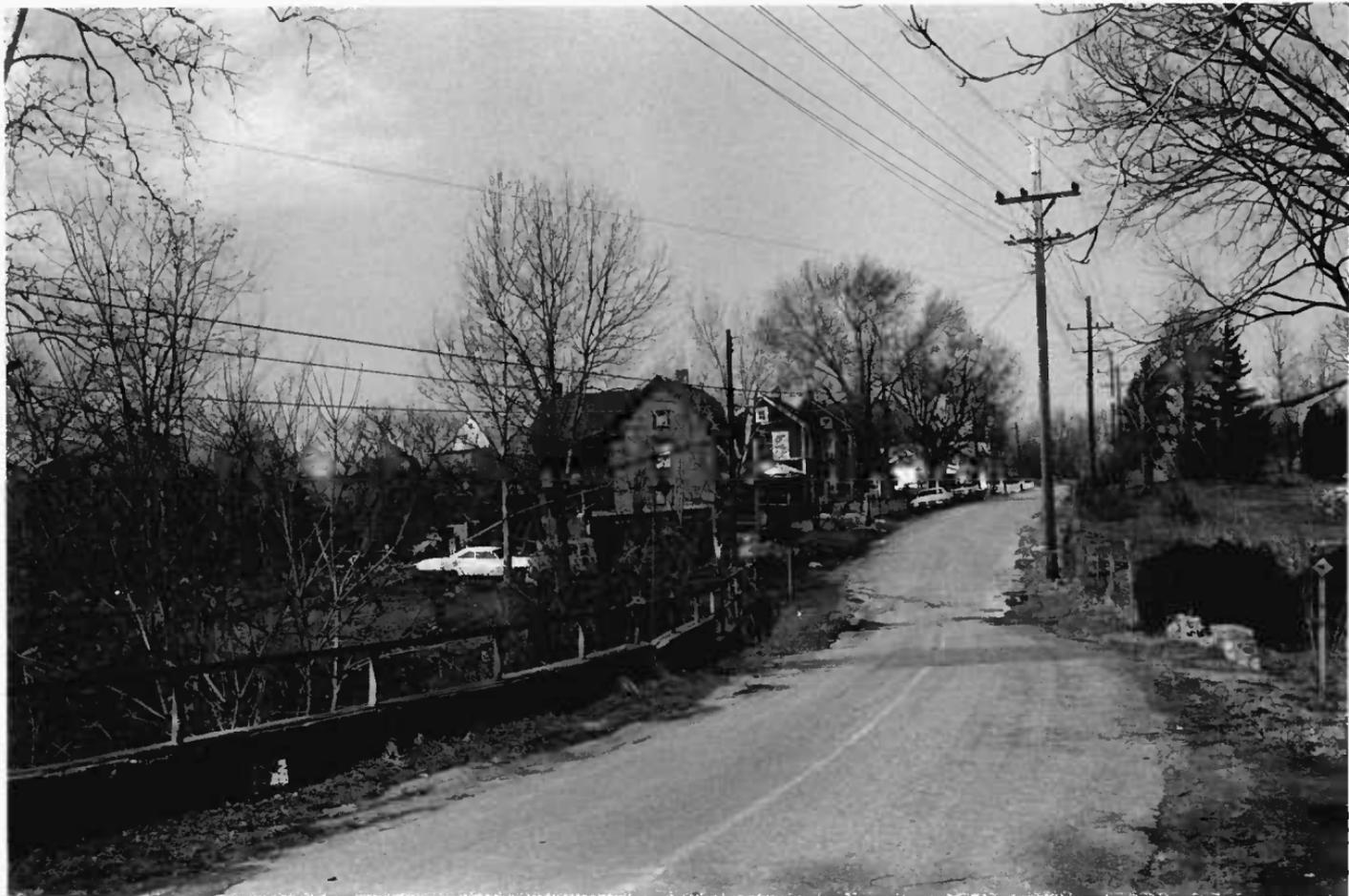
PAULA STONER DICKEY  
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HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY



44-1-6  
p. 1000  
of 1000

Red mill

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HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY



W. T. D.  
N. D. D.  
S. D. D.

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CONSULTANT, WASHINGTON CO.  
HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY



Paul  
Redmill

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