

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

WA-IV-078  
District 7  
Map 52  
Parcel 72  
MAGI # 2211685914

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC  
Diffendall Mill

AND/OR COMMON  
Grist Mill Site

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER  
Maryland Route 77

CITY, TOWN \_\_\_\_\_ CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 6  
 VICINITY OF Smithsburg  
STATE Maryland COUNTY Washington

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

| CATEGORY                                 | OWNERSHIP                                   | STATUS                                       | PRESENT USE  |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT        | <input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC             | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED | <input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE | <input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED          | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE       | <input type="checkbox"/> BOTH               | <input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS    | <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO       | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:                          |

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME Barret Clark Telephone #: \_\_\_\_\_  
STREET & NUMBER C/O Molly C. Day  
CITY, TOWN Smithsburg \_\_\_\_\_ VICINITY OF Maryland STATE, zip code 21783

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, LIBER #: 523  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. FOLIO #: 026  
Washington County Court House  
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**

| CONDITION                                |                                       | CHECK ONE   | CHECK ONE   |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT       | <input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED | <input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED                | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD | <input type="checkbox"/> RUINS        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED < 50% | <input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FAIR            | <input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED    |   |   |

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This property is the site of a stone grist mill which operated during the 1800's and until about 1930. The mill now stands in ruins. Nearby is a large log house covered with German siding. Apparently, it was part of the mill complex.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**8 SIGNIFICANCE**

| 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"/> 1600-1699            | <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-                | <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 group consisting of a stone mill and log house is reflective of the 19th century in Washington County where grain was an important crop and mills for processing that grain were numerous.

See attached data prepared by John Mcgrain and forwarded to the Maryland Historical Trust on July 12, 1982.

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 28 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

Paula Stoner, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Preservation Associates

July 1978

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

109 West Main Street, Box 202

301-432-5466

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Sharpsburg

Maryland 21782

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

The 1880 manufacturers census listed Samuel Diffendall's mill with \$2,000 capital investment; 3 employees; 20 hp steam saw mill; annual output of 75,000 board feet worth \$2,000.

The grist mill had \$5,000 capital investment; 3 employees, 2 run of burr stones, 150 bu/diem maximum capacity; A 28-foot fall on Cavetown Run of Beaver Creek drove a 20 hp overshot wheel 3 ft broad at 5.5 rpm. Output was 800 bbl flour (annually), 50 tons of meal, 78 tons of feed, 1.5 tons of hominy, 1 ton of buckwheat; total value of production, \$8,500.

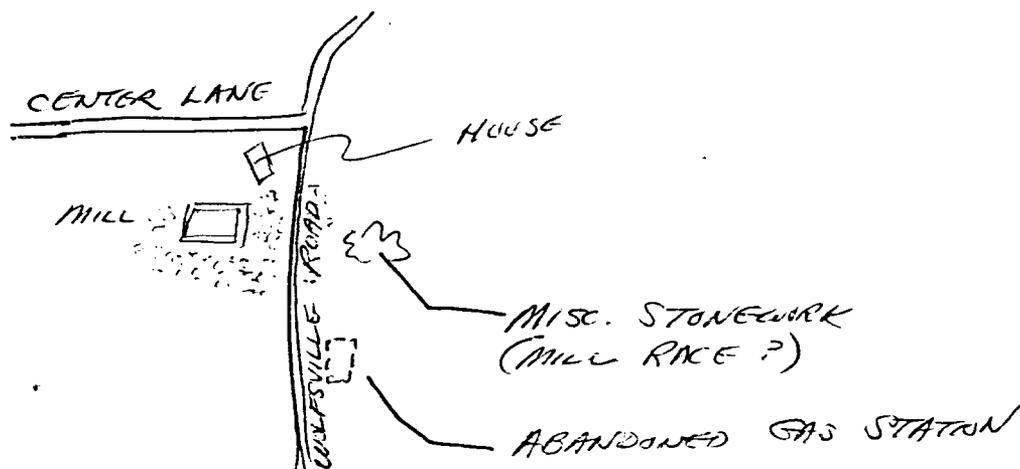
The 1880 Maryland Directory listed Samuel Diffendall as miller at Smithsburg.

Mentioned in Boonsboro News, Nov. 10, 1955. It was then a stone mill at Smithsburg, with a sandstone marker in the gable end inscribed "Osborn 1832." It was owned at one time by Samuel Diffendall who had been a miller at Clear Spring for Michael Smith. It was owned in 1955 by Leon Morgan.

In 1978 (March 4), Mrs. Wm. L. (Lea) Kersting of Chewsville wrote to John McGrain:

"I was really impressed by the Diffendall Mill ... I was driving around hunting for it and it just loomed up unexpectedly -- quite striking -- on the Wolfsville Road, off Rt. 77 .... There is a large hole in the center of the end wall but otherwise looks a lot better than Charles Mill."

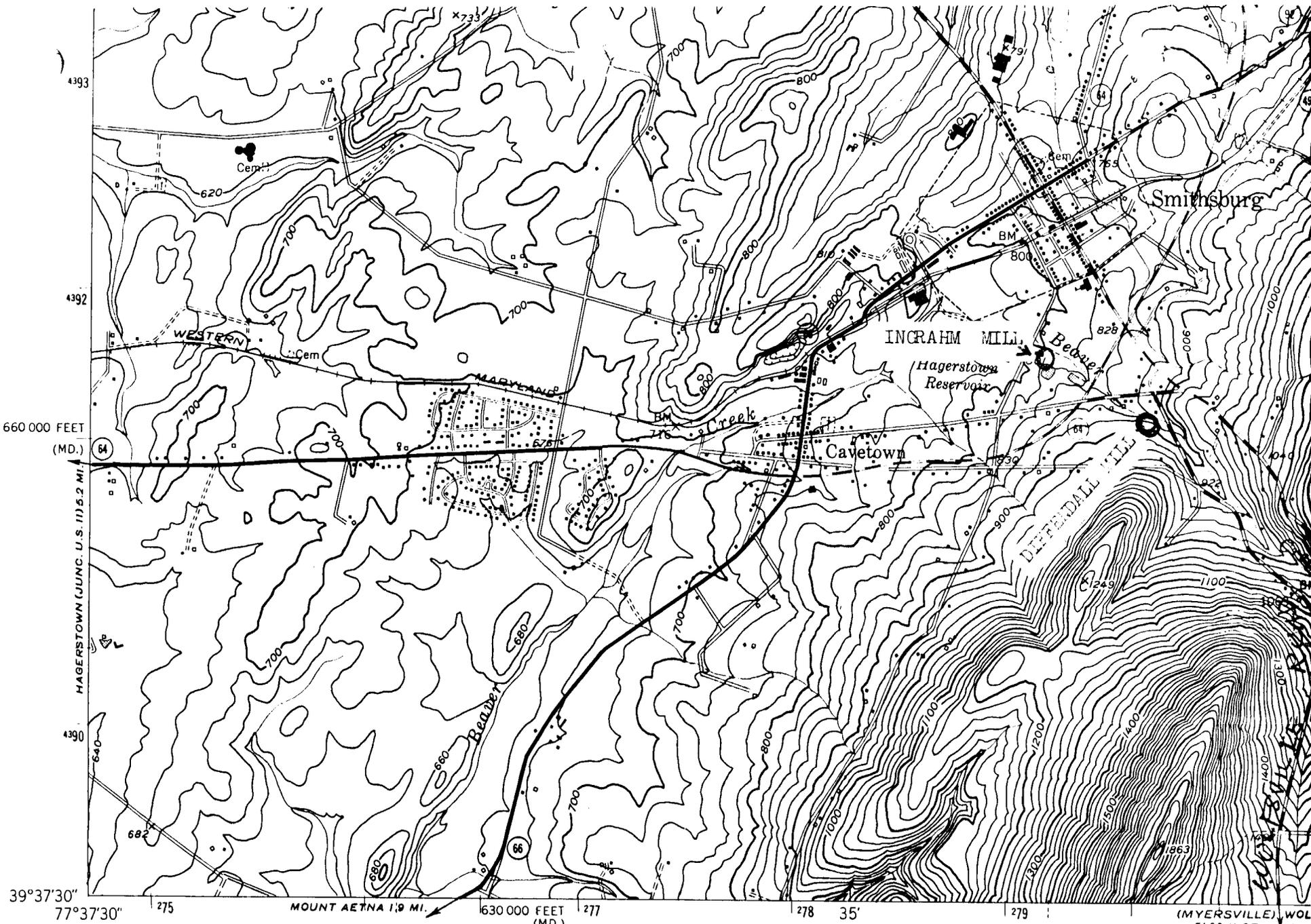
John McGrain took photos there before the vegetation came out on April 21, 1979. It is a ruinous stone mill. The chimney once passed out through the gable peak. No hood for the hoisting apparatus. Front wall was falling out. Property posted against trespassers. Flooding seems to take place here now. Skunk cabbage is coming up. Also wild flowers. The mill is about 36 by 50 feet, overall. Rectangular shape. Still has its roof. Across the road are ruins of a stone mill race and an abandoned gas station.





WM-III-078

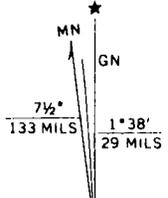
(FUNKSTOWN)  
5463 II SW



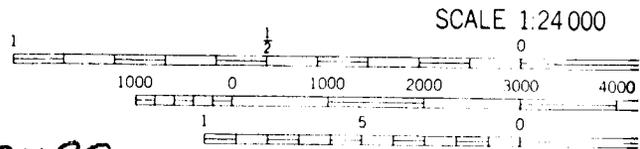
Mapped by the Army Map Service  
 Edited and published by the Geological Survey  
 Control by USGS and USC&GS

Topography from aerial photographs by stereophotogrammetric methods. Aerial photographs taken 1943. Field check 1944  
 Culture revised by the Geological Survey 1953

Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum  
 10,000-foot grids based on Maryland coordinate system,  
 and Pennsylvania coordinate system, south zone



PART OF  
**SMITHSBURG**  
 QUAD 1971 (PHOTOREV.)



SCALE 1:24 000  
 CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 FT  
 DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL

(MYERSVILLE) WOL  
 5463 II SE 1/10 M



WA-IV-078

E.

Dec. 1976

Grist Mill Site

Md. Rt. 77  
Smithsburg Vic.

PAULA STONER DICKEY  
CONSULTANT WASHINGTON, DC  
RESIDENCE 11225 14TH ST



WA-IV-078

E.

Dec. 1976

Grist Mill Site

Md. Rt. 77  
Smithsburg Vic.

PAULA STONER DIDREY  
CONSULTANT WASHINGTON DC  
HISTORICAL S.I.I.



Diffendall Mill      21 April 1979  
Smithsburg

John McGrain