

# Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties (MIHP) Property Detail Report

**QA-30**

**Unicorn Mill, site**

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**Inventory Number:** QA-30

**Property Name:** Unicorn Mill, site

**Address** Millington Road (MD 313)

**Town** Millington

**Zip Code** \_\_\_\_\_

**USGS Quadrangle(s)** Sudlersville

**Digitized in GIS** Yes

**Number of polygons** 1

**designation in GIS** QA-30

**Mapped on mylar** T

**Detail map code** \_\_\_\_\_

**Within NR district** F

**Within survey district** F

**Materials in vertical file** F

**Other** \_\_\_\_\_

**Additional Designations:**

National Register

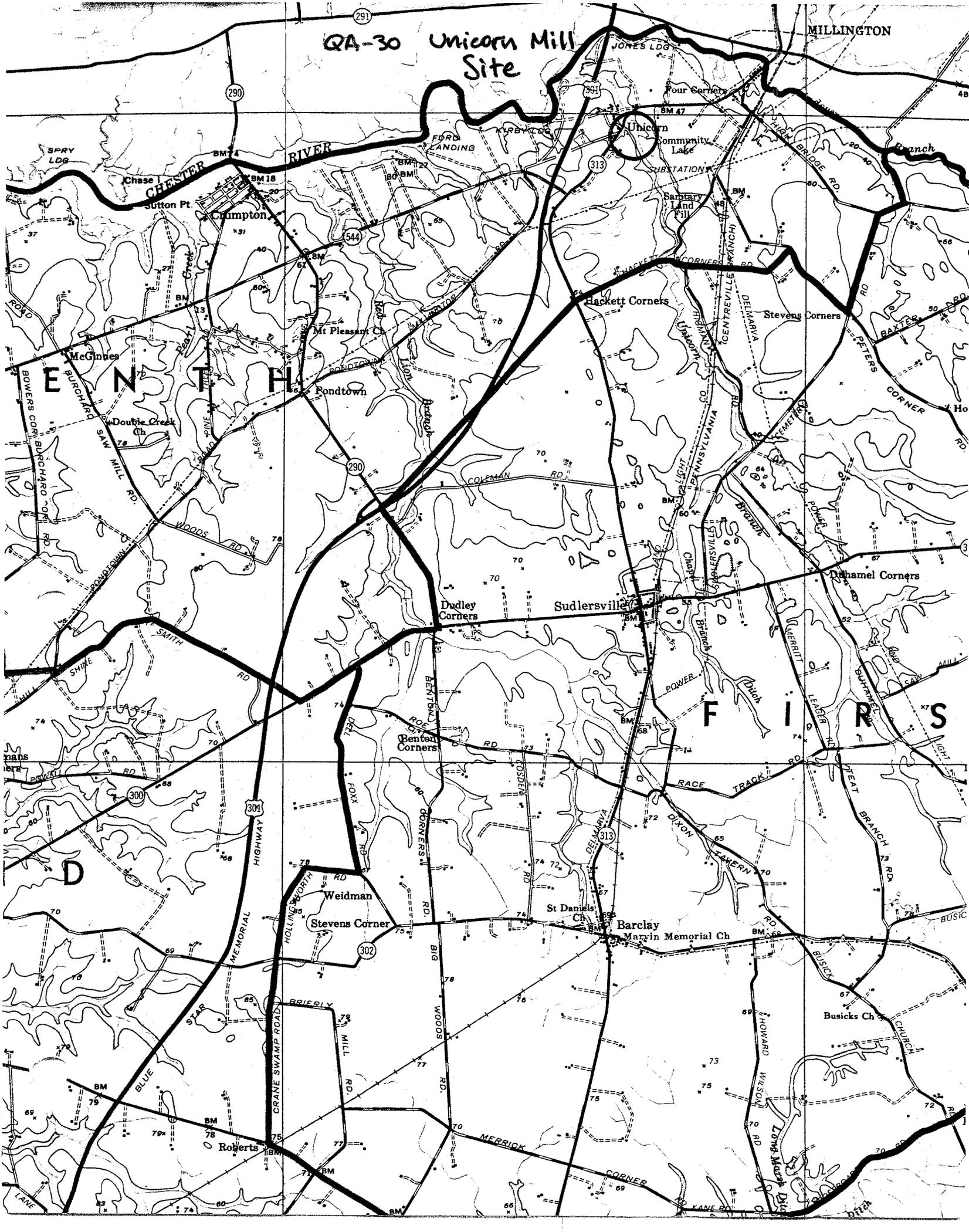
Preservation Easement

Determinations of Eligibility

Contributing Resource Determinations of Eligibility

Related Inventory Numbers

QA-30 Unicorn Mill Site



MILLINGTON

Chase  
Sutton Pt.  
Crumpton

Unicorn  
Community  
Lake

Hackett Corners

Stevens Corners

Mt Pleasant Ch

Pondtown

Dudley  
Corners

Sudlersville

Dehamel Corners

Benton  
Corners

F I R S

Weidman  
Stevens Corner

St Daniel's  
Ch

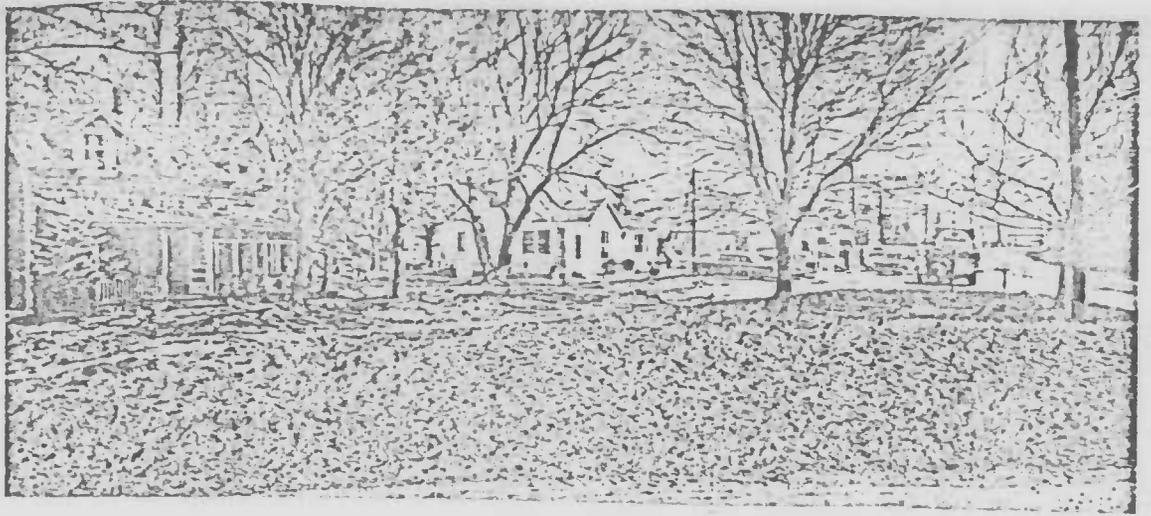
Barclay  
Margin Memorial Ch

Busicks Ch

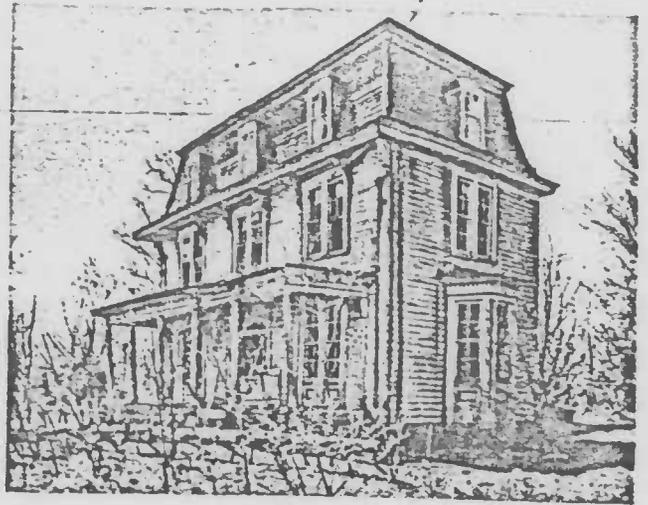
Roberts

Howard Wilson

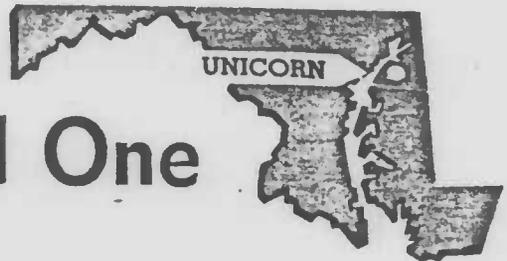
Low's Methodist  
Ch



Above, part of Unicorn in Queen Annes county, a community of about twenty houses on Route 313. Right, the crumbling "Mansion," once home of the owner of a woolen mill from which the name of the settlement possibly derives.



## Unicorn: It Really Had One



Maryland has many unusual place names, like Two Johns, Accident, Dames Quarter, Bestpitch, Plane No. 4 and Unicorn. This is another in a series of articles on the origins of these colorful names.

By John Dorsey

**UNICORN** is a settlement of about twenty houses on Route 313 in northeastern Queen Annes county. Its only business is a combined general store and filling station. Some of the residents are farmers, others work in nearby Millington or commute to Wilmington or Dover, Del.

The principal attraction of the area is Unicorn Lake, a 45-acre one that was obtained recently by the Maryland Game and Inland Fish Commission and has been turned into a public fishing spot. Opened to the public last year, it contains abundant supplies of bass, carp and pike.

From 1834 until about 1920 the lake was used as a mill pond by the Unicorn Mills, a woolen mill that may have given Unicorn its name. No one is quite sure whether it was the town or the mill that was named Unicorn first, but most residents think the latter more probable.

The mill is no longer there,

having closed about 40 years ago, but it left a landmark behind. Standing on a hill above Unicorn, surrounded by upstart trees, neglected shrubbery and weeds, is a large, gray, three-story Victorian house that is now nothing more than a shell, its doors gone, its floors and ceilings giving way, its empty rooms made eerie by the wind, which intrudes through broken windows and whines its way from room to room and up the ancient stairwell.

**T**HE old house was once the home of the Mallalieu, owners of the mill, and also served for a time as a boarding house for the mill workers. Vacant for many years, it is still referred to as the Mansion or the Boarding House by long-time residents of Unicorn.

Inhabitants of the village say it is a quiet place. They can recall no spectacular occurrences, but they do remember Unicorn's uni-

corn, a one-horned goat that lived in town during the late 1940's and early 1950's.

The goat, owned by Mr. and Mrs. Edward Van Sant, originally had two horns, but soon after it arrived in Unicorn it lost one of them. No one knows what happened, but the Van Sants think the goat may have lost it in a battle with another animal. Whatever the cause, Mrs. Van Sant remembers that the goat got along just as well with one horn as it had with two.

The goat was a true unicorn. For the Latin word *unicornus*, from which the English word comes, meant simply "having one horn." The Romans sometimes referred to rhinoceroses as unicorns, but the word could be used for any animal with a single horn.

The Van Sants' goat died about twelve years ago, and there hasn't been a one-horned animal in town since.

*Sun Magazine May 19, 1963*