

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	AUG 2 1979
DATE ENTERED	SEP 20 1979

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AVONDALE MILL; CRABB'S MILL

AND/OR COMMON

Avondale Mill (preferred)

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

21 Avondale Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Laurel

VICINITY OF

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Maryland

24

Prince George's

033

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" 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"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mayor and City Council of Laurel

STREET & NUMBER

350 Municipal Square

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Laurel

VICINITY OF

Maryland 20810

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Land Records Division Prince George's County Clerk

STREET & NUMBER

Prince George's County Courthouse (Copy of Deed Attached)

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Upper Marlboro

Maryland 20870

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Avondale Mill is located on the south bank of the Patuxent River at the end of Avondale Street in the City of Laurel. The stone grist mill was built in 1845; two steel-framed additions have been added in the mid-20th century, covering the south end and part of the west side of the original mill.

The stone mill structure measures approximately 46-1/2 feet by 95-1/2 feet. It is three stories high, ten bays long, and three bays wide with a gable roof. The ridge extends approximately north-south. The walls are uncoursed rubble with roughly worked granite quoins. The windows have six-over-six light sash with granite lintels. The eaves are finished with a simple boxed cornice.

SOUTH FACADE

The gable end was the original front of the mill. The central bay has a door at grade on the second level, and there is a window in each flanking bay. There are three windows in the third story and a single window in the gable end in the attic. A cement ramp bridges the change in elevation from the grade to the front door. The first story of this facade is covered by a 20th century addition.

EAST FACADE

This side is ten bays long with a short expanse of blank wall at either end. There are ten windows on the third floor and nine on the second. The four southernmost bays on the second floor have artificial six-over-six sash; the rest of the windows on the top two floors have double-hung sash. In the sixth bay from the south on the second floor is a narrow four-panel door in an opening, with stone lintel, that is lower than the flanking windows. The threshold of the door rests on the lintel of the sixth bay below. The first floor has a plain wood door in the southernmost bay. The second, third, and fourth bays contain windows now closed with concrete block. A garage door spans the fifth and sixth bays with concrete block supports, steel lintels, and brick infill above. Two granite lintels still appear in the wall above the garage door, indicating the former existence of windows in the fifth and sixth bays. Four large louvered panels have replaced window sash, in the north four bays.

NORTH END OR RIVER FACADE

This end is three bays wide and is stone on the first two stories and brick above. The first floor has louvered panels in each window opening; the easternmost opening is only half as tall as the other two. These openings have granite lintels. The second floor has windows in the central and west bays. A nine-light window in the east bay fills the top of a former doorway, which is filled in with stone below. All three windows have granite lintels. The third floor wall is brick, but the granite quoins at the corners are continued. The east bay contains a four-light window in what was originally a larger opening; the space below the sash has been filled in with stone. The other two windows on this story have flat brick arches. There is a single window in the gable.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
__PREHISTORIC	__ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	__COMMUNITY PLANNING	__LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	__RELIGION	
__1400-1499	__ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	__CONSERVATION	__LAW	__SCIENCE	
__1500-1599	__AGRICULTURE	__ECONOMICS	__LITERATURE	__SCULPTURE	
__1600-1699	__ARCHITECTURE	__EDUCATION	__MILITARY	__SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
__1700-1799	__ART	__ENGINEERING	__MUSIC	__THEATER	
__1800-1899	__COMMERCE	__EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	__PHILOSOPHY	__TRANSPORTATION	
__1900-	__COMMUNICATIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	__POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	__OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		__INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES 1844-45

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SIGNIFICANCE

Throughout its history Prince George's County has been an agricultural area rather than an industrial one. The industrial activity that did exist here was for the most part located in the northeast, bordering Howard County, a well-known milling center. Laurel is situated here, and in the mid-19th century it was a prosperous mill town with the largest population of any town in the county. This economic position resulted from the swiftness of the Patuxent River at this point and from the town's location halfway between Baltimore and Washington. The early (1835) arrival of the railroad aided Laurel's development as an industrial complex.

Avondale Mill is the only mill structure surviving from Laurel's 19th century period of industrial development. Built in 1844-45, it is a substantial stone structure close to the scale of cotton mills in Howard County and Baltimore City of that time. It is Laurel's major visible link with its industrial past.

Although in deteriorated condition, Avondale Mill is capable of adaptive use that would revive its usefulness and importance in the community. The mayor, city county, Greater Laurel Jaycees, and the Laurel Horizon Society are interested in and investigating the possibilities for restoration of the structure.

HISTORY

"Avondale" has connections with the Snowden family of Laurel. The home of Nicholas Snowden, Jr., who was killed in the Civil War in 1862, was called "Avondale", it continued to stand west of the B & O tracks about opposite present day Montgomery Wards. In its later days, this home and its surrounding grounds was the Avondale Military Grammar School. The Snowden family owned much of the property and mills in early Laurel history.

Avondale Mill was constructed in 1844-45. At that time it was provided with the machinery for the manufacture of fine cotton cloth, running 1,500 spindles. It was converted to a grist mill ten years later.

The 1861 and 1878 maps of Laurel show George Wheeler as owner of the Avondale Mill property. The 1894 Illustrated Laurel Directory contains a photograph of Avondale Mill with B.F. Crabbs, Owner and Proprietor. In the last quarter of the 19th century, it is referred to as "Crabbs Mill." B.F. Crabbs (1836-1906) is buried in Ivy Hill Cemetery.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #2.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

1894 Illustrated Laurel Director.
 Laurel Centennial Booklet
 Historic Sites in Bicounty Area - Montgomery and Prince George's Counties. MNCPPC,
 April 1969.
 The News Leader.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1.6 acres

QUADRANGLE NAME Laurel

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 1,8 3,4,0 3,8,0 4,3 3,0 0,7,0

B

C

D

E

F

G

H

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Elizabeth Compton, Stuart Hurtt, Edwin Stretch, Members of

ORGANIZATION

Laurel Horizon Society

DATE

June 28, 1978

STREET & NUMBER

P. O. Box 403

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Laurel

STATE

Maryland 20810

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL X

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

[Signature]

7-26-79

TITLE

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

[Signature]
 ACTING CHIEF OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 9-20-79

ATTEST: *[Signature]*
 CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE 9-20-79

[Signature]
 Regional Coordinator

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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Avondale Mill
Prince George's County

CONTINUATION SHEET Maryland . ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 1

(DESCRIPTION, continued)

WEST FACADE

This side of the building is also twelve bays long. On the first floor all original windows have been removed. The northernmost six bays have louvered panels in place of the original windows. The fifth bay from the south now serves as a door from grade into the first floor. The four southernmost bays have been closed with concrete block. The second and third floors contain the original six-over-six light, double-hung sash windows.

INTERIOR

Wood beams eight feet on center, measuring 10 inches by 15 inches, span east-west to delineate each bay. On the first story they are supported at mid-span by chamfered square wood columns with flat impost blocks. On the second story (the principal story accessible from the front entrance in the south end), tapered round wood columns of the Doric order support the beams at mid-span. There are no columns on the third story where the beams are the bottom chords of king post trusses. Wood planks three inches thick and 8 to 12 inches wide spanning the beams are finished on the underside in the second or principal story with random-width beaded boards. Walls are plastered directly on the stone, and the splayed window jambs are finished with plaster, devoid of wood trim. The second story is divided into a central corridor and several small rooms by walls of 20th century stud construction. Under the northern two bays of the first story is a subcellar nearly filled with water. Now full with water, its function is not clear, but it was probably related to the original power system, quite likely the location of turbines. No milling machinery or power apparatus remains.

ADDITIONS

The two additions to the mill building, made in the 1930s, were constructed of timber and steel. Walls are industrial metal-framed windows. The additions were made without altering the fabric of the stone mill and could be removed leaving the mill as it was.

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HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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Avondale Mill
Prince George's County

CONTINUATION SHEET / Maryland ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

(SIGNIFICANCE, continued)

The dam for the mill was located at the foot of Post Office Avenue. Gates could be cranked upward to permit the penned up water to rush from one side of the dam into a huge ditch or race that ran downhill paralleling Main Street to the water-wheel of the mill.

The Southern Embroidery Company used the mill as a lace factory from 1915 to 1917 and, among other items, turned out chevrons to be used on the uniforms of non-commissioned officers in World War I.

In 1961 the City of Laurel purchased the mill and riverside property of approximately 17 acres. The City Department of Parks and Recreation used it for indoor programs and storage and a picnic and playground area, but was recently forced to vacate the building due to its structural instability.

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Avondale Mill
Prince George's County
Maryland

CONTINUATION SHEET ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 3

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The 1.6 acres designated on the enclosed map directly contributes to the significance of the Avondale Mill and encompasses the immediate environs of the mill. The Patuxent River is its northern boundary. Avondale Street dead ends at the property's southern boundary (S54°19'E335.1) with lots owned by Evenly Chambers on the west side of the street and Daniel Snyder on the east side of the street. The east side of the mill property (N42°30'E225) is bounded by lots owned by Alice Withrow and city owned riverside. The western boundary (S36°1'178) abuts land owned by Emory Haslup and city-owned riverside.

The area surrounding the mill is maintained by and used for the City of Laurel Department of Parks and Recreation.

