

P H 0 1 1 2 4 4 DATA SHEET

Form 10-300  
(Rev. 6-72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Maryland
COUNTY: Washington
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE APR 21 1975

1. NAME

COMMON:  
Trovinger Mill

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
also Rohrer's Mill

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Trovinger Mill Road, *and* *1 mile north*

CITY OR TOWN:  
Hagerstown *vic*

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:  
Sixth

STATE: Maryland CODE: 24 COUNTY: Washington CODE: 043

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment		<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum		<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>Vacant</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:  
William B. McMahon, et. al.

STREET AND NUMBER:  
2929 Faulkner Place

CITY OR TOWN:  
Kensington

STATE:  
Maryland

CODE:  
24

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

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

STREET AND NUMBER:  
West Washington Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
Hagerstown

STATE:  
Maryland

CODE:  
24

Title Reference of Current Deed (Book & Pg. #): 529/249

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY:  
 Federal  
 State  
 County  
 Local

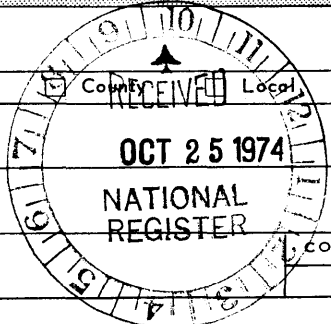
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:

CODE:



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Maryland  
COUNTY: Washington  
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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good
<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated
<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
(Check One)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered
<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Trovinger Mill is located along Trovinger Mill Road, about one mile north of Maryland Route 64 and about three miles east of Hagerstown in Washington County, Maryland. It is situated along the east bank of the Antietam Creek with its east gable facing the road.

The mill is constructed of roughly coursed local field-stone. It is five bays in length with the mill race running underneath it about midway along its broad side. At the peak of the east gable is a date stone marked 1771 with the initials J. R. The stone work at the exterior of the building shows a number of seams in the walls probably indicating several periods of building. A vertical division line in the stone is evident just west of the mill race. A horizontal seam in the masonry is evident about eight feet above ground level, running along the north, west, and south walls west of the race. Within this area there is evidence that window openings in the north and south walls have been raised about one foot.

Most of the windows and doors in the east, north, and west walls of the building are topped with segmental arches. Other openings have no decorative stone work over their lintels.

The openings in the north and south walls for the race are lined with coursed upright stones forming a segmental arch. Many early timbers and milling machinery can be observed in the race.

The windows are framed with wide wooden members which are secured with pegs. The openings are located at random on all sides of the building although few are present in the south wall.

Doors are framed similarly to the windows with entrances located at ground level at the east and west ends of the north wall. At the main story doors are located in the east gable end and in the second and fourth bays of the west wall. A door is located within the east gable at the attic level. Just above this door a large beam protrudes to carry a block and tackle.

The ends of the roof at the gables are finished with a tapered barge board. The roof extends beyond the north wall of the building several feet to cover the remains of an elevated walkway which gives access to the second story openings. The roof covering is sheet metal under which can be seen earlier wooden shingles. Two small gabled dormers are present on the south side of the roof.

The mill race remains intact with concrete side walls near the building. Nearby is the site of a new mill which is said to date later than the grain mill. Also present are the abutments of a bridge which crossed the Antietam at the mill as part of an eighteenth century road leading from Hagerstown to the Old Forge about 1 1/2 miles upstream.

The mill is at present vacant and is in deteriorated condition. It stands on a tract containing 2.23 acres.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian |  16th Century |  18th Century |  20th Century  
 15th Century |  17th Century |  19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) (date stone) 1771 J. R.

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |   |  |   |
|--|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal          | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input type="checkbox"/> Political           | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Industry    | <input type="checkbox"/> Science             | <u>Industrial</u>                                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture         | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture           | <u>Archaeology</u>                                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture        | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater             | _____   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation      | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications      | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |  | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation        |   |  | _____   |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Trovinger Mill, originally Jacob Rohrer's Mill, is significant for its architecture and for its contribution to early commerce in Washington County. A dated example of Washington County's eighteenth century architecture, the mill has received no significant alterations since 1771. Much of the original woodwork remains as well as a significant part of the milling machinery. Functioning as an early business, the mill represents an important part of the early economy of Western Maryland. A large number of mills were in operation along the Antietam Creek during the eighteenth century (at least ten are shown on a 1794 map), an indication that milling was a major industry in the area. Unfortunately few of these mills are standing today.

There is considerable evidence to suggest that Jacob Rohrer's establishment was among the earliest of the mills on the Antietam. The seams in the masonry of the building indicate that an earlier one-story structure may have been present before 1771. The physical evidence of an earlier mill is supported by documentary references in patent records of Frederick County. The mill stands on land which was part of a 817-acre tract called "Nancy's Contentment," patented to John Rohrer on May 10, 1768. Apparently Nancy's Contentment included six smaller tracts which were granted to Jacob Rohrer. Among these six parcels were a ten-acre tract, "Jacob's Welfare," granted in 1747; "Defiance," for 100 acres dated 1750 and "Addition to the Mill" a 30-acre tract patented in 1761. The name "Addition to the Mill" would suggest the presence of a milling operation at the time of that patent. Jacob Rohrer owned property on the banks of the Antietam as early as 1739, and in a patent of 1747 reference is made to Jacob Rohrer's dwelling. This documented information supports the possible existence of a pre-1771 mill. The mill was in the Rohrer family until 1817. The Trovingers who operated the mill from 1875 to 1910 contributed only the present name of the structure to its history. It continued functioning as a grist mill into the twentieth century although during the immediate past it has been vacant. The current owner is planning repairs and renovation.

The old mill is situated along an eighteenth century road which led from the mill west to Hagerstown and north

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Primary Sources

Griffith, Dennis. "Map of Maryland 1794." Second edition, 1818 Washington County Library. Hagerstown, Maryland.  
 Patent Records, Frederick County and Washington County. Landard Probate Records.  
 Varle, Charles. "A Map of Frederick and Washington Counties State of Maryland," 1808. Hall of Records, Annapolis, Maryland.

(See continuation sheet)

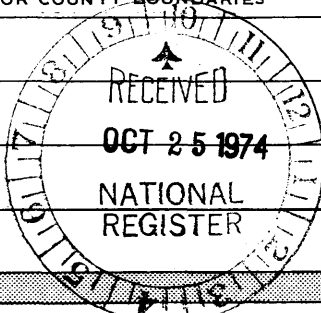
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES				
CORNER	LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	39°	39'	08"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"	77°	39'	52"
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"			
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **2.23 Acres**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



18/271 311  
4392 380

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: **Paula Stoner Dickey, Consultant**

ORGANIZATION: **Washington County Historic Sites Survey** DATE: **February, 1974**

STREET AND NUMBER: **Court House Annex**

CITY OR TOWN: **Hagerstown** STATE: **Maryland** CODE: **24**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name: **Arthur C. Townsend**  
 Title: **Officer**  
 Date: **October 21, 1974**

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

**Arthur C. Townsend**  
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: **4/21/75**

ATTEST:

**Charles H. ...**  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: **4.18.75**

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

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Maryland	
COUNTY	
Washington	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	APR 21 1975

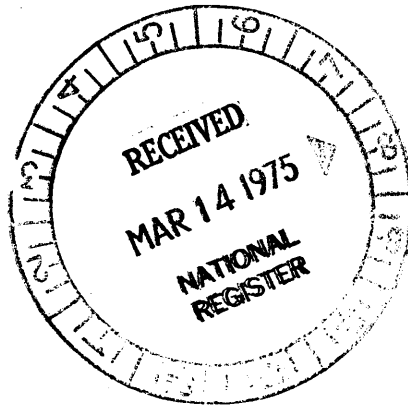
(Number all entries)

Trovinger Mill

The concrete sidewalls mentioned on the clarification sheet belong to the mill race and were not considered in the worksheet as part of the actual mill building. However, since the Trovinger Mill form was submitted, the owner has made several alterations including the addition of dormers. Thus the "unaltered" designation no longer applies to this property.

According to current tax maps, the bridge abutments are included in the property.

The areas of significance checked in the original copy of the Trust worksheet were "architecture" and "commerce". Therefore, I really cannot contribute anything concerning the designation of "industrial archaeology," other than to say that there would probably be potential for archaeological research.



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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet) #1

STATE	Maryland	
COUNTY	Washington	
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(Number all entries)

#8 Trovinger Mill, continued

to the Hughes forge and mill (both demolished) farther up the Antietam. Much of this road has been obliterated by farming and development, but parts of it are still discernable, and its route can be traced along much of its length. Other eighteenth and early nineteenth century buildings are present along the road.

In addition to its historical and architectural merit, the Trovinger Mill is significant for its scenic value.

Note: Information from Rohrer land grants compiled by Howard L. Spessard, Hagerstown, Maryland.

#9 Bibliography, continued

Secondary Sources

Hayes, Helen Ashe. The Antietam and its Bridges. (New York: G. P. Putman's Sons, 1910).

McGrain, John. "The Molinography of Maryland: Washington County." Manuscript, 1971. Maryland Historical Trust, Annapolis, Maryland.

