Form No. 10-300 (Rev. 10-74)

PH0664952

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

FOR NPS USE ONLY

D.C./Marvland 21030

RECEIVED MAR 2 0 1978

INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM DATE ENTERED SEP 13 1978 SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS NAME **并**未 HISTORIC Owings Upper Mill, Eureka Mill AND/OR COMMON Groff's Mill **2 LOCATION** STREET & NUMBER and Reisterstown Road. North corner of the intersection of Bonita AvenueNotfor Publication CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT CITY, TOWN Second Owings Mills **VICINITY OF** CODE STATE CODE Maryland 024 Baltimore 0.05 3 CLASSIFICATION **CATEGORY OWNERSHIP STATUS PRESENT USE** __DISTRICT __PUBLIC X_occupied _AGRICULTURE __MUSEUM X_BUILDING(S) **XPRIVATE** _UNOCCUPIED XCOMMERCIAL __PARK __STRUCTURE __ВОТН __WORK IN PROGRESS __EDUCATIONAL __PRIVATE RESIDENCE __SITE **PUBLIC ACQUISITION ACCESSIBLE** __ENTERTAINMENT __RELIGIOUS __OBJECT X_YES: RESTRICTED _IN PROCESS __GOVERNMENT __SCIENTIFIC __BEING CONSIDERED __YES: UNRESTRICTED _INDUSTRIAL __TRANSPORTATION __NO __MILITARY _OTHER: OWNER OF PROPERTY William D. Groff (Sr.) NAME Business Managed by W. D. Groff; Jr. STREET & NUMBER Bonita Avenue CITY, TOWN STATE Owings Mills, **VICINITY OF** Maryland 21117 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION COURTHOUSE REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. County Courts Building STREET & NUMBER 401 Bosley Avenue CITY, TOWN STATE Towson. Maryland 21204 6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS Historic American Buildings Survey/ Baltimore County Historical Society DATE FEDERAL STATE X COUNTY 1969/1965 **DEPOSITORY FOR** Library of Congress/ Agriculture **SURVEY RECORDS** Baltimore County Historical Society Headquarters/ Building CITY, TOWN

Washington/Cockeysville

CONDITION

CHECK ONE

CHECK ONE

_EXCELLENT

__FAIR

__DETERIORATED
__RUINS
__UNEXPOSED

_UNALTERED

XORIGINAL SITE
__MOVED DATE_____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Located in the north corner of the intersection of Reisterstown Road and Bonita Avenue is the Owings Upper Mill (Eureka Mill or Groff's Mill). It is a large brick structure, 50 by 60 feet, three-and-a-half stories high with its attic and supra-attic lighted by dormer windows. There is no cellar, but some crawl space is found beneath the first story. Dimensions of the main block, 50 by 59 feet 8 inches, are practically the same given in the 1798 tax list (which were 50 by 60 feet). The building stands on a low stone foundation, surmounted by a moulded brick water table. As originally constructed, the mill was a brick rectangle with a brick central pavilion 18 feet wide projecting 9 feet from the north facade; the pavilion was designed to house loading doors at each floor. Sometime in the 1880's (subsequent to a photograph in Mr. Groff's possession), two frame extensions were built flush with the gable end of the central pavilion, filling in the corners and rendering the floor plan completely rectangular.

The architectural front or south facade faces the Reisterstown Road and is four bays wide, with two irregularly spaced dormers with triangular pediments in the eastern half of the roof. The 12/12 double-hung sash windows are set in plain wood frames surmounted by flat arches of vertically laid brick. Two doors open into the basement or first story—the western door (a sectional door) is provided with a 5-light fixed transom and the eastern door with a 12-light fixed transom. The words "EUREKA FLOUR MILL" are worked into this facade in purple brick between the second and third story windows.

The north facade or rear, although unseen from either Reisterstown Road or Bonita Avenue, is the business end of the mill, where grain was lifted to the upper story loading doors by a hoist. This facade, the functional front, is five bays across. The central pavilion is 2 1/2 storys high and one bay wide, containing only doors. The north facade is set on higher ground than the other three elevations and has its own water table, which is at a level higher than the first story windows because the ground slopes upward from south to north. A door with a 5-light fixed transom is set in the pavilion and opens into the second story, or office and grinding level. Loading doors are set directly above this entrance, opening into the third and attic storys. The hoisting mechanism is sheltered by an extension of the gable roof and eaves known as a "hood" in Pennsylvania milling terminology but apparently nameless in Maryland.

The frame and clapboard corner storehouses are each two bays long, each with a broad shipping door flanking the brick central pavilion. There are no loading platforms. The storerooms are two storys high, set on stone foundations and sheltered by shed roofs; the double-hung sash windows are 6 on 6. Only one dormer is set in the roof over the north facade, that in the northeast end of the mill.

The end walls differ in design because the east end of the building once housed the water wheel, and windows were kept small on the damp and

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
	070
RECEIVED MAR 201	9/8
DATE ENTERED	$-\mathbf{S}_{\mathbf{S}}}}}}}}}}$

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

Owings Upper Mill

Baltimore County,

CONTINUATION SHEET Maryland ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 1

DESCRIPTION (continued)

noisy end of the works. Each end wall is five bays wide, four bays in the original brick main block, one bay in the frame, filled-in sections. On the west, the double-hung sash windows of the brick gable end are 12 on 12-except for two irregulars of 8 on 8 located on the first story (north end). At the attic level, two 12 on 12 double-hung sash windows are set in the middle bays; above them, a small 6 on 6 double hung gable window opens on the loft or supra-attic.

On the east, in the brick gable portion, there are no first story windows; four square windows with 12 lights are set in the second story. The remaining fenestration of storys three, four, and attic and supraattic matches that of the west end. A filled-in brick arch in the east end shows the location of the original water wheel, rendered obsolete sometime before 1880 by the installation of an underground turbine. Two plain doors flank this arch.

Brickwork is mixed, Flemish bond on the south or main facade, English bond on the rear pavilion and on the gable ends. Repaired portions are a mixture of types.

The roof is a simple gable type with open eaves that project but slightly. The end rafters are flush with the gable end wall and are now wrapped around with the ends of the roofing material. There is a box cornice, which is fitted with rain gutters. Until the 1930's there had been a shingle roof, but present covering is ribbed sheet metal, a few years ago coated with a sprayed-on liquid asphalt compound.

The mill is "a rodded building." Ten tie-rods with S-shaped end plates appear above window level of the first and second storys of the south facade. Six plates (mixed S-shape and lozenge pattern) are found above window levels of the second and third storys on the gable end.

The building is entirely unornamented, the work of an accomplished millwright rather than an architect. The external style, if any, could possibly be called late Georgian or Federal; the end rafters and window frames were painted white in the photo of c. 1880. The internal framing belongs to no stylistic period, but reflects standard methods of millwrighting that are found as late as 1862 in the details of Trenton Mill (District 5, Baltimore County) -- and in the words of consulting millwright J. B. Campbell (now about age 86)-- mill interiors are "all the same, from Maine to Georgia."1

FOR NPS USE ONLY RECEIVED MAR 2 0 1978

SEP 13 1978

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

Owings Upper Mill Baltimore County,

CONTINUATION SHEET Maryland ITEM NUMBER

7 PAGE 2

DATE ENTERED

DESCRIPTION (continued)

The original posts are intact, supporting massive bolsters joined to equally massive girts with wooden pegs. Timbering and brickwork becomes progressively lighter at each level above ground. Some examples of mortice work exist, but are not as elaborate as Early American joints shown in James F. Hobart's treatise on millwrighting. 2 Numerous pulleys and gears remain in place, although the roller units, millstones and millstone boxes have been removed. Stored in the upper floors are a number of wooden conveyor segments, two hexagonal flour bolting reels, some millstone hoppers, millstone vat or casing, and a perfect speciman of a wooden "Eureka Smut and Separating Machine" manufactured by Howes Babcock & Co. of Silver Creek, New York, bearing patent dates of 1859 and 1869. Still pasted on the smut machine is the original instruction sheet. In the center of the mill is a freight elevator. The lever mechanism which enabled a man at ground level to activate the hoist for the loading doors still survives. There are two large bins or garners that could be filled through trap-doors in the attic (or fourth) story flooring. A large balance scale hangs just inside the rear entrance, on the office level.

Most of the grinding mechanism and its gear train had been clustered at the east end of the mill to be near the water wheel. The final section of the mill race headed for the mill from the east, terminating not far from its north facade. In the 19th Century, Benjamin F. Groff had installed a 4-foot section of disused city water main to feed a turbine which replaced the overshot water wheel. tapped the mill race water and went underground below the present parking area and passed through the building parallel to the east gable-end wall, utilizing the space originally designed as the wheel pit. The turbine was located underground, south of the mill building itself, directly under a spot now occupied by a well house. The turbine spun on a vertical axis and its motion was transformed by gearing to horizontal motion, and the energy was conveyed to a main drive pulley inside the mill by belt linkage.3 This main pulley can be seen in the southeast corner of the building, first story.

The bucket elevator system for moving flour is still in place with its endless belts and countless metal scoops inside wooden conduits; the head of the system emerges in the fourth or attic story. On the second story, at office and grinding level, a pair of posts contain slots that formerly held a spindle for hoisting millstones out of their boxes—which suggests that whatever millstone units were kept in service after switching to self-contained roller mill units for

FOR NPS	JSE ONI	Y			
RECEIVED	W.A		6		
			 	4070	

SEP 13 19/8

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

Owings Upper Mill Baltimore County,

CONTINUATION SHEET Maryland ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE 3

DATE ENTERED

DESCRIPTION (continued)

flour were probably those in the northeast corner of the mill. The office is in the southwest corner of the second story and although a successful fuel and feed business is conducted there, has a Victorian counting-house atmosphere--oak partitions and door frames and glass partitions that would have been redecorated out of existence by image-conscious owners of an equally old downtown building. In storage upstairs are thousands of duplicate bills and receipts, impaled on the original spikes, much eaten at the edges by rodents.

The condition of the mill is good, its sturdy floors support large quantities of bagged feed products. The east wall has suffered from central settling and long ago it shifted enough to produce an overlap in the brickwork near the southeast corner. The overlap was cemented up in 1974 and massive wooden bracing added at the insistence of county building inspectors—although the defect had existed all through the lifetimes of the present operator and his 90-odd-year-old father.

Other Buildings on the mill tract

The residence of William D. Groff, Sr., is a brick house located on the west side of Bonita Avenue and on the east side of Reisterstown Road. It is west of the Groff Mill (alias Owings Upper Mill or Eureka Mill). The house has been much altered with the result that it is a three-story, L-shaped structure. The main portion is five bays wide, with a porch. On the west end there is a rounded tower formed by three bays. A rear wing extends from the back of the tower. The house is at least a century old, having been the birthplace of William D. Groff, Sr., who reached age 97 in 1976 (and looks forward to age 98 in August of this year). Mr. Groff's mother, Elizabeth A. Denmead Groff had the house enlarged to its L-configuration late in the 19th century. Sometime in the present century the roof was changed from an ordinary ga ble type to a Dutch colonial roof set with large dormers, providing almost a full story of new space. All windows are double-hung sash fitted with single-sheet glass lights. No windows appear in the east end wall of the original brick section. Supporting posts on the front porch are decorated with scroll-sawn bracket

A brick dwelling was advertised but not further described when the property was offered for sale in the Baltimore American of April 13, 1863; a brick house was also mentioned in the 1876 Tax Ledger, District 4. Dimensions of the house were given as 54×18 with an 18×18 extension in the 1918 District 4 Tax Ledger (f. 197).

FOR NPS USE ONLY RECEIVED MAR 2 0 1978 SEP 1 3 1978

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

Owings Upper Mill Baltimore County,

CONTINUATION SHEET Maryland

ÎTEM NUMBER 7

PAGE 4

DESCRIPTION (continued)

The barn is of uncertain age, but probably dates to the 19th century. It is frame, set on a stone foundation; there is a main section of about 2 1/2 stories, topped by a square cupola with louvers. The back extension (attached to north side) is covered by a shed roof. The barn is west of the dwelling house and within sight of Reisterstown Road, south of the rear driveway into the mill loading area. Dimensions were given in the 1918 Tax Ledger (f. 1197) as 40 x 48; it may well be the same frame barn called for in the 1876 ledger.

¹ Notes from inspection of Trenton Mill by J. B. Cambell of Philadelphia, April 5, 1975.

² James F. Hobart, <u>Millwrighting</u> (New York, 1909). p. 94.

³Interview with William D. Groff, Jr., Owings Mills, Md., September 18, 1974.

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
X1700-1799	ART	ENGINEERING	MUSIC	THEATER
1800-1899	COMMERCE	EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	PHILOSOPHY	_TRANSPORTATION
1900-	COMMUNICATIONS	XINDUSTRY	POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	OTHER (SPECIFY)
		INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1791-1794

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Builder, Samuel Owings, Jr. (II)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Owings Upper Mill is probably the oldest and largest mill surviving in Baltimore County and was the last known project of Samuel Owings, the Revolutionary patriot and enterprising merchant. It is a good example of a merchant mill built in the post-Revolutionary investment boom when numerous mass production mills were built to supply the overseas market served so successfully by Baltimore's aggressive commission merchants and ship owners.

The mill is well built and even without its grinding equipment provides many examples of the millwright's work in its massive posts, bolsters, and girts, peg fasteners, morticed joints, and slots and cut-outs for belts and axles. A number of pulleys are still in place, some hand-made of built-up segments of wood, and there are also hoists, bins, corn sheller, smut machine, balance scales, flour packer, and an endless-belt flour elevator system. The retailing of feed preserves much of the mill atmosphere. This may be the only brick mill in Maryland with a projecting central pavilion for the loading doors.

Samuel Owings (Jr. or the Second) was born in 1733 at a location traditionally given as Green Spring Punch on Valley Road; his actual birthplace is now in doubt, due to recent research by Dawn Frances Thomas. Some time after his marriage to Deborah Lynch in 1765, Owings built all or part of the Georgian house known as "Ulm," MHT No. BA 51.1 He reached the rank of first colonel during the Revolution and also served as a county commissioner, vestryman, and member of the General Assembly. Local writings attribute the construction of a series of three mills to Owings, although research in connection with the Northwest Expressway shows that he may have built four mills and purchased a fifth intact. The first documentary mention of his "Owings Mills" occurs in the Maryland Journal of February 27, 1781, when his mill was listed among a number of places where taxes could be paid with wheat in lieu of cash.

The Rev. Ethan Allen's <u>Garrison Church</u>, written before 1879, seems to be the first printed explanation that the name "Ulm" meant "Upper, Lower, and Middle" mills.² "Ulm" is not recorded as a tract or resurvey name in the Land Office records nor is it found in early tax lists. If "Ulm" actually referred to three distinct mills, it could not have been adopted until about 1791-1794 when a total of three mills actually functioned on Gwynns Falls.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRA	APHICAL REFER	ENCES See	Continuation She	et #8
Allen, Ethan The Gari Groff, William D. (Si Federation PTA-N McGrain, John W. Indu Transportation (Transportation,	r.) and Hull, Wi News, Towson, Vo Istrial Archaeol Corridor, Baltim	lliam C. "Hi ol. 14, No. 4 ogical Surve ore County,	istory of Owings 4 (March-April, by of the Northw Maryland. Depar	Mills." 1938). est tment of
10 GEOGRAPHICAL D	ATA			
ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERT				
UTM REFERENCES				
A 1 18 3 4 6 5 6 0 ZONE EASTING C VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRI	NORTHING	B ZONE EAST	ING NORTHING	11
LIST ALL STATES AND C	COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIE	S OVERLAPPING ST	ATE OR COUNTY BOUNDA	RIES
STATE	CODE	COUNTY		CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY		CODE
		COUNTY		code
11 FORM PREPARED		COUNTY		
11 FORM PREPARED I	ВҮ			
11 FORM PREPARED I			DATE	
11 FORM PREPARED IN NAME / TITLE John W. McG: ORGANIZATION	ВҮ	.dent	DATE August 10, 1976	njm
11 FORM PREPARED IN NAME / TITLE John W. McGr ORGANIZATION Baltimore Constraints Street & NUMBER	BY rain, Vice Presi	dent Society	August 10, 1976	njm
TORM PREPARED IN NAME / TITLE John W. McGronganization Baltimore Construct & NUMBER Agriculture	BY rain, Vice Presi	dent Society	August 10, 1976 TELEPHONE Work 494-3495	njm
11 FORM PREPARED NAME / TITLE John W. McGr ORGANIZATION Baltimore Co STREET & NUMBER Agriculture CITY OR TOWN	BY rain, Vice Presi ounty Historical BuildingCount	dent Society	August 10, 1976 TELEPHONE WORK 494-3495 STATE	njm
TORM PREPARED NAME/TITLE John W. McGr ORGANIZATION Baltimore Co STREET & NUMBER Agriculture CITY OR TOWN Cockeysville	BY rain, Vice Presiounty Historical BuildingCount	dent Society y Home Park	August 10, 1976 TELEPHONE Work 494-3495 STATE Maryland 21030	njm
11 FORM PREPARED IN NAME / TITLE John W. McGronganization Baltimore Construct & NUMBER Agriculture CITY OR TOWN Cockeysville	BY rain, Vice Presicunty Historical BuildingCounter, PRESERVATION	dent Society Home Park	August 10, 1976 TELEPHONE Work 494-3495 STATE Maryland 21030 ERTIFICATION	njm
11 FORM PREPARED IN NAME / TITLE John W. McGronganization Baltimore Construction STREET & NUMBER Agriculture CITY OR TOWN Cockeysville 12 STATE HISTORIC FOR THE EVALUE	rain, Vice Presionnty Historical BuildingCounte e, PRESERVATION	dent Society Y Home Park OFFICER CI	August 10, 1976 TELEPHONE Work 494-3495 STATE Maryland 21030 ERTIFICATION HIN THE STATE IS:	njm
11 FORM PREPARED IN NAME / TITLE John W. McGronganization Baltimore Construct & NUMBER Agriculture CITY OR TOWN Cockeysville	BY rain, Vice Presicunty Historical BuildingCounter, PRESERVATION	dent Society Y Home Park OFFICER CI	August 10, 1976 TELEPHONE Work 494-3495 STATE Maryland 21030 ERTIFICATION	njm
John W. McGronganization Baltimore Costreet & Number Agriculture CITY OR TOWN Cockeysville 12 STATE HISTORIC F THE EVALU NATIONAL As the designated State Historic Prehereby nominate this property for it criteria and procedures set forth by	rain, Vice Presiculty Historical Building-Count e, PRESERVATION ATED SIGNIFICANCE OF TE STATE Esservation Officer for the National Rethe National Park Service.	dent Society Home Park OFFICER CI	August 10, 1976 TELEPHONE WORK 494-3495 STATE Maryland 21030 ERTIFICATION HIN THE STATE IS: LOCAL Vation Act of 1966 (Public Le	njm
John W. McGronganization Baltimore Construct a Number Agriculture CITY OR TOWN Cockeysville 12 STATE HISTORIC For the designated State Historic Preservation of Filestonic Preservation	rain, Vice Presiculty Historical Building-Count e, PRESERVATION ATED SIGNIFICANCE OF TE STATE Esservation Officer for the National Rethe National Park Service.	dent Society Home Park OFFICER CI	August 10, 1976 TELEPHONE Work 494-3495 STATE Maryland 21030 ERTIFICATION HIN THE STATE IS: LOCAL Vation Act of 1966 (Public Latit has been evaluated account of the state	njm
John W. McGronganization Baltimore Costreet & Number Agriculture CITY OR TOWN Cockeysville 12 STATE HISTORIC F THE EVALU NATIONAL As the designated State Historic Prehereby nominate this property for icriteria and procedures set forth by	rain, Vice Presiculty Historical Building-Count e, PRESERVATION ATED SIGNIFICANCE OF TE STATE Esservation Officer for the National Rethe National Park Service.	Society Y Home Park OFFICER CI HIS PROPERTY WITH Itional Historic Preserve gister and certify that	August 10, 1976 TELEPHONE WORK 494-3495 STATE Maryland 21030 ERTIFICATION HIN THE STATE IS: LOCAL Vation Act of 1966 (Public Le	njm
John W. McGronganization Baltimore Construct & Number Agriculture CITY OR TOWN Cockeysville 12 STATE HISTORIC For hereby nominate this property for incriteria and procedures set forth by STATE HISTORIC FOR NPS USE ONLY	rain, Vice Presiounty Historical Building—Count e, PRESERVATION ATED SIGNIFICANCE OF T STATE Esservation Officer for the National Rethe National Park Service. ICER SIGNATURE PRESERVATION OFFICE	Society Y Home Park OFFICER CI HIS PROPERTY WITH X tional Historic Preserv gister and certify that ER	August 10, 1976 TELEPHONE Work 494-3495 STATE Maryland 21030 ERTIFICATION HIN THE STATE IS: LOCAL Vation Act of 1966 (Public Latit has been evaluated account of the state of the sta	njm
John W. McGronganization Baltimore Construct & Number Agriculture CITY OR TOWN Cockeysville 12 STATE HISTORIC For the elby nominate this property for incriteria and procedures set forth by state HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFI	rain, Vice Presiounty Historical Building—Count e, PRESERVATION ATED SIGNIFICANCE OF T STATE Esservation Officer for the National Rethe National Park Service. ICER SIGNATURE PRESERVATION OFFICE	Society Y Home Park OFFICER CI HIS PROPERTY WITH X tional Historic Preserv gister and certify that ER	August 10, 1976 TELEPHONE Work 494-3495 STATE Maryland 21030 ERTIFICATION HIN THE STATE IS: LOCAL Vation Act of 1966 (Public Latit has been evaluated account of the state of the sta	njm
John W. McGronganization Baltimore Construct & Number Agriculture CITY OR TOWN Cockeysville 12 STATE HISTORIC For hereby nominate this property for incriteria and procedures set forth by STATE HISTORIC FOR NPS USE ONLY	rain, Vice Presiounty Historical Building—Count e, PRESERVATION ATED SIGNIFICANCE OF T STATE Esservation Officer for the National Rethe National Park Service. ICER SIGNATURE PRESERVATION OFFICE	Society Y Home Park OFFICER CI HIS PROPERTY WITH X tional Historic Preserv gister and certify that ER	August 10, 1976 TELEPHONE Work 494-3495 STATE Maryland 21030 ERTIFICATION HIN THE STATE IS: LOCAL Vation Act of 1966 (Public Latit has been evaluated account of the state of the sta	njm
John W. McGronganization Baltimore Conganization Baltimore Conganization Baltimore Conganization Baltimore Conganization Baltimore Conganization Cockeysville The Evalue NATIONAL — As the designated State Historic Preservation of Find Preservation of Fi	rain, Vice Presiounty Historical Building—Count e, PRESERVATION ATED SIGNIFICANCE OF T STATE Esservation Officer for the National Rethe National Park Service. ICER SIGNATURE PRESERVATION OFFICE	Society Y Home Park OFFICER CI HIS PROPERTY WITH X tional Historic Preserv gister and certify that ER	August 10, 1976 TELEPHONE Work 494-3495 STATE Maryland 21030 ERTIFICATION HIN THE STATE IS: LOCAL Vation Act of 1966 (Public Lat it has been evaluated account to the state of	njm
John W. McGronganization Baltimore Conganization Baltimore Conganization Baltimore Conganization Baltimore Conganization Baltimore Conganization Cockeysville Tockeysville The EVALU NATIONAL As the designated State Historic Preservation of Finance and procedures set forth by state Historic Preservation of Finance Conganization of Finance Cockeysville Title STATE HISTORIC FOR NPS USE ONLY I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS FOR Conganization of Finance Cockeysville The Cockeysville The EVALU NATIONAL The EVALU STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OF FINANCE CERTIFY THAT THIS FOR COCKEYS CERTIFY THAT T	PRESERVATION CONTAINS INCLUDED IN CONTAINS	Society Y Home Park OFFICER CI HIS PROPERTY WITH X tional Historic Preserv gister and certify that ER	August 10, 1976 TELEPHONE Work 494-3495 STATE Maryland 21030 ERTIFICATION HIN THE STATE IS: LOCAL Vation Act of 1966 (Public Latit has been evaluated account to the state of the sta	njm aw 89-665), I ording to the

FOR NPS USE ONLY RECEIVED MAR 2 0 1978 SEP 1 3 1978

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

Owings Upper Mill Baltimore County,

CONTINUATION SHEET Maryland

ITEM NUMBER

8 PAGE 5

DATE ENTERED

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (continued)

In 1789 Owings bought the former Wells Mill, located at a site later used by Gwynnbrook Distillery (1906-07). In 1793 he bought from John Tagart the right to cut a mill race through the Tagart property and in 1794 he made the same arrangement with Elizabeth Williams. The "new mill race" was mentioned in another deed of 1794. The mill was certainly finished by the time of the 1798 tax list, which showed Owings with three mills and 1,775 acres. The former Wells Mill was not listed and it must be assumed that Owings had bought it for the water rights and subsequently demolished the mill, which was probably a primitive colonial works, not equal to the massive Upper Mill.

In 1803 Owings made his will and in it he spoke of his lower mill, and upstream of his middle mill, he mentioned the "Tail Race of a new mill last built." The boundaries named unmistakably identify the Groff Mill as the uppermost. 4 Owings died that year on June 11 and the mills devolved on son William Owings.

William Owings appears with "Mills" in tax lists of 1804, 1818 and 1823. In 1813 he had advertised to lease his Upper Mill as a cotton factory, stating, "Gentlemen of experience in the Cotton Works say this structure is excelled by none, and if the Mill House had been originally designed for such works, it could not be better constructed." ⁵

In 1823 Owings entered an agreement with Michael McBlair, who proposed to turn one of the run-down mills into a factory. However, Owings' sisters and brothers-in-law objected, and during the course of a lawsuit, he died in 1825 and the High Court of Chancery ordered the property sold. A sales plat of 1828 showed that four mills then stood--a plaster mill had been added at the middle mill site on the west side of Reisterstown Turnpike. The sale advertisement contains the first known mention of "Ulm" in print; the entire property was called Ulm, and the ad notes that the mills were able to operate without the use of a dam. 7

The Upper Mill was acquired by David Hoffman in September 1828; it was leased out to tenant operators, first to Michael Dorsey, and from 1832 onwards to Louis Lewis. Newspaper ads of 1832 rated output as 15 to 20,000 barrels of flour per year, or 40 to 60 barrels per diem.

Lewis took title to the mill in 1839 (Deeds TK 287:45) and in 1848 deeded to three brothers from Lancaster County, Pennsylvania: Francis B., Abraham E., and Jacob B. Groff. Milling families traditionally

See Continuation Sheet #5

FOR NPS U	SE ONL	Υ				
RECEIVED						
			SEP	4.0	1070	

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

Owings Upper Mill Baltimore County,

CONTINUATION SHEET Maryland ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 6

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (continued)

migrated in search of greener pastures, and within eight years, the first three brothers had moved on, selling out to their youngest brother, Benjamin Franklin Groff, who had joined the others in Maryland. The mill had meanwhile acquired a new name, "Eureka Mill," first mentioned in a survey of 1854, and a town of Eureka had been laid out--on paper. Groff appeared in the 1860 census of manufacturers with \$2000 capital investment, two employees, and \$50 annual labor cost. His annual output was 2,300 barrels of flour (\$13,000), 3,500 bushels of meal, and \$1,800 in "other work." Some seasons, Groff leased the mill for short terms to tenant operators and some of the millers found in old State business directories are C. E. Butler, John M. Hood & Sons, and William (Mrs. W. D. Groff, Jr. recalls that Butler was actually an employee of the Groffs and had worked there 50 full years.)

The 1880 census showed that B. F. Groff had four sets of millstones and that he powered them with a 40 hp turbine to turn out 1,300 barrels of flour per year--a drop from 1860 figures. Two-thirds of the business was custom trade--that is, work done for a portion of the grain ground rather than a cash fee.

In 1888 some (or all) of the millstones were replaced by a self-contained flour mill unit equipped with chilled-steel rollers that would make flour as bright in appearance as the rival product being made in Minneapolis. At least seven brands of flour were marketed:

Choice Super Warranted White Wheat Family Patented High Ground Extra for Bakers Use New Process Family Roller Process Family Eureka Flour Orange Blossom.9

B. F. Groff died in 1895, leaving his wife Elizabeth instructions to try to run the business, and to sell out if she was unable to make a profit. 10 His son, Guy B. Groff took charge for a while, and the mill was leased by George T. Legg over 1906-07. 11

In early 1906, a local paper reported, "Mr. William D. Groff will take charge of the Eureka Mills, at Owings Mills on the 3rd of April. mill was owned and operated for many years by his father, Benjamin F. Groff."12 However, two months later, Mrs. Elizabeth Groff applied to

FOR N	PS USE	ONLY				
3.44	M	AR 2	() 19	78		
RECEIV						
				<u>ج</u> ، ا	10	
DATE	ENTERE	D		، در ک		

PAGE 7

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

Owings Upper Mill
Baltimore County,
CONTINUATION SHEET Maryland ITEM NUMBER 8

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (continued)

the courts for authorization to accept the Western Maryland Railroad's offer to buy the water rights upstream of the mill. She testified that "the small country mills are growing less in demand every year and in a short time I think it would probably be a difficult matter to find a tenant for the property, in which case the water power would be worthless."13 As recalled by neighbor, E. Bennett Bowen, the young W. D. Groff, fresh out of Maryland Agricultural College, would have preferred to install a water conduit and keep operating. The tenant, Mr. Legg kept grinding until the last day the railroad left him any water. 14 The rail company was rebuilding their entire line at a lower grade and also double-tracking the division from Baltimore to Emory Grove, and the realignment involved shifting the tracks several hundred feet from the route laid out in 1859. The mill became Groff's feed outlet and the firm expanded into supplying coal and later home heating oil and burner service. Much of the flour making equipment was sold to a miller in Western Maryland. 15

Mr. W. D. Groff, now well over ninety years old, turned the business over to his son, William D. Groff, Jr., but continues to reside on the grounds in a large white house. The house may date to the Owings era, but has been much altered by additions and a mansard roof.

¹Clemens, Andrew, and Shirley, "Ulm House Restored," History Trails, 1974, Vol. 7, No. 3, p.1.

²Allen, Ethan, <u>The Garrison Church</u>, (New York, 1898),p. 136.

³Baltimore County Deeds, Liber WG No. NN, f. 34; WG No. 00, f. 141.

⁴Baltimore County Wills, Liber WB No. G, f. 197ff.

⁵Federal Gazette, Baltimore, November 16, 1813.

⁶Sale Plat of William Owings Property, 1828. Hall of Records, Division 2, Folder 50A.

⁷Baltimore <u>American</u>, September 27, 1828.

⁸Frederick-Town Herald, February 11, 1832; Baltimore American, June 28, 1832.

Form No. 10-300a (Rev. 10-74)

> UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS	USE O	NLY			
			~7.F		
RECEIVE	_ MAF	₹ 27 0 45	1/8		
RECEIVE	D ''				
				British H.	ALC: 94 PM

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

SEP 1 3 1978 DATE ENTERED

Owings Upper Mill Baltimore County, ITEM NUMBER 8

CONTINUATION SHEET Maryland

PAGE 8

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (footnotes continued)

⁹Brand names found on metal stencils in present mill. Also mentioned in B.F. Groff's inventory. Also, Groff, William D., and Hull, William C., "History of Owings Mills," Federation PTA News, 14 (March-April, 1938): 8.

10 Baltimore County Wills, Liber BWA 10, f. 413.

- 11 Genealogical & Biographical Record of Leading Families of the City of Baltimore and Baltimore County, Md. (New York, 1897), p. 388.
 - 12Baltimore County Union, February 24, 1906.
 - 13 Baltimore County Judicial Records, Liber WPC 207, f. 318.
- 14 Interview with E. Bennett Bowen, Owings Mills, Md., August 27, 1974.
- 15 Interview with W. D. Groff, Jr., Owings Mills, Md., September 18, 1974.

Form No. 10-300a (Rev. 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NE	S USE	ONLY					
. 0,,,,,,,,	~ ~ ~ ~	U					
			1.74				
RECEIV	'ED				J		
			450.00			de la compa	
	ساعد سنداد	200		S	8 (2 137	8
DATE E	NTERE	D					

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

Owings Upper Mill
Baltimore County,

CONTINUATION SHEET Maryland

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE 9

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES (continued)

Paty, Virginia. "Gone Suburban, Reisterstown Road Still Remembers Old Tollgate Days." Evening Sun, November 24, 1947.

Pollack, Carol L. "A Mill By the Side of the Road." News, Reisterstown, March 14, 1973.

Scarborough, Katherine, "Baltimore's Spreading Suburbs--II." Sun, December 4, 1932.

