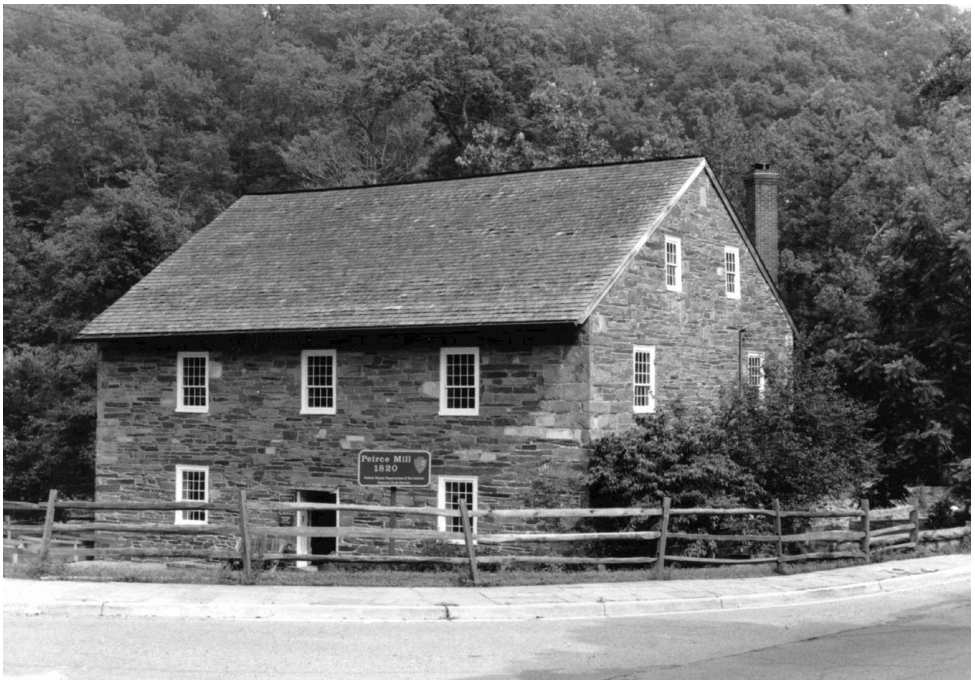
National Park Service
Cultural Landscapes Inventory

2004



Peirce Mill
Rock Creek Park

Table of Contents

Inventory Unit Summary & Site Plan

Concurrence Status

Geographic Information and Location Map

Management Information

National Register Information

Chronology & Physical History

Analysis & Evaluation of Integrity

Condition

Treatment

Bibliography & Supplemental Information

Inventory Unit Summary & Site Plan

Inventory Summary

The Cultural Landscapes Inventory Overview:

CLI General Information:

Purpose and Goals of the CLI

The Cultural Landscapes Inventory (CLI), a comprehensive inventory of all cultural landscapes in the national park system, is one of the most ambitious initiatives of the National Park Service (NPS) Park Cultural Landscapes Program. The CLI is an evaluated inventory of all landscapes having historical significance that are listed on or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, or are otherwise managed as cultural resources through a public planning process and in which the NPS has or plans to acquire any legal interest. The CLI identifies and documents each landscape's location, size, physical development, condition, landscape characteristics, character-defining features, as well as other valuable information useful to park management. Cultural landscapes become approved CLIs when concurrence with the findings is obtained from the park superintendent and all required data fields are entered into a national database. In addition, for landscapes that are not currently listed on the National Register and/or do not have adequate documentation, concurrence is required from the State Historic Preservation Officer or the Keeper of the National Register.

The CLI, like the List of Classified Structures, assists the NPS in its efforts to fulfill the identification and management requirements associated with Section 110(a) of the National Historic Preservation Act, National Park Service Management Policies (2006), and Director's Order #28: Cultural Resource Management. Since launching the CLI nationwide, the NPS, in response to the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA), is required to report information that respond to NPS strategic plan accomplishments. Two GPRA goals are associated with the CLI: bringing certified cultural landscapes into good condition (Goal 1a7) and increasing the number of CLI records that have complete, accurate, and reliable information (Goal 1b2B).

Scope of the CLI

The information contained within the CLI is gathered from existing secondary sources found in park libraries and archives and at NPS regional offices and centers, as well as through on-site reconnaissance of the existing landscape. The baseline information collected provides a comprehensive look at the historical development and significance of the landscape, placing it in context of the site's overall significance. Documentation and analysis of the existing landscape identifies character-defining characteristics and features, and allows for an evaluation of the landscape's overall integrity and an assessment of the landscape's overall condition. The CLI also provides an illustrative site plan that indicates major features within the inventory unit. Unlike cultural landscape reports, the CLI does not provide management recommendations or

treatment guidelines for the cultural landscape.

Inventory Unit Description:

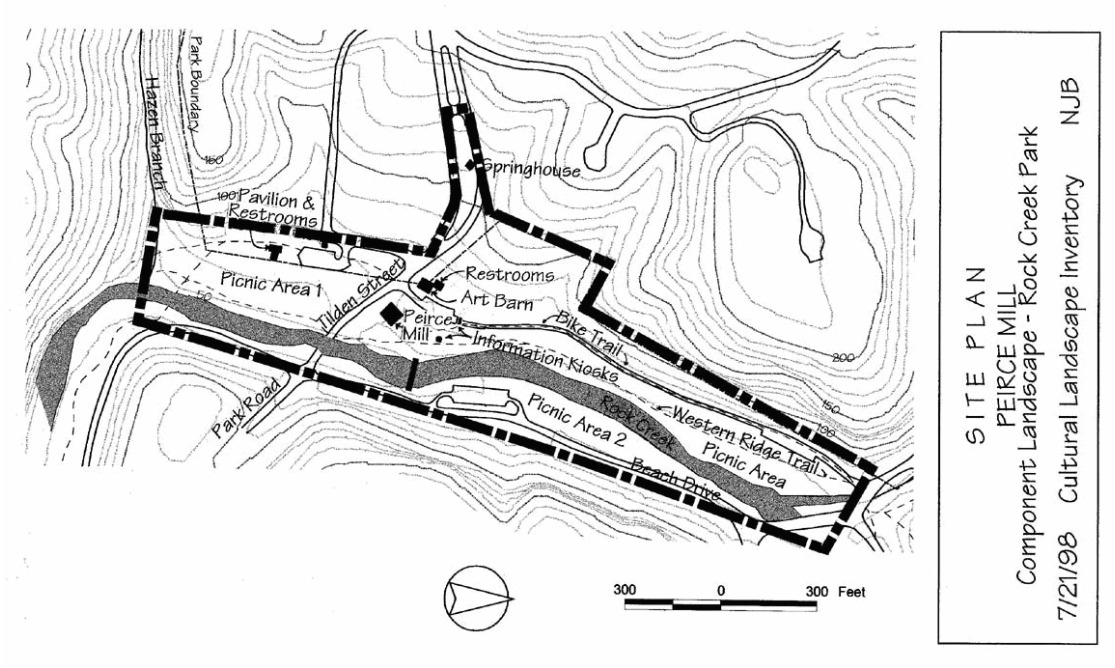
The Peirce Mill component landscape is approximately 24 acres in size. Situated on the western bank of Rock Creek immediately north of the intersection of Park Road and Beach Drive, Peirce Mill serves as a cultural destination within Rock Creek Park. Containing picnic grounds, historic structures, and naturalistic environments, this landscape possesses a combination of cultural and ecological resources. Visitor access to Peirce Mill is by automobile via Tilden Street, by foot, and by bicycle via trails developed from nineteenth-century roads and early twentieth-century bridle paths.

The western edge of the Peirce Mill component landscape is marked by woods that cover the steep east-facing slope. The northern and eastern edges are formed by roads, Broad Branch Road and Beach Drive respectively. The southern boundary of the landscape is the Melvin Hazen tributary. The fairly flat landscape surrounding the mill is primarily open with individual trees growing in meadows both to the north and south. Riparian vegetation borders the edge of the creek.

The land surrounding Peirce Mill is a remnant landscape defined by its use through three periods of development from 1800 to 1950. During the nineteenth-century, Peirce Mill, as a privately owned milling and agricultural enterprise, contained orchards, transportation routes, agricultural clusters, and pasture land. After the transfer of the property with the creation of Rock Creek Park in 1890, Peirce Mill was renovated as a picturesque tea house and picnic grounds. With the restoration of the mill and wagon barn/stable in the 1930s, the landscape underwent extensive alteration to function as a living history museum interpreting nineteenth-century milling activities. Currently the site is used for visitor recreation and historic interpretive programming.

The Peirce Mill component landscape retains significant landscape elements as defined through complicated interactions among remnants of a nineteenth-century utilitarian landscape, an early twentieth-century picturesque design and a mid twentieth-century living history interpretative site. These eras are then overlaid with the current ecologically oriented management approach, which reflects the need to accommodate an increasing variety of visitor uses. This multi-layering of history has resulted in a site which retains limited integrity to any one period of significance, but provides an interesting chronology of park land development and preservation philosophy.

Site Plan



The site plan illustrates the variety of current recreational uses of the Peirce Mill area; in addition to the mill, there are picnic facilities, trails, and an art gallery.

Property Level and CLI Numbers

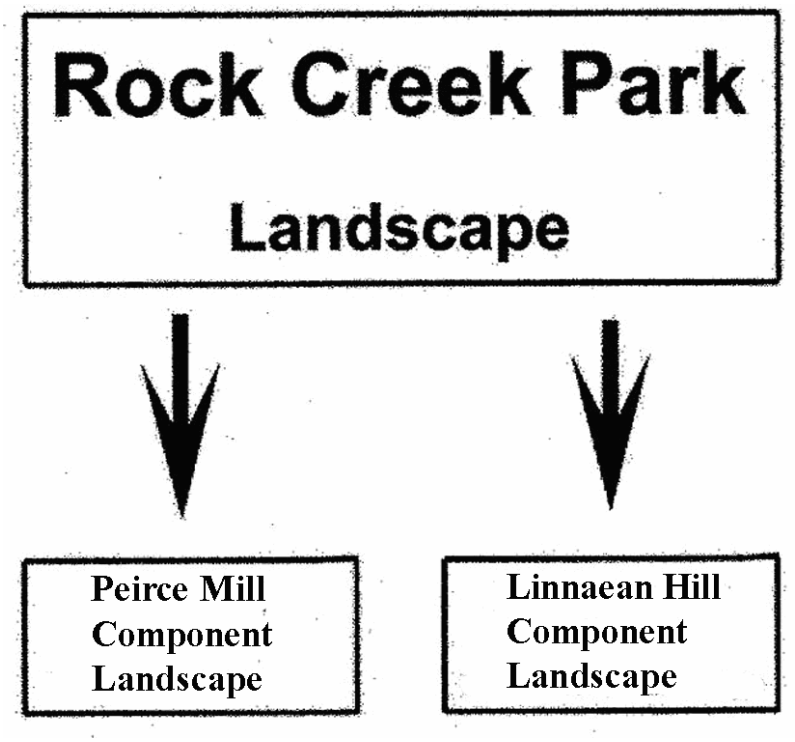
Inventory Unit Name:	Peirce Mill
Property Level:	Component Landscape
CLI Identification Number:	600108
Parent Landscape:	600031

Park Information

Park Name and Alpha Code:	Rock Creek Park -ROCR
Park Organization Code:	3450
Park Administrative Unit:	Rock Creek Park

CLI Hierarchy Description

The landscape surrounding Peirce Mill was identified as a component landscape of Rock Creek Park during the summer of 1997 when preliminary research was conducted on the Rock Creek Park Cultural Landscape Inventory. The landscape of Peirce Mill represents Tracts 75, 76, and 77, or the property owned by Peirce Shoemaker that was transferred to the Federal government after the creation of the park in 1890. Initial site visits confirmed that the character of this tract was distinct from the overall park landscape; a review of the historic documentation indicated that the physical history of the site was distinct as well.



The cultural landscape for Rock Creek Park contains two component landscapes defined by individual histories, characteristics and conditions, which contribute to the significance and integrity of the park as a whole.

Concurrence Status

Inventory Status: Complete

Completion Status Explanatory Narrative:

The Cultural Landscape Inventory for Peirce Mill has been divided into two parts: research, and analysis and evaluation. The research portion involved investigation into the historical record and documentation of existing landscape conditions. Both primary and secondary sources were used in the investigation. Among these were special collections at the Library of Congress, the National Agricultural Library, the Historical Society of Washington, D.C. Maps and drawings located in the National Archives were also examined. Important secondary materials came from the map files of the National Park Service, National Capital Region and Rock Creek Park. William Bushong's historic resource study on Rock Creek Park was also consulted. Documentation of existing conditions involved adapting contemporary land surveys and architectural drawings to create a site base map. Identifiable landscape features were then added to the map. Planning documents and archeological reports pertinent to Peirce Mill were reviewed as well. Based on this research, a narrative landscape history was prepared and simple historic base maps were assembled to reflect changes on the site over time.

The analysis and evaluation phase of the project involved documenting key landscape components and analyzing the evolution of landscape development. Based on the evaluation of historic landscape features and patterns, landscape significance was determined. Comparative analysis between the historic maps and photographs of existing significant features was then used to define the type and concentration of resources remaining on the Peirce Mill landscape. From this information, cultural landscape significance and integrity were determined.

Concurrence Status:

Park Superintendent Concurrence: Yes

Park Superintendent Date of Concurrence: 09/01/2009

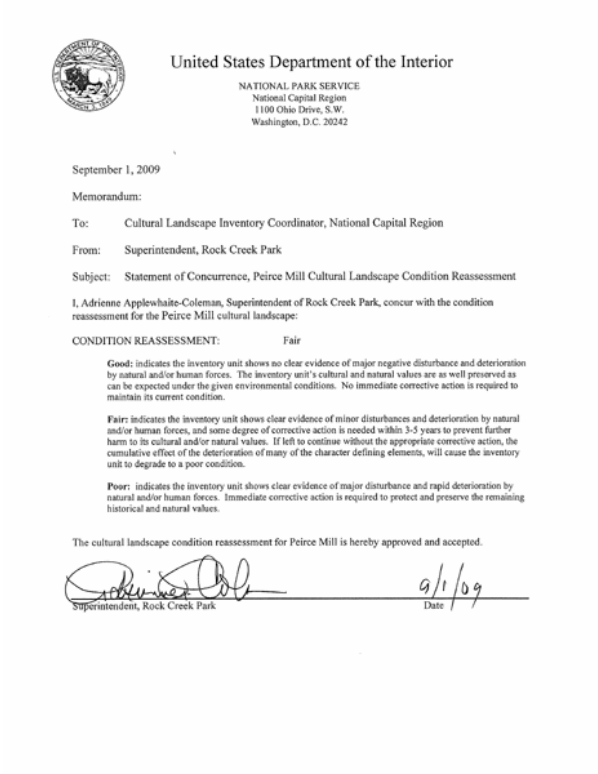
National Register Concurrence: Eligible -- SHPO Consensus Determination

Date of Concurrence Determination: 08/02/2004

National Register Concurrence Narrative:

The State Historic Preservation Officer for the District of Columbia concurred with the findings of the Peirce Mill CLI on 8/2/04, in accordance with Section 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act. It should be noted that the Date of Eligibility Determination refers to this Section 110 Concurrence and not the date of National Register Eligibility, since that is not the purview of the Cultural Landscapes Inventory.

Concurrence Graphic Information:



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
National Capital Region
1100 Ohio Drive, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20242

September 1, 2009

Memorandum:

To: Cultural Landscape Inventory Coordinator, National Capital Region

From: Superintendent, Rock Creek Park

Subject: Statement of Concurrence, Peirce Mill Cultural Landscape Condition Reassessment

I, Adrienne Applewhaite-Coleman, Superintendent of Rock Creek Park, concur with the condition reassessment for the Peirce Mill cultural landscape:

CONDITION REASSESSMENT: Fair

Good: indicates the inventory unit shows no clear evidence of major negative disturbance and deterioration by natural and/or human forces. The inventory unit's cultural and natural values are as well preserved as can be expected under the given environmental conditions. No immediate corrective action is required to maintain its current condition.

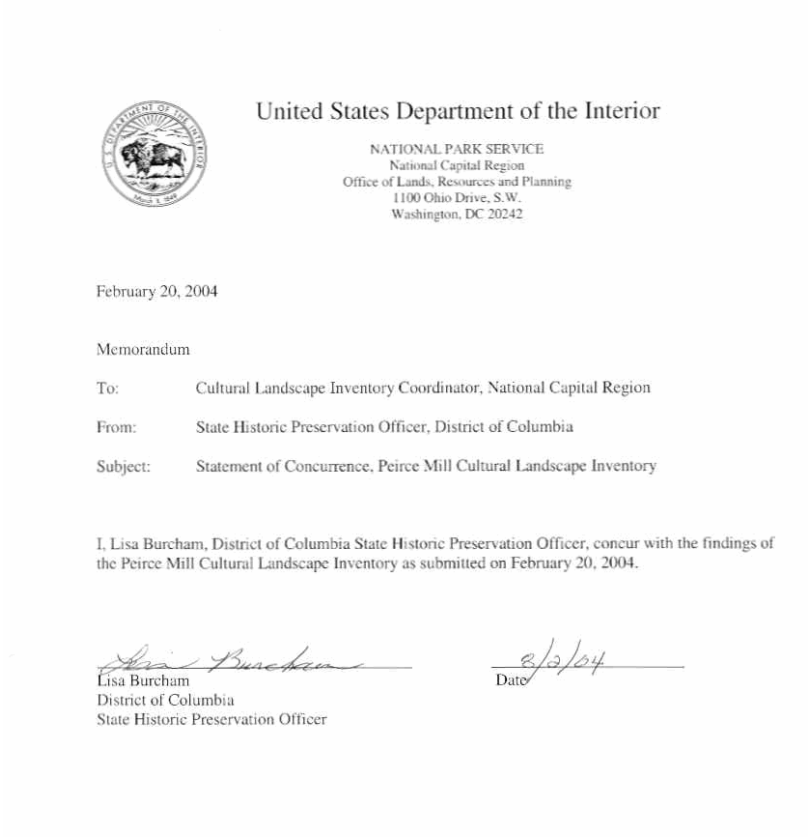
Fair: indicates the inventory unit shows clear evidence of minor disturbances and deterioration by natural and/or human forces, and some degree of corrective action is needed within 3-5 years to prevent further harm to its cultural and/or natural values. If left to continue without the appropriate corrective action, the cumulative effect of the deterioration of many of the character defining elements, will cause the inventory unit to degrade to a poor condition.

Poor: indicates the inventory unit shows clear evidence of major disturbance and rapid deterioration by natural and/or human forces. Immediate corrective action is required to protect and preserve the remaining historical and natural values.

The cultural landscape condition reassessment for Peirce Mill is hereby approved and accepted.

Superintendent, Rock Creek Park — Date 9/1/09

Concurrence letter from the superintendent of Rock Creek Park, dated September 1, 2009.



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
National Capital Region
Office of Lands, Resources and Planning
1100 Ohio Drive, S.W.
Washington, DC 20242

February 20, 2004

Memorandum

To: Cultural Landscape Inventory Coordinator, National Capital Region

From: State Historic Preservation Officer, District of Columbia

Subject: Statement of Concurrence, Peirce Mill Cultural Landscape Inventory

I, Lisa Burcham, District of Columbia State Historic Preservation Officer, concur with the findings of the Peirce Mill Cultural Landscape Inventory as submitted on February 20, 2004.

Lisa Burcham
District of Columbia
State Historic Preservation Officer

Date 8/2/04

Concurrence memo for FY2004 signed by the DC SHPO on 8/2/2004.

Revisions Impacting Change in Concurrence:

Revision Date: 07/17/2003

Revision Narrative:

Revisions to existing report made in response to comments generated by Park and CLI staff. In addition, further research conducted concerning Buildings and Structures and Cultural Traditions sections of the report.

Revision Date: 09/01/2009

Revision Narrative:

The condition of the cultural landscape is reassessed but remains unchanged. Updates are made to the Chronology and Physical History, Analysis and Evaluation, Condition, and Treatment chapters of the inventory.

Geographic Information & Location Map

Inventory Unit Boundary Description:

The boundary of the inventory of this component landscape runs along Beach Drive on the east to

Broad Branch on the north and Hazen Branch on the south. The western boundary follows the current park boundary north of Tilden Street and includes the springhouse. South of Tilden Street, the site boundary is located further west to include the picnic pavilion, restrooms, and parking lot. These boundaries are based loosely on the boundaries of three parcels (Acquisition Tracts 75, 76, and 77) purchased from Peirce Shoemaker by the Federal government in 1891 to create the park.

State and County:

State: DC

County: District of Columbia

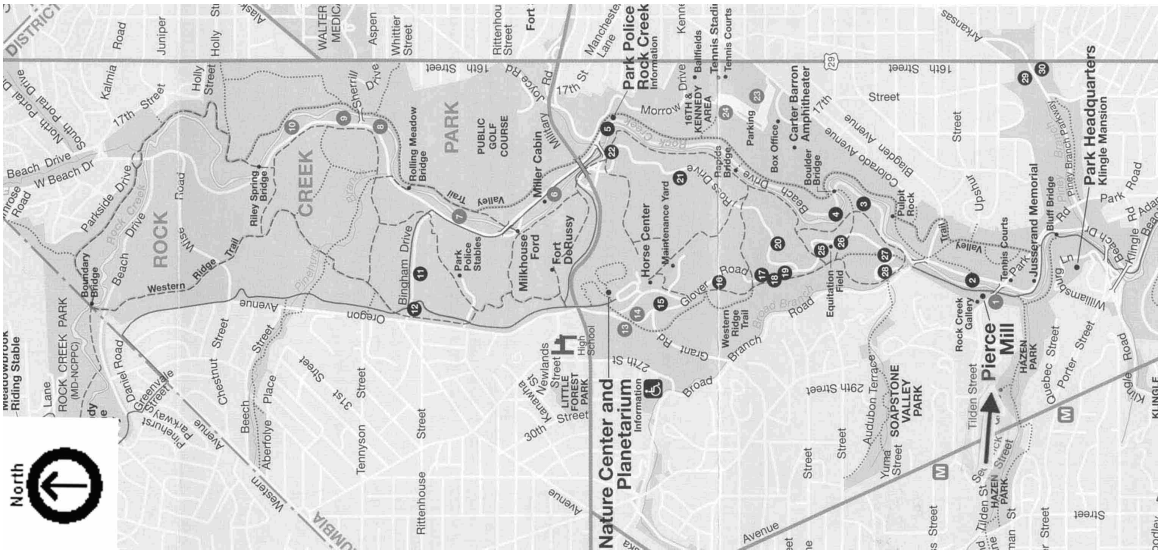
Size (Acres): 24.00

Boundary UTMS:

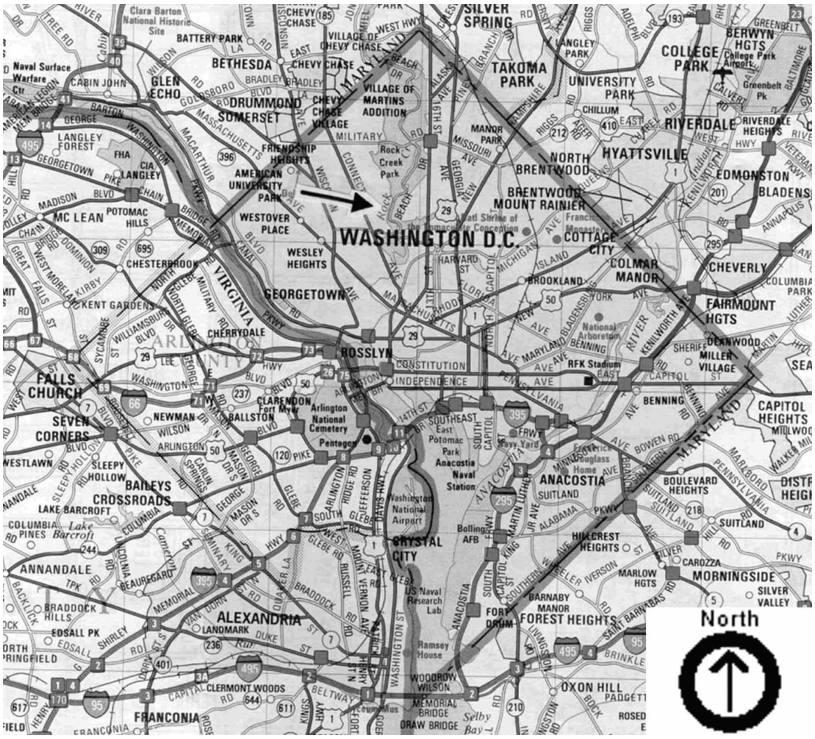
UTM Zone:	18
UTM Easting:	322,165
UTM Northing:	4,312,324
UTM Zone:	18
UTM Easting:	322,174
UTM Northing:	4,311,912
UTM Zone:	18
UTM Easting:	321,969
UTM Northing:	4,312,226
UTM Zone:	18
UTM Easting:	322,068
UTM Northing:	4,311,927
UTM Zone:	18
UTM Easting:	322,101
UTM Northing:	4,312,175
UTM Zone:	18
UTM Easting:	321,977
UTM Northing:	4,312,195
UTM Zone:	18
UTM Easting:	322,081
UTM Northing:	4,312,254
UTM Zone:	18
UTM Easting:	322,321
UTM Northing:	4,312,597
UTM Zone:	18
UTM Easting:	322,125
UTM Northing:	4,312,350
UTM Zone:	18

UTM Easting:	322,386
UTM Northing:	4,312,579

Location Map:



Official park map for Rock Creek Park. Peirce Mill (alternate spelling on the map) is located on the right side of the image, which is the southern portion of the park.



Location of Peirce Mill within Rock Creek Park, which is situated in the northwest quadrant of the District of Columbia.

Regional Context:

Type of Context: Cultural

Description:

The component landscape of Peirce Mill was part of a prosperous nineteenth-century milling and agricultural enterprise owned by the Peirce and Shoemaker families (1794-1890). Peirce Mill is the last remaining mill of eight known to have been constructed along Rock Creek during the nineteenth-century. Once characterized by fruit orchards, pasture and woodland, the pragmatic nature of this landscape is revealed on the site in many ways; in the circulation patterns which followed the slope of the hillsides and the bottom land bordering Rock Creek; in the vernacular stone architecture which utilized native materials; and in the spatial organization defined by the use of the creek for water power. The industrial building cluster—represented during the nineteenth-century by a three-story grist mill, a stone wagon barn/stable, a saw mill, a distillery, a springhouse, and a mill overseer's house with its associated barn—is currently identified only through the location of the mill, the springhouse, and the small wagon barn/stable. During the nineteenth-century, a residential cluster, including a main house and various outbuildings, was located to the southwest of the mill. Today, the remnants of this building cluster fall outside of the boundaries of Rock Creek Park, which was established in 1890. Residential development has occurred on this adjacent property. The recreational and interpretive landscape of Peirce Mill, defined by a network of park roads, trails, and picnic areas, is managed by the National Park Service and utilized by both local and tourist populations.

Type of Context: Physiographic

Description:

The Peirce Mill component landscape is an approximately 24 acre portion of Rock Creek Park, a picturesque preserve of forest, hills and grassy open areas located in Washington, D.C. Rock Creek, as it flows south to the Potomac River, is the heart of the preserve. The topography surrounding the creek is dramatic with steep ravines and the narrower flood plain characteristic of the Fall Line. Peirce Mill is located on the western bank of Rock Creek within the flood plain south of its juncture with Broad Branch.

Type of Context: Political

Description:

Rock Creek Park was created by legislation enacted by Congress on September 27, 1890. Rock Creek Park is located in the northwest quadrant of Washington, D.C. Rock Creek Park and Peirce Mill are administered by the National Park Service, under whose stewardship the mill and the surrounding property has been maintained since 1933.

Management Unit: 339

Tract Numbers: 75, 76, 77

Management Information

General Management Information

Management Category: Must be Preserved and Maintained

Management Category Date: 09/29/2003

Management Category Explanatory Narrative:

The Management Category Date is the date the CLI was first approved by the park superintendent.

Maintenance Location Code: PM

Agreements, Legal Interest, and Access

Management Agreement:

Type of Agreement: Cooperative Agreement

Expiration Date: 8/9/2004

Management Agreement Explanatory Narrative:

The Parks & History Association has a concession for the sale of educational materials inside the mill. The primary focus is the history of the mill and milling, with other materials related to the natural and cultural history of the park and region.

Type of Agreement: Cooperative Agreement

Expiration Date: UNKNOWN

Management Agreement Explanatory Narrative:

A cooperative agreement is in effect with the purpose of enabling the Friends of Peirce Mill to cooperate with the Park in preserving, maintaining, restoring, and interpreting Peirce Mill. It will expire at an unknown month and day in 2007.

NPS Legal Interest:

Type of Interest: Fee Simple

Public Access:

Type of Access: Other Restrictions

Adjacent Lands Information

Do Adjacent Lands Contribute? Yes

Adjacent Lands Description:

Adjacent lands contribute to the significance and integrity of the Peirce Mill landscape by preserving the mill's historic setting. The land to the north, south and east of the site are part of Rock Creek Park. The generally wooded nature of this land has integrity related to the nineteenth-century agricultural landscape. To the west of the site, however, development has occurred on land that belonged to Peirce Shoemaker, but was not included in the creation of the park in 1890. The once open western fields and orchards have given way to housing subdivisions, embassies, and revegetated forests with invasives.

National Register Information

Existing NRIS Information:

Name in National Register:	Pierce Mill
NRIS Number:	69000014
Primary Certification:	Listed In The National Register
Primary Certification Date:	03/24/1969
Name in National Register:	Pierce Springhouse and Barn
NRIS Number:	73000222
Primary Certification:	Listed In The National Register
Primary Certification Date:	10/25/1973
Name in National Register:	Rock Creek Park Historic District
NRIS Number:	91001524
Other Names:	Reservation 339;69000014;73000223;80000348;90001295;73000222
Primary Certification:	Listed In The National Register
Primary Certification Date:	10/23/1991

Significance Criteria: A - Associated with events significant to broad patterns of our history

Period of Significance:

Time Period:	AD 1800 - 1890
Historic Context Theme:	Developing the American Economy
Subtheme:	Agriculture
Facet:	Farming For Local Markets (Dairying, Fruits, And Vegetables)
Other Facet:	None
Time Period:	AD 1800 - 1890
Historic Context Theme:	Expanding Science and Technology
Subtheme:	Technology (Engineering and Invention)
Facet:	Industrial Production Processes (Including Agriculture)
Other Facet:	None
Time Period:	AD 1891 - 1932
Historic Context Theme:	Creating Social Institutions and Movements
Subtheme:	Recreation
Facet:	General Recreation
Other Facet:	None
Time Period:	AD 1891 - 1932
Historic Context Theme:	Expressing Cultural Values
Subtheme:	Architecture
Facet:	Rustic Architecture
Other Facet:	None
Time Period:	AD 1891 - 1932
Historic Context Theme:	Expressing Cultural Values
Subtheme:	Landscape Architecture
Facet:	The Romantic Period
Other Facet:	None
Time Period:	AD 1891 - 1932
Historic Context Theme:	Transforming the Environment
Subtheme:	Conservation of Natural Resources
Facet:	Scenic Preservation
Other Facet:	None

Time Period:	AD 1933 - 1950
Historic Context Theme:	Expressing Cultural Values
Subtheme:	Landscape Architecture
Facet:	Parks Produce A New Profession
Other Facet:	None
Time Period:	AD 1933 - 1950
Historic Context Theme:	Expressing Cultural Values
Subtheme:	Landscape Architecture
Facet:	The 1930's: Era Of Public Works
Other Facet:	None
Time Period:	AD 1933 - 1950
Historic Context Theme:	Transforming the Environment
Subtheme:	Conservation of Natural Resources
Facet:	Scenic Preservation
Other Facet:	None

Area of Significance:

Area of Significance Category:	Architecture
Area of Significance Subcategory:	None
Area of Significance Category:	Industry
Area of Significance Subcategory:	None
Area of Significance Category:	Landscape Architecture
Area of Significance Subcategory:	None
Area of Significance Category:	Agriculture
Area of Significance Subcategory:	None

Statement of Significance:

The Peirce Mill component landscape is located within the Rock Creek Historic District, or reservation 339, which was listed on the National Register in 1991. Peirce Mill, the "Art Barn", (wagon barn/stable) and the springhouse were listed on the National Register in 1969 as individual structures. This landscape is historically significant under National Register criteria A. There are three periods of significance for the Peirce Mill component landscape, spanning the years 1800 to 1951. These three periods of significance correspond to the first three periods of significance for Rock Creek Park overall (1800-1890, 1891-1932, and 1933-1951). The first period of significance (1800-1890) was chosen on the basis of its association with the redevelopment of the milling and establishment of agricultural enterprises on the property by Isaac and Abner Peirce and Peirce Shoemaker. The second period of significance (1891-1933) refers to the use of the site for passive recreation, as a picturesque tea house and picnic grounds, important in the development of early Rock Creek Park recreational and interpretive programs. The final period of significance (1934-1950) marks the era in which the mill was restored and the surrounding landscape was designed to compliment—with some historical accuracy—the mill's use as a living history museum. The rehabilitation, funded by the Works Progress Administration as part of the New Deal legislation, was undertaken by the Civilian Conservation Corps and overseen by Thomas T. Waterman, considered a master of architectural restoration by his contemporaries.

Chronology & Physical History

Cultural Landscape Type and Use

Cultural Landscape Type: Historic Site
Vernacular

Current and Historic Use/Function:

Primary Historic Function: Agricultural Field

Primary Current Use: Concession

Other Use/Function	Other Type of Use or Function
Agricultural Outbuilding	Historic
Commerce/Trade-Other	Historic
Industrial/Processing/Extraction-Other	Historic
Interpretive Landscape	Both Current And Historic
Leisure-Passive (Park)	Both Current And Historic
Recreation/Culture-Other	Both Current And Historic
Secondary Structure (Garage)	Historic
Single Family House	Historic

Current and Historic Names:

Name	Type of Name
Peirce Mill	Both Current And Historic
Pierce Mill	Historic

Ethnographic Study Conducted: Yes-Restricted Information

Ethnographic Significance Description:

An unnamed prehistoric site, # 51NW78, has been located along Beach Drive at the north end of Picnic Area 2. The artifacts suggest that this was a base camp used by an unknown prehistoric people. It was likely used for light woodworking, hunting and food processing, stone tool production, and hide working. The site condition is listed as poor. It was located by P. Inashima in 1982, with the formal report written in 1985. (Moran 1997: 7, 11)

Chronology:

Year	Event	Annotation
AD 1800 - 1890	Developed	During this period Isaac Peirce and his descendents developed their holdings along Rock Creek into an agricultural and milling complex. Abner Peirce Isaac Peirce Peirce Shoemaker
AD 1891 - 1932	Designed	After the creation of Rock Creek Park (1890), park managers oversaw the development of the area around Peirce Mill, which they transformed into a pictuesque spot for passive recreation. The 1918 Olmsted Report on the park was used as a management plan.

		Glenn Brown
		Rock Creek Park Commission
		Offi
		Rock Creek Board of Control
		Office of Public Buildings and Public Parks
		Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr.
		Office of Public Buildings and Grounds
		Otto Strange
AD 1933 - 1950	Designed	During the first years of the NPS administration, the mill structure was restored, while the landscape around the mill was designed to compliment the restoration and other park amentities were added to the area.
		Thomas T. Waterman
		Malcolm Kirkpatrick
		National Park Service
AD 1951 - 1998	Altered	This period is marked by alterations to the exterior of the mill and to the mill race to keep the mill functioning as a "living history" site. Other incremental changes have been made to the area that have had little significant impact thus far.
		National Park Service
AD 1997	Damaged	The north corner of the Peirce Mill springhouse sustains damages when a car collides with the structure.
AD 2003	Rehabilitated	The springhouse at Peirce Mill is rehabilitated to repair damages resulting from a 1997 automobile collision with the north corner of the structure.
AD 2006 - 2007	Rehabilitated	Peirce Mill underwent rehabilitations including the replacement of the roof and repointing of the walls.
	Altered	The dam at the mill undergoes some work, including the installation of a fish ladder.
AD 2008	Built	A temporary gate is put in at the mouth of the tailrace, by the bridge between the mill and Rock Creek, to block floating debris from entering this area.

	Rehabilitated	Sewage issues related to the restrooms at the comfort station are resolved by the DC Water and Sewer Authority (WASA).
AD 2008 - 2009	Rehabilitated	In conjunction with a Friends group, the gear wheel of the water wheel is replaced.
AD 2009	Rehabilitated	The repair, repainting and removal of lead from the windows and sills of Peirce Mill is completed. The non-historic blue flagstone walk near the northern façade of the Peirce Mill is also repaired.
	Maintained	A Cultural Landscape Report addressing the historic character, current condition and treatment of the cultural resources at Peirce Mill was researched and completed.
	Planned	Demolition of the comfort station is planned, along with replacement of the bulletin board on the main façade of the Peirce Barn and reconstruction of the water wheel and headrace.
	Built	Construction begins on the water wheel apron, which will form a part of the new water wheel and headrace.

Physical History:

1799 and earlier

INTRODUCTION
In the mid nineteenth-century, the area around Peirce Mill was noted for its picturesque character. The cluster of stone farm and mill buildings, the ford across the flowing water of Rock Creek, the boulders along the banks, and the surrounding hills created an evocative setting. In 1858, the photographer, Titian Peale, captured an image of the mill in one of the first photographs of Washington D.C. Peale shows the mill structure shrouded by shade trees, with the western slope in the background lit by sunlight. The image, with its air of mystery, aptly illustrates the description of the farm and the mill scene in 1848 made by one District citizen:

"It struck me as one of the most comfortable and poetical nooks that I have ever beheld. It seemed to have everything about it calculated to win the heart of a lover of nature and rural life. Though situated on the side of a hill and embowered in trees, it commands a pleasing landscape; and it was built upwards of one hundred years ago, it is interesting for its antiquity. Surmounted as it is with a pointed roof, green with moss of years, and flanked by a vine-covered porch, the vegetation which clusters around it is so abundant that one could hardly discover its real proportions. And all the outbuildings were within keeping of the cottage itself. It is, upon the whole, one of the most interesting nooks to be found anywhere within an hour's ride of the Capitol" (National Intelligencer 10/20/1848).

Today, the mill site is situated on the west bank of Rock Creek near the intersection of Tilden Street and Beach Drive, N.W. Tilden Street partially follows the course of old Pierce Mill Road, a route that ran east to west from present-day 14th Street, across the banks of Rock Creek to connect with the road to Rockville, or Wisconsin Avenue. The mill structure sits in a sloped depression created by the creek on the east, the elevation of the Tilden Street Bridge on the south, and the higher grade of the parking lot on the north. It serves primarily as an interpretative site on the history of milling. In addition, park management uses the mill as a visitor contact point.

The Peirce Mill complex historically included structures that are both within and outside the current boundaries of Rock Creek Park. The mill, the stone wagon barn/stable, and the springhouse are park buildings, while the residence now known as "Cloverdale," the original stone barn, and remnants of another barn are on private property.

EARLY HISTORY
During the late prehistoric period, the plant diversity of Rock Creek Valley was based on a mixture of beech, tulip, basswood, ash and oaks. Other trees contributing to the vegetative canopy were: butternut, maple, sassafras, hickory, sour gum, and sweet gum. Dogwood, ironwood, shadblow, and wild black cherry dominated the understory, along with woody shrubs such as azalea, viburnum, spicebush, witchhazel and dockmackle. The steep northern slopes of the ridge were distinguished by stands of hemlock, while the stream bank displayed significant numbers of birches. Willow, walnut, cottonwood, mulberry, alder, sycamore and elm also grew in the floodplain (Wallace cited in Inashima 1985: 19-20).

Two geologic bases characterized the slopes of Rock Creek Valley. On the eastern side, the formation was primarily Wissahickon (peltic schist or diamictic gneiss). On the western side of the creek, the formation was exclusively Kensington gneiss, with the exception of the Georgetown area near the mouth of Rock Creek, where unconsolidated materials, such as river deposits, have been noted. (Froelich 1976 cited in Inashima 1985: 8)

The first human occupation of Rock Creek Valley in the vicinity of Peirce Mill probably occurred as early as the Late Archaic period (c. 4000 BC to 1000 BC), when Native Americans, possibly members of the Conoy or Anacostin tribes, set up transitory encampment sites along the stream bank. One such site was located along the east side of the creek, south of its intersection with Broad Branch, in an area associated with the Peirce Mill property (Inashima 1985: 268). Here, Indians would have hunted, prepared hides, and done some woodworking (Moran 1997: 21).

The Proprietary of Maryland was chartered in 1632. At the beginning of the eighteenth-century, most of the land in the Rock Creek watershed was held privately in large tracts. In 1791 the lands associated with the lower portion of the watershed were incorporated into the new District of Columbia. By the time of the creation of the Federal city, most of the "landowners of the region were poor third generation farmers who lived on extensive acreage inherited from the original settlers" (Bushong 1990: 18).

During the middle of the eighteenth-century, two local developments occurred that encouraged the shift away from traditional colonial tobacco production toward the cultivation of wheat and corn. One was the exhaustion of the soil under the longstanding cultivation of tobacco; the other was the gradual development of the Piedmont region, with its different soil composition, beyond the Fall Line and the reach of large river vessels. Overall increases in grain production encouraged the construction of both custom mills and the larger merchant mills. In the District, the dramatic decline in the number of tobacco shipments from the port in Georgetown after the Revolution and the subsequent increase in flour production from merchant mills located along the new Chesapeake and Ohio Canal (1828) influenced the development of mills elsewhere in the community (McCormick 1967: 15). With its upstream location, north of the mouth of the Rock Creek, Peirce Mill was established as a custom mill, catering to local farmers on both sides of the valley. Custom mills generally served an agricultural community, while the larger, more substantial merchant mills catered to the "emerging industrial and market-oriented economy." Both types of mills continued to operate within close proximity to each other until the beginning of the twentieth century (Frye 1984: 26).

Peirce Mill derived from a longstanding tradition of milling in the American colonies. The first colonial mills were primitive, usually of stone and timber construction designed to meet the needs of individual or small groups of families. Such mills could operate with a limited amount of water flow or natural current, and without a dam or a raceway. By the middle of the eighteenth century, the early, primitive mills had evolved into custom mills, which were also sited along streams or rivers. By raising the level of the stream with a wooden or stone dam, and by directing the flow through the narrow channel of an inclined raceway to bring swiftly

moving water to the mill wheel, enough waterpower was generated to turn the wheel. Through axle shafts and gearing the wheel turned one or more millstones, or a buhr pair of stones. A typical custom mill was a simple apparatus using a vertical undershot wheel and a portable grinding stone, and a small hopper to collect the ground meal. Easily dismantled, this machinery was often housed under an open-sided, crudely built wooden structure. Total output was three to four bushels per hour. Sawmills were also frequently constructed near custom mills. Other structures associated with mill sites included granaries, equipment sheds, and a coopers shop for making flour barrels (McCormick 1967: 4-8). Together these structures created small mill complexes. This arrangement remained fairly typical in areas that were not served by prominent transportation routes, such as rivers and public roads.

Documentation indicates that there may have been as many as eight mills constructed at the beginning of the nineteenth century along the banks of Rock Creek. [The Cultural Landscape Inventory of Rock Creek Park fully discusses the development of these mills and their production.] In addition to the available waterpower from the flow of Rock Creek, the soils of the District of Columbia were also most fertile along the stream valleys. Here small farms could cultivate not only tobacco, but also corn, wheat, potatoes, garden produce, fruits and wine grapes (Morisson 1852: 21). These were the conditions found by Isaac Peirce when he first acquired land along Rock Creek.



Peirce Mill and Peirce Mill Road, c.1840, showing the rural character of the setting along Rock Creek.

1800-1890

In 1794, Isaac Peirce purchased approximately 150 acres along Rock Creek from William Deakins, a Georgetown entrepreneur. This property included a pre-existing frame house and a two-story frame mill. The mill site that Peirce purchased from Deakins may have been located further down stream, closer to the mouth of Piney Branch, than the site commonly associated today with Isaac Peirce (Wolfe c. 1966; Bushong 1990:26).

Isaac Peirce, a former Pennsylvania Quaker, was an enterprising landholder, farmer and

millwright. He oversaw the operations of a farm, sawmill, gristmill, and nursery. He had been born in 1756 in Chester County, Pennsylvania, and had probably come to the Potomac Valley in the 1780s. He married Elizabeth (Betsy) Cloud, with whom he had nine children. To his first acquisition from Deakins, Peirce developed and accumulated additional land so that by 1800, Peirce had acquired nearly 2000 acres. At the time of his death in 1841, he held title to more than 1,200 acres in northwest Washington (Bushong 1990: 26).

Prior to his development of the mill site, Peirce established a farmstead. In 1810 he improved on the existing residential structure by constructing one of oak timbers with a pointed roof and vine-covered porch on a granite foundation (National Intelligencer 1848; Wolfe c. 1966; Peter and Southwick 1958: 44). He sited his house about a quarter mile west of what would become the new mill site and along the east/west road (1801) that forded the creek. This route subsequently became known as Peirce's Mill Road (Inashima 1985: 269; Boschke 1861). With his son Abner, Peirce also built several barns, and outbuildings, such as a potato house (1804) and a springhouse (1801), which was also referred to as a "cool house." The springhouse and a small outbuilding (constructed in 1810 and identified in 1864 as “family house”) were sited on the western slope north of the residence. A cow barn (c.1810) was located further up the hill to the north. Closer to the mill site and the ford, Pierce built a stone wagon barn/stable (1810) on the north side of the road and a smaller stone barn (constructed in 1811, converted to a distillery after 1864, converted back to a barn in 1878 and to a residence by 1916) on the south. Peirce did not oversee the daily operation of the mill. This responsibility was probably assigned to one of his slaves. Later the mill operation was leased to a succession of millers. A frame house for the miller's use was constructed near the stone barn around 1820 (Bushong 1990: 27; Shoemaker 1909: 44; Peter and Southwick 1958: 25; and appraisement of the ...Estate of Abner Peirce 1851). The head of water needed to turn the grist mill's undershot wheel came from a wooden crib-style dam constructed upstream from the mill site, just south of the confluence of Rock Creek with Broad Branch. Given the 1820 or 1829 dates of construction for the mill, the dam had to have been functioning by 1830 at the latest. In 1840 the existing mill wheel was replaced with a more powerful overshot wheel. This change was probably due to consistently lower water levels in the creek at that time (Wolfe c.1966).

In addition to farming and grist milling, Peirce operated a sawmill (c.1800). He appears to have set up this apparatus downstream from the gristmill site, near the tributary now referred to as Melvin Hazen. The sawmill race extended to the south downstream from the larger mill site. Once the gristmill had been constructed, the sawmill race passed just to the west side of the larger mill. However, by 1848 the sawmill was no longer in use and had been abandoned. A second sawmill was constructed during the 1860s by one of Isaac's descendants. This mill was located just north of the main mill building (Michler 1866; Bushong 1990: 27; McCormick 1967: 35) and utilized a short extension off of the main raceway, which had been constructed of local stone. Other aspects of Peirce's enterprise included hauling hay, barley, flaxseed and other grains to local customers (Mann-Kenney 1989: 39-40).

Peirce also operated a nursery. In 1805 his prominent neighbor Uriah Forrest ordered from Peirce and Thomas Mann nearly seven hundred thornbushes, which were planted on Forrest's estate, Rosedale, to serve as livestock barriers and fences (Mann-Kenney 1989: 39-40). In

1814, Peirce advertised in the National Intelligencer that he had 20,000 engrafted apple tree cuttings available for purchase (Bryan 1916: 598-599). In 1821, Isaac apparently ceded his nursery operation to his youngest son, Joshua. At that time, he transferred approximately 82 acres located along the west side of Rock Creek about a half mile south of the mill site to Joshua. By 1824, Joshua Peirce had established the Linnaean Hill Nursery on his property, adjacent to his father's tract, where he cultivated for sale a variety of fruit and ornamental trees shrubs and plants (Wheelock 1993: 6-7). [The development of the Linnaean Hill property is covered in the Cultural Landscape Inventory for the Peirce/Klingle Estate at Linnaean Hill.]

The extent of Peirce's enterprise can also be measured by the size of his household. On the 1820 population census, he listed nine children, eleven slaves and four indentured servants. By 1830, his household had grown and consisted of 27 individuals, including one free Negro laborer and 14 slaves, one of whom may have been assigned to operate the mill. Documentation suggests that the mill may not have been leased to a miller/operator until around the time of the Civil War (Bushong 1990: 37).

Because Peirce's mill was a custom mill, the effect of its operation and that of the farmstead on the surrounding landscape was less industrial and more agricultural than the facts imply. Work yards, clusters of outbuildings, meadows, orchards, fenced spaces for garden plots and livestock barriers, and other unidentified features, such as a burying ground, were all interspersed with the features associated with the mill (Schedule 1, 7th U.S. Census; Boschke 1861; Richard Quin communication 1998). The mill features included the dam and stone raceway, the stone mill and sawmill structures, the creek ford and the roads leading to and from the mill site.

For most of the nineteenth-century, Peirce Mill Road passed directly south of the gristmilll and crossed the creek via a ford. Its route ran west to east and connected the two sides of the growing Federal city. Contemporary Tilden Street and Springland Lane represent traces of the western segment (1801). The alignment of the eastern segment (1831) of Peirce Mill Road followed portions of the current bicycle trail on the east side of the creek and small sections of Beach Drive and Park Road. In 1839 a north/south road was laid out along the west side of the creek. This route linked Peirce Mill Road and the mill site with a road located to the north at Broad Branch. In 1854, the Broad Branch road was extended to the northwest following the course of this stream. These two road improvements meant that mill customers coming from the northwest traveled down Broad Branch Road to the intersection of Broad Branch and Rock Creek and then continued south along Rock Creek following the west side of the millrace to the mill. Peirce Mill Road was improved in 1861 and platted in 1864 (Inashima 1985:248, 269).

By the mid nineteenth-century the mill enterprise had been owned and operated by members of the Peirce family for some 54 years. After Isaac's death in 1841, the mill seat of 960 acres had passed to Isaac's son Abner Cloud Pierce. The 1850 census shows that he had 80 acres of "improved" land and 880 acres of "unimproved" land, which included pasture and woodland. Abner, a stonemason by trade, owned eighteen slaves, five horses, three mules, five "milch" cows, four working oxen and other cattle, as well as 50 sheep and 19 swine. He had relatively high rates of production on his property. Abner grew a variety of grains, which included large quantities of wheat and corn and smaller amounts of rye and oats. He raised bees, cultivated

potatoes, and made 156 pounds of butter. He does not appear to have been engaged in commercial fruit growing, perhaps leaving that process to his brother Joshua Peirce at Linnaean Hill (Schedule l, 7th U.S. 1850 Census).

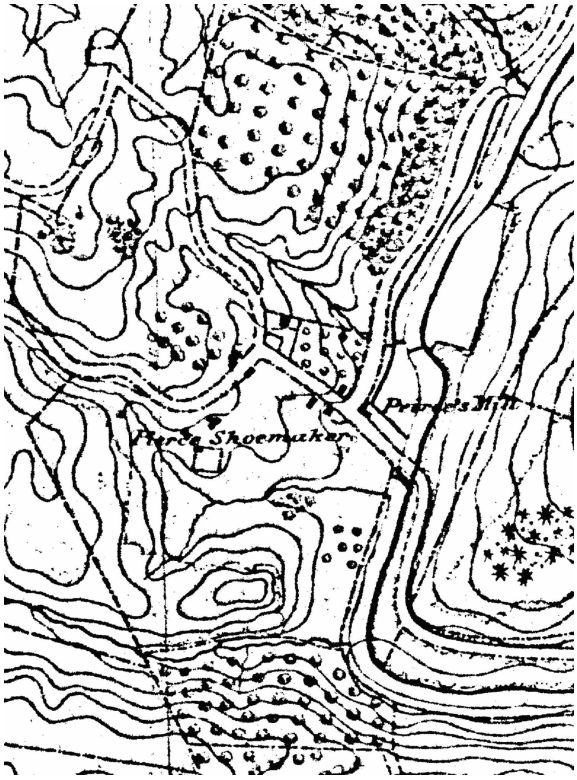
Peirce Shoemaker inherited the farm and mill from his uncle Abner in 1851. Although Shoemaker was a jeweler by trade, he directed the farm operation and increased the number of acres in cultivation from 80 to 120 acres during the first decade of his ownership. Prior to the abolition of slavery in the District of Columbia in 1862, Shoemaker owned 20 slaves. After the Civil War the farm operation decreased in size, but the land increased in value (Bushong 1990: 28-29; Schedule of Products of Agriculture, 8th U.S. Census 1860). By 1870 his property consisted of 100 acres of "improved" land, 400 acres of woodland, and 108 of other "unimproved" land and no allotment for an orchard. Although the census lacks information on orchard production, the 1861 Boschke map indicates that an orchard was located on the slope northwest of the mill. In 1880, the number of "improved" acres remained the same, with one acre devoted to an apple orchard (Schedule 3, Productions of Agriculture, 9th U.S. Census; Schedule 2, Tenth Census-1870 Agriculture). During this time, Peirce Shoemaker continued the practice of leasing out the milling operation, receiving rent and sharing in the profits (Bushong 1990: 37).

Archival research conducted by Charles McCormick indicates that by 1870, Peirce Mill may have been operating as both a custom and a merchant mill. McCormick concluded that in one eleven-month period the mill's three buhr stones may have produced quantities of corn, offal (animal feed), wheat, rye for market and offal, corn, rye, meal and flour for custom grinding. Two brothers, Alcibiades and Charles White, operated the mill with the assistance of one laborer. The mill had been improved in 1876 by replacing the wooden wheel with a 45 horsepower Leffel Turbine, which could better generate an adequate supply of waterpower. This change may have been precipitated by the failure of the wooden crib dam. A new location for the dam was selected further downstream, closer to the mill site. Over time, three or four timber crib and stone fill dams were subsequently constructed in this location (Waterman to Vint 1936; Wolfe c.1966). The 1880 census reveals that, with the new mechanism and dam location, the primary production of corn meal and feed was divided evenly between market and custom grinding. The value of the grinding was $8,250 that year (McCormick 1967: 36-39; Bushong 1985: 37-38).

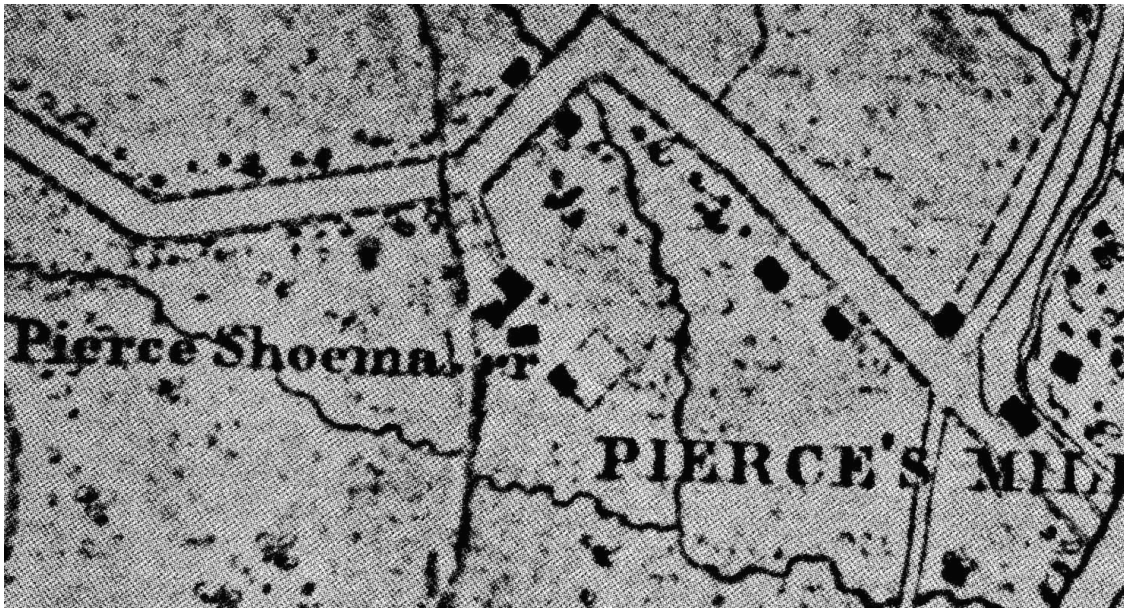
Improvement in the circulation around the mill site came in 1872 when a wood truss bridge was constructed immediately south of the mill and the creek ford. The bridge piers and abutments were constructed of granite that probably came from the Peirce quarry located on Broad Branch. Peirce Mill Road was realigned to meet the bridge crossing, although the ford continued to be used. Shortly thereafter, Linnaean Hill Road (currently Park Road) was constructed as a more direct easterly extension of Peirce Mill Road and the older, more circuitous section of Peirce Mill Road that followed the eastern bank of the creek was abandoned. The construction of the bridge piers and their abutments increased the elevation of the grade just south of the mill. The effect was to create a more bowl-like depression around the mill and, with the bridge span, further separate the mill from the meadows south of the road.

The mill continued to operate until 1897, when the shaft on the turbine broke. At that time the mill site had been incorporated into the newly created Rock Creek Park. Sometime prior to the 1890 legislation establishing the park, the mill apparently underwent several structural alterations. These may have been done in conjunction with the addition of the turbine in 1876. According to examinations made during the 1930s restoration, the dormer windows were added, the chimney recapped and probably lowered, and the sash may have been changed (Waterman to Kirkpatrick, May 6, 1935). The elimination of the sawmill structure and apparatus, as well as its foundation and "the waterway leading to it" may have also occurred around 1876, when the dam was first relocated and the turbine added. The last of the old crib dams that served the mill in the final years of its operation washed out in 1899 (Shoemaker 1909: 41, Waterman to Vint 1936). "The washout caused considerable caving of the creek banks and converted that portion of the creek below it [the old dam] to a barren and rather ugly bed" (Board of Control 1912: 14).

The other significant change that occurred during Peirce Shoemaker's ownership of the estate was the addition of a new modern residence. In 1876 he replaced the old Peirce house, the picturesque structure of "hand-hewn oak" built by Isaac, with a new stone structure called "Cloverdale." The new structure occupied the site of the old home, southwest of the springhouse (Peter and Southwick 1958:25). At the time of his death in 1891, Peirce Shoemaker held title to 800 acres of land. The U.S. Government took approximately three hundred and fifty of these acres when it finalized the formation of Rock Creek Park in 1892.



The 1861 Boschke Map shows the cluster of buildings, the fields, orchards, and woodlands belonging to Peirce Shoemaker.



The mill and other structures and their relationship to the road system and Rock Creek are indicated on Michler's 1866 Topographical Sketch of the Environs of Washington."

1891-1932

At the close of the century, the Rock Creek Valley, as it extended from the northern end of the National Zoological Park to the Maryland line, was transformed from a collection of individual farms, homesteads and mill sites to a national park that could serve the recreational needs of the citizens of the District of Columbia. Even before the creation of the park, the area around Peirce Mill had been a gathering place for relaxation and passive recreation. According to one tradition, the mill had been a popular spot for picnicking, fishing, bird watching, painting, walking and collecting chestnuts. A thirst-quenching drink of apple cider was known to have been offered to those visiting Peirce Mill. In addition, the mill served the community in other ways: barn dances were held on its second floor and the grounds were used by local militia and fire companies for drilling (Mackall 1899).

The land associated with Peirce Mill that was transferred from the Peirce Shoemaker estate to the Federal government in 1892 consisted of three parcels totaling more than 24 acres. Five of the old Peirce buildings conveyed as well, including the mill, the wagon barn, the miller's house, the springhouse and the small unidentified outbuilding. Land surveys indicate that the Peirce Mill property was mostly low, flat land, "subject to overflow" lying along both sides of Rock Creek. A steep hillside "partly thick with forest" lay directly behind the "stone barn," or wagon barn [Rossell map 1890].

The first major alteration to the landscape around the mill after the formation of the Park occurred in 1895 when the wood truss bridge across the creek was replaced with one constructed of steel girders and faced with stone. This new construction added a significant

increase in grade of almost six feet at both ends of the bridge. Stone wing walls were added in 1912 to contain the fill used in the grade adjustment at the bridge approaches. Because Pierce Mill Road was a public road, the District highway department independently of the Rock Creek Board of Control, the administrative organization of the new park, made these changes to the bridge crossing (McLaughlin and Winer 1987: 3-4).

The Rock Creek Board of Control was established in 1894 to oversee the administration of the park. The Board represented the District of Columbia Commissioners and the Army Chief of Engineers in all park matters. Members on the board included the engineer commissioner and his assistant engineer officer. The assistant engineer had direct responsibility for managing the park. The first improvement initiated by the engineer managers that affected the Peirce Mill area occurred in 1899. This project involved the grading of an original segment of Peirce Mill Road, the one leading north from Klingle Road along the east side of the creek to the mill. Two years later the road along the west bank that connected Peirce Mill, Broad Branch and the ruins of Blagden Mill to the north was graded as well. Both of these old routes were macadamized in 1901 and were designated Beach Drive. Between 1902 and 1909, managers established trails and paths through the park for horseback riders and pedestrians. Several of these led to the area around Peirce Mill (Board of Control 1912: 8, 14-15, 17). Some were developed from nineteenth-century routes, such as the abandoned road between Linnaean Hill and Peirce Mill. One trail paralleled the west bank of the creek north of the mill and lay over the old nineteenth-century millrace. A rustic style footbridge, near the site of the old dam just south of Broad Branch, was constructed in association with this trail. Another trail incorporated the old ford crossing adjacent to the mill. By improving existing roads, making trails out of existing paths, and utilizing the existing topography, access to the already popular Peirce Mill was enhanced and visitor use increased (Macintosh 1985: 21-22).

As early as 1902, proposals for the rehabilitation of Peirce Mill circulated in the press. In 1903 Louis Shoemaker, the son of Peirce Shoemaker, advocated the preservation of the mill as an historic attraction used to interpret the early industry of Rock Creek Valley (Bushong 1990: 193, 112; Shoemaker 1909). However, the initial effort to improve the setting at Peirce Mill had more to do with creating a picturesque park destination point and less to do with the preservation of the site. In 1904, a new dam was constructed a short distance upstream, within view of the mill. The dam was built on a rock foundation and had concrete walls, faced with rounded boulders of the same granite stone as that used on the Peirce Mill bridge. It had a waterfall of some six to seven feet (Board of Control 1912: 14; McLaughlin and Winer 1987: 7). With its pleasant sound of falling water, its rustic appearance, and its close proximity to the mill, Otto Strange had clearly designed the dam to be a picturesque water feature and park enhancement rather than a source of waterpower for a "restored" mill. Stone wing walls were added to the Peirce Mill dam in 1905. The other early park improvement that had impact on the mill site was the 1902 construction of a melan arch concrete bridge known as Pebble Dash Bridge, because of its “sandy colored brushed concrete and pebble finish.” Designed by Washington architect Glenn Brown, the bridge spanned the mouth of the Broad Branch tributary and, in conjunction with a ford crossing, served to facilitate traffic circulation north of Peirce Mill at the intersection of Broad Branch and Beach Drive. Pebble Dash bridge was removed in 1958 as one of Rock Creek Park’s Mission 66 bridge improvement projects

(Bushong 1990: 108).

Ideas about restoring the mill evidently faded, while efforts to enhance the mill site as a park destination point increased. Sometime around 1905, a Miss F. Todd operated a tearoom from the mill rent-free and without permit. In 1909, Mary Louise Noble obtained a permit from the Board of Control to operate a "restaurant" in the former mill, which she did until 1917. After Noble, Mrs. Florence Ingraham Blake leased the property from1918 and 1919. The tea room enterprise continued to operate through a succession of tenants and concessionaires, including the Girl Scouts Association (1925), until 1934 (Butler to Chatelain 1935; Board of Control 1912: 9; Bushong 1990; 112-113, 194; Office of Public Buildings and Grounds 1919; 3831; Macintosh 1985: 28-31). Other attractions included a "Red Cross Station," which utilized space within the building around 1909, and the addition of a "temporary public convenience shelter in 1912" (Bushong 1990: 113, 194; Board of Control 1912: 21). Analysis indicates that the first comfort station was constructed slightly north of the wagon barn in 1917.

The conflict between designating the grounds around the mill for picnicking and passive recreation versus using them in the interpretation of the historic site resurfaced in 1914. At this time features associated with the exterior of the mill were in thorough disrepair. The wheel no longer functioned, timbers had rotted, and the stone-lined raceway required excavation (Rambler 1914; Bushong 1990: 113). Without Board approval, the park's manager directed crews to fill in the millrace with the dirt and debris from a nearby sewer-trenching project. On the one hand he stated that "it is a mistake to assume that the building known as Peirce Mill should be perpetually kept in all respects as it was found when the park was purchased." And on the other, this engineer considered his initiative a relatively minor change that would make the grounds around the mill more accessible to picnic parties (Butler to Chatelain 1935). The Board of Control continued to envision the mill as a possible "shelter, recreation center, and perhaps a bandstand." Some minor repairs were made to the structure in 1917 (Bushong 1990: 113; Butler to Chatelain 1935).

As late as 1908, Peirce Mill Road continued to run from the mill site westward between the two small stone buildings, the small unidentified outbuilding and the springhouse, which lay within the boundary of the park (Shoemaker 1909: 44). Between 1913 and 1916 Tilden Street, a four lane city through route with a planted median, was laid over the historic western segment of Peirce Mill Road. The construction of Tilden Street caused the removal of the unidentified outbuilding (Bushong 1990: 195). A three-sided stone retaining wall was constructed around the springhouse to protect it within the median strip. Other physical changes that occurred relative to the circulation in the area of the mill included the surfacing of the bridge with asphalt in 1921. Pipe railings were also added to the bridge in 1921. Sidewalks were not and have never been incorporated into the bridge's design (McLaughlin and Winer 1987: 4).

In 1918 Rock Creek Park was transferred from the Board of Control to the park system of the District of Columbia under the jurisdiction of the Chief of Engineers. The management of the park fell under the Office of Public Buildings and Grounds (OPBG). Just prior to this transfer, the Board of Control commissioned the Olmsted Brothers, the notable landscape architecture firm from Brookline, Massachusetts, to study and prepare a report with recommendations on

the future development of Rock Creek Park. In 1918, after extensive reconnaissance work and analysis and evaluation of the entire park, the firm submitted its report to the Office of Public Buildings and Grounds.

While the Olmsted Report discussed the valley, meadowlands, and the development of picnic groves, the document did not specifically address the areas around existing historic structures such as Peirce Mill. The area on the west side of the creek, north and south of the mill site fell into the landscape unit designated in the report as Type V, an area of "generally open grass land." The area lying directly along the west bank above the 1904 dam and on the east side of the creek above and below the bridge qualified as Type II-R , "where river bottom prevails" (Olmsted Brothers 1918; Plan No. 27). The designations were based on the reconnaissance notes, which indicated that a "nice meadow" lay on the west side of the creek, south of the mill (Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site).

The only reference to the Peirce Mill area in the 1918 report concerned circulation and the existing bridge. In particular the report examined eliminating the bridge in favor of a new east/west automobile route through the park. "The junction at the east end of Pierce's Mill bridge is blind and dangerous: and we have suggested that this bridge, and the Pierce's Mill Road at either end of it be abandoned and a new bridge built in a more open place some five hundred feet further down stream. As part of this change the approach from Tilden Street would be modified." The Olmsted proposal called for the new crossing to be a high viaduct constructed above the floor of the creek valley (Olmsted Brothers 1918: 36). While the viaduct proposal was never implemented, the Olmsted's work served as the management plan, and later master plan, for the park until the 1940s.

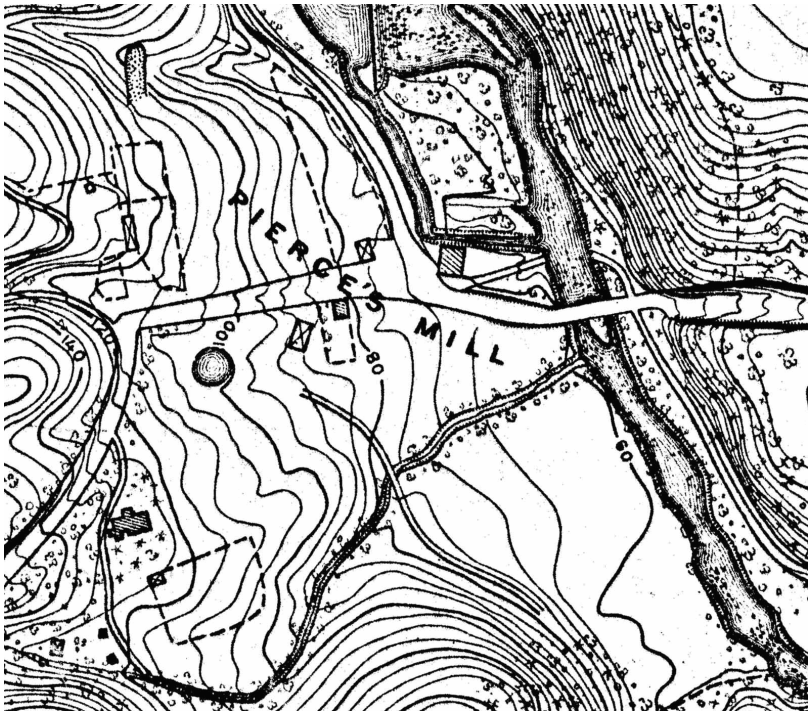
In 1919 the Officer in Charge of the OPBG, Col. Ridley, directed the organization’s architect, Horace Peaslee, to develop plans for the improvement of Pierce Mill. Peaslee's preliminary assessment of the mill noted the deteriorated condition of the remaining structural elements and stated that what remained was "probably enough to materially help create the proper atmosphere within." Yet he questioned "whether or not it would be well to attempt, for the sake of historical record, to put back, without competing with the new function of the property, the essential parts of an old-time mill." In his final proposal, Peaslee included a water wheel restoration, rather than reusing the "unpicturesque turbine," to create the picturesque atmosphere needed for the adaptive use of the mill as inn or coffeehouse with outdoor dining (Peaslee to Ridley 1919, cited in Macintosh 1985: 30). His 1919 plans for the grounds showed a designed landscape that incorporated symmetrical formality with the "intrinsic charm of the naturalesque" (Bushong 1990: 114). Although Peaslee's recommendations were not adopted, his proposal for the grounds underscore park priorities: the need for a unifying landscape design and separate circulation patterns (pedestrian, automobile and horseback riding) around the mill (Peaslee 1919: drawings).

By the 1920s significant landscape features at Peirce Mill included the cluster of three historic buildings (mill, wagon barn, springhouse), comfort station, designated picnic groves, fencing, and site furnishings. A stone fireplace was constructed for the public's use in the area next to the mill in 1922-23. Other fireplaces were added soon after to the picnic grove on the east side of

the creek and to the one located on the west side, south of Tilden Street. A rustic picnic shelter was also constructed in this grove as well. During 1925 and 1926, the Office of Public Buildings and Public Parks (OPBPP), the successor to the OPBG, set up playground equipment (slide, swing set, seesaw) in the open area near the shelter. In that same year, 144 rustic settees and 42 tables were constructed for visitor's use; some of these were probably placed in picnic areas at Peirce Mill (Annual Reports OPBG/OPBPP 1920-1926).

Throughout the 1920s and early 1930s, park managers worked to improve and maintain the condition of the mill for the tea room operation. Electric lighting (1921), the addition of a one-pipe heater (1922-23), and a kitchen remodeling (1926-27) were among the improvements. In April 1927, the Welfare and Recreational Association received the concession to operate the tearoom. This organization was actively involved with the construction of subsequent improvements to the structure (Annual Reports OPBG/OPBPP 1921-1928; McCarthy 1986).

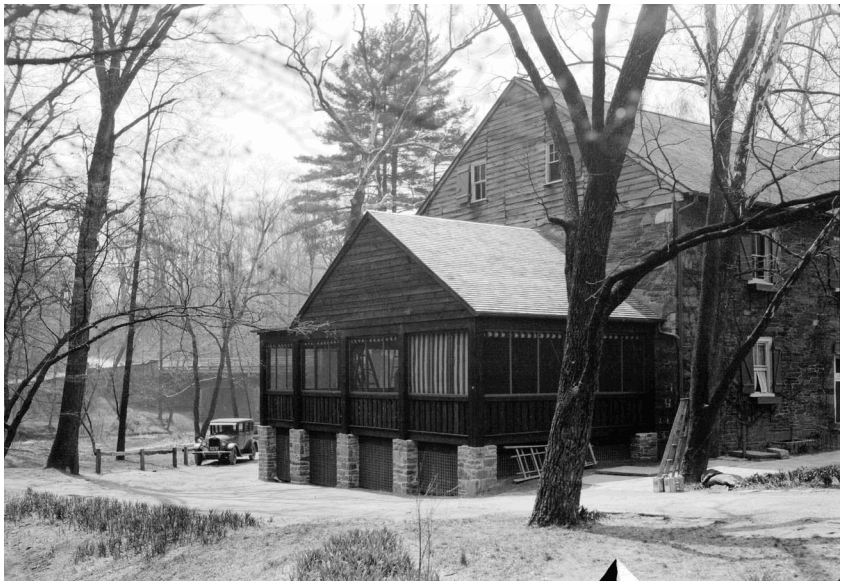
In 1931, the Welfare and Recreation Association completed alterations to Peirce Mill that had been designed by the OPBPP staff to enhance the concessionaire's operation of the tearoom. Several changes were made to the interior, but the addition of a large one-story screened porch on the north side of the mill, in the location of the old water wheel, was by far the most significant change. Two landscape improvements related to these structural changes occurred between 1929 and 1930: "a quantity" of existing holly trees were removed and relocated to improve visibility and eliminate traffic hazards at the bridge intersections; and locations for planting native trees such as dogwood, fringe tree, and redbud were staked as well (Annual Reports OPBPP 1930-1932; Butler to Chatelain 1935).



The U.S. Coast and Geodetic survey of 1892 shows the mill, the dam, the mill race in relation to Peirce Mill Road, the bridge and the ford across Rock Creek.



Bicyclists on Peirce Mill Bridge c. 1895; image shows miller's house in the background.



The tearoom porch addition to the mill structure was added in 1931. This photo demonstrates the development of the site as a picturesque park destination point.



Although undated, this image of the springhouse was probably taken in the first years after the creation of Rock Creek Park in 1890.

1933-1950

In August 1933, Rock Creek Park and all the Federal parkland in the nation's capital became part of the organization known as National Capital Parks, a division of the National Park Service (NPS) in the Department of the Interior. This reorganization of public lands was carried out as part of President Roosevelt's "New Deal for the American People." A major component of New Deal was the creation of large-scale public works projects. Among these was the improvement of national and state parks. The Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) and the Public Works Administration (PWA), which provided manpower and funding, were established to implement the parks projects.

The National Park Service brought new design and planning skills, as well as administrative expertise, to their stewardship of Rock Creek Park. National Park Service architects and landscape architects developed programs to improve or rebuild structures, roads, trails, footbridges and site furnishings using CCC labor and WPA funding. Charles Peterson, then chief of planning and design for the Eastern Division of the NPS, identified Peirce Mill as a structure worthy of restoration. The newly established Historic American Building Survey (HABS), also part of the National Park Service, initiated the survey and collection of historic documentation about the mill in 1934.

Once approved by the Director and by the Secretary of the Interior, the restoration of Peirce Mill became one of the first architectural preservation projects undertaken by the National Park Service. As a direct result of the establishment of the Historic American Building Survey, the Eastern Division of the Branch of Designs and Plans under architect Peterson completed a limited number of historical restorations. Peirce Mill was one of the first NPS projects; its architectural restoration was supervised by Thomas T. Waterman, a notable American architect associated with the early years of the preservation movement.

"The structure had deteriorated during forty years of idleness and use as a tearoom, but it had the advantage of being a typical waterpower mill, and therefore, its restoration was less subject to dispute than is the case with more stylized buildings. There was little disagreement over plans to replace doors, stairs, the chimneystack, stone window stools, and hardware inside or the head and sluice gates outside the walls. Peirce Mill gave the National Park Service a cause that was easy for the nation to accept; it was an industrial site with the romantic overtones of a tree-shaded stream running through a city park" (Kaynor 1985: 128).

Work to restore Peirce Mill as a functioning example of a nineteenth-century gristmill began in 1934 and was completed by 1936. In 1934 the tearoom operation ended. In November the tearoom porch was removed from the mill, so that a mill wheel could be replicated in the historically accurate location on the north facade. While most aspects of the architectural restoration were relatively easy to execute, restoration of the mill’s historic landscape features was more problematic. In particular, the original estimate of the cost to restore the mill had not included the expense of replicating the original dam (Macintosh 1985: 106; Bushong 1990:138).

In 1935, J.S. Fitz of Hanover, Pennsylvania designed the replacement mill machinery using as much original and/or old material as possible. Fitz also consulted on the design for the forebay and penstock and on the width of the water wheel. The millrace was relined with stone

"following exactly the fragments of the original [race].” The construction of the wall of the race did require additional strengthening to counter the weakness in the area caused by the depression left from the old saw mill (Peterson and Waterman to Fitz 1935). Because of unique construction difficulties encountered in hidden portions of the raceway and in "weakened framing which was badly charred from a fire" in the mill, little money remained to finish the restoration, much less address the issue of the dam. Although the importance of the mill's restoration is underscored by the additional $10,000 allocated to complete the project, funds were insufficient to restore the dam in a historically accurate way (Kaynor 1985: 128; Bushong 1990: 138).

In his concept for the restoration, Waterman wanted a milldam that effectively supplied the wheel with water as well as had historic visual appeal. Because the 1904 dam was in the “boulder style,” Waterman felt that it lacked harmony with the stone work of Peirce Mill and with the tradition of milldams. A more historically accurate timber crib would be "not only extremely interesting, but in perfect harmony with the building and the surroundings" (Waterman to Vint 1936).

The National Park Service analyzed the value of removing the 1904 dam in favor of constructing a crib dam in the same general location as the dam that had last powered the mill. The continued impounding of water to the elevation required to run the mill with the 1904 dam was unsatisfactory and resulted in "the destruction of an extensive area of the valley floor that formerly was both beautiful and useable." These inundations mostly damaged vegetation and left behind silt deposits. It was hoped that a new dam at the old location would "prevent overflow and scour silt deposits from the upstream bed" (Rock Creek Park files, memorandum 1940).

In the end, funding restrictions necessitated abandoning plans for a new dam and developing a different strategy for powering the mill. An undershot wheel that did not require a high elevation of water was installed. A CCC crew cut back the shoreline that had shifted away from the millrace. They also repaired the 1904 dam and raised it eight inches to provide a greater fall. Even with these efforts, siltation, which collected in the bottom of the restored millrace, sometimes prevented the free flow of water to the wheel (Bushong 1990: 138; Gillen to Finnan, 1936). In spite of these problems, the mill opened to the public in 1936. The Welfare and Recreation Association was granted the concession to sell the meal ground there. Residential quarters for the miller were created in the remodeled "store house across the street," or the former wagon barn (McCarthy 1986).

Other changes in the mill area included relocating a bridle path under the western span of the Peirce Mill Bridge and discontinuing the ford crossing. The placement of the trail along the bank of the creek necessitated the construction of a long retaining wall along the creek's edge, which also removed physical evidence of the historic ford. This work was completed as part of a 1937 effort to improve Rock Creek Park's trail system (McLaughlin and Winer 1987: 16). Short wooden footbridges were also installed across the restored millrace. The north/south segment of old Peirce Mill Road, or West Beach Drive, was converted to trail use in the area just north of the mill and the wagon barn/stable. The portion of the drive passing between those

two structures was expanded into a small parking lot. Creation of the parking lot caused a dramatic change in grade in this area, and deepened the bowl-like effect of the topography surrounding the mill.

Not only did the restored mill attract park visitors to this part of Rock Creek, but the National Park Service interpretative programs did as well. While the history program was centered inside the mill, outside the emphasis was on nature in the park. The Service prided itself on its educational and interpretative programs on the value of parks. Thus, Donald McHenry, the first Park Service naturalist assigned to National Capital Parks, began a series of traditional NPS Friday night campfire programs at the mill in June 1936 (Macintosh 1985: 109).



The 1936 architectural restoration of Peirce Mill included excavation of the old mill race and reconstruction of its stone walls.



After the mill was restored, the grounds were 'Improved'with plantings, fencing and signage.

1951-2009

Throughout the rest of the 1930s, 1940s and into the 1950s, the mill functioned on a limited basis, grinding small quantities of meal. Frequently water levels in the Rock Creek were insufficient to operate the wheel. The Park Service officially suspended mill operations in 1958 because of continued machinery breakdowns, the inability to find trained millwrights to maintain and repair the works, as well as fluctuations in the water levels. The building, however, did remain open to the public on a limited basis, serving as a museum and interpretative center (Bushong 1990:139; McCarthy 1986).

By 1967 interest in restoring the mill's operation was renewed and another preservation effort initiated. Under the supervision of the National Park Service between 1968 and 1970, several significant alterations were made to the exterior of the mill. An assessment of water levels in the creek and conditions at the mill indicated that the 1904 dam could no longer function as a mill dam, but rather, in keeping with its original purpose, served more as a spillway or waterfall. To remedy these problems the following changes were implemented. The undershot wheel was replaced with a more powerful and authentic overshot wheel. The raceway, which had suffered long-term damage from periodic flooding between 1937 and 1968, was filled in and covered. Waterpower came from the municipal water supply via a "short exposed race constructed directly above the wheel." The restoration was completed in 1970. (Washington Post, 05/15/1970; 05/20/1970). In the middle of the restoration process, the mill, wagon barn and springhouse were placed on the National Register for Historic Places (1969).

In 1971, the old Peirce/Shoemaker wagon barn was given new structural supports, fitted with a new shake roof, and repainted as exhibition space for twenty-five area artists. The facility became known as the "Art Barn" and was operated in partnership with a local artists organization. At the time, Russell Dickenson, National Capital Parks superintendent, stated that the conversion of the carriage house exemplified the "parks-are-for-the-people concept," and that parks should "serve the community with innovative and meaningful ideas." These management concepts originated around 1968 when National Capital Parks administration determined that Washington's parks were under-utilized. They created the Summer in the Parks Program in response (Post 02/05/1971). The Art Barn Association continues to occupy the structure.

Through the succeeding decades gradual, incremental change occurred around Peirce Mill. Post and rail fencing was installed; beds of tulips were planted; and the bridle trail along the creek bank was paved for use as a bicycle trail. To control erosion and stabilize the stream banks, additional retaining wall was constructed along the creek and special riparian plantings were established (Post 03/17/1977; Annual Report 1981). A new high-water footbridge was installed in 1982 just south of Peirce Mill picnic area 1 to replace one built in 1976, but damaged extensively by high water and debris in September 1979 (Post 09/12/1979, 07/09/1982). While similar small-scale changes continue to be implemented, the effect of their overall impact has yet to be examined.

In 1993, Rock Creek Park resource managers assessed the landscape surrounding Peirce Mill for its cultural landscape values. They described the mill and its environs as part of a nineteenth-century industrial complex. In particular, the view from the main entrance to the mill encompassed remnants of that landscape including: the former distillery, the springhouse, wagon barn/stable, old ford crossing, the waterpower from the creek, the general topography, and the visible natural resources that had been used to construct the original complex. Intrusions that compromised the landscape were the mill parking lot and sign clutter. Managers recalled that sometime in the 1970s consideration had been given to removing the parking lot; reestablishing a portion of the historic dirt wagon track between the mill and the wagon barn; replanting a portion of the old orchard; and excavating the mill race (Strach to James 1993).

Throughout the last few decades, the primary challenge for the management of Rock Creek Park had been how to incorporate the significance of the early twentieth-century landscape of Peirce Mill into its planning for the future. This landscape includes the picturesque picnic spots, boulder dam, and use of the old mill as a tearoom facility, but also the important 1930s restoration of the mill structure, water wheel and mill race. An ongoing concern has been how to best preserve and interpret this landscape and the equally significant nineteenth-century landscape described above.

To this end, a number of maintenance and repair activities have recently taken place at Peirce Mill. In 2003, the springhouse was rehabilitated in order to repair damages resulting from a 1997 automobile collision with the north corner of the structure. Since 2003 what was described as a "hazardous" tulip trash can stand was removed from the parking lot off of Broad

Branch Road, sinkholes in the park were eliminated, and the two fireplaces at Picnic Area 2 east of the creek were stabilized. From 2006 to 2007, the Peirce Mill itself underwent rehabilitations including the replacement of the roof and repointing of the walls, while sewage issues related to the restrooms were resolved by the DC Water and Sewer Authority (WASA) in 2008. The repair, repainting and removal of lead from the windows and sills of the Peirce Mill was completed in 2009. The recent removal of vegetation from around the privately-owned Peirce Still, across Tilden Street from the Peirce Barn, has helped to renew the historic spatial organization of the site by making this historic building more visible. The deteriorated, non-historic blue flagstone walk near the northern façade of the mill was also repaired the same year. Additional repairs to the flooring on the first level of the building are due to be completed in September of 2009. The structure formerly known as the Art Barn has more recently been referred to as the Peirce Barn, since its function has shifted from art to visitor contact. Meanwhile, although it was previously targeted for rehabilitation, the comfort station at Peirce Mill is now slated for demolition due to funding constraints.

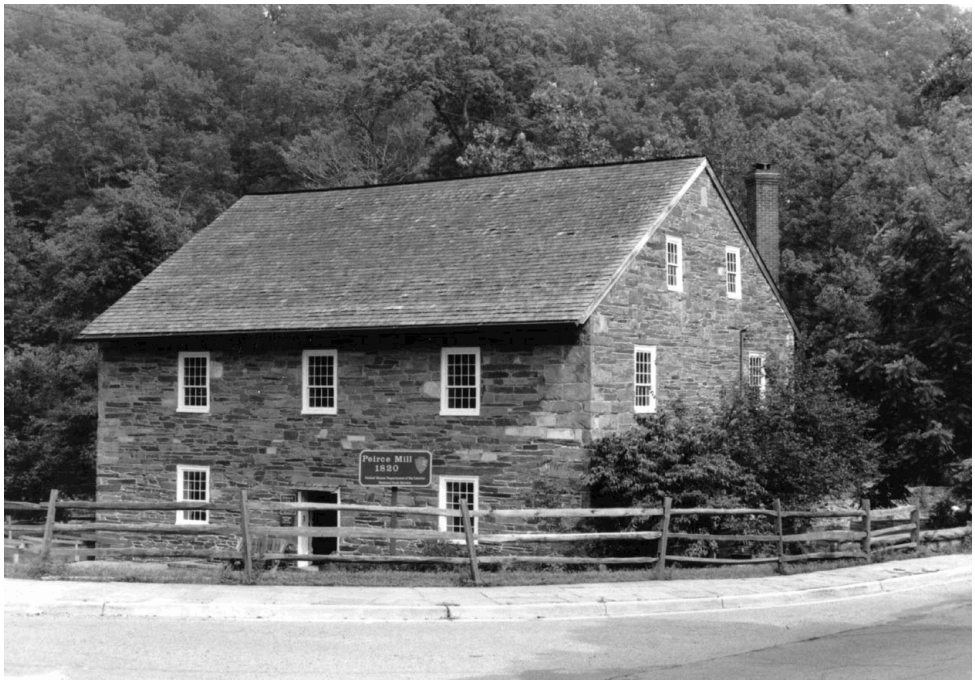
Several ongoing, year-round maintenance projects are also in place for Peirce Mill. With help from a Friends group and volunteers, the park controls invasive species within the main complex on a seasonal basis, not extending beyond the treeline. The width and location of the dirt road west of the pavilion in Picnic Area 1 is maintained in order to suggest its historic appearance. The removal of trees, tree branches, and other debris from the dam, mill, and along Beach Drive is conducted as needed on a yearly basis. Carried out by a tree crew, this work helps to ensure visitor safety, prevent damage to historic resources, and preserve the surviving historic views to the river.

Sometime after 2003, sandbags were installed around the windows of the Peirce Mill to help minimize the effects of regular flooding at the site, year-round. The Cultural Landscape Report (CLR) to be completed by the end of fiscal year 2009 identifies a more sustainable flood-control strategy that will provide for the removal of these bags.

Indeed, a key component of the developing management strategy for Peirce Mill was the creation of a CLR for the property. Researched and completed in 2009, this document addresses the historic character, current condition and treatment of the cultural resources at Peirce Mill, and promises to help guide the further rehabilitation and preservation of this historic site. Current plans for the property include the demolition of the comfort station, replacement of the bulletin board on the main façade of the Peirce Barn, and reconstruction of the water wheel.



This image of the former Peirce wagon barn/stable was taken at about the time the structure became known as the "Art Barn."



This photograph taken after the mill's 1970 restoration shows the structure in a bowl-like depression created by the installation of the parking lot.

Analysis & Evaluation of Integrity

Analysis and Evaluation of Integrity Narrative Summary:

The Peirce Mill component landscape is defined by its use through three historically significant periods of development, from 1800 to 1950. During the nineteenth-century, Peirce Mill, as a privately owned milling and agricultural enterprise, contained orchards, transportation routes, pasture land, and agricultural and industrial building clusters. After the transfer of the property for the creation of Rock Creek Park in 1890, Peirce Mill was renovated as a picturesque tea house and picnic grounds. With the New Deal restoration of the mill and wagon barn in the 1930s, the landscape underwent extensive alteration to function as a living history museum interpreting nineteenth-century milling activities. Currently the site is used for visitor recreation and historic interpretive programs.

The Peirce Mill component landscape retains significant landscape elements as defined through complicated interactions among remnants of a nineteenth-century utilitarian landscape, an early twentieth-century picturesque design and a mid twentieth-century living history interpretative site. These eras are then overlaid with the current ecological-oriented management approach, which reflects a desire to accommodate an increasing variety of visitor uses. This multi-layering of history has resulted in a site which retains limited integrity to any one period of significance, but provides an interesting chronology of park land development and preservation philosophy.

The historic agricultural, milling and recreational landscape of Peirce Mill possesses partial integrity of:

Location: The primary features defining the Peirce Mill component landscape—the major extant structures, much of the vehicular circulation, and some vegetative patterns—that serve to define and enclose the site, are in their nineteenth-century location. Integrity relating to the twentieth-century periods of significance is much higher, however, due to the continuity in vegetative patterns and recreational trail alignments constructed with the creation of the park.

Design: The original spatial organization of the agricultural and milling site, including land use functions and activities for residential, milling and agricultural purposes, has been degraded due to the removal of historic structures, changing use patterns, a lack of extensive historic vegetation and alteration of land form. Elements of the pragmatic nineteenth century milling and agricultural landscape remain, however. These characteristics include the location of the wagon barn/stable, the springhouse and the mill; the alignment of transportation routes; the openness of the southern meadow and some vegetative patterns. Integrity relating to the Rock Creek Park early developmental era is augmented by the preservation of the boulder dam and some historic vegetation patterns.

Setting: The landscape surrounding the Peirce Mill component landscape possesses partial integrity in relation to its nineteenth-century significance period. Currently surrounded by hardwood forest on its northern, eastern and southern sides, this land during the nineteenth-century was also primarily wooded. On the western edge of the component landscape, reforestation has occurred in the location of nineteenth century pasture and orchards. The historically significant relationship between Peirce Mill and Rock Creek Park in general has been retained through the preservation of park boundaries.

The growth of invasive vegetation, however, has compromised the historic views which connected Peirce Mill to the surrounding landscape.

Materials: The majority of the buildings located on the Peirce Mill component landscape during the nineteenth-century and early twentieth-century are now no longer extant. Structures which defined the milling and the later park character (i.e. the mill, wagon barn/stable, springhouse, picturesque dam, and fireplaces) remain relatively intact. The loss of nineteenth-century agricultural and residential structures, however, has reduced the material and design integrity of the landscape. Most of the nineteenth-century plant growth, including meadow and orchard vegetation, is no longer extant, which also contributes to a loss of integrity.

Workmanship: The structures on the Peirce Mill component landscape, although altered, are reflective of their agricultural and milling origins and functions. The mill, wagon house and springhouse illustrate the cultural traditions associated with the architecture significant to the property. The integrity of the workmanship associated with the nineteenth and early twentieth-century landscape has been compromised due to the loss of historic characteristics formerly revealed in the architecture and in the spatial relationships of the landscape.

Feeling: The Peirce Mill component landscape possesses a distinct character that can not be found elsewhere within Rock Creek Park. The buildings, structures, historic circulation systems, materials, organization, and open space all contribute to the historic agricultural, milling and early twentieth-century recreational landscape feeling associated with Peirce Mill.

Association: The association between the Peirce Mill component landscape and the milling and agricultural industry has been severely diminished due to altered site functions. The integrity relating to the site association with the recreational and aesthetic objectives of park visitors remains high.

The current condition of the Peirce Mill component landscape is degraded, in part due to invasive and overgrown vegetation that reduces historic views and obscures other character-defining features, such as the remnants of the nineteenth-century orchard. The current invasive growth also threatens historic vegetation. In addition, the integrity of the nineteenth-century milling and agricultural enterprise and the early twentieth-century park landscape has been diminished through insensitive grading, altering historic relationships among site structures, circulation patterns, and Rock Creek. The raising of contributing structures and some unsympathetic structural rehabilitation further compromise the site's integrity and condition. Yet features that define the historic landscape evolution remain. These include contributing roads, water features, structures, meadows, and limited vegetation. They illustrate both the practical land use areas and the design intent apparent during the early twentieth-century park enhancement.

Landscape Characteristic:

Natural Systems and Features

The component landscape of Peirce Mill is located within the watershed of Rock Creek. The Peirce Mill landscape, as part of the Rock Creek watershed reflects the geology, pedology, and hydrology of the creek and its tributaries within the jurisdiction of the District of Columbia.

The large scale topography of the site has been formed by the hydrological forces and the erosion of Rock Creek, located along the eastern boundary of this component landscape. The topography surrounding the grist mill is characterized by a relatively flat and narrow plain extending west approximately 150 yards from the creek. The land then rises in an eastern facing slope. Artificial grading, the result of various road and race building campaigns, further defines the landform immediately surrounding the mill. In addition, three creek tributaries historically flowed east into Rock Creek within the boundaries of the Peirce Mill component landscape. One was located just north of the grist mill, currently visible as a depression in the topography. The second, also revealed through slight topographic change, ran into Rock Creek just south of the current Tilden Street Bridge. The final small tributary, Melvin Hazen Creek, remains and flows past Linnaean Hill down to Rock Creek at the southern end of the meadow area (now Picnic Area 1).

The land immediately surrounding the mill and the picnic area at the southern end of the site is covered by turf with informal plantings of ornamental vegetation, both native and exotic. During the nineteenth-century the area to the north and west of the mill was planted with fruit trees. Today forest growth, characterized by oak, maple and beech, has replaced the orchards on this long eastern facing slope. Riparian trees and shrubs grow along the creek banks. Some areas used for grazing during the nineteenth-century, such as the meadow south of the mill, remain open.

The climate of Peirce Mill is moderate. The mill is located within USDA zone 7. Summers are characterized by warm humid weather. Winters are mild with little snow fall. Precipitation occurs fairly regularly throughout the year, with no well-pronounced wet and dry seasons. Occasionally serious weather disturbances occur creating high winds and heavy rainfall.

During the nineteenth-century, the natural systems on site—the forest growth, the topography and the creek alignment—were altered many times to conform the site to the requirements of the milling and horticultural industries. This modification continued into the twentieth-century through the various restoration campaigns reflective of the evolution of American preservation philosophies. Therefore, the level of integrity relating to the nineteenth century period of development, is very questionable. While various natural systems and features from all eras are extant on site, assisting in the interpretation of the Peirce Mill component landscape, the general natural features of the landscape can be said to retain only moderate integrity to any one period of significance or development.

Spatial Organization

The spatial organization of the site has historically been tied to the physical characteristics of the land—the alignment of the creek, the topography and the vegetation. The locations of buildings, orchards, fields and roads—while determined by human need—were all positioned in response to the natural features of the landscape. Portions of these circulation systems, the built environment, views and topography remain from the nineteenth-century. Currently, however, the integrity of the historic spatial relationship between the nineteenth century building clusters has been diminished due to grading, vegetative growth and new circulation routes and

amenities.

CURRENT CONDITIONS

Peirce Mill, an early nineteenth-century grist mill, sits on the western bank of Rock Creek, just north of the intersection of Tilden Street and Beach Drive. Built in 1820 or 1829, the front, western façade of the mill faces a parking lot and entrance drive. The elevation of this lot and entrance drive was raised slightly to meet the elevation of the bridge constructed in 1895. This elevation was drastically increased with the construction in 1936 of the parking lot, which resulted in Peirce Mill appearing to lay in a depression, contrary to its historic appearance. The southern portion of that lot is in the approximate location of the original mill yard. The mill yard included the space between the wagon barn west of the mill, formerly used to house the Rock Creek Art Gallery, and the mill itself. The mid nineteenth-century road which connected Peirce Mill to Blagden Mill, currently used as a bike trail, extends from the northern end of this parking lot, north to Broad Branch Road. Traversing through an area of meadow dotted with many trees, this area is now used for walking and picnicking. South of Tilden Street is another picnic area with an associated entrance drive, parking lot and picnic shelter dating to the 1950s.

The landscape surrounding the mill itself reflects alterations imposed by the building and interpretative programs of many eras. The raceway, which leads from the mill wheel, located on the northern façade of the mill, east to the creek dates to the late 1960s. A slight depression in the landscape reveals the more extensive path of the 1936 race restoration which was filled in during the late 1960s. Circulation as well dates to a variety of periods of development. The bicycle trail, which passes under the Tilden Street bridge, was originally constructed as a bridle trail during the 1930s in an effort to separate the various forms of traffic near Tilden Street. Short, blue flagstone paved paths located near the northern façade of the mill were installed with the creation of the late 1960s living history interpretive program. These paths were repaired in 2009 to minimize tripping hazards. The levels of enclosure on site, including the tree canopy and thickness of vegetative growth lining the creek, also increased during this period. In recent years, the more open nineteenth-century character of the historic property has been regained, at least to a limited extent, by the clearing of invasives up to the tree line and around the Peirce Still across Tilden Street.

HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT

During the early nineteenth century, the landscape of Peirce Mill was arranged in reference to the physical characteristics of the site. The grist mill itself was located on the west creek bank to utilize the power of the water flow. A millrace ran the length of the creek almost to Broad Branch Road. To the immediate west of the race was the road connecting Peirce Mill and Blagden Mill to the north. An oil painting dating from the 1840s suggests that the main circulation route—Peirce Mill Road—ran very close to the southern façade of the mill, crossing Rock Creek at a ford. The primary spatial relationship was between the mill and the creek. A secondary relationship was formed between the mill, the small barn to the west, and Peirce Mill road, creating the mill yard. The enclosure levels were fairly high for much of the surrounding landscape remained forested and thick, and native riparian vegetation lined the creek banks-

-though the surrounding land was beginning to be cleared. Most likely, a small orchard was located on the eastern facing slope west of the mill. A log house was located to the south of Peirce Mill Road. Surrounded by split rail fences, this building probably served as the miller's residence. According to written documentation, the main residence was located further up the hill, to the southwest of the milling complex, positioned to catch the breezes and out of the flood plain of the creek.

As the nineteenth-century progressed, the spatial relationships of the site became more complicated. Additional structures were constructed and the agricultural and horticultural enterprises were expanded. The long east facing slope was planted with fruit trees. A buffer of forested ridge land separated the orchard from the main transportation route between Peirce Mill and Blagden Mill. Land was cleared west and south of the residence, creating views. Fence lines separated pasture land from the creek and forested areas—further defining the agricultural land. Views to the creek were present from both the mill and the Peirce Shoemaker residence.

By 1866 a road connected Peirce Shoemaker's land holdings with Linnaean Hill, another Peirce property, to the south on the west side of the creek. Although spatially divided by forest, the two properties shared this circulation route. During 1870s Peirce Shoemaker's milling enterprise reached its height of production. The most extensive land development also occurred at this time. Utilitarian land development was illustrated in the ratio and size of open to enclosed spaces, in the extent of fence lines, and in the large size of the agricultural structure clusters. Survey maps dating to the 1890s reveal a gradually diminishing level of pragmatic land utilization. The millrace, originally extending almost to Broad Branch Road, was shortened. The sawmill no longer appeared on the map. Fences located south of Tilden Street along the creek were removed. The Shoemaker residence, however, expanded. The drive to the home was lengthened, while the road connecting Peirce Mill to Linnaean Hill was abandoned—again separating the two horticultural enterprises.

With the acquisition of the property by Rock Creek Park management, the Peirce Shoemaker land holdings were divided. The residence was separated from the mill, wagon barn/stable and springhouse. The large barn located to the west of the small wagon barn/stable was razed. The incorporation of the Peirce Mill site into Rock Creek Park initiated a series of changes in the spatial arrangement of the overall landscape. Peirce Mill was converted to a tea house, signaling the end of the utilitarian, horticultural and milling use of the site. Divided from agricultural, horticultural and residential buildings, Peirce Mill lost its cultural context illustrated through its relationship with these peripheral sites. Peirce Mill, as a recreational destination site within Rock Creek Park, regained a stronger relationship with the eastern side of the creek. Views to the mill from the newly constructed Beach Drive were established. Vegetation along the creek was cut back. The ford remained east of the mill and the road to Linnaean Hill was reestablished as a bridle trail. A spatial connection between the mill and the creek was altered with the construction of a picturesque dam, south of the site of the earlier utilitarian dam. Ornamental plantings were installed. Although the connection with the surrounding orchards

was diminished by a loss of ownership, the fruit trees were still a major portion of the borrowed scenery to the west. The visual experience of an open site, although not under the same utilitarian uses, was still present.

Between the 1900 and 1935 the Peirce Mill site continued to be developed as a picturesque, picnicking and recreation site within the park. During the 1920s a comfort station was attached to the wagon barn. A picnic pavilion and play equipment were constructed immediately south of Tilden Street in 1925. A parking lot was installed to between the mill and the creek. A screen porch was constructed in the location of the previous mill wheel.

In 1935, Peirce Mill underwent a WPA sponsored restoration. The relationship between the landscape and the mill became simplified; its utilitarian aspect again emphasized, although in a sterilized manner. The relationship between the creek and the mill was recreated through the raceway. Views remained open to the east and north. Another major change in the spatial relationship between structures on site occurred with the construction of the parking lot to the west of the mill and the closure of the old road between Peirce Mill and Broad Branch, then called West Beach Drive.

The amount and thickness of vegetation continued to grow throughout the 1940s and 1950s, within surrounding properties and along the creek edge, blocking views and screening the residential development occurring at the boundaries of the park. Enclosure levels increased with the screening of these views.

LEVEL OF HISTORIC INTEGRITY
From the 1960s to the present day, with the increasing emphasis on ecological management policies and decreases in funding, the level of invasive vegetation has risen dramatically on site. Successionary forest growth and invasives now cover the east facing slope. Perennial borders define the “front yard” of the mill, additionally delineated by a split rail fence. Suggestions of the spatial organization of both the nineteenth century and early twentieth century landscape remain however. Peirce Mill, the wagon barn and the springhouse are located on their original foundations. The road that connected Peirce Mill and Blagden Mill is still apparent as a pedestrian and bike trail. The open spaces which were once grazing land, remain open as picnic areas. The picturesque dam, though partially hidden by foliage, still provides the sound of rushing water, which in turn serves to diminish the impact of increasing noise pollution from passing cars. Circulation systems dating to each period of development crisscross the site. Such historic remnants do contribute to the historic integrity of the site, if not the continuity of its appearance.

Land Use

During the nineteenth-century the primary land use, milling, occurred on the western bank of Rock Creek. Utilizing the power of the falling water, the placement of the mill dictated the orientation of the circulation systems, the locations of subsequent buildings and the design of millraces in the surrounding landscape. The current organization of the land reveals portions of this nineteenth-century evolution. Yet the site’s use has undergone tremendous change from its early nineteenth- century utilitarian beginnings. What was once an agricultural, horticultural and

milling enterprise is partially hidden under layers of successionary and invasive vegetation, grown up under various Rock Creek Park managements. What remains to suggest historic land uses are remnants of past interpretive and site development campaigns. They presented in their own times, unique versions of site specific history, valuable today for the clues they lend towards an understanding of current land uses.

CURRENT CONDITIONS

Peirce Mill sits on the western bank of Rock Creek, just north of the Tilden Street Bridge. The site is used for both active and passive recreation. The northern section of the Peirce Mill component landscape, that north of Tilden Street, serves as an interpretative site and picnic area within Rock Creek Park. The open meadow, south of Tilden Street is also used as a picnic area, although it is not interpreted as part of the Peirce Mill site. It contains, like the picnic area at Peirce Mill, a parking lot and entrance drive. A bicycle path leads down from Broad Branch Road, passes under the Tilden Street Bridge and into this southern picnic area. Slightly north of the mill, across the creek is yet another picnic area and parking lot. West of the mill outside the boundaries of the park, a private residence sits on the foundation of the nineteenth-century Shoemaker house. A nineteenth-century barn, located to the south of the wagon barn/stable, is also privately owned and has been redesigned as a residence. The residential development at the park boundaries is screened by vegetation. Remnants of the orchards, which during the nineteenth-century were located on the long, east facing slope west of the mill, are buried by successional growth. The wagon barn, located to the west of the mill as well, is used for the display of art by a not-for-profit organization. No longer used to house art today, it has since become known as the Peirce Barn and is currently utilized as a visitor contact station with exhibits on the Peirce Mill complex. A comfort station is attached to the northern façade of this structure.

HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT

During the early nineteenth century the most intensive land use occurred close to Rock Creek. Peirce Mill utilized the water power generated by the dam constructed up stream from the building. An oil painting dated at 1840 shows a log house located across Peirce Mill Road to the south, slightly to the west of the mill. The simple vernacular architecture of the house and its surrounding fencing emphasized the utilitarian nature of the site. To the west of the mill, on the east facing slope, orchards grew. The core of primary use was tied closely to the creek. By mid-century, however, another use had gained prominence on the site as illustrated by a growing cluster of buildings located to the southwest of the mill. Situated on higher ground, out of the flood plain of Rock Creek, the residence and three associated outbuildings were tied to the mill through views and by Peirce Mill Road. Spurs of Peirce Mill Road that originated from its primary alignment, served both as a circulation for local endeavors and as an east-west connection between distant markets and the Peirce Shoemaker's agricultural/horticultural and milling enterprises. Animal husbandry also occurred on site as evidenced by the extensive fencing and large barn constructed prior to 1861. A primary grazing field was located to the east of the creek, north of the mill. Another fenced field was located south of the mill.

Around 1866, a sawmill was built immediately north of Peirce Mill, again increasing the intensity of land use in the vicinity of the creek. The sawmill may have utilized part of the Peirce Mill raceway, with a short spur being added for the operation of the sawmill. The area northwest of the mill under fruit tree cultivation expanded to cover the east facing slope. During these middle decades of the nineteenth-century, the landscape associated with Peirce Mill was at its most extensive, illustrating the profitability of the mill during this era.

By the late nineteenth-century, the success of the milling enterprise was waning. The sawmill was removed, its raceway evidenced only through a depression in the land. The orchards remained. The grist millrace was shortened, extending northward approximately two hundred feet to a crib dam located down stream from the earlier dam. Yet while the extent of the agricultural and milling landscapes decreased, the residence of the Shoemakers was expanded—its outbuildings placed at intervals on a long entrance drive.

With the acquisition of the Peirce Shoemaker's mill site by the administration of Rock Creek Park in 1892, this residential area became separated from the utilitarian areas of the site. The northern and southern pastures remained connected politically to the mill site as areas for picnicking. The orchards, however, fell to the west of the park boundary. As such, the Peirce Mill landscape size decreased dramatically. Its use also underwent dramatic alteration.

By 1905, Peirce Mill was converted into a tea house for the enjoyment of Rock Creek Park visitors. The pragmatic organization of the landscape was partially hidden by the picturesque design of the picnic area associated with the tea house development.

For instance, a dam was built in the style of Boulder Bridge, to provide the sound of falling water contributing to the enjoyment of the setting for alfresco dining. The mill as a tea house served an aesthetic and social function as a recreational destination. Walking and bridle trails were developed both north and south of the mill. The most intensive trail development occurred in the area of the Melvin Hazen tributary, between Peirce Mill and Linnaean Hill. The open spaces, both south of the mill and east of the mill across the creek, were utilized as picnic areas with play structures and a picnic shelter. Such passive recreational use of these open areas has continued until the present day.

In 1936 Peirce Mill was rehabilitated and its landscape altered accordingly. Much of the ornamental foundation planting was removed to provide a more accurate historic setting for the interpretative program the newly functioning mill. However, this interpretation conveyed only certain elements of the mill’s history. Although the orchards were visible on the east facing bank, their presence was not explained. Although the open meadow used for a picnic area was originally a pasture land, its history was not conveyed. The porch on Peirce Mill was removed, and its use as a tea house discontinued. Although the restoration of Peirce Mill did recreate the late nineteenth century millrace, some of the historic topography and circulation system was destroyed. The road leading to Broad Branch Road, was closed and a parking lot was created in its place west of the mill. By 1958 this “Colonial Revival” rendition of Peirce Mill had also

faded. Evenutally the mill wheel stopped turning and the millrace was filled in.

Throughout the 1950s, the extent of the open space continued to be diminished by the overgrowth of invasive vegetation. Traffic and parking increased at the mill and picnic areas, responding to the increases in traffic along Beach Drive. In the early 1970s the living history interpretive approach was again revived. A much abbreviated millrace, one that utilized city water, was installed and the mill wheel turned again for a short while. Peirce Mill continued to function as a destination site in the overall landscape of Rock Creek Park. Also during this period, the wagon barn/stable was converted to an art exhibition space and named the "Art Barn."

LEVEL OF HISTORIC INTEGRITY
Although the nineteenth-century utilitarian land use is suggested by the location of the mill along the creek bank, the remnant circulation systems and the remaining open space, much of the historic integrity relative to the nineteenth century has been compromised. When viewed as an evolving recreation and interpretive site within Rock Creek Park, the integrity of historic Peirce Mill land use becomes more apparent. The continuity of the use as a social and recreational site has continued from the early twentieth century, until present day. The various design approaches that have conveyed Peirce Mill's past use are significant to the history of the Peirce Mill landscape and to Rock Creek Park as a whole.

Cultural Traditions

The extant structures on the Peirce Mill component landscape illustrate building practices that were frequently employed in the Delaware Valley and undoubtedly diffused with Isaac Peirce when he migrated to the Potomac Valley. Generally, the use of stone construction and accented quoins are architectural features commonly seen in eighteenth and early nineteenth-century buildings in Bucks, Montgomery, and Chester counties in Pennsylvania--the region where Isaac Peirce was born and raised. However, most material culture scholars agree that choice of building material alone is not a reliable indicator of cultural origin. Furthermore, it is difficult to ascribe an ethnicity to construction techniques found on non-residential structures, particularly when they are not first period buildings. Nevertheless, there are a few identifiable traits associated with the buildings on the Peirce Mill component landscape that provide some clues about the cultural traditions of their builder.

One such readily identifiable feature is the datestone found near the eaves of the gable roof in the south elevation of the mill, which is inscribed with the year of construction, along with the owner's initials. This feature is closely identified with the vernacular architecture of southeastern Pennsylvania, and may have its origins in the British Isles. Also, the presence of a corner fireplace within the mill suggests it may have served an enclosed office in which business related to mill operations was conducted. Again, there is a precedent for this form among the early mills of southeastern Pennsylvania (Del Sordo 1982, 67).

In regards to the springhouse, it also contains a datestone in one of its gable ends, as well as keystone arches above the window and door openings--features commonly seen in domestic buildings in southeastern Pennsylvania. However, the most distinctive feature of the

springhouse is its banked arrangement, which was frequently used in springhouse construction by both British and Germanic groups in the Delaware and Susquehanna valleys. (Glassie 1964, 22). While the predominant function of the springhouse was to protect the property's water supply from contamination as well as cool perishable food products, its ancillary functions included butter and cheese making, butchering, and washing clothes. Cheese and butter making often took place on the upper floor, which sometimes served as living quarters for tenant farmers (Long 1972, 12-14). Indeed, the springhouse on the Peirce Mill component landscape has two levels, and its brick chimney serves as evidence of its ancillary functions.

Despite the property's ability to communicate building traditions diffused from the southeastern Pennsylvania culture hearth, subsequent alterations to the landscape during the twentieth-century have eroded the integrity of the early nineteenth-century landscape. Therefore the integrity of cultural traditions, which may have been conveyed additionally through site planning, has been compromised.

Topography

The topography of the Peirce Mill component landscape has shaped the use of the land as much as the topography has been altered by the land's use. Throughout the history of Peirce Mill, the topography of the site has been altered to allow for the placement of raceways, roads and buildings. Although most large scale topographic features remain from the nineteenth-century, many small grading adjustments have occurred in response to changing site programmatic needs. These topographic changes result in a loss of integrity to the nineteenth century landscape, but serve to illustrate the landscape ideals of later Rock Creek Park management.

The current large scale topography on site is a result of the erosion forces of Rock Creek. The two major topographic features—the flood plain which extends north to south along Rock Creek and the long east facing slope west of the mill—remain virtually unaltered from the nineteenth century. The alignment of the creek, however, has changed over time.

Early in the nineteenth-century the three-story, banked, stone grist mill was constructed in the gently sloping flood plain on the west side of Rock Creek. The millrace ran parallel to the west creek bank, north almost to Broad Branch Road. Crossing through the cleared landscape north of Peirce Mill, between the creek and the road that led to Blagden Mill, the long raceway did not drastically alter the alignment of the creek. Later in the nineteenth-century this race was filled in and a new, shorter race was constructed (most likely at the time of the conversion to a turbine wheel.) The crib dam at the headrace was constructed approximately one hundred yards north of the mill. This late nineteenth-century race altered the alignment of the creek and channeled the water. Briefly during the late nineteenth-century, a sawmill was located to the immediate north of the grist mill. Oriented east to west, it shared the head race of the grist mill. The sawmill was removed by the 1890s. The depression formed by this race was visible into the twentieth century, however.

A long, east-facing slope ascended from the flood plain west of the creek. During the nineteenth century, agricultural buildings were banked into this slope, west of the mill. The

residence of the Peirce/Shoemaker family was located to the southwest of the mill. The residential building cluster (now outside the park boundary) was located at a higher elevation than the mill complex below, exposed to the cooling breezes and out of the creek's flood plain. As such, the design of the estate provided for views down to the creek and north to the orchards. The orchards were located on the gentle east-facing slope, west of the mill. The angled planting surface allowed for greater sun exposure while the tree plantings prevented soil erosion. Open, flat spaces along the creek, to the north, south and east of the mill were used for grazing.

The early nineteenth century circulation patterns also took advantage of the topography, following the creek as it cut north to south through the lower portion of the valley. The re-construction of the bridge at Tilden Street in 1905 raised the topography of the road, serving to separate the Peirce Mill site into two individual park areas. The area south of the bridge became identified as a picnic area and the area north of the bridge, the Peirce Mill tea house. What was once a unified, utilitarian site became a visually divided, recreational area. The creation of the Peirce Mill tea house also resulted in a regrading of the topography to enhance the grounds for picnicking and for the tea house. The millraces were filled in. The drive which led from Tilden Street to the ford at Rock Creek was reincorporated into the site as a drive to access the parking lot located to the east of the mill. With the 1936 restoration of the mill structure, the landscape was again regraded and the parking lot and the historic road, located to the immediate south of the mill was removed. The late nineteenth-century millrace was reconstructed and the remnants of the sawmill race filled in. The elevation of the parking lot to the west of the mill was raised to better intersect with the new bridge at Tilden Street. These two topographic alterations, the increased elevation of both the parking lot and the Tilden Street Bridge, served to further divide the visitor's experience of the Peirce Mill landscape.

During the 1950s the northern and southern sections of the site were again joined through the construction of a bridle trail which passed under Tilden Street. This underpass, however, required major regrading of the western creek bank, east of the mill. The result was a loss of the integrity of the nineteenth century relationship between the mill and the creek. In addition by the late 1960s, the circa 1936 re-construction of the millrace had been filled in. In the late 1960s work was begun on the construction of an abbreviated millrace which ran from the mill, east to the creek and utilized city water. This millrace remains today, although the mill wheel itself does not function. The historic integrity of the ninteenth-century topography of the Peirce Mill component landscape has been diminished due to alteration during the twentieth century.

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



In this image of Peirce Mill (ca. 1998) the topographic change from the construction of the parking lot has made Peirce Mill appear to be located within a depression in the landscape, contrary to its historic appearance.

Vegetation

Although a comprehensive analysis of existing vegetation on the Peirce Mill component landscape has yet to be undertaken, certain general patterns and historic planting material have been identified. Peirce Mill draws its significance from three periods of development. The first is as a nineteenth-century vernacular industrial and agricultural site characterized by a utilitarian openly vegetated landscape surrounding the mill, and by orchards and pasture land respectively. On the Peirce Mill component landscape these uses, though drastically altering the appearance of the landscape, did not incorporate an identifiable overlay of conscious, aesthetic design. Therefore the integrity of the existing plant material from the first period of significance is apparent primarily through the preservation of historically open areas and native plant communities. The second period of significance occurred in the early twentieth century with the conversion of the mill into a tea house and the grounds into a picnic area. During this period ornamental plantings were introduced to increase the picturesque appearance of the mill. Little historic integrity relating to vegetation remains from this period. The final period of significance includes the mid-1930s restoration of the Peirce Mill structures. During this time extensive changes were made to the landscape, including the clearing of vegetation near the mill. Design concepts from era remain evident, such as the lawn east and west of the mill. As a combination of a vernacular nineteenth century industrial site, an early twentieth century picturesque park destination, and a WPA-era living history museum, the Peirce Mill component landscape retains only a small amount of historic integrity of vegetation to all significance periods.

CURRENT CONDITIONS

The current Peirce Mill component landscape is characterized by a mix of both native and exotic vegetation. Areas utilized for interpretation, circulation and picnicking are relatively

open, typically covered in turf with a thin canopy of trees. The mill has almost no foundation planting. A flowering dogwood (Cornus florida) is located at the southwest corner of the mill. Just east of this tree is a crabapple (Malus sp.), while to the south of the mill and against the north façade of the bridge abutment is a large cluster of trees. Although partially choked by invasive growth, these trees include sugar maple (Acer saccharum), tulip poplar (Liriodendron tulipifera), flowering dogwood, oak (Quercus sp.), one large sycamore (Platanus occidentalis) and a crabapple. A large stump is present in the approximate location of a large pine (Pinus sp.) illustrated by a number of historic images of the property, apparently all that remains of the historic tree. To the east of the mill, turf spreads out to the retaining wall at the creek edge. To the north of this wall, riparian vegetation covered in invasive vines grows thickly. A slight opening has been cut immediately west of the dam, allowing limited views. A few very large oaks are also located along the eastern creek edge.

The area to the north of the mill remains primarily open, characterized by a groundcover of turf with single trees including maple and oak planted at irregular intervals. Moving northward from the historic Peirce Mill headgates, the canopy thickens slightly as the trees become more closely spaced. The groundcover remains turf interspersed with forbs. The slope located to the west is covered in successionary forest growth and invasives. The cleared area to the west of the mill is also turfed. This turf extends west to a flower bed which lines the eastern edge of the sidewalk. This planting bed is filled with various perennials. A lilac (Syringa sp.) is located near the mill race. Across the parking lot to the west, turf is planted at the base of the slope. This open area is curvilinear in form bordered on the west by large trees including sycamore, oak and tulip poplar. Invasive vines render the trees almost unrecognizable however. At the northern edge of the open area is a grouping of large holly trees and one mature flowering cherry. These too suffer from the invasive growth of grapevine, porcelain berry and ailanthus. To the west of these trees are a couple of individually planted pine trees. To the east of the planted grouping of American holly (Ilex opaca) and cherry (Prunus sp.) is an herb garden. Three relatively young tulip trees are located to the east of the comfort station and old wagon barn.

Across Tilden Street, is a grouping of eastern red cedars (Juniperus virginiana). Large hollies follow the alignment of the swale that extends from the west to the creek, south of the mill. A hedge of white pine and magnolia (Magnolia sp.) shields views of the distillery, now a privately owned residence. Along the western border of the component landscape, successionary vegetation has grown up in oak, tulip, maple and beech (Fagus sp.). Riparian vegetation grows along the western bank of the creek, east of the meadow.

This meadow, located south of Peirce Mill, is openly vegetated with only individual trees breaking the expanse. Two large dawn redwoods (Metasequoia glyptostroboides) are located near the parking area for this picnic ground. Three extremely large hollies are located along the bike path near the Melvin Hazen bridge. An extensive planting of Viburnum is on the south side of the Tilden Street bridge. Two symmetrically placed American hornbeams (Carpinus caroliniana) grow near the picnic pavilion. At the southern end of parking lot drive walnut trees

(Juglans sp.) border the entrance drive to the parking lot south of Tilden Street.

HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT

According to an oil painting of Peirce Mill dating to the early nineteenth century, native riparian vegetation, including maple and sycamore, grew along Rock Creek. West of the mill, fruit trees grew on the east facing slope. The land immediately surrounding the base of the mill, was a primary work space of compacted soil and was cleared of vegetation. As evidence of the expanded agricultural ventures of the Peirce/Shoemaker family, maps from the mid nineteenth-century illustrate a landscape of cleared agricultural land and expanded orchards surrounded on all sides by forest. During this period four separate orchards were located within what is now the Peirce Mill component landscape. The largest orchard was located to the northwest of the mill. Currently, remnants of this orchard remain in the form of gnarled stumps buried in vines on the east facing slope. An orchard also grew between the old wagon barn and the large barn to the west. North of the large barn, another smaller orchard grew. Finally, a small orchard was located to the east of the Peirce/ Shoemaker house near Rock Creek. A narrow strip of forest was located between the large orchard and the road to Blagden Mill—perhaps placed as a buffer between public and private space. Forest was also located to the south of the clearing around the Peirce/Shoemaker house. A large, rectilinear, fenced field was located to the north of the mill, on the east bank of the creek. The area immediately surrounding the raceway was clear of vegetation, as was the area between the orchard west of the mill and the orchard to the north.

After the mid nineteenth-century, the Peirce/Shoemaker milling and agricultural enterprises reached their height. According to maps from this period, an allee of trees was located along the southern edge of Peirce Mill Road, just west of the mill. Most likely comprised of cedars, some of these trees may be extant in the landscape. Further research is needed to determine the age of existing cedars. Although a map drawn in 1893 does not illustrate orchards, most likely portions of the Peirce Shoemaker orchards were still present.

The area of the orchard to the north of the mill was identified as an open area with trees thinly interspersed. The area to the south of the mill was also open, though vegetation lined the east-west tributary stream flowing into Rock Creek. Interestingly, the line of vegetation on the southern boundary was very angular, illustrating perhaps an adherence to a property line. Also during the late nineteenth-century, the area north of the mill began to increase in vegetative density.

The landscape remained utilitarian, however. According to late nineteenth-century photographs, the road to the west of the mill ran right up to the base of the building, with little room for vegetation. One shrub was located at the northwest corner of the building. A roughly trimmed shrub hedge separated the south mill entrance from Peirce Mill Road. A fairly dense stand of hardwoods was located to the north and east of the mill.

By 1900 Peirce Mill had fallen into disrepair. The slope to the west of the carriage house

remained clear. The presence of fruit trees was difficult to determine from available historic documentation. A large pine was located to the south of Peirce Mill, against the northern face of the Peirce Mill Road bridge. Copses of trees near the creek bank included birch and sycamore. According to photographic evidence, to the west of the mill near the miller's house, along Pierce Mill Road, was a grouping of what appears to be holly or cedar trees. These may still be in existence. Riparian vegetation was located to the east of the mill along the creek.

With the conversion of the mill to a tea house around 1905, some clearing in the immediate vicinity of the mill occurred. In addition non-native ornamental species, shrubs, trees and herbaceous plants, were introduced to improve the picturesque nature of the site. In the area north of the mill, used as a picnic ground, vegetation was located to frame views of the mill, creek and dam. Much more tree cover, however, surrounded the mill than is present today. To prevent views into developing suburban neighborhoods to the west, a buffer of tall vegetation was located along the property line west of what is now Picnic Area 1. The eastern facing slope remained relatively clear of vegetation. Relatively thinnly spaced vegetation is shown growing near the northern most tributary, south of the mill. Along Peirce Mill Road, to the west of the barn near the miller's residence, the evergreen allee remained.

In 1919 architect Horace Peasely proposed a Beaux Arts formal curvilinear design, heavy foundation with plantings and terraces. This design was not implemented. The Olmsted Brothers' firm also made general recommendations for the area in 1918, stating that the meadow south of Peirce Mill was very valuable as an open grassland. In fact, the words "nice meadow" were used to characterize this meadow. The Olmsted plan recommended that the eastern facing slope remain clear as well. It also stated that riparian vegetation, such as sycamore, birch and hornbeam, should be encouraged to grow in an open pattern with a grassy ground cover underneath.

By 1927 a heavy foundation planting was located to the west of the mill. Shrub plantings extended to the southern elevation. A tightly trimmed hedge, located to the west of the mill and extending almost its full length, was used to separate the bridle trail from the pedestrian and vehicular circulation. In addition, the road extended to the edge of foundation shrubs and the hedge. As in the nineteenth-century, there was no lawn west of the mill. Ornamental planting beds were located against the north façade of the mill. Irises were also planted under a sign identifying the mill. Vines, such as ivy and wisteria, grew on all facades, blending the architecture with its surroundings. To the north of the mill were large trees including walnut and oak, with an underplanting of rough groundcover. A hedge was planted to the east of the wagon barn and comfort station. The eastern facing slope remained open except for a few scattered trees. A hedge defined the western boundary of the park, east of this slope.

With the addition of the screened porch to the Peirce Mill tea house in 1931, the area between the mill and the creek was cleared for a cinder parking lot. The previous foundation planting of small evergreens was removed. According to photographic evidence, a rock garden was located south of the mill at the base of the Tilden Street bridge abutment. The landscape to the

north remained fairly open, with high branched trees underplanted with bulbs and daylilies. A formally trimmed hedge was still located to the west of the mill, separating circulation routes. Bulbs were planted at the base of the building on west façade. Cedars, were near the road intersection to southwest of the mill. A planting in front of comfort station included a hedge and a specimen tree

According to historic reconnaissance maps, many cherry trees were located to the northwest of the mill on the hillside, prior to the restoration of the Peirce Mill buildings in the 1930s. This slope however, was slowly growing up in successional forest growth creating greater levels of enclosure around the site. The area to the south of Tilden Street remained open, though here too, the vegetation at the boundaries increased. With the restoration, foundation plantings were removed from the base of all facades. With the realignment of the road and parking area to the west of the mill, the space between the road and the western entrance to the mill, was greatly widened and covered in turf. According to a plan proposed for the area around Peirce Mill during the 1930s, wildflowers and native plants were to be introduced more fully to the site to, in the professional opinion of the time period, "restore Peirce Mill landscape to a natural state." This planting included natives such as sumac and hazelnut located in clumps to control and direct views to and from the mill. The area east of the mill was treated as a wildflower meadow. The rock garden to the south of the mill was removed and Virginia creeper was encouraged to grow on the walls of the mill race. Foundation plantings of native shrubs were suggested on both the west and south sides of the mill. The area to the north of the mill remained primarily open with islands of shrubs and trees. The extent to which this plan was implemented is unknown.

By the early 1960s the once sparse foundation plantings from the 1930s restoration had grown thick on the southern and western facades. Vines also grew on all facades. A large walnut tree was located to the northwest of the mill. Most of the area around the mill was covered in turf. Much of the foundation planting was removed by 1965, although a dogwood was located in both the southwest and northwest corners of the mill. There were no flower beds.

By 1970, most of the vegetation was cleared to the east of the mill. Two medium sized sycamores appeared to be the primary vegetation east of the structure. By contrast, on the creek edge invasive vegetation had increased and and forest growth began to occur on the slope west of the mill. In 1971, tulips were planted in a bed between Peirce Mill west side sidewalk and the parking area, east of the Art Barn. Rough turf was located to the east and south of the Art Barn. Vines continued to cover the facades of both the mill and Art Barn.

HISTORIC INTEGRITY
The exact evolution of the vegetative growth on the Peirce Mill landscape is difficult to trace due to changing use patterns and management philosophies. Further research is needed to determine the level of integrity of individual vegetative elements. Integrity of vegetation dating to the nineteenth century may be found in the preservation of native vegetation such as birch, sycamore, and hornbeam along the creek edge. Invasive vines and shrubs currently threaten

native vegetation communities, both along the creek and on the boundaries of the site. The cedar plantings near Tilden Street most likely date to the nineteenth century. Further research is needed to determine whether evidence of the Peirce/Shoemaker orchards remains. The ratio of open to enclosed spaces also helps to preserve the integrity of the meadow area located to the south of Peirce Mill. However, the level of enclosure near the mill has been drastically altered from its nineteenth-century appearance. Integrity dating to the era of the tea house is virtually non-existent, as determined thus far. Further research is needed to determine if individual specimens on site date to this period of development. Finally, integrity dating to the 1930s restoration campaign, though difficult to trace, is apparent in the location of some plant material. Again, further research is needed to identify the level of integrity of individual trees and shrubs. The general levels of enclosure date to this period of development.

Character-defining Features:

Feature: "Prunus sp." and "Pinus sp." located to northwest of parking lot associated with mill

Feature Identification Number: 105790

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Cedar hedgerows

Feature Identification Number: 105791

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Hollies "Ilex opaca" located to south of mill

Feature Identification Number: 105792

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Meadow south of mill

Feature Identification Number: 105793

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Perennial plantings to west of mill

Feature Identification Number: 105794

Type of Feature Contribution: Non-Contributing

Feature: Planting of viburnum on southern bank of Tilden Street Bridge

Feature Identification Number: 105795

Type of Feature Contribution: Non-Contributing

Feature: Two Dawn redwoods, "Metasequoia glyptostroboides", south of mill and Tilden

Street

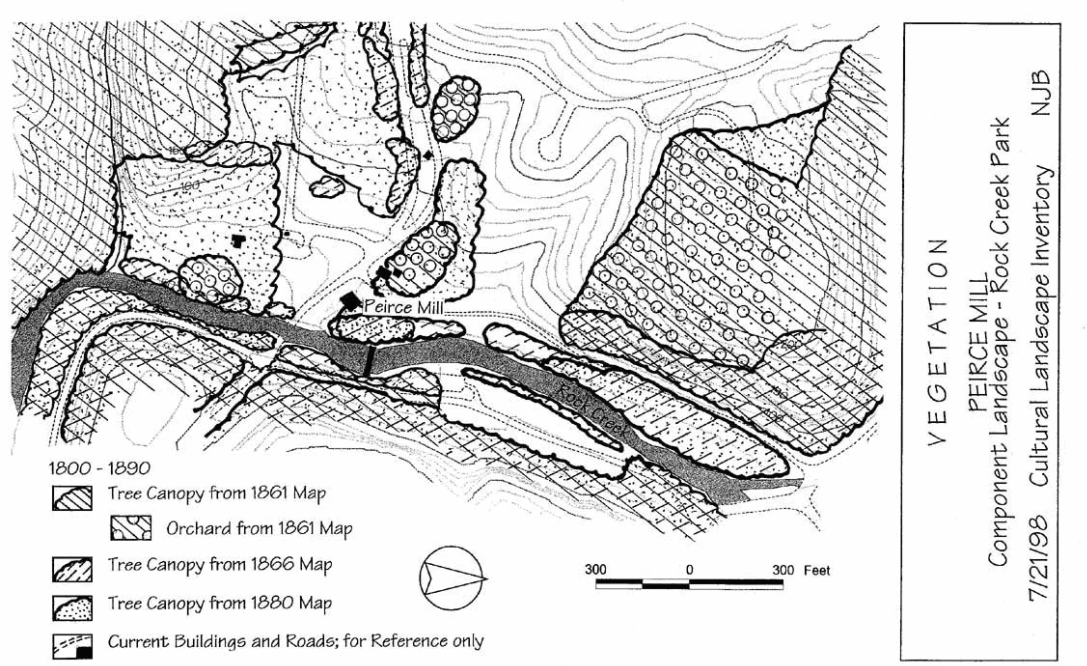
Feature Identification Number: 105796

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

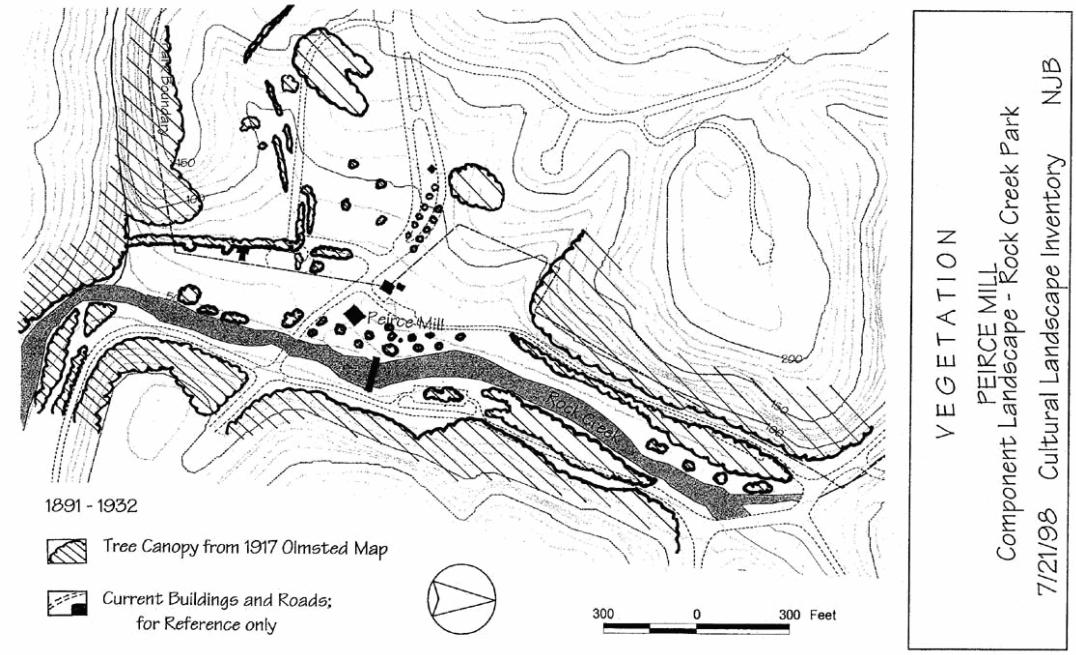
Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



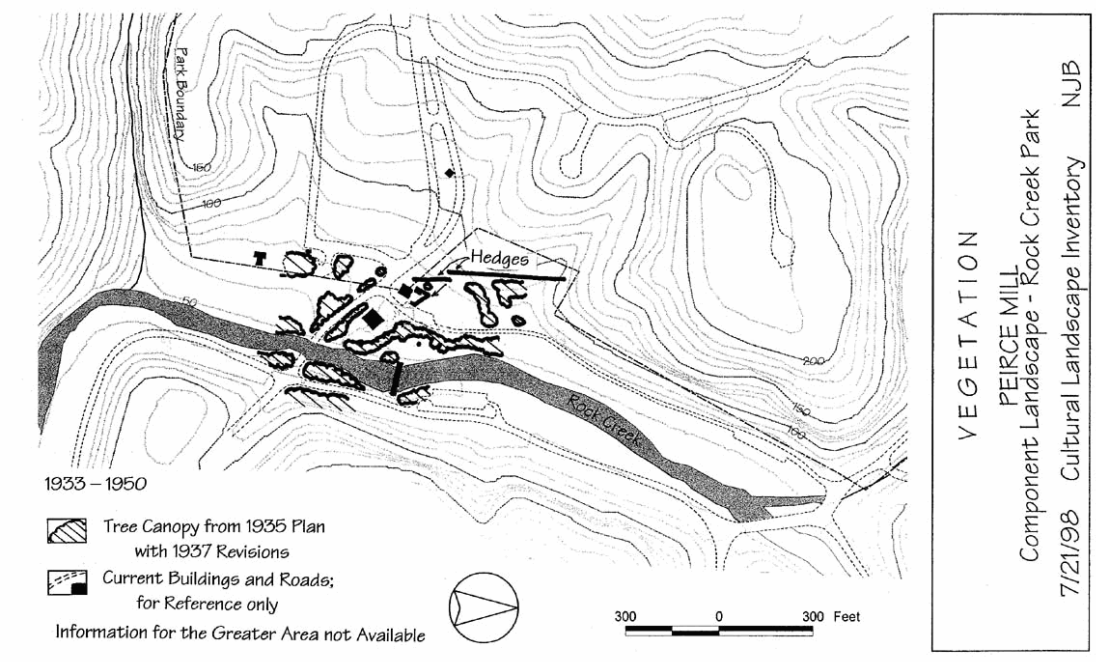
In this image, circa 1937, a hedge is used to separate circulation systems. The mill is also surrounded by thick vegetative growth.



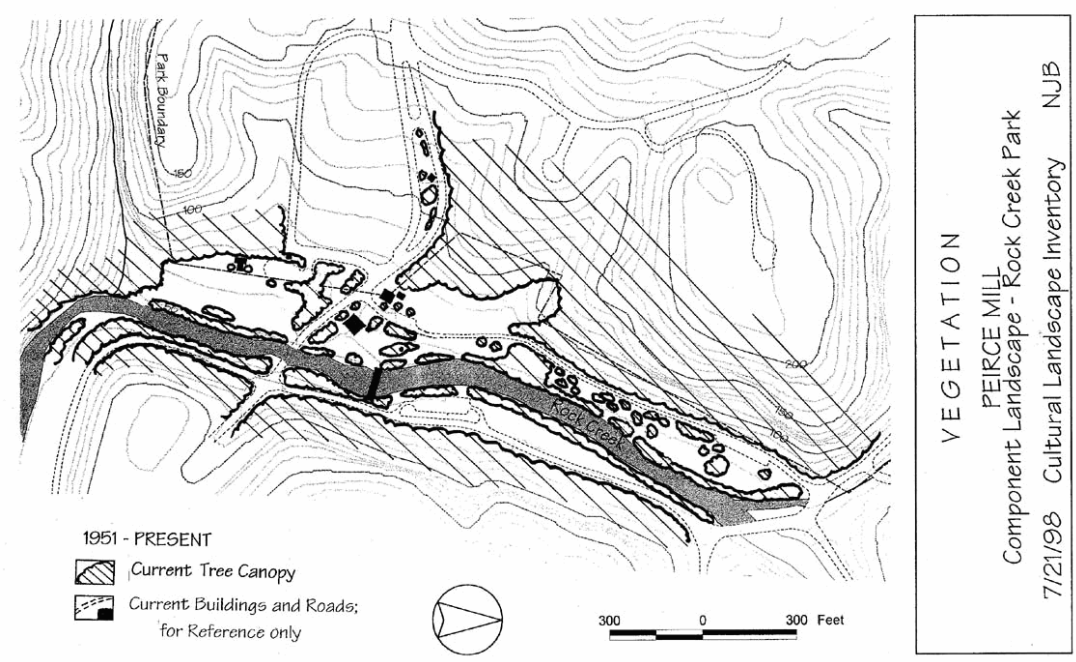
The tree canopy from 1800 to 1890 shows a definite pattern of open fields and meadows. The 1861 map detailed orchards from the period.



The 1917 Olmsted Firm reconnaissance maps show hedgerows near the park boundary and an allee along Tilden Street. The meadow south of the mill is open, while the one to the north is lightly wooded.



Little information is known for the greater area, but the area adjacent to the mill is lightly wooded. Hedges were introduced close to Peirce Mill along the bridle trail.



Here is the tree canopy as it currently exists.

Circulation

The circulation system of the Peirce Mill component landscape is comprised of remnants of nineteenth-century, pragmatically oriented roads, early twentieth-century aesthetically based park roads and trails, and mid twentieth-century interpretative trail design. As such, the historic value of the site lies in the relationships among the developmental stages apparent in the evolution of the Peirce Mill component landscape.

CURRENT CONDITIONS
Currently one major vehicular road, Tilden Street, bisects the site. Tilden Street runs east to west, passing to the south of Peirce Mill after crossing Rock Creek. Beach Drive, located to the east of Rock Creek, running parallel to the creek alignment, forms the eastern boundary of the component landscape. The main access to the Peirce Mill site is from Tilden Street, just west of the Tilden Street bridge. A parking lot is located west of the mill. An entrance drive and parking lot, associated with Picnic Area 1, is located off of Shoemaker Street, to the south of Tilden Street, across from the Peirce Mill wagon barn [currently the Rock Creek Gallery]. There are also asphalt parking lots associated with Picnic Area 2, east of the mill and the picnic area just south of Broad Branch Road. AA drive of asphalt pavement is located between Tilden Street and the double-door entrance to the Peirce Barn.

A historic road trace is visible parallel to the western edge of the meadow at Picnic Area 1. Another historic road trace is located to the north of Peirce Mill. Constructed as a wagon route between Peirce Mill and Blagden Mill in the early nineteenth century, this section of road is now used as bicycle trail. Just north of the mill the bike trail curves to the east side of the mill, passing between it and the creek. It then passes under Tilden Street bridge and through the southern meadow area on a asphalt paved path, following the alignment of the creek. North of the mill an unpaved pedestrian trail, in the approximate location of the early nineteenth-century millrace, runs parallel to this bicycle trail. Like the bicycle trail, the pedestrian trail terminates in the parking lot located just south of Broad Branch Road. Much of the existing pedestrian circulation system on the east side of the parking lot, characterized by irregularly cut bluestone pavers, dates from the late 1960s rehabilitation of the millrace and subsequent interpretive program. A bluestone path leads from the concrete sidewalk which borders the parking lot west of the mill to the western entrance of the mill structure. Another leads from the parking lot to the comfort station and the wagon barn. This path is characterized by rectilinearly cut stones. At the edge of the parking lot, located to the east of the comfort station, the path continues parallel to the drive entrance. In contrast to the irregularity of the stone used in the walk leading to the comfort station, the stones in this path are irregularly cut and set in concrete. A primary interpretive path extends from the parking lot and follows the alignment of the millrace east, almost to the bicycle trail. It terminates in a circular bluestone paved area used for the gathering of groups.

HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT
One of the earliest roads associated with the development of Peirce Mill was Peirce Mill Road constructed between 1801 and 1831. The road ran west from Fourteenth Street to cross the slope north of Linnaean Hill. The road then ran parallel to the east bank of Rock Creek before

crossing the creek and heading west. Another road which served to connect Peirce Mill to Blagden Mill, ran along the west side of Rock Creek, west of the Peirce Millrace, extending to Broad Branch Road. It then crossed Rock Creek and continued northeast in the approximate alignment of the current Beach Drive, to Peirce Mill Road's junction with Blagden Mill Road. A section of this road, from Peirce Mill to Broad Branch Road, remains evident in the current bicycle trail north of the mill.

Alterations in circulation occurred during the late nineteenth-century in response to increasing traffic generated by suburban development and new land use patterns. For instance, very early in the nineteenth-century Rock Creek was crossed at a ford located to the east of Peirce Mill. In 1872 a wooden truss bridge was constructed at this location. The ford and associated drive, however, remained in use until the early twentieth century. Both the short drive connected with the ford and Peirce Mill Road passed directly south of the mill. Immediately west of the mill, the ford drive intersected with Peirce Mill Road and headed straight west across Peirce Shoemaker's property before splitting in two directions. The main branch of Peirce Mill Road headed southwest towards the Rockville Turnpike. A minor branch turned northwest and led to Peirce Shoemaker's orchards before veering south to meet again with the primary Peirce Mill Road. In the mid nineteenth-century a road was constructed which led south from Peirce Mill through the meadow and along the western bank of Rock Creek to Linnaean Hill. Connecting two of the horticultural and agricultural enterprises of the Peirce family, this road was built just prior to the height of the milling industry at Peirce Mill. A road also ran parallel to the east bank of the creek, north of the mill. It connected Peirce Mill Road at the point of the mill with a field located to the north.

By 1880 Linnaean Hill Road [present day Park Road] was constructed, creating a more direct east to west connection between Peirce Mill and urban markets, stimulating additional traffic on the cross route. Perhaps in response to this increase in traffic, in 1895 the Peirce Mill Road bridge was again replaced, this time with a bridge of steel girder construction hidden by stone facing. To allow for this type of structure, the grade on both the east and west approaches was raised slightly, beginning the gradual process of increasing separation between the roadways, the mill yard and the mill. These road alterations imposed by increasing traffic, changed land use patterns and also determined road alignment on site. As agricultural demands of the land gradually decreased during the last quarter of the nineteenth century, the road systems associated with the outlying fields and orchards were no longer illustrated on maps. For instance, the road that once led to a pasture east of the creek, in the approximate location of the current picnic area 2, was obliterated by the realignment of the creek due to the construction of the crib dam after 1866. In addition the road that connected Peirce Mill to Linnaean Hill fell into disuse.

In the 1890s, with the acquisition of a portion of the Peirce Shoemaker property by the government for use as Rock Creek Park, a new type of circulation was introduced into the landscape. No longer simply based on pragmatic concerns, the new roads, bridle and pedestrian trails illustrated more aesthetically based objectives. In 1901 the segment of Beach

Drive on the east bank of Rock Creek was completed. Following the creek from Klingle Road, northward, the road was created by early park administration to provide a north to south access route through the park. Peirce Mill became a prominent recreational stop along this pleasure drive. Illustrating this functional change, Linnaean Hill Road was renamed Park Drive, and Peirce Mill Road became Tilden Street by 1910.

Recreational bridle trails were introduced in the twentieth century in response to the new land uses generated by the creation of the park. Some were built on the alignment of nineteenth-century roads. Though northwest of the boundaries of the park, the northwest section of the old Peirce Mill Road, where it branched to reach the northern orchards, was utilized as a bridle trail. The road that ran south from Peirce Mill to connect with Linnaean Hill was also used as a trail. The road that extended from Peirce Mill Road, south of the mill, to the ford east of the mill was used as a bridle trail. This segment was later incorporated into a vehicular entrance for a cinder paved parking lot created during the era in which the mill was used as a tea house. In contrast, the road that connected Peirce Mill to Blagden Mill during the nineteenth-century, remained in use as a road. The route was asphalted and renamed West Beach Drive. This road remained in use as a road until the 1930s, when the route was blocked to autos and adapted as a trail. Sections were subsequently converted to parking areas.

Bridle trails with new alignments were also created to connect with trails developed in other sections of Rock Creek Park. For instance, a trail was introduced parallel to Beach Drive on the west bank of Rock Creek, in the approximate location of the mid-nineteenth century millrace. This trail crossed West Beach Drive, passed to the west of the carriage house, crossed Tilden Street at a traffic light, and entered the open meadow to the south. This open meadow, used as a picnic area, was connected to the east bank of Rock Creek through a ford associated with the bridle trail that traversed the area.

Early in the twentieth century, pedestrian trails were also constructed as part of the recreational mission of the park legislation. A pedestrian trail led from the crossing of the first stream south of the mill, to connect with a bridle trail near a swale located further to the south [currently Melvin Hazen Tributary]. After crossing a bridge, the pedestrian trail continued along the west bank of the creek. No other defined pedestrian trails were illustrated on early park maps, however paths must have existed surrounding the mill itself.

By 1905 the mill structure was converted to a tea house. The surrounding circulation systems reflected this use change—from a pragmatically based commercial venture to a aesthetically-designed, recreationally-oriented establishment. One clear indication of this concentration on visual enhancement was in the design of bridges in the vicinity of the mill. North of the mill, near the intersection of Beach Drive and Broad Branch Road, were two bridges that exemplified the very picturesque, rustic design prominent in park architecture of the period. Pebble Dash Bridge, a vehicular bridge, was located just north of a ford where Beach Drive crossed Rock Creek. This bridge incorporated native materials, including a line of pebbles set into the stuccoed abutments, accenting the curved lines of the design. A pedestrian

bridge was located to the south of this bridge. Designed in the rustic style, this bridge had rough cut stone abutments incorporating stairs leading to a deck of rough sawn boards with unpeeled timber sides. This bridge connected the trails located on the western side of the creek, with the picnic area and spring located to the east. Rustically styled pedestrian bridges were also located in the immediate vicinity of the mill, bridging the remnant nineteenth-century millrace.

In 1931, the Peirce Mill tea house was expanded and a screen porch was constructed on the north side of the mill. A parking lot was built to the east of the mill. The drive that originally led to the ford east of the mill was incorporated into the parking lot access route. Another entrance drive was located to the north of the mill, forming a circular drive around the mill structure. During this period the distances between Peirce Mill and the surrounding roadways was very minimal. The entrance to the mill was very near the road, separated by a hedge, but at approximately the same elevation as the surrounding roadways. Such direct spatial relationships would change with the alterations imposed on the site with the 1930s WPA restoration.

With the restoration of the mill between 1934 and 1936, the millrace dating to the late nineteenth century was reconstructed. Bridges which crossed the millrace were incorporated into the pedestrian and bridle circulation associated with the development of the site as a living history museum. This program emphasized the interpretation of the nineteenth-century milling industry. The bridle trail system in the vicinity of Peirce Mill was expanded with the creation of the Tilden Street underpass during the 1930s. This allowed for a separation of circulation systems by grade, increasingly important with the growing amount of traffic on Beach and Tilden Streets. The new bridle trail which led south from the existing bridle trail, was located to the east of the mill and passed under the Tilden Street bridge, west of the creek. The construction of this trail necessitated the building of a large stone retaining wall along the eastern bank of the creek which obliterated the remnants of the early nineteenth century ford. The dangerous at grade intersection of the bridle and vehicular circulation routes, west of the barn on Tilden Street, was removed. West Beach Drive was blocked by bollards and used solely as a trail. A parking lot was constructed in the space between the carriage house and mill which necessitated a rise in grade to the west of the mill. The piece of sloping land, which separated the mill from the roadway, was crossed by a path incorporating stairs. The historic relationship between the mill and the circulation routes on site was compromised by the introduction of the lawn space to the west of the mill which separated the mill from the road. The integrity of the spatial relationship between the mill and circulation systems was also degraded by the construction of the retaining wall necessitated by the Tilden Street bridle trail underpass.

The configuration of trails described above remained until the late 1960s when the millrace was filled in. The expended effort to improve visitor amenities shifted to the southern section of this component landscape during the late 1950s and early 1960s as part of The National Park Service Mission 66. A parking lot was constructed in the mid 1950s at the western edge of the southern meadow, west of the early twentieth-century picnic location. Connected to the

surrounding circulation systems by informal trails through the meadow, the design of this picnic area and its paved parking lot, illustrated the concentration on transportation typical of mid twentieth-century design in the park.

By the late 1960s, bicyclists were becoming more prominent in Rock Creek Park. The bridle trail which incorporated the Tilden Street underpass was asphalted from the southern end of the former West Beach Drive all the way south, over the Melvin Hazen Bridge, to connect with the zoo bike trail. The nineteenth-century road trace that was paved to become West Beach Drive was officially designated as a bicycle trail during the late 1960s.

The national emphasis on living history, so prevalent during the 1930s, was revived in the late 1960s. Bluestone paths connecting the western mill entrance to the mill wheel and the eastern side of the mill, were installed to assist with interpretation. A staging point was created through a small paved circle near the mill wheel to provide a group gathering place. Although the mill wheel is no longer functional, these paths underwent repairs to mitigate deterioration in 2009, and are still present today. Bridges constructed of two-by-four inch treated lumber provided both bicycle and pedestrian crossings of the tailrace, east of the mill.

LEVEL OF HISTORIC INTEGRITY
The circulation system of the Peirce Mill component landscape dates to all periods of significance—from the early nineteenth-century through the 1930s restoration of the site. Portions of the roads and trails from each developmental era exist, as do the alterations made to existing routes. The changes incorporated into the landscape in each successive era illustrate in many respects, the changing objectives and values of the users. For instance, the significance of the nineteenth-century road which connected Peirce Mill to Linnaean Hill clearly lies in the use of the road as a pragmatic agricultural and industrial route. Yet this alignment was adapted in the early twentieth-century as a bridle trail, illustrating the changing orientation of the landscape from a functional purpose to one based more in recreation. This early twentieth-century basis in aesthetics is reiterated in the design of a bridle trail parallel to and with clear views of Rock Creek. As such, the significance of the circulation systems associated with the Peirce Mill component landscape is related not only to the nineteenth-century milling use, but also to early twentieth-century Rock Creek Park development. The historic integrity relating to nineteenth-century site development, however, was severely diminished by the 1930s restoration. In addition, these designs associated with the WPA restoration, which are significant in their own right, have been severely altered by subsequent park development. As such, the current configuration of circulation systems on site retains only limited integrity to all significance periods.

Character-defining Features:

Feature: Assorted foot bridges associated with pedestrian trails

Feature Identification Number: 102251

Type of Feature Contribution: Non-Contributing

Feature: Circa 1960 interpretive flagstone paths to west of mill

Feature Identification Number: 102252

Type of Feature Contribution: Non-Contributing

Feature: Parking lot to south of Tilden Street

Feature Identification Number: 103046

Type of Feature Contribution: Non-Contributing

Feature: Parking lot to west of mill

Feature Identification Number: 103071

Type of Feature Contribution: Non-Contributing

Feature: Road trace from Peirce Mill to Broad Branch Road

Feature Identification Number: 103072

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Tilden Street Bridge

Feature Identification Number: 103073

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Tilden Street Underpass and Bridle/Bicycle Path

Feature Identification Number: 103074

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Tilden Street/Peirce Mill Road

Feature Identification Number: 103075

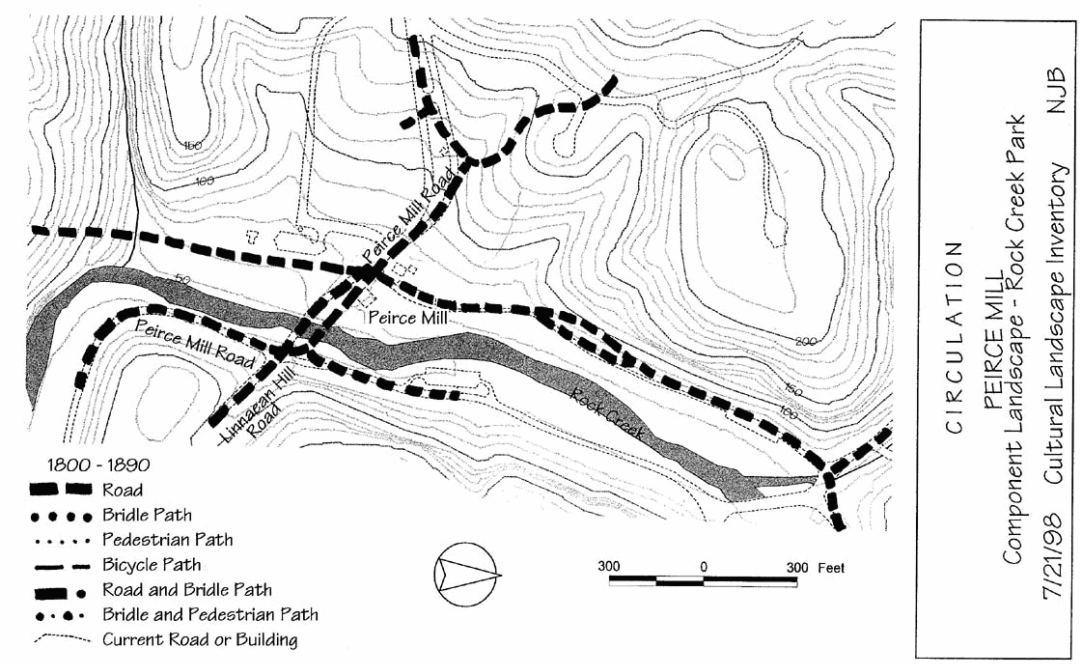
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: White Horse Bridle Trail

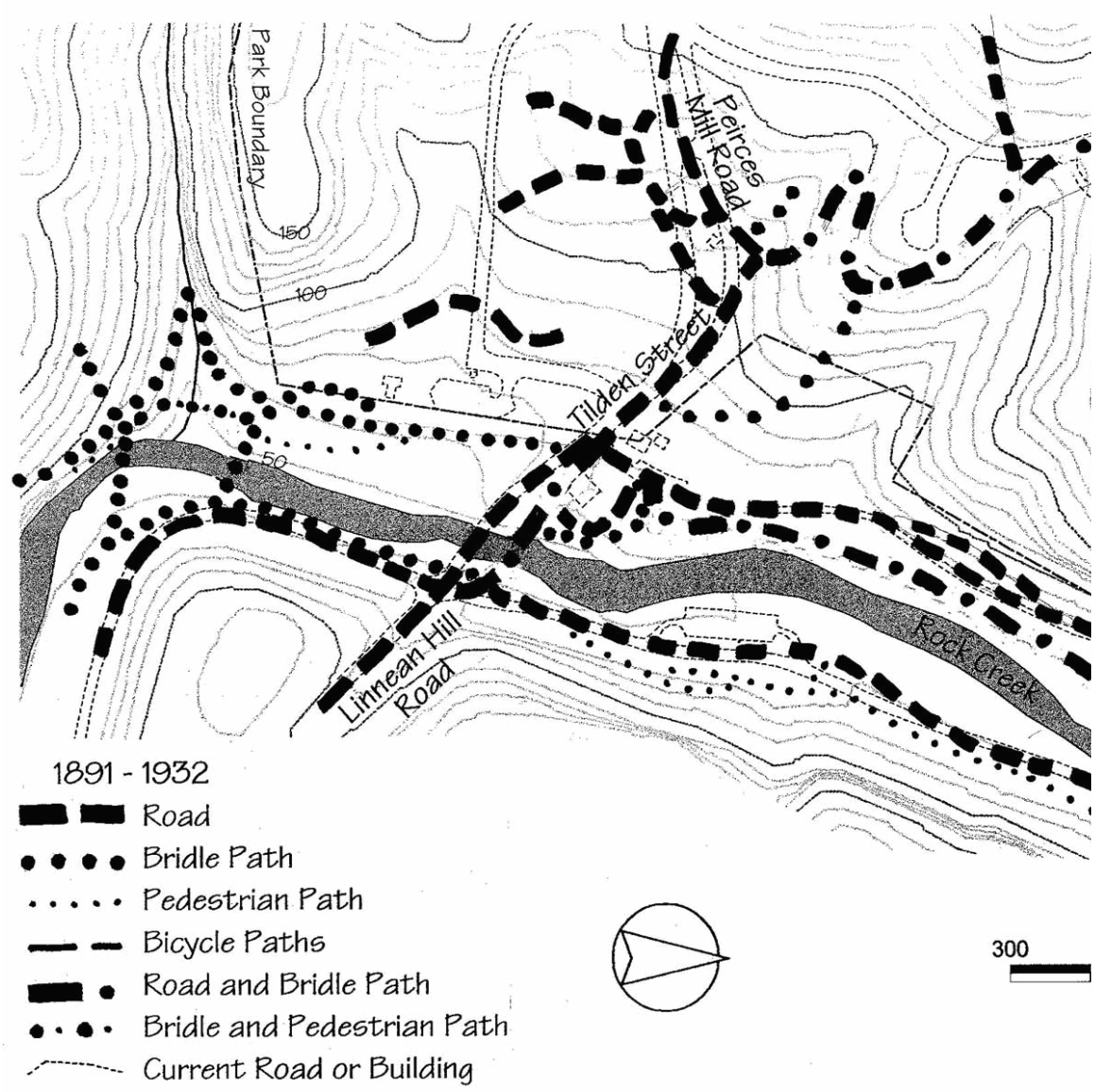
Feature Identification Number: 103076

Type of Feature Contribution: Non-Contributing

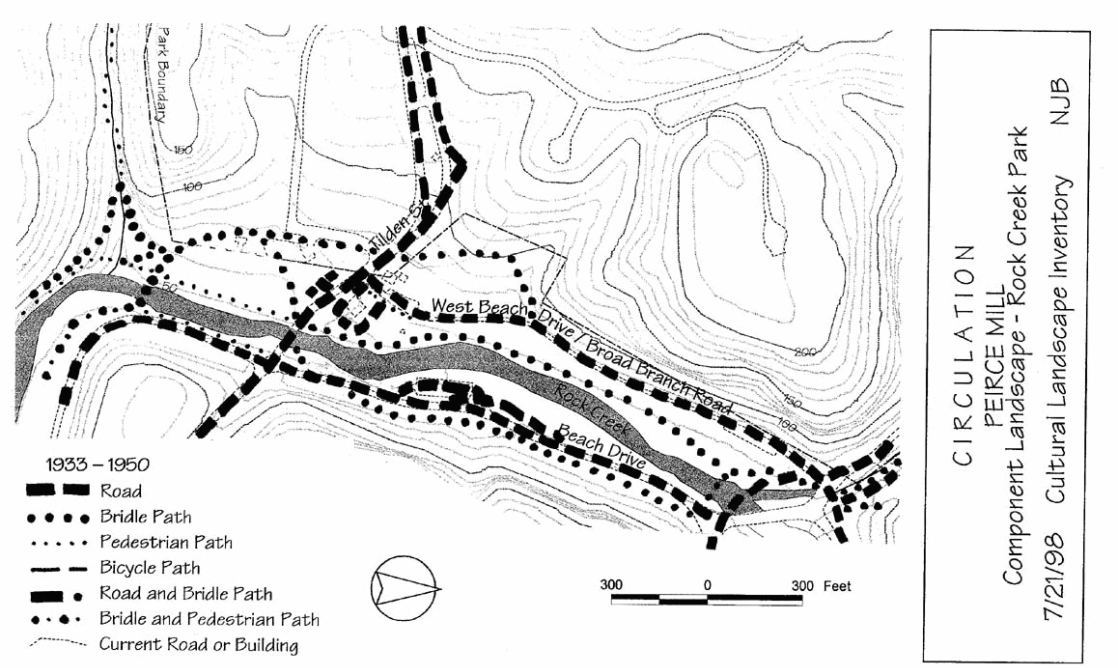
Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



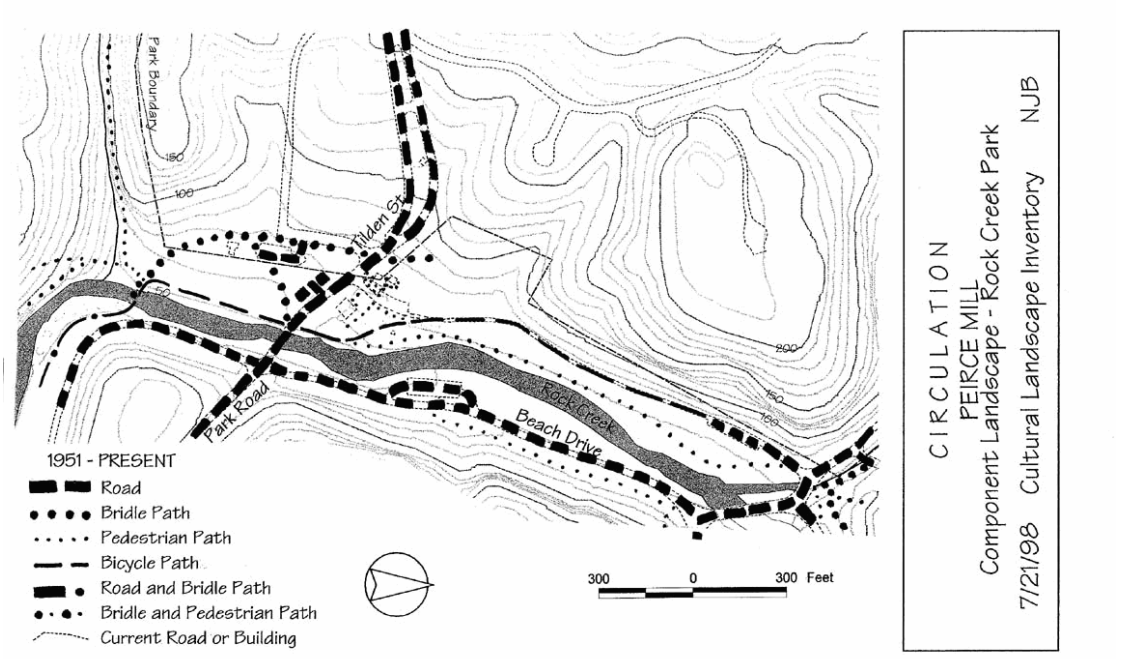
This diagram illustrates the simple circulation patterns athe site from 1800 to 1890.



The complexity of circulation between 1891 and 1932 is evident in this illustration.



Here are the circulation patterns found at Peirce Mill from 1933 to 1950.



The circulation systems shown here represent the period from 1951 to the present.



In this photograph (ca. 1897) of the east façade of Peirce Mill, the road extending from the ford through Rock Creek west to Peirce Mill Road is visible south of the mill.

Buildings and Structures

The land upon which Peirce Mill now stands was first settled in the late eighteenth-century. In 1794, according to written documentation, Isaac Peirce owned a frame house and two story timber frame mill in the Rock Creek valley. By 1810 he had constructed a new residence which was described by contemporaries as a building of oak timbers with a gable roof and vine-covered porch placed on a stone foundation. Peirce Shoemaker built his own house in the same location. The existence of several barns, outbuildings and a distillery/barn was also recorded. Due to the division of the Peirce Shoemaker property in 1890 for the creation of Rock Creek Park, the only nineteenth-century buildings contributing to the historic integrity of the component landscape are the mill, the wagon barn and the springhouse. These buildings were acquired by the government in the creation of Rock Creek Park. Many of the nineteenth-century structures associated with the milling and agricultural enterprises of Peirce Shoemaker's family, which remains private land, have been razed. Subsequent restoration and rehabilitation plans have altered the original appearance of the remaining structures. In

addition, buildings have been constructed on the component landscape to accommodate Rock Creek Park visitor needs.

CURRENT CONDITION

Peirce Mill, which retains most of its exterior building fabric, is located upon its original foundation on the west bank of Rock Creek near the current junction of Tilden Street and Beach Drive. The vernacular industrial building was constructed in 1829 according to a datestone located within its south gable. Peirce Mill, having undergone many rehabilitation campaigns throughout its history, possesses architectural elements from each of its developmental eras. The early nineteenth-century industrial building was constructed as a custom mill, milling grain for local residents. As such, the structure is relatively small in scale compared to area merchant mills which served a larger clientele. The principle façade (west) of Peirce Mill is two-and-one-half stories. The rear façade (east) is three-and-one-half stories due to its banked construction into the gently sloping western creek edge. The gable-roofed building is three bays wide, two rooms deep, with a rectangular floor plan. Constructed of large, blue and brown, cut granite, irregularly laid, Peirce Mill has flat stone lintels and sills. The window openings have unadorned frames with nine-over-six double hung sash, except on the gable ends and the rear basement level. The attic level windows on the gable ends have a six-over-six configuration and the rear basement windows have wooden louvered screens. The gable of the north façade has been covered in wood cladding. The north façade has a wheel pit and waterwheel on the ground level which dates to the late 1960s renovation of the structure.

In recent years the Peirce Mill has undergone several rehabilitation efforts. From 2006 to 2007 its roof was replaced and walls repointed. In 2009, lead was removed from the windows and sills, which were then repaired and repainted. A new water wheel apron and water wheel are currently under construction for the historic mill.

To the west of the mill is the former wagon barn/stable, once known as the Art Barn but currently referred to as the Peirce Barn. The two story vernacular stone building has a rectangular plan and measures approximately 26 feet wide by 35 feet long. Like the mill, the wood shingle gable-roofed structure is constructed of large, irregularly laid stone. The fenestration of the facades varies remarkably, however, reflecting changes in the use of the building. The east façade is characterized by symmetrically paired six-over-six sash on the second level. Due to alterations, the two windows on the lower level are irregularly placed. The opening for the window toward the rear of the barn was originally larger and accommodated a door. The west elevation has two centrally placed windows in each story. The north façade has a center gable window and two asymmetrical window openings to either side of a central axis. The building has shutters attached to the northern edge of each opening. The wood shingled roof is punctuated by a square, brick chimney on the east elevation. Typical of buildings used to house wagons and carriages, the building likely served as stables as well. As such, the upper story was frequently used for the storage of hay (Vlach 2003, 109) which appears to be the case with this structure.

The current entrance façade of the wagon barn/stable is oriented towards the south and Tilden Street. The façade was embellished in the third quarter of the nineteenth-century with features such as flush horizontal board cladding on the first story and vertical board siding on the second story, roof brackets, and a tripartite ribbon window with a projecting overhang set into the apex of the gable. A large vehicular entrance is also located within this façade. Two centrally placed, deeply set transom windows are located above this wood double door entrance. A smaller, cross braced side door is located on the southeast corner of the building. This door has a square light above it, immediately below the second story. Though this structure underwent extensive rehabilitation during the 1930s when it was converted to a residence, the exterior remains largely unaltered since that time. In 1971 the interior of the building was renovated to allow for use as an art gallery. Most recently, the building has been converted for use as a visitor contact station and space for exhibits on the Peirce Mill complex.

A one-story comfort station is located slightly to the north of the wagon barn/stable. This structure, built in 1917, according to secondary historic accounts, has been moved. The first relocation occurred with the construction of the parking area west of the mill. The second relocation occurred in 1950. The hipped roof structure is clad with brown painted wood shingles. Exposed joists accent the roof line. The building has a horizontal emphasis with a rectilinear footprint and shallow pitched roof line. Lattice trellis screens, recently added, extend from the north and south ends, shielding the entrances to the women's and men's bathrooms. Two six-light windows are located on the eastern façade of the building. Due to the fact that the structure has been moved from its original foundation, much of its historic integrity has been compromised. It is currently slated for demolition.

The final nineteenth-century structure which contributes to the historic significance of the Peirce Mill component landscape is the springhouse. The building is located in a triangular shaped hollow which is now part of a median strip between the dual lanes of Tilden Street, N.W. The one-and-a-half story, banked structure has a rectangular plan of approximately 15 feet by 19 feet. The moderately pitched gable roof is clad in wood shingles. A square brick exterior chimney is located on the western elevation. The lintels and sills, like those of the mill and wagon barn/stable, are constructed of stone. The primary entrance, a vertically paneled door, is on the east ground floor facade. The upper story has an entrance on the western façade. The interior of the upper floor of the springhouse, in contrast to the lower, has been finished for use as a residence.

A picnic pavilion, built during the Mission 66 era of National Park Service development contributes to the historic significance of Rock Creek Park as a whole, but not to the Peirce Mill component landscape. This one-story stone and brick faced pavilion is characteristic of the International style of architecture. The simple form, lack of intricate detailing and the concentration of architectural interest in building material (stone, brick and wood), color and texture reflect the tenets of this school of architecture.

HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT

The chronology of the evolution of the structures associated with Pierce Mill is based on an analysis of historic maps, written text and late nineteenth-century and twentieth-century images. Further study of these primary and secondary resources is needed to establish the exact sequence of building alterations.

One of the earliest known images of Peirce Mill is an oil painting, circa 1830. According to this painting, Peirce Mill was oriented toward the creek. The image also reveals the existence of a one-story, log structure located to the south and slightly west of Peirce Mill. Oriented with its central door toward the creek, it had a wood shake gable roof. This structure is no longer extant.

By the mid nineteenth-century, Isaac Peirce owned between 1600-2000 acres of land and is believed to have had two mills in the vicinity—Peirce Mill or the grist mill, and a sawmill. According to written secondary sources, by 1847 the sawmill located at the junction of the stream leading down from Linnaean Hill [now Melvin Hazen] and Rock Creek, was in ruins. The construction date of this sawmill is not known. In 1851 Peirce Shoemaker, a relative of Isaac Peirce, inherited the land and improvements. It was under Peirce Shoemaker's management that Peirce Mill was most successful. This success was reflected clearly in the number of structures built on the landscape and in the extent of the agricultural improvements on the land.

At approximately the same time as the mill a wagon barn/stable was built, to the northwest of the mill, across the road or mill yard from the western entrance of the mill. A large stone barn was located to the west of this structure. The exact date of its construction and architectural appearance is not known, though the building appears on maps dating from the mid nineteenth-century. A historic image suggests that this building had a gable roof and may have been a forebay barn. Extensive fencing surrounded this structure. Located to the west of the current park boundaries, this building was razed in the early twentieth-century. To the south of the mill, across Peirce Mill Road was the mill overseer's house. Another stone barn was located to the northwest of the house. The house appears in late nineteenth century photographs as a single story, clapboard covered, gable-roofed structure. Historic maps seem to indicate that the building was located in approximately the same place as the much earlier log building. Therefore, this house may have been simply an altered version of the original structure. The barn, identified as the miller's barn in 1864, became a distillery shortly thereafter. It was returned to use as a barn by 1878. Around the turn of the century, the building was renovated as a residence. This structure is still extant.

The primary residence of the Peirce/Shoemaker familes was located to the west and slightly south of the mill, on a hill overlooking the creek flats of the flood plain. Historic maps suggest that there were two outbuildings associated with this complex—a large barn and a small unidentified building. As the Shoemaker family prospered, their house was enlarged. The number of outbuildings increased to four by 1893. Further research is needed to determine the

exact appearance of the residence is not known. By 1864, the house had a porch extending the length of the eastern façade, illustrating the incorporation of the exterior landscape into living space, as at the residence at Linnaean Hill the other Peirce property along Rock Creek. To the southeast of the point where Peirce Mill Road split to head north and south were two buildings. The smaller of the two was identified as an ice house according to a 1864 map. The other building was identified as the "family house." The appearance of these building is not known. One most likely became the current "springhouse" and one building was razed.

During the height of the Shoemaker milling enterprise a second sawmill was built. Located to the immediate north of the grist mill, the sawmill was constructed during the 1860s. The sawmill was removed by 1890.

In 1892 the Peirce Shoemaker property was divided. A portion of the land, that upon which the mill, carriage house/barn and springhouse sat, was acquired by the government. The rest of the property remained in private holdings.

By 1897, the mill had stopped operation due to a broken mechanical part. In addition, the lease-holders of the mill realized that the extent of government control over the milling enterprise would most likely prevent a the continued success of the mill. Peirce Mill, remained empty for a number of years, suffering slight vandalism. According to late nineteenth century photographs, the mill had six-over-six double-hung sash. An angled, enclosed brick chimney and two symmetrically placed dormer windows were located on the eastern façade.

About 1905 Peirce Mill was rehabilitated for use as a tea house. To embellish the vernacular architecture of mill and to create a picturesque picnic setting, alterations were made both to the interior and exterior of the building. Two-over-two double-hung sash replaced the six-over-six sash. Window boxes were added on all facades. The two dormers were retained from the previous era, as was the brick chimney. A metal chimney pipe projecting from the roof on the west façade, and another extending out of the chimney revealed the new requirements of the recreational site. The millraces associated with the sawmill and the grist mill were filled in during the first decade to allow for more extensive picnic area development. In the early 1920s a rustic picnic shelter was constructed just south of the Tilden Street Bridge. Utilizing peeled logs and rough cut timber, this gable roofed structure clearly illustrated the rustic park architectural design in use throughout the park. This structure is no longer extant. In 1912 a temporary structure, of an unknown design, was built for use as a comfort station. In 1917 this comfort station was replaced with a structure attached to the north elevation of the wagon barn/stable. The mill remained relatively unaltered, save for a new roof in 1919, throughout the first few decades of the twentieth-century. These are still extant. In 1931 a one-story screened porch was attached to the north façade of the mill. Stripped awnings shaded the visitors in the summer time. In 1913 the springhouse was surrounded on three sides by a horseshoe shaped dry laid granite retaining wall to protect the building within the newly constructed Tilden Street median strip.

During the first few decades of the twentieth-century, extensive residential development was occurring on the hillsides west of the mill. The large barn was razed as was the timber framed mill overseer's house. A building, now referred to as the springhouse, was rehabilitated.

In 1934 a Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) study was completed, detailing the history and composition of the Peirce Mill, wagon barn and springhouse. In an effort to recreate the nineteenth century milling industry as a living history interpretive site, these buildings underwent extensive restoration typical of the Colonial Revival period. The first alteration was the removal of the screen porch. A new roof was then added. The dormers were removed and the chimney altered to reflect its late nineteenth-century appearance. The two-over-two sash were replaced with nine-over-six double hung sash. A water wheel was constructed on the north façade of the building. A millrace was reconstructed in the approximate location of the late nineteenth-century alignment and the boulder dam was raised eight inches to facilitate the milling mechanics and to increase the noise screen generated by the falling water. The wagon barn and springhouse also underwent exterior façade restoration. At this time a garage was added to the southwest corner of the wagon barn. The stone was repointed. The interiors were altered to allow use as park offices and residences.

By the late 1950s, the millrace and mill wheel had again fell into disuse. The race was filled in during the late 1960s. The buildings remained relatively unaltered until 1968 when a new roof installed on Peirce Mill. In addition, the garage was removed from the wagon barn/stable and another addition was built in the northwest corner, near the comfort station. Shortly after this building campaign, another was instigated to re-establish a living history interpretation of the milling site. A new millrace was built. In 1970, the wagon barn was converted to an art space, necessitating slight changes to the interior and exterior of the building. In the 1990s a small gable-roofed, irregularly-laid stone shed was attached to the south façade of the mill to house HVAC. In 1997, the northern corner of the springhouse façade suffered extensive damage caused by a car collision. The structure underwent rehabilitation work to deal with these damages in 2003. Thus, with the exception of the examples cited above, the mill, barn, and springhouse have not undergone any large-scale alterations since the 1960s.

LEVEL OF HISTORIC INTEGRITY
The structures that remain on the Peirce Mill component landscape retain elements from the first and third periods of significance—the nineteenth-century milling/agricultural era and the 1930s period of restoration.

Character-defining Features:

Feature: Pavillion at Picnic Area One

Feature Identification Number: 102245

Type of Feature Contribution: Non-Contributing

Feature: Peirce Mill

Feature Identification Number: 102246

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 01235

LCS Structure Name: Pierce Mill

LCS Structure Number: 339-01

Feature: Peirce Mill comfort station

Feature Identification Number: 102247

Type of Feature Contribution: Non-Contributing

Feature: Springhouse

Feature Identification Number: 102248

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 11926

LCS Structure Name: Pierce Springhouse

LCS Structure Number: 339-03

Feature: Utility Shed at Picnic Area One

Feature Identification Number: 102249

Type of Feature Contribution: Non-Contributing

Feature: Wagon Barn/Stable

Feature Identification Number: 102250

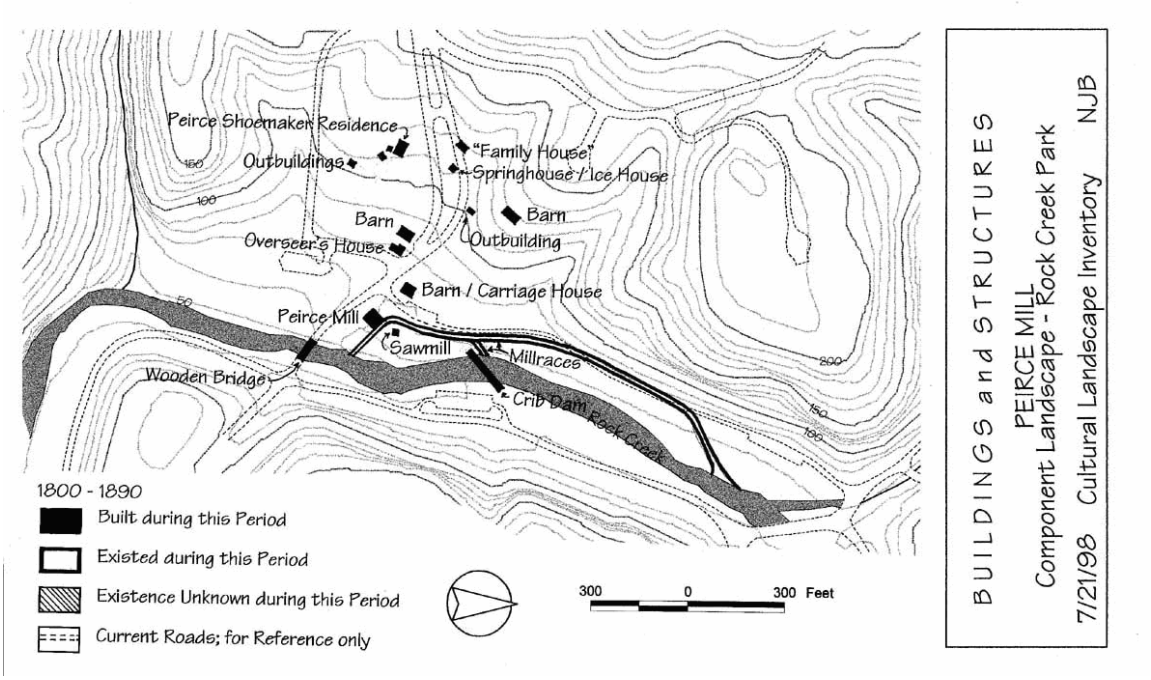
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 11927

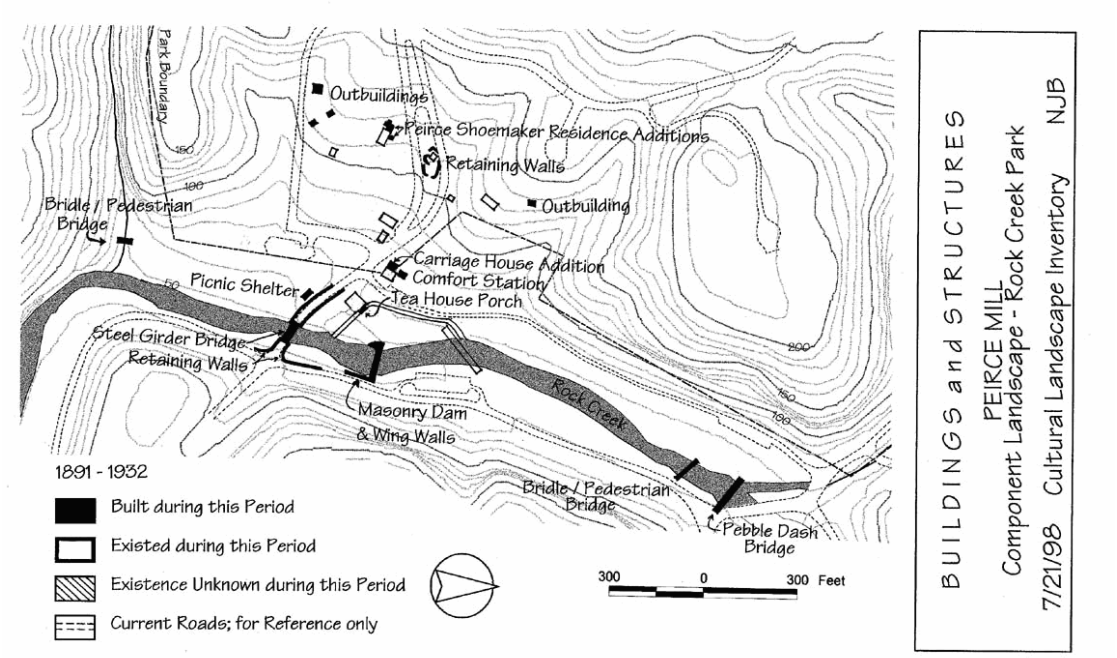
LCS Structure Name: Pierce Barn

LCS Structure Number: 339-04

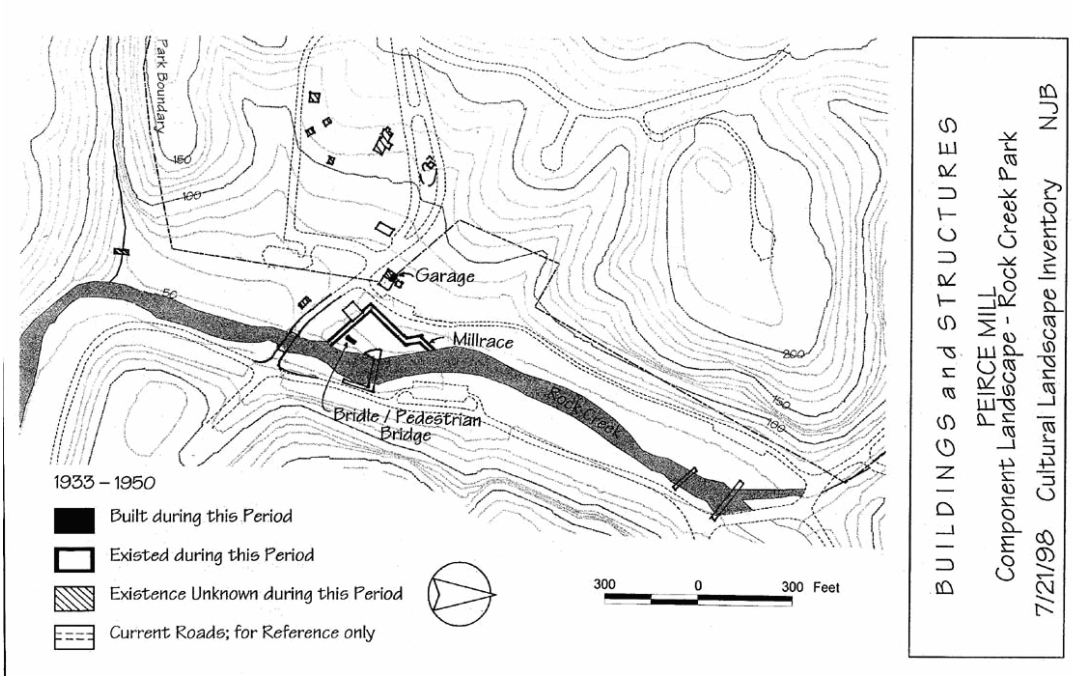
Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



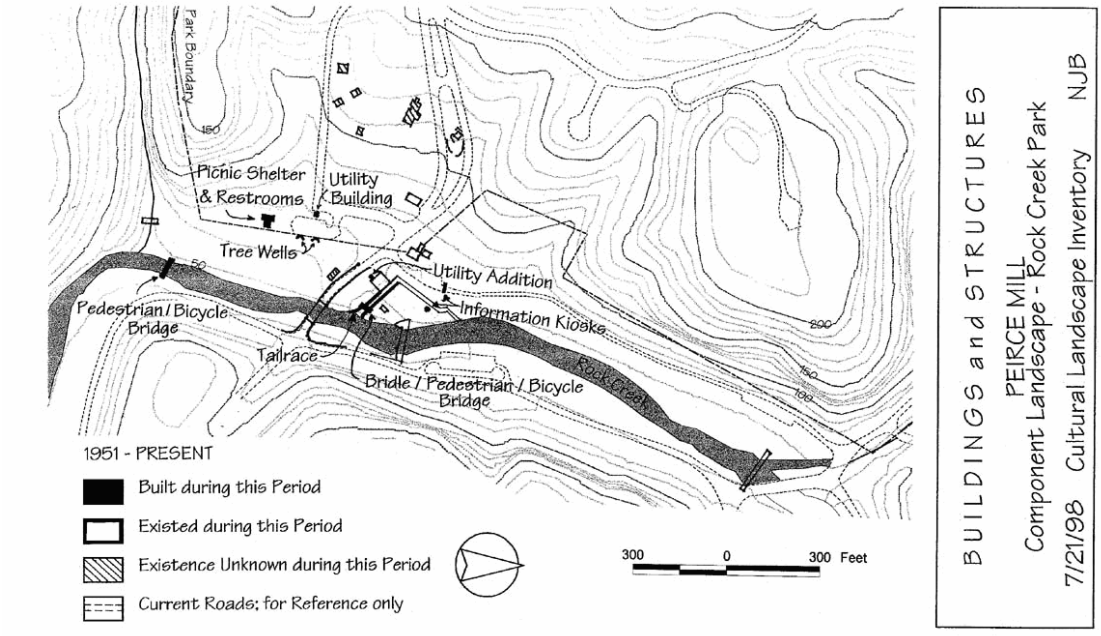
This illustrates the many structures built on the site between 1800 and 1890.



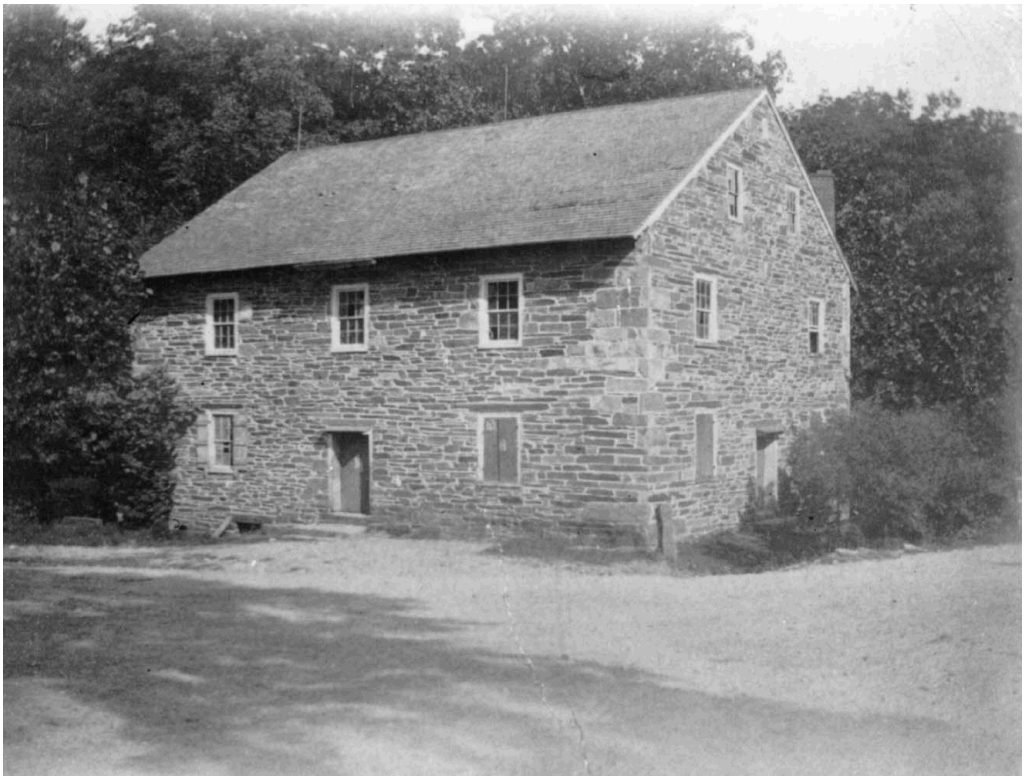
This graphic shows the structures found at Peirce Mill between 1891 and 1932, including additions to existing buildings.



The structures at the site between 1933 and 1950 are illustrated here.



These buildings and other structures were found in the Peirce Mill landscape from 1951 to the present.



This photograph shows the west and southern facades of Peirce Mill, circa 1897.



This photograph, circa 1897, is of the springhouse located to the west of Peirce Mill.



The south façade of the wagon barn, currently referred to as the Peirce Barn.

Cluster Arrangement

Cluster arrangement on the Peirce Mill component landscape has been determined by the site topography and the creek alignment. During the nineteenth-century three primary building clusters were apparent, defined by unique functional use. They were, the commercial cluster whose primary building was the grist mill; the residential cluster including the main Peirce Shoemaker house and associated outbuildings; and the agricultural/horticultural cluster which included a large barn, a springhouse and an ice house.

Currently, the only cluster that remains visible and integrated into the Rock Creek Park landscape is the commercial cluster including the grist mill and wagon barn. These structures were located on the west bank of Rock Creek close to major transportation routes, just north of Tilden Street (previously Peirce Mill Road.) During the nineteenth-century, a miller's residence and distillery/barn were located across the road, west of the mill. In addition, a saw mill was located immediately north of the grist mill. Built within the flood plain of Rock Creek, the placement of these structures took advantage of available water power. The miller's residence

and sawmill are no longer extant. The distillery/barn associated with the miller's house, now known as the Peirce Still, was renovated as a residence early this century and is located outside the boundaries of Rock Creek Park.

The second building cluster apparent during the nineteenth-century was the residential cluster of the Peirce/Shoemaker family. Located to the southwest of the milling area, the house and associated outbuildings were placed at a higher elevation than the mill, out of the flood plain of Rock Creek and within reach of cooling breezes. Oriented west toward Peirce Mill Road, the house sat at the end of an entrance drive. Three outbuildings stepped down the east facing slope behind the house. The land upon which the Peirce Shoemaker buildings were once located is not under National Park Service ownership.

The final cluster was comprised of the agricultural and horticultural buildings located to the west of the mill, south of the orchards. This loose cluster of buildings was defined by a large barn, a springhouse, and/or an ice house and a corral. Once evidence of the wide variety of activities undertaken by Peirce/Shoemakers on the Peirce Mill landscape, only the springhouse remains.

With the acquisition of Peirce Mill by Rock Creek Park administration in 1892, the residential and agricultural clusters were divided from the commercial milling cluster. The property to the west of the Peirce Mill carriage house and the southern meadow was developed into residential subdivisions. Although the springhouse was preserved, it was isolated within a road median, with the surrounding landscape altered drastically.

Currently the only historic cluster of buildings that dates to the nineteenth-century is the milling cluster located near Rock Creek. Additional structures were added to this cluster during the early part of the twentieth century to accommodate a growing emphasis on park visitors.

Separated from its nineteenth-century context, the milling cluster loses some of its integrity as a nineteenth-century milling site. The loss of the millyard, historically located between the barn and the mill, contributes to the loss of historic integrity. However, as a recreational interest point within the landscape of Rock Creek Park, this cluster, surrounded on the east north and south by early twentieth century picnic areas, retains integrity relating to both of its twentieth-century significance period. Though associated nineteenth-century building clusters have been lost, the development occurring since park acquisition, illustrates the transition of the site, from a practical commercial enterprise to a recreational park destination.

Character-defining Features:

Feature: Milling cluster

Feature Identification Number: 103077

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Views and Vistas

The views apparent during the nineteenth-century arose from the utilitarian nature of the landscape. Though most likely not consciously designed, the broad views available on the cleared land, from both the Peirce/Shoemaker residence and the mill, served to connect various use areas. Beginning in the early twentieth-century, with the transfer of the property to the management of Rock Creek Park, views were designed to enhance the picturesque landscape—providing connections, not between utilitarian areas, but between Peirce Mill as a destination and the broader Rock Creek Park landscape.

CURRENT CONDITIONS

In contrast to both the nineteenth-century views allowed through an open landscape, and the early twentieth-century vistas designed to beautify the scenery, the current landscape around Peirce Mill does not allow for many views. This gradual increase of enclosure around Peirce Mill has occurred for a variety of reasons. Invasive vines cover the riparian vegetation growing along the water's edge at intervals, in some places screening views to the creek. The east facing slope, west of the mill where the nineteenth-century orchards were located, is now grown up in beech, maple and oak. The area where the Peirce/Shoemaker residence once stood, now outside the boundaries of the park, is screened from park visitors. Changes in elevation of the Tilden Street Bridge have truncated views, that were visible from the mill during the nineteenth century. For instance, the view of the southern meadow from Peirce Mill, has been prevented by the construction of the elevated Tilden Street Bridge. This lack of view separates a landscape that once illustrated the connection between the milling and the agricultural enterprises of the Peirce/Shoemaker family.

HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT

Historically, the vegetation of the Peirce Mill component landscape was much more open, which allowed expansive views in many directions. Beginning in the early nineteenth-century, the once wooded landscape surrounding Peirce Mill began to be cleared. An oil painting dating to around 1840 illustrates a view west from the ford over Rock Creek, up the eastern facing slope of Peirce Mill Road [currently Tilden Street]. Riparian vegetation appears to frame the mill with fruit trees growing in lines, barely visible in the background. Such views, though allowing for the painter's artistic license, were not the affect of design decisions, but instead were the result of pragmatic land alteration generated by agricultural and horticultural uses.

By 1861, most forested vegetation surrounding the mill and Peirce/Shoemaker residence had been cleared east to the creek and south to the what is now called the Melvin Hazen tributary. The large meadow east of the Peirce Shoemaker residence was kept clear for grazing. The relatively high elevation of the residence would have allowed for panoramic views. In contrast, due to the low elevation of the mill in the flood plain of Rock Creek, views from this area would have been much more limited. The westward view would have encompassed the orchards ascending the east facing slope bounded by hedgerows of cedar and split rail fences. A narrow view through the alignment of the ford over Rock Creek, would have allowed visibility to the opposite bank and up the road to the west. Views north toward Broad Branch Road through the area cleared for the millrace, also would have been apparent. Views along the road that led

to Blagden Mill, and from the road to the creek and meadow would have also been possible.

By the late nineteenth-century, the Peirce/Shoemaker residence was increasingly enclosed by trees, screening views into surrounding areas. Views south from Peirce Mill into the meadow area were also truncated due to a rise in the elevation of the Tilden Street Bridge. Tree growth also increased north of the mill. Westward, the vegetation remained open, the orchard trees and agricultural buildings visible, though surrounding residential development on the distant hillsides was screened.

Beginning in the early years of the twentieth-century, the Peirce Mill landscape underwent drastic change, both programmatically and physically. Due to the division of the property with the formation of Rock Creek Park, adjacent land once visible from the mill became blocked by woody vegetation. Yet though the vegetation levels in the vicinity of the mill were allowed to increase, their location was controlled to create vistas in the landscape. For instance, when the Peirce Mill dam was created in 1904, vistas framed by vegetation accented the picturesque qualities of its boulder structure. New bridle and pedestrian paths were introduced. From these circulation routes, views were created, placing the mill as a recreational destination within the park setting. While the mill and wagon barn themselves were accented, the agricultural and horticultural aspects of the landscape were relatively ignored. Successionary vegetation and invasives continued to grow and partially hide views to the once open land east across the creek.

LEVEL OF HISTORIC INTEGRITY
With the rehabilitation of Peirce Mill in the 1930s much of the vegetation immediately surrounding the mill was cut back. The landscape east of the mill spread flat to the water's edge, held up by a retaining wall. The view of the historic ford across the creek was lost. Since this rehabilitation, many views have continued to be lost to invasive and successional growth. The boulder dam, once an integral part of the Peirce Mill landscape, is visible only through tiny breaks in the grape vines which cover much of the riparian vegetation along the creek banks. This loss of historic views greatly diminishes the level of historic integrity of the Peirce Mill landscape.

Character-defining Features:

Feature: View from Beach Drive to Peirce Mill

Feature Identification Number: 105797

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: View to dam from mill

Feature Identification Number: 105798

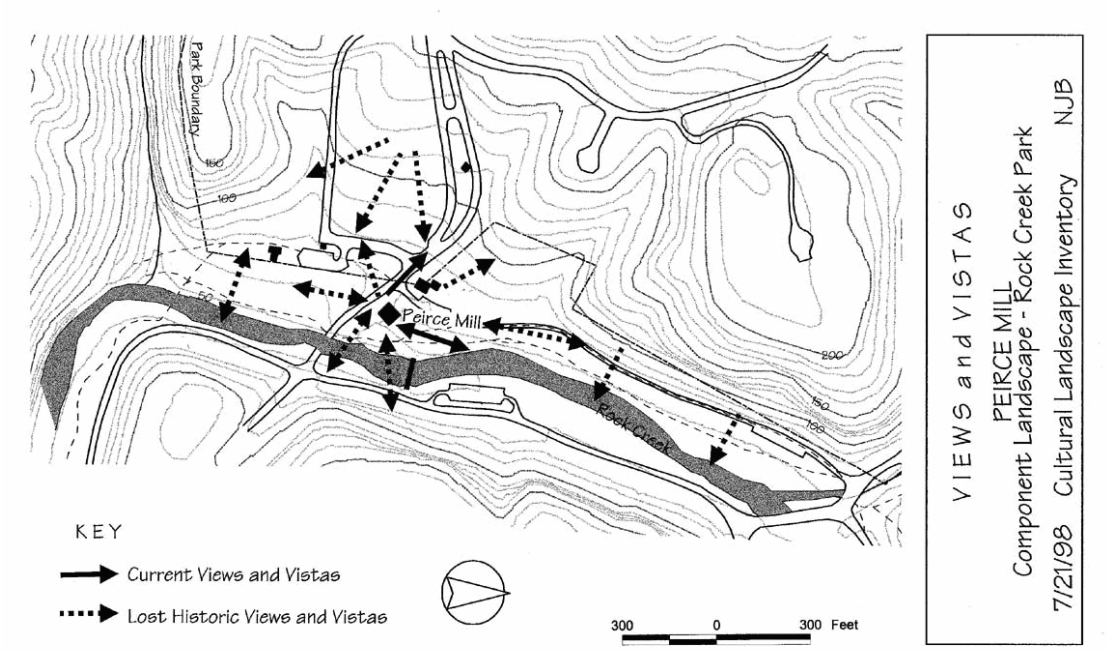
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: View to Peirce Mill from Tilden Street

Feature Identification Number: 105799

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Most of the historic views and vistas have been diminished over time or lost.



This current (1998) image of the view from the west bank of Rock Creek towards Peirce Mill Dam illustrates the screening of views due to invasive vegetative growth.

Constructed Water Features

There are three primary constructed water features which were integral to the development of the Peirce Mill component landscape that retain some integrity through physical evidence on the landscape. These were the late nineteenth-century crib dam, the circa 1904 boulder dam and the 1935 millrace. Though the landscape retains only faint traces of the millrace and crib dam through soil depressions and rock piles respectively, each played an important roll in the evolution of land use at Peirce Mill. The historic integrity of the boulder dam, though subsequently altered, has been preserved to a great extent.

The configuration of the earliest millrace on the property, most likely dating around 1830, is not known. By 1861, maps illustrate the millrace as a line running parallel to Rock Creek, extending from the mill wheel on the north façade. The head gates appear to have been located almost as far north as the intersection of Broad Branch and the road that ran north from Peirce Mill to Blagden Mill on the west side of the creek. During the mid-1860s a sawmill was constructed just north of the Peirce grist mill. This structure most likely utilized the millrace associated with the grist mill. The 1866 Michler Map reveals the general arrangement of the mills. By 1890 this saw mill had been removed and the millrace, which once extended north almost to Broad Branch Road, had been drastically shortened. Running parallel to the road, the altered millrace extended to the head gates, located just upstream from a crib dam. The race was constructed with irregular, dry-laid stone walls. The crib dam, the current remnants of which still reveal its location in the creek, crossed Rock Creek at an angle, approximately one hundred yards north of Peirce Mill. The dam was constructed by forming an interlacing basket of timbers. The timber frame was then filled with stones to improve strength and stability. This extensive dam realigned the creek—pushing its course eastward. This dam remained in place through the last years of the commercial mill enterprise in the late nineteenth century. Sometime between 1899 and 1904, the crib dam was washed out in a flood. In addition historic maps indicate that in the late nineteenth-century a circular pool was constructed to the west of the distillery/barn associated with the miller's house. The purpose of this constructed water feature is not known.

With the acquisition of the Peirce property by Rock Creek Park administration, new recreational uses were introduced onto the landscape. Peirce Mill was converted into a tea house and the surrounding landscape was engineered with picturesque features to improve its scenic qualities. The dam was constructed in 1904 by Otto Strange at a cost of approximately four thousand dollars. The boulder dam, designed in much the same style as Boulder Bridge (circa 1902), reflects the Picturesque aesthetic, prominent during the time period. Utilizing native materials and a rustic building technique, the dam was constructed purely as a means of improving the beauty of the Peirce Mill picnic area and tea house by providing a focal point in the landscape. The sound of falling provided a pleasant background noise. The dam, built on a foundation of concrete with a field stone facing on the downstream side, served no milling function. The still extant dam is one hundred feet long and has a spillway of forty feet was located in the center. Masonry wings were added to the dam in 1905. During the 1930s restoration of Peirce Mill, the height of the dam was increased and the boulders were repointed by the Civilian Conservation Corp. A fish ladder was installed at the dam between 2006 to

2007.

During the early twentieth-century, alterations were also made to the nineteenth-century remnant millraces. To accommodate the picnicking visitors, in 1908 the sawmill raceway was filled in. In 1914 the rest of the millrace which extended to the previous location of the crib dam was also removed, though deep depressions remained in the landscape to reveal the previous race location. The depressions adjacent to the north of the mill, however, were removed with the construction of the screen porch in 1931.

Between 1934 and 1936 Peirce Mill underwent extensive restoration. The millrace was reconstructed. The race was located in the approximate location of the late nineteenth-century millrace which had extended from the mill wheel to the crib dam. The walls of the race were constructed of mortared, regularly cut and laid stone. The boulder dam was also raised at this time to allow for the use of the water wheel. This race remained in place until the late 1960s when it too was filled in. In the late 1960s the desire for a working mill spurred the construction of another millrace of a far more modest design. The design, without historical precedent, extended from the mill wheel east to the creek and used city water for power. This race, like the 1930s raceway, is constructed of regularly laid and mortared, cut stone. Though not historically significant, this raceway remains today and is consistent with the overall mill character of the site. In 2008, a temporary gate was put in at its mouth, by the bridge between the mill and Rock Creek, to block floating debris from entering this area.

The various generations of raceways and dams influenced the development of the Peirce Mill landscape in many ways. The alignment and construction method of each millrace and dam reflected the technology and later, the restoration philosophy, of the time in which it was created. For instance, the boulder dam created in the earliest years of Rock Creek Park illustrated the era's emphasis on the beauty of the natural landscape and on the desire to embellish that landscape to improve visitor experience. The 1930s restoration of the mill and alteration of the landscape also reflected the apparent desires of the park visitor. The building, landscape and raceway were altered to create a 1930s vision of a nineteenth-century utilitarian landscape. For example, the millrace was reconstructed with methods and in a style more formal that ever existed in the nineteenth century in order to recreate the process of nineteenth-century milling. As such, successive alterations to the landscape are important in understanding the evolution of programmatic change on the Peirce Mill site, though individually not all alterations are historically significant.

Character-defining Features:

Feature: Peirce Mill Dam

Feature Identification Number: 105780

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 23293

LCS Structure Name: Pierce Mill Dam

LCS Structure Number: 339-05

Feature: Peirce Mill Flume

Feature Identification Number: 105781

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 17240

LCS Structure Name: Pierce Mill Flume

LCS Structure Number: 339-02

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



This photograph illustrates the crib dam, circa 1897



This image illustrates the current (1998) appearance of Peirce Mill Dam as seen from the west bank of Rock Creek

Small Scale Features

The small scale features currently located on the Peirce Mill component landscape originated during the twentieth-century. These include signage, fencing, guard rails, lighting fixtures, utilities and site furniture.

CURRENT CONDITIONS

Currently most small-scale features on site date to within the last twenty years. The signage is a combination of the typical National Park Service design, characterized by the use of brown and white with the National Park Service arrowhead, and interpretive signage unique to the site. Peirce Mill and the wagon barn are identified through Park Service signage. Two large interpretive kiosks are located to the north of the mill. Both are constructed of wood and metal with wood shingle roofs. The eastern most kiosk relates an artist's conception of the site layout through the use of small fiberglass panels. The western kiosk provides a space for the posting of flyers. A plastic and metal directional bollard, associated with the Dutch Embassy and the Jusserand Memorial, is located to the east of this kiosk. A split-rail fence is also used extensively in the landscape. Fencing with three rails divides the western lawn of the mill from the pedestrian trail. The fencing is located along the southern side of the interpretive trail which runs parallel to the millrace. This fencing serves to accent the interpretative additions made to the site during the late 1960s and detracts from the historic integrity of the space by dividing spaces, historically not separated. The split rail fence, running parallel to the eastern bank of the creek, is used to prevent visitors from falling into the creek. Metal bollards are used to restrict the entrance to the trail that follows the old road that led from Peirce Mill to Blagden Mill. A guardrail constructed of vertical logs approximately two feet high, with verticals crossed by a single horizontal log, is located at the southern end of the parking lot associated with Picnic Area 1. Boulders are used to divide this parking area's entrance drive from the

surrounding turfed area near Tilden Street. A rustic-style "Washington Bench" is located by the western entrance to the mill while two fireplaces are located east of the creek in Picnic Area 2. Both of these have been stabilized since 2003.

The current lighting fixtures on site include various forms of light standards added to the site within the last thirty years. Along Tilden Street, light standards typical of current District of Columbia street lights, are placed at regular intervals. To the east of the comfort station are two light standards. Two metal poles painted gray, without ornament, have two floodlights each attached to their tops. The poles are sunk into a concrete base. In addition, two floodlights are attached to the north façade of the mill. One is located in the apex of the gable and the other is placed near the western most second story window.

In the early 1990s, an HVAC unit was housed in a small addition [described in the building and structure section]. Other visible evidence of utilities on site are the telephone poles and wires which cut across the northern end of the southern meadow, in the vicinity of Tilden Street.
Two drinking fountains are located within the Peirce Mill component landscape. One is located within the southern meadow area, near the meadow's eastern edge. Originally the location of playground equipment constructed in the 1920s, this drinking fountain today appears to be isolated in the landscape, as the play equipment is no longer extant. The other drinking fountain is located to the west of the mill, near the pedestrian path that leads to the mill entrance. Clad in medium sized river stone, the drinking fountain was probably constructed with the development of the late 1960s millrace. The trash receptacles, two of which are located to the east of the comfort station, are of brown plastic with a squared profile.

An aluminum flag pole is located between the entrance drive and the mill. The foundation of the pole is comprised of granite pavers, approximately two inches by two inches in size, arranged in a circle about two feet in diameter. This circular patch of stone pavers is repeated approximately fifty feet to the west, with only a metal pipe, cut off to approximately one-half foot.

HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT
The known small-scale features associated with the nineteenth-century development of the landscape surrounding Peirce Mill, reflected the practical requirements of the agricultural, horticultural and milling enterprises. The earliest evidence of small-scale features is from an oil painting dating to the 1840s. Though allowing for artistic license, this painting suggested a split rail fence running parallel to the creek in front of a log structure located to the south of the mill. The Boschke Map (1861) illustrated extensive use of fencing for agricultural and husbandry purposes. Fencing also divided the creek from the pasture south of the mill. Defining the boundaries of the pasture north of the mill, a fence also formed a rectilinear space in the landscape. Corrals or barnyards were located near the two large barns on the site—one near the barn associated with the Peirce Shoemaker residence and one near the barn located to the west of the carriage house and mill. A fence also divided the area between the orchard and the surrounding pasture land. The appearance and construction methods of the fencing are not

known, except as garnered from the representation given in the early nineteenth-century painting.

Much of the previously described fencing configuration, which during the mid nineteenth-century defined areas of pasture land, no longer appeared on maps of the area by the 1890s. Instead fencing was concentrated around agricultural buildings, creating large pens. In addition a fence was located to the immediate west of the road that led from Peirce Mill to Blagden Mill, in the vicinity of the carriage house.

Most of the evidence of late nineteenth-century and early twentieth-century small-scale features on site is drawn from a photographic analysis of Peirce Mill and the surrounding area. As such, the earliest visual evidence of small-scale features dates to the late nineteenth-century. A photograph of the west façade of the mill, circa 1897, shows a stone post, approximately three feet high, located to the southwest of the building. Perhaps used as a hitching post or as a block to prevent carts from hitting the edge of the building, this post most likely dates to the era in which Peirce Mill was a commercial enterprise. A photograph of the east façade of the mill illustrates divisions between fields in the distance, to the west of the mill. The exact construction of these hedges or fence lines is not possible to determine.

With the renovation of Peirce Mill into a tea house in the early twentieth-century, small-scale details were added to the site to fulfill the needs of visitors. Moreover, embellishment of the site to improve its picturesque appearance also stimulated the additions. These additions reflected the rustic-style picturesque aesthetic, characteristic of the time period and used elsewhere in Rock Creek Park. For instance, in 1927 a rustic sign was located just west of Peirce Mill. With an unpeeled log frame surrounding a map of Rock Creek Park and a small timber edged planting bed at its base, the sign reflected this popular design style. As stated in the building section of this cultural landscape inventory, window boxes were added to all facades early in the century. Rustic styled footbridges spanned the depressions left by the nineteenth-century millraces. A wood hitching post with a metal horse head was located at the northwest corner of the building. The planting bed at the base of the west façade was defined through the use of an iron "hoop" edging. Finally, a rustic style wood bench was located on the western bank of the creek, positioned to have a view of the boulder dam. Save the bench (although in a different location) none of the described features are extant.

The introduction of small-scale features was also associated with the development of the picnic areas surrounding the mill. North of the mill, near the headrace of the late nineteenth-century dam, a stone fireplace was built during the 1920s. Stone fireplaces were also located on the eastern bank of the creek, in the picnic area north of Peirce Mill. At least one of these features is still present in what is now known as Picnic Area 2. Since 2003 it has been stabilized, along with one other fireplace whose period of construction is unknown. Wood picnic tables and benches were associated with the picnic area development, as well. The exact appearance of these early twentieth-century site furnishings is not known. In 1926 metal playground equipment, including a swing set and a teeter-totter, was installed, south of the mill

across Tilden Street. "Washington" benches were introduced to the site by the 1930s. An iron drinking fountain was located near the northwest corner of the mill during this time period, as was a trellis on the south end of the west façade. Following the rehabilitation of the mill in the late 1960s, other additions were made. To the west of the mill, bordering the eastern edge of the parking area, a drinking fountain was installed. Of uncut, mortared stone construction, this fountain is still extant. In the picnic area south of Peirce Mill, multiple container, brown painted metal waste receptacles in the "tulip" style were installed during the 1960s as well. These are no longer extant. Currently wood picnic tables with metal braces and recycled plastic tables are located in Picnic Area 1, south of Peirce Mill. Picnic tables are also located at the other two picnic areas.

Small-scale features were also associated with the development of circulation systems on the Peirce Mill component landscape. According to early twentieth-century photographic documentation, the light standards which bordered Tilden Street, conformed to those in other areas of the park. The cast iron posts were topped with a curvilinear design accented by a center acorn droop. These light standards have been removed. Timber guard rails were also used extensively during the 1920s and 1930s to separate circulation and parking areas. A timber guard rail, approximately two feet high, was located to the south of Tilden Street on the bridge approach. Guard rails also divided the parking area, located to the east of the mill and used from 1931 to 1936, from the surrounding pedestrian spaces. A guard rail also defined the parking area located to the west of the mill. This railing replaced the boulders utilized before the construction of the screen porch in 1931, and has since been removed. With the construction of the current picnic pavilion in the late 1950s, a parking area was constructed south of Tilden Street. Boulders were used to define the edge of this cinder paved area. A portion of this "boulderization" remains. Two cut stone tree wells were also built into the east facing slope of the parking lot. The northern tree well is in moderately good condition; the southern one is severely damaged.

Additional signage was developed during the 1960-1980s to assist in the interpretation of the site. A small metal and plastic sign post is located slightly to the southeast of the bicycle trail. Approximately two feet high, the sign indicates the mileage and direction to the Dutch embassy and the Jusserand Memorial. The current signage around the Peirce Mill landscape emphasizes the historic significance of the site. Signage is also located near the creek bank, directing visitors as to the dangers of the creek and prohibitions imposed by park management.

LEVEL OF HISTORIC INTEGRITY
The integrity of the small-scale features of the Peirce Mill component landscape has been severely diminished by the loss of historic site furniture, signage and lighting fixtures. Currently the design and placement of signage and small-scale features on site does not contribute to a sense of historic continuity within the component landscape. Instead such features detract from the historic character of the site.

Character-defining Features:

Feature: Drinking fountain, circa 1960s

Feature Identification Number: 105782

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Dutch Embassy directional bollard

Feature Identification Number: 105783

Type of Feature Contribution: Non-Contributing

Feature: Flag pole

Feature Identification Number: 105784

Type of Feature Contribution: Non-Contributing

Feature: Kiosk

Feature Identification Number: 105785

Type of Feature Contribution: Non-Contributing

Feature: Lighting fixtures, circa 1970-current

Feature Identification Number: 105786

Type of Feature Contribution: Non-Contributing

Feature: National Park Service Interpretive Signage, circa 1970-current

Feature Identification Number: 105787

Type of Feature Contribution: Non-Contributing

Feature: Picnic tables

Feature Identification Number: 105788

Type of Feature Contribution: Non-Contributing

Feature: Split rail fencing

Feature Identification Number: 105789

Type of Feature Contribution: Non-Contributing

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



This sign exemplifies the rustic, picturesque style of design in its use of uncut, unpeeled logs.



This image, taken by the Olmsted Firm during their reconissance work in 1917, illustrates the use of boulders. Note the open understory vegetation along the west side of the creek

Archeological Sites

To date, archeological investigations have not been conducted for the Peirce Mill area. Therefore, site-specific information is not available. An investigation near Beach Drive, conducted to comply with Federal law, was made prior to a road maintenance project. The investigation was undertaken by the firm of Delan-Hampton and Associates in January of 1990. The test pit was located to the east of Peirce Mill, in the western right-of-way of Beach Drive. No report was published detailing the outcome of this excavation. In addition, an unnamed prehistoric site, # 51NW78, has been located along Beach Drive at the north end of Picnic Area 2. The artifacts suggest that this was a base camp used by an unknown prehistoric people. It was likely used for light woodworking, hunting and food processing, stone tool production, and hide working. The site condition is listed as poor. It was located by P. Inashima in 1982, with the formal report written in 1985. (Moran 1997: 7, 11)

Condition

Condition Assessment and Impacts

Condition Assessment: Fair

Assessment Date: 09/29/2003

Condition Assessment Explanatory Narrative:

The Assessment Date refers to the date that the park superintendent concurred with the Condition Assessment. The Date Recorded information refers to the date when condition was first assessed by the author of the report.

Condition Assessment: Fair

Assessment Date: 09/01/2009

Condition Assessment Explanatory Narrative:

Site visits and meetings with park staff in 2009 informed a condition reassessment for this Cultural Landscape Inventory. Accordingly, updates were made to certain details of the History, Analysis, Condition and Treatment chapters of this document. The Assessment Date refers to the date that the park superintendent concurred with the Condition Assessment.

The improper drainage impact listed in 2003 as existing to the north of the comfort station is no longer an issue. As planned, the city has since then repaired the leak that was causing the problem in addition to a gas line.

At the time of reassessment, the condition determined for the site is unchanged, and remains fair. This determination takes into account the current condition of buildings and structures, natural systems and features, circulation, spatial organization, land use, cluster arrangement, topography, vegetation, views and vistas, constructed water features, and small-scale features at Peirce Mill. In particular, it is recommended that improving the condition of the landscape to facilitate public use continue to be a priority, in order to fully appreciate its historic significance. To raise the condition of the property to "good," the park should address the maintenance and use issues identified by the Treatment chapter of the Cultural Landscapes Report of 2009.

Impacts

Type of Impact: Adjacent Lands

External or Internal: External

Impact Description: The visibility of neighboring private properties has remained an impact at the site (2009).

Adjacent housing, although primarily screened, does influence the level of historic integrity on site (2003).

Type of Impact:	Erosion
External or Internal:	Internal
Impact Description:	Due to the continuous flow and variable level of the river water, some erosion occurs along the banks of Rock Creek, on the steep slope to the west, and around the mouth of the tailrace (2009; 2003).
Type of Impact:	Flooding
External or Internal:	Both Internal and External
Impact Description:	The impact of flooding on the property, and particularly the Peirce Mill itself, has been minimized by the installation of sandbags that are kept in place year-round (2009). Regular flooding impacts the site due to its low elevation (2003).
Type of Impact:	Deferred Maintenance
External or Internal:	Internal
Impact Description:	Repairs and regular maintenance of the Peirce Mill have helped to reduce the issue of deferred maintenance at the site. However, the rehabilitation of some historic structures, the deteriorated mill race and reconstruction of the water wheel remain in the planning stages (2009). Deferred preservation maintenance has led to the degradation of some of the contributing resources, such as the Peirce Mill and the mill race (2003).
Type of Impact:	Release To Succession
External or Internal:	Both Internal and External
Impact Description:	Regular maintenance of vegetation at the site has helped to minimize the effects of succession, while also preventing further succession on the property (2009). Lands within and outside of the park boundaries have been released to succession, negatively impacting historic spatial relationships, vegetative patterns, and views (2003).
Type of Impact:	Removal/Replacement

External or Internal:	Internal
Impact Description:	The past infilling of the circa 1935 mill race is an example of the removal of cultural resources from the site that contribute to its historic character, and therefore reduce its integrity (2009; 2003).
Type of Impact:	Structural Deterioration
External or Internal:	Internal
Impact Description:	Many of the structures at the site remain in deteriorated condition (2009). Existing structures on site require extensive preservation work to maintain their integrity (2003).
Type of Impact:	Vegetation/Invasive Plants
External or Internal:	Both Internal and External
Impact Description:	Volunteer and some invasive vegetation still block historic views to Rock Creek, though regular maintenance of the open turf areas has helped to minimize invasive plants. However, these plants still threaten to choke historic trees along the creek and along the edges of lawn areas (2009). Invasives on site threaten the integrity of historic views, structures, and vegetation (2003).
Type of Impact:	Soil Compaction
External or Internal:	Internal
Impact Description:	A social path running between the creek and the paved walk has compacted the soil to the point that herbaceous vegetation cannot grow.
Type of Impact:	Visitation
External or Internal:	Internal
Impact Description:	The convenient location of Peirce Mill makes it a popular location year-round. Its heavy use for running, dog-walking, biking, picnics, and other types of recreation has resulted in the deterioration of certain cultural landscape features and characteristics.

Stabilization Costs

Landscape Stabilization Cost: 80,850.00

Cost Date: 12/01/1997

Level of Estimate: C - Similar Facilities

Cost Estimator: Park/FMSS

Landscape Stabilization Cost Explanatory Description:

Stabilization activities at Peirce Mill continue, with some repointing of the retaining walls along the creek and planned repairs to the mill race. Other ongoing projects include control of invasives and exotics to prevent loss of trees and historic views to the dam; maintenance of kiosk bulletin boards; erosion mitigation; removal of trees and branches to prevent further deterioration of views to dam from both mill and Beach Drive, prevent damage to dam, and to provide for visitor safety by removing dead trees and branches on entire site; and maintenance of the width and location of the current dirt road west of the pavilion in Picnic Area 1 to suggest its historic appearance.

Treatment

Treatment

Approved Treatment Document Explanatory Narrative:

The park currently has three rehabilitation, stabilization or preservation projects in PMIS that could work to improve the condition of the cultural landscape at Peirce Mill. Important to note is that although these projects address aspects of the landscape and are currently under various stages of review and completion, PMIS files do not constitute approved landscape treatment documents.

PMIS 75459 – Prepare Cultural Landscape Report for Peirce Mill Complex - $50,000. This project involves the preparation of a Cultural Landscapes Report for the Peirce Mill Complex, with a view towards improving the documentation, current condition, and future treatment of the site. It has been region-reviewed and was slated for completion in fiscal year 2007, but will be completed by the end of fiscal year 2009.

PMIS 77569 – Preserve Historic Peirce Mill, Peirce Barn, and Restrooms - $3,270,000. This project includes the rehabilitation of the Peirce Mill buildings and cultural landscape based on the CLR that will be completed in 2009. It has passed through upper level review and was slated for completion in fiscal year 2009, but is still in process.

PMIS 123580 – Repoint Peirce Mill Walls - $112,062.78. This project includes the repointing of stone masonry wall and rent steel tubular scaffolding at Peirce Mill. It has been region-reviewed and is slated for completion in fiscal year 2012.

Approved Treatment Costs

Cost Estimator: Park/FMSS

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