

“A HOUSE DANGEROUS IN RUIN”

The History and Archaeology of Mill Pond House

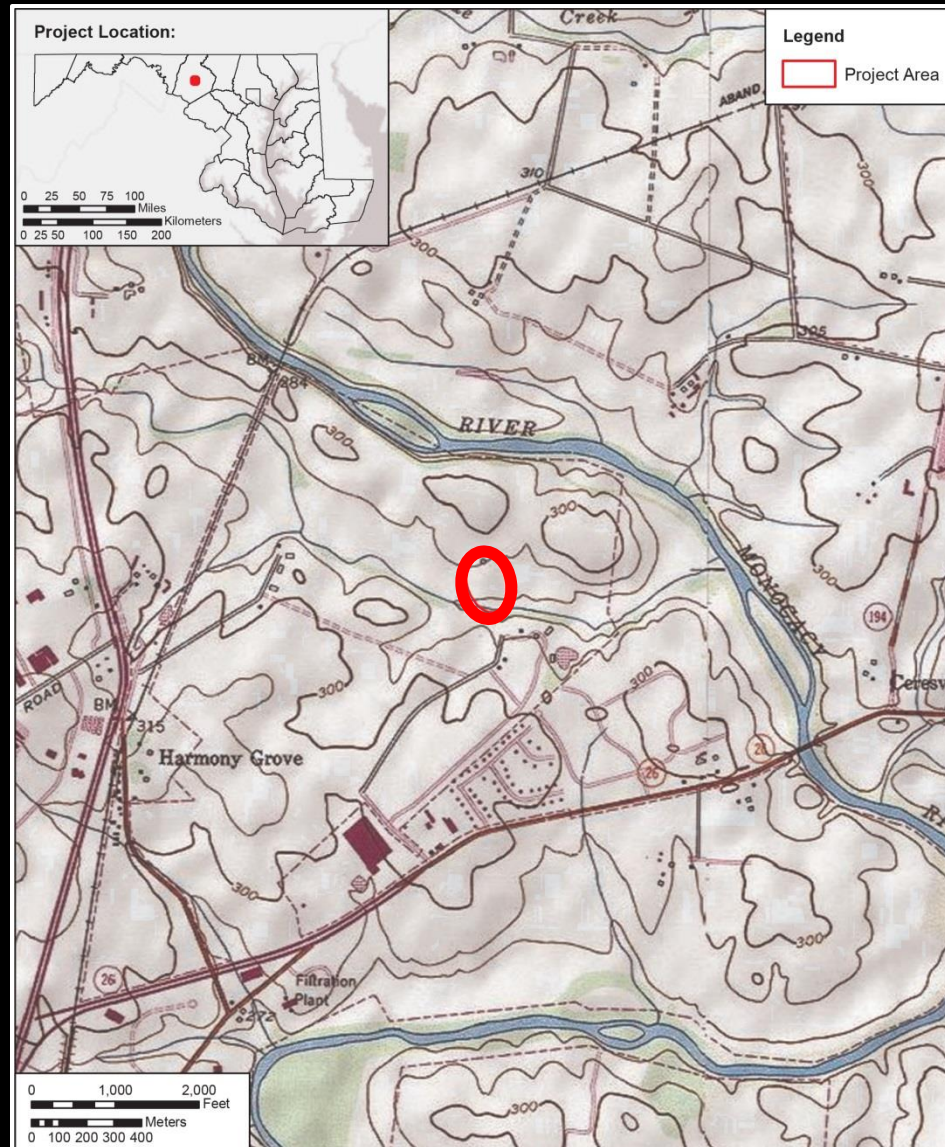
Peter Regan, Senior Archaeologist
AECOM



Project Purpose

- ▣ Investigate the ruins of the ca. 1746 Mill Pond House and the potential site of a contemporaneous grist mill to define the nature, extent, and significance of potential archaeological deposits
- ▣ The archaeological work represents the first component of a multiphase City initiative to stabilize the Mill Pond House ruins and foster public interpretation

Project Area Location



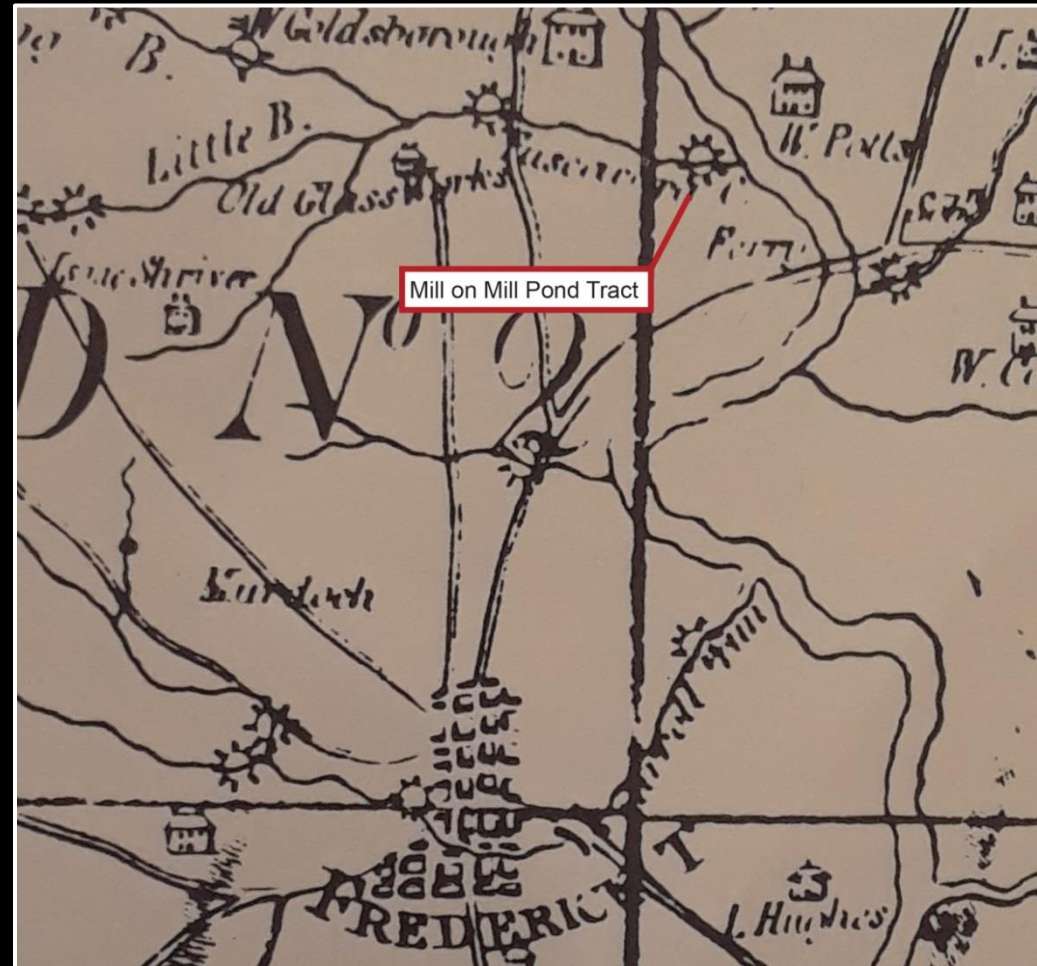
Project Area History

- ▣ In 1746, **Jacob Stoner** purchased the 292-ac *Mill Pond* tract along Tuscarora Creek from Daniel Dulany.
- ▣ On May 11, 1748, the *Maryland Gazette* notified the public that Jacob Stoner's house near the Monocacy burned in the night, claiming the life of an unnamed child.

Last Monday Sennight, the House of Mr. *Jacob Stoner*, at *Monockosy*, accidentally took Fire in the Night-Time, and was burnt to the Ground, with all the Furniture, &c. and *Two Hundred Pounds* Current Money. What adds greatly to Mr. *Stoner's* Misfortune is, that his Son, about 10 or 12 Years old, perished by the Flames: And a Man was also so much burnt, that his Life is despair'd of.

Project Area History

- ▣ The property eventually passed to Jacob's son **John Stoner**, who held *Mill Pond* until 1792, when he sold the all of it to **William Potts**.



1808 Varle map of Frederick and Washington counties

Project Area History

- Potts sold 15 acres of *Mill Pond* to millers **Moses Worman** and **Simon Cronise** in 1811, which included the mill along Tuscarora Creek.

FOR RICHMOND,
(To sail on the 3d of next month,)
 The regular packet Schr DREADNOT,
James Holmes, master. For freight apply
to the captain on board, at Smith's dock, or to
ELY BALDERSTON,
No. 61 Smith's Wharf.
Who has in store for sale,
100 barrels Mess PORK
100 do Prime do
100 do do B EF
800 do Superfine WESTERN COUNTRY
FLOUR, amongst which are the choice brands of
Worman & Cronise, M Worman & Ceresville,
3d mo 30 d4

March 30, 1825 - American and Commercial Daily Advertiser

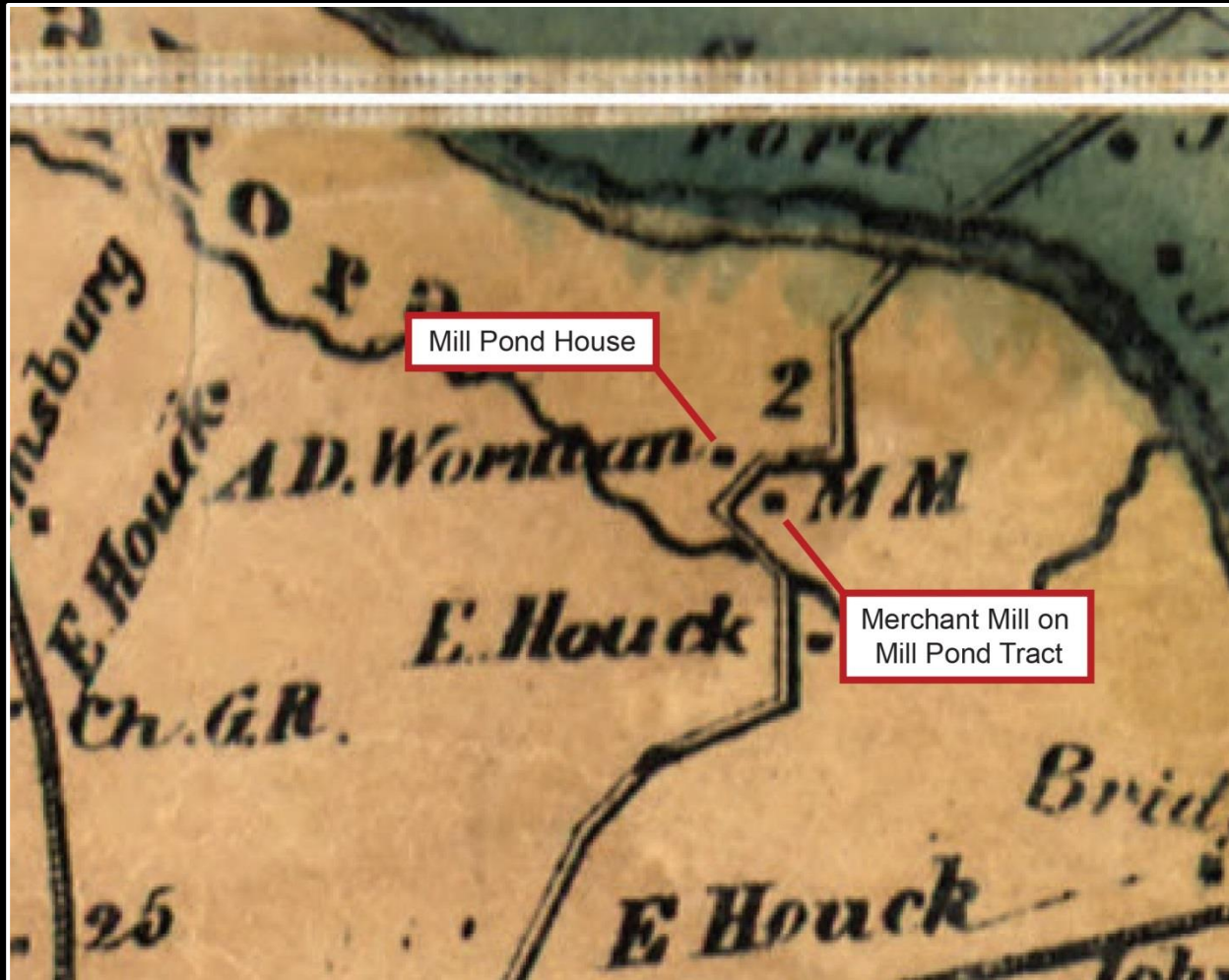
Fresh Family Flour.
THE subscriber, at No. 277 Baltimore, between
Entow and Paca streets, has just received from
Utica Mill, Frederick county, NEW WHITE
WHEAT FAMILY FLOUR of superior quality,
suitable for family use, which he offers at a fair
price, as well as other flour of the best brands for
bakers, a large proportion of which is Worman &
Cronise celebrated flour.
ALSO,
HORSE FEED of all kinds, some very fine new
COUNTRY OATS, by wholesale and retail, inten-
ding to keep none but the best country oats on
hand. Those who wish that article may be sup-
plied at any time.
HENRY WILLIS.
au 8 4tif

August 12, 1828 - Baltimore Gazette

Project Area History

- ▣ After Samuel Cronise's death in 1829, Moses Worman purchased his former partner's interest in their part of *Mill Pond*.
- ▣ Moses Worman's son, **Andrew D. Worman**, was living in Mill Pond House by at least 1858 before his son **William Worman** acquired it in 1872.

Project Area History



1858 Bond map of Frederick County

Project Area History



1873 Lake atlas of Frederick County

Project Area History

- ▣ William J. Worman operated the mill on Tuscarora Creek at least as late as 1880.
- ▣ A description of the mill appeared on the Manufacturing Schedule included with the 1880 U.S. Federal Census:
 - \$7,000 in capital investment
 - On average, one male employee earning \$1.25 per 10- or 12-hour day
 - Operational year round, with four runs of stones producing 150 bushels per day
 - 11-foot wide, 20-hp overshot waterwheel powered by an 11-foot fall on the Tuscarora
 - 75% custom milling, 25% merchant milling

Project Area History



Undated albumen photograph (likely late 19th or early 20th century) possibly representing the mill on Tuscarora Creek

Project Area History

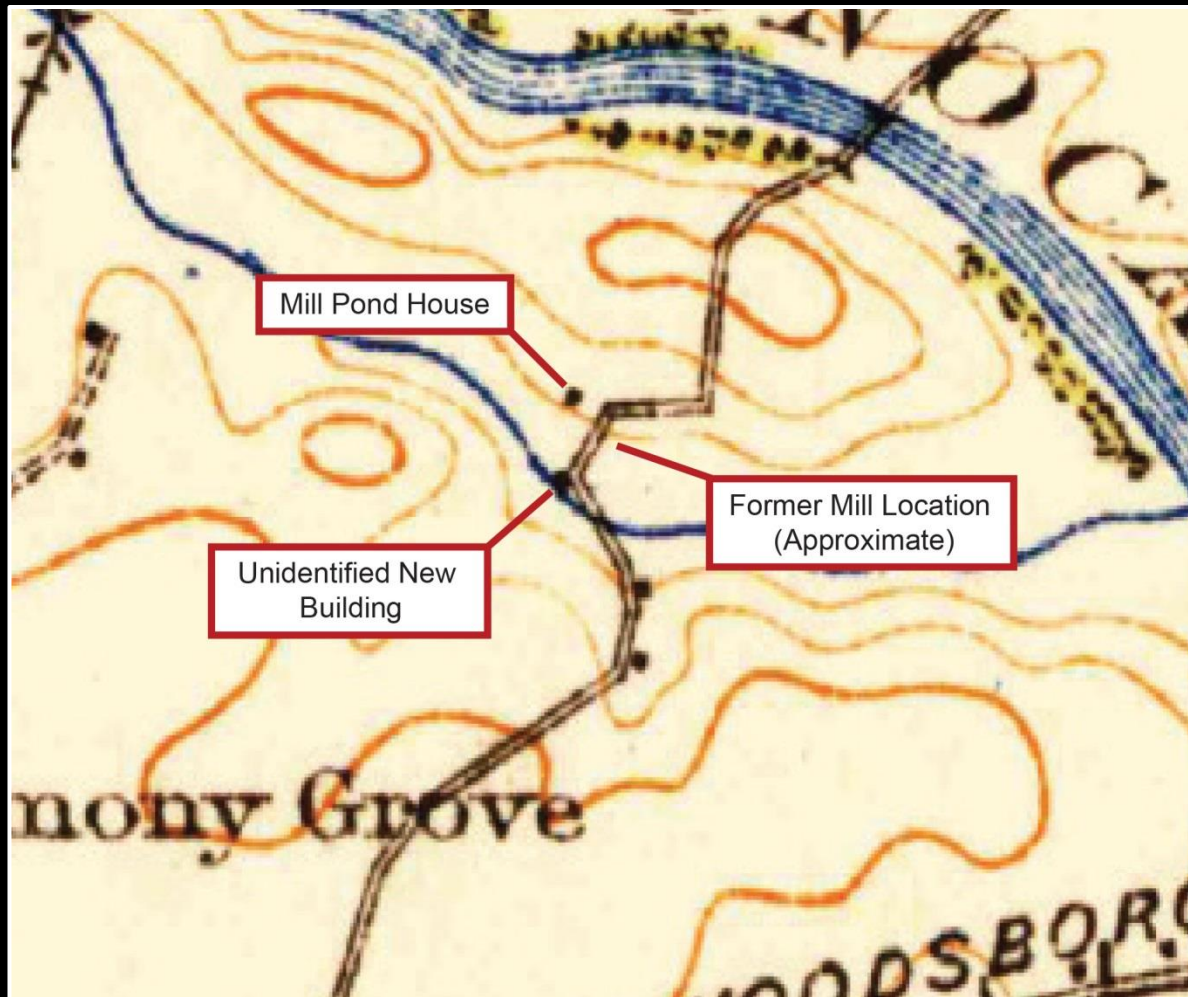


Undated albumen photographs of Mill Pond House, likely late 19th or very early 20th century

Project Area History

- ▣ William Worman retained that part of *Mill Pond* containing the house and mill until 1904 when he sold it to Ezra Houck, Jr.
- ▣ The 1904 deed specifically stated that Worman and his heirs retained the “right of ingress and egress to said premises for a reasonable period of time to remove therefrom the said Mill Building and fixtures therein as above reserved from the operations of this sale.”

Project Area History



1908 USGS map

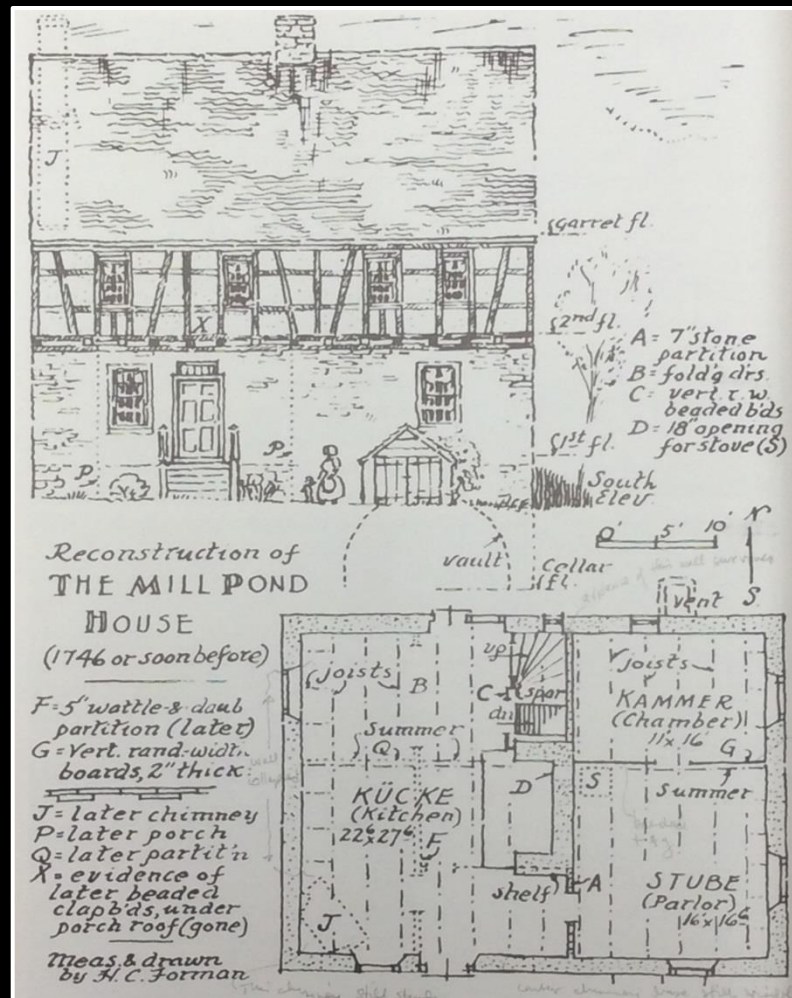
Project Area History

- ▣ The property descended through the Houck family, passing to **Eleanor Houck** by 1942.



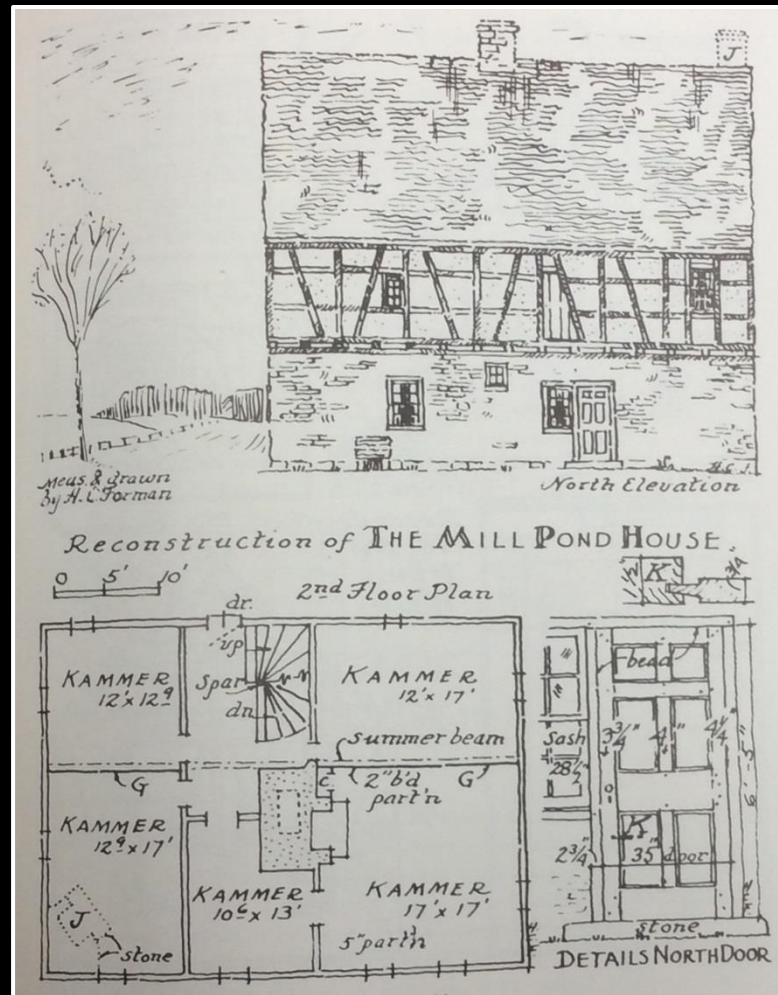
December 1, 1951 – *The News*, view to northwest

Project Area History



South elevation and first floor plan from Forman's 1967 book *Old Buildings, Gardens, and Furniture in Tidewater Maryland*

Project Area History



North elevation and second floor plan from Forman's 1967 book *Old Buildings, Gardens, and Furniture in Tidewater Maryland*

Project Area History

- ▣ After Eleanor Houck's death, the property eventually passed to the Wormald family, who began developing the surrounding area while Mill Pond House continued to decay.



Undated late twentieth century photograph of Mill Pond House

Project Area History



Undated late twentieth century photograph of
Mill Pond House, corner chimney detail



Undated late twentieth century photograph of Mill Pond House, wall detail

Archaeology at Mill Pond House

▣ Goals:

- To determine the presence and extent of potential archaeological deposits associated with *Mill Pond's* grist mill
- To characterize archaeological deposits around the Mill Pond House ruins and assess the site's eligibility for listing in the National Register of Historic Places

Possible Mill Location

- ▣ Historic maps and surviving historic features were used to define a high probability area for the former mill's location.
- ▣ Shovel test pits (40-cm wide holes) were then excavated on a grid in the high probability area to try and identify potential archaeological traces of the mill.



Old Annapolis Trail

- ▣ Portions of Old Annapolis Trail, an 18th century road providing access to Mill Pond House and its mill, still survive along the Tuscarora Creek floodplain despite more than a century of disuse.

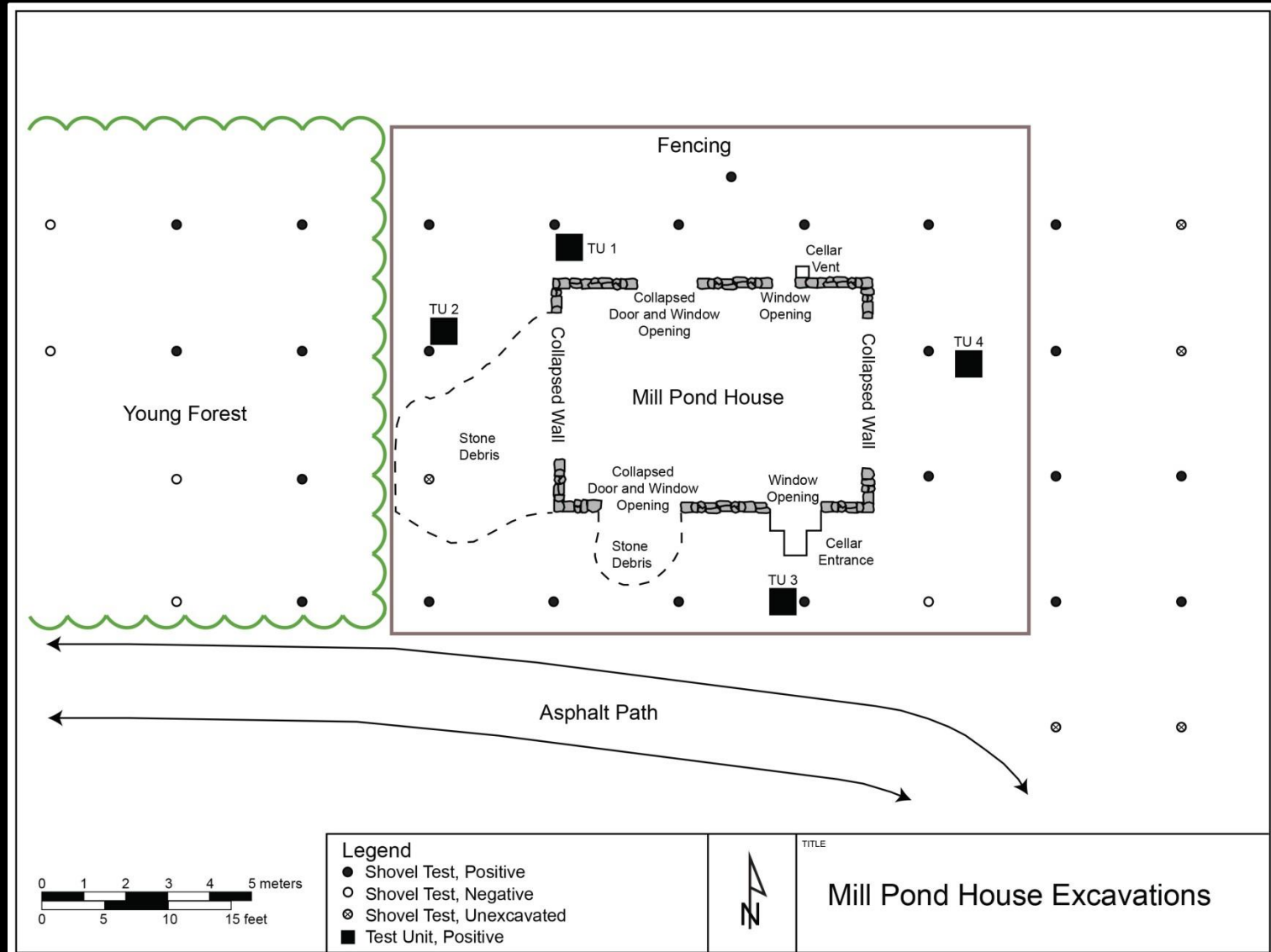


Mill Pond House

- ▣ Archaeological excavation focused on the areas external to Mill Pond House and free of modern disturbances



Mill Pond House



Mill Pond House

- ▣ Test units, generally revealed plowzone soils overlying natural subsoil. In one test unit, however, the plowzone was buried beneath a layer of slate roofing tile fragments, sealing the soil layer from later disturbances.



Topsoil
Slate Tiles
Plowzone
Subsoil

Artifacts

- ▣ 2,662 historic artifacts were assigned to broad functional categories, and were further classified according to material, decoration, manufacturing technique/period, and so forth.

Group	Count	Percent
Activities	3	0.11
Architectural	931	34.97
Arms	6	0.23
Clothing	4	0.15
Faunal	46	1.73
Furniture	3	0.11
Kitchen	1,532	57.55
Miscellaneous	133	5.00
Personal	2	0.08
Tobacco	2	0.08
Total	2,662	100.00

Representative Artifacts



First Row: Wire Nail

Second Row: Cut Nail

Third Row: Pestle Handle, Harmonica Reed,
Transfer Print Ironstone/Stone China

Fourth Row: Glass Tumbler, Toy Porcelain
Cup, Chimney Lamp Rim, Cut Bone



First Row: Tooth, Possible Knife

Second Row: Whieldonware, Hand-painted
Pearlware, Whiteware with Chrome Colors

Third Row: Medicine Bottle, Wrought Nail,
Tobacco Pipe Stem

Fourth Row: Bullet Casing, Slate Roof Tile,
Shotgun Shell Casing

Kitchen Ceramics



- First Row:** Ironstone/Stone China, North American Stoneware, Rockingham
- Second Row:** Flow Blue Whiteware, Shell Edge Pearlware with Embossed Rim, Transfer-print Japanese Porcelain, Possible Philadelphia Slipware
- Third Row:** Slip Decorated Whiteware, Hand-painted Overglaze Creamware, Debased Scratch Blue, Astbury-Type, Victorian Majolica

Diagnostic Artifacts

- ▣ 1,142 artifacts were recovered that could be attributed to a known period of manufacture based on material, manufacturing technique, decoration, and other variables.
- ▣ Artifacts collectively spanned the mid-17th century to the present, clustering in the late 18th to late 19th century.

Manufacturing Period	Total	Percent
Pre-19th Century	40	3.50
Mid-18th - Early 19th Century	46	4.03
Late 18th - Early 19th Century	8	0.70
Late 18th - Mid-19th Century	47	4.12
Late 18th - Late 19th Century	3	0.26
Late 18th - Early 20th Century	233	20.40
Early 19th Century	1	0.09
Early - Mid-19th Century	51	4.47
Early - Late 19th Century	5	0.44
Early 19th - Early 20th Century	37	3.24
Early 19th Century - Present	45	3.94
Mid-19th Century	13	1.14
Mid- to Late 19th Century	13	1.14
Mid-19th - Early 20th Century	307	26.88
Late-19th - Early 20th Century	103	9.02
Late 19th - Mid-20th Century	8	0.70
Late 19th Century - Present	71	6.22
Pre-1910	106	9.28
Early 20th Century	1	0.09
Early 20th Century - Present	4	0.35
Total	1,142	100.00

Interpretations

- ▣ The artifacts are consistent with expectations for a mid-18th to late 19th/early 20th century rural domestic occupation.
- ▣ Artifacts strongly cluster to the rear of the dwelling, in the vicinity of the kitchen as identified by Forman in 1953.
- ▣ Decorations on diagnostic tableware ceramics suggest that successive generations of site occupants enjoyed at least a modest degree of disposable income.
- ▣ Artifacts have been mixed via 20th century plowing, with the possible exception of a buried plowzone beneath the slate roofing tile debris.
- ▣ No evidence for outbuildings, wells, privies, or other archaeological features.

But Is It Significant?

- ▣ No...
 - Lacking archaeological features, depositional integrity, and meaningful material patterning, the portion of the site under investigation is recommended not eligible for listing in the NRHP.
- ▣ ...but maybe...
 - The interior of Mill Pond House may contain potentially significant archaeological deposits, particularly within the kitchen and cellar areas, that would not have been impacted by 20th century plowing. Since this area could not be investigated due to safety hazards, this part of the site is recommended potentially eligible for listing in the NRHP.
- ▣ ...and finally, yes
 - Mill Pond House is significant to the community, as a monument to our early, shared history, as a reminder of the historical heritage with which Frederick is so richly imbued. It is important as a legacy touchstone, for all who see it to marvel.