

SIMPSONVILLE MILL
West side of Cedar Lane at Guilford Road
Columbia Vicinity
Howard County
Maryland

HAER No. MD-91

HAER
MD
14-COLUMBIA
E

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD
National Park Service
Northeast Region
U.S. Custom House
200 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

HAER
MD
14-COLUM.V.
1-

SIMPSONVILLE MILL

HAER No. MD-91

- Location:** 130 feet northwest of intersection of Cedar Lane and Guilford Road
Columbia vicinity
Howard County, Maryland
UTM: 18.936420.4339180
Quad: Clarksville, Maryland, 1:24,000
- Date of Construction:** Circa 1790
- Present Owners:** The Howard County Research and Development Corporation
P.O. Box 833
Columbia, Maryland 21044
- Present Use:** Vacant (ruin)
- Significance:** Simpsonville Mill is significant as a surviving eighteenth century mill with associated features. The Simpsonville Mill was an important local industry in Howard County, and its history reflects the changing economy of the County. It is unusual in its function as both a textile and a grist mill during the nineteenth century. The mill is also locally significant because of its associations with the Owings and Simpson families and its role as the commercial center of the hamlet of Simpsonville.
- Project Information:** The Simpsonville Mill will be adversely affected by the proposed improvement of Maryland Route 32 between Maryland Route 108 and Pindell School Road. In an effort to mitigate the adverse effect, a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) was executed among the Federal Highway Administration, the Maryland State Historic Preservation Officer, and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation. The MOA stipulates that the remains of the mill be recorded and stabilized and that an archeological data recovery be completed. This documentation was undertaken as partial fulfillment of the first stipulation.
- Preparers of Documentation:** Richard Meyer/Principal Architectural Historian
Douglas C. McVarish/Project Architectural Historian

John Milner Associates, Inc.
309 North Matlack Street
West Chester, Pennsylvania 19380

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION OF MILL AND SETTING

The Simpsonville Mill is located approximately 130 feet west of Cedar Lane in the hamlet of Simpsonville, Howard County, Maryland. Its site is a wooded slope on the north bank of the Middle Patuxent River. To the north of the mill is a rocky precipice, and to the west are wooded areas bordering on residential lots. The mill is oriented northwest-southeast. The millseat consists of the mill, the headgate, the headrace, two overflow channels, the wheelpit dam, the wheelpit, and the tailrace, each of which is at least partially intact and is described below. The milldam, also described, is no longer in existence. While not recorded herein, the Miller's House remains standing across Cedar Lane, east of the millseat.

Mill

The stone mill is the most prominent standing feature of the Simpsonville millseat. The lower walls of the building are constructed of irregularly shaped blocks of locally-quarried granite, while the quoins and exterior door and window lintels are constructed of large ashlar blocks of the same material. Many of the quoins and foundation blocks are marked by a series of parallel drill marks. The remaining portions of the existing walls are constructed of coursed rubble. The walls are laid with soft mortar, having a high sand content. Interior door and window lintels are fabricated of wood. All of the remaining wood lintels are charred. The stones used to construct the upper portions of the wall are noticeably smaller than those used in the basement level in order to reduce the thickness and weight of the upper story. The walls are two feet thick at the south entrance and increase to 28 inches at the base of the arch on the southwest wall. The building measures approximately 40 feet wide (east to west) and 46 feet long (north to south).

Three of the mill's four walls remain standing, while the fourth has collapsed. The southwest wall is the best preserved, intact to the lintels of the second story windows. Portions of the northwest and southeast walls survive to nearly their full height; the northeast wall has largely collapsed into the interior of the mill.

The walls of the mill rest on bedrock within the slope of the valley of the Middle Patuxent River. The topography of the valley is such that the ground surface is at the second story level on the northeast side of the mill and at the first story level, on the southwest side. The southwest wall adjoins the wheelpit and is pierced by a Roman-arched opening through which the shaft of the mill wheel passed.

The southwest wall has two openings on either side of the stone arch and five windows on the story above. Two windows flank the southeast entrance, while three other windows are situated on the second story above the first story openings. The southeast wall has collapsed between the first and second story windows, east of the entrance. The northwest wall is poorly preserved; however, it appears that a single window was located on either side of a central doorway.

The position of the second story is indicated by small beam pockets cut into the interior of the southeast and southwest walls. A wood lintel, occurring near the south end of the southwest interior wall, is evidence of an opening that was later enclosed. Evidence of a large brick fireplace is present in the southeast corner of the mill's interior. Handmade bricks from the flue remain attached to the northeast wall. A fireplace of stone, marking the location of an enclosed office in one corner, has been recognized as a characteristic of gristmills built after 1750 in parts of Pennsylvania and Delaware (Del Sordo 1982:67).

No physical evidence of the wood framing that formed the third and attic stories survives. The former exterior appearance of the mill is shown in an early twentieth century painting, reproduced in Cramm's *Pictorial History of Howard County*. This painting shows the mill with a gambrel roof, resting atop stone walls. Two central loft doors were situated in the southeast gambrel end. The lower loft door was flanked by windows (Cramm 1987:112).

The floor of the mill is partially paved with concrete and stone. This floor is a later addition to the mill. The floor is stepped down to form the cog pit on the interior side of the arched shaftway in the southwest wall. This pit accommodated the internal drive gear attached to the main shaft. Nothing survives of the internal mechanism of the mill, and the condition of the interior of the mill hinders the interpretation of its operation. Much of the floor is covered by several feet of collapsed wall. A circular concrete-lined hole located near the shaftway was the only other significant feature identified in an investigation of the mill floor. This hole appeared to have been burnished on the interior surface. Its position in relation to the shaftway indicates that it probably served as a stop for the shaft that rotated the mill stone on the floor above. This shaft would have been raised and lowered to adjust the distance between the grinding surfaces of the mill stones or hurrs. These variations would have accommodated different types of grains and altered the fineness of the flour or meal (Beynon and Irion 1990:58).

The mill was powered by a wheel, driven by water diverted from the Middle Patuxent River through a headrace. Although nothing survives of the machinery of the Simpsonville Mill, some conclusions may be drawn regarding its operation, based on a comparison with similar mills and a study of period literature on milling. The water wheel probably drove a horizontal shaft, which incorporated spur gears and wallower gears that meshed with squirrel cage gears to transmit its power to an upright shaft. This shaft rose to the floor above and turned the millstone (McGrain 1980:3).

Following the publication of Oliver Evans' *The Young Mill-wright and Miller's Guide* (1795) and implementation of Evans' inventions, mill wheels were also used to generate power for performing many of the tasks that had previously required the use of manual labor. By using water power to drive conveyor belts and Archimedes' screws to move the grain and finished flour, the mill became automated. A mill equipped with Evans' improvements could be run by one man, providing twenty barrels of flour per day (Beynon and Irion 1990:59).

Mill wheels were generally of three types: the overshot wheel, the undershot wheel, and the breast wheel. The overshot wheel was a large water wheel, the perimeter of which is formed of continuous rows of troughs called buckets. These buckets were constructed of boards set at an angle toward the stream. Water from the headrace poured over the top of the wheel through a trough or flume into the buckets. The weight of the water in the buckets turned the wheel. With a breast wheel, water from the headrace entered the buckets on the upstream side at a point midway up the height of the wheel. The wheel was turned by a combination of the weight of the water and the velocity of its flow. Water from the headrace passed underneath an undershot wheel; the wheel was turned solely by the flow of the stream. Undershot wheels ran in an enclosed channel constructed of either wood or stone (Howell and Keller 1977:42). Based on the elevation of the headrace and the position of the axle port, Beynon and Irion concluded that Simpsonville Mill was probably powered by a breast wheel. A breast wheel was most efficient at a mill seat where only a moderate fall of water was available, but where an abundant flow compensated for the lack of vertical drop (Beynon and Irion 1990:59).

The maximum horsepower that could be derived from a water wheel was a function of the "head" or vertical drop and the rate of flow of the water. In order to drive a wheel, a vertical head of 10 to 15 feet was required (Wallace 1978:127). The mill at Simpsonville had a head of approximately thirteen feet (Beynon and Irion 1990:59).

Although the mill appears to have been originally powered by a breast wheel, a different means of power generation was used during the mill's last years of operation. According to local informant Walter Iglehart, the mill was powered by a steel turbine during these years. The power train for the turbine did not enter the mill through the arched opening but rather through a smaller rectangular shaftway cut through the southwest wall north of the arch. This roughly cut hole is still visible on the southwest wall. Iglehart recalled that a shaft entered the mill from the turbine:

which came up to the basement.... then there was a shaft that ran completely across the basement of the mill. Then you had your pulley wheels on that particular shaft. If you wanted to run

grinder or whatever it was on that main grinder... you would switch the belts. You would just take a stick and push the belt off of one and put it on the other one. There were several of those wheels down under there (Beynon and Irion 1990:60).

Iglehart recalled that there was one "big grindstone" on the first story close to the northwest wall of the mill, and that flour and corn were ground "in the middle of the mill." The apple press for the cider mill was located in the basement (Beynon and Irion 1990:60).

Milldam Site

The milldam was a large masonry wall across the Middle Patuxent River at the headrace to the mill. The function of the milldam was to elevate the water level of the river, thus providing a constant flow of water to be diverted into the race via the headgate. The dam was located between 1132 and 1148 feet upstream from the wheelpit.

The milldam is no longer in existence. By 1989, it had become deteriorated; the river has breached it on the east side and flowed in a bend around the surviving structure on the west bank. Between 1989 and the present, the dam was destroyed, probably by a combination of vandalism and flooding.

The milldam was constructed of ashlar blocks of granite, the same material as the mill itself. Many of the blocks bore similar drill marks to those on the quoins and foundation blocks of the mill. The milldam was stepped in from multiple courses of stone at the base to a single course measuring approximately 2 feet 6 inches wide at the top. The top course of stones was joined together by two wrought iron clamps inserted into holes drilled in the upper faces of the stones. For part of its length, the top course of stone was surmounted by a concrete cap (Beynon and Irion 1990:87).

Headgate

The headgate at the entrance to the headrace is constructed of the same type of granite blocks which were used in the construction of the mill. The headgate consists of two short parallel walls measuring approximately 29 feet 6 inches in length for the south wall and approximately 8 feet 2 inches for the north wall. Its principal function was to support the wooden gates that controlled the flow of water into the headrace. The stones were laid with mortar and set into bedrock. The majority of these stones are rough and irregular with the exception of dressed stone quoins that are recessed in both walls to accommodate the gate. From the construction of these quoins, it appears that the gate pivoted on the north side and folded back into a recess in the north wall. The design of this gate is similar to that of canal gates in use during the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. (Beynon and Irion 1990:86).

Headrace

The headrace of the mill is clearly visible. Resembling a trench, it parallels the course of the Middle Patuxent River along its eastern bank. The headrace is approximately 9 feet 10 inches to 13 feet 1 inch across at the top, with sides sloping down to a narrower base covered with silt, brush and debris. The total length of the race is approximately 1132-1148 feet.

Overflow Channels

There are two overflow channels located at points along the headrace. The first is located approximately 886 feet downstream from the beginning of the headrace; the second is located approximately 108 feet farther downstream. The locations of these overflow channels were identified during a Phase II archeological investigation of the site (Beynon and Irion 1990:65).

Wheelpit Wall

The wheelpit wall is a stone retaining wall located at the northwest end of the wheelpit. The stones used in the wheelpit wall are similar to those used in the upper portions of the wall of the mill. The wheelpit wall measures approximately 6 feet 3 inches high and 15 feet 5 inches long. Its southern face is exposed to the wheelpit, and its northern face adjoins the headrace. A niche, approximately 5 feet 3 inches high and approximately 4 feet 11 inches wide, is located approximately 4 feet 11 inches from the west end of the wall and possibly represents the remainder of a trough used to direct water to the mill wheel (Beynon and Irion 1990:105).

Wheelpit

The wheelpit, rectangular in shape, is adjacent to and parallel with the southwest wall of the mill. The northwest end of the wheelpit is defined by the wheelpit wall. The southeast end is aligned with the southeast wall of the mill. The wheelpit measures approximately 16 feet 5 inches to 23 feet from east to west, approximately 32 feet 10 inches north to south, and approximately 6 feet 7 inches in depth (Beynon and Irion 1990:104).

Tailrace

The tailrace exits the wheelpit and then empties into the Middle Patuxent River. The tailrace resembles a linear trench oriented in a northwest to southeast direction, with sloping walls. The tailrace measures approximately 49 feet in length and 19-23 feet in width.

HISTORY OF THE SIMPSONVILLE MILLSEAT

The first mill in Simpsonville may date to the early years of milling in Maryland. The earliest recorded water powered mill in the colony was established at the edge of St. Mary's in 1634 (Kuhlman 1929:27). As the seventeenth century progressed, the number of mills increased slowly, and it was not until the eighteenth century that wheat growing and flour milling became an important component of the colony's economy.

Among the earliest documented mills in the Baltimore area were Richard Gist's Milford Mills, built in 1728, Luke Stanbury's Mill of the same year, and Stephen Onion's 1733 mill at Little Gunpowder Falls in present Harford County (McGrain 1980:2). At mid-century, Worthington's Mill was in operation on Welles Branch in the Worthington Valley, and Colonel Ridgely's Mill, probably located in the Hampton vicinity, was mentioned in a 1754 document (Beynon and Irion 1990:32). The growth in the number of grist mills in eighteenth century Maryland was a result of development of a market for cereal crops. In the 1740s, Philadelphia merchants, who exported wheat to Europe, began to look toward the southern colonies to broaden their supply network (Brugger 1988:64). In response to demand, wheat cultivation increased in eastern Maryland, especially in Baltimore, Cecil, and Kent counties.

Researchers for the Upper Patuxent Archeological Group postulated that a mill may have existed in Simpsonville at the time John Hobbes sold 200 acres of the present Simpsonville to Dr. Joshua Warfield in 1749 (Beynon and Irion 1990:31). These researchers suggest that the mill may have been constructed by a partnership of Henry Ridgely and Thomas Worthington, who owned the tract in the early eighteenth century and had constructed mills in the Baltimore area (Beynon and Irion 1990:32). No documentary evidence has been located to confirm this hypothesis.

The earliest documentary evidence of mill in Simpsonville is Dr. Joshua Warfield's last will and testament of 1768. In that document, he bequeathed to his wife Ruth "all plantations providing that she kept the mill in proper order" (Newman 1974:430). Dr. Joshua Warfield, who had purchased the parcel of land called Luck Supported from John Hobbs in 1749, was the area's physician. There is no indication in surviving documents that he actively participated in the milling industry. Anecdotal evidence obtained during research on the Miller's House in Simpsonville suggests that the foundation of this house may date to c. 1755 and may have been the foundation of the grist mill owned by Warfield (Thompson 1977:2).

The earliest known document, depicting a mill at the present location, is Dennis Griffith's 1795 *Map of the State of Maryland*. On that map, reproduced in McGrain's *Molinography of Maryland*, the mill is indicated as "Owings Mill" and is depicted near the northeast bank of the Middle Patuxent River. As a result of this evidence, the mill has been assigned a construction date of c. 1790.

Owings Family Ownership

In the years following the American Revolution, many existing industries expanded and new industries developed, especially where water power or natural resources were available (Parish, Pine and Plavnik 1973). The development of industry in Howard County, Maryland was hastened by the growth of Elkridge Landing into an important shipping center in the mid-1700s (Bobo 1975:5). Howard County originally comprised a portion of Anne Arundel County.

In 1772, the commerce of Howard County, as well as that of the entire nation, was transformed when the Ellicott's Mills were built on the Patapsco River. Joseph, Andrew and John Ellicott, three Quaker brothers from Bucks County, Pennsylvania, purchased land and 4 miles of mill rights along the Patapsco River, 10 miles west of Baltimore (Holland 1970:2-3). They believed that wheat could be produced and processed inexpensively by their milling process and thus surpass tobacco as the major cash crop in Maryland. The Ellicott brothers were instrumental in the economic development of Howard County and its transition from tobacco production to wheat production (Beynon and Irion 1990:34).

The development of Ellicott City was rapid, and as early as 1774, the Ellicott brothers ground wheat and grain and sawed timber. Once the surrounding residents realized the economic benefits of grain production and milling over tobacco cultivation, they began to grow, process and sell their grain in the area, thus stimulating the local economy. Farmers no longer had to await the payments of European tobacco agents. They could raise wheat and corn for which they obtained immediate payment from the new local markets (Arlene 1988:2).

Better roads and port facilities also stimulated the growth of the grain milling industry and the development of additional markets. In 1774 the Ellicotts opened a road from their mills to Baltimore and also laid out a road to Frederick. After 1783, new roads enabled the Ellicotts to regularly obtain supplies of grain from the Eastern Shore and western regions of Maryland (Kuhlman 1929:29). Baltimore Harbor was also dredged, and the milling activities along the river expanded sufficiently for the Ellicotts to begin exporting flour from the port of Baltimore. The increased demand for grain brought economic development to the rest of the Anne Arundel County area.

By the early 1800s, the Ellicott Mills had become one of the country's leading grist mills. Joseph Scott wrote in 1807: "It is 100 feet long and 40 feet wide, with four water wheels, which turn three pair of seven feet stones and one of five feet. She is capable of manufacturing 150 barrels of flour in a day. Here also is a mill, with one water wheel and a pair of burr stones, for the manufacturing of plaster of Paris. Here likewise is a saw mill and an oil mill which is worked with great spirit" (Cramm 1990:7-8).

The development of the Ellicott City mills was symptomatic of the growing concentration of flour milling in urban centers during the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. Southern flour milling became concentrated in Baltimore and Richmond. Baltimore was a grain trading hub. Its merchants sold flour to Virginia, Maryland, and Pennsylvania. It also became the chief port for West Indian trade. By the middle of the nineteenth century, its export business had expanded, and the city annually exported large amounts of flour to Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay, Great Britain, and the West Indies (Kuhlman 1929:39-40).

Prior to 1800 there were two types of flour sold by the Baltimore merchant, "wharf flour" produced by country mills in the Tidewater region and brought by boat to the Baltimore market and flour produced by city mills. By 1830, flour began to flow in from the Piedmont Region of Virginia and Maryland, and with the building of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, this became the chief source of supply. Lesser amounts of flour came from Fredericksburg and Falmouth, Virginia, as well as from the Susquebanna region of Pennsylvania and New York (Kuhlman 1929:42).

The milling industry at Simpsonville also prospered and grew during the late eighteenth and early nineteenth century. With the death of Joshua Warfield and his wife Rachel and the marriage of their daughter Ruth to Richard Owings, the mill passed into the control of the Owings family. Richard Owings was the brother of Samuel Owings who owned and operated the large Owings Merchant Mills, located northwest of Baltimore. The mill at Simpsonville may have been constructed in response to the enlarging grain market and may owe much of its early success to Richard Owings' connection with his brother Samuel's larger Owings Merchant Mills (Beynon and Irion 1990:35). No documentary evidence has been identified that conclusively ties the mill at Simpsonville to Samuel Owings' merchant mill or to the larger Baltimore grain market.

The growth of Owings Mills at Simpsonville was due in part to the implementation of new milling technology developed and patented by Oliver Evans. In November 1813, Evans granted a license to Richard Owings allowing him to use his patented milling machinery at Owings Mills. The license read:

Know all men that I Oliver Evans of the City of Phila have recd of Richard Owings of the Co of A.A. Md. the sum of \$180.00 in full for license hereby granted to the said Rich'd Owings his heirs Executors, Administrators & Assigns to construct, make & use my patented machines & Patent Improvements in the art of mfg flour or meal as follows viz for elevating meal & conveying the same from one part of the mill to the other for cooling the meal & attending the bolting hoppers for the use of bis mill consisting of two waterwheel driving not more than two pair of

millstones at the same time, situated on Little Patuxent in said County, called Owings Mill for and during my present on any future patent term...(Beynon and Irion 1990:35).

Oliver Evans devised a system that made it possible for one man to start the grinding process, thus automating the milling industry for the first time. These inventions, described in detail in Evans' guide included the elevator; the conveyer; the hopper boy; the drill; and the descender (Evans 1836). By implementing Evans' improvements, the miller was freed from some of the tasks of the milling operation and fewer laborers were needed at the mill during its operation. The earliest subscribers to the Evans process were the Ellicott Brothers at Ellicotts Mills. The use of this new technology in conjunction with Simpsonville's probable ties to the larger Owings Merchant Mills may have transformed the old Warfield Mills from a small privately-owned, locally based operation to one that served not only the local community but the trading market as well (Beynon and Irion 1990:35).

By 1810, Anne Arundel County had seven mills that produced 19,900 barrels of flour. The majority of the 275,000 barrels produced in Maryland during that year was milled in the large number of mills in Frederick and Washington counties in Western Maryland (Kuhlman 1929). Ten years later, census statistics indicate a growth in the county's mill output and indicate that the Richard Owings Mill was a mid-sized Anne Arundel County mill. The mill employed two men and two boys and using two burrs to grind the wheat, processed 15,000 busbels of wheat at a cost of \$10,000.00. Ridgely Mills, located southwest of Simpsonville, processed 6,000 busbels of wheat annually, while Hugbes Merchant and Grist Mill in Annapolis processed 30,000 to 40,000 busbels of grain annually (1820 Census of Manufacturers).

By 1820, Owings Mill was in a period of transition. Richard Owings had died in 1819, and in his will of October 17, 1818, he bequeathed the mill and surrounding lands to his sons, Basil and Henry H. Owings. Apparently, the two brothers lacked experience in running a mill. The will stipulated that another son James was to work at the mill and draw one half of the mill's profits. Richard Owings probably envisioned James to be a milling teacher for his other sons, because the entire income of the mill was to revert to Basil and Henry in 1821 (Anne Arundel County Will Book JG 17:39).

At this time of the transition in ownership of the mill, the flour market was facing rapid fluctuations in price and demand. The Napoleonic Wars had caused an increase in the price of American flour to approximately \$11.00 or more per barrel. In that period, Baltimore and the surrounding territory were the leading flour/milling sites in the United States in terms of production. Simpsonville's mill probably prospered in this time of price inflation. Just as quickly, the bottom fell out of the flour market. By 1820, the price of a barrel of flour had plunged to \$4.50 (McGrain 1980:7).

The vicissitudes of the flour market probably caused Richard Owings' sons to struggle to retain control of the mills in an uncertain economic climate. In a series of transactions, detailed in the annotated brief of title, ownership of the millseat, mill machinery and water rights was transferred among members of the Owings family to satisfy payment of debts. Eventually, Henry Owings owned almost all the land that his father had originally acquired.

As a way to cope with the uncertain grain and flour market, the Owings family branched out into other manufacturing businesses. A deed from Henry H. Owings, to Basil Owings, dated February 11, 1829, mentions the "millseat, gristmill, sawmill, & Woolen factory" (Anne Arundel County Deed Book 14:278). The location of the saw mill and woolen factory are uncertain. Some evidence is given in a deed from Thomas Burgess, Sheriff of the Howard District of Anne Arundel County, to Henry H. Owings in May 1844 (Howard County Deed Book 5:54-57). This deed refers to "the old mill bouse lately being converted to a woolen factory." This may be a reference to the Miller's house, located across Cedar Lane from the Simpsonville Mill.

The 1850 U.S. Bureau of Census *Products of Industry* schedule adds to the uncertainty about the use of the mill at Simpsonville. It listed two mill owners in the Howard District, Henry H. Owings, who owned a gristmill and a

sawmill and Charles Ridgeley Simpson, who owned a gristmill and a woolen factory. According to the census data, both the sawmill and the gristmill were water powered. Each miller owned a pair of burr stones. One laborer was employed at each grist mill, one person worked the sawmill, and six laborers were employed at the woolen factory. Simpson's mill surpassed the Owings mill in flour production at the time of the census, producing 1,500 bushels of corn meal worth \$800.00. Owings produced 1,000 bushels of meal and flour worth \$600.00. Henry Owings was also in the lumber business and, in 1850, produced 45,000 feet of oak and poplar planks worth \$600.00. Both grist mills probably served only the local market and were dwarfed by the merchant mills of larger communities. For example, a mill operated by Baylies and Tyson produced 20,000 bushels of flour, 20,000 bushels of corn meal, and 60,000 bushels of feed in 1850. Available historic maps do not show two grist mills in Simpsonville, and it is thus unclear where a second grist mill may have been located.

Simpson Family Ownership

According to Howard County property records, the mill passed from Owings family ownership in 1852. In that year, Charles Ridgely Simpson acquired the mill seat from Henry H. and Elizabeth Owings (Howard County Deed Book 12:81). Prior to that time, Charles Simpson may have used the mill for his woolen manufacturing enterprise. Simpson was listed a woolen manufacture in the 1850 Census of Population. The woolen factory employed six men who tended six spindles, four looms, and two carders. The output of the mill was 7,000 yards of cloth and linsey, valued at \$3,500.00. According to a descendent, this factory was indeed located in the Simpsonville Mill and was overlooked by Simpson's mansion, a house that contained 52 windows, two grand pianos, and a chapel (Simpson 1992).

By 1850, Anne Arundel and Howard County had thirteen grist mills, employing a total of 18 hands and producing flour valued at \$31,180.00. The woolen mill owned by Charles Simpson was the only one in Howard or Anne Arundel County (Waters 1856:183), although it was not the only textile mill. To the south, at Savage, was the Savage Manufacturing Company, a large producer of cotton duck used for the sailcloth of merchant ships (Filby 1965:11). This mill took advantage of the 52 foot head of the Little Patuxent River to power 120 looms and 1,000 spindles (McGrain 1976).

After Charles Simpson's death in 1854, ownership of the mill passed to his brother William. William Simpson is listed as a farmer in the 1860 Census with real estate valued at \$10,000.00 and personal worth at \$5,000.00 (*Census of Population* 1860). He was apparently not involved in the day-to-day operation of the mill.

The 1860 *Schedule of Industries and Manufactures* listed three manufacturing enterprises in the Fifth District of the recently established Howard County. These were a woolen factory, operated by James Bra(y)shaw, a saw and grist mill, operated by Joseph Isaac, and a water powered saw mill, operated by George R. Gaither. The steam powered mill was located to the west of Simpsonville in the Clarksville vicinity, and Gaither's mill was located at Oakland Mills, north of Simpsonville (McGrain 1976). James Bra(y)shaw's factory was located in Simpsonville and was apparently the successor to Charles Simpson's woolen mill. This woolen factory annually consumed 30,000 pounds of wool. It employed ten men and seven women who tended 180 spindles, three card machines, and four looms. In the year ending June 1, 1860, the factory produced 2,000 yards of cloth valued at \$2,000.00; 1,000 yards of flannel valued at \$450.00; 500 yards of blanket valued at \$300.00; 900 yards of linsey valued at \$5,400.00; and 1,000 yards of yarn valued at \$800.00. According to a descendent, Brayshaw was a clothier in his native England and worked in a woolen mill in Baltimore prior to operating the Simpsonville factory (Beynon and Irion 1990:402).

No grist mill is listed in Simpsonville in this 1860 census. By 1860, the Simpsonville Mill may have functioned solely as a woolen factory. The change in use may have been due to the economic conditions in the region at that time. With the impending Civil War, it may have been more profitable to produce blankets and uniform fabric for the military than it was to grind grain for local use.

By 1865, the millseat had temporarily passed from Simpson family ownership when William Brayshaw acquired the 215 acre parcel from the James Mackubin, trustee for William Simpson. William Brayshaw may have been the brother of James Brayshaw (Howard County Deed Book 24:19). Brayshaw borrowed sums from various members of the Simpson family to finance the purchase (Howard County Deed Book 24:21). He was forced to sell his Simpsonville holdings in 1877 to repay his debts to the Simpsons.

An advertisement in the *Ellicott City Times* described Brayshaw's holdings: "Brayshaw's farm and mill, 215 acres at Simpsonville - 3 story woolen factory, gristmill and sawmill, blacksmith and wheelwright shop, store building, eight dwelling houses and a large sweitzer barn and stable for twelve horses" (Beynon and Irion 1990:40). The 1878 Hopkins Atlas shows the grist mill situated on the north bank of the Middle Patuxent River in approximately the same location as the existing mill building. To its north, a "factory" is shown, presumably the woolen factory. The location of the sawmill is uncertain but appears to be to the west of the grist mill. Although this map suggests that there were three separate buildings for the three enterprises, the location shown for the woolen factory would have been atop the cliff north of the mill building. Given a reliance on water power, this is an unlikely location for a factory. It is probable that the grist mill and factory were in one building, and the draftsman simply showed the two uses by indicating each separately. By 1880, the mill apparently ceased to function as a woolen factory, unable to compete with the much larger and more efficient mills that lined rivers of New England.

The 1880 *Census of Manufacturing* listed two flour and grist mills in the Fifth District of Howard County. The M. F. Schooley Mill employed two men who ground 4,000 bushels of wheat and 4,000 bushels of other grains in the previous year. It produced 800 barrels of wheat flour, ten barrels of rye flour, 50,000 pounds of buckwheat flour, 96,000 pounds of com meal, 400 pounds of hominy. The total value of all its production was \$9,000.00. Schooley Mills was located southwest of Simpsonville along the Montgomery County line (McGrain 1985). The second mill, owned by Francis Morris and located in Oakland Mills, employed one man and used 2,000 bushels of wheat and 3,000 bushels of other grain annually. Its annual production consisted of 450 barrels of wheat flour, 32,400 pounds of com meal, and 43,500 pounds of feed valued at \$7,160.00. Both mills were powered by turbines. Half of the Schooley Mill's production was custom grinding for farmers in the area, while the Morris Mill handled only custom grinding orders. The mill at Simpsonville was not listed, probably indicating that it was either temporarily closed or had a very small volume of business. Each of these three mills was probably adversely affected by changing milling technology.

After the Civil War, two innovations were introduced to increase the efficiency of flour milling. One was a purifier that sifted and resifted flour ground with the stones set farther apart, resulting in a marketable product from the middlings that most country millers threw away. A second innovation was the use of steel or porcelain rollers, acting together in series, that crushed the wheat instead of grinding it. This process made for a whiter flour and minimized waste. These innovations were enthusiastically embraced in the middle west, especially in Minnesota (Brugger 1988:330).

Only a few Maryland mills had the available capital to install these improvements. The largest of these was the Gambrell Mill. At its existing mill in Orange Grove, Baltimore County, the firm installed rollers in 1879. In addition, it constructed a wholly new, steam-powered roller mill on the Pratt Street sites of two old Baltimore mills in 1881-1882. Mills in Frederick County and Hagerstown successfully converted to the new, more efficient technology, but other mills, including those in Westminster, Park Mills, and Owings Mills, closed because of debts incurred in the conversion. Maryland mills began to lose their export market and the availability of packaged commercial flour also reduced the size of their domestic market. In 1880 the state had more than 500 mills. Eight years later, that number had been reduced to 221 (Brugger 1988:330).

Simpsonville Mill never made the transition to the new milling technology. Instead it continued to serve only the local needs of village residents with cider, grain, and possibly cloth. According to local informant Louise Akerson, farmers from Laurel, Maryland used the mill to grind wheat well into the 1900s. In 1886, Simpsonville's miller was

listed as U. Duvall (*The Maryland Directory* 1886:284). In 1887, the local mill was operated by George C. Zeigler (*The Maryland Directory* 1887:387). By 1896, the mill was operated by James Marlow (*Maryland and District of Columbia Gazetteer* 1896-1897:638).

Later Years

The Simpson family sold off their holdings in the village during the 1878-1890 period, and the mill sustained frequent changes of ownership. In 1906 the mill was owned and operated by Charles R. Wilson, who also served as a justice of the peace in the community (*Maryland, Delaware and the District of Columbia State Gazetteer and Business Directory* 1906-1907:745). Three years later, Wilson sold the 59 acres containing the mill to William Welling Iglehart (Howard County Deed Book 86:488). In the 1912 *Howard County Business Directory*, William Welling Iglehart and his brother, John T. Iglehart are listed as operators of a flour mill, cider mill, and saw mill (Beynon and Irion 1990:41). The 1915 *Maryland State Gazetteer* lists the Iglehart Brothers as owners of a general store, flour, and saw mill (*Maryland State Gazetteer* 1915:1161-1162). Older residents recall that flour and corn meal was ground on the first floor of the mill and cider was made in the basement. Until about 1920, the mill continued to process wheat and corn and crushed various grains for fodder. The mill's operation is confirmed by records of the Simpsonville store that indicate that Frank Gaylord was paid \$15.00 per month to work in the mill during 1919 (Beynon and Irion 1990:42). After 1920, the amount of grain sold to the mill decreased substantially, and older residents indicate that a fire occurred at the mill in the 1920s.

The mill's final decline in trade was probably due in substantial part to a widespread decline in prices of agricultural products and commodities. This decline was tied to both an agricultural depression that dropped prices an average of forty percent and to the effects of Prohibition that resulted in less demand for grain (Beynon and Irion 1990:42). This price decline made it economical unfeasible to reconstruct the mill after it burned, and the mill building has remained vacant since the 1920s.

In 1927, the mill property was acquired by Eureka-Maryland Insurance Company after John and Mary Iglehart defaulted on a mortgage for the property (Howard County Deed Books 130:452 and 149:380). Since that time, it has been sold several times, and it is presently owned by the Howard County Research and Development Corporation (Howard County Deed Book 402:516).

SOURCES OF INFORMATION/BIBLIOGRAPHY

Interviews:

Preston, M. Lee, Jr., October 1, 1992. Ellicott City, Maryland. Telephone interview. Researcher on history of Simpsonville.

Simpson, William S., Jr., October 7, 1992. Richmond, Virginia. Telephone interview. Descendent of the Simpson family.

Primary and unpublished sources:

Anne Arundel County Deeds. Maryland Hall of Records, Annapolis, Maryland.

Anne Arundel County Land Patents. Maryland Hall of Records, Annapolis, Maryland.

Anne Arundel County Wills. Maryland Hall of Records, Annapolis, Maryland.

Howard County Deeds. Office of the Recorder of Deeds, Howard County Courthouse, Ellicott City, Maryland.

Howard County Wills. Office of the Recorder of Wills, Howard County Courthouse, Ellicott City, Maryland.

McGrain, John. *Howard County Maryland, Map of Historic Grist Mills, Cotton Factories, Furnaces, etc.* Map prepared by John McGrain, 1985.

_____. *The Molinography of Maryland. A Tabulation of Mills, Furnaces, and Primitive Industries.* Manuscript in collection of the Maryland Historical Society, Baltimore, 1976.

_____. Manuscript notes and clippings on Simpsonville Mill. Photocopies, 1992.

Thompson, Cleora Barnes. *Hatfield Residence.* Inventory Form for State Historic Sites Survey. Maryland Historical Trust. Filed at the Howard County Historical Society, Ellicott City, Maryland, 1977.

_____. *The Simpsonville Stone Ruins.* Inventory Form for State Historic Sites Survey. Maryland Historical Trust. Filed at the Howard County Historical Society, Ellicott City, Maryland, 1979.

United States Bureau of Census. *Census of Manufactures. Anne Arundel County, Maryland, 1820.* Microfilm copy in the Maryland Collection. Hornbake Library, University of Maryland, College Park.

_____. *Census of Population, Howard District, Anne Arundel County, Maryland, 1850.* Microfilm copy in the Enoch Pratt Free Library, Baltimore.

_____. *Census of Population, Howard County, Maryland, 1860.* Microfilm copy in the Enoch Pratt Free Library, Baltimore.

_____. *Products of Industry, Howard District, Anne Arundel County, Maryland, 1850.* Microfilm copy in the Maryland Collection. Hornbake Library, University of Maryland, College Park.

_____. *Schedule of Industries and Manufactures, Howard County, Maryland, 1860.* Microfilm copy in the Maryland Collection. Hornbake Library, University of Maryland, College Park.

_____. *Special Schedules of Manufactures, Howard County, Maryland, 1880*. Microfilm copy in the Maryland Collection. Horribake Library, University of Maryland, College Park.

Secondary and published sources:

Arlene, Samuel. *Notes on the Seven Mills of Ellicott City*. Ellicott City, Maryland: N.P., 1988.

Beynon, Diane E. and Jack B. Irion. *Final Report: Phase II Archaeological Investigations at the Simpsonville Stone Ruins (18HO80) and the Heritage Heights Site (18HO149), Howard County, Maryland*. Monroeville, Pennsylvania: GAI Consultants, Inc. for the Maryland Department of Transportation, 1990.

Bobo, Elizabeth. *Elk Ridge: A Bicentennial Journal*. Elkridge, Maryland: Elkridge Bicentennial Committee, 1975.

Brugger, Robert J. *Maryland: A Middle Temperament*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1988.

Cramm, Joetta. *Howard County, A Pictorial History*. Norfolk, Virginia: Donning Publishers, 1987.

_____. *Historic Ellicott City: A Walking Tour*. Sykesville, Maryland: Greenberg Publishing Company, 1990.

Del Sordo, Stephen G. "Eighteenth Century Grist Mills, Some Chester County, Pennsylvania Examples," in *Perspectives in Vernacular Architecture*, edited by Camille N. Wells, 1982.

Evans, Oliver. 1795. *The Young Mill-wright and Miller's Guide*. Ninth Edition with additions and corrections by Thomas P. Jones. Philadelphia: Lea and Blanchard, 1836.

Filby, Vera R. *Savage, Maryland*. Savage: Savage Civic Association, 1965.

Holland, Celia M. *Ellicott City, Maryland - Mill Town U.S.A.* Ellicott City: N.P., 1970.

_____. *Old Homes and Families of Howard County, Maryland*. Ellicott City: Howard County Historical Society, 1987.

Hopkins, G. M. *Atlas of Fifteen Miles Around Baltimore, Including Howard County, Maryland*. Philadelphia: N.P., 1878. Reprint. Ellicott City: Howard County Bicentennial Commission, 1975.

Howell, Charles and Allan Keller. *The Mill at Philipsburg Manor Upper Mills and a Brief History of Milling*. Tarrytown, New York: Sleepy Hollow Restorations, 1977.

Kuhlman, Charles B. *The Development of the Flour Milling Industry in the United States*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1929.

Martenet, Simon J. *Martenet's Map of Howard County, Maryland*. Ellicott City, Maryland: John Schofield, 1860.

Maryland, Delaware and the District of Columbia State Gazetteer and Business Directory. Baltimore: R. L. Polk, 1906-1907.

The Maryland Directory and State Gazetteer. Baltimore: Baltimore Publishing Company, 1886.

The Maryland Directory and State Gazetteer. Baltimore: Baltimore Publishing Company, 1887.

Maryland and District of Columbia Gazetteer. Baltimore: B.R. Sheriff, 1896-1897.

Maryland State Gazetteer and Business Directory. Baltimore: R. L. Polk, 1915.

McGrain, John. *Gristmills in Baltimore County, Maryland.* Towson, Maryland: Baltimore County Public Library, 1980.

Newman, Harry Wright. *Anne Arundel Gentry.* Annapolis: Anne Arundel Historical Society, 1974.

Owings, Addison D. and Elizabeth S. Owings, comps. *Owings and Allied Families.* New Orleans, Louisiana: Polyanthos, 1976.

Parish, Pine and Plavnik. *The State of Maryland Historical Atlas.* Annapolis: State of Maryland, Department of Economic and Community Development, 1973.

Stein, Charles E. *Origin and History of Howard County, Maryland.* Ellicott City: Howard County Historical Society, 1972.

Wallace, Anthony F. C. *Rockdale: The Growth of an American Village in the Early Industrial Revolution.* New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1978.

Warfield, J. D. *The Founders of Anne Arundel and Howard Counties, Maryland.* Baltimore: Kohn and Pollock, 1905. Reprint. Baltimore: Regional Publishing Company, 1967 (originally published 1905).

Waters, J. S. *Statistical Gazetteer of the State of Maryland.* Baltimore: J.S. Waters, 1856.

ANNOTATED BRIEF OF TITLE

1741

Indenture from Thomas Worthington to John Hohbs. August 14, 1741 (Anne Arundel County Deed Book RB1:88).

In consideration of forty-five pounds sterling conveyed a "tract of land formerly lying in Baltimore County but now in Ann Arundell called Martin's Luck containing two hundred acres... on both side of the Middle River of the Patuxent."

1749

Indenture from John Hohbs to Joshua Warfield. November 4, 1749 (Anne Arundel County Deed Book RB3:196).

In consideration of eighty-seven pounds sterling conveyed "all that tract or parcell of Land called Martin's Luck laid out and surveyed for a certain John Martin for the quantity of two hundred acres."

1752

Land Patent of Joshua Warfield. November 2, 1752 (Document S1189-9210 in the Maryland State Archives, Annapolis).

Resurveyed the following two tracts of land:

- 1) Martins Luck originally granted in 1725 to John Martin for 200 acres;
- 2) Hohbs Support originally granted in 1745 to Captain John Hobbs for 140 acres.

[These properties and three adjoining vacant pieces of land, the whole totalling 639 acres, were repatented as Luck Supported.]

1768

Will of Joshua Warfield. April 23, 1768 (Anne Arundel County Will Book 37:201).¹

Bequests included the following:

- To wife Rachel during widowhood all plantations providing that she kept the mill in proper order;²
- To son Joseph the dwelling-plantation which lay on the west side of the Middle Patuxent;
- To son Joshua all land on the east side of the Middle Patuxent;
- To daughters Sarah, Dinah (Dorsey), Ruth (Owings), and Rachel (Dorsey), 100 pounds each;
- To brother-in-law James Howard, 50 pounds.

¹As referenced in Harry Wright Newman. *Anne Arundel Gentry*. Annapolis: Anne Arundel Historical Society, 1974, p. 430.

²As noted in the text of the report, the location of this mill is uncertain. It may have been located at the site of the present Miller's House across Cedar Lane from the mill ruins.

1784

Will of Rachel Warfield. December 9, 1784 (Anne Arundel County Will Book JG 1:304).

Bequests included:

Son, Joseph: 10 pounds, 2 silver cans and 12 silver spoons

"Secondly, it is my will and desire that several obligations given to my Daughters Sarah Warfield, Dinah Dorsey and Rachel Dorsey given by me be paid after which the residue of my estate after paying my creditors be equally divided between my daughters, Sarah Warfield, Dinah Dorsey, Ruth Owings, and Rachel Dorsey."³

1789

Indenture from Joseph Warfield to Vachel Worthington. December 11, 1789 (Anne Arundel County Deed Book NH5:206).

In consideration of the sum of one hundred pounds current money... sold... all such part of parcel of land called "Luck Supported" lying in Ann Arundell County... containing and laid out for eleven acres more or less.

Richard Owings' Accumulation of Tracts of Land at Simpsonville

1796

Indenture from Vachel Worthington to Richard Owings. January 19, 1796 (Anne Arundel County Deed Book 8:39).

In consideration of one hundred pounds current money... sell... all such part of parcel of Land called Luck Supported lying in Ann Arundell County... beginning at the Mill Seat... containing eleven acres more or less.

[Transfer of land adjacent to the mill seat.]

1805

Indenture from Nicholas Dorsey to Richard Owings. March 5, 1805 (Anne Arundel County Deed Book 12:562).

In consideration of five hundred pounds current money... sells... to the said Richard Owings... all that two parts or parcels of Land called Luck Supported... containing... twenty-six acres and twenty-six square perches of land.

[Indicates that this parcel bounded on Richard Owings' Mill Seat.]

1805

Indenture from Martin Eichelberger to Richard Owings. March 5, 1805 (Anne Arundel County Deed Book 13:367).

In consideration of the sum of two thousand two hundred and fifty dollars... doth give, grant, bargain and sell... all those tracts and pieces and parts of tracts of land lying and being in Anne Arundel County... viz. part of "Luck Supported" except thirty eight and three quarter acres heretofore deeded to the said Richard Owings, containing two hundred and ninety eight and three quarters of an acre of land, more or less, part of Dunkell, containing sixty-nine acres, more or less, Pinch Close Forrest, containing thirty-five acres and one half acre of land, more or less, and part

³This provision may have resulted in Richard Owings' acquisition of the mill site, because Ruth Owings was Richard Owings' wife. No specific transfer of this portion of Owings' lands is indicated in Anne Arundel County property records.

of the Addition to the Grove, including thirty-four and one quarter acres deeded to the said Richard Owings containing eighty-nine acres: making altogether the quantity of four hundred and ninety two acres and one quarter acre of land more or less and situated on the middle river of the Patuxent, being the same property which was granted and conveyed by a certain Nicholas Worthington Dorsey unto a certain Jacob Walsh...5 March 1805, and which was granted by the said Jacob Walsh unto the said Martin Eichelberger....

1811

Resurvey of Land Belonging to Richard Owings. April 19, 1811 (Document S1212-186 in the Maryland State Archives, Annapolis):

[Resurvey of the following lands belonging to Richard Owings:

- 1) Luck Supported, originally granted in 1754 to Joshua Warfield for 639 acres;
- 2) Dunkell, originally granted in 1739 to John Campbell for 228 acres;
- 3) Pinch Close Forest, originally granted in 1743 to Uri Shipley for 45 acres;
- 4) part of the Addition to the Grove;
- 5) part of the Division of the Discovery;
- 6) part of Dorsey's Lane originally granted in 1760 to Elijah Dorsey for 130 acres;
- 7) part of Struthbran;
- 8) part of Campbell's Chance originally granted in 1734 to John Campbell for 218 acres;
- 9) Richmond's Lot originally granted in 1734 to John Richmond for 150 acres.]

To correct the errors in the original surveys, to add the contiguous vacant land thereto and to reduce the whole into one entire tract, survey for 1,205 acres, two roods and fourteen perches more or less and called the "Four Brothers" portion.

Transfer of Land to Other Owings Family Members

1818

Will of Richard Owings [excerpt]. October 17, 1818 (Anne Arundel County Will Book JG 17:39).

To Basil and Henry H., my mills and all the lands adjoining not heretofore devised include the lands I purchased of the heirs of John Worthington which has not as yet been deeded to me. Will that my son James should work my mills that I devised to my two sons in partnership with said Basil and Henry until August 1821 and to bear one-half of the expenses of carrying on said mills and to draw one-half of the profits. [At expiration of this provision, the title to the mills was to pass to Basil and Henry.]

1829

Indenture from Henry H. Owings to Basil Owings. February 11, 1829 (Anne Arundel County Deed Book 14:278).

Noted that "Richard Owings did bequeath unto Basil and Henry a part of a tract of land called the Four Brothers Portion with the mills... situated thereon, and part of one other parcel of land known by the name of Richmond's Lott... Desirous to convey to each other their respective parts of said estate... totalling 184 and 3/4 acres more or less."

1842

Indenture from Basil Owings to James Owings for Part of the Four Brothers Portion and Richmond's Lot. May 13, 1842 (Howard County Deed Book 3:336-338).

[Noted that Basil Owings was indebted to James Owings on a bond or single bill dated 13 May 1835 for \$1,800.00 payable with legal interest to James Owings on demand and on which Basil Owings had paid \$58.32 on 19 July 1838. He was also indebted further for the sum of \$360.00 for which James held the promissory note.]

Said Basil has granted, bargained, and sold to said James Owings that part of a tract of land called the Four Brothers Portion and another tract of land called Richmond's lot... which is a division of the land devised by Richard Owings, the father of said Basil.

[Land transferred was the above mentioned 184 and 3/4 acres including the mill seat, grist mill, saw mill, and woolen factory. Basil promised to pay his debt six months from the date of the indenture with interest in order to retain title to the land.]

1844

Indenture from Thomas Burgess, Sheriff of Howard District of Anne Arundel County, to Henry H. Owings. May 11, 1844 (Howard County Deed Book 5:54-57).

[Transferred the 184 and 3/4 acre tract of land including the mill and mill seat. Indenture indicated that transfer was the result of seizure of the property in payment of the debt of Basil Owings and William H. Worthington to James Longe, deceased, as well as an additional \$1,000.00 in damages sustained due to "detention of that debt."]

Transfers to the Simpson Family

1852

Indenture from Henry H. and Elizabeth Owings to Charles R. Simpson. March 1, 1852 (Howard County Deed Book 12:81).

In consideration of \$10,000... convey[ed]... all that part of a tract or parcel of land called the "Four Brothers Portion"... beginning for the same at a gum tree marked with nine notches Standing at the end of the third course of land called "The Mill Seat"... laid out for 215 acres more or less.

1865

Indenture from James Mackubin, Trustee, to William Braysbaw. March 7, 1865 (Howard County Deed Book 24:19).

[James Mackubin was appointed master in the stead of William Simpson to sell portion of his land holdings. Conveyed a parcel of land to William Braysbaw in exchange for \$13,000.00.]

Land was the Four Brothers portion which Henry H. Owings and wife conveyed to the late Charles R. Simpson by deed dated 1 March 1852 [12:81]... containing and laid out for 215 acres of land more or less.

[Land passed to William Simpson upon the death of his brother, Charles R. Simpson.]

1865

Mortgage by William and Julia Braysbaw to Evelina Dorsey and William, James, Kate, and William W. Simpson. March 7, 1865 (Howard County Deed Book 24:21).

[Indicates that Braysbaw borrowed the following sums to finance his purchase of the 125 acre tract of land he acquired from James Mackubin (24:19): Mrs. Evelina Dorsey, \$3,500.00; William Simpson, \$2,500.00; James Simpson, \$1,500.00; Kate Simpson, \$1,000.00; and W.W. Simpson, \$1,500.00.]

1878

Sale of Mortgaged property by Henry E. Wooten, Trustee, to James and H. Clay Simpson. January 4, 1878 (Howard County Deed Book 38:605).

Case of John R. Clark, Assignee, vs. William Braysbaw and others. Trustee appointed to sell [215 acre] property described in mortgage.

[Apparently William Braysbaw had defaulted on mortgage of 1865 recorded in Deed Book 24:21.]

Post-Simpson Family Ownership

1889

Mortgage by James and Anna E. Simpson to James Mackubin. October 1, 1889 (Howard County Deed Book 55:152).

[Mortgage was issued to secure a debt of \$4,000.00, and the Simpsons' share of ownership of the Four Brothers Portion was offered as collateral.]

1897

Indenture of Rebecca and William Simpson and James Mackubin, mortgagee, to Charles R. and Mary Wilson. May 8, 1897 (Howard County Deed Book 67:170).

In consideration of \$1,500.00, \$1,000.00 to be applied to the mortgage debt owed to Mackubin by the Simpsons (Howard County Deed Book 55:170), all that land in the County named in said last mentioned mortgages was transferred to the Wilsons with the exception of about 40 acres granted to Marab S. Cissel (55:205); about 29 1/4 acres granted to Joseph Litchfield (55:298); about 19 1/4 acres granted to Samuel Brown (55:372); about 31 acres granted to Sophia Stern (57:536); about 3 acres, 26 perches granted to James Thompson (59:55); and about 24 acres constituting the field between said parts to Litchfield and Brown, respectively, which is reserved.

[Mackubin had apparently assumed ownership of James and Anna Simpson's portion of the land, and Rebecca and William Simpson were the only members of the family who still retained partial ownership of the Mill Seat.]

1904

Mortgage by Charles and Mary Wilson to Alverda Dorsey. November 3, 1904 (Howard County Deed Book 79:525).

[A three year, \$1,000.00 mortgage on the land the Wilsons had acquired from Rebecca and William Simpson.]

1909

Indenture of Charles and Mary Wilson to William Welling Iglehart. January 4, 1909 (Howard County Deed Book 86:488).

In consideration of the sum of \$3,500 and the assumption of two mortgages of \$1,000.00 each, one of which is due Richard B. Owings and the other Alverda S. Dorsey,...do grant and convey...all that lot or parcel of land...which now consists of about 59 acres and 14 square perches of land more or less and which is erroneously [sic] described as 70 acres in a Deed from Rebecca Simpson, et al., to said Charles R. Wilson dated May 8th, 1897.

[Deed indicates that mill is on this site.]

1909

Indenture of William Welling Iglehart to John Iglehart. January 22, 1909 (Howard County Deed Book 86:557).

[In this transaction, John Iglehart, in exchange for a half interest in the land that W.W. Iglehart obtained from Charles and Mary Wilson (86:488), agreed to the assumption of half the payments on the two \$1,000.00 mortgages on the property.]

1917

Indenture of William Welling Iglehart to John Iglehart. December 17, 1917 (Howard County Deed Book 104:551).

[Notes that William Welling Iglehart previously conveyed 1/2 interest in a tract of 59 acres and 14 square perches of land acquired from Charles and Mary Wilson. The purpose of this deed was to convey absolute and fee simple title to John Iglehart.]

1927

Mortgage by John and Mary Iglehart to Eureka-Maryland Assurance Company. April 7, 1927 (Howard County Deed Book 130:452).

[Three year mortgage of \$8,500.00 on the 59+ acre parcel of land.]

1934

Indenture of Joseph L. Donovan, Attorney, to Eureka-Maryland Assurance Company. June 23, 1934 (Howard County Deed Book 149:380).

[After the Igleharts' default on the mortgage shown above, Eureka-Maryland Assurance Company acquired title to the tract, then measured as 59+ acres (later measured as 66+ acres).]

1942

Indenture of Eureka-Maryland Assurance Company to Paul and Nancy Johnson. December 7, 1942 (Howard County Deed Book 176:466).

[Conveyed two parcels of land, the first of 66 acres, 3 roods and 10 and 8/10 square perches and the second of 690/1000 of an acre. The larger parcel was acquired when John and Mary Iglehart defaulted on their mortgage (149:380). The smaller parcel was acquired when Harry and Elizabeth Noel defaulted on their mortgage (172:416).⁴]

1944

Indenture of Paul and Nancy Johnson to Carl and Grace Melin. April 20, 1944 (Howard County Deed Book 181:252).

[Conveyed above two parcels of land.]

1963

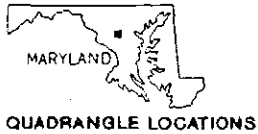
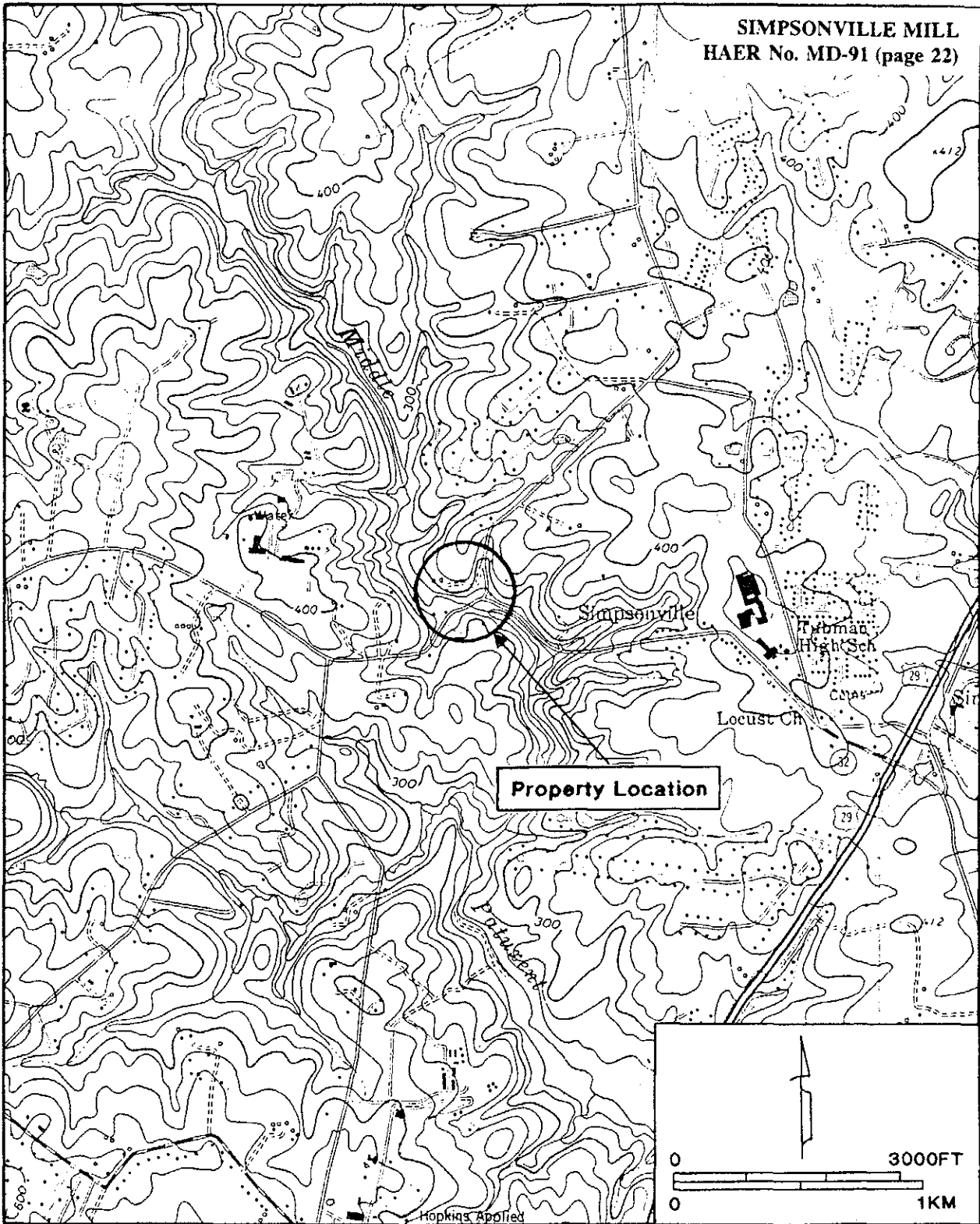
Indenture of Carl and Grace Melin to Howard County Research and Development Corporation. July 2, 1963 (Howard County Deed Book 402:516).

Conveyed 59.179 acres of land, being part of those two parcels of land which...were granted and conveyed by Paul E. Johnson and Nancy B. Johnson to Carl G. Melin and Grace H. Melin, his wife.

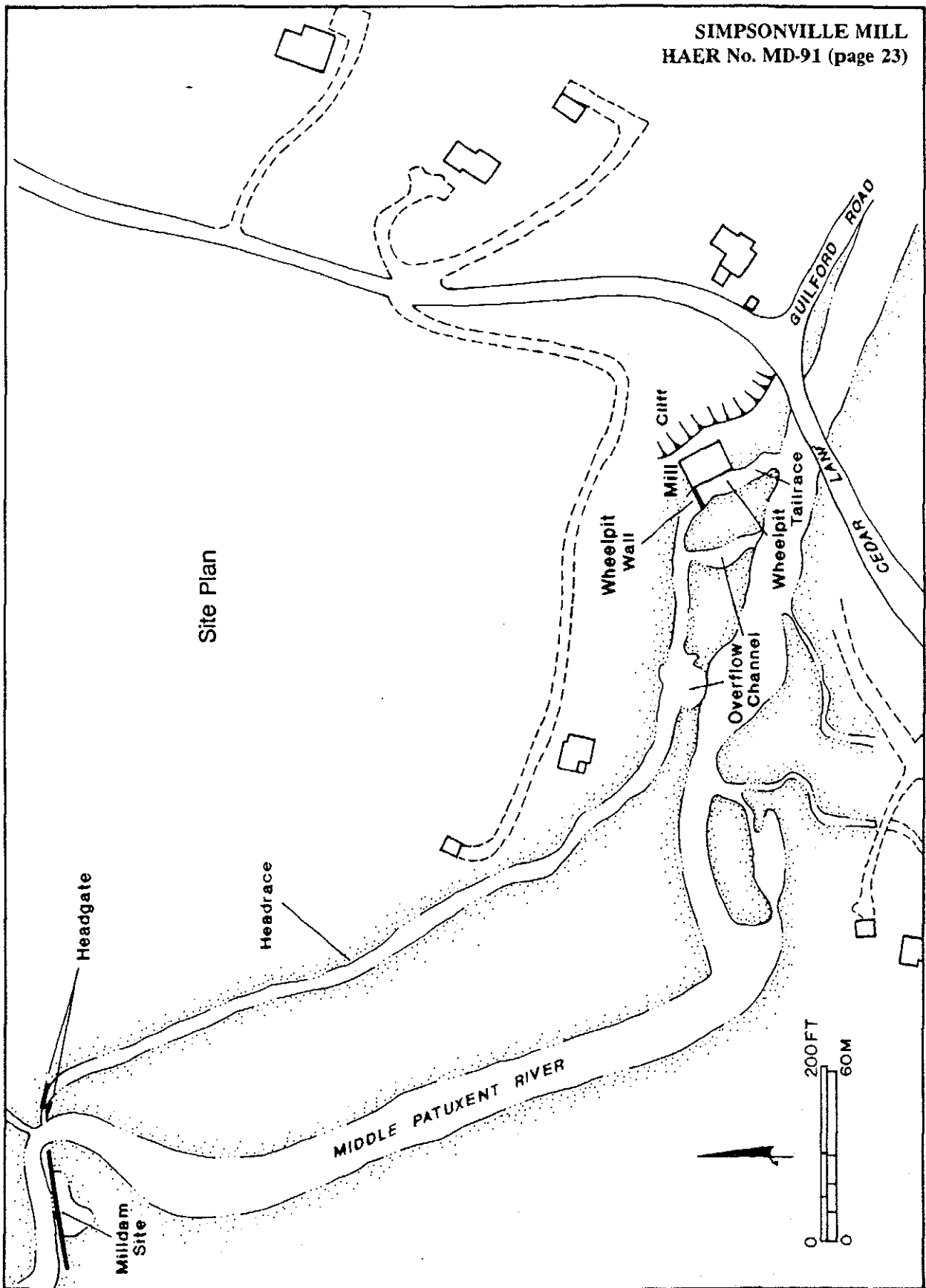
[This apparently was part of the initial acquisition of land for the new town of Columbia, Maryland.]

⁴ The smaller of these parcels forms part of a separate chain of title. This land, initially acquired from Rebecca Simpson, is not included in this brief of title.

SIMPSONVILLE MILL
HAER No. MD-91 (page 22)



Property Location
USGS 7.5 Minute Series
Clarksville and Savage, MD Quadrangles
Photorevised 1979 and 1974



Site Plan

Headgate

Headrace

Wheelpit Wall

Mill Cillr

Wheelpit Tailrace

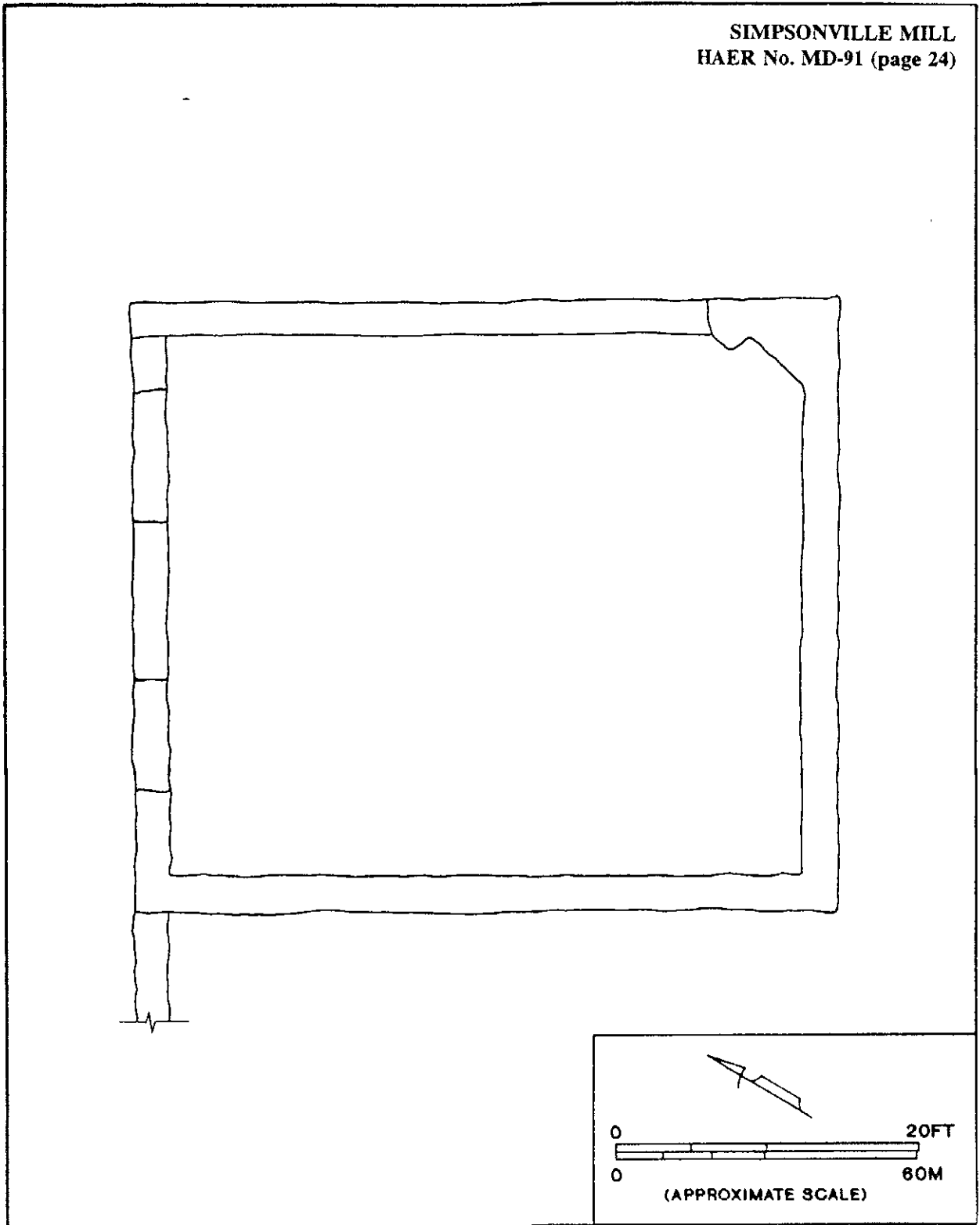
Overflow Channel

MIDDLE PATUXENT RIVER

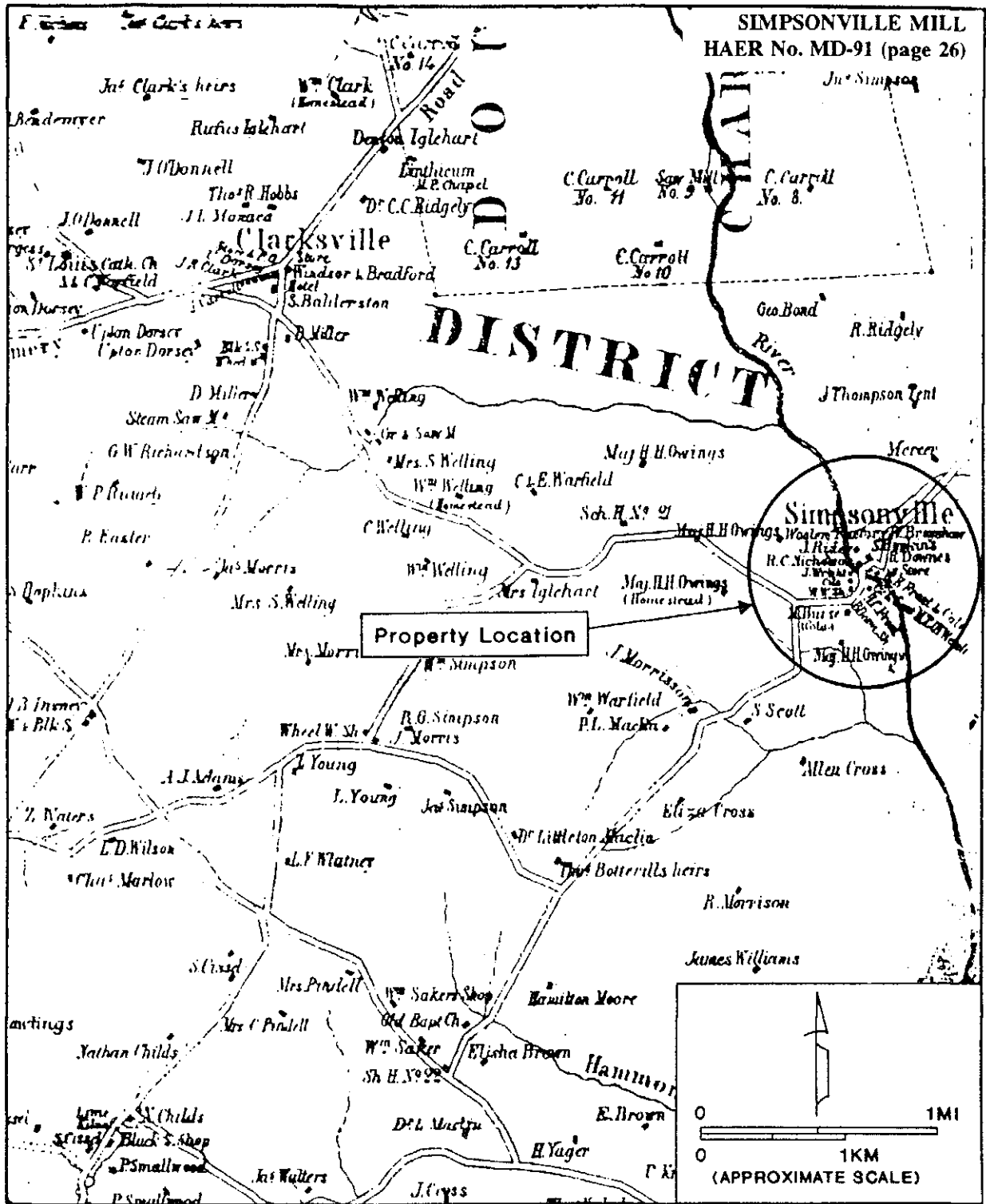
200 FT
60 M

Milldam Site

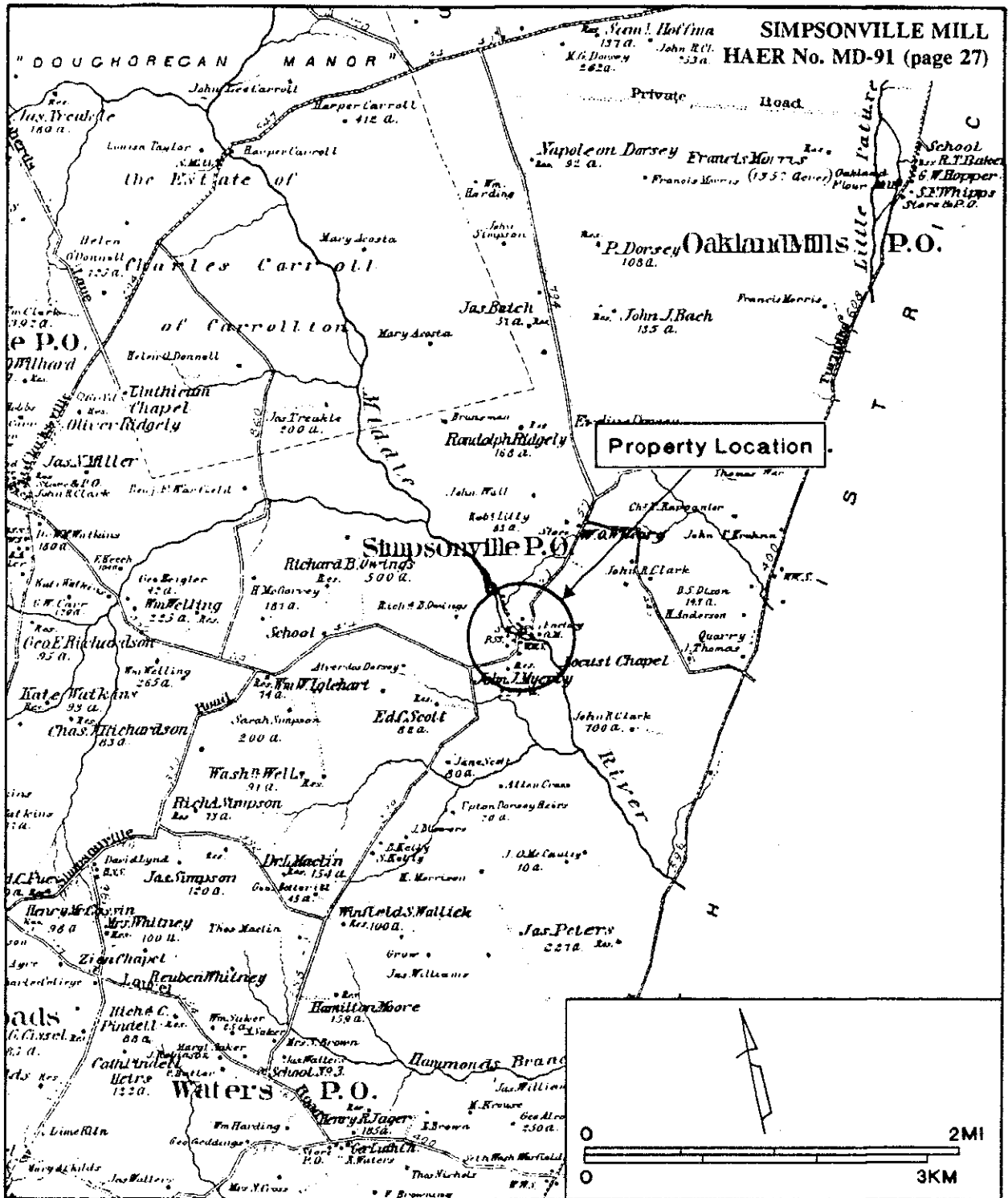




Floor Plan



Detail, Martenet's Map of Howard County, Maryland (Martenet 1860)



Detail, Atlas of Fifteen Miles Around Baltimore,
Including Howard County, Maryland
(Hopkins 1878)

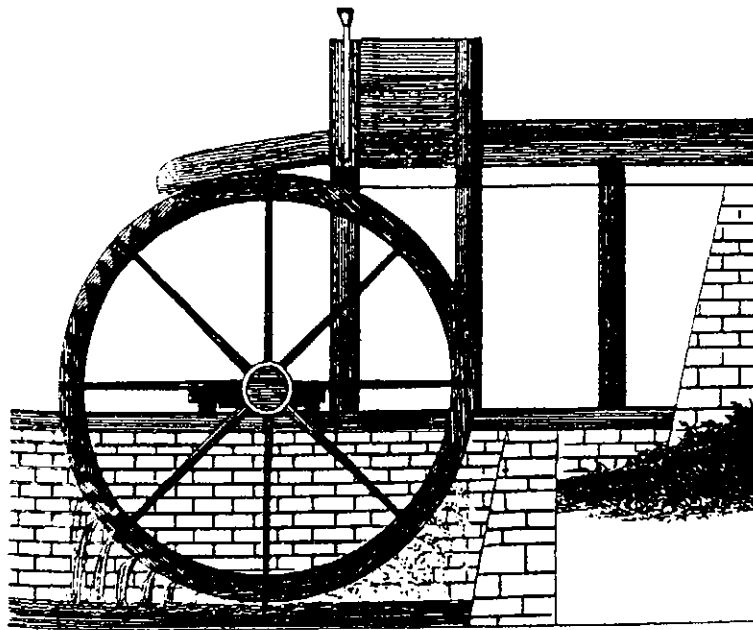
ITEM NOT AVAILABLE

This item has been removed from the formal documentation for this structure because:

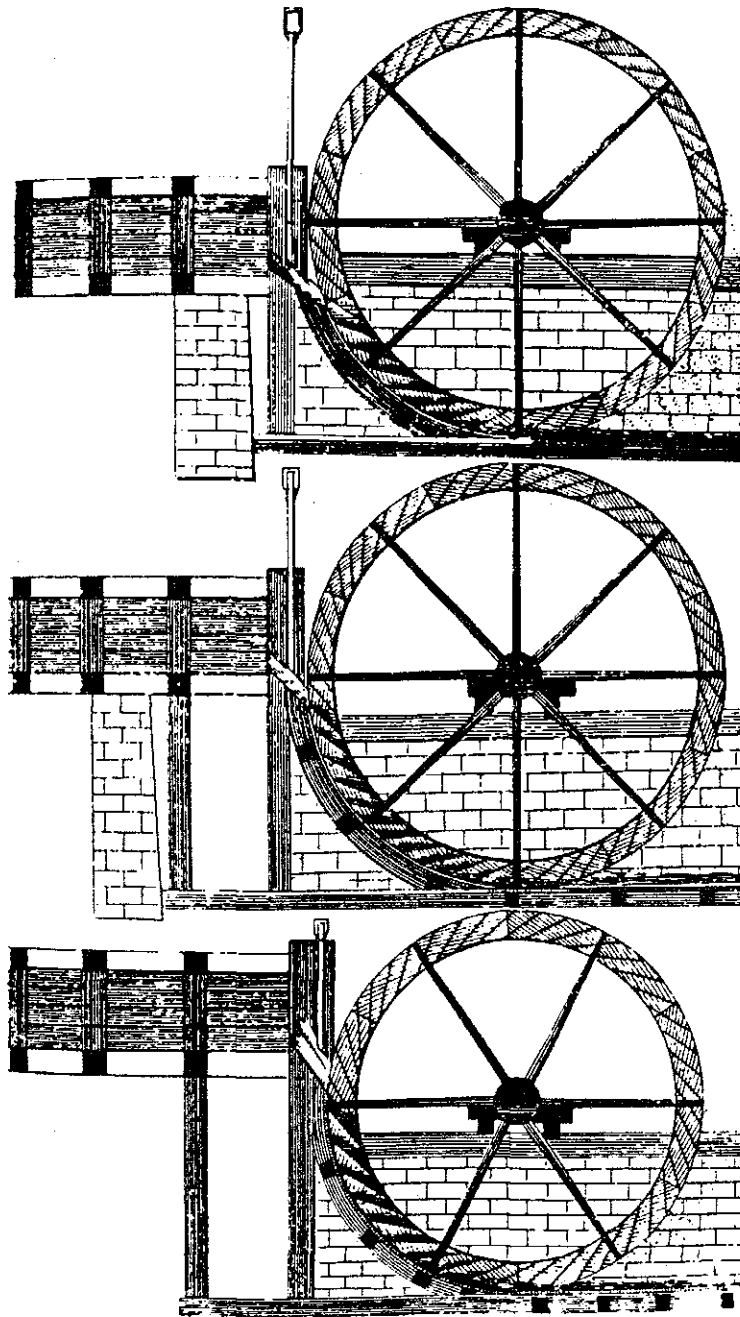
- the item is registered or otherwise protected under the 1976 Copyright Act as amended and thereby ineligible to enter the public domain as formal HABS/HAER documentation
- the copyright status of the item is not possible to establish due to a lack of sufficient bibliographical information in the formal documentation

Items protected under current copyright law may include--but are not limited to--photographs, prints, drawings, letters, maps, unpublished manuscripts, photo albums, theses, dissertations, books, and periodicals.

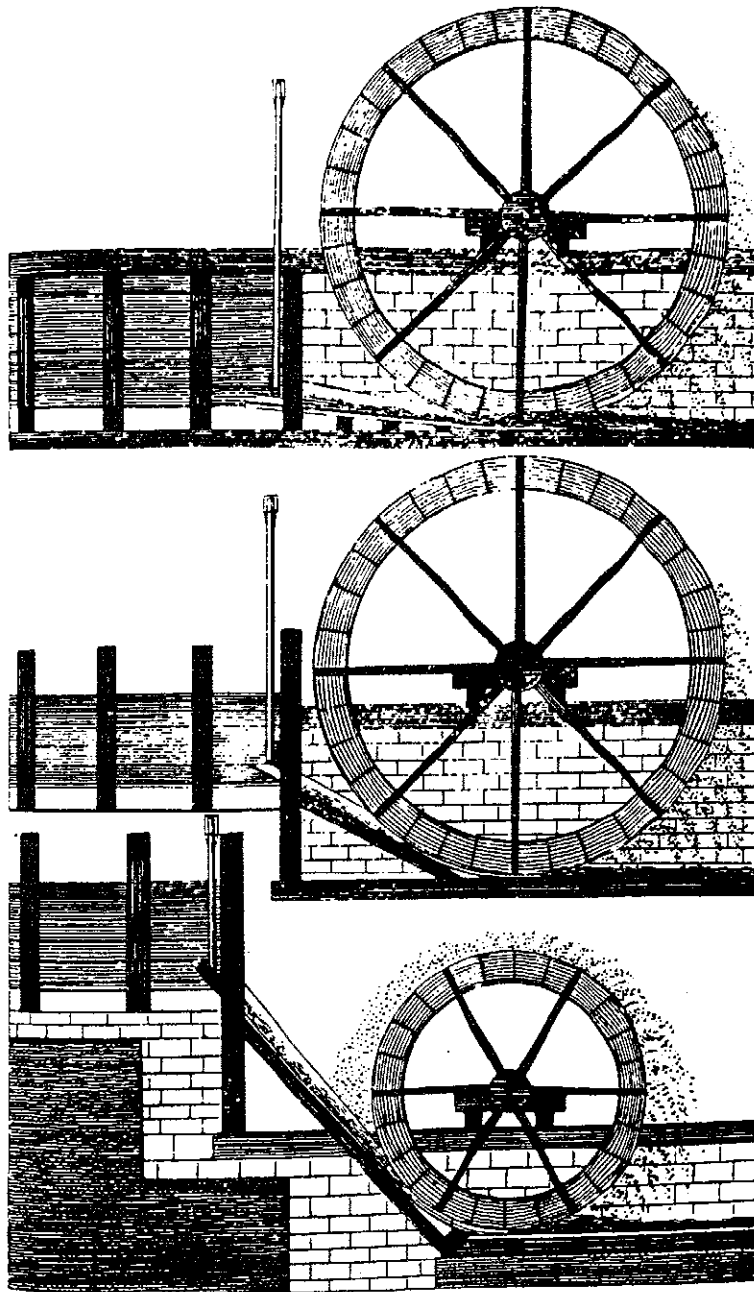
*Howard County Maryland, Map of Historic:
Grist Mills, Cotton Factories,
Furnaces, etc. (McGrain 1985)*



Overshot Wheel (Evans 1836)



Breastshot Wheel (Evans 1836)



Undershot Wheel (Evans 1836)

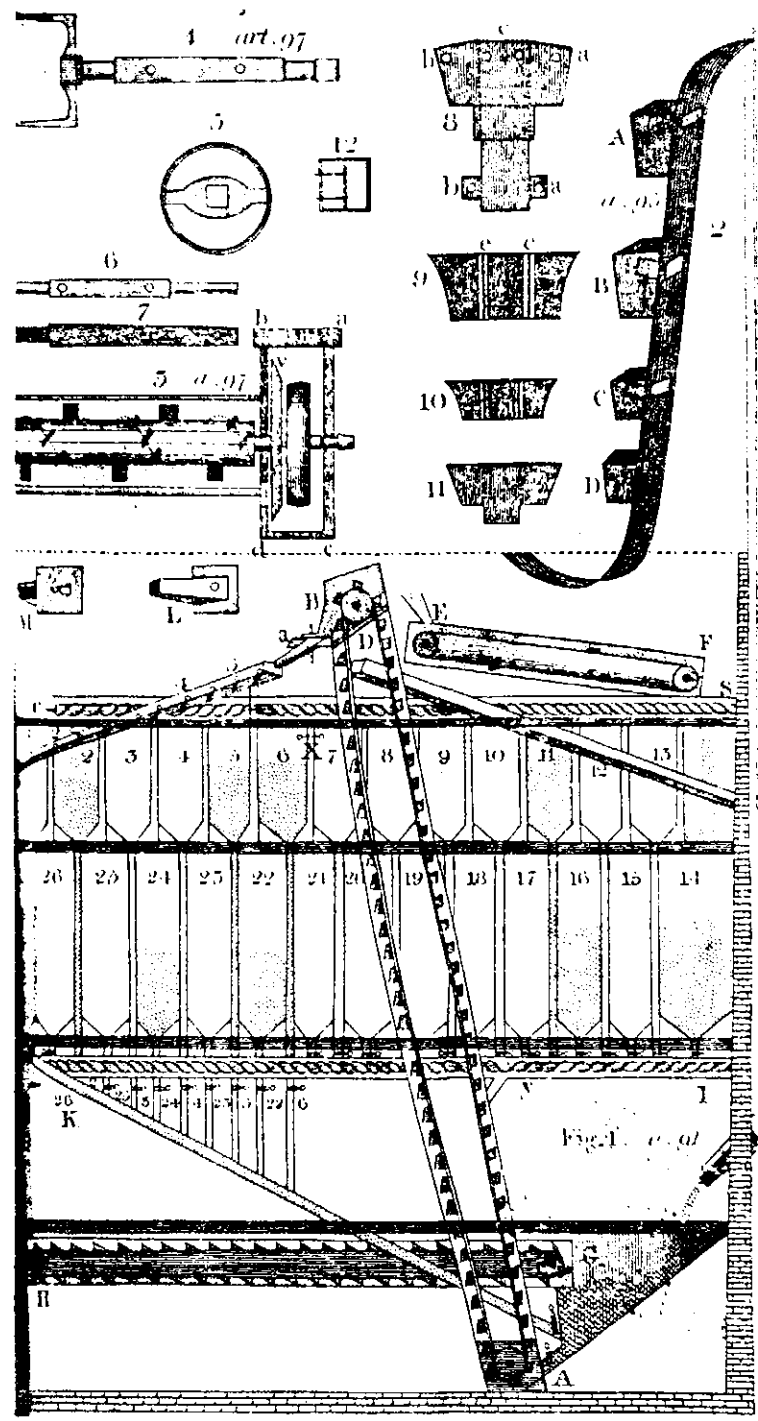


Diagram of Evans' Elevator (A-B),
Descender (E-F), Drill (G-H), and
Conveyor (J-I) (Evans 1836)

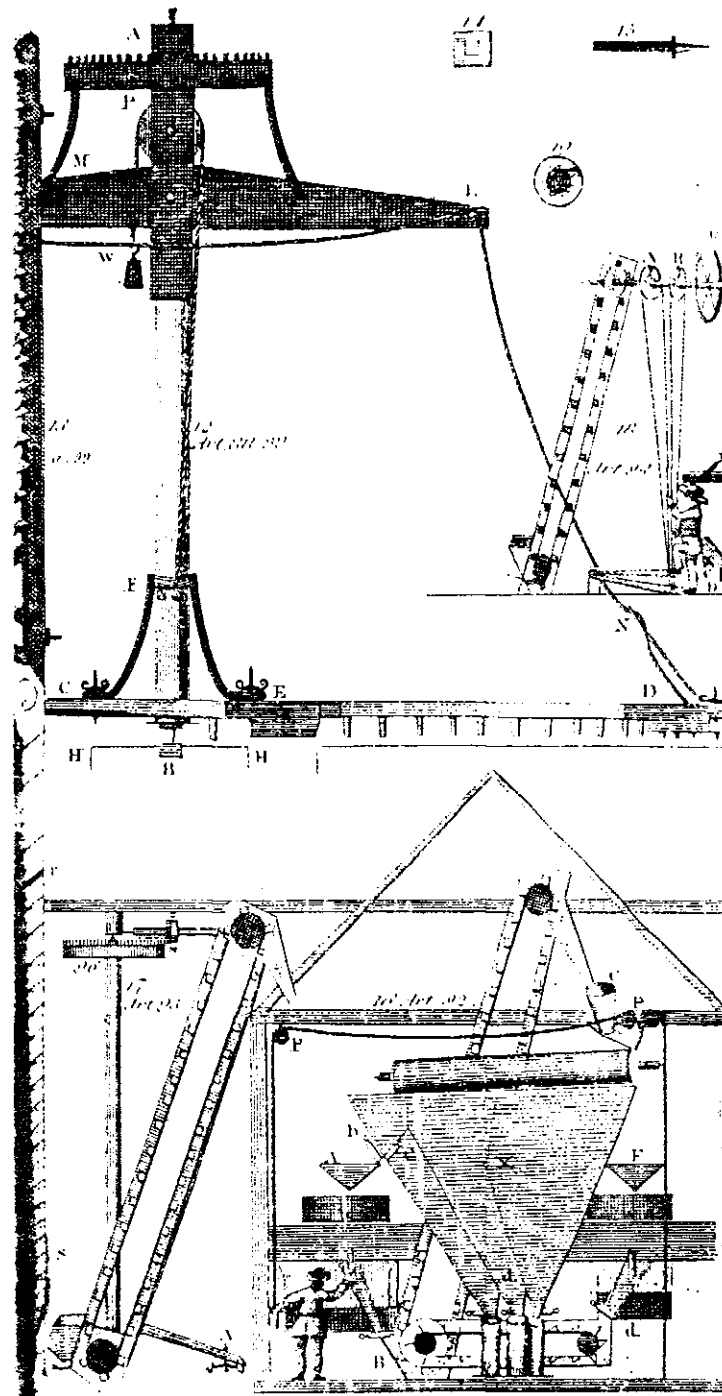


Diagram of Evans' Hopper Boy (12)
(Evans 1836)

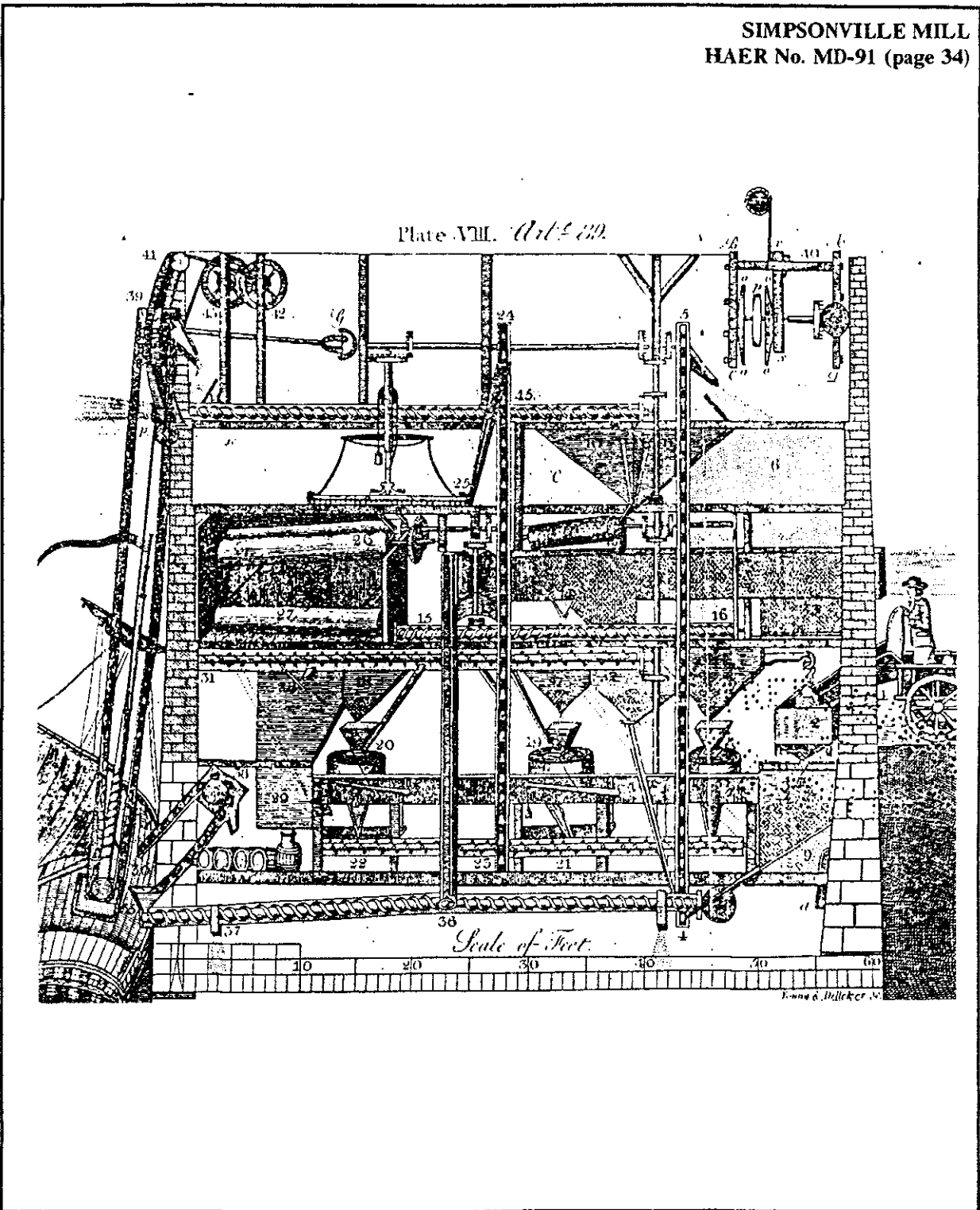


Diagram of Evans' Improvements Showing
Elevator (4-5), Conveyor (37-36-4 and
44-45 and 15-16), Drill (22-21), Descender
(26 and 27), and Hopper Boy (25) (Evans 1836)