

Industry and Services

While agriculture is the chief pursuit, the county also has something of a reputation as a manufacturing district. It has a large smelting furnace at Muirkirk.... During summer, there are a great many canning factories in operation throughout the county (Scharf 1892).

Although society and the economy in Prince George's County were predominantly agricultural until the late-twentieth century, industrial, commercial, and service-related businesses were present from the early days of settlement and played an increasingly important role in the postbellum period. Scharf (1892), however, may overstate their importance. Furthermore, the invention of the telegraph, and later the telephone, reduced the isolation of communities across the nation, especially during the late-nineteenth and twentieth centuries. The subsequent development of radio and television further integrated the county's residents, both urban and rural, into the larger regional, national, and international networks that began with the Industrial Revolution and accelerated through the late 1800s and 1900s.

In this chapter, industry includes those businesses that focused on the manufacture of goods for immediate use, such as the agricultural tools produced by a local blacksmith; that were of further use in the manufacture of other goods, such as cotton cloth spun by a mill that would be made into clothing in another factory that produced finished goods for market; which extracted resources for use in manufacturing and construction, such as sand and gravel quarries.

The following subsections include discussions not only of large-scale industries such as the iron works in Muirkirk, the cotton mills in Laurel, and mining and quarrying activities throughout the county, but also small-scale industries characteristic of the rural communities, but also present in towns, such as blacksmith and wheelwright shops and saw and grist mills. Services in this chapter consist of those businesses that did not produce tangible commodities for market, per se, but instead met other consumer needs. These service-oriented businesses include stores, hotels, taverns, inns, restaurants, and banks, for example. Also included in services in this chapter are telecommunications industries which became increasingly important during the 1900s (Figure 11).

Manufacturing has been locally important in northern Prince George's County from the 1800s, but the county has never been significant in the overall manufacturing sector of the state. As can be seen in Table 8, the county's manufactures never ranked higher in number of establishments

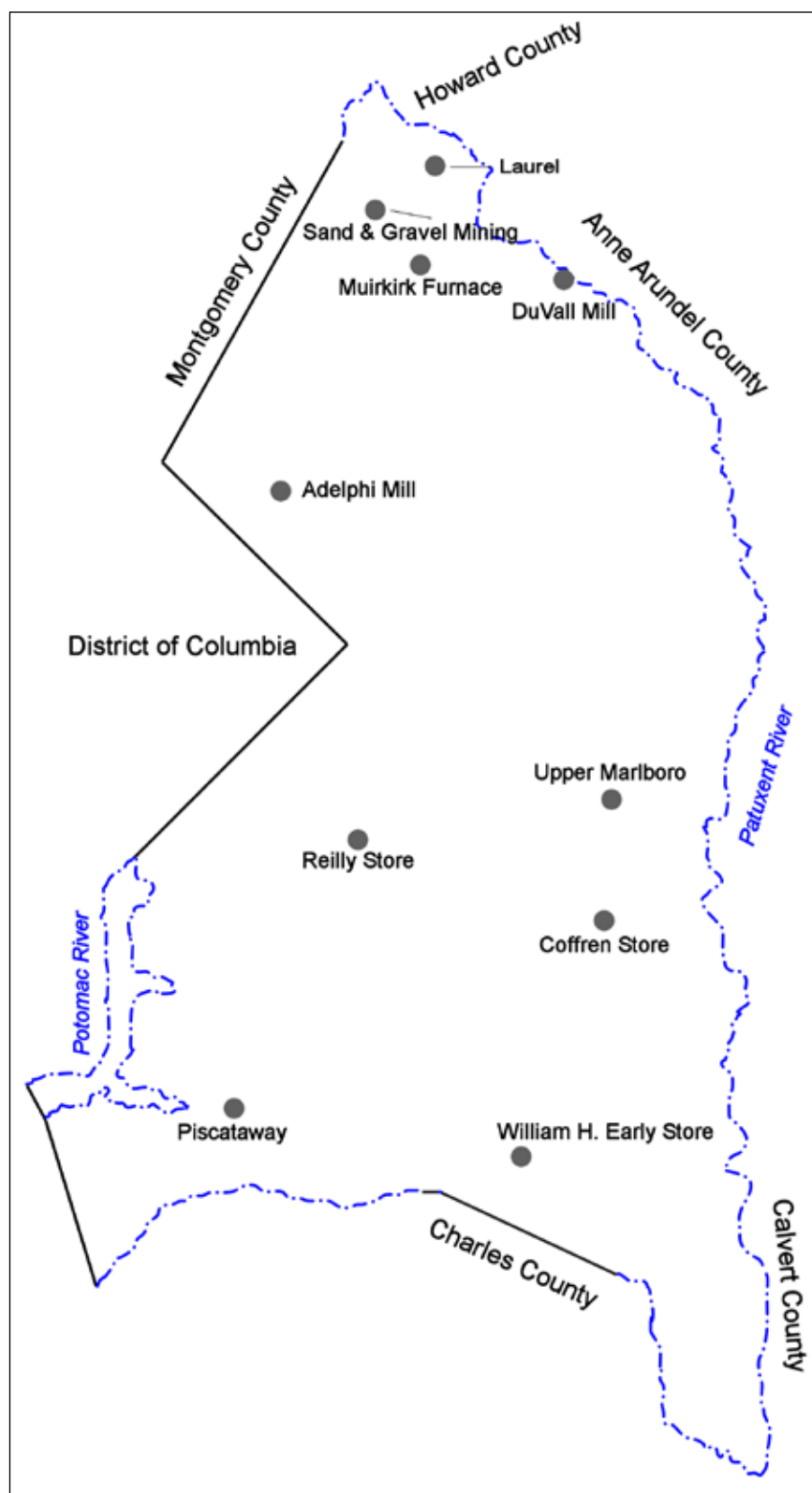


Figure 11: Industrial and commercial sites discussed in text.

than 15th in the state, with 67 in 1920. In terms of number of employees, it never ranked higher than 10th in 1860 and 1870 with 325 and 489 employees, respectively. In terms of value of products, it was never higher than ninth in the state, with \$609,337 in 1870. After 1870, the value of products manufactured in the county remained steady at 18th in the state through at least 1930 (the last year for which such census statistics are available). The diversity of manufacturing also was limited, consisting primarily of cotton goods, flour and grist mill products, sawed lumber, iron and steel production, iron mining, and machine manufacture (Table 9). Smaller industries included two canneries, two ice manufactories, one maker of patent medicines, and one broom manufactory (Fairbanks and Hamill 1932).

Table 8. Manufactures statistics for Prince George’s County between 1860 and 1930.

Census year	Number of establishments	Number of employees	Capital (\$)	Cost of raw material (\$)	Value of products (\$)
1860	12 (18th)	325 (10th)	310,500	242,770	423,700 (10th)
1870	50 (19th)	489 (10th)	347,925	427,624	609,337 (9th)
1890	20 (22nd)	411 (14th)	514,107	192,898	326,107 (18th)
1900	57 (21st)	426 (19th)	467,471	311,973	573,289 (18th)
1920	67 (15th)	264 (19th)		640,515	1,105,412 (18th)
1930	27 (16th)	255 (17th)		312,209	924,788 (18th)

Note: No data are available for these categories from compiled census statistics for 1880, 1910, 1940, or 1950. Numbers in parentheses indicate the county’s rank within the State of Maryland. Blank fields indicate no data are available from compiled census statistics.
Source: USCB (2007).

Table 9. Types of manufactures in Prince George’s County between 1860 and 1880.

Manufactures	1860	1870	1880
Cotton goods	1	1	1
Flour- and grist-mill products	8	2	15
Lumber, sawed	2	3	9
Machinery, steam-engines, etc.	1		
Iron and steel		1	1
Iron-ore mining		2	

Note: Blank fields indicate no data are available from compiled census statistics.
Source: USCB (2007).

Service-related businesses originally would have included grist mills, saw mills, general stores, and, as communities developed, would come to include banks, inns, taverns, hotels, and restaurants. Using the population schedules of the federal censuses from 1860–1920, three census districts in Prince George’s County were selected to document a sample of the nonagricultural

occupations of residents. The three districts selected were Laurel, to represent the manufacturing based in the northern part of the county; Upper Marlboro, to represent a smaller, but locally important, regional center in the central part of the county; and Piscataway, to represent a more agriculturally based area in the southern part of the county.

The occupations then were grouped into several broad categories: merchants, public service, private service, trades, railroad, and labor/other (Tables 10–12). Merchants include such specific occupation types as grocery and dry goods stores retailers as well as unspecified storekeepers and clerks. Public service comprises occupations such as postmaster, local government officials, and army officers. Private service includes such occupations as doctors, lawyers, teachers, hotel keepers, and bankers. Trades include carpenters, blacksmiths, shoe makers, millers, and painters. Railroad consists of skilled positions on the railroads such as engineers and brakemen. Labor/other is the broadest category, with both skilled and unskilled laborers included who would have worked in the mills and iron works or on the railroad, as well as those who were classified as general or day laborers and servants. Several other occupations, either poorly described or not falling into these other categories, are also included, such as “lumberman farm.”

Table 10. Occupations in the Town and District of Laurel between 1860 and 1920.

Occupation	1860	1870	1880	1900	1910	1920
Merchants						
Types	3	11	15	24	32	16
Individuals	3	45	39	61	56	23
Public Service						
Types	1	4	7	17	54	42
Individuals	1	26	36	38	78	79
Private Service						
Types	11	11	22	38	43	21
Individuals	25	70	79	93	139	70
Trades						
Types	10	20	29	37	33	18
Individuals	33	70	79	158	85	48
Labor						
Types	7	16	26	55	104	41
Individuals	25	301	313	482	246	88

Note: Given the larger population sizes, a 20-page sample was used from the 1910 and 1920 censuses.

Source: USCB (1860, 1870, 1880, 1900, 1910, 1920).

Table 11. Occupations in the Upper Marlboro District between 1860 and 1920.

Occupation	1860	1870	1880	1900	1910	1920
Merchants						
Types	5	2	5	5	6	4
Individuals	16	5	8	12	12	5
Public Service						
Types	7	4	3	3	2	9
Individuals	9	4	5	3	3	20
Private Service						
Types	10	10	11	10	11	10
Individuals	32	80	95	69	44	23
Trades						
Types	14	7	6	8	6	2
Individuals	39	21	16	28	9	4
Railroad Related						
Types		2		3	3	4
Individuals		147		45	4	24
Labor						
Types	3	8	2	3	8	7
Individuals	35	17	3	18	67	9

Note: Given the larger population sizes, a 20-page sample was used from the 1910 and 1920 censuses. Source: USCB (1860, 1870, 1880, 1900, 1910, 1920).

Table 12. Occupations in the Piscataway District between 1860 and 1920.

Occupation	1860	1870	1880	1900	1910	1920
Merchants						
Types	4	7	3	8	4	8
Individuals	10	8	5	25	10	8
Public Service						
Types	2	6	5	11	4	6
Individuals	2	11	9	57	17	17
Private Service						
Types	7	4	6	6	5	2
Individuals	51	121	41	177	26	7
Trades						
Types	12	10	6	6	2	5
Individuals	36	23	17	25	3	16
Labor						
Types	4	4	1	12	2	8
Individuals	84	7	1	38	30	9

Note: Given the larger population sizes, a 20-page sample was used from the 1910 and 1920 censuses. Source: USCB (1860, 1870, 1880, 1900, 1910, 1920).

It is clear from the census data that, through time, Laurel saw the greatest increases in population size and the greatest increase in diversity of occupation types. However, the same trends are found in the smaller communities of Upper Marlboro and, to a lesser extent, Piscataway. The diversity and number of merchants increased significantly in Laurel in the 1900s, but Upper Marlboro and Piscataway saw smaller increases. The numbers of individuals engaged in public service occupations also rose during the 1900s, reflecting in large part the establishment of government offices in the county and the increased ability to commute easily to Washington, D.C., by streetcar and railroad.

For residents of Laurel, the proximity to Camp Meade (later Fort Meade) also provided a significant number of public service-oriented job opportunities. Similarly, private-service oriented occupations and trades diversified and rose steadily in Laurel beginning in 1870, but Upper Marlboro and Piscataway did not see such a change. This is not surprising since these communities did not experience the same population increase that took place in Laurel. Finally, the number of laborers and types of labor rose steadily in Laurel while remaining more stable in Upper Marlboro and Piscataway, reflecting the more agriculturally oriented economy of the two smaller communities.

The following discussion focuses on major industries and services in Prince George's County for which documentation is available. Examples are provided of specific resources that have been identified, and the types of data that are extant or potentially available are also presented.

Muirkirk Furnace and Iron Mines

Although iron ore had been identified near Muirkirk as early as 1800, the lack of natural power sources and transportation facilities prevented its exploitation until the railroad was built (Brennan 1974). The Muirkirk Manufacturing Company (MIHP PG:62-8) was incorporated in 1846 by the Ellicott family, and iron making began before 1850 near Laurel when the manufacturing schedule of the federal census showed it employed 34 men and produced over 2,100 tons of pig iron (Benson et al. 2003). Many of the early employees were slaves (Chidester 2007). In 1853, the company was sold to William Coffin and Joseph Cotton of New England. During the Civil War, it was an important producer of ordnance. In 1867, Charles Coffin, son of William Coffin, purchased the company and renamed it the Muirkirk Iron Company, which produced 7,000 tons of high-quality



Brick kiln at Muirkirk (PG: 62-8), which postdates the furnace and iron mines.

pig iron annually. The furnace was charcoal-fueled and when rebuilt in 1888 after a fire, it consisted of a 38-x-5-foot stack housed in a building with the engine and moulding rooms. Ovens for making the charcoal were located outside the furnace (Barnwell 1925). The New England roots of the Coffin family likely explain the fact that they built a Freedmen's school in Muirkirk by 1867 (Benson et al. 2003:86). A large number of iron pits reportedly supplied the furnace, some nearly 30 miles away in southwest Baltimore County. Much of this ore came from agricultural fields, which farmers would mine during the winter season (Davies 1972:52-53). In 1909, Charles Coffin deeded the company to his son Ellery, who operated it until about 1920. The company apparently had fallen on hard times, and a bankruptcy was recorded in 1938 (MIHP PG:62-8).

Related Properties

No structural elements associated with the Muirkirk Furnace remain, and the likely site of the furnace is developed with modern industrial buildings, although the 1980 MIHP form indicates a few two-story frame worker residences dating to the 1800s were still present in disrepair. Since its closure, the former site of the furnace has been occupied by a pigment manufacturing facility and a brick clay quarry, and a kiln associated with the brick facility. However, archeological deposits associated with the furnace (18PR149) and related facilities have not been fully investigated and could still be present. Related properties that could contain archeological deposits include the following:

- Furnace
- Offices
- Charcoal Kiln
- Iron Mines
- Worker Residences in Muirkirk Village and Rossville

Laurel Industries

Laurel is the only area in Prince George's County to have developed a substantial industrial base, due mainly to its proximity to Howard County, a recognized milling area; the availability of water power from the Patuxent River; and its location on the railroad between Baltimore and Washington, D.C., (Virta 1991:168) (Figure 11). Manufactories located in the area included cotton mills, foundries, and several small industries (Figure 12). A stone flouring mill had been built as early as 1811 by Nicholas Snowden, and in 1824 the property was converted to a factory for spinning yarn for 12 years. Snowden expanded the facility, known as the Laurel Factory, to include factories for woolen hats and blankets and a saw mill (Wilfong 2007). During this period, the first weaving loom was brought in.

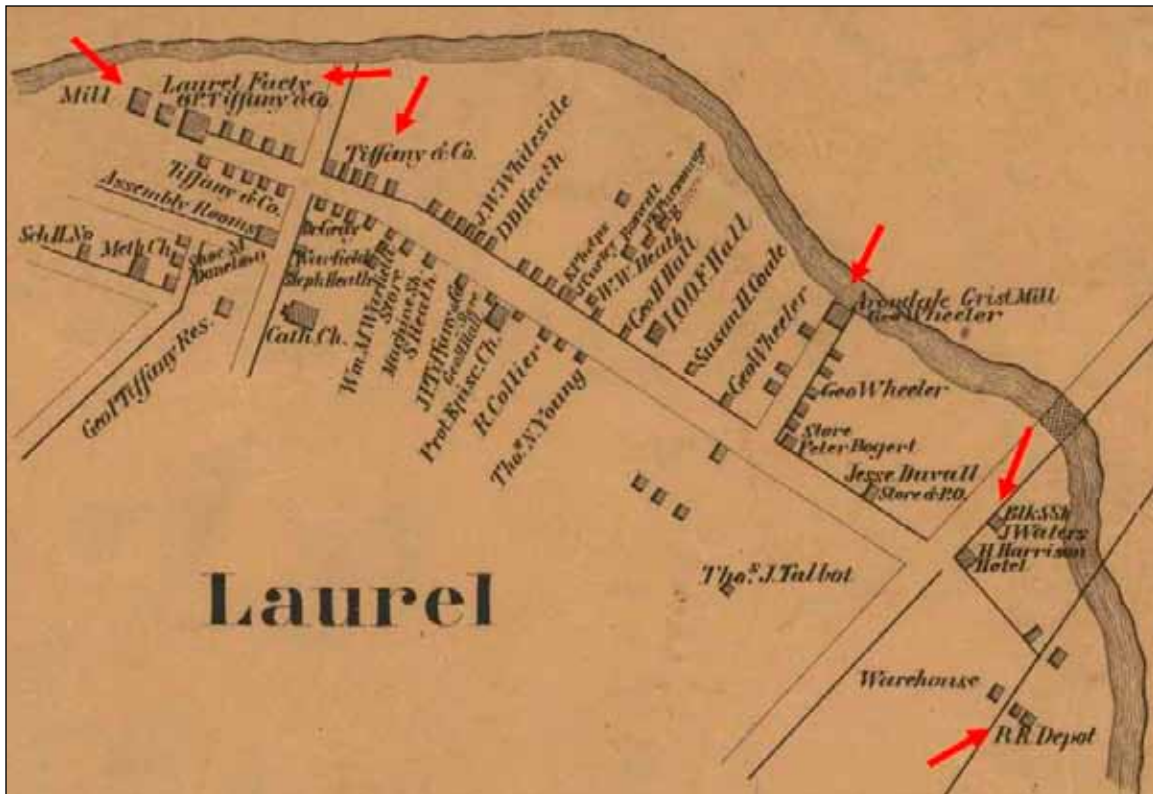


Figure 12: Laurel detail from 1861 Martenet map showing manufacturing facilities.

In 1835, Horace Capron started the Patuxent Cotton Manufacturing Company (also referred to as the Laurel Cotton Mill and recorded as 18PR227) after purchasing Snowden's mill that had been left to Capron's wife (Nicholas Snowden's daughter). Capron also built about 50 duplexes to house his employees. By 1845, the Laurel Factory and Avondale Mill (MIHP PG:LAU-4 and 18PR388) had been built and employed 700–800 workers, many of them women. The factories produced sheeting and osnaburg fabrics, and Laurel became a Rhode Island-like textile mill town (Chidester 2007). The Laurel Machine Company, employing 45 men, produced the machines for the mills (Benson et al. 2003:76–79). The 1860 federal census shows an increase in the number of foreign-born residents near the mills, suggesting they were replacing the native-born population in the factories (Benson et al. 2003:80).

During the Civil War, production was suspended at the Laurel Factory, and it never fully recovered. After resuming production after the war, the Laurel Factory closed again in 1877. It was reorganized and ran again until it was auctioned in 1886. In 1903, the owner announced the closing of the factory, and it was closed before World War I. The mill was razed in the 1940s and the dam breached in the 1950s (Benson et al. 2003:80). The Avondale Mill fared better when its owner switched it to a merchant mill for grains. Sold in 1878, it was renamed Crabbs Mill until 1906. Between 1915 and 1917, the flour mill again was converted to a cloth factory but soon became a tractor factory after

World War I. The factory remained in operation until the 1950s. The building was destroyed by fire in 1991 (Benson et al. 2003:80–81). The Patuxent Cotton Mill operated into the 1900s and was demolished in the 1940s (Wilfong 2007).

Industry was on the decline in Laurel by the early 1900s (Chidester 2007). This was due, in part, to competition from other areas better suited to manufacturing but also to increased opportunities for residents to commute to Baltimore or Washington, D.C., by rail. No heavy industry remained in Laurel after World War II.

Related Properties

Unfortunately, none of the early factories in Laurel have survived to the present due to demolition or loss by fire after they were closed. Therefore, only archeological deposits and features associated with these structures are likely to remain. However, mill worker's houses remain standing in Laurel. Archeological resources associated with the Laurel mills could include the following:

- Dam elements
- Structural foundations
- Waste product disposal features
- External activity areas associated with the factories and buildings
- Workers' housing (e.g., 18PR210, 18PR211, 18PR222, 18PR223, 18PR228) and associated refuse deposit

Mills

Mills were an important part of the local economy, although they usually operated on a small-scale, especially during earlier periods throughout Maryland and in later periods in the more rural areas. Both saw mills and grist mills were usually built of available stone and powered by a water wheel (Benson et al. 2003:74). However, the emphasis on tobacco production meant there was less need for grist mills typically found in areas producing grains. Grist mills were usually rectangular, wooden post-and-beam structures, three to three-and-one-half stories in height. Below the mill was a rubble-stone or



Laurel Mill Worker's House (now the Laurel Museum).

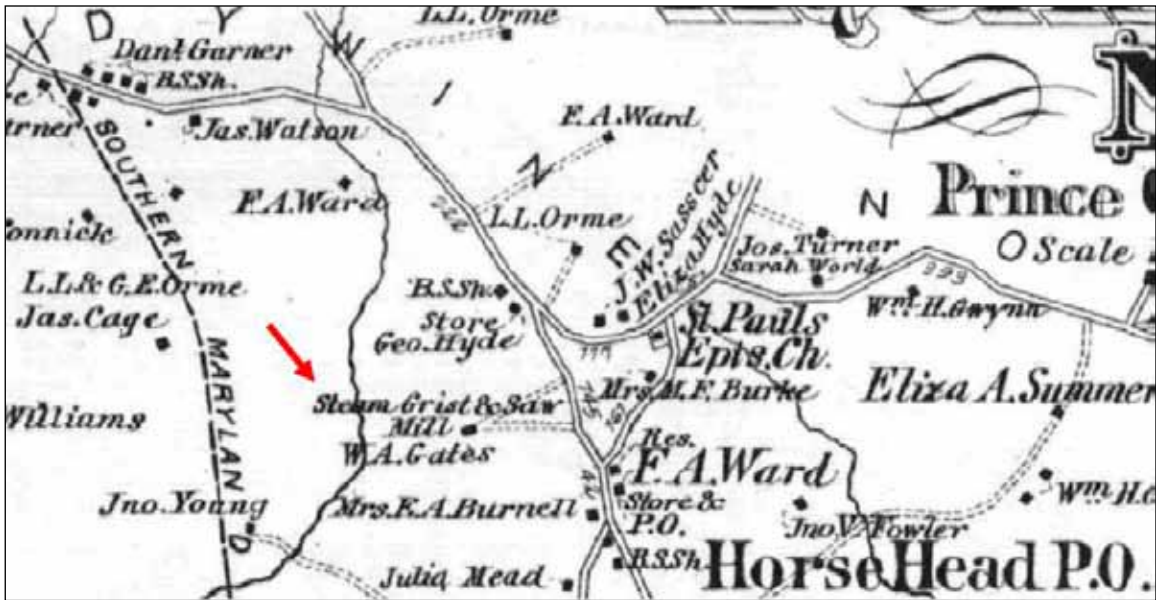


Figure 13: Horse Head detail from 1878 Hopkins map showing mill location.

masonry foundation, and a brick chimney was usually centrally located (MSHA 2003:C-18).

Historic maps for the county show these facilities were dispersed among the various communities. The 1861 Martenet map indicates 30 mills were present, with eight marked as grist mills, six as saw/steam saw mills, one as a grist and saw mill, and two as wind mills. The 1878 Hopkins map indicates 29 mills were present, with 13 identified as grist mills (including Adelphi, Walker/Mowatt, and Marshall), 4 as grist and saw mills, 5 as saw/steam saw mills, 1 as a wind mill, and 4 as “old” mills (Figure 13). By 1894, however, there were only six illustrated, consisting of three grist mills (including Adelphia and Avalon), two steam saw mills, and one “old” mill. Several of these mills have been documented in the MIHP, including the following examples.

The Adelphi Mill (MIHP PG:65-6 and 18PR105), also known as Riggs Mill, was built circa 1796 by Isaachar and Mahlon Scholfield on the North West Branch of the Anacostia River (Figure 11). It was purchased by George Washington Riggs in 1865, and the mill remained in the Riggs family until 1920. The property was conveyed to M-NCPPC in 1951. It was probably the oldest and largest mill near Washington, D.C., and the miller’s cottage remains standing with the mill. The



Duwall Bridge associated with the Duwall Mill (PG: 64-2).

Duvall Mill Historic District (MIHP PG:64-14) is located on the Patuxent River in what is now the US Patuxent Wildlife Research Center and partly extends into Anne Arundel County. The mill was built by the Snowden family before 1794, and by 1827 it was known as the Duvall Grist and Saw Mill. Related structures, which like the mill are still standing, include the mill race, the mill race culvert, the Duvall Bridge, and Telegraph Road. The 1861 Martenet map shows that additional structures had been built in association with the mill. After the Civil War, the Duvall properties were divided, and the mill came into the possession of Laura Kerr Griffith, sister of William Duvall. The mill apparently operated until about the 1930s. The MIHP form indicates that the property likely has great potential to yield archeological data on industrial development in Prince George's County.

Related Properties

Although few mills remain standing, it is likely that archeological deposits and features associated with both extant and demolished mills remain. These likely include:

- Activity and disposal areas
- Privies
- Related outbuildings
- Millers' residences
- Mill races
- Structural foundations

Mining and Quarrying

As of 2006, there were 40 surface mines permitted in Prince George's County. Most of these operations involve sand and gravel quarrying, and they are concentrated in the northern and southern parts of the county, although a few are located in the central portion. Limited information was identified for mining and quarrying activities, and historic maps reveal the locations of few quarries or mines. The 1861 Martenet map shows only the Muirkirk Furnace, and the 1878 Hopkins map also depicts a brick yard. The apparent lack of early quarrying and mining operations in the county (other than at Muirkirk) might be explained by a 1911 description by the Maryland Geological Survey, which indicates the "...mineral resources...are neither extensive nor especially valuable, but the county contains some deposits that are of considerable economic importance, although they have not hitherto been largely worked. Among the most important are clays, sands, gravels, and building stone" (Miller 1911, cited in MIHP PG:60-18).

Quarrying apparently has been carried out at the property of Laurel Sand and Gravel, also known as Contee Sand and Gravel (MIHP PG:60-18) since the early 1900s, although the original owners filed for bankruptcy in 1909, and the property ultimately was leased by the Contee Sand and Gravel Company and later by the Laurel Sand and Gravel Company (Figure 11). The quarries associated with these companies were located along Contee and Van Dusen Roads. The remaining buildings at the property date to the 1950s and later and include maintenance, storage, office, and mixing plant buildings. Although there had been housing for workers, these buildings were apparently demolished in the 1980s, and the area was used as a gravel pit.

In the 1920s, the Washington Brick Company opened at Muirkirk, southeast of what is now the intersection of US 1 and Contee Road. The plant apparently utilized a new construction design that incorporated a circular building for burning the clay to be made into bricks. Clay was obtained from the property and processed on-site, having been moved on a track system from the pits to the processing building (Northrop 1939). The property is currently the site of a proposed business development.

Related Mining and Quarry Properties

Quarry and mine locations by their nature tend to drastically alter their physical and cultural environment. Buildings in use in one period will likely be demolished or moved to allow excavations in their place. However, it is possible that archeological remains associated with these earlier buildings and activity areas will remain. These could include:

- Office building foundations
- Storage, maintenance, and other outbuilding foundations
- Workers' housing
- Privies
- Activity areas

Blacksmiths

One of the first industries needed for any settlement, rural or urban, was blacksmithing. Blacksmiths were vital for the manufacture and repair of such diverse items as building tools, agricultural implements, guns, and household items such as kettles and fire irons as well as shoeing horses.

No blacksmith shops are recorded in the MIHP for Prince George's County. If any extant structures began as blacksmith shops, they were later converted to other types of businesses. Only houses associated with blacksmiths are present in the inventory (e.g., MIHP PG:74A-11, the Mitchellville Blacksmith's House, and PG:86B-17, the Garner-Hyde House [Cedarville Blacksmith Shop]).

Historic maps show that a number of these shops were present, however. The 1861 Martenet map depicts 35 blacksmith shops in the county while the 1878 Hopkins map illustrates 46 shops, although only 32 are listed in the 1878 Maryland Directory (see Figure 13). The 1894 map shows only 17 shops, and these numbers would continue to decline through the 1900s as horses were replaced by automobiles for transportation and by tractors for agricultural work. The archeological features associated with these shops may provide the only remaining evidence of this important industry.

Related Blacksmith Properties

Previous research on the archeological correlates of blacksmith shops suggests that the shop will contain work, general storage, domestic, and refuse areas (Light 1984). Within the building will be the forge, anvil, bellows, quenching tub, workbench with vise, fuel, and metal-forming tools. Larger shops might contain two or more forges, and specialized shops might include such elements as a wagon bay and horse sling (Light 1984:56). The following property types could be represented archeologically:

- Forge base of brick or stone
- Bellows post molds
- Anvil stump
- Quenching tub pit
- Work bench post molds
- Waste-product disposal features outside the shop
- Structural remains (can include subsurface post patterns)

Telecommunications

The age of rapid long-distance communication and information exchange began with the invention of the electric telegraph in the 1830s. Prince George's County played an important role in this development in that Samuel Morse's first system, laid out in 1844 between Washington, D.C., and Baltimore, ran through the county along the right-of-way of the B&O railroad tracks (White 2008). A marker commemorating Morse's first message (What Hath God Wrought) was erected near Muirkirk (MIHP PG:62-9). By the early 1900s, telegraph networks had been established across every continent except Antarctica. The networks were used to send information ranging from personal communications to news events to movements of military units to weather reports. The telegraph became the symbol of innovation and the quickened pace of modern life (National Library of Medicine 2008; White 2008).

The development of radio broadcasting quickened the exchange of information even more and provided a wide variety of information and entertainment to reach even more people in their own homes. By 1922, radio was becoming a booming industry, and early stations were owned by such large electric companies as General Electric and Westinghouse. In the early days, programming included dramatic productions and newscasts and sportscasts, topics still popular today. The earliest local radio stations in the 1920s were located in Washington, D.C., and Baltimore, with WBES 1350 operating in Takoma Park in adjacent Montgomery County in 1925, and it is likely the residents of Prince George's County listened first to these stations (Miller 2008; The Radio and Television Museum 2008). In 1937, CBS donated radio equipment to the University of Maryland, and WMUC became one of the earliest college radio stations (WMUC FM 88.1 2008). Several early transmission buildings associated with the early days of radio survive, including that of WRC Radio, which was built in the late 1930s for NBC (MIHP PG:65-17).

Although radio and television linked the residents of Prince George's County to the wider world, bringing them news and entertainment from across the country, the introduction of the telephone gave them direct access to family and friends both close to home and far away. The first telephone exchange in Maryland was opened in 1879 in Baltimore by two of Alexander Graham Bell's associates, and in 1883 the Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Company was formed, bringing this new form of communication to the county's residents. The MIHP includes the 1930 office building of the company, which is located in Hyattsville (MIHP PG:68-41-33).

Commercial Services

In much of Prince George's County, small, local businesses provided commercial services to the nearby residents. During the middle 1800s and early 1900s, these would have consisted of small general stores, taverns or restaurants, hotels or inns, banks, barbers, shoemakers, dressmakers, and bakers, for example. As time passes and new subdivisions and towns appeared, these numbers increased, and new specialized businesses appeared such as gas stations, automobile dealerships, and movie theaters. Historic maps such as the 1861 Martenet and 1878 Hopkins maps show the locations of hotels, stores, taverns, bakeries, barbers, and shoemakers (Figure 14) while the 1878 Maryland Directory listed 74 general merchandise stores, 11 hotels/saloons, and 1 restaurant.



Old Marlboro Post Office (PG: 79-19-61).

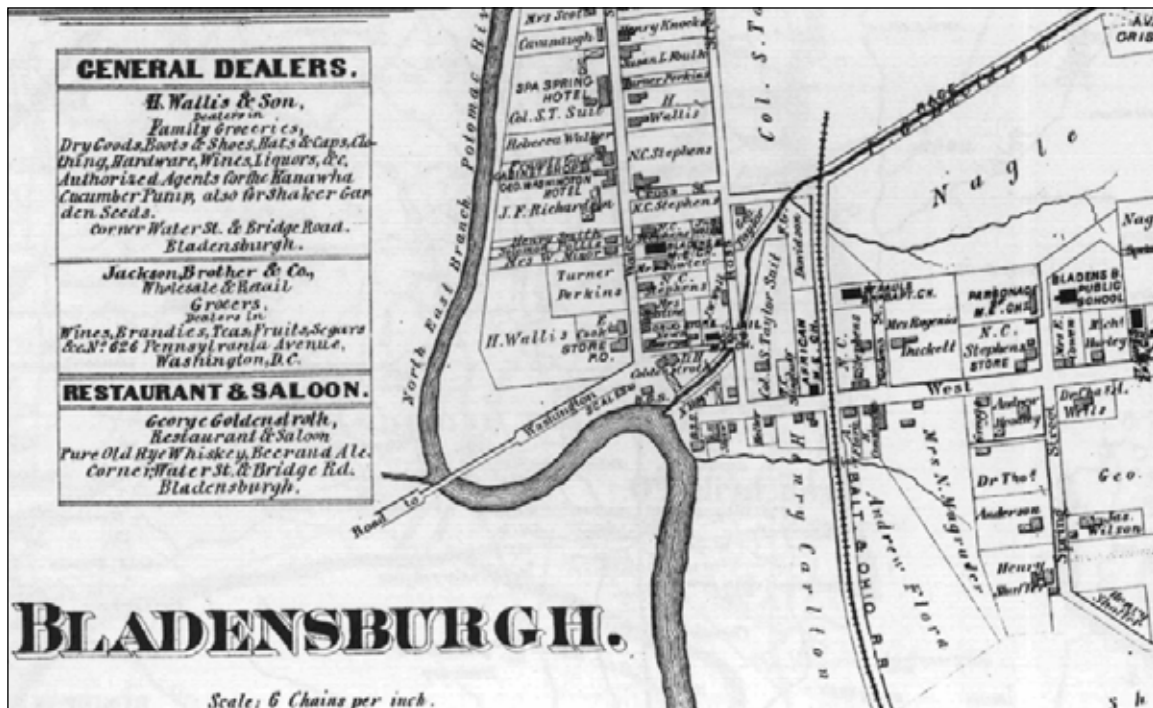


Figure 14: Bladensburg detail from 1878 Hopkins map showing local businesses. Note the advertisements from retailers and a restaurant describing available goods.

By 1929, however, there were 323 retail stores in the county (Fairbanks and Hamill 1932).

Although governmental in nature, post offices were often located within the early general stores. When Maryland entered the Union in 1788, 14 post offices already had been established, including two in Prince George's County at Bladensburg and Upper Marlboro. The number of post offices in the state increased through the 1800s, reaching 1,300 in 1899. Beginning in 1896, rural free delivery (RFD) service was initiated in the state; as a result, a number of post offices were closed since residents no longer needed to obtain mail at local post offices (MSHA 2003). In Prince George's County, more than 125 of these early post offices have been closed (Maryland Postal History Project 2007). Prior to the institution of RFD, rural residents in Prince George's County would travel to their local post office to pick up their mail. Given the state of most transportation routes in the county, many small post offices were scattered throughout rural areas as needed. The 1861 Martenet map of the county labels 15 structures as post offices, many of which include both a post office and a store. By the time the 1878 Hopkins map was published, 33 post offices, once again with many labeled as post office and store, are depicted. However, by the time the 1894 Hopkins map was published, only 19 post offices can be identified (possibly a function of the legibility of the map). The post office was often placed at the front of the store, and those rural post offices not located

in stores were often little more than sheds (MSHA 2003). A list of post offices present during the postbellum period is presented in Appendix B.

Early in the postbellum period, general stores were usually small wood-frame structures with clapboard siding. In rural areas, these were the places where farmers would purchase feed supplies, hardware, and groceries, and they also served as a community center (Gottfried and Jennings 1988). Advertisements in the 1878 Hopkins map indicate available goods included boots and shoes, ready-made clothing, Queensware, hardware, and medicines. In towns, commercial buildings were also usually of frame construction and one or two stories in height. Two-story buildings usually included the residential space for the owner or manager (MSHA 2003:C-17). During the later 1800s and into the 1900s, many new businesses arose to meet the needs of a growing and increasingly suburban population. Crossroads stores adapted to their new suburban surroundings, internalizing more of their stock and providing for the needs of new homeowners. In Prince George's County, an example may be seen in the Hyattsville Hardware Store (M-NCPPC 1993:25). With the introduction of the telephone, many merchants would take orders and arrange deliveries by deliverymen or street cars. However, as new suburbs arose away from the older commercial centers, new shopping centers appeared to meet the needs of the newer communities. These early centers were designed to resemble the residential architecture of the communities (MSHA 2003:C-20). After the 1930s, and especially after World War II, new independent merchants set up in the new suburbs to provide such goods as clothing, furniture, and jewelry. As the larger stores based in the cities saw their profits decline, they in turn opened branches in the suburbs. By the 1950s and the advent of the strip mall, stores changed to the modern "box" form that characterizes much late twentieth-century commercial architecture (MSHA 2003:C-24-25).

The MIHP includes a number of stores, shops, and banks, including the John W. Coffren Store and House in Croom (MIHP PG:86A-10 and PG:86A-11), which is also listed in the NRHP (Figure 11). Built circa 1853 and closed in 1945, this one-room general store is considered the best remaining example of its type in the county. Small stores like this, serving the rural communities, were typical in rural Prince George's County from the mid-1800s into the early 1900s, and they were a major feature of the crossroads communities that served area farmers. The Reilly Store and Residence (MIHP PG:75A-10) located in Forestville and the William H. Early Store on Brandywine Road (MIHP PG:85A-11) are two additional examples of local stores. Archival resources include such documents as day books,



John W. Coffren Store (PG: 86A-27-11).

ledgers, and delivery records that are found in various equity causes from the 1800s and 1900s such as from the G. H. Hall Company, the J. E. Smith Lumber Company, and the Wilson Barrett Company. Additionally, oral histories of African-American business experiences have been published by the North Brentwood Historical Society (2004).

Related Commercial Properties

In addition to the extant examples of 1870s to 1950s commercial structures, archeological remains of these building types are likely to be found across the county. Archeological remains associated with this property type might include:

- Store foundations
- Outbuilding foundations
- Disposal and activity areas
- Residential building foundations



Hyattsville Hardware Store

Industry and Labor

Robert Chidester (2007) has compiled an excellent context on the archeology of industrial labor in Maryland. Chidester (2007) noted that northern Prince George's County, particularly the Laurel area, was the only portion of the county in which industry was established. It was also the only area of the county where the labor needed to operate the industrial enterprises resided in more than insignificant numbers. Prior to the Civil War, Horace Capon developed Laurel using the Rhode Island-style textile mill town model (Chidester 2007; MIHP PG:LAU-1). Workers' houses and churches were constructed, although Capron prohibited construction of "houses of general entertainment" within one mile of Laurel. Chidester (2007) indicates that after the Civil War, Laurel as a company town continued and remained as the only industrial center in the county. However, changes soon began. Women were incorporated into the workforce, and an assembly hall for workers was constructed. By the early decades of the twentieth century, fewer individuals were employed by the mills, although the population of Laurel began to rise. Residents were working in either Washington, D.C., or Baltimore, and commuting to work on the B&O railroad. Communities associated with the nearby Muirkirk Ironworks, including Rossville and the Grove in Laurel, housed former slaves that worked at the Ironworks. Schools and workers' lodges are associated with these communities. With the coming of World War II, heavy industry in Prince George's County came to a close, and with it, the industrial laborer.

Chidester (2007) notes that several industrial- and labor-related sites have been identified in Prince George's County. Those sites in Laurel or its immediate vicinity include the Muirkirk Furnace, the Laurel Cotton Mill, and numerous workers' houses, including company houses in Laurel. Although individual sites have been investigated, little in the way of comparative analysis has been undertaken. In particular, the transition from small-scale to large-scale capitalist industry and its social implications, a hallmark of the postbellum period, is poorly understood from an archeological perspective. Chidester (2007) lists many questions centered on the role and nature of labor at workers' housing and industrial sites. These questions are enumerated at the end of this chapter.

Research Questions

Mercantile Establishments

- Was the structure or lot used solely as a commercial enterprise or was it a mixed-use structure/lot? If mixed use, what other activities can be identified?
- In what type of sales was the commercial establishment engaged? What goods were sold?
- Can the targeted customer base be identified through an analysis of the goods and services sold at the establishment?
- Does the nature of the mercantile enterprise change through time? Is there a trend from general goods to that of a specialty shop?
- Does the nature of the mercantile enterprise change, and what does the change indicate about class, consumption, consumerism, and gender with regards to the customer base?
- Can the origin of the goods be identified? Does the point of origin change through time? Are local, regional, national, and international trade networks identifiable?
- Is there a difference in goods, and their origin, between establishments in rural communities and those in towns or suburbs?
- Is there a relationship between the goods and services and characteristics of the establishment's structure? Does this relationship change with changes in the nature of the enterprise?

Manufacturing Processes

- Can wear patterns or the physical structure and composition of machinery parts indicate how the machine was made or used?

- Do changes in machinery types, materials, or design illustrate a progression of improvement or innovation?
- Can the spatial layout of associated features (e.g., the workplace layout) reveal the pattern or process of production?
- Can associated artifact assemblages be used to identify structure function?
- Is technological innovation dependent on the size of the company?
- How did deforestation and agricultural plowing of fields affect water-powered mills? Are any changes visible in the archeological record?
- Were features associated with industrial discipline added to the Laurel workplaces?
- Can investigations of areas identified on historic maps as locations of iron ore provide information on the nature of recovery techniques used?
- Can the scale of the manufacturing process be estimated by the size and number of structural remains? If changes in scale can be documented, do these correspond to idiosyncratic events or larger-scale economic patterns?
- Can slag associated with the Muirkirk Furnace be used to understand the type of furnace and ore being used?
- Was upkeep performed at, and innovations incorporated into, local grist mills in spite of competition with grain farmers in the Midwest? Does technology and size decrease, increase, or remain stable?

Laborers

- Are there differences between northern and southern industrial communities, such as deposits found at sites in mill towns such as Laurel and those from New England?
- Are such differences, if they exist, based upon different lifeways (or culture) or treatment by their employers?
- How much disposable income did laborers have, and on what was it spent?
- How was food procured? From a company store, grown at home, from the wild, or a combination of the three?
- What cuts of meat were consumed: cheaper or expensive cuts?
- Was material culture of typically the latest type or were items used for long periods?

- Is a capitalist personal discipline present, identified by the use of such items as clocks and watches, or matched sets of tableware? Is this evidenced by the architectural remains present, such as remains of company housing? Was capitalist discipline resisted longer in certain industries?
- Did workers resist this attempt at discipline and domination? Did workers break restrictions through the use of alcohol or drugs? Did workers rebel against standardized company housing through planting gardens?
- Does the home change from a unit of production to a separate domestic space? Is there a change in time, for instance, in tools located at residences?
- Were there community sites locations of popular resistance, and can this be examined archeologically?
- What activities did employers allow at community sites?
- How is a family's material culture affected when women are part of the labor force?
- Can gender be discerned at single-sex communities or industries?
- Can temporary housing associated with the canning, lumber, mining, and quarrying industries be identified? Were these single-sex communities?
- Are there differences in material culture between workers of different industries?
- How did different occupations affect worker health?
- At industrial sites, how was the labor force organized? Did this change with changing technology?
- Did laborers resist changes in technology or factory discipline?
- Were rural laborer's consumption patterns more like their middle-class neighbors than like urban laborers?
- Were working conditions better at rural industries than at urban industries?
- Do foodstuffs associated with industrial laborers differ by race?
- Did emancipated slaves stay on at industrial concerns? If so, did the pre-war economic and political hierarchies within the slave community continue after the war?
- Did labor organization change through time with the increase of industrialization?

- Did workers lives improve through time? What were those improvements and to what can they be attributed?
- Did households attributable to different labor categories (e.g., owner, wage laborer) identify their status with material items? If so, how do they differ?
- Is there evidence of social distancing, and if so, how is this evidenced?
- Can patterns of health be identified, and if so, is labor class an important factor?

Data Requirements

- **Archeological:** Features with depositional integrity and a wide variety of identifiable associations, inclusive of structural remains; deposits with sufficient quantity and variety of materials to support statistically valid analyses; features such as foundations indicating spatial organization or sheet refuse indicative of activity areas; specialized activity areas such as may be found at stores, mills, blacksmith shops, industrial factories, etc.
- **Primary Documentary Sources:** Census, agricultural census data; tax assessment; probate; newspapers; vital statistics and legal records; store ledgers, personal papers; oral histories; photographs; financial records (lease, rent, chattel mortgage); maps; church, school, or fraternal organization membership lists and records; various business records
- **Contextual Sources:** Social history; contract reports on similar property type; gender-based studies of industrial history; relevant historical and anthropological literature; oral history
- **Artifacts:** A range of artifacts attributable to modified South (1977) categories from identifiable contexts (feature or midden); an adequate quantity of distinctive artifacts to support interpretations
- **Ecofacts:** Faunal analysis: wild versus domestic species; preference in species or meat cuts; floral analysis: botanical remains (seeds, pits, pollen, kernels) indicative of diet

