

WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION OF VIRGINIA
HISTORICAL INVENTORY

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COUNTY: Prince William

CLASS: Mill
Photograph

"BEVRLY'S MILL"

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Research made by
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Haymarket, Virginia.

June 28, 1937.

1. SUBJECT:

"Beverley's Mill"

1- "Chapman's Mill"

2. LOCATION:

Five miles west of Haymarket, Virginia, on Route #55.

3. DATE:

"Chapman's Mill" is proved standing in 1787.

4. OWNERS:

The grant to Jonatham Chapman by Lord Fairfax is dated 1742, it is on sheepskin, and is now in the First National Bank of Alexandria.

5. Shortly after the close of the War Between the States, the mill was sold to Mr. Robert Beverley, and since then has been locally known as "Beverley's Mill". In 1890 it was sold to a Mr. Hornbaker of Manassas, and during the next five years changed hands several times, belonging to the Wolvertons and Jordans, and leases between, but in the first of the twentieth century it was bought by the present owners, Furr and Kerr.

5. DESCRIPTION:

The ruins of the original building show little but that it was a stone building of considerable size for that time. The present mill, which is to the south of the old one, on the other side of the Railroad track, was not completed when the war started and was used as a storage house for meat by the Confederate Army. Shortly after the war it was sold and completed.

It is a hundred and four feet above sea level, and has no dam, the natural rock formation forming a gorge with a drop sufficient to furnish the power. The twenty eight foot wheel has a capacity of forty horse power. Oil engines were installed about twenty years ago, but are only used in time of drought. The mill has a capacity of seventy five barrels of flour a day and one hundred and fifty bushels of meal.

The present mill, which was started in 1858, was largely built by slave labor, although Burr Powell, a noted stone mason of the locality had charge of the work. The stone was all quarried close by. It is said that when Mr. Chapman ordered the iron rods from Alexandria,

*rebuild
not finished*

28' ft. wheel

he ordered by feet rather than inches, and that therefore there were three carloads too many of them shipped there.

There is a stone on the north side of the building bearing the following inscription: "Jonathan to Nathaniel to Pearson (John, George) to John Chapman."

See form #3686 attached, for present mill.

6. HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE:

^{mill}
The Chapman who owned and operated the mill at Thoroughfare Gap was the ironmaster at the Accotek furnace working in behalf of the Principio Company. In 1725, the Principio Company of Maryland determined to expand their already large and successful operations in Maryland by establishing a furnace in Virginia, and enlisted the co-operation of Augustine Washington, and took a grant for bearing land on a ridge at the head of Accotek Run. Here, John England built the furnace and the Principio Company began smelting ore in 1727, Chapman being the first ironmaster.
^K
^{Nathaniel}

✓ The mill at Thoroughfare Gap was run by a man named Roach, who lived a bout a mile to the northeast on the old Mountain Road. He was succeeded by John Dawson and later Henry Lambert, the last man to run the old mill.

The Manassas Gap Railroad was formed in 1850, and it is said that the proposed line was on the other side of the present mill, through the Gap, but that the Chapmans paid two thousand dollars to divert the bed close to the mills. One can see where the race was made to go under the track and to serve both mills. //

By 1852, the trains were running to "The Plains", and reached the top of the Blue Ridge in 1853, going through Manassas Gap. This was a big day for the mill, but the Romance had gone with the old wagons, gay with bells, that hauled the wheat from the great plantations in the Valley to be made into flour and shipped to Alexandria. ✓

"Uncle" Tom Primus, who was a slave on the Chapman plantation, helped in the mill, as a boy. He used to tell of the first day that the trains ran over the track, past the mill. The Railroad track had to be built up through the gap, so that this track was on a level with the second story windows of the old mill. This boy, looking up and seeing the puffing monster coming towards him, promptly jumped into a bin of meal and was nearly suffocated before he was pulled out.

no | In 1862, the old mill was destroyed, and a number of soldiers who were playing cards there, were taken by surprise and killed.

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1850 + 60

The present mill, after it was bought by Mr. Beverley, was run as a plaster mill, limestone rock being brought here from Nova Scotia, via Alexandria, and the plaster was sold and shipped to various parts of the country. For the past forty years it has been making flour and meal, once shipped to the Carolinas principally, but now the markets are Baltimore, Maryland, and Washington, D.C.

No (This present mill was built on the site of another old mill, probably the saw mill that was owned and operated by the Chapmans.

7. ART:

Photograph

8. SOURCES OF INFORMATION:

Informants: Mr. Adoniram Powell, Manassas, Virginia, ¹⁹⁷¹ noted.
 Mr. George Chapman Blight of Haymarket, Virginia, ^{written by Powell}
 Mr. J. N. Kerr, Broad Run, Virginia, and the late ^{— dec}
 Mr. William Beverley, Broad Run, Virginia. — dec

Court Records, Prince William County, Virginia.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION OF BUILDING CALLED FOR IN
5-A. of BULLETIN 3400

3686

"BEVERLY'S MILL".

Name of Building _____

EXTERIOR

Rectangular.

1. Building Plan _____ Cellar ()
2. No. of stories: (6) Attic classed as 1/2 story.
3. Material: Brick () Frame () Stone (x) Log ()
4. If brick, state what bond: Flemish () English () Common () Other ()
5. Kind of roof: Hip () Gabled (x) Gambrel () Lean-to () Deck ()
6. If church, describe or draw sketch of roof on reverse side.
7. Roof Material: Slate () Shingle () Metal (x) Tile (x)
8. Chimneys: Number (1) Brick () Stone () Location Front.
9. Weatherboarding: None. Beaded () Plain ()
10. Cornices: Plain or Elaborate Plain Material Wood.
11. Windows: Number () Size and number of panes Mostly 15 panes, 8 x 10".
12. Shutters: Describe: None.
13. Dormers: Number, and Shape of roof None.
14. Porch: None.
15. Type of Entrance: Ordinary two panel door at office, wide doors for shipping.
16. Columns: Doric () Ionic () Corinthian () Square ()

INTERIOR
each the entire floor.

17. No. of Rooms: (5) Large () Small () Approx. ceiling height. 15'
18. Stairway: Open String () Closed String () Describe: Ordinary wooden.
19. Cellar: Describe Usual mill basement, housing machinery.
20. Doors: Style and type of wood No interior doors save one to office alcove.
21. Walls: Panolled, papered or painted _____
22. Interior Cornices None.
23. Hardware: Locks and hinges Old strap hinges, mostly replaced in recent years.
24. Floors: Heavy oak planks.
25. Mantels: None.
26. Misc: 28 foot wheel, also oil engine.
27. Present condition, and state if spoiled architecturally by remodelling: Excellent.
28. Does occupant seem to appreciate old architectural features? Yes.

Your Name Susan R. Morton.