

Oatlands Historic District (Carter's Mills)
U. S. Rt. 15
Lessburg vicinity
Loudoun County
Virginia

HABS No. VA-949-H

HABS
VA,
54-LESSB.V,
4H-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C. 20240

HABS
VA
54-LEEB.V,
4H-

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

OATLANDS HISTORIC DISTRICT (CARTER'S MILLS)

HABS No. VA-949-H

Location: U.S. Rt. 15, Leesburg vicinity, Loudoun County, Virginia.

Owner: The National Trust for Historic Preservation
1785 Massachusetts Avenue, NW.
Washington, D.C. 20036

Use: Ruinous.

Significance: The chief interest of this site, with its brick and stone fragments and evidence of the mill race, lies in its interpretive value within the Oatlands Historic District. There are two major fragments: the triangular ruin of the millhouse wall and the stone walls of the dam on the east bank of Goose Creek. The millhouse wall is a ruin in very poor condition, having been vandalized for many years. The stone wall of the dam along the creek is in better condition although having suffered some damage from tree roots.

PART I. ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

The millhouse wall fragment measures approximately 16' in length, 8' in height at the peak of the triangle, and 1'-10" in thickness. Thirty-two feet north of this wall, and parallel to it, is fragmentary evidence of another stone foundation wall measuring approximately 38' in length. These dimensions appear to agree with a two-story section shown in an early photograph c. 1890. At the extreme end of the foundation wall along the creek there is a definite corner block. Forty-eight feet north of this corner block are fragments of another stone foundation wall, extending 28' westward. This evidence seems to indicate that the original millhouse had over-all dimensions approximately 66' x 48'. From the photograph, the north-south section was three stories tall, forming an ell with the east-west, two-story section parallel to the creek bed.

Foundation: Foundations are rubble stone, approximately 3'-0" thick.

Wall construction, finish, color: The red brick bearing wall of the millhouse fragment is set in common bond with header courses every fourth course.

Structural system: Put-locks on the interior face of the wall indicate there was framing for a wooden floor just above the stone foundation wall.

Chimneys: The c. 1890 photograph shows a chimney in the north wall of the three-story section.

Openings:

Windows: There is evidence in the brick wall of a window, 4'-4" above the stone foundation wall.

OATLANDS HISTORIC DISTRICT (CARTER'S MILLS)
HABS No. VA-949-H (Page 2)

Roof:

Shape, covering: The c. 1890 photograph shows both sections had gabled roofs of underdetermined material.

Dormers: The c. 1890 photograph shows four shed-roofed dormers at two levels in the two-story section, and a single similar dormer on the west slope of the three-story section.

Site:

The millhouse ruin is located in an overgrown thicket of trees and bushes immediately east of Highway 15 at the Goose Creek Bridge. The adjacent mill race, which begins at the highway, cuts diagonally across the remains of the roadbed of the original Leesburg-Aldie Turnpike. It terminates at the mill head. The dam wall, also hidden by trees is below and west of Highway 15. Stones in the creek indicate that the dam crossed diagonally near the rapids. This wall measures approximately 150' in length and is from 3' to 7' high above the creek bed.

Project Information:

This project was undertaken through the joint efforts and financing between HABS and the National Trust. Of particular value was the advice and cooperation of E. Blaine Cliver, Historical Architect, and Thomas M. Slade, Architectural Historian, both of the National Trust. This report was prepared by Woodrow W. Wilkins, AIA, Supervisory Architect of the HABS Oatlands project, during the summer of 1973.