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WINDMILL

(Mill Ford) ✓

Although there had been many early explorers along the Potomac River, up both the Goose Creek and Catootin Creeks, and overland throughout the area, it was not until the early 1730's that the first white settlers began to purchase land and start the first permanent settlement in what was to become Loudoun County.

The honor seems equally divided between the English who came from the Tidewater and settled around Leesburg; the Germans who came from Pennsylvania and settled between Taylorstown and Morrisontown, in what was to be known for years as "the German Settlement"; and the English Quakers, also from Pennsylvania, who settled in and near Waterford and at and around Goose Creek, now Lincoln.

At that early period this was a part of Prince William County. In 1742, Fairfax County, named for Lord Fairfax the Sixth Baron of Cameron, was cut out of Prince William County. By 1757 settlement in the North Western section of Fairfax had become so well established that the General Assembly was asked to form a new County. It was this area which became known as Loudoun County, named for Lord Loudoun, a prominent officer in King Georges Army and afterwards commander-in-chief of the British Forces in the American Colonies and a Colonial Governor from 1758 to 1762.

X In the early 1730's Richard Brown built his Mill and home *Hunting Hill* now the residence of Mr and Mrs Philip L. Ehrenkranz and the "Hunting Hill" property of Miss. Anna F. Hedrick.

The first Mill, probably a Log one, was replaced by the existing structure, probably due to an increase in the demand from the area for a larger operation. As an indication of the capacity of this business a Sale Advertisement stated it was "capable of grinding twenty four barrels of corn in twenty four hours".

In 1784 Thomas Taylor purchased the Mill, a log Millers House (now destroyed) and the present "Hunting Hill" property, or the original property of Richard Brown, from his son Mercer Brown, who had inherited this, thus ending 54 years of the Brown family ownership.

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For the next 45 years it was operated by Mr. Taylor and later by his widow and son, Henry Taylor until it was sold in 1829. The last owner to run it as a Mill was the late Millard C. Myers who purchased it in 1912 and continued it's operation until 1958, having in later years operated it as a Feed Store. Besides his Milling business, Mr. Myers had taught school at the one room Cross Roads Public School (located at the North West corner of the junction of County Routes 665 and 673), served on the County Electoral Board for 22 years, and was a lifetime resident of Taylorstown as well as a member of the Bethel Lutheran Church.

During the period of the Taylor ownership he was selling $\frac{1}{2}$ acre lots in "the Town of Millford as laid out by said Taylor" thus beginning what was later known as Taylors Town and now called Taylorstown.

After the death of Henry Taylor in 1829, the property was put up for sale and the sale advertisement noted that the "Hunting Hill" house, barn and log spring house went to Joshua Reed, his wife Nancy and Sarah Taylor jointly. George W. Henry bought the Mill and Lime Kiln and Log Millers house on the road with 53 acres, including all water rights-of-way, Dam, etc, and Robert Mofett purchased the property with the School House thereon.

During this time the present garage of Mrs. Elizabeth Manns had been constructed and used as a Store and later as the local Town Hall, Movie House and as a place where local thespians occasionally amused the residents with their theatracial endeavors.

The "Hunting Hill" house was lovingly contrived by Richard Brown who was obviously among that host of settlers who were not only practical, but who wished to work, pray and keep warm. Judging from the enormous size of the fireplaces, the tiny rooms and windows, the enclosed stairwells and the lowness of the ceilings, this consideration for warmth was a paramount one. The interior Feather Edged Tongue & Grooved Vertical Board partitions, Batten Doors, deep set windows and sills in thick stone walls, and exposed beamed ceilings with the great typical Summer Beam, all lend truth to the early date of its construction.

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Fortunately both Mr and Mrs Ehrenkranz and Miss. Hedrick have seen fit to live with these structures as they are and have not chosen to drastically reconstruct them -under the guise of "Restoration"- to suit their every whim and personal desires. Thus with only minimum modern conveniences, carefully installed with a sensitive and skillful hand, these structures still retain all their original Commercial and Residential charm and character.

The present store, now operated by Mrs. Elizabeth Mann was built about 1903 on the site of a two story frame store building which burned. For many years the earlier frame store had been owned and operated by the Hickman-Slater partnership. In the early 1900's R.I. Mann, then 18 years old and ready for a business career, began keeping store with John Slater. In 1950, now sole owner of the business, he married Elizabeth Palmer, a Loudoun native, and they began their joint management of the establishment. Four years later, after her husband's death, she assumed the management and for the past nineteen years she has kept the doors open for the benefit of the local community.

The house now on the property of the Alvin Loy estate was beginning to take on some age, and possibly was among those early structures built in the latter part of the eighteenth century in the new Milling community of "Millford".

The two story frame residences of both Mrs. Manns and that of Miss. Joan C. Rollins, represent an excellent survival of rural village vernacular Architecture of the late 1880's and early 1900's. Both in a good state of preservation with all of their original fabric still in tact and minimal changes and improvements or replacements to this. An interesting point of great interest about the home of Joan Rollins is the first floor log floor joists. These are quite common in the early construction of houses and barns throughout the County. However they are quite rare in a turn of the century structure. From this evidence it may be safe to say that the present structure was erected on the earlier basement walls and log first floor joists of a residence long associated with the operation of the Mill and the early community of Taylors Town.

The "Foxton Cottage" of Mr and Mrs Reynold Cheronis was not only among these early simple and practical stone structures of the early settlement of the area, but with their careful and sensitive guidance, has become a structure combining great qualities of not only restoration but preservation and a well designed and proportioned addition of compatible scale, material and period.

For does this structure not only retain its basic fabric in the original storic and one half stone portion, having been spared the work of the cult of the fashionable, but in the new section the excellent interior woodwork of the Stacey Taylor House has been preserved and carefully re-installed. For those of you who may not be familiar with the last mentioned property, it was one of the earlier Quaker Stone houses in what later became the Town of Purcellville, and was destroyed in 1973. A structure which finally met the combination of a fate of neglect, tenant abuse and vandalism under the ownership of a person more interested in its commercial value than its historical importance to the community.

During this time the area around Taylorstown was being settled by the Arnold, Baker, Carns, Compher, Everhart, Fawley, Fry, Spring, Stoneburner, Snootz, Tritapoe and Viris (Wertz) families, all good and frugal agrarians, distillers, millers and tradesmen.

As many of you know there has been an Official Resolution approved by the Board of Supervisors requesting the Virginia Commission of Outdoor Recreation to consider Scenic Rivers Designation for the Catoctin Creek. The Piedmont Environmental Council has done a study of the environmental and historical quality of the Catoctin Creek watershed, from its mouth with the Potomac River to Waterford, and they are now working on a similar study for the entire County. Thus the recognition of this proposed Historic Preservation Area District for Taylorstown would not only add further protection to this valueable stream, but to the total area as well.

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