

This completes the formal portion of the historic walking tour. We invite you to stay as long as you'd like, stop in and ask questions of our friendly staff, and revisit those areas you found especially interesting. We hope your trip with us back in time revealed some of the differences and similarities between the past and present and provided enhanced insight into life during the 1800's in the vicinity of what is now Susquehanna State Park.

Maryland Historic Trust. Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties.

<http://www.mdihp.net/>

Shagena, J. L. ROCK RUN MILL in *The Land of Promise— A legacy of John Stump “of Stafford”*. InstantPublisher.com, 2007.

Rock Run Historic Area Hours of Operation:

Weekends from Memorial Day Weekend through Labor Day

Mill: 10am - 4pm

Mansion: 1pm - 4pm

Private mill and mansion tours are also available upon request.

Susquehanna State Park
c/o Rocks State Park
3318 Rocks Chrome Hill Road
Jarrettsville, MD 20184
410-557-7994

Maryland Park Service
1-800-830-3974—TTY users call via MD Relay



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This document is available in alternative format upon request from a qualified individual with disability.

SUSQUEHANNA STATE PARK

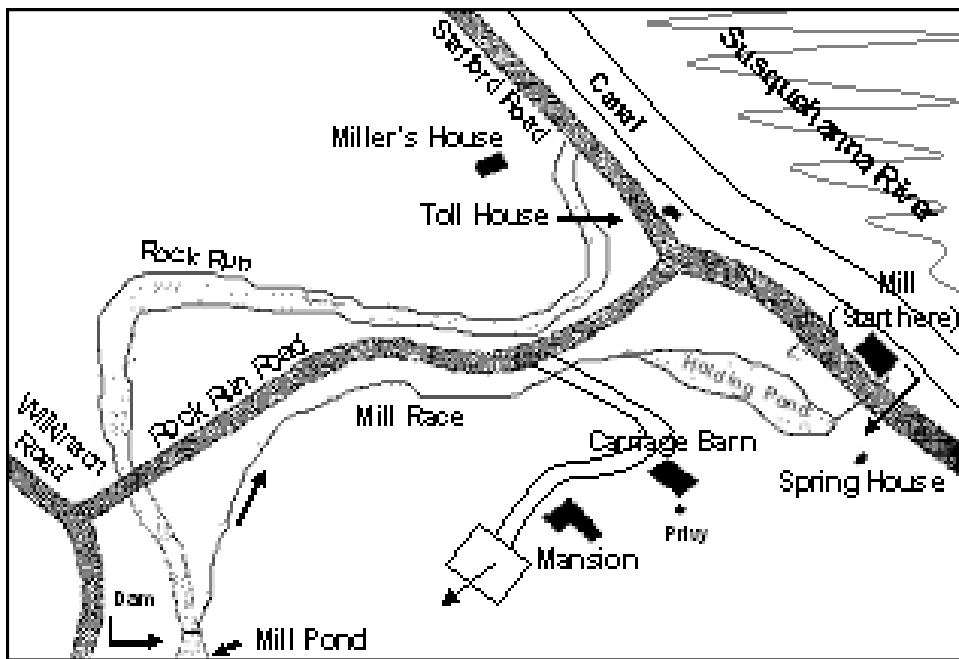
ROCK RUN HISTORIC AREA



Self-guided Walking Tour of the Rock Run Historic Area



Rock Run Mill, 1936 (image courtesy of the Library of Congress)



INTRODUCTION

Rock Run is historically important to the development of present-day Harford County. As you walk this historical trail, reflect on the past. Be conscious of the tremendous efforts made in construction and the quality and craftsmanship of these structures. Keep in mind the absence of mechanized equipment at the time and remember that many of the structures you see were built by hand.

DIRECTIONS

Begin at the mill and follow the purple blaze to each numbered historical location. Stop and read about the location from your brochure and placard placed at each site as the history that surrounds you unfolds. This 1/2-mile trail is easy to moderately difficult. It will take you approximately 45 minutes to complete.

tollhouse served as both a toll collection station, and as a residence for the toll keeper. The porch window was used by the toll keeper to watch for boats coming down the canal as bridge travelers were entering and exiting the bridge. The bridge was washed away in 1856 and the toll keeper was no longer needed. More information about the bridge can be found on the tollhouse porch. No known images of the tollhouse and Rock Run Bridge exist, but the sketch above depicts how they would have appeared in 1850.



When Wilford Wilkinson bought the mill in 1929, he rented out the tollhouse to the head of his fishing business. The tollhouse was acquired by the state in 1960.

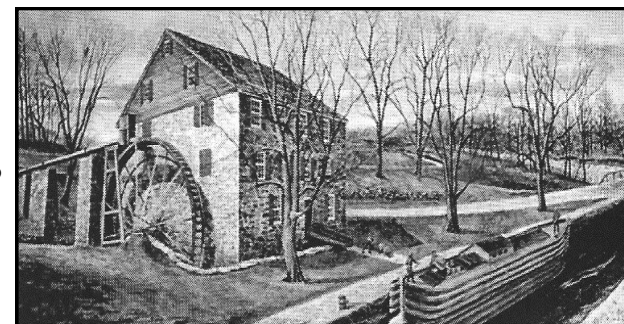
9. SUSQUEHANNA & TIDEWATER CANAL

This ditch is a remnant of the Susquehanna & Tidewater Canal, which ran 45 miles from Havre de Grace, MD to Wrightsville, PA. Opened in 1840, the canal was originally 15-20 feet wide and 6-12 feet deep. The canal's 29 locks together raised boats from 20 above sea level at Havre de Grace, to 1000 feet at Wrightsville. The granite locks were about 150 feet long by 18 feet wide. Nine of these locks were in Maryland, and the remnants of three are within the park. Some of the stonework is still visible today. Each stone weighs at least one ton. One of the locks is near the Lapidum Boat Launch, and a second is just south of where Deer Creek meets the Susquehanna River.

Canal boats were pulled by mules. A boat moving upriver would be pulled into a lock and the gates behind the boat would be closed to allow water to rise until the boat reached the required depth to continue traveling up the canal.

The Susquehanna & Tidewater canal prospered in the mid-1800s, but it was eventually bypassed by railroads. It closed in the early 1900s. Ironically, railroad tracks were laid on the canal toe-path in mid-1920s to deliver materials to build Conowingo Dam. Most of the old canal upriver from the dam is under Conowingo Lake.

As the sketch depicts, the canal allowed goods to be transported directly to and from the Rock Run Gristmill.



5. MILLPOND

John Stump chose this location to build a mill because Rock Run was ideal for providing waterpower. When he built to mill, he also constructed a dam which created the millpond visible behind the dam. When the dam gate is opened, water flows into the millrace to power the mill.



Mill dam, 2010.

6. MILL RACE

In order for the water released from the millpond to reach the mill itself, a “race” was constructed to control the water flow to the target location. The millrace is a man-made stream that allows the water to flow from the dam through the culvert at the driveway to the mansion onto a large dip in the lawn. This “dip” is known as the holding pond. The water from the millrace accumulates in the holding pond then travels through the fore bay (iron pipe) and exits onto the wheel’s buckets, turning the wheel.

7. MILLER’S HOUSE

This stone house, built around the same time as the mill, was where the miller of the Rock Run Mill resided. The miller was not necessarily the mill owner, but he was the mill operator. For use of his services, he would take his “pottle,” or fee, from each bushel ground which was approximately 1/8th of the bushel.



Miller’s house, 2010.

According to oral history, in the mid 1800’s when the Tidewater canal was in operation, the miller’s house doubled as an inn for travelers along the road and the canal.

8. “JERSEY” TOLLHOUSE

The first bridge to span the Susquehanna River in Maryland opened in this spot in 1817. Remains of the bridge’s piers are still visible in the Susquehanna River. Built by the same company that operated the bridge, the Jersey

1. ROCK RUN GRISTMILL

The Rock Run Gristmill was built by John Stump “of Stafford” (John Stump III) around 1800. A prosperous businessman, Stump owned several mills and plots of land in Harford, Cecil, and Baltimore Counties. Following his death in 1816, the mill and surrounding lands passed into the Archer family by way of Stump’s daughter Ann, who had married Dr. John Archer Jr. John Macklem acquired the mill from the Archer family in 1904. Then in 1929, the mill passed to Wilford Wilkinson, who operated the mill until his death in 1954. The Maryland Department of Forest and Parks purchased the mill six years later. In 1965, the mill’s corn-grinding operation was partially restored for public demonstrations.

Standing four stories tall, the mill was a large building by the standards of 1800. It was a merchant mill, and it ground wheat into flour for both the local and international market. Much of its flour was sold to the Caribbean. The original waterwheel would have been made of wood. Even in its earliest configuration, much of the flour-milling process was automated, so only a few workers were needed to operate the mill. The building’s 34 windows provided most of the mill’s interior lighting. Because flour dust is combustible, the mill usually only ran during daylight hours.

A center of activity during its heyday, the mill is where local residents bought, sold and bartered goods. The mill’s second floor served as the community post office from 1827 to 1856. The mail windows and boxes still remain in place.

Around 1900, the mill was almost completely gutted and rebuilt to its present configuration. The original flour-grinding stones were replaced with



Rock Run Mill, 1936 (image courtesy of the Library of Congress)

steel rollers. The traditional millstones continued to grind corn into cornmeal. The mill ceased to grind wheat in the 1930's, but the corn-grinding stones operated until 1954.

The state-of-the-art (at the time) Fitz Waterwheel was installed in 1900. With 84 buckets, the wheel weighs about 12 tons. When water fills the buckets, the wheel rotates. The rotating wheel then turns a series of gears, belts, and pulleys to turn the millstone inside the mill. The turning millstone grinds the corn into corn meal. A grain-grinding millstone, similar to the one inside the mill, is located across the street. The entrance to the mill is flanked by flint-grinding millstones.

2. SPRINGHOUSE

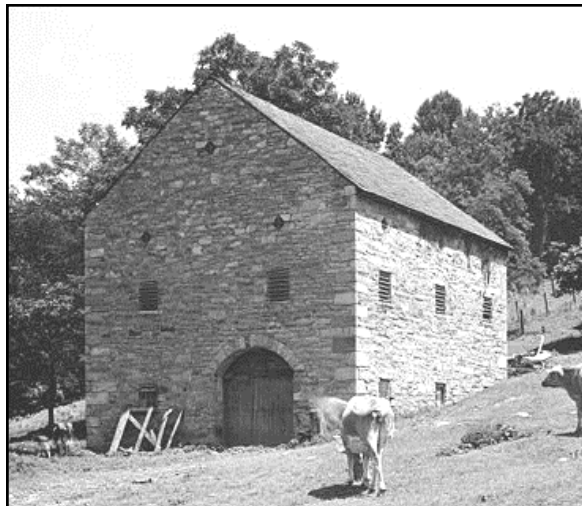
Constructed between 1801 and 1804, the main purpose of the springhouse was to provide drinking water for the Rock Run Mansion. Because refrigeration as we know it did not exist, the springhouse also served as cold storage for foods that spoil easily. Perishable items were placed in sealed containers and submerged in the 50°F water. Although this water isn't as cold as our refrigerators, it served its purpose by keeping the food cool.

The springhouse is a 2-story structure with the second floor being accessed around the back of the building on the hillside. The second floor allowed storage for items that benefited from a moist environment. Planks would have been laid from the hillside to the access point.

Directly below springhouse at the road is a stone engraved with "IN MEMORY OF JOSHUA COWGILL SMITH 1857-1911." This stone is actually a trough, now embedded in the earth, which housed the water that ran through the springhouse. This trough was available for all to enjoy.

3. CARRIAGE BARN

There were different uses for this 2-story barn throughout the years. It was built into the hillside to provide direct access to the second floor where the food was kept for the animals housed on the first floor. Stalls once occupied the area where the present day restrooms are located. Later, carriages were housed in the lower level while farm equipment and tools were stored up above.



Carriage Barn, 1936 (Library of Congress)



Rock Run Mansion c. 1880.

4. ROCK RUN (CARTER-ARCHER) MANSION

John Stump "of Stafford" sold 2 plots of land and 1/2 interest of the mill and all the affiliated properties in 1801 to John Carter, former husband of Hannah Stump. In 1804, on the newly purchased land, Carter built the mansion. However, when Carter died in 1805, his share of the mill and the land, including the mansion, was sold in its entirety back to Stump in 1808. Upon Stump's death in 1816, Stump left his daughter Ann and her husband, Dr. John Archer Jr. the 1808 land purchase. The property remained in the Archer family until 1904 when it was purchased by John Macklem. Like the mill, the mansion then passed to Wilford Wilkinson in 1929, and then was purchased by the State Department of Forests and Parks in 1960.

The L-shaped house contains 13 rooms and 4 chimneys to accommodate the large family. There are multiple living and dining rooms to distinguish between the formal and family areas. The kitchen was not originally built into the home as it is seen today. According to a local historical architect, the structure was added on within five years of the homes construction. The oven and boiler within the kitchen are unique in that both pieces have individual flues and there are only two of these particular ovens (this one included) known in the State of Maryland, serving as a testament to the wealth of the family. Above the kitchen are small living quarters that housed the servants of the home.