

## 6.0 SUSSEX COUNTY MILL DATABASE

### 6.1 Introduction

In addition to the analysis, interpretation, and curation of the archaeological remains associated with the replacement of Bridge 918 on S.R. 30 at Reynolds Pond, the creation of a Sussex County Mill Database serves as an alternative mitigation measure for this project. The purpose of the database was to collect available information about the history and locations of Sussex County mills and mill sites from many disparate sources and organize that information in one place for easy reference and as a starting point for further investigations. By linking textual background information with GIS mapping, the database will provide a valuable tool for future FHWA/DeIDOT projects, so that the probable locations of mills and mill remains will be known and can be considered from the earliest stages of project planning. The benefit of this mitigation is that it heightens awareness of historic mill resources and encourages the stewardship and safekeeping of historically significant mill sites in Sussex County. The information will be made available to archaeologists and historians, planners and project managers, environmental consultants, and to the general public through DeIDOT's website.

### 6.2 Methodology

The 1868 Atlas of Delaware (Beers 1868) served as the starting point for the creation of the mill database for Sussex County. The detailed atlas is separated into maps of each of the county's hundreds. There were eleven hundreds in 1868 Sussex County. Shortly thereafter, Seaford Hundred was formed from Northwest Fork Hundred and Gumboro Hundred was formed primarily from Broad Creek Hundred. The maps are labeled with the names of property owners and businesses. Where the maps indicated a "G. Mill" (gristmill), "S. Mill" (sawmill), "S.S. Mill" (steam sawmill), "Bark Mill", unspecified "Mill" or an unlabeled millpond, the points were mapped and coded for the database. Each separate location was given a unique alphanumeric identifying code.

Once the mill sites were identified from the Beers 1868 *Atlas*, a thorough review of Scharf's 1888 *History of Delaware* was undertaken (Scharf 1888). Scharf's descriptions of mills were used to confirm and elaborate on the information presented in the Beers maps. In many cases the descriptions given by Scharf were sufficient to locate additional mill sites, but some of the mills mentioned in his text could not be located due to lack of information.

Additional information about mill sites was obtained from reviewing other historic maps including the 1737 Eastburn map of Pennsylvania and Delaware and the 1913 Farm Journal Map of Sussex County. While several other historic maps were consulted, they generally did not provide useful information for expanding the database. National NRHP nomination forms, Cultural Resource Survey forms, nineteenth century industrial census data, and cultural resources reports prepared for DeIDOT were other useful sources of information about historic mill sites. Only information that could be corroborated through mapping or verifiable secondary sources has been included in the database.

The mapping was undertaken using geo-referenced versions of the historic 1868 Beers *Atlas* maps with modern aerial photographs. This means that the mill locations are as specific as they can be, but due to the variable accuracy of the historical sources, some of the point locations may vary from their intended position. It should be carefully noted that the points plotted through this database give approximate locations and that attention should be paid to the current and historic paths of local waterways in trying to determine exact locations of former mill sites.

Research was conducted primarily at the Delaware Public Archives, the Delaware State Historic Preservation Office, and online, particularly on the DeIDOT online reports and publications site <http://www.deldot.gov/archaeology/>.

### 6.3 Sussex County Mill Database Fields

The mill database is separated into multiple fields to present the known information about each of the mill sites.

#### Code

Each mill site is identified by a three-part alphanumeric code. The first letter identifies the county; at this point, all of the codes begin with an S for Sussex County, but the database could be expanded to encompass Kent and New Castle counties at a later date. The second pair of letters refers to the current hundred in which that point is located.

S=Sussex County	GU=Gumboro
BA=Baltimore	IR=Indian River
BC=Broad Creek	LC=Little Creek
BK=Broadkiln	LR=Lewes and Rehoboth
CC=Cedar Creek	NA=Nanticoke
DA=Dagsboro	NF=Northwest Fork
GE=Georgetown	SE=Seaford

The final numbers provide a unique indicator for each mill site in the hundred. Therefore, S-LC-20 is the twentieth mill site in Little Creek Hundred, Sussex County identified during this database research.

**Mill Name (Beers 1868)**

The historic names given on the 1868 maps are used to identify the mills. In a few cases, no owner name is given.

**Mill Name (Scharf 1888)**

Because Scharf offers brief histories of the mills, there may be many names associated with a particular mill site. The mill name used here represents either the name that Scharf uses familiarly to refer to the mill (i.e., Trap Mills) or the earliest owner he lists in association with the mill. A bibliographical reference is listed with the name.

**Mill Name (Other)**

This category provides the mill names obtained from other sources such as National Register nominations or DeIDOT reports. A bibliographical reference is listed with the name.

**Historic Owner Names (Beers 1868)**

This category restates the name of the mill owner from the 1868 map.

**Historic Owner Names (Scharf 1888)**

Scharf's *History* offers detailed, but often incomplete, lists of the chain of ownership for the historic mill sites. The names he mentions are listed here in chronological order with reference dates where available. These lists should be considered a framework for further investigation and not a complete history. In many instances, the mills were sold by shares and the names may represent only partial ownership. A bibliographical reference is listed with the names.

**Historic Owner Names (Other)**

Owner names that were obtained from other sources (such as National Register nominations and DeIDOT reports) are listed here with reference dates where available. These lists should be considered a framework for further investigation and not a complete history. In many instances, the mills were sold by shares and the names may represent only partial ownership. A bibliographical reference is listed with the names.

**Mill Type**

Gristmill, sawmill, steam sawmill, bark mill, carding mill, unspecified mill or unlabeled millpond are the types included in this category. Steam sawmills that were indicated in the 1868 Beers map have been included in this database, but other mentions of steam sawmills (in Scharf, National Register nominations, DeIDOT reports, etc.) were not included.

**Mill Active Dates (Scharf 1888)**

Dates that represent the establishment of the mill, any changes, damage or rebuilding, and the abandonment of the mill are recorded. A bibliographical reference is listed with the dates.

**Mill Active Dates (Other)**

Dates that represent the establishment of the mill, any changes, damage or rebuilding, and the abandonment of the mill are recorded. A bibliographical reference is listed with the dates.

**Mill Description**

Any relevant description of the mill is listed here, including references to equipment, product, and capacity. A bibliographical reference is listed with the information.

**Associated Mills**

It was common for a gristmill and a sawmill to be paired on the same millpond. In the case of these and other specific associations, the reference code of the related mill is listed.

**National Register Eligibility**

A few historic mills and mill sites have been listed in (or have been determined eligible for listing in) the NRHP.

**Historic Name of Waterway (Beers 1868)**

Name of labeled millpond or adjacent waterway given on the Beers map.

**Historic Name of Waterway (Other)**

Name of millpond or adjacent waterway obtained from other sources. A bibliographical reference is listed with the information.

**Modern Name of Waterway (DeIDOT 2005)**

Name of current waterway from the Sussex County Road Map.

**Associated Roadway(s) (DeIDOT 2005)**

Name of current roadway(s) from the Sussex County Road Map.

**Historic Name of Location (Beers 1868)**

Historic name of nearby town listed on the Beers map, where applicable.

**Historic Name of Location (Other)**

Historic name of nearby town listed in other sources, where applicable. A bibliographical reference is listed with the information.

**Modern Name of Location (DeIDOT 2005)**

Current name of nearby town listed on the Sussex County Road Map, where applicable.

**County**

Sussex County (included for possible future expansion of database to New Castle and Kent counties).

**Hundred**

One of the 13 Sussex County Hundreds listed previously. If the hundred was formed after 1868 (i.e., Seaford and Gumboro), the original hundred is also noted.

**USGS Quad map**

Reference to the current USGS topographical map on which the mill site is located.

**6.4 Sussex County Mill Database References**

The second sheet of the mill database contains a bibliography of the sources referenced in the database. These sources include maps and atlases, nineteenth century industrial censuses, archival materials, NRHP nominations, and modern cultural resources reports. Where applicable, a hyperlink to the website containing a copy of the information is included.

The bibliography of cited sources is also included as Appendix H of this report. The actual database and mill location mapping is included on the enclosed CD. In addition to the listing of sources referenced in the database, the appendix includes a list of general or related mill references, which may provide important information for future mill research.