

## Mill Pond House Ruins

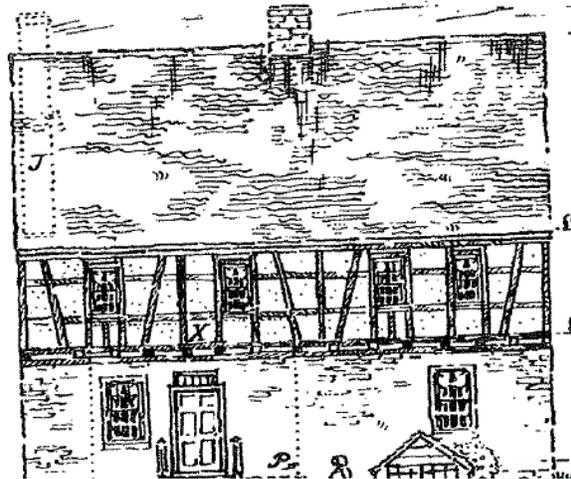


**Background:** The Wormald Companies is currently preparing a City Parkland Dedication Plat as part of the Worman's Mill Development. On the property is a historic site known as the Mill House Pond Ruins. As the City takes ownership, we want to ensure the protection of this resource. In response, the Historic Preservation Commission created the Mill Pond House Ruins Committee. This group, made up of concerned citizens and preservation professionals, was formed with the goal of obtaining grants to research, document, stabilize and interpret the site. With the installation of a nearby bicycle pedestrian path, there is a unique opportunity to incorporate this site as a landmark along the trail and serve as a heritage tourism attraction.

### Known History/ Significance:

The Mill Pond House, located along Tuscarora Creek, was built around 1746. It is the oldest known remains of a European-style dwelling in Frederick County, and predates Schifferstadt, which was constructed by 1758. Other than its age, the building is unique as being a rare example of a medieval German structure that was constructed of stone and half-timber work. The structure is now in ruins, however the vaulted stone cellar, foundation and chimney remain intact. The locations of two mills associated with the building are documented on historic maps.

The ruins are visually interesting and the site could potentially hold archeological value that provides information on early German American settlement and industry. Further research and investigation will be needed to determine if the site is eligible for the National Register for its archeological value.



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### Planning for the future:

The City's Comprehensive plan encourages the identification, documentation, designation, and protection of significant historic resources, including archaeological resources. In April 2017, the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) created the Mill Pond House Ruins Committee, which has identified the following steps in order to protect and promote the site:

#### Step 1: Document

To date, there has been no thorough examination of this site. Given its age, construction methodology, and association with early German settlement and industry, it may be eligible for the National Register. A combined Phase I/II archeological investigation will provide the following benefits:

- 1) Develop a historic context & learn new information
- 2) Identify historically important features
- 3) Determine National Register eligibility

Public outreach will be incorporated into this phase. Hosting an "Archeology Day" will introduce people to the importance of the site and garner support and excitement for archeological protection and the bike path.

#### Step 2: Stabilize

After the site is documented, the next step is to investigate the most appropriate techniques to stabilize and secure the remaining structure. This step will likely include hiring an experienced technician to facilitate the work. Public outreach will also be incorporated into this phase.

#### Step 3: Interpretation & Promotion

After the site is documented and stabilized, we want to make it accessible in a way that protects the site while engaging the public who will travel along the adjacent bicycle pedestrian path. The project may include an interpretive marker with artwork, fencing, picnic tables, and short gravel path. As the adjacent bike path is connected to other trails, brochures that highlight this landmark can be developed.



Worman's Mill Development

Mill Pond House Ruins

Bicycle pedestrian path