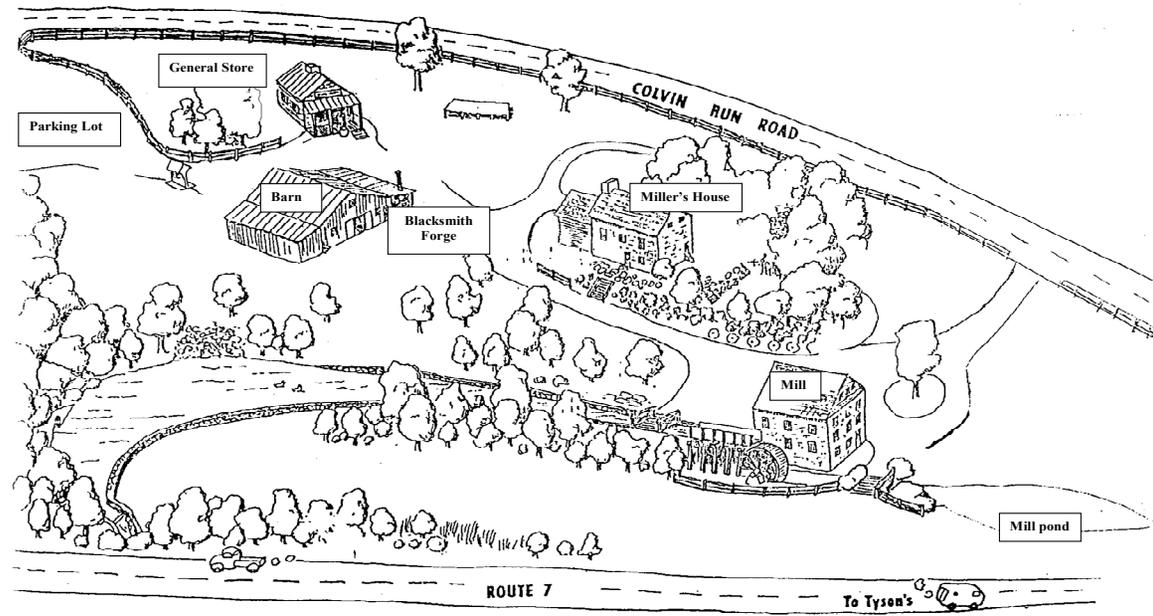


Step Back in Time at

Colvin Run Mill Historic Site

Colvin Run Mill Historic Site



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www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/colvinrunmill

**Not all the *BIG WHEELS*
are in Washington!**

Fairfax County Park Authority



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Enjoy your walk through history. . .

◆ The path from the parking lot leads to the porch of the **general store**. This late 19th century building once stood on Colvin Run Road across from the mill.



Inside, examples of items that storekeeper Mark Cockrill would have sold during the store's heyday, from the 1890s to the 1940s, are displayed on the top shelves and hanging from the ceiling. Today, you can still buy whole wheat flour, cornmeal and grits ground at the mill, "penny" candy and gift items.

◆ Across from the general store is the **barn**, built in 1970 on the foundation of an older structure during the restoration of the mill. Inside, you will find a 1/24 scale model of Colvin Run Mill and the *Grains Around the World* exhibit with pictures and samples of grains grown and milled across the globe. Children enjoy exploring the hands-on history trunk with reproductions of items used at home, school and work.

◆ The **blacksmith forge** under the eaves of the barn is still used occasionally by blacksmiths experienced in the art and history of their craft.

◆ Further along the gravel path is the c.1809 **miller's house**, home to the families who ran the mill. In 1883, Addison Millard bought the mill and moved his wife Emma and some of their 20 children here. When Addison died, the family stayed and ran the mill until 1934.



◆ Continue down the path and look at the remains of the great **white oak tree** which blew down in a summer storm years ago. White oak was used for the mill's interior framework, waterwheel and axles.

◆ Walking down the hill, you are paralleling the **millrace** which brings water to the mill. When you stand on the bridge, you can see the water flowing to the flume and waterwheel. The water comes from Colvin Run, on the other side of Route 7, through a tunnel under the road.

◆ Look at the old **millstones** on the hillside across from the mill. These premium grinding stones were imported from France and were a major investment for the miller. A well-maintained set of these burr stones could last up to 100 years, sometimes outlasting the mill. These particular stones came from various sites.



◆ As you walk around the c. 1811 **mill**, notice that the walls are a combination of original and replacement brick. When the Fairfax County Park Authority acquired the mill, the wall on the waterwheel side was wood. However, archeologists discovered that the original brick wall had collapsed and been rebuilt with wood. To replicate the original, a new brick wall was built. The *putlog holes* in the original brick walls supported scaffolding during the construction of the mill and were recreated in the new wall.

◆ The 20' overshot **waterwheel**, most recently rebuilt in 2002, reproduces as faithfully as possible the original waterwheel that powered the mill machinery. The axle is a single white oak log that transmits power from the turning waterwheel to gears inside the mill which run the grinding stones.



Twice a month on Sundays, April through October, you can watch the mill grind wheat into flour or corn into cornmeal and grits. Call ahead to confirm that conditions permit grinding.

◆ Finish your walk by strolling the banks of the **millpond**, home to geese, ducks, turtles and an occasional heron. At the far end of the pond you will see where the millrace flows through a tunnel under Colvin Run Road and empties into Difficult Run.



Colvin Run Mill Historic Site was established in 1972 by the Fairfax County Park Authority for the preservation of Colvin Run Mill and its associated historic buildings, and for the enjoyment and education of visitors.

The site is open daily, except Tuesdays, 11am to 4pm. Guided tours are offered on the hour, the last tour begins at 3pm. For more information call 703-759-2771 or visit fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/crm.



For ADA information and support call 703-324-8727 or TTY 703-803-3354.