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“TOUR OF THE SHORE”
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Spocott Windmill, Cambridge, Maryland



Spocott Windmill in Dorchester County is the only windmill in Maryland. This very unique mill was built in 1972 and is a replica of a former mill on the property which sat about 100 feet away from the current mill. Although the building isn't original, the millstones and stairs in the structure were used in the previous mill.

The original mill was built in 1850 by John Anthony LeCompte Radcliffe, a shipbuilder who had settled in the area around Spocott in 1848. During a blizzard in 1888, the mill was unfortunately blown down. The miller's son, George L. Radcliffe, was only eleven years old at the time of the blizzard and always vowed to some day rebuild the mill. It would take him literally a lifetime to accomplish his goal. On your visit to Spocott you will learn about this amazing man and how he managed to achieve his boyhood dream.

The mill is an English post mill, meaning the building sits on a large post and is able to swivel into the direction of the wind. A fold-up set of stairs anchors the building, and when lifted, the building can be turned very easily by hand by pushing the "tail" which is attached to a wheel on the ground.

The mill of course uses wind power to grind grain, rather than water, but the inner workings of the mill are basically the same as water-powered mills.

Also on site are several other buildings that have been moved there since the building of the mill in 1972. The buildings create a 19th-century village which includes a c.1800 cottage which has been brought in and set up as the miller's house; the Castle Haven schoolhouse, which was about one-half mile away; and a blacksmith shop. The school and blacksmith shop are very special to the complex since they were actually built by Radcliffe's father. The shipbuilder also built several structures around the area, and amazingly, some of them survived and were able to be moved to the Spocott mill site to be enjoyed as museums. In addition to these wonderful buildings, a general store (c.1939) has been added and serves as a gift shop and also houses the George Radcliffe Museum. A doctor's office has either been moved to the complex or will be moved to the complex in the near future.

Wye Mill, Wye Mills, Maryland

The Wye Grist Mill is located on a $\frac{3}{4}$ acre plot of land in the Town of Wye Mills, on the border of Queen Anne's and Talbot Counties, Eastern Shore Maryland. The mill and museum is a rectangular, one-story 30' by 40' timber structure with a full basement and attic filled with milling artifacts and museum exhibits. A timber frame structure was originally constructed on this site circa 1682, with multiple additions and renovations over the last 325 years.

Wye Mill is one of Maryland's gems and has a rich history dating to Colonial America. It was switched to turbine power some time around the turn of the century, but it was later realized that the area's sandy soil clogged the turbines, and a Fitz waterwheel was again installed in 1918.

In 1984 a major restoration of the mill began, with Jim Kricker as the millwright completing the work. Five years later, in 1989, the Wye Mill was rededicated and was again operational. Take a walk back (way back!) in history when you visit the Wye Mill and learn about its ties to Oliver Evans and Washington's Continental Army!



Frank S. Langrall Linchester Roller Mills, Preston, Maryland



Captain Frank S. Langrall loved the Linchester Roller Mills—so much so that he spent the last 50+ years of his life as the miller at the Caroline County mill near Preston.

Failing in health, Langrall ended his tenure as miller at the mill in 1972. His son-in-law may have run the mill for a short time thereafter. Then in 1979, the dam washed out and the millpond emptied during the same 1979 nor'easter that proved catastrophic to Double Mills. Prior to the late 1970s, Linchester Mill had operated for 300 consecutive years.

Nearly 30 years after Langrall's death in 1974, the mill was just as he had left it; his glasses and gloves still in their places and his old truck still parked out front. Years earlier, Langrall had actually taught the art of milling to Double Mills' miller Sherman Cooper, who had studied under the seasoned miller some time around 1960.



The subject of a 1968 edition of "On the Road With Charles Kuralt," the mill was touted as "possibly the longest continuously operated enterprise in America." There has been a mill on "Hunting Creek" since before 1681. The building was either moved or rebuilt upstream in the mid 1700s. Folklore says a storm floated the mill upstream to its new location, where it has remained ever since. Learn more about this beautifully restored mill during the tour!!

Abbott's Mill, Milford, Delaware

About two miles southwest of Milford, Del, stands a 19th century beautifully restored grist mill called Abbott's Mill. There was a sawmill on the site in 1795, but by 1808 the focus changed to grist milling. Originally owned by Nathaniel Whiley, the mill was purchased by Ainsworth Abbott in 1919. Abbott made major renovations and improvements to the operation, including changing from a water wheel to a turbine and later adding a diesel engine for use when the water level was low. The mill operated until 1960, using much of the same equipment that remains in the mill today. The site is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.



The site is owned by the State of Delaware who leases it to the Delaware Nature Society. Also on site are other original buildings including a stable and a workshop. The miller's house is occupied by tenants. The majority of the information



available about Abbott's Mill refers to the Nature Center, which is a new building near the rear of the property. The center is used to educate children and the public about flora and fauna indigenous to the area. There is also a nature trail which winds through several acres of undeveloped property and many educational programs are available as well as summer camp experiences for children. Additionally, there is a 26-acre pond which offers canoe and kayaking trails. I can't wait to grace the doorway of this gem!

Hearn & Rawlins Mill, Seaford, Delaware



In the market for a grist mill? We have just what you're looking for!



The Hearn & Rawlins Mill was built c. 1880 on the site of the former c. 1820 Cannon & Ross mill which burned in 1879. This is the only mill in Delaware that has (or had as late as 1977) overshot waterwheels. It actually has (had) two tandem wheels fed from the 53-acre Hearn's Pond, a tributary of the Nanticoke River. The wheels were installed in 1912 at a time when most other area mills were changing to turbines. Turbines or undershot waterwheels were necessary for the majority of local mills due to the inability of the shallow mill ponds to produce enough force to power the overshot wheels.

The mill has been operational for most of its history, producing animal feed as well as food for human consumption. In 2006, a severe storm breached the earthen dam which dated to 1912 (see picture below) but the mill survived. The dam was rebuilt at the insistence of residents living on the pond, and this time it was built to Army Corps of Engineers Standards. However, since that time the mill has been run with electric motors.

Most recently Hearn & Rawlins has been owned by a Pakistani family who called their operation UNOI Grain Mill (United Nation of Islam), and the stones used were the same ones used in the 1820 Cannon & Ross mill.

UNOI Grain Mill has been for sale now for a few years, and with it being vacant, it has been the victim of vandals who have stolen some items including all the electric motors and much of the wiring. The milling equipment is, for the most part, still there and includes a set of 3 roller mills that were used up until the mill went on the market.

For \$100,000 this mill can be yours! Open house is today!

