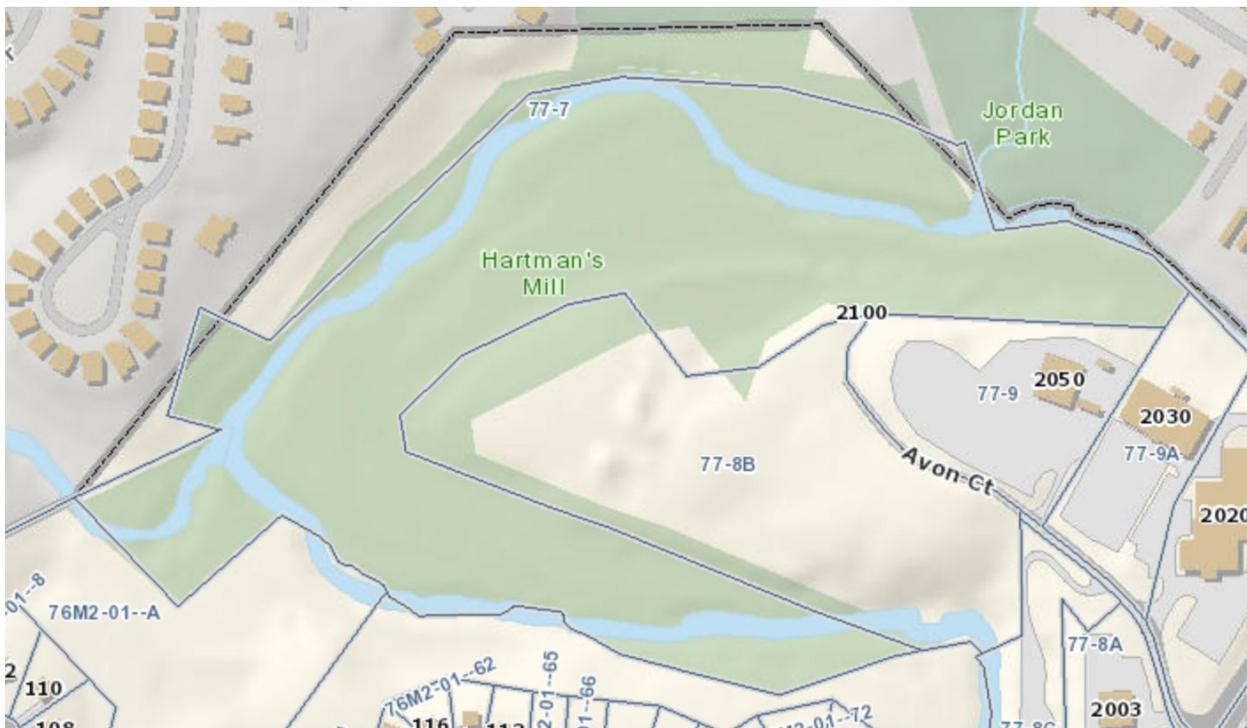


# Historical Information about Hartman's Mill

In support of Charlottesville Parks & Recreation naming consideration for "20 acre parcel along Moore's Creek that is the location of the Hartman[sic] Mill remains"

Address: 2100 Avon Ct, located in Albemarle County

Image from Albemarle GIS:



## Site History

For 10,000 to 18,000 years, this area was traveled through and lived in by people we now refer to as Ancestral Monacan Society. Around 1000 CE, the ancestors of the people who now call themselves the Monacan Indian Nation formed permanent settlements in the area to grow corn, most notably Monasukapanough, just north of present-day Charlottesville on the North Fork of the Rivanna River. In the early 18th Century, white Anglo-American incursion, frequently violent, forced the Monacans to abandon their numerous settlements in central and western Virginia. Many migrated away from central Virginia, but there has always been an appreciable population in more isolated areas. They still live here, with many now residing near Bear Mountain in Amherst County.

The first recorded white European-American ownership of the Hartman's Mill property is:

*A John Grills in 1745 and subsequent years, became the owner by patent and purchase of more than two thousand acres of land in the county, part of it lying on Moore's Creek, where he built a mill, and where one has continued ever since, on the present site of Hartman's Mill.*

...

*Solomon Nelson in 1759 bought from John Grills two hundred acres on Moore's Creek, and built the first mill that occupied the site of that now owned by Hartman. This tract he sold in 1764 to John Moore...*

-- *History of Albemarle County Virginia* by Edgar Woods (1901)

Note that, although both of these selections were written by Edgar Woods in the same book, they attribute both John Grills and Solomon Nelson as constructing the first mill on this site.

*The first bridge over Moore's Creek was erected in 1798, and it would seem its location was on the old Lynchburg Road. In 1801 another was built over the same stream, apparently on the Monticello Road. As far as appears, there was no structure of the kind near Meriwether's Mill, now Hartman's, til 1848.*

-- *History of Albemarle County Virginia* by Edgar Woods (1901)

We can gather from this that, sometime after John Moore (namesake of Moore's Creek) bought the land and mill in 1764, but before it was purchased by Henry Hartman no earlier than 1867, it was owned by someone with the surname Meriwether. This was likely either [William Douglas](#)

[Meriwether](#) (1761-1845, cousin of Meriwether Lewis) or his son William H. Meriwether. William H. Meriwether is most well known for having Rio Mills built.

*The bridge over the south fork of the Rivanna near Rio Mills was first erected in 1836. Those Mills had a few years before been built by **William H. Meriwether**, and in 1833 the Harrisonburg Turnpike had been located to cross the river at that place.*

-- *History of Albemarle County Virginia* by Edgar Woods (1901)

In the *Code of Virginia, 1849*, a section on "lawful fences" describes as such "the Rivanna river from its mouth to William H. Meriwether's mill on the south forth and to Cudjo's rock on the north fork," referring to what is now known as Rio Mills. Since both are referenced as "Meriwether's mill", Rio Mills on the South Fork of the Rivanna River, it should not be confused with the Hartman's Mill site on Moore's Creek. However, it possible that Woods mixed up Hartman's Mill and Rio Mills, and incorrectly referred to Hartman's Mill as Meriwether's Mill.

*Hartman's mill was on Moore's Creek south of Charlottesville; a mill had stood on that site since the eighteenth century. Later, the Farish family operated Hartman's mill.*

-- *The Architecture of Jefferson Country: Charlottesville and Albemarle County* by Virginia by K. Edward Lay

This reference is likely to the Farish family of the organization "Farish, Jones, and Co," who also operated Charlottesville Woolen Mills.

It is unknown when Hartman's Mill ceased operation.

Importantly, dating the operation of a mill to the mid-1700s implies that it is highly likely that enslaved workers labored at this site. This would have pre-dated the Hartman's acquisition of the property no earlier than 1867. During this time, the use of enslaved workers was widespread, and is well-documented within the wealthy Meriwether family. This is a significant part of the history of this site and should be appropriately and prominently recognized in informational materials and signage.

# Namesake

Henry Hartman (1815–1902?) born in Hessen-Darmstadt (colloquially, and former official name), officially known as Grand Duchy of Hesse, part of the German Confederation at this time.

Jacob M. Hartman, son of Henry Hartman, born June 22, 1844 (according to gravestone) in Dalton, Wayne County, Ohio (birth date also listed in some places as Jun 30, 1843). Died Sept 28, 1921, and buried in Oakwood Cemetery, Charlottesville.

Sometime between 1844 and 1846, the Hartman family moved from Ohio to Indiana, as Jacob was born in Ohio, but his younger sister by two years was born in Indiana.

1860 Census - Hartman family, Fairfield Township, DeKalb County, Indiana

7	149	149	Henry Hartman	43	"	Farmer	9000	1000	Germany	
8			Christiana	46	F				"	
9			George	18	M				Ohio	1
10			Jacob	16	"				"	1
11			Mary M	14	F				Indiana	1
12			William	12	M				"	1
13			Lucinda	10	F				"	1
14			Henry	7	M				"	1
15			Sophia	4	F				"	

1867 - Hartman family moves from Indiana to Albemarle County, Virginia.

1870 - Census - St. Anne's Parish, Albemarle County, Virginia

25	1257	1378	Hartman Henry	55	M	Farmer	15000	1000	Near Darmstadt	1	1
26			Christiana	55	F	Keppinghouse			Baden	1	1
27			Mary	22	M	Charles M. M.			Indiana	1	1
28			Lucinda	19	F	At Home			Indiana	1	1
29			Sophia	14	F	At Home			Indiana	1	1
30	1258	1379	Jacob	25	M	Farmer			Ohio	1	1
31			Mary M	21	F	Keppinghouse			Indiana	1	1
32			John J	1	M	At Home			Virginia		

1875 - "Hartman's Mill" appears on the Green Peyton map of 1875



Jacob Leonard Hartman, known as Leonard, was the grandson of Henry Hartman, who moved to Charlottesville from Ohio in 1867. Henry Hartman bought and operated what became known as Hartman's Mill. His son, Jacob Michael, helped his father at the mill, and ultimately owned three houses on Ridge Street, two of which he deeded to his sons, both of whom were born in Charlottesville, Frank Everett (born 1880) and Jacob Leonard (born 1890).<sup>3</sup> Leonard paid for his brother Frank to attend engineering school at the University of Virginia, from which he graduated in 1911. Leonard went to work as an engineer for the railroad. After brief sojourns in Pennsylvania, the two brothers returned to Charlottesville, and Leonard, who was always the businessman of the pair, bought the two lots that comprised the front yard of the Preston House on Grady Avenue in 1927. The residential neighborhood would become home to many students, staff and faculty as well as professionals in the

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NPS Form 10-900-a  
(8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

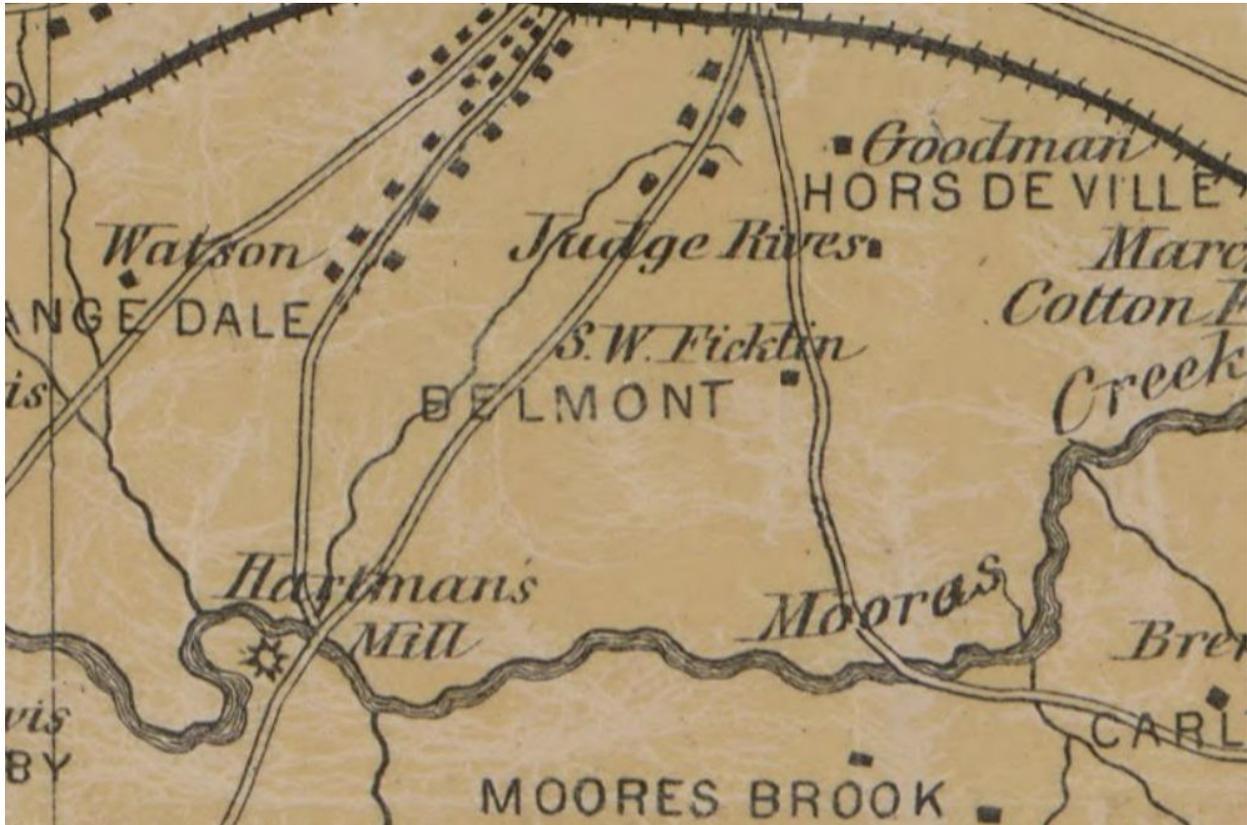
**Preston Court Apartments  
Charlottesville, Virginia**

**Section   8   Page   6**

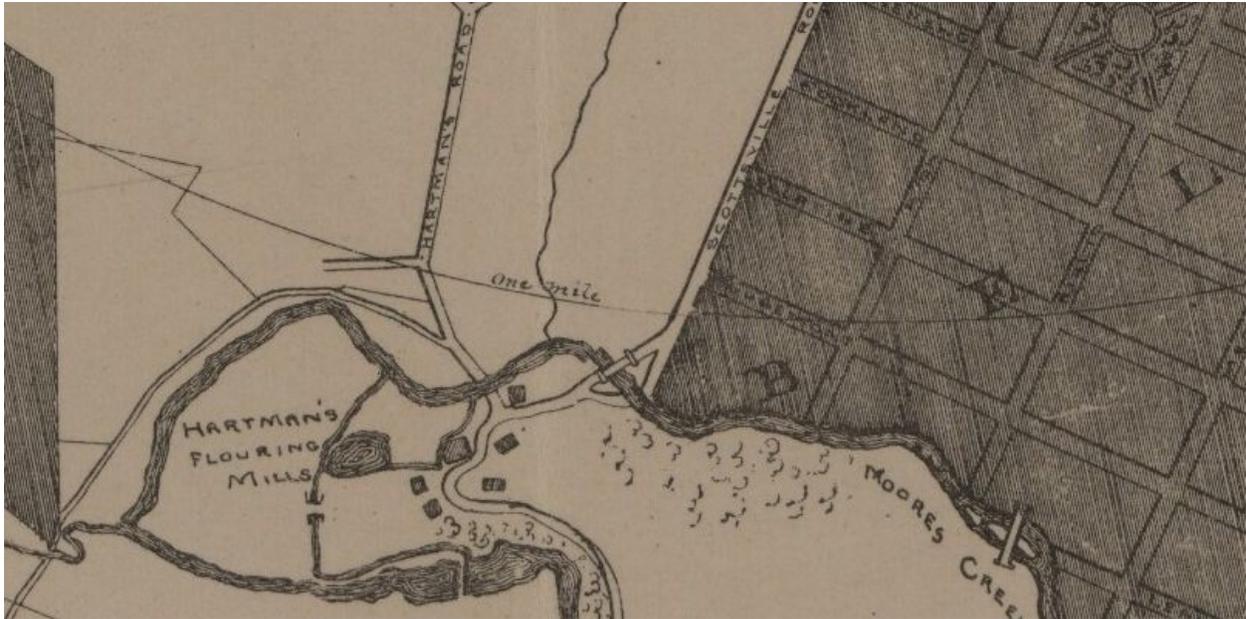
City. The Hartman brothers clearly saw the potential for development in the area. By 1928 when Preston Court was built, the Hartmans had established a construction company called Frank E. Hartman Company, with Leonard functioning as the contractor and Frank as the civil engineer.<sup>4</sup> Frank Hartman would go on to become superintendent of buildings and grounds at the University of Virginia from 1931-1957. It was under his direction that the Alderman Library was constructed, one of the largest architectural projects at the University during the 1930s.<sup>5</sup>

# Historical Maps

1875 - "Hartman's Mill" on the Green Peyton map of 1875



1890 - Hartman's Flouring Mills on Charlottesville Land Co. map, 1890, clearly indicating it was a grain mill rather than wool or timber. This would also be congruent with the Hartmans' occupation of "farmer" in censuses.



"Hartmann's [sic] Mill" on the the 1907 Massie Map of Albemarle County



## References

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- Friends of Hartmans Mill, Facebook group  
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- Map of Property Owned or Controlled by the Charlottesville Land Co., Charlottesville, Va. Nov. 29th, 1890 by R.E. Shaw, <https://search.lib.virginia.edu/catalog/u2828867>
- A New and Historical Map of Albemarle County, Virginia by Frank A. Massie (1907)  
<https://search.lib.virginia.edu/catalog/u2716440>