

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property

historic name: THE PRIEST MILL
other name/site number:

2. Location

street & number: Off US 220, Near Low-Water Bridge not for publication: N/A
city/town: Franklin vicinity: N/A
state: WV county: Pendleton code: 071 zip code: 25302

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally.

Susan M. Pierce 2/10/2000
Signature of Certifying Official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau Date

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.
(See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of Certifying Official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau Date

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4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:	Signature of Keeper	Date of Action
____ entered in the National Register ____ See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
____ determined eligible for the National Register ____ See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
____ determined not eligible for the National Register	_____	_____
____ removed from the National Register	_____	_____
____ other (explain): _____ _____ _____	_____	_____

5. Classification

Ownership of Property:
(Check as many boxes as apply)

private
 public-local
 public-State
 public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

building(s)
 district
 site
 structure
 object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Non-contributing	
1	2	
_____	_____	buildings
_____	_____	sites
_____	_____	structures
_____	_____	objects
_____ 1	_____ 2	TOTAL

Name of related multiple property listing _____ N/A _____
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register _____ 0 _____

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6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

Current Functions

INDUSTRY: Manufacturing Facility
Energy Facility

INDUSTRY: Manufacturing Facility
Energy Facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

Materials

VERNACULAR

Foundation: Brick, Stone
Walls: Wood
Roof: Metal
Other: Chimney: Brick

Narrative Description

(See continuation on sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "X" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

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Criteria Considerations -

(Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

B removed from its original location.

C a birthplace or grave.

D a cemetery.

E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

F a commemorative property.

G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

Industry

Engineering

Period of Significance

1900-1950

Significant Dates

1911

1913

1916

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Priest, Samuel B.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(See continuation sheets.)

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9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of Repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: 2.93

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

Quad Map: Franklin

17 645300 4277880
Zone Easting Northing

Verbal Boundary Description

(See continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(See continuation sheet.)

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11. Form Prepared By

Name/Title: Mrs. Shirley A. Budris

Organization: _____ Date: 10/30/1999

Street & Number: PO Box 973 Telephone: (304) 358-2556

City or Town: Franklin State: WV ZIP: 26807

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

Name: Vincent and Shirley Budris

Street & Number: The Priest Mill, PO Box 973 Telephone: (304) 358-2556

City or Town: Franklin State: WV ZIP: 26807

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Architectural Description:

The Priest Mill is a T-shaped, unadorned three story wooden structure. It sits beside the South Branch of the Potomac River, just east of the town of Franklin, West Virginia.

A fire in 1899 completely destroyed the original mill; however, the Priest family rebuilt the following year on the same site, which is referred to in a deed dated 1835 as "the saw mill site and race." Since its construction in 1900, the mill has retained its original shape, except for a 1916 shed-roof addition on the north side of the first floor; this was built to accommodate the Bullock generator and control panels for the hydro-electric power plant. The mill has been in continuous use from 1900 until the 1950's, with wool carding being the last function of the mill. It then remained idle through two separate ownerships, until 1983 when Vincent and Shirley Budris purchased the mill and started reconstruction. Because the square-edge lap siding had deteriorated on a good portion of the building, pine board and batten siding was placed vertically on the exterior walls of the mill. Sills and joists were replaced in 1984 when a new foundation of brick-faced blocks and a concrete floor replaced the original crumbling stone foundation and dirt basement. The rest of the mill is intact; all of the thirty-three 9/6 double-hung sash windows remain. The interior walls of the first and second floor are paneled with six inch pine boards placed horizontally, and the floors throughout the mill are pine. Wood shavings from furniture manufacture and lumber planing were used for outside wall insulation. The gabled roof was originally covered with wood shingles, but these were later replaced by metal roofing.

The mill race measures 988 feet from the headgates at the dam to the entrance under the mill, which supplies a twelve foot drop to power the Leffel turbine below the first floor. The water from the race flows into an L-shaped channel (called the penstock) to the turbine pit, exiting below the turbine into the tail race (discharge canal) on the mill's north side. The turbine is submerged beneath twelve feet of water in the pit. The drive shaft extends up to the large wooden-tooth bull gear on the first floor, which in turn drives the mainline shaft, running the full length of the mill from north to south.

The double doors on the front facade open into a 20 x 27 foot wood working area. On the left and right sides of the room are two wooden screw vices. A belt driven lathe, shaper, mortising machine, post drill press, and a foot pedal mortising machine are all driven from the overhead belt system. The tools were used for wagon manufacture, wheelwrighting, and furniture making.

Entering into the 19 x 41 foot wood dressing room, one can see the mainline shaft, and the large wooden pulleys with belting that power the Josiah Ross three-sided planer, the joiner, table saw,

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wall mounted cut-off saw, and the band saw. Wagons loaded with rough-cut lumber would unload at the west side door, then the lumber would be passed through the planer and exit the mill at the east side loading dock.

The room above the turbine pit holds the Woodward governor, generator, drive shaft, and bull gear. An inside stairway along the west side leads to the second floor storage and wool carding room. Large bags of cleaned wool were hoisted up to the double door opening situated directly above the front entrance. The wool would be processed through the picker (fluffer), and then to one of the two carding machines (circa 1830), either to be made into batting for comforters or roves for hand spinning.

The third floor was used for storage.

All of the machines in the mill are in perfect running condition, and electricity is still generated for the owner's home.

Within the property, there are two non-contributing buildings situated just south and east of the mill. A 23'3" x 18'5" building was originally used for painting wagons and furniture. It was converted into a guest house in 1983. The other building is a new "old" house built by the owners in 1992.

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Statement of Significance:

The Priest Mill is an important resource under Criterion A for its significant historical contribution in the areas of Industry and Engineering. Operating on a site with an industrial history stretching back to the 1830's, the main period of significance covers the years between 1900 and 1950; between those dates the present structure was built and served in its main role as a center of local industrial activity

Water-powered mills were often a focal point and defining element of a community. Such was the case of the Priest Mill which tended to the needs of the people of Pendleton County.

After his discharge from the Confederate Army in 1863, Samuel Priest returned home to Franklin, and with his brother Thomas, they once again started their cabinet making business. In 1895, Samuel Priest along with his sons leased a site along the South Branch of the Potomac River, referred to as the "Factory Property." A fire destroyed the mill in 1899, but Mr. Priest rebuilt on the same site in 1900. It was a woodworking and wheelwrighting mill, making flooring, molding, and architectural details for many of the Franklin homes and churches now on the National Register. Other products and services included production of heavy farm and lumber wagons, buggies, carriages, and wool carding for comforters and spinning. Numerous families in the area are proud to say they still have tables, chests, and beds crafted at the Priest Mill.

Samuel Priest and his sons Paul and Robert were captivated by the imponderable and invisible agency capable of creating light and heat: electricity. Their interest in Thomas Edison's new invention soon led to power generation at the mill in 1911, and two years later, Paul Priest's home became the first in Pendleton County to have electric lights.

When Colonel John McClure bequeathed \$4,000 to the town for the purpose of creating a power plant, the Priest Mill then became the "Franklin Central Electric Station." Two street lights at the south and north ends of Franklin's main street were electrified on September 16, 1916, by hydro-electric power from the Priest Mill.

Other services listed on a 1928 letterhead for Paul Priest included iron turning, saw gumming, feed mill services, rosettes and molding, and water pumping as the Municipal Water Works. A mill ledger dated October 1917 records that 1,883 Kilowatt hours and 500,000 gallons of water were charged to the town.

From 1900 to 1950, the Priest Mill has tended to the needs of the people of Pendleton County. Now, it is privately owned by Vincent and Shirley Budris who tend to the preservation of the Priest Mill for another generation.

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Bibliography

Winkles, Gary. "Getting on the Job Early." *Goldenseal* (Fall, 1985).
Volume 11, Number 3: pp. 18-24.

Priest, Paul. Mill Ledger. October 1917 to September 1930.

Deeds 19/4346, 43/360, 60/397, 79/408, 82/83, 87/248, 107/441. Pendleton County Courthouse,
Franklin, West Virginia: Office of the Town Clerk.

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Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of the nominated property is all the area shown on the accompanying plat of survey for Vincent and Shirley Budris, dated December 1982 by Thomas W. Firor, licenced land surveyor. Deed 107/441.

Boundary Justification

The boundary reflects the property historically associated with the Priest Mill.

licensed

licenced

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Name of Property: The Priest Mill
Address: PO Box 973
Town: Franklin, WV 26807
County: Pendleton

Photographer: Mr. Gene Merritt

Date: October, 1999

Negatives: WV SHPO, Charleston, WV

- Photo 1 of 15 South facade and east side, facing northwest.
- Photo 2 of 15: West side, facing east.
- Photo 3 of 15: West side and south facade, facing northwest
- Photo 4 of 15: East side and north side facing southwest
- Photo 5 of 15: North side and east side, facing southwest
- Photo 6 of 15: East side, facing west. In the foreground is the paint shed, a non-contributing building.
- Photo 7 of 15: Generator, Bullock Electric Manufacturing Company, Cincinnati, Ohio.
- Photo 8 of 15: Three-sided planer, Josiah Ross, Buffalo, New York. Mainline shaft and pulleys above planer.
- Photo 9 of 15: Table saw-possibly made by Priest family.
- Photo 10 of 15: Governor, Woodward Governor Company, Rockford, Illinois.
- Photo 11 of 15: Drill Press, Champion Blower and Forge Company, Lancaster, Pennsylvania.
- Photo 12 of 15: Band saw, Montgomery Ward and Company, Chicago, Illinois.

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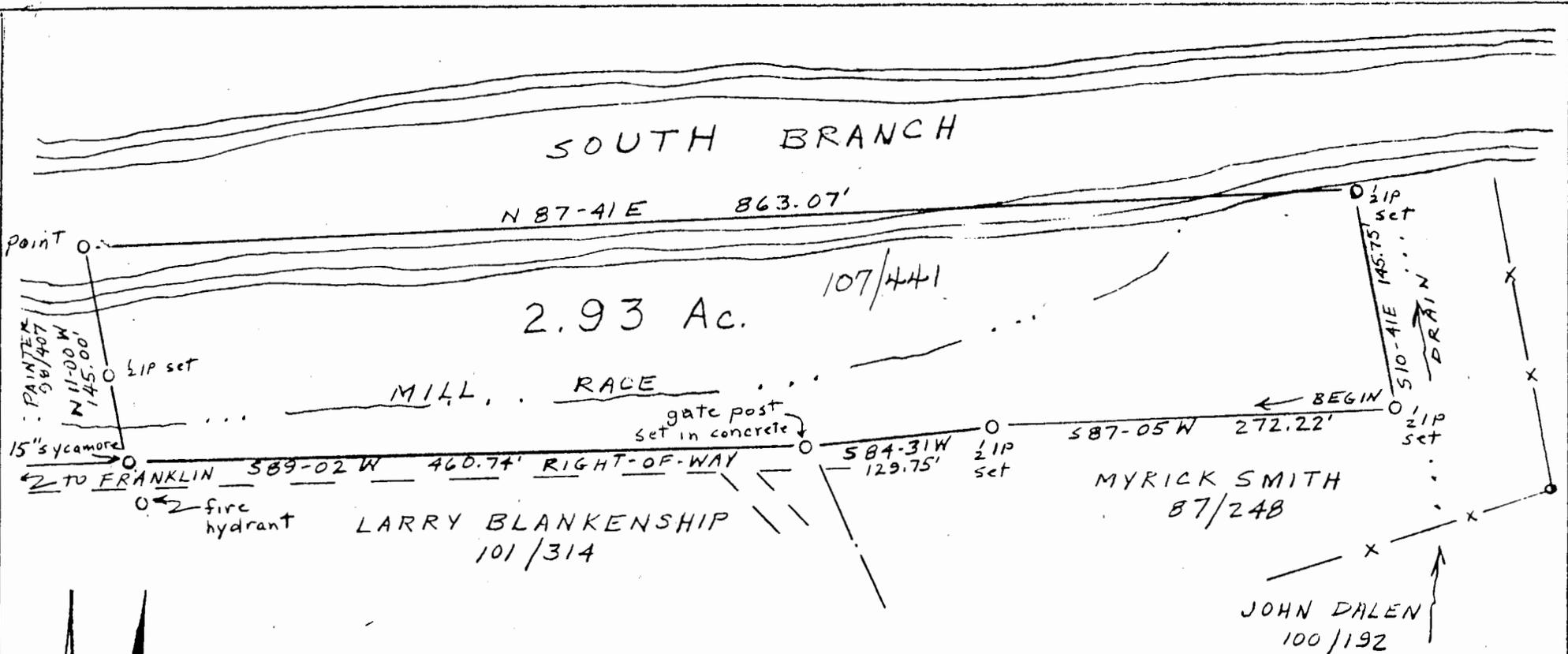
The Priest Mill **Pendleton County, WV**
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Section number **Photo** **Page** **2**

Photo 13 of 15: Duplicating sander, Allen and Sleeper, Mount Morris, New York.

Photo 14 of 15: Picker/Fluffer, manufacturer unknown.

Photo 15 of 15: Carding machines, circa 1830, manufacturer unknown.



PLAT OF SURVEY
for
VINCENT AND SHIPLEY BUDRIS

Being all of a two acre tract, Tract No. 1, and 0.93 acre out of a 2.75 acre tract, Tract No. 2, both of which tracts were conveyed by Howard W. and Sharon M. Wilt to Myrick G. and Catherine H. Smith by deed dated August 12, 1968, and recorded in the office of the Clerk of Pendleton County, West Virginia, in Deed Book 87 Page 248.

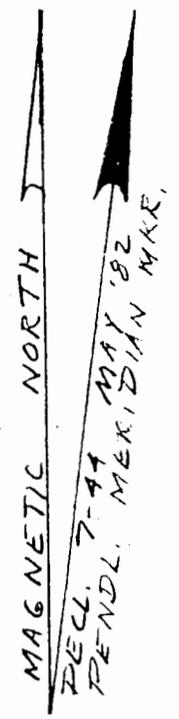
December 1982
by
Thomas W. Firor
Licensed Land Surveyor
Signed Thomas W. Firor

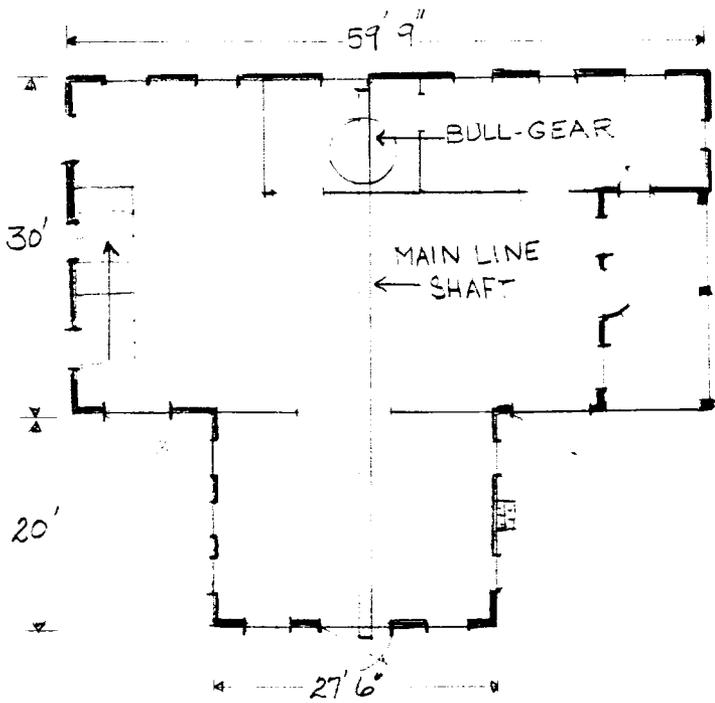
Scale: 1 inch = 100 feet

Tax Map 28 Parcels 1, 3

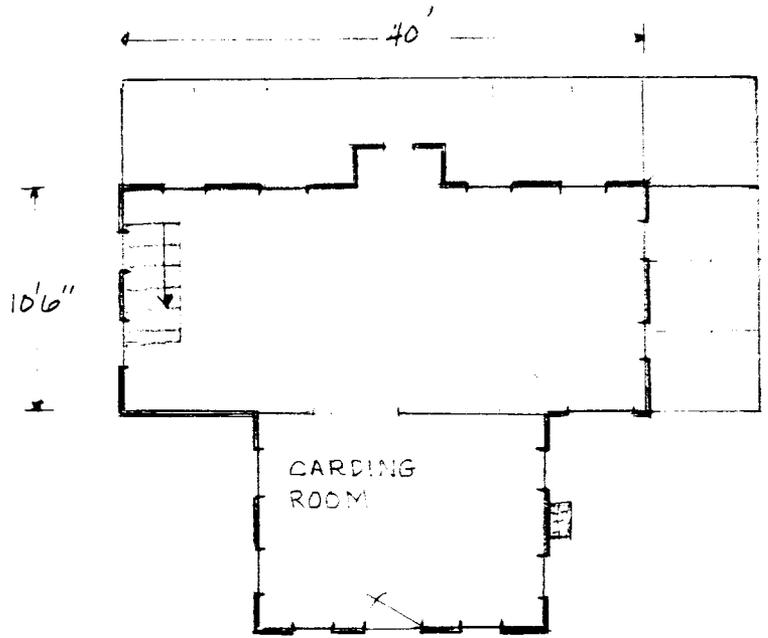
Franklin District, Pendleton County, West Virginia

THE PRIEST MILL

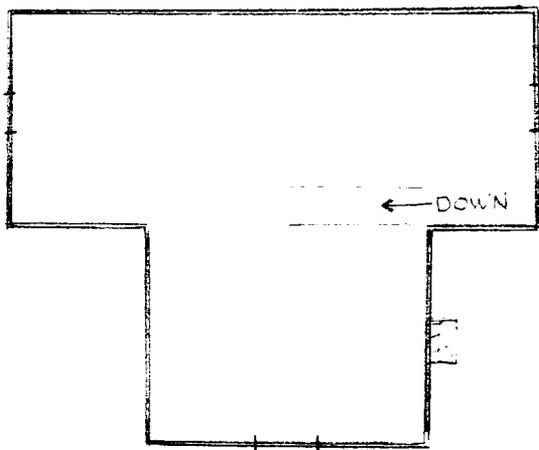




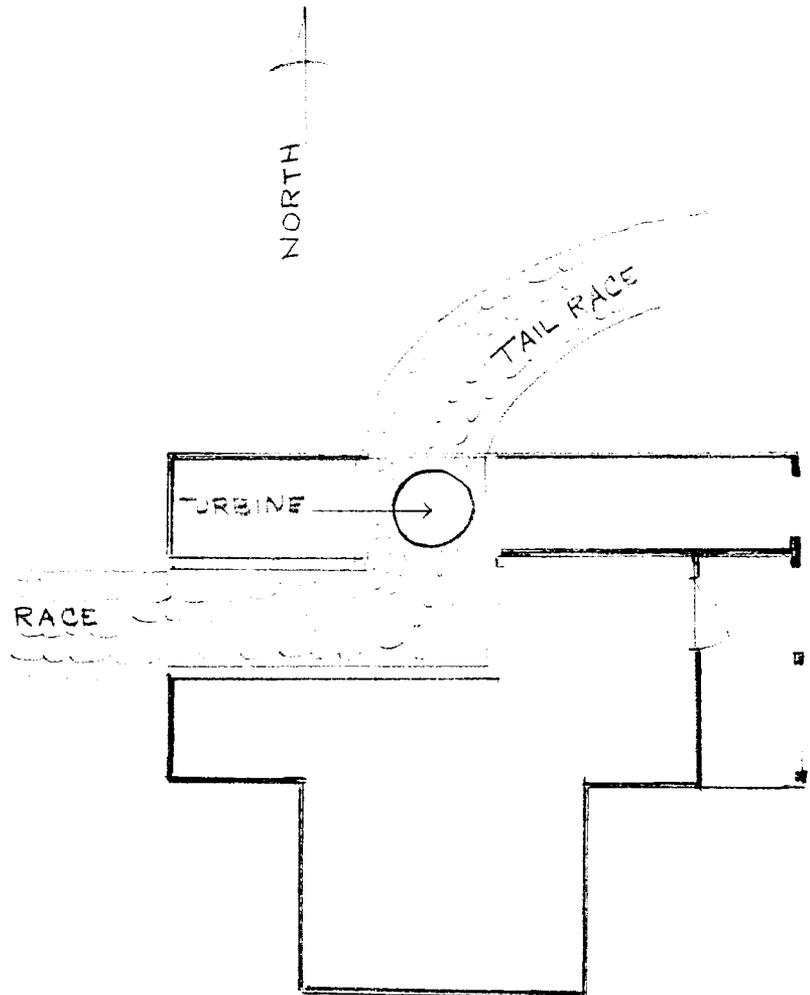
FIRST FLOOR



SECOND FLOOR



THIRD FLOOR



BASEMENT

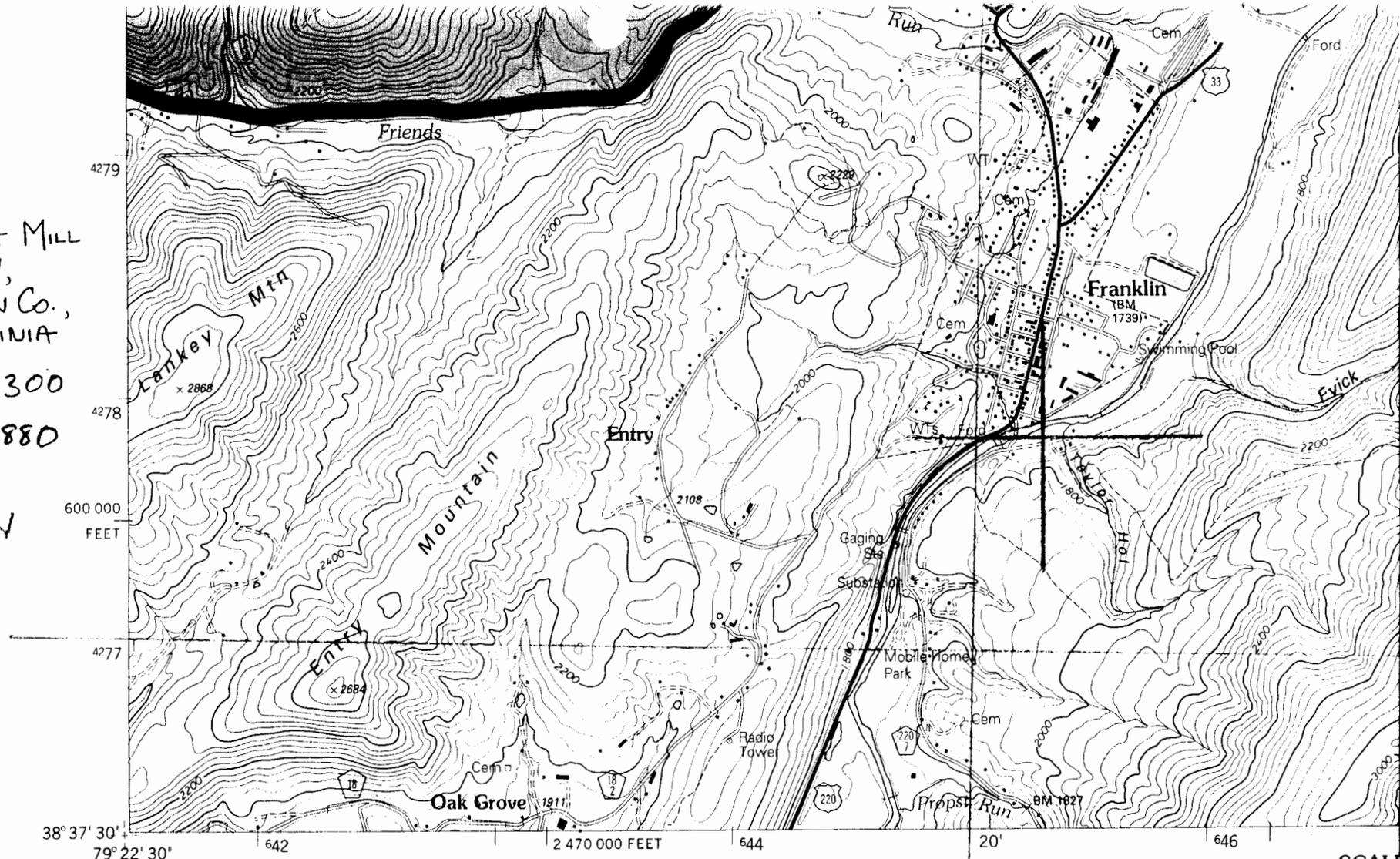
THE PRIEST MILL
 PENDLETON COUNTY
 WEST VIRGINIA

1939

THE PRIEST MILL
FRANKLIN,
PENDLETON CO.,
WEST VIRGINIA

17 645 300
4277880

FRANKLIN
QUAD



Produced by the U.S. Geological Survey
Revised by the U.S. Forest Service

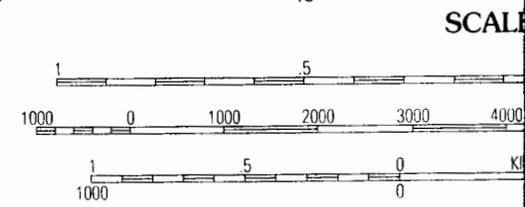
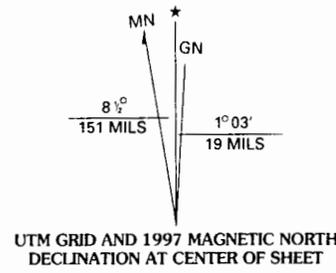
Areas outside the National Forest System lands may not have been revised
Topography compiled 1967. Planimetry derived from imagery taken 1990
Partial field check by U.S. Forest Service 1995

North American Datum of 1927 (NAD 27). Projection and 10 000-foot ticks:
West Virginia coordinate system, south zone (Lambert conformal conic). Blue
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator ticks, zone 17

North American Datum of 1983 (NAD 83) is shown by dashed corner ticks
The values of the shift between NAD 27 and NAD 83 for 7.5-minute
intersections are obtainable from National Geodetic Survey NADCON software

Non-National Forest System lands within the National Forest
Inholdings may exist in other National or State reservations

This map is not a legal land line or ownership document. Public lands are
subject to change and leasing, and may have access restrictions; check
with local offices. Obtain permission before entering private lands



CONTOUR IN
NATIONAL GEODETIC
TO CONVERT FEET TO

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NA
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC M

