

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

For HCRS use only

received

date entered

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Albright Mill

and or common Reckart Mill (preferred)

2. Location

street & number Junction of WV Rt. 28 and County Route 47/2 not for publication

city, town Cranesville ☒ vicinity of congressional district Second

state West Virginia code 054 county Preston code 077

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Mr. and Mrs. Donald A. Phillips

street & number Rural Route 2, Box 31

city, town Terra Alta ☐ vicinity of state West Virginia 26764

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Preston County Court House

street & number

city, town Kingwood state West Virginia

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☒ no

date ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Reckart Mill is located at the intersection of State Route 28 and County Route 47/2, 1.5 miles south of Cranesville, in Preston County, West Virginia. The rural, northeastern West Virginia grist mill is the only well-preserved example of its type in this section of the state.

A foundation stone near the basement door on the northeast side of the building reveals the inscribed date 1865. Though minor alterations have occurred at the mill during the century following construction, these have not seriously compromised the buildings integrity, especially regarding interior structural beam support systems and mill machinery.

The Reckart Mill is a frame, two-and-one-half story gable-roofed building that stands, in part, over Muddy Creek. Built against the creek bank, the mill's basement or lowest level is comprised of three major areas: an eastern section with a stone and dirt floor; a center, wooden floor section; and wooden floor western section beneath a single-story shed addition. Each of the basement level sections is integrated by a main drive shaft and system of wooden pulleys that is turned by a large gear, a wooden pinion gear, and a movable metal pinion gear powered by a twenty-foot over-shot metal Fitz waterwheel at the southeast side of the building. The large wheel rests upon a rubblestone pylon and is oriented toward a wooden slough supported by a wooden beam trestle.

The first floor of the Reckart Mill contains four Burr grinding stones, grain elevators, a movable wooden crane for lifting grind stones, a corn sheller, and chutes. The northeast facade is entered through a major doorway and porch stoop.

The second floor, devoted for the most part to storage, features at its southwest end a sifter and grain elevators.

Hand-hewn pine timber forms the chief structural system of the mill, its members mortised-and-tenoned with wooden pegs. The original exterior wall surface treatment appears to have been vertical boards-and-battens, these having survived at the gable ends. The southeast, or waterwheel side of the mill has undergone certain alteration, an earlier lap siding having been later replaced by a corrugated metal sheeting system. The north facade of the mill appears also to have undergone some alteration as the wall treatment here is an apparently later beaded-board siding.

Operations at Reckart Mill ceased in 1943. Despite its inactivity, the mill survives with its machinery intact. The mill race above the wooden slough (flume), and the dam, though identifiable, require attention before a clear flow of water is again possible. Restoration activity at Reckart Mill has begun under the present owner, Mr. Donald Phillips, who has a special interest in the mill's machinery. The mill's future is of importance to the region, noted for its high elevation, clean air, and growing tourist industry. The Mountaineer Country Travel Council considers the mill a significant attraction for tourism in Preston County.

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

Reckart Mill, Cranesville vicinity, Preston Co., W.V.

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

Corrected words are underlined as follows:

Item 7, p.1, paragraph 3, sentence 2, should read: "Built against the creek bank, the mill's basement, or lowest level, is comprised of three major areas:..."

Item 7, p.1, paragraph 4, sentence 1, should read: "The floor of the Reckart Mill contains four grinding stones, grain elevators, a movable wooden crane for lifting grind stones, a corn sheller, ..."

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) Local History

Specific dates 1865 Builder/Architect A.S. Albright

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Reckart Mill, located near Cranesville in Preston County, West Virginia is an excellent example of that early American engineering and construction accomplishment and community center, the Grist Mill, ¹ and as one of few such mills that have survived virtually intact into the latter part of the 20th century. ²

Explanatory Notes

1. The Reckart Mill is an excellent intact example of the Grist Mill, once a familiar site in American communities, and now rapidly disappearing. The Grist Mill itself is a tribute to man's ingenuity. These "mini-factories" with their complex machinisms and often elaborate equipment, were centers of the communities in which they stood. In the many small, often isolated, rural communities of West Virginia, the Mill was often the largest building around and easily the most important, with the possible exception of the general store. Reckart's Mill, originally known as Albright's Mill, was the most prominent structure for many miles around in this part of rural Preston County, and served the farmers and exchange news and information. The Mill is thus significant not only for its use as an aid to agriculture, but as community center.

2. The Reckart Mill, constructed in 1865 on or near the site of an earlier Mill built by Jacob Gunman, was constructed at Orr near Cranesville by A.S. Albright, who ran the Mill until its sale in April of 1914 to John H. Reckart. During the period of Albright's ownership, the Mill was known as Albright Mill Tract. The Mill received its present name from the Reckart period of ownership, which lasted from April 1914 until June 1943.

Reckart Mill is significant as one of the few mills in West Virginia that is still virtually intact. Nearly all of its original equipment and machinery is still in place, and the features of the Mill itself are largely intact. In Preston County there were once at least 7 operating water-powered mills. Today only the Reckart Mill remains. Other mills that still stand around West Virginia have mostly fallen into disrepair and have been stripped of their machinery. Not so with the Reckart Mill. It stands as an excellent example and reminder of an earlier era in American life.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Wiley, S.T., History of Preston County, West Virginia, McClain Printing, Parsons, W.Va. 1968, c.1882

Woodward, Emmett L., Preston County Tour, West Virginia University West Virginia Collection

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 1/4 acre

Quadrangle name Cuzzart, W.Va.

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

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Zone Easting Northing

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Reckart Mill is located immediately southeast of the intersection of State Route 28 with Country Route 47-2 (see sketch map) on Muddy Creek at Orr, Cranesville vicinity, Preston County, West Virginia.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Rodney Collins, Architectural Historian, and Michael Pauley, Historian
Historic Preservation Unit,

organization W.Va. Department of Culture & History date

street & number Capitol Complex

telephone 304/ 348-0240

city or town Charleston

state West Virginia 25305

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Clarence Morrow

Director, Historic Preservation Unit, W.Va. Department

title of Culture and History

date Nov. 1, 1979

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I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

Reckart Mill, Cranesville vicinity, Preston Co., W.V.

CONTINUATION SHEET

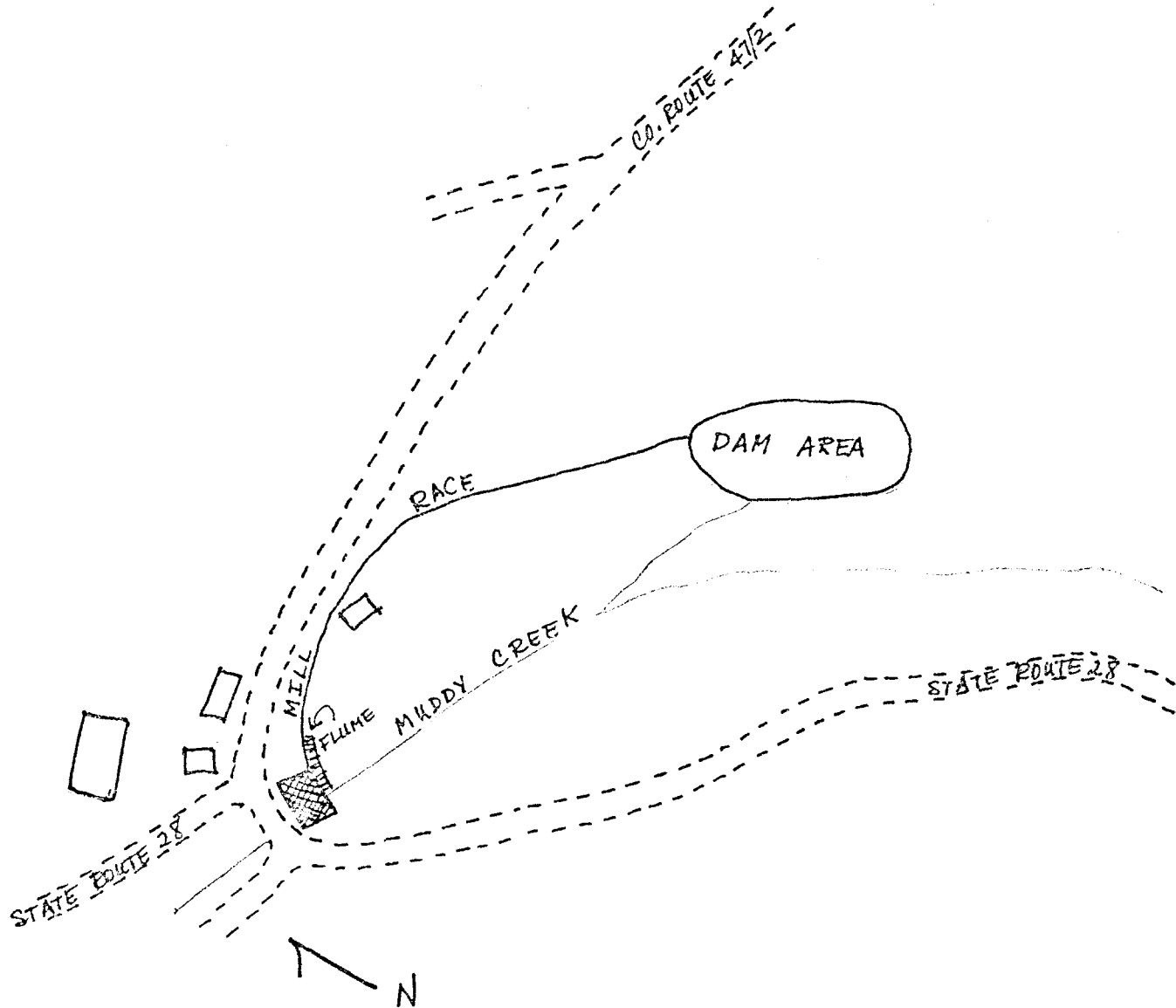
ITEM NUMBER 10

PAGE 2


Acreage of nominated property 3

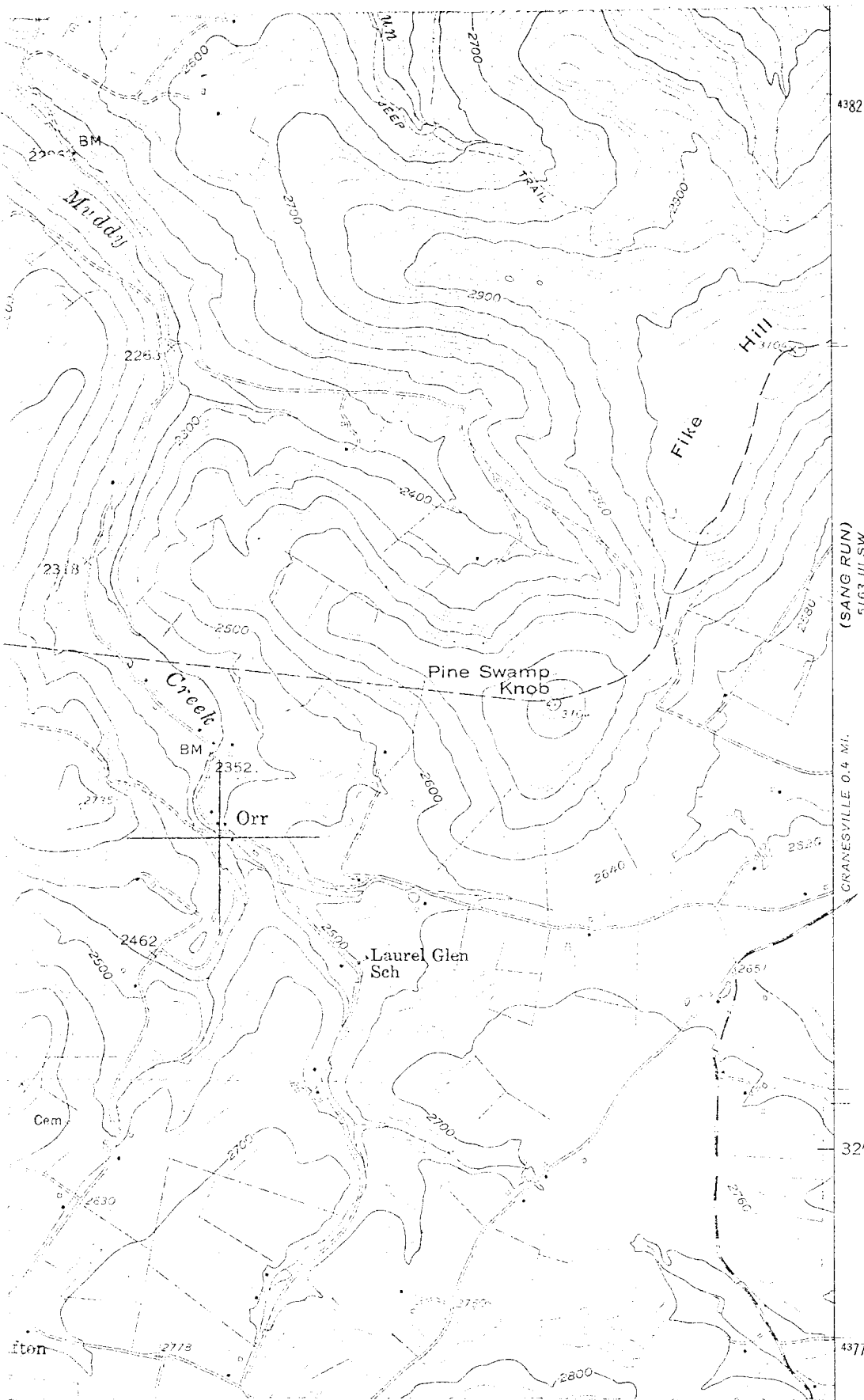
Verbal boundary description and justification

Beginning at the point of intersection of Muddy Creek with W.Va. Route 28, proceeding in a straight line 50 feet southwest and thence southeast in a straight line 1000 feet, thence in a straight line northeast to the point of intersection with the southern right-of-way of County Route 47/2, thence following the southern right-of-way boundary of County Route 47/2 in a northwesterly direction to the original point of intersection with W.Va. Route 28, containing an area of approximately 3 acres encompassing the Reckart Mill, its Mill Race and Dam, in Portland District, Preston County, West Virginia.



RECKART MILL
Orr, Cranesville vicinity
Preston County, West Virginia

 Mill structure



Reckart Mill
Orr,
Cranesville vicinity,
Freston Co. Pa.
West Virginia
UTM Reference
17/626 440 / 4378 920



