

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: West Virginia	
COUNTY: Jefferson	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:
Shepherd's Mill

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Thomas Shepherd's Grist Mill

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
High Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Shepherdstown

STATE: West Virginia CODE: 54 COUNTY: Jefferson CODE: 037

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input type="checkbox"/>	Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Both <input type="checkbox"/>	Public Acquisition: In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered <input type="checkbox"/>	Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> * Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/>
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No: <input type="checkbox"/>
Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment <input type="checkbox"/>	Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum <input type="checkbox"/>	Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific <input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/> _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNERS NAME:
Silas E. Starry *Mr. Ira Starry **

STREET AND NUMBER:
High Street

CITY OR TOWN: Shepherdstown STATE: West Virginia CODE: 54

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Jefferson County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Charles Town STATE: West Virginia CODE: 54

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 2 acres

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:
COUNTY:
ENTRY NUMBER
DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	Excellent <input type="checkbox"/>	Good <input type="checkbox"/>	Fair <input type="checkbox"/>	Deteriorated <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ruins <input type="checkbox"/>	Unexposed <input type="checkbox"/>
INTEGRITY	(Check One)		(Check One)			
	Altered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Unaltered <input type="checkbox"/>	Moved <input type="checkbox"/>	Original Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

According to the present owner, Shepherdstown's Mayor Silas Starry, this mill was originally a two-story structure, the third story of frame having been added about 1880.

In 1759 (date implied by cornerstone), a brick house - still standing - was erected, Mr. Starry states, by Abraham Shepherd a short distance southeast of the mill. It is included in the nomination as part of the mill environment.

The house, which was acquired with the mill by the present owner in 1954, was restored with extensive repairs in 1961-1967. Only the kitchen has been added to this house, the original kitchen having been in the basement.

The mill was leased by Luther Thompson, Jr. in 1923. He restored the wheel at a cost of more than \$2,000 and operated the mill until 1939, the last date it was in use.

The picturesque stream still spills violently down a rocky incline and disappears in the woods below the mill.

As may be noted in accompanying photographs, the mill contains some old equipment, including wheels and the grinding burrs.

The mill will figure prominently in plans of a newly formed mayor's committee on historic preservation in Shepherdstown.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Pre-Columbian 16th Century 18th Century 20th Century
 15th Century 17th Century 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) Built between 1734 and 1739

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Aboriginal <input type="checkbox"/>	Education <input type="checkbox"/>	Political <input type="checkbox"/>	Urban Planning <input type="checkbox"/>
Prehistoric <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Engineering <input type="checkbox"/>	Religion/Phi- losophy <input type="checkbox"/>	Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/>
Historic <input type="checkbox"/>	Industry <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Science <input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Agriculture <input type="checkbox"/>	Invention <input type="checkbox"/>	Sculpture <input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Art <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Landscape <input type="checkbox"/>	Social/Human- itarian <input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Commerce <input type="checkbox"/>	Architecture <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Theater <input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Communications <input type="checkbox"/>	Literature <input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation <input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Conservation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Military <input type="checkbox"/>		_____
	Music <input type="checkbox"/>		_____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Include Personages, Dates, Events, Etc.)

The remains of the Shepherd Grist Mill, first built prior to 1739, and operated for two centuries, mark the industry of the State's earliest incorporated settlement, originally known as Mecklenburg*, the first settlers arriving probably as early as 1719.

The mill stands near the Pack Horse Ford crossing of the Potomac. The Indian trail to Pack Horse Ford became the Philadelphia Wagon Road into the Valley of Virginia, and on this road, named High Street, the grist mill was erected.

Thomas Shepherd Sr. not only built a mill; he laid out building lots for homes on a part of his first grant of land. Many wheat farmers settled in the vicinity.

Shepherd bequeathed the mill to his son, Thomas Jr., in 1776. After the Revolution the village name was changed to Shepherdstown, honoring the builder of the mill.

Shepherd started a trend of mills, which became focal points for roads leading out to seaboard markets for flour. A map published in 1810 lists 31 grist or merchant mills in Jefferson County serving a coastal area from Alexandria to Philadelphia. Thus it is no exaggeration to say that Thomas Shepherd with his grist mill inaugurated a "bread basket" for the growing nation.

There seems to be little doubt of the continuous operation of a mill on this spot. It is presumed that the stone building still standing is more than two centuries old. The large, 40-foot iron wheel was once located 100 yards farther down stream, but the date of its installation is beyond the memory of local inhabitants who can remember the mill as it was at the beginning of the century.

David, the eldest son of Thomas Shepherd Sr., migrated to Wheeling, where he erected and commanded Shepherd's Fort and was a commandant at Fort Henry. David's son, Moses, who was born in Shepherdstown, was a leading citizen of Wheeling and built the National Road bridges from the Pennsylvania line to Wheeling.

(continued)

* Actually the pre-charter name was New Mecklenburg

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
West Virginia	
COUNTY	
Jefferson	
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ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

8. Significance - continued.

It is highly probably that Thomas Shepherd was here as early as 1732. The mill itself must have been built some time prior to April 6, 1739, when the mill is mentioned in The Frederick County Court Journal, and after October 3, 1734, when Shepherd purchased a 222-acre tract from Lieutenant Governor William Gooch and the Virginia Council.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Bushong, Millard K. A History of Jefferson County. Charles Town, 1941.
 "The Shepherd Grist Mill." Manuscript submitted by Silas F. Starry. 7 pp.
 Kemp, Louise Singleton. "Old Mills." Magazine of the Jefferson County Historical Society, vol. 21, 1955, pp. 20-28.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN ONE ACRE		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		39° 25' 53.93"	77° 48' 09.35"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
 Clifford M. Lewis, S.J.

ORGANIZATION: In contract with the W. Va. Antiquities Commission

DATE: September 21, 1970

STREET AND NUMBER:
 Wheeling College

CITY OR TOWN: Wheeling

STATE: West Virginia

CODE: 54

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION **NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

As the designated State Liaison 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 National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name: Dallas B. Shaffer
 Dallas B. Shaffer

Title: State Liaison Officer

Date: October 9, 1970

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

 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: _____

ATTEST:

 Keeper of The National Register

Date: _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

HAER INVENTORY

HL(1)

1. NAME OF STRUCTURE Thomas Shepherd's Grist Mill		2. DATE 1734-39	3. NATURE OF STRUCTURE grist mill		4. INDUSTRIAL CLASSIFICATION BULK: FOOD: GRAINS & CER (13.2)	
5. LOCATION: STREET & NUMBER Behidd 505 High Street		CITY OR TOWN Shepherdstown		COUNTY JEFFERSON		STATE WV
7. OWNER OF PROPERTY Silas F. Starry, High Street, Shepherdstown, W Va		ADDRESS		6. USGS QUAD MAP & UTM GRID REF. SHEPHERDSTOWN 18.258890.4368410		
3. CONDITION: <input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT <input type="checkbox"/> GOOD <input type="checkbox"/> FAIR <input type="checkbox"/> DEGENERATED <input type="checkbox"/> RUINS <input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED <input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED <input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE TO PUBLIC						
9. DESCRIPTION & BACKGROUND HISTORY: NUMBER OF STRUCTURES; DIMENSIONS; FABRIC; STRUCTURE & FORM; SURVIVING MACHINERY, FITTINGS AND EQUIPMENT; APPROX AREA OF SITE; ALTERATIONS; PRESENT USE; ENGINEER ARCHITECT-DESIGNER; IMPORTANT EVENTS & INDIVIDUALS.						
<p>Construction of the mill dates sometime between 1734 and 1739 when it appears in the Frederick Co., VA Court Journals. It was originally a two-story stone building and was most likely powered by a wooden overshoot waterwheel. . . The present state of the mill is more characteristic of the late 19th century than the early 18th. The large wrought-iron water wheel represents one of several solutions adopted by rural millers to increase the capacity of their mills and improve the quality of their product. Although a set of stone burrs remains, the increased power of this wheel was probably used to operate a system of roller mill as well. This would explain the addition of the top story, since the gradual reduction method of milling then developed necessitated the use of more machinery. The large 40-foot iron wheel was once located 100 yards further down stream, but the date of its installation is beyond the memory of local inhabitants who can remember the mill as it was at the beginning of the century. The wheel was a speciality of the Fitz Water Wheel Company. The I-X-L Overshoot Water Wheel, declared the finest gravity wheel ever built, can develop an efficiency of 90% or more as compared to 60-70% efficiency of the old wooden wheels.</p>						
10. PHOTOGRAPHS & SKETCH MAP ON REVERSE SIDE. The Shepherdstown wheel has a 2-foot face and transmits power by means of a						
11. RELATED SOURCES OF INFORMATION: HISTORICAL REFERENCES (PUBLISHED ARTICLES, MANUSCRIPTS, REPORTS, DRAWINGS, PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORDS) CONTACTS: (NAMES & ADDRESSES OF ANYONE WITH EYE-WITNESS ACCOUNTS OR RELEVANT INFORMATION); TAPE RECORDINGS.						
<p>HAER:</p> <p>Fitz Water Wheel Co., Fitz Steel Overshoot Water Wheels. Hanover, Pa (1928) (Catalogue), p.27</p>						
12. DANGER OF DEMOLITION OR DAMAGE <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO						13. PRIORITY
NATURE OF THREAT:						
14. EXISTING SURVEYS <input type="checkbox"/> NHL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> XXNR <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> HAER <input type="checkbox"/> HABS <input type="checkbox"/> STATE <input type="checkbox"/> COUNTY <input type="checkbox"/> LOCAL <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER						
AND DATES: 5/6/71 1973 W VA Survey						
15. INVENTORIED BY: YOUR NAME P.H. STOTT		ADDRESS		AFFILIATION HAER		DATE 14/vii/75

PLEASE RETURN TO THE HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, WASHINGTON, DC 20240

- 21) WASH
- 22) FARR
- 23) EQUIP
- 24) INST
- 25) CIVIC
- 26)
- 27)
- 28)
- 29)
- 30)
- 31) WATER
- 32) SANI
- 33) GAS
- 34) ELEC
- 35)
- 36) MUSEL
- 37) WATER WHEEL
- 38) WATER TURB
- 39) WIND
- 40) STEAM
- 41) RECIP
- 42) STEAM TURB
- 43) INT
- 44) COMB
- 45) DIESEL
- 46) ELEC
- 47)
- 48)
- 49) RR
- 50) ROAD
- 51) CANAL
- 52) MARINE
- 53) AIR
- 54) PIPE
- 55)
- 56) TBT
- 57) RBY
- 58)
- 59) BEAM
- 60) ARCH
- 61) TRUSS
- 62) SUSP
- 63) AQUE
- 64) TRES
- 65) CLAY
- 66) MOVE

SPECIALIZED STRUCTURES (TYPE STRUCTURE)

BUILDING TECHNOLOGY (TECHNICAL)

SURVEY

MUSEUM

ADAPT

HOUS

PABT

WATS

MATH

HEAT

CONST

HYDRA

TUNLS

DAM

ANCL

MECH

FENES

ROOF

FLOOR

FRAME

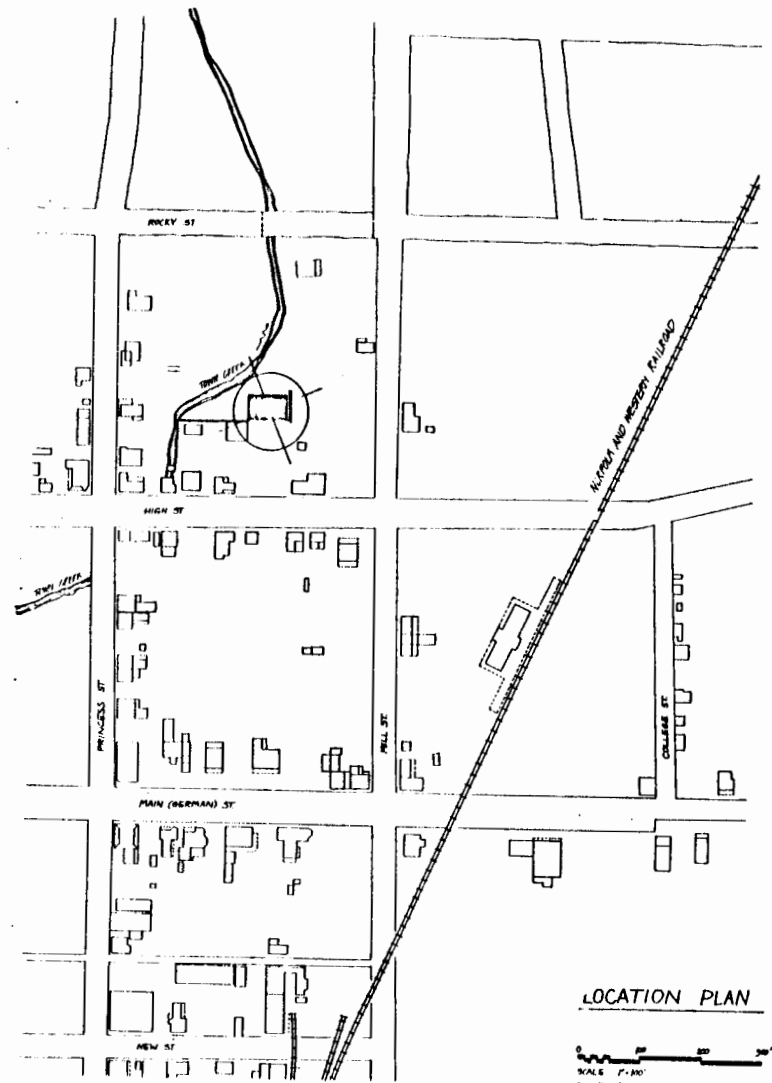
FOUND

THOMAS SHEPHERD'S GRIST MILL

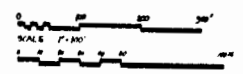
SHEPHERDSTOWN, WEST VIRGINIA

THIS EARLY GRIST MILL IS LOCATED IN SHEPHERDSTOWN, WEST VIRGINIA, THE FIRST WHITE SETTLEMENT IN THE VALLEY OF VIRGINIA. ALTHOUGH THERE IS SOME DOUBT AS TO THE EXACT DATE OF THIS SETTLEMENT, THERE IS GOOD EVIDENCE THAT IT WAS WELL ESTABLISHED BY 1734 WHEN THOMAS SHEPHERD RECEIVED A GRANT OF 222 ACRES FROM GOVERNOR GOOCH. SHEPHERD WAS A NATIVE OF WESTERN MARYLAND, WHERE HIS FAMILY HAD SIZEABLE HOLDINGS NEAR FREDERICK AND CHARLESBURG. HE WAS A MAN OF SEVERAL TALENTS, AND BESIDES ENGAGING IN FARMING WAS ACTIVE IN VARIOUS COMMERCIAL, PROMOTIONAL, AND SPECULATIVE VENTURES, RECOGNIZING THE FERTILITY OF THE LAND AND THE SKILL OF THOSE ENGLISH AND GERMAN FAMILIES WHO HAD ALREADY SETTLED IN THE VALLEY, SHEPHERD BUILT A GRIST MILL ON THE BANK OF FALLING SPRING BRANCH (NOW TOWN RUN) TO PROCESS THE PRODUCTS OF THEIR LABOR. THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE MILL DATES SOMETIME BETWEEN 1734 AND 1737 WHEN IT APPEARS IN THE FREDERICK COUNTY, VIRGINIA, COURT JOURNALS. IT WAS ORIGINALLY A TWO-STORY STONE BUILDING AND WAS MOST LIKELY POWERED BY A WOODEN OVERTSHOT WATER WHEEL. AS THE AGRICULTURE OF THE REGION FLOURISHED, THE CAPACITY OF THE MILL PROVED INSUFFICIENT AND SHEPHERD BUILT A SECOND MILL (POSSIBLY THE STONE BUILDING DOWNSTREAM). AS SETTLEMENT SPREAD UP THE VALLEY NUMEROUS MILLS WERE ESTABLISHED, AND BY 1800 JEFFERSON COUNTY ALONE HAD 61 GRIST OR MERCHANT MILLS. BY THEN GRAIN PRODUCTION HAD MOVED BEYOND THE SUBSISTENCE LEVEL AND THE REGION HAD BECOME AN IMPORTANT SOURCE OF FLOUR AND GRAIN FOR COASTAL MARKETS FROM PHILADELPHIA TO ALEXANDRIA. SHEPHERD'S MILL WAS PROBABLY THE FIRST GRIST MILL IN THE VALLEY OF VIRGINIA AND SET A PATTERN WHICH SUBSEQUENTLY ASSUMED LARGE PROPORTIONS. THE PRESENT STATE OF SHEPHERD'S MILL IS MORE CHARACTERISTIC OF THE LATE 19TH CENTURY THAN THE EARLY 18TH. THE LARGE WROUGHT-IRON WATER WHEEL REPRESENTS ONE OF SEVERAL SOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY RURAL MILLERS TO INCREASE THE CAPACITY OF THEIR MILLS AND IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF THEIR PRODUCT. ALTHOUGH A SET OF STONE BURRS REMAINS, THE INCREASED POWER OF THIS WHEEL WAS PROBABLY USED TO OPERATE A SYSTEM OF ROLLER MILLS AS WELL. THIS WOULD EXPLAIN THE ADDITION OF THE TOP STORY, SINCE THE GRADUAL REDUCTION METHOD OF MILLING THEN DEVELOPING Necessitated THE USE OF MORE MACHINERY, SPECIFICALLY SEPARATORS AND FLOUR DRESSERS OR FURFURERS. IT IS LIKELY THAT THE WHEEL, THE SHAFTS AND PULLEYS, AND THE TIMBER FRAMING ARE OF SIMILAR VINTAGE, THE PRESENT APPEARANCE OF THE MILL IS TYPICAL OF MILLING DURING A PERIOD OF TRANSITION FROM RURAL "CUSTOM" MILLING, WHICH BOUND THE FARMER'S GRAIN FOR A PERCENTAGE, TO COMMERCIAL FLOUR PRODUCTION.

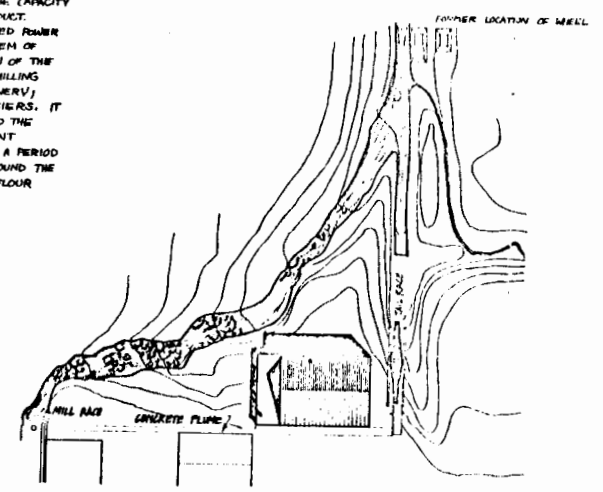
THIS SURVEY, CONDUCTED BY THE HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD (HAER), IS PART OF A LONG RANGE PROGRAM TO COLLECT, INVENTORY, AND PHOTOGRAPHICALLY DOCUMENT A GROUP OF HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT ENGINEERING STRUCTURES IN THE STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA. THE SURVEY WAS SPONSORED BY THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE (NPS); THE WEST VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES; AND THE DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL ENGINEERING, WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY. THE FIELD WORK, WRITTEN DATA, PLANS AND DRAWINGS, HISTORICAL INVENTORY, AND PHOTOGRAPHS CONDUCTED DURING THE COURSE OF THIS SURVEY WERE PREPARED UNDER THE DIRECTION OF DOUGLAS L. GIFFIN, CHIEF, HAER, AND CHARLES PARKER, III, ARCHITECT, HAER, WITH DR. DIANE S. CLIFFORD AS PROJECT SUPERVISOR (COLUMBIA STATE UNIVERSITY) AND DR. EMORY KEMP AS PROJECT ADVISOR (WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY). THE SURVEY TEAM CONSISTED OF: DENNIS R. ZENDELA, HISTORIAN (GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY); PATRICIA R. LEWIS, ARCHITECT (UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA); FRANK A. FLORES, ARCHITECT (COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY); R. BELMONT FREEMAN, JR., ARCHITECT (UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA); AND WAYNE S. GARDNER, STUDENT ARCHITECT (PRATT INSTITUTE).



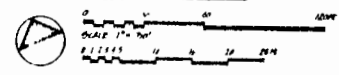
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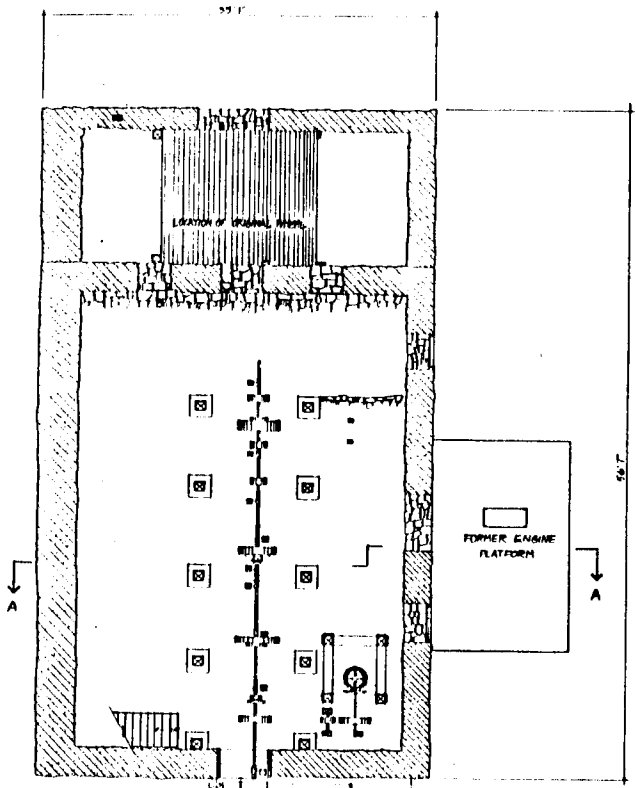
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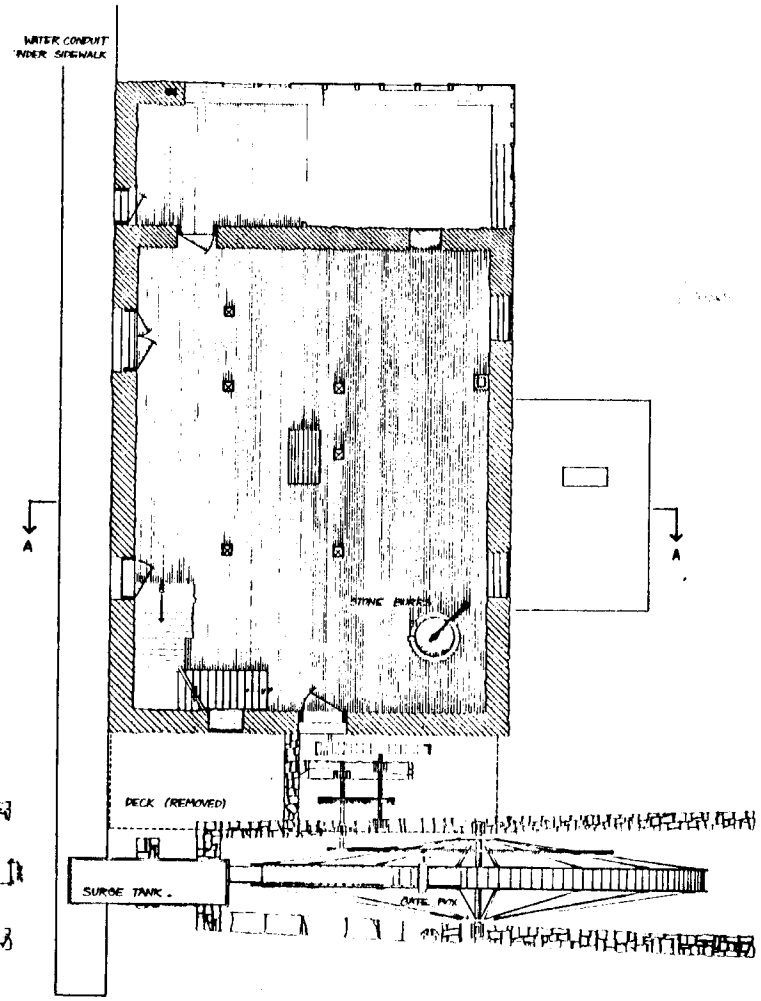
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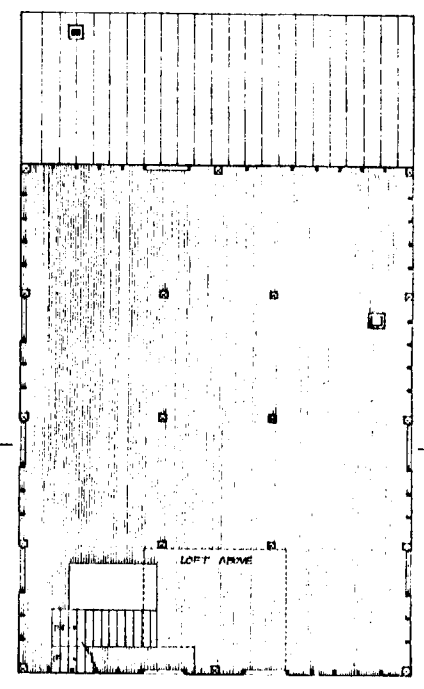
HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD
 HAER
 WEST VIRGINIA
 THOMAS SHEPHERD'S GRIST MILL (SHEPHERD'S MILL) 1734-39
 SHEPHERDSTOWN, WEST VIRGINIA
 SCALE 1"=100'
 SHEPHERDSTOWN, WEST VIRGINIA
 SCALE 1"=100'
 SHEPHERDSTOWN, WEST VIRGINIA



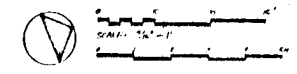
GROUND FLOOR



FIRST FLOOR

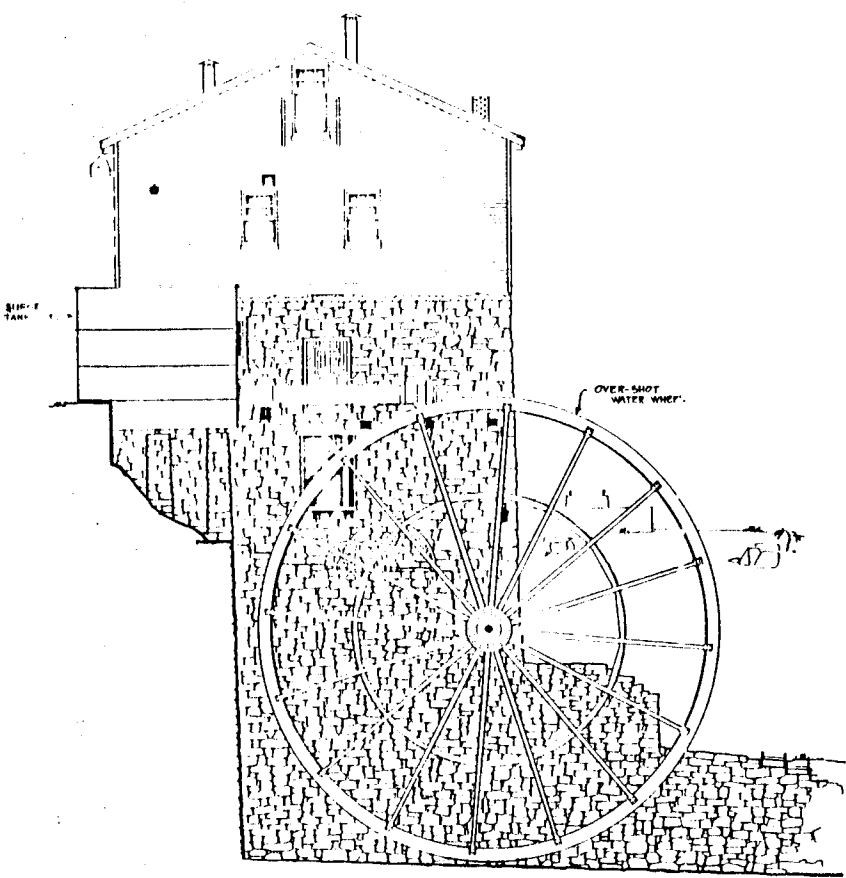


SECOND FLOOR

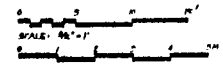
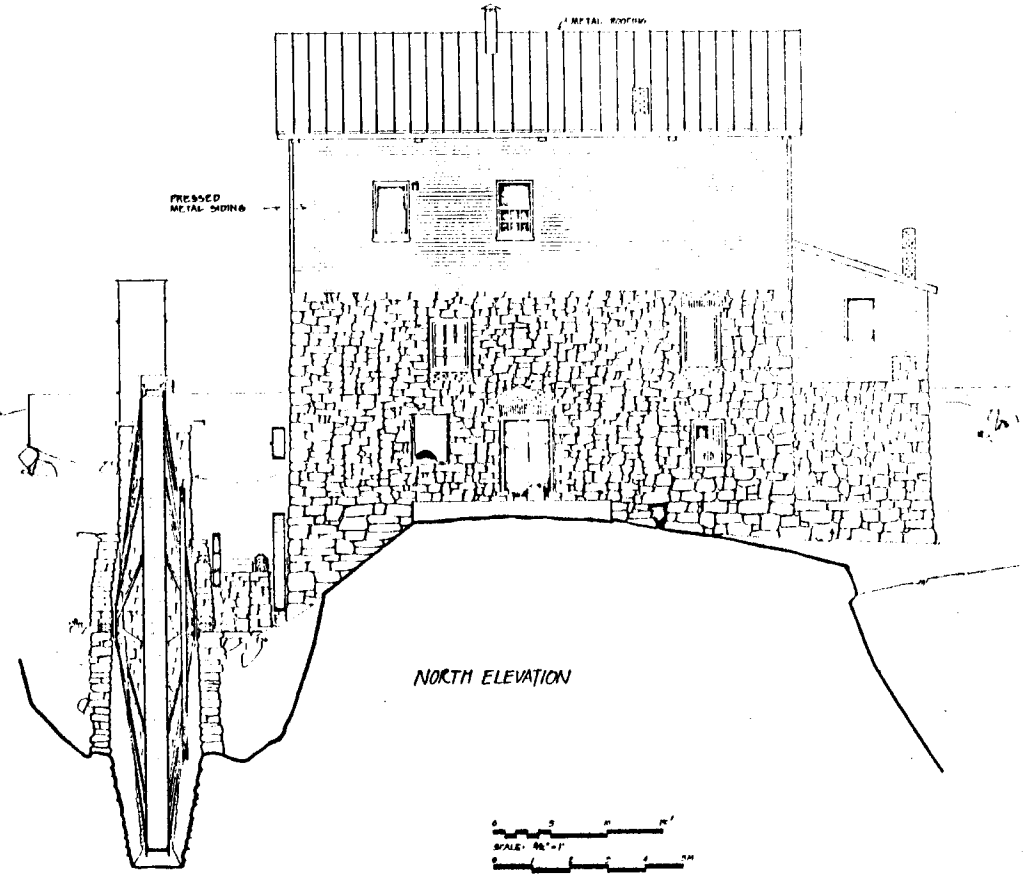


DRAWN BY: JAMES S. SAMPSON, LTD.
 OFFICE OF ARCHITECTURE AND ENGINEERING
 STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA SURVEY
 "UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE HISTORICAL
 SHEPHERD MILL
 THOMAS SHEPHERD'S GRIST MILL (SHEPHERD'S MILL) 1734-39
 86-10 2 1/2 S. MAIN STREET
 WEST VIRGINIA
 HISTORIC AMERICAN
 ENGINEERING RECORD
 SHEPHERD MILL
 SHEPHERD COUNTY

1100 1110



EAST ELEVATION



SHEPHERDSON
 SHEPHERDSON
 THOMAS SHEPHERSON'S MILL (SHEPHERSON MILL) 1734-39
 BRIDGE ST. NEW MILFORD CT
 SHEPHERSON 1895
 WEST CONN. MILLS
 HAER
 ENGINEERING RECORD
 VOLUME 3 PL. 4 1911

1100 1110



1. NAME	
COMMON:	AND/OR HISTORIC:
2. LOCATION	
STREET AND NUMBER:	
CITY OR TOWN:	
STATE:	
3. MAP REFERENCE	
SOURCE:	
SCALE:	
DATE:	
4. REQUIREMENTS	
TO BE INCLUDED:	
1. Property	
2. North arrow	
3. Latitude	



POSTED
No Trespassing