Form 10-300

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

WEST VIRGINIA

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Typed all entries - complete applicable sections)

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

3. CLASSIFICATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CATEGORY</th>
<th>OWNERSHIP</th>
<th>STATUS</th>
<th>ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>District</td>
<td>Public</td>
<td>Occupied</td>
<td>Yes:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Site</td>
<td>Private</td>
<td>Unoccupied</td>
<td>Restricted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Object</td>
<td>Both</td>
<td>In Process</td>
<td>Unrestricted</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Agricultural
- Commercial
- Educational
- Entertainment
- Government
- Industrial
- Military
- Religious
- Transportation
- Other (Specify)

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNERS NAME:
Silas E. Starry

STREET AND NUMBER:
High Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Shepherdstown

STATE:
West Virginia

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
Jefferson County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:
Charles Town

STATE:
West Virginia

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 2 acres

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY

DATE OF SURVEY:

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:

CODE:
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 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.
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 seaboord 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
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


10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CORNER</th>
<th>LATITUDE</th>
<th>LONGITUDE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NW</td>
<td>Degrees Minutes Seconds</td>
<td>Degrees Minutes Seconds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NE</td>
<td>0° 15' 30&quot;</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<td>0° 15' 30&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SW</td>
<td>0° 15' 30&quot;</td>
<td>0° 15' 30&quot;</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

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 [X]
- Local [ ]

Name: 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
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 overshot 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 mills 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 downstream, 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 specialization 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.

The Shepherdstown wheel has a 2-foot face and transmits power by means of a...

Fitz Water Wheel Co., Fitz Steel Overshoot Water Wheels. Hanover, Pa (1928) (Catalogue), p.27