

VLR-6/2/70 NRHP-9/15/70

Farm 16-300
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Virginia
COUNTY:	Loudoun
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON *MILL*
Aldie Historic District

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Aldie Mill, Mercer House, Miller's House

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: Extending .1 mi. E of intersection of Rt. 612 and Rt. 50,
extending .1 mi. W of intersection of Rt. 50 and Rt. 732, extending .2 mi. N of Rt.
CITY OR TOWN: 50, and extending .3 mi. S of Rt, 50.

Aldie

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
Virginia	45	Loudoun	107

3. CLASSIFICATION

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

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
VIRGINIA OUTDOORS FOUNDATION
James E. Douglas (owner of Aldie Mill)

STREET AND NUMBER:
221 GOVERNOR STREET

CITY OR TOWN: Aldie RICHMOND

STATE: Virginia

CODE: 23219 45

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Loudoun County Court House, Clerk's Office

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Leesburg

STATE: Virginia

CODE: 45

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Report #53-114

DATE OF SURVEY, 1969 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

STREET AND NUMBER:
Room 1116, Ninth Street State Office Building

CITY OR TOWN: Richmond

STATE: Virginia

CODE: 45

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Virginia

COUNTY: Loudoun

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

7. DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Aldie is picturesquely located in the gap of the Little River at the northern end of the Bull Run Mountains. The mill and the miller's house are on the south side of the Lee-Jackson Memorial Highway (originally the Little River Turnpike), while the Mercer House stands on a knoll overlooking the highway from the north. The mill is a three-part complex, having a two-story center section (with two additional levels beneath the broad gable roof) flanked by a one-story section on the east and a two-story section on the west. The center section is connected to the flanking sections by one-story brick and frame hyphens with shed roofs. All three major parts of the mill are laid in American bond on stone foundations. The west section is distinguished by diamond-shaped header-brick patterns between the second floor windows. The wooden portions of the mill include hand-hewn chamfered beams and chestnut door frames. Much of the mill's original machinery survives, including the imported burrstones of French flint. The elevated millrace behind the mill originally fed water to the no-longer functioning twin overshot mill wheels. The two-story brick miller's house is located between the millrace and the Little River, just behind the mill. The house has been enlarged with an extensive rear ell.

The Mercer House, on the opposite side of the road, originally had a full view of the mill from its elevated location, but the view is now obscured by trees. The stuccoed brick house has been considerably altered inside and out, and has several later additions that generally conform to the Federal style of the original portion of the house. The house is currently T-shaped in plan, with later additions between the arms of the T, and a two-story addition on the north end of the house. A much altered and enlarged outbuilding stands to the north of the house. What appears to be an old frame smokehouse is located just behind the house.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

In 1803, Charles Fenton Mercer, noted military officer and legislator, settled near the Little River in the lower part of Loudoun County, where he began his law practice. On a hill above the point where the Little River Turnpike crossed the river, Mercer built a two-story brick house to serve as the residence for his estate. He named his estate Aldie Manor after Aldie Castle in Scotland, the seat of the Mercer family from which he believed himself descended. In 1804, Mercer obtained legal rights to erect a mill dam on the Little River, as well as the right to raise the water of the river for the purpose of erecting a mill. A large brick grist mill was put up by Mercer's slaves soon thereafter. A small village grew up near the mill, and in 1810 it was officially named Aldie in honor of Mercer's estate.

Aldie Mill survives as one of the most handsomely outfitted and best-preserved mills in Virginia. Its twin overshot wheels are thought to be a unique feature in Virginia mill construction. The mill is still in operation, and the present owner and miller is the great-great-grandson of Mercer's own miller. It is said that Aldie Mill ground grain for James Monroe when he lived at nearby Oak Hill. The mill, along with the miller's house and the manor house form an unusually complete early-nineteenth century mill complex in an especially picturesque setting.

Aldie Mill's significance is enhanced by the distinguished career of its founder. During the War of 1812, Mercer was made brigadier-general of militia in command of the forces at Norfolk. He was a member of the Virginia House of Delegates from 1810 to 1817, during which time he brought forward a bill for construction of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal. In 1817 he was elected to the United States Congress, where he became an outspoken opponent of the African slave trade. An ardent abolitionist, Mercer served for several years as President of the American Colonization Society.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Hanson, Raus McDill, Virginia Place Names; Derivations; Historical Uses.
 Verona, Virginia: 1969.
 Loudoun County Records, 2-E P.420.
 O'Neal, William B., Architecture in Virginia. New York: 1968.
 Templeman, Eleanor Lee and Nan Netherton, Northern Virginia Heritage.
 Privately published: 1966.
 Tyler, Lyon Gardiner, ed., Encyclopedia of Virginia Biography. Vol. 2.
 New York: 1915.
Dictionary of American Biography, Volume 12.

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 TEN ACRES				
CORNER	LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	38°	58'	40"	77°	38'	40"			
NE	38°	58'	40"	77°	38'	22"			
SE	38°	58'	19"	77°	38'	22"			
SW	38°	58'	19"	77°	38'	40"			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **60 ACRES**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
 Staff, Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission, James W. Moody, Jr., Director

ORGANIZATION: Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission DATE: March 4, 1970

STREET AND NUMBER:
 Room 1116, Ninth Street State Office Building

CITY OR TOWN: Richmond STATE: Virginia CODE: 45

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 Edw. P. Alexander by John

Dr. Edward P. Alexander, Chairman

Title Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

Date June 3, 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

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Virginia	
COUNTY	
Loudoun	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

- 4. Commander William B. Bullis (owner of Mercer House)
Aldie, Virginia Code: 45

- 4. Robert J. Buttermark (owner of Miller's House)
Aldie, Virginia Code: 45

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE Virginia	
COUNTY Loudoun	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
COMMON: Aldie Preservation Zone			
AND/OR HISTORIC: Aldie Mill, Mercer House, Miller's House			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: Extending .1 mi. E of intersection of Rt. 612 and Rt. 50, extending .1 mi. W of intersection of Rt. 50 and Rt. 732, extending .2 mi.			
CITY OR TOWN: N of Rt. 50, and extending .3 mi. S of Rt. 50.			
Aldie			
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Virginia	45	Loudoun	107
3. MAP REFERENCE			
SOURCE: U.S.G.S. map 7.5', quadrangle Middleburg			
SCALE: 1:24000			
DATE: 1946			
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS			
1. Property boundaries where required.			
2. North arrow.			
3. Latitude and longitude reference.			

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

STATE Virginia	
COUNTY Loudoun	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
COMMON: Aldie Preservation Zone			
AND/OR HISTORIC: Aldie Mill, Mercer House, Miller's House			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: Extending .1 mi. E of intersection of Rt. 612 and Rt. 50, extending .1 mi. W of intersection of Rt. 50 and Rt. 732, extending .2 mi.			
CITY OR TOWN: N of Rt. 50, extending .3 mi. S of Rt. 50.			
Aldie			
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Virginia	45	Loudoun	107
3. PHOTO REFERENCE			
PHOTO CREDIT: Virginia Museum of Fine Arts			
DATE OF PHOTO: 1967			
NEGATIVE FILED AT: Virginia Museum of Fine Arts Richmond, Virginia			
4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.			
View of Aldie Mill from the South.			

U.S.G.S. 7½' quadrangle (Scale: 1:24,000)
Middleburg, Va. (1946)

Aldie Preservation Zone

Latitude	Longitude
NW 38° 58' 40"	77° 38' 40"
NE 38° 58' 40"	77° 38' 22"
SE 38° 58' 19"	77° 38' 22"
SW 38° 58' 19"	77° 38' 40"

