

VLR 9/8/14
NRHP 11/27/14

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property

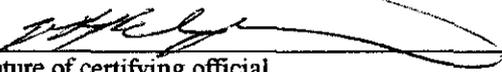
Historic name: **Goblintown Mill**
other names: **Turner's Mill; Hall's Mill; Wood's Mill; Walker's Mill; Martin's Mill; DHR file# 070-5042**

2. Location

street & number: **888 Iron Bridge Road (SR 704)** not for publication: **N/A**
city or town: **Stuart** vicinity: **X**
state: **Virginia** code: **VA** county: **Patrick** code: **141** zip: **24171**

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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 X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide X locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)


Signature of certifying official _____ Date 10/12/04
Virginia Department of Historic Resources
State or Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of commenting or other official _____ Date _____

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:
 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): _____

Signature of Keeper _____ Date of Action _____

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Patrick County, Virginia

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:

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>2</u>	<u>4</u> buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u> sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u> structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u> objects
<u>2</u>	<u>4</u> Total

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

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions:

Cat: **INDUSTRY/PROCESSING /EXTRACTION
COMMERCE/TRADE**

Sub: **manufacturing facility(gristmill)
department store (country general store)**

Current Functions:

Cat: **WORK IN PROGRESS**

Sub: N/A

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7. Description

Architectural Classification:

19th Century Rural
other: timber frame

Materials:

foundation: STONE
roof: METAL
walls: WOOD

Narrative Description: (see attached continuation)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria:

- 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.

Criteria Considerations: N/A

Areas of Significance: architecture & engineering,
industry & commerce

Period of Significance: ca. 1850-1954

Significant Dates: circa 1850 (mill construction)
circa 1866 (mill improvement)
circa 1902 (storehouse construction)

Significant Person: N/A

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: Turner, Lewis

Narrative Statement of Significance: (see attached continuation)

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9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

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: Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, Virginia

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: 8 acres

UTM References: 17 574956 4072131

Verbal Boundary Description: (see attached drawing "GOBLINTOWN MILL SITE")

Boundary Justification

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: John P. Williamson

Organization: N/A

date: 16 January, 2004

street & number: 229 Richard Burbydge

telephone: 757-220-1138

city or town: Williamsburg state: VA

zip code: 23185

e-mail: jacknjen@juno.com

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Additional Documentation

Continuation Sheets

Maps: 1. Virginia Department of Transportation General Highway Map for Patrick County.
2. USGS Map TVA0149, Charity, Virginia.

Photographs: (see attached List of Photographs)

Additional items:

1. GOBLINTOWN MILL SITE scale drawing.
2. Survey Plat.

Property Owner

name/title: **George C. and Irene C. Cox**

street & number: **1038 Owens Road**

city or town: **Martinsville** state: **VA** zip code: **24055**

telephone: **276-638-8959**

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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**Goblintown Mill
Patrick County, Virginia**

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Summary Description

The Goblintown Mill property occupies approximately eight acres on Little Goblintown Creek immediately west and south of the intersection of State Routes 704 and 705 in Patrick County, Virginia. Two of the several structures on the property are identified as contributing buildings in this nomination. They are a gristmill built in the 1850's, and a combination general store and dwelling house built circa 1902. The mill exhibits great historic integrity in its internal workings as well as in its construction. The "storehouse" has recently been improved with modern facilities and appliances, however, the room used as a country general store throughout the active life of the building remains essentially undisturbed with a significant degree of historic integrity. The property is not occupied. It is being restored by the owner and volunteer workers.

Narrative Description

The Gristmill

The principal contributing building of this nomination is a two-story timber frame structure on a dry stone foundation. Its roof is sheathed with painted standing seam metal panels. Outside walls are covered with tapered, machine-planed weatherboard, and contain nine 6-over-6 pane double sash windows. The three stone foundation walls carry the sills of front (North), west side, and rear walls, and enclose a dirt-floored basement. The sill of the east wall, adjacent to the water wheel, rests on the front and rear foundation walls and two intermediate posts on rock footings. The rear basement wall contains a dry stone foundation at its mid-span supporting the hearth and a dry stone chimney running up the outside rear wall of the building. Significant areas of the basement walls and chimney have been chinked with mortar. During the 1990's, decayed wooden portions of the lower front wall were repaired using odd sized weatherboards and an over-sized double sash window. Recently, four cemented stone buttresses on concrete footings were added to the outside of the front basement wall.

Within the basement is a massive beam husk on stone footings designed to support three sets of millstones at the first floor level and the iron main power drive complex connected to the water wheel. Adjacent to the husk are the wood-sheathed bottom ends of two vertical grain conveyors.

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A covered porch on the west wall served as the receiving and delivery area for mill operations. A paneled door opens from it into the first floor which contains the mill stones, grain conveyor controls, beam balance scales for weighing product, stairway to the second floor, and through a slot in the east wall, the flume gate lever for control of water wheel speed. Two sets of mill stones are installed – a 42-inch diameter native granite set used for corn, and a 48-inch set of segmented buhr stone believed last used for buck wheat. A third set between the two, probably another 48-inch buhr used for spring and winter wheat, was removed early in the twentieth century. The shallow Rumford style fireplace in the rear wall of this room is a somewhat unique feature of this building because fireplaces were generally eschewed in gristmills with their explosive fine powder atmospheres.

The second floor houses the corn cleaner, wheat cleaner and flour grader or bolter, together with the complex system of shafts, belts, pulleys, sprockets and chains powering them via a long belt from the main shaft in the basement. The MONARCH corn cleaner, which has been restored to operable condition, was produced by Sprout, Waldron & Co. of Muncy, Pennsylvania. The wheat cleaner, a rather massive EUREKA SMUT & SEPARATING MACHINE awaiting restoration, was one of the first such units manufactured by Howes, Babcock & Co. of Silver Creek, New York. The flour grader or bolter, also awaiting restoration, was produced by The Salem Machine Works of Salem, Virginia. All three of these machines were installed after the War Between the States as new replacements for original mill equipment, and have survived these many years in amazingly excellent condition.

The large static and dynamic floor loadings of that machinery are largely carried by an 8' x 8' central summer beam supporting the second floor joists at their mid spans. A wood nailed scarf joint at mid-span of the summer rests on an 8' x 8' capital atop an 8' x 8' center column extending from a rock footing in the basement floor. That column extends through the first floor completely unconnected to the structure supporting that floor so as to isolate the lower floor in large degree from second floor machinery vibration.

The ruined original hybrid iron and oak water wheel has recently been replaced by an all steel Fitz type wheel manufactured by The Water Wheel Factory of Franklin, North Carolina. The cast iron segmented rack gear of the original wheel was recovered and bolted to the new wheel to drive the original pinion of the main power shaft running into the basement. The wheel pit was refurbished in its original dimensions even though the new and more efficient wheel is smaller than its predecessor. A reduced-size replica of the original wooden flume delivering water from the race to the wheel is under construction. Restoration of the six-hundred-foot-long race and associated dam on Little Goblintown Creek is under study for completion as time and services permit.

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The Storehouse

Built during or shortly after 1902, this second contributing building is a one and one-half story clapboard covered wood frame structure under a standing seam metal gable roof. It has a shed extension running the full length of one side, which appears to have been added soon after if not with the original construction. The front, and larger of the two first floor rooms of the main structure, was furnished as a typical country general store with service counter and till drawer, wall shelving, bins and drawers for stock, and a mid-room iron wood stove. Double doors between oversized fixed-frame windows open from it onto a wide covered porch. Just off one corner of the porch is the concrete foundation and piping remnants of a gasoline service pump. Modern electric appliances, indoor plumbing, and central heating/air conditioning have recently been installed.

Noncontributing Buildings

The four noncontributing buildings on the property consist of two privies, the ruins of a small two stall stable, and a newly constructed work shop and storage building which replaced a crumbling and nonrestorable single pen smoke house.

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8. Statement of Significance

Justification of Criteria

The Goblintown Mill is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places at the local level of significance under Criterion A, Commerce and Industry, and Criterion C, Architecture and Engineering. During the second half of the nineteenth century, the mill provided grain processing services for the rural Goblintown Creek area of Patrick County; hence it was an important hub of local commerce and industry. With addition of a general store about 1902, the property's role in the community broadened to that of a social center for long time residents, as well as for many new people attracted to the area by commercial and state-sponsored industrial and recreational projects. Because features such as the mill race and milling machinery have survived intact, the property offers a rarely found representation of gristmill construction, production, and automation widely implemented during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries; and therefore provides important information regarding historic gristmill construction and engineering.

Historical Background

Richard Turner arrived in Virginia from England with his wife and young son John (c.1690 - 1742) sometime before 1704, when his name first appeared in the tax records of King and Queen County.¹ John settled in Caroline County where he raised three daughters and three sons named Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. There are no known records of Abednego, but Shadrach and Meshach migrated west through the piedmont with Virginia's frontier in the years following the French and Indian War. Both men were very wealthy land and slave owning planters. Shadrach (1728 - 1783) married Ann Hill in 1745 and settled in the Pigg River and Town Creek area, which is now in southern Franklin County about the Henry County line. Shadrach and Ann had nine children, several of whose given names recur in the Turner line, with one being of particular note - *Exoney*. Their son Jeremiah married Rachel Ross in 1792. The second of Jeremiah and Rachel's ten children was Lewis Turner (1794 - 1885). Typical for males of his time and class, Lewis was given "a proper English education" as evidenced by his surviving letters, notes and financial records. He was a very inquisitive and talented young man who learned to work iron from his father's blacksmiths, and to make his own guns from parts he forged, filed and whittled himself. When his parents and siblings decided to move further west into Kentucky, Lewis opted to take his share of the family fortune and settle in Patrick County across the Smith River from the family lands. In 1817, he bought 211 acres (between Little Goblintown Creek on the north and approximately what is now Goblintown Road on the south) from Thomas Spencer,² married Cynthia Ann Foster, and

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set up house, farm, and blacksmith trade at the southern end of his new property. Cynthia died just ten years later, leaving him with three young children, Ann, Exoney and Jeremiah, aged 9, 5 and 1 years respectively.

Some time after Cynthia's death, perhaps partly in response to a need for mine timbers and other lumber by the newly formed Union Iron Works Company³ just two miles to the east, Lewis built a dam on Little Goblintown Creek at the northern end of his property to serve a water-powered sawmill. Located at the intersection of two wagon roads running through the area, his mill did a brisk lumber business, prompting him to soon add a planing mill and carpenter shop. About 1840, he hired seventeen-year-old Henry Harden Hall to work in the sawmill. Henry not only became an able sawyer, but quickly developed into a proficient carpenter and cabinet maker. Also in 1840, Lewis transferred title to about two thirds of his land to his two daughters, Ann and Exoney, then ages 22 and 18 years respectively.⁴ That land included the mill site, his home place and smithy to the south, and all of the farm land in between the two areas. In 1845, Exoney married her father's protege, Henry Harden Hall.

Sometime in the 1850's,⁵ Lewis and Henry built a substantial gristmill, the principal subject of this nomination, immediately adjacent to their saw mill and so located to use the same water source and wheel as the saw and planing mills. It is not known if Lewis engaged the services of a professional millwright for that project. It is highly likely that he was well informed on the current state of the millwright's art, and it is certain that construction of that building and all of its internals, less some of the machinery but including all of the finely crafted poplar conveyor ducting, were well within the talents and capabilities of Lewis and Henry. Whereas all known local gristmills required manual transport of product in sacks, tubs or similar batches to and from each stage or machine in the milling process, and the constant attention of the miller, their mill, with its mechanical conveyors and unique arrangement of machinery, automatically moved grain in a steady stream through the entire process from input hopper to sacked finished meal or flour once the miller had established proper stone speed and gap settings, and corresponding smooth grain flow rate. Thereafter, a single unskilled person tended the weighing, dumping and bagging at both ends of the process while the miller was free to tend his fields, live stock, smithy, or other chores until the raw grain supply was exhausted. Their mill stands today as a rare and classic surviving example of the concepts and plans patented and published by Oliver Evans and Thomas Ellicott in 1795,⁶ and widely followed in England and Europe as well as America during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, particularly in large flour mill applications.

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In 1854, Exoney's sister Ann married Blann Hall, Henry's older brother. Less than two years later, Ann, then 38, died giving birth to her only child, Exoney Ann Hall. Henry and Exoney took in their infant niece as their foster child. In 1859, Blann died of pneumonia leaving three year old Exoney Ann as co-owner of the land deeded by Lewis to his two daughters in 1840. In 1860, Henry and his wife initiated a quiet title suit against their orphaned infant niece to properly partition and title the land involved.⁷ That suit led to execution of mutual quit claim deeds in 1870. Henry and Exoney obtained title to the five acre mill property and the approximately 79 acres on which they and Lewis Turner lived.⁸ Exoney Ann, then 14 years old, gained clear title to the remaining 70 or so acres of farm land between her foster parents' two parcels.⁹

With addition of a grain processing capability, business about the mill property increased and was quite lucrative until the War Between the States. Then, the Union Iron Works Company ceased operations, and the entire area went into a lull with many of the local men off to bear arms with Patrick County's most illustrious Confederate General, J. E. B. Stuart. After the war, life returned to near normal about Goblintown Creek. Business at the mill parcel resumed, and the emergence of several new companies producing improved grain processing machines of the Evans designs (his patent rights having expired) prompted Lewis to replace his two grain cleaners and old rotary flour bolter. He purchased a small, fully assembled MONARCH corn cleaner from the Sprout Waldron Company of Muncy, Pennsylvania; a large EUREKA SMUT & SEPARATING MACHINE manufactured in three units for on site assembly from Howes, Babcock & Company of Silver Creek, New York; and a modern rotary flour grader or bolter shipped in kit form for field assembly by the Salem Machine Works of Salem, Virginia. It is not known if all three units were installed simultaneously or over a significant period of time. It is known that all three companies were founded and first produced the named machines in 1866.¹⁰ The original cleaners were probably sold to other millers. The original bolter apparently proved too difficult to disassemble for removal from the second story of the building, and was simply moved against the front wall of the second floor out of the way of mill activity. It has recently been completely disassembled and restored as a museum display.

On 28 February 1877, Exoney Ann Hall married John Isaac Wood who bought virtually all of the other land surrounding the mill parcel. In 1900, he purchased a one-half interest in that parcel, and took over operation of the gristmill from Henry Harden Hall who apparently had leased the gristmill operation to various millers after Lewis Turner's death in 1885. In 1911, Henry sold his remaining interest in all of the mill property to John I. Wood.

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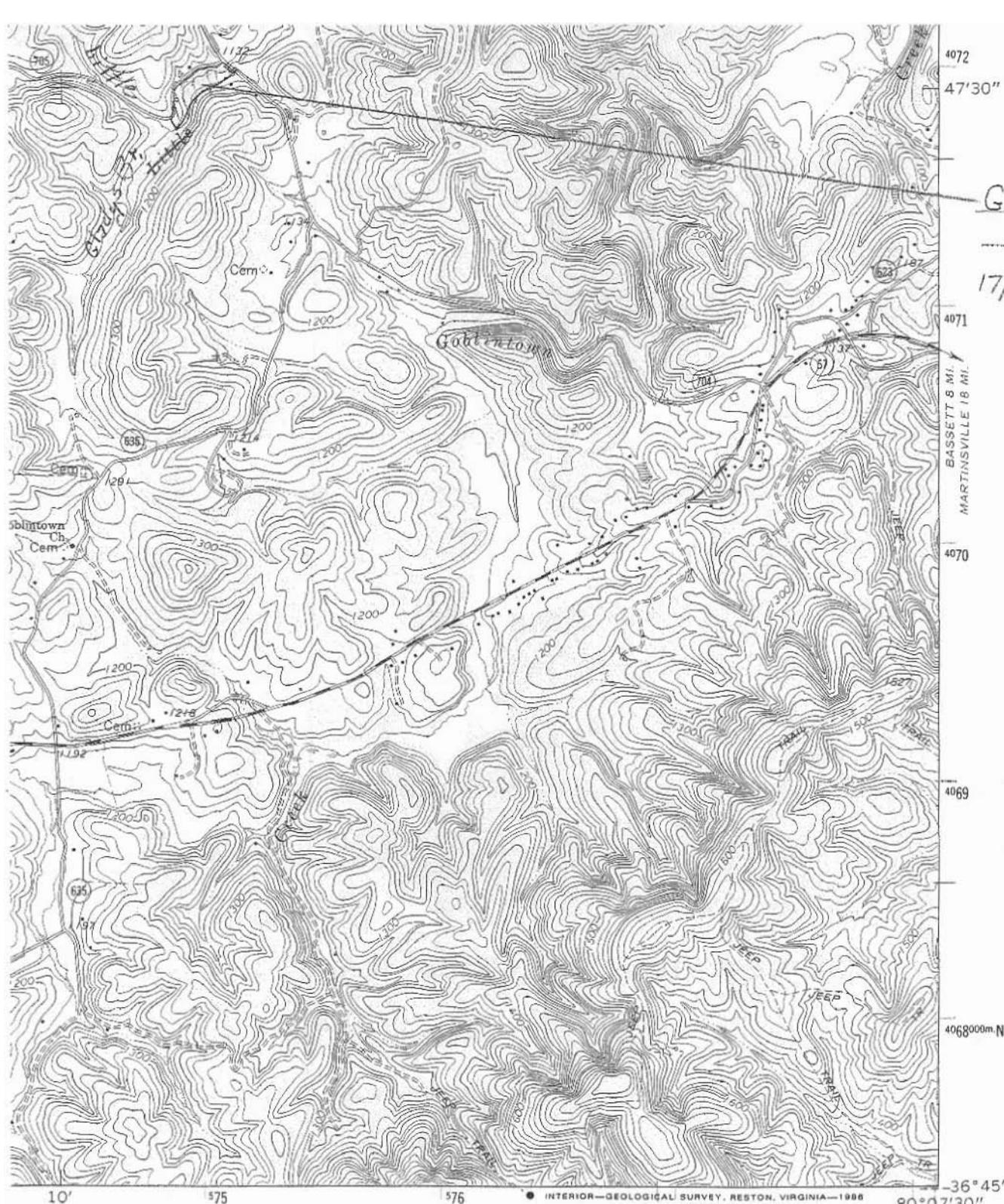
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In 1902, Henry sold a small lot within the eastern end of the mill parcel to Shadrach Lewis "Shady" Turner, son of his deceased wife Exoney's brother Jeremiah. Shady built a small house on the property, one room of which was fitted and used as a small general store. That "storehouse" shortly became a hub of local activity as the population of the Goblintown area increased dramatically with activities around the boom town of Fayerdale, built by the Virginia Ore and Lumber Company on and about the former site of the Union Iron Works. The new company reopened the iron mines above Goblintown Creek, built a modern band saw mill, and ran a railroad connection to the outside world.¹¹ Over the next several years, the storehouse passed through several owner/operators. In 1928, John I. Wood purchased the storehouse and kept it in operation until his death.

Exoney Ann died in 1922. In 1934, John I. Wood died intestate, throwing his estate into litigation. On 25 May 1935, W. E. and Flora Ogburn purchased the one-half-acre storehouse and five-acre mill parcels at a court ordered public auction. Thus the mill property on Little Goblintown Creek left the possession of the families descended from Lewis Turner and Henry Harden Hall.

In 1937, the Ogburns sold the storehouse and mill properties to J. L. Walker who continued operation of the country store and gristmill until 1942, when he and his wife Annie sold out to Charlie B. Martin. From then until his death in 1961, Charlie maintained the country store and gristmill as the social center of the quiet Goblintown community. The nearest town, Fayerdale, after a brief twenty years of life between 1905 and its demise at the hands of a scrap dealer in 1925, had been razed and converted to Fairy Stone State Park by the Civilian Conservation Corps during the late 1930's.¹² Hunters, park visitors, and local folk gathered at Charlie's store for sodas and snacks, and bought everything from denims and sacked sugar to shovels and tractor parts from his broad range of stock. Judging from the condition in which Charlie left the gristmill, it appears that he limited grain processing to corn meal and ground malt, for which there was considerable demand from local distillers.

In 1962, Charlie's heirs sold the idle storehouse and mill parcels to Paul Cox, son of Charlie Peter Cox and the former Nancy Exoney ("Nannie Onie") Hall. Charlie Peter was a son of the former Cynthia Thenia Hall, eldest daughter of Henry Harden Hall and the former Exoney Turner. Nannie Onie was a daughter of Henry Harden Hall Junior, Cynthia's brother. Thus the gristmill on Little Goblintown Creek returned to the blood lines of its two builders. Over the next thirty-seven years, titles to the two properties passed among several other family members. The buildings, other than the storehouse which was intermittently occupied as a country retreat, fell into disrepair. The saw mill and planing mill/carpenter shop gradually crumbled under winter snows and were finally demolished in the mid 1990s after they and the gristmill basement were inundated by



Goblintown
Mill
17/574956/4072131

4072
47'30"
4071
BASSETT 8 MI.
MARTINSVILLE 18 MI.
4070
4069
4068000m.N.
36°45'
80°07'30"

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Primary highway, all weather, hard surface ————
 Secondary highway, all weather, hard surface . . . ————
 Light-duty road, all weather, improved surface. ————
 Unimproved road, fair or dry weather

○ State Route



CHARITY, VA.
 SW/4 ENDICOTT 15' QUADRANGLE
 36080-G2-TF-024

1967
 PHOTOREVISED 1985
 DMA 4957 I SW-SERIES V834

Revisions shown in purple and woodland compiled in cooperation wrth Commonwealth of Virginia agencies from aerial photographs taken 1982 and other sources. This information not field checked. Map edited 1985

(SANVALE)
495711 NE