



PRELIMINARY INFORMATION FORM (PIF) for INDIVIDUAL PROPERTIES

DHR No. (to be completed by DHR staff) _____

Purpose of Evaluation

Please use the following space to explain briefly why you are seeking an evaluation of this property.

The house has been the traditional home of hired millers who worked at the mill. This seems to be true from its mid-19th century construction until the mid-1940s.

I want to add the house to the existing listing for Rife's Mill, DHR #082-0284 since it was an integral part of the industrial site.

Are you interested in applying for State and/or Federal Rehabilitation Tax Credits? Yes No _____

Are you interested in receiving more information about DHR's easement program? Yes No _____

1. General Property Information

Property name: Miller's House

Property address: 2323 Silver Lake Road

City or Town: Dayton, VA

Zip code: 22821

Name of the Independent City or County where the property is located:

Rockingham County

Category of Property (choose only one of the following):

Building Site _____ Structure _____ Object _____

2. Physical Aspects

Acreage: .87

Setting (choose only one of the following):

Urban _____ Suburban _____ Town Village _____ Hamlet _____ Rural _____

Briefly describe the property's overall setting, including any notable landscape features:

The Miller's house is adjacent to Silver Lake Mill (Rife's Mill). Silver Lake is a 12 acre man-made spring-fed lake in a rural farming area at the north end of the town of Dayton, Virginia. The lake was created when a dam was constructed in late 1822 or 1823 to power a grist mill. The house sits on the south-western end of the .87 acre lot, close to Silver Lake Road.

When built originally in the mid-nineteenth century, the house was likely not on the edge of the road as it is today. The road moved several times from the west side of the lake to the east side.

The house is situated about 100 feet from the mill building and about 100 feet from the lake.

3. Architectural Description

Architectural Style(s): Other- Hall and Parlor

If the property was designed by an architect, landscape architect, engineer, or other professional, please list here: not known

If the builder is known, please list here: not known

Date of construction (can be approximate): 1855-65

Narrative Description:

In the space below, briefly describe the general characteristics of the entire property, such as its current use (and historic use if different), as well as the primary building or structure on the property (such as a house, store, mill, factory, depot, bridge, etc.). Include the architectural style, materials and method(s) of construction, physical appearance and condition (exterior and interior), and any additions, remodelings, or other alterations.

The building is a two-story, three-bay, side gabled hall and parlor house with an integral rear ell. It is timber framed with weatherboard siding, and has a limestone foundation laid in a shallow builders trench, directly on rock outcrops in places.

The house has two porches, a front hip-roof porch, and a side porch with a shed roof attached to the ell.

It is in good to fair condition, is unoccupied, and is currently being repaired with an emphasis on preserving as much as possible of the original structure and important later additions. There is some damage to the siding, framing, interior walls, and roofing, and the old exterior chimney needs repair.

Large dimension lumber used in construction is up-and-down mill sawn, except for the sills on the ell, which are circular sawn. The flooring, paneling, stair treads and risers, and other small dimension lumber are circular sawn. There was a sawmill, belonging to Daniel Bowman, on the Silver Lake dam in use during the time of house construction. Daniel also owned the mill and the Millers house (US Senate Affidavit). Most likely the wood for house construction was supplied by this mill.

There are exterior gable-end chimneys on the main house; the north chimney stack has been replaced, the south chimney stack is original. There is no fireplace on the second floor in the older chimney, the replaced chimney

does have an upstairs fireplace. An original stove flue chimney stack still stands inside the ell gable, it no longer extends through the roof. A patch is evident in the standing seam roof where the chimney stack exited. A new chimney stack was added on the outside of the ell gable.

Some of the first floor walls have brick nogging between the studs. There are indications that the bricks were added from the inside after the siding was installed.

A beehive cistern under the southeast corner of the house, where the side porch attaches, supported that corner of the house. There was a pipe from the cistern going to a sink inside the house, apparently with a hand pump. The sink also had a terra cotta drainpipe. The ghost of the original sink counter is visible on the wall.

Windows are single-hung six over six except on the north first floor gable end where two original windows were replaced with larger double hung single light sash, the whole window units were replaced. Also the two original first floor windows on the facade were replaced with double-hung 2 over 2 sash.

The house has three exterior doors that are two-paneled with pegged through-mortice and tenon styles and rails and lift-off cast iron butt hinges. The hinges have been replaced on the kitchen door. All three doors originally had cast iron box locks, one door still has the lock in place. Interior doors are beaded board and batten with cast iron latches and cast iron five part butt hinges. The battens are tapered and beveled, but not dovetailed.

The first floor interior partition wall between the two rooms is tongue and groove beaded board. The second floor interior wall directly above is wood frame with lath and plaster on both sides, as are the other interior walls upstairs. A closet is built in to the upstairs southeast bedroom.

An enclosed L type stairway with a landing at the bottom is located along the interior beaded-board wall in the parlor, starting from the rear of the hall. Access to the stairway was originally from the Hall. An original board and batten door is installed in the opening. There is a closet under the stair run with a board and batten door. A second batten door to the stair was cut through the stair parlor side wall, using the enclosing beaded boards from the cutout as a door.

There is a L type enclosed stairway, with a board and batten door, leading to the attic, and there are signs of an old stairway in the ell part of the house on the wall between the house and the ell. Where the stairway was, there is now a built-in cabinet. The cabinet doors are narrow beaded tongue and groove boards with tapered and beveled battens. Some of the battens are sliding dovetail. Hinges are butt with removable pins.

The common rafter roof has a ridge board and currently has a standing seam metal roof. Original roof was wood shingle. The attic has a complete wide-plank floor.

The interior of the ell (kitchen) and the parlor have beaded board wainscot. Any molding between the flooring and wainscot was removed when carpeting was installed. The flooring in all the rooms is original.

A brick walkway leads from the side porch toward the front of the mill. There also is a brick walkway and a large stone step serving the front porch. The brick walkways were buried under a thin layer of soil. There is evidence of a small porch that was original to the house, it was about 9 feet wide and extended out about 7 feet. There are no signs of a roof below the current porch ceiling. The current porch is a c1900 replacement. The existing porch is 23 feet by 6 feet. It has a standing seam hip roof and 4 1/2 inch x 7 inch rectangular columns, chamfered with lambs-tongue stops. Italianate brackets are mounted on the porch cornice and porch posts.

Many artifacts including ceramics and bottle glass, including whole bottles in the back porch ceiling were discovered during repairs.

Under the ell of the building are the remains of a prior structure that was burned. An old limestone foundation, running parallel to the house foundation in the middle of the crawl space, is visible under the old floor. There are many melted glass fragments, charred wood, plaster remains, and many mid-19th century cut nails found in the crawl space. At this time the type of structure and its date of construction is not known.

Briefly describe any outbuildings or secondary resources (such as barns, sheds, dam and mill pond, storage tanks, scales, railroad spurs, etc.), including their condition and their estimated construction dates.

A brick, barrel-vaulted root cellar is on the property. The 12 foot by 20 foot structure is above ground, probably originally covered with sod. There is still dirt on top of the structure. The vaulted brick ceiling is constructed with an

all-header bond. It originally had parapet end walls; at some point in the 20th century the parapet tops were removed and a roof from another structure was placed over the root cellar. This most likely saved the structure from major damage.

There also are two non-contributing 20th century structures on the property; a concrete block storage building, and a wood-frame garage.

4. Property's History and Significance

In the space below, briefly describe the history of the property, such as significant events, persons, and/or families associated with the property. Please list all sources of information used to research the history of the property. (It is not necessary to attach lengthy articles or family genealogies to this form.)

If the property is important for its architecture, engineering, landscape architecture, or other aspects of design, please include a brief explanation of this aspect.

The miller's house and the mill owners house are contributing resources to Rife's Mill (DHR file# 082-0284 Rife's Mill).

The Millers house is possibly the house built for the miller in 1855 (tax records Rockingham County). Because of the burnt structure under the extant house, it is possible that the current building is the replacement for the 1855 house. Claims made in 1910 by Daniel Bowman's estate to the US Senate, filed in the National Archives, stated that "a large flowering mill, saw mill and a dwelling house... were destroyed by fire set by the Union Army by General Custer under orders from General Sheridan. The Miller's house may have been the house that was destroyed.

A statement by B.F. Richie in the claim to the US Senate states that Daniel "owned a large flowering mill, saw mill and two large dwelling houses" prior to the burning of his properties. Richie also states that during the Civil War he resided with and was employed by Daniel Bowman and knew him intimately.

Possible Historic District

The Mill Owners house is located on the opposite side of the mill from the Miller's house. It has been extensively modified over time, but there is a cellar under the early 20th century front that has hand-hewn floor joists with grooves for inserted boards to hold insulation material. The cellar walls are whitewashed limestone. There is mention of a cornerstone with 1797 carved in on this foundation, seen by family members visiting the house in 1960. An

addition removed recently was apparently added in the 19th century. The rafters used in the addition were reused from an earlier building, perhaps of an 18th century construction date.

Two other houses are in the Silver Lake area. One was built by a former mill owner of the mill, the other is an interesting house that has been altered, but it is a mid 19th century house with some impressive additions. It also has several early outbuildings. These five properties; the mill and the four dwellings, raise the possibility of an historic district.

5. Property Ownership (Check as many categories as apply):

Private: X Public\Local _____ Public\State _____ Public\Federal _____

Current Legal Owner(s) of the Property (If the property has more than one owner, please list each below or on an additional sheet.)

name/title: Cheryl J. Lyon
organization: _____
street & number: 2328 Silver Lake Road
city or town: Dayton state: VA zip code: 22821
e-mail: silverlakemill@gmail.com telephone: 540-421-2256

Legal Owner's Signature: _____ Date: _____

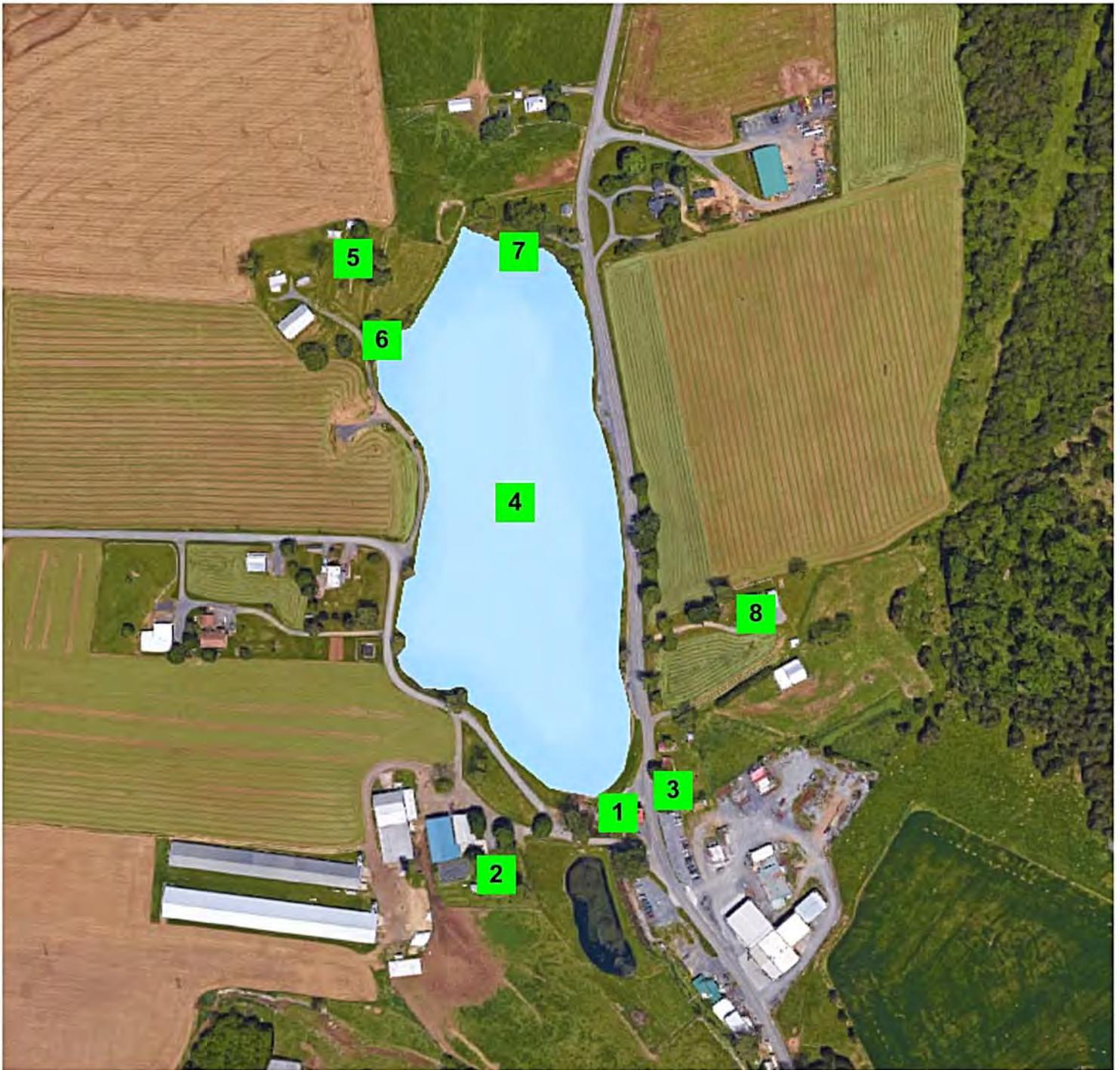
Applicant Information (Individual completing form if other than legal owner of property)

name/title: Richard D. F. Martin
organization: Cedar Row Restorations
street & number: 6 Dudley Road
city or town: Bridgewater
state: Virginia
zip code: 22812
e-mail: martin.richard476@gmail.com
telephone 540 828-4713

6. Notification

In some circumstances, it may be necessary for DHR to confer with or notify local officials of proposed listings of properties within their jurisdiction. In the following space, please provide the contact information for the local County Administrator or City Manager.

name/title: Stephen G. King, Administrator
locality: Rockingham County
street & number: 20 E. Gay Street
city or town: Harrisonburg state: VA zip code: 22802
telephone: 540-564-3012
sking@rockinghamcountyva.gov



Possible Silver Lake Historic District

1. Rife's Mill (DHR #082-0284)
2. Mill owner's house from about 1840-1890
3. Miller's house from about 1850-1950
4. Silver Lake, created in 1822 to power Rife's Mill
5. Melvin Wenger House, late 18th or early 19th Century, with early 20th Century changes
6. Probable site of Cooks Creek Presbyterian Church 1742-ca 1780
7. Possible site of underwater Cooks Creek graves
8. Richard & Linda Jacobs house built 1924 by Walter D. Heatwole, an owner of Rife's Mill who moved from the Mill House into the 1924 house.

NOTE: Sites 1 and 3 are owned by Cheryl Lyon. Owners of Sites 2 and 8 have indicated willingness to be included in a historic district. Sites 4, 5, 6 and 7 involve two owners who have not been approached.