

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

received date entered

See instructions in How to Complete National Register Forms Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic ZIRKLE MILL (Preferred)

and/or common Forrestville Mill

2. Location

street & number Route 1 N/A not far publication

city, town Quicksburg vicinity of

state Virginia code 51 county Shenandoah code 171

3. Classification

Table with 4 columns: Category, Ownership, Status, Present Use. Includes options like building(s), private, occupied, commercial, etc.

4. Owner of Property

name Glenn Hofecker

street & number Route 1

city, town Quicksburg N/A vicinity of state Virginia 22547

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Shenandoah County Courthouse

street & number N/A

city, town Woodstock state Virginia 22664

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Survey title has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1982 federal state county local

depository for survey records 221 Governor Street

city, town Richmond state Virginia 23219

# 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date <u>N/A</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

## SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

Zirkle Mill is located on the southern edge of Forestville, Virginia, bounded on the south by Route 42 and on the north by Holman's Creek. Built prior to 1815, the 2½-story frame building on a raised stone basement remains in excellent structural condition. The building functioned as a mill until the 1950s and displays original machinery dating from the entire period of operation. Under the present ownership, the building has been converted to a furniture making shop in order to preserve a vanishing form of architecture once common in Virginia.

## ARCHITECTURAL ANALYSIS

Built into a hillside, Zirkle Mill rises 2½ stories above a low coursed-rubble foundation of limestone on its front elevation (<sup>NORTH</sup>~~south~~) with a full raised basement of coursed rubble at the rear (<sup>SOUTH</sup>~~north~~). The frame building is sheathed in recent hand-sawn beaded weatherboarding, an exact copy of the original siding. The whole is covered by a gable roof of standing-seam sheet metal. A 1½-story lean-to addition extends over the basement story on the north elevation supported by heavy wood piers. Fenestration throughout the building consists of six/six double-hung sash with architrave trim and casement windows in the upper story of the rear addition. The main entrance into the building is through two single doors set off center in the facade. A single-story, shed-roof porch with wooden shingles supported by four square posts shelters the doors. A secondary entrance is located on the <sup>SOUTH</sup>~~north~~ elevation. The Fitz-type overshot iron wheel is intact on the <sup>EAST</sup>~~west~~ side of the building.

The interior houses mill machinery dating from the early 19th century through the 1920s, thus exhibiting technological changes in milling of more than 100 years. Each story has a single opening in the center of the floor for the milling operation and a stairwell in the <sup>EAST</sup>~~southwest~~ corner.

An exposed rubblestone fireplace remains in the northeast corner of the basement. Also on this level is a 1917 corn grinder, a corn hopper with auger, metal scourer, filter, and the water wheel mechanism.

The first floor contains the sifter and wooden grain hoppers and belt driven machinery including rollers and burrs believed by the Zirkle family to have been added in 1921. Behind the main room is the addition which functioned as the miller's office. During recent years the room has been converted to a woodworking shop for the present owner.

Located on the second floor is an elevator with a separator, an early-20th-century grader, and a few wooden machinery parts stored around the perimeter of the room. The third floor contains most of the early-19th-century flour machinery including a wooden paddle conveyor system, a long sifter missing only its canvas sheathing, numerous wooden gears, and rods, all in excellent condition. An automatic feeder patented January 8, 1917 (by Cornwallis) is in place in the room. All of the wooden chutes connecting the three floors remain.

(See Continuation Sheet #1)

## 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates Ca. 1815 Builder/Architect Unknown

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

#### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Zirkle Mill on Holman's Creek in southwestern Shenandoah County is a significant artifact of the Shenandoah Valley's 19th-century flour manufacturing industry and a picturesque survivor of a fast-disappearing building form. Built ca. 1815 by Andrew Zirkle, Sr. to accommodate the labor-saving machinery promoted by Oliver Evans, the mill prospered in the antebellum period under the proprietorship of Jacob Bowers, who founded the adjoining village of Forestville on portions of the original mill property in 1838. Unlike many other of the region's early grist mills, the structure survived the Civil War intact and continued to operate until the mid-20th century. Enhancing its interest is a notable collection of well-preserved milling machinery, illustrating the technological changes that transformed Zirkle's original burr mill into a roller mill by the turn of the century. Although the mill no longer functions in its original capacity, it is being preserved through adaptive use as a furniture workshop.

#### HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Zirkle Mill stands on part of a tract of 224 acres granted by deed from Thomas Lord Fairfax to George Brock in 1749.<sup>1</sup> In 1757 Brock conveyed the property to Andrew Zirkle, Sr., a recent immigrant from Pennsylvania, who soon settled on the land and acquired an additional 110 acres in western Shenandoah County by 1782.<sup>2</sup> Choosing a site with abundant water power that was conveniently located on the main wagon road between Woodstock and Harrisonburg, Zirkle built the present mill sometime before 1815.<sup>3</sup> While documentary research has failed to establish a firm construction date for the structure, the mill conforms in design to the basic pattern of the prototypical merchant mill illustrated in the plates of Oliver Evans's *The Young Mill-Wright and Miller's Guide* (1795). Shenandoah County millers and millwrights were among the first Virginians to acquire Evans's handbook and to apply his patented machinery to the process of flour manufacturing in the Valley. Through the example of men such as George Lind, William Ruddell, and William G. Williams, Evans's ideas gained widespread influence among the millers of the county, and his handbook remained the primary source for mill design in the area, as elsewhere in Virginia, until the introduction of the roller mill toward the end of the 19th century.<sup>4</sup>

In a will written just prior to his death in 1815, Zirkle directed his executor Peter Knupp to sell the mill with 45 acres at public auction and to distribute the proceeds equally among Zirkle's four sons.<sup>5</sup> Knupp accordingly advertised the sale in the Woodstock and Winchester newspapers and in 1817 sold the property to George Mowery, the highest bidder, for \$3940.<sup>6</sup> Because the assessed value of buildings on the property remained remarkably stable over the ensuing five decades, it is reasonable to infer that the structure attained its present form under Zirkle's proprietorship.<sup>7</sup>

(See Continuation Sheet #1)

## 9. Major Bibliographical References (See Continuation Sheet #2)

Evans, Oliver. The Young Mill-Wright and Miller's Guide. Philadelphia: privately printed, 1795.  
 Shenandoah County Deed Books, (1817); KK (1831).  
 Shenandoah County Land Tax Books, 1782-1870.  
 Shenandoah County Will Books, (1815); 2 (1853).

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 1 acre

Quadrangle name New Market, Va.

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A 

1	7
---	---

6	9	7	7	4	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

4	2	8	7	2	7	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

  
 Zone Easting Northing

B 

--	--

--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

  
 Zone Easting Northing

C 

--	--

--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

D 

--	--

--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

E 

--	--

--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

F 

--	--

--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

G 

--	--

--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

H 

--	--

--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

**Verbal boundary description and justification** Beginning at a point on the W side of VA 42, approximately 850' SW of the intersection of VA 767 with said route; thence extending about 200' N to <sup>HOLMANS</sup> Spring Creek; thence about 200' SW along creek; thence about 200' SSE to W side of VA 42; thence about 200' NNE along W side of VA 42 to point of origin. (See Continuation Sheet #3)

**List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries**

state N/A code county N/A code

state N/A code county N/A code

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff

organization Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission date November 1982

street & number 221 Governor Street telephone (804) 786-3144

city or town Richmond state Virginia 23219

## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature H. Bryan Mitchell  
 H. Bryan Mitchell, Executive Director  
 title Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

date DEC 14 1982

For NPS use only

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

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

ZIRKLE MILL, SHENANDOAH COUNTY, VA

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet #1

Item number 7, 8

Page 1, 1

7. DESCRIPTION--Architectural Analysis

Notable structural features are the post and beam construction with hand hewn mortise and tenoned beams in the main section and pit sawn beams in the addition.

No early outbuildings are likely to have existed on the present mill site. A frame shed built in this century stands immediately south of the mill.

MPM

8. SIGNIFICANCE--Historical Background

Mowery, with assistance from his son, engaged in the milling of flour until 1831 when several of his creditors, Jacob Bowers among them, forced him to sell the business to pay off his debts.<sup>8</sup> By 1834, the property belonged entirely to Bowers, who managed a successful milling trade on the site for twenty years until his death in 1852. Under Bowers's proprietorship, the mill tract was gradually whittled down from 44 to 18 acres, with the remainder sold in parcels for lots in a village he laid out just north of the mill in 1838.<sup>9</sup> By 1840 Bowers had erected a tavern on one of the lots and the village had become known as Forestville.<sup>10</sup> Over the next decade Bowers sold twelve additional parcels of the mill tract as town lots, while also establishing a lead furnace on the property. The extent of Bowers's interest in the merchant milling trade by mid-century can be gleaned from a complete inventory of his estate conducted in February, 1853. Among the more valuable entries listed in this inventory were a plantation wagon, two road wagons, four horses, 50 bushels of corn, 134 bushels of wheat, 31 barrels of flour, and several notes payable to Bowers for services rendered at his mill.<sup>11</sup>

Bowers bequeathed the property to his son Isaac Bowers, who sold the mill and 11 3/4 acres to Peter Meyers in 1854.<sup>12</sup> According to local historian Joseph Floyd Wine, Meyers's hired miller, Samuel Hockman, saved the building from Sheridan's torch in the Valley campaign by a prudent display of the American flag following destruction of a nearby mill by Union soldiers.<sup>13</sup> Following the war, Meyers sold the mill and 9½ acres to Joseph Andrick whose sons Casper and Charles Andrick, installed metal roller mill machinery in 1896. Joseph Branner and Michael Hupp, who acquired the property in 1921, replaced the original wooden water wheel with the present metal one before selling the property to E.A. Zirkle in 1927. The mill remained in the control of the Zirkle family until R.A. Eaton purchased it in 1941. Unable to compete with larger-scale commercial milling operations in the area, the mill ceased to function in the mid-1950s. The present owner, Glenn Hofecker, purchased the property from Mrs. Aubrey Marshall in 1980 and has converted the mill into a workshop for furniture-making.<sup>14</sup>

RAC

(See Continuation Sheet #2 for Footnotes)

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

ZIRKLE MILL, SHENANDOAH COUNTY, VA

Continuation sheet #2

Item number 8, 9

Page 2, 1

For NPS use only

received

date entered

8. SIGNIFICANCE--Footnotes

<sup>1</sup>John W. Wayland, A History of Shenandoah County Virginia (Strasburg: Shenandoah Publishing House, 1969), p. 168.

<sup>2</sup>Shenandoah County Land Tax Book, 1782.

<sup>3</sup>Shenandoah County Will Book K (1815), p. 95.

<sup>4</sup>Oliver Evans, The Young Mill-Wright and Miller's Guide (Philadelphia: privately printed, 1795). The names of Lind, Ruddell, and Williams are listed among other original subscribers to the first edition in an unnumbered appendix.

<sup>5</sup>Shenandoah County Will Book K (1815), p. 95.

<sup>6</sup>Shenandoah County Deed Book Z (1817), p. 122.

<sup>7</sup>Shenandoah County Land Tax Books, 1810-1870.

<sup>8</sup>Shenandoah County Deed Book KK (1831), p. 462.

<sup>9</sup>Shenandoah County Land Tax Books, 1834-1853.

<sup>10</sup>Wayland, loc. cit.

<sup>11</sup>Shenandoah County Will Book 2 (1853), pp. 100, 101, 244, 249.

<sup>12</sup>Shenandoah County Will Book 2 (1853), pp. 100-101.

<sup>13</sup>Joseph Floyd Wine, Life Along Holman's Creek (Woodstock: privately printed, 1982), p. 165.

<sup>14</sup>Blair Zirkle, Telephone interview with author, November 17, 1982. Mr. Zirkle is Commissioner of the Revenue for Shenandoah County.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Wayland, John W. A History of Shenandoah County Virginia. Strasburg: Shenandoah Publishing House, 1969.

Wine, John Floyd. Life Along Holman's Creek. Woodstock: privately printed, 1982.

Zirkle, Blair. Telephone Interview with author, November 17, 1982.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

ZIRKLE MILL, SHENANDOAH COUNTY, VA

Continuation sheet #3

Item number 10

Page 1

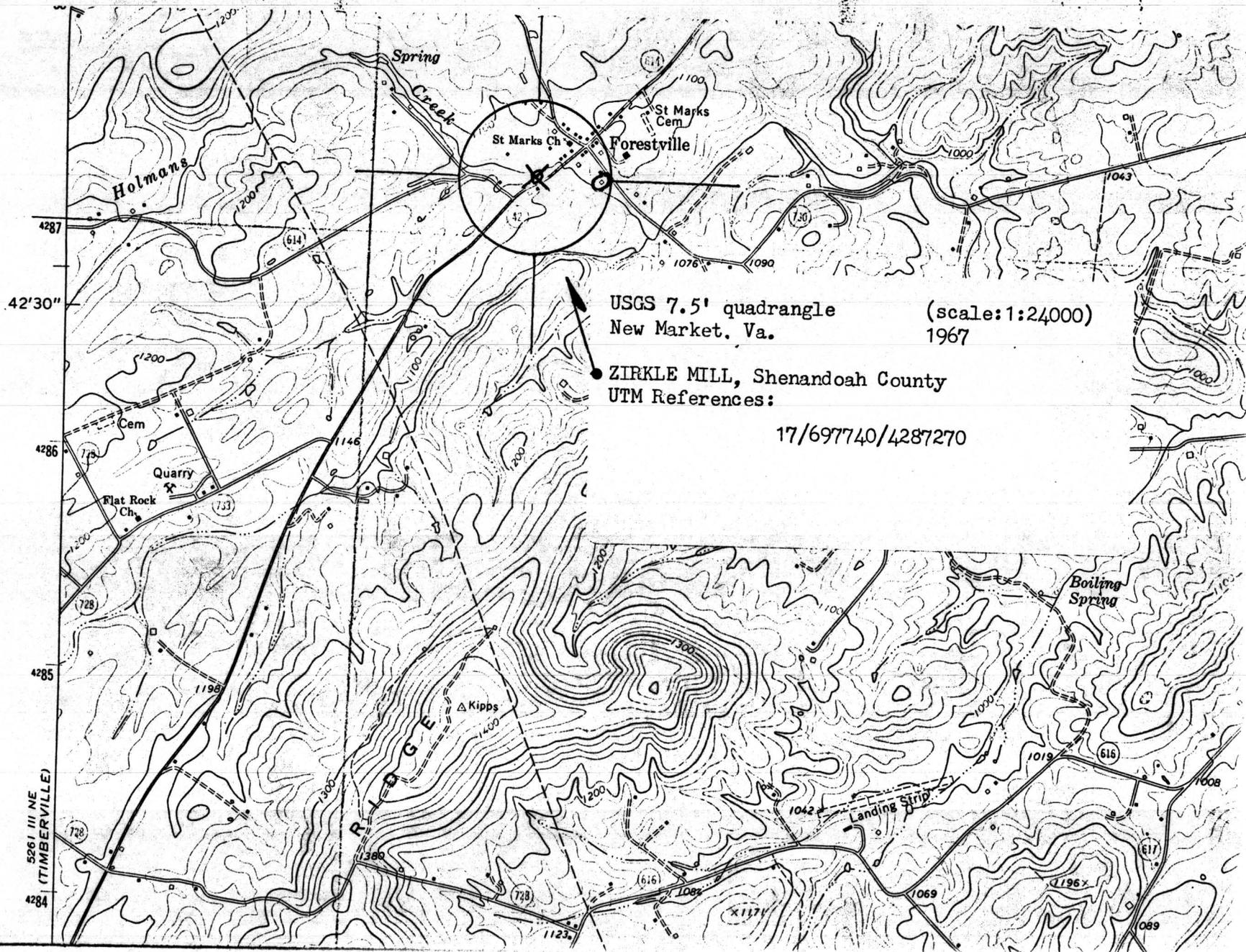
For NPS use only

received

date entered

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA--Boundary Justification

Boundary Justification: The Zirkle Mill nomination includes one acre of land which is all of the property remaining with the mill bounded on the south by Route 42 and on the north by the Spring Creek.



USGS 7.5' quadrangle (scale:1:24000)  
New Market, Va. 1967

● ZIRKLE MILL, Shenandoah County  
UTM References:

17/697740/4287270

42'30"

4286

4285

5261 III NE  
(TIMBERVILLE)

4284