

VLR-4/16/74 NRHP-9/10/74

Form 10-300 (Rev. 6-72)

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: Washington

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY DATE:

1. NAME

COMMON: White's Mill

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Abingdon vicinity

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: Ninth (William C. Wampler)

STATE: Virginia CODE: 51 COUNTY: Washington CODE: 191

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" 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																				
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate): <table border="0"> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Government</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Park</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Transportation</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Comments</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial</td> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Industrial</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Educational</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Military</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Religious</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Museum</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Scientific</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>				<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)		<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious			<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments																			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)																				
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious																					
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific																					

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Guy Miller

STREET AND NUMBER: White's Mill

CITY OR TOWN: Abingdon

STATE: Virginia CODE: 51

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Washington County Court House

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Abingdon

STATE: Virginia CODE: 51

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1973

DATE OF SURVEY: 1975

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

STREET AND NUMBER: 221 Governor Street

CITY OR TOWN: Richmond

STATE: Virginia CODE: 51

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Virginia

COUNTY: Washington

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input 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

White's Mill is a frame two-story structure resting on a down slope basement with a full attic sheltered by a gable roof. At the basement level are located the main gears for the buhr runs, roller mills, elevators and bolting machinery. In addition to the gear well, the basement level also contains an area for a water-powered sawmill and a brick corner fireplace. The first or main floor supports the one remaining run of millstones (there were originally two stands of buhrs) and a complement of three Sprout & Waldron and MacAnulty Roller Mills. Besides the actual grinding apparatus, the first floor also holds the controls for adjusting the flow from the head race, and regulating the height and speed of the capstone as well as the buhr hoist, meal bins, grain elevators and scales. On the third floor are situated the rolling bolter and shaking sifter (both manufactured by Sprout & Waldron) and an Eureka smut remover. The attic contains the mechanisms for the grain elevators. The entire operation is run exclusively on a water-powered twenty foot diameter Fitz overshot metal wheel.

The actual mill structure was originally covered with plain unbeaded weatherboarding, although some of this has been replaced on the downslope basement side with board-and-batten siding. Access into the mill is gained through Dutch doors located on either the main floor east wall or basement north wall and hung on wrought iron strap hinges and having wooden spring or sliding latches. Originally lighted by six-over-six sliding sash windows, some of the early sash has been replaced with later Victorian period lights. The mill also has an interior corner chimney built of locally burned brick located in the northwest corner of the structure and having fireplace openings on the first floor and basement levels.

Built along the basic ideas outlined in Oliver Evan's 1795 edition of The Young Millwright and Miller's Guide, White's Mill is run by water without the aid of any auxilliary power source. With the exceptions of the Fitz waterwheel and the great gear wheel, all the interior gears and workings for White's Mill are handmade of wood. The water for the mill is diverted from Toole's Creek by means of an earthen race which feeds directly into the wooden race and onto the wheel. Also associated with the operations at White's Mill is an early coursed rubble limestone dam with a functional hydraulic ram.

B. H.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**8. 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 type="checkbox"/> Political           | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric         | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic            | <input checked="" 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

Although a mill was established on this location as early as 1796, the present White's Mill was probably not built until the mid 19th century. Originally erected as a water-powered buhr mill operating two runs of millstones, the mill was altered in the late 19th century to take, in addition to the already extant grinding apparatus, three stands of Sprout & Waldron and MacAnulty Roller Mills and modern bolting and sifting equipment. At an unspecified later date the early wooden overshot wheel was replaced with the currently used twenty-foot diameter Fitz overshot wheel.

Throughout the course of these technical modernizations and alterations White's Mill has remained in almost continuous operation as a commercial or semi-commercial enterprise. Still grinding grain for either a nominal toll in kind or fixed price per pound, the mill is open on an occasional basis to both customers and visitors. Although only the millstones are used for grinding at the present time, the roller mills, smut removers, elevators, bolters and sifters are also maintained and are in an operable condition.

White's Mill's significance, however, is more than historical or architectural. Built in accordance with Oliver Evan's late 18th century innovations in milling and expanded to include the late 19th century inventions of roller mill machinery, White's Mill is important as a very rare working example of the various phases in the technical evolution of grist milling all housed in a single structure. The only known working water-powered commercially run mill still in operation in Southwest Virginia, White's Mill is an excellently preserved survival from the almost vanished species of the water-powered local grist mill integral to the Virginia scene and economy less than a century ago.

B.H.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Kearfott, Clarence Baker, Highland Mills, New York: Vantage Press, Inc., 1970.

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission files.

**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	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		36 ° 46 ' 05 "	81 ° 59 ' 17 "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 7 acres.

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff

ORGANIZATION: Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission DATE: February, 1974

STREET AND NUMBER:  
221 Governor Street

CITY OR TOWN: Richmond STATE: Virginia CODE: 51

**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 \_\_\_\_\_  
Junius R. Fishburne, Jr., Director  
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission  
Title \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation*

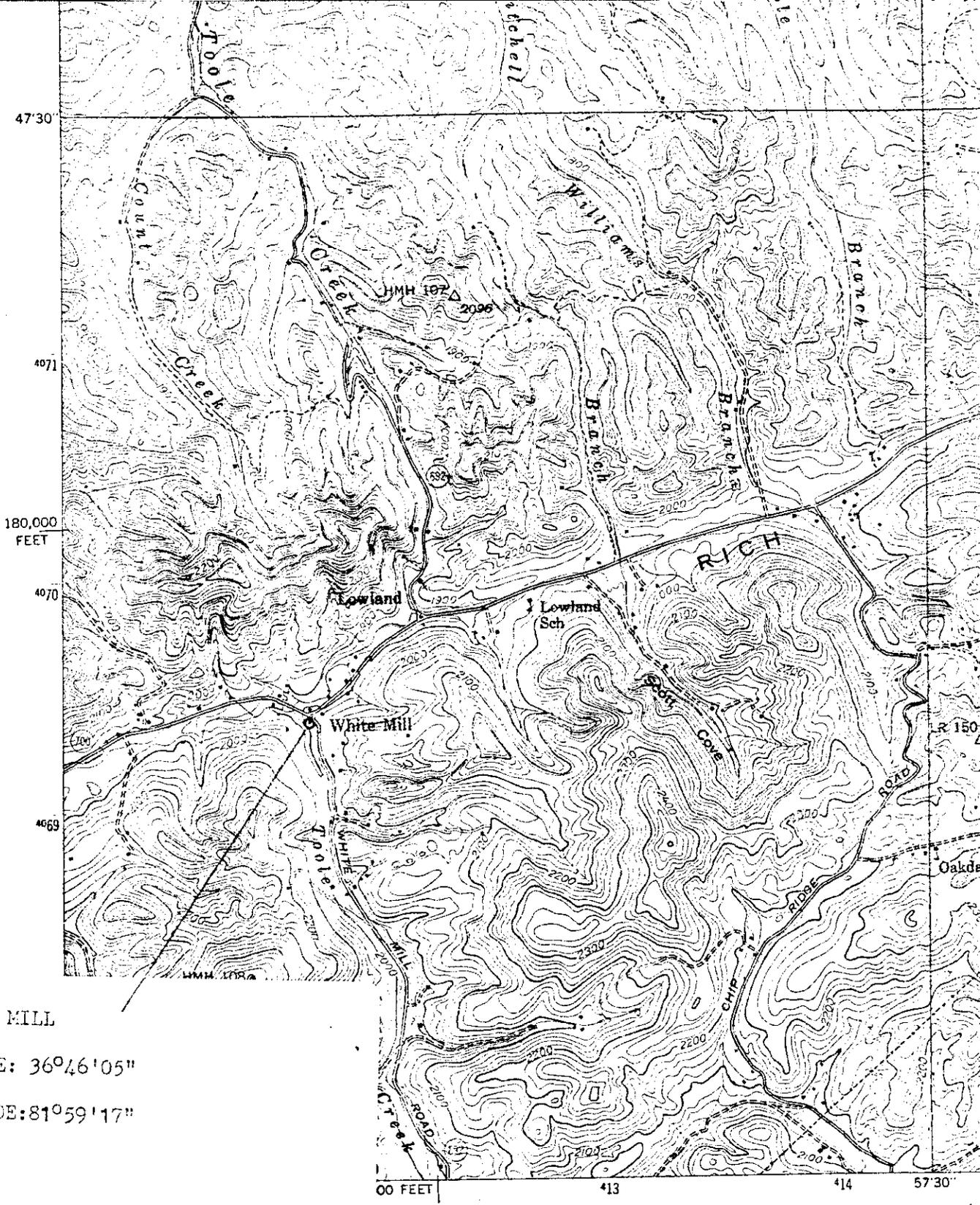
Date \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Keeper of The National Register*

Date \_\_\_\_\_

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

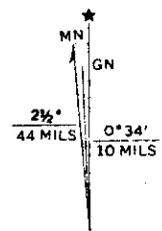


WHITE'S MILL  
 LATITUDE: 36°46'05"  
 LONGITUDE: 81°59'17"

*Wymdale*  
 4557 11 N

by stereophotogrammetric process.  
 Field examination by Tennessee Valley Authority—1938  
 Office inspection and review by the Geological Survey  
 1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,  
 zone 17, shown in blue

Revisions shown in purple and recompilation of woodland areas  
 compiled by the Geological Survey in cooperation with Commonwealth  
 of Virginia from aerial photographs taken 1969. This information  
 not field checked



UTM GRID AND 1969 MAGNETIC NORTH  
 DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET