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OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

### NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

#### 1. Name of Property

historic name Graves Mill  
other names/site number Jones Mill; Beech Grove Mill VDHR File # 056-0015

#### 2. Location

street & number 29 Graves Road Not for publication N/A  
city or town Wolfstown vicinity X  
state Virginia code VA county Madison County code 113 zip code 22727

#### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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] 7/15/6  
Signature of certifying official Date

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

U. S. Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

Graves Mill  
Madison County, VA

**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	
3	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
3	0	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.) N/A

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions** (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: DOMESTIC	Sub: Single dwelling; residence
AGRICULTURE	Sub: Animal facility; barn
INDUSTRY/PROCESSING	Sub: Manufacturing facility/mill

**Current Functions** (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: DOMESTIC	Sub: Single dwelling; residence
AGRICULTURE	Sub: Storage; barn
INDUSTRY/PROCESSING	Sub: Vacant/not in use

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification** (Enter categories from instructions)

OTHER: Late-18<sup>th</sup> century vernacular

**Materials** (Enter categories from instructions)

Foundation	STONE/CONCRETE
Roof	METAL: Tin
Walls	WOOD
Other	

**Narrative Description** (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

U. S. Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

Graves Mill  
Madison County, VA

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### 8. Statement of Significance

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**Applicable National Register Criteria** (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- 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** (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

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**Areas of Significance** (Enter categories from instructions) Industry; Architecture; Social History

**Period of Significance** circa 1745-1940

**Significant Dates** circa 1745-David Jones built a gristmill on the Stanton River;  
circa 1798-Thomas Graves built a five-story gristmill on top of the older mill;  
circa 1921- S. Byron Deal reduces the mill to a three-story structure

**Significant Person** (Complete if Criterion B is marked above) N/A

**Cultural Affiliation** N/A

**Architect/Builder** David Jones; Thomas Graves & Sons

**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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### 9. Major Bibliographical References

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#### Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

#### 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 # \_\_\_\_\_

U. S. Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

Graves Mill  
Madison County, VA

**Primary Location of Additional Data**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: Fredericksburg Public Library; Stafford County Plat Books

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** 4.08 acres

**UTM References** (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting		Northing
A	17	729812		4255990
	<input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.			

**Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title: Nancy W. Kraus with Douglas M. Graves date March 29, 2006  
street & number: 6224 New Harvard Lane telephone (804) 304-6053  
city or town Glen Allen state VA zip code 23059

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets**

**Maps** A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

**Photographs** Representative black and white photographs of the property.

**Additional items** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

**Property Owner**

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Dreama K. Travis  
street & number 29 Graves Road telephone (540) 948-6287  
city or town Madison state VA zip code 22727

**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.

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

**Graves Mill  
Madison County, Virginia**

Section 7 Page 1

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**Summary Description**

The Graves Mill complex is situated on a gently terraced, 4-acre land parcel surrounded by the Blue Ridge Mountains. The property is located approximately five miles north of the village of Wolftown and twelve miles northwest of the town of Madison. The boundaries of the land parcel are partially defined by Kinsey Run to the south and the Rapidan River<sup>1</sup> to the east. The tributaries run roughly parallel to State Route 615 on the south and State Route 662 on the east. The complex is composed of a three-story, heavy timber frame gristmill; a two-story, log, frame, and weatherboard miller's house; and a one-story heavy timber frame barn. The gristmill, constructed circa 1798, probably on the foundation of a circa 1745 gristmill, was owned and operated by members of the Thomas Graves family for more than a century.

The mill is built into the side of a low hill at the foot of Jones Mountain. Traces of the mill race are apparent at the north end. A pond, situated immediately to the east of the mill near what was once the confluence of Jones's Run and the Stanton River, was created by runoff from the overshot water wheel. Rectangular in form, 36 feet by 40 feet in plan, the mill has a post-and-beam frame with mortise-and-tenon joints secured with wooden drawbore pins. The exterior is sheathed with riven horizontal clapboards. The mill exhibits a 5/12-pitch gable roof with exposed rafter ends. Limited areas of the wood roof deck and standing-seam metal roof sheathing survive. The foundation, which is more than eight feet in height along the east elevation, is mostly dry-laid coursed rubble stone. Some of the stonework is in-filled with soil, small stones, and lime-based mortar. Parts of the original mill wheel and related machinery are visible at ground level at the north end, underneath the massive sawn and hewn beam, 14 inches by 28 inches by 21 feet, which previously supported the mechanical equipment. The mill displays irregularly placed bays on each elevation. The central bay at ground level on the east elevation serves as the entrance. Door and window frames at ground level are constructed of hand-planed, beaded, and molded locust timbers, 5 inches by 8 inches, with mortise-and-tenon joints. On the interior, the post-and-beam construction is mostly exposed at all three levels. Two straight runs of historic stairs and a compact voting booth in the southeast corner of the second level define the interior plan.

Two contributing support buildings are sited to the west of the mill: a frame barn, constructed early in the twentieth century, and the circa 1850 miller's house. The one-and-one-half-story, two-bay barn features a heavy timber internal frame, vertical plank siding, and a double-pitched flared roof. The miller's house incorporates the circa 1792 Thomas Graves School, constructed of logs, that was re-located circa 1850 to its current site from its original setting on the property near the original Thomas Graves mansion. The miller's house is a wood frame and weatherboard structure, composed of five distinct building blocks. Even though the dwelling has been enlarged and remodeled through the years, the form and detail of the earlier school are discernible within the house. The surviving buildings that constitute the Graves Mill complex retain a high degree of historic fabric and architectural integrity.

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

**Graves Mill  
Madison County, Virginia**

Section 7 Page 2

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## **Architectural Description**

### **Graves Mill**

Graves Mill, a three-story, heavy timber frame structure, is built into the side of a gently sloping terrace. Traces of the mill race are apparent at the north end. A pond situated to the east of the mill was once connected by a narrow creek to the Rapidan River, providing water power to the mill. Rectangular in form, 36 feet by 40 feet in plan, the mill has a post-and-beam frame with mortise-and-tenon joints, secured with wooden drawbore pins. The exterior is sheathed with riven horizontal clapboards. The mill exhibits a 5/12-pitch gable roof with exposed rafter ends. Rafters are hand hewn. The roof deck is constructed of inch-thick tongue-and-groove wood planks, covered with standing-seam metal.

The foundation, which is twenty inches thick and more than eight feet in height along the east elevation, is mostly dry-laid coursed rubble stone. Some of the stonework is in-filled with soil, small stones, and lime-based mortar. The stone portion of the foundation at the northwest corner has collapsed. The first-floor joists are sawn 5-inch by 8-inch oak. The joists, grouped in three sets across the long side of the building, are supported in the center by two beams, each 12-inches by 16-inches by 24 feet. Oak posts support the second and third beams. The 11-inch by 15-inch by 38-foot beams are chamfered. Some of the interior walls are finished with 18-inch-wide poplar boards. The wood panels have an angled horizontal joint, designed to keep dust out of the room below.

The carpentry techniques, the styles of the nails found in the mill, the detail and placement of the sill plates, and the unusual styling of the door and window frames at ground level of the east elevation suggest that the current mill may have incorporated the fabric of the earlier Jones Mill that was constructed and operated by David Jones on the site. A variety of hand-forged and hooked stamped nails suggest a mid-to-late-eighteenth-century construction period. Analysis of the differences between the types of nails used to construct the first story and the nails found on the upper stories suggest the possibility of two different periods of construction.<sup>2</sup>

Although in a state of dis-assembly, the original mill stones and some of the mechanicals are visible at ground level of the north end. Still solidly in place is the massive sawn and hewn beam, 14 inches by 28 inches by 21 feet, which previously supported the mechanical equipment. The placement of the mill wheels at the north end was apparently intentional. Originally of wood, the wheels were saturated by water from the millrace. If exposed to sunlight, the wood elements tended to dry out and warp, damaging the function of the wheel.<sup>3</sup> The original wooden overshot wheel was removed and replaced with a steel wheel circa 1891.<sup>4</sup>

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

**Graves Mill  
Madison County, Virginia**

Section 7 Page 3

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The mill displays three irregularly placed bays on the primary east elevation at the first and second levels. The central bay at ground level serves as the entrance. There is one window bay at the third level in the center of the south elevation wall. Door and window frames at ground level are constructed of hand-planed, beaded, and molded locust timbers, 5 inches wide and 8 inches long. The frames are connected at the corners with mortise-and-tenon joints, secured by pegs of locust wood. On the interior, each window frame is trimmed with an applied back band that is secured with hand forged nails. Curiously, comparable window construction detail has been identified by Dewey Lillard at Locust Dale (DHR #023-0049) in Rapidan, Virginia.<sup>5</sup> There is a single entrance door opening centered on the west elevation. The north and south elevations each have two irregularly placed bays. No window sashes or panes survive at any location, but the historic windows were apparently four and six pane in style. When the mill was surveyed in November, 1936, by Evelyn Tunison for the Works Progress Administration, the inventory form included the following data: 3 stories; gabled, metal roof; six windows with 4 and 6 panes; three large rooms; two stairs; doors of planked pine with 2-foot strap hinges; uneven, patched floors; very heavy timbers.<sup>6</sup>

Shadow lines on the exterior clapboards suggest the shape and dimensions of two different porches that were once attached along the east and west elevations. The covered porches likely served as the receiving and delivery areas when the Graves Mill was operational. A photograph from the early part of the twentieth century shows a one-story, shed-roofed porch extending nearly the full length of the east elevation. The porch on the west elevation sheltered the secondary egress door. The porch was covered with a shed roof and was approached by steep wood steps.

On the interior, the post-and-beam construction is mostly exposed at all three levels. Sills are heart pine, 16 inches by 18 inches in size. The floors, though markedly deteriorated, are constructed of 20-inch-wide heart pine boards. In limited areas, interior walls are covered with 18-inch-wide poplar boards, each with an angled horizontal joint designed to keep dust out of the room below. Several old meal and flour bins are on display. The bins have hinged tops which are carved with a variety of initials. At ground level, a small area of early historic plaster finish survives in the northwest corner of the mill. An underground spring was originally active in this corner, and its natural cooling provided the ideal spot for the installation of a walk-in icebox where dairy products were stored. In the summer, watermelons were cooled in the spring to provide refreshment for tenants who lived in the cabins on the Graves plantation.<sup>7</sup>

Vestiges of a turned run of original stairs are located between the first and second levels. The stair winds down from the southeast corner of the second floor to ground level, near the entrance on the west elevation. Though deteriorated, a second straight run of stairs is in place and functional between the second and third levels. This stair, which is located just inside the west entrance, runs

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

**Graves Mill  
Madison County, Virginia**

Section 7 Page 4

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perpendicular to the west wall. A compact voting booth survives in the southeast corner of the second level. The voting booth is approximately three feet by three feet. It has a hinged door and a small shelf used for marking ballots.

**Miller's or Clint Graves's House**

Two contributing support buildings are sited to the west of the historic mill. The miller's house, also called Clint Graves's dwelling, is situated on an elevated ridge, facing east, overlooking Graves Mill and the Rapidan River. A stone retaining wall, visible in photographs from the early part of the twentieth century, helps to maintain the level, grassy lawn in front of the dwelling. The current dwelling is composed of five well-defined blocks that suggest the architectural evolution of the structure. The main block of the dwelling is rectangular, a two-story, two-bay frame building topped with a low-pitched gable roof. The primary east elevation is distinguished by a one-story, three-bay porch. The hip-roofed porch, which shelters the primary entrance in the central bay, is supported by turned columns. The porch has a fanciful scroll-sawn railing and decorative curvilinear fascia board. The southeast bay is enclosed with a single-light, rectangular window at the top. The second block is also rectangular, a two-story wing attached to the west (rear) wall of the main block. The wing is two bays long and one bay wide. The wing has a low-pitched, intersecting gable roof that forms a T-shape with the main block. A single, interior brick chimney projects above the centerline of the roof. A modern balcony, accessed by paired French doors, extends across the west elevation at the second story.

The third block is a one-story, hip-roofed pavilion that covers the full length of the south wall of the main block. This pavilion exhibits one window bay on the east elevation and three bays along the west elevation. The south elevation displays two 6/6, double-hung windows and a secondary entrance door. The Victorian-era entrance has a raised-panel wood-and-glass egress door, covered with a wood screened door with ornamental scroll-sawn detail. The fourth block is a low, one-story, shed-roofed pavilion attached to the southwest corner of the rear wing. The fifth block is a one-story, two-bay elongated wing with a low-pitched gable roof. Formerly a free-standing building, this wing is today attached to the northwest corner of the rear pavilion. This block is remembered by local members of the community as "the spring house." The walls and ceiling of the spring house are constructed of hard wood, and the building has a concrete trough on the east side. It has a window on the north wall, visible from inside, which has been covered over on the exterior. Near the spring house is a stone-lined, hand-dug well, now covered over for safety.

The various roofs of the dwelling were covered in 2003 with new standing-seam terne metal that replicates the fabric and detail of the historic roof covering. All five of the blocks described above are of frame and weatherboard construction, today sheathed in vinyl, except for the first story of the

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

**Graves Mill  
Madison County, Virginia**

Section 7 Page 5

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main block. The main rectangular block of the dwelling has a circa 1792 log frame. The one-room log school, rectangular in plan, was moved circa 1850 by Clint Graves from its original location, approximately 400 yards north of the mill, to the current site. He enlarged the former school, adding a second story, and transformed the modest building into the miller's house. The dwelling was enlarged and altered through the years.

Although the log frame is encapsulated, the form and some detail of the earlier school are discernible inside the house. Just inside the entrance door, the former entrance hall contains a boxed stair to the second story. The former school room, with a stone fireplace centered on the north wall, is today the living room. The second story of the main block has one large bedroom and a bathroom. The door on the second floor leading into the hallway is only five feet tall. When the miller's house was renovated in 2003, the owner discovered Roman numerals carved into the wood framing on the second floor.

**Barn**

A barn, constructed in the early part of the twentieth century, is located approximately 200 yards northwest of the dwelling. Identified as a stable on a survey map from 1968, the barn is characterized by its prominent A-shape. The barn is also distinguished by its steep, flared, double-pitched roof, covered with standing-seam terne metal. The south-facing barn has two open bays, one at each corner of the façade, sheltered beneath the east and west extension of the double-pitched roof. The heavy timber frame, covered externally with roughly hewn vertical wood planks, is exposed on the interior. A wooden ladder, attached inside of the north wall, provides access to the loft space above. The barn has a dirt floor.

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

**Graves Mill  
Madison County, Virginia**

Section 8 Page 6

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**8. Statement of Significance**

Graves Mill is an outstanding and rare example of a late-eighteenth-century gristmill. The mill derives its name from the legacy of Thomas Graves, a prosperous planter, who constructed the mill in Madison County with his sons circa 1798 probably over the foundation of the circa 1745 Jones Mill. Even in its current dilapidated state, the mill preserves remarkable, utilitarian architectural features. The mill embodies very high quality construction materials and representative period construction techniques. Graves Mill is the only surviving gristmill in the vicinity.

The sturdy architectural character of the mill is symbolic of its industrial significance as a prototypical, relatively large-scale grain processing operation. From its inception, the mill played a central role in the industrial vitality of the local agrarian community by providing a rather sophisticated means for processing grain crops for subsistence and for wholesale distribution. Graves Mill operated between circa 1798 and circa 1921 as a flour and corn mill and between circa 1921 and circa 1940 as a corn mill. During its most prosperous period in the first half of the nineteenth century, the gristmill complex also sustained the services of a blacksmith and a cooper. It is also likely that the mill functioned as the local weighing station since scales were part of the standard operating equipment of a mill.

The gristmill is also significant in the social history of this region of Madison County. Except for the local church, the local mill was often the most important community building in rural areas of eighteenth- and nineteenth-century America. Graves Mill served as the first voting precinct in this region of Madison County. The original voting booth is well-preserved within the structure. Thomas Graves and members of his extended family were socially prominent members of the Graves Mill community. Thomas Graves was responsible for the operation of a private school on his property between 1793 and 1850. He and his wife Sarah were among thirty-seven charter members of the Rapid Ann Baptist Meeting House in the settlement known today as Wolfstown. Thomas also helped organize the Madison County Courthouse and served as a Justice in the Commission of Peace. Asa Graves, Thomas Graves's son and the first miller, was the postmaster for the local community. The Graves Chapel that survives today was established circa 1883 by Asa Graves's son Francis Edward Graves. The mill is truly a metaphor of the social and economic history of the Graves Mill community in Madison County.

**Justification of Criteria**

Graves Mill possesses local significance under Criterion A in the areas of Industry and Social History because the gristmill played an important role in the economy and in the social life of the local community for more than a century. The technology employed in the milling of grain represented sophisticated and progressive mechanical accomplishments during the period of the

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

**Graves Mill  
Madison County, Virginia**

Section 8 Page 7

---

mill's operation. Most of the historic mechanical components of the gristmill are extant inside the north end of the building.

The Graves Mill complex is eligible under Criterion C in the area of Architecture for the quality of design and craftsmanship represented by the vernacular late-eighteenth-century mill, the mid-nineteenth-century miller's house, and the early-twentieth-century barn that comprise the complex. Each of the three contributing buildings in the Graves Mill complex retains much of its original architectural integrity. The complex offers exceptional potential for study and interpretation. The period of significance extends from circa 1745 when David Jones constructed the first gristmill on the Stanton River to 1940 when the mill ceased commercial operations.

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

**Graves Mill  
Madison County, Virginia**

Section 8 Page 8

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### **Historical Background**

Graves Mill lies in the shadow of Jones Mountain, now at the heart of the great Shenandoah National Park. The Blue Ridge Mountains and the surrounding ridges and valleys, previously occupied by Native Americans for more than 12,000 years, attracted colonists in the early 1700s. The story of Graves Mill tells part of the earliest history of Madison County and of the pioneering families who emigrated from the coastal regions of Virginia to seek prosperity in the fertile valleys and to enjoy the natural beauty of the Blue Ridge. Modern development has not spoiled the pristine beauty of the region surrounding the Graves Mill complex.

To understand the economic importance of Graves Mill to the surrounding community, it is useful to examine the prominent role played by water-driven grist mills in eighteen-and-nineteenth-century America. Bread is the staff of life, and growing populations require efficient and productive means for grinding grains. To meet the demand for flour and meal products in colonial America, the water-powered mill became the most important industry within the local community. When Graves Mill was constructed in the 1790s, there were approximately 7,500 small mills in the United States.<sup>8</sup> By 1850, there were more than 60,000 grist and sawmills dotting the rural landscape.<sup>9</sup> Mills such as Graves Mill were part of a far-reaching industry that supplied flour products not only to the local community but also to the nation and to other parts of the world well into the twentieth century. It was not until after World War II that country mills began to disappear from the American landscape.

Although there are no surviving ledgers that prove the pivotal economic role of Graves Mill in the local community, the economic importance of the mill can be derived from land record books on file in the Madison County Courthouse record room. Representative nineteenth-century tax records record the value per acre for all taxed properties within Madison County. The county did not levy a specific tax on the production of any local agricultural operation or industry. But the land record books do show the taxes paid based upon the value of the land and buildings. The vast majority of land within Madison County was, and still is today, undeveloped farm land or standing timber with relatively low tax rates per acre. The comparison of the value per acre of the Graves Mill property with the average value per acre of land throughout all of Madison County shows a significant disparity. For most of the nineteenth century, the average value per acre in all of Madison County, including buildings, ranged between \$7.85 and \$10.01 while the average value per acre for the Graves Mill lot ranged between \$300.00 and \$365.00 per acre. By 1890, the relative economic value of Graves Mill began to decline, presumably with the advent of the modern roller mill. Between 1890 and 1900, the average value per acre in all of Madison County, including buildings, ranged between \$6.05 and \$8.40 while the average value per acre for the Graves Mill lot ranged between \$100.00 and \$114.28 per acre.<sup>10</sup>

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

**Graves Mill  
Madison County, Virginia**

Section 8 Page 9

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The substantial economic productivity of the Graves Mill plantation is revealed in the Will of Thomas Graves.<sup>11</sup> At the time of his death in 1810, he bequeathed to his heirs a vast agricultural and milling operation. Recorded details shed some light on the extent of his economic empire. Barrels and barrels of flour were sold at his estate sale on November 29, 1810. For example, Gerald J. Banks purchased 36 barrels of flour.<sup>12</sup> Eighteen hogsheads, used to transport tobacco and valued at nearly 300 pounds, were also sold. Also within his will, Thomas Graves directed that his son Thomas Graves, Jr., was to be paid for "selling Estate tobacco at Fredericksburg .....and selling the estate flour."<sup>13</sup> Thomas, Jr. made several trips to and from Fredericksburg to sell and to collect the money for the sale of these items. The estate of Thomas Graves must have had a large quantity of these products to justify transporting them by hogshead and oxen to Fredericksburg, approximately 65 miles from Graves Mill. At Fredericksburg, it is likely that the items were loaded onto barges for eventual transport to England or to other locations within the states. The Graves Mill estate included a hemp and saw mill that was situated on Jones Run, just south of the grist mill. More than 400 pounds of milled hemp, used in the fabrication of clothing and rope, were sold at the public auction.<sup>14</sup>

Thomas Graves must have been a formidable distiller of spirits. More than 650 gallons of brandy were sold at the public auction to neighbors and relatives. Most of the brandy was sold in 30-gallon barrels—barrels most likely produced in the cooper shop on the plantation.<sup>15</sup> Among others, Benjamin Graves and Joel Graves each purchased one 30-gallon barrel of brandy. Neighbor Abraham Eddins purchased five 30-gallon barrels of brandy plus an additional 98 and 3/4 gallons of brandy on November 27 and 28, 1810.<sup>16</sup>

Items used by the blacksmith at Graves Mill are listed in Thomas Graves's inventory of property. Because the local farmers were necessarily self-sufficient, the blacksmithing operation was essential to repair wagons and farm implements and to sharpen hay sickles and plows. The blacksmith required substantial quantities of water for the cooling; blacksmiths were generally located close to a source of water. Circa 1980, local residents identified a dark area in a field near Graves Mill, indicating the former location of the blacksmith shop. Coke and charcoal, produced by the blacksmith's fire, were also found in the area.<sup>17</sup>

The prosperity of plantations in the eighteenth century was often revealed in the affiliated number of slaves. When he died, Thomas Graves owned approximately 65 slaves. Ownership of the majority of slaves was retained by Thomas Graves's wife Sarah and their children.<sup>18</sup> The rest of the slaves were sold at public auction on November 28, 1810. According to Randall Lillard, a local resident in the Graves Mill community, there was a slave church on Jones Run (now Kinsey Run) during the early years of the Graves Mill development. Mr. Lillard can also identify the site of a slave graveyard

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

**Graves Mill  
Madison County, Virginia**

Section 8 Page 10

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on "Kinsey Place", near Kinsey Run.

To understand the social significance of Graves Mill, it is useful to examine how a local mill was tied to the surrounding community. Theodore R. Hazen, one of the foremost authorities on mills in the United States, summarizes:

At one time, almost everyone had to make a trip to the mill. You met your neighbors there and maybe fell in love. Not with the mill or the miller but with someone's daughter who happened to go to the mill with her father. "Down by the old mill stream that is where I first met you..."<sup>19</sup>

There is substantial evidence to suggest that Graves Mill was a prototypical mill and that Thomas Graves and later his son As a Graves were prototypical millers, serving in prominent social and political positions in the local community. After analyzing thousands of pertinent historical documents, Theodore Hazen and others have written a series of monographs that synthesize the important social features of a typical eighteenth-century mill.<sup>20</sup> There is evidence to suggest that the Graves Mill plantation embodied the following typical characteristics:

1. The mill was a gathering place for the community. A farmer might ask the miller questions about grain, farming, or personal issues. Local news was shared. It is where the business records were kept. The miller's log books and ledgers were a record of the farming community and business of the mill;
2. The mill was a storage place for important tools and books. Some tools used in a mill would be used nowhere else in the community, and the mill may have the first books and writing material in the community;
3. The mill property served as the site for local efforts in education;
4. The mill often served as the first town bank, post office, and/or voting precinct;
5. The mill had the first and only scales for weighing things in a community;
6. The mill property supported ancillary services: a blacksmith, a cooper, a general store, a millinery store;
7. The miller was often an early town father;
8. The mill property may have provided employment opportunities.

Thomas Graves was a highly respected and admired man in the local community. The owner of an exceptionally large library, he likely served as an informal resource on matters related to law, medicine and geography. His extensive will confirms that he owned a family Bible, two law books,

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Graves Mill  
Madison County, Virginia

Section 8 Page 11

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five physician's manuals, a history text, *Guthries Grammar*, *Pilgrim's Progress*, and several almanacs.<sup>21</sup> Thomas Graves was also politically active, serving in several official county positions. Madison County court records confirm that he was a Gentlemen Justice and that he participated in the court adjudication process. He had a sense of fairness in making decisions and apparently had knowledge of the law and also the intelligence to interpret, read, and apply the law. The same court order book records that "Thomas Graves (Shooter) and James Newman are by the Court appointed Commissioners to Value property taken under Execution Law". Thomas Graves apparently had a sense of value, probably obtained from the mill and ancillary operations. He was capable of determining the value of real estate or other personal property items.<sup>22</sup> Thomas Graves also served as an early welfare officer for Madison County. On July 24, 1794, "Thomas Graves Sen, John Hinshaw & Elisha Berry, having been duly elected overseers of the Poor for this county and having been summoned to appear, accordingly appeared and took the oath of an overseer of the Poor according to Law."<sup>23</sup>

The Graves Mill that survives today was actually the product of three building campaigns: circa 1745, when David Jones built the first gristmill on the current site; circa 1798, when Thomas Graves and his sons built a five-story gristmill, probably over the foundation of the earlier mill; and circa 1921, when the mill was purchased by Silas Byron Deale who reduced it to its current three-story form.

The first building campaign may be associated with David and Elizabeth Jones. According to a land grant, dated June 1, 1741, David and Elizabeth Jones were awarded a patent for 350 acres in the County of Orange on the south side of the Stanton River.<sup>24</sup> Between 1741 and 1750, David and Elizabeth Jones cultivated the 350-acre parcel and built a gristmill.<sup>25</sup>

An understanding of how Jones Mill may have been built may be found in [Virginia: A New Look at the Old Dominion](#) by Marshall Fishwick. He provides this remarkably graphic image of how mills were constructed and put into operation in the eighteenth century in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia:

Having asked God to give them their daily bread, these Valley men set out to help Him by building grist mills. The landscape suggested it. Fast-flowing streams were everywhere; wood and limestone were plentiful for construction, and every family needed ground grain. The Valley's first communal structures, except for churches, were mills...Building a mill took weeks or months of labor. No machinery or standardized parts were available, only human strength and ingenuity. Except for a few parts the blacksmith might forge, everything had to be made from wood and stone. This is how they did it. A good site was found, and a building writ got from court. Limestone foundation walls were erected, topped by a log, or perhaps a stone, superstructure. Then it was time to call the neighbors. Everybody who could come, men, women, and children, with axes, saws, augurs, and

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

**Graves Mill  
Madison County, Virginia**

ready  
Section 8 Page 12

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muscles... Then the millwright, called in for the job, was ready to take over. Under his supervision two pillars went up, one inside and one outside the basement walls, to support the wheel shaft. A section of a white oak tree, about four feet long, would be brought to the site, trued up, and punctured with mortised openings into which the hewn-oak spokes of the wheel could be inserted. Yellow locust journals, upon which the wheel revolved, were fitted into each end of the shaft. They rested on hardwood blocks topping the piers, and were lubricated with tallow... The shaft would be put in place, arms fitted on, timbers sawed to make water buckets, millstones put into place. A hopper would be built to carry the precious gold grain to the stones, and the millrace flooded. Finally the mill would be in operation.<sup>26</sup>

David and Elizabeth Jones apparently achieved some measure of prosperity and social standing.<sup>27</sup> The mountain that towered above his property became known as Jones Mountain, and the stream that ran adjacent to his mill was called Jones Run (now called Kinsey Run) for more than 150 years.<sup>28</sup> The tenure of David and Elizabeth Jones on the property in Madison County was apparently short-lived. David Jones, then of Orange County, son and heir of David and Elizabeth Jones, then deceased, sold the 350-acre parcel of land to Thomas Buckner of Caroline County in 1751.<sup>29</sup> It is reported in Lost Trails and Forgotten People that David and Elizabeth Jones were abducted and murdered by Indians in 1750. This seems unlikely, as no recorded accounts of Indians in the area appear in any county documents from this period. There is, however, mention in court records of an earlier David Jones and his wife who were killed by Indians in 1731.<sup>30</sup>

Although the gristmill and surrounding property were soon to become more closely associated with the family of Thomas Graves, the legacy of David Jones may remain embedded in the historical building. Nail analysis, performed by Dewey Lillard, a noted authority of construction in Madison County, suggests that some of the nails from the second and third stories of the mill are hook-stamped nails from the 1790s while nails taken from the backband on the first-story windows and inside trim are partially hand-forged nails from the 1780s.<sup>31</sup> It may be that part of the existing stone foundation and first floor survive from the first building campaign.

The Graves family name is associated with the earliest history of the Commonwealth of Virginia. The Graves Mill and the surrounding Graves Mill community in Madison County, Virginia, were named for the family of Thomas Graves, a fifth-generation descendent of Captain Thomas Graves.<sup>32</sup> Captain Graves came to Virginia in 1608 with Captain Thomas Newport on the Mary & Margaret.<sup>33</sup> Captain Thomas Graves is distinguished as one of the original stockholders of the Virginia Company of London, as one of the founders of Jamestown, and as a member of the first legislative assembly in America.<sup>34</sup>

Land grants and patents of the descendents of Captain Thomas Graves trace the migration of the

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Graves Mill  
Madison County, Virginia

Graves family to Madison County.<sup>35</sup> One of the sons of Captain Graves was Thomas, whose son  
Section 8 Page 13

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Thomas settled in Essex County, whose son John migrated to Spotsylvania County, whose son John was the father of Thomas Graves (b. 1733), the builder of Graves Mill. Thomas immigrated into the Stanton River valley in lower Madison County circa 1760.<sup>36</sup> Already a man of wealth and social

stature, he owned more than one thousand acres of inherited land on the Conway River. At the age of nineteen, he had married Sarah Dulaney, daughter of Frances Stanton Dulaney and granddaughter of Tom Stanton, an original settler and planter in the county. An image of Thomas Graves at the time of his wedding is derived from the diary of his granddaughter: "At the wedding, Tom Graves was attired in the style of a colonial gentleman, complete with silk hose and knee breeches. He probably also wore a massive silver buckle, as was his custom, because Tom Graves had a proud and aristocratic quality."<sup>37</sup>

At the age of twenty-seven, Thomas Graves settled on a level plateau near Jones Mill, about 500 feet from the east slope of Jones Mountain. He purchased the acreage that included David Jones' mill in 1759.<sup>38</sup> By 1784, he had accumulated more than 3,000 acres on and around the mountain. He and his wife Sarah were the parents of six sons and nine daughters.<sup>39</sup> Circa 1793, they built a manor house on the property which was called Spring Hill.<sup>40</sup> They also built the Thomas Graves School which operated on the property as a private school between 1793 and 1850. The school, situated near the manor house, was a typical one-room structure, built of logs, with a side entrance hall and a large stone fireplace. Circa 1850, Thomas Dewitt Clinton "Clint" Graves moved the log cabin to the plateau southwest of the mill. He enlarged it to create the existing miller's house.<sup>41</sup>

Thomas Graves and his wife Sarah presided over a prosperous plantation between 1760 and 1810. Principal crops were tobacco and apples used in the production of brandy, but wheat, hemp, and corn were also grown. Livestock included hogs, cattle, and sheep. They also had a blacksmith shop on the property for the maintenance and repair of a wagon, road coach, several plows and other farm tools. Graves and his older sons owned more than fifty slaves who served both as field hands and as house servants. Household wealth included walnut and pine furnishings, a wooden clock, a looking glass (mirror), pewter plates, knives and forks, tea kettles, iron pots, and spinning wheels. The Graves family was also apparently well-educated. Their personal library included law and history books, a physician's manual, *Guthries Grammar*, *Pilgrim's Progress*, almanacs, Bibles and prayer books.<sup>42</sup>

Thomas Graves was a leading citizen in the community surrounding his plantation. In 1773, he and his wife were among thirty-seven charter members of the Rapid Ann Baptist Meeting House in the settlement known today as Wolfstown. Thomas also helped organize the Madison County Courthouse when Madison County was split from Culpeper County in 1793. Graves was appointed by the court to be a Justice in the Commission of Peace on May 24, 1793.<sup>43</sup>

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

**Graves Mill  
Madison County, Virginia**

On June 22, 1797, Thomas Graves petitioned the court of Madison County for "leave to erect a  
Section 8 Page 14

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water grist mill across the Stanton river",<sup>44</sup> later renamed the Rapidan River. A map drawn in December, 1825, of the property owned by Thomas Graves in Madison County depicts a land parcel of 639-1/2 acres. The plat includes a detailed written analysis that identifies the property as part of patents and a grant awarded to Thomas Graves in 1797. The property on the map is bounded along the south by a tributary identified as Jones Run, along the east by the Stanton River, along the west by Benjamin Graves's land, and along the north by the land of David Snyder and Joel Eddins.<sup>45</sup> An additional land parcel of 4-1/2 acres, also belonging to Thomas Graves, is shown at the southeast corner of the estate where the two rivers intersect. At this confluence is a disproportionately tall hip-roofed building with a massive water wheel. The channel of the mill race, fed by the Stanton River, is also clearly drawn. The mill is labeled "Beech Grove Mill." An illustration of a substantial mansion with two prominent chimneys is situated to the northeast of the mill. Although the blacksmith shop, slave cabins, the school, and other utilitarian buildings are known to have been located on the property, no other structures are shown on the survey.

Graves Mill derives its name from the second building campaign circa 1798. Thomas Graves and his sons apparently constructed the overshot water-powered gristmill on the foundation of Jones Mill. Some insight to the original five-story form of Graves Mill may be gained by examining the well-documented history of another mill, also known as Graves Mill, which once stood near Lynchburg. The history and architectural features of the mill are comprehensively documented in Graves Mill: A Symbol of the Past by Paul Brent Hensley. The Lynchburg mill, destroyed by fire in 1967, was constructed circa 1774. The remarkable similarities between the two mills cannot be ignored. The stone basement and first story of the Lynchburg mill were apparently constructed first, with the three additional stories added later. Hensley describes the Lynchburg mill this way:

The mill itself is an impressive structure. Including the basement and first story (which ...were apparently built first), the mill is five stories tall...Its heavy timbers were hewn with foot adzes, mortised, and pegged to hold them together. One cannot fail to be impressed by its foundations which are twenty inches thick. Graves' Mill is not very different from most of the grist mills built during the latter part of the 18<sup>th</sup> century...<sup>46</sup>

The Graves Mill in Lynchburg belonged to Odin Clay and his descendents throughout most of the nineteenth century until it was sold to William E. and Harvey E. Graves in 1893.<sup>47</sup> The Graveses operated the Lynchburg gristmill until the 1940s. The relationship between the Graves family of Lynchburg and the Graves family of Madison County and their respective mills deserves further research.

The decision to elevate the Graves Mill in Madison County to five stories was apparently a practical

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

**Graves Mill  
Madison County, Virginia**

one. The five-story height made it possible to produce the typical five grades of flour. Each level accommodated the filtering of a progressively finer grade of flour. The five-story mill was operated  
Section 8 Page 15

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primarily by Asa W. Graves (1781-1840), one of Thomas Graves's sons. The inscription "A G 1799" was carved into a Dutch-style door in the mill. (The door, removed for safekeeping, is in the possession of Douglas Graves. Mr. Graves, who lives nearby in the village of Graves Mill, plans to restore the door to its original location on the west elevation when the mill is rehabilitated.) Asa W. Graves, who accumulated more than 2,500 acres through inheritance and purchase, is believed to have operated the mill between circa 1799 and 1840 for Thomas Graves & Sons.<sup>48</sup> Asa also served as postmaster for the Graves Mill community.<sup>49</sup> It is believed that the Graves Post Office was established circa 1833. An original letter dated January, 1837, from the Amos Kendall, the United States Postmaster General, to Asa Graves confirms that he was postmaster. The mill served as the first voting precinct in this region of Madison County. Although no official county document confirming that the mill served as the voting precinct has been discovered, long-time members of the local community provide anecdotal support. The presence of the original voting booth and ballot shelf extant within the mill, described in the survey report prepared in 1936 by Evelyn Tunison for the Works Progress Administration, are tangible evidence of its early function as a voting precinct.

The miller's house is commonly referred to as Clint Graves's house. Although Thomas Dewitt Clinton "Clint" Graves never owned the mill property, he was responsible for constructing the core of the existing dwelling, circa 1850, located approximately one hundred yards southwest of the mill. The house has long been called Clint Graves's house in the local community. Clint Graves was the son of Rebecca Biedler and Abraham Graves. When Abraham died in 1839, his widow married Thomas J. Allen. Thomas Allen had purchased the mill property in May, 1844, from Thomas S. Graves.<sup>50</sup> How Clint Graves came to build what would become the miller's house on its current site can only be the subject of speculation. Perhaps Thomas Allen, Clint Graves's step-father, sanctioned the building project.

The earliest description of the miller's house is found in the survey report prepared in 1936 by Evelyn Tunison for the Works Progress Administration. The summary description contains the following information: the miller's house was rectangular; had a stone chimney on the east; plain cornice; seven windows with 6 and 9 panes; circular, boxed in, one flight stair; six and seven panel doors; plastered walls; H&L hinges; high ceilings; 5-and-one-half-foot-tall doors (an oddity). The expanded written description, accompanied by a black and white photograph from the same year, states:

*On the first floor was a hall and a main room. There were two large windows in the main room, one on the front and one by the chimney. (The house faced southeast.) These two windows had nine panes in the upper sash and six panes in the lower sash. This room was the only one which had a fireplace. The mantel was very plain, made of wide boards, the mantel shelf about two inches thick.*

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

**Graves Mill  
Madison County, Virginia**

*The baseboard in this room was fourteen inches wide and with regular fancy beading. The ceilings were exceedingly high, but the doors only stood five and one-half feet high. The window and door*  
Section 8 Page 16

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*casings are of plain wood. The boxed-in stairway and hall was cut off of this room, this being the original school room of logs. The floors were covered with hard wood when the house was remodeled, but in splendid condition when covered. The upstairs consisted only of one room with a small four pane window on each side of the chimney and one in the opposite end. There is a fireplace in this room but no mantel over it. The shingles were removed from this house twenty two years ago. They were scalloped style. These shingles were in such good condition they were used on outbuildings around this residence. About ten years ago the original weatherboarding was removed.<sup>51</sup>*

Thomas and Rebecca Allen sold the mill on January 16, 1849, to James Wharton of Culpeper County and John Z. Wharton of the City of Richmond.<sup>52</sup> At that time, the property inventory included a corn and wheat mill, a saw and hemp mill, and a dwelling. The Whartons were apparently absentee owners, and it is not clear who ran the mill during the time of their ownership. However, the 1850 Census for Madison County lists a John H. Graves, age 58, as a "Miller". Also, marriage records show that John H. Graves had a marriage bond to Jane Wharton in Madison County on January 6, 1834. That the wife of John Graves was a Wharton, that they married in Madison County and that John Graves was a miller in the county is strong circumstantial evidence that the couple may have operated Graves Mill between circa 1849 and 1856, when the mill property was purchased by Francis Edward Graves.<sup>53</sup>

The mill property was sold in 1889 to Mary Collins Melton, who ran a millinery store on the property, and Reuben Melton, who served as the miller.<sup>54</sup> After Mary died in 1920, the mill property was sold at auction to Silas Byron Deale.<sup>55</sup> Byron Deale, who operated the mill into the 1930s as a corn mill, was responsible for the third and to date final building campaign circa 1921. The five-story structure was reduced for unknown reasons to its current three-story form. Residents of Madison County, Lewis McDaniel (recently deceased) and Lewis Shifflett, both remember taking corn to Graves Mill to have it ground in the 1930s. After the establishment in the early 1900s of the more modern Hood Roller Mills Mill for the grinding of wheat into flour, Graves Mill became the primary place to have corn ground into meal. Modern roller mills were an improvement over the two-stone operation at Graves Mill because the rollers were superior in producing a finer product. Roller mills were better for grinding flour while the stones served well in the grinding of corn, typically a courser end product.<sup>56</sup>

Byron Deale is remembered in the community as a miller, a farmer, and mailman. The size of the current land parcel was established during the tenure of Bryon Deale.<sup>57</sup> Also, during his ownership of the property, he leased the former store to Sanford Estes, who operated a slaughterhouse there between 1920 and 1925. After Deale's death in 1953, his widow Sallie sold the property to James

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

**Graves Mill  
Madison County, Virginia**

E. "Buck" Hawkins.<sup>58</sup> Between 1953 and 2002, the mill property was bought and sold five additional times: Jay E. and Joyce Gentry (1964-1965); John Jackson (1965-1968); James and Jeanne Molle  
Section 8 Page 17

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(1968-1999); and Rodney R. Rice (1999-2002). The current owner, Dreama K. Travis, plans to rehabilitate the mill for use as a museum and gift shop.

The legacy of the Graves family in Madison County persists today. There is, of course, the gristmill called Graves Mill, a tangible historic symbol of the past. There is also the village of Graves Mill, Graves Mill Road, Graves Road, Graves Chapel, Graves School, Graves Mill Post Office, and the well-known Graves Mountain Lodge, owned and operated by descendents of Thomas Graves. Graves Chapel, located across Kinsey Run approximately 200 yards from the mill, was established between 1883 and 1884 by Francis Edward Graves (b. 1825), a son of Asa Walker Graves. The stone basement foundation of Spring Hill, the manor house of Thomas and Sarah Graves, which burned down in 1934 and the Graves family cemetery are located approximately 400 yards north of the mill on another property. Approximately fourteen graves are located in the cemetery but the grave markers have deteriorated and none of the graves can be identified. Although archeological investigations have not been conducted upon the property, the land parcel of late-eighteenth-century mill complex offers exceptional potential for study and interpretation. A search for period artifacts and the foundations from the slave quarters, blacksmith shop, cooper shop, general store, and other utilitarian buildings once located on the property may provide a deeper understanding of the significance of the Graves Mill complex.<sup>59</sup> It has also been suggested that an iron mine shaft used for storage during the Civil War may be located near the mill.<sup>60</sup>

In the early part of the twentieth-century, Graves Mill was one of three historic mills located on the Rapidan River. Banks Mill/Walnut Grove Mill/Kites Mill, first constructed in 1819 by Robert A. Banks and refurbished in 1881, was located approximately one mile south or downstream of Graves Mill. Upstream from Graves Mill was Silas Utz Mill, which was washed away in the great flood of 1893. Today, Graves Mill is the sole testament to the history of the milling industry on the Rapidan River in Madison County.

Graves Mill is an outstanding and rare example of a late-eighteenth-century gristmill. The gristmill embodies high quality construction materials and important period construction techniques. Significant architectural features include a twenty-inch-thick foundation of coursed rubble stone; a heavy timber post-and-beam frame with mortise-and-tenon joints; hand-hewn rafters; chamfered oak support posts; and exterior sheathing of riven horizontal clapboards. For nearly 150 years, the mill played a critical role in supporting the local farm-based economy. The mill represents a relatively sophisticated industrial operation that offered local farmers the means for processing grain crops for subsistence and for wholesale and retail distribution. The mill served as a flour and corn mill between circa 1799 and circa 1921 and as a corn mill between circa 1921 and circa 1940. At the height of operations, the Graves Mill complex also offered a multiplicity of social and commercial

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

**Graves Mill  
Madison County, Virginia**

functions. The gristmill was the site of the first voting precinct in this region of Madison County. The gristmill complex also offered the services of a blacksmith and a cooper and likely functioned as the  
Section 8 Page 18

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local weighing station since scales were part of the standard operating equipment of a mill.

Although an archaeological survey has not been conducted on the Graves Mill property, archaeological investigations have the potential to yield information on former buildings, African-American resources and lifeways, and material culture related to the mill complex.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Graves Mill  
Madison County, Virginia

Section 9 Page 22

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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Graves Mill  
Madison County, Virginia

Section 9 Page 23

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

**Graves Mill  
Madison County, Virginia**

Section 10 Page 24

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## **10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

### **Verbal Boundary Description**

The boundaries of the nominated parcel encompass 4.08 acres fronting along Route 662, Graves Road, in Madison County, Virginia. The boundaries are depicted on the U.S.G.S. Madison Quad map and on the enclosed Plat of Survey dated July 17, 1967, and revised on May 7, 1968. The boundaries are identified by property numbers IN 020001403 and IN 020001334 on the Madison County, Virginia, Tax Map 28-3. The property is bounded by State Route 662 on the east, by Parcel D.B. 84-433 on the north, by Parcels D.B. 46-219 and D.B. 32-565 on the west, and by State Route 615 on the south.

### **Boundary Justification**

The boundaries of the nominated property have been drawn according to the legally recorded boundary lines to encompass 4.08 acres of land associated with the gristmill known as Graves Mill. The boundaries were drawn to encompass the mill and two additional contributing resources including the miller's house and the barn. There are no other known structures, buildings, or sites on the parcel.

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

**Graves Mill  
Madison County, Virginia**

Section Photographic Documentation Page 25

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The following information is the same for all photographs:

Property: Graves Mill, DHR File No. 056-0015  
Location: Madison County, Virginia  
Photographer: Nancy Kraus  
Date: December 11, 2005  
Negative Stored: Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, Virginia  
Negative Number: 22760

- Photo # 1 of 23: Graves Mill; south elevation; view looking south. Negative no. 22760:2.  
Photo # 2 of 23: Graves Mill; southwest oblique view. Negative no. 22760:3.  
Photo # 3 of 23: Barn; southeast oblique view. Negative no. 22760:4.  
Photo # 4 of 23: Miller's house; northeast oblique view. Negative no. 22760:5.  
Photo # 5 of 23: Graves Mill complex, view looking west. Negative no. 22760:6.  
Photo # 6 of 23: Graves Mill; primary east elevation. Negative no. 22760:7.  
Photo # 7 of 23: Graves Mill; northeast oblique view. Negative no. 22760:8.  
Photo # 8 of 23: Grinding apparatus at north end of mill. Negative no. 22760:9.  
Photo #9 of 23: Dry-laid stone foundation. Negative no. 22760:10.  
Photo # 10 of 23: Ground level interior view of mill, looking east. Negative no. 22760:11.  
Photo #11 of 23: Heavy timber framing of mill. Negative no. 22760:12.  
Photo #12 of 23: Voting booth, second floor of mill. Negative no. 22760:13.  
Photo #13 of 23: Stair between first and second floors of mill. Negative no. 22760:14.  
Photo #14 of 23: View of third floor of mill, looking south. Negative no. 22760:15.  
Photo #15 of 23: View of third floor of mill, looking north. Negative no. 22760:16.  
Photo #16 of 23: Support beam for grinding wheel apparatus. Negative no. 22760:17.  
Photo #17 of 23: Plaster finish at southwest corner, first floor of mill. Negative no. 22760:18.  
Photo #18 of 23: West entrance of miller's house. Negative no. 22760:19.  
Photo #19 of 23: Miller's house, west elevation. Negative no. 22760:20.  
Photo #20 of 23: Miller's house, front porch on east elevation. Negative no. 22760:21.  
Photo #21 of 23: Miller's house, interior door at entrance. Negative no. 22760:22.  
Photo #22 of 23: Miller's house, parlor, view looking east. Negative no. 22760:23.  
Photo #23 of 23: Miller's house, rear parlor, view looking south. Negative no. 22760:24.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Graves Mill  
Madison County, Virginia

Section 8 Page 19

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End Notes

<sup>1</sup> The Rapidan River and Kinsey Run are the current names for the tributaries near Graves Mill. The Rapidan River at this site was called the Stanton River in the 1700s and early 1800s, and Kinsey Run was called Jones Run until the early part of the twentieth-century. According to Tom Floyd in Lost Trails and Forgotten People: The Story of Jones Mountain, the original spelling of the Stanton River comes from Thomas Stanton, a planter who held title to thousands of acres in the vicinity of Graves Mill. The variant spelling was introduced after 1800, apparently after the city of Staunton. Sometime after 1880, the name evolved into the Rapid Ann or Rapidan.

<sup>2</sup> Nail analysis was completed by Dewey Lillard, a local authority in Madison County on carpentry and construction styles and techniques. A photo-copy of the nail types found at Graves Mill is attached to this report.

<sup>3</sup> Hensley, Paul Brent. Graves Mill: A Symbol of the Past. Lynchburg, VA: J.P. Bell Co, Inc., 1967, 6-7.

<sup>4</sup> Works Progress Administration Historical Inventory. Evelyn Tunison. *Graves Mill*. Report no. 76, 17 December 1936, 2.

<sup>5</sup> Dewey B. Lillard is a respected authority on early construction techniques and materials in Madison County. He has worked for more than forty years in restoration of old houses in the region.

<sup>6</sup> Works Progress Administration Historical Inventory. Evelyn Tunison. *Graves Mill*. Report no. 76, 17 December 1936, 3.

<sup>7</sup> Works Progress Administration Historical Inventory. Evelyn Tunison. *Graves Mill*. Report no. 76, 17 December 1936, 2.

<sup>8</sup> [www.angelfire.com/journal/millrestoration](http://www.angelfire.com/journal/millrestoration). This website was created by Theodore R. Hazen. Mr. Hazen, a longtime collector of information and items related to old mills, is a nationally recognized authority on the history and all technical aspects of flour milling in early America. The website is indexed and is an extensive compilation of monographs written by Mr. Hazen and others on historic mills.

<sup>9</sup> [www.angelfire.com/journal/millrestoration](http://www.angelfire.com/journal/millrestoration).

<sup>10</sup> The land tax data is derived from land tax records for the following years: 1822; 1852-1862; 1865-1872; 1890-1900. Research provided by Douglas Graves on June 2, 2006.

<sup>11</sup> Thomas Graves Estate is listed in three will books located in the Madison County Court House, Madison, Virginia.

<sup>12</sup> Thomas Graves Will Book #3, 44-58.

<sup>13</sup> Thomas Graves Will Book #2, 240-241.

<sup>14</sup> Thomas Graves Will Book #2, 277-285.

<sup>15</sup> Thomas Graves Will Book #2, 241.

<sup>16</sup> Thomas Graves Will Book #3, 44-58.

<sup>17</sup> Tom Floyd, author of Lost Trails and Forgotten People, made several visits to Graves Mill in the 1980s to interview local residents for his book. Two of those people were Jeannie Light, the Lay Missioner for Graves Chapel, and Charles Jenkins (1911-1988). Charles had a great interest in Graves Mill, and he could recall the stories told to him by his father and grandfather about the mill property. Tom Floyd conducted personal interviews with Charles and Jeannie circa 1981. On one of his visits, Tom, Jeannie, Charles and Tom's daughter (name unknown) made an audio tape. Charles Jenkins conducted a field visit of the original Thomas Graves homesite called Spring Hill. During the field visit, Charles related the location of the Mill race, the appearance of the original home, the location of the spring, and the site of the blacksmith shop. This information is on a

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Graves Mill  
Madison County, Virginia

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Section 8 Page 20

tape which has very bad audio because the participants were walking in the fields with the wind blowing.

<sup>18</sup> Records regarding the slaves belonging to the estate of Thomas Graves are compiled from Thomas Graves Will Book #2, 240; Thomas Graves Will Book #3, 44-58; and Graves Family Papers, Accession Number 20563, #54.

<sup>19</sup> [www.angelfire.cin/journal/millrestoration/elements.html](http://www.angelfire.cin/journal/millrestoration/elements.html), 2.

<sup>20</sup> [www.angelfire.cin/journal/millrestoration/elements.html](http://www.angelfire.cin/journal/millrestoration/elements.html), 2.

<sup>21</sup> Thomas Graves Will Book #2, 240-241 and 277-282.

<sup>22</sup> Madison County Court Order Book #1, 3.

<sup>23</sup> Madison County Court Order Book #1, 82.

<sup>24</sup> Orange County Patent Book 19, 972.

<sup>25</sup> For a summary of the brief life of David and Elizabeth Jones in Madison County, Virginia, see Floyd, Tom. Lost Trails and Forgotten People: The Story of Jones Mountain. Washington, DC: Potomac Appalachian Trail Club, 1981, 23-25.

<sup>26</sup> Fishwick, Marshall W. Virginia: A New Look at the Old Dominion. New York, NY: Harper & Row, Publishers, 1959, 44-46.

<sup>27</sup> Floyd, Tom. Lost Trails and Forgotten People: The Story of Jones Mountain. Washington, DC: Potomac Appalachian Trail Club, 1981, 25.

<sup>28</sup> Map of "Captain Thomas Graves's Land". Plat of Land Map, December 15, 1825, on file at the Library of Virginia, Richmond, Virginia.

<sup>29</sup> Culpeper County Deed Book, Book A, 1749-1755, 308-311.

<sup>30</sup> Lillard, Dewey. Iron Mine on the Stanton River. Unpublished research paper, 2003, 4.

<sup>31</sup> From analysis performed on site by Dewey Lillard. Information related to nail analysis and carpentry techniques employed in the construction of Graves Mill were relayed to Nancy Kraus from Douglas M. Graves through e-mail correspondence during the month of March, 2006.

<sup>32</sup> Hamlin, Charles Hughes. Genealogy of the Graves Family of Virginia. The Virginia Gazette. August 28, 1959, 22, and September 4, 1959, 10.

<sup>33</sup> Sweeny, William M. "Captain Thomas Graves and some of His Descendents". William and Mary Quarterly. Williamsburg, VA. Ser 2, v.15, 1935. 385-394.

<sup>34</sup> Brown. "Genesis of the United States". Virginia Magazine of History, II, v. 60, 904.

<sup>35</sup> Graves Family Papers, 1731-1863. Accession 20563. Personal papers collection, The Library of Virginia, Richmond, Virginia. For additional information concerning the Graves family in Virginia, contact [ken.graves@gravesfa.org](mailto:ken.graves@gravesfa.org).

<sup>36</sup> Floyd, Tom. Lost Trails and Forgotten People: The Story of Jones Mountain. Washington, DC: Potomac Appalachian Trail Club, 1981, 31.

<sup>37</sup> Floyd, Tom. Lost Trails and Forgotten People: The Story of Jones Mountain. Washington, DC: Potomac Appalachian Trail Club, 1981, 31.

<sup>38</sup> Land Patent. Graves Family Papers, 1731-1863. Library of Virginia, call no. 20563. The patent describes the purchase of two land parcels, 600 acres and 317 acres, which were transferred from Thomas Buckner (deceased) and his two sons John Buckner and Samuel Buckner and his wife Mary to Thomas Graves and Joseph Eddins on October, 1759. The 317-acre parcel is described as land that formerly belonged to David Jones. (At the time of purchase, the land parcel was surveyed by Zachary Taylor. That the survey revealed a difference between 350 acres and 317 acres is not unusual. Early survey equipment and practices often produced different results.) How Graves and Eddins divided the land is unclear, but it is clear that Thomas Graves acquired the acreage including and surrounding the mill. Thomas Graves also purchased two additional substantial tracts of land. In 1784, he purchased 6 parcels of land containing 1570

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Graves Mill  
Madison County, Virginia

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acres from John Lewis of Spotsylvania County (Culpeper County Deed Book M, 48-49) and

Section 8 Page 21

in 1790, Sarah and Thomas Graves purchased 260 acres from Joshua Bush (Culpeper County Deed Book Q, 517-521).

<sup>39</sup> From e-mail correspondence with Douglas Graves, 12 March 2006.

<sup>40</sup> A charming description of Spring Hill appears in an article written by Marie Graves Bonham and published in the Washington Post on October 27, 1929. Marie Bonham (1864-1943) was the daughter of Francis Edward Graves. At the time the article was published, Spring Hill was in good condition. Although some of the data in the article is incorrect, her descriptions of the dwelling and surrounding buildings were apparently based on first hand knowledge.

<sup>41</sup> Works Progress Administration of Virginia Historical Inventory. Evelyn Tunison. *Thomas Graves School*. Report no. 80, 17 December 1936, 1-2. The location of the Free School on the other side of the river cannot be determined today. The present day Graves Mill School is believed to have been constructed circa 1906 on land that had belonged to James Williams Estes.

<sup>42</sup> Floyd, Tom. Lost Trails and Forgotten People: The Story of Jones Mountain. Washington, DC: Potomac Appalachian Trail Club, 1981, 34.

<sup>43</sup> Floyd, Tom. Lost Trails and Forgotten People: The Story of Jones Mountain. Washington, DC: Potomac Appalachian Trail Club, 1981, 35.

<sup>44</sup> Madison County Order Book, #1, 1793-1798.

<sup>45</sup> Map of "Captain Thomas Graves's Land". Library of Virginia, Richmond, Virginia.

<sup>46</sup> Hensley, Paul Brent. Graves Mill: A Symbol of the Past. Lynchburg, VA: J.P. Bell Co, Inc., 1967, 5, 18.

<sup>47</sup> Hensley, Paul Brent. Graves Mill: A Symbol of the Past. Lynchburg, VA: J.P. Bell Co, Inc., 1967, 15.

<sup>48</sup> From research notes prepared by Douglas Graves.

<sup>49</sup> Post Office Department (United States ) document, Washington, January, 1837.

<sup>50</sup> Madison County Deed Book 16, 404.

<sup>51</sup> Works Progress Administration of Virginia Historical Inventory. Evelyn Tunison. *Thomas Graves School*. Report no. 80, 17 December 1936, 1-2.

<sup>52</sup> Madison County Deed Book 19, 26.

<sup>53</sup> Madison County Deed Book 22, 408.

<sup>54</sup> Madison County Deed Book 30, 313.

<sup>55</sup> Madison County Deed Book 45, 238.

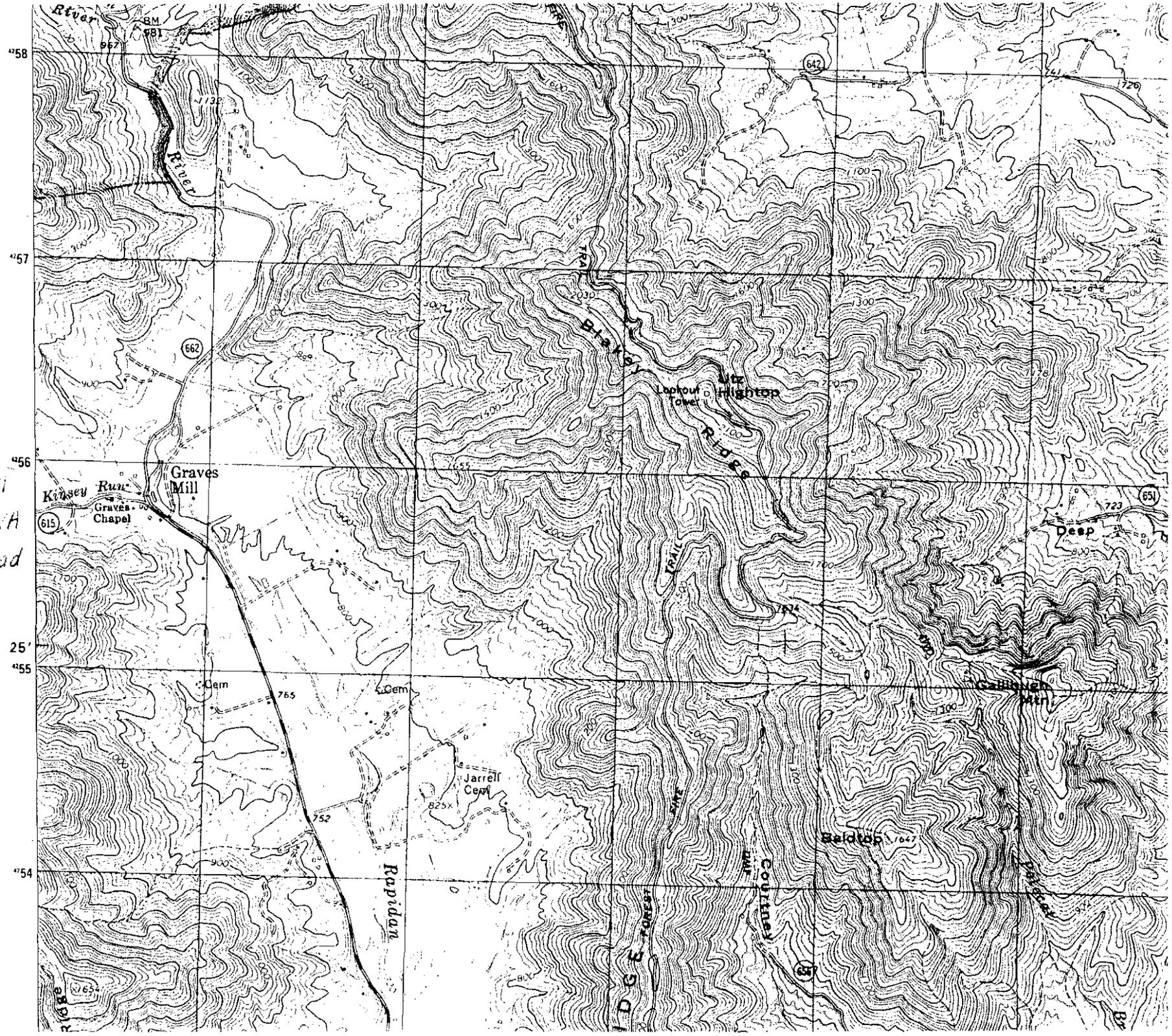
<sup>56</sup> From a telephone interview with Douglas Graves, March 15, 2006.

<sup>57</sup> Madison County Deed Book 66, 216, July 13, 1950.

<sup>58</sup> Madison County Deed Book 71, 233.

<sup>59</sup> An enumeration of some of the buildings appears in *Pioneer Days Along the Rapidan*.

<sup>60</sup> Lillard, Dewey. *Iron Mine on the Stanton River*. Unpublished research paper, 2003, 3.



Graves Hill  
Madison  
County, VA  
Madison Quad

UTMs  
Zone 1  
Easting  
729812  
Northing  
4245990

#56-15