

✓LR-6/16/99 NRHP-10/1/99

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 Crump's Mill and Millpond.

other names/site number Bailey's Mill DHR File # 063-0070

**2. Location**

street & number 9065 Crump's Mill Road (Route 645) N/A not for publication  
city or town Quinton vicinity X  
state Virginia —code VA county New Kent code 127 zip code 23141

**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] August 23, 1999  
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

---

---

**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	
___	___	buildings
___0___	___0___	sites
___1___	___0___	structures
___	___	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

---



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.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Engineering \_\_\_\_\_

Industry \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Period of Significance 1818 - 1949 Significant Dates N/A

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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

Cultural Affiliation N/A

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Architect/Builder Unknown

\_\_\_\_\_

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

---



---

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

---



---

(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 # \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Location of Additional Data

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

Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of Property 17.73 acres \_\_\_\_\_

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

	Zone Easting Northing	Zone Easting Northing
1	_____	3 _____
2	_____	4 _____

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 John G. Zehmer, Jr., Architectural Historian and Debbie Hayes Downs, Owner

organization Va. Department of Historic Resources date April 1999

street & number 10 Courthouse Avenue telephone (804)-863-1620

city or town Petersburg state VA zip code 23803

**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 William and Debbie Hayes Downs

street & number 6509 Hopewell Road telephone 804-932-3062

city or town New Kent state VA zip code 23124

---

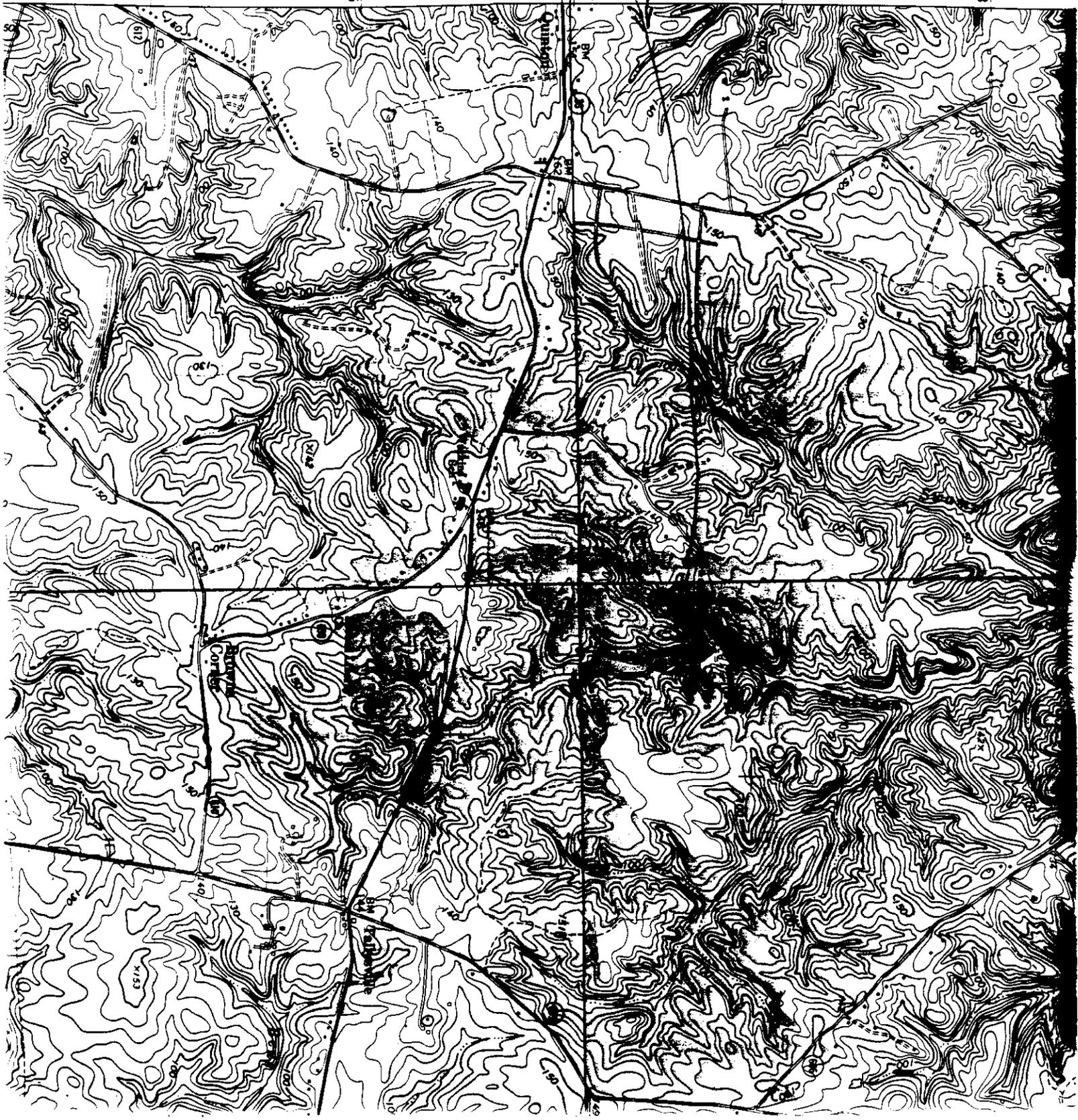
---

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.

Crump's Mill and  
Millpond  
New Kent Co., VA.

- 1. 18/315200/4156650
- 2. 18/315320/4156760
- 3. 18/315560/4156700
- 4. 18/315470/4156530
- 5. 18/315440/4156000
- 6. 18/315300/4156100
- 7. 18/315290/4156530
- 8. 18/315070/4156440

RICHMOND 19 MI.  
4.3 MI. TO U.S. 60



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section   7   Page   1  

Crump's Mill  
New Kent County, Virginia

---

**Summary Description**

Crump's Mill in New Kent County, Virginia is a simple rectangular two-story frame structure with a gable roof. The walls above the brick cellar are weatherboarded and the roof is covered with tin sheathing. This is the second mill building on the site. It was built in the 1870s to replace a mill built before 1818. The building sits behind the dam that creates a 16-acre millpond that is surrounded by wooded slopes. Much of the mill machinery, including its Fitz waterwheel, is still at the site and is being readied for use in an on-going restoration. On the dam an operable head gate is in place just east of the mill. Farther along the bank of the pond is a simple rectangular boathouse with wooden board-and-batten walls and a tin roof.

**Detailed Description**

The damming of South Branch in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century created a large millpond in the shape of the letter "L." The long section which runs roughly north-south is just over a half mile long and the short section which runs slightly south of west is about one quarter mile long. The present mill building is approximately at the site of the first mill, i.e. just off the outer corner of the base of the "L." The pond is surrounded by forested hills that form a picturesque shoreline. From the mill it is impossible to see the ends of either section of the pond which adds immeasurably to the picturesque quality of the area. Because of its relatively large size and undisturbed landscape this millpond differs from ones that are created by more voluminous streams. Its verges are quite shallow—probably the result of its gentle flow over so long a time.

The mill itself was built after a fire in 1872 destroyed the original brick mill built before 1818. It is a simple two-story rectangular frame structure roughly 30 feet X 20 feet. It sits on a brick cellar about two feet above grade on the front and some seven feet above grade on the back. The cellar walls are laid in irregular common bond with header courses occurring generally at 3-course intervals. The brick may well be reused material from the first mill building and some sections of the walls may be from the original structure. It is evident that various sections have been patched and rebuilt at many different times. The walls are generally of balloon frame construction but have larger plates, corner posts and corner braces in several places. These are probably occasioned by the need for heavier members to support the mill apparatus as well as from rebuilding that occurred over time. The frame is covered with horizontal lapped weatherboards. The building is covered by a simple gable roof with the ridge parallel to the longer sides. The roofing material is tin sheeting. The cornice is a simple overhang with the roof sheathing boards exposed along the gables and the ends of the rafters along the eaves.

The mill sits behind the dam and faces the pond that stretches to the south in two long fingers. On the south front center there are doors at both the first and second floor levels. Both doors feature vertical sheathing. Since the top of the dam is level with a point between the two floors, both floors were easily accessible for loading or unloading. On the east end of the building are three windows: one centered in the wall of each floor and one in the gable. They all have six-over-six double-hung sash and single shutters, hinged on one side, composed of vertical wooden sheathing. The same sash and shutter configuration occurs on all windows. On the north (back) wall the single windows in each floor are slightly off center to the west. On the west end they are slightly off center to the south and the gable window is centered.

The inside walls are unfinished with all framing exposed. There is the simple original stair from the first to the second floor along the east wall. The attic is reached by way of an original ladder.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section   7   Page   2  

Crump's Mill  
New Kent County, Virginia

---

Much of the mill machinery survives at Crump's Mill. Some of it was modernized over the years which is usual with most mills. The outside mill wheel survives and much of the interior works, but these fell through the first floor and have recently been retrieved from the basement. The Fitz overshot water wheel on the north side of the building is about 14 feet in diameter by 4 feet wide. None of the controls remain. The shaft, hubs, and arms survive and probably will not require replacement. The wheel dates from the second quarter of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The wheel is of steel plate construction and the plates are all joined together with rivets. This method was normal practice for the Fitz Company at the time this wheel was built on the site. Above the waterwheel is evidence on the north wall of a shed roof that protected the wheel and its gears. There is no trace of the flume or header tank, but there is a metal head gate in the dam that is housed in a relatively modern concrete wall construction and is in operating condition. The gate is lifted by a rack-and-pinion gear, but is too small for a traditional design and is a replacement postdating the operation of the mill. There is an open double-spur gear drive into the mill. There is also an outside lineshaft and a second lineshaft, both fitted with metal pulleys which provided a belt drive to a small direct-current electric generator. The generator provided lighting for the mill when it was in operation, but there was a disengagement mechanism on the millstone spindle to allow it to produce electricity when the milling machinery was not in use. All of the shafting and gearing in the mill appear to be of Fitz Company manufacture.

It appears that the mill was last used with one pair of millstones mounted on a wooden hurst frame. Many country mills had this type of equipment, which was installed when an operation was brought up to date. The hurst frame and millstones collapsed through the first floor and are now on the dirt floor of the basement. The old gear drives, shafting, bearings and millstones have been saved for reuse in the restoration. The bedstone of the two last millstones is 48 inches in diameter and was quarried at La Ferte-sous-Jouarre in France that produced what is considered the best stone in the world for grinding wheat. The runner stone is a 54-inch granite stone most likely from a quarry in Virginia or North Carolina. The runner appears to be dressed for making cornmeal. It is unusual to find millstones of different diameters working together. There is another pair of stones in the cellar, which may indicate a second millstone system in the mill, but evidence is not conclusive. Close to the collapsed hurst frame and millstones is the remains of a millstone crane jacking screw with a nicely made handle. This is thought to be of mid to late 19<sup>th</sup> century vintage. On the first floor is a damsel of metal and wood construction and the post and beam of the stone crane that was used to lift and turn over the runner millstone. The top pivot bearing for the stone crane survives in the ceiling.

Outside the entrance door on the south side is a pair of very thin, used bedstones. These have obviously been used as doorsteps for many years. Study of them should provide valuable information about the earlier operation of mills on this site.

About 500 feet from the mill along the eastern bank of the millpond is a simple but picturesque one-story frame boathouse finished with board-and-batten wood sheathing. It is a ca. 1950 replacement of a quite similar structure from the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. The owners of the mill are building a large modern dwelling on the hill above the mill. The new house, and a shed behind it, are non-contributing resources. *(THE BOATHOUSE IS ALSO NON-CONTRIBUTING)*.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section   8   Page   3  

Crump's Mill  
New Kent County, Virginia

---

---

**Statement of Significance**

Crump's Mill in New Kent County is a typical country mill of the Tidewater region of Virginia. Like many of its kind, it has been modernized from time to time as was usual with most gristmills. It is exceedingly rare to find a water mill in original condition with original machinery. Mills of this type were essential elements in the agrarian economy of Virginia during the 19 and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. The Crump's Mill millpond is considerably larger and older than most. It is of particular significance in that its watershed has not changed for at least 120 years. No modern cultural practices have influenced or altered its water flow since the dam was built sometime before 1818. The succession of plant and animal life in this body of water is unique because of the natural undisturbed environment in which this living ecosystem exists

**Historical Background**

The first specific record of what is known today as "Crump's Mill" is on an 1818 plat of land in New Kent County dealing with the division of the estate of Samuel Bailey. Bailey had owned property that included a mill, known as "Bailey's Mill," at least as early as 1782. Sheldon Crump acquired the "brick mill" and five acres of land in 1833. It remained in Crump family ownership until 1872, when it was sold, eventually burned and remained the subject of litigation until 1882. After a succession of brief owners, it was the property from 1895 to 1955 of the Richardson family, the last to operate the mill. For the next five years Wilbert J. Ennis owned it before selling it to H. Brice Graves. In 1997 it was purchased by the present owners, William Downs and Deborah Hayes Downs. They have undertaken the restoration of the mill and the preservation of the millpond.

In rural Virginia, mills once dotted the countryside. They served not only as the means to convert grains into foodstuffs, but also as sources of fish, eel, and turtle meat, sites for recreation, sources of water when wells ran dry, and places of assembly. In addition flour and meal served as barter in rural economies where hard money was often scarce. In later years such mills were the first generators of electricity and this, in turn, made the production of ice economic and cheap. Crump's Mill and millpond is typical of such long activity at a specific site. While it may not have produced ice, it did generate electricity, not only to light the mill, but also the miller's house and a sort of club that used the miller's house after the mill itself was no longer operated. Mills like this one adapted to the times and adopted innovations that made their operations more efficient or profitable. By the middle of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, mass production and commerce made the small local mills, once a part of every rural community, no longer viable. Many such mills were lost to deterioration or were demolished. Many dams broke and millponds were lost. At Crump's Mill both survive. The mill is being restored and the millpond continues as a natural resource of particular significance.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 9, 10 Page 4

Crump's Mill  
New Kent County, Virginia

---

**Bibliography**

"Bailey's Mill or Crump's Mill." Unpublished manuscript including chain of title, genealogy, legal papers by Jackie Pommeroy, Providence Forge, Virginia, no date.

Charles City County records.

"Crump's Mill." Unpublished report by Derek Ogden, Millwright and Engineer, September 1997.

Davis, Paul, Virginia Cooperative Extension. Letter dated March 9, 1999 regarding significance of Crump's Millpond.

"The Mill Monitor." Quarterly Newsletter of the International Molinological Society of America, vol. V, no. 11, June 1998; vol. VI, no. 1, Spring, 1999.

New Kent County records.

*The War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies. Prepared Under the Direction of the Secretary of War by Robert N. Scott. 129 vols. Washington: Government Printing Office, 1880B1901.*

**10. Geographical Data**

**UTM References**

	<u>Zone</u>	<u>Easting</u>	<u>Northing</u>
1.	18	315200	4156650
2.	18	315320	4156760
3.	18	315560	4156700
4.	18	315420	4156530
5.	18	315440	4156000
6.	18	315300	4156100
7.	18	315290	4156530
8.	18	315090	4156440

**Verbal Boundary Description**

The Crump's Mill and Millpond property are identified on the Tax Parcel maps of New Kent County (VA) as tax parcels 21-102, (the mill) and 21-103 (the millpond).

**Boundary Justification**

The 17.73 acres being nominated include the property associated with Crump's Mill and the millpond.

Crump's Mill and  
Millpond  
New Kent Co., VA.

1. 18/315200/4156650
2. 18/315320/4156760
3. 18/315560/4156700
4. 18/315470/4156530
5. 18/315440/4156000
6. 18/315300/4156100
7. 18/315290/4156530
8. 18/315090/4156440

