

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 National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. 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.

LISTED
VLR 9/15/2016
NRHP 11/22/2016

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Reed Creek Mill
 Other names/site number: Stone's Mill; VDHR No. 139-5142
 Name of related multiple property listing:
N/A
 (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. Location

Street & number: 1565 S. Church Street
 City or town: Wytheville State: VA County: Wythe
 Not For Publication: N/A Vicinity: N/AA

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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 at the following
 level(s) of significance:

 national statewide X local
 Applicable National Register Criteria:
X A B X C D

Signature of certifying official/Title: **Date**
Virginia Department of Historic Resources
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official: **Date**

Title : **State or Federal agency/bureau
or Tribal Government**

Reed Creek Mill
Name of Property

Wythe County, VA
County and State

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:) _____

Signature of the 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

Reed Creek Mill
Name of Property

Wythe County, VA
County and State

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>3</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>5</u>	<u>2</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

INDUSTRY/PROCESSING/EXTRACTION: Mill

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

VACANT/NOT IN USE

Reed Creek Mill
Name of Property

Wythe County, VA
County and State

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

NO STYLE

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: STONE: limestone; CONCRETE; WOOD;
METAL: aluminum, steel

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

The three-story, frame ca. 1902 Reed Creek Mill overlooks Reed Creek in a picturesque setting just within the southern boundary of the Town of Wytheville in Wythe County, Virginia. The previous mill on this site was the 1858 Barrett's Foundry and Mill that was established soon after the 1854 arrival of the Virginia & Tennessee Railroad and its depot that was located ½ mile north above the mill. The post-and-beam constructed Reed Creek Mill, along with its dam and raceway, had three water-powered turbines that turned half-ton millstones to produce flour, cornmeal, and buckwheat for local distribution. Producing between 50 and 100 barrels of flour a day, the mill was a mainstay of the rural Reed Creek community. The mill sustained fire damage in 1934, was partially rebuilt in 1936-1937, and continued operations until 2004. In 2012, Robert Downey purchased the property and began site work and renovations of the mill, mill site, and all associated resources. Although the work is generally complete, there are no definitive plans for the mill's use. The nominated 4.80-acre property includes the contributing ca. 1902 gristmill, 350-foot-long mill dam, head race, tail race, and ca. 1950 storage warehouse, and two non-contributing resources, a ca. 1950 egg house that was converted into a guest house in 2013, and a 1970 one-story single dwelling. All contributing resources are in good condition with high levels of integrity.

Narrative Description

Site Description

Reed Creek Mill overlooks Reed Creek one mile south of the Wythe County Courthouse at the southern boundary of the Town of Wytheville. Reed Creek, a tributary to the New River, divides Wythe County from the town. The mill stands in rolling, rural terrain on the west side of Church Street. Originally named Ivanhoe Road or Barrett's Road, this narrow, undivided two-lane meandering road led over Lick Mountain to the village of Ivanhoe, a former manufacturing

Reed Creek Mill
Name of Property

Wythe County, VA
County and State

community 20 miles southeast on the New River. Several historic resources associated with the mill's history remain close by, but are not within the nominated parcel. Southeast across Church Street is the ca. 1840 brick Federal-style J. B. Barrett House (DHR #139-5140) that allegedly belonged to the first mill owner. Barrett also established a mission church, the former Reed Creek Episcopal Chapel that overlooks the mill just to the north on Lee Street. Spanning Reed Creek, just 560 feet upstream from the mill, is an 1881 steel Pratt Truss Bridge (DHR #139-5141). This double-truss bridge was used when the road was a turnpike, and a toll house stood nearby. The bridge closed in 1983 when the 'Old Route 640' was realigned further southeast from the mill. The town plans a new use for the truss bridge.

Mill – Physical Description

The ca. 1902 rectangular-shaped, timber-frame, three-story gristmill rests on a rough-cut, coursed limestone and poured concrete foundation with lower frame side wings (see Figures 3-5 for floor plans). Narrow-width galvanized corrugated metal siding clads the entire building. During the owner's recent renovation, the metal siding on the front (northeast-facing) elevation was replaced in-kind, while the remaining elevations were painted silver. The tall gambrel roof has in-kind replacement V-crimped sheet metal paneling. The symmetrical three-bay façade has a center, double-leaf batten wood door with an east-side sliding batten wood door and a west-side single-leaf wood door. Six-over-six, wood-sash windows light the mill on all four elevations. The first floor has replacement six-over-six, wood-sash windows. A 10-foot-deep loading dock spans the entire length of the mill's façade; this 2013 replacement dock consists of a parged concrete block foundation with wood plank boards and a metal clad shed roof.

The gristmill remains similar to its original construction except for fire damage and evolutions of the side wings. Based on historic images, the mill stayed the same until 1934 when its upper floors and roof were damaged by fire (Figures 6-9). Between 1936 and 1937, its original side-gable roof was replaced with the current gambrel roof. Originally, the east side one-story office wing had an inset porch, and the west side 1½-story "Powerplant" wing had a larger entrance.¹ The wings increased in size with a now two-story, shed-roof east wing and a three-story gable-roof west wing. The historic images depict the six-over-six wooden-sash windows, but the materials comprising the exterior wall cladding and roof covering are not discernable.

Interior

The mill building is composed of the center mill section with flanking lower wings. The three floors and attic of the center mill section are open rooms (29' deep x 39' wide) that are supported by two parallel rows of 12" x 12" circular-sawn wood posts and beams. The floors are wide-width tongue-and-groove boards, the walls have exposed studs, and the ceilings have exposed 2" x 12" circular-sawn wood joists.

The first floor of the mill building is the only floor that includes all three level sections of the mill (80' wide): the center Mill Section (39' wide); the east wing "Feed Room" (20' wide), now Shop Area; and the west wing (18' wide), now Rental Space. The center mill section ("mill") has three symmetrical façade door openings with corresponding rear window openings and a 10'-4" ceiling height. The encased millstone wheel remains in its original position in the floor near the

Reed Creek Mill
Name of Property

Wythe County, VA
County and State

front southwest corner. The ceiling heights of the wings are lower at 7'-10". The east wing has a small bathroom and two window openings on the east gable end. The west wing has a single-leaf door entrance and two window openings on the west gable end. An open stringer of square wood treads leads up to the second floor. All staircases throughout the mill are open stringers.

The upper floors of the mill were used for grinding, sifting, processing, bagging, and storage. James Pridemore stated that when the mill was in full operation, the building actually shook. The second-floor ceiling height is 9'-1". Three symmetrically placed windows light this room from both the front and rear elevations. Access to the lower second floor of the east wing is through a small cut-out opening near the stair landing; the ceiling height in this room is only 6'-11". Similarly, access to the lower west wing is through a low wall opening which leads down to a landing. The third-floor ceiling height of the mill is lower at 8'-11". Three windows on the rear elevation and two windows on the façade light the third floor. The attic is open with a 10' height to the roof/wall junction, and a 15'-7" total center roof height. There is no ceiling.

The basement (1,200 square feet) under the center mill is constructed of poured concrete tapered walls and a concrete floor. (The east wing has a crawl space.) A poured concrete tapered base supports the shaft of the overhead millstone near the west basement wall. The ceiling height in the basement is 8'-5". A short staircase leads up to a batten wood door that opens onto the wood-plank catwalk that spans the poured concrete walls of the head tank. Three turbines that turned the millstone and operated the mill were located in the head tank, where water still flows through. The wooden frame-work and metal pulley system that held the turbines remain in place.

List of Resources:

Resources are keyed to the Sketch Map by their numerical listing.

- 1) Ca. 1902 Reed Creek Mill—Contributing Building:** The ca. 1902 rectangular-shaped, timber-frame, three-story gristmill rests on a rough-cut, coursed limestone and poured concrete foundation and is flanked with lower frame side wings. The tall gambrel roof has in-kind replacement V-crimped sheet metal paneling. The symmetrical three-bay façade has a center, double-leaf batten wood door. Six-over-six, wood-sash windows light the mill on all four elevations.
- 2) Ca. 1902 Mill Dam—Contributing Structure:** The mill dam spans 350 feet across Reed Creek just northwest of the mill and incorporates the 12-foot-tall wood dam that was installed by J. B. Barrett in ca. 1868. A. F. Stone applied a poured concrete facing to it ca. 1902. The dam was constructed to provide water to the head race to power the mill. The river above the dam is approximately 100 feet wide.
- 3) Ca. 1902 Head Race—Contributing Structure:** The Head Race is approximately 110 feet long and 22 feet wide with a 25-foot-wide wide sluice gate. The mill race is constructed of poured concrete walls and is located to the northwest, behind the mill. A metal cranking system still operates the wood-plank sluice gate.

Reed Creek Mill
Name of Property

Wythe County, VA
County and State

- 4) **Ca. 1902 Tail Race—Contributing Structure:** The 30-foot-wide Tail Race comes off the rear west wing of the mill and runs for 100 feet before it makes a right angle and runs parallel with Reed Creek. A 30-foot-wide sandy island separates the race from the creek. The race extends another 340 feet before ending at the Reed Creek Bridge. A coursed limestone retaining wall supports its entire west bank.
- 5) **Ca. 1950 Storage Building—Contributing Building:** The one-story building was constructed 70 feet off the north rear corner of the mill above a long stone block retaining wall. The frame building rests on a kneewall of horizontally laid creosote timbers supported by vertical posts. Vertical flush board siding clads the 50' x 70' building. The front-gable roof is covered with V-crimped metal sheet paneling. The open interior is composed of 6" x 6" post-and-beam construction with wood rafters and sheathing boards. The floor is concrete. The building mainly stored corrosive material such as fertilizer, but it also stored grain, feed, lumber, and hardware, anything that a miller or farmer could use. The building is now used for storage and a work shop.
- 6) **Ca. 1950 Egg House/2013 Guest House—Non-Contributing Building:** The owner converted a frame egg house into a guest house in 2013. The shape of the 25' x 35' building and roof has remained the same. The one-story house is clad with vinyl siding and its low-pitched front-gable roof is covered with V-crimped sheet metal paneling.
- 7) **1970 Single Dwelling—Non-Contributing Building:** The one-story, brick-veneer single dwelling faces Church Street near the entrance to the mill. The house sits above the mill complex and faces due east. Asphalt shingles cover the low-pitched side-gable roof.

Integrity Statement

Reed Creek Mill retains much of its integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. The mill stands on a site that has been used for manufacturing and milling since 1858. The mill remains intact, and all but one secondary resource remains unaltered. Of the six secondary resources, two are considered non-contributing: one due to its alteration for a new use and one due to its date of construction. Reed Creek Mill is a rare example of an intact milling complex in Wythe County.

Reed Creek Mill
Name of Property

Wythe County, VA
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

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 grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

Reed Creek Mill
Name of Property

Wythe County, VA
County and State

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

INDUSTRY

COMMERCE

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

Ca. 1902 - 1966

Significant Dates

Ca. 1902

1934

1936-1937

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Reed Creek Mill
Name of Property

Wythe County, VA
County and State

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The ca. 1902 Reed Creek Mill is locally significant to Wythe County for the period ca. 1902-1966. It is significant under Criterion A in the areas of Industry and Commerce. The mill was the economic backbone of the rural Reed Creek community throughout the entire 20th century, and historically since 1858, for its production of flour and buckwheat and the selling of cattle feed and farming supplies to surrounding communities. The mill is locally significant under Criterion C in the area of Architecture as a rare surviving example of a once-prosperous milling complex with intact examples of a mill, mill dam, head race, and race way overlooking Reed Creek in an unchanged 20th century landscape. The period of significance begins in ca. 1902 when the mill was constructed, and as it continued production into the 21st century, it ends in 1966, the traditional 50-year cutoff for properties where significant activities have continued into the more recent past.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

Criterion A: Commerce and Industry/Processing/Extraction

Reed Creek Mill is locally significant under Criterion A in the areas of Commerce and Industry as it represents a prosperous grain processing operation that began with the previous mill in 1858. It played a vital role in the economy of the surrounding rural communities as well as the Town of Wytheville due to its proximity to the Norfolk & Western Railway during the 20th century. The mill served as the focal point of the local economy and provided grain and feed to neighboring county residents and their cattle for over a hundred years. The mill produced between 50 and 100 barrels of flour a day, in addition to cornmeal and buckwheat flour. The millstones continued to ground grain well into the 1970s and the owner continued to sell fertilizer and other farming supplies until the mill closed permanently in 2004.

Criterion C: Architecture

Reed Creek Mill is locally significant under Criterion C in the area of Architecture as the intact, three-story, timber-framed mill building, the 350-foot-long dam, coursed limestone head race and 340-foot-long tail race remain almost exactly as when they were built around 1902, and operated for over 100 years. These historic resources created such an efficient system for grain production that no architectural improvements were ever necessary. The setting likewise remains intact as the landscape has not noticeably changed, and the expansive mill dam across Reed Creek that still pushes water through the raceway demonstrates a vestige of rural life that has vanished in most parts of Virginia.

Reed Creek Mill
Name of Property

Wythe County, VA
County and State

Historical Background

Once dotting many fast-moving creeks and rivers in rural southwest Virginia, few historic mills remain today. Local retired farmer James Pridemore stated the Reed Creek Mill was one of the largest gristmill operations in southwest Virginia, and that it compared in size and production to the extant (though defunct) Damascus and Cripple Creek mills.² In contrast to the Reed Creek Mill, which is structurally and architecturally intact, the ca. 1880, three-story, timber-frame Damascus Mill on Laurel Creek in Smyth County was refurbished into a restaurant and inn, and the 1892, three-story, timber-framed Cripple Creek Mill in southern Wythe County closed around 1975 but was renovated with synthetic siding. Also overlooking Reed Creek in southern Wythe County is the ca. 1890, five-story, frame Graham's Forge Mill (NRHP 2005; DHR #098-0052). Closed in 1934, the mill is in fair condition with several outbuildings and parts of the dam remaining.

Ca. 1858 Barrett's Mill and Foundry

In 1858, local realtor T. J. Boyd sold a site on Reed Creek to A. B. Barrett for \$1,000 for the purpose of manufacturing. John B. and Abraham B. Barrett's construction of an iron foundry on this site coincided with the arrival of the Virginia & Tennessee Railroad to Wytheville in 1854. The railroad's depot and ensuing economic enclave was located just ½ mile to the north. Established in 1790, Wytheville (originally named Evansham) was a prosperous manufacturing, industrial, and even summer resort town by the mid-1850s.^{3 4}

By the early 1860s, John and Abraham Barrett also ran the South-Western Virginia Iron Works shop in downtown Wytheville, which produced railings, columns, stoves, building fronts, and cast window and door frames.⁵ From this machine shop they also remodeled guns for the Confederate Army during latter part of the Civil War.⁶ John Barrett's gravestone is adorned with a metal C.S.A. marker. Standing well off the east side of Church Street opposite the mill, the ca. 1840 J.B. Barrett House (DHR #139-5140) is attributed to him as the original owner. Built in the Federal style, this two-story, brick house is architecturally significant in part for its oil-brick façade that is rare in southwestern Virginia.

Familiar with brick construction, John B. Barrett was instrumental in the four-year construction and 1857 completion of the brick St. John's Episcopal Church (NRHP 2008; DHR #139-0008) on Church Street in downtown Wytheville. As a Vestryman for forty years until his death in 1900, J. B. Barrett donated land for the purpose of a "mission house at Barrett's Dam." Abraham Barrett was also listed on the chapel's 1883 fundraising committee.⁷ The ca. 1885 frame "Reed Creek Episcopal Chapel," as described on a 1909 postcard from the W. R. Chitwood Collection, overlooks the mill site from Lee Street to the north. This extant rectangular-shaped, one-story building is now used by an independent church.

In 1868, A. B. Barrett applied to the Commissioners of Virginia for the right to erect a 12-foot high dam across Reed Creek for the purpose of adding a gristmill (Barrett's Mill). Soon after, a 350-foot long wood dam was constructed. In November 1878, however, the mill was flooded and the dam partially damaged. The mill and dam were soon repaired and by 1881, a turbine wheel was installed in the gristmill, which most likely replaced a wood overshot wheel.⁸ The flood of

Reed Creek Mill
Name of Property

Wythe County, VA
County and State

1878 may have also destroyed a wood bridge that would have crossed Reed Creek where an 1881 steel Pratt Truss Bridge (DHR #139-5141) now stands. This 146-foot long, double-truss steel bridge served the community for over a hundred years. The bridge was vacated during the 1983 Old Route 640 road realignment and deeded to the Town of Wytheville, which along with the Virginia Department of Transportation will restore it for a park and walking trail.⁹

Although still operating in 1891, Barrett's Mill was deeded to the Electric Power & Improvement Company, and a Chancery Case ensued between the power company and the Augsburg Bank. The case was still pending in Circuit Court until May 2, 1896, when Special Commissioner W. S. Poage was appointed "to sell the real estate...owned by the Electric Power & Improvement Company consisting of about 26 acres...." The mill closed the same year and may have already been demolished when the sale was finalized. As the sale stated that the "said land" was sold to highest bidder Charles F. Palmer from Saltville for only \$200.¹⁰ John Barrett died in 1900, and was buried in East End Cemetery in Wytheville. The mill closed the same year and probably had been demolished when the sale was finalized, as the deed stated that the "said land" was sold to highest bidder Charles F. Palmer from Saltville for only \$200.^[1] John Barrett died in 1900, and was buried in East End Cemetery in Wytheville.

Ca. 1902 A. F. Stone's Mill

Palmer held onto the mill property until January 1902, when he sold the 26-acre "Barrett Mill Dam" to A. F. Stone of Marion, Virginia, for \$4,000.¹¹ The 1903 Sanborn map denoted the three-story "Wytheville Power Plant Roller Mills A. F. Stone Propr.," and a "mill dam, mill race, tail race," and two-story frame "Slack Storage House" connected to the front of the mill. A note on the map pointing to the west-side wing reads: "Town Electric Light Power Plant to be installed here" and "3 turbines" with three tiny sketches of them in the wing. The first floor of the mill had "2 corn burrs" and "5 double stands rolls." The two burrs remain today. The mill produced electricity for the town's streetlights until 1911 when Appalachian Power Company took over.

The 1908 Sanborn Map depicted the mill, now labelled as the Wytheville Power Plant & Electric Roller Mills with A. F. Stone continuing as proprietor, and an additional attached one-story warehouse, a one-story office, and two unnamed outbuildings. The map also noted "D&N turbines" with three little sketches of turbines in what was their exact location in the "Electric Light Station" west wing of the mill. The "Flour Mill" produced "100 BBLs (barrels) per 24 Hours" of flour, corn meal, and buckwheat. The 1913 Sanborn Map denoted the mill continuing as the Wytheville Power Plant & Electric Roller Mills producing 100 barrels a day. Obviously successful, Stone's house is depicted on a 1908 map of Wytheville as the "A. F. Stone Residence."¹² The 2½-story Queen Anne-style house faced the mill across Church Street.¹³

In 1918, A. F. Stone and his wife Mattie sold the "flour mill and dwelling" (i.e., the Queen Anne house on Church Street) to his brother William S. Stone for a staggering \$42,000.¹⁴ William Stone operated the mill with his sons, and the 1930 Sanborn Map denoted it as the W. S. Stone &

Reed Creek Mill
Name of Property

Wythe County, VA
County and State

Co. Flour Mill. A. F. Stone died October 23, 1931, and his wife, Mattie Virginia Early, as his executor, was instructed to divide his estate equally among their 12 children.¹⁵

Once again, the mill property was auctioned at the courthouse to the highest bidder. In January, 1934, the First National Farmers Bank of Wytheville purchased the 26-acre “mill property and adjoining lands” for \$7,700.¹⁶ In April of that year, the bank in turn sold the property to T. J. Eades et al (his sons).¹⁷ The 1934 deed stated that not only would Eades pay the 1934 taxes but that he would provide insurance for the “mill building...the building adjacent to the mill...and the dwelling near the Episcopal Chapel...” The insurance requirement was fortuitous as in December of that year the upper stories of the mill caught fire. The mill was repaired in 1936-1937. The 1934 Land Tax Record showed W. S. Stone with “two lots and house near mill” with a \$620 tax value and the 1938 Land Tax Record showed E. J. Eades et al with the same tax value but with \$1,800 in building improvements and a range of \$640-\$2,400 for machinery.

Reed Creek Mill

Soon after repairing the mill and adding new machinery E. J. Eades died, and his wife Nannie Sherwood Eades promptly sold the property in 1938 to M.M. Pinnix et al for \$16,500.¹⁸ This deed provided a description of the property as being “...bounded on the East by Ivanhoe Road...and on the north by the street running from the Ivanhoe Road to the Episcopal Chapel.” Pinnix operated the mill for ten years before selling it to Elma I. and Herman A. Suthers in June, 1946.¹⁹ Labelled on Sanborn maps as Reed Creek Milling Company since before 1948, the mill had a front loading dock and its west-side wing doubled in depth, forming an ‘L’ shaped building. The “flour mill” produced 50 barrels per 24 hours.

In 1975, H. A. Suthers, Jr., began working at the mill, along with five other employees.²⁰ Although “water-powered stone grinders were still used to process cornmeal and buckwheat flour,” they mostly sold livestock feed, and some farm supplies and hardware items. However; demand for flour and livestock feed diminished due to easy availability of processed bread and the presence of large feed stores like Southern States. In 2004, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration closed the milling operation due to unsanitary conditions and the property remained vacant.²¹ On June 27, 2012, Robert Downey purchased the property and began site work and building renovations.²² Today all resources, including the 1970 single dwelling are in good condition with high levels of integrity. The mill remains vacant awaiting a new use.

Reed Creek Mill
Name of Property

Wythe County, VA
County and State

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Brogden, Linda. Archivist for St. John's Episcopal Church, Wytheville, Virginia. Personal files on John Barrett taken from the Vestry Minutes. May 2016.

Carrington, F. B. Map of Wytheville. Town Administrative Building. Wytheville, Virginia. 1908.

Downey, Robert E. Owner of property, personal files on Reed Creek Mill. May 2016.

Pezzoni, Daniel. Wytheville Historic District, National Register nomination. DHR#139-0029. Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, Virginia, 1994.

Pulice, Michael J. J. B. Barrett House, Intensive Level Survey. Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, Virginia, 2010.

Pulice, Michael J. Reed Creek Mill, Preliminary Information Form. Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, Virginia, 2015.

Pulice, Michael J. Truss Bridge, old Route 640, Reconnaissance Level Survey. Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, Virginia, 2010.

Pridemore, James. Personal interview on-site with author. May 3-4, 2016.

Sanborn Insurance Company, Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps: 1886, 1903, 1908, 1913, 1930, 1948. New York, NY: Sanborn Insurance Company.

Wythe County Deed, Land, and Will Books. Wythe County Courthouse, Wytheville, Virginia. Various Books and Dates. May, 2016.

Wythe County Historical Review: Number 10. Published by Wythe County Historical Society, Wytheville, Virginia. January, 1970.

Wythe County Property Tax Records. Commissioner of the Revenue Office, Wytheville, Virginia. May 2016.

Wythe County Town Office, Office of Town Engineer, Wytheville, Virginia. May 2016.

Wytheville Community College, Kegley Library, W. R. Chitwood Collection and other historic images on file. Wytheville, Virginia, May 2016.

Reed Creek Mill
Name of Property

Wythe County, VA
County and State

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 # _____
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
 - Other State agency
 - Federal agency
 - Local government
 - University
 - Other
- Name of repository: Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, VA

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): DHR File No. 139-5142

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 4.80 acres

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Latitude: 36.568858 | Longitude: -81.427943 |
| 2. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 3. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 4. Latitude: | Longitude: |

Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

Reed Creek Mill
Name of Property

Wythe County, VA
County and State

NAD 1927 or NAD 1983

- | | | |
|----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 2. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 3. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 4. Zone: | Easting : | Northing: |

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The nominated boundary includes the one tax parcel (41-2) of 4.80-acres as indicated on the attached Figure 1, "Reed Creek Mill Nomination, Town of Wytheville, Wythe County, VA, DHR #139-5142, Tax Parcel Map." The true and correct historic boundary is also shown on the attached Location Map and Sketch Map.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The nominated boundary includes the one tax parcel (41-2) of the current owner that includes the mill, all secondary resources, and the historic setting that relate to the history of the Reed Creek Mill.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Anne Stuart Beckett
organization: Same
street & number: 1024 Hamilton Avenue
city or town: Roanoke state: VA zip code: 24015
e-mail: asbeckett@cox.net
telephone: 540-354-7827
date: June 9, 2016

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Reed Creek Mill
Name of Property

Wythe County, VA
County and State

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Reed Creek Mill (Stone's Mill)

City or Vicinity: Town of Wytheville

County: Wythe County State: VA

Photographer: Anne Stuart Beckett

Date Photographed: May, 2016

Digital Repository: Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, VA

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

1 of 18. VA_Wythe County_ReedCreekMill_0001

View NW, ca. 1950 egg house converted in 2013 to a guest house, ca. 1902 Reed Creek Mill, and ca. 1950 storage building.

2 of 18. VA_Wythe County_ReedCreekMill_0002

View W/SW of Reed Creek Mill (mill) with ca. 1902 mill dam and Reed Creek in background.

3 of 18. VA_Wythe County_ReedCreekMill_0003

View NW of mill with ca. 1902 mill dam and tail race in background.

4 of 18. VA_Wythe County_ReedCreekMill_0004

View NE, rear elevation of mill with water exiting the head tank, and 2013 guest house in background.

5 of 18. VA_Wythe County_ReedCreekMill_0005

View NW of ca. 1902 tail race, mill dam, mill, guest house, and 1970 single dwelling.

6 of 18. VA_Wythe County_ReedCreekMill_0006

View SW of mill dam and head race.

7 of 18. VA_Wythe County_ReedCreekMill_0007

View SE of head race and side elevation of mill.

Reed Creek Mill
Name of Property

Wythe County, VA
County and State

8 of 18. VA_Wythe County_ReedCreekMill_0008

Detail view of the exterior of the head tank at the rear NW corner of mill. Abutment of 1881 Pratt Truss Bridge in distance (not included in nomination).

9 of 18. VA_Wythe County_ReedCreekMill_0009

View SE of tail race. 1881 Pratt Truss Bridge in middle, with post 1983 replacement bridge in background.

10 of 18. VA_Wythe County_ReedCreekMill_0010

Mill interior, first floor, view towards W corner of NW side elevation and rear elevation.

11 of 18. VA_Wythe County_ReedCreekMill_0011

Mill interior, first floor, detail of mill stones near the N corner.

12 of 18. VA_Wythe County_ReedCreekMill_0012

Mill interior, second floor, view towards the NW side elevation.

13 of 18. VA_Wythe County_ReedCreekMill_0013

Mill interior, third floor, view towards the W corner (rear elevation and NW side elevation).

14 of 18. VA_Wythe County_ReedCreekMill_0014

Mill interior, attic, view towards the N corner (NW side elevation).

15 of 18. VA_Wythe County_ReedCreekMill_0015

Mill interior, basement, view of millstone and steps leading to the head tank.

16 of 18. VA_Wythe County_ReedCreekMill_0016

Mill interior, plank floor of head tank, view of pulley system for turbines, view towards NW side elevation.

17 of 18. VA_Wythe County_ReedCreekMill_0017

View N of ca. 1950 storage building.

18 of 18. VA_Wythe County_ReedCreekMill_0018

View NW of 1970 single dwelling.

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.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

Reed Creek Mill
Name of Property

Wythe County, VA
County and State

ENDNOTES

- ¹ Wytheville Community College, Kegley Library, W. R. Chitwood Collection.
- ² Pridemore, James. Personal Interview On-site with Author.
- ³ *Wytheville Historical Review*, p.2. 1970.
- ⁴ Pezzoni, Daniel. Wytheville Historic District nomination, p.4 and 104.1994.
- ⁵ *Ibid*, p. 6.
- ⁶ *Wytheville Historical Review*, p.2. 1970.
- ⁷ Brogden, Linda. St. John's Episcopal Church Minutes.
- ⁸ *Wytheville Historical Review*, p.2. 1970; Pulice, Michael J., Reed Creek PIF. 2015.
- ⁹ Pulice, Michael J. *Truss Bridge Reconnaissance Level Survey*. 2010.
- ¹⁰ Wythe County Deed Book 46:11.
- ^[i] Wythe County Deed Book 46:11.
- ¹¹ Wythe County Deed Book 48:47.
- ¹² Carrington Map of Wytheville. 1908.
- ¹³ W. R. Chitwood Collection, 1909.
- ¹⁴ Wythe County Deed Book 64:323.
- ¹⁵ Wythe County Will Book 27:539.
- ¹⁶ Wythe County Deed Book 90:173.
- ¹⁷ Wythe County Deed Book 90:345.
- ¹⁸ *Ibid*, 99:126.
- ¹⁹ *Ibid*, 120:127.
- ²⁰ Downey Reed Creek Mill file, untitled newspaper article, 2002.
- ²¹ *Ibid*, Wytheville Enterprise article, 2013.
- ²² Wythe County Deed Book Instrument 120001916.

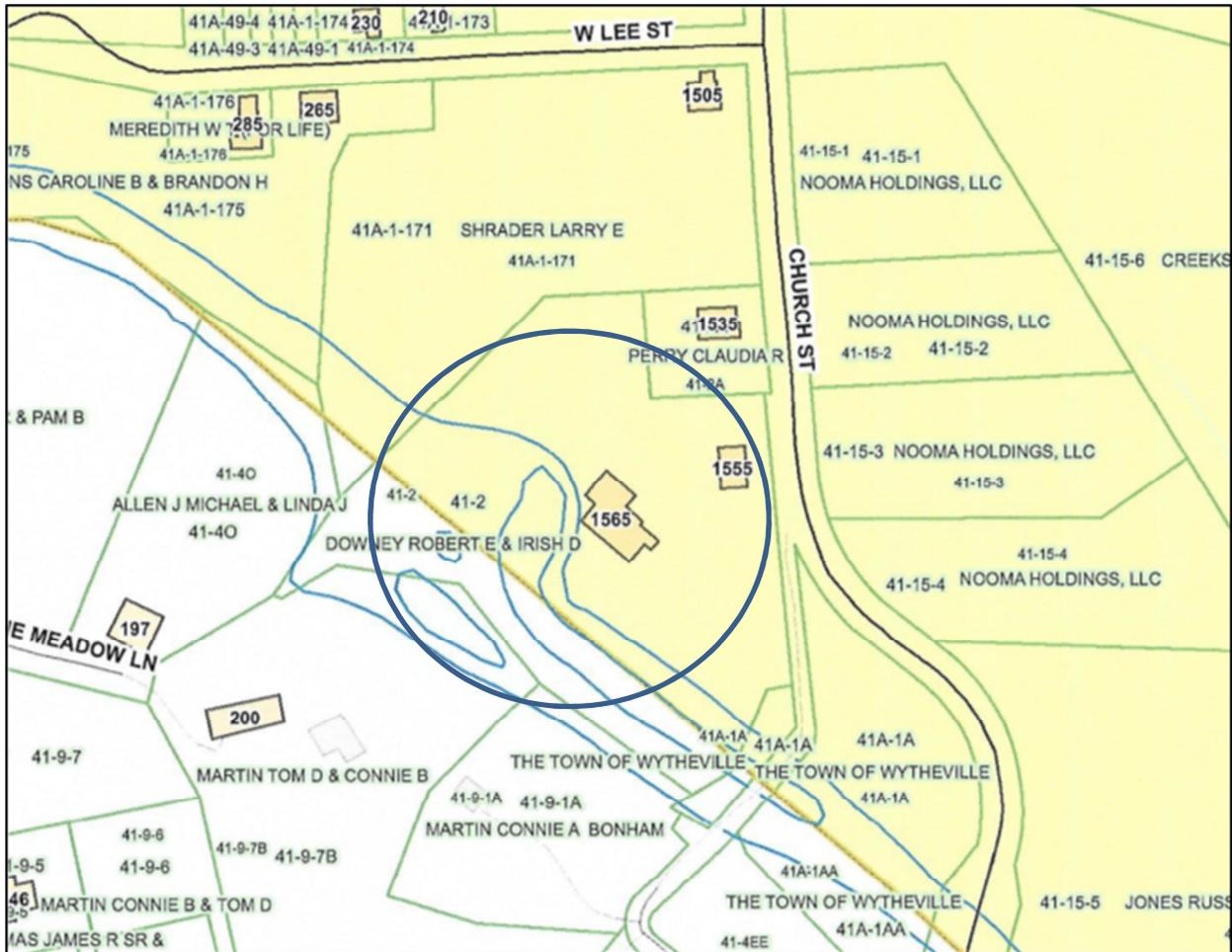


Figure 1. Reed Creek Mill, Wythe County, VA, DHR #139-5142, Tax Parcel Map. The nominated parcel is shown on the above Tax Parcel Map as 41-2. The owner's name is labelled as "Downey Robert E & Irish D." The mill is addressed as #1565 Church St. and the owner's residence as #1555 within the circle. Image provided by Commissioner of the Revenue Office, Wythe County, VA May 31, 2016.

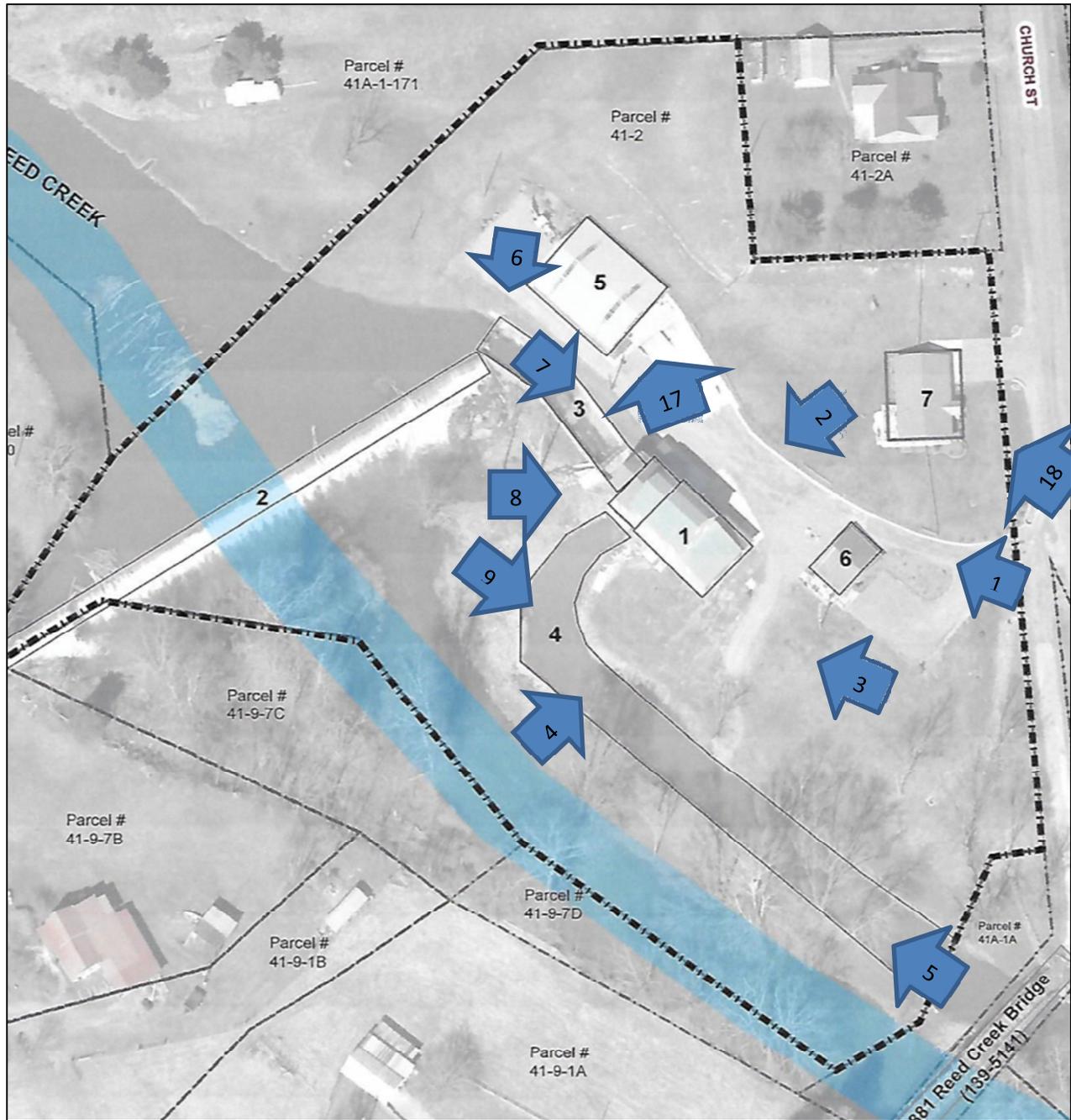


Figure 2. Keyed Sketch Map of Exterior Photo Locations.

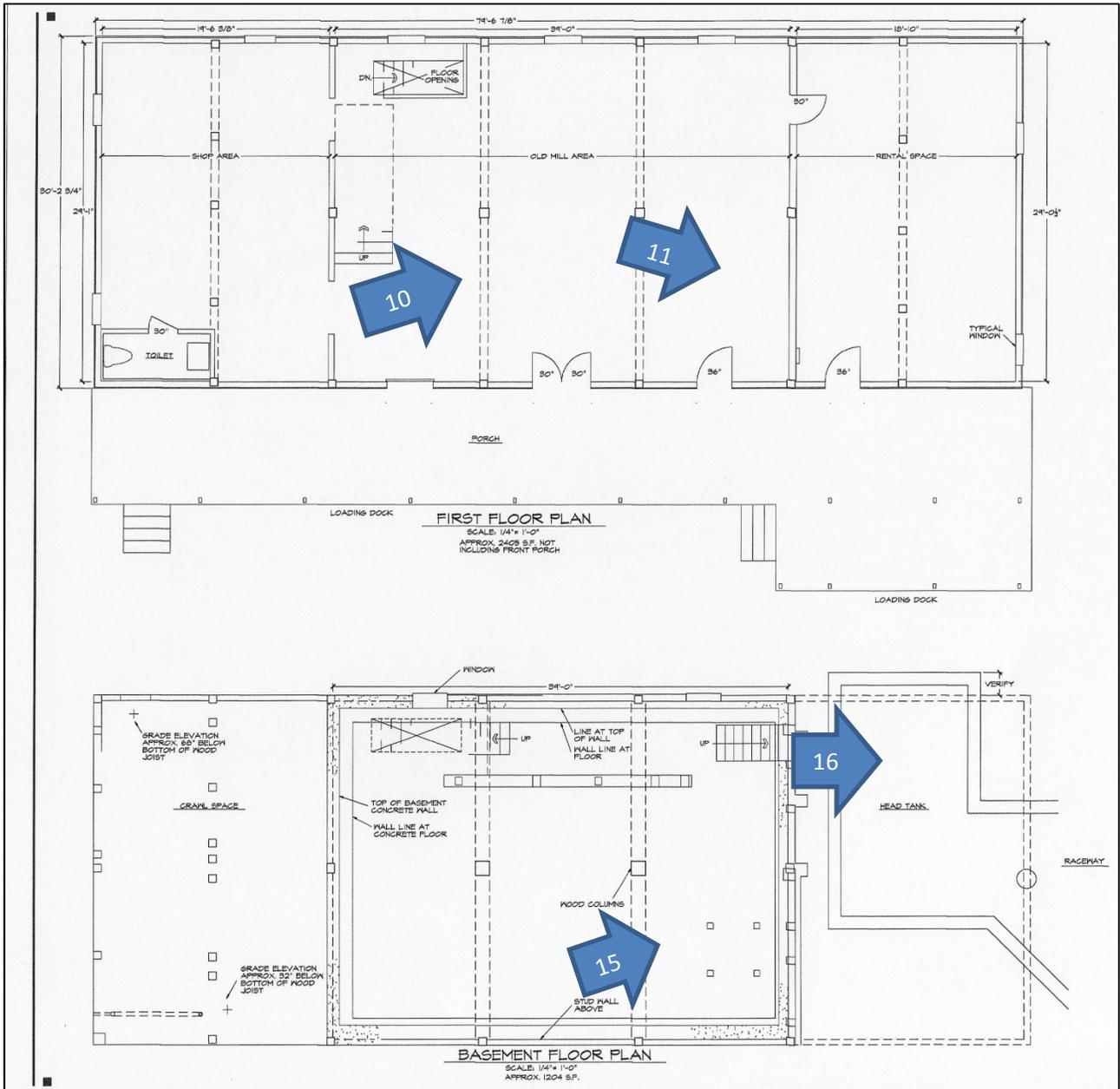


Figure 3. Keyed Basement and First Floor Plan of Reed Creek Mill.



Figure 4. Keyed Second and Third Floor Plan of Reed Creek Mill.

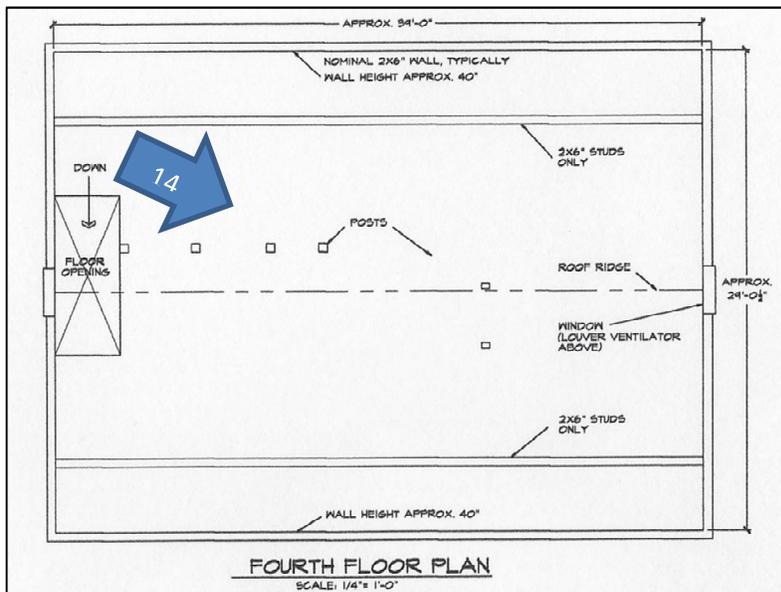


Figure 5. Keyed Attic Floor Plan of Reed Creek Mill.



Figure 6. Reed Creek Mill, view west, ca. 1902. All historic images courtesy of Wytheville Community College, Kegley Library, W. R. Chitwood Collection.

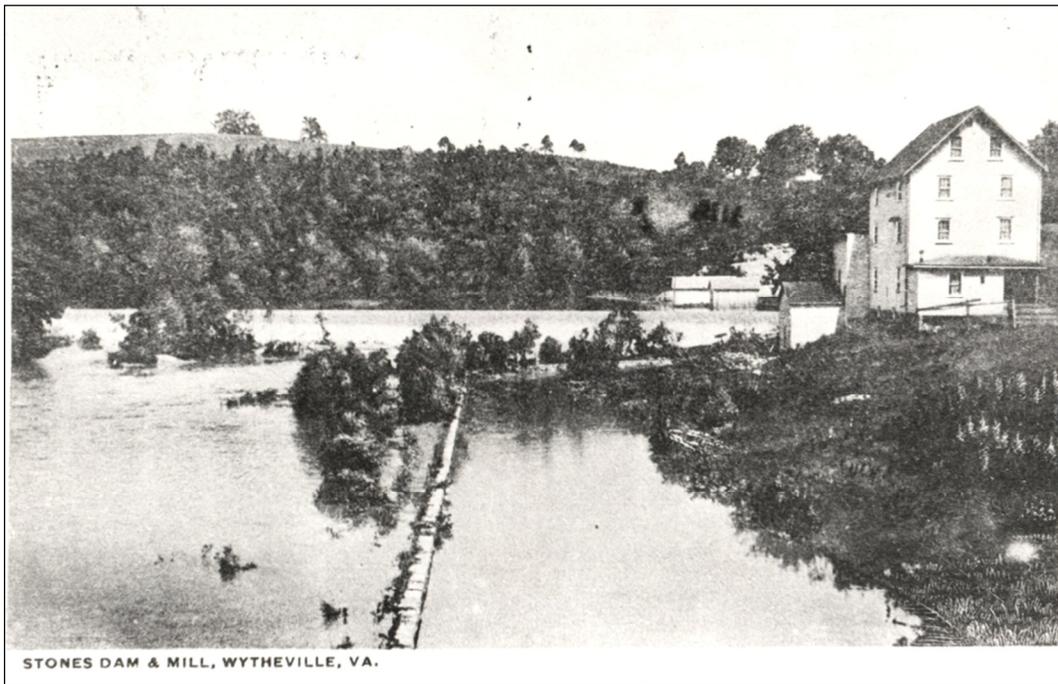


Figure 7. Reed Creek Mill, view northeast, Post Card dated 1920.



Figure 8. Reed Creek Mill, view north across Reed Creek, ca. 1913. Extant Reed Creek Episcopal Chapel (now a different denomination) in upper left of image (church not included in nomination).

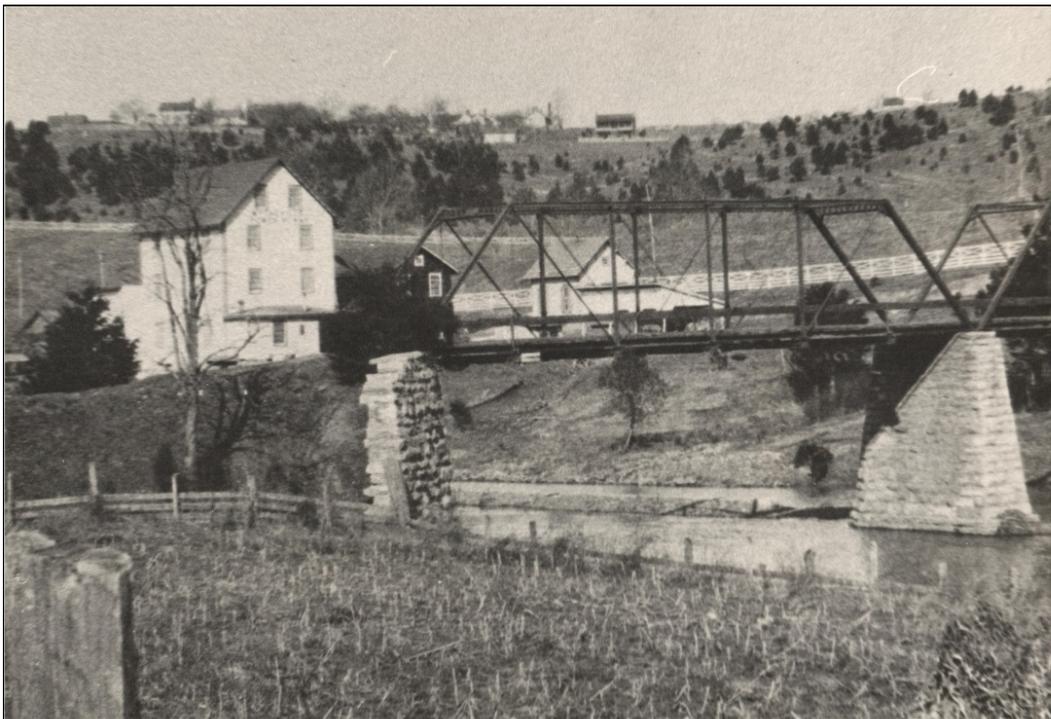
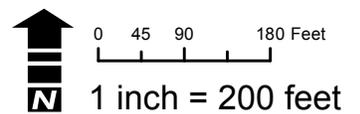


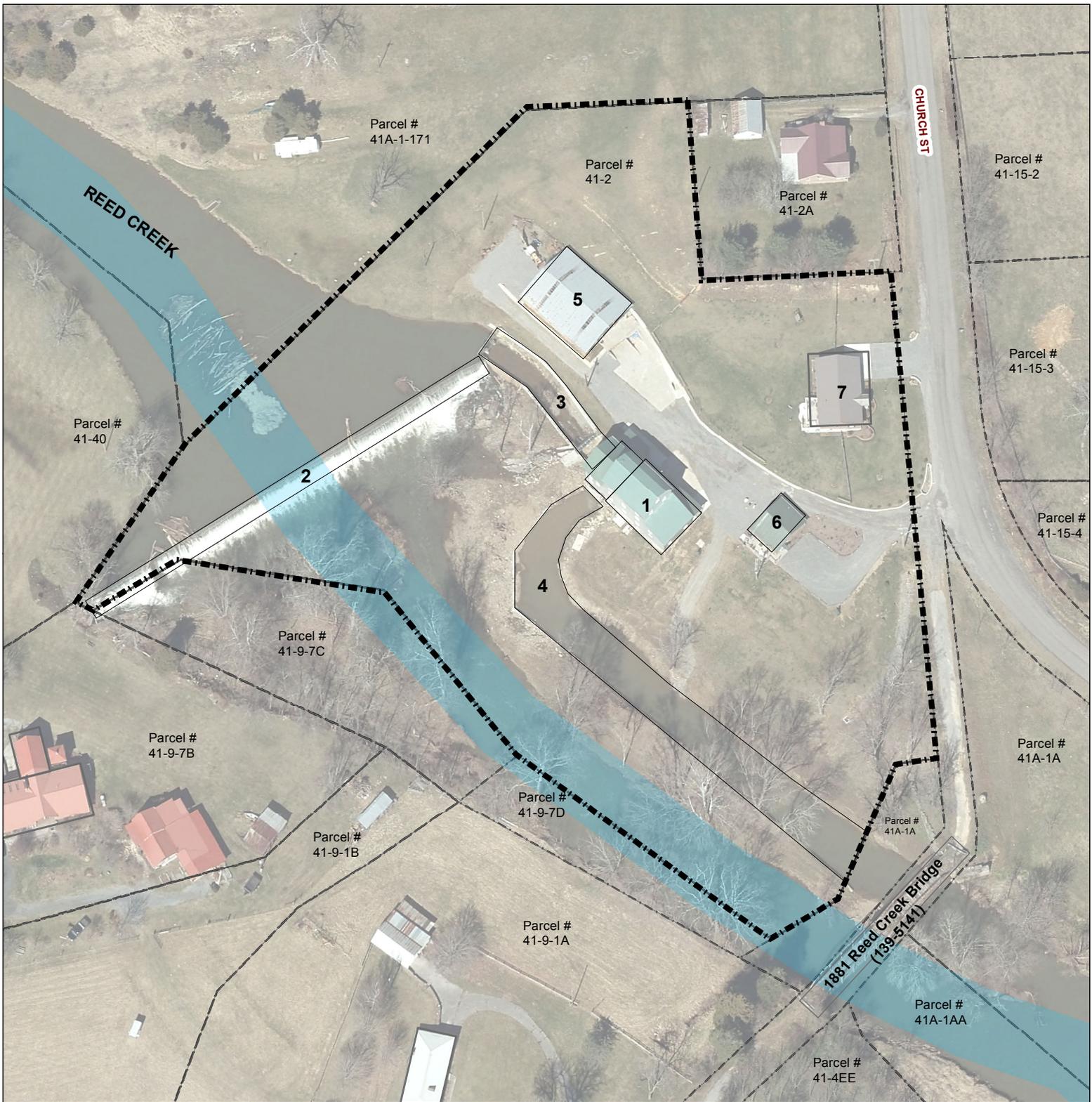
Figure 9. Reed Creek Mill, view north, ca. 1909 Post Card—but the single dwelling in the middle of the image was not built until ca. 1930 according to 1930 Sanborn Map. Extant 1881 Pratt Truss Bridge in foreground (not included in nomination).



Reed Creek Mill (DHR File No. 139-5142)
Town of Wytheville, Wythe County, Virginia
June 2016

Location Map





**Reed Creek Mill (DHR File No. 139-5142)
Town of Wytheville, Wythe County, Virginia
June 2016**

Resource List:

1. Ca. 1902 Reed Creek Mill—Contributing Building
2. Ca. 1902 Mill Dam—Contributing Structure
3. Ca. 1902 Head Race—Contributing Structure
4. Ca. 1902 Tail Race—Contributing Structure
5. Ca. 1950 Storage Building—Contributing Building
6. Ca. 1950/2013 Egg House/Guest House—Non-Contributing Building
7. 1970 Single Dwelling—Non-Contributing Building

Sketch Map

