

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

ULR 2/5/7  
NRHP 11/1/7

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 Lantz Mill  
other names/site number Lantz Roller Mill; VDHR File Number: 085-0933-0001

2. Location

street & number 95 Swover Creek Road Not for publication N/A  
city or town Edinburg vicinity X  
state Virginia code VA county Shenandoah code 171 zip code 22824

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      nationally      statewide X locally (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Signature] 9/19/07  
Signature of certifying official Date

Virginia Department of Historic Resources  
State or Federal Agency or Tribal government

In my opinion, the property      meets      does not meet the National Register criteria (      See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting official/Title 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 the Keeper

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Action

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**5. Classification**

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**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	
<u>  1  </u>	<u>  0  </u>	buildings
<u>  0  </u>	<u>  0  </u>	sites
<u>  1  </u>	<u>  0  </u>	structures
<u>  0  </u>	<u>  0  </u>	objects
<u>  2  </u>	<u>  0  </u>	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  

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**6. Function or Use**

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

Cat:   INDUSTRY/PROCESSING/EXTRACTION   Sub:   Manufacturing Facility: gristmill  

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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

Cat:   VACANT   Sub:   Not in Use  

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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**7. Description**

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

  OTHER: Vernacular  

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Materials** (Enter categories from instructions)

Foundation:   STONE: Limestone  

Roof:   METAL: Tin  

Walls:   WOOD: Weatherboard  

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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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.

**Areas of Significance** (Enter categories from instructions): INDUSTRY; ARCHITECTURE

**Period of Significance:** circa 1813-1957

**Significant Dates:** 1864; circa 1867

**Significant Person** (Complete if Criterion B is marked above):

**Cultural Affiliation:** N/A

**Architect/Builder:** Unknown

**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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(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: Shenandoah County Courthouse, Woodstock, Virginia; Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, Virginia

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**10. Geographical Data**  
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**Acreege of Property** approximately 1 acre

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

Zone Easting Northing: 17/708954/4301691

**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 Christopher Hernandez-Roy  
 organization N/A date June 7, 2007  
 street & number 122 North Peyton Street telephone 202-458-3609  
 city or town Alexandria state VA zip code 22314

=====  
**Additional Documentation**  
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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 Christopher Hernandez-Roy  
 street & number 122 North Peyton Street telephone 202-458-3609  
 city or town Alexandria state VA zip code 22314

**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.). A federal agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 36 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 National Register of Historic Places, National Park Service, 1849 C St., NW, Washington, DC 20240.

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**Lantz Mill  
Shenandoah County, Virginia**

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**Summary Description**

The Lantz Mill is the physical anchor of the small village of Lantz Mills, located two miles west of Edinburg, in Shenandoah County, Virginia, along Stony Creek, a tributary of the North Fork of the Shenandoah River. The mill was built on the north bank of Stony Creek below a series of rapids extending about a quarter of a mile upstream from the mill, providing the requisite force to the water to power the mill. The Lantz Mill is a two-and-a-half-story frame building erected with post-and-beam construction, with a mixture of hand hewn and sawn members using mortise-and-tenon joinery, which sits on an eight-foot-high limestone foundation twenty-four inches thick. The mill foundation, mill race, and mill-dam (located on an adjacent property) were constructed some time before 1813, probably by Peter Holler, one of the original settlers of what would become the village of Lantz Mills. The extant mill building dates primarily to circa 1867, when it was reconstructed after being burned in 1864 by Union troops. The mill has a steeply pitched standing-seam metal roof and is clad in weatherboard siding. Four additions were attached to the mill in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. The building was originally constructed as a stone-grinding flour mill and was converted to roller mill technology in the last decades of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The Lantz Mill property contains one contributing structure – the portion of the mill race that is located on the property.

**Detailed Description**

The Lantz Mill is a two-and-a-half-story frame building resting on an eight-foot-high limestone foundation that is thirty-six feet wide, forty-feet long, and twenty-four inches thick. The mill was built using post-and-beam construction with mortise-and-tenon joinery. A mixture of hand hewn and sawn members are visible on the interior and some posts are thirteen-by-thirteen inches thick. (Photo 1) The support posts on all the floors have chamfered corners. The floor joists are set about one foot apart and are approximately ten inches wide and two to three inches thick. The building is heavily engineered to sustain the weight of large quantities of stored grain and flour, as well as the strong vibrations of the machinery during operation.

A postcard from 1908 (Figure 1) shows the original layout of the building. The building conforms to the plan for a small frame mill illustrated in D. W. Dedrick's work, Practical Milling, published in 1924<sup>1</sup>.

Today, the Mill also includes four additions: a sixteen-by-twenty-seven-foot, single-story addition on the west side of the building added sometime before 1927 (Figure 2); a two-story addition measuring eleven by thirty-six feet on the east side of the building, which continues into an additional forty-by-twenty-foot, single-story, "L" addition and rests on seven-foot-high concrete pilings, added sometime before 1956 (Figure 3); and a twenty-foot-wide-by-fifteen-foot-deep, two-story addition on the south side of the mill. A fifteen-foot-wide-by-six-foot-deep front porch or loading dock, with an overhanging roof suspended by steel cables, completes the exterior

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appearance of the mill. The limestone foundation, which is believed to be the original foundation belonging to the mill which was built prior to 1813, also includes what is either a fireplace or more likely a vent system in the northeast corner of the building. The use of the fireplace or vent was discontinued when the mill was rebuilt in circa 1867.

The gristmill was powered by a steel Fitz overshot waterwheel, which is twelve-and-one-half feet in diameter and eight feet wide (Photo 2). The waterwheel is connected to a large cast iron gear, then to a reduction gear (Photo 3), and ultimately attached to a large laminate wooden wheel (Photo 4), which provided power to the belts, pulleys, and wheels located throughout the basement and on the first, second, and third floors of the mill. The basement level contains a horizontal auger and grain conveyor system, taking grain fed from the street level in the front of the mill, through an access chute, to the grain elevators which run to the top floor of the building.

The first floor contains an office, where business was conducted, a feed mixer, a scale for weighing flour/feed bags, and probably would have housed the Wolf four packer and two Barnard and Leas roller stands seen in Figure 4; these are no longer extant and replacements will be sought. A complete, but disassembled, cast-iron roller stand of unknown manufacture is located in the northeast corner of the first floor. Chutes from the top floor of the mill filled bins are located along the north, east, and western sides of the first floor. These bins contained different grades and types of feed, and access hatches allowed the products to be bagged, weighed, and sold from the first floor of the mill.

The second floor contains a Barnard & Leas Manufacturing separator (Photo 5); a Wolf Company No. 3 grader; a Wolf middlings purifier (Photo 6); additional Wolf machinery; a Barnard and Leas round reel bolter; and six large storage bins. The third floor contains a size 21 Unique round bottom feeder and mixer; a Barnard & Leas round reel bolter (Photo 7); and the centerpiece: a Barnard & Leas, Carl Haggemacher-type plainsifter (Photo 8). The Haggemacher horizontal plainsifter was introduced in the United States from Hungary by the Barnard and Leas Manufacturing Company in 1892. An 1899 Barnard and Leas catalogue stated that "there is no doubt that the plainsifter will make cleaner and better separations and purer flour than any other known bolting device".<sup>2</sup> All of the wooden grain chutes connecting the three floors and basement remain well preserved and intact.

The mill was converted to electric motor power prior to 1936<sup>3</sup>, but the original power transfer system was retained. Instead of motors on each piece of equipment, a giant electric motor simply replaced the waterwheel as the source of power, and its energy was conveyed throughout the structure by shafts, metal pulleys, and leather belts, almost all of which remain in place to this day. Power was turned on and off by forcing the belts on or off the rotating pulleys and belts ran between the basement and three floors.<sup>4</sup>

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The mill dam, which is located on a separate parcel approximately one-fourth mile upstream from the mill, was rebuilt of concrete in 1932, replacing the original wood and earthen dam (Figure 5). The dam was breached by 1956 and has not yet been repaired (Photo 9). The mill race, which is connected to the dam, has the unusual feature of running most of its length on the opposite bank of the river from the mill. The race originally crossed over the river by means of a wood flume or "trunking" (Figure 6) which was replaced in 1932 by a steel pipe that has now deteriorated. The remaining course of the race is on the same bank of the river as the mill (Photo10) and is a contributing structure to the property.

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**Statement of Significance:**

The Lantz Mill is significant as a fine example of a circa 1867 gristmill of frame construction, the significance of which is further enhanced by the presence of most of the mill's late-19<sup>th</sup>-century flour-grinding equipment and mechanicals, including machines from such well-known manufacturers as Barnard and Leas Manufacturing Company of Moline, Illinois, and The Wolf Company of Chambersburg, Pennsylvania. The mill, including what remains of the antebellum building constructed before 1813, is also significant because it served for 146 years as the center of the community of Lantz Mills, providing its residents and the broader local community with an essential food staple. The original mill was destroyed by fire on October 7, 1864 by Union forces as part of Major General Philip Sheridan's efforts to deny forage and sustenance to the Confederate Army in the Shenandoah Valley, known as "The Burning". One contributing structure, a portion of the mill race, is located on the Lantz Mill property.

**Justification of Criteria and Period of Significance:**

The Lantz Mill is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places as significant under Criterion C, as it is an excellent representative of a water-powered frame gristmill dating to the immediate post-bellum period, examples of which are fast disappearing or losing their architectural integrity to alterations. This type of building was once ubiquitous along the many creeks and rivers in the Shenandoah Valley.

The 1885 Atlas of Shenandoah and Page counties shows that there were at least 14 mills on Stony Creek 122 years ago. Beginning at Edinburg and traveling upstream along Stony Creek, these mills included: a sawmill at Edinburg, the Whissen gristmill, the Grandstaff grist mill (Edinburg Mill), the S.P. Hollingsworth & Brother's sawmill, the Vincent & Boehm gristmill, the Lantz grist and sawmill, a gristmill and sawmill at Columbia Furnace, a sawmill and a gristmill upstream of Columbia Furnace, and three gristmills and one feed mill between Liberty Furnace (today's hamlet of Jerome) and Bayse. There could have been scores of other mills in Shenandoah County. Of all the mills in the county, only seven remain standing today: The Edinburg Mill, the Zirkle Mill (Forestville), the Mount Jackson Mill, the Morgan Carding Mill (Mount Jackson), the Armentrout Mill (Moore's Store), the Spangler/Artz Mill (Strasburg), and the Stoner/Keller Mill (Fisher's Hill). The Edinburg Mill and the Zirkle Mill are listed on the Virginia Landmarks Register and the National Register of Historic Places; the Edinburg Mill and the Lantz Mill are the only mills left along Stony Creek.

Of the remaining mills, only the Lantz mill and the Zirkle Mill still conserve the entire course of the mill's original water race; however, it is believed that only the Lantz Mill retains all of the water rights associated with the use of the mill dam and mill race, rights which are preserved through a series of easements recorded on the deeds of neighboring properties through which the race traverses. This would theoretically allow the water race and waterwheel to be put back into

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service following restoration. Nothing remains of the waterwheel at the Edinburg Mill, Mount Jackson Mill or Morgan Mill; and nothing remains of the mill dams at the Edinburg, Mount Jackson, Morgan, Armentrout, Spangler, and Stoner mills. In contrast, these elements are intact at the Lantz Mill. In addition, the Lantz Mill and the Stoner Mill are distinctive among the remaining mills because they were both originally powered by two waterwheels – only one of which remains at the Lantz Mill.

The Lantz Mill has most of its 19<sup>th</sup> century flour equipment intact. This is especially important, as a number of the remaining mills in Shenandoah County have lost part or all of their original machinery through their adaptive reuse as restaurants (Edinburg Mill and Spangler Mill), shops or storage (Mount Jackson Mill, Morgan Mill), or residences (Armentrout Mill).

The mill is also significant under Criterion A in the area of Industry, as it served as the anchor around which sprang the bustling village of Lantz Mills, a typical mid-19<sup>th</sup>-century small industrial and commercial center. The mill also spawned numerous other businesses, a number of them also owned and operated by the Lantz family. Its period of significance extends from circa 1813, when the original mill building, whose foundations serve the current building, was constructed, to 1957, as it served its original function and remained an important contributor to the commercial life of the village of Lantz Mills into the 1970s, past the current 50 year cut-off.

**Historical Background:**

The first European pioneers to settle the area which would eventually become the village of Lantz Mills arrived in the 1750s. The site became a prosperous mill village and a center of industry and commerce by the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, with a post office, forge, harness shop, gristmill, sawmill, and cider mill, and a tannery in operation. In the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, there was an important mercantile store operated by Jacob Clem, as well as a carpentry, woodworking, and casket making shop owned by William Christian. Rifles marked “Kauffman” are known to have been made in the area, as were wooden washing machines<sup>5</sup>. John B. Milligan operated a general store; George Rinehart ran a dry goods store; and Fadley Harrison and James Foltz operated a distillery.

The Lantz Mill today sits on a lot of slightly more than an acre in the center of the village. The mill property, however, started out as a much larger property. The first in the chain of deeds recorded in the Shenandoah County courthouse pertaining to the property is a land grant from the proprietors’ office of the Northern Neck of Virginia, dated October 8, 1766, which granted 372 acres to Peter Hollow (Holler).<sup>6</sup> Lord Fairfax, however, forfeited Holler’s grant and on November 21, 1770, gave 340 acres to Christopher Cofman.<sup>7</sup> In 1790, Holler purchased 200 acres back from Cofman.<sup>8</sup>

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The 200-acre mill property passed to John Holler and Henry Holler, sons of Peter Holler, through his last will and testament, after his death in 1813. The 1814 appraisalment of Peter Holler's estate indicates that John Holler inherited 100 acres, the gristmill and the residence, and Henry Holler inherited the sawmill. This is the oldest document found thus far to specifically mention the gristmill, which would subsequently become known as the Lantz Mill.<sup>9</sup> It is logical to assume that the mill predates the date of Peter Holler's will, but no documentary evidence has yet been discovered which would establish the original date of construction. The 1810-1816 Shenandoah County Minute Book records a decision by the Justices to task Peter Holler with opening a road "leading from Columbia Furnace on Stony Creek, passing the Union Forge" then joining the road from Woodstock to Staunton (modern day Route 11)<sup>10</sup>. Holler presumably had an interest in the construction of such a road, either because his mill already existed or would soon exist, and the road would have facilitated the export of his flour to Edinburg, then to Luray, Virginia, then down the South Fork of the Shenandoah River and the Potomac to the important international flour market located in Alexandria, Virginia. Most of the agricultural products arriving at the Alexandria market came from the areas now comprising the 15 northern Virginia counties, a region that had been the principal wheat producing area of Virginia since the Revolutionary War.<sup>11</sup>

On September 7, 1815, the Holler brothers sold the mill property to Samuel Morrison Burnside Stuart<sup>12</sup>, who in turn sold the mill to George Adam Lantz (1788-1869) on January 1, 1824;<sup>13</sup> the mill would remain in the Lantz family for the next 72 years. George Adam Lantz (Figure 8) was the grandson of one of the pioneers of the hamlet of Lantz Mills, Hans George Lantz (1725-1793), who came to America from Germany in 1747 and settled along the Monocacy River in Maryland. In 1766, Hans George Lantz moved to Shenandoah County, Virginia, where, under the name of George Long, he received a grant from Lord Fairfax of 470 acres of land on Swan Pond Hollow, "a drain of and on the south side of Stony Creek".<sup>14</sup> Both he and his son, Jacob Lantz (1759-1837), supported the revolution against Great Britain, contributing wheat, bacon, and beef to the Continental Army.<sup>15</sup> Jacob Lantz later became a long-serving magistrate of Shenandoah County.<sup>16</sup>

In January 1833, George Coffelt (Coffield), a neighbor, sold George Lantz the rights to maintain a dam and a race which ran through his land to power Lantz's mill<sup>17</sup>. Coffelt owned two large tracts of land along Stony Creek--the first was granted in 1766 and consisted of 300 acres on both sides of the creek and the second, consisting of 400 acres, was located on the "North Westerly Side of Stony Creek", and was obtained in 1774.<sup>18</sup> From the wording of the 1833 easement it is clear that George Lantz's mill pre-existed the sale of these rights. It is likely that part of the mill-race and the dam had been built when the land on both sides of Stony Creek was owned by Peter Holler. When Lantz bought the mill tract on the north side of Stony Creek, he may have done so forgetting to retain easement rights on the south bank of the creek, or he may have encroached, inadvertently or not, on his neighbor's land.

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In 1863, Jacob Lantz the younger (1814-1883), purchased the mill tract from his father George, which at this point in time consisted of 102 acres<sup>19</sup> and which was known as the "mill tract".<sup>20</sup> It is clear, however, that Jacob had been running his father's business at Lantz Mills for many years prior to actually becoming the owner of the mill tract, given especially that George Lantz was 75 years old at the time of sale. It was Jacob Lantz, not his father, who was listed in the Thompson's Mercantile and Professional Directory for Virginia in 1851 under the category "General Dealers in Dry Goods, Groceries, Hardware, &c." doing business at Lantz Mills.<sup>21</sup> Jacob Lantz was also a partner in the Edinburg Manufacturing Company, chartered May 1, 1852, to produce woolen goods, flour, and lumber. George Grandstaff (the owner of the Edinburg Mill), Jacob Lantz the younger, Cyrus Springer, Peter Celow, and John J. Allen held the company's capital stock, which was not less than \$10,000 nor more than \$100,000 each in shares of \$25.<sup>22</sup> Presumably the lumber and flour from Lantz's mills were marketed by the company.

By mid-century, Jacob Lantz had become the principal merchant for Lantz Mills, "dealing in all kinds of articles". His large mills "supplied the flour and grain for a large trade. His sawmill and shops turned out various products". At the beginning of the Civil War, he was one of the chief businessmen of the area and was a staunch supporter of the Confederate States of America. Jacob was the presiding Justice of the Peace for Shenandoah County, and all of the fractional currency issued by Shenandoah County during the Civil War bore his signature (see figure 9).

Whenever Union troops arrived in the area, Lantz was forced to go into hiding.<sup>23</sup> In October 1864, Union Major General Wesley Merritt, in command of the First Cavalry Division, laid waste to farms and industry along the Middle Road and the Valley Pike in Shenandoah County. Noted local historian, John L. Heatwole, wrote in his book, The Burning, that "by late afternoon [on October 7] cavalrymen of the Second and reserve brigades approached Stony Creek ... behind them the countryside was filled with smoke, and the wind carried the strong smell of wet ashes. At the bustling and lovely hamlet of Lantz Mill, two miles west of Edinburg, they continued their acts of arson".<sup>24</sup>

Jacob's eldest son, Jacob Wissler Lantz, would later describe the reason for his father's ordeal and the events of the evening of October 7, 1864, which included the burning of the gristmill:

*He was a Justice, the highest elective office I ever know a Lantz to hold, and this probably paid him \$5.00 or \$10.00 a year but it was a great pleasure to him. In his day and time I think the Justices of the county met and elected one to try the important cases, probably appealed from the regular justices, and to this he was elected or appointed. This office corresponded to our county judges and had more honor or at least more responsibility. I remember it cost him his home and nearly all his property. Some Northern soldiers had been captured by the Southern Army and in passing through the county, the Southern soldiers were overpowered by a mob and [a] Northern soldier [was] killed. [Later] orders were issued [by a] Northern officer to arrest father for he was the trial justice, [and also to arrest] Colonel Rinker who*

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*commanded the soldiers that allowed the mob [to kill the Northern soldier]. They were also ordered to burn their dwellings. They burned father's house, but not until they gave his slaves ten minutes' time to carry out the household goods, and after these things had been carried out they also burned them. Some Southern officer sent a flag of truce, and a note that for every house burned they would kill ten Northern prisoners. This note was too late for my father's house but did save Colonel Rinker's. Later they arrested father but released him for some cause I do not think he ever knew.<sup>25</sup>*

As the presiding Justice of the Peace, Jacob Lantz was sought out by Union troops for failing to arrest his neighbors for their guerrilla warfare. He was targeted during the "The Burning" and as a result all his buildings were destroyed including his "dwelling house, store houses, shops and flour mill."<sup>26</sup> The Union force burned much of the village of Lantz Mills and permanently destroyed the nearby Union Forge, owned and operated by Jacob's half brother Samuel Lantz<sup>27</sup>. As a result of the "The Burning", the appraised value of the buildings, including the mill, located on the "Mill Tract", plunged to zero in 1866 from \$3,600 before the war.<sup>28</sup>

The mill was rebuilt around 1867 on the limestone foundation of the antebellum mill. The stones today still display much evidence of sprawling due to the extreme heat from the fire; a small portion of the original foundation was rebuilt as well. The mill was rebuilt as a stone grinding operation<sup>29</sup>, or "New Process" mill, as roller mill technology was not introduced into the United States until 1876 and was not widely available in country mills until the late 1880s<sup>30</sup>. Grinding stones, dating from the pre-Civil War mill, were known by local residents to have been lying around the mill property until the mid-1980s, when they were stolen by relic hunters.<sup>31</sup>

The reconstruction date is obtained through the Shenandoah County tax book of 1867, which shows a value of \$2,550 for the "New Mill".<sup>32</sup> The reconstructed mill contributed to the economic recovery of the village of Lantz mills and surrounding farming operations. Only two mills along Stony Creek had survived "The Burning"--the Edinburg Mill and the Whissen Mill, also located at Edinburg.

The Lantz Mill was one of the first local mills to be reconstructed after the war, playing an important role in the area's commercial and industrial recovery. The 1870 US Census of Industry for Shenandoah County listed Jacob Lantz's mill as being a 30-horsepower water-driven mill operating with two burr-stone grinders. The mill was appraised at \$7,500. The census also indicates that in 1870, Lantz paid \$500 in wages to his miller, and that the mill produced 1,600 barrels of flour, worth \$10,000; 112,000 pounds of rye chop, worth \$1,200; and 112,000 pounds of corn meal, also worth \$1,200.<sup>33</sup> The 1880 census shows that the mill produced 1000 barrels of flour, 2000 pounds of buck-wheat, 320,390 pounds of corn meal, 82,000 pounds of "feed", 1200 pounds of hominy for a total production value of \$10,000<sup>34</sup>. The slight drop of in production from 1870 to 1880 was probably due to an increase in milling competition, as by 1880, the mills that were burned during the Civil War would have been rebuilt, and other new mills would also have been constructed. Interestingly, the 1880 census indicates that the mill had two overshot waterwheels. One of the wheels was likely used to power the flour mill, and the other was

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probably used to power Lantz's sawmill. The sawmill was recorded separately from the flour mill in the 1880 census, but because the characteristics of the height of the fall of the water and the horsepower of the waterwheel are identical to those recorded for the flour mill, it is probable that the sawmill and the flour mill were both housed in the same mill building. The 1885 Atlas of Shenandoah and Page Counties indicates that the flour mill and sawmill were the same operation.<sup>35</sup> A 1908 postcard of the mill seems to show a large stack of cut lumber to the right of the mill (Figure 1).

In 1879, Hite Byrd and M. L. Walton were appointed by the Shenandoah County Court to liquidate Jacob Lantz's assets after he became bankrupt. He was never able to overcome the losses he suffered as a result of the Civil War. The Commissioners sold the mill tract which contained "the houses, flouring and saw mills and tannery"<sup>36</sup> and consisted of 103 acres, to Jacob's second wife, Elizabeth H. Lantz, widow of Confederate Major Samuel Meyers, for \$7,046.99.<sup>37</sup> Mrs. Lantz had earlier obtained the money for the purchase from her father, Christian Whissler.<sup>38</sup> Through his wife's ownership, Jacob Lantz was able to continue his businesses and keep his residence until his death four years later.

On January 10, 1895 Elizabeth Lantz conveyed "the merchants mill, saw mill, store house, dwelling house and outbuildings" and 20 acres to Joseph B. Tisinger for \$7000.<sup>39</sup> Joseph Tisinger, in turn, sold the mill to Erasmus T. Smith for \$2,300 on April 1, 1898. The final acreage and meets and bounds for the lot upon which the mill sits today are defined through this deed.<sup>40</sup> It is likely that Tisinger updated the milling equipment in the building with the most modern roller mill technology at or about the time of purchase, as most of the extant equipment dates from the late 1890s, and represents the pinnacle of roller mill technology before the mass industrial production of flour. From 1930 to 1959, William I. Wilkins operated the mill as "Lantz Roller Mills". Flour bags from this period are held by the Shenandoah County Library in Edinburg (Figure 10).

On August 22, 1959, William I. Wilkins went into bankruptcy and the mill was sold to Roscoe H. Sine, Ira C. Sine, Glen N. Sine, Eldred D. Sine, and Berlin G. Sine, Partners, trading under the name "Sine Brothers" for \$1,375;<sup>41</sup> The Sine Brothers operated the mill as a feed mill, as industrially-produced flour was readily available by then in stores. The Sine Brothers dealt exclusively in grain, feed, and medicines for animals.<sup>42</sup> Two of the animal feed products produced were a "Shenandoah Breeder Mash" and the "Sine Hog Finisher". The first was a mix of corn meal, wheat bran, wheat middlings, pulverized oats, dehydrated alfalfa meal, meat scrap, soybean oil meal, ground barley, wheat germ oil, vitamins A and D, feeding oil, salt, and pulverized limestone. The "Finisher" was a similar mix of ingredients with more vitamins and Red Rose Hog Supplement. The Sine Brothers closed their business in the late 1970s.

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- 30 Dedrick, op. cit., pp.97-98.
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- <sup>34</sup> Nonpopulation Census Schedules for Virginia, 1850-1880, 1880 Industry Schedule, Publication Number T1132, microfilm roll 32, National Archives, Washington D.C.
- <sup>35</sup> Lake, J.D. & Co., *Atlas of Shenandoah and Page Counties, Virginia*, 1885, reprinted by G.P. Hammond Publishing Co., Strasburg, Va., 1991, Madison Magisterial District.
- <sup>36</sup> The two houses in question still exist and are the house Lantz rebuilt at the same time he rebuilt the mill in 1867 and which is a grand Victorian house located across Swover Creek Road from the Mill in which his widow lived until 1903, and an imposing brick colonial also across the road, built by George Lantz in 1842.
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- <sup>39</sup> Shenandoah County Deed Book 45, p. 316, Shenandoah County Court House, Woodstock, Va.
- <sup>40</sup> Shenandoah County Deed Book 48, p. 350, Shenandoah County Court House, Woodstock, Va.
- <sup>41</sup> Shenandoah County Deed Book 200, pp. 379-380, Shenandoah County Court House, Woodstock, Va.
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**GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

**Boundary Description:**

The property's boundaries are legally defined as Tract 4, Swover Creek Road, tax map 056-A-114. They are further described in Shenandoah County deed book 48, page 350, dated April 1, 1898, as follows:

“The said property is bounded as follows, to wit: Beginning at a planted stone in the Stony Creek road, opposite David Fadleys Gardens, thence up the said road S891/2 W 12.77 poles to an iron pin 1.58 poles from the N. E. corner of the flouring mill, thence up said road S 551/2 W 6 poles to an iron spike, 30 ft. from the outer edge of the trunking (*the water race*) under said road, thence S 153/4 E crossing said creek to an Elm at the south side of said creek in Jacob Brown's line. Thence with his line along the south side of said creek to a point in said line, thence re-crossing said creek N ½ W to the Beginning, containing 1 A. in the same more or less”.

The property is bounded in the front by Swover Creek Road, in the rear by Stony Creek, to the west by the mill race, and to the east by an adjacent lot also owned by the owner of the mill. The boundary includes the immediate area surrounding the mill and portion of millrace that still exists.

**Boundary Justification**

These boundaries of the Mill property, established in a Shenandoah County Deed Book 48, page 350, dating to April 1, 1898, encompass the land and mill race historically associated with the mill. The mill dam is currently on an adjacent property. The boundaries in this nomination enclose the minimum space necessary to protect the mill from encroachment and to allow for realistic interpretation of the site and milling activities associated with it.

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**All photographs common to:**

**PROPERTY:** Lantz Mill, Shenandoah County, Virginia, #085-0933-0001

**PHOTOGRAPHER:** Christopher Hernandez-Roy **DATE:** June 17, 2007

**All negatives stored at the Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, Virginia.**

VIEW OF: Fitz overshot waterwheel at Lantz Mill.

NEG.NO.: 23517:6

PHOTO: 1 of 11

VIEW OF: Main and Reduction Gears from Waterwheel.

NEG.NO.: 23517:28

PHOTO: 2 of 11

VIEW OF: Mail belt wheel, made of laminate wood.

NEG.NO.: 23517:27

PHOTO: 3 of 11

VIEW OF: Wolf Middlings Purifier, located on Second Floor of Lantz Mill.

NEG.NO.: 23517:15

PHOTO: 4 of 11

VIEW OF: Barnard & Leas round-reel bolter, located on Third Floor of Lantz Mill.

NEG.NO.: 23517:22

PHOTO: 5 of 11

VIEW OF: Front of Lantz Mill viewed from the North-West, across from Swover Creek Road.

NEG.NO.: 23517:2

PHOTO: 6 of 11

VIEW OF: Second view of front of Lantz Mill viewed from the North-West, across from Swover Creek Road.

NEG.NO.: 23517:3

PHOTO: 7 of 11

VIEW OF: Western side of Lantz Mill viewed from the South.

NEG.NO.: 23517:4

PHOTO: 8 of 11

VIEW OF: Basement showing cribbing to support columns during restoration process.

NEG.NO.: 23517:26

PHOTO: 9 of 11

VIEW OF: Interior of Second Floor of Lantz Mill showing transmission lines, belts and wheels.

NEG.NO.: 23517:14

PHOTO: 10 of 11

VIEW OF: Close-up view of the "Lantz Roller Mills" sign on the front of the mill.

NEG.NO.: 23517:10

PHOTO: 11 of 11

Lantz Mill,  
HENRICO CO.,  
VIRGINIA

#085-0933-0001

Quad: Edinburg, Va.

ZONE: 17

EASTING: 708954E<sup>01</sup>

NORTHING: 4301691N

