

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.

VLR Listed: 9/20/2018
NRHP Listed: 3/5/2019

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Thompson's Mill/Amherst Mill Complex

Other names/site number: Amherst Milling Company; DHR #163-0007

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: 138-140 Union Hill Rd.

City or town: Amherst State: VA County: Amherst

Not For Publication: N/A Vicinity: N/A

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

<hr/>	<hr/>
Signature of certifying official/Title:	Date
<hr/>	
<u>Virginia Department of Historic Resources</u>	
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.	
<hr/>	
Signature of commenting official:	Date
<hr/>	
Title :	State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

Thompson's Mill/Amherst Mill Complex
Name of Property

Amherst 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

Thompson's Mill/Amherst Mill Complex
Name of Property

Amherst County, VA
County and State

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>10</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>4</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>14</u>	<u>0</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: Manufacturing Facility: mill

INDUSTRY/PROCESSING/EXTRACTION: Energy Facility: power plant

INDUSTRY/PROCESSING/EXTRACTION: Manufacturing Facility: ice plant

DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling

DOMESTIC: Multiple Dwelling

DOMESTIC: Secondary Structure: shed, garage

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

VACANT/NOT IN USE

Thompson's Mill/Amherst Mill Complex
Name of Property

Amherst County, VA
County and State

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS: Colonial Revival

OTHER: Late 19th/Early 20th Century Frame Mill

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: WOOD, BRICK, METAL, GLASS,
CONCRETE, TERRA COTTA, STONE

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 Thompson's Mill/Amherst Mill Complex is located at 138-140 Union Hill Road beginning at the intersection with the Norfolk Southern Railroad line and continuing several hundred yards along Union Hill Road towards the south until it reaches the bridge over Rutledge Creek. It is located in eastern Amherst County, just east of the Town of Amherst. The complex encompasses more than six acres in a rural, hilly area. There has been a mill on the site since 1793. The current mill is an evolved building with elements dating from at least the late nineteenth-century through the mid-twentieth century. The mill was active in the production of flour and cornmeal until it closed in 2017. The 14 contributing resources (which date from at least the mid-nineteenth century through the 1960s) include the four-story mill, an early twentieth century miller's house, a late nineteenth century tenant house, a ca. 1920 ice plant and separate power plant, several sheds, a barn, a millrace, and several small secondary resources. There are no non-contributing resources, and the entire complex retains a high level of integrity.

Narrative Description

Setting

The Thompson's Mill/Amherst Mill Complex is located along Union Hill Road in eastern Amherst County on a more than six-acre parcel which features a mixture of grass and trees on gently sloping hills. The entire property is bordered to the west by railroad tracks, to the south by a line of trees and Rutledge Creek, which winds around to form the eastern boundary, and finally by Union Hill Road to the east. The complex is entered via a broad asphalt driveway with the

Thompson's Mill/Amherst Mill Complex
Name of Property

Amherst County, VA
County and State

mill directly to the left and the ice plant directly to the right. The driveway slopes upward, and the brick miller's house, which is at roughly the center point of the parcel, can be seen ahead through the trees; the garage is on the right heading up the hill to the house. Fanning out from the main house is the hog shed to the west, the barn and chicken coop to the south, and the tenant house to the east. The power plant is directly behind the mill. Other than the tree line along Rutledge Creek, at the rear of the property to the south, there are groups of trees around the tenant house, the main miller's house, and filling most of the north corner of the property, where the old stone well and spring box are located.

Inventory

The following resources are contributing to the overall property as a result of falling within the property's period of significance, ca. 1793-1967, being linked to at least one of the property's areas of significance (Industry, Commerce, and Architecture), and having strong physical integrity. Most of the resources have few, if any alterations that postdate the period of significance. Those alterations that exist generally were to continue commercial industrial operations on the property as technology changed and therefore contribute to the property's ability to convey its historic associations. Each resource is labeled on the attached Sketch Map/Photo Key.

Amherst Mill and Historic Mill Site, ca.1793, ca.1908, 1944-1945, ca.1948, ca.1950, ca.1967, Contributing Building

Baldock Miller's House, ca.1910, Contributing Building

Tenant House (Duplex), ca.1900, ca.1920, Contributing Building

Baldock Ice Plant, ca.1920, Contributing Building

Amherst Light & Power Building, ca.1922, Contributing Building

Garage, ca.1920, Contributing Building

Hog Storage (Shed), ca.1920, two wings ca.1970, Contributing Building

Barn, ca.1920, Contributing Building

Chicken Coop, ca.1950, Contributing Building

Weigh Station, ca.1920, Contributing Structure

Old Rock Well, ca.1900, Contributing Structure

Spring Box, ca.1900, Contributing Structure

Thompson's Mill/Amherst Mill Complex
Name of Property

Amherst County, VA
County and State

Shed, ca.1920, Contributing Building

Millrace/Retaining wall, ca.1900, Contributing Structure

Detailed Descriptions

Amherst Mill and Historic Mill Site, ca.1793, ca.1908, 1944-1945, ca.1948, ca.1950, ca.1967, Contributing Building

The Amherst Mill, located on the historic ca.1792 mill site, is a sprawling, irregular building that forms the central component of the mill complex. Situated along Rutledge Creek to the rear (east), the mill is surrounded by the access road to the north, the paved parking lot to the east, and a grassy creek bank to the south.

Exterior:

The mill building is constructed primarily of wood frame and is clad with wooden weatherboards. Small extensions have been added over the years that are constructed of both wood frame and concrete block.

The southern portion of the building stands three-and-a-half stories in height and is capped by a moderately-sloped gable roof. The gable roof is clad with standing seam metal roofing and is pierced at intervals by circular vent stacks. Lightning rods are positioned along the ridge of the gable roof. This portion of the building is set on a random stone foundation. The millrace and the mill's metal water wheel are positioned on the southeast side of the three-and-a-half story portion of the building; the millrace extends under a two-story portion of the building, which bridges the channel. The building's primary loading dock is constructed of wood and extends across the northwest elevation of the three-and-a-half story section. The loading dock is sheltered by a metal-clad shed roof, which is supported by a series of diagonal wood braces and wire cables. Sliding board and batten wood doors provide access to the mill's interior from the loading docks.

A secondary loading dock is positioned on the northwest elevation and is located to the north of the primary loading dock. Sheltered by a shed roof supported by a wood corner post, the secondary loading dock is constructed of wood planks.

An accumulation of one- and two-story wings are positioned to the north and west of the mill's three-and-a-half story section. A two-story wing that is capped with a gable roof extends to the east from the taller portion of the mill and bridges the millrace on a combination of tall brick piers and concrete block piers. The remainder of the one- and two- story wings are capped with a series of low-slope shed roofs, which are clad with standing-seam metal roofing.

Single-story concrete block additions with shed roofs have been constructed to the southeast of the three-and-a-half story section. A single wood-and-glass door is located in the south side of

Thompson's Mill/Amherst Mill Complex
Name of Property

Amherst County, VA
County and State

the concrete block addition, and metal frame hopper windows are positioned along the southwest side of the concrete block portion.

The mill building is relatively consistent in the use of double hung, six-over-six wood sash windows. A single-sash, six-light window is positioned in the northwest gable of the building's three-and-a-half story section. A two-over-two sash window is positioned in the enclosure at the northern end of the building's primary loading dock.

Portions of the central three-and-a-half story section date from at least the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, and certain elements, such as the stone piers supporting the building, may date even earlier. The mill's central portion was heavily modified after a severe 1948 fire, the second story was rebuilt, and a third story added. Later in 1967, the Wydners opened up the second story to add new equipment and then expanded up to the partial fourth story. The addition directly to the northeast, the main entry for the store for many years, was built ca. 1908, during a renovation by Walker A. Baldock soon after consolidating the mill property. Richard M. Wydner purchased the property in 1940, and the two small additions on the far northeast end were added ca. 1944-1945. After the 1948 fire, the Wydners built the large rear warehouse addition ca. 1948. Finally, in the 1950s, the two small one-story cinderblock additions were attached to the northwest end of the mill building.¹

Interior:

The interior of the Amherst Mill is characterized by a multi-level interior that was designed to accommodate the various components of the milling machinery and equipment, as well as to provide the necessary spaces and clearances for the milling process. The interior spaces have open framing and exposed, unfinished wood structural members. Although the various floors of the mill are primarily open, areas have been delineated for special functions using wood plank walls and walls clad with beaded board. The framing of the building's exterior walls is largely exposed, illustrating the use of wood studs and sills with diagonal corner bracing. Travel between the various floors is accomplished using open-riser staircases constructed of wood. A

¹ As with many rural historic mills, precise dating of many buildings and alterations is often difficult if not impossible. The dates for resources in this nomination are generally derived from a combination of field inspections and oral history (either told directly or through articles detailing conversations with the previous owners.). There are a few traditional newspaper articles detailing the condition of the mill historically, as well as the ice plant and the power plant. The following represent the sources used in particular for dating the mill and its several stages of construction, expansion, and alteration: Amherst County Court Order Books; Amherst County Deed Books; Amherst County Will Books; "Amherst Mill Has Long, Interesting History," *Amherst New Era Progress*, March 25, 1976; "Amherst Mill Property Sold to Mr. Wydner," *Amherst New-Era Progress*, July 18, 1940; David W. Baber, *Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Survey Form: Thompson's Mill*, #173-7, April 1979; Rob Kaiser, "Amherst Mill Provides View of Living History," *The News & Advance* (Lynchburg), February 12, 1995, p.8; William T. Martin, *Thompson's Mill Preliminary Information Form*, Richmond, Virginia: Virginia Department of Historic Resources, 1992; Rex Springston, "Amherst Mill Keeping Past Alive; Tiny Creek Is Used For Power," *The Richmond News Leader*, September 23, 1991, p.4.

Thompson's Mill/Amherst Mill Complex
Name of Property

Amherst County, VA
County and State

metal spiral staircase is positioned in one corner of the building. The spiral stair utilizes textured metal treads that are stamped "Duvinage Spiral Stair Co. Hagerstown, MD".

The first floor of the mill's three-and-a-half story section is defined by closely-spaced wood support posts with diagonal braces, presumably designed to support the heavy loads of the floors above, where extensive associated milling machinery is located and where milling products would be processed at least in part. Wood floors at the first level have been overlaid with plywood for protection in areas of high traffic or where additional support has been needed. The upper floors are similarly characterized by exposed wood framing and wood flooring.

Several of the interior doors in the mill consist of single-leaf, wood-and-glass door units, with three vertical glass panes set over three horizontal wood panels.

Baldock Miller's House, ca. 1910, Contributing Building

The Baldock Residence is one of the largest buildings in the mill complex and is prominently sited. The large two-and-a-half story Colonial Revival style brick dwelling is situated at the crest of a hill and overlooks the main mill complex to the northeast.

Exterior:

The dwelling is an example of the American Foursquare form with later additions. The tall, rectilinear main block is capped by a pyramidal hip roof. The simple mass of the house is relieved through the placement of a broad front porch and projecting bays of various shapes. Three dormer windows, each with a half-hip roof, are positioned on the slopes of the hip roof: one on the northeast (front), one on the southeast (rear), and one on the northwest side. Internal gutters ring the main roof on all four sides, and a tall brick chimney with a corbelled cap pierces the northwest slope near the peak. The red brick walls of the house are regularly set in eight-course common bond, and the hip roof, dormer roofs, and the dormer sidewalls are clad with slate. The various roofs of the house's projecting bays and porches are covered with standing seam metal.

A broad full-width, three-bay single-story porch extends across the primary northeast elevation and consists of a series of wood Tuscan columns set off-center onto stepped brick piers. The brick piers are set on the porch's concrete slab floor. The bricks forming the porch foundation and the brick piers appear to postdate the brick used in the main house exterior walls. Given the odd placement of the columns onto the brick piers, it seems likely that an earlier wood porch floor existed and was replaced with poured concrete, leading to the changes in the support system for the columns.

A second-story porch is located on the southwest (rear) elevation and is situated on the roof above the house's single-story southwest wing. The porch's shed roof is supported by framing for a screened enclosure which is set behind a wood balustrade. The balustrade is composed of square newel posts and turned balusters. A single-story enclosed rear porch is located at the

Thompson's Mill/Amherst Mill Complex
Name of Property

Amherst County, VA
County and State

house's southeast corner. Brickwork that is set in a vented lattice pattern closes the space under the enclosed porch.

The house's windows appear to uniformly consist of double-hung wood sash windows with one-over-one sash configurations. The window openings are detailed at the exterior by splayed jack arches that are further accented by a projecting band of brick that extends across the top of the jack arches. The exterior window sills are wood. The window units are set as single units and in pairs. An angled brick three-sided bay is located at the first floor of the southeast elevation, and a brick, square bay is located at the first floor of the northwest elevation. A square, wood-frame bay is positioned prominently at the second floor of the primary northeast elevation. The bay is clad with horizontal clapboard siding. Windows are placed in the various walls of the projecting bays.

The front entry of the house is positioned under the shelter of the northeast facade's front porch and consists of a single-leaf, wood and glass door. A large panel of glass is set in the door above a recessed wood panel. The front door assembly is capped by a single-light transom. A wood and glass door is located at the southwest elevation of the house's single-story wing and provides exterior access to the basement. The door is composed of six lights above three stacked horizontal panels.

Interior:

The interior of the house closely follows a typical American Foursquare plan layout. The first-floor stair hall is located at the eastern corner and adjoins the living room to the north. The stair hall and the living room are connected via double pocket doors. Two nearly equally-sized rooms are positioned on the house's western side and are also connected to each other by double pocket doors. The northern of these two rooms provides access to a small back hall and the kitchen, both of which are housed in the single-story wing on the house's southwest (rear) elevation. The back hall holds the stairs to the basement, while the kitchen allows access to the enclosed rear porch, and there is also a small half-bath which was likely once a pantry. A coal-burning fireplace with a wood mantel is positioned in the living room. The two western rooms are detailed with false mantels, and one of these rooms is currently used as a downstairs bedroom. The mantels in each room vary slightly in design, but all are composed of wood and each features an inset beveled mirror above the mantelshelf.

The first floor is generally finished with plaster walls and ceilings, together with wood floors and several electric light fixtures that appear to be contemporary with the house. Woodwork consists of tall baseboards with molded caps, picture molding, and window and door trim. The window and door trim is composed of molded pilaster trim with bulls-eye corner blocks. Most of the woodwork throughout the first floor is painted, the exception being the two false mantels. There are three historic ca. 1940 ceiling light fixtures in the main first-floor rooms. Between the reception hall and the dining room is a patched section of the wood flooring where the large floor register for the original coal-fired, pipeless furnace would have been located.

Thompson's Mill/Amherst Mill Complex
Name of Property

Amherst County, VA
County and State

The interior stairway to the basement descends from the back hall. The basement is a utilitarian space that is finished with painted brick walls and a concrete slab floor. Several painted board partition walls define smaller spaces. The overhead joists and the subfloor of the first floor are visible throughout the basement space. The oil-fired boiler for the hot-water radiators is located here.

The second floor has two bedrooms, each with a decorative mantel and a closet. There is also a smaller child's bedroom or sewing room, a sunroom or sleeping porch, and one full bathroom. The back hall leads to a single French door, which provides access to the rear porch; this doorway was originally a window and was altered when the porch was added ca.1930-1940. The bathroom appears to have been remodeled in the 1950s, with later fixtures. There is an original wooden door to the electrical panel box. There are two light fixtures, one in a bedroom and one in the child's room, which appear to be original to the house.

The walkup attic is floored and features stained pine woodwork. There is one bedroom with a closet.

Tenant House (Duplex), ca.1900, ca.1920, Contributing Building

The Tenant House is a one-and-a-half story building located to the south of the main mill complex. The house is frame with a metal roof and has no overt stylistic characteristics.

Exterior:

The Tenant House is positioned at the edge of a slope with its primary elevation directed to the northwest. The building is one-and-a-half stories tall with a single-story rear wing and a small porch centered on the northwestern facade. A secondary porch is placed at the side of the rear wing. A low-slope gable roof caps the two-story portion of the building, while the single-story wing is covered by a half-hip roof. The exterior walls of the house are clad with painted novelty board siding, while standing-seam metal roofing covers the roofs and the porches. The rear exterior wall is finished with traditional clapboard siding. A central chimney pierces the ridge of the main gable roof, and a secondary chimney is located at the half-hip roof of the single-story wing. The dwelling's main block is set on stacked stone piers, while square brick piers form the foundation of the rear single-story wing. The spaces between the piers have been infilled with concrete block.

The facade is comprised of four bays and is symmetrically arranged with two windows and two doors. Each door is a wood-and-glass unit with three vertical glass panes set above three horizontal wood panels. The doors occupy the two central bays, with a window flanking on each side. The single-bay front porch is sheltered by a shed roof. Two square wood columns with simple capitals support the roof and are set on a concrete slab floor. The secondary porch at the single-story rear wing has two bays defined by plain wood posts and a simple shed roof. The secondary porch utilizes a wood floor and is set on a concrete block foundation. The door that provides access to the secondary porch is a solid wood unit with five horizontal panels. Windows

Thompson's Mill/Amherst Mill Complex
Name of Property

Amherst County, VA
County and State

are present on each of the house's four elevations and uniformly consist of double-hung wood units with six-over-six sash configurations.

Interior:

The house utilizes a two-over-two plan in the main front portion, and two additional rooms are positioned in the rear one-story wing. There is no hall at the first floor. A staircase ascends directly from the main block's southernmost room to access the second floor. The interior rooms are uniformly finished with painted beaded board walls and ceilings and wood flooring. Woodwork consists of plain architrave trim at the doors and windows throughout the majority of the rooms; one room utilizes plain board trim with blind corner blocks. A simple wood mantel is located at the first floor, and the house's stair is plainly finished with square balusters and a square newel post. A closed beaded board wall edges the stairwell at the second floor.

The second floor of the house is accessed by way of the staircase, which ascends along the eastern wall of the first floor stair hall. Rising through two landings, the stair is detailed with paneled newel posts, square balusters, a molded handrail, and rounded steps at the bottom. Four bedrooms of varying sizes, closets, a hallway, and a bathroom comprise the spaces in the house's second floor. A narrow staircase provides access to the attic level from the second-floor hall. Three of the bedrooms are detailed with false mantels. Similar to the first floor, the mantel designs vary but retain a similarity through the use of beveled mirrors. The eastern bedroom is distinguished through the presence of the second-floor projecting bay. The windows placed in this bay extend around all three sides and lend the room the atmosphere of a sleeping porch. Wood flooring, plaster walls and ceilings, and painted woodwork are used to finish the second floor and parallel the materials and details found on the first floor. Doors consist of single-leaf wood units with five horizontal panels and are accompanied by metal knobs and escutcheon plates. The second floor bathroom is accented with tile wainscoting. The stairs to the attic are simply finished with square balusters and a flat handrail with eased edges. The woodwork of the attic stairs is stained and varnished. The attic is partially finished with lath and plaster walls and ceilings.

Baldock Ice Plant, ca.1920, Contributing Building

The Baldock Ice Plant is situated to the west of the primary mill complex. The single-story building has a small addition at its northwest end. The main block is capped by a low-pitched gable roof, while the addition has a gently sloped shed roof. The southwest side of the building is partially built into the adjacent hillside, and the paved access road and parking area are located to the northeast.

Exterior:

Constructed of hollow clay block tile on a poured concrete foundation, the building is utilitarian and astylistic. The roof is formed by panels of metal v-crimp barn siding which has been painted. A poured concrete loading dock with brick steps is positioned at the northeast façade and is

Thompson's Mill/Amherst Mill Complex
Name of Property

Amherst County, VA
County and State

sheltered by a shed roofed awning supported on a series of painted wood braces. At the western end of the northwest addition, there is a small inset porch with a series of painted wood posts. The mortar joints between the hollow clay tiles that form the exterior walls are extremely rough.

The northeast façade holds six bays, three of which are under the shelter of the loading dock awning. Two doors provide access to the loading dock; the southern door is a single-leaf, stacked-panel wood door. The northern door is a wood-and-glass unit with twelve lights above a single wood panel. A third door opening at the northeast elevation is closed by a large wood sliding door unit mounted on an overhead track. The track is secured to the exterior of the wall, and the door is composed of vertical tongue and groove boards. Three windows are located at the northeast elevation; all are double-hung wood sash units with consistent head and sill heights. Two of the windows maintain six-over-six sash designs, while the third is narrower and consists of four-over-four light sashes.

The remaining elevations are characterized by additional double-hung six-over-six sash windows, as well as two double-hung eight-over-eight sash windows.

There are two large poured concrete ice forms in the ground abutting the building directly to the west. These forms are square with four sloped sides which flow down to a large, square basin.

Interior:

The interior of the ice plant is characterized by the use of exposed hollow clay block tile walls and open wood framing throughout most of the structure. Tall wood posts extend along the center of the building and rise to support the roof's double ridge beam. Diagonal braces provide additional anchoring points between the posts and the ridge beam assembly. A beaded board wood ceiling is positioned in one portion of the building where the open framing is concealed, while a separate storage room has a ceiling clad in corkboard insulation panels which have a distinct appearance of bead board. Interior partition walls are composed of both hollow clay tile and unfinished vertical wood planks. Several of the interior walls are clad with unfinished beaded board. Flooring materials at the interior of the building include a poured concrete slab and unfinished wood planks.

Amherst Light & Power Building, ca.1922, Contributing Building

The former Amherst Light & Power Building is located immediately to the south of the primary Mill building.

Exterior:

The utilitarian building is capped by a moderately-sloped gable roof. Due to the building's placement along the slope of a hill, a poured concrete retaining wall extends along the south side. The building is constructed of frame on a concrete foundation. Vertical wood plank siding clads

Thompson's Mill/Amherst Mill Complex
Name of Property

Amherst County, VA
County and State

the building on all four elevations, and the roof is covered by standing seam metal roofing. Metal gutters extend along the eaves of the gable roof.

The exterior openings of the building are composed of board and batten wood doors and simple windows. A double-hung wood sash window with a six-over-six light sash is located on the northeast elevation. A fixed-sash, nine-light window is located on the northwest elevation. The exterior faces of the windows and doors are trimmed with plain board trim.

Interior:

The interior of the building consists of a single open space. The wood framing of the walls and roof is visible, and the reverse side of the exterior's wood wall planks are exposed due to the lack of interior finishes.

Garage, ca.1920, Contributing Building

The garage is a single-story utilitarian building located to the east of the main mill complex.

The garage is situated so that it is recessed into the bank of the hill at its eastern corner. The single-story building is constructed of hollow clay tile and poured concrete. The portion of the building that is built into the hill is formed of poured concrete that acts as a retaining wall. The garage is topped with a shed roof that gently slopes down to the rear of the building. The shed roof is clad with standing seam metal roofing and is characterized by exposed rafter ends along the front and rear elevations.

The southeastern façade has two large door openings. The doors consist of sliding door units on overhead tracks and are constructed of vertical boards.

The interior of the building is characterized by exposed hollow-clay tile walls and a concrete slab floor. The roof structure is supported by a series of wood posts and wood beams. The roof rafters and roof decking are exposed. There are no interior partition walls.

Hog Storage (Shed), ca.1920, two wings ca.1970, Contributing Building

The hog storage building is located to the west of the main mill complex. The utilitarian, frame building has a central block with a gable roof that is flanked by shed-roofed extensions to the north and south. The exterior is clad with vertical board-and-batten siding, and the roofs are covered with metal v-crimp barn siding panels. The connection between the shed roofs and the central portion of the building creates an irregular profile. The south shed roof connects to the gable roof above the gable's eave, while the north shed roof connects to the wall of the central portion below the eave. Wide vehicle bay openings are positioned in the northeast elevation of each of the shed-roofed extensions. A central board-and-batten door is located at the northeast facade of the gable roof portion of the building.

Thompson's Mill/Amherst Mill Complex
Name of Property

Amherst County, VA
County and State

Barn, ca.1920, Contributing Building

The barn is located southwest of the main mill complex. A broad meadow fronts the barn to the north.

Exterior:

The barn is a moderately-sized building with a steeply pitched gable roof and a foundation composed of stacked stone piers. The exterior is clad with board-and-batten wood siding, while the gable roof is covered with standing-seam metal roofing panels. A shed-roofed shelter extends from one of the gable ends of the building.

Two openings are visible on one of the barn's gable ends. The lower door opening holds a single-leaf, board-and-batten door. The hayloft opening that is located above holds a door composed of a sheet of modern plywood.

Chicken Coop, ca.1950, Contributing Building

The chicken coop is positioned southwest of the main mill complex and just to the west of the barn.

The chicken coop is a small utilitarian frame building set on the edge of a slope. It stands on a series of concrete block piers at the downslope side; the building rests on grade at the opposite side. The building is clad with vertical wood planks and is capped with a low-slope shed roof. The shed roof is clad with metal and has exposed rafter ends along the eaves. A hinged board-and-batten door is positioned on the west end of the building, with an unframed opening adjacent to the west door.

Weigh Station, ca.1920, Contributing Structure

This small, simple shed is located adjacent to the garage. It is wood frame construction with vertical wood siding and a sloped metal roof. The concrete foundation, metal roof, and weigh station equipment appear to be of historic age, while the siding is of more recent vintage.

Old Rock Well, ca.1900, Contributing Structure

Located in the woods to the northwest of the mill, this rock-lined well is capped by a heavy, rusted metal plate.

Spring Box, ca.1900, Contributing Structure

Located in the woods to the northwest of the mill, this four-sided, concrete box is recessed several feet below ground level and is still active.

Thompson's Mill/Amherst Mill Complex
Name of Property

Amherst County, VA
County and State

Shed, ca.1920, Contributing Building

Located close to the road north of the mill, this simple, low-slung, frame shed is severely deteriorated. It features wood frame construction and is sided with hand-sawn wood boards. The metal-clad roof is sloped and in poor condition. There is a small single-leaf door made from the same wood as the siding. The interior features a wood plank floor also matching the wood siding material.

Millrace/Retaining wall, ca.1900, Contributing Structure

The path of the millrace is defined by a series of poured concrete retaining walls and concrete block retaining walls. The waterway was used to direct water past the miller's house as it traveled on the way to the waterwheel at the main mill building. The concrete structure of the millrace continued to focus the water flow as the waterway passed under the mill building. The sides of the millrace are composed of concrete block walls as it extends under the mill. The old millrace is still visible for hundreds of yards in the form of a depression curving away towards the railroad tracks.

Site Features – Fences, Retaining Walls, Bridges, Driveways, Parking areas

The Thompson's Mill/Amherst Mill Complex includes a number of site features that define and highlight various portions of the property. These include fences, retaining walls, utilitarian foot bridges, as well as the historic access road and the parking areas that surround the primary mill building.

Fences are found throughout the site and serve to define the perimeters and boundaries of pastures, fields, and gardens. The fences are utilitarian in nature; there is no decorative or ornamental fencing currently extant. The fences are predominantly wood construction and are composed of round posts and horizontal board rails. The rails vary in number, and are used to create fencing patterns with two, three, and four rows of horizontal rails. The wood-rail fences are accompanied by wide metal gates that are used to secure the pastures and fields and to contain livestock. The barn is partially surrounded by lengths of galvanized metal wire fencing. The fencing is stretched between wood posts, and metal gates serve to provide access to the enclosed areas.

A poured concrete retaining wall is positioned at the south side of the Amherst Light & Power building. The retaining wall is placed in this location due to the building's location at the edge of an adjacent slope. The north yard of the Baldock Residence is edged by a random stone retaining wall that separates the yard from the lower parking area that is adjacent to the mill. The house's stone retaining wall is accented by pyramidal caps on each side of the concrete steps that provide access to the yard from the parking area. The steps are set between the buttressing walls of the retaining wall and lead to the concrete sidewalk that divides the front (north) yard of the residence.

Thompson's Mill/Amherst Mill Complex
Name of Property

Amherst County, VA
County and State

The two foot bridges over the millrace are of wood construction. The larger of the two bridges provides access to the miller's house. The bridge is edged by horizontal wood railings and floored with wood planks. The smaller bridge is of similar construction and is located to provide access over the millrace to an adjacent pasture. Both are of simple, functional construction and appear to have been built since the period of significance ended.

Integrity Statement

The Thompson's Mill/Amherst Mill Complex retains a high level of integrity in regards to its location, setting, feeling, and association. Some iteration of the main mill building has been in its current location since potentially as early as 1793, though the current mill is an evolved building with most features likely dating to the late-nineteenth through the mid-twentieth centuries. Rutledge Creek has played a role in the function of this mill since its beginnings; the creek channel has not been altered. The road has passed by the mill in its current location since at least the nineteenth century, as has the railroad line. The land upon which the secondary resources are located has never been developed or used for any purpose other than in support of the mill and its functions.

All of the resources on the property were constructed during the period of significance and are identified as contributing. Early deeds refer to a mill property of two to three acres, but this nomination includes nearly seven acres, including surrounding lands which were added to the mill property as it expanded its functions and production. The integrity of workmanship for the resources within this nomination is excellent, with the mill being an extraordinary example of developed mill architecture, particularly in regards to the interior structure of the four-story section and the intact millrace. The interior of the mill retains all of its historic early-to-mid twentieth century milling equipment and has not been altered since the 1960s. The integrity of design and materials is notable in nearly every resource. Each resource retains substantial original materials and design elements, while also demonstrating historic alterations commonly seen in long-time working examples of agricultural and industrial resources. With this mill having stayed in operation from its original construction through 2017, it represents an outstanding example of a nineteenth- and twentieth-century mill complex with strong integrity of feeling and association.

Old Miller's House

A 1979 survey form and a 1992 VDHR Preliminary Information Form mention a frame I-house referred to as the "Old Miller's House." This resource is no longer extant and was lost at an unknown date. Its likely site is an open grassy area, directly southeast of the hog storage shed, with no discernable above-ground features.²

² Baber, Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Survey Form, 1979; Martin, *Thompson's Mill Preliminary Information Form*, 1992: These previous evaluations of the property are located at the Virginia Department of Historic Resources in Richmond, Virginia.

Thompson's Mill/Amherst Mill Complex
Name of Property

Amherst County, VA
County and State

Archaeological Potential

According to deeds and an archaeological survey completed in 2001, there were several previous buildings which were part of the mill complex during the past two centuries. A 2001 field investigation, completed as part of a potential widening of Route 659 in Amherst County, discovered two sites which are believed to have been a former plaster mill and a former dwelling. The mill site was recommended potentially eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A and D as well as potentially contributing to the mill complex. Research and fieldwork conducted as part of this survey suggested additional archaeological resources may be present as well.³ To date, however, investigations are insufficient to establish the information potential and integrity of these sites, and Criterion D therefore cannot be applied.

³ Gray & Pape, Inc., *Abstract, #163-07*, Richmond, VA: Virginia Department of Historic Resources, February 2001.

Thompson's Mill/Amherst Mill Complex
Name of Property

Amherst 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

Thompson's Mill/Amherst Mill Complex
Name of Property

Amherst County, VA
County and State

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

INDUSTRY
COMMERCE
ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

ca.1793-1967

Significant Dates

ca. 1793
1908
1948

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Thompson's Mill/Amherst Mill Complex
Name of Property

Amherst 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 Thompson's Mill/Amherst Mill Complex is named for one of its longest-standing owners, John Thompson Jr., and for the town with which it has been closely linked for over two centuries. The mill complex is locally significant under Criterion A in the areas of Commerce and Industry. This complex and the historic mill site, situated just across the railroad tracks from the Town of Amherst, served as the primary mill for the town and an economic focal point for the area's farmers, where they processed their grains. Additionally, this complex also served for several years as the power plant for the town and, for many decades, as a major supplier of ice produced from a purpose-built plant on site. Thompson's Mill/Amherst Mill Complex is also locally significant under Criterion C in the area of Architecture as an excellent example of an evolved 19th- and 20th-century milling complex; the mill itself retains much of its historic milling equipment and there are numerous intact secondary resources that supported the various milling and other business ventures undertaken at the complex. The period of significance for the property begins in 1793, with the first mention of a mill on the site, and ends in 1967, when the mill operator's removed the second floor to put in additional machinery and built up the fourth floor, which constitutes the last significant update to the mill. The Thompson's Mill/Amherst Mill Complex continued to be an active local mill until it closed in 2017.

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

History of the Amherst Mill and Property

The history of Amherst Mill (also known as Thompson's Mill for the second half of the nineteenth century) is often traced to 1813, when it is listed in the will of James Franklin. However, the first mention of a mill on this site dates to 1793, when the Amherst County jury granted permission to Benjamin Stone to erect a water grist mill on Rutledge Creek.⁴ In September of 1800, Benjamin Stone and his wife, Betsy, sold the mill to George Dillard. Dillard purchased two acres of land and buildings located on both sides of Rutledge Creek, including "a granary and a mill with two pair of stones also machinery completed. It is built on the bed or channel of said creek."⁵ The next mention of the mill in county records is the often-cited will of James Franklin. Franklin left the mill property to his two minor daughters, Ann C. Franklin and Elizabeth H. "Betsy" Franklin, after his death on June 23, 1813.⁶ The mill, then called Montpelier Mills and containing two-and-three-quarter acres on Rutledge Creek, was sold to Samuel Simmons of Amherst County in January of 1817 for \$3,000.⁷ The mill was subsequently sold several more times, including for \$4,827.50 in April of 1820, before reverting back to James

⁴ Amherst County Court Order Book 1790-1794, p.609, September, 1793 Court, p.606.

⁵ Deed Book I, p.175: deed dated September 2, 1800; deed recorded December 15, 1800.

⁶ Will Book 5, p.370: will date March 11, 1813, will recorded August 13, 1813.

⁷ Deed Book N, p.212: deed dated and recorded on January 21, 1817. The grantor is Thomas Crews, the Executor of James Franklin and guardian of the infant children of him.

Thompson's Mill/Amherst Mill Complex
Name of Property

Amherst County, VA
County and State

Franklin's two daughters because the executor of the will did not have the right to sell it in 1813. Ann and Betsy Franklin still owned the mill in 1844.⁸

Sometime soon after 1844, the mill was sold to John Thompson, Jr., whose name is often associated with the mill. Thompson died in 1876, after owning the mill "for many years," and the mill sold in 1881 to John J. Shrader for \$2,630.⁹ Shrader and his wife, Delilah P. Shrader, sold the mill to Richard P. Walton for \$6,500, with the mill then known as Walton's Mill in legal records.¹⁰ The mill was next sold for \$3,300 to the Baldock family, who owned it from 1897 until 1939.¹¹ Various Baldock family members shared in ownership during this time including Grover Reid (1868-1953), his first wife Sallie Elizabeth Broyles (1872-1907), his father Gustavus Aldolphus (1842-1920s), his younger brother Walker Alonza (1879-1936) and Walker's wife Susan Mays (1849-1921). During this period, the area around the mill, which also included a general store and a railroad depot, was called Dearborn. By 1908, when Walker A. Baldock became the sole owner, the mill property had grown to approximately six acres, with boundaries close to the property's current lot lines. Baldock owned the property until his death in 1936 and was responsible for many alterations and additions to the property.¹²

In 1908, soon after unifying ownership of the property, Walker Baldock added flour rolls and replaced the mill's old wooden overshot wheel with a steel wheel that was fabricated by the well-known Fitz Water Wheel Company in Hanover, Pennsylvania. There were also large 48"-diameter stones imported from England as part of this remodeling, which included converting the mill from just a burr mill to also producing flour. Baldock also began another update of the mill before his death in 1936.¹³

Walker A. Baldock died owing \$14,200 to the Farmer's and Bank of Amherst, and his heirs sold the property to W.A. Miller for \$15,000, with Miller then assuming the debts owed to the bank. However, Miller soon defaulted on the loan, and the bank retook possession of the property.¹⁴ Richard M. Wydner purchased the property from the Farmers and Bank of Amherst on July 11, 1940, for \$14,000, and the Wydner family owned the property until 2017, operating it as the

⁸ Deed Book O, p.249: Dated August 13, 1819, recorded October 26, 1819; Deed Book O, p.455-457: Dated and recorded April 28, 1820; Deed Book U, p.195: Dated April 14, 1833, recorded May 15, 1833.

⁹ Deed Book SS, p.304: Deed dated December 2, 1881, recorded May 13, 1889: the grantor is Henry Loving, Executor of John Thompson, Jr.

¹⁰ Deed Book SS, p.305: Deed dated December 2, 1881, recorded May 13, 1889; Shrader sold the mill to Walton the same day he purchased it.

¹¹ Deed Book XX, p.200: Deed dated July 22, 1897, recorded October 16, 1897: Grantor: Edward S. Brown, Commissioner in the suit of Shrader v. Walton in the Circuit Court of Amherst County; Grantee: G.R. Baldock and his wife, and G.A. Baldock.

¹² Deed Book 58, p.267: Deed dated May 2, 1906, recorded January 31, 1907 for \$3,000; Deed Book 60, p.508: Deed dated June 16, 1908, recorded July 11, 1908; Deed Book 60, p.509: Deed dated July 8, 1908, recorded July 8, 1908; Deed Book 68, p.208: Deed dated May 17, 1912, recorded October 9, 1912, Grantor Mrs. Annie P. Wood, Grantor W.A. Baldock: purchase of 1/3 of an acre adjoining Baldock's Mill property.

¹³ "Amherst Mill Has Long, Interesting History," *Amherst New-Era Progress*, March 25, 1976.

¹⁴ Deed Book 112, p.388-393, August 3, 1938; Deed Book 113, p.213-215, January 9, 1939.

Thompson's Mill/Amherst Mill Complex
Name of Property

Amherst County, VA
County and State

Amherst Milling Co. Before owning the Amherst Mill, Richard Wydner had operated the Bunker Hill Mills near Lexington, Virginia.¹⁵

The two small office and warehouse additions were added to the east end of the mill ca.1944-1945, but before a terrible fire in 1948, which was linked to the diesel engine installed by the bank to run the mill. A huge amount of water was pumped from Rutledge Creek and the mill was saved, but suffered \$200,000 in damages. During the process of repairing the mill, Wydner added the large rear warehouse addition and much of the feed and flour mill equipment which are still part of the mill. The two small, one-story cinderblock additions on the west side of the mill were added after the fire to house the boiler and new building heating system. The contractor for the 1940s additions and the fire repairs was George E. Jones & Sons, Inc. of Amherst. The 1908 Fitz wheel was replaced in 1957 with another Fitz wheel measuring fourteen feet tall and featuring bronze bearings. Around 1967, Wydner removed the mill's second floor to put in additional machinery and built up the fourth floor. This included steel rollers and a modern stone encased in steel.¹⁶

Criterion A: Commerce and Industry

The Mill

From the late 1700s until the early 1900s, anywhere from one thousand to two thousand mills operated in Virginia. Even in the 1920s and 1930s, there were approximately 350 mills operating in the state, and ten to twelve in Amherst County. By 1995, however, there were only ten mills operating in all of Virginia, and Amherst Milling Company was the last to operate in the county. By the 1970s, with the closure of Wade's Mill and a mill at Elkton, Virginia, Amherst Mill was the last working mill in the Shenandoah Valley. Modern mills use fans and blowers, but the Amherst Milling Company used a pulley system. Metal cups attached to belts would transport wheat and corn up to the wooden shafts near the top of the mill, which then fed the grain to rollers to grind it into flour and corn meal. The mill also used waterpower until just a few years before it closed, with a backup electric motor when water levels were too low. For much of its history, farmers would bring grain to be ground and the miller would keep "the miller's seventh." In later years, this shifted in favor of the mill, with farmers bringing a one-hundred pound bag of corn and receiving a seventy-five-pound bag of corn meal in return, with no cash changing hands. Then the mill would sell the excess meal or flour to local families. For several decades after Richard Wydner purchased the mill Amherst Milling Company trucks would haul loads of flour, meal, and animal feed to places such as Buena Vista and Lexington, Virginia, as well as to institutional buyers such as schools, hospitals, and restaurants.¹⁷

¹⁵ Deed Book 123, p.181-184, January 20, 1944; "Amherst Mill Property Sold To Mr. Wydner," *Amherst New-Era Progress*, July 18, 1940.

¹⁶ Rob Kaiser, "Amherst Milling Provides View of Living History," *The News & Advance*, February 12, 1995, p.8; "Amherst Mill Has Long, Interesting History," 1976; oral history from William Harold Wydner, 2017.

¹⁷ Kaiser, "Amherst Milling," p.8; Sherese Gore, "Through the Floods, Fire and Ware Demands, Amherst Milling Co. Has Remained," *NewsAdvance.com (The News and Advance)*, March 28, 2015, Web; Rex Springston, "Amherst

Thompson's Mill/Amherst Mill Complex
Name of Property

Amherst County, VA
County and State

When Richard Wydner Sr. purchased the mill in 1940, there were 2,200 farms in Amherst County, but less than a quarter that many by 2012. This led Amherst Mill to move towards grain brokers for their supply. As tastes changed in the late twentieth century, the mill moved from producing fifty and one-hundred pound bags of self-rising and whole wheat flour, and yellow corn meal, to eventually selling much smaller bags of each to individual customers. By the 1970s, a general store was also opened on the first floor to sell goods to visitors rather than buying and selling goods with local farmers, and the mill even stopped producing flour in its last few years of operation.¹⁸

Utilities

Walker A. Baldock not only ran the mill for nearly three decades, but he also expanded the functions of the property to include an ice plant and a small power plant that served some customers in the Town of Amherst. Amherst first had electricity on July 20, 1920, when the town council sold a franchise to Vernon M. "Lightening" Bugg. The agreement called for Bugg to supply electricity to twenty-four 50-watt streetlights for \$50 per month and to homes for \$2.50 per month for up to ten lights, and six cents for each additional light. Bugg and his second-hand generator went out of business six months later. Walter Baldock stepped in to provide power to Amherst, initially through his mill generator. Soon after, Baldock established the Amherst Light & Power Company in 1921 with \$20,000 of capital "to operate a local light and power system." W.A. Baldock was president and O.V. Hanger was secretary.¹⁹

Baldock initially supplied fifteen customers using waterpower and a hand-cranked 16-kilowatt diesel generator before expanding service. Maurice W. Gannaway worked to install the wiring for customers. Amherst Light & Power charged \$3 per month for twenty kilowatt-hours. By 1925, the electrical system had expanded to thirty streetlights and four hundred customers. Lynchburg Traction and Light Company took over electrical service for Amherst in 1925 and merged with Appalachian Power Company in 1926.²⁰

Around the time Walter Baldock established his power plant, he also built and equipped a large ice plant on the edge of his property fronting the road called the Amherst Ice Company. By 1926, the ice plant and its equipment were referenced in a deed as completed and established.²¹ This ice plant remained operational for decades.

mill keeping past alive," *The Richmond News Leader*, September 23, 1991, p.4; "Amherst Mill Has Long, Interesting History," 1976.

¹⁸ Kaiser, "Amherst Milling," p.8; Gore, "Through the Floods;" "Amherst Mill Has Long, Interesting History," 1976.

¹⁹ *Electrical World*, November 19, 1921, Vol.78, No.21, p.1056; *Electrical Review*, December 3, 1921, Vol.79, No.23, p.868; *The Iron Trade Review*, December 29, 1921, No.26, p.1707.

²⁰ Robert C. Wimer and Leah Settle Gibbs, *Amherst: From Taverns to a Town*, Lynchburg, VA: Blackwell Press, 2010, p.18-19.

²¹ Deed Book 94, p.271-273, November 29, 1926.

Thompson's Mill/Amherst Mill Complex
Name of Property

Amherst County, VA
County and State

The diverse roles held by the Thompson's Mill/Amherst Mill Complex are locally significant in the history of Amherst County and the Town of Amherst in the areas of commerce and industry. The complex's first and most prominent aspect of significance concerns its role in the local agricultural economy, as the mill served as a place for local farmers to have their crops processed for sale. The provision of other services in a rural part of Virginia, notably ice and, for a more limited time, electricity, highlights the gradual process through which the milling complex offered Amherst County residents at least some modern conveniences. The entrepreneurial spirit behind these innovations also contributes to the property's significance, and certainly attests to the mill's continued operation all the way through to 2017, despite the considerable changes wrought in Amherst County, especially the agricultural economy, within more recent decades.

Architecture

Thompson's Mill/Amherst Mill Complex, including its domestic farm buildings and industrial power- and ice-producing buildings, represents a well-preserved nineteenth- to mid-twentieth century mill complex that illustrates the diversity of milling and other industrial and commercial operations that occurred here. The tenant house and parts of the mill were constructed in the nineteenth century. The brick miller's house, the power plant, the ice plant, the garage, several farm buildings, and likely the current concrete sections of the millrace were all constructed in the early twentieth century during the early ownership of Walter A. Baldock. A few elements of the farm, as well as sections of the mill, were constructed during the mid-twentieth century. The forms and styles of the agricultural buildings are, for the most part, traditional astylistic utilitarian examples seen in contemporary Virginia farm settings. The brick miller's house is a good example of an American Foursquare form with Colonial Revival influences, while the tenant house is a simple I-house with a rear addition. The ice plant and garage form an interesting early twentieth century utilitarian tangent with their hollow clay block tile construction. Together, all of these resources tell the story of a continually operating, evolved family-run mill and commercial operation.

While once quite common in Amherst County, only three other nineteenth century mill buildings remain in the county: Galt's Mill (1813, DHR ID 005-0036; NRHP 2008), Sandidge's Mill (ca.1870, DHR ID 005-5069), and Brightwell's Mill (ca.1878, rebuilt ca.1942; DHR ID 005-0035; NRHP 2017). The Sandidge's Mill is a brick shell with all of its equipment removed and installed in the Brightwell's Mill after a flood. Galt's mill is a Flemish-bond brick building that was originally five-and-a-half stories, but reduced to two stories in the mid-twentieth century; it retains much of its historic equipment, as does Thompson's Mill/Amherst Mill Complex. Brightwell's mill is a completely reconstructed mill that also has retained all of its mid-twentieth century equipment and machinery, including those elements reused from the aforementioned Sandidge's Mill.²² This handful of mill complexes are among the best documented of a once-common, historically and architecturally significant resource type in Amherst County.

²² Daniel J. Pezzoni, *Amherst County Historic Resources Survey Report*, 2010.

Thompson's Mill/Amherst Mill Complex
Name of Property

Amherst County, VA
County and State

Thompson's Mill/Amherst Mill Complex is representative of an increasingly rare architectural resource type. The property has high integrity of location, setting, design, workmanship, materials, feeling, and association. The retention of historic milling equipment within the mill itself, as well as the intact millrace and water wheel, add to the property's architectural significance as it embodies the distinctive characteristic of a diversified milling operation during the period of significance. The preservation of the ancillary industrial resources, such as the ice house and power plant, as well as the agricultural outbuildings, tenant house, and miller's house, contribute to the property's overall local significance in the area of architecture. Together, the architectural resources illustrate how crucial aspects of Amherst County's rural, agricultural economy evolved from the nineteenth through the twentieth century. The completeness of the complex and paucity of alterations to the historic fabric makes this property especially notable among the historic mills that remain within Virginia.

Thompson's Mill/Amherst Mill Complex
Name of Property

Amherst County, VA
County and State

9. Major Bibliographical References

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

Amherst County Court Order Book, 1790-1794.

Amherst County Deed Books, various.

Amherst County Will Book.

"Amherst Mill Has Long, Interesting History," *Amherst New-Era Progress*, March 25, 1976.

"Amherst Mill Property Sold To Mr. Wydner," *Amherst New-Era Progress*, July 18, 1940.

Baber, David W. Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Survey Form: Thompson's Mill, #163-7, April 1979.

Electrical Review, December 3, 1921, Vol.79, No.23, p.868.

Electrical World, November 19, 1921, Vol.78, No.21, p.1056.

Gray & Pape, Inc. *Abstract, #163-07*. Richmond, Virginia: Virginia Department of Historic Resources, February 2001.

Gore, Sherese. "Through Floods, Fire and War Demands, Amherst Milling Co. Has Remained," *NewsAdvance.com*. The News and Advance, March 28, 2015. Web.

The Iron Trade Review, December 29, 1921, No.26, p.1707.

Kaiser, Rob. "Amherst Milling Provides View of Living History," *The News & Advance* [Lynchburg] Feb 12, 1995, p.8.

Martin, William T., *Thompson's Mill Preliminary Information Form*. Richmond, Virginia: Virginia Department of Historic Resources, 1992.

McLeRoy, Sherrie, and William McLeRoy. *Passages: A History of Amherst County*. Lynchburg, VA: Peddler Press, 1977.

McLeRoy, Sherrie S., and William R. McLeRoy. *More Passages: A New History of Amherst County, Virginia*. Bowie, MD: Heritage Books, Inc., 1995.

Pezzoni, J. Daniel. *Amherst County Historic Resources Survey Report*. 2010.

Thompson's Mill/Amherst Mill Complex
Name of Property

Amherst County, VA
County and State

Springston, Rex. "Amherst Mill Keeping Past Alive; Tiny Creek Is Used For Power," *The Richmond News Leader*, September 23, 1991, p. 4.

Steenburgh, Nicole. "Amherst Milling Company up for Sale," *NewsAdvance.com*. The News and Advance, March 15, 2017. Web.

William Harold Wydner, oral history relayed to William Inge during several visits to the mill in the fall of 2017.

Wimer, Robert C. and Leah Settle Gibbs. *Amherst: From Taverns to a Town*: Lynchburg, VA: Blackwell Press, 2010.

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: Amherst County Museum and Historical Society; Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, VA

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): VDHR#163-0007

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 6.23

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates (decimal degrees)

Datum if other than WGS84: _____
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

Thompson's Mill/Amherst Mill Complex
Name of Property

Amherst County, VA
County and State

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Latitude: 37.577680 | Longitude: -79.048860 |
| 2. Latitude: 37.577360 | Longitude: -79.048600 |
| 3. Latitude: 37.576750 | Longitude: -79.048640 |
| 4. Latitude: 37.576710 | Longitude: -79.048220 |
| 5. Latitude: 37.575590 | Longitude: -79.048030 |
| 6. Latitude: 37.575480 | Longitude: -79.049600 |
| 7. Latitude: 37.575760 | Longitude: -79.050260 |

Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

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 true and correct historic boundaries are shown on the attached Location Map and Sketch Map/Photo Key. The boundaries are coterminous with the tax parcel recorded by Amherst County as parcel no. 96A7 A 29.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The historic boundaries encompass the extent of the milling complex associated with the property throughout its operational history, and includes the property's historic setting as well as all known historic resources.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Marcus R. Pollard
organization: Commonwealth Preservation Group
street & number: PO Box 11083

Thompson's Mill/Amherst Mill Complex
Name of Property

Amherst County, VA
County and State

city or town: Norfolk state: Virginia zip code: 23517
e-mail: marcus@commonwealthpreservationgroup.com
telephone: 757-651-0494
date: August 2018

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.)

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

The following information is common to all photographs:

Name of Property: Thompson's Mill/Amherst Mill Complex

City or Vicinity: Town of Amherst

County: Amherst

State: Virginia

Photographer: Paige Pollard; William Inge

Date Photographed: September 28, 2017; April 26, 2018

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

1 of 36: Mill, facing east

VA_AmherstCounty_Thompson'sMill-AmherstMillComplex_0001

2 of 36: Mill, façade, facing SE

VA_AmherstCounty_Thompson'sMill-AmherstMillComplex_0002

3 of 36: Mill, facing south

VA_AmherstCounty_Thompson'sMill-AmherstMillComplex_0003

Thompson's Mill/Amherst Mill Complex
Name of Property

Amherst County, VA
County and State

- 4 of 36: Mill, facing SW
VA_AmherstCounty_Thompson'sMill-AmherstMillComplex_0004
- 5 of 36: Mill, facing north
VA_AmherstCounty_Thompson'sMill-AmherstMillComplex_0005
- 6 of 36: Mill foundation, race, under ca.1908 and 1948 additions, facing SW
VA_AmherstCounty_Thompson'sMill-AmherstMillComplex_0006
- 7 of 36: Mill, first floor interior, facing SE into ca.1908 addition
VA_AmherstCounty_Thompson'sMill-AmherstMillComplex_0007
- 8 of 36: Mill, first floor interior, facing SW from 1908 section into original mill
VA_AmherstCounty_Thompson'sMill-AmherstMillComplex_0008
- 9 of 36: Mill, second floor with equipment, facing NW
VA_AmherstCounty_Thompson'sMill-AmherstMillComplex_0009
- 10 of 36: Mill, fourth floor, facing NW
VA_AmherstCounty_Thompson'sMill-AmherstMillComplex_0010
- 11 of 36: Mill, ca.1948 addition, facing NW towards ca.1908 addition on left
VA_AmherstCounty_Thompson'sMill-AmherstMillComplex_0011
- 12 of 36: Mill, 1944-45 addition, facing east
VA_AmherstCounty_Thompson'sMill-AmherstMillComplex_0012
- 13 of 36: Baldock Miller's House, façade, facing SW
VA_AmherstCounty_Thompson'sMill-AmherstMillComplex_0013
- 14 of 36: Baldock Miller's House, facing east
VA_AmherstCounty_Thompson'sMill-AmherstMillComplex_0014
- 15 of 36: Baldock Miller's House, facing north
VA_AmherstCounty_Thompson'sMill-AmherstMillComplex_0015
- 16 of 36: Baldock Miller's House, first floor interior, facing south
VA_AmherstCounty_Thompson'sMill-AmherstMillComplex_0016
- 17 of 36: Tenant House, façade, facing SE
VA_AmherstCounty_Thompson'sMill-AmherstMillComplex_0017
- 18 of 36: Tenant House, facing west

Thompson's Mill/Amherst Mill Complex
Name of Property

Amherst County, VA
County and State

VA_AmherstCounty_Thompson'sMill-AmherstMillComplex_0018

19 of 36: Tenant House, first floor interior, facing NW

VA_AmherstCounty_Thompson'sMill-AmherstMillComplex_0019

20 of 36: Baldock Ice Plant, facing west

VA_AmherstCounty_Thompson'sMill-AmherstMillComplex_0020

21 of 36: Ice Plant, rear with ice form, facing north

VA_AmherstCounty_Thompson'sMill-AmherstMillComplex_0021

22 of 36: Ice Plant, interior, facing south

VA_AmherstCounty_Thompson'sMill-AmherstMillComplex_0022

23 of 36: Former Amherst Light & Power Co. Building, facing NW

VA_AmherstCounty_Thompson'sMill-AmherstMillComplex_0023

24 of 36: Former Amherst Light & Power Co. Building, facing west

VA_AmherstCounty_Thompson'sMill-AmherstMillComplex_0024

25 of 36: Garage, facing west

VA_AmherstCounty_Thompson'sMill-AmherstMillComplex_0025

26 of 36: Hog Shed, facing south

VA_AmherstCounty_Thompson'sMill-AmherstMillComplex_0026

27 of 36: Barn, facing east

VA_AmherstCounty_Thompson'sMill-AmherstMillComplex_0027

28 of 36: Chicken Coop, facing south

VA_AmherstCounty_Thompson'sMill-AmherstMillComplex_0028

29 of 36: Weigh Station, facing south

VA_AmherstCounty_Thompson'sMill-AmherstMillComplex_0029

30 of 36: Old Rock Well

VA_AmherstCounty_Thompson'sMill-AmherstMillComplex_0030

31 of 36: Spring Box

VA_AmherstCounty_Thompson'sMill-AmherstMillComplex_0031

32 of 36: Shed, facing west

VA_AmherstCounty_Thompson'sMill-AmherstMillComplex_0032

Thompson's Mill/Amherst Mill Complex
Name of Property

Amherst County, VA
County and State

33 of 36: Millrace, facing SE
VA_AmherstCounty_Thompson'sMill-AmherstMillComplex_0033

34 of 36: Millrace, facing NE
VA_AmherstCounty_Thompson'sMill-AmherstMillComplex_0034

35 of 36: Site, facing NE towards the Miller's House and Tenant House from tree line on southern end of property
VA_AmherstCounty_Thompson'sMill-AmherstMillComplex_0035

36 of 36: Site, facing NE towards the Hog Shed from tree line on SW end of property
VA_AmherstCounty_Thompson'sMill-AmherstMillComplex_0036

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.



Legend

LOCATION MAP

Thompson's Mill/Amherst Mill Complex
(Amherst Milling Company)

DHR #163-007

Amherst County, Virginia

Location Map Coordinates:

- 1- Lat:37.577680 Lon:-79.048860
- 2- Lat:37.577360 Lon:-79.048600
- 3- Lat:37.576750 Lon:-79.048640
- 4- Lat:37.576710 Lon:-79.048220
- 5- Lat:37.575590 Lon:-79.048030
- 6- Lat:37.575480 Lon:-79.049600
- 7- Lat:37.575760 Lon:-79.050260



Feet



1:2,257 / 1"=188 Feet

Title: Thompson's Mill/Amherst Mill Complex

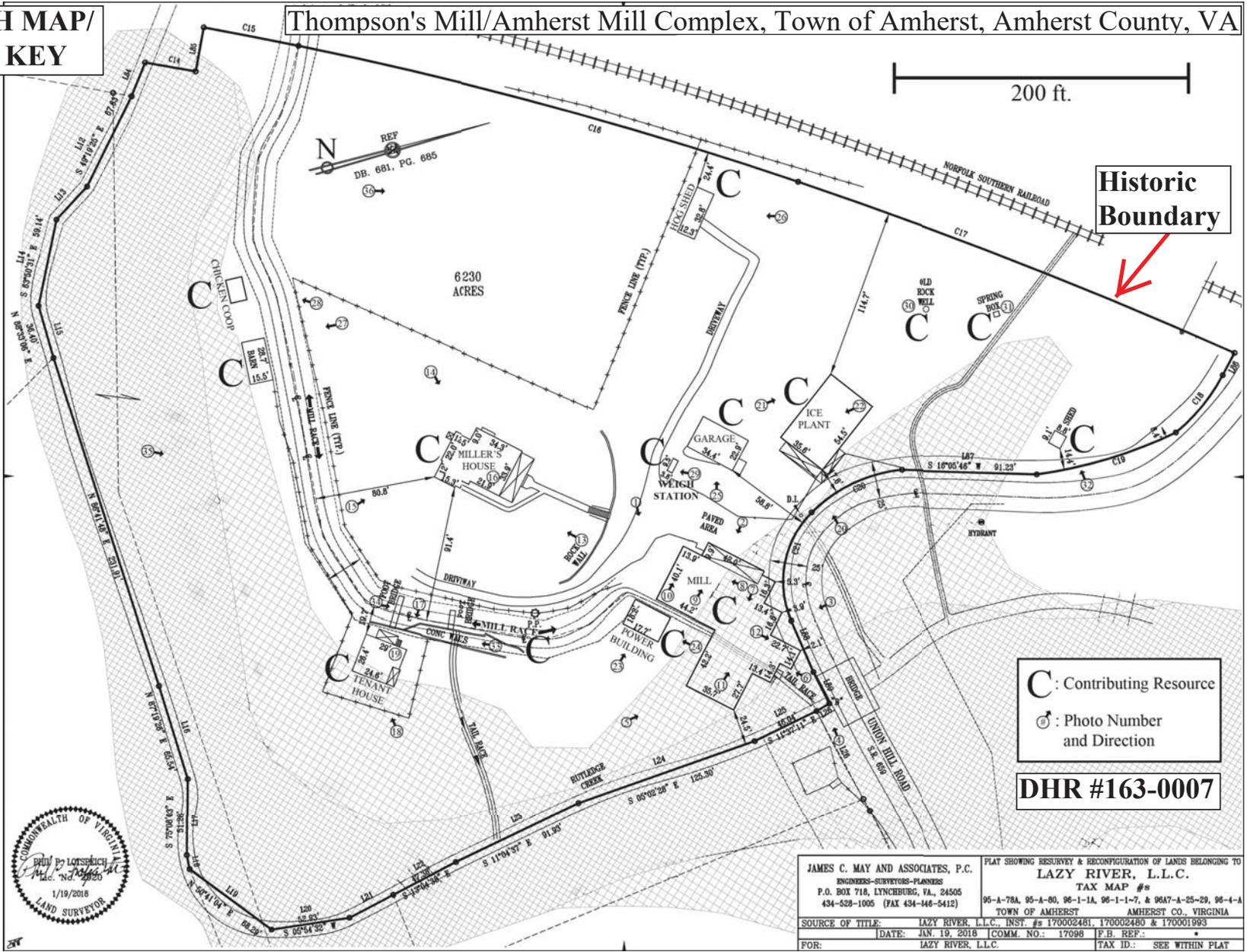
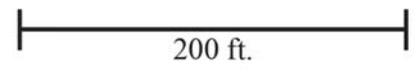
Date: 4/26/2018

DISCLAIMER: Records of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (DHR) have been gathered over many years from a variety of sources and the representation depicted is a cumulative view of field observations over time and may not reflect current ground conditions. The map is for general information purposes and is not intended for engineering, legal or other site-specific uses. Map may contain errors and is provided "as-is". More information is available in the DHR Archives located at DHR's Richmond office.

Notice if AE sites: Locations of archaeological sites may be sensitive the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), and the Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA) and Code of Virginia §2.2-3705.7 (10). Release of precise locations may threaten archaeological sites and historic resources.

**SKETCH MAP/
PHOTO KEY**

Thompson's Mill/Amherst Mill Complex, Town of Amherst, Amherst County, VA



**Historic
Boundary**

C : Contributing Resource
 Ⓜ : Photo Number and Direction

DHR #163-0007



JAMES C. MAY AND ASSOCIATES, P.C. ENGINEERS-SURVEYORS-PLANNERS P.O. BOX 718, LYNCHBURG, VA, 24505 434-528-1005 (FAX 434-448-5412)		PLAT SHOWING RESURVEY & RECONFIGURATION OF LANDS BELONGING TO LAZY RIVER, L.L.C. TAX MAP #s 95-A-78A, 95-A-80, 96-1-1A, 96-1-1-7, & 96A7-A-25-29, 96-4-A TOWN OF AMHERST AMHERST CO., VIRGINIA	
SOURCE OF TITLE:	LAZY RIVER, L.L.C. INST. #s 170002481, 170002480 & 170001993	DATE:	JAN. 19, 2018
FOR:	LAZY RIVER, L.L.C.	COMM. NO.:	17098
		F.B. REF.:	*
		TAX ID.:	SEE WITHIN PLAT