OMB No. 1024-0018

(Expires 5/31/2012)

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United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

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AT.	REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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. Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).

1. Name of Property		
historic name True Mill, Fuller Mill, Freedom Lumber	Company Turning Mill	
other names/site numberMill at Freedom Falls (Pret		
2. Location		
street & number Mill Street; south side, 125 feet west of	f Pleasant Street	N/A not for publication
city or town Freedom		N/A vicinity
state Maine code ME county V	Waldo code 027	zip code 04941
3. State/Federal Agency Certification		
As the designated authority under the National Historic I hereby certify that this <u>x</u> _nominationrequest for registering properties in the National Register of Historic set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property <u>x</u> _meetsdoes not m be considered significant at the following level(s) of sign nationalstatewidelocal	or determination of eligibility meets ic Places and meets the procedura neet the National Register Criteria	al and professional requirements
Signature of certifying official/Title Maine Historic Preservation Commission State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the Nation	Date Date	
Signature of commenting official	Date	-
Title	State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal C	Government
4. National Park Service Certification		
I hereby certify that this property is:		
Lentered in the National Register	determined eligible for the l	National Register
determined not eligible for the National Register	removed from the National	Register
- other (explain:) Liza, alie	419/1	2
Signature of the Keeper	Date of Action	

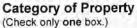
1

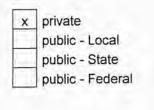
Name of Property

OMB No. 1024-0018

#### 5. Classification

**Ownership of Property** (Check as many boxes as apply.)





x	building(s)
	district
	site
-	structure
	object

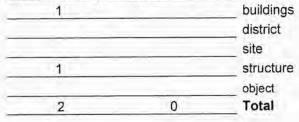
#### Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

#### Contributing Noncontributing

WALDO COUNTY, MAINE

County and State



#### Name of related multiple property listing

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

#### Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A	None			
6. Function or Use				
Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions.)	Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions.)			
AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTANCE / Processing	VACANT / NOT IN USE			
INDUSTRY/PROCESSING/EXTRACTION /				
Manufacturing Facility				
	-			
7. Description				
7. Description Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions.)	Materials (Enter categories from instructions.)			
Architectural Classification				
Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions.)	(Enter categories from instructions.)			
(Enter categories from instructions.)	(Enter categories from instructions.) foundation: STONE / Granite			

#### Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a summary paragraph that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

WALDO COUNTY, MAINE

County and State

#### Summary Paragraph

The two-story, timber frame mill at Freedom Falls was built in 1834 as a gristmill. The mill is located on the northwest side of Sandy Stream in Freedom, Maine, on a narrow strip of land between Mill Street and the stream. (For ease of reference in this nomination, the side of the mill overlooking the stream will be described as the south side, with the stream running from west to east.) As viewed upstream from the adjacent bridge on Pleasant Street, the approximately 60-foot tall east side of the mill is a commanding presence. The front-gable facing, metal roofed original mill building is a wooden shingled structure, measuring approximately 30 by 37 feet (with the 30-foot dimension paralleling the stream), sitting on top of a dry-laid granite block and fieldstone foundation.<sup>1</sup> The foundation, a significant character-defining feature of the mill, rests on granite ledge in the streambed on the south and east elevations and is set into the bank on the north and west sides. The mill entrance is just a few feet off Mill Street, and further east on Mill Street the property drops precipitously from Mill Street to the stream. The streambed itself occupies about two thirds of the site, with the water dropping steeply from Freedom Falls to the east over granite ledge that has become overgrown with vegetation. A concrete and stone dam, originally built circa 1829 and rebuilt in 1927, is located just upstream of the mill and provides a head of 22 feet to the base of the mill. The remains of a concrete tailrace where the water exited the mill can still be found. Circa 1894 the gristmill was converted to a woodturning mill (or "turnery") and in 1913 it became part of a larger mill complex that included a sawmill on the opposite side of the stream that created hardwood bar stock, or "bolts" for the turning mill.<sup>2</sup> Numerous gable roof or shed roof additions were made to the Mill at Freedom Falls during both the gristmill and woodturning phases. Four existing wood additions were made to the original structure, all at ground level with no visible foundations. The first dates almost as early as the original mill and protrudes as an ell to the west, with a roofline that runs east-west, perpendicular to the original mill roofline. The second, evident in photographs from 1890, is an extension of this ell, stretching further to the west. Two shed-roofed additions were also added. One on the north side for which no pictorial record exists, covered over the original mill entryway. The shed-roofed addition on the south side is evident in photographs dated c.1930. There is nothing left of another addition that once spanned the stream in front of the dam, connecting the sawmill operation with the woodturning mill. This structure collapsed and was removed in 1977.

#### Narrative Description

As built drawings of the mill are located on Continuation Sheets 7/5, 7/6, 7/7, 7/8, 7/9, 7/10 and 7/11.

Figure 1, page 7/5: Foundation Plan.

Figure 2, page 7/6: First Floor Plan.

Figure 3, page 7/7: Second Floor Plan.

Figure 4, page 7/8: Third Floor and Roof Plan.

Figure 5, page 7/9: Building Sections.

Figure 6, page 7/10: North and South Elevations.

Figure 7, page 7/11: East and West Elevations.

Mill, c.1834, with additions (dated c.1840, 1890 and 1930)

#### Foundation

The east foundation wall, is approximately 23 feet high, made entirely of granite, and is in good condition. Piercing the granite blocks are four randomly placed and sized (approximately two- to four- foot squares) openings to allow light to enter the basement. Two additional approximately 4-foot square openings for the water from the power plant to exit the building are located in the lower north corner of this east wall. A somewhat damaged concrete exit raceway extending from these openings about 30 feet eastward remains in the streambed.

The foundation area is referred to herein as the basement though it is open to the elements on the south and east sides.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Other than one or two abandoned shafts and turning wheels, there is nothing left of that part of the complex and that property has become early successional forest.

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Name of Property

#### WALDO COUNTY, MAINE County and State

The south side of the mill foundation, a combination of granite block and fieldstone, is about 12 feet high at its west end and about 20 feet at its east, or downstream end. This wall has three large openings. One, with a large granite lintel and measuring approximately six feet wide by five feet high, is at ground level toward the western end of the wall. This is where the original penstock entered the building. There a second opening toward the east end of the wall at ground level, which appears to have been subsequently constructed for an additional penstock or for management of high water flows. It has a fieldstone, rather than a similar large granite, lintel. The third opening, at the upper east corner of the wall, appears to have been caused by some collapse and has been shored up by timbers.

The west and north foundation walls are not visible from outside the building, as they serve as retaining walls. The west wall, made of a combination of granite and fieldstone, is significantly bowed inward, with two or three stones having dislodged. The north foundation wall is also a mix of granite and fieldstone and is in a state of collapse. The east end of that wall, made mostly of granite block, is in a dangerous condition, with a significant portion having caved in, while the west end, where fieldstone is more predominant, is more intact, though also in serious disrepair.

Within the basement, there are two prominent features. The first is a pair of broken remains of two four-feet high stonewalls located opposite each other, extending from the approximate middle of the east and west foundation walls. The eastern wall extends approximately ten feet at its base; the western wall extends about four feet at its base. The other feature is a poured concrete wheelhouse at ground level (about 12 feet across the south face, 8 feet deep and about 6 feet high), which housed the horizontal turbines that powered the turning mill. There are iron remnants of the turbines and adjustment mechanisms within and on top of the wheelhouse. In the south wall of this concrete box where the penstock entered is an approximately 52-inch diameter hole, rimmed with iron. The bottom of the box is open on its east end where the water flowed out of the turbines to the exit tailrace. This concrete wheelhouse replaced the four tub wheels (three 8-foot diameter, and one 2-foot diameter) used during the days of operation as a gristmill.

There is a 3-foot high fieldstone foundation, visible only from beneath the floorboards, that supports the first addition. The foundations of the other three additions to the original gristmill building are non-existent, with these buildings resting on a combination of wooden piers on ledge and soil. Beneath the north wall shed structure is a large (approximately 185 cu. ft) boiler presumably used to burn sawdust for heat in the mill, and behind the boiler a large granite outcropping.

#### Superstructure

The overall plan of the mill is irregular. Forming the base of the plan is the c. 1834 mill. The first addition, which may be contemporaneous with the original mill building, extends about 20 feet in two stories in an ell westerly from the northern half of the west side of the mill, with its roofline running perpendicular to the ridge of the larger building and joining the original roof about one third of the way up to its peak. This addition extends about six feet further north than the façade of the main mill. It is a timber frame structure that has been modified over the years to accommodate changing uses so that today only some of its original corner posts, connecting beams and joists remain. It no longer has a southern or a western wall (though at its peak the west side of the western wall still has some of its original shingles). The second addition is an approximately 20-foot extension of this first ell.<sup>3</sup> The other two additions have shed roofs. The structure to the south, running along the side of the two ells and connecting to the original building on the southern side of its western wall was added after 1890, but before 1930. This structure accepted a railroad track that led across the stream to bring bolts from the sawmill to the turning mill. The shed to the north, which spans the principal façade of the original mill, was added after the first addition, but the precise date has not been determined.

The entire exterior of the mill structure is sheathed in shingles. The south wall has five main window openings approximately 3x5 feet, with no sashes remaining. Three are evenly spaced on the second story. Directly beneath these, on the first floor, are two windows on either side and a door in the center. The door, which faces the stream approximately 15 feet above ground level, once provided access to an addition that stretched out over the stream. It has not yet been determined what function this structure provided or whether it stretched all the way across the stream. There are also two 2x4 attic windows with shutters. In circa 1890 photographs, there are only 6 windows (two in the attic, and two on each floor, with none in the center of those walls), and no doors on the original mill on this south face.

On the east side of the mill there are 6 windows (5 with six-over-six sashes and one with nothing) evenly spaced with three on each of the two floors. There is little intact glass. There is also a door located on the first floor, approximately 16 feet off the ground, which has been added adjacent to the window on the south side of that wall. The purpose for this door has not been determined. There is a small shuttered opening on each of the first and second floor walls, presumably for pushing out wood shavings and sawdust.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> These two additions are depicted in a photo from about 1890.

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The north, gable-end, wall of the original building has two shuttered attic windows. The one-story shed-roofed addition covers the original doorway and two lower windows. Immediately above the shed roof are two shuttered windows, approximately three feet high and five feet long. This addition has a large sliding central batten door for entering from Mill Street and three shuttered windows, one on the eastern side of the addition, and one on either side of the northern addition wall. The north wall of the first ell has two windows under the eaves (one shuttered and one with broken glass) measuring 5 feet along their bottom edge and 2 feet up their sides, one 2x3 shuttered opening and a 6x10 foot batten door hinged along its top (10-foot) edge, thought to have been used for removing waste material from the mill.

The west elevation of the second length of the gable roofed ell contains one shuttered window and a large batten door on an overhead track, as well as two boarded up openings below the batten door, leading into the ground level of the ell. The west elevation of the southern shed addition has a large sliding batten door. There is one window, with no sash, on the original mill building that faces west, just to the south of the shed addition.

The south elevation of the southern shed addition had an opening, now covered in plywood, where the tracks entered the structure on the easternmost end of the shed addition. There are no other openings on this side of the shed addition.

The roof of the main mill is corrugated metal, as are the roofs of each of the additions. There are no trim elements throughout the mill other than an inconsistent use of corner boards, at times on only one side of a given corner.

#### Interior

The original mill building utilizes traditional timber frame construction, with continuous 10x10, vertically sawn indigenous hemlock posts extending from the sill to the plate at the eave. The gunstock style posts are joined using an English tie joint and the framing members were laid out using the English scribe-rule method. Marriage marks that indicate the original joiners' labeling system for the assembly of the frame are evident in the earliest structure. There are angle braces throughout to provide strength and stability. The exterior walls have window and door openings between the braced frames in many cases. The tie beams supporting the second story and attic floors are hand-hewn hemlock.

The main floor of the original building is undivided with three cedar posts having been randomly placed in the open floor plan at a later date to support the second story or power drive machinery hung off the ceiling. The inside of the exterior sheathing boards are exposed, with no insulation provided. The flooring is plank with many penetrations made as the equipment and power drive system changed over the years. This large space contains one rusted piece of as-yet unidentified equipment and a number of rods, wheels (both metal and wooden) and belts hanging from the ceiling that transferred the power to drive the wood turning equipment. The north wall has large double doors leading to the front shed. To their east is a small brick chimney. Approximately 30 feet of the west wall (leaving about 7 feet on its southern end) has been removed between the posts, and there are 4 steps up to the first building addition and its shed to the south.

The front shed is accessed from the original structure's main door. This shed structure has a planked wood floor and exposed siding boards on three sides. It is stud framed with common rafters. Some of its foundation supports have been removed or have deteriorated, leaving the frame hanging in mid-air in places. The internal wall exhibits the shingles, entryway and window openings of the original mill and a portion of the first addition. This space has two large wooden tubs that were connected to a turning rod and wheels by straps, creating a tumbler effect to lacquer turned handles, etc. before their shipment. There is also a major drive wheel in this space, on a rod protruding from west end of the north wall of the main structure.

Because rail tracks were positioned between the main mill and the shed in the southwest corner, access to this portion of the mill is gained through the south wall of the first ell addition. Immediately adjacent to the west side of the tracks was a drying room with a large sliding door set on a board wall. The interior of the drying room has a slatted floor with a sub-floor about 12 to18 inches beneath it. This room has finished boards sheathing the inside walls and ceiling, a large radiator, iron heating pipes below the slat floor and a hanging forced hot air heater.

The first addition presents a confusing array of levels, including a level that matches the level of the railroad track entry, the exposed under-carriage of the first and second additions, and a lower dirt-floored space along the north wall. In the center is a stairway rising 7 feet up toward the north to the second floor. At the top of the stairway, looking west into the second addition is a large open-ceiling space containing an inventory of squares and turned dowels from the last days of the mills' turning operation. This structure was created from small timbers and rough-sawn studs.

At the top of the stairway in the first addition there is a landing area that is at the same level as the floor of the original mill building to the east. The second floor of the original mill has plank floors and planked ceiling, and is open with the exception of five posts running from floor to ceiling that have been added at random locations for support. The corner

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posts are gunstock design. The room contains one forced-air heating unit and one old turning lathe as well as more rods, wheels and belts hanging from the ceiling. The four walls expose the external sheathing. Again, there is a small brick chimney on the north wall.

The attic of the main building, accessible only by ladder, contains more heavy power-drive hardware on its floor. The roof framing on the original mill is comprised of common rafters spaced at about 3-foot intervals across the width of the building, with some ceiling joists and full-length tie beams. This is a lighter construction than the construction of the heavy wall frame supporting it.

#### Mill Building Condition

The undercarriage of the original wooden mill building is in peril. Some original beams appear to remain in place, but their connections to the sills and other portions of the floor framing are relatively non-existent. The basement interior is punctuated by randomly placed vertical shoring timbers used to support the first floor. The perimeter sills are almost all replacement beams and are in various degrees of deterioration. There have been so many modifications to the first floor structure to accommodate changes in the use of the mill and the design of its power system that its original layout is difficult to decipher.

The original timber frame structure is almost entirely intact, although some joists and braces have been removed to accommodate building additions and the installation of power equipment and machinery for woodturning. The planking on the outside of the timber frame is also largely intact, though the exterior shingling is rapidly degrading.

The floors of the two ells reflect serious deterioration from roof leaks and deflections from movement in their substructures. The northern shed structure is collapsing, pulling away from the main mill building, which causes stress on the original structure, and sagging where its original supports onto the ground have rotted away. The shed addition on the south side is also collapsing with little remaining to support its southern edge.

#### Dam c.1829, rebuilt in 1927

Land records indicate a dam at this site as early as 1829, and circa 1890 photographs reveal a flume structure at water level running perpendicular to the dam heading east downstream in front of the mill, with a penstock for carrying water from the flume into the basement of the mill. The current structure, however, reflects a significant rebuilding episode in 1927, with the flume structure being replaced by two sluiceways. The center spillway underwent significant additional repair in 1988 due to damage caused by floods in the spring of 1987. The current structure is an approximately 110-foot long, 10-foot high masonry, concrete and stone structure consisting of a 60-foot long spillway (creating "Freedom Falls"), two sluices on the mill side (north) of the spillway, and concrete structures on either side of the spillway to narrow the spillway and provide for the installation of flash boards. Both sluiceways are in disrepair and are leaking. The dam holds back an approximately 1 ½-acre millpond, with about a 7-foot maximum depth and provides approximately 22 feet of head for the waterpower.

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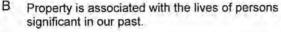
County and State

#### **Applicable National Register Criteria**

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

х	A
_	1.0

Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.



XC

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.

Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

#### **Criteria Considerations**

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

D

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.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

INDUSTRY

ARCHITECTURE

#### Period of Significance

1834-1962

#### **Significant Dates**

1834

1894 (conversion to wood turning)

c. 1890 (second ell addition)

c. 1930 (southern shed addition)

#### Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

**Cultural Affiliation** 

Architect/Builder

#### Period of Significance (justification)

The Period of Significance for this property encompasses both the period of operation as a gristmill, 1834 to circa 1894, and the period of operation as a woodturning mill, starting in 1894. Although the woodturning mill continued to operate until 1967, the period of significance ends in 1962 in observance of the fifty-year historic buffer requested by the National Register guidelines.

#### Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria.)

Built initially in 1834 as a gristmill on Sandy Stream in the Waldo County, Maine town of Freedom, the Mill at. Freedom Falls functioned as an industrial site for 133 years. The building's history, which includes conversion to a wood turning mill (or "turnery") in the last decade of the 19th century, reflects the predominant land use patterns of the region and the viability of enterprises designed to serve those land uses. The mill features a traditional timber frame superstructure that housed the operating equipment, set atop a high dry-laid granite, stream side foundation that housed the waterpower system. This general composition characterized countless 19th century mills throughout the state, often making use of locally available raw materials, both in their construction and their production. Although several other mill sites were utilized in Freedom, by virtue of its height and location, this mill was, throughout its years of operation the dominant industrial structure on the landscape and remains the dominant building today. The mill at Freedom Falls is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places at the local level of significance under both Criterion A, Industry, as "a property associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history", and Criterion C, Architecture, as "a property that embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period or method of construction". The period of significance for this property encompasses both the period of operation as a gristmill, 1834 to circa 1894, and the period of operation as a wood turning mill, from circa 1894 to 1962, shortly before operations ceased and the building was abandoned.

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

#### Criterion A: Industry

As the settlement of Maine moved inland from the coast in the 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> century, hamlets often sprung up on or near a source of reliable waterpower. In turn, water-powered industries (grist mills, sawmills, carding mills, tanneries, shingle mills, woolen mills, etc.) proliferated over time in each of these towns and villages. Harnessing the power of rivers and streams to run mills was essential to the development of small town economies. Mills purchased or processed the products of local farmers and loggers, and they produced products that were both sold locally or exported beyond the town's borders. While remnants of the buildings used in this period of industrial development can still be found (sometimes only stone foundations are visible), few of the early examples maintain the structural integrity of the original buildings. Fewer still are in active commercial use, or continue to function as water-powered resources.

The first settlement of Freedom, originally known as Smithton, was made in 1795 by Stephen Smith, and was first surveyed by Bradstreet Wiggins in 1810. In 1809 the area where Freedom village sits was known as Hersey's Mills, being the name of the first mill (a gristmill) built in this town on Sandy Stream. The existence of a series of drops in the stream topography (totaling 70 feet in less than ½ mile) allowed a concentration of small water-powered businesses in Freedom, in spite of the limited watershed (about 7 square miles) feeding Sandy Stream.

As noted above, Sandy Stream provided the impetus for the development of a vibrant business community in Freedom. According to the United States census, the population of the town peaked in 1840, with 1153 residents. Between then and 1880 the population continually surpassed the level of the 2000 census (645 residents), but the number of residents averaged between 400 and 500 during the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Both Freedom's population and demographic trends were representative of the medium size interior Waldo County towns during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, and many of these towns, including Palermo, Searsmont, Brooks, Frankfort, Thorndike, Unity, Monroe and Liberty, also contained water-powered industries.

In 1869 Walter Wells, superintendent of the Hydrographic Survey of Maine, published a compilation of known water powers throughout Maine entitled <u>The Water Power of Maine</u>. In this volume he provides a brief description of Freedom's hydraulic resources:

#### Five Powers

Situated upon a stream issuing from a pond that at high water covers about a square mile and at low about onethird of that area. Total fall, 70 feet. Sufficient water to use 100 square inches under 10 feet head, during 10 hours in each day, through the dry season.

First, 22 feet head; a flower mill.

Second, 14 feet head; a corn mill. About 14,000 bushels of grain manufactured in the two grist mills, jointly, yearly.

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Third, 12 feet head; saw mill, shingle mill, etc. Production, \$700. Fourth, 13 feet head; carding machine, machinery for manufacturing cloth. Production, \$1,100. Fifth, nine feet head; tannery. Production, \$1,000.

Freshets harmless. Stream very constant. Area of the pond could not be increased. Machinery excellent; the Boston wheel and close wheel. (Page 286.)

The first grain mill referenced by Wells survives as the Mill at Freedom Falls, although it was converted to wood product manufacturing after sixty years. The other mills in Freedom Village have all been removed, abandoned or converted to other uses without preserving their original character.

In 1834 John True, already operating one gristmill on Sandy Stream, saw the need for additional grinding capacity to serve the agricultural community and provide flours and grains for local residents and livestock and subsequently erected the present mill building on a high granite foundation. By 1850, the two mills originally built by John True were operated by the Fuller brothers and they reported processing 15,000 bushels of wheat, corn and other grains into flour and meal valued at \$12,690. In the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, there were numerous small gristmills throughout the state (over 30 in 724-square mile Waldo County in 1869, virtually one in every town or hamlet), as farming was a subsistence business, and grains and flour could only economically be transported short distances. By 1880, the two mills on Sandy Stream only processed 8,000 bushels of wheat and corn, and the value of products shipped from these two mills had fallen to \$7,000. Wheat production throughout the state had fallen dramatically and been replaced by flour imported from the west by rail and canal, as agriculture became more of a specialized commercial proposition as opposed to subsistence farming. By the turn of the century, with the development of a low-cost transportation industry and the exhaustion of New England soils, the agricultural base that had provided grains for the mills had shifted west.

Although the demand for locally ground flour and grain had declined there was still a steady supply of wood harvested by loggers, farmers and foresters. Correspondingly, the mill at Freedom Falls was converted to a woodturning mill in about 1894, when it was sold out of the Fuller family. Once the economy of Waldo County moved away from agriculture, by the early to mid-20<sup>th</sup> century the forests provided the backbone of the economy including logging, sawmills and the manufacture of finished wood products. The period from the early 1930s into the 1950s have been referred to as the "hardwood era" in Maine, with mills all over the state producing a wide assortment of hardwood products, including matches, toothpicks, tool handles, novelty items, spools, dowels, clothes pins, etc. While the dam and power system for the mill's gristmill era was adequate for its early woodturning years, it subsequently was updated c.1927. Local residents report that this area of the state of Maine was reputed to have grown the highest quality white birch for the manufacture of hardwood products, likely because Waldo County had the highest percentage (65% versus under 20% today) of farmland in 1880 of any county in Maine and thus more land reverting during the early twentieth century to the hardwoods of an early successional forest. In addition to white birch, the mill used bolts of aspen, basswood, beech and maple as raw material.

The mill at Freedom Falls produced broom handles, spools, short tool handles, dowels and other small turned wood products, and shipped its finished goods as far away as Boston. Freedom Lumber Company operated a sawmill (no longer extant) across Sandy Stream from the mill. The sawmill dried and cut raw lumber into square billets that were then transported on tracks across the stream into the mill building where they were turned and finished for shipment. An additional sawmill was operated further downstream in Freedom by the Banton family, a member of which had previously owned the subject mill. As was true of gristmills in the earlier period, virtually every hamlet in Waldo County had an operating sawmill in the early to mid-20<sup>th</sup> century. Products moved by road from interior Waldo County to the coastal manufacturing towns of Belfast, Camden and Rockland and inland by train upon the completion in 1870 of the Belfast & Moosehead Lake Railroad which connected in Burnham with the Maine Central Railroad network and thence to the major markets to the south. In later years truck transport was utilized by the mill to reach the Boston market.

The mill's demise as a wood products facility came in 1967 from a variety of macro-economic factors that occurred after the Second World War, including the advent of plastics, the movement of major customer industries, such as woolens, out of New England, and the decline of locally readily available hardwoods as the second growth of soft woods became predominant in the forests.

#### **Criterion C: Architecture**

The design of the subject mill, with its wooden working space built on top of a dry-laid granite or stone foundation, was a common form in Maine in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. This type of building is defined by the use of heavy timbers, stone foundations, complex joinery and large expanses of open floor space, all necessary elements given the multi-stage production process for grinding grains and the stresses (weight and vibration) the grinding stones would put on the building

#### WALDO COUNTY, MAINE County and State

itself. The setting was dictated by the availability of waterpower and construction materials such as readily quarried granite and an abundance of quality timber.

Given the harsh winters of central Maine, most of these water-powered mills had their power structures indoors, using "tub wheels" (four separate wheels in this case), rather than the exterior overshot wheels more common in the Middle Atlantic States, so that power could be available in the winter. This necessitated a large foundation, through which water could flow, to house the wheels that drove the manufacturing process.

With stone available for foundations alongside watercourses, or quarried from local sources, mills were either built directly over their stream or alongside the streambed as in this case. The height (approximately 22 feet) of the granite and stone foundation in the subject mill reflects the steepness of the drop in the streambed from the level of the millpond. This mill site is somewhat unusual because of the small (seven square miles) watershed feeding Sandy Stream. The relatively low flows are compensated for by the size of the head. Most mills drew their power from a much larger watershed but with less head available at the mill site.

There were many similar mills built on stone or granite foundations in the immediate vicinity, including mills in Montville on the Sheepscot River, in Albion on the Fifteen Mile River, at Branch Mills in the northeast corner of China, in Brooks on Marsh Stream, and in Liberty on the St George as well as the gristmill immediately down Sandy Stream from the subject mill.

The timber frame construction of the original mill building employs a style of joinery that was common in this country prior to about 1820. The rafter, post and girt connections are joined utilizing the English tie joint and the scribe-rule method of layout for the framing members was used throughout the early structure. A simpler joinery had come into common use by the time this mill was constructed, but presumably this more complicated and sturdy joinery was used because of the stress on the structure and the vibration that would result from the grain grinding operations. The less rugged roof structure of common rafters spaced evenly across the width of the building reflects building techniques more common in the 1830's.

The post and beam structure used here and common in mill buildings of the time allowed for an open floor plan that subsequently enabled the conversion of the gristmill into a wood products mill without major alteration. All that was required was the cutting of new holes in the floors to allow rods, wheels and belts to transfer the power from one level to the next, the installation of a power transfer system for each piece of equipment and additional support for specific pieces of heavy equipment.

The production of flour in the gristmill era and turned wood products in the woodturning era appears to have taken place entirely on the two floors of the original building. In the gristmill era, the three pairs of grinding stones were located on the first floor, as reflected in the massive timbers used to support the first floor. The lighter weight processes such as cleansing and bolting took place on the second floor, as was typical in 19<sup>th</sup> century gristmills. In the woodturning era, lumber was dried and sawn in the sawmill across the stream and then the bolts were wheeled across the stream on tracks into the southern shed addition where they were dried further in the drying room. They then were turned on lathes on both floors of the original mill. Some finished products (e.g. tool handles) were lacquered in tubs in the northern shed addition and loaded out of that space into trucks for shipment. The original ell provided access from one floor to the other, and the second ell provided space for storage of both unturned raw material and turned finished product which was apparently unloaded into trucks from the western end of the building.

#### Developmental history/additional historic context information (if appropriate)

In 1834 John True, who in 1829 operated the first gristmill on Sandy Stream (as well as mills in neighboring Montville on the Sheepscot River) built the subject mill further up the stream on the west side of Pleasant Street. The two mills were sold to Edmund Fuller in 1845, and in 1852, Fuller sold the mills to his elder sons, Christopher C. and William S. Fuller. A map of Waldo County dated 1859 depicts the location of both gristmills. The two Fuller brothers operated the property as a gristmill as, subsequently, did their two younger brothers, Edmund A. and Selden K. Fuller until 1894 when it was sold to Frank Banton and Ralph Wiggin.

By 1896, Banton and Wiggin were operating a "turning lathe" operation in this mill. The deed of purchase<sup>4</sup> when Banton sold his interest to Wiggin in that year included the rights of access to the upper reservoir dam for the purpose of repairing and maintaining it and controlling the water at and above the "turning lathe dam, so called." In 1907, Freedom Lumber Company, which was owned by George E. Bryant, Edward J. Vose and Samuel A. Bryant, purchased the mill. According to newspaper accounts in the Belfast Republican Journal, in 1908 a dynamo was installed to provide electric lights (believed to be the first electric lights in Freedom) that allowed nighttime operation, and in 1926, electricity was installed in the mill as a back-up power source. In 1927 the dam was rebuilt and at about the same time the power structure housed within the building's foundation was converted to a concrete powerhouse, and the wooden "tub" wheels, installed in the gristmill days, were replaced by iron turbines. In 1913, Freedom Lumber Company bought land across Sandy Stream for sawing bar stock, and in the late 1920's an extension of the mill (which collapsed and was removed in 1977) was built across Sandy Stream in front of the falls. This extension, along with a set of railroad tracks, served to allow easy access from the sawmill operation run by Freedom Lumber Company into the woodturning mill. The mill was operated by the Bryants and their heirs until taken in 1960 by the Town of Freedom for back taxes. The town sold the mill to Theodore Thompson who apparently ran the mill for another 7 years, but ultimately the operation failed, and the mill has been idle since.

Because John True and the Fuller brothers operated a number of mills in the area, no documentation has been found that refers to the mill as either the True Mill or the Fuller Mill, and Freedom Lumber Company operated the entire sawmill and woodturning complex, the preferred name for this listing is the Mill at Freedom Falls. This nomenclature will provide a clear reference for the mill both now and in the future.

#### 9. Major Bibliographical References

NPS Form 10-900

Name of Property

MILL AT FREEDOM FALLS

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

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- Banton Family Genealogy. Maine Historical Society, Portland, ME.
- Day, Clarence Albert. A History of Maine Agriculture. Orono, ME: University Press, 1954.
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- Gregory, J.B. Maine Register. Portland, ME, various dates.
- Historical Scrapbook Freedom, Maine 1794-1976-2000. Montville, ME: Hutchins Brothers, 2000.
- "History of the Town of Freedom." Belfast Republican Journal, Belfast, ME, August 1, 1889.
- Irland, Lloyd C. Maine's Forest Area, 1600-1995 Review of Available Estimates. University of Maine. Maine Agricultural and Forest Experiment Station, Miscellaneous Publication 736, February 1998.
- J. Chace Jr. & Co Publishers, Map of Waldo County Maine. Portland, ME, 1859.
- Laitin, Jon. "Old Freedom Mill Building Collapses, Exposing Long-Forgotten Scenic View." Belfast Republican Journal, Belfast, ME, March 17, 1977.

Land Records, Waldo County Registry of Deeds, Belfast, ME.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Waldo County Land Records, Book 246, Page 82 dated March 30, 1896.

Maresh, Isabel Morse. "Freedom: A Wilderness Almost Named 'Twinfield'." Belfast Republican Journal, Belfast, ME, August 2, 1990.

Federal Nonpopulation Censuses--Maine, 1850-1880 (Agricultural, Industrial and Social Statistics). Schedule 5, Products of Industry in the Town of Freedom in the County of Waldo, State of Maine 1850, 1860, 1870, 1880. Available on microfilm at the Maine State Archives, Augusta, Maine.

WALDO COUNTY, MAINE

County and State

Rivard, Paul E. Maine Sawmills, Augusta, ME: Maine State Museum, 1990.

Sibley, Persis. Diary. Maine Historical Society, Portland, ME.

"The Freedom Centennial." Belfast Republican Journal, Belfast, ME, June 19, 1913.

Wells, Walter. The Water Power of Maine. Augusta, ME: Sprague, Owen & Nash, 1869.

Varney, George J. Gazetteer of Maine. Boston, MA: B.B. Russell, 1881.

Vital Records of Freedom, ME. Camden, ME: Picton Press, 1991.

#### Websites

Mormon Church Genealogical Records. Accessed April 26, 2011. http://www.familysearch.org.

State of Maine. "Maine's Changing Facts." Accessed November 28, 2011. http://www.maine.gov/doc/mfs/woodswise/timeline.html.

Central Pacific Railroad. "The Belfast & Moosehead Lake Railroad." Accessed November 28, 2011. http://cprr.org/museum/bmlrr.

Corporation Records, State of Maine, Secretary of State, Bureau of Corporations, Augusta, ME. https://icrs.informe.org/nei-sos-icrs/ICRS?MainPage=x

#### Oral History

Interviews with Stephen & Hazel Cross (b.1921 and 1923, respectively), conducted by Anthony Grassi. Freedom, ME, November 12, 2009 and April 18, 2011. Recording of the latter in possession of the author

#### Drawings

Gartley & Dorsky Engineering and Surveying, Camden, Maine. "Anthony Grassi Mill Rehabilitation". Seven sheets, August 8, 2011. Photocopies and digital copies on file at the Maine Historic Preservation Commission, Augusta, Maine.

#### Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- X 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:

- x State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other Name of repository:

OMB No. 1024-0018

WALDO COUNTY, MAINE County and State

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):

#### 10. Geographical Data

#### Acreage of Property Approx. 0.5 acres

(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

#### **UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	19	476345	4930328	3	-			_
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing	
2				4				
-	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing	

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

Bounded to the north by the Town's apparent right-of-way along Mill Street, to the east by the eastern property boundary (between lots 10 and 12 on Map 11 of the Town of Freedom Assessor's maps), to the south by the southern stream edge across the river from the mill and to the west by the dam at Freedom Falls. The mill sits on Lot 12, Map 11, but currently shares that lot with a dwelling. On exercise of the option to purchase the mill, the mill will be on a newly created lot, leaving the existing house on two acres. See attached map indicating property boundaries.

#### Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

To the north and east, the boundary limit is set to reflect the current and historic property boundaries. To the South, the stream edge is chosen because there is no meaningful historical evidence of the sawmill operations on the south shore of the stream. To the West, the dam provides an obvious dividing line since title to a portion of the pond above will be held by a separate property owner.

#### 11. Form Prepared By

organization	date _December 2, 2011			
street & number 363 Belfast Rd	telephone _207-236-4663			
city or town Camden	state ME zip code 04843			

#### Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

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. Key all photographs to this map.

- **Continuation Sheets**
- Additional items: (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

(Expires 5/31/2012)

#### Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppl (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Name of Property: Mill at Freedom Falls

City or Vicinity: Freedom

County: Waldo

State: Maine

Photographer: Anthony P. Grassi

Dates Photographed: December 2011 (#'s 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, and 16.) October 2009 (# 4) November 2009 (# 7) April 2011 (#10)

#### Description of Photograph(s) and number:

1 of 16.	ME_Waldo County_Mill at Freedom Falls_0001.JPG Exterior; Looking west from Pleasant Street upstream toward east elevation of mil
2 of 16.	ME_Waldo County_Mill at Freedom Falls_0002.JPG Exterior; east elevation from eastern site boundary.
3 of 16.	ME_Waldo County_Mill at Freedom Falls_0003.JPG Exterior; looking north across Sandy Stream toward mill.
4 of 16.	ME_Waldo County_Mill at Freedom Falls_0004.JPG Exterior, south elevation of main building.
5 of 16.	ME_Waldo County_Mill at Freedom Falls_0005.JPG Exterior; mill foundation, south elevation.
6 of 16.	ME_Waldo County_Mill at Freedom Falls_0006.JPG Exterior; south foundation of mill and sluiceway.
7 of 16.	ME_Waldo County_Mill at Freedom Falls_0007.JPG Exterior; Dam and sluiceway from second floor of 1834 building.
8 of 16.	ME_Waldo County_Mill at Freedom Falls_0008.JPG Exterior; west elevation, looking at gable end of second ell addition
9 of 16.	ME_Waldo County_Mill at Freedom Falls_0009.JPG Exterior; north elevation of mill, facing south.
10 of 16.	ME_Waldo County_Mill at Freedom Falls_0011.JPG Interior; south foundation wall, facing south.
11 of 16.	ME_Waldo County_Mill at Freedom Falls_0011.JPG Interior; first floor, main mill, facing east.
12 of 16.	ME_Waldo County_Mill at Freedom Falls_0012.JPG Interior; first floor, main mill, facing north.

NPS Form 10-900 MILL AT FR Name of Proper	EEDOM FALLS	WALDO COUNTY, MAINE County and State	(Expires 5/31/2012)
13 of 16.	ME_Waldo County_Mill at Freedom Falls Interior; north shed addition, facin	_0013.JPG ng east.	
14 of 16.	ME_Waldo County_Mill at Freedom Falls, Interior; second floor, facing sout	_0014.JPG h.	
15 of 16.	ME_Waldo County_Mill at Freedom Falls Interior, second floor, facing west	_0015.JPG	
16 of 16.	ME_Waldo County_Mill at Freedom Falls Interior; gunstock post with Englis	_0016.JPG sh tie joint in northeast corner.	

Property Owner:	
(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPC	D.)
name	
street & number	telephone
city or town	state zip code

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate

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 18 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.

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Page 5

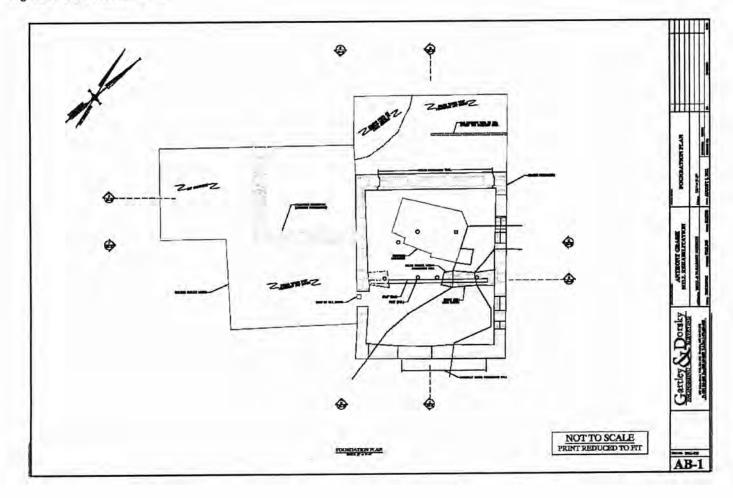
Name of Property MILL AT FREEDOM FALLS

County and State WALDO COUNTY, MAINE

Name of multiple property listing (if applicable)

Section number 7

Figure 1: Foundation Plan.



## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

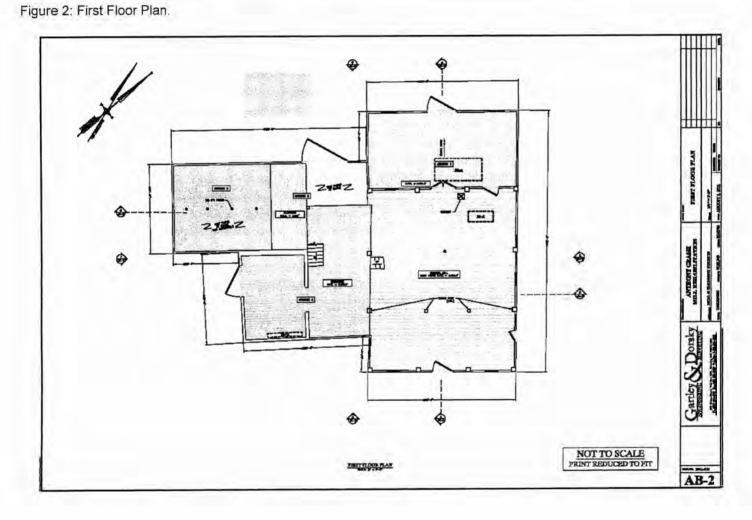
Page 6

Name of Property MILL AT FREEDOM FALLS

County and State WALDO COUNTY, MAINE

Name of multiple property listing (if applicable)

Section number 7



## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Page 7

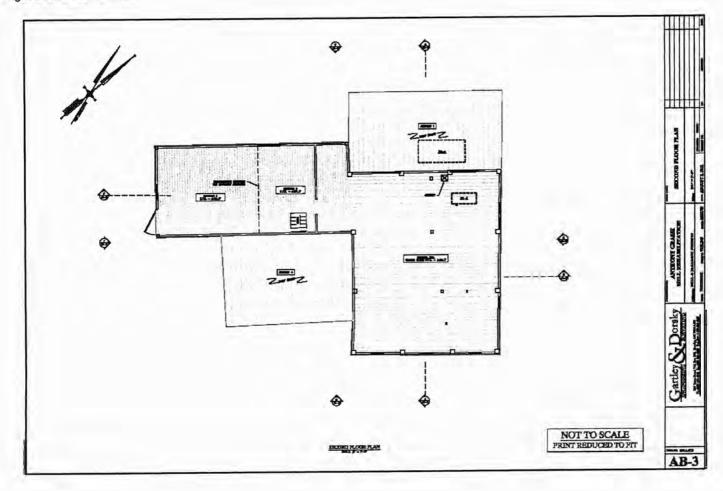
Name of Property MILL AT FREEDOM FALLS

County and State WALDO COUNTY, MAINE

Name of multiple property listing (if applicable)

Section number 7

Figure 3: Second Floor Plan.



## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Name of Property MILL AT FREEDOM FALLS

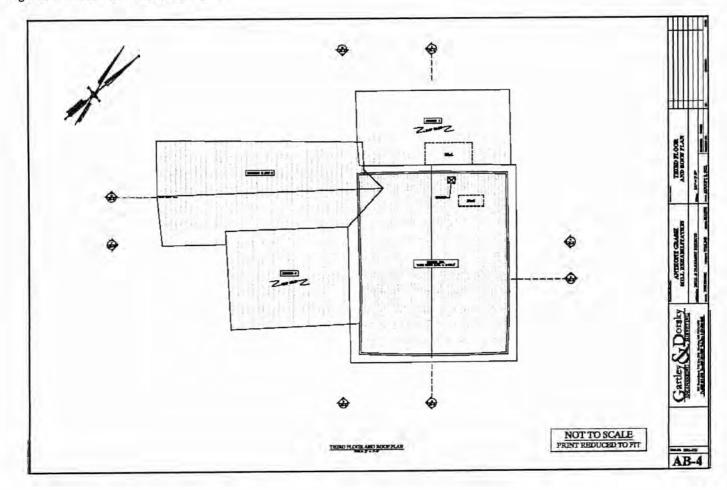
County and State WALDO COUNTY, MAINE

Name of multiple property listing (if applicable)

Section number 7

Page 8





### National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Name of Property MILL AT FREEDOM FALLS

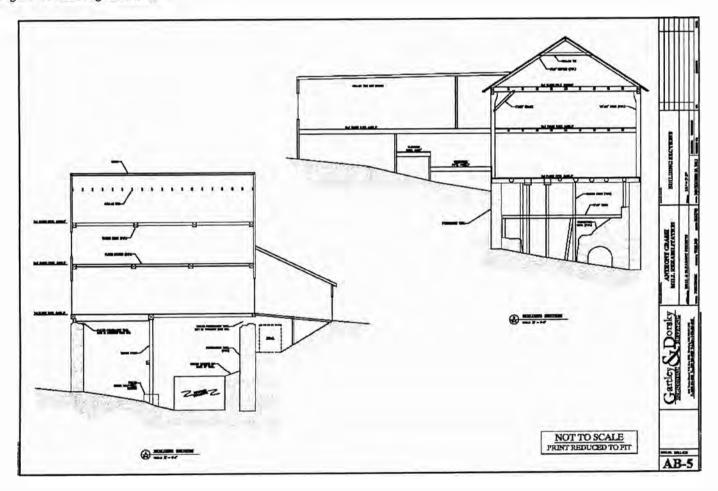
County and State WALDO COUNTY, MAINE

Name of multiple property listing (if applicable)

Section number 7

Page 9

Figure 5: Building Sections.



## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Name of Property MILL AT FREEDOM FALLS

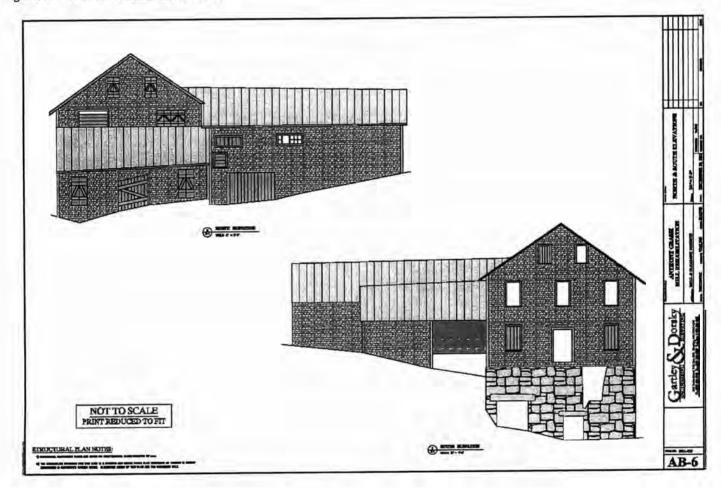
County and State WALDO COUNTY, MAINE

Name of multiple property listing (if applicable)

Section number 7

Page 10

Figure 6: North and South Elevations.



### National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Name of Property MILL AT FREEDOM FALLS

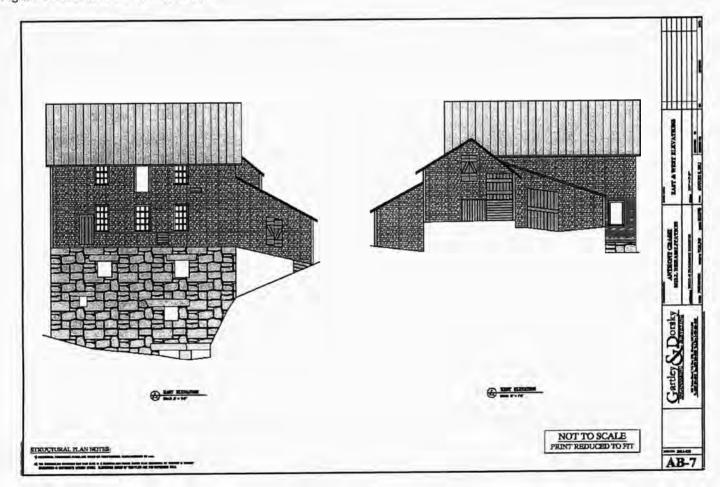
County and State WALDO COUNTY, MAINE

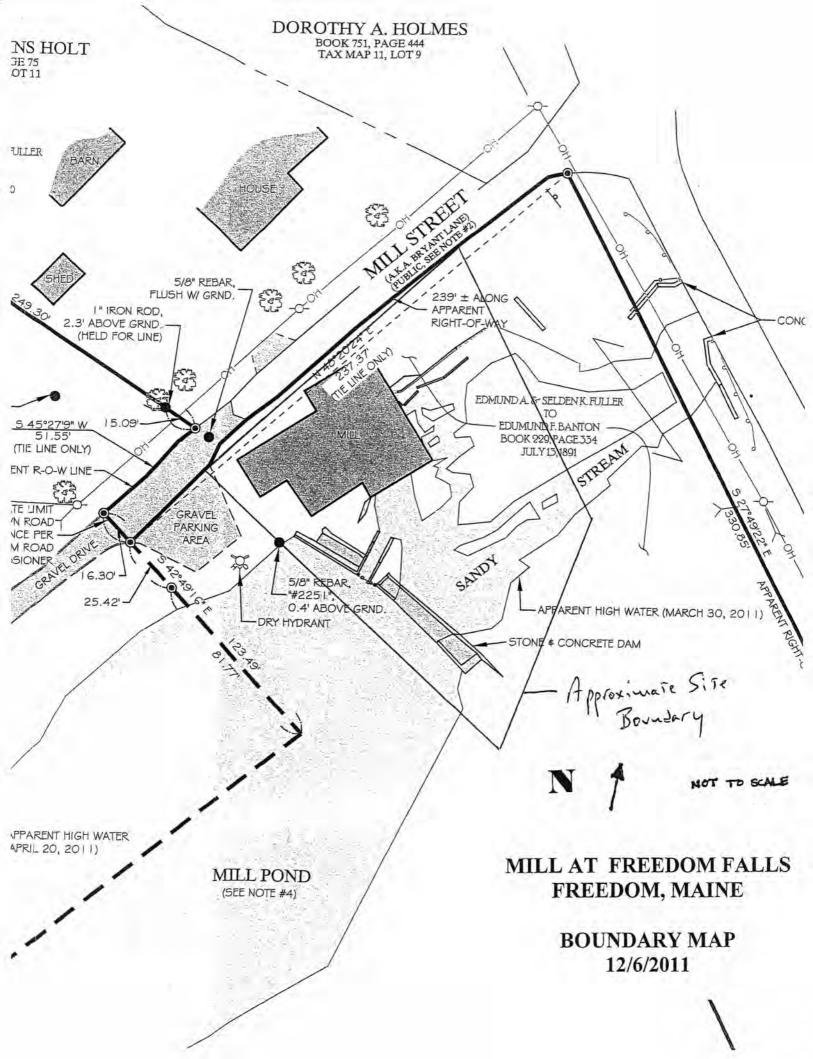
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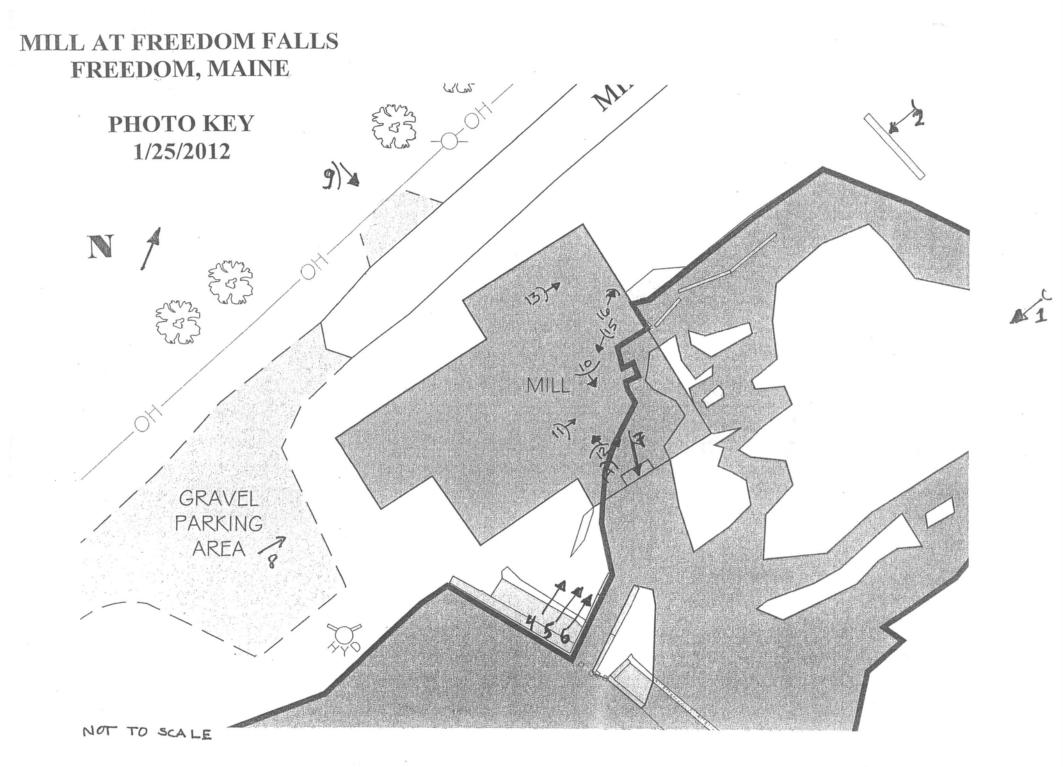
Section number 7

Page 11

Figure 7: East and West Elevations.







K3

#### UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Mill at Freedom Falls NAME:

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MAINE, Waldo

DATE RECEIVED: 3/09/12 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 4/02/12 DATE OF 16TH DAY: 4/17/12 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 4/25/12 DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 12000228

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL:	N	DATA PROBLEM:	N	LANDSCAPE:	Ν	LESS THAN 50 YEARS:	N
OTHER:	Y	PDIL:	N	PERIOD:	Ν	PROGRAM UNAPPROVED:	Ν
<b>REQUEST:</b>	N	SAMPLE:	Ν	SLR DRAFT:	N	NATIONAL:	N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

DATE REJECT ACCEPT RETURN ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS: isto 11-

RECOM. /CRITERIA	_ / , .
REVIEWER (IM RUL	_ DISCIPLINE KAST
TELEPHONE	DATE 4/19/12

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.





MILL AT FREEDOM FALLS ; WALDO CO., ME

20F16





MILL AT FREEDOM FALLS ; WALDO CO., ME 4 OF16

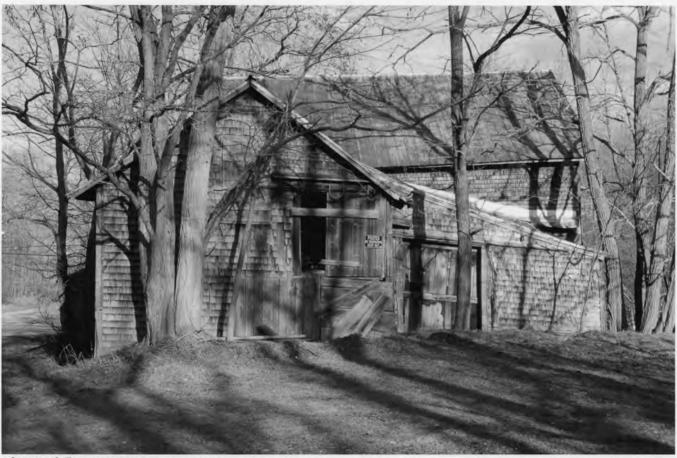


MILL AT FREEDOM FALLS; WALDO CO., ME





MILL AT FREEDOM FALLS ; WALDO CO., ME



MILL AT FREEDOM FALLS; WALDO CO., ME



MILL AT FREEDOM FALLS ; WALDO CO., ME







MILL AT FREEDOM FALLS; NALDO CO., ME







MILL AT FREEDOM FALLS ; WALDO CO., ME



### MILLAT FREEDOM FALLS ; WALDO CO., ME

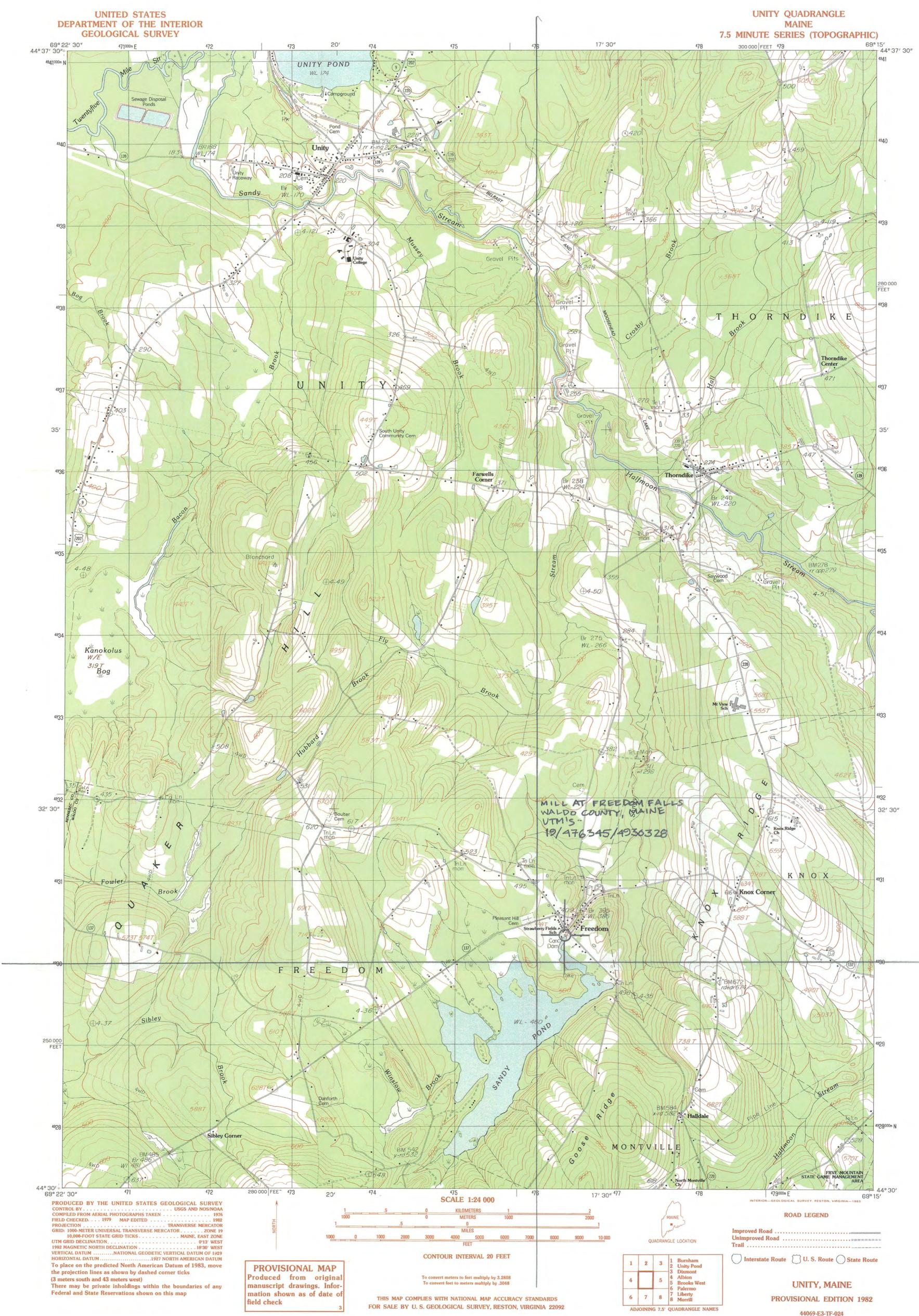


MILL AT FREEDOM FALLS; WALDO CO., ME

160=16

	10-301 UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT (1969) NATIONAL PARK S		state Maine	
	NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES		COUNTY	
			Waldo	
	PROPERTY MAP	FOR NPS USE ONLY		
	(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)		ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
1			APR	2 6 1973
1. 1	NAME		A110110	
	COMMON: Masonic Temple		AV A A	
Participant.	AND/OR HISTORIC:		NECEIVED 3	
100000000000000000000000000000000000000	OCATION		F JAN 20 TH	
	STREET AND NUMBER:		15 19/3 E	
	High Street (U.S. Route 1)		17 NATIONAL FO	
	CITY OR TOWN:		REGISTER A	
1	Belfast			
	STATE:	CODE COUNT	VI ETTETTET	COD
	Maine	23	Waldo	02
3. N	AP REFERENCE			
	SOURCE:			
	U.S. Department of the Interio	or Geological	Survey	
	SCALE: 1:24000	Belfast Qu	adrangle	
	DATE: 1960	7.5 Minute		
4. R	REQUIREMENTS			
	TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS			
	1. Property broundaries where required.			
	2. North arrow.			
1				

- A.





#### MAINE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION 55 CAPITOL STREET 65 STATE HOUSE STATION AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333 RECEIVED 2280

MAR 09 2012 NAT PEDISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

EARLE G. SHETTLEWORTH, JR. DIRECTOR

5 March 2012

Keeper of the National Register National Park Service 2280 National Register of Historic Places 1201 "I" (Eye) Street, NW, Washington D.C. 20005

To Whom It May Concern:

Enclosed please find four (4) new National Register nominations for properties located in the State of Maine:

Frank C. Frisbee Elementary School, School, York County Waterboro Grange #432, York County Mill at Freedom Falls, Waldo County Montville Town House, Waldo County

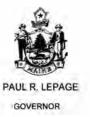
If you have any questions relating to these nomination, please do not hesitate to contact me at (207) 787-2132 x 2.

Sincerely,

Chinata G. Unteley

Christi A. Mitchell Architectural Historian

Enc.



MAINE HISTORIC PRESERVATION CON 55 CAPITOL STREET	RECEIVED 2280
65 STATE HOUSE STATION AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333	APR 27 2012

NAT. REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

SHETTLEWORTH, JR. DIRECTOR

23 April 2012

Lisa Deline, Historian National Park Service National Register of Historic Places 1201 I Street NW, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor (MS2280) Washington, DC 20005

Re: Mill at Freedom Falls, Waldo County, Maine

Dear Lisa,

Enclosed please find a CD containing the National Register nomination photographs for the Mill at Freedom Falls, in Waldo County, Maine. These have been saved in a .tif format, as per your e-mail request of April 13, 2012.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

G mild

Christi A. Mitchell Architectural Historian