

DH0690783

# DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED MAY 3 1976

DATE ENTERED JUL 12 1976

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

### 1 NAME

HISTORIC

*M*  
Dorn's Flour and Grist Mill

AND/OR COMMON

### 2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER  
~~Highway~~ 28

— NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

McCormick

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

#3

— VICINITY OF

STATE

South Carolina

CODE

045

COUNTY

McCormick

CODE

065

### 3 CLASSIFICATION

#### CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

#### OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE

BOTH

#### PUBLIC ACQUISITION

- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

#### STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS

#### ACCESSIBLE

- YES: RESTRICTED (exterior)
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

#### PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERICAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER:

### 4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Jennings Gary Dorn

STREET & NUMBER

Calhoun St.

CITY, TOWN

McCormick

— VICINITY OF

STATE

South Carolina

### 5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

McCormick County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

McCormick

STATE

South Carolina

### 6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Inventory of Historic Places in South Carolina

DATE

1973 (update)

— FEDERAL  STATE — COUNTY — LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

S.C. Department of Archives & History

CITY, TOWN

Columbia

STATE

South Carolina

## 7 DESCRIPTION

### CONDITION

—EXCELLENT

—GOOD

FAIR

—DETERIORATED

—RUINS

—UNEXPOSED

### CHECK ONE

—UNALTERED

ALTERED  
(minor)

### CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE

—MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

(sections deteriorated)

### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Dorn's Flour and Grist Mill is a 2½-story red brick structure with projecting one-story wings. Constructed ca. 1898 as a cotton gin, the mill is an outstanding example of rural industrial architecture. The extant steam engines and boilers date from the period when the building was used as a cotton gin, but the grist mill equipment dates from the 1920s.

Stepped parapets are incorporated on both one and two story sections. The corners of the building are further supported by angle buttresses. Wide-gabled dormers on both the east and west facades project from the standing-seam tin roof. Dominant feature of the exterior is a three-story brick wall of cross-shaped plan which was built in 1915 to support a water tower. The tower provided back-up pressure for the boilers in case the steam water ejector pump failed. The tank has since fallen from its support, thereby causing extensive damage to the west wing (photo # 3).<sup>2</sup>

From the railroad siding on the north side of the mill, hopper cars were loaded with grain and corn. A wooden channel extended from the 2nd floor of the elevator through the wall and over the siding (photos # 1 and # 8). The exterior portion of this channel has since collapsed.

Exterior door and window openings are surmounted by segmental brick arches of two and three header courses. Window sashes are six-over-six lights, all of which are either missing or badly deteriorated.

The interior of the mill is its most salient feature. It is divided into five rooms on the first floor with two rooms in the upper section of the elevator. The structural system consists of 12" x 12" columns with chamfered edges supporting ceiling joists of the same dimensions. The exterior brick walls are load bearing, and all of the interior framework is exposed.

The southeast room houses the power plant for the mill: two one-cylinder steam engines and their boilers. These engines provided a source of power which was reliable, easily regulated, and cheap to operate (photo # 11). Dorn's Mill utilized wood chips from a local lumber yard for fuel. Both the steam engines and their boilers are intact, but the roof in this area of the building is deteriorating due to the collapse of the boiler exhaust stacks (photos # 2 and # 5).

The principal room of the mill is located on the first floor of the elevator section. In this area are located two large mill stones encased in a wooden platform, various pulleys and belts encased in wooden shafts (photo # 10), the grain cleaners (photo 12), and the sacking machinery (photo # 7). The majority of this equipment is not encased, thereby exposing the thousands of mechanical components. The equipment that is enclosed is encased in wooden housings exhibiting fine quality mouldings and craftsmanship (photo # 4). The second floor features a flour dresser which separated the different grades of flour, and a corn cleaner which removed objects from the corn (photo # 9).

The shed room located east of the elevator housed the cotton oil machinery. The south wall of this room has collapsed, thus exposing the intricate machinery to the weather. The room west of the elevator contains six grain storage bins, but the roof is deteriorating due to the collapse of the water tank (photo # 6).

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

At one time many small towns throughout rural America utilized the services of mills similar to Dorn's Mill in McCormick, South Carolina. With the development of a more complex mill technology, many of these mills disappeared. Dorn's Mill is significant as one of only a few such mills still standing--its steam engines, boilers, and most of its machinery still intact.

Peter Cousins, Curator of Agriculture at Greenfield Village and Henry Ford Museum says: "Dorn's Mill represents the rural locally based grist mill in adaptation to the new technology of milling. The irony, of course, is that the complexity and cost of modern milling led to the concentration of the industry...and the ultimate demise of small mills in other areas--such as Dorn's."<sup>1</sup>

The actual construction date for Dorn's Mill is not known; however, there is evidence of its being built ca. 1898. Deeds are available which indicate a sale from a Mrs. McCormick to McCormick Enterprise Ginnery, Co. (1898). In 1899 the property was purchased by the McCormick Cotton Oil Company; in 1902 by the Anderson Phosphate Company. In 1914 the "oil mill and ginnery plant" were sold to the Farmers Gin Co. In 1917 this property was conveyed to M.G. Dorn, J.S. Dorn, and Preston Findley who formed the Dorn-Findley Corporation. Its general purpose was to "operate, conduct and carry on an oil mill, cotton gin and grist mill."<sup>2</sup> In the mid 1920s the Dorns hired a mill wright to put in the present corn and wheat machinery as well as a hammer mill.

The mill operated throughout the years and ground commercial corn meal for sale in local and country stores, flour from wheat for local farmers (not for commercial sale) and chicken and animal feed.

The mill required one person to fire the boilers and operate the machinery. The boilers were fired with wood shavings brought by wagon from the planer mill and dumped through the large doors into the boiler room. Another person handled the milling operation--weighing farmer's grain, grinding and sacking commercial meal, etc.

The mill closed in the 1940s.

<sup>1</sup>Letter from Peter H. Cousins, Curator of Agriculture, Greenfield Village & Henry Ford Museum, March 26, 1976.

<sup>2</sup>Authorization of Incorporation--Dorn-Findley Corporation, May 21, 1917.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

McCormick County Deeds

Information received from J.G.Dorn

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than an acre

UTM REFERENCES

A	1 7	3 8 0 1 2 0	3 7 5 3 1 2 0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C			

B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

(Ruth LaForge: Upper Savannah Regional Planner)

NAME / TITLE

Staff-Historic Preservation Division

ORGANIZATION

S. C. Department of Archives & History

DATE

4/8/76

STREET & NUMBER

1430 Senate Street

TELEPHONE

(803) 758-5816

CITY OR TOWN

Columbia

STATE

South Carolina

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE

Charles E. Lee

DATE

April 19, 1976

State Historic Preservation Officer

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Acting

DATE

7/12/76

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

6-25-76

RECEIVER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

RBR for WJM 7/8/76

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE one

Mr. Vaughn Smith of the Powerhouse Museum in St. Matthews, S.C. comments on the importance of the Mill:

"this mill is to my knowledge the only steam powered mill of this type extant in South Carolina...Water power mills are quite common but for some reason steam mills just do not exist...I cannot emphasize the importance not only to your community but to industrial archeology as a whole, of preserving this example of turn of the century rural industry."<sup>3</sup>

Mr. Cousins also states:

"Not only unique because of its steam power source, the mill is quite interesting because it represents a stage in the history of milling technology which so far has received little interest from preservationists."<sup>4</sup>

Mr. Dorn, the present owner of the mill wishes to see it recognized and restored.

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE: Dorn's Mill is an outstanding example of rural industrial architecture. Noteworthy features include massive load-bearing brick walls terminating in stepped parapets, bold segmental arches, and excellent interior carpentry.

3

Letter from Vaughn Smith, Powerhouse Museum, St. Matthews, S.C., November 13, 1975.

4

Letter from Peter Cousins.