

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Tennessee	
COUNTY: Franklin	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
FEB 23 1972	

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
Falls Mill (Congressman Joe L. Evins)

AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Old Salem Community

CITY OR TOWN:  
Huntland vic. (1 mile S of U.S. 64)

STATE Tennessee	CODE 47	COUNTY: Franklin	CODE 051
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**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/> Comments

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
Mr. and Mrs. Woodrow W. Crum

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Huntland	STATE: Tennessee	CODE 47
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**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Franklin County Register's Office

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Court House

CITY OR TOWN: Winchester	STATE: Tennessee	CODE 47
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**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

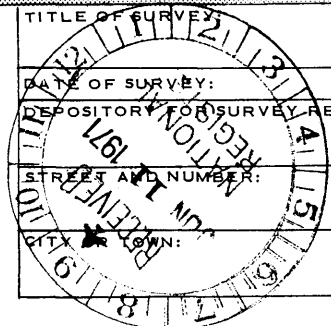
TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY:  Federal  State  County  Local

REPOSITORY OF SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:	CODE:
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Tennessee	COUNTY: Franklin	ENTRY NUMBER 051	DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

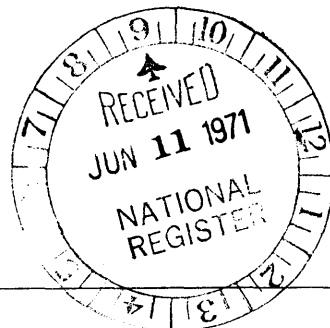
Falls Mill is located in a picturesque setting along Factory Creek and amid a variety of trees. Being over one mile from the main highway, it escapes the noise of passing vehicles.

Shortly after 1800 a mill was built on this site, which was in the center of a cotton-growing region. This mill was destroyed by fire and the present building was constructed in 1873 by Robert Man and Ezariah David for the manufacture of woolen material and coarse cloth. The bricks for the sturdy and impressive three-story building were made on the premises. The exterior side walls of the recessed third floor are covered with wood siding. There are eleven windows on the front, seven on the back, and twenty one on the sides. A small frame room is built on the rear of the building next to the water wheel. The structural wooden timbers were put together with pegs.

The mill operated on a 24-hour per day basis with the entire labor force being women. On the second level the floor was worn completely through in some places by the constant pacing back and forth to operate the machines. The mill ceased operation in 1896 and was vacant until 1903 when a cotton gin began operation and continued until 1942. Six years later a wood products operation was attempted, but did not prove successful. The building remained unused until 1970. At this time, W. W. Crum, a retired Army officer who had worked at a mill which his father had owned, bought the mill. This ended a long search on his part to find an old mill which he could operate. He now owned a mill and water wheel for power, but no milling machinery. The 34-foot metal overshoot wheel, one of the largest in operation anywhere, replaced a wooden one in 1907. The wheel creates 100 horsepower in its 3 revolutions per minute, furnishing power to the 42-inch grinding stones. These stones, made in France, were bought in Paint Rock Valley, Alabama, by Mr. Crum. He purchased most of the equipment necessary for the mill's operation - mixers, sifters, and elevators - in the sale of the Old Boiling Fork Mill at Winchester. This mill, after 139 years of continuous grinding, was forced to cease operation because of the construction of Tims Ford Dam and Reservoir.

Falls Mill received its name from the beautiful falls on Factory Creek just above the mill, from which the water in the mill race turns the wheel.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



**6. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian     16th Century     18th Century     20th Century  
 15th Century     17th Century     19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |   |  |  |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal          | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input type="checkbox"/> Political           | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric         | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other - (Specify) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Industry    | <input type="checkbox"/> Science             | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture         | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture           | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture        | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater             | _____  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation      | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications      | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation        |   |  |  |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Falls Mill is significant because it represents the water-driven mills which played a very important part in the lives of the people of rural areas in the eighteenth, nineteenth, and early twentieth centuries. Once numerous throughout the countryside, they are rapidly disappearing, many having been destroyed by fire or demolition while others have given way to electrically-powered plants.

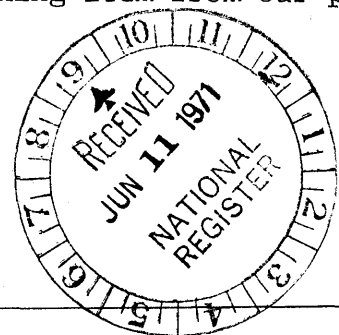
Farmers would drive many miles to have their corn and wheat ground, often spending the night. Since money was a limited commodity, it was customary for the miller to keep part of the meal and flour he ground as payment for his services. Aside from performing a necessary task for the farmer, the mill was a good place to meet and visit with neighbors.

At Falls Mill, during its use as a cotton gin, farmers would form long lines, sometimes waiting two or three days to have their cotton processed.

Mr. Crum has revived this important facet of early rural life, and in doing so has not only played the role of preservationist, but has aided the economy of the area. Operating eight hours a day, five days a week, the mill can produce 8,000 pounds of meal or 12 barrels of flour per day. In addition, Falls Mill has become an important tourist attraction of the area since its opening a year and a half ago. More than 3,000 tourists have registered since that time.

An operating water-driven mill is becoming harder and harder to find in Tennessee, and Falls Mill certainly is worthy of preservation as an excellent example of this vanishing item from our past.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Comstock, Patty, "Falls Mill," Tennessee Magazine, Vol. 14, No. 4 (April, 1971) pp. 6, 7, 21.  
 Kent, Kay, "Picturesque Old Mill Weathers Winds of Time," Huntsville, Ala., News, July 28, 1969.  
 Sons, Charles, "Ancient Mill Runs in Modern Time," Nashville Banner, May 6, 1970.  
 Personal interview with Mr. W. W. Crum, May 21, 1971.

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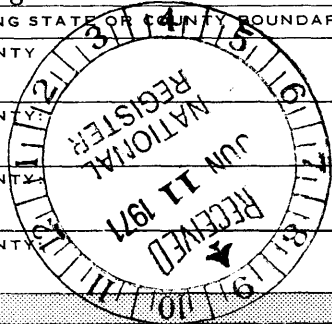
**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	° ' "	° ' "		35°	05'	55"
NE	° ' "	° ' "		86°	15'	42"
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 8

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



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**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
Herbert L. Harper, Director of Field Services

ORGANIZATION: Tennessee Historical Commission      DATE: 6/2/71

STREET AND NUMBER:  
403 7th Avenue, North

CITY OR TOWN: Nashville      STATE: Tennessee      CODE: 47

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

**NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National       State       Local

Name: Stephen S. Lawrence  
 Title: Executive Director  
Tennessee Historical Commission  
 Date: 6/2/71

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Ernest A. Connelly  
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation  
 FEB 23 1972

Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 ATTEST:  
for Bradford  
 Keeper of The National Register  
 Date: Jan. 17, 1972

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

APR 28 1987

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 and 10 Page 2 Falls Mill

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A dam and mill race associated with the mill were not mentioned in the original nomination. However, since the size and legal boundaries of the property tract have not been altered since the date of the nomination, the dam and mill race should have been included as a contributing resource. In addition, the boundaries were not specified. Although the nomination mentioned eight acres, the legal boundaries of the tract include 7-10 acres. (See map) on map 103 parcel 28.

4/28/87

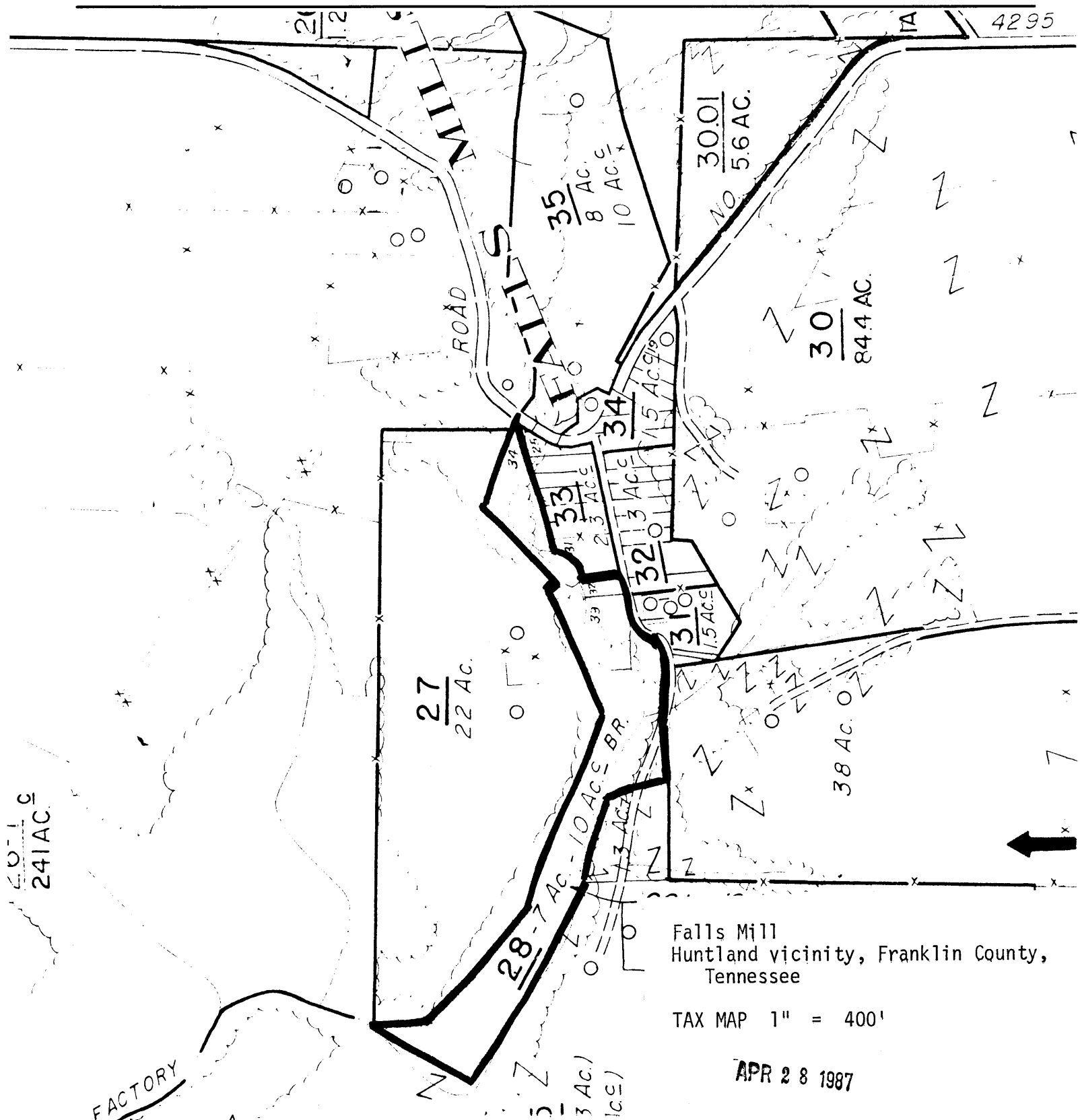
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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 2

Falls Mill



Falls Mill  
Huntland vicinity, Franklin County,  
Tennessee

TAX MAP 1" = 400'

APR 28 1987

4/28/87

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_ Falls Mill Franklin County, TN

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

~~Substantive Review~~

Keeper

Signature/Date

*Amy Schmalz* 6/4/87