

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

For NPS use only

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received NOV 14 1984  
date entered JAN 10 1985

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

**1. Name**

historic Ledfords Mill

and/or common same

**2. Location**

street & number Ledford Mill Road, of Shipman's Creek Road N/A not for publication

city, town Tullahoma  vicinity of

state Tennessee code 47 county Moore code 127

**3. Classification**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<u>N/A</u> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> other:
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	

**4. Owner of Property**

name William R. and Norma L. Rigler

street & number Route 2, Box 152

city, town Wartrace N/A vicinity of state Tennessee 37183

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Moore County Court House

street & number Town Square

city, town Lynchburg state Tennessee 37352

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Moore County Survey has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1979  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Tennessee Historical Commission

city, town Nashville state TN 37203

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## 7. Description

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<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	XX <input type="checkbox"/> original site
XX <input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	XX <input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved    date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

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### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Situated in the northeast corner of Moore County, Ledfords Mill, constructed in 1884, is a small frame turbine grist mill located on its original site on Shipman's Creek, a tributary of the Duck River, about ten miles north of the Moore County seat of Lynchburg and three miles west of the Coffee County city of Tullahoma. The two-and-one-half story weatherboarded frame structure is set on piers above the south side of the creek and is topped by a gambrel roof. Although abandoned for almost twenty years, the mill has been rehabilitated; the millworks have been repaired and missing parts replaced, and the mill returned to operating condition.

The mill is located on the south side of a deep ravine below a twenty-five foot waterfall of Shipman's Creek. The stone mill dam is built across the top of the falls, providing a drop to the mill of about thirty feet. Shipman's Creek Road passes in front of the mill on the western edge of the six-acre property. Across the creek a two hundred foot shale bluff marks the eastern edge. The entire area is covered with mature native trees such as hickories, maples, and ashes.

The mill is a two-and-one-half story weatherboarded frame structure approximately thirty feet by thirty-five in dimension. The front rests on a shale ledge and the rest of the structure is supported by masonry pillars. The mill is topped with a double-pitched gambrel roof of standing-seam tin, an unusual design for the region.

The mill is a rather plain frame structure. The main front faces west to Shipman's Creek Road. A simple wooden paneled door in the center of the middle level opens onto a wooden deck. To its right is a small 1/1 sash window with a vertical-batten shutter; a second small window is centered above the door of the upper level. On the south side three 1/1 windows are evenly spaced across each of the lower two levels. A paired set of 1/1 windows occupies the rear opening on the middle level. The north or opposite side features only single 1/1 sash windows centered on each of the two primary levels. The east or rear of the building faces the bluff and is not visible from the road; a wooden deck on the lower level and a small wooden balcony were constructed on this side during the previous renovation. The upper level on this side is clad in vertical wooden siding.

The mill works are powered by a turbine. The flume is a twenty-four inch riveted iron pipe that carries water down the ravine from the masonry dam at the head of the falls. The lower floor contains the mill machinery to turn the run of stones, located on the middle level, as well as the conveyor belts to move the whole corn to storage and the ground corn to the bolter, and to the storage area on the upper floor. Milling operations took place on the middle level, as did the packaging.

The mill dam is located about seventy-five feet upstream at the top of the waterfall. The dam is about one hundred feet wide, of stone and masonry construction, roughly twelve feet high; part of the dam was reconstructed during the previous renovation and the structure was reinforced by three masonry buttresses. The deep mill pond above extends about two hundred feet. Although these features are extant, their ownership is in dispute and therefore we are unable to include them in the National Register nomination at this time.

# 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 type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input 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**      1884      **Builder/Architect**      Stanford Ledford

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

Ledfords Mill is being nominated under National Register criteria B and C for its local significance to Moore County, Tennessee, in architecture and local history. The turbine-powered grist mill is the only operating mill in Moore County, and a rare survivor of its type in south central Tennessee. Operations at the site may date to 1865; the present structure replaces an earlier mill and was constructed by Stanford Ledford about 1880. The mill is located in a most spectacular and beautiful setting, at the base of a deep ravine below a twenty-five foot waterfall of Shipman's Creek. The two-and-one-half story gambrel-roofed frame building rests on cut stone and concrete piers on the south bank of the stream about eighty feet below the buttressed stone dam and millpond above the falls. After long abandonment, the mill has been rehabilitated and will soon be returned to regular operation.

The mill was built about 1880 by Stanford Ledford on the same site of an earlier mill that had been destroyed by fire. The mill ground wheat and corn for local inhabitants and legal distilleries in the area; at least five such operations were located nearby in the late nineteenth century. Some grain was hauled by two-mule wagons to the Shelbyville railroad depot for shipment.

Ledford built a frame home above the mill pond and raised a family of seven. The mill continued in operation until the end of World War II, closing in 1946. The house was abandoned in the late 1940s and later burned.

Tullahoma businessman Earl Shahan purchased the property in 1969 and renovated the mill for a hobby and summer cottage. In 1981, the mill, water rights, and five acres were purchased by William R. and Norma L. Rigler for the purpose of its restoration, over a period of time, as an operating mill.

Rehabilitation has proved a major task. Most of the floor boards were rotten, the turbine was frozen with rust, and much of the milling machinery was missing. A destroyed section of the dam wall rebuilt and the entire structure reinforced. Three hundred truckloads of sediment were removed from the mill pond. Sills, floors, and missing doors were replaced where necessary. Elevator belts were acquired from a mill at Fairfield near Wartrace, and the bolter and belts are from the Cortner Mill near Normandy.

Architecturally, the structure is interesting for its gambrel roof, multi-level construction, and restrained decoration. The millworks have been restored and the original scales and toll-box repurchased. Ledfords Mill is the only operating mill in Moore County and one of the most interesting examples of the uncommon turbine type mill in the region.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Rawlins, Wade. "Millstones to Keep on Grinding - Old Mill to Have New Role as Museum, Inn". Tempo (Lakeway Publications), May 1984, 10-16.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 5.05 acres

Quadrangle name Normandy, Tennessee

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A 

116	565720	3917810
Zone	Easting	Northing

B 

Zone	Easting	Northing

C 

Zone	Easting	Northing

D 

Zone	Easting	Northing

E 

Zone	Easting	Northing

F 

Zone	Easting	Northing

G 

Zone	Easting	Northing

H 

Zone	Easting	Northing

**Verbal boundary description and justification** The nominated property is irregular in shape and bounded on the east by Shipman's Creek and on the north, west and south by adjoining property lines. This includes all the property historically associated with Ledfords Mill excluding the dam and mill pond.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title William R. Rigler - Property Owner  
Richard Quin - Historic Preservation Planner

organization South Central TN Development District date August 1984  
Box 152 Route 2 (615) 455-8897  
street & number P.O. Box 1346 telephone (615) 381-2040

city or town Wartrace state Tennessee 37183  
Columbia state Tennessee 38401

## 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.

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer signature Herbert L. Huger

title Executive Director, Tennessee Historical Commission date 10/30/84

For NPS use only

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

Entered in the National Register

date 1/10/85

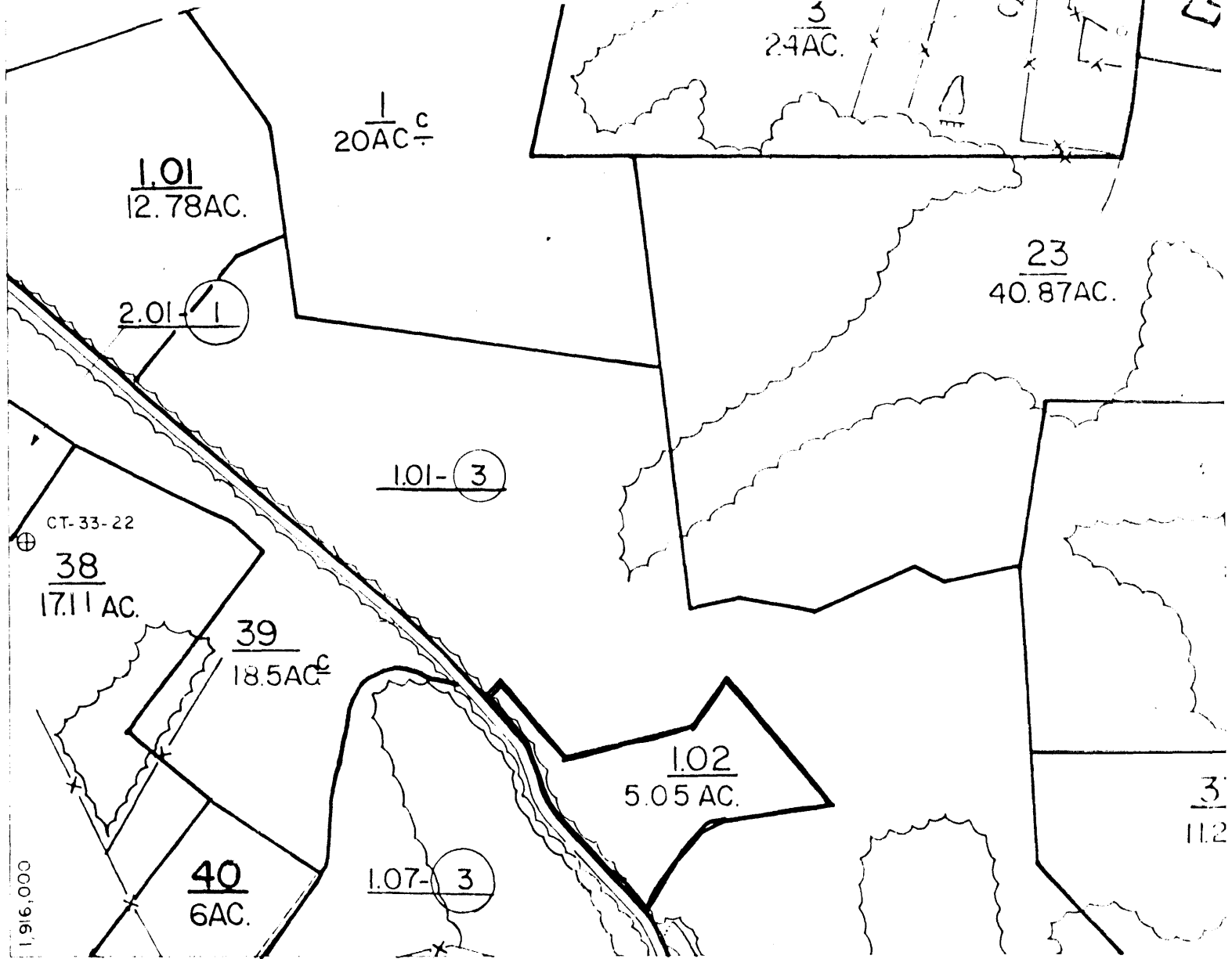
for [Signature]  
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

A



Ledfords Mill  
 Ledford Mill Road of Shipman's Creek Rd.  
 Vicinity of Tullahoma, Moore County, TN

TENNE: TAX MAP 1" = 400'

TENNESSEE MAPPING AND ENGINEERING SERVICE, INC.  
 NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

WILLIAMS-STACKHOUSE AND ASSOCIATES  
 AN AMARILLO, TEXAS

