

PH0097629

# DATA SHEET

Form 10-300  
(Rev. 6-72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

|                  |             |
|------------------|-------------|
| STATE:           | IOWA        |
| COUNTY:          | BUCHANAN    |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY |             |
| ENTRY DATE       | APR 21 1975 |

### 1. NAME

COMMON:  
**Wapsipinicon Mill**

AND/OR HISTORIC:

### 2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**100 First Street West**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Independence**

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:  
**Third**

STATE: **Iowa**      CODE: **14**      COUNTY: **Buchanan**      CODE: **019**

### 3. CLASSIFICATION

| CATEGORY<br>(Check One)   | OWNERSHIP   | STATUS   | ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC   |
|---|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building<br><input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure<br><input type="checkbox"/> Object | <input type="checkbox"/> Public<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private<br><input type="checkbox"/> Both   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied<br><input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied<br><input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress            | Yes:<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted<br><input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted<br><input type="checkbox"/> Not around working machinery |
| PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)  |   |  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial<br><input type="checkbox"/> Educational<br><input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment             | <input type="checkbox"/> Government<br><input type="checkbox"/> Industrial<br><input type="checkbox"/> Military<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum | <input type="checkbox"/> Park<br><input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence<br><input type="checkbox"/> Religious<br><input type="checkbox"/> Scientific | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation<br><input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)  |

### 4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:  
**Oliver M. Greenley**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**100 Twelfth Avenue NE**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Independence**

STATE: **Iowa**      CODE: **14**

### 5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
**Buchanan County Courthouse**

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Independence**

STATE: **Iowa**      CODE: **14**

### 6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

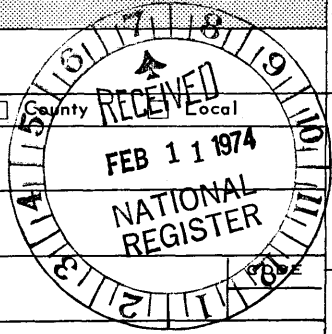
DATE OF SURVEY:       Federal       State       County       Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:

COUNTY:

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

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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 type="checkbox"/> Altered   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered | <input type="checkbox"/> Moved | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site |                                |                                    |

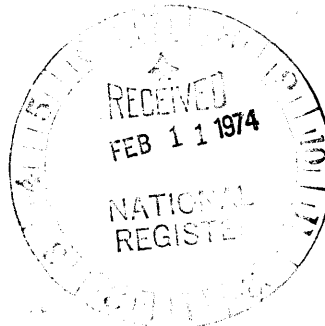
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Wapsipinicon Mill is a five story graduated basilica form structure with round and segmental arched windows, bracketed roof, a stone foundation and brick walls. The fine masonry work and classic design distinguish this mill building from others of less imposing scale and less durable materials.

Dimensions are 112 feet (long) x 62 feet (wide) x 102 feet (high).

Originally intended as a woolen mill, the Wapsi Mill, as it is called locally, still houses a water wheel, an old stone burr mill and wooden augurs, once used to carry flour to sackers.

Part of the foundation belonged to an earlier (1854) structure. Today the Wapsi Mill stands unaltered from its construction in 1867 and is still in use for livestock feeds.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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RECEIVED APR 08 1975

DATE ENTERED APR 21 1975

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This mill, although over 100 years old, still retains its machinery, much of it in working order. Some of the machines still to be found in the mill include:

1. A cleaner through which corn was run to produce "pearl corn meal". Similar machines were used to make buckwheat flour, cracked corn meal and regular wheat flour.
2. A cleaner-separator which removed hulls and other materials from wheat.
3. A burr mill which once used power provided by a water wheel to grind flour.
4. The pulley mechanism---part of which is still in use.
5. A grading machine used to separate different types of grain.

**6. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

|  |                                       |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century            | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century  | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century |                                       |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1854 and 1867**

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Historic     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Industry    |  | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Science             | _____                                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture           | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater             | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation      | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            |   |  | _____                                    |

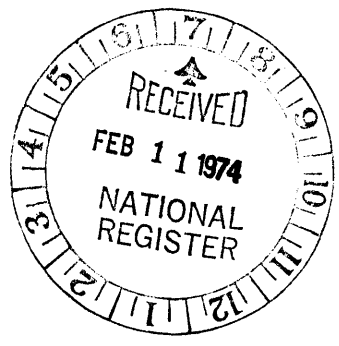
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Built in 1867 the imposing Wapsipinicon Mill is still in use and in good condition. Much interest has been expressed for its preservation and in the words of a local citizen, "This is one of the oldest buildings in Independence and is still structurally sound. Independence has had the misfortune to lose older buildings either to fire or the bulldozer and we need to keep this historic site for future generations to enjoy."

An earlier mill building (1854) was built on the site and parts of its foundation were used for this 1867 structure. Originally named the New Haven Mills, the Wapsi Mill was intended as a woolen mill. It was owned and operated by Sanford Clark and Samuel Sherwood, local entrepreneurs responsible for the expansion to a feed mill in 1867.

In 1915 the Wapsi Mill secretly provided electricity for a local hotel for lower than city electricity rates. Upon discovery of the mill's capacity to produce electricity, the City of Independence used this facility as a source for the entire city. The mill even then and for another 25 years continued to accommodate the needs of livestock feeders and the city's electric power units both.



**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Centennial Publication - 125 Years of Buchanan County History  
 History of Buchanan County, Iowa. (1881) pages 54, 149, 300  
 Chappell, Harry C. and Katharyn J. Chappell, History of Buchanan County,  
 Iowa and Its People, Volume I, pages 81, 82, 260  
 Swisher, Jacob A., Iowa: Land of Many Mills. Iowa City: State Historical  
 Society of Iowa, 1940.

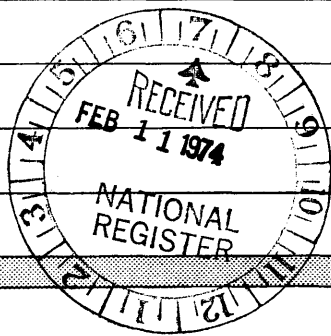
**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

| LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES<br>DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY |                         |                         | O<br>R | LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES<br>DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY<br>OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES |           |         |
|--|-------------------------|-------------------------|--------|---|-----------|---------|
| CORNER   | LATITUDE                | LONGITUDE               |        | LATITUDE  | LONGITUDE |         |
|  | Degrees Minutes Seconds | Degrees Minutes Seconds |        | Degrees   | Minutes   | Seconds |
| NW   | ° ' "                   | ° ' "                   |        | °   | '         | "       |
| NE   | ° ' "                   | ° ' "                   |        | 42  | 28        | 05      |
| SE   | ° ' "                   | ° ' "                   |        | 91  | 53        | 43      |
| SW   | ° ' "                   | ° ' "                   |        |   |           |         |

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1/10' x 1/10' less than 1 acre

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

| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY  | CODE |
|--------|------|---------|------|
| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY: | CODE |
| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY: | CODE |
| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY: | CODE |



**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE: Mrs. Leanne Harrison, President

ORGANIZATION: Buchanan County Historical Society DATE: July 1972

STREET AND NUMBER: 604 Fifth Avenue SW

CITY OR TOWN: Independence STATE: Iowa CODE: 14

**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 Adrian D. Anderson

Title Historic Preservation Officer

Date February 4, 1974

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

A. R. Ruortensen  
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 4/21/75

ATTEST:

Charles A. Herring  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date 4.18.75

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