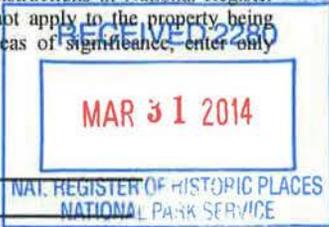


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

238

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

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.



### 1. Name of Property

Historic name: Plains Mill

Other names/site number: VDHR File No. 082-5403

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

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

### 2. Location

Street & number: 14767 Plains Mill Road

City or town: Timberville State: Virginia County: Rockingham

Not For Publication:  N/A Vicinity:  X

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this X nomination     request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property X meets     does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

    national     statewide   X   local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

  X   A     B   X   C     D

	<u>3/27/14</u>
Signature of certifying official/Title:	Date
<u>Virginia Department of Historic Resources</u>	
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	

In my opinion, the property <u>   </u> meets <u>   </u> does not meet the National Register criteria.	
Signature of commenting official:	Date
Title :	State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

Plains Mill  
Name of Property

Rockingham Co., Virginia  
County and State

**4. National Park Service Certification**

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:)

*Law Edson H. Beall*  
Signature of the Keeper

5-19-14  
Date of Action

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private:
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

**Category of Property**

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

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**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

INDUSTRY: Manufacturing facility (mill)

COMMERCE/TRADE: Specialty store

COMMERCE/TRADE: Warehouse

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

WORK IN PROGRESS

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

NO STYLE  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Materials:** (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: WOOD; METAL; STONE; CONCRETE;  
TERRA COTTA

### Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

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### Summary Paragraph

Plains Mill stands at 14767 Plains Mill Road on the south bank of the North Fork of the Shenandoah River, a tributary of the Potomac River. Historically the location was ideal for mill development since it occupies the point at which a boldly flowing spring branch pours off the edge of the river's high bank to create a fall capable of powering an overshot wheel. The mill is surrounded by several houses and other buildings that possess a historical connection to it. Beyond are the level agricultural fields that bequeathed the name The Plains to the vicinity. The mill itself, built in 1847-1849, is a two-story timber-frame building of rectangular plan that stands on a tall limestone basement and has two attic stories in its gable roof. Weatherboard siding survives under later metal and the roof, originally wood-shingled, is now sheathed in metal. Exterior features of the east-facing mill include 6-over-6 double-hung-sash windows, wood-barred foundation vents, a steel overshot wheel, original and twentieth-century Dutch doors, ca. 1923 terra-cotta block grain bins, and a cinder block and metal-sheathed frame addition dating to the 1940s and 1950s. A one-story cinder block office dating to ca. 1959 stands across the sluice to the south of the mill. The approximately one-acre nominated area that includes the two contributing resources is a portion (the west end) of the approximately 2.285-acre parcel on which the resources stand.

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## Narrative Description

### *Inventory*

1. Mill. 1847-49; ca. 1923; 1940s-1950s. Contributing building.
2. Mill Office. ca. 1959. Contributing building.

### *Exterior: Original Mill*

The mill, which measures approximately forty feet by forty-five feet in dimension, is almost entirely sided with unpainted metal sheathing of two types: rectangular sheets (mostly on the rear elevation) and corrugated panels. Historic-period weatherboard siding survives under much of the metal siding and is exposed in places, principally under the front porch. Here and in other areas where the weatherboards are exposed, they are attached with wire nails suggesting they may be associated with the early-twentieth-century conversion of the mill from millstone milling to roller milling. Some of the weatherboards at the roof level of the front porch appear more weathered and may be attached with cut nails, suggesting they survive from the nineteenth century. The gable roof is sheathed with red-painted metal and has lightning arrestors along the ridge with white glass globes and, in one example, a weathervane-like detail. The gabled forms of a doghouse monitor, built ca. 1923 in association with the grain bins to which it extends, run along the ridge of the original roof. (Note: the large cylindrical terra-cotta structures on the front of the mill are referred to as "grain bins" throughout the nomination rather than other terms, such as elevators or silos, to differentiate them from the elevators in the sense of vertical product conveyors used on the interior of the mill and because they did not function to make ensilage as in true silos.)

The mill retains most of its 6-over-6, double-hung-sash wood windows, though many are in poor condition. The front first-story elevation, which is partially concealed behind the grain bins, retains its original four-bay configuration. Originally this consisted of a window/door/door/window arrangement but the north window was converted to an entry in the early twentieth century, perhaps in the late 1910s or 1920s. Each door is fitted with Dutch door leaves and each has transoms, the original opening transoms with five panes and the converted opening transom with three panes. The door leaves are painted white over earlier light blue and their surrounds preserve traces of olive drab at the transom level. The porch roof is constructed of wire-nailed dimensional lumber, indicating it dates to the twentieth century, but visible along the sill below the two middle entries (the porch floor was removed in recent decades) is a heavy board pegged to the structure that suggests an earlier and possibly original porch that sheltered the two entries.

A one-story shed-roofed office wing extends from the north gable end. The wing has an earlier rear section which dates to the nineteenth century and a front addition that brought it out flush with the front of the mill. Both sections appear to be constructed of light circular-sawn dimensional lumber. The rear section has a foundation of cedar posts, one of which stood on an old millstone until recently, and incorporates as a diagonal brace the shaft of a reused wooden screw auger conveyor

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perhaps dating to the original construction of the mill. The front section has remnants of a brick stove flue.

The basement level is constructed of coursed limestone rubble with generally larger stones at the corners for reinforcement. The foundation appears to be all of a piece; in other words, it appears to date entirely to the mill's construction in the 1840s and does not appear to incorporate construction from the earlier mill known to have existed at the location, though it is known to incorporate building stones from the former mill. Battered concrete reinforcing was poured at the rear south corner in the early twentieth century. Across the rear are several wood-framed openings that ventilated the subbasement. These are spanned by horizontal wood bars set diagonally. The vents retain traces of white and possibly red paint. An interesting feature of the foundation, discussed below in the architectural discussion, is the apparent original lack of a stone wall on the south-facing wheel side. The stonework ends in a clean break near the front corner and possibly also at the rear corner.

The overshot waterwheel, which is mounted at foundation level on the south end, is constructed of steel and measures over nineteen feet in diameter. It is turned by water from a steel and concrete flume supplied by a spring branch that passes under Plains Mill Road. The steel part of the flume dates to the 1970s but associated with it is an early-twentieth-century forebay. The bed of the millpond, now silted up, occupies the opposite (south) side of the road.

#### *Exterior: Additions*

The principal additions to the mill are the grain bins added to the front about 1923 and the north wing added after World War II. The bins are in the form of four cylindrical bins of glazed terracotta block construction with corbelled brick cornices. The colors of the blocks range from orange to reddish brown to purplish brown. The bins have small square access ports at their bases and they are joined at the top by a covered gangway of gabled frame construction, an extension of the doghouse monitor on the top of the main section. A metal conduit containing a screw auger conveyor extends from the top of the bins to the north wing.

The north wing has one- and two-story sections of cinder block and frame construction and gabled and shed roof forms with metal roofing. The cinder block sections are painted white or light blue or are left with their bare unpainted finishes. The frame sections have corrugated metal siding, a material also used in the gables and other roof elements of the cinder block sections.

The two-story section, which occupies the north front end of the wing, has red-painted gables, reinforcing cinder block façade piers, 6-over-6 and 2-over-2 windows, a south gable end exterior brick flue, a second-story Dutch door, and a front garage door opening. The inscription Arbogast Grain Elevator is painted in a blue band across the north gable end and there are remnants of Purina white-and-red checkered painting (the term "Elevator" in the signage refers to the grain bins). On the south end of the two-story section is an open-fronted cinder block loading dock and/or garage with weatherboard siding on its front shed roof end. Grain trucks historically parked inside the loading dock and an auger transported the grain to the top of the bins.

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At the south front end of the wing, adjacent to the main section, is a one-story cinder block section with a shed roof and a corrugated metal-sided shed-roofed tower at the north end. The tower, which cantilevers slightly over the end of the building and has a door with a plywood chute on the front, has signage reading Purina Check R Mix Service. The inscription Arbogast Grain Elevator in white letters on blue extends across the parapet above an earlier version of the same inscription. The section has track-mounted metal fire doors and traces of a Purina white-and-red checkered band. Across the rear of this section and the others, linking to the original mill at the south end and ending at a loading dock at the north end, is a metal-sided shed-roofed rear element on cinder block and timber supports. The rear section is mostly one story with a two-story part at the north end.

*Interior: Basement*

The basement has stone walls, exposed and covered with a crumbly (presumably mud) plaster finish; a partial wood floor covered with a layer of mud from floods; and exposed hewn ceiling beams (with Roman numeral builder marks) and up-and-down-sawn joists. Four heavy planed and chamfered posts support beams that support the floors above. These stand on coursed limestone rubble subbasement walls. The post closest to the gear train has small signs that mark the water height of historic period floods. From top to bottom the dates carved on the signs are: March 17, 1936 (including the inscription Bob A., possibly for Robert Alexander); November 22, 1877; and May 12, 1926. A full investigation of graffiti was not made but more recent names were observed in plaster on the north wall. In the back corner of the south end is a curved stone subbasement footer that may have served to brace that end of the mill or that supported some missing structural element or machinery. An original exterior entry at the north end preserves wrought iron hardware though its original door is missing. Part of a later Dutch door stands near it. A large hopper-like construction of wire-nailed construction stands near one corner.

The south end of the basement is dominated by the massive oaken husk (or hurst) frame. The frame originally supported the 1840s millstones but since their removal during the roller milling conversion, the frame is the principal support for the waterwheel gear train. The husk frame, which is independent of the building frame to protect the fabric from vibrations, consists of thick horizontal, vertical, and diagonal timbers, the former with beveled edges. One of the uprights is marked by a series of diagonal gouges cut by the belt that formerly transferred power from the train to the rest of the mill. The husk frame has a number of mortises associated with former supports for the millstones and mortises and circular bored holes for other now missing equipment and attachments. Some of the holes are filled by thick octagonal-section pegs.

The gear train, a system of gears and wheels that transmits power from the waterwheel to the milling machinery, is constructed of wooden and cast iron elements and stands on poured concrete supports. One of the larger wheels, which is pieced together from wooden hoops and has a smooth surface, drove a belt that looped around an adjustable swing tightener, a heavy solid spool on a swinging mount suspended from the ceiling. The belt transmitted power to a line shaft of belt wheels of various sizes that extends perpendicular to the husk frame. At the front end of the line shaft is a hand lever. The belts that attached to the lineshaft wheels ran up through slots in the ceiling to power the roller mills on the first floor and presumably other machinery.

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It is in the basement that the mill's elevator system is first encountered. The elevators—cloth belts to which metal cups are attached—transported product around the mill and are housed in rectangular-section wooden chutes known as trunks and spouts. The bottom ends of the elevators connect to elevator boots with distinctive s-curve profiles that hang in pairs above the basement floor. Water power was at some point replaced by an electric motor that stands on a wooden platform. A poured concrete tunnel with screw auger connects to the base of the grain bins.

*Interior: First Floor*

The first floor, being the lowest level of the mill's frame superstructure, has walls with exposed framing that is covered in areas by beaded horizontal boards. Some of this board sheathing, such as the white-painted sheathing in the rear north corner area, is attached with wire nails and likely dates to the mill's early-twentieth-century roller mill conversion. In the front north corner are older beaded boards attached with cut nails. These may indicate the location of the original mill office which was superseded by the present exterior office addition made by the end of the nineteenth century. The boards at this location are covered by deteriorated circus posters and other nineteenth-century printed advertising materials. The most visible poster, which is of almost billboard size, advertises the Ohio-based Sells Brothers "Big Show of the World" Circus and includes pictures of trapeze artists including the Marvelous La Venes and what may be a depiction of George and Martha Washington. The Sells poster is glued or tacked on over an earlier poster. The adjacent wall preserves remnants of another circus poster that depicts ballerina-like performers and the head of a crow or other bird, the latter possibly associated with a patent medicine advertisement and the name Prof. Felix. Associated with the apparently original board sheathing in this corner is the partially preserved molded frame of a window later made into a doorway to the front part of the office addition.

At about the midpoint of the north wall is a doorway with a vertical beaded tongue-and-groove batten door on butt hinges. The door and associated surround has dark brown paint and features such as a pottery doorknob suggest it dates to the latter third of the nineteenth century. It provided access to the office addition made on the exterior at that time. The office has mid-twentieth-century gypsum board wall and ceiling finishes and plywood cabinets. In the opposite (rear south) corner of the first floor is a room partitioned off in the mid-twentieth century as indicated by the plywood sheathing used in its construction. The sheathing is on the inside of the studs; attached to the outside is wire mesh. On the chamfered post that forms one corner of the room is a National Detective Bureau warning notice that depicts handcuffs.

In the front south corner is an original two-run stair in a partial enclosure of vertical beaded boards. The enclosure preserves traces of whitewash and has butt-hinged beaded batten doors, one with an arched lintel. In the floorboards near the stair is a circular seam associated with the millstones formerly located at the position. On the front wall are the three Dutch doors: two original ones and one added in the early twentieth century. These are hung on long wrought iron strap hinges with bulbous tips and beveled shanks. The doors also preserve various other original iron hardware and one is inscribed in chalk or white paint with the initials LPH, which stands for Lewis Phillip Henkel. The later door is hung on short manufactured iron strap hinges.

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A principal feature of the floor is the set of four roller mills. These are also known as double roll stands since each contains a pair of metal rolls for grinding the grain. Three of the mills were made by the Barnard and Leas Manufacturing Company of Moline, Illinois, and the fourth was made by the Wolf Company. The Barnard and Leas mills have cast iron lower halves painted blue with the inscription "The Willford / Moline / Rolling Mill" stenciled in white paint and upper halves of chestnut-stained wood stenciled with the Barnard and Leas name. Adjustment wheels and belt wheels project from the mill cases and white-painted trunks connect to their tops. The Wolf Company roller mill is similar in form to the others but red in color. To the side of the roller mills stands a set of Sprout and Waldron vertical millstones in a blue-painted metal housing.

On the river side of the elevators stands a batch mixer used for mixing in ingredients to make self-rising flour. The mixer itself is a screw-type apparatus turned by an external belt wheel and contained in a horizontal riveted steel cabinet. On the cabinet stands a conical steel bin supported by a framework stamped "Carnegie." Next to the bin is a smaller bin or compartment with the words Soda and Phosphate stenciled inside the lid.

Between the roller mills and the circus posters is a hopper scale consisting of a grain bin constructed of board and a grain scale mounted on the platform. Mounted on the ceiling over the location of the former millstones is a wooden hopper that does not relate to any current equipment and may date to the pre-roller mill equipage of the mill.

*Interior: Second Floor*

Room-sized garner or grain bins occupy much of the rear and north sides of the second floor, which is otherwise similar in character to the first floor. The largest piece of equipment on the floor is a Eureka Dustless Quadruple Receiving Separator, a belt-driven machine with fans that blew waste product through sheet-metal ducts that extend through the ceiling. The separator was used for the final cleaning of the grain prior to milling.

Another piece of equipment is the bleacher, also known as an Alsop process generator or Alsop rotary electrifier. The bleacher is housed in a cabinet of stained beaded tongue-and-groove boards with a glazed four-pane front door. The electrical equipment consists principally of a drum-like dynamo and glass-fronted electrifier panel. The bleacher produced nitrogen peroxide gas (NO<sub>2</sub>) by electrifying air (by electric arc) and supplied the gas to another piece of equipment, the agitator, through a hose that extends from the top of the bleacher cabinet. The gas interacted with the flour in the agitator to bleach it. The bleacher cabinet stands on a braced timber base.

Other equipment includes a corn meal reel sifter and a meal elevator head and drive. Tongue-and-groove closets for flour bags stand in the rear south corner. Hundreds of bags are stacked in the closets or strewn on the floor near them. There is evidence for grain bins formerly located above the millstones on the floor below. The chamfered posts on this floor are more slender than the ones on the floors below. A mostly open two-run stair rises in the front corner to the attic. Standing among the garner in the rear north corner area is a beaded vertical post, possibly original to the mill, with four slot-like mortises cut into it.

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*Interior: Attic*

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The heavy timber roof construction is visible in the two attic stories which contain the upper part of the mill's mechanical systems. On the lower attic floor stands a Barnard and Leas plansifter bearing stenciled patent dates of May 27, 1890, and June 28, 1892, and the name Speediso (possibly a model name). The upper and lower parts of the sifter are linked by sets of cloth hoses. The plansifter contains nested sieves that work as scalpels, graders, and dressers. Notable features of the machine are the upright sets of dowels or "reeds"—like racked pool cues in appearance—which attach to an overhead joist. According to millwright Ben Hassett the reeds were designed to break when machine movements exceeded a certain strength, a form of audible early warning system. Other machinery on the lower attic level includes a Number 2 double wheat scourer (possibly the machinery with operating instructions glued to its lid that indentify it as a "Monitor Scouring Regulator"), an Alsop process agitator, and a Wolf centrifugal reel

In the "loft" or uppermost part of the attic are the rounded wooden meal/flour elevator heads and the chain-driven gear that operated the elevator system, and a metal-finish sheet-metal dust cyclone. The dust cyclone, a type of dust collector, is fed by a horizontal duct through which the dust-laden air enters and exhausts the air from which most of the dust has been removed through a vertical duct that vents through the roof. The conical sections bears a colorful label that depicts a wolf head superimposed on a globe with the inscription "The Wolf Co. / High Grade / Extra Finish / Chambersburg, PA, USA."

It is in the loft that the pegged ridge joints of the rafters are visible. A crude stair rises to the "doghouse" monitor added to the roof in the early twentieth century, probably ca. 1923 when the grain bins were erected. In the monitor are located the receiving grain elevator heads and augers which are driven by a belt powered from below. The part of the monitor that extends over the grain bins—like them constructed of terra-cotta block—houses a Bazooka screw auger head with separate electric motor.

*Interior: Additions*

The two-story section at the north end of the addition has unsubdivided first and second floors with unpainted block walls that contain an assortment of milling machinery. The first floor, which is spanned by perforated steel joists, has a concrete floor with a raised wooden section. Machinery on this floor and in the adjacent north end of the rear wing, which is functionally integrated with the front part, include equipment manufactured by the Duplex Mill and Manufacturing Company of Springfield, Ohio; the Howe Scale Company of Rutland, Vermont; the S. Howes Company, Inc., of Silver Creek, New York; and the General Electric Company (a starting compensator). Some of the equipment is associated with a dimensional-lumber framework inserted into the space. The second floor, which is spanned by steel trusses and is reached by crude wood stairs at both ends, contains more machinery and bins. The interior of the long rear wing has exposed wood roof and wall structure, a row of posts down the center, and wood floor boards which are severely deteriorated in sections. The section also shows structural failure associated with the undermining of its foundation to create trout tanks in recent years.

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*Ca. 1959 Office*

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The separate office, which stands across the sluice to the south of the mill, is a one-story building of cinder block construction with a textured stucco finish. The building has a hipped (almost pyramidal) roof sheathed with asphalt shingles (in bad repair) and deep eaves. A stuccoed stove flue rises through the roof at the south end and a cylindrical metal vent projects near the ridge. Windows are metal-frame stack-pane 2-over-2 with brick sills. The interior has such standard finishes as linoleum-type floor tiles, plaster-finish walls, and a (deteriorated) gypsum board ceiling.

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### 8. Statement of Significance

#### Applicable National Register Criteria

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

- A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C. 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.
- D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

#### Criteria Considerations

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

- 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

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**Areas of Significance**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

ARCHITECTURE  
INDUSTRY  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**  
1847-ca. 1959

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

1847  
ca. 1959  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person**  
(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**

May, Isaac (frame builder)  
Clemmens, Jeremiah (mason)  
Ludwig, Will, and Tisinger (millwrights)

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**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

Plains Mill, located on the North Fork of the Shenandoah River in Rockingham County, Virginia, is a well-preserved merchant mill that illustrates a continuous evolution in milling technology from original construction in 1847-1849 through the 1950s. The boldly flowing spring that powered the mill's wheel first attracted millers as early as the colonial period. In 1847-1849, Dr. Solomon Henkel and his son, Siram, replaced an earlier mill with the present timber-frame building which rises an impressive five stories above the river. Siram Henkel's extensive papers document the construction process on a nearly daily basis and identify the many craftsmen involved in the work, such as frame builder Isaac May, mason Jeremiah Clemmens, millwrights, painters, and others. Many original features survive, including Dutch doors hung on decorative strap hinges and the massive husk frame that supported the gearing. In the early twentieth century, the mill was converted to the roller milling process and it preserves a wealth of specialized equipment from the period. The construction of terra-cotta block grain bins ca. 1923, and of cinder block and frame feed mill, machine shop, and warehouse additions and a separate office in the 1940s and 1950s, round out the mill's historic evolution. Plains Mill is locally significant under Criterion A in the area of Industry as a well-preserved example of an evolved nineteenth- and twentieth-century merchant mill. The mill also is locally significant under Criterion C in the area of Architecture for its retention of numerous architectural and technological features from the period of significance, which extends from original construction beginning in 1847 through the construction of the separate office ca. 1959.

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

Plains Mill takes its name from the level area known as The Plains that extends from the vicinity of the Shenandoah County town of New Market towards the Rockingham County town of Timberville. The area lies near the Fairfax Line, the southwestern boundary of Lord Fairfax's Northern Neck land grant surveyed in 1746, and is labeled "The Plains" on the 1755 Fry-Jefferson Map. The original Plains Mill is believed to have been established at the location of the current mill around 1774 by Col. Matthew Harrison, whose wife, Mary Harrison, was the daughter of Winchester, Virginia, founder Col. James Wood. The mill seat was well-suited to its purpose due to the existence of a boldly flowing spring that supplies a branch with a fall sufficient to power an overshot wheel. A 1773 land grant of 965 acres to Mary Harrison, Mary Ann Harrison, and Elizabeth Harrison during the governorship of John Earl of Dunmore references "the great Spring." Early references to the mill appear in a 1784 petition for a road from the Shenandoah County line to Harrisonburg in which the mill is referred to as "Plain Mills" and in an 1801 transfer from John and Julianna Krim to George Leonard that refers to the "Plains Mill Spring" and another transfer dated the same year that refers to the "marsh above the Plaines Mill."<sup>1</sup>

Plains Mill

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In 1829 the mill and adjacent acreage were acquired by Dr. Solomon Henkel (1777-1847). Henkel was a member of the influential Henkel family of the nearby Shenandoah County town of New Market. He trained as an apothecary and doctor, operated a general merchandise business, and was involved in the Henkel family press, a German-English language press located in New Market. Dr. Henkel's son Siram Peter Henkel (1809-79) married Margaret Coiner (1820-99) in 1835 and the couple set up housekeeping in a dwelling near Plains Mill. Their proximity to the mill suggests Siram had an active and perhaps leading role in its operation at the time. Siram also took over operation of the store at the mill which his father had operated since at least 1831. On his and Margaret's October 1835 honeymoon in Baltimore, Siram purchased goods for the store and beginning on November 7, 1835, he kept a daybook in which he recorded accounts and, later, information pertaining to the construction of the mill. In the 1840s, shortly before his father's death, Siram began to plan the replacement of the existing mill, which may or may not have been the colonial building, with the present building.<sup>2</sup>

Siram Henkel's daybooks and a journal he kept during the same general period are invaluable sources for details of the construction of Plains Mill. Preparations for the construction of the mill commenced by April 1847. The day book notes the quarrying of rock (presumably for the mill foundation) in April and May and the sawing of large quantities of plank in May. On June 16 Henkel noted in his journal "we have 169 logs, which are all for the frame of the new mill." The waterwheel and millwork were under way by early July. On August 2, Henkel wrote "Isaac May and his two sons, Strother and Israil came this morning and commenced framing the new mill house." While the frame was under construction the old mill was torn down.<sup>3</sup>

The sources suggest construction of the foundation followed preparation of the frame. This can be explained if one assumes the frame was cut and then laid by for erection after the foundation was completed. On August 23, Henkel noted "dug at the foundation for the mill" in his memorandum book and on September 27, he noted "Jeremiah Clemmens commenced putting up the wall of the new mill." The October 23 memorandum book entry noted completion of the foundation wall by Clemmens, Kennan (or Kennon), and High. The demolition of the old mill appears to have preceded the construction of the new mill foundation by a few weeks, which would suggest the new mill was built at the same site as the old one, though other references suggest the old mill still stood after the new one was framed up. A sketch plan of the property by historian John Wayland, drawn in 1935, could be interpreted to indicate continued operation of the old mill while the new one was being built. Wayland's sketch shows the old mill, smaller than the 1847 mill, sharing a water wheel with the new mill; in other words it stood just south of the current mill. The fate of what may be some of the old mill's foundation stones is hinted at in a couple of references. An August 10, 1847, memorandum book entry states "Buchanan . . . brought Father's wheel barrow along to use at the old wall, he then carted rocks out of the middle bottom and filled up where we tore out the small bridge at the bank of the race." The wording suggests the possibility that at least some of the old foundation stones were used for fill, but on April 7, 1849, Henkel wrote in his memorandum book: "We also had some of the old rocks worked into the new mill and head block wall." The context suggests these were foundation stones from the old mill incorporated into the new mill foundation. Among the stones used in the new mill foundation was one measuring eight feet and four inches in length.<sup>4</sup>

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A dramatic event in the construction of the mill occurred October 27-29, 1847, when the mill frame was raised. Some of the major timbers went up on the 27<sup>th</sup> and one of Henkel's workmen made the rounds of the neighborhood to enlist workers for the main raising the following day. On the 28<sup>th</sup> Henkel wrote in his memorandum book: "This day we raised nearly all the frame of the new mill house, there were about 56 people at the raising." Henkel mentions the presence of two women at the raising, though whether they helped with the physical labor or were there to provide food (as was common at house and barn raisings) is not specified. The following day Henkel noted completion of the frame at 3:15 in the afternoon and the addition of small rafters on the "garret" (attic).<sup>5</sup>

On August 23 Henkel noted in his daybook the preparation of 8,000 white pine shingles and on November 4 an additional 4,000 shingles, some or all of which presumably went to sheathing the mill's roof. Daybook entries from October 1847 record "tending masons," "carring [sic] mortar," and "blowing rocks," the latter suggesting foundation work and blasting, perhaps for the tail race. All told Henkel noted in his diary the hauling of 272 loads of rock for the mill foundation and fifteen weeks of labor by the masons. Window frames were being made in November 1847 and sashes in January 1848. There is a reference to a "new saw mill" in November. Weatherboarding was underway in December 1847. A December 20 day book entry noted Isaac May made a "sill to the porch in front of the mill" from a locust log, locust being an especially rot-resistant wood suitable for exposed construction like a porch. The February 5, 1848, daybook entry notes "2 Hickory logs delivered for cogs," presumably to go into the milling machinery. In April and May 1848, the painters were at work. Henkel's April 18 diary entry notes: "Wickes' son and apprentice painted, they now have went over the mill with the first coat of white." The painters finished painting the siding in May.<sup>6</sup>

Also on April 18, 1848, Henkel wrote in his memorandum book that the team of Ludwig, Will, and Tisinger "commenced working on the mill right work . . . they got out part of the cants for the two counter wheels and sawed off locust wood for pins and wedges. A Mr. Sheets a mill-right also got here this evening to work under Ludwig." In May the husk frame was under construction and in July "garners in the garret of the new mill" were being installed. These were grain bins in the attic. Also in July, cast and wrought iron was acquired for the mill from "Forrer's old Furnace" in Page County, Virginia. In November 1848, despite entries from over a year before that described the demolition of the old mill, the water wheel and other parts of the structure were just being taken down and there is a reference from February 1849 that suggests at least a portion of the old mill was still standing. One of the final touches on the new mill was the installation of the half-elliptical gable windows in 1849. Rockingham County land book tax records indicate the mill was considered complete by 1849 for the purposes of taxation. In 1847, at the commencement of work, Dr. Solomon Henkel's 441.75-acre "Plains Mill" tract had buildings valued at \$3,000. In 1849, the same tract (identified as Dr. Solomon Henkel's estate) had buildings valued at \$5,000. A marginal note stated "2000 added for Mill after deducting old Mill."<sup>7</sup>

During the Civil War, Plains Mill was spared the large-scale destruction of mills and barns by federal forces known as the Burning. Historian John Wayland, writing in 1935, noted that the reason was Siram Henkel, who was opposed to slavery, sold flour to federal troops. Census industrial

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schedules for Rockingham County for the years 1850 through 1880 provide information on the mill's operation during the period. The 1850 census identifies Siram P. Hinkle (sic) as the miller and notes a capitalization of \$10,000, one of the higher mill capitalizations in the county. The mill processed 25,000 bushels of wheat into flour (the value of product is illegible in the 1850 schedule; all information on the 1860 schedule is illegible). The 1870 census identified the mill as a merchant mill operated by S. P. Henkel and Brother. Capitalization in 1870 was given as \$15,000 and value of product appears to have totaled about \$25,000. The mill had four pairs of millstones in 1870. The 1880 census placed capitalization of the S. P. Henkel and Son mill at \$16,000 and noted the mill employed two workers. A fall of seventeen feet powered two overshot wheels that generated (either singly or together) twenty-five horsepower. The census does not specify whether both wheels adjoined the present building or if one was located at an adjacent structure. The mill converted 17,000 bushels of wheat to 3,400 barrels of flour. Total value of product was given as \$18,250. Plains Mill also appears in period business directories. The Henkle (sic) and Brother Plains Mill was listed as one of the fifty-two mills in Rockingham County in Chataigne's 1880-1881 directory. Siram Henkel was also listed as one of the area's largest farmers with a farm of 3,428 acres.<sup>8</sup>

Two photographs show the mill during the decades around 1900. The earliest, which appears to date to the 1890s (possibly 1892) shows the water wheel and flume on the south side and the front elevation with a deck (apparently full-façade) but no porch roof. A sign over the two front entries read Plains Mills. The other photograph, which appears to date to the early twentieth century, shows the front and north sides. The roof was still wood-shingled and the paint appears to have mostly worn off the weatherboards (as it had by the date of the 1890s photo). Painted signage on the front second-story reads "Plains Roller Mills / . . . Virginia's Best Patent Flour / Feed Meal Bran Chop . . . Custom Milling." The front part of the office wing was not yet constructed and the right-hand front window was not yet converted to a door. A roofed porch extended across the entire façade.<sup>9</sup>

Early in the twentieth century, perhaps about 1910, the mill was converted to the roller milling process. Starting in the 1880s, most newly-constructed merchant mills and conversions of existing mills switched to roller milling technology, which utilized iron rollers instead of millstones to grind the grain. Roller milling gave millers greater quality control and better enabled them to cater to the public demand for pure white flour. In the same general period, manufacturers introduced a range of grain- and flour-processing machines such as purifiers that also improved product quality. A ca. 1910 date for the roller mill conversion of Plains Mill is suggested by the types of machinery and by the historic photographs described above. Deeds from the first quarter of the twentieth century show a gradual rise in purchase prices for the property which may be associated with improvements. In 1909 the price was \$5,905, in 1917 it was \$7,000, and in 1923 it was \$9,500. These figures included the price of a dwelling house and possibly other buildings and may not be fully reflective of the value of the mill.<sup>10</sup>

The mill was sold out of the Henkel family to E. A. Andrick in 1917. In 1923, Andrick and his wife sold the mill to Col. Edward T. Brown, who was associated with Endless Caverns, and it is Brown who is believed to have built the terra-cotta block grain bins (also known as elevators). Ernest H. Strickler acquired the mill in 1927, and in 1942 it was acquired by Robert L. Alexander Sr. Alexander, a miller by trade, operated the mill with the assistance of his son, Raymond D. Alexander, until 1955. Alexander made a number of important changes. One was

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the installation of new elevators or “flour spouts” throughout the mill. The other was the construction of the three cinder block sections of the addition on the north side. The three sections, which may have been built sequentially but apparently in quick succession, date to the mid-1940s. The one-story section abutting the old mill served as a feed mill in which corn and wheat were ground and mixed to make animal feed; the middle section was the truck garage; and the two-story end section was built as a machine shop for Robert L. Alexander, Jr., another of Robert, Sr.’s sons. Letterhead for this shop on a receipt dated 1947 identifies it as Alexander’s Machine Shop and notes its trade as tool and die work, welding, general repair work, and “experimental work.” Assuming the letterhead relates to the Plains Mill location, the two-story section would have been built between the end of the war in 1945 and the date of the receipt. Alexander is also identified as a dealer for Frick Minneapolis Moline Farm Machinery and Briggs Oil Filters. Robert Jr. is also said to have briefly sold Massey Ferguson tractors at the mill until moving his business to New Market in the late 1940s. Afterward, until the mill was sold in 1955, Robert, Sr., and Raymond used the two-story section for feed storage, although it was referred to as a machine shop in a 1955 sale advertisement. Also during the Alexander ownership government grain was stored in part of the grain bins. A 1948 newspaper article noted that the Plains Mill “warehouse” was approved for “government storage of 1948 loan wheat.”<sup>11</sup>

In 1955 the property was acquired by M. Dwight Arbogast and operated as the Arbogast Grain Elevator. The Arbogasts added the metal-sided frame warehouse section across the back of the Alexander additions in the late 1950s and also, apparently, the corn cob bin that sits on top of the feed mill section. They added milling equipment to the two-story section and also, about 1959, built the one-story cinder block office that stands to the south of the mill. A June 1955 newspaper article noted Arbogast’s interest in adding machinery and in marketing his own “Arbo” brand of feed. In 1956 the mill sold Valley Cream Flour. Luther (Luke) Kline was the Arbogasts’ flour miller as he was the Alexanders’ before 1955. Other employees of the Arbogasts included Everett Holsinger, Carl Messick, and truck driver Carl Schaefer, and Dwight’s three sons, Brad, Wayne, and Jerry. The Arbogasts built a storage building on the property to the north of the additions at some point after the fall of 1963. In 1969 the mill was reported to produce 300 tons of feed a year. After the Arbogasts sold the mill in 1994 it was used as a trout farm. The property was subsequently purchased by Zach Grandle of Plains Mill LLC and is in the early stages of rehabilitation. Grandle plans to preserve the original section of the mill and its machinery and other features in situ and he intends to develop a distillery on the property. Lynchburg millwright Ben Hassett, who has documented the mill preparatory to rehabilitation work, notes that “Plains Mills is an excellent example of an intact milling operation” and a “fantastic candidate for restoration to running condition.”<sup>12</sup>

### *Architectural Discussion*

The Plains Mill in its original form is representative of the large merchant mills built in Virginia in the nineteenth century according to the principles developed by American inventor Oliver Evans beginning in the 1780s and set forth in his *Young Mill-wright and Miller’s Guide*, first published in 1795. Evans devised a water-powered automated system that moved grain and product vertically through a mill via ranks of wooden-cased bucket elevators. The system explains Plains Mill’s multistory configuration with functions differentiated by floor level. One interesting feature of the

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mill's construction is the absence of stonework on most of the side of the foundation that abuts the waterwheel. This may have been done to facilitate maintenance of the husk frame and mostly wooden machinery just inside. The construction feature may also have provided better ventilation to the husk frame area. An October 20, 1847, memorandum book entry that refers to the sawing of "two large posts for the water wall of the mill" may refer to this feature.<sup>13</sup>

Numerous vestiges of original construction and layout survive at Plains Mill. Chief among these are the mill's stone and frame construction, visible on the exterior and interior, with such notable details as chamfered posts, barred basement vents, enclosed stairs, 6-over-6 windows, and strap-hinged Dutch doors. The mill's massive original husk frame remains in place, replete with mortises and other evidence of the equipment once connected to it. Some partitions and wall sheathings appear to be original and there is a circular floor seam for one of the mill's four pairs of millstones as well as a ceiling-mounted hopper that likely once provided grain to one of the millstone pairs. There are numerous cuts in floor/ceiling boards for what may have been former belts and elevators. Most of the current elevators appear to date to the early-twentieth-century roller mill conversion and/or to additional work in the 1940s. The cut-nailed sheathing boards in the front north corner of the first floor and remnants of a decorative window frame suggest that that area of the mill, which is easily accessed from the adjacent front door, may have served as the original office.

The roller mill conversion appears to have occurred primarily in the early twentieth century, possibly in the 1910s, although important alterations such as the installation of the present "flour spouts" are said to have occurred as late as the 1940s. The incremental increase in the value of the property from about \$6,000 in 1909 to \$9,500 in 1923 may reflect the addition of machinery and other features to the mill during the period. The conversion may be seen as part of an ongoing program of improvements extending back into the nineteenth century. An unidentified source (apparently a newspaper report) dated August 6, 1886, and quoted in Janet and Earl Downs's history of Rockingham County milling notes that Hagerstown, Maryland, millwright John W. McCall and workman Jacob Gochenour made improvements to the mill including the installation of "improved purifier and bolting cloths."<sup>14</sup>

Machinery manufacture dates also suggest the 1910s as a possible timeframe for the conversion. The "Eureka Dustless Quadruple Receiving Separator" on the mill's second floor is very similar to a model advertised in the S. Howes Company's 1916 catalog as a Eureka "four sieve receiving separator." There are some small differences between the model in the mill and the one pictured in the 1916 catalog, suggesting the mill's separator dates to slightly before or after 1916. A *terminus post quem* date is provided by the bleacher. Mill expert B. W. Dedrick wrote in 1924 that the Alsop bleaching process was introduced to the industry about 1906. Letterhead on a letter dated 1914 refers to the mill as Plains Roller Mills and also associates one C. C. Bowman with the operation. A historic photograph shows painted signage reading "roller mills" on the building before the addition of the terra-cotta grain bins, which are believed to have been built soon after Edward T. Brown of the Endless Caverns interests purchased the property in 1923.<sup>15</sup>

Three important periods in the mill's later evolution are ca. 1923 when the terra-cotta tile grain bins were added; the mid-1940s when the cinder block portions of the north wing were added; and the mid- to late 1950s when the warehouse was added to the rear of the north wing and the separate

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office was constructed. These additions updated the facility to serve the twentieth-century market. The bins added a warehousing component that was further expanded in the mid-1950s with the construction of the frame warehouse addition. The construction of the cinder block portions of the north wing in the 1940s (perhaps beginning as early as 1945, or perhaps a few years later given post-World War II materials shortages) added or enhanced a feed mill component of the business and also provided a garage for the mill's trucks. The construction of the concrete office on the opposite side of the sluice ca. 1959 marked the final development in a three- or four-stage office evolution that began with the possible location of the office in the front north corner of the original mill and led to the two-phase office addition on the north side and ultimately to a separate building away from the noise and dust generated by the plant.<sup>16</sup>

Today Plains Mill is a rare example of a well-preserved historic merchant mill in the county. Janet and Earl Downs in their four-volume history of Rockingham County milling identify a few mills in addition to Plains Mill that have remained in operation to the present or recent decades. One is the ca. 1800 Breneman-Turner Mill which, like Plains Mill, was one of the few mills in the county to survive the Burning during the Civil War. The Breneman-Turner Mill, placed on the state and national registers in 2006, is owned by the Valley Brethren-Mennonite Heritage Center, which has undertaken a long-term program of stabilization and restoration work with the aim of returning the mill to service. Another notable county mill is Rife's Mill in Dayton, also known as Silver Lake Mill, which was placed on the Virginia Landmarks Register in 1999. The mill may have been built ca. 1866 and was used for flour milling until 1996. Thereafter Rife's Mill was used for other purposes but its ca. 1910 water wheel and a 1920 freight elevator remain functional. Like Plains Mill, the Rife Mill has tile-block grain bins (two in number). Janet and Earl Downs have noted that the county has contained hundreds of mills over its long history, a figure which may be somewhat exaggerated but which reflects the once common occurrence of the building type. Another indication of the former prevalence of mills is provided by John Wayland in his *History of Rockingham County* (1912). Wayland stated that in 1912 there were forty mills in the county representing "one of our most important branches of industry."<sup>17</sup>

The Plains Mill property has not been investigated archaeologically but it may have potential to yield archaeological information. Because the mill and its additions take up most of the northern part of the nominated area, evidence of pre-1847 development is likely to have been adversely affected in this area. Also, the construction of the ca. 1959 office and the construction of trout pools around the property after 1994 may possibly have affected other archaeological remains, though the south end of the nominated area appears more intact and may be more likely to yield information. The present owner notes the existence of stone walls to the south of the waterwheel, an area shown as the location of the pre-1847 mill in a sketch by John Wayland in 1935. A nineteenth-century dwelling formerly stood to the south of the ca. 1959 office, although it is believed to have been located beyond the southern boundary of the nominated area. One area of archaeological potential may exist under the basement floor inside the mill. The present partial wooden basement floor spans a foot or more above dirt that may contain archaeological remains.<sup>18</sup>

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*Endnotes*

1. Plains Mill website; Wayland, *History of Rockingham County*, 218; Preston, "Rockingham County Deeds;" Rockingham County Deed Book 00, p. 523 and Deed Book 000, pp. 74-75.
2. Wittig, *Henkel-Renalds Connection*, 11-12, 17-21, 26, 218; "Plains Mill Volume 1;" Wittig, *Day Book for Solomon Henkel*, i, 1.
3. Wittig, *Henkel-Renalds Connection*, 218-219; Wittig, *Day Book for Solomon Henkel*, 443, 445, 446, 449; Renalds, "General Memorandum Book," 242.
4. Wittig, *Henkel-Renalds Connection*, 219-220, 222, 225, 227; Wittig, *Day Book for Solomon Henkel*, 466; Renalds, "General Memorandum Book," 243, 246, 250, 256, 337; Downs and Downs, *Mills of Rockingham County*, volume 4, pp. 353.
5. Wittig, *Henkel-Renalds Connection*, 220; Renalds, "General Memorandum Book," 257.
6. Wittig, *Day Book for Solomon Henkel*, 466, 473-477, 481, 485, 487, 493, 505, 509; Wittig, *Henkel-Renalds Connection*, 220.
7. Wittig, *Henkel-Renalds Connection*, 220-222; Wittig, *Day Book for Solomon Henkel*, 521-522; Renalds, "General Memorandum Book," 284; Rockingham County land books.
8. Downs and Downs, *Mills of Rockingham County*, volume 4, pp. 353; U.S. census; Chataigne, *Chataigne's Virginia Business Directory and Gazetteer, 1880-81*, 455, 458.
9. Wittig, *Henkel-Renalds Connection*, 217, 220.
10. Pezzoni, "Seaboard Milling Company," 6; Hassett, "Plains Mill" (2012); Rockingham County Deed Book 107, 219 and 252, and Deed Book 133, 467.
11. Raymond Alexander and Robert Renalds interviews; Rockingham County Deed Book 107, pp. 219 and 252, and Deed Book 133, p. 467; Downs and Downs, *Mills of Rockingham County*, volume 3, pp. 571 and 573; volume 4, pp. 357-359.
12. Zach Grandle, Merteen Arbogast, Nancy Renalds, and Robert Renalds interviews; Downs and Downs, *Mills of Rockingham County*, volume 3, p. 571; volume 4, p. 360; Hassett, "Plains Mill" (2012).
13. Wittig, *Henkel-Renalds Connection*, 220; Renalds, "General Memorandum Book," 256.
14. Nancy Renalds and Ray Alexander interviews; Rockingham County deeds; Downs and Downs, *Mills of Rockingham County*, volume 1, p. 272.

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15. *Eureka Grain Cleaning Machinery*, 69; Dedrick, *Practical Milling*, 322; Downs and Downs, *Mills of Rockingham County*, volume 2, pp. 570-571.

16. Raymond Alexander, Merteen Arbogast, and Robert Renalds interviews.

17. Downs and Downs, *Mills of Rockingham County*, volume 1 pp. 34, 35; volume 2 pp. 411-418; Nash, Weaver, and Shenk, "Breneman/Turner Mill," 3; Silver Lake Mill website; Martin, "Rife's Mill," 7, 10; Wayland, *History of Rockingham County*, 357.

18. Downs and Downs, *Mills of Rockingham County*, volume 4, pp. 353.

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

- 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:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, Virginia

**Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):** DHR ID# 082-5403

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**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** approximately 1 acre

**UTM References**

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or  NAD 1983

1. Zone: 17

Easting: 698350

Northing: 4279850

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

The boundary of the approximately one-acre nominated area, a portion of Rockingham County tax parcel 41-(A)-L72A, is portrayed on the approximately 1:140 scale map that accompanies the nomination.

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

The boundary of the nominated area encompasses the two contributing buildings closely associated with the mill—the mill itself and the ca. 1959 detached office. The boundary excludes a non-historic storage building at the north end of the parcel.

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**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title: J. Daniel Pezzoni  
organization: Landmark Preservation Associates  
street & number: 6 Houston Street  
city or town: Lexington state: Virginia zip code: 24450  
e-mail: gilespezzoni@rockbridge.net  
telephone: (540) 464-5315  
date: December 2, 2013

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**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

**Photographs**

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

**Photo Log**

All photos are common to:  
Name of Property: Plains Mill  
City or Vicinity: Timberville

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Name of Property

County: Rockingham

State: Virginia

Photographer: J. Daniel Pezzoni

Date Photographed: October 2013

Location of digital images: Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, Va.

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera noted.

Photo 1 of 6: VA\_RockinghamCounty\_PlainsMill\_0001.  
Mill, waterwheel, and grain bins. View looking north.

Photo 2 of 6: VA\_RockinghamCounty\_PlainsMill\_0002.  
River side of mill, view looking east.

Photo 3 of 6: VA\_RockinghamCounty\_PlainsMill\_0003.  
Roller mills on first floor.

Photo 4 of 6: VA\_RockinghamCounty\_PlainsMill\_0004.  
Husk frame and machinery in the basement.

Photo 5 of 6: VA\_RockinghamCounty\_PlainsMill\_0005.  
North addition with mill and grain bins beyond, view looking west.

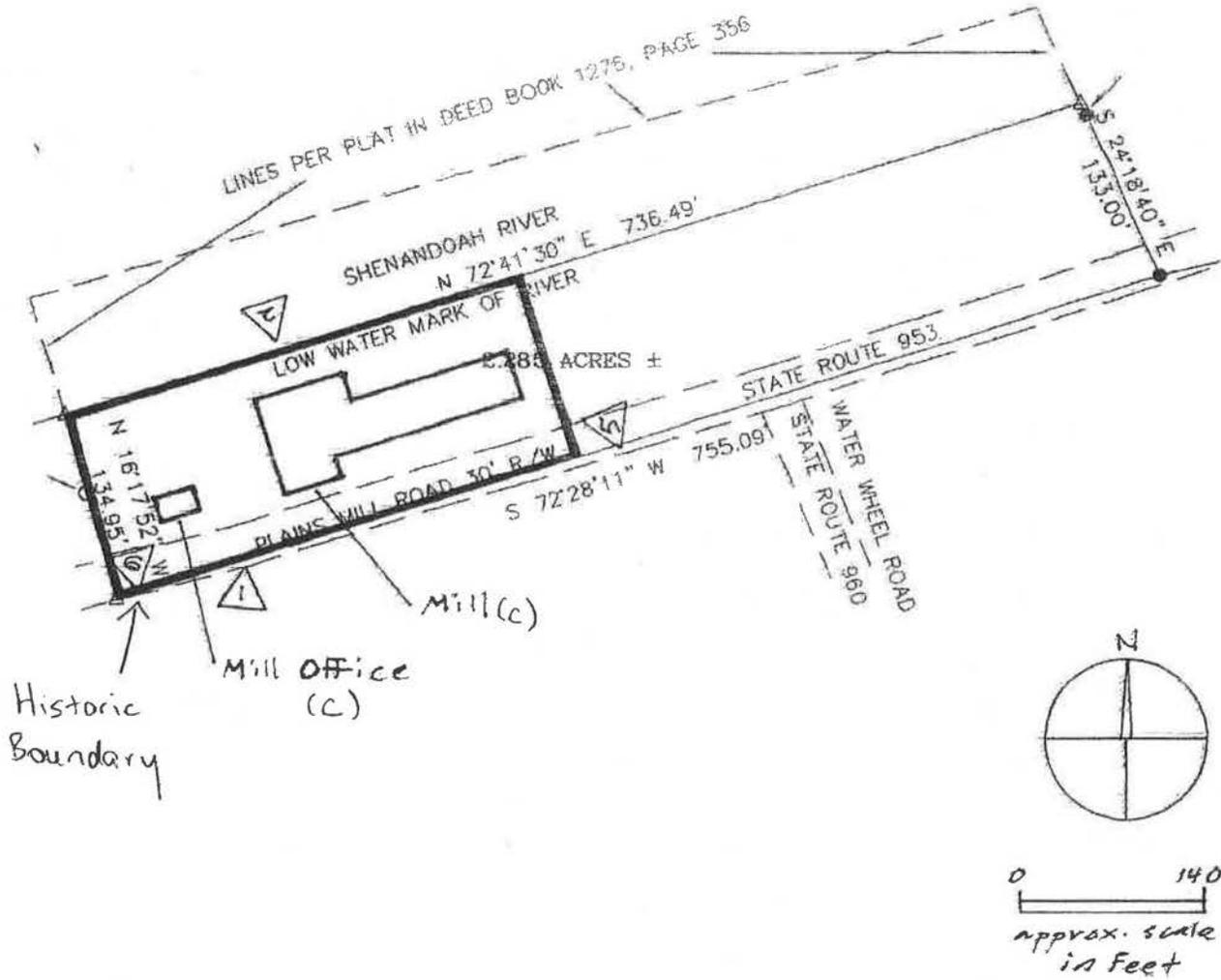
Photo 6 of 6: VA\_RockinghamCounty\_PlainsMill\_0006.  
Ca. 1959 office (foreground) with mill and grain bins beyond, view looking north.

**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 100 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.

# Sketch Map and Photo Key

- ① Photo Location
- ⊕ Mill - contributing
- Ⓜ Mill Office - contributing



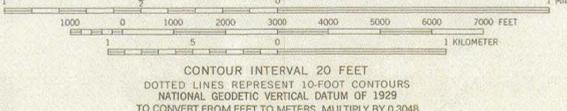
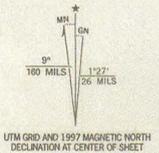
**Plains Mill, Rockingham County, Virginia.** Map of nominated area based on Newman Surveying survey of November 5, 2013. Scale approximately 1" = 140'. Location and size of the two resources contained in the nominated area approximate. Photo angle indicators keyed to photo log.

PLAINS MILL  
 ROCKINGHAM CO., VA  
 VANR FILE NO. 082-5403



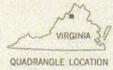
Plains Mill  
Rockingham Co., Va.  
DHA ID# 082-5403  
New Market, Va. quad  
NAD 1927  
UTM reference:  
Easting 4279850  
Zone 17

Produced by the United States Geological Survey  
Topography compiled 1965. Planimetry derived from imagery taken 1983. Photospectroscopy using imagery dated 1994; no major culture or drainage changes observed. Survey control current as of 1967 boundaries, other than corporate, verified 1997.  
North American Datum of 1927 (NAD 27). Projection and 10 000-foot ticks: Virginia coordinate system, north zone (Lambert conformal conic).  
1 000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid, zone 17  
North American Datum of 1983 (NAD 83) is shown by dashed corner ticks. The values of the shift between NAD 27 and NAD 83 for 7.5-minute intersections are obtainable from National Geodetic Survey NADCON software.  
There may be private holdings within the boundaries of the National or State reservations shown on this map.  
Information shown in purple may not meet USGS content standards and may conflict with previously mapped contours.



CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 FEET  
DOTTED LINES REPRESENT 10-FOOT CONTOURS  
NATIONAL GEODETIC DATUM OF 1929  
TO CONVERT FROM FEET TO METERS, MULTIPLY BY 0.3048

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, P.O. BOX 25286, DENVER, COLORADO 80225  
AND VIRGINIA DIVISION OF MINERAL RESOURCES, CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA 22903  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Primary highway, all weather, hard surface	Light-duty road, all weather, improved surface
Secondary highway, all weather, hard surface	Unimproved road, fair or dry weather

○ Interstate Route   □ U. S. Route   ○ State Route

USGS HISTORICAL  
MAP ARCHIVE  
APR 30 1998  
REC'D FILE COPY

NEW MARKET, VA.  
1994  
DMA 5261 II NW - SERIES V834









THE WILFORD  
MOUNTAIN  
MACHINE





ARBOGAST GRAIN ELEVATOR

1911



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Plains Mill  
NAME:

MULTIPLE  
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: VIRGINIA, Rockingham

DATE RECEIVED: 3/31/14 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 4/25/14  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 5/12/14 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 5/17/14  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 14000238

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N  
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N  
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT  RETURN  REJECT 5.19.14 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in  
The National Register  
of  
Historic Places

RECOM./CRITERIA \_\_\_\_\_

REVIEWER \_\_\_\_\_ DISCIPLINE \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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.



# COUNTY of ROCKINGHAM

Department of Community Development

Casey Armstrong  
Director

March 18, 2014

Ms. Julie Langan  
Acting Director  
Virginia Department of Historic Resources  
2801 Kensington Avenue  
Richmond, VA 23221

Re: Plains Mill, Town of Timberville, Rockingham County, VDHR File Number:  
082-5403

Dear Ms. Langan:

On March 12, 2014, the Rockingham County Board of Supervisors unanimously gave its support for the nomination of Plains Mill and Melrose Caverns and Harrison Farmstead to the National Register of Historic Places and inclusion in the Virginia Landmarks Register. Plains Mill is one of the few mills to survive the Civil War. Melrose Caverns and the Harrison Farmstead are positioned between two historic Valley Pike postal hamlets. Melrose Caverns bears the drawings of Native Americans and Civil War Confederate and Union soldiers. Each nomination has many noteworthy attributes.

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on this nomination. If you need additional information, please contact me.

Sincerely,

Rhonda H. Cooper  
Director of Planning

C: Pablo Cuevas, Rockingham County Supervisor for Election District #1  
Fred Eberly, Rockingham County Supervisor for Election District #2  
Joseph S. Paxton, Rockingham County Administrator

## Mcdonald, Lena (DHR)

---

**From:** Langan, Julie (DHR)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 19, 2014 8:45 AM  
**To:** Mcdonald, Lena (DHR)  
**Subject:** FW: Plains Mill & Melrose Caverns Nominations  
**Attachments:** Plains Mill, Melrose Caverns-Harrison Farmstead, Ltr of Support, 3-12-14.pdf

Julie V. Langan  
Director/SHPO  
VA Department of Historic Resources  
2801 Kensington Avenue  
Richmond, VA 23221  
(804) 482-6087 direct office  
(804) 385-6936 cell

---

**From:** Rhonda Cooper [<mailto:rhenderson@rockinghamcountyva.gov>]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 19, 2014 8:27 AM  
**To:** Langan, Julie (DHR)  
**Subject:** Plains Mill & Melrose Caverns Nominations

Ms. Langan:

The Rockingham County Board of Supervisors unanimously supported the Plains Mill and Melrose Caverns and Harrison Farmstead nominations. A letter of support is attached.

If you need anything else, please contact me.

Rhonda

*Rhonda H. Cooper*  
Director of Planning

Rockingham County Administration Center  
Department of Community Development  
20 East Gay Street  
Harrisonburg, VA 22802  
[www.rockinghamcountyva.gov](http://www.rockinghamcountyva.gov)  
Office: 540-564-3033  
Mobile: 540-271-5061

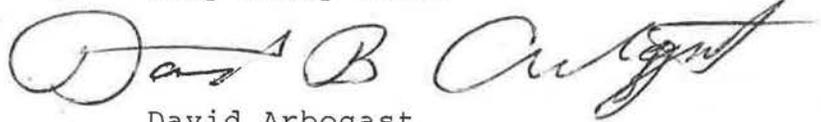
Commonwealth of Virginia  
Dept. of Historic Resources  
2801 Kensington Ave.  
Richmond, Va. 23221

To Whom It May Concern:

In regard to your letter of February 10th  
in reference to Plains Mill Property L  
have no objection to whatever they decide  
to do with same.

Trusting this is the information you desire  
I remain

Very truly Yours

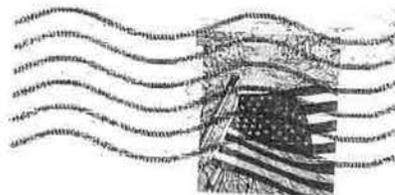


David Arbogast

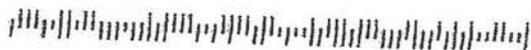
David Arbogast  
168 Virginia Ave.  
Timberville, Va. 22853

RICHMOND VA 230

19 FEB 2014 PM 4 L



Commonwealth of Virginia  
Dept. of Historic Resources  
2801 Kensington Ave.  
Richmond, Va. 23221





# COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

## Department of Historic Resources

2801 Kensington Avenue, Richmond, Virginia 23221

Molly Joseph Ward  
Secretary of Natural Resources

Julie V. Langan  
Director

Tel: (804) 367-2323  
Fax: (804) 367-2391  
www.dhr.virginia.gov

March 27, 2014

Mr. Paul Loether  
Chief, National Register of Historic Places and National Historic Landmarks Programs  
National Park Service 2280  
National Register of Historic Places  
1201 "I" (Eye) Street, N.W.  
Washington D.C. 20005

**RE: Cavalier Hotel, City of Virginia Beach; Lackawanna, Warren County; Melrose Caverns and Harrison Farmstead, Rockingham County; and Plains Mill, Rockingham County, Virginia**

Dear Mr. Loether:

The enclosed nominations, referenced above, are being submitted for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. The nominations have been considered, and approved, by the State Review Board and the SHPO has recommended them for listing. Any letters of comment or objection have been copied at the end of the nomination material, along with any FPO notification letters.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. My direct phone line is 804-482-6439.

Sincerely,

Lena Sweeten McDonald  
National/State Register Historian

Enclosures

Administrative Services  
10 Courthouse Ave.  
Petersburg, VA 23803  
Tel: (804) 862-6408  
Fax: (804) 862-6196

Capital Region Office  
2801 Kensington Avenue  
Richmond, VA 23221  
Tel: (804) 367-2323  
Fax: (804) 367-2391

Tidewater Region Office  
14415 Old Courthouse Way  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Newport News, VA 23608  
Tel: (757) 886-2818  
Fax: (757) 886-2808

Western Region Office  
962 Kime Lane  
Salem, VA 24153  
Tel: (540) 387-5443  
Fax: (540) 387-5446

Northern Region Office  
5357 Main Street  
P.O. Box 519  
Stephens City, VA 22655  
Tel: (540) 868-7029  
Fax: (540) 868-7033