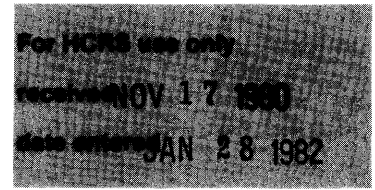


**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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

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



**1. Name**

historic East Vassalboro Grist and Saw Mill

and/or common Masse Mill

**2. Location**

ME 32

street & number Route 32, East Vassalboro

N/A not for publication

city, town EAST Vassalboro

vicinity of

congressional district 1 st

state Maine

code 23

county Kennebec

code 011

**3. Classification**

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

N/A

**4. Owner of Property**

name Herman Masse

street & number

city, town East Vassalboro

vicinity of

state Maine

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Kennebec County Registry of Deeds

street & number

city, town Augusta

state Maine

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title N/A has this property been determined eligible? N/A Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

date N/A \_\_\_ federal \_\_\_ state \_\_\_ county \_\_\_ local

depository for survey records N/A

city, town N/A state N/A

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## 7. Description

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**Condition**

excellent  
 good  
 fair

deteriorated  
 ruins  
 unexposed

**Check one**

unaltered  
 altered

**Check one**

original site  
 moved date c.1805

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

The East Vassalboro Grist and Saw Mill is a well-preserved industrial complex dating from the beginning of the 19th-century.

The saw mill, built 1798, is a one and one-half story frame building with metal-sheathed gable roof. Attached to the east end of the structure, facing the mill pond, is a shed; another shed is attached to the north side. The south side of the saw mill is covered by a large and nearly horizontal projecting roof with rough wooden supports. The substantial post-and-beam construction of the saw mill is reflected in the fact that the building's plates are one-foot-square in section and 57 feet in length.

The grist mill dating from c.1805, of frame construction with one and one-half stories and a gabled roof. An attached wing with shed roof extends from the north side of the building. The most distinctive feature of the grist mill is its cut granite — foundation walls which on the rear (west side) of the building are exposed and fitted with a door and four windows.

The mill still depends entirely on water power extracted from the mill race running between the two buildings. Presently there are in use three water wheels of the turbine low cistern scroll design.

## 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 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** 1798, c. 1805      **Builder/Architect** John Getchell, Jabez Dow

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The East Vassalboro Grist and Saw mill may well be the oldest mill site in Maine continuously operating in its original buildings and still using water power exclusively for the generation of energy.

The older of the two structures, the saw mill, was built in 1798 on a site about 300 yards above its present location by John Getchell. It was moved about 1805 to site directly across from the grist mill erected at the same time by Jabez Dow and owned by some retired sea captains.

In its early years the saw mill was owned by Jacob Butterfield and his son Henry while the grist mill was operated, but not owned, by Zachariah Butterfield, relationship unknown. In 1872 both mills were purchased by the Vassalboro Woolen Company, in order to control the flowage, and leased to different parties. These, in turn, purchased the respective mills in 1890 and in 1912 sold them to Louis Masse. In 1926 Herman Masse leased the saw mill from his father and purchased it in 1929. In 1948 he bought the grist mill and used it to house the pumping facilities of the East Vassalboro Water System which he had also purchased.

Herman Masse and his son, Kenneth continue to operate the saw mill which, although much modern equipment has been introduced, still relies entirely on water as a source of power.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Masse, Herman C., History of the Old Water Power Grist and Saw Mill, Vassalboro, 1971.

# 10. Geographical Data

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

Acreeage of nominated property 1  
 Quadrangle name Vassalboro

UTM NOT VERIFIED

Quadrangle scale 1:62500

UMT References

A	1 9	4 5 1 7 3 0	4 9 2 2 0 2 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing
C			
E			
G			

B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing
D			
F			
H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

Assessor's Map 21, Lot 19

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

state	<u>N/A</u>	code	county	code
state		code	county	code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Frank A. Beard, Historian / Robert L. Bradley, Architectural Historian  
 organization Maine Historic Preservation Commission date October, 1980  
 street & number 55 Capitol Street telephone 207/289-2133  
 city or town Augusta state Maine

# 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature *Earle S. Spettanow* date 10/30/80  
 title S.H.P.O.

For HCRS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	
<u><i>Delores Byers</i></u>	date <u>1/28/82</u>
Keeper of the National Register	
Attest:	date
Chief of Registration	