

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

===== RECEIVED =====
1. Name of Property
=====

FEB 23 1993

historic name: Reed's Mill

other name/site number: _____

NATIONAL
REGISTER

=====

2. Location
=====

street & number: County Route 219/1 not for publication: n/a
city/town: Second Creek vicinity: _____
state: West Virginia code: WV county: Monroe code: 063 ZIP: 24974

=====

3. State/Federal Agency Certification
=====

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this 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 meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ___ nationally ___ statewide locally.
(___ See continuation sheet.)

William C. Lerner 2.16.93
Signature of Certifying Official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau Date

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria. (___ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of Certifying Official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

Reed's Mill
property name

Monroe, WV
county and state

=====
4. National Park Service Certification
=====

I, hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
 ___ See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the
 National Register
 ___ See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the
 National Register
- removed from the National Register

Signature of Keeper

Patrick W. Adams

Date of Action

4/9/93

___ other (explain): _____

=====
5. Classification
=====

Ownership of Property:
(check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property:
(check only one box)

- private
- public-local
- public-state
- public-federal

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

NUMBER OF RESOURCES WITH PROPERTY

(do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing

2

8

10

Noncontributing

buildings

sites

structures

objects

TOTAL

NAME OF RELATED MULTIPLE PROPERTY LISTING n/a

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

NUMBER OF CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES PREVIOUSLY LISTED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER. n/a

Reed's Mill
property name

Monroe, WV
county and state

=====

6. Function or Use

=====

HISTORIC FUNCTIONS (enter categories from instructions) CURRENT FUNCTIONS (enter categories from instructions)

agriculture/processing agriculture/processing

=====

7. Description

=====

ARCHITECTURAL CLASSIFICATION: (enter categories from instructions) MATERIALS (enter categories from instructions)

other: timber frame construction foundation stone: sandstone blocks

_____ walls wood: weatherboard; German
_____ siding
_____ roof metal: tin
_____ other

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION
(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

=====

8. Statement of Significance

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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

Reed's Mill
property name

Monroe, WV
county and state

CRITERIA CONSIDERATIONS

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

property is:

- 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 of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE

(enter categories from instructions)

agriculture
architecture
industry
commerce

PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE

1791-1942

SIGNIFICANT DATES

1914

SIGNIFICANT PERSON

(complete if criterion B is marked above)

n/a

CULTURAL AFFILIATION

n/a

ARCHITECT/BUILDER

Archiball McDowell

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Reed's Mill
property name

Monroe, WV
county and state

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9. Major Bibliographical References
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BIBLIOGRAPHY

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS): n/a

- _ 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 # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data:

- _ State Historic Preservation Office
_ other state agency
_ federal agency
_ local government
_ university
x other - repository name: Monroe County Historical Society, Union, WV

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10. Geographical Data
=====

Acreage of Property: 3.21 acres

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing
1 17 547940 4168840 2 Zone Easting Northing
Zone Easting Northing
3 Zone Easting Northing D Zone Easting Northing See

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheets.)

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheets.)

=====
11. Form Prepared By
=====

name/title: Dr. Ronald Ripley

organization: Monroe County Historical Society date: Dec. 15, 1992

street & number: _____ telephone: 304-558-0220

city or town: Union state: WV ZIP: 24983

Reed's Mill
property name

Monroe, WV
county and state

=====
ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION
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Submit the following items with the completed form:

CONTINUATION SHEETS

MAPS

- USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location
- sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources

PHOTOGRAPHS

- representative black and white photographs of the property

Additional items

(check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

=====
PROPERTY OWNER
=====

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name: _____

street & number: _____ telephone: () _____

city or town: _____ state: _____ ZIP: _____
=====

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. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 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 Chief Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

section 7 page 1

Reed's Mill
Monroe County, WV

Description

In a completely rural setting stands one of the original mill complexes of Second Creek in southeastern West Virginia. Reed's Mill and associated structures hug the road they have served for nearly 200 years. Across from the mill is the original miller's house and the Second Creek Post Office, the Holesapple Store and Cottage. (Holesapple was a turn-of-the-century maker of chairs.)

Reed's Mill stands on a long snake-like section of land with the large end being the end that collects water from second Creek. The mill dam is an earth, rock and log structure (see photo #16). Water is diverted from Second Creek by a modified wing-dam (see photo #14). Water collected here flows through a gate into a race lined with rock ending in the mill pond proper. A concrete mill race carries water to the turbine which operates the grinding wheels in the mill. The original operation was an undershot wheel and a wooden raised race. The turbine was put into place in 1872. The nearly two-century-old main building is a mortise and tenon frame structure held together with wooden pins. The frame building sits atop a raised cut stone basement (see photo #8). It is encased with random width oblique boards and German siding. Large beautifully chamfered posts carry the large center beams in each of the three stories. The roof meets without a ridge pole (see photo #12) and is covered with standard tin replacing the original wood shakes. It supports at its ridge a monitor which can be opened allowing dust to escape. Water enters the substructure of the mill from the south side and is passed out through a gate in the stone wall on the west exposure (see photo #6). Excess water is ejected from the concrete race and flows around the western section of the building (see photo #7). In 1949 a tall three story section with basement was placed on the south exposure providing an enlarged loading and unloading area and providing for an office (see photo #1). A two story addition was also added to the north exposure about 1949 and has housed a blacksmith shop ever since. When the south addition was built the original outside stone chimney was removed and the stone was used to construct the basement under the new addition. A fireplace originally served the basement area. Even with these additions, the fabric of Reed's Mill retains a high degree of integrity (see photo #s 2,3,4,5,6).

Reed's Mill is unpainted and the siding is weathered. There is no evidence that it ever was painted. The original loading door and unloading chute still exist on the east exposure right against the road. On a stone on the northeast corner and facing east is a bronze U.S. Geodetic Survey elevation marker. The mill building proper is approximately 32 feet wide by 38 feet long.

Reed's Mill is easily viewed from County Road 219/1 and its presence seems as ancient as the hills, creek, and meadows surrounding it.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

section 8 page 1

Reed's Mill
Monroe County, WV

Significance

Reed's Mill, located on County Route 219/1 in Monroe County, West Virginia and across from the Second Creek Post Office, is an excellent example of a rural grist mill and its associated craftsmanship in southeastern West Virginia. It is important because it provides insight into the pattern of settlement in this region and for its relationship with the pioneer McDowell family who built it and the Reed family who owned and operated the mill since 1914.

Reed's Mill, its support structures, and the small community that surrounds it illustrate a nearly vanished way of life in rural America. Reed's Mill, one of the earliest on Second Creek, is the one survivor that still functions commercially. It still grinds wheat, corn, and buckwheat in the tradition of the 19th century. On the waters of Second Creek there once existed 22 grist mills, 4 woolen mills, one powder mill, and many saw and planning mills. Two other grist mill buildings are standing; all other buildings have vanished. The Reed's Mill community exhibits the old ca. 1820 millers' house with its cut-limestone root cellar, the Holesapple store and cottage, a church and school as well as a handfull of houses. The post office still functions in one wing of the old miller's house. The entire area is surrounded with farming enterprises that have supplied grain for generations. (None of the above mentioned, except the mill and its water works, is included in the resource count of Reed's Mill. It is probable, however, that a rural historic district will be identified at this location.)

From the records in the Monroe County Court House it appears that Reed's Mill was built by Archiball McDowell or his heirs, as he acquired the land by patent September 1, 1791. When the land was sold by the McDowell heirs by deed dated February 28, 1837, it stated in the deed that there was a grist and saw mill on the land. (Monroe County Deed Book M, page 437). Dr. Margaret Ballard, Monroe County historian, wrote about this in the West Virginia Hillbilly, page 7, May 20, 1972 issue. It was Dr. Ballard's opinion that the mill was built in 1791. Oren Morton in his 1916 History of Monroe County says that Archiball (Catharine) McDowell came to Second Creek before 1780 and operated a saw and grist mill. He (Archiball) died in 1813, leaving personalty appraised at \$1,192.75. It is generally believed that Archiball McDowell was the builder of the mill; therefore it could have been built between 1791 and 1813, but certainly before 1837. (The oldest mill still standing on Second Creek and the first built is Roger's Mill, built of log, in 1785.) The pioneer McDowell Family

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

section 8 page 2

Reed's Mill
Monroe County, WV

acquired much land in Monroe County and also acquired many slaves. McDowell slaves built and worked the mill in the early years. This is related by the Judge Andrew Campbell Papers in the Monroe County Historical Society Collection. The early McDowell family was large and intermarried into many of Monroe County's prominent Families; the Campbell family being one. J. William McDowell was a captain of militia during the first year of the Civil War. He entered the regular volunteer service as drum major in Edgar's Battalion and was wounded at Cedar Creek, Virginia. He served six terms as president of the Monroe County Board of Education and two terms as justice of the peace after the war.

Leona Lynch Kessel in her master's thesis prepared at West Virginia University in 1950 and entitled Monroe County in the Civil War, reports that a part of Chapman's and Bryan's Batteries chose Reed's Mill to winter quarter in 1862-63. Beirne Chapman, captain and organizer of the battery from Monroe County says that some of his men drilled holes into the mill to extract flour. These holes are still visible. It is related that Chapman's only comment was, "to go on, since they were willing to steal with someone watching them."

A sort of folklore has arisen about Reed's Mill. One story is related about Aubrey Reed and Dwight D. Eisenhower. It is said that Dwight Eisenhower while visiting the nearby Greenbrier Hotel decided he would like some stone-ground corn meal and sent his driver to Reed's Mill to purchase some. Aubrey Reed sent the driver back as this was not the day to grind cornmeal, not even for General Eisenhower. The General's driver returned on the proper day and accomplished his mission. Reed's Mill has been featured in many newspapers of West Virginia such as The Monroe Watchman, Mountain Messenger, West Virginia Hillbilly, and the Charleston Gazette. Reed's Mill continues to be the source of inspiration for many local artists and tourists.

The internal workings of the mill are significant for they exhibit the process of "milling" from the eighteenth century to the early twentieth century. Significant examples of the grist mill process are housed here. One fine example is the Midget Marvel Flour Mill. This tiny flour mill was installed sometime before 1920. It still has the instruction manual. Many pieces of equipment from the Fitz and Company of Springfield, Ohio, are in operation. The mill also retains the record of correspondence between these companies and Aubrey Reed. There is also a Showes Company, Silver Creek, New York, bagger. This company went out of business in 1926. (see photo #9)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

section 8 page 3

Reed's Mill
Monroe County, WV

The structure of Reed's Mill is a significant example of timber framing wherein the entire weight of the building is carried by massive, hewn beams. These large hand-cut timbers are held together with wooden pegs or pins, traditionally called "tree nails." Before milled lumber was commonly available, and before balloon framing was widely adopted, framing with massive timbers was the laborious method of construction for mill buildings, barns, etc. At Reed's Mill the corner posts, end girts, and summer beams are well preserved and especially good examples of the members which comprise the timber frame system of construction.

Since its construction in the late eighteenth or early nineteenth century, Reed's Mill has served the people of Monroe and Greenbrier counties and in the early days it served further afield. It provided a focal point for a wide rural community with its farms, associated stores, post office, church, houses and school; a way of life that has disappeared in most parts of the United States.

Reed's Mill is significant for its machinery and architecture; it meets Criterion C in that it exhibits early timber frame building techniques employed by a local master builder. It is important under Criterion A in that it was associated with the pioneering McDowell Family and the Reed Family who contributed to the settlement and growth of a large area of the Greenbrier Valley. It is an excellent example of an agriculture-related business enterprise that spans nearly two centuries.

Period of Significance

The period of significance, c. 1791-1942, spans the commercially prosperous and active decades preceding the construction of two unobtrusive 1940s frame additions. A large measure of the building's importance relates to the widespread and constant utilization of the mill's services and products by the rural populace of Monroe county. The last half century of the mill's commercial activity has witnessed a steady decline in the volume of business.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

section 9,10 page 1

Reed's Mill
Monroe County, WV

9. Bibliography

Ballard, Dr. Margaret. West Virginia Hillbilly, May 20, 1972, page 7.

Campbell, Judge Andrew. papers. Monroe County Historical Society Collection.

Kellel, Leona Lynch. Monroe County in the Civil War. West Virginia University Master's thesis, 1950.

Monroe County Deed Book M, page 437.

Morton, Oren F. A History of Monroe County, West Virginia. Staunton, Virginia: The McClure Company, Inc. 1st edition, 1916.

Mustain, Larry, owner of Reed's Mill. conversation, May 1992.

10. Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property corresponds to tax parcel 8, map 18, Second Creek District found in the Assessor's office, Monroe County Court House in Union, West Virginia. (see sketch map of Reed's Mill). The nominated property is a long narrow stretch of land bounded on the east by county road 219/1 and on the west by farm land. The north and south boundaries are ingress and egress of water from Second Creek. The south boundary extends across Second Creek and includes land on the south bank of the creek.

Boundary Justification

The nominated property includes the entire parcel of land historically associated with Reed's mill; and area of 3.21 acres.