Form No. 10-300 (Rev. 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED SEP 30 1975
DATE ENTERED JAN 11 1976

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC
Dybdall Grist Mill

AND/OR COMMON
Chapman Lake Mill

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
10 mi S of Cheney
Rock Creek, south end of Chapman Lake
__NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN
Cheney
X VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
#5 - Honorable Thomas S. Foley

STATE
Washington

CODE
53

COUNTY
Spokane

CODE
063

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
__DISTRICT	__PUBLIC	__OCCUPIED	X AGRICULTURE	__MUSEUM
X BUILDING(S)	X PRIVATE	X UNOCCUPIED	__COMMERCIAL	__PARK
__STRUCTURE	__BOTH	__WORK IN PROGRESS	__EDUCATIONAL	__PRIVATE RESIDENCE
__SITE	**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**	**ACCESSIBLE**	__ENTERTAINMENT	__RELIGIOUS
__OBJECT	__IN PROCESS	__YES: RESTRICTED	__GOVERNMENT	__SCIENTIFIC
	__BEING CONSIDERED	__YES: UNRESTRICTED	__INDUSTRIAL	__TRANSPORTATION
		X NO	__MILITARY	__OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
O. C. Dybdall, Jr.

STREET & NUMBER
Rt. 3, Box 101

CITY, TOWN
Cheney
X VICINITY OF

STATE
Washington

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Spokane County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER
W. 1116 Broadway Avenue

CITY, TOWN
Spokane

STATE
Washington

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
Washington State Inventory of Historic Places

DATE
1974
__FEDERAL X STATE __COUNTY __LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS
Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission

CITY, TOWN
Olympia

STATE
Washington

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
__EXCELLENT	__DETERIORATED	__UNALTERED	X ORIGINAL SITE
__GOOD	__RUINS	X ALTERED	__MOVED DATE_____
X FAIR	__UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Dybdall Grist Mill is a three-story single wall board and batten building of braced frame construction. It is located on Rock Creek near the south end of Chapman Lake in a sparsely settled section of southern Spokane County. The mill is a simple structure, square in plan, roughly 30 feet on each side, and with a saltbox roof. Rock Creek runs in front of the mill, which is situated on a wooded hillside that rises from the creek bed.

The structural system consists of posts with horizontal members let in and nailed. Shouldered toe joints are used to connect the diagonal bracing, and extensive reinforcement is provided under the heavier machinery.

The second story of the building is the main floor, and it is entered from the back at ground level because of the sloping site. On either side of this entrance is a storage area at the beginning and end of the work flow. The grain loading chute for the elevator and the flour packer are strategically placed near the door. The roller milling equipment itself (a crucial intermediate stage in the processing) is also positioned on this floor in the remaining portion toward the front.

Additional equipment is located on the third floor and in the loft at the attic level. Here the grain was first cleaned and conditioned and later sifted before being sent down to the grinding apparatus and then returned for further purification. It was a complex cyclical process where the material was repeatedly ground into finer grades. At each stage, the flour was sifted and that which had already reached the proper consistency was removed. Bran was separated in the final sifting and bagged separately.

The material was moved between floors by an enclosed belt-bucket conveyor or "elevator" and gravity chutes.

The Dybdall Mill contains the following grain processing apparatus, listed in the sequence of operation, and all manufactured by Barnard and Lees:

For cleaning and conditioning --
- grain scourer

For grinding --
- two stage roller grinders (four)

For bolting --
- plan sifter
- dust collector
- reel (sieve)

For purification --
- middlings purifier
- sifter
- bran duster

For collecting and bagging --
- packer

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Power is supplied to the machinery through an amazing system of jack shafts, belts and pulleys connected to a water driven turbine. The main equipment is located on the lower level of the building referred to as the drive room.

The mill building was constructed in 1897 equipped with three, two-stage roller grinders. In 1910, a fourth grinder was added, and the middlings purifier and dust collector were installed. An auxilliary gas engine was connected to the drive system in 1925 for use when the supply of water to the flume was insufficient. Eventually the wooden flume itself was replaced with an ingenious is slightly grotesque assembly of steel boilers cut lengthwise, welded together and supported on top of old truck frames that had been stood on end and set in concrete.

With the above exceptions the structure and machinery remain as built, although wind damage and general deterioration of the roof are serious problems. Shingles on the east slope have been hastily protected by corrugated aluminum, but high winds threaten to tear these loose. At the back, the lower half of the roof has collapsed entirely causing considerable rot and water damage to the floor. As yet no machinery has been affected, and there is no noticible structural sag due to the heavy reinforcement built into the original framing.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
__PREHISTORIC	__ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	__COMMUNITY PLANNING	__LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	__RELIGION	
__1400-1499	__ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	__CONSERVATION	__LAW	__SCIENCE	
__1500-1599	✓AGRICULTURE	__ECONOMICS	__LITERATURE	__SCULPTURE	
__1600-1699	X ARCHITECTURE	__EDUCATION	__MILITARY	__SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
__1700-1799	__ART	✓ENGINEERING	__MUSIC	__THEATER	
X 1800-1899	__COMMERCE	__EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	__PHILOSOPHY	__TRANSPORTATION	
X 1900-	__COMMUNICATIONS	X INDUSTRY	__POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	__OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		__INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES 1897, enlarged 1910 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Ole C. Dybdall

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

In the early 1880's Fred Wagner and Henry Hinkney constructed a small sawmill on Chapman Lake in southern Spokane County. This operation supplied lumber for the farms and homesteads around the lake. Eventually their materials were transported as far as Cheney, ten miles north in Spokane County, and as far as the Hole in the Ground, ten miles south in Whitman County. The mill machinery itself was brought to Chapman Lake by freight wagon from Wallula on the Columbia River.

In 1896 Ole C. Dybdall, a Norwegian immigrant, bought the sawmill and property. Dybdall was a skilled miller as well a sawyer through experience he had acquired in Norway. In the following year, 1897, he built a turbine driven grist mill on Rock Creek just below the southern tip of Chapman Lake. This mill is still standing with the original equipment in place. It is a complex, multi-stage operation that clearly required considerable technical understanding and engineering ability to assemble. Some supplemental machinery was installed in 1910, although the process itself was basically unchanged.

O. C. Dybdall operated both the grist and sawmills until 1919 when he died at age 60 while returning from an auction. His wife Annie and son Ole C. Dybdall, Jr. continued the milling operations after his death.

The grist mill remained in service until 1955. Although the original sawmill is gone, Ole Dybdall, Jr. continues at 74 to saw lumber for individuals.

At its peak in the 1920's and 30's, the Dybdall Grist Mill produced 30 barrels a day. Because of its eight stage roller grinding process, the mill was well-known throughout the area for the finest baking flour available. The usual six stage equipment commonly used by larger mills provided a coarser flour less desirable in comparison.

Due to tremendous increases in grain production and the demand for high volume processing, the Dybdall Mill was obsolete soon after it was built, although business continued to improve. This small facility provided high quality custom milling, an increasingly rare service, and by 1934 it was the only grist mill of its kind in a major wheat producing area. Some farmers would travel as far as 100 miles to insure that the flour they obtained was ground properly from the specific grade of grain they provided.

Whitman County immediately to the south of Chapman Lake presently yields the greatest quantity of wheat harvested in any Washington county. The state's average wheat production exceeds 120 million bushels, 80 percent of which is exported.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Interviews with the owner, Ole C. Dybdall, Jr.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Less than one

UTM REFERENCES

	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
A	1,1	4,5,7,2,9,0	5,2,4,4,4,2,0	B			
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Jacob E. Thomas and Patsy M. Garrett, Historic Preservation Specialists

ORGANIZATION Office of Archaeology & Historic Preservation
Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission

DATE June 1975

STREET & NUMBER P. O. Box 1128

TELEPHONE 753-4116

CITY OR TOWN Olympia

STATE Washington

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL ___ STATE ___ LOCAL X

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE Arthur M. Skolnik

TITLE State Conservator

DATE September 15. 1975

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Acting

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE 1/4/96

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 1-7-96

GPO 888-445

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Very few comparable grist mills survive anywhere in Washington, most having been dismantled or destroyed as fire hazards. Considering its rarity as an industrial artifact and the importance of wheat to the nation's economy, the Dybdall Grist Mill represents a significant period in the history of Pacific Northwest agriculture.