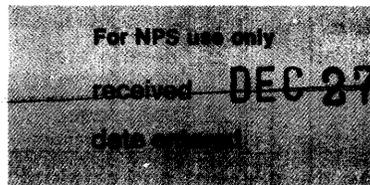


EXP. 12/31/84

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park 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 Cox's Mill

and/or common Mill Springs Mill

2. Location N of Jefferson City on

street & number Fielden's Store Road, N/A not for publication

city, town Jefferson City, vicinity X vicinity of congressional district

state Tennessee code 047 county Jefferson code 089

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name Mr. Stuart R. Worden

street & number 505 South Gay Street, 1200 Park National Bank Building

city, town Knoxville N/A vicinity of state Tennessee 37902

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Registrar of Deeds, Jefferson County Courthouse

street & number Public Square

city, town Dandridge state Tennessee 37725

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Tennessee Cultural Resource Survey has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1980  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Tennessee Historical Commission

city, town Nashville, state Tennessee

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## 7. Description

---

**Condition**

excellent  
 good  
 fair

deteriorated  
 ruins  
 unexposed

**Check one**

unaltered  
 altered

**Check one**

original site  
 moved date \_\_\_\_\_

---

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

Cox's Mill is a water powered grain mill of brick construction located on Mill Springs Creek in a rural area of Jefferson County, Tennessee in the vicinity of Jefferson City. The immediate environment of the mill still possesses its long time character of farms, pasture, and forest. Constructed c.1803 by William Cox the simple utilitarian exterior is essentially unaltered and consists of two floors plus basement, a hipped roof with dormers, and a c.1900 iron wheel. While the wooden portions of the mill race are no longer extant, the earthwork portion still exists, extending upstream from the mill. While the interior of the mill contains some modern alterations, the basic wooden structure—posts, beams, and joists are intact and, the assorted heavy timber supports for the main mill power assembly, as well as a set of grindstones, are intact. The building retains its architectural integrity.

The mill is located in a rural area of Jefferson County, Tennessee approximately five miles west of Jefferson City (historic name—town of Mossy Creek) at the junction of Fielden's Store Road and River Road, on Mill Springs Creek. The mill is only a few hundred yards south of the Holston River, downstream from the Cherokee Dam. The immediate surroundings of the mill are currently farms, pastureland, and forests, consistent with its historic setting.

A two story plus basement brick building, the mill is rectangular in plan, with the long axis of the rectangle running approximately north-south. Mill Springs Creek runs parallel to this axis along the west side. The mill race, of which the earthwork portions still exist, ran along the east side, extending parallel to the creek upstream approximately 1500 feet. The race runs near a c.1839 brick dwelling built by one of the mill owner's (but not included in this nomination). A 75-foot long wooden timber structure, no longer extant, carried the water from the earthwork portion to the over-shot mill wheel, located on the north end of the building. The existing wheel is of iron construction and is thought to have been installed c.1900. Concrete and stone pylons support the wheel and bearings.

The mill is of simple utilitarian design with no decoration. Except for minor details, the exterior is unaltered. The roof is of hip design, with a central dormer window in each roof face. The current roofing material is wood shingles. During some portion of the past the roofing material was galvanized iron. The north facade of the mill, in which the wheel is centered, includes three simple shuttered openings, aligned vertically, and centered, one per floor. The east facade includes a one-story wooden porch, two-thirds the length of the building, centered at the elevation of the first floor. One door on the porch is the main entrance off the porch into the mill. Also on the east facade are two shuttered window openings, slightly misaligned, north of the porch, at the first and second floors. A brick chimney, of simple rectangular shape, extends above the roof line.

The south facade is symmetrically organized into three bays. The center bay consists of a large door opening, on each of the three levels. On either side of the central bay are shuttered windows, at the northern end, one per floor aligned vertically.

The interior of the mill has the basic structure of wooden beams and joists intact. A wooden stairway, portions of which appear to be early, connect the three levels. The heavy timber supports for the mill mechanisms are extant, as are one set of mill stones. While the mill power transport system has been altered at times, it is functional; the last major changes probably occurred c.1900 at the time of installation of the current wheel. The accumulation of various supports and associated pieces during the long life of the mill has resulted in a quite complex and interesting assemblage. A portion of a once extensive grain elevator system exists, but is relocated to a non-functional position. Several partitions of new construction have been built on the first and second floors to provide habitable space.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

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Inventory—Nomination Form**

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received  
date entered

Continuation sheet Cox's Mill Item number 7 Page 2

A saw mill and still house were also known to exist in association with the grain mill, but no traces of these operations have been discovered to date. In addition, to date there has not been any evidence of any other buildings or dependencies uncovered.

# 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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

**Specific dates** 1803–1812      **Builder/Architect** William Cox

**Statement of Significance (In one paragraph)** Nominated under criteria A and C

Cox's Mill, currently more commonly known as Mill Springs Mill, is a very distinctive and rare example of an early 19th century grain mill of brick construction, in Jefferson County and East Tennessee. Constructed as early as 1803 by William Cox, an early settler of Jefferson County, the building is one of the oldest mills in the county. The mill is still situated in a rural area surrounded by farms, pasture, and forest. The exterior of the mill, of a simple yet harmonious utilitarian design, is essentially unaltered. The interior, while containing some alterations, has an especially interesting heavy timber construction for the mill power assembly, dating from several periods. Most mills of this period in the East Tennessee area were of timber, frame, or log construction, and were much smaller in scale; the brick construction, size, and early date make Cox's Mill rare and significant in architecture. In addition, the long operation of the mill, from c.1803 to the 1950's, give it significance in the area of commerce for Jefferson County.

William Cox bought the land on which the mill stands in 1796. Family tradition indicates that the mill was built about 1803 with bricks made by slave labor and with the first grindstones being brought from England. No documentation for this date has been discovered; however, William Cox's will was probated in 1805; his son, Dudley, died in 1812 at an early age and the mill was included in his estate. The mill was also listed as being for sale in an advertisement in the Knoxville Register September 21, 1816. Consequently, the date of construction was sometime between 1803–1812. Originally known as Cox's Mill, after the builder's name, the mill later came to be known as Mill Springs Mill.

Architecturally, as a very early mill of brick construction, Cox's Mill is unusual in the East Tennessee area. Most other mills in the area were of timber, frame, or log construction, and they were also generally smaller in size. The design, while in a very simple utilitarian style, is quite harmonious, and the rural setting provides an appropriate environment. The location of openings is similar to other large mills of the same general period in other areas of the country. As an example, the south facade of Cox's Mill is quite similar to VanWyck-Lefferts Tide Mill in Huntington, New York, c.1793–1797. The interior construction, especially the accumulation of heavy timber constructions associated with changes in the milling machinery, is also of great interest. The entire exterior, as well as the portion of the interior associated with the milling machinery, still maintain the historic character of the building.

The mill also is significant in the commerce of Jefferson County through its long use from c.1803 until the 1950's. The 1816 newspaper advertisement, while probably exaggerating, described the mill and machinery as "being second to none" in the entire state. In association with the saw mill and still house, also on the land, the mill was a center of commerce in the county.

At the time of this nomination, the mill is in the process of rehabilitation. A blacksmith, specializing in replicating historic hardware, has a shop in the basement level, and lives in the upper floors. Work has begun on making the milling machinery functional. Plans are being made for reconstructing the timber portion of the mill race, to allow water to again power the wheel.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Heritage, Jefferson County, by Bicentennial Committee of Jefferson County, 1976.  
Interviews with Mr. and Mrs. G. Bauman and Mrs. J. Bible, Jefferson County historians.  
Knoxville Register ; September 21, 1816

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property approx. 2 acres

Quadrangle name Joppa, Tennessee

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UMT References

A 

1	7	2	7	2	7	5	0	4	0	0	4	0	7	0
Zone				Easting				Northing						

B 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

C 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

D 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

E 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

F 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

G 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

H 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

**Verbal boundary description and justification** The property nominated is 250' along River Road, 250' deep; 112' along Fileden's Store Road, as shown on Jefferson County property tax map 8. The property nominated is under single ownership. Included is the minimal land needed to convey and preserve the mill's historical context.

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

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Ronald E. Childress, Principal

organization Childress and Associates, Architects date September 18, 1982

street & number 524a S. Gay Street, P.O. Box 2641 telephone (615) 523-1917

city or town Knoxville state Tennessee 37901

# 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 National Park Service.

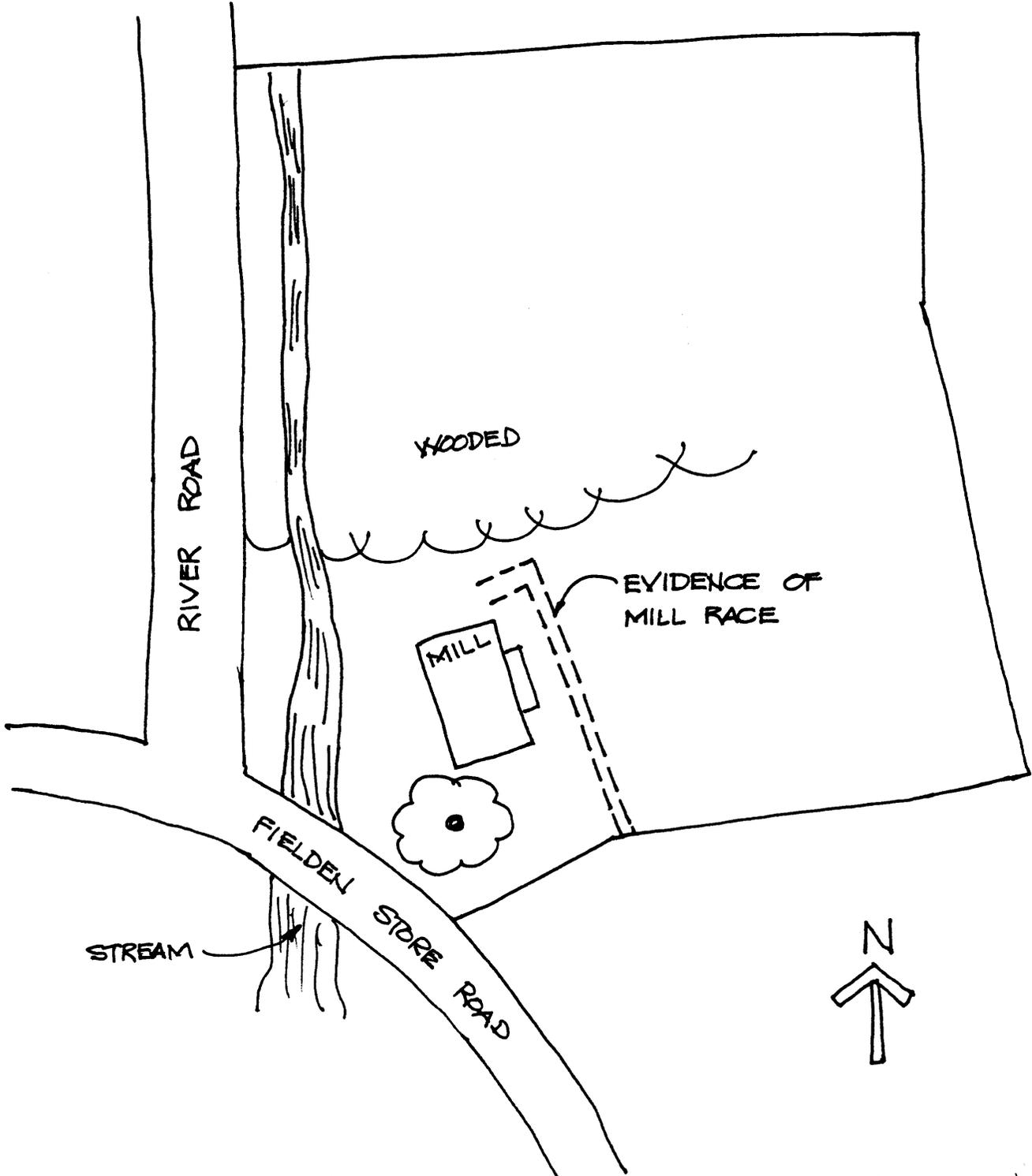
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer signature Herbert E. Hagen

title Executive Director, Tennessee Historical Commission

date 12/15/82

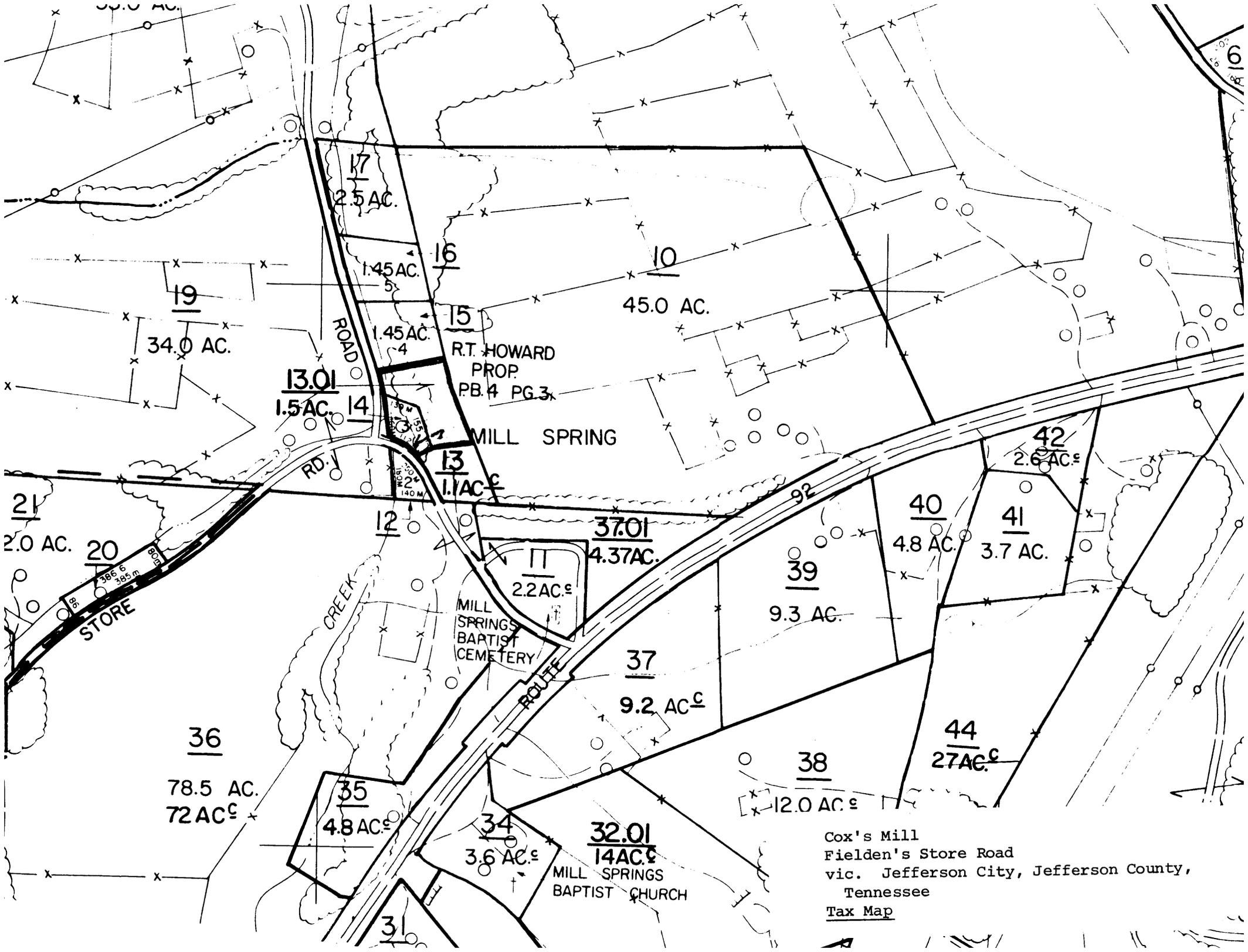
For NPS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	
<u>Delores Byers</u>	Entered in the National Register
Keeper of the National Register	date <u>1/27/83</u>
Attest:	date
Chief of Registration	

Cox's Mill  
Fielden's Store Road  
vic. Jefferson City, Jefferson County,  
Tennessee  
Site Plan



WORDEN'S MILL SITE PLAN

N.T.S.



R.T. HOWARD  
PROP.  
PB. 4 PG. 3

MILL SPRING

MILL SPRINGS  
BAPTIST  
CEMETERY

MILL SPRINGS  
BAPTIST CHURCH

Cox's Mill  
Fielden's Store Road  
vic. Jefferson City, Jefferson County,  
Tennessee  
Tax Map

ROAD RD.

CREEK

ROUTE

STORE

33.0 AC.

17  
2.5 AC.

16  
1.45 AC.

19  
34.0 AC.

13.01  
1.5 AC.

14

13  
1.1 AC.

12

37.01  
4.37 AC.

2.2 AC.

39  
9.3 AC.

40  
4.8 AC.

41  
3.7 AC.

42  
2.6 AC.

37  
9.2 AC.

36  
78.5 AC.  
72 AC.

35  
4.8 AC.

34  
3.6 AC.

32.01  
14 AC.

38  
12.0 AC.

44  
27 AC.

6