

PH0691062

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED OCT 12 1976  
DATE ENTERED NOV 23 1977

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  
 Ketner's Mill + 13 Bridge  
AND/OR COMMON

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER *Emp Victoria on*  
Ketner Mill Road *at Logansport River* NOT FOR PUBLICATION  
CITY, TOWN Victoria VICINITY OF Third  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
STATE Tennessee CODE 47 COUNTY Marion CODE 115

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<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 type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> 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:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Paul and Clyde Ketner  
STREET & NUMBER Ketner Mill Road  
CITY, TOWN Victoria VICINITY OF STATE Tennessee

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Marion County Courthouse  
STREET & NUMBER  
CITY, TOWN Jasper STATE Tennessee

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Tennessee Historical and Architectural Survey  
DATE 1974 FEDERAL STATE  COUNTY LOCAL  
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Tennessee Historical Commission  
CITY, TOWN Nashville STATE Tennessee

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Ketner's Mill is located in its original rural setting, at the south shore of the Sequatchie River, approximately one and one-half miles east of Victoria. The dirt road from Victoria crosses the river on Ketner Bridge and winds in front of the old mill and Ketner's farm to join State Route 28, at the east side of the valley. The mill is composed of two separate buildings joined by a wooden walk. A sawmill was added beside the mill and dismantled in 1952. Discarded machinery and remnants of the old sawmill remain strewn around the mill site. The oldest existing section of the mill is the wool carding house built in 1824 and operated until 1930. This original frame building is located nearest the river and it is supported by piers, above the two-bay waterhouse. The original wool carding machine is being restored. The turbine wheel used to operate it has an eight horsepower capacity and water for power is channeled through a pipe from the top of the wheel shaft. The new waterhouse was built in 1946, after the old wood turbine bays proved inefficient. The bays are built of reinforced concrete and hold up to eight feet of water.

The handsome, two-by-three bay, two and one-half story brick mill building was built by Alexander Kelley Ketner in 1872. It is being restored by his heirs who operate the mill for grinding corn flour, meal, and scratch grain for local farmers. The restoration work began three years ago when the Ketners decided to rebuild the old log dam of reinforced concrete. The new dam is two-thirds complete at the present time. The Ketners are restoring the original poplar wood window sills and classic cornice to match the original carpentry. They are patching cracks in the double bearing walls and repointing the new mortar joints. The brick bearing walls rest on tall limestone foundation walls set on bedrock. The carding house is being used for a shop during the restoration work.

The double main entrance doors are located in the gable end wall which is fronted by a wide loading platform across the front. A main feature of the architecture is the open round window in the gable; it is the source of light for the top floor of the mill, and the front wall stove chimney circumvents this central feature. There are ladder-type, wood staircases to each of the three-story levels and a wood ramp serves to connect the rear entrance from the brick building to the carding house. Farmers deliver their crops to the two-story, wood frame section in the left elevation. This addition is divided for the storage of wheat and corn. Wheat was processed in the mill until 1948. Grain and flour are moved around and through the building by means of chutes and conveyor belts. All of the mill grinding operations are performed on the first-story level. The Ketners use old mill picks to redress the entire surface of the old mill stone which predates the Civil War. The mill has four turbines which range from fifteen to forty-five horsepower. Cogs are hand carved from persimmon wood.

The designated property includes the Ketner Bridge, located a short distance downstream from the mill. The old single lane, steel span bridge was built in 1910 and has a metal plaque at the entrance which lists names of the bridge building committee members. It has a 1904 patent date, and the metal spans were built by the Converse Bridge Company of Chattanooga. The Ketner house was erected at the time the brick mill was built. Located adjacent to the front of the mill, it is a two-

# 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 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 1824; 1872

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Alexander Kelly Ketner

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Ketners, whose descendants settled in the Sequatchie Valley in 1829, have continued a long established family tradition as millwrights. The first generation of Ketners came to America from the Rhineland in 1733, and settled in Berks County, Pennsylvania, with other Lutherans. The second generation of this family migrated to the Shenandoah Valley, Virginia, and their offspring settled on land beside the French Broad River near Dandridge, Tennessee.

Since water power was necessary to operate the small domestic type mill, David Ketner explored the waterways of Tennessee in search of land where he could build a mill. In 1829 he established a homestead at Waldens Ridge on Looney's Creek in the beautiful Sequatchie Valley, and this place became known as Ketner's Cove. David Ketner's mill was a wood frame structure, and it featured an overshot water wheel and a blacksmith shop. David Ketner's son Alexander Ketner (1831-1921) was trained in the same father-to-son tradition. He married Mary Thompson in 1859, and they settled on the Sequatchie River where their descendants have remained as farmers and millers for over one hundred years. When Alexander Ketner explored the river, he selected the site of an earlier mill for the natural limestone shelf across the riverbed. Across this feature he built a log-pen cofferdam to provide adequate power for the turbine mill wheels he installed. In 1872 he built the frame house and the brick mill building. The brick mill was an addition to an earlier mill, built in 1824. The remaining section of this mill is the wool carding house located at the end above the turbine bays. This small, wood frame building has retained many of its original features which include the original machinery. The wide, hand-dressed, board siding, heavy wood beams, hand-forged iron hardware, and wood floors and doors have been worn smooth during the many years of constant use. The original wool carding machine is powered by a small turbine wheel. A one-of-a-kind item, this antique carding machine is being restored and reassembled. An important feature of the mill, it was the only wool carding machine in use following the disastrous Civil War period in this region of the state.

Ketner's Mill is the lone survivor of the many mills built on the Sequatchie. This picturesque old landmark is a popular historic site. The mill is not tourist oriented, and it has remained a working mill where most of the milling is done for local farmers who bring corn there for grinding. The mill has been a gathering place for farmers who brought their wagon loads of crops for processing. While the millers worked, they gathered around the old wood stove to swap stories, and they would sleep in their wagons when the milling operations lasted into the night.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Chattanooga News-Free Press, "Ketner Reunion," Sunday, August 18, 1974, p. 1-8.  
 Kelly, Martelia C. A History of South Pittsburg (South Pittsburg, 1973).  
 Raulston, J. Leonard and James W. Livingood. Sequatchie, A Story of the Southern  
 Cumberlands (Knoxville, 1974).  
 Smith, Christine. "Home Sweet Sequatchie" Southern Living (April, 1972), pp. 40-44.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 44

UTM REFERENCES

CA	1,6	6,3,4	4,6,0	3,8	8,9	5,2,0	AB	1,6	6,3,5	1,8,0	3,8	8,9	3,9,0
	ZONE	EASTING		NORTHING			ZONE	EASTING		NORTHING			
B	1,6	6,3,5	1,10,0	3,8	8,8	9,3,0	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

Gail Hammerquist, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION

Tennessee Historical Commission

DATE

September 1976

STREET & NUMBER

170 Second Avenue North

TELEPHONE

(615) 741-2371

CITY OR TOWN

Nashville

STATE

Tennessee

# 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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

*Herbert E. Hyman*

TITLE

Executive Director, Tennessee Historical Commission

DATE

10/6/76

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

*Robert B. Rettig*

DATE

11/23/77

DIRECTOR OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST

*Charles A. ...*

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

11.18.77

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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story frame and clapboard house, typical of the rural, Tennessee vernacular style. The house has been modernized and added to in recent years. The original building featured the center hall plan with rooms at either side, and the distinguishing features are the tall narrow profile with end chimneys and a balustraded two-story porch attached to the simple entrance. A one-story addition forms an ell at the rear, right side and this room is the new kitchen.

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The property being nominated is related by historical background. The two geographic areas are discontinuous, each area being separated by several acres.

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Alexander Ketner's two sons, Eugene and Aldine Ketner, operated the grist mill through the 1920s. Eugene studied engineering, and he built a lumber mill in conjunction with the earlier mill. In continuous operation since 1872, this mill was closed once, when Clyde Ketner was called away for military service during World War II. Traditionally, Ketner Mill has been preserved through constant maintenance necessary for its continued use.

The old iron and wood bridge located downstream, called Ketner Bridge, is the only bridge across the river on the road leading to Victoria. The Ketner farm is a Century Farm in this county; the same family has utilized the land for agriculture for over 100 years. The large family reunions of the Ketner "clan" are held every year at the old homeplace. These festive events have been featured by the Chattanooga news media.

Mills of this type built during the nineteenth century are architecturally significant. Many of the original features of this mill serve to make it worthy of recognition as an outstanding example of its type. The permanence of its sturdy construction is expressed by its form. Functional characteristics of the mill design are enhanced by the classic styling and beautifully detailed and well proportioned facade. The newly restored brick building was constructed of cypress wood and hand-made brick manufactured from clay found on a nearby hillside. All of the discarded machinery for the mill has been retained on the property, and it is being used for the restoration. The millstone which is still being used is hand-cut and was acquired from an early mill located at Raccoon Mountain. One set of discarded, early millstone are the French buhrstones used for grinding wheat. The Ketners use split corncobs instead of metal bearings for the old grinding wheels. This old method eliminates the need for grease and it has been continued for practical reasons. All of the cogs and gears are hand carved from persimmon wood which is durable and will not expand when wet.

Today Ketner's Mill is a well preserved, authentic example of the turbine-type mill, a popular type of waterpowered mill for small, domestic operations which were necessary for agricultural production. The early water-powered mill of this type is a forerunner of the larger mills for processing or manufacturing cloth, lumber, and grain in America.

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Total acreage 5

UTM references for bridge-- .5 acre

16/634620/3889440

UTM references for mill-- 4.5 acres

- A. 16/635120/3889280
- B. 16/635060/3889000
- C. 16/635000/3889010
- D. 16/635060/3889290

Verbal boundary description:

The 4.5 acre tract nominated with the mill begins at a point on the north side of the Sequatchie River at the north end of the dam; thence southwestwardly 1000 feet to a point; thence westwardly 200 feet to a point; thence northeastwardly 1000 feet to a point; thence eastwardly 200 feet to the point of beginning.

The .5 acre tract for the bridge consists of the area covered by the bridge, which is approximately 150 feet long and 12 feet wide, and is located approximately 1650 feet northwest of the mill.