

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

For NPS use only

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

received **JUL 20 1983**

date entered

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

1. Name

historic GUYN'S MILL HISTORIC DISTRICT

and/or common

2. Location

street & number Mundy's Landing & Pauls Mill Roads not for publication

city, town Troy vicinity of

state Kentucky code 021 county Woodford code 239

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" 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	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> na in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> na being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: Vacant

4. Owner of Property

name Mrs. Catherine Guyn Leedy c/o Dorothy Brandenburg

street & number 516 Southland Drive

city, town Versailles vicinity of state Kentucky 40383

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Woodford County Courthouse

street & number

city, town Versailles state Kentucky 40383

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title KY Historic Resources Inventory has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date March, 1980 federal state county local

depository for survey records Kentucky Heritage Council

city, town Frankfort state Kentucky

7. Description

Condition			Check one		Check one
excellent	x	deteriorated	unaltered	x	original site
good		ruins	x	altered	moved
x		unexposed			date

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Guyn's Mill Historic District, located in a secluded valley setting in southeastern Woodford County, Kentucky, includes the historic core of a family operated nineteenth century farm and mill complex. Within the area nominated are a Greek Revival residence with barns and dependencies, a late eighteenth century log dwelling, a log and frame blacksmith shop, miller's residence, and the mill complex located on both sides of Clear Creek. The industrial complex consists of a mid-nineteenth century sawmill with original works, a later three story steam powered grist mill, and the ruins of a bridge with stone piers. There is also a dam ruin with stone abutments, as well as several stone fences and historic landscape features.

The entire grouping of structures is situated along the East Fork of Clear Creek, a tributary of the nearby Kentucky River. The William Guyn House (photo 1) is located on a shallow hillside which overlooks the sawmill and creek bottom meadow. It is a two-story, five-bayed Greek Revival I house with two story ell and attached kitchen. Both the kitchen and ell are constructed of half dovetail poplar logs with limestone chimneys. A full two-story gallery on the north side of the ell appears to have been built soon after completion of the front block. The two story, two room ell comprises the original portion of the house, to which the log kitchen was subsequently added. A beaded partition wall and winding stairway separate the two rooms on the first floor. The large interior chimney vents a limestone fireplace bridged by stone voussoirs and a post and lintel mantel. Attached to the ell is the single room log kitchen with enclosed stairs and unfinished attic. Floor joists are white ash rectangular sawn. Except for the upstairs rooms in the original log wing all of the passages have batten doors. The door on the kitchen stairwell has wrought iron strap hinges with pintles.

The two story Greek Revival wing was added to the log structure sometime during the early 1840s. The foundation material is large cut, dry laid blocks of white Kentucky limestone (photo 8). A two story Greek portico with triangular pediment and chamfered columns distinguishes the main facade. Window bays exhibit nine-over-six sashes and period louvered shutters. The main entrance, accentuated by a trabeated Greek architrave, exhibits a denticulated entablature and recessed paneled door. Above the entrance is a balustraded gallery and tripartite doorway. With the exception of a single window on the north gable end, both of the side elevations are blind.

The interior of the front block features a spacious stairhall flanked by a dining room and parlor. Several important Greek Revival design elements distinguish the first floor, including the original shelf lintels and Doric mantels. Interior architraves and baseboards are reeded with the rectilinear theme further carried out on the corner blocks (photo 9). Doors are double paneled poplar, mortise and tenoned. The original presses flank both fireplaces. The balustrade reflects a strong Federal influence, still utilizing the tubular walnut handrails, newelpost, and four-sided spindles. Upstairs the rooms are enhanced by a rich variety of grained woodwork patterns. The north bedroom contains a particularly fine grained mantel (photo 12). All of the floors are white ash.

A detailed photograph taken circa 1890 indicates the Guyn House has experienced few major changes through the years. Aluminum siding was placed over the weatherboard several years ago, while the upstairs rooms in the ell were modified during the Victorian period. The house is unoccupied.

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/
X 1700–1799	art	engineering	music	humanitarian
X 1800–1899	commerce	exploration/settlement	philosophy	theater
1900–	communications	X industry	politics/government	transportation
		invention		other (specify)

Specific dates c.1790–1880 **Builder/Architect** Guyn Family

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Guyn's Mill Historic District is significant as it represents the most intact, visually cohesive nineteenth century family operated agricultural-industrial complex in Ky. Of the 14 mill complexes extant across the state, Guyn's Mill best conveys a visual sense of the self-contained, small scale nature of Kentucky's early rural industrial economy.¹ Technologically, the mill buildings reflect a significant shift from water powered to steam powered industry. The water powered sawmill, built c.1840–1850 along plans strikingly similar to those designed by Oliver Evans, has been described as nationally important for the intactness of its original works.² It also is the only documented, water powered sawmill which still survives in Kentucky.

Prior to the establishment of urban-industrial economy, flour and lumber processing ranked not only as Woodford County's chief manufacturing operation but the state's as well. In 1860, for example, over 960 grist and sawmills were in production across the state, with a total capital investment exceeding three million dollars. Only the tobacco industry employed more people. The importance of the grist and lumber milling industry can be furthered by examining its context in the national economy.³

The location of Guyn's Mill is the result of several advantages which the original owners exploited—a good location near the rich farmland of the Inner Bluegrass, an abundant supply of virgin hardwood timber, and most important, a narrow valley watered by several small streams. Furthermore, Guyn's Mill and southern Woodford County are strategically positioned along the early trade routes between Lexington, Mundy's Landing, and Harrodsburg.

In 1784 Robert Guyn (1744–1818), a native of Augusta County, Virginia, came to Kentucky with his wife and three children. Shortly thereafter the Guyn family moved into a remote area of southern Woodford County that later was referred to as "Clover Bottom." The 1792 Woodford County Tax Assessor's List shows that Robert Gwinn [sic] owned 500 acres, 5 horses, and 22 cattle, which certainly was a large holding for this early date. Guyn and Robert Black, another pioneer settler, subsequently built a two-story log structure which is believed to be Black's Station (WP-28). It may have been built for Robert Guyn, Jr. (1774–1844), who in 1796 married Jane Black, daughter of Robert Black. Robert and Jane Black Guyn had 14 children and 68 grandchildren, many of whom married members of the Black family.⁴

Although historical and biographical references do not specify exact place of residence, evidence suggests that Robert Guyn III (1796–1850) may have built the log structures which now comprise the rear ell of the William Guyn House (WD-19). In 1802 Robert Guyn, Jr. had built a handsome stone house on land east of Mundy's Landing Road, so it would seem unlikely that he had lived in the log house south of Clear Creek. (See Early Stone Buildings of Central Kentucky WD-21). After Guyn's death in 1844, several

9. Major Bibliographical References

- Battey, F. A. and Perrin, W. H., eds., Kentucky, A History of the State. 5th edition, 1887.
 Chappell, Edward A., Kentucky Historic Resources Inventory. March, 1980.
 Chronology of the Gwyn and Black Families, n.a., n.d.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property Approximately 40 Acres

Quadrangle name Keene

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	6
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7	0	1	6	6	0
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4	1	9	7	2	4	0
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 Zone Easting Northing

B

1	6
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7	0	1	6	9	0
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4	1	9	7	1	2	0
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 Zone Easting Northing

C

1	6
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7	0	1	8	8	0
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4	1	9	7	0	7	0
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D

1	6
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7	0	1	7	2	0
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4	1	9	16	9	0	0
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E

1	6
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7	0	1	2	8	0
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4	1	9	16	9	0	0
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F

1	6
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7	0	1	2	8	0
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4	1	9	17	2	7	0
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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Please refer to continuation sheet

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 Stephen C. Gordon, Historian

organization Kentucky Heritage Council

date May, 1983

street & number 9th Fl., Capital Plaza Tower

telephone 564-7005

city or town Frankfort

state Kentucky

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

Mary Susan Appel

title *State Historic Preservation Officer*

date *July 12, 1983*

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I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Patrick Andrews

date *8/29/83*

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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Gwyn's Mill Historic District

Continuation sheet Woodford County, Kentucky Item number 7 Page 2

Thirty feet north of the Gwyn House is located a square pit, sunken cut limestone ice house with standing seam metal roof (photo 13). A late nineteenth century frame smoke-house and barn are situated to the northeast rear of the house. Further up the hill in an open field is a log and frame structure used earlier this century as a stock barn (photo 14). The core of the barn is a 16' X 18' log pen set on stone piers. This 1 1/2 story log structure is surrounded by frame leantos, all of which appear to date to the nineteenth century. A rubble stone wall at the south elevation probably predates the leanto.

The historic mill complex is situated a short distance northeast of the Gwyn House along the banks of the creek. A bridge that formerly connected the sawmill to Paul's Mill Road has long since vanished, although the ramp and stone piers are still in place (photo 20). The Gwyn Sawmill is sited on the south bank of the creek immediately east of the bridge ramp (photo 16). It is rectangular plan, braced frame structure measuring approximately 15' X 45'. The raised limestone foundation is dry laid with several of the original bays having historic infill. A crude rubble limestone ramp, which appears to post-date the mill, permitted grade access to the south elevation. Constructurally, the mill is a mortise and tenon, adze beam framed structure consisting of three heavy bents and pole rafters. The center bent also serves as the base of the saw. The clapboard is non-historic and probably obscures many of the original bays. Originally logs were introduced through the west elevation with the finished planks and lumber exiting the structure through a mill in the east gable end (photo 17). Water channeled down the headrace was introduced into the lower level of the mill, where it turned the wheel which in turn cranked the pitman. The motion of the pitman was engineered so as to power the 6" saw-blade in an up-and-down motion. In this particular mill the saw, carriage, and fender posts are in situ on the upper level (photo 19). Portions of the wheel and gear mechanisms are still located in the lower level. Other parts of the mechanism are stored in the attic of the Gwyn House.

A slight distance downstream and on the opposite side of Clear Creek is the Gwyn Grist Mill, a steam powered, 2 1/2 story opeative built circa 1870-1880 (photo 22). Measuring 40' X 30', the mill is constructed of massive tenoned beams which frame the circular sawn rafters and joists. Wall treatment is twentieth century clapboard, and none of the window sashes survive. A 12 1/2 foot wide grain crib is an early addition to the east elevation. The foundation is ashlar cut Kentucky limestone with stone piers. Two large buhrstones are in situ on the first floor. Although considerably deteriorated, many of the sifters, blowers, and augers are in place. In the half basement are housed the large wooden gears and cog wheel, which were powered by a steam engine located outside the west elevation (photo 26 & 27). The steam engine was manufactured by the Ainslie Cochran & Company and is attached to a cast iron boiler made by the I. & E. Greenwald Company of Cincinnati. Both apparatus are surrounded by a limestone wall that previously supported a protective structure. Further downstream from the mill is the remnant of a small rock dam.

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Directly opposite the grist mill on Paul's Mill Road is the Guyn Blacksmith Shop, a 1 1/2 story log and balloon frame building believed to have been built by W. R. Guyn (photo 28). The west section of the building is a 22' X 18' single pen log structure with inverted V notch construction. The chinking is a mixture of clay and limestone (photo 30), although most of it has been removed from the front wall. At the western end of the log pen is the masonry blacksmith's forge. The bellows were only recently stolen by vandals (photo 31). Furring strips nailed onto the logs may have been added at an early date. The unfinished log notching on the rear east ell suggests the frame compartment is contemporary or an early afterthought. It's lightly framed construction consists of down braces and exposed studs on the interior. Similarly, the interior log walls are exposed and do not appear to have been sided or whitewashed. However, all of the exterior clapboard is contemporary with the other mill buildings. Of particular interest is the massive stone slab along the front entrance.

The Miller's Residence is situated on the west slope of a steep ridge 300' northeast of the blacksmith's shop. Long neglected, the simple 1 1/2 story log structure is nearly obscured by a dense growth of vines, bushes, and small trees (photo 33). A shouldered limestone chimney with 2' 3" breast dominates the east gable end. The basement, which exhibits an unusually fine dry laid stone foundation, is entered through the raised west gable end. The two bay front elevation exhibits a raised foundation and dressed stone watertable. The log walls are V notched, and the roof has pole rafters seated on the top logs. An early frame leanto is attached to the rear. The collapsed porch was not an original element.

Three hundred feet east of the Miller's house and perched on a hilltop overlooking Clear Creek is Black's Station, a two-story single pen log structure built c.1790 by Robert Black and Robert Guyn (photo 35). Despite several alterations and a general state of disrepair, the core of the original log structure appears virtually intact. The V notched log walls are chinked with limestone. The partial basement is accessed via the side (west) elevation. A massive cut limestone chimney marks the blind east elevation. Black's Station has been considerably vandalized, and is missing most of its windows and early nineteenth century fittings. However, the original floorboards and poplar joists on the first and second floors are intact (photo 38). The joists are beaded and exposed. The present interior walls have been altered, although the axial wall is in the location of an earlier partition, forming two rooms, 15' x 20' and 11' x 20'. Prior to being lathed and plastered the interior log walls were whitewashed. At that time the stairs probably were moved from their original location to the northwest corner of the house. The second floor plan is the same but without the partition, which may have been removed when the building was used as a fraternal lodge. Other features include a lapped rafter roof and deteriorating frame ell.

Approximately 800 feet east of the mill complex on Clear Creek are the remnants of the original mill dam (photos 39 & 40). Although repeated flooding has destroyed the main portion of the dam, the dry laid stone flanks are still visible. The rocky bottom of Clear Creek enabled such a dam to be built, preventing erosion around the ends.¹

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Until recently a stone lined headrace connected the mill dam to the sawmill. Only a shallow depression in the field indicates its earlier existence. Other remaining features at Guyn's Mill include a network of stone fences constructed along the creek and around the spring (photo 21). The Guyn family cemetery, not included in this nomination, is located approximately one-half mile west of the main house in a grove of trees.

The Guyn's Mill Historic District, while largely abandoned and in a poor state of preservation, provides a valuable resource base for the study and understanding of industrial archaeology in Kentucky. The district also has tremendous potential for intact subsurface archaeological remains which can contribute important data on industrial technology and mill processing in Woodford County. Since the historic survey concerns itself with visible remains, a more thorough archaeological examination is encouraged in order to determine the extent of undocumented surface and subsurface archaeological remains. It is the Kentucky Heritage Council's immediate hope that the listing of significant neglected properties will encourage preservation of the historic mill complex. Without National Register designation, federal tax incentives and historic preservation matching grants would be unavailable to the current or future owners who may plan on rehabilitating the structures.

¹D. W. Garver, Waterwheels and Millstones: A History of Ohio Gristmills and Milling, p.73.

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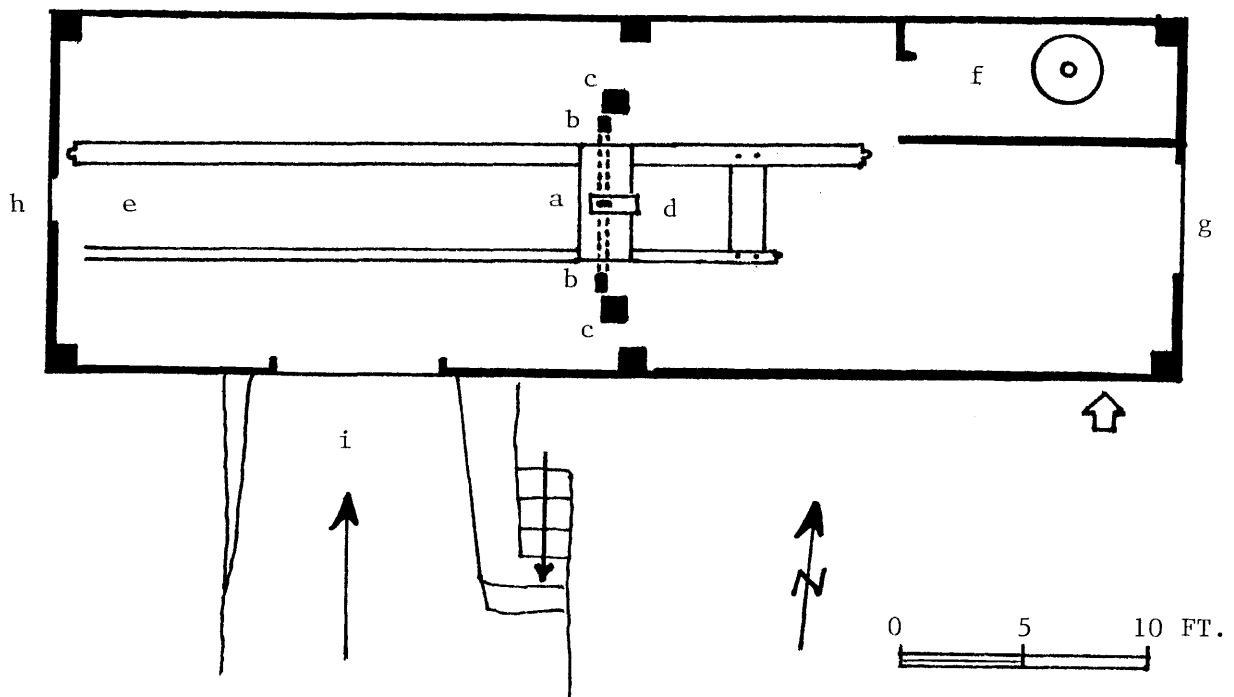
Gwyn's Mill Historic District

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Figure 1. William Gwyn Sawmill, Woodford County, Kentucky
(Original drawing courtesy Edward A. Chappell)



- a. 6" saw blade
- b. saw frame, which slides up and down on an iron track on posts at c
- c. saw frame posts attached to central tie beam
- d. heavy sawing base set on runners (e) and pierced by blade
- e. runners, with round ends
- f. grist buhrs, enclosed by vertical-board partitions
- g. lumber exit
- h. mortices indicate an opening, now removed
- i. ramp, with steps at right

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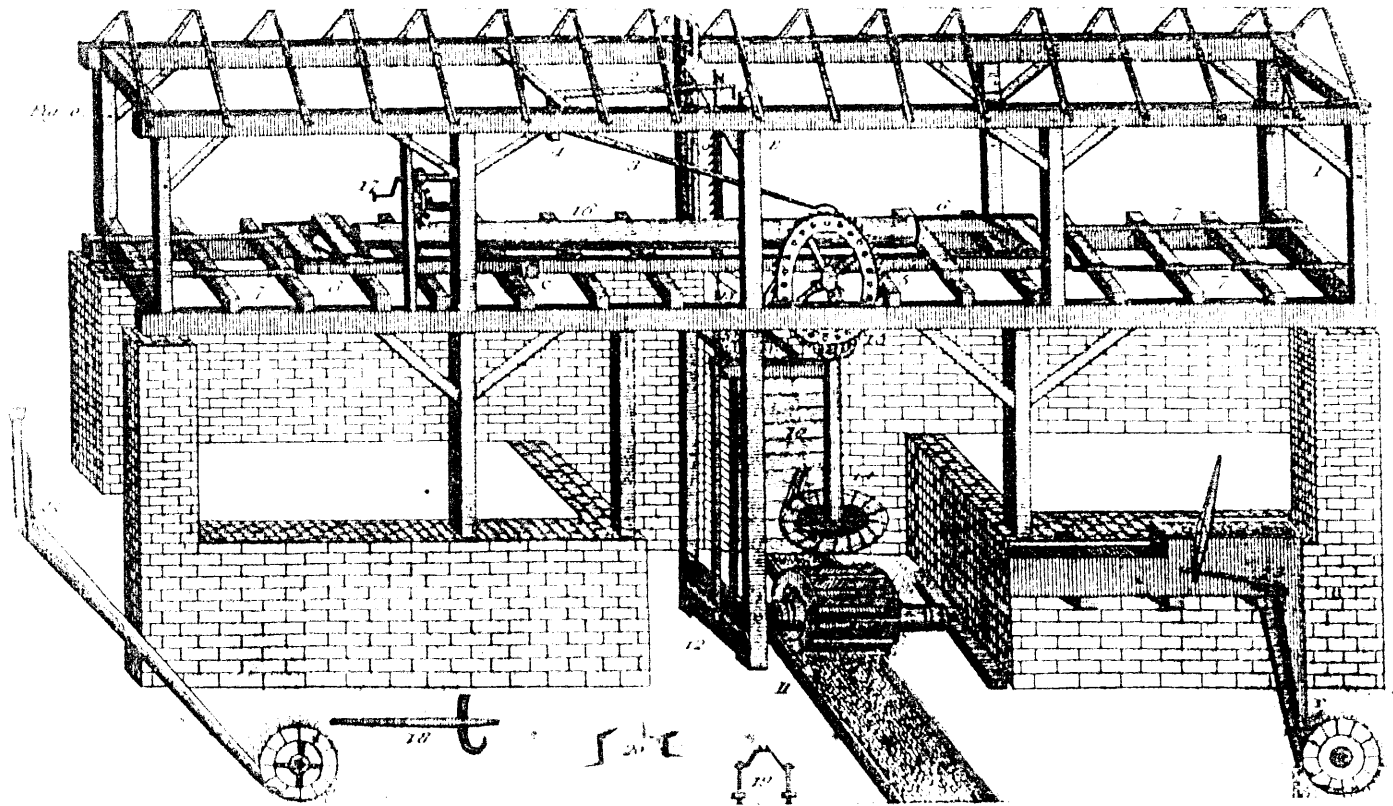


Figure 2. Perspective View of a Sawmill
Oliver Evans, *The Young Mill-Wright and Miller's Guide*
(Philadelphia, 1834), plate 28.

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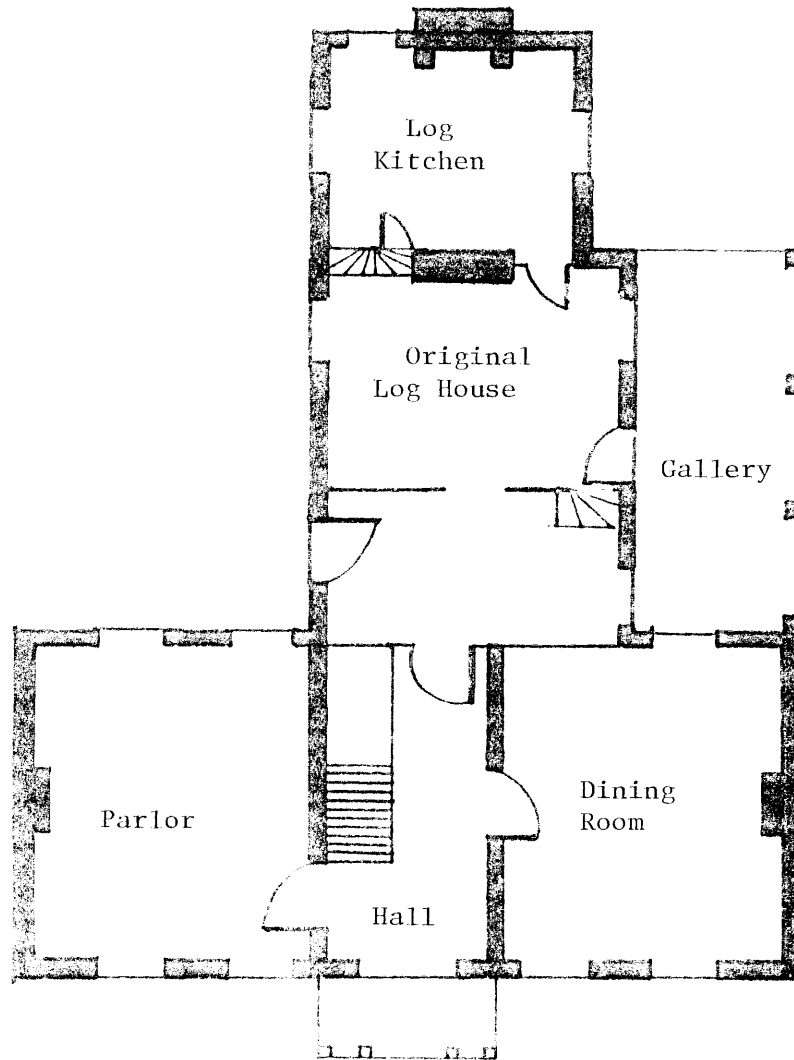


Figure 3. First Floor Plan of William Gwyn House.
(not to scale).

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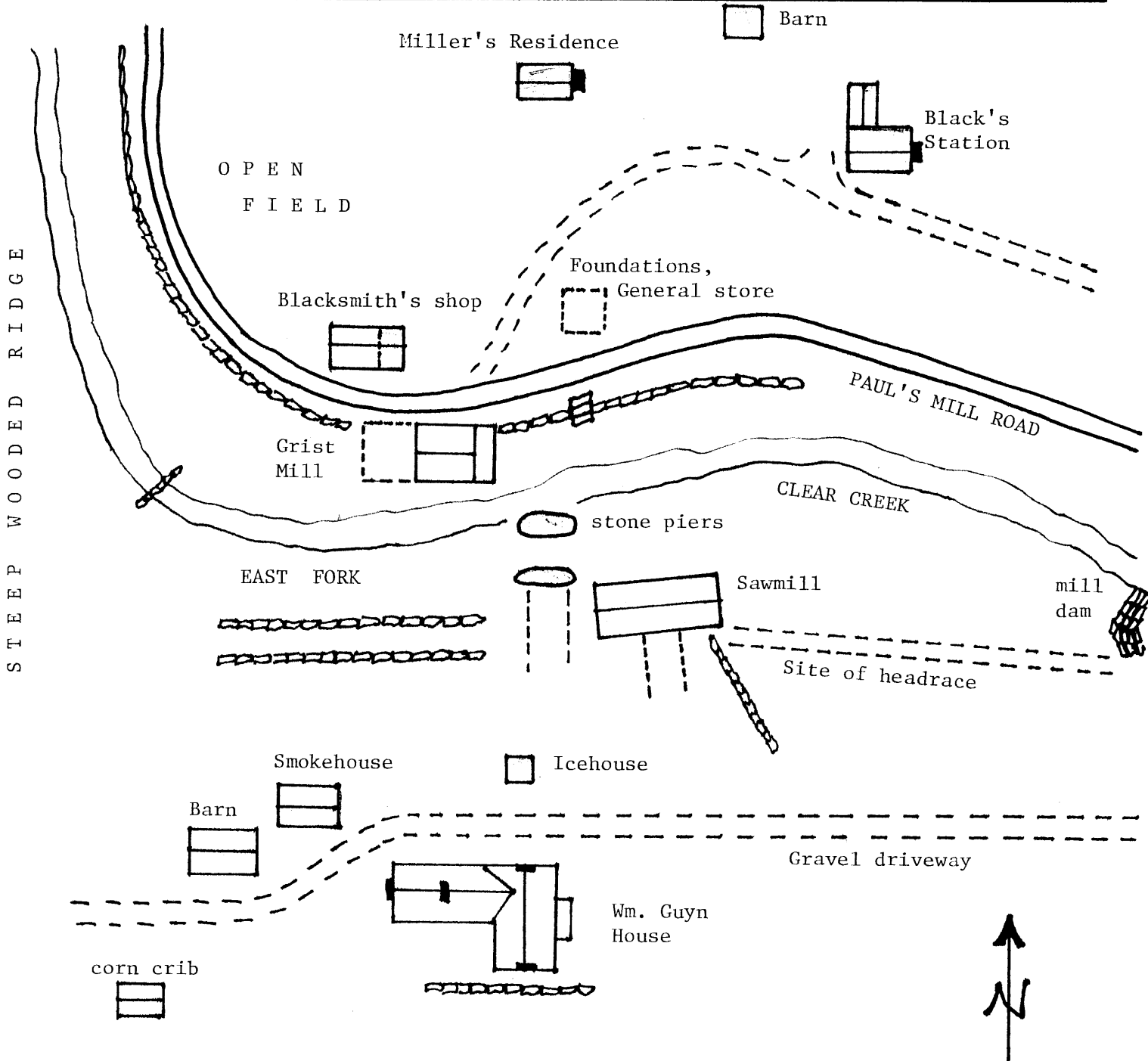
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Stock barn

Figure 4. Guyn's Mill Site Plan.
(Not to scale).

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members of the family distributed the property into individual tracts, at which time Adam Rankin Guyn (1821-1895) acquired 107 acres along the south bank of Clear Creek and west of Mundy's Landing Road. Adam Guyn then sold his inheritance to his brother William Guyn (1809-1887). Sometime during this period Adam Rankin or William Guyn added the Greek Revival wing onto the existing log house. An unpaid bill in Robert Guyn's inventory (1844) presents the exciting possibility that John McMurtry, a Lexington architect-builder, may have been involved in the design of the Greek Revival house. Equally intriguing is the possibility that the finished lumber employed in building the house may have been furnished by Guyn's own sawmill.⁵

The rectangular plan, waterpowered sawmill appears to have been built by the Guyn family sometime during the 1840's. The plans and arrangement of the sawmill may have been patterned after plans specified by Oliver Evans, a noted Philadelphia millwright (see Figure 2). While a mill is referred to in an 1847 property conveyance, none of the manufacturing census from 1840 to 1870 enumerate a mill owned by Robert or William Guyn. However, the 1861 map of Woodford County does indicate a sawmill at this location.⁶

The establishment of a sawmill on Clear Creek served as a catalyst for further improvements, as evidenced by the construction of a blacksmith's shop and miller's residence. By the early 1870's William Rankin Guyn (1839-1927) expanded his father's operation by building a steam powered grist mill and in 1874 a general store. While the general store has long since been demolished, the grist mill still stands between Clear Creek and the blacksmith's shop. Census records indicate that in 1880 there were a total of 10 grist mills in Woodford County, and of the 5 enumerated in Clover Bottom, only Guyn's mill was steam powered.⁷

During the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries the mill complex was managed by William, Raymond, and Robert Guyn. Around 1920 the mill ceased operation as farmers marketed their grain in the larger towns. Eventually the property passed onto Mrs. Catherine Guyn Leedy (1893-), who currently is residing in Versailles. Her grandson, Robert Brandenburg, is the eighth generation of Guyns living on the family estate. He currently is farming the property and managing it for his grandmother. He plans on restoring the William Guyn house and making it his family residence. The future status of the mill complex and related structures has not yet been determined.

¹Kentucky Historic Resources Survey, Computer File.

²Donald Jackson, HABS-HAER Division, National Park Service, April, 1983.

³U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of the Census, Eighth Census of the United States, 1850; Manufacturing, Vol.3, pp. 191-195.

⁴Woodford County Tax Records, 1792; Chronology of the Guyn and Black Families.

⁵Woodford County Courthouse, Deed Book S, Page 557; Will Book N., Pages 540-543.

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⁶ E. A. and C. W. Hewitt, Atlas Map of Woodford County, Kentucky, 1861.

⁷ F. A. Battey and W. H. Perrin, eds., Kentucky, A History of the State, pp. 792-793; U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of the Census, Tenth Census of the United States, 1880, Special Schedule on Manufactures.

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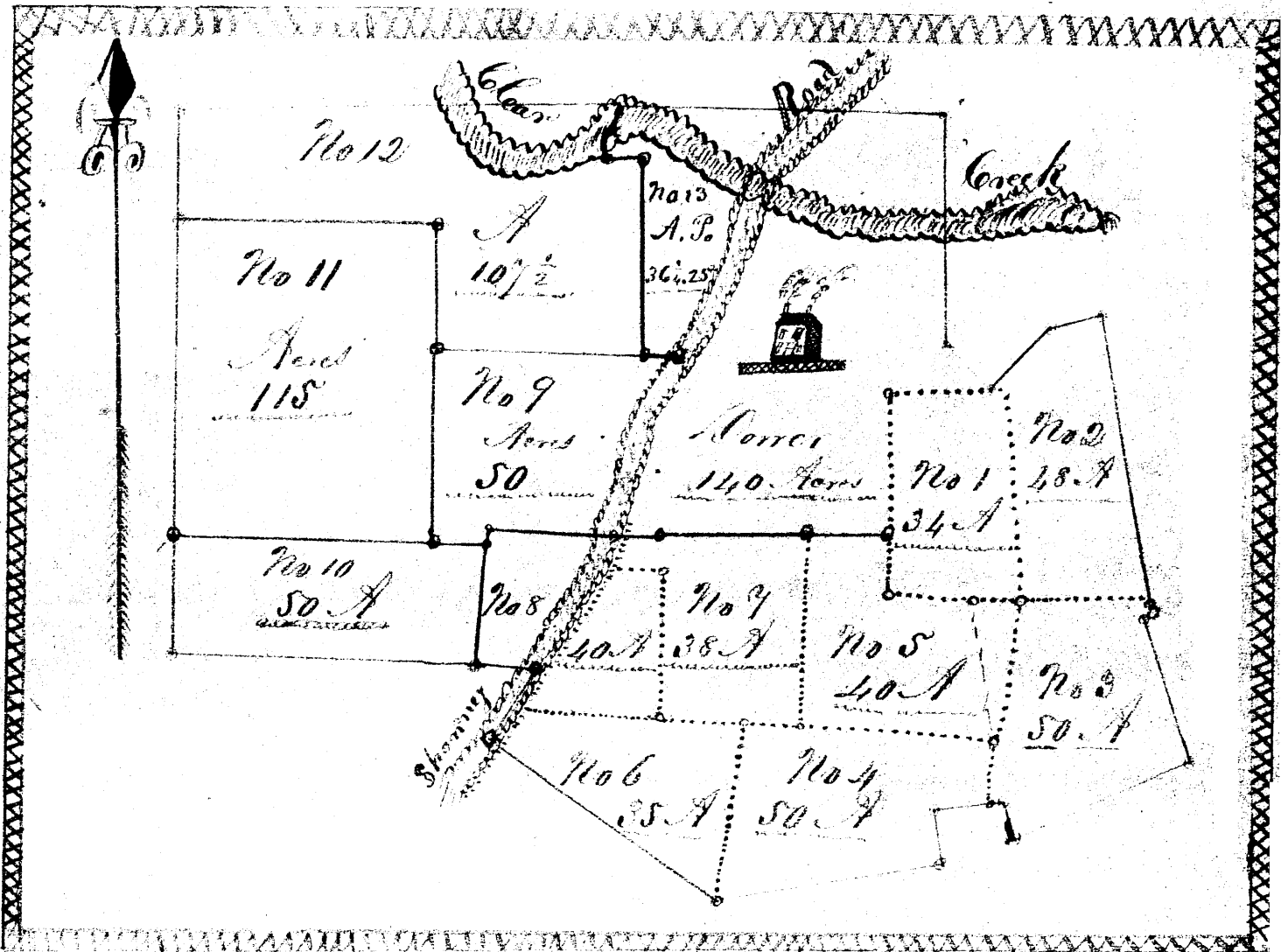


Figure 4. Robert Gwyn Estate, Probated April, 1851.
(Tract No. 12 heired to Rankin Gwyn)

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Evans, Oliver, The Young Mill-Wright and Miller's Guide. Philadelphia: Carey, Lea, and Blanchard, 1834.

Garber, D. W., Waterwheels and Millstones: A History of Ohio Cistmills and Milling. Historic Ohio Buildings Series 2 Columbus: The Ohio Historical Society, 1970.

Hewitt, E. A. and G. W., Map of Woodford County, Kentucky. 1861.

Langsam, Walter E., Paul Family Complex. National Register of Historic Places Inventory-Nomination Form. May, 1980.

Railey, William E., History of Woodford County, Kentucky. Frankfort: Kentucky Historical Society, 1920-1929.

United States. Department of the Interior. Bureau of the Census. Eighth Census of the United States, 1860: Manufactures, vol. 3.

_____. Department of the Interior. Bureau of the Census. Tenth Census of the United States, 1880: Special Schedule on Manufactures.

Information provided by Catherine Guyn Leedy, March 1980.

Geographical Data Item Number 10 Page 2

Beginning at a point where Mundy's Landing Road and Guyn's Mill driveway intersects (point D), proceed west approximately 1450' to a point southwest of the stock barn (point E). Then proceed north approximately 1200', crossing Clear Creek, to a point immediately west of Paul's Mill Road (point F). Then proceed east-southeast @ 1300' along the east boundary line, crossing Paul's Mill Road (point B). Then proceed east @ 600' along the south side of Paul's Mill Road until reaching Mundy's Landing Road (point C). Then proceed southwest 750' along the west side of Mundy's Landing Road to the point of origin.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION: The nominated area consists of the historic core of the Guyn's Mill complex. Non-historic wooded areas, new tobacco barns, and adjacent pasteurlands are not included in the district. Where possible the boundaries follow the Guyn family property lines.