NPS Form 10-900
(Rev. 8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

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NATIONAL REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Mansfield Roller Mill
other names/site number Mansfield Mill

2. Location

street & number Mansfield Road (830 East) [N/A] not for publication
city, town Mansfield N/A vicinity
state Indiana code IN county Parke code 121 zip code N/A

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
[X] private	[X] building(s)	1	0 buildings
[ ] public-local	[ ] district	1	0 sites
[ ] public-State	[ ] site	0	0 structures
[ ] public-Federal	[ ] structure	0	0 objects
	[ ] object	2	0 Total

Name of related multiple property listing:
GRAIN MILLS IN INDIANA

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this [X] 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 [X] meets [ ] does not meet the National Register criteria. [ ] See continuation sheet.

John E. Castle — 7-13-90
Signature of certifying official — Date

State or Federal agency and bureau INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

In my opinion, the property [ ] meets [ ] does not meet the National Register criteria. [ ] See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official — Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

[✓] entered in the National Register. — Patrick Andus — 12/7/90
[ ] See continuation sheet.
[ ] determined eligible for the National Register. [ ] See continuation sheet.
[ ] determined not eligible for the National Register.
[ ] removed from the National Register.
[ ] other, (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper — Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)	Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)
INDUSTRY: Manufacturing facility	INDUSTRY: Manufacturing facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification (enter categories from instructions)	Materials (enter categories from instructions)
NO STYLE	foundation STONE: Sandstone walls WOOD: Weatherboard BRICK roof WOOD: Shingle other SYNTHETICS

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

In 1880, Jacob Rohm built the Mansfield Roller Mill, sitting it into the western bank of the Raccoon Creek in the small town of Mansfield in Howard Township of Parke County. Rolling wooded hills and farmland surrounded the town of Mansfield, which served as a neighborhood center for commercial, industrial, and agricultural activity. Today, Mansfield is a small village with few permanent residents and it retains the aura of its past. Changes to the mill and its setting have been minimal and in no way detract from its historic appearance. In fact, the mill possesses nearly all of the criteria of integrity, and exceeds minimum registration requirements. Water still flows from the dam to the forebay to turbines that provide power for the roller mills. The miller at Mansfield Mill even grinds corn meal on an occasional basis for tourists. Downstream from the mill, a covered bridge constructed in 1867 spans the creek.

The Mansfield Mill is a vernacular roller mill with some industrial detailing; an attached office built in the twentieth century is craftsmen in style. (See Photo 1.) Rising three and a half stories from a sandstone foundation, the timber and braced-frame mill is clad in the original weathered clapboard of yellow popular. The mill is square, thirty-six feet on each side, and three by three ranked. A one story office (circa 1910) of rock-faced brick with a hipped roof covered with rubber and wooden shingles is attached to the southwestern corner of the mill. A raised wooden porch of twentieth century construction, built of four parallel lengths of lumber runs the perimeter of the mill and addition.[1] The slightly pitched side gable roof and monitor have open, wide eave overhangs and are covered with wooden shingles. An interior slope chimney made of brick, projects from southwestern end of the mill roof. The mill site includes the mill pond, the mill dam, the forebay, and the tail race. The Mansfield Roller Mill is clearly an excellent example of transitional mill construction as described in the property type analysis.

[X] See continuation sheet

7. Continuation sheet: Description of Mansfield Mill

On the west-facing facade, four steps lead from the road to the porch. A wooden lattice covers the underside of the porch. Directly in front of the steps is a center batten door with "Jacob Rohm," the builder's name, faintly stenciled in the frieze. A sign inscribed "Mansfield Roller Mill" is above the plain door surround. Abutted against the door on the north is a window. All of the four over four windows in the mill building proper are original, simple inset double hung sash windows with a plain surround. On the facade, the porch is covered with a shed roof that is supported by ten, four by four equally spaced, braced timbers. Five steps lead to the lower levels of the porch on the north and south sides. The monitor is three ranked with windows that have two over two lights.

The north side of the mill has the porch located at the level of the ground floor, covering the sandstone foundation. This side is three ranked as well. Under the northeastern window, five steps lead down to the porch on the eastern side of the mill.

The eastern side of the mill is built at the edge of Raccoon Creek and is similar to the facade, except for the foundation and the first levels. (See Photo 2.) The foundation level is divided into four sections. The north and the south sections are made of rough cut ashlar sandstone, and may have been the foundation of the previous mill. Of the two middle sections of the foundation, the northernmost is square cut ashlar sandstone. The southernmost center section is clapboard clad. In this section, a window is located in the center of the foundation level, and a barred door is located south of the window. The porch extends to cover the concrete mill race. A decorative iron undershot waterwheel is attached to the poured concrete wall of the race. The first level has three windows aligned below those on the second story.

The south side of the mill has five visible levels: foundation, first, second, and third levels, plus a race level that is beneath the foundation level. At the southeastern corner of the race level, is a turbine arch, which is now mostly closed by concrete. (See Photo 3.) The foundation level has two windows cut into the sandstone that are located directly under the windows on the first floor. The second and third floors, are similar to the south side except for two wooden legs protruding from the third floor on either side of the middle window.

Attached to the southern end of the mill building proper is a one story office, fifteen feet square, that was constructed in the twentieth century. A door with a transom and a sash over sash window with one large pane of glass are symmetrically placed on the facade. The southern and eastern walls of the office at the first level each have a central window. The basement is visible from the south and west with a single batten door opening onto the porch.

The interior spaces of the mill are arranged in an open, square plan as they were originally constructed. The foundation level has only a partial floor over the race; one can stand on beams and view the moving turbines below. (See Photo 4.) The walls are the thick ashlar sandstone. The original millstones are

lying on the floor in the northeastern corner of the foundation level. The first floor has wooden wainscoting at the bottom and plaster on the upper part of each wall; the floor is yellow popular planks. (See Photo 5.) A staircase in the southeastern corner leads to the upper and lower levels. Four center posts of twelve inch popular support the upper floors. The walls of the upper floors are unfinished. Twenty wooden gravity and elevator legs are located in the center of each level.

Grain flowed between the floors of the mill, because different milling operations occurred on each level. On the race level are two turbines that power the mill. (See Photo 4.) The foundation level contains the gearing to turn the rollers. On the first level, there are three roller mills, a grist mill, water meter, a sacker, scales, a desk, and storage bins. (Photo 5 shows the roller mills.) On the second level, there are two middlings purifiers, a bolter, a bran duster, a dust collector, an air purifier, an idler wheel, five small bins, one large wareroom, and a differential wheel. On the third floor, one finds the following: a smutter, a swing sifter, a corn cleaner, a receiving separator, an Alsop process bleacher, and a flour dresser.

Mansfield Mill is a fine example of a nineteenth century mill because the mill pond, dam, and race still provide water for the turbines. In 1913, a poured concrete dam 7 feet high and 180 feet long, replaced the wooden one. (See Photo 3.) The extreme eastern concrete support of the dam is a fish ladder, 6 feet wide and 40 long, which aids fish in their upstream migration.[2] The race actually flows under the mill, the height of the water in the race being determined by two gates at the forebay. (See Photo 2.) Wooden partitions keep the debris from the river from entering the race and the turbines. Although the water once existed from the mill via the tail race, which had been dug into the bank, today water rushes from a hole in the cut into the foundation. (See Photo 3.) These changes to the mill and its site are relatively minor, making the Mansfield Mill a remarkable example of a roller mill.

1. The earliest drawing of the facade of the mill shows a porch, but photographs of the eastern side from circa 1915 indicate that there was originally no porch on that side.

2. George Branson, Survey of Parke County (Indianapolis: Indiana Historical Bureau, 1926), 30.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:
☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally

Applicable National Register Criteria ☒ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)	Period of Significance	Significant Dates
Industry	1880-1920	
Agriculture		
Commerce		

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

Architect/Builder

Jacob Rohm

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Mansfield Roller Mill is significant to the industry of the community of Mansfield, Indiana, and it illustrates the larger pattern of milling that occurred in Indiana and the United States. This mill meets Criteria A, in that it is "associated with events that have made a significant contribution to broad patterns of our history." The period of significance is 1880 to 1920, spanning the years that the mill ground grain for the community using rollers. In the larger context of time, the activity at the mill site really illustrates the evolution of grain milling in Indiana. As a fine example of a late nineteenth century mill, the Mansfield Mill exceeds the minimum requirements for registration of a roller mill. (See registration requirements for a roller mill.)

The changes that occurred on the mill site at Mansfield prior to 1920 are quite typical of those at similar milling enterprises in Indiana. With the help of white settlers and some Indians, the original owners of the property, Francis Dickerson and James Kelsey constructed the first mill before 1825 on solid sandstone along Raccoon Creek. The buhrs used in the mill were quarried locally from a glacial boulder. As in other small mills, Dickerson and Kelsey added a saw mill in 1830. When George Steel purchased the mill in 1838, he transported flour ground at Mansfield to New Orleans on flatboats. Subsequent owners attached a carding mill in 1850. The mill was gradually enlarged until Jacob Rohm bought it in 1875. Rohm tore down much of the first mill and constructed a new turbine mill on the foundation of the prior one. Within four years, he enlarged the mill to its present

☒ See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

☒ See continuation sheet

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ☐ 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
- ☐ Other

Specify repository:

Indiana Historic Sites & Structures Inventory

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property Less than one acre

UTM References

	Zone	Easting	Northing
A	16	491280	4391690
B			
C			
D			

☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

☒ See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

☒ See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Jane Nolan/ Linda Weintraut

organization Indiana University, Indianapolis date June 1, 1990

street & number 425 University telephone (317)-274-5983

city or town Indianapolis state Indiana zip code 46202

size to accommodate the rollers and the associated machinery that he installed at that time. The mill continued to grind flour and meal probably until 1920 when it was converted to a feed mill and store. Around 1910, an attached office was added to conduct business, because the miller was reluctant to expose his patrons to the dangers of the belts, gearing, and machinery found in the mill.[1]

The Mansfield Roller Mill exemplifies the transitional period in mill property types that accompanied the change from stone to roller grinding. In 1880, Jacob Rohm probably constructed a millhouse, nearly ten feet narrower and one story shorter than the mill one sees today. When Rohm converted to the roller process in 1884, he enlarged the mill outward and upward to accommodate the machines necessary for the New Process and "gradual reduction." At this time, the mill took on a more industrial appearance with the addition of a monitor. (A monitor is a raised center section of a gable roof. Shutters or windows along the sides provides ventilation and light.)[2]

The mill is significant from 1880 to 1920, because the miller ground flour and meal with the rollers process during that period for the community. Nordyke and Marmon, a world renown manufacturer of milling equipment in Indianapolis, Indiana, built many of the bolting, sifting, and sacking machines used in the operation. Although a recent owner added a decorative iron waterwheel, the power for the mill is supplied by the two turbines located in the mill race. Water still enters through the forebay, but no longer exits through the tail race. Instead, a hole has been cut that allows water to flow directly from the race under to mill into the river.

The Mansfield Roller Mill was locally important because it was part of a larger milling enterprise established by the Rohm Brothers in Parke County. The Mansfield Mill was the first owned by Jacob Rohm, but he and his sons soon added ones at Montezuma, Rockville, Mecca, West Union, Bloomingdale, Judsun, and Marshall. These mills flourished in the waning years of the nineteenth century. The mill at Mansfield packaged flour and sold it to the community. However, competition from the large milling enterprises that produced a standardized flour in small packages proved to be too keen. The mill continued grinding for the community until, at least 1920.[3]

As in most roller mills, the railroad contributed directly to the milling business at Mansfield. It is unknown whether the Rohm Brothers ever used the railroad to import the hard wheat from the Great Plains to produce a custom mixed flour. However, the Rohms did ship grain from Mansfield to the Chicago, St. Louis, and Cincinnati. The association with the railroad had a negative aspect as well as a positive one, according to George Branson, a Parke County historian in the 1920s. In fact, he relates that the railroad at Mansfield proved to be a hinderance and became the point of litigation in the 1890s; the tracks passed directly in front of the entrance to the mill, thus inhibiting business.[4]

The Mansfield Roller Mill possesses all aspects of integrity

8. Continuation sheet: Statement of significance

necessary to include it in the National Register. As elaborated in the description, this property appears today much like it did in the late nineteenth century. The Mansfield Mill is located at its original site along Raccoon Creek in a thinly populated section of Parke County. The miller still grinds grain and uses water power to turn the rollers, although the turbines are not the original ones. The design and workmanship has changed little, disturbed only by the extension of the porch around the building and the non-functional waterwheel. The association with historic trends is evident in its cladding and foundation; the various lines in the weatherboarding and in the ashlar stone base show how the mill has been extended over the years. These minor changes to the Mansfield Roller Mill in no way detract from the "feeling" aspect of integrity and, indeed, evoke associations with Indiana's milling past.

1. Branson, Survey of Parke County, 27-30; Mill Survey Form, Mill Collection, Parke County Folder, Indiana Historical Society, Indianapolis, Indiana; Stewart Monroe, "Mill Town Resort," Indianapolis Star Magazine, 28 August 1949, 14; Interview with Ralph Killion, Mansfield Miller, Mansfield, Indiana, 9 November 1989.

2. The size of the mill varied with the secondary sources. However, close inspection of the mill revealed the original size of the 1880 construction and the ten foot addition that was incorporated into the facade.

3. "Steam Mills and Steam Saw Mills," Parke County Centennial Memorial 1816-1916 (Rockville Chautaugua Association, 1916), 35-6; Parke and Vermillion Counties, Indiana , 778.

4. Branson, Survey of Parke County, 27-31.

9. Continuation sheet: Major bibliographical references

Primary Sources

Interviews

Hutchinson, Frank. Owner, Mansfield Roller Mill, Mansfield, Indiana, 14 March 1990.

Killion, Ralph. Miller, Mansfield Roller Mill, Mansfield, Indiana 14 March 1990.

Manuscripts

Mansfield Roller Mill Ledger Book, 1913-1915.

"Mills in Parke County," Mill Collection, Box 4, File Folder 17, Indiana Historical Society.

Nordyke and Marmon Company, Flour and Cereal Milling Machinery Price List Number 1620. Circa 1900.

Newspapers

Millstone, 1875.

Rockville Tribune, 1880.

Secondary Sources

Books

Branson, George. Archaelogical and Historical Survey of Parke County. Indianapolis: Indiana Historical Bureau, 1926.

_____. Description of Mill Machinery Manufactured and Supplied by Nordyke and Marmon. Indianapolis: Baker & Randolph, Printers & Binders, 1884.

_____. Nordyke and Marmon Company: An Institution. 1920.

Rockville Chautagua Association. Parke County, Indiana, Centennial Memorial 1816-1916. 1916.

Continuation Sheet: Major Bibliographical References

Articles

Branson, George. "Early Flour Mills in Indiana," Indiana Magazine of History, XXII (1926): 20-27.

Monroe, Stewart. "Mill Town Resort," Indianapolis Star Magazine, 28 August 1949.

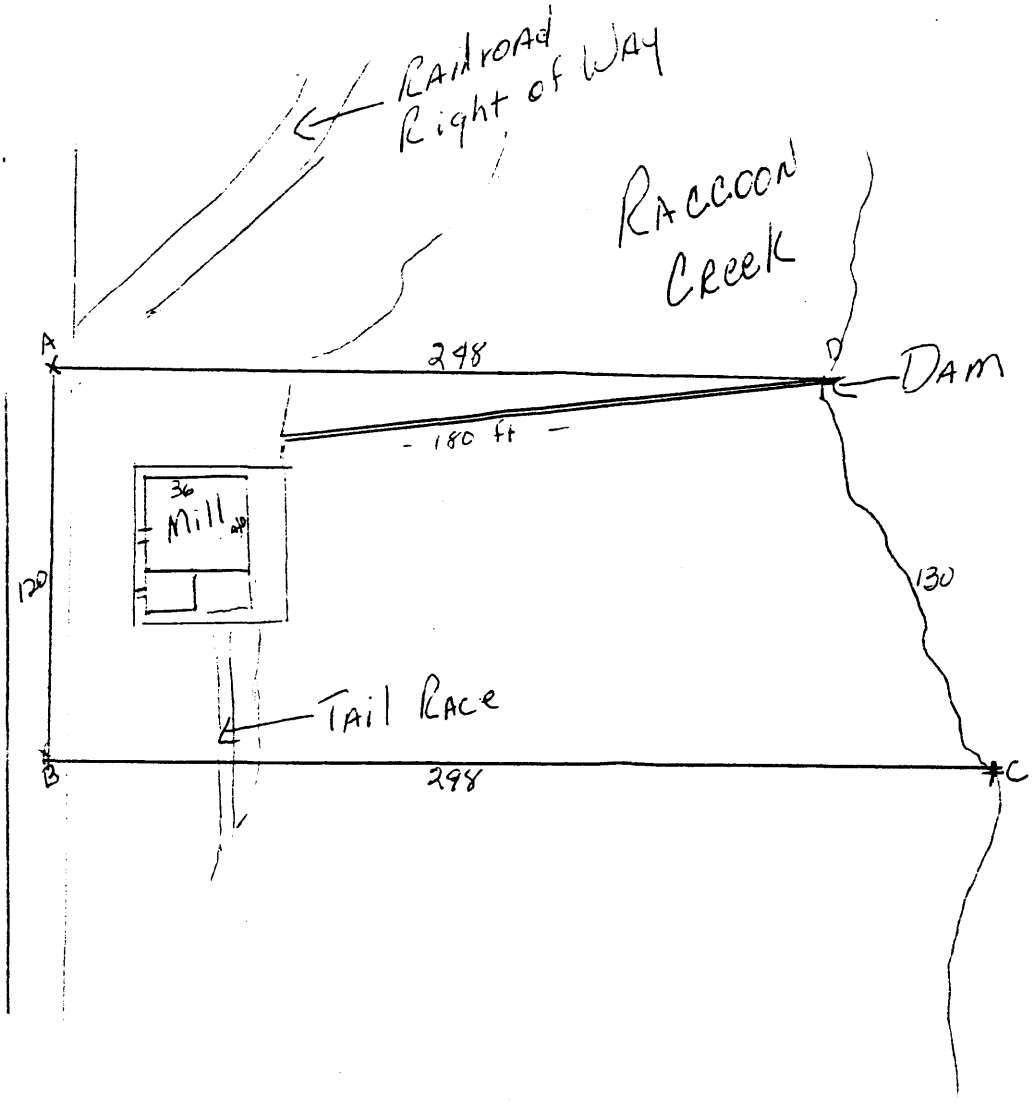
10. Continuation sheet: Geographical Data

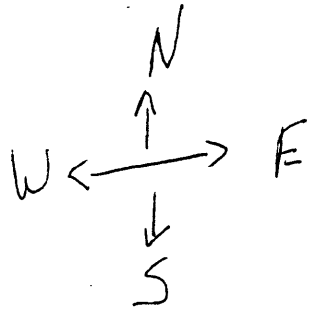
Verbal Boundary Description:
Beginning at a point where 830 East or Mansfield Road and the abandoned railroad right of way intersect (Point A), proceed southward along 830 East for 120 feet to Point B. Turn east and proceed 298 feet across Raccoon Creek to Point C on the bank. The stream meanders northward from this vertex to the dam (130 feet in a straight line.) Turn west from the point where the dam and the bank intersect (Point D) to the point of origin, 248 feet.

Boundary Justification:

The property includes the mill, mill dam, and the majority of the mill race necessary to illustrate the relationship of the mill to milling.

Mansfield Roller Mill





Not to Scale