

PH0365041

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	OCT 28 1976
DATE ENTERED	MAY 6 1977

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

1 NAME

** HISTORIC

Adkins-Hurt Mill

AND/OR COMMON

Hurt Mill

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Off Highway 167

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Mt. Pisgah

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

05

STATE

Kentucky

VICINITY OF

CODE
021

COUNTY
Wayne

CODE
231

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input 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	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: Vacant

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Andrew W. Kanaby

STREET & NUMBER

P. O. Box 3117

CITY, TOWN

Detroit

VICINITY OF

STATE

Michigan

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Wayne County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Monticello

STATE

Kentucky

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Survey of Historic Sites in Kentucky

DATE

1973 (Supplement)

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Kentucky Heritage Commission

CITY, TOWN

Frankfort

STATE

Kentucky

7 DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Situated in the picturesque area of the Little South Fork of the Cumberland River, this last known surviving log mill in Kentucky rests surrounded by mountains. The elevation of the mill site is 880 feet, while Little and Big Pilot Knobs to the northeast rise up to 1,600 feet.

Located on the northern bank of the tributary, the mill is totally secluded from sight from all nearby roads during seasons of any foliage. Access to the site is gained by means of an unimproved sand and gravel one-lane road.

The rectangular mill structure is constructed of large, square, hewn poplar logs and is two stories high. Notches, whose function remain unexplained at present, have been cut in the upper portions of logs on the sides and ends. These are located approximately half way up the sides and three-quarters of the way up the ends. The end gables have been fashioned from simple horizontal siding. The roof is of thin metal sheeting and, although very old, remains intact with minimal leakage.

Being of the turbine-type, the mill contained the water wheel within its interior and consequently rested on a foundation wall on each side of the structure (photo 1). This foundation is of cut, undressed, limestone blocks which were dry-laid. One corner stone has been replaced with a large mill stone that was in use when Mr. Adkins operated the mill. Today it remains in good condition and appears to be structurally sound.

A shed-like entrance room was erected on the northwest side of the main log structure. The exterior walls were fashioned from vertical boards and the framed door entrance was constructed on the northwest wall. Some of the exterior boards have been removed from this section by souvenir hunters and vandals. This section of the Benjamin Adkins Mill is supported by a round log foundation with crude, large stone chinking between the lower four logs.

The mill's associated dam is built of large stone blocks and, according to the Hurt family, was rebuilt approximately seventy years ago. This operation was completed by hand with the assistance of horses. Today, a few leaks are present in the dam where previous patching attempts have broken or washed away.

(continued)

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 **1836**

BUILDER/ARCHITECT **Benjamin Adkins**

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The grist mill, in days past the focal point of many small communities, once dotted Kentucky's rivers and creeks by the hundreds. It is estimated that during the "golden era" of grist mills--this was a period ranging from about the time of the Civil War to the first part of the 20th century and the widespread use of electricity--at least one thousand water mills could be found in the State (Creason, p. 20). Now less than ten survive. Of these, the Adkins-Hurt Mill, on the Little South Fork of the Cumberland River in south central Kentucky near the Tennessee border, is the only remaining log mill, and possibly the state's only turbine-powered mill still in existence.

The mill was constructed in 1836 by Benjamin Adkins, Sr. (c. 1770-1839), a native of Virginia who, according to family history, came to Kentucky with his sisters, and his wife Catherine from North Carolina (Bork, p. 226). They very likely arrived in the late 1700s and were among the early settlers of Wayne County.

Wayne County was established in 1800 out of parts of Pulaski and Cumberland Counties, with its earliest settlements believed to have been along the Little South Fork of the Cumberland. Mt. Pisgah is perhaps one such pioneer community, although its period of greatest activity was from the mid-19th century to the early 1900s when lumbering made its entry into the region. The county's first sawmill, established in the mid-1800s, was located at Mt. Pisgah (Edwards, p. 7).

The exact date of Adkins arrival to Mt. Pisgah is not presently known. However, his name appears in the land records of Lincoln County (part of which later became Wayne County) in 1798; in Pulaski in 1799; and in the 1810 Wayne County census.

In 1839, three years after the mill was constructed, Adkins was killed by Indians, "leaving an estate of ten or more Negroes, large sums of money and debts owing sic to him to the amount of \$10,000, besides many acres of land, stock, farm instruments, household and kitchen furniture of great value" (Bork, p. 226). Adkins deeded his "land and tenaments"

(continued)

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Bork, June. Adkins. Vol. IV. 1974, p. 226.

Collins, Richard H. History of Kentucky. Berea: Regents Imprints, 1874, p. 753.

(continued)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 3 acres - 1 1/2

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,6	69,6245	260	4,015,827,0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING		NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
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

Andrew W. Kanaby

FTW/GM

ORGANIZATION

DATE

August 1976

STREET & NUMBER

P. O. Box 3117

TELEPHONE

(313) 964-2267

CITY OR TOWN

Detroit

STATE

Michigan 48231

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.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

Edward W. Miller

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE 10/21/76

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

ATTEST:

Charles A. ...
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE 5/6/77

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 5-6-77

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The actual mechanical workings of the mill were removed and stored in an attempt to protect them from vandalism and collectors. The original hewn wood water wheel is among this equipment which is still available and reportedly in good condition. The mill was operated on a small scale by the late Mr. Matt Hurt in the early 1960s.

The mill stands today virtually as it did when originally constructed. Its physical condition remains quite good and as the apparent sole survivor of its type in the state is viewed as a most significant vestige of this once-common operation.

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to his wife, and upon her death, to his son Benjamin. The executor of the will was Washington Young, Jr., son of Adkins' eldest daughter Sarah and her husband George Washington Young, who, it is said, was the great-great-grandfather of former President Harry S. Truman. (Young's house on the Langham Fork in Wayne County constructed in 1792, is one of the oldest surviving residences in Wayne County.)

Benjamin Adkins, Jr., apparently ran the mill until 1864 when he and his wife Rachel left the state¹ (Hurt, personal communication). In 1881, the parcel of land known as the "Benjamin Adkins Mill place" was sold to Joseph Hurt, a Wayne County farmer, miller, and teacher, and Jeremiah Burnett (Deed Book V, p. 84).

In 1917 Matthew F. Hurt, Sr., bought the mill from Joseph Hurt, heirs, later selling it to Alonzo Hurt and B. G. Dunnington. The present owners purchased the mill in 1970 from Hurt and Dunnington (Hurt, personal communication).

The mill, built of logs 16" wide and 6" thick, has not been in operation since the 1960s. The interior equipment has been temporarily removed by the owners as a precaution against vandalism.

¹According to information recorded in 1881 in Deed Book V, p. 84, Benjamin Adkins and his wife were then living in Jasper County, Iowa.

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Creason, Joe. "Kentucky's Old Mills." Courier-Journal Magazine (Louisville),
June 2, 1968, pp. 20-24.

Edwards, B. G. Glimpses of Historical Wayne County, Kentucky. Monticello, 1970.

Hurt, Alonzo. Former owner of Adkins-Hurt Mill, personal correspondence with
Kentucky Heritage Commission staff, September 20, 1976.

"Old Hurt Mill . . ." Lake Cumberland Bugle. June 4, 1972, pp. 1, 10.

Walker, Garnet. Exploring Wayne County (Unpublished), 1966.

Wayne County Court Order Book A, p. 447; Will Book A, p. 65; and Deed Book
V, p. 84.

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Acreage: 1 1/2 acres

Verbal Boundary Description:

Included in the nominated acreage is the Adkins-Hurt Mill site and property immediately surrounding it and the mill dam.