

ONE NO 21000
10/11/81

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received FEB 28 1984
date entered

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

1. Name

historic The Old Mill

and/or common Same

2. Location

street & number Edgartown - West Tisbury Road. N/A not for publication

city, town West Tisbury N/A vicinity of ~~congressional district~~

state Massachusetts code 025 county Dukes code 007

3. 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 type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	N/A in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" 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 horticultural conservation

4. Owner of Property

name Martha's Vineyard Garden Club, Inc.

street & number Edgartown-West Tisbury Road

city, town West Tisbury N/A vicinity of state Massachusetts

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Dukes County Courthouse

street & number Main Street

city, town Edgartown state Massachusetts

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Inventory of the Historic
title Assets of the Commonwealth, # | has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1980 federal state county local

depository for survey records Massachusetts Historical Commission

city, town Boston state Massachusetts

7. Description

The Old Mill, West Tisbury, Massachusetts

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date N/A

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Occupying a site utilized for industrial purposes as early as ca.1650, the Old Mill (ca.1848), a small, 2½-story, frame building of utilitarian design, is set into a south facing slope abutting the Edgartown-West Tisbury Road. Across the road (north) lies the mill pond. Three water diversions flow from the pond through road culverts: Mill Brook forms the eastern property bound; Factory Brook skirts the western line and Red Brook (probably the original power source) flows through a conduit under the mill, emerging about 10 feet south to join Mill Brook. This nomination includes approximately 26 acres south of Edgartown-West Tisbury Road, including the mill buildings and well maintained, naturally vegetated grounds with a screened parking area. Within the area immediately surrounding the property are: the mill pond and a small frame building, once a one-room school and now the West Tisbury Police Station (north); meadowland and an old cranberry bog (south); woodland (west and east). Several single-family houses are scattered in the vicinity.

The most prominent features of the Old Mill are the spare, clean lines of its functional design, enhanced by the use of contrasting materials (wood and brick) and its steeply sloped siting. In plan, the building consists of a main rectangular block 2½-stories in height with an east 1½-story extension (contemporaneous). Both sit on foundations of mortared rubblestone below grade (west, north and east) and brick above grade (all elevations). A long granite slab set in the north foundation wall spans an opening for the water power source (Red Brook). The upper frame story of the building was originally sided with clapboard over horizontal sheathing; the clapboards have been replaced twice with shingles, most recently in 1982. Both the main block and ell are covered with parallel ridged gable roofs with wood shingles (replacements).

The building is trimmed with simple wood cornerboards, cornice and gable boards. The windows, typically regularly spaced, 6/6 double-hung sash, are also simply framed. A wood deck and exterior stairway constructed to conform to modern building code requirements has unadorned rails and posts. Following are descriptions of each elevation:

North: Overlooking the road, the north elevation (main section) is four bays wide, although the most westerly bay has been shingled over. A row of seven foundation windows running along the main block and ell have been bricked over.

South: The main block is again four bays wide with the lower brick story having three 6/6 windows and a solid wooden door and the upper story having four 6/6 windows. The ell contains a secondary entry flanked by 6/6 windows.

East: A wooden deck replacing a somewhat earlier one and stairs terminating on the eastern end of the south side have recently been added. Below the deck is a small projecting room containing toilet facilities (recent

(Continued)

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Continuation sheet The Old Mill, Item number 7 Page 1
West Tisbury, Mass.

addition). It has been shingled and has a single horizontal window pane. To the right and left are 6/6 windows. There are also two 6/6 windows in the second story on either side of a double, solid wooden door giving access to the deck. In the gable field, two 6/6 windows are framed together with a low wooden door set between them. The ridge beam extends about three feet and was previously used as a hoist.

West: The extension has, from left to right, one 3/3 window and two 6/6 windows. The gable is shingled. The main building has one 6/6 window on either side of the extension gable ridge and a single 6/6 window in its own gable field.

The interior plan consists of a single room on each of three floors. The lower story is connected to the second by a simple wooden stairway on the north side and the upper story is reached by a pull-down stairway (new) on the north side. Joists are exposed in all ceilings and all visible wood has either darkened naturally or been stained. Walls of the lower story, brick or brick and rubble, are painted white. Since the room is used for meetings, there is a low platform at the western end. lighted shadowboxes for displaying flowers between the windows, and a sink and cabinets below the stairs. The most interesting feature is the exposed siding under the extension gable. It is composed of horizontal, butted, varied width boards on which is mounted a wooden grain cradle. The second story has exposed corner posts, horizontal boards to sill height and plaster above in most sections. The floor is varied width boards, as is the attic floor. Although the windows have been recently replaced, much of the older glass has been reused.

Because the building has been put to such a variety of uses, there have been a number of alterations over time. The extension was probably added soon after 1848 and is present in all known pictures of the Mill. A door to the east has been bricked up in the lowest level, and the street level door on the north was eliminated at the time of the Garden Club purchase. The joints and floor boards indicate frequent interior changes to accommodate a variety of machinery. The Garden Club (after 1942) had three iron I beams installed to assist in supporting the second floor and also had a concrete floor with heating coils laid at ground level.

Little evidence of the water power system is visible at the site. It is unknown whether or not any subsurface structural remains exist. Nevertheless, the water sources are still present; careful field investigation would provide a determination of the extent which remains. The grounds bear traces of an early road which passed by the mill on the west side.

8. Significance

The Old Mill, West Tisbury, Massachusetts

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input checked="" 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 checked="" 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 1848

Builder/Architect Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Old Mill retains integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship and association. It is locally significant as the oldest extant industrial building in the community and is a fine and well preserved example of its type. Additionally, the Old Mill and its site possess strong historical associations with the development of the West Tisbury area from the early 17th century to the present and were owned by several prominent Martha's Vineyard citizens, most notably Captain Thomas Bradley in the 19th century. Throughout its history, therefore, the building has reflected, through different uses, changes in social climate, technology, commerce and industry. Finally, on the basis of traditional references to use by Native American populations and the likelihood of extant historic period subsurface remains, the property may potentially yield information important in both prehistory and history. Thus, the Old Mill meets criteria A, B, C and potentially D of the National Register of Historic Places.

The Old Mill is traditionally held to be located in an area utilized by Native Americans. European associations with the site began about 1650 when three early English settlers at Great Harbor (now Edgartown), including Josiah Standish, son of Miles Standish, purchased the site from the Indians. Their interest in it lay in the fact that it was the most conveniently located site to the "great plains" farmland to establish a grist mill. By 1670 the mill appears to have been abandoned, but in 1688 when it came into the possession of the Cottle family, records again refer to its use as a mill. After 1770 it was run by the Chase family, and in 1809 David Look, who already owned another grist mill on New Mill River purchased it, installed carding machines and looms, converting it for the production of cloth.

Look's action heralded a new era of success for the mill which lasted until the 1870s, forging a link between the Island's most important economic activities, agriculture and maritime industries. Satinet, the dense woolen fabric woven at the mill, was so favored for seamen's clothing that it was said one jacket would last a lifetime and could be passed on in a will. Not coincidentally, the demise of the mill in the 1870s paralleled the decline of the whaling industry.

The most notable owner of the mill during this period was Captain Thomas Bradley, who purchased the property from Look's widow in 1845 for \$1,800.

(Continued)

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 26 acres (approximately)

Quadrangle name Vineyard Haven, Mass.

Quadrangle scale 1:25,000

UMT References

A	1 19	3 6 1 0 2 20	4 5 8 1 2 3 1 6 1 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing

B	1 19	3 6 1 0 2 1 5 1 0	4 5 8 1 2 2 0 1 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing

C	1 19	3 6 1 0 1 1 2 0	4 5 8 1 2 2 1 3 1 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing

D	1 19	3 6 1 0 1 1 0 1 0	4 5 8 1 2 3 7 1 0
	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 nomination boundaries conform to current ownership and include a portion of the land historically associated with the mill, encompassing both an appropriate setting and potential associated sub-surface remains. Please refer to attached assessor's maps.

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

state	code	county	code
	N/A		

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Virginia A. Fitch, Preservation Planner (MHC) with Louise Tate King, West Tisbury Historic District Study Committee and Marion Halperin, Member, William Street Historic District Commission

organization Massachusetts Historical Commission date November 15, 1983

street & number 294 Washington Street

telephone (617) 727-8470

city or town Boston

state Massachusetts 02108

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 Patricia Z. Wedowski

title State Historic Preservation Officer, Massachusetts Historical Commission

date 2/22/84

For NPS use only

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

Entered in the National Register

date

3/29/84

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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

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received

date entered

Continuation sheet The Old Mill,
West Tisbury, Mass. Item number 8 Page 1

By July 9, 1848, the Gazette described the new building he had erected on the site of the "dilapidated Look Mill." This is the building currently standing. Bradley was a retired whaling master from Holmes' Hole (now Vineyard Haven). The mill represents one of a number of mercantile and entrepreneurial activities of his later life. Perhaps his most significant contribution to the development of the Island was his purchase of land above Holmes' Hole which he subdivided and sold for residential construction. Today this area forms the nucleus of the William Street Historic District (NR 1983). In 1859, Bradley sold the property to Henry Cleveland, whose last known advertisement for woolen cloth appeared in 1873. It then passed to Thomas Campbell, Cleveland's son-in-law, in 1874, and in 1879 Mrs. Campbell sold the English-made machinery and looms for junk and the 6-foot diameter iron mill wheel for scrap to a local blacksmith.

Between 1897 and 1937, the Old Mill was used for a variety of purposes, including a tea room, sandwich shop, art gallery and auction house. Rental (beginning in 1937) and eventual purchase (1942) of the property by the Martha's Vineyard Garden Club has provided continuing ownership by an organization which has shown contemporary concerns for historic preservation, conservation, education and horticulture of native plant materials. The property is further protected by its location within the West Tisbury Local Historic District.

Reflecting use changes over time, alterations to the building have been frequent, but minimal. Most obvious, and a common occurrence in industrial buildings of the period, the mill wheel and machinery are no longer in place. Alterations to the building, both cosmetic and structural, and to the landscaping have retained the historic character of the plan and elevation of the mill in an historically appropriate setting. As it stands today, the Old Mill displays the typical characteristics of 19th century vernacular industrial design, which is derived from functional placement of openings, increased window space due to the availability of larger panes, and straightforward use of locally produced materials. In plan and form the building relates closely to contemporary simple houses and institutional structures such as the similar but smaller schoolhouse nearby.

The land surrounding the Old Mill should be considered to contain potentially rich deposits of prehistoric and historic cultural material as well as evidence of past land use and subsistence patterns. Seven prehistoric sites are known to exist directly south of the property along Tisbury Great Pond and extensive collections have been amassed by local avocational collectors to the west and north. The evidence from these areas indicates that the West Tisbury area was occupied from the Middle Archaic through

(Continued)

1. Brandy Brow
2. Garden Club 2A. Doane
3. Police Station
4. Mill Pond
5. Parsonage Pasture
6. Memorial Triangle
7. Alley's General Store
8. Ulysses Mayhew House
9. Congregational Church
10. Public Library
11. Town Offices
12. Agricultural Hall
13. Howes House
14. Bodfish Blacksmith House



West Tisbury Historic District
 as adopted by Special Town Meeting
 (as amended) held November 30, 1982.
 Original map at office of Town Clerk.

A true copy, attest.
Heidi Schuetz
 Town Clerk

Old Mill
 West Tisbury
 Massachusetts

Adapted from 1980 Assessor's Map
 Scale: 1=400'

84 00 2303

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Old Mill
Dukes County
MASSACHUSETTS

Working No. FEB 28 1984
Fed. Reg. Date: 2/5/85
Date Due: 3/29/84 - 4/13/84
Action: ACCEPT 3/29/84
 RETURN
 REJECT
Federal Agency: _____

- resubmission
- nomination by person or local government
- owner objection
- appeal

Entered in the
National Register

Substantive Review: sample request appeal NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom./Criteria _____
Reviewer _____
Discipline _____
Date _____
_____ see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: _____ technical corrections cited below
_____ substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category	Ownership Public Acquisition	Status Accessible	Present Use
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4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Has this property been determined eligible? yes no

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- alterations/integrity
- dates
- boundary selection

8. Significance

Period _____ Areas of Significance—Check and justify below _____

Specific dates _____ Builder/Architect _____

Statement of Significance (*in one paragraph*) _____

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- applicable criteria
- justification of areas checked
- relating significance to the resource
- context
- relationship of integrity to significance
- justification of exception
- other

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

UTM References _____

Verbal boundary description and justification _____

11. Form Prepared By

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

____ national ____ state ____ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature _____

title _____

date _____

13. Other

- Maps
- Photographs
- Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: _____



The Old Mill
Edgartown-West Tisbury Road
West Tisbury

Edith Blake, 1982
Photographer, Edgartown
Photo number 1 of 4
East end, upper section

PHOTOGRAPH
BY
EDITH BLAKE



The Old Mill
Edgartown-West Tisbury Road
West Tisbury

Edith Blake, 1982
Photographer, Edgartown

Photo number 2 of 4
South facade

PHOTOGRAPH
BY
EDITH BLAKE



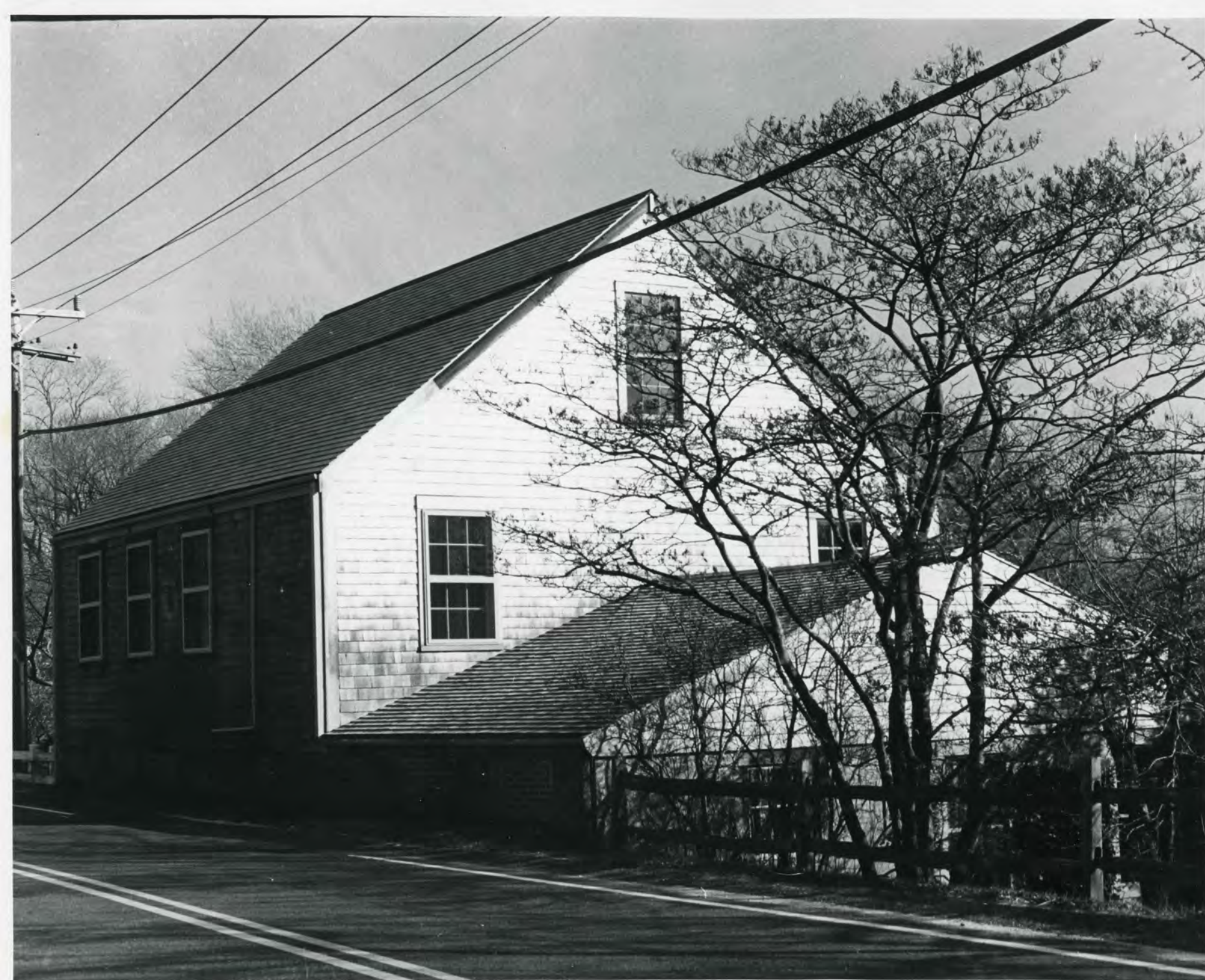
The Old Mill
Edgartown-West Tisbury Road
West Tisbury

Edith Blake, 1982
Photographer, Edgartown

Photo number 3 of 4
West end

PHOTOGRAPH
BY
EDITH BLAKE
16-34-1-5

1/2 01 X 29



The Old Mill
Edgartown-West Tisbury Road
West Tisbury

Edith Blake, 1982
Photographer, Edgartown

Photo number 4 of 4
North side and east end

PHOTOGRAPH
BY
EDITH BLAKE



CONVERSION SCALES

Feet	Meters
15000	4500
14000	4000
13000	3500
12000	3000
11000	2500
10000	2000
9000	1500
8000	1000
7000	500
6000	0
5000	1500
4000	1000
3000	500
2000	0
1000	300
500	150
0	0

To convert feet to meters multiply by .3048
To convert meters to feet multiply by 3.2808

WEST TISBURY
The Old Mill

UTM References:
A 19 360220 4582360
B 19 360250 4582200
C 19 360120 4582230
D 19 360100 4582370

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey
Planimetry by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs
taken 1939. Topography by planetable surveys 1942. Revised from
aerial photographs taken 1969. Field checked 1972

Selected hydrographic data compiled from USC&GS Charts 260 (1971)
261 and 264 (1970), and 1145C (1972). This information is not
intended for navigational purposes

Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Massachusetts coordinate system, island zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid, zone 19

SCALE 1:25 000

CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL

DEPTH CURVES AND SOUNDINGS IN FEET—DATUM IS MEAN LOW WATER
SHORELINE SHOWN REPRESENTS THE APPROXIMATE LINE OF MEAN HIGH WATER
THE MEAN RANGE OF TIDE IS APPROXIMATELY 1.8 FEET

UTM GRID AND 1972 MAGNETIC NORTH
DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Primary highway, hard surface	Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
Secondary highway, hard surface	Unimproved road

○ Interstate Route □ U. S. Route ○ State Route

VINEYARD HAVEN, MASS.
N4122.5—W7035.7.5

1972

AMS 6866 1 NW—SERIES V814

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



**MASSACHUSETTS
HISTORICAL
COMMISSION**

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
Office of the Secretary of State**

294 Washington Street
Boston, Massachusetts
02108
617-727-8470

MICHAEL JOSEPH CONNOLLY
Secretary of State

February 23, 1984

Ms. Carol Shull, Chief
National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
18th and C Streets, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Ms. Shull:

Enclosed you will find the following nomination forms:

Boston - Moreland Street Historic District (local)
Monterey - Captain John Brewer House (local)
Melrose - Larrabee's Brick Block (local)
Monson - William Norcross House (local)
West Tisbury - The Old Mill (local)

All have been voted eligible by the State Review Board and have been signed by the State Historic Preservation Officer. Owners were notified of pending State Review Board consideration 30-75 days before the meeting and were afforded the opportunity to comment. Comments received to date are attached to the nomination forms.

Sincerely,

Candace Jenkins
Preservation Planning Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission

CJ/hi
Enclosures