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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

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 Millwood
other names/site number Millwood

2. Location

street & number on Hale Co. rd. 24, west of its intersection with Hale Co. rd. 17 N/A not for publication
city, town Greensboro vicinity
state Alabama code AL county Hale code 065 zip code 36744

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>1</u>	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____	_____ structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	_____	_____ objects
		<u>4</u>	<u>2</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: NA
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 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 meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.
Signature of certifying official *Lawrence Oake* Date 3-6-89
Alabama Historical Commission (State Historic Preservation Office)
State or Federal agency and bureau

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.
 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 *Amy Federman* Date of Action 9/26/89

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

agriculture/storage

industry/manufacturing

domestic/single dwelling

domestic/hotel

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

domestic/camp

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

other/vernacular

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation brick

walls wood

roof asphalt

other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Millwood site in Hale County is located on the eastern banks of the Black Warrior River, a major tributary in the state that flows into the Gulf of Mexico at Mobile. Once an area of bustling activity, Millwood was a major steamboat landing on the Warrior River. Two historic buildings and a mill site are located on the property. The buildings sit near the bank of the Black Warrior River with their rear to the water. The mill site is located approximately 200 yards to the west of the buildings down a dirt road. The mill, operated by artesian wells, served as a gristmill, cotton gin and press, and saw mill.

Artesian wells tap the underlying aquifer, water-bearing layers of rock. The water in the aquifer is confined under sufficient pressure to rise above the top of the aquifer when tapped. The water is confined in this layer by impermeable beds of rock. Artesian wells are generally used as a water supply and also to irrigate crops. At Millwood, the water was tapped to supply power to a mill.

The artesian wells, mill race and pond, and reservoir remain of the mill. The original mill consisted of a vertical water turbine with pulleys and belts to a gristmill, a saw mill and a cotton compress. The gristmill was in operation up to and through World War II. The original mill pond was man-made with dams and was filled by artesian wells. Originally six wooden artesian wells supplied the ponds with water. The ponds are located approximately thirty feet higher than the normal Demopolis Lock and Dam pool elevation, which gives fall to run the water turbine to the river. A mill race made of brick and concrete runs from the wells and has a steel pipe running under the road to the reservoir and vertical steel water turbine on the south side of the road. An underground race continues from the other side of the turbine reservoir to the river where it empties. The artesian well system, mill race, steel water turbine with its brick and concrete support, round gristmilling stones, and cotton press steel screw are all presently located on the site. The wooden mill structure rotted and fell in the 1950s. The mill operated and wagons with corn, wheat, and other agricultural products were brought to Millwood and "water ground" until the late 1940s. The remaining components of the mill are important for their archaeological potential to yield more information.

Two structures remaining at Millwood are a 1½ story building now called the "slave quarter" and a 2-story inn. Both structures appear to date from the 1830s or 1840s. Architectural evidence suggests the "quarter" predates the inn since the boards have earlier saw markings on them. However, the "quarter" may have been constructed by the slaves with limited technology. Due to the finished nature of the "quarter," it was unlikely built as slave housing. Dr. Robert Withers, the property

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owner, probably lived there until the construction of the main house. His primary residence is no longer extant. Dr. Withers had 77 slaves in 1830, 140 slaves in 1840, and 73 slaves in 1850. He would have had a need for slave quarters as early as 1830, but more than likely he was the first occupant of the building.

The "slave quarter" has two brick exterior end chimneys on the east and west elevations and supply fireplaces for the building's four interior rooms. The chimneys are corbelled at the base and top. The weatherboarded building has three 6/6 double hung windows and a door on the front or north facade. The rear elevation has two 6/6 double hung windows and a door. In 1972 a screened porch and kitchen were added to the rear of the building, which faces the Warrior River.

The building follows a simple hall and parlor plan with two rooms flanking a central hall on the first floor. The central hall contains the interior staircase that rises from the rear of the hall. The second floor contains two main rooms. A bathroom was added to the west room in 1972 making it smaller than its original size. Small casement and shuttered windows flanking the chimney are in both of these rooms.

Several interior features were also altered in 1972. The interior of the building has its original cypress floor which is now covered with plywood. The original wooden plank walls were replaced with paneling. The interior staircase remains intact with its original cypress steps and treads.

Millwood Inn is a two-story building with a steep gable roof and recessed porch across the entire facade. The clapboarded building has a chimney with corbeled base and top on the east and west facades. The building sits on a brick foundation and has a large brick cellar under the northwest section. The inn has three bays on the north and south facades and two bays on the east and west facade. The double-hung windows are 6/6 and 9/6.

In 1986 the recessed porch on the facade of the building was paneled on the lower section of the second story and a stoop was added to the building. A shed roof extends over the stoop.

Another building is attached to the southeast corner of the inn. This building contains a kitchen, dining room, and screened dining porch. The kitchen was originally a detached kitchen with a covered walkway for fire protection. A dining room was added in the late 1800s and attached the kitchen to the Inn proper. A wide side dining porch was added to the west side of the building in 1965. These additions occur on the southeast corner of the building and do not detract from the historic appearance of the inn.

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The interior plan of the building has two main rooms without a central hall and a long room across the rear on the first floor. The second floor has two main rooms that open to the second-story porch. The original plaster walls have been replaced with paneling. One section of the plaster was preserved behind plexiglass to display handwriting on the wall dating from 1882 until the present. The writing records weather conditions and hunting reports.

A closed staircase in the center of the building is entered from the back room. The original cypress threads and steps are present. The flooring is also original cypress.

A historic outbuilding is also on the property directly behind the inn. This one room building has vertical weatherboarding and a gable roof covered with tin.

Two mobile homes are also on the property between the historic buildings and the mill site. These buildings are on concrete pillars.

CONTRIBUTING: 3 buildings - inn, "quarter," shed
1 site - well system, turbine and supports, milling
stones, cotton screw, and mill race

NONCONTRIBUTING: 2 buildings - mobile homes

8. Statement of Significance

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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)

architecture
commerce/transportation
engineering

Period of Significance

c. 1830-1882

Significant Dates

c. 1830

Cultural Affiliation

none

Significant Person

none

Architect/Builder

unknown

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

Criterion C: Architecture

The inn and slave quarter are architecturally significant for their vernacular construction. Both buildings are typical South Atlantic house forms. The "quarter" is characteristic of the Chesapeake/Albermarle Sound area. The salt box form of the inn's rear and the recessed porch on the facade of the inn are also typical architectural elements of the South Atlantic. These buildings are physical reminders of the transportation and transplantation of vernacular forms from the cultural hearth area of the Chesapeake Bay to frontier lands to the west. A local variation is employed with the use of native cypress and the corbeled chimneys.

Criterion A: Transportation/Commerce

Millwood provided the surrounding area with a landing to the major form of transportation in early 19th-century Alabama--the steamboat. Dr. Withers also ran a stage-coach to Greensboro and a ferry across the Warrior River. A stage on the opposite banks carried passengers farther west to Forkland. Millwood exhibits the heavy reliance on water travel in the pioneer conditions in Alabama in the early 19th century. Local farmers relied on the mill where they could trade and sell their goods, have their raw agricultural products processed, and store their goods in warehouses until a steamboat arrived to supply transportation. This site became an important commercial center for the growing agricultural region. After steamboat travel was supplanted by the railroad, Millwood continued to provide milling service to the local agricultural community.

CRITERION A: ENGINEERING

Dr. Withers utilized artesian wells to supply power to his major milling operation on the banks of the Black Warrior River. Withers sunk the wells to create a basin of water to supply a race to the mill reservoir. While most mills were confined to areas with running streams or rivers, Withers used an uncommon but known method of engineering to supply water power to his mill. The same method was used in Cahaba, southeast of Millwood, but artesian wells were more often used to create basins of water only. This type of mill engineering is unique to Alabama.

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Dubose, John Witherspoon. "Chronicles of the Canebrake, 1817-1860." Alabama Historical Quarterly 9:4 (Winter 1947):474-613.
Federal Census; 1830, 1840, 1850.
Lamar, May & Rich Donnel. Hunting: The Southern Tradition, Dallas, 1987.
"Scientific American." 8 (Nov. 1852): 88. and 5 (Sept. 1850).
Alabama Beacon. Aug. 12, 1848.
The Greensboro Watchman. Nov. 16, 1972.

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 # _____

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 25 acres

UTM References

A	<u>1</u> <u>6</u>	<u>4</u> <u>2</u> <u>9</u> <u>6</u> <u>0</u> <u>0</u>	<u>3</u> <u>6</u> <u>1</u> <u>3</u> <u>6</u> <u>0</u> <u>0</u>	B	<u>1</u> <u>6</u>	<u>4</u> <u>2</u> <u>9</u> <u>6</u> <u>1</u> <u>0</u>	<u>3</u> <u>6</u> <u>1</u> <u>3</u> <u>4</u> <u>2</u> <u>5</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C	<u>1</u> <u>6</u>	<u>4</u> <u>2</u> <u>9</u> <u>8</u> <u>2</u> <u>0</u>	<u>3</u> <u>6</u> <u>1</u> <u>3</u> <u>3</u> <u>8</u> <u>0</u>	D	<u>1</u> <u>6</u>	<u>4</u> <u>2</u> <u>9</u> <u>3</u> <u>2</u> <u>5</u>	<u>3</u> <u>6</u> <u>1</u> <u>3</u> <u>5</u> <u>9</u> <u>5</u>

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description The Millwood site consists of approximately 25 acres in the southeast quadrant of Section 35, Township 20N, Range 3E of the Mason Bend quad. The nominated property is bounded on the south by the Black Warrior River. The western boundary is drawn to include the historic ferry landing and follows the natural boundary of the mill pond. The northern boundary follows the mill pond as does the eastern boundary. Below the pond, the eastern boundary follows the property line and includes the historic buildings.

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Boundary Justification

The boundaries are drawn to include the historic Inn, "Slave quarter," mill site, ferry landing, and artesian wells with resulting pond. The exact location of each artesian well is unknown so the entire pond is included in this nomination to ensure the inclusion of the wells.

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11. Form Prepared By

name/title	<u>Mary Mason Shell/Cultural Resources Coordinator</u>	date	<u>December 1988</u>
organization	<u>Alabama Historical Commission</u>	telephone	<u>205 261-3184</u>
street & number	<u>725 Monroe Street</u>	state	<u>Alabama</u>
city or town	<u>Montgomery</u>	zip code	<u>36130</u>

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Integrity

The Millwood buildings retain their original location, setting, workmanship, and feeling. The inn maintains its original form and design despite the alterations and additions to the structure. The added kitchen and dining porch are on one corner of the building and do not detract from its form. The "slave quarter" also maintains its original form and design despite alterations and additions. The mill site contains the six original wooden artesian wells, masonry mill race, turbine with supports, milling stones and cotton press steel screw. Despite the absence of the mill building, the remaining structures create a visual sense of the mill's operation.

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HISTORICAL SUMMARY

In the mid-19th century, waterways served as the major transportation route for agricultural products from the Black Belt region. Steamboat landings along river arteries that fed into the Mobile Bay connected the interior of Alabama with the Gulf of Mexico and the outside world. Farmers took their agricultural products to the nearest landing for shipment to Mobile where the products could be shipped north.

In the 19th century, steamboat travel was cumbersome and unpredictable. Many times the boats would run upon a sandbar, stuck until the river water rose. Due to the unreliable arrival and departure of boats, the more successful landings boasted warehouses and inns. Farmers could store their products and stay at the landing until the boat arrived.

The more prosperous landings also had mills to turn raw agricultural products into meal. The landing might also contain a cotton gin and or press and a saw mill.

The Millwood site is an example of a very prosperous landing that contained a gristmill, saw mill, and cotton gin and press. Millwood also had an inn for travelers and ran a stage into Greensboro, the nearest town 5 miles to the east.

But before Millwood became a prosperous steamboat landing, it belonged to the French Association consisting of 347 exiles of the followers of Napoleon Bonaparte. The colony required members to cultivate grapevines and olive trees. The exiled soldiers and merchants of the association were incapable of cultivating the dense canebrake region. In 1827 a federal agent found only 7,000 acres of the 52,160 acres had been placed under cultivation and most of the grantees had moved away.

Grantee Frenage sold his 480 acres of land to Dr. Robert Walker Withers sometime before 1830 since Withers appears at Millwood in the 1830 Federal census. Withers built Millwood, a residence and mill near the bank of the Warrior River. A graduate of Yale and the University of Pennsylvania, he also introduced artesian wells, among the first in Alabama, in 1844 and 1845. J. E. Mathews of Cahawba used artesian wells to supply water to a cotton mill contemporaneous with Withers. These two men utilized artesian wells for manufacturing purposes.

The six artesian wells built by Withers ranged in depth from 300 to 600 feet and supplied about 1000 gallons of water per minute. The wells were 50 to 200 yards from the mill. The water flowed from the wells to a common reservoir and then ran to the mill by an underground aqueduct. The water collected in another reservoir and fell on a reaction wheel 40 feet below to put the mill in motion. After turning the wheel the water emptied into the river through an underground tube about 50 feet below the top of the bluff. The reaction wheel was from Whitelaw and Stirrat's and manufactured at the West Point Foundry. It made 450 revolutions per minute. The saw was able to cut about 2000 board feet of lumber per day. These wells supplied power to operate a

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gristmill, wheat mill, steam saw mill, and cotton gin and compress. The wells were bored by a Mr. Cooper, a native of Vermont who invested and patented augers and instruments for the purpose of penetrating the solid limestone rock. The Scientific American journal featured stories on Millwood in volumes 5 and 8.

Withers erected warehouses for the handling of cotton going down the river to Mobile, as well as other supplies, notably sugar, flour, salt meat, and spirits, which came up from Mobile. At that time Millwood was an important ferry on the stage road from Greensboro to Forkland, a town above Demopolis in Sumter County. Withers ran a stage into Greensboro and a ferry across the river. On the opposite shore, another stage transported people and goods into Forkland. Dr. Withers opened an Inn for the accommodation of travelers by steamboat and stage.

An old ledger of Dr. Withers records steamboats that made regular trips to Millwood and other landings on the Warrior River during the years 1840 through 1847. They include the Echo, Semaphore, Kansas, Chactow, Hercules, Comet, Roanoke, Anna Calhoun, Oriole, Tenelope, Cahawba, Marquette, H. Kinney, L. Hopkins, Robert Emmett, Winona, and the William Bradstreet.

Boats traveling the River in the early to mid-19th century had to depend on the water level of the rivers, and at times the water was so low that the boats had to tie up or were stuck on sandbars. The rivers were hazardous until the government made provisions to keep them dredged or free from floating objects. In 1876 the House of Representatives appropriated \$15,000 to make the Warrior more navigable.

After Dr. Withers' death in 1854 the land passed to Hugh Watt and A.S. Vandegraaf in 1855. From there the property passed to W.B. Drake in 1859, to Alphas Drake in 1867, to Sam Sheppard in 1871, to William B. Inge in 1876, and to Wiley C. Turnstall in 1882.

Millwood was used primarily as a mill landing up to 1882. In the late 19th century the railroad began to supplant the steamboat as the major form of transportation for agricultural products. The gristmill continued to operate and served the local farming community, but Millwood would never regain its former preeminence.

Since Turnstall purchased the property, it was also used as a family hunting camp. A hunting report dated from 1882, the year of Turnstall's purchase, is recorded on the wall of the inn. In 1916 Wiley C. Turnstall, Jr., and Alfred M. Turnstall acquired the land. In 1925 Alfred Turnstall became the sole owner. At his death in 1935 the property was divided among his seven nieces and nephews. In 1962 the present owners, George S. Wright and Camille W. Cook, nephew and niece of Alfred Turnstall, Jr., acquired the entire Millwood site.

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The present owners lease the land to a hunting club. The owners also practice game and timber management, overseeing plentiful numbers of deer, turkey, and duck, 2,000 acres of river bottom hardwoods, and 1,000 acres of pine along the sandy ridges. They are concerned about the preservation of the natural and historic qualities of the site and its significance to the history of Alabama.

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Information in items 1-5 is the same for all photographs listed.

1. Millwood, west of intersection Hale Co. rds. 24 & 17 on 24
2. Greensboro v., Hale County, Alabama
3. Mary Mason Shell
4. October 1988
5. Alabama Historical Commission
6. rear and side elevation of Millwood Inn facing NW
7. Photo no. 1

6. facade, north, and east elevation of Millwood Inn, facing SW
7. Photo no. 2

6. facade, north, of Millwood Inn facing south
7. Photo no. 3

6. chimney base on west elevation of Inn facing east
7. Photo no. 4

6. interior of Inn, first floor, east room facing east
7. Photo no. 5

6. facade, north, of "Slave Quarter" facing SW
7. Photo no. 6

6. facade and east elevation of "Slave Quarter" facing SW
7. Photo no. 7

6. interior of "Slave Quarter," second floor, east room, facing east
7. Photo no. 8

6. interior stairs in "Slave Quarter" facing north
7. Photo no. 9

6. foundation stone of mill structure at mill site facing north
7. Photo no. 10

6. mill reservoir and milling stone facing north
7. Photo no. 11

6. vertical water turbine at mill site facing east
7. Photo no. 12

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- 6. contributing outbuilding facing SE
- 7. Photo no. 13

- 6. noncontributing mobile homes on property facing west
- 7. Photo no. 14

- 6. dining porch on west side of Millwood Inn, facing east
- 7. Photo no. 15

- 6. rear of Millwood Inn facing north
- 7. Photo no. 16

- 6. mill reservoir with turbine facing NE
- 7. Photo no. 17

- 6. mill pond created by artesian wells facing north
- 7. Photo no. 18

- 6. masonry artesian well box facing NE
- 7. Photo no. 19

- 6. masonry mill race facing south
- 7. Photo no. 20

- 6. cotton press steel screw at mill site facing south
- 7. Photo no. 21

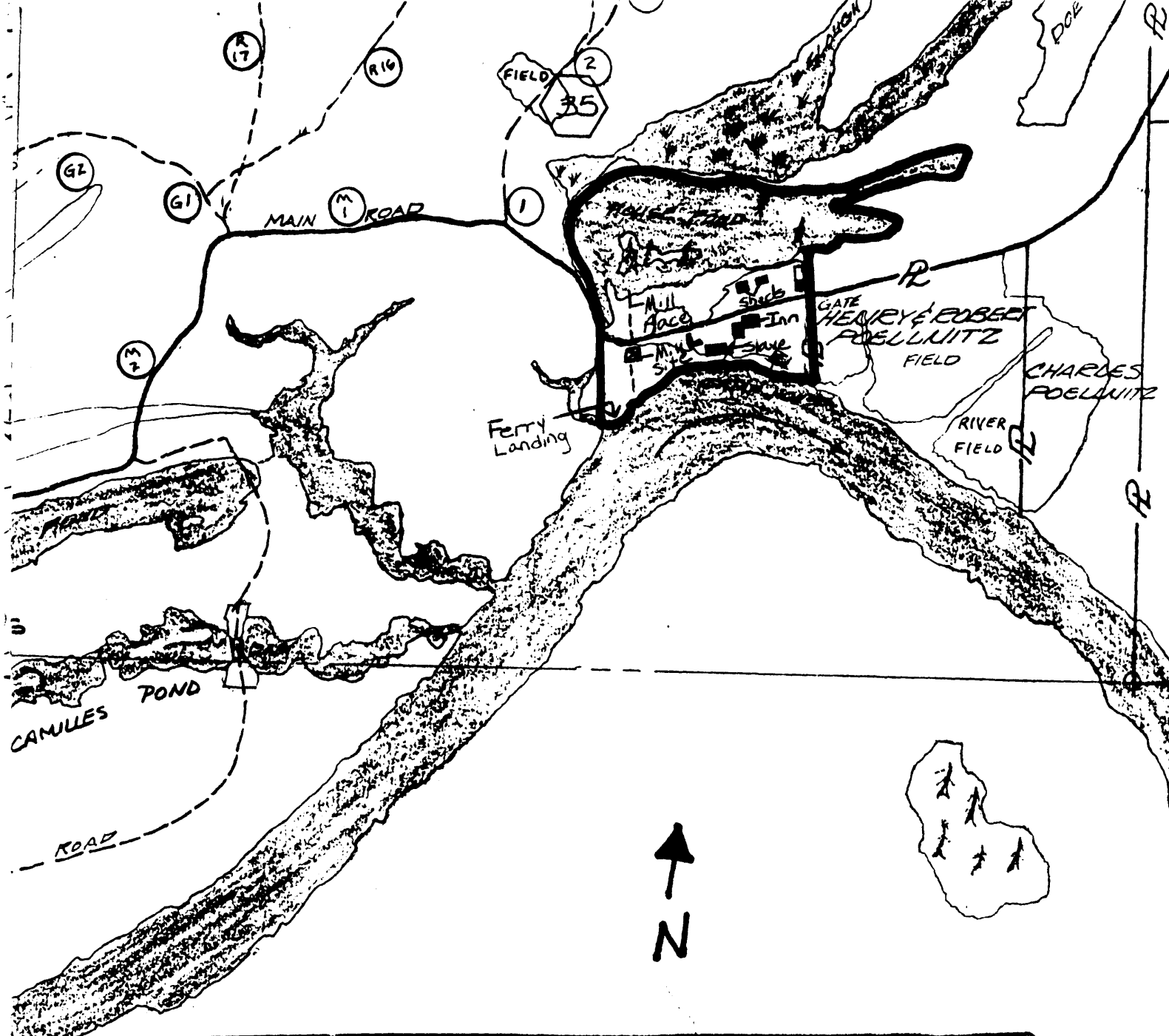
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Millwood
Hale Co.
Alabama

Aerial view of property:

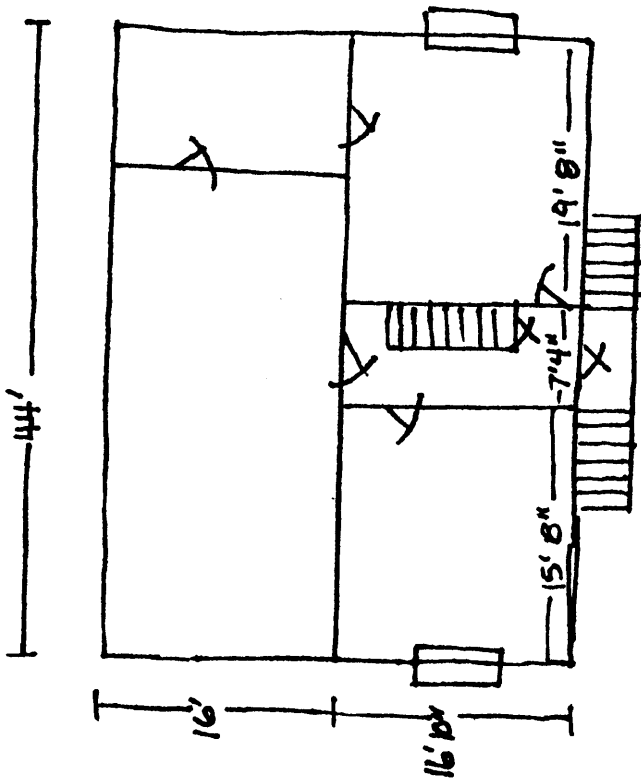
- 1 - mill pond created from artesian wells
- 2 - mill site
- 3 - general location of historic buildings
- 4 - Black Warrior River



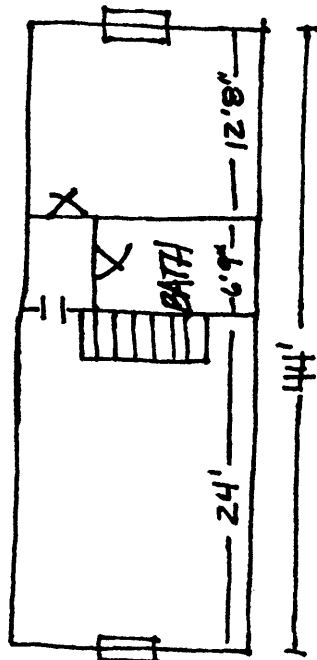


<h2 style="margin: 0;">MILLWOOD HUNTING CLUB AND SURROUNDING AREA</h2>			REVISION	
			NO	DATE
FIELD BK	SCALE 1" = 660'	DWN. BY R.N.A.	APPROVED BY	
PAGE NO.	DATE NOV. 1975	CHKD. BY	JOB NO.	
<h3 style="margin: 0;">almon & associates, inc.</h3> <p style="margin: 0;">consulting engineers</p> <p style="margin: 0;">P O DRAWER 2687 TUSCALOOSA, ALABAMA 35401</p>			FILE T 100	
			DRAWING NO.	

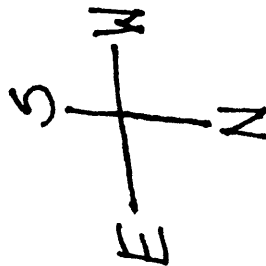
Millwood
"Slave Quarter"
Greensboro vicinity
Hale County
Alabama



FIRST FLOOR



SECOND FLOOR



Millwood
Millwood Inn
Greensboro vicinity
Hale County
Alabama

