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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED JUN 10 1976  
DATE ENTERED NOV 21 1976

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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

## 1 NAME

HISTORIC *Whe*  
\* \* \* McCosh Grist Mill  
AND/OR COMMON  
Same

## LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER *SE of Rock Mills on*  
McCosh Mill Road  
CITY, TOWN  
Rock Mills  VICINITY OF 3  
STATE Alabama CODE 01 COUNTY Randolph CODE 111  
NOT FOR PUBLICATION  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

## CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input 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	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> 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: None

## OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME  
U.S. Army Corp of Engineers (U.S. Government) and Mrs. C. E. Hines  
STREET & NUMBER  
P. O. Box 2288 12751 Colonial Drive  
CITY, TOWN STATE  
Mobile College Park Alabama Georgia  
VICINITY OF

## LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Randolph County Courthouse  
STREET & NUMBER  
CITY, TOWN STATE  
Wedowee Alabama

## 6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE  
Historic Sites: Survey-Evaluation-Re-Inventory  
DATE  
June, 1972  FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL  
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS  
East Alabama Regional Planning and Development Commission  
CITY, TOWN STATE  
Anniston Alabama

# 7 DESCRIPTION

## CONDITION

EXCELLENT  
 GOOD  
 FAIR

DETERIORATED  
 RUINS  
 UNEXPOSED

## CHECK ONE

UNALTERED  
 ALTERED

## CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE  
 MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Located on the southern bank of Wehadkee Creek, McCosh Mill faces southeast along a dirt road paralleling the creek. While a portion of the acreage extends south into Chambers County, the mill and dam are located in Randolph County. A short dirt drive leads from the road to the mill yard which is grown up in small pines, hardwoods, and underbrush.

Constructed of ~~small unfinished native stones~~, the mill is rectangular, measuring ~~42.5 feet by 32.2 feet~~ and utilizes ~~larger finished~~ stones for quoins. Due to the slope of the land, the structure rises to a height of 3 1/2 stories on the stream side and 2 1/2 stories on the front or southeastern elevation. A medium-pitched hipped roof covered with metal once featured a steeply-gabled central dormer and has extended eaves with a stepped cornice.

The most notable feature of the facade is the fanciful use of half millstones for window and door arches while smaller segments of millstone are interspaced with second floor windows. Further embellishment is afforded by courses of rectangular finished stones above the doors and beneath the cornice. Two single doors are located on the ground floor and are aligned with the windows of the second floor. A central, second story opening is lower and slightly broader than other windows was probably used for hoisting grain directly to the second floor for storage. An early 20th Century photograph shows it closed with a heavy wooden shutter and in the same photograph, a shed roof porch extends nearly the entire length of the facade. Side elevations have two windows per floor, while the rear has four. All windows have stone sills and wooden lintels. Walls are nearly three feet thick and window openings are beveled inward, measuring 2.9 feet on the exterior and 3.6 feet on the interior. Large wooden boards form the casing. On the rear masonry construction is terminated above the third floor and wood is used to enclose the half-floor above. Four small windows afford light and ventilation.

Large beams, secured to the walls with metal screws, support the flooring. A brick chimney is located on the northeast wall, as is a simple wooden stair, giving access to the basement and second floor.

In earlier years two runs of stones were operated by a single breastwheel with a 12 foot width and 20 foot diameter, but around the turn of the century the turbines were installed to power three runs of stone. The waterhouse has fallen into ruin, the race is overgrown with underbrush, and most of the milling equipment has been removed, although the stones are still in place. The dam, also of native stone, is located approximately 500 feet upstream and is approximately 8 feet high and 125 feet in length.

# 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

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

McCosh Mill is the only known grist mill of stone construction still standing in Alabama and is one of the oldest remaining mills in the eastern portion of the state. Stone construction was rare in Alabama and this structure, which employs millstone as a decorative feature, is a notable example.

The mill is believed to have been built in the early 1870's by James Eichelburger McCosh, who shortly after the close of the Civil War operated a mill in the vicinity in partnership with his grandfather and great-uncle. County records were destroyed in the late 19th Century, but family members maintain that McCosh constructed the present mill after an earlier structure was destroyed by flooding.

Some local traditions have held that the mill was constructed in the 1840's by McCosh's grandfather, Jacob Eichelburger, a pioneer industrialist in the county who constructed the cotton mills in nearby Rock Mills. Undoubtedly Eichelburger influenced the design of the present structure which reflects the tradition of stone mills in his native Pennsylvania.

The mill was in full operation by the late 1870's as the 1880 Census of Manufactures lists J. E. McCosh and Company as having an initial investment of \$8,000 and employing three hands full time. Total Value of products for the previous year was \$15,000, with the major products being wheat, flour and corn meal. Later, McCosh, a prosperous farmer who owned approximately 500 acres in the vicinity, added a cotton gin and bone house to the operation.

The mill remained in the McCosh family until 1931 when it was sold to a relative, Elmer Hines of Standing Rock, who operated the mill until it was closed in 1958. In 1970 the mill was purchased by the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers as part of the West Point Lake Reservoir Project. Plans call for the stabilization of the structure and its eventual use as a recreational park. The dam was not included in the Corp purchase and is currently owned by Mrs. C. E. Hines of Atlanta, Georgia.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Eichelburger, A.W. The Eichelburger Family Register. Hanover, Pennsylvania: The Hanover Herald Printing Company, 1901.  
 Jeane, Gregory, "Grist Mill Survey," Department of Geography, Auburn University. U.S. Census of Manufactures, 1880.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 7 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A 16 664680 3664460  
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING  
 C         

B           
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING  
 D         

## VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Begin at a point 10 feet east of the McCosh Mill Dam on the northern bank of Wehadkee Creek and continue south to the McCosh Mill Road; then proceed southwesterly along this road to a point 250 feet south of the mill; then west 360 feet to the western edge of Wehadkee Creek; then north along the western bank of the creek to the point of origin.

## LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
		Chambers	017
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

W. Warner Floyd, Executive Director and Ellen Mertins

ORGANIZATION

Alabama Historical Commission

DATE

May 27, 1976

STREET & NUMBER

725 Monroe Street

TELEPHONE

(205) 832-6621

CITY OR TOWN

Montgomery

STATE

Alabama 36130

# 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

*Nils B. Howard Jr.*

TITLE SHPO

DATE May 28, 1976

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

*Carl F. Jones*

DATE

11/21/76

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

*Charles ...*

DATE

11-16-76

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received 7-9-86

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

Page

Name McCosh Grist Mill  
State Alabama

Nomination/Type of Review

Additional Documentation  
Accepted

Substantive review

Date/Signature

Keeper *[Signature]* 7/14/86

Attest \_\_\_\_\_

Keeper \_\_\_\_\_

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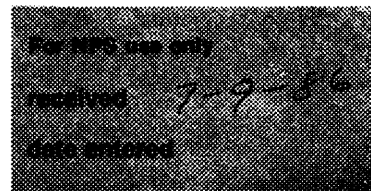
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Keeper \_\_\_\_\_

Attest \_\_\_\_\_

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

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



Continuation sheet

Item number 7 & 8

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Item 7

In 1985 McCosh Mill was burned by vandals. The fire destroyed the roof and all floors, as well as badly damaged the machinery and mill stones. The walls, however, remain in remarkably good condition, except for one section of the rear wall on the second level, about 8 feet long and 6 feet high, which is leaning badly and must be considered completely destroyed. Damage to the outside face of the wall is limited mainly to smoke stains and localized mortar damage from bolts that connected the interior framing to the outside walls.<sup>1</sup>

Item 8

Integrity Assessment:

The structure was nominated under Criterion C as the only known grist mill in Alabama of stone construction and was further distinguished by the fanciful use of mill stones as decorative devices. While the fire destroyed the roof, milling equipment and flooring, the original masonry walls, with the millstone lintels, are still intact and the method of construction is clearly visible.

  
F. Lawrence Oaks (Date) 7-3-86  
State Historic Preservation Officer

<sup>1</sup> Green, Lawrence, "Structural Report for McCosh Mill," U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District. Report submitted June 19th, 1986.