

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**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 Lee and Gordon Mill

and/or common Lee and Gordon Mill

2. Location

street & number Red Belt Road not for publication

city, town Chickamauga vicinity of congressional district 7th - Larry McDonald

state Georgia code 013 county Walker code 295

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<u> </u> district	<u> </u> public	<u> </u> occupied	<u> </u> agriculture	<u> </u> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<u> </u> commercial	<u> </u> park
<u> </u> structure	<u> </u> both	<u> </u> work in progress	<u> </u> educational	<u> </u> private residence
<u> </u> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<u> </u> entertainment	<u> </u> religious
<u> </u> object	<u> </u> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<u> </u> government	<u> </u> scientific
	<u> </u> being considered	<u> </u> yes: unrestricted	<u> </u> industrial	<u> </u> transportation
		<u> </u> no	<u> </u> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: Vacant

4. Owner of Property

name William A. Wallace and Arvil T. Wallace

street & number Route 2, Box 344 (Red Belt Road)

city, town Chickamauga vicinity of state Georgia 30707

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Superior Court

street & number Walker County Courthouse

city, town LaFayette state Georgia 30728

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Historic Structures Field Survey:
title Walker County, Georgia has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1975 federal state county local

depository for survey records Historic Preservation Section, Ga. Dept. of Natural Resources

city, town Atlanta state Georgia

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" 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

The Lee and Gordon Mill is located on the west bank of Chickamauga Creek approximately two miles northeast of Chickamauga on Red Belt Road. The nominated property includes a grist mill, a log dam with raceway, and a twentieth-century house. The mill and other structures are situated on approximately seven acres.

The Lee and Gordon Mill is a two-and-one-half-story frame structure that was built in 1867 on the site of a previous mill structure. The heavy, braced frame structure was constructed on a fieldstone-and-mortar foundation. It is an unpainted, clapboard structure with some stylistic bargeboard located on the edge of the gabled roof. A two-story frame addition was constructed on the south end of the mill. A shed porch extends across the entire west facade of the mill. The double doorway is flanked by two windows. Two windows are located directly above the first-floor windows and a third-story window is located directly over the doorway. A single doorway is located in the front of the addition with a window directly over the door. A door is located on the south side of the mill, leading to the raceway. Windows are located on the first and second floors on each side of the mill. A third-story window is located on the side of the mill adjacent to the creek. The only chimney that serves the mill is located on the south end of the structure in the addition.

Located on the first floor of the mill are the millstones and other equipment necessary to the operation of the mill. Of the three runs of stones, two are enclosed in circular wooden encasements. The millstones are operated by power that is transmitted from moving water by turbine through a vertical shaft to the stones. Several types of scales are located on the first floor, as well as a corn cleaner. Corn sifters and dusters are located on the second and third floors of the mill. Elevators that move the grist from floor to floor are enclosed in wooden boxes. The elevators are driven by a system of pulleys and belts. The three turbine wheels are located beneath the millstones under the mill. Most of the mill equipment is of the late-nineteenth century and was operated regularly until 1968. The mill equipment is presently in near-operating condition.

Located to the south of the mill is a log dam and raceway. The dam spans the entire creek and has a fall of nine feet. The dam is in good condition and would serve the mill efficiently should the mill begin operation. The raceway is constructed of fieldstone and masonry.

Also located on the property is a twentieth-century house built on the foundations of a granary. The one-story frame structure is located northwest of the mill. One of the mill owners is presently living in the house.

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Knowledge of other structures is available through photographs and the oral tradition of the mill owners. A saw mill was located south of the mill. A blacksmith shop is also known to have existed near the mill, but the exact location of the shop is unknown. The general-store wing of the mill was once longer than it is today.

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 checked="" 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 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

Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Historical Significance

The Lee and Gordon Mill is significant to the architectural, industrial and commercial history of Chickamauga. It is a fine example of nineteenth-century grist mill architecture and much of the late-nineteenth-century grist-mill equipment is intact. The mill serves as an architectural and technological record of the mill industry in northwest Georgia. The Lee and Gordon Mill was a center of local commerce and provided varied services for the residents of Chickamauga.

Architecturally, the Lee and Gordon Mill is a typical example of traditional grist-mill structures found in northwest Georgia. The structure is completely utilitarian and has little architectural ornamentation, typical qualities of the nineteenth-century mill. The intact collection of mill equipment further signifies the Lee and Gordon Mill as a model of a typical nineteenth-century grist mill. The equipment includes three runs of stones, a corn cleaner, sifters, several scales, and several enclosed grist elevators. Also present are the systems needed to distribute power to the mill machinery. The equipment is an example of mill machinery found in many northwest Georgia mills. The mill equipment was operated regularly until May of 1968, and with slight adjustments and a thorough cleaning, the equipment could be operated once again.

The Lee and Gordon Mill was an industrial asset to Chickamauga. Producing well over 70,000 bushels of product in 1880, it was one of the leading mill industries in Walker County. The mill operated approximately eleven hours a day, six days a week. Several men were employed to operate the mill. In 1890, the Lee and Gordon Mill was reported to be the largest mill on Chickamauga Creek. While other mills in the Chickamauga area were experiencing a decline in production in the late-nineteenth century, the Lee and Gordon Mill continued to serve its customers as an efficient and prosperous industry. The saw mill, adjacent to the grist mill, was an asset to the grist mill.

The Lee and Gordon Mill served as a center of local commerce. The mill processed the flour and grist for local consumption and for the commercial market. Located in the mill was a general store, an outlet for the mill's products. The mill was located on a stagecoach route and was easily accessible by Chickamauga residents. The 1880 Special Schedule of Manufactures for flour and grist mills lists the value of the Lee and Gordon Mill products as being \$69,977. It is evident that the mill was an essential element in the commercial activity of Chickamauga.

[continued]

9. Major Bibliographical References

Chickamauga Yesteryear. Summerville: Espy Publishing Company, 1974.

Department of Agriculture. Georgia Historical and Industrial. Atlanta: Franklin Printing and Publishing Company, 1901.
[continued]

10. Geographical Data

UTM NOT VERIFIED

Acreeage of nominated property 6.6
Quadrangle name Ft. Oglethorpe, Ga.-Tenn.

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A	<u>1,6</u>	<u>6,5,8</u>	<u>3,8,5</u>	<u>3,8</u>	<u>6,1</u>	<u>3,1,0</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing			
C						
E						
G						

B						
	Zone	Easting	Northing			
D						
F						
H						

Verbal boundary description and justification

Boundaries of the nominated property are indicated by heavy black line on the enclosed U.S.G.S. Map.

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

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kacy Ginn, National Register Researcher
Georgia Dept. of Natural Resources
 organization Historic Preservation Section date October 22, 1979
 street & number 270 Washington St., S.W. telephone (404) 656-2840
 city or town Atlanta state Georgia 30334

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Elizabeth A. Lyon
 Elizabeth A. Lyon
 title Acting State Historic Preservation Officer date 11/29/79

For HCRS use only
 I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register
 date 2/8/80
 Keeper of the National Register Sally G. Olden
 Attest: W. A. Dubois date 2/9/80
 Chief of Registration

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Archaeological Significance

Lee and Gordon Mill is archaeologically unknown. Knowledge of former structures and activity in the area indicates archaeological resources in the nominated area. The present mill is the third mill to occupy the site. A saw mill was once located near the present mill site. A granary was located northwest of the mill. The general-store wing of the mill was, at one time, longer than it is today. Military activity during the Civil War occurred on the nominated property. Knowledge of these structures and activities is available from photographs, maps, and oral history. An archaeological study would possibly reveal information about previous structures and activity in the nominated area.

Historical Narrative

The first mill to occupy the site was built by James Gordon in 1836, shortly after he moved to the area from Gwinnett County. One of the early settlers of Walker County, his mill and the general store he operated were early commercial enterprises in the Chickamauga area. The first mill is reported to have been a one-story corn mill. In 1857, due to a growing and prospering business, James Gordon rebuilt the mill and also constructed a saw mill near the grist mill. At the outbreak of the Civil War, James M. Lee was operating the mill. He had joined Gordon in the milling business and they formed a partnership prior to the war. During the Battle of Chickamauga, the mill was a focal point, and on separate occasions, Confederate and Union troops occupied the mill and surrounding area. The mill was the site of an unsuccessful Confederate attempt to turn the Federal flank. During the Battle of Chickamauga, the mill supplied troops with flour and grist. The second mill structure burned in 1867.

Shortly after the second mill burned, James Lee built the mill that exists today. Even though Gordon had withdrawn from the partnership prior to his death, Lee retained the name Lee and Gordon Mill. The mill continued to prosper, and after the death of James Lee in 1889, the mill became part of the Lee estate. It was operated by Tom W. Lee, son of James Lee, until several years prior to the purchase of the mill by the present owners in 1929. The present owners, William and Arvil Wallace, operated the mill until May, 1968. The owners' families are interested in rehabilitating and maintaining the mill.

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Jeane, Donald Gregory. The Culture History of Grist Milling in Northwest Georgia. Dissertation, Louisiana State University, 1974.

LaBrie, Ben (ed.). The Confederate Soldier in the Civil War, 1861-65. Louisville: The Courier-Journal Job Printing Company, 1895.

Mitchell, Francis Letcher. Georgia Land and People. Atlanta: Franklin Printing and Publishing Company, 1893.

Sartain, James Alfred. History of Walker County, Vol. I. Dalton: A.J. Sh-walter Company, 1932.

Walker County Messenger. December 25, 1889, and January 3, 1890.