

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

7. America at Work

**DATA SHEET**

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED JAN 5 1976  
DATE ENTERED MAY 28 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  
Gilreath's Mill (Heller's Mill, Bruce's Mill, Taylor's Mill)  
AND/OR COMMON  
Gilreath's Mill

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER  
Four miles NW of Greer on S.C. Highway 101  
CITY, TOWN  
Greer  
STATE  
South Carolina  
CODE  
045  
VICINITY OF  
 VICINITY OF  
COUNTY  
Greenville  
CODE  
045  
NOT FOR PUBLICATION  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
# 4

**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"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED (exterior)	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
			<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME  
(see continuation sheet)  
STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN  
STATE  
VICINITY OF

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.  
STREET & NUMBER  
CITY, TOWN  
STATE

Greenville County Courthouse  
East North Street  
Greenville  
South Carolina

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE  
DATE  
DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS  
CITY, TOWN  
STATE

Inventory of Historic Places in South Carolina  
1973  
South Carolina Department of Archives and History  
Columbia  
South Carolina

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

## 7 DESCRIPTION

### CONDITION

EXCELLENT  
 GOOD  
 FAIR

DETERIORATED  
 RUINS  
 UNEXPOSED

### CHECK ONE

UNALTERED  
 ALTERED

### CHECK ONE

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

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

The original mill, a two-and-one-half story frame building, is still standing. (Its construction date is unknown. Tradition dates it ca. 1814 but the first contemporary account is 1839.) This original section of the mill, measuring about twenty-five feet in width and thirty-five feet in length, has a steep gabled roof. A projecting pent roof is located between the first and second levels. On the rear of the nineteenth century mill, a shed dormer window faces the water wheel.

The floor plan has been altered over the years as illustrated by a 1920 photograph. Other rooms on the present structure include two gabled-roof sheds attached to the north of the original section. The central shed is also two-and-one-half stories; the north shed is a story-and-a-half. Both are of rough hewn horizontal planks. The mill contains machinery (original corn mill and stones) once used for grinding corn. At present this machinery is not being used; however, it could be put into working condition. [Mechanisms for producing wheat no longer in mill.]

The mill closed all operation around 1950.

Surroundings: Gilreath's Mill is located directly beside Highway 101. The water wheel, separate from the mill, is southwest of the frame structure. The mill stands in a wooded area. When it was in operation, the Shoal Creek and Clear Creek waters of the South Tyger River furnished the mill's power.

# 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 type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" 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

Gilreath's Mill is one of the few remaining mills in South Carolina that recalls the vital tradition of rural industry. Production of cornmeal and flour was essential to the people living nearby and therefore to the economic structure of the area. An example of the production levels of the mill is found in the South Carolina Industrial Census of 1860. Owned at that time by John Heller, the mill produced 1750 pounds of cornmeal and 60 bushels of flour. Value of this annual yield was \$1750 for the cornmeal and \$420 for the flour. Cornmeal and flour were strong commodities on a state-wide level. In 1882, for example, Gilreath's Mill was one of 720 grist mills in South Carolina producing 22% of all manufactures, second only to cotton products.

More than a statistic in state and local commerce records, a mill was an important element, both economically and socially, to those who depended on it. The first contemporary reference to Gilreath's Mill is in a diary entry dated April 10, 1839, recorded by Washington Taylor. Taylor, a local farmer who later bought the mill, served for one term in the South Carolina State Legislature. His journal covers a period of twenty years -- January 1, 1835 to January 1, 1855. Entries that mention the mill include the following:

April 10, 1839: "Wednesday took 25 bushels of wheat to Gilreath's Mill and hauled some rails."

July 25, 1840: "Saturday went to Gilreath's Mill with 8½ bushels of wheat and got back 318 pounds of good flour."

The mill changed hands during the span of the diary, as reflected in an entry of February 25, 1852: "Wednesday sowed oats and chopped track to timber. Helped Mr. Heller about his mill."

The mill was an integral part of the social and economic setting of the area. A means of procuring staple foods, Gilreath's Mill was also a place where people could congregate. The mill remains today an important vestige of nineteenth century rural America.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Edgar, Walter, Ed. Biographical Directory of the South Carolina House of Representatives. Vol. I. Columbia, South Carolina: University of South Carolina Press, 1974.

Eighth Census of South Carolina. "Products of Industry." 1860. Microfilm in South Carolina Department of Archives and History.

(continued)

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 5 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A 17 383025 3870060  
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B                 
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

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

Staff -- Historic Preservation Division

ORGANIZATION

South Carolina Department of Archives and History

DATE

11/25/75

STREET & NUMBER

1430 Senate Street

TELEPHONE

(803) 758-5816

CITY OR TOWN

Columbia

STATE

South Carolina

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL     

STATE     

LOCAL X

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

*Charles E. Lee*

TITLE Charles E. Lee  
 State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE 12-17-75

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
 I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Acting DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
 ATTEST: *James R. [Signature]* DATE 1/28/76

Acting KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER  
*Charles [Signature]* DATE 5-24-76

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED *5*

DATE ENTERED

*MAY 28 1976*

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

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER *4* PAGE *one*

Janie G. Derieux  
~~Cismond~~, Virginia  
*Reswick,*  
Elizabeth Gilreath  
Route 7  
Greer, South Carolina

*april 1976 (family of Ma. Gilreath deceased)*

*Elizabeth Gilreath (deceased)*

Earline G. Hungerford White  
Route 7  
Greer, South Carolina

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE two

South Carolina: Resources and Population, Institutions and Industries.

Charleston: Walker, Evans and Cogswell Printers, 1883 (Reprinted 1972).

Taylor, Washington. Unpublished Diary of Washington Taylor, 1835-1855.

Photostatic copy located in the South Caroliniana Library, University of  
South Carolina, Columbia, South Carolina.

Greenville County Wills and Deeds.

"Gilreath Mill," Clingstone, Produced by Greer High School Students, issue  
No. 2 (April, 1975).