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

PH0699276

RECEIVED FEB 1 2 1979

DATE ENTERED DEC 8 1981

	DERAL PROPERTIES		_		<del>-</del>		
SEE IN	ISTRUCTIONS IN <i>HOW</i> TYPE ALL ENTRIES				Newstan .		
1 NAME							
HISTORIC	Alley Spring Rolle	er Mill			•		
AND/OR COMMON	Red Mill						
2 LOCATION	West of Eminence,	off Missouri H	Ĺghway	106			
STREET & NUMBER	Missouri Highway	#106		NOT FOR PUBLICATION	NOT FOR PUBLICATION		
CITY, TOWN	Eminence	VICINITY OF	#8 -	congressional distr Hon. Richard I	chord		
STATE	Missouri	CODE 29		COUNTY Shannon	<sup>CODE</sup> 203		
3 CLASSIFICA	ATION						
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4 AGENCY REGIONAL HEADQUART	TERS: (# epplicable) Uzark National Sce	enic Riverways					
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CITY, TOWN	Van Buren	- VICINITY OF		STATE Mis	souri 63695		
5 LOCATION	OF LEGAL DESCI	RIPTION					
COURTHOUSE. REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ET	c Office of Recorder	of Deeds, Shan	non C	ounty Courthous	e ·		
STREET & NUMBER	Courthouse Square						
CITY, TOWN	Eminence	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,		STATE Mis	souri 63965		
6 REPRESENT	TATION IN EXIST	ING SURVEY	S				
TITLE	Missouri Historic	Sites Catalog		ž			
DATE	1963	FEDERAL	Хъта	TECOUNTYLOCAL			
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS	State Historical S						
CITY, TOWN	Columbia			STATE Mic	souri 65201		

#### CONDITION

\_\_UNALTERED

XALTERED

**CHECK ONE** 

XORIGINAL SITE

\_\_MOVED DATE\_

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

Alley Spring Roller Mill is located at Alley Spring, on Missouri Route 106, approximately five miles west of Eminence, in Shannon County, Missouri. It is a red 32' x 42' 2 1/2 story rectangular frame structure about 40' high on a foundation of mortared rough cut local limestone blocks, and is oriented north to south on the west bank of the Alley Spring pond. On the south and east are extensive recreation facilities including picnic, parking and camping areas.

Exterior: Sawn wood shingles cover the gable roof and 4 1/2" pine drop siding the walls. A concrete porch at the west entrance measures 5' x 5'; another on the east is a 9'7" frame structure over the turbine. An angled shingle roof covers the entrance.

Openings: a 43" x 41" opening is in the south foundation wall near the east corner. It is covered with bars made of peeled saplings. A similar opening near the west end (used in 1900 for a shaft to a sawmill) has been mortared up. Another opening of this type is near the center of the east foundation. There are three bays in the east and west sides, two in the ends. In both center first floor bays are doors made of vertical planks. They are  $3'11" \times 6'5"$  (west) and  $3' \times 6'5"$  (east). Windows are double sash, with  $2 \times 2$  lights and are  $28" \times 62"$  in size. Those in the third floor are 31" square with four lights. All first floor windows are covered with peeled sapling bars.

Interior: Basement: The southeast quarter is dug out for a 7' high basement and is reached by a 20" wide wood stair against the south interior wall. It houses the turbine shaft, pulleys and conveyors. Belts furnish power to the milling machinery on the floors above. The floor is dirt.

First Floor: There is a 9'2" x 13'10" room in the northeast corner. Walls and ceiling of this room are panelled with 3 1/4" tongue and groove boards. Windows are in the north and east walls and a door is in the center of the south partition. The remainder of this floor is undivided. Ceiling and walls are sheathed with 1" x 10" boards. A 3'3" wide wooden stair against the north interior wall leads to the second floor. All first floor ceilings are 8' high.

Four steel rollers and a single stone burr are lined north to south on the wood floor outside the room. They are: a "Gray Patent Noiseless Roller," made by Edward P. Allis and Company, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. The last patent date on it is 1881. Next are three "Mawhood Rollers," made by the Richmond City Mill Works, Richmond, Indiana. The last patent date on them is July 3, 1883. A stone burr used for grinding demonstrations has replaced a fourth "Mawhood Roller."

### 8 SIGNIFICANCE

SPECIFIC DAT	ES 1002	BUILDER/ARCI	HITECT Goongo W McC	ackill
		INVENTION		
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1700-1799	ART	ENGINEERING	MUSIC	THEATER
1600-1699	ARCHITECTURE	EDUCATION	MILITARY	SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
1500-1599	AGRICULTURE	ECONOMICS	LITERATURE	SCULPTURE
1400-1499	ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	CONSERVATION	LAW	SCIENCE
PREHISTORIC	ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	COMMUNITY PLANNING	LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	RELIGION
PERIOD	AF	REAS OF SIGNIFICANCE CH	IECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW	

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

circa 1893

Alley Spring Roller Mill is a pristine example of a late 19th century turbine mill, complete with its original machinery, and represents a typical Ozarks rural industrial and commercial center. Water-powered mills were the earliest manufacturing industry in the Ozarks and served large areas. The mill at Alley Spring was the only mill available to farmers in a 500 square mile area. Around it centered a small community which included a post office, general store, black-smith shop, sawmill and school. It was the contact and communication point for several hundred people.

George W. McCaskill

The mill was a victim of industrialization, and continual changes in farming and transportation. Large for its day, but too small to compete in the 20th century, Alley Spring Roller Mill is a well-preserved survivor of the last type of locally owned and operated Ozark water mills.

#### **History**:

The Jack's Fork River flows eastward through the Ozark Mountains in Shannon County, Missouri, depending to a large extent on underground springs for water. Midway its course, it is joined by a spring branch from Alley Spring, the tenth largest spring in Missouri, from which pours an average of 90,000,000 gallons of water daily, and which is the location of Alley Spring Roller Mill.

This part of Missouri was settled during the first half of the nineteenth century by farmers from Tennessee and Kentucky. Crops were corn, wheat, rye and oats, and, to process them, a few waterpowered mills were built along rushing mountain streams. One, located at Mammoth (now Alley) Spring about 1869 by William Barksdale and John Daughtery, consisted of a water wheel and a rude shed over the millstones. About a hundred feet below the spring the branch was dammed for a mill pond.<sup>2</sup>

In 1874, there were but two mills in Shannon County, the Barksdale-Daughtery Mill and another at Rocky Falls, some ten miles east. Ten years later, another was erected at Summersville in Texas County, fifteen miles to the west. Mills at the spring served farmers in a 500 square mile region for nearly sixty years.

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- 1. Alley, William. Personal correspondence. Copies in Missouri State Parks File, Jefferson City, Missouri.
- 2. Bretz, J. Harlen. "The Caves of Missouri" Geological Survey and Water Resources, Vol. 39 (1956), p. 40.

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Form No. 10-300a (Rev. 10-74)

### UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

# FOR NPS USE ONLY RECEIVED FEB 1 2 1979 DATE ENTERED DEC 8 1981

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

#### ALLEY SPRING ROLLER MILL

**CONTINUATION SHEET** 

ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE

Other machinery on the first floor are a Miller corn sheller, "Type 326," manufactured by the Nordyke & Marmon Company, Indianapolis, Indiana, and two millstones used as exhibits. Several exhibit cases are near the entrance door.

Second Floor: Undivided. Floors are wood and the walls are sheathed with 1" x 8" boards. A wood stairway to the third floor is against the north wall. Machinery on the second floor is as follows: a Cranson, Huntley & Co. separator and scourer, used for cleaning wheat, and made in Silver Creek, New York (the most recent patent date on it is January 18, 1887), a swing shifter made by Nordyke & Marmon and patented in 1898, and two silk screen shifters, manufactured by Richmond City Mill Works in the 1890's.

Third Floor: Undivided, with a wood floor. Walls and ceiling are covered with 1" x 8" wood boards. Machines here are two more Richmond City silk screen sifters and a "Eureka Smut Separating Machine," made by Howe, Babcock & Company, Silver Creek, New York.

Turbine: Alley Spring Roller Mill receives its power from a metal turbine, 46" in diameter located beneath the east porch. Water is obtained from a pond formed by a 170' dam built of river boulders and cement across the spring branch, and channelled to the turbine through a  $9' \times 16'$  cement headrace. Missing is the headgate. A  $6' \times 5'$  tailgate made of 5" logs cut lengthwise remains. The head of water at present is about five feet.

Condition: The mill is in excellent condition. When it was restored in 1933, the roof and porches and sections of siding, interior walls, floors and stairs were replaced, and the machinery was cleaned and repaired. However, a 20' section near the eastern end of the dam was not repaired so it is impossible to obtain a head of water of sufficient depth to power all of the machinery. Enough remains to operate the stone burr for summer demonstrations. The mill could resume full operation if these repairs were made.

The triangular-shaped pond, adjacent to the mill, covers an area of 1.047 acres. There are several small islands within the pond, the largest of which forms a natural part of the dam. The dam at Alley Spring is composed of earth and rock with some concrete. The spillways are basically rock and rubble, capped with concrete. The size of the larger spillway, located between the mill and the island, is 39 x 21'; the smaller spillway, located east of the island, is 25 x 27'. Both spillways have wooden gates.

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#### ALLEY SPRING ROLLER MILL

**CONTINUATION SHEET** 

ITEM NUMBER 8

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Farmers visited the mill several times a year to have their grain ground and sometimes spent several days there waiting for their turn. This time was used for visiting, exchanging news and gossiping, and buying supplies in a general store or having work done at a blacksmith shop, both of which were operated adjacent to the mill.<sup>3</sup>

In 1881, Charles Klepzig, a German immigrant, bought the mill together with 240 acres of land. He applied for a post office in 1884, suggesting two names to the Post Office Department, "Shannon" and "Alley." The latter was selected. It is presumed the name was for John Alley, a locally prominent fifty-one year old farmer who lived three miles east of the spring. Several reasons have been given as to why Alley's name was chosen, but all appear to be apocryphal. Alley neither owned the mill, spring, or the land on which it was built, nor, as far as anyone can determine, had any financial interest in it.

A severe flood washed much of the dam away in the spring of 1890 and forced Klepzig to close the mill and move the post office to his home. He estimated it would take all summer to repair the damage, but it appears he was never able to accomplish this and, instead, sold the mill to George W. McCaskill of Eminence on February 13, 1893 for \$1,500, \$2,500 less than he paid for it.

The mill was useless. The dam was unrepaired, building dilapidated and wheel unworkable. McCaskill set about constructing a new mill on the site. He and his brother James were familiar with mills, having recently built the roller mill at Summersville, 15 miles west of Alley. Three years previously, George McCaskill had bought and quickly resold a farm on Rocky Creek near the Current River in the east part of Shannon County which had a small mill on it. In addition, his brother James had business connections with the Richmond City Mill Works, Richmond, Indiana, a leading builder of mills and milling machinery. The machinery in both the Alley and Summersville mills was made by the Richmond firm.

The new mill at Alley was much larger and far more sophisticated than the tiny, primitive one it replaced. It was a 2 1/2 story frame structure housing five steel flour rollers, scourers, and a separator, powered by a metal turbine. A new dam extended across the spring branch nearly two hundred feet, creating a pond more than forty feet deep and a hundred yards across. The mill was completed by early 1895 when McCaskill advertised he could grind 50 barrels a day of "Straight Fancy Roller Process Flour," corn meal and chopped feed.

Turbines had been used in mills for more than fifty years and offered more efficient operation than large, bulky wheels. Steel rollers were far faster and cleaner than stone burrs and required less upkeep. They allowed millers more variety and consistency. It was one of the most modern mills in the Ozarks.

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Alley Spring Roller Mill once more became the center of a community. A new store and sawmill using power from the turbine were built and a school was established. About a dozen persons worked in these enterprises and the school had twice that many students. The dramatic beauty of Alley Spring pond at the foot of a high bluff attracted persons looking for relaxation and to accommodate them, McCaskill built a picnic area beside the pond. It became quite popular for group outings that included boating, dancing, picnicking, and playing ball.7

In 1897 McCaskill sold the mill for a substantial profit to Ellen J. Boyd. Subsequent owners were J. A. Lahmeyer, A. M. Phillips, John Knotts, and Conrad Hug who sold it to the Crystal Springs Townsite Company in 1912.

By 1924, the mill had become obsolete. Both farming and milling techniques had gone through radical changes during the previous thirty years. No longer was it possible to profitably operate small, remote farms such as those in the Ozarks. The few acres of corn or wheat such farms produced did not furnish the volume needed for efficient mill operations when the giant mills of Minneapolis could process tons of wheat in the time it required Alley Mill to grind a few hundred bushels. Consumers could buy flour cheaper in stores than it could be ground there.

At the same time, the automobile caused a major social and economic revolution in the United States. Good roads and efficient cars opened previously inaccessible parts of the nation to travellers. Hard surface roads crossed the Ozarks, one of them passing the Alley Spring Roller Mill, making it possible for persons once served by the mill community to go to Eminence and Summersville in a short time. These same routes brought visitors to the mill and what had been a purely local attraction acquired state-wide interest -- so much so that in 1924, the State of Missouri pruchased the spring, mill and 427 acres of land for one of the first Missouri State Parks.

The old general store, blacksmith shop and spring house were torn down. In the spring of 1927, a flood destroyed a large section of the dam and carried away the headgate, and four bridges that had been recently built across the spring branch. The mill was closed. 10

Federal work programs of the 1930's provided the impetus needed to fully develop the park. A Civilian Conservation Corps Camp was established at Alley in 1933 and new trails, fences and camp grounds built. The mill was extensively restored. Rotten clapboard, the roof, floors and porches were repaired and the machinery cleaned and oiled. An "Ozarks Museum" was established inside and milling with a stone burr attached to the turbine was conducted.

Form No. 10-300a (Rev. 10-74)

### UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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Some time after the state acquired it, the mill was painted red and became known widely as the "Red Mill." No historical justification can be found for this choice and photographs clearly indicate it had always been painted white previously. Other inconsistencies included an emphasis on "rustic" additions, such as bars made of peeled saplings across first floor windows and replacement of the tailgate with one made of split logs. One of the steel rollers was replaced by the stone burr used for grinding demonstrations. Though the turbine was repaired, it could generate only enough power to operate the burr. 12

Alley Spring State Park gained high popularity with the public and was visited by as many as a quarter of a million persons a year. The mill was well-maintained and repairs made when needed. For example, the west entrance porch to the mill was replaced in 1964 and the building has been repainted several times. It was ceded to the United States Government together with the rest of the park by the State of Missouri as part of the Ozark National Scenic Riverways in 1970. 13

#### **FOOTNOTES**

- 1. J. Harlen Bretz, "The Caves of Missouri," <u>Missouri Geological Society and Water Resources</u>, Vol. 39, (1950) p. 40.
- 2. Shannon County, Missouri, Recorder's Record Book P, pp. 526, 528, 533, 549; Shannon County Recorder's Office, Shannon County Courthouse, Eminence, Missouri; Ricardo-Torres-Reyes, "Alley Spring Roller Mill," unpublished historic site report, National Park Service, February, 1973, p. 3.
- 3. Raymond O. Thomas, "Missouri Valley Settlement," Missouri Historical Review, Vol. 21, No. 1, (October, 1926) p. 38; Wiley Britton, "Pioneer Life in Southwest Missouri," Missouri Historical Review, Vol. 16, No. 1 (October, 1921), pp. 52, 55; Robert Allen Campbell (ed.), Campbell's Gazetteer of Missouri, (St. Louis: R. A. Campbell, 1875), p. 600.
- 4. Shannon County, Missouri Recorder's Record Book P, p. 580; Application of Charles Klepzig for Establishment of a Post Office, August 14, 1884, Records of the Post Office Department, Record Group 28, National Archives, Washington, D. C.; Missouri State Gazetteer and Business Directory, 1885-86 (St. Louis: R. L. Polk and Company, 1885) p. 115; "Ninth Census of the United States, Population Schedule, Missouri," Vol. 24 (Washington, D.C. National Archives and Records Service, n.d.) National Archives Microfilm Publications, Microfilm copy 805, Shannon County, p. 648; Harvey W. Jones to William Alley, October 23, 1953; Joe McCormick to same, November 19, 1934; copies in Missouri State Parks Files, Jefferson City, Missouri.

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- 5. Application of Charles Klepzig for Change of Post Office Location, April 3, 1890, Records of the Post Office Department, Record Group 28, National Archives, Washington, D.C.; Shannon County, Missouri, Recorders Record Book 29, p. 23; Torres-Reyes, p. 17.
- 6. <u>Current Wave</u> (Eminence, Missouri), February 3, 1893; January 3, 1895; December 2, 1971; Shannon County, Missouri, Recorder's Record Book 27, p. 396; Torres-Reyes, p. 17.
- 7. John Stock and Walter Dorwin Teague, Flour For Men's Bread, (Minneapolis: The University Press, 1952) pp. 133-142; Current Wave, December 21, 1893; November 9, 1899; July 30, 1903; Missouri State Gazetteer and Business Directory 1891-1892 (St. Louis: R. L. Polk and Company, 1890) p. 127.
- 8. Shannon County, Missouri, Recorder's Recorder Book B, p. 249; Book E, p. 289; Book 59, p. 305; Book 63, p. 453.
- 9. William Howard Norman, "History of Greer Mill," Missouri Historical Review, Vol. 66, No. 4 (July, 1972) p. 620.
- 10. Josiah Bridges, "Geology of the Eminence and Cardareva Quadrangles," Missouri Bureau of Geology and Mines, Vol. 24 (1930) pp. 26-28; Ray Godsey, "South Central Ozarks, The Crest of Missouri," Missouri State Board of Agriculture Bulletin, Vol. 22, No. 9 (September, 1920) pp. 3-5; Globe-Democrat (St. Louis, Missouri), October 18, 1925; Report of the State Game and Fish Commissioner, 1925, p. 54; ibid, 1926, p. 52; ibid, 1930, p. 14.
- 11. Ibid, 1933, pp. 30, 34; Thomas Godsey, "Missouri State Parks in the Making," Missouri, Vol. 6, No. 9 (February, 1934) pp. 5, 7.
- 12. Early photographs in Torres-Reyes show the mill was painted white circa 1900. A photograph in <u>Missouri</u>, February, 1934 indicates it to be red and a WPA work order of February 28, 1934 (Torres-Reyes, p. 32) requested the mill to be painted red. When it was first painted this color has not been determined.
- 13. Annual Report, Missouri State Park Board, 1964; Senate Bill No. 218, 75 (1969) Missouri General Assembly.

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3.	Bridges, Josiah. "Geology of the Eminence and Cardareva Quadrangles," Missouri Bureau of Geology and Mines, Vol. 29 (1930), pp. 21-28, 41, 48.
4.	Britton, Wiley. "Pioneer Life in Southwest Missouri," <u>Missouri Historical Review</u> , Vol. 16, No. 1 (October, 1921), pp. 52, 55.
5.	Campbell, Robert Allen (ed). <u>Campbell's Gazetteer of Missouri</u> . St. Louis: R. A. Campbell and Company, 1875, p. 600.
6.	Current Wave. Eminence, Missouri, February 3, 1893.
7.	Eminence, Missouri, December 21, 1893.
8.	Eminence, Missouri, January 3, 1895.
9.	Eminence, Missouri, November 9, 1899.
10.	Eminence, Missouri, July 30, 1903.
11.	Eminence, Missouri, December 2, 1971.
12.	Globe-Democrat. St. Louis, Missouri, October 18, 1925.
13.	Godsey, Roy. "South Central Ozarks, the Crest of Missouri," <u>Missouri State</u> <u>Board of Agriculture Bulletin</u> , Vol. 22, No. 9 (September, 1926), pp. 3-5.
14.	Godsey, Thomas. "Missouri State Parks in the Making," <u>Missouri</u> , Vol. 6, No. 9 (February, 1934), pp. 5, 7.
15.	Klepzig, Charles. Application for Establishment of Post Office, August 14, 1884. Records of the Post Office Department, Record Group 28, National Archives, Washington, D. C.