

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received JUN 18 1984  
date entered AUG 16 1984

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Weisenberger Mills and Related Buildings (Dist)

and/or common

2. Location

MS US 421

street & number Weisenberger Mill Pike or Payne's Depot Pike and NA not for publication  
Craig's Mill Pike

city, town (P.O.) Box 215, Midway v.c. x vicinity of

state Kentucky code county Scott & Woodford code

3. Classification

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> XX	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Phil J. Weisenberger and Ernest Collins "Mac" Weisenberger (See Continuation Sheet # 5 for other)

street & number P.O. Box 215

city, town Midway x vicinity of state Kentucky 40347

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc.1. Scott County Courthouse Woodford County Courthouse

street & number East Main Street Versailles, Kentucky 40383

city, town Georgetown, Kentucky 40324 state Kentucky

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Survey of Historic Sites in Kentucky has this property been determined eligible? yes x no

date 1971 federal X state county local

depository for survey records Kentucky Heritage Council

city, town Frankfort state KY

# 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>	
<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 <u>NA</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Weisenberger Mills and Related Buildings is a complex of industrial, agricultural, and residential buildings located on 87 acres in Scott and Woodford Counties three miles east of Midway, 10 miles northwest of Lexington, and 7 miles southwest of Georgetown. The mill property and a small frame millers' cottage are located on the north side of South Elkhorn Creek which forms the county line between Scott and Woodford. South of the creek is the former farm of the Weisenberger family on which are the frame 2-story residence of August Weisenberger, a wooden 2-car garage with hipped roof, an early concrete<sup>block</sup>/truck garage with machine shop, a small wooden barn, two small residences constructed from boxcar grain doors, and a large 2-story Craftsman style brick dwelling, the home of Augustus Weisenberger. Within a horseshoe bend of the creek where there were an older house and barns is a new horse barn. The dam which has undergone numerous reconstructions and the one-lane county bridge are also included in the district. Bluegrass farms surround the small mill district.

Nearby National Register properties include: in Scott County, Audubon, Dec. 4, 1973; Edge Hill Farm, March 1, 1984; Payne's Depot Multiple Resources Area, Aug. 28, 1979; Levi Prewitt House, Nov. 1, 1974; John W. Bradley House, Nov. 5, 1974; Antebellum, Nov. 7, 1976; and George W. Johnson Slavequarters, Nov. 19, 1974. Woodford County properties are John Graham House, Nov. 13, 1978; Offutt-Cole Tavern, Nov. 23, 1977; Stone House at Fisher's Mill Road, June 23, 1983; Midway Historic District, Nov. 17, 1978; and Pinkerton Hall, Nov. 20, 1974.

Two mills occupied sites on either side of the dam across South Elkhorn Creek when August Weisenberger bought the core of the property in 1866. A saw mill stood in Woodford, fed by a millrace, remnants of which survive, and a grist mill (photo 1-a) in Scott. The original mill was a three-story structure with a gambrel roof providing additional storage room in the upper level. This mill was torn down in 1913 and the stone was ground up and included in the poured concrete composition of the new and modern mill constructed in 1913-1914 by Philip J. Weisenberger, the second generation miller. (See Woodford, Scott Census Maps.)

The original 1913 mill (photos 1, 2) measures 50 by 32 feet with a 20-square foot wheel house into which water can be let for grinding whole wheat flour by water power, the force of which spins duo-turbines with grinding being done between vertical millstones (see diagram). The mill rises to a height of 52 feet, while the wheel house is 20 feet high (photo 7). Pilasters rise the height of the mill to a cornice and low gable roof. The ground floor (photo 38) once was used for grinding corn, but its use was rendered impractical with repeated floodings.

Appended to the mill on the west end nearest the road is a one-story warehouse with office and laboratory of similar design of the mill. It was built in 1935 by third-generation family miller Augustus Weisenberger.

The first floor of the combined warehouse and mill contains engines, office space, testing laboratory, filler head and pouch machines and elevator legs designed to move products through the 17 processes required in refining grain to flour. In the first floor of the mill proper is a bran packer and the corn mill, and the wheel house with its turbines. Wooden stairs in the north end lead to upper stories. Views 15 and 16 show packing machinery and sifter on first floor.

On the second floor one can observe pipes bringing grain from the elevator to product bins. Here also are the corn scoure and wheat cleaner and double roll stands. Photos 13 and 14 show second floor flour vats, and flywheels and pulleys.

continued

## 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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates** 1913, 1935

**Builder/Architect** Augustus, Phil J. Weisenberger

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Weisenberger Mill, a three-story structure of poured concrete, and its related facilities, along with the <sup>former</sup> residential and agricultural properties of the Weisenberger family, bears the significance as the oldest continuously operating mill in Kentucky. A mill has stood on this site since 1818; and the Weisenberger family has operated it since 1866. Built of a concrete composition which includes the ground-up stone of the older Robert Risk mill, the 1913 structure has a number of additions which complement the structure and the older-by-9-years ironclad grain elevator standing a few feet northeast of the mill itself. The other buildings which appeared on the approximately 85-acre spread acquired by August Weisenberger in the years after his purchase of the 21-acre mill tract core relate to the miller's industrial, agricultural, and residential life.

The Risk family was among the first to locate in the South Elkhorn area. In 1856 Robert Risk sold his mill and 21 acres to William Craig, but Craig, after giving his name to the road leading into Midway three miles away, defaulted on payment and Risk repurchased the mill. He sold it in 1864 to Napoleon B. Carpenter, who sold it the next year to John McCourt; and the next year, on November 1, August Weisenberger bought it for \$2,500.

August Weisenberger was born in Baden, Germany in 1820, a son of Paul and Anna Maria Meyer Weisenberger. In 1842 he was given a "Certification of Homeland" by the Council of Weiswel so that he could go to France as a constructor of mills. In 1845 he came to America, working in Cincinnati and St. Louis constructing steamboat engines. Surviving is a membership certificate indicating his good standing with The Machinists and Engineers Association of Cincinnati, dated 1851. He then opened his own shop in Louisville. In 1846 he married Cecilia Spitznagel, also a native of Baden. In 1850 he leased Big Spring Mill at Spring Station in Woodford County and served as machinist for the Alexander farm. (Stones from this mill were later hauled by wrecker truck to the present Weisenberger mill and mounted for display.) In 1866, buying the stone buhr system mill then known as Payne's Depot Flouring Mills, Weisenberger began the first of a long series of improvements. He put in "2 run of wheat buhrs and 1 for middlings and 1 for corn meal." In 1884 he replaced the older system with the roller process, increasing output from 35 to 50 barrels a day to a new capacity of 75 barrels a day. Water power was used to move the rollers. Within a few years capacity had increased to 100 barrels, brands carrying names of Ten Broeck, Longfellow, and Maud S., horses well known to Central Kentucky customers. An interesting and industrious miller, Weisenberger also managed to serve as a Master Mason and continue as a member of the Catholic Church. His children were Louis, Charles, Mary, Alexander, Frances, and Philip Joseph. Alexander, who died in 1899, and Philip Joseph, joined their father in the milling operation. August Weisenberger died in 1902 at the age of 82.

Philip J. Weisenberger (1868–1936) took over the mill in 1902. In 1904 he constructed the 20,000 bushel ironclad elevator; and in 1913, he chose to build a new mill rather than repair the old stone one which had developed a large crack. Equipped with Nordyke and Norman machinery from Indianapolis, it had 5 sets of rolls and was operated by diesel power. All grain was bought locally, Weisenberger spending \$100,000 securing it from regional farmers. His new mill was set up at a cost of \$15,000. Weisenberger was committed to the concept of providing homes and

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Certificate of Homeland, issued to August Weisenberger May 3, 1842 by Weiswel Council, Baden, Germany; copy in possession of Phil J. Weisenberger.

Kerr, Charles, W.E. Connelly and E.M. Coulter. History of Kentucky. Chicago and New York: American Historical Society, 1922. V , 595, 596. continued

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 87

Quadrangle name Midway, Versailles

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

### UTM References

A 

1,6	7 0,7 3,0,0	4,2 2,2 5,4,0
Zone	Easting	Northing

B 

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Zone	Easting	Northing

C 

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Zone	Easting	Northing

D 

1,6	7 0,7 2,0,0	4,2 2,1 6,2,0
Zone	Easting	Northing

E 

1,6	7 0,7 0,4,0	4,2 2,2 2,0,0
Zone	Easting	Northing

F 

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Zone	Easting	Northing

G 

1,6	7 0,6 8,2,0	4,2 2,3 0,0,0
Zone	Easting	Northing

H 

1,6	7 0,7 1,4,0	4,2 2,2 4,2,0
Zone	Easting	Northing

I 

1,6	7 0,7 2,0,0	4,2 2,2 6,4,0
Zone	Easting	Northing

### Verbal boundary description and justification

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

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

state Kentucky code county Scott code

state Kentucky code county Woodford code

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Ann Bolton Bevins

organization Kentucky Heritage Council

date April 20, 1984

street & number Capital Plaza Office Tower

telephone (502) 564-7005

city or town Frankfort

state Kentucky

## 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 *Mary Susan Spivey*

title *State Historic Preservation Officer*

date *May 31, 1984*

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I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Entered in the  
National Register

date *8/16/84*

*Melrose Byers*  
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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

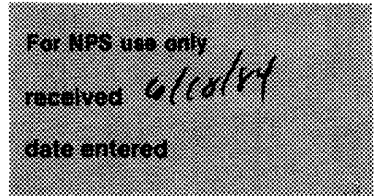
**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Weisenberger Mills & Related Properties

Continuation sheet 5 Scott & Woodford, KY

Item number 4

Page 2



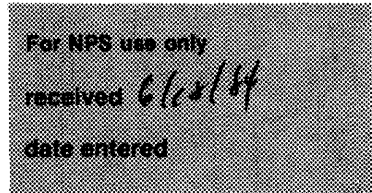
other owners in addition to Weisenberger Mills given on page 1, item 4:

Kenneth R. and Joan Hagan, Route , Midway, Kentucky 40347

Thomas P. Alexander, 1900 Esperson Building, Houston, TX 77002

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Weisenberger Mills & Related Buildings

Continuation sheet 1 Scott & Woodford Co., KY Item number 7

Page 2

On the third floor sifting, mixing, and weighing are done, along with the cleaning of corn. Photos 10, 11, and 12 show sifters. Appended to the east of the mill is a brick engine house and machine shop (photo 17).

Painted black and located north-northwest of the mill is the 1904 ironclad elevator with pipes carrying corn and wheat into the mill (photos 3,4,5). It stands three stories high and has a cupola. A tool shop and central vacuum cleaner are appended to the southwest end of this building. At its rear in the headhouse are two grain tanks 15 feet in diameter and 32 feet high (photo 18). Lined up north of these are three later grain tanks 15 feet wide and 29 feet 12 inches tall. A modernistic painted steel cleaner house (photo 5) rises above this complex.

Two concrete block buildings were added in 1950 and 1956 (photos 3 and 4). The feed mill with its gable to the west measures 40 by 60 feet. Connecting it with the 1935 warehouse addition of poured concrete is a 32 by 60 foot concrete block building also used for warehousing. Loading doors face the Payne's Depot Pike side (photo 3). There is also a loading dock in front of the 1950 feed mill (photos 3 and 4). The scale house (photo 8) is a block structure located north of the feed mill. (See plat for location of buildings).

The dam (photo 19) which has washed out numerous times was originally constructed of cut stone; later repairs have been accomplished with poured concrete. Abutments for the bridge over South Elkhorn were also built of cut stone; the Scott County side retains the older support while the Woodford County abutment has been replaced recently with poured concrete (photo 20).

Several old millstones or buhrs believed to have been imported from Europe are displayed at the mill and along the fence of the August Weisenberger residence on the south side of the creek (photos 6, 21, 22). (Mill owner Phil Weisenberger tells of visiting a quarry in the mountains of Kentucky where this rare type of rock has been quarried.) Stones on display at the mill came from Weisenberger's <sup>former</sup> mill on the Big Spring in Woodford County. They were brought in by tow truck. The seven stones along the yard fence came from the displaced buhr system when the mill underwent conversion to the roller system in 1884.

Also on the Scott County site is the frame miller's house with a dry stone foundation (photo 23). <sup>There is a small addition on a block foundation.</sup> By it is a concrete block garage with wooden eaves and roof; and at the rear is a small house or cabin constructed of vertical boards atop a dry stone foundation. There is a dry stone fence lining the front yard of this house, which has the appearance of being late 19th or early 20th century in construction. The weather-boarding is covered by an asbestos tile veneer. The addition has an aluminum siding veneer. Photo 24 shows the building in back of the house.

The Woodford County property associated historically with the Weisenberger family includes the 2-story L-shaped house of frame construction which faces the Weisenberger Mill Road from the west. There is a short 2-story ell to which is appended a pair of one-story rooms. The three-bay house has two end chimneys as well as one at the end of the 2-story ell and between the rooms in the 1-story ell. Southwest of the house is a small frame barn <sup>c. 1930</sup> which has recently been modernized. Photos 25 through 27 show the house and barn. Across the road is a small wooden garage (photo 26) and a two-truck garage with machine shop built of early 20th century concrete blocks (photo 28).

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**National Register of Historic Places  
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Weisenberger Mills & Related Properties

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Continuation sheet 2 Scott, Woodford Counties, <sup>KY</sup> Item number 7

Page 3

A prominent landmark in the area is the craftsman style dwelling on the hill at the western end of this small district. Built by Augustus Weisenberger in two stages (first floor, 1926-28 ; second, 1936-38), the cubic design with wide eaves with long narrow brackets and rectangular projection on the east side recalls the American prairie style. There is a frame addition (L-shaped, one story, at the back with a large brick chimney. (Photos 29 through 31 show the house). In the back yard is a diminutive board and batten shotgun style house with a stone terrace; the house was built by Augustus Weisenberger for his daughters' playhouse. Just east of it is a three-car garage of cut and chiseled stone matching that of the foundation of the house (photo 32 and 33). In the field back of the house is a wooden shed with 2 stalls (photo 34).

The Weisenberger family's solicitousness for mill employees is revealed in the tenant houses associated with the property. Two houses survive which were built between 1913 and 1926 from grain doors used in shipping grain by boxcar. This framework system was weatherboarded and fitted with roofs. The westernmost of these houses is three bays wide and ell shaped and has a shed roof supported by turned posts. The other has a hipped roof and shed roofed attachment to the back. Both are situated on foundation of large blocks of concrete which appear to have been poured by hand (photos 35, 36).

The section of the Weisenberger property embraced within the horseshoe bend of South Elkhorn Creek, in addition to the garages and shop, has a new 9-stalls-in-length horse barn (photo 37). An older dwelling and barn once located here have been removed. Plank fences line the 73 acres of the property acquired in 1976 by Thomas P. Alexander, now of Houston, Texas.

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

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

Weisenberger Mill and Related Buildings

Continuation sheet 3 Scott & Woodford Counties, KY Item number 8

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date entered

Page 2

looking after his employees and their families. At his death in 1936 the Knights of Columbus drafted a resolution also noting his "generous contributions to the charitable work of the order."

In 1918 P.J. Weisenberger's son Augustus became a partner in the mill. Augustus Weisenberger (1893-1955) led in supplanting diesel power of the mill with electricity in the 1930s. He developed a truck service which visited all towns in the area delivering flour, meal, and feed. At this time there were 6 employees all of whom were supplied with homes near the mill. Weisenberger and his father constructed three of the houses using <sup>for</sup> framework grain doors from railroad boxcars. Two of these survive, facing Craig Mill Road. The large brick house on the western end of the district was built by Augustus Weisenberger for his own home. The lower story was built circa 1926, and second circa 1936.

Philip Joseph Weisenberger, the present miller, was born in 1927, and began working in the mill as a high school student. A 1949 graduate of the University of Kentucky, he has continued the tradition of expanding the operation by adding warehouse and shipping facilities, and developed the old mill's modern technique of selling meal-size packages of a variety of mixes -- spoon bread, corn bread, hush puppies, seasoned flouring mix, whole wheat muffins, and biscuits. The mill continues to package flour for institutional and home cooking and has a large meal business. Weisenberger and his son, "Mac" who was born in 1951 and joined the firm full-time in 1974, employ 7 persons in the operation, process 3,000 tons of grain a year, are known nation-wide for their product, and encourage their Central Kentucky neighbors to stop by the mill and replenish their flour and meal needs.

Weisenberger Mills' product list includes hard and soft unbleached wheat flour in 5 and 25 pound bags, rye flour, whole wheat flour, plain white flour, wheat berries, wheat bran, wheat germ, white and yellow cornmeal, high gluten flour, pizza dough mix, biscuit mix, pancake mix, spoonbread mix, cornbread mix, corn muffin mix, hushpuppy mix, seasoned flour, Red Star Yeast, Nugget Yeast, wheat gluten, cracked wheat flour, rice flour, buckwheat flour, grits, sorghum, bran muffin mix, fish batter, soy flour, potato flour, and pumpernickel rye.



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

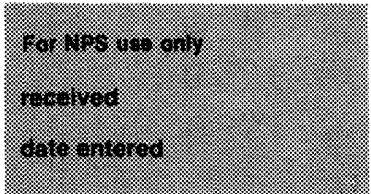
**National Register of Historic Places  
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Weisenberger Mills and Related Properties

Continuation sheet Scott & Woodford Counties

Item number 9

Page 2



Obituary Notice of August Weisenberger, undated, circa September 1, 1902.

Perrin, W. H., J. H. Battle, and G. C. Kniffin. Kentucky: A History of the State: Biographical Sketches of Anderson, Franklin, Jessamine and Woodford Counties, Easley, S. D.: Southern Historical Press, 1979, reprint of 1887 work, 859.

Resolution on death of Philip Weisenberger, 1936, Bluegrass Council #762, Knights of Columbus. Copy in possession of Phil J. Weisenberger.

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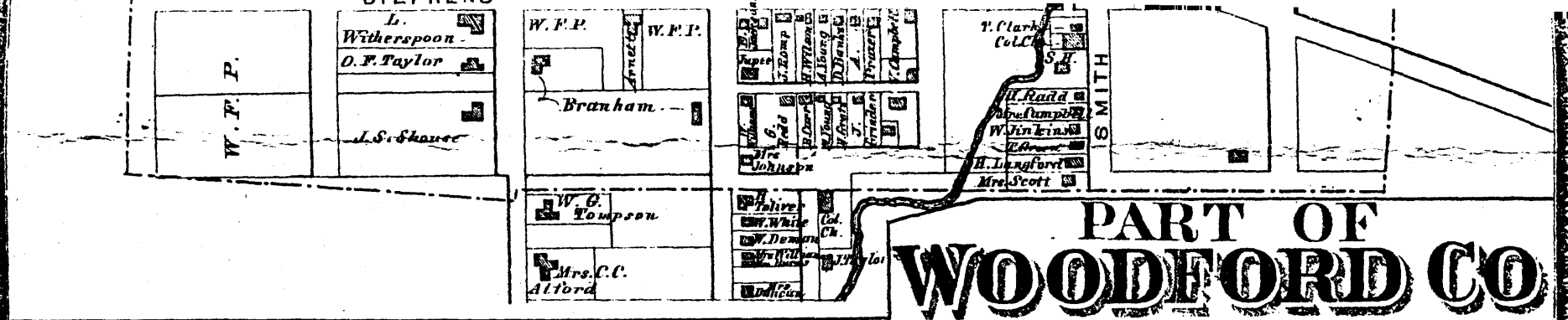
VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION & JUSTIFICATION

Item 10

Page 2

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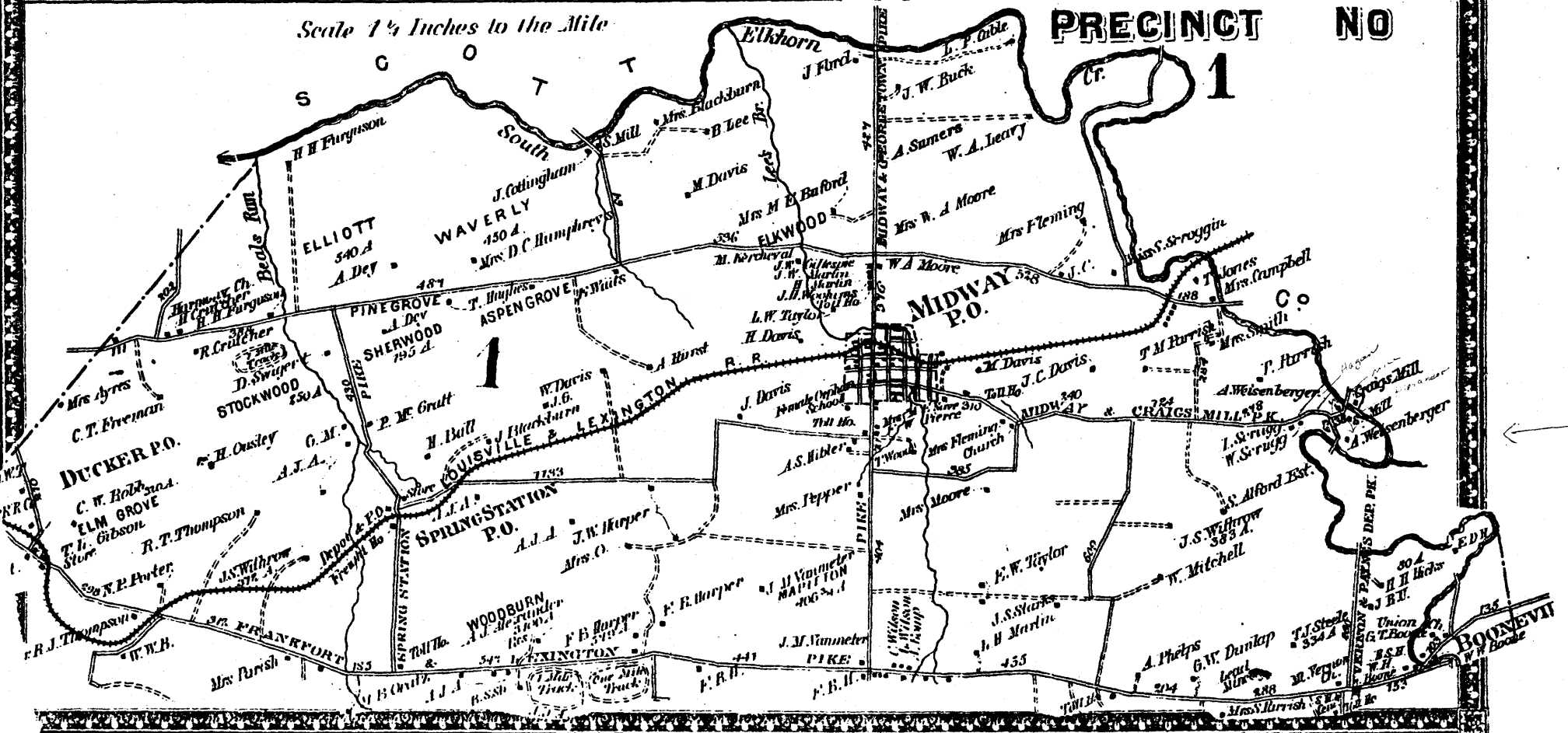
Boundary A, B, H, & I as shown on accompanying U.S.G.S. map, on north side of Elkhorn Creek, in Scott County, includes the mill and miller house, 2.3 acres. A-B and F-G are property lines; B-C, C-D, D-E and G-H follow Elkhorn Creek; line E-F follows the road right-of-way. Boundary E-F-G, on south side of South Elkhorn Creek, in Woodford County includes Weisenberger House I, the "Grain Door" Houses, and Weisenberger House II, about 87 acres.



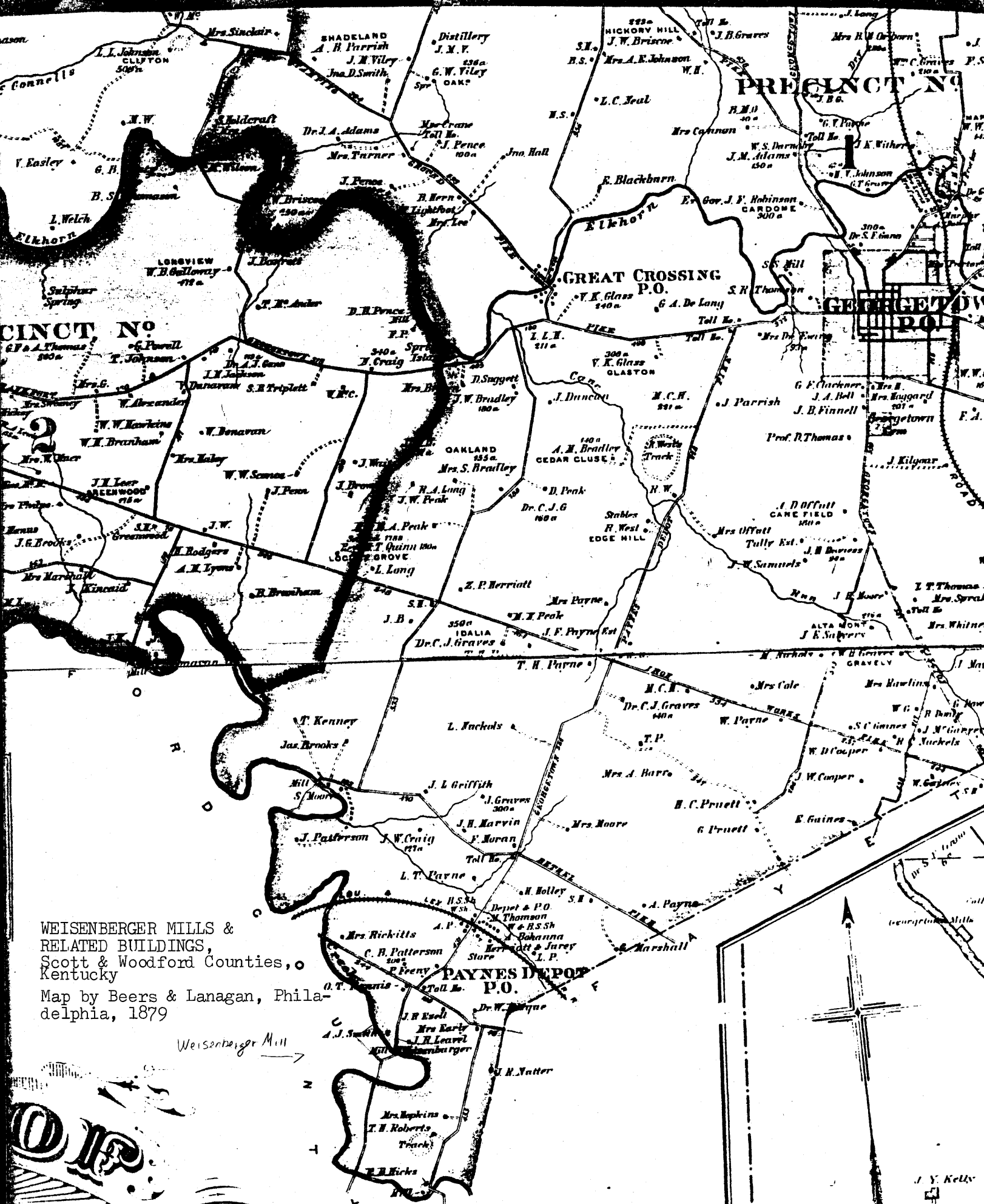
Scale 1 1/4 Inches to the Mile

# PART OF WOODFORD CO

## PRECINCT NO 1



WWEISENBERGER MILLS & RELATED BUILDINGS  
 Scott & Woodford Counties, Kentucky  
 Historic Properties map of Woodford County,



WEISENBERGER MILLS &  
 RELATED BUILDINGS,  
 Scott & Woodford Counties,  
 Kentucky  
 Map by Beers & Lanagan, Phila-  
 delphia, 1879

Weisenberger Mill →

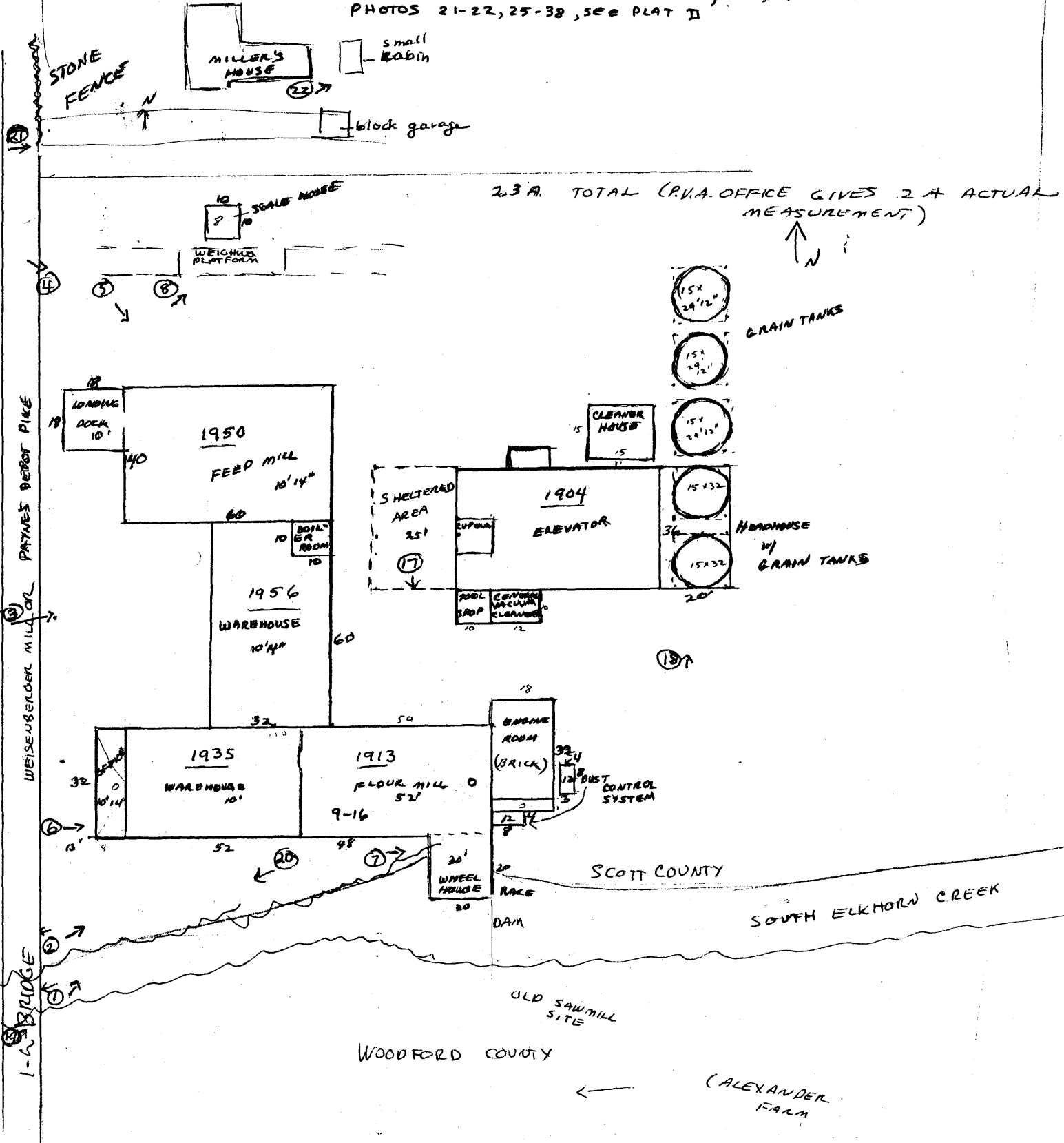


J. Y. Kelly

# WEISENBERGER MILL LAYOUT

PLAT I  
TAKEN FROM INSURANCE PLAT 1984

⊕S = PHOTOGRAPH SITINGS # 1-16, 17-20, 23-24  
PHOTOS 21-22, 25-32, see PLAT II



2.3 A. TOTAL (P.V.A. OFFICE GIVES 2 A ACTUAL MEASUREMENT)



GRAIN TANKS

HEADHOUSE w/ GRAIN TANKS

SCOTT COUNTY

SOUTH ELKHORN CREEK

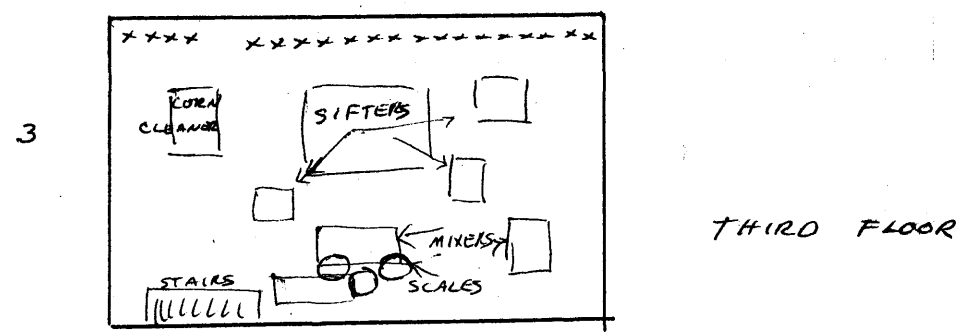
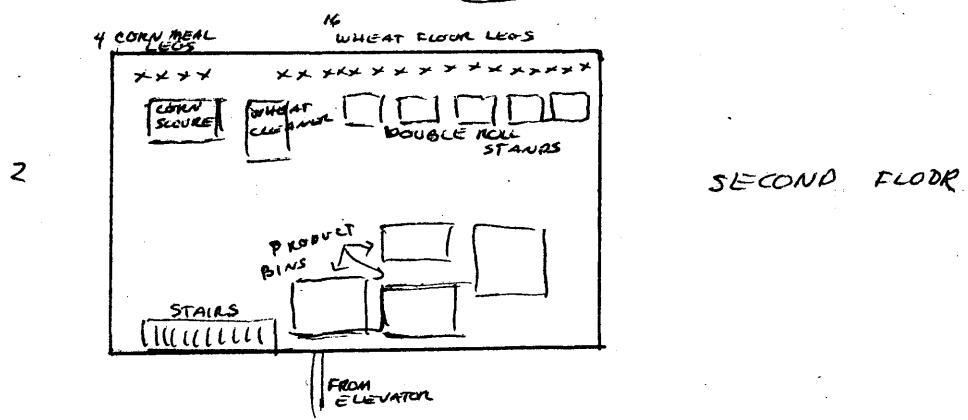
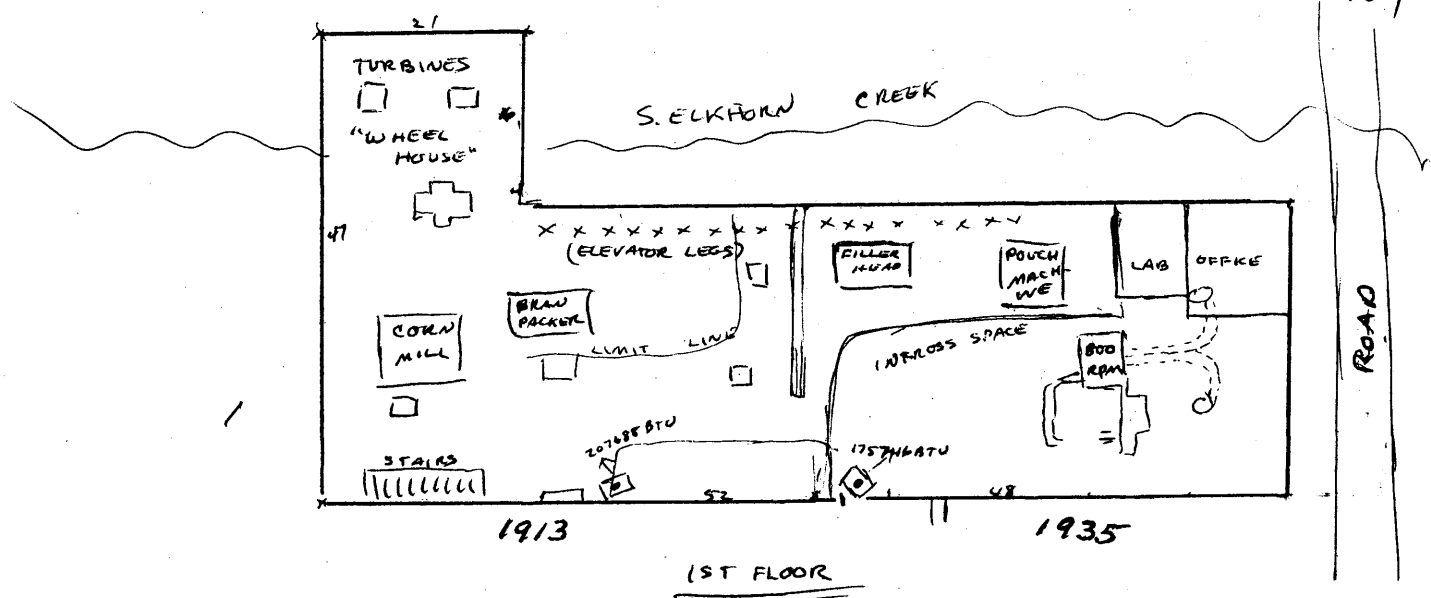
WOODFORD COUNTY

(ALEXANDER FARM)

# WEISENBERGER MILL - THE MILL-PROPER

PLAT I-A

1984



SITE PLAN - WOODFORD COUNTY PROPERTIES INCLUDED IN WEISENBERGER MILL DISTRICT 1984

TOM ALEXANDER - 73A  
K. & J. HAGAN - 11, 7A

(#) - PHOTOGRAPHER'S POSITION # 21 - 38  
PLAT II

