

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property

historic name: Boggs Mill

other name/site number: _____

2. Location

street & number: US 33 and SR 28 n. of jct. with CR 9

not for publication: N/A

city/town: Seneca Rocks

vicinity: X

state: West Virginia code: WV county: Pendleton code: 071

zip code: 26884

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination _____ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets _____ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant _____ nationally _____ statewide X locally. (____ See continuation sheet.)

Susan M. Pierce

7/8/2004

for Susan M. Pierce, Deputy SHPO

Date

West Virginia Division of Culture and History

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property _____ meets _____ does not meet the National Register criteria. (____ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of Certifying Official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

Boggs Mill
Name of Property

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County and State

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

Signature of Keeper

Date of Action

- entered in the National Register
_____ See continuation sheet.
determined eligible for the
National Register
_____ See continuation sheet.
determined not eligible for the
National Register
_____ removed from the National Register

Edgar H. Ball 8/25/04

other (explain): _____

5. Classification

Ownership of Property:
(Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property:
(Check only one box)

- private
_____ public-local
_____ public-State
_____ public-Federal

- building(s)
_____ district
_____ site
_____ structure
_____ object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing

Noncontributing

<u>1</u>	_____	buildings
_____	_____	sites
_____	_____	structures
_____	_____	objects
<u>1</u>	_____	TOTAL

Name of related multiple property listing N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

PROCESSING/manufacturing facility=
grain mill

Current Functions

VACANT/not in use

7. Description

Architectural Classification

Other: roller mill

Materials

Foundation: stone

Walls: weather boards

Roof: tin

Other:

Narrative Description

(See continuation sheets)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

X A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

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Criteria Considerations

Property is:

A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

B removed from its original location.

C a birthplace or grave.

D a cemetery.

E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

F a commemorative property.

G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

Industry
Engineering

Period of Significance

c.1820-1954

Significant Dates

c.1820

c.1865

Significant Person

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

(See continuation sheets)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(See continuation sheets)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of Repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: less than one acre

UTM References

Quad Map Name: Onego, W.Va.

<u>17</u>	<u>640125</u>	<u>4297730</u>
Zone	Easting	Northing

Verbal Boundary Description

(See continuation sheet)

Boundary Justification

(See continuation sheet)

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11. Form Prepared By

Name/Title: Neal Robinson (private) and Erin Riebe (SHPO)

Organization: _____ Date: Winter-Spring 2004

Street & Number: 3308 Timber Ridge Telephone: 757-258-5101

City or Town: Williamsburg State: VA ZIP: 23185

Property Owner

Name: Mrs. Louise Bowers

Street & Number: HC 73, Box 9 Telephone: 304-567-3200

City or Town: Seneca Rocks State: WV Zip: 26884

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Location and Setting

Boggs Mill sits in a fertile, broad valley between two mountain ranges in Eastern West Virginia near Seneca Rocks in Pendleton County. It is located about 250 yards west of the North Fork of the South Branch of the Potomac River and was, at one time, connected to the river by a long mill race which led from the upstream dam to the mill. Most of the mill race has filled in over the years although an outline of it can still be seen. The dam foundation still remains. A dirt road connects the mill to US Route 33/State Route 28. The road, about ¼-mile long, is in good condition and was used by the mill owners for farming the property around the mill until recent years. A modern house, barn, and several travel trailers are located on the same property as the mill but are outside of the National Register boundary. Until a 1970 fire, a nineteenth-century farm house was also located on the property.

Description

Boggs Mill is a three-and-one-half-story, rectangular, gable front building constructed c.1830. The mill was constructed using mortise and tenon, braced frame construction. It has clapboard siding, a standing seam metal roof, and is supported by a stone foundation. The mill was built in typical early eastern water mill construction and was originally two stories. The third story was added in the mid nineteenth century. While several of the openings have been boarded over, existing windows are six-over-six double-hung sash. The water wheel was damaged and removed in the 1985 flood. A shed roof along the south side of the building was also removed after the flood.

The three floors of the mill are connected by an internal stairway. The ground floor includes the mill stone and office. The second floor includes the fine sifting machinery. The gyrating screen dates to 1911 (see attached patent; 999,563). This machinery operated as follows:

As a rotary movement is imparted to the shaft..., the weighted members... will be thrown out by centrifugal force... and thus produce the required gyratory motion, the speed at which the shaft rotates governing such gyratory movement imparted to the sieve. (US Patent Office, 999,563)

The grinding machinery, including three 1906 grinding mills are located on the third floor (see attached patent; 823,365). The light-weight rafters on this floor, and the more modern flat top-plates for the upper wall, indicates that the top section of the building is of later construction.

All the milling machinery inside the mill is in remarkably good condition with some of the leather drive belts still attached to the drive pulley wheels. The machinery has sustained very little rust and still shows oil stains on the bearings. With the correct cleaning and proper maintenance, this machinery could be put to use immediately. Fortunately, the flooring is intact and all machinery is firmly bolted to the floor boards.

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Statement of Significance

Boggs Mill is locally significant under *Criterion A: Industry and Engineering* for its significance as a nineteenth and twentieth century industrial enterprise in Pendleton County. Boggs Mill was a defining element that tended to the needs of Pendleton County residents from the early nineteenth century to 1966 when operation ceased. The period of significance is c.1830, the year the mill was constructed, to 1954, the fifty-year cut-off date used by the National Register.

History

Seneca Valley was settled in the late eighteenth century by German, Irish and Tidewater Virginians who were looking for good farmland where they could settle. This part of West Virginia was, prior to the Civil War, that part of Virginia west of the Proclamation Line and was therefore "off limits" to Virginians after the French and Indian War. The Tidewater tobacco planters were not interested in the mountain areas west of the Shenandoah (except as land speculation investments) and as most early settlers did not own slaves or raise tobacco, this mountain and valley area was well suited to their general farming needs.

Most likely the mill was constructed by Jacob Carr, the original owner of the property. Carr was an immigrant who settled in the late eighteenth century in what was then Virginia. The mill was built sometime prior to 1820 as it is mentioned in a deed when Carr sold the mill and surrounding property to John Boggs in 1820.

The mill was powered by water from the North Fork River. Upstream from the mill was a dam where water from the river was diverted to a mill race which ran to the west side of the mill. At the mill, the water was again dammed so that a stream of water could run through a pipe to the top of the mill wheel. The mill wheel was constructed of wood with a series of water buckets on the outer rim into which the water from the pipe would run. The weight of the water filling each bucket would force the wheel to turn. The system worked will as long as there was water in the river. In dry weather when the water dropped in the North Fork the mill would shut down if the water level was too low behind the dam.

The mill remained in the Boggs family for many years. It was eventually run by Frank Boggs, a descendant of John Boggs. Frank not only sold flour and feed, he also used the mill for grinding products for local farmers. One of Frank's ads read, "F.M. Boggs & Co.; Mouth of Seneca, W.Va.; White Rose Flour Makes Better Bread; A Full Line of Feed for Every Requirement."

Grain was brought to the mill by the farmers to be ground for flour and feed (mixed grain used to feed cattle, hogs, and chickens). Most farmers brought their own grain in to be processed but

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many actually bought the finished flour or feed from Frank. For those who brought their grain to be ground into flour, he would charge a milling fee for grinding. For those who want to purchase flour or feed, Boggs charged by the pound.

Local farmers brought their grain by wagon to the mill. The product was ground by forcing it between two large, rotating flat stones which have groves cut in them so as to allow the ground grain to move from the center of the stones to the outer rim of the mill stones. In the case of flour, this rough cut grain was then further ground and sifted so that the hulls were removed before being bleached into white flour. Whole wheat would retain all the ground grain and was not bleached. Grain which was to be used for animal feed required a shorter process and the finished product was not bleached or sifted. The rough cut grain was carried to the various levels by a system of cup conveyors which were operated by belt drives off the main mill wheel.

An office was maintained on the first floor of the mill where business was transacted. Also on the first floor was a flour room where flour was stored. By the 1960s farmers tended to buy more processed feed for animals than flour as that was by then readily available and inexpensive in stores.

The mill was in operation until Frank Boggs sold the mill and property to Ward and Louise Bowers in 1966.

Comparisons

The Boggs Mill is one of the few remaining early water mills in the area. Pendleton and adjacent Randolph Counties had many water mills operating in the nineteenth Century because of the abundant streams and river which flow through these counties.

There are two other mills in Pendleton County that are currently listed in the National Register; McCoy mill (NR 1986), a grist mill, and the Priest Mill (NR 2000), a woodworking and wheelwrighting mill. Both are located near Franklin, approximately 30 miles from Boggs Mill. These mills served an important function in the economic and social life of the region. Although at one time there were several mills in the Seneca Rocks area, only Boggs Mill remains today. A mill in Onego was razed in the 1970s to make way for a state park.

Integrity

The building is in fair condition, there being no appreciable deterioration in the mill with the exception of the west wall –next to the mill race – which was damaged by a severe flood in 1985. The property owner has undertaken an effort to stabilize the building for eventual restoration and preservation.

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In a 1979-80 survey of grist/grain mills in West Virginia there were fifteen known mills in Pendleton County. Of those mills two were labeled as in good condition, eight were in fair condition, and five were in poor condition. Boggs Mill was considered in fair condition. It is not known how many of these mills exist today.

Summary

For 136 years this mill operated continuously and has survived years of inclement weather, a Civil War battle fought nearby, and a severe flood in 1985. Boggs Mill stands as a testament to the builder's skill and to the hard work of the Boggs descendents who kept the mill working. Over the years, this mill has served the small community of Seneca Rocks as a grain mill, a retail store, and a community gathering place for residents.

The property owners have undertaken an effort to stabilize the building, preserve it, and eventually operate the mill for educational purposes.

(NPS Form 10-900)

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Bibliography

Grist Mill Survey, 1979-80. Available at the West Virginia State Historic Preservation Office, Charleston, W.Va.

Morton, Oren F. "A History of Pendleton County, West Virginia" third printing, Baltimore: Regional Publishing Company, 1980. Originally published, Franklin, West Virginia, 1910.

"Pendleton County Times" vol 19, no. 21, 3 July 1931.

Pendleton County deeds 7/540, 10/209, 28/323. Located in the Pendleton County Courthouse, West Virginia.

Rawlings, Reverend Koren Fae. Undated letter. Copy available in WV SHPO files, Charleston, W.Va.

Skavenski, Vickie. Undated letter. Copy available in the WV SHPO files, Charleston, W.Va..

US Patent 999,563.

US Patent 823,365.

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Verbal Boundary Description

The National Register boundary of Boggs Mill forms a rectangle around the building with the building situated toward the center of the western boundary line. The west boundary line runs along the west edge of the original mill race with the mill along the eastern edge. From the northwest corner of the boundary, the line extends east for approximately 100 feet, forming the northern boundary. The line then continues south approximately 125 feet, forming the eastern boundary, then west approximately 100 feet to the west side of the mill race, then north to the beginning point. The northern, eastern, and southern boundaries are situated fifty feet from the building footprint.

Boundary Justification

The National Register boundary includes property historically associated with Boggs Mill including the mill and property immediately adjacent to the mill. The full historic property associated with the mill (52 acres) is not included in this nomination. The current property owner owns only 13 acres of the original tract. This property includes a modern house, shed and barn that are not associated with the mill, several travel trailers, and mobile homes.

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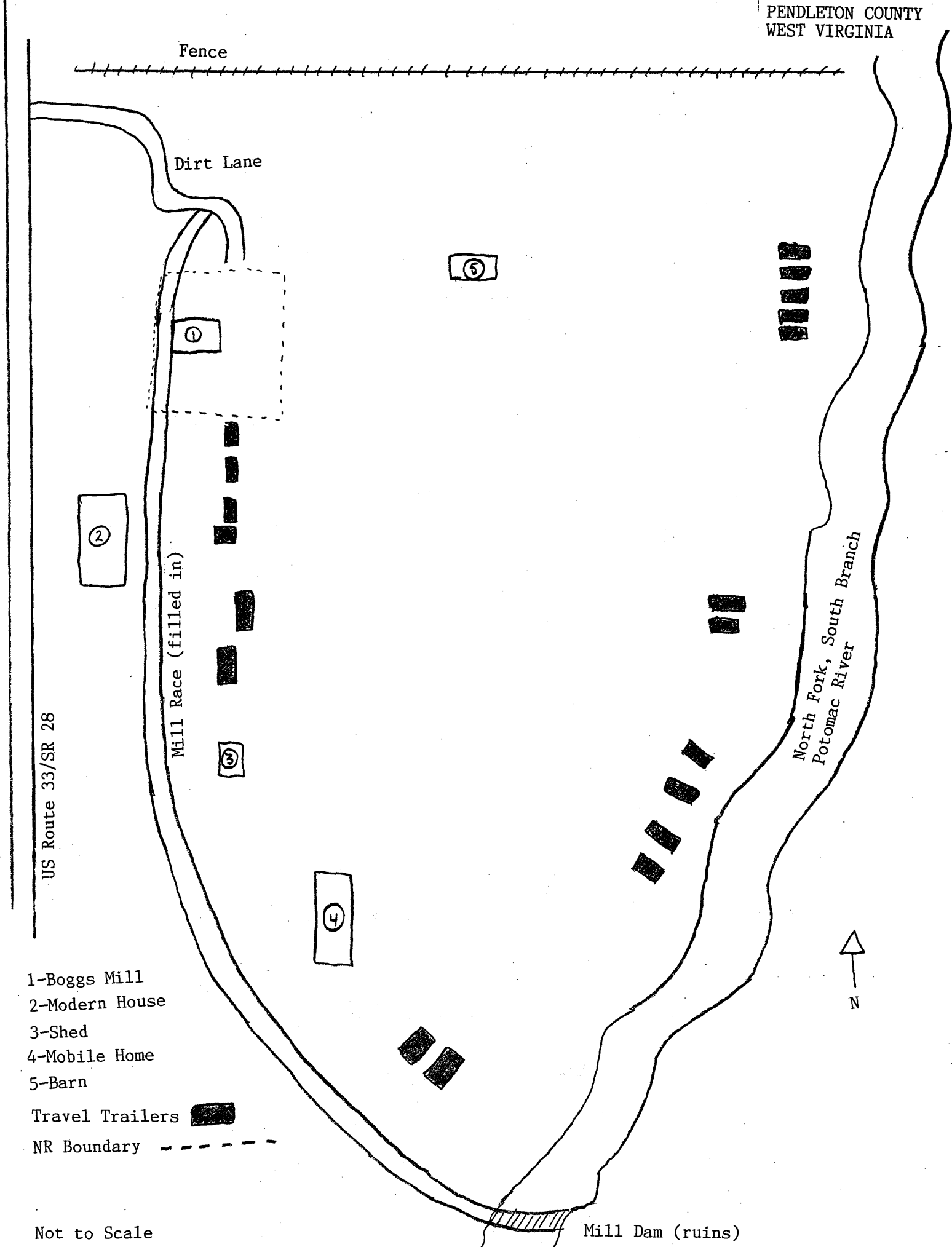
Section number Photo

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Name of Property: Boggs Mill
Address: Route US 33 and State 28
Town: Seneca Rocks Vicinity
County: Pendleton
Photographer: Neal Robinson
Date: March 2002
Negatives: WV SHPO, Charleston, WV

- | | |
|----------------|--|
| Photo 1 of 10 | East and north elevations
View facing southwest |
| Photo 2 of 10 | South and east elevations
View facing northwest |
| Photo 3 of 10 | West and south elevations
View facing northeast |
| Photo 4 of 10 | South elevation of mill and adjacent property
View facing north |
| Photo 5 of 10 | Sifting machine, first floor |
| Photo 6 of 10 | Hulling machinery, first floor |
| Photo 7 of 10 | Main drive wheel, first floor |
| Photo 8 of 10 | Grinding machine, second floor |
| Photo 9 of 10 | Grinding machines, second floor |
| Photo 10 of 10 | Beam construction along south wall |

BOGGS MILL
PENDLETON COUNTY
WEST VIRGINIA



Fence

Dirt Lane

US Route 33/SR 28

Mill Race (filled in)

North Fork, South Branch
Potomac River

- 1-Boggs Mill
- 2-Modern House
- 3-Shed
- 4-Mobile Home
- 5-Barn
- Travel Trailers
- NR Boundary

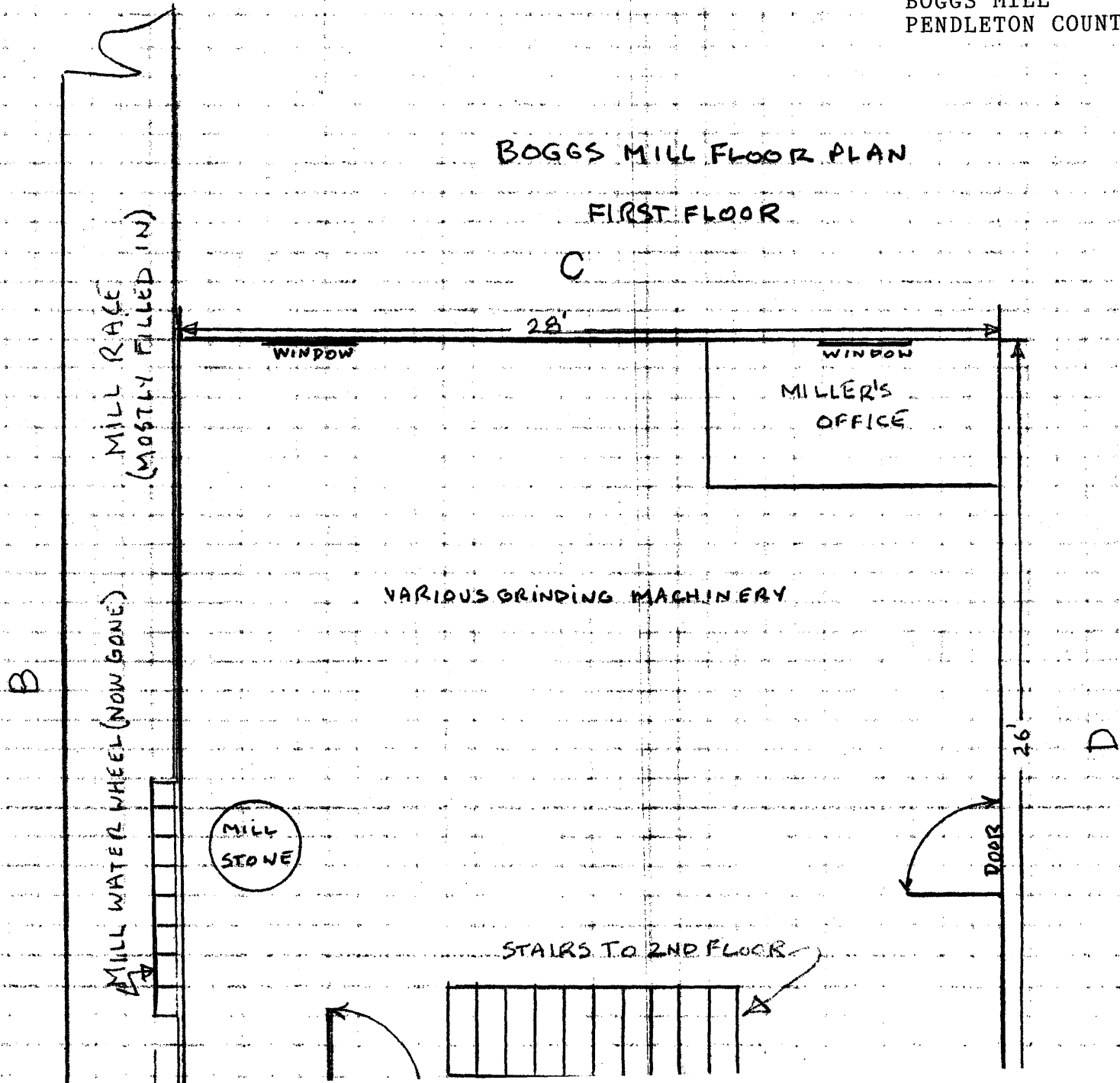
Not to Scale

Mill Dam (ruins)

BOGGS MILL
PENDLETON COUNTY, WV

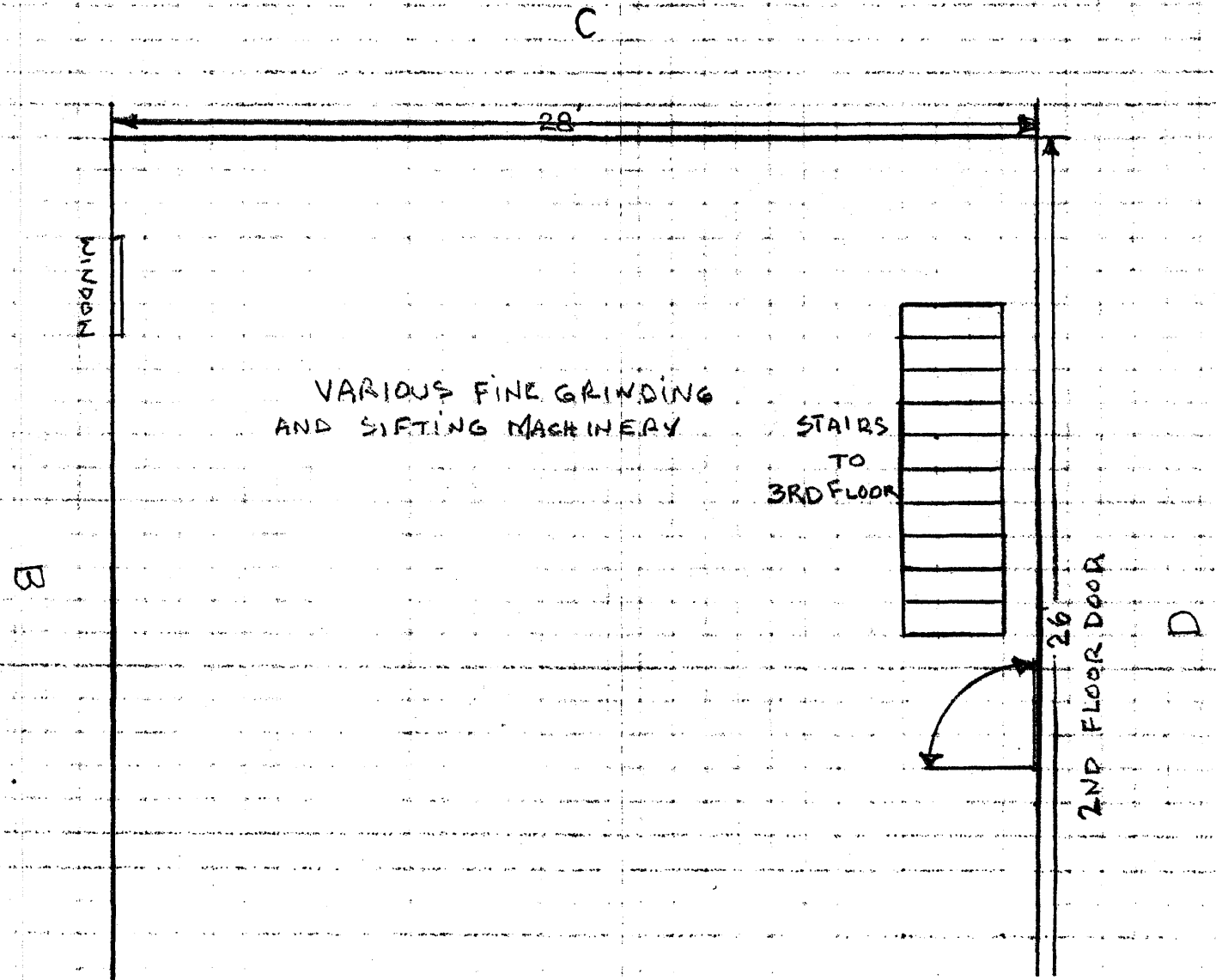
BOGGS MILL FLOOR PLAN

FIRST FLOOR

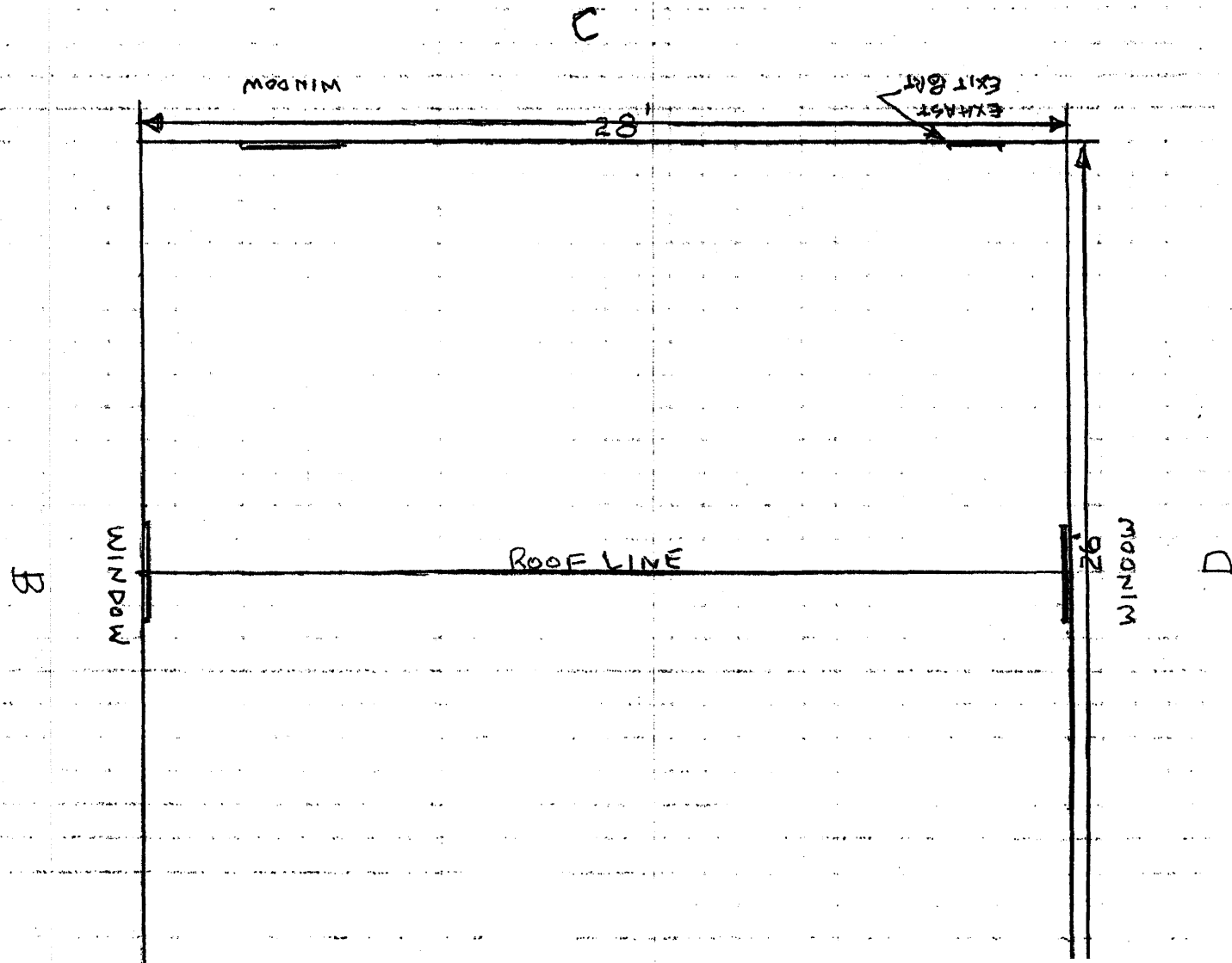


BOGGS MILL
PENDELETON COUNTY, WV

BOGGS MILL FLOOR PLAN
SECOND FLOOR

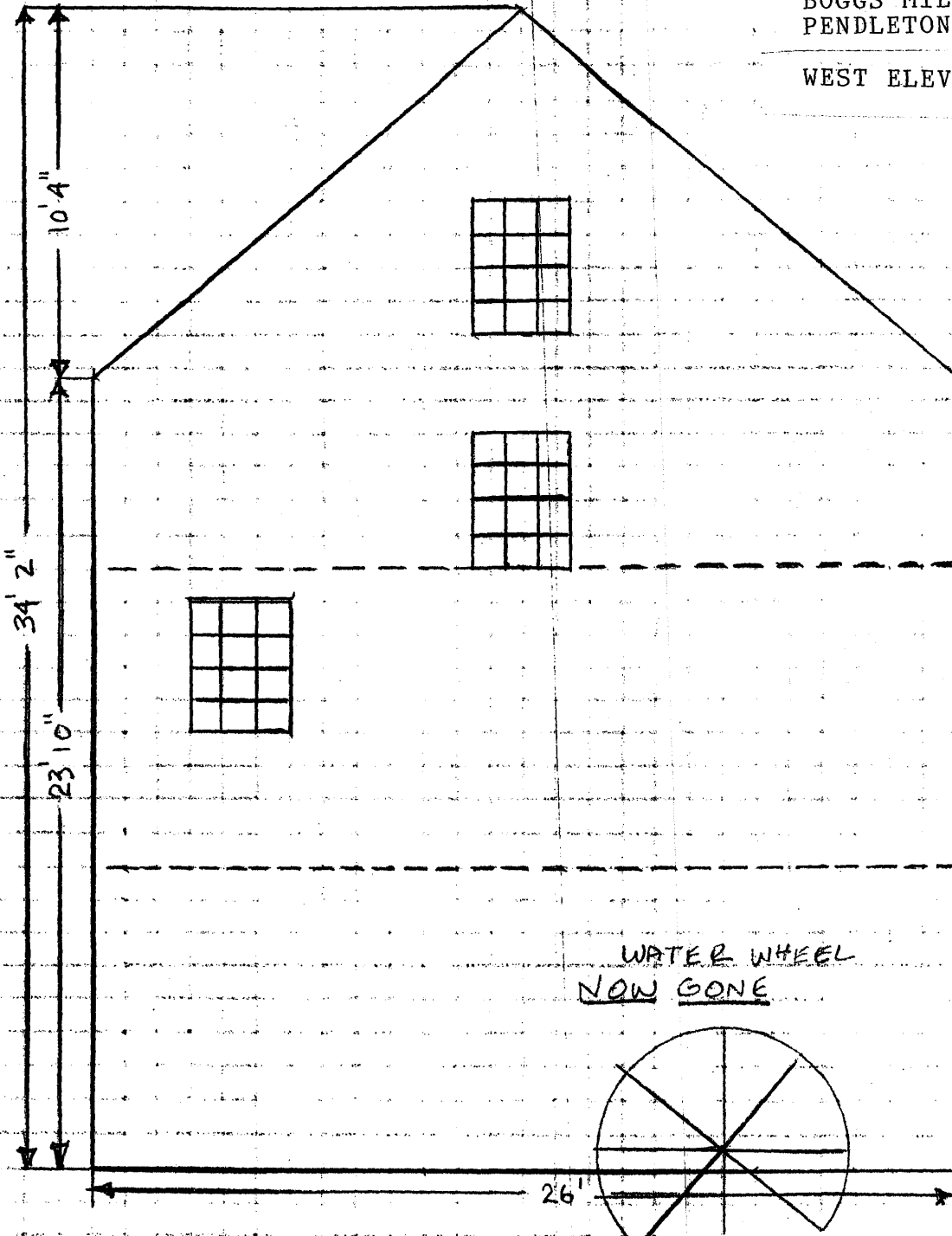


BOGGS MILL FLOOR PLAN
THIRD FLOOR



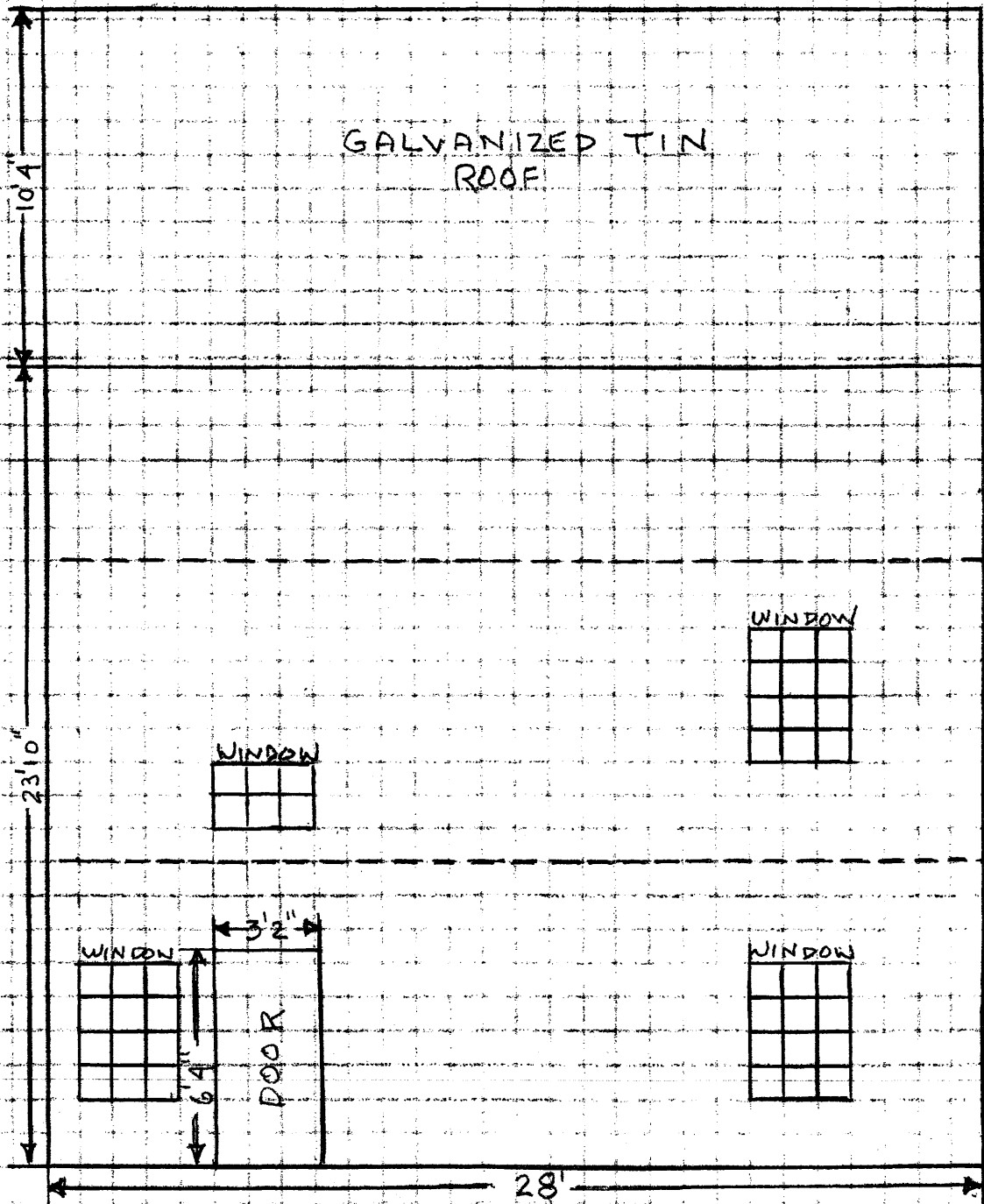
BOGGS MILL
PENDLETON COUNTY, WV

WEST ELEVATION



BOGGS MILL
PENDLETON COUNTY, WV

SOUTH ELEVATION

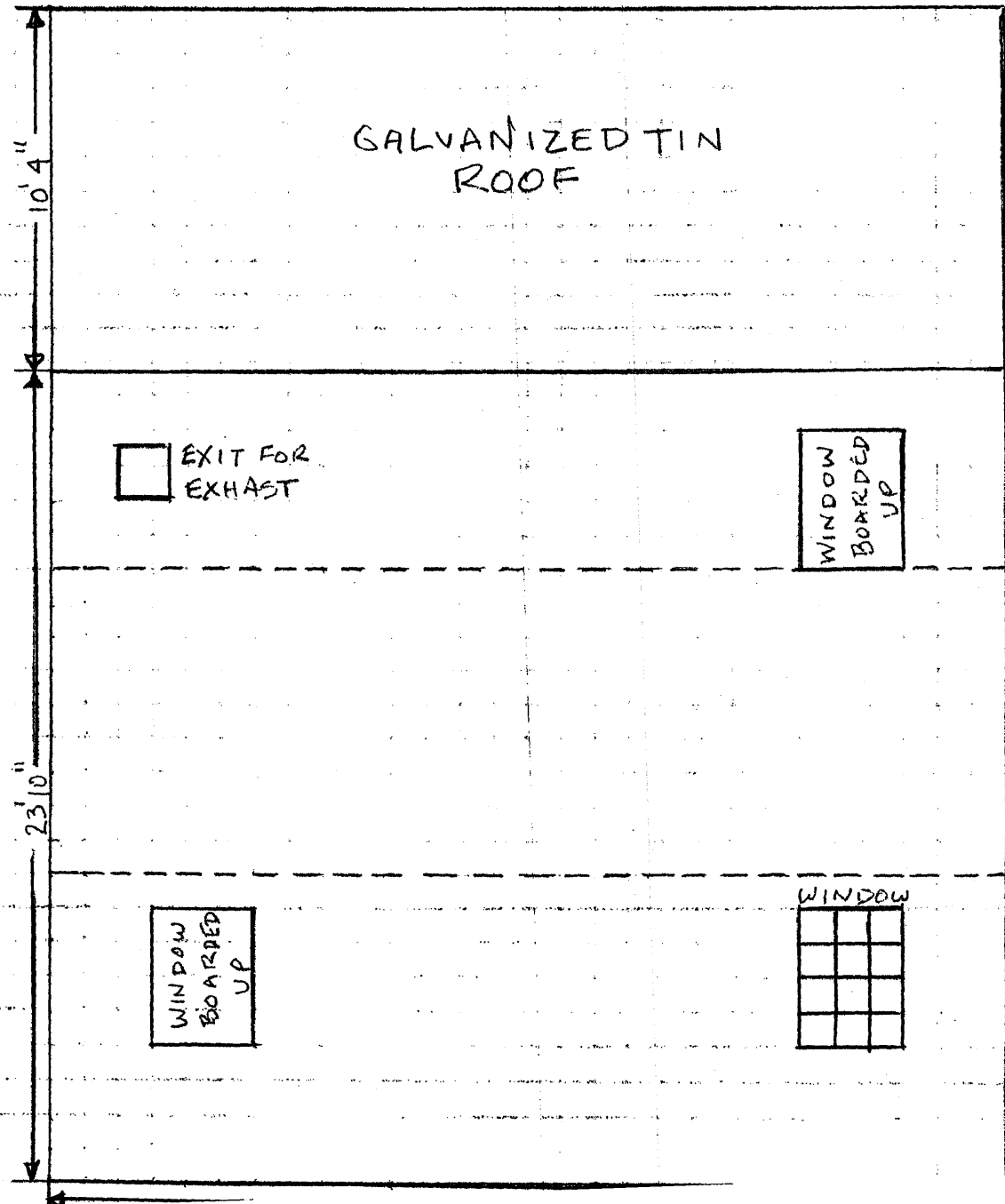


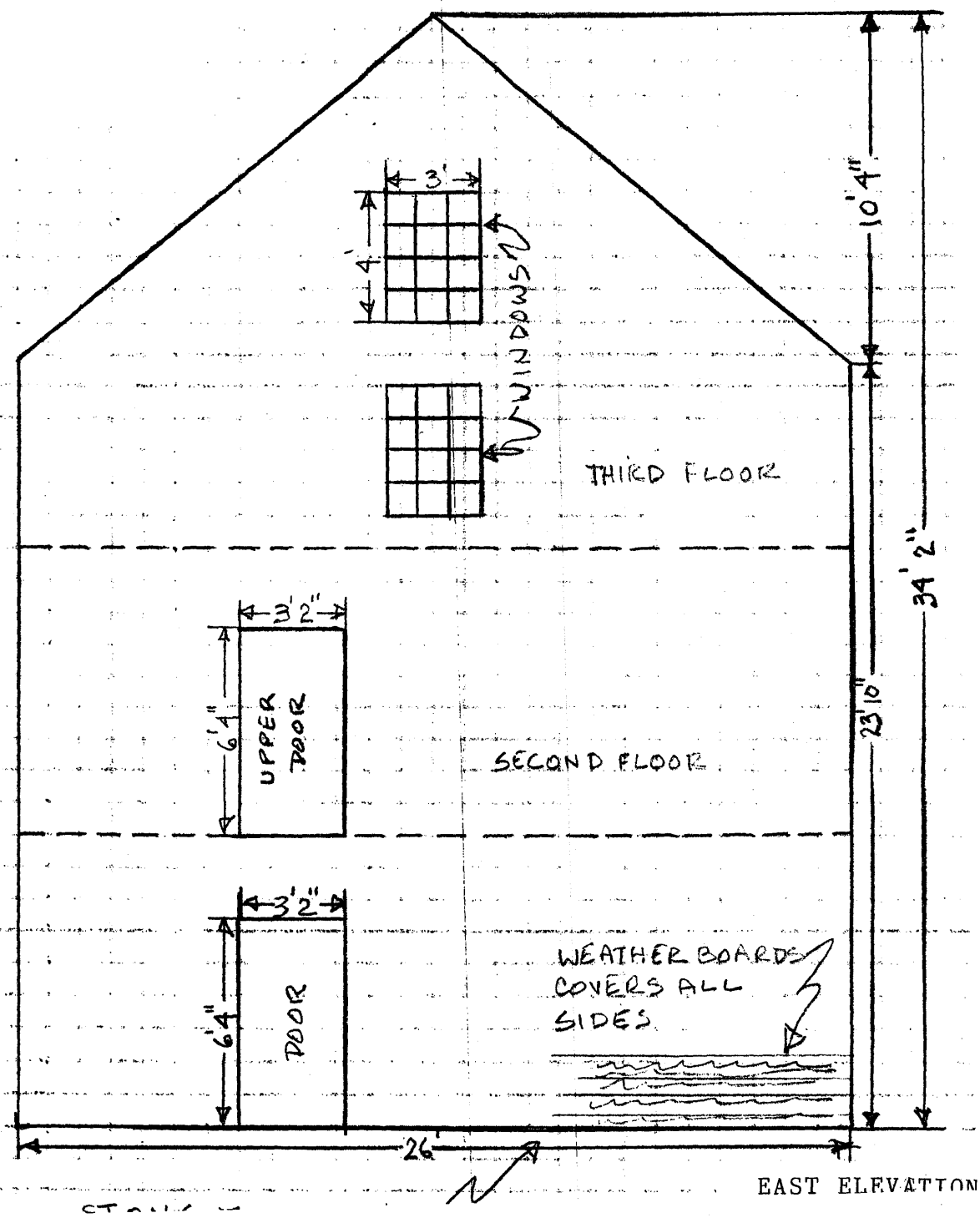
BOGGS MILL
SENECA ROCKS
WEST VIRGINIA

SOUTH SIDE

A

BOGGS MILL
PENDLETON COUNTY, WV
NORTH ELEVATION





STAIRS

EAST ELEVATION



597 THE VILLAGE ROAD

MADE IN U.S.A.

COMPLIMENTS OF

F. M. BOGGS & CO.

MOUTH OF SENECA, W. VA.

WHITE ROSE FLOUR MAKES BETTER BREAD

A FULL LINE OF FEED FOR EVERY REQUIREMENT