

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED AUG 14 1978  
DATE ENTERED NOV 15 1979

# 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

Dinsmore Grain Company Mill

AND/OR COMMON

## LOCATION

W of Palermo on ME 3

STREET & NUMBER

Branch Mills

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

~~China~~

X VICINITY OF Palermo

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

1st

STATE

Maine

CODE

23

COUNTY

Kennebec

CODE

011

## CLASSIFICATION

### CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

### OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

### STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

### PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- MUSEUM
- COMMERCIAL
- PARK
- EDUCATIONAL
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- ENTERTAINMENT
- RELIGIOUS
- GOVERNMENT
- SCIENTIFIC
- INDUSTRIAL
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER: Future Museum

## OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

James Kenneth Dinsmore

STREET & NUMBER

Box 38

CITY, TOWN

Palermo

VICINITY OF

STATE

Maine

## LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Kennebec County Registry of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Augusta

STATE

Maine

## 6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input 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 Dinsmore Grain Company Mill on Branch Pond in Palermo, Maine, dating from 1914, is in exceptionally good condition as an example of a water-powered industrial facility. The building is of frame construction with gabled roofs and shingled walls. The building is rectangular in plan and rises 2½ stories in height; a 3-story tower rises from the south side near the east end of the building. Fenestration, which is sparsely located in all stories, consists of 2/2 windows. These are sliding panelled doors in the gable-ends of the structure, which face east and west.

The dam and mill-works lie directly beneath the building. These works consist of a turbine which powers both a grist and sawmill, and all is in working order. Numerous conveyor belts transport grain from the mill proper to large storage bins in the second floor of the building.

The Dinsmore Grain Company Mill is a remarkable survival which is a model for small businesses which may in the future seek to return to water power as a relatively inexpensive and reliable source of energy.

# 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 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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input 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

1914

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The original Mill on this site began operating in the early nineteenth century. In 1817, it was owned by Joseph Hacker, who later passed it on to his son-in-law Jose Greely. In 1879, Mr. Greely took on a partner, his son-in-law, Thomas Dinsmore. (The mill functioned as a combined grist and saw mill.)

After Mr. Greely's retirement, Thomas Dinsmore became the sole owner and he passed the mill on to his son James R.B. Dinsmore. A fire broke out on June 26, 1908 and destroyed the mill and many village houses. The mill was rebuilt in 1914 and grain elevators and more modern machinery were added.

In 1935, James Kenneth Dinsmore (the present owner) added the water powered saw-mill equipment to the mill which again operated as a combined grist and sawmill until the mid-forties. After that, it was only used as a sawmill until the mid-sixties, when its commercial value appeared to cease. It has been used primarily for storage since that time. The Dinsmore Grain Co. Mill is one of the few remaining water powered mills left in the state of Maine and continues a milling tradition on this site of over 160 years.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

China, Maine, Bicentennial History, Marion T. Van Strien, 1975.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1

UTM REFERENCES

A 

1	9	4	6	2	2	3	0	4	9	1	7	1	9	0
ZONE				EASTING				NORTHING						

B 

ZONE				EASTING				NORTHING					

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION The mill occupies a site enclosed by lines running perpendicular to Route 3 northeasterly to Branch Pond. The northwesterly line commences 30 feet northwest of the Sheepscoot River Bridge and the southeasterly line 60 feet southeast of the bridge.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Frank A. Beard, Historian, David E. Rortin, Student Intern  
Robert L. Bradley, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION Maine Historic Preservation Commission

DATE July, 1978

STREET & NUMBER 242 State Street

TELEPHONE (207)-289-2133

CITY OR TOWN Augusta

STATE Maine

# 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 Carle S. Fretwell Jr.  
TITLE SHPO DATE 7/31/78

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Carle S. Fretwell Jr. DATE 11-15-79

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST: Bruce M. Dwyer KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER DATE 11/13/79

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	SEP 17 1979
DATE ENTERED	NOV 15 1979

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

---

There are presently three water powered grist mills in Maine still capable of functioning and with equipment largely intact. Of these, two employ water wheels (one is a reversion from a turbine). The Dinsmore Mill is the largest of the three and the only one that is turbine powered. It is the only remaining water powered mill which combines facilities both for grinding flour and meal as well as those for the sawing of lumber. As such it is the last remaining dual purpose functioning mill in Maine.