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Form 10-300
(Rev. 6-72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	IOWA
COUNTY:	WINNESHIEK
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	JAN 11 1974

1. NAME

COMMON:
Old Stone Mill

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Painter-Bernatz Mill *use this name*

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
200 North Mill Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Decorah

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
Second

STATE: **Iowa** CODE: **14** COUNTY: **Winneshiek** CODE: **191**

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Norwegian-American Museum

STREET AND NUMBER:
520 West Water Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Decorah

STATE: **Iowa** CODE: **52101** CODE: **14**

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Winneshiek County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:
Courthouse

CITY OR TOWN:
Decorah

STATE: **Iowa** CODE: **52101** CODE: **14**

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

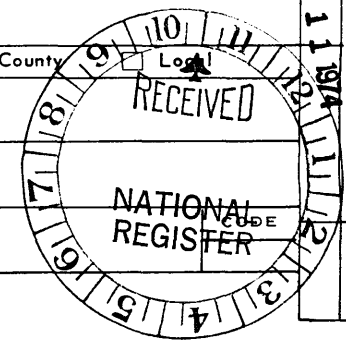
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



STATE: COUNTY: ENTRY NUMBER: DATE: FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/> Ruins <input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
(Check One)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered
(Check One)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The original exterior appearance of the Stone Mill was similar in plan to the present appearance. The building was constructed of native limestone, is 59 feet by 52 feet in plan, and two stories (22') high. The walls vary in thickness from 6 feet at the base (basement) to about 18 inches at the top. There were two floors plus a loft and a basement in the original structure. The original roof was of the hipped form. Due to structural changes within the building, the original floor levels are a matter of conjecture. The present second floor level bisects the windows in the northern most two-thirds of the building while the first floor is nearly flush with the corresponding window sills. From this and other evidence, it would appear that the original interior arrangement was split level.

There are two large arches in the south foundation wall indicating that originally the water was routed beneath the building in order to power the machinery. In 1914 a concrete retaining wall was constructed which blocked the above mentioned arches and the water was routed to the east side of the building where it turned two water turbines.

Between 1874 and 1890 the original roof was removed and the present one constructed giving the mill a large loft. During the course of its history several frame and brick additions were added and removed. The only remaining addition is a frame lean-to on the east side constructed in 1914. It is located directly over the water turbine wells.

The mill operated under water power from 1851 to 1947 when a local flood control project diverted the water. At that time the mill was converted to diesel power and operated until 1963 when the machinery was removed from the building and sold.



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SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1851**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|---|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |

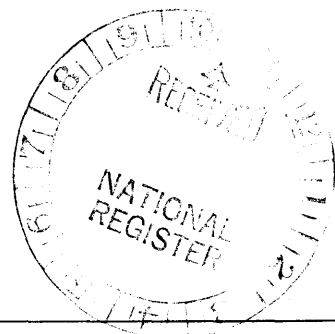
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Stone Mill was built by William Painter who began construction in 1851 on a site called the Heivly water power. A dam was constructed less than one-half mile upstream on the Upper Iowa River and a race was dug from the dam to the mill site. The water supplied power for both Painter's Gristmill and a nearby sawmill.

According to tradition, Painter built a small, frame gristmill with one run of stones on the site, building the larger stone structure around this first mill. The stone building was probably completed in 1852 or 1853. Taking the date when construction was begun (1851), it is the oldest remaining building in Decorah, and was the first of at least 15 mills to utilize the Upper Iowa River as a source of power.

William Painter sold the mill to Henry Heivly in 1866 who in turn sold to Ammon & Scott (local manufacturers of farm machinery and among other things water turbines) in 1870. By 1875 they had made many improvements, among them converting from stone to roller milling machinery and were shipping flour to many parts of the United States. The mill was later operated by a Mr. Phelps and the Thompson brothers, and in 1890 was sold to Anthony and George Bernatz. The mill was operated until 1963 by the Bernatz family when it was sold to Roy Carlson of Decorah who deeded it to the Norwegian-American Museum in 1968.

The Norwegian-American Museum has restored the exterior of the building to the period 1900-1914 and renovated the interior for exhibit space. Present the mill is the Museum's division of Pioneer Industry with exhibits on agriculture, lumbering, carpentry and blacksmithing.



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9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

History of Winneshiek and Allamakee Counties Iowa, by W. E. Alexander, pub. by Western Publishing Company, Sioux City, Iowa 1882.

Illustrated Historical Atlas of the State of Iowa 1875, by A. T. Andreas, pub. by the Andreas Atlas Co., Lakeside Bldg., Chicago, Ill 1875

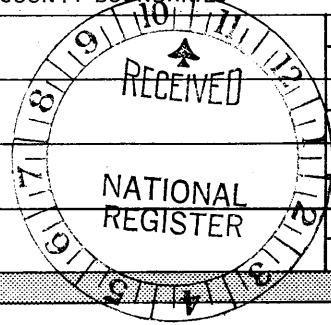
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	° ' "	° ' "		43°	18'	30" 36
NE	° ' "	° ' "		91°	47'	20"
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **Less than one acre**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



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11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Darrell D. Henning, Curator

ORGANIZATION: **Norwegian-American Museum** DATE: **October 17, 1972**

STREET AND NUMBER:
502 West Water Street

CITY OR TOWN: **Decorah** STATE: **Iowa** CODE: **14**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name Adrian D. Johnson

Title Historic Preservation Officer

Date 9/10/73

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

AR Martensen
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 1/11/74

ATTEST:
Charles Abberington
Acting Keeper of The National Register

Date 1-7-74