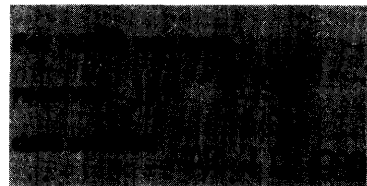


**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**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 Rose Hill Mill and House

and/or common Hannah's Mill or McDonald's Mill

2. Location NW of Thomaston on Thompson Lane and Hanna Mill Rd.

street & number (A) Mill: 4½ miles northwest of Thomaston on Hannah Mill Road
(B) House: 6 Thompson Lane not for publication

city, town Thomaston me vicinity of congressional district 3rd - Jack Brinkley

state Georgia code 013 county Upson code 293

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: Vacant
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation

4. Owner of Property

name (A) Mr. Ray McDonald
(B) Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Thompson

street & number (A) Box 49 ABCD
(B) 6 Thompson Lane

city, town Thomaston me vicinity of state Georgia 30286

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Superior Court

street & number Upson County Courthouse

city, town Thomaston state Georgia

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Historic American Engineering Record: Inventory of Historic Engineering and
title Industrial Sites in Georgia, 1974-75 has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date February 8, 1975 federal state county local

depository for survey records Division of Prints and Photographs, Library of Congress

city, town Washington state D. C.

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Rose Hill Mill and House are located approximately four and one-half miles northwest of Thomaston. The mill is located on the east bank of Ten Mile Creek off Hannah's Mill Road. The house is located northeast of the mill on Thompson Lane. The nominated structures are situated on approximately 26 acres.

The Rose Hill Mill is a three-story frame structure of mortise and tenon construction. Built in 1859, the mill is constructed of large timbers that are few in number. A shed porch is located on the facade of the mill. Three windows are located on the second floor of the front of the mill. The mill was slightly remodeled in 1901.

Located on the first floor of the mill are the millstones and other equipment necessary to the operation of the mill. Of the two runs of stones, one is believed to be one of the original 1859 millstones. Both are enclosed in circular metal encasements. The pipefed turbine replaced the undershot waterwheel in 1957. The mill machinery dates from the 1880's and is still operational. Separating machines and hoppers are located on the second floor. A corn cleaner and reel cleaner are located on the third floor. Elevators that move the grist from floor to floor are enclosed in wooden boxes. While the system of pulleys and belts that operate the elevators are still present in the mill, a blower system was added to update the mill's operational system.

A grain storage structure was built in 1934 south of the mill. A conduit connects the storage structure with the mill at the second story level.

The outbuilding located to the north of the mill was originally used to process unhusked corn. It is presently used to store other machinery.

The rock masonry dam was built at the same time the mill was constructed. The dam was laid dry with red clay and mud. The height of the fall of the dam is approximately 15 feet. Settlement in the dam is a problem, but the dam is periodically cleaned.

A water powered cotton gin was located upstream from the mill but it no longer exists. A rock masonry dam that served the cotton gin is still present.

The miller's house is an early twentieth century bungalow style house. It was built in 1906 and has one addition. The house is located northeast of the mill.

The plantation house is a one-story Greek Revival structure built on a substantial masonry foundation. It has a four-over-four central hall floor plan. The house has Greek Revival ornamentation such as the heavy door and window molding. The attic rooms are utilized and have curved ceilings. The front steps have been removed and the porch bannisters were added in the 1950's. The back porch has been enclosed.

(Continued)

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Continuation sheet Description Item number 7 Page 2

The foundations of a smokehouse are evident directly behind the Greek Revival plantation house. A twentieth century house was built on the site of a barn that was utilized by the plantation house owners.

The Rose Hill Mill complex remains in close proximity without the interruption of many intrusive structures. One cottage style house and three mobile homes are located on the nominated property and do not contribute to the significance of the property.

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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1859 **Builder/Architect** Dr. J. W. Herring

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Rose Hill Mill and House is significant to the history of architecture, engineering, and commerce in Upson County. Rose Hill Mill is a good example of grist mill architecture of the nineteenth century. The builder of the mill, Dr. J. W. Herring, was a noted physician in Upson County and was known for his engineering ability. Rose Hill Mill served as a center of local commerce.

Architecturally, Rose Hill Mill displays qualities of typical nineteenth century grist mill architecture. The mill is totally utilitarian and void of architectural ornamentation. It is of mortise and tenon construction, a common method of construction in 1859. The mill houses a good collection of nineteenth century grist mill equipment. Dating largely from the 1880's, the equipment represents the technology of that period. One of the millstones is believed to be an original 1859 stone, while the other stone was replaced in the 1930's. The elevator system is still present although it has not been operated since the installation of a blower system. The house is a typical Greek Revival structure. The four-over-four central hall floor plan with decorative molding is distinctive of this style. It is significant that the mill and house remain in close proximity without the interruption of intrusive structures. This enables historians to study the remains of a milling complex. At the time of construction, the owner of the mill could view the progress at the mill from his front porch. Since different property owners have purchased the mill and the house separately, the area between the two structures has become forested, making it rather difficult to see the mill from the house.

While not an engineer by profession, Dr. J. W. Herring (1823-1911) was known for his engineering ability throughout Upson County. He is reported to have built several covered bridges in the county, the only survivor being the Auchumpkee Creek Covered Bridge (c. 1898), a National Register site. During Georgia Governor W. Y. Atkinson's 1894-1898 term, Herring was appointed County Commissioner of Roads and Revenues. It is no doubt that during this time Herring was involved in the engineering of covered bridges throughout the county. At the time of the construction of the mills, Herring advertised in the Upson Pilot:

"Rose Hill Mills

The subscriber has completed his new mills on Ten Mile Creek, and they are now in successful operation. He would call the attention of farmers and wheat growers to the fact he has the latest and most

(Continued)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Cloues, Richard, Kacy Ginn, and Kenneth H. Thomas, Jr., Personal Inspection May 1, 1979.

Department of Agriculture. Georgia Historical and Industrial. Atlanta: The Franklin Printing and Publishing Company, 1901.

10. Geographical Data

UTM NOT VERIFIED

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

Acreage of nominated property approximately 26 acres

Quadrangle name Thomaston, Georgia

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

1	6
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7	4	6	8	8	0
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3	6	4	7	1	9	0
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Zone Easting Northing

B

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

C

1	6
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7	4	7	3	0	0
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3	6	4	6	4	9	0
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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Boundaries are indicated by heavy black line on enclosed Upson County Tax Map 48, and includes all property known to have been associated with Rose Hill Mill and House.

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

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kacy Ginn, National Register Researcher
Historic Preservation Section

organization Department of Natural Resources

date November 26, 1979

street & number 270 Washington Street, S. W.

telephone 404/656-2840

city or town Atlanta

state Georgia 30334

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Elizabeth A. Lyon
Elizabeth A. Lyon

title Acting State Historic Preservation Officer

date 12/28/79

For HCRS use only

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

W. Ray Luce
Keeper of the National Register

date 3/10/80

Attest:

Ann A. Dubois

date 3/3/80

Chief of Registration

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Continuation sheet Significance Item number 8 Page 2

improved machinery, well put up and finished in every department. It was put up to recommend itself, and all the proprietor asks is that the community will call, see, and judge for themselves. Those coming from a distance can be accomodated in case they remain over the night, with houses and lots free of charge.

J. W. Herring"

He was well aware of current technological innovations and machinery. A medical doctor by profession, Dr. Herring received his medical education at the Louisville (Kentucky) Medical College and the Memphis Botanical Medical College. He settled in Upson County in 1842 and remained there the rest of his life. Involved in many ventures in the county, Dr. Herring was a prominent member of Upson County society. During the last years of his life, Governor Hoke Smith appointed Herring to the County Board of Education during the 1907-09 term. Herring died at his home in 1911.

Rose Hill Mill was involved in two types of production during the years it was in operation. The mill was operated by Herring for the custom market. Local citizens would bring their corn to the mill and stay in the vicinity until the corn was ground into meal. A small general store located in the mill encouraged Thomaston citizens to remain in the area during the production of their meal. The mill was a center of local activity during this time. In 1887, Dr. G. W. T. Hannah purchased the mill and began some commercial production. Many local citizens chose to buy meal from Dr. Hannah rather than haul corn to the mill to be ground. The next owner of the mill, D. P. Harrell, stimulated commercial activity at the mill with the installation of equipment to mill wheat into flour. He also produced for both the custom and commercial market.

In 1932, Elizabeth H. McDonald purchased the mill for her husband, Joseph W. McDonald, who had suffered financially in the 1929 stockmarket crash and was unable to purchase the mill himself. The entire McDonald family was involved in the operation of the mill. In order to produce a finer grade of meal for the commercial market, the McDonalds replaced one of the original millstones with a new stone. The mill, now owned by Ray McDonald, J. W. McDonald's son, continued to operate regularly for local customers. The meal was packaged in "McDonald's Corn Meal Bags." These bags were advertisements for the mill as they boasted of more than 100 years of service to the area and meal that was "good as the best, better than the rest." The mill was closed in the early 1970's due to corn shortages, health regulations, and the poor health of the owner. With a thorough cleaning and several repairs, the mill could be operable once again.

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Continuation sheet Bibliographical References Item number 9

Page 2

"Hannah's Mill: Historic Site?" The Thomaston Times, January 1977.

"Looking at Thomaston in the 1800's." The Thomaston Herald, January 1974.

"Old Upson Grist Mill Grinding to a Halt." The Macon Telegraph, January 25, 1977.

Reynolds, W. F. Hannah's Mill. Unpublished paper, Spring 1974.

Upson Pilot, June 11, 1859, mill advertisement.

ROSE HILL MILL AND HOUSE
Thomaston, Upson County, Georgia
Sketch Map

Boundaries are indicated by heavy black line.

NOT TO SCALE

*Intrusions

JAN 8 1980

MAR 10 1980

