

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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date entered

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 McNeel Mill
and/or common Mill Point Mill

2. Location

street & number U. S. Route 219 not for publication
city, town Mill Point vicinity of
state West Virginia code 54 county Pocahontas code 075

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" 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	N/A <input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Lanty F. McNeel, Nora McNeel Workman, Martha McNeel Murdick
street & number HC 64 Box 550
city, town Hillsboro vicinity of state West Virginia 24946

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Pocahontas County Court House
street & number 900 Tenth Avenue
city, town Marlinton, state West Virginia 24946

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title N/A has this property been determined eligible? yes no
date federal state county local
depository for survey records
city, town state

7. Description

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

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The McNeel Mill is located at Mill Point on U.S. Route 219 near its intersection with W. Va. Route 39. It is close to the highway (about ten yards) with an entrance roadway. The mill area is bounded on one side by U. S. Route 219, on one side by Stamping Creek, and on the other sides by a continuation of McNeel owned lands.

The Mill is a three-story frame building; it features good solid construction with heavy timbers and a rubble stone foundation. The building measures 35½ feet wide, 40½ feet long and 35 feet from the ground to ridge on the front side. It has a good metal roof. Many of the glass window panes are missing and the siding needs painting.

There is a metal water wheel, approximately 21 feet in diameter; some of the buckets will have to be replaced. The wooden water box on top of the wheel is gone.

An original small porch on the side of the mill has disappeared.

The interior of the mill is in good condition except where a sill behind the water wheel has given way and let the floor in that particular section sink about two feet. Practically all of the original equipment is in the mill; some needs repairs.

A drainage path will need to be opened to a culvert under the road to drain water standing under the wheel and south end of building. The foundation behind the water wheel will have to be rebuilt and reinforced. The wheel will have to be moved so the foundation work can be completed and new piers may have to be constructed.

The Mill was built 1860-1868, replacing mills dating back to 1778. The Mill last ran in 1941 and the building has been used for grain storage most of the time since then. Guy Dalton was the last miller, for about fifteen years. There was a flash flood on the head of Stamping Creek in 1935 and it washed the creek so badly they never could get it built back to run the water through the race properly. In this flood of 1935 the water came within 3 or 4 inches of the platform where the grinding stones were set. A nearby house washed off of its foundations and a blacksmith shop washed entirely away. In the mill the rats floated on boards - it was 3 or 4 years before the rats came back.

Downstream three or four hundred yards there once existed another mill, known as the lower mill, erected by Valentine Cackley, Jr. a son of the pioneer who built the original mill at the McNeel site. A more recent lower mill at that location was apparently built later than the McNeel mill; there was a wool carding machine also. This mill was later owned and operated by the Hogsett family. The flood of 1935 ruined this mill; it washed away the foundation and caused the building to collapse.

According to the late Joe McNeel, who owned the McNeel Mill until his death, the mill stones were imported from France and were used to grind the cornmeal, cracked corn and buckwheat. The stones weighed a thousand to 1500 pounds and had to be sharpened every two years with a special chisel as the grooves had to be precise. It took 1½ minutes to make one revolution - if it went too fast it scorched the meal. A water box over the wheel fed the right amount of water, directing the excess over the side, and a gate at the race also regulated the flow of water.

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The trunking to bring the water to the mill was first made of bull pine and was an open trough. The water went from the race over the penstock and dropped into the turbine. When this turbine was changed to the present overshot water wheel, round metal trunking to carry the water was installed. A boiler, taken off of a traction engine, aided in dry times.

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

Specific dates 1860–1868 **Builder/Architect** Isaac McNeel, builder

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The McNeel Mill is significant because it is the only grist mill remaining in Pocahontas County, one of West Virginia's largest and most mountainous counties. The once ubiquitous grist mill played an important role in West Virginia's rural areas; the McNeel Mill is especially valuable in this regard because its milling machinery, water-powered wheel and general plan survive virtually intact from the 19th century. The mill siting has added significance because it is associated with early settlement activity and commerce associated with the region's once rich agricultural economy.

The Mill is close to the main highway of the County. It is within two miles of the restored Pearl Buck Birthplace at Hillsboro and seven miles from the Cranberry Visitors Center of the Monongahela National Forest. This Visitors Center stands at the entrance of the Highland Scenic Highway and close to the famous botanical protected area of the Cranberry Glades, Hills Creek Falls, and the 38,985 acres Cranberry Wilderness Area. Pocahontas County also boasts the Cass Scenic Railroad, the National Radio Astronomy Observatory at Green Bank, Snowshoe and Silver Creek Ski Resorts, the Buckskin Boy Scout Reservation, Watoga State Park, Droop Mountain Battlefield State Park, Beartown State Park, Edray Trout Hatchery, Seneca State Forest, Calvin Price State Forest, Locust Creek Covered Bridge, Pocahontas County Historical Museum, the restored Marlinton Railroad Depot, Camp Minnehaha Boys' Camp, plus many other attractions. The Mill's preservation is important from a historical viewpoint and as a contribution to the growing tourist industry of the region.

The small community of Mill Point had a fort to protect the first settlers in the area from the Indians before it had a mill. It is known it was there at least by 1774 and was called Fort Day at that time. A family by the name of Day had a cabin on the hill above the Mill. They later settled on the head of Williams River. Joshua Buckley, a first settler at Buckeye, a few miles north, is said to have helped build the fort and it was known as Fort Buckley also. Valentine Cackley (Kackley or Keckley) came from near Winchester about 1778 and the fort and community became known as Cackley. The post office of Cackley was established February 7, 1822, with Valentine Cackley as postmaster. The post office of Mill Point was established in 1835. The name came from the mills and the hill pointing off between the two branch streams of Stamping or Stomping Creek, which name was from the early herds of buffalo in the area.

Valentine Cackley and his brother, John, built the first mill here soon after 1778. The two were sons of Jacob Kackley and the family were farmers and millers near Winchester. John returned to Frederick County and later went to Ohio. The name was Coquelin, a French name, when the family came from Rotterdam to Philadelphia in 1736. Kersheval's History of the Shenandoah Valley says John and Valentine were big boys and good Indian fighters.

Court records show that in 1791 William Taylor, a poor infant, was assigned to learn the art of blacksmithing by Valentine Cackley at his mill.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Historical Sketches of Pocahontas County - Price, 1901

History of Pocahontas County, 1981

Hardesty's Encyclopedia

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 1½ acres

Quadrangle name Hillsboro, WV

Quadrangle scale 1 / 24,000

UTM References

A

1	7	5	7	1	6	8	0	4	2	2	3	3	7	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D

Zone		Easting				Northing								

E

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H

Zone		Easting				Northing								

Verbal boundary description and justification

Beginning at the convergence of the west edge of US Route 219 with Stamping Creek, the boundary proceeds 200 ft. northward along the west edge of Route 219, thence in a straight line 400 ft. long southwestward at a distance of 50 ft. from the western-most elev. of the

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

state	code	county	code
N/A			

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Jane Price Sharp, Director and Lanty F. McNeel, Owner

organization Pocahontas County Historical Society date 3/19/84 and February 2, 1985

street & number 810 Second Avenue telephone 304 799-4973


city or town Marlinton, West Virginia state West Virginia 24954

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

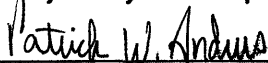
As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature 

title State Historic Preservation Officer date June 7, 1985

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



date 8/8/85

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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The first mill was a round log (as differentiated from square hewn timbers) structure with one run of small stones. Water was the propelling power. In 1808 Mr. Cackley added a sawing apparatus and he thus became not only the builder of the first saw mill as well. The water for these mills came from the spring and the McNeel Run above the present rock quarry and not from the spring that furnished the water for the mill now standing.

The Cackleys sold this first upper mill in 1834 to Sampson Lockhart Matthews, who married Nancy Edgar, both families prominent in Pocahontas County history. He was County Surveyor and the grandfather of the McClintic family, including the late Federal Judge George McClintic and Attorney Lockhart McClintic; Elizabeth McClintic, of Washington, D.C., and Buckeye, is one of the large landholders of the County today.

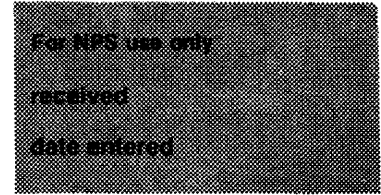
The land was later bought by Isaac McNeel, who built the present mill 1860-68. The Mill has passed down through the McNeel family, Isaac to sons, grandsons, and now great-grandchildren. Isaac was a great-grandson of the first settler in the Little Levels (where the Mill is located), coming around 1760 from the Winchester area of the Valley of Virginia. John McNeel was in the Battle of Point Pleasant. The McNeels have been and are prominent people in the area, serving in all areas of public office. The late Dr. H. W. McNeel, one of the line of owners, was a country doctor and member of the Board of Education for many years. The late Lanty McNeel was a lifetime farmer on the land that includes the Mill, his home being only a few yards away overlooking the Mill, and he was a longtime president of the Bank of Marlinton; his uncle, Matthew John McNeel, was the first president of the Bank of Marlinton, and his son, Richard, was also president of the bank. Another son, Dr. John O. McNeel, was a doctor, well known in public health medicine, and another son, Joe, and Richard, above, were well-known farmers; Richard also served on the County Commission for years until his death. McNeels have been sheriffs, attorneys, editors, etc., in the County. Richard's children now own the Mill.

The machinery of the McNeel Mill includes an overshot metal water wheel twenty-five feet in diameter that is used to turn the grinding stones. The stones weigh from a thousand to 1,500 pounds and were imported from France. Water was directed to the mill through a long race and onto the wheel through a wooden or metal conduit carried by a trestle.

The McNeel Mill, of heavy hewn timber construction, is currently under restoration with assistance from the Pocahontas County Historical Society.

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Verbal Boundary Description (contd)

mill building, to a point of convergence with Stamping Creek; thence in a line 200 ft. long along the northern bank of Stamping Creek eastward to the point of beginning on US Route 219. Inclusive of the mill, equipment (wheel, etc.) and immediate grounds. There are no dependencies.