

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "X" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Casper and Abraham Shafer Grist Mill Complex
other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 928 Main Street not for publication
city or town Stillwater Township vicinity
state New Jersey code NJ county Sussex code 037 zip code 07875

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I certify that this 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 meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. See continuation sheet for additional comments.

Amy Cradic 6/3/09
Signature of certifying official/Title Date
Amy Cradic, Assistant Commissioner Natural & Historic Resources/DSHPO
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

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> entered in the National Register. <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	Signature of the Keeper <u>Patrick Andrews</u>	Date of Action <u>12/10/2009</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> determined eligible for the National Register. <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined not eligible for the National Register.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> removed from the National Register.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> other, (explain:) _____	_____	_____

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

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

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

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

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
2	1	buildings
2	0	sites
		structures
		objects
4	1	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Industry / manufacturing facility

Domestic / single dwelling

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Recreation and Culture / Museum

Domestic / single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Mid-19th Century

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Limestone, concrete

walls Limestone, weatherboard

roof Slate, metal

other _____

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8 Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- 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.

Criteria considerations

(mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

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

(Enter categories from instructions)

Industry

Period of Significance

1741-1959

Significant Dates

1741, 1765

1796/7

1844, 1893

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Casper Shafer (1712-1784)

Abraham Shafer (? -1820)

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more 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:

Stillwater Township Historical Society

10. Geographical DataAcreage of property Approx. 16.4 acres**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	18	510712	4542503	3	18	510504	4542451
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	18	510634	4542570	4	18	510593	4542385

 See continuation sheet**Verbal Boundary Description**

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared Byname/title Thomas E. Jones, Preservation Planner (edited and revised by Robert W. Craig, NJ Historic Preservation Off.)Organization _____ date Sept.2008 / May, Oct.2009street & number 1106 West Berwick Street telephone _____city or town Easton state PA zip code 18042**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets**Maps**A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.**Photographs**Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.**Additional items**

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name State of New Jersey, c/o Superintendent, Swartswood State Parkstreet & number 1091 County Route 619 telephone (973) 383-5230city or town Swartswood state NJ zip code 07887-0123

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.470 *et seq.*)

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Casper and Abraham Shafer Grist Mill Complex, Stillwater Twp., Sussex Co.

The nominated property consists of The Shafer Grist Mill and Miller's House together with the headrace and tailrace of the mill and land directly associated with them for a total of more than 16 acres. Situated immediately due northwest of Sussex County Bridge S-01, carrying County Route 610 (Main Street) over the Paulinskill River. This property now owned by the state of New Jersey is comprised of three buildings, two historic, one less than 50 years of age and remains of mill dam and raceway features. The largest building is the Shafer Grist Mill.

Exterior Description:**1844-Shafer Grist Mill - Contributing**

The Shafer, water powered, Gristmill is situated immediately along Main Street, County Route 610 in the Village of Stillwater. The historic structure is built of course and dressed locally quarried limestone. The ground first floor is comprised of exposed masonry, reportably from the 1764 mill built on this site for Casper Shafer. The upper stone masonry is reported to have been built in 1844. This area is comprised of course stone masonry covered with a heavy coat of pebble dashed slacked lime stucco of early 19th century application.

The exterior window openings do not reflect the true scale and dimensions of this mill. The mill is almost a square dimensioned building, 5 bays long by 5 bays wide. The adjacent road has risen with repavings giving the impression that the mill's entry is below grade level. As built, the mill is a three and a half storey masonry mass, set with a gable roof aligned at its peak on a northwest to southeast axis.

The external openings of the mill are symmetrically aligned. On the northeast elevation the first floor is comprised of a massive stone arch towards its southern building corner. This arched semi-circular opening is to permit the water flow, from the mill race into the mill to the current water turbine/wheel. This arch is flanked to its northeast by the mill's front door entry, an oak plank door frame set with a board and batten, double "dutch" door, hung on forged iron strap hinges. This elevation's upper second and third floors are set with aligned openings per floor of central full double "dutch" door(s) flanked by wood framed, double hung 6 over 6 (circa 1844) wooden windows on their northeast and towards their northwest. The roof mass on this northeast elevation is fitted with an extended full dormer comprised of a heavy timber frame that extends from the eave roof line to create a hooded overhang. This overhang is fitted on its underside with the mill's exposed pulley loading system that pulled bags of grain to the mill's top attic floor. This dormer is fitted with a double "dutch" door, the same and original (Circa 1844) as all such doors of this mill's exterior.

Both the northeast and southwest gable walls are constructed in the same manner. From the first floor up through the third floors there is an aligned arrangement of two windows per floor, of wood framed, double hung wooden windows. All of these window sashes of 2 over 2 sashes are of post Civil War modifications. The attic floor windows are in line with the lower floor windows. However, these windows are narrower, set with post civil war vintage 2 over 2 sash.

The southwest (rear) elevation has the same second and third floor window arrangement and construction as those floors on the mill's northeast elevation. The first floor as per all exterior elevations is exposed, Kittatinny Formation, locally quarried limestone. As per all elevations, the mason took care to dress the toward corner stonewalls in a more rectangular shape, set with vertical, narrow, spacing stones. The corner masonry is built of carefully cut "coyn" corner work.

This southwest elevation is located where the tailrace of the mill's water supply extends from at the mill's southern corner. This tailrace is a deep exposed drainage channel. Set below grade, the mill's wall is set with a large stone

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semi-circular arched, outlet opening. Towards the north, this elevation's door entry is in alignment with the upper floor(s) window. This too is a solid oak plank frame, set with a double "dutch" door. This door is approached with a single course limestone stepping block. To the south, this elevation is set with a window opening aligned with the upper floor(s) windows. This window unlike the (circa 1844) 6 over 6 window sash, is a post civil war vintage 2 over 2 pane window sash set in a wooden frame.

The whole gable roof is covered with grey slate. This slate also covers the northeast elevations extended overhang loading dormers gable hood roof and vertical exposed sides. The wooden cornice and eaves are deep and extend about 1 ½' out from the exterior walls. A snow board guard is situated on the northeast roof at a level of intersection with vertical walls alignment. A single small brick chimney flue is set at the peak of the northwest roof line (note – refer to Photo Nos. 1 through 5).

Miller's House – Contributing: Exterior Description

The Miller's House to the Shafer Grist Mill is reported by local oral history to have been built by around 1800, for Abraham Shafer. It appears by all diagnostic evidence to date more in relation to an 1844 date, matching the reconstruction of the Mill. Erected to provide housing for the mill's Miller, this building is an example of rural worker housing. The original house section is, what is generally termed, an example of a "Hall-and-Parlor House."

The Miller's House when first built, and stands today, is a one and a half storey three bay long by two bay wide, post and beam frame structure set upon a course limestone foundation. The gentle southwest downslope of the house's site permits an almost full exposed board and batten cellar door entry, centrally located in the southeast, gable end elevation. The house's framing rises above the first floor by 3' to 4', thereby creating enough height for an attic loft living space. The whole structure is covered by a gable roof set on a northwest to southeast axis.

The exposed walls of the 1844 section of the residence appear to have retained its original external openings. The northeast elevation is composed of a central door, with a double hung six over six wooden sash set 1 ½' to its north. The other window is situated in a symmetrical position to the south. The asymmetrical window was placed at its locale to create across fireplace light from the east into the internal kitchen area.

The southeast gable elevation is set with a central double hung six over six wooden window sash on the first floor. The attic/loft storey is set with two smaller windows placed symmetrically towards the roofline. The south window is a by 1880s two over two double hung window sash arrangement. The north window sash is removed and plywood boarded to mount an air conditioner, the northeast gable end elevation reveals its central stone masonry exposed chimney base. Towards the north corner is situated a full double hung window set down to the attic/loft floor level to provide northern light.

A 1920s photograph reveals that there was a 1 ¾ bay long by 1 ½ bay wide outshut kitchen/pantry that extended from the northwest elevation. The sloped roof of this outshut extended from the pitch of the Main House roof. Whether this outshut section still survives within the recent additions, is not known.

Presently the exterior mass of the Miller's House has been recently expanded in the last 10 years, doubling its form and mass. On the northwest elevation a set back, kitchen wing/style addition has been extended about 1 ½ bays due northwest starting a little over half due southwest of the front (northeast) elevation of the 1800 (?) house. This addition is fitted with a simple wooden post porch, covering the first floor which is set with an offset door, towards the original house, flanked by a small double hung storm window. The attic/loft storey of this addition is set with a partial sloped roof to mirror the pitch of the original house. This attic/loft is set with two flat "belly" single pane windows.

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The whole addition is covered by a very shallow pitch roof that joins the original house peak roofline on the southwest axis. This shallow pitch roof extends out almost three bays on the addition's northwest elevation. This addition remains three bays deep along the southwest (rear) elevation for 1 ½ bays then setbacks to a width of two bays. This addition is almost a full two stories high.

The whole exterior is currently covered with aluminum siding, with vertical trim pieces situated to outline the original house where exposed. All windows on the northeast, southeast, are fitted with "fake" rustic board shutters, including the original house's northwest attic/loft window. The yard is enclosed with a pseudo-colonial 4' high picket fence (note – refer to Photo No. 37).

Recent Outbuilding Near Mill – Non Contributing

Due to the northwest of the Shafer Grist Mill is situated a less than 30 year old storage outbuilding of frame construction. This two bay long by one bay deep building is covered with flush horizontal boards. The southeast elevation is fitted with two central double hung doors. The gable roof is on a northeast to southwest axis, and covered with corrugated metal roofing.

Hydro Power Supply Land Features – Contributing

Typically the features of the land that relates to a gristmill water power are highly obscured, eroded or gone. The conditions of such features for the 1844 Shafer Grist Mill are the exceptions. The millrace from the site of its mill-dam (now gone) is highly intact. The profile especially of the prism of the millrace channel is very intact, well over 1,000 feet due northeast of the mill. Where this millrace, also termed penstock, meets the Main Street (County Route 610) it makes a sharp turn towards the Paulinskill River for about 35' till it aligns with the center of the millrace arched entry to the gristmill. The millrace still retains its iron debris rack set within 1927 (?) poured concrete work, immediately adjacent to the northeast edge of the road. At this juncture a large amount of 1844 (?) millrace masonry remains intact. It is not clear yet what purpose this masonry outlet fully served.

At this locale a recent board footbridge now provides a crossing.

Scattered on the state owned land of the grist mill, parcel are scattered poignant mill-industrial artifacts. Along the mill's northwest elevation are located a row of strap iron bond "French Burr" grindstones.

The millrace extends under Main Street (County Route 610) within a cast concrete encasement placed in the 1920s when the current Sussex County Bridge S-01 was built. The millrace passes into the wheel/turbine pit, and outlets through the arched opening of the southwest mill elevation. The mill's tailrace is well preserved and maintains most of its exposed original prism profile turning a sharp due southeast of the mill, towards the Paulinskill (note – refer to Photo No. 2).

The mill race itself extends in a well preserved condition, northerly onto adjacent land parcels owned by the State of New Jersey. On this land parcel it leads northerly to the remains of the earthen and stone mill dam, which is partially intact across the Paulinskill River. At varied locales along the mill race, there are several deep depressions that may indicate potential sites of known prior Shafer family water powered mills, such as sawmill, oil mill and/or fulling mill. These sites need to be confirmed by future archaeological investigation.

Shafer Grist Mill - Contributing

Interior Description

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The following interior description is based primarily on an extensive site/oral history tour conducted with Mr. Augustus Roof, held in spring 2007. Mr. Roof is a noted, retired, grist mill restorer and once operated the Shafer Grist Mill. He has an intimate knowledge of the Shafer Grist Mills equipment and historical evolution. Mr. Roof is now over 90 years of age and of clear memory, and a life long resident of Stillwater, and has intimate direct knowledge of the Mill and its history (1).

The interior description will begin with the turbine wheel pit, and then proceed up through to the attic.

The foundation walls of this grist mill are reported to be possibly from the earlier 1764 Grist Mill erected for Casper Shafer. The mill then went through extensive renovations between 1796-97 (2). Initial visual analysis of the mills masonry tends to confirm this. Further in-depth analysis is required, possibly by comparative mortar bond analysis. This turbine mill burned and was rebuilt in 1844 on this site. How extensive any changes to the masonry that occurred at this time requires further in-depth examination. The massive foundation wall composes the first floor and extends deeply into the ground to enclose the wheel pit. The turbine wheel pit is set in the southwestern quarter mass of the mill. This turbine wheel pit is set with two massive semicircular stone arches on the northeast and southwest walls that extend up into the first/ground floor level. The turbine wheel pit's channel is intact but was modified by a 1926 (?) paved concrete encasement of walls and floor to create a housing for the metal water turbine wheel. This encasement is open to the northeast to provide a large rectangular opening for the mill race's water feed into the turbine pit. This too is solid poured concrete and appears was built in 1926 (?) when County Bridge S-01 was built, thereby preserving the water power feed and rights to this mill.

The water power system for the Shafer Grist Mill currently is that of a "Horizontal Mill." A horizontal mill refers to the horizontal transfer alignment of the mills gears off from the vertical central power shaft. Repairs to the whole mill's works were carefully conducted by Mr. Augustus S. (Samuel) Roof of 922 Main Street, and Mr. William Klemm of Water Wheel Farms of Fredon Twp. between 1972-77 to make the mill operational, respecting the surviving historic machinery in the mill. The mill's surviving metal turbine is attached to the power wheel transfer gearing (1844(?)) above. Pending further detailed historic structural study of the iron-power system of the current Shafer Grist Mill, it appears that the mill was set up to be powered by an early arrangement for a Hydraulic Turbine. Hydraulic Turbines development rapidly evolved initially both in France and the United States from 1800-1850. By 1840 an interaction between American and French theoretical and practical activities produced today's "more modern" full metal, turbines (3). The arrangement of power transfer in the Shafer Grist Mill of 1844 shows a full awareness of this turbine technology. The 1844 turbine at this mill does not survive. The current turbine in the pit is a full metal "Improved Vertical Samson Turbine" manufactured by "the James Leffel & Co, Springfield Ohio," (est. 1862) (4). This turbine matches the one illustrated in the attached historic catalog plate of the Leffel & Co. All of the main parts from the bottom plate up are intact but heavily rusted. The metal parts below the Bottom Plate, inclusive of the Runner, Discharge Cylinder, Bridge Tree, and Bottom Ligum Vitae Step are highly corroded or rusted out (note – refer to Photo Nos. 6 and 7).

This turbine which was installed in 1893 is coupled to the vertical main power shaft, in situ. The main power shaft rises up through and into the first/ground floor. The iron main power shaft rises up to its juncture with three cast iron horizontal gear wheels. This shaft turns the central wheel with its teeth engaged in turning the adjacent wheels. These adjacent horizontal wheels' vertical shafts are engaged with the two current grinding millstone arrangements on the first floor (note – refer to Photo Nos. 8 and 9). These two Mill Stone set ups were used solely for grinding grains into varied grades of flour.

The whole horizontal power wheel set up is set with a rectangular arrangement of heavy oak hewn and (some sawn 1970s restored) mortised and tennon framing. This framing extends in parts up into and with the heaving farming for this grist mill's machinery up through the first through attic floors (note – refer to Photo No. 9).

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Suspended down from the two millstones, from the second floor, are rectangular wooden automated chutes for grain movement. The first floor is comprised of one single open room, the milling area being in its almost southern half and open processing in the northern half. An open and panel enclosed wooden stairway is set in the mill's northern corner up through the first to attic floors. The elevation that this gear system is placed is well above the Paulinskill floodway almost totally outside the now defined Flood Hazard Limit. This care in site selection in 1764 limits the number of flood days that would directly impair and effect the mill and its machinery (note – refer to Photo Nos. 10 and 11).

The second floor is the grinding floor of the grist mill. Currently there are two millstones set up for grinding at the mill. This arrangement was restored and conserved by Mr. Augustus S. Roof and Mr. William Klemm in the 1970s. The actual points of where materials were restored or conserved needs to be sequentially confirmed in depth with Mr. Roof and Mr. Klemm.

The current two pair of millstones consists of a static museum set up to show their composition and use. The southwest millstone pair is totally original to the mill, an exposed French Burr-Nether stone with its companion Runner stone hung from a wooden millstone crane. This millstones vatcover is set up against the southeast wall. The northeast pair of millstones, the top stone of which was salvaged from Keene's Mill at Swartwood Lake, Stillwater Twp., Sussex County, is set up with its full arrangement. The top runner stone has been set upon the bottom Nether Stone. The (wooden) vat (cover) is in place over the millstones. The Damsel rod is in place at the center of the Runner Stone. A beautifully patinaed frame suspends the shoe and supports the Hopper, designed to funnel the coarse grain to the millstones. A tapered wood cased chute for gravity grain feed to the hopper is suspended down from the ceiling above the millstones' location (note – refer to Photo Nos. 12 through 16).

Integrated with the set up of two pairs of stones are other subsequent (in-situ) belt driven 19th century milling equipment original to this mill. Set up on the second floor is a rare, corn cob crusher, and a feed mixer from the post-civil war decades, of the mills operations (still operable) (note – refer to Photo No. 17).

Of these other belt driven crushes, fanning mills, etc., three are associated possibly with the installation of the horizontal "Leffel" water turbine/wheel installed in 1893. This diversification's of equipment beyond just the mill's primary custom flour grinding stones, aided the economic continuance of the Shafer Grist Mill into the 20th century. Together this assemblage of water power/belt driven equipment is of high integrity and historic interest in portraying New Jersey's milling industrial development.

The milling floor area just due north of the millstones is occupied by four wooden, encased (boxed) automated grain chutes from which finely ground flour was fed out to flour sacks. There are also two wood encased processing chutes adjacent to these regularly arranged chutes.

The remainder of the second floor is a large open space excepting the approximately 8' by 20' mill office in the northwest from the northwest interior corner. This single room is set off by a vertical board partition set with a board and batten door. The office contains the mill's original desk and is heated by a turn of the century cast iron heating stove (note – refer to Photo Nos. 18 through 21).

The third floor is approached by an open tread wooden stairway in the north interior corner. The third floor is another open room in which a central massive "summer beam" spans in full from the northeast to southeast interior gable walls. This massive beam is supported by a heavy central wooden vertical support post whose edges are chamfered and base and capital areas are set by lamb's ear cuts. The northeastern and southwestern flooring beams are mortised and tenoned into this massive Summer Beam on regular centers. All first, second and third floor ceilings are open. All flooring is random width, wide, with over 12" wide heavy floor boards set with scattered patches and places of heavy tread wear and splices. Inside this space due southwest of the central support post lies various vertical mill/flour chutes and engaged mill equipage to the horizontal turbine's power. To the southwest

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is located an early 20th century metal and wood feed mixer installed during the McCord families ownership in the 1930s-40s. A heavy cast iron corn sheller is located due northeast. Its origins are unclear. It manufacture dates from at least the mid 19th century (note – refer to Photo Nos. 22 through 24, and 26).

The other integrated machinery original to the mill is a floor sifter, and a fanning mill. This specific fanning mill was manufactured by the Huntley Manufacturing Co. of Silver Creek, NY. It is a "6007 No. 2 with a capacity of 15 to 30 bushels per hour". It is further described as "The Cranson Couring Mixing & Separating Machine with Magnetic Attachment" for "Buckwheat Separator & Scoure" (note – refer to Photo Nos. 25 and 27).

The attic floor is a single open area set off by a central purlin level heavy wood framing to support the roof. The attic still retains the chutes and drive wheels and pulleys that automate the grain/floor chute/conveyor system. The attic load graining door still retains its wooden parts to an automated sack loading system, which leads from the northeast roof central extended loading/dormer (note – refer to Photo Nos. 28 through 36).

In conclusion, as a whole, the Shafer Grist Mill retains to a high level of historic integrity its 1844 water power and flour milling and equipment. In the latter 19th century these features were added to at the same time the (1893) Leffel Turbine replacing the prior (unknown manufacturer and make) water turbine from 1844. At this time other belt driven equipment was added expanding and diversifying the custom milling capacity of the Shafer Grist Mill. All of these added historic milling equipment survives at the high level of integrity, along with associated Mill operation, hard tools and furnishings original to the Mill. Altogether the extent and integrity of this water power installation is the most complete within Sussex County's extant historic Grist Mills today.

Miller's House Interior

The interior of the Millers House was examined and found to retain its general original four room floor plan, and internal enclosed stair case system. The interior retains a central brick masonry cook fireplace. However, recent decorative renovations have highly altered and/or removed the plastered interior, but retaining original flooring intact. This building is considered to be contributing.

Citation / Endnotes

- 1) Jones, Thomas E., Oral History Field Notes', Site visit and tour of Shafer Grist Mill with Mr. Augustas Roof, Spring 2007 (hereafter referred to as Roof OHFN)
- 2) Johnson, William M., Memoirs and Reminiscences together with Sketches of the Early History of Sussex County, New Jersey by Rev. Casper Schaeffer, pub. 1907(hereafter referred to as MRSEH pub. 1907), pages 30-33
- 3) Hunter, Louis C., "A History of Industrial Power in the United States, 1780-1930, Vol. One: Water Power in the Century of the Steam Engine", pub. 1979 (hereafter referred to as HIPUS), pages 366-367
- 4) HIPUS, pages 366-367

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[edited by HPO staff, April/May 2009, based on an earlier draft by Thomas E. Jones]

Summary Paragraph

The Casper and Abraham Shafer Gristmill complex is the most intact 19th-century gristmill complex to survive in Sussex County. The property includes the existing mill, built in the 1840s, with its full hydrosystem, including a nearly quarter-mile-long headrace. The first gristmill on this site was built for Casper Shafer in 1764, replacing a still earlier mill that Shafer had built in the early 1740s about 1,500 feet or less to the northeast from the current mill building. It is believed that the location of this first mill is encompassed within the limits of the hydrosystem boundaries herein nominated. Casper Shafer (1712-1784) was a founding leader of the group of Pennsylvania Germans who in the 1740s and afterward settled much of what is today Stillwater Township and who founded the village of Stillwater. The gristmill was the center of his mercantile activities. As a large landowner and a leader of this community, Shafer became a significant political figure within Sussex County, and he represented the county in both the New Jersey Provincial Congress that declared the independence of New Jersey in 1776, and in the state legislature from 1777 through 1779. His son Abraham Shafer inherited his father's estate, and rebuilt the mill in 1796-97, enlarging its capacity further. This mill burned in 1844 and the present building was constructed, taking advantage of the footprint and some portion of the walls of the 1790s mill. The present building was turbine-driven from the beginning, but the Leffel turbine mechanism still in place was installed in 1893. The mill continued to be maintained and operated until 1977. The property meets National Register criterion A with local significance for its association with the emergence of the Stillwater community. It meets criterion B for its association with both Casper and Abraham Shafer, and criterion C as an intact gristmill complex with an interesting turbine system. The site may also possess potential to meet criterion D if intact remains can yield information related to the earliest gristmill at Stillwater and about the early years of this German-American settlement.

Historical Background

[Much of the following account relies upon the "Memoirs and Reminiscences [hereafter *Memoirs and Reminiscences*] together with Sketches of the Early History of Sussex County, New Jersey," which was written by Casper Shafer's grandson, the Rev. Casper M. Schaeffer¹ and compiled and published in 1907 by William M. Johnson.]

Casper Shafer was an immigrant from the German Palatine region. In *Memoirs and Reminiscences*, Johnson reported Shafer's arrival in Philadelphia in September 1738, and that following two or three years spent there he moved to the Paulins Kill within the portion of what was then Morris County that would be set off as Sussex County in 1753.² It was at this location that the village of Stillwater would emerge as a settlement chiefly of German families from southeastern Pennsylvania, of which Casper Shafer quickly emerged as its most conspicuous landowner and community leader. He first came to the locale about 1741, built a log house for himself and began to clear a farm.

In the early 1740s, he built a low course of cobblestones filled with gravel to form a dam across the Paulinskill approximately one thousand to fifteen hundred feet northeast of the current gristmill. Shafer then erected a millhouse of logs, powered by a "three-foot run of stones," which could process about three to five bushels of grain per day. This building is understood to have been the first gristmill within the present limits of Sussex County. His earliest documented land purchase appears to be a tract of 150 acres that he bought in 1746, adjoining his then mill dam.³ Shafer's farmstead (not included in this nomination) was situated to the south of the mill property, and a log dwelling (probably from the 1750s) and a two-story, 18th-century, stone house attached to it still stand. During the 1750s and 1760s, Shafer was both a store and tavern owner. He purchased several several farms and became the most economically successful figure in the locality.

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Casper and Abraham Shafer Gristmill Complex
Sussex County, NJ

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His grandson wrote in *Memoirs and Reminiscences* that,

About the year 1764 the second mill was built, on the site of the present one, having a head race about a quarter of a mile long and twenty-five or thirty feet wide, by which a greater fall and waterpower were obtained. This mill, though not large, was a great advance upon the former one, containing two run of stones, with bolts and other appurtenances, rendering it much more efficient and better adapted to meet the wants of the more advanced state of society.⁴

During the same period, he also added a saw mill and a linseed-oil mill adjacent to the gristmill.⁵ This mill property became during these years the center of the emerging village of Stillwater.

Shafer's political standing came to reflect his prominence in economic affairs. In 1775 he became a member of the Sussex County Committee of Safety. After the New Jersey Provincial Congress in the spring of 1775 imposed a ten-thousand pound tax on the inhabitants of New Jersey to fund preparations for the colony's defense, Shafer was named the collector for Sussex County's share of this tax. Shafer was one of Sussex County's delegates to the Provincial Congress in 1776 when it declared the independence of New Jersey from Great Britain, and he was subsequently elected to serve in the New Jersey Assembly from 1777 through 1779.⁶

After his death in 1784, the mill complex descended to his son Abraham Shafer. Abraham further expanded the family's agricultural, industrial, and commercial operations. He added a tannery near the mill and he rebuilt the gristmill during 1796-97.⁷ The gristmill had a greater capacity than its predecessor, with a third run of stones, and with water-powered machinery to hoist grain from where wagons pulled up, to the third floor. This was a feature common in 19th-century mills that many, perhaps most, 18th-century mills lacked. Rev. Shafer, whose memoir is noted above, recalled that he superintended this mill for five years, from 1798 to 1803. By 1816 the Shafer industrial complex also included a fulling mill and a distillery, and before Abraham's death in 1820 a weaving shop was added. At his death he continued to be economically prominent within the county, in a manner similar to his father. The Shafer family's economic fortunes reached their zenith during his lifetime and due to his diligent mercantile and entrepreneurial management.

The gristmill of 1796-97 burned in 1844, and the present mill building was immediately constructed upon its footprint. Whether any substantial portion of the walls were reused is unclear. This latter rebuilding of the mill replaced the mill wheel with a turbine. In 1893 the present horizontal turbine was installed, manufactured by the Leffel Company. The mill continued to be owned and operated by members of the Shafer family. In 1860, William A. Shafer operated the mill with two employees, according to the industrial schedule of the U.S. census that year. He processed up to 22,500 bushels of grain that produced 550,000 pounds of oat feed and 566,600 pounds of flour. This production yielded a profit of about \$3,500.

By 1870 the mill was no longer being operated by the Shafers. The industrial census that year reported that its operator was Martin Youmans. His capacity still matched Shafer's production of a decade before, but the business was losing its profitability. Youmans evidently broke even on his operation of the business. With the passage of another decade, the mill was being operated in 1880 by one Henry Hopler, and his production was reported as 12,900 bushels. The profitability of rural, water-powered mills was being eroded by the new steam-powered roller mill technology and by the ability of large milling companies to ship great volumes of flour and other products cheaply by rail.

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Casper and Abraham Shafer Gristmill Complex
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Early 20th-century owners, including one A.D. Cornell followed by a Victor Herdenracht maintained the mill and continued to operate it into the 1930s as a "custom" mill, grinding specific orders for local farmers. It was reduced in its operation to two pair of stones. The mill was bought by a family named McCord, who continued to operate it through World War II. By 1946 it had become the last operating water-powered mill in Sussex County. Its continued operation into more recent times owes especially to the efforts of Augustus C. Roof and William Klemm, who in 1972 undertook to repair and partially restore the mill and continue to operate it. They kept it in operation until 1977, grinding local grain and operating the mill as a museum. The mill's collection of 19th-century machinery was retained, and other milling-related artifacts were added.

Notes

¹ Rev. Schaeffer (1784-1857) took for the spelling of his surname what he understood to be the original German spelling of his grandfather's name. He wrote the *Memoirs and Reminiscences* in 1855, but it survived in manuscript form until 1907 when it was brought into print by William M. Johnson, who added a brief introduction about the manuscript and the author, a two-page essay about Rev. Schaeffer's career, a longer essay about the career of the first Casper, and several biographical and genealogical pieces, authored by himself and others. The elder Casper died in December 1784 when his grandson was less than six months old, so his knowledge of his grandfather's activities would have derived from second-hand stories as well as primary documents.

² Schaeffer, *Memoirs and Reminiscences*, 7-8. For explanation of New Jersey's shifting county and municipal boundaries, the standard source is John P. Snyder, *The Story of New Jersey's Civil Boundaries, 1606-1968* (Trenton, NJ: Bureau of Geology and Topography, 1969).

³ Schaeffer, *Memoirs and Reminiscences*, 30.

⁴ *Ibid.*, 31-32.

⁵ *Ibid.*, 32.

⁶ For Shafer's public officeholding, see *Ibid.*, 10-14.

⁷ *Ibid.*, 32.

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Casper & Abraham Shafer
Grist Mill Complex,
Stillwater Township,
New Jersey
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Casper & Abraham Shafer
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Section 10

Verbal Boundary Description

The Casper and Abraham Shafer Grist Mill Complex is comprised in full of the following two land parcels as recorded in the Sussex County Hall of Records.

As recorded upon the Tax Maps of Sussex County, New Jersey (revised January 1974).

Tax Map Sheet No. 33 for Stillwater Township, Sussex County, New Jersey:

- Sheet No. 33, Lot #12, unaddressed, floodplain lot, containing 15.70 acres (alluvial flood public lands containing historic dam and mill race).
- Sheet No. 32, Lot 1.02, 928 Main Street, containing 0.6694 acres (the Shafer Grist Mill and Miller's House).

Please refer to the attached Casper and Abraham Shafer Grist Mill Complex Boundary Map, which portrays the irregular, but interconnected properties.

Boundary Justification

The boundaries of the Casper and Abraham Shafer Grist Mill Complex includes the extant grist mill, Miller's house and its surviving dam and mill race remains that are directly associated with Casper and Abraham Shafer's land holdings and that maintain historic integrity. These specific land parcels represent the core of the industrial historic land holdings of this once prominent family and contain the nucleus of its features of rural agri-industrial activity, of the Casper & Abraham Shafer Grist Mill.

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Casper & Abraham Shafer Gristmill Complex
Stillwater Twp., Sussex Co., NJ

Section number Photos Page 1

Photo Descriptions

The following photos portray in detail the varied buildings and setting of the Casper and Abraham Shafer Grist Mill Complex. This property is located along and/or near the Paulinskill River in the Village of Stillwater, Stillwater Township, Sussex County, New Jersey. All black and white photos were taken by Thomas E. Jones, Historic Preservation Planner. The property recorded is 928 Main Street – Shafer Grist Mill and Miller's House. All photos were taken during early spring 2007, and cover exterior and interior conditions where permitted by current property owners. All negatives for these and other related photos are retained by Thomas E. Jones, mailing address Box 1326, Easton, PA 18042.

Photo Number Description of Photo

- #1 928 Main Street - View looking due northwest onto the southeasterly corner elevation of the Shafer Grist Mill, a full limestone masonry structure rebuilt after a fire in 1844.
- #2 928 Main Street - View looking due west onto the east elevation of the Shafer grist mill, as rebuilt in 1844. Note original windows, stuccowork, doors, extended rope lift to loft to wheel pit. In foreground is millrace/feed entry with debris grate.
- #3 928 Main Street - Broader general view of east elevation of Shafer Grist Mill circa 1844. Walls may be from prior 1764 grist mill construction.
- #4 928 Main Street - View looking due east onto northwest gable end of Shafer Grist Mill. Note "French" burr grinding stones along wall that belong to mill.
- #5 928 Main Street - View looking due onto rear west elevation of Shafer Grist Mill circa 1844. Note original windows, "Dutch" double door and massive stone arch exit for mill water wheel pit outflow into tail race, to right.
- #6 928 Main Street - Interior view of wheel pit, containing full metal "Improved Vertical Samson Turbine" manufactured by the James Leffel & Co., Springfield, Ohio in 1893 and installed in that same year at the Shafer Grist Mill.
- #7 928 Main Street - Interior view from first-ground floor down onto 1893 Leffel Turbine. Note cast iron horizontal transfer power gear of Shafer Grist Mill.
- #8 928 Main Street - Interior view of horizontal transfer gear(s) arrangement off from central turbine shaft to adjacent flour grinding stone gears. These years are historic to 1844 rebuilding.
- #9 928 Main Street - Interior view of Shafer Grist Mill ground floor looking due southeast onto heavy oak framing for flour grinding stone gearing in major part 1844 construction with modifications in 1893.
- #10 928 Main Street - Interior view of Shafer Grist Mill, ground floor looking due northwest onto original enclosed floor stairway to first floor.
- #11 928 Main Street - Interior view of Shafer Grist Mill ground floor looking due west onto original work bench area. The majority of the hand tools associated with this work bench were used historically in mill's operation. Note, heavy hewn summer beam and vertical post support.
- #12 928 Main Street - Interior view of second floor of 1844 Shafer Grist Mill, looking due southeast. This general view records two custom grinding stone set up, chutes, and even the original tally desk to left foreground.
- #13 928 Main Street - Interior view of Shafer Grist Mill second floor onto easterly first flour grinding stone retaining all of its historic wooden mechanical parts and associated hand tools. Stone casing is Roof-Klemm historic rehabilitation from 1970's.
- #14 928 Main Street - Interior view of Shafer Grist Mill second floor custom grinding stone focusing on grain hooper feed, with its rich hand worn patina.
- #15 928 Main Street - Interior view of Shafer Grist Mill second floor of "museum" set up of second grinding stone, portraying use of one of the two original stone cranes to mill.

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Casper & Abraham Shafer Gristmill Complex
Stillwater Twp., Sussex Co., NJ

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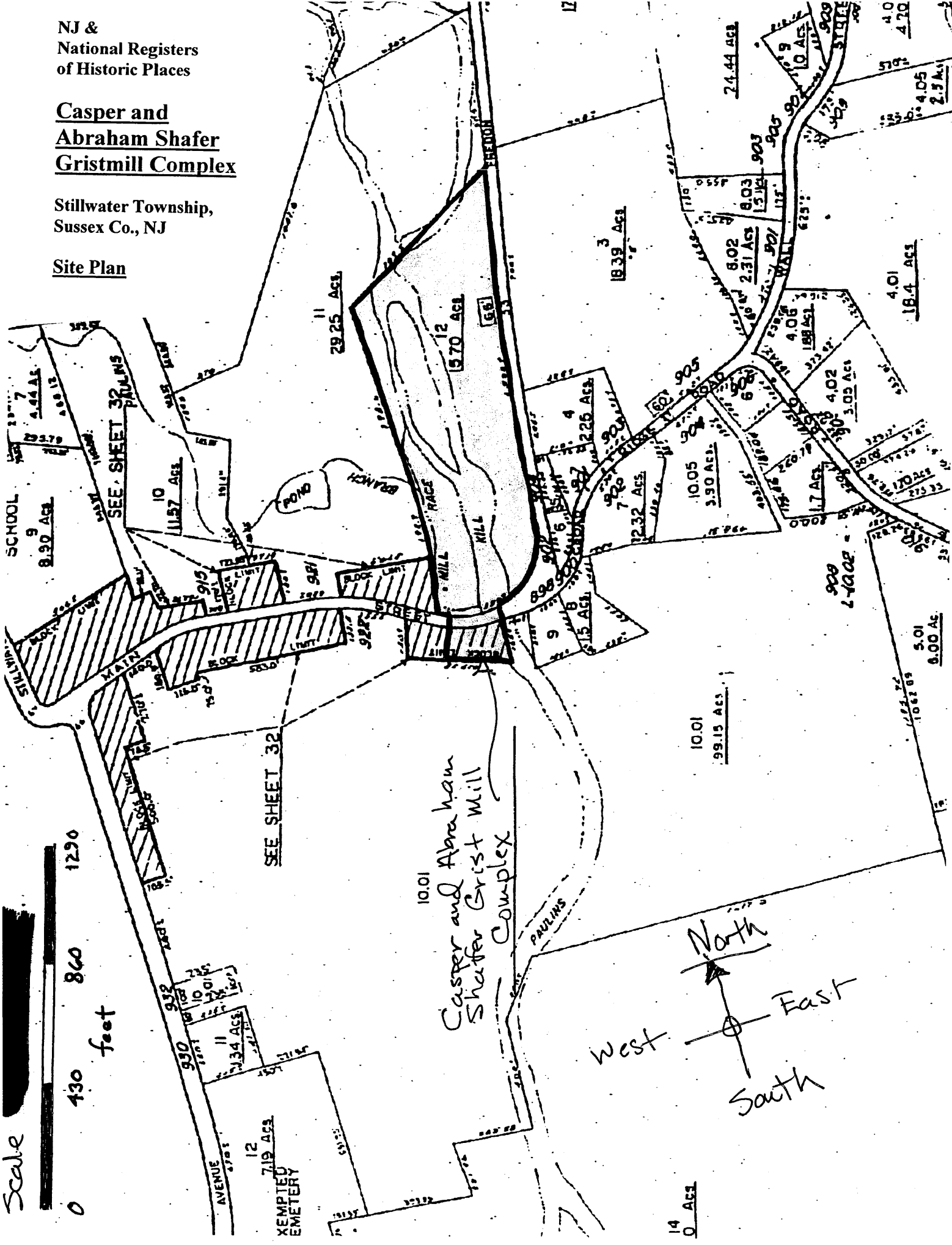
- #16 928 Main Street - Interior view of Shafer Grist Mill, second floor looking due east onto in-situ grain chute wood work adjacent to flour grinding stones, all original.
- #17 928 Main Street - Interior view of second floor looking due east. Broader view showing in-situ belt driven corn cob crusher to right of Shafer Grist Mill.
- #18 928 Main Street - Interior view, second floor looking due northwest showing open stair case to third floor, and board partition enclosed office to far left. Note, original tally desk in right corner foreground of Shafer Grist Mill.
- #19 928 Main Street - Interior view, second floor, looking due west towards enclosed original mill office, Shafer Grist Mill.
- #20 928 Main Street - Interior view of second floor mill office due northeast, with its original cast iron heating stove and office furniture, Shafer Grist Mill.
- #21 928 Main Street - Interior view of second floor mill office due southwest, Shafer Grist Mill.
- #22 928 Main Street - Interior view third floor of Shafer Grist Mill looking due east onto original chute grain elevator and belt driven equipment.
- #23 928 Main Street - Interior view third floor, of Shafer Grist Mill, looking due south on elevator, grain chutes and affiliated in-situ tubs and bins.
- #24 928 Main Street - Interior view third floor looking due southeast onto northerly installation of chute lines, bins and belt driven equipment, Shafer Grist Mill.
- #25 928 Main Street - Close up of chain driven heavy cast iron, corn sheller original to mill post civil war installation, Shafer Grist Mill.
- #26 928 Main Street - Close up of power transfer arrangement from central-vertical turbine powered shaft horizontally to third floor belting/power all original to Shafer Grist Mill.
- #27 928 Main Street - General view looking due northeast of third floor interior of Shafer Grist Mill, showing belt driven Cranson Curing Mixing & Separating Machine installed about 1893.
- #28 928 Main Street - Interior view third floor of Shafer Grist Mill, looking due northwest onto open tread stairway to attic/loft.
- #29 928 Main Street - Interior view of attic of Shafer Grist Mill looking due southeast. Note, heavy hand hewn bracing and supports for roof.
- #30 928 Main Street - Interior view of Shafer Grist Mill, showing original arrangement of grain elevator chute case work, associated bins, and on site stored historic equipment such as grinding stone in fore ground, looking due northwest.
- #31 928 Main Street - Interior view of attic of Shafer Grist Mill, looking due east onto original grain elevator chute casework, and affiliated power belting, all original.
- #32 928 Main Street - Interior view of attic of Shafer Grist Mill, showing peak of room that contains top belt power wheel at peak of grain elevator train, encased in its original wooden chute casework.
- #33 928 Main Street - Close up of power transfer gearing on attic floor of Shafer Grist Mill, original to site.
- #34 928 Main Street - Close up of the horizontal winding shaft of the automatic grain sack hoist, attic floor at Shafer Grist Mill.
- #35 928 Main Street - Detail view of heavy post and purlin supports for roof rafters, and attic at Shafer Grist Mill.
- #36 928 Main Street -View looking due northeast at rear of attic floor, double "Dutch" door to external grain sack overhead hoist at Shafer Grist Mill.
- #37 928 Main Street - View looking due southeast onto northeast frontal elevation of 1840's(?) Miller's House to Shafer Grist Mill. Note, porch has been removed since photo on main house section to left.

NJ &
National Registers
of Historic Places

**Casper and
Abraham Shafer
Gristmill Complex**

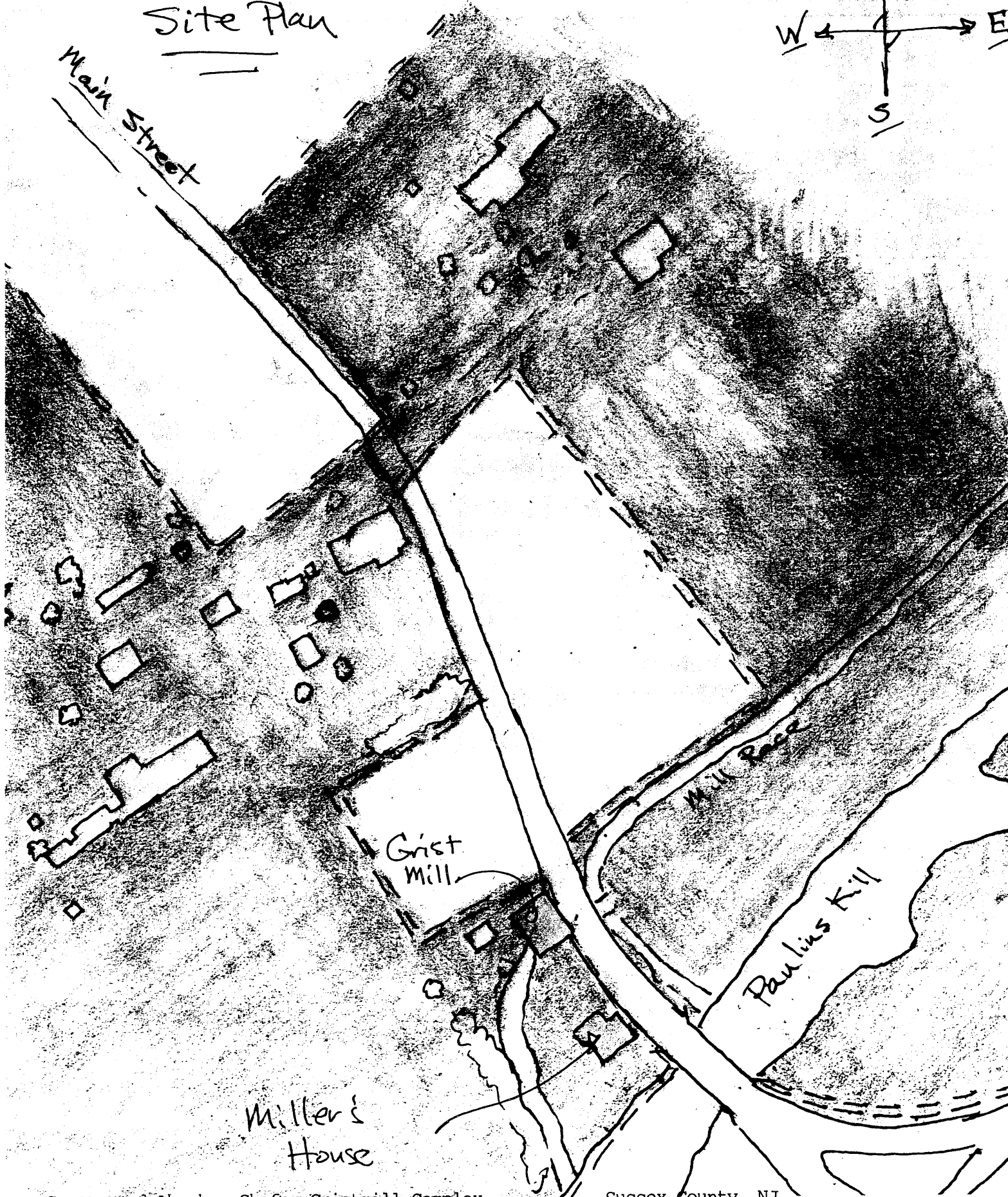
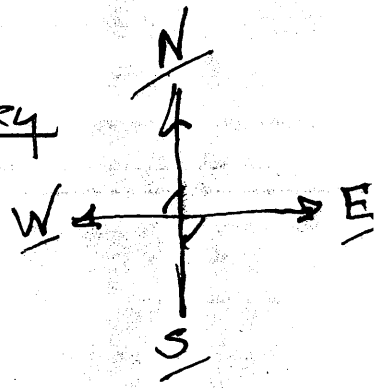
Stillwater Township,
Sussex Co., NJ

Site Plan

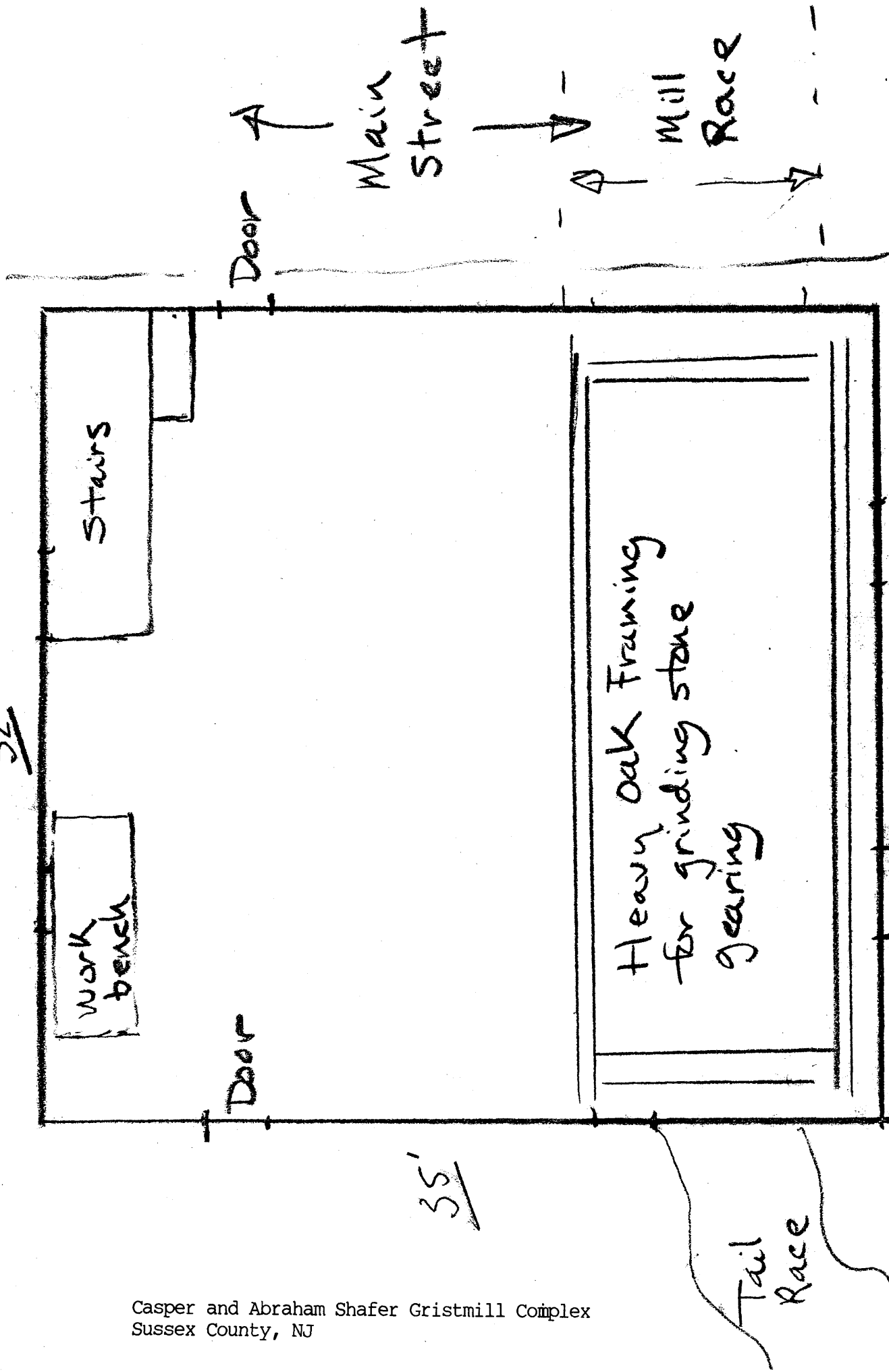


Casper and Abraham Shafer
Grist Mill Complex - 928 Main Street,
Stillwater Township, Sussex County, New Jersey

Site Plan



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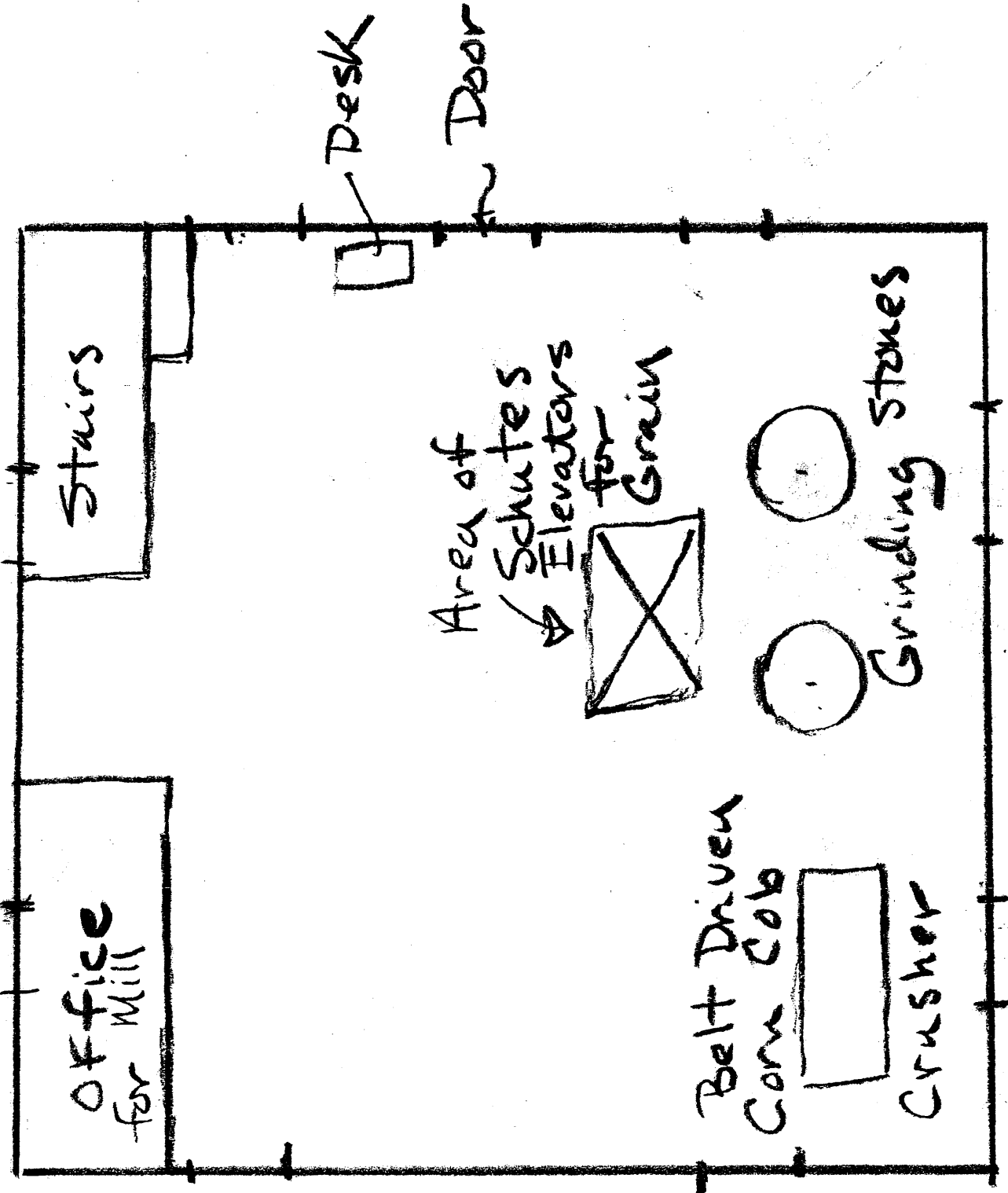


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Casper & Abraham Shafer Grist Mill - Still water
 Township
 New Jersey

Sketch Plan - First (Ground) Floor

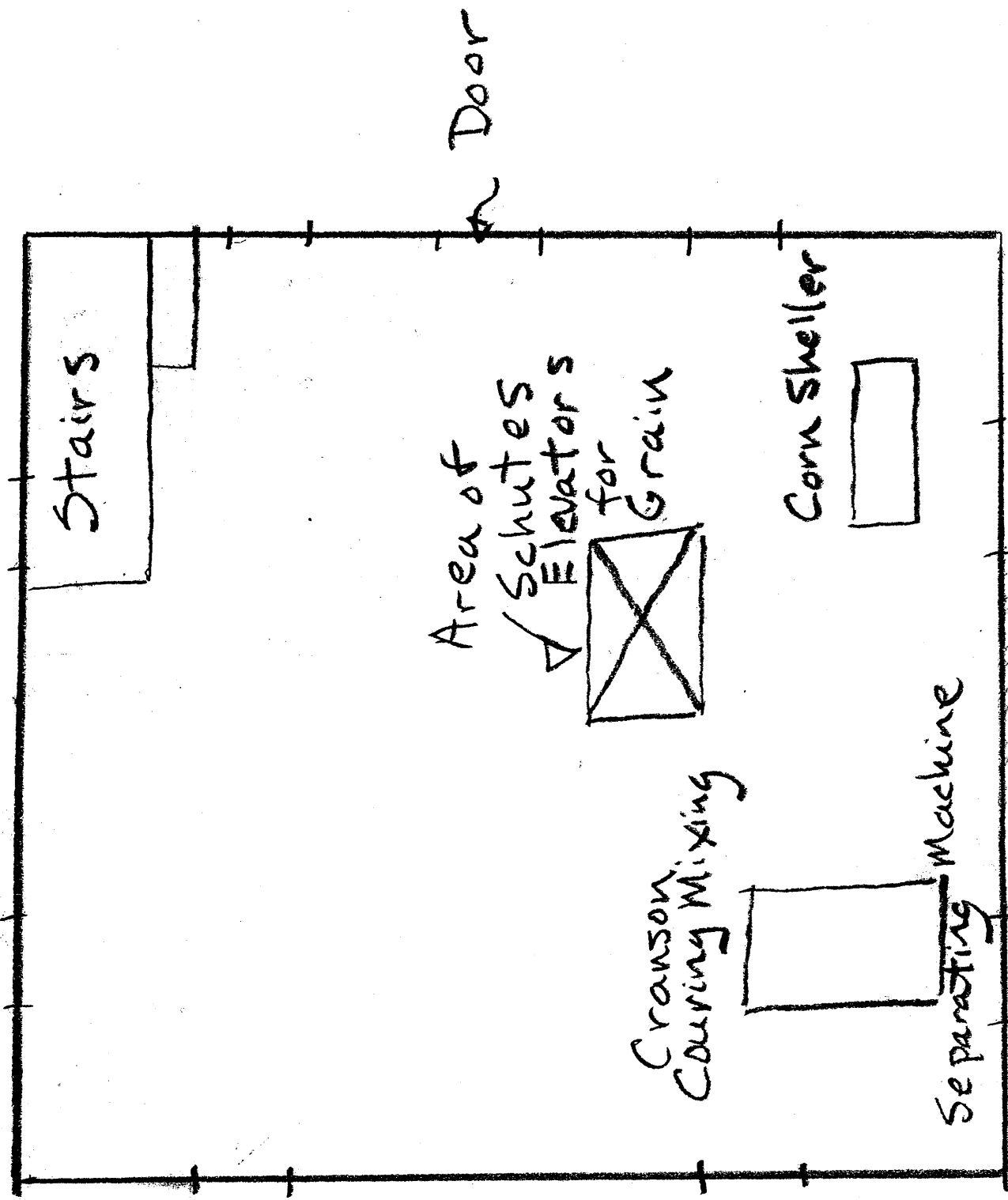
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Casper & Abraham Shafer Grist Mill - Stillwater Township New Jersey

Sketch Plan - Second Floor

32

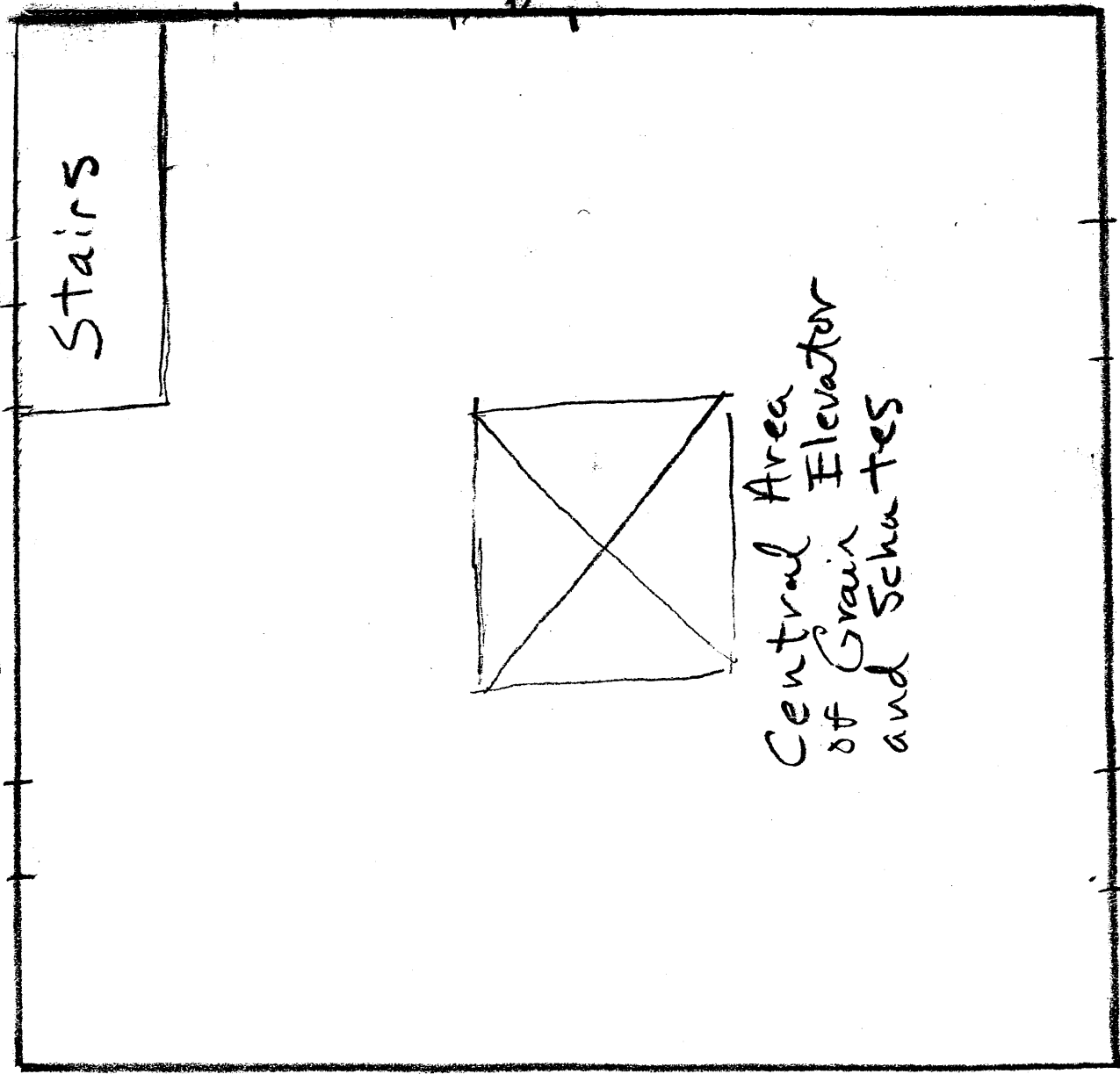


35'

Stillwater
Township
New Jersey

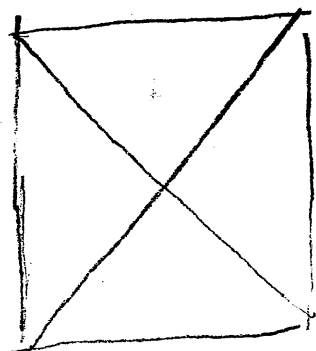
Casper and Abraham Shafer Grist Mill -
Sketch Plan - Third Floor

32'



Door

Stairs



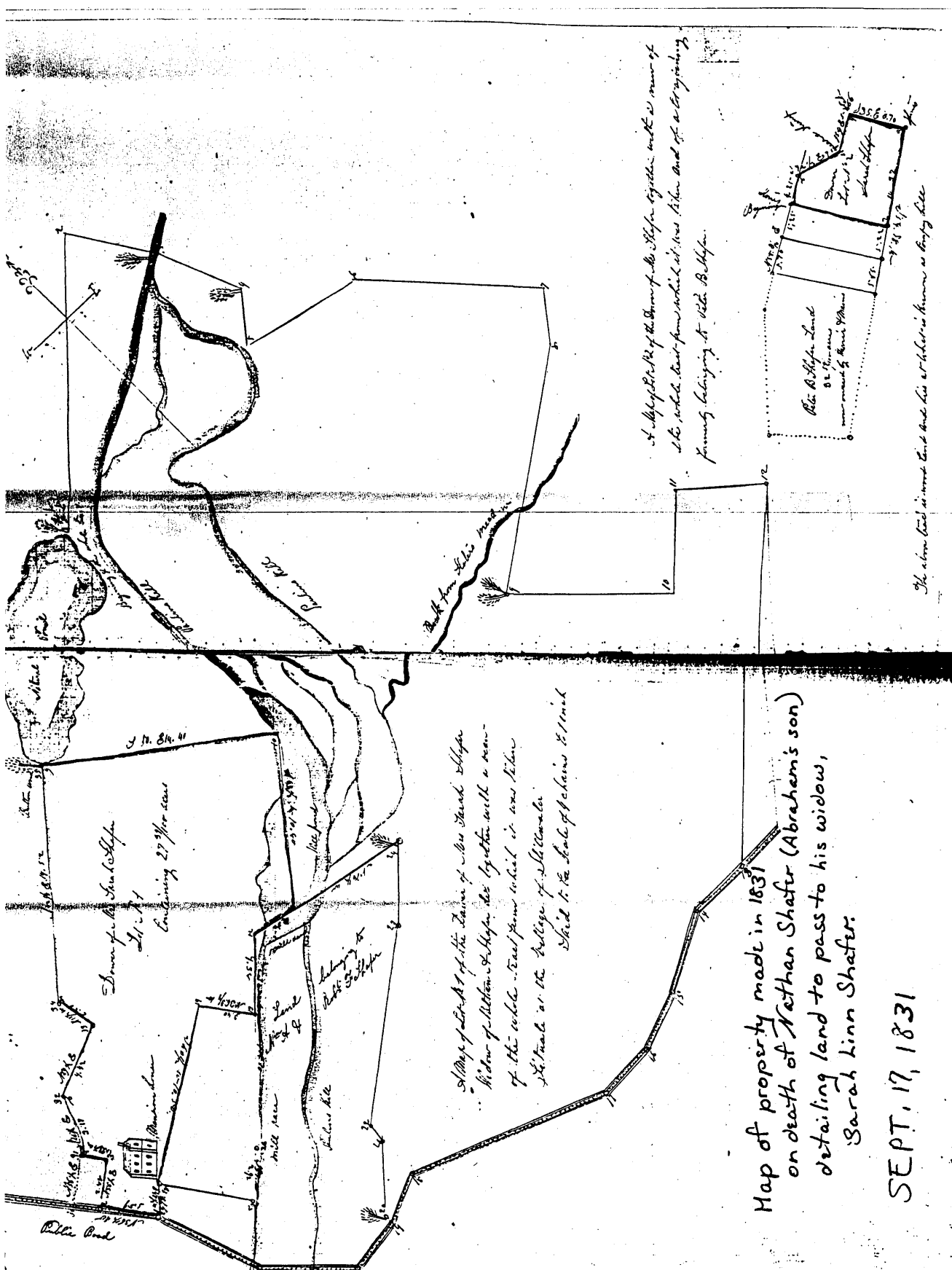
Central Area
of Grain Elevator
and Scales

35'

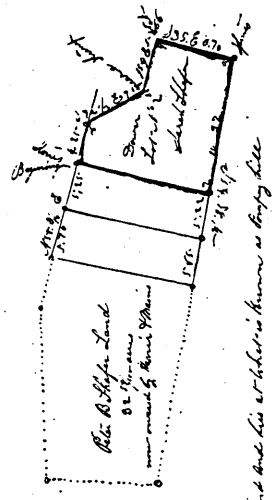
Stillwater
Township
New Jersey

Casper + Abraham Shafer Grist Mill -
Sketch Plan - Attic Level

Casper and Abraham Shafer Gristmill Complex, Sussex County, NJ



A map of 1/2 of the town of the Shafer together with a manor of the whole tract purchased at New Haven and of a large quantity of land belonging to Mrs. B. Shafer.



The above land is now owned and held by the heirs of the same as being the

A map of 1/2 of the town of Mrs. Sarah Shafer widow of Nathan Shafer, his together with a manor of the whole tract purchased at New Haven and of a large quantity of land belonging to Mrs. B. Shafer.

Map of property made in 1831
on death of Nathan Shafer (Abraham's son)
detailing land to pass to his widow,
Sarah Linn Shafer.

SEPT. 17, 1831

Stillwater's Miller

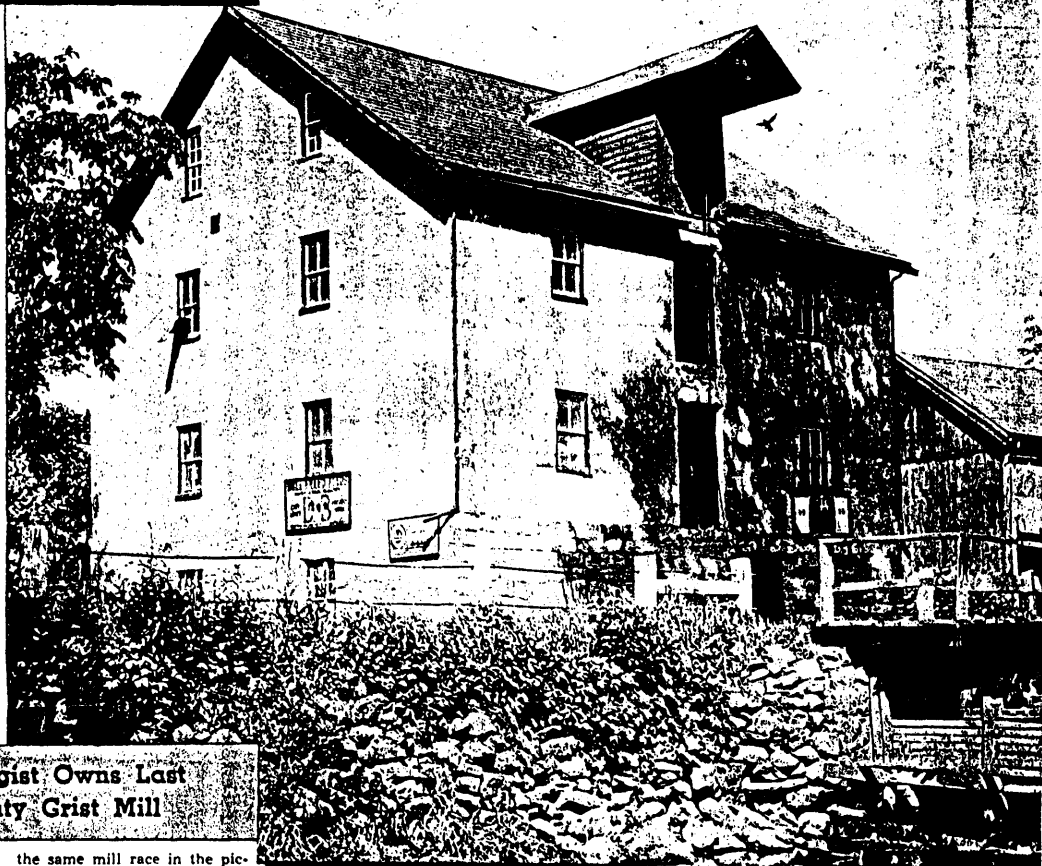
By BEA STERN

THE old mill in Stillwater, Sussex county, has never been converted into a tea room, an antique shop or a gift store. Established over 100 years ago to grind grain, it has been doing just that ever since. It is the last one still operating.

There is, however, one modern note. The miller is a woman.

For over a decade Mrs. Jane McCord has been operating the mill. She took over at her husband's death, but she already knew the ropes, for she had assisted him previously. While local folks know her as "Miller" McCord, those who recall the votes-for-women crusade remember her as Jane Olcott, close ally and lieutenant of suffrage leader Carrie Chapman Catt. She's Virginia-born, a graduate of Mt. Holyoke College. She came to New York as secretary of that state's women's suffrage association and became a nationally known organizer for Mrs. Catt.

It was not until after her marriage that her family and she were transplanted to New Jersey. Her husband, a chemist, found laboratory work very confining and she and daughter Lacy, now 22, had been mining for the outdoors, too. They wandered by chance into peaceful, scenic Stillwater, searching for a place to spend weekends and holidays. The mill and two adjoining houses were for sale. They gambled on entering a new field, bought the property and, according to



Former Suffragist Owns Last Sussex County Grist Mill

Mrs. McCord, have "made a living" ever since. She says nothing would induce her to return to city life again.

ALTHOUGH Stillwater Mill has never "converted," Jane Olcott certainly has. In dust coat and with a close cap pulled over her hair, she was loading 100-pound bags on a hand truck and passing them out to waiting customers when a reporter called. Labor shortage is plaguing her here, as it does executives everywhere, so she pitches in herself. Her 15-year-old son, a student at Newton High School, helps when he can. He is on the mill payroll and "of invaluable assistance," his mother says.

With the same musical voice, clear enunciation and exceptional vocabulary which once exhorted audiences to rally for women's rights, Jane Olcott told of her business career.

"There may be other women in the feed business in New Jersey, but I don't know of any," she said.

Modern machinery, she explained, has been driving the old grist mills to the wall. During her time the mills in Flanders, Andover, Sparta, Wintermute's Corners, Branchville, Blairtown have all closed. She augments her own mill activities by buying feed in carload lots from Buffalo.

She claims that many farmers still prefer the finer grind afforded by her ancient 1,800-pound mill stones to a coarser machine-ground output. This, she asserted, is especially true of flour and whole wheat products. Her power comes from

the same mill race in the picturesque Paulinskill under her window which has operated since 1764. As water power is considerably cheaper than the commercial power used by her competitors, she is that much ahead of the game, she contends.

"I have a small, but good, solidly established business," she said. She finds her work of never failing interest. She must follow the market, crop reports, weather conditions. Her contacts have brought her a rich harvest.

"I am constantly amazed at the breadth of the farmer's knowledge," she stated. "This talk of organizing him into labor unions is absurd. He is in every sense an executive. If farmers band together it should be as business men, as do chambers of commerce, manufacturers' associations and similar management groups."

THE farmer, once accused of carelessness in keeping accounts, has learned a great deal because of the income tax, in her opinion. At first she helped her farm neighbors to make out their returns. Now they are doing their own figuring and have been shocked into financial awareness when confronted with the totals of their actual expenses, she said.

The Schaeffer family, founders of Stillwater, built the town's first grist mill in 1743, about a quarter of a mile from the present one. It was able to turn out only three or four bushels of grain a day. In 1764 the mill moved to its present site, but was destroyed by fire in 1840. It took four years,



Stillwater mill, which has been grinding grain for more than 100 years. Owned by a woman, it is last of its kind operating in Sussex county.



Mrs. Jane McCord, operator of Stillwater grist mill. As Jane Olcott, she was one of crusaders for votes for women.

June 30, 1946

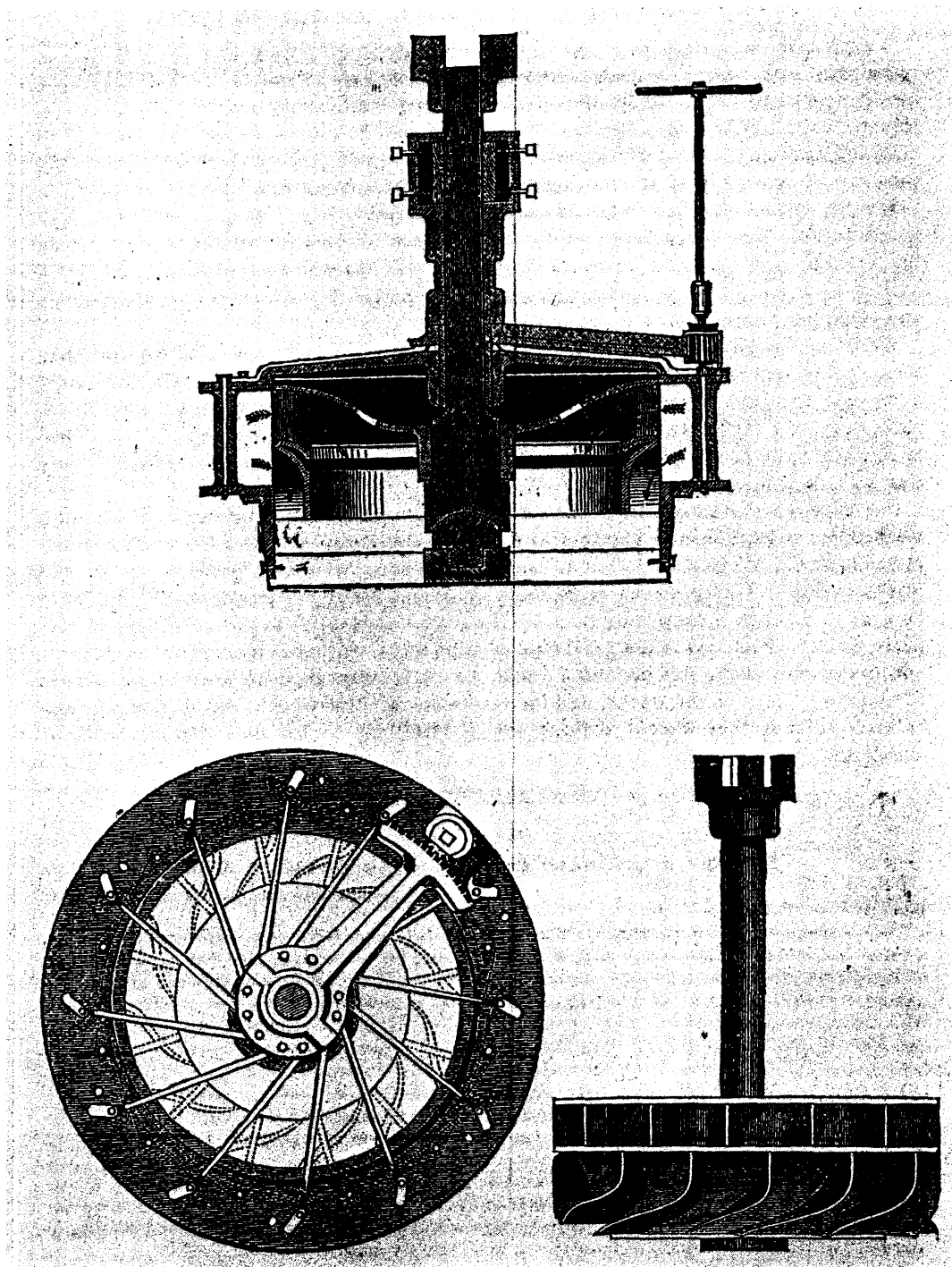
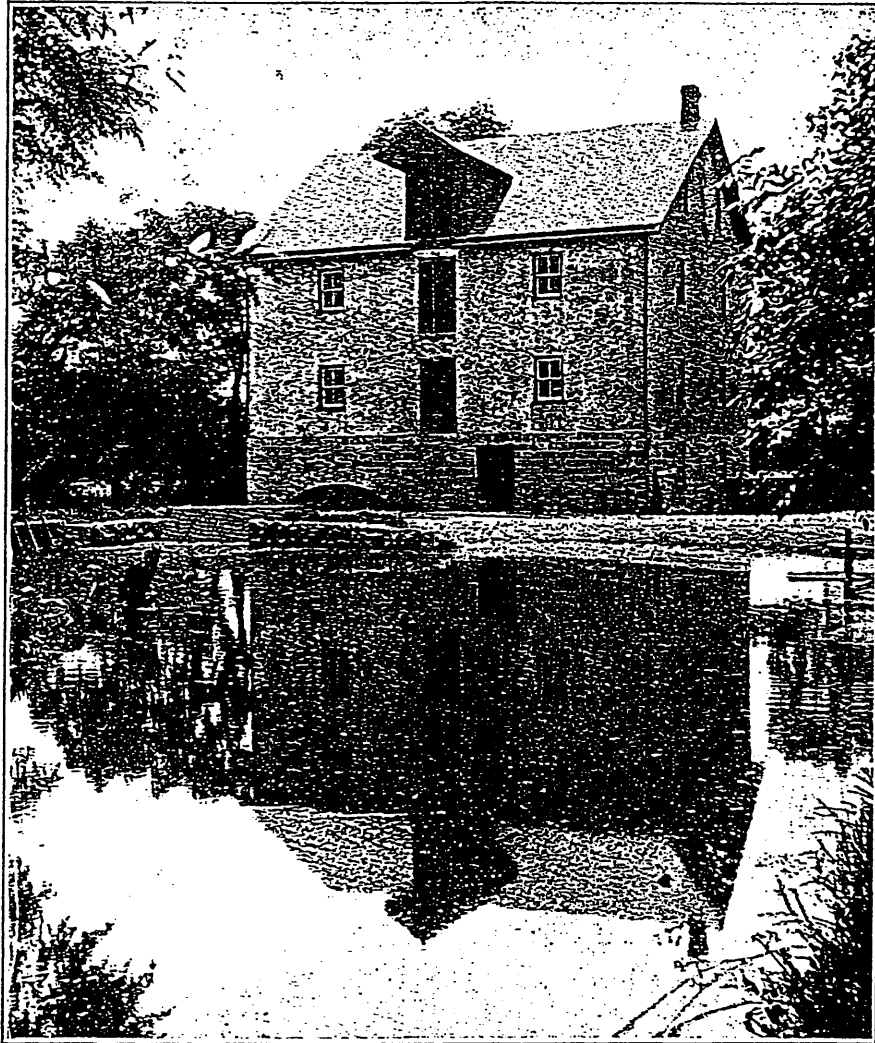


Fig. 82. Leffel's double turbine waterwheel. The upper section of this wheel is of the conventional inward-flow type. In the lower section the buckets are of mixed-flow design, which channels the water inward and then downward. (James Leffel Co., *Leffel's American Double Turbine Water-wheel* [Springfield, Ohio, 1869].)

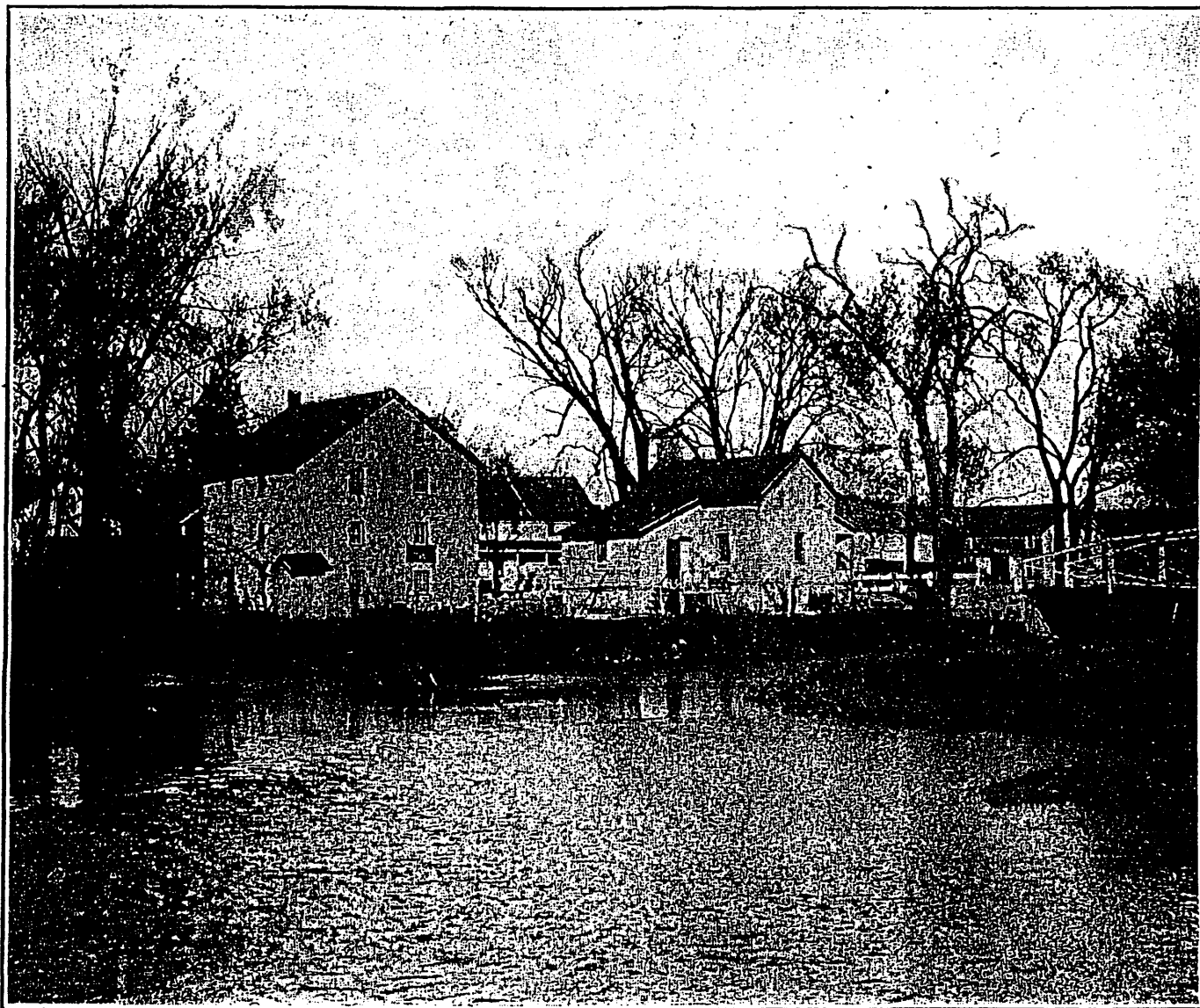
Casper and Abraham Shafer Gristmill Complex, Sussex County, NJ



Stone Mill, erected 1844.

View of the 1844 Schaeffer Grist Mill showing the mill race in foreground and the mill's northerly elevation along Main Street, taken 1907.

Source: Memoirs and Reminiscences together with Sketches of the Early History of Sussex County, New Jersey by Rev. Casper Schaeffer, compiled by W. Johnson, pub. 1907



STILLWATER, WHERE THE PAULINSKILL RUNS DEEP

View of the Miller's House (foreground) and the Schaeffer Grist Mill in Stillwater Village taken in the 1920s, southerly elevations.

Source: "The Top of New Jersey: A Study of Sussex County", pub. 1920s (?)

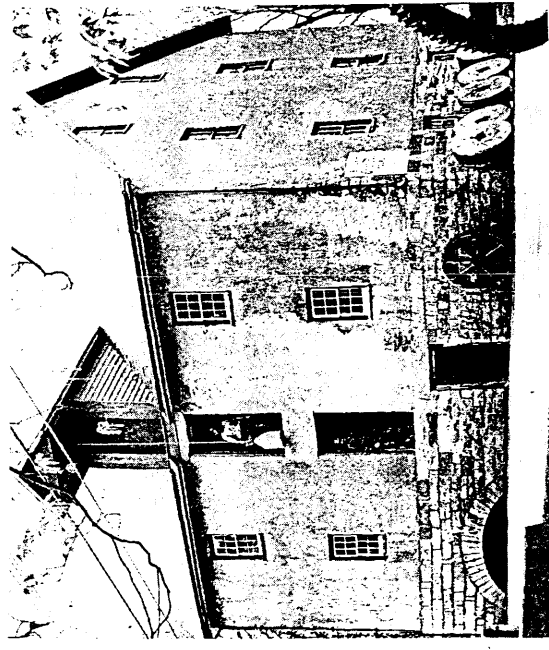
Casper and Abraham Shafer Gristmill Complex, Sussex County, NJ

How to get here: Casper and Abraham Shafer Gristmill Complex, Sussex County, NJ

Stillwater Grist Mills

Est. 1764

Stillwater, New Jersey



FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

Guided Tour thru Working Mill

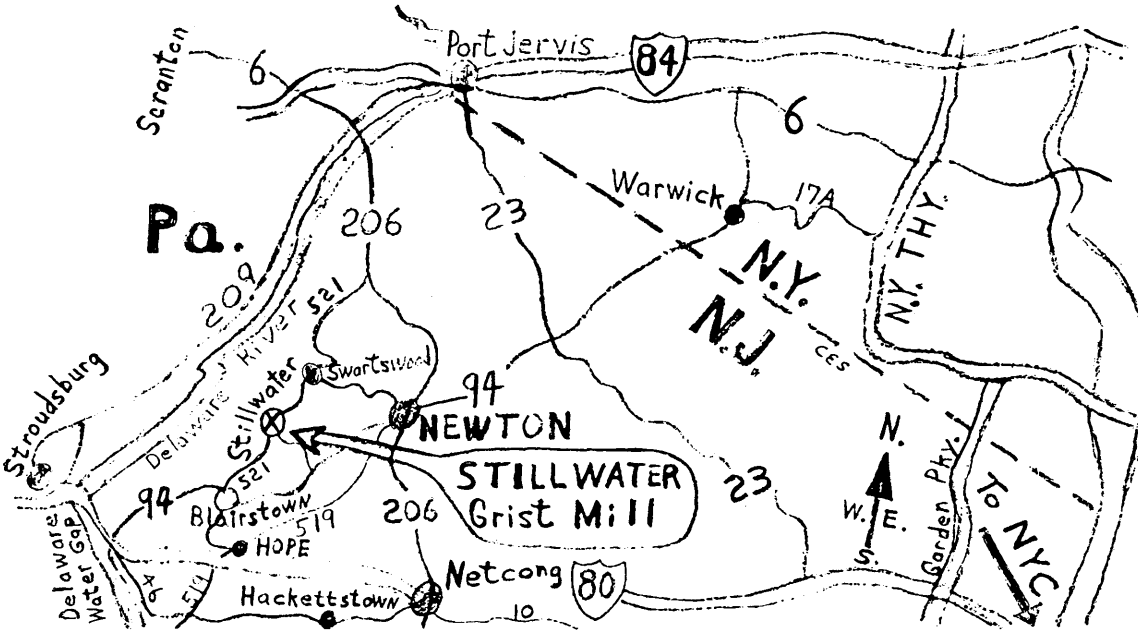
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Hay Rides

Nature Walks

Fishing

Live Farm Animals



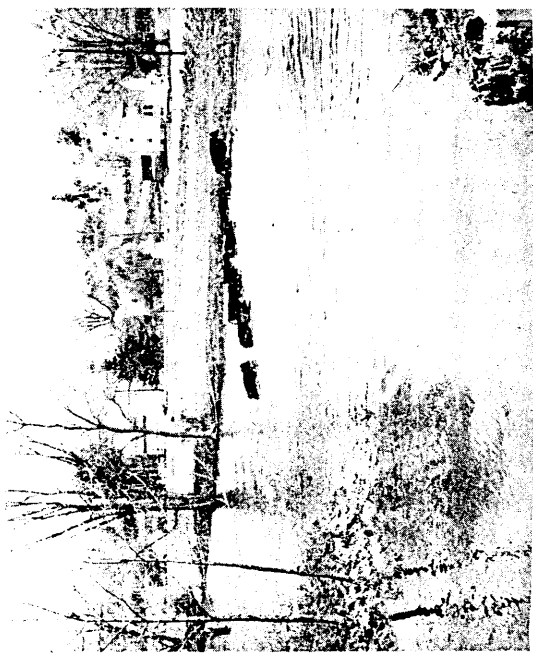
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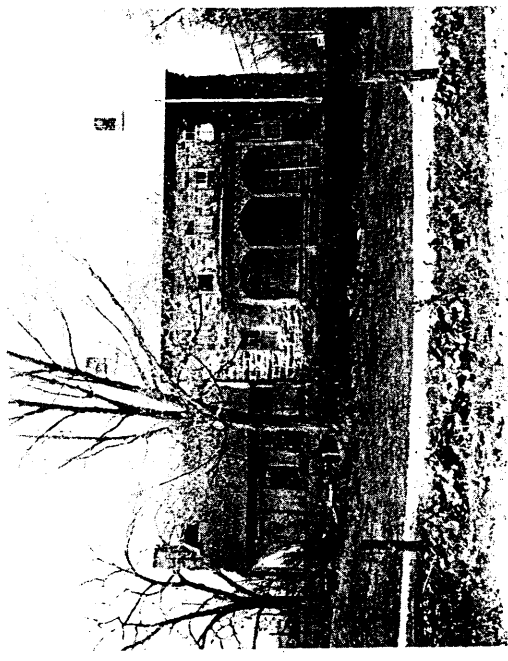
383-4822 or 383-3409

Children 50¢

Adults \$1.00



The cattle of the Stillwater Mills Farm wade through the Kill for a refreshing drink and dip on a warm sunny day.



The home of Casper Schafer, founder of Stillwater Mills. The wooden section was built in 1741 and the stone part in 1751. Inside, it is still furnished as in the olden days.

In 1972 two local farmers, Willard Klemm and Gus Roof purchased the mill and have put it into production again.

The mill, fascinating to watch in operation, is again grinding corn and wheat by the old fashioned method, and everything is done by water power - there is no electricity.

Included with the mill is a collection of old time farm machinery, some of which can be operated by the visitors themselves, (i.e. the cornsheller).

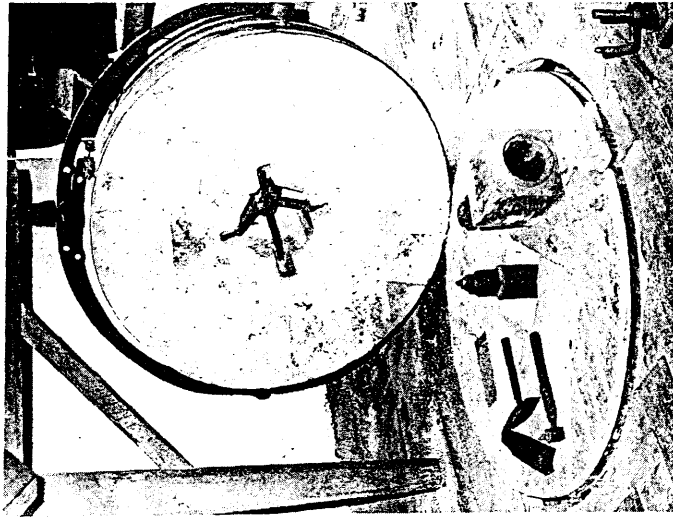


Stillwater Mills seen from across the road with water feeding into the mill race in the foreground.

The millers (as they like to be called) own 400 acres of farmland and plan to raise most of their own rye, corn, wheat, buckwheat and oats. The eel baskets will again be catching eels for sale during the fall season.



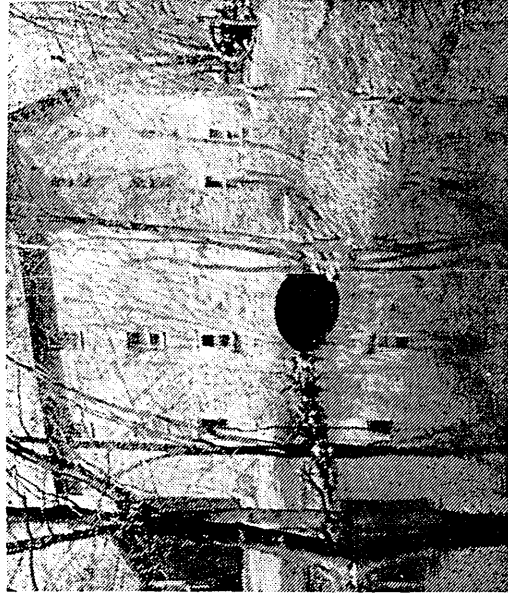
Corn in the mill, waiting to be ground.



Even grindstones have to be sharpened, and each stone in the Stillwater Mills have a special screw - and - tongs arrangement to lift up the ton heavy stones for sharpening.

Even before the American Revolution there was a grist mill in the town of Stillwater along the Paulins-kill. The first one was built in 1741 by Casper Shafer about 1/2 mile from the present site of the Stillwater Grist Mills. The capacity of this mill was the grinding of three to five bushels per day, but it met the needs of the farmers for many miles around.

The mill was moved to the present site in 1764 and operated until 1840 when the building was destroyed by fire. The present mill was built in 1844 with many of the same stones used in the original building. This mill was equipped with conveyors (or elevators) for the grain and was a vast improvement over the previous one which was primitive in operation.



Having run through the mill and turned the turbine that puts all the machinery in operation, the mill race comes out again to find its way down to the Paulins Kill.