

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED SEP 9 1975
DATE ENTERED NOV 12 1975

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC Wall Street Mill

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER Not applicable 307 Twentynine Palms on Joshua Tree Rd

— NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

CITY, TOWN Joshua Tree National Monument VICINITY OF Twentynine Palms Forty-third

STATE California CODE 06 COUNTY San Bernardino CODE 071

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 AGENCY

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (if applicable)
National Park Service - Western Region Office

STREET & NUMBER
450 Golden Gate Avenue Box 36063

CITY, TOWN San Francisco VICINITY OF STATE California (94102)

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. San Bernardino County Recorder's Office

STREET & NUMBER
172 West Third Street

CITY, TOWN San Bernardino STATE California (92415)

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

— FEDERAL — STATE — COUNTY — LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input 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 Wall Street Mill complex consisted of four structures: the mill and its machinery; the well and accompanying pump; a bunk house, now partially collapsed; an outhouse or privy, now almost totally collapsed.

The stamp mill building is framed with heavy timber and built on a downward sloping hillside to take advantage of gravity in the milling process. The roof and some of the exterior walls are covered with corrugated sheet metal, while some of the exterior walls have either vertical or horizontal wooden siding. At the top of the building a long wooden ramp supports the track of an ore tramway which carried ore from where it was unloaded from trucks to the top of the mill above the two-stamp Baker Iron Works crusher. A gasoline engine powered the mill; it was built by the Western Gas Engine Company of Los Angeles under patents dated 1906. It had a speed of 340 revolutions per minute. A Myer concentrating table was used in separating the gold from the ore.

This mill building is generally in good condition, although missing various windows, some floor boards and a stair.

The bunk house was a two storey structure which has partially collapsed in such fashion that it is difficult to ascertain what the original configuration of the building was. The walls are of wood frame construction, built directly on the earth without foundations. These walls are covered with rolled mineral surface paper held in place by broad-headed nails and wooden battens. There is no stair to the second floor and apparently never was one--access must have been by exterior ladder. The ground floor featured a bedroom, a kitchen, and a living room or parlor with a rubble stone fireplace. Crudely and flimsily built and much decayed, this bunkhouse is not regarded as being of significance.

The outhouse or privy, located some distance from the bunkhouse, is in an advanced state of collapse. The roof is missing except for three rafters; part of one side wall is gone; the door is missing; there is a large gap in the front wall beside the missing door. Like the bunkhouse, this ruin is not regarded as being of significance.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) Mining technology
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES c. 1933-present

BUILDER/ARCHITECT William F. Keys

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Wall Street Mill is of local technological/mechanical significance under the general category of Industry. The significance is due to the fact that it is a complete and operable gold ore crushing mill featuring late-19th Century two-stamp mill machinery. Consequently the significance encompasses the mill machinery, the building which houses it, the well which supplied water for the mill's operation, and the well pump. The adjacent, partially collapsed two-storey bunk house and the nearby collapsed outhouse or privy are regarded as irrelevant to the significance of the property.

The historical background is as follows:

The well at this location was used as early as 1896 to supply water for cattle, but it was not until 1928 that Earl McInnes and Oren Booth filed a claim on the well and adjacent land for use as a mill site. They may have built at least part of the frame bunkhouse. By July, 1930, however, they had sold out to William F. Keys and his wife, who recorded their ownership on July 9, 1930.

The two-stamp gold ore crushing mill was built by the Baker Iron Works in Los Angeles for E. Holland & Company in 1891. This was much smaller than the mill plants usually employed in important mines, yet much more sophisticated equipment than the average prospector and miner could afford. It was shipped probably by rail to Indio, then by wagon up Blue Cut Canon to Pinon Wells where initially it was used. About 1912 it passed to Sherwood & Company, and reportedly milled ore from the Dewey Mine.

Bill Keys reportedly purchased the mill in 1932 or 1933, and it was apparently he who moved it to its present site and erected the rather crude building which housed it. Keys operated the mill intermittently for about ten years, using it to crush ore from his various claims and, for a fee, to crush ore for other prospectors in the region who had no milling plant of their own. The plant apparently employed a mercury amalgamation process to recover the gold after the ore was crushed.

In 1943, Keys was sentenced to a term in San Quentin Prison and his mill closed. In 1947 or 1948, one of Keys' sons used the mill for about a year and a half. It remained idle from 1949 until the spring of 1966 when Keys, now paroled and pardoned, reopened the mill and operated it briefly, perhaps as much for sentimental as for practical reasons. It then shut down for the last time, although the plant is sufficiently complete that with a small investment of time and labor it could again be made operable.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Perkins Papers, Joshua Tree National Monument Library
 Fact File, Joshua Tree National Monument Library

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 15

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,1	58,015,5	3,76,64,0,5	B	1,1	58,016,0	3,76,62,0,5
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	1,1	57,99,0,0	3,76,62,0,0	D	1,1	57,98,9,5	3,76,64,0,0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundary is a rectangle, with its longer axis running east and west, the corners specified in the above UTM references.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Gordon Chappell, Regional Historian

June 10, 1975

ORGANIZATION

National Park Service - Western Region Office

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

450 Golden Gate Avenue - Box 36063

TELEPHONE

(415) 556-4165

CITY OR TOWN

San Francisco

STATE

California (9/102)

12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES

NO

NONE

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Herbert Modes

In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register, certifying that the State Historic Preservation Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to present the nomination to the State Review Board and to evaluate its significance. The evaluated level of significance is National State Local.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

Deputy Assistant Secretary

TITLE **Deputy Assistant Secretary**

DATE **SEP 5 1975**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Acting

James A. Peterson

DATE **11/12/75**

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE **NOV 11 1975**

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER