

TENNESSEE MULTIPLE PROPERTY FORM

RECEIVED

Title: Historic Resources of Williamson County

MAR 03 1983

Historic Name: Boyd Mill Ruins (WM-990)

Common Name: Boyd Mill Ruins

NATIONAL REGISTER

Classification: Site

Owner: Edwin B. Manning, Route # 4, Boxley Valley Road, Franklin, TN 37064.

Location: Along the east bank of the West Harpeth River one tenth of a mile south of the junction of Boxley Valley Road and Boyd Mill Pike.

<u>Contributing:</u>		<u>Non-Contributing:</u>	
Buildings	0	Buildings	0
Structures	0	Structures:	0
Sites	1	Sites	0
<u>Total:</u>	1	<u>Total:</u>	0

Description:

The site of Boyd's Mill is located along the east bank of the West Harpeth River. The site consists of the limestone foundations of the mill building which collapsed ca. 1900. The foundations on the bank consist of large stone piers spaced four to five feet apart which supported the original three story mill building. Along the river's edge are large stone foundations which supported the section of the mill constructed over the river bank. The area along the riverbank clearly shows the mill race and turbine pit used to operate the mill. Scattered about in the foundations are wood siding and other materials of the mill building. The site is located in a wooded area off of the old route of Boxley Valley Road.

Period of Significance: ca. 1840 - ca. 1900

Area of Significance: A

Criterion: Industry

Architect/Builder: Unknown

Statement of Significance:

The Boyd's Mill Ruins are the best preserved remains of a 19th century grist mill complex in Williamson County. During the early 1800s many grist mills were constructed along the Harpeth and West Harpeth Rivers in the county and they were an important industry of the 19th century. They supplied much of the flour and meal in the county until the advent of steam and gas powered engines in the late 19th and early 20th century. Gradually all of the mills in the county were abandoned or razed and no standing grist mill remains. The majority of mill sites in the county are no longer visible or consist only of deteriorated stone dams. The notable exception is the Boyd's Mill site which features its original limestone foundations and turbine pit.

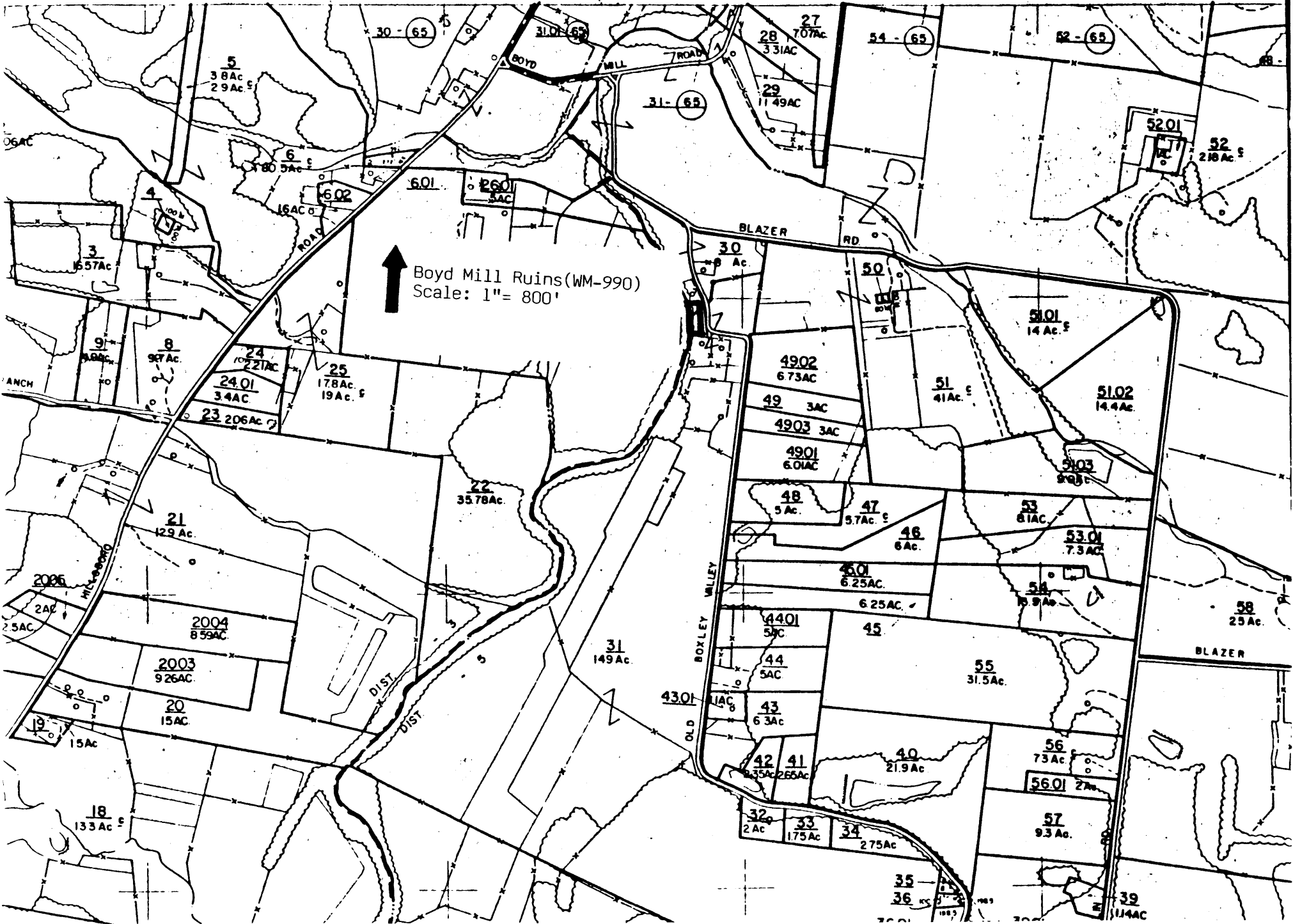
Boyd's Mill was constructed ca. 1840 by William A. Boyd. Boyd was the son of William Irby Boyd who constructed a nearby log cabin ca. 1800 (WM-999). The mill was a turbine powered grist mill which served the needs of the local farmers and residents. The mill building was a large two-story frame structure with a gable roof and one-story wing. The mill was a landmark in the community for many years and the road which runs nearby is still called Boyd's Mill Road. The mill continued in operation until the early 1900s when it collapsed in a storm. The ruins of the mill include the turbine pit and large limestone foundations. The mill ruins are the most visible and extensive of any historic mill site in the county.

Acreage: Less than 1 acre

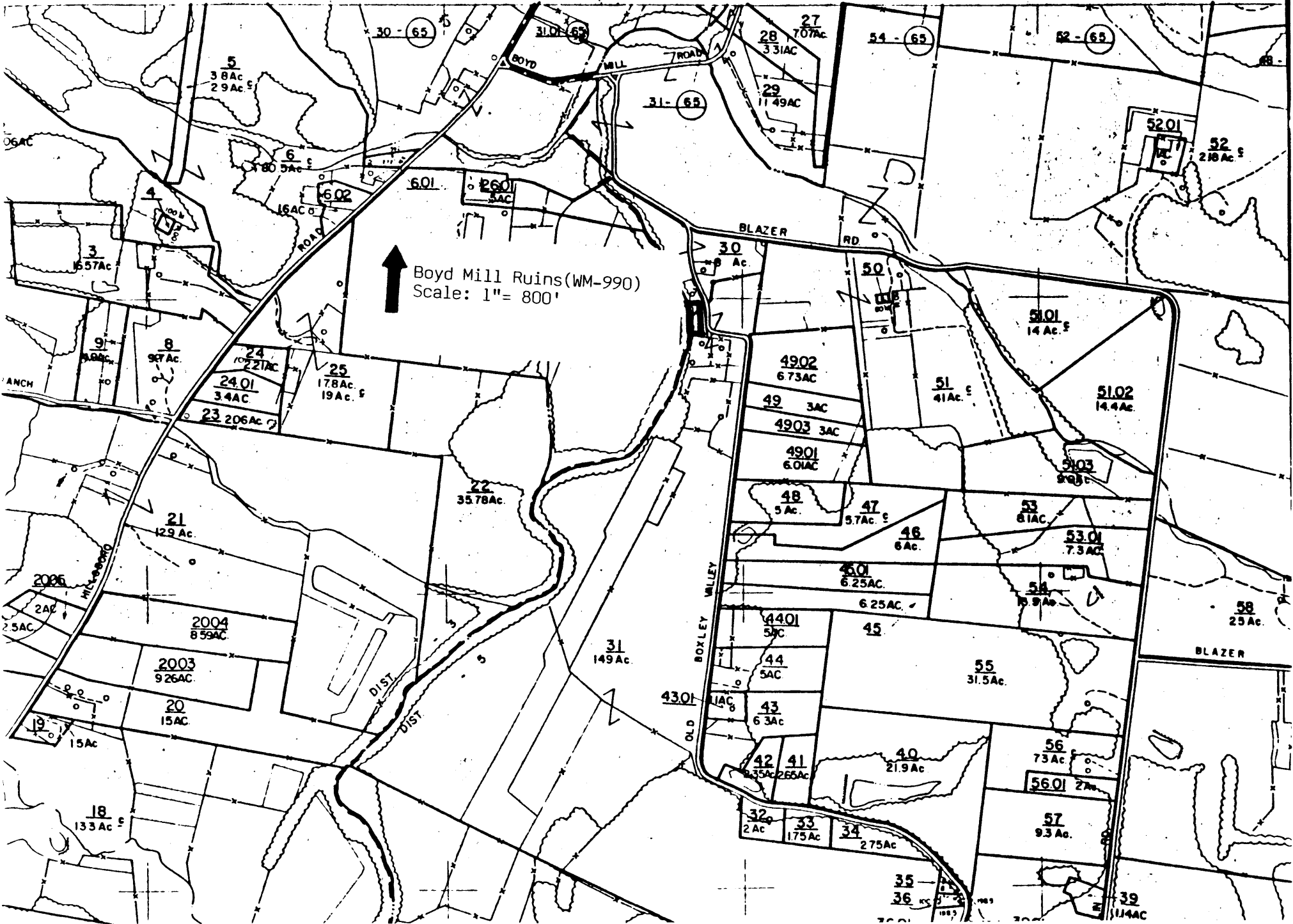
UTM References: Leipers Fork Quad/16/502970/3974970

Verbal Boundary Description and Justification: The boundary for the Boyd's Mill site is illustrated on accompanying Williamson County tax map # 76, lot 31. The boundary is drawn to include the mill dam, turbine pit and stone foundations. The boundary is defined on the west by the west bank of West Harpeth River, on the east by the Boxley Valley Road and on the north and south by wire fences. The boundary includes sufficient property to protect the historical setting of the site.

Supplemental Bibliographical References: Historic Williamson County, Bowman

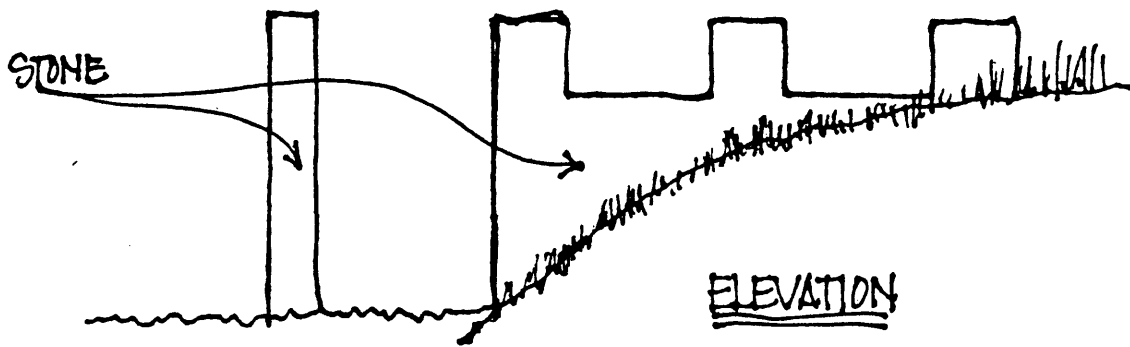
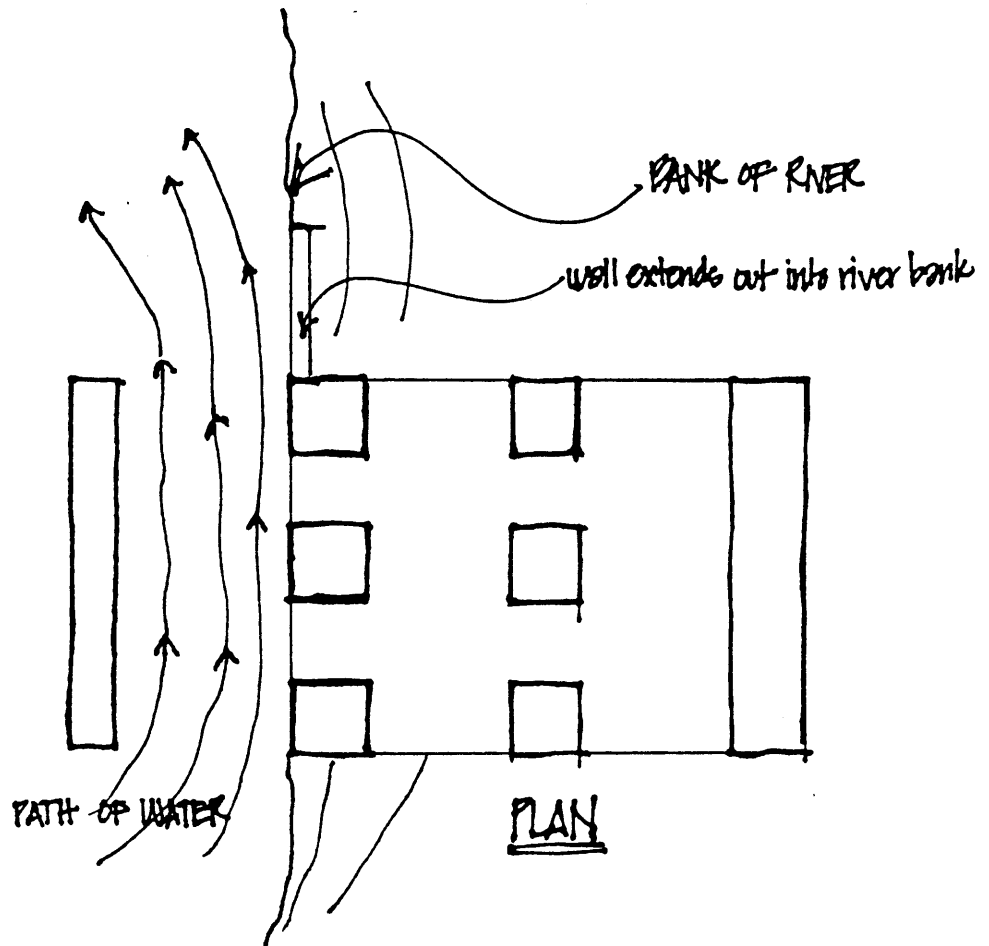


↑ Boyd Mill Ruins (WM-990)
Scale: 1" = 800'



↑ Boyd Mill Ruins (WM-990)
Scale: 1" = 800'

#990 BOYD MILL RUINS



* NOT TO SCALE