

MAR 11 1982

FHR-8-300 (11-78)

Handwritten notes: "General... not reviewed"

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

For HCRS use only

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received FEB 29 1980

date entered

MAR 23 1982

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic

DANIEL CRAGIN MILL

and/or common

FRYE'S MEASURE MILL - E.B. FRYE & SON

2. Location

W of Wilton at

street & number

Jct. of Davisville Road & Burton Highway ^{Hwy.}

not for publication

city, town

Wilton *me.*

vicinity of

congressional district

Second

state

New Hampshire

code 33

county

Hillsborough

code

011

3. Classification

Category

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

Ownership

- public
 - private
 - both
- Public Acquisition**
- in process
 - being considered

Status

- occupied
 - unoccupied
 - work in progress
- Accessible**
- yes: restricted
 - yes: unrestricted
 - no

Present Use

- agriculture
- commercial
- educational
- entertainment
- government
- industrial
- military
- museum
- park
- private residence
- religious
- scientific
- transportation
- other:

4. Owner of Property

name

Harland H. Savage, Jr. & Pamela Savage

street & number

RFD #1

city, town

Wilton

vicinity of

state New Hampshire

03086

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc.

Hillsborough County Register of Deeds

street & number

19 Temple Street, Box 370

city, town

Nashua

state New Hampshire

03060

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title

Historic American Engineering Record has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date

1974

federal

state

county

local

depository for survey records

US Department of Interior

city, town

Washington

state DC

20240

7. Description

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

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Daniel Cragin Mill complex consists of a series of connected structures dating from 1817 until the present. The mill has been in continuous operation in the manufacture of wooden products since 1858. The original structure was built in 1817. A brick and stone foundation supports the mortise and tenon construction. The building was renovated and enlarged in later years. A later dormer was also added. An elaborate leatherbelt system dominates the whole building. The electrically powered elevator was originally operated by water power.

Cragin's first addition was made in the late nineteenth century. It, too, is of mortise and tenon construction on a brick foundation. A massive 70 foot high chimney dated 1891 serves this structure along with a smaller brick chimney. The wood or coal boiler is located here along with the one cylinder steam engine, an alternate method of powering the mill (made by Kendall and Roberts of Cambridgeport, Massachusetts). Again, overhead water powered drive shafts and leatherbelt power runs to many locations. Visible on the third floor is a saltbox rafter system. A gravity operated wooden product tube originates on the third floor and extends throughout the building.

The Cragin sawmill addition was built after the first addition but prior to 1909. It is built on a dry stone foundation with sawn joists, in contrast to the earlier construction methods. A printing shop is located in the top floor which manufactures labels, cards and advertising pamphlets for the mill. The sawmill addition was extended at a later time to include an addition. The veneer chopper room (dating from approximately 1900) utilized trees as joists. The leatherbelt system extends to this area also. The metal lathe room (1928) portrays the first use of a concrete foundation. Sawn beams, tree joists and round-edge boards are utilized in the construction of this section as well as 2" x 6" braces. A heavy concentration of leatherbelt drive shafts is located here. The veneer room (1952), veneer tanks (1943), dry kiln areas (1948) and gas engine room (1952) are smaller additions to the mill complex.

In 1930, Cragin's barn (1815) was moved to its present site across the stream from the main mill. This post and beam structure is connected to the mill by an enclosed elevated walkway over the stream. A large hoist is located on the mill property that was used for unloading and moving logs from trucks into the sawmill.

In conclusion, the Daniel Cragin mill exhibits timber framing construction from 1817 to almost the present day in one site. Although the mill building of 1817 is disguised by numerous additions built around it, its outline is distinguishable and the physical aspect of this section is sound and unaltered. Later additions show advancements in building technology and machinery.

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

Specific dates 1858 to 1900 **Builder/Architect** Original Building: Unknown
 1858-1909 Additions: Daniel Cragin
 1909-1952 Additions: Whitney Frye

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Industry and Invention: Daniel Cragin is most appropriately described as ingenious, self-sufficient, and a jack-of-all-trades. In 1858 he established a small woodworking shop in the northwest corner of Wilton, New Hampshire. The original manufacture of knife boxes and toys was expanded to include dry measures and piggins and eventually round and oval veneer pantry boxes. Cragin's shop, along with the original water-powered machinery and implements of the nineteenth century, survive today.

The following excerpts from the History of Wilton, New Hampshire, 1888, best summarize Cragin's abilities:

Inventor

Daniel Cragin: a bending machine for the manufacture of dry measures, etc.; a machine for sealing measures; a machine for pressing in the bottoms of measures and boxes; and other machines for labor saving in the manufacture of measures and boxes.¹

Biographical Sketch

...Cragin purchased a small building on the site of his present factory... soon after this he built an addition to his shop, and from that time until present, as the exigencies of his increasing business have demanded, he has made additions to the water-power, which at the beginning was sufficient to operate his machinery, he has since found it necessary to add steam-power, and now both are in use... In 1876, Cragin began the manufacture of dry measures,...at once (he) began to devise simple and labor-saving machines to do what had hitherto been done only by hand...and what is more, every piece of machinery in Mr. Cragin's factory, except a few of the simpler contrivances, is the product of his own inventive genius.²

History of Ownership: Whitney and Mary Frye, son and daughter of Dr. Edmund Frye, collaborated on the following history: "David Kenney came to Wilton about 1750 and built a blacksmith shop at this location. His house was where we stored logs and the well we use today was dug by him. He had a small mill at the stream. In 1792, his son sold the mill and 'water privilege' to Eliphalet Putnam.

Eliphalet Putnam built a clothing mill at the same location, which stood until 1817. At which time, a new two-story mill was built for fulling and carding cloth. This is the southwest corner of the present factory. The 'tender' hooks, used to hang the fulling cloth, still remain today on the first floor.

The building was taken over by Daniel Cragin in 1858 for the manufacture of knife trays, wooden dry measures, dye dippers and butter boxes. He ran the factory until 1909, at which time he sold it to Dr. Edmund B. Frye. Dr. Frye operated the shop until

(See Continuation Sheet #1)

9. Major Bibliographical References

History of the Town of Wilton, Hillsborough County, NH. Abiel Abbot Livermore & Sewall Putnam, Marden & Rowell Printers, Lowell, MA 1888.
 Historical Sketches of Wilton, NH 1739-1939 compiled by Hamilton S. Putnam, Cabinet Press, Milford, NH, 1939.
 History of Hillsborough County, NH, compiled by D. Hamilton Hurd, J.W. Lewis & Co., Philadelphia, 1885.

10. Geographical Data

UTM NOT VERIFIED

Acreeage of nominated property + 4 acres

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

Quadrangle name Peterborough, NH

Quadrangle scale 15'

UMT References

A

1	9	2	7	2	1	5	0	4	7	4	8	4	0	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

Property Ownership Map, Town of Wilton, NH parcels 50-C and 54.
 The precise boundaries are indicated in red on the attached sketch map.

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

state	code	county	code
N/A			

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Harland H. Savage, Jr.

organization Frye's Measure Mill - E.B. Frye & Son date January, 1979

street & number RFD 1 telephone 603-654-6581 (business)
603-654-9833 (home)

city or town Wilton state New Hampshire 03086

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

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

State Historic Preservation Officer signature [Signature]
 Commissioner, NH Department of Resources & Economic Development
 title NH State Historic Preservation Officer date October 9, 1979

For HCRS use only

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

Lynn A. Beebe

date March 23, 1992

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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DATE ENTERED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

CONTINUATION SHEET

1

ITEM NUMBER

8

PAGE

2

SIGNIFICANCE (Continued)

1917, when his son, Whitney M. Frye took over the operation under the trade name "E.B. Frye and Son." Dry measures and dye housedippers were the main items made at this period. Cattle cards or Curry cards were first made in 1923. In 1937, the curry card business of Watson Williams Manufacturing Company of Leicester, Massachusetts, was absorbed. In 1952, the same firm sold all of its machines to this factory for the making of wool, tow and cotton cards. In 1943, a complete small rotary veneer mill was installed. This step has allowed an increased number of items to be made such as the veneer fruit package covers and white pine plywood for the wooden backs of wool, tow and cotton cards. The major products made in 1954 were dye house dippers, curry, wool, tow and cotton hand cards and various types and sizes of veneer fruit package covers."

In 1961, upon the death of Whitney Frye, the mill was purchased by Harland and Thelma Savage. Harland Savage had worked around the mill since the late 1940s and had been employed full time as Whitney Frye's general manager since 1952. Today, he uses water to mechanically drive a large portion of the mill, steam to a small extent for heat, the gas engine as a reserve, and public service for the mill's electrical needs. Unfortunately, the quarter mile of round staved wooden pipeline feeding the mill's generator is in disrepair. The mill still produces wooden products on the same machinery.

Since 1858, the mill has seen three owners. Each has wrought changes characteristic of his personality. Yet all three men have shared the same philosophical doctrine-- that of self-sufficiency. Each has had to be a mechanic, inventor, financier, manager, advertiser and printer, lumberman and woodworker. Active in community affairs, they have served on local and state boards of a wide range of organizations. Compelled by a desire to be dominant of and not dominated by their environment, these men were born, raised and remain "the ingenious Yankee of New England."

The Daniel Cragin Mill exhibits a traceable evolution of architecture and machinery. As such, it is significant as an example of mill development from the nineteenth to the twentieth century.

¹Livermore, Abiel A. and Sewall Putnam. History of the Town of Wilton, Lowell, Massachusetts, 1888, p. 154.

²Ibid., pp. 282 - 283.

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

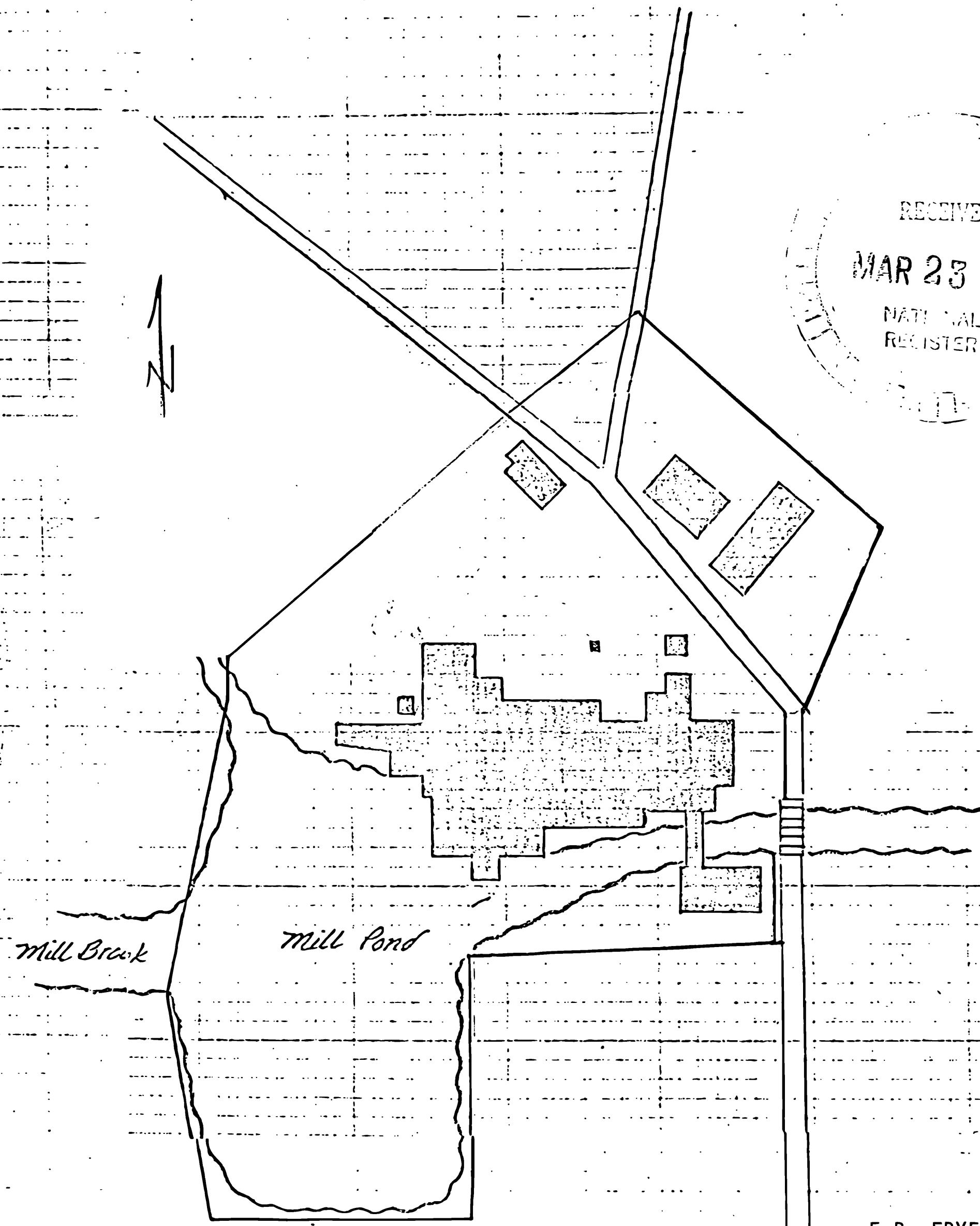
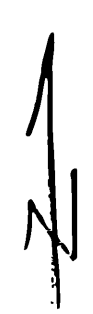
CONTINUATION SHEET SIGNIFICANCE ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 3

(continued)

The Cragin Mill is the most intact wooden mill still functioning with accretions of machinery from throughout its history. It represents the evolution of technology and is an example of the resiliency of small industry in New Hampshire as contrasted with the large textile industries which were unable to survive. Cragin Mill continues because its small scale was adaptable and could respond to economic changes.

Cragin Mill is the only one of its type still producing a one hundred year old product with one hundred year old machinery through processes which are essentially unchanged.

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MAR 23 1982
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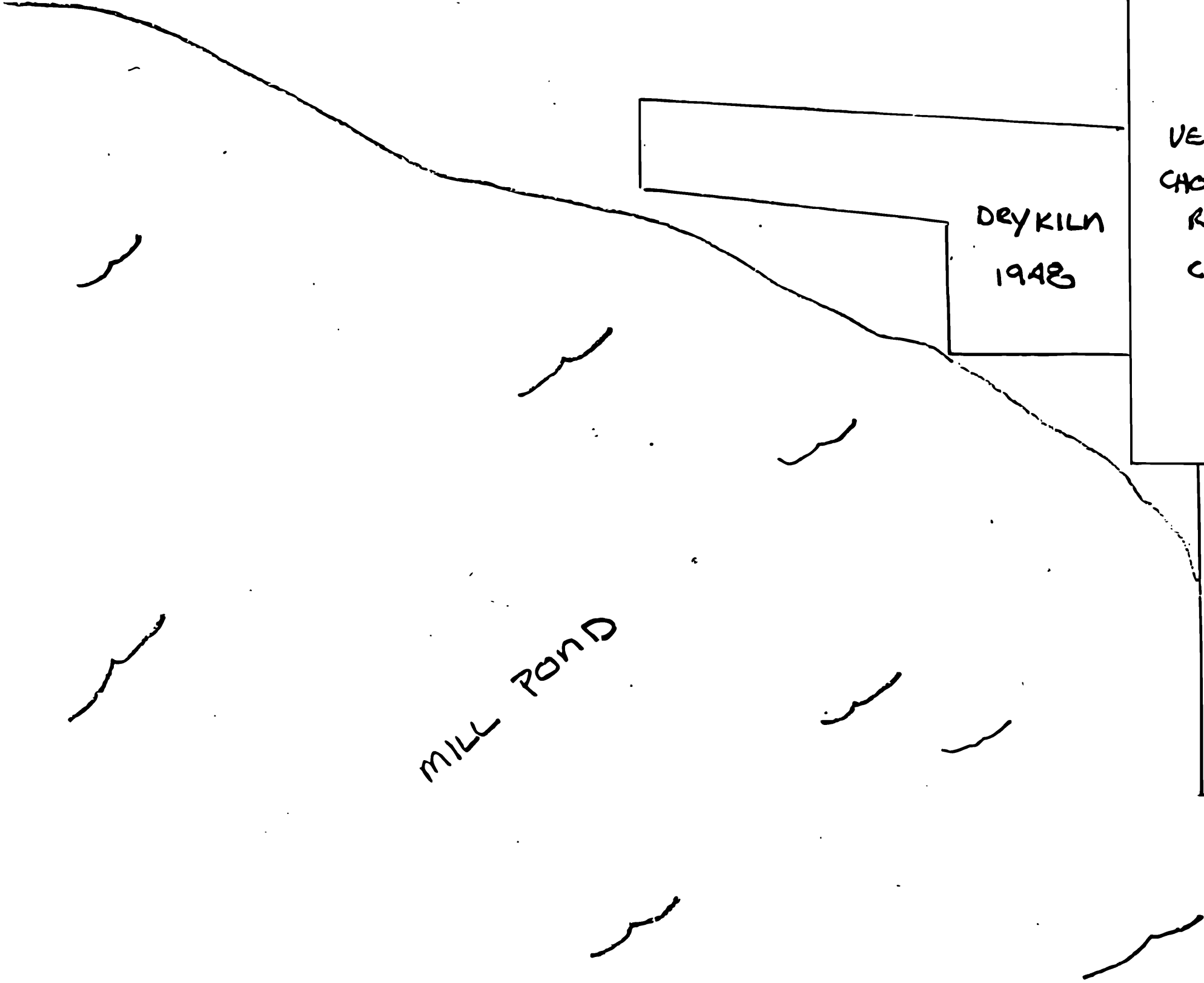
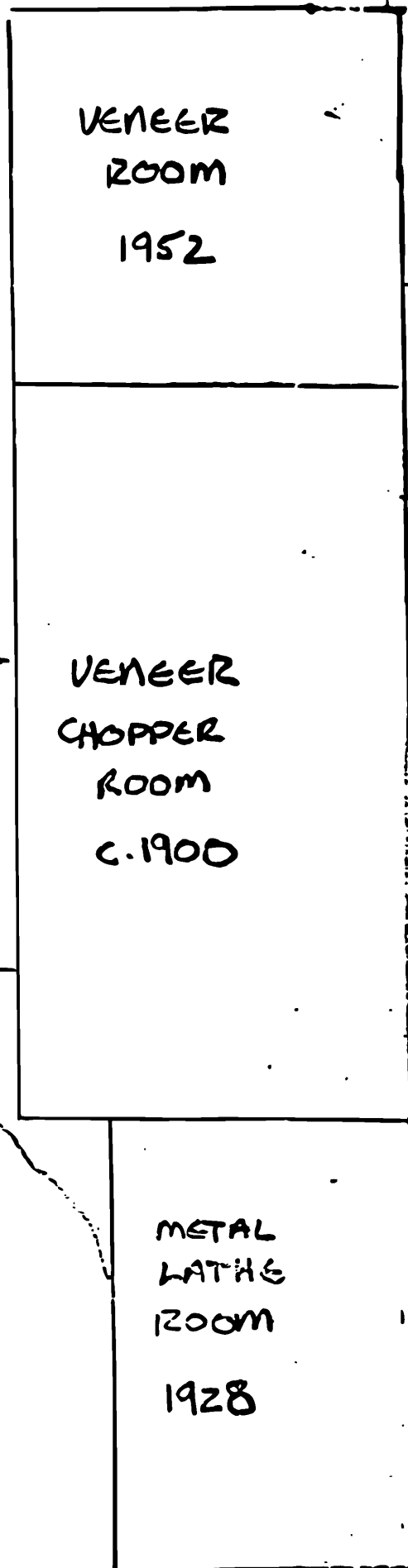
Mill Brook

Mill Pond

Davisville Road

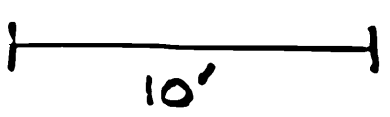
Burton Highway

E.B. FRYE & SON
WILTON, NH
Scale 1/8 in. = 10 ft.



MILL POND

SCALE 1 1/4" = 10'



JAN 20 1982

VENEER
TANKS
1943

SAWMILL
EXTENSION

c.1920

CRAGIN'S
FIRST
ADDITION
c.1870

CRAGIN'S
SAWMILL
ADDITION
c.1880

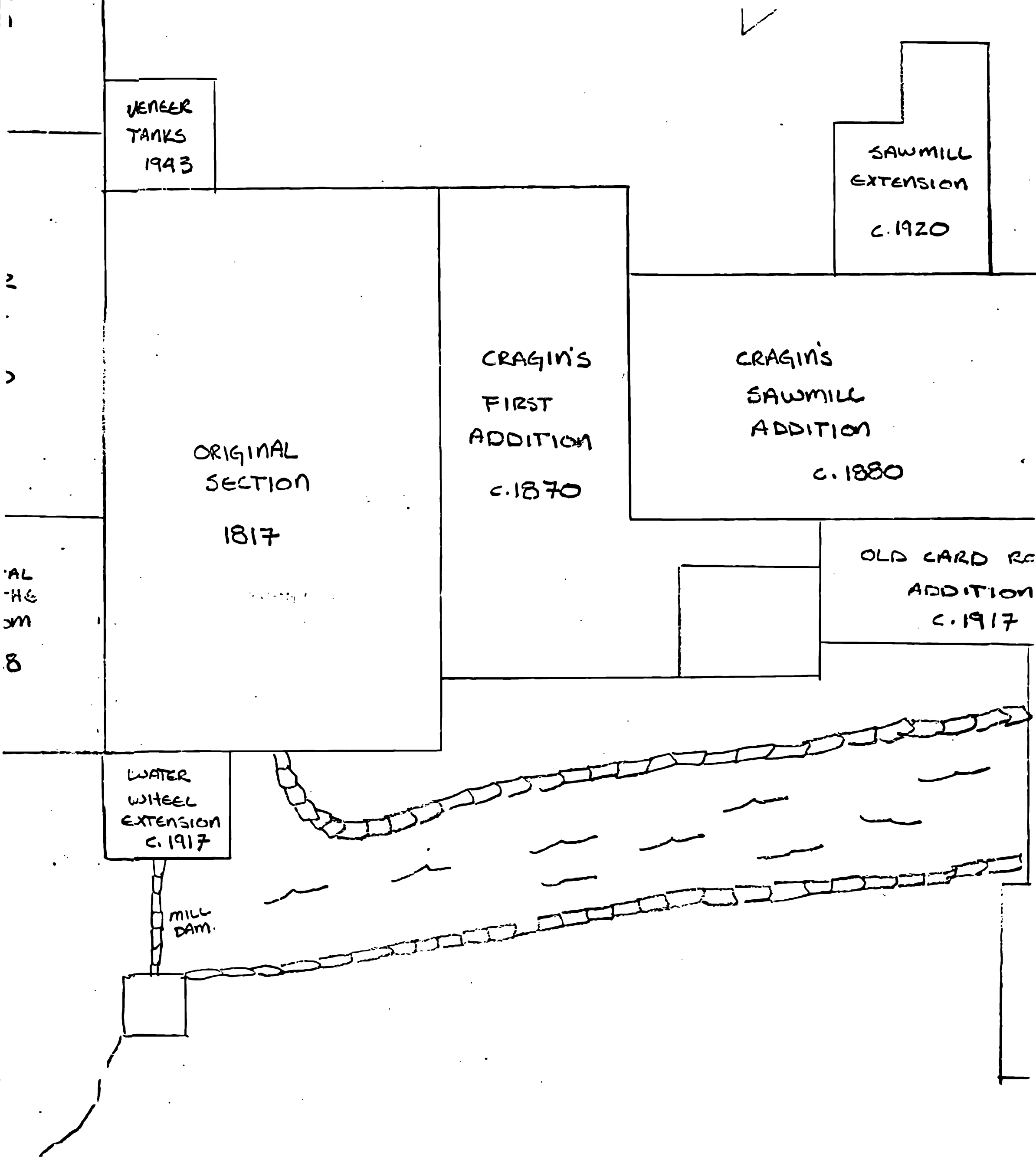
ORIGINAL
SECTION
1817

OLD CARD RO
ADDITION
c.1917

WATER
WHEEL
EXTENSION
c.1917

MILL
DAM.

AL
HE
M
8



SAWMILL
TENSION

c. 1920

30

LD CARD ROOM
ADDITION
c. 1917

BARN
c. 1850

DAVISVILLE ROAD.

