

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Beckley Mill Site
Name of Property

Raleigh County, West Virginia
County and State

N/Aa
Name of multiple property listing

Section number 8 Pages 4, 8, and 21

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: SG 100000947
Property Name: Beckley Mill Site
County: Raleigh State: WV
Multiple Name: n/a

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

For
Signature of the Keeper

5/1/17
Date of Action

Amended Item #1 of 3

Box 8: Areas of Significance

The first amendment made in this Supplementary Listing Record is to correct the Areas of Significance for the Beckley Mill Site, so that it includes ARCHEOLOGY Historic (Non-Aboriginal). As Significance Criterion D is being invoked, the Areas of Significance should not be limited solely to that of Industry.

Areas of Significance:

- INDUSTRY
- ARCHEOLOGY Historic (Non-Aboriginal)

Amended Item #2 of 3

Statement of Significance—Historic Context

The second amendment made in this Supplementary Listing Record is to correct wording employed in the Historic Context that might mislead readers to think that the historic era Beckley Mill Site is part of a pre-contact Native American water-powered milling complex.

The sentence spanning Section 8, p. 7 to Section 8, p. 8 that currently reads: “Cooper’s Mill and one other, the ca. 1905 Ball Mill on Laurel Creek in Fayette County, built on the foundation of an earlier mill, are today the only known *indigenous* water-powered mills in the region” [emphasis added] is edited to read as follows: “Cooper’s Mill and one other, the ca. 1905 Ball Mill on Laurel Creek in Fayette County, built on the foundation of an earlier mill, are today the only known extant water-powered mills in the region.”

Amended Item #3 of 3

Statement of Significance—Archaeological Discussion

The purpose of this Supplementary Listing Record is to amend the Archaeological Discussion so as to more fully develop the sorts of archaeological research questions to which future investigation of the site might profitably speak. This is important given the fact that the Beckley Mill Site is identified as eligible for listing under Significance Criterion D only (“information important in history or prehistory”).

The following text replaces the text on Section 8 p. 21 in its entirety. The revised page reads as follows:

building. Should archaeological examination of the mill building occur in the future, it would have the potential to resolve questions about the mill’s historic use and physical evolution.⁴⁵ As noted in the archaeological survey and site assessment: “The interior of the mill building itself has yet to be examined, but may also have intact deposits in the wheel house. Peripheral areas of the site were only shovel tested, but also contain intact stratigraphy and undisturbed soils. The site has good depositional integrity and important research value.”⁴⁶

As relates to that research value, future archaeological investigation of the seven contributing resources comprising the Beckley Mill Site may be expected to provide additional information regarding the layout, dimensions, and uses of the historic mill; opportunity to compare above-ground and subsurface reflections of how the Mill Site changed over time to accommodate sawmilling, gristmilling, and other industrial activities; to reveal the range of material culture associated with milling and mill operations; as a means for studying site formation processes in relation to pre- and post-flooding event deposits; and, with time and further study, to perhaps position and better understand the Beckley Mill Site as part of a cultural landscape of resources located along Worley Road, including but not limited to the Wildwood Cemetery, the Beckley Mill Site, General Alfred Beckley’s home at Wildwood House, etc.”

⁴⁵Quick et al., “Archaeological Survey,” 58, 105.

⁴⁶Quick et al., “Archaeological Survey,” 120.

In terms of this archaeological potential and the site's visible above-ground resources, the Beckley Mill Site is an assemblage of resources of considerable significance in the history of Beckley and Raleigh County.

The State Historic Preservation Office was notified of this amendment.

Distribution List

National Register files

Nominating Authority, without nomination attached

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 for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any 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 from the instructions. Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).

1. Name of Property

historic name Beckley Mill Site
other names/site number 46RG325

2. Location

street & number Worley Road at Piney Creek not for publication
city or town Beckley vicinity
state West Virginia code WV county Raleigh code 081 zip code 25801

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,
I hereby 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 at the following level(s) of significance:

national statewide local

Susan Mierce Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer 3/7/17
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official Date

Title State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register determined eligible for the National Register
 determined not eligible for the National Register removed from the National Register
 other (explain:)

John H. ... 5/1/17
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

Beckley Mill Site
Name of Property

Raleigh County, WV
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply.)

Category of Property
(Check only **one** box.)

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

- private
- public - Local
- public - State
- public - Federal

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
0	0	buildings
7	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
7	0	Total

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

INDUSTRY: manufacturing facility

WORK IN PROGRESS

TRANSPORTATION: road-related

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

COMMERCE: department store

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions.)

NO STYLE

foundation: STONE, CONCRETE

walls: STONE

roof: N/A

other: _____

Beckley Mill Site
Name of Property

Raleigh County, WV
County and State

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

Summary Paragraph

See continuation sheets.

Narrative Description

See continuation sheets.

Beckley Mill Site
Name of Property

Raleigh County, WV
County and State

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.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

INDUSTRY

Period of Significance

Ca. 1835-1927

Significant Dates

1878

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

Euro-American

Architect/Builder

Unknown

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 old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Period of Significance (justification)

See continuation sheets.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

See continuation sheets.

Beckley Mill Site

Name of Property

Raleigh County, WV

County and State

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria.)

See continuation sheets.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

See continuation sheets.

Developmental history/additional historic context information (if appropriate)

See continuation sheets.

Beckley Mill Site
Name of Property

Raleigh County, WV
County and State

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

See 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 # _____
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other
- Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Approximately 4 acres
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>17</u> Zone	<u>486680</u> Easting	<u>4180470</u> Northing	3	<u> </u> Zone	<u> </u> Easting	<u> </u> Northing
2	<u> </u> Zone	<u> </u> Easting	<u> </u> Northing	4	<u> </u> Zone	<u> </u> Easting	<u> </u> Northing

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

See continuation sheets.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

See continuation sheets.

Beckley Mill Site
Name of Property

Raleigh County, WV
County and State

11. Form Prepared By

name/title J. Daniel Pezzoni
organization Landmark Preservation Associates date November 5, 2016
street & number 6 Houston St. telephone (540) 464-5315
city or town Lexington state VA zip code 24450
e-mail gilespezzoni@rockbridge.net

Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

See continuation sheets.

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.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Beckley Mill Site
Name of Property
Raleigh County, West Virginia
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 7 Page 1

Description

Summary Paragraph

The Beckley Mill Site is located in central Raleigh County, West Virginia, in the City of Beckley. The three-acre nominated area lies on Piney Creek, a tributary of the New River. The creek occupies a deep valley at the location, with elevations at approximately 2,300 feet above sea level on the bluffs overlooking the nominated area and a low point in the creek of about 1,830 feet above sea level at the east end of the nominated area. The creek is rocky, lined in places with bedrock outcrops, and it cascades over a small waterfall known as Worley Falls at the property's midpoint. The hillsides on both sides of the creek are densely forested with deciduous and evergreen trees and rhododendron, although the undulating terraced area around the main grouping of historic resources has a more open, parklike character. The unimproved Worley Road, a nineteenth-century road, passes through the nominated area and formerly crossed Piney Creek on a wooden bridge. The Piney Creek branch of the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad, built in the early twentieth century, follows the opposite (south) bank of the creek. Some feature identifications in the inventory that follows are from Russ S. Quick et al, "Archaeological Survey and National Register of Historic Places Evaluation of the Beckley Mill Site (46RG325) in Raleigh County, West Virginia" (2015; referenced as Quick et al). Others are based on subsequent research for the nomination and are explained more fully in the Historic Context narrative in Section 8. The descriptions below reference an 1898 railroad map which shows the mill, bridge, and other resources, and an 1878 flood that impacted various historic resources and resulted in substantial reconstruction within a year or two. The principal resource and the nominated area are referred to as the Beckley Mill and Beckley Mill Site in some contexts and as the Piney Creek mill and mill site in others. Portions of the resource descriptions were contributed by New River Gorge National River Archaeologist/Historian David N. Fuerst.

Inventory Summary

1. Beckley Mill foundation. 1840s; mid/late 19th c. Contributing site.
2. Bridge abutment. Late 19th c. Contributing site.
3. Building foundation. 19th c. Contributing site.
4. House foundation. 19th c. Contributing site.
5. Mill race pylon remnants. 19th and/or early 20th century. Contributing site.
6. Mill race platform. 19th and/or early 20th century. Contributing site.
7. Stone walls and foundations. Late 19th c. Contributing site.

Inventory

1. The **Beckley Mill foundation** (see Photo 1) is constructed of sandstone and describes a rectangle measuring approximately forty-seven by over twenty-five feet in dimension. The foundation appears to be a composite of two phases of construction. The north end appears to have been built first, of relatively crudely laid stonework defining a square of something over twenty feet to a side. This roughly corresponds to the

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Beckley Mill Site
Name of Property
Raleigh County, West Virginia
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 7 Page 2

twenty by twenty foot dimensions of the mill described in an 1846 letter. In the second phase, which may have occurred as early as the late 1840s or as late as the 1870s, the foundation was extended on the south side and a veneer of more carefully laid stonework added to the east or creek-facing side of the original foundation so that the entire foundation appears homogenous from end to end when seen from the bank of the creek.

The north foundation wall, which faces the wheel pit, is three feet thick, and this also appears to have been the thickness of the original creek-facing wall, which is now five feet thick on account of the added stonework (see Photo 2). The thickness of the creek-facing wall drops to three and a half feet at the south end where it stood under what is interpreted as an addition to the mill. At the foundation's south end, adjacent to the bridge abutment, the stonework may swell to nine feet in thickness, although the construction is indistinct at this location and may not even be a foundation per se. The creek-facing foundation wall is higher at its north end than its south end.

The opposite wall on the west or landward side, which functions as a retaining wall, appears to be built, at least in part, on a straight outcrop of moss-covered bedrock (see Photo 3). Inside the foundation at its approximate midpoint is a transverse basement-level stone wall that may be a remnant of the south wall of the original mill. No door, window, or vent openings were observed in visual portions of the foundation with the exception of what may be a narrow opening at the northwest corner of the original foundation, which (if it was an opening) was walled over by the veneer.

The bridge abutment overlaps the mill foundation at its south end (see Photo 4). It would appear that no building stood above the south end of the foundation at the time the abutment was built (probably ca. 1879), and in fact an 1898 map shows the mill building that then stood at the spot stopping short of the bridge abutment with a gap between the two. For reasons explained more fully in Section 8, this is most readily explained by the following sequence of events: the flood that washed away the mill in 1878 left the foundation exposed; the bridge abutment was built over the exposed stonework; and the rebuilt mill did not occupy the full extent of the earlier foundation. This scenario is also suggested by the landward foundation wall which appears to end at a corner about eight feet short of the abutment.

The wheel well is infilled with rubble masonry across its front, a modification that may relate to replacement of the mill's overshot wheel with a turbine about 1879 (see Photo 5). On the north side of the wheel well is a tall stack of crudely constructed masonry that may have served as a retaining wall for the slope above (see Photo 6). It seems too crudely constructed to have supported the axle of the overshot waterwheel that existed before the 1878 flood and may therefore date to the ca. 1879 rebuilding or later, perhaps when a railroad siding was built on the slope above in the first decade of the twentieth century.

About eleven feet from the foundation's landward west wall is a concrete mount or platform for a steam engine that formerly powered machinery inside the mill (see Photo 7). The platform measures about eight and a half feet by seventeen feet in dimension, with its narrow end oriented to the mill. The impressions of wooden formwork are visible on the sides of the platform and at the northeast corner the impressions have a

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Beckley Mill Site
Name of Property
Raleigh County, West Virginia
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 7 Page 3

staggered inward-outward-stepping appearance. The concrete is studded with threaded upright iron rods that formerly anchored the engine. One rod, more slender than the others, extends to several feet in height. The southeast corner of the platform incorporates a short tunnel-like chase, rectangular in section. The Raleigh Supply and Milling Company, which operated the mill during the first decade of the twentieth century, had a steam engine and boiler at the location, as did the Piney Excelsior and Manufacturing Company which acquired the mill in 1910. Either may have had the engine mount poured. The engine mount now appears separate from the other mill remnants but it may have stood within a now missing wing of the mill, as described in Section 8.

2. The **bridge abutment** (see Photo 8) is a tall coursed sandstone structure that formerly served as the west support and road approach of a wooden bridge that spanned Piney Creek. The east end of the bridge rested on a bedrock outcrop on the other side of the creek (the outcrop is partly included in the nominated area). The abutment is roughly rectangular in footprint and about fifteen feet across at its landward western end, tapering to about fourteen feet across at the creek. The stonework tapers into grade at the landward end, making determination of the abutment's length difficult, although measurements suggest it extends somewhere between about thirty-five and fifty feet in length. The abutment measures fourteen to fifteen feet tall on its creek-facing elevation. The creek-facing elevation incorporates several rocks with rows of drill-hole indentations left over from quarrying. No such indentations were observed on the sides of the abutment (and none were observed on the adjacent mill stonework).

A retaining wall approximately eight feet in height extends on the south side of the abutment (see Photo 9). The retaining wall is integral with the construction of the abutment and leaves it in a graceful radius curve before straightening and extending over seventeen feet beyond at an angle. The retaining wall therefore doubled as an angled wing wall for diverting water from the abutment in times of flooding. One stone with drill-hole indentations was observed in the retaining wall stonework. The north elevation of the abutment, facing the mill foundation, has slumping masonry as a result of settlement. As noted above, the north elevation was built over the south end of the mill foundation and suggests the abutment post-dates the 1878 flood that swept away the mill and former bridge at the location.

3. The **building foundation** (see Photo 10) stands on the south side of the bridge abutment, set back from the creek. The stone foundation consists mainly of a roughly twenty-seven-foot long landward wall that functions as a retaining wall. Three and a half feet of the south end of this wall is an addition, indicated by a seam in the stonework. A remnant of wall projects at a right angle from the south end of the long wall, toward the creek. A portion of the north end wall may also survive, although there is little above-ground evidence. Quick et al suggest the foundation may belong to a former store room. Another possibility is the foundation is associated with a stable mentioned in a 1910 deed. Proximity to the mill, bridge, and road lends support to either interpretation (store or stable). The 1898 map does not show a building at the location of this foundation. A store stood at a separate location in the terrace-like area at the east end of the nominated area in 1898, as shown on a map from that year.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Beckley Mill Site
Name of Property
Raleigh County, West Virginia
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 7 Page 4

4. The **house foundation** (see Photo 11), located to the west of the mill foundation and bridge abutment, consists of low stone walls that define a rectangle with a wing or porch on the south side. The roughly L-shaped form of the house (referred to as a cottage by Quick et al) appears on the 1898 map and was detected in a recent archaeological investigation. The house presumably served as the miller's house mentioned in historic sources. A house was built at the Beckley Mill Site in 1838 and a miller's house is mentioned in an 1860 sale notice with the information that it had recently been repaired and was accompanied by a smokehouse and possibly other outbuildings. Other dwellings stood on or near the mill site as late as the early twentieth century.

5. The **mill race pylon remnants** (see Photo 12) consist of a row of four approximately three to four-foot high, five to ten-foot diameter rubble stone piles that once supported a wooden mill race that conveyed water to the mill from an upstream crib dam. One pylon was identified near the landward end of the wheel well; three others form a line near the house foundation. The pylons supported a raised wooden frame that originated at the mill dam shown on the 1898 map. The route of the mill race follows the foot of the hill upstream from the mill site. An approximately five-foot high earthen berm at the west end of the nominated area may be a remnant of the former crib dam.

6. The **mill race platform** (see Photo 13) is a raised and roughly rectangular feature of earth and rubble that is conjectured to have formed part of the mill race. The platform measures approximately thirty-five feet east to west and five feet north to south and is just over a foot in height. The Worley Road as it descends the hill angles around the west end of the mill race platform towards the bridge abutment. This suggests that the platform supported a framework for the mill race that allowed it to cross the road.

7. The **stone walls and foundation** (see Photo 14) consist of two and possibly three one to one and a half foot high rubble stone walls and an approximately ten-foot-square, three-foot-high rubble stone foundation that are located on a bench that is just below the Worley Road and about eighty feet northeast of the Beckley Mill foundation. These resources are in an area identified as a "Store" on the 1898 map, and may have been the location for a storehouse, barn, and other outbuildings that were functionally associated with the Beckley Mill. The recent archeological investigation indicated the presence of intact deposits in and around the stone walls and foundation.

Non-inventoried features: Non-inventoried features in the nominated area include a rock overhang on the hillside facing Worley Road about fifty feet higher than the mill area and 120 feet northeast of the Beckley Mill. There is some speculation that the overhang was used as a dwelling in the mid-twentieth century, although archaeologist David Fuerst considers such use unlikely. An unusual knob-like concretion is visible on the back wall of the overhang.

The Worley Road is a circulation feature that corresponds to the route of the historic road through the nominated area. Alfred Beckley's writings and historic maps indicate that the road originated at Wildwood Cemetery, which is close to the Wildwood House in Beckley. The road crossed Piney Creek on a wooden

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Beckley Mill Site
Name of Property
Raleigh County, West Virginia
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 7 Page 5

bridge and continued up the steep slope on the other side of the creek to join roads that connected to the Giles, Fayette and Kanawha Turnpike.

Near the location of the earthen cribbed dam berm at the west end of the nominated area is a cross or foursquare design chiseled into the bedrock beside Piney Creek. The design is a rectangle divided into four smaller rectangles. The cross design is most likely the surveyor's mark that is shown near the crib dam on the 1898 map.

The last non-inventoried feature is a railroad spur or siding that is mentioned in early twentieth century deed records. The surface of the rail bed originates just outside the nominated area angling back from a downstream railroad bridge. The loose masonry on the north side of the wheel well may have served as reinforcement for this siding.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Beckley Mill Site
Name of Property
Raleigh County, West Virginia
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 8 Page 6

Statement of Significance

Summary

The Beckley Mill Site in Raleigh County, West Virginia, consists of industrial and transportation-related ruins and other features with potential to yield information important to local history. The site lies on Piney Creek, a scenic gorge on the east side of the city of Beckley, and it was first developed for industrial use in the 1830s by Beckley's founder, Alfred Beckley. In the late 1840s Beckley built a gristmill, sawmill, and possible carding mill at the location, which Union commander and future President Rutherford B. Hayes found to be a "most romantic site" when he visited in 1861. The mill and an adjacent bridge were swept away in a flood in 1878 and rebuilt by then owner Asa Spangler, who switched from an overshot waterwheel to a turbine. Later industrial uses, such as a feed mill, excelsior mill, and rock crusher, used supplemental steam power. A miller's house and other buildings stood at the location from the 1830s until the early twentieth century. Today, the mill foundation and bridge abutment are the most visible remnants at the site, although preliminary archaeological investigation has revealed other historic resources of note. The Beckley Mill Site is eligible for the National Register under Criterion D for Historic Non-Aboriginal significance in the industry area of significance. The period of significance extends from ca. 1835, a date which represents the earliest known industrial development at the site during the second half of the 1830s, until 1927, a date by which buildings at the site were removed or destroyed and after which no industrial activity is known to have occurred there. The property is eligible at the local level of significance.¹

Historic Context

Beckley Mill was the initiative of early Raleigh County community leader Alfred Beckley (1802-88). Beckley was the son of John James Beckley (1757-1807), the first clerk of the US House of Representatives and first Librarian of Congress, and Maria Prince Beckley, whom John Beckley married in 1790. (Maria's brother Isaac Prince, a Philadelphia merchant, would later assist his nephew Alfred in the development of the mill site.) John Beckley speculated in land in what was then western Virginia, and in the 1790s he and another speculator, Virginian Andrew Moore, acquired 170,038 acres in what is today Raleigh and Summers counties, West Virginia, including the Beckley Mill Site. Ownership of the Moore-Beckley Patent was disputed and not resolved until 1835, hence delaying major development in the area until after that date.²

¹ A number of individuals and organizations assisted the author in the preparation of the report, foremost among them the sponsor, the Raleigh County Historical Society, represented by Tom Sopher, with support from New River Gorge National River Archaeologist/Historian David N. Fuerst. West Virginia Division of Culture and History Structural Historian Jeffrey S. Smith reviewed the nomination report and assisted with field investigations and measurements. Detlef Ulfers provided photos of materials in the Beckley papers at the Library of Congress and photographer Stephen Brightwell provided views for the nomination photos. Assistance was also provided by Tom Lemke, Jeff Miller, Gary Morefield, Sondra L. Mullins, Teresa Sopher, Elizabeth Spangler, Matthew Stanley, Carl Wolfe, and Scott Worley. City of Beckley staff routinely maintain the site and the road leading into it and their work assisted the documentation.

² Berkeley and Berkeley, *John Beckley*, 52-54, 100-101, 287; Quick et al, "Archaeological Survey," 81.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Beckley Mill Site
Name of Property
Raleigh County, West Virginia
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 8 Page 7

Alfred Beckley entered the military where he served as a second lieutenant. In 1831 he married Amelia (Emily) Neville Craig (d. 1845), the daughter of Neville B. Craig, a Pittsburgh newspaper editor. Craig, like Beckley's uncle Isaac Prince, assisted Beckley financially in return for an interest in Beckley's lands, which Beckley received title to in 1835. That year Beckley began construction of a log house within the bounds of the future city of Beckley, a base of operations he named Wildwood. The following year Beckley resigned his military commission in order to devote himself more fully to the development of his property. Beckley was a prime mover in the creation of Raleigh County out of Fayette County in 1850, and the new county's seat was established at Beckley, the village that had grown up near Wildwood and which Alfred named in honor of his father. Beckley was also a backer of important regional turnpikes such as the Giles, Fayette and Kanawha Turnpike, which passed by his residence. Such was Beckley's local prominence that in 1862 Union commander Rutherford B. Hayes, whose forces occupied Raleigh County, referred to Beckley as "the nabob of this county." Beckley's residence Wildwood, today the headquarters of the Raleigh County Historical Society, is listed in the National Register and is the property most closely associated with Beckley as a historic figure.³

Alfred Beckley was a prolific and eloquent letter-writer. His correspondence survives chiefly at the Library of Congress, the West Virginia Archives, and in the Virginia Board of Public Works collection at the Library of Virginia (another, local collection with an estimated four hundred pieces of correspondence has apparently been lost). Much of Beckley's surviving correspondence was with Neville B. Craig who retained a mortgage on a portion of Beckley's lands as late as 1849. A Fayette County deed that year clarified the arrangement, which included Beckley's Wildwood farm and "his mill tract on Piney River."⁴

Beckley's milling activities on Piney Creek developed in the 1830s and 1840s within the context of the region's water-powered industry, for which evidence begins shortly after the turn of the nineteenth century. The Richmond Mill at Sandstone, near the current Raleigh-Summers county line, was in existence by 1812, the year it was mentioned by John Marshall in his celebrated reconnaissance of the New-Kanawha river system. Little is known about early mills like the Richmond Mill other than that they were generally small and catered to the needs of the locality. Most were probably tub mills, mills that utilized simple horizontal wheels which turned the millstones directly without complicated gearing. Tub mills could operate without dams or millraces, making them ideal "starter mills." Few of the region's gristmills were what are termed "merchant mills," larger mills focused on supplying markets outside the immediate area. Gristmills were often accompanied by sawmills and by the 1830s the region's millers were also installing water-powered carding machines for processing wool. Many of the region's nineteenth-century mills were log, for example Cooper's Mill built in 1869 on the Little Bluestone River in Summers County (parts of the log walls survive incorporated into the current 1930 mill at the site). Cooper's Mill and one other, the ca. 1905 Ball Mill on Laurel Creek in Fayette County, built on the foundation of an earlier mill, are today the only known

³ Berkeley and Berkeley, *John Beckley*, 287-289; Gawalt, "Alfred Beckley;" Gawalt, "John Beckley;" Fayette County Deed Book D, p. 103; Wolfe, "Old Beckley Mill;" Williams, *Diary and Letters of Rutherford Birchard Hayes*, vol. II, 222; Ralsten, "Wildwood."

⁴ Beckley-Craig Correspondence; Fayette County Deed Book D, p. 103.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Beckley Mill Site
Name of Property
Raleigh County, West Virginia
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 8 Page 8

indigenous water-powered mills in the region. A third surviving mill, the Glade Creek Mill at Babcock State Park in Fayette County, was moved to the region in the 1970s.⁵

Alfred Beckley began to develop his mill site in the 1830s, probably in 1836. “I bought a pair of small mill stones and the fixtures from old Mr. John Bailey on Paint creek,” he wrote in an 1883 reminiscence, and “hailed them up to my old Piney mill seat, and set them up in a log pen, letting the water on them through a flume made of a hollow log, and we soon had wheaten bread as well as corn dodgers [hushpuppies], to our great joy.” In his writings Beckley made frequent mention of the need for water-powered mills during the early period. In 1838 he wrote that a mill was “so much a desideratum here both for individual comfort, & to encourage settlement of our unoccupied land.” In an 1880s reminiscence he wrote, “We had no bread but corn bread & had to send to horse mills in other parts of the county for our grinding.”⁶

The simplicity of the log mill described by Beckley suggests it was a tub mill. The hollow-log flume suggests the water to run the mill was taken directly from the creek without the need for a dam and millrace. The notch in Worley Falls may be significant in this respect. The notch concentrates the flow of water in the creek, especially during low-water conditions. A hollow log placed in the notch would maximize the amount of water that could be delivered to a tub mill. The mill Beckley subsequently built at the site would not have needed the notch, since it was served by a dam, but if the notch was initially used for waterpower then it may have been a predetermining factor in all that followed. There is a close relationship between tub mills and waterfalls, as documented by mill researcher Donald Ball in his study of tub mills, and Worley Falls would therefore have been an important factor in the siting of Beckley’s initial mill, regardless whether the notch was used or not. Beckley’s mill site had the additional advantages of being located close to Beckley’s residence; of being located near the foot of a secondary ravine that was suitable for the construction of a road into the gorge; and of having a relatively level area for the construction of a mill and other buildings. Siting considerations may have worked in reverse; the existence of a prime mill seat on Piney Creek may have been a factor in Beckley building his residence Wildwood where he did.⁷

By 1838 Beckley had more ambitious mill plans. On May 4 he wrote to Neville Craig, “Richard has nearly completed his house down at Piney & will, as soon as I can get some hands to put in my corn crop, will move down there, & commence getting out the shingles, plank, timbers [etc?] for dam and mill house.” Beckley anticipated Craig’s help with the project. “I shall write for the bolting cloths, iron bolts, saws & in due season,” Beckley wrote. “I have heard of 1st rate mill grit [millstone stone] in this vicinity, & shall soon examine it. Rodgers our blacksmith understands getting mill stones out.”⁸

⁵ Pezzoni, “Early Water-Powered Industry.” The region is here defined as the counties of Fayette, Raleigh, and Summers, West Virginia.

⁶ Beckley, “History of Raleigh;” “An account of my [?] of about fifty years,” 2; Alfred Beckley to Neville B. Craig, May 4, 1838. Beckley’s 1883 reminiscence was republished in the 1950 centennial edition of the *Beckley Post-Herald* but the reprint omitted the reference to Piney Creek and changed “log pen” into “long pen.”

⁷ Tom Sopher personal communication with the author, September 2016; Ball, “History and Use of Tub Mills.”

⁸ Lemke, “Timeline: Beckley Grist Mill;” Alfred Beckley to Neville B. Craig, May 4, 1838.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Beckley Mill Site
Name of Property Raleigh County, West Virginia
County and State N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 8 Page 9

Beckley did not immediately follow through with these plans, or so it appears from surviving documentation, although the documentation is incomplete for the late 1830s/early 1840s period. Tracking Beckley's early milling activities is also complicated by the fact that Beckley co-owned another mill during the period. That mill stood at the confluence of Big Beaver Creek and Little Beaver Creek, branches of Pine Creek, adjacent to the farm and store of Beckley's cousin Clarkson Prince (1811-78). According to historian James H. Miller, Clarkson Prince settled in the area in 1836 along with his brother William Francis Prince (1816-1885), although another historian writes that Clarkson and William settled in the area in 1834, which may be the truer date since Alfred Beckley noted that Clarkson had previously cleared and fenced the site where Beckley would build his house in 1836. Clarkson and William were joined in 1837 by another brother, Edwin Prince. Presumably Beckley's Prince cousins moved to the region at the urging of their father Isaac Prince, who had a financial stake in his nephew Alfred's lands.⁹

The Beaver Creek mill is depicted on two period maps. One is Alfred Beckley's manuscript map entitled "Plat of my Lands in Giles & Fayette Counties, Virginia," which is undated but appears to date to the early 1840s. The map identifies the Beaver Creek mill with the name Howard, which may have been the name of the miller or possibly a tenant. The second source is a sketch map of the location of the Giles, Fayette and Kanawha Turnpike made by Virginia Board of Public Works (BPW) engineer Claudius Crozet and contained in an 1842 field notebook which shows a section of the projected turnpike. Crozet's sketch map shows a mill at the mouth of Little Beaver Creek, across from Clarkson Prince's farm which consisted of a dwelling, barn, and store.¹⁰

The Prince farm is shown on a sketch map made for an 1840 BPW survey, but a mill is not indicated. This may be because the mill had not yet been built, or the 1840 sketch map, which is simplified compared to the one made in 1842, failed to show it. The 1840 sketch map also appears to show Beckley's Piney Creek mill site. Interestingly, and mystifyingly, the map does not show a mill at the location, even though other evidence suggests a simple mill existed there. Beckley's "Plat of my Lands" also fails to show a mill at the location. Perhaps Beckley and the 1840 BPW surveyor did not consider a tub mill to be substantial or permanent enough for portrayal on their maps.¹¹

In 1843 Beckley started afresh. He wrote Neville Craig on July 16, 1843, "I have old Mr Brown at work getting out Saw Mill timbers. Could you make any arrangements to procure me the Mill irons necessary, on my sending a bill & a little money. There is a Foundry on the Kanawha but I have an idea I could get better articles in Pitt[sburgh]. I only want a couple of gudgeons. The carriage I will have moved by wooden cogs and not as is usual by cast iron ones. I want to do it in the cheapest manner consistent with efficiency." The

⁹ Miller, *History of Summers County*, 685-688; *Acts of the General Assembly*, 196; Riffe, "Early Settlers of Raleigh County."

¹⁰ Beckley, "Plat of my Lands;" Location Book No. 8 (1842), Field Notes 1842 folder, Giles, Fayette and Kanawha Turnpike Papers.

¹¹ Survey Book No. 3 (1840), Field Notes 1840 folder, Giles, Fayette and Kanawha Turnpike Papers; "Map of the Giles, Fayette and Kanawha Turnpike, 1840." A presentation map for the turnpike route entitled "Map of the Giles, Fayette and Kanawha Turnpike, 1840" (viewable online at the Library of Virginia website) does not show mills at either the Piney or Beaver Creek locations, although it does show mills elsewhere along the route.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Beckley Mill Site
Name of Property
Raleigh County, West Virginia
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 8 Page 10

letter suggests Beckley followed the common mill-developer strategy of first erecting a sawmill in order to produce construction materials for a gristmill. That was the progression followed a generation earlier by industrialist John Jordan in his development of the Jordan's Point industrial complex in Lexington, Virginia, which commenced with the construction of a sawmill and tub mill about 1806 and led after a few years to a large merchant mill. It was also the case in Raleigh County at a later date, in 1884, when miller Asa Spangler acquired a sawmill with which he built a steam-powered gristmill at Cirtsville.¹²

By the end of 1845 Beckley's sawmill was up and running. "The Saw Mill is completed," he wrote Craig on December 19, 1845, except for "planking the Dam which cannot be done till spring. Mr. McClure [millwright James McClure] is running the saw every day now—it cuts very well, and is an admirably constructed mill." The reference to planking indicates the dam was probably a log crib dam much like the crib dams that were later constructed at the site. Evidently Beckley's 1845 dam impounded enough water to power a sawmill despite not having a planked surface on its upstream side. Crib dams of the era were packed with rock and dirt to help them hold water and to weigh them down against the force of the current.¹³

Beckley's December 19, 1845, letter also described plans for a carding machine, an apparatus for preparing raw wool for spinning. "I am thinking about putting a Carding Machine in operation," he wrote Craig. "I think a Carding Machin[e] [would?] be a money making affair in connection with a better [?] mill." The following year, on November 28, he wrote, "T. Cross has offered me a Carding Machine and let me name my own time to pay the several installments. He will give till Sepr 1848 for \$225, \$200 Sepr 1849 & remaining \$200 Sepr 1850. I hauling the machine & he setting it up. It is the general opinion that a Machine in that time would pay for itself." Although it seems likely from all this that Beckley installed a carding machine, it is not certain that he did. There is slightly more evidence for a carding machine at a later date. An 1877 state business directory noted the existence of two carding machines in the Beckley area. One of these may have been operated by Asa Spangler, the postbellum owner of the Beckley Mill Site, and if so it may have been a holdover from the Beckley period.¹⁴

The December 1845 letter also mentioned a gristmill. "I would be glad to have you [Neville Craig] out [here to?] aid me in devising the most economical plan to improve the Grist Mill." Beckley mentioned the gristmill again in a November 1846 letter. He complained that his millwright John McClure was "leaving my saw & grist mill in the hands of his boys," but he was enthusiastic about McClure's suggestion that he convert the gristmill to an "overshute Mill," by which he meant a mill powered by an overshot waterwheel. "I think that I ought to have this improvement made as this summer & fall during the severe drought a great deal of grinding was lost." Beckley's reference to an extant gristmill and the inference that it was powered by a wheel other than an overshot wheel suggests his tub mill remained in use. The overshot wheel envisioned in 1846 would have necessitated the construction of a wheel well such as the one that survives on the north end

¹² Alfred Beckley to Neville B. Craig, July 16, 1843; Pezzoni, "Jordan's Point Historic District," 16; Pezzoni, "Early Water-Powered Industry."

¹³ Alfred Beckley to Neville B. Craig, December 19, 1845; Quick et al, "Archaeological Survey," 40; Pezzoni, "Jordan's Point Historic District," 16.

¹⁴ Alfred Beckley to Neville B. Craig, December 19, 1845, and November 28, 1846; *Beckley Herald*, August 26, 1950.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Beckley Mill Site
Name of Property
Raleigh County, West Virginia
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 8 Page 11

of the mill foundation, and also a race and/or flume to convey water to the wheel and to elevate the water to the wheel's top. The progression that appears to be described in Beckley's letters, from a tub-wheeled "starter" gristmill to one powered by an overshot wheel, was a sequence followed by other period industrialists, for example John Jordan at his mill complex in Lexington, Virginia.¹⁵

On December 11, 1846, Beckley reported that John McClure had made a specific offer "to build me an Overshute Mill." McClure proposed a "mill house 20 feet square two stories high with a double geared Overshute Mill Wheel & Machinery to propel two runs of stones if required, a Carding Machine & a Bolt [a bolter for sieving the flour] I to furnish irons & nails, & the hauling, and to furnish the Stuff from the saw mill and he to board himself & hands for \$300." Beckley concluded: "This is a very reasonable offer, and as he takes land at a good price I think I should accept it. He is a good millwright, and does good work." The double gearing mentioned by Beckley is particularly interesting because it hints at the kind of milling business he had in mind. Geographer Donald Jeane, writing about the gristmills of northwest Georgia, notes: "The single-gear mill was more representative of the country grist mill; the double-gear was typical of merchant mills." If the same was true for the New River Gorge region, Beckley may have seen himself as a merchant miller selling flour to customers beyond his immediate area.¹⁶

The evidence suggests Beckley followed through with his 1846 plan to build a new mill. Architectural investigation suggests an approximately twenty-foot-square stone foundation lies embedded within the larger foundation, in line with the dimensions described in 1846. George Thompson McClure (1827-1918) recalled in a 1916 newspaper article that he assisted John McClure with the construction of Beckley's "saw mill and gristmill in Piney River." An 1854 deed referred to the mill as a "new Grist mill," and tax records indicate the presence of a substantial mill building in the 1850s. The records show a rise in the total value of buildings on Alfred Beckley's landholdings from \$2,075 in 1850 to \$5,775 in 1854. These figures included buildings in addition to the mill, but beginning in 1855 the records single out Beckley's 250-acre "mill tract" and note the existence of \$4,000 in buildings. The bulk of that amount would have been the mill—perhaps already expanded to its approximately forty-seven-foot length—but would also have included the miller's house and presumably other buildings and structures. The \$4,000 figure remained constant through 1867.¹⁷

The most detailed evidence of Beckley's antebellum milling operation is contained in an 1860 sale advertisement published in a Staunton, Virginia, newspaper. Alfred Beckley offered for sale his Wildwood tract and other properties including his "Mill Tract, containing about 200 Acres of land, and a large

¹⁵ Alfred Beckley to Neville B. Craig, December 19, 1845, and November 28, 1846; Pezzoni, "Jordan's Point Historic District."

¹⁶ Alfred Beckley to Neville B. Craig, December 11, 1846; Jeane, "Culture History of Grist Milling," 31. Although John McClure built Beckley's mill, he is not listed as the builder on the nomination cover form owing to the fact that it is unknown whether he built a portion of the surviving stone foundation (foundation and superstructure work were often completed by different individuals). Such is also the case for the surviving bridge abutment; as discussed below, the builders of the bridge superstructure that stood on the abutment are known, although it is not known whether they built the abutment itself.

¹⁷ *Beckley Herald*, August 26, 1950; Quick et al., "Archaeological Survey," 58; Wood, *Raleigh County*, 45, 47; Raleigh County tax records and Deed Book A, p. 295. George T. McClure, who may have been John McClure's son, did not mention a carding mill in his reminiscence.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Beckley Mill Site
Name of Property Raleigh County, West Virginia
County and State N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 8 Page 12

OVERSHUTE GRIST MILL, constructed in the latest and most approved style, its gearing being almost entirely of cast iron. The arrangements for making Flour are complete, embracing one pair of superior French Burrs, a large Bolting Chest, a superior Screen and conveys, all moved by machinery. It is situated on Piney River, a never failing stream, and is easy of access, being only two miles from the town, with the whole custom of Raleigh and part of Fayette during the summer season, with a good, newly repaired Miller's house, Smoke house, &c., and the tract contains one of the best veins of Stone Coal in Western Virginia, or in any other State, being eight feet in thickness, and the best splint coal. The town is supplied from this vein."¹⁸

Unfortunately, census statistics for Beckley's mill and other Raleigh County mills do not survive from the mid-nineteenth century. The lack of such statistics for 1850 may be explained by the formation of Raleigh County that year, but the statistics are unaccountably missing for the census years of 1860 and 1870. However, something is known about the operation of the mill during this period from a memorandum book Beckley began in 1856. Mill operation was noted for the years 1856, 1857, and 1867 (the mill would have run in other years as well). Beckley's son John Beckley helped with the business during the period and paid the county tax for the property or shared payment with his father. In February 1856 John Beckley appears to have milled scantling (framing members) for a schoolhouse project of his father's. Gristmill products mentioned in the memorandum book included cornmeal, "flour of new wheat," and "flour (shorts mixed with it)." There is no indication that a store operated in conjunction with the mill in this source, although Alfred Beckley did operate stores in Fayetteville in 1838 and in Beckley in 1857. John Beckley moved his family to the mill site in 1859 and the family (although not the paterfamilias) was present in December 1861 when future President Rutherford B. Hayes visited during military activities in the area. Hayes found the mill site to be "a most romantic spot. Beckley's family, a wife and daughter, there in a cabin by the roaring torrent in a glen separated from all the world." The John Beckley family lived at the mill site until 1866. At some date John Beckley operated a hardware store in Beckley, a mercantile bent that may have a bearing on the question whether he also kept a store at the mill.¹⁹

Deed records for the late antebellum and early postbellum periods indicate Neville Craig owned a share of the mill, and John Beckley and his wife, Margaret Jane Beckley, owned a share in 1861. In two transactions in 1870 and 1873 the mill was acquired by Asa Spangler, originally of Floyd County, Virginia, who operated a succession of mills on Piney Creek and at other Raleigh County locations during the late nineteenth century. Spangler was listed as co-owner of the mill with Alfred Beckley in 1872 and the following year he was described as being in partnership with Alfred and John in the mill's operation. Buildings on the Piney Creek mill tract were valued at \$1,000 in 1872, a figure that remained constant through 1880. The reduction from \$4,000 in 1867 to \$1,000 in 1872 (tax records are missing for the years between) may represent the loss of buildings during the period, or the decrease may simply reflect devaluation during the economically distressed postbellum period.²⁰

¹⁸ *Staunton Spectator*, January 31, 1860.

¹⁹ Tom Sopher personal communication with the author, September 2016; Wolfe, "Old Beckley Mill," 3; Quick et al, "Archaeological Survey," 81; Alfred Beckley to Neville B. Craig, May 4, 1838; Alfred Beckley Memorandum Book, John James Beckley Papers, Library of Congress.

²⁰ Raleigh County tax records and Deed Book B, pp. 166 and 186, and Deed Book C, pp. 5 and 229.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Beckley Mill Site
Name of Property
Raleigh County, West Virginia
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 8 Page 13

The Piney Creek mill was destroyed in the flood or “freshet” that struck the area on September 12, 1878. The *Hinton Mountain Herald* reported that Asa Spangler “had both of his mills on Piney river swept away.” Spangler estimated his loss at the apparently inflated figure of \$5,000. Tax records for the period do not reflect the loss and rebuilding of the mill, since they remained constant at \$1,000 from 1878 through 1880, although the value of buildings did increase modestly to \$1,200 in 1881 on account of “improvements.”²¹

A detailed account of Spangler’s mill, its destruction in the 1878 freshet, and its subsequent rebuilding was provided by J. P. Clay in an undated (though post-1930) newspaper account. “When I was about six years old,” Clay recalled, “my father, Jackson Clay, took me to Asa Spangler’s mill. It was located on the waters of Piney River about three miles east of Beckley. This was a new mill at the time and the first mill in the county that ground wheat into flour. It was an overshot mill with a large water wheel which ran the mill. A few years later there came some heavy rains and washed this mill away. Then Mr. Spangler with new energy and the help of his neighbors built a new and better mill. This new mill had an undershot turbine wheel.” If Clay was correct in stating that the Spangler Mill was new prior to the 1878 flood, then it would seem Spangler rebuilt Beckley’s mill in the 1870s. Clay’s statement that the mill was the first in the county to make wheat flour must refer to Beckley’s 1830s mill, not Spangler’s postbellum mill, since flour production was by then common in the county.²²

According to Clay’s account, Spangler switched from an overshot wheel to a turbine in the ca. 1879 rebuilding. The change is confirmed by the 1880 industrial census which described Asa Spangler’s \$2,000 Piney Creek mill as powered by an eighteen-inch diameter “turban” or turbine wheel. Compact and efficient turbine wheels were introduced to the region during the latter part of the nineteenth century, and Spangler was among five millowners in the region whose mills were powered by turbines in 1880. Spangler’s turbine revolved at 380 rpm and generated 22 horsepower from a fall of 23 feet. The turbine ran two runs (pairs) of millstones. During the June 1879-May 1880 census year the mill produced 800 barrels of wheat flour, 129,600 pounds of cornmeal, and 60,800 pounds of animal feed. The census taker provided incomplete information on Spangler’s workforce—for example, checking the box for “average number of hands employed” without inserting a number—but the fact that he checked the box for male hands above sixteen years of age and not other boxes suggests he meant to indicate a single worker.²³

Contour lines on historic and modern maps suggest a fall of around twenty feet may have been possible at the Piney Creek site, assuming the water came from a dam at the west end of the nominated area where one is known to have stood in historic times. The mill’s turbine would have been placed at the bottom of the wheel pit to maximize fall, and as noted in Section 7 the front of the wheel pit was walled up during the historic period, presumably to create a turbine enclosure. A stone-walled turbine pit survives at the ca. 1905 Ball Mill in Fayette County.²⁴

²¹ Wolfe, “Old Beckley Mill,” 3; *Mountain Herald*, September 19, 1878.

²² “J. P. Clay.”

²³ “J. P. Clay;” US census; Pezzoni, “Early Water-Powered Industry.”

²⁴ Quick et al, “Archaeological Survey,” 29, 109; Pezzoni, “Early Water-Powered Industry.”

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Beckley Mill Site
Name of Property
Raleigh County, West Virginia
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 8 Page 14

In 1883 Alfred Beckley's daughter, diarist Maria Beckley, visited a sawmill near Wildwood. "F [a woman named Fanny Spessard] and I walked down to the sawmill," Maria wrote in a July 4, 1883, entry. "We met Clarence and took him back some water. He explained the sawmill to us. I am so sorry this place is not gayer for the girls." The reference is not specific, but the fact that the sawmill was within walking distance of Wildwood and situated at a lower elevation suggests it was located on Piney Creek, presumably at Spangler's mill. Then again, there would have been many portable steam sawmills operating in the area during the 1880s. In 1882 journalist Jedediah Hotchkiss noted lumbering activity on Piney Creek, "which drains nearly 300 square miles of excellent timber," and listed a number of sawmills, but not one at the Beckley site.²⁵

If the sawmill Maria Beckley visited was in fact part of the Spangler milling operation, she would have walked there via the route known as the Worley Road. The road has an interesting history. It presumably existed in the 1830s with the beginning of milling at the site. As a projected route if not a road per se it appears to be indicated on the Virginia Board of Public Work's 1840 sketch map for the Giles, Fayette and Kanawha Turnpike and the presentation map the same year. However, the BPW opted not to build the turnpike along the route that crossed Piney Creek at the mill site. A notation in state engineer Claudius Crozet's 1842 field notes may refer to the decision. "Very rough & rocky hill side," Crozet noted of the area between Beaver and Piney creeks. "It was this exceeding roughness which prevented the line from crossing Piney below the mouth of Beaver & thus saving a bridge." Technically, the turnpike route Crozet apparently favored and which was ultimately built crossed Piney Creek just below where Beaver Creek flowed into it, so Crozet's comment may be interpreted to mean considerably below the mouth. In other words, it was the Piney Creek crossing at the Beckley Mill Site which Crozet and the state rejected in favor of the one closer to Beaver Creek. Deeds from the 1840s refer to at least two fords in the vicinity of the mill site.²⁶

Worley Road is precisely portrayed on an 1898 map prepared for the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad in advance of the construction of the railroad's Piney Creek branch. The road followed its present course down the steep slope from town, crossed the creek at the location of the present bridge abutment, and continued up the steep slope on the south side of the creek "to Hinton," as the 1898 map noted. The now disused section of the road on the south side of the creek is said to survive as a trace.²⁷

The 1878 freshet destroyed the bridge at the mill site. The most detailed account of the washed-out bridge and its rebuilding is contained in a 1943 newspaper interview with Isaac Prince (not Alfred Beckley's uncle but a descendant). Prince stated, "There was quite a flood of the Piney in 1878 which washed out the bridge at the mill on the road leading to Scott's Ridge and Richmond district." According to Prince and his interviewer, Harold Riffe, "William Christian and his brother-in-law John Bailey, got the contract for rebuilding the bridge, and Mr. Prince and Marshall Bailey hauled the two main sills for the bridge, timbers 12

²⁵ Wolfe, "Old Beckley Mill," *The Virginias* (3:1 January 1882), 11.

²⁶ Survey Book No. 3 (1840), Field Notes 1840 folder, and Location Book No. 8 (1842), Field Notes 1842 folder, Giles, Fayette and Kanawha Turnpike Papers; "Map of the Giles, Fayette and Kanawha Turnpike, 1840;" Fayette County Deed Book C, p. 513, and Deed Book D, p. 103.

²⁷ Quick et al, "Archaeological Survey," 4, 28-29.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Beckley Mill Site
Name of Property
Raleigh County, West Virginia
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 8 Page 15

by 16 inches by 60 feet . . . [Prince] remembers that they used two span of oxen for the purpose, the cattle pulling half-sleds on which the front end of each log rested, the rear end dragging . . . near the mill there was turn in the road so sharp they had to ‘throw’ the rear ends of the logs around a cliff. But after an all-day effort they got the bridge timbers to the mill site.” The interview is silent on the bridge abutment, whether it was rebuilt, as seems most likely considering the destructive power of the flood, or was reused from the earlier bridge.²⁸

Another account of the mill site was published in the April 6, 1955, issue of the *Beckley Post-Herald*. Titled “A Long-Ago Trip to Worley’s Mill,” the account was derived from an anonymous, undated, and somewhat romanticized reminiscence. Nevertheless, context clues suggest it accurately portrays some aspects of the mill site as it was in the late nineteenth century. The interviewee described the route to the mill along Worley Road down which farmers took their grain for grinding into wheat flour, buckwheat flour, and cornmeal. At the bottom of the gorge, “there was the old grist mill with the exciting noises and clean smells; and the big wooden mill wheel—how enormous it looked! The splashing water and the hum and noise at the mill was so enchanting to us children. Across the road from the mill was a little flat on which [stood] the miller’s house. It was always a busy home, full of kind people. Between the house and the creek ran the mill race, surrounded by alders and willows. The water looked so dark and deep and raced so fast between the shiny wooden walls. Then there was the little garden spot between the house and spring . . . Just above the mill was an old wooden bridge and a narrow road which skirted the edge of the mountain and led on to Crow, Grandview and Table Rock.” The article concluded, “Gone now are the man-made things. There is no mill, no house, no bridge. Not a stick nor stone is left of the old familiar bridge. It is a lonely, desolate place.” As correctly stated by the interviewee, the miller’s house was located in a flat area across the road from the mill, and the millrace or flume was constructed of wood, as shown in a ca. 1916 photo. The interviewee would have been about eighty years old or older in 1955 in order to have seen the waterwheel that preceded the ca. 1879 turbine.²⁹

Late nineteenth and early twentieth century deeds detail physical characteristics of the site. In 1885 J. B. Power (or Powers) purchased seventeen and a half acres of the mill tract including the “present Dam.” Power received the right to harvest “twenty trees outside of the tract hereby conveyed for the purpose of building a dam and the right to use the timber in the present dam if the said Power erects his dam on the present site.” These are references to a crib dam made out of timber. Asa Spangler reserved water rights in order to “run the Mill now standing or any Mill that may be hereafter erected of like capacity on the same site.” The arrangement suggests Power and Spangler operated separate mills at the location.³⁰

In 1888 Asa Spangler and his wife, Rebecca, sold a three-acre parcel including the mill to J. B. and C. L. Worley for \$800. On the same date Spangler sold the remainder of the mill tract to Edwin Prince. Civil War veteran Tazewell Worley became involved with the mill in the 1890s. He and his son Samuel Worley were

²⁸ *Raleigh Register*, October 10, 1943.

²⁹ Wolfe, “Old Beckley Mill,” 8-9; *Beckley Post-Herald*, April 6, 1955.

³⁰ Raleigh County Deed Book G, p. 604, and Deed Book J, p. 209.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Beckley Mill Site
Name of Property
Raleigh County, West Virginia
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 8 Page 16

listed as millers in the 1900 census. Tazewell Worley operated a steam sawmill on the hill on the south side of the creek, and there is a tradition, related in an account of another Asa Spangler mill, that Spangler traded his Piney Creek mill to “Mr. Worley” in exchange for a sawmill. (The information, which suggests a portable steam sawmill, is not necessarily evidence for such a sawmill at the Beckley mill site during the period.) The mill site came to be known as Worley’s Mill and is so named on the 1898 map of the projected Chesapeake and Ohio Piney Creek branch. The map shows three buildings at the location: the mill, which is shown as a rectangular building more or less corresponding to the foundation footprint but with a gap between it and the adjacent bridge abutment; the miller’s house, which appears to have a porch or wing extending partway across the front; and a store, a rectangular building approximately the same size as the mill. The store is shown on an elevated bench to the east of the mill (outside the nominated area) where it would have been protected from floods yet accessible to Worley Road. In the early twentieth century a community known as Worley or Whorley developed in the vicinity of the mill, centered on a one-room schoolhouse which operated from 1889 to 1912. The construction of the C&O branch line during the first years of the new century encouraged population growth in the Piney Creek gorge.³¹

The Raleigh Supply and Milling Company (RS&MC) acquired the mill in the early twentieth century and in 1910 sold it to the Piney Excelsior and Manufacturing Company (PE&MC). The 1910 deed contains a detailed description of the buildings that stood on the property at the time. They included “a large three-story frame grist mill building, stable, frame dwelling, mill-dam, mill-race, storehouse and other property and improvements.” Also conveyed was “the spur switch and railroad track which [the Raleigh Supply and Milling Company] built running from the main line of the Piney Branch of the Chesapeake and Ohio Railway up to the mill-house building.” Not conveyed in the 1910 deed were “the lumber, tools, boiler, engine, rock crusher and other implements” used by the RS&MC. According to historian James H. Miller, writing in 1908, the RS&MC manufactured “feed and other foodstuffs and operates a general feed business and rock crushing plant at Whorley’s Mill, one of the ancient water grist-mills in Raleigh County on Piney.” The company was incorporated in 1905 with W. L. Barksdale as president. Edward W. Compton was the general manager.³²

The excelsior or “wood wool” produced by the Piney Excelsior and Manufacturing Company was one of region’s many forest products. An early reference to the local excelsior industry appears in the January 1882 issue of the development journal *The Virginias* which notes, “Williams & Crawford have a water-powered mill at Glade mouth that is cutting basswood into material for filling mattresses, cushions, etc., called ‘Excelsior,’ which is baled and sent to Baltimore, Philadelphia, Richmond and elsewhere.” A steam engine was useful in making excelsior, and because the PE&MC did not receive one in the 1910 transfer, the company advertised for one. In the September 1910 issue of the trade magazine *Barrel and Box* the company placed the following notice: “The Piney Excelsior Manufacturing Company, Bellepoint, W. Va., wants a

³¹ Scott Worley personal communication with the author, September 2016; Raleigh County Deed Book J, pp. 176 and 209; Spangler, “Comments on the Operation of the Spangler Mill;” Quick et al, “Archaeological Survey,” 28-29, 83, 107, 114, 115; Wolfe, “Old Beckley Mill,” 4; *Saward’s Journal* (March 5, 1921), 995.

³² Tom Sopher and Carl Wolfe personal communication with the author, September 2016; Raleigh County Deed Book 44, p. 411; Miller, *History of Summers County*, 490, 751.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Beckley Mill Site
Name of Property
Raleigh County, West Virginia
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 8 Page 17

complete outfit of excelsior machinery, boiler, etc.” Also in September 1910 the company announced in another trade magazine that it would “establish [an] excelsior factory and install machinery” for a capitalization of \$25,000. The Beckley mill site was an ideal location for the excelsior manufacturer, as historian William Hunter notes, for rail access allowed it to ship excelsior directly to furniture makers and other users.³³

In 1915 the PE&MC transferred the mill property to a trustee, Hinton lawyer James H. Miller, the same James H. Miller who had written about the mill site in 1908. The deed described the transfer as including “all of the real estate” conveyed in 1910, although the description differed from the earlier transfer in that it described “the old Worley mill building, a number of dwelling houses, mill dam, water power, etc.” The transfer also included “all machinery, excelsior manufacturing machinery and other machinery, tools,” and account books. Taz (Tazewell) Worley and others were mentioned as having had an interest in the property in a subsequent deed.³⁴

The earliest known photograph of the property is a tinted postcard view dating to ca. 1909. Labeled “Whorley Falls, Piney River, near Prince, W. Va.,” the view shows the west end of the nominated area—not, unfortunately, the east end where the mill stood, although the view is nevertheless informative. Among the no-longer extant features it depicts is a one-story building which stood next to the creek just above the falls, downstream from the dam and millpond. The gable-roofed building is shown as white in color and has what appears to be vertical wood siding. A notable feature, and one that helps identify the building’s probable function, is an access hatch located high on the east gable end, the elevation facing the camera, reached by a ladder attached to the building. The high access and the building’s proximity to the millpond suggest it functioned as a commercial icehouse, a building type of the era before modern refrigeration. Ice would have been cut on the millpond, floated down the creek to the building, and stored until shipment. The building may have been built after 1898 for it does not appear on the 1898 map. No obvious trace of the building has been observed where it stood. Another ice storage facility operated nearby during the period or slightly later. Referred to as a “community ice cave,” the enterprise operated on Beaver Creek.³⁵

The ca. 1909 view also shows a curious log crib structure on the opposite side of the creek from the nominated parcel, upstream from Worley Falls. The structure, which looks something like a short bridge span projecting into the creek, stands at the terminus of what appears to be a wooden flume which extends upstream in the direction of the milldam. A number of explanations may be posited for the structure, but the one proposed here is that it was the supporting structure for a small mill, perhaps a tub mill which may have been operated by J. B. Power in the 1880s.³⁶

³³ *The Virginias* (3:1 January 1882), 11; *Barrel and Box* 15:7 (September 1910): 30; *Industrial World* 44:2 (September 5, 1910): 1078; Raleigh County Deed Book 54, p. 362; Quick et al, “Archaeological Survey,” 84.

³⁴ Raleigh County Deed Book 95, p. 337.

³⁵ Scott Worley personal communication with the author, September 2016; Quick et al, “Archaeological Survey,” 38-39; “Whorley Falls.”

³⁶ “Whorley Falls.”

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Beckley Mill Site
Name of Property
Raleigh County, West Virginia
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 8 Page 18

A portion of the mill site appears again in a photograph published in a 1916 geological treatise. Captioned “Falls in Piney Creek at Whorley,” the photo was taken from the same vantage point as the ca. 1909 photograph. The putative icehouse, log mill supports, and flume are missing from the view, perhaps victims of a flood in 1913. The 1916 photo shows a bit more of the north side of the nominated area and depicts a wooden flume that ran from the upstream dam in the direction of the mill downstream. The flume does not appear to have been much elevated above ground level in the view, although it would have gained elevation as it approached the mill. Abutting the flume is a small gabled structure of unknown function. Upstream, just visible in the view, is the crib milldam. The south end of the dam is shown in greater detail in another photograph taken at the same time. It appears to have had upstream planking like that mentioned by Alfred Beckley in the 1840s, a demonstration of the persistence of the construction technique. The 1916 photo also shows extensive deforestation on the slopes and ridge tops of the Piney Creek gorge.³⁷

In 1927 the Piney Creek mill site was transferred to the Beckley Light and Power Company. The deed described the property as “the Whorley Mill property, on which was formerly located the old Whorley Mill and Mill Dam and buildings.” In other words, between 1915 and 1927 the mill building had ceased to exist. It may have been demolished or removed in 1919 or 1920 when the value of buildings on the three-acre parcel decreased from \$1,200 to \$500.³⁸

In October 1945 the US Soil Conservation Service photographed the Beckley mill site from the air. The photo is not of sufficient resolution to show much detail, but it confirms that the mill and other buildings no longer stood at the site and it may show small trees growing from inside or beside the mill foundation. The dam and flume are not apparent, nor is the railroad spur that once ran to the site. The 1945 photo shows the beginnings of reforestation but not the dense forested character of the site’s present-day setting. In the mid- and late twentieth century the site lay downhill from the Beckley city dump. During this period one or more vagrants are said to have lived on or adjacent to the mill site. A deed of correction dated July 28, 1950, transferred the mill site and three acres, more or less, from two coal companies to the City of Beckley. The city currently owns the mill site and planning is underway to conserve the mill and bridge ruins and to develop the site for recreational purposes.³⁹

Architectural Discussion

Although the Beckley Mill building is gone and historic images of it have not been located, something can be said about the its architectural features based on written accounts, the evidence of the surviving foundation, and characteristics of other mills in the region. The mill envisioned in 1846 was to have a “mill house 20 feet square two stories high.” The current foundation appears to incorporate an original section that roughly corresponds with this dimension. The foundation eventually grew to approximately forty-seven by twenty-

³⁷ Krebs, *West Virginia Geological and Economic Survey, Raleigh County*, frontispiece; Quick et al, “Archaeological Survey,” 40, 84.

³⁸ Raleigh County tax records and Deed Book 95, p. 337.

³⁹ Soil Conservation Service aerial photograph DDF-25-98 (October 19, 1945); Quick et al, “Archaeological Survey,” 50, 82, 85; Raleigh County Deed Book 294, p. 300.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Beckley Mill Site
Name of Property Raleigh County, West Virginia
County and State N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 8 Page 19

five feet or more, commensurate with the larger building described later accounts, such as the “large three-story frame grist mill building” described in a 1910 deed. The expansion may have occurred early in the mill’s evolution, a possibility suggested by the \$4,000 tax valuation in the 1850s, which would seem to imply a building larger than the twenty-foot-square mill envisioned in 1846, even accounting for other buildings on the site, and the large building described in the 1860 sale notice. If the antebellum mill did measure forty to fifty feet in length, it would have been relatively large for its time and place, since most of the region’s nineteenth-century gristmills were small, reflecting their localized focus.⁴⁰

Beckley’s interest in double gearing may indicate a market focus, as noted previously. Specific features of his mill and its postbellum successor, such as the double gearing, double run (pair) of millstones, “bolting chest” or bolter, and possible carding machine, suggest an enterprise of considerable sophistication. The double gearing considered in the 1840s may have had other implications. An 1848 edition of mill innovator Oliver Evans’s mill guide stated, “By double gearing, the mill may be made more convenient for two pair of stones to one water-wheel,” suggesting Beckley established the precedent for double millstone runs followed by Spangler when he rebuilt the mill around 1879. A sugar industry journal noted in 1909, “Cane mills use single gearing when driven by slow motion power, and double gearing when operated by fast motion power.”⁴¹

As for the structure and finish of Beckley’s 1840s mill, the availability of sawn lumber from his own sawmill suggests the building was frame with milled siding, either weatherboards or vertical board siding, the latter often finished with battens over the gaps to create board-and-batten siding. The sawmill would have been a separate structure initially, although it is not impossible that it was later rebuilt or added to the gristmill. A carding machine may also have been part of the operation in the 1840s. In West Virginia carding machines were housed either inside the main mill building or in a separate but closely adjacent building to which power was transmitted from the main mill.⁴²

Something more can be said about the ca. 1879 mill, for though no photograph of it is known, it is reasonable to assume it was broadly similar to the steam-powered gristmill Asa Spangler built at Cirtsville five years after he rebuilt the Piney Creek mill. The Cirtsville mill was a two-story frame building with board-and-batten siding, a gable roof, and an assortment of window types including the six-over-six sash windows that were normative during the nineteenth century. A cantilevered shed roof sheltered the front entrance with a doorway above for tossing goods to and from wagons parked below. The arrangement at the Piney Creek site was probably similar, with the entrance opening onto the level area where the steam engine was later placed. The photo of the Cirtsville mill shows horses and wagons gathered around it. A similar scene would have greeted visitors to the Piney Creek mill.⁴³

⁴⁰ Raleigh County Deed Book 44, p. 411; Alfred Beckley to Neville B. Craig, December 11, 1846; Pezzoni, “Early Water-Powered Industry.”

⁴¹ Jeane, “Culture History of Grist Milling,” 31; Evans et al, *Young Mill-wright and Miller’s Guide*, 41; *Louisiana Planter and Sugar Manufacturer* (January 30, 1909), 77.

⁴² Pezzoni, “Early Water-Powered Industry.”

⁴³ *Beckley Post-Herald Centennial Edition*, August 26, 1950.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Beckley Mill Site
Name of Property
Raleigh County, West Virginia
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 8 Page 20

Changes to the mill's power apparatus had architectural ramifications. The overshot wheel that existed in the 1870s, undoubtedly of wooden construction (and so described in one account), was presumably destroyed or damaged in the 1878 flood. Spangler switched to turbine power in the rebuilding, which may explain the walling up of the front of the wheel well and the replacement of an axle mount on the opposite side of the wheel well with the current crudely-constructed masonry. The next major change was the addition of steam power in the first decade of the twentieth century. The steam-engine mount is now exposed to the elements but originally it may have been sheltered by a shed wing like the engine wing at Spangler's Cirtsville mill (evidence for such a wing, if one existed, has not been identified archaeologically at the Piney Creek site). Even after steam power was added, waterpower continued in use; the 1916 photo shows a flume in good repair. Complementary power sources were not uncommon in milling during the early twentieth century, a period when waterpower, steam-power, electrical-power, and gasoline-power were all available to millers.

Archaeological Discussion

The Beckley Mill Site (46-RG-325) was archaeologically surveyed in November-December 2014 by Cultural Resource Analysts, Inc. (CRA). The work followed the excavation of a shovel test by archaeologist David N. Fuerst in 2013 which demonstrated the existence of intact, undisturbed stratigraphy and subsurface archaeological deposits. The 2014 survey was supported by the City of Beckley and a West Virginia State Historic Preservation Office Survey and Planning Grant. According to CRA's project report, the survey involved a magnetic gradiometer survey, pedestrian survey supplemented by shovel testing (102 shovel tests), and hand excavation of three test units. The magnetic survey, which focused on the level area to the south of the house (cottage) site, suggested the presence of subsurface targets. A total of 476 historic artifacts were recovered dating from the early nineteenth century through the mid-twentieth century with a preponderance from the late nineteenth century on. CRA concluded the site "will yield important information about local and regional history" and recommended it for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under eligibility Criterion D. CRA also suggested the site was eligible under Criterion B for association with Alfred Beckley, however Beckley's National Register-listed residence Wildwood is a stronger candidate for Criterion B listing, and therefore Criterion B significance was not pursued for the mill site.⁴⁴

The CRA survey generated a wealth of archaeological data. The authors divided the recovered artifacts into several groups. The architecture group artifacts included handmade and machine-made brick fragments, "late fully machine-cut nails," and wire nails. The handmade brick fragments and machine-cut nails may relate to buildings that stood on the site in the nineteenth century, although there is potential for artifacts to have been transported to the site by water through flooding on Piney Creek or to have tumbled onto the site from the city dump formerly located uphill. Domestic group artifacts, presumably mostly associated with the house site, included glass and ceramics such as ironstone, porcelain, and stoneware. The authors noted that the ceramic dates clustered in the late nineteenth century. Other artifact groups represented included furnishing, clothing, and maintenance/subsistence items. The CRA survey did not examine the interior of the mill

⁴⁴ Quick et al, "Archaeological Survey," i, 85, 92, 120.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Beckley Mill Site
Name of Property
Raleigh County, West Virginia
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 8 Page 21

building. Should archaeological examination of the mill building occur in the future, it would have the potential to resolve questions about the mill's historic use and physical evolution.⁴⁵

In terms of this archaeological potential and the site's visible above-ground resources, the Beckley Mill Site is an assemblage of resources of considerable significance in the history of Beckley and Raleigh County.

⁴⁵ Quick et al, "Archaeological Survey," 58, 105.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Beckley Mill Site
Name of Property
Raleigh County, West Virginia
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 9 Page 22

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Beckley Mill Site
Name of Property
Raleigh County, West Virginia
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 9 Page 23

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Beckley Mill Site
Name of Property
Raleigh County, West Virginia
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 9 Page 24

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Beckley Mill Site
Name of Property
Raleigh County, West Virginia
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 10 Page 25

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated area corresponds to Raleigh County parcel 11 24000500000000 as portrayed in Quick et al, "Archaeological Survey and National Register of Historic Places Evaluation of the Beckley Mill Site (46RG325) in Raleigh County, West Virginia," plus an approximately one half to one-acre area on the east end of the parcel, part of Raleigh County parcel 01 47000200000000, as portrayed on the 1:200-scale map that accompanies the nomination.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The nominated area encompasses known historic resources in city ownership that are associated with the historic development of the Beckley Mill Site.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Beckley Mill Site
Name of Property
Raleigh County, West Virginia
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Photos Page 26

PHOTOGRAPH LOG

Name of Property: Beckley Mill Site
City: Beckley
County: Raleigh
State: West Virginia
Name of Photographer: Dan Pezzoni and/or Stephen Brightwell
Date Photographed: August, October, and/or November 2016
Location of Original Digital Files: West Virginia State Historic Preservation Office

Photo 1 of 36

Photographer: Dan Pezzoni
Date Photographed: August 2016
WV_RaleighCounty_BeckleyMillSite_0001
View: Beckley Mill foundation, east or front wall facing creek, view facing west.

Photo 2 of 36

Photographer: Stephen Brightwell
Date Photographed: November 2016
WV_RaleighCounty_BeckleyMillSite_0002
View: Beckley Mill foundation with north wall in foreground, view facing south.

Photo 3 of 36

Photographer: Dan Pezzoni
Date Photographed: October 2016
WV_RaleighCounty_BeckleyMillSite_0003
View: Beckley Mill foundation west or landward wall with engine mount beyond, view facing west.

Photo 4 of 36

Photographer: Stephen Brightwell
Date Photographed: November 2016
WV_RaleighCounty_BeckleyMillSite_0004
View: Mill foundation where it is overlapped by the bridge abutment, view facing west.

Photo 5 of 36

Photographer: Dan Pezzoni
Date Photographed: October 2016
WV_RaleighCounty_BeckleyMillSite_0005
View: Detail of front of wheel well, view facing west.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Beckley Mill Site
Name of Property
Raleigh County, West Virginia
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Photos Page 27

Photo 6 of 36

Photographer: Dan Pezzoni

Date Photographed: October 2016

WV_RaleighCounty_BeckleyMillSite_0006

View: Loose masonry on north side of wheel well (at right of view), view facing northwest.

Photo 7 of 36

Photographer: Dan Pezzoni

Date Photographed: August 2016

WV_RaleighCounty_BeckleyMillSite_0007

View: Engine mount, view facing north.

Photo 8 of 36

Photographer: Stephen Brightwell

Date Photographed: November 2016

WV_RaleighCounty_BeckleyMillSite_0008

View: Bridge abutment, view facing west.

Photo 9 of 36

Photographer: Dan Pezzoni

Date Photographed: October 2016

WV_RaleighCounty_BeckleyMillSite_0009

View: Bridge abutment retaining wall, view facing north.

Photo 10 of 36

Photographer: Dan Pezzoni

Date Photographed: October 2016

WV_RaleighCounty_BeckleyMillSite_0010

View: Building foundation, view facing west.

Photo 11 of 36

Photographer: Stephen Brightwell

Date Photographed: November 2016

WV_RaleighCounty_BeckleyMillSite_0011

View: House foundation, view facing northeast.

Photo 12 of 36

Photographer: Stephen Brightwell

Date Photographed: November 2016

WV_RaleighCounty_BeckleyMillSite_0012

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Beckley Mill Site
Name of Property
Raleigh County, West Virginia
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Photos Page 28

View: Mill race pylon remnants, view facing east.

Photo 13 of 36

Photographer: Stephen Brightwell

Date Photographed: November 2016

WV_RaleighCounty_BeckleyMillSite_0013

View: Mill race platform, view facing northwest.

Photo 14 of 36

Photographer: Stephen Brightwell

Date Photographed: November 2016

WV_RaleighCounty_BeckleyMillSite_0014

View: Stone walls and foundations, view facing north.

SUPPLEMENTAL PHOTOGRAPHS

The following photographs (15 through 36) are not referenced on a sketch map or photo key but are included on the accompanying photo disk as supplemental views of the resource.

Name of Property:	Beckley Mill Site
City:	Beckley
County:	Raleigh
State:	West Virginia
Name of Photographer:	Stephen Brightwell
Date Photographed:	November 2016
Location of Original Digital Files:	West Virginia State Historic Preservation Office

Photo 15 of 36

WV_RaleighCounty_BeckleyMillSite_0015

View: Looking east toward Piney Creek at the wheel well adjoining the north wall of the Beckley Mill foundation.

Photo 16 of 36

WV_RaleighCounty_BeckleyMillSite_0016

View: Looking north at the interior of the Beckley Mill foundation.

Photo 17 of 36

WV_RaleighCounty_BeckleyMillSite_0017

View: Looking west at the east wall of the Beckley Mill foundation and the wheel well.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Beckley Mill Site
Name of Property
Raleigh County, West Virginia
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Photos Page 29

Photo 18 of 36

WV_RaleighCounty_BeckleyMillSite_0018

View: Looking west at the east wall of the bridge abutment where it joins the south end of the east wall of the Beckley Mill foundation.

Photo 19 of 36

WV_RaleighCounty_BeckleyMillSite_0019

View: Looking northwest at the south and east walls of the bridge abutment.

Photo 20 of 36

WV_RaleighCounty_BeckleyMillSite_0020

View: Looking north at the south wall of the bridge abutment.

Photo 21 of 36

WV_RaleighCounty_BeckleyMillSite_0021

View: Looking south at the north wall of the bridge abutment.

Photo 22 of 36

WV_RaleighCounty_BeckleyMillSite_0022

View: Looking east across the top of the bridge abutment.

Photo 23 of 36

WV_RaleighCounty_BeckleyMillSite_0023

View: Looking south at the building foundation (on right).

Photo 24 of 36

WV_RaleighCounty_BeckleyMillSite_0024

View: Looking north across the top of the building foundation toward the hill slope.

Photo 25 of 36

WV_RaleighCounty_BeckleyMillSite_0025

View: Looking east across the building foundation toward the bridge abutment and Piney Creek.

Photo 26 of 36

WV_RaleighCounty_BeckleyMillSite_0026

View: Looking east at the house foundation toward Piney Creek.

Photo 27 of 36

WV_RaleighCounty_BeckleyMillSite_0027

View: Looking south at the house foundation toward Worley Falls on Piney Creek.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Beckley Mill Site
Name of Property
Raleigh County, West Virginia
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Photos Page 30

Photo 28 of 36

WV_RaleighCounty_BeckleyMillSite_0028

View: Looking west at the house foundation.

Photo 29 of 36

WV_RaleighCounty_BeckleyMillSite_0029

View: Looking north toward the house foundation,

Photo 30 of 36

WV_RaleighCounty_BeckleyMillSite_0030

View: Looking east from Worley Road toward the mill race platform.

Photo 31 of 36

WV_RaleighCounty_BeckleyMillSite_0031

View: Looking south among the stone walls and foundations.

Photo 32 of 36

WV_RaleighCounty_BeckleyMillSite_0032

View: Looking north among the stone walls and foundations.

Photo 33 of 36

WV_RaleighCounty_BeckleyMillSite_0033

View: Looking west among the stone walls and foundations toward Worley Road.

Photo 34 of 36

WV_RaleighCounty_BeckleyMillSite_0034

View: Looking north among the stone walls and foundations.

Photo 35 of 36

WV_RaleighCounty_BeckleyMillSite_0035

View: Looking south among the stone walls and foundations.

Photo 36 of 36

WV_RaleighCounty_BeckleyMillSite_0036

View: Looking east at Worley Road from the east approach of the former bridge.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Beckley Mill Site
Name of Property
Raleigh County, West Virginia
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Photos Page 31



Photo 1: WV_RaleighCounty_BeckleyMillSite_0001
Beckley Mill foundation, east or front wall facing creek, view facing west.



Photo 2: WV_RaleighCounty_BeckleyMillSite_0002
Beckley Mill foundation with north wall in foreground, view facing south.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Beckley Mill Site
Name of Property
Raleigh County, West Virginia
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Photos Page 32



Photo 3: WV_RaleighCounty_BeckleyMillSite_0003
Beckley Mill foundation west or landward wall with engine mount beyond, view facing west.



Photo 4: WV_RaleighCounty_BeckleyMillSite_0004
Mill foundation where it is overlapped by the bridge abutment, view facing west.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Beckley Mill Site
Name of Property
Raleigh County, West Virginia
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Photos Page 33



Photo 5: WV_RaleighCounty_BeckleyMillSite_0005
Detail of front of wheel well, view facing west.



Photo 6: WV_RaleighCounty_BeckleyMillSite_0006
Loose masonry on north side of wheel well (at right of view), view facing northwest.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Beckley Mill Site
Name of Property
Raleigh County, West Virginia
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Photos Page 34



Photo 7: WV_RaleighCounty_BeckleyMillSite_0007
Engine mount, view facing north.



Photo 8: WV_RaleighCounty_BeckleyMillSite_0008
Bridge abutment, view facing west.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Beckley Mill Site
Name of Property
Raleigh County, West Virginia
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Photos Page 35



Photo 9: WV_RaleighCounty_BeckleyMillSite_0009
Bridge abutment retaining wall, view facing north.



Photo 10: WV_RaleighCounty_BeckleyMillSite_0010
Building foundation, view facing west.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Beckley Mill Site
Name of Property
Raleigh County, West Virginia
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Photos Page 36



Photo 11: WV_RaleighCounty_BeckleyMillSite_0011
House foundation, view facing northeast.



Photo 12: WV_RaleighCounty_BeckleyMillSite_0012
Mill race pylon remnants, view facing east.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Beckley Mill Site
Name of Property
Raleigh County, West Virginia
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Photos Page 37



Photo 13: WV_RaleighCounty_BeckleyMillSite_0013
Mill race platform, view facing northwest.



Photo 14: WV_RaleighCounty_BeckleyMillSite_0014
Stone walls and foundations, view facing north.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Beckley Mill Site
Name of Property
Raleigh County, West Virginia
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Photos Page 38



Photo 15: WV_RaleighCounty_BeckleyMillSite_0015
Looking east toward Piney Creek at the wheel well adjoining the north wall of the Beckley Mill foundation.



Photo 16: WV_RaleighCounty_BeckleyMillSite_0016
Looking north at the interior of the Beckley Mill foundation.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Beckley Mill Site
Name of Property
Raleigh County, West Virginia
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Photos Page 39



Photo 17: WV_RaleighCounty_BeckleyMillSite_0017
Looking west at the east wall of the Beckley Mill foundation and the wheel well.



Photo 18: WV_RaleighCounty_BeckleyMillSite_0018
Looking west at the east wall of the bridge abutment where it joins the south end of the east wall of the Beckley Mill foundation.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Beckley Mill Site
Name of Property
Raleigh County, West Virginia
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Photos Page 40



Photo 19: WV_RaleighCounty_BeckleyMillSite_0019
Looking northwest at the south and east walls of the bridge abutment.



Photo 20: WV_RaleighCounty_BeckleyMillSite_0020
Looking north at the south wall of the bridge abutment.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Beckley Mill Site
Name of Property
Raleigh County, West Virginia
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Photos Page 41



Photo 21: WV_RaleighCounty_BeckleyMillSite_0021
Looking south at the north wall of the bridge abutment.



Photo 22: WV_RaleighCounty_BeckleyMillSite_0022
Looking east across the top of the bridge abutment.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Beckley Mill Site
Name of Property
Raleigh County, West Virginia
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Photos Page 42



Photo 23: WV_RaleighCounty_BeckleyMillSite_0023
Looking south at the building foundation (on right).



Photo 24: WV_RaleighCounty_BeckleyMillSite_0024
Looking north across the top of the building foundation toward the hill slope.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Beckley Mill Site
Name of Property
Raleigh County, West Virginia
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Photos Page 43



Photo 25: WV_RaleighCounty_BeckleyMillSite_0025
Looking east across the building foundation toward the bridge abutment and Piney Creek.



Photo 26: WV_RaleighCounty_BeckleyMillSite_0026
Looking east at the house foundation toward Piney Creek.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Beckley Mill Site
Name of Property
Raleigh County, West Virginia
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Photos Page 44



Photo 27: WV_RaleighCounty_BeckleyMillSite_0027
Looking south at the house foundation toward Worley Falls on Piney Creek.



Photo 28: WV_RaleighCounty_BeckleyMillSite_0028
Looking west at the house foundation.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Beckley Mill Site
Name of Property
Raleigh County, West Virginia
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Photos Page 45



Photo 29: WV_RaleighCounty_BeckleyMillSite_0029
Looking north toward the house foundation,



Photo 30: WV_RaleighCounty_BeckleyMillSite_0030
Looking east from Worley Road toward the mill race platform.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Beckley Mill Site
Name of Property
Raleigh County, West Virginia
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Photos Page 46



Photo 31: WV_RaleighCounty_BeckleyMillSite_0031
Looking south among the stone walls and foundations.



Photo 32: WV_RaleighCounty_BeckleyMillSite_0032
Looking north among the stone walls and foundations.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Beckley Mill Site
Name of Property
Raleigh County, West Virginia
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Photos Page 47



Photo 33: WV_RaleighCounty_BeckleyMillSite_0033
Looking west among the stone walls and foundations toward Worley Road.



Photo 34: WV_RaleighCounty_BeckleyMillSite_0034
Looking north among the stone walls and foundations.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Beckley Mill Site
Name of Property
Raleigh County, West Virginia
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Photos Page 48



Photo 35: WV_RaleighCounty_BeckleyMillSite_0035
Looking south among the stone walls and foundations.



Photo 36: WV_RaleighCounty_BeckleyMillSite_0036
Looking east at Worley Road from the east approach of the former bridge.

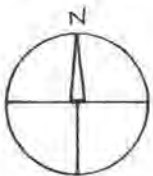
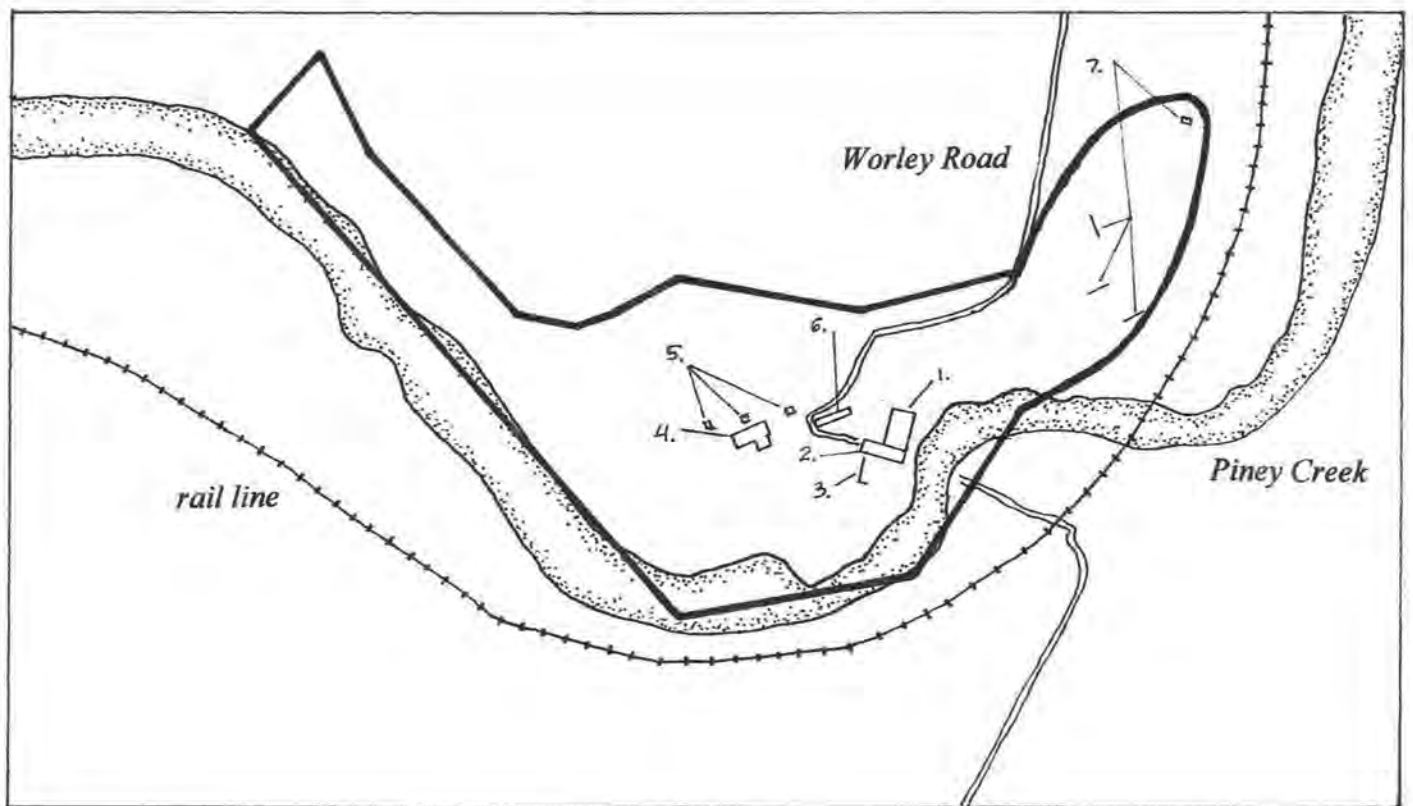
Beckley Mill Site

Beckley, Raleigh County, WV

Map adapted from Quick et al, "Archaeological Survey and National Register of Historic Places Evaluation of the Beckley Mill Site (46RG325) in Raleigh County, West Virginia" (2015).

Scale: 1 inch = approximately 200 feet. Number and direction of view of nomination photos shown on a separate photo key. Resources keyed to nomination inventory as follows:

1. Beckley Mill foundation. 1840s; mid/late 19th c. Contributing site.
2. Bridge abutment. Late 19th c. Contributing site.
3. Building foundation. 19th c. Contributing site.
4. House foundation. 19th c. Contributing site.
5. Mill race pylon remnants. 19th and/or early 20th century. Contributing site.
6. Mill race platform. 19th and/or early 20th century. Contributing site.
7. Stone walls and foundations. Late 19th c. Contributing site.



0 200 scale in feet (approx.)

Beckley Mill Site Beckley, Raleigh Co., WV

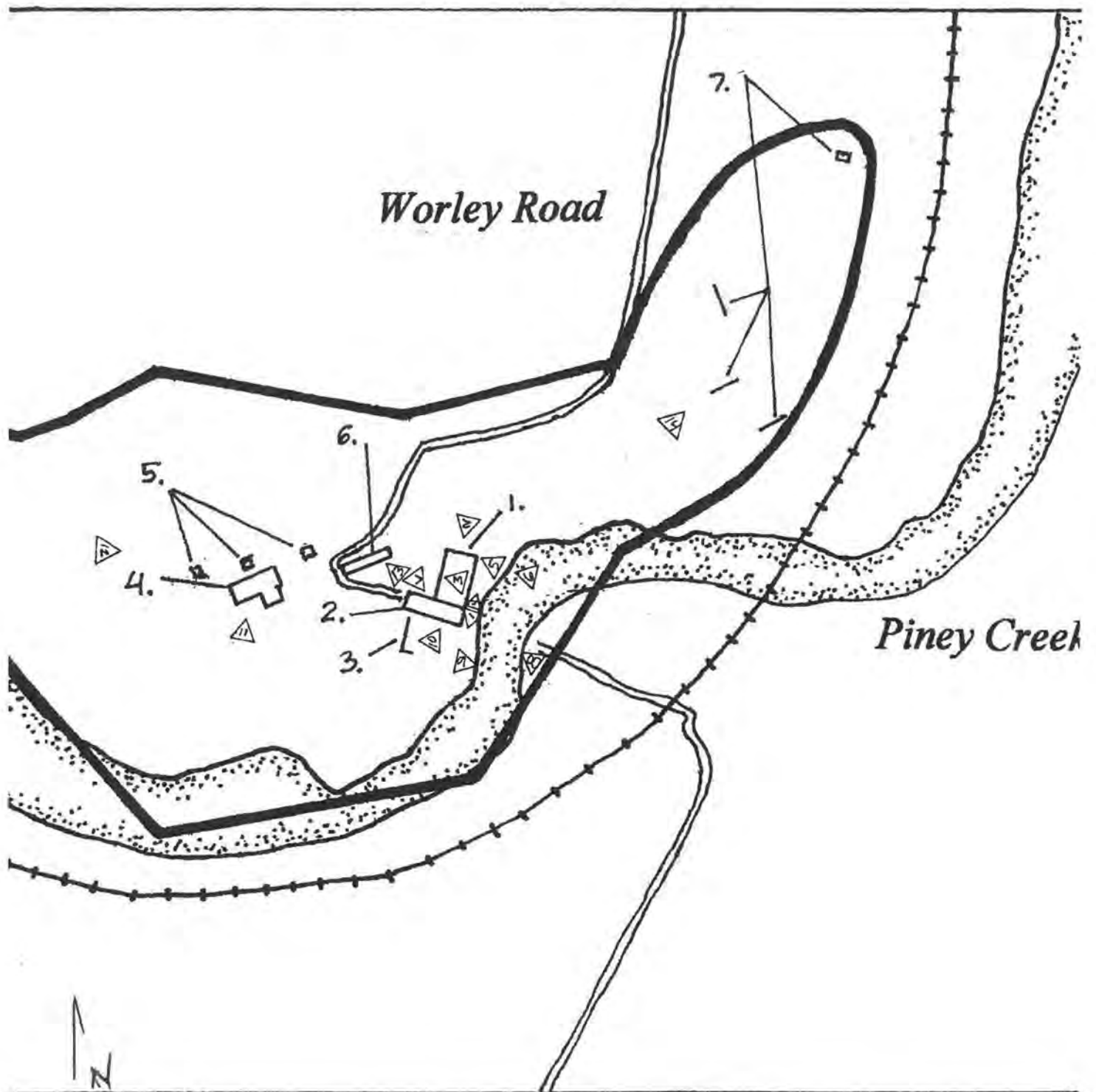
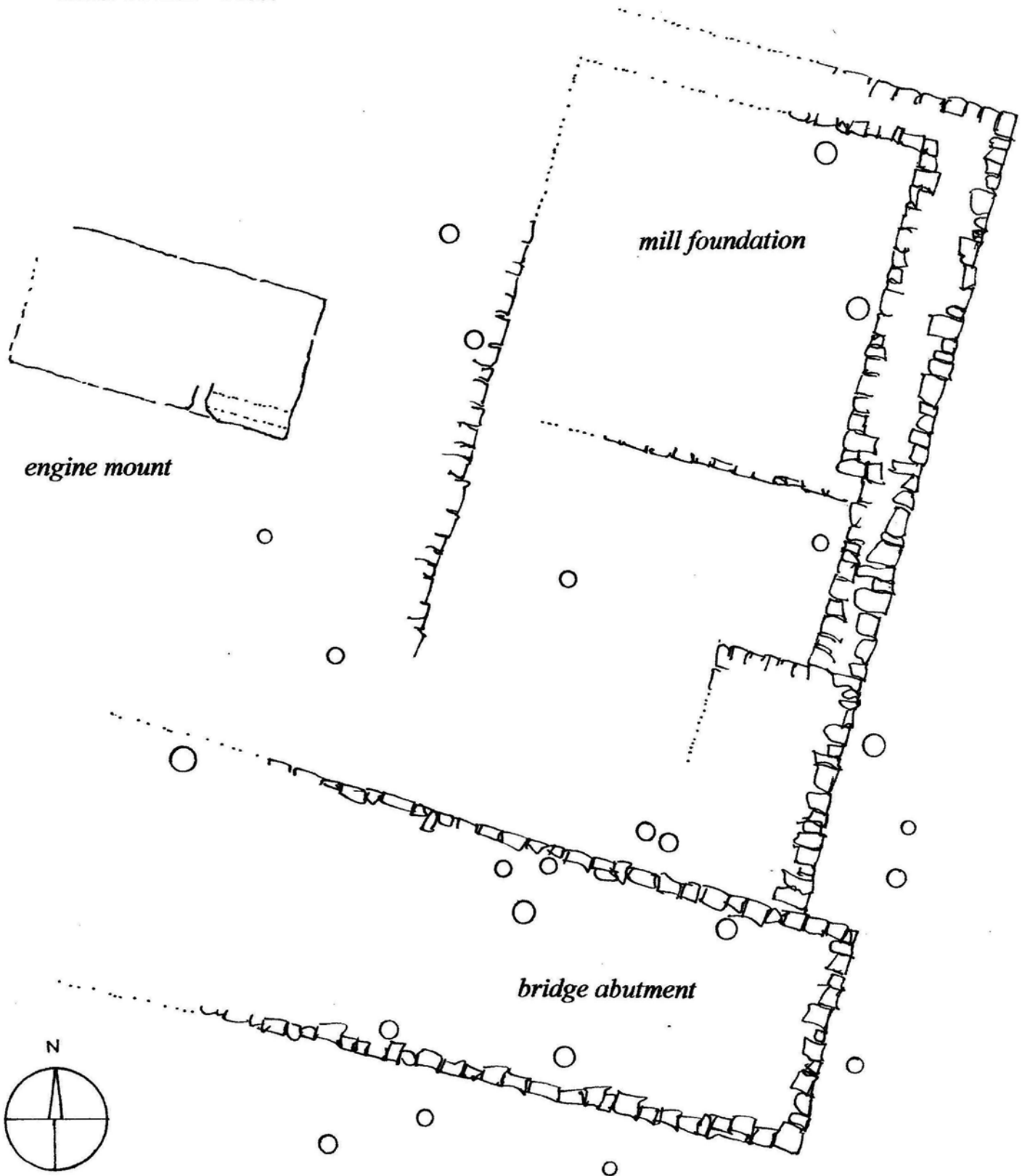


Photo Key. Number and direction of view of nomination photos indicated by triangular markers; some angles approximate.

Beckley Mill Site

Beckley, Raleigh County, WV
Scale: 1/8 inch = 1 foot





4184

20%
TOTAL RECOVERED FIBER



4183

47'30"

4182

4181

Beckley Hill Site
 Beckley, Raleigh Co, WV
 Beckley, W.VA. USGS quad
 Zone 17
 E 486680 N 4180470

PINEY
 SPRING
 HADY
 SPRING

Spring

Clifftop

Strip Mine

Strip Mine

Strip Mine

Strip Mine

Strip Mine

Stanford Rd Ch

Mine

Tipple

Sprague

BECKLEY

Strip Creek

Creek

Wilson High Sch

Hospital

Sewage Disposal

Sewage Disposal

Pinecrest Sanitarium

Armory

Radio Towers (WJLS)

Wildwood Cem

Mine Dump

Drive-in Theater

Trailer Park

Cem

East Park Sch

Beckley College

Central Sch

Lincoln Sch

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action:

Property Name:

Multiple Name:

State & County:

Date Received: Date of Pending List: Date of 16th Day: Date of 45th Day: Date of Weekly List:

Reference number:

Nominator:

Reason For Review:

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal | <input type="checkbox"/> PDIL | <input type="checkbox"/> Text/Data Issue |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SHPO Request | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Photo |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Waiver | <input type="checkbox"/> National | <input type="checkbox"/> Map/Boundary |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Resubmission | <input type="checkbox"/> Mobile Resource | <input type="checkbox"/> Period |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other | <input type="checkbox"/> TCP | <input type="checkbox"/> Less than 50 years |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> CLG | |

Accept Return Reject 5/1/2017 Date

Abstract/Summary Comments:

Recommendation/ Criteria

Reviewer Julie Ernstein Discipline Archeologist

Telephone (202)354-2217 Date _____

DOCUMENTATION: see attached comments : **Yes** see attached SLR : No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.



The Culture Center
1900 Kanawha Blvd., E.
Charleston, WV 25305-0300

Randall Reid-Smith, Commissioner

Phone 304.558.0220 • www.wvculture.org
Fax 304.558.2779 • TDD 304.558.3562

EEO/AA Employer

March 7, 2017



Mr. J. Paul Loether, Deputy Keeper and Chief
National Register and National Historic Landmark Programs
National Register of Historic Places
1201 Eye St. NW, 8th Fl.
Washington, D.C. 20005

Dear Mr. Loether:

For your review, we are submitting a National Register of Historic Places registration form for the following property:

Beckley Mill Site, Raleigh County, West Virginia

This nomination has been processed in accordance with 36 C.F.R. § 60 and approved by the West Virginia Archives and History Commission. The enclosed discs contain the true and correct copy of the nomination for the abovementioned property for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

Should you have any questions please contact Jeffrey S. Smith, National Register Coordinator, at 304.558.0240.

Sincerely,

Susan M. Pierce
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

Enclosures