

PH0691216

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED SEP 13 1976
DATE ENTERED DEC 7 1977

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

**

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC
Roller-Pettyjohn Mill
AND/OR COMMON
Indian Springs Mill

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER *W of Blountville on*
~~Route 4~~, Fall Creek Road
CITY, TOWN Blountville VICINITY OF First
STATE Tennessee CODE 47 COUNTY Sullivan CODE 163

3 CLASSIFICATION

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

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Mr. Kenneth L. Priest
STREET & NUMBER
Box 218A Route 4
CITY, TOWN Blountville VICINITY OF STATE Tennessee

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Sullivan County Courthouse
STREET & NUMBER
CITY, TOWN Blountville STATE Tennessee

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
DATE
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS
CITY, TOWN STATE
—FEDERAL —STATE —COUNTY —LOCAL

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Roller-Pettyjohn Mill, commonly known as the Indian Springs Mill, built ca. 1903, is distinguished by fine craftsmanship and functional design throughout. The three-story, rectangular, frame structure is approximately 28' x 32' measured to the existing outside walls. The foundation, constructed of native limestone, rests on bedrock. This sturdy construction has not settled or cracked in nearly three-quarters of a century of use.

The upper stories are constructed of frame. The fine quality of craftsmanship and construction goes beyond normal standards for a commercial building of this type. All upright posts measure 8" x 8" square with 8" x 8" cross brace construction for added strength. All lumber is rough sawn and dimensions are full size. Joists between floors are 2" thick with widths of 12" on the first story, 10" on the second story, and 8" on the top story. Studs are approximately 2" x 5". The structure is solid, sheathed on the diagonal with 1" thick, random width oak boards. The exterior is clapboarded with unpainted, yellow poplar wood. The majority of framing members are of seasoned oak.

The flooring construction is exceptionally fine for an industrial building of this type. It consists of 1" x 4" tongue and groove oak boards, toenailed to the joist with nail heads sunk below the face.

The original roof was covered with hand split oak shakes, shingles nailed to 1" x 2" furring strips on 2" x 6" rafters. The roof was half covered by corrugated tin in the 1930s. The remaining area of the roof was neglected and the deterioration of this section has contributed to the deterioration of the floor and the original materials and fabric located on this side of the structure. A temporary tin roof has been recently constructed to protect the structure from further decay.

The metal water wheel is 15' in diameter and 4' in width. Water was delivered to the mill from the stream by a 24" diameter steel pipe which emptied into a sluice box. Water power came from a dam, constructed 1/4 mile upstream on the Fall Creek. Constructed of native limestone, the dam held back enough water to fill a five acre mill pond. This dam was destroyed in the spring flood of 1945, and the Indian Springs Mill has not operated since that time.

The Old Indian Springs Mill sold Old Fashioned Unbolted Water Ground Corn Meal, and the sacks for this product remain stored in the mill. The milling process was aided by a very elaborate maze of ten elevators. A labyrinth of chutes transported the wheat to various machines, powered by a complex pulley and belt system. The main hopper took 26 lbs. of flour and 12 lbs. of bran for each 40 lb. bushel of wheat. The raw product was put into the hopper to be milled into flour. This hopper is located in the basement. A cleaner was used to clean straw, dirt and stone from the wheat, blowing the waste outside of the building.

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The cleaned wheat hopper stored the wheat before being processed into flour. Storage hoppers were used for storing bran, flour, and bleached flour. A 38" stone buhr ground wheat and sent down a chute to the basement to an elevator (a continuous cloth belt with tiny buckets attached) that would transport the wheat to the third floor. The bran duster would then separate bran and flour. The course flour would be ground finer and the bran would be stored in the second floor bran hopper to be bagged. The course flour would alternate between the steel roller mills and the square sifters until it was fine enough to sift through a silk screen to the chute. The brusher was used to cool the flour before storage. The wheat flour was finally transferred down to the flour hoppers and stored there until it was bagged for the farmer or for commercial sales. The three, second floor hoppers empty into the first floor bagging overhead chutes located at the front of the mill. A flour bleacher was added, and the third hopper was used to store the white, bleached flour.

The corn meal process was a simple operation. The farmer's corn was poured into the hopper of the 41" stone burh. The resultant ground meal fell into the meal bin where it was scooped back into the farmer's sack, minus the traditional one gallon per bushel toll.

The 38" granite stone was installed in the 1903 mill and used for the initial grinding of cleaned wheat. The 42" french pink stone buhr was taken from the earlier mill and used for grinding corn meal. The lower or bedstone is stationary, and the upper stone, which revolves at 100 rpm is the runner. The hoist was used to lift the runner. The corn meal hopper was taken from the original 1833 mill and was used for corn meal. Three sets of double roller mills (patented in 1883) are located on the first floor. The open staircase constructed in the corner to the left side of the entrance is constructed between each of the three stories and continues down to the basement level. The mill stones are mounted on a raised platform above the first story floor level. The main entrance features a Dutch style door. The Old Fall Creek Road was lower than the present road and it passed diagonally in front of the mill.

The miller's house was built by George Hays. This frame building was torn down. The earlier mill and frame wood mill were located to the right side of the present mill.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

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

SPECIFIC DATES 1903

BUILDER/ARCHITECT George Hays

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Roller-Pettyjohn Mill is significant architecturally as it exhibits fine craftsmanship throughout. The mill reached its present form when it was built in 1903. It is one of the few operational mills left standing in Sullivan County. Known also as the Indian Springs Mill, it is located on the site of an earlier grist mill. In its present form, this mill exhibits the traditional methods and machinery used to grind wheat, corn and feed as it was accomplished by water power. The machinery and design of this mill is original to the 1903 period. The imported French mill stone and some of the machinery from the earlier Roller Mill is housed in the extant structure. The Indian Springs Mill closed in 1955, but it is now being restored by its present owner.

The Roller-Pettyjohn Mill is worthy of recognition for its contribution to the development of industry in Sullivan County, ca. 1833-1955. The year 1833 for the origination of the Roller-Pettyjohn Mill was obtained from an historical map of Holston Valley. This date is reasonable because every later deed transferring the property mentions a mill in some way. Exactly who built the first mill is unknown. The mill located on this site was known as the Roller Mill when the property was sold in 1847.

Martin Roller obtained this land through a land grant issued and recorded in 1782. David Roller obtained the property after it was willed to him by his father. On February 13, 1830, David Roller purchased 142 acres of land on Fall Creek. In 1831 he bought fifty additional acres. None of these deed transactions mention the existence of a mill. On September 16, 1847, David Roller sold his 242 acres to James Holt for \$1,700. The property included "...a mill race that leads to a mill (located) on the above mentioned land." James Holt sold 140 acres of his land to his son John in 1848. This tract of land included the mill and mill race.

John Holt and his wife owned the mill for 29 years. In 1877 he sold a 109 acre tract of land to John W. Cox. The deed reads: "...Estimated to contain 109 acres upon which a saw mill is situated..." This is the first mention of the type of industry there was associated with the early mill.

John Cox sold the mill and one acre of land to Samuel E. Cox in 1886. This deed transferred the mill property, reserving "1/2 the water power as we now own it." to his brother, who operated the mill for the following sixteen year period.

On December 27, 1902, 28-1/2 acres of "...land, together with all the water and race privileges necessary to run and operate the mill which is located on said

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Kearfoot, Clarence B. Highland Mills

Spoden. Historic Map of Long Island. Item #337 (1970)

Deed and record books, Blountville, Tennessee

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 3

UTM REFERENCES

A 17 370380 4043480⁵⁰⁰
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Gail Hammerquist, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION

Tennessee Historical Commission

DATE

6/76

STREET & NUMBER

170 Second Avenue North

TELEPHONE

(615) 741-2371

CITY OR TOWN

Nashville

STATE

Tennessee

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL X

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

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Herbert L. Hargen

TITLE

Executive Director, Tennessee Historical Commission

DATE

9/9/76

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

12/7/77

ATTEST:

Charles H. ...

DATE

12-5-77

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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tract of land..." was sold to George C. Hays. During the following year, 1903, Mr. Hays, a master carpenter, built the existing three story structure which included modern flour milling machinery and two runs of stone buhrs.

John H. Pettyjohn bought 23.8 acres of land and the mill on Fall Creek from G. W. Hayes for \$8,280. The deed states "...and there is located on the tract of land a roller flour mill..." In 1918 the property passed to John's son, Stewart, who already owned 1/3 interest in the Roller-Pettyjohn Mill.

In Mr. Pettyjohn's last will, dated October 20, 1959, the mill was left "to be used as storage by any heirs who may need it." Two subsequent owners obtained the vacant property before the present owner purchased it in 1975. The complete restoration and preservation of the mill is being conducted by the present owner who has made a well-documented inventory of the property, the design of the installation, and the original machinery used for the mill.