

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

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

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

For HCRS use only

received JUN 3 1980

date entered

JUL 8 1980

1. Name

historic Bashor Mill

and/or common Knob Creek Mill

2. Location

street & number NE of Johnson City not for publicationcity, town Johnson City *me* vicinity of congressional district First

state Tennessee code 047 county Washington code 179

3. Classification

| Category | Ownership | Status | Present Use | |
|---|---|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> district | <input type="checkbox"/> public | <input type="checkbox"/> occupied | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> museum |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied | <input type="checkbox"/> commercial | <input type="checkbox"/> park |
| <input type="checkbox"/> structure | <input type="checkbox"/> both | <input type="checkbox"/> work in progress | <input type="checkbox"/> educational | <input type="checkbox"/> private residence |
| <input type="checkbox"/> site | Public Acquisition | Accessible | <input type="checkbox"/> entertainment | <input type="checkbox"/> religious |
| <input type="checkbox"/> object | <input type="checkbox"/> in process | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted | <input type="checkbox"/> government | <input type="checkbox"/> scientific |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> being considered | <input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted | <input type="checkbox"/> industrial | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> no | <input type="checkbox"/> military | <input type="checkbox"/> other: |

4. Owner of Property

name Dr. Donald F. Tarr

street & number Route 1

city, town Mountain City vicinity of state Tennessee 37683

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Washington County Courthouse

street & number Main Street

city, town Jonesboro state Tennessee 37659

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Statewide Architectural Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes nodate January 25, 1980 federal state county local

depository for survey records Tennessee Historical Commission

city, town 4721 Trousdale Drive Nashville state Tennessee 37219

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 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 Bashor Mill is located approximately 3 miles northwest of Johnson City and 1 mile southwest of Highway 23 in a rural area on Knob Creek. The Knob Creek Valley consists of a series of low rolling hills intersected by numerous spring fed branches. In operation for over a century, this three story mill rests on a solid foundation of native limestone. The exterior was originally sided with weather boards; however, the southwest (facade) and southeast elevations have been replaced by stamped tin sheathing. The northwest and northeast elevation retain the weatherboarded siding. The simple metal gable roof originally contained two gabled dormers on the northeast elevation, but these dormers have since been removed. The entire structure follows very functional lines. No elaborate architectural designs are exhibited on the Bashor Mill; however, the simple architectural style underlies the functionalism typical of nineteenth century industries of this region.

The facade is dominated by a large stone and brick chimney. This chimney, an unusual feature for a mill, was used in the small office in the western corner of the mill. A large wooden Dutch door serves as the main entrance. This front porch consisted of a simple shed roof supported by three small squared wooden columns. This porch was removed several years ago. The original double hung 6 over 6 windows are still present on the second story.

The northwest and northeast elevations remain quite simplistic and unchanged through time. The overshot wheel was attached to the southeast elevation. Supported by a large limestone pier, the wheel was approximately 14 feet in diameter. Steel components of the wheel and shaft are present but the original wheel deteriorated about 1954.

Used as both a grist and flour mill, all of the mill's machinery remains inside. At the lowest level, massive yellow poplar logs 18 inches square and 52 feet long support the machinery and main floor. A series of gears, fly wheels and belts travel from the basement to accompanying gears and wheels on the second and third floors. These in turn supply power necessary to run a variety of machinery. The mill contains two stone wheels for the grinding of corn and a roller mill used in the production of flour. The machinery remains in excellent state of preservation and the manufacturers' names appear stenciled on several pieces of equipment (i.e. George T. Smith Middlings Purifier Co., Jackson, Michigan, S. Hdwes Co., Silver Creek, N.Y.; and W. J. Sevice Co., Knoxville, TN).

The Bashor Mill has been vacant since about 1954. The current owners have begun a program that will enable the mill to become operational once again. Negotiation for the construction of a new wooden overshot wheel has begun and reconstruction of the head race is under consideration.

8. Significance

| Period | Areas of Significance—Check and justify below | | | |
|---|---|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> community planning | <input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> religion |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499 | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic | <input type="checkbox"/> conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> law | <input type="checkbox"/> science |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599 | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> economics | <input type="checkbox"/> literature | <input type="checkbox"/> sculpture |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699 | <input type="checkbox"/> architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> education | <input type="checkbox"/> military | <input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799 | <input type="checkbox"/> art | <input type="checkbox"/> engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> music | <input type="checkbox"/> theater |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement | <input type="checkbox"/> philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900- | <input type="checkbox"/> communications | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry | <input type="checkbox"/> politics/government | <input type="checkbox"/> other (specify) |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> invention | | |

Specific dates ca. 1830 **Builder/Architect** Henry Bashor

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Bashor Mill is the second oldest mill still standing in Washington County. In continuance for over 120 years, this milling operation has been closely associated with the Bashor family. The milling business has a long and significant history in the Bashor family. Of the nine Bashors found in the Washington County records, five either owned or had direct association with the operations of a mill. Born in Pennsylvania, 1805, Henry Bashor moved to the Knob Creek area by 1827. Bashor purchased a 17 acre tract of land from the heirs of Charles Duncan in 1829 and documents reveal the mill in operation by 1832. (Local tradition pushes the establishment of the mill back to ca. 1790, however, historical documents have not verified this contention).

Through the next two decades Henry Bashor's mill proved a successful business enterprise as he continued to acquire land and increase the scope of his business. In 1846 Bashor purchased property on nearby Brush Creek and started construction of a second mill. The 1850 Manufacturer's Census showed the Bashor Mill was valued at \$4,000. One laborer, Jackson Manning, was employed at the mill and received an average monthly wage of \$15.00. The mill annually processed 2400 bushels of wheat valued at \$1600 and 500 bushels of corn and oats valued at \$500.

In 1854 ownership of the mill was transferred to Peter Bashor. Born in Virginia in 1824, Peter Bashor is either a younger brother or nephew to Henry. By 1860, Peter had expanded the operations of the mill to process 8000 bushels of wheat valued at \$5000. During the Civil War years ownership of the mill is somewhat uncertain, but by 1867 John Jenkins sells the mill back to Peter Bashor and his new partner Isaac A. Branscomb.

Bashor and Branscomb continue to operate the prosperous mill until 1880 when James W. Osburn and J. Clark took over. From this point on the mill passed through several owners and was known by a variety of names, (i.e. Hobbs Mills and Knob Creek Roller Mills).

Unlike most mills, the Bashor Mill was never converted to mechanical power but used the water powered overshot wooden wheel until the mill closed down in the early 1950s. Records for the Knob Creek Roller Mill in the 1930s are in the possession of the present owners. These records include daily ledgers showing names of customers and the prices paid and charged for various services. Production of flour was emphasized at this point and the mill produced both bleached and phosphated flour.

The owners not only plan to restore the mill back into operating condition, but also hope to make the mill energy efficient by producing their own electricity.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Washington County Deed Records
Washington County Census 1850-1900
Washington County Court Minute Books, 1837-1842
Washington Court of Pleas and Quarter Session 1832
Washington County Tax Books 1814-1880

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 3.95 acres

ACREEAGE NOT VERIFIED

Quadrangle name Jonesboro

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

UTM NOT VERIFIED

A

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| Zone | | | | Easting | | | | Northing | | | | | | |

Verbal boundary description and justification

The property nominated is a single tract of land outlined in red on the accompanying map. The original map, drawn on a scale of 1" = 400', is located at the State Board of Equalization, Nashville, Tennessee

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

state code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Stephen T. Rogers, Cultural Resource Surveyor

organization Tennessee Historical Commission date 2/27/80

street & number 4721 Trousdale Drive telephone (615) 741-2371

city or town Nashville state Tennessee 37219

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

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

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Herbert L. Hays

title Executive Director, Tennessee Historical Commission date 5/28/80

For HCERS use only

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

W. Ray Luce
Keeper of the National Register

date 7/8/80

Attest: Kristin J. O'Connell

date 7/2/80

Chief of Registration