

PH0010782

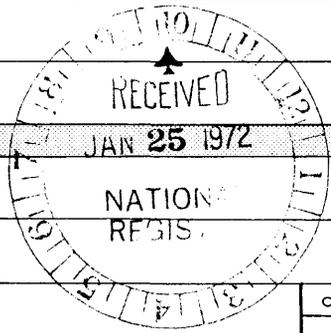
Form 10-300  
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Connecticut	
COUNTY: New London	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
APK 60	1972



1. NAME

COMMON:  
Main Sawmill

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Iron Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
Ledyard

STATE: Connecticut      CODE: 09      COUNTY: New London      CODE: 011

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____ Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:  
Town of Ledyard

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Ledyard      STATE: Connecticut      CODE: 09

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Town Hall

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Ledyard      STATE: Connecticut      CODE: 09

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
Connecticut Historic Structures and Landmarks Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1966       Federal       State       County       Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
Connecticut Historical Commission

STREET AND NUMBER:  
54 Pratt Street

CITY OR TOWN: Hartford      STATE: Connecticut      CODE: 09

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Connecticut

COUNTY: New London

ENTRY NUMBER: APR 26 1979

FOR NPS USE ONLY

DATE

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

As of this date (January, 1972) a great deal of restoration work has been done on the sawmill through a combination of funds raised by the Ledyard Historical Society, the Sawmill Committee, and a grant-in-aid from the Connecticut Historical Commission. The mill had not been in operation since 1938 and, with practically no maintenance by the owner during nearly thirty subsequent years, exhibited at the time (1966) of acquisition by the Town the deterioration to be expected in a structure sheathed with a single course of shrinking boards, disintegrating roof shingles, and large areas open to the weather. The dry-laid foundation walls of large field stones had bulged inward at several places, threatening imminent collapse of the whole, and the back parts of the mill, supported on vertical wooden posts, were likewise threatened by shifting and rotting of these members.

The structure retained its original arrangement with a wide opening across the front through which saw logs could be rolled for placement upon the wooden saw carriage just inside. This passed upon rollers between two large upright timbers which carried the guides upon which the saw frame slid vertically. A timber hinged to the frame bottom connected it with a heavy cast iron fly wheel that was driven through a series of belts and pulleys by an iron water turbine set at the very bottom of the basement area, taking its water power from the pond through a large wooden forebay and penstock. At least 85 percent of the original machinery was found in place at the start of restoration, and missing portions can readily be fabricated.

At the present time, restoration has progressed so far that the dam, mill race, and foundation have been restored, the building frame has been repaired and squared up, the roof resingled, and much of the exterior resided with board-and-batten. Most of the machinery has been demounted and set aside, for the whole supporting framework has shifted and settled to such a degree that everything was entirely out of line and patently impossible to operate. The turbine must be dug out of the thirty years' accumulation of washed-in sand and gravel that completely bury it, and put into usable condition. There is no apparent obstacle to the expectation that this old mill will once more run with all of the fascinating and rarely-seen moving parts of the original.



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**8. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                       |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century            | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century  | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century |                                       |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1869

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

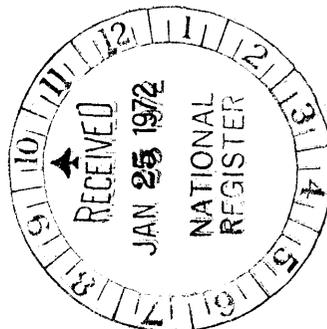
- |   |   |  |  |
|---|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal     | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input type="checkbox"/> Political           | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Industry    | <input type="checkbox"/> Science             | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture    | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture           | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture   | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art            | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater             | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce       | <input type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation      | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation   |   |  |  |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

In 1966 the Town of Ledyard purchased the former Main property comprising a total of 11.6 acres for historical preservation and recreational purposes. Located on the property is what is believed to be the only surviving vertical or up-and-down sawmill in the State. The Town is currently developing the tract for recreation. The pond that powers the sawmill can be used for swimming, skating, and other water-oriented activities. The project is being developed by a Sawmill Committee appointed by the Board of Selectmen, composed of prominent citizens, members of the Ledyard Historical Society and of the Town Parks and Recreation Commission. Town funds have been appropriated to restore the dam and mill race and to provide a parking area and sanitary facilities.

Old deeds and other sources indicate that a sawmill was in operation on this site in the mid-18th century. The present structure is considered to be the third and to have been built in 1869. Lumbering has been a vital part of the growth of the Town of Ledyard, and as roads developed the mill could send its products farther afield. Restoration experts both within and outside the State are constantly searching for a source of lumber sawn in the old-fashioned way by a vertical saw, and it is anticipated that the output of the restored mill will find a ready market. As a living documentary of earlier Connecticut industry, formerly common to almost any area with available water power throughout New England, this mill when restored and operating can be a source of education to both school children and adults and an unusual tourist attraction.

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**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

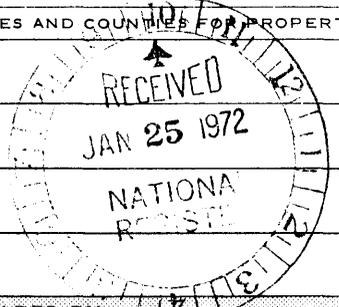
**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES							
CORNER	LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		LATITUDE		LONGITUDE					
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds		
NW	41°	26'	51"	71°	59'	18"	0	'	"	0	'	"
NE	41°	26'	51"	71°	59'	10"						
SE	41°	26'	48"	71°	59'	10"						
SW	41°	26'	48"	71°	59'	18"						

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **11.6 acres**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE: Susan Babbitt, Administrative Trainee

ORGANIZATION: Connecticut Historical Commission DATE: January 20, 1972

STREET AND NUMBER: 54 Pratt Street

CITY OR TOWN: Hartford STATE: Connecticut CODE: 09

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name [Signature]

Title State Liaison Officer

Date January 20, 1972

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

[Signature]  
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 4/26/72

ATTEST: [Signature]  
Keeper of The National Register

Date APR 26 1972

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

old Mystic Quadrangle.

41° 27' 30"

RECEIVED  
JAN 25 1912  
NATIONAL  
REGISTRY

41° 25'

