

PH036180x

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED APR 19 1976
DATE ENTERED OCT 29 1976

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 *the*
and
Kymulga Mill, Kymulga Covered Bridge
AND/OR COMMON
Kymulga Park

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
4 1/2 miles ^{NE} east of Childersburg on Highway 46
CITY, TOWN
Childersburg
STATE
Alabama
VICINITY OF
X
CODE
01
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
3
COUNTY
Talladega
CODE
121

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input 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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input checked="" 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: Recreation

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Talladega County - Bridge L. E. Donahoo - Mill
STREET & NUMBER
Talladega County Courthouse 312 9th Avenue, Childersburg, Alabama
CITY, TOWN
Talladega, Alabama VICINITY OF Alabama

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Talladega County Courthouse
STREET & NUMBER
CITY, TOWN
Talladega STATE
Alabama

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 type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The complex consists of a five acre tract which includes the mill, a dam, the covered bridge and a stand of white oak trees, which are among the largest and oldest in the state.

The Kymulga Bridge is a single span structure with a town truss which rests on two, eight-foot piers of native stone. Measuring 10 feet in width, the bridge spans a distance of 105 feet and is of double beam stress, center anchor, with iron bracings. The timbers of the bridge are in fair condition, and the sides and roof have been covered with corrugated metal. When the bridge was closed to traffic in the mid-20th Century, the approaches were removed.

Located approximately 100 feet downstream (south) from the bridge, is the wooden mill dam which backs up a seven foot head of water. The mill, which is constructed of heart pine, is located along the eastern side of the creek and rests on rock pillings. The 35 foot by 60 foot gable end structure is of beam and post construction covered with weatherboarding and is three-and-a-half stories in height on the stream side, having an enclosed floor above the water house. On the eastern side of the structure, a central, board door, flanked by a shuttered window on either side, gives access to the ground floor of the mill. Two windows for each of the remaining floors were originally double hung, with 9/6 lights and are roughly aligned with the ground floor windows. At the apex of the gable is a small circular window whose only function appears to be ornamentation. The eaves of the high-pitched gable roof are extended, finished with a fascia board, and supported by ornate wooden brackets. A small, one-story room with a gabled roof is located on the south wall of the mill. Three of the original four Leiffle turbines are still in place, as are three of the original five runs of stones. The diameters of the stones are 36 inches, 48 inches, and 52 inches, with the latter two being French Buhr. Most of the milling equipment has been returned to operating order.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input 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 Mill: 1864-1867
 Birdge:c.1860

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Mill: G. E. Morris

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Kymulga Mill and Covered Bridge Complex is the only area in the state which contains, in close proximity, a grist mill and covered bridge on their original sites. Kymulga Bridge is one of three remaining 19th-Century covered bridges in the state and the mill is unusual for its size, the ornateness of its trim and its wooden mill dam. Talladega County officials are in the process of acquiring the bridge and a five-acre strand of large white oaks for use as a park, while the mill is being restored to working order by a private owner.

Typical of 19th Century Alabama mills in that it is of wooden construction, Kymulga Mill is noted for its large size, rising three and a half stories on the stream side, for its brackted eaves (architectural embellishment was a rarity in mill construction in Alabama) and for having five runs of stones, the usual number being two or three at the most. The original wooden dam, also highly typical of the mid-19th Century, is one of the few remaining in the state.

Kymulga Bridge, which carried the Old Georgia Road over Talladega Creek, predates the construction of the mill by probably a few years at the most, but an exact date of construction is unknown. The Old Georgia Road was originally an Indian trading path which was enlarged after the land ruch of the 1830's.

Construction on the mill was begun in 1864 by a Confederate Army Captain named Forney. G. E. Morris, a South Carolina millwright who had constructed at least two other mills in the area, was contracted to build the structure. Of the three mills completed by Morris, only the Kymulga remains. When Forney died shortly after construction began, his wife directed the contractor to finish the mill and on its completion in 1867, she sold it to James Baker who operated it until 1935.

Under Baker, the operation was a sizable one, running five sets of stones from power provided by four turbines. Production schedules from 1879 to 1880 show that the mill produced 40,000 bushels of wheat; 46,800 bushels of other grain; 2,027,000 pounds of corn meal; and 726,000 pounds of feed. The total value of all products for that year was \$72,450. Undoubtedly, Baker did a large portion of his milling for commercial establishments.

The mill continued in operation under various owners until the last miller, John I. Carter, sold it in 1973. Since that time, the mill has been sold again to L. E. Donahoo, who is restoring it to run as a weekend attraction in connection with the proposed county park.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Alabama Historical Commission, Alabama's Covered Bridges. Montgomery: Skinner Publishing Company, 1969.
 Jeane, Gregory, "Grist Mill Survey," Department of Geography, Auburn University.
 Jemison, E. Grace, Historic Tales of Talladega. Montgomery: Paragon Press, 1959.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 5.75 acres

UTM REFERENCES

120			360						
A	1 1 6	5 6 5	2 6 10	3 6 8	8 1 2 10	B			
	ZONE	EASTING		NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	
C						D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

W. Warner Floyd, Executive Director and Ellen Mertins

ORGANIZATION

Alabama Historical Commission

STREET & NUMBER

725 Monroe Street

CITY OR TOWN

Montgomery

DATE

April 14, 1976

TELEPHONE

(205) 832-6621

STATE

Alabama 36130

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 National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Miss B. Edwards Jr.

TITLE SAPD Ala

DATE April 16, 1976

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Acting

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE 10/29/96

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 10/26/76