

PH036145X

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED APR 30 1976  
DATE ENTERED SEP 1 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

\* Seneca Williams Mill

AND/OR COMMON

Willey's Mill

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER F of Maquoketa on IA  
Twp. 24N, R3E, Sect. 20.

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Maquoketa

X VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

2

STATE

Iowa

CODE

COUNTY

Jackson

CODE

097

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 type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Leland G. Hawkins

STREET & NUMBER

514 Fairview Drive, S.E.

CITY, TOWN

Cedar Rapids

VICINITY OF

STATE

Iowa

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Jackson County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Maquoketa

STATE

Iowa

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input checked="" 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      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Seneca Williams Mill is made of limestone blocks of varying size. Rectangular in shape, the old mill is three bays long and two bays wide, with a gable roof covered by asphalt shingles. It stands two stories high and has a partial basement and third floor.

The north entrance is an unusual flat-topped arched doorway with a massive stone sill. There is an additional entrance on the west side with a large hay door directly above it. Access to the basement is found on the south side, and a small arched flume entrance (now partially underground) is in the south wall.

Four S-clamps were originally on both of the north-south walls, and two are on both of the east-west walls. Two clamps on the north wall have been removed.

Both windows and doors have dressed stone sills and lintels.

The first and second floors are both single rooms, with plastered walls and four octagonal posts supporting the ceiling. A stairway leading to the second floor is in the northwest corner, and a plaster-covered chimney is on the west wall.

The present hay door on the west end was apparently enlarged in 1920 when it was converted to a barn, and the stone sill removed. A window on the south wall was also apparently enlarged at this time to accommodate animals. Only one of the original double hung sash windows with 24 lights remains.

Although the interior mill workings have been removed, the exterior remains in close to original condition. The present owners plan to use the old mill as a combination business-residence structure, and plan to do the necessary repair work to make it habitable.

The surrounding grounds are planted in grasses. Evidence of the mill race can be seen on the east boundary of the property and large stones from the mill dam remain in the creek. A limestone dike extends north-south from the southwest of the 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 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 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 by 1867

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Joseph Willey

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Seneca Williams Mill is significant as one of the ~~few~~ surviving reminders of an important and once widespread commercial business. It was built at least by 1867 by Joseph Willey, and was sold to Seneca Williams, who ran the mill until 1904. From 1920 on, it was used as a barn.

Very few old mills survive today for a variety of reasons. Many mills disappeared in floods or fire and were never replaced. In addition to these individual disasters, the milling industry itself went into decline late in the 19th century. At one time there were approximately 1000 mills in Iowa, most having been built between 1830 and 1880, a period which saw Iowa rise to second in the nation's wheat production. As the wheat crop suffered problems ranging from drought and insects to depleted soil, many discouraged farmers either moved further west to cheaper land, or turned to raising corn and livestock. In addition, the growth of railroads enabled grain to be shipped to larger mills where it could be processed more economically, adding stiff competition to the local mills.

The combination of these events in the last 100 years has destroyed all but a few of these vestiges of an earlier age. The Seneca Williams Mill, although no longer used for its original purpose, remains as a reminder of that age.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Zook, Nancy C. Mills that Turned with a Right Good Will. The Iowan, April-May, 1956.  
 Swsher, Jacob. Iowa, Land of Many Mills. Iowa City: Iowa State Historical Society, 1940.  
 Ellis, James. History of Jackson County. S.J. Clarke Pub. Co., 1910.  
Owen's Gazetteer and Directory of Jackson County, Iowa. Davenport, Ia.: Owen Publishing Co., 1878.  
 Thompson and Everts - Surveys and Map Publishers, Anamosa, Iowa, 1867 map.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .8 acre

UTM REFERENCES

4800			9800		
A	1 5	6 9 0 5 0 0	4 6 5 0 0 6 0	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

Leland and Kate Hawkins

ORGANIZATION

DATE

March 1974

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

514 Fairview Drive, SE

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Cedar Rapids

Iowa

# 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

*Adrian A. Anderson*

TITLE

*Director, Div. of Historic Preservation*

DATE 4-22-76

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

*WJ Smith*

DATE 9/11/76

ACTING DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

*Robert B. Keith*  
 Acting

DATE 9/2/76

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER