

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED APR 27 1976  
DATE ENTERED NOV 25 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

Lynnville Mill and Dam

AND/OR COMMON

Lynnville Roller Mills and Dam

### LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

East Street

\_\_NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Lynnville

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Four

\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE

Iowa

CODE

19

COUNTY

Jasper

CODE

50

### CLASSIFICATION

#### CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

#### OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

#### STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

#### PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERCIAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER:

### OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

W.H. Wagaman

STREET & NUMBER

South Street

CITY, TOWN

Lynnville

\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE

Iowa

### LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Office of Recorder of Deeds, Jasper County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Newton

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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Old Mill is a simple, three-story frame, gable-roofed structure. Its timber based frame, with pegged mortice and tenon joints, is covered in white painted drop siding with red trim.

The original portion measures 36' x 50' exclusive of later additions. To the north of the main block is the lean-to wheel house, approximately 20' square; this area houses the metal turbines. On the south side of the building, there are doors on each of the three levels used for access to and ventilation for the respective levels. Originally, the first floor contained the milling operation and the upper levels were used for storage.

From 1848 to 1919, water power at the mill was provided by means of a wooden dam. A wooden paddlewheel was used from 1848 to 1868, at which time a Leffel metal hydraulic turbine was installed in its place. In 1919, a concrete dam was constructed, a new turbine added, and a wheel house built to enclose both the 1868 turbine and the new one. In 1958, the mill was converted to electric power. Of the old machinery, only the two turbines remain in the pits. More recently, the Jasper County Conservation Board has begun measures to restore the wheelhouse of the old mill to its original operating condition. According to recent communication with James Leffel and Co., turbine manufacturers, the 1868 model is believed the oldest operating turbine in the world.

# 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 1848; 1868; 1918-19

BUILDER/ARCHITECT John Sparks

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

In the early days of Iowa history, the milling industry played a vital part in establishing and maintaining the prosperity of many farmers and communities. Iowa pioneers relied heavily upon their mills to process their increasing harvests of wheat into readily usable or saleable form. In this respect, the Old Mill at Lynnville was no exception. Its operation, with few, if any, interruptions, since 1848, reflects its enduring importance in the life of Jasper County. Even the alterations performed over the years are testimony to local interest in the continued functioning of the mill, and of the evolving character of the milling industry in Iowa. This structure deserves protection and preservation as a valuable illustration of the development of a local industry to meet the needs of generations of Iowans.

As the first mill in Jasper County, John Sparks' mill received immediate and extensive business. Settlers came from many miles around, bringing their wheat to be ground, and at the same time perhaps doing other business in the small community now known as Lynnville. Over the years, the mill retained its early profitability and usefulness. Responding to improvements in milling technology, brothers Joseph and Nathan Arnold (whose family owned the mill from 1852 to 1871), in 1868 installed a vertical drive hydraulic turbine, which enabled heretofore seasonal operations to continue year-round.

In 1898, after a series of owners following the Arnolds had allowed much of the facility to fall into disrepair, W.K. Wagaman introduced "more modern flouring machinery". His son, Fred, further modernized the mill in 1918-19, through the installment of a concrete dam, an additional turbine and a wheel house. In 1925, milling at Lynnville took on a new aspect, as Fred Wagaman abandoned the now unprofitable grinding of wheat, to concentrate on the production of animal feed, corn meal, and electricity on a commercial basis.

The Old Mill, completely electrified since 1958, is still operated by the Wagaman family. Much of the original character of the mill has remained, now enhanced by local efforts to restore the wheel house to its early form.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

History of Jasper County, 1878  
 Lynnville Sentinal, August 15, 1889  
 Des Moines Tribune, 1949  
 James Leffel and Company: Correspondence, Oct. 9, 1973; Shipping Order, July 22, 1868.  
 Newton Daily News, July 3, 1946  
 Personal Communication. W.H. Wagaman

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1.82

UTM REFERENCES

A	15	517800	4603100	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

Dennis H. Black, Executive Director

ORGANIZATION

Jasper County Conservation Board

DATE

25 February 1975

STREET & NUMBER

Rt. 2, Mariposa Recreation Area

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Kellogg

STATE

Iowa 50135

# 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 D. Anderson*

TITLE

Director, Div. of Historic Preservation

DATE

4-22-76

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

*Robert B. Reltig*

DATE

11/25/77

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

*Christina Murray*

DATE

11-23-77

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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4. 2 7. 76

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Lynnville Mill and Dam, Lynnville, Jasper County, Iowa

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE

Alterations/Additions

1868: Leffell turbine installed

ca. 1900: original flouring apparatus replaced with "more modern" flouring equipment

1900: auxiliary steam engine installed

1918-19: wooden dam (washed out in 1918) replaced with a concrete structure. Concrete also used for flumes. A wooden wheel house erected over wheel and turbines. Trump turbine installed.

1925: operation changed from flouring to feed grinding. Elevator installed probably at this time. A 2300-volt generator added.

1958: all machinery except the turbines removed, and replaced with electric generators.

Today: Trump turbine is still in its well; the Leffell turbine is located at the south end of the footbridge across the river. A variety of wheels, shafts, gears, etc., have been assembled for display purposes. These are not from the original grinding operations, so far as is known. The County Conservation Commission is restoring the wheel house to its original, operating condition

Fishing Access

Rip Rap

H. Wagaman Tract

Dam



NORTH

Scale 1"=30'

Bridge

Ornamental Railing

Retaining Wall

VIEWING AREA

10' Retaining Wall

WHEEL HOUSE

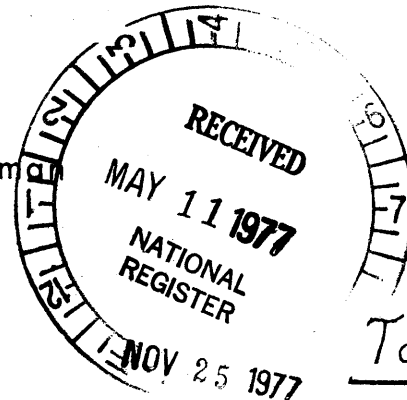
ORIGINAL MILL STRUCTURE

1-STORY, FLAT-ROOFED GARAGE (EARLY 20TH CENTURY)

Walkway

SHED-ROOFED STAGING AREA (EARLY 20TH CENTURY)

H. Wagaman



*turbine at southern end of dam (not on map)*

LYNNVILLE MILL & DAM  
LYNNVILLE, JASPER CO., IA

Town of Lynnville