

PH 0662895

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED FEB 15 1978
DATE ENTERED APR 25 1978

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
Prater's Mill
AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER *N of Dalton on*
Prater's Mill Road, Hwy 2

CITY, TOWN Dalton VICINITY OF Dalton
STATE Georgia CODE 13 COUNTY Whitfield CODE 313
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 7th - McDonald

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" 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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: site of fair

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Dalton Asphalt Incorporated
STREET & NUMBER P. O. Box 1608
CITY, TOWN Dalton VICINITY OF Dalton STATE Georgia

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Whitfield County Courthouse
STREET & NUMBER
CITY, TOWN Dalton STATE Georgia

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE 1. Historic American Engineering Record 2. Survey of Whitfield County
DATE 1. September 28, 1974 2. August 1975
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS 1. Historic American Engineering Record, National Park Service
CITY, TOWN 2. Historic Preservation Section STATE
1. Washington, D. C. 2. Atlanta, Georgia

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" 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

Prater's Mill and associated commercial buildings are located on the bank of Coahulla Creek. The Prater House is located across the creek on higher ground. The mill itself is partly built over the creek and stone dam, and sits on a foundation of pilings made of stones, bricks, and recently added concrete blocks which allows for flood waters. It is basically a two-story rectangular building with a large attic story under a pitched roof. The walls are weatherboard with corners dressed by vertical boards. The roof material is wooden shingles. The front facade is a gable end, with a shed-roofed veranda running nearly the width of the facade, extended to cover the end of an addition to the west side. This is a one-story, shed roofed addition that runs the width of the west side. On the east side is another shed-roofed addition which is rather like a bay, being shallow and two-stories. Both additions have small square windows, contrasting with the large rectangular windows of the basic building. An ornamental detail is the attic window of the front facade, a five-sided window echoing the shape of the facade. The main entrance is in the lower center of the addition. Two small doors are on opposite sides of the east side addition. Doors and shutters are made of planks. Six by six lights have been fitted into several existing window spaces.

A crude shed-roofed structure housing two of the three turbines clings to the back of the mill, poised over a mill race with water level controlled by a sluice gate.

The interior reveals the hand-hewn pine timbers of the frame and the reverse side of the weatherboarding. Floors are wide planks. On the first floor a raised platform occupies the middle of the floor for the machinery, a complicated array of grinders, sifters, hoppers, and sackers, crisscrossed by leather belts and auger shafts. The machinery is in good condition.

Wooden pegs are visible as the means of holding the timbers together. A quarter turn staircase in the southeast corner leads to the second floor which is filled with more machinery including bolters and hoppers. A straight stair in the north end leads to the attic which is empty. In various spots, hand-carved wooden augers are visible through doors in their shafts. Patent dates of 1870's and 1880's can be noted on machinery with labels from W. J. Savage Company, Knoxville, Tennessee, and Richmond Mill Works, Richmond, Indiana.

The only alteration of note to the mill has been a recent coat of red paint, still fresh. The mill was traditionally white.

The granary, a later addition, is a two-story rectangular building, smaller than the mill and probably built on the site of the cotton gin. A metal shaft connects the top story of the granary to the attic of the mill and

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encases a metal auger used for moving grain from the granary to the mill. The granary has a foundation of concrete blocks with two narrow spaces for trucks. The upper part has walls of weatherboard covered in spots by tin with a pitched roof of tar shingles. A stair on the north side leads to the second story entrance. The interior is divided into eight bins with walls made of stacked two-by-fours.

The store is a one-story building, T-plan, with a pitched roof and a board and batten exterior. The interior has walls of narrow flush boarding and the floor is wooden planks. There is presently one door for the main entrance but there were two previously; and the front facade is a gable end. Windows are 6 x 6 lights. The store is presently separated from the mill and granary by a highway.

Southwest of the mill complex is the Prater House. The original structure burned in 1915 and the house was rebuilt later that year. The walls of the house are stretcher bond brick forming a one-story structure in an L-shaped plan. A veranda wraps around two sides and the entire front and has curved corners on its shed roof and wooden floor. The roof is supported by wooden piers. Windows are 1 x 1 lights with lintels of angled voussoirs that form chevrons in their centers, while the sills are made of headers. The front faces north and has a door with an arched light in the upper portion and a simple frame. The two doors on the long west side are similar. A sun porch on the back of the house is now enclosed. It has weatherboard walls and a hipped roof.

Inside the house, floors and walls are wooden boards. The original fireplaces have been replaced. A major alteration is the kitchen, which was converted to restaurant use a few years ago. The house no longer functions as a restaurant but is used as a residence by people who rent it.

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 checked="" 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

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Prater's Mill, which dates to c. 1859, includes the only remaining grist mill in Whitfield County, out of twenty-seven that once thrived there. Ironically, Prater's Mill was probably the first and certainly one of the most prosperous, being in its day what Dr. Gregory Jeane, author of a study of the mills of northwest Georgia, calls an "integrated mill complex." This he defines as a grist and flour mill offering other services located on the premises such as blacksmithing, cotton ginning, sawmilling, a general store and post office. The architectural style of this antebellum mill complex, together with the 1915 house site, is an excellent example of a form of industrial architecture that has largely disappeared.

Joel Barrett sold Land Lot 231 in 1858 to Tillman Pitner and Benjamin Franklin Prater, and the deed lists a sawmill as being part of that lot. Prater, who had married into the Pitner family, built the present mill probably on the site of the sawmill. There is a persistent belief in the county among its oldest residents that Prater's Mill was established in 1855, as stated by a sign that supposedly hung over the porch. Probably, the sawmill was in operation in 1855 and this encouraged the belief that Prater's Mill was older than it actually is.

The mill originally was built to house an undershot wheel as a means of power, but Prater replaced this with the more efficient turbine. There are three turbines which once generated together 75 h.p.. As Prater prospered, he added more sophisticated machinery and processes to his mill. Although there were numerous mills in the county, people came from far distances to Prater's Mill where they were able to have their cotton ginned and horses shod while waiting for their grain to be processed. In addition, Prater provided a hostelry for those who had traveled more than half a day's journey.

The mill remained in the Prater family and was operated by family millers until 1954 when it was sold to the Church of God of the Union Assembly who hoped to make a profit for the church out of the mill. The church installed a gasoline engine for power which is the only piece of new machinery in the mill. In 1963, the church sold its holdings to Dalton Asphalt Incorporated who currently leases the mill, granary, and store to Prater's Mill Fair, Inc., an organization that holds a fair twice a year at the mill site and turns its profits back into upkeep of the mill. Corn and wheat are ground during the fair as an exhibition of the mill's workings.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

D. Gregory Jeane, Ph.D. The Culture History of Grist Milling in Northwest Georgia, a dissertation submitted to Louisiana State University, August 1974.
 Carolyn McLean. Interview with Judy Alderman and Jane Harrell at mill site, November 10, 1976. Alderman and Harrell are members of Prater's Fair, Inc.
 Mark Pace. "Pipe Smoke". Dalton Citizen. October 20, 1949.
 _____. "Modern Machinery Invades Prater's Mill". Dalton Citizen. August 15, 1946.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 25

QUADRANGLE NAME Cohutta, Georgia - Tennessee

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES			QUADRANGLE SCALE		
ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
DA	16 6890610	3863 530 ⁴²⁰	A-B	16 690140	3863 340 ³⁰⁰
BA	16 690090	3863 120	CD	16 61610 ⁶²⁰	3863 430 ²⁰⁰
E			F		
G			H		

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The Prater's Mill historic site includes the 25 acre parcel of land situated in the southeast corner of land lot number 231 as shown on the attached

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 Morton R. McInvale, Historic Preservation Section, Consultant and Carolyn McLean, Surveyor under contract to the Historic Preservation Section
 ORGANIZATION Historic Preservation Section DATE 1977
 STREET & NUMBER 270 Washington Street, S. W. TELEPHONE (404) 656-2840
 CITY OR TOWN Atlanta STATE Georgia

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 Elizabeth A. Lyon 2/7/78
 TITLE Acting State Historic Preservation Officer DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Rhett B. Petty DATE 7/25/78
 ACTING CHIEF OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER
 ATTEST: W. H. ... DATE 7-24-78
 CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

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Prater's Mill is valuable as a surviving example of one of America's oldest industries. Its array of extant machinery is outstanding as well as the wooden structure which houses it. Although no longer used daily, the machinery is still in operable condition, requiring only the skill and knowledge of an experienced miller. The limited exhibition of milling processes at the Fair provides a unique opportunity for observation of an old industry in its original setting.

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map. The nominated property includes within its boundaries those sites directly related to the historic mill complex.

SKETCH MAP

Prater's Mill, Whitfield County, Georgia

Drawn by: Carolyn McLean

Not to Scale

