

3077

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

DEC 02 1988

NATIONAL
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Aderholdt's Mill
other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number Aderholdt's Mill Road not for publication
city, town Jacksonville vicinity
state Alabama code AL county Calhoun code 015 zip code 36265

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	_____	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____	_____ structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	_____	_____ objects
		<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: 0

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

[Signature] 11-29-88
Signature of certifying official Date
Alabama Historical Commission (State Historic Preservation Office)
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain:)

[Signature] Entered in the National Register 12/29/88

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

industry - manufacturing facility

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

not in use

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)other - industrial

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation granite

walls brick

roof tin

other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

Aderholdt's mill is a brick, 2½-story building with a foundation constructed of large blue granite blocks cut in irregular sizes. The first floor has a solid wall on the east side because of a hillside which is at ground level for the main entrance on the second floor. The tin covered gable roof is on a north-south axis. The building has corbeled brick eaves along the east and west sides with end chimneys at center of north end with slanted flue from a diagonal fireplace in the northeast corner of the second floor (at present there is a wood-burning stove in front of the fireplace but using the same flue). The common bond brick walls are plastered on the inside, and a small open porch with a separate roof is located at the main entrance in the center of the west wall on the first floor. The other door is in the center of the east wall on the second floor. Double-hung windows are 9/9 except 6/6 in the upper floor of loft. Access to the loft is gained by a wooden stairway at the south end of the second floor. The 6" wide plank pine flooring is open (no interior walls), and ceiling beams are 11"x11" for both floors. The original water power was derived from an overshot wheel located at the south end with axle entering the first floor (see HABS No. ALA-421, January 1935). The wheel was replaced c. 1936 by an undershot turbine at same location - this was the only alteration of significance. Water to drive the turbine is channeled through a wooden race from a pond approximately 300' north of the mill. When the turbine is inoperative, a gasoline engine on the second floor provides the driving power. Nearly all milling operations were performed by machinery on second floor with power transmitted by an intricate system of wheels and pulleys including a main power shaft with 11 wheels extending along the west wall. Bulk grain was received through the center door on the lower floor. The upper floor was used primarily as a storage loft where a large door in the center of the north end could be opened to facilitate the lowering of milled grain to the ground level. The overall dimensions of the building are 49'-8½" in length, 36'-7" in width, and 33' in height. The mill is on a 15.21-acre wooded tract two miles south of Jacksonville.

Integrity

The exterior structure of the building is unaltered. The turbine undershot wheel was added c. 1936 to keep up with new technology. The interior contains historic milling equipment.

See continuation sheet

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

architecture

industry/commerce

Period of Significance

1836 to 1938*

Significant Dates

c. 1836

c. 1936

**This date is due to the 50-year rule and does not indicate a historical event.*

Cultural Affiliation

None

Significant Person

None

Architect/Builder

Thomas Crutchfield

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

Criterion A - Commerce/Industry

Aderholdt's Mill, typical of other local mills in the 19th century, provided an important commercial service to the farmers by grinding meal for the rural families. Gristmills were essential to self-sufficient farmers and enhanced agricultural prosperity for the local community. The mill is one of the oldest in the state to be in continual use from construction until the 1980s.

Criterion C - Architecture

The c. 1836 mill exhibits the use of local materials and local craftsmanship in its construction. The brick common bond, lintels designed with headers, and corbeled chimney and cornice enhance the utilitarian design. The mill is a good local example of a brick gristmill and is one of the few in the state to remain from the first half of the 19th century.

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

1880 Alabama Manufacturing Census, Calhoun County.
Gamble, Robert. The Alabama Catalog. University, Alabama: The University of Alabama Press, 1987.
Anniston Star, Anniston, AL 4 April 1971, 27 September 1980.
The Dothan Eagle, Dothan, AL 22 March 1973.
Jacksonville News, Jacksonville, AL 3 October 1979.
The Gadsden Times, Gadsden, AL 8 February 1976.

Oral interviews with:

Jim Aderholdt - former owner of mill
Hazel Johnson - present owner of mill
Sarah K. Stevenson - widow of great grandson of James A. Stevenson, second mill owner
Roy Brown - former mill operator

See continuation sheet

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
 previously listed in the National Register
 previously determined eligible by the National Register
 designated a National Historic Landmark
 recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # ALA-421, January 1935
 recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
 Other State agency
 Federal agency
 Local government
 University
 Other

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 15.21

UTM References

A

1	6	6	1	3	8	6	0	3	7	3	8	1	0	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

B

1	6	6	1	3	9	2	0	3	7	3	8	1	0	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

C

1	6	6	1	3	9	4	0	3	7	3	7	9	4	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

D

1	6	6	1	3	8	6	0	3	7	3	7	9	4	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

See continuation sheet.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary has been drawn to reflect the location of the mill and its lot.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Mary Mason Shell/Cultural Resources Coordinator II
organization Alabama Historical Commission date 8/88
street & number 725 Monroe Street telephone 205/261-3184
city or town Montgomery state Alabama zip code 36130

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 1HISTORICAL SUMMARY

Aderholdt's Mill was built c. 1836 soon after Jacksonville was settled and gaining in importance as a commercial center in northeast Alabama. Having heavily wooded hills and abounding in springs, streams, ponds, and elevation variations the area was ideal for the construction of gristmills to serve a basically agricultural economy. Water power thus harnessed was available not only for grinding grain but also to drive cotton gins and machinery for the manufacture of furniture and other wood products. Contractors made extensive use of native raw materials--oak, pine, clay, granite--to construct the mills of lasting quality with architectural features designed to provide the most efficient use of space and machinery. Thomas Riley Williams, a pioneer industrialist, made a contract with Thomas Crutchfield to construct a large brick gristmill, c. 1836, on a branch of the Little Tallasseehatchee Creek on a 1,000-acre tract located two miles south of Jacksonville. Crutchfield also built a tavern, today's Lou's Dress Shop, which is listed as contributing to the Downtown Jacksonville Historic District. All materials needed for the mill were found on the site except nails, glass, and paint. The cost was \$2,000. Large roughly shaped blue granite boulders provided the foundation for this 2½-story brick building which faced east against a hillside. Aderholdt's Mill was the first mill to remain in continuous operation. There was an earlier mill which burned six months after completion. Later, or after 1836, there were two other mills within five miles of Jacksonville. Both have been demolished. Travel time by wagon would indicate the mill served an area of approximately twenty miles in radius. The farmer bringing the grain could remain overnight at the mill. Soon after moving to Jacksonville from Mt. Tabor, South Carolina in 1853, James A. Stevenson purchased the mill and adjoining land. It was known as "Stevenson's Old Mill." The 1880 Manufacturing Census records the value of all products from the mill at \$9,450. Three-fourths of the labor at the mill was custom work. The one male hired hand at the mill worked eight-hour days for \$3.75 per week. Typical of mill-owning families, Stevenson's family became prominent in the town's activities. One son, Horace Lee Stevenson, was mayor for many years. After a succession of owners, the mill became the property of William H. Forney, a congressman and former Confederate brigadier general. On October 22, 1894, the mill with 65 acres was sold at auction from the Forney estate to Francis M. Treadway for \$1,100. Evidence indicates that prior to 1894 the mill owners hired operators. In 1921 James E. Aderholdt and his son Jim bought the mill. Treadway and the Aderholdts operated the mill and depended upon it for their primary source of income. The only major alteration came in c. 1936 when the overshot water wheel was replaced by a more modern undershot enclosed turbine. "Uncle Jim" Aderholdt continued to operate the mill until his death at age 94 in June 1976. In 1982 title to the property passed to Jim's daughter, Hazel Johnson, and her husband, Hershel. Mr. Johnson has since died. With the basic machinery intact, Mrs. Johnson has initiated plans to renovate and preserve this valuable building, including a proposal to install an overshot water wheel. When completed, the mill should appear much as it did in the antebellum years.

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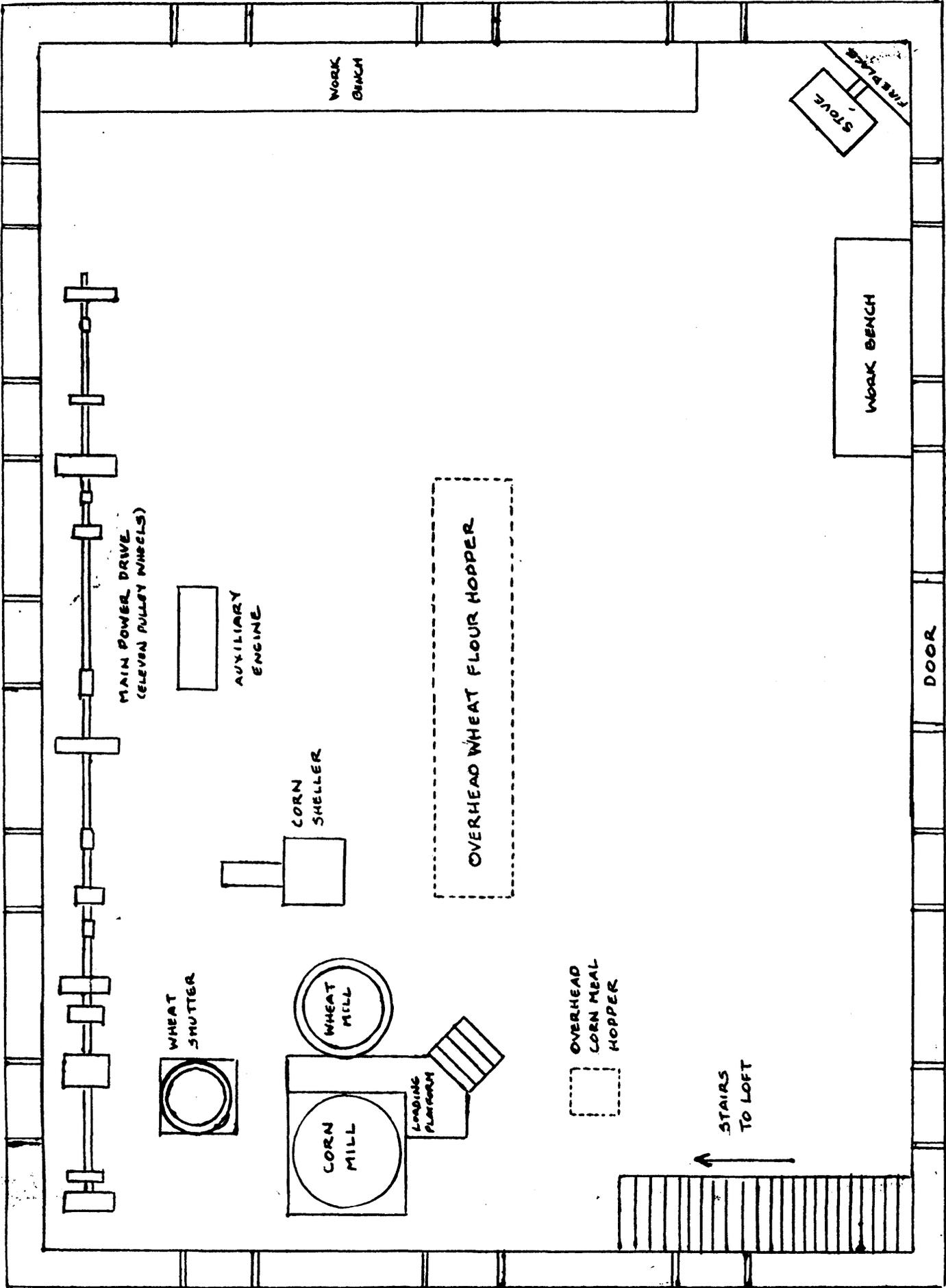
National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 1

Verbal Boundary Description

Beginning at an old stone corner, 1029 feet South of and 1610.79 feet West of the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 26, Township 14 South, Range 8 East, thence South 17 degrees and 06 min. West 1387.70 feet to an old stone corner, thence North 78 degrees and 42 min. East 363.86 feet to an iron pin, thence North 82 degrees and 37 min. East 386.12 feet to an iron pin, thence North 1208.18 feet to a point in the center of a county road, thence South 89 degrees and 45 min. West 332.07 feet to the point of beginning, containing 15.21 acres in the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of the SW $\frac{1}{4}$, the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of the SE $\frac{1}{4}$, the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ and the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 26, Township 14 South, Range 8 East.

47 - 02



36' - 7"

ADERHOLT'S MILL
SECOND FLOOR
PLAN VIEW

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number photo-
graphs Page 1

Information in items 1-5 is the same for all the photographs listed.

No. 1

- 1) Aderholdt's Mill, Aderholdt's Mill Road
- 2) Jacksonville Vicinity, Alabama
- 3) Unknown
- 4) 1988
- 5) Alabama Historical Commission
- 6) Southwest - facade (west) and south elevations

No. 2

- 6) Northwest - facade (west) and north elevations

No. 3

- 6) North - south elevation

No. 4

- 6) North - site of overshot wheel & axle

No. 5

- 6) South - setting of mill

No. 6

- 6) East - second floor interior

No. 7

- 6) Northeast - corbelled cornice