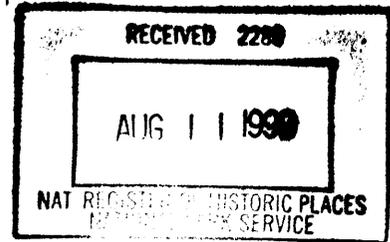


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

1138



National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Enochs Mill  
other names/site number NA

2. Location

street & number 3072 Little Blue Creek Rd. NA  not for publication  
city or town McEwen  vicinity  
state Tennessee code TN county Humphreys code 085 zip code 37101

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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 for in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Herbert L. Hryca 8/5/99  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date  
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, Tennessee Historical Commission  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. ( See Continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date  
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

- I hereby certify that the 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:) \_\_\_\_\_

Edson W. Beall 9/9/99  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

Enochs Mill  
Name of Property

Humphreys County, Tennessee  
County and State

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply)

**Category of Property**  
(Check only one box)

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in count)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
2		buildings
1		sites
	1	structures
		objects
3	1	Total

**Name of related multiple property listing**  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)  
N/A

**Number of Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**  
0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

AGRICULTURE: processing  
INDUSTRY: energy facility

AGRICULTURE: processing

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

N/A

foundation CONCRETE  
walls LOG; WOOD  
roof METAL  
other GLASS

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

see continuation sheets

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations** N/A

(Mark "x" in all boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** moved from its original location.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property
- G** less than 50 year of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

AGRICULTURE  
COMMERCE  
INDUSTRY

**Period of Significance**

1934-1949

**Significant Dates**

N/A

**Significant Person**

(complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Enochs, Wilbert

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**Bibliography**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):** N/A

- 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 # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State Agency
- Federal Agency
- Local Government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

MTSU, Center for Historic Preservation

Enochs Mill  
Name of Property

Humphreys County, Tennessee  
County and State

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**10. Geographical Data**

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**Acreage of Property** 3 acres approximately

McEwen 39 SW

**UTM References**

(place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 16 438180 3992650  
Zone Easting Northing  
2 \_\_\_\_\_

3 \_\_\_\_\_  
Zone Easting Northing  
4 \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

**Boundary Justification**

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

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**11. Form Prepared By**

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name/title Michael Strutt/Graduate Research Assistant  
organization MTSU, Center for Historic Preservation date March 19, 1999  
street & number Box 80 telephone 615/898-2947  
city or town Murfreesboro state TN zip code 37132

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**Additional Documentation**

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submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets**

**Maps**

A **USGS map** (7.5 Or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

**Photographs**

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

**Additional items**

(Check with the SHPO) or FPO for any additional items

---

**Property Owner**

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(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Joyce Bullington  
street & number 3072 Little Blue Creek Rd. telephone 931/582-3385  
city or town McEwen state TN zip code 37101-4222

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**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listing. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*)

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P. O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20303.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

Enochs Mill  
Humphreys County, Tennessee

## Description

Enochs Mill is a log, plank, and concrete water-powered grist mill and electrical generator built in 1934. It sets on the south bank of Blue Creek, approximately 20 yards east of a modern circa 1975 concrete and steel road bridge that crosses Blue Creek. The mill building, water impoundment, and mill race were all constructed by Wilbert Enochs between 1933 and 1934 to serve as a grist mill for the area and as an electrical generator for his home and three others nearby.

The mill building is a log and plank structure covered on all but the west side with vertical board siding. An historic photograph also shows that side as not covered, the five logs of the wall height are clearly visible. The building measures 21'5" north-south by 14'5" east-west. The door is in the south gable end. There are three windows, one above the door, one at the rear of the east side, and another in the middle of the west wall. An historic photograph clearly shows that the building was supported by large wooden posts resting in the ground. The original entry porch was also wood with wooden stairs. The modern foundation was constructed of concrete in 1980, and the porch was replaced with a concrete stoop at the same time. The gable roof originally had a horizontal weatherboard surface that has since rotted, and was replaced in 1996 with tin. All other elements of the building including the log walls and siding are original. (C)

The interior of the building has not changed since Wilbert Enochs' death in 1982. Enochs' daughter, Joyce Enochs Bullington, has kept the interior largely intact to its pre-1950 appearance. To the rear of the building is a turbine shaft with a large pulley connected to flat belts and the electrical generator which sit behind a wooden safety barrier. Approximately 10 feet forward of this works is another horizontally mounted drive shaft with seven pulleys which is mounted on a set of sturdy wooden braces. Three thick leather drive belts connect the main pulley with the forward set. The front pulleys are used to power a box-type grist mill and other equipment. The arrangement of the pulleys and other machinery have remained exactly as it was set up by Wilbert Enochs in 1934.

The grist mill is portable box-type milling machine. On top is a large hopper or funnel for loading corn. It has a manufacturer's plate from Meadows Mill Company of Wilkesboro, North Carolina. The main works of the machine however, is reported to have been manufactured in Pennsylvania. According to written testimony in the possession of the current owner Joyce Bullington, the milling machine was given to Wilbert Enochs by his brother-in-law circa 1960. Enochs installed the machine at that time, replacing the initial milling machine that dated to 1934. The older machine is no longer on the farm.

The electrical generator is a manufactured machine that Wilbert Enochs acquired in 1924 second hand. He installed the generator in 1934. It is mounted to the floor at the rear of the building on a set of 2"x 4" braces. It generates 110 volt electricity that was used to power washing machines, small appliances, and the lights of his home as well as that of a tenant's house, his mothers house, and his father-in-law's house. All of the works inside the building are in working order. The Enochs Mill uses an unusual, and possibly unique to Tennessee, turbine. It was manufactured by the Athens (Ohio) Water Wheel Manufacturing

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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

Enochs Mill  
Humphreys County, Tennessee

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Company. The stone buhr mill being used is more common and probably dates to circa 1920. Vertical stone mills such as this one were available only after 1900.<sup>1</sup>

The mill building was not only used to grind corn and generate electricity, but also as a tool shed and workshop. The walls are lined with bins and pegs holding various tools. Extra leather drive belts are coiled up and hanging on pegs along the walls. The tools Mr. Enoch used to build his mill and repair his farm equipment can be found lining the walls and tucked between the roof rafters. At one time a power saw sat outside the mill building on the east side and was run by a pulley mounted through the building. The saw now is east of the mill approximately 50 feet and is no longer used.

Wilbert Enoch constructed the original dam from 1931 to 1934. The present concrete dam was constructed circa 1980, the original being made of wood and stone but had suffered damage by recurrent flooding. The dam is approximately 75 feet long, 3.5 feet high, and 2.5 feet wide. There is a circular flood gate near the center of it approximately two feet in diameter. The opening is covered by a steel door which can be opened and closed by a lever mechanism that sets at the top of the dam, and is accessible from the east side. The foundation of the mill building is also concrete and was constructed at the same time as the dam. The original foundation was built of stone and, much like the dam, had been damaged by flooding. (NC due to date of construction)

The impoundment or mill-pond comprises approximately one acre. The mill-pond was excavated by Wilbert Enoch with a mule team and an earth scraper which still hangs on the east exterior wall of the mill building. On the south bank of the pond are several concrete steps leading into the water and a modern diving board. Children from the local area use the pond as a swimming hole in the summers. The mill box or race is also partially lined in concrete but was built at the same time as the building and the impoundment in 1934. Only the north side has been encapsulated in new concrete circa 1980. The race is a simple rectangular box with a gate mechanism that allows water to enter at the top and exit at the bottom. The main drive shaft for the mill sets in several feet of water with a small turbine type wheel at the bottom of the mill box. As the water flows downward it spins the turbine which in turn spins the main flywheel inside the building. The turbine and shaft are original, as is the mill box. The mill-pond and race are considered one contributing structure in this nomination. (C)

Along the channel of a spring which feeds into Blue Creek just above the mill pond is a log spring house that is a contributing building on the property Wilbert Enoch built it in 1942. The small log building sets over the spring branch and was used to refrigerate food. The logs are of irregular shape and size, and the building measures approximately eight feet by four feet. The roof is a cut shingle surface over horizontal boards. The spring house sets several hundred feet to the northeast of the mill. (C)

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<sup>1</sup> Lovett, John N., Jr. Owner of Falls Mill, Belvidere, Tennessee. Letter to Claudette Stager, 6 April 1999.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 3

Enochs Mill  
Humphreys County, Tennessee

## Significance Statement

Enochs Mill, constructed in 1934 and still in use today, is located at 3072 Little Blue Creek Road, Humphreys County, Tennessee. It is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for its local significance in agriculture, commerce, and industry as a locally significant twentieth century machine-powered grist mill and electrical generator. Built of logs, this is an unusually late example of log mill construction and one of only three known extant log mills in the state. The mill created electricity for several houses including Mr. Wilbert Enochs' from 1934 until rural electrification reached the Enochs' houses in 1950. It has also served as the local source of milling corn in that part of Humphreys County. The history of this site reflects significant mid-twentieth century trends in agriculture and rural life in this county.

According to the research of historian Wayne Moore, in his doctoral dissertation titled, "*Farm Communities and Economic Growth In The Lower Tennessee Valley: Humphreys County, Tennessee 1785-1980*," Humphreys County has been dominated by an agricultural-based economy since its creation in 1809. In the early twentieth century the economy was based mostly on peanuts and corn. The typical farm was small and tenancy was the dominant way of life, with a majority of the land owned by a few wealthy county families. Though Wilbert Enochs' was not a tenant farm, it is an example of the small subsistence family farm also prevalent in Humphreys County. Small farmers such as Wilbert Enochs depended totally on their yearly crop for their livelihood.

The years immediately following World War I were economically prosperous in the county, but by the early 1920s a general agricultural depression set in across the region. Like other farmers in Humphreys County documented by Moore, Wilbert Enochs despaired at the economic prospects of farming in the county in the early 1920s. As a young man Enochs had worked in the oil fields of Turley, Oklahoma making one-hundred dollars a month, sending some of the money home to his father who was sick with black lung. He enlisted briefly in the army in 1918 and returned home to the family farm in 1919. Wilbert married in 1921, but felt he was not able to make a decent living farming in Tennessee. He moved back to Oklahoma in 1923 to try the oil fields again. He lasted less than a year and returned in 1924 to the farm on Blue Creek at the request of his wife, Annie Davis Enochs. Before leaving Oklahoma, Wilbert acquired the electrical generator that he would later install in his mill. Over the next ten years he accumulated the other machinery necessary to create the small power plant he needed to supply electricity to his house. He intended to make a better home for his wife and children on the farm.

In his agricultural production, Enochs relied on the two staples of the local rural economy—corn and cattle. But he also raised an important new cash crop, peanuts. His daughter Joyce recalls helping to till the peanut fields as soon as she was old enough to wield a hoe. The Enochs also increased the farm's increasing poultry production and built two chicken houses.

In the midst of the Great Depression, however, Enochs undertook his most entrepreneurial scheme to date, the building of a grist mill and electric generator in 1933-34. The mill was operational by 1934. The mill produced electricity for his home, his mother's house, his father-in-law's, and a tenant's house. The power created by the generator ran a washing machine and small appliances in his own home. It also provided

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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 4

Enochs Mill  
Humphreys County, Tennessee

lights in all the other houses. Each night at 10 p.m. Wilbert would go out to the mill and dim the lights. That was the signal to the other houses they had five minutes before he would turn off the mill for the night. If the others wanted to stay up they used kerosene lamps and candles for light.

The mill had two immediate benefits. First, it allowed Enochs a small yet significant role in local commerce since he ground corn for other families, taking one-seventh of the amount as his fee. This extra corn meal was sold in the towns of McEwen and Waverly. Plus, it allowed Enochs to put less of his own land into corn production, freeing acreage for other profitable ventures. With the Public Works Administration sponsoring the construction of a modern waterworks in McEwen in 1936-37, and the resulting opening of the McEwen Cheese Plant, Enochs was able to use the extra land and profits to enter the dairy business. Second, the electrical generator at the mill allows the Enochs family to more fully participate in the Better Homes, Better Farms movement. Wilbert Enochs used the increasingly popular technology of electricity to improve the home life for his wife, Annie Davis Enochs. According to the research of historian Mary Hoffschwelle in her book *Rebuilding the Rural Southern Community*, agricultural reformers aggressively set forward during the 1920s and 1930s to address the problems of the Southern family farm. Home demonstration agents encouraged women to run a more efficient home using the latest electrical devices and techniques. Agents believed that electrical appliances, in particular, could free the farmwife from the drudgery of everyday farmhouse chores, giving her additional time to pursue more market-oriented activities. This appears to be case with Annie Davis Enochs. In the 1930s, she operated the chicken houses and ran a local school bus route in addition to her normal housework.

Ironically, at the same time that Enochs was implementing his farm improvements, based on electrical power, the Tennessee Valley Authority came into being. TVA agents traveled the region, instructing farmers about soil conservation, fertilizer use, and crop rotation. By the 1940s the TVA had created some of the largest water impoundments and was one of the largest power production entities in the country. In order to do this the Tennessee River valley was flooded behind a series of dams. The acreage in Humphreys County alone that was inundated amounted to over 35,000 acres. The bottoms that had been the best farming land in the county had gone underwater. The creek farms such as that of Wilbert Enochs now became the best farm land in the county where before they were considered marginal. The creek farms could not sustain the kind of row cropping that had been the standard model in the river bottoms because the soil was too shallow and nutrient poor. Many farmers were simply pushed out of the business and went to look for work in cities with industrial jobs. For the remaining farmers, TVA and the other demonstration agencies introduced livestock, crop diversity, and dairy farming, production choices already followed by the Enochs family.

In the late 1940s, TVA built the New Johnsonville Steam Plant on the banks of the Tennessee River in Humphreys County. Rural electric power finally reached the Little Blue Creek area in 1950, replacing the Enochs' sole reliance on their own generator. A permanent source of power must have been a relief to Wilbert Enochs who had to maintain and repair his mill after heavy storms damaged his dam and foundations. Yet in the end it may have been his willingness to experiment with the mill and his farming practices that kept him financially solvent. The age of electricity had already shaped farm production at the Enochs place for sixteen years. Enochs lacked formal training in electrical engineering, only what he learned from his short stays in the Oklahoma oil fields. The construction of the dam, mill pond, the race,

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National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 5

Enochs Mill  
Humphreys County, Tennessee

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and the mill building were a major undertaking all done with hand and animal labor. The grist mill represents Wilbert Enochs' entrepreneurial spirit. All of this was accomplished during a time when the economy and social conditions of the South in general were considered backward.

Today, the Enochs family continues in operation as a mixed use agricultural enterprise. The grist mill is still used to make corm meal for both the Enochs farm and neighbors. After the construction of the steam plant, ironically, TVA engineers occasionally brought visitors to Enochs Mill to demonstrate what life and electrical power generation was like before the construction of the modern power plant. Owner Joyce Bullington has stated that she still occasionally also receives visits from TVA personnel who want to look at the mill for nostalgic reasons.

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National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 6

Enochs Mill  
Humphreys County, Tennessee

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## Bibliography

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- Tennessee Valley Authority Regional Studies Staff. *The Tennessee Valley Region Highlights of Growth and Change: Historical Perspectives, Recent Trends*. Knoxville, 1968.

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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 7

Enochs Mill  
Humphreys County, Tennessee

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## Boundary

### Verbal boundary description

The boundaries begin at an imaginary point (A) approximately 200 feet from the intersection of Enoch's Road and Little Blue Creek Road. The boundary moves easterly approximately 500 feet; the boundary moves southerly approximately 250 feet; the boundary moves westerly approximately 550 feet to Little Blue Creek Road; the boundary moves northerly along the edge of the road to the point of the beginning.

The boundaries include the dam spillway and extend westward through the mill pond or impoundment. It continues up the small stream encompassing both the spring head and the spring house. The boundaries end near the spring head, which is approximately 100 yards to the northwest of the intersection of the small spring stream and Little Blue Creek. These boundaries, however, do not include Little Blue Creek, except where it is part of the mill pond.

The tax map for this nomination has a scale of 1" = 400' and this is the only scale available for this rural area of Humphreys County.

### Boundary Justification

The boundaries encompass all of the historic resources significantly associated with the operation of Enoch's Mill.

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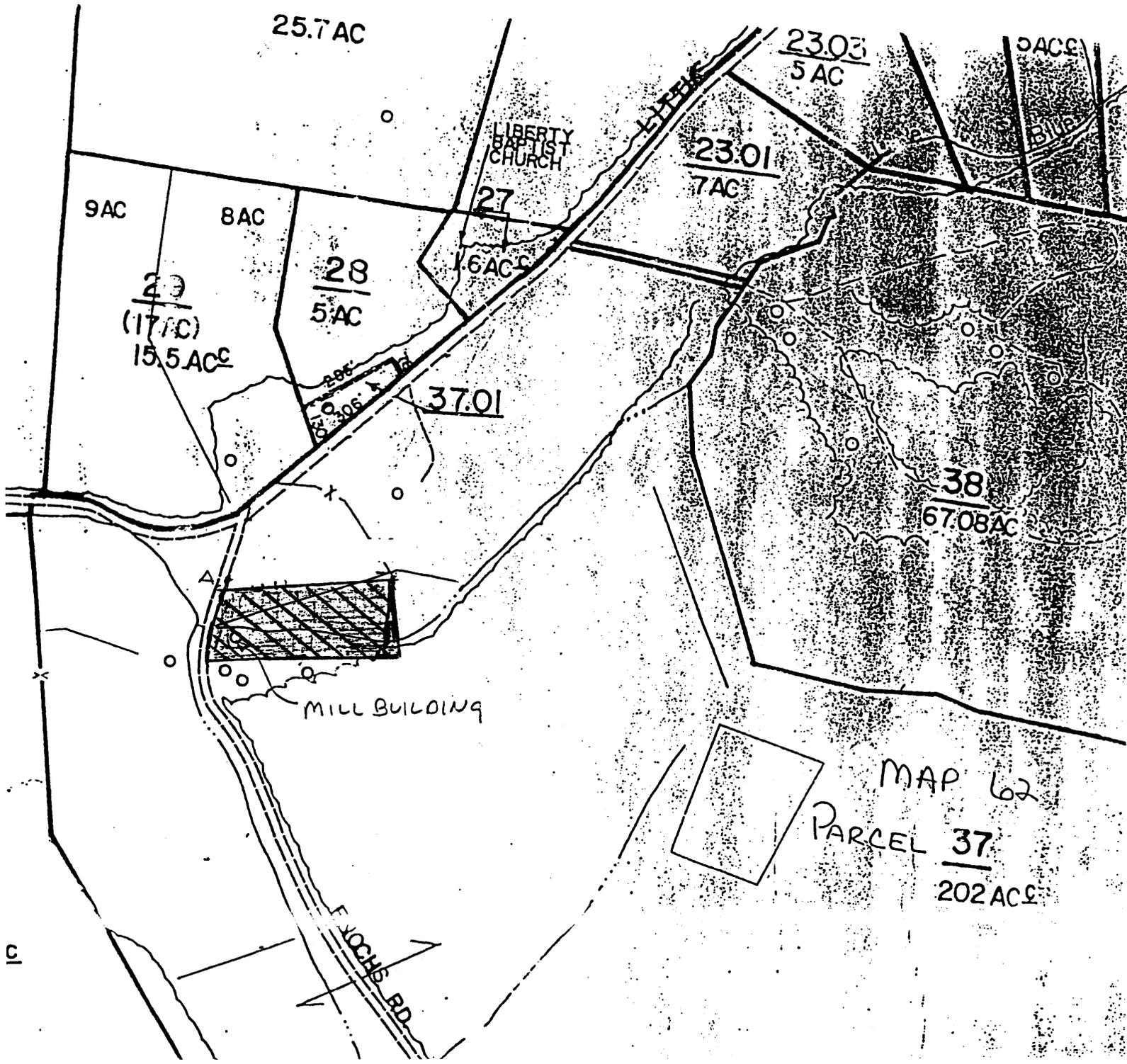
# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 8

Enochs Mill  
Humphreys County, Tennessee

Tax Map

1" = 400'



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

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number photos Page 9

Enochs Mill  
Humphreys County, Tennessee

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## Photographs

Enochs Mill, Humphreys Co., TN  
Photos by: Carroll Van West  
MTSU Center for Historic Preservation  
Date: April and October 1998  
Negatives: Tennessee Historical Commission  
2941 Lebanon Road  
Nashville TN 37243

South façade, facing north  
1 of 17

West elevation, facing east  
2 of 17

South façade and east elevation, facing northwest  
3 of 17

East elevation, facing northwest  
4 of 17

North elevation, facing southeast  
5 of 17

Interior, facing north  
6 of 17

Interior detail of generators, facing northwest  
7 of 17

Interior, detail of tool storage, facing southeast  
8 of 17

Interior, facing south  
9 of 17

Interior, facing south  
10 of 17

East elevation and race, facing west  
11 of 17

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# National Register of Historic Places

## Continuation Sheet

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Enochs Mill  
Humphreys County, Tennessee

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Dam and impoundment, facing west  
12 of 17

Dam and impoundment, facing southwest  
13 of 17

Impoundment, facing east  
14 of 17

Impoundment and mill, facing west  
15 of 17

Spring house, facing southeast  
16 of 17

Source of springs, facing southeast  
17 of 17