

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Wisconsin
COUNTY: Eau Claire
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE

DEC 24 1974

1. NAME

COMMON:
Dells Mill

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
County Trunk V, 0.2 mi. W. of Wis. 27, approx. 3 mi. NNW of Augusta

CITY OR TOWN:
Augusta vicinity

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
3rd

STATE: Wisconsin CODE: 55 COUNTY: Eau Claire CODE: 035

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)

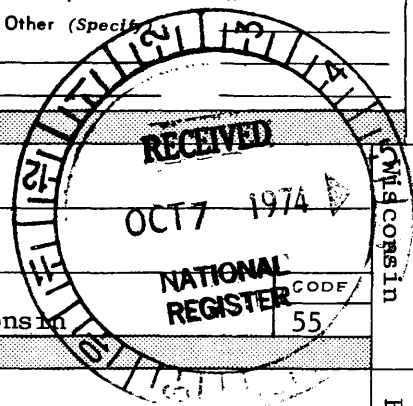
4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Clark Family, c/o Gustav A. Clark

STREET AND NUMBER:
Route 1, Box 103

CITY OR TOWN:
Augusta

STATE: Wisconsin CODE: 55



5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Eau Claire County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Eau Claire

STATE: Wisconsin CODE: 55

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Wisconsin Survey of Historic Sites & Buildings

DATE OF SURVEY: 1969-74
 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
State Historical Society of Wisconsin

STREET AND NUMBER:
816 State Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Madison

STATE: Wisconsin CODE: 55

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Wisconsin
COUNTY: Eau Claire
ENTRY NUMBER:
DATE: DEC 24 1974
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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Dells Mill is a clapboarded frame building, seventy-five feet high, with five floors. The central, original portion is built of hand-hewn maple timbers bound by pegs, except for one or two long, square beams joined end to end by a firm tongue in groove arrangement. The broadaxe work is of excellent quality, with the result that beams and boards are remarkably smooth and axe marks few and not very noticeable. The earliest part of the building was erected in the middle 1860's and the mill in operation by 1867. A two story wing was added to the north side in 1904, and in 1940 two separate one story lean-to additions were built onto the south side, one to serve as an office and the other to house the power unit. The parts of the building standing over water are now supported by reinforced cement columns. There is a simple porch roof extending all the way across the front (east) side of the building.

The mill first served as a grist mill and later became more diversified. About the time of World War I, one of the industry-revolutionizing flour rolling mills of the type John Stevens of Neenah, Wisconsin, had invented in the late 1870's and patented in 1880 was installed. Stevens had sold his patent early and the Stevens-type roller mill in the Dells mill was made by the Anglo-American Milling Company under the name of "Midget" Mill, patented in 1915. Thus at a time when flour mills had already become fewer in Wisconsin as large scale wheat growers had long since moved westward out of Wisconsin into Minnesota and the Dakotas, the Dells Mill was able to survive and apparently continue to operate at a profit by grinding other grains as well as milling what wheat was brought there. Some of the original machinery remains, including the power turbine and the wooden cogged core wheel, which are still in use. The original turbine wheel had to be replaced in the 1920's when the vanes could no longer be controlled. It is now on display. The replacement is quite similar and about the same diameter as the original but is housed in a huge cement block under the present power shed. The mill has never been powered other than by turbine.

The machinery is driven by 3000 feet of belting and 175 pulleys. In addition to the milling, grinding, and mixing machinery are cleaners, sorters and sifters, and conveyors which carry grain up from the ground floor and equipment which can divert the different kinds of grain into five separate bins. The mill is capable of flour milling, cereal milling, custom grinding, and feed mixing. Milling continues yet today and a few farmers still bring grain there annually to be ground, although the volume is small.

Besides the alterations mentioned above, which were made over the years as business demanded, one purely contrived, non-functional addition was made: an overshot wheel mounted on a shaft near the real power unit, equipped with a shallow flume from the top of the dam. It was added about 1968 to create a picturesque touch for the benefit of photographers and artists and others who think mills should have water wheels. It has resulted in the mill's being much photographed and otherwise portrayed for commercial purposes.

The landmark mill, in continuous use from 1867 to 1968, remains relatively unchanged since the installation of the roller mill and has some original machinery still in use. It was converted to a museum in 1968.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|---|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

There had been tremendous growth of wheat production between 1850 and 1880 in Wisconsin and by 1880 there were well over 1,000 flour and grist mills in the state. Wheat milling was Wisconsin's leading industry until the 1880's when lumber and lumber milling took the lead, but wheat milling was still an important industry at the turn of the century, although it began to decline soon after. The great concentration of flour milling for export was centered early in Milwaukee and the lower Fox River valley, but many mills were built throughout the state to serve local farm communities. One such mill was the Dells Mill on Bridge Creek near Augusta.

The Dells mill began operation in about 1867 and was still in operation a century later. In 1877 John Stevens of Neenah, Wisconsin, invented the roller type flour mill which revolutionized the industry. It not only produced a much greater percentage of white flour from a given volume of wheat but left the wheat germ intact and had various other advantages. Above all it was capable of satisfactorily milling the desirable hard winter varieties of wheat which grew better in Minnesota, the Dakotas, and other western states, than in Wisconsin. As a result, Stevens' invention was an important factor in the movement of wheat growing out of Wisconsin, though soil depletion was highly important also. It also made a relic of the buhrstone type of mill.

Apparently the Dells Mill continued to operate at a profit through diversification of its output over the years and finally installed a roller flour mill of the Stevens type about the time of World War I. As late as 1929 it was considered one of the most up-to-date cereal mills in its part of the state and was expected to mill out over two hundred thousand pounds of buckwheat flour. In addition to cereal milling, it carried on a large business of custom grinding and feed mixing.

The landmark mill still has some of the original machinery as well as that which was added from time to time to meet new demands. Its turbine has been replaced once but it still drives the original wooden cogged core wheel which turns the main drive gear. The mill is still fully operable and has always been powered only by turbine. It is well preserved both inside and out and its machinery well maintained. Whether there is another mill equal to it in the state and still operable is not known, but the Dells Mill is an excellent example of preservation of a type of industrial plant which has become all but extinct in Wisconsin. Other grain mills which date back as far are either non-existent or have been long ago converted to other uses or other sources of power. It is now a museum, part of a bygone era.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

"Dells Mill Sixty-Five Years Old," Augusta (Wis.) Union, Nov. 21, 1929.
 Information from letters and interviews with members of Clark family.
 Lawson, Publius Virgilius, "The Invention of the Roller Flour Mill,"
Wisconsin Historical Society Proceedings, 1907, 244-258, Madison, 1908.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

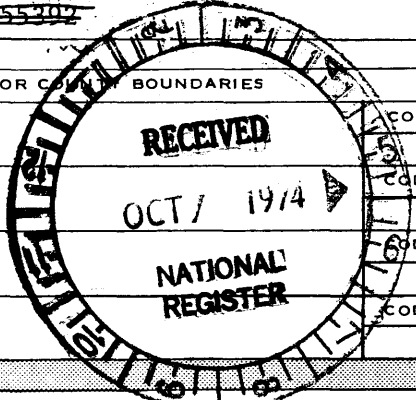
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	E 646,650	0 . "		0	0	"
NE	N 4953 425	0 . "		<u>UTM Coordinates - Zone 15</u>		
SE	0 . "	0 . "		46655202		
SW	0 . "	0 . "				

UTM
OK
CD

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 3.0

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
 Donald N. Anderson, Assistant Director, Historic Sites & Markers Division

ORGANIZATION: State Historical Society of Wisconsin DATE: 7/2/74

STREET AND NUMBER:
 816 State Street

CITY OR TOWN: Madison STATE: Wisconsin 53706 CODE: 55

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name James Morton Smith
 James Morton Smith

Title Director, State Historical Society of Wisconsin

Date Oct 1, 1974

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

DR Woelke
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 12/24/74

ATTEST:
Wm J. Smith
 Keeper of The National Register

Date DEC 24 1974