United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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 National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form.* If any 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.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Bodenham Mill

Other names/site number: N/A

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

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

2. Location

Street & Number: 690 Bodenham Road

City or town: Pulaski State: TN County: Giles

Not For Publication: NA Vicinity: NA

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

[ ] **national** [ ] **statewide** [X] **local**

Applicable National Register Criteria: [X] **A** [ ] **B** [ ] **C** [ ] **D**

2/4/13

Signature of certifying official/Title: **Date**

State Historic Preservation Officer, Tennessee Historical Commission

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of Commenting Official: **Date**

Title: **State of Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government**

Bodenham Mill — Name of Property

Giles, Tennessee — County and State

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

___ entered in the National Register
___ determined eligible for the National Register
___ determined not eligible for the National Register
___ removed from the National Register
___ other (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper — Date of Action

5. Classification

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

Private	X
Public – Local	
Public – State	
Public – Federal	

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

Building(s)	X
District	
Site	
Structure	
Object	

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	Total

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	WORK IN PROGRESS
INDUSTRY: manufacturing facility	

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)
OTHER: Commercial

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)
Principal exterior materials of the property: WOOD:sawmill lumber; STONE: limestone; CONCRETE; METAL: tin

Narrative Description

The Bodenham Mill is a two- and one-half story, sawmill-sawn frame building constructed ca. 1930 on a slope leading down to Choate Creek in the community of Bodenham (pop. ~1,046) in rural Giles County. The current mill was built on the stone foundation and remains of the previous Bodenham Mill constructed in 1832 for John W. Bodenheimer which burned sometime between 1925 and 1930. The current mill building has a combination of a continuous limestone and mortar foundation with some concrete replacement and reinforced sections and stone and concrete piers, an exterior of corrugated metal panels, a gabled monitor roof clad with corrugated metal and exposed roof rafters.

On the main (south) facade is a gable crimped metal roof entry porch with an open wood railing and supported by square wood posts on a wood floor and accessed by two wood stairs constructed in 2011 (Photo 1). A rooster metal weather vane adorns the ridge of the porch's gable roof. The main entry is sited beneath the new porch and consists of a set of hinged double wood doors constructed in a diagonal pattern with wrought iron hardware (Photo 17). Located to the west of the main entry is a rectangular opening used as a

chute that led to temporary storage of un-shucked corn in a corn crib located beneath the building. The chute has a bottom-hinged wood plank door set in a wood surround. Directly above the entrance on the half-story is a rectangular window opening currently holding a four-over-four double-hung wood sash window in front of which is a small portion of the wood muntins and glass panes remaining from the original six-over-six double-hung wood sash window and both are set in the original wood surround. A hooked lighting fixture extends out from above the window but has no shade or bulb currently. Early electrical ceramic knobs and wiring are fixated to the east of the window at the edge of the monitor roof section of the building along with metal piping leading down to an early electrical current meter. Two wood slats, similar to a water table, run the length of the building and stop at the corn crib chute door. Also located between the porch and the chute opening are markings made by the early millers and/or their clients showing numerals, drawings, weights and measurements and signatures (Photo 16).

On the west elevation is an original sliding track vertical wood slat door set within a wood surround at the main level. This entry was used for the loading and unloading of the corn or meal bags. On the lower level of the west elevation are large, square poured concrete piers set within a poured concrete reinforcement wall which sits on the remaining original limestone foundation (Photo 2).

On the east elevation are two, original six-over-six double-hung wood sash windows with an added wood sash window setting behind the original southeast window (Photo 5). Also located off the east elevation at the northeast corner of the lower level is the pulley and gear house (Photo 7). The pulley and gear house has a sloping shed roof porch of standing metal seam and is supported by original log posts and square wood posts along with small panels of crimped metal cladding in varying lengths (Photo 8). It slopes down to cover and protect the metal pulleys and gears that run the Fitz overshot waterwheel and has partial-height limestone walls with a section of concrete for reinforcement (Photo 6).

Centrally located on the rear elevation are two window openings set with original wood surrounds (Photos 3 & 4). The main level window has a replacement four-over-four double-hung wood sash window while the upper level has an eight-light fixed wood window set vertically with a three-light transom. These windows are temporary replacements until proper sized windows for the openings can be found. The lower level of the mill is open to the elements and houses the wide, steel Fitz overshot water wheel, the water wheel pit, the concrete water reservoir, the metal and wood pulleys, gears and gear drive shafts, several wood chutes, and the corn crib storage area with the aforementioned gear and pulley house extending off the east elevation (Photo 11).

The water wheel pit area has high limestone walls surrounding and supporting the wide steel Fitz water wheel, drive shafts and gears on three sides in the east side of lower level of the mill. The vertical, overshot Fitz water wheel is six feet wide and fifteen feet in diameter. The driveshaft and the gears extend out from the wheel on the east side and through the wall into the gear and pulley house. Suspended above the water wheel and supported by iron beams is a rectangular cast concrete water reservoir with an opening that projects an iron lip on the north side allowing for the water to spill out over the wheel into the mill pond and then re-joins Choate Creek by way of a tail race (Photo 10). The reservoir is five feet eight inches wide, six feet four inches long and three and one-half feet deep and holds 940 gallons of water. The reservoir is supplied by a large iron pipe or penstock that extends beneath the mill and across Old Highway 64 to the south and connects up with the sluice or head race which then runs parallel to the old highway on the south side and down to meet Choate Creek approximately a mile and a quarter away (Photo 9). The water flow was

controlled by a sluice gate that could be opened or closed by a mechanism located inside the mill directly above the water wheel. The gate was made of iron by the CALCO Company in the shape of a round cap that matched the pipe opening attached to an iron frame (Photos 13, 14 & 15). The sluice gate has been removed from its original location due to road projects and expansions and is being kept by the current mill owner for future use in interpretation.

On the western side of the lower level is a twelve and one-half foot by eleven foot corn crib that is fed by the chute door on the main (south) façade of the mill and would have contained large amounts of un-shucked corn (Photo 12). The corn crib encompasses a large section of the southwestern corner of the lower level and has sawmill sawn boards loosely nailed horizontally around framing on three sides with the southern wall the original limestone foundation wall. The western wall of the corn crib is supported by poured concrete piers and a limestone and concrete wall and is clad with crimped metal panels on the exterior. A corn shucking machine is located on the outside of the north wall.

Located between the corn crib on the west side and the water wheel pit on the east side are several pulleys, gears, wood belt chutes and shafts that are suspended from the ceiling and/or supported by sawn wood posts. Most of the pulleys are made of metal but one wood pulley still remains on the gears. An astonishing amount of wood pulleys (Photo 32) remain in the interior of the mill and some of the original leather gear belts and cloth elevator belts are scattered around the mill and within the shafts and chutes. The remaining area is open and currently stores picnic tables but would have been the area that the mill workers would have used to shuck corn manually or run the machine. The underside of the main level of the mill is visible and shows the holes left by previous chutes and shafts scattered amidst sawmill sawn beams, flooring and floor joists. At one time there was also a wood staircase that led from lower level up to the main level of the mill. The door is still visible from both levels and is constructed of vertical wood planks stabilized by a diagonally and a horizontally placed board.

The main floor of the mill has heavy sawmill sawn wood framing set on wood flooring and supporting heavy wood beams. It is divided into three areas by walls of wide plank horizontally placed wood boards between wood framing. Upon entering the main doors of the mill, a small office, measuring eight and one-half feet by eight feet, is located to the right in the southeast corner (Photos 18). Within the office is a small desk, table and a window and on the walls are bills of lading from over the decades (Photo 19). The main work area is located in the center of the main floor and the northeast corner. The burr stone casing and other machinery are within this this area along with two wood bins that once housed the meal after the corn was ground (Photos 20, 21 24 & 25). The open original wood stairs to the second floor are located along the rear wall and a door leading to the lower level is behind the stairwell (Photo 22). The center area of mill directly in front of the main entrance houses the numerous square wood belt elevator shafts and wood chutes that allow for the corn or wheat to be moved to different machinery throughout the mill (Photo 23). Many of the fabric belt elevators remain within these wood shafts (Photo 31). Several holes in the floors remain next to the machinery that would once have housed belts that ran the machinery from gear shafts on the lower level. The southwest corner is open and was used as the staging area for the loading and unloading the product through the sliding vertical wood door on the west elevation and also has the corn chute that is fed through the door on the main, south façade and ends in the corn crib on the lower level (Photo 26). The northwest corner of the mill is sectioned off by wide plank horizontally placed wood boards similar to the office area and was used as the meal storage area (12' x 13'). Within this area is the slanting roof of the lower level stairwell, a wood storage bin fed by square wood chutes emanating from the wall and a metal bag filler/hopper device

supported by metal framing attached to the wall (Photo 27). The rear, north wall is partially clad with horizontal wood planks unlike other walls on the main level. Electricity for the mill consists of unconcealed wiring and ca. 1930s fixtures. Located on the walls are historic photographs of the mill, antique tools and social history of the area used for interpretation of the mill's history.

The upper floor of the mill sits within a rectangular space below the monitor roof with open framed dropped section wings used for storage and consists of wood frame walls and a diagonally placed large-plank wood floor. Within this central portion of the upper floor are the large flour dresser (Photo 30) on the west side and a double hopper/bin wood unit attached to a gear shaft with wood pulleys on the east side (Photo 28). Columns of wood shafts and belt elevators are located between the gear shaft and the double hopper/bin unit (Photo 29). An oversized metal bag filling device/hopper supported by wood framing attached to the rafters and rear wall sits to the north of the double hopper wood unit and adjacent to the stairs.

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.)

- [x] 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 the boxes that apply.)
Property is:

- [ ] A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- [ ] B removed from its original location.
- [ ] C a birthplace or grave.
- [ ] D a cemetery.
- [ ] E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- [ ] F a commemorative property.
- [ ] G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions.)
COMMERCE

Period of Significance
ca.1930-ca.1955

Significant Dates
N/A

Significant Person
(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)
N/A

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Architect/Builder
UNKNOWN

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph

The Bodenham Mill is eligible for the National Register under criterion A for its local significance in commerce. Rebuilt ca.1930 in rural Giles County, the grist and flour mill served as the center of trade and activity within the community for twenty-five years. At the time the present mill was rebuilt, following loss by fire, Bodenham was already in the midst of a gradual decline, having lost its post office by 1914. Transportation in the area had improved as highways were completed, allowing farmers to travel to larger mills in cities like Pulaski, the county seat. Despite the decline, the Bodenham Mill survived for the next twenty-five years, serving a more localized region. Early in its history, the mill drew farmers from far distances; however, by the 1930s, the clientele was primarily smaller farmers who wanted more specialized, personalized services. The water-powered technology of the Bodenham Mill remained relatively unchanged since its original construction in the 1830s. However, the continued success of the mill allowed for the introduction of more advanced, and efficient equipment that survives within the building's interior. As such, the mill managed to keep pace with new milling techniques while retaining a smaller, personalized clientele in and around Bodenham. The present Bodenham Mill operated ca.1930 to ca.1955. The building retains a large degree of its historic and architectural integrity.

Narrative Statement of Significance

Giles County was created in 1810 from portions of southern Maury County. Nearly half of the new county lay in Chickasaw territory until September of 1816, although pioneers and early settlers began to arrive in the region prior to the establishment of the county and the removal of the Indians.[1] Giles County is bordered by Maury and Marshall Counties to the north, east by Lincoln County, west by Lawrence County, and south by the State of Alabama. Pulaski was named the county seat.

The rural community of Bodenham is situated within the western third of the county and is oftentimes considered to include places such as Weakley Creek, Hams Creek, Choates Creek, Agnew Creek, Gimlet Creek, Hurricane Creek, Shores, and others.[2] Nestled along Choates Creek (also known as Shoats Creek), the earliest settlers to the area were Pennsylvania-Dutch brothers Peter and David Bodenheimer who arrived in 1805, and whom the community derives its name. Descendants of these pioneers later changed the spelling to Bodenham(m)er which eventually evolved into its present name of Bodenham.[3]

David Bodenheimer established his residence on land situated along Choates Creek and on which the Bodenham Mill would eventually be constructed. His brother Peter built his home approximately eight miles

[1] James McCallum (1876). *A Brief Sketch of the Settlement and Early History of Giles County Tennessee.*
[2] Giles Historical Society, "A History of the Bodenham Community," as reported by Mrs. Leslie Parker to the Giles County Historical Society, July 1981.
[3] Bodenham School, "The Bodenham Community," Bodenham School. http://www.bodenham.org/community%20history.htm. (accessed December 10, 2012).

up Weakley Creek. Unfortunately, Peter died in his early thirties.[4] David Bodenheimer, however, established a store and mill on his land, and became one of the county's first magistrates and prominent citizens.[5] David Bodenheimer is also noted for introducing a new type of pear apple to the region, which would later be coined the "Bodenhammer apple."[6]

Prior to, and immediately following the creation of the county, settlers were compelled to travel to Williamson County, north of Maury County for access to mills to crush corn into meal as there were no mills at that period in the county.[7] The earliest mill erected in Giles County was a small, water-powered corn mill on Robertson Fork built by Nathanial Moody in 1809. Soon after, Robert Buchanan constructed a water-powered grist mill on Buchanan Creek, and George Cunningham erected another on Richland Creek. Additional mills erected during these early years of Giles County were located on Bradshaw Creek, Big Creek, Elk River, and others. These were all common water-powered corn mills. Lewis Brown reportedly constructed the first horsepower mill in 1810. In addition to corn mills, powder mills and cotton gins scattered the landscape during these early years.[8] Most of these gins were very small machines powered by hand or by horse treadmills. Gradually, larger gins were established and were powered by water, and later steam.[9]

The operation of rural mills during the early settlement period most often fueled the establishment and growth of villages with the mill serving as the center of commerce and activity. The importance of the mill has led historians to "consider mills as one of the primary nuclei about which rural and later major communities evolved."[10]

Although personal accounts and local histories indicate that David Bodenheimer constructed the first mill in the area, the first Bodenham Mill associated with the present site was likely constructed by his relative, J.W. Bodenhamer. A survey "for the benefit of persons to build public mills" was made for John W. Bodenhamer

[4] Giles Historical Society 1981.

[5] Elizabeth Parker, "History of Giles County, Tennessee," a Thesis presented to Middle Tennessee State University, August 1953; 12.

[6] Giles Historical Society 1981.

[7] Westin Goodspeed, *A History of Tennessee from the Earliest Times to the Present, Together with an Historical and a Bibliographical Sketch of Anderson, Bedford, Benton, Blount, Bradley, Campbell, Cannon, Carroll, Carter, Cheatham, Chester, Claiborne, Cocke, Coffee, Crockett, Decatur, DeKalb, Dickson, Dyer, Franklin, Gibson, Green, Hamblen, Hamilton, Hancock, Hardeman, Hardin, Hawkins, Haywood, Henderson, Henry, Houston, Humphreys, James, Johnson, Lake, Lauderdale, Lawrence, Lewis, Lincoln, Loudon, Madison, Marion, Marshall, Meigs, Monroe, Moore, Morgan, Obion, Perry, Polk, Rhea, Roane, Robertson, Rutherford, Sevier, Shelby, Smith, Stewart, Sullivan, Sumner, Trousdale, Unicoi, Union, Warren, Washington, Wayne, Weakley, White, Wilson.* Nashville and Chicago: Goodspeed Publishing Company, 1886.

[8] Goodspeed, 749-766.

[9] Lovett, John, PhD. "Historic Context Evaluation for Mills in Tennessee." A study conducted for the Tennessee Department of Transportation through the University of Tennessee Transportation Center; 2002, 152-153.

[10] Lovett, 1.

in 1832.[11] His mill was reportedly built on Choates Creek and named "Bodenhamer's Mill."[12] It is more than likely that this is the site of the mill on which the present Bodenham Mill rests. J.W. Bodenhamer is also noted as residing in Giles County on the 1830 United States Federal Census.

According to the 1836 Giles County, Tennessee Civil Districts and Tax List, a number of Bodenhammer relatives and heirs were residing in the 5th Civil District that year.[13] In fact, the Bodenhammer family appears to be among the largest land holders in the district. Among those include Frank D. Bodenhammer, Elizabeth, David (likely a relative of the first settler, David Bodenheimer), John W. (builder of the grist mill), heirs of W. Bodenhammer, and Jacob.[14] The above mentioned John W. Bodenhammer is listed as owning 189 acres of land within this district. It can be presumed that the grist mill he established, and on which the present Bodenham mill is situated, was included in the 189 acres of land owned by J.W. Bodenhammer at this time.

In keeping with common settlement-period trends, early Bodenham grew as an agricultural and industrial community centered around its mill. By 1832, the Bodenham mill was in operation on Choates Creek, attracting area farmers and the establishment of businesses.[15] Farmers from the surrounding area would transport their corn crop to the Bodenham mill for processing into corn meal. Operators of the mill would grind the corn, retaining a small amount of the product as a grinding fee.[16] According to Chancery Court Minute Books, John Pillow served as the mill wright for John W. Bodenhammer between 1831 and 1837.[17] The rapid success of the mill and the subsequent growth of the Bodenham community required the need of a post office, which opened by 1836.[18] And as late as 1850, the village had reached a reasonable size as to be recognized on a State of Tennessee map as one of only a few towns in the County (*see* Figure 1). By 1886, Bodenham boasted a water mill, cotton gin, cabinet shop, blacksmith shop, and a general merchandise store. Taking advantage of the success of the growing village, it is believed that Robert S. Patrick (b.1847 – d. ca.1925), who according to Westin Goodspeed's account, arrived in Bodenham from Alabama ca.1885, acquired considerable interest in businesses and land, and was considered to be the "owner and proprietor" of

[11] Giles County Heritage Book Committee, *Heritage of Giles County, Tennessee 1809-2005*, Tennessee: Walsworth Publishing Company, 2006; 71.
[12] Giles County Heritage Book Committee, 71
[13] Bodenham is situated within the 5th Civil District and portions of the 18th District.
[14] James L. Douthart, *1836 Giles County, Tennessee Civil Districts and Tax List*, Tennesse: Mountain Press, 2004.
[15] Leslie and Betty Parker notes 2012
[16] Leslie and Betty Parker notes 2012
[17] Chancery Court Minute Book, March Term, 1842, page 663.
[18] Tennessee State Library and Archives, "Tennessee Place Names and Post Offices," http://www.tennessee.gov/tsla/history/places/postoff1.htm#b (accessed January 3, 2013).

the village at that time.[19] Among his many investments, Robert S. Patrick owned 50% interest in the Bodenham Mill and property from 1885 until his death c.1925 (*see* Continuation Sheet chain-of-title).

Throughout the nineteenth century, Giles County ranked in the top five counties in the state for the number of mills and cotton gins in operation.[20] By the 1890s, upwards of 150 mills were present in Giles County, including a water-powered corn and wheat mill, and cotton gin on Shoats Creek in the Fifth District owned by James Patrick.[21] The water-powered corn and wheat mill is believed to be the Bodenham Mill property. Despite the large number of 19th century mills operating in Giles County, today, only the Bodenham mill site is known to survive.[22] Although the original 1832, two-story mill built by John W. Bodenhammer was destroyed by fire c.1925, the current Bodenham Mill sits on its original stone foundation.

During the late-19th century, Bodenham businesses included the grist mill, general stores, a coffin factory, tanning yard, saw mill, and cotton gin.[23] Of these businesses, only the ca.1930 reconstructed grist mill survives. Only one cotton gin is known to have operated in the Bodenham community. The gin was reportedly owned by Robert S. Patrick, and later by J. Lee Shores who used improved machinery, but operated it with a wood burning steam engine.[24] The cotton gin, though no longer extant, was located on the Bodenham Mill property. It is evident that the growth of the Bodenham community had stalled by the turn-of-the-century. The coffin factory, constructed on Weakley Creek, and already abandoned, was destroyed in a flood in March of 1902.[25] The Bodenham post office closed in 1914, further indicating that the village was experiencing a decline in population.[26]

The 1926 construction of US Highway 64/Lawrenceburg Highway, connecting Chattanooga to Memphis, Tennessee intersected the community of Bodenham. Prior to the construction of the highway, roads leading to and from the county seats of Pulaski and Lawrenceburg were rough, and difficult to travel. With the completion of the highway, however, farm- to-market roads were quickly built, opening the larger markets to farmers.[27] Despite the apparent convenience of the highway, its construction resulted in the additional

[19] Goodspeed 1886, appendix of biographies. Accessed from Ancestry.com, http://freepages.history.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~pearidger/history/gdsgilebio.shtml (accessed January 2013).
[20] Lovett, 152-153.
[21] Goodspeed, 749-766; there is discrepancy in Goodspeed's account where earlier he claims that Robert S. Patrick owned the mill. Deed records support partial ownership at this time by Robert S. Patrick. Therefore, it is possible that James Patrick was a son, or relative of Robert S. Patrick.
[22] Lovett, 152-153.
[23] "The Bodenham Community," http://www.bodenham.org (accessed December 2012).
[24] Giles Historical Society 1981.
[25] Giles Historical Society 1981.
[26] Tennessee State Library and Archives, "Tennessee Place Names and Post Offices," http://www.tennessee.gov/tsla/history/places/postoff1.htm#b (accessed January 3, 2013)
[27] Giles Historical Society 1981.

decline of the community of Bodenham as area farmers chose to conduct business, process corn meal, flour, and cotton in the larger market towns.

In addition to the highway, two substantial droughts occurred that contributed to the further decline of Bodenham, one in 1930, the other in 1951. The substantial crop failure of these droughts forced a number of families to move north in order to seek new employment.[28]

In addition to the construction of the highway and the 1930 drought, the two-story, frame grist mill, in operation since 1832, was destroyed by fire ca.1925. Despite many area farmers travelling longer distances on the newly completed highway to larger milling operations, the large number of loyal farmers surrounding the Bodenham community encouraged James Lee Shores, owner at that time, to rebuild the grist mill ca.1930, introducing flour processing on a third floor.

Census records indicate that the population of the Bodenham community, including portions of the 18th Civil District totaled approximately 1,600 in 1920. The gradual decrease in population to approximately 1,580 by 1940 confirms the community's decline. This figure also demonstrates the continuance of the village and surrounding farms despite the factors previously discussed. If not for the reconstruction of the mill, and its continued operation for the next 25 years, it is reasonable to assume that the decline of the community of Bodenham would have occurred at a much more elevated rate. In 2010, the population of Bodenham and the surrounding community was 1,046.[29]

Today, the Bodenham Mill, the center of trade and activity in the community since its establishment in 1832, is all that survives in the now quiet village. The ca.1930 mill building serves as a reminder of the village's successful years as a trading center for area farmers. Furthermore, the equipment within the mill further attests to its unique history and success as a grist and flour mill as new technologies were embraced.

Powering of mills during the late-19th century included the traditional water-powered mill, horse-powered, and steam-powered.[30] The Bodenham Mill was originally powered by a wood water wheel. However, following its ca.1930 reconstruction, the present steel overshot water wheel became the mill's primary power source.

The steel vertical water wheel that once operated the Bodenham Mill is six feet wide and fifteen feet in diameter. The overshot water wheel was built by the Fitz Water Wheel Company of Hanover, Pennsylvania. The company began manufacture of overshot water wheels in 1840, the earliest of which were constructed of wood. The company is most noted for the superior design and efficiency of its steel "overshoot" water

[28] Elizabeth Parker 1953; 44.
[29] Population data was provided by Janet Vanzant, County Executive of Giles County
[30] Lovett 152-153.

wheel.[31] It is unknown as to when the Fitz Water Wheel Company began manufacture of the steel overshot wheel; however, by the early-20th century, the wheel was most certainly in production.[32]

In addition to the steel water wheel, unique equipment that survives inside the mill includes a "Standard Corn Cleaner" manufactured by the Edmand's Manufacturing Company in Hamilton, Ohio. The company was in operation as early as 1882. The cleaner was used to blow trash from the corn prior to grinding. Another unique piece of equipment surviving in the mill is a large, six-roll grinder manufactured by the J.T. Noye Manufacturing Company in Buffalo, New York, and patented in 1888. A grinding mill stone, patented on June 4, 1912 also survives within the mill.[33] It is unknown whether the surviving equipment, patented prior to the construction of the present mill ca.1930, was salvaged from the previous after it was destroyed by fire, or if the equipment was purchased following the mill's reconstruction.

At some point in the mill's history, flour was milled alongside corn, requiring the need for an additional space completely separate from the corn processing. The ca.1930 reconstruction of the mill added a third floor which presently houses the flour dresser, suggesting that the processing of flour did not occur until the mill's reconstruction ca.1930.

Ownership of the Bodenham Mill Property

Early records point towards the construction date of the Bodenham Mill in, or around 1832, and built by John W. Bodenhammer. The earliest deed on record for the present Bodenham Mill property dates to September 1841 when Elizabeth and F.D. Bodenhammer (both listed on the 1836 tax list) conveyed 160 acres to R.T. Long (*see* Continuation Sheet for a chain-of-title).[34] A subsequent deed, date unknown, indicates that the land conveyed by the deed is a "tract of land upon which John W. Bodenhammer was residing and upon which is a saw and grist mill."[35] Between 1841 and 1871, ownership of the mill changed hands numerous times, with acreage reduced from 160 to a 15-acre tract of land including two mills.[36] The reduction in acreage points toward the growth and development of the Bodenham community surrounding, and as a result of, the mill during this period as the large tract was subdivided and sold for the establishment of local businesses and residences.

In 1871, David R. and William Shores acquired the 15-acre tract upon which they took up residence and operation of the mills. With the exception of periodic transferring of interest of the property and mills, the

[31] Lovett 223.
[32] Lovett 223.
[33] Betty and Leslie Parker research and notes, provided to author.
[34] Giles County Deed Book P, Page 238, September 4, 1841.
[35] Giles County Deed Book Q, Page 537, date unknown.
[36] One of the two mills is the grist mill on which the present building is situated. The second mill is either a saw mill or the cotton gin.

Shores family maintained ownership of the mills through the early-20th century. Among the interest holders during this time was R.S. Patrick and it was believed that ca. 1885 was when R.S. Patrick first acquired interest in the mill property.[37] It is plausible that upon R.S. Patrick's arrival to the village, he acquired interest in shares in a number of businesses and land, suggesting that the community was rapidly growing by this time.

The individual most noted for his ownership and operation of the Bodenham Mill property is James Lee Shores who owned 50% of the property between 1886 and 1925 when he became sole owner upon the death of Robert S. Patrick (*see* Continuation Sheet chain-of-title). It was during J.L. Shore's ownership when the original, two-story frame mill structure was destroyed by fire. Shores constructed the present mill building on the site of the original. Upon his death in 1954, the property was conveyed to Crawford and Mazie Long and the mill ceased operations. Joe Parker, father of present owner, was the last to operate the mill ca.1955.[38]

Following the death of her husband, Crawford, Mazie Long remarried, retaining full ownership of the property until her death in 2010. On October 29, 2010, the three acre tract of land containing the Bodenham Mill, and the former site of the cotton gin was purchased by present owners and local historians Leslie and Betty Parker.

The Bodenham Mill is a unique, late example of a water-powered grist mill in Giles County. Despite the gradual decline of Bodenham as a commercial center throughout the early-20th century, the mill, rebuilt ca.1930 remained the center of trade and activity for the small community, remaining in operation for another 25 years. Bodenham Mill was forced to finally close its doors ca.1955, due to an increase in competition from larger, more advanced mills in nearby towns. The continued operation of the mill between ca.1930 and ca.1955 contributed to the perpetuation of the village of Bodenham during this period. The mill, including its Fitz steel overshot wheel, remains substantially intact with a large degree of its 19th through mid-20th century equipment surviving within.

[37] Giles County Deed Book QQ, Page 77, May 21, 1885.
[38] Betty and Leslie Parker research and notes, provided to author.

9. Major Bibliographic References

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- Book P, Page 238, September 4, 1841
- Q, Page 537, date unknown
- S, Page 182, October 22, 1846
- U, Page 24, 1849
- W, Page 426, July 6, 1853
- W, Page 605, January 2, 1854
- BB, Page 555, June 18, 1864
- FF, Page 413, August 19, 1871
- GG, Page 587, April 30, 1873
- JJ, Page 509, December 24, 1875
- MM, Page 405, February 28, 1880
- NN, Page 364, September 17, 1881
- QQ, Page 77, May 21, 1885
- QQ, Page 534, September 8, 1886
- 66, Page 485, June 22, 1909
- 92, Page 467, April 11, 1925
- 137, Page 237, June 28, 1954
- 166, Page 393, March 1968
- 3, Page 285, October 29, 2010

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Lovett, John, PhD. "Historic Context Evaluation for Mills in Tennessee." A study conducted for the Tennessee Department of Transportation through the University of Tennessee Transportation Center; 2002.

McCallum, James (1876). *A Brief Sketch of the Settlement and Early History of Giles County Tennessee*; Pulaski: Pulaski Citizen, 1928.

Parker, Betty and Leslie, research and notes, provided to authors.

Parker, Elizabeth "History of Giles County, Tennessee," a Thesis presented to Middle Tennessee State University, August 1953; 12.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):		**Primary location of additional data:**	
	preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been requested)	X	State Historic Preservation Office
	previously listed in the National Register		Other State agency
	previously determined eligible by the National Register		Federal agency
	designated a National Historic Landmark		Local government
	recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #		University
	recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #		Other
	recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey #	Name of repository:	
Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):			

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 3 acres **USGS Quadrangle** Bodenham - 59 NW

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

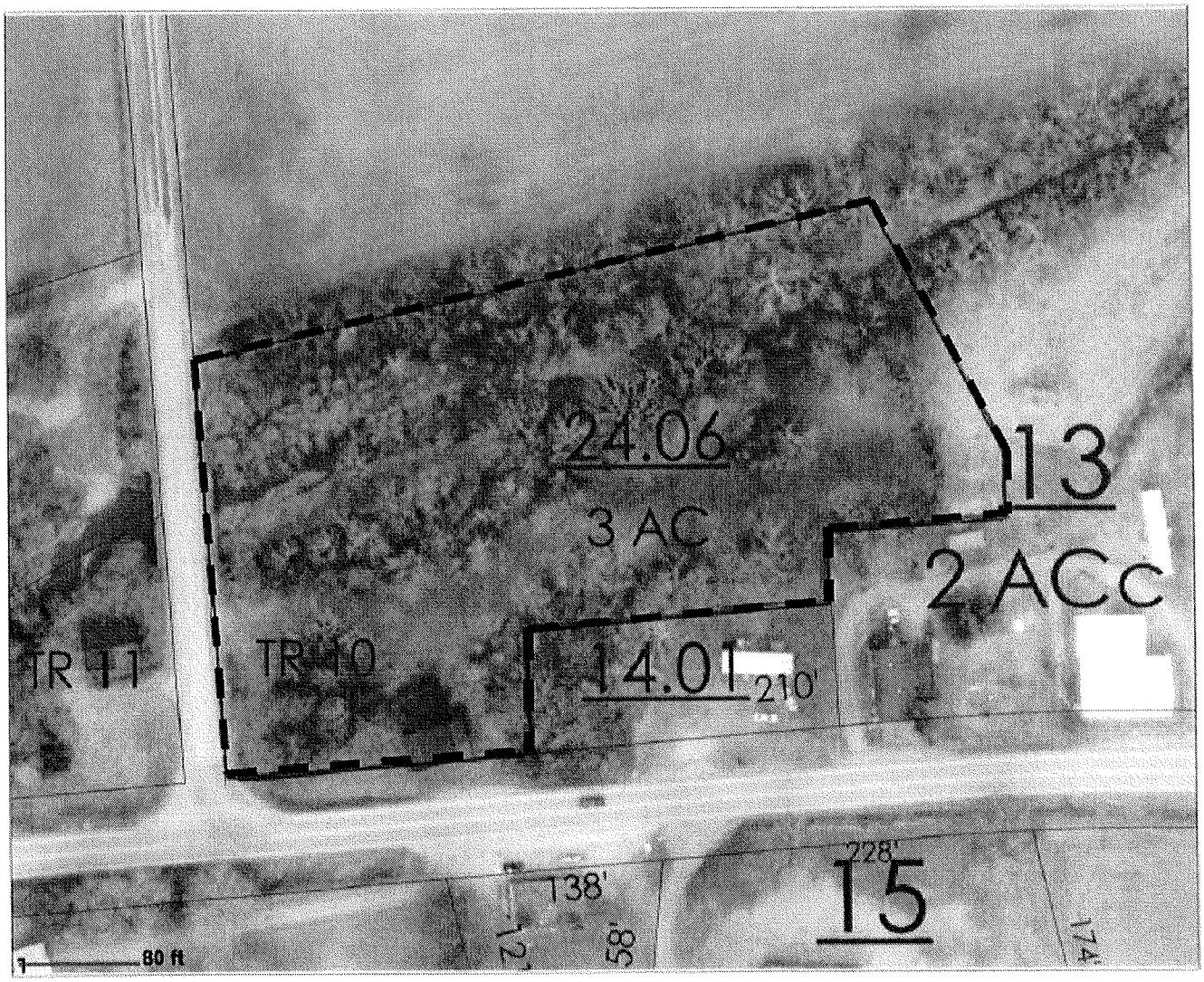
1. Latitude: 35.23333062 N Longitude: -87.15572232 W

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary for the Bodenham Mill includes the entire three acre tract set within Parcel 024.06 on Map number 074 in Giles County. On the west the boundary runs from the east side of the intersection of Bodenham Road/ Old Highway 64 and Weakley Creek Road and runs north along Weakley Creek Road for 316 feet passing over Choate Creek. At approximately 316 feet, the boundary turns to the east and runs along north side of the wooded area flanking Choate Creek for approximately 458 feet where it then turns to southeast for approximately 250 feet going back over Choate Creek where it then turns to the west and follows a two-step pattern along the rear parcel lines of Parcels 13 and 14.01 and back to Highway 64/Bodenham Road and continues along the north side of Old Highway 64/Bodenham Road for approximately 200 feet to its intersection with Weakley Creek Road.

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes all land that is legally and historically associated with the nominated mill property with the exception of the millrace located along the south side of Bodenham Road that intersects with Choate Creek.



GILES COUNTY, TENNESSEE - Map 74 Pcl 24.06 Parker

DISCLAIMER: THIS MAP IS FOR PROPERTY TAX ASSESSMENT PURPOSES ONLY. IT WAS CONSTRUCTED FROM PROPERTY INFORMATION RECORDED IN THE OFFICE OF THE REGISTER OF DEEDS. AND IS NOT CONCLUSIVE AS TO LOCATION OF PROPERTY OR LEGAL OWNERSHIP.

National Register Boundary

0 ←——→ ~200 Feet

11. Form Prepared By

Name Jaime Destefano and Peggy Nickell

Organization Tennessee Historical Commission

Street & Number 2941 Lebanon Pike Date November, 2012

City or Town Nashville Telephone 615-532-1550 ext. 128

E-mail Peggy.Nickell@tn.gov State TN Zip Code 37214

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to map.
- **Photographs** (refer to Tennessee Historical Commission National Register *Photo Policy* for submittal of digital images and prints)
- **Additional items:** (additional supporting documentation including historic photographs, historic maps, etc. should be included on a Continuation Sheet following the photographic log and sketch maps)

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 listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).
Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management. U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Bodenham Mill
City or Vicinity: Pulaski
County: Giles State: Tennessee
Photographer: Jaime Destefano, Tennnessee Historical Commission
Date Photographed: September 24, 2012

1 of 32. Main façade. View to the north.

2 of 32. West elevation and main façade. View to the northeast.

3 of 32. North elevation. View to the south.

4 of 32. North and east elevations. View to the southwest.

5 of 32. East elevation and main façade. View to the northwest.

6 of 32. Water wheel and gear house on north elevation. View to the east.

7 of 32. Gear house, gears and water wheel. View to south.

8 of 32. Gear house located on the east elevation. View to the northwest.

9 of 32. Iron penstock and water reservoir above the water wheel in the lower level of the mill. View to the west.

10 of 32. Water reservoir and belt pulleys in the lower level of the mill. View to the east.

11 of 32. Lower level of the mill showing belt pulley, shafts and chutes and the water wheel pit. View to the east.

12 of 32. Corn crib located in the southwest section of the lower level of the mill. View to the west.

13 of 32. View of the location of the mill race located on the opposite (south side) of Old Highway 64/Bodenham Road. View to the southwest.

14 of 32. Original location of the iron sluice gate within the millrace on the south side of Old Highway 64/Bodenham Road. View to the west. Note: #14 will not be on the photo key as it is currently stored at the owner's residence to be used for future interpretation.

15 of 32. View of the iron sluice gate currently located at the owners residence.

16 of 32. Markings on the corrugated metal siding on the main (south) façade. View to the south.

17 of 32. Diagonal wood door on the main entrance with wrought iron hardware. View to the south.

18 of 32. Interior: view to the east of the mill showing the office area located in the southeast corner of the main floor and wood beam framing.

19 of 32. Interior: view to the southeast of the mill showing the office area located in the southeast corner of the main floor.

20 of 32. Interior: view to the east showing the machine and burr casing used for grinding.

21 of 32. Interior: view to the south showing, belt elevator shafts, burr casing and other equipment.

22 of 32. Interior: view to the northwest showing the open staircase to the upper floor and wood beam framing. Note the hopper to the right of the staircase and the burr casing in the foreground.

23 of 32. Interior: view to the south of the belt elevator shafts and chutes.

24 of 32. Interior: view to the north showing the large wood corn bin and main work area.

25 of 32. Interior: view to the south showing the large wood corn bin and main entrance.

26 of 32. Interior: view to the west showing the side entry and loading and unloading area.

27 of 32. Interior: view to the east showing meal storage area on the main level a corn hopper and the top of the original stairwell that originally led to the lower level of the mill located in the northwest corner of the mill. The staircase has since been removed but the door remains.

28 of 32. Interior: view to the southeast of the upper floor of the mill highlighting the metal hopper, milling machine, belt elevators, chutes and shafts.

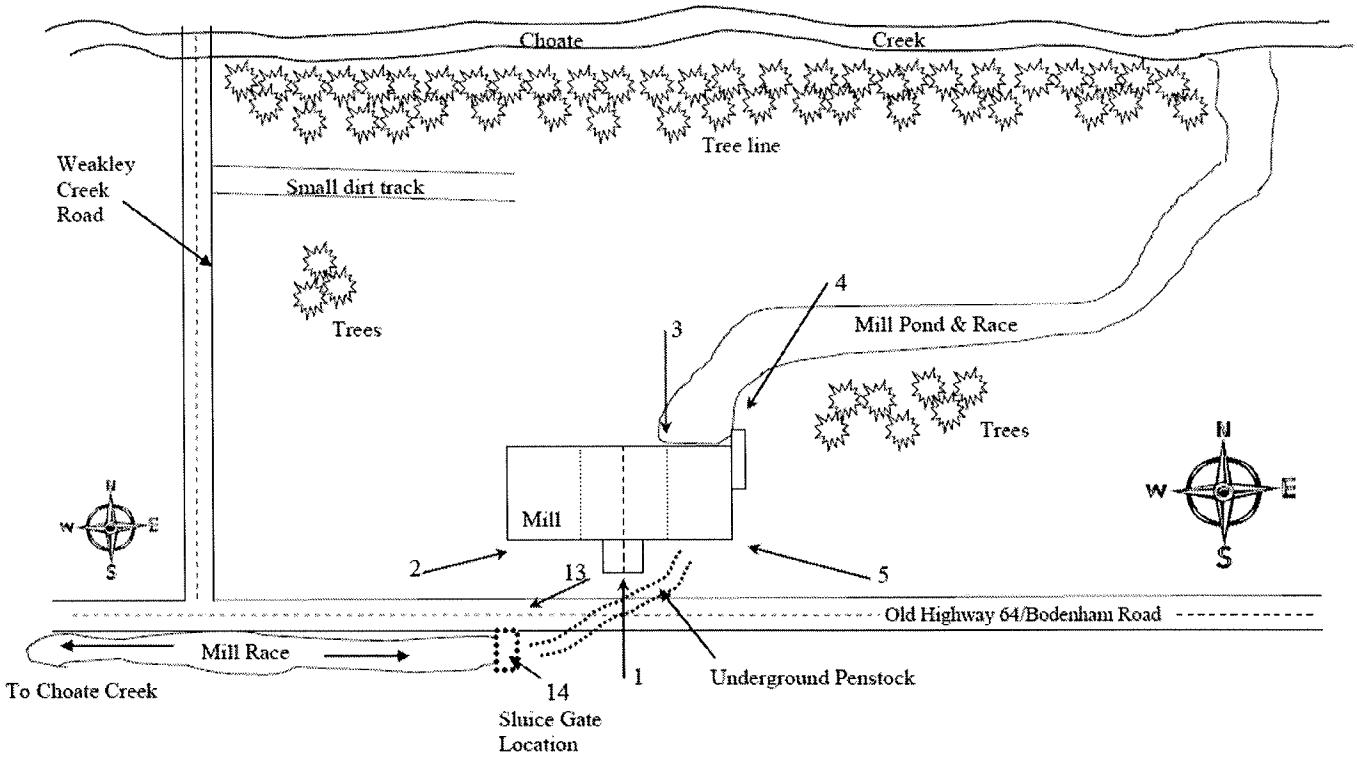
29 of 32. Interior: view to the east of the upper floor of the mill highlighting the chutes, belt elevator shafts, gears and wood pulley wheels.

30 of 32. Interior: view to the southwest of the flour dresser and wood floor on the upper floor.

31 of 32. Interior: View to the north of the interior of the belt elevator shaft.

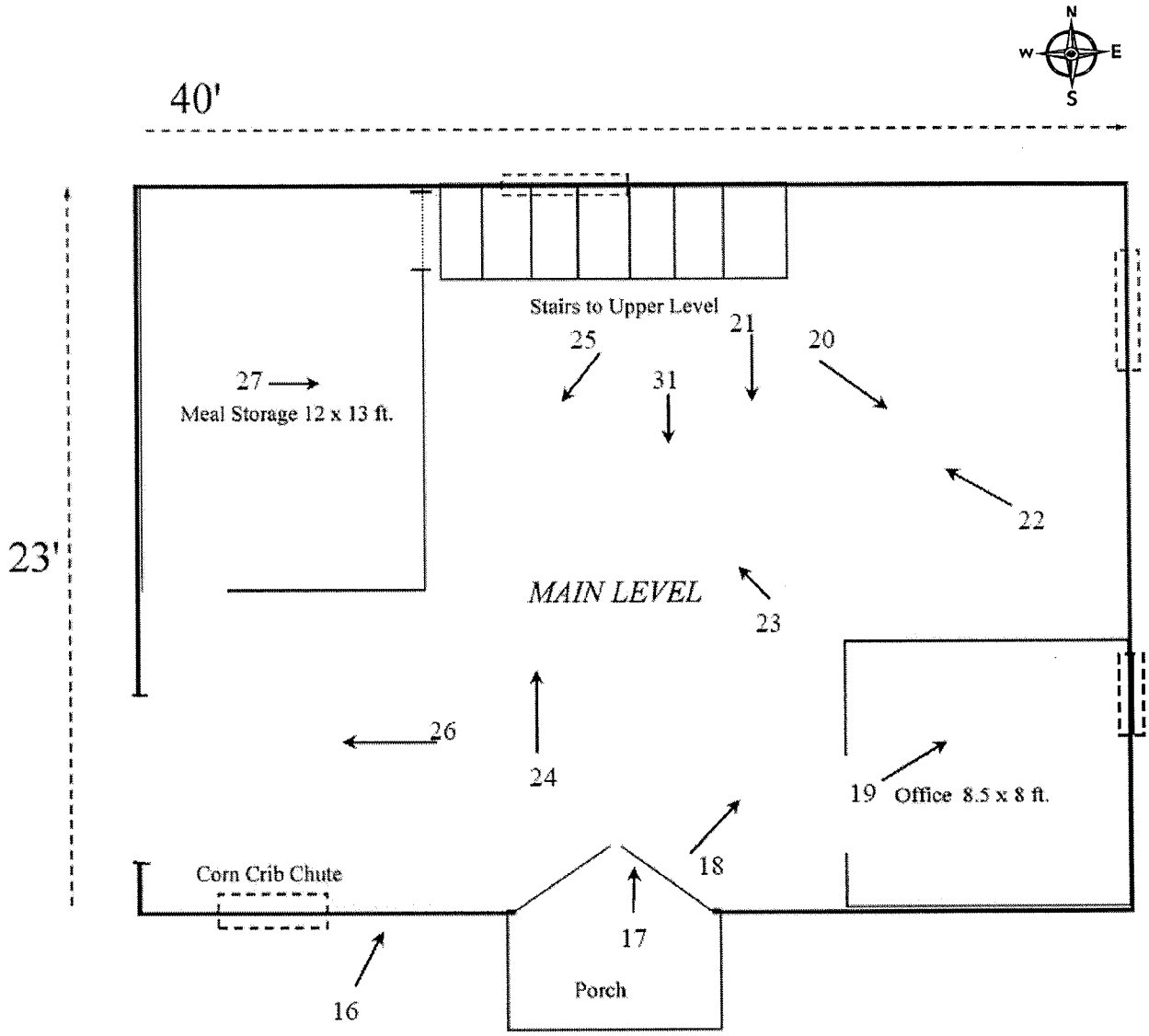
32 of 32. Interior: view to the southwest of an original wood pulley wheel.

Site Plan and Exterior Photo Key

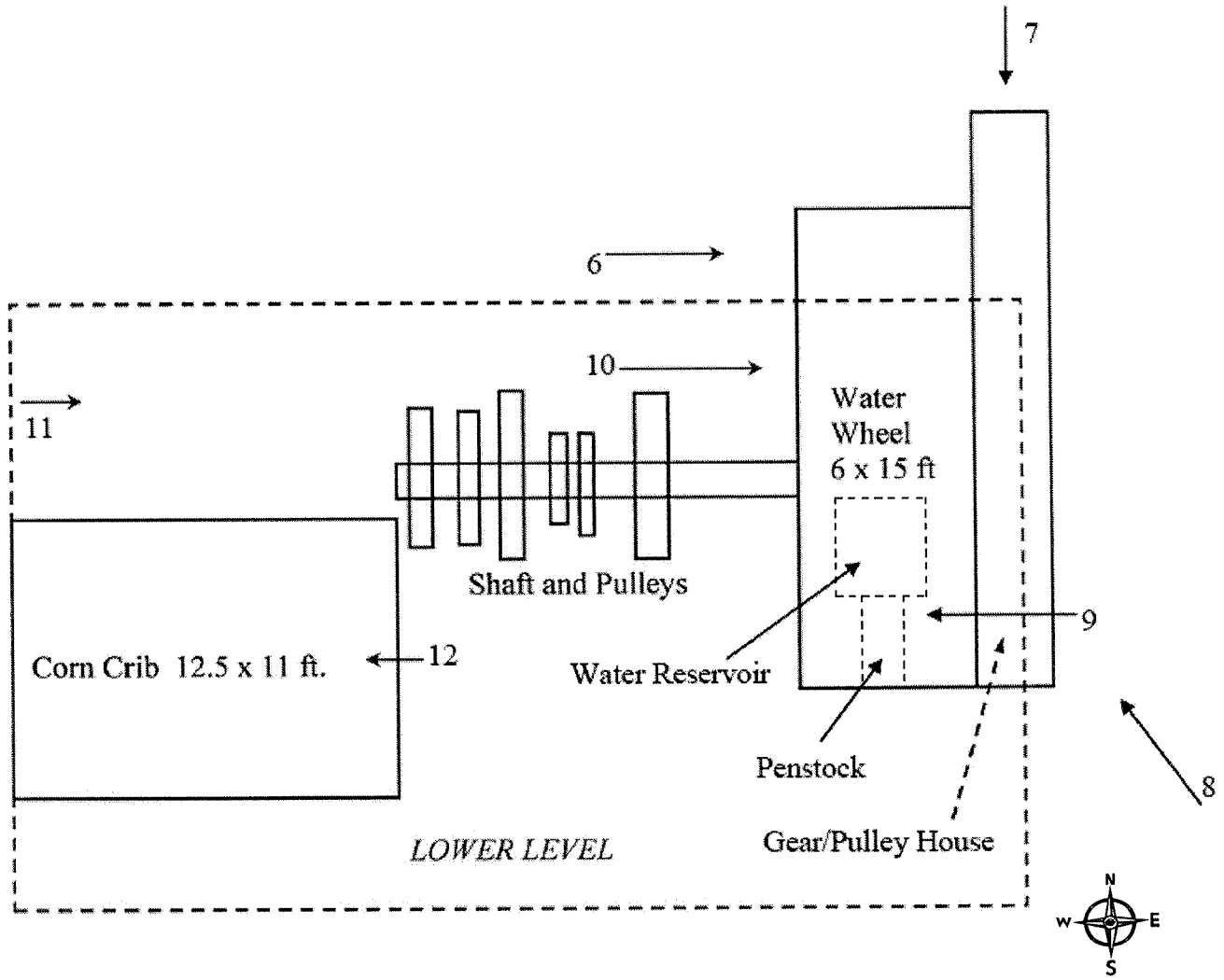


Bodenham Site Plan (not to scale)

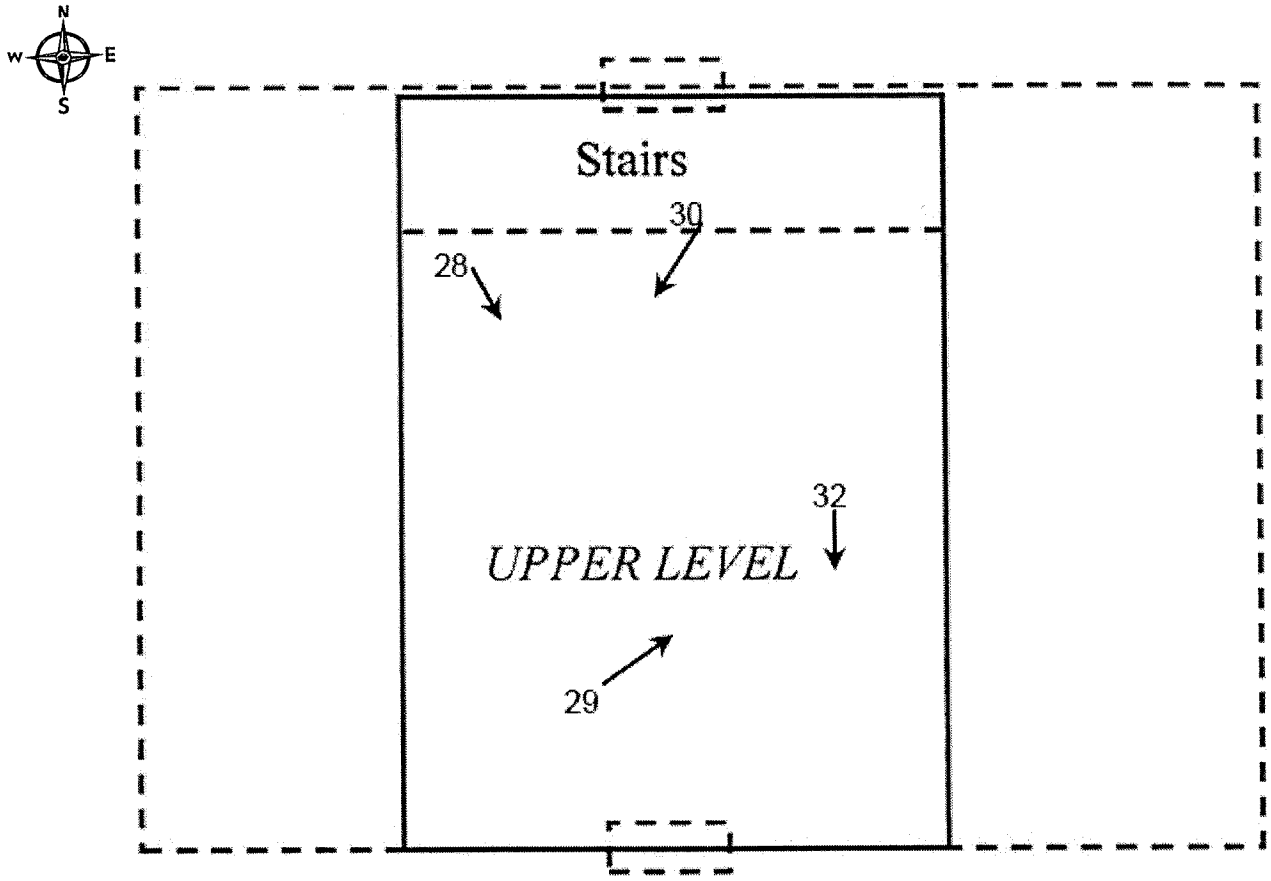
Floor Plan and Interior Photo Key



Main Level of the Bodenham Mill.
(not to scale)



Lower Level of the Bodenham Mill
(not to scale)



Upper Level of the Bodenham Mill
(not to scale)

Property Owner:

(This information will not be submitted to the National Park Service, but will remain on file at the Tennessee Historical Commission)

Name	Leslie and Betty Parker		
Street & Number	5339 Weakley Creek Road	Telephone	(931) 363-4815
City or Town	Lawrenceburg	State	Tennessee 38464