

SITE FILE COPY

DATE:

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

COUNTY: Missouri	
Warren	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:
Borgmann Mill

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Borgmann Mill

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Five miles east of Marthasville on south side of County Highway D

CITY OR TOWN:
Section 24 - Township 45N - Range 1W

STATE Missouri	CODE 24	COUNTY: Warren	CODE 219
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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 type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input 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) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Comments Farm equipment storage

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
William F. Reaver

STREET AND NUMBER:
P.O. Box 23

CITY OR TOWN:
Marthasville

STATE: Missouri	CODE: 24
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5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Office of Recorder of Deeds, Warren County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Warrenton

STATE: Missouri	CODE: 24
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6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Missouri State Historical Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1969
 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Missouri State Park Board

STREET AND NUMBER:
P.O. Box 176, 1204 Jefferson Building

CITY OR TOWN:
Jefferson City

STATE: Missouri	CODE: 24
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: MISSOURI
COUNTY: Warren
ENTRY NUMBER:
DATE:

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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 type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Borgmann mill is a one and a half story structure, built between 1847 and 1850 by Frederich W. Borgmann, a German-born artisan and farmer. This building is structurally sound with all its hand-hewn support members wood-pinned. It contains a double-door entrance on the east gable wall, which provided entry for mule teams or oxen used to power the mill. An unusual Dutch door is located on the southeast corner of the east wall through which the business of the mill was probably conducted. The windows on the first and second floor are boarded with wood siding and appear never to have been glazed. Although the present roof is of modern corrugated sheet metal, the original, unpainted board sheathing is nailed to the rafters.

The mill's interior is simple in plan, consisting of the main floor and a second-story loft (see accompanying floor plan). A wooden stairway on the east side leads to the second story where milling operations occurred. A ledge is located between the first and second floor on the northeast corner of the building. The position of this ledge suggests that it gave access to mill machinery when repairs or minor adjustments were necessary.

The milling machinery, constructed of oak and apple-root wood, is in excellent condition and indicates little or no wear. Each piece is hand-carved and connected by wooden pins. Separate pieces of wooden lath have been employed to give further strength and support to the joints. The design of the wooden parts forming the machinery is simple in plan and displays the accuracy necessary for precision in hand-crafted machinery.

A large wheel, approximately 15 feet in diameter and studded with wooden pegs on both sides of the rim, is suspended on a large upright drive shaft, located in the center of the first floor. The wooden pegs of this wheel mesh with the bars of a cog wheel located directly east of the central wheel. This main cog wheel controls two smaller wooden cogs which in turn power the grinding and hulling process. The grinding stone and barley huller are located on the second floor directly above and are connected to this machinery.

The grinding stone is circular in form and contains a hole in its center for the introduction of the whole-grain corn. The corn meal, the product of the milling process, flowed from a hole to one side of the stone. The barley huller is located close to the grinding stone.

Four mules in two teams powered the Borgmann mill, although it is probable that oxen were also used as motive power. These teams were hitched to a tongue protruding from the central log shaft on the first floor.

Currently the mill houses farm machinery on the ground level.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

3. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian | 16th Century | 18th Century | 20th Century
 15th Century | 17th Century | 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

ca. 1850

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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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

The Borgmann Mill is historically significant because it is perhaps the only "barley huller and corn grinder" constructed entirely of wood left in Missouri or the Middle West. As one commentator noted in the late 19th century, "I doubt if there are presently more than one or two wooden corn mills in the Mississippi Valley. . .very few were ever built (William Wisser, "Corn Mills in the Middle West," Machinery Institute Proceedings, 1:27, January, 1898). Powered by mule teams or oxen, the mill's survival provides considerable information for the study of the early milling industry in Missouri. Furthermore, its unique hand-constructed parts exemplify the ingenuity and skill required of early settlers in their efforts to introduce time- and labor-saving machinery into their wilderness environment.

Designed and constructed by Frederick Wilhelm Borgmann, a German immigrant who had migrated from his homeland to the Femme Osage Valley in St. Charles County in 1842 and who a few years later had settled with his bride in Warren County's Emmaus Valley, the mill provided custom corn grinding and barley hulling for neighboring farmers. The date of construction is not known. The local population, however, estimates that the mill is at least 110 years old and probably older. ("Handiwork of Young German is Fascinating, Some of His Tools are Puzzling," Washington Missourian, April 11, 1963.)

Borgmann probably operated his mill for only a short period of time. Since the machinery shows little sign of wear, it is possible that Borgmann may never have been able to fully perfect his equipment. (Mr. William Beaver, present owner of the Borgmann Mill, interviewed by H. Roger Grant, staff member, Missouri State Historical Survey and Planning Office, June 26, 1970.) And, too, by 1854 another local miller, C. H. Schaaf had converted his ox-mill to steam power. The Schaaf Mill, later known as Bierbaum's Steam Grist and Sawmill, was located less than one mile east of Borgmann's mill and enjoyed a more favorable location, being at the junction of two main county roads. (History of St. Charles, Montgomery and Warren Counties, Missouri, 1885, p. 1033.)

(cont.)

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Missouri	
COUNTY	
Warren	
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ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

8.

BORGMANN MILL

In addition to his milling activities, Borgmann was also known as a manufacturer of wooden shoes, carpet looms and other wooden tools and equipment. These tools, excluding the mill and its machinery, were sold by Borgmann's descendants at public auction in 1963. ("Handiwork of Young German is Fascinating, Some of His Tools are Puzzling," Washington Missourian, April 11, 1963.)

The present owner plans to restore the mill to operative condition.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

1. Beaver, Mr. William F. Present owner, P.O. Box 23, Marthasville, Missouri. Interviewed by Martha L. Kusiak and M. Patricia Holmes, July 30, 1969; Interviewed by H. Roger Grant, June 26, 1970. Transcript of interviews on file at the Missouri State Park Board, P.O. Box 176, 1204 Jefferson Building, Jefferson City, Missouri 65101.
2. "Handiwork of Young German is Fascinating, Some of His Tools are Puzzling," Washington Missourian, April 11, 1963.

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	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	38°	38'	43"	90°	59'	49"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"						
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"						
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"						

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Less than ten

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Martha L. Kusiak, Research Historian

ORGANIZATION: Missouri State Park Board DATE: July 20, 1970
State Historical Survey and Planning Office

STREET AND NUMBER: P.O. Box 176, 1204 Jefferson Building

CITY OR TOWN: Jefferson City STATE: Missouri CODE: 24
65101

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: Joseph Jaeger, Jr.

Title: Director, Missouri State Park Board, and Missouri State Liaison Officer

Date: _____

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: _____

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date: _____

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(Continuation Sheet)

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9.

BORGMANN MILL

3. History of St. Charles, Montgomery and Warren Counties, Missouri.
St. Louis: National Historical Company, 1885.
4. Wisser, William. "Corn Mills in the Middle West," Machinery
Institute Proceedings, 1:27, January, 1898.







