

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. Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).

1. Name of Property

Historic name Dillard Mill Historic District

Other names/site number Mischke's Mill/ Klemme's Old Mill Resort

Name of related Multiple Property Listing N/A

2. Location

Street & number <u>142 Dillard Mill Road</u>	<u>N/A</u>	not for publication
City or town <u>Davisville</u>	<u>X</u>	vicinity
State <u>Missouri</u> Code <u>MO</u> County <u>Crawford</u> Code <u>055</u> Zip code <u>65456</u>		

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

Mark A. Miles Nov. 19, 2014
Signature of certifying official/Title Mark A. Miles, Deputy SHPO Date

Missouri Department of Natural Resources
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 or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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

Dillard Mill Historic District
Name of Property

Crawford County, Missouri
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 the count.)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Private
<input type="checkbox"/>	public – Local
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	public – State
<input type="checkbox"/>	public – Federal

<input type="checkbox"/>	building(s)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	District
<input type="checkbox"/>	Site
<input type="checkbox"/>	Structure
<input type="checkbox"/>	Object

<u>Contributing</u>	<u>Noncontributing</u>	
6	4	Buildings
		Sites
3		Structures
		Objects
9	4	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

None

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Industry/Processing/Extraction/Manufacturing

Recreation and Culture/Outdoor Recreation

Domestic/Hotel

Domestic/Single Dwelling

Agriculture/Subsistence/Fishing Facility/Agricultural
Outbuilding

Industry/Processing/Extraction/Waterworks

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Recreation and Culture/Outdoor Recreation

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Late 19th and Early 20th Century American

Movements/Other/I-house

Other/Bungalow

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: Concrete, stone

walls: Wood, metal

roof: Metal, asphalt shingles

other: _____

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION ON CONTINUATION PAGES

Dillard Mill Historic District
Name of Property

Crawford County, Missouri
County and State

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

(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.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE ON CONTINUATION PAGES

Areas of Significance

Industry

Entertainment/Recreation

Period of Significance

1908-1962

Significant Dates

1908, 1920, 1935, 1937, 1956, 1962

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Adams, Jacob

Mischke, Emil

Klemme, Lester

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: Dillard Mill State Historic Site/MoDNR-DSP

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Dillard Mill Historic District
Name of Property

Crawford County, MO
County and State

Acreage of Property 58 acres

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1	<u>N37.718927</u> Latitude:	<u>W91.210556</u> Longitude:	3	<u>N37.723833</u> Latitude:	<u>W91.205792</u> Longitude:
2	<u>N37.720625</u> Latitude:	<u>W91.211758</u> Longitude:	4	<u>N37.717383</u> Latitude:	<u>W91.205921</u> Longitude:

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)
_____ NAD 1927 or _____ NAD 1983

1	<u>15S</u> Zone	<u>5771</u> Easting	<u>7615</u> Northing	3	<u>15S</u> Zone	<u>5817</u> Easting	<u>7669</u> Northing
2	<u>15S</u> Zone	<u>5756</u> Easting	<u>7633</u> Northing	4	<u>15S</u> Zone	<u>5813</u> Easting	<u>7592</u> Northing

Verbal Boundary Description (On continuation sheet)

Boundary Justification (On continuation sheet)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Bonnie Stepenoff, Ph.D.

Organization N/A date September 10, 2014

street & number 3902 Eagle Ridge Dr. Telephone 573-339-0061

city or town Cape Girardeau State MO zip code 63701

e-mail bstepenoff@hotmail.com or bstepenoff@semo.edu

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **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. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Photographs**
- **Owner Name and Contact Information**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

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 18 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.

Dillard Mill Historic District

Crawford County, MO

Name of Property

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Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log:

Name of Property: Dillard Mill Historic District

City or Vicinity: Davisville

County: Crawford

State: Missouri

Photographer: Bonnie Stepenoff

Date

Photographed: April 2, 2014, May 7, 2014, and September 2, 2014

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

- 1 of 22: View of the mill (1) from a distance, camera facing south
- 2 of 22: View of north side of mill (1), camera facing south
- 3 of 22: Primary elevation (west side) of mill, showing porch, camera facing southeast
- 4 of 22: Mill race and turbine enclosure, embedded in rock, on east side of mill, camera facing south
- 5 of 22: Miller's office, first floor of mill (1), with sign for Old Mill Lodge, camera facing west
- 6 of 22: First floor of mill (1), interior view, camera facing south
- 7 of 22: Rustic stone steps going up to the mill (1) on the north side, camera facing west
- 8 of 22: Old mill stone adjacent to stone steps going up to the mill (1), camera facing west
- 9 of 22: Dam (2), waterfall, and mill ponds (3), camera facing south
- 10 of 22: Fish race (8), camera facing south
- 11 of 22: Mischke's House (4), before asbestos siding was removed, camera facing northeast
- 12 of 22: Mischke's House (4), primary façade with some siding removed, some replaced (work in progress), camera facing west
- 13 of 22: Mischke's Old Barn (5), north of Mischke's House, camera facing northwest
- 14 of 22: Honeymoon Cabin (6), camera facing southeast
- 15 of 22: Jacob Adams Store (7), camera facing north
- 16 of 22: Minnie's House (9), camera facing northwest
- 17 of 22: Minnie's House (9), primary façade, camera facing north
- 18 of 22: Minnie's House (9), fireplace, camera facing northwest
- 19 of 22: Service building (10), non-contributing, behind Mischke's House, camera facing west
- 20 of 22: Shed (11), non-contributing, plywood, camera facing east
- 21 of 22: Shed (12), non-contributing, corrugated metal, camera facing west
- 22 of 22: Rest room (13) in vicinity of mill, camera facing west

Figure Log:

Include figures on continuation pages at the end of the nomination.

Figure 1: Historic photograph of Dillard Mill in July 1937, photographed by W. H. Shaffer, staff photographer, United States Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Mark Twain National Forest

Figure 2: Turbine at Dillard Mill, photographed by Derek Ogden during restoration project

Figure 3: Westinghouse electrical panel in basement of Dillard Mill, photograph date unknown

Figure 4: First floor of mill, machinery, photograph, January 2014, from the files of the Missouri SHPO

Figure 5: Second floor of mill, Monitor Milling Machine, photograph, January 2014, from the files of the Missouri SHPO

Dillard Mill Historic District

Crawford County, MO

Name of Property

County and State

Figure 6: Second floor of mill, flour dresser (sifter), photograph, January 2014, from the files of the Missouri SHPO

Figure 7: Swimmers sitting on the rock wall next to the dam, ca 1940, from the files of Dillard Mill State Historic Site

Figure 8: Dillard Mill Historic District Sketch Map locating contributing/non-contributing buildings and structures

Figure 9: Dillard Mill Historic District Photograph Key Number One (Photographs 1-9 and 22)

Figure 10: Dillard Mill Historic District Photo Key Number Two (Photographs 10-21)

Figure 11: Dillard Mill Historic District Sketch Map showing latitude and longitude

Figure 12: Google map of Dillard Mill and environs

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Dillard Mill Historic District
Name of Property Crawford County, Missouri
County and State N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Summary

The Dillard Mill Historic District, Davisville vicinity, Crawford County, Missouri, includes six contributing buildings and three contributing structures constructed between 1908 and 1937 and associated with the operation of a gristmill and vacation resort from 1908 through 1962. One service building, two small sheds, and one small restroom are non-contributing buildings within the district. The historic district comprises approximately half the area of Dillard Mill State Historic Site to the north and west of Huzzah Creek, approximately one mile south of the rural community of Dillard in the extreme southeastern portion of Crawford County, Missouri. The heart of the historic district is the water-powered grist mill with its associated mill pond and dam complex, constructed between 1904 and 1908 by Emil Mischke, who operated the mill until 1930. Dillard Mill, also known as Mischke's Mill, is a bright red two-story metal-clad frame building with a full basement and a metal roof. Another significant building in the district is the store built by Jacob L. Adams in the late nineteenth century.¹ During the mill's period of activity, the rail line gave Mischke access to markets outside the isolated community of Dillard. Mischke built a house on his property about 1920 and lived in it until Lester Klemme purchased the mill in 1930. Klemme moved into the house and later operated it as the Old Mill Lodge, providing sleeping rooms and meals for tourists. Mischke's House (Klemme's Old Mill Lodge) is a 2 ½-story I-house with a full two-story front porch. In 1937, Klemme built a house for his father and mother and later offered it as a rental to tourists. He also built four small cabins, of which only one, the Honeymoon Cabin (ca 1935), still stands. Most likely, it was Klemme who also constructed the small fish race or fish hatchery in the outflow from a small spring north of the mill complex. Klemme closed the mill in 1956, and in 1962, after the death of his wife, he shut the doors of the Old Mill Lodge. He sold the mill and 132 acres of land to the Leo A. Drey (LAD) Foundation in 1974. One year later, the LAD Foundation leased the property to the Missouri Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Division of Parks and Historic Preservation, which officially dedicated Dillard Mill State Historic Site in 1977. The LAD Foundation still owns the property and leases it to the Missouri DNR, which operates it as Dillard Mill State Historic Site.

Elaboration

Setting and Landscape

¹ Information about this store has been difficult to obtain. Local historian Ken Fiebelman said in a telephone conversation on June 9, 2014, that Jacob Adams built this small frame store in the 1890s.

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Name of Property Crawford County, Missouri
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Geographers Carl Sauer and Milton Rafferty both describe the area in which Dillard is located as the wildest and hilliest part of the Missouri Ozarks.² The physical setting of Dillard Mill Historic District is defined by Huzzah Creek, the mill, mill dam and mill ponds (See Figures 8, 11, and 12), and the surrounding hills with their heavy growth of sycamore, maple, walnut, pawpaw, hickory, cedar, shortleaf pine, and oak trees. Dillard Mill Road winds through the hills, providing access to the Dillard Mill State Historic Site. Inside the north entrance to the state-managed property, Minnie's House, now utilized as the site office (Photographs 16, 17, and 18), sits on a hill on the west side of the road. To the south of Minnie's House, on the east side of the road, is the rustic, wood-frame Jacob Adams Store (Photograph 15). Just south of the store, a narrow road runs west and leads to the diminutive Honeymoon Cabin (Photograph 14), Mischke's House (Photographs 11 and 12), Mischke's Storage Barn (Photograph 13), and the non-contributing service building and sheds (Photographs 19, 20, and 21). Another park road, running east, gives access to the fish race (Photograph 10). This same road leads east, beyond the district boundary, to the Old Dillard Cemetery and the new day use area with a wooden kiosk, picnic shelter, and rest rooms. The cemetery (outside the district boundary) is maintained privately, and the new day use area (outside the boundaries of the historic district) is a modern park development. However, the kiosk in the day use area frames a spectacular view of Huzzah Creek, the mill ponds, and the old red mill, sitting high on its rock promontory. There is a non-contributing restroom near the mill (Photograph 22). A hiking trail (approximately one-fourth mile in length) leads from the day use area (outside the district boundary) to the mill. The only access for vehicles is an old service road that crosses a low water bridge.

Individual Property Descriptions

Contributing resources in the district, with construction dates are, as follows: 1. Dillard Mill, also known as Mischke's Mill, 1908, 2. Mill Dam, 1904, 3. Mill Pond, 1904, 4. Mischke's House (Klemme's Old Mill Lodge), ca 1920, 5. Mischke's Storage Barn, ca. 1910, 6. Honeymoon Cabin, ca 1935, 7. Jacob Adams Store, ca 1899, 8. Fish Race, in ruins, ca 1930, and 9. Minnie's House, ca 1937. Non-contributing resources are, as follows: 10. Service building, 1977, 11. Plywood shed, construction date unknown, 12. Corrugated metal shed, date unknown, and 13. Restroom, date

² Carl O. Sauer, *Geography of the Ozark Highland of Missouri* (Chicago, Illinois: University of Chicago Press, 1920), 68; Milton D. Rafferty, *Ozarks Land and Life* (Norman, Oklahoma: University of Oklahoma Press, 1980), 16.

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unknown. (See Figure 8: Dillard Mill Sketch Map locating contributing and non-contributing buildings and structures.)

Contributing Buildings and Structures

1. Dillard Mill, also known as Mischke's Mill (Figure 1 and Photographs 1 and 2), constructed between 1904 and 1908, is an unusually well-preserved example of a turbine-powered grist mill with most of its original equipment intact and in working order. The mill's stone foundation rests on a rock outcrop on the north side of Huzzah Creek. The north elevation rises dramatically from its rock underpinnings. On the east side of the building are the underwater turbine (Figure 2) in a wooden enclosure, and mill race (Photograph 4). The milling machinery is housed in a two-story, rectangular wood frame building with a full basement, metal siding, and a shallowly pitched gable roof that is covered with metal. Some of the original metal siding on the mill building has rusted and has been replaced with galvanized metal. The original tin roofing has been replaced more than once - most recently in 2011. The building measures 43 by 41 feet and encompasses 5,289 feet of interior space. The mill building has two shed-roofed additions on the north and east sides of the building. The small addition on the east side covers the turbine. The addition on the north side houses shafts. A porch on the west side of the mill has a metal-covered shed roof. The primary (west) side of the mill features a shed-roofed porch (Photograph 3). Irregularly placed windows in the building are wood sash, double-hung, six-over-six (Photograph 6). Rustic stone steps (Photograph 7) lead up the rocky slope from the north side of the mill to the porch and office on the west side of the mill. Embedded in the ground adjacent to the steps is an old grinding stone (Photograph 8).

At the present time (2014), the mill is still powered by its original 24.2 horsepower James Leffel 23-inch Samson Turbine (Figure 2), and most of the original machinery remains in place. Two roller mills that were removed by Klemme sometime in the 1940s have been replaced with equipment similar to the equipment Mischke used. Originally, the mill generated its own direct current (DC) electricity, and the Westinghouse electric control panels (Figure 3) installed by Klemme in the 1930s are still intact in the basement, but the system has been modernized to operate on alternating current (AC). In all other respects, the mill remains as it was during its period of operation. In 1980, millwright Derek Ogden inspected and repaired all the machinery;

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he inspected it again in 1997. The machinery remains in working order.³

With two important exceptions, the mill operated according to general principles established by Oliver Evans, an eighteenth- and early nineteenth-century American inventor, who developed a water-powered mill with an integrated system of conveyors, elevators, and chutes for turning grain or corn into flour or meal. However, Evans' mills used external water wheels to run the machinery and traditional mill stones to grind the grain. By the late nineteenth century, many mills, including Mischke's, incorporated two significant innovations. Instead of an external water wheel, Mischke's mill used an underwater turbine (Figure 2), and instead of traditional millstones, the mill used a system of rollers (fluted cast-iron cylinders) for grinding the grain. Farmers brought grain to the entrance on the west side of the mill. The miller weighed the unprocessed grain on large scales on the first floor, and then the grain passed down a chute to the basement, where it was picked up by an elevator. Elevators lifted the wheat, or sometimes corn, from a lower level to a higher level of the mill. Conveyors carried the grain in a horizontal direction to various machines (Figures 4, 5, and 6). The roller stands (containing rolling machinery) were placed on the first floor, immediately above the basement, for access to the elevators. Inside the roller stands, cast-iron rollers cracked the wheat berries (wheat kernels) and removed impurities. The cracked and purified wheat then passed through various types of apparatus, producing various grades of flour. The miller planned the operation of the elevators, conveyors, chutes, and machinery to carry out the operation and produce the type of flour he desired. At the end of the milling process, the finished product passed down a chute to the basement, which contained equipment and barrels or bags for packaging. The basement also contained generators, pulleys, and shafts that connected the milling apparatus and allowed it to run as one complex machine.⁴ The mill is a contributing building in the district.

³ Walt Busch, Brick Autry, and Yvonne Bobbitt, *Dillard Mill Historic Site Cultural Resource Management Plan*, Jefferson City, Missouri, Division of State Parks, undated, 6-9; Tony Czech, "Dillard Roller Mill," *Old Mill News* (Spring 1986), 16; Tony Czech, "Dillard Mill, Her Machines, and their Functions," (Jefferson City, Missouri: Department of Natural Resources, 1985), 21; Derek Ogden, "Operating and Maintenance Schedule, Dillard Mill, Missouri" (Missouri Department of Natural Resources, 1980); Derek Ogden, "Dillard Mill, Crawford County, Missouri, Inspection of Machinery and Recommendations for Repair" (Missouri Department of Natural Resources, 1997).

⁴ Derek Ogden, "How the Mill Works," August 2014, manuscript transmitted by email to Bonnie Stepenoff, September 1, 2014; Tony Czech, "Dillard Mill, her Machines, and their Functions," 23-25. See Section 8 for further explanation of the development of milling technology. A very influential book for

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2. The Mill Dam (Photograph 9 and Figure 7), a contributing structure, constructed in 1904, is made of metal, stone, and concrete and measures approximately one hundred feet in length and twenty feet high. Portions of several natural rock outcroppings form integral parts of its structure. The purpose of the dam is to harness the current of Huzzah Creek to run the turbine, which runs the mill.

3. The Mill Pond (Photograph 9 and Figure 7), a contributing structure, consists of an upper and a lower mill pond. The pond was created by damming the swift-flowing stream in order to run the underwater turbine. The upper mill pond is the deep pool above the dam, and the lower mill pond is the turbulent water below the dam, in which the turbine is submerged. In the upper mill pond, the dam is made of concrete and stone. In the lower mill pond, the dam consists of wire gabions (cylinders) filled with creek rock. Erosion of the gabions and the concrete cap on the dam necessitates constant repair.

4. Mischke's House, ca. 1920, a contributing building, which later became known as Klemme's Old Mill Lodge (Photograph 11) is a 2 ½-story I-house, constructed of wood, with a side-gable roof and a full two-story shed-roofed wooden front porch on the primary (east) elevation (Photograph 12). Each story has two front doors flanked by two rectangular wood-frame windows that are double-hung one-over-one. There are multiple additions to the rear (west) and south elevations of the house, including a gabled ell and three shed-roofed enclosed one-story enclosures. The foundation is concrete, but the section of the foundation under the porches has rubble-stone facing. The house has two cellars, one with an exterior entrance, and one with an interior entrance, but they are not connected to each other. Originally, the house had a metal roof, which has been restored, asphalt shingles having been removed. At this time (2014), asbestos siding is being removed from the house, and, in 2014, is in the process of being replaced with double-lap wooden siding. A retaining wall of concrete and druze quartz separates the lower level from the higher level of the gentle hill about fifteen feet from the back door of Mischke's house. A set of flagstone steps provides access to the upper part of the hill just past the wall.

5. Mischke's Storage Barn (Photograph 13), a contributing building, located to the northwest of Mischke's House, constructed about 1910, is a one-story rectangular frame building with a front-facing gable roof covered in metal. An addition on

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the north side of the building has a shed roof. There are three sets of wooden barn-type doors in the primary (east) elevation, two in the main block and one in the shed addition. Vertical siding is painted red. The building measures forty-nine feet by forty-five feet.

6. The Honeymoon Cabin (Photograph 14), a contributing building, constructed about 1935, is a small rectangular building, measuring thirteen feet by ten feet, with log and mortar walls, dovetailed at the corners, resting on a concrete foundation. The side-gable roof is covered with asphalt shingles. There is a single wooden door and a single wood-frame, two-over-two window on the primary (north) facade.

7. The Jacob Adams Store (Photograph 15), a contributing building, constructed ca. 1899, is a front-gable board and batten building that contains a single room and measures forty feet by twenty-four feet. Located one-quarter mile northwest of the mill, the simple rustic building with a metal roof served as a general store. Two shed-roof additions were removed in the 1970s. The west elevation of three bays includes a central wood entrance door, flanked by two over two wood sash windows. The west door is the public entrance to an exhibit of merchandise from the late nineteenth and early twentieth century from the collections of Montauk State Park. In the 1990s, the Boy Scouts built a ramp to provide handicap access to the west door. The east door is used by staff to enter and clean the building.

8. The fish race, ca 1930, or fish hatchery (Photograph 10), a contributing structure, now in ruins, is a small concrete structure set in the bed of a spring-fed stream that flows south from a hillside north of the cemetery. The structure consists of six channels that are each nearly sixteen feet long, separated by concrete barriers. Park staff has interpreted the structure as a fish race or fish hatchery.⁵

9. Minnie's House (Photograph 16), a contributing building, constructed in 1937, is a one-story wood frame gable-front bungalow, measuring 39' by 27', with lap siding that is painted white, a corrugated metal roof, a concrete foundation, an attic space, and a partial basement. A screened porch with a front-facing gable projects from the primary façade (Photograph 17). Windows flanking the front porch are wood-frame, double-hung, one-over one. The house has two front doors, one of which opens into a living room (east side), and another into the kitchen

⁵ Steve J. Dasovich, Phase One Archaeological Survey, Dillard Mill Historic Site, Dillard, Missouri (Missouri Department of Natural Resources, Division of State Parks, November 12, 2010), 6.

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(west side). The house also has two bedrooms, a half-bath, and a small hallway. There is an unfinished partial basement on the east side of the house (under the living room and one bedroom) and a crawl space on the west side of the house (under one bedroom, the bath, and the kitchen). The living room features a stone fireplace with three Native American projectile points embedded in it (Photograph 18). The interior has been modified to provide office space for the site staff. A retaining wall that is thirty feet long and four feet high, constructed of dry-laid porous stone is set into the hillside between the east elevation of the house and Dillard Mill Road. Leading to the front porch entry are a retaining wall topped by a wooden fence and a gravel walkway. A wooden ramp provides access to the front doors from the west side of the house.

Non-contributing buildings and structures

10. A service building (Photograph 19), measuring 50' by 28', housing a two-bay shop, was constructed in 1977, to the west of Mischke's House. This wood-frame service building has a side-gable roof covered with shingles. On the primary (east) façade are a shed-roofed entry porch, two front doors, one window, and two garage doors. The service building is painted brown and is a non-contributing building, because it was constructed after the period of significance.

11. In the vicinity of the service building is a small wood-framed shed (Photograph 20), covered with plywood, of unknown construction date. The shed has a concrete foundation, a metal-covered roof, no windows, and one door. This shed is a non-contributing building, because oral tradition evidence points to a construction date after the period of significance.

12. To the east of the service building is another small shed (Photograph 21) of wood-frame construction, covered in corrugated metal, with a gravel floor. The date of construction is unknown, but oral information indicates that the shed dates from the period after the site became the property of the Division of State Parks. At the present time (2014), the shed is in poor condition and is a non-contributing building because it was constructed after the period of significance.

13. A restroom (Photograph 22), of unknown construction date (but certainly after Dillard Mill State Historic Site was established), is a small gable-roofed wood-frame building on a concrete pad in the vicinity of the mill. There are two entrances to the restroom, one in the south end of the building for "Men," and one in the north end of the building for "Women." This

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restroom is a non-contributing building because it was constructed after the period of significance.

Integrity

The Dillard Mill Historic District retains integrity as an early twentieth-century milling complex that evolved into a privately-owned and operated mountain retreat for tourists. The mill itself maintains its original appearance (Figure 1). The Mischke House (Klemme's Old Mill Lodge), the Honeymoon Cabin, Minnie's House, the old Adams Store, and ancillary structures also substantially remain as they were during the period of significance.

The mill is exceptional in that it is completely intact with nearly all of its original equipment still functional. Derek Ogden, an internationally known millwright, repaired the building and the machinery in 1980 and inspected the property in 1997. Of this experience, he recently stated:

"The admiration I have for Dillard Mill is that when I first saw it the first thing I noted was that it was very complete and unaltered from Mischke's day. It was exactly as he had left and used it and with absolutely no frills. All machinery was there and all connecting elevators and spouts were in place. Nothing had been changed. Even the 110 volt direct current generator was connected and able to light the building. I have never before seen such a complete mill and have not seen one to match Dillard Mill since."⁶

⁶ Derek Ogden, Email to Bonnie Stepenoff, April 23, 2014.

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Summary

The Dillard Mill Historic District, located in the vicinity of Davisville, Crawford County, Missouri, is locally significant under Criterion A in the areas of Industry and Entertainment/Recreation. The period of significance extends from 1908, when Emil Mischke completed construction of the gristmill on the site, to 1962, when Lester Klemme closed the tourist lodge associated with the mill. In the area of Industry, Dillard Mill, also known as Mischke's Mill, constructed between 1904 and 1908, is important as a rare surviving example of a turbine-powered Ozarks water mill and is associated with the modernization of grain milling in Missouri in the twentieth century. When he built the mill, Mischke installed an underwater metal turbine instead of an old-fashioned wooden water wheel. He also used rollers to produce finer flour than traditional grinding stones. He hoped to use railroad lines to market his product in towns and cities beyond the little town of Dillard, but the spur line to Dillard closed down in the early 1930s. By this time, further advancements in milling technology as well as social and economic changes were rapidly making small rural mills such as Mischke's obsolete. Klemme, the mill's second owner, continued running the small gristmill while simultaneously developing the site as a tourist attraction. He ceased operating the gristmill in 1956, but kept the tourist lodge open until 1962. In the area of Entertainment/Recreation, the mill and its associated recreational properties are significant for their association with the historical trend toward the development of tourism as a replacement for declining local industries, such as lumber and grain milling. In the mid-twentieth century, Klemme and other businessmen utilized the natural beauty of the Ozarks for economic survival in a period when urbanization and industrialization moved manufacturing away from rural areas and motivated city dwellers to look for solace in the setting of quiet hills and rushing streams.

Elaboration

Industry

In the area of Industry, Dillard Mill Historic District is locally significant as an example of a complex of buildings and structures centered around a once-common, but increasingly rare, type of building: a small water-powered gristmill in a rural setting. The mill at the heart of the complex is a well-preserved example of a particular type of gristmill: the turbine-powered roller mill. This type of mill evolved from the more traditional mills that utilized wooden water-wheels and grinding stones. The

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mill at Dillard is, therefore, significant for its association with the modernization of grain milling, a historical trend that eventually replaced small local mills in rural areas with large milling complexes in urban areas.

Historian Louis Hunter noted that "simple country mills, driven in most instances by water, nearly everywhere followed closely on the heels of settlement and persisted long after the days of pioneering had passed."⁷ By 1900, these small custom mills used underwater turbines and modern rolling machinery, while they continued to serve the traditional needs of self-sufficient farm communities. Increasingly in the early decades of the twentieth century, steam engines, diesel engines, and electricity replaced water power. Improvements in transportation made it possible for large mills in urban centers to produce and deliver flour to local stores. By the 1930s, water mills survived only in very isolated areas. The Great Depression, the New Deal, World War II, and the postwar economic boom brought dramatic changes to rural America, and by the 1960s, water mills, such as Dillard Mill, existed only as picturesque relics of the rural past.⁸

Water-powered gristmills in Missouri

Although water-powered gristmills had existed since the time of ancient Greece and Rome, Missouri's mills benefitted from important technological innovations of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. In 1787, American inventor Oliver Evans published plans for an "automated" flour mill, in which all machines were geared to a single water wheel. Grain moved automatically through a series of scales, conveyors, and elevators. All the miller had to do was set the machinery in motion. The only additional labor required was one man, at the beginning, to empty the bags of grain onto the scales and one man, at the end, to close and roll away the barrels of flour. It should be noted; however, that long after Oliver Evans' eighteenth-century innovations, many mills continued using external water wheels and traditional grinding stones.⁹

⁷ Louis Hunter, *History of Industrial Power in the United States, 1780-1930, Volume One: Waterpower in the Century of the Steam Engine* (Charlottesville, Virginia: University Press of Virginia, 1979), 3.

⁸ Larry Hasse, "Water Mills in the South: Rural Institutions Working Against Modernism," *Agricultural History* 58 Number 3 (Summer 1984), 290-291; George G. Suggs, Jr., *Water Mills of the Missouri Ozarks*, with illustrations by Jake Wells (Norman, Oklahoma: University of Oklahoma Press, 1990), 143-144.

⁹ Suggs, *Water Mills of the Missouri Ozarks*, 37-38. Oliver Evans, *The Young Mill-Wright and Miller's Guide* (New York: Arno Press, 1972, reprint of the 1850 edition), 216-218.

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Gradually, during the nineteenth century, more and more millers replaced traditional grinding stones with the roller system, or the gradual reduction roller system, originally invented in Hungary. Millwright Derek Ogden states that the process was "slow to spread to the rest of the world." According to Ogden, "the mill lover or enthusiast has never regarded them with much favour because they were never as romantic as old mills using millstones." Nevertheless, says Ogden, the process caught on "after it was seen as a greatly improved method of producing very high quality flour from wheat."¹⁰

Another very important invention, the underwater turbine, appeared in the United States by the 1840s and became the standard replacement for the external waterwheel by 1880. One of the most prominent developers of this innovation was James Leffel, who introduced his hydraulic turbine in 1862 and marketed it with immediate success. Among many testimonials published by the Leffel Company in its literature was this one from a miller in Licking (Texas County), Missouri:

Messrs. James Leffel and Co.: This is to certify that I am using one of your 26 ½ inch water wheels in a custom grist mill, running under 9 feet head. I use 36 inch French burrs [stones]. I ground about 10 bushels corn per hour or 7 bushels wheat per hour. ... I consider it the best wheel in use. Yours respectfully, W. A. Freeman¹¹

The turbine originally installed and still operational in Mischke's mill is a James Leffel Samson-type turbine (Figure 2).

In the nineteenth and early twentieth century, small water-powered mills proliferated in Missouri's rural communities due to the availability of grain, the abundance of springs and fast-flowing streams, and the inadequacy of the transportation system. By 1880, historians estimate that there were more than eight hundred such mills in the state. By the end of the nineteenth century, large milling companies in urban areas captured a growing share of the market. In the twentieth century, improvements in transportation allowed local stores and consumers to buy their flour from these large manufacturers, and the small mills gradually faded away. Historian Priscilla Evans studied a sampling of 52 nineteenth-century Missouri mills and found that in the years following World War I, only five of these 52 mills remained in business. The Locke Milling Company (Osage County) and the Anchor Milling Company (Miller County) adapted to

¹⁰ Derek Ogden, Email correspondence with Bonnie Stepenoff, August 22, 2014.

¹¹ *Illustrated Hand Book of James Leffel's Improved Double Turbine Water Wheel for 1881 and 1882* (Springfield, Ohio: James Leffel & Co., 1881), 90.

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changing times by producing animal feeds instead of flour. The Aid-Hodgson Mill (Ozark County), Dawt Mill (Ozark County), and Jolly Mill (Newton County) continued to produce stone-ground flour, but catered only to friends, neighbors, and tourists.¹²

Several Missouri gristmills, in addition to the one at Dillard, upgraded their milling machinery in an effort to survive in changing times. Greer Mill (Oregon County), spectacularly located on a hill above a pristine spring, used an underwater turbine to produce flour for the local market until 1928 and is now a part of Mark Twain National Forest. Topaz Mill (Douglas County) utilized turbines to produce flour and meal until the late 1930s, when milling operations ceased. At Alley Spring (Shannon County), a mill constructed in 1870 used the massive flow of a natural spring to turn a wooden water wheel. In the 1890s, George McCaskill replaced this old mill with a larger building, installed a turbine, and added modern rolling machinery. In the 1920s, Alley Mill became a unit of the Missouri state park system, and in the 1960s the mill and spring became part of the federally-managed Ozark National Scenic Riverways. Montauk Mill (Dent County) replaced several previous mills on the springs near the source of the Current River. Millwright William J. Furry built the mill in 1896, utilizing a turbine and steel rolling machinery. In 1926, the Missouri state park system acquired the mill and springs, and in the 1930s the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) restored the mill and constructed a dam, spillway, trails, cabins and shelters on the property. Bollinger Mill (Cape Girardeau County), with a turbine and rollers installed in the late nineteenth century, operated successfully until 1953 and became a state historic site in the 1960s.¹³

Dillard Mill

The twentieth-century mill at Dillard had nineteenth-century roots. In the early years of Missouri statehood, Crawford County was a prime location for water-powered mills because of its access to the Meramec River, swift-flowing streams, and many springs. The county was first settled by William Harrison and others who built houses on the banks of the Meramec. From 1829 until 1835, the county court held sessions at the home of James Harrison near the mouth of the Little Piney River, which later

¹² Priscilla Evans, "Merchant Gristmills and Communities, 1820-1880," *Missouri Historical Review* Volume 68 Number 3 (April 1974), 321, 325-326.

¹³ Suggs, *Water Mills of the Missouri Ozarks*, 43-46, 50-51, 92-93, 134-135; "Montauk State Park," in *Exploring Missouri's Legacy: State Parks and Historic Sites*, edited by Susan Flader (Columbia, Missouri: University of Missouri Press), 81-83. Alley Mill, Greer Mill, and Bollinger Mill are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Montauk Mill listed under the thematic nomination of Depression-era CCC and WPA buildings and structures (E.C.W. in Missouri State Parks. Topaz Mill is not listed.

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became part of Phelps County. Steelville became the seat of Crawford County in 1835. In addition to water power, the county's natural resources included deposits of iron, copper, and coal. By the 1870s, the Atlantic and Pacific Railroad passed through the county, going east to west, connecting with the St. Louis, Salem, and Little Rock Railroad, running north and south. At the turn of the century, the Sligo Furnace Company built a spur line, connecting the town of Dillard to the St. Louis, Salem, and Little Rock Railway. At that time, the county's manufacturing establishments included an iron furnace and several gristmills. In the early decades of the twentieth century, local iron production as well as flour milling faded away. Sligo stopped operating the railway line in the early 1930s.¹⁴

Francis Wisdom was the first settler to build a mill on the Huzzah Creek. From the 1850s until the 1880s, the community around it was known as Wisdom's Mill. Joseph Dillard Cottrell (also known as "Dill") and his brother James acquired the site in 1881. They constructed a store and named the town Dillard. In 1895, Dillard Mill burned. Perhaps Cottrell's store burned at this time, but the record on this is unclear. According to oral sources, Jacob L. Adams constructed a store near the mill in the late 1890s, and this is the store that has survived (Photograph 15).¹⁵ By the turn of the century, the Sligo Furnace Company had established an iron mining operation in northern Dent County, just ten miles from Dillard. Sligo also built a railway spur line, connecting Dillard to the company's center of operations and a company store in the town of Dillard, one mile north of the mill. Sligo bought lumber from the wooded area near Dillard and loaded it on trains. According to the company's time records, Emil Mischke hauled lumber and ore for Sligo in 1900.¹⁶ During that same year, he purchased the property containing the ruins of the old mill, and four years later, he began construction of a new mill (Photographs 1 and 2), which he completed it in 1908.¹⁷

¹⁴ *Goodspeed's History of Franklin, Jefferson, Washington, Crawford, and Gasconade Counties, Missouri* (Chicago: Goodspeed, 1888), 538-539; *Campbell's Gazetteer of Missouri* (St. Louis, Missouri: R. A. Campbell, 1875), 175-176; Priscilla Ann Evans, "Merchant Gristmills and Communities," 325-326.

¹⁵ According to the United States Census, Osage, Crawford County, Missouri, 1900, Jacob L. Adams lived at Dillard in 1900. He was forty-one years old. According to the census he was a farmer. He and his wife Minerva had five children: James, Howard, Roy, George, W.E.M., and Jesse. Jacob L. Adams died in 1920. Local historian Ken Fiebelmen has stated that Jacob Adams built the store that remains on the site.

¹⁶ Sligo Furnace Company Records, 1898-1934. Time Book, 1900, Collection R1269, State Historical Society of Missouri. These records are available on microfilm. The Sligo Furnace survived longer than any other iron furnace in Missouri, but closed its operations in 1923.

¹⁷ Tony Czech, "History of Dillard and Southern Crawford County," Missouri Division of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation, January 16, 1991, unpaginated, on file at Dillard Mill State Historic Site; Mary J. Matthews,

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Mischke's Mill

Emil Mischke and his sister Mary immigrated to the United States from Walde, Germany (in what is now western Poland) in the early 1890s, and in the early 1900s they built and began operating a gristmill at Dillard. By 1900, Emil lived in Osage Township (where Dillard was located), Crawford County, and ran a sawmill.¹⁸ It is not clear whether or not he operated the saw mill on the site of his future grist mill. When he began construction in 1904, he chose a site just west of Wisdom's old mill on a rock bluff above the creek. For framing the second story of the building, he reused timbers from Wisdom's Mill. In all likelihood, Mischke was able to operate the mill himself, with the help of his sister Mary, and they kept up the business for more than two decades.¹⁹ In 1920, Mischke built the house (Photographs 11 and 12) that would later become the Old Mill Lodge. At the age of 66, in 1927, Emil married Anna Pressler, 58, of Los Angeles, and three years later they sold the mill and moved away. His sister Mary continued to live near Dillard and is buried in Old Dillard Cemetery.²⁰

Mischke went to great lengths to install the most up-to-date equipment in his mill. He ordered a turbine from the James Leffel Company of Springfield, Ohio, and housed it in a pit that he cut from solid rock. This required a significant amount of chiseling, drilling, and blasting with dynamite. In 1907 he ordered rolling machinery from the Cornelius Mill Furnishing Company of St. Louis. Apparently, he chose to use rollers instead of traditional grinding stones, because, in the words of Derek Ogden, "the roller system can produce exceedingly high quality wheat flour and at a very high rate of production, which no millstone could possibly match." With the turbine running, and the rolling machinery installed, the mill was in operation by 1908 and continued producing flour well into the twentieth century.²¹

"History of Dillard's Mill" (Jefferson City, Missouri: Department of Natural Resources, Division of Parks and Recreation, November 1, 1978), 7, 9; Dwight Weaver, "Missouri's Marvelous Mills," *Missouri Resource Review* Volume 5 Number 2 (Summer 1988), 14.

¹⁸ United States Census, 1900, Osage, Crawford County, Missouri (Microfilm Roll 851, Page 11A) states that the Mischkes came from Germany; however, Suggs and others hold that they came from Poland.

¹⁹ Derek Ogden, "Mischke's Mill - Missouri, U.S.A.," a paper written for The International Molinological Society (TIMS) and presented in Paris in 1982, 396; Derek Ogden, Email to Bonnie Stepenoff, April 26, 2014.

²⁰ A copy of the marriage license of Emil Mischke and Anna Pressler is on file at Dillard Mill State Historic Site. Mary Mischke died in 1944 obituary on file at Dillard Mill State Historic Site.

²¹ Weaver, "Missouri's Marvelous Mills," 14; Ogden, "Mischke's Mill," 396; Derek Ogden, "How the Roller Mill Works," August 2014.

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Mischke and his mill made a lasting impression on the people of the Ozarks. In 1944, William P. Elmer, a United States Congressman from Missouri's Eighth District, wrote a brief reminiscence of the time he spent fishing at the mill. He recalled that "Mr. Mischke, sitting on the stones close by, talked of current events, in his broken language; of his experience in the Old Country and the beauties and goodness of this one; of the sorrow that came into his life when some overzealous [person], once questioned his loyalty to our flag." Elmer, a resident of Salem, Missouri, went on to remember "What a beautiful place it is, and the little old Huzzah pouring its clear pure water over the dam to seethe and spray for a brief second and then hurry on to the sea."²²

Entertainment/Recreation

In the area of Entertainment/Recreation, Dillard Mill Historic District is locally significant as a surviving example of a mid-twentieth-century tourist complex that developed in connection with Mischke's Mill. The district is significant for its associations with the decline of local industries, such as flour milling, and the rise of tourism as an economic and cultural force in the Missouri Ozarks.

Improvements in transportation in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century brought dramatic changes to the Ozarks. Railroad construction linked local towns with urban centers, and railroad companies printed brochures that lured investors and vacationers to the hills. Journalists floated the rivers and streams and wrote glowing accounts of the natural beauty they encountered. During the 1920s, with the construction of new roads and highways, tourists arrived in more and more out of the way places in cars. Local entrepreneurs turned caves, springs, and hunting areas into tourist attractions. By 1930, businessmen in the Ozarks counted on the new highway, Route 66, to connect more and more travelers to the Ozarks region.²³

The natural beauty of the mill and dam at Dillard caught the attention of sportsmen and entrepreneurs. In the April 1915 issue of *The Gimlet: A Monthly Magazine for Hardware Bosses and Their Clerks*, a fisherman described a journey of more than a hundred miles from St. Louis on a train, six miles on a wagon, twelve

²² "Mischke Mill" by W.P. Elmer was originally published in the *Crawford County Mirror*, February 22, 1944. A typescript is on file at Dillard Mill State Historic Site.

²³ Lynn Morrow and Linda Myers-Phinney, *Shepherd of the Hills Country" Tourism Transforms the Ozarks, 1880s-1930s* (Fayetteville, Arkansas: University of Arkansas Press, 1999), 115-145.

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miles by log train, and another mile on foot to "Mischke's Pool." The writer went on to rave about the water sweeping over the dam (Photograph 9) into a deep rocky pool shaded by dense forest. In 1929, a local realtor drew attention to the property, calling it "The Wonder of the Ozarks," with its natural dam, two lakes, and large flour mill. The owner, the realtor stated, was "getting old" and offering the land, mill, and house for sale. Within a year, the owner had found a buyer for the property.²⁴

Klemme's Old Mill, Lodge, and Resort

In 1930, Lester Emory Klemme purchased Mischke's mill and the surrounding property. According to the 1930 census, Klemme lived in Carondelet, Missouri, with his wife Virginia and his parents, Henry W. and Minnie R. Klemme. Henry was listed as treasurer of the Moon Motor Car Company. His son Lester was listed as the manager of a mill and summer resort.²⁵ It would seem, therefore, that Klemme immediately viewed the property as a recreational destination, although he continued to operate the grist mill. Sometime in the 1930s, the Klemme family moved from Carondelet to Mischke's house, which Klemme named the Old Mill Lodge. Virginia Klemme planted a garden and provided meals at her own table for mill staff and visitors.²⁶

Klemme hired several millers, including a young man named Jim Singer, to run the flour-milling machinery. In a letter to Derek Ogden, dated May 6, 1980, Singer recalled his time at Dillard Mill. Singer grew up in Steelville and learned his skills from his father. In 1930, when he was twenty years old, he went to work for Klemme. According to Singer, "The Hoover depression was on and I was lucky to have an 11 hour per day job at \$1.00 per day plus board, room, and laundry." At that time, Prohibition was the law of the land, and many of the farmers around Dillard had stills. Singer remembered trading ten pounds of corn meal for a pint of moonshine. On Sunday mornings he went fishing on the east side of the dam. There were "edible turtles around the 2 ponds." Singer left Dillard in 1932, believing that Klemme's mill "was too small to make a lifetime career."²⁷

²⁴ *The Gimlet: A Monthly Magazine for Hardware Bosses and Their Clerks* Volume 8 Number 5 (April 1915), 207-208, copy on file at the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, Division of State Parks, Archives, in Jefferson City, Missouri; Steelville [Missouri] Real Estate Company, advertising flyer, 1929, copy on file at the State Parks Archives.

²⁵ United States Census, 1930, Carondelet, St. Louis, Missouri, Microfilm Roll 1223, Page 8-B.

²⁶ Czech, "History of Dillard," unpaginated.

²⁷ James E. Singer, personal letter to Derek Ogden, May 6, 1980, from the personal files of Derek Ogden.

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Klemme was a resourceful man, who had served in the United States Navy during World War I.²⁸ When he acquired the mill; there was a large hole in the mill dam. Klemme made himself a diving suit so that he could go under water and plug the hole with concrete. He also improved the mill by adding more modern equipment and elevators and removing a pair of millstones that Mischke had retained from the earlier Wisdom's Mill. During the 1930s, before rural electrification came to Dillard, he installed a generator that supplied electricity to the mill and the lodge. He also built an addition on the north side of the mill that allowed him to produce cattle feed in addition to flour.²⁹

To enhance the recreational value of the property, Klemme built a small fish race (Photograph 10) and four small cabins, two on the hill near the mill, and two in close proximity to the lodge. Three of these cabins were torn down in the 1970s. The tiny Honeymoon Cabin (ca **1935**) still stands (Photograph 14). A fee of seven dollars entitled guests to stay in the cabins, eat at the lodge, sit on the porch and gossip at the mill and swim or fish in the crystal-clear mill pond. Ozarks artist and historian, Lennis L. Broadfoot, described the mill ponds as "very deep, blue and beautiful in form," with a white gravel border. He said young people liked to get together there for "marshmallow and wiener roasts at night." Local residents also used the property for hiking, fishing, swimming, picnics, and basket dinners. In **1937**, Klemme built a house (Photographs 16, 17, and 18) for his parents. After they passed away, the house provided overnight accommodations for tourists.³⁰

In the 1940s, the rural area surrounding the mill experienced an economic decline. Between 1940 and 1950, the population of the incorporated town of Dillard remained stable (43 in 1940 and 51 in 1950), but Osage Township, in which Dillard was located, lost more than thirty percent of its population (1,730 in 1940 and 1,180 in 1950).³¹ School attendance dwindled, and in 1945, high school classes were discontinued. By 1960, the elementary school had also closed, and local students had to attend a consolidated school in the nearby town of Viburnam. Although Dillard had four stores in the early twentieth century, only one store remained

²⁸ Klemme, Lester Emory, Discharge Record, in Missouri State Archives, Soldiers' Records, 1812 to World War I, accessible through Missouri's Digital Heritage.

²⁹ Czech, "History of Dillard;" Ogden, "Mischke's Mill," 399.

³⁰ Czech, "History of Dillard;" Suggs, *Water Mills*, 70; Lennis L. Broadfoot, *Pioneers of the Ozarks* (Caldwell, Idaho: Caxton Printers, 1944), 87.

³¹ United States, Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, *Sixteenth Census of the United States: 1940, Population*, Volume One (Washington D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1942), 589,596; United States, Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, *Census of Population: 1950, Volume One: Number of Inhabitants* (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1952, 25-15.

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open in 1970. Cletis Cottrell, the grandson of Joseph Dillard Cottrell, owned the last remaining store from about 1930 until the early 1970s.³²

As the local economy declined, appreciation for the historic and scenic qualities of the mill, as well as its recreational value, persisted. In 1944, L. L. Broadfoot praised the mill in his illustrated book entitled *Pioneers of the Ozarks*. While his depiction of the mill was romanticized, in that he described it as a traditional water mill, he expressed sincere admiration for the creek, the surrounding hills, and the trees on the site. "It abounds," he wrote, "In nature's beauty, in the deep, narrow winding valley of the Big Huzzah..."³³

During the 1940s and early 1950s, the Klemmes served a steady stream of summer visitors in the lodge and cabins. Between 1948 and 1953, a young boy named Herb Pritchett often stayed with his grandparents, Omer and Florence Ada Mahurin, who lived in a farmhouse southwest of the mill. Pritchett remembered the Klemmes as well-mannered, likable people. Mrs. Klemme served three meals a day in the lodge, and she would ring a dinner bell to summon guests from the cabins. As a boy, Pritchett often walked across his grandparent's fields to swim in the mill pond with the children who were staying in the cabins with their families. He said many of them were repeat customers who came year after year. People would fish, swim, and sun themselves near the dam (Figure 7). "There was a peaceful, placid atmosphere," said Pritchett. He remembered watching Klemme run the machinery at the mill.³⁴

The Klemmes stopped operating the mill in **1956**, but they continued to welcome visitors to the lodge until Virginia's death in **1962**. Klemme continued to live at Dillard and allow visitors to stay in the cabins until he sold the property to the LAD Foundation in 1974. He then moved back to the St. Louis area,

³² James Ira Breuer, *Crawford County and Cuba, Missouri* (Cape Girardeau, Missouri: Ramfre Press, 1972)114-115. The United States Census for 1930 lists Cletis Cottrell as a twenty-three-year-old resident of Crawford County and a merchant who ran a general store. According to the Social Security Death Index, he was born in 1906, and he passed away in 1985. In the early 1900s, there were three stores located about a mile north of the mill in the town of Dillard. These included the Sligo Company Store, the Fiebelman Store, and the Wilhite Store. Ken Fiebelman (phone conversation, June 9, 2014) said another store, the Cottrell Store, opened after the railroad spur closed (about 1930). Breuer, *Crawford County and Cuba*, page 115, says the Cottrell family took over the Old Sligo Company Store and became postmasters. The official list of Appointments of United States Postmasters, 1832-1971, accessible through Ancestry.com, lists the following postmasters for Dillard, Missouri: Roman F. Coleman, 1924-1933, William Cottrell, 1933-1938, and Cletis Cottrell, 1938.

³³ Broadfoot, *Pioneers of the Ozarks*, 87.

³⁴ Herb Pritchett, telephone interview with Bonnie Stepenoff, September 24, 2014.

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where he died in 1980, at the age of 82, and was buried next to his wife in Lake Charles Burial Park in St. Charles, Missouri.³⁵

Klemme's decision to transform the mill property into a tourist attraction was sagacious. When he took over the mill in 1930, traditional water mills could no longer compete with the mass-produced flour that became available on the shelves of local stores. Although Klemme continued to operate the mill for a quarter of a century, he sensibly chose to develop the property as a vacation resort. Clearly, he understood the forces that were transforming the economy of the Ozarks in the twentieth century, and, he was able to attract a steady flow of visitors, with repeat customers, throughout the 1950s and into the early 1960s.

Two other Ozark mills, Alley Mill in Shannon County and Montauk Mill in Dent County, also became recreational properties. Alley Mill failed as both an industrial enterprise and a private vacation resort by 1918. In the 1920s, Missouri acquired the stunningly beautiful Alley Mill and Spring for a state park. During the 1960s, the property became a part of the Ozark National Scenic Riverways, managed by the National Park Service. Similarly, Montauk Mill became part of a state park in the 1920s. The CCC developed the property for recreation in the 1930s. The CCC also completed a rather heavy-handed restoration of the mill during that time. Dillard Mill compares favorably with Montauk in terms of integrity and stands on a par with beautiful Alley Mill as a representative example of a turbine-powered roller mill.³⁶

The State of Missouri leased Dillard Mill from the LAD Foundation in the 1970s and has since maintained the mill and surrounding landscape as a state historic site. It has become clear to site administrators in the past several decades that, in addition to historic and scenic values, the property possesses recreational value. Furthermore, the recreational value of the property is a part of its history that is embodied in Mischke House (Klemme's Old Mill Lodge), Minnie's House, the Honeymoon Cabin, and other contributing buildings and structures. The mill and these associated properties survive as representative examples of the trend toward declining industry and rising tourism in the Ozarks in the first half of the twentieth century.³⁷

³⁵ Obituaries on file at Dillard Mill State Historic site.

³⁶ Suggs, *Water Mills of the Missouri Ozarks*, 43-46, "Montauk State Park," in *Exploring Missouri's Legacy*, 81-83.

³⁷ See Busch, et al, *Dillard Mill Historic Site Cultural Resources Management Plan*.

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National Park Service

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Dillard Mill Historic District
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Verbal Boundary Description

The Dillard Mill Historic District is bounded on the north, west, and south by the property boundaries of Dillard Mill State Historic Site and on the east by a straight line, beginning at a point 400 feet to the east of the mill pond, proceeding north along the western edge of the Old Dillard Cemetery, and continuing north until it intersects with the northern boundary of Dillard Mill State Historic Site (a total distance of 1400 feet).

Justification

Included within these boundaries are all resources that contribute to the significance of the Dillard Mill Historic District. To the east of these boundaries are the Old Dillard Cemetery, which is not a part of the property owned by the State of Missouri, and a day-use area developed by the state since the 1970s for the use of site visitors.

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Figure 1: Historic Photograph of Dillard Mill in July 1937, photographed by W. H. Shaffer, staff photographer, United States Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Mark Twain National Forest.

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Figure 2: Turbine at Dillard Mill, photographed by Derek Ogden during restoration project (1928).

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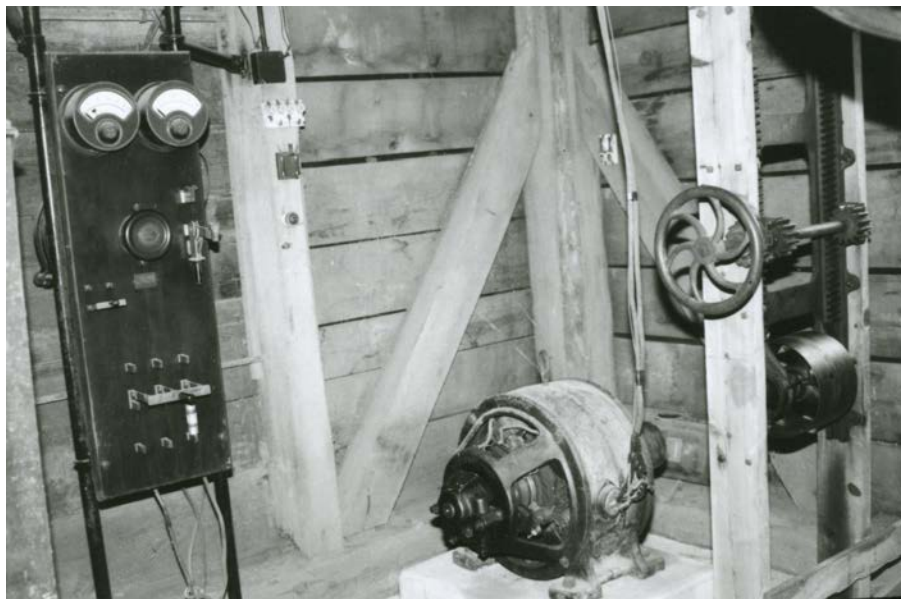


Figure 3: Westinghouse electrical panel in basement of Dillard Mill, photographer and date of photograph unknown.

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Figure 4: First floor, machinery, including feeder/mixer built by Barnard and Leas Manufacturing Company, roller mill built by Barnard and Leas Manufacturing Company, and bran duster built by Barnard and Leas Manufacturing Company, photograph, January 2014, from the files of the Missouri State Historic Preservation Office.

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Figure 5: Second floor of the mill, Monitor Milling Machine, built by Huntley Manufacturing Company to clean coffee beans, but used to clear shelled corn at Dillard Mill, photograph, January 2014, from the files of the Missouri State Historic Preservation Office.

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Figure 6: Second floor of the mill, flour dresser (sifter) built by Nordyke and Marmon, originally covered with silk screens, but restored in 2005 with nylon screens. In front of this is the Barnard and Leas Reel sifter used to sift corn meal. January 2014, from the files of the Missouri State Historic Preservation Office.

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Figure 7: Swimmers sitting on a rock wall by the dam, ca. 1940, from the files of Dillard Mill Historic Site, submitted by Jerry McLain in 2012. Pictured from left to right are: Robert Berger, Paul McLain, Lucille McLain, Richard Wohlschlaeger, Russell Wohlschlaeger, and Anna May Green.

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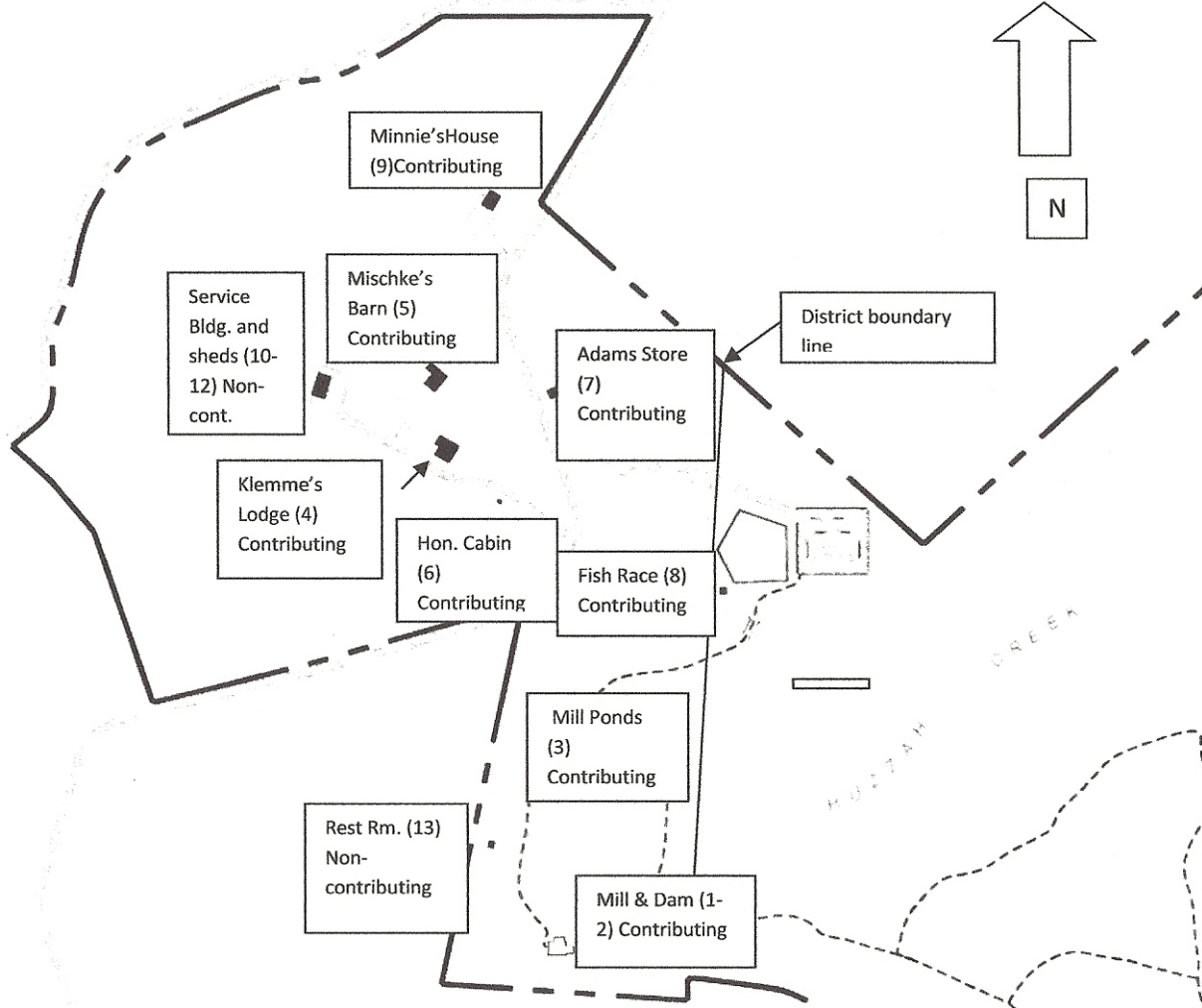


Figure 8: Dillard Mill Historic District Sketch Map locating contributing and non-contributing buildings and structures

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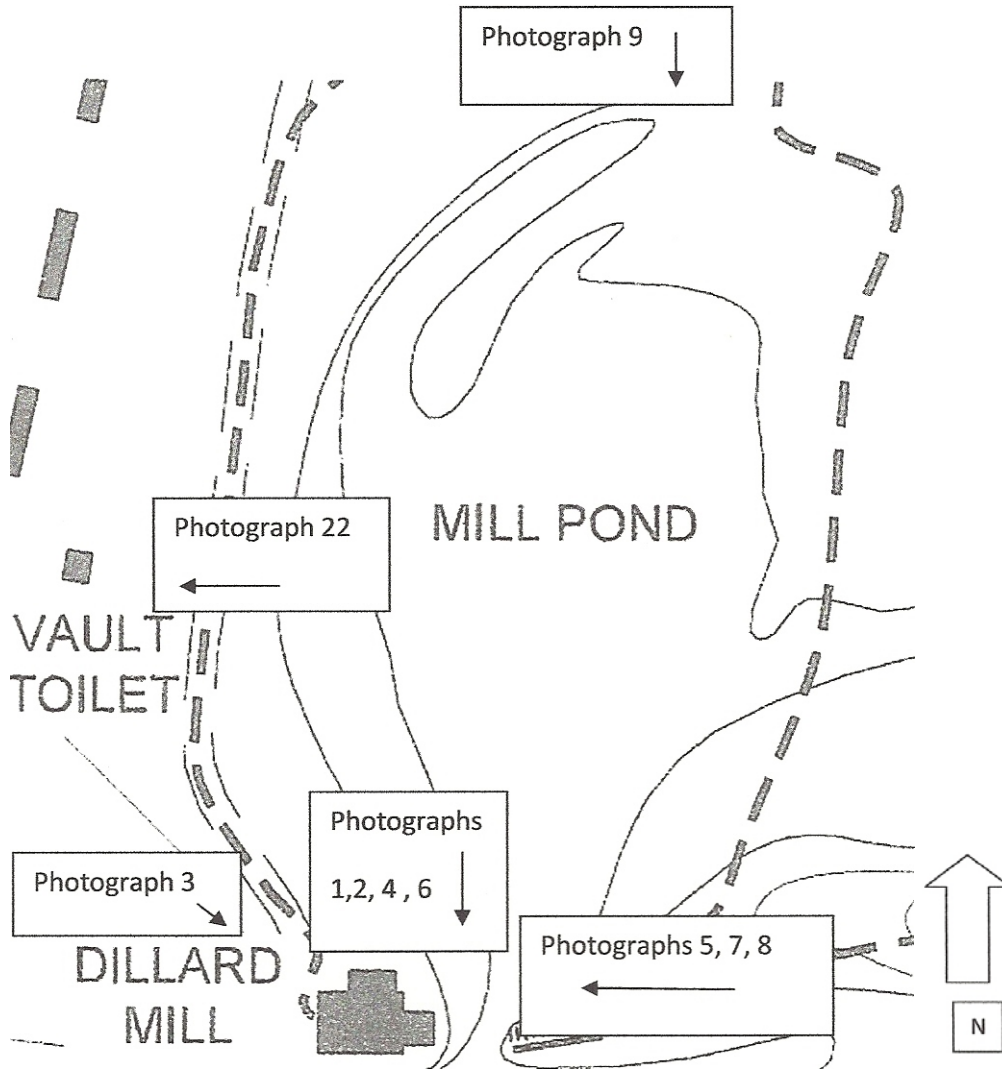


Figure 9: Dillard Mill Historic District Photograph Key Number One (Photographs 1-9 and 22)

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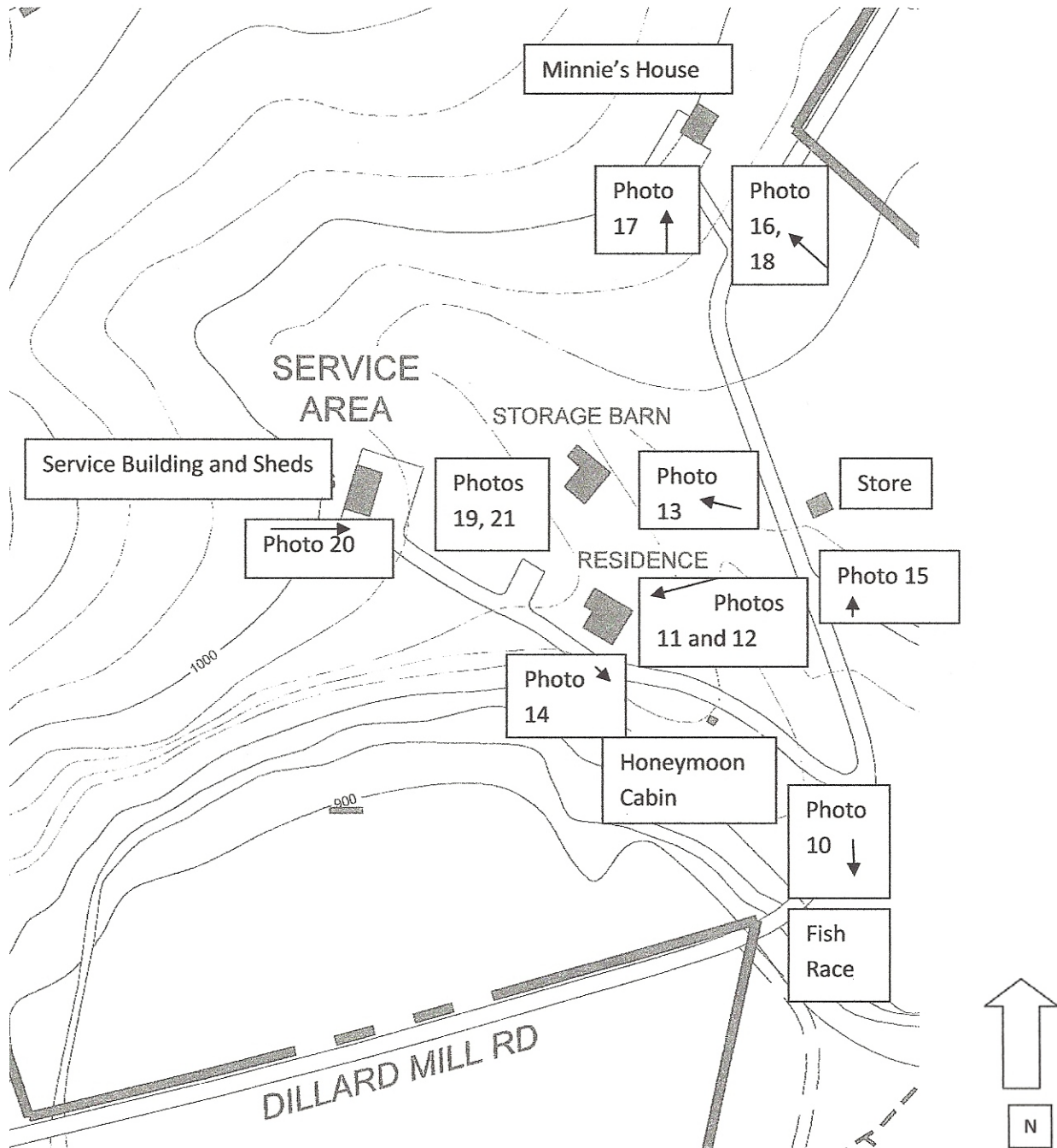


Figure 10: Dillard Mill Historic District Photo Key Number Two (Photographs 10-21)

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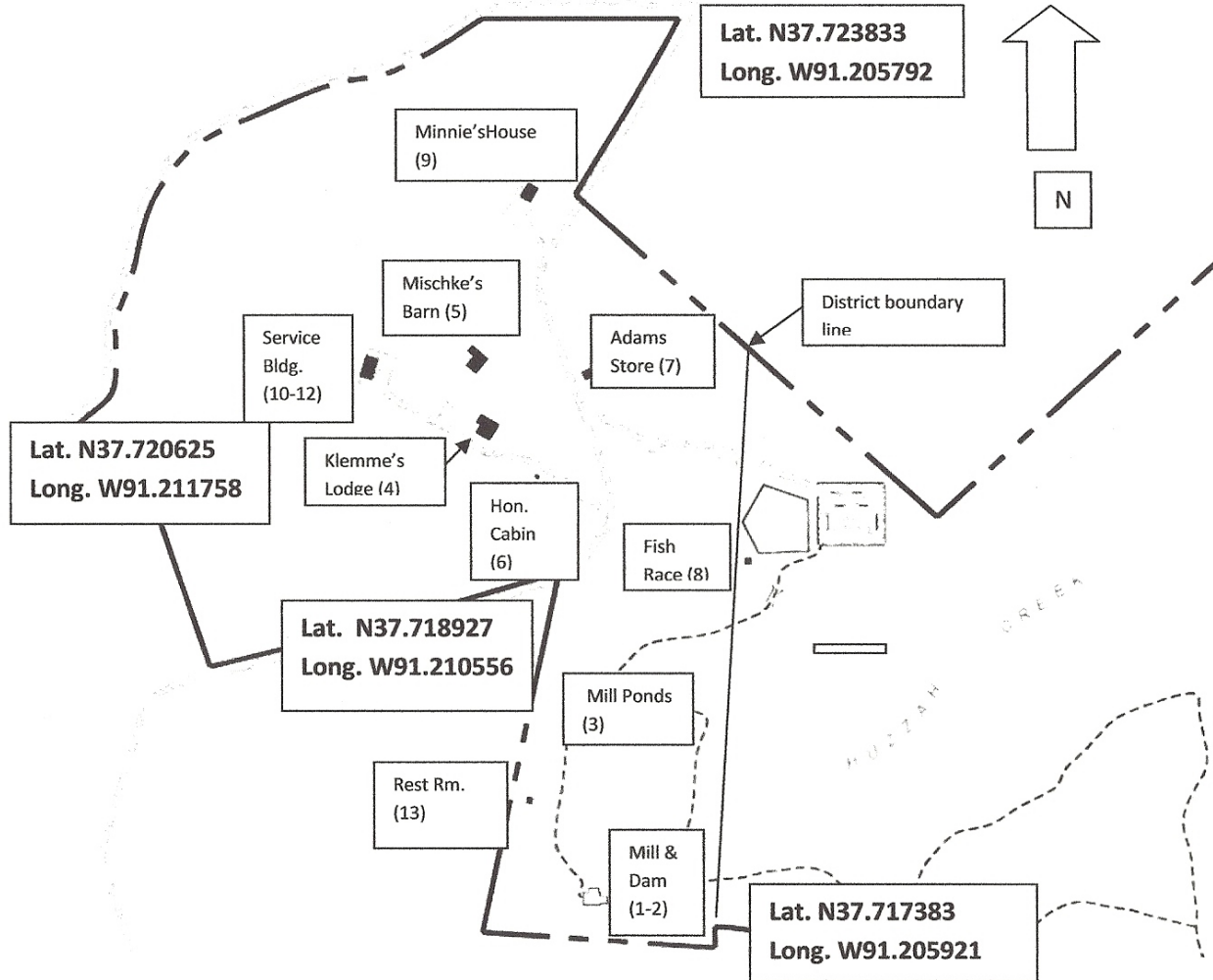


Figure 11: Dillard Mill Historic District Sketch Map showing latitude and longitude

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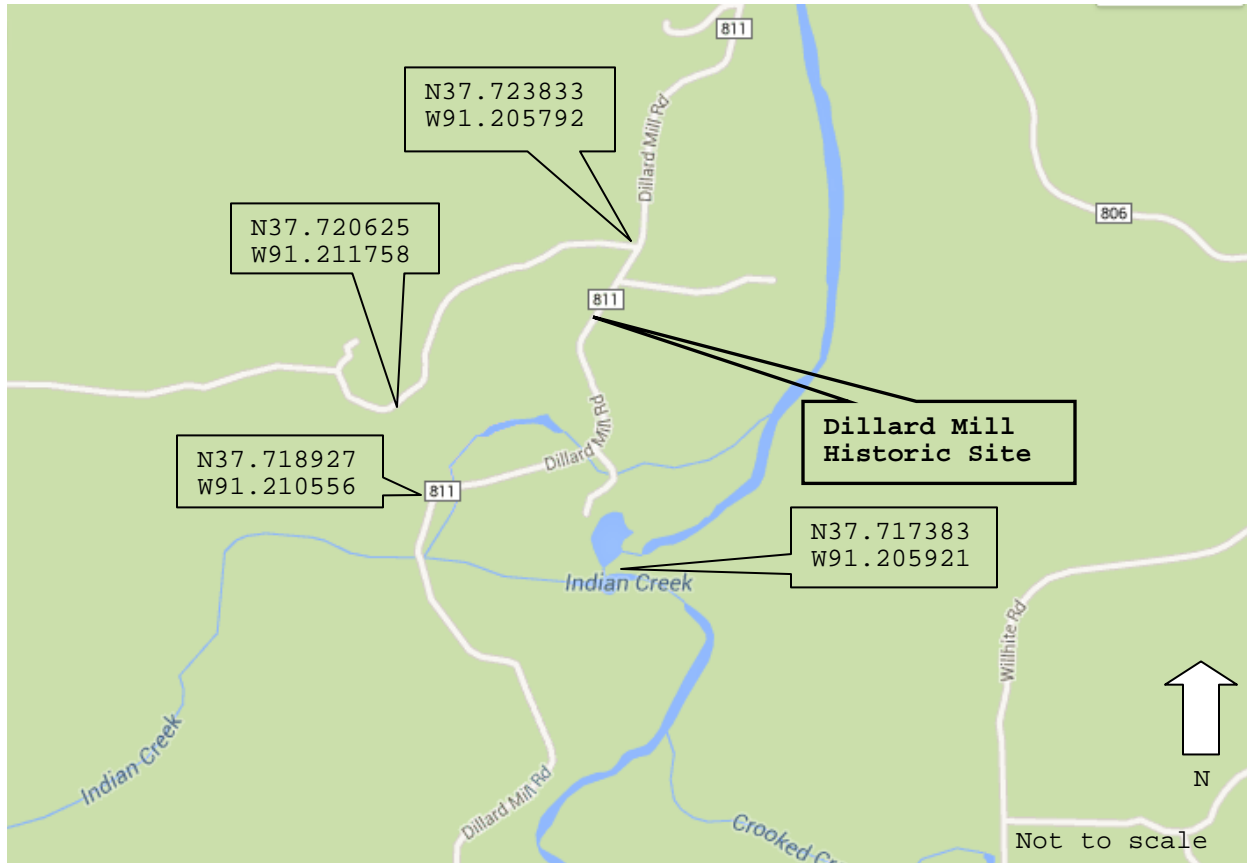


Figure 12: Google map of Dillard Mill and environs, 2014.







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Milling is one of the oldest industries known to man. Since the beginning of time, the grinding of grain between two stones dates back thousands of years. Grain was simply placed on one stone and pounded with another. Pounding gradually gave way to a form of rubbing. The rubbing motion sheared the husk from the grain, rather than smashing it.

Saddle Stone
 Four to five thousand years ago, earlier forms of milling were replaced by the saddle stone, larger and heavier, and with a rolling surface. A round, elongated stone was pushed or rolled over the surface.

























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