

NRNE003

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

For NPS use only  
received  
date entered

1. Name

historic

and/or common Jolly Mill

2. Location

street & number

not for publication

city, town Pierce City

vicinity of

state Missouri

code 29

county

Newton

code 145

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: Vacant

4. Owner of Property

name Jolly Mill Park Foundation

street & number Route 1

city, town Pierce City

vicinity of

state MO 65723

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Recorder of Deeds

street & number Newton County Courthouse

city, town Neosho

state MO 64850

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Missouri Historic Sites Catalogue has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1963

federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records State Historical Society of Missouri

city, town Columbia

## 7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Jolly Mill is located on the south bank of Capps Creek, approximately seven (7) miles southwest of Pierce City, on the fringe of Newton County, Missouri. Access to the site is by a rural blacktop road south of U.S. Highway 60. In addition to the mill structure, the site property includes a small bungalow residence, but the latter building itself has little historical significance.

The Jolly Mill is a weathered, unpainted 30 foot by 80 foot (30'x80'), two and a half (2 1/2) story rectangular wood frame structure about 36 feet (36') high on an original foundation made of hand-chiseled limestone slab laid without benefit of mortar. Approximately 95 per cent of the vertical and horizontal structural timbers are the original ones which were hand-hewn with adze tools. Vertical structurals are 9 inch by 9 inch (9"x9") hewn oak. The first floor sill timbers are original half-round native oak logs. The second and third floor sill timbers are 6 inch by 8 inch (6"x8") hewn oak. All interior mid-support columns are 10 inch by 10 inch (10"x10") octagonal-cut hewn oak. All juncture connections are mortised and pinned with wooden pegs. On the third floor, the rafters and their vertical support timbers are peeled pole oak. The 40 sets of rafters are placed approximately 24 inches (24") apart. Each set is braced with a 6 inch by 8 inch (6"x8") hewn oak collar beam. Each pair of rafters and its joist is marked with matching Roman numerals (I to XL, consecutively). Roof sheathing is original hand-sawed 1 inch by 12 inch (1"x12") planks. The external wall cover is drop siding (4 1/2" wide).

There is no evidence that this pioneer utilitarian structure ever contained any decorative detail.

Openings: The Jolly Mill structure has three doorway openings, all on the south side of the first floor. At the west edge is a large double-door opening approximately 10 feet wide by 7 feet high (10'x7'). Two other doorway openings, each approximately 45 inches wide by 80 inches high (45"x80"), are located at mid-point and near the east edge of the structure.

There are 22 window openings, each about 32 inches wide by 60 inches high (32"x60") on the three floors: first floor, 11; second floor, 8; and third floor, 3. The window opening arrangement is irregular from floor to floor, indicating that windows were added by early-day operators as lighting requirements dictated.

Chimney: The structure once had at least one chimney<sup>1</sup>. It was approximately 18 inches by 18 inches (18"x18") square externally, built on a base in the southeast corner of the basement and extending upward through all three floors and the roof. The purpose of the chimney was to permit the use of a cast-iron heating stove located in the first floor office. The chimney collapsed in the 1950s decade and was not replaced. Brick remnants are in the basement.

Roof: The original wood shingles on the medium gable roof have been replaced with temporary asphalt shingles. The roof is topped with a cupola and is interrupted on its north slope below the cupola by a gable dormer with overhang.

# 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates ca. 1850

Builder/Architect unknown

## Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Jolly Mill is a structurally sound example of a pre-Civil War enterprise that attracted the rise of frontier commerce and communication. Located on the bank of Capps Creek at the eastern fringe of Newton County, Missouri, where major springs once attracted Indian hunting camps to the valley, the Jolly Mill was assuring a year-round abundant supply of water-power for its distilling and gristmilling operations. The springs, less than a mile upstream, still make Capps Creek at the Jolly Mill one of the few unpolluted trout streams remaining in Missouri.

Built by slave laborers whose adze marks are still visible on the oak-beams of the structure's framework, the Jolly Mill at first was better known for its alcoholic rather than its grist products. The distillery/mill activity quickly became the center of a bustling ante-bellum community. Since many farmers brought their grain to the mill so that they, at the same time, might enjoy some Jollification, and the mill it self eventually became known as the Jolly Mill.

In 1862, both Union and Confederate Army forces maneuvered near Jollification<sup>2</sup> and bushwhacking guerrillas later burned the village to the ground, sparing only the Jolly Mill. After 1865, the distillery/mill was returned to use, and the village was partly rebuilt to become a communications center for post-Civil War wagon and stage coach travelers.

In the mid-1870's the Jolly Mill ceased its commercial distilling activity. At the same time, the arrival of railroads through Southwest Missouri began killing the stagecoach and wagon traffic so that the Jolly Mill was involved in milling operations that served, to an increasing degree, the needs of local farmers. The village slowly faded after 1900.

Unlike hundreds of other frontier milling operations, however, the Jolly Mill persisted. Although processing custom grinding until the early 1970's. The ante-bellum structure still stands, the object of tourist interest, history buffs and artists<sup>3</sup>. And of people who have feelings of nostalgia for the Jolly Mill that once was<sup>4</sup>.

## HISTORY:

There has never been a definitive historical record made of the Jolly Mill. Dating from the pre-Civil War period when settlers spilled into Capps Creek valley, the development and decline of economic and social conditions that made an enduring Jolly Mill possible occurred when records were either poorly kept, unprotected from fiery destruction, or disdained through lack of appreciation for their historical value<sup>5</sup>.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

See attached

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property approximately 1 and 1/3 acres

Quadrangle name Pierce City, MO

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A 

1	5	4	0	4	5	2	10	4	10	8	13	8	10	10
Zone			Easting				Northing							

B 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

C 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

D 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

E 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

F 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

G 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

H 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

Verbal boundary description and justification Of the present 40 acre tract containing Jolly Mill, only the immediate area that includes the Mill and dam is being proposed for nomination, as future development of the entire tract may not be compatible with the historical character of the Mill. A square eighty meters on each side, centered on the above

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state code county code

state code county code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title 1. Juanita C. and Otis E. Hays, Jr.

organization date September 30, 1980

street & number Route 1, Box 207-a telephone 417/476-5202

city or town Pierce City state MO 65723

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature *[Signature]*

Director and State Historic Preservation Officer

title Department of Natural Resources

date 8/26/83

For NPS use only

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

date

Keeper of the National Register

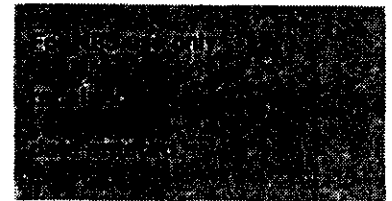
Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form



Continuation sheet JOLLY MILL Item number 7 Page 1

Basement is excavated only. The mill race<sup>2</sup> flows through a portion of this area, with the race exit through the north side into Capps Creek. Access to the basement has been through a trap door in the first floor covering above the mill race.

First floor: The first floor arrangement<sup>3</sup> is open except for the following: (1) a partition near the west end to separate a 10 foot by 15 foot (10'x15') area<sup>4</sup> once used for wagon storage, and (2) an 8 foot by 13 foot (8'x13') office area space in the southeast corner. There is an "L" shaped stairwell leading to the second floor. It is located near the center of the south side of the structure. The stairwell contains 13 steps, each 42 inches (42") wide. Six steps lead to a mid-point landing, and seven to the second floor.

The walls and ceiling are unfinished, and the heavy oak support columns and structural framework are exposed. The floor is covered with rough-cut oak planking worn smooth through usage. The floor planking is of varying widths, most of which is 1 inch by 12 inches (1"x12"). Whether the planking is original is unknown.

The ceiling beams are 8 feet (8') above the floor.

Second floor: The second floor is free of any major partition<sup>5</sup> and is interrupted only by a stairwell. As on the first floor, there is an "L" shaped stairwell of identical size to the third floor. This stairwell, being directly above the lower stairwell, is also situated near the center of the south side of the structure. The second floor's walls and ceiling are likewise unfinished and the heavy framework exposed, and the floor covering is similar to that on the floor below.

The ceiling beams are 8 feet (8') above the floor.

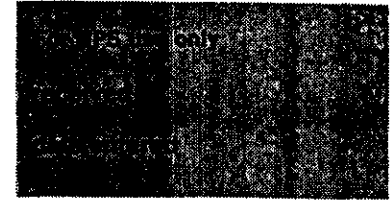
Third floor<sup>6</sup>: The third floor's Roman-numeraled joists bracing the peeled oak rafters separate the open ceiling from the gable roof's ridgeline above. The sloping roof's rafters and oak sheathing on both the north and south sides of the third floor are likewise exposed. A cupola<sup>7</sup>, 8 feet by 15 feet (8'x15') projects near the center of the roof above. A dormer window opening breaks the roof line on the north side and opposite the stairwell which emerges from the second floor. Floor planking is the same as that covering the lower floors.

The Roman-numeraled joists are 8 feet (8') above the floor.

Dam: The original dam for the Jolly Mill is believed to have been constructed of timbers. Later, the dam was heightened and strengthened with sandstone blocks. In 1895, the dam was again enlarged with a limestone extension, making a dam length of about 150 feet (150') which formed a mill pond about a quarter-mile long. The dam was damaged by a flash flood in 1978 and the mill pond drained, exposing remnants of the old timber dam.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form



Continuation sheet JOLLY MILL

Item number 7

Page 2

Alterations: Between 1974 and 1976 one of the mill's owners renovated and replaced the leaky roof with a water-tight cover, brought the faltering structure into true vertical and horizontal alignment, and reinforced the foundation with concrete to stabilize it<sup>o</sup>. At the same time, he poured a concrete cap on the south (sandstone) half of the dam to preserve it.

Condition: The building's framework and foundation are now structurally sound. The windows are missing and the window openings are presently board-covered. There are small gaps in the external siding and eventually the siding will require replacement with a compatible covering. Although the floor sills are sound, the floor planking will require at least 35 per cent replacement. The stairwell, while structurally sound, will require a general renovation. The north side of the dam requires rebuilding and concrete capping to restore a future mill pond. The turbine wheels will require complete overhauling or, alternatively, replacement with an undershot waterwheel similar to that which originally operated the mill's mechanism.

Site: The Jolly Mill is situated in a rural environment, the community for which the mill was the nucleus having long since vanished. The nearest farm residences are one approximately one-eighth mile to the south and another one-fourth mile downstream to the west. A five-room house, the home of three generations of mill operators and owners, is located 300 feet to the southeast of the mill structure. The house was built in 1912 on the site of the old Jolly community general store and post office.

Present status: The 28-acre Jolly Mill property, including the idle mill and the miller's home, was purchased in March, 1983 by the Jolly Mill Park Foundation, a Missouri non-profit corporation. The Foundation's stated objective is to restore the mill to an operational grist-ground capability for public demonstration as soon as possible.

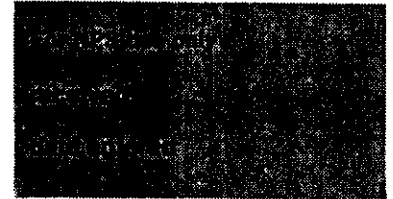
As restoration and construction progresses, the Foundation expects to have a full-time caretaker on the premises in order to deter forays by vandals who have contributed recently to the mill structures's deterioration. A major source of danger to the Jolly Mill also has been the threat of destruction by the U.S. Corps of Engineers. The Engineers have studied the feasibility of putting a dam on one of two sites on nearby Shoal Creek. Capps Creek is a tributary of Shoal Creek. One of the dams would create a lake flooding Capps Creek valley and covering the Jolly Mill forever. Recently, however, the Engineers announced that further consideration of such a dam would be postponed until after the year 2000.

FOOTNOTES

1. The Jolly Mill structure originally housed a distillery as well as a milling operation, and therefore it should be assumed that the structure

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form



Continuation sheet JOLLY MILL Item number 7 Page 3

must have had the need for one or more additional chimneys for use in connection with the distilling process a century ago. There is neither record nor physical evidence, however, as to their size, number, and location.

2. The turbine wheels are in the mill race and connected to vertical power shafts to the first floor above. The turbine wheels were last used in 1973.

3. Water-power transmission shafting from turbine wheels as well as the belting mechanism for dispersing the power are located in the northeast portion. Here also is a Papec hammer feed mill, formerly powered by the larger of the turbine wheels. Nearby is the massive oak frame to support the stone burrs, together with a heavy oak swinging crane for maneuvering or hoisting the burrs when necessary.

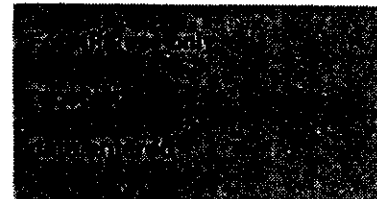
4. Stored here are two sets of stone burrs. In addition to the two turbine wheels in the mill race, a partially disassembled third turbine wheel is also stored here. Both the stone burrs and the turbine wheel are believed to be original equipment.

5. A large 10 foot by 20 foot (10'x20') grain bin rests between the east wall of the stairwell and the southeast corner of the second floor.

6. Here are stored several pieces of flouring mill equipment: one (1) Gray's Improved Scalping Reel, Size 00; one (1) Gray's Patent Flour Dresser; and one (1) Improved Patent Flour Dresser. Nearby are stored hand-made oak wooden conveyor augers. When the structure also housed a distillery, the large hand-made mash vats (12 feet (12') in diameter and made with hand-hewn staves five inches (5") thick and 60 inches (60") high) were located on this floor.

7. The cupola held the head of a triple set of continuous belted cups to move grain from the first floor to the other upper floors through wooden conveyor tubes. That the cupola was a part of the original structure is self-evident: the cupola is supported by four octagonal-cut hewn oak pillars identical to the central support pillars on the first and second floors.

8. "Renovation of Historic Jolly Mill Now Underway," Monett (MO) Times, October 24, 1974.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

Continuation sheet JOLLY MILL Item number 8 Page 1

The miller was an important and essential individual in every early pioneer and later farm community. The lack of rapid and reliable transportation encouraged the grain-growers to bring their product to a convenient mill for sale or grinding. In Missouri, for example, the number of such mills reached a peak number of 872 by the year 1880<sup>6</sup>, after which they rapidly declined, the victims of accidental fire, neglect or vandalism. The number of survivals among all such mills, and specially ante-bellum ones, is few. The Jolly Mill is one of these unique survivors<sup>7</sup>.

A major Ozark Plateau north and south watershed area is eight miles to the east of the Jolly Mill. This watershed gives rise to the westward-flowing Capps Creek and, further south, to Shoal Creek. Capps Creek is a tributary to Shoal Creek, and their waters merge two miles southwest of the Jolly Mill. The enlarged stream flows generally west through Newton County<sup>8</sup>.

Most of the flow of Capps Creek is derived from a group of four springs located a half mile above the Jolly Mill site<sup>9</sup>. The largest, Cave Spring, flows from a bedding plane at the base of a bluff Mississippian limestone. The other three springs -- two of them known as Hawkins, and the other, Wallace -- rise in a field in the adjoining lowland.

Pioneer settlers were not the first appreciative inhabitants of the Capps Creek area near the Jolly Mill site. Ample amounts of projectile points and other Indian artifacts have been recovered from the ground adjacent to the stream. There was natural cover for deer and other game, and the large springs made the valley an ideal place for Indian camps during their periodic hunting seasons<sup>10</sup>.

The first pioneer families came to Newton County in 1830, with early settlers arriving in the Capps Creek area a few years later. One of the first of these undoubtedly was Frederick Hisaw<sup>11</sup>. Others whose names also are intertwined in the history of Jolly Mill and whose land titles were established in 1839-40 included Thomas D. Isbell, A. H. Brown, William Wright and George Barker<sup>12</sup>. John Isbell, whose name was to be more closely associated with the Jolly Mill, was a recently married man at this time<sup>13</sup> but was not yet a property owner of record<sup>14</sup>.

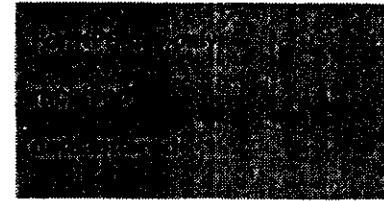
Although he did not obtain formal title to his land until 1848<sup>15</sup>, Davis Ferguson also had settled his family much earlier in the valley and was destined to be one of the nearest neighbors to the Jolly Mill-to-be. He was a farmer-surveyor. In 1839, he marked the western boundary separating Barry County from its newly created neighbor counties, McDonald and Newton. Later, in 1843, he surveyed the road that would run from Hazeltine's (near Springfield) through present-day Mt. Vernon, thence Capps Creek valley to Neosho in Newton County and onward via Baxter Springs, Kansas to the Indian Territory<sup>16</sup>. The road is marked on Civil War maps<sup>17</sup>.

The site of the future Jolly Mill is legally described in the Newton



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form



Continuation sheet JOLLY MILL Item number 8 Page 2

County Recorder's Office as being the 40 acre area of land: "SW 1/4 NE 1/4 Sec. 11, Twp 25, Rg 29"<sup>18</sup>. The first legal owner of the site was Frederick Crackel<sup>19</sup> who obtained title to the land from the U.S. Government on April 2, 1844.

There is no evidence as to what purpose the owner planned to make of his purchase because he quickly disappeared from Southwest Missouri records. On July 7, 1845 he sold the site to Anthony Bledsoe<sup>20</sup> who, within a week, resold it to Frederick Hisaw<sup>21</sup>.

Most of the settlers coming to the area were directly from Tennessee and Kentucky, and their forebearers from Virginia and the Carolinas. The newcomers were accustomed to making whisky and many had brought their slaves with them. Although Frederick was not a slave holder, he was a distiller of spirits. Since a watershed was needed for grinding grain in order to make mash, he built a primitive mill and still on the creek bank a mile upstream from the present Jolly Mill site. The stream's fall at this point was insufficient to operate the wheel, so he moved his crude operation to the site bought from Bledsoe<sup>22</sup>. Water pouring over limestone bedrock at this point was ample for Hisaw's needs.

In the meanwhile, John Isbell had joined his father, Thomas D. Isbell, as an ambitious newcomer to the valley. Together, father and son bought the mill site from Hisaw<sup>23</sup> in 1848, now believed to be a more accurate date as to when construction of the Isbell's Mill (later to be called the Jolly Mill) was begun<sup>24</sup>.

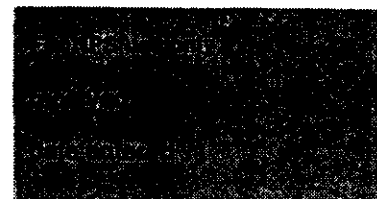
The new enterprise was a challenging one, consisting of a large building designed as both a gristmill and distillery with waterpower derived from an undershot waterwheel<sup>25</sup>. Water was diverted into the mill race by a dam made of timbers<sup>26</sup>.

John Isbell himself did not have the slave manpower for the massive construction project since he did not acquire any slaves until after 1850. His father, Thomas D. Isbell, however, did own three mature males. In addition, his area neighbors, Davis (Rhoda) Ferguson, William (Rachel) Wright, George (Martha) Barker and A. H. Brown were large slaveholders<sup>27</sup>, and it is assumed that John Isbell also rented the labor of some of these slaves<sup>28</sup>.

Four years later, in 1852, Thomas D. Isbell sold his half interest to his son, John Isbell, who now was the sole owner<sup>29</sup> of what must have been the bustling center of a rising community -- Jollification<sup>30</sup>. Wagon trains bound for southern Kansas and the Indian Territory used the new road from Springfield through Neosho. The road passed through the village<sup>31</sup>.

In 1853, J. W. and A. J. Wright were operating a general store at Jollification<sup>32</sup>.

In 1856, William Wright was licensed to keep a dram shop at Isbell's

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

Continuation sheet JOLLY MILL Item number 8 Page 3

Mill<sup>33</sup>.

Two years later, James Hambleton (Hamilton?) was the proprietor of another general store in the village<sup>34</sup>.

One of Rachel Wright's slaves was Issac ("Ike") who was the father of a large family, including three sons, Thomas, Moses and William, all born into slavery<sup>35</sup>. Thomas was the eldest of the sons. He was 11 years old when the Civil War began<sup>36</sup> and he died in 1928. His memory of the size of the village of Jollification in 1861 has survived. He described the village at that time as having eight homes, a church, postoffice, three general stores, a drug store, a blacksmith shop and, of course, a saloon and Isbell's Mill<sup>37</sup>.

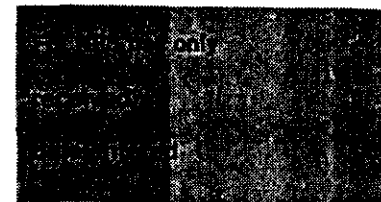
John Isbell appeared to prosper as the warclouds gathered. As 1860 approached, he was assumed to be wealthiest man in Capps Creek valley and the adjacent area<sup>38</sup>. Then, for a reason not recorded nor otherwise revealed, he mortgaged Isbell's Mill in 1860 to George Isbell<sup>39</sup> for \$2,600 to be repaid in three years (1863)<sup>40</sup>.

The Civil War could not be brushed aside. Troops, both regular and irregular, skirmished through Southwest Missouri as each adversary sought military advantage first at Wilson Creek, then Pea Ridge, then Newtonia while Union occupation forces battled the anarchy created by bushwhackers. Jollification did not escape. After military pickets clashed there in the spring and autumn of 1862, bushwhackers began raiding the village and the nearby farm homes and soon afterward burned every building in the village—except Isbell's Mill<sup>41</sup>.

With the able-bodied male heads of households absent<sup>42</sup> from the Capps Creek area, the village destroyed, the slaves liberated, horses stolen and croplands untilled, Isbell's Mill was idled and gradually fell into disarray due to lack of grain, labor and customers. John Isbell was unable to repay neither principal nor interest on the mortgage which fell due in the midst of the war<sup>43</sup>.

In the summer of 1865, the men began returning to their Capps Creek homes. George Isbell, the unpaid mortgage in hand, foreclosed<sup>44</sup> and arranged to have Isbell's Mill repaired and returned to operation. While in the process of obtaining legal ownership of the property, George Isbell leased Isbell's Mill to John M. Kellogg<sup>45</sup> for five years "from the time that he gets the distillery and mill in running condition." Kellogg was a builder from Mt. Vernon. He found distillers and millers to operate the enterprise<sup>46</sup>.

The foreclosure completed, George Isbell received a deed to Isbell's Mill from the sheriff of Newton County<sup>47</sup> in April, 1866. Six years later, in 1872, John Isbell and his wife, Nancy Wormington Isbell, formally gave George a quit-claim deed to the property<sup>48</sup>.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

Continuation sheet JOLLY MILL

Item number 8

Page 4

George Isbell retained ownership of the mill longer than any other person in the long line of title holders -- almost 30 years. But he himself did not attempt to operate it<sup>49</sup>. Instead, he relied on a series of managers, including the former owner, John Isbell<sup>50</sup>.

The post-war transition occurred during George Isbell's ownership. From its ashes the village of Jollification reappeared<sup>51</sup> but not as the lusty community of former days<sup>52</sup>. Wagon trains resumed their trek through Jollification on the main road to Kansas and the Indian Territory. Reacting to the post-war bustle and quest for faster transportation, a stage coach line began service from Springfield to the Indian Territory via Jollification and Newtonia<sup>53</sup>.

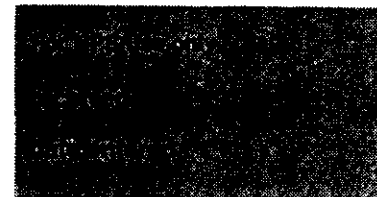
The railroad connecting Springfield with the Indian Territory was built in 1871, and the brief economic spurt that travelers brought to Jollification came to an end. A second stage coach line ran from Pierce City's railhead to northwestern Arkansas via Jollification, but it too ceased operation when a railroad to the south was completed 10 years later<sup>54</sup>.

By 1875, the village no longer was officially known at Jollification. Instead, the community for a brief time was referred to as "Capps Creek"<sup>55</sup>. It had population of about 50 people and, in addition to Isbell's Mill, had a general store and a blacksmith shop. For the first time, moreover, the use of "Jolly" as a place name appeared on a map in the same year, 1875<sup>56</sup>. The name was gradually accepted. By 1888, Goodspeed's History of southwest Missouri was using an intermixture of the names Jolly and Jollification.

While the village of Jollification was in decline, Isbell's Mill was in the process of transition. George Isbell's managers seemed to place greater emphasis on the manufacture of flour during the early 1870's, so much so that by 1875 or shortly thereafter they ceased the making of spirits. The transition to a full-scale milling operation has been attributed to Isbell's resistance to paying Federal internal revenue taxes on distillery products<sup>57</sup>. Whatever the reason for the distillery's cessation, however, Isbell had already approved the enlargement of the mill pond and reinforcement of the dam with sandstone blocks quarried from a hillside site north of the Cave Spring<sup>58</sup>.

In 1894, George Isbell sold the mill to his nephew and namesake, George Isbell Brown, the son of his sister Lucinda and A.H. Brown<sup>59</sup>. For the first time, Newton County legal records referred to the mill site as "the Jolly Mill Place."

The new owner, like his uncle, did not personally attempt to operate the establishment. Instead, he hired his milling help<sup>60</sup>.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

Continuation sheet JOLLY MILL Item number 8 Page 5

George Isbell Brown obviously had major improvement plans for the Jolly Mill, because he petitioned the Circuit Court of Newton County in early 1895 for permission to erect a major addition to the mill dam across Capps Creek to create a head of water seven feet above the average level of the stream<sup>61</sup>. But for an unknown reason, before the court could act on the petition, he abruptly sold the mill in April, 1895 to Firman A. Lucas and Fred Chandler<sup>62</sup>. The Circuit acted favorably on the improvement petition in May, and the new owners promptly began the final enlargement of the mill pond. The new mill pond was full in 1896 and extended all the way upstream to the mouth of Cave Spring<sup>63</sup>.

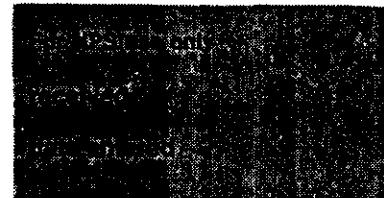
Lucas and Chandler made other improvements. It is believed that it was during this early period of their ownership that the first turbine wheel was installed and, in anticipation of larger scale flouring operations, rolling equipment was purchased for the Jolly Mill<sup>64</sup>.

In May, 1899, Firman Lucas's father, A. C. Lucas, was owner of a general store at Berwick, the nearest village on the east-west railroad five miles northwest of the Jolly Mill. Fred Chandler agreed to trade his partnership in the mill to A. C. Lucas in exchange for the Berwick store<sup>65</sup>. The firm that operated "the Jolly Rolling Mills" was known as A. C. Lucas & Son. The son, Firman Lucas, was also the proprietor of the Jolly general store and the Jolly village postmaster<sup>66</sup>.

When A. C. Lucas died in 1911, Firman Lucas and other heirs sold the mill, general store and the surrounding site to Charles Martin<sup>67</sup>. He retained ownership for less than six months. During this period the store building burned to the ground but the old mill structure escaped unscathed<sup>68</sup>. The new owner was W. F. Haskins<sup>69</sup> who, as it developed, was the patriarch of three generations of millers. Taking possession in the spring of 1912, the new owner installed a second turbine wheel<sup>70</sup>. Later, after 1925, he replaced the original turbine wheel with a larger one for added power to operate the flour rollers, stone burrs and hammer mill.

After operating at capacity until the end of World War I, the milling activity slowly diminished. The Jolly Mill's ownership passed from W. F. Haskins to his son Leslie and eventually to his grandsons, one of whom, Frank, was the miller. The latter, after 61 years of Haskins family involvement in the pioneer enterprise, closed the mill in 1973 and he and his brother Norman sold it to Ben D. and Norma Gene Taylor<sup>72</sup> of Harahan, Louisiana. The Taylors planned to restore the mill but, although they built a new foundation under and put a new temporary cover over the building, their ultimate plans went unfulfilled. A flash flood in 1978 ruptured the dam and emptied the mill pond.

Michael Ray Ball negotiated a tentative purchase of the property from the Taylors in August, 1982 and outlined his plans for another effort at restoring the mill and adding a theme park activity<sup>73</sup>. Before negotiation

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

Continuation sheet JOLLY MILL

Item number 8

Page 6

for the sale approached a final stage, however, Ball was arrested in Cassville, Missouri for parole violation<sup>74</sup> which resulted in his being sentenced in February, 1983 to a four-year term in prison under his legal name, Mike Patton<sup>75</sup>.

James Sidney Moore, a Crystal Bay, Nevada architect who was a native of Pierce City, Missouri, voiced an interest in saving the Jolly Mill from further deterioration and began meeting with community citizens with a like interest in December, 1982. He agreed to donate sufficient funds to finance the purchase of the Jolly Mill property and for the essential restoration projects. As a result, the Jolly Mill Park Foundation, a general not-for-profit corporation, was organized and certified by the State of Missouri<sup>76</sup> on February 7, 1983, and agreement was reached with the Taylor's regarding their release of the property to the Foundation. The purchase and transfer of title<sup>77</sup> was completed on March 7, 1983, at which time a formal press release<sup>78</sup> was made to announce the Foundation's plans.

The master plan for the Jolly Mill Park<sup>79</sup> envisioned that the Jolly Mill structure would be restored and grist-milling equipment reinstalled, the dam repaired, the mill pond dredged and cleaned and roads built by mid-1984. Public recreational facilities such as fishing, boating and picnicing would follow. In order to provide a permanent financial base for maintenance of the Jolly Mill Park, footprint leases for housing would be let as soon as adequate water and sewage facilities can be established. Leases would be of an indefinite duration, with lease fees paid annually into the Park's maintenance fund. Restrictions would be imposed on the type of housing to be built on the footprints to insure compatibility with Jolly Mill's architecture and the Park's environment.

## FOOTNOTES:

1. "Opening of Trout Season Sees Revival at Jolly Mill, "Neosho (MO) Daily News", March 2, 1954; letter, Missouri Department of Conservation, Jefferson City, Mo., to Capps Creek residents, March 15, 1966. Restocking of Capps at Jolly Mill has been an annual event.

2. There is written record of two skirmishes at Jollification, at each of which a Confederate soldier was killed, William Walker on May 11, 1862, and John Riley on October 3, 1862. There are also various unconfirmed reports of unmarked graves containing bodies of Civil War soldiers. One report places two bodies, including that of a man named Sturdy, in the old Davis Ferguson family cemetery located a half mile south of the Jolly Mill. Another places two bodies buried on the northwest hill overlooking the Jolly Mill. Two or three graves also may be on the hill due north of the mill, and Sarah Kelly, who lives a half mile downstream from the mill, has been told that there are at least two more such graves in the old King family cemetery south of her home. War of the Rebellion -Official Records of Union and Confederate Armies, Series I, Volume XIII (Washington:

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

Continuation sheet JOLLY MILL

Item number 8

Page 7

Government Printing Office, 1885), pp. 6, 303, 304, 305; Missouri History of McDonald and Newton Counties (Chicago: Goodspeed Publishing Co., 1888 - reprint edition by McDonald County Historical Society, 1972), p. 250; L. O. Goodman signed statement, To Whom It May Concern (Pierce City, Mo., July 8, 1980), p. 3, item 8; John M. Slankard signed statement, To Whom It May Concern (Wentworth, Mo., July 3, 1980), p. 2, last para.

3. "Jolly Mill, Telephone Talk, Southwestern Bell Telephone Company, August, 1966; Nellie Alice Mills, Historic Spots in Old Barry County (Monett, Mo: The Free Will Baptist Gem, 1952), p. 11; "Newton County Landmarks, Neosho (MO) Miner and Mechanic, Nov. 10, 1961; "Jolly Mill," charcoal drawing by James Burkhart, commissioned by First National Bank, Monett, Mo., 1973; "Jolly Mill" by M. E. Oliver, Old Mills of the Ozarks (Point Lookout, Mo.: The School of the Ozarks, 1972), p. 19; "Jolly Mill," painting by W. H. "Chic" Howertown, Monett (MO) Times, March 18, 1977; Dave Brown, "Collecting Missouri Mills," Missouri Farmer, May, 1964, pp. 14, 15; Phyllis Harrell Gripka, "A Man and a Mill, Ozark Mountaineer, March-April, 1980, p. 26; Missouri Tourism Commission's vacation and travel guide, Missouri 1821 - 1871, sesquicentennial edition, 1971, marking "Jolley (sic) Mill" as a point of interest.

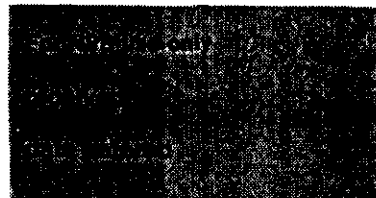
4. Virgil Green of Carthage, Mo., was born in 1890, reared in the general vicinity of the Jolly Mill and moved away in 1915 at age 25. He remembers (interview: Aug. 11, 1980) the mill with an air of romance, and he has written a poem, "The Jolly Mill" as a record of its attraction at the turn of the century. Virgil Green was the brother-in-law of Dr. William D. Brown whose father, George Isbell Brown, was once briefly an owner of the Jolly Mill.

The penultimate owner, Ben D. Taylor, admits that one of the compelling reasons for his wanting to buy and preserve the Jolly Mill was his boyhood memories of hauling wagon loads of grain to the mill for grinding. Mike Surbrugg, "Jolly Mill Full of Fond Memories, Joplin (MO) Globe, Nov. 15, 1974.

5. Compilation of a history of the Jolly Mill began with an investigation of the oral history which had been repeated but for which few confirmatory records existed. Two of the principal assertions regarding the mill's origin which have been copied in newspapers and periodicals for many years were (1) that the structure had been built by John Isbell's slaves and (2) that the structure dates from 1837. Unfortunately, both assertions are apparently based on perpetuated myth. A sampling of the perpetuation includes: Dallie Miessner, "Missouri Mills" Souvenirs of Gentler Era, "Carthage (MO) Press, Sept. 2 1975; "Old Water Power Mill Still in Operation, Pierce City (MO) Leader Journal, Aug. 22, 1968; Harold O. Taylor, "The Mill on Capps Creek, Tulsa (OKLA) Sunday, World, May 15, 1966; Mary Willets, "More-Than-Century-Old Ozarks Mill still Grinding Out Grain, Springfield (MO) News & Leader, Mar. 22, 1953; Mary Willets, "Old Jolly Mill near Eastern County Line Still Grinds Meal, Stirs Memories of Past, Neosho (MO) Sunday News, Mar. 1, 1953; Mills, op. cit., 12.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

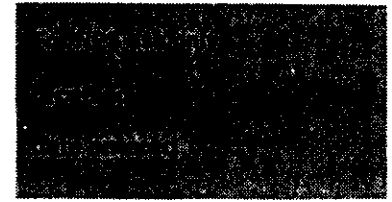


Continuation sheet JOLLY MILL Item number 8 Page 8

6. Patricia Ann Evans, "Merchant Gristmills and Communities, 1820-1880, Missouri Historical Review, Vol. 68, No. 3 (April, 1974), p. 321.
7. Evans, op. cit., pp. 325, 326.
8. Edwards Historical Atlas of Newton County, Missouri (Philadelphia): John P. Edwards, 1881, p. 9.
9. Jerry D. Vineyard and Gerald L. Feder, Springs of Missouri (Missouri Geological Survey and Water Resources, 1974), pp. 210, 212. Inside the mouth of Cave Spring, the names of "G W Isbell" and "(obscure) Wormington" are scratched on the limestone walls. These are believed to have been made by John Isbell's son George and one of his Wormington cousins immediately before the start of the Civil War. George was 12 in 1860.
10. Mary Willets, "Uncle Ike Wright Stirs Memories Among Oldtimers at Jolly Mill, Neosho (MO) Daily News, Mar. 2, 1953. The creek banks and fields near the Jolly Mill are still treasure troves for artifact hunters in 1980.
11. Missouri History of Barry County (Chicago: Goodspeed Publishing Co., 1888 - reprint edition by Litho Printers, Cassville, Mo., 1971), p. 169; Slankard, op. cit., p. 1, first para.
12. Missouri History of McDonald and Newton Counties, op. cit., p. 168.
13. Missouri History of Barry County, op. cit., p. 22.
14. Newton County Recorder's Office, Neosho, Mo.; 1840 Census of the United States, Newton County population schedule (microfilm) lists John Isbell as residing in Benton Township.
15. Plat book of entries certified by the Register and Receiver of the U.S. Land Office at Springfield, Mo., filed in the Newton County Clerk's Office, Neosho, Mo. The Ferguson property was generally south of the future site of the Jolly Mill.
16. Missouri History of Barry County, op. cit., p. 113. It is interesting to note that the road, which was routed past the future Jolly Mill and through the future village of Jollification, bordered the north edge of Ferguson's property in Capps Creek valley. The road soon became a main trafficway through Southwest Missouri to the Indian Territory.
17. Harper's Pictorial History of the Great Rebellion (Chicago: Star Publication Co., 1866), p. 594.
18. The description covering the mill site and surrounding land is

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form



Continuation sheet JOLLY MILL Item number 8 Page 9

readily located on one of the first plat maps on file, this one from Edwards Historical Atlas of Newton County, op. cit., p. 17.

19. Plat book of entries certified by the Register and Receiver of the U.S. Land Office at Springfield, Mo., filed in the Newton County Clerk's Office, Neosho, Mo.

20. Newton County Recorder's record book A, p. 367. Of note is the fact that Davis Ferguson, the farmer-surveyor who was also a justice of the peace, certified the transaction.

21. Newton County Recorder's record book A, p. 372. The Bledsoes retained ownership of only six days before transferring the site's title to Frederick Hisaw. There are no available records to disclose the reason for the quick resale, but since Bledsoe paid \$300 for the property and then received only \$200 for it, we can surmise that the Bledsoe must have encountered a sudden financial emergency.

22. Slankard, op. cit., p. 1, third para.; Goodman op. cit., p. 2, item 5.

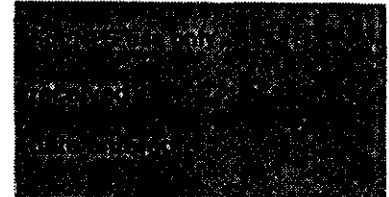
23. Newton County Recorder's record book B, P. 166; "Ozark Mill on the Job 125 Years, St. Louis Post Dispatch, May 10, 1953; Goodman, op. cit., p. 2, item 5; Slankard, op. cit., p. 1, last para. Slankard's statement of Isbell's forced eviction of Hisaw from the mill site is based on oral family history. In view of the earlier line of title to the site, however, there is some historical confusion as to the relationship between the Isbells and Hisaw and the reason for Hisaw's release of the excellent water power site after three years of ownership. There is no record of the Isbells having acquired the site from the U.S. Government in the manner as Frederick Crackel did four years earlier.

Neither is there any evidence to support the popular speculation that the Jolly Mill structure was first erected upstream, then later knocked down and moved to its present site. All evidence points to Hisaw as the man who first had a still located a mile upstream. Hisaw had neither the requirement for a large permanent structure nor the labor force to build and later relocate it. Hisaw sold the Jolly Mill site to the Isbells for \$300, a sum that lends no credence to the speculation that the Isbells obtained a permanent structure with their site purchase in 1848.

24. W. C. Brown signed statement, To Whom It May Concern (Monett, Mo., July 25, 1980, first para. Brown, whose great-aunt was John Isbell's wife Nancy Wormington, holds that it was common family knowledge that the Isbell's built the mill in the 1840's not the 1830's. In view of the fact that Hisaw had possession of the site until 1848 and since there is neither oral history nor written documentation indicating the Isbells built a mill in another location, it is a logical assumption that construction of Isbell's Mill began not earlier than the autumn of 1848.

25. The height of the available head of water makes it impractical to



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

Continuation sheet JOLLY MILL

Item number 8

Page 10

speculate that an overshot water wheel may have been used to power Isbell's Mill. The more acceptable assumption that the mill long employed an under-shot wheel has been perpetuated by such publications as Missouri Mills and Covered Bridges (Jefferson City, Mo.: Missouri Tourism Commission, undated), p. 12.

26. Goodman, op. cit., p. 1, item 4. Since there is later evidence of the procurement and laying of stone slabs for a larger dam, the diverting of Capps Creek waters into a mill race by a timbered obstruction was an expedient. Remnants of an old timbered dam are now visible near the midpoint of the recently ruptured stone face of the mill pond.

27. 1840 Census population schedule, op. cit.; 1850 Census of the United States, Newton County slave schedule (microfilm). John Isbell appeared to be on the threshold of becoming a man of means. In 1850 he now listed his principal occupation as a "distiller of spirits" and his assets at \$5,000, none of which was in slave property. Since he had no slaves in 1840, it does not seem likely that he acquired and disposed of slaves in the decade of the 1840's. His partner and father, however, was the owner of several slaves, the number of which had increased between 1840 and 1850.

28. Manpower greater than Thomas D. Isbell's slaves could provide would have been necessary to build a structure of the type that has survived. An only clue to the source of this additional manpower appeared in a newspaper feature, "Old Mill Defies Time and a River," Springfield, (MO) News & Leader, Nov. 28, 1976, which indicated that "Granny" Barker, an ex-slave of George Barker's, remembered that her slave father, when she was 10 years old, helped to build the Jolly Mill. "Granny's" information had been provided in a letter to a Springfield newspaper reporter, Mrs. Lucille Morris Upton, now retired. When she was interviewed on July 23, 1980, Mrs. Upton recalled having received the letter in the early 1930's but had no record of the letter writer's identity.

29. Newton County Recorder's record book C. p. 78. There is no indication that Thomas D. Isbell, although a full partner in the property, was ever an active participant in the operation of Isbell's Mill. The manpower to operate Isbell's Mill probably came from rented slaves after Thomas sold his partnership. He died three years later, in 1855.

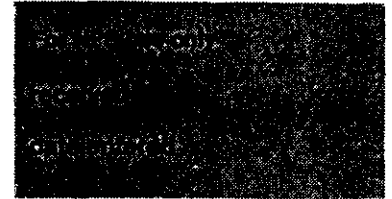
30. There is a popular belief that the village acquired its unusual name because the imbibing of distilled spirits from Isbell's Mill inspired a feeling of merry-making. Local residents recall being told by their parents that farmers taking grain to the mill would call out to their neighbors, "Come on, let's go for some jollification!"

31. See footnote 16.

32. Newton County Recorder's record book C, p. 340.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form



Continuation sheet JOLLY MILL Item number 8 Page 11

33. Missouri History of McDonald and Newton Counties, op. cit.,  
p. 176.

34. Newton County Recorder's record book E, p. 131.

35. Douglas Wright signed statement, To Whom It May Concern  
(Neosho, Mo., July 17, 1980).

36. 1860 Census of the United States, Newton County slave schedule  
(microfilm).

37. Goodman, op cit., p. 3, item 8; Wright op. cit. After the  
Civil War, Thomas Wright was a farmer in the area. In recent years,  
writers who have attributed Jolly Mill and Jollification statements to  
Issac Wright should have identified his son Thomas instead; Issac died in  
1895, beyond the memory of any living person today.

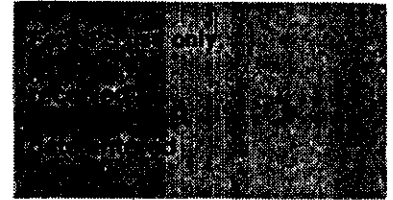
38. 1860 Census of the United States, Newton County population sched-  
ule (microfilm). John Isbell had doubled his worth since the 1850 census.

39. George Isbell must be considered as somewhat of a mystery because  
there were so many George Isbells. In seeking the relations among the var-  
ious Isbell factions that came to Southwest Missouri, researchers have been  
confused by the similarities in Isbell names generation after generation.  
Each set of parents tended to use the same given names: George, Thomas,  
John, James, Lucinda and Nancy especially. Census records reveal that  
there were several George Isbells in Newton County. This particular George  
Isbell has often been wrongly identified as John Isbell's brother or his  
uncle, but apparently they were not closely related, if at all. Thomas D.  
Isbell came from Virginia to Tennessee where John was born. George  
Isbell's family, on the other hand, was from Kentucky. George and his  
brothers and sisters appear to have come to Newton County in a group,  
although some of them later moved to Texas. George Isbell never married.

George Isbell's sister Lucinda was married to A. H. Brown, prominent  
Newtonia farmer and money-lender. There is no record of the source of  
George Isbell's funds, but in 1870 he had sufficient monies for financial  
ventures such as the loan to John Isbell.

40. Despite John Isbell's surface prosperity, some financial catas-  
trophe must have occurred. In March, 1860 he mortgaged his property to  
George Isbell for three years at 10 percent interest annually (Newton  
County Recorder's record book E, p. 759). The money from George Isbell ob-  
viously was insufficient to meet the financial crisis because John Isbell  
six months later turned to James M. Wilson who loaned him an additional  
\$2,683.52 in three promissory notes (Newton County Recorder's record book  
F, p. 174).

41. There is some oral history that indicates that the church was also

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

Continuation sheet JOLLY MILL Item number 8 Page 12

spared, but the overwhelming evidence points to the fact that only Isbell's Mill did not go up in flames. There is popular speculation that Isbell's Mill escaped the wanton destruction because of the distilled product which it made, but if this influenced the bushwhackers' rationale, it was shortsighted. There is considerable evidence that John Isbell's enterprise was not even operational at the time of the village's burning.

42. The families in the Capps Creek area were almost universally Confederate in their sympathies and the men, often both father and sons, were absent for years while serving in various military units. Those that would have remained with their families were targets for random bushwacker killings so that many men went into hiding or to faraway places such as Texas for the duration of the war. Slaves (and then former slaves), one of whom was Issac ("Uncle Ike") Wright, helped to till sufficient farmland to feed the women and children. After the war the appreciative Capps Creek valley community built and stocked a store with staple goods for Uncle Ike to operate at a crossroads two miles west of Isbell's Mill (Neosho Daily News Mar. 2, 1953, op. cit.).

43. Since some of John Isbell's relatives were in Texas during this period, he may also have been there, thus accounting for the lack of any reference to him at or near Jollification during war. Neither is there any reference to his having served with a military unit.

44. In September, 1865 -- with the war just ended and with Southwest Missourians destitute amidst the chaos -- George Isbell began foreclosure proceedings in the Newton County Circuit Court to collect the debt owed him by John Isbell. The proceedings led to Isbell's Mill's being sold at public auction, with George Isbell's buying Isbell's Mill for \$200 (Newton County Recorder's record book G, p.74).

45. In December, 1865 -- with the Newton County Circuit Court's acknowledgement, George Isbell signed the lease agreement with Kellogg. It would appear that the distillery and mill were in considerable disrepair for Isbell to agree to Kellogg's use of the premises for five years in exchange for putting the distillery and mill in operational condition (Newton County Recorder's record book F, p. 538).

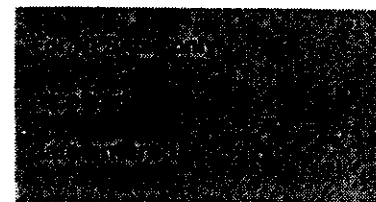
46. Missouri History of McDonald and Newton Counties, op. cit., p. 331; 1870 Census of the United States, Newton County (Capps Creek Post-office) population schedule (microfilm). Thomas Guthrie and John A. Brown were distillers who professionally called themselves "manufacturers." (Ironically, John Isbell, although apparently a 51-year-old farmer in 1870, preferred to refer to himself as a "retired manufacturer.") Stephen S. Bailey and George H. Long worked in the flouring mill.

47. Newton County Recorder's book G, p. 74; see footnote 44.

48. Newton County Recorder's book P. p. 79.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form



Continuation sheet JOLLY MILL Item number 8 Page 13

49. 1860 and 1870 Census, op. cit.; 1880 Census of the United States, Newton County population schedule (microfilm). In 1880, George Isbell's occupation was listed as "unemployable," the first hint that he may have been physically crippled or otherwise disabled. There is no record that he ever lived in his own home. He resided with his sister and brother-in-law, Lucinda and A. H. Brown until Lucinda's death, then in various households.

50. 1880 Census, op. cit., p. 1; microfilm catalog, Federal Population Censuses, 1790-1890 (Washington: National Archives Trust Fund Board, 1979), p.86. In 1880, John Isbell is now a "miller." By this time, Isbell's Mill is no longer a distillery. After 1881, any record of John Isbell's presence and occupation in Newton County vanishes. Family sources believe that John Isbell, his wife Nancy and a son, James, moved to Oregon or Washington State where they eventually died and were buried there.

51. Colton's New Sectional Map of State of Missouri (New York: Colton and Co., 1869), p. 38. The village was again prominently marked on an early post-war map.

52. 1870 Census, op. cit. In 1870, there were eight residences in or near Jollification. In addition to Isbell's Mill operators, there were a dry goods merchant, wagon-maker (blacksmith), weaver and physician.

53. Willets, Springfield (MO) News & Leader, Mar. 22, 1953, op. cit.; Mills, op. cit., p. 12; Goodman, op. cit., p. 4, item 11. Ed Pearson was the stagecoach driver. John Pearson, Ed's father, was the operator of the stagecoach station at Newtonia House in Newtonia. Both Pearsons had originally worked on the Butterfield overland mail route on the eve of the Civil War.

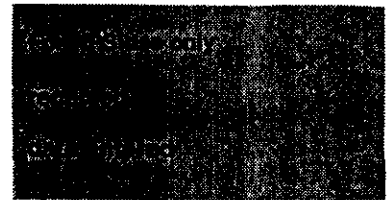
54. Addah Matthews, Early Barry County, Missouri (Barry County Historical Society, 1965), p. 47; Joe C. Schell, Big Sugar Creek Country (Goodman, Mo.: Joe C. Schell, sponsored by McDonald County Historical Society, 1969), p. 53; Goodman, op. cit., p. 2, item 6.

55. 1870 Census, op. cit.; Campbell's Gazetteer of Missouri (St. Louis: R. A. Campbell, 1875), p. 401; Missouri History of McDonald and Newton Counties, op. cit., pp. 178, 179. In the 1870 census records, those families living in or near Jollification were listed under the heading of "Capps Creek Postoffice." Campbell's Gazetteer referred to "Capps Creek (formerly Jollification)." The name "Jollification" in the meanwhile had been applied briefly to a new township on the east central edge of Newton County, one of 19 such political subdivisions created in Newton County in 1873. The following year, however, the county court eliminated eight of the townships, including Jollification.

56. Campbell's Gazetteer, op. cit., p. 464.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form



Continuation sheet JOLLY MILL Item number 8 Page 14

57. The Whiskey ring scandal was revealed in St. Louis during May, 1875. As a result of the conspiracy of revenue officials and major distillers to defraud the Government of internal revenue taxes, the collection of such taxes from all distillers, large and small alike, began to be rigidly enforced. The wooden patches on the planks of all three floors in the Jolly Mill structure today are said to cover the holes through which the distillery pipes once ran a century ago but which were then removed. The end of commercial manufacture of spirits did not completely rid the structure of its jolly nature, however. Valley residents recalled that for years, until World War I, there was a half-barrel of whisky and a dipper at the mill, and a drink of whisky was free to all customers (Goodman, op. cit., p. 2, item 7).

58. Campbell's Atlas of Missouri (St. Louis: R. K. Campbell, 1874), p. 22; Goodman, op. cit., p. 1, item 3. The remnants of the old quarry are visible today. The sandstone blocks with their concrete cap on the south side of the mill dam still stand firm. The financing of this or other improvements may have been a reason why George Isbell finally had to mortgage the mill to his brother-in-law, A.H. Brown, for \$1,978, in 1881 (Newton County Recorder's book 4, p. 32).

59. Missouri History of McDonald and Newton Counties, op. cit., p. 341; Newton County Recorder's book 37, p. 572.

60. According to W. C. Brown, who was a boy during George Isbell Brown's declining years, Dennis Bailey operated the mill during the 1894-95 period (interview, Monett, Mo., Jul. 24, 1980).

61. Newton County Recorder's book 38, p. 593.

62. Newton County Recorder's book 39, p. 283.

63. Brown, op. cit., p. 1.

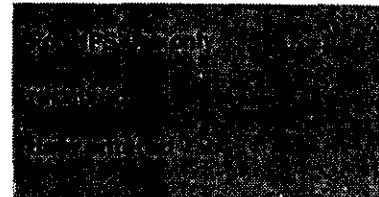
64. Evans, op. cit., p. 323; Willets, Neosho Daily News, Mar. 2, 1953, op. cit.

65. Newton County Recorder's book 48, p. 99; Brown interview, op. cit.

66. Plat Book of Newton County, Missouri (Missouri Publishing Co., 1902), p. 37; ibid, unnumbered page containing Patron's Directory; Samuel B. Cooke, Secretary of State, Official Manual of State of Missouri, 1899-1900, p. 424; Cooke, op. cit., p. 2. The Jolly Postoffice, 1899-1902, was in a corner of the Lucas general store. Mail was taken to Berwick, the nearest rail connection, two times a week. John Slankard's father had the contract for the transfer of the mail which was hauled by pony cart for 50 cents a trip. Slankard recalled that the contract provided virtually the only "hard money" available to the family.

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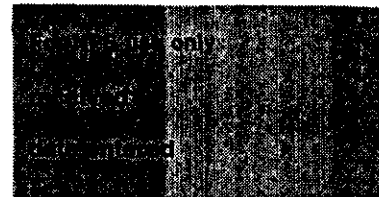


Continuation sheet JOLLY MILL Item number 8 Page 15

67. Newton County Recorder's book 83, p. 489.
68. Slankard, op. cit., p. 2. The general store building was a two-story frame structure. Merchandise was sold on the first floor, fraternal orders used the second floor for meetings, and a wing of rooms for living quarters was attached to the rear of the structure.
69. Newton County Recorder's book 87, p. 277; Goodman, op. cit., p. 3, item 9; Slankard, op. cit., p. 2. The Martins moved into a vacant church/schoolhouse east of the destroyed store building while the mill's sale was being negotiated. W. F. Haskins likewise moved his family into the same make-shift residence until he completed the building of a bungalow on the site of the former store.
70. Ralph Hunsucker signed statement, To Whom It May Concern (Sarcoxie, Mo., July 10, 1980), p. 1.
71. Goodman, op. cit., p. 4, item 10.
72. Newton County Recorder's book 295, p. 566.
73. Mike Penprase, "Jolly Mill Restoration To Bring New Cheer to Town," Springfield (MO) Daily News, Aug. 26, 1982.
74. Mike Penprase, "Renovation of Jolly Mill Pulls Frown from Officers," Springfield (MO) Daily News", Sept. 1, 1982.
75. "Arkansas Man Gets 4-Year Term." Springfield (MO) News-Leader", Feb. 19, 1983.
76. State of Missouri certification No. N28858 for "Jolly Mill Park Foundation," a general not-for-profit corporation, signed by James C. Kirkpatrick, Secretary of State, dated Feb. 7, 1983.
77. Newton County Recorder's book 324, p. 2807.
78. Jolly Mill Park Foundation press release dated March 7, 1983.
79. Proposed master plan for "Jolly Mill Park," a non-profit foundation, dated March 5, 1983.

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National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form



Continuation sheet JOLLY MILL

Item number 9

Page 1

Signed Statements, "To Whom It May Concern"

1. John M. Slankard (great grandson of Frederick Hisaw), Wentworth, Mo., July 3, 1980.
2. L. O. Goodman (the Jolly Mill's nearest neighbor for the past 55 years), Pierce City, Mo., July 8, 1980.
3. Ralph Hunsucker (who lived near the Jolly Mill between 1906 and 1919), Sarcoxie, Mo., July 10, 1980.
4. Douglas Wright (son and grandson of Capps Creek valley slaves), Neosho, Mo., July 17, 1980.
5. W. C. (Clyde) Brown (grand-nephew of Nancy Wormington Isbell), Monett, Mo., July 25, 1980.

Additional Interviews

1. Mrs. Lucille Morris Upton (retired newspaper reporter), Springfield, Mo., July 23, 1980.
2. W. C. (Clyde) Brown, Monett, Mo., July 24, 1980.
3. Virgil Green (who lived near the Jolly Mill between 1890 and 1915), Carthage, Mo., August 11, 1980.

Census Data

1. Census of the United States (Newton County, Mo.) population schedule of 1840, 1850, 1860, 1870, 1880 and 1900 (National Archives microfilm), available in the Town and Country Public Library, Neosho, Mo.
2. Census of the United States (Newton County, Mo.) slave schedule for 1850 and 1860 (National Archives microfilm), available in the Town and Country Public Library, Neosho, Mo.

Real Estate Records

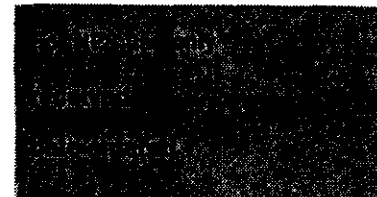
1. The following records pertaining to the Jolly Mill site and adjacent lands can be found in the Newton County Recorder's Office, Neosho, Mo.:

Book A, page 367 Crackel to Bledsoe, 1845

Book A, page 372 Bledsoe to Hisaw, 1845

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet	JOLLY MILL	Item number	9	Page	2
	Book B, page 166	Hisaw to Thomas D. and John Isbell,	1848		
	Book C, page 78	Thomas D. Isbell to John Isbell,	1852		
	Book C, page 340	reference to Wright general store at Jollification,	1853		
	Book E, page 131	reference to Hambleton general store at Jollification,	1858		
	Book E, page 759	John Isbell mortgages Isbell's Mill,	1860		
	Book F, page 174	John Isbell borrows from James Wilson,	1860		
	Book F, page 538	Isbell's Mill leased to John Kellogg,	1865		
	Book G, page 74	Sheriff's deed to George Isbell,	1866		
	Book P, page 79	John Isbell's quit-claim deed to George Isbell,	1872		
	Book 4, page 32	George Isbell borrows from A. H. Brown,	1818		
	Book 37, page 572	George Isbell to George Isbell Brown,	1894		
	Book 38, page 593	George Isbell Brown petition for dam improvement,	1895		
	Book 39, page 283	George Isbell Brown to Firman Lucas and Fred Chandler,	1895		
	Book 48, page 99	Fred Chandler to A. C. Lucas,	1899		
	Book 83, page 489	Firman Lucas etal to Charles Martin,	1911		
	Book 87, page 277	Charles Martin to W. F. Haskins,	1912		
	Book 295, page 566	Haskins family to Ben Taylor,	1973		

2. The plat book of entries certified by the Register and Receiver of the U.S. Land Office at Springfield, Mo., were originally filed in the Newton County Clerk's Office, Neosho, Mo. Extracts of the plat book pertaining to Frederick Crackel's and Davis Ferguson's original titles to the Jolly Mill site and adjacent lands are filed in the Newton County Recorder's Office, Neosho, Mo.

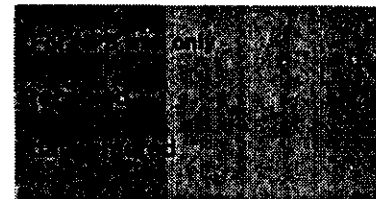
Government Publications

1. Missouri Mills and Covered Bridges, Jefferson City, Mo.: Missouri Tourism Commission, undate.



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form



Continuation sheet JOLLY MILL Item number 9 Page 3

2. Missouri 1821-1971, sesquicentennial edition of vacation and travel guide, Jefferson City, Mo.: Missouri Tourism Commission, undated.

3. Jerry D. Vineyard and Gerald L. Feder, Springs of Missouri, Missouri Geological Survey and Water Resources, 1974.

4. War of the Rebellion - Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies, Series I, Volume XIII, Washington: Government Printing Office, 1885 (available in Town and Country Public Library, Neosho, Mo).

5. Samuel B. Cooke, Secretary of State, Official Manual of State of Missouri, 1899-1900.

6. Samuel B. Cooke, Secretary of State, Official Manual of State of Missouri, 1901-1902.

7. Microfilm catalog, Federal Population Censuses, 1790-1890, Washington: National Archives Trust Fund Board, 1979.

Books

1. Joe C. Schell, Big Sugar Creek Country, Goodman, Mo.: Joe C. Schell, sponsored by McDonald County Historical Society, 1969 (available in Town and Country Public Library, Neosho, Mo.).

2. Campbell's Atlas of Missouri, St. Louis: R. A. Campbell, 1874 (available in Springfield, Public Library, Springfield, Mo.).

3. Campbell's Gazetteer of Missouri, St. Louis: R. A. Campbell, 1875 (available in Town and Country Public Library, Neosho, Mo.).

4. Colton's New Sectional Map of State of Missouri, New York: Colton and Company, 1869 (available in Barry County Public Library, Cassville, Mo.).

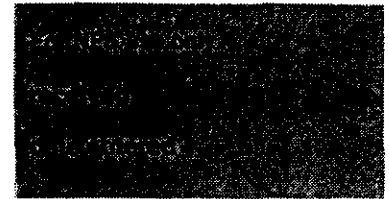
5. Addah Matthews, Early Barry County, Missouri, Barry County Historical Society, 1965 (available in Barry-Lawrence Regional Library, Monett, Mo.).

6. Edwards Historical Atlas of Newton County, Missouri, Philadelphia: John P. Edwards, 1882 (available in Town and Country Public Library, Neosho, Mo.).

7. Harper's Pictorial History of the Great Rebellion, Chicago: Star Publication Company, 1866 (available in Barry County Public Library, Cassville, Mo.).

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form



Continuation sheet JOLLY MILL Item number 9 Page 4

8. Nellie Alice Mills, Historic Spots in Old Barry County, Monett, Mo., The Free Will Baptist Gem, 1952 (available in Barry-Lawrence Regional Library, Monett, Mo.).

9. Missouri History of Barry County, Chicago: Goodspeed Publishing Company, 1888 - reprint edition by Litho Printers of Cassville, Mo., 1971.

10. Missouri History of McDonald and Newton Counties, Chicago: Goodspeed Publishing Company, 1888 - reprint edition by McDonald County Historical Society, 1972.

11. M. E. Oliver, Old Mills of the Ozarks, Point Lookout, Mo.: The School of the Ozarks, 1972.

12. Plat Book of Newton County, Missouri, Missouri Publishing Company, 1902 (available in Town and Country Public Library, Neosho, Mo.).

Magazine Articles

1. Dave Brown, "Collecting Missouri Mills," Missouri Farmer, May, 1964.

2. Patricia Ann Evans, "Merchant Gristmills and Communities, 1820 - 1880," Missouri Historical Review, Vol. 68, No. 3 (April, 1964).

3. Phyllis Harrell Gripka, "A Man and a Mill," Ozark Mountaineer, March-April, 1980.

Newspaper Articles

1. Dallie Miessner, "Missouri Mills: Souvenirs of a Gentler Era," Carthage (MO) Press, September 2, 1975.

2. Mike Surbrugg, "Jolly Mill Full of Fond Memories," Joplin (MO) Globe, November 15, 1974.

3. "Preservation of Historic Jolly Mill Now Underway," Monett (MO) Times, October 24, 1974.

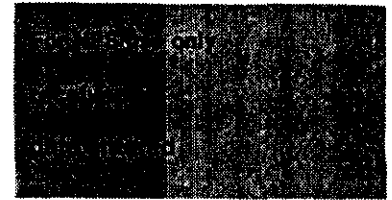
4. Photograph, painting of Jolly Mill by W. H. "Chic" Howerton, Monett (MO) Times, March 18, 1977.

5. Mary Willets, "Old Jolly Mill near Eastern County Line Still Grinds Meal, Stirs Memories of Past," Neosho (MO) Sunday News, March 1, 1953.

6. Mary Willets, "Uncle Ike Wright Stirs Memories Among Oldtimers at Jolly Mill," Neosho (MO) Daily News, March 2, 1953.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form



Continuation sheet JOLLY MILL Item number 9 Page 5

7. "Opening of Trout Season Sees Revival of Activity at Jolly Mill," Neosho (MO) Daily News, March 2, 1954.

8. "Newton County Landmarks" depicting the Jolly Mill, Neosho (MO) Miner and Mechanic, November 10, 1961.

9. "Old Water Power Mill Still in Operation," Pierce City (MO) Leader Journal, August 22, 1968.

10. Mary Willets, "More-Than-Century-Old Ozarks Mill Still Grinding Out Grain," Springfield (MO) News & Leader, March 22, 1953.

11. "Old Mill Defies Time and a River," Springfield (MO) News & Leader ., November 28, 1976.

12. "Ozark Mill on the Job 125 Years," St. Louis (MO) Post Dispatch, May 10, 1953.

13. Harold O. Taylor, "The Mill on Capps Creek," Tulsa (OKLA) Sunday World, May 15, 1966.

14. Mike Penprase, "Jolly Mill Restoration to Bring New Cheer to Town," Springfield (MO) Daily News, August 26, 1982.

15. Mike Penprase, "Renovation of Jolly Mill Pulls from Officers," Springfield (MO) Daily News, September 1, 1982.

16. "Arkansas Man Gets 4-Year Term," Springfield (MO) News-Leader, February 19, 1983.

Miscellaneous

1. Charcoal art work, "Jolly Mill," by James Burkhart, commissioned by the First National Bank, Monett, Mo., 1973.

2. Letter, Missouri Department of Conservation, Jefferson City, Mo., March 15, 1966, pertaining to periodic restocking of trout in Capps Creek at Jolly Mill.

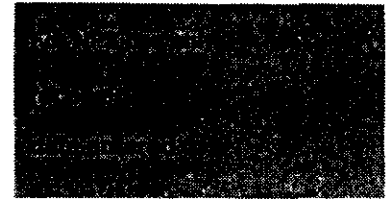
3. Poem, "The Jolly Mill," by Virgil Green, age 90, Carthage, Mo., 1980.

4. "Jolly Mill" feature, Telephone Talk, Southwestern Bell Telephone Company, August, 1966.

5. State of Missouri (Secretary of State) Not-for-Profit Corporation certificate No. N28858 for "Jolly Mill Park Foundation," issued February 7, 1983.

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National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form



Continuation sheet JOLLY MILL Item number 9 Page 6

6. Proposed master plan for "Jolly Mill Park," a non-profit foundation, dated March 5, 1983.

7. Jolly Mill Park Foundation press release dated March 7, 1983.

Real Estate Records

Book 324, p. 2807, Ben Taylor to Jolly Mill Park Foundation, 1983

Item number 11

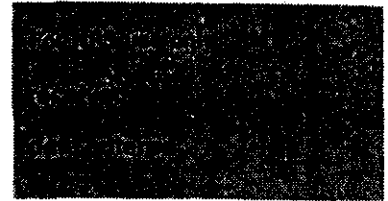
Page 1

2. James M. Denny, Chief, Survey-Nominations  
and State Contact Person  
Department of Natural Resources  
Historic Preservation Program  
P.O. Box 176  
Jefferson City,

July, 1983  
314/751-4096  
Missouri 65102

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Inventory—Nomination Form**



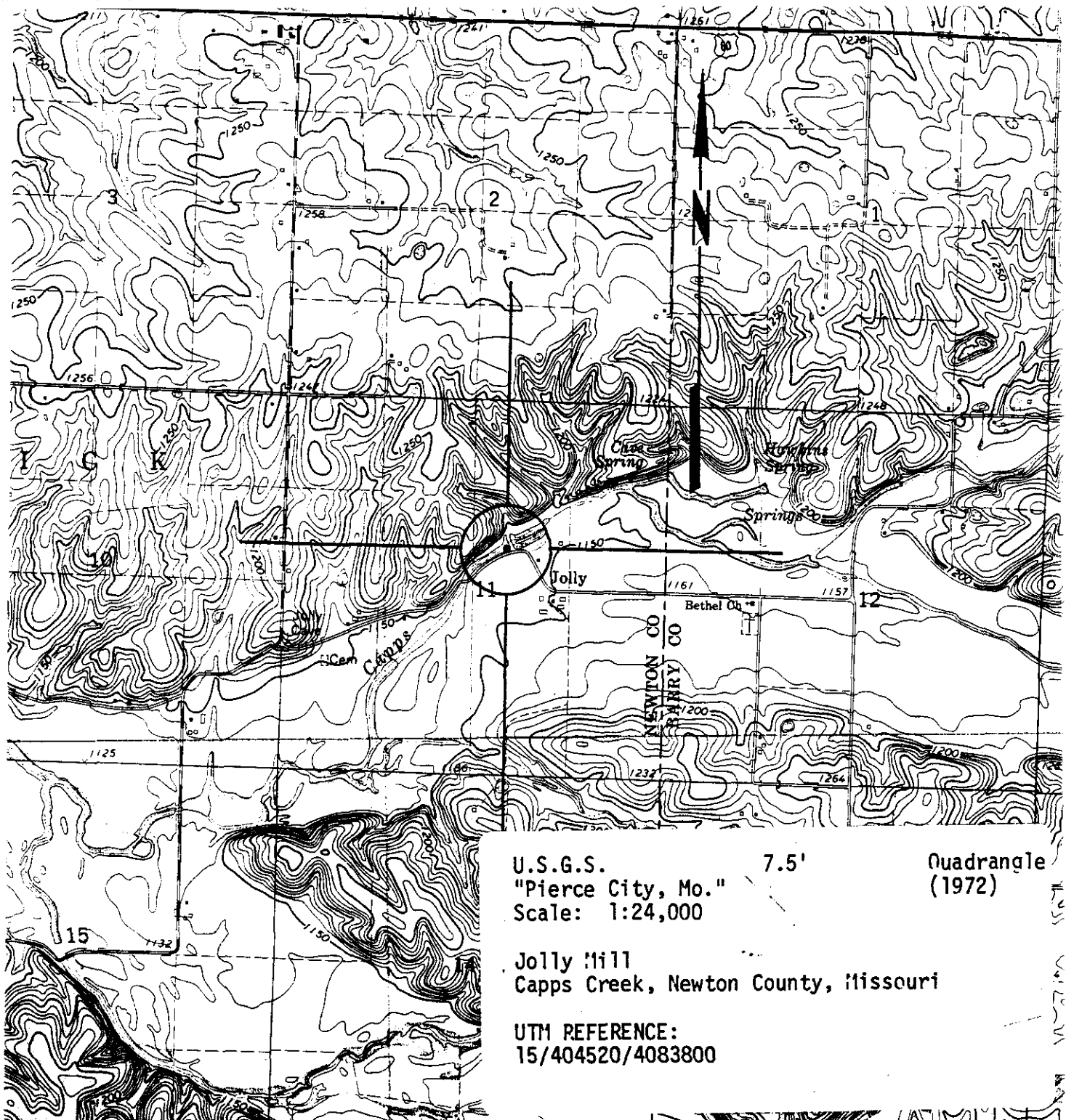
Continuation sheet

JOLLY MILL

Item number 10

Page 1

referenced UTM coordinate, whose sides are paralleled to those of the Mill contains the historical features being proposed for nomination.



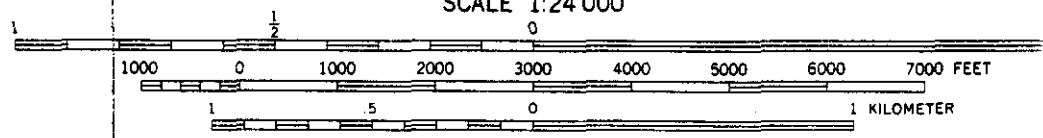
U.S.G.S. 7.5' Quadrangle  
 "Pierce City, Mo." (1972)  
 Scale: 1:24,000

Jolly Hill  
 Capps Creek, Newton County, Missouri

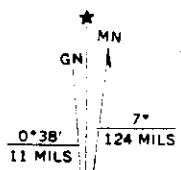
UTM REFERENCE:  
 15/404520/4083800

620 000 FEET | 403 | 5' | 404 | 405 (WHEATON) | 406 | R. 29 W. R. 2

7157 1 SE  
 SCALE 1:24 000



CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET  
 DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL



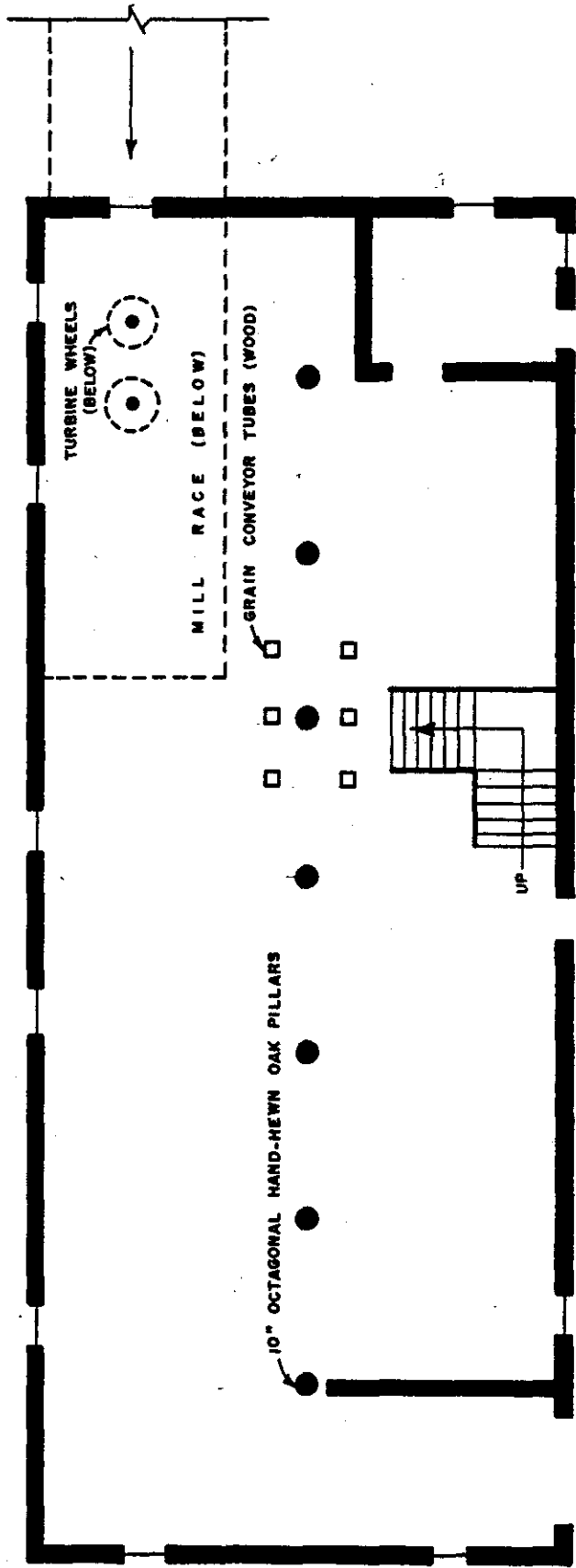
4 GRID AND 1972 MAGNETIC NORTH  
 ECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
 FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR WASHINGTON, D. C.  
 AND BY THE MISSOURI GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, ROLLA, MISSOURI 65401  
 A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST.

FIRST FLOOR PLAN  
JOLLY MILL  
CAPPS CREEK  
NEWTON COUNTY, MISSOURI



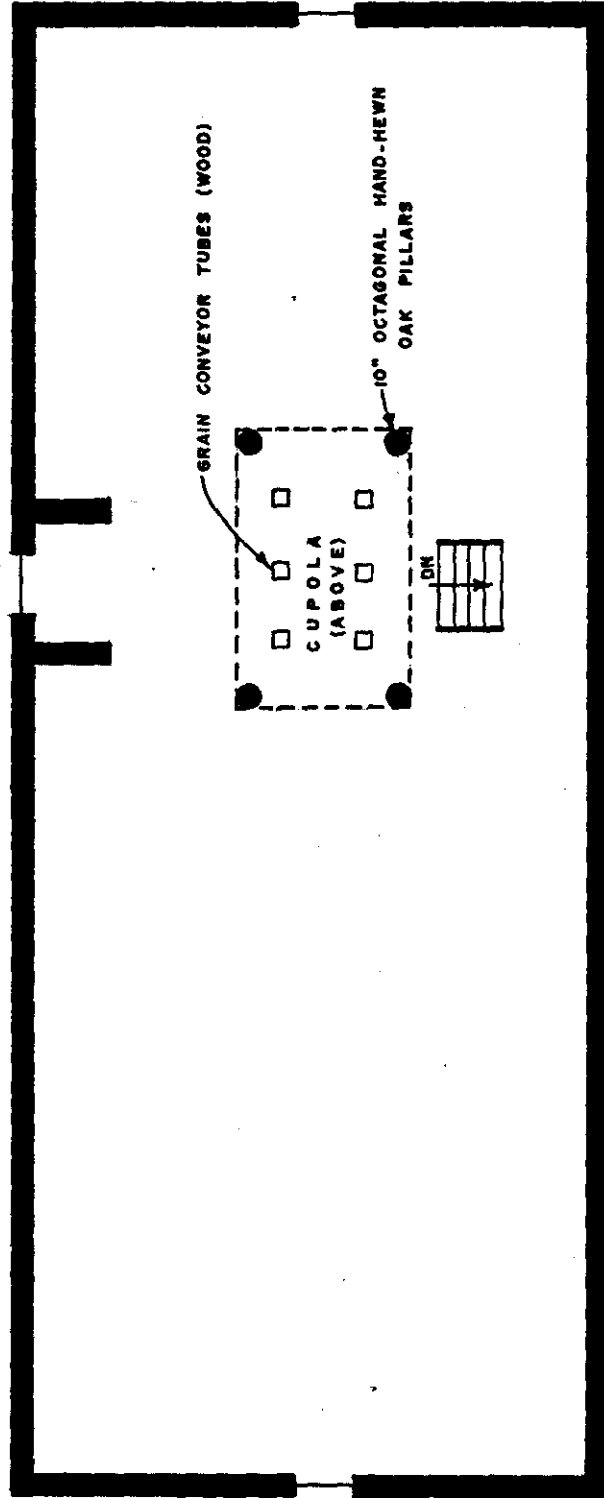
NOT TO SCALE



THIRD FLOOR PLAN  
JOLLY MILL  
CAPPS CREEK  
NEWTON COUNTY, MISSOURI



NOT TO SCALE





JOLLY MILL 1 of 8  
Pierce vicinity, Newton County, Missouri

Photographer: James M. Denny  
Date: March, 1982  
Meg. Loc: Department of Natural Resources  
Historic Preservation Program  
P.O. Box 176  
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102

View looking east toward Mill and Dam.



JOLLY MILL  
Pierce vicinity, Newton County, Missouri

2 of 8

Photographer: James M. Denny  
Date: March, 1982  
Neg. Loc: Department of Natural Resources  
Historic Preservation Program  
P.O. Box 176  
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102

View looking northeast towards Mill.



JOLLY MILL 3 of 8  
Pierce vicinity, Newton County, Missouri

Photographer: James M. Denny  
Date: March, 1982  
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Historic Preservation Program  
P.O. Box 176  
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102

View looking north at primary facade of Mill.



JOLLY MILL  
Pierce vicinity, Newton County, Missouri

4 of 8

Photographer: James M. Denny  
Date: March, 1982  
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Historic Preservation Program  
P.O. Box 176  
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102

Interior view, first floor of Mill, looking  
southeast.





JOLLY MILL 5 of 8  
Pierce vicinity, Newton County, Missouri

Photographer: James M. Denny  
Date: March, 1982  
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Historic Preservation Program  
P.O. Box 176  
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102

Interior view of timber work on first floor,  
looking northwest.



JOLLY MILL  
Pierce vicinity, Newton County, Missouri

6 of 8

Photographer: James M. Denny  
Date: March, 1982  
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Historic Preservation Program  
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Interior view of Barn stones on first floor  
of Mill, looking south.



JOLLY MILL  
Pierce vicinity, Newton County, Missouri

7 of 8

Photographer: James M. Denny  
Date: March, 1982  
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Interior view of hand-made wooden augers on  
top floor of Mill, looking south.



JOLLY MILL  
Pierce vicinity, Newton County, Missouri

8 of 8

Photographer: James M. Denny  
Date: March, 1982  
Neg. Loc: Department of Natural Resources  
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P.O. Box 176  
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102

Interior view of top floor showing turn-of-  
the-century Milling machinery, looking  
northwest.





EXTRA  
PHOTOS









