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

1. Name

historic Shuping's Mill Complex

and/or common

2. Location

Southwest corner of the junction of N. C. 152 with SR 2563

street & number

city, town Faith __ vicinity of congressional district

state North Carolina code 037 county Rowan code 159

3. Classification

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4. Owner of Property

name Mr. Orlin P. Shuping

street & number Route Three, Box 763

city, town Salisbury __ vicinity of state N. C. 28144

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Register of Deeds, Rowan County Office Building

street & number 402 North Main Street

city, town Salisbury state N. C. 28144

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

North Carolina: An Inventory of Historic Engineering and Industrial Sites (1975) and An Inventory of Architectural and Historical Resources in Rowan County date 1975, 1977

Historic American Engineering Record, Washington, D. C. depository for survey records Survey and Planning Branch, Division of Archives and History

city, town 109 East Jones Street, Raleigh state N. C. 27611
7. Description

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Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Shuping's Mill Complex consists of a two-story frame house, a two-and-a-half story frame flour and corn mill with an attached saw mill, and four other frame structures--three built in the first three decades of this century. It is located on the south side of N. C. 152 on Dutch Second Creek. This rural industrial complex provided the public, for differing periods of time, a saw mill, a flour mill, a corn mill, and a cotton gin.

Milling operations at this site were begun in the 1890s by John Frick who in 1898 sold to W. A. Shuping a tract of some four acres on which were located "one engine and boiler, one saw mill and carriage, one cotton gin press and scales, (and) one planing machine with all attachments and fixtures...."

The oldest building in the complex and the only one dating from the Frick operations is the now completely deteriorated rectangular gabled roof gin house. It was constructed in 1895. Additions were made by the Shupings in the 1920s. In 1927 a lumber shed was added to the south gable end of the building and two years later, 1929-1930, a two-level workshop was added to the north gable end. A shed was also built along the west elevation of the gin house. Shuping ceased operating the cotton gin in 1932 and since that time the building has deteriorated, especially within the last ten years. The ginning equipment remains under the collapsed timbers of the gin house.

The centerpiece of the milling complex is the large rectangular building which housed the flour and corn mill--both originally operated by steam engines. Built in 1900 the mill rests on a laid stone basement foundation and is covered with weatherboards and a gabled roof. The east gable front of the mill has a two bay arrangement on the first and second stories with a pair of rectangular openings near the peak of the gable for ventilation. The entrance into the mill is set in the south first-story bay. A simply bracketed pent shed and a low loading platform project in front of this bay and continues along the east end of the mill's two-story shed added ca. 1906-1908. The entrance into the mill and the shed feature double doors with fixed glazing in the upper half. The doors on the shed are diagonally sheathed. The openings are surmounted by a transom.

A window opening is set in the northern bay of the first-story elevation while a pair of windows are symmetrically positioned on the second story. The east second-story elevation of the shed also contains a window opening. All contain two-over-two sash windows. The north (side) elevation of the mill has a symmetrically disposed three bay arrangement on both stories with window openings also punctuating the stone basement. On the south elevation the two story shed is flush with the mill's east elevation but ends several feet short of its southwest corner. On the shed's south elevation a half-story height shed addition projects in front of the central first-story bay which appears to have once been an entrance. Window openings flank this element on the first story while a trio of openings are symmetrically positioned on the second story. The west (rear) end of the shed has a single opening on each story. All contain two-over-two sash.

Carrying along the west gable end of the mill is a substantial one-and-a-half story shed covered with a standing seam metal roof. It is the engine room. Its south elevation features window openings above each other in the bay closest to the mill building while a large entrance with a pair of board and batten doors surmounted by a six-pane transom is set in the western bay. Above the roof of this shed are a pair of symmetrically spaced window openings at the second story level.
The engine room presently contains a 50 horsepower Gambel tubular boiler (ca. 1930), however, the 35 horsepower Tolbert (Richmond, Va.) steam engine (1895) and the two Frick (Waynesboro, Pa.) steam engines of 30 and 35 horsepower were removed in 1975 to the Reed Gold Mine State Historic Site in nearby Cabarrus County and installed there. The flywheels running off the steam engines lead to a series of shafts which powered a variety of processing machinery. On the first floor of the mill is a corn mill, a wooden derrick with a hand carved screw, a resaw, a planer, and a corn sheller. On the second floor there is a dust collector and a gyrator (Robinson's Automatic). The corn sheller was manufactured by the Sprautwalder Company of Muncie, Pa. The resaw was made by Witherby, Rugg, and Richardson of Worcester, Mass. The interior of the mill is finished in the simplest possible manner without any architectural detail.

The saw mill which had existed on this site since 1895 was replaced and relocated north of its original location in 1910-1911 in a shed addition constructed from the northwest corner of the mill and to the north of its rear shed. It has two levels of randomly spaced openings on the weatherboarded east face with the largest and principal opening being the cut-away section of its north end. This north end and the west (rear) elevation are open to the elements.

Standing near the southwest corner of the main mill building is a small rectangular weatherboarded shed with openings on its east elevation. It was and is used for a variety of storage purposes. Southwest of it and in the southwest corner of the nominated property stands the frame springhouse. It is covered with flush vertical sheathing. A board and batten door is centered in its south (front) elevation. Excepting the Shuping residence the last of the buildings at the site is a large frame barn. The barn consists of two main blocks: a squarish block covered with vertical siding on its north side and east gable end with a weatherboarded west gable end to which is attached a long gabled roof weatherboarded addition. Its principal and randomly spaced openings are covered with pent sheds on its south elevation.

Construction on the Shuping family residence began in 1924 and was completed by March 1925 when the family moved in. It rests on low brick piers. The weatherboarded two-story frame house is essentially square in plan and is covered with a hipped roof with exposed rafter ends. The roof is pierced by a pair of symmetrically placed chimneys. A one-story hipped roof porch carries across the three-bay north (front) elevation, wraps the house's northeast corner, continues along its east (side) elevation, wraps the house's southeast corner and continues to join the one-story kitchen ell. The ell projects from the westernmost bay on the rear elevation. The porch roof is supported by simple posts, square in plan, and tapering from bottom to top. The main entrance is set in the center bay of the first-story elevation. The bays to either side and the three second-story bays contain two-over-two sash windows. This arrangement is continued around the house on the two bay side elevations except that the southernmost bay on the west elevation has paired windows on both stories. A single window occurs in the center of the west elevation of the ell, another in the center of its south gable end with a third and small window in the pantry. Entrance into the kitchen is through the screened portion of the porch at the back of the house.
The interior of the house is built on a center hall, double-pile plan and is simply finished with tongue and groove ceiling and plain simple door and window surrounds.
8. Significance

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The Shuping's Mill Complex survives today as the twentieth century expansion of a saw mill and cotton gin begun at this site on Dutch Second Creek in 1895 by John Frick. While the complex possesses National Register significance in its own right it is perhaps more important as a reminder and an expression of the many rural industrial complexes that played such a pivotal role in the history of Rowan County. Of the many similar rural complexes once operating in the county—a significant number of them were located on Dutch Second Creek—and excepting Kerr Mill (NR), Shuping's Mill is today the only member of the group that has not been dismantled and/or become an archaeological site. Thus it remains as a powerful and poignant expression of a significant period in the agricultural, social, and economic history of the county. While the buildings appear, and are, deteriorated—mostly in need of minor repairs and paint—only the 1895 cotton gin is lost to any effort to restore the complex. The complex that exists today was constructed and operated by members of the Shuping family including the brothers James Monroe and William Augustus Shuping and the latter's son, Orlin Perry Shuping. They are the third and fourth generations of the Shuping family who have operating milling concerns on the waters of Dutch Second Creek but the first at this site. This long involvement in the milling history of Rowan County is a proud surviving exception within its traditional agricultural economy.

Criteria Assessment:

A. The Shuping's Mill Complex is associated with the patterns of the agricultural economy in Rowan County and North Carolina and as a rural industrial complex serving the members of that society was pivotal in its existence and growth.

B. Bearing the name of the Shuping family, the complex is associated directly with the lives of three millers in the family, James Monroe Shuping (___-1905), his brother William Augustus Shuping (___-1935), and William Augustus's son, Orlin Perry Shuping (1903- ) who operated at this site. It is indirectly associated with the lives of the brothers's father, Michael Shuping, and grandfather Moses Shuping who also had milling operations on Dutch Second Creek.

C. Devoid of any architectural style or pretensions, the buildings making up the Shuping's Mill Complex are straightforward vernacular structures embodying and reflecting the simplicity and utilitarianism of the processes they housed.
The Shuping Mill, an early twentieth century expansion of an 1895 complex, stands as a mute reminder of a tradition rooted deep in the heritage of Rowan County. The earliest settlers built gristmills as adjuncts to a dominant agricultural economy. As the county's population grew and technology advanced, the manufacturing sector began to carve niches in the economic base. On the eve of the Civil War, there were twenty-one flour and gristmills operating with an investment of $35,000. Several of these operations were located on Dutch Second Creek, among which was the mill of Moses A. Shuping who began a tradition that passed through four generations of the family. The site of his mill is uncertain but the mill run by his son, Michael, was directly involved with the establishment of the present Shuping Mill.

Michael Shuping, a Civil War veteran, married Mary Ann Overcash, daughter of Henry Overcash who had run a gristmill on Dutch Second Creek for about a decade before the war. Overcash had to close his mill during the conflict because of financial reverses. After the war, his son-in-law bought the property and reopened the gristmill. Michael Shuping was, according to his grandson, "... a pretty good carpenter and miller but ... a sorry farmer. He didn't like farming much." Michael Shuping died in 1895 and the milling tradition passed to his two sons, James Monroe Shuping and William Augustus Shuping. In the process of carrying on the family business, they established the present Shuping Mill.

Upon the death of his father, Jim Shuping assumed management of the family mill. Meanwhile, John W. Frick had established a sawmill and cotton gin about a half mile up Dutch Second Creek. On August 27, 1898, William A. Shuping, who was then working with State Normal School in Bloomsbury, Pennsylvania, bought the Frick complex; two years later the brothers decided to combine the two milling facilities. Some of the machinery from the old mill was moved upstream to the newer site where Jim and William Shuping (who had returned to Rowan County) expanded the operation by adding a steam powered flour mill in 1900.

Not long after investing in the expansion of their mill, the Shuping brothers realized that it was badly located for a commercial enterprise. The railroad in Salisbury was six miles away, and volume business in 1900 depended heavily upon rail traffic. People who had to travel six miles to get to the mill preferred to go directly to Salisbury where other forms of business could be taken care of on the same trip. The Shupings had to depend on the neighbors in the community for their business: "The living was not good. You didn't make money, you just lived." Jim Shuping died of typhoid fever in 1905 and William Shuping took over the management of the mill complex.

William A. Shuping made additions to the flour mill in 1908 and 1910, and between the latter year and 1911 the sawmill was rebuilt. In 1925 he completed the construction of a large two-story frame house about a hundred yards east of the mill. William Shuping moved his wife Lillie, who suffered from severe asthma, and their only child, Orlin Perry Shuping (born 1903) into their new home in March. The younger Shuping grew up in the milling business and from early in life was destined to carry on the family tradition. He helped his father build the lumber house and workshop in the late 1920s. But the modern technology with its mass production combined with the economic distress of the depression to force the gradual demise of the family owned rural complex. Business,
such as it was in the early 1930s, shifted to centralized areas where cotton, wheat, corn, and other commodities could be processed in great bulk and shipped out easily and somewhat economically. The heyday of the rural mills had passed.

William Shuping closed down his cotton gin in 1932; ten years later his son Orlin had to shut down the flour mill as a commercial venture even though corn was still ground during the next decade for friends and neighbors. Orlin Perry Shuping had assumed ownership and operation of the business after his father's death in 1935. The sawmill was the last survivor of the mill complex but it has been some years now since Orlin Perry Shuping turned raw logs into finished planks.

Shuping's Mill was once a hub of activity in the Dutch Second Creek community. Often a scene of picnics and social gatherings, the mill also housed a small post office and a hand cranked telephone, the only one for miles around. The mill also enjoyed the distinction of having a phone booth, perhaps the first in the county. The booth was installed not for privacy but to enable the user to hear amidst the noise of machinery in operation.

O. P. Shuping, who has lived fifty-seven of his seventy-nine years in the house built by his father, still owns the mill. They grew up together and neither is now in good health. Over the years since the machinery went silent Shuping has tried valiantly to keep his heritage in repair, but the extent necessary and the costs are mounting too fast. He loves the old mill and wishes that it could be preserved, but as one reporter noted, "... a hammer and saw just don't swing as easily as they used to in O. P. Shuping's hand."
FOOTNOTES

1 James S. Brawley, Rowan County: A Brief History (Raleigh: Division of Archives and History, 1974), 90, hereinafter cited as Brawley, Rowan County.

2 Orlin P. Shuping, great grandson of Moses Shuping and present owner of Shuping's Mill. Interviewed by Davyd Foard Hood, Survey Specialist, November 25, 1979, hereinafter cited as Shuping interview.


4 Demarest, "Shuping's Mill"; and Shuping interview.

5 Demarest, "Shuping's Mill."

6 Frick bought four unimproved acres in 1894. The mill was built shortly afterwards. See Rowan County Deed Books, Office of the Register of Deeds, Rowan County Courthouse, Salisbury, Deed Book 78, p. 266; and Deed Book 83, p. 218. See also Shuping interview and J. A. C. Dunn, "Aging, Ailing Owner Struggles to Keep Tottering Mill Alive," Winston-Salem Journal, April 17, 1977, hereinafter cited as Dunn, "Owner Struggles."

7 Shuping interview; and Demarest, "Shuping's Mill."

8 Dunn, "Owner Struggles"; and Demarest, "Shuping's Mill." For importance of railroad to Rowan County and for its duration as a vital economic factor, see Brawley, Rowan County, 85, 129.

9 Shuping interview; and Dunn, "Owner Struggles."

10 Shuping interview.

11 Demarest, "Shuping's Mill."


13 Dunn, "Owner Struggles."
9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 4.5 acres
Quadrangle name Rockwell, N.C.
Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

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Verbal boundary description and justification
The buildings and property being nominated is Parcel 34, Rowan County Tax Map 426, Litaker Township. Original located in the Tax Supervisor's Office, Rowan County Office Building, 402 North Main Street, Salisbury, N. C. 28144

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

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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Architectural description, statement of significance, and criteria assessment by Davyd Foard Hood; Historical Research by Jerry L. Cross
organization Division of Archives and History
date July 8, 1982
street & number 109 East Jones Street
city or town Raleigh, N. C.
state 27611

date

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state X 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

date August 12, 1982

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


Rowan County Records
- Deeds
- Estates Papers
- Wills


SHUPING'S MILL

KEY TO BUILDINGS

1. Home
2. Flour Mill
3. Saw Mill
4. Gun House/Workshop
5. Shed
6. Barn
7. Steull House
Shuping's Mill Complex
Rockwell, N.C. Quadrangle
Zone 17    Scale 1:24 000

17 546820/3934080