FORM No. 10-300 (Rev. 10-74)

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

NAME
HISTORIC
Morgan's Mill
AND/OR COMMON

LOCATION
STREET & NUMBER
Southside of SR 1331, 0.2 miles west of junction with US 64.

CITY, TOWN
Brevard
STATE
North Carolina

CLASSIFICATION
CATEGORY
DISTRICT

BUILDING(S)

STRUCTURE

SITE

OBJECT

OWNERSHIP
PUBLIC

PRIVATE

BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

STATUS

OCCUPIED

UNOCCUPIED

WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

YES: RESTRICTED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

NO

PRESENT USE

AGRICULTURE

MUSEUM

COMMERCIAL

PARK

EDUCATIONAL

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGIOUS

GOVERNMENT

SCIENTIFIC

INDUSTRIAL

TRANSPORTATION

OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY
NAME
Mr. Ray Nicholson
STREET & NUMBER
Route 2, Box 497
CITY, TOWN
Brevard
STATE
North Carolina

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Transylvania County Courthouse
STREET & NUMBER
CITY, TOWN
Brevard
STATE
North Carolina

REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS
TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL
STATE
COUNTY
LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS
CITY, TOWN
STATE
Morgan's Mill is a water-powered grist mill that has been in almost continuous operation since the mid-19th century. The mill complex, located on Morgan Mill Creek six miles west of Brevard in central Transylvania County, consists of the mill proper (with its 30' diameter iron, overshot water wheel, and 1' diameter iron-pipe flume), and four twentieth century shed outbuildings. It is a custom mill of the type once commonly found throughout the rural Appalachians in the nineteenth century. The mill building itself is formed of three distinct units: the original mid-nineteenth century heavy frame portion, a late nineteenth century balloon frame addition, and the final mid-twentieth century shed/porch section.

The original 20' square building is of heavy frame construction with all sills, posts, girts, plates, joists, and studs being mortised, tenoned, and pegged. It is covered with non-feathered weatherboarding and rests on a stone pier foundation. The framing timbers on the northwest (wheel) side of the building are exceedingly heavy; the sill and corner posts are 11" x 14". Refinements such as glass windows and interior sheathing are not present. There were two doors, one on the southeast wall, the other upstairs on the southwest wall, near the west corner. This second floor door—the four-foot wide opening has since been weatherboarded over—originally had a ramp leading from it to the old road bed which ran along the steep hillside adjacent to the southwest wall. There is evidence that there was at least one window immediately above the mill entrance door on the southeast wall.

Except for the flooring and some joists, the interior of the original mill building appears to be the same today as when built. The first floor is on three levels. On the highest level, or "stone floor," are the original two sets of French burr (or buhr) stones and their cases. Also on this floor are the stone crane, screw jack, and stone tongs used to lift and invert the runner stone when dressing of the stone becomes necessary. An automatic corn sheller, probably early 20th century, is the only remaining piece of milling equipment on the stone floor.

The main level, two feet below the stone floor, is called the meal floor. Here, meal ground above falls into the meal bin from whence it is scooped into sacks. Next to the meal bin are the scales (spring type) which, in turn, stand next to the steep stairs which lead to the upper floor.

The lowest level, one foot below the meal floor, contains the flour bolter. The bolter currently in place—though no longer used—is a 19th century type, and judging from the homemade hardware, it is probably original.

Although the original mill had a wooden water wheel and flume, in about 1915 they were replaced with a 30' diameter iron wheel and an unusual, goose-necked, iron-pipe flume. The power transferral system, a complex one of iron gears (some with wooden teeth), pulleys, and belts used to drive the assorted machinery, is nineteenth century and may be original with this mill.

Along the northeast wall of the original building is an open shed which shelters the shaft, pulleys, and belts which drive the corn sheller, bolter, and hammer mill. The belts pass into the building through holes cut through the weatherboarding.
In the late nineteenth century a balloon frame addition was built onto the southeast end of the original building. In this addition are the hammer mill and grain storage bin (which was upstairs in the original building). The remainder of this section is used for storage. The floor is level with the main floor level of the original. At the same time this addition was built, several new floor joists, ceiling joists, flooring, and roof were added to the original portion. Current flooring is 1" x 6" tongue-and-groove pine. Rafters in the older section are four inch diameter poles; in the newer portion, they are undressed 2" x 4" pine. The entire roof is tin. Most of the original studs in the southeast wall were removed, leaving no partition between the old and new sections. The entrance door, on the southeast wall of the new section, is a "dutch" door, a type traditionally used in eighteenth and nineteenth century mills. In fact, this door is probably the original one, reframed in the newer addition. The attic floor of both the newer and older sections is used exclusively for storage.

About 1950, a shed roof and a narrow porch were extended from the southeast end of the mill. In 1958, the southwest end of this shed was enclosed to make a small room for the miller. A brick stove flue was built and small wood stove and chairs added. This room is covered with board and batten siding.

Three of the four outbuildings are used for general storage. The one nearest the mill, which has a gable roof, is covered with the old shakes (called "boards" locally) which formerly covered the mill building before it was reroofed with tin. The other two storage buildings have shed roofs of tin. The fourth building is a "WPA toilet."4

FOOTNOTES

1 The U. S. Bureau of Census is the 19th century classified grist mill as either "custom" (meal and flour locally used) or "manufacture" (meal and flour exported from local area). There were no manufacture mills in Transylvania County in 1870. See: U. S. Bureau of the Census, A Compendium of the North Carolina Census (June 1, 1870) (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1972), p. 835.

2 See attached floor plan.


**Periódos de Significância**

| Período          | Arqueologia Prehistórica | Arqueologia Histórica | Arquitectura | Agricultura | Agricultura Histórica | Agricultura | Agricultura | Agricultura | Agricultura | Agricultura | Agricultura | Agricultura | Agricultura | Agricultura | Agricultura | Agricultura | Agricultura | Agricultura | Agricultura | Agricultura | Agricultura | Agricultura | Agricultura | Agricultura | Agricultura | Agricultura | Agricultura | Agricultura | Agricultura | Agricultura | Agricultura | Agricultura | Agricultura | Agricultura | Agricultura | Agricultura | Agricultura | Agricultura | Agricultura |
|------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|--------------|-------------|----------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| 1400-1499        | X                        | X                     | X            | X           | X                    | X           | X           | X           | X           | X           | X           | X           | X           | X           | X           | X           | X           | X           | X           | X           | X           | X           | X           | X           | X           | X           | X           | X           | X           | X           | X           | X           | X           | X           |
| 1500-1599        | X                        | X                     | X            | X           | X                    | X           | X           | X           | X           | X           | X           | X           | X           | X           | X           | X           | X           | X           | X           | X           | X           | X           | X           | X           | X           | X           | X           | X           | X           | X           | X           | X           | X           | X           |
| 1600-1699        | X                        | X                     | X            | X           | X                    | X           | X           | X           | X           | X           | X           | X           | X           | X           | X           | X           | X           | X           | X           | X           | X           | X           | X           | X           | X           | X           | X           | X           | X           | X           | X           | X           | X           | X           |
| 1700-1799        | X                        | X                     | X            | X           | X                    | X           | X           | X           | X           | X           | X           | X           | X           | X           | X           | X           | X           | X           | X           | X           | X           | X           | X           | X           | X           | X           | X           | X           | X           | X           | X           | X           | X           | X           |
| 1800-1899        | X                        | X                     | X            | X           | X                    | X           | X           | X           | X           | X           | X           | X           | X           | X           | X           | X           | X           | X           | X           | X           | X           | X           | X           | X           | X           | X           | X           | X           | X           | X           | X           | X           | X           | X           |
| 1900-             | X                        | X                     | X            | X           | X                    | X           | X           | X           | X           | X           | X           | X           | X           | X           | X           | X           | X           | X           | X           | X           | X           | X           | X           | X           | X           | X           | X           | X           | X           | X           | X           | X           | X           | X           |

**Data Específicas**

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**Declaração de Significância**

Morgan's Mill representa um aspecto importante de um passado, forma de vida tradicional de grande importância para a maioria dos cidadãos rurais do norte da Carolina - o esmalte de farinha, farelo e farelo. Localizada justamente fora de vista da US Highway 64, a oeste de Brevard, Transylvania County, o moinho está situado contra uma encosta rolante, florestada, ao longo do riacho de Morgan Mill Creek. Fora de operação desde cerca de 1855, e é um dos poucos moinhos de água representantes de um tipo que outrora esmaelavam o pão rural da Carolina do Norte. Originalmente - como agora - o moinho forneceu serviço de esmalte para os moradores locais. Ambas as estruturas principais - a estrutura de madeira de forja antiga e a de balão de madeira - estão claramente expostas, e são exemplos típicos das técnicas de construção tradicionais usadas para tais pequenas empresas comerciais. Porque o moinho ainda é operado quase todos os dias, sua significância histórica e educacional é muito aumentada; ele olha, cheira e opera quase exatamente como no século 19. De fato, a maioria do equipamento de esmalte é provavelmente original, incluindo as duas prateleiras de pedra serrada e a esmaltera de farinha.

**Crite rio de Avaliação**

A. Este moinho em funcionamento, moinho de trigo de água é um dos últimos sobreviventes, "inacabados" moinhos representativos do rural, esmalte comercial do século 19 em Carolina do Norte.

C. A estrutura do moinho, claramente reflete as técnicas de construção tradicionais, usadas para tais estruturas pequenas, rurais, comerciais. Ambas as estruturas de forja pesada e estruturas de balão mais recentes de construção técnica de construção podem ser vistas e comparadas dentro do mesmo edifício.
Six miles west of Brevard, North Carolina, on Morgan Mill Creek, stands the last operating water-powered grist mill in Transylvania County, and one of the few remaining in the state. The mill, currently owned by Mr. Ray Nicholson, has been operated by octogenarian Albert McKinney for the past 24 years. Although ownership of the mill property (and, hence, exact construction date of the mill itself) is somewhat sketchy prior to 1861 when Transylvania County was formed from portions of Henderson and Jackson Counties, best estimates place the mill's construction around 1855.

Since its construction, Morgan's Mill has exchanged hands at least eight times. The earliest recorded property transaction concerning the mill property is January 1, 1876. On this date, J. M. Morgan, Sr. deeded the property "on the waters of Peter Weaver's Creek" to his son, J. M. Morgan, Jr. There is apparently no remaining record (deed or will) to indicate exactly when J. M. Morgan, Sr. acquired the land. In 1918, J. M. Morgan, Jr. died and his property passed via intestate laws to his heirs at law. On March 14, 1918, several conveyances were made by his heirs to one J. F. Morgan who, in turn, reconveyed 290 acres of the mill property to George P. Morgan on the same date. G. P. Morgan was the last in the long line of Morgans to own the property, for on September, 1937, he sold the mill to Mr. S. M. White, Mr. W. L. Teasley, and Teasley's wife, Olive. These owners kept the property only about two months for on November 5, 1937, they deeded the land over to Mrs. Carrie A. Mullinax. After seven years of ownership, sold the property to Mr. Ollis O. Moore and his wife, Lola S. Moore. They in turn sold the property in 1954 to the current owner, Mr. Ray Nicholson, for "ten dollars and other considerations."

As there are no documentary sources available from which to confirm a construction date, the best indications are gotten from oral history. The current owner, Mr. Nicholson, for example, says the "old timers" insist the mill was built "a few years before the Civil War." This researcher has found no evidence to contradict this general construction date and the building itself supports an antebellum date as well.

Although the mill operates less as a viable commercial enterprise than as a labor of love by Mr. Nicholson and Mr. McKinney, its importance as an educational facility for the entire region grows. School children, both in organized groups and individually frequently visit and acquire a glimpse of an important part of past traditions. The mill, in fact, was intensively studied recently by a group of high school students from Rabun Gap, Georgia, who were involved in a Foxfire project.

FOOTNOTES

1 Transylvania County Deed Books, Office of the Register of Deeds, Transylvania County Courthouse, Brevard, North Carolina, Deed Book 4:90; hereinafter cited as Transylvania Deed Book.

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4. Transylvania Deed Book 70:249.
5. Transylvania Deed Book 70:323.
7. Transylvania Deed Book 111:156.
Transylvania County Deed Books, Office of the Register of Deeds, Transylvania County Courthouse, Brevard, North Carolina.


ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: _____________

UTM REFERENCES

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

BEGINNING WHERE BARBED WIRE FENCE Crosses Peter Weaver's Creek north of mill building, continue southeast along the creek to intersection with driveway. From this corner, continue in a straight line to top of ridge going through pine tree at edge of clear field (approximately 215°). Continue along ridge line in northwesterly direction to where barbed wire fence crosses ridge line. Continue northeasterly along this fence to beginning corner.

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

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE

FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE: Blanton Owen, Consultant

ORGANIZATION: Western Office, N. C. Division of Archives and History

STREET & NUMBER: 13 Veterans Drive

CITY OR TOWN: Asheville, North Carolina

STATE: North Carolina

CODE: 28805

DATE: May 10, 1979

TELEPHONE: 704-298-5024

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS: NATIONAL ___ STATE ___ LOCAL X

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

TITLE: __________ DATE: __________

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST: __________ DATE: __________

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

GPO 892-453
Morgan's Mill
Brevard vic., Transylvania County, N.C.
1.5 acres
Rosman Quadrangle
Scale 1:24000
UTM References: Zone 17
Easting 335050
Northing 3893340