NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

1. NAME
   COMMON: Shepherd's Mill
   AND/OR HISTORIC: Thomas Shepherd's Grist Mill

2. LOCATION
   STREET AND NUMBER: High Street
   CITY OR TOWN: Shepherdstown
   STATE: West Virginia
   CODE: 54
   COUNTY: Jefferson
   CODE: 037

3. CLASSIFICATION
   CATEGORY (Check One)
   District [ ] Building [ ]
   Site [ ] Structure [ ]
   Object [ ]
   OWNERSHIP
   Public [ ] Private [ ]
   Both [ ]
   Ownership: In Process [ ]
   Being Considered [ ]
   Status
   Occupied [ ]
   Unoccupied [ ]
   Public Acquisition: Yes [ ]
   In Process [ ]
   Being Considered [ ]
   Preservation work in progress [ ]
   Accessible to the Public
   Restricted [ ]
   Unrestricted [ ]
   Other (Specify) [ ]

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY
   OWNERS NAME:
   Silas E. Starry
   STREET AND NUMBER:
   High Street
   CITY OR TOWN:
   Shepherdstown
   STATE: West Virginia
   CODE: 54

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION
   COURT HOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
   Jefferson County Courthouse
   STREET AND NUMBER:
   CITY OR TOWN:
   Charles Town
   STATE: West Virginia
   CODE: 54
   APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 2 acres

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS
   TITLE OF SURVEY:
   DATE OF SURVEY:
   DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
   STREET AND NUMBER:
   CITY OR TOWN:
   STATE: West Virginia
   CODE: 54
According to the present owner, Shepherdstown's Mayor Silas Starry, this mill was originally a two-story structure, the third story of frame having been added about 1880.

In 1759 (date implied by cornerstone), a brick house - still standing - was erected, Mr. Starry states, by Abraham Shepherd a short distance southeast of the mill. It is included in the nomination as part of the mill environment.

The house, which was acquired with the mill by the present owner in 1954, was restored with extensive repairs in 1961-1967. Only the kitchen has been added to this house, the original kitchen having been in the basement.

The mill was leased by Luther Thompson, Jr. in 1923. He restored the wheel at a cost of more than $2,000 and operated the mill until 1939, the last date it was in use.

The picturesque stream still spills violently down a rocky incline and disappears in the woods below the mill.

As may be noted in accompanying photographs, the mill contains some old equipment, including wheels and the grinding burrs.

The mill will figure prominently in plans of a newly formed mayor's committee on historic preservation in Shepherdstown.
The remains of the Shepherd Grist Mill, first built prior to 1739, and operated for two centuries, mark the industry of the State's earliest incorporated settlement, originally known as Mecklenburg*, the first settlers arriving probably as early as 1719.

The mill stands near the Pack Horse Ford crossing of the Potomac. The Indian trail to Pack Horse Ford became the Philadelphia Wagon Road into the Valley of Virginia, and on this road, named High Street, the grist mill was erected.

Thomas Shepherd Sr. not only built a mill; he laid out building lots for homes on a part of his first grant of land. Many wheat farmers settled in the vicinity.

Shepherd bequeathed the mill to his son, Thomas Jr., in 1776. After the Revolution the village name was changed to Shepherdstown, honoring the builder of the mill.

Shepherd started a trend of mills, which became focal points for roads leading out to seaboard markets for flour. A map published in 1810 lists 31 grist or merchant mills in Jefferson County serving a coastal area from Alexandria to Philadelphia. Thus it is no exaggeration to say that Thomas Shepherd with his grist mill inaugurated a "bread basket" for the growing nation.

There seems to be little doubt of the continuous operation of a mill on this spot. It is presumed that the stone building still standing is more than two centuries old. The large, 40-foot iron wheel was once located 100 yards farther down stream, but the date of its installation is beyond the memory of local inhabitants who can remember the mill as it was at the beginning of the century.

David, the eldest son of Thomas Shepherd Sr., migrated to Wheeling, where he erected and commanded Shepherd's Fort and was a commandant at Fort Henry. David's son, Moses, who was born in Shepherdstown, was a leading citizen of Wheeling and built the National Road bridges from the Pennsylvania line to Wheeling.

(continued)

* Actually the pre-charter name was New Mecklenburg
8. Significance - continued.

It is highly probably that Thomas Shepherd was here as early as 1732. The mill itself must have been built some time prior to April 6, 1739, when the mill is mentioned in The Frederick County Court Journal, and after October 3, 1734, when Shepherd purchased a 222-acre tract from Lieutenant Governor William Gooch and the Virginia Council.
9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Kemp, Louise Singleton. "Old Mills." Magazine of the Jefferson County

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CORNER</th>
<th>LATITUDE</th>
<th>LONGITUDE</th>
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<tr>
<td>SW</td>
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OR

| LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN ONE ACRE |
|---------|--------------------------------------------------|
| LATITUDE | LONGITUDE |
| Degrees Minutes Seconds | Degrees Minutes Seconds |
| 39° 25' 53.93" | 77° 48' 09.35" |

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STATE</th>
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11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Clifford M. Lewis, S.J.

ORGANIZATION: In contract with the W. Va. Antiquities Commission

DATE: September 21, 1970

STREET AND NUMBER: Wheeling College

CITY OR TOWN: Wheeling

STATE: West Virginia

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National [ ] State [X] Local [ ]

Name: Dallas B. Shaffer

Title: State Liaison Officer

Date: October 9, 1970

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Chief, Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation

Date

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date
### HAER INVENTORY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1. NAME OF STRUCTURE</th>
<th>2. GATE</th>
<th>3. NATURE OF STRUCTURE</th>
<th>4. INDUSTRIAL CLASSIFICATION</th>
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<tr>
<td>Thomas Shepherd's Grist Mill</td>
<td>1734-39</td>
<td>grist mill</td>
<td>BULK: FOOD: GRAINS &amp; CEREAL</td>
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<tr>
<th>5. LOCATION: STREET &amp; NUMBER</th>
<th>6. STATE</th>
<th>7. CITY OR TOWN</th>
<th>8. COUNTY</th>
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<td>Behid 505 High Street</td>
<td>WV</td>
<td>Shepherdstown</td>
<td>JEFFERSON</td>
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**Silas F. Starry, High Street, Shepherdstown, W Va**

**CONDITION:** EXCELLENT  **CHRONO:** FAIR  **DEGRADED:** RUNS  **UNEXPOSED:** ALTERED  **ACCESSIBLE TO PUBLIC:**

**DESCRIPTION & BACKGROUND HISTORY**:
- **NUMBER OF STRUCTURES:** PARISHIONERS  **FABRIC:** STONE  **STRUCTURE & FORM:** FALLING  **SUPPLYING MACHINERY:** FITTINGS AND EQUIPMENT  **APPROX AREA OF SITE:** ALTERATIONS  **PRESENT USE:** ENGINEER ARCHITECT DESIGNER  **IMPORTANT EVENTS & INDIVIDUALS:**

Construction of the mill dates sometime between 1734 and 1739 when it appears in the Frederick Co., VA Court Journals. It was originally a two-story stone building and was most likely powered by a wooden overshot waterwheel. The present state of the mill is more characteristic of the late 19th century than the early 18th. The large wrought-iron water wheel represents one of several solutions adopted by rural millers to increase the capacity of their mills and improve the quality of their product. Although a set of stone burrs remains, the increased power of this wheel was probably used to operate a system of roller mills as well. This would explain the addition of the top story, since the gradual reduction method of milling then developed necessitated the use of more machinery. The large 40-foot iron wheel was once located 100 yards further down stream, but the date of its installation is beyond the memory of local inhabitants who can remember the mill as it was at the beginning of the century. The wheel was a speciality of the Fitz Water Wheel Company. The I-X-L Overshot Water Wheel, declared the finest gravity water wheel ever built, and can develop an efficiency of 90% or more as compared to 60-70% efficiency of the old wooden wheels.

**HAER:**
- Fitz Water Wheel Co., Fitz Steel Overshot Water Wheels. Hanover, Pa (1928) (Catalogue), p. 27

**CONTACTS:** (NAMES & ADDRESSES OF ANYONE WITH EYEWITNESS ACCOUNTS OR RELEVANT INFORMATION; TAPE RECORDINGS)

**HAER:**
- Fitz Water Wheel Co., Fitz Steel Overshot Water Wheels. Hanover, Pa (1928) (Catalogue), p. 27

**PHOTOGRAPHS & SKETCH MAP ON REVERSE SIDE:**
- The Shepherdstown wheel has a 2-foot face and transmits power by means of a

**RELATED SOURCES OF INFORMATION:**
- HISTORICAL REFERENCES (PUBLISHED ARTICLES, MANUSCRIPTS, REPORTS, DRAWINGS, PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORDS)

**DANGER OF DEMOLITION OR DAMAGE:**
- YES  **NO**

**NATURE OF THREAT:**
- EXISTING SURVEYS: **NHL** **HAER** **HABS**  **STATE** **COUNTY** **LOCAL** **OTHER**

**INVENTORYED BY:**
- P.H. STOTT

**AFFILIATION:**
- HAHER

**DATE:** 14/VI/75

PLEASE RETURN TO THE HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, WASHINGTON, DC, 20240
THOMAS SHEPHERD'S GRIST MILL
SHEPHERDSTOWN, WEST VIRGINIA

This survey, conducted by the Historical American Buildings Survey (HABS), is part of a long-term initiative by the National Park Service of the U.S. Department of the Interior to document and preserve the architectural heritage of the United States and the National Park Service (NPS). The site is significant for its historical and architectural contributions.

This mill was an important part of the early economic development of Shepherdstown, West Virginia. It was built in 1820 and operated until 1905, serving the local farmers and providing employment. The mill was powered by water from the Potomac River, which ran through the area. The water was diverted to a series of channels and waterwheels that powered the mill's machinery.

The mill house, built in 1845, is a two-story structure with a gabled roof. It was used as a residence by the miller and his family. The mill has been restored and is now a museum, open to the public for educational purposes.

The site is located on the Potomac River, which provided the water power necessary to operate the mill. The mill raceway, a series of channels that diverted water to the mill, can still be seen in the area.

The mill was used extensively in the late 19th century to grind grain for the local farmers. The mill is a fine example of early American mill architecture and is a significant part of the cultural heritage of Shepherdstown.

This survey was conducted by the Historical American Buildings Survey (HABS) and is part of the National Park Service (NPS) initiative to document and preserve the architectural heritage of the United States. This mill, built in 1820, was an important part of the early economic development of Shepherdstown, West Virginia, and is now a museum open to the public for educational purposes.