

NORTH CAROLINA STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE
Office of Archives and History
Department of Natural and Cultural Resources

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

Stepp's Mill

Hendersonville vicinity, Henderson County, HN1069, Listed 08/02/2024
Nomination by Clay Griffith, Acme Preservation Services, LLC
Photographs by Clay Griffith, May 2022



Stepp's Mill and Saconon Post Office, facades, view to southwest



Stepp's Mill, dam and water wheel, view to northwest

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Stepp's Mill

Other names/site number: Dana Mill; Saconon Post Office

Name of related multiple property listing:
N/A

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. Location

Street & number: 1055 Stepp Mill Road

City or town: Hendersonville State: NC County: Henderson

Not For Publication: N/A Vicinity: X

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

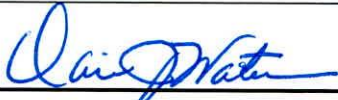

I hereby certify that this nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

national statewide local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

A B C D

	
Signature of certifying official/Title: State Historic Preservation Officer	
Date	
<u>North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources</u>	
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.	
Signature of commenting official:	Date
Title :	State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private:
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

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Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>3</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>4</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

INDUSTRY/manufacturing facility
GOVERNMENT/post office
RESIDENCE/single-family dwelling

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

VACANT/Not in Use

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

No Style

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property:

Foundation: Concrete

Stone

Walls: Wood: weatherboard

Stone veneer

Roof: Metal

Metal: tin

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

Built around 1913, Stepp's Mill was erected in the rural community of Saconon approximately eight miles east of Hendersonville, the county seat. Located on Stepp Mill Road (SR 1734), the mill, along with the small Saconon Post Office and Merrell-Stepp House, formed a focal point for small farmers in the surrounding fruit-growing region. The mill complex stands on the southwest side of the road immediately north of Tumblebug Creek, which is impounded by a concrete dam that supplied water to the mill's overshot wheel. The Stepp's Mill site

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encompasses less than one acre immediately surrounding the property's four contributing resources: the 1913 grist mill, which was enlarged in the 1930s; the ca. 1916 concrete dam; the 1913 Saconon Post Office, which closed in 1923; and the ca. 1913 Merrell-Stepp House, home to the two millers and their families. The current owner of the property containing Stepp's Mill has two parcels encompassing roughly 64 acres surrounding the buildings, which contain other modern residences including the Justus House, originally built in the 1940s and substantially enlarged and remodeled in 1970s. The former mill pond has been drained and allowed to become overgrown. Stepp's Mill has been idle for many years and the buildings vacant and deteriorating. The buildings display some material alterations, but the property as a whole remains a rare and relatively intact collection of resources associated with an early twentieth century grist mill and rural community center in Henderson County.

Narrative Description

Stepp's Mill anchored the small rural community of Saconon in southeastern Henderson County. Benjamin and Alice Merrell erected and operated the mill on Tumblebug Creek, a branch of the Big Hungry River, as well as a small rural post office. Situated at the heart of a productive fruit-growing region, Saconon lies east of the crossroads community of Dana and south of Edneyville.¹ The area generally occupies a high ridge near the eastern continental

¹ The name Saconon appears to derive from an area creek, which is noted on Alice Merrell's application to the Post Office Department. The area surrounding the post office seems to have become more widely known as Saconon only after the establishment of the post office in 1913. See Post Office Department, Fourth Assistant Postmaster General, Washington, DC, March 6, 1913 (National Archives, M1126 – Post Office Department Reports of Site Locations, 1837-1950, Roll 423, 809-810).

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divide where the Blue Ridge Mountains fall away to the southeast into the foothills of Polk and Rutherford counties. The rolling topography supported small farms and fruit growing. Stepp's Mill is located on the southwest side of Stepp Mill Road (SR 1734), and the mill stands on the northwest side of Tumblebug Creek where a concrete dam spans the waterway. The road and bridge originally stood directly in front of the mill complex, but the structure was replaced by the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) in 2015. The replacement bridge was built on the northeast side of the existing structure, and the road alignment shifted away from the mill and post office, leaving a gravel roadbed in the former right-of-way in front of the mill. A split-rail wooden fence and metal guardrail are located adjacent to the roadway in front of the mill and former post office. Wooded hillsides frame Tumblebug Creek as it flows beyond the mill and continues southward to its confluence with the Big Hungry River.

Stepp's Mill, 1913, ca. 1935, ca. 1975

Contributing building

Benjamin and Alice Stepp Merrell constructed Stepp's Mill in 1913 and outfitted it with equipment they brought from an earlier grist mill at Oleeta Falls. The two-story mill building measures approximately 30 feet by 25 feet and is constructed of timber frame and the full basement level is visible at the rear of the building due to the slope of the site. Poured concrete walls in the basement may have been added for additional support in the mid-1930s, when T. D. Stepp added the second story to the mill. A metal-clad shed roof slopes from front to rear with exposed rafter tails in the eaves. The exterior is typically clad with wood siding except for the first-story façade, which is covered with stone veneer that was added in the 1970s. An

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attached one-story shed-roof porch on the façade is supported by square wooden posts. A one-story shed-roof wing on the southeast side elevation has a metal-clad roof, exposed rafter tails, and German siding. An attached one-story shed-roof porch on the northwest side of the building has a raised wooden floor supported by a timber frame substructure and a metal-clad roof carried on wooden members. Two sets of double-leaf five-panel wooden doors are located on the façade and provide access to the interior. A window opening between the doors and second window opening on the southeast wing are boarded over, but the six-over-six double-hung wood sash windows remain in place behind the covering. The upper story of the façade is clad with German siding and is pierced by two six-over-six double-hung wood sash windows.

The side and rear elevations are relatively plain with weatherboard siding and unfinished window openings. The southeast side is dominated by the one-story wing, which is covered with German siding and has a single six-over-six double-hung wood sash window. The upper story is clad with weatherboards and is pierced by two window openings that do not contain any sash. The rear elevation is generally not visible due to the steeply sloping topography and vegetation surrounding the mill. A boarded-up doorway in the basement opens onto a wooden platform attached to the rear elevation. The two windows on the first story contain a six-over-six double-hung wood sash, while the upper story opening retains its sash but no glass. The northwest side elevation, which is clad with weatherboards, has a single window opening on the first story that is boarded over and sheltered by the attached porch. On the second story, one of the two window openings contains its six-over-six double-hung wood sash window; the

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other space is open. A doorway to the basement has been boarded over and is flanked by a single four-over-four double-hung window.

The concrete dam, mill race, and waterwheel are located adjacent to the southeast side of the mill. T. D. Stepp replaced the original wooden waterwheel and mill race with a steel race and wheel in the 1930s and later added an electric turbine. The metal race is supported on a metal frame and funnels water directly to the apex of the overshot wheel. The mechanisms transferring power from the waterwheel to the mill machinery are located beneath the side wing, where an open passage in the foundation wall provides access to the line shaft and pulleys that turned the grinding stone and ran the equipment. The line shaft is supported by the heavy timber framing in the lower level of the mill. The pulleys, both wooden and metal, drove a series of heavy leather belts that powered the mill equipment.

The mill's interior consists of a single rectangular room on both the main level and upper story. The wood flooring of the main level is original, and the interior walls are unfinished, exhibiting the exposed framing members, including vertical posts, studs, plates, and sills. An open stringer wooden staircase to the second story begins near the north entrance door with four steps rising to a landing before turning 90 degrees and rising against the northwest wall to the upper level. The millstones are located on the opposite side of the interior, and the bed stone is set within a wooden platform that likely contains a reinforced wooden frame to support the weight of the stone and vibrations of the grinding process. A steel I-beam extending from the front wall to the rear above the millstones supports a hoist and 1.5-ton trolley to transfer heavy loads. Three pieces of milling equipment occupy the center of the main

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level, including two wooden rollers and a Midget Marvel. Designed by English milling engineer, the Midget Marvel was a self-contained roller mill manufactured by the Anglo-American Mill Company of Owensboro, Kentucky, beginning in the 1910s. The unit simplified the milling process by combining rollers and sifters into a single machine.

The second level of the mill also consists of a single room accessed by the stairs on the northwest side of the building. The unfinished space displays exposed studs, rafters, and header plates; a small storage area is partitioned off in the southwest corner. A row of wooden posts through the middle of the space support a central roof beam. A wooden sifter manufactured, or sold, by Savage & Tyler of Knoxville, Tennessee, is located in the front portion of the room. A grain cleaner in the rear area is connected to a horizontal wooden shaft that pierces the rear wall of the mill for venting purposes.

Dam, ca. 1916, ca. 1935

Contributing structure

A reinforced concrete dam, rebuilt after the 1916 floods washed away the original structure, located immediately south of the mill impounded Tumblebug Creek as it meandered through the property. Built at a sharp drop in elevation, the dam capitalized on the steep topography to form a narrow pond and channel water flow to the mill's overshot wheel. The concave form of the dam connects at either end to the concrete abutments of a highway bridge that spanned the creek at this location until 2015, when it was replaced by NCDOT with a new bridge to the east. The dam is oriented roughly north-south across the waterway as the creek passes under the highway bridge. A narrow concrete sluice on the north side of the dam directs

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the water flow to the metal flume at the top of the waterwheel. A release valve located at the base of the dam consists of a metal gate controlled by a wheel supported atop metal legs. Prior to replacement of the bridge, the valve could be opened and closed by someone standing on the bridge and turning the wheel. T. D. Stepp made improvements to the dam at some point after he acquired the property from the Merrells in 1932.

Saconon Post Office, 1913, ca. 1950

Contributing building

Located just northwest of the grist mill, the Saconon Post Office is a one-story front-gable frame building occupying a steeply sloping site that reveals a full-height basement at the rear. Resting on an irregularly coursed stone foundation, the diminutive building is clad with weatherboards and capped by a metal shingle roof. An exterior brick flue rises against the north side elevation of the building, which is illuminated by four-over-four double-hung wood-sash windows on the north and south elevations and a ca. 1950 replacement picture window on the rear (west) elevation. The relatively plain exterior displays corner boards, exposed rafter tails in the eaves, and a pent roof shading the façade and single-leaf six-panel wooden entry door. The pent roof has metal shingles, exposed rafters, and vertical end boards with sawtooth edging.

The interior consists of a single room finished with wood floors and beaded board walls and ceiling. The two side windows have frames composed of beaded board strips. The picture window on the rear wall has a large, single central pane flanked by narrow plywood panels. A wide frame of flat boards encircles the full unit, which appears to have replaced a single four-over-four double-hung window similar to those on the side walls.

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An opening on the north wall of the stone foundation provides access to the basement beneath the post office. The remnants of a single four-over-four double-hung window are evident on the west elevation and provide light to the basement. Two wooden stalls, or bins, are located on the east side of the unfinished space, while a long wooden trough runs along the south wall.

According to former owner Larry Justus, now deceased, the post office originally stood on the opposite side of the road from its present location. The post office was closed in 1923, and after that time, it served as the office for the T. D. Stepp's grist mill. The building was moved approximately 100 feet southwest around 1950, to its current location immediately northwest of the mill.²

Merrill-Stepp House, ca. 1913, ca. 1980, ca. 2005

Contributing building

Built around 1913, the two-story frame house rests on a stone foundation and is capped by a metal-clad gambrel roof. The stone foundation walls are visible on the side elevations, but the basement wall exposed at the rear of the house may be simply frame construction. The house is covered with weatherboard siding that was replaced around 2005, after the asbestos shingles covering the original weatherboards was removed to reveal significant deterioration.³ The exterior chimney on the north end elevation features a brick stack rising from a stone base; an exterior brick flue is located on the south elevation. An attached one-story hip-roof porch extends the full width of the façade and wraparound the north end of the house. The porch

² "HN1069 Stepp's Mill," HPO Survey File, North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office, Asheville, NC.

³ Carolyn Justus, personal communication, March 19, 2024.

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exhibits a metal roof, exposed rafters, and square wooden posts resting on a solid stone balustrade, which curves at its south end before terminating against the front wall of the house. The top portion of the balustrade forms an open trough that was used for planters. The single-leaf front and rear entry doors are replacements, and the windows are typically one-over-one double-hung wood sash on the first story and paired four-over-four double-hung sash in the gambrel ends.

The interior contains three rooms and a bathroom on the first floor, as well as stairs to the basement and the upper level, and two bedrooms on the second story. The house retains little original finish beyond the wood floors, and much of the first story was covered with wood paneling around 1980. The unoccupied house shows signs of deterioration and is currently used for storage.

Benjamin and Alice Merrell built the house around 1913, after purchasing the grist mill site and surrounding acreage. The Merrells's youngest child, Ethel, was born in the house in 1917. T. D. Stepp resided in the house with his wife and young children after he acquired the property from the Merrells. Thomas J. "Dad" Raver, a carpenter who came to Henderson County from Ohio in the 1920s, boarded with the Stepps from 1930 until his death in 1955. He lived for a time in the old post office building and assisted T. D. Stepp with operating the mill. In the early 1940s began building a two-story stone house across the road to the northeast, which eventually became the Stepp's main residence. The house was substantially altered and enlarged

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in the 1970s and 1980s by Stepp's grandson, Larry Justus.⁴ Justus remodeled old frame house around 1980, and it was occasionally occupied by renters.

Integrity Assessment

Stepp's Mill retains a good degree of integrity as a fully realized example of an early-twentieth-century grist mill in Henderson County. The mill complex, including the grist mill, miller's house, and former post office, was associated with the development of the site as the commercial and social center of the rural community of Saconon. The resources are typical of the modest facilities established in rural areas to supply local families and farmers with essential services, including food processing and the delivery of news and mail. While the mill has undergone some exterior material changes, most notably the application of stone veneer to façade's first story, the building retains sufficient design, materials, and equipment to convey its significance as an early twentieth century grist mill. Similarly, the diminutive post office building retains integrity of design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association with the enlarged replacement rear window being the primary physical alteration. After closing in 1923, the building served as an office for the mill, and it was moved approximately 100 feet nearer the mill around 1950. The altered Merrell-Stepp House retains its basic form, design, feeling, and association despite replacement siding. The replacement of the bridge and corresponding alignment shift of Stepp Mill Road has diminished the site's integrity of setting and feeling. The

⁴ In her later years, Ethel Merrell (1917-2011), would often visit the house from her home in Hendersonville and recalled her early childhood here. Carolyn Justus, personal communication, March 19, 2024.

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relationship of the grist mill to the dam and creek, however, maintains the property's significant associations and historic functions. Together, the mill complex formed an important social center for a dispersed rural population of small farm families in eastern Henderson County.

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B. Removed from its original location
- C. A birthplace or grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Industry

Social History

Period of Significance

1913-ca. 1955

Significant Dates

1913

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

Stepp's Mill and its associated buildings provided the essential service of food processing and functioned as a social center for the rural community of Saconon in southeastern Henderson County during the first half of the twentieth century. Built in 1913 by Benjamin and Alice Stepp Merrell, the grist mill ground grain for local farmers and, along with the adjacent post office, served as a hub of news and information for rural families. Thomas Dulus Stepp acquired the buildings from his sister and brother-in-law in 1932, updated and enlarged the mill, and continued to grind corn and grain into the 1950s. The post office closed in 1923 and later served as an office for the milling operation. The Merrells, and later T. D. Stepp and his family, lived in the house by the mill. The small grist mill complex is eligible for the National Register under Criterion A in the areas of industry and social history. The grist mill reflects the traditions of self-sufficiency and early industry that brought together families in rural, agricultural-based communities across the region. The post office, in combination with the mill, served as a social center for the community of farm families that came together to process food, conduct business, and exchange information. The period of significance for Stepp's Mill begins in 1913 when the Merrells constructed the buildings and began operations, and it ends in ca. 1955 when T. D. Stepp ceased regular production at the mill.

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Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

Industry Context

The North Carolina General Assembly created Henderson County in 1838, although the area, long occupied by the Cherokee, had been settled by Europeans and veterans of the American Revolution in the late eighteenth century. South Carolinians developed summer estates at Flat Rock and Fletcher in the early nineteenth century to escape the seasonal heat and insect-borne diseases of the low country. Despite the early resorts and seasonal visitors, Henderson County remained a rural, agricultural-based area with fertile river valleys ringed by rough mountain terrain. Judge Mitchel King of Charleston and Flat Rock gave 50 acres for the erection of a courthouse and public buildings at Hendersonville, the county seat, in 1841, but the town did not begin to flourish until after the arrival of the Asheville & Spartanburg Railroad in 1879. Another seven years passed before the railroad was completed between Hendersonville and Asheville.⁵

Stepp's Mill stands alongside Tumblebug Creek in the Blue Ridge township of Henderson County. Saconon, the small rural community that grew up around the grist mill and post office, lies only eight miles east of Hendersonville, but the topography becomes increasingly rugged along the Blue Ridge escarpment and Eastern Continental Divide, which forms the county's

⁵ Catherine W. Bishir, Michael T. Southern, and Jennifer F. Martin, *A Guide to the Historic Architecture of Western North Carolina* (Chapel Hill, NC: University of North Carolina Press, 1999), 310; James T. a, Jr. *A Partial History of Henderson County* (New York: Arno Press, 1980), 5-8 and 18-23.

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eastern boundary. Situated at 2,000 feet above sea level, the area's elevation made it ideal for growing fruit and farming.⁶

Automation of the milling process was one of the earliest developments of the Industrial Revolution and originated, in large part, from the imagination and experiments of Delaware-native Oliver Evans, who first apprenticed as a wagon-maker before joining his brothers' mill business. Evans devised a mechanized system operated by belts and gears driven by a vertical shaft attached to a water wheel that would engage a series of grain cleaners, bolting screens, and elevators to greatly reduce the amount of manual labor required to grind grain. Most of the individual devices in Evans's system existed in the late eighteenth century, but Evans assembled the existing technology into a more efficient operating sequence that remained largely unchanged through the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. His innovations were detailed in his 1795 publication, *The Young Mill-Wright & Miller's Guide*.⁷

Grist mills played an important role in rural communities across North Carolina and often served as commercial and social centers. Early settlers lived off what they could produce themselves, and western North Carolina's nineteenth century economy remained firmly rooted in subsistence farming even after the arrival of the railroad in 1879. Since farmers grew and processed most of their own food at the local level, milling grain was one of the most essential operations. Henderson County possessed numerous fast-moving creeks and streams that were well-suited to power grist mills, and most rural communities had a farmer or part-time miller

⁶ Henderson County Heritage Museum, Hendersonville, NC.

⁷ Brooke Hindle and Steven Lubar, *Engines of Change: The American Industrial Revolution 1790-1860* (Washington, DC: Smithsonian Books, 1986), 102-105.

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who ground grain for neighboring farmers, keeping a percentage of the meal as payment. Having a mill close by was cheap, convenient, and minimized the dangers of travel. Grist mills often preceded other businesses, such as general stores and repair shops, that served the local community. In most instances, the miller did not work exclusively at milling but performed other work—typically farming and sometimes blacksmithing, carpentry, or wheelwrighting. The miller usually set aside certain days to operate the mill, which required both mechanical acuity and strenuous physical labor.⁸

The combination of increased population and suitable topography caused the number of mills to increase dramatically from the middle to the end of the nineteenth century. Henderson County's population rose from 7,700 in 1870 to more than 12,000 in 1890. The number of grist and sawmills also increased from just 12 in 1870 to 36 in 1890. Of the 36 mills in the county, only eight did not process corn and flour.⁹ The entry for Henderson County in the 1896 edition of *Branson's North Carolina Business Directory* inexplicably excludes a listing of mills, but among the neighboring counties, Buncombe had 35 grist and sawmills, Polk only five, and Transylvania claimed 17 mills.¹⁰

Even though the number and size of grist mills grew in the late nineteenth century, the tradition and convenience of farmers taking their crops to the local mill continued well into the twentieth century. Transportation remained difficult on mountain roads, and local grist mills

⁸ Hindle and Lubar, *Engines of Change*, 99; Joe A. Mobley, ed., *The Way We Lived in North Carolina* (Chapel Hill, NC: University of North Carolina Press, 2003), 268-269 and 271-274.

⁹ Rev. Levi Branson, ed., *The North Carolina Business Directory* (Raleigh, NC: Levi Branson, 1872), 120-121; Levi Branson, ed., *Branson's North Carolina Business Directory 1890*, Vol. VII (Raleigh, NC: Levi Branson, 1889), 359 and 362.

¹⁰ Levi Branson, ed., *Branson's North Carolina Business Directory 1896*, Vol. VIII (Raleigh, NC: Levi Branson, 1896), 126, 338-340, 503 and 589.

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reduced the challenges and costs associated with transporting bulky, unprocessed agricultural products to market. Moreover, processed farm products typically demanded higher market prices. Since much of the product was still consumed locally by the farmer's family or their livestock, there was little need to trek to other areas of the county or other large mills to sell their crops.¹¹

The construction of a grist mill and post office on the waters of Tumblebug Creek, a branch of the Big Hungry River, in 1913 created an economic center for Saconon. Benjamin A. Merrell and his wife, Alice Elizabeth Stepp Merrell, previously operated a mill, store, and post office at Oleeta Falls beginning in 1907. The falls were located on another tributary of the Big Hungry River approximately one mile east. At Oleeta, the Merrells took over operation of an earlier grist mill and sawmill and opened the post office and store.¹² John Jones Sr. (1763-1860), one of Henderson County's earliest settlers, acquired over 1,000 acres in the early nineteenth century including the falls on Little Hungry River near his log home, which was located between Dana and Upward. Jones built the first sawmill at the falls, and boards cut at the mill were used in the construction of early houses in Flat Rock.¹³ The mills at Oleeta were later worked by Rueben Miller Stepp (1839-1907), whose family was prominent in the Dana community.

In 1910, the Merrells purchased the 50-acre "George Case Mill Tract" from James and Mary Ward.¹⁴ The Merrells bought the property with extra money Benjamin Merrell made grading and building roads. It is unclear if a mill still stood on the site when the Merrells acquired it. No

¹¹ Mobley, *The Way We Lived*, 268-269; Fain, *A Partial History*, 24-25.

¹² "Strictly Personal," *The French Broad Hustler*, February 6, 1908, 1.

¹³ Jennie Jones Giles, "History Resides in Jones Cemetery," *Hendersonville Times-News*, May 23, 2005.

¹⁴ Deed book 68, page 25, Henderson County Register of Deeds, Hendersonville, NC.

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buildings are mentioned in the deed for 77 acres from George Case to James L. Ward in 1906. When George Case acquired the property from J. P. Hyder in 1902, however, the boundary refers to a mill on the site. Reportedly James Case, brother of George, had built a dam and operated a sawmill at this location in the nineteenth century. By 1913, the Merrells had moved their operation over the ridge to Saconon and re-established the mill using equipment brought from the facility in Oleeta. Alice Merrell received permission for the Post Office Department to relocate the post office to the new site, changing the name from Oleeta to Saconon in the process.¹⁵

The Merrells appear to have successfully settled themselves at Saconon for a number of years until Benjamin Merrell's declining health in the 1920s led them to sell the property and get out of the milling business. In the early 1930s, by way of a land swap, Alice Merrell's brother, Thomas Dulus Stepp, acquired the Merrells land and buildings in Saconon and took over operations of the mill.¹⁶ At the time, the mill building stood only one-story tall above its basement, to which Stepp added a second level. He made improvements to the concrete dam and replaced the wooden flume and water wheel with metal versions. In addition to the usual farm crops, Stepp raised hogs; kept chickens, geese, guineas, and ducks; and had beehives that produced sourwood honey. The mill pond had bass and bream and was a popular swimming

¹⁵ Lenoir Ray, *Postmarks: A History of Henderson County, North Carolina 1787-1968* (Hendersonville, NC: Henderson County Genealogical & Historical Society, Inc., 2006), 332-334; "Mill Has Good Business; Fairies Play in the Mist," *The Hendersonville News*, January 6, 1921, 5.

¹⁶ Ruscin, *Hidden History*, 73-75. After transferring the property to T. D. Stepp, the Merrells moved to Upward, where Benjamin Merrill was largely confined to his home on account of his illness; he died in 1935. "B. A. Merrell Funeral Held," *The Times-News* (Hendersonville, NC), May 11, 1935, 4.

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spot. Towering dahlias lined the path to the house, and the mill's waterpower generated electricity for the house and farm buildings.¹⁷

Dulus Stepp gained his knowledge of milling beginning in the early 1900s when he ran a flour mill in Flat Rock known as Rhett's Mill. He later worked as proprietor of Valley Water Mills in Candler, a community in neighboring Buncombe County. Through his experience, Stepp came to be regarded as an expert on grading, grinding, and preparing grain for food. He was particular about the grist for his mill, only taking fully ripened, matured, and carefully cleaned grain. Stepp ground rye, wheat, corn, and buckwheat into fine grain flours and corn meal. He occasionally produced cracked wheat cereal or fine-ground meal for table use.¹⁸

Dulus Stepp operated the mill into the 1950s before ceasing regular production. Dulus and Anna Stepp had three children, and their middle daughter, Helen, married Brownlow Justus. The young couple had two children and lived on the farm with her parents. Anna Stepp died in 1960 and Dulus Stepp died in 1966. Following his death the mill and farm property eventually passed to Larry Justus, son of Brownlow and Helen Justus. Larry Justus reinstalled the metal water wheel in the 1970s, which he discovered lying in the woods behind the mill, and covered the lower façade of the building with stone veneer. Justus continued to run the mill periodically until it was damaged by flooding in the late 1970s.

Stepp's Mill is a rare surviving example of its type in Henderson County. Of the many nineteenth and twentieth-century grist mills that once stood in the county, few of the surviving

¹⁷ Carolyn K. Justus, private collection, Hendersonville, NC; Brittain, *Gun Fights, Dam Sites*, 25-26; Marion Wright, "Dana Mill and the Miller," *The Charlotte Observer*, September 7, 1941, 16.

¹⁸ Wright, "Dana Mill and the Miller," 16.

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examples retain a comparable degree of integrity to Stepp's Mill, which along with its associated buildings conveys the function of the mill site as a rural community center. Many of the documented grist mills that survived into the second half of the twentieth century have since been demolished or become ruinous. McFadden's Mill, an electric-powered grist mill located at 214 N. King Street in Hendersonville, has been significantly altered with brick veneer and conversion to a small office building. A grist mill on Blythe Mill Creek near Etowah was torn down in 1967, although its rock dam was dynamited in the 1940s. Portions of the dam survive but little evidence of the mill remains. Another mill in the Etowah vicinity was built around 1920 on Big Willow Creek. Located on Hebron Road, the two-story frame mill building on a stone foundation, known as Huggins Grist Mill, was operated by Jesse Pritchard Huggins Sr. (1892-1976) from 1932 until the mid-1940s. The mill was rebuilt in the 1960s and converted into a residence.¹⁹

Two nineteenth-century mill buildings survive in the village of Flat Rock, which developed as an early nineteenth-century summer resort for wealthy families from the low country of South Carolina and Georgia. Peter Sumney (1811-1891) erected a mill on Earle's Creek (present-day King Creek) in Flat Rock in the early 1830s. Over the years, the mill was owned by several prominent Henderson County individuals, including Henry Farmer, who used the waterpower to run saws and lathes for making furniture, but the property was acquired and operated by William C. Jordan (1859-1947) through the first half of the twentieth century. Jordan ran the mill for nearly 50 years, replaced the frame building with a concrete structure, and replaced

¹⁹ "Grist Mills," Etowah NC Heritage, <https://www.etowahnheritage.org/grist-mills.html>, accessed March 13, 2023.

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Sumney's undershot wheel with an overshot wheel. In 1949, Eugene Brown took possession of the property, which he wanted to convert to a residence, and after removing all of the mill equipment, he subdivided the building for apartments. The building continues to be used as the Mill House Lodge, which is located at 1150 W. Blue Ridge Road and is a non-contributing building in the Flat Rock Historic District (NR, 2015) due to alterations.²⁰

Rhett's Mill in Flat Rock is located downstream of Jordan's Mill below the concrete and stone dam that forms Highland Lake. John Earle, who received the first land grant in the area in 1789, established a grist mill at this location, where a natural rock outcropping formed a shoal in the creek bearing Earle's name (present-day King Creek). Beginning in the 1870s, the lake was known as Rhett's Pond for Andrew and Henrietta Rhett, who owned the lake, mill, and surrounding property. Mill operators included Aiken Rhett, Gustave Hart, and Dulus Stepp. Robroy Farquhar and his Vagabond Players, a theatrical group, repurposed the building for the 1940 and 1941 summer seasons as the Old Mill Playhouse, a precursor to the present-day Flat Rock Playhouse. In 2005, the two-and-a-half-story frame grist mill was replaced by a new two-story frame guest cottage built on the site of the earlier facility.²¹

Historical Background and Social History Context

The rural community of Saconon lies within a larger area known as Dana since the late nineteenth century. The Dana name reportedly comes from the Hadley family of New

²⁰ Terry Ruscin, "Down by the Old Mill Stream," *Hendersonville Times-News*, June 14, 2015, E8.

²¹ Ruscin, "Down by the Old Mill Stream," E8; Clay Griffith, "Flat Rock Historic District Boundary Increase, Boundary Decrease and Additional Documentation" National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form, Acme Preservation Services, Asheville, NC, 2015.

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Hampshire, who moved to Henderson County in 1890 for health reasons. D. G. Hadley (1832-1934) was in the hotel business and bought a tract of land where he built the 20-room Summit Hotel, which opened on July 1, 1892. With the Blue Ridge Post Office located over a mile and a half away, Hadley petitioned for a new post office nearer to his hotel. He asked the public for ideas in naming the new post office, and it was suggested that it be named after Hadley's son, Dana Hadley (1863-1930), who was well known and liked in the community. The Dana Post Office was established in 1892 at William Case's store, situated at a crossroads near Refuge Baptist Church.²²

The United States Postal Service was organized in the late eighteenth century, and the first post offices in Henderson County predated the formation of the county. The earliest were found in communities located along the established roads into the area from South Carolina or extending out of Asheville. Between 1825 and 1830, six post offices and one private post office were established in what became Henderson County; the private post office in Edneyville became a regular office in the 1840s. In the 1840s and 1850s, 12 more post offices opened in Henderson County although approximately half of these were located in territory that became part of Transylvania County after 1861.²³

Many of the first post offices were operated in taverns or inns, and later general stores, located along the major transportation routes before the advent of the railroad. Serving as a

²² The Summit Hotel burned in 1893, after a little more than a year in business. D. G. Hadley chose not to rebuild after the building was a total loss. The Hadley family moved to Massachusetts soon thereafter. Henderson County Heritage Museum, Hendersonville, NC.

²³ Ray, *Postmarks*, 18-23.

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postmaster earned the individual a small salary to supplement their income as innkeeper or store owner. Historian Lenoir Ray further noted:

“Some of the early postmasters were millers. Milling was done on a percentage basis, there being extremely little ‘hard’ cash available. The very fact that cash was not available made the job of postmaster attractive for even if the income was only \$20 or \$30 a year, this produced money to send off for the purchase of goods to operate the store.”²⁴

The first post office in the Dana community was the Blue Ridge Post Office, established in 1859 with Leander Case as the first postmaster. William S. Case owned the first store in Dana and opened the Dana Post Office in his store in 1892. Jonathan Case followed his father into business and took over the store in the early 1900s. Case succeeded his father as postmaster and added a business partner, Emmett Freeman.²⁵ The Case & Freeman store carried a vast array of goods and became the leading mercantile business in the area. Jonathan Case, along with M. C. Toms and Charles French Toms, organized the Ottaray Canning Company in 1912. The company built a substantial production facility and operated as the largest cannery in the state for two seasons, producing 38,000 cans a day. The commercial enterprise purchased crops from local farmers, including vegetables, fruits, and berries. Freight rates gradually increased to the point where the company’s products were no longer financially competitive, and the cannery reorganized as a smaller operation with new management.²⁶

²⁴ Ray, *Postmarks*, 21.

²⁵ Jennie Jones Giles, “Dana,” Henderson Heritage, <https://hendersonheritage.com/dana/>, accessed May 4, 2022; Ray, *Postmarks*, 316-317 and 320-327.

²⁶ Terry Ruscin, *Hidden History of Henderson County, North Carolina* (Charleston, SC: The History Press, 2013), 64-68.

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Benjamin and Alice Stepp Merrell operated a grist mill, store, and post office at Oleeta Falls, three miles southeast of Dana, beginning in 1907. Reuben Miller Stepp (1839-1907) ran the grist mill until his sudden death while grinding corn. Alice Merrell applied to the Postmaster General to open the post office at Oleeta Falls, and her application indicates that the mail would be delivered to the office three times a week from Dana. She estimated the post office would supply mail to a population of 50 people. Jonathan Case, postmaster at Dana, verified Merrell's information, and the application for a new post office was approved in January 1908. Alice Merrell served as postmaster at Oleeta until 1913, when she and her husband moved over the ridge to Saconon. The grist mill, miller's house, and post office at Oleeta Falls were all destroyed in the devastating floods of 1916.²⁷

When the Merrells relocated to Saconon, Alice Merrell closed the Oleeta Post Office and received permission to reopen the office with a new name. According to Lenoir Ray, the Post Office Department gave the Saconon Post Office the same account number as the Oleeta office, so that it was essentially a continuation of the earlier office. Merrell's application described the post office as 50 yards west of the nearest creek. Saconon Post Office opened in March 1913. After two years, Alice Merrell resigned as postmaster in June 1915 and was succeeded by her husband, who remained postmaster until 1923.²⁸ Mrs. Merrell recounted that following the 1916 flood, "Everything was washed away, the crops, the mill dam, the roads—there was no

²⁷ "News of the Town," *The French Broad Hustler*, October 31, 1907, 5; Ruscin, *Hidden History*, 79-81; "Location of Proposed Post Office," Post Office Department, Office of First Assistant Postmaster General, Washington, DC, November 20, 1907 (National Archives, M1126 – Post Office Department Reports of Site Locations, 1837-1950, Roll 423, 781-782).

²⁸ Giles, "Dana;" Ray, *Postmarks*, 332-334; Post Office Department, Fourth Assistant Postmaster General, Washington, DC, March 6, 1913 (National Archives, M1126 – Post Office Department Reports of Site Locations, 1837-1950, Roll 423, 809-810).

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mail delivery, so Ben walked to Dana and brought the mail back.”²⁹ Business at the Saconon Post Office gradually decreased as service along the rural route through the area steadily increased.³⁰

In addition to his responsibilities as postmaster, Benjamin Merrell operated the grist mill, was a notary public and land surveyor, and taught music classes at Refuge Church in Dana.³¹ In 1922, the newspaper published reports from Merrell about shipments of furs sent from the Saconon Post Office and the good prices furs were bringing for the season.³² The Merrells began listing the property for sale, however, as early as 1920, citing health issues as the reason. An early advertisement for the property describes it as 30 acres with 10 acres under cultivation and the remainder in pasture, timber, and woodland. It included 100 fruit trees, the water-powered mill, concrete dam, post office building, store house, barn, and a poultry house.³³ Benjamin Merrell closed the Saconon Post Office in 1923.

Grist mills served as important social centers for rural communities in addition to providing an important economic service. Rural farm families in Henderson County had limited but crucial social options that helped create a sense of community and promote communal interdependence. On milling days, gathered farmers shared news and announcements while they waited for their corn or grain to be milled. The grist mill was one of the places where isolated farmers gathered and kept up with the world around them. Technology such as

²⁹ Ray, *Postmarks*, 334.

³⁰ Giles, “Dana;” Ray, *Postmarks*, 332-334.

³¹ “News from Saconon,” *The Hendersonville News*, February 17, 1921, 3.

³² “Saconon,” *The Hendersonville News*, February 28, 1922, 2.

³³ “For Sale,” *Waynesville Mountaineer*, September 8, 1920, 5.

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telephones and electricity were often late arriving in the mountains of western North Carolina, and a mill's waterpower could also be used to generate electricity on a small scale.³⁴

Thomas Dulus Stepp (1878-1966), one of seven children born to Arthur F. and Martha Stepp in Henderson County spent much of his life in the Dana community. He attended Judson College in Hendersonville and worked as a custodian at the school to pay his tuition. T. D. Stepp worked in the lumber business for a short time, farmed, and worked as a miller in Flat Rock and Candler. He married Anna Margaret Pace (1884-1960) in 1910 and raised three children. Along with his brother, Joseph H. Stepp Sr. (1886-1967), T. D. Stepp operated a general store and packing plant in Dana, opposite Refuge Baptist Church at the intersection of Upward and Dana roads. During a lean period in the early 1920s, J. H. Stepp moved to East Flat Rock and opened a store with Marion Lee Walker. He soon sold his interest in the business to Walker, moved back to Dana, and bought out his brother's interest in the Dana store. J. H. Stepp went on to improve telephone service and bring electricity to Dana, promoted school consolidation, and served as postmaster at Dana from 1921 to 1947 except for the brief period when T. D. Stepp ran the family business. In the late 1920s, Dulus Stepp served on the Henderson County Board of Commissioners, including as chairman, and oversaw substantial improvements of the county's roads. In 1932, T. D. Stepp acquired the grist mill, then known as Dana Mill, and 25 acres from his sister and brother-in-law, Alice and Benjamin Merrell.³⁵ He moved his family into the

³⁴ Mobley, *The Way We Lived*, 268-269.

³⁵ Deed book 206, page 298, Henderson County Register of Deeds, Hendersonville, NC.

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Merrell's house and took over operation of the mill, which came to be commonly known as Stepp's Mill.³⁶

Stepp's Mill afforded plenty of opportunities for social gathering among farmers, neighbors, and curious visitors. Dulus Stepp was assisted in the operation of the mill by Thomas J. "Dad" Raver (1861-1955), a carpenter who boarded with the family. Running the mill provided plenty of time for intermittent spells of socializing in between the work of checking and weighing incoming grain, monitoring the equipment, and transacting business. Larry T. Justus (1932-2002), the Stepps' grandson, recalled that people would often stay for the day when they had their corn ground. Justus remembered his grandmother, Anna Stepp, cooking large meals to feed the mill customers, and Carl Sandburg coming over from his home in Flat Rock to sit on the porch and talk politics.³⁷

The diminutive Saconon Post Office is a rare surviving example of a rural post office in Henderson County. Many of the former small offices have been lost to time or extensively altered. Among previously surveyed post offices in the county, the Angeline Post Office and Store in Mills River and the Capps Post Office near Zirconia appear to have been razed. The former Good Luck Store and Post Office at 4 Terrys Gap Road in Fletcher appears to have been substantially remodeled. A two-story front-gable frame building in the general vicinity of the store and post office, which only operated from 1900 to 1905, has been altered with plywood sheathing and replacement doors and windows. The former Edneyville Post Office and Store at

³⁶ Ruscin, *Hidden History*, 71-75; James E. Brittain, *Gun Fights, Dam Sites & Water Rights: Essays on the History of Henderson County, North Carolina and Vicinity* (Columbus, NC: Living Archives, 2001), 25-26.

³⁷ Wright, "Dana Mill and the Miller," 16; Carolyn K. Justus, private collection.

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3951 Chimney Rock Road is a one-story frame building with a metal-clad side-gable roof that remains standing. Resting on a brick foundation and covered with weatherboards, the building later served as a filling station with a front-gable canopy sheltering a concrete pump island and a detached two-bay concrete block service garage located at the rear.

Several buildings in the village of Flat Rock and East Flat Rock represent some of the most intact examples of nineteenth and twentieth century post offices in the county. The Old Flat Rock Post Office at 118 Village Center Drive in Flat Rock is a well-preserved two-story frame building erected by Peter Stradley in the mid-1840s. Postal service was established in Flat Rock in 1829, prior to the creation of Henderson County, and moved to this building around 1844. The neatly finished building has a front-gable roof, flush boards on the façade, and a two-story front portico with a sawn balustrade and rafter ends. Over the next 100 years, the post office moved between this building and the ca. 1875 Patton Store a short distance north at 2622 Greenville Highway, depending on who was serving as postmaster. A modern post office facility was subsequently completed in 1965 on the opposite side of the road from the Old Flat Rock Post Office. A post office in East Flat Rock was constructed in 1923 at 371 West Blue Ridge Road. Built as a grocery store by Otis McCall, the one-story brick building has a flat front parapet and a single storefront with a recessed central entrance. Postmaster Richard Pace moved the post office from his own small store to this building in 1924, where it remained until 1958. The three Flat Rock buildings—Old Flat Rock Post Office, Patton Store, and (former) East

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Flat Rock Post Office—are all contributing resources in the expanded Flat Rock Historic District

(NR, 2015).³⁸

³⁸ Griffith, "Flat Rock Historic District," 2015.

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Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
 - Other State agency
 - Federal agency
 - Local government
 - University
 - Other
- Name of repository: Henderson County Heritage Museum

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): HN1069

Stepp's Mill
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10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property less than one acre

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates (decimal degrees)

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

A. Latitude: _____ Longitude: _____

B. Latitude: _____ Longitude: _____

C. Latitude: _____ Longitude: _____

D. Latitude: _____ Longitude: _____

Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or NAD 1983

- | | | |
|-------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1. Zone: 17 | Easting: 377299 | Northing: 3911651 |
| 2. Zone: 17 | Easting: | Northing: |
| 3. Zone: 17 | Easting: | Northing: |
| 4. Zone: 17 | Easting: | Northing: |

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The eligible boundary is shown by a dashed line on the accompanying National Register boundary map. The boundary encompasses approximately less than one acre lying on the southwest side of Stepp Mill Road (SR 1734) and containing the mill, dam, post office, and miller's residence. The boundary extends across portions of two Henderson County tax parcels [PINs 0509-04-8957 and 0509-15-1249] belonging to a single owner and into the public right-of-way for Stepp Mill Road. The mill, house, and dam are all located within, or partially within, the right-of-way.

The boundary begins at an unpaved road approximately 135 feet northwest of the Merrell-Stepp House and extends southeast along the edge of pavement and thence with the northwest side of the former roadbed to exclude the wooden fence, guardrails, and new bridge to southeast abutment of the former bridge. The boundary continues southwest along the outside of the former bridge abutment and generally on the southeast bank of

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Tumblebug Creek below the dam to a point where an unnamed branch enters the creek from the northwest. The boundary continues along the unnamed branch and the northeast edge of an unpaved road located at the rear of the eligible buildings to the beginning.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The eligible boundary for Stepp's Mill is drawn to include the significant historic resources and their immediate setting. The boundary encompasses only a small portion of the current legal property boundaries (approximately 64 acres) because the larger parcel includes landscapes that have lost integrity due to development and road construction, as well as resources that do not contribute to the significance of the property. Due to a lack of integrity, the other historically associated resources and land surrounding the mill, dam, post office, and house have been excluded from the boundaries.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Clay Griffith
organization: Acme Preservation Services, LLC
street & number: 825 Merrimon Ave., Ste. C, #345
city or town: Asheville state: NC zip code: 28804
e-mail: cgriffith.acme@gmail.com
telephone: 828-281-3852
date: April 24, 2024

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

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Photographs

The following information pertains to each of the photographs:

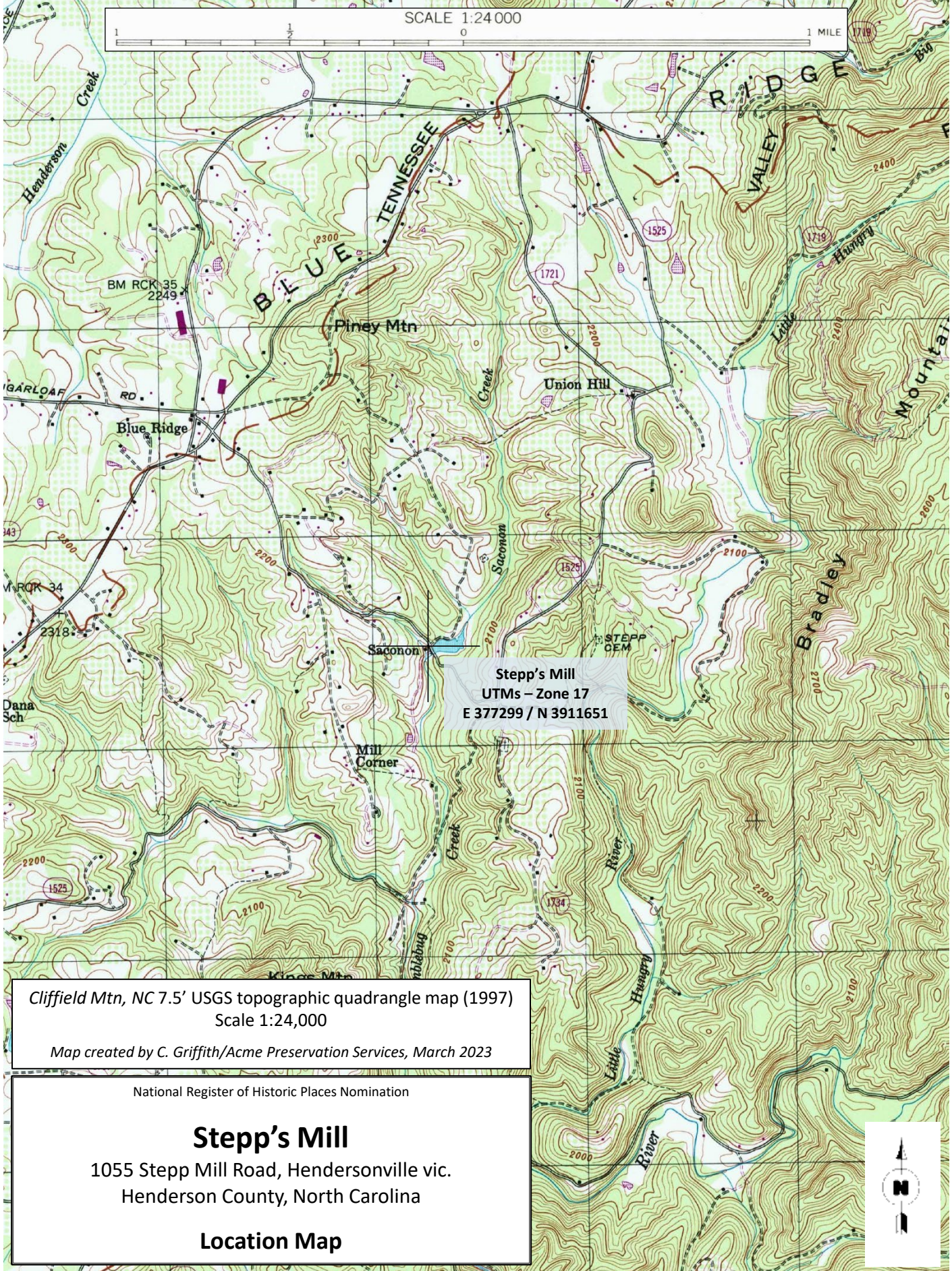
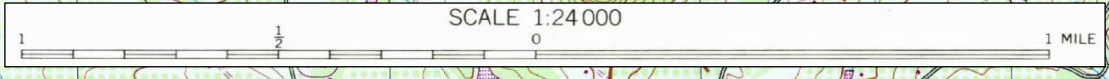
Name of Property: Stepp's Mill
Location: 1055 Stepp Road, Hendersonville vic., North Carolina
County: Henderson
Name of Photographer: Clay Griffith / Acme Preservation Services
Date of Photographs: May 17, 2022 (unless otherwise noted)
Location of Digital Master: Historic Preservation Office
North Carolina Division of Archives and History
109 E. Jones Street
Raleigh, North Carolina 27601-2807

Photographs:

1. Stepp's Mill and Saconon Post Office, facades, view to southwest
2. Stepp's Mill, façade, view to southwest
3. Stepp's Mill, south side elevation, view to northwest
4. Stepp's Mill, oblique front view to south
5. Stepp's Mill, interior, first story equipment, view to north
6. Stepp's Mill, interior, first story, view to north
7. Stepp's Mill, interior, second story, view to north
8. Stepp's Mill, dam and water wheel, view to northwest
9. Saconon Post Office, oblique front view to northwest
10. Saconon Post Office, oblique front view to southwest
11. Saconon Post Office, interior, view to north
12. Merrell-Stepp House, front view to northwest (March 19, 2024)

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.



Clifffield Mtn, NC 7.5' USGS topographic quadrangle map (1997)
Scale 1:24,000

Map created by C. Griffith/Acme Preservation Services, March 2023

National Register of Historic Places Nomination

Stepp's Mill

1055 Stepp Mill Road, Hendersonville vic.
Henderson County, North Carolina

Location Map





National Register of Historic Places Nomination

Stepp's Mill

1055 Stepp Road, Hendersonville vic.
Henderson County, North Carolina

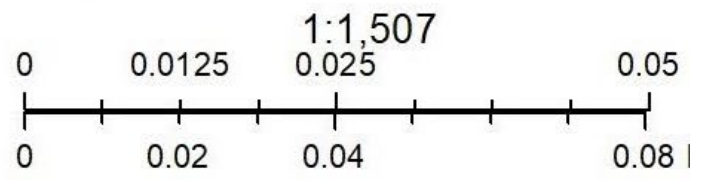
National Register Boundary Map

PINs 0509-04-8957 and 0509-15-1249

Boundary 

Parcel lines 

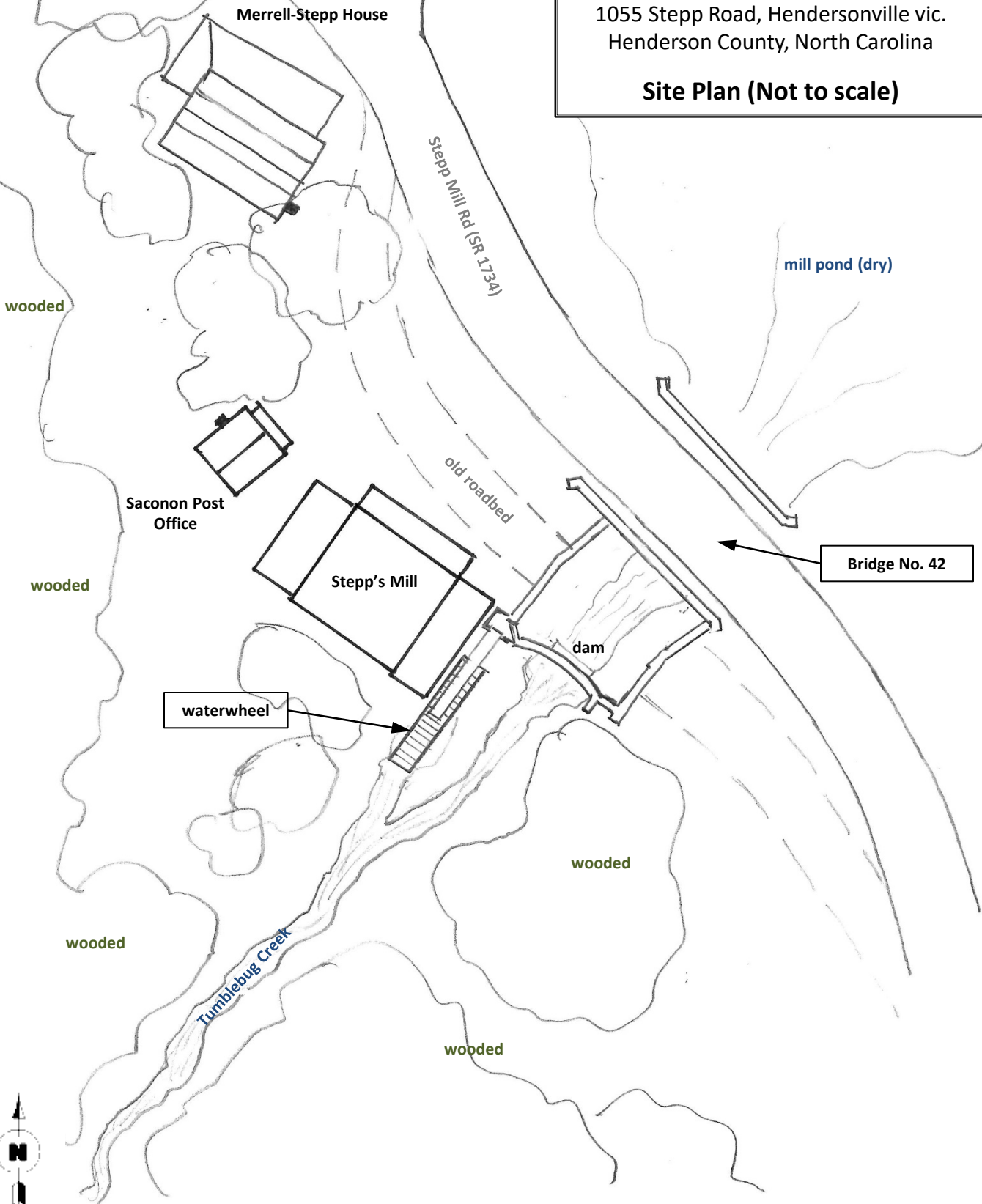
Map created by C. Griffith/Acme Preservation Services, April 2024



Stepp's Mill

1055 Stepp Road, Hendersonville vic.
Henderson County, North Carolina

Site Plan (Not to scale)



Stepp's Mill

1055 Stepp Road, Hendersonville vic.
Henderson County, North Carolina

Photo Key

Photo number and direction of view 4

Merrell-Stepp House

Saconon Post Office

Stepp's Mill

Stepp Mill Rd (SR 1734)

Tumblebug Creek



Photographs 5-7-and 11 are interior views;
relative locations for interior views are shown
on the respective building footprints

Map created by C. Griffith/Acme Preservation Services, May 2023
(Site plan not to scale)

