

Rawlinson Grist Mill - White Water Pond just off Highway
82 in Autauga County.

Built prior to 1875 by John Louis Rawlinson to supplement
a mill built before 1850 by his grandfather, George DeRamus.

Rawlinson had a partner named Doc DeRamus.

John Louis Rawlinson operated the mill until his death in
1901 at which time his sons began operation.

Prior to 1901 a cotton gin was added and around 1915 or 16
a rice mill was added. The cotton press was discontinued and
the mill was used as a flour, rice, grist and saw mill at
different times.

Mill was operated until 1966 by G. H. Rawlinson and a
couple of years thereafter by his children.

Originally the mill was open all the way.

John Louis Rawlinson sold most of his lumber to the
Continental Gin Company in Prattville.

Rawlinson Grist Mill

Significance

Rawlinson Grist Mill, located south of U. S. 82 and north of Autaugaville, is one of the oldest remaining mills in the Central Alabama region. The mill was constructed prior to 1875 by John Lewis Rawlinson to replace an earlier mill built before 1850 by his grandfather, George DeRamus. In addition to providing the local community with flour and meal, the mill provided lumber for the Continental Gin Company in Prattville. Prior to 1901 a cotton gin was added to the complex and around 1915 a rice mill was added. The cotton press was discontinued a few later and the mill has been used for flour and rice at different times.

The mill is the type with the building built over the dam and the power transmitted directly up from the wheel, an unusual design for this area. The mill building, supported by pilings, is an unpainted, metal-roofed, utilitarian shelter. Originally an open structure, it was enclosed in wooden siding in the early 1920's. The site is wooded and can be seen from the highway.

John Lewis Rawlinson operated the mill till his death in 1901 at which time his sons took over. The mill continued in operation until 1967.

County Agent Staff Surveys Mill

One of the first county agents to respond to the program called "Operation Discover Rustic Landmarks" was Autauga's R.H. Kirkpatrick, who reported the site of an old grist mill on White-water Pond, just off Highway 82.

also turned in the first reports on historic sites in their areas, including another grist mill in Houston, a log church in Cleburne and the old jail in Winston.

The survey, launched April 10 to locate surviving rural historic structures, is being conducted by the Alabama

Historical Commission and Auburn University Extension Service. Barns, log cabins, cook houses, cane mills, blacksmith shops, smoke houses and pioneer farm implements are also object of the statewide search.

The Autauga mill, surveyed by Margaret Campbell of the county extension staff, was built prior to 1875, according to Dayton Rawlinson, by his father, John Louis Rawlinson. It supplanted another mill, built before 1850 by his grandfather, George DeRamus.

Dayton Rawlinson said the mill operated up until a year-and-a-half ago, turning out meal on a 30-inch mill rock. The mill once boasted a 48-inch stone, when more power was available and the demand for water-ground meal greater. It has also been used to power a sawmill.

The mill is a turbine type; the structure is built over the dam and the power transmitted directly up from the wheel.

Milo B. Howard, Jr., historical commission chairman, and Dr. Fred R. Robertson, Auburn's vice-president for extension, expressed approval of the early results of the land mark discovery project.

The Cleburne Church and cemetery have been the center of the religious life of the Shoal Creek Community for 150 years, according to County Extension Chairman T.A. Ventress. Now a part of the Talladega National Forest, the log church features exposed beams and rafters. Shoal Creek Church holds services once each year. The church is located near Edwardsville north of Prattville. Mill rock were brought

from Georgia in 1830 to build the Houston County grist mill. Located five miles northwest of Dothan, the mill now uses electric as well as water power to grind meal six days a week. The present structure was built about 1900, but the foundation and pilings date to 70 years earlier. Allen M. Matthews, county extension chairman reports that operator Deryl Murphy is a great-grandson of the original mill owner.

The Free State of Winston, refusing to secede from the Union in 1861, used the log structure at Houston for a county jail, according to Extension Chairman W.L.



Richardson, Confederate sympathizers were probably among the prisoners confined in this log jail during

the War Between the States. Old Houston is 10 miles east of Double Springs, the current county seat.

The Prattville Sun - Nov 3, 1968

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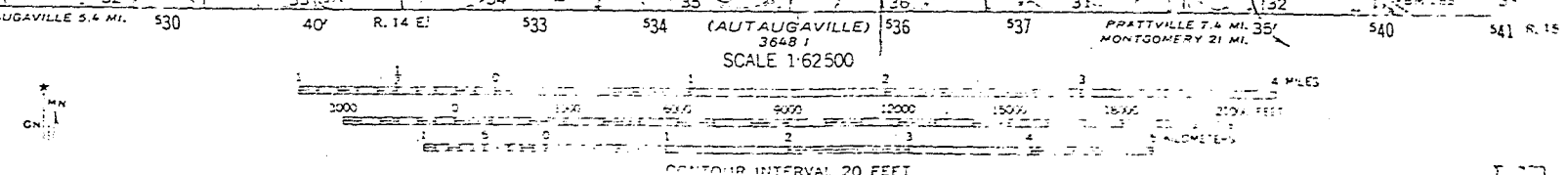
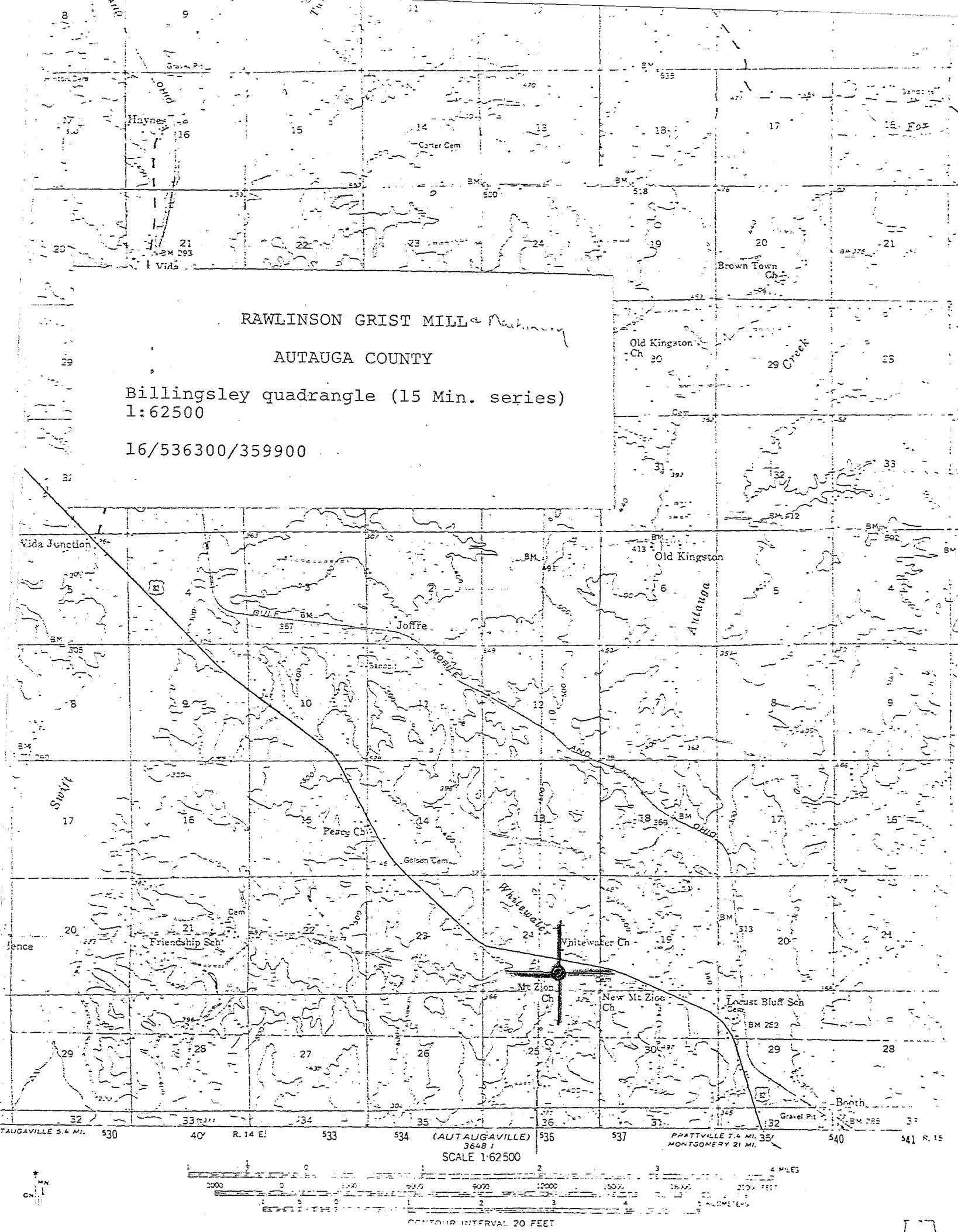
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ALABAMA INVENTORY AND WORKSHEET FOR LANDMARKS

COUNTY Autauga

PRESENT NAME Rawlinson Grist Mill HISTORIC NAME Whitewater Pond Grist Mill

LOCATION (Street and number) U. S. 82

TOWN (Give directions if rural) Prattville

PRESENT USE Abandoned HISTORIC USE Grist, flour, rice & saw mill

OWNERSHIP: Public () Private (x) Public acquisition being considered ()

OWNER'S NAME Mr. Andrew Jay Rawlinson

MAILING ADDRESS 141 North Chestnut

Prattville, Alabama 36067

CONDITION: Excellent () Good () Fair () Ruins (x)

INTEGRITY: Original Site (x) Moved () When? _____

From where? _____ Give details in significance.

THREATS: No () Yes (x) By What? Neglect

RESTORATION WORK: Being considered () Underway () Completed () Not planned (x)

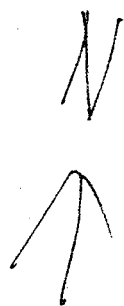
SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT: Open land () Woodland (x) Scattered buildings ()
High building density () Commercial () Industrial ()
Residential () Rural (x)

If there are numerous buildings in the area, could this structure be part of a Historic District?

SIGNIFICANCE: Why is this important () associated with events, persons, or movements
Local () State () National ()
(x) a good example of a type or style of structure
() other

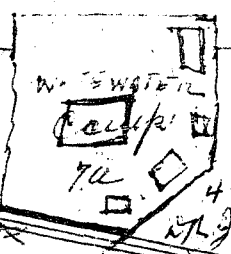
Explain: (Expand on the significance of the building. If architecturally significant, give details being very specific. Additional data on what aspects of the community's development the building represents, or a specific event, trend or person related to the building's importance.)

One of the oldest mills in Central Alabama, is of an a typical desing.



40 R

19a R



10a
R. Jack

MILL

40a
40a

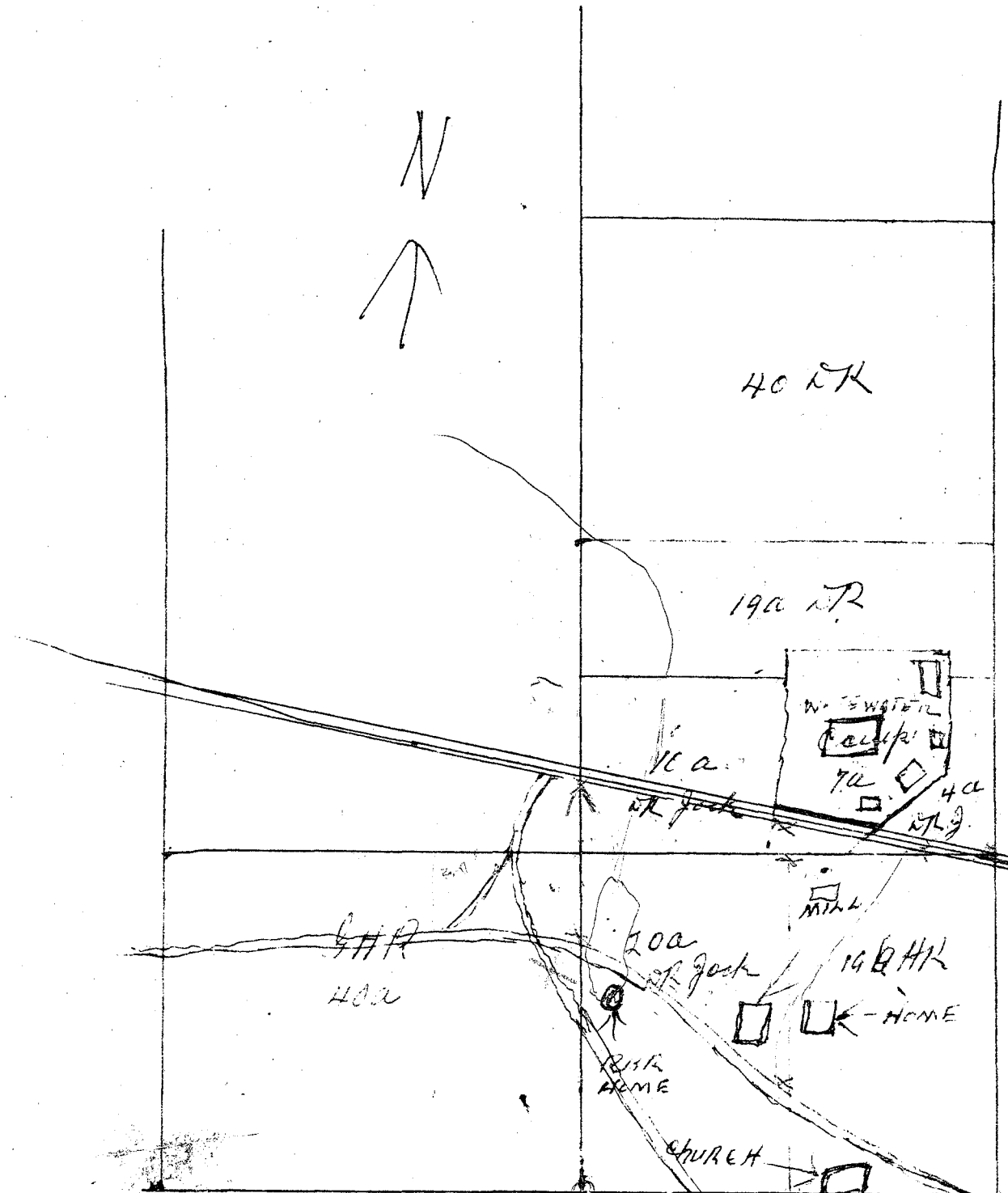
20a
R. Jack

19 R

HOME

R. Jack
HOME

CHURCH



920 000
FEET

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Mount Zion United Methodist Church

Rawlinson Grist Mill

New Mount Zion Church













