ALABAMA HISTORIC INVENTORY

Alabama Historical Commission 725 Monroe Street Montgomery, Alabama 36130

1. No.	4. Present Name(s)					1. No
Autauga 5. Oth		vlinson Grist Mill and Machinery er Name(s)				Jo.
3. Location of Negatives	Whit	tewater Pond Grist	Mill			
6. Specific Location U. S. Hwy. 82 on Whitewater Cree 7. City or Town 1f Rural, Township & Vicinity rattville vicinity—c. 8 mi. NW 8. Site Plan with North Arrow 9. Coordinates LatLong		16. Thematic Category Technology—Comme	rce	27. No. of Stories 1		2. C
		17. Date(s) or Period C. 1875 18. Style or Design Rustic 19. Architect or Engineer 20. Contractor or Builder John Lewis Rawlinson 21. Original Use, if apparent Grist Mill		28. Basement? 29. Foundation Material Wooden pilings 30. Wall Construction Woodframe 31. Roof Type & Material Gabled-tin 32. No. of Bays Front 1 Side 2 33. Wall Treatment		2. County
						4. F
						resen:
		22. Present Use Abandoned		34. Pian ShapeRectangular		4. Present Name(s) Rawlinson G
		23. Ownership Public Private 24. Owner's Name & Address, if knownAndrew J. RawLinson		35. Changes Addition ☐ (Explain Altered ☑		
				in No. 41) Moved 36. Condition		
U.T.M. Reference		141 N. Ches Prattville,		Interior_ Exterior_		F
Zone Easting Northing 10. Site □ Strue	cture 🗆	25. Local Contact Warren S. McEac		37. Preservation Underway		bod
Building Ob	bject 🗹	422 Pratt St. Prattville, AL.		38. Endangere By What?	ed? Yes 🗹	Mac)
11. On National Yes 12. On Ala. Register? No Register? Register?	Yes 🗓 No 🗆	26. Location of Additional Da		Neglect,	Vandalism	ine
13. Part of Estab. Yes ☐ 14. District Hist. Dist.? No ☐ Potent'!?	Yes □ No 🗹			39. Visible fro Public Ro		2
15. Name of Established District		Same as no. 25. 40. Acreage, Lot Size		ot Size		
41. Further Description of Important Features Th	is rust	tic structure, one	of the oldest re			5.
maining mills in central AL., included a flour, corn, rice, and lumber mill. Originally an open srtucture, it was enclosed in the early 1920's and various pieces of machinery were added over the years. They include a stalk cutter, wheat scourer, flour bolter, grist mills I & II, rice husker, rice cleaner, and grain scale, along with an exhaust fan.					Photo	Other Name(s) Whitewater Pond
42. History and Significance The mill, but machinery that is typical of providing the local communication Continental Gin Company of 1915 a rice mill was instal	of the ity with Pratty	kind used at the t th flour and meal,	urn—of—the—centu the mill provide	ry . In ad d lumber f	dition to or the	nd Grist Mill
43. Description of Environment and Outbuildings	, 	hars Donal				
Rural setting, wooded on Wi	iltewa:	ter Pond.				6. Card Typed
44. Sources of Information		45. Prepared By		46. Phone	Туре	
Janou of Anothicular				6 ¹⁷ 1 ^{Date} 78	ď	
			48. Staff Wember	49. Revis	ion Date(s)	

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 Mil

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 Whitewater Pond, just off High-

Three other county agents

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 jall 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 18-75, 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 yearand-a-half ago, turning out meal on a 30-inch mill rock. The mill once boasted a 48inch 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., his torical 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 Dear Edwardsville north of

Mill rock were brought!





FRANCES BAKER

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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 greatgrandson 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...



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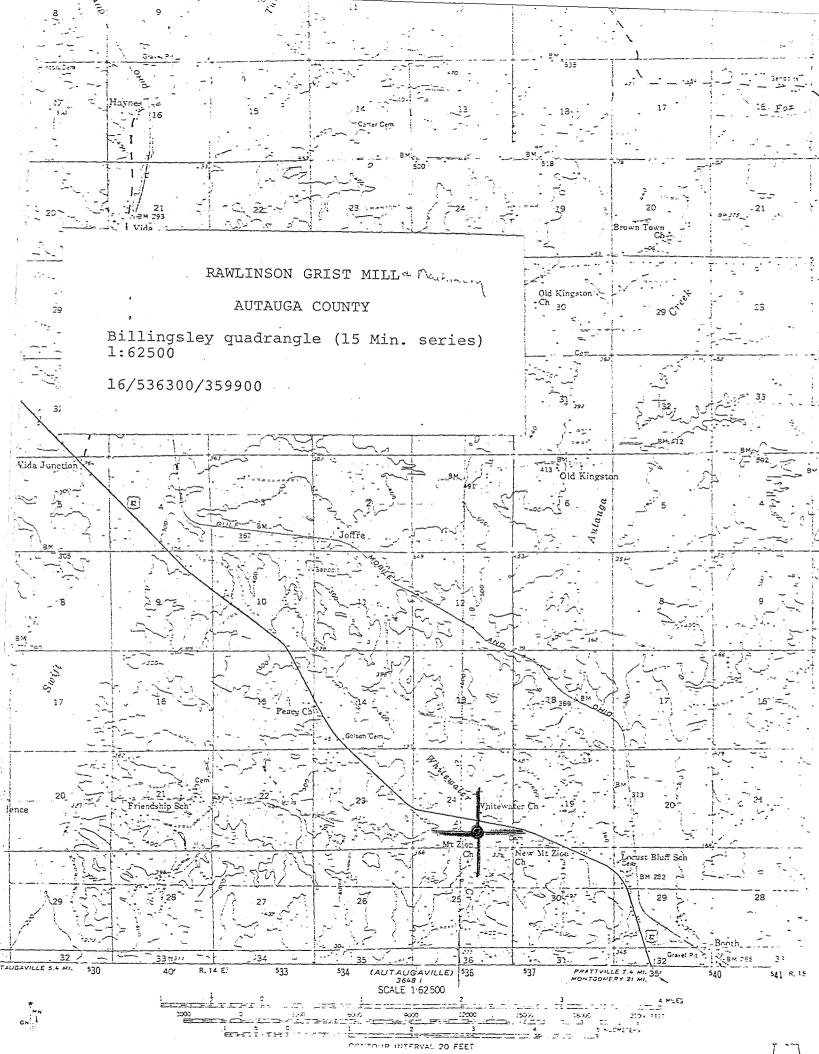
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STATE OF ALABAMA



ALABAMA HISTORICAL COMMISSION 725 MONROE STREET MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA 36130 PHONE: 832-6621



ALABAMA INVENTORY AND WORKSHEET FOR LANDMARKS

.COUNTY <u>Autauga</u>
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: Execlient () 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 KK 19a 172 402 Church 1

