

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

1. Name of Property

historic name North River Mills Historic District

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number Intersection of CR 45/20 and CR 4/2

not for publication

city or town North River Mills

vicinity

state West Virginia

code WV

county Hampshire

code 027

zip code 26711

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 for 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
 nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

West Virginia State Historic Preservation Office

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See Continuation sheet for additional
comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

entered in the National Register.

See continuation sheet

determined eligible for the
National Register.

See continuation sheet

determined not eligible for the
National Register.

removed from the National
Register.

other, (explain:)

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

Category of Property

Number of Resources within Property

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Contributing

Noncontributing

25	3	buildings
5	2	sites
	3	structures
		objects
28	8	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

N/A

Number of Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

DOMESTIC = single dwelling

RELIGION = religious facility

EDUCATION = School

AGRICULTURE/SUBSTENCE = animal facility

INDUSTRY = manufacturing facility

Current Functions

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

RELIGION = religious facility

AGRICULTURE/SUBSTENCE = animal facility

VACANT/NOT IN USE

7. Description

Architectural Classification

GEORGIAN, FEDERAL, BUNGALOW, GOTHIC REVIVAL

Materials

foundation STONE, LOG, ROCKS

walls LOG, LAPPED WOOD

roof METAL, ASPHALT SHINGLE

other GLASS

Narrative Description

See Continuation Sheets

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

- 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

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B.** removed from its original location.
- C.** birthplace or grave of a historical figure of outstanding importance.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

See Continuation sheets

Levels of Significance (local, state, national)

LOCAL

Areas of Significance

INDUSTRY

COMMUNITY PLANNING/DEVELOPMENT

COMMERCE

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

c.1770 to c.1936

Significant Dates

Significant Person

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Moreland, William, Builder; Harmison, Charlie, Builder

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

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 # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State Agency
- Federal Agency
- Local Government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property Approximately 20
(Hanging Rock Quad)

UTM References

A	<u>17</u>	<u>714517</u>	<u>4357200</u>	C	<u>17</u>	<u>715023</u>	<u>4356503</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
B	<u>17</u>	<u>715699</u>	<u>4356836</u>				

Verbal Boundary Description
See Continuation Sheets

Boundary Justification
See Continuation Sheets

11. Form Prepared By

name/title BARBARA RASMUSSEN (with Erin Riebe, WV SHPO)

organization RASMUSSEN AND RASMUSSEN HISTORIC PRESERVATION date NOVEMBER 17, 2010

street & number 224 Wilson Avenue telephone 304 292 7652

city or town Morgantown WV state WV zip code 26501

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 listing. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*)

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 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 Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P. O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20303.

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LOCATION and SETTING

North River Mills Historic District is located in eastern Hampshire County at the intersection of two early wagon roads, one of which was locally known as the Great Wagon Road and led from the Great Philadelphia Wagon Road. The community is served by County Route 45/20 (Springfield Grade Road/Cold Stream Road) that connects it to State Route 29 and County Route 3. It lies in a mountain gap formed by Hiatt Run, which empties into the North River, a tributary of the Great Cacapon River. Although small, the run offered enough waterpower to turn an overshot water wheel. It is a remote and bucolic area that has become an industrial ghost town, now visited only by summer residents and tourists. The historic district encompasses approximately 20 acres.

Most of the properties line CR 45/20, which generally follows the original wagon road through the area. Kump House is located approximately ¼ mile south on the former North River Wagon Road. Ruins of two former grain mills survive along CR45/20. The third mill was destroyed during road construction in the 1930s. The community was active as a milling site as late as the 1900s.

North River Mills occupies an area of harsh and unforgiving geography. It is located in the narrow space between the base of Ice Mountain and the shore of North River. Even though residents kept animals, there are no farms associated with the village, because the terrain is unforgiving. Large farms outside of its boundaries command the nearest level land. Cold Stream Road connects the village to the next largest settlement, Slanesville, at its intersection of Rt. 29, traversing the narrow pinched ridge called “the Devil’s Backbone.” The roads through North River Mills are narrow (approximately 15-20 feet) and paved. There is no curb or shoulder. For the most part, thick trees and flora shade the roadway.

North River Mills retains its integrity. Its location and setting are unchanged since the eighteenth century. Most of the buildings in the village are intact and convey their historical associations by their design, workmanship, and materials, which establish a distinct connection to the past. Modern roads generally follow sections of the historic wagon roads in place as early as the mid-eighteenth century. County Route 45/20 was changed slightly in the 1930s, moving it from south of the Croston House (#2, photo 4) to its current location.

DESCRIPTION

There are thirty-eight resources in the district. Twenty-five buildings contribute, three buildings do not. There are five contributing sites and two noncontributing sites. There are three noncontributing structures. Each resource is described below. Noncontributing resources include one constructed after the period of significance and those that have changed dramatically after the period of significance, drastically altering the

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overall form of the building. Although demolished, two of the three mill sites (those in which the foundation remains) are considered contributing as they have tremendous associative significance.¹

Unless otherwise noted, all properties are located along County Route 45/20 (Springfield Grade Road). They do not have exact addresses.

1.
Hiatt House (Photos 1-2) **c.1770** **3 contributing buildings
1 noncontributing site**

This house has seven front bays, a log on stone foundation, and a metal roof. It is a double house that was extended to the right (west) after its original construction. There is a substantial stone interior chimney that is not centered. This is the point where the building was extended. There is a stone gable end chimney on the right side. A shed porch roof is supported by eight plain wooden posts. Oral tradition recounts that this house was once a poor house. It could also have been used as a tavern and inn. This is the oldest building in the village. Outbuildings:

1a – Shed, metal roof, pole foundation, wood exterior, c.1900. C

1b – Privy, wood exterior, metal roof, c.1930. C

1c – Stone chimney potentially once connected to a building. The associative significance of this site is not known and it is not known if it was once associated with a house. Thus, it is considered noncontributing. NC site

2.
Croston House (Photos 3-4) **1840** **4 contributing buildings**

Three bays, center hall I-house with Victorian trim, 2/2 double hung sash, metal roof, stone foundation, wood exterior. One rear extension. Machine milled porch supports and brackets. This house once served as the North River Mills Post Office. It was built for Flora McDonald, mother of Audra Croston. Outbuildings:

2a – Gable-front wood barn with vertical wood planks, metal roof, pole foundation, and north side lean-to with shed roof, c.1910. C

2b – Two story wood building with gable front, lapped wood siding, stone foundation. C

2c – Privy, wood exterior, pole foundation, c.1930. C

3.
North River Mills Grocery **c.1810/c.1920** **1 contributing building**

¹ The district is not being considered at this time for the potential archaeological significance of the three mill sites, the head/tail races or the millpond, however, archaeological significance of the sites is not precluded. Furthermore, the roads are not being considered as contributing resources for their potential significance as early wagon roads. However, this does not preclude the entire length of the early wagon roads from consideration in the future.

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(Photo 8)

1 noncontributing building

One and one half stories, five front bays, 1/1 double hung replacement sash, log and aluminum siding, asphalt and shingle roof. Two left side additions, one stone chimney. Log portion was constructed in 1810, the extension in the mid twentieth century. Outbuilding:

3-a. One block shed with metal roof constructed outside the 50-year NPS guideline. NC

4.

Shanholtz House (Photos 6-7)

c.1930

1 contributing building

North River Mills Society for Antiquarian Arts and the Diffusion of Knowledge (current)

Cross-gable cottage with a replacement metal roof, lapped wood siding, corner boards and wide wooden window trim. One and one-half stories, foundation stones, shed roof over porch supported by turned wooden posts, three front bays, center hall. One half over one sash, some 3/1 sash windows on left and right faces. Rear porch.

5.

North River Mills School

c.1880

1 contributing building

(Photo 15)

One-story, rectangular, gable-end school building with clapboard siding on the exterior, metal roof, six-over-six, double-hung sash windows with working shutters, and piers of stone for foundation. After the school closed, the building was turned into an auto garage repair building and a large door was added to the gable end of the building to allow access for cars. The building has recently been restored and includes a new double-door. Such changes do not affect the overall integrity of the building, as it still resembles a small, one-room school building.

6.

Miller House

c.1790

6 contributing buildings

(Photos 11-12)

1 contributing site

Eight bay house of log with lapped wood siding. Six-over-six, double-hung sash windows, four doors on the main elevation, hipped-roof porch supported by nine tapering pillars resting on tall plinth blocks. Left (northwest) gable end chimney of stone, center chimney of stone, right (southeast) gable end has a bay window. Metal roof, stone foundation. Small rear extension with brick chimney. The large stone chimney was damaged in a 2008 storm. A foundation of the former Miller Mill is nearby. This house has served as an inn, a tavern and a home. It is now a community center. Outbuildings:

6a – Wooden shed with low-pitched gable roof and open window opening. Positioned on part of dry laid stone foundation that was the Miller Mill, which collapsed in 1936. The shed building is considered a contributing building and the mill site is considered a contributing site due to its important associative significance, c.1880. C (Photo 9)

6b – Wooden barn with gable roof and wood planks, shed-roof lean-to on each side, c.1880. C

6c – Stone springhouse with front gable roof and centered paneled door, c.1812. C

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6d – Side-gable keeping shed with weatherboard siding and asphalt rolled-roofing with centered, recessed door, c.1920. C

6e – Privy with wood exterior and door and shed roof, c.1930. C

7.
United Methodist Church **c.1893** **1 contributing building**
(Photo 14)

Wood siding, metal roof, limestone foundation. One center front bay with a pointed Gothic transom above the double entry. Diagonal wood paneling accents the front gable peak. A diamond window is located in the front gable peak. There are three bays on each face with three-over-two, pointed-arch, double-hung sash windows. Right (east) side metal chimney, and rear baptistry. Interior is original, with faux grain on the pews, doors and door frames as well as hand stenciling details on both side walls and the ceiling. The church believes the stencils were painted long ago by an itinerant artist in the nineteenth century. The original balcony and wooden pews are intact. The building retains its original workmanship, materials and design, conveying an extraordinarily high degree of historic integrity.

8.
Kump House (CR 4/2) **c.1805** **3 contributing buildings**
(Photo 16) **1 contributing site**
1 noncontributing structure

Two-and-one-half story, exposed log house with side gable roof (of standing seam metal with snow birds) and shed roof porch (with plain posts that appears to be a later addition). Centered entrance door with a six-over-six, double-hung sash window to each side and two on the second story centered above the first story windows. North (side) elevation includes a massive limestone chimney. Gable ends are covered with wood lapped siding and include two small windows. The house includes a rear extension with a chimney on the gable end. Local lore holds that the small wing was once a shed that was moved to the house to become a kitchen. There is a new rusticated garden fence and new stone well. It was the home of Frederick Kump, the village blacksmith during the Civil War. The building has been restored to its original condition.

Outbuildings (a small, modern garden fence has not been included in the resource count):

8a – Small wood shed with pole foundation and metal roof, c.1900. C

8b – Small shed of wood with metal roof and pole foundation, c.1900. C

8c – Small stone faced modern well. NC structure.

8d – Cemetery, isolated beneath mature trees and overgrown but identifiable. Local historians have found seventeen burials, most of which are identified. C site.

9.
Moreland House **c.1880** **4 contributing buildings**
(Photo 13) **1 noncontributing building**

Wood walls, metal roof, stone foundation. Bold window trim, six-over-six, double-hung replacement and fixed sash windows. Extensively remodeled. There is a new large double Dutch door on one gable end that

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allows the building to be used as storage for farm equipment. Some windows have been downsized and all have been replaced. The front porch has been removed, as well as the main entrance and chimneys. The stone foundation appears to have been replaced by block piers. The architectural integrity has been compromised by the changes. The building was originally a three bay I-house with a two-story rear ell, two-over-two double-hung sash windows, and a $\frac{3}{4}$ front portico with a hipped roof and turned posts linked by a spindle railing. Outbuildings:

9a – Gable front wood shed with metal roof and pole foundation, c.1910. C

9b – Small wood shed with flat sloping metal roof, pole foundation, 1910. C

9c – Privy, wood exterior, pole foundation, metal roof, c.1930. C

9d – Gable-roof barn with wood vertical plank siding situated close to the road. Sliding doors and metal roof. The east end of the building has open-air pens situated under the main roofline, c.1890. C

10.

Shanholtz Mill Site (Photo 5) **c.1930** **1 contributing site**

Rectangular, concrete foundation outline of the Shanholtz Mill site, once operated by gasoline. The site is situated close to the road.

11.

Barn (Photo 10) **c.1880** **1 contributing building**
1 noncontributing building

Limestone foundation, wood walls, metal roof. Gable front with double doors and hay loft. Animal shelter at the ground level, right side bay with collapsed roof. Left side machine storage. Barn is located at the intersection of the two wagon roads. Outbuildings:

11a – Shed with vertical wood siding, metal shed roof and single, centered entrance door. Appears to have been constructed outside of the period of significance. NC

12.

Modern Bridge (CR 4/2) **c.2000** **1 noncontributing structure**

Modern concrete culvert over Hielt Run.

13.

Modern telephone relay station **c.2000** **1 noncontributing structure**

Block construction, metal roof, on a concrete pad.

14.

Mill Pond **c.1880** **1 contributing site**

Earthen oval depression site of the man-made mill pond for the Miller Mill. The mill pond was formed when nearby Hielt Run was dammed. From the mill pond, water flowed through a channel (mill race, #15) to the mill's water wheel.

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15.

Millrace

c.1880

1 contributing site

Visible depression of Miller Mill headrace along base of mountain. Some of the race has large stones, approximately one to three feet. While it does not appear that the stones were worked for purposes of the millrace, they were likely used to reinforce the earth wall. The total length of the race from the millpond to the mill is approximately 800 feet. Portions of the race east of the millpond, and the tailrace have not been included in this nomination since neither section is visible today and their exact original locations are unknown. The water in the millpond came from Hiett Run, south of Springfield Grade Road, and to the west of the proposed district. It is unknown if the race crossed the road, creating a small ford, or if it was diverted through a small culvert under the road. The tailrace would have continued west, emptying into Heitt Run or the North River.

16.

Snapp Mill Site

c.1880

1 noncontributing site

Pile of loose stones at the site of the Snapp Mill. The mill was exploded in 1930 to construct a road. The site is considered noncontributing since not even the footprint of the mill is identifiable.

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STATEMENT of SIGNIFICANCE

North River Mills, Hampshire County, West Virginia, is historically significant at the local level under *Criterion A: Industry*, for its importance as a small but significant milling community, *Community Planning² and Development* for the significance of the development of the small community over more than a century, and *Commerce* for its important role in the commercial history of the larger nearby cities. It is also eligible under *Criterion C: Architecture* as it is a significant collection of historic buildings with exceptional integrity.

The period of significance dates from c.1770, corresponding to the construction of the earliest resource in North River Mills, spans the entire nineteenth century to account for a number of important resources constructed during that time period, and continues to c.1936, corresponding to major changes in community that contributed to the end of its development. These changes include the demolition of one mill, the collapse of another, and the closure of the school. The Hall House (#4) and the Shanholtz Mill (#10) were the last two resources of major construction in North River Mills. Today North River Mills is only populated by tourists and seasonal visitors.

HISTORY

This area of Hampshire County was first surveyed by George Washington in the early 1750s. Taken by the beauty of the location, he encouraged settlement. Several wagon roads in the area were mapped as early as 1751 by Joshua Fry and Peter Jefferson on a map titled, "A map of the most inhabited part of Virginia containing the whole province of Maryland with part of Pennsylvania, New Jersey and North Carolina."³ The map depicted the Great Philadelphia Wagon Road (also known as the Great Wagon Road) running through nearby Winchester, Virginia, less than 30 miles from North River Mills. The Great Wagon Road, which ran from Pennsylvania to Georgia, was the primary route for settlers moving into the backcountry in the colonial and early federal eras. It also helped carry agricultural production eastward to commercial centers. The village was located on what was known locally as the Great Wagon Road and led from the Great Philadelphia Wagon Road. This road through North River Mills linked Winchester to Cumberland and Romney and is also depicted on the 1751 map. This road was listed on early deeds as the "Great Wagon Road from Winchester to the South Branch" and went to Romney. At some point, likely the late nineteenth

² The National Register defines the area of significance of *Community Planning and Development* as "the design or development of the physical structure of communities." While North River Mills is not a planned community, the organic development of the physical structure of North River Mills is important.

³ Joshua Fry and Peter Jefferson, "A map of the most inhabited part of Virginia containing the whole province of Maryland with part of Pennsylvania, New Jersey and North Carolina," United States Library of Congress American Memory Project, [http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/h?ammem/gmd:@field\(NUMBER+@band\(g3880+ct000370\)\)](http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/h?ammem/gmd:@field(NUMBER+@band(g3880+ct000370))) (3 January 2011).

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century, the road through North River Mills became known as the Springfield Grade, and later, when county routes were established in the 1920s it was called Springfield Grade Road.

Also on the 1751 map is a reference to “T. Parkers” at current-day North River Mills where North River crossed the road. The village, originally known as Parker’s Gap, was named after Thomas Parker who received a 237 acre land grant in 1753 and soon after constructed a residential fort on his property during the French and Indian War (1754-63).⁴ Though it was not garrisoned by militia, the fort was on the main route between Fort Loudon and Fort Pearsall and often served as a stopping place for convoys.⁵ Today, the original Parker property is part of a farm just across North River from the village.

During the French and Indian War there were two alleged attacks in the area. The most serious incident included the kidnapping of 13-year old Sarah Gibbons from her family’s home near Fort Thomas Parker. Sarah was taken by Native Americans to their village where they raised her. She eventually married one of them and had a child she named Abraham. According to local lore, Sarah returned to North River Mills in the mid-1760s to find her natural parents. Once peace was restored at the end of the war, more settlers arrived in the region.⁶

In this early era, roads were public, but not truly regulated. They arose at the convenience of those who lived on them, which would account for the intersection of the two roads at North River Mills. Through these roads, this village was well connected with the outside world and prospered first, as a stage stop, and later as a milling center. Early millers operated on a modified barter system, taking a portion of the production as fees. Cash was rarely used, and then mostly to even out accounts. Farms surrounding the village found the mills’ close proximity to be beneficial for marketing their crops. Often, milling communities also had ties to nearby larger commercial centers, such as Winchester in the case of North River Mills, whose agents could frequent mills at harvest time to replenish town supplies, saving the farmer the expense of transporting his crop to market. Historian Warren Hofstra has written about the triangular relationship between farms, roads, and mills in early Virginia. In the absence of towns, he noted, this relationship was the premise of household sufficiency.⁷ Though milling in North River Mills post-dates Hofstra’s thesis, it is still applicable as North

⁴ North River Mills Society for Antiquarian Arts and the Diffusion of Knowledge, “Timeline for North River Mills,” <http://www.historichampshire.org/nrm/timeline.htm> (10 January 2011).

⁵ William H. Ansel, Jr. “Fort Thomas Parker,” in *Hampshire County, West Virginia 1754-2004*, eds. Roberta R. Munske and Wilmer L. Kerns (Romney, W.Va.: The Hampshire County 250th Anniversary Committee, 2004), 31.

⁶ Stephanie Bailes, “The Story of Sarah Gibbons,” *Stephanie Bailes Articles on North River Mills*, <http://www.historichampshire.org/nrm/steph.htm> (3 January 2011).

⁷ Warren Hofstra, *The Planting of New Virginia: Settlement and Landscape in the Shenandoah Valley*, Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2004, 156.

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River Mills was an important milling center into the twentieth century linked to Winchester and nearby farmland by their roads.

Hofstra has written of the important contributions that small villages and agriculture centers made to larger market towns in Virginia. Winchester, he wrote, “predominated over a hierarchy of towns which included lesser villages and smaller settlements consisting of no more than a shop and a mill or a few houses.”⁸ Though the milling era in North River Mills postdates the time period Hofstra writes about, North River Mills was one such village that had direct and important ties to Winchester. Millers provided flour and meal to Winchester, and two innkeepers provided lodging and fellowship to travelers. The people of town and country depended upon each other, Hofstra explained. “Town life beat to the rhythms of the agricultural year.” Livestock also traveled to market centers via these turnpikes in the west. Rural families located their homes and barns adjacent to the roads that led to town, suggesting a need to be connected to the commercial center.⁹

There were three known mills in North River Mills. Miller’s Mill (#6-a), once three stories, had an overshot wheel that was fed by a mill race from Hiett Run. Both Miller’s Mill and the Snapp Mill (#16), powered by the North River, were burr flour mills. The Shanholtz Mill (#10) was built around 1930 and was powered by gasoline. In her autobiography, Maude Pugh, who spent several childhood years in North River Mills following the Civil War, wrote, “People from all over the county came to these mills. Some from a distance would stay all night and wait for their load of grain to be ground.”¹⁰ Grist millers took advantage of their abilities to always have flour available in exchange for wheat, or to broker the purchase of entire crops, as was common in this era. One common practice entailed a farmer delivering his wheat to a miller where he could exchange it at the ratio of five bushels of grain for one barrel of flour, with one-eighth as the miller’s fee.¹¹

In addition to the three mills, a stagecoach stop/tavern arose in the village to accommodate the increasing traffic on the road. The Miller House (#6), which served as the inn and tavern, is the largest house in the district. Oral history recounts a story of a drummer who stayed the night in the “Russell Room” and died before morning. A Civil-War-era letter recounts a stay at the inn by members of the 153rd Ohio Volunteer

⁸ *Ibid.*, 3.

⁹ *Ibid.*

¹⁰ Maude Pugh, “Brief Autobiography of Maude Pugh, Author of this book,” *Maude Pugh's Memories of North River Mills*, <http://www.historichampshire.org/nrm/maude.htm> (3 January 2011).

¹¹ Hofstra, *Planting of New Virginia*, 292.

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Infantry who were in search of bushwhackers.¹² During the Civil War, North River Mills saw several skirmishes because of its location next to Ice Mountain, a Confederate lookout.

The small village employed their residents in the local post office, stores, and mills. Others worked as farmers, a cobbler, and a blacksmith. The first post office opened in the early 1820s with the address as "North River." Though it was discontinued in August 1829, it was quickly reestablished within a month. Over the years, based on the postmasters' names, the post office likely moved to several buildings within the village including the Miller House, the Moreland store, the Shanholtz Mill, and several residences.¹³ The name of the post office was changed in 1895 to "North River Mills" as is evidenced by the Postmaster General's 1896 post route map of the state of Virginia and West Virginia. The post office was not permanently discontinued until the early 1970s.¹⁴

The United Methodist Church at North River Mills was constructed in the late 19th century after William Miller, owner of the Miller House, deeded the land for the church. The existing school was the second school in North River Mills and it is said that it was moved from Shiloh in Hampshire County when that community built a new, larger school. The school enlisted grades one through eight. Students going to high school attended in Capon Bridge. Though by today's standards the distance to Capon Bridge is not far (less than 10 miles), students often had to spend the week in Capon Bridge due to the distance. With the growing population and use of the school bus, the North River Mills School closed in 1933. Students were then bussed to nearby Slanesville.

One of the first stores in North River Mills was located at the west end of town around 1885. The existing store was built by John W. Gess and was attached to an existing house within the village. Other grocers included Wade Pugh, Love Wolfe, Rumsy Martin, Chris Harmison, Lee Deaver, and Bruce Miller.¹⁵ The store not only sold groceries to the locals, but also was significance in the community's social history, serving as a gathering place for the community, similar to the role the mills took in their heyday.

Architecture

¹² Selden W. Brannon, *Historic Hampshire* (Parsons, W.Va.: McClain Printing Company, 1976), 139-40.

¹³ *Ibid.*, 142-43.

¹⁴ North River Mills Society for Antiquarian Arts and the Diffusion of Knowledge, "Postmasters of North River Mills," <http://www.historichampshire.org/nrm/postmast.htm> (20 January 2011).

¹⁵ Stephanie L. Bailes, "North River Mills Grocery Store," in *Hampshire County, West Virginia 1754-2004*, eds. Roberta R. Munske and Wilmer L. Kerns (Romney, W.Va.: The Hampshire County 250th Anniversary Committee, 2004), 70.

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The architecture of North River Mills strongly reflects its eighteenth century beginnings and its development over the next century. Three of the surviving properties are constructed of squared logs, in keeping with the Midland tradition of folk housing. Hiett House (#1), the oldest structure remaining in the village, is constructed in the style of many early inns and taverns in late colonial America. One room deep, and five rooms wide, the building evolved into the present size over a period of years. The original section of the house is the two-bay left side, evidenced by the off center interior chimney. The symmetrical placement of window openings suggests the pattern of the building's expansion. While there is some interior evidence of the building settling over the centuries, the exterior belies that; windows are plumb, doors fit well, and the roof line is straight. The house retains its original hand sawn lapped siding over the log construction.

The Kump House (#8) and Miller House (#6) are also log buildings, but younger than the Hiett House. Kump House is an extended log cabin that was never sided, except in the gable peaks. The careful joinery of the logs is visible on the exterior. This house was recently restored. Miller house, the largest of the houses in the village, is more massively proportioned than the other two log buildings and is two houses with an adjoining section. It was updated in the late nineteenth century with a bay window in the right gable end. The three log buildings illustrate the versatility and durability of this early housing tradition. In Hampshire County, stone chimneys are a telltale sign of a building's great age. They suggest eighteenth or very early nineteenth century construction. The earliest brick construction in Hampshire County was done by wealthier citizens who could afford servants to fire the brick. Ordinary settlers relied on native stone for chimneys and logs for building walls. According to Virginia and Lee McAlester, log construction continued long after milled lumber was commonly available.¹⁶ By the 1840s milled lumber was widely available, giving builders more options in construction. Croston House (#2, 1848) is an example of this trend. This stick built house retains its two-over-two double hung windows that date it reliably to that decade as advancements in glass making allowed for larger window panes. The milled and turned porch posts and brackets are upscale details that denote a prosperous household.

The church (#7) represents the Gothic Revival style of the late nineteenth century with its pointed arched windows while the house currently used for the local historical society (#4) is an excellent representative of early twentieth century vernacular building traditions. Various agricultural resources within the district also contribute to the district's significance as a collection of architecture, with construction dates spanning over a century, with excellent integrity.

In addition to the integrity of the individual resources, the setting of the district is practically unchanged. It is tucked away in the hills of Hampshire County on rural, narrow roads. In comparison, two similar Hampshire County communities, Bloomery and Yellow Spring, are both situated on major roadways and have numerous changes, including the construction of various modern buildings. Furthermore, architectural surveys in

¹⁶ Virginia and Lee McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses* (New York: Alfred A Knopf, 2002), 84.

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Hampshire County have revealed a number of historic buildings with excellent integrity throughout the area, however, those in North River Mills survive as a unique collection spanning a century and a half.

Summary

With peace restored after the Civil War, the traveling public gradually turned away from the wagon roads, favoring instead turnpikes such as the Northwestern Turnpike. Thus, North River Mills began its long, slow decline. North River Road, coming from the south into North River Mills, accounted for the village's survival, as it was a main thoroughfare through Hampshire County into the 1930s. Ultimately, however, larger mills and better roads made it difficult for the village to compete with the growing commercial center of Winchester. The Snapp Mill (#16) was blown up in 1930 to make room for a road.¹⁷ The Miller Mill collapsed in a heavy snowstorm in 1936. The one-room school closed in 1933.

Today, the hamlet is only occasionally populated by individuals who maintain weekend homes there. There is an active historical society devoted to North River Mills. Miller House serves as a community hall where a small festival, North River Mills Days, is held every spring. The village's proximity to Ice Mountain, a rare geological formation in Hampshire County, brings tourists to the community because guided hikes through the mountain's rare flora and rock formations begin there.

North River Mills is significant in Hampshire County's industrial history for the mills sustained the villagers and ensured their prosperity. Located at the intersection of two important roads, it was a milling and commercial center that supported the larger, nearby commercial centers such as Winchester. Several buildings that were constructed during the village's heyday are intact. These buildings and their relationship to the early transportation network provide an accurate look at life in rural Hampshire County over the 19th and early 20th centuries. It is also eligible for the significance of the community's architecture and development over the course of a century-and-a-half and the high degree of integrity that remains.

¹⁷ Stephanie Lynn Bailes, "North River Mills," in *Hampshire County, West Virginia 1754-2004*, eds. Roberta R. Munske and Wilmer L. Kerns (Romney, W.Va.: The Hampshire County 250th Anniversary Committee, 2004), 71.

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundary begins at a point (Zone 17, 714745E, 4357129N) on the north side of Springfield Grade Road across the street from Gibbons Road. It travels south-southeast along the north side of Springfield Grade Road to a point (Zone 17, 714999E, 4356949N) just before resource numbers 10 and 15. The boundary then turns east until reaching the 840 foot contour line (at Zone 17, 715070E, 4356944N). It then follows this contour line (generally east and southeast) until reaching the easternmost property line of parcel 05-039-016. From here, the boundary turns southwest along this property line and continues southwest until reaching Hiett Run.

The boundary then turns northwest and travels along the southern side of Hiett Run until reaching the eastern side of North River Road. From here the boundary turns south along North River Road until a point (Zone 17, 714990E, 4356537N) at the southernmost corner of parcel 05-039-024.1. The boundary then travels west-northwest along this southern property line and continues following it north-northeast. While the parcel boundary ends, the boundary continues on a straight line until reaching Hiett Run. It follows the southern side of Hiett Run west-northwest until it reaches parcel 05-039-014. From this point, the boundary follows the parcel west and southwest to the North River, then northwest along the North River, then east along the south side of Gibbons Road until reaching Springfield Grade Road. The boundary then crosses Springfield Grade Road to the point of beginning.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

This boundary captures all of the surviving properties and known significant sites in the village of North River Mills. All of the property included within the boundary contributes to the historic significance of the district. The geography and terrain of the area determined the settlement close to the road. It is located in a narrow space between the base of Ice Mountain the Hiett Run. Thus, the boundary is drawn close to the properties following the contour line and Springfield Grade Road on the north side and Hiett Run on the south side. Although the Kump House (#8) and the Snapp Mill site (#16) are further removed from the core of the district on the map, they are historically and physically associated with the community. The original occupant of the Kump House was the village blacksmith.

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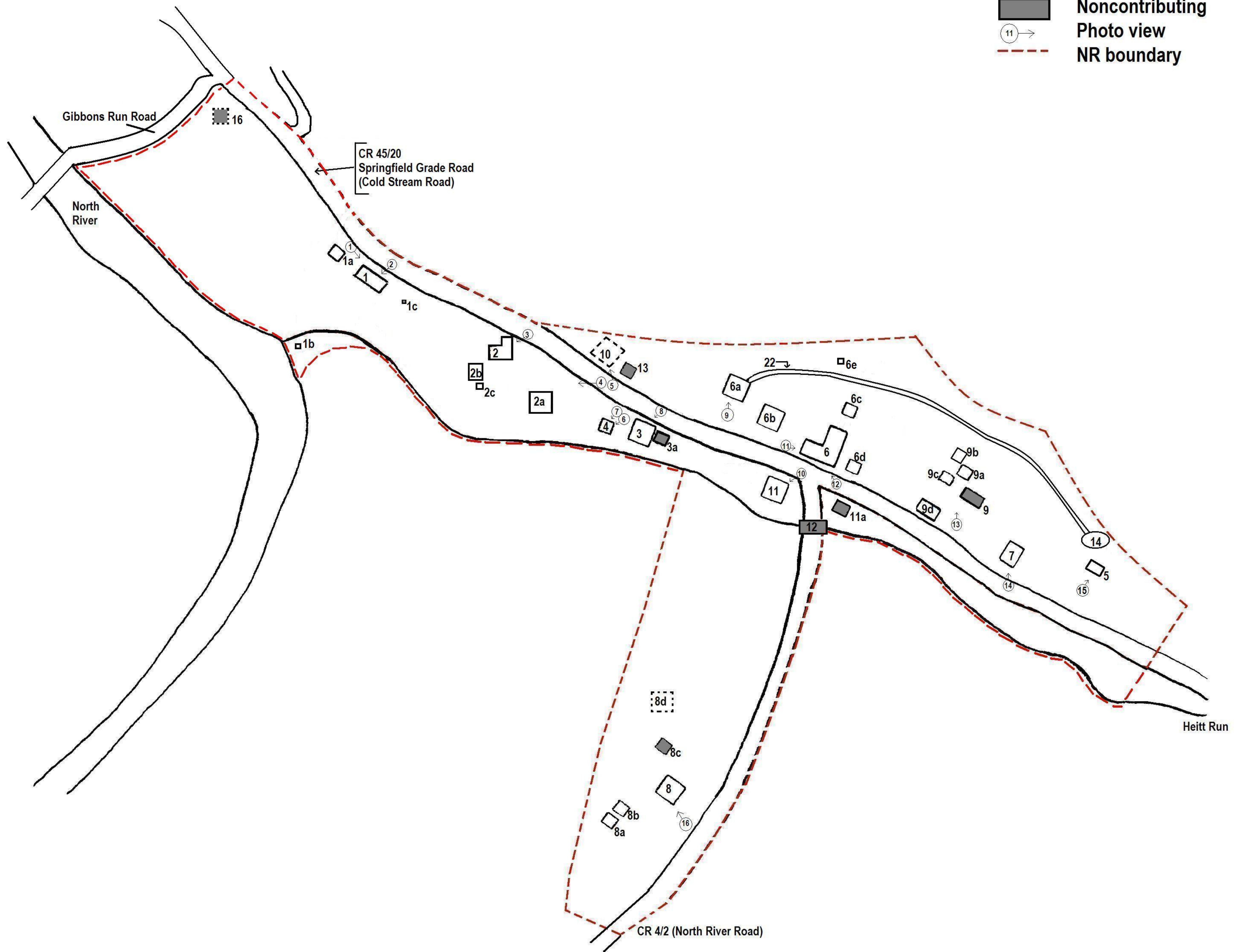
Photographer: Norval Rasmussen

Date: November 2010

Photo	Subject	Camera direction
1 of 16	Panorama of the village (#1 and #2)	SE
2 of 16	Hiatt House (#1)	SW
3 of 16	Croston House (#2)	W
4 of 16	Croston House and barn (#2)	W
5 of 16	Shanholtz Mill Foundation (#10)	N
6 of 16	Shanholtz House (repainted) (#4)	S
7 of 16	Shanholtz House (2008) (#4)	SW
8 of 16	Store (#3)	S
9 of 16	Miller Mill Foundation (#6a)	N
10 of 16	Wooden Barn (#11)	SW
11 of 16	Miller House (#6)	E
12 of 16	Miller House (#6)	NW
13 of 16	Moreland House (#9)	N
14 of 16	Church (#7)	N
15 of 16	School (#5)	SE
16 of 16	Kump House (#8)	NW




North River Mills Historic District
Hampshire County, West Virginia

- Contributing
- Noncontributing
- ⑪ → Photo view
- - - NR boundary



Miller Mill, Millrace and Millpond Location Map

North River Mills Historic District
Hampshire County, West Virginia

-  Contributing
-  Noncontributing
-  NR boundary

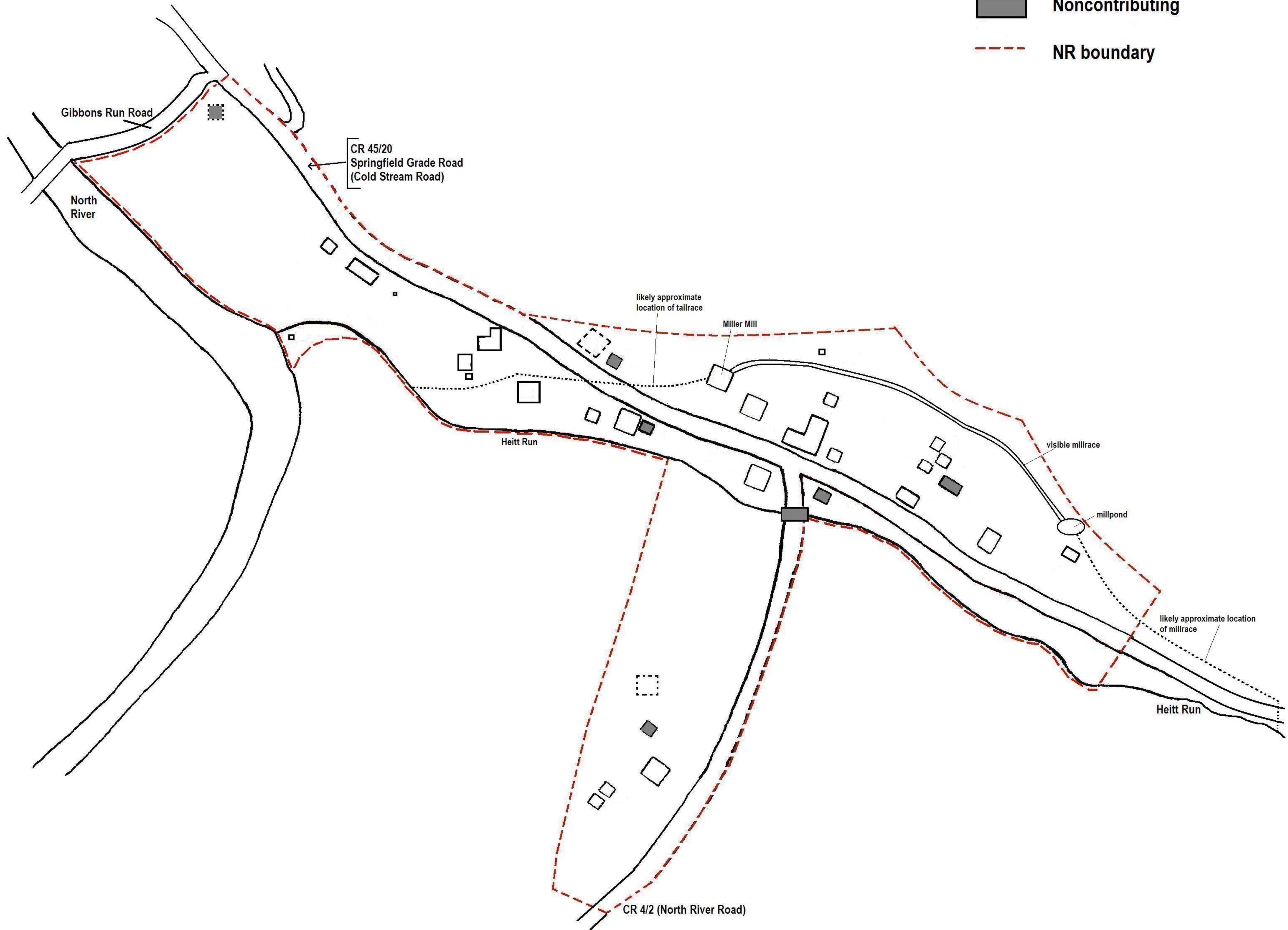




Photo 1: Panorama of the village (#1 and #2)



Photo 2: Hiett House (#1)



Photo 3: Croston House (#2)



Photo 4: Croston House and barn (#2)



Photo 5: Shanholtz Mill Foundation (#10)



Photo 6: House (repainted) (#4)



Photo 7: Hall House (2008) (#4)



Photo 8: Store (#3)



Photo 9: Miller Mill Foundation (#6a)



Photo 10: Wooden Barn (#11)



Photo 11: Miller House (#6)



Photo 12: Miller House (#6)



Photo 13: Moreland House (#9)



Photo 14: Church (#7)



Photo 15: School (#5)



Photo 16: Kump House (#8)