

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

For NPS use only
received
date entered

1. Name

historic Mollohan Mill

and/or common

2. Location

street & number County Route 8

N/A not for publication

city, town Replete

☒ vicinity of

~~Washington, D.C.~~

state West Virginia code 54

county Webster

code 101

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>N/A</u> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: <u>unoccupied</u>

4. Owner of Property

name BERTHA M.
~~Elmer A. Mollohan~~ (ELMER MOLLOHAN IS DECEASED)

street & number Route 3, Box 50

city, town Replete

☐ vicinity of

state West Virginia

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Webster County Courthouse

street & number General Delivery

city, town Webster Springs

state West Virginia

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title N/A has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☒ no

date ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records

city, town

state

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Mollohan Mill is located on County Route 8 on the left fork of Holley River near the community of Replete, Webster County, West Virginia, in a completely rural and undeveloped environment.

This two story frame gable-roofed grist mill rests on a neatly cut sandstone foundation and projects slightly into the left fork of Holly River. The stone piers on the river side of the mill rest on solid rock in the river allowing water to flow under approximately half of the mill. This area under the mill originally contained two turbine water wheels. The other half of the mill is over crawl space.

The two story mill is constructed of hewn post and beam timber construction with pegged mortise-tenon joints and sawn or hewn diagonal bracing vertical studs, and floor joists. The main support posts are beams 9" x 9" poplar. The exterior is covered with sawn unpainted clapboard and a corrugated metal roof, supported by pole joists, installed in 1912. The original roof was wooden shingles.

The Mollohan Mill is 38 feet long, 23 feet wide, 23 feet high at the side walls and 31 feet to the peak from the bottom of the first floor. The mill has three two over two windows on each side and one on each end of the first floor and the same sequence on the second floor. There are two four-paneled doors on the front of the mill away from the river; one on the first floor and one on the second floor. The door on the second floor has a small rectangular transom over it. Steps to the second floor door were never constructed and the front portion of the second floor was not finished.

The long crib dam, original to the mill, is now gone having been washed away in the flooding of 1953. The forebay still exists but is in need of repair, it was constructed of square logs pinned to solid rock most of which are still embeded in the stream. The forebay regulated the water flow to the two wooden turbine water wheels under the mill, one of which remains. The corn and wheat grinding equipment is complete and includes wooden gears, stone burrs and sifters. The Mollohan Mill is, therefore, but little altered from its original, 1894, appearance.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below				
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify)	
				Local History	

Specific dates	1894	Builder/Architect	Bernard Mollohan, builder
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Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Mollohan Mill, located near the tiny community of Replete in Webster County, is significant as an excellent example of a nearly unaltered rural grist mill and the associated craftsmanship in central West Virginia,¹ and as being associated with a family significant to Webster County history.²

EXPLANATORY NOTES

1. The Mollohan Mill is located on the site of two earlier, log constructed mills that were constructed prior to the American Civil War. Both of these mills were completely destroyed in the great flood of April 1861.

The Mollohan Mill was constructed in 1894 by Bernard Mollohan and began operating, on the site of the previous mill, on November 23, 1894. The Mollohan Mill operated from that date until 1953, when a major flood destroyed its dam and washed away one of the water wheels. During its heyday it was, according to one source, "among the most prosperous enterprises in the (Elk River) valley."¹

With the exception of the dam and single water wheel, the original equipment of the Mollohan Mill is completely intact, the only such mill still intact in Webster County. There is one other mill surviving in Webster County, (of the scores that once operated) at Camden-on-Gauley. It retains none of its mill equipment and is presently used for storage. The mill itself is generally unaltered from its original 1894 appearance, with the exception of the metal roof which replaced the original wood shingle roof in 1912. The Mollohan Mill is a good example of mortise and tenon hewn timber construction, while the excellent quality of workmanship is evidenced in the cut stone foundation. Plans are currently underway to put the Mollohan Mill back in active service.

2. The Mollohan Mill was constructed by Bernard Mollohan, an individual significant to the history of Webster County. Early in life, Mollohan established a local reputation as both a competent builder and surveyor. On May 24, 1860 he was elected the 1st Surveyor for newly formed Webster County and headed up the survey team that surveyed and established the boundaries of the new county. In 1866 Bernard Mollohan was chosen by the Webster County Commission to build Webster County's first court house, which he accomplished for a fee of \$1,700.00. This two story frame structure stood as the seat of Webster County's government until its destruction by fire in 1888. Mr. Mollohan's services as a surveyor were again called for by the county in 1882 when, due to a boundary dispute with neighboring Nicholas County, he re-surveyed a portion of the county's boundary, which was re-adjusted accordingly. His building of the Mollohan Mill in 1894 was, then, the crowning achievement of a long and eventful career in Webster County.

1. W.P.A. Writers Project, West Virginia, A Guide to the Mountain State, c.1941.

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Continuation sheet

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Bernard's brother William Mollohan was also significant in Webster County annals. Elected one of the Webster County's first Justices of the Peace in 1860, William formed one of the several infantry companies in 1861 for Union service. Rising quickly to the rank of Captain, William Mollohan was killed at the Battle of Shenandoah Mountain.

Standing in the midst of its rural, pristine natural surroundings, the Mollohan Mill is a significant physical reminder of a largely vanished way of life in America and of noted historical significance to Webster County, West Virginia.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Byrne, W.E.R., Tale of the Elk, Mountain State Press, Richwood, W.VA., 1978 (c.1940)
Dodrill, William Christian, Moccasin Tracks and Other Imprints, Lovett Printing Company,
Charleston, W.VA., 1915.
Miller, Sampson Newton, Annals of Webster County, West Virginia, Before and Since

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property $\frac{1}{2}$ acre
Quadrangle name Hacker Valley, West Virginia

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A

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5	4	6	0	0	0
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4	2	8	1	4	0	0
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Zone Easting Northing

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Zone Easting Northing

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Verbal boundary description and justification Beginning at a point 125' northeast of the northwest corner of mill to a point across Holly River, said point being the far point of the old mill dam; thence 150' northeast, following edge of river, to a point; thence 200' southeast to a point; thence 200' southwest to a point on the edge of the Holly River, thence 50'

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries (Continuation sheet)

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Michael J. Pauley, Historian and
Neil Richardson, Engineering Conservator
Historic Preservation Unit
organization W.VA. Dept. of Culture and History date July 1, 1982

street & number Capitol Complex

telephone 304/348-0240

city or town Charleston

state West Virginia 25305

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

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

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title Commissioner, W.VA. Dept. of Culture and History

date July 16, 1982

For NPS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	
	date
Keeper of the National Register	
Attest:	date
Chief of Registration	

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Continuation sheet

Item number 9

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Organization, 1860, W.VA. Wesleyan College, Buckhannon, W.VA., 1969.
Mollohan, Clark, "Mollohan Mill," W.VA. Historic Sites Inventory Form, Charleston,
W.VA., August, 1980.
Sutton, John Davison, History of Braxton County and Central West Virginia, Sutton,
W.VA., 1919.
Thompson, R.L., Webster County History-Folklore, Star Printers, Webster Springs,
W.VA., 1942.
West Virginia, A Guide to the Mountain State, Writers Project of W.VA., Works
Progress Administration, Oxford University Press, New York, 1941.

#10 Geographical Data

Verbal boundary description and justification (Cont'd)

northeast following edge of river to the point of beginning.

Mollohan Mill
Replete vicinity,
Webster County,
West Virginia

Hacker Valley, W. Va.
U.S.G.S. Quadrangle

E- 17/546/000
N- 42/81/400



