

**Mills in the Upcountry: a Historic Context, and a Summary
of a Mill Site on the Peters Creek Heritage Preserve,
Spartanburg County, South Carolina**

**Prepared for:
The Spartanburg Water Authority**

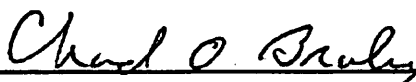
and

**Jordan, Jones & Goulding
6801 Governors Lake Parkway
Building 200
Norcross, Georgia 30071**

by

Chad O. Braley

**with a contribution from
Joseph R. Gainey**


Chad O. Braley
Principal Investigator

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SOUTHEASTERN ARCHEOLOGICAL SERVICES, INC.

**P.O. Drawer 8086
Athens, Georgia 30603**

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1. ARNOLD'S MILL

Little is known about this mill. It was located on Mill Road off Hwy. 183. A Mr. Briggs built the original mill in the early 1800's. When Briggs died, his widow married _____ Arnold. The mill was known as Arnold's Mill. Arnold ran the mill with his uncle, R. L. Holcombe. It included a saw mill, the corn mill, and a cotton gin. Operation at the mill ended in 1925.

44. CENTRAL ROLLER MILL

The old roller mill is now a wonderful antique dealership. How appropriate to house treasures from the past in a building from the past. You can walk the wooden floors and get the sense of a time long since gone, but not forgotten. It was listed as a leading feed manufacturer in the state's 1940 Agriculture Yearbook.

6. DALTON'S MILL

In 1866, the Daltons lived in the Crow Creek section of Pickens County. Several local people remember having their corn ground at the family's mill. Lois Smith Rogers grew up in the area and remembers the mill from her teenage years. Dalton had a gristmill and sawmill beside each other that were operated from the same water wheel. All they had to do was switch belts and pulleys. Leon Durham is another person who remembers the mill. He said, "I helped my father run the sawmill when I was young." The mills were fed by the fast-moving waters of Big Crow Creek River and Little Crow Creek. Dalton's Mill was located on what is now Mile Creek Baptist Church Road above the town of Six Mile. The mill location has been under the waters of Keowee since 1967 when Duke Power began their Keowee Lake Project and the building of Oconee Nuclear Station.

The owner of the two mills was I. R. Dalton, nicknamed Rex, who eventually owned 390 acres of land in the area. The gristmill operation was seasonal and the sawmill ran during the other times of the year. I. R. had two brothers, William E. (Bill) and C. G. (Grayson). Grayson was the mayor of Norris at one time, was in the rodeo, and played a banjo.

The water race that led to Little Crow Creek was 75 feet long and a 300-foot race led to Big Crow Creek. Sometime during the mill's life, Rex Dalton added a 3-foot wheel on top of the main water wheel that produced electricity. He produced electricity using an International Tractor Generator/motor that was 110 volts. There was no way to control the electricity, so every morning Rex would twist light bulbs that were hanging on a cord from the generator until the power he needed was transferred to inside the house.

13. HAGOOD MILL

Benjamin Hagood built the original gristmill around 1825. He came to the foothills in the early 1800's. This first mill was located on a tributary of Twelve Mile Creek about one and a half miles from the present mill site. James Hagood, son of Benjamin, built the present Hagood Mill in 1845. It became a place of social gathering and served the surrounding families into the 1960's. It is a water-powered mill, which ground corn and also had a leather tannery as part of its operation.

Hagood Mill, like all other mills of its time, was a center of commerce, trade and news for the community. It set a South Carolina record in 1870 by producing 2,500 bushels of meal and 200 bushels of flour. In 1880 it produced 120,000 pounds of cornmeal and 20,000 pounds of feed.

The mill is now part of the Pickens County Museum of Art and History. It has been restored and is host to The Upcountry Folklife Festival in early fall of each year. This is a Saturday when old-time crafts, music, and corn grinding can be enjoyed. Every third Saturday of the month, visitors can see the mill in operation. Also, on the same property, is the relocated and restored Murphree-Hollingsworth cabin. This cabin was the home for the first pastor of Secona Baptist Church and was built around 1793. The huge hand-hewn logs still bear the axe marks made by early settlers and Cherokee who helped build the cabin.

11. GOLDEN CREEK MILL

Golden Creek Mill is a beautifully restored grist mill, which sits on the banks of the Twelve Mile River. The original mill was built in 1825 and eventually housed a gin and cotton press.

Golden Creek Mill today is reconstructed using parts from several old mills throughout Oregon, Minnesota, Nebraska, North and South Carolina, and from the country of Denmark. The old water wheel is over one hundred years old. Part of the dam is still there. The dam was made from materials on the premises. The owner and his wife have built a home beside the mill, which is a replica of a miller's house. There is also an "old mill store" very much like you would have found in the old mill days. People could buy the things they needed when they took their corn or grain to be ground.

The stream that powers the mill has been molded and shaped through the years to keep the mill running as it should. Golden Creek Mill is a place you can visit (by appointment) that will take you back to the early days of Pickens County.

15. HAMILTON MILL

Hamilton Mill was located on Dacusville Highway and was built around 1870. The old mill was in operation until 1930. W. A. (Whitten Alfred) Hamilton, grandfather of Mrs. Sarah Hamilton Meece, purchased the mill in the late 1800's. The mill was passed down to her father, Henry W. Hamilton. She is not certain who the original builders of the mill were. She did remember a miller named "Pete" when she was a little girl. There was a miller's house located near the mill, but was torn down many years earlier.

The original millstones 'are still there and will probably be left to the Pickens Museum when Mrs. Meece passes. The rock dam and wheel blocks are still intact. The dam had to be opened a few years ago because of flooding. The wheel was about 12 feet in diameter. The stones were around 48 inches and made of granite.

Hamilton Mill Dam still stands as a testament to its proud history. You can see the opening that was carefully made to prevent flooding of upper land in later years.

16. HENDRICK'S MILL

Hendricks Mill was located on Town Creek, near present day Ingles Supermarket. Corn and wheat were ground at the mill that was about the size of Hagood Mill. Mrs. Margaret Trotter is the only direct descendant who remembers the mill in operation. Mrs. Trotter owns over 150 acres of property that has been in the family since 1906. Mrs. Trotter's father, John Frank Hendricks, owned the mill and surrounding acreage. The mill burned and metal from the water wheel was sold as scrap iron. The Model- T automobile that hauled the scrap metal is still in the family. Alonzo Pace built another mill across the creek from this one in 1921 (after Hendricks Mill burned). The wheel was about 15 feet in

diameter and made of wood. Two doors were on the front of the mill and you entered on the left side. This mill washed away in 1946.

Hendricks Store was built around 1918 after another store burned. It closed in 1939, before World War II began. Cornmeal from the mill, clothes, grocery items, fresh produce, homemade canned items, and even coffins were sold at Hendricks Store. It might be compared to an early "Wal-Mart."

19 or 20. HUNTER'S MILL

Near the Golden Creek Baptist Church in Norris sits a beautiful mill site called Hunter's Mill. William Hunter owned this mill. He came to the area in the 1820's and later was a signer of the Ordinance of Secession representing the Pickens District. The mill sat on the banks of the Twelve Mile River. As with many other mills in Pickens County, he had a tannery located on the site. His tannery produced leather goods for the Confederate Army during the War Between the States.

William Hunter was a leader of the community. He was descended from Joseph and Mary McEldownie Hunter of Ireland. There are still descendants of William Hunter living in Pickens County. William Hunter acquired much land and gave some for the Golden Creek Baptist Church.

24. JAMESON MILL

Jameson Mill, located off Jameson Road in Easley, was built on the north fork of George's Creek. The original owner was William Jameson, Sr. Very little is known about the history of the mill today. In the mid-1990's, it was taken apart in numbered pieces and moved to a storage facility in Georgia. Jameson Mill was unusual because the support for the flume was made of stone. Corn and wheat were ground at the mill. There was a cotton gin on the site.

28. KAY MILL (PUCKETT MILL)

The Kay Mill, located on the Old Seneca Road in Six Mile, has a lot of history behind its closed doors. In the mid-1900's, it was a machine shop, not a grist mill. Kay Mill was created when the old Puckett Mill was moved to this site. Many years earlier, it had been moved here and the present owner's grandfather ran the mill and named it after his family name, Kay. Part of old Puckett Mill is believed to be the wooden building that is attached to the concrete mill building. It is in disrepair and part has fallen in.

Kay Mill, built in the early 1900's, is a medium-sized mill by size standards. The metal wheel part, rusted, yet proud, still stands today. The Kay family built their house across the road from the mill and received electrical power from the mill and the water tank, which stored water for days. This was rare to find a water tank on the mill site (it still stands). The house burned many years later and only the tall chimney remains. Kay Mill later opened as a machine shop when the need for grinding corn in the community ended. The river, flowing along side the mill, is still a fast moving body of water. Kay Mill was recalled by some as being an "important part of the lives of farmers living in the Six Mile community, and still holds a special place in the hearts of her older citizens."

25. LAY MILL

Lay Mill was located on Lay Mill Road in Central. The setting is heavily forested, with a fast-moving stream and is isolated from close-by housing. The corn mill was a small one according to community mill sizes. Jerry Alexander, a writer for the Pickens Sentinel, has used Lay Mill as the subject for many of his human-interest stories. Lay Mill was an overshot mill that was built on the banks of Cateechee River. The mill is located near the Cateechee Cotton Mill. The Lay family owned the mill and property in the late 1800's through early 1900's. D. K. Norris bought part of the property in 1890 to build the cotton mill.

32 and 33. MEECE MILL (and Gravely Mill) Yoder's at Meece Mill

The present building, on Meece Mill Road in Pickens, is known as Yoder's at Meece Mill. In earlier years, this area was the site of two grist mills. The original owner of the older mill, Ballenger Gravely, bought the mill in the 1800's. His son, Mac, inherited it from his father. It was located on the other side of the road from the present building. Gravely Mill was a one-story building built on a creek bank and housed a cotton gin. The community, from a four-mile radius came to the miller, Robert Evans, to have their corn ground. The wooden wheel was 10 x 4 feet in diameter, with granite stones that were 4 feet in diameter. One of the old stones still sits on the roadside.

A. M. Walker built a mill across the road in the late 1870's or early 1880's. The community newspaper ran an article about the prosperity of the mill in 1883. Bob Meece purchased the "new" mill (Meece Mill) and six acres, in the 1920's, for \$975. A hammer mill, corn mill, and wheat mill was part of this operation. A turbine ran this mill.

Among the millers who worked the mill were Bill Saunders, Mac Walker, Garcey Simmons, and Jim Childs. Due to the water supply, the corn was ground during the day and wheat was ground during the night.

Julian Yoder bought and restored the building and surrounding area to make a wonderful historic stop in the Pickens area. Although visitors cannot see the mill at work, they can enjoy the beauty of the river area and the history of the old mill. They may also delight in delicious homemade baked goods fresh from the bakery. A variety of cakes, muffins, breads, and cookies can be savored while sitting in a swing overlooking the view!

35. NINE TIMES MILL (Cantrell Mill)

Cettis Cantrell owned the land and mill. It had been referred to as Cantrell and/or Nine Times Mill because it is located on Nine Times Road. It is a medium-sized mill that once ground corn and wheat. There was a cotton gin also located on the site. The original mill on this site went back to the late 1700's or early 1800's after the Cherokee had been pushed farther back in the mountains (in 1790). Only a dam is left of the older original mill operation. The dam is about 100 feet long and made of field rock. It starts at the roadbed, so the mill could have been where the new roadbed is now. There are no remains of the mill. The flume was destroyed when the new road was created.

At one time, there was a large miller's house that came to the edge of the road. It had a well up on the porch. The large house was torn down and a smaller one was rebuilt on the house site. The original owner is thought to be Mickey Cantrell (father of Cettis). The railroad ran on the other side of the creek from the mill.

40. PRICE'S MILL

The history of Price's Mill goes back to the early 1800's. Thomas R. Price owned and built the mill, but was not the miller. He came to the side of this mountain from Old Pickens Courthouse, to where the Rock at Jocassee golf course is, about 1850. He bought 850 acres for \$1,900 from Joab Lewis. Price was an early road builder and was instrumental in getting Hwy. 178 built from Pickens toward Rocky Bottom. After building the mill and a small store near Holly Springs store, he hired a Mr. Bible to operate the mill. Bible ground corn, rye, barley, and malts for people in the community. He also made brooms out of the corn shucks. Corn for food was 95% of the grinding process while 5% of the ground corn was used in the making of whiskey.

Later, Wade Chastain purchased the big white home of Price and raised a large family there. The 12 foot diameter wheel was removed to another location. The wheel was unusually large for a small community mill. The white house is still located on the golf course property, but the mill has long since gone.

42. RAXTER MILL

Raxter mill is one of the oldest mill sites in Pickens County. The site is located on New Hope Church Road off Highway 8 near Pumpkintown. The mill closed about fifty years ago and nothing remains of the mill building. A small part of the flume and rock wheel stand remains hidden by dense undergrowth. The mill ground corn and was located on the opposite side of the road from the miller's house. George Hyder's parents ran the mill.

43. REECE MILL

Reece Mill was located along what is now Reece Mill Road. It had what surely must have been the largest dam and largest waterwheel in the county... a 25 foot tall dam and a 25 foot diameter, 8 foot wide, waterwheel. The last owner / operator was Arthur G. Reece. His son, Ray, recalled working in the mill as a boy. Along with the gristmill, a cotton gin was run on the site.

48. STEWART-CRAIG MILL

People once depended on the Stewart-Craig Mill in a variety of ways. John Stewart and Robert Stewart originally ran it. The mill itself was much like present Golden Creek Mill, but with a few exceptions. It had a grocery store (inside) run by Mr. Wallace Finley's family and it neighbored Dalton's Mill. Like many other historic sites, the mill gave way to progress and the opening of Oconee Nuclear Station.

Stewart Craig Mill had an overshot wheel. The miller was a Mr. Bryant, who lived directly behind the mill. Mr. Finley's family owned the mill in the early 1900's, but had to sell it back to the previous owner, John Craig. The mill had a cotton gin inside and Mr. Finley reported that his brother needed to move it in 1929 to the store for power, but the Great Depression prevented the move.

47. SYMMES' MILL

Daniel Symmes came to the Pendleton District from Massachusetts around 1790. He married Avis Tourtelot, a widow with three young daughters. His wife was the widow of Asa Tourtelot, probably a merchant in the area, who had received a land grant of 300 acres. At his death, Avis deeded the land to her brother from Charleston, who deeded it back to her daughters. There was a stipulation that she should have use of it during her

lifetime. At that time, a woman's property had to be in her husband's name, so this was a smart way to keep the land for her daughters after he died.

Daniel built the mill on Eighteen Mile Creek sometime in the early 1800's, because on an 1822 land plat it was an established landmark in the area. The mill itself is shown on earlier plats. The mill was on the old road between Pendleton and Pickensville. Most of the Symmes' property was later sold to William Clayton. The dam was made of huge stones that were carefully fitted together. As late as 1983 the mill and dam was intact, but in very poor condition.

This information was taken from an article printed in a Pendleton Historic Foundation Newsletter from Spring 1983.

45. SHERIFF MILL

Sheriff's Mill was located on what is now Sheriff's Mill Road, near Easley. George Washington Sheriff emigrated from Ireland during the 1770's and came to live in the upstate. A son, Exodus, built the mill in 1840, but he was not the miller. A house was built for the miller just down the road from the mill. It is not clear who the first miller was.

The mill was large by mill standards and stood three stories tall. It had one of the largest grinding stones in the area. The bottom floor housed the machinery needed to operate a wooden elevator that carried the corn up to the sifter and then through a shaft to be ground into meal on the middle floor. A wheel inside the mill was turned to open the head gate from the pond, behind a beautiful stone dam. This brought water down the race and over the "overshot" type water wheel.

47. SIMMS MILL (LIBERTY)

Simms Mill is a beautiful and peaceful site to remember days gone by. This was one of the mills that served the people of Liberty. There is a creek running off a rock dam. Forested areas surround this picturesque setting and hide the memories that still abide here. The old water wheel is no longer on the mill building, having rotted and washed away in 1964.

50. THOMAS MILL

Thomas Mill has an long history in the Dacusville community. The mill was built around 1860. John Washington Thomas bought the mill from a J. Hunt. The mill had a water-powered cotton gin and a small store. Nearby was a blacksmith shop. The mill ground corn and wheat. It is located on Thomas Mill Road, which in earlier years was the main road to Greenville. It had a long line of millers including Mr. Lee Holcombe and J. B. Winchester, who helped build Highway 25. Later, there was a Mr. Landers, Mr. Stargell, Mr. Cisson, and finally, "Toy Doll" Smith. There was a bell, which hung at the mill, which a customer could ring to alert the miller. A son of Mr. Thomas bought the water wheel from Saluda, North Carolina. It was 20 feet tall and was shipped on a T-Model truck, along with the stones.

Here is the first of three Winchester Mill research reports that follow. Winchesters were early settlers to Pickens County, arriving in the late 1700's. They are probably all related, but the mills are separate from each other and built in different communities.

**53. WINCHESTER MILL
(Shady Grove)**

“Lum” Winchester purchased this property in 1887 and hired a Mr. Hardin to build the mill. It had a 16 foot diameter wooden wheel. The last miller was descendant, James W. Winchester, who ran the mill for about 50 years. Winchester Mill was “owned” by Meadows Manufacturing and was later operated by a gas or diesel engine. The grinding stones are vertical where most are horizontal.

The mill produced both fine and coarse cornmeal and some flour. Mr. Winchester's cornmeal was highly desirable and people came from all over to get his meal. James W. Winchester died in January 1986, a year after the mill closed.

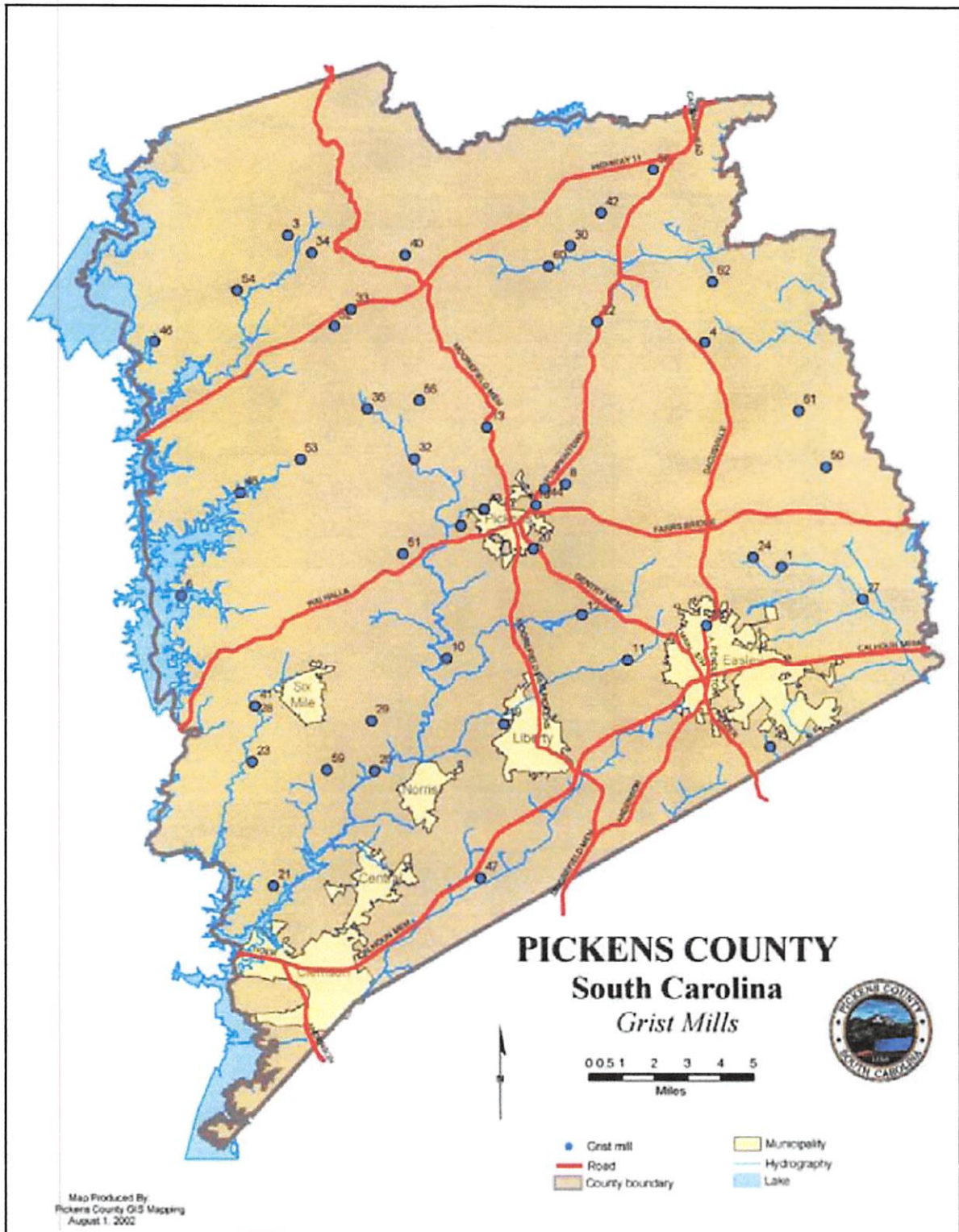
**54. WINCHESTER MILL
(Eastatoe Creek)**

Daniel Winchester, who willed many acres of land to his son A. T. Winchester, originally built Winchester Mill. It sat on a shoal of Eastatoe Creek, which fed the race to the wheel. A wood shop and blacksmith shop was located at the site. The Winchester brothers built various pieces of furniture and caskets for the community. They are said to have built the wheel for Hagood Mill. When folks came to the mill to have their corn ground, they could get cattle feed, order or trade for wood products, have their mule or horses shod, and get their wagon or buggy worked on. During the War Between the States, Daniel was assigned to special wagon and harness making duties for the last year of the war.

The millrace was designed and engineered by Earl Harden. The race was made of poplar wood from Winchester land. Wheel spokes had to have small wedges driven in them to secure them tightly. However, for this particular wheel, Harden had the spokes angled differently from their usual method of building a wheel. By doing this, the spokes did not require a wedge. The wheel was built of solid black locust that came from trees off Daniel Winchester's land, which were probably sawed by G. W. Keasler. Bright Gilstrap was the main carpenter, along with Woodrow's older brothers, Willie B, Tommy, and J.D. Daniel, himself a skilled wagon wheel maker, helped with the completion of the project. The mill was located on top of a secure field stone foundation.

**51 or 52. WINCHESTER MILL
(Town Creek, Winchester Mill Rd.)**

John Matt Breazeale originally owned the one-story mill. Corn and wheat were ground and it had an electric corn-sheller. Sylvester “Vess” and Vera Winchester bought the mill in the 1930's. It had a saw mill, cotton gin, and syrup mill on the site. Mr. Winchester had a small wood saw under the mill and made shuttles for cotton mills in the area. The dam was six feet high with a steel wheel that was 10 feet in diameter. The flume was a partial ditch on rock and the race was a metal wound pipe. Winchester Mill had 48-inch stones.



Alan Warner provided the following mill histories:

2. Ballard Mill

Builder: Dr. Charles Ballard

Location: Pumpkintown, Hwy. 288, Elrod Store

There is evidence of a corn mill on this site before Dr. Ballard's. This mill was located at the foot of a 120 foot water fall. The water was caught at about a 20 foot elevation. It appears that the mill may have been a tub mill. The stones were 36 inches in diameter. Later, Dr. Ballard built a mill in the 1950's for personal use. The mill was run by a water motor. He ran an 8 inch steel water line from the top of the 120 foot waterfall to the mill. He also ran a generator for electricity.

3. Big Laurel Mill

Builder: Community

Location: Eastatoe, Pickens

This mill may have been owned by the Chastains. It was a very small corn mill. The building is a log structure, 10 ft. by 10 ft. and 12 feet tall. The dam is three feet high and made of stone. The mill is powered by a tub wheel. This wheel is laying flat and 4 feet in diameter. The current steel wheel would originally been made of wood. This steel wheel was made by a Mr. Hutchinson. The stones are 24 inches in diameter and were brought from the Laura Fork Mill in the Horsepasture area. This mill was truly a community mill. A person would bring a bushel or a bushel and a half (50 -75 lbs.) to the mill and grind the corn themselves.

7. Durham's Mill

Builder: John Durham, Jerry Clement

Location: Durham's Mill Road, Pickens

This mill was owned by Jerry Clement and operated by Lucy and Mary Jane Clement. The mill was then bought and operated by John Childress and his family. Will Crane owned and operated a turbine and generated on this site to produce electricity for the town of Pickens. John Durham bought the corn mill site in 1918. The millers were Charlie Childress and Leo Watson. John Durham added a second waterwheel down the creek for a sawmill, planer and cotton gin. The corn mill ground wheat and corn for the community. The wheel was approximately 12 feet in diameter. The building was two stories. The mill ran only during the day because the water supply was promised to the city at night. This was a problem for Durham Mill because most mills had to grind at night to keep up with the demand. The mill was shut down in the 1950's. The turbine for the generator was moved to the "new" Meece Mill. The mill was torn down and sold.

57. Galloway Mill

Builder: Oscar Galloway

Location: Shady Grove Road, Pickens

This mill was behind the present Carlyle Keasler home. It had been moved from Cedar Rock near Crow Creek by Oscar Galloway and Sam Gilbreath. The following year, after their move, had a dry summer and there was not enough water to run the mill.

10. Gasoway Mill

Location: Riggins Bridge Rd., Gilstrap Rd.

This mill was already deteriorating in 1920. The dam was approximately 8 feet tall. The flume was earthen and started at the dam as a small ditch. It hugged the side of the hill for about 2,000 feet. The elevation was about 30 feet at the mill site.

12. Griffin Mill

Location: Griffin Mill Rd.

Little is known about this old mill and nothing remains. The deed of property for Smith Griffin mentions Old Griffin Place, 241 acres and the mill tract.

15. Hamilton Mill

Builder: Whitten Alfred Hamilton

Location: Easley Baptist Hospital

Whitten Alfred Hamilton may have built this mill. Henry Whitten Hamilton was the second owner. This mill ground both corn and wheat. The dam is 10 feet tall and made of rock. The original flume was approximately 600 feet long. The wheel was 12 feet in diameter. The millstones were 48 inches in diameter and made of granite. The last miller's name was "Pete." The mill closed in 1928.

14. Head Mill

Builder: John Head

Location: Cedar Creek and Keowee River

This mill was located at Cedar Creek and the Keowee River in the Piney Grove community (Shallow Ford). Lem Head ran it after his father. Essie Craig was Lem Head's daughter and some may remember it as Craig Mill.

46. Hinkle Mill

Builder: Silas Hinkle

Location: Eastatoe, Horse Pasture, Pickens

This mill was located at the old Dr. Valley house. The house was owned by Silas Hinkle. The mill was located just below the shoals above the home place on Cane Creek. There was a corn mill, brandy mill and carpenter's shop. Millers would usually empty their mill pond once a week to wash out any silt that had accumulated during the week. They would open the dam on Saturday evening and close it on Sunday afternoon. Silas Hinkle built a flume from the mill pond to the foot of the hill. The rich silt from the creek was emptied and allowed to settle. This built up the land for crops. The mill stopped running in the 1920's.

17. Horse Pasture Mill

Location: Laurel Fork Creek

Not much is known about this long gone mill. It was owned by the Morgans on the Laurel Fork Creek.

20. Hunter Mill

Location: Hwy 8 & LEC Rd., Pickens

This mill was located on Wolf Creek, down the creek from American Waffle in Pickens. A mud sill is the only evidence of its existence. The sill was pegged with wood into the rock. This mill ran in the 1800's. It is mentioned in Ben Robertson's "Red Hills & Cotton" on page 58. It states that there was also a saw mill on the site.

18. Hunter Mill

Location: Behind Old Golden Creek Church

The mill was located on the property behind the old Golden Creek Baptist Church between Pickens and Easley.

29. Kelly Mill

Builder: Ben Kelly

Location: Kelly Mill Rd., Six Mile

Ben Kelly built this mill. John N. Stewart married Nettie Kelly and became the miller. This mill ground both corn and wheat. The dam is 8 feet tall, with about a one hundred foot mill race. The wheel was made of steel, 10 feet in diameter and 4 feet wide. The stones were French Buhr and 4 feet in diameter.

41. Pucket's Mill

Location: Six Mile

Little is known about this Six Mile mill that was torn down and used to build Kay Mill, also in Six Mile.

44. Rolling Mill

Location: Hwy 8, near 1421 Pumpkintown Hwy., Pickens

The mill was built by Ervin Hendricks in the late 1800's. It was a three-story roller mill that ground wheat and corn. The wheel was 12 feet in diameter and 6 feet wide. There were two dams, one on Town Creek and one on a smaller creek. The two flumes ran together at the race. The mill was torn down in the 1930's when the Pumpkintown Hwy (8) was straightened and widened.

22. Stancil Mill

Builder: Joe Stancil

Location: Highway 8, Pickens

This mill was last owned by Dwight Rigdon. The miller was Jesse Anderson during the 1930's and 1940's. Robert Lee Morris bought the site in 1945. The mill was run on shares and was out of operation by 1949. The dam is on the left side of Highway 8. The flume was about 100 feet long and the wheel, about 16 feet in diameter. It was made of metal buckets and wooden spokes. Corn was ground at this mill on 3 feet diameter stones.

46. SILAS HINKLE MILL

This mill did not employ a full time miller. Today, you would call it a do-it-yourself operation. Farmers in the community were able to operate the mill on their own. Silas Hinkle built the mill in the late 1800's. The house that Silas Hinkle owned became the home of Dr. Valley. The mill was just below the shoals above the home place on Cane Creek.

The mill did not have much equipment to operate. It was a simple process that had a crib-wire where you poured the corn in and sifted it out. There was no corn sheller. The mill operated on a tub wheel that was horizontal. The stone dam was four feet high and thirty feet long. The pond around the dam was approximately 30x50 square feet.

The water source was Big Laurel Creek, which continues to flow along, carrying the history of the old mill site, as it runs through the valley of Eastatoe. The mill's flume has long since decayed and disappeared. Remains of the old building appear to make the original building size at 16x20 square feet. It was made mostly from wooden shakes and the remains look to be about 100 years old. The mill stopped operating in the 1920's.