NPS Form 10-900 OMB No. 1024-0018

3United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

764

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form.* If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

RECEIVED 2280
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NAT. REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

1. Name of Property
Historic name: **Old Dowlin Mill**
Other names/site number: **Old Mill, Dowlins Mill, Lesnetts Mill**
Name of related multiple property listing:

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing
N/A

2. Location
Street & number: **641 Sudderth Drive**
City or town: **Ruidoso** State: **NM** County: **Lincoln**
Not For Publication: ☐ Vicinity: ☐

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 forth 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 at the following level(s) of significance:

___national **_X_statewide** **_X_local**

Applicable National Register Criteria:

_X_A **_X_B** **___C** **___D**

19 Aug. 2013

Signature of certifying official/Title: **Date**

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official: **Date**

Title : **State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government**

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

✓ entered in the National Register

___ determined eligible for the National Register

___ determined not eligible for the National Register

___ removed from the National Register

___ other (explain:) _____

for Edson H. Beall 9.25.13

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

Private:	x
Public – Local	
Public – State	
Public – Federal	

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

Building(s)	x
District	
Site	
Structure	
Object	

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		sites
2		structures
1		objects
4		Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

6. Function or Use
Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)
COMMERCE/TRADE: specialty store
GOVERNMENT: post office
INDUSTRY/PROCESSING: manufacturing facility (mill)

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)
RECREATION AND CULTURE: museum/art gallery

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)
No Style: southwest adobe

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)
Principal exterior materials of the property:
Adobe block

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with **a summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

Present and Original Physical Appearance of Property

SUMMARY

The property known as the Old Dowlin Mill consists of a large rectangular building, vernacular in style; an 18' high wooden flume, 79' in length; and, a 16' overshot water wheel on stone foundations that rotates 18" flint millstones inside the building. Located in the NE4 SW4 of Section 26, 11S/13E, at 641 Sudderth Drive, Ruidoso, New Mexico, it is the oldest building in Ruidoso and has been the site of a water-powered mill since 1868. As the only functioning water-powered gristmill still in its original location in New Mexico, it conveys statewide significance. The Old Dowlin Mill is closely associated with the events, people, and activities that constitute the history of Ruidoso and Lincoln County; thus, it conveys local significance. Today, it is an iconic reminder for visitors and residents of the early years in Ruidoso and its role in commerce and the community.

Narrative Description

LOCATION and SETTING

The Rio Ruidoso (Noisy River) begins on the north-east flank of Sierra Blanca Peak in the Sacramento Mountains of south-central New Mexico, and flows eastward through the Mescalero Apache Reservation and the towns of Ruidoso, Ruidoso Downs, and San Patricio until it joins the Bonito to form the Hondo River. The Village of Ruidoso, which began as Dowlins Mill, is a tourist and retirement community along the Rio Ruidoso and nestled in the pine covered hills and valleys that drain into the Rio Ruidoso. It is the largest town and the economic center of Lincoln County—a county known for its western heritage as well as modern tourist draws. Summer activities in Ruidoso, and neighboring Ruidoso Downs and Mescalero, include horseracing, casino gambling, golf, restaurants, shopping, and outdoor activities on the Lincoln National Forest. In the fall, hunting boosts the economy as skiing does in the winter months. A moderate, mountain climate makes Ruidoso a premier destination for tourists and retirees-turned residents.

Located on Sudderth Drive, and a short distance south of the Rio Ruidoso, the Old Dowlin Mill is mid-way between US Highway 70 and Ruidoso's main retail and shopping district. New Mexico State Highway 42 through Ruidoso was known as Main Street until 1961 when the New Mexico Highway Department widened the road to four lanes and re-named it Sudderth Drive. Restaurants and fast food outlets, small businesses, an amusement park, the Chamber of

Commerce, and an RV park line Sudderth near the mill **(Photo #1 & #2).** Still, the old mill building and water wheel stand out as a scenic and historic landmark among the modern buildings that surround it. Even today, people stop to visit and take pictures by the water wheel, just as they have for generations.

The nominated property consists of a contributing building, the old mill, two structures, the water wheel and wooden flume, and one object, the 1951 commemorative plaque in front of the mill. A residential property located in the south 140' of the Revised Mill Site Tract (Map 1) is not within the boundaries of this nomination.

EXTERIOR MILL BUILDING

The mill building is rectangular (100' by 24') in shape with 12' high stucco-covered adobe walls resting on stone foundations laid in cement. Thick adobe walls are protected by a one-hundred year-old galvanized-tin gable roof on an east to west ridgeline (Figure 19 Architectural Drawings #3).

North Elevation

The north elevation (the façade) contains one of two main entries into the building (Photo #3). The north wall parallels the curb-line of Sudderth Drive running approximately 14' north. Three fixed sash windows with wooden shutters pierce the west half of the façade —two west of the entry door and one east of the door. A 10' by 10' gable porch covers cement steps to a below grade entry space and an entry door with fixed wooden shutters (Photo #4). A sign erected along the ridgeline of the porch reads: "*THE HISTORIC OLD MILL...RUIDOSO'S BIRTHPLACE.*" A three-panel, wooden screen door and an interior three panel wooden door with three-over-three half glass lights provide access to the interior. From the threshold, a wooden ramp drops six inches to the interior floor level. The east half of the façade contains one un-adorned wooden five-panel door with a threshold approximately 2' higher than the entry door. In front of the building, a two-inch pipe railing, approximately 25 feet long, runs west from the entry porch along a sidewalk and over the culvert diverting water from the tailrace. In 1951, the Lincoln County Memorial Commission erected a metal marker next to the rail that reads: "Old Dowlin Mill...Part original structure...Famous landmark for 100 years...Originally grist and sawmill...Used as rendezvous by William H. Bonney (Billy the Kid), Pat Garrett, Johnny Riley, J.J.Pershing (then Lt. at Fort Stanton) and other historic figures."

East Elevation

A gable elevation, the east end is partially built into the hillside, or perhaps backfilled. The ridgeline of the roof is 8' above grade, a single attic vent is visible in the crown, and there is no fenestration (Photo #5).

South Elevation

The south elevation presents a continuous 100' wall with no fenestration. Surface grade drops approximately 9' from the southeast corner. The roof-line on the southwest corner is approximately 12' high (Photo #6).

West Elevation

The west elevation features a wooden four-panel entry door with 6/6 half glass, a fixed light above the door, and wooden fixed shutters on each side centered in the wall. The west elevation is approximately 18' high at ridgeline. There is an approximate 9' drop in grade from the east end of the building (Photo #9).

INTERIOR MILL BUILDING

The interior of the mill building is open from floor to ceiling, revealing adobe and stone construction. The wooden floor, high ceiling, and whitewashed stone and adobe walls, visible in the interior, are indicative of historical building techniques and materials (Photos #10 & #11). Shelf spaces carved in the north and south wall correspond with previous openings in the wall. Names and dates of past visitors, scratched into lime plaster on the south wall, date to the 1930s. On the east side, wooden stairs climb to a framed loft with wooden floors and a water closet in the southeast corner. In the southwest corner, an iron driveshaft from the waterwheel drives a 12" diameter, historic flint millstone (Photo #12). An adjustable iron band secures the top stone, and a belt propelled by the revolutions of the water wheel turns the bed stone. Grooves in the stones cut the grain into smaller increments, eventually emptying as flour, or meal, into a collection sack. Interior light comes from windows, doors, and hanging lights suspended from a fiberboard ceiling. The spacious feeling of the interior contributes to the overall historical nature of the building.

WATER WHEEL and FLUME

A functioning overshot waterwheel, 16' in diameter and 7' wide, contains two rows of wooden buckets 10" deep and 3' wide. Pieces of surplus iron cogs balance the wheel as it turns on a 4" steel axle resting on 8' tall stone foundations (Figure 25 Architectural Drawing #9). Revolutions of the waterwheel provide power to turn the millstone inside the building. A 3' by 1' wooden flume projects 79' from the south hillside until it is 18' high over the waterwheel where the flume flares out to 7' wide (Photo #8). Peeled log posts braced with rough sawn cross members, rest on railroad ties supported by concrete foundations (Photo #7). Water from the well enters the flume approximately 10' back from the water drop. A wooden pedestrian bridge crosses the tailrace pond in front of the water wheel (Photo #9).

Original Appearance and Changes through Time

The earliest photograph of the Dowlin sawmill operation appears circa 1870 (Figure 1 Vintage Photo #1). Here the millrace, rows of stacked lumber, saw logs, a vertical water wheel next to a tall adobe building, and several out-buildings are visible in the photograph.

Photographs taken in the late 1880s, and prior to a fire in 1893 (Figures 2, 3, and 4: Vintage Photos #2, #3, #4), show the tailrace and two wooden flumes, a long building with a broken roofline, and a covered porch and entry on the east side of the building. Until 1893, two water-powered mills existed—a gristmill and sawmill. One flume appears to enter the building and may have serviced a small, horizontal gristmill inside the mill building. Another flume west of the building serviced a sawmill operation and powered a vertical water-wheel (in the photos, the water-wheel is hidden behind a splash shed). However, a fire in 1893 burned or partially

damaged the mill building and the vertical water wheel was subsequently moved adjacent to the mill building in the present day approximate location.

Photographs in the early 1920s (Figures 3, 4, and 5: Vintage Photo #3, #4, #5) depict a dormant but operable building, water wheel, and flume in its current location and footprint but no sign of occupation or commercial activity.

In a 1928 photograph (Figure 8 Vintage Photo #8) the building appears abandoned; the wheel is off its hub and deteriorating. Nevertheless, some activities occurred at the mill during the depression and war years: "(I)n the 1930s a hardwood floor was installed and weekly dances were held for several years."[1] Also in the 1930s, "a women's chamber of commerce at Ruidoso was granted permission to operate the historic landmark," however, the women only used the building for a few summers. [2] During this period, the door on the west end was closed and plastered over, as were two window openings. The water wheel may have turned but was not used in conjunction with a gristmill. Although neglected during the Depression and war years, the Old Mill became one of the memories of a Ruidoso trip and was the subject of numerous postcards, paintings, sketches, and family photos (Figure 12 Vintage Photo #12). The vacant building also attracted vandals who scratched their names into the lime plaster walls, inadvertently leaving a tangible time line.[3]

Photos in the 1930s and 1940s (Figures 9, 10, and 13: Vintage Photos #9, #10, #13), document the severity of the deterioration with disintegrating adobe walls, failing roof, listing flume supports, and non-functional water-wheel.

In 1946, Carmon and Leona Phillips moved to Ruidoso, built a small house adjacent to the mill and set up a photography studio (Figure 15 Vintage Photo #15). They also sold postcards, curios, and jewelry. In 1950, Phillips purchased the Old Dowlin Mill from White Mountain Development Company and began efforts to conserve it as a functional water-powered gristmill.[4] With the help of Bernard Rooney and carpenter Pee Wee Taylor, Phillips cleaned out the mill, stabilized the abandoned building, and reconstructed the water wheel and flume according to historical dimensions using oak salvaged from an abandoned mine (Figure 14 Vintage Photo #14).[5] The water rights to the millrace had long expired, besides the ditch no longer existed, so Phillips built a small, cement-holding pond and pumped well water back into the flume to drive the water wheel. Phillips found antique flint millstones in the Hondo Valley and rehabilitated a gristmill that is still in use today.[6] Carmon and Leona Phillips moved their business into the mill building in late 1951.[7] The community did not ignore his efforts. In 1951, the Old Lincoln

[1] Lyn Kidder, "Milling About Ruidoso," *Southern New Mexico Magazine,* Summer/Fall 1998, 18. (Lyn Kidder in conversation with Carmon Phillips, 1998)
[2] Virginia Chappelle, "Ruidoso's Old Mill," *New Mexico Magazine,* Feb. 1956, 53.
[3] Dates inscribed include 1938, 1941, 1944 one "July 191?"
[4] "Carmon Phillips Buys Old Mill; Plans Museum," *Ruidoso News,* May 11, 1950.
[5] Pamela Cromwell, "Phillips tenderly cares for Ruidoso historic landmark, *Ruidoso News,* Jun. 21, 1996, p. 16.
[6] "Phillips Finds Old 'Grist Mill' Stones," *Ruidoso News,* Mar. 30, 1951
[7] "Carmon Phillips Moves Business To 'Old Mill'," *Ruidoso News,* Jan. 26, 1951.

County Memorial Commission recognized the significance of the mill building and its huge wheel by erecting a commemorative plaque (photo 4) in front of the mill.

Alterations and Additions

In the early 1960s, the exterior adobe and stone walls were plastered with cement stucco, a single door with fixed overhead light replaced the stuccoed-over double door on the west side, and wooden shutters were added to the doors and windows on the north and northwest walls.[8] Phillips added a 10'by 10' gabled entry porch and roof sign over on the north side entrance in the 1960s (Figure 16 Vintage Photo #16).

Other than those alterations, the exterior form and footprint of the mill building, the design and location of the water wheel and the flume remains unchanged since the early 1900s. The mill building, water wheel, and flume exhibit a high degree of integrity in location, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association in its ability to convey the mill's historic character. The only other pioneer period water-powered mills in the region no longer exist (Blazer's and Casey's), making the Old Dowlin Mill the only tangible reminder of settlement patterns, commerce in a pioneer region, and Ruidoso's past enterprises. In nearly fifty years at the mill, Phillips altered little. His aim was to keep the building stable, the water wheel turning, and to honor the history of the mill. The Old Dowlin Mill still exists with a high degree of integrity of design, materials, workmanship, and association because six decades ago Carmon Phillips took an interest in conserving an historical icon from the pioneer past and dedicated his career to that end.

The Old Dowlin Mill was listed in the New Mexico State Register of Cultural Properties (State Register # 1987) on October 12, 2012.

[8] Personal conversation with Carmon Phillips daughter, Delana Phillips, April 2012

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria
(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- [x] A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- [x] 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
(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- [ ] A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- [ ] B. Removed from its original location
- [ ] C. A birthplace or grave
- [ ] D. A cemetery
- [ ] E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- [ ] F. A commemorative property
- [ ] G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions.)
EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT
CONSERVATION
COMMERCE

Period of Significance
1868-1904
1950-1963

Significant Dates
1868
1950

Significant Person
(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)
Carmon Phillips

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder
Paul Dowlin

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Old Dowlin Mill is eligible for listing to the National Register under **Criterion A** for its association with the history of Ruidoso, New Mexico, under the areas of significance for Exploration/Settlement, Commerce, and Conservation. It is the first building and earliest enterprise in Ruidoso and one of dozens of water-powered mills (including the Casey, Blazer, and Ostic mills in the Ruidoso area) that operated throughout the New Mexico Territory in the late nineteenth century. As the only remaining water-powered gristmill still in its original location in New Mexico, the Old Dowlin Mill conveys statewide significance. It embodies the growing pains of a community as it evolved from unclaimed land to frontier enterprise and eventually to tourist destination. The mill is associated with the evolution of commerce and growth in Ruidoso. More than just a mill, Dowlin's enterprises became an outpost for commerce, the first post office, and the hub of a settlement known as Dowlins Mills and, later, Ruidoso. Finally, the Old Dowlin Mill is associated with the successful efforts at conservation of an historical resource and early example of adaptive re-use. The Old Dowlin Mill is eligible for listing under Criterion B for its association with Carmon Phillips, an influential member of the business community, commercial photographer, outdoor enthusiast, and promoter for Ruidoso as well as historic preservationist.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

Historical Context and Evolution of Old Dowlin Mill

Until the 1850s, the Sacramento Mountains were the domain of the Mescalero Apache. The Spanish called the territory *Apachería* and they rarely ventured east of the Rio Grande settlements except to make war on the Mescalero. The Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, signed between the US and Mexico in 1848, promised that the US army would pacify the hostile Indian tribes, including the Mescalero, and open the country for settlement. In 1849 and 1850, groups of Hispanic farmers moved from the Manzano settlements south of Belen to Las Placitas (Lincoln) on the Bonito and into the Hondo Valley. The settlers worked small farms, cared for herds of livestock, and stayed close to cover in case marauding Apaches arrived. In the 1850s, the United States government sent detachments of soldiers into the heart of *Apacheria* in an attempt to subdue hostile Indians raiding the settlements. The army established Fort Stanton, a few miles west of Las Placitas on Bonito Creek, as an outpost to control the Mescalero. The Civil War interrupted Indian campaigns until 1862, when forces under Kit Carson forcibly moved hundreds of Mescalero Apache to the Bosque Redondo re-settlement area. The Mescalero endured the Bosque Redondo until November 3, 1865 when they walked away and returned to an uneasy life in the Sacramento and Guadalupe mountains.

After the disruption of the Civil War, and only two decades after New Mexico joined the US as a Territory, the Sacramento Mountains were still a vast, and often hostile, region. In order to keep the Mescalero under control and make the area safer for settlement, the government decided to

re-establish the army presence in the territory and re-build Ft. Stanton. Suddenly, thousands of acres of unclaimed land, previously claimed by the Mescalero, were opened for settlement, and a small population boom occurred, fueled by recently discharged veterans, cattlemen, and homesteaders. L.G. Murphy, an army veteran and well-connected merchant, secured a government contract to provide 200,000 board feet of lumber to re-build the fort at a cost of over $9,000.[9] Murphy sub-contracted the sawing and delivery of lumber to Paul Dowlin who was a fellow veteran, briefly the commanding officer at Ft. Stanton, and "member of the military coterie that ran things in Lincoln County."[10]

Privy to the pending lumber contract and responding to the furious pace of building and settlement in the post-war period, Dowlin decided to construct a water-powered sawmill on property he claimed on the Rio Ruidoso. By 1868, the lands along the Rio Ruidoso, an important watercourse in a dry land, were surveyed but unclaimed, and open for settlement. Army veterans were familiar with the area around Ft. Stanton from years patrolling the country, and Dowlin may have known, or heard of, the site on the river, only fifteen miles from the fort. As a veteran of the 1st New Mexico Mounted Volunteers, Dowlin claimed 160 acres of land on the Rio Ruidoso and, eventually, acquired another 700 acres.[11] He picked a site on the swiftly flowing river, near the confluence with Carrizo Creek, for his water-powered sawmill. Plenty of saw timber was available nearby, and the site was located near a known overland route connecting the frontier settlements of Lincoln, Tularosa, and the district court in Mesilla. He enlisted the aid of two experienced carpenters to construct the mill. Carpenters Eugene Dow and Tom Kinney worked on a number of the buildings at the fort and Dowlin hired them to help build his mill facilities.[12] Dowlin's first mill, on the banks of the swiftly flowing Rio Ruidoso, quickly washed out in a flood. Dowlin relocated a few hundred feet southeast to higher ground (the present site) in late 1868.[13] Here he constructed a large adobe building, a wooden flume, a large overshot water wheel, a sawmill operation, several outbuildings and corrals, and an extensive millrace diverting water from Carrizo Creek and Flume Canyon—three miles west on the upper Ruidoso.[14] His design for the waterwheel may have come from Dowlin Forge in Pennsylvania where he grew up and where a large vertical waterwheel powered the forge bellows.[15]

Workers for Dowlin enterprises, which eventually included cattle, lumber, and retail sales, built small adobe and rough lumber cabins near the mill, creating the nucleus of a community. Paul Dowlin proved to be a perceptive entrepreneur. According to the 1870 census, he reported

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[9] John P. Ryan, *Fort Stanton and Its Community,* (Las Cruces, Yucca Tree Press, 1998), 77.
[10] Frederick Nolan, *The Lincoln County War, A Documentary History,* (Norman, University of Oklahoma Press, 1992), 300, fn. 18.
[11] Jack Shuster's Western History, "Paul Dowlin, founder of Ruidoso, NM," Jan. 13, 2012 BLM-GLO records show Paul Dowlin proving up on 840.8 acres and Will Dowlin patenting 40 acres.
[12] Lawrence H. Dow interviewed by Edith Crawford, 1938. *American Life Histories: Manuscripts from the Federal Writers Project, 1936-1940* at Library of Congress. http://memory.loc.gov
[13] Virginia Chappell, "Ruidoso's Old Mill," *New Mexico Magazine* Feb. 1956, 21
[14] Lynn Kidder and Herb Brunel. *Ruidoso and Ruidoso Downs*, (Chicago: Arcadia Publishing, 2009), 12.
[15] Susannah Wilson Brody, *The History of the Dowlin Forge* (Exton, PA: B.A. Yorczyk & Assoc.1995). Note: A photo on pg. 111 shows the forge waterwheel that may have been the pattern for Paul Dowlin's design.

$10,000 in real estate and $5,000 in personal property, making him one of the wealthiest men in Lincoln County.[16] In 1871 or 1872, Paul and recently arrived older brother Wll Dowlin, added a gristmill to grind grain and corn.[17] The gristmill may have been powered by a horizontal or turbine-type water-wheel inside the mill building while the large vertical wheel continued to power the sawmill. In 1873, Paul Dowlin obtained a post trader's license at Fort Stanton and moved to Lincoln where he lived until his death in 1877. After Paul's death Will Dowlin controlled the mill operation, as well as the prosperous cattle, timber, and mercantile interests. The sawmill continued to supply rough lumber for buildings such as the Dolan Store in Lincoln, two government building contracts at Fort Stanton, and lumber for construction of the buildings that came to be called Dowlins Mills in the 1880 census.[18] Frank Lesnett started managing the mill for the Dowlin brothers in 1876 and bought the mill and ranch interests in 1882.[19]

In the early period of settlement (1868-80), Lincoln County could be a violent and lawless territory and the mill was associated with the events and people of that time. In 1874, an Hispanic farmer was murdered by the belligerant Horrell Brothers on his way to Dowlins with "a wagonload of grain to the mill to be ground."[20] Paul Dowlin himself was shot and killed at the mill in May 1877, and in August, one of John Chisum's men was murdered there.[21] Historian Eve Ball writes: "many desperate men spent the night at Dowlins" during the Lincoln County War, including William Bonney (Billy the Kid) and Pat Garrett.[22] Annie Lesnett arrived at the mill from Chicago in 1877 and was admonished by her husband, Frank, not to take sides in the war. Despite the warning, Annie Lesnett recalls liking Billy the Kid and his companions who often stopped there. After his conviction for murder in Mesilla district court, The Kid and his two guards (Bell and Olinger) stopped at the mill on their way to Lincoln for The Kid's hanging. Annie Lesnett sympathized with Billy and taunted the guards with cowardice (only a few days later, The Kid killed his two guards at Lincoln, and made his escape).[23] In addition to area outlaws, unpredictable Apaches came to collect their cattle allotments, camp near the mill, and celebrate with a feast that could turn into a bargain fest for trade goods or liquor. In 1936, Annie Lesnett remembered her impressions of the Indians:

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[16] http://files.usgwarchives.net/nm/lincoln/census/1870/pg283b.txt

[17] JA Blazer bought 300 lbs. of flour and 100 lbs. of corn meal from Paul Dowling (sic), Feb. 10, 1872. J.A.Blazer correspondence, MS 110, Special Collections and Archives, New Mexico State University.

[18] Darliss Miller, *Soldiers and Settlers: Military Supply in the Southwest, 1861-1885,* (Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 1989), 235; and John P. Wilson, *Merchants, Guns, and Money: The Story of Lincoln County and Its Wars*, (Santa Fe: Museum of New Mexico Press, 1987), 40.

[19] In the 1880 census, Frank Lesnett was listed as a miller by occupation and employed at the Dowlin Mill. Weisner Collection, MS249, Box 2, C/F 11, Archives and Special Collections, New Mexico State University.

[20] Jose Apodaca interviewed by Edith Crawford, April 28, 1939, *American Life Histories: Manuscripts from the Federal Writers Project, 1936-1940,* at Library of Congress, http://memory.loc.gov.

[21] Frederick Nolan, *The Lincoln County War:A Documentary History,* (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1992), 507.

[22] Eve Ball, *Ruidoso, The Last Frontier,* (San Antonio: The Naylor Company, 1963), 8-9.

[23] Ball, 14; and, Annie Lesnett interviewed by Edith Crawford, Sept. 30, 1937, *American Life Histories: Manuscripts from the Federal Writers Project, 1936-1940,* at Library of Congress. http://memory.loc.gov

> The Mescalero Indians from the Mescalero Reservation used to come to our place and trade. My husband had a small store and was post master at Ruidoso. I saw four buck Indians have a fight in front of our store one time. They pulled each other's hair out and fought with quirts. They fought for about an hour. I was in the store and was afraid to go to our house, although the Indians never did bother us. I was awfully afraid of them, especially when I first came to the Ruidoso.[24]

The forced settlement of the Apache, an influx of questionable and dangerous people, and the factional disputes of the Lincoln County War were behind much of the violence in the period. Although much of the violence had diminished by the mid-1880s, cavalry troops still bivouacked on the grounds around the mill. The soldiers continued presence encouraged a more peaceful environment and, in turn encouraged settlers and ranchers to claim the land and to stock the range. In the mid-1880s, the mill building housed the first Post Office on the Rio Ruidoso. Run by Postmaster Frank Lesnett, it was also a place for commerce and mercantile activity including "grist milling, bean thrashing, a blacksmith shop, and a general store that sold a variety of goods" including occasional liquor.[25] Other endeavors connected with mill included a carpenter shop, bunkhouse, kitchen-mess house, smoke room, and cabins for overnight travelers.[26] The mill did a healthy business as a sawmill and gristmill into the 1880s.[27] Annie Lesnett remembers her days at the mill:

> "In 1882 my husband bought out the interest of the Dowlin Brothers and he was sole owner of the Mill. We then moved into the two story building which still stands, with the old water wheel, about two miles from the town of Ruidoso. At that time we had a grist mill and a saw mill. All the surrounding country brought their grain to our mill to be ground. We used oxen to haul our logs for the saw mill."[28]

In the late 1880s, mining activity and population picked up north of Ruidoso but the gold boom had little impact on the small farms and large cattle ranches along the Rio Ruidoso. Even though mail was postmarked to Ruidoso, New Mexico Territory, the small settlement surrounding the mill was still known as Dowlins Mill on maps and among the local population.

In 1888, the Angus VV Ranch, owned by the James Cree family of Edinburgh, Scotland and business partner Brandon Kirby, bought the mill and ranch from Frank Lesnett. The Crees were

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[24] Annie Lesnett interviewed by Edith Crawford, Sept. 30, 1937. *Old Lincoln County Pioneer Stories, Number 3,* (Lincoln, NM: Lincoln County Historical Society Publications, 1994), 15.

[25] Ollie Reed, "Old gristmill in New Mexico harbors a colorful history," *South Coast Today,* October 27, 2002: http://www.southcoasttoday.com/apps/pbcs/article?AID=20021027/

[26] Mary Nell Taeger, "Old Mill Played Important Part in Early History of Ruidoso," *Ruidoso News,* Mar.16, 1951.

[27] "Business was so brisk in the 1880s for Blazer as well as for Paul Downing (sp), whose mill was located on Ruidoso Creek, that both mills were turning away orders." Paul Blazer, "Arizona and the West" Vol. 6 as quoted in *South Central NM Regional Overview,* 1989.

[28] Annie Lesnett interviewed by Edith Crawford, Sept. 30, 1937, *American Life Histories: Manuscripts from the Federal Writers Project, 1936-1940,* at Library of Congress. http://memory.loc.gov

wealthy Scottish whiskey distillers turned ranchers who ran large herds of Angus cattle over several thousand acres of prime-watered uplands in the Sacramento Mountains. Charles Wingfield arrived from Texas in the late 1880s, ran the mill for the Cree interests, and his family lived there for several years. During this time, the mill served many purposes; as a residence, farm, post office, general store, and landmark as well as gristmill and sawmill. In addition, the mill acted as a community center with social activities including numerous poker games, religious services, political events, and dances.

A fire in 1893 burned or partially damaged the mill building and the vertical water-wheel was subsequently moved adjacent to the mill building in the present-day approximate location. Grist milling continued sporadically for several more years. In 1910, the Howard children remembered their father, Monroe Howard (a farmer in the Alto settlement) raising "enough corn and wheat to take 10 or 12 sacks at a time to Charlie Wingfield who had the 'Old Mill' at Ruidoso."[29] Ike Wingfield (future mayor of Ruidoso), who was born at the mill in 1887, remembers re-building the mill wheel into its current form in 1914 but he said the mill was not successful and eventually ceased operations.[30] No one lived at the mill although meal and flour may have been ground sporadically into the early 1920s. However, maintaining the long millrace and waterwheel, the seasonal nature of maintaining water flow, and competition from factory-milled flour, doomed the gristmill operation by the early 1920s.

After 1900, population swelled in southwestern towns and an escape from the suffering summer heat of west Texas and southern New Mexico lured visitors to camping spots in the cool pines along the "Noisy River." Judge Medler contracted with the Crees for a plot of land in the Upper Canyon—next to the Mescalero Reservation—in 1915. Medler and Frank English of Carrizozo built several cabins there and other builders followed. In 1918, a steam powered sawmill opened near Alto junction and Upper Canyon and soon families from Roswell, Las Cruces, and El Paso began building cabins in a distinctive bark covered slab-siding and rough-cut board and batten style. Slab-siding cabins utilized the left-over bark cut from squaring logs at several steam sawmill operations in the area. With a store, a post office since 1921, and a concentration of summer cabins, the Upper Canyon/ Alto junction area emerged as the center of the town of Ruidoso. Consequentially, the Old Dowlin Mill disappeared from the commerce of the community.

Nevertheless, some activities occurred at the mill during the depression and war years: "(I)n the 1930s a hardwood floor was installed and weekly dances were held for several years."[31] Also in the 1930s, "a women's chamber of commerce at Ruidoso was granted permission to operate the historic landmark," however, the women only used the building for a few summers. [32]

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[29] Jim and Adelaide Howard in *The Saga of the Sierra Blanca*, (Roswell: Pioneer Printing, 1986), 77. Note: The Howards settled in Lincoln County in 1900 and Charles Wingfield died in 1910

[30] Doyle Kline, "History of Ruidoso, the Old Mill and Ike Wingfield Are Some Interesting Story," *Ruidoso News,"* May 14, 1946

[31] Lyn Kidder, "Milling About Ruidoso," *Southern New Mexico Magazine,* Summer/Fall 1998, 18. (Lyn Kidder in conversation with Carmon Phillips, 1998)

[32] Virginia Chappelle, "Ruidoso's Old Mill," *New Mexico Magazine,* Feb. 1956, 53.

Meanwhile the town of Ruidoso grew around the junction of the Upper Canyon and the road to Alto where Ike Wingfield located the post office in 1921. The cool Ruidoso climate was a modest summer destination for heat-weary families, outdoor enthusiasts, and sufferers' of tuberculosis and other respiratory conditions. Post-war enthusiasm opened a new chapter in Ruidoso's development as a tourist town. The road between El Paso and Ruidoso was paved in 1941, and the quiet tourist village became a favorite destination for soldiers wanting to let off some steam from the pressures of the war. The town was loosely regulated and offered gambling, bars, and dancehalls—all GI favorites. After the war and a general crackdown on illegal gambling, Ruidoso boosters took control of the town's economic direction and promoted it as the "Playground of the Southwest." Buoyed by new attractions such as golf, sky-rides, a racetrack, and winter skiing, tourist visitations increased dramatically. In 1945, the White Mountain Development Corporation formed by George McCarty and Joe Palmer, purchased most of the Cree family's 5,000-acre holdings, including the Old Dowlin Mill. The Corporations housing and golf course developments formed a large part of the residential pattern for today's Ruidoso.

Criterion A

The Old Dowlin Mill is significant as the oldest building connected to the pioneer period in Ruidoso and the only extant example of a functioning water-powered gristmill in New Mexico. Paul Dowlin recognized the prime location with timber, water, and on a well-known route between frontier settlements. Both George M. Wheeler's *Survey of Southern New Mexico* and the *1889 Rand-McNally map of New Mexico* mark Dowlins on their maps.[33] In a letter to his parents in England in 1877, John Tunstall described a one-hundred mile trip from his ranch near San Patricio and noted the mill as a marker on the trip:

> The trip I am about to take is to Mesilla on some land business, so you can get your map out and trace the route first through the mountains past Dowlin's Sawmill, the Indian agency & another sawmill (Blazer's) on to Tularosa, past Lost River the White Sandhills, Shed's ranch, San Augustine Pass, Las Cruces and Mesilla.[34]

As a known stopping spot, many historical figures visited the mill. Recently concentrated on a reservation, the Mescalero Apache came to the mill to trade for goods and to collect their allotments of government cattle.[35] A social center for soldiers from Fort Stanton, future generals Pershing and MacArthur frequented the mill. Scattered settlements needed a common meeting ground and its location on a well-known route positioned the mill for success. Through its location and age, the Old Dowlin Mill reflects the most basic kind of American settlement: that of creating an enterprise out of unclaimed territory.

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[33] *USGS West of the 100th Atlas*, Washington: USGS Survey, 1878 and *Rand, McNally & Co.'s New Mexico,* David Rumsey Historical Map Collection at http://davidrumsey.com

[34] Frederick Nolan, *The West of Billy the Kid,* (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1998), 96.

[35] Mary Nell Taeger, "Old Mill Played Important Part in Early History of Ruidoso," *Ruidoso News,* Mar. 16, 1951.

The Old Dowlin Mill is significant for its association with business and commerce in the settlement period when lonely mercantile outposts tried to meet basic needs. The mill served as a consolidated center of commerce that could grind corn or saw lumber, provide corrals for horses, provisions for settlers, cabins for travelers, and a place to trade; and, act as a social center for dances, special services, and poker games to mediate the isolation of frontier life. In addition, the mill served as the post office for the Ruidoso community from the mid 1880s until 1904 (end of 1st period of significance).

The Old Mill is also significant for its association with expansion of the post-war tourist industry in south-central New Mexico and Ruidoso in particular. Better roads, post-war optimism, and promotion of Ruidoso as "The Playground of the Southwest" brought increased numbers of tourists. Since its frontier beginning, the mill operation offered rooms or cabins for rent, and catered to visitors; but a new type of commerce emerged from the frenetic, post-war appetite. The new visitor was drawn by a choice of attractions more numerous than just a family vacation or an escape from the desert heat.

Carmon Phillips understood the new demand. Working from the Old Dowlin Mill, Phillips catered to basic tourist needs and rode Ruidoso's wave of popularity. With his wife Leona, he forged a successful business career based on enthusiasm for the beautiful Sacramento Mountains and the growing community of Ruidoso. Until his death in 1999, Phillips sold bags of ground flour and meal milled on location in the old water-powered gristmill and managed a successful business out of the same location for nearly five decades. While others appreciated it, Carmon Phillips recognized the importance of conserving the vacant building and water wheel. In 1950, he purchased the seriously dilapidated mill and began efforts to conserve Ruidoso's oldest and most recognized icon. Through the Phillips' efforts to restore a historical resource to its earlier purpose and design, the old mill stands as important reminder of a community's modest commercial beginning and development into a regionally recognized tourist economy.

Criterion B

The Old Mill meets **Criterion B** for its association with the life and community leadership efforts of Carmon Phillips. Carmon, and his wife Leona May Phillips, arrived in Ruidoso in 1946 after marrying in Clovis. Her family had a cabin in Ruidoso and Carmon was enchanted with the area since visits as a youth. In 1946, the Phillips built a modest home and gift shop adjacent to the Old Dowlin Mill and in 1950 they purchased the mill and moved forward with restoration efforts. Phillips recognized the mill as an authentic piece of Ruidoso history but he also recognized the tourist draw and favorable location on the road to mid-town and Upper Canyon Ruidoso. He sold books, photographs, and gifts, was quick with a story or a tour of the mill, and wanted others to see the beauty he saw in the surrounding country and the importance of the mill in Ruidoso's past.

As member and Director of the Chamber of Commerce, President and Director of the White Mountain Sports Association, commercial photographer, and publisher of a local magazine (*Pictorial Ruidoso*), Phillips was a tireless booster for the tourist potential of the Ruidoso country. He understood the passion firsthand. As a driving force in the White Mountain Sports

Association and an avid skier and outdoorsman, Phillips was instrumental in bringing a destination ski resort to Ruidoso in 1961 (Sierra Blanca, now Ski Apache Ski Resort).

Every step of the way, Phillips sought to share the beauty of the area and its history with the uninitiated. Phillips printed his own post-cards and sold them out of the Old Mill and his photos appeared in a 1954 *Life* magazine article on Ruidoso. In his five-decade long career, Phillips took over 1400 photos—now digitized at The Hubbard Museum of the American West in Ruidoso Downs—chronicling the history of Ruidoso. Phillips' photographs, printed post-cards, and magazine exposure, comprise a pictorial record of the changes that occurred in Ruidoso as it evolved from a modest resort town into a modern tourist destination.[36] Through his conservation efforts of the gristmill, he connected Ruidoso's frontier beginnings with its current commercial enterprise and tourist-based economy.[37]

[36] The pictorial history of Ruidoso, *Ruidoso and Ruidoso Downs,* featured 38 photos taken by Phillips or in his collection

[37] "Ruidoso's Carmon Phillips dies at 85," *Ruidoso News,* Nov. 1999

9. Major Bibliographical References

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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 # _____
____ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

__X__ State Historic Preservation Office
____ Other State agency
____ Federal agency
____ Local government
____ University
____ Other
Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property _less than one-half acre

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates
Datum if other than WGS84:_____
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude: **33° 19' 26"** Longitude: **-105° 39' 02"**
2. Latitude: Longitude:
3. Latitude: Longitude:
4. Latitude: Longitude:

Or
UTM References
Datum (indicated on USGS map):

☐ NAD 1927 or ☐ NAD 1983

1. Zone:	Easting:	Northing:
2. Zone:	Easting:	Northing:
3. Zone:	Easting:	Northing:
4. Zone:	Easting :	Northing:

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)
The north 100 feet of the Revised Mill Site Tract, Block 2, Palmer Gateway Subdivision

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)
Property historically known as Old Dowlin Mill or Old Mill

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Martin Davenport
organization: Old Mill Preservation Corporation
street & number: POB 563
city or town: Alto state: NM zip code: 88312
e-mail: lmaue@windstream.net
telephone: (575) 336-4061
date: January 2013

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location. **Enclosed**

- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map. **See Continuation Sheet**

- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Figure Log (see continuation sheet)

Figure 1 Vintage Photo 1 of 16, Circa 1870, Dowlin's sawmill operation, camera facing west
Photographer unknown,
Robert McCubbin Collection,
Photo copy: Courtesy of Hollis Fuchs

Figure 2 Vintage Photo 2 of 16, circa1880s, Lesnett's Mill, camera facing northwest
Herb Brunell Collection, Blazer Family Papers
NMSU Archives and Special Collections, MS 0110, #32977
Photo available at:
http://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=2111559867434&set=o.229329060442032&type=3&theater

Figure 3 Vintage Photo 3 of 16, circa 1890, camera facing northwest
"Dowlin's Mill on the Ruidoso," Fig. 8.8, *The West of Billy the Kid,* p.96
R.G. McCubbin Collection
Photo available at:

www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=416042151755909&set=o.229329060442032&type=1&theater

Figure 4 Vintage Photo 4 of 16, circa 1890, mill and scattered buildings are beginning of Ruidoso, camera facing northwest
Photo available at: **http://lincolncountycousins.org/8index.html**

Figure 5 Vintage Photo 5 of 16, circa 1915-20, camera facing southeast
"Annie Lesnett looking at the Dowlin Mill," *Lincoln County Tells Its Stories,* p. 391
"Mrs. Annie E. Lesnett at Dowlin-Lesnett Mill," *Old Lincoln County Pioneer Stories,* p.14
Carmon Phillips Collection, Lincoln County Historical Society

Figure 6 Vintage Photo 6 of 16, circa 1920, Old Dowlin Mill, camera facing east
Photo available at:
http://lincolncountycousins.org/802jalbum/slides/dowlins-mill-early.jpg

Figure 7 Vintage Photo 7 of 16, circa 1930, Old Dowlin Mill, camera facing east
Marilyn Burchett Collection (*Ruidoso Tells Its Stories*), Blazer Collection
NMSU Archives and Special Collections, Ms 0110, 32789
Available at:
http://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=416042328422558&set=o.229329060442032&type=1&theater

Figure 8 Vintage Photo 8 of 16, circa 1928, Old Dowlin Mill, Camera facing southeast
Photographer: E.S. Shipp, US Forest Service
Lincoln National Forest Historic Photo #233390

Figure 9 Vintage Photo 9 of 16, circa 1938, deteriorating condition of building and water wheel, camera facing southeast
Mike Phillips, Photographer for *Clovis News-Journal*
Private collection of Bob Johnson, Alto, New Mexico

Figure 10 Vintage Photo 10 of 16, circa 1930s, The Old Mill, camera facing east
Herb Brunell/Lynda Sanchez Collection
Available at:
http://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=416042151755909&set=o.229329060442032&type=1&theater

Figure 11 Vintage Photo 11 of 16, circa 1930s, Old Mill postcard, camera facing east
Available at:
http://sphotos-a.xx.fbcdn.net/hphotos-ash3/s720x720/535469_3137953726639_1740780174_n.jpg

Figure 12 Vintage Photo 12 of 16, circa 1930s, painted postcard of Old Mill
Chaves County Historical Society

Figure 13 Vintage Photo 13 of 16, circa 1940, Flume and water wheel, camera facing northwest
Carmon Phillips Collection

Figure 14 Vintage Photo 14 of 16, circa 1950, Rebuilding water wheel, camera facing southeast
Carmon Phillips Collection

Figure 15 Vintage Photo 15 of 16, circa 1950, Phillip's shop near the Old Mill
Carmon Phillips collection

Figure 16
Vintage Photo 16 of 16, circa March 1961, widening of Main Street into Sudderth Drive, camera facing East; Carmon Phillips Collection at Hubbard Museum of the American West

Figure 17 Architectural Drawing #1 of 9
Face leaf of Architectural Plans

Figure 18 Architectural Drawing #2 of 9
Plot Plan

Figure 19 Architectural Drawing #3 of 9
Floor Plan

Figure 20 Architectural Drawing #4 of 9
South and North Elevation

Figure 21 Architectural Drawing #5 of 9
East and West Elevations

Figure 22 Architectural Drawing #6 of 9
Wall Section

Figure 23 Architectural Drawing #7 of 9
Window Details

Figure 24 Architectural Drawing #8 of 9
Flume and Foundation

Figure 25 Architectural Drawing #9 of 9
Water-wheel and Foundation Details

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to

the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Old Dowlin Mill
City or Vicinity: Ruidoso
County: Lincoln State: NM
Photographer: Bill Riggles
Date Photographed: December 13, 2012
Description of Photograph(s) and view indicating direction of camera:
#1 and #2 of 12.

Photo #1 Description: Sudderth Drive, camera facing east
Photo #2 Description: Sudderth Drive, camera facing west

Name of Property: Old Dowlin Mill
City or Vicinity: Ruidoso
County: Lincoln State: NM
Photographer: Bill Riggles
Date Photographed: April 2012
Description of Photograph(s) and view indicating direction of camera:
Photos #3 through #12.

Photograph #3 Description: North elevation, camera facing south
Photograph #4 Description: North elevation featuring porch and signs, camera facing east
Photograph #5 Description: South and east elevations, camera facing northwest
Photograph #6 Description: South elevation, camera facing north
Photograph #7 Description: flume and supports, camera facing west
Photograph #8 Description: Water wheel, foundation, and flume, camera facing east
Photograph #9 Description: West elevation, water wheel, pond and bridge; camera facing east
Photograph #10 Description: Interior, camera facing east
Photograph #11 Description: Interior, camera facing northwest corner
Photograph #12 Description: Mill stones in southwest corner, camera facing southwest

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 listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).
Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management. U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Old Dowlin Mill
Name of Property
Lincoln County, New Mexico
County and State
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Additional Documentation: Photographs Page 1

Photo #1 of 12
Name of Property: **Old Dowlin Mill**
Description: **Sudderth Drive, camera facing east**
Photographer: Bill Riggles
Date Photographed: December 13, 2012

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Old Dowlin Mill
Name of Property
Lincoln County, New Mexico
County and State
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Photo #2 of 12
Name of Property: **Old Dowlin Mill**
Description: **Sudderth Drive, camera facing west**
Photographer: Bill Riggles
Date Photographed: December 13, 2012

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Old Dowlin Mill
Name of Property
Lincoln County, New Mexico
County and State
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Additional Documentation: Photographs Page 3

Photograph #3 of 12
Name of Property: **Old Dowlin Mill**
Description: **North elevation, camera facing south**
Photographer: Bill Riggles
Date Photographed: April 2012

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Old Dowlin Mill
Name of Property
Lincoln County, New Mexico
County and State
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Additional Documentation: Photographs Page 4

Photograph #4 of 12
Name of Property: **Old Dowlin Mill**
Description: **North elevation featuring porch and signs, camera facing east**
Photographer: Bill Riggles
Date Photographed: April 2012

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Old Dowlin Mill
Name of Property
Lincoln County, New Mexico
County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Photograph #5 of 12
Name of Property: **Old Dowlin Mill**
Description: **South and east elevations, camera facing northwest**
Photographer: Bill Riggles
Date Photographed: April 2012

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Old Dowlin Mill
Name of Property
Lincoln County, New Mexico
County and State
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Photograph #6 of 12
Name of Property: **Old Dowlin Mill**
Description: **South elevation, camera facing north**
Photographer: Bill Riggles
Date Photographed: April 2012

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Old Dowlin Mill
Name of Property
Lincoln County, New Mexico
County and State
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Additional Documentation: Photographs Page 7

Photograph #7 of 12
Name of Property: **Old Dowlin Mill**
Description: **flume and supports, camera facing west**
Photographer: Bill Riggles
Date Photographed: April 2012

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Old Dowlin Mill
Name of Property
Lincoln County, New Mexico
County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Photograph #8 of 12
Name of Property: **Old Dowlin Mill**
Description: **Water wheel, foundation, and flume, camera facing east**
Photographer: Bill Riggles
Date Photographed: April 2012

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Old Dowlin Mill
Name of Property
Lincoln County, New Mexico
County and State
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Photograph #9 of 12
Name of Property: **Old Dowlin Mill**
Description: **West elevation, water wheel, pond and bridge; camera facing east**
Photographer: Bill Riggles
Date Photographed April 2012

Photograph #10 of 12
Name of Property: **Old Dowlin Mill**
Description: **Interior, camera facing east**
Photographer: Bill Riggles
Date Photographed: April 2012

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Old Dowlin Mill
Name of Property
Lincoln County, New Mexico
County and State
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Photograph #11 of 12
Name of Property: **Old Dowlin Mill**
Description: **Interior, camera facing northwest corner**
Photographer: Bill Riggles
Date Photographed: April 2012

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Old Dowlin Mill
Name of Property
Lincoln County, New Mexico
County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

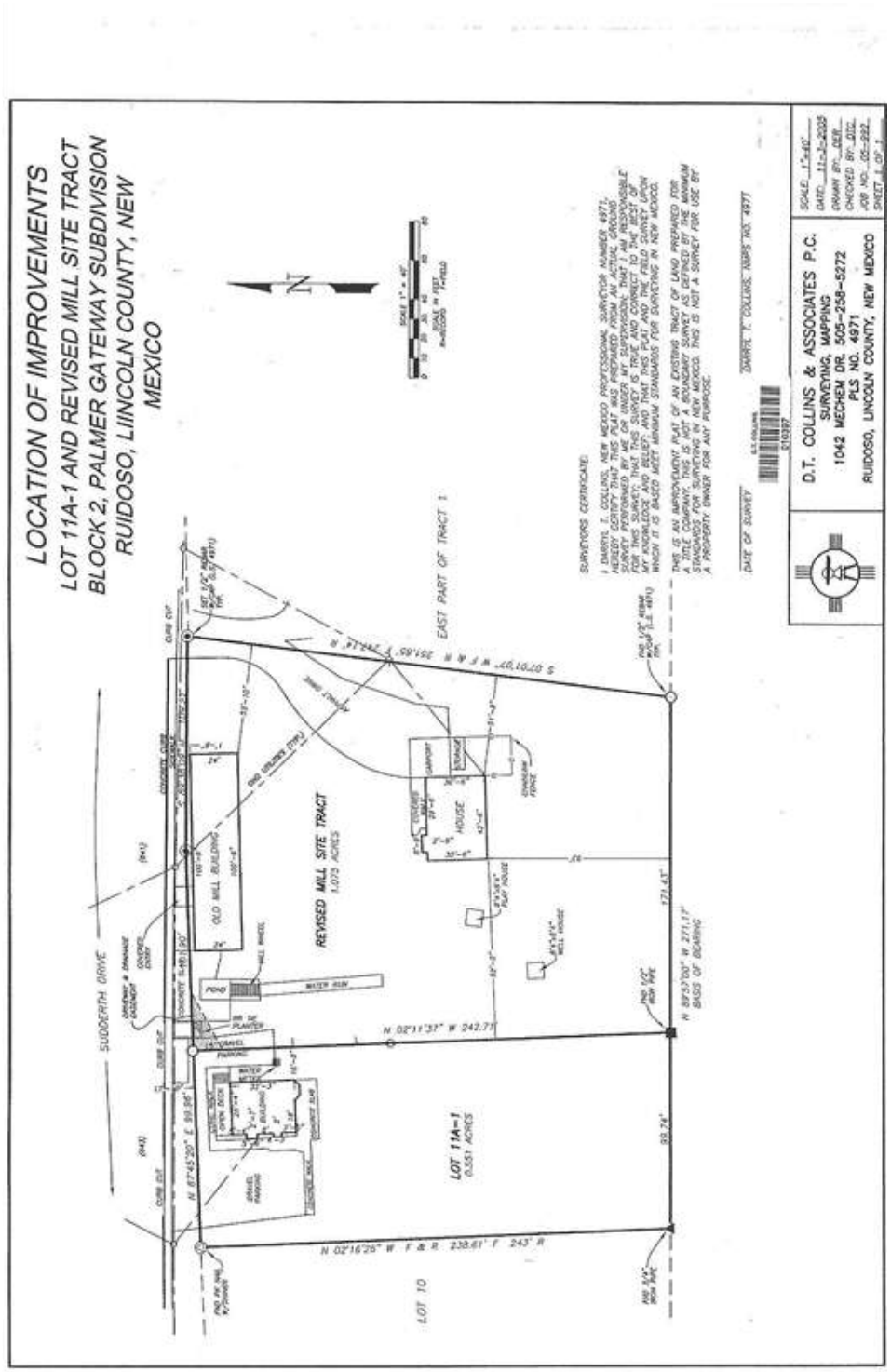
Photograph #12 of 12
Name of Property: **Old Dowlin Mill**
Description: **Mill stones in southwest corner, camera facing southwest**
Photographer: Bill Riggles
Date Photographed: April 2012

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Old Dowlin Mill
Name of Property
Lincoln County, NM
County and State
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Additional Documentation: Maps Page 1



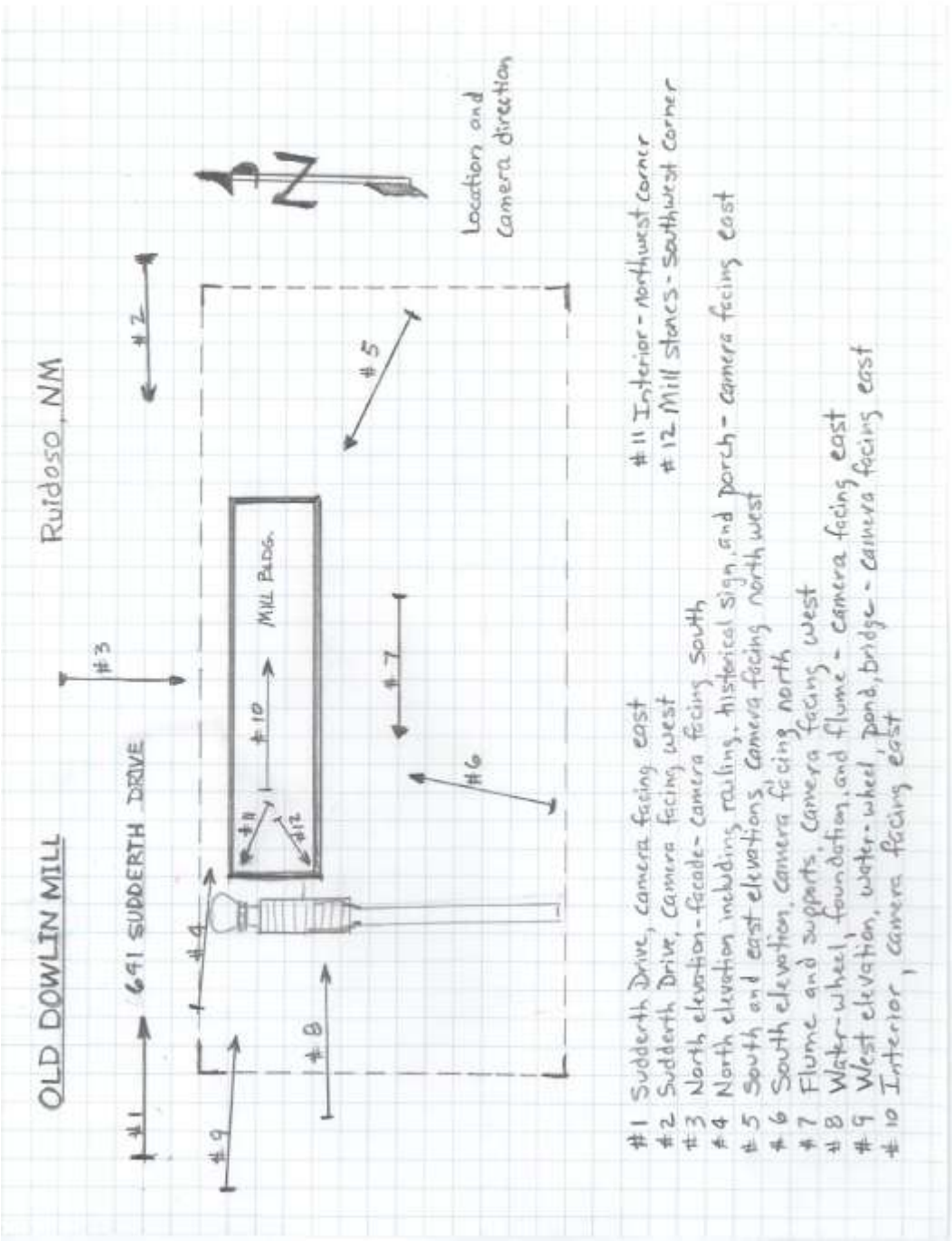
Map 1: Revised Mill Site Tract

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Old Dowlin Mill
Name of Property
Lincoln County, NM
County and State
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Additional Documentation: Maps Page 2



Map 2: Sketch map with photograph locations

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Old Dowlin Mill
Name of Property
Lincoln County, NM
County and State
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Figure 1 Vintage Photo 1 of 16, Circa 1870, Dowlin's sawmill operation, camera facing west
Photographer unknown,
Robert McCubbin Collection,
Photo copy: Courtesy of Hollis Fuchs

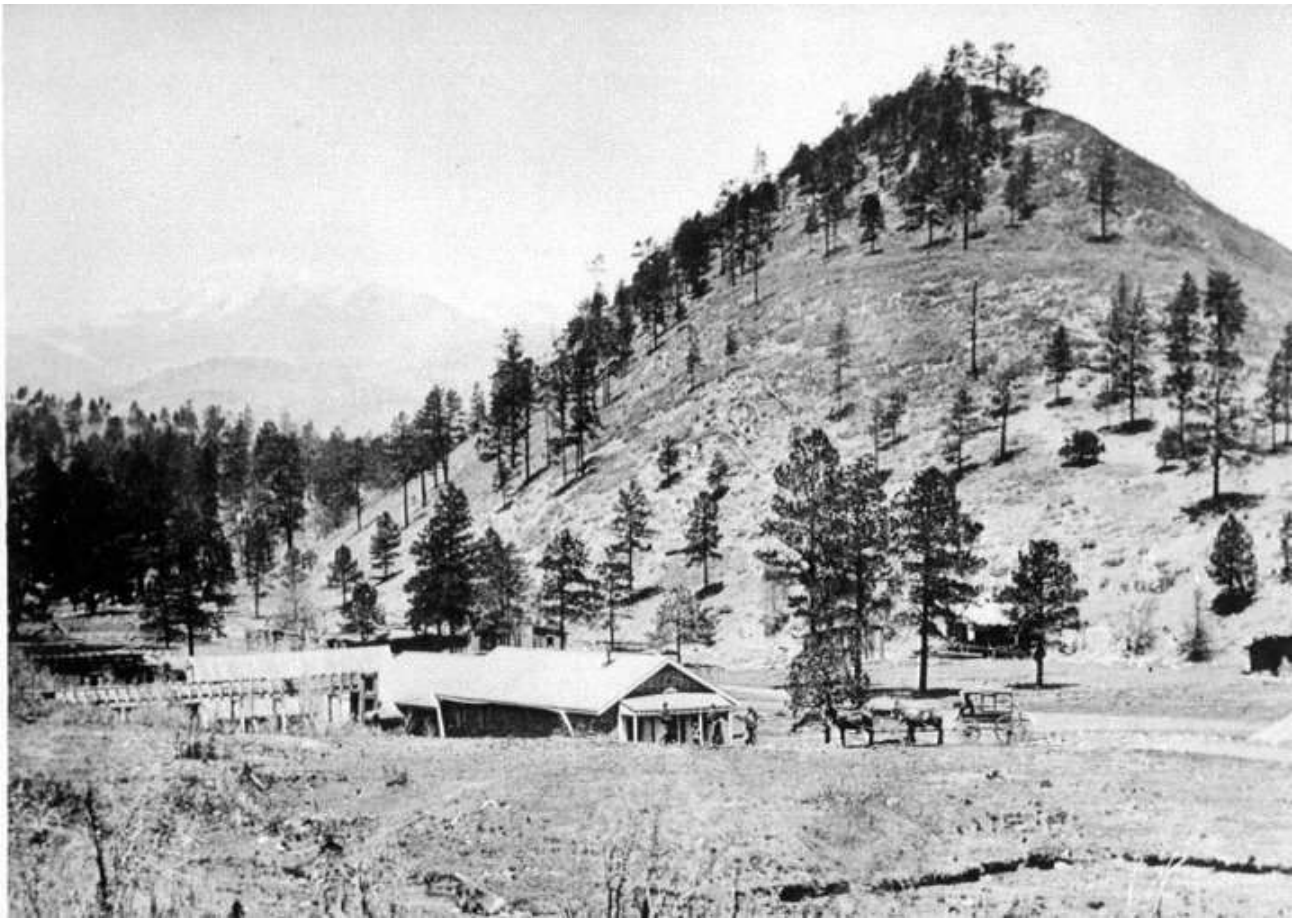


Figure 2 Vintage Photo 2 of 16, circa1880s, Lesnett's Mill, camera facing northwest
Herb Brunell Collection, Blazer Family Papers
NMSU Archives and Special Collections, MS 0110, #32977
Photo available at:
http://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=2111559867434&set=o.229329060442032&type=3&theater

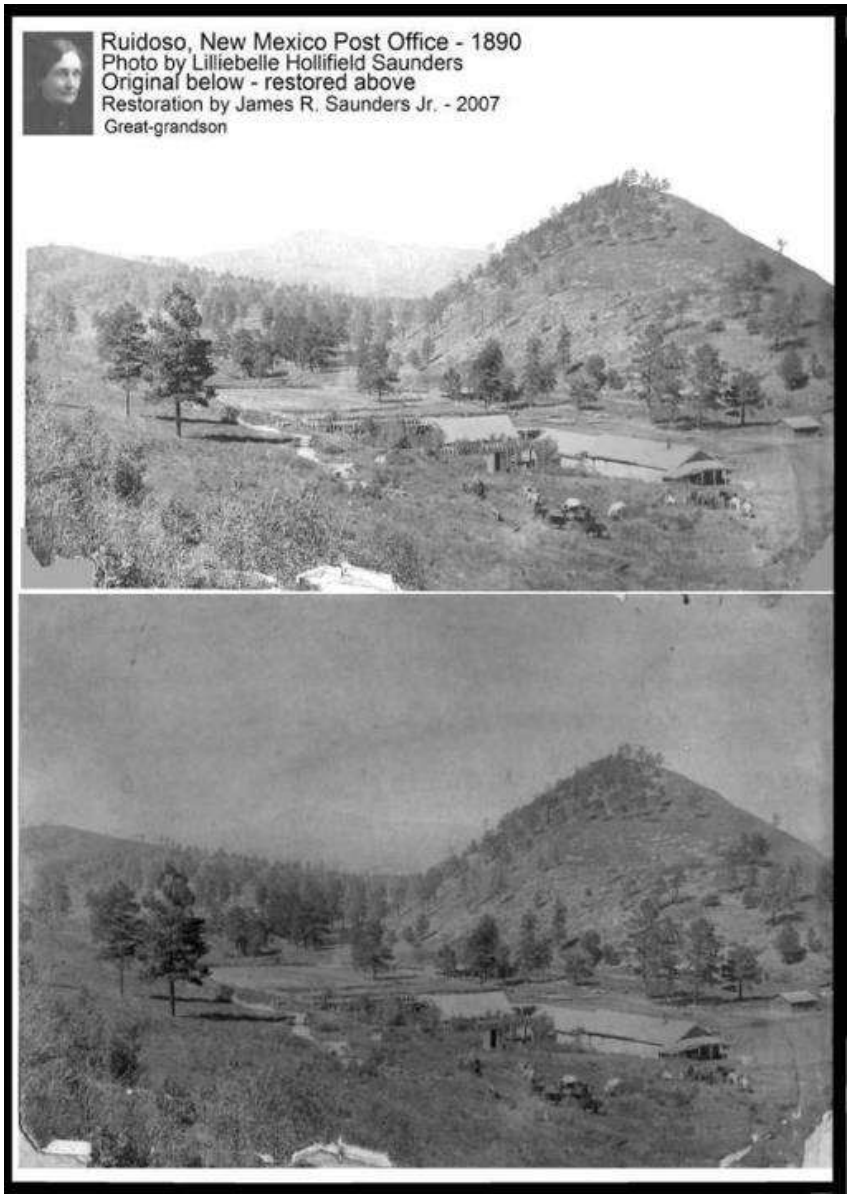


Figure 3 Vintage Photo 3 of 16, circa 1890, camera facing northwest
"Dowlin's Mill on the Ruidoso," Fig. 8.8, *The West of Billy the Kid*, p.96
R.G. McCubbin Collection
Photo available at:
www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=416042151755909&set=o.229329060442032&type=1&theater

Figure 4 Vintage Photo 4 of 16, circa 1890, mill and scattered buildings are beginning of Ruidoso, camera facing northwest
Photo available at: **http://lincolncountycousins.org/8index.html**

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Old Dowlin Mill
Name of Property
Lincoln County, NM
County and State
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Figure 5 Vintage Photo 5 of 16, circa 1915-20, camera facing southeast
"Annie Lesnett looking at the Dowlin Mill," *Lincoln County Tells Its Stories,* p. 391
"Mrs. Annie E. Lesnett at Dowlin-Lesnett Mill," *Old Lincoln County Pioneer Stories,* p.14
Carmon Phillips Collection, Lincoln County Historical Society

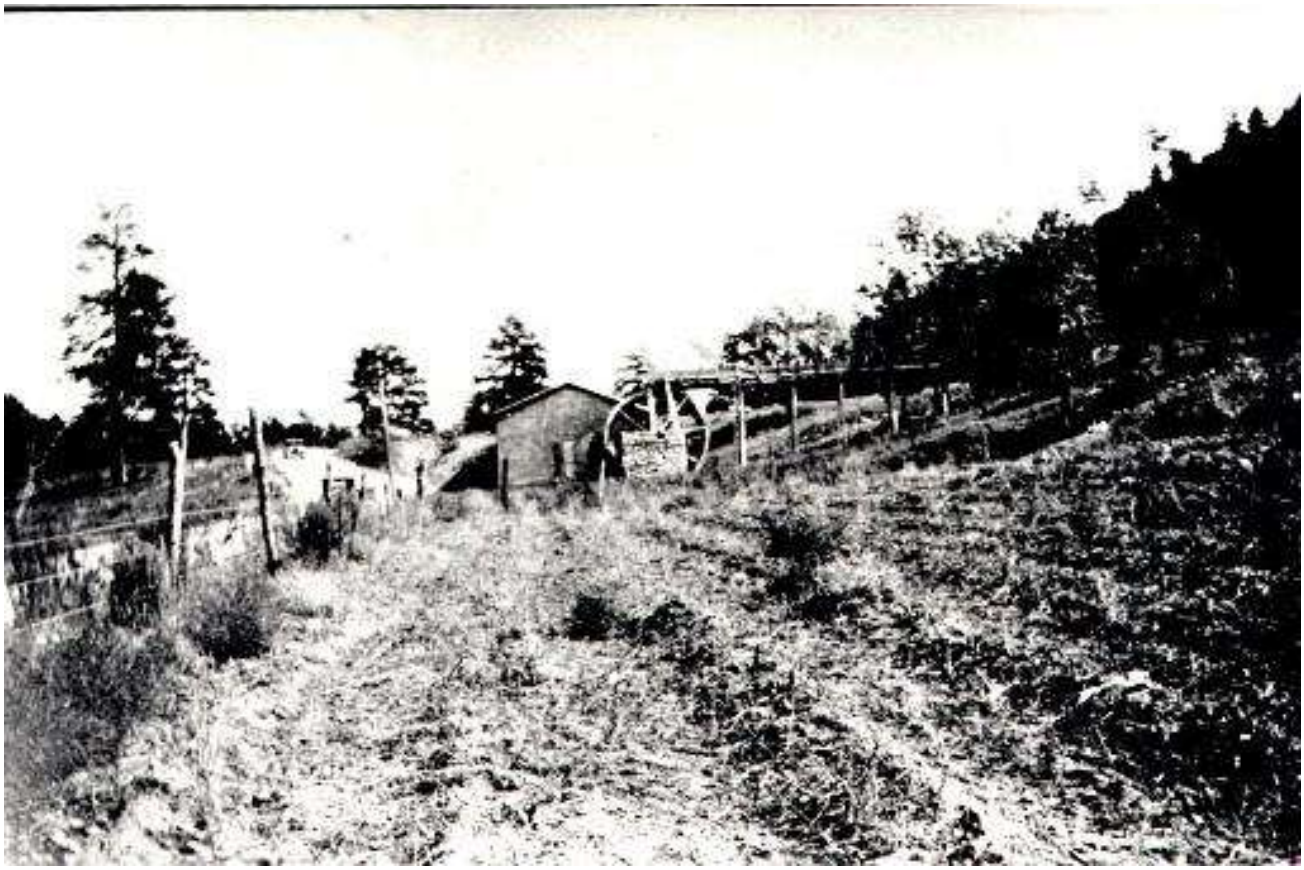


Figure 6 Vintage Photo 6 of 16, circa 1920, Old Dowlin Mill, camera facing east
Photo available at:
http://lincolncountycousins.org/802jalbum/slides/dowlins-mill-early.jpg

Figure 7 Vintage Photo 7 of 16, circa 1930, Old Dowlin Mill, camera facing east
Marilyn Burchett Collection (*Ruidoso Tells Its Stories*), Blazer Collection
NMSU Archives and Special Collections, Ms 0110, 32789
Available at:
http://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=416042328422558&set=o.229329060442032&type=1&theater

Figure 8 Vintage Photo 8 of 16, circa 1928, Old Dowlin Mill, Camera facing southeast
Photographer: E.S. Shipp, US Forest Service
Lincoln National Forest Historic Photo #233390

Figure 9 Vintage Photo 9 of 16, circa 1938, deteriorating condition of building and water wheel, camera facing southeast
Mike Phillips, Photographer for *Clovis News-Journal*
Private collection of Bob Johnson, Alto, New Mexico

Figure 10 Vintage Photo 10 of 16, circa 1930s, The Old Mill, camera facing east
Herb Brunell/Lynda Sanchez Collection
Available at:
http://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=416042151755909&set=o.229329060442032&type=1&theater

Figure 11 Vintage Photo 11 of 16, circa 1930s, Old Mill postcard, camera facing east
Available at:
http://sphotos-a.xx.fbcdn.net/hphotos-ash3/s720x720/535469_3137953726639_1740780174_n.jpg

Figure 12 Vintage Photo 12 of 16, circa 1930s, painted postcard of Old Mill
Chaves County Historical Society

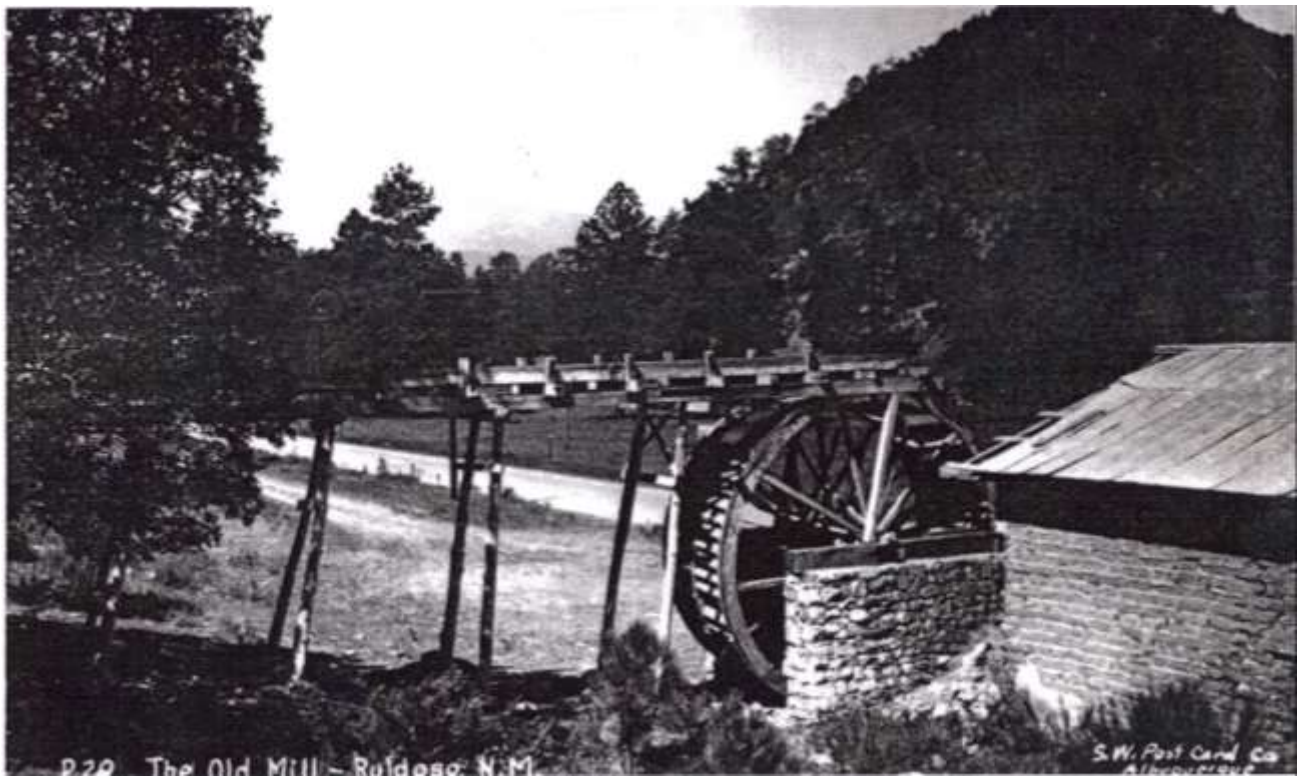


Figure 13 Vintage Photo 13 of 16, circa 1940, Flume and water wheel, camera facing northwest
Carmon Phillips Collection

Figure 14 Vintage Photo 14 of 16, circa 1950, Rebuilding water wheel, camera facing southeast
Carmon Phillips Collection

Figure 15 Vintage Photo 15 of 16, circa 1950, Phillip's shop near the Old Mill
Carmon Phillips collection

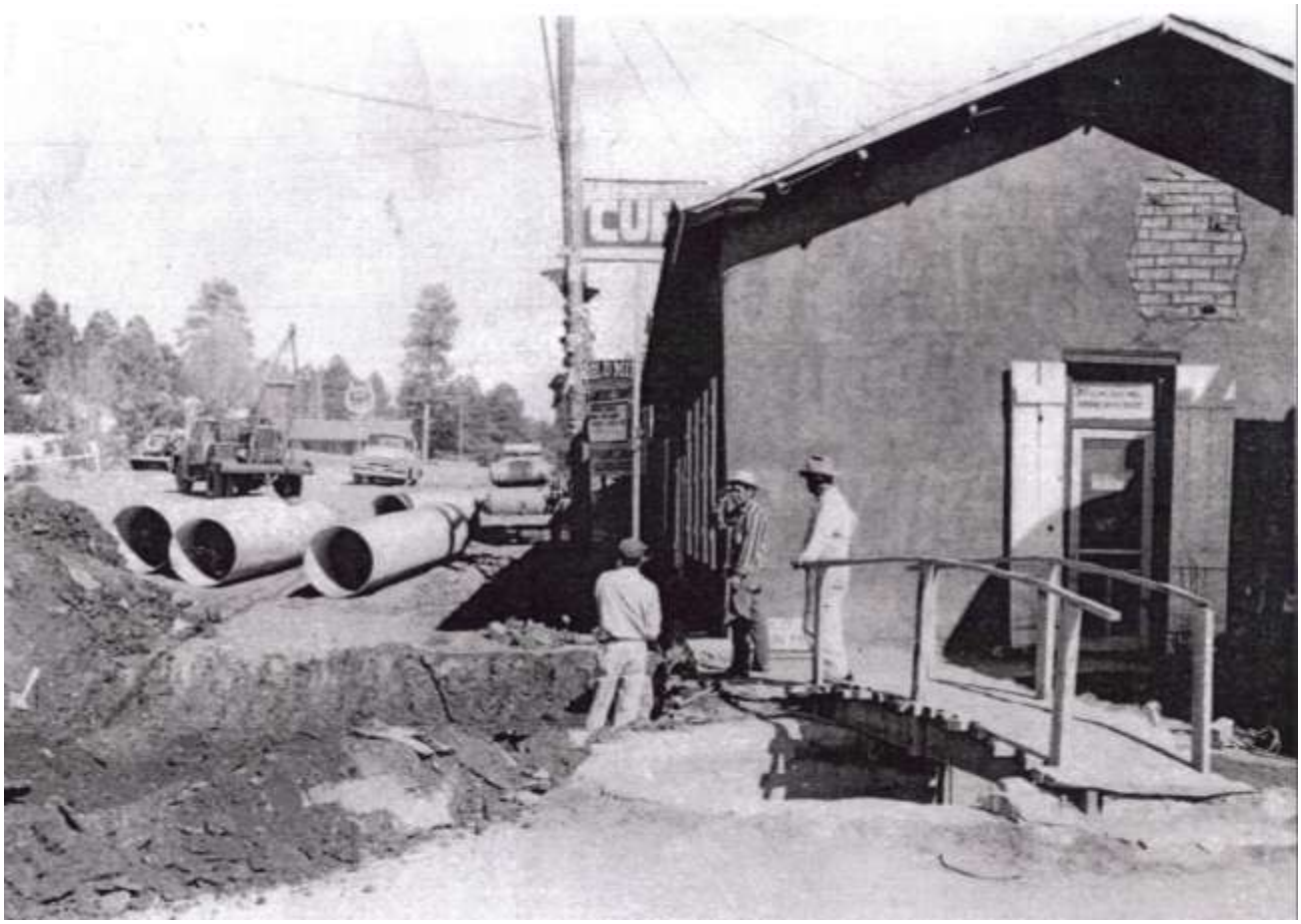


Figure 16
Vintage Photo 16 of 16, circa March 1961, widening of Main Street into Sudderth Drive, camera facing East
Carmon Phillips Collection at Hubbard Museum of the American West

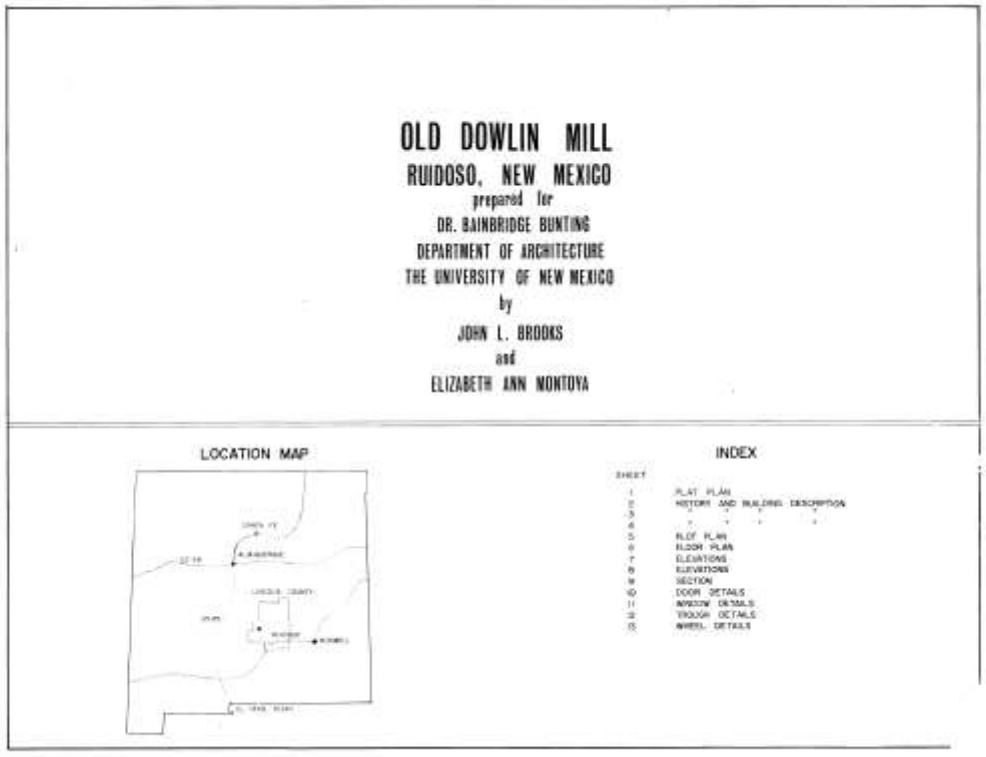


Figure 17 Architectural Drawing #1 of 9
Face leaf of Architectural Plans

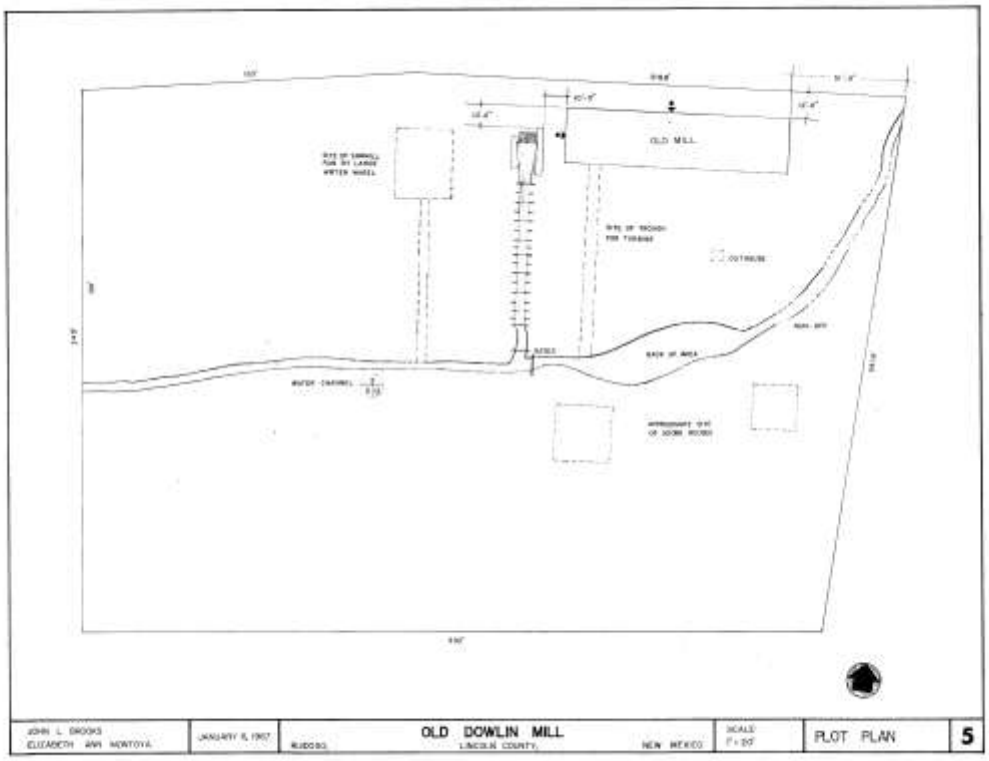


Figure 18 Architectural Drawing #2 of 9
Plot Plan

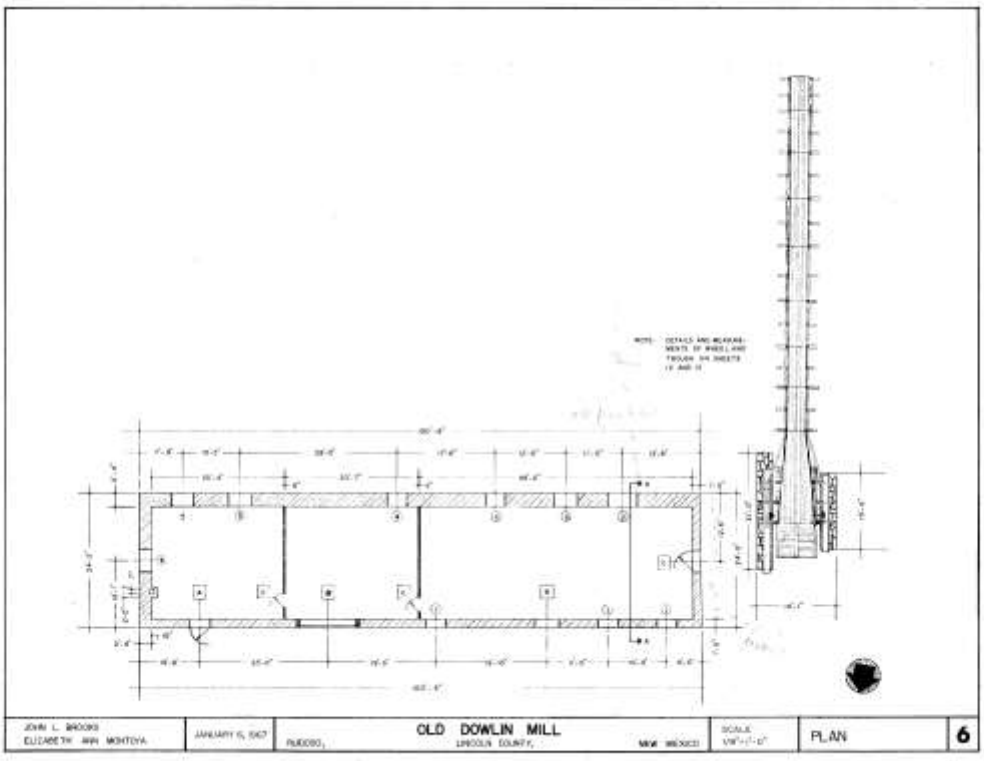


Figure 19 Architectural Drawing #3 of 9
Floor Plan

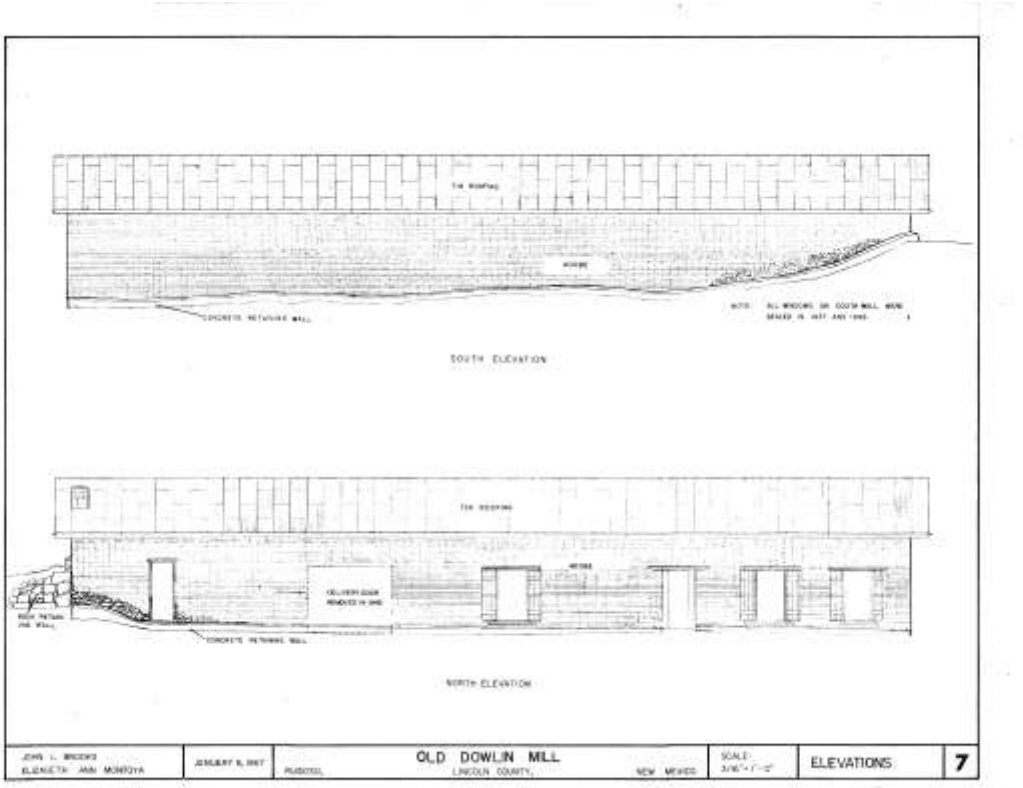


Figure 20 Architectural Drawing #4 of 9
South and North Elevation

Figure 21 Architectural Drawing #5 of 9
East and West Elevations

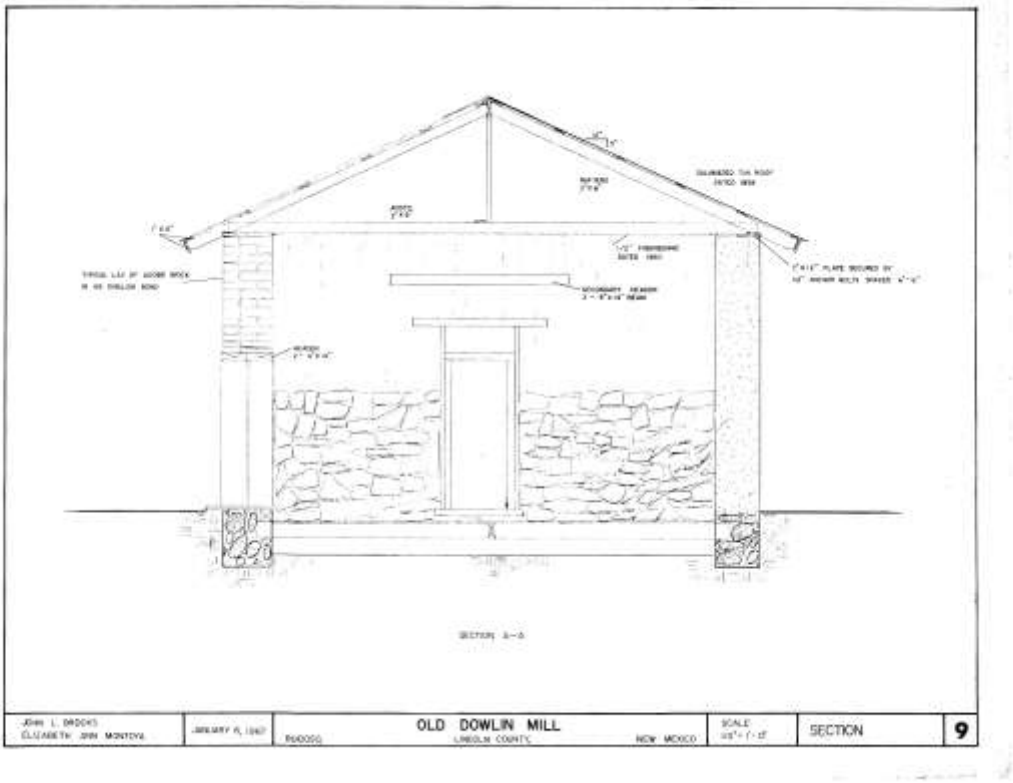


Figure 22 Architectural Drawing #6 of 9
Wall Section

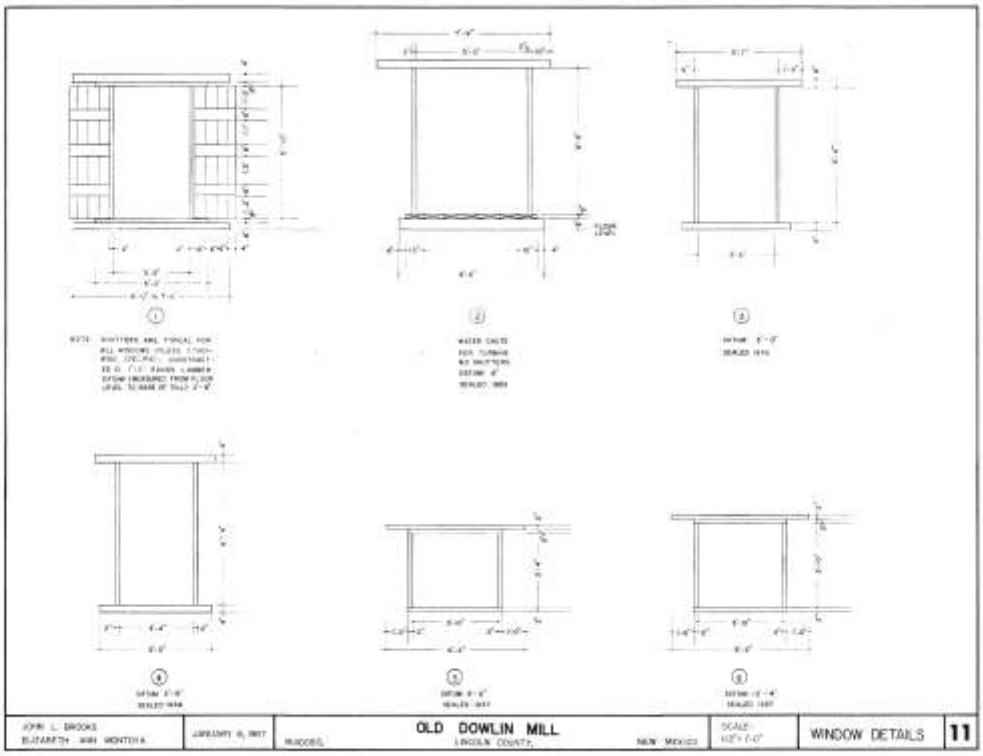


Figure 23 Architectural Drawing #7 of 9
Window Details

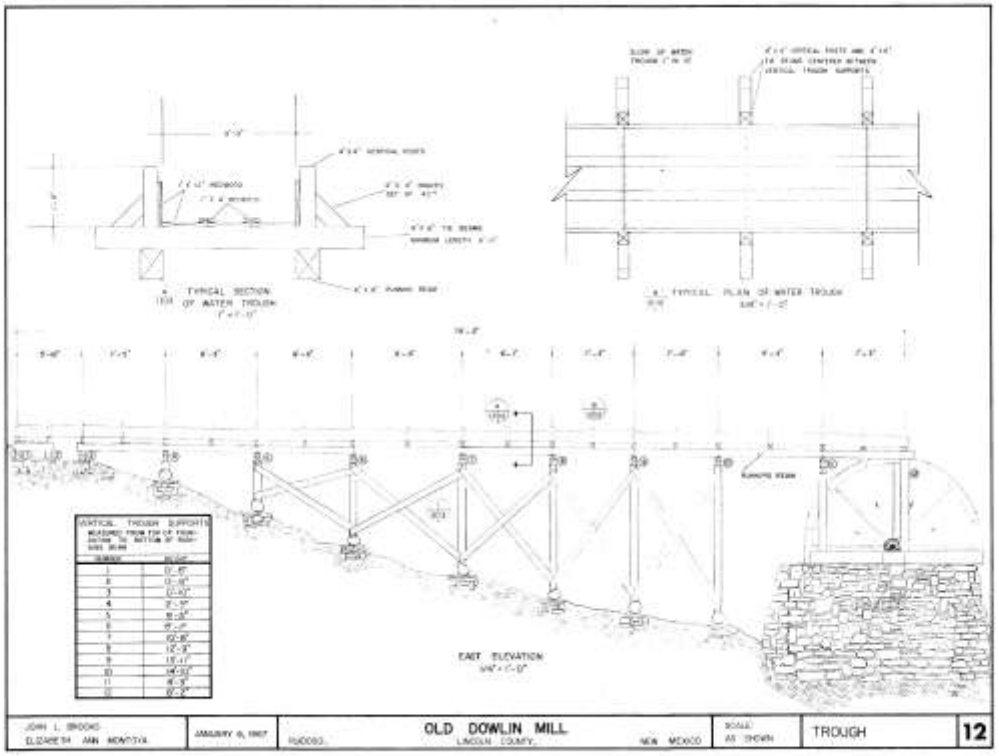


Figure 24 Architectural Drawing #8 of 9
Flume and Foundation

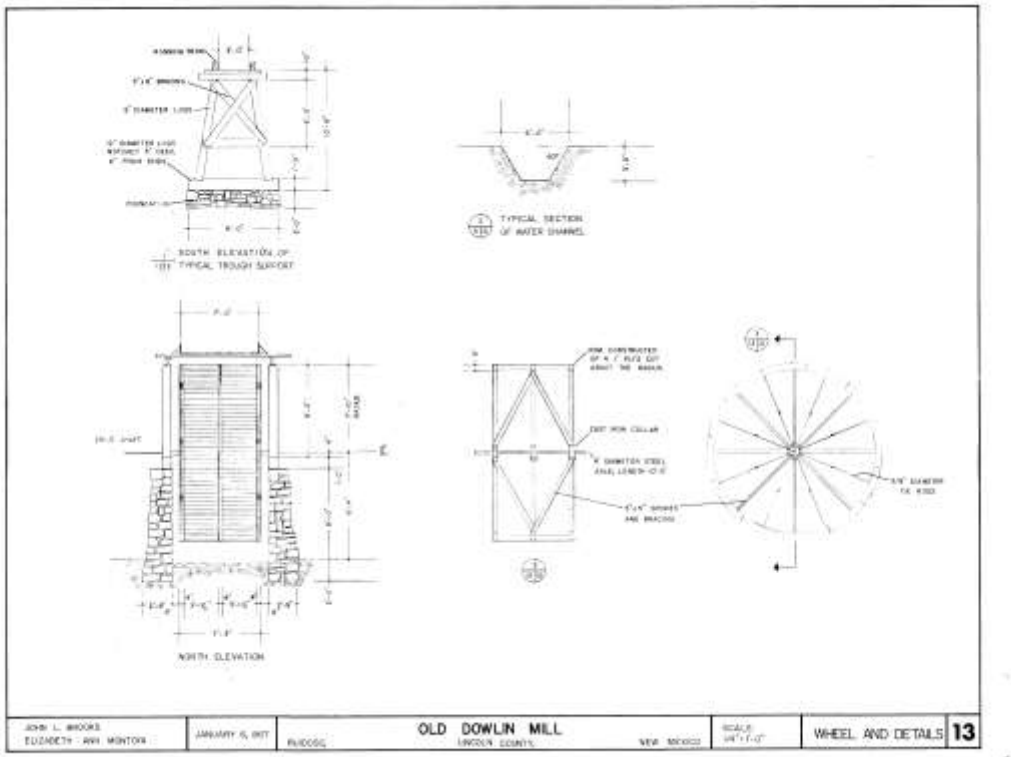


Figure 25 Architectural Drawing #9 of 9
Water-wheel and Foundation Details

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

USGS science for a changing world

RUIDOSO QUADRANGLE
NEW MEXICO
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

4850 I V (SIERRA BLANCA PEAK I:62 500)
4850 I NW (ANGUS)
4850 I NE (FORT STANTON)
4850 III (MESCALERO) I:62 500
4850 I SE (RUIDOSO DOWNS)
4850 I V (SIERRA BLANCA PEAK I:62 500)
4850 I NE (WHITETAIL)

Lona.: 105° 39' 02"
OLD DOWLIN MILL
Lat: 33° 19' 26"

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey

Control by USGS and NOS/NOAA

Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1963. Field checked 1963

Polyconic projection. 10,000-foot grid ticks based on New Mexico coordinate system, central zone. 1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 13, shown in blue. 1927 North American Datum. To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983 move the projection lines 6 meters south and 50 meters east as shown by dashed corner ticks

Where omitted, land lines have not been established

There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of the National or State reservations shown on this map

UTM GRID AND 1982 MAGNETIC NORTH DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET

Revisions shown in purple and woodland compiled from aerial photographs taken 1979 and other sources. This information not field checked. Map edited 1982

SCALE 1:24 000

CONTOUR INTERVAL 40 FEET
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, P.O. BOX 25286, DENVER, COLORADO 80225
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Heavy-duty — Light-duty
Medium-duty — Unimproved dirt
U.S. Route — State Route

NEW MEXICO
QUADRANGLE LOCATION

RUIDOSO, N. MEX.
N3315–W10537.5/7.5

1963
PHOTOREVISED 1982
DMA 4850 I SW–SERIES V881

ISBN 0-607-38200-7
9 780607 382006

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THE HISTORIC
OLD MILL
RUIDOSO'S BIRTHPLACE
OLD
DOWLIN MILL
Part original structure. Famous landmark for 100 years. Originally grist and sawmill. Used as rendezvous by William H. Bonney (Billy, the Kid), Pat Garrett, Johnny Riley, J. J. Pershing (then Lt. at Ft. Stanton) and other historic figures.

THE HISTORIC
OLD MILL
RUIDOSO'S BIRTHPLACE
EXIT

EXIT

KEEP YER
HANDS
OFF