

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service  
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property FIDLER'S MILL

historic name: \_\_\_\_\_

other name/site number: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Location

street & number: HEASTON RIDGE ROAD Not for publication: N/A  
city/town: ARLINGTON vicinity: N/A  
state code: WV county: UPSHUR code: 097 zip code: 26234

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this x 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 x meets        does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant        nationally        statewide x locally.

William G. Lunsford 10/1/97  
Signature of Certifying Official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau Date

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

Signature of Certifying Official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is: Date  
\_\_\_\_ entered in the National Register Signature of Keeper of Action  
\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.  
\_\_\_\_ determined eligible for the  
National Register  
\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.  
\_\_\_\_ determined not eligible for the  
National Register  
\_\_\_\_ removed from the National Register  
\_\_\_\_ other (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

Fidler's Mill  
Name of Property

Upshur County, WV  
County and State

=====

**5. Classification**

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**Ownership of Property:**  
(Check as many boxes as apply)

private  
 public-local  
 public-State  
 public-Federal

**Category of Property**  
(Check only one box)

building(s)  
 district  
 site  
 structure  
 object

**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing

1

Noncontributing

0

buildings  
sites  
structures  
objects  
TOTAL

**Name of related multiple property listing**

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

N/A

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register** 0

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**6. Function or Use**

=====

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

INDUSTRY/PROCESSING:

MANUFACTURING FACILITY - MILL

RECREATION: MUSEUM

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**7. Description**

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**Architectural Classification:**

(Enter categories from instructions)

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

VERNACULAR

Foundation STONE

Walls WOOD SIDING

Roof METAL

Other \_\_\_\_\_

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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**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.)

**A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

**B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

**C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

**D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations**

(Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

**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 of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Industry

Architecture

**Period of Significance**

1849-1942

Fidler's Mill  
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**Significant Dates**

1849

1906

1942

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Fidler, William

Fidler, William Martin

Fidler, Hudson

Fidler, Russell

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Fidler, William

Wilson, E.G.

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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**9. Major Bibliographical References**

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**Bibliography**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of Repository: \_\_\_\_\_

Fidler's Mill  
**Name of Property**

Upshur County, WV  
County and State

#### 10. Geographical Data

**Acreage of Property:** 2.47 acres

**UTM References** (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

17      566825      4294550  
Zone      Easting      Northing

## Rock Cave Quad Map

## Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

## **Boundary Justification**

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

**11. Form Prepared By**

Name/Title: Katherine M. Jourdan, National Register Coordinator

Organization: WV SHPO Date: 10 June 1997

Street & Number: 1900 Kanawha Blvd, East Telephone: 304/558-0220

City or Town: Charleston State: WV Zip: 25305-0300

**Property Owner**

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

C/O RON FOWLER

City or Town: French Creek State: WV Zip: 26218

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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Fidler's Mill Upshur County, WV  
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Fidler's Mill is located on the north bank of the Little Kanawha River along a portion of the river known as Arlington Falls. The mill was a local source for grinding grain and carding wool in the Arlington and Rock Cave area of Upshur County. The two-story front elevation is immediately adjacent to the roadway, however, the rear portion is four stories as it drops from the embankment to reach the river.

The frame building is yellow poplar, the siding on the upper floors having been replaced with matching clapboard over the years due to deterioration and weathering. The top two stories are horizontal clapboard, while the floor above the stone foundation is vertical planks. The building was enlarged when another floor was added in 1916. The former sawmill adjacent to the mill provided the lumber.

The front elevation has double doors, slightly off center with each floor having two 4/4 double-hung sash windows. There is a metal overhang across the first floor of the building over a wooden plank sidewalk. The building has a gable metal roof with a front gable end. The sides of the building also have 4/4 sash windows with the rear elevation having two 4/4 double-hung sash windows. The lowest level (stone foundation) cannot be accessed from the interior of the building, but through a rough opening in the east side of the foundation.

The interior of the building is intact with post and beam construction, wooden floors and wood sided walls. The mill equipment had the capability of powering two mill stones to provide ground wheat and corn simultaneously. The metal gears, wooden chutes with glass view holes, wooden hoppers, and leather belts are still in place. The metal gears have various patent dates of 1779, 1882, and 1892. Painted inscriptions on the lower level machinery read: "EUREKA' PATD MAR 16, 1858/REISSUED MAR 5, 1872/EXTENDED MAR 16, 1872/PTD FEB 22, 1859 & FEB 23, 1861/REISSUED OCT 31, 1865/ & SEPT 12, 1871/PATENTED IN GREAT BRITAIN/ JULY 23, 1872". Above the bagging apparatus it reads: "No.0/CAPACITY/10-15 BUSH. per HOUR".

The second floor still has the wool carding machines which were used seasonally. After sheep shearing, the wool was cleaned and brought to the mill. The machinery would "pick the wool into a fluff, whirl it into long rolls about two feet long and about 1/2 inch thick. It was then ready for the spinning wheel". Family members remember using the wool to spin, and then weave blankets.

The mill building well represents the mill industry in Upshur County. The building grew on its foundation over time and has retained the early milling equipment from the late 19th century.

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Fidler's Mill is significant under Criterion A for the local milling industry in Upshur County; Criterion B for the Fidler family, especially William Fidler who constructed the mill in 1847, his son William M. Fidler, grandson Hudson, and great-grandson Russell Fidler; and Criterion C for the Architecture of the mill building.

Upshur County histories recount the many mills which sprang up as the county was settled, for they supplied the much needed grain for families and livestock. Many of these mills have disappeared over the years, due to deterioration, or fire. The first mill on the Arlington site was built in 1821 by Daniel Peck. It was a small structure which sat on four posts.

In 1847, William Fidler emigrated from Fluvanna County, Virginia. After a year in Buckhannon, he purchased a 200 acre farm in Arlington which included the mill property. Fidler enlarged the mill in 1849 with the help of several slaves, and his family. The slaves are reported to have helped lay the present stone foundation and run the mill operations.

The mill's power came from a dam located a short distance upstream. A turn of the century photograph shows a wooden mill race that diverted water from the stream to power a twenty foot overshot wheel. This engaged the gears and shafts to power the two stone burr's, or mill stones, which were ordered from France for \$100. The race also powered a saw mill which stood a short distance upstream from the mill. The same photo depicts the sawmill as a ramshackled wooden plank structure with plank roof and open sides along the bank. By 1920, the sawmill had moved farther downstream and was run by Robert Fidler.

After the death of William in May 1865, his son William Martin Fidler, took over the operation and ran the mill until his death in 1901. The mill was sold at that time to a E.G. Wilson, who enlarged the mill, adding the second floor for its present configuration. After several years Wilson ran into financial difficulties and the mill was sold back to the Fidler family, namely Hudson V. Fidler. Hudson continued the milling operation with the help of his son Russell. Local residents recall the barber chair which used to sit near the doorway of the mill. Russell often cut hair for local residents as they waited for their milling order. By the 1920s Hudson had given a half interest in the property to his son, Russell, and a 1/4 interest to sons, Henry and Glen. Later, Russell received Henry's interest in the 1930s, and Glen's in 1967.

During the period of 1847 to 1942, Fidler's Mill provided ground wheat and buckwheat for flour, and ground cornmeal. They also made feed for horses, cattle and other animals. The mill was a social gathering spot for nearby residents as they waited their turn to have their grain ground for flour or meal. Family members and residents recall yearly Halloween dances on the wooden floor of the mill, when leaves were gathered and strewn on the floorboards.

The mill continued its water powered operation through the depression years of the 1930s, until a flood along the river washed the dam out in 1942. Operation ceased for several years, and after World War II the family purchased a Hammermill machine which continued to provide

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cornmeal for local families, as the demand for wheat, buckwheat and rye had dropped off. The mill was sold to the Grafton Coal Company in 1978, who gave the property to the Southern Upshur County Business Association (SUBA) in 1988.

The mill served the nearby residents of Arlington, and surrounding Upshur County, through much of the 19th and 20th centurys. It provided a convenient service, both for the grinding of grain and for wool carding.

Fidler's Mill well represents the early milling industry of Upshur County. Many of these structures have been lost in the county in recent years including the Buckhannon Mill, and Tinney's Mill. The integrity of the mill and machinery is excellent, depicting the methods used by an overshot wheel during the late 19th century.

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**Bibliography**

Hiner, Mary Margaret, "County Mill Operating Continuously 140 Years". THE BUCKHANNON RECORD, 1964.

Cutright, W.B. THE HISTORY OF UPSHUR COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA

Desnastes, Margaret, Personal Notes and Memories, no date.

Thacker, Katherine (Teter), Personal Letter to SUBA, May 22, 1997.

Deed Books, Clerks Office Upshur County Courthouse, Buckhannon, WV

"Fidler's Mill: Future restoration to be tackled", THE RECORD DELTA, February 29, 1988, p. 2-C.

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**Boundary Description**

Beginning at the corner of H.V. Fidler's yard and running thence N 65 1/2 E 297 feet to a rock in the river; thence S 36 W 366 feet to a stake in the road; thence S 75 W 520 feet to a stone; thence N 39<sup>0</sup> E 383 feet to a stone; thence S 64<sup>0</sup> E 42 feet to a stake; and thence N 82<sup>0</sup> E 63 feet to the beginning, containing 2.47 acres more or less.

**Boundary Justification**

Boundaries described in Deed Book 344, p. 102, July 8, 1988. Property received from Grafton Coal Company.

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Section number PHOTO Page 1

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Name: Fidler's Mill  
Address: Heaston Ridge Road  
City: Arlington, WV  
County: Upshur County

Photographer: Deana S. Smith

Date: July 1997

Negatives: Deana S. Smith Photography  
HC 78 Box 99A1  
Rock Cave, WV 26234  
304/924-6789

Photo 1 of 11: Front Facade - Northwest facade  
Camera looking Southeast

Photo 2 of 11: Rear Facade - Southeast facade  
Camera looking North over Arlington Falls

Photo 3 of 11: Northeast Facade  
Camera looking South

Photo 4 of 11: First Floor - View towards rear of building  
Camera looking South

Photo 5 of 11: First Floor - View towards front of building  
Camera looking North

Photo 6 of 11: First Floor - twin stones or burrs  
Camera looking Northeast

Photo 7 of 11: First Floor - Grinding stone  
Camera looking South

Photo 8 of 11: Lower Level - Gear shafts to grinding stones  
Camera looking Northeast

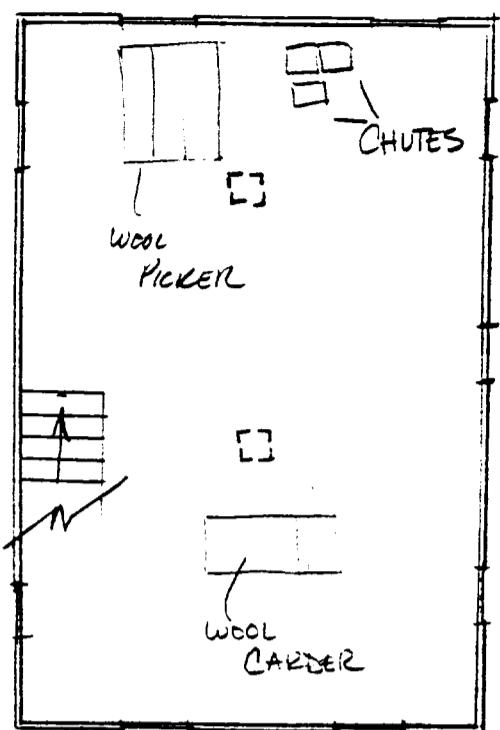
Photo 9 of 11: Lower Level - Hopper/Sacker  
Camera looking South

Photo 10 of 11: Second Floor - Wool Carding Equipment  
Camera looking South

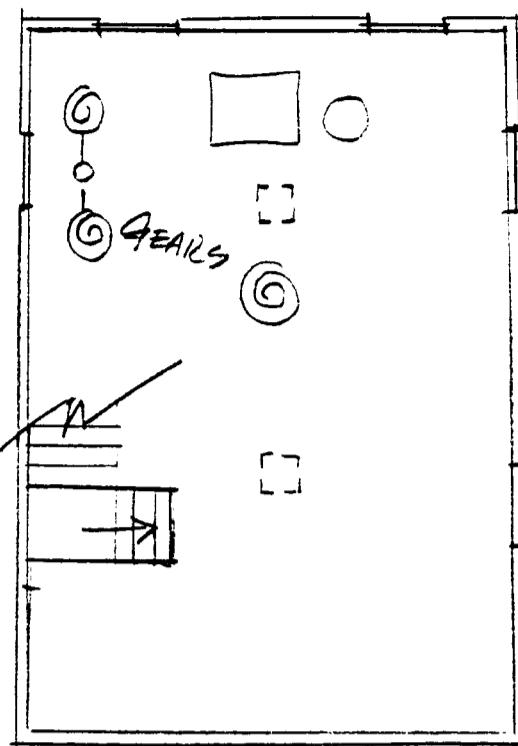
Photo 11 of 11: Second Floor - Wool Carding Equipment  
Camera looking North

FIDLER MILL  
Arlington, WV  
Upshur County

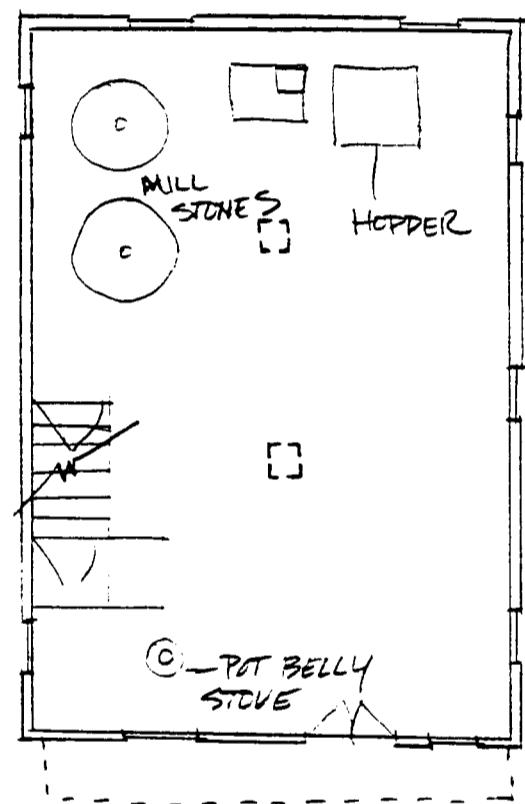
Floorplans



2ND FLOOR

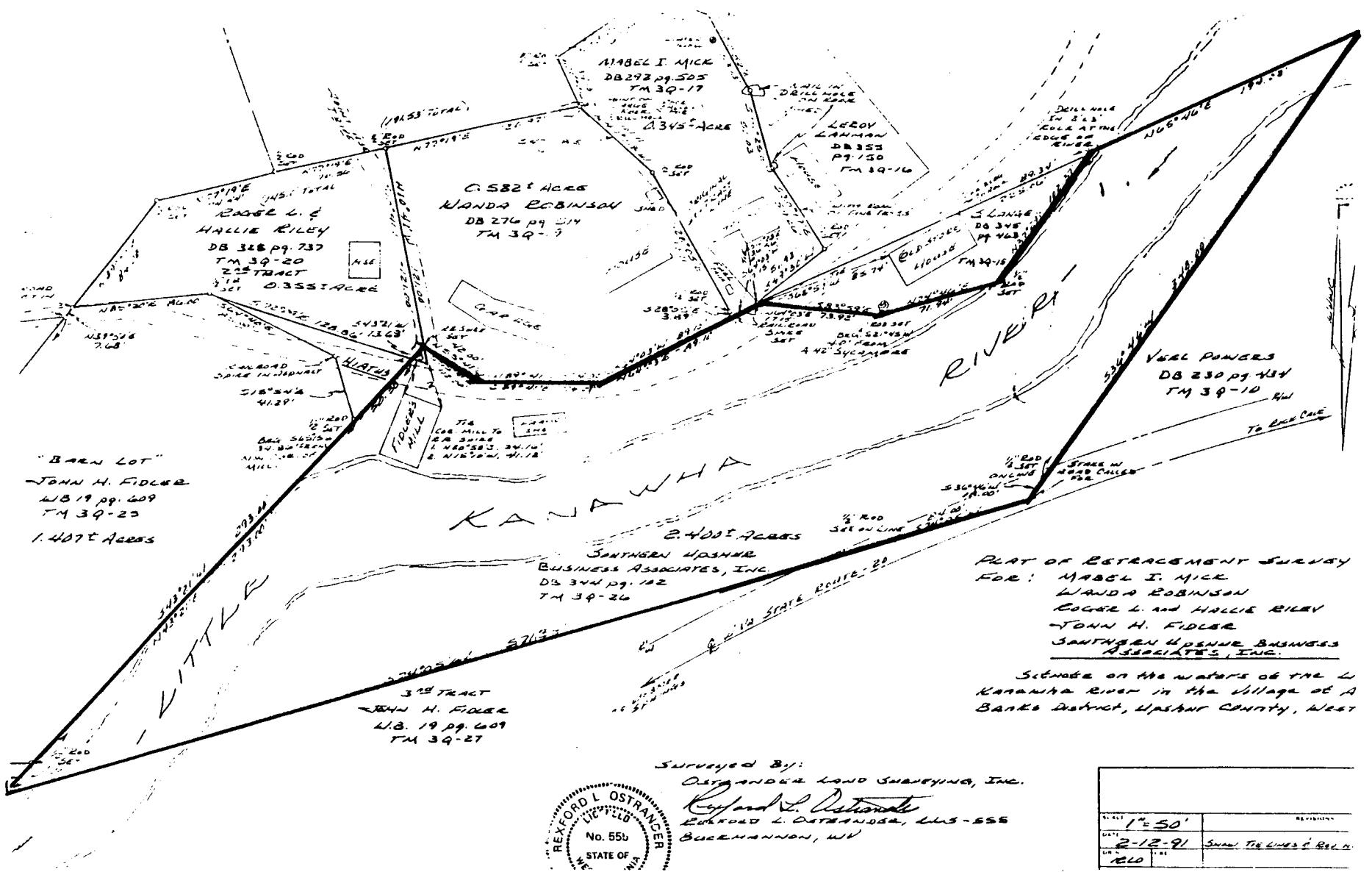


LOWER LEVEL



FIRST FLOOR





TIDELT'S MILL  
17 566825  
4294550  
Rock Creek  
Ground Map

