

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED JUN 26 1979
AUG 31 1979
DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC **Cortright-Van Patten Mill**

AND/OR COMMON **True Grist Ltd.**

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER **109 Byron Street**

CITY, TOWN **Homer**

NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
3rd

STATE **Michigan 49245**

VICINITY OF
CODE

COUNTY
Calhoun

CODE
025

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME **True Grist Ltd.**

STREET & NUMBER **Same**

CITY, TOWN

STATE

VICINITY OF

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. **Calhoun County Court House**

STREET & NUMBER **315 West Green Street**

CITY, TOWN **Marshall**

STATE

Michigan

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE **Michigan State Survey Data**

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS **Michigan History Division, Department of State**

CITY, TOWN **Lansing**

STATE

Michigan 48918

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Cortright-Van Patten Mill was constructed as a grist mill by C. C. Cortright and Son. A rambling, two-, three-, and four-story, frame structure, it is clad in novelty siding. The original mill, possessing bracketed eaves and dormer-pierced mansard roofs, was constructed in 1887. The remaining gable- and shed-roof portions were in place by 1910. No significant exterior changes have been made.

The building's four floors were used as follows: The basement provided the water-power transmission gear. This is virtually intact, with the exception of some of the gearing that was sold off in 1970. The first floor contained most of the business operations of the mill, including receiving, milling, grinding, bagging, and shipping. The second floor was originally used for storage. The third floor contains pulleys and shivs for the power transmission which came from the water wheels in the basement to this level before being dispatched for other power needs throughout.

In 1974-1975 the mill was converted into a dinner theater. Alterations effected then included construction of a stage, bar, and new entrance in the first floor and the adaptation of the second floor as living quarters for the theater's permanent cast. The kitchen occupies the former power room. Despite the conversion, few major changes have been made in the interior, which retains a heavy-timbered, rustic character.

The mill stands in the center of an ample lot. Its broad north side faces the Kalamazoo River, which once provided the power for milling operations. The former mill dam and pond are located a short distance to the east, but are now no longer a part of the complex. The old mill race (now inoperative, but to be restored) and a field stretch between the mill and river and provide an attractive setting which retains much of its historic character.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
___PREHISTORIC	___ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	___COMMUNITY PLANNING	___LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	___RELIGION
___1400-1499	___ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	___CONSERVATION	___LAW	___SCIENCE
___1500-1599	X AGRICULTURE	___ECONOMICS	___LITERATURE	___SCULPTURE
___1600-1699	X ARCHITECTURE	___EDUCATION	___MILITARY	___SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
___1700-1799	___ART	___ENGINEERING	___MUSIC	___THEATER
X ___1800-1899	___COMMERCE	___EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	___PHILOSOPHY	___TRANSPORTATION
___1900-	___COMMUNICATIONS	X ___INDUSTRY	___POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	___OTHER (SPECIFY)
		___INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1887 BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE *See revised on Cont. Sheet. - Sep 8-28-79*

The Cortright-Van Patten mill possesses considerable significance as a Homer landmark and focal point of life in this south-central Michigan agricultural community. Homer village was first settled in 1832. The village's first mill was erected about 1837 by Leon Barney and is said to have stood near the site of the present structure.

The core of the Cortright-Van Patten flour mill was erected for the firm of C. C. Cortright and Son in 1887. George A. McCartney of Homer, the contractor, completed the job in sixty days. Large additions were made about 1910. C. C. Cortright came to Michigan from New York state in the 1850s and settled in Hillsdale and Branch counties before moving to Calhoun. His son, David W. Cortright, operated a farm as well as the mill in Homer. The structure, purchased from the Cortrights by the H. Van Patten Company in 1940, continued in operation as a mill until 1970. In 1974 James L. Miller purchased the property; he converted the mill into a dinner theater known as True Grist Ltd.

Despite the change of function and some alterations in the building's form, however, the structure retains its architectural character and historical associations as a central element of Homer life.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Gardner, Washington. History of Calhoun County, Michigan. Chicago: The Lewis Publishing Company, 1913.
 Lane, William A., Homer and Its Pioneers and Its Business Men of To-day. Homer: P. W. Chase, 1888.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 2 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,6	68,10,60	4,6,6,8,0,1,0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Includes lots 13 and 14 and the north 40.25 feet of lot 20 and the north 40.25 feet of the east half of lot 19 of the "Village of Homer Assessor's Plat No. 1."

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Robert O. Christensen, Historic Preservation Coordinator

ORGANIZATION

Michigan History Division

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

208 N. Capitol

TELEPHONE

517-373-0510

CITY OR TOWN

Lansing

STATE

Michigan 48918

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

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

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Martha M. Bigelow June 18, 1979

TITLE

Director, Michigan History Div. D.O.S.

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Carol Shul

DATE

8-31-79

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

Emma Joe Sage

DATE

8-28-79

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Regional Coordinator

FOR HCRS USE ONLY

RECEIVED AUG 27 1979

DATE ENTERED

AUG 31 1979

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

Cortright-Van Patten Mill

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

The Cortright-Van Patten Mill possesses considerable significance as the site of local milling operations for over eighty years and as an unusually large and elaborate mill structure. Homer was first settled in 1832 and platted into a village two years later. Sited in the center of a rich agricultural district on a branch of the Kalamazoo River and located on the main Detroit-to-Chicago line of the Michigan Central Railroad at its junction with other lines running north and south, Homer became an "important shipping point for agricultural products, especially wheat."¹

The community's first grist mill was constructed about 1837 by Leon Barney and is said to have stood on or near the site of the Cortright-Van Patten Mill. The core of the Cortright-Van Patten flour mill was erected for the firm of C. C. Cortright and Son in 1887. George A. McCartney of Homer, the contractor, completed the job in sixty days. Large additions were made about 1910. C. C. Cortright came to Michigan from New York state in the 1850s and settled in Hillsdale and Branch counties before moving to Calhoun. His son, David W. Cortright, operated a farm as well as the mill in Homer. The structure, purchased from the Cortrights by the H. Van Patten Company in 1940, continued in operation as a mill until 1970. In 1974 James L. Miller purchased the property; he converted the mill into a dinner theater known as True Grist Ltd.

Large, frame, grist and flour mills were erected in many of the larger villages and towns throughout southern Michigan through the nineteenth century and into the early years of the twentieth. However, the Cortright-Van Patten Mill is one of the largest and, by reason of its mansard roof, most unusual. Mansard-roofed structures of any kind are particularly uncommon in the Michigan countryside.

¹R. L. Polk & Co., Michigan State Gazetteer and Business Directory, 1889-90.
(Detroit: 1889), p. 1087.

Property Contraight - Van Patten Mill

State Mich (Calhoun) Working Number 6.26.79.1544

79001150

TECHNICAL

Photos 2
Maps 1

UTM incorrect

CONTROL

pl
~~6.26.79~~
HISTORIAN

Appears to be eligible.

Need better St. of Significance. Called 8-9-79.

Architecturally significant as an unusual example of a mansard-styled mill. Significant for associations with 19th c. agricultural/commercial patterns of Homer, a focal point for river and rail shipping of wheat.

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

Safe 8-8-79

Accept.
Safe 8-28-79

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

HAER

Inventory _____

Review _____

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

Accept.
Safe 8-28-79

BRANCH CHIEF

KEEPER

National Register Write-up _____

Federal Register Entry 10-2-79

Send-back _____

Re-submit _____

Entered AUG 31 1979



TRUE GRIST LTD.
DINNER THEATRE
LUNCHESS LOUNGE
OPEN DAILY

Cortright-Van Patten Mill
Homer, Michigan, *Calhoun County*

Nick Costaines April, 1979
Negative filed: True Grist Ltd.

North view
#142

JUN 26 1979

DOE
AUG 31 1979

True Grist, Ltd.
Box 127
Homer, Mich. 49245



Cortright-Van Patten Mill
Homer, Michigan, *Calhoun County*

Nick Costianes Summer, 1978
Negative filed: True Grist Ltd.

Dining room detail
#2 *q2*

JUN 26 1979

DOE

AUG 31 1979

True Grist, Ltd.

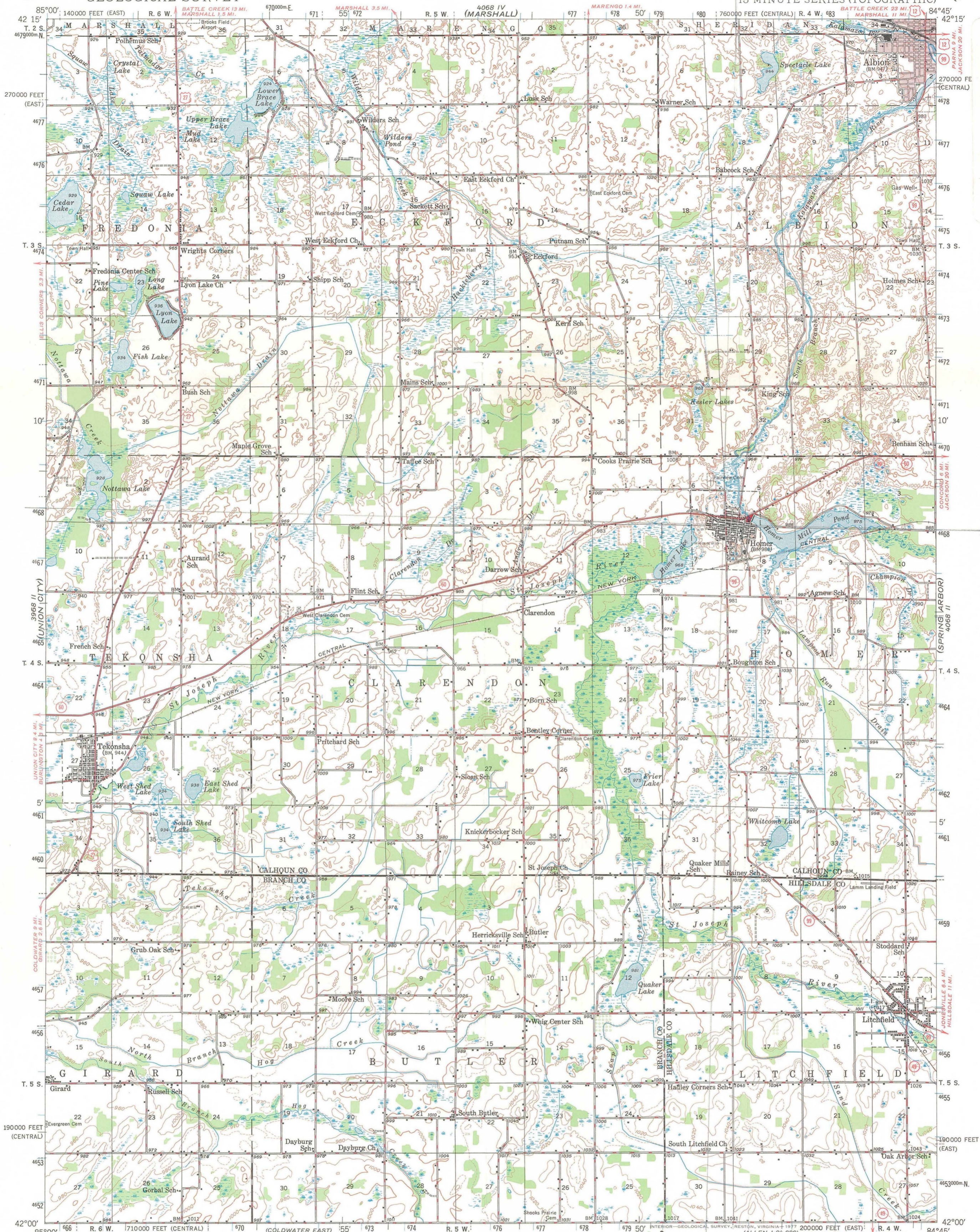
Box 127

Homer, Mich. 49245

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

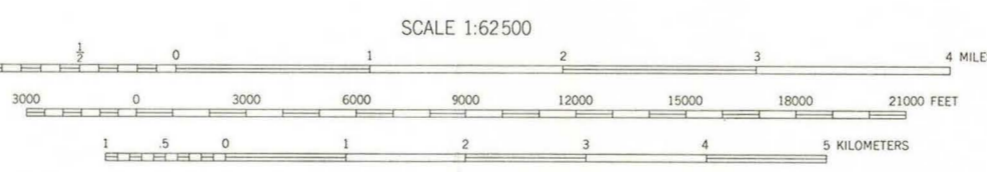
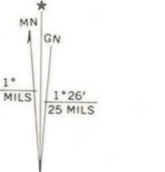
MICHIGAN
STATE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

HOMER QUADRANGLE
MICHIGAN
15 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)



Copyright-Van Patten Mill
Homer, Michigan
UM reference:
16 / 681060/4668010

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS and USC&GS
Culture and drainage in part compiled from
aerial photographs taken 1938
Topography by plane-table methods 1946 and 1948
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Michigan coordinate system,
central and east zones
Red tint indicates area in which only
landmark buildings are shown
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 16, shown in blue



CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 FEET
DASHED LINES REPRESENT HALF INTERVAL CONTOURS
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929
THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

ROAD CLASSIFICATION
HARD-SURFACE ALL WEATHER ROADS DRY WEATHER ROADS
Heavy-duty... 4 LANE 16' LANE Improved dirt...
Medium-duty... 4 LANE 16' LANE Unimproved dirt...
Loose-surface, graded, or narrow hard-surface...
U. S. Route State Route

HOMER, MICH.
N4200-W8445/15
1948

AMS 4068 III-SERIES V762
NATIONAL REGISTER



3988 I (BATTLE CREEK)

4068 I (SPRINGPORT)

3967 I NE
COLDWATER WEST

4067 I NW
HILLSDALE

NAME OF PROPERTY Cortright-Van Patten Mill STATE Mich.

Date Information Requested/Date Put in "Hold" Drawer: 8-9-79

Date to Be Pulled from "Hold" Drawer: 9-9-79
(30 Days from Date Requested)

Information Requested From: Bob Christiansen Mich SHPO

Information Requested/Reason Nomination Is Being Held:

*Explicit statement of historical sig.
of mill.
Received 8/27/79.*

Saxe

Reviewer

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF STATE
RICHARD H. AUSTIN SECRETARY OF STATE



LANSING
MICHIGAN 48918

MICHIGAN HISTORY DIVISION
ADMINISTRATION, ARCHIVES,
HISTORIC SITES, AND PUBLICATIONS
3423 N. Logan Street
517-373-0510
STATE MUSEUM
505 N. Washington Avenue
517-373-0515

August 22, 1979

Emma Jane Sacks
National Register of Historic Places
Office of Archaeology and Historic
Preservation
Heritage Conservation and Recreation
Service
440 G Street N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20243



Dear Ms. Sacks:

Enclosed are a new significance statement for the Cortright-Van Patten Mill nomination (Homer, Calhoun County) and a boundary justification statement for the South Street Historic District nomination (Kalamazoo), as per your request. Hope these fill the bill.

Sincerely yours,

Bob Christensen

Robert O. Christensen
Historic Preservation
Coordinator
Michigan History Division

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE MICHIGAN

Date Entered AUG 31 1979

Name

Location

Cortright-Van Patten Mill

Homer
Calhoun County

Also Notified

Honorable Donald W. Riegle, Jr.

Honorable Carl Levin
Honorable Howard Wolpe

State Historic Preservation Officer
Dr. Martha Bigelow
Director
Michigan History Division
Department of State
Lansing, Michigan 48918

NR Byers/bjr 9/6/79

For further information, please call the National Register at (202)343-6401.