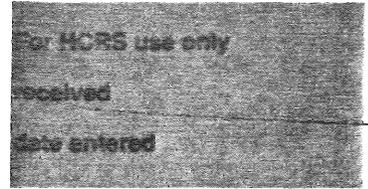


**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**



**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

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

1. Name

historic Jessup's Mill

and/or common Stokes County Union Milling Company

2. Location

street & number W. side SR 1432, 1.0 mi. NE of jct. w/SR 1413 not for publication

city, town Collinstown X vicinity of congressional district Fifth

state North Carolina code 037 county Stokes code 169

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<u> </u> district	<u> </u> public	<u>X</u> occupied	<u> </u> agriculture	<u> </u> museum
<u>X</u> building(s)	<u>X</u> private	<u> </u> unoccupied	<u> </u> commercial	<u> </u> park
<u> </u> structure	<u> </u> both	<u>X</u> work in progress	<u> </u> educational	<u> </u> private residence
<u> </u> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<u> </u> entertainment	<u> </u> religious
<u> </u> object	<u> </u> in process	<u> </u> yes: restricted	<u> </u> government	<u> </u> scientific
	<u> </u> being considered	<u>X</u> yes: unrestricted	<u>X</u> industrial	<u> </u> transportation
	<u> </u> N/A	<u> </u> no	<u> </u> military	<u> </u> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Mr. Porter Jessup

street & number Route 3,

city, town Stuart, vicinity of state Virginia 24171

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Stokes County Courthouse

street & number

city, town Danbury, vicinity of state North Carolina 27025

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

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

date federal state county local

depository for survey records N/A

city, town state

7. Description

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

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Conveniently located on the southern bank of the Dan River at the crossing of the Collinstown Road stands the utilitarian but picturesque three-and-a-half-story frame Jessups Mill. Flanked by the normally tame "muddy Dan" and a steep hillside shaded by rhododendrons and mountain laurel, the site extends from the road approximately eight hundred feet up river to the 1913 replacement stone and concrete dam. Paralleling the river, the normally seven feet deep race is separated from it by an elevated foot path which leads from the mill to the spillway and gate section of the dam. Dominated by the mill itself, the complex of buildings is comprised of the former miller's house, warming room, and outhouse and stands as a vertically intact example of an unusually early roller mill complex in the state.

The tall three-and-a-half-story gable-roof mill maintains a full basement and follows a rectangular plan. Framed with heavy-timbered mortise-and-tenon construction, it is sheathed with plain weatherboard. Its gable roof of standing seam tin is oriented on an approximately north-south axis. The southern gable end and the east facade are distinguished by shed roofs which protect the loading platforms and entrances. Across the rear or west facade extends a series of equipment sheds. Six-over-six sash windows pierce the walls at regular intervals, and batten doors of both single and double width give access to the first floor level. Additional doors open off the second and third floor levels of the south gable end, one directly above the other, which provide access to each floor for grain and equipment removal and loading supplies to wagons or trucks waiting below.

The north gable-end is dominated by a partially enclosed shed set lower than the first floor level of the main block and covers the "pen stock" or the water trap in which the turbines are immersed. Although in deteriorating condition, the pen stock walls are constructed with reinforced concrete. The mill race connects the pen stock with the dam thereby completing the water power control system. The present concrete dam, built on stone and concrete abutments, is a 1913 replacement for the original log one which was located a short distance further up river.

Most of the interior equipment dates from the first two or three decades of the mill's operation. Three separate milling systems are housed in the structure, each powered by its own turbine. The pen stock houses four turbines of various sizes: a 20" turbine with no name, a 21" S. Morgan and Smith, a 17" James Leffel, and a 24" Davis (Rome, Georgia). The wheel bearings are made with lignum vitae. The milling systems include a roller mill for flour production, a stone-grinding system for cornmeal, and a hammer mill system for feed production. Machinery and equipment for these productions share space on the mill's five levels. The array of power shafts and drive belts, the multiple elevator shafts running through the center of the building from the ground level to the attic, and the diversity of machines for cleaning, scouring, grinding, sifting, and mixing give the operation a bewildering complexity.

File NO. 1024-0018
EXP. 12/31/84

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The hammer mill and meal blower are located in the basement. On the first floor are the floor scales, corn rock, and meal sorter. Originally from a mill at Red Bank, the corn rock contains stones from Brushy Mountain, Tenn., and its bearings known as "corn cob bushings" since they are made of corn cob. The second floor's original corn meal reel has since been replaced by a meal whip shifter. In addition, the third and fourth (attic) floors contain a Sprout-Waldron #155 wheat cleaner or "scourer" and carkel machine, respectively.

Rounding out the complex are three simple frame buildings: the warming room, a small rectangular gable-roof one-room structure with vertical board sheathing; the original miller's house, also known as "honeymoon cottage", a weatherboarded three-bay gable-roof one-story dwelling with two-room plan since converted into a shed; and a shed-roof one-seater outhouse.

The structure, of course, is closely related to the surrounding environment. Archaeological remains, such as trash pits, wells, and structural remains, which may be present, can provide information valuable to the understanding and interpretation of the structure. Information concerning use patterns, social standing and mobility, as well as structural details are often only evident in the archaeological record. Therefore, archaeological remains may well be an important component of the significance of the structure. At this time no investigation has been done to discover these remains, but it is probable that they exist, and this should be considered in any development of the property.

8. Significance

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

Specific dates 1910 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

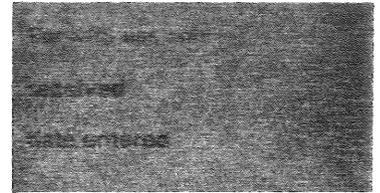
Powered by the waters of the Dan River, Jessups Mill built in 1910, is an outstanding and virtually intact example of an unusually early roller mill complex and the only corn mill in Stokes County. Until rural electrification became a reality in the 1930s, a roller mill was a rare sight in the Carolina countryside, and the Stokes County Union Mill, later known as Jessups Mill, pioneered an innovative adaptation of an urban oriented technology to a rural economy. Since its formation in 1910 as a cooperative investment among the local residents, the turbine run mill has been operated continuously grinding fresh corn into flour, meal and livestock feed, until it was damaged by a flood in September, 1979; however plans are underway to put it back into operation. The mill complex includes the three-and-a-half-story frame mill, 1913 dam, millrace, former miller's house and warming room.

Criteria Assessment:

- A. Associated with the early development of the roller mill in rural North Carolina as a technological replacement for grist mills.
- B. Embodies the characteristics of an unusually early twentieth century roller mill complex built in 1910; the only corn mill in Stokes County.
- D. Likely to yield information important in the development of early twentieth century roller mill industry and technology.

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Continuation sheet

Significance

Item number 8

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The decade after 1880 marked the dawn of the Industrial Revolution in North Carolina. The New South gospel permeated the state and took particular hold in the piedmont where the rapidly growing cities of Charlotte, Greensboro, Raleigh, Winston, and a host of smaller towns, provided an available labor force and investment capital. Among the newer technologies was the introduction of the roller mill which was generally located in urban areas where steam or electric power could be generated. The superior quality and productive output of the roller mill started the long dominant gristmill industry on a downward trend and relegated it primarily to rural areas.

In one known instance, entrepreneurs in the rural piedmont successfully combined the superior technology with the old gristmill setting. The Stokes County Union Milling Company erected in 1910 a structure containing roller mill machinery but powered by the waters of the Dan River. Until rural electrification became a reality in the 1930s, a roller mill was a rare sight in the Carolina countryside. The Stokes County Union Mill, later known as Jessup's Mill, pioneered an innovative adaptation of an urban oriented technology to a rural economy. The coming of electricity arrested further experiments with the concept and ushered in the age of milling corporations and mass production. Smaller private enterprises struggled for survival in an increasingly turbulent world of corporate competition. A few, like Jessup's, successfully weathered the storm of high powered economics, but most did not survive the early decades of the twentieth century.

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On August 24, 1910, W. H. and Mary Hartman conveyed to the Stokes County /Union/ Milling Company a tract of land on Big Dan River "where some parties are now at work to erect a dam across said river." A month later the log dam had been completed when W.T. Smith sold to the same company three acres "intended to convey all land damaged or covered by the Mill Dam."¹ Union Mill, as it came to be known, was on its way to completion.

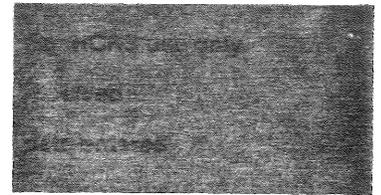
Some months earlier, the residents of the upper Dan River basin had decided to pool their financial resources and erect a much needed milling facility for the community. The group called itself the Stokes County Union Milling Company, issued stock to investors, purchased the necessary land, and contracted a carpenter with some experience in mill construction to erect the main building. The roller mill was completed in late 1910 at which time the company hired D. H. Jessup as the miller. The operation was an immediate success as people from neighboring communities and adjoining counties flocked to the new mill along with the Dan River residents. There the fresh corn was ground into flour, meal, and feed for livestock.²

In 1913 a freshet washed away the log dam. A new concrete dam was built about 100 feet downstream (closer to the mill) and the Union Mill was back in business with only a brief interruption. During the years after 1910, several outbuildings were constructed to support the milling operation. The small frame two-room cottage now standing near the mill originally stood across the road and served as the miller's house. There for some years lived D. H. Jessup with his wife and thirteen children, including the present owner of the mill. The little house was moved to its present site in 1952 when Porter G. Jessup needed the land for his new house. For many years it was rented to young couples or newlyweds, thus acquiring the nickname "honeymoon cottage."³

A second outbuilding associated with the mill is the tiny one room structure now used for storage but once known as the warming house. Sometimes the journey to the mill was distant enough to require the wagoners to spend the night. In colder weather a warm shelter was needed, but the insurance company would not permit a fire in the mill. Consequently, the small shed-like structure was built as a "warming room." Its original location was where the "honeymoon cottage" now stands and was moved at the same time as the cottage.⁴

Several millers have intermittingly run the mill for brief periods over the years, but by and large it has been a father-son operation. D.H. Jessup started in 1910 but bad health cut short his career. He died in 1937 at the age of fifty five. His son, Porter G. Jessup grew up at the mill. At age nineteen he took over as miller and ran the facility until it was badly damaged by a flood on September 22, 1979.⁵

Ownership of the mill is a different story, however. In March of 1929, the Stokes County Union Milling Company consisted of forty-three stockholders owing sixty-one shares of stock. They decided to dissolve the company and sell the mill tract (just over five acres) for cash. An appeal to the Stokes County Superior Court resulted in an order authorizing the sale at public auction. R. E. L. Francis, a county commissioner and also a stockholder in Union Mill, conducted the sale on May 4, 1929, at which time Elijah Beasley became the highest bidder at \$3,100.⁶ From Beasley the mill tract passed through four other owners in fourteen years before Porter G. Jessup bought one-half interest in 1943.

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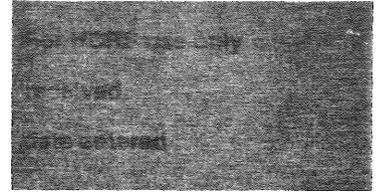
Two years later he acquired the remaining interest giving him full title to the mill he had been operating for eight years.⁷

Except for the brief interruption in 1913, Union Mill, changed to Jessup's Mill after Porter's acquisition, operated continuously for sixty-nine years. Its location and the nature of its business apparently rendered it immune to fluctuating economic cycles. Business remained constant through the boom years of the twenties and the depression of the thirties. Nature, however, proved a more formidable adversary. A torrential downpour flooded that section of the state on September 21 and 22, 1979. Jessup described his reaction: "I woke my wife up to see if I was dreaming. That /Dan/ river's never gotten up that high."⁸ Water twelve feet above bank level rampaged down the raceway and through the mill basement, destroying everything in its path. With a clogged waterwheel, broken equipment, and an obliterated raceway, Jessup knew that the mill could not reopen in the near future. Nature seemed intent on adding insult to injury on April 5, 1980, when surging flood waters again swirled through the mill site wreaking additional havoc upon the devastated enterprise.⁹ Despite the setback, Porter Jessup has begun proceedings that he hopes will reopen the mill some day so that he can continue the service and tradition started by his father seventy years ago.

The structures of course are closely related to the surrounding environment. Archaeological remains, such as trash pits, wells and structural remains, which may be present, can provide information valuable to the understanding and interpretation of the structures. Information concerning use patterns social standing and mobility, as well as structural details are often only evident in the archaeological record. Therefore, archaeological remains may well be an important component of the significance of the structure. At this time no investigation has been done to discover these remains, but it is probable that they exist, and this should be considered in any development of the property.

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¹Stokes County Deed Books, Office of the Register of Deeds, Stokes County Courthouse, Danbury, Deed Book 57, p. 66; and Deed Book 56, p. 73, hereinafter cited as Stokes County Deed Book.

²For stock interests, see liquidation proceedings in Stokes County Superior Court Records, Orders and Decrees, 1923-1930, vol. 10, p. 531, hereinafter cited as Orders and Decrees. Other data taken from researcher's interview with Porter G. Jessup, present owner of the mill and son of D. H. Jessup, July 1, 1980, hereinafter cited as Jessup interview.

³Jessup interview.

⁴Jessup interview.

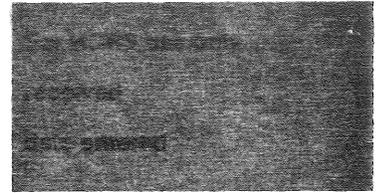
⁵Journal and Sentinel (Winston-Salem), clipping with no attached date but between September 23 and 27, 1979, in Jessup's Mill File, Survey and Planning Branch, Archaeology and Historic Preservation Section, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh, hereinafter cited as Journal and Sentinel; and Jessup interview.

⁶Stokes County Deed Book 80, p. 424. See also Orders and Decrees, vol. 10, p. 531.

⁷For chain of title see Orders and Decrees, vol. 10, p. 531; R. E. L. Francis to Elijah Beasley, Stokes County Deed Book 80, p. 424; Elijah Beasley to R. E. Smith, Deed Book 81, p. 69, and Deed Book 92, p. 463; R. E. Smith to S. J. Tilley, Deed Book 95, p. 366; R. E. Hunter (administrator of S. J. Tilley) to J. S. Wagoner and C. S. Barker, Deed Book 100, p. 161; and J. S. Wagoner to Porter Jessup, and C. S. Barker to Porter Jessup, Deed Book 103, pp. 105, 578.

⁸Journal and Sentinel; and Jessup interview.

⁹Jessup interview.

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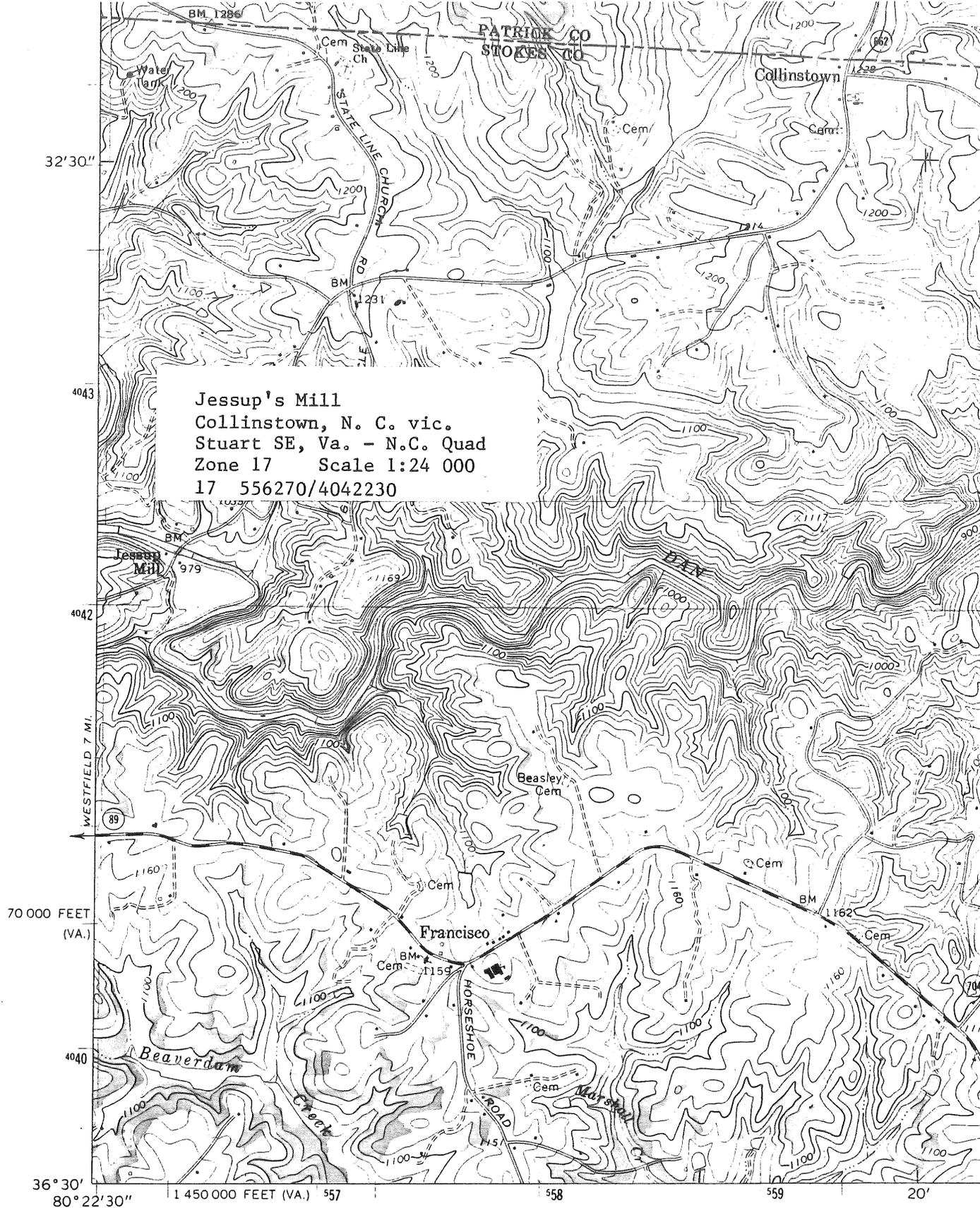
Continuation sheet Bibliography Item number 9 Page 1

Jessup, Porter G. Interview. July 1, 1980.

Journal and Sentinel. Undated clipping. Survey and Planning Branch, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh.

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Stokes County Records
Deeds
Superior Court Orders and Decrees, 1923-1930.



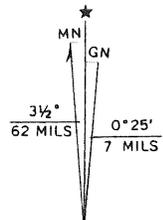
(PILOT MOUNTAIN)
 4956 IV NW

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey

Control by USGS and USC&GS

Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1967. Field checked 1968

Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
 10,000-foot grids based on Virginia coordinate system,
 south zone, and North Carolina coordinate system
 1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
 zone 17, shown in blue



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